

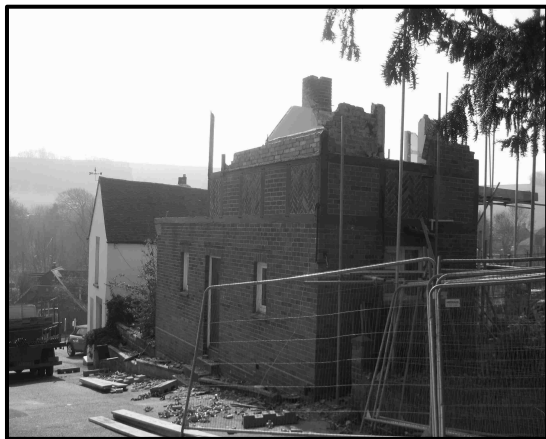
Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 211 May 2011

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

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HALTON

FORSTALL is no more with the demolition being completed on the 1st April.

Work has begun on the extension to the Marquis which should be finished by September 25th 2011.

BILL ROLFE – Bill died on the 12th March at the age of 77 having been in ill health for some time, which was borne without complaint. Bill and his wife Margaret were the last owners of the Post Office Stores in Alkham having bought the business in 1973. They moved from the village in 1986 and finally settled in Hythe. Bill involved himself in many village activities whilst in Alkham and was liked by all who knew him because of his pleasant personality and kind nature....

The 12th of March was a sad day as Rob Lees also passed away and St. Anthony's was packed for his funeral with over 140 people filling the church....

LADIES PAMPER EVENING - Alkham W.I. is arranging another 'Pamper' Evening on Monday 13th June in the Village Hall from 7.00p.m. Taster beauty treatments including manicures, facials, reflexology and much more. Entrance costs £2.50 and includes refreshments. Tickets can be obtained in advance from Janet Adamson (01303 893413) or Pam Sayers (01304 822397). Tell your friends - it promises to be an enjoyable evening!

50MPH SIGNS – Residents in Standen Terrace contacted the Parish Council regarding the 50mph signs on the Valley Road. Their houses were before the limit but the Highway Authority has now agreed to move the signs westwards.

FETE COMMITTEE - There will be a Fete Committee meeting on Tuesday 3rd May at 8 pm in the Village Hall, to check that everything is in hand for the big day (9th July) - please come along to confirm that you will be able to help on the day (or let me know if there's a problem!). See you there. **(Paul Tapsell 01303 892082)**

THE EASTER WALK will (has) take place on Monday 25th April leaving from Foxgloves at 10.30am. All welcome, lets hope the weather is good and the ground not too muddy. Any enquiries 826202.

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - It will be of interest to our members that the completed case and the Wolverton Warrior display will be formally opened on 28th April at Astor College, Dover. Thank you for your support and agreement about funding part of the project. Since the venue is small and the exhibit large it means that numbers attending the opening are limited and the members of the Committee will be attending as your representatives. The event takes place at 2.30 p.m. and refreshments will be provided by the College. It is very satisfactory to bring the project to this stage and thanks to all who enabled it. **(J Walker - Sec)**

THE CURRY fund raising event in the village hall for the ABS soldiers' charity appeared to be enjoyed by all and raised £342.20p.

THANK YOU - I would like to thank so many more people than I can even name for all the support they have given me over the unexpected departure of Rob. Gerry Maguire, an ex work colleague, summed up Rob at the funeral by saying that he appeared grumpy and irascible but this hid a deep shyness under which was a kind and gentle man. **(Susan Lees)**

CONGRATULATIONS to Ernie Cook and his wife Greta who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last month.

ACRISE YOUNG FARMERS annual farming fayre is on Sunday 19th June, 1pm at Bell Farm, Canterbury Road, Lydden (CT15 7EX for sat-nav). There will be a charity day shoot plus vintage tractors, arts and crafts, games, dog show, raffle, teas and lots more. Admission is £3 for adults, children under 16, £2.50 and under 3's free.

GARAGE SAFARI – Saturday, 14 May. Plans are now in hand for the Garage Safari. There will be a charge of £8 for each stall, payable in advance to either Margaret or Marion. We have had a number of enquiries but would still like to have a lot more stalls so please do let us know if you would like to have a table in your garden. As before, there will be plenty of space at The Hermitage for anyone from outside the Village. We also need help with selling village maps, car park, bacon rolls etc in the Village Hall as well as generally "spreading the word". Also, maybe someone would like to sell ice creams and drinks in their garden. Please let us know as soon as possible if you want to have a table or make any contribution to the success of the day. Phone numbers are Margaret Batchelor 823568 or Marion Nash 829791.



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GARDEN TALK - A very pleasant evening was spent at Bramhall in early April when we admired the spring colours in the tidy garden and discussed watering vegetables and moss in lawns as well as many other topics. We next meet on Friday 13th May at Box Tree Cottage, Slip Lane where Pam & Maurice Sayers will be our hosts from 7.30p.m. All welcome. *Please note change of date from the published programme.*

ENVIRONMENTAL REGENERATION - The Environment & Natural History Group of the W.I. has arranged an afternoon of presentations which may be of interest to many in the Village. Speakers will be Judy Whittaker, Communications Manager for Fresca Group who set up the award-winning Thanet Earth glasshouse Project. After a break for refreshments we will hear from Mandy Broughton of Vattenfall UK on Offshore Windfarms - particularly the Thanet one. Both ladies will be prepared to answer searching questions. The meeting starts at 2.00p.m. and there is a small charge to cover the hall cost - everyone is welcome!

THE ANNUAL VILLAGE OUTING this year, organised by the Alkham Valley Society, is going to Quex Park, near Birchington, on 2nd June. A coach will leave the Village at 10.00am, returning by 6.00pm. There are a lot of things to see at Quex Park – a museum, gardens, the house, etc. with a lot of history, and there are two eating places for those of us who would like to have lunch, or we can take a picnic. Estimated cost for the coach will be £15 and the entrance fee for Senior Citizens will be £4.50 or £6.00 for other adults. The exact cost for the coach will be given in the next newsletter. If you would like to join us please call Marion Nash on 820701, or Pam Sayers on 822397. More information next month.

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB - The new season will start/started on the 17th April (results to follow next month) and there are home games on the 1st (Betteshanger) and 28th May (Stowting) and away games on the 7th (Stowting), 15th (Old Hartsdonians), 21st (Elham) and 23rd (Hythe) - please come along to support the Badgers in 2011. Fixture cards are available from the Pavilion (during home games), the Marquis and the Village Hall so you can plan your month around the sound of leather on willow! If you'd like to play, come along to one of our nets sessions on a Wednesday (4th, 11th and 18th only, weather permitting) from 6 pm on the Meadow to see if you meet the required standard ("enthusiastic but hardly athletic!"). **(Paul Tapsell 01303 892082)**

ALKHAM W.I. - The April meeting prepared members for the discussion of the Annual Resolutions in May (1) Mega farming - how farm animals are confined to buildings instead of grazing in open fields, and (2) the closing down of Public Libraries which have been available for so many years. Both will be discussed next month with advice from, hopefully Jim Warnock who farms at Capel and Alkham, and Janet Adamson who will explain why libraries are already closing. The speaker was the well known Paul Harris, who talked about Pantomimes. This is the second time Alkham W.I. has listened to his superb talks. There are many events occurring this summer, the two nearest are 2nd June outing to Quex Park and 13th June a Pamper Evening in the Village Hall. **(Susan Lees 01304 822661)**

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OZ ON HISTORICKENT.COM –When I first began writing this column, I would prepare stories well in advance to meet my self-imposed deadline for submission to the editor. As time went by, I found the deadline an invaluable stimulant to concentrating the mind, and recently I've not even thought about the story until the last minute. This month I finally came to grief, staring at a blank sheet, with concert weekend, followed immediately by a holiday, looming up in front of me, and not a clue what to write about. I've decided to use the space to publicise a charming and interesting website I discovered recently at http://www.historickent.com/vill_a.html Here's what they say about Alkham: "The epitaph Here lieth Herbert, offspring of Simon. A man open-hearted, assured by hope of good things, fluent in words of faith is inscribed on the lid on the stone coffin of Herbert de Averanches, monk of St Radigund's Abbey at Alkham. The coffin lid is now in the church of St Anthony the Martyr, and the inscription is claimed to be the earliest to be found in any Kent church, dating as it does from the 12th century. Alkham is a pleasant little village, snuggled into the woods and Downs west of Dover, and well worth a visit just for the pleasure of finding such a delightful spot. The church was built in the early 13th century by monks of nearby St Radigund's Abbey, the remains of which brood demurely at the end of a narrow country lane leading out of the village. When the Abbey was closed by Henry VIII, most of the stone of which it was built was carted away to help build Henry's coastal defence castle at Sandgate during the invasion scare after 1538."
(Steve Osborn)

AS SUMMER is approaching and people spend more time outside a parishioner has said that a gentle reminder for people to consider neighbours when playing radios in their gardens would be appropriate. That although they may like to listen, perhaps they would consider the fact that their neighbours may not want to hear them. Also in these days of i-pods etc, they are not necessary, and can be considered a nuisance. Similar noise problems can emanate from quad and trial bikes.

THE ALKHAM FUND which holds money from when we recycled still has nearly £500 in the Building Society. If you can think of any worthwhile village cause that could use some of this money please speak to Ken Hammond or contact Brian Wimsett.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – Again there was a low turn-out with 11 people in the audience. After the formal business had been completed Tracy Stewart from the Western Heights Preservation Society gave a very interesting talk about its importance in history.

VOTING – Just a reminder that the district councillor elections and the referendum on the AV vote is on the 5th May with the village hall being open from 7.00am to 10.00pm.

MAY marks the anniversaries of the deaths of 3 Alkham Heroes
Edward Collard was "killed in action" on 13th May 1917 aged 37. The gravestone at St Anthony's says that he is 'interred at Bullecourt'.

George Collard "died of wounds received in action in France" 51 weeks after his brother Edward, on 6th May 1918. He is buried in St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen.



Ernest Richards was an Ordinary Seaman C/JX 157953 serving on H.M.S. Gloucester sunk on 22nd May 1941 with the loss of 722 of the 807 crew members. He has no known grave and is commemorated on Chatham Naval Memorial.

Visit the 'Heroes' section of the village website (www.alkham.org) for more details.

If you can add any further information please contact Brian or me (mark.robson@btinternet.com)

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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 – 6.15 to 7.15 aerobics dance class
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	3	Fete committee meeting 8.00pm in village hall
Thursday	5	Voting for DDC and AV referendum
Monday	9	Parish Council meeting in village hall – all welcome
Tuesday	10	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	16	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	21	Barn Dance in the village hall

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1 st	Evensong 6.30pm	Eucharist 9.00	Worship Together 11am
Sunday 8 th	Eucharist 9a.m.	WT 11.00am?	
Sunday 15 th	Family Worship 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9.00am
Sunday 22 nd	Joint Benefice 10.00 at Hougham		
Sunday 29 th	Joint Benefice 10.00 at St. Mary's Capel		

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

From the Vicarage - What a glorious week we have had, every bush seems to be bursting with blossom and the trees in the Warren are putting on beautiful new coats of fresh green leaves. It's so wonderful to walk through the countryside and be able to appreciate all the changes that are taking place. The rape is beginning to colour very quickly and now Bob and Rolo get lost in it. I can usually see Rolo's tail as he bounds along but Bob isn't tall enough. If Rolo gets worried he checks on where I am by standing up like a meercat and peering across the field. Bob just barks until I find him! The weather seems to affect everyone's spirits and it's surprising how many cheerful greetings I receive and people have time to stop and chat. It seems to me that we don't spend enough time just listening to each other and sharing our stories. I'm frequently amazed by the accounts that people share with me, some good and some not so good but what often shines through is their determination to make the best of whatever and wherever they find themselves. I probably have the best job in the village and it is such a privilege to share both the joyful and the sad occasions and I thank you all for admitting me into your confidence. At 7.30 p.m. on 13th May we shall have Lt. Col. Mike Martin as our speaker at St. Radigund's. He will be talking about the Home Guard and having heard him speak before I am sure we shall be in for a good evening. I have no doubt he will have many tales to tell and no doubt there are many of you who will be able to recall stories from your parents generation. My mother was in the Home Guard in Gosport and she recalls marching through the town on one occasion when the command came: 'Eyes right!' 'I never saw what we were supposed to be looking at' she said 'but then I never could tell my left from my right!' I was so reassured by that, clearly it's an inherited trait because I can't tell my left from my right either. **(Sue White 01303 240539)**

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W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Footpath Warden antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
Vicar – Rev. Sue White
01303 240539
Church Wardens -
Geoff Gaskill 823100
and Ken Hammond



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ERNIE COOK – Many people in Alkham probably didn't know Ernie who died on the 5th May but he did do a lot for the village. He lived next door to the village hall and for many years did all the maintenance jobs on the hall as well as holding the key. Ernie was involved with the fete and did a host of other unsung jobs around the village. My particular memory was agreeing to go to the beer tent with him at the cricket match on Vicarage Meadow for a half of lager: some time later the beer tent had been drunk dry and Ernie, Rob and I just managed to stagger home. Good memories and a good bloke who would help anybody and the village has yet again lost a character from its midst. Sympathy goes to his wife Greta, with whom he recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, and their two sons and families.

HANDBAGS! Please could you possibly find a handbag or two for my stall at the fete on July 9th. Do let me know if you need me to collect otherwise I am always at the Village Hall 10.30am-11am on Wednesdays if you could drop them off then. Thank you very much. (**Susannah 01304 82295**)

LADIES PAMPER EVENING Monday 13th June in the Village Hall from 7.00p.m. Spray tanning, manicures, waxing, eyelash tints, reflexology etc, etc. Come and join us for a fun and relaxing evening with a chance to sample a variety of treatments. Entrance costs £2.50 which includes wine & nibbles - tickets can be obtained in advance from Pam Sayers (822397) or Janet Adamson (01303 893413) or purchased on the door.

GARDEN TALK Our next meeting will be on Thursday 16th June (instead of the more usual Friday) when we are visiting Hockley Sole where our hosts will be Angie & Nigel Snape. A chance to see a number of alterations in the extensive grounds as well as a flourishing rose garden. All welcome - an idea of numbers in advance would be welcomed. Please contact Janet or Gordon Adamson (01303 893413).

FETE STALLHOLDERS' MEETING - There will be a Fete meeting on Tuesday 7th June at 8 pm in the village hall. Please could all stallholders attend or contact me beforehand so that we can see who is doing what! If anyone would like to be involved in the Fete please come along to the meeting or give me a call and I promise I will find you a job for as little or as much of the day as you can spare. (**Paul Tapsell 01303 892082**)

THE GARAGE SAFARI on the 14th May was a great success with takings of £470. After expenses were deducted the overall profit was £398. Marion Banks-Nash did a great job organising the event and she would like to thank all those who took and part and helped on the day.

THE FOOTWAY opposite the Garden Centre has been inspected and hopefully works will be carried out to return it to its original width.

ARE YOU INTERESTED in volunteering but for one reason or another aren't quite ready to take the plunge? Dover District Volunteering Centre understands there are many reasons why taking on a volunteer role may seem daunting. You may lack confidence or need encouragement, you may worry about your childcare options or travel costs, and you may be struggling to decide what sort of volunteer work you would like to do. If this sounds familiar to you, then our Free course could greatly benefit you. The course takes place in Dover on Wed 8th and Thurs 9th June 2011. Lunch and refreshments are included free of charge, and travel expenses can be reimbursed. All previous course participants have found them informative, fun and interesting. If you would like to book a place, please contact Karen at the Volunteer Centre on 01304 367898 or email office@doverdistrictvolunteering.org.uk



MY TWIN sister has got lost and I am missing her. She is micro chipped but refuses to wear a collar. Cleo is her name, and is quite small. Please look out for her; if you see her please call little Garth, Alkham 01304 823380 or 077693 12913. Many thanks **Archie x**.

OFF ROADERS – At the Parish Council meeting the subject of motorcycles using the land around Pimlico Way was discussed. The area in question is parallel with Lockering Lane (opposite and west of the Garden Centre). The noise caused by the motorbikes is a problem for adjacent properties and the Police Bike Team have visited but on arriving the bikes are on the byway so no action can be taken, The landowner says that he only allows 4x4's to use the land 3 times a year so DDC are monitoring the situation and will take action if necessary.



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DISPLAY CASE - This is the display case which was unveiled by the Deputy Mayor of Dover at Astor College of Arts on 28th April. It is a double tiered burial case of 7th Century Anglo-Saxon burials discovered in the Wolverton & Chilton farmland area in 2008. The display is

going to be used a great deal as an educational tool by schools and other interested groups of people. A date will soon be issued when Alkham people can go and see the display. The case is the only one of its kind in the UK and has been mainly funded by local people, especially the residents of Alkham. The donations made are truly appreciated. **(Sue Lees)**

WINDFARMS AND GREENHOUSES: Environmental Regeneration, Monday 6th June in the Village Hall. The W.I. has arranged an afternoon of presentations which may be of interest to many in the Village. Speakers will be Judy Whittaker, Communications Manager for Fresca Group who set up the award-winning Thanet Earth glasshouse Project. After a break for refreshments we will hear from Mandy Broughton of Vattenfall UK on Offshore wind farms - particularly the Thanet one. Both ladies will be prepared to answer searching questions. The meeting starts at 2.00p.m. and there is a small charge to cover the hall cost - everyone is welcome! **(Janet Adamson)**

BOOK CLUB - The Book for June is Jump by Jilly Cooper an entertaining romp through the world of jump racing. Light reading for a summer evening. The meeting will be hosted by Mairi Jones at Turangi Newlyns Meadow (826619) Wednesday 29th June starting at 7.30pm. For more information contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

ALKHAM W.I. - The May meeting had two Resolutions to discuss this year. One was connected with the closing down of many libraries and the other was connected with Mega Farming of far more than the average 100 cows per unit. Both being of considerable concern to all members. The Curry lunch raised £362.20 for the Charity. Outings to Quex Park and the Women's Horse Racing event in August appealed to many members. The Pamper Evening will take place on 13th June; visitors are welcome. The next W.I. meeting on 14th June will not be the talk on Canterbury Cathedral as expected but will now be a talk by Helen Tobias about "How to pack for holidays". **(Sue Lees)**

JUNE marks the death of two Alkham Heroes



Edwin Thomas Daniels was a Private in the 1st Battalion of The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment). He was killed by a shell on 8th June 1916, and is buried at Essex Farm cemetery in Belgium. Edwin was one of four sons in the Buffs of Thomas and Elizabeth Daniels, of Alkham.

Percy William Frank Parker was born in June 1896 at Ewell Minnis and died on 23rd June 1917 in Flanders. He was aged 21 and is one of the 54394 "missing" of Flanders commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial.

Visit the 'Heroes' section of the village website (www.alkham.org) for more details on each of the men.

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OZ on PERFECT SUMMER – At the end of April a friend and I escaped with Shaun the Westie to deepest Gloucestershire to avoid the razzmatazz of the Royal Wedding. What were we doing at 11am on 29 April ? Holding hands while watching the TV, and oohing and aahing over the wedding service, that's what. I suppose it's an unstoppable atavistic instinct, perhaps on a par with the ex Poet Laureate Andrew Motion's justification of church-going: "I like to observe the customs of my tribe." It has combined with the two mini heat waves of the last two months to remind me of what I've read of the summer a century ago, when the start of a heat wave in May 1911 heralded the Coronation of George V and Mary on 22 June. That ceremony was deliberately restrained, because of memories of the extravagance of George IV's coronation 90 years previously. It was also proud, with a greatly extended introduction to Parry's "I was Glad", and the repeat from Edward VII's 1902 coronation of "Land of Hope and Glory", the great product of Elgar's music and A C Benson's words. After all, this was a country at its most powerful and confident, where even striking workers signified hope for the future. On 10 August the temperature reached 100° F, and supplies of food and milk began to suffer. In late September, the weather broke, with thunderstorms seeming to echo national unease about tensions in Europe. All this is the subject of Juliet Nicolson's 2006 book "The Perfect Summer", an exhilarating overview of a small but important period of time, typified by Lord Beresford's cheery "Good morning! One day nearer the German War!" I hope that our summer, if perfect, will presage something a bit less ugly than that. **(Steve Osborn)**

CUBA continued – *(In the March edition I printed the first part of Clive Batcheldor's article about their trip to Cuba – this is the second piece).* The next part of our tour took us further west to Vinales Valley which is an area of outstanding natural beauty and a unique tropical landscape. This is probably the wealthiest part of the country and the main tobacco growing region. Someone described our hotel "as worse than an East German hostel" so I won't dwell on this. Our journey to this area was on a good quality highway, but with very little traffic. This was because no drivers ventured far from the towns in case they broke down. No recovery services. The final few days took us to Cienfuegos, 160 miles to the east of Havana, an area characterised by palaces and mansions overlooking a deep bay. Our accommodation was an improvement. Close by Trinidad, a UNESCO heritage site is reputed to be one of the best preserved colonial cities in the world. We enjoyed traditional Cuban music played by members of the renowned Buena Vista Social Club, whilst drinking a unique rum cocktail made with sugar cane juice. In the same region, in Santa Clara, is the final resting place of Che Guevara and the visit to the mausoleum and the museum dedicated to his life was outstanding. We were also taken to the nearby site where the decisive moments of the Cuban revolution took place. Returning to the airport, we encountered the same long delays as when we arrived. Photos were taken before we were permitted to enter the departure lounge and there was a danger of missing our flight as a result. Our overall impression was of a small country being bullied by a much larger nation although there is evidence that President Obama is easing some of the restrictions and that some cultural exchanges are beginning to occur. Internally economic changes are being phased in with a liberalisation of rules governing small businesses. At present only about 20% of agricultural land is worked. Next month over one million of public sector workers will be laid off. But in the mean time rationing will continue and essentials such as soap etc. will be in short supply or unaffordable.

(Clive Batcheldor)

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Thursday	Karate classes from 7.15pm to 8.45pm in VH - 821336
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Monday	6	Environmental talk from 2pm VH – see page 2
Tuesday	7	Fete meeting 8pm – see page 1
Monday	13	Pamper evening 7pm – see page 1
Tuesday	14	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	20	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Thursday 2 nd	Joint Benefice Eucharist 7 p.m. at CAPEL		
Sunday 5 th	Evensong 6.30pm	Eucharist 9am	W.T. 11 a.m.
Sunday 12 th	Joint Benefice Eucharist 10.00am at ALKHAM		
Sunday 19 th	Joint Benefice Eucharist 10.00am at HOUGHAM		
Sunday 27 th	Joint Benefice Eucharist 10.00am at HOUGHAM		

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

FROM THE VICARAGE - The clouds gather over Capel, they look thick and black, the clouds depart from Capel and there we are out in the garden with the hosepipes. The water butts were emptied ages ago and even the toads are in hiding much to Rolo's disgust. He was busy searching the other evening and came in rather dolefully as if to say 'Well I've done the seeking now you'd better find me one!' We had a great evening with Lt. Colonel Mike Martin talking about the Home front in World War Two. He told us enough jokes to keep me in sermons for a year so we shall have to have him back next year! We also had a splendid classical guitar concert at St. Anthony's and I do hope we shall have one next year. We are fortunate to have so many talented people in our villages who offer so much for the enjoyment of us all. On June 10th Keith Radford is speaking to us on the birth of the modern musical so do come along to St. Radigund's at 7.30 p.m. Hougham Summer Fete is on June 11th and there will be fun for all the family. I sometimes think that many people feel that church is a very solemn place and whilst there is a place for solemnity there are many more occasions for joyful participation. People often forget that many of the stories that Jesus told were full of fun. Whoever would have thought of putting a camel through the eye of a needle, after all which end do you start? Or calling to a man who had hidden himself in a tree so that he could see Jesus but hopefully not be seen, 'I can see you! Come down, I'm coming to your house for dinner!' Or telling his mother to hush and then turning water into wine so that everyone could have a good drink up? We worship because we enjoy doing so and anyone and everyone can join in! **Sue White 01303 240539**

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Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635

Neighbourhood Watch 01304 218110 &

Police Support Officer (07772226209)

Police – 999 phone & 01622 690690

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



Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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No. 213 July 2011

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ANNUAL FETE JULY 9th - We are all looking forward to another happy and successful day and once again hope for support for the Village Fete. This annual event could not take place without help and donations and support from the whole village (this means YOU!) and we particularly need cash donations towards the Grand Raffle £200 first prize please and other suitable raffle prizes (all to Vanessa Hyland) and the following goods for stalls: **cakes** (see anyone in the WI); **jewellery** (Barbara Palmer); **plants** (Geoff Gaskill); **books** (Sue Lees); **bric-a-brac** (Mark Naris); **handbags** (Sue Tapsell) and **tombola items** (Lesley Tapsell). Please make arrangements with the named stall holders in advance so they know what they've got to deal with! In many cases the same people have been running stalls etc for many years and it would be fantastic to have new faces volunteering - please give us a ring and we'll find a job to fit all volunteers! Of course we also need volunteers to help put up the tents at 8.30am and be around at the end of the afternoon to take down and clear the meadow. We have arranged a team of security people for the car park and, while we will not (this year, at least) be charging for car parking we would be grateful for any donations towards the cost and would encourage people to leave their cars at home that day to reduce congestion. The sunshine's been booked and we have the very talented Jimmy D'Alton Bellas opening the fete so let's have a lovely afternoon. **(Paul 01303 892082 or Irene 01304 824845)**

BRIC-A-BRAC - If anyone has items for the bric-a-brac stall at the fete we would be very pleased to receive them. Mark and Clare Naris (Owler Lodge) 826577.



MISSING - Her name is Willis and she is ginger and white cat with a ginger smudge on her face. If you have seen her or know where she is please ring 077111 56230. They are willing to give a reward to anyone who finds her.

BOOKS - If you have any kind of books which you would like to give to sell on the book stall at the fete, I would be pleased to receive them before the 9th of July. **(Susan Lees 822661)**

WEDDING RECEPTION - The couple who live in Greenwood Manor are getting married on the 25th June and are holding the reception in their garden with live music playing. If you receive the Newsletter in time they would like to apologise for any disturbance caused. Greenwood Manor is about half a mile up Slip Lane on the left at the bottom of Pimlico Way.

WI JUMBLE SALE in Alkham Village Hall on Saturday 23rd July starting at 11.00am. Jumble gratefully received about 10am. **(Susan Lees)**

THE MARQUIS - As you will be aware the Marquis is being extended and the owners would like to run a competition to name one of the new rooms (the existing room names are related to Alkham). If you would like to win a night's bed & breakfast in the named room on the opening night please submit an entry either by popping in or emailing ben@themarquisatalkham.co.uk

A VISIT TO HIGHGROVE - The Prince of Wales has spent 30 years transforming the grounds of Highgrove. His strict adherence to organic and sustainable methods has helped to create gardens which are magical and intriguing, while being environmentally sound. I would like to organise a visit to Highgrove and exclusive garden tours for a maximum of 26 people cost £16.50pp (not including bus hire... to be organised and costed). Journey time to Highgrove from Alkham is approximately 3 hours and 26mins. The visit would last 3 hours and 30mins approximately, this will include time for refreshments. There are no picnic facilities on the estate, but they do have a tea room where light lunches and refreshments are available. The garden tour lasts up to 2 hours and covers 2 miles of gardens. The next tour is due for October 2011 or we can wait till April /May 2012 when the gardens are full of spring flowers and beautiful bird song. If you are interested please Contact Rosie Hansraj 01304 822585.

GARDEN TALK - A large number attended the garden tour of Hockley Sole in June. Our welcoming hosts, Angie and Nigel Snape, showed us many improvements since our last visit, and discussed their further plans for the grounds. The weather stayed fine and their hospitality was enjoyed by all. Our next venue is 'Evergreen' in Slip Lane, where our hosts are Val and Stan Fowler. All welcome from 7.30p.m. on Friday 22nd July. **(Janet Adamson)**

FOR SALE a Cannondale Cyclo Cross bike in excellent condition with 105 gearing, £350. Also a nearly new Carrera mountain bike (over £500 when new) for £300. Please contact Ken at Meadowside, Slip Lane or phone 824969.

RAFFLE TICKETS are included with this Newsletter. If you'd like to buy some then they can be returned to Paul Tapsell, Vanessa Hyland, Irene Barnard, Brian Wimsett or Sue Lees. Otherwise please hand them in at the Raffle table on the day of the fete.



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SOLAR POWER – The church committee has commissioned a project to install solar photovoltaic (PV) panels at St. Anthony's. The Church of England is keen to promote green energy thereby cutting the use of fossil fuels. The electricity generated will be used for church purposes as well as being fed into the National Grid. It is thought that the revenue from the electricity over a year could be £1200 so the initial outlay would be recouped in 10 to 12 years. Geoff Gaskill, project leader, is applying for a number of grants and the committee has submitted a planning application for the panels to be installed on the flat roof next to the path by the side of the church. The panels will be hidden by the parapet and will benefit from the fact that churches are built east/west and therefore have a southern face aspect. It is estimated that the 16 panels will save about 41 tonnes of carbon dioxide over their 25 year life. Although solar PV is not new for churches, if the necessary consents are secured, this would be a first for a church in Kent. It is hoped to involve Capel school and the wider community in this project.

RIVER SUMMER FAYRE is on Sunday July 10th from 11-4pm in the Recreation Ground, Lewisham Rd This year we have more stalls including some new food stalls. Atlantis entertainment will have games for all ages plus the Birds of Prey will be returning. There will be our usual Dog Show and in addition there will be a dog obedience display. Light refreshments will be available in the bowls club and there will be BBQs and a beer tent on the main field.

BELL TO BELL CAR TREASURE HUNT! Did you, your child or a relative go to Temple Ewell Church of England Primary School? If so, would you like to help us celebrate our 140th anniversary and raise funds to have our school bell refurbished? Why not come and join our 'Bell to Bell Car Treasure Hunt' on Sunday 18th September! The treasure hunt will take approximately an hour; this will then be followed by a 'Baby BELL Cheese Rolling' competition held at Woodville Hall, Temple Ewell, where you are invited to enjoy a Cheese Ploughman's. Tickets must be purchased in advance. The cost for the Cheese Rolling and Ploughman's will be just £5.00 per adult and £3.00 per child or £15.00 for a family of two adults and two children. The Treasure Hunt is priced at £2.00 per car. We will be meeting at the B&Q car park in Whitfield at 10.00pm prompt. For the Ploughman's and Cheese Rolling only please meet at Woodville Hall, Temple Ewell at 12.00 noon. For more tickets and more information please call Pamela Mousley on 01304 825256 or call the school directly on 01304 822665. 'Bell Quiz'; a copy of which can be found in the Fox Pub and the Village Shop is just £1 each. Correct entries will be placed into a draw for a grand prize. This is a community project and your support will enable us all to be a part of the history of Temple Ewell C of E Primary School.

BOOK CLUB - The book for July is The Clan of the Cave Bear by Jean M. Auel. A very readable epic of life on the glacial continent of the last Ice Age, following the journey of an orphan and a traveller. The meeting is on Wednesday 27th July at 7.30pm to be hosted by Helen Price at Meggett Farm (01303 252764). Please bring suggestions for books for the next programme, we are able to order our books from the Dover library and need to give them as much notice as possible. For more information contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

DOVER FESTIVAL PROM – Local musicians will present a festive charity concert in the style of "The Last Night of the Proms", at 7.30 pm on Friday 1st July in Dover Town Hall. The choir programme includes a selection from Gilbert and Sullivan's The Mikado, four song settings of Shakespeare's and the return of Dauntless Dover! Finally the audience will be invited to join the 90-strong choir in singing the traditional Proms Finale. Tickets at £6 and £3 (promenaders) from the Dover Visitor Centre. For further details ring 01304 872812. **(Steve Osborn)**

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OZ on РОССИЯ – Last December a friend and I, recent widowers, depressed and marooned by the snowfall, agreed to share a Russian cruise cabin in May, with the heady possibility of meeting a couple of mad rich widows. We booked and began preparing for the trip, the first hurdle being the Russian visa. The online application form was straightforward, but demanded information such as full details of my primary school, which was converted into flats in the 1950s. Soon it was May, time for reluctant separation from my new partner, and we departed from Heathrow. Three hours later we landed in St Petersburg, and transferred to the cruise ship, from where we explored the city, formerly known as Petrograd and Leningrad, over the next two days. Its big tourist attraction is the Hermitage Museum, housing over 3,000,000 items and estimated to take 10 years to view completely. During the next five days we sailed up many lakes, rivers and canals, including twelve locks, to Moscow, landing each day to explore a village or town. On-board activities included music, talks, and three Russian language classes, where we learnt to say 'yellow-blue-bus' which is the phonetic pronunciation of the Russian for 'I love you.' The food was excellent, with plenty of vegetables and fish, and a moderate amount of meat. Caviar and vodka were as good as expected, and overall I neither gained nor lost a pound. All too soon we moored in Moscow for our last weekend, visiting Red Square, the Kremlin and the famous Metro. And then it was the last day, with surprising displays of emotion, laughter and tears, and exchanging of email addresses, all feeling that we'd been taken over by something akin to 'Hostage Syndrome.' We didn't find any mad rich widows, just plenty of sane comfortably-off ones. **(Steve Osborn)**

OPEN AIR SONGS OF PRAISE - River Worship Band will be joining us again for an open air "Songs of Praise" on Vicarage Meadow on Sunday 24th July at 11 am. It promises to be a lively and exhilarating experience with both traditional hymns and modern worship songs. All are welcome. If it is wet we will move to the Village Hall.

ALKHAM WI - Helen Scopes chaired the June meetings. There were two meetings in a row - the first was a Pamper Evening when members enjoyed themselves and raised £50 for WIHQ - the second had a speaker Helen Tobias who advised on the best way of packing cases for holidays. Fete Day - WI members were reminded that they are needed to give cakes to the Cake stall and to the Refreshment stall. The next WI meeting 12th July will be an American Supper, members to bring yellow raffle prizes and photos of themselves as babies for a competition. **(Susan Lees)**

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - Thanks to Marion we had very nearly a bus full for the annual outing, this time to Quex Park, museum, house and gardens. The principal feature of the place is without doubt the extraordinary Africana collected between about 1906 and 1927 by a son of the house. The displays of taxidermied, ok stuffed animals, are remarkable and since it is a personal foray fairly precisely dated it challenges aspects of the Natural History Museum in South Kensington. There is a splendid collection of ethnic artefacts from all parts of south Saharan Africa, some of the baskets and weaving impossible to find today so fine is the technique. The house opens only in the afternoon leaving a fair gap to fill with visits to craft and plant outlets, the barn where food was available and various foodstuffs were for sale as well. The main feature of the garden is the walled area now rather dilapidated, but the roses were lovely. I think there were birds of prey but while the signage no doubt existed and the cries of the falcons could be heard, I never found them. Some one did say, what would we have done if it had rained, but it did not; we had a wonderfully sunny and satisfactory day. Thanks to all who were able to come. You made it. **(Jo Walker)**

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Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Monday	4	Parish Council meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	9	Annual Fete – Vicarage Meadow 2.00pm
Tuesday	12	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	18	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	23	W.I. Jumble sale 11.00am

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3 rd	Evensong 6.30	Eucharist 9 a.m.	W.T. 11 a.m.
Sunday 10 th	Eucharist 9 a.m.	W.T. 11 a.m.	
Sunday 17 th	Service & Baptism 11am	Evensong 6 p.m.	Eucharist 9 a.m.
Sunday 24 th	11.00 at Alkham Songs of Praise on green	Said Eucharist 9 a.m.	
Sunday 31 st	Joint Benefice Eucharist 10.00 at ST. MARY'S		

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

From the Vicarage - It's not been an easy month; yes we wanted the rain but the wind has played havoc with the plants. I now have poppies creeping along the ground and flattened asparagus but the pears, plums, cherries and apples have stayed on the trees. The garden is full of birds and there are some nesting in the beech hedge which is now thick enough to hide them. It's been a very mixed month for Bob and Rolo; they've enjoyed our walks down to the Warren which is lovely now the trees are in full leaf. The rabbit population is enormous and Rolo remains hopeful that he will catch one someday. But Bob cannot cope with rain, he stands at the kitchen door, puts his head out and with draws rapidly then looks up as if to say, 'You are joking, I can't go out in this!' When we insist he returns and stands there shaking each paw as if in disgust. Even being rubbed down with a towel fails to appease him and he will go to his bed and stay there- until he hears food being prepared, then he's the eager assistant, ready to test everything and eat anything! We had a very good evening with Keith Radford speaking on the birth of the modern musical. He played excerpts from a number of musicals much to the delight of us all. On July 8th at 7.30 p.m. at St. Radigund's we have Susan Pope on the history of airships so do come along. The Deanery Service on 10th July in the Cathedral is open to all and we are celebrating the work taking place in all the communities of the deanery. On Vicarage Meadow at Alkham we have our annual Songs of Praise with River Youth Band at 11 a.m. Do join us, everyone in Alkham will be able to hear the service and there is plenty of room for everyone from Capel and Hougham! **Sue White 01303 240539**

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Police Support Officer (07772226209)

Police – 999 phone & 01622 690690

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



Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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No. 214 August 2011

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ALKHAM FETE - A huge "Thank You" to everyone who helped make the Fete this year such a success; there were times when it looked as though we wouldn't be able to go ahead because of the apparent lack of support, but just like in the film "Field of Dreams" it came good in the end! Particular thanks must go to Richard Cunningham and his faithful van who



shifted all the kit (tents, tables, books, etc) in the morning and again after the Fete, even though he was already late for the British Grand Prix (he would have had a better grid position if he hadn't used the van on the Sunday too!), to Den who picked up the slack when work commitments conspired to keep me from my Fete preparations, and to the faithful regulars who put up tents (and put up with me moving them afterwards!), manned stalls, baked cakes, served teas and ice creams, stole bric-a-brac, jewellery and handbags, and otherwise contributed so generously. Thank you to Brian C and my gazebo for frankly winding me up so that I swore and walked away and Den (again) for picking up the pieces (of the gazebo!). Also thanks to the Tug of War rope for taking the strain yet again and for restoring my faith in human nature - that rope has much to teach us of the virtue of stoicism, dealing with tension and the importance of regular stretching! Finally I must thank the various arms of the Tapsell family who, largely unsung, do so much hardwork for the Fete, and then hear the gobby one getting the credit on the day! If you enjoyed the Fete this year, please make a promise to help with the arrangements with the next one; if you didn't, get off your moaning, lazy backside and get involved to make it better! **(Paul Tapsell)**

More on the Fete – After expenses were paid the profit on the day was about £2700 which is terrific. This year an outside firm was hired to look after the car parking which was a great success and will be repeated. It is invidious to thank individuals but young James and Charlotte Tapsell made £45 profit selling sweets and programmes plus Matthew and Luke Hyland, on the spur of the moment, improvised a football game which raised £18. The latter very much adds to a village fete, all of which would not be possible if Paul Tapsell didn't organise it in the first place. **(editor)**

ROUNDHILL TUNNEL – A biannual inspection of the viaduct at the end of the tunnel on the A20 through Roundhill showed that two expansion joints needed replacement. The latter are placed between the immovable tunnel and the viaduct which expands or contracts slightly dependent on weather conditions. It also allows for vertical displacement but as the viaduct bases are presumably piled this should not happen. As a safety precaution two lanes have been shut and a temporary plate placed over each joint. The replacement parts have to be specially made and this takes time which would account for the apparent lack of activity. There are varying reports as to how long the closures will remain but let's hope the problem is resolved in the near future as it has led to long delays on the A20 and the connecting roads.

WILLIS FOUND safe and sound after being missing for 6 weeks (*Willis is the lost cat featured in last month's Newsletter*). We would like to give thanks for the help and phone calls we have received and for the help of the Newsletter for printing the message and photo. Also a great big thank you to Christine and Joan of Meggett Lane who found her and has made the whole family happy. **(Ann and Terry – Lone Barn Bungalow)**

CREAM TEA - John & Anne Huggins are holding a cream tea event in aid of Breast Cancer Care on Saturday 20th August at Greenwood Farm starting at 3.30pm. For those unfamiliar with the location, it is on Chalksole Green Lane which is a right turn about ¾ mile up Slip Lane. The imposing house cannot be missed and the cream tea consists of tea/coffee, sandwiches, cakes, scones, cream and jam. Tickets are £4.00 for adults and £1.00 for a child. Please phone Anne on 824340 or Tracy on 821336.

THE RAILING by Vicarage Meadow, just down from the village hall on Hogbrook Lane, was damaged when a car crashed into it. The mess was cleared up and the concrete bollards and metal tubing were left by the side of the road but next day the tubing had gone. The Parish Council are trying to get the insurance details of the car so they can have the railing replaced.



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SEA, SUN AND WIND - Artists talk of Kent's "big skies", so it was no surprise to hear at the recent WI Environment Group's open meeting that our south east corner enjoys on average 12% more light over a year than the north of England. That, together with proximity to large centres of population, were a couple of key factors in establishing the new Thanet Earth glasshouse complex. There are three large greenhouses rented to Dutch growers for tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers and supplying a staggering 8% of UK demand. They use state of the art technology, including computer controlled heating, ventilation and hydroponics for supplying the water and nutrients to the growing plants. Whilst conventional glasshouses have boilers to provide heat during the winter, the really ingenious feature of Thanet Earth is the large natural gas fuelled engines used to generate electricity which is exported to the grid. The waste heat from the engines is used for greenhouse heating and a controlled amount of exhaust carbon dioxide is injected into the hothouse atmosphere to promote plant growth. As such, they claim to have a lower carbon footprint than produce shipped from southern Spain, as well as providing much needed employment to the local community. A second talk was from Vattenfall, the Swedish owner/operator of the Thanet and Kentish Flats offshore wind farms. The 100 turbine Thanet installation is more recent, having been completed in 2010, whilst Kentish Flats near Whitstable has 30 turbines and dates back to 2005. Total investment is close to £1000M and collectively they generate electricity equivalent to the demand of 260,000 UK homes. As such they are central to the UK's push for more renewable energy. **(Geoff Gaskill)**

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BOOK CLUB – The August Book club will be on Wednesday 31st August to be hosted by Helen price at Meggett Farm commencing at 7.30. We will discuss last month's advertised book The Clan of the Cave Bear and also City of Veils by Zoe Ferraris. We also need suggestions for our Autumn programme. For more details contact Jane Aslett 824729.

GARDEN TALK - Our next meeting will be at Chalksole Cottage, where we will view the award-winning garden created by Linda & Geoff Gaskill. We meet at 7.30p.m. All welcome

(Janet Adamson 01303 893413)

ALKHAM WI - The July meeting was very pleasant chaired once again by Pam Sayers. The American supper and chat was just what everyone enjoyed. The most difficult thing was identifying the baby photos of members because the most anyone could work out was three. Once again the August meeting will be a relaxed 'Members' night, sitting back chatting and playing the games that people have been asked to bring, whether they are old fashioned or new.

(Sue Lees)

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AS SPACE becomes available I thought I'd print some old photos of Alkham as the Friends are not going to produce any more Alkham Past and Present calendars (or any cards and calendars this year). The above photo was sent to me by Bill Harvey (an old Alkham name) and shows the Alkham school garden being tended by the boys in 1924 whilst the girls were learning about domestic matters. Bill tells me that the garden was by the Alkham Valley Road, roughly opposite the top of Short Lane near the 30mph signs on the eastern side of the village. At the top right of the photo is a chicken shed and above it is the old edge of Sladden Wood. The bungalow Boni Clare now stands on the site of the garden and Sunnybank was built at the top left. Some of the boys are wearing caps and therefore maybe the sons of farm workers? If you think you know one or more of the boys please let me know. (editor)

OZ on GLOW-WORMS – Experts say that glow-worms are currently enjoying their best year ever. The creatures came out of hibernation a month early, in the April heatwave, and have yet to reach their peak in some areas. They are actually beetles, found worldwide in five major families, the British one being the wingless adult female of the European firefly, *Lampyrus noctiluca*. Because the females cannot fly, they emit a yellowy-green light to attract flying males to mate with them. After mating, the female turns off her light, lays eggs and then dies. Because of this static lifestyle, glow-worm colonies often stay in the same place for many years. Their larvae, being toxic, also emit the green light as a warning signal to predators. References to the glow-worm, often associated with elves and fairies, are frequent in literature, the first being recorded in Bozon (1320), where he notes that the Latin 'eruke' is named 'glowworm' in English. Often the quotation refers to the coldness of the creature's light, as in Shakespeare's glow-worm "that begins to pale his ineffectual fire" in *Hamlet*, and Shenstone's "No lover blessed the glow-worm's pallid ray." This column's favourite vicar-naturalist, the Rev Gilbert White, commented in his diary on 11 June 1791 that "Male glow-worms, attracted by the light of the candles, come into the parlor." Glow-worms can be seen over most of the British Isles, particularly in chalk or limestone areas, on disused railway lines, and in areas where small snails are found. The best time to look is during the evening in June and July. There is much information about glow-worms at the website www.glowworms.org.uk which is home to the UK Glow Worm Survey, and is run by Robin Scagell. He will always welcome news of sightings of these strange and beautiful creatures. (Steve Osborn)

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am – 6.15 to 7.15 aerobics dance class
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. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	15	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	20	Cream tea at Greenwood Farm – see page 1

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7 th	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Eucharist 9 a.m.	W.T. 11 a.m.
Sunday 14 th	Eucharist 9 a.m.	W.T. 11 a.m. & Baptism	
Sunday 21 st	Service & Baptism 11 a.m.	Evensong 6 p.m.	Eucharist 9 a.m.
Sunday 28 th	10.00 at ALKHAM Benefice Sung Eucharist Celebrating St. Anthony		

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

From the Vicarage - The past month has been very busy and Rolo, Bob and I have made fewer visits to the Warren. In part because we have been going through the fields locally and the boys have been enjoying doing their bit as 'lion hunters' also known as local rabbits. Fortunately they make too much noise, well Bob does when he gets excited, he sounds as though he smokes 50 a day – all at once! Rolo is rather disappointed at their lack of success but I can't say I am. It's wonderful to see the changes in the landscape as the year progresses and to marvel at just how resilient nature is in the face of the elements. My little orchard is doing very well though I had to relieve the apple trees of most of their apples because the branches were touching the ground in the wind. The cherry tree is producing fruit but it is very sour – is this normal and does it improve with age I wonder? The Battle of Britain Memorial Service was a splendid occasion with so many people coming to share in the service and in the flight of the Spitfire and the Hurricane. I am overwhelmed by the bravery of the men who flew those aircraft and to see them march onto the parade ground is a truly humbling experience. The new Learning Centre that is to be built will be a great asset for future generations. They will have the opportunity to learn of the willingness of some to put the good of others before themselves. It's a lesson that we all need to learn if we are to have justice and peace for all. As we go into the summer holidays I pray that you will all have good times with families and friends and travel safely. We will all need to be very alert for our children as they enjoy the opportunities to meet and play with friends this month. **(Sue White 01303 240539)**

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CREAM TEA

John and Anne Huggins would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who supported the cream tea on Saturday the 20th August at Greenwood Farm. We would

also like to thank all the people who kindly gave donations and raffle prizes. A great time was had by all on such a beautiful afternoon. We raised over £2000 which is going to Breast Cancer Care. Many thanks also to Kylie Marsh, Kerry and Michelle for their hard work and support.

PHOTOGRAPHY – A photographic exhibition is to be held in the village hall on the 12th of November to display photos taken by people in the parish. It will be a village event and there will be no charge for entry or for people to view as the Alkham Fund will pay the costs. The photos will be numbered so visitors can vote for the ones they think are best and a prize will be awarded to the winners. All ages are welcome to submit photos and if enough children enter there will be a separate competition for them. If you'd like to take part contact me (see page 4) or Sue Lees on 822661. Please do take part and make this village event a success. **(editor)**

PRINTING – There has been a management change at the Rainbow Centre and as a result they don't want to print the Newsletter. I have therefore bought a printer for £380 and I'll do it myself and it was suggested that the Alkham Fund pay it. This is a good idea as I will make it available for parishioners to use; I haven't work out how much the toner costs yet but it should be cheap. If anyone wants multiple or single printing they should contact me and copy can be by email or on memory stick. **(editor)**

ALKHAM FUND – The Alkham Fund was generated from the village recycling which we did until October 2008 when DDC started their scheme. All the money was spent on the village and after buying the printer there is about £100 left which will be spent on the photographic exhibition.

A JUMBLE SALE will be held in the village hall on Saturday the 17th September at 11am in aid of the PCC.

KEY - Has anybody lost a key for a Kia car? One has been found near the footpath, opposite The Marquis, which leads to the Village Hall. Contact Tel: 01304 822661.

THE MARQUIS held a competition to name two of the rooms in the extension that they are currently having built. The winning names are: **The Everden Suite** and this was proposed by Eileen West who used to live in Newlyn's Meadow and whose mother was a Collard. The Collard family was large and active in the village from the 1200's and owned the original Ale House, built the Marquis of Granby on its present site in 1810 and owned it until 1928.

The Nailbourne Suite which was suggested by Isabelle & Peter Smith who live at Chalksole. The Nailbourne is the natural spring that bubbles up at Drellingore when the water table is very high and runs down the valley.

The Luckhurst Dining Room was proposed by Mark Robson who also used to live in Newlyn's Meadow. Brian Luckhurst was a Kent and England cricket player who lived at South Alkham.

The other new rooms are to be called the Drellingore, the Berridge Suite and the Wolverton. The latter were decided by the Marquis. The 3 winners will be able to take a night's bed & breakfast during the opening week which should be in the middle of October. If anyone has got any further information on the names chosen then please contact Ben at the Marquis, email ben@themarquisatalkham.co.uk or pop in.



THE PICTURE

is probably the building of Halton Forstall in 1952 but we are not sure. GSE are now building the extension for the Marquis on the same site

and building practices have certainly changed over the intervening 60 years. The picture does appear to be earlier but Halton Forstall had upper windows partially in the roof as in the photo. Comments please.

CONGRATULATIONS to Nolly and Colin, who live in central Alkham, on their recent wedding. They would like to apologise if they caused a disturbance on the evening of the 16th July and say that hopefully it won't happen again.



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WOLVERTON WARRIOR – You may remember reading about the Anglo Saxon cemetery dating from the 6th and 7th centuries which was found at the eastern end of the Alkham Valley. Items from the site were put in display cases and an article about them has been accepted by the widely read archaeological quarterly magazine 'Current Archaeology' to be run in either the September or following issue. This article will cover the funding work, an overview of archaeological findings, what the case represents to the community and the benefits that can be achieved from working together.

TRACING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY? - Anyone who has been inspired to trace their ancestors, either through family anecdotes, finding old photographs or watching recent TV programmes such as 'Heir Hunters' or 'Who do you think you are?' may want to search further in a friendly group. Classes run by Janet Adamson for Kent Adult Education Service take place in Folkestone starting on Tuesday 4th October for beginners from 3.00p.m. to 5.00p.m. for 10 weeks. To enrol (which needs to be at least 1 week before the course starts) phone 0845 606 5606 or visit: www.kentadulthoodeducation.co.uk quoting course code: 7028. Further details from Janet (01303 893413).

AN INTERNATIONAL classic-car rally comes to the edge of Alkham and Ewell Minnis on January 1st. The organiser is Philip Young and his event is The London to Cape Town World Cup Rally, which starts from the Houses of Parliament on the evening of Jan 1st, and drives through Kent, where drivers have to work at maps on a navigational exercise; the last section has the cars driving up Chalksole, and round part of the Minnis, past what was the family home at the junction of Greenwich Lane and on to Lydden and the boat at Dover for France. Cars have to survive 10,000 miles in 29 days through a series of checkpoints to finish at Cape Town's waterfront. The leader of Kent County Council, Cllr. Paul Carter, is one of the drivers, in a Volvo. The oldest car is a 1923 Vauxhall - there is also a class for modern hatchbacks up to 1600cc (will they survive Africa?) and a few 4x4s. Philip Young was the third generation of the Young-family who lives on Ewell Minnis, and who attended Alkham village school. He first learned to drive on Ewell Minnis, aged six, when he shot off in the family Austin Seven to the Baptist Church with his startled grandparents in the back.

ALKHAM W.I. - The August meetings are always different to the regular ones and Debbie Griggs and Debbie Saunders made this one great. They put together all sorts of fun games for members to compete in. Everyone was relaxed and enjoyed themselves. The next meeting on the 13th September has a talk 'Hearing Dogs for the Deaf' by Robert Stichbury. Members are reminded that their help would be appreciated at the Church Jumble Sale on 17th September. **(Susan Lees 01304 822661)**

GARDEN TALK - Our next Meeting will be on Friday 16th September at Thorn Cottage, Meggett Lane where Rosemary and Geoff Hillier will be our hosts and will talk of the reconstruction of their garden and show us all their hard work. All welcome, from 7.30p.m. **(Janet Adamson)**

PLASTIC BAGS have been distributed through letterboxes in North Kent homes asking for clothing donations in support of poor families, orphans and asylum seekers. The leaflet asks you to put unwanted clothes, bedding etc. into the inserted plastic sack for collection on a specified day. The bag is labelled 'The Drops of Help Ltd', and Trading Standards are investigating this business in relation to its claims to help the vulnerable. If you have received these particular bags and feel misled please contact Kent Trading Standards with details on 01732 525201. **(Neighbourhood Watch)**

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HARVEST SUPPER this year will be on Monday 10th October at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. The meal will be a cold plate followed by home made apple pies cooked by the village ladies. As usual, produce from the church Harvest Festival, which is on the Sunday 9th, will be auctioned after the meal. Tickets priced at £6 are available from Irene Barnard (824845) and Sue Lees (822661).

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE HEROES - I recently visited some of the graves of Alkham Heroes in France and Belgium. It was a very moving trip; knowing you were standing in places that, almost a hundred years ago, an Alkham resident may have stood, fought or died made for a strong sense of connection. I took some stones from the village and left one by each memorial or grave that I visited to leave a piece of Alkham with the men. I have written an account of the trip which is now in the Heroes section of the village website (www.alkham.org). There are still some men for whom information is patchy and who we have no pictures of. It may well be that there are photos in existence of these men – especially those associated with the Second World War - whether that be a school photo or general village photo. Should anyone have, or know the whereabouts of, such a photo please let me or Brian know. To have a photographic record adds another dimension to the accounts. **(Mark Robson)**

HOME INSULATION - The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target requires all large domestic energy suppliers to make savings in the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by householders. The Suppliers meet this target by subsidising the uptake of low carbon energy solutions (such as loft and cavity wall insulation) to domestic energy consumers. However the current programme comes to an end in 2012. Contact your supplier and find out what deals they are offering. Homeowners over the age of 70 or in receipt of qualifying benefits may be eligible for free measures. The Energy Saving Trust 0800 512 012 are also able to give advice on the latest local offers on insulation that are available. **(DDC)**

OZ on ZZXJOANW – Whilst nursing my girl-friend after an operation last month I re-read a favourite book, Dmitri Borgmann's Language on Vacation: An Olio of Orthographical Oddities, first published in 1965. In one chapter, Borgmann describes an amazing word, ZZXJOANW, thus: "This spectacular word is so versatile that it possesses not merely one, but three different meanings: (a) drum; (b) fife; (c) conclusion. The term is of Maori origin." In this, Borgmann was simply following the words of Rupert Hughes, who first coined ZZXJOANW in his 1903 book, The Musical Guide, where it appeared as the final entry after 'zymbel' (German for 'cymbal'), with the pronunciation given as 'shaw'. In 1974 Josefa Heifetz Byrne, in Mrs Byrne's Dictionary of Unusual, Obscure, and Preposterous Words, gave the definition as 'Maori drum', but rejected 'shaw', preferring the pronunciation 'ziks-jo'an'. ZZXJOANW was exposed as a hoax by Ross Eckler in 1996 in his book Making the Alphabet Dance, when he described how Philip Cohen noted the oddities of the pronunciation, meanings and spelling, especially as Maori doesn't use J, X or Z and all Maori words end in vowels. Later, in You Say Tomato: An Amusing and Irreverent Guide to the Most Often Mispronounced Words in the English Language (2005) R W Jackson accepted the word as meaning 'Maori drum', commenting on the pronunciation that "We'll leave the pronunciation to you, although Welshmen and Poles are said to be able to do wonders with it." Apparently Hughes intended simply to coin a word beginning with ZZ, otherwise unknown in English. With the alleged pronunciation 'shaw' Hughes was also having a pop at George Bernard Shaw, a fervent advocate of phonetic spelling, who once said that GHOTI spelt FISH: GH as in 'rough' O as in 'women', and TI as in 'nation'. **(Steve Osborn)**

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am – 6.15 to 7.15 aerobics dance class
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	13	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	17	PCC jumble sale in the village hall at 11.00am
Monday	19	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4th	Evensong 6.30pm	Garage safari no service	Eucharist 11a.m.
Sunday 11th	Eucharist 9.00am	Worship Together 11am	
Sunday 18th	Family Service 11a.m.	Sung Evensong 6 p.m.	Eucharist 9am
Sunday 25th	Joint Benefice 10.00 at Alkham		

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

From the Vicarage - The apples are getting bigger and the branches are bending under the weight, the tomatoes are ripening and the weeds are flourishing so all is well in the garden. Rolo is very happy as it seems that Bob has at last learnt to keep quiet when they go hunting – not that they ever catch that elusive rabbit. But Rolo will set off very determinedly and Bob will follow in his wake and the birds continue to sing. It's clear that they set off in hope and that hope is undiminished when they return empty handed, rather like going fishing I suppose. When I speak to fishermen in the Warren they often say that they have caught nothing but they seem quite happy to continue to try. There are a lot of references to fishing in the Gospels and one story involves Jesus walking on the water to meet the disciples. They are scared at the sight of this and then Peter hops out of the boat and starts walking towards Jesus but he gets frightened and sinks so Jesus grabs him and pulls him out. Another version of walking on water involves a Vicar, a curate (one who's learning to be a vicar) and a bishop. They decide to go out for a days' fishing. Once they are in the boat and have pulled away from the jetty the curate realises he's left the bait behind so he steps out of the boat and walks across the water to get the bait. Then the vicar realises he's left his favourite flies behind so he steps out of the boat, walks across the water and collects them. All three are back in the boat when the Bishop realises he's left his sandwich box behind so he steps out of the boat - and sinks. The curate turns to the vicar and says 'Do you think we ought to have told him about the stepping stones?'
(Sue White 01303 240539)

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Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969
e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com

Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791

alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net

Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635

Neighbourhood Watch 01304 218110 &

Police Support Officer (07772226209)

Police – 999 phone & 01622 690690

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



Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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MALMAINS FARM – People have asked what is going to happen to the land which has been recently ploughed so I contacted Nigel Snape, who is the tenant farmer, and he says: Some of the land has been planted with a grass seed mix; this is the swathe of land through the middle of the farm and this will be used to make hay and silage to feed my Sussex cattle through the winter months. The remainder of the holding has been planted with milling wheat (for making bread). A small proportion of the farm, such as some steep banks and headlands areas, will be left unfarmed for conservation purposes as we are trying to maintain a wildlife corridor through the middle of the farm.

SLIP LANE – There is a small piece of land at the end of the old school playground that no one is taking responsibility for and the bushes have become overgrown and are protruding into Slip Lane. The best solution is to clear the area (about 10m x 2m) and put a raised bed in the middle with weed suppressant fabric on the rest with stone chippings on top. A quote has been sought for doing the work and hopefully it can start before the



winter. The area can be seen from vehicles on the Valley Road and should enhance the village.

PHOTO EXHIBITION in the Village Hall on Saturday 12th November. There are no set rules – the photos can be on any subject and printed at any size. They can be taken by any age group, but we would ask you to put your name on the back and if a child please add their age. There is no cost for entry. The photos will be numbered so visitors can vote for the ones they like best and a prize will be awarded to the winners. Let's make this a new excuse for an Alkham Parish Exhibition – don't forget this includes all people in the areas in the Parish such as Ewell Minnis. If you would like to take part please let us know by the end of October. Contact Sue Lees 822661 (susan932@btinternet.com) or Brian Wimsett 824969 (brianwimsett@hotmail.com). If you can help us with display boards it would be appreciated.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY – SEKAS will be holding talks and lectures on astronomy in Alkham village hall over the next three months. Entrance is free and on the 8th October, starting at 7.30pm, there will be a talk about Pluto. You are very welcome to come along and join us on the night or become a member. **(Alan Woodgett)**



THE VILLAGE HALL has a new sign on the front and a finger sign by the road.

DINING ROOM -

I was amazed when I heard and then read that the dining room at the Marquis had been named the 'Luckhurst Dining Room'. I would like to thank Mark Robson very much for making the suggestion and the Marquis for agreeing to it. I look forward to eating in the re-named Dining Room on my next trip back.

(Raye Luckhurst)

THE MARQUIS ANNUAL CHARITY CRICKET Game will take place this year on Sunday 25th September. This limited overs game will commence at 1pm and will see The Marquis All-stars batting it out once again against the Alkham Badgers. A whole host of sporting celebrities will be playing including Kent Captain Rob Key, former Middx Captain Shaun Udal, clay pigeon world champion George Digweed to name but a few. This fun day will be followed by a fantastic meal, raffle and auction at The Marquis. Raffle tickets will be available at The Marquis for some fantastic prizes; they will also be on sale throughout the day. The auction will have a whole host of prizes which simply money cannot buy! Our chosen charities this year are Cystic Fibrosis, Friends of St Anthony's, Alkham CC & Rob Key benefit year. Remember to book your place at the meal as this dinner sells out very quickly, further details can be found at www.themarquisatalkham.co.uk or pop in! Last year we raised in excess of £3000, with your help and support we can make this total even higher. Come along to this fun day, watch some great cricket and give your support to these great causes.

W.I. JUMBLE SALE - Alkham Village Hall Saturday 15th October 11am to midday. Jumble gratefully received 822661.

NEWSPAPER – Alkhamhurst Kennels would like some of your old newspapers for use at the kennels. Please see their advert on page 3 for contact details or pop in and see them.

THE MARQUIS is starting to offer afternoon teas.



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This is a birthday card that Sue Lees received this year.

A “Meet Your Local Councillors” event is being held on Saturday morning 22nd October between 10am-12noon at Temple Ewell Village Hall. Attending will be:- Cllr Sue Nicholas, Cllr Pauline Beresford - River & Alkham, Cllr Geoff Lymer - Temple Ewell & Lydden. Cllr Bryan Cope for KCC Charlie Elphicke MP.

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FOOTPATHS - For many years the unofficial footpaths on Malmains Farm have been used without restriction. Now that the fields are being worked it is inappropriate that these paths continue to be used. This will be a great loss to many people who have benefitted from free access to this land but there is no right to roam nor any 'de facto' access. Therefore can I ask, on behalf of the Landowner and Tenant Farmer, that all users obey the Countryside Code and only use the official Public Rights of Way. **(Anthony Barrier)**

THE ANNUAL DOVER AND DISTRICT HONEY SHOW will take place again in the Alkham Village Hall on Saturday 22nd October. The show has obviously become a popular event in the village calendar and we're delighted that so many of you are dropping in to see us during the afternoon. The value of bees to the nation's economy is officially estimated at nearly £200 million a year and close to home, Kent's commercial orchards are especially reliant on pollination by bees and the consequences for our fruit farmers could be catastrophic if bee numbers fell much further. Because our wild honeybees have already disappeared much depends on Britain's 44,000 beekeepers. The show is open to the public between 2.30 and about 4.00. Entrance is free. Refreshments will be available and there will be the usual displays of hive products and beekeeping equipment, honeys to sample, a raffle and various items for sale, including jars of local honey — quite a scarce commodity these days. We do hope you will be able to spend a little time with us on 22nd October. **(Christopher Holdstock Honey Show Secretary)**

JUST A SHORT WORD to say thank you to everyone for voting me as one of your Councillors for Alkham. I will be working hard for all the residents of the District and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at various events. I am also look forward to working along side Cllr Sue Nicholas, who has represented River Ward extremely well for over 20yrs. I am already feeling my way and getting involved in various projects. I realise that not everyone has a computer or even a fast connection so if anyone does need to contact me with any problems or concerns please phone me on 01304 216187. **(Pauline Beresford)**

GARDEN TALK - After a summer of successes and failures in our gardens, we end the season with a visit to Burley Cottage, Newcastle Lane, Ewell Minnis, where our hosts are Barbara and Neil Williams, on Friday 7th October, 7.30p.m. **(Janet Adamson)**

BOOK CLUB - The book for October is the much acclaimed thriller “The Snowman” by Jo Nesbo. The meeting will be hosted by Avi Munn at Poems, Short Lane 01304 829484 on Wednesday 26th October starting at 7.30pm. For more information contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

PUDDING, PUNCH & PAMPER event in aid of Help for Heroes will be held on 23rd November at Shepherdswell Village Hall from 6.30pm to 9.30pm. Visit www.orangeblossomspa.co.uk Help for Heroes page for details.

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CHURCH BIKE RIDE – Many thanks to all the people who generously supported us this year. Because of a leg injury we had to cut the ride short but we did 37 miles, visited 30 churches and raised £160. Den was seen disappearing through the gravestones at St. Leonard's in Hythe when he misjudged a corner on the path but otherwise it went well.

WELL DONE – The footpath opposite the Garden Centre at South Alkham was encroached by the bank that was falling onto the path and was also overgrown with vegetation. The council, with the aid of a digger, have removed the vegetation and bank so that the path can now be used freely. Congratulations to them for doing this.

ALKHAM WI – September meeting had a talk by Robert Stichbury about 'Hearing Dogs for the Deaf' something nobody had really heard about. Such dogs must be a great help to deaf people because they can tell their owners for example when someone knocks at the door. The two deaf ladies present with a dog for the deaf were able to show how good such dogs are for them. The next WI meeting will have a talk by Charis Muir about Wills and Power of Attorney and members must put forward names of members willing to be on the WI Committee 2012. There will be a WI Jumble Sale on 15th October. **(Sue Lees)**

MASSAGE & SPA DAY Saturday 19th November 10 am to 3pm. Enjoy a relaxing or energising Neals Yard Organic Massage or treat yourself to a Manicure or Pedicure! Luxurious Full Body Massage 1 hour, £26. Ultimate Top to Toe Full Body Massage including Face & Scalp 1hr 30mins, £39: 30 min Massage of Back, Neck & Shoulders or Face & Neck & Scalp (Indian Massage Based) or Lower Leg & Foot or Arm & Hand all £13 !! Manicure & Pedicure 30 mins £13 or 1 hour £26 - booking essential. Please phone 07813 893148 or see www.orangeblossomspa.co.uk for more information. Pamper Parties also available. *As no advertising space is available I agreed to a one-off free listing.*

OZ on FREECCELL – My house is in total uproar. What started as the installation of a new boiler and a second fridge-freezer, for storage of autumn fruits and beer, has escalated, as these projects always do, into a major domestic revamp. The knock-on effects have cascaded into every room, including the potting-shed and garage, and the house now resembles nothing so much as a huge Freecell game. Freecell is the ever-popular computer game that comes free with the Microsoft Windows operating system and has caused major downtime in workplaces worldwide over the last decade. It is a solitaire-based game that involves moving blocks of cards onto other blocks or into spaces, subject to certain rules, and it is this activity that is so similar to moving furniture. The game is a descendant of older solitaire games such as Eight Off and Baker's Game, the latter having originated in England in the 1920s. In 1978 Paul Alfille modified Baker's Game and computerised it, complete with playing-card graphics, for an educational system at the University of Illinois, and this became known as Freecell when it was taken up by Microsoft in the 1990s. The original Windows version had 32,000 games, each with a unique identification number so that users could retrieve and replay games if they wished. Only one game, No 11982, has been shown to be unsolvable. The latest version features 1,000,000 games, of which 8 are unsolvable. When my late wife and I retired we played the first 32,000 games in order for half an hour after lunch each day and had reached 56,000 or so when she died. Perhaps after my house is restored to order I should solve the remainder of the 1,000,000 games. At 10 games a day it will only take 259 years. **(Steve Osborn)**

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Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

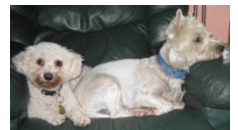
Other events in the village

Monday	10	Harvest supper in the village hall
Tuesday	11	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	15	W.I. jumble sale in the village hall at 11.00am
Monday	17	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	22	Honey Show open to public 2.30pm to 4.00pm - free

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2nd	Evensong 6.30pm	Eucharist 9.00am	11am Pet Service VH
Sunday 9th	Harvest Eucharist 9.00	Harvest Service 11 a.m.	Harvest 4 p.m.
Sunday 16th	11a.m. PET SERVICE	Sung Evensong 6 p.m.	Eucharist 9.00
Sunday 23rd	Bible Sunday - Joint Benefice 10.00am at Alkham		
Sunday 30th	All Saints with All Souls - Joint Benefice 10.00am at St. Mary's		

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

From the Vicarage - The nights are drawing in but what a harvest we have enjoyed this year. Kent has grown more plums than ever but the supermarkets weren't ready for such a bumper crop and had already brought them in from overseas. It seems to be that they are always trying to second guess the weather and the levels of produce. It used to be so much simpler when the shops stocked what was available and we enjoyed fruits and vegetables at their proper times. I doubt we've gained much from importing so much from all over the world. It is now possible to produce local melons and we are self sufficient in tomatoes. Surely this is a 'greener' solution for all of us. Harvest Festival will be celebrated on 9th in all our churches and I would like the children to take part so do bring them along. We are also celebrating having pets this month and I have invited them all to come and bring their owners. This will be on 2nd October in the Village Hall at Hougham at 11 a.m. and on 16th October at St. Anthony's at 11 a.m. I think our pets give us so much that it's good to bring them to a service once a year. Last year they were all very well behaved apart from Bob. Rolo sat sedately on a pew and remained there throughout the service but Bob decided to join in, which would have been fine if he'd confined himself to the hymns but he didn't. But that of course is the pleasure in having pets, usually they are predictable but it's the unexpected which makes us all chuckle in delight. On 14th October we shall have Boz and the Boys at St. Radigund's with the Sounds of the Sixties. Last year was a sell out so do book a ticket sooner rather than later. John Oliver and I missed it last year so we have the first two tickets this



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e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com

Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791

alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net

Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635

Neighbourhood Watch 01304 218110 &

Police Support Officer (07772226209)

Police – 999 phone & 01622 690690

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



Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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CONGRATULATIONS TO KEN SMITH ON HIS 100th BIRTHDAY

Ken, who is the father of John Pearson-Smith the owner of Hogbrook Equestrian Centre, reaches the age of 100 on the 28th of October. Ken can be seen each day walking up Slip Lane, along Chalksole Green Lane and back down the 1 in 5 White Hill. A remarkable and very likeable man. **His son has written:**



Ken, 100 years old on 28th October 2011 and can still be seen walking in the village "weather" permitting". Dad had an interesting life after getting married in 1936 he set sail for Singapore and set up business as a Quantity Surveyor but war broke out and he returned to England and worked in the Woolwich Arsenal. His next move was to Palestine, then India and eventually Tanganyika (where I was born). He finally ended up in Italy, Rome being one of his favourite cities. Eventually he returned to the U.K. and retirement. Since moving in with my family in Alkham he has been overwhelmed by the welcoming friendship he has received from the village. **(John)**

Ken helping John Huggins with the driveway at Greenhill Farm in 2011

SLIP LANE

You may have seen that the overgrown area on the top of the wall at the bottom of Slip Lane has been removed. This



was partly funded by a generous donation of £500 from Philip Young who is organising the London to Cape town car rally. As Philip lived at Ewell Minnis the rally will pass through Alkham on News Year's day and for this reason he donated the money to the village. Not only have the dangerous overhanging branches been removed but the whole area has been cleared and covered in weed suppressant material. The area is being left as it is until next year when it will be decided how to embellish it. Please contact me (Brian Wimsett - see P4) if you have any ideas bearing in mind that there is quite a slope at one end and we don't want large shrubs again or complete groundcover. The work was carried out by Alan Hammond the son of Ken who lives at Meadowside. Alan is now working for himself so if there are any jobs that you would like him to do please contact Ken.

PHOTO EXHIBITION on the 12th November Come along and join in the fun and look at the photos taken by other villagers – everyone is welcome and it's all free. The hall will be open from 11.00am to 4.30pm and for those who have not given us the photos before the event please bring them to the hall after 9.00am. You can vote for your favourite photo and a prize will be awarded to the best three.

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - The AGM will be held on 9th November at 7.30 pm. The general business is as usual: minutes, elections, subs reminders if needed, and supper at The Fox, Temple Ewell (two course – carvery and pudding for £10.00 a head). The company is also great. All welcome and new members encouraged. If you are planning to attend the supper The Fox likes to know approximately how many so please contact Pam Sayers, Marion Banks Nash or the Secretary. Thank you. **(Joanna Walker (Sec) 821641)**

JACK'S MUM - My mum has recurrent breast cancer which has spread into the lymph nodes in her chest wall, so they can't operate to remove it. This is called secondary breast cancer which means she's relying on drug treatment to stop it spreading further and she really needs them to find a cancer cure. I decided to help by riding solo in the Fowlmead 6-hour day/night Enduro mountain bike race for Cancer Research. Being off-road it was a really tough race but I managed to finish it; I did 60.23 miles at an average of 11 mph. As I was the only Junior I won my age category and I didn't do too badly overall, I did 22 laps and the winner (Phil Webb) did 26. My mum was there at the end of the race and is really proud of me. I want to raise at least £1,500 and have nearly done it, but I need more support so if you would like to help me and donate some money please go to <http://www.justgiving.com/Jack-Spicer> . **(Jack Spicer)**
Message from Jack's Mum & Dad, Barry & Alison – "Well done Jack, an inspirational ride and we're very proud of you not just for finishing the race but for doing it solo for Cancer Research. Those last few laps must have been really tough but you kept going to the end! Cancer Research is there for everyone, including the other village residents who are fighting cancer."



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CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES - Please could you give your support once again to "Operation Christmas Child" by preparing a shoe box with gifts for children who have nothing at Christmas. I have the leaflets with all the details and can be contacted on 01304 822295. The completed boxes can either be collected by me or dropped off at the Village Hall at 10.30am any Wednesday up to and including 16th November. We sent 44 boxes from Alkham to children last year, which was wonderful and it would be great if we could do that again. Thank you so much. **(Susannah Tapsell)**

A CHRISTMAS BAZAAR will be held in the village hall on the 3rd of December when there will be stalls selling festive items plus the usual attractions. It will be a real Christmas event and there will be more details in next month's Newsletter. **(Sue Lees)**

FULLY FUNDED COURSE for anyone thinking about volunteering Are you interested in volunteering but for one reason or another aren't quite ready to take the plunge? Dover District Volunteering Centre understands there are many reasons why taking on a volunteer role may seem daunting. You may lack confidence or need encouragement, you may worry about your childcare options or travel costs, you may be struggling to decide what sort of volunteer work you would like to do. If this sounds familiar to you, then our Free course could greatly benefit you. The course takes place in Dover on Wed 23rd and Thurs 24th November 2011. Lunch and refreshments are included free of charge, and travel expenses can be reimbursed. All previous course participants have found them informative, fun and interesting. Courses are funded by NLDC Response. If you would like to book a place, please contact Karen at the Volunteer Centre on 01304 367898 or email office@doverdistrictvolunteering.org.uk

FOOTPATHS - I'm pleased to report that a gate has been installed where the footpath from Upton Farm (ER157) joins the Byway to Everden and Pimlico (ER185). This junction had been blocked by a fence for some time. I first reported it over three years ago and the PROW people were already aware of the problem then. I had received numerous complaints and despite promises of action nothing was done until late last month. **(Anthony Barrier)**

GARDEN TALK - Our season of visits to homes and gardens in Alkham has now finished - and we have enjoyed marvellous hospitality, great food and wine, good quizzes and lots of chat. We finish the year with a celebratory meal at The Fox, Temple Ewell on Friday 9th December. We meet at 7.30 for 8.00p.m. - 2 courses for £10. Please let me know by the end of November if you will be joining us. **(Janet Adamson 01303 893413)**

ALKHAM W.I. - The October meeting was a very interesting one with a very helpful talk by Charis Muir about 'Wills and Power of Attorney. Members were reminded that the next meeting will be the AGM and the names must be put forward for the 2012 committee. Pam Sayers said that she will be able to stand for the committee but would not be able to be Chairman and Marie Jones said that she too would not be able to continue as the Treasurer, so members must consider who they would like to take their places. Ann Lockwood the W.I. Group Advisor will be present. The fun event for the evening will be to play Bingo and this will be the first time that all will be able to see the excellent number board made by Debbie Griggs husband. All members should try and be present at this meeting and then they can be told about the exciting event for December. **(Sue Lees)**

A BLACK CAT which is very friendly has been found. If you have lost one please phone Brian on 824969 and he will put you in contact with the people who found the cat.

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THE HARVEST SUPPER once again, was a huge success and only made possible by those supporting it. There were more than sixty enjoying the ploughman's meal and delicious home-made apple pies. Big thanks to all those that made them. Thanks of course to all who provided produce, floral displays, cakes and preserves which were auctioned by Paul, who I thought was in particular good form on the night with some items reaching record amounts. We received some lovely raffle prizes too. With the kindness and generosity shown by all we, after deducting expenses, raised a grand total of £708.35 for St Anthony's Church and its been agreed to make a donation to the soup kitchen. **(Irene Barnard)**

A TAIZE SERVICE will be held in St Anthony's church Alkham on Saturday the 26th November at 7:00pm. Refreshments will be served and everybody is welcome to come along. **(Rosie Hansraj)**

THANK YOU - I would like to say a huge "Thank You" to Katie Ann, Patsy, Pam, Susannah, Margaret, Avi, Rosemary, Irene and not forgetting Richard, for helping to decorate St Anthony's Church for Harvest Festival. The Church looked wonderful. Thank you once again. **(Rosie Hansraj)**

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will present a concert in Dover Town Hall at 7.30 pm on Saturday 19th November. Titled Baroque! the programme consists of five of the most sublime examples of choral music from the baroque repertoire: Bach's "Magnificat", Handel's "Zadok the Priest" and "The King Shall Rejoice", Monteverdi's "Beatus Vir" and Vivaldi's "Dixit Dominus". With professional soloists, the 85-strong chorus and Connaught Orchestra. Tickets £10 (students £5) are available from Dover Tourist Information Centre, members of the society, or by calling 01304 822042/820149; and, if any remain, at the door on the night. For further information please ring Donald Beck on 07808 272047. **(Steve Osborn)**

BOOK CLUB - The Book for November is The Hare With Amber Eyes by Edmund De Waal winner of the 2010 Costa Biography Award. The meeting will be hosted by Liz Lambourne at 4a Newlyn Meadows tel 822365 starting at 7.30. For more information contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

OZ on BIG CATS – One evening in September, driving in the dark, I turned right from the Alkham Valley Road into Cowgate Lane to take the back road to Hawkinge. On emerging from the woods, just before the first house, I saw a huge cat amble across the road and dive into the trees. It was much too big for a domestic cat, and appeared in the headlights to be black with dark chestnut markings. A friend reminded me later of Roy Dyche's article in the November 2009 Alkham Monthly Newsletter, and indeed what I saw was almost identical with Roy's description. Like Roy I'm not gullible over these things and the size of the cat impressed me. It seems to be the latest of a string of sightings of a 'black panther' in this area. Nationally, such animals have been seen for at least the last 250 years. William Cobbett, in Rural Rides, described seeing, as a child in the 1760s, a cat "that was as big as a middle-sized spaniel dog", the reporting of which earned him a beating for telling lies. In recent years, there have been many sightings of big cats, usually black, tan or both, including a lynx that was shot near Norwich in 1991 after killing 15 sheep in two weeks. Their locations are often indicated by colourful names, as in Surry Puma, Shooters Hill Cheetah, and Sheppey Panther. There are many explanations for their existence, such as escape from captivity, descent from supposed extinct species, or the Wild Animals Act 1976, while sceptics claim that it's simply mass hysteria or an urban myth. Having now seen a wild big cat I'm a reluctant convert and would like to discover more about them. After all, as people often tell me, "There's something out there." **(Steve Osborn)**

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am – 6.15 to 7.15 aerobics dance class
Thursday	Karate classes from 7.15pm to 8.45pm in VH - 821336
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Monday	7	Parish Council meeting in the village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	8	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Wednesday	9	AVS AGM – see page 1
Saturday	12	Photo exhibition in village hall 11am to 4.30pm
Saturday	12	SEKAS in village hall 7 to 10pm – visitors welcome
Monday	14	Fete meeting in village hall 8.00pm
Monday	21	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6th	4.30 p.m. Evensong	9 a.m. Eucharist	11 a.m. W.T.
Sunday 13th Remembrance Day Service	9.30 Said Eucharist 10.15 p.m.	10.30 a.m.	10 .30a.m.
Sunday 20th	11 a.m. Family Service	5.30 Service at Canterbury	9a.m. Eucharist
Sunday 27th	Joint Benefice 10.00 at Capel		

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

From the Vicarage - The October sunshine has really set us up for whatever comes next. On Friday I took Bob and Rolo down the Warren, it was wonderful to walk in the warm sunshine and see the leaves in their glorious autumn colours, we are so fortunate! We went onto the beach and there were two ladies sunbathing, they had just started their lunch and Bob was sure it was his lucky day. He offered to help them out but they didn't fall for his charms. Rolo had continued to sniff his way up the beach so Bob gave in and joined him. They are always so pleased with themselves when they discover a new smell and follow it, they really do live for the moment. Bozz and the boys gave us the Sounds of the Sixties on 13th October and it was a great evening. There were over 100 people at St. Radigund's Church and by the end of the evening pretty well all of them were on their feet dancing. I was thrilled to see members of all my congregations joining in and clearly this is an opening for me to introduce dancing in the aisle on Sundays. It also brings home the importance of reliving the times we have enjoyed in the past. November is often described as a grey month but it is also a time to remember and to be thankful for all those who gave their lives for us and who continue to do so in our armed forces today. We have so much to be thankful for and I would like to thank everyone who contributed to our Harvest Festivals. In addition to our Sunday services we celebrated Harvest with Capel School and what a Tuesday that was! The teachers had worked hard with the children who were in fine voice and the parents sent in an enormous bounty for the soup kitchen and the Rainbow Centre. Thank you all so much. **(Sue White 01303 240539)**

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THE MARQUIS

extension was formally opened on the 10th November followed by a tour round the new building which has a new kitchen, suites and luxury rooms. The standard of furnishings is superb and includes super king size beds,

monsoon showers and roll top baths; the overall effect is quite stunning. Tony Marsden and his wife Lilian are to be congratulated on getting the project together as are the contractors GSE especially as they had to work in such close confines.

THANK YOU to everyone on behalf of my father Ken Smith for making his birthday evening so special. When he arrived at The Marquis and was welcomed by you all he was overwhelmed. Thank you to John Huggins for instigating the celebration and Tony Marsden for providing the toast in his lovely venue, not forgetting all of the villagers, too many to name, who filled The Marquis and toasted Dad's 100th birthday. Thank you all once again for making his evening one to remember. Another fabulous memory to add to his collection. **(John Pearson-Smith)**

ROUNDHILL TUNNEL – The new expansion joints to the viaduct at Roundhill tunnel have been made and are being installed. A further ramp has been made for the London bound carriageway so that traffic can be put in contra-flow whilst the coast bound joint is placed. Weather permitting it is hoped that the work will be finished by the end of January.



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS SWITCH ON

will be on Saturday 10th December at 4:45pm. This will be followed by carol singing led by the WI and a visit by Father Christmas. Ben and Hannah have kindly once again invited

everybody to the Marquis afterwards for mulled wine and mince pies. **(Den Barnard 824845)**

CHRISTMAS TREES on sale from 26th November direct from the grower, Artisan Nursery at Fern farm Abbey Rd, Hougham. Nordman, Blues and Norway spruce any size any variety £20 each. Friday, Saturday Sunday only 07763327548 for directions.

CRIB SERVICE – On the 24th of December there will be a building of the crib and carols in St. Anthony's church at 4.30pm when all children and parents are invited to come and take part.

Merry Christmas

THE PHOTO EXHIBITION in the village hall on the 12th November went well with 80 people coming to view the 180 photos on display. Everybody agreed that the standard of entry was very high and visitors were invited to vote for the best overall photo. The winner was Stan Fowler with a superb picture of Alkham; second was Derek Coppins with a photo of a dog with a chicken and third was Alan Latham showing St. Anthony's church at sunset. All three photos will be framed and displayed in the village hall.



THE MARQUIS is now doing afternoon teas and is offering a 2 for 1 for Alkham residents until Christmas. They are also open for breakfast to non residents.

LOCAL PRODUCE – If you have any that you would like to offload, Charlie Lakin the chef at the Marquis will be happy to take it and swop with chutneys or jams. Please call him on 07979412946

CHRISTMAS WREATHS and door garlands suitable for remembrance or decoration made with fresh materials from £7.50. They will be on display at Nailbourne Cottage, Alkham Valley Road (near the Folkestone side 30mph signs) from 1st December. Please call Shirley on 828098.

HORSE RIDER – I received an email from Sue Chambers who is an administration assistant with the Kent Community Health NHS Trust. She said that she just wanted to advise the girl she saw riding her brown horse towards Folkestone on the 2nd November, on the busy main Alkham Valley Road, that it is not safe to text and ride at the same time.



CAT FOUND – Lower Standen area, Alkham Valley Road. Black/grey tabby, young male cat. Very friendly and is wearing a collar. If you have lost this cat please call 07900 263702

SHOE BOXES - May I thank each one of you who responded so generously to the Christmas Shoe Box appeal. I know it takes time, money and effort to do them; you gave these in full and I was privileged to take 47 boxes from Alkham on your behalf. Forgive me if I give a special thank you to the girls in Alkhamhurst Kennels, who were absolutely marvellous. Thank you all so much. **(Susannah Tapsell)**



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PARAGLIDING - On September 11th 2011 myself and 2 friends, Jon Chivers and Darren Graves (team DAFT), set off on an adventure to climb to the summit of Mont Blanc and fly our paragliders back to the bottom. On the 23rd of September

after a week of training and acclimatizing on various smaller climbs and glacier crossings we were ready for the summit. The 3 of us accompanied by Irwyn Jehu (our guide) and his friend Jennie Flemming set off from the refuge du gouter 3817 m at 3.30am carrying our gliders weighing approx 16 kg each. We crossed the dome du gouter in the dark and reached the vallot hut 4362m (a small emergency shelter) in time to see the sun rise. Finally at 10.00am 6½ hours later we reached the summit at 4810m. Having spent the previous 2 days climbing to the gouter refuge we were exhausted and I for one was glad we weren't going to walk down. At 11.00am after considering our take off options I inflated my paraglider and began the 1 hour flight back down to where we had started 3 days ago. The others followed laden with ice from the summit that we enjoyed with a bottle of whisky that evening. I'm pleased to say that we all managed to fly down without incident and so far have raised over a £1000 for "Click Sargent", a charity that supports children with cancer. We plan to take up more DAFT challenges next year in the hope of raising more. If you would like to help us in this cause please go to www.justgiving.com/DAFT-challenge. (**Colin Downer** - DAFT is Dover and Folkestone Team)

CRICKET CLUB AWARDS - Newcomer Paul Tomkies picked up three trophies at Alkham Cricket Club's annual awards dinner at Paul's Restaurant, Folkestone. Paul made an immediate impact as a star opening batsman when he joined the village team at the start of the 2011 season, scoring 87 not out in his first match and went on to score 814 runs in the season, including a best of 138, to win the Batsman of the Year Trophy. Paul also finished the season with the club's second best bowling figures so his all-round contribution won him the Player of the Year award and also the coveted "Players' Player" award. The Bowling Trophy went to Toby Foster, who took 31 wickets, including a best of 5-16, while club wicketkeeper Peter Frater took the Fielding Trophy and Richard Tapsell was named as Clubman of the Year for his sterling work in preparing the pitch. Paul Hatton had mixed fortunes - receiving the Duck Trophy for the highest number of noughts (6) but also the "Moment of the Season" trophy for a spectacular one-handed catch. Zac Hassan and Paul Tomkies shared the Rob Culley Memorial Trophy, awarded in memory of the much-loved former player who added real character to the club. The trophies were presented by Club Vice President Barbara Palmer, who attended with her husband Bob, also a Club VP. (**Peter Frater**)



GARDEN TALK - A reminder that the last event of 2011 is a meal at The Fox, Temple Ewell on Friday 9th December; please contact me as soon as possible if you wish to join us. Suggestions are always welcomed for gardens to visit in 2012, or if you would be prepared to host an evening.

(**Janet Adamson 01303 893413**)

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NEWSPAPERS – Following the article in the Newsletter, Alkhamhurst Kennels has received a lot of old newspapers. They are very grateful and say 'please keep them coming'.

SOUP KITCHEN – At the Ark in Dover there was a meeting for volunteers who do the Dover Soup Kitchen and the Alkham contingent went along. Remarkably there were about 80 people present who are involved with providing soup and food 365 days a year for the homeless. Mention was made of scroungers and people on benefit who use the soup kitchen but it was thought that if you could just help a couple of people it was worthwhile. At present the soup kitchen has a small portakabin in the car park opposite the Sports Centre but shortly a large container will replace it.

THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR will be held in the village hall on the 3rd of December when there will be stalls selling festive items plus the usual attractions.. **(Sue Lees)**

BOOK CLUB for December will be held on Wednesday 14th at 7.30pm. The meeting will be the Christmas party hosted by Sue Latham at Woodlands Short Lane (01304 824729). The book for discussion is Scribble Scribble Scribble by Simon Schama. For more details contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

ALKHAM W.I. – The AGM was a well attended meeting, however a vote was needed not just for a new committee but for a president and a treasurer as well. Pam Sayers and Mairi Jones have both worked well in these posts over the past years. Helen Scopes is the new president and Susannah Tapsell the vice president. Cherry Leppard is treasurer and Janet Barrow is still the hard working secretary. The meeting ended with a game of bingo, Debbie Grigg's father having made a really good job making the bingo set. There will be carol singing at Canterbury Cathedral on the 29th November at 11.00am and the W.I.'s Christmas dinner is on the 12th December in the village hall. There will be more carol singing at Kearsney Manor on the 15th December. **(Sue Lees)**

OZ on LIVING LIVELY – I would like to use my column this month to publicise a very worthwhile and enjoyable activity that is coming to Dover after Christmas. I'll say no more now, but simply let Living Lively speak for itself. Below is LL's press release. **(Steve Osborn)** :

Discover Your Voice - Free Singing Sessions for People over 50 - River (Dover) - January - February 2012. Do you sing in the bath, shower or car but would never admit it? Would you like to sing but are put off by the idea of reading music and formal choirs? Are you over 50 and free on Thursday afternoons? If the answer to these questions is 'yes' and you are looking for fun and a challenging activity for the New Year then we have just the thing for you. Living Lively is a local not-for-profit organisation which specialises in running singing activities for people over 50. We have been given funding by Awards for All to enable us to run a 6 week project in River for people who are interested in trying singing in an enjoyable, informal and relaxed atmosphere. Sessions will take place from 14.00 - 15.30 in the foyer of River Methodist Church for 6 weeks starting on January 19th 2012 (January 19th and 26th, February 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd.) We will help you learn about breathing, posture and making a good sound, and the sessions will include a wide variety of music to meet all tastes. There is no charge and refreshments are included. You can just turn up on any of the days, or if you require more information or want to book a place please call Celia on 01233 750585, or email her at celia@livinglively.org.uk. We look forward to seeing you and helping you to 'Discover Your Voice'.



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County Councillor, Bryan Cope 206510
District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956,
Pauline Beresford - 216187
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 – 6.15 to 7.15 aerobics dance class
Thursday	Karate classes from 7.15pm to 8.45pm in VH - 821336
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Saturday	3	Christmas bazaar 10.30am then Beekeepers 2 – 5pm
Monday	5	Parish Council
Tuesday	6	White Cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9 pm
Saturday	10	SEK Astronomical Society 7 – 10pm
Monday	12	W.I. Christmas dinner
Monday	19	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4th	Evensong 4.30	Eucharist 9 a.m.	W.T. 11a.m.
Sunday 11th	Eucharist 9 a.m.	Worship together 11 a.m.	Carols VH 5pm
Sunday 18th	Nine lessons and carols 6p.m.	9 lessons and Carols 10.30 a.m. Baptist Chapel	Eucharist 9.00
Saturday 24th Christmas eve	Crib Service 4.30p.m. Midnight Eucharist 11pm	Crib Service 3p.m. Midnight Eucharist 11pm	
Sunday 25th	NO SERVICE	NO SERVICE	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 1/1	10 a.m. Joint Benefice Eucharist at St. Radigund's		

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

From the Vicarage - December is a month of hopefulness but also a time of reflection as we look forward to celebrating the birth of Christ. The Bible teaches us that we are to give secretly so that the left hand does not know what the right has done. We are asked to support those whom we would rather not, those who are difficult, who have an addiction, who are anti-social, abusive, whose contempt for all we believe in, is clearly stated and we struggle with such an idea. It's so much easier to give to appreciative family and friends. Jesus was born into a society that was expecting a warrior king who would rid them of the hated Romans. He would be on the side of the Jewish leaders in the temple, and he would maintain the status quo in religious observance. Jesus was God's gift to his people, through him God's relationship with all people was to be forged. It didn't work out quite like that. Before he was two, King Herod was trying to murder him, as far as Herod was concerned this was one gift he could do without. The Pharisees, Sadducees and temple leaders rejected God's gift. They didn't want the Light of the world to shine on all their sharp practices, their commercialisation of the Temple. They certainly didn't want the people to hear what Jesus had to say and to follow him. And they couldn't abide Jesus going constantly to the poor, the tax collectors, the prostitutes, the lepers and every undesirable in their society. They succeeded where Herod had failed and the gift from God was killed. But in his death Jesus gave the greatest gift of all, hope for the future, salvation to everyone and his presence with them no matter how hard and difficult the journey. So a joyful Christmas to you all. **Sue White 01303 240539**

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Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635

Neighbourhood Watch 01304 218110 &

Police Support Officer (07772226209)

Police – 999 phone & 01622 690690

W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

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Footpath Warden antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk

Vicar – Rev. Sue White

01303 240539

Church Wardens -

Geoff Gaskill 823100

and Ken Hammond

