

# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

**No. 196 January 2010**

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

Happy New Year

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## DRAMA/WRITING WORKSHOPS AT THE VILLAGE HALL

My wife and I are new to your village and are thinking of starting a Drama Workshop on an evening – say possibly on a Mon/Tue/Wed between 7pm – 10pm. We would start by understanding a character and how they fit in to the telling of the story. We would develop through improvisation, text exercises and possible writing tasks an understanding of how to build a character and what that characters' journey is through the play. Everybody would be welcome – say over the age of 15? All we ask is that you have a serious attitude to the evening. The price per session would depend on numbers. 'Outsiders' would of course be welcome. I am an Actor/Director. My wife the playwright/children's book illustrator Christina Balit. Please contact me personally if you'd like to discuss the workshop. My mobile is 07973 341 772. **(Brian Croucher)** .....

*Brian Croucher is a well known actor who has appeared in many popular series such as Shoestring, Minder, The Professionals, Lovejoy, Casualty, Blake's 7 and The Bill. From 1995 to 1997 he played Ted Hills in EastEnders and he is a friendly and approachable person.***(editor)**



## After the switch-on

of the village Christmas tree lights on the 12<sup>th</sup> December, the Marquis team invited everyone for mulled wine and mince pies and took the opportunity to present cheques for £1165 each to the Friends of St Anthony's and the Alkham

Cricket Club, the results of the September Charity game on the meadow. The photo shows Tony Marsden and Hugh Oxborrow with Friends Chairman Den Barnard, vicar Sue White and the cricket club chairman Paul Tapsell gratefully accepting the excellent Christmas present.. **(Den Barnard)**

**BROADBAND** – It does appear that within the 30mph limits of Alkham a speed approaching 1Mb is possible if there are no problems with the incoming cable or internal wiring. After removing all the internal telephone extensions in my house and having one phone plugged into the entry box serving 3 other phones my Broadband speed remained stable at about 1Mb for some time. This compares with the 0.34Mb per second that I was getting previously and I would like to thank the local BT engineer for all his help. What is clear however is that Rambo will reduce your signal dramatically if there is noise on the line and at present I am back to the earlier speed as noise re-appeared. I contacted BT and they have tested the line and say the problem is in the house and I think they are right. At least the petition put Alkham on BT's books and since writing directly to the Chief Executive they have been in contact regularly to make sure the complaint has been dealt with to our satisfaction, which it has been by writing but not technically. **(editor)**

**THE ANNUAL QUIZ** will be held in the village hall on the 16<sup>th</sup> January starting at 7.30pm with tables of up to 8 people. The cost is £5 per person and a ploughman's type meal will be served at the interval.

**CHRISTMAS TREE** - This has become a true village event and it was good to see so many young families and children at the switch on. Having had six trees donated we have now run out! Hopefully someone will come to our aid to ensure we can keep this village event going into the future. Many thanks to John Huggins, Chris Bowshell, Mike Ross, Mick Wood, Richard Miller, Den and Anthony Barrier for helping put the tree up and to Simon Price for coming to the rescue with the electricians. Thanks to the people who gave prizes for the raffle prizes who were the Alkham Valley Garden Centre, Mick and Janet Woods, Paul Tapsell, the generous benefactor who put up £25 as prize money, The Marquis, Pam Sayers and Den & Irene. Also to Tony, Hugh, Hannah and Ben and team for the warm hospitality and the mulled wine and mince pies afterwards at the Marquis and of course to the W.I. choir and Dick and Mary for the beautiful tree plus the Parish Council who paid for one set of lights and everyone who bought raffle tickets and donated money to cover the cost of the second set of lights. **(Mark Robson)**

**ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY** The Christmas Walk will take place on 27<sup>th</sup> December, starting from the Village Hall Car Park at 10.30 am. Everyone welcome including of course dogs. Various events are planned or being planned for 2010 which we hope will interest members and friends. Thank you to all who attended the AGM in record numbers and the supper afterwards at The Fox, also record numbers dealt with kindly and efficiently by the Staff as usual. Happy Christmas to all of Alkham and its Valley. The Committee are reminded that the next meeting is on 14th January 2010 at 8.pm at Box Tree Cottage. **(Jo Walker, Sec)**



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**HAZEL BURROWS**, who lives at South Alkham, has for many years recorded the local weather for the Met Office and the Environment Agency. On the left you can see her pet sheep and chickens with the rain gauge on the far left. There are volunteers all over the country providing this service and each month a completed

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form is sent to add to the Met Office records. This year, in the south east, the weather was fairly kind with March to June averaging about 35mm, 64mm in July, 11mm in August and 21mm in September. October was 102mm and November 185mm and December started wet and looks to continue dry but cold. **(editor)**

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**GIVING UP GOLF** - The first tee at Sene Valley Golf Club and I've sliced badly again. I gaze out across Hythe to Dungeness, the sun glinting off St. Mary's Bay, and I wonder. Just manage to beat 90 for the round, but other than finding a few blackberries I'm not happy. The week before, taking advantage of spring low tides, I was driven to Sene Valley and out to Greatstone. A nice bay of cockles on the incoming tide, a few pints at the New Romney Tavern, then, on the way home, found some mushrooms in Donkey Street. The following day on the first tee at Kingsdown and this time I hook. Sunlit sea below me, Deal to the left, ferries off Dover to the right, and I wonder again. Beat 90 (just) but no blackberries and not happy. The week before I was driven to Kingsdown but dropped with prawn net at the base of the cliffs below the Golf Club. A few happy hours in the sea and rock pools, and I wander along the beach with a nice bag of prawns to The Rising Sun pub, where I happily drink beer, waiting for my lift. Drinking and playing dominoes with guests from Heathrow in The Marquis that night (those were the days my friend, tra la, tra la) everyone is moaning. Even on shift work, able to play weekdays all over the South East, all our handicaps are still ridiculous. So we drink more beer and try to win some money. Not easy at only 2p a point. That night I have a dream. A dream from youth, where I seem to spend every summer day on the beach and every other moment in the Temperance Billiard Hall drinking Bovril. It's an omen. So I pack up golf (I hated it in the winter anyway), join a snooker club, and add winkles to the free seafood from Abbots Cliff or Ramsgate Bay! **(Rob Lees)**

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**BOOK CLUB** - Last month members spent an enjoyable evening exchanging presents, eating good food and sipping wine by a cosy fire hosted by Linda Gaskill. This month we will discuss The Girl Who Played With Fire by Stieg Larsson. Avi Munn will host the evening at Poems on 6th January 7.30pm. Tel: 829484. New members always welcome. **(Rosemary Heddle)**

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**GARDEN TALK** - Our meeting in December was much enjoyed at the Old Vicarage where we were greeted with mulled wine and plenty of food. Lots of chat - some of it to do with gardening. We do not meet again until February (date still to be confirmed). A happy and productive year to all our members. **(Janet Adamson)**

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**HEARTFELT THANKS** to Ken Hammond for his kindness in restoring my bike to new. It is now on its way to a new home on Sandgate beach where I will be able to ride along the flat promenade to Hythe (as opposed to the daunting hills of the Alkham valley)! **(Sarah Chambers)**



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

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## ST ANTONIN DE NOBLEVAL One of OZ on SPARROWS

We haven't seen any house caravanning "Tour de France" was sparrows in our garden for exactly at this town close to the a year now. I know this from spectacular gorges of the Aveyron reviewing our quarterly reports to river in south west France. It has a the British Trust for Ornithology. historic centre with half timbered It's part of a general decline in houses in the local Quercy honey sparrow numbers and no one coloured limestone - obviously knows the reasons. In eastern appealing to the many brits who England the fall has been over have settled there. Its link with 90% in 30 years with London Alkham is that it is named after the alone losing 75% between 1994 patron saint of our church, St and 2000, while nationally Anthony; being his last resting place numbers have fallen by over 60% after his martyrdom at Pamiers in 506 AD. We spent a fascinating hour in the church, testing our French



to the limits, with the warden telling included the usual rogues such as us about the life of St Anthony as cats and sparrowhawks, unlikely depicted in the stained glass to be guilty in view of the huge windows. His bones are stored in a numbers involved, and some new boat shaped casket in the church suspects such as additives in and, as is the catholic custom, unleaded petrol, and mobile brought out for veneration on his phones that are alleged to saint's day - 2<sup>nd</sup> September. The interfere with sparrows' nervous area is soaked in history, and the systems. One of the more ancient pilgrims' route to Santiago plausible theories concerns the de Compostella passes nearby ;effect of pesticides on the prompting the idea of a future availability of insects, particularly walking trip to St Antonin. His spirit spiders, for feeding young must have been with us, as, sparrows. Another problem arises before leaving, we found a superb from the loss of nesting sites as €11 three course lunch at a urban areas are tidied and restaurant in the town square. developed using modern (Geoff Gaskill) techniques and synthetic

ALKHAM W.I - The December materials that exclude breeding meeting was presided over by Pam sparrows. However, it is by now Sayers and all agreed that she took obvious that there are no simple her first meeting very pleasantly and answers. Passer domesticus is in efficiently - many more to follow! decline across the whole world, Devina Bartlett helped people learn from the Americas to Europe, how to make Christmas cards. The India and the Far East. The next meeting will be 12<sup>th</sup> January the problem is global and the when Ken Palmer from River will be research has now become global. talking about 'How perfume is In this country the work is created'. (Sue Lees) undertaken by the universities,

KENT HEALTH WATCH is a 24 hour a day response line on 08458 247 103 the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). So open 365 days a year with a person here's a suggestion for a New Year's resolution. Join Garden always at the end of the line waiting to listen to a complaint or BirdWatch and record your own compliment. The unique service asks you to comment on health and social observations at BTO, The care services and has recently Nunnery, Thetford IP24 2PU. celebrated its first anniversary. 'Phone 01842 750050. Website: Alternatively you can email <http://www.bto.org/gbw> (Steve Osborn) kenthealthwatch@kent.gov.uk.

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County Councillor, Bryan Cope 206510  
District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956,  
Andrew Richardson 211835  
Alkham web site [www.alkham.org](http://www.alkham.org)

### 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

<b>Monday</b>	<b>11</b>	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm in VH - all welcome
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12</b>	W.I. in village hall from 7.30pm
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>16</b>	Annual quiz in village hall starting at 7.30pm
<b>Monday</b>	<b>18</b>	Dover and District Bird Club
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>19</b>	Village Hall committee meeting
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>30</b>	Beekeepers in the village hall

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3rd	Evensong 4.30pm	Eucharist 9.00am	W.T. 11 a.m.
Sunday 10th	Eucharist 9.00am	W.T. 11 a.m.	
Sunday 17th	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6 p.m.	Eucharist 9.00am
Sunday 24th	Joint Benefice 10.00am at Capel		
Sunday 31st	Joint Benefice 10.00am at St. Mary's		

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

**From the Vicarage** - January is a cold month but what a great time we have had in December. Messy Church was fun; it's true that most of the helpers ended up with more glue and glitter than they had thought possible but the children were magnificent!. No we didn't glue them together! They created angels, crowns, sheep, horses, giraffes, snowflakes, crackers, and Christmas cards. They practiced singing carols and prepared to dress up for the Crib services so a good time was had by all. Then we all came together again to turn on the lights on the Christmas Tree. That was a lovely evening and we were hosted royally in The Marquis. There's much to be said for bringing together the Cricket Club, the Church and the Pub as Tony Marsden said to us. We are very lucky to have such a community spirit in the village and we must all look forward to it growing in the future. Like all plants it is tender in its infancy and each one of us needs to take care to foster its growth. Already plans are afoot for more activities which will bring us together. Do join us for Christingle on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January at 11 a.m. The children will be busy and the adults involved. In the coming year we shall have ten weddings at St. Anthony's and on 23<sup>rd</sup> January we are having a Marriage preparation Day in the village hall. The day will be fun for both participants and helpers; it certainly won't be a series of lectures but gives the couples the opportunities to do things together, visit the church and meet the organists. We have so much to offer and it's good to share it with young couples who come to us. I still have some free Saturdays in 2010 so do contact me soon or book for 2011. May you all face the New Year in hope and expectation and may it be a blessed year for you and your family. **(Sue White 01303 240539)**

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**Parish Clerk** Angela Miller 824791  
[alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net](mailto:alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net)  
**Neighbourhood Watch** PCSO (left) & 218151  
**Police** – 999 phone & **01303 850055**  
**Police Support Officer** **07772226209**

**Village Hall booking** Val Fowler 827635  
**W.I. secretary** – Janet Barrow 829585  
**AVS** [cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk](mailto: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

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**BARN DANCE** - Alkham is set for a fun evening on the 8<sup>th</sup> May when we have a Barn dance planned. Music will be provided by Meadow Folk who have many years experience, together with David Brown, their caller. The cost of the tickets will be £8.00 including a ploughman's supper and starts at 7.30pm in the village hall. Tickets go on sale from 1<sup>st</sup> February and will be available from either Val Fowler Tel: 01304 827635 or Sue Lees 01304 822661. Early purchase of tickets is strongly recommended as this looks set to be a popular event, judging by the response we have had so far. Cheques should be made payable to The Friends of St. Anthony.....



**A LADY** in Glebelands had an asthma attack and the ambulance in the background of the photo could not get to William Harvey because of the snow so she was delivered by the Air Ambulance which landed on the green. *(thanks to Alec for the photo)*

**EVIDENTLY** some people were heard complaining bitterly about all the money that is being raised for the church through the Friends of St. Anthony. The Church Of England won't, or can't, provide money for the upkeep of their buildings and therefore the options are to let it fall into disrepair or do something about it. Despite being an atheist, I think the Grade 1 listed building should be preserved for the village and for future generations to use for secular or religious purposes. No money raised goes to the clergy and in addition the Friends are doing things which otherwise wouldn't have happened such as the barn dance, cards and calendar. If the person or persons who object to the Friends would like to write an article for the Newsletter I'd be pleased to print it. **(editor)** ... *and we got an email from Shanghai complimenting us on our calendar*

**SALT BOXES** - I received an email saying that 'the salt box at the junction of Slip Lane and Chalksole Green Lane is only for use on that road and not for people's driveways - also please use sparingly as a little goes a long way and the salt box is too small.

**BUS SHELTER** - The bus shelter is owned by the Parish and a replacement would be expensive. The main problem with the existing shelter is that people waiting can't see the buses coming round the corner so the Parish Council is looking into the possibility of cutting part of a panel out on the Dover side to provide a type of window.

**FOR SALE** to a local person, 2 Bedroom House at Short Lane, Alkham. £127,800 for a 71% share. For an application form please contact Liz Fitzsimmons (Rural Housing Trust) on 01462 742099. Deadline for returned applications is Wednesday 10th Feb 2010. (For Sale posters have also been on display in the village since 15th January 2010) **(Angela Miller, Parish Clerk)**

## **POLICE SURGERY**

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February between 3pm and 5pm the mobile police station will be outside the village hall and also on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March between 10am and 12 noon. Please come along and see me if you would like to discuss a policing issue. **(Gretel Stevens)**

**HELEN SCOPES** is holding a sale of various bits and pieces at the Granary, West Hougham, on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February between 11.00am and 2.00pm - tea and coffee will be served.

**THE MARQUIS** is looking for rooms to let for 3 month periods for students who are doing work experience placements at the Marquis. Please contact Ben on 873410 or pop into the Marquis.

**SHEEP** - I have been asked to include an item to say that the farmer is going put sheep in the field to the east of the houses in Short Lane. He asks that you keep dogs on the lead whilst walking through the field. **(editor)**

**AFTER MUCH** persistence from the Parish Council, Kent Highways installed a new salt bin at the bottom of Wolverton Hill. How disappointing it is however, that someone has seen fit to steal this bin in less than a week! Fortunately we have been able to get a replacement bin on this junction, which is essential for what can be a very icy road for motorists. The Parish Council wish to thank KHS for replacing it so quickly and let's hope that the problem does not arise again. **(Angela Miller)**

**THE LOW BRIDGE** signage is ongoing and an additional sign is to be put on the A20 advising HGV drivers not to use the valley road. The sign at Standen will be before the crossroads and an 'unsuitable for HGV's' has also been added (presumably for Meggett Lane) **(editor)**



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### PIMLICO WAY

A farmer removed the hedges and trees from either side of Pimlico way in the 1980's and in 1990 the Alkham Valley Society decided, with the approval of the farmer, to plant a new hedge and some trees. It was a great success and the hedge has grown large and the trees are doing well.

However, the space between the trees and hedge was wide when planted but over the years the track is now too narrow for the hedge to be cut and for vehicles to pass through. Pimlico Way can legitimately be used by 4 x 4's but because they can't use the track the vehicles drive over the farmer's field causing deep ruts. At the Parish Council meeting the council voted unanimously, but with regret, that the trees should be removed so the farmer can trim the hedge. There appears to be no other option and subject to the Valley Society giving approval the trees will be removed. It is hoped that others can be planted elsewhere. **(editor)**

**QUIZ** –The annual quiz on the 16<sup>th</sup> January appeared to go very well with 100 people coming along to fill 13 tables. The team from Short Lane won with Jo Walker's table from the Rectory and Chalksole coming second (*I regretted including the question 'You too could have a body like mine' in the adverts round*). Including the raffle, after deducting expenses for food, prizes and hall hire, the profit on the night was about £470 which will be added to the funds to carry out essential repairs at St. Anthony's. It is estimated that it will cost about £20,000 to replace the plaster which is falling from the roof; about half this cost will be for the scaffolding which obviously will have to be high and wide. It is hoped that the work may be done by local people and when the specification is complete quotations will be sought. **(editor)**

**THE CHRISTMAS WALK** was undertaken by the hardy regulars (annuals one might say), under the leadership of Richard Tapsell. Next year we will welcome even more people and more dogs as well, especially huskies in case it is whiter earlier. Thank you for the support and we hope to have more news soon. **(J Walker - Secretary Alkham Valley Society)**

**GARDEN TALK** - The next meeting will be on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February at 'Sunrise', Meggett Lane when Gordon and Janet invite you all to join us in a local fruit themed evening. We start at 7.30p.m. - all welcome. **(Janet Adamson)**

**YOUR LOCAL AMBULANCE** service, S. E. Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust is aiming to become an NHS Foundation Trust in 2010; it will still be part of the NHS, providing free care and treatment to patients. The main difference is that foundation trusts are run locally, and are accountable to patients. As an FT we'll be able to respond to people's needs more immediately because we'll be working with them as members and have more say over how and what we invest our money in meaning our public, patients and staff will get the ambulance service they want and need. Becoming a member of our NHS Trust is simple and free. Membership doesn't need to take up your time – you can just receive our free quarterly informative newsletter and it will also give you the chance to get more involved if you want to. Please join us today or visit our website [www.secamb.nhs.uk](http://www.secamb.nhs.uk). For membership forms contact Izzy Allen on 01273 897840 or [ftmembership@secamb.nhs.uk](mailto:ftmembership@secamb.nhs.uk). Thank you for your support.



**New !** regular monthly Jazz & tableside magic events on a Sunday afternoon starting from :

**Sunday 24th January** 3pm - 5pm for live table side magic

**Sunday 14th February** 4 – 7pm for live jazz

We are open for lunch from 12 – 6pm every Sunday & the bar is open all day to all so we look forward to seeing you then! Mention the newsletter and get a free bottle of house wine when 2 or more people dine at any time before 11th February. T&C apply.

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**EASTER LILIES in remembrance of a loved one.** When the one you love becomes a memory, that memory becomes a treasure ... we would like to ask if you would like to sponsor an Easter lily in memory of your loved one(s) and to sign a book of remembrance. We invite a donation of £4.50p which you should put in an envelope together with the name of those you wish to be remembered plus, your name and telephone number and give to Avi Munn 01304 829484 or Rosie Hansraj 01304 822585. Names and numbers of lilies can be put on the list in St Anthony's Church if easier. Orders have to be given to the wholesaler by 28<sup>th</sup> February. **(Rosie Hansraj)**

**THE BOOK CLUB** meeting this month on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February will be hosted by Jane Aslett at Drybrook Short Lane where we will discuss Ordinary Thunderstorms by William Boyd. New members are always welcome and for more details please contact Jane Aslett on 824729.

**ALKHAM W.I.** – The closing date for members who wish to go to the Annual Council Meeting on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at the Lees Cliff Hall has been extended to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February. The meeting is from 10.30am to 3.30pm and tickets cost £9.00. Please let Janet know at our next meeting if you wish to go. There has been no extension to the date at the end of January when the voting form for the resolution has to be sent to the N.F.K. W.I. at Canterbury for inclusion in the November/December issue of W.I. Life. Pamela Sayers has copies of this form for anyone who hasn't got one. The speaker for the next meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup> is Mary Griffen who will be talking about Kent Greeters. Hostesses for the meeting are Debbie Burris, Sheila Clements and Val Fowler. Pam wishes everybody a Happy New Year and looks forward to seeing a full house. **(Pamela Sayers)**

**OZ on PEPYS** - Samuel Pepys started writing his famous diary 350 years ago. The first line said simply: "Jan 1st 1660. This morning (we living lately in the garret,) I rose, put on my suit with great skirts, having not lately worn any other clothes but them." He then described visiting Gunning's chapel and dining at home with Mrs P, followed by "looking over my accounts" and "to my father's." At the time, the 27-year old Pepys was very poor and had just started working for Sir Edward Montagu. In spring 1660 Pepys accompanied Montagu to Holland to bring Charles II back from exile. On their return Montagu was made 1st Earl of Sandwich, and Pepys gained a secure position on the Navy Board as Clerk of the King's Ships. Pepys proved a very successful administrator, so good that his work was often hampered by his superiors' failings, and he was soon promoted to Surveyor-General of the Victualling Office. During this period Pepys continued to write a daily diary, remarkable not only for first-hand accounts of major events, such as the Restoration, the Second Dutch War, the Great Plague and the Great Fire, but also for the minutiae of everyday life in London. In May 1669 Pepys suddenly ended the diary because he feared, incorrectly, that his eyesight was failing, and in November his wife died. Pepys sought comfort in yet more work, as Secretary to the Admiralty, Master of Trinity House and Member of Parliament for various constituencies. This part of his career was sabotaged by unproven assertions of Jacobitism from political opponents, and he retired to Clapham in 1701, where he died in 1703. Fellow-diarist John Evelyn, in his own diary, remembered this "particular friend" of 40 years as "a very great cherisher of learned men." **(Steve Osborn)**

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Gwyn Prosser M.P. 01304 214484  
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 206510  
District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956,  
Andrew Richardson 211835  
Alkham web site [www.alkham.org](http://www.alkham.org)

### 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

Tuesday	9	W.I. in village hall from 7.30pm
Monday	15	Dover and District Bird Club
Saturday	20	PC Jumble Sale in village hall 11.00am
Monday	22	W.I. pamper evening
Saturday	27	Beekeepers in the village hall 2.00pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Evensong 4.30	Eucharist 9.00	W.T. 11 a.m.
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Eucharist 9.00.	W.T. 11 a.m.	
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>		6p.m. Eucharist	
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Family Service 11a.m.	Evensong 6 p.m.	Eucharist 9.00am
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Joint Benefice 10.00am at Capel		
<b>Weekday Services:</b> Wednesday Eucharist <b>9.15 am</b> St Radigund, Capel-Le-Ferne			

**FROM THE VICARAGE** - Well we know February is a cold month but what a time we had with all the snow. You will be pleased to know that two residents of Capel enjoyed it tremendously. Rolo perfected his skids on ice and Bob was sure that if he ate enough snow he could walk and keep his feet dry! We took a walk every day and they enjoyed meeting other dogs and playing tag. It was quite a sight with sprays of snow flying up as they tried to execute a quick turn and catch each other unawares. I lost Bob a couple of times in the drifts but he didn't seem to mind and surfaced with all four legs going like crazy. It was a combined effort when we got home, they ate the ice on their legs and I tried to dry them as quickly as possible. Whilst the school was closed I met some of the children who were very happy to be out playing instead of in school but there will be a lot of catching up to do and that goes for the adults as well. Some firms have said that they will not pay those who were unable to get into work and this will have a major effect on household budgets. The 'March of the Kings' a sponsored walk in aid of the Rainbow Centre which supports families was postponed. But I hope those who are supporting the Centre will continue to do so as we can be sure that there will be increased demand for their services this winter. I haven't done a thing in the garden, hopefully the bulbs will begin to appear this month and I might be able to get out and do a bit of clearing up. At least the cold spell will have killed off a lot of garden pests and the plants that survive will be that much stronger!

**(Sue White 01303 240539)**

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**Newsletter**, Brian Wimsett 824969  
e mail [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com)  
**Parish Clerk** Angela Miller 824791  
[alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net](mailto:alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net)  
**Neighbourhood Watch** PCSO (left) & 218151  
**Police** – 999 phone & **01303 850055**  
**Police Support Officer** **07772226209**

**Village Hall booking** Val Fowler 827635  
**W.I. secretary** – Janet Barrow 829585  
**AVS** [cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk](mailto: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. 198 March 2010**

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## THE ALKHAM VALLEY FIELDWORK PROJECT 2010-2012

is open to everyone that wishes to take part in the various activities and researches planned for this project. The list for fieldwork dates is as follows: **South Alkham**, Meggett Farm, Meggett Lane (CT15 7DG) Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February: **Site TBA** March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>: **Site TBA** Oakwood excavating near Wolverton, Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May, Friday 7<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>. Further dates will be advised at intervals from now until the end of 2012. Children over the age of 10 years of age can join the team providing they are supervised by an adult at all times. **Before you are able** to join the Alkham team, please ensure you have sent the following details to Vince Burrows (project director) at [V.Burrows@gtwiz.co.uk](mailto:V.Burrows@gtwiz.co.uk) giving your full name, telephone contact numbers and email address. Your details will be held in confidence on the Alkham Valley Project Register. Please advise of any medical conditions or complaints that you or a third party accompanying yourself may have. These details will be held in strict confidence for health, safety and medical emergency reasons during the time you are involved with the project. For all fieldwork, please bring with you outdoor clothing suitable for all weather conditions (walking or ankle protecting boots are recommended) and a packed lunch and drink. Due to changeable weather conditions, fieldwork may be cancelled in the event of very bad weather. In this case, we recommend that you check your email the evening or early morning before the scheduled fieldwork. If unsure, please contact Vince on 01304 219550 or 07935 284955 (Please do not call before 9am and after 8.30pm). Please note, whilst every care is taken for your safety; The Alkham Valley Historical Research Group and Sub Scan South East Geophysical Surveys, do not except any liability for injury to volunteers or loss or damage to personal property. Each individual is responsible for his or her own insurance cover. When bringing third parties along with you, it will be your responsibility to ensure such persons have read this site safety notice and or, viewed a printed copy from you prior to joining the fieldwork team. **(Vince Burrows)**

**THE DRAMA WORKSHOP** has got off to a good start with generally about 12 people in the group but there are still spaces available. If you'd like to join them or just want further information please phone Brian Croucher on 07973 341 772 and he will phone you back.

**DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY** presents Verdi's thrilling Requiem at Dover Town Hall at 7:30pm on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March. Tickets at £10 (students £5) are obtainable from Dover Tourist Information Centre, or by calling 01304 822042/820149, and, if lucky, at the door on the night. For further information please call Donald Beck on 07808 272047 or log onto [www.doverchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.doverchoralsociety.org.uk) **(Steve Osborn)**

**CHRISTMAS TREE** - I would like to thank Dover District Council and Mandy Pile in particular, for arranging for the village Christmas tree to be collected from the Vicarage Meadow for recycling. Thanks too to the men from Sita who collect the tree as an addition to their round. The collection is good for the environment in that it saves many car journeys to the tip and the tree could even end up as compost on your garden! **(Mark Robson)**

**PHOTOS** – The Friends intend to produce another 'Alkham past and present' calendar for next Christmas. If you have any old photos of Alkham which would be appropriate please ring Brian on 824969.

## CONCERT IN ST. ANTHONY'S

April 17<sup>th</sup> is a date not to be missed if you enjoy guitar music of the highest standard. Jimmy D'Alton Bellas, who moved to the village in the summer, has arranged an evening of classical and Spanish music with his pupils past and present. More details will follow in next month's Newsletter.

### **(Den Barnard)**

**BARN DANCE** – The tickets to the barn dance on the 8<sup>th</sup> May are selling well but there are still some left. The cost of the tickets is £8.00 including a ploughman's supper and the event starts at 7.30pm in the village hall. Tickets are available from either Val Fowler on 827635 or Sue Lees on 822661.

**RECTORY FOOTPATH** - Dog walkers galore will have noticed that the KCC has sent a contractor to make the paths smooth. Some necessary adjustments to the overall plan of rather brutal new paths are to be made and a pleasant stroll can be enjoyed by all. **(Jo Walker)**

**TRAILER** – A trailer was stolen from a small field adjacent to Slip Lane probably on the 7<sup>th</sup> February. The barbed wire to the field was cut and even though two wheels had been removed from the trailer it was pulled through a newly planted hedge. If anyone can help please contact the local police (see P4).

**W.I. JUMBLE SALE** - Alkham Village Hall Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March 11am – entrance 20p.

**BOOK CLUB** - The meeting for Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March will be hosted by Sue Latham at Woodlands, Short Lane 01304 824924. The book for discussion is The Testament of Gideon Mack by James Robertson described by the Times as 'Superb' and by the Sunday Telegraph as 'Fascinating, extraordinary, strange and rich'. New members are always welcome and for more details telephone Jane Aslett 01304 824729.



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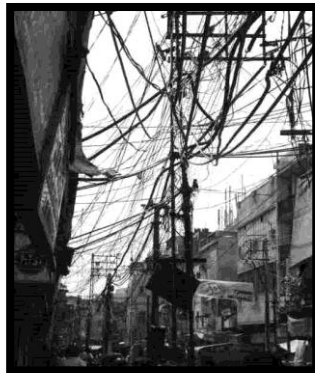
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**PIMLICO TREES (ER25)** - The future of a line of some fifteen trees planted 20 years ago by the Alkham Valley Society at their own cost and with their own labour has been a matter of local concern for some time. As reported in the Newsletter the trees hinder the farmer from maintaining the hedge, planted at the same time as the trees to replace those destroyed by a previous owner. The path is now too narrow for use by vehicles and the field is used instead. The vote to remove the trees in the public interest was taken at a meeting of the Alkham Valley Society on 4 February. It was agreed by a majority vote that the trees be felled. There will now be no excuse for the 4x4 leisure vehicles to use the farmer's field instead of the ER25. It is sad; few enjoy seeing the right trees in the wrong place being axed. It is to be hoped that another batch of trees be planted in some suitable area. Since Pimlico Way has apparently the same status as the M20, it should perhaps be renamed as such. **(Jo Walker)**

**ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB** celebrated an excellent 2009 season with its annual awards dinner, held this year at Paul's Restaurant in Folkestone. Club President Mark Loveday presented the trophies, which went to: Batting - Mark Naris; Bowling - Nick Price; Catching - Peter Frater; Young Player of the Year - Zac Hassan; Player of the Year - Toby Foster; Clubman - Tom Bird; Duck trophy (hotly contested!) - Dan Humphries. Special presentations were made to Barbara Palmer for managing the teas at home matches, and to Paul and Richard Tapsell, for sterling work preparing the pitch. Villager Mark Naris was deservedly thanked for organising a great event. The final award of the evening - the coveted "Players' Player of the Year Trophy" which is selected by secret ballot of the players - went to Nick Price, who turned in many fine batting and bowling performances. A dedicated club stalwart for many seasons, Nick takes over as captain for 2010. Alkham CC's Sunday XI won nine matches in 2009, drawing 2 and losing 12. The midweek XI won six and drew six. Indoor net practice at Kent Cricket Club's St Lawrence Ground (7pm to 8.30pm) begin on February 24. Other sessions are booked for March 10, 24 and 31, plus April 8 and 15.



The photo above shows India where most people phone for Broadband help.

The first match of the 2010 season is at home to Northbourne on Sunday April 18. Anyone interested in joining the club (as a player or to assist with off-field tasks) should contact club vice chairman Peter Frater on 01304 820067 or via [peter.frater@pfpr.com](mailto:peter.frater@pfpr.com).  
**BROADBAND** – In the update there was an advert for satellite broadband and they have asked me to let you know that they now provide 1Mbps for £27.49 per month - [www.1stcallaerials.co.uk/](http://www.1stcallaerials.co.uk/)  
**IN RESPONSE** to the article in last month's magazine regarding the money that is being raised for the Church by the Friends of St Anthony I thought I should offer an explanation in the hope that it will, perhaps clear any misgivings. Firstly, I should explain that, last year, the expenditure, for heating, lighting and other day-to-day running expenses and some minor repairs to the fabric, exceeded the income by almost £2,000. Of that expenditure 77% was taken up by the Parish Share which contributes towards Clergy stipends, housing and pensions. For a small parish such as ours, with our limited opportunities for raising funds, it is easy to see, therefore, that there is very little money available for major repairs to the building. From time to time one hears it said that the Church of England is wealthy as it owns a lot of land and buildings. In fact, these investments fund most of the cost of clergy in the parishes and in the Cathedrals and, if these investments were sold off there would be no money to pay the clergy. **(Marion Banks-Nash)**



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We are open for lunch from 12 – 6pm every Sunday & the bar is open all day to all so we look forward to seeing you then! Mention the newsletter and get a free bottle of house wine when 2 or more people dine at any time before 11th February. T&C apply.

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**BEER OR WINE?** Even people who are not involved in the church might find this interesting. One of the church services is the Eucharist in which the sacraments of the Last Supper, bread and wine, are given to worshippers. There is a church in the United States in which beer is used rather than the traditional wine. The Beer Church argues that as grain was the principle crop in the Middle East in biblical times and grapes were rare, beer was the drink of the common man. It contends that Jesus, a carpenter, being of the working classes was used to beer, with wine having no place in his life. The argument goes further by saying that beer was very likely served at the Last Supper and that historical and anthropological study has suggested that Noah's Ark was actually a barge hauling beer on the Euphrates. It is also pretty certain that the beer would qualify as "real ale". **(Clive Batchelor)**

**ALKHAM WI** – As the snow and ice cancelled the January meeting, president Pam Sayers, had a great deal to catch up with in February. Cherry Leppard was welcomed back as a member because she is a great 'Outing' organiser as well as being a really nice person! Alkham W.I. raised £255 for Cancer Research in 2009. Susannah Tapsell, being a representative of the Kent Voluntary Emergency Service, related how 4 members were on standby to help the night of December 19<sup>th</sup> because of problems that blocked the Channel Tunnel and prevented Cross Channel ferries docking, resulting in hundreds of transport drivers and passengers being held up in Dover and along motorways. This was the first occasion this 'Providers' service had been required. Speakers - there were two representatives of the "Kent Greeters" present to give a talk about how they and other Kent local persons are available to take visitors around the Dover area, a service members were unaware of and surprised to learn that it was provided free of charge. Members were reminded Ann Finney would be speaking about Edith Piaf at the next meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March and that they should bring a 'Spring time' photo to the meeting for a competition; also that there will be a Jumble Sale 11am on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March. **(Sue Lees)**

**OZ on WORST WINTERS** This winter's snowfall will be remembered as the "worst since" 1947, 1963 or 1980, depending on your age, "worst" meaning longest persistence of snow over the whole country. "Worst winters" usually start just before Christmas and end just before Easter, with heaviest falls in January and February. Between December 1946 and March 1947, snow fell somewhere in this country every day, constantly deepening in freezing temperatures. My brother and I enjoyed a wonderful February as our father was unemployed and helped us build many large snowmen. In June 1947 small patches of ice still survived on Deal beach under the seawall, where the sun didn't reach. December 1962 to March 1963 was similar, but very much colder. Beakers of water froze on the bedside table in our unheated cottage, and wild birds fell frozen from hedges, making easy prey for cats. New Year 1980 was less clear, being unpleasant in Dover, but variable in intensity and duration over the remainder of the country, so not really a "worst winter". It was in fact the first of a series of bad winters in the early 1980s that occurred coincidentally alongside climate warming elsewhere. People are already saying that this year's "worst winter proves beyond doubt that there's no such thing as global warming." I wish it were that simple. I wrote here in December 2000 that "if global warming melts the northern ice-cap, the release of fresh water into the North Sea will halt the Gulf Stream in its tracks, leading to another Ice Age, at least over Northern Europe." That's still a possibility, as the Millennium Bug and Swine Flu once were. Perhaps the current furore over the Himalayan glaciers will lead to a bit more honesty and humility on both sides of the debate. **(Steve Osborn)**

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Andrew Richardson 211835  
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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

<b>Monday</b>	<b>1</b>	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm in village hall
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>9</b>	W.I. in village hall from 7.30pm
<b>Monday</b>	<b>15</b>	Dover and District Bird Club
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>20</b>	W.I. Jumble Sale in village hall 11.00am
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>27</b>	Beekeepers in the village hall 2.00pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th	Evensong 4.30pm	Eucharist 9.00am	W.T. 11 a.m.
Sunday 14th Mothering Sun.	Eucharist 9.00. 3p.m. Service	W.T. 11 a.m.	
Sunday 21st	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6 p.m.	Eucharist 9.00am
Sunday 28th	Joint Benefice 10.00 at Hougham		
Monday 29th	6p.m Compline		
Tuesday 30th		6p.m Compline	
Wednesday 31st			6p.m Compline
<b>Weekday Services:</b> Wednesday Eucharist <b>9.15 am</b> St Radigund, Capel-Le-Ferne			

**From the Vicarage** - I bought some snowdrops to plant 'in the green' and decided that trying to dig down through a foot of snow and find the soil was not on! Here's hoping I can do it sometime very soon otherwise I shall have snowdrops 'in the brown'. The dogs and I gave up on the fields when they came back double their normal weight and bandy legged from carrying so much snow. We decided to try the beach only to find the snow was over the shingle and barely above the tide mark. Bob did think he'd try the water but fortunately common sense kicked in and he didn't. The paths and road have been very slippery and I have been very wary but I do remember a time when I loved sliding down icy pavements but I bounced better then! We are now in the season of Lent and there are more decisions to be made, what will you give up for Lent? Maybe we should all think of something extra that we could do instead, like making time to chat with a neighbour who is on their own or giving them a lift to the shops? I'm sure we can all think of offering help and friendship to someone this Lent. We shall celebrate Mothering Sunday at 3p.m. on 14<sup>th</sup> March at St. Anthony's followed by tea in the Village hall. Do come and join us as it will be a family occasion. The children will take part in the service and enjoy the cakes and playing on the swings afterward. We are also planning to have another 'Messy Church' session on Easter Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April from 10-12 midday where the children with their parents will make Easter gardens, paint eggs and create other symbols of Easter. **(Sue White 01303 240539)**

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[alkham.parcouncil@virgin.net](mailto:alkham.parcouncil@virgin.net)  
Neighbourhood Watch PCSO (left) & 218151  
Police – 999 phone & **01303 850055**  
Police Support Officer **07772226209**

Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635  
W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585  
AVS [cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk](mailto: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. 199 April 2010**

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

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**ALMOST** – The water table rose again at Drellingore and a natural spring, the Nailbourne, ran down the valley. The football pitch was flooded but the raised dyke stopped the water flowing onto Vicarage Meadow although some permeated to the surface. The water was flowing quite fast solely due to the ground water pressure.

**BROADBAND** – I've found out a bit more about Broadband which I thought I'd pass on. If you are with BT and do a speed test using <http://speedtester.bt.com/> (don't include www.) you will get your download speed. In the box underneath where it says 'Additional information' it gives your DSL Connection Rate. Note the Down-Stream figure and then compare it with the line underneath where it gives the IP Profile for your line. Basically the DSL connection rate is the figure that your line could have and the IP profile is what the exchange has set your line at. If the two are widely different there is a problem somewhere and it generally ends up being a fault in the house. (editor)

**DEN BARNARD - TRAVEL WRITER?** - I have long enjoyed Den's accounts of cycling that have appeared in the village Newsletter and I wonder if he has thought of turning his pen to other areas that would be of interest. In particular I am thinking of his recent trip to Vietnam which I am sure many would love to read about. Yours in hope, A. Villager.

**CHRISTMAS TREE** – Neil Burrows suggested at the Parish Council meeting that a Christmas tree should be planted rather than putting a new one up each year. A villager is looking into the matter.

**THE APPROVED MINUTES** of the Alkham Parish Council are now included on the Alkham web site [www.alkham.org](http://www.alkham.org).

**LITTER** – The Parish Council is writing to the two authorities to ask them to do something about all the litter that is by the sides of the Alkham Valley Road.

**A20** – On a trial basis a ban on lorries overtaking on the A20 as they come out of Dover from the Limekiln roundabout to Court Wood slip road is going to be introduced. For those who are familiar with this bit of the A20 they will know that some HGV's overtake each other at a very slow speed and cause enormous tailbacks. They should, of course, have included a crawler lane in the original design.

**ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB** - Our season starts this year with home games on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> April and, hopefully, a full card of weekend games through till the end of September and midweek games from 19<sup>th</sup> May to the end of July. If you'd like to get involved as either a supporter or player please get in touch with me on 01303 892082 or just come along to a game and meet the team. It's fair to say that we are enthusiastic rather than talented, but that tends to make for interesting games for spectators, as do the short boundaries and natural hazards! I will try and get the editor to include details of home games in the newsletter, or pick up a fixture card from the pavilion or the Marquis. (Paul Tapsell)

## **ALKHAM FETE 10th July 2010**

There will be a Fete Meeting on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April at 8 pm in the Village Hall to set everything up for this year's Fete; the woeful attendance at the AGM (thank you Clive, Margaret and Barbara for coming along) means that it is essential that we get an accurate idea of how many people are actually willing to contribute to this year's Fete, so either come along on the 6<sup>th</sup> or let me know in advance that you are unable to attend but that you are available to help on the 11<sup>th</sup> July. It would be a huge shame if we lost our village Fete, but unless more people from the village are willing to get involved in organising it we will simply have to throw in the towel! (Paul Tapsell 01303 892082)

**AFTER EASTER**, repair work is planned for the slide on Vicarage Meadow. There will be some manual work required beforehand to dig out the bank so that the necessary repairs can be done. The date is yet to be confirmed but please contact Angela on 824791 if you would be willing to help!

**THE LAST JUMBLE SALE** this Spring will be on 17<sup>th</sup> (or 24<sup>th</sup>) of April at 11am - midday. Funds will go to the Alkham Archaeology Project. Any articles to sell would be welcome. (Susan Lees)

**THE ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY** voted by majority that the trees by the side of Pimlico Way which they planted about 20 years ago should be cut down. It is very much regretted but the 4x4's are badly damaging the farmer's field and it is the only answer. (Jo Walker) ..... and the trees are now down and in some ways it looks better as you can clearly see the hedge plus the old track way is accessible. (editor)

**THE MARQUIS** are holding a Murder Mystery Evening on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm. Visit the website for more details.



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This photo on the left was on a postcard printed by Harris, of Dover circa 1905 - 1914. It is believed to be or have been in the Alkham area, but if anyone can identify the photo it would be a great help. **(Susan Lees)**

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**ALKHAM ARRIVAL 1972** - From a flat in Twickenham to a country cottage in a village in a quiet lane. School for the kids over back wall, and next to a pub. Even independent structural survey O.K., nothing worse than crossed polarity on cellar light switch, whatever that means. Perfick. Euphoria slightly dented by ultimatum two days before exchange of contracts. Same price, no separate garage plot. Gazumped by the ex-wife of some actor, James Robertson something, but so what, plenty of other space. More dents when floor coverings removed. Old woodworm and death-watch beetle in kitchen floorboards and joists means immediate new floor. Joists in lounge absolutely rotten and collapsed in corner with floor 4 inches lower. Reason? Sodden joists in past. Evidence? Thousands of dead snail shells. So much for survey. Solution? Second hand floor boards for 1p and joists for 2p a yard, and a new floor for about £20. More dents follow. Change to mains instead of cesspool drainage. Employ locals to build wall which falls down! Watch school close and my original garage plot become garage for No.1 Old School Cottages etc. etc. Overwhelming nostalgia for old maintenance free flat and Heathrow. No joy. What about kids and new school? - says 'er indoors. What about my W.I? And, anyway you've got the pub! So, give up, put up with and shut up. **(Rob Lees)**

**GARDEN TALK** - After two visits to Meggett Lane, our next gathering is at Box Tree Cottage, Slip Lane where Pam & Maurice Sayers are our hosts on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, from 7.30p.m. We hope that spring will have sprung by then and everyone is able to talk enthusiastically about gardening. On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May there is a coach trip organised to Leonardslee Gardens near Horsham, where the spring blossom is amazing. As this private estate has recently been sold, it is unlikely that the gardens will open to the public after the end of June - so this really is an opportunity not to be missed. Further details from Janet Adamson (01303 893413) or Cherry Leppard (01303 255114).

**BOOK CLUB** - Born Under A Million Shadows by Andrea Busfield is the book to be discussed at the April meeting which will be hosted by Avi Munn at Poems, Short Lane on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7.30. Tel 01304 829484. The Author is a British journalist who has made her home in Afghanistan after covering the fall of the Taliban; it is a heart warming tale which gives a unique viewpoint on Afghanistan and it's people. New members are always welcome. For more details contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

**ALL RIGHT JACK** – Ken and Dot's Jack Russell, who is called Tiny, gets upset when Ken moves away from him and can start barking. Ken was sitting with Tiny on the settee but wanted to go in the conservatory to check his emails so he waited until Tiny was asleep and slid onto the floor. Tiny opened one eye and looked at him so Ken sat there for some time until he dropped off again and then started crawling on his hands and knees to the door and slithered down into the conservatory. He sat on the chair booted the computer and then became aware that he was being stared at. Tiny was sitting in the doorway with a 'what on earth are you doing look' on his face. He's a great and much loved dog. **(editor)**



Get a complimentary glass of wine with your Lunch Tuesday – Sunday during April when you mention the Alkham Newsletter.

Remember we have Live jazz and magic regularly on a Sunday. Pop in or give us a call for more details.

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THE PATH running through the Rectory from the churchyard has been surfaced by KCC with type 1 aggregate. A couple of people think the tree roots were a natural obstacle but most people are pleased that they can now walk without difficulty. Thanks go to Anthony Barrier for getting the work done. (editor)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - Pimlico Trees and Rectory Footpath should have come under Alkham Valley Society and not just Jo Walker, apologies. (Jo Walker)

ALKHAM WI - this was a busy meeting with many dates to be noted such as the district Top Team Quiz in June, Emergency Team training day in April, outing by coach to Leonardslee near Horsham 20<sup>th</sup> May, cost approx £17, anyone interested must contact Cherry Leppard. Also organised are outings to historic sites such as Ostidge near Faversham, anyone interested please contact Janet Adamson. President, Pam Sayers thanked Mandy Saunders for setting up the Pamper Evening once again, an event thoroughly enjoyed by all. The speaker for the evening was C C who not only showed a few magic tricks but also spoke about the years he has spent working as a magician, starting tricks when a very young boy and still learning new tricks in his mid seventies. Two members spring photos, Edith Neve's and Pat Yeoman's were chosen to be put in the Group W.I. competition in April. (Susan Lees)

OZ on PALAVERY – Twenty years ago, in another life, I worked with a talented and eccentric bridge engineer. Alex was of Polish ancestry and shared my love of literature and language. One day he burst into the site office where we worked, beaming with excitement. “I’ve just found an amazing word,” he cried, “can you guess what it means?” The word was ‘sesquipedalian’, and it describes both long words and the people that use them, so that the word ‘sesquipedalian’ itself and its user can each in turn be described as ‘sesquipedalian’. The word is derived from the Latin phrase sesquipedalia verba, meaning ‘words one and a half feet long’, coined by the Roman poet Horace in The Art of Poetry, first published in 18BC. The word now makes a welcome appearance in Foyle’s Palavery and Foyle’s Further Palavery, published by Chambers in 2008 in an attractive boxed set. The books, subtitled ‘A treasury of unusual words’ and laid out as a dictionary, were compiled by Christopher Foyle, chairman of the world-famous Foyle’s Book Shop in London’s Charing Cross Road. He started collecting in 1990, after hearing the Gulf War General Schwarzkopf describe worthless information as ‘bovine scatology.’ The word ‘palavery’ was shamelessly fabricated from ‘palaver’ by Christopher’s mother-in-law, ‘a demon at Scrabble’, during a particularly aggressive game. I wonder if Christopher ever suffered from ‘pentheraphobia – an abnormal fear of one’s mother-in-law’? Another word that we really need every day is ‘apocolocynosis – the process of being turned into a pumpkin.’ There must be a phobia associated with this but I have yet to find it. I hope that Alex, wherever he is now, received Foyle’s Palavery from a kind relative at Christmas as I did, and remembers the fun we once had with ‘sesquipedalian’ and the like. (Steve Osborn)

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### Other events in the village

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>3</b>	Messy church
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>6</b>	Fete meeting in village hall 8.00pm
<b>Monday</b>	<b>12</b>	Parish Council meeting (not regular one)
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>13</b>	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
<b>Monday</b>	<b>19</b>	Dover and District Bird Club
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>20</b>	Village hall committee AGM 7.30pm in village hall
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>21</b>	PCC AGM in village hall
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>24</b>	Archaeological jumble

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Thursday 1st		Eucharist 6pm	
Friday 2nd	Meditations 12-1p.m.	Meditations 2-3p.m.	Meditations 1-2p.m.
Saturday 3rd	Messy Church 10-12		
Sunday 4th	Eucharist 10.00	Eucharist 9	Eucharist 11 a.m.
Sunday 11th	Eucharist 9.00.	W.T. 11 a.m.	
Sunday 18th	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6	Eucharist 9.00
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Joint Benefice 10.00 at Hougham		

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

**From the Vicarage** - March has been a busy month; we have had our first wedding, it somehow seems very right to have a spring wedding. There are several events planned for this year and I hope you will support them all. I met the new Bishop of Dover at a clergy study day. He told us that he will be going to all the deaneries over the coming months and he will be in the Dover deanery on 22nd April. He also enjoys going to village fetes so I am e-mailing him with details of the Alkham fete. He particularly enjoys the plant stalls as he is a keen gardener. There has also been a study day for our A.L.M.s, Helen Scopes, Theda Mulloy and Keith Hughes. It was a very encouraging day for us all and Archbishop Rowan spoke about the importance of ministry teams. I am sure that many of you have already benefited from the work that Helen, Theda and Keith are doing and of course from Raye. We hope that Raye will be able to put her expertise to good use in her new parish. It's very important to me to be able to work in a team. I think that most of you will agree that working with others is so much better than working alone. The support, the constructive criticism, the fun and laughter which is part of good working together is so vital for us all. We grow and thrive in such an environment. Writing this it seems as though 'Spring has sprung', the sun is shining and we can look forward to a blessed and joyful Easter. We shall be having a 'Messy Church' session at Alkham Village hall on 3rd April, making Easter gardens, hats, cards and painting eggs to roll on the Vicarage field. Do bring the children to enjoy the fun. **(Sue White 01303 240539)**

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properties in the Parish



**A Spring Evening guitar concert** - What an outstandingly successful evening. James D'Alton Bellas and his pupils enraptured a completely full church in their guitar-based magic, from the charmingly competent Alex Set with 'Licence to Chill' (Powlesland) to 'De Aires Antiguos' (Angulo) by the outstanding artists Grant Dowse (guitar)

and Travis Finch (mandolin). The standing ovation for this wonderful musical dialogue was a sign of appreciation for everyone's talent. The extensive repertoire demonstrated musical education in progress: the central part of the programme being performed by the up and coming pupils, accompanied on one or two occasions by James D'Alton Bellas and Dr Duncan MacKay on Double Bass, the latter raising a chuckle when he smoothly coped with the pin of the bass slipping on polished tiles, and culminating post-interval with the extraordinary musical talents of Dowse and Finch. Thanks to everyone for such a fine evening, especially to James D'Alton Bellas, his pupils, to Den Barnard (Chairman of the Friends) for his masterly introductions and commentary on the history of the church building, to all the back scene workers who made it possible. £900 was raised for the church repairs. Polish was the evening's thrill, from the shining music to the shining candlelit brass chandelier, to the fine supper afterwards in the Village Hall. We were bowled over. Please come again. **(Jo Walker)**

**THE ANNUAL PARISH** meeting was held in the village hall on the 12<sup>th</sup> April. This used to be a very important event but I guess in the age of mass communication it is not so important for parishioners to come to such meetings to air their problems. Apart from the local and Parish councillors there were only 10 people in the audience but it is worth continuing with the tradition especially as the talk given by Melanie Wrigley from the White Cliffs Countryside Project was excellent. Neil Burrows, the Parish council chairman, gave his annual report and Angela Miller gave the finance report and confirmed that the precept for the year remains at £8000. There were some questions about the fence round the dyke by the village hall and a request for a salt bin at Newlyn's Meadow.

**PAMPER EVENING** – The Alkham W.I. are holding a pamper evening on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June in Alkham village hall from 7pm to 9pm, so come and enjoy a relaxing evening. On offer will be massage, pedicure, nail polishing, waxing, spray tans and much more. The £2.50 entrance includes refreshments and nibbles and you just pay for the treatments that you want. **(Mandy Summers)**

**AV PROJECTOR** – The village hall has bought an AV projector that can be connected to a DVD player or computer. It is free to use for locals who book the hall and if you would like further information please ring Brian on 824969 or email [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com).

## **BARN DANCE 8<sup>th</sup> MAY**

We still have tickets for the above. There will be live music by Meadow Folk with an excellent caller David Brown. Tickets are only £8 which includes a Ploughman's Supper (bring your own drinks) and from previous experience it will be a fun night. It doesn't matter if you are not a dancer, in fact, it might be a help if you are not. Tickets from Sue Lees (82261), Brian Wimsett (824969), Linda Gaskill (823100), Rosie Hansraj (822585) or Den Barnard (824845). **(Den Barnard)**

**ROCK ON** – It's great to see that the rocking horse on Vicarage Meadow is back after complete refurbishment. This complements the excellent children's play equipment which has been installed recently as a result of money left over from the grant given for the lighting on the football pitch.



## **ALKHAM ARCHAEOLOGY**

I would like to thank people for their generosity with gifts. Although the Jumble Sale has not yet taken place, many bags of jumble have been received for sale on the day. **(Susan Lees)**

**VARIETY SHOW** – There will be a variety show in the village hall, similar to last year's, on the 26<sup>th</sup> September. If anyone is interested in helping or have suggestions, please come to a meeting which will be held in the village hall on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 2.00pm. **(Helen Scopes)**



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**DEN AND TRAVELLING – VIETNAM.** Vietnam is a stunningly beautiful country with friendly and welcoming people who are eager to please. I know this because I read it in a book. I had air tickets to go there but never made it. After a fabulous holiday in Australia visiting our son David in Sydney, also incorporating a cruise to New Zealand, we had booked to stop off in Saigon (now called Ho Chi Min City) for a few days to visit Irene's brother currently living there. At the Qantas check-in desk at Sydney airport the airline clerk had a long look at my passport and announced that I did not have a clear six months left on the said document. 'No problem' I say who do I pay to sort it. 'Yes problem' she replies 'You can't fly'. After speaking to her supervisor who was much more helpful because he smiled as he said 'You can't fly'. I then resorted to the old Red Indian trick of crying and begging but to no avail. Finally we found someone with a solution. 'We can cancel your ticket and get you a flight straight back to London for an extra 250 dollars each' said the man. We took up this offer and arrived back in England six days early. Irene took it quite well I feel, she has written me a note stating that she will be speaking to me again in two years time, this, after the row that we had at the airport which was like World War Two but with more violence. Look out for my next article in the newsletter when I will be describing some other countries I've been banned from entering. Finally, please don't tell anyone about this, I would not like anyone in the village to find out about my stupid mistake. **(Den Barnard)**

**FUN NEW AEROBICS CLASS** - Come and join me Izzy at Alkham village hall May 25<sup>th</sup> 7.30 to 8.30 pm. This is a beginners to mixed ability class so suitable for everyone. There are low options and high options throughout so you only do as much as you want to. First class will be free as a taster and then £3.00 thereafter. I have booked the hall on the following dates 25<sup>th</sup> May, 1<sup>st</sup> June, 15<sup>th</sup> June and 22<sup>nd</sup> June. So will run for a month and then if people are interested I will book for another month from there. Depending on the response and the lever of fitness of participants I will be changing my routines each month so there will be variety. I am also training to teach Pilates at the moment so once I have passed the exam I can offer that too. I live in Ewell Minnis and have done all my life so I thought it would be great to offer something to the community. Some people find going to leisure centres or gyms quite daunting so I feel my class will be more accessible to people. The emphasis is to have FUN and have a great workout at the same time. So grab you water bottle and a mat (some mats will be provided) and join me. If you would like any further information please call me on 07921823802 **(Isobel Swinbourne)**

**ALKHAMHURST KENNELS** - The owner of the kennels at Wolverton has a deep interest in anything "old". Although the house is not ancient, he believes it to be about one hundred years old, he would love to know more about the place. The house is actually called Rhodes House, which probably goes back to the time when there was a chicken farm at the site. If you have any information about the history of Rhodes House please contact me on 01304 824969 or email [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com) and I will pass the details on. **(editor)**

**BOOK CLUB** - The meeting for Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May will be hosted by Margaret Danstead at 2 Meadow Hill Cottages, Hogbrook Hill Lane 01304 829006. The book for discussion is Night Train to Lisbon by Pascal Mercier. This is an International Bestseller described as a rare reading pleasure. New members are always welcome, for more details contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729. **(Jane Aslett)**

**ACRYSE YOUNG FARMERS** Annual Farming Fayre will be at Capel Church farm, Manor House Lane, Capel-le-ferne (CT18 7EX) on the 20th June starting at 1.30pm.



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**HELEN OSBORN** – It is very sad to report that Helen, the wife of Steve who writes as Oz in this Newsletter, died unexpectedly on the 8th of April. Steve and Helen met when they were in their teens and married at the age of 20 and this year they would have celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary. In her working life she was a school teacher and in retirement enjoyed gardening and the Dover Choral Society of which Steve is a member. The funeral was held in a packed church at St. Mary-in-Castro in Dover Castle where her life was celebrated. She will be sorely missed.

*Steve will continue with Oz in the next edition of the Newsletter.*

**ALKHAM W.I.** – The April meeting was one of the best after the long winter months and it was lovely to see Raye Luckhurst and Betty Neely back with us for the evening. Unfortunately there was a large amount of business to catch up with. However, Mairi Jones' report on the East Kent's Annual Council Meeting was very interesting. The main talk in the evening by Ken Palmer on 'How perfume is created' was presented in a different way than expected. By the time something like 50 dippings of perfume were passed around all were confused – some scents were lovely and others – ugh! The May meeting will be the one when the W.I. resolution is discussed – but be prepared there might just be some more interesting things taking place, and members will have more time to chat with each other. **(Susan Lees)**

**THE CHURCH** in Alkham, St. Anthony's, is now open daily for people to walk round. At the Guitar Concert the building contributed greatly to the success of the evening.

**THE WHITE CLIFFS** - Melanie Wrigley gave a talk about the White Cliffs Country-side Project and provided some very interesting information:

The white cliffs of Dover are rare as apart from the sister cliffs across the channel there are few others in the world.

Gelatinous material fills cavities in the sediment, such as holes bored by crustaceans, and this becomes silica which is what flints are made of.



The grassland needs to be grazed and Di Smith of Sladden Farm has some Dexter cattle on the cliffs.

One wild flower that grows is the cow slip; originally this grew where cow pats fell and the plant was called cow slap. The Victorians didn't like this so they changed the 'a' to 'i'.

Peregrine falcons are being reintroduced to the area as they were shot during WWI because they ate the carrier pigeons.

It is thought that a cliff connected England to France some 10,000 years ago and a large inland freshwater lake was formed behind it being fed by the Thames and other rivers. Eventually the weight of water made the cliffs collapse and the English Channel as we know it was formed.

Chalk grassland needs to be managed, otherwise it is invaded by shrubs and trees and the rare plants are shaded out and lost forever. The traditional method of managing chalk grassland is by grazing and this ceased at Folkestone Warren in 1924 with many areas becoming woodland.

Butterflies are found in abundance on chalk grassland and the blue butterflies are most characteristic of the area and in ideal circumstances they can be seen in large numbers during the summer. Many butterflies such as the Adonis Blue or the Chalkhill Blue require short grazed grassland, whereas other species such as the Meadow Brown or Marbled White depend on longer grassland.

**CRICKET** – The Alkham Cricket Club will be playing at home on Vicarage Meadow against Old Hartsdonians 2<sup>nd</sup> on the 16<sup>th</sup> May starting at 2.30pm and on the 29<sup>th</sup> May against Stowting, again starting at 2.30pm.

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### Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am – Wednesday Club to 11.30am in VH
Thursday	Karate classes from 7.15pm to 8.45pm in VH - 821336
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

### Other events in the village

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>6</b>	General election voting in village hall 7am to 10pm
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>8</b>	Barn Dance – please see page 1
<b>Monday</b>	<b>10</b>	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm in village hall
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>11</b>	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
<b>Monday</b>	<b>17</b>	Dover and District Bird Club in VH 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2nd	Evensong 6.30	Eucharist 9.00	W T 11am
Sunday 9th	Eucharist 9.00	W.T 11 a.m.	
Thursday 13th	Joint Benefice Eucharist Hougham 7 p.m.		
Sunday 16th	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9 a.m.
Sunday 23rd	Joint Benefice 10.00 at Hougham		
Sunday 30th	Joint Benefice Eucharist 10.00a.m at St. Mary's Capel.		

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

**From the Vicarage** - Easter was a wonderful time. On Easter Saturday the children made an Easter garden, chocolate birds nests, Easter posters and masks and sang 'Roll, roll, roll the stone, roll the stone away! Jesus is alive today, hip, hip, hip hooray with great gusto! It was a most enjoyable morning for everyone and that is what Messy Church is about. The Pet Service is becoming an annual event and it's amazing how well the animals behave. We have enjoyed the classical guitar evening thanks to Jimmy at St. Anthony's and this month we look forward to the Barn dance. It seems that Alkham is a hive of activity. There is much work going on behind the scenes to prepare for the Village Fete and I do hope that when you are asked to help you will feel able to say 'Yes'. The success of any venture depends on each one of us playing our part and it is fun to be part of activities with others. The weddings continue apace. We have had families and friends who have been thrilled to be in our village to celebrate the wedding of a son or daughter. We shall not be doing any weddings after the 12th September because the work on the ceiling of the church will begin in October and getting married surrounded by scaffolding is not very picturesque! I have had a few days off which has been lovely. My parents came up and were welcomed by us all. Bob hid his favourite bone under my dad's pillow. Quite how he managed to leave the bed looking untouched we are not sure but Dad didn't find out until he turned over in the early hours and felt something hard sticking in his ear! Needless to say he was not expressing love and affection for Bob at that moment! A joyful Spring to you all as you work in the garden. **(Sue White 01303 240539)**

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**Police** – 999 phone & 01303 850055

**Police Support Officer** 07772226209

**Village Hall booking** Val Fowler 827635

**W.I. secretary** – Janet Barrow 829585

**AVS** [cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk](mailto: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

