

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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THE ALKHAM Christmas tree lights were illuminated on the 10th of December. As usual the W.I. choir and others sang three carols round the tree and then Irene Barnard pushed a plunger to turn the lights on. Santa was there and gave sweets to the children before the adults went to the Marquis who had kindly provided mulled wine and mince pies. The photo was taken by Alec Bristow who lives in Alkham and evidently knows Father Christmas. Thanks must go to the Sullivans at Ellinge who donated the tree, to John Huggins and driver for somehow getting it to the village green and to Den Barnard for helping to plant and decorate it.

Happy New Year

A & E IMPORTANT INFORMATION – Did you know that every time someone goes to A+E that their GP gets a bill to pay from his patients' budget? There is a campaign to persuade people that instead of going to A&E for trivial matters they consider seeing their GP or pharmacist instead which would leave more money in the budget to spend on other services for patients. One suggestion for these savings is an Intermediate Care Bed centre - a bit like old cottage hospitals. If someone is quite ill and can't stay at home but isn't very ill and doesn't need to go to one of the big hospitals they could be admitted to the local "halfway house" hospital. Buckland hospital deals with minor injuries and if you visit them a charge still applies but at least the money goes to a local hospital. This will help to keep it open and maybe additional clinics and services could be restored. (*editor from discussion at PC meeting*)

WORLD CUP RALLY - A reminder that the London to Cape Town World Cup Rally is passing through Alkham on its way to Dover late in the night of January 1st, having set out from the Houses of Parliament. The organisers apologise in advance if this causes any disturbance, and drivers have been warned to treat Alkham as a "Quiet Zone" and dip their lights. The route goes up what organiser Philip Young describes in the route-notes as "the steepest hill in Kent". He should know, as a nine-year-old he used to hurtle down from Chalksole to the primary-school with Alan Dodd, Tony Harrington and Melvyn Kirby from the Minnis where they lived, on bicycles with dodgy brakes. This would have been around 1960 when there was less traffic, although nine-year-olds considered themselves invincible then... and immortal today. The oldest car is a 1923 Vauxhall, providing it's still on-route and hasn't cut out lots of navigation stuff in the lanes to ensure the crew from Australia catch the ferry on time. Philip Young hopes nobody will notice their passing.

THE NEWSLETTER can be emailed in colour if you like – please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com

THE ANNUAL QUIZ will take place on the 11th February at 7.30pm in the village hall. Please give me a ring on 824969 if you would like to book a table which as usual are up to the maximum of 8 people. Food will be served at the interval probably comprising French bread, cheese, pate etc, so reasonably filling. The cost is £5 per person. (**Brian**)



CHALKSOLE ESTATE VINEYARD had its first proper harvest of grapes this year. On the 21st & 22nd October, friends and family gathered together to pick some 3200kgs of Chardonnay & Pinot grapes. Many thanks go out to all those who helped with the harvest, and I hope your backs are now recovered! The grapes have now been pressed by Chapel Down and 1800 bottles of sparkling wine have been produced and are now fermenting. First release of the Chalksole Estate 2011 Vintage will be on general sale June 2013. Pre orders are welcome as this vintage is limited! If you would like to join us next year, be regularly updated with goings on at Chalksole Estate Vineyard or wish to pre order, please email Claire@chalksolevineyard.co.uk or 'Like' us on Facebook – Chalksole Estate Vineyard, for up to the minute updates and reports. (**Claire Joblin**)

THE NEW PHONE NUMBER for non emergency calls to the police is 101; no other number should be used other than 999 for emergencies.



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THE SOLAR photovoltaic (PV) system on the roof of St. Anthony's has been commissioned. The 16 panel array will produce some 3,300 kilowatt hours per year of renewable electricity; about the same as that consumed by the average UK house and over the 25 years

life of the PV system, the carbon dioxide emissions savings will amount to some 42 tonnes. Being oriented east-west, all churches have a south facing roof and St Anthony's has a south aisle roof hidden from view by a surrounding parapet – a perfect location for solar PV and which preserves the natural beauty of the building. Geoff Gaskill is to be congratulated for getting the system installed and the PCC for backing the project.

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB is seeking new players plus people prepared to assist off the pitch. I am taking over as club captain for 2012 and my key objectives are to strengthen the squad and to encourage villagers to support the club. We need more people involved with the club – on and off the pitch - in order to sustain what is one of the oldest cricket clubs in Kent, having been formed in 1839. While there is a fantastic spirit and comradeship within the team, the squad was depleted during 2011, which caused some games to be cancelled, and club finances are also precarious. We have seen several village clubs close in recent seasons due to waning interest and rising costs – but the committee has no intention of ever allowing Alkham CC to suffer the same fate. We want to see the club prosper and remain a key part of the village for many years to come. Anyone interested in playing for the club or offering assisting off the pitch should contact me on 01304 820067. **(Peter Frater)**

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - Thanks to all who attended our AGM last month. Maurice Sayers was re-elected as our Chairman, and the supporting cast remains as usual, though Anne Huggins place has been taken by Mike Ross. Our thanks to the Treasurer Barry Sheppard and to Dick Sullivan who audits our account yearly. The Christmas Walk will take place as customary on 27th December at 10.30 am from the Village Hall. ALL WELCOME and dogs of course. Happy Christmas to all. **(Jo Walker, Sec)**

THE BOOK CLUB will meet in January on Weds 25th at the home of Jane Aslett, Drybrook, Short Lane, Alkham starting at 7.30p.m. We will once again discuss the book Scribble Scribble Scribble by Simon Schama. Please bring along book suggestions for the New Year. For more information contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

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OZ on TV – Just lately I've been so busy trying to decide on a new TV system to install in time for Christmas that I completely missed the 75th anniversary of the start of public service television broadcasting that took place in Britain in November 1936. The technology had developed very slowly over the previous 75 years, from the Italian Giovanni Caselli's 'pantelegraph' in 1862, through the German Paul Nipkow's 'scanning disc' in 1884, the Russian Boris Rosing's use of the cathode ray tube in 1907, to the Scottish inventor John Logie Baird's first television in 1926. Baird followed this with 'Phonovision', an early form of video recording, in 1927. The first day of BBC television, transmitted from Alexandra Palace, began at 3pm on Monday 2 November 1936, when the Postmaster General, G C Tryon MP, gave a speech, followed by news, weather and a half-hour variety show. Further development of TV broadcasting in Britain was delayed by World War II, finally taking off in 1953, when 22 million viewers tuned in to the Coronation. We watched on a neighbour's set, taking it in turns to peer into a tiny almost horizontal monochrome screen. My father's comment was "It's quite interesting, but it won't last." Just four years later, he was glued to the TV set, watching the news, sport, soaps and films, especially on the newly emergent ITV. In the last 50 years, TV has come into its own in a rapidly changing world, bringing wars, revolutions and the space race into people's homes, alongside rock and pop music, some legendary comedy series, educational programmes, general elections, the Queen's Speech, and a fair amount of trash. The choice is huge, and will be even greater if I finally succeed in connecting my new TV system to the internet. **(Steve Osborn)**

FROM THE VICARAGE - January is a new Year, new beginnings and brings for me a time of saying goodbye as I shall be moving to a new post in Eythorne Benefice with Whitfield after Easter. That may seem like a long way away but I fear that the time will pass ever more swiftly and I will be seeing the removals van before I have even packed one box. So January will also be a time of reflection on all that has happened in the four years I have been here. It has certainly been a time of change and development and I have relished the opportunities to be involved. Alkham has scored a great first in the Diocese, the installation of the solar panels and what a great job Geoff Gaskill and the PCC have done. Richard Tapsell and Ken Hammond were the men on the spot when Geoff went on holiday and they ensured that all went to plan. It should be a matter of immense pride for the whole village and demonstrates to everyone just what can be achieved when people work together. I recently witnessed that working together with Bob and Rolo. As most of you are aware I often take the boys to the Warren and have known some of the people living there. One lady has three hens living in a wire enclosure just outside her little 'house'. (This is a very cosy affair made of scrap wood with a plastic roof and a wood burning stove.) She and I were chatting, Bob distracted us both playing with her very small fox terrier pup. Rolo appeared to be sitting quietly, then one of the hens came out to peck on the ground, silently and swiftly Rolo pounced, fortunately Maria was faster and the hen lives for another day! Rolo and Bob then proceeded to examine the enclosure for any gaps, there were none. Happy New Year to you all. **(Sue White 01303 240539)**



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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

Tuesday	3	Archaeologists in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	9	Parish Council meeting in the village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	10	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	14	SEKAS in village hall 7 to 10pm – visitors welcome
Monday	16	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1st	10 a.m. Joint Benefice Eucharist at Capel		
Sunday 8th	Eucharist 9.00.	W.T. 11 a.m.	
Sunday 15th	Family Service 11a.m.Christingle	Evensong 6 p.m.	Eucharist 9.00
Sunday 22nd	Joint Benefice 10.00 at Capel		
Sunday 29th Candlemas	Joint Benefice 10.00 at St. Mary's		
Weekday Services: Wednesday Eucharist 9.15 am St Radigund, Capel-Le-Ferne			

MICRO PUB – Mark Robson and his daughter Bromwen have as expected opened a micro pub called 'The Just Reproach' in King Street, Deal. They are open from 12 to 2pm and 5 to 9pm daily except Mondays. We wish them well and I'm sure they'd love to see you; there will be more news in next month's Newsletter.

SUE WHITE will be leaving the Benefice after Easter 2012 to take up a new post at Eythorne. There are more details in her report on page 3 and we wish her well. A full report will be included in a later edition.

ALKHAM W.I. – This month was the celebration of Christmas having a really excellent meal in the village hall. The caterers were the Chapline from Dover. The next meeting is on the 10th January and everybody is welcome to come along. (**Sue Lees**)

BINS – Dog waste has been put in the new bins which stand outside the bungalows adjacent to the Marquis. The residents are upset by this and ask that whomsoever is dropping the bags in the bins to stop doing so.

GARDEN TALK - We are preparing the programme for 2012 now - suggestions welcome. The season starts with a meeting at 'Sunrise', Meggett Lane on Friday 17th February, from 7.30p.m. The evening promises to be tasty and to have a fruity theme! All welcome. For directions etc, please contact Janet or Gordon Adamson (01303 893413).

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alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net

Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635

Neighbourhood Watch 01304 218110 &

Police – 999 & 101

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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JANUARY was a sad month for Alkham with the passing of Betty Neely, Maurice Sayers and Vic Wash-Neave whose lives are remembered on page 2. Sadly, **TONY BARROW** another Alkham resident, died on the 19th January in the River/Temple Ewell Care Home. Our sympathy goes to Janet and all the families.

A CONSULTATION is being held by Kent County Council regarding recycling centres and as part of this the one at Hawkinge is earmarked for possible closure in 2013. Locals feel that this will lead to fly tipping as the alternatives are Folkestone or Whitfield. However KCC say that all views will be taken into account and encourage people to submit feedback. Details can be found at www.kent.gov.uk/hwrcconsultation

GARDEN TALK - This year's visits start with a lighthearted wine tasting quiz featuring local fruit (no need to bring a bottle!) at 'Sunrise', Meggett Lane, South Alkham on Friday 17th February from 7.30p.m. All Welcome. It is hoped to have the programme for the year completed and ready to distribute that evening. Further details: Janet or Gordon Adamson 01303 893413.

BOOK CLUB - The club meeting for Wednesday 29th February will be hosted by Margaret Danstead at 2 Meadow Hill Cottages, Hogbrook Hill Lane (01304 829006) starting at 7.30. The book for discussion is *The Lantern* by Deborah Lawrenson. For more information contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

ALKHAM W.I. - Helen Scopes, the new President, chaired the meeting in January. Debbie Saunders, an Alkham member, gave a very amusing talk about comic events. The next meeting will be on 14th February 7.30pm; the talk will be highlighted with photos of 'The Everest Pioneer, Capt. John Nowel' talk by Sandra Nowel. New members welcome. **(Sue Lees)**

REFUSE COLLECTION - There has been a torrent of complaints about the new recycling and rubbish bins mainly due to their size and where spate of metal theft. Some lead particularly acute at Ewell Minnis in early January. Ken Hammond where the large lorries can't get access and some collections have temporary repair to keep the not been made. The District Councillor said there were 5 permanent people taking calls at DDC with a specialist company. Further queue of people waiting. It does look as though there was a lack of preventive measures put in place by the PCC and we planning and an avoidable problem are looking at restricting vehicle now has to be resolved.

PLANTING - After receiving a number of suggestions the easiest solution for planting the area at the bottom of Slip Lane is a ground cover plant and periwinkle has been suggested. Richard Tapsell is potting some vinca and if anybody else can do the same I'd be very pleased to receive them. **(editor)**

FENCING - In the fields at Ewell Minnis adjacent to Neck Wood somebody has been cutting the wire fences presumably to bypass the stiles. The land is farmed by Di Smith and there are bulls and rams in the fenced fields and if they get together mayhem will ensue. The police have been informed and hopefully arrests will follow.

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY We extend our profound sympathies to Maurice Sayer's family and great crowd of friends. Maurice was a founder member of the Society and our Chairman from the beginning - 1977 to 2012 - a telling record. Wise, kind, persevering and principled Maurice enriched our neighbourhood, helping conserve its essential character. Thank you, Maurice for your legacy, You will not be forgotten and will be tremendously missed. **(Jo Walker Sec)**

THE ANNUAL QUIZ will be in the village hall on the 11th February at 7.30pm. There are spaces on some tables so please ring me on 824969 if you'd like to join us. **(Brian)**

CHURCH LEAD THEFT - It is sad to report that St Anthony's has not been immune from the current metal theft. Some lead was taken from the church porch roof in early January. Ken Hammond and his son Alan have made a temporary repair to keep the church open whilst we await a permanent re-sheeting by a specialist company. Further preventive measures have been put in place by the PCC and we are looking at restricting vehicle access into the churchyard. In the meantime, please keep your eyes open and challenge any strangers acting suspiciously around the church. **(Geoff Gaskill)**

OFF-ROADERS - There has been a lot of complaints about the use of off-road vehicles on and off Pimlico Way. The latter is a byway which runs from South Alkham across the top to Slip Lane. Club off-road Europe has permission to use the land adjacent to Pimlico Way on the south side at agreed organised events but over the last year there has been a huge increase in off-road vehicles using the Pimlico area. Every Sunday Pimlico Way is used but if the vehicles are taxed and insured they can legally use the byway but not the adjacent land without the landowner's permission. At an event on the 27th December there were 36 such vehicles using the area and it was felt that damage was being caused to the byway and its edges and also to the land in general. Following representations at the Parish Council meeting they are going to pursue the matter as it does cause a lot of distress to adjacent homeowners and one avenue to be pursued will be whether in terms of planning the land used is fit for purpose.

SMALL car wanted - please ring Brian Croucher on 01304 820055.

JUMBLE SALE - On February 25th the W.I. are holding a jumble sale in the village hall starting at 11am.



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MAURICE SAYERS (1928-2012) – The service on the 16th January was to celebrate the life of Maurice and that is exactly what happened with over 300 people coming to St. Anthony's church. The service began with a eulogy by his son John which was touching and amusing; he said his father was a good man but a little bit naughty. There were tales of his exploits throughout his life mainly featuring rugby which was one of his passions, plus the associated partying afterwards. He captained and played for Dover Rugby Club finally ending up as president from 1990 to 2009. At the end of the John's eulogy there was spontaneous applause. A second eulogy was by John Ayling who went to school with Maurice. They were both evacuated to Ebbw Vale in WWII and unsurprisingly rugby featured again. John told many anecdotes about Maurice most of which were very funny and again finished with applause. The grandchildren then came to the lectern and each read part of a poem. Most people know about Maurice's working life as a solicitor at Stillwell and Harby and a leading character in Alkham but the service said all there was to say about him; a man with many friends and one who enjoyed his life to the full. The reception was at the Dover Rugby Club where no doubt a few pints were drunk in his memory.

BETTY NEELY (1926-2011) was a Lancashire lass who moved to Kent with her husband and lived for 52 years at a farm about a mile from the centre of Alkham called Mount Ararat. The door was always open and you could be sure that you would get a friendly welcome. Earlier in life Betty trained as a florist under Constance Spry and she put these talents to good use for the church often supplying the flowers herself. She had five children who in turn gave her 8 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. She was very active in the village and at various stages was a church warden at St. Anthony's, a Parish Councillor, W.I. secretary and a member of many committees. She was always at the fete, was a master at running a raffle and very persuasive on the phone when drumming up support for events. In 1998 she and three others collected money for the Millennium celebrations and as a result we have the badger sign on Vicarage Meadow and had a village party in the old Hogbrook barn. She was a generous and likeable person who will be greatly missed.

VIC (JOHN) WASH-NEAVE - Vic came to Ewell Minnis with his wife Edith 16 years ago. A very likeable and much respected man being well known in Ewell Minnis and Alkham village. Originally from Sevenoaks, West Kent, Vic joined the RAF in 1955 aspiring to becoming a pilot, however, health issues took him on another path within the service, becoming an electronics specialist in Research & Development. He became so proficient in this field that later, in his professional life, he was hired by the theatrical & entertainments profession by such celebrities as Paul Daniels to design and build the special effects equipment used in his business of magician. Vic saw much of the world whilst in the RAF and this passion for travel would stay with him throughout his life, even during his long illness he managed two world cruises with his ever devoted wife, Edith. Vic was such an interesting and intelligent man to converse with, that to pop in for a five minute chat on subjects as diverse as politics to engineering or Coy Carp, that five minutes invariably became one to two hours. Though always a busy man, he would always have time for friends and family a sincere and personable man, he had been a Freemason for many years at Deal; his popularity being demonstrated by a Freemason's guard of honour at his funeral comprising 125 Brothers. Sadly, following a long bravely suffered illness, Vic passed away during December 2011. He will be missed by all who knew him. A bright light has gone out in Ewell Minnis but his memory lives on. Our thoughts are with Edith at this sad time. **(Geoffrey Lymer)**

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MAURICE SAYERS - DIED 5TH JANUARY, 2012 - The village telegraph service is wonderful. When Maurice died, myself and the family couldn't believe it when cards and letters from everyone started to arrive immediately. It truly gave us all a great feeling of comfort that we had friends who really cared, and helped us tremendously. A big thank you to everyone for your support. Maurice would have been delighted to see all his friends, and there were some there I know he hadn't known for long, all honouring him with their presence. I myself was very touched indeed to see the Church so full, and will never forget the feeling it gave me. The Rev. Sue White conducted the service beautifully, with Ernest and Rachael playing the organ, and the choir gave the finishing touch to it all in that church with its lovely flowers. Myself, Jenny and Andrew, Patsy and Stephen and John and Angie wish to thank everyone, and there were many friends,- who helped to relieve our grief and make Maurice's funeral service a memorable one. **(Pamela Sayers)**

KRYS LATHAM who lives in Slip Lane and whose parents were Polish has written a book entitled 'Journey to the Baobab Tree'. It is the true story of two children's epic journey from Eastern Poland to Siberia, their escape to Persia and finally to Africa during World War Two. Alinka's family lived in a small river town in Eastern Poland where her father was the chief of police. Witek's father was a forest keeper in the remote forest regions bordering Russia. When the war began in September 1939, the Soviets, allied for the first two years of the war with the Nazis, invaded Eastern Poland and deported over one and a half million Polish people to the far ends of Soviet Union. Alinka and Witek, both ten years old at the time, were among those taken. A million died in the deportations. Against all odds, Witek and Alinka survived and escaped. The stories of those war years are narrated in the book, and tell of resourcefulness, faith and humour even in the darkest times. A few chapters are on her web site www.kryslatham.co.uk and if you would like to buy a copy of the book costing £9.99 please ring Krys on 01304 824089.

OZ on PALINDROMES – Whilst sifting ideas for this month's column I noticed that the date, 2.1.12, was a palindrome, that is to say something that reads the same forwards and backwards. There is an even better one coming, 21.02.2012., and many more occur later this year, depending on exactly how the dates are abbreviated. These are numeric examples, but the 17th century English playwright Ben Jonson originally derived the word 'palindrome' to describe words or phrases that read either way, from the Greek 'palin dromos' meaning 'again direction'. They are found in all languages and at all times, back to at least AD79, and are often associated with mystical beliefs. Two well-known English examples are "Madam, I'm Adam", and Leigh Mercer's "A man, a plan, a canal – Panama!" John Julius Norwich has collected palindromes for many years and included them in the 'Christmas Crackers' that he sends to friends each Christmas. They range from the elegant warning "Sex at noon taxes" to Roy Dean's "Senile's Reverie I' Reverse Lines", which is a poem consisting of 72 lines, each of which is a complete palindrome, and took Dean twenty years to compose. Among the longest palindromic English words are the Oxford English Dictionary's 'tattarrattat', coined by James Joyce in Ulysses to represent a knock at the door, and 'detartrated' meaning cleaned of tartar, in the Guinness Book of Records. Guinness also gives the 19-letter Finnish word 'saippuakivikauppias' meaning 'soapstone vendor', as the world's longest palindromic word. Finally, Wikipedia tells me that two complete English palindromic novels have been published: Veritas by David Stephen, 1980, (58,795 letters), and Dr Awkward & Olson in Oslo by Lawrence Levine, 1986, (31,954 words). Perhaps the next challenge should be the longest palindromic novel with numbers of letters, words and publication date all being palindromic. **(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

Tuesday	7	White Cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm
Saturday	11	Annual quiz in village hall starts 7.30pm
Tuesday	14	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	18	W.I. jumble 11am & SEKAS 7-10pm in village hall
Monday	16	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	25	Beekeepers in village hall from 2 to 5pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5 th	Evensong 4.30pm	Eucharist 9.00am	W.T. 11 a.m.
Sunday 12 th	Eucharist 9.00am	W.T. 11 a.m.	
Sunday 19 th	Family Service 11a.m.	Evensong 6 p.m.	Eucharist 9.00
February 22 nd	Ash Wednesday -7 p.m. Sung Eucharist at Alkham		
Sunday 26 th	Joint Benefice 10.00 at Capel		
Weekday Services: Wednesday Eucharist 9.15 am St Radigund, Capel-Le-Ferne			

From the Vicarage - February will be upon us by the time you read this but already the daffodils and crocus are appearing in the garden. Nature really is wonderful, this morning was our first real frost and as I drove to Dover the frost patterns on the bushes and trees were a sight to behold. Granted I was sitting in the warmth and comfort of the car but I did see one intrepid runner in shorts! The boys and I have had some lovely walks in the Warren and we have met up with another Bischon called 'Bobby'. It's great fun to see the two little white dogs playing together, they are very much into wrestling, standing up face to face until one or the other topples over. It never fails to surprise me just how accepting dogs are of each other, we rarely meet antisocial dogs and both Rolo and Bob are always keen to make friends. It would be nice if we could be as accepting of others but that openness seems to desert us as we grow up. It is there when we are young, I remember shortly after we were married and had moved into our first home there was a knock at the door. The little boy from the flat next door stood there, 'I's Robert. Can your boy come out to play?' he asked, pointing to my husband. The Church Wardens are preparing for my departure as they will be responsible for the church buildings and for the maintenance of the services in each church. They will call upon other clergy and our Authorised Lay Ministers, Theda Mulloy, Helen Scopes and Keith Hughes will play their part. The Church Hall in Capel has been revamped and is looking very trim and the solar panels in Alkham are generating cash regularly, and in Church Hougham we shall have the Quilt Festival in September. There's a great deal happening this year. **Sue White 01303 240539**

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Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791
alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net

Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635

Police – 999 & 101

Alkham web site www.alkham.org

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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HAVE SOME JUBILEE FUN and put June 4th in your diary! Come along to a diamond jubilee village lunch party at 1pm on Vicarage Meadow (village hall if wet). Bring your own food and drink to share, and then join in some good old fashioned races and competitions. More details will be announced nearer the time. **(Linda Gaskill - FOSA)**

TONY BARROW – I would like to thank all residents of Alkham who sent sympathy cards and flowers and also helped on the day of Tony's funeral. In particular I would like to thank Shirley Prince and family for all their hard work in preparing the food and Shirley in particular for all the beautiful flowers. Also I must thank Sue White for the church service and others who helped on the day. Tony is now resting in peace in the valley that he loved. **(Janet Barrow)**

THE ANNUAL QUIZ seemed to go well again with 12 tables filling the hall. The winners were on a table led by Rachel Fountain who lives in the west side of the village. There was a tie for second place between the team from Newlyn's Meadow and the one from Ellinge. On a tie-breaker question Newlyn's answered first and was declared second. The winners each received a bottle of wine and the runners up a can of double measure spirit and mixer. A profit of £400 was made and this is being split equally between the Friends of St Anthony and the Alzheimer Society.

BOOK CLUB - The next book club meeting will be on Wednesday 28th March at the home of Avi Munn, Poems, Short Lane, Alkham Tel 01304 829484 starting at 7.30. The book for discussion will be *The Stranger's Child* by Alan Hollinghurst. For more information about the village book club contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

BROADBAND – KCC have a commitment to get better broad-band for communities in Kent and hope to get 2Mb for everyone by 2015. KCC and the Government are investing over £20 million to help make this happen. However, to achieve this they need broad-band providers to invest and demonstrate the demand for better broadband. The greater the demand, the more broadband providers will be prepared to invest in Kent. It only takes five minutes to register your demand and it could make a great difference, so please register now and encourage your neighbours to get involved as well. The link to register is:



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I TOOK my racing car to South Africa again in January for two events near Johannesburg and Capetown. The car is as built for LeMans and International racing in the late 1960s and is powered by a 1.7 litre Ford engine so is only competitive in the lower classes. The two meetings offered three sprint races and two 45 minute races competing against GT40s, Porsche 917s, McLaren and Lola cars and I managed to win my class for the overall trophy. Racing in South Africa is very enjoyable as the whole scene is relaxed compared to here and of course a break from our winter weather is very welcome. I raced in 40degrees on Sunday and arrived home the following Tuesday to have to dig the car out of the snow. **(Barry Sheppard - Alkham)**

FULLY FUNDED COURSE 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 7th and Thursday 8th March 2012. Lunch and refreshments are included free of charge, and travel expenses can be reimbursed. If you would like to book a place, please contact Karen at the Volunteer Centre on 01304 367898 or email office@doverdistrictvolunteering.org.uk

GARDEN TALK - Hopefully signs of spring will be well on their way for our next Meeting on Friday 16th March at South Alkham Farm when our hosts will be Maureen & Roland Brown. You don't have to be an expert gardener to join us! Lots of chat, mostly about gardening. We aim to start around 7.30p.m. Parking to rear of farmhouse, first gate on left after turning into Meggett Lane. **(Janet Adamson)**

A JUMBLE SALE will be held in the village hall in aid of PCC here and of course a break from our winter weather is very welcome. I at 11.00am.

THE JUMBLE SALE held by the W.I. on the 18th February went very well and raised £104.



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WINDMILLS – John Richards, who was born in Alkham, sent me a photo of his aunt Winnie standing in front of a windmill. He thinks the mill was between Lower Standen and Hawkinge and most probably in the parish. Hawkinge was a small village just north of Standen crossroads but the name is now applied to the larger conurbation that used to be called Uphill. Another picture of the mill was found on the University of Kent web site and it looks a bit different. However it was a smock windmill where only the top revolves, so it is possible they are the same but with a different top. The web picture was taken in 1940 and shows the Alkham valley in the background but the mill has now gone. There was also a mill at Drellingore but this was dismantled in the early part of the 19th century and taken to Ringwould (Ripple mill) and another windmill at Uphill (now Hawkinge) on Mill Lane



by the school, was demolished in the recent past. Sue Lees thinks there may have been a windmill at the top of Common Hill (opposite Slip Lane) but there are no records. If anyone has any further information please let us know. **(editor)**

SHEPWAY LIFELINE was established in 1982 to give added security to residents in the Shepway area and since that time has grown into a telecare service provider with clients throughout Kent. Lifeline is a fully accredited and innovative 24/7 monitoring centre supplying all facets of telecare alarms, including care and security solutions for vulnerable individuals, lone workers and local businesses. The service is run from a control centre in the Civic Centre in Folkestone. There is also a team of mobile engineers that travel to wherever they are needed in the county. Shepway Lifeline is a not-for profit service working alongside care and health services and Kent Police to provide community alarms and public safety. The primary product is the Lifeline alarm. The high quality standards coupled with the lowest prices in Kent (**still under £3.00 per week**) remains the secret of its success. If you are interested in having a Lifeline or, if you know somebody that would benefit from this service, we would like to hear from you. We will happily visit the potential service user, give them a free demonstration and if it is acceptable, we can leave the alarm in place and them protected immediately. Please contact us as follows: - Phone - (01303) 242615 or 242971: Address - Shepway Lifeline, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT202QY: Email lifeline.proactive@shepway.gov.uk or see web site www.shepway.gov.uk/lifeline.

ALKHAM W.I. – The February meeting had an excellent talk by Sandra Noel who showed superb photographs taken by her grandfather Captain John Noel who was a premier climber of mount Everest. Next month's talk is about fashion and ration. New members are always welcome to join whether they live in the parish or outside.

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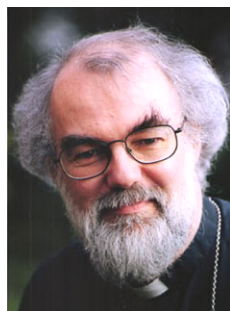
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OZ on BITTERNS – It was pleasing to read recently that Britain's bittern population is recovering, after a century of near extinction. The Great Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*) is related to the Grey Heron, but lacks the heron's elegance, being large, plain, brown and very shy. It is identifiable by its repeated booming that has the lowest frequency of any other birdcall, and sometimes likened to the sound of someone blowing into an empty bottle. For this reason the bittern is often known as 'boomer', 'bottle bump', and 'bull o' the bog', amongst many other alliterative names. Because of its pathological shyness, the bittern is rarely seen. I saw one only once, at Minsmere in Suffolk, on my birthday ten years ago. We entered the Bittern Hide before lunch, fully expecting a long wait, or more probably no sighting at all. After only twenty minutes, a great shout went up and there was a loud thump as the bittern hit the reed bed below us. Much later came the sonorous booming that confirmed the bird's arrival. Humans have hunted bitterns from Neolithic times, particularly over the last two millennia. In the Middle Ages, bittern was a popular dish amongst aristocracy and the merchant classes, and in the 18th and 19th centuries many bitterns were killed by taxidermists. The final blow was the draining of the wetlands, and bitterns were nearly extinct by 1900. Over the next 50 years numbers rose, fluctuated, and fell again, to just 11 in 1997. Faced with threats from salt water flooding freshwater areas such as Minsmere, the bittern has now attracted funding from the European Union, and the RSPB is building new inland nesting areas, for example at Lakenheath in Sussex. The number of bitterns in Britain is now over 100 and rising, mostly in Southern England. **(Steve Osborn)**

FROM THE VICARAGE - I'm writing this following the visit of the Archbishop Rowan to the Benefice to celebrate and to preach on Sunday 12th February. The Baptist Fellowship with Pastor Colin Patience joined us which was a pleasure as there are so many activities which we are engaged in together. Do take a look at the pictures which Tony Bentham took which are on www.villageyak.co.uk (in search option type 'archbishop'). For the 110 plus people who were there it was a real celebration and an opportunity to speak with the Archbishop and pose for photos!



I was told by Dick Salmon, our churchwarden, that this was the first time an Archbishop had visited the Benefice. As we go into the season of Lent (purple on the altar and on my stole) we enter a time of reflection and anticipation of all that Easter means. The realities of life mean that we have to cope with both joyful and troubling times and like the weather we cannot choose when to have the sunshine or the storms. There are many who look back on past Lents as being the time they were exhorted to 'give up' sweets, chocolates, biscuits. It took me a long time to understand what giving up sweets had to do with Easter. Did it mean a bigger Easter egg or more of them? I have to say that as far as Bob the Bischon is concerned the last thing he would ever do is give up any item of food, in fact if you do give up sweets, chocolate, cakes, he'll eat them for you! But maybe we should be thinking of doing something extra, taking the children out for a nature ramble rather than sitting on the computer; doing a regular stint in a charity shop or taking an elderly neighbour shopping. We shall be looking at environmental issues as our bible study for Lent and it may well provoke us to consider how we can better protect the beautiful environment in which we live. We all of us need to take time to reflect on our life style and consider the choices we have. If you need Bob's help just let me know! **Sue White**
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Saturday	10	South East Kent Astronomical Society 7 to 10pm
Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	17	PCC Jumble sale 11.00am
Monday	19	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	31	Beekeepers in village hall from 2 to 5pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4th	4.30 p.m. Taise Service		10am Joint Benefice
Sunday 11th		10 a.m. Joint Benefice	
Sunday 18th	10 a.m. Joint Benefice	6 p.m. Service of Healing	
Sunday 25th			10am Joint Benefice

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THE ENVIRONMENT is the theme for the Benefice 2012 Lent Course to be held on Thursday afternoons at St Radigund's, Capel starting on 23rd February. Over four weeks it is an opportunity to learn, discuss and reflect on the relationship between Christian faith and our fragile earth. We plan to finish it off with a candlelit supper on 31st March to mark Earth Hour. To find out more and book a place call Geoff or Linda on 823100.

THE EASTER LILY for many is the beautiful trumpet shaped white flower symbolizing purity, virtue, innocence, hope and life; the Spiritual Essence of Easter. For the last couple of years during Easter, the flower ladies of St Anthony's Church have invited you to purchase an Easter Lily in honour or memory of a loved one. Each lily is then used to help decorate St Anthony's Church for our Easter Sunday Celebration. Each Lily cost £3.50 and you can place an order by sending a Cheque made payable to "Alkham Flower Club". Please put the name (s) of those you wish to commemorate and the amount and return to me Rosie Hansraj, Rose Cottage, Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DB. For more information please telephone 01304 822585.

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will present a performance of Mendelssohn's Elijah at 7.30 pm on Saturday 24th March in Dover Town Hall. The 100-strong chorus, together with professional soloists and a choir of Angels from the Dover Grammar School for Girls and The Connaught Orchestra. Tickets costing £12 (Students £6) are available from Dover Tourist Information Centre (next to the Town Hall), members of Dover Choral 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)**

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email brianwimsett@hotmail.com

Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791

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

No. 222 April 2012

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SAVE THE ALKHAM FETE! There will be a Fete Committee meeting on 4th April at 8 pm in the Village Hall; the first topic for discussion will be whether there is sufficient support to actually have the Fete this year; the AGM was very poorly attended and without a reasonable core of people to share the work before and on the day we will not be able to continue having an Annual Fete. If you are willing to help, please come along to the meeting, or if you really cannot attend, let me or Irene Barnard or Clive Batcheldor know in advance. It would be a shame to break over forty years of tradition, but without the support of the village we will not be able to continue. **Paul Tapsell (01303 892082)**

THE QUEEN'S Diamond Jubilee Community Tea Party - The Chairman of Dover District Council, Councillor Sue Nicholas is holding a Community Tea Party for residents of the district to come together and reminisce about their memories of the Queen ascending to the throne. The event is on Thurs 10th May at the Town Hall from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. There are 4 tickets available for Alkham parishioners, so if you would like to attend please contact Angela on 824791 before 16th April. The tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis, so if you fancy sharing your own memories of the Queens coronation whilst enjoying afternoon tea, please get in touch as soon as possible. Thank you. **Angela - Clerk to Alkham Parish Council**

MAX WALKER - It is sad to report that Max died on the 10th March at the age of 77. He and his wife have lived in Rectory Cottage on Slip Lane for some years having returned from South Africa where Max practiced as an architect. Our sympathies go to his wife Jo, family and friends.... **And Jo would like to thank everyone for their support and kindness at this difficult time.**



THE PICTURE shows the bend at Drellingore on the Alkham Valley Road where it appears as though someone has stolen the large aluminium chevron boards. Surrey are replacing boards with plastic or fibre glass based signs because of this problem.

A Town Unearthed: Folkestone before 1500 - The Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 2nd April at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. We are pleased to let you know that our guest speaker will be Dr Andrew Richardson from 'A Town Unearthed' which is a 3 year community archaeology project to unearth and record Folkestone's early history. Please come along and listen to his presentation on this very interesting local topic and enjoy some refreshments afterwards. We look forward to seeing you there! **Angela - Clerk to Alkham Parish Council**

WANTED - Easter egg hunters and gardeners! We will be having our annual Easter Garden competition and Easter Egg Hunt at the 9 am service at St Anthony's on Easter Day, 8th April. This will also be Revd Sue's last service as our vicar, so it would be great to have as many of you as possible to say goodbye. Please make your Easter gardens on a tray to bring up to church for us all to enjoy. **Geoff Gaskill**

DR ALLAN GRAEME BUNDY sadly died on the 19th February and Steve Osborn (OZ) will write about his very interesting life in next month's Newsletter

ST ANTHONY'S GUITAR

CONCERT 14th April at 6:30. For the third successive year Jimmy D'Alton Bellas is bringing his past and present students back to St Anthony's for another Spring Evening Guitar Concert. He has also managed to obtain the services once again of Grant Dowse who is now performing at the highest professional level and is eager to perform in the beautiful setting of St Anthony's once again. Tickets are £7.50 from Den (824845) or Brian (824969).

Den Barnard

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB Our season starts on 22nd April away at Northbourne with the first home game on the 29th against River Woodpeckers; we are also hoping to run some mid-week nets sessions on Wednesdays on the Meadow from mid May (weather permitting). If you are interested in playing or training, whether regularly or occasionally, please contact Peter Frater (01304 820067) or Paul Tapsell (01303 892082). I'm waiting for confirmation that Peter's happy to have his home number in the newsletter (in case of stalkers - it often happens with famous sportsmen!), but I hope we won't need to blank his number out!

THE VILLAGE HALL is run by a committee and new members are needed. Anyone over the age of 18 who lives in the parish can put themselves forward to be a member at the AGM, which will be held on the 24th April in the village hall starting at 7.00pm. If you would like to express an interest before that time please phone Sue Lees on 822661.



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THE JUST REPROACH - Situated in King Street, Deal, this is the name of the latest micropub to open in Kent and is run by Mark Robson and daughter Bronwen who moved from Alkham a couple of years ago. Mark has always had a keen interest in real ales and after a visit to The Butcher's Arms in Herne Village he decided to give up a 20 year career as head teacher working with pupils with autism to open The Just Reproach with Bronwen. It was launched in

December and has already a large nucleus of regulars enjoying a wide selection of real ales from microbreweries across the country and Kentish breweries in particular. In addition to real ales, red and white house wines and soft drinks are also available. In line with the philosophy behind the micropub movement, there is no music, no fruit machines or television and mobile phone conversations are forbidden! Mark and Bronwen are looking forward to meeting all old friends and neighbours at the earliest opportunity. They are closed all Monday and open 12:00 – 14:00 and 17:00 – 21:00 Tuesday to Thursday with later closing at 23:00 on Friday and Saturday. Visit their web site www.thejustreproach.co.uk. **Den Barnard**



DRAMA IN SLIP LANE – The case of the missing lady. In the spring of 1957 I was an 8 year old living at Malmaims Cottage (formerly 'Bletchley') in Slip Lane. One evening my parents, Harold and Margaret, had gone to bed somewhat later than usual when about midnight they heard a car stop outside our house. Now in 1957 it was quite unusual to hear a car go up the lane in the evening and my parents were not expecting any visitors at that hour. My father got up and pulled aside the curtain and saw to his amazement some men pulling something through the hedge of the Manor gardens opposite our house and loading it into a car. At first my parents thought it might be a cow. At the time the field behind the Manor gardens was used by local farmer George Kirby (my uncle) to graze his cows and even in 1957 a cow was quite a valuable thing. My father immediately noticed another man standing on the steps leading up to our front gate. The thought occurred to him to switch on our outside light but thought better of this in case the man was armed. We later found out that two further vehicles were positioned at the top of the lane and at the bottom by the shop, presumably to stop any vehicle which might appear whilst the gang were carrying out the robbery. The car departed and of course my parents hardly slept a wink after the theft. At 5.30 next morning my father went to the home of the village policeman (what were they!) to report the crime after realising what they had taken was not a cow but a lead statue of a (Greek?) lady from the Manor gardens then owned by a Mrs. French. The policeman's reaction was 'oh we'll never find that now, it will already be up in London and melted down!'. We heard nothing more of this crime but have often told the story in our family. **Robert Ferguson**

THE BYWAY which runs from South Alkham and across the top to Slip Lane used to have three houses by the side of it at a place called Pimlico. The line of the byway has been altered over the years and a hole appeared in the track where the houses used to be. At the top the hole was about a metre wide and quite deep. It is thought that it was either the site of a well or an old cellar and the hole has now been filled in.

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FAREWELL TO SUE AND RICHARD - We are planning a farewell party for Sue and Richard on Easter Monday, 9th April, which will be held in Capel Church Hall from 6.00pm. Everybody in the Benefice will be very welcome to come along and share in the evening. A 'co-ordinator' has been appointed for each village and I have been delegated for Alkham to organise our share of the food, etc., for the supper. If anyone would like to donate a favourite dish or dessert, salad etc., or can offer help in any way it would be very helpful if you could let me know as soon as possible. It would also be helpful from the catering point of view if we could have an idea of the numbers. My telephone number is 820701. **Marion Banks-Nash**

ALKHAM W.I. - Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the speaker, Judi Knight. She had a genuine exhibition of WW11 clothes and told the tale of how the problem started in the War with Ration Books and how that problem continued for several years after the War. Although president, Helen Scopes has made a 'Queen's Crown' for a Group Meeting competition, any other member can make one too and bring it to the next WI meeting. That meeting on 10th April is also to be a competition for all members, if they wish to. Everyone is asked to dress up in second hand clothes, preferably purchased at a Charity Shop. **Sue Lees**

THE BOOK CLUB meeting for Wednesday 25th April will be hosted by Susannah Tapsell at Bramhall, Alkham Valley road (01304 822295) commencing at 7.30. The book for discussion is The Uncommon Reader by Alan Bennett. For more information contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729

GARDEN TALK - Our next Meeting is a visit to see the delightful garden of Richard and Susannah Tapsell. We meet at 'Bramhall', Alkham Valley Road from 7.00p.m. All welcome to join us for an enjoyable evening of viewing and chatting. Details of the year's programme available from Janet Adamson 01303 893413.

THE RESIDENTS of Green Lane, Ewell Minnis, would like to thank John Huggins for clearing the snow with his tractor snowplough such that they could get their cars out. Green Lane is a mainly unmade road running from the Minnis to the top of the hill above Slip Lane.

OZ ON SANDWICH – Having recently rediscovered the account of how, in April 1762, John Montagu, the 4th Earl of Sandwich, invented the humble sandwich, I thought that it would be amusing to present it here and now as a 250th anniversary. The story goes that Montagu was in the habit, while playing cards, of eating meat wrapped in bread, to save time and avoid making the cards greasy, and his playmates would call for "The same as Sandwich!" That much, recorded in Edward Gibbon's Journal, is probably true, but this method of eating was first recorded well over 2,000 years ago, when Hillel the Elder, a Jewish sage, used to place lamb and herbs between two slices of matzah at Passover. In Britain during the Middle Ages, thick slabs of bread, called 'trenchers' (from Old French 'tranchier' to cut), were cut and used as plates. When the meal was over, the trencher, together with left-over food, was either eaten by the diner, often with sauce, given to the poor, or fed to the dogs. 'Trencher' in turn gives rise to the beautifully trenchant word 'trencherman' for someone enthusiastically addicted to food and drink. Similar customs were noted by the English naturalist John Ray in 1673 in the Netherlands, when he described how Dutch drinkers ate beef, between slices of bread and butter, in their taverns. In 19th century Europe, as the Industrial Revolution gathered momentum, the sandwich became widespread as a convenient, cheap and fast meal. Its popularity continues into today's Sloppy Joes, BLTs and Subs, alongside the still-loved traditional 'butties' and 'sarnies'. So although the Earl of Sandwich didn't actually invent the sandwich, his title did much to enrich the language with such descriptive phrases as 'to sandwich', 'sandwich-boards', 'sandwich construction', 'sandwich course', 'sandwich-man' and 'sandwich technique'. **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	2	Annual Parish meeting in village hall at 7.30pm
Tuesday	3	White Cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm
Wednesday	4	Fete meeting in village hall 8.00pm
Tuesday	10	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	14	South East Kent Astronomical Society 7 to 10pm
Monday	16	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	24	Village Hall AGM 7.00pm in village hall

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1st	Joint Benefice 10am		Songs of P 5pm VH
Thursday 5th		Eucharist 7p.m.	
Friday 6th	Meditation 12-1p.m.	Meditation 2-3p.m.	Meditation 2-3pm
Sunday 8th	Sung Eucharist 9am	Sung Eucharist 11.30am	Eucharist 10.15am
Sunday 15th	Family Worship 11 a.m.	Evensong 6.00 p.m.	Eucharist 9.00 a.m.
Sunday 22nd	Joint Benefice 10.a.m.		
Sunday 29th	Joint Benefice at St. Mary's at 10 a.m.		

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

From the Vicarage - The weeks are flying by and there is still so much to do. I've started to clear things out and am well on the way to having a long term friendship with the men who man the Hawkinge site. They have willingly unloaded the van and sent me in the right direction for unwanted batteries, general rubbish, hardcore and wood! Why didn't I start this before I even knew I might be moving! We all know we need to clear out things but there are very few of us who can do it ruthlessly and systematically. But now I've started I'll continue. Thank goodness for friends who can make use of books, I hate throwing them out even when I know I won't be returning to them; for the Rainbow Op shop which took our son's fancy dress clothes from Uni, he won't want them again. It's a very appropriate time for me to be sorting things out for Christians are asked to reflect during Lent on the way they live. On Easter Day we will celebrate the risen Lord Jesus at each church. It will be a celebration that will be tinged with sadness because it is always hard to say farewell to friends but I am thankful for all that has been given to me over the past four years. This has been my first incumbency and I have learnt because you have been generous enough to allow me to do that. I thank you for the times I have 'done it for the first time' and you have told me it was 'well done'. Thank you for encouraging me. We haven't told Rolo and Bob that they are moving but I am sure that they sense something is afoot. Bob surpassed himself when we went out yesterday. Our suppers were defrosting in what I assumed was a safe place, I was wrong. Bob had eaten both and could barely move but Rolo was pleased to see us! **Sue White 01303 240539**

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SPRING LAMBS – A couple in the parish have recently acquired some rare breed sheep. On the 8th April they proudly found, with the aid of a torch, that their first two Shetland lambs had been born, which were then taken to the shelter of the barn.

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Plans for the Jubilee lunch party on June 4th at 1pm on Vicarage Meadow are underway. Everyone is welcome! Bring food to share, something to drink and don't forget your plates and cutlery. Old fashioned races will be held for young and old. There will be a Jubilee hat competition with the theme: red, white and blue.... surprise, surprise, so get cracking. ! We will be buying mugs for village children to commemorate the event so if you would like your child to receive one, please email lindagaskill@btinternet.com with your name, address and child's name. To allow us to plan effectively please email Linda (above) or Den at denbarnard@yahoo.com. **Linda Gaskill**

FARMERS MARKET – The Marquis would like to know if there would be any interest in holding a Farmers Market in their car park. They would be happy to organise it if people were going to spend some money at the market so please let them know either by popping in or contacting them on 01304 873410 or ben@themarquisatalkham.co.uk

ALKHAM FETE - At the meeting on Wednesday 4th April it was decided that because of the various Jubilee and Olympic events that would be occurring in the village (and elsewhere) it would be sensible not to have a Fete this year; however I would ask you all to mark Saturday 13th July 2013 in your diaries now as the Fete will be back (with a vengeance) next year! I understand from the Dover and Folkestone papers, who ran a couple of very entertaining "Fete in Crisis Talks" articles, that the Glastonbury Festival has made the same decision. I would like to thank everyone who came along to the meeting on the 4th or called me after seeing the last newsletter (or the items in the Newspapers!); I am sure we can look forward to a very rosy future with such loyal and committed helpers. **Paul Tapsell**

OIL THEFT - Some time on the 21st March after a delivery of 1000 litres of fuel oil was made to a house in the parish the oil was stolen. The police say that there have been no similar incidents in the area recently, but it would be as well if people were made aware of the theft.

NEWSLETTER – I would like to thank Larry Lambourne for delivering the Newsletter to the houses at Hockley Sole, Lower Standen and Drellingore for so many years. It is a difficult round to do and quite understandably he has now decided to call it a day. **Editor**

THE MARQUIS won Kent restaurant of the year at a recent awards ceremony held by Produced in Kent. They are also offering bar snacks plus afternoon tea every day from 2.30 – 5pm on their terrace with a 10% discount for Alkham residents if they use their 10% off cards (details from the Marquis).

THE GREAT BRITISH MENU on BBC2 is a competition to create a menu for the London 2012 Olympic Games. The chef at the Marquis, Charlie Lakin, is representing the north east of England and also the Marquis. The programme has started and Charlie's round is in the week 23rd to 27th of April.

THE ANNUAL PARISH meeting on the 2nd April was quite well attended. A very interesting talk was given by Dr. Andrew Richardson about works at the East Cliff in Folkestone to uncover a Roman Villa. In fact two were found plus a major iron age industrial site which is of national importance. If you'd like further details please contact me. **Editor**

A ROOM is wanted by the Marquis for one of its staff. Please contact Ben on 01304 873410 (07921331508) or email ben@themarquisatalkham.co.uk if you can help.

The Friends of St Anthony's started three years ago purely to raise money for repairs and maintenance of our beautiful parish church. The committee now feel that we need to expand the team so if you are interested in joining the Friends Committee please contact any of the current committee members: Brian Wimsett, Rosemary Heddle, Rosie Hansraj, Val Fowler, Linda Gaskill or Den Barnard. **(Den Barnard)**

THE BOOK CLUB meeting for Wednesday 30th May will be at the home of Helen Price, Meggett Farm, Meggett Lane Alkham 01303 252764 .The book for discussion is Birds Without Wings by Louis de Bernieres. The meeting starts at 7.30p.m. For more details please ring Jane Aslett on 01304 824729.



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1901 FIRE - At 7.30am a fire broke out at Everden Farm, Alkham and a messenger was dispatched to the headquarters of the Folkestone fire brigade. The three horse steamer was immediately sent but owing to the long-standing complaint of using inferior horses one had to be abandoned by the road and the others arrived at walking pace at 9.00am. Water was at once poured on the flames, being drawn from a pond in the yard but despite exertions the fire was not under control until 5.00pm. A ten stall stable, two sheds and a barn were destroyed. The outbreak was caused by a farm-hand leaving a burning lantern and the damage was estimated to be about £1000 (£100,000 today). *This story is from a local paper in the archives held by Sue Lees.*

GUITAR CONCERT - For the third year running this was another tremendous success. Each year, Jimmy D'Alton Bellas organises this concert which features a selection of his current guitar pupils together with some of his past, now professional, star students. Jimmy takes part himself and also has invited guests. This year Emily Renshaw returned with Tim Kidd singing unaccompanied with such quality that at least two members of the audience were reduced to tears. Grant McFarlane Dowse, who now regularly plays at all the big music festivals, again stunned the audience with his ability and interpretation. Alice Thompson on flute finished the evening with some beautiful flute solos then joined Grant with some guitar/flute duos. Each year the church has been filled to capacity for these concerts, a great tribute to Jimmy. All proceeds go to the Friends of St Anthony's. **(Den Barnard)**

AIR AMBULANCE – There is a petition to encourage the Government to exempt Air Ambulance services from duty on the fuel they use, in the same way as the Lifeboats (RNLI) are exempt. If 100,000 signatures are gained, Parliament is duty bound to debate the issue - currently there is over 15,000 signatures. To sign the petition please log on to <http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/29349>.

GARDEN TALK - On Friday 18th May we visit Box Tree Cottage in Slip Lane (white picket fence) where our host is Pam Sayers. A chance to view the extensive garden and discuss lots of gardening topics in convivial company. All welcome from 7.30p.m. **Janet Adamson**

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY 2012 started in a sad way as our chairman Maurice Sayers passed away. The society started in the mid '70s as a reaction to the devastation of hedgerows and woodland by a farmer determined to gain as much open space as possible despite breaking the law and some of the land being completely unsuitable for crops. The society was very active in restraining the man's activities with protests and requiring tree preservation orders. The man moved away to north Kent and subsequently served a prison sentence for similar activity in that locality. Maurice became chairman when the society was formally set up in 1977 and, apart from a ten year period, remained in that position throughout. We are now moving into a new era with Maurice's enthusiasm for our area as a guide we will be able to respond to any development or behaviour considered unsuitable by our many members acting as an independent voice with their backing. It can be the case that we can speak more freely than the Parish Council and certainly add our support to it when the occasion arises. We are seeking a new chairman and will let you know the successful candidate in due course. In the meantime your subscriptions (£1 per member) or donations are most welcome, to any committee member, I expect you know one of them; Martin and Rosemary Heddle, Marion Banks -Nash, Jo Walker, Val Fowler, Mike Ross or to Barry Sheppard, Honorary Treasurer, Ellinge House, Alkham, CT15 7EG

MASSAGE AND SPA DAY in Temple Ewell Village Hall 12.30-6.30pm on Monday the 21st May. Phone Wendy Duncan on 01304 830371 or visit www.orangeblossomspa.co.uk

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OZ on BUNDY - When my wife died two years ago, the first friends at the door with condolences were the Bundys. It was typical of 30 years of kindness from them, and so I welcome the opportunity to assist Ruth in writing this tribute to Allan. **Steve Osborn**

DR ALLAN GRAEME BUNDY, a greatly loved husband, father, grandfather, and GP in Dover for over 30 years, passed away quietly on 19th February, aged 82, after a full and adventurous life. Born in Golders Green, London, Allan attended school in Battle and Harrow and, after military service, studied medicine at St George's, London, tropical medicine in Liverpool, and industrial medicine in Dundee and Aberdeen. His love of adventure took him to West Africa, where he lived amongst the people, learning their culture and researching rare tropical diseases. He was a 'David Attenborough' of sorts and even resembled him in looks. Allan also worked in Guyana, South America, at Mackenzie Hospital and the Bauxite Company. In the 1960s he helped prevent a major malaria epidemic by reporting increasing numbers of cases to the government. Back in England to study gynaecology, Allan met Margaretta in Newbury, Berkshire, where she worked as a nurse. They married and returned to Guyana, where Allan adopted Andrew, and they went on to have three more children, Christopher, Ruth and Richard. With his young family Allan moved to Saskatchewan and Alberta, Canada, where his adventures continued; visiting patients by water-plane and skidoo, and dealing with bears, forest fires and heavy snowfall. On returning to England, Allan worked at William Harvey Hospital, Ashford, and Buckland Hospital, Dover, until he joined the Maison Dieu Surgery as a GP. He was later the co-founder of Pencerter Surgery in Dover, and practised forensic medicine as a police surgeon across Kent, until his work was abruptly interrupted by the first of a number of strokes. Allan loved the countryside, especially the Alkham Valley where he and his family lived for over 30 years. He enjoyed farming and keeping sheep, aided by friends, and shared a passion for music with his whole family, particularly in supporting Margaretta in her singing with Dover Choral Society. Throughout his life he maintained his eloquence and humour, the quintessential English gentleman, and will be remembered for his kindness, interest and concern for others and his upbeat and adventurous way of life. **Ruth Marczin-Bundy and Steve Osborn**

SOLAR PANELS - Sunday 13th May promises to be sunny in more ways than one. St Anthony's church will be celebrating the successful commissioning of its solar panel system with a special service conducted by the Bishop of Dover, Trevor Willmott. All are welcome to this service which starts at 10am, followed by refreshments in the Village Hall. **Geoff Gaskill**

AFTER BELL PRACTICE in the church Geoff drove the short distance home and was a bit concerned about the change in the weather and poor visibility. Ken also returned home and watched television but couldn't settle. Geoff later phoned Ken and after a short chat they arranged a meeting and glasses were exchanged.

ALKHAM W.I. - Helen Scopes (President) is the only member to make a 'Crown' for the Jubilee Competition at the next W.I. Group Meeting - we all hope she wins. Cherry Leppard has booked an outing to Southend on a paddle steamer boat from Kingsmead for 9th August. Susannah Tapsell ran the entertainment for the April meeting - members displaying themselves in clothes bought at charity shops. A great display, the winner was Grace Stacey who was truly elegant. A meeting will be held at Pam Sayers home on 15th May to discuss the agenda for the 2013 programme, all welcome. The next monthly meeting will be on 8th May - mainly held to discuss W.I. Resolutions. **(Sue Lees)**

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County Councillor, Bryan Cope 206510
District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187

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	1	White Cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Tuesday	8	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	12	South East Kent Astronomical Society 7 to 10pm
Monday	14	Parish Council meeting in village hall – all welcome
Monday	21	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6th	Evensong 6.30	Eucharist 9.00	Worship 11a.m.
Sunday 13th	Joint Benefice Eucharist 10.00 - Bishop Trevor at Alkham		
Thursday 17th	Joint Benefice Eucharist Hougham 7 p.m.		
Sunday 20th	10.30 All Parishes with River and River Methodists to St.		
Sunday 27th	Joint Benefice Eucharist 10.00a.m at Hougham		

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

FROM THE VICARAGE - This is my last note to you all. It's been a privilege to have served you for the past four years and I shall be visiting, already there are dates in my diary for the Friday evening events at St. Radigund's, the Quilt Festival at St. Lawrence and the weddings at St. Anthony's. As I look back I recall the many occasions when there has been much laughter and joy which has included everyone. The wedding where the ring was so tight there was no way that bridegroom would ever get it off and the bride's determination to push it on! The baptism where the two year was delighted to be the centre of attention and decided that he could do my job, no problem, and proceeded to splash all his family and include them in the service and of course the assemblies that I took at the school. The children were amazing and for my final assembly we sang the Caribbean 'Our Father' and we all kept time. I won't say we were all in tune as my singing is unreliable at the best of times. But what I will always remember is the way that everyone became involved in the Christmas Shoebox appeal. Pastor Colin and the Baptists started it and before long everyone in all the villages was playing their part and doing what they could to ensure that as many children as possible in Eastern Europe had a Christmas present. Loving our neighbours even when we don't know them. But I want to say thank you to you for the wonderful gifts and the party that you gave me. It would have been described as a typical Capel night with rain, wind and cloud but St. Radigund's was filled with light and love and I thank you all. Bob and Rolo were very disappointed to miss it (Bob especially) and I know they will miss our walks through the fields and down to the Warren. We should be moving at the beginning of May so we shall explore Whitfield and find some new walks. Thank you all and God bless you. **Sue White**

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alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net

Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635

Police – 999 & 101

Alkham web site www.alkham.org

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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THE JUBILEE mugs have been ordered and should arrive before the celebrations on the 4th June. The (colour) picture above is printed on the front and the one on the right is on the back as a symbol of Alkham, making the mugs unique. A mug will be given to every child in the parish who would like one and if there are any left we may sell them at about cost price. The cost of the mugs has been paid for from fund raising events and not from donations to the Friends.



MOUNT KILIMANJARO - In the December edition of the Newsletter there was a photo of Colin Downer paragliding off Mont Blanc. He has now been chosen to join a group of adventurers from every corner of the globe to fly on a record breaking attempt from the top of mount Kilimanjaro, the highest free-standing mountain on the planet, and in doing so to raise over \$1million for charity. 100% of all fundraising for the event will go directly to 'Plant With Purpose' and 'The One Foundation'. Colin, who lives in the village, needs to raise \$5000 in charitable support to be part of the team, so if you would like to support the charities enabling Colin to fly please log on to <http://wingsofkilimanjaro.com/index.php/pilots/official-pilots/colin-downer>.

JUBILEE CELEBRATION

All are invited to the Queen's Jubilee Lunch Party on 4th June at 12 noon on Vicarage Meadow (village green) or in the hall if wet. Bring food to share, drinks and picnic things. Why not decorate a hat in red, white and blue to enter the hat competition or maybe even put some flags and bunting up around your home to get the village in the party mood? Come along and join the fun with old fashioned games in the afternoon for all. **Linda Gaskill**

MAKE KENT QUICKER - In the March edition an article was included about KCC's desire to have faster Broadband in Kent and I have been asked to reprint the details, which are: To help achieve this visit www.makekentquicker.com, a KCC website, where people can register to tell them they want faster Broadband. It only takes a couple of minutes to do and if enough names are registered it might make things happen.

PIMLICO WAY, which is the byway that runs from South Alkham to Slip Lane has had new signs erected warning off-road vehicle users that they are prohibited from using the area to the sides of the byway. The Police solicitor has sent a letter to all off-road users, recorded during February and March, a letter warning them that fines will be imposed if they are caught. The landowner has also withdrawn permission to allow off-roaders to use his land, including Offroad Europe. This is good news for the residents in the vicinity of Pimlico Way and also for the preservation of the hillsides and byway. If any illegal off-road activity is witnessed in the future, you are encouraged to report it. **Parish Council**

BIG CAT spotted again - Anne Huggins phoned to say that when they were driving home at night along Chalksole Green Lane they spotted a large black cat with white stripes walking along the road. It was much larger than a domestic cat and maybe the same one previously spotted at the Minnis.

TO DISPEL rumours, there is still an active riding school at Hogbrook Equestrian Centre catering for adults and teenagers, lessons and hacks. Please telephone 01304 824499 or 07900545235.

CENTENARIAN KEN - For those who have been missing Ken walking round the parish he sends a "salaam". He says he is keeping well but restricts his daily walks to around the equestrian centre, where he can only be run over by horses!

NEWSLETTER - I would like to thank Anne at Lower Standen and Jacqui at Drellingore for agreeing to deliver the Newsletters in those areas. *Last month I failed to spot that I had not changed the month on the front page until I filed a copy.* **editor**

SOUTHEND PIER - Visit by sea the longest pleasure pier in the world at 1.34 miles; don't worry there is a train if you don't want to walk.... The annual outing of the Alkham Valley Society has been chosen to join in with the trip organised by Cherry Leppard on Thursday August 9th which will be a coach trip to Chatham starting at 9am, then boarding the steam paddle ship "Kingswear Castle" for a run to Southend for a two hour stop before returning. The cost of the steamer is £25.00 and the coach £11.00, so £36.00 in all (bring your own "Kiss Me Quick" hat). Please contact Cherry directly on 01303 255114 to make a reservation. **Barry Sheppard**



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ACCIDENTS – When there is an accident on the Alkham Valley Road and it is closed, traffic is diverted up country lanes. A particular problem is Wolverton Hill, by the kennels. The police divert the traffic up the hill and on reaching the top the vehicles are directed by the satnav to turn right at the telephone box down Newcastle Lane. On reaching the end of the lane they find there is an unmade track where the satnav helpfully gives the option to turn left or right and chaos ensues. A short distance to the left is Greenwich Lane but there is a heavily rutted byway in between and it is unclear whether this is a highway and whether people at the Minnis would like it to be. The police generally put a diverted traffic sign at the bottom of a road but nothing further on. It was agreed at the Parish Council meeting that traffic should be turned round and sent back down the valley as all side roads are inappropriate; the council will contact the police.

ASSISTANCE for paying for home care can be found by accessing the Kent Card through The KCC East Kent Area, Thistley Hill, Melbourne Avenue, Dover, Kent CT16 2JH. Tel: 08458 247205. This entails an assessment of your needs which is done at your convenience in your home. It is not means tested, just NEEDS tested. It is a great help towards paying for the extra two or three hours for paid help thus giving a carer gets out to do everyday things. The Kent Card does not seem to be widely known so this is why I add it to the Newsletter. It may also be a way of getting into the loop of Social Care. **Jo Walker**

A BAG OF NICKERS were lost in the churchyard recently. Actually it was a plastic bag containing two 'tops' for ladies and a little old metal pot which had been found in a garden. The bag was hidden under a low tree behind a gravestone whilst the 'ladies' went dog walking, but on their return 3/4 hr later the bag had disappeared - has anybody any ideas where it is???? **Sue Lees**

FOWLMEAD – For those who don't know, Fowlmead is a superb country park that has been created on what was Betteshangar Colliery. The shale was taken from the 2 million cubic metre slag heaps and mixed with fertilizer to create rich topsoil. Trees and shrubs have been planted and the area landscaped to incorporate woods and lakes. There is a large children's playground and many paths to walk with an observation platform for bird watchers. In addition they have made a wide paved traffic free cycle track. Bikes can be hired at the visitor centre where there is a café and toilets. There are also mountains bikes courses around the site. It's free to enter but if you take a car there is a small charge for all day parking. It is off the A258 about 2 miles from Deal and well worth a visit. *It is now one of our cycle rides from Alkham when we do one lap and return; new members welcome – it's great fun.* **Editor**

ALKHAM W.I - there was no speaker for the May meeting but a discussion took place on the Resolution to be raised by the W.I. at the AGM this summer regarding "The chronic shortage of midwives". Lucy McKenzie explained the whole matter of 'needs' for midwives and the difficulties occurred with their work and explained how essential it is to have more midwives. All W.I. members present understood and agreed with the matter. Ideas for next year's meetings will be discussed at Pam Sayers on 29th May 7pm. Speaker at the June meeting will be John Pearce talking about "Murder comes gift wrapped" **Sue Lees**

GARDEN TALK - We have held two pleasant evenings in local gardens looking at lovely spring colours and a variety of plants and shrubs. Plenty of nostalgic chat and good hospitality. Our next visit is to Chalksole Cottage on Friday 22nd June where our hosts are Linda and Geoff Gaskill. We will view a garden always full of interest in flower, fruit and vegetable areas. All welcome from 7.30p.m. **Janet Adamson**

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SOLAR PANELS BLESSED The sun did indeed shine for us last month when the Bishop of Dover, the Right Revd Trevor Willmott, came to St Anthony's for a special service to bless the new solar panels. Clearly an upwardly mobile bishop, he climbed onto the roof at the end of the service and then

stayed to chat to parishioners and visitors in the Village Hall. The panels are meeting their generating target even in the wet and cloudy April we have just had. There was some media coverage of the visit on Radio Kent and Meridian. Thanks to all who worked to make the bishop's visit such a success. **Geoff Gaskill**

OZ on VACATION – On hearing that someone was busy, having just returned from a “vacation”, my mental image of him changed, from elderly English gentleman to someone young or American or possibly both. I checked out the word in the Oxford English Dictionary and discovered that it has an interesting pedigree. Originally it meant “freedom from” as in Chaucer’s “leisure and vacation / From other worldly occupation” (1386). In the 15th and 16th centuries the meaning was extended to “suspension of activity”, as of law-courts, universities and schools, and hence generally to the resulting “holidays”. It was in this sense that “vacation” was adopted in America as a word for “holiday” or “take a holiday”. Emily Dickinson’s The Masque of Poets (1878) reported that “At Saratoga...you meet ...people spending short vacations.” Later I learnt from the newspaper that Allen Walker Read, the distinguished American word-researcher, had died at the age of 96. He had outlived his wife of 49 years, fellow scholar Charlotte Schuchardt, by just three months. Read’s popular fame was due to his investigation into the origins of the term “OK”. He rejected several appetising theories, including the Choctaw “okeh”, the Haitian “Aux Cayes” and the biscuit made by Orrin-Kendall for the US Army, eventually settling for the jokey “Orl Korrekt” deliberately misspelt in an 1839 Boston newspaper. The term was later used in the election campaigns of the eighth US president, Martin Van Buren, nicknamed “Old Kinderhook”. Read also wrote articles for dictionaries and encyclopaedias, and produced a stream of books whose subjects included the history of words, US and UK slang, and graffiti in public lavatories. His latest books, published in 2001 and 2002, came at the end of a retirement that was, thankfully, long but not a “vacation” in any of the above senses of the word. **Steve Osborn**

BEEES - The effect of the Neonicotinoid group of insecticides which includes clothianidin, thiamethoxam and imidacloprid sprayed or dusted onto fields such as rapeseed is suspected of having, not unsurprisingly, a fatal effect on bees. Even though trouble has been taken by the producers of the insecticide to restrict the material to the crop the talc mixed for easier release of the sticky spray wafts to a wider area, often affecting wild flowers around the crop. Bees apparently love rapeseed and the traces of the insecticide are transported to the hive inducing a loss of bees immune system and big die-offs. The NFU (according to Private Eye) does not discourage its use by British farmers but it is strictly limited in France and suspended in Germany. A Dutch toxicologist (2010) wrote a paper 'A Disaster in the Making' (Wikipedia). Is this group of insecticides being used in the Alkham Valley surroundings, and if it so can a case be put forward to find out the pros and cons in a public arena (the Village Hall)? Have the local beekeepers any views? **Jo Walker (Sec. Alkham Valley Society)**
DOVER DISTRICT VOLUNTEERING CENTRE course (free) in Dover on Wed 20th and Thurs 21st June. Lunch free of charge, and travel expenses can be reimbursed. To book a place, please contact Karen on 01304 367898 or email office@doverdistrictvolunteering.org.uk

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District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187

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	4	Jubilee Party 12 noon on village green
Tuesday	12	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	21	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3rd	Evensong 6:30pm	Sung Eucharist 9am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 10th	Sung Eucharist 9am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 17th	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 24th	Joint Benefice 10.a.m.		
Weekday Services: Wednesday Eucharist 9.15 am St Radigund, Capel-Le-Ferne			

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB - It's good news-bad news time (as always with ACC). We have just finished our longest spell of unbeaten games with a close loss to Old Hartsdonians, however this was largely a result of being unable to play two games due to the weather and one because we were unable to field a full side. The season started with a draw at Northbourne on 22nd April (although as we had 100 more runs than Northbourne it was a moral victory, even if we were unable to get the other side out in time), we then had the three game gap referred to above followed by an evening game against Dover College on 16th May which went to 3 the final couple of balls (Alkham winning with 143 for 4 to Dover's 139 all out). The Dover match saw the return to the Meadow of Paul "Simmo" Simpson after about five years, and Robert Mitchell after a year or so, and the Old Harts match saw the return of Colin Groombridge after about 25 years playing for certain other local sides (who shall remain nameless)! It's good to have former Badgers returning to the Meadow-Set! Tonight also marks (we hope) the first 2012 game for this year's skipper Peter Frater, leading from the front from behind the stumps. June's home games are on the 2nd (Stowting), 17th (PFPR) and 24th (Northbourne) with mid week (home) matches on the 11th (River) and 27th (Cavaliers) - spectators are always welcome. **Paul Tapsell**



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Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635

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Alkham web site www.alkham.org

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
The Old Post Office
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Telephone 01304 824969

No. 226 July 2012

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THE JUBILEE

CELEBRATION in the village hall on the 4th of June was a great success with about 80 children and adults turning up. Tables were placed around the edge of the hall where people sat and a long table was placed at the front for the communal food. After

lunch races were held in the hall with both young and older sprinting and hopping. There was then the best hat competition for those who had decorated a hat to celebrate the Jubilee. Avril Munn won in the adult category and Freya Miller the children's category plus she was voted best in show by Susannah Tapsell. Further games followed and it was clear that people were enjoying the party. The 72 mugs which had been ordered for children in the parish were all spoken for and were then given out to the children who had come to the hall. As other people had asked for their grandchildren or themselves a further order had been placed for 36 mugs. The carrier managed to break four in transit but the remaining 32 were sold for £5 each, which just covered the cost of this order. The event was organised by the Friends which was set up to preserve the building that is the church in Alkham and also to promote village events. **Editor and photos by Stan Fowler, Slip Lane, Alkham**



CREAM TEA PARTY – Anne Huggins and friend Rosemary are holding a fund raising scrumptious tea party in aid of Breast Cancer Care at Greenwood Farm. The house is on Chalksole Green Lane which is about ¾ mile up Slip Lane. It will be held on the 11th of August from 3.00pm to 6.00pm and tickets cost £5, which must be purchased in advance. If you would like to buy tickets please phone Anne on 824340 or speak to one of her family. Last year it was great success and raised over £2000 for the charity.

THANK YOU to the Friends of St. Anthony for organising the Jubilee party and mugs. A great deal of work went into the preparation and running of the event plus the tidying up afterwards. It gave great pleasure to the children and adults and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. It was also a lovely gesture by the Friends to give a mug to all the children in the parish who asked for one especially as they are unique. Thanks very much. **Councillor E Neve**

CHURCHYARD

Following the theft of lead from the St Anthony's roof, the church council have decided, as one of a number of preventive measures, to restrict vehicle access to the churchyard during the hours of darkness. A lockable security post will be fitted to the churchyard access track off Alkham Valley Road. Ken Hammond will be the main key holder and will unlock the post in the morning and relock it at night. **Geoff Gaskill**

SECURITY

RIVER SUMMER FAYRE Sunday July 15th from 11am to 4pm. Various stalls plenty of refreshments plus Punch & Judy to entertain the children, Also this year we have East Kent Motorcycles. As usual we have the birds of prey & Atlantis Entertainment & walking about, 2 Daleks.

BEN SPICER is halfway through his foundation degree course in Landscape and Garden Management and is looking for work over the summer vacation. An experienced and popular gardener, he is now hoping to broaden his experience with fencing, patios, decking or brick-laying jobs. Anyone who needs some guidance and help with these projects, please contact Ben on 079200 92121.

STANDEN CROSSROADS

Does anybody know who has photos of the Standen Farm house with farm buildings, pond, and other dwellings nearby which stood at Standen crossroads? Any photos of farms and/or people who lived and worked in that part of the Alkham Valley would be of interest to me. Thank you. **Susan Lees 01304 822661**



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ROOK – The photo doesn't show up so well in black and white but the bird on the left is a light grey to grey rook. The photo was taken by Isabelle Smith behind the house that she lives in at Chalksole, Alkham. It is thought to be quite rare and various opinions have been given, such as albino or rich chalk diet but if anyone knows why it is this colour rather

than black we'd be pleased to know. The photo is better in colour so if anyone would like to be added to the list to whom the Newsletter is emailed please let me know by emailing me at brianwimsett@hotmail.com (you can still receive the paper copy).

GARDEN TALK - We look forward to our next meeting, on Friday 20th July at Halton Court, at the home of Irene & Den Barnard, where the garden has recently been remodelled. It is on the corner of Slip Lane and the Alkham Valley Road - all welcome from 7.30p.m. **Janet Adamson**

THE BOOK CLUB meeting for Wednesday 25th July will be held at the home of Susannah Tapsell, Bramhall Alkham Valley Road Tel. 822295, starting at 7.30. The book for discussion is 'Before I go to sleep' by S.J. Watson. For more information about the Alkham Book Club telephone on Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

ALKHAM W.I. - Members are reminded that W.I. calendars £3.75 and diaries £3.55 can be purchased and the trip from Chatham to Southend by a paddle steamer in August, can be booked through Cherry Leppard. The June meeting was enjoyed by all when the speaker John Pearce (retired police officer) encouraged everybody into the mystery of "Murder comes gift wrapped". A fascinating story which was not solved for many years; the culprit Keith Cottingham from Denton died before the Court could prove the case. The next meeting's speaker on 10th July is Margaret Ovenden on "Catwalk to Choir". **Sue Lees**

THE VILLAGE HALL has bought a wall mounted boiler for making tea and hot drinks. It cost over £300 but is worth the money as it makes filling the pots much safer. Please be aware that the machine has to boil before water comes out. It holds 7.5 litres or 13 pints.

50 YEARS – Not only has the Queen changed over 50 years but so has Alkham. In 1962 buses, which still had 'No Spitting' signs by the door, stopped at the bottom of Slip Lane in the morning to take men to work in Dover and Folkestone. Cows in the early morning and at tea time were driven from the fields with some coming up Hogbrook Lane and across the valley road to the milking parlour in front of Halton Court, which was then a farmhouse. On the opposite side of Slip Lane there was the Post Office and shop which sold most items including tin baths as a lot of houses still didn't have bathrooms. The papers were delivered to the shop every morning together with bread and milk. There was a pub on Meggett Lane, one at the Minnis and also the Marquis of Granby that had an active darts team and smoke filled lounge and public bars. St. Anthony's church was well attended and they had a choir and Sunday school. The school by the Marquis was attended by children in Alkham and nearby with nearly all having to walk to the school. The bus service was infrequent and cars going along the Valley Road, which was then very narrow, were a rare sight. There was a police house in the village and the council houses at Glebelands had recently been built. I wonder what Alkham will be like in 50 years time?

NEWSLETTER – As there isn't a fete this year filling the Newsletter is difficult in the summer months. If you have any stories or details for a

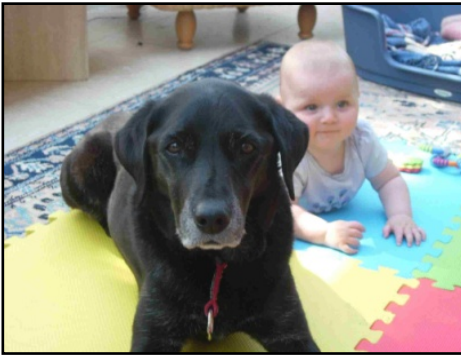
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PET SERVICE and songs of praise.

Returning by popular demand, there will be a pet service in the church on Sunday 15th July at 11am. It's always interesting to see the range of animals that are kept as pets; and in the past we have had everything ranging in size from hamsters to sheep; horses will probably have to be blessed outside!

The following Sunday, 22nd July, again at 11 am, we will have an open air Songs of Praise on the Vicarage Meadow. River Band will be with us again for the modern worship songs and with Jerry Spillett on the electric organ, there will be music that appeals to everyone. It's all very informal, so do come and raise the celestial roof. **Geoff Gaskill**

OZ on SHEDS – In last October's column I mentioned how my installation of a new boiler had caused knock-on effects that had "cascaded into every room, including the potting-shed and garage." I remembered this on my recent birthday when given Frank Hopkinson's *The Joy of Sheds*, a welcome addition to the literature of that most respectable of male passions; 'respectable' because an extra shed can usually be justified as a 'need'. All my life I've loved pottering in sheds, which is puzzling because I'm not at all practical, and sometimes have to think of an excuse to go and potter. Hopkinson's sub-title explains the real reason: "...because a man's place isn't in the home."; the shed is actually a refuge. Under 'Shed Lit' Hopkinson describes the sheds of various writers, including Dylan Thomas, Bernard Shaw, Virginia Woolf and Daphne du Maurier. That most famous of phrases "something nasty in the woodshed" comes from *Cold Comfort Farm* by Stella Gibbons. Other chapters cover the role of sheds in fields such as music, art, films and TV. Always the reason for the shed is to get away from distraction and concentrate on the job in hand, a need that women share. Perhaps women generally get the time and space that they need if the man is in his shed away up the garden. Of course a shed doesn't even have to be outdoors. My favourite shed, grandly called "The Study", is in fact my daughter's old bedroom. It's where I keep my 'stuff' and write these stories. It also serves as a bedroom when the grandchildren visit, a situation which will need to change as they grow up, and will necessitate the moving of my clutter to another place. So perhaps then I'll truly 'need' another proper outdoor shed. **(Steve Osborn)**

DOVER FESTIVAL PROM – Local musicians will again present a festive charity concert in the style of "The Last Night of the Proms", at 7.30 pm on Friday 6th July in Dover Town Hall. The Festival Prom Orchestra and Chorus will be conducted by Michael Lewis and Stephen Yarrow. This year's programme celebrates the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens, the Queen's Silver Jubilee and the London Olympics. The orchestral offerings are Binge's Elizabethan Serenade, Walton's Crown Imperial and Ron Goodwin's theme from *The London Marathon*. The choir programme comprises a selection from Lionel Bart's *Oliver!*, and four coronation anthems: Handel's *Zadok the Priest*, Parry's *I was Glad*, Stanford's *Te Deum* and Vaughan Williams's *O Taste and See*. Finally the audience will be invited to join the 85-strong choir in singing the traditional Proms Finale of *Jerusalem*, *Rule Britannia* and *Land of Hope and Glory*. This year's proceeds are in support of *The Pilgrims Hospice*. Tickets at £7 and £3.50 (promenaders) are available from the Dover Visitor Centre or from chorus members. For further details ring Sue or Steve Yarrow on 01304 872812. **(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	2	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	28	W.I. jumble sale in village hall at 11.00am

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1st	Evensong 6:30pm	Sung Eucharist 9am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 8th	Sung Eucharist 9am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 15th	Family & Pet Service 11am	Evensong 6pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 22nd	Benefice Songs of Praise - Vicarage Meadow, Alkham 11am		
Sunday 29th	Benefice Eucharist, St Mary's 10am		

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

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB - I doubt whether Alkham

CC has had many such miserable starts to a season in its entire 173 year history. In the first two months, half of the 14 games have been cancelled due to the appalling unseasonal weather, or by us being unable to field a team (once), the opposition being unable to field a team (twice) and the opposition's fixture secretary getting dates mixed up! It has also been difficult to field a full-strength side for the games that have gone ahead so far, so the Alkham Badgers are hoping for better luck as the season progresses and as a couple of former regulars become available once again. In the hope that summer will finally arrive, the club is aiming to make the most of the second half of the season, starting with three tough away games in July – at St Margaret's (July 1), East Langdon (July 8) and Goodnestone Park (July 15). There's then just one home match – a midweek 20/20 game against the Court Cavaliers on July 22, before the team set off on their annual weekend tour to East Anglia on July 27-29. The rain has failed to dampen the team's spirits and I feel sure that we will put in some creditable performances and achieve some positive results to ensure 2012 is remembered for more than just soggy pitches and cancelled matches. **Peter Frater (Skipper)**



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CAPTAIN NORMAN KNOWLES 1925 – 2012.

It is with great sadness that I am writing to say that Norman Knowles, known to many people in Alkham, and indeed who had many friends here and throughout the area, has died at the age of 87 years. He was very ill for the last six months of his life, and was nursed both day and night by his wife Margaret. He and Margaret moved here in 1961 to Pastoral in Slip Lane. Margaret was a very keen painter, and painted many views of Alkham. They both took an active part in village activities and attended St. Anthony's Church. In 2007 they moved to Bath to be near their son Simon, and even more importantly their granddaughter Faye, Simon and Jane's daughter, now aged 8. They had three children, Robin Q.C., H.H.J., Simon and Heather, all of whom have succeeded very well in their careers, and all of whom commenced their schooling at the local village school in Alkham, which was then in existence. After the war Norman became a Trinity House Pilot, and he was also a very effective magistrate in Dover. During the war, something he never mentioned was the fact that at the age of 18 he was on the dreadful relief convoy to Malta, 33 ships leaving G.B., and only three of them arriving at their destination. He was on one of these three. A terrible experience seeing 30 ships blown up. He only mentioned it when there was a programme on the T.V. about it. Norman was cremated in Bath on Thursday, 12th July. There was a Memorial Service first at St. Stephen's Church, which he and Margaret attended regularly. They both took an active interest in the Church's activities. I am sure we all offer our very sincere sympathy to Margaret and her family. **Pamela Sayers, Box Tree Cottage**



FETE DAY This was supposed to be Alkham fete day on the 14th of July and as you can see the village green was flooded as was the football pitch with Slip Lane turning into a river.

CREAM TEA

PARTY – Tickets are still available for the tea party in aid of Breast Cancer Care at Greenwood Farm. It will be held on the 11th of August from 3.00pm to 6.00pm and tickets cost £5, which must be purchased in advance. If you would like to buy tickets please phone Anne on 824340 or speak to one of her family. Last year it was great success and raised over £2000 for the charity.

CISTIC FIBROSIS – Megan Saltmer has a brother who suffers from cystic fibrosis and she would like to raise some money for the cystic fibrosis charity, which is very close to her heart. On the 7th August Megan is going to freefall from 12000 feet in an attempt to raise money and awareness for them. Anyone wishing to make a donation please either leave or send to Megan at 3 Short Lane, Alkham CT15 7BZ or donate on line by going to www.virginmoney.com (giving) and click 'give a donation' and then type Megan who was on page 4. I have put a direct link on the Alkham web site www.alkham.org to make it easier. Please donate as Megan is 17 years of age and it means so much to her. Visit www.cftrust.org.uk for more information.

NOISY NEIGHBOURS include persons living in the vicinity who may be affecting your life so if you are being affected by noisy neighbours you should phone 101 and report it. You can also speak to Environmental Health at Dover District Council on 01304 872428 (email envhealth@dover.gov.uk) or refer it to their planning department if you think they might be in breach of planning laws. **Parish Council**

JAN MARTINEZ is a retired garden designer who both wrote and featured in the gardening press and did a series of Prime Time talks for Radio Kent. She was on the panel for Gardeners Question Time and also taught Garden Design and Interior Design for Kent Adult Education. Her garden near Everden will be open on a private basis for local people, their friends, family and colleagues to view. Please telephone 01303 893462 in advance to enquire about dates. She will give a guided tour around the garden and answer any questions on plants, design etc, finishing with tea/ coffee/ biscuits in the conservatory where an Animal Aid collection box will be placed and the suggested donation is five pounds per person. There will be various leaflets which may be taken on Animal Aid.

GREAT COURAGE – My daughter Billie has a boyfriend Hugh who is taking part in a bike ride for charity from Land's End to John o'Groats. Please read his story and donate <http://www.justgiving.com/> Hugh-Boyd-Jones. If you all give a 'bluey' (£5 for the unstreet) it would be a great help. **Brian Croucher - Slip Lane, Alkham**



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ERIC GOES CYCLING (our postman) – Last Christmas after a glass or two of wine and a conversation with my son about keeping fit, I found myself entered for the London to Brighton bike ride. At first the proposal was quite daunting with all the training that was needed (long hours in the saddle etc.) and I didn't even own a bike. But now six months later it's all over and I'm so glad I volunteered. It's a 55 mile ride and you share the route with 30,000 other riders all there to raise money for the British Heart Foundation. It is a truly amazing day out with everyone helping and encouraging each other. For me the true meaning was summed up by one young lady riding in front of me with a sign on her back saying 'I'm pedalling to keep my Daddy alive a little bit longer'. Let's hope her wish comes true. Thanks to Ken and Brian for all their encouragement?!! especially the advice about Vaseline. **your postie** Congratulations to Eric for cycling up Ditchling Beacon.



SCHOOL PHOTO Sue Lees would like to know where this photo was taken and also the rough date. If you can help please ring her on 01304 822661. The wall in the background is too

high for the old playground so it may be against the church wall.

GARDEN TALK - We meet on Friday 10th August at Thorn Cottage in Meggett Lane, where we look forward to some better weather, and a chance to talk about our plant and crop failures - as well as the successes of this changeable season. Our hosts are Rosemary and Geoff Hillier, who will show us all the recent work they have been doing to transform this cottage garden. All welcome from 7.30p.m. **Janet Adamson**

ACCIDENT PROCEDURE – The police were contacted by the Parish Council regarding their policy of diverting traffic up unsuitable roads when there was an accident on the valley road. Their response was that they appreciated the comments but the police on the spot had to react immediately to the situation and get traffic out of the way. It is unlikely that the police are aware that the roads they have diverted the traffic onto are poor quality. However to turn the traffic round on the valley road would cause further disruption but in the long run it would be better as the suitable alternatives are at both ends of the valley. The PCSO who was at the meeting said she would speak to her inspector about the situation.

ALKHAM W.I. - The July meeting was very pleasant despite many members not being present. The speaker Margaret Ovenden told many interesting and funny stories about herself, the quire and Canterbury Cathedral. Business - Jumble Sale in Village Hall Saturday 28th July 11am. Members help will be needed from 10am. The next WI meeting will be in the Village Hall Tuesday 14th August. It is a Chat n' Chip evening. If you have not yet ordered your food please ring Edith 01303 824030. Raffle Prize - all members are asked to bring a 'green' coloured prize. Also bring wine or your choice for the evening. Ladies Racecourse Evening August 23rd gates open 3.30pm with the first horse race at 5.30pm, and prizes for Best Dressed Ladies. **Sue Lees**

WWII - Air Raid Shelters - can anyone tell me if air raid shelters were provided to residents? If not what did the authorities expect people in Alkham to protect themselves in? **Sue Lees**

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OZ on HORNIMAN – Like many other small children, growing up in World War II, I learnt to read by deciphering words found at the breakfast table, such as 'Camp Coffee' and 'Horniman's Tea.' At that time, Horniman's tea was very popular, as it had been since 1826, when John Horniman founded his company in Newport, Isle of Wight. John succeeded by mechanizing tea packaging, which cut production costs and guaranteed quality. By 1891 Horniman's was the world's largest tea-trading business. In 1869, John retired and his son, Frederick Horniman, took over. Frederick was both philanthropist and voracious collector of everything, and used his wealth to repeatedly travel the world, returning to London's Forest Hill laden with objects "to inform those who had not had the opportunity to visit distant lands." His declared mission was to "bring the world to Forest Hill", to which his wife replied "either the collection goes or we do." The Hornimans therefore moved next door, to Surrey Mount, and the old house, with objects, was renamed Surrey House Museum and opened to the public. By 1898, the collection had outgrown all available space. Frederick ordered the demolition of the old museum, and commissioned Charles Harrison Townsend, the great art nouveau architect, to produce a new design. Foundations were laid later that year, and the new Horniman Museum was opened to the public in 1901. I visited it for the first time recently and was captivated by the sheer vitality and enthusiasm that still shines through from over a century ago. Here are 350,000 objects embracing natural history, music, textiles, and anthropology, together with an aquarium and extensive gardens. As for Horniman's Tea, Frederick's son Emslie sold it to Joe Lyons in 1918, and it was later acquired by Douwe Egberts – a fitting end for a quality product. **Steve Osborn**

MORE MEMORIES - Philip Young was a schoolboy in Alkham and his father was called Donald with sisters Barbara and Joy. Their bungalow on Greenwich Lane at the Minnis was thus called Joy-Don-Bar, often being mistaken for Welsh. Aunt Joy recalled that the first motor-car used by a resident of the Minnis was run by the Duketell family and when Philip was a schoolboy a coal lorry lumbered up Wolverton Hill driven by Mr. Duketell with the tail-gate down and the truck half full of coal. Fellow schoolboys Alan Dodd, Tony and Michael Harrington, would all jump up on the back of the dusty coal-truck for a lift up the hill after school, only to receive a scalding once home for getting short-trousers in a filthy state. Joy thought that the first car around Alkham was probably an Austin 12. Philip's grandfather built Joy-Don-Bar out of upright sheets of corrugated iron mounted onto old bed frames, lined inside with sheets of asbestos in the summer of 1919. Joy was born at Newcastle Cottage, while the building work was carried out. Philip recalls Sunday night rituals of bath-time in a tin bath bought from the Alkham post-office. Philip's Grandfather was a well-known character around the Alkham Valley. He survived the First World War losing a leg and an eye whilst serving in the Grenadier Guards, and would cycle around the lanes with a fixed-wheel bicycle that allowed the one good leg to complete a full circle power pedal with a boot constantly in touch with the one pedal. He would ride it to Dover and back in order to sell eggs from the flock he reared in the back garden, which eventually gave way for the building of Deepdene, the bungalow also being built out of corrugated-iron, which all the neighbours helped to erect. The land for Joy-Don-Bar was given free to the ex-Guardsman, as part of Prime Minister David Lloyd George's government programme of "homes for heroes" - a number of plots in the valley were given to ex-servicemen, who had to erect a house themselves. Sgt. Young handed over the residency of Joy Don Bar to his son Donald in 1958. **(based on an article from Philip Young)**

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County Councillor, Bryan Cope 206510
District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187

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	14	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	20	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5 th	Evensong 6.30pm	Eucharist 9.00am	Worship Tog. 11am
Sunday 12 th	Eucharist 9.00am	Worship Tog. 11am	No service
Sunday 19 th	Family service 11am	Evensong 6.00pm	Eucharist 9am
Sunday 26 th	Joint Benefice 10am	No service	No service

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

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB

So much for my optimism in the last Newsletter that the weather would improve and Alkham Cricket Club would enjoy July's fixtures away to St Margaret's, East Langdon and Goodnestone Park. All three were cancelled due to the rain.

And to make matters worse the flooding on Saturday July 14th left the Alkham pitch waterlogged and littered with debris that had washed down Slip Lane and Hogbrook Hill – ruling out the midweek match against Eastry, scheduled for July 18. Still, at least we've got the annual tour to East Anglia to look forward to on July 27-29, haven't we? Sadly no, it's been cancelled as we could only muster seven players! Could this season get any worse? Will we actually manage a few games before we hang up our whites for winter? Right now it's not looking likely, unless we get that late summer that some are predicting. Personally I'll believe it when I'm actually sunning myself on The Meadow while our openers both knock up centuries, which, with our lack of match practice, is about as likely as a scorching September! **Peter Frater (Club Captain)**



W.I. JUMBLE SALE will be held in Alkham Village Hall on Saturday 28th July from 11am to Midday

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Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969
email brianwimsett@hotmail.com

Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791
alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net

Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635

Police – 999 emergency & 101 for non-emergency including PCSO

Alkham web site www.alkham.org

W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641

Footpath Warden antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
White 01303 240539

Church Wardens

Geoff Gaskill 823100
and Richard Tapsell 822295



Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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CALENDAR – Stan Fowler, who won last year's photographic competition, has taken 12 superb photos depicting each month around and in Alkham. These have been put in a calendar as full colour A4 pictures with an A4 calendar below. It is impossible to put a photo in the Newsletter as they are such large files but if you'd like to see a low quality PDF please look on www.alkham.org. The calendar has been produced by the Friends and costs £6. It will be available shortly and if you'd like to buy one please tell either Rosemary Heddle, Val Fowler, Den Barnard, Linda Gaskill, Rosie Hansraj or email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

WWII – As a result of Sue Lee's article about air raid shelters, Bill Harvey and John Richards sent further information and a number of people rang her. The village school had a shelter and Chalkdown Cottage had one dug into the hill. At Ewell Minnis some houses had shelters whilst other people just reinforced the table and sat under it. Many houses bought Anderson shelters made of corrugated iron and excavated earth whilst a number of houses had cellars.



LANDING STRIP - According to Philip Young, Chalksole Farm had a rubber landing strip laid by the American air force (perhaps for D-day) and the blockhouse off Warren Lane near the descent to Lydden still exists (photo above). Evidently the rubber was well used by people in Alkham after the war.

WOLVERTON - Reg Woodruff, who lives at Wolverton, emailed to say he was told that the wooden shed/lean-to building attached to the side of his house was used as a Midwife's Office.

If anyone has information on any of the above please contact me (details page 4). **editor**

DRAINAGE – Along the lines of properties through which the course of the Nailbourne flows are known as riparian owners. It is there responsibility to make sure the river bed is cleared out and not obstructed in any way to prevent the free flow of water. This helps to prevent flooding of properties upstream of the river. **Parish Council**

WHEELCHAIR for sale. Excellent condition - only used twice, £75.00. Suitable for a person of small to medium frame. Please contact Rosemary Heddle on 01304 827880.

CHURCHYARD – A security post has been installed at the valley road vehicular entrance to St. Anthony's churchyard. It is currently being put up in the evening and taken down in the morning.

GARDEN TALK - We meet on Friday 7th September at Burley Cottage, Newcastle Lane, Ewell Minnis to view the garden and see the building work being undertaken by Barbara and Neil Williams., We intend to talk about all things connected with this topsy-turvy gardening season. We meet from 7.00p.m. There is plenty of parking and if directions are required, please contact Janet Adamson on 01303 893413.



SKY DIVE - Well done to Megan Saltmer who did the skydive from 12000 feet in aid of her brother who suffers from cystic fibrosis. She has raised £500 so far and if you'd like to donate please leave money at 3 Short Lane,

Alkham or see www.alkham.org.

THE MARQUIS Annual Charity Cricket Game will take place this year on Sunday 23rd 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, plus a host of other celebrities. This fun day will be followed by a fantastic meal, raffle and auction at The Marquis. There will be a raffle with some fantastic prizes; tickets will be available at The Marquis and also 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, and Alkham Cricket Club. If you would like to donate any prizes, please contact Claire@hartsheadgroup.co.uk. Your support is really appreciated. 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 £2500, with your help and support we can make this total even higher. Please come along to Vicarage Meadow, lend your support and have a great day.
Claire Joblin



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THE STRAWBERRY CREAM TEA

in aid of breast cancer care held at Greenwood Farm was a great success raising £2144. Anne would like to thank everyone who helped with cakes and raffle prizes and donations. Thank you all for making this another successful year for a worthy cause. **Anne Huggins**

Anne hopes to raise some more money from the event and donate it to the Pilgrim's Hospice.

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

(Australia to Alkham) - Back in 1995 I became intrigued by our family history and started to research along various branches of our family tree. As the experienced family historians advocate, start from the known and move to the unknown and ask lots of questions of older relatives. My mother, who was born in Kent, and her parents and brother had emigrated to Australia in 1956 following her sister who had married an Australian. Having exhausted the combined family knowledge of my mum and her sister, I embarked on some letter writing to their English cousins. One reply fleshed out a little about my great grandmother, Susannah Sutton, who was my maternal grandmother's mother. Mum's cousin Winnie told me that Susannah, was born 1866, died 1st Feb 1936 and was born in 'Box Cottage' Alkham, Kent. With further research, I discovered that Susannah Sutton's parents were Thomas Sutton (born about 1835 in Brabourne, Kent) and Ann Easter (born about 1837 In Sandwich, Kent). Thomas was a master shoemaker. This couple had thirteen children and because of our impression of Box cottage being a small dwelling, we always laughed about them all being able to squeeze in. Seventeen years on and we are planning a trip to the United Kingdom this Autumn. Thinking of exploring the areas that relate to our family history and looking to book some accommodation, I turned to Google....and up came the Alkham website. Upon browsing through the site, imagine my surprise and delight to see a photo of "Box Tree Cottage" in Alkham on the website. Looking at the size of the village, I feel that this must be the cottage that family members said my great grandmother, Susannah Sutton, lived in as a child – and not such a tight squeeze as we thought! It is amazing that when I wrote to England in the 90s to find out about the family history, a few words were all I received...and now, with the power of the internet, we can actually see the home where my great grandmother spent her childhood over a hundred years ago...and all from the other side of the world. The power of the internet! **Fiona Moore Sydney, Australia.** If anyone has any further information about the family of Thomas and Ann Sutton and their lives in the village of Alkham, Kent during the 1860s and 1870s, I would be delighted to hear from you. fhmoore@bigpond.net.au

ALKHAM W.I. - Not a month when members must have a regular meeting, so one can understand how everyone enjoyed sitting back with fish and chips and having a good chat. Thanks to Edith Neve for organising the delivery of the boxes of food. Next month will be back to normality with W.I. business and an interesting talk by Eric Spear on 'Victorian Village School' a time when the majority of schools were set up. The meeting to which new members are welcome is 11th September 7.30pm in Alkham Village Hall.

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A FUNERAL to celebrate the life of Thomas Glyn Thomas (1928 – 2012) was held at a packed St. Anthony's church on the 20th of August. He was well known by a number of people in Alkham and before retirement was an acknowledged orthopaedic surgeon working at hospitals throughout East Kent. Before he died in the Pilgrim's Hospice, he published with the help of his son, a 2013 calendar featuring a dozen east Kent churches that they had painted or drawn. It is now on sale for £10 in aid of the Pilgrim's Hospice at Canterbury and can be ordered by contacting Heidi Stone on aitchfitz@gmail.com or purchased from Gould Gallery at 35 Harnet Street, Sandwich.

OZ on UP NORTH – After the Olympics got under way last month, we headed up North with Shaun the Westie, partly to escape round-the-clock games coverage on TV and the expected traffic congestion in the South-East. Both fears were unnecessary: transport ran unexpectedly smoothly, and the games were as thrilling as last year's Royal Wedding, more so when Team GB's medal count escalated. The other reason for our round trip was to visit relatives in the Midlands and North, some of whom we hadn't seen for many years. We're both descended from Vikings. Her ancestors were the original invaders who landed on the North-East coast between the 8th and 10th centuries AD; mine were Norman Vikings who accompanied William the Conqueror in his 1066 Invasion. During that battle, King Harold was aided by Northern English Vikings, and some of their descendants still mutter accusingly "You invaded us!" As we set off, my friend told me "I have twenty-four cousins, but you won't have to meet them all, as two are dead!" And so we made our way up North by motorway and Travelodge, visiting her brother and family in Rugby and cousins in Stoke and Huddersfield; to Lancashire to see my sister and family; and back home via cousins in Blyth, Nottinghamshire. In all, we met only seven cousins, but it was a fascinating week, with a family party, pub lunches, and much talk about family history. We drove home from up North as the Olympic athletes were leaving London. The latest news was that if Team Yorkshire had competed as a separate country, they would have come 11th in the final medal table, beating Australia. Three of those Yorkshire athletes, from the same family, would have come 49th as a team. It seemed a fitting end to a gloriously quirky week. **Steve Osborn**

WHITE HILL is the very steep hill that goes from Slip Lane up to Chalksole and the Parish Council received a letter regarding its use. It was thought that the narrow and winding road was being used by HGV's and the council were asked if they would contact the highway authority regarding the installation of a 'Not suitable for HGV' sign. After some discussion it was thought that the main problem was probably caused by the proliferation of light vans that deliver parcels to houses and that the sighting of HGV's was rare. However the council recommended that logs be kept of problems and they would take further action if necessary. The PCSO, Janet Claringbould, who was at the meeting said that she should be contacted as well and this can be done by phoning 101.

BOOK CLUB is now back after the summer break, hopefully we will all have some interesting holiday reading to discuss as well as the month's chosen novel which is Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen. The meeting will be on Wednesday 26th at the home of Sue Latham, Woodlands, Short Lane, 01304 824924 commencing at 7.30p.m. For more information about the village book club contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

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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	3	Parish Council meeting in village hall – all welcome
Tuesday	4	White Cliffs metal detecting
Saturday	8	South East Astronomical Society pm
Tuesday	11	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	17	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	22	Church jumble sale 11.00pm in village hall

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2 nd	Evensong 6:30pm		Eucharist 11am
Sunday 9 th	Sung Eucharist 9am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 16 th	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 23 rd	Benefice Eucharist 10am		
Sunday 30 th	Benefice Eucharist St Mary's 10am		

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

POST OFFICE – In 1850 post messengers were dispatched at 6.00am from Folkestone with letters for Alkham, Capel, Hawkinge, Hougham, Everden, Swingfield & Swingfield Minnis. In 1863 James Hogben became postman and delivered to Uphill, Hawkinge, Acrise, South Alkham and Capel wearing a cape, soldier's leggings and a round 'billy-cock' hat with a G.P.O. badge on. To signal to residents that he was in the area he blew a tin horn in each village. In 1891 Mrs. Eliza Harvey, had the first post office in Alkham at Longways (opposite the Old Vicarage) and received (and sent) letters through Dover by foot messenger at 8.20am. In 1898 the second delivery of post was granted but it had to be left at the post office for individuals to collect as it was too costly to deliver. In 1910 the post office was at Martinvale and in 1917 it moved to Halton Forstal Cottages (by the Marquis). It is likely that the post office at the bottom of Slip Lane (opposite) commenced in 1925 and continued there until it closed in 1978. **From research carried out by Sue Lees**



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email brianwimsett@hotmail.com

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Alkham web site www.alkham.org

W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641

Footpath Warden antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
White 01303 240539

Church Wardens

Geoff Gaskill 823100
and Richard Tapsell 822295



Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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Telephone 01304 824969

No. 228 October 2012
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DYKE – In last month's Newsletter there was a reminder from the Parish Council that it is the responsibility of riparian landowners to make sure that there is free flow of water across their land. The Parish Council is going to arrange a meeting with the highway/drainage authority to discuss the matter further as part of the problem arises from the run off from the roads. The authority has agreed to clear the culverts at Meggett Lane and Hogbrook Lane and it is hoped that they will walk part of the route.

THE RUBBISH BIN opposite the village hall is going to be removed and re-sited by the cricket pavilion. The bin was placed there by the Parish Council some years ago but it is not regularly emptied. People who book the village hall are requested to take their rubbish away with them but some hirers see the bin and think it is a local authority one and leave sacks there. The hirers are told not to do this but it is impossible for anyone from the hall to be there when they close up. If there is any recurrence money will be taken from their £50 deposit and a reminder notice to this effect has been posted in the village hall.



PEDESTRIANS – Where the Alkham Valley Road passes between Martinvale and Forstal Cottage adjacent to the Marquis, the road is narrow and very difficult for pedestrians to negotiate. An alternative route is round the back of the village hall but a lot of people are not aware of this. Various options have been put forward in the past such as narrowing the road but this has been rejected for a number of reasons. A suggestion was put to the Parish Council that a dotted white line be put on the Forstal side of the road 1.2m away from the wall with pedestrian symbols within. If there are no pedestrians the flow of the traffic would not be impeded and if there are motorists would hopefully realise the pedestrian had the right to be there and give way. Signing would also be required and if the authority were willing to consider a 20mph limit over this section it should improve the situation as well.

FREE FURNITURE items! If a local resident would like any of the following please telephone to arrange to collect them – must be local resident, not dealer: two brown leather sofas (faded by sun), pine table and four chairs, wicker two-seater sofa. Also, for sale (offers considered) reproduction yew items: extending dining table and six chairs, bookcase and two corner glazed cabinets. Also various light fittings – wall, ceiling and standard lamp. Tel: Peter on 07968 036030

AIRFIELD – There are a few corrections to be made to last month's article about a war time airstrip at Chalksole. Melvyn Kirby says the blockhouse shown in the photo last month is actually a Folkestone & District water reservoir and the landing strip was made of a bitumen type felt. Neil Burrows said the airstrip was not built for D Day but was an emergency airfield and he remembers ploughing up the fuel pipeline post war. It was constructed by American forces billeted with local



people and was probably opened by Group Captain Johnny Johnson and guarded by the Home Guard. The airstrip was little used although a badly damaged plane landed there as did a German pilot who gave himself up to

Melvyn's grandfather. After the war an investigator came to Alkham to try and find the asphalt felt. According to Bill Harvey, the inspector went into the Marquis of Granby and the landlord said he couldn't help him but evidently the inspector was standing on it. John Huggins says that some remnants of the felt remain on his land. Melvyn's father George was a Special Constable in the war but was taken out by the Ministry to set up a secret transmitter station in their shepherd's hut to report troop and tank movements if the invasion came. Melvyn, who farms at Chalksole, still has his code deciphering board.

THE ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY will hold its Annual General Meeting in the Village Hall on Wednesday 14th November at 7.30pm. The meeting is usually quite short and followed by an excellent supper at the Fox in Temple Ewell. The Meal is a carvery followed by dessert at £10.50 per head, members and guests are welcome. Please book for the meal with any committee member, Rosemary and Martin Heddle, Jo Walker, Val Fowler, Marion Banks-Nash, Mike Ross, Barry Sheppard. The occasion is a good opportunity to pay subscriptions and donation for the forthcoming year; we look forward to seeing you. **Barry Sheppard**

THE HARVEST SUPPER this year will be on Tuesday 16th October at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. The meal will be similar to last year; a Ploughman's/ pate with apple pie and cream to follow. Tickets at £6 are available from Irene Barnard (824845) and Sue Lees (822661). Could we also please have raffle prizes for the evening's festivities. **Geoff Gaskill**



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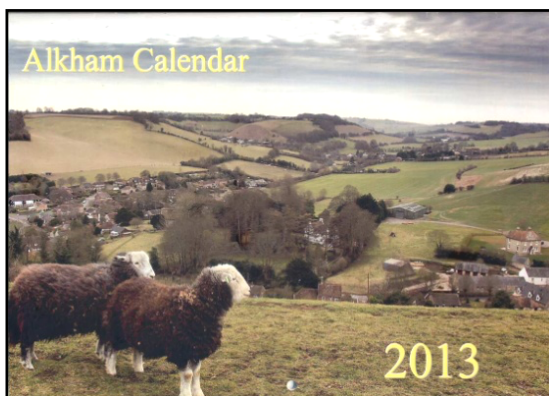
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WWII – The article about the airfield at Chalksole generated quite a response. Jo Walker says that the garage at the Old Rectory was used to house the village fire engine. Evidently it was small one, probably an Austin, with a cylinder on the back. These are now rare but a very good one can be seen at a museum in Maidstone.

Peter Smith, who lives at Chalksole, says there was also an airfield from 1917 to 1945 at Swingfield (west of Lydden and behind Alkham). It was mainly used in WW1 but in WW2 it was an advanced landing ground (ALG) which were small airstrips built to support D Day. They were designed for fighters such as Hurricanes and Spitfires or light bombers, such as the Mosquito and it was originally planned to build 72 ALG'S in southern England but only 23 were constructed. They were very basic as it was thought that they would be in use for a very short period of time. More information can be found on the web site www.abct.org.uk/airfields/swingfield.



ALKHAM CALENDAR

Shown on the left is the cover of the calendar which is in full colour and costs £6. Each month is a different A4 picture taken around and in Alkham by Stan Fowler. To reserve a calendar please contact Rosemary Heddle, Val Fowler, Den Barnard or brianwimsett@hotmail.com

WEST DOVER Conservative Branch invites you to an evening buffet and drinks reception with Kent Police and Crime Commissioner candidate Craig Mackinlay on Saturday 13th October, 7.40pm for 8pm. The local MP, Charlie Elphicke, will also be present. It is in the Olive Room at The Ramada Dover Hotel (off the A2 at Whitfield) and tickets cost £5 per person. To book a place please contact Geoff Lymer on 07960 490929 or glymer@doverconservatives.com. Craig will talk about the forthcoming Police and Crime Commissioner elections on Thursday 15th November and answer any questions you may have. This event is open to all.

GARDEN TALK - On Friday 5th October we meet at "Evergreen", in Slip Lane from 7.30p.m. where our hosts are Val and Stan Fowler. As the evenings are drawing in, we won't be able to see much of the garden, but there will be plenty to talk about, including some advance planning for our Christmas get-together in early December. All welcome. **Janet Adamson**

THE BOOK CLUB meeting for Wednesday 31st October will be at the home of Anita James, Firbank, Slip Lane 01304 824964 .The book for discussion is A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson. The meeting starts at 7.30p.m. Members are invited to bring suggestions for Autumn reading! For more details telephone Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

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. The course takes place in Dover on Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd October. 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

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OZ on PUNCH – On the first day of the recent long-awaited and hoped-for Indian summer, after a paddle in the sea, some real ale, fish and chips, and ice-cream, we felt that an old-fashioned Punch and Judy show would complete our happiness. There wasn't one available close by, but whilst looking I discovered that this year is the 350th birthday of the show. The Punch and Judy story originated in the 16th century in the Italian 'commedia dell'arte', a form of street comedy theatre. It featured a male hunchback, Pulcinella, who had a long nose and a squawking voice produced by a 'swazzle-stick.' In 1662 an Italian puppet-master named [Pietro Gimonde](#) ('Signor Bologna') came to London's Covent Garden with his puppet show, based on Pulcinella, but anglicised as Punch and Joan. Samuel Pepys wrote in his diary of 9th May 1662 that he had seen "...an Italian puppet play...very pretty, the best I have ever seen...", and this date became the official birth of the show in England. Over the next century, as Punch's popularity grew and spread across Europe and America, his nature changed, from a rudely sarcastic stringed puppet to a violent glove-puppet who murders his wife, now named Judy, and child, and then tries to hang the hangman. It's not really surprising that well-meaning attempts have been made over the years to censor Punch; happily they've failed, as the story seems to provide a necessary psychological outlet for adults and children alike. Certainly, modern literature contains many quotations resembling Edmund Gosse's childhood concern over "the internal troubles of the Punch family." Finally, I've discovered that a reliable place to go for a Punch and Judy show these days is underneath the Herne Bay Clock Tower, where they are celebrating Punch's 350th birthday as I write. **Steve Osborn**

BIKE RIDE – Whether you are a believer or not the church bike ride is great fun. Apart from visiting the historic churches in Kent there is the friendly welcome that you get from the volunteers who are there to sign your sheet and ply you with refreshments. They seemed particularly amused by the three ageing and garrulous men in lycra from Alkham (Ken, Den, Brian) who descended upon them. We went east this year passing through many villages including Shepherdswell, Nonnington, Woodnesborough and Waldershare but did fewer churches as the towns were not visited. We covered 37 miles in 6 hours and visited 20 churches and raised over £200. Many thanks to all those who sponsored us.

BMX BIKES – Youngsters in the village have formed mounds and dips at the far end of the football pitch to use their BMX bikes on. They saw Ken Hammond and asked if they could have a proper BMX track. The question was asked at the Parish Council meeting and they have agreed to consider the request when the exact details are provided.

ALKHAM W.I. - Eric Spear spoke about schools set up in Victorian times when all children were encouraged to be educated; a talk everybody enjoyed. As Eric talks on other subjects he will be invited again. Afterwards Janet Barrow, the secretary, had much paperwork to deal with; the main topics being that the annual salary will be raised to £33 next year and the fact that names of members who are willing to be on next year's committee must be brought to the October meeting. Speaker at that meeting will be Prue Anderton on "Can I call you 'Mum'?" - **Sue Lees**

A JUMBLE SALE in aid of W.I. funds will be held in the village hall on Saturday 27th October starting at 11.00am.

SNAKES – Brian Croucher said that he has seen a number of snakes behind the Old Granary on the path that leads to the Old Rectory. He wasn't sure what they were but thought that walkers should be aware.

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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

Tuesday	2	White Cliffs metal detecting
Tuesday	9	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	15	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	16	Harvest Supper in village hall at 7.30pm
Saturday	27	W.I. jumble sale 11.00pm in village hall

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7 th	Evensong 6:30pm	Eucharist 9.00am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 14 th	Sung Eucharist 9am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 21 st	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9.00am
Sunday 28 th	Joint Benefice 10am at Alkham		
Weekday Services: Wednesday Eucharist 9.15 am St Radigund, Capel-Le-Ferne			

THE 2012 CRICKET season is one that will be easily forgotten by Alkham CC. There has been little to cheer up the players during a summer when numerous matches were postponed due to water-logged pitches and a handful of others were called off when it was impossible for either Alkham or the opposition to raise a team. At least the August Bank Holiday weekend brought brief smiles to the team's faces with a famous victory in the annual match against the Harrington Hackers – a fixture that dates back well over 40 years. Responsibility for the Hackers is now in the hands of Sam Loveday, having taken over the captaincy from his father, Mark. But Sam and his friends came up against an Alkham side determined to salvage some pride from a disappointing season and keen to narrow the gap on the Hackers, who have a small advantage in terms of matches won over the last 40-odd years. The Alkham victory on a glorious sunny day almost helped the team wipe away thoughts of the rest of the damp, miserable season. The club aimed to finish the season on a high note to as it prepared for the final match (Sept 23) with Kent skipper Rob Key lining up as Alkham's guest player to face a Marquis XI led by former Hampshire and Middlesex spinner Shaun Udal. BBC cameras were expected on The Meadow to film Marquis chef Charlie Lakin for footage to be used on the Great British Menu TV programme – but the village team were determined he'd face more pressure batting than in his kitchen! **Peter Frater – Club Captain**

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THE DYKE
Peter Mercer sent a photo of the dyke where it passes under Short Lane at the east of the village. There are two pipes under the road which are

clearly incapable of dealing with the flow of water with the result that debris builds up. This causes the bottom of Short Lane to flood with a knock on effect along the dyke. The Highway Authority has been informed but it seems unlikely that anything will be done. There are similar pinch points along the dyke.

POLICE COMMISSIONER – On the 15th November from 8am to 10pm voting will take place in the village hall for the election of the Police Commissioner for Kent. The purpose is to give locals a say in how policing is carried out in the local area. There are 4 independents standing plus Labour, Conservative, UKIP, National Liberal Party and English Democrats candidates. All have pledged that frontline policing will not be privatised if they win but some candidates say they will be willing to consider contracting services to private companies where it saves the taxpayer money.

THE ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY'S AGM will be held in the village hall on Wednesday 14th November starting at 7.30pm. Please come along and find out what the society has been doing to help safeguard the valley and its plans for the future. The meeting is generally brief before those who pre-booked go to the Fox at Temple Ewell for a meal.

NEWSPAPERS – Alkhamhurst Kennels are very grateful to the people who responded to the previous request for old newspapers but supplies have dwindled lately and they need to replenish their stock with some urgency. So please take your old papers to the kennels which are on the valley road east of Alkham adjacent to Wolverton Hill.

ALKHAM CALENDAR – Please could the people who have reserved a calendar either pop in about lunch time or ring me to pick them up. There are only 12 left so if there is anyone who has expressed an interest but not reserved one directly please contact me straight away. We have sold 88 and at present we don't intend to do a reprint unless there is sufficient demand. **Brian 824969 – Old Post Office**

COFFEE MORNING - There will be a coffee morning with homemade cakes in Alkham Village hall on Saturday 10th November in aid of the Alzheimer's Society. We will be holding it from 10am until 12 noon and it will include a tombola and bric-a-brac stall. Please try to support us on this occasion to help raise funds for a very worthy cause. Thank you.
Sue Ross 01304 825736



CAT – Eileen Delamare phoned the Newsletter to say that her cat was missing. A couple of week's later Spikey was found some distance away in John and Diana Crockford's greenhouse looking fit and rather pleased with himself.

MUCH as we love our furry friends, strimming over a doggy doo-doo is not one of life's more pleasant experiences. As the volunteers maintaining the churchyard will testify, regrettably this has not been an isolated incident. Equally distressing, but in a different way, is the sight of a dog poo on a loved one's grave. There are three well used footpaths through the churchyard and dog walkers are asked to respect the sanctity of this place by not allowing their pets to foul in the churchyard. So please pick it up and bag it; there is a bin at the back of the churchyard by the bonfire pile. In leaving the church open during the day we are also trusting owners not to allow their dogs unattended into the church. Thank you. **Alkham PCC**

THE BOOK CLUB meeting for November will be at the home of Sue Latham, Woodlands, Short Lane, telephone 01304 824924. The book for discussion is Round Ireland with a Fridge by Tony Hawks. The meeting starts at 7.30pm. New members are welcome. For more information contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

FOR RENT – A five acre flat field is available to rent in the centre of Alkham. Please phone Patsy Sayers on 07764 183 781.

THE VILLAGE HALL now has a small archive room. If any societies or clubs connected with the hall would like to archive some material please let us know either by contacting Brian (824969) or Janet Adamson (01303 893413).

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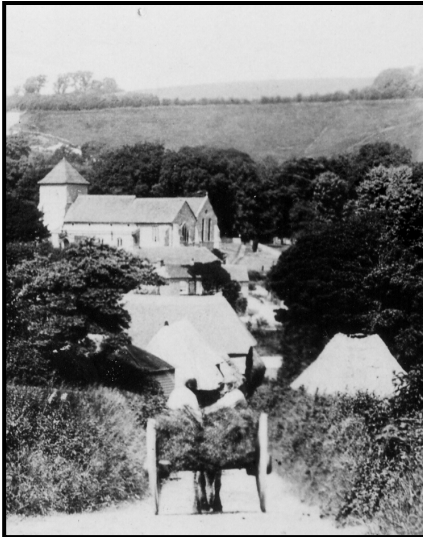
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1929 - '...and an hours walk will bring you to the peaceful village of Alkham, buried in the folds of the hills just where the hill road branches off by Hogbrook Farm to Capel and Folkestone. My 'sleepy hollow', I used to call it. Peaceful, health-giving Alkham, with its kindly and friendly village folk and its simple and enjoyable village, full of interest and full of pleasure for me ... two pipes long I used to reckon that walk from the little bridge on the road outside Kearsney to the vicarage at Alkham - a two pipe walk of sheer pleasure for me at any time of year.'

(Kelly's Directory 1929) Many thanks to Jo Walker for sending this article – the photo is Hogbrook Lane circa 1930.

EMERGENCY LANDING STRIP – As mentioned in last month's Newsletter there was a wartime ELS at Swingfield. John Richards, who was born in Alkham and captained Alkham cricket club, says that the changing rooms at Selsted cricket club were constructed from buildings that were on the ELS and this year he managed to get a grant of £4500 from Shepway DC to refurbish them.

SHEEP – Peter and Isabelle Smith, who live in Alkham, went to the sale of Traditional and Native Breeds at Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire to buy some sheep. They planned to buy a Moorit Shetland ram but didn't see any they liked so bought three fine ewes - two Moorit and one White



All from Scotland. Next year they will compete and sell some sheep. Countryfile presenter Adam Henson was there to judge the best sheep and also filming for a forthcoming episode. Adam bought some magnificently wild looking Boreray which were almost extinct in the 20th century. In the 19th century they were mated with Southdownsheep to establish a new breed, the Suffolk, which is one of the most numerous in the world. Boreray originate on the St Kilda archipelago off the west coast of Scotland and survive as a feral animal on Boreray island. It is the most endangered breed of sheep in the UK.

ALKHAM W.I. - The Speaker Prue Anderton at the October meeting was a bright, speedy talker about setting up a home for foreign students - so many tales told! October 27th WI Jumble Sale in the Village Hall help & contributions pre 11am welcome. 13th November is the AGM. A list of names given for the Committee remains as for this year. Anyone who has shoe boxes with suitable contents to be contributions for the 3rd World, please bring to the AGM. The Xmas Dinner to be on 11th Dec should be paid for at the AGM and the menu chosen. The joint WI Carol Service will be at Whitfield 3rd Dec. The joint WI & Alkham Church Xmas Coffee/Bazaar Morning will be Village Hall 8th Dec 10am - Midday. January onwards the WI Meetings will start at 7pm rather than 7.30pm. **Sue Lees**

GARDEN TALK - After an interesting year, which started with a fruity wine quiz, included many interesting and colourful gardens during the summer evenings, and recently some fake flower photos, we intend to finish the year with a party involving all the participants. This will be in the evening of Friday 7th December - please contact Janet Adamson for more details (01303 893413).

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GILL CALVER will be at St. Radigunds church on November 9th to give a talk entitled 'To Find Out'. It starts at 7.30pm and tickets costing £5 are available from John Oliver on 01303 251403. In 2002 Gill left the Alkham Benefice and went on to become the Queen's Chaplain and Canon of Canterbury Cathedral. Should be an interesting evening.

FIRE ENGINES – Margaret Ashman phoned to say that if anybody was wondering why a couple of fire engines arrived at Green Lane Ewell Minnis on the 7th October it was because of an electrical fire alert which was brought under control. The fire and ambulance crews couldn't get any further than Fryers Ferne Farm so the owner, Lieutenant Colonel Ray Ashman MBE, ferried the crews back and forth repeatedly across farm land to the affected property in his 4x4 vehicle.

NEWSLETTER – The financial year for the Newsletter ended in August and a profit of £38 was made. 340 copies are produced each month and as I now print the Newsletter most of a toner cartridge is used at a cost of about £35; paper cost is £3. Twenty eight Newsletters are posted each month at a cost of £10 (28 emailed). The revenue from adverts was £611 and the overall expenditure was £573 with the profit going into the Newsletter's BS account. I would like to thank the people who deliver the Newsletter, some having done so for nearly 20 years. **editor**

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will present a concert of English music at 7.30 pm on Saturday 17th November in Dover Town Hall. The programme comprises Benjamin Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols" and "Rejoice in the Lamb", Ralph Vaughan Williams's "Five Mystical Songs", and Michael Tippett's "Five Negro Spirituals". The chorus, together with professional soloists and accompanied by harp and piano, will be conducted by Dover Choral Society's Musical Director, Michael Lewis. Tickets costing £12 (Students £6) are available from Dover Tourist Information Centre (Dover Museum), members of Dover Choral 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**

OZ on 1812 – It has been a remarkable year for anniversaries, some of which are: the 1000th anniversary of the murder of Archbishop Alphege of Canterbury by Viking raiders, on 19 April 1012; the 100th anniversaries of Captain Scott's arrival at the South Pole in January, his team's death in March, and the loss of the Titanic in April; the Diamond Jubilee in June; and last month's 25th anniversary of the Great Storm. Some of this year's 200th anniversaries are well-known, others less so, but they're all significant to us as the western world was changing rapidly in 1812. On 7 February of that year, Charles Dickens was born in Portsmouth, later to become the literary giant who recorded many of those changes. The word 'gerrymander' was invented on 11 February when Elbridge Gerry, the governor of Massachusetts, redrew the election boundaries to favour his own party. The amended map resembled a salamander, and so Gerry's Federalist opponents combined the words 'gerry' and 'salamander' to describe Gerry's action. On the next day Napoleon introduced the metric system to France. During a recent visit to Canada, we discovered how the conflicting interests of these three countries led to the War of 1812 between the US and Great Britain. Britain was already at war with France and was annoying the US by impressing American sailors into the Royal Navy, interfering in trade with France and supporting the American Indians. On 18 June, the US declared its first ever war, on Great Britain, and occupied the Canadian town of Sandwich on July 12. The war was to last another two years, but the big event continued in Europe. Napoleon was defeated at Moscow on 19 October 1812, giving rise seventy years later to Tchaikovsky's ever popular 1812 Overture, without which life today would be incomplete.

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823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187

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	5	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm in VH – all welcome
Tuesday	2	White Cliffs metal detecting 7pm
Saturday	10	SE Astronomical Society in village hall 7pm
Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Wednesday	14	Alkham Valley Society AGM in village hall 7.30pm
Thursday	15	Police Commissioners election in VH from 8am to 10pm
Monday	19	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	24	Beekeepers in village hall from 2pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4th	Evensong 4:30pm	Sung Eucharist 9am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 11th	Remembrance Day 10:15am	Remembrance Day 10:30am	Rememb. Day 10:15am
Sunday 18th	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 25th		Benefice Eucharist 10am	

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

AT THE END of the 19th century a pumping station was built at Drellingore which supplied water to the Folkestone and District area. In 1931 it was decided to dig another well and that is when the white art deco style building on the bend of the valley road was constructed.



A ten foot (3m) diameter well was dug 172 feet (52m) into the chalk and 12 feet above the bottom, shafts totalling 543 feet (165m) were dug to the east and the west. In the drought of 1933 the adits were extended by another 185 feet (56m). At that time the well could produce 2 million gallons in a 24 hour period and because of the purity of the water it was not treated. Just to the west of the housing development at Hawkinge is the Terlingham reservoir which is filled from Drellingore and there is a satellite station at Lower Standen. Today it can produce over 3 million gallons a day and the water is treated. The high porosity of the chalk provides the volume of water, which as locals will know also accounts for the dyke through the village and the occasional flooding of the village green. **editor** – many thanks to Gill Osborne for providing some of the material

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Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969
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Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635

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Alkham web site www.alkham.org

W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641

Footpath Warden antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
White 01303 240539

Church Wardens

Geoff Gaskill 823100
and Richard Tapsell
822295



Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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No. 230 December 2012

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VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE - The Christmas tree lights switch on will be on Saturday 8th December at 4:45pm. This will be followed by carol singing led by the WI and a visit by Father Christmas. Many thanks to Mary and Dick Sullivan who have once again kindly donated the tree and to Ben who has again invited everybody to the Marquis afterwards for mulled wine and mince pies. **Den Barnard 824845**



NHS and RURALITY – The Primary Care Trust (PCT) has changed some of the areas around Dover, Deal and Sandwich from being rural to non-rural for NHS purposes. The Parish Council has been asked if they would like to be involved in the appeal against this change to which they have agreed. If you live in a rural area your prescriptions can be dispensed at the GP surgery (if you also live at least a mile away from a chemist). It may be that only new people moving into the area are affected initially but rural GP surgeries rely on the money generated from dispensing. Over time the loss of dispensing income might mean they have to close and the patients transferred to town practices. Alkham is set to remain rural, but if the appeal is rejected then the rural surgeries that some Alkham residents currently attend may close. If you want further information perhaps the best idea is to ask at your local surgery.

SURVEY – Kent Highways are carrying out a survey for people to comment on their services and needs. It really is worth taking the time to fill in the survey as it covers such subjects as the condition of roads and pavements, public transport and hot spots. For instance, if you think the junctions at the end of the valley road with the A260 or the old A2 are a problem you can say so as well as commenting on the state of roads in general. The survey can be accessed on the Internet at www.tinyurl.com/d6t6pff but it's not clear if it can be completed on a paper copy. There is a 24 hour helpline on 08458 247 247 if you want to phone them and responses to the survey should be made by the 12th December 2012.
Editor

GARDEN TALK - Arrangements are well in hand for our Christmas meal on Friday 7th December. We look forward to planning an interesting programme for 2013. Please contact Janet Adamson (01303 893413) with suggestions or for further information.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR/COFFEE MORNING

This is being held on Saturday December 8th in the village hall from 10 til noon on behalf of the WI and St Anthony's Church. There will be various stalls including handmade crafts, gift cards and cakes. We are also planning to have Tombola and bric-a-brac stalls and for these we need suitable donations of goods please. Also, cake donations would be greatly appreciated too. Please do come along and bring some festive cheer to this event even if you pop in just to say hello and enjoy a coffee and join in some carol singing. **WI / St Anthony's**



THE ANNUAL QUIZ will take place on the 2nd February at 7.30pm in the village hall. Please give me a ring on 824969 if you would like to book a table which are up to the maximum of 8 people. Food will be served at the interval which should be reasonably filling. The cost is £5 per person. The profits this year will go to the Pilgrims Hospice at Ashford. **(Brian)**

COFFEE MORNING - I would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to the success of the coffee morning for the Alzheimer's Society on Saturday 10th November in the village hall. Thank you to all who gave me prizes for the tombola, made cakes or donated items to sell on the various stalls. I would like to give a very big thank you to those who gave me generous donations of money. I am so pleased to be able to send a cheque to the Alzheimer's Society for £420. Thank you all very much. **Sue Ross**

MAY WE THANK everyone for their kind thoughts, good wishes, prayers, flowers and cards and for all the wonderful support we have received since Richard's accident. Never, ever, was it so good to be home. Thank you so much. Susannah and Richard

POPPIES - Once again, I am pleased to tell you that Alkham has been generous in giving to the Poppy Appeal in 2012. The total collected this year is £393.42. A big thank you to those villagers who help me collect door-to-door in Alkham. And also thanks to the businesses, that collect - Alkham Garden Centre and Tea Rooms, Southern Equestrian, The Marquis, and Alkhamhurst Kennels. **Rachel Fountain**

VILLAGE GREEN – The Highway Authority has no objection to the concrete post and rail fence adjacent to Hogbrook Lane being removed and replaced with hedging. This will probably happen early next year with the hedging continuing round the fencing to the sump in the dyke.

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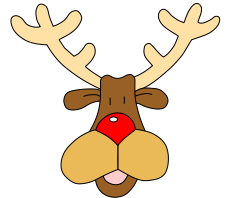


CROSSROADS VILLA – The address does sound attractive but according to Google it is actually Di Smith's cowshed at Sladden Farm, which even has its own postcode. It does seem unlikely that the cows registered the barn although her pigs Snowball and Napoleon are looking rather pleased with themselves.

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - The AGM of the Society took place in the Village Hall on 14th November. It was pleasant to see the number of members who had attended; many thanks. The meeting was shorter than usual and although the basic ground was covered we still have to resolve certain questions. At present Barry Sheppard is Acting Chairman and Treasurer which matter will be resolved at the next Committee meeting (January 17, 2013). The Committee members are: Marion Banks-Nash, Barry Sheppard, Val Fowler, Mike Ross, Liz Lambourne Joanna Walker and Geoff Hillier. Pam Sayers offered her resignation from the Committee as did Martin and Rosemary Heddle. Thanks for their support, Pam's invaluable input has spanned over 25 years. Tribute was paid to Maurice Sayers, our excellent Chairman for most of the Society's existence, Max Walker, Betty Neely, Glyn Thomas and Dr Bundy. Our loss is greatly felt by their passing. Welcome to Anthony Barrier as a new member. A good supper at The Fox followed as now customary. The Christmas Walk will take place on 27 December starting from the Village Hall at 10.30 all being well. Thanks to all. **Joanna Walker (Sec)** *Extraordinary Meeting planned for 8pm, 22 November at the Old Rectory*

CORRECTION – In last month's Newsletter there was an article about sheep where I said Suffolk sheep are a result of crossing Borerays with Southdowns but they are actually the result of crossing Norfolk horn sheep with Southdowns.

CAT – You may have seen the article last month about Spikey the cat who went missing and was found at Diana Crockford's bungalow. After returning home he was kept in for some time but was let out and once again went missing. A little while later Diana found him behind her bungalow. Evidently this is a trend with some cats and Eileen, Spikey's owner, is going to make sure it doesn't happen again.



PEDESTRIANS – The suggestion to put a pedestrian symbol and dotted white line on the valley road at the narrow point near the Marquis was rejected out of hand by the Highways Authority. They consider the road is narrow enough already without the latter and that there have been no recorded accidents. In the morning and evening children can be seen walking through this gap and it is far from ideal. Highways say they can use the footpath round the back of the village hall. Pedantically this is not a public footpath as the piece around the village hall is owned by the hall and in using this route the children will have to cross the road near the bends on the valley road.

ALKHAM WI AGM - Susan Lees stood in as Chairman due to three other Committee Members being on holiday! However, names requested for next year's Committee remain the same so no ballot had to take place. The Annual Reports for Dec 2011-Nov 2012 were given by Janet Barrow the Secretary and Cherry Leppard the Treasurer. The Annual Finances are not quite so healthy this year, possibly due to the fact that Jumble Sales are not doing so well. The next event will be the Christmas Coffee Morning/Bazaar on 8th December in the Village Hall 10am being run with Alkham Church Members. As the Village Hall needs Christmas decorating members are invited to help at 10am on Monday 3rd December. - **Susan Lees**

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OZ on LEAR – Last month's story overlooked the fact that 2012 also saw the 200th anniversary of much-loved British artist and author, Edward Lear, born on 27 May 1812 in Holloway, twentieth of twenty-one children of stockbroker Jeremiah Lear and Ann (née Skerrett.) The Lear family suffered financial problems so severe that



Edward was raised from the age of four by his sister Ann, twenty-one years his senior. From infancy he suffered chronic ill-health, including epilepsy, bronchitis and asthma; and then, perhaps due to childhood insecurity, attacks of depression which he called "The Morbids." Lear started work as 'ornithological draughtsman' in his teens, first for London Zoological Society, and then for Lord Derby, who owned a private zoo. There followed a lifetime of painting while travelling, mainly to Greece, Egypt, India and Ceylon, while pursuing a parallel career writing 'literary nonsense', an activity which grew from hours spent amusing Lord Derby's grandchildren. His most famous poem is The Owl and The Pussycat, written in 1871, and containing the phrase 'runcible spoon', totally meaningless but appearing in many modern dictionaries. He also popularized limericks, his being free of the usual innuendo, and of varying lengths, often depending on how much space was available beneath the associated drawing. Having twice been turned down by a lady 46 years his junior, Lear never married, but settled in San Remo in the 1870s with his cat and Albanian chef, 'Giorgis', who he described as his "faithful friend and thoroughly unsatisfactory chef." After years of increasing blindness and heart trouble, Lear died in 1886. This year has seen many celebrations of his life, the last being a limited edition reprint of his Birds Drawn for John Gould. At £895 per copy, I think I'll stick to my old Penguin edition of his limericks. **Steve Osborn**

THE WOLVERTON Anglo-Saxon double-tiered weapons burial display case which was at the Astor College for the Arts has been used by the college and its satellite primary schools as an educational tool for History, Art and English lessons. The case has now moved to Dover Museum where the exhibit will be permanently used by over 12,000 school children visiting the museums education facilities each year. As from 27th November 2012, the general public will now be able to view the case during the normal museum opening times. **Vince Burrows Alkham Valley Historical Research Group**

HARVEST SUPPER - The annual village Harvest supper on 16th October proved to be very successful thanks to invaluable help on the day from Sue Ross, Rosemary Heddle, Den and Geoff. Thanks of course to Paul for his brilliant and amusing auctioneering and David for assisting. Of course the event was successful and fun only because of the enormous support from all who attended and considering the numbers swelled to 73 we had a full hall. A huge thank you too to all who kindly donated goods to the auction and raffle in particular Barbara Palmer, Peter Hooker and Shelley Jackson for making another



Sent by Jo Walker - an extract from John Betjeman's 'Septuagesima'

But most of all let's praise the few
Who are seen in their accustomed pew
Throughout the year, whate'er the weather
That they may worship God together.
These, like a fire of glowing coals,
Strike warmth into each other's souls
And though they be but two or three
They keep the church for you and me.

stunning Harvest cake. After expenses we made a profit of £670.75 which will be going to St Anthony's church funds. Richard Tapsell was sorely missed and all send their best wishes for a full recovery.

Irene Barnard

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MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669

County Councillor, Bryan Cope 206510

District Councillors - Sue Nicholas

823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187

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	3	Parish Council
Tuesday	4	White Cliffs metal detecting 7pm
Saturday	8	Coffee morning in village hall 10 to 12 – W.I./PCC
Saturday	8	SE Kent Astronomical Society in village hall 7pm
Monday	19	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2 nd	Evensong 4:30pm	Sung Eucharist 9am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 9th	Sung Eucharist 9am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Wednesday 12th	Licensing of Revd. Brian Williams 7pm at Capel		
Sunday 16th	9 Lessons/Carols 6:30pm		Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 23rd	Benefice Eucharist at Hougham 10.00am		
Monday 24 th Christmas Eve	Crib Service 4pm Sung Eucharist 11:30pm	Sung Eucharist 11:30pm	
Tuesday 25 th		Worship Tog'r 11am	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 30th	Benefice Eucharist at Capel 10am		

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



PUMPING STATION – In last month's Newsletter there was an article about the pumping station at Drellingore. Joan Allen has sent a photo, probably taken in the 1950's, showing the inside of the station with her uncle Geoff who worked there with John Richard's father. John says that the first satellite pumping station was by the bend and his father worked in the tunnels and John remembers as a 10 year old a 'not too sure it was a pleasure' of a trip down the 300' well. He also says that 'drilling' and 'gore' means

rising water. The original Victorian two storey pumping station was demolished in 1981 much to the annoyance of local industrial archaeologists but the water authority was concerned that if it was left the water source might be contaminated.

KENNELS AND CATTERY, Canine Hydro-therapy and Pet Shop Wolverton **01304 822420**

CANINE BEAUTICIANS, dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House Ewell Minnis - **822902**

SIMON PRICE Part P electricians and data installers, South Alkham - **01303 252764**

HOTEL, RESTAURANT AND BAR Marquis, Alkham Valley Road – **01304 873410**

R CUNNINGHAM - Flat and pitched roof specialist Alkham – **01304 821042** or **07725402939**

Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969

email brianwimsett@hotmail.com

Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791

alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net

Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635

Police – 999 emergency & 101 for non-emergency including PCSO

Alkham web site www.alkham.org

W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641

Footpath Warden

antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk

Church Wardens

Geoff Gaskill 823100

and Richard Tapsell 822295

