

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 189 June 2009

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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 'I 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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C	Police Support Officer 07772226209
T	Community Warden 07977981994

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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BATTLEFIELD TOUR

On Wednesday May 27th 40 villagers travelled to Belgium to honour the memory of some of the villagers who died in the First World War. A packed day included visits to Poperinge where it was possible to visit the cells and the courtyard where some of the 350 soldiers who were 'shot at dawn' spent their last hours. From there we travelled to Essex Farm cemetery where John McCrae wrote the poem 'In Flanders Field' which inextricably linked the poppy to the battlefields and

remembrance and where Edwin Daniels is buried. Edwin, one of four brothers from Alkham, was killed by a shell on 8th June 1916. The photo above shows James Tapsell laying a poppy spray from present day villagers in memory of Edwin. After a superb lunch provided by Helen Scopes the group moved on to the German cemetery at Langermarck. This cemetery was stark in comparison with the beautifully maintained British cemeteries which include Tyne Cot near Ypres. Tyne Cot is the biggest Commonwealth military cemetery in the world where there are graves and names of 35000 'missing' soldiers who could not be fitted onto the Menin Gate memorial. The tour finished at Ypres and the Menin Gate, which is an enormous arched entrance to Ypres where the Last Post is sounded every evening at 8.00pm. Soldiers marched through the gate on the way to the front and the names of 54,896 Commonwealth soldiers who died without graves are inscribed on it. Percy Parker, who was born in Alkham in 1896 and died aged 21, is one of those commemorated. At the Last Post wreaths can be laid and people from a village or town walk across the road under the Menin Gate to place the wreath. The oldest and youngest members of the Alkham group were chosen with Grace Stacey and James Tapsell placing the wreath in memory of Percy Parker. Thanks go to Mark Robson for organising the trip, Helen Scopes for providing the wonderful picnic and also to the tour guide who was excellent as was Mark the driver who lives in Alkham and magically knows how to get a coach on the Shuttle. **(editor)**



PHOTOS – If you have other photos taken on the trip please let me have them for possible inclusion on the Alkham web site. **(Brian Wimsett)**

A POLICE community surgery will be held by Gretel Stevens in a mobile police station outside the village hall on Tuesday 7th July between 10 and 12.

DRINK UP – The temporary events notice has been approved for this year's fete so if everything goes to plan there will be a beer stall selling Shepherd Neame Spitfire and Masterbrew plus Sandie and Denni will be serving Pimms. A new system of dispensing the beer is to be tried and Stan and Brian have decided to wear waterproofs just in case.

ALKHAM FETE - This year's Fete is on Saturday 11th July starting at 2pm. The following stallholders have asked me to ask you for help with items for sale and/or other donations, please contact them direct if you are able to assist:-

Books (Sue Lees on 822661): **Bric a Brac** (Clare Naris on 826577),

Cakes & Jam (Val Fowler on 827635): **Handbags** (Sue Tapsell on 822295): **Hoopla** (Christine Tapsell on 822282): **Jewellery** (Barbara Palmer on 824973):

Plants & Flowers (Rosemary Heddle on 827880) or **Produce** (Richard Tapsell on 822295). I am, as always, on the lookout for helpers to put the tents up and prepare the meadow on the morning (meet at 8.30 am please), to man the car parks, assist stallholders, help supervise the children's races, etc, and help clear the meadow afterwards; it's actually a lot of fun and with a group of people all mucking in together the work gets done really quickly. We are intending to have a main cash prize for the Grand Raffle and a number of other prizes; please contact Irene Barnard on 824845, if you are able to help with a prize or cash donation (however large or small) to go into the prize pool. As with last year we have included a couple of books of raffle ticket with every newsletter, please do what you can to sell them, and drop the counterfoils and money (or any unsold tickets) to Irene, Sue Lees or me before the day of the Fete. Please tell your friends and family and come along on the day to enjoy a traditional village fete with all the trimmings!

(Paul Tapsell 01303 892082).

JUST A reminder to say that we are still collecting items for the bric-a-brac stall at the Fete. All donations gratefully received. Clare and Mark Naris, Owlter Lodge – 826577.

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SANDIE Tapsell and Denni Frater pause for a well earned pint at The Swan, Whittersham whilst on the 60 mile Great Kent Bike ride on the 14th June. From Ashford the route went to Newchurch then along the coast through Camber to Rye and back via Appledore and Tenterden. Den, Ken and Brian rode as well through lovely countryside with riders of all abilities. Join us next year for a good day out.

THE FRIENDS was set up to help preserve the fine listed building which is St Anthony's church and two events in aid of the Friends were held on 6th of June in the village hall. Rosemary and Martin Heddle are congratulated for their **QUIZ** which was a great success raising over £400 with the natural entertainer Den Barnard asking the questions (**editor**). Earlier in the day Rosie and Bashir Hansraj organised **A COFFEE MORNING** which was a great village effort with everyone pulling together with baking, preparation, selling raffle tickets, tidying up and all the other bits and pieces that make a village event work. It really was a great morning and the magnificent sum of £220 was raised. Thank you to every one for their help, support and contribution and here's looking forward to the next event. Watch this space. Best wishes **Rosie Hansraj**.

The Alkham Valley Society speaker for the year: Vince Burrows will give us an account of the Wolverton Archaeological project on 26 August at 7.30 pm. Refreshments will be available. Vince has already given this talk for the AGM of the Alkham Parish Council this year, so several people will already have heard it. However, numbers did not since they were away. Mention will be made of a forthcoming Alkham Valley archaeological project as well. All very welcome. Members free, non-members join up and pay a £1 for a year's membership. (**Jo Walker**)

BOOK CLUB - Margaret Danstead will kindly host the next Book Club on the 1st July at 7.30. We will discuss any classic book members wish to read. New members welcome. Contact Margaret on 829006 for further details.

OCCASIONAL, part time vineyard workers required throughout the summer months, needed to assist in young vineyard, tying up, side shooting, weeding, grape picking and other ad hoc duties. Ideal for students. Ideally you will be hard-working, reliable and enthusiastic and not afraid to get dirty! I am looking to build up a pool of people who I can call upon to come and do a day or so work, even if you can only spare a few hours a week, when needed at short notice. If you 'd like to be on the list, please email Claire@chalksolevineyard.co.uk, with any relevant experience, a bit about you and your full contact details. I look forward to hearing from you.

A.R.S.E. (Alkham's Relieved Survivors of the Earthquake) - The meeting that marked the second anniversary of the earthquake revealed some worrying side effects. Members were quite relaxed at the actual session but afterwards some reported flashbacks in the form of a 'wobbly walk' when going home and a 'fuzzy head' the next day. It is clear that there is still some way to go with this therapy so we are embarking on our third year of meetings starting at 8.00 p.m. on Friday, June 26th at The Marquis. New members are always welcome. (**Mark Robson**)



www.themarquisatalkham.co.uk

Summer Solstice al fresco dinner and Jazz on Sunday 28th June at 6pm

2 course supper and Jazz from 'Joanna & her Pianna' for £ 25 per person.

Beer tasting evening with Beer aficionado Julian Herrington, who for 15 years was head brewer at Shepherd Neame and is now at the Whitstable Brewery on Wednesday 8th July. Feel free to take a peek at our event calendar on the website for more information or give us a call on 01304873410 to make a reservation

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OZ on SHAUN - When our rescue collie Jak died eighteen months ago at the early age of seven we were grief-stricken. "Never again" we muttered, softening into "Next year perhaps" and then "OK, for our next birthdays." That is why in May we returned to the rescue centre, fell in love with Shaun, and took him home a week later. Shaun is a two-year old West Highland White Terrier cross and came with problems, as do most rescue dogs, because that's often why they're there. The first line of his dossier read "Shaun is a worried little man." This showed itself mainly in soiling, but after a few days Shaun realised that he is here to stay and became clean and dry. The other problems, such as barking and defensiveness over food, have lessened, but seem to be part of the breed's temperament. Similarly, Shaun's qualities, such as his fearlessness, compact physicality and eagerness to please, stem largely from the same genetic inheritance. Westies were first bred from Scottish terriers in Argyllshire to hunt vermin after King James 1 of England requested some 'little white earth dogges'. The breed was confirmed later when Colonel Malcom of Potalloch, Argyllshire, tragically shot his favourite dark red terrier, mistaking it for a fox, and vowed to have only white dogs from then on. At first Shaun didn't respond to his name, so we considered changing it to something more percussive and perhaps Scottish, such as Mak, (too much like Jak), Ben, Monty or Angus (ridiculed by my daughter and her family as too reminiscent of an Aberdeen steak). We found only noisy disagreement amongst family and friends, so we're sticking with 'Shaun', especially as he now responds to it. "You'll do", we often tell him, "and so will your name". **(Steve Osborn)**

GARDEN TALK - After a convivial evening chez Val & Stan Fowler, we have planned the next two evenings, when we hope the weather will be equally kind. On Friday 24th July we are invited to The Old Vicarage where Lucy and Ian are our hosts - and on Friday 14th August we meet at Box Tree in Slip Lane. We gather at 7.30p.m. and the chat is garden-based, and related topics. All welcome. **(Janet Adamson)**

ALKHAM W.I. - May meeting - this was well attended despite the Book Club members being tempted to attend a different meeting!. Pam Sayers gave an excellent report on the W.I.'s AGM which she had attended at The Royal Albert Hall and Imogen Corrigan gave an interesting talk on medieval children. Mrs Page will speak about Ikebana at the meeting on 14th July. Members don't really need reminding but just in case anyone should forget all help and gifts etc are needed for the fete on 11th July. **(Sue Lees)**

CHRISTIAN AID beats the Credit Crunch - Thank you to all who gave so generously to Christian Aid week, and the dedicated team of Alkham collectors. We raised £293 in total - very close to last year's sum despite the credit crunch and showing that we do care about improving the quality of life for the poorest in the Third World. As an example, Christian Aid are funding a solar energy powered irrigation project in central Malawi - enabling locals to grow more of their own food (www.christianaid.org.uk). Gift Aid means that the government will contribute a further £115 to the amount we raised. **(Geoff Gaskill)**

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 3rd July in Dover Town Hall. The programme commemorates anniversaries of the deaths of Handel (1759) and Haydn (1809), and Bleriot's maiden cross-channel flight (1909). Included is a medley from Les Miserables, a Handel anthem and three topical songs arranged by Michael Lewis, together with Dauntless Dover and the traditional Proms Finale of Jerusalem, Rule Britannia and Land of Hope and Glory. This year's proceeds are in support of Nicole's Fund at The Teenager Cancer Trust. Tickets are available at £6 and £3 (promenaders) from the Dover Visitor Centre or from chorus members. For further details ring Sue or Steve Yarrow 01304 872812 or Mike Lewis on 01227 831208. **(Steve Osborn)**

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ALKHAM CRICKET at home versus

5th The Marquis at 2.30pm

9th Dover College at 6.00pm

15th Aquarius at 6.00pm

19th Wick. And Stod. At 2.20pm

23rd Dover Cosmos at 6.00pm

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County Councillor, Bryan Cope 206510

District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956,
Andrew Richardson 211835

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Police Support Officer 07772226209

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

Other events in the village

Monday	6	Parish Council meeting in village hall at 7.30pm
Saturday	11	Annual fete 2pm Vicarage Meadow – see page 1
Tuesday	14	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	20	Bird Club in village hall from 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th	Evensong 6.30pm	Eucharist 9.00	Worship together 11am
Sunday 12th	Eucharist 9.00am	Worship together 11am	
Sunday 19th	Family Service 11am	Songs of Praise 4pm	Eucharist 9.00am
Sunday 26th	Joint Benefice 10.00am at Alkham		
Weekday Services: Wednesday Eucharist 9.15 am St Radigund, Capel-Le-Ferne			

From the Vicarage - What a glorious week it has been. Real June days, the cool early mornings with the birds singing and Rolo and Bob happily running in the fields and the welcome heat of the day doing the flowers and vegetables a power of good. The tomatoes are ripening in the greenhouse and there is fruit on the ones in the garden, the broad beans, French beans and peas are delicious and there are strawberries ripening. The fruit trees have 'taken' and we now have apples and cherries but I have been told that I need to remove these the first year to encourage strong growth in the trees. I still have some space and I am hoping to plant a damson and a pear this autumn. Bob is now off the lead in the fields but is still very nervous and barks first when he meets new dogs, it's an anxiety bark but rather off-putting to everyone and we are trying to stop this but it may take some time. He is aptly named as he does 'bob' up and down in the grass but if he thinks it's too tall or thick he just sits and waits to be carried! At the end of May we had our first wedding for this year at St. Anthony's and there is another booked for September. Bookings are coming in for next year and with the relaxation in the requirements it is possible for me to marry couples who may not live in the village but have a connection with Alkham, Hougham or Capel through other family members. There is a real sense of community in Alkham and it is lovely to be part of the events that take place. I am very much looking forward to the Fete on the 11th July. Last year it was such a good afternoon, there was so much to see and to do for all of us. **(Sue White)**

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Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969

e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com

Alkham web site www.alkham.org

Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791

alkham.parcouncil@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 Ken Hammond 07909563479

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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THE FETE was a great success and thanks must go to Paul Tapsell for being the prime organiser. The picture shows Chris Tapsell, Maurice Sayers and Bob Palmer at the drinks stall where beer and Pimms was served. **(editor)**

KENT POLICE YOUTH PANEL is made up of young people, aged 11 and over living in Kent, who tell us what they think about a number of crime and policing issues. During a year, panel members will be invited to take part in up to four surveys or discussion groups. We will ask for your opinions by email, telephone or post or at informal discussion group meetings. Get involved - If you are aged 11 years and older, live in Kent and would like more information, please email the Youth Panel or call 01622 652667. Please visit

www.

kent.police.uk/youthpanel for more information **(PC Mick Wright)**

ALKHAM FETE - I'd like to say a big 'Thank you' to everyone who helped with the Fete this year, despite some ominous rain clouds we had a fabulous day, taking something in the region of £4,130 so after expenses we should have the best part of £2,500 to £3,000 to divide between the Church and Village Hall. It's invidious to name individuals when so many people put so much into the day, but I should give particular mention to Doreen Wilkes who is bowing out having run the needlework and textiles stall for many years, to the generous donors who put money towards the prize fund (John and Ann Huggins, the Keep Fit Club and Mrs Ann Onymous - you know who you are!), to Barbara Palmer for taking me (and the children) shopping and to the W I Ladies in the Village Hall/Tea Tent. Thanks must also go to the Tapsell brothers and their wives - Richard and Sue, David and Christine and Alan and Shirley (as well as Chris and Jane, who because of a mix up on my part, missed out this year!) - and their children and grandchildren (S, J & C, L, A & S, M & G, and A & K); without whose unfaltering support and assistance, frankly, there probably wouldn't be a Fete! I should also like to thank our PCSO Gretl for her hard work on the day dealing with waspish motorists and motoring wasps and for the young lads who came and offered, without being asked, to help cut the grass for me! If you'd like to come along to the post-Fete meeting in early September, or any of next year's Fete meetings to get involved, please do - the more the merrier! **(Paul Tapsell)**

THE HISTORIC VILLAGE SIGN opposite the village hall is in a very poor state. The Parish Council have approached DDC with regard to replacing it but DDC say that it is not their responsibility. However, the sign does say that it was installed by the Tourism department of DDC and therefore the Parish Council are contacting them again. Rather than enhancing the village as was intended it now appears to be doing the opposite, so maybe a village solution is required. **(editor)**

CLEANER - The Alkham village hall requires a cleaner for 3 hours a week from September this year. If you would like to apply, or would like further information, please contact Sue Lees on 822661, or pop in and see her at Forstal Cottage by the Marquis.

JUMBLE SALE - Saturday 15th August 11am - an unusual month but a Sale well worth coming to - run by the Alkham WI.

GARDENER wanted. Experienced gardener required to assist with maintaining two average size gardens in the centre of the village (probably 2 to 4 hours per week). While the main tasks involve mowing, weeding, occasional hedge trimming and strimming, plus generally keeping the gardens neat and tidy, we'd ideally like to find someone who has a genuine interest in gardening. Hours and rate negotiable. Please call Peter on 01304 820067 (leave your name and number on answer machine if no reply)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY

A very interesting talk by the archaeologist, Vince Burrows, will take place in the village hall at 7.30pm on 26th August. Light refreshments will be served and all are welcome. An ideal opportunity to learn about our local history.

GARDEN TALK - Our next gathering will be on Friday 14th August at Box Tree in Slip Lane, where our hosts will be Pam and Maurice Sayers. All welcome to join us for an informal tour and chat about gardens in particular and anything else. Further suggestions for visits gratefully received.

(Janet Adamson 01303 893413)

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NAKED MAN IN VILLAGE SCANDAL - After a gruelling twenty five mile cycle ride last week, I had just stepped out of the shower with back door wide open when I was confronted on the doorstep by a well known lady of the village who, it is widely known, has a soft spot for me. I hastily wrapped my towel around me, but I think it was too late judging from the expression on her face. I mention no names but I will say that Sue Lees keeps calling when Irene's not in with spurious excuses and, when she finds me fully clothed, always looks disappointed. I still don't know why she came round. **(Den Barnard)**



Alkham Group

Outing: The Alkham Valley Society, Alkham W.I., Alkham Gardening Club and a.r.s.e. made a successful group expedition to Faversham 23 June. We nearly filled a bus and the Excellent Company enjoyed a tour of the town : Bricks, Barges and Beer

apparently the three Bs making Faversham's wealth. The town only seems to have been bombed once, and revealed extraordinary mediaeval and Georgian buildings, an unusual number of flourishing public houses and, of course, the creek at lowish tide with the brown sails of the barges furling against their tall masts. Lunch followed at the Anchor Inn, which nearly panicked at the growing group but coped very well. The afternoon tour of the Shepherds Neame Brewery was well attended, a 'must do' in Faversham, and its products enjoyed. Adventures befell some who did not go on the brewery tour such as a cafe owner felled by flowerpots, a brawl in an alleyway (NOT Alkham villagers), more near panic in other cafes owned by the same flowerpot victim and so on: aspects of mediaeval and modern life thrown in en passant, as it were. They need not have worried, we enjoyed Faversham old and new. Thanks to all who came to make this day enjoyable, some from as far away as Bath. **(Jo Walker, Sec)**

WE ARE RECRUITING volunteers to the Clean Kent Watch as part of Neighbourhood Watch Kent, to help observe and report illegal environmental activities. 'Eyes and ears' reporting plays a valuable role for the Clean Kent Campaign, which seeks to improve and enhance the quality of the local street scene by reducing fly tipping, abandoned vehicles and associated fires. As a Clean Kent Watch volunteer you will be provided with an information pack which includes a unique identification number, enabling you to report information to trained staff 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Your reporting will be used to inform clean-up activity through to enforcement action and help prevent and deter these environmental offences. To find out more and to register log onto www.cleankent.co.uk/cleankentwatch.html or e-mail clean.kent@kent.gov.uk. Your help is very much appreciated in order to make Kent clean and beautiful. **(PC Mick Wright)**

BOOK CLUB - We will be meeting this month at the home of Linda Gaskill on Wednesday 5th August at 7.30pm. The Book chosen for discussion is Testament of Youth by Vera Britton. If members are unable to attend please contact Linda direct, Tel: 823100. New members are always welcome to join our friendly group. **(Rosemary Hedde)**



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ALKHAM W.I. - Very few members realized that the talk on 'Ikebana' was not 'keep fit' but a delightful demonstration on Japanese flower arranging - so elegant and so few flowers and greenery needed. Members were reminded that the WI Open Air Quiz is to take place at Alkham on 3rd August 10am - 2pm. The next WI meeting 11th August is one for members just to sit back, relax, talk, eat fish & chips and drink wine, or eat and drink their preferred refreshments. **(Sue Lees)**



Look what happens when dogs are allowed to roam loose.

BOOK CLUB - We will be meeting this month at the home of Linda Gaskill on Wednesday 5th August at 7.30pm. The Book chosen for discussion is Testament of Youth by Vera Britton. If members are unable to attend please contact Linda direct, Tel: 823100. New members are always welcome to join our friendly group. **(Rosemary Heddle)**

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY has a big season coming up, with Handel's Messiah this autumn and Verdi's Requiem next spring. Also our website went live at: www.doverchoralsociety.org.uk

Go there now and see our lovely picture on the home page, read all about us and our past and future performances, or simply browse in our library of music for hire. And why not join us, either to sing or as a Friend?

(Steve Osborn)

OZ on THE SHIPPING FORECAST

- Most readers will identify with the first line of Charlie Connelly's 2004 book Attention All Shipping, where he says "The solemn, rhythmic intonation of the shipping forecast is as familiar to us as the sound of Big Ben chiming the hour." It is a travel book, written after Connelly undertook "a journey round the shipping forecast" and it describes both the geography of the forecast areas and the history of the forecast. The first forecast was called Weather Shipping, and was broadcast from the Air Ministry, London, on 1 January 1924. At that time the seas around Britain were divided into just thirteen weather areas, the Kent coast being shared between Thames and Wight. The Dover area was introduced in 1956, and extends from Thanet to Bruges in the north, and Beachy Head to Dieppe in the south. Today there are 31 weather areas, and so Connelly describes some 60 locations. After reading the book I did some research of my own. What impressed me was how central the shipping forecast has become to our national culture, appearing time after time in the arts and media and of course in quizzes. Seamus Heaney's sonnet The Shipping Forecast starts with "Dogger, Rockall, Malin, Irish Sea...", while Carol Ann Duffy's poem Prayer ends with "Darkness outside. Inside, the radio's prayer - Rockall. Malin. Dogger. Finisterre." To return to Connelly, his chapter on Dover starts with the traditional jibe about passing through, rather than staying in, the town, but then progresses through 16 pages of increasingly sympathetic portrayal of various wars, immigrations, Bleriot's first channel crossing and the ferry business. The other locations are described in equally thorough and humorous manner, making it a difficult book to put down once started, and all for only £6.99 from Amazon. **(Steve Osborn)**

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6th St. Margaret 6.00pm

9th Westbourne 2.30pm

16th Balham Roamers 2pm

30th Hackers 12 noon

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Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Monday	3	W.I. treasure hunt 9.30am
Tuesday	11	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	15	W.I. jumble sale in village hall 11.00am
Monday	17	Bird Club in village hall from 7.30pm
Wednesday	26	Alkham Valley Society Archaeological Talk 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2nd	Evensong 6.30pm	Eucharist 9.00am	Worship together 11am
Sunday 9th	Eucharist 9.00am	Worship together 11am	
Sunday 16th	Family Service 11a.m.	Sung Evensong 6 p.m.	Eucharist 9.00am
Sunday 23rd	Joint Benefice 10.00am at Alkham		
Sunday 30th	Joint Benefice 10.00am at St. Mary's		

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

From the Vicarage - Well St. Swithin's day brought a little rain – we can do with some but not forty days worth! The garden is continuing to thrive, flowers, vegetable and weeds are in earnest competition but with a little help from the hoe the flowers and veg are winning. It's amazing how the garden has changed, it's looking quite colourful and welcoming now. I shall have to make some changes for next year such as planting the onion sets and the garlic bulbs nearer the surface of the soil. Most of them decided that mining was not their forte and have either died or headed for Australia. The rhubarb has been fantastic and this year I have made some into chutney but I fear it will need some time to mature (probably a year or ten) before being eaten. The Fete was excellent and once again I was fortunate in meeting many people; we must all be very thankful for all the hard work that is put in to plan and run this event. The postal service at the Farmers Market in Capel is very welcome and we shall all have to support the efforts that are being made to bring back a permanent service. I hear of other village post offices and facilities being closed and hear of the problems that there are in getting into the nearest town where there is a post office service. It seems strange to me that the post office in Folkestone was also closed because it is evident that the counter at W. H. Smiths cannot cope. No matter what day or time I have been there is always a long queue. In fact it's the length of queue I could wish for on a Sunday morning before I begin a service!! I wish you all a pleasant summer with the children at home for the holidays, safe journeys and happy days. **(Sue White)**

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Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969

e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com

Alkham web site www.alkham.org

Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791

alkham.parcouncil@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 Ken Hammond 07909563479

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 192 September 2009

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Damage is caused to the trees, hedges and verges on a fairly regularly basis by these misdirected HGV's. The Highway Authority has been approached to install a 'Not suitable for long vehicles' sign at the top of Meggett Lane and the Parish Council has been trying for some time to get them to erect a sign at Lower Standen warning HGV's of the low bridge at Temple Ewell; it would seem a good idea to add the 'not suitable' to this sign. Large HGV's are frequently seen going up the hill by Vicarage Meadow and inevitably they will have to turn round causing inconvenience to road users and also the driver who has been directed along the valley by the stupid software. **(editor)**

SHEEP – The killing continues with a sheep being attacked and gored to death, by what is thought to be dogs running loose, on land owned by John Huggins adjacent to Chalksole Green Lane. John asks all owners to make sure their dogs are on the lead when near livestock and warns that if he sees a dog worrying his sheep he will shoot it. **(editor)**

FETE POST- MORTEM - Please come along to the Fete Committee meeting on the 15th September for the annual review of the Fete, financial reports and division of the spoils - if you're good I might bring a couple of bottles of wine to share afterwards! We can also set things in train for next year's Fete to be held on Saturday the 10th July 2010 so put the date in your diaries now to avoid the embarrassment of explaining that you're going to a wedding or have booked your holiday for the same day as the most important date in the village's year! **(Paul Tapsell)**

VARIETY SHOW – Helen Scopes is hoping to put together another Variety Show in 2010. If anyone is interested in taking part or would like to have a meeting to discuss ideas or please ring Helen on 01304 210591. Also it is hoped to hold a May Day event in the village in 2010, so if you have any ideas, please ring Helen.

PERILS OF SAT NAV The photograph was taken by a person who lives in Meggett Lane where this monster had been directed by its Sat Nav and then got stuck; it took an hour and a half to get the truck to reverse back up the hill to the Alkham Valley Road.

ALKHAM PRODUCE - Vigilant walkers passing St. Anthony's church will have seen the notice advertising local Alkham produce in the porch. The concept, picked up on a recent wet holiday in Cornwall, is of vegetables, fruit, flowers, plants and other items being offered for sale in aid of church funds. A recent inspection of the church building, revealed a total of £35,000 needed for various refurbishments.

At present, payment is on a voluntary donation basis, but, depending on how this works, we may switch to a "price per item" later. Recent offers have included greengages, French beans, chili peppers, peaches and courgettes. So, whether you are a green-fingered gardener with surplus produce to offer, or just enjoy eating your "five a day", please give generously.

(Geoff Gaskill)

ALKHAM CC v THE MARQUIS The 2nd Annual ACC v Marquis cricket match will be on the 28th September from 1 pm, with a number of all-star players from the Counties and England national teams, pitting their wits and skill against the Alkham badgers (and the unpredictable wicket). Come along to support us (or them, suit yourselves!) and enjoy the spectacle of village cricket at its very best. There will be various fund-raising activities to raise money for the club and our chosen charity (or which more anon!). A super time is, pretty much, guaranteed and it will be a wonderful round off to an eventful 170th year for the Club. Once again there will be a special meal at the Marquis afterwards with guest speakers at 8pm and tickets are £24.95 for three courses including a glass of house wine (call 01304873410 for more information).

(Paul Tapsell)

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DEN AND CYCLING (Part Four) - Nelson Mandela once said 'After climbing a great hill one only finds that there are many more hills to climb'. He obviously used to go cycling with Ken and Brian. I believe now that I have seen all the big hills in Kent but still nothing compares with the mountain next to Etchinghill Golf Course which, I might add, Brian and Ken have no problem with. We have two new regulars in the club, Geoff Gaskill and Alan Latham, who both have very quickly reached cycling fitness and Geoff has stopped falling off. Sandy Tapsell and Linda Gaskill have also had their first ride with the team showing superb style and fitness and adding some glamour to the club. Ken and Brian have both bought new bikes and are putting pressure on me to do the same but I have resisted majestically so far. At two to three thousand pounds a time I think my resistance will remain pretty strong. I have noticed that car and lorry drivers seem to be more supportive of us cyclists recently. We have less rude gestures and angry swear words these days but there is always the odd one who believes we should not be on the road and you can spot them a mile off. As Mandela once said 'If you don't like the look of someone just punch them' – I am, of course, referring to Ronnie Mandela, the kid who used to sit next to me at school. **(Den Barnard)**

HOUSE FOR RENT OR EXCHANGE – A couple in the village need to move to Canterbury for work and education purposes. If anybody has any family that already lives in the Canterbury area and would like to move to Alkham please get in touch! Ideally we are looking for a 2/3 bedroom house close to the city centre in exchange for our 2 bedroom house with big garden and beautiful views! In addition we wonder if anyone has a property for rent in Canterbury. If you are interested please phone us on 01304 829295.

FAMILY HISTORY - If you are interested in starting, or progressing with this fascinating hobby, there are classes which may be of help. Family History: the Basics and Beyond is an 11 week course being held on Monday afternoons in Dover Discovery Centre from 28th September, and at Wood Avenue Library, Folkestone (Top of Canterbury Road) on Tuesday afternoons from 29th September. Run through Adult Education, courses are listed in their new brochure - or further details can be got from Janet Adamson 01303 893413.

NAKED MAN SCANDAL – a Reply. Since the last Newsletter several people have asked me what I was doing when I 'accidentally' saw Den Barnard coming out of his shower one day last month. I would like to make it clear that I had a genuine reason for being there and I think a lot of fuss is being made about such a small thing. **(Sue Lees)**

NEWSLETTER – It is the end of the financial year for the Newsletter and I'm pleased to say a profit was made on the year. All money received goes into the Nationwide Building Society and the account shows a healthy balance. The printing costs were £447; petrol for delivery was £24 and the postage for 24 copies a month, £85. In addition, £60 has so far been donated to the Rainbow Centre who do such a good job in the community and printing the Newsletter.

(editor)

GARDEN TALK - A large number enjoyed the hospitality of Pam & Maurice Sayers in August, also viewing the pretty garden and new 'Bandstand'. Our next meeting will be on Friday 9th October, when Susannah and Richard Tapsell will be our hosts. All welcome from 7.30p.m. **(Janet Adamson)**

THE MARQUIS are offering either free private dining room hire or a birthday cake or a bottle of bubbly for any special celebration (birthdays, anniversaries etc) meals for tables of 6 people or more. They are also taking wedding bookings at the Marquis for 2010 if anyone locally would like to make a date before we start to get booked up.



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I wish this dog flap was a bit bigger

DOGS - www.doglost.co.uk was founded in 2003 with the sole aim of reuniting lost and stolen dogs with their owners and relies on the efforts of volunteers. In April 2008, www.doglost.co.uk started a partnership with Kent Police, concerned about the issues of missing dogs and the rising wave of pet thefts and the force is now officially recommending www.doglost.co.uk to distraught owners who contact them. www.doglost.co.uk strives daily to extend its partnerships with organisations and individuals and is committed to becoming the most comprehensive database of lost and found dogs. To date they have reunited over 8000 dogs. It's about time that Police Services looked at dog thefts as a CRIME. A dog is property and although some of them are very valuable it is the emotional connection to the animal that is normally the hardest part for the loser to cope with. **(Kent Police)**

ALKHAM W.I. - August was a pleasant month of activity, starting with Audrey Chant's Annual Open Air Quiz. Mandy Summers brilliantly devised the questions for the members from eight W.I.'s to take part. The weather was good and all enjoyed the event on a lovely sunny day. Member's night was very relaxing giving everyone the chance to chat while eating fish & chips, kindly ordered and collected by Edith Neve. This was followed by a Jumble Sale on 15th which was a great success, over £200 collected on the day. The 8th September meeting will have a talk on the 'Language of Flowers' by Georgina Reed.

(Sue Lees)

OZ on PAINTED LADIES

All summer the buddleias in the back garden have been abrim with up to thirty brightly-coloured butterflies. Twenty were Vanessa cardui, or Painted Ladies, so called because of their many-coloured markings; black, brown and orange on the upper wing surface, grey on the lower wing surface, together with white spots and red and blue markings. The creatures were part of a huge immigration of Painted Ladies first noticed on 21st May off Portland Bill in Dorset. Fine weather saw large numbers heading north over central London, Norfolk and East Yorkshire, and arriving in Scotland on Spring Bank Holiday, Monday 25th May. Scientists predicted this year's exodus in February when they observed the butterflies leaving their winter quarters in Morocco's Atlas Mountains. Numbers were high because heavy winter rain had encouraged the growth of their caterpillars' food-plants. Before arriving here the butterflies were seen over Spain in April and over France in early May. Every year a new flock of tiny creatures makes the same journey, guided only by the sun. Migration is limited to the excess population, as travel to Britain is a one-way ticket, requiring some to stay at home to reproduce. Flying at an average speed of 9mph would require a week to travel 1100 miles to Scotland compared with the actual journey time of 3 months. This extra time is taken up with feeding and egg-laying, creating extra colonies that either continue north or return to Morocco. The Painted Ladies that arrive here in May produce a second generation, which continues north, but can't survive the winter there. Occasionally Painted Ladies are found on the south coast attempting to hibernate in January but they never attempt the return journey and usually die in the winter frosts. It's an unremarkable end to a remarkable life.

(Steve Osborn)

Butterfly Conservation always welcomes details of sightings at www.butterfly-conservation.org

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Police Support Officer 07772226209

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

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	7	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm in village hall.
Tuesday	8	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	15	Fete meeting 8pm – see page 1
Monday	21	Bird Club in village hall from 7.30pm
Tuesday	22	Harvest Supper
Saturday	26	PCC jumble sale in village hall 11.00am

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2nd	Evensong 6.30pm	Eucharist 9.00am	Worship together 11am
Sunday 9th	Eucharist 9.00am	Worship together 11am	
Sunday 16th	Family Service 11a.m.	Sung Evensong 6 p.m.	Eucharist 9.00am
Sunday 23rd	Joint Benefice 10.00am at Alkham		
Sunday 30th	Joint Benefice 10.00am at St. Mary's		
Weekday Services: Wednesday Eucharist 9.15 am St Radigund, Capel-Le-Ferne			

From the Vicarage - We have been enjoying a splendid summer. Bob the Bischon has passed his bronze award at dog training so we are now doing the silver. He's a very engaging little dog though that wasn't my comment when I realised that he had taken the butter dish from the table and eaten all the butter! Having eaten part of a newly baked loaf the previous day he knows that he is not to eat our food although that didn't stop him finishing off Richard's porridge on another occasion. We think he eats in anticipation of a famine and as that is unlikely it's difficult to know when that will stop. He and Rolo often wrestle together and both seem to enjoy it although it can look ferocious to an onlooker; two little dogs with bared teeth standing on their hind legs each trying to topple the other. We continue to try and curb Bob's inclination to bark and at present are trying the 'stones in the plastic bottle' approach. Rolo barks, we shake the bottle and Bob leaves the room. When Bob barks we pick up the bottle and at present he runs for it so we think this technique has been used on him before and if so it has not been a permanent solution but we shall see. The garden continues to thrive and we are eating well on our own produce. It still seems quite amazing that such small seeds can produce such a rich harvest. It's good for us all to enjoy the present even though there is much that lies ahead. Our new Authorised Lay Ministers, Theda Mulloy, Keith Hughes, Helen Scopes and Raye Luckhurst have been commissioned and are embarking on their ministry amongst us, visiting people at home and leading services. It's good to be part of a team in the village and I look forward to future developments. **(Sue White)**

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HGV SIGNING – The Highway Authority have produced a comprehensive signing scheme with regard to the low bridge at Temple Ewell. At the Folkestone end of the valley there are signs on both slip roads of the A20 directing the HGV traffic to the A260 (also signed) up Spitfire Way, round Hawkinge to the A2 and back to Whitfield roundabout. If an HGV misses these signs there are further signs on the valley road at Standen crossroads (by the paving slab makers) and at Wolverton Hill; with care, this should allow for the vehicle to back up the side road and turn round. At the Dover end there is signing before and at the valley road warning of the low bridge. Congratulations to both the Parish Council and the Highway Authority. **(editor)**

THE OPEN ROAD - Lovely day, Open Golf at Sandwich, but no money, solution – bike into back of car, drive to Sandwich with wife, park at riverside, off-load bike, send wife shopping. Cycle along footpath partially following river which leads to sea. Arrive at point where footpath crosses the Royal St. George Golf Course. Footpath guarded by police constable. Constable insists on escorting one across Course to seaside road and seeing one off premises. Sit on roadside verge, can of beer, watch some golf and have a doze. Tide is turning. Walk out to water's edge. Follow tide in, gathering cockles as they rise from sand to greet sea. Quick swim when tide high enough. Watch a bit more golf, another beer, but time getting on. Decide to use Sandwich Bay Estate roads to get back. A nice pint in The Crispin by the toll bridge, picked up by wife, cockles for supper. A day like that or a road race – Wimsett's wobblers on yer bikes. **(Rob Lees)**

LONGER WALKS FROM ALKHAM - It has been suggested (thank you Linda!) that there may be people in the village who would like to do some longer walks. I do most of my walking alone and I am happy to do so but I know, for what ever reason, some people are uncomfortable walking on their own. The walks I do locally range from 7 to 17 miles. I know Rosemary Heddle has tried, with limited success, to start a walking group. The distances planned were quite modest but there may be walkers out there who would like more of a challenge. I'm quite happy to lead a few walks to start things off so if you are interested please email me at antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk or phone 823993 if you don't have access to the internet. **(Anthony Barrier)**

CALENDAR AND CHRISTMAS CARDS – Friends of St. Anthony are currently working to produce a calendar that features an old and new photo related to Alkham on each monthly page. We are also intending to produce some Christmas cards which will show snow scenes of Alkham. If everything goes to plan they will be ready in plenty of time for Christmas at a reasonable price – and in aid of FOSA a **COFFEE MORNING** will be held in the village hall on the 7th November from 10.30am to mid-day. There will also be bric-a-brac stalls.

iPOD – A couple of weeks ago an iPhone/iPod was found opposite Alkham village hall. If you have lost one please phone Mr. Allan on 820179 and mention some songs which are on the iPod.

JULIA & PAUL are seeking person/s to look after their 11 dogs! on an occasional basis, especially 5 days at half term. We live just outside the village towards Hougham and will offer an excellent hourly rate. Please phone 01303 221953 for more details.

EWELL MINNIS telephone kiosk A businessman by the name of Philip Young whose family have lived on the Minnis for three generations, has very kindly donated a sum of money to the Parish Council to allow the phone box at Ewell Minnis to remain in working order. BT had recently short listed the phone box for removal due to lack of use, however, the Parish Council are delighted that it can now be saved as a working kiosk rather than an empty shell. Many thanks go to Philip for his generous donation!

VILLAGE BUS STOP - The concrete bus stop is in poor condition and due to its age is beyond reasonable repair. This means it may have to be removed at some point in the not too distant future. **(Parish Council)**

DOG WALKERS - The Parish Council have received reports about dog walkers using the route through the graveyard not clearing up properly behind their dogs. Sometimes there are bags of dog waste left on the stone bench by the kissing gate and also in and around nearby properties on the Alkham Valley Road. Please can all dog walkers be reminded to take home their bags of waste and not leave them lying around! **(PC)**

COFFEE MORNING – On Saturday the 10th October from 9.30am to 12.30, there will be a coffee morning provided on behalf of the Conservative association at Alkham village hall. We welcome anyone from the village and the surrounding area to come and meet us. **(Geoff Lymer)**

GARDEN TALK - The next gathering will be on Friday 9th October, from 7.30p.m. at "Bramhall", Alkham Valley Road. All welcome.

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THE ALKHAM HONEY SHOW - On Saturday 24th October the Dover and District Beekeepers' Association will again be holding its annual Honey Show in the Alkham Village Hall, and I'd like to extend my usual invitation to Alkham residents to look in during the afternoon. The number of villagers who take up this invitation has grown steadily over the last two or three years and it's not hard to understand why. The media have done an excellent job in alerting the public to the very real problems honeybees are currently facing and the disastrous consequences there would be for the natural environment and for agriculture if the bee population declined much further. One pleasing result of this publicity is that beekeeping seems no longer to be regarded as a quaint pursuit for dysfunctional eccentrics but as an important way of helping to safeguard a vital economic asset, conserve our wild flora and ensure our gardens continue to bloom. I'm sure it is this changed perception of beekeeping that largely explains the increased attendance at our shows and the fact that a good few of our visitors have then gone on to acquire hives of their own. They have been keen to take advantage of the support we are always happy to give anyone new to beekeeping and consequently our membership has risen quite dramatically. The show is open to the public from 2.30 and we do hope you will find an hour or so to spend with us. Entrance is free, refreshments will be available and there will be displays of different hive products, honeys for you to sample, a small exhibition of beekeeping equipment and various items for sale, including jars of local honey — a commodity that has been in short supply of late as you are probably aware. (Roy Dyche - Honey Show Secretary)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - The talk given by Vince Burrows on 26 August in the Alkham Village Hall was a comforting affair: matter can neither be created nor destroyed still apparently stands as a rule in science. Good news for the archaeological remains uncovered near Mean Ridge, Chilton area. The Wolverton Warrior and a little girl of 4 lie not far from each other, uncovered in the course of the dig to explore an ancient barrow. Now it remains to do something effective with the finds. This is why an amount (nearly £500) was collected earlier this year by Alkham Village, the purpose being to conserve and make accessible the finds to us all by preserving them in Dover Museum. There was a great deal of interest in Mr Burrow's passionate talk about the very old inhabitants of our Valley. There is a year in hand before the finds have to be conserved by a museum other than Dover. These days we have a great many pressing needs for public funds, the Parish Church among them. But, thank you to all who came and made for a refreshing and informative evening. At this stage it is probably best to say 'watch this space', and to remember we are not alone. (J Walker. Sec)

BROADBAND – There are adverts for Broadband speeds of up to 8Mb but I get a download speed of about .015Mb per second (or 15Kb per sec which is dial-up rate). Evidently the speed to Alkham is 0.9Mb and taking into account usage by all the Internet providers the speed decreases dramatically. There is something called Rambo, which is a piece of software that reduces the speed to your property if there is noise on the line. After talking to BT the cap was taken off and the download speed increased to 50Kb per second but the noise immediately appeared such that after a short while it was back down to 15Kb. The only way to get a better service is for BT to do something about the telephone line and I am told if enough people complain they might do something about it. Please contact me on 824969 or brianwimsett@hotmail.com if you would like to join a petition. (Brian Wimsett)

FOOTPATHS - I had been promised an update from our PROW Officer in time for this Newsletter but at the time of going to press I am still waiting. There are various outstanding issues including blocked paths, poor surfaces, gates and way marking. I hope to have some news by next month. (Anthony Barrier)



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OZ on JOHNSON – My topic in a previous article was the 250th birthday of Samuel Johnson's Dictionary of the English Language. Now it is time to remember the man himself, as last month saw his 300th birthday. The child of elderly parents, Johnson was born in Lichfield, Staffordshire, on 18 September 1709, suffering from a condition that permanently affected his eyesight and health. He grew into a heavy man with awkward gestures, believed now to signify Tourette's Syndrome, that disturbed people on first acquaintance. After a year's study at Oxford University, Johnson was destitute and tried teaching, but failed because he frightened the children. In 1735, he married an older widow, and the couple moved to London. Over the next ten years Johnson became a writer, with a huge output of essays, poems and general hack-work. Between 1746 and 1755 Johnson and six poorly-paid assistants laboured on the Dictionary of the English Language. During this time, in 1752, Johnson, devastated by the death of his wife, invited her blind friend and his needy friends to share his house. Johnson's national importance was finally recognized when he received a government pension in 1762, followed by Master's degrees and doctorates from Oxford and Dublin. Johnson wrote into old age, his semi-retirement enriched by friendships with James Boswell, a young Scottish lawyer, and the Thrales, a brewer and his wife. Boswell accompanied Johnson to Scotland, documenting the trip as The Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides, a forerunner to his Life of Johnson. Typical is this from Johnson, a huge drinker with occasional long periods of abstinence, to the young Boswell: "Not to drink wine is a great deduction from life; but it may be necessary." Johnson died on 13 December 1784 and was buried, of course, in Poets' Corner, Westminster Abbey. **(Steve Osborn)**

FROM THE VICARAGE - We had the ten mile Parish Walk on 30th August. We started at St. Radigund's in Albany Road then across the fields to St. Mary's where we had a service of Holy Communion. We walked on to Alkham Village hall where the Badgers were practicing for their match against the Hackers. We ate our sandwiches there and watched the practice and ducked to avoid the odd ball. It was a lovely day, not too hot and no rain. The six dogs enjoyed it although Rolo was nearly guillotined at one stile. The idea is that the walker climbs over the stile and raises a piece of wood which allows the dog to pass through, in Rolo's case it was a very slow passing and the wood was heavy so he narrowly missed having his tail docked! Having travelled through miles of stiles as one companion put it we arrived at The Old School House at Church Hougham. Whilst we enjoyed cakes and cups of tea the dogs put on their own show of chase through the garden! Needless to say Wendy's Megan won, Rolo and Bob don't have the legs for sprinters and having done at least 20 miles I was surprised they had the energy. The garage Safari was a great success, people have an amazing appetite for Bacon rolls and Wendy was hard at it all day. This past weekend was the Quilt Festival at St. Lawrence Hougham, it's amazing the talent that there is in our villages and it was good to be part of the community effort which made the weekend so enjoyable. We are starting to plan the services for the Autumn and will once again be collecting for the Dover Soup kitchen, tins of meat and packets of biscuits and crisps will be very welcome. There are more young people who are jobless and homeless and they are in need of our help. Please give what you can at the school or the churches. We shall also be doing the Christmas Shoe boxes for the children who receive nothing at Christmas. **(Sue White 01303 240539)**

BOOK CLUB - The next meeting will take place at the home of Susanna Tapsell on the 7th October at 7.30pm. The book to be discussed is intriguing, The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Stieg Larsson, which has sold more than 7.5 million copies. If you have read the book, and wish to join our lively group, please contact Rosemary Heddle 827880 for more details.

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District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956,

Andrew Richardson 211835

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

Saturday	10	Conservative Association Coffee morning see page 1
Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	18	Bird Club in village hall from 7.30pm
Saturday	24	Honey Show in village hall 2.30pm – see page 2
Tuesday	27	Cricket AGM in village hall 8.00pm
Saturday	31	W.I. jumble sale in village hall 11.00am

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4th	Evensong 6.30pm	Harvest Eucharist 9.00	Worship Together 11am
Sunday 11th	Eucharist 9.00	Worship Together 11am	Songs of Praise 5p.m
Sunday 18th	Family Service 11am	Sung Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9.00am
Sunday 25th	Joint Benefice 10.00am at Alkham		

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

ALKHAM W.I. – Autumn has started and everyone was pleased to meet up again and listen to active days ahead - Outings and fund raising events such as Jumble Sale 26th September & 24th October, a Christmas Bazaar 5th December as well as a Christmas Dinner at The Marquis on 14th December. All very exciting. However, the talk on the Language of Flowers was not as anticipated and the majority of members had difficulty following the read speech – such a shame. It is to be hoped the talk at the next meeting 13th October, on 'Life in the Victorian Workhouse' by Peter Ewart will be more interesting. Members are reminded to have a list of names of members, for the October Meeting, who are prepared to stand on the committee next year – **(Susan Lees)**

NEW MENU LAUNCH, anniversary, music & magic all in one night !

We will be celebrating our anniversary on Saturday 10th October with live music, magic & an introduction to Charlie's new tasting menu, which will then be available, along with matching wines, to order in the restaurant permanently. We are all proud of everything which has passed in the last year & think it will be well worth celebrating, so reserve your place now for £85 for the 7 course tasting menu (£57.50 food only) including selected wines & coffee. **(Ben Walton)**

THANKS to all the people who sponsored the Alkham Cycle Club on the 60 miles Air Ambulance ride and also the Friends of Kent Churches. It was a joint sponsorship and a cheque for £65 has been sent to both with more money to follow.

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Neighbourhood Watch PCSO (left) & 218151

Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055

Police Support Officer 07772226209

Alkham web site www.alkham.org

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 Ken Hammond 07909563479

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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No. 194 November 2009

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CALENDAR and CARDS – The Alkham calendar ‘Past and Present’, which has a black and white picture taken around Alkham in the past and an associated present day colour photo for each month, has now been printed. It costs £5.00 and can be purchased by contacting me on 824969 (email brianwimsett@hotmail.com), Den Barnard on 824845 or Val Fowler on 827635. Please contact us as soon as possible as we expect a good response and we can also give you details about the Christmas cards which are currently being produced. **(editor)**

BROADBAND PETITION – As a result of the article in last month’s Newsletter about poor Broadband connection, 27 people responded to the request to add their name to a petition asking BT to improve the speed. The petition was sent to BT’s head office on the 8th October with a copy to Gwyn Prosser MP who has acknowledged receipt. **(editor)**

EVENING OF REMEMBRANCE - On Saturday November 14th an evening of Remembrance will be held in the Village Hall. It will follow the format of last year’s, held to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the First World War, but will also include the Second World War as this year marks the 70th anniversary of the start of this conflict. The evening will comprise readings, music, personal accounts as well as displays of memorabilia provided by villagers. If you would like to come to the evening, to participate or to listen, please contact either Den & Irene Barnard (01304.824845) or Mark & Debbie Robson (01304.820459). You will need to provide your own nibbles and drink and a collection will be held for the Royal British Legion. The evening will start at 7.30. On the theme of Remembrance the information regarding the villagers whose names are on the war memorial has dried up so if you have any knowledge, stories or photos of any of the men but in particular photos of the men killed in the Second World War and John Rye (killed World War 1) it would be gratefully received. For those with access to the internet the current information is available at: <http://www.alkham.org/heroes.htm> **(Mark Robson)**

MESSY CHURCH has been set up to encourage children and families to come to St. Anthony’s church. Alkham village hall has been booked for Friday the 4th and 11th of December between 3.30pm and 4.30pm for parents and children to come along and make decorations, crowns, angels and sheep for the Christmas Eve crib service. It should be fun and if you’d like more details phone Tracy on 01304 821336.

CHALKSOLE THIEVES - Over the last two weeks an electric fence energiser and battery were stolen from a field opposite Whitehill, a huge amount of horse related items, rugs, buckets, fences, wheelbarrows, feed, forks etc., were stolen from a field and stables on Ferne Lane and a pressure washer on a trailer was stolen from Chalksole Farm. The only things left were the rugs on the horses back. The police have been informed, and we are all being extra vigilant. **(Claire Ward)**

TABLE FAIR – 7th Nov (Formerly Coffee Morning). The Friends of St Anthony are holding a fund-raising Table Fair in the village hall on the 7th Nov from 10 til 12. There will be collectables, objet d’art, linen, hand-made craft work, cake stall, raffle as well as refreshments. The Alkham Village 2010 calendar and Christmas cards will also be available. If you would like to hire a table for £10 to sell your own articles or produce please let us know (Brian on 824969 or Den 824845) If you are unable to come along on the day but would like to donate one or two items please contact Irene (824845) who will organise this for you. We look forward to seeing you. **(Den Barnard)**

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS extravaganza - Saturday December 14th is the date of the Christmas tree lights switch-on. As usual the proceedings will start at 4.45 p.m. when the W.I. choir will serenade us with carols and at 5.00 p.m. a selected child will perform the switch-on. (If you are under 16 years old and would like a chance to switch the lights on please see me at 4.45 when names will be placed in a hat and the lucky person chosen at random). The switch-on will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies kindly provided by Hannah and Ben at the Marquis. But that is not all!! This year we are proposing a village get-together in the Village Hall from 6.45 to which all are invited. It will be an American Supper and the aim of having this at such an early time is that the children can enjoy the festivities. I have it on very good authority that Father Christmas is willing to interrupt his busy schedule to make an appearance during the evening too so make sure you are on his ‘good list’! We hope this will be a good, old fashioned village event which all ages will enjoy. Numbers are limited by the size of the Hall so please book your places with Helen Scopes (01304.210591), Den & Irene Barnard (01304.824845) or Mark & Debbie Robson (01304 .820459). There will be a raffle to help fund the cost of the lights and electricity so please don’t forget your wallets; donations of prizes will be much appreciated too!! Any fit (ish), young(ish) men (in fact, “warm and walking” will be good enough!) who could help put the tree up on the morning of Saturday 5th December would be welcomed. Please contact Mark or Den on the above numbers. **(Mark Robson)**

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THE BEAST SIGHTED? - You may recall that recently the Newsletter included a shocking report of the savaging of five sheep grazing in a field in Ewell Minnis; those that survived the attack were so badly injured that they had to be put down. The finger of suspicion naturally pointed at local dogs, especially the lurchers kept by one or two of our villagers. However, their owners protested that the dogs were kept under such tight control that they could not possibly have committed the atrocity. There was also some talk of the notorious black panther being the culprit. Oh yes? There have been regular claims that this creature has been spotted in the area but I was, to say the least, extremely sceptical. In fact I rather doubted the creature's existence at all in our corner of Kent; I'd seen no photographic evidence to suggest otherwise. Oh ye of little faith! Today my next-door neighbour, the owner of the field in which the slaughter occurred, phoned to ask me to verify that what she was then watching, in the corner of the same field, was in fact ... a panther. A minute later, camera at the ready, I was standing with her and two other onlookers, inspecting through quite powerful binoculars what was clearly no ordinary tabby. Though it was perhaps a hundred and fifty yards from us, I could observe quite clearly that the beast was completely black and considerably larger and more muscular than any domestic cat of my acquaintance. It moved in the powerful predatory fashion that I associate with the leopard or the cheetah and frankly I was convinced that it was an animal of that sort that I was seeing. Still, I'm certainly no expert on such matters. What I could do was provide a photograph for others better informed to examine. I switched on my camera, only to discover that the battery was dead — the only time this has happened in the four years I've had it. So what could have been the Newsletter's scoop of the decade must, I suppose, be counted as just another unauthenticated sighting! **(Roy Dyche)**

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY AGM will take place on Wednesday 18 November at 7.30 p.m., at the Village Hall, all welcome. This will be followed by supper at The Fox, Temple Ewell, two courses at £8.95 per person. All those interested please give their names and the money (cheques made out to The Fox) to Pam Sayers (01304 822397). It would be a great help if subs could be brought with you and thus names ticked off the list. Broad agreement has been reached to subscribe towards the conservation and display in the Dover Museum of the ancient remains from the Mean Ridge dig in which the Wolverton Warrior was excavated. More details will follow. Initial conservation costs will be in the region of £5000. There will be a short raffle after the supper in aid of this conservation. There will also be a suggestion box at the AGM in which members are asked to put suggestions for feasible places to visit for next year's outing. **(Joanna Walker - Sec)**

ALKHAM FLOWER FESTIVAL 2010 - It is with sadness that I write to inform you that the Alkham Flower Festival 2010, has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control. The Flower Festival, which would have been entitled 'Alkham through the ages', would have featured floral displays sponsored by local people and business. We the flower ladies would like to say a huge thank you to all those people who had offered support and offers of sponsors. **(Rosie Hansraj)**

FIREWORKS - We are holding a family party on the 31st October which will include some fireworks for the children, so there will be a number of bangs to accompany the werewolf howls! The fireworks should start about 1900hrs and last for approx 20/30 minutes. **(Martin Hibbert 5 Glebelands)**



From our Christmas lunches available throughout December to our New Years Eve Dinner & Dancing evening, there really will be something for every celebration in 2009 (& into 2010)

Christmas Lunches - 3 courses £ 22.50
30th November - 23rd December
served 12 - 2.30pm

Christmas Dinner - 3 courses £ 29.50
30th November - 23rd December
served 6.30 - 9.30pm

Christmas Eve - Carol singing & dinner
Mulled wine & mince pies

Restaurant open for dinner as usual
24th December served at 5 pm

Christmas Day Lunch - 5 course Festive
feast £ 75 - 25th December
Served from 1.30pm

Boxing Day Lunch - 3 courses £ 29.50
26th December - Served 12—6pm

New Years Eve - 6 course Dinner &
Dancing £ 75 - 31st December
Served from 8.00pm

New Years Day Brunch - 3 courses £ 29.50
1st January 2010 - Served 12—6pm

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CHILD - If you would like to fill a shoe box with gifts and goodies to send to children in disadvantaged situations in Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, then please contact me for details of requirements and collection (last day 18th Nov.) Thank you so much. **(Susannah Tapsell 01304 822295)**

SPONSORED BIKE RIDE Margaret and Corliss Danstead would like to thank local friends who kindly supported them in the recent 'Friends of Kent Churches' event. Margaret raised £204 on behalf of River Methodists, and Corliss raised £260 on behalf of St. Anthony's. Cheques have now been sent off, so in due course, half of those amounts will be returned to the respective churches. Seventeen churches were visited – not quite as many as the Cycle Club managed, but then they are experts. **(Margaret Danstead)**

GARDEN TALK - Our next gathering is at Thorn Cottage, Meggett Lane where Geoff and Rosemary are our hosts on Friday 13th November. All welcome from 7.30p.m. A large turn-out at " Bramhall " in October when we discussed all that had gone well- and badly-in the garden this past summer; many thanks to Susannah and Richard for their hospitality. **(Janet Adamson)**

ALKHAM W.I. – An excellent talk was given by Peter Ewart on how our great grand parents had to keep themselves working to stay out of the dreaded workhouses; the description of those buildings and how they were run was forbidding. Please NOTE the next meeting i.e. the AGM will be the 17th NOT the 10th November. **(Sue Lees)**

W.I. JUMBLE SALE in the village hall on 31st October from 11am with profits in aid of the Alkham archaeologists

OZ on TIMARU – My cousins and I have been fortunate in tracing our East Kent family back to 1595 and finding only one jailbird, our mutual great-great-grandfather, who was jailed twice, in 1844 and 1851, for persistent tobacco smuggling. He was a Deal boatman, struggling to survive the collapse of the local economy after the end of war with France and the rise of steam shipping. He died in 1858 just as one of his in-laws, John Wilds, found a more respectable means of dealing with the recession. Wilds and his wife, along with twelve other Deal boatmen and families, joined a government-aided scheme to encourage emigration to a rapidly expanding New Zealand. They totalled 58 out of 320 people that boarded the Mystery in December 1858 in London and landed 3 months later at Lyttelton Harbour on the east coast of New Zealand's South Island. The journey had been wild and hard, with deaths, births and conceptions occurring on board. The Deal boatmen set to work unloading the ship and soon gained employment at Timaru, loading and unloading ships into small boats and vice versa, similar to their old work on Deal beach. They named their settlement area in Timaru 'Dealtown', and their street 'Middle Street'. To this day, their descendants in Deal and Timaru exchange Christmas cards addressed 'From Deal to Deal'. The whole story has now been told by Jerry Vyse in his recent book Time to Go: A Journey from Old Deal to New Zealand. I already knew that John Wilds had become a successful farmer and market gardener. From Jerry I've gleaned much more detail and yet another reminder of the eventful lives of otherwise ordinary people. Time to Go is available from Amazon at £2.99, even better value than my previous recommendations here. **(Steve Osborn)**

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District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956,

Andrew Richardson 211835

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	2	Parish Council meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	7	Table Fair and coffee morning in VH – see page 1.
Saturday	14	Remembrance evening in village hall – see page 1
Tuesday	17	W.I. AGM in village hall 7.30pm
Wednesday	18	AVS AGM 7.30pm in village hall
Tuesday	24	Fete AGM in village hall
Saturday	28	Beekeepers in village hall

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1st	Eucharist 4.30	Eucharist 9.00	Eucharist 11a.m.
Sunday 8th	Remembrance 10.15 a.m.	10.30 a.m.	10.15 a.m. Sunday
Sunday 15th	Family Service 11a.m.	Sung Evensong 6 p.m.	Eucharist 9.00
Sunday 22nd	Joint Benefice 10.00 at Capel		
Sunday 29th	Joint Benefice 10.00 at St. Mary's		
Weekday Services: Wednesday Eucharist 9.15 am St Radigund, Capel-Le-Ferne			

From the Vicarage - Time to start looking at the seed catalogues and sorting out what to do for next year. I have decided to abandon cabbages – last year the caterpillars had them and this year they went to seed! I didn't mind the fennel going to seed that looked rather attractive so next year I'll grow it in a flower bed. I've been planting bulbs and there are now 320 in the garden and in the grass where the fruit trees are growing. I have a new bulb planter which I am hoping will stand up to the strain as there are another 110 bulbs on the way! I can actually dig it in and take up a good plug of soil. Rolo and Bob are getting used to the new citronella collar. It gives them a puff whenever they bark and it's working!! Rolo has reached the stage where he takes himself out of the dining room when he barks before we have ordered him out. He then stands in the hall and barks!! I've been taking the two of them down to the Warren to run on the beach which we all enjoy and this month they are still white. Sand doesn't colour their coats like soil from the fields! However Bob seems to have no sense of self preservation. The tide was out so they were down near the sea and exploring the pools, Rolo steps neatly round them, Bob goes straight in and gets soaked and then chases Rolo as if to say 'It's all your fault. You never told me it was wet!' November could be a grey month but we have the Christmas Fete to look forward to on 5th December. That is always a bright and busy occasion with a variety of stalls, good home made refreshments and plenty of Christmas presents. See you all there! **(Sue White 01303 240539)**

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Police Support Officer 07772226209

Alkham web site www.alkham.org

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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 Ken Hammond 07909563479

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 195 December 2009

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CALENDAR AND CARDS

The first run of 100 Alkham past and present calendars have been sold and a further 30 have been printed. The cards are going well and feature 4 snow scenes of Alkham, one of which is shown on the left. A pack of four different cards cost £1.50 and if you would like to

buy some please contact Rosemary Heddle on 827880.

THE ANNUAL QUIZ will be held in the village hall on the 16th January starting at 7.30pm. If you'd like to book a table for up to 8 people please contact Brian on 824969 or Den Barnard on 824845. The cost is £5 per person and a ploughman's supper, similar to the quiz in June, will be provided in the interval. As usual, please bring your own drinks. **(Brian)**

SHOOTING – As Alkham residents will know, on the 26th October at about 10.20pm a car stopped another car on the hill by the bus shelter on Vicarage Meadow. There was an altercation which resulted in the Fiesta driver being shot in the stomach. He was taken to William Harvey hospital and is recovering. The gunman, who lives in Dover, handed himself in to the police on 4th November and has been charged with attempted murder. **(editor)**

BROADBAND – The results of the Broadband petition is included in the Newsletter on a separate A4 sheet. The reply was as expected. **(Brian)**

LONG(ISH) WALKS FROM ALKHAM - Two people gamely signed up to join me on some of my walks. Others have shown interest so I expect the group to grow. The inaugural group walk (if two people constitute a group) took place on a humid, misty but mild Thursday in September. Maggie and I set off on a seven mile circular walk passing through Lydden and returning via Swanton Court Farm. Two weeks later Clive joined us for another seven mile walk this time going south to pick up the coastal path. We stopped for a welcome coffee at the Hilltop Cafe before returning to the village. The walk was really just over nine miles but nobody hit me when they found out! If you are interested my email address is on the back page. **(Anthony Barrier)**

THE MARQUIS is open to non residents for breakfast & coffees from 7.30 to 9.30am during the week and 8 to 10am at the weekend. **(Ben Walton)**

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON will take place on Saturday December 12th. The evening will start at 4.45 p.m. when the W.I. Choir will lead carol singing until the actual switch-on at 5.00 p.m. Anyone under 16 years old who would like to perform the switch-on should see me and their names will be entered into a hat and drawn just before 5.00. **Father Christmas** has told me that he will be attending the switch-on. After the switch-on we are invited to the Marquis for mulled wine and mince pies courtesy of Tony, Hugh, Ben and Hannah. At 6.45pm an American Supper for the village will be held in the Village Hall. Please bring some food to share and your own drink. Please also bring some money as we will hold a raffle to raise funds to pay for the electricity for the lights. If you want to attend the American Supper please let Den and Irene (01304.824845) or me and Debbie (01304.820459) know. Many thanks and Merry Christmas! **(Mark Robson)**



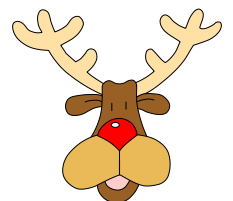
Santa's Charity Fun Run (or jog or walk) on Sunday 6th December 11.30am Folkestone Town Centre, organised by The Rotary Club

of Folkestone Channel to raise funds for Cystic Fibrosis Trust Kent and many other charities in the area. For further information text or call 07914273421 or full details can be found on Santa's personal website at www.santasfunrun.org.uk. There is also another Santa Fun Run on 29.11.09 at Leeds Castle. Fun starts at 8.30am. Enter online at www.cftrust.org.uk – Free Santa suit for all entrants. **(Julie Saltmer)**

THE X FACTOR - St Anthony's is looking for musical talent to try out some new ideas at its monthly Family Service. So if you play an instrument or could lead a small group in lively worship songs in a relaxed and friendly environment, we would like to hear from you.

(Linda & Geoff Gaskill - 823100)

THE ROCKING HORSE on Vicarage Meadow is being refurbished and the same will soon happen to the slide. The Parish Council also agreed to install low level timber play equipment.



POPPY APPEAL - We have had a very good collection this year with a total of £344.76 being raised. Many thanks go to my team of collectors who went door to door; I couldn't do it without them. Thanks also go to the local businesses (Alkham Garden Centre and Tea Rooms, Equestrian Centre, The Marquis and Alkhamhurst Kennels) that had collecting boxes. Last but not least a big thank you to the Alkham villagers who gave so generously. **(Rachel Fountain)**

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*A photo of Val Fowler asking Stan
why he has just put his foot through
the kitchen ceiling.*

BIKING TO BOULOGNE. Motley crew of ten cyclists assemble at Eastern Docks, no sign of lycra or helmets, and embark for Calais. Breakfast at Yvettes on Place D'armes of croque m'sieur (posh cheese on toast) and pernod. Scenic ramble to Ardres, forest, canals etc., and back to Wissant including all the cafés. Decide against climbing Cap Gris, Cap Nez (been there) and have a few beers instead. Amble on to Ambleteuse and a couple of beers before wandering on to Wimereux. Main stop of day, get it right. Swim first before it becomes dangerous with too much booze, then lunch of moules frites washed down with copious carafés. Climb back to coast road for descent to Boulogne. Minor disaster on descent – clownish colleague knocks me flying and I have to limp last kilometre to Hengist. Arrive on car deck to find nine bikes but no bodies. Finally manage to stagger and crawl alone up to passenger deck. About to moan at colleagues and order beer when some idiot announces 'Point Alpha' (15 minutes to dock) and have to start climbing down again. Arrive at Folkestone. Colleagues disappear again so have to limp alone to pub, where, a little later, I forgive everyone after all. Total distance covered about 50k, time 10 hours. Must do it properly next time, take it seriously, dress up in all the fancy gear, make a race of it, and spoil the fun. **(Rob Lees)**

GARDEN TALK - Our Christmas event will be on FRIDAY 4th December,

when we return to Ian and



Lucy's. All welcome, please bring some festive food and a raffle prize for the popular Dutch auction. We meet at The Old Vicarage from 7.30p.m. In November we had a pleasant evening at Thorn Cottage, where the quiz revealed just how little we knew about emblematic flowers! **(Janet Adamson)**

An evening of Remembrance was held in the Village Hall to remember those killed in conflicts from WW1 to Afghanistan. Poems written by serving soldiers from all conflicts (from Wilfred Owen's 'The Sentry' to Danny Martin's 'Haddock of Mass Destruction') formed the mainstay of the evening but we also had a short story about the Christmas truce of 1914, a letter written by the father of a villager with his recollections of his service in the Second World War and an account of the Battle of Britain. There were several exhibits including a selection of wartime magazines and newspapers, rifles and machine guns, maps of the tunnels used as air-raid shelters in Dover, medals and items belonging to relatives who had served in the wars. Many thanks to all who brought these to share as well as the stories that accompanied them. The evening prompted them to some further information regarding one of the men on the village war memorial too and I look forward to receiving this in more detail. There are also some villagers with personal stories (yes, you Ernie!) and maybe next year we could persuade share these with us to ensure the Remembrance goes on. Thanks to all who donated to the Royal British Legion - we raised £56.05p of which the Keep Fit Ladies donated £20. Thanks too to Den Barnard who did much of the preparatory work to make the evening a success. **(Mark Robson)**



From our Christmas lunches available throughout December to our New Years Eve Dinner & Dancing evening, there really will be something for every celebration in 2009 (& into 2010)

Christmas Lunches - 3 courses £ 22.50
30th November - 23rd December
served 12 - 2.30pm

Christmas Dinner - 3 courses £ 29.50
30th November - 23rd December
served 6.30 - 9.30pm

Christmas Eve - Carol singing & dinner
Mulled wine & mince pies

Restaurant open for dinner as usual
24th December served at 5 pm

Christmas Day Lunch - 5 course Festive
feast £ 75 - 25th December
Served from 1.30pm

Boxing Day Lunch - 3 courses £ 29.50
26th December - Served 12—6pm

New Years Eve - 6 course Dinner &
Dancing £ 75 - 31st December
Served from 8.00pm

New Years Day Brunch - 3 courses £ 29.50
1st January 2010 - Served 12—6pm

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FOOTPATHS - By the time you read **OZ on INTERNET** – I first became this the tree root rutted path, behind aware of computers in the 1950s the church, should have been from an enthusiastic maths resurfaced. Not everyone will teacher who predicted the welcome this but I think the majority invention of the personal will. Other outstanding issues have computer and the internet. In been added to our PROW Officer's 1958, after an interview at a top small job list so some progress is international company at being made. It has been reported to Sandwich, I politely declined a me that motorcyclists have been job that seemed to involve riding on brideways in the Ellinge pushing pencils through holes in area and I have noticed that horse cards. It was of course a simple riders have been using some of the explanation of how computers local footpaths. Can I remind all work and I had rejected it. In PROW users that: FOOTPATHS those days computers were big (which should be 1 metre wide) may and clumsy. At Cambridge in the be used for walking. BRIDLEWAYS 1950s the caretaker's first job (which should be 2 metres wide) may each morning was to switch the be used for riding or leading a horse, EDSAC on to warm up the for walking and cycling. BYWAYS valves. In the 1960s we had our (which should be at least 3 metres first huge mainframe computers wide) as for brideways plus any kind at work. All input data was of wheeled vehicle including motor pencilled on coding sheets. cars and horse drawn vehicles. These were then typed as square holes on cards by two (Anthony Barrier)

ALKHAM W.I. - A pleasant meeting typists, so that a rectangular was held for the AGM, all sat around hole would be accepted by the tables chatting and doing a 'Flower' computer and square ones Quiz. For once there was no voting for rejected. They were also the committee, which now includes - numbered to ensure the correct Janet Barrow, Margaret Danstead, order. All this took several days Mairi Jones, Sue Lees, Edith Neve, to turn around and then Helen Scopes, Pam Sayers, Grace the printout would Stacey and Doreen Wilks. A reminder often come back to all is given about the Carol Singing with an error to take place at Kearsney Manor message, Nursing Home on 10th December at sometimes 2pm. Also next months meeting on resulting from 8th December, when Devina Bartlett the computer operators dropping is going to show everyone how to the cards and putting them back to make Christmas decorations. New in the wrong order. Such stories members and friends are always seem incredible in this era of the welcome. (Sue Lees) internet, which was 40 years old



DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will lead last month. At 10.30pm on 29 October 1969 Charley Kline sat down at a computer at California University and started to type the word LOGIN to his opposite number at Stanford University. Accompaniment will be provided by the St Edmund's School Band. The concert will include a production by Whitfield Primary School, and the arrival of the Peace Light from St Paul's, having landed at Dover from Jerusalem on the previous day. The charity appeal will be on behalf of the Pegasus Playscheme. Tickets at £1.50 (children 50p) are available from Carrol Moore on 01304 820150. (Steve Osborn)

stay. (Steve Osborn)

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Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Friday	4	4.30pm – 5.30pm Messy church for children
Saturday	5	PCC and W.I. bazaar
Monday	7	Parish council meeting
Tuesday	8	W.I. in village hall 7.30pm
Friday	11	4.30pm – 5.30pm Messy church for children
Wednesday	16	4.30pm – 5.30pm Messy church for children
Monday	21	Dover & District Bird Club

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6th	Evensong 4.30	Eucharist 9 a.m.	W.T. 11a.m.
Sunday 13th	Eucharist 9 a.m.	Worship Together 11	Carol Service VH 5
Sunday 20th	9 lessons, carols 6p.m.	9 lessons, Carols 11	Eucharist 9.00
Thursday 24th	Crib Service 4.30p.m.	Crib Service 3p.m.	
Friday 25th	Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	NO SERVICE	Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
Sunday 27th	Joint Benefice 10 a.m. at Capel		

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

From the Vicarage- I'm very glad I got as much done in the garden as I did before the winds came. One compost bin was found on its way to Dover and I'm very grateful to the kind neighbour who returned it. It's now weighted down with the old vacuum cleaner so it can't travel at all. Rolo and Bob are very underwhelmed by the wind and rain, in fact Bob tries walking back into the house when he sees the weather! But it struck me that there was a positive side to this wind, it clears out all the dead stuff from the hedges despite the inconvenience of it falling on the path. I'm also hoping that it will strengthen the roots of the trees I've planted and make them tough enough to produce plenty of fruit. With a group of mums I was covering shoe boxes for the Christmas Shoe box appeal at the school and we now have 70 plus boxes. This is a mammoth response and I would like to thank everyone for their part. I did say to the children that we should aim for 100 this year and I have no doubt we shall reach that target because Alkham W.I. are also doing the boxes. It's great that we are teaching our children to help others who are less fortunate than themselves and especially at this time of year. There will be two Crib Services this year, 3pm at St. Radigund's and 4.30pm at St. Anthony's. In addition we shall be having two sessions to prepare for the crib service at Alkham Village Hall on 4th and 11th December from 3.15 to 4.30p.m. The children will be making crowns etc for the service and we hope to prepare a nativity play with them. Children with parents are very welcome to attend. A happy Christmas and a blessed New Year to you all. **(Sue White)**

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