

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

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

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 12th 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 16th 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 27th 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)**



Tyres fitted at your home or work

- Car • Van • 4x4
 - Low profile
 - Runflats
 - Computerised balancing
 - Laser wheel alignment
- Contact Howard Cole
07889 242604
www.tyrevan.com



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

MEGGETT FARM COTTAGE

Meggett Lane Alkham - 4 Star rating.
Self catering cottage sleeps 6. Fully equipped with conservatory patio and garden overlooking Alkham Valley

www.meggettfarmcottage.co.uk

email: simon-price.dover@virgin.net

Phone: 01303 252764 - Simon & Helen Price

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)**

POULTON SERVICE AND EXHAUST CENTRE

HOLLOW WOOD ROAD

POULTON IND EST, DOVER

NEW CAR SERVICING WITHOUT AFFECTING YOUR WARRANTY

Servicing, MOT's & repairs, tyres, exhausts etc
Free collection & delivery or courtesy car arranged
Contact Leon Clements
01304 212070/201235 for details

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)**

Alkham Court

Farmhouse Bed & Breakfast

Meggett Lane, South Alkham

5 Star: Gold Award

Peaceful location overlooking the Alkham Valley

'Winners Best B & B in SE England'
Tourism SE Award

Web: www.alkhamcourt.co.uk

Wendy Burrows Tel: 01303 892056

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)**

A.B. LANDSCAPE

Design & Construction Service
Private & Commercial

Driveways - Fencing - Decking - Turfing
Patios - Block Paving

Contact Andy Broadley

T. 01304 827779 Mobile: 07779 091427

1 Target Firs, Temple Ewell, Dover.

Specialists in Horse Ménages

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)**



Cedar Boiler Services

Oil fired boiler service, maintenance and repair Dennis Clarkson

OFTEC Registered - 0788 0926 567

N J CREED

Plumbing & Heating Engineer

10 Chance Meadow, Guston, Dover CT15 5EP

01304 205679 & 07855771095

Gas servicing - Boiler maintenance - Plumbing
Central heating Installations - LPG

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

AG Hawthorn

Tree Services

All aspects of tree work including:
Felling, pruning, shaping, stump grinding, hedge planting and maintenance.

Professional friendly service
07956 081124 / 01582 755676

R. Cunningham Roofing

Flat and Pitched Roof Specialist
Prompt and reliable every time

All aspects of roofing under-taken

* Insurance work * Written Guarantees *

* Friendly advice * Free Estimates -

Poly-carbonate Fascias * Soffits * Guttering

* Lead work * Re-pointing Tiles * Slates

* Kent Peg Tiles * Chimney repair

Contact Richard on - Telephone 01304
821042 or 07725 402939

Andy Fletcher

For all types of building work from brickwork to patios, garden walls, roof repairs, guttering, bathrooms, kitchens etc.

Phone 01304 241343 or 07776
304976



Boarding for Dogs, Cats
& Small Animals

Canine Hydrotherapy - Pet Food Shop
Alkham Valley Road - 01304 822420

Computer & Software Services

For all your PC computer support needs from hardware and software installation through to network design and support.

Reasonable Call out rates. Large projects by quotation.

With over 30 years experience your Problem can be solved.

Tel: 07092 269872 Fax: 07092 270429

Martin.Heddle@Computer-and-software-services.co.uk

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



included the usual rogues such 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 - 2nd 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

materials that exclude breeding ALKHAM W.I - The December 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 12th January the problem is global and the when Ken Palmer from River will be research has now become global. In this country the work is talking about 'How perfume 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.

HIGH LEVEL CLEANING SOLUTIONS

Window cleaning specialists no house too small. We use a reach & wash purifying system that means no streaks or smears and no chemicals. Our poles reach those hard to get areas. Safely clean your conservatory roof. We fully clean all windows, doors and frames.

Our prices start from as little as £6 for a 3 bed house.

For a free quote call Marcus or Sara on 826280

HOGBROOK EQUESTRIAN CENTRE Incorporating BRIDLEWAY RIDING SCHOOL

Quality Livery yard & Riding School
Excellent facilities including
large floodlit indoor school

Livery yard tel. 01304 824499
Riding school tel. 01304 829090

Hart Lee

Tree Surgery and Garden Services

- All aspects of tree work
- Hedge & grass cutting
- Garden clearances
 - Logs for sale
 - Fully insured

Call/Fax Tony on 01227 478604
Mobile 07708 537683



ALKHAM PROPERTY SERVICES

HOME & GARDEN MAINTENANCE
07766 350741

OSCAR PET FOODS

FREE Home Delivery
FREE Nutritional Advice
FREE Meal for your Dog

We have a large range of foods and accessories for both Cats and Dogs.

25k Wild Bird Seed £16.50 - 25k Peanuts £26.50

01303 862200

Oscar a Friendly franchise

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

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

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	11	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm in VH - all welcome
Tuesday	12	W.I. in village hall from 7.30pm
Saturday	16	Annual quiz in village hall starting at 7.30pm
Monday	18	Dover and District Bird Club
Tuesday	19	Village Hall committee meeting
Saturday	30	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 17th 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 23rd 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)**

KENNELS AND CATTERY, Canine Hydro-therapy and Pet Shop Wolverton – **01304 822420**
CANINE BEAUTICIANS, dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House Ewell Minnis - **01304 822902**
CURTAINS & BLINDS made to your specification Alkham Valley **01303 891806**
GREENHILL FARM – DIY and assisted livery – excellent facilities, South Alkham - **01303 892056**
ALKHAM VALLEY garden centre – everything for horse and rider South Alkham - **01303 891996**
SIMON PRICE Part P electricians and data installers, South Alkham - **01303 252764**
HOTEL, RESTAURANT AND BAR Marquis, Alkham Valley Road – **01304 873410**
HARMONIC HEATING plumbing & heating services, Wolverton – **01304 822500 or 07888 713 896**
R CUNNINGHAM - Flat and pitched roof specialist Alkham – **01304 821042 or 07725402939**

Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969
e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com
Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791
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 821641
Footpath Warden antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
Vicar – Rev. Sue White 01303 240539
Church Wardens - Geoff Gaskill 823100
and Ken Hammond 07909563479