

# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

**No. 231 January 2013**

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**CHRISTMAS TREE** The photo shows Brian on the left trying to give the appearance that's he's doing something whilst the other 5 struggle under the tree to get it in the hole on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December. Many

thanks to Richard, Peter, Mike, Den and Barry, who can be seen in the photo below, for all their hard work. On the 8<sup>th</sup>

of December about 40 people gathered round the tree and sang carols led by the W.I. choir. There was then a count of 10 and the lights were turned on

by Rhiannon, who has recently moved into the village with her family, and can be seen beaming happily below. Father Christmas made an



appearance and gave sweets to the children and later at the Marquis mulled wine and mince pies were given to the adults. Thanks to Den Barnard for organising the event and to Dick and Mary Sullivan for the tree. **Brian**



**ST ANTHONY'S Christmas Tree** - Once again the Alkham Valley Garden Centre have donated a fabulous Christmas tree for St Anthony's Church. A big thank you to Eunice and Bill and also to Ken Hammond for setting it up and to Grace Stacey and daughter Debbie for decorating it. **Den Barnard**

**THE MARQUIS** will be hosting an 'Alkham supper' every Wednesday evening at £10 for 2 courses. Served 6-7pm. The first one - Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January - will be Beef Stew & dumplings followed by Bread & Butter pudding with custard. We can cater for dietary requirements. After that we are open to suggestions as to what the menu will be.

## Happy New Year

### **DO YOU FANCY SINGING at the 02 Arena?**

I went along to a taster session with Rock Choir in Folkestone and loved it. Everyone is welcome and you don't have to be able to read music, just enjoy singing. We often join up with other Rock Choirs and perform but it is all very laid back, you can do as little or as much as you like. There is a large range of ages although we could do with a few more men! The 02 performance is in July and I am sure it will be an amazing experience. If anyone is interested they can either give me a call or log onto [www.rockchoir.com](http://www.rockchoir.com). and book in for a taster session. Trust me singing in the shower will never be the same again! **Sue Latham 01304 824924**

**THE ANNUAL QUIZ** will take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

**CHURCH SECURITY** - The mindless actions of a few individuals have denied villagers of access to the church during daylight hours. St Anthony's has been unlocked for over two years and we are sad to report that during this time we have had three thefts, including the attempted forced entry to the collection box with a crowbar, theft of money from the honesty box and most recently, early last month, the theft of the altar cloths after an act of disgraceful vandalism. These cloths will be difficult and expensive to replace and regrettably the church committee has concluded that the church should be locked again, at least until spring when they will review the situation with the vicar. **Geoff Gaskill**

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** held for Alkham Church and W.I. on 8th December - The event went well and raised over £400 much of which will go to Charity. There were lots of lovely stalls, most of which did well. Sadly there were not so many people who supported it this year, but despite that, all went well - thank you. **Susan Lees**

**HEATING OIL** - A house just outside the village had its oil tank filled up recently at a cost of £1100. A couple of days later it was found to be empty so people are warned to be aware of this theft and where possible take suitable precautions.

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**SECRET ARMY** – Drellingore featured in the article about the pumping station and again features with regard to the secret army. In the months after Dunkirk the British realised that there was a distinct possibility of a German invasion and in the south there was over 400 miles of coast to protect. The army division responsible for its defence was pitifully ill-equipped so it was decided to set up a 'devil-may-care' force of volunteers to outwit the German divisions. Auxiliary units were scattered throughout Kent and Sussex and were largely made up of civilians who knew the area like the back of their hands. Security was very tight and few people knew of their existence. In the autumn of 1940 sappers were sent into the countryside to build underground bunkers and one of these was at Drellingore. It was on the hillside about 1km from the nearest road in the middle of a coppice. The chamber was about 5 metres square with an entrance hole covered with a hinged tree stump. The group was commanded by Lieutenant Lines with Sergeant George Marsh, Thomas Holmans, Charles Fayers, Dennis Dewar and Samuel Osborne (*the details for this article were provided by Gill Osborne, the daughter of Samuel who used to live at Drellingore Farm, from an article written by Roy Humphries for the local press*). They were issued with a .38 Smith and Wessen revolver, a commando knife and a brass knuckleduster. The men were trained to wreak havoc on the Germans and twice a week they mustered at the bunker and attended training sessions at Wye and Bilting where they learned the skills of unarmed combat and how to kill silently. They also attended evening practice in the grounds of Tappington Hall at Denton where they were shown how to throw grenades and learn about explosives. Whilst their primary function was to blow up fuel and ammunition dumps they were also required to blow up buildings which might be of use if the invasion happened. One of these buildings was Hockley Sole, which is near the crossroads at Lower Standen and also the high brick rail viaduct in Folkestone would have been demolished. If the men had been caught they would almost certainly have been shot as they effectively didn't exist. The Drellingore bunker has now disappeared although part of the concrete shaft may remain and the defence squads were disbanded in 1943. **Editor**

**NEWSLETTER** – The stories that I have included from the past have generated a fair amount of interest and I'd like to keep the theme going. If you have any memories or tales from the past please let me know. They can either be written articles or just some details around which a story can be put. My address and phone number are on the top of page 1 and my email address is on page 4. Please do contact me, it would be much appreciated. **editor**

**ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY** - I have been delving through the archives and had a chance to read the constitution of the Alkham Valley Society. One point that immediately struck me was that it was signed and dated by the late Maurice Sayers on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 1977 thus we have just celebrated our thirty fifth year. You may know that the society was founded to help combat the ravaging of the valley's trees and hedgerows by an aggressive farmer and it has kept a watchful eye over any unsympathetic developments ever since. We are still here and ready to support the Parish Council and all whenever there is a matter of concern, be it inconsiderate systems of rubbish collection to blatant disregard of planning regulations. In its thirty five years of life Paul Tapsell was chairman for ten years and Maurice has been the only other until the beginning of this year.

\*\*\* The need for an organisation like ours in these times becomes more and more important so we will continue our work with your backing \*\*\*. **Barry Sheppard, Acting Chairman**

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**OZ on DATES** – Last Christmas I chuckled over a beautifully drawn cartoon in a family history magazine, depicting a man wearing a Father Christmas hat and seated in an armchair, and reading from a long scroll the words "...my uncle was born on the 2nd April 1910...". The man's wife is wearily explaining to the guests "I asked him to get some dates for Christmas." I was reminded of this today when I sat down to write an OZ story, and noticed that the date was 12/12/12, a 'special date' of a type that only occurs twelve times in each century, the next being 01/01/01 in 2101. There are reports of a huge increase across the country in marriages planned for 12/12/12, including many couples who want the vows said on the 12th second of the 12th minute of the 12th hour of that day. Maybe as you read this, we'll know the final figures. The BBC added that the date 09/09/09 had been particularly prized as a marriage date for couples working in the emergency services. Interviewed by the BBC, Marcus du Sautoy, Professor of Mathematics at Oxford University, Professor for the Public Understanding of Science, and President of the Mathematical Association, said that he thought that the desire to marry on 12/12/12 shows that "people have mathematical minds", because they love to find pattern in numbers. There are many other classes of 'special dates', such as double dates, palindromes, square root dates and so on, far too many to deal with here, so I'll try to deal with them as they come up in 2013. For as Marcus du Sautoy said in his interview: "We are all incredibly lucky to be living in this 12-year period because it's pretty fallow after that.", and I think that 2013 is the final year of this magical 12-year period. **Steve Osborn**

**SNOW CLEARING outside your house** - You are perfectly entitled to clear snow and ice on the pavement outside your home. Don't be put off clearing paths because you're afraid someone will get injured. It's unlikely you'll be sued or held legally responsible for any injuries on the path if you have cleared it carefully. Be careful when you are shovelling snow, ensuring your own safety and visibility, especially if you clearing snow when it's dark or at night. **Kent Highways**

**BOOK CLUB** - The next book club meeting will be on Wednesday the January 30<sup>th</sup> at the home of Avi Munn, Poems, Short Lane, Alkham - Tel 01304 824729 starting at 7.30. The book for discussion will be The Fishing Fleet Hunting in the Raj by Anne de Coursey. For more information about the village book club contact Jane Aslett on 01304 824729.

**ALKHAM W.I.** - A lovely evening was spent by 27 members at 'The Arlington' in Dover with a lovely Christmas Dinner and a good chat, despite the heavy frost at -7'c in Alkham. Hopefully the next meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> January will not be so cold. The talk will be 'Eve's Stained Glass' BUT due to the winter weather the **MEETING WILL START AT 7pm** - please note this time. **Susan Lees**

**ASH DIEBACK** – A house owner in the village has reported that some of the ash trees in his property appear to be affected by the dieback disease. If you think that any ash trees in your property or any that you have seen are affected by the disease please report it to The Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA) by phoning 08459 33 55 77 or email [plant.health.info@fera.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:plant.health.info@fera.gsi.gov.uk). Indications of the disease are dark usually diamond shaped lesions on the bark or tiny fungi growth on stalks in early autumn. When in leaf, blackening of the leaf extending into the veins and stalk and dieback of the crown of the tree with a flush of new growth below.

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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

<b>Monday</b>	<b>7</b>	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm in VH – all welcome
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>8</b>	W.I. in village hall at 7pm
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>12</b>	SE Kent Astronomical Society in village hall 7pm
<b>Monday</b>	<b>21</b>	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>29</b>	Village Hall committee meeting in village hall 7.00pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6th	Evensong 4:30pm	Sung Eucharist 9am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 13th	Sung Eucharist 9am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 20th	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 27th	Benefice Eucharist 10am		

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



**GARDEN TALK** - After a full year of visiting gardens in Alkham, talking of gardening and much more, as well as enjoying good company, we ended our year with a very successful meal, mulled wine and entertaining quizzes at Thorn Cottage. Thanks to everyone who made the

evening so special; also to those who were our hosts during the year. Now 2013 visits are being planned - offers of hospitality are always welcomed. **Janet Adamson (01303 893413)**

**PRECEPT** – This is the amount that the Parish Council request from the local authority for expenditure on Parish matters. The precept they are requesting for 2013 is £7500, which is a reduction of £500 from previous years.

Further to the poem by John Betjeman in last month's Newsletter Margaret Batcheldor sent the following:

Some go to church to meet a lover  
Some the fashion to discover  
Some go to church to sleep and nod  
But very few to worship God.

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**Newsletter**, Brian Wimsett 824969  
email [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com)

**Parish Clerk** Angela Miller 824791  
[alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net](mailto: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](http://www.alkham.org)

**W.I. secretary** – Susan Lees 822661

**AVS** [cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk) 821641

**Footpath Warden**  
[antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk)

**Church Wardens**  
Geoff Gaskill 823100  
and Richard Tapsell 822295



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**ONCE** again the ground water rose out of the ground at Drellingore and became a small river. As a lot of people will know there is a well at

South Alkham in which the water can be seen to be rising as the underlying chalk becomes saturated and eventually the Nailbourne flows. In times gone past it was known as the 'Woe Waters' and even today it causes problems for people especially in the Meggett Lane area.



**SALT** – The winter salt bag has been delivered and placed at the back of the village hall car park on Hogbrook Lane. The Parish Council wish to remind people that the salt is there such that traffic can run as freely as possible on Hogbrook Lane and it is not to be used for private paths or drives.

**THE BELLS** – An option at a wedding is to have the bells rung in celebration after the register is signed. We do this in Alkham but the number of bell ringers is diminishing and this year the bells were not rung at New Year. To begin with, like driving, it takes a while to get confidence but once learnt it just comes naturally. Anyone can ring including young adults and it's not necessary to stay for the service (in the past some used to go to the pub). Please help us to maintain the tradition and either see Ken Hammond or give Richard Tapsell a ring on 822295. Bell practice is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month between 7 and 8pm.

**ALKHAM FETE** - There will be a Fete Meeting on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February at 8 pm in the Village Hall - please come along (or get in touch with me direct beforehand) as we need to establish whether there is sufficient support to allow us to run the Fete this July - we're aiming for Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July. Without enough people to help with the stalls, etc. and with the necessary work we may be unable to re-instate this proud village tradition! Paul Tapsell 01303 892082.

**GARDENING TIPS** – I'm pleased to report that from next month there will be a regular feature giving gardening tips for the month written by Geoff and Margaret Hillier.

**DRAINAGE** – The Parish Council meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> January was dominated by discussion about problems caused by the Nailbourne flooding and Kent Highways not keeping drains clear. To deal with the Nailbourne flowing a dyke was dug some years ago and it is the responsibility of the landowners to keep it clear. The problem is that most of the blockage in the dyke is caused by the silt being washed off the road and therefore it seems reasonable that Highways should deal with the matter. The culverts and pipes are similarly affected and the result is that the bottom of Meggett Lane becomes under water and there is a good chance that flooding will occur elsewhere. Another problem is the turnover of staff at Highways such that the new people don't know the historical facts. The Parish Council are trying to put as much pressure as they can on KCC Highways to deal with the matter and some work has started. Also in the past channels have been cut in the sides of the road to allow water to flood onto adjacent land but Highways are not willing to continue this practice. As a result water streams down Lockering Lane and then hits a barrier of hedge cuttings and debris lodged on the road gully before shooting over the road onto Hopton Manor resulting in property damage. Kent Highways do have budget problems but let's hope they can find resources to resolve the situation.

**LENT LUNCHES** - On each Wednesday in Lent members of the Alkham, Capel and Hougham benefices will be hosting a series of lunches to which all are welcome. For £3.00 per person, you will be served with soup, bread and cheese, and ALL proceeds will be donated by the host/hostess to a local charity of their choice. Turn up anytime between 12.30pm and 2pm to partake of a tasty meal and enjoy the company of others from all three villages. The venues are: - **February 13<sup>th</sup>** 143, Old Dover Road, Capel – hostess Coleta Spillett: **February 20<sup>th</sup>**, The Old Village School, Stonyway Lane, Church Hougham – hostess Wendy Finnis: **February 27<sup>th</sup>**, Forstal Cottage, Alkham Valley Road, Alkham - hostess Sue Lees: **March 6<sup>th</sup>**, 56, Alexandra Road, Capel - hostess Vad Blake. The venues for the 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March will be posted in next month's Newsletter. For further information please contact Jerry Spillett on 01303 242146.

**ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB** - The AGM will be on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 8 pm in the Village Hall followed by a curry at Whitfield. If anyone is willing to assist either playing or as a temporary groundsman (while Richard T is indisposed) please let me know and/or come along to the meeting! Paul Tapsell 01303 892082.

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## SHAGGY DOG STORY

This picture was sent to me as an attachment on the Internet and it seemed a pity not to include it in the Newsletter. It looks as though the sheep are rounding up the sheep dog. Further training is obviously required

**A SURPRISING DISCOVERY** – John and Hilary Mitchell lived at Thorn Cottage on Meggett Lane until 2007. They both came from what they believed to be long-established northern stock having lived in the Manchester area. In 2010 John began to research the ancestry of his paternal grandmother and it confirmed the northern connection but the 1881 census suggested that her grandfather had been born in Dover and that his wife, Susanna, was from Alkham. Susanna's parents, Richard and Hannah (nee Rouse) Fakeley had been married in St Anthony's, Alkham on October 13<sup>th</sup> 1819 and spent all their married life living in the Chalksole Green area. Richard and Hannah had a number of children, one of them being Susanna John's great-great-grandmother, and she was baptised in St Anthony's on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1833. She later married John Mercer as shown on the birth certificate of Susanna's son, John Henry Mercer. However the only marriage recorded in Dover for the right period is between Susanna Fakeley and a John Rigden. Records show that John Mercer had a niece, Emma Brown, whose mother, Jane, had the maiden name of Rigden and it would therefore appear that John and Jane were siblings in the Rigden family. One hundred and fifty years later John and Hilary knew nothing of this when they attended St. Anthony's and walked through the graveyard where John's ancestors are buried and John wonders if there is someone in the Alkham area today, reading this, who also has a Fakeley in their family tree or any further information. If so please email [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com) or ring Brian on 01304 824969.

**GARDEN TALK** - We start the year with another fruity wine quiz on Friday 15th February from 7.30p.m. at 'Sunrise', Meggett Lane. We hope to finalise the programme for 2013 on that evening, so please bring diaries and suggestions. Janet Adamson (01303 893413)

**ALKHAM W.I.** - Our first meeting in 2013 was presided over by Janet Barrow - Secretary last year and President this year. Cherry Leppard spoke about the trip to the tulip fields in April, which seems to be popular. It was decided money raised at our Christmas Bazaar should be donated to Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. Janet thanked members for attending the lighting of the Christmas tree on the Village Green, and said how much the mulled wine and mince pies, so kindly provided by the Marquis were appreciated. The Annual Council Meeting at Margate was on the 13th March, and members were asked to give their names in at the next meeting. Members would be able to exhibit three, items of their art work for sale. Our Secretary, Sue Lees, has now booked jumble sales for this year, and the dates are 23rd February, 3rd August and 26th October. Our excellent speaker was Eve Muggridge who gave a demonstration on cutting stained glass and how to put it together to make different things, such as a butterfly, an owl, or just an attractive glass shape. It was a fascinating subject and an interesting evening^ Please note our next meeting will start at 7 p.m. not 7.30 p.m., and it is a Hobbies Evening. Members are asked to bring their hobby to the meeting.

**Pamela Sayers**

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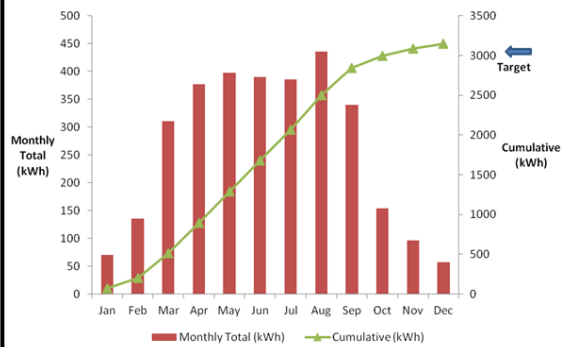
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**DESPITE** one of the gloomiest summers on record, in its first year of operation the St Anthony's solar photo-voltaic (PV) system actually exceeded its electricity production target of 3,067 kWh. In so doing it saved some 1.6 tons of carbon dioxide entering the

atmosphere from generating electricity from non-renewable sources, such as coal and gas. For comparison, the average UK house uses about 2,500 kWh of electricity a year. As the attached graph shows, most of the electricity was generated in the sunnier March to September period. Don't be fooled by those that claim that solar PV works well even on cloudy days. It needs direct sunlight to generate appreciable amounts of electricity. Winter months generated only about 15% of the electricity in the summer months. The clue is in the name! Here is to a sunnier 2013. **Geoff Gaskill**

**OZ on PHENOLOGY UPDATE** – Stuck for a theme this month, I looked back ten years to my February 2003 story on phenology, which I had defined informally as 'the study of organisms as affected by climate, using the dates of seasonal phenomena such as opening of flowers or arrival of migrant birds.' The article went on to discuss the history of phenology and in particular the work of the UK Phenology Network, a partnership between research biologist Tim Sparks of the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, at Cambridge, and the Woodland Trust. It was here that I realised that an update was needed, as so much progress has been made in the last ten years in recording and evaluating results. Between 1998 and 2003 the number of observers rose, from 74 to 18,600. Now, just ten years later, over 50,000 people, both amateurs and professionals, are involved. The Nature's Calendar Survey combines observations with historical records, providing a database of over 2 million records from the UK since the 1600s. Members are not required to be experts as the Nature's Calendar team provides free assistance, identification booklets and recording forms. If preferred, members may record their observations online. The team may be contacted online at [naturescalendar@woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://naturescalendar@woodlandtrust.org.uk) or at Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, NG31 6LL, or by 'phoning 01476 584878. Phenology is a pleasant activity that I recommend unreservedly, not least because it is totally unstressful. There is no pressure to tick every, or indeed any, boxes on the recording form, as all that matters is the anonymous aggregate of entries. I am in fact returning to it now after a lapse of three years when my personal circumstances were disrupted. My first entry this year? A catkin near the A4 on the way home from Berkshire on 12 January. **(Steve Osborn)**

**HOURLASS FITNESS CLUB** is a local friendly fitness club recently opened in Ladywell Dover by two sisters. Offering classes such as Zumba, Bokwa, Spin, Candlelit Pilates, Fit Kids, Mature Movers this is a club for all ages and fitness abilities wrapped up in an affordable membership price with 3 studios, luxury changing facilities and a member's lounge. Contact us on 01304 212444 or email: [info@hourglassfitnessclub.co.uk](mailto:info@hourglassfitnessclub.co.uk) for more information.

**THANKS** – In the November edition there was an article about a fire at Ewell Minnis where Ray Ashman helped the emergency services. The property affected was Common Hill Cottage and Christopher Oakley, who lives there, would also like to thank Denise Prior, Bill Ruffle and Jane Hill for all their help and kindness.

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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

Saturday	2	Annual quiz starting at 7.30pm in the village hall
Tuesday	5	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Monday	11	Cricket Club AGM 8.00pm in village hall
Tuesday	12	W.I. meeting 7.00pm in village hall
Wednesday	13	Fete meeting 8.00pm in the village hall
Monday	18	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	23	W.I. jumble sale in village hall 11.00am
Saturday	23	Beekeepers in village hall from 2.00pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3rd	Evensong 4:30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 10th	Sung Eucharist 9am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 17th	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 24th	Benefice Eucharist 10am Hougham		
Thursday 28th	Maunday Thursday Eucharist 7pm Hougham		
Friday 29th	Meditation on the Cross 12pm	Meditation on the Cross 2pm	Meditation on the Cross 1pm
Sunday 31st	Eucharist 9:00am	Eucharist 10.30am	Eucharist 9.30am
<b>Weekday Services: Wednesday Eucharist 9.15 am St Radigund, Capel-Le-Ferre</b>			

**SIXTEEN MEMBERS** attended the Alkham Valley Society Walk, which took place on the 27th December, as it has done every year since the Society was inaugurated in 1977. For various reasons there was difficulty in finding someone to lead the walk this year, but at the last minute John Sayers, who was brought up in Alkham, agreed to do it. He was a little dubious as he now lives in Temple Ewell, but he certainly knows the hills and walks around here as well as anyone. He was concerned about the mud, as were other people, saying he'd never known it so slippery. However, we have most certainly carried out our walk in far worse conditions and, I'm pleased to say there were no accidents. Thank you John for "filling in" at the last minute. It would have been a great shame not to have held it. **Pamela Savers**

**ARCHAEOLOGY** – The Parish Council has given Vince Burrows of the Alkham Valley Historical Research Group permission to carry out geophysics investigation on Vicarage Meadow (village green).

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**Newsletter** Brian Wimsett 824969

email [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com)

**Parish Clerk** Angela Miller

824791alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net

**Alkham web site** [www.alkham.org](http://www.alkham.org)

**Village Hall booking** Val Fowler 827635

**W.I. secretary** – Susan Lees 822661

**AVS** [cimwalker@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:cimwalker@tiscali.co.uk) 821641

**Footpaths** [antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk)

**Police** – 999 emergency &101

**Vicar** Revd. Brian Williams 01303 243784

**Church Wardens** Geoff Gaskill 823100 and Richard Tapsell 822295

**MP** Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669

**County Councillor** Bryan Cope 206510

**District Councillors** - Sue Nicholas 823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187





# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

**No. 233 March 2013**  
**Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council**

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**THE ANNUAL QUIZ** in the village hall seemed to go very well with the usual hub-bub and playfulness with the question master. There were 99 people on 14 tables taking part in the quiz and they were generous when buying raffle tickets such that an overall profit of £480 was made, which has been sent to the Pilgrim's Hospice at Ashford. The winners were Helen Price and her team from Meggett Farm and Den Barnard's table came second. *The Hospice replied to the donation and gave their grateful thanks.*

**BUSES** – On the back page of this Newsletter the times of buses from Alkham to Dover and Folkestone have been added. The times quoted are for the Marquis but obviously the times at the bus stops by the village green will be almost the same. It will be a regular feature so if anybody is aware of any times changes in the future please let me know. **Editor**

**MEADOW WORK PARTY** - There will be a working party on the Vicarage Meadow from 10 am on Saturday 8th March, when we will be planting a hedge and generally giving the meadow a spring clean and tidy up. Blow away those winter blues and join our happy team of groundsmen and women as we repair the damage from the dyke clearance and dig a suitable drainage channel to try to stop the water puddling in the road. Bring wellies and some basic gardening equipment (and a song in your heart). Please call me to give me an idea about numbers so I can ensure suitable refreshments are available to reward your efforts! **Paul Tapsell 01303 892082.**

**THE MARQUIS** is now offering a weekly 'Alkham Supper' with a choice of main courses (meat or fish) followed by pudding, cheese or coffee for £10 on Wednesday nights between 6 and 7pm.

**THE VILLAGE HALL AGM** will be held in the hall on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 8.00p.m. We need more members on the committee and any resident in the village aged 18 years and over or a representative of an organisation that regularly uses the hall may put themselves forward for election as a committee member. The village hall is a vital part of the community and is run by the committee who all give their time free of charge to make sure it is in good condition, clean and warm when required. We really need people in the village to help us so please come along on the 17<sup>th</sup> and see how it works and also to consider joining the committee.

**MIRROR** – If you have a long upright free standing mirror (known as a cheval) which you would like to sell or dispose of please ring Edith on 01304 824030.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who attended the meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> February - I am pleased to say there will be a Fete this year on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July. There will be another meeting in May and anyone who is interested in taking part should contact me on 01303 892082 as soon as possible so we can allocate jobs, etc. There will be lots to do and a number of new stallholders will be required as some of the regulars are unable to do as much as they have in past years but that's why we need YOU to get involved! Watch out for requests for help from stallholders and/or from me in future newsletters and please don't think "I'll leave it, someone else will volunteer". So, mark the date in your diary, cancel any clashing weddings, birthdays and holidays and be a part of the Village's biggest day of the year! Thank you in (tingling) anticipation. **Paul Tapsell**

**PRODUCE SHOW** – At the fete this year we might have an Alkham Produce Show in the village hall where local gardeners can enter into competitions. The categories have yet to be decided but it will be flower and vegetable. Please phone Brian on 824969 if you'd like to enter so we can judge the response.

**LOOKING FOR A BETTER ENERGY DEAL?** Dover District Council has joined up with Tunbridge Wells BC, Dartford BC and Gravesham BC to set up a collective switching scheme called Energy to help households in the district get a better deal on their gas and electricity bills. Residents register free and provide information about their energy (gas and electricity) usage, and current tariff. At the end of the registration period an auction will take place, and the energy supplier offering the best 'energy deal' will be appointed. All those residents that registered will then be contacted with their individual energy offer and it is then up to them whether or not they accept the offer. Energy Deal will be launched (registration open) in Spring 2013, however if you are interested in finding out more log onto the DDC website energy pages at [http://www.dover.gov.uk/environment/energy\\_advice/cut\\_energy\\_bills.aspx](http://www.dover.gov.uk/environment/energy_advice/cut_energy_bills.aspx)), and leave your details.

**BOOK CLUB** - The next book club meeting will be on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March hosted by Helen Price at Meggett Farm, Meggett Lane 01303 252764 starting at 7.30pm. The book for discussion will be Two Brothers the latest novel by Ben Elton. If you are interested in Book Club and would like more details telephone Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

**CHURCH JUMBLE SALE** - Alkham Village Hall Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 11am.

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**FEEDBACK** – **Bill Harvey** emailed to say that in the 1970's he put four secured stainless plates on Vicarage Meadow to mark out the cricket square and to let Vince Burrows know as he is going to carry out a geo-physical survey on the village green (Vicarage Meadow).

**Mike and Sue Ross** emailed with regard to the 'Surprising Discovery' article in the February newsletter and said that Sue's maiden name was Fakley and a few years ago saw a family tree on the internet written by someone in America which started in Alkham and came right down to Sue herself. Like the Mitchell's, who featured in the article, Sue had no idea that her ancestors came from Alkham.

**John Richards** emailed and said that as a boy the first sign of the Nailbourne running was a great excitement and that the local authority had a gang of men (Bert Alan, Bill Polden ...) who amongst other things cleared drains and gulleys but most importantly maintained the dyke along its entire length. He wonders if the cart outside Nailbourne Cottage was the one used by the gang.



**GARDENING TIPS FOR MARCH** when we need to start to tackle these early jobs when the weather improves and frosts allow: Move evergreen shrubs: Mulch bare soil in beds and borders: Prune bush and shrub roses: Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials: Finish planting bare-root trees and shrubs: Aerate lawn and possibly begin mowing: Plant early potatoes and onion sets. **Garden Talk**

**UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE** - There are over 807 U3As in the United Kingdom and White Cliffs Country U3A has members in Deal, Dover and Sandwich and their associated villages. We offer opportunities for the retired and semi-retired to share the company and interests of like-minded people; our programme of activities includes informal learning courses, autonomous special interest groups, talks and presentations from invited speakers, as well as social events. Each month we have two events; on 5<sup>th</sup> March there is an afternoon Meeting and a Talk "Sapphire Hoe Stories" a humorous reflection on 3 Years at the Hoe by Mr S. Walker, to be held at 2-4pm at St Andrews Hall, West Street, Deal. On 20<sup>th</sup> March, we have a coffee morning from 10-12noon at The Golf Road Centre, North Deal when our special interests groups will be planning more activities. If you would like to come along and meet some members and find out more about the benefits of joining, please do. Guests Tickets are available at £1.00. Details of these events can be seen on our website at [www.u3asites.org.uk/white-cliffs](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/white-cliffs) or contact [anncook.u3a@gmail.com](mailto:anncook.u3a@gmail.com). You can then just turn up at the event of your choice.

**STRAVA** – Just for fun you might like to see the bike rides which the Alkham Cycle Club goes on. These are shown on [www.strava.com](http://www.strava.com) where there is Google map of the routes plus an elevation underneath. You have to sign in but it is free and if you choose to follow a rider it will give you updates. Alan Latham is the rider who carries the smart phone which records the ride so if you click on the cycling tab at Strava and then follow Alan it will show our rides. The ride from Alkham over to Saltwood and back by the promenade from Hythe to Folkestone looks quite dramatic especially as one rider went over the sea wall. Fortunately the rider and the bike were ok. Den has gone into hibernation for the winter but Geoff Gaskill comes occasionally on his road bike and Alan and I are 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> fastest up Meggett Lane but admittedly only 6 other people have tried it. **Brian**

**GARDEN TALK** - We hope that we can soon see the beginnings of Spring, and that we can all enjoy the spring bulbs after their covering of snow. Our February Meeting has been rescheduled, and will now take place on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March, still at 'Sunrise' Meggett Lane, from 7.30p.m. We then intend to finalise the Programme for the rest of 2013. **Janet Adamson**

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**OZ on TRANSLATION** – Every Boxing Day, I hibernate with the most enticing book received, and devour it very quickly, often within a day or two. This year was very different. It took the whole of Christmas week followed by a week in Malta for me to digest *Is That a Fish in Your Ear?* by David Bellos. The content of the book is much more difficult than the jokey title might suggest, and is described perfectly by its subtitle *The Amazing Adventure of Translation*. Bellos is Princeton professor in the fields both of Translation and French Literature, and is best known as an authority on, and translator of, the works of the French writer Georges Perec. He explains for general readers all the problems and complexities of translation, by writing some 400 pages in 32 short chapters, each containing a huge amount of information and humour, with titles such as “Meaning is No Simple Thing” and “The Myth of Literal Translation.” The latter title highlights the problems involved in translation when there isn’t an equivalent word in the other language. The “100 Eskimo words for snow” story is now exploded as a myth, but the fact remains that in Russian, there are words for “light blue” and “dark blue”, but not for “blue”, while some languages have no word at all for ‘left’ or ‘right.’ Bellos concludes with an optimistic epilogue, asserting that we should see translation as civilizing rather than divisive, adding that “Languages merge when people do.” It took me a while to decode the main title, which derives from Douglas Adams’s *Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*, where the mythical Babel fish, stuck in the ear, gives instant and perfect translation. It’s an unlikely development, comments Bellos, while acknowledging the impressive achievements of some web-based translation tools. **Steve Osborn**



**EASTER LILIES** - Easter will soon be upon us and the flower ladies would like to decorate the Church with Easter Lilies in memory of a loved one. If you would like to donate a Lily in memory of a loved one, then please contact Rosie Hansraj by March 16<sup>th</sup> at Rose Cottage, Slip Lane, Alkham, Kent CT15 7 DB stating how many lilies, costing £3.50 each, you would like to buy. Please write the name of the loved one on a piece of paper and a cheque made payable to "The Alkham Flower Club".

**DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY** will present Haydn’s great oratorio “The Creation” at 7.30 pm on Saturday 23rd March 2013 in Dover Town Hall. The chorus, together with professional soloists and The Connaught Orchestra (led by Amanda Wyatt), will be conducted by Dover Choral Society’s new Musical Director, Stephen Yarrow. Tickets costing £12 (Students £6) are available from Dover Tourist Information Centre (Dover Museum, Market Square), members of Dover Choral Society, or by calling 01304 820149; and, if any remain, at the door on the night. For further information please ring Donald Beck on 07808 272047. **Steve Osborn**

**ALKHAM W.I.** – Although the snow still lay on the ground and only 14 members were able to attend the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> February, it was enjoyed. Several members brought ‘Hobbies’ which were beautifully handmade. Members need reminding that the meeting now starts at 7pm. There are two main events ahead – the first being a Jumble Sale 23<sup>rd</sup> February in Village Hall 11am-Midday – the second the WI Group Meeting, for this area, will be held at Alkham Village Hall 16<sup>th</sup> April. The next monthly meeting is on 12th March when John Pearce will give a ‘Fun Music Presentation’ – **Susan Lees**

**IMPRESSED** – Sarah Chambers emailed to say that she was hugely impressed that young Jack Spicer cleared Hogbrook Hill Lane by the junction with the Valley Road of snow in January. He then put down grit & salt thus enabling all horse riders safe journey up to the stables. Drivers were appreciative as well.

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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	4	Parish Council meeting in village hall – all welcome
Tuesday	5	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	9	SE Kent Astronomical society 7pm to 10pm
Tuesday	12	W.I. meeting 7.00pm in village hall
Monday	18	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	23	PCC jumble sale in village hall 11am

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3rd	Evensong 4:30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 10th	Sung Eucharist 9am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 17th	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 24th	Benefice Eucharist 10am Hougham		
Thursday 28th	Maunday Thursday Eucharist 7pm Hougham		
Friday 29th	Meditation on the Cross 12pm	Meditation on the Cross 2pm	Meditation on the Cross 1pm
Sunday 31st	Eucharist 9:00am	Eucharist 10.30am	Eucharist 9.30am
<b>Weekday Services: Wednesday Eucharist 9.15 am St Radigund, Capel-Le-Ferne</b>			

## Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)

07.59	08.27	09.47	11.17	13.17	14.47	17.27	Sat. 09.47	11.17	13.17	15.27
09.06	10.36	12.06	14.06	16.06	18.01		Sat. 10.36	12.06	14.06	16.06

**FROM THE VICARAGE** - You might think that people mainly talk to me about whether God exists or not. They don't. People seem to talk to me more about times in their lives – real or imagined – when they feel that they have messed up – about things they did or said that they have regretted ever since, or times when they feel that they let others down. Those who Jesus chose as his followers were just as human as we are – they all messed up, just as we all do. But Easter, which we celebrate this month, brings a twist in the tale. In St John's gospel the story ends with Jesus, now risen from the dead, cooking breakfast for his disciples on the beach. Instead of ranting at them about how they let him down, he simply asks Peter if he loves him. Anyone else might have fired Peter for having got it wrong. Instead, Jesus gives Peter a new job - caring for the others - and a chance to start again. Easter is about more than chocolate – it offers the hope of new life, laying our mess ups to rest, and no end to new beginnings. Happy Easter! **Brian Williams** *This is an extract from the article printed in the Capel newsletter.*

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**Newsletter** Brian Wimsett 824969

email [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com)

**Parish Clerk** Angela Miller

824791alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net

**Alkham web site** [www.alkham.org](http://www.alkham.org)

**Village Hall booking** Val Fowler 827635

**W.I. secretary** – Susan Lees 822661

**AVS** [cimwalker@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:cimwalker@tiscali.co.uk) 821641

**Footpaths** [antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk)

**Police – 999 emergency & 101**

**Vicar** Revd. Brian Williams 01303 243784

**Church Wardens** Geoff Gaskill 823100

and Richard Tapsell 822295

**MP** Charlie Elphicke - **01304 379669**

**County Councillor** Bryan Cope 206510

**District Councillors** - Sue Nicholas

823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187

# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett  
The Old Post Office  
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**No. 234 April 2013**

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## **WORKING**

**PARTY** – What a good job they did and most can be seen smiling in the photo. Sixteen people turned up to help Paul Tapsell dig a

new drainage grip, fill an old one and level the mounds of earth dug out of the dyke on the village green. Neil Burrows and tractor removed the old concrete post and rail fence by Hogbrook Lane and this was then replaced by young hedging plants. Many thanks to all the people who helped.

**BOOT FAIR** - We will be holding a Boot Fair from 8.00am to 1.00pm on the Vicarage Meadow on Sunday, 28 April, to raise funds for our church. The charge for a pitch will be £8 in advance or £10 on the day. We are advertising "far and wide" around the district in order to attract as many people (buyers as well as sellers) as possible. To book a pitch in advance please phone 01304 820701. There will be bacon butties, hot dogs, etc, as well as hot and cold drinks available in the Village Hall. We will need some help with car parking as well as a few people to direct the cars to park and set up stalls on the Meadow and if you would like to come along and help in that way on the day you would be very welcome. **Marion Banks-Nash**

**PRODUCE EXHIBITION** – Shirley Prince has kindly offered to arrange the vegetable and flower competition for the fete in July. The categories will be tomatoes, runner beans and carrots plus a display of dahlias and sweet peas. In addition there will be a competition for children 5-11, 12-16 and adults to create a miniature garden on a dinner plate using fresh or artificial materials. Please phone Shirley on 828098 if you'd like to take part and support us.

**USEFUL** and attractive shiplap mobile home/static beach hut for sale in coastal Verdon, France (11 km from Montreuil). Two bedrooms, one en suite, on a year-round site Le Cerisier. Own parking, friendly mostly French speaking neighbours. This is well worth a look. For sale £22,500 (26,000 euro). For further enquiries contact J Walker (01304-821641)

**COFFEE MORNING** – Theda Malloy is holding a coffee morning at her house in West Hougham on the 13<sup>th</sup> April from 10am to mid-day. Please ring Helen on 01304 210591 for more details.

## **BATTLE OF BRITAIN**

The guest speaker at the Annual Parish meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> April will be from the Battle of Britain museum at Hawkinge. His talk will be relevant to Alkham and surrounding areas and photos will be shown using the hall's AV projector. It promises to be a very interesting evening so please come along. The meeting is in the village hall and starts at 7.30pm when there is also the opportunity for parishioners to air their views and question the Parish Council.



**CARDIAC RESUSCITATION** - On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 10.45am in the Village Hall, a training session will be given by a St. John's Ambulance member on this subject. It is being held for anyone in the village who would like to attend, to learn, to refresh knowledge or even just for general interest in C.P.R. It is a morning session only. **Susannah Tapsell**

**REFUSE COLLECTION** – At the Parish Council meeting there was some discussion about the bins provided by DDC. It was thought that if the bins are damaged and it was not caused by the householder (hot ashes etc) then DCC would replace them. Also the bins should not be left outside the house and if the latter is not possible DDC should be contacted for alternative arrangements.

**THE VILLAGE HALL AGM** will be held in the hall on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 8.00pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

**MANY THANKS** to Grace Stacey who has delivered the Newsletter to upper Glebelands and adjacent houses for the past 19 years. Wonderful job, wonderful lady. Barrie Matcham has very kindly agreed to take over this round.

**THE NAILBOURNE** – The Environment Agency may take over the maintenance of the dyke which carries the Nailbourne. This should be good news.

**HORSE RIDING at Hogbrook Equestrian Centre** David Pearson-Smith (BHS AI & Accredited Level 2 Coach) specialising in private tuition for adults on his well trained horses, is finding increased demand from adults wanting to get back into horse riding, not only with lessons in our large indoor school to improve their standards, but also hacking out in the beautiful countryside surrounding Alkham. There can be no better way of enjoyable exercise. Please contact me on 07900545235.

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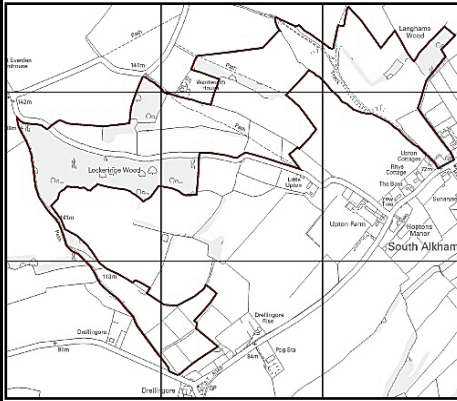
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South Alkham Farm and Lockering Wood was designated as a Kent Local Wildlife Site in 2012 because it contains ancient woodland which supports at least 26 ancient plant species and unimproved chalk grassland. Its designation is non-statutory and the only protection comes via the planning system but the landowners are given advice and

help with regard to maintaining the site and applying for grants. Sladden Wood, on the east of the village, has been a KLV site for some years.

**PARISH REGISTERS ON LINE** - It is now possible to view a number of Church of England parish registers, covering baptisms, marriages and burials for many churches in the historic Archdeanery of Canterbury, often from 1538-2005, including ALKHAM on the <http://www.findmypast.co.uk/> website. These registers can be browsed under the 'Search' section, titled Canterbury Collection. If looking for a specific name the 'parish records search' facility is new, and very useful. Also included is the register of baptisms at the Buckland (Dover) Workhouse between 1855 and 1912, which includes Alkham, Capel-le-Ferne, Hougham, Lydden and Temple Ewell. To search the indexes is free, otherwise the website requires a payment. However, the whole of the Findmypast website is free to use at any of the Kent Public Libraries - you just need to get a membership ticket and book a computer for one hour. **Janet Adamson**

**GARDEN TALK** - Our April Meeting will be held on Friday 19th at Box Tree, Slip Lane, from 7.30p.m. where our hostess will be Pam Sayers. We anticipate another enjoyable evening, with plenty of chat and a fun quiz, even if the garden is not quite as colourful as usual due to the cold spring. **Janet Adamson**



**Monthly gardening tips:** We are hoping for some better weather, and a resumption of gardening activities, and catching up with what was not achieved in March! Sowing seeds of vegetables and hardy annuals are a priority, as well as tidying up our lawns. Daffodils need to be deadheaded after flowering and all the spring bulbs need feeding. Early-flowering shrubs and those grown for large foliage need pruning, and grey-leaved shrubs need trimming to keep them bushy. Perennial plants need to be divided and container-grown fruit trees should be planted. A trench for runner beans should now be dug out and filled with newspaper and manure. Annual climbers and grasses should be sown - and there is always weeding to be done. **Garden Talk**

**ON SATURDAY** the 2nd of March, my family and I had left our home at 3pm to do the weekly shopping. At about 4:30pm we had a phone call from our neighbour/landlord Mr Reg Woodruff informing us that he had spotted an intruder in our garden. The intruder was a lone teenager wandering around the outskirts of our house, and by the time Mr Woodruff had approached him he had partially removed the cover from my scooter which thankfully is secured to the ground. When apprehended by Mr Woodruff, the teenager stated that he was looking to buy a bike. This is however suspicious as I have not advertised the bike for sale and is hidden behind the house, out of view. By the time Mr Woodruff had closed our gate, the teenager had quickly disappeared up the hill. We had a dog inside the house at the time, and we fear that without him the intruder may have been interested in accessing the property. I would like to bring this to the attention of local Alkham residents so that they may be aware and take extra precautions. **Mr and Mrs Betts**

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**OZ on PARAPROSDOKIAN** – An amusing email, currently doing the rounds, concerns the word ‘paraproisdokian’, meaning a phrase that ends in a surprising way, such as ‘Where there’s a will I want to be in it’ and describing the derivation of the word from the Greek ‘paraproisdokia’, meaning ‘beyond expectation. I immediately thought “What a lovely topic for Alkham readers.” But guess what? Neither the word, nor its derivation, appears in the Oxford English Dictionary. The Canadian writer Bill Casselman has exploded the myth on his website “Words of the World” at [www.Billcasselman.com](http://www.Billcasselman.com) He considered the term to be ungrammatical and contrived, invented recently by an American professor, then lazily copied by other academics using the internet. In the discussion that followed, according to another authority at [www.LanguageHat.com](http://www.LanguageHat.com), Casselman reluctantly agreed that the word ‘paraproisdokians’ was used in an 1891 edition of Punch magazine, but he maintained defiantly that “educated people call them ‘sentences with surprise endings.’ ” I think the word will be accepted soon in the OED, as it’s in such common usage now on the internet due to the controversy, and a word is needed as the examples are so funny. Winston Churchill was an expert coiner of these phrases, describing Clement Atlee as ‘a modest man, who has much to be modest about’, and declaring that “You can always count on the Americans to do the right thing—after they have tried everything else.” The writer “Saki” (H H Munro) wrote of a cook who was “good as cooks go, and as cooks go she went.” Finally, Groucho Marx once told an unresponsive audience “I’ve had a perfectly wonderful evening, but this wasn’t it.” While you’re searching for more examples, I’ll email the OED to see if they plan to accept the word soon. **Steve Osborn**

**BOOK CLUB** - At the beginning of March the village book club met in the Marquis and enjoyed the Alkham Residents ‘Pub Supper’ where we discussed last month’s book; The Guernsey Literary Potato Peel Pie Society. The next book club meeting for April will be on Wednesday 24th April at 7.30pm. The book for discussion is The Village Green Affair by Rebecca Shaw. The meeting will be hosted by Mairi Jones at Turangi, Newlyn Meadows, 01304 826619. For more information about book club contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

**ALKHAM W.I.** – Unfortunately the snow put a stop to the March meeting, but everybody anticipated that fact when they felt the wind and the temperature. Let us hope that the 9th April meeting will be better. The speaker is Martyn Harrison talking about Harry Secombe, somebody we all liked. Members are therefore asked to bring friends and relatives to hear the talk as well - everybody welcome. Hostesses – Janet Adamson, Iris Bowshell & Margaret Batcheldor. Members are reminded about the Group Meeting which Alkham is responsible for 16th April; all members are welcome to help especially when it comes to provide cakes and/or cheese scones. **Susan Lees**

**Retired? Semi-Retired? Love Learning?** If that is the case, White Cliffs Country U3A (the University of the Third Age) is the association for you. Disregard the rather grandiose title: with members in Deal, Dover and Sandwich, we have an annual programme of low-cost high-value courses run by leaders from our own membership. Other activities include monthly events with presentations, Talks and Debates and there are social activities arranged for members and their guests. Our courses are informal – no classroom pressures or compulsory homework – often small groups meet in the Leader’s home; larger groups use external venues. There is a wide range of subjects to enjoy. Or perhaps you are a potential member who could lead a subject on your special interest? You can find out more about membership by looking at our website or ringing 01304 852724. Once you know more you will want to join us! U3A

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

## Other events in the village

Tuesday	2	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	6	Beekeepers in village hall 2.00pm
Monday	8	Annual Parish meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	9	W.I. meeting 7.00pm in village hall
Monday	15	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	16	W.I. Group meeting in village hall
Wednesday	17	Village Hall AGM 8.00pm in village hall
Tuesday	23	PCC AGM 7.00pm in village hall
Saturday	28	PCC Boot Fair 9.00am to 1.00pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th	Evensong 6:30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 14th	Sung Eucharist 9:30a	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 21st	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 28th	Benefice Eucharist 10am at Hougham		

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

## Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)

**07.59 08.27 09.47 11.17 13.17 14.47 17.27 Sat. 09.47 11.17 13.17 15.27**

**09.06 10.36 12.06 14.06 16.06 18.01 Sat. 10.36 12.06 14.06 16.06**

**FROM THE VICARAGE** - Spare a thought for Justin Welby, the newly enthroned Archbishop of Canterbury. After ten years in the job, Dr Rowan Williams told *The Daily Telegraph* that he had concluded that Britain possibly benefits from having someone to be angry with, and that he had got off more lightly than some. Whatever Archbishop Justin does or says is bound to be criticised by somebody. I wonder, is the Church itself there for people to be angry with, too? I once heard of a woman who was a churchgoer, and passionate about animal rights. She talked to other members of the congregation, offered them pamphlets and invited them to meetings, but nobody seemed to show any interest. Surely the Church should have been doing more for animals? In the end she left in disgust. A while later, she and the Vicar met while shopping. He remarked that he had not seen her in a while, and how was she? There in the supermarket she poured out her anger and frustration – the Church just didn't care about animal rights, she finally told him. "It used to," he replied. "But then you left." **Brian Williams**

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email [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com)

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

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**Church Wardens** Geoff Gaskill 823100  
and Richard Tapsell 822295

**MP** Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669

**County Councillor** Bryan Cope 206510

**District Councillors** - Sue Nicholas  
823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187



# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

**No. 234 May 2013**

**Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council**

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**FILM EVENTS** – The village hall committee is considering starting a monthly showing of films that have just been released (and others) in Alkham village hall. A company called Film Bank provide the films and with a single title screening licence it allows us to charge for admission so we can recoup the cost involved. If everything works out it is intended that there will a film shown every month from September to March and the films will be advertised in Alkham and Temple Ewell/River. A new screen will have to be purchased as the cross beams in the hall would obstruct the projection and it is also likely that we will have to get a more powerful AV projector. The seating capacity is currently being assessed and tickets for each viewing will be sold by named individuals and also on the door if any remain. We estimate that the cost of each ticket should be about £4. Further details will be published in the Newsletter and it is hoped that it will become a popular village event.



**BOOT FAIR** - We are holding a Boot Fair on the Vicarage Meadow on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April from 8.00am to 1.00pm. The charge will be £8 to book a pitch in advance, or £10 to come along on the day. Quite a few people from the Village have already booked their pitch and if you would like to do so please call Marion Banks-Nash on 820701. Advertisements have been put in the local press including one on the 25<sup>th</sup> April as we hope to attract as many people as possible from Folkestone and Dover areas. Refreshments such as bacon butties, hot dogs, etc., as well hot and cold drinks will be available in the Village Hall. What we especially need is a lovely warm, sunny day – so let's hope and pray. **Marion Banks-Nash**

**ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB** - After several sessions of winter nets, the finely-honed bodies of the elite squad of players are finally ready for the rigours of a full season of weekend and evening games. Our first three games are away (Walmer on the 5<sup>th</sup>, Old Hartdonians on the 19<sup>th</sup> and Elham on the 25<sup>th</sup>) with evening games on the 20<sup>th</sup> May at Hythe (away) and 29<sup>th</sup> Westbourne (home); we will also be having some nets on the Meadow (weather permitting) on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May from 6 pm, you're welcome to come along to join us, either playing or as a spectator. Finally, there will be a working party on the 4<sup>th</sup> May from 9.30 am to ensure that the wicket meets our usual high standards; please come along with nail scissors (for the grass cutting) and a spirit level and teaspoon (to sort out any irregularities in the playing surface)! **Paul Tapsell 01303 892082**

**FRIENDS** – The Friends of St. Anthony are holding their AGM in the village hall on the 28<sup>th</sup> May starting at 7.00pm and everyone is welcome to attend. The Friends is a body which was set up to preserve the building which is St. Anthony's for future generations to use whether it is for religious or secular purposes and to date we have spent about £16,500 on repairs and improvements. The Friends have also organised events in the village and produced calendars and cards for sale at Christmas. If you would like to join the Friends or just find out more about what we have been doing please come along to the AGM and also have a complimentary glass of wine.

## **FETE STALLHOLDERS' MEETING on 15<sup>th</sup> May**

We will be having a Stallholders' meeting to put arrangements in place for the Fete on 13<sup>th</sup> July; please come along if you are doing a stall, would like to help on a stall or can offer any assistance on the day, whether with putting the tents up, selling raffle tickets, providing prizes or helping to clear things away - we really need to see who we've got available so we can sort out who is doing what (and deal with any 'gaps'). Please come along to the Village Hall at 8 pm on Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> so we can make sure the Fete returns with a bang (rather than the sound of me whimpering!). **Paul Tapsell 01303 892082**

**CARE HOME** – Mandy Summers has contacted the Newsletter to say that her mother Doreen Wilks is now in the Kearsney Manor Nursing Home. Doreen and George Wilks used to live in the bungalow called Apple Tree on Slip Lane and they were a great asset to the village over many years.

**ELECTIONS** – According to the KCC web site there are 5 candidates standing for election as Dover West County Councillor. They are representatives of the Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat and UKIP parties plus one other candidate. The election is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May and voting takes place in Alkham village hall from 7am to 10pm. *DDC objected to a previous article on elections so please check details yourself.*

**A RESIDENT** in Newlyns Meadow phoned to say that persons acting suspiciously had been seen in Newlyns Meadow on a couple of occasions and the police had been called. The police checked the area but the intruders were not found. Their advice is to make sure that gates are secured and sheds are locked together with taking the usual precautions.

**A STRAWBERRY TEA** is being held by Wendy Finnis at The Old School House, Church Hougham on June 1<sup>st</sup> from 2pm to 4pm with all proceeds will go to charity.

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**ALKHAM VALLEY RESEARCH HISTORICAL RESEARCH GROUP (AVHRG)** has planned a number of non-invasive geophysical surveys at different locations within the Alkham Valley for 2013. The continuous wet weather over the winter has put back most of our investigations due to the intrinsic moisture levels retained in the near surface of the soil. High water levels cause a marked reduction in the effectiveness of our instruments and profound effects to the image data collected. Basically, waterlogged areas will make it difficult to see potential smaller archaeological features and reduce the depth at which the instruments can scan. Owing to a substantial amount of our investigation being located in fields and paddocks used for crops and hay, these delays this spring may lead to projects being pushed back until late summer or even moved to 2014. On a more positive note, we are looking to source alternative areas of land that may be more conducive for geophysics. In the meantime, Sub Scan South East Geophysics is commencing the long awaited search for the Roman road from Folkestone to Dover that allegedly runs across the West Down and Church Hougham ridge. With the kind support of Mr & Mrs Stokes of Little Hougham Court Farm, Mr & Mrs Richardson of Farthingloe Farm, two potential locations across this high Down are to be investigated shortly. This important route listed as route 131, has never been archaeologically or geophysically proven and has recently been removed from English Heritage "Roman Roads of Britain" map. Over the next coming weeks and months we would like to broaden our search area in and around Church Hougham with the support of further landowners. If any readers can help by allowing us access to land across the ridge to Abbots Land Farm area or you have any information on Roman finds in the area, we would appreciate your kind assistance. Last but not least, we are grateful to the Alkham Parish Council for allowing permission for a survey over the Alkham Village Vicarage Meadow (village green), which is provisionally scheduled for Saturday 29th June 2013. The group will keep valley residents and readers of this Newsletter updated on our discoveries as we go. **Vince Burrows AVHRG 01304 219550 [www.alkhamarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.alkhamarchaeology.co.uk)**

**THE BOOK CLUB** meeting for May will be on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May commencing at 7.30p.m. at the home of Anne Humphery-Smith, 22 Glebelands, Short Lane. The book for discussion is *The Ice Princess* by Camilla Lackberg. If you are interested in joining the book club and would like more information contact Jane Aslett on 01304 824729.

**GARDEN TALK** - We hope to see some lovely late blossom when we meet on Friday 17th May for our garden visit and chat at 'Evergreen', Slip Lane where our hosts are Val and Stan Fowler who always make us very welcome. Come and join us from 7.30p.m.



**GARDENING TIPS FOR MAY** - Much of what we suggested for April still remains to be done, as we are still waiting for the winds to abate and spring to finally arrive! We still need to beware of frosts until the end of the month, so although summer bedding plants can be 'hardened off' in a sheltered outside spot, there is no rush to plant out. Vegetable seeds can still be planted, and those that have grown can be thinned out. Spring-flowering shrubs such as forsythia, viburnums, flowering currant and winter heathers can be pruned once they have flowered, and hedges may need clipping. Lawns may need feeding, weeding and mowing to encourage good growth. Soft fruit bushes may need to be fed, and watered and fruiting canes tied in. Main crop potatoes can be planted, and early varieties earthed up. There will always be weeding to be done. A busy time in the garden, if the weather allows, but a rewarding one. **Janet Adamson**

**THE ANNUAL PARISH** meeting went well with 25 people turning up to listen to a talk by David Brocklehurst about aircraft and airmen that were shot down in and around Alkham. David is the chairman and historian at the Kent Battle of Britain Museum at Hawkinge which is well worth a visit.

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**NOTHING CHANGES** - There was spirited opposition

when an inquiry was held in 1923 to decide whether

the Alkham Valley Road should be closed. The

Surveyor to the Rural District Council said that there

was a considerable amount of traffic on the road, and a census had

shown that 20 vehicles per hour passed along it. However he said it was

of no importance to through traffic and in places there was a

considerable drop from the road to the ground below. For an ordinary

omnibus to pass it was very dangerous in parts and wholly unsuitable for

heavy traffic. A man from Mongeham said he had known the road for 40

years and its use by heavy traffic was detrimental to legitimate traffic.

Asked if he used the road the witness said that he did, to his sorrow, on

his trotting pony. The East Kent Road Car Company was in favour of the

Alkham road because of the congestion in Dover and Deal. So 90 years

later nothing much has changed except for the volume of traffic. At peak

times it's probably 20 cars a minute and the road is unsuitable for heavy

traffic and trotting ponies. **Editor** – Dover Express 1923 – Sue Lee's archive

**OZ on LICKBARROW** – Ever since my wife died, in April 2010, my

children and I have chosen a poem each anniversary to remember and

celebrate her, the April theme serving also to symbolize Spring, rebirth,

and hope. Last month, I began toying with the idea of compiling an

anthology of such poems; perhaps entitled April Showers, maybe with

the added words Make May Flowers. In so doing I came across some

lines from 200 years ago titled Written in May, 1813, describing a

distinctly 'stormy May.' They were written by a little-known poet, Isabella

Lickbarrow, born in Kendal in November 1784, the eldest of four

daughters of James Lickbarrow, a Quaker school-teacher. When

Isabella was five, her mother died, and the girls were raised partly by a

great-aunt, while James taught them Latin, Greek and French. After

James died, a huge burden fell on 20-year old Isabella as she laboured

constantly to fend for herself and her sisters. Isabella had always written

poems privately, and in 1811 she began publishing them in the

Westmoreland Advertiser. By 1814, the poems had become so popular

that the paper published Poetical Effusions, her first book, to instant

acclaim. For the rest of her life, Isabella never really achieved sufficient

time and money to publish further, and she died in 1846, worn-out and

ill, at the age of 62. Poetical Effusions was republished by the

Wordsworth Trust in July 2004 after being out of print for many years.

Now it's out of print again, and I'm hoping that it will be republished next

year on the 10th anniversary of the Wordsworth edition and the 200th

anniversary of the first edition. I could then see whether Isabella has, for

inclusion in my anthology of optimism, any happy alternatives to "Sad

dirges for thy blasted charm." **Steve Osborn**

**DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL** has teamed up with iChoosr to provide a

collective switching scheme which aims to help residents access a better

deal for their gas and electricity bills. From 22 April to 3 June you can

register at [www.energydealswitch.com](http://www.energydealswitch.com) to take part in the scheme. You

will need an energy bill or annual energy statement so that we can make

you an offer suited to your needs. You can register up to five households

on the same email address. Alternatively register by phone 01304

872428, at your local Gateway in Castle Street, Dover or at the Council

Offices, Whitfield. An auction will be held on 4 June when energy

suppliers will compete to offer the best energy deal. You will then receive

an offer telling you the result and how much you could save.

**VOLUNTEERING** – *The course advertised here will have been held but*

*they hold them at regular intervals so if you are interested please give*

*them a ring. A free course about volunteering takes place in Dover on*

*Tuesday 23rd April 2013. 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](mailto:office@doverdistrictvolunteering.org.uk)*



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MIN ORDER APPLIES

## 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

Thursday	2	KCC elections in village hall from 7am to 10pm
Tuesday	7	White Cliffs Metal Detecting 7pm to 9pm in VH
Saturday	11	SE Astronomical society 7pm to 10pm in village hall
Monday	13	Parish Council meeting in village hall – all welcome
Tuesday	14	W.I. meeting 7.00pm in village hall
Monday	20	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	28	Friends of St. Anthony AGM 7pm in village hall

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th	Evensong 6:30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Thursday 9th	Eucharist 7pm		
Sunday 12th	Joint Rogation Day Service at St Radigund's Abbey 10.30 am		
Sunday 19th	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 26th	Benefice Eucharist 10am at Hougham		

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

## Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)

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**FROM THE RECTORY** - According to the Old Testament book of Genesis, God decided in the beginning that it is not good for man (OK – humankind, then) to be alone. So he made animals, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. No surprise, perhaps, that so many of us appreciate the comfort and companionship that pets bring. I found myself thinking of that just the other day when, towards the end of a busy afternoon, I took our new cat to the vet for her vaccination. I was wearing my collar. The receptionist gave me a bit of an odd look when she saw it, but said nothing. We sat down and waited and waited. Had they forgotten us? I glanced across at the reception area. A woman was just leaving. Receptionist, nurse and vet were talking together quietly – I guessed that something sad had happened. For a moment, I wondered – being a clergyman, would I be asked to pray over someone's pet? What would I say? Then, finally, it was our turn. The vet apologised for the delay, and explained that an apparently healthy cat had suddenly suffered a fit, and the owner had rushed it to the surgery. It hadn't been old or obviously sick, and they were all shocked and upset at having been unable to save it. We chatted for a while. As with people, the hardest part of pet ownership comes with having to say goodbye. Jesus once said that even though five sparrows are sold for two pennies, not one is forgotten before God. So if I were asked, I would say that I believe that God loves our pets at least as much as we do. In the same breath, Jesus also said that we are worth more than many sparrows. **Brian Williams**

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**MP Charlie Elphicke** - 01304 379669 **County Councillor Bryan Cope** 206510

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# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett  
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**No. 236 June 2013**

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**ALKHAM** now has a permanent Christmas tree. Thanks go to Geoff Hillier who donated it and to Den Barnard and Anthony Barrier who planted it.

**FILMS** – Works are progressing on the proposed screening of recently released films in the village hall. A 3m square pull down screen has been put up and shortly longitudinal supports will be installed to support the AV projector. In addition a new amplifier has been bought but as we needed a microphone input the amplifier can be used for karaoke as well.

**SUMMER GUITAR CONCERT at St. Anthony's.** Once again Jimmy D'Alton Bellas is bringing his past and present students to St. Anthony's for another Summer Evening Guitar Concert on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June at 6:30pm. He has also managed to obtain the services of award-winning Grant Dowse (above) who is now performing at the highest professional level, and Emily Renshaw (mezzo soprano) who are both eager to perform in the beautiful setting of St Anthony's once again. All proceeds go the Friends of St. Anthony. Tickets are £7.50 and £3.50 for optional finger buffet from Den (824845) or Brian(824969). **Den Barnard**



**COUNCILLOR** – Congratulations to Geoffrey Lymer, who is an Alkham Parish Councillor, on being elected as the Kent County Councillor for the Dover West District. Geoff says that whilst I stood as a candidate for a particular political party, it is my opinion that the role of County Councillor, as with District or Parish Councillor, is to serve and protect the interests of the community to promote a good quality of life for all those who live and work here irrespective of their political views, for we are the custodians of this beautiful countryside for future generations. Also he asks that any requests or complaints about anything around the area to go through the Parish Council or District Councillor Beresford in the first instance and should they be unable to deal with the matter they will pass the information for my attention. That way everyone is kept updated regarding requests or complaints to ensure they are dealt with as quickly as possible for the benefit of the community.

**MANY THANKS** – Ken and Dot Hammond would like to thank all the wonderful people in Alkham for their kind thoughts and offers of help recently when Ken had his heart bypass operation. Special thanks go to Den and Irene Barnard, Brian Wimsett and Susannah and Richard Tapsell. Ken originally went to St. Thomas' in London on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April because of a cancellation and just before the pre-med an emergency case came in so he was discharged (ask Ken what happened when he was told to take a shower). He had been booked in for the 22<sup>nd</sup> April and the following day the operation was successfully carried out. Ken returned home on the 29<sup>th</sup> April and is gradually recovering and will eventually be back on his bike.

**POLICE SURGERY** – Janet Claringbould, who is the Police Community Support Officer for Alkham, will be holding a surgery in Alkham village hall on the first Saturday of each month between 10am and 11am. Please just pop in and see her if there are any matters that you would like her to look into.

**A FETE MEETING** will be held in the village hall on the 25<sup>th</sup> June at 8.00pm to finalise details. It's never too late to get involved so please give me a ring or come along on the 25<sup>th</sup>. **Paul Tapsell 01303 892082**

**FOR SALE** lightweight wheelchair, used twice, not required in heaven. Cost £167 for sale at £50. Please ring 01304 824030.

## **ALKHAM FETE 2013 REQUESTS**

**PLANT STALL** - The fete plant stall needs plants. So if you could please pot up a few extra seedlings, cuttings or herbaceous perennial divisions that would be great. Please either drop them off at Chalksole Cottage as close as possible to the 13<sup>th</sup> July or bring them to the stall on the morning of the fete so we can price them up. Thanks. **Linda Gaskill 823100**

**PLEASE DO** you have any handbags, scarves and belts for the handbag stall at the fete; also anything connected to haberdashery i.e. material remnants, silks, wool, pairs of knitting needles, cottons etc, etc for the stall to be run by the Keep Fit Ladies. Offerings can be brought to the Village Hall from now on Wednesday's between 10.30am -11am. Thank you so much. **Susannah Tapsell**

**BOOKS** - Do you have any books that you no longer need and would like to donate to the book stall? If so, we're very happy to collect them. Please call Sue Lees on 822661 or Mike/Rachel Fountain on 823173 or 07905206702 to arrange collection. Thank you.

**BRIC-A-BRAC** – If you have any items which would be suitable for this stall please phone Sandra Hancock on 01303 893074 or Edith Neve on 01304 824030

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**THE POLICE** community support officer said at the Parish Council meeting that there had been a number of burglaries recently in River, which mainly occurred during the day.

**MEGGETT LANE** – At some time in the near future Meggett Lane is going to be closed for drainage works to be carried out by KCC. It is not clear whether this is to replace the culvert, clean it out or do general drainage works.

**BRING YOUR GARDEN** to life with chickens and ducks from Greenfarm. Have you ever thought of having chickens or ducks? You'll be amazed how a 'little family' of birds will transform your life as well as being fantastic alternative pets for children and grandchildren - plus mum and dad get to eat the eggs! Greenfarm are local breeders between Bridge and Adisham with over 20 different breeds of chickens and 10 varieties of ducks who can help you choose what breeds of birds will best suit you. For more information call Simon on 0773 829 3246. *One-off free ad as no advertising space available. Ed*

**UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE** - U3A are holding the following events for non-members with tickets costing £2.00 per person.

**Tuesday 4 June:** 2pm – 4pm at Deal Town Hall a talk by Ian Philpott, entitled Operation Dynamo: "A Colossal Military Disaster" or "A Miracle of Deliverance": **Friday 2 August:** 3pm – 5pm at the Astor Community Theatre, Deal "Authors' Agents – who needs them?" a talk by Jane Gregory, a literary agent: **Friday 9 August:** 2pm – 4pm at Deal Town Hall "Murders What I Have Done" a talk by former Detective Chief Inspector Roy Murphy. Bookings can be made by contacting [bgouge@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:bgouge@tiscali.co.uk). or just turn up on the day. General and membership enquiries can be made by contacting our website: [u3asites.org.uk/white-cliffs](http://u3asites.org.uk/white-cliffs) or ringing 01304 851744 (9am-5pm).

**BOOK CLUB** - The next Book Club meeting will be on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June hosted by Susannah Tapsell at Bramhall, Alkham Valley Road, starting at 7.30pm. The book for discussion is Smutt by Alan Bennett. The village Book Club is held once a month hosted by members in their homes, the books are usually available and collected from Dover library. If you are interested in joining the book club contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

**PARISH COUNCIL** – At the AGM Neil Burrows was re-elected as chairman with Paul Tapsell as Vice Chairman. The other offices were: Parish Emergencies – Neil Burrows and Geoff Lymer: Highways – Julian Mead: Footpaths – Anthony Barrier: MOD and Environment – Geoff Lymer.

**GARDEN TALK** - Our June Meeting is held on the longest day, so we hope for a lovely light and warm evening..We meet at 'Countryside' on the Alkham Valley Road, on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June, from 7.30p.m. Our hosts are Sue & Mike Ross - all welcome to join us for an interesting and enjoyable evening. **Janet Adamson**



**Garden tips for June** - Some of us are still waiting for spring, so much of May's tips are still relevant. The annual talk of the 'June drop' with fruit trees would be very premature, as at the time of writing the apple blossom is not fully out and it will be sometime before we see any sign of fruits setting. However, seeds planted in propagators and other seedlings could now be transplanted and sweet peas and bedding plants once the risk of frost recedes. Hardy annual seeds can still be planted and successions of vegetables such as peas and carrots, sweet corn can be sown directly into the soil now. The growing tips of broad beans should be pinched out to prevent blackfly and rose bushes checked for pests and diseases. Remember to consider suitable material for the Show at the Village Fete. **Janet Adamson**

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**OZ on MANWOOD** – As I write this, on 9 May 2013, Sir Roger Manwood's School, in Sandwich, is celebrating its 450th anniversary. Tonight's event is a lecture by historian Dr David Starkey entitled 'Would Manwood be happy with Manwood's today?' I'm sure there'll be much about the history of the school, but I'm hoping that Starkey will reveal more about Manwood the man, whose nature remains surprisingly elusive for one so powerful and influential. Roger was born in 1532, the second son of Thomas and Catherine Manwood of Sandwich. He was educated at Thomas Ellis's grammar school in Sandwich, trained as a barrister at the Inner Temple, and was called to the bar in 1553. Over the next few years, Roger worked hard in East Kent, as Sandwich Recorder and Counsel to the Cinque Ports, both of which he combined with being the MP for Sandwich continuously from 1558 to 1572. Roger moved from Sandwich in 1563 after being given the huge Hackington estate, near Canterbury, by Queen Elizabeth 1. After working as a circuit judge for many years, Roger was appointed [Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer](#) in 1578 and served [Queen Elizabeth I](#) until his death in 1592. Sir Roger presented two faces to the world. On the one hand, he was a stern judge, awarding harsh sentences such as fines for skipping church and tongue removal for disloyalty to the Queen. On the other hand, he was a very generous benefactor, as when he helped the poor by providing free education in Sir Roger Manwood's School, free meals at his house, and building the Hackington almshouses. Some of Roger's words on big business still resonate today, describing "...corporations that were invisible, immortal and had no soul, therefore no subpoena lieth against them, because they have no conscience..." **Steve Osborn**

**FROM THE VICARAGE** - Leaving the school where I had been working the other day, I found myself in a queue of traffic weaving past school buses, parked cars and children on their way home. I paused to give way to a car coming the other way. Just as I started to move again the car that had been behind me suddenly roared past and cut in front of me, causing me to brake hard. Of course, I soon caught up at the next set of traffic lights – the other driver having gained nothing. Time is an interesting thing. We only have so much of it in this life, so perhaps it is not surprising that we hate wasting it – so much so that it can bring out the worst in us – but why is it, I wonder, that we think of time spent queuing at traffic lights or supermarket checkouts as wasted, but don't seem to mind vegetating in front of the TV or a computer screen? I have never forgotten an occasion, many years ago, when I was travelling on the London Underground. I had bought my ticket and was making my way along a passageway when I heard a train arriving. I started to run and arrived on the platform just as the doors closed and the train pulled away. In a corner of the deserted platform a door opened and a uniformed figure emerged and walked towards me. Smiling, he asked me if I was in a hurry. I replied, truthfully, that I wasn't, not really. I would only have five minutes to wait, he told me – and then he asked me what I would have done with the five minutes that I would have saved if I had caught that train. I had no real answer, and as it was they were well spent talking to this wise man, whose working life was probably spent dispensing wisdom to travellers and sending them safely on their way. Jesus once made a similar point by telling a story about a rich man who planned to build bigger barns in which to store his wealth, not knowing that his time had run out and his plans were therefore pointless. Whenever I catch myself hurrying, I think of that day on the Underground, and the question that I couldn't answer. And then, usually, I slow down a bit. **Brian Williams**

**NEWSLETTER** – To the lady who left a message on my answer machine complaining about the Newsletter being delivered late; the Newsletter is produced and delivered by volunteers who take no expenses and the only costs recouped are the price of paper, printer toner and the 27 copies posted through Royal Mail. **Editor**

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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

Saturday	1	PCSO in village hall 10-11am
Tuesday	4	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	8	SEKAS in village hall in afternoon
Tuesday	11	W.I meeting in village hall 7.00pm
Monday	17	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2nd	Evensong 6:30pm	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 9th	Eucharist 9:30am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 23rd	Benefice Eucharist 10am at Hougham		
Sunday 30th	Benefice Eucharist 10am at St. Mary's		
Weekday Services: Wednesday Eucharist 9.15 am St Radigund, Capel-Le-Ferne			

## Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)

07.59	08.27	09.47	11.17	13.17	14.47	17.27	Sat. 09.47	11.17	13.17	15.27
09.06	10.36	12.06	14.06	16.06	18.01		Sat. 10.36	12.06	14.06	16.06

**ALKHAM WI** - How difficult has this year been for us so far? Weather meant that the March meeting, the Margate ACM and a Jumble Sale were not possible; and then the April meeting had 6 members of the committee away in Holland! Thankfully Edith Neve and Debbie Saunders stood in and ran the meeting. However, the Group Meeting, which covered the Dover W.I.'s, at Alkham went very well, so finally something was achieved. Debbie is to represent Alkham at the AGM in Cardiff. The next meeting hopefully will be fine weather as it will take place on the Village Green 11th June 7.30pm. Do join us if you wish - **Susan Lees**

**BOOT FAIR** – I would like to say 'thank you' to everyone who was involved with the boot fair in April. It was good to have so much support from the village and know it was a success for all the stallholders. There was a lovely atmosphere on the village green and we had a lot of very good feedback from visitors. We were actually asked when we planned to have another one – so watch this space. At the end of day we made a profit of £270 for the Church, which was gratefully received. Thanks must also go to Doreen Lott and her family for again providing the bacon butties etc., which were very popular. Thank you again for your help and support. **Marion Banks-Nash**

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email [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com)

**Parish Clerk** Angela Miller

824791alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net

**Alkham web site** [www.alkham.org](http://www.alkham.org)

**Village Hall booking** Val Fowler 827635

**W.I. secretary** – Susan Lees 822661

**AVS** [cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk) 821641

**Footpaths** [antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk)

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**District Councillors** - Sue Nicholas 823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187



# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett  
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**No. 237 July 2013**

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**DOREEN WILKS** – It is sad to report that Doreen died at the Kearsney Manor Care Home recently. Doreen and her husband George lived for many years in the house called Apple Tree on Slip Lane. She was an enthusiastic member of the Alkham W.I. and could always be relied on to help out at village events especially the annual fete where she ran the needlework stall, a craft in which she was very accomplished. The well attended funeral was held at St. Anthony's church on the 21<sup>st</sup> of June.

**HEROES** - As the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War approaches (August 4<sup>th</sup> 2014) I am keen to tie up some loose ends with the Alkham Heroes – those men killed in the two World Wars. Oddly there is more information on the men who were killed in the First World War than there is on those killed in the Second. If you have any knowledge of any of these men, or their families, or if you have any skills in the area of research, and the time! please have a look at the current information at <http://www.alkham.org/heroes.htm> and feel free to contact me ([mark.robson@btinternet.com](mailto:mark.robson@btinternet.com)) or Brian ([brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com)). It would seem a fitting tribute to complete the missing pieces and so bring these men back to life in time for the anniversary.



## **MOUNTAIN BIKE**

Probably a Saracen, cost £200 a few years ago. Ken says it's ok; all offers considered. Please contact Brian on 824969 or Ken – all monies to Alkham Fund.

**MAIL** – Royal Mail is having a reorganisation and unfortunately Eric, who has been the central village postman for some years, has been moved to another area. It's a great pity as he enjoyed this round and we enjoyed having Eric as our postman.

**STAGE** – Before the floods in 2001 the village hall had a full size stage with curtains but because the hall became waterlogged the floor was replaced and the stage removed. We are now going to replace the stage. It will be about 4.4m wide and normally 2.1m deep (as existing) and 0.6m high but will have a pull out front which will extend the stage to 3.1m for variety shows etc. There will be a curtain across the front which can be pulled right back to the walls plus side curtains. We hope that in the future someone will be willing to organise an Am Dram society.

**WANTED** to rent in the local area, a 2 bed house or preferably a bungalow. Please phone Brian Croucher on 820055.

**NEWS** – It's great when the Newsletter actually delivers news. In the June edition I said that a Christmas tree was donated by Geoff Hillier and planted on the village green. On returning home from Turkey the Hilliers read the Newsletter and then dashed to the window.

**CENTENARIAN** – Ken Smith, who lives at the Hogbrook Equestrian Centre in the village, is now 102 and doesn't like being left alone. His son asks if there is anyone in the village who would sit with him for a few hours when they have the chance to go out. John's quite happy to pay anyone willing to volunteer. Please phone 01304 824499 for more information.

**ALKHAM FETE** - Preparations are well underway for the Fete on 13<sup>th</sup> July, but any additional help would be gratefully received - call me and I'll find you something fun to do. The newsletter includes various requests for items (bric-a-brac, books, cakes, jewellery, etc) for different stalls - please see what you can do to support these! We will be putting the tents up from 8.30 am on the Saturday and many hands make light work, so please come a join the ageing team of regulars and remind us how easy it once was to carry a tent canvas on your shoulder! Also, we need help clearing afterwards - I know it can seem like a long day but every extra clearer makes a huge difference. You will receive **2 books of raffle tickets** with your Newsletter, please either sell them and return the stubs and money, or any unsold tickets, to me by 11th July if possible, otherwise on the day! Above all come along and enjoy yourself on the day - it's Alkham's big chance to shine; be a part of it! **Paul Tapsell (01303 892082)**

**ALKHAM FETE** – Just a reminder that the following are needed for the fete on 13th July. Plants please contact Linda on 823100. Handbags and sundry haberdashery to Susannah at the village hall on Wednesday 10.30am to 11am. Books please contact Rachel Fountain on 823173 or Sue Lees 822661. Bric-a-brac please contact Sandra Hancock on 01303 893074 or Edith Neve on 01304 824030.

**CAKES** are required for both the cake and refreshments stalls at the Alkham fete on July 13th. Please contact Janet Barrow on 829585 for the refreshments and Sue Ross on 825736 for cakes or bring them along on the day.

**FILMS** – The supports and cradle for the projector have been installed in the village hall and shortly we will have a trial run with a film to try the system out. Following this there will be a monthly film event showing films that have just been released. More details in next month's Newsletter.

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AFTER WWII an American was asked about his memory of England and said 'it was the magical way in which spring merges into Autumn'.



**Peter and Isabelle Smith**, who live at Chalksole, have managed to get a picture of a very elusive character than has been visiting them every spring and summer for the past 3 years. It is a rook, seemingly not disadvantaged by his/her colour variance but as yet unique in the flock that visits them.

**SPIKEY THE CAT** who lives just outside the village was reported missing last November and was later found at Diana Crockford's bungalow by St. Anthony's churchyard. His owner then kept him indoors but let him out once and off he went. Some time later a familiar face poked itself under Diana's fence where he spent the night in the kitchen after a chicken breast meal. Next morning he was taken to the greenhouse with the dirt tray to do his ablutions but unfortunately Di fell over and off he went again. Scraped and bleeding Diana managed to catch Spikey and he was returned to Eileen never to go out again.

**THE BOOK CLUB** meeting for Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July will be at the home of Avi Munn Poems, Short Lane (01304 929484) starting at 7.30 p.m. The book for discussion is *The Thread* by Victoria Hislop. For more details contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

**GARDEN TALK** - After such unpredictable weather so far this year, we hope for a calm evening for our next visit, which will be to Thorn Cottage in Meggett Lane on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July. Rosemary & Geoff Hillier are our hosts from 7.30p.m. Their garden has suffered from flooding last winter, but always looks colourful and full of plants showing the amount of hard work they put in. **Janet Adamson**



**TIPS FOR JULY:** Such a windy June has meant that many plants need to be checked, tied in or staked, especially any that have grown vigorously. Gladioli need to be staked individually, as might lupins. Spring-flowering shrubs such as forsythia and philadelphus should be pruned - lilacs, paeonies, rhododendrons need to be deadheaded. Hedges may need a light trim, also topiary shaped box. Break off all side shoots as tomato plants grow and feed weekly. Soft fruit such as gooseberries, currants and raspberries should be ready, and may need netting to keep birds away, and can be pruned after picking. Try to keep on top of the weeding, feeding and watering - and remember surplus plants can be taken to the Village Fete in the morning for pricing on the plant stall - and prepare your prize vegetables for the Show. **Janet Adamson**

**ALKHAM WI** - Although the June meeting was aimed to take place in the evening on the Meadow, as we all know, the weather was still chilly and damp, so once again it took place in the Village Hall. However, it was an evening enjoyed by all - eating, drinking and playing Bingo! The July meeting will be a talk by John Pearce, but a different one to 'Flowers by Emma'. The discussion for the 2014 programme took place mid June and many interesting ideas were raised; all will be told at the July meeting. An outing will be arranged - as always by Cherry Leppard, no doubt something exciting. Sadly, as all members know, Doreen Wilks, a long term Alkham Committee Member died. Flowers will be sent in Alkham W.I.'s memory - **Susan Lees**

**RIVER SUMMER FAYRE** on July 14<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 4pm on the Recreation Ground Lewisham Road. This year we have Parrot Rescue coming and a Tug of War for the children. Vista Twisters will be giving a display as will Teeny Boppers. Also we have Motor Cycle & Land Rovers. As usual we will a dog show & Atlantis Entertainment Plus craft stalls.

**CHRISTIAN AID** - I would like to thank those people who assisted with the "house to house" collection in the village, and also to the residents who gave so generously. This year the total raised was £344.34.

Thank you **Richard Tansell**

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**OZ's daughter writes** - June 8<sup>th</sup> this year saw the centenary of the death of Emily Davison, from injuries she received running out in front of the King's horse at Epsom, and it's an important anniversary that doesn't deserve to pass unnoticed. She may not have intended to kill herself, and there's still some debate about whether her actions helped or harmed the women's suffrage movement, but her death was a significant milestone, nonetheless. Many people believe that women achieved suffrage in 1918 but that's only partially true; because of the heavy losses we sustained in WWI, women would have significantly outnumbered men at the polling stations, and that would never have done. So suffrage was limited to women over 30 with property – in their own right or by marriage. Women didn't achieve full suffrage until 1928. One hundred years on, and the question is not so much, "Am I allowed to vote?" as "Can I be bothered?" And that's pretty understandable. This may not be the political landscape the Suffragettes envisaged us voting in, but we are still lucky enough to have the vote, and that right was won for us with blood, sweat and tears. That's why I was delighted when my friend, a newly elected councillor, told me that all the election candidates have to gather round to hear the spoilt papers read out. I once wrote a diatribe on mine, and I hope that even if I failed to shame the candidates, I at least bored them to tears. Staying at home achieves little; it just gives the politicians the mandate to do as they please, knowing they'll hear nothing more than a whimper in return. If you can't decide who to vote for, spoil your paper! And take pleasure in knowing the candidates will, quite literally, have to listen. **Catherine del Campo**

### ALKHAM VALLEY HISTORICAL RESEARCH GROUP

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June, the AVHRG group will undertake a non-invasive geophysical survey over Vicarage Meadow in Alkham. The aim of the investigation is to scan the area for potential archaeology and more specifically, to search for possible remains of a former river landing stage that may once existed alongside the ancient banks of the Nailbourne. After the Romans left Britain, the Roman road system was not maintained and eventually many roads degraded and fell-out of use. It was not until the 1800s that any concerted effort was made to build or repair roads. Since the 5<sup>th</sup> century and until modern times, the transport of quantities of goods to and from many locations in Kent would wherever possible, have been by water. Many of the interconnecting land routes of communication between villages and towns, at best in the summer would have been holed and rutted and impassable by wagons and carts in the winter months. The Kent river system over the centuries has either dried-up or been reduced to mere dykes because of a number of geological and man-made reasons. Hundreds of years ago they provided a safe and more commercially viable way of transporting goods inland between the settlements of Britain and the continent. Valley residents are more than welcome to join our voluntary team. Please contact me at: [V.Burrows@gtwiz.co.uk](mailto:V.Burrows@gtwiz.co.uk) *The above is the first part of Vince's article – the rest will be printed later.*

**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 5<sup>th</sup> July in Dover Town Hall. This year's theme is Spain, the main orchestral work being the Overture to Rossini's Barber of Seville. The proceeds are in support of The Kent Air Ambulance. 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**

### Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)

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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 details
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 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	6	PCSO in village hall 10-11am
Tuesday	9	W.I meeting in village hall 7.00pm
Saturday	13	Annual village fete starts 2.00pm on village green
Monday	15	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Sunday	28	PCC Songs of Praise 10.00am village green

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th	Evensong 6.30pm	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 14th	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 21st	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6 pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 28th	Benefice Songs of Praise Vicarage Meadow 10am		

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

**FROM THE VICARAGE - WWJD?** You can buy ties and t shirts displaying the logo WWJD? and I must admit that I've been tempted but don't actually have one. Why WWJD? It stands for What Would Jesus Do? It is supposed to remind people like me of how we are supposed to approach tricky situations. There's a prayer by St Teresa of Avila that I like which includes the words, "help us to remember that Christ has no body now on earth but ours, no hands but ours, no feet but ours..." so it's important that we ask ourselves: WWJD? A couple of weeks ago, returning from an event at Canterbury Cathedral, I boarded the Park & Ride bus to back to where I had left my car. Shortly after I had sat down, a couple boarded with their teenage son and sat in the seats in front of me. Catching sight of my collar, Dad made a comment to nobody in particular and then proceeded to whistle the tune to Monty Python's Always Look on the Bright Side of Life all the way back to the car park. If you haven't made the connection yet, that's the song that accompanies the spoof crucifixion scene in the film Monty Python's Life of Brian. WWJD? The gospels tell of how Jesus' family once went to take charge of him because people were saying that Jesus had a demon, or was a bit strange as we would probably put it today. Perhaps the man on the bus thought that I was a bit strange. Jesus responded by asking his critics a question about whether someone possessed by demons could cast out other demons, which I suppose could mean, "How could I ever do other people any good if I were that strange?" But this man never said anything to me directly – he just whistled. As it was, I kept quiet and let my collar do the talking. WWJD? It was all that I could think of to do at the time. By the way, if you happen to be the gentleman in question - nice whistling! **Brian Williams**

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email [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com)

**Parish Clerk** Angela Miller

824791alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net

**Alkham web site** [www.alkham.org](http://www.alkham.org)

**Village Hall booking** Val Fowler 827635

**W.I. secretary** – Susan Lees 822661

**AVS** [cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk) 821641

**Footpaths** [antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk)

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**Church Wardens** Geoff Gaskill 823100

and Richard Tapsell 822295

**MP** Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669

**County Councillor** - Geoffrey Lymer 079604 90 929

**District Councillors** - Sue Nicholas 823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187

# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett  
The Old Post Office  
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**No. 238 August 2013**

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**FREE FILM PREVIEW** – On the 12<sup>th</sup> of August at 8.00pm we will show our first feature film in Alkham village hall to test the system and get audience feedback. The film to be shown is 'Hitchcock' which stars Anthony Hopkins and Helen Mirren and is about their relationship during the making of the film Psycho. Entrance will be free to the first 50 people who apply for tickets which can be obtained by contacting Geoff Hillier (01303 892878), Brian Wimsett (824969) or Edith Neve (824030). The seating for the preview will be informal with chairs adjacent to tables and people are invited to bring their own drinks and refreshments. A company called FilmBank provide the films, which are generally those not yet released to DVD, and a list of these films will be given to those attending the preview to indicate their preference for future screenings. The first formal showing will be on the 24<sup>th</sup> September with tickets costing £4.50 each. The film will be advertised in the Newsletter and locally with tickets obtainable as for the preview and following this films will then be shown on the last Tuesday of each month.

**PUMPING STATION** – Standen Terrace is the group of four houses above the brick wall on the bend of the Alkham Valley Road to west of the Drellingore pumping station. Opposite these houses used to be a Victorian pumping station which was demolished in 1981. Affinity water is planning to build a new pumping station, at a cost of about two million pounds, on this site utilising the old basement. Above the Channel Tunnel complex is the Hills Reservoir and Affinity Water is concerned about possible seismic activity that may affect this site to which the water is currently pumped. The new pumping station is designed to pump the water to the reservoir at Paddlesworth, which is further inland and adjacent to Hawkinge. This will also give greater resilience to the water supply to Folkestone and the adjacent area. Affinity will not extract further water from Standen and the existing pipes to Hawkinge will be used except for a short connection down to Standen crossroads. The new pumping station will be a single storey building about 16m long by 11m wide and in its finished state will appear to be brick with a Kent peg tile style roof. There will be an adjacent water storage tank, partially underground with an embankment around it and the whole site will be screened by trees and landscaping. Access during construction will be by a one-way road from Standen crossroads along which will be the contractor's site offices. The planning application has been submitted and it is hoped that work will start in October with the main construction commencing in January 2014 and finishing in August 2014. A presentation of the proposals was given to the Alkham Parish Council at their meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> July with local residents in attendance. **editor**



## **ALKHAM FETE 13TH**

**JULY** - Wow what a fantastic afternoon! Glorious weather and a huge crowd helped to raise a truly amazing and best ever amount. Monies

taken on the stalls on the day together with grand raffle tickets sold totalled £5557.00. A big thank you to all volunteers who worked tirelessly not only on the day but weeks before preparing stalls and events. Grateful thanks to the generosity of the prize donors, all of whom were listed on the day, and also to those who donated items necessary for individual stalls. It was a surprise to see Dr Who asking for a hamburger, I'm not sure who was the hottest me or him!  
**Irene Barnard (Secretary)**



**VICARAGE MEADOW** will again be the venue for the annual "Songs of Praise" at 11 am on Sunday 28th July. All are welcome to join the Worship Band from River church in this informal and engaging, open air service. The Village Hall will be open for refreshments after the service. **Geoff Gaskill**

**POLICE SURGERY** – Janet Claringbould, who is our Police Community Support Officer, will be holding a surgery on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August between 10 and 11am in the village hall.

**WASTE RECYCLING** – The Hawkinge recycling centre will close permanently on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013 with the 30<sup>th</sup> being the last operational day.

**WI JUMBLE SALE** in the village hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August from 11am to midday.



**THE WEATHER** was hot at the fete but it was even hotter for Geoff Hillier on the burger stall who can be seen in the photo behind the smoke. Many thanks to Stan Fowler who took all these photographs.

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**DYKE** – At the Parish Council meeting there was a long discussion about the state of the dyke which carries flood water from Meggett Lane through to Alkham village and beyond. Geoff Hillier showed pictures of the blocked and overgrown dyke to the east of Meggett Lane. He said it appeared that all authorities denied responsibility for its upkeep and finally suggested that a working party be set up to deal with the problem with a donation from the Parish Council. Neil Burrows commended the proposal but said that it would be a short term solution as the dyke would silt up again. The only long term solution was for KCC Highways to take responsibility for the dyke and the District and County Councillors were asked to put pressure on Highways to deal with the problem. Kent County Councillor, Geoffrey Lymer, was sympathetic to the problem but said that KCC had to deal with numerous problems such as this and had to prioritise their commitments. Geoff said that he would raise the issue with Highways and Sue Nicholas, the District Councillor, will also pursue the matter. It was agreed that a long term maintenance solution was required and Geoff Hillier accepted this for the present. KCC Highways intend to pressure jet the culvert in Meggett Lane in August. **editor**

**SUMMER GUITAR CONCERT** - For the fourth year running St Anthony's was packed on 29<sup>th</sup> June to listen to the past and present pupils of Jimmy D'Alton Bellas with some quite brilliant guest performers. From the opening performance by eight year old Matthew Purkess to the close by Grant McFarlane Dowse, now a professional artist, the quality of the playing was quite outstanding. The music ranged from Duke Ellington to Francis Cutting (16th century) with some arrangements by the pupils themselves. Emily Renshaw returned again this year singing unaccompanied in the beautiful surroundings of St Anthony's. Grant McFarlane Dowse also brought along Sarah Brennan on flute to accompany him. Sarah has played in various orchestras and performed for the BBC. Grant continues his career playing at various festivals and recording film scores. A big thank you to Jimmy D'Alton Bellas, his family, the Friends of St Anthony's and for those who helped. The £400 collected has been donated to the Friends of St Anthony. **Den Barnard**

**GARDEN TALK** - We hope the fine weather will continue for our next visit - to the interesting garden at Forstal Cottage in the village, where local historian Susan Lees will be our hostess This will be on Friday 16th August, from 7.30p.m. We anticipate another enjoyable evening in good company. **Janet Adamson**



**TIPS FOR AUGUST** - The warm July weather has meant that vegetables have managed to catch up a bit, especially if well watered. Gardeners should be enjoying harvesting courgettes, beans, peas and tomatoes; regular picking means a better crop. Heavily-laden plum and apple trees may need extra support this year. Rooted strawberry runners can be planted out now, and spring flowering bulbs should be ordered. Hedges can have their last cut, hoe and weed the hedge bottoms and repair fences before the possible autumn gales. Take and root cuttings of herbs, fuchsias, hydrangeas, geraniums and heathers. Plants will still need deadheading, feeding and watering. **Janet Adamson**

**BOOK CLUB** meeting for August will be held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> at the home of Jo Walker, The Old Rectory, Slip Lane - Tel 821641. The book for discussion will be Sea of Poppies by Amitav Ghosh. The meeting starts at 7.30p.m. For more details of the club contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

**The Daily Telegraph** - At the height of the gale, the harbourmaster radioed a coastguard and asked him to estimate the wind speed. He replied he was sorry, but he didn't have a gauge. However, if it was any help, the wind had just blown his Land Rover off the cliff. **JH**

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**OZ on COCKCHAFERS** – The late arrival of summer this year has already disrupted the natural calendar, from the absence of ladybirds in May to the widespread cancellation of rose shows in mid-June. Another such delay emerged at the start of June when my son-in-law reported seeing his first cockchafer this year. These beetles usually appear at the end of April and live throughout May, giving them the alternative name of 'Maybug' (not to be confused with the Stag Beetle, also known as May Bug.) Other names in English are 'billy witch', 'mitchamador', or 'spang beetle', while my son-in-law's Spanish family know it as 'obejorro.' The Latin name is Melolontha melolontha, meaning 'apple tree blossom', perhaps one of the beetle's foods, although the acknowledged favourite is oak leaves. Cockchafer means in Middle English 'little man who gnaws' and they certainly do, swarming round trees and bushes as they devour the leaves. The larvae, known as 'chafer grubs', are equally voracious, eating the roots of potatoes and similar crops. Cockchafers are present right across Europe, and over the centuries various attempts were made to control their numbers. In mediaeval times the only method available was direct physical destruction of adult beetles so as to break the reproductive cycle. Remarkably, in France in 1320, cockchafers ('hannetons' over there) were put on trial and ordered to move to a designated area. When they 'refused' they were rounded up and executed. In other countries, cockchafers were simply cooked and eaten. In 20th century Europe, pesticides were very effective in controlling numbers, to the extent that the cockchafer neared extinction in some areas. However, over the last 40 years pesticides have given way to biological remedies and numbers are once again increasing. I think it's time to dig out the recipe for sugar-coated cockchafers. **(Steve Osborn)**

**IN LAST MONTH'S** Newsletter there was a partial report by the Alkham Valley Historical Research Group regarding a possible landing stage at Alkham. They have just done a survey of the village green to find out as there could have been a landing stage because the Alkham Valley Nailbourne, that now only runs during extended periods of wet weather, may have been at a best guess about 8 metres (30ft) wide and 2.2 metres (10ft) deep in ancient times. This volume of water would have enabled shallow draft vessels to navigate into the hinterland via Dover and Kearsney upstream to at least the village of Alkham if not further beyond. **From an article by Vince Burrows**

**ALKHAM WI** - The July meeting went well, starting with an excellent talk by John Pearce about Glen Miller. Next month, 13<sup>th</sup> August will be a 'Fish & Chip' and chat evening (something other than fish may be ordered). However, the first event in August will be a JUMBLE SALE ON the 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Village Hall. Members are reminded to come and help by approx 10am. The Sale starts at 11am and closes about midday. Members are thanked for all the work they did at Alkham Fete this year, it went very well. Cherry is arranging a coach trip to London to see the Legal Courts and other things in October. **Susan Lees**



**STAGE** – Works are well underway for the new village hall stage. All the supports have been made (see photo) and shortly they will be assembled in the hall. The stage has been designed such that the wooden tables, currently in the cellar of the Old Post Office, will fit underneath. The existing stage has been removed. **Geoff Hillier & Brian Wimsett**

**Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)**

**07.59 08.27 09.47 11.17 13.17 14.47 17.27 Sat. 09.47 11.17 13.17 15.27**

**09.06 10.36 12.06 14.06 16.06 18.01 Sat. 10.36 12.06 14.06 16.06**

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Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
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Thursday	Karate classes from 7.15pm to 8.45pm in VH - 821336 details
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

## Other events in the village

Saturday	3	PCSO 10-11am – W.I. jumble sale 11am
Tuesday	6	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Monday	12	Film event trial run 8.00pm in village hall
Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.00pm
Monday	19	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4th	Evensong 6.30pm	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 11th	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 18th	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6 pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 25th	Benefice Eucharist 10 am at St. Anthony's, Alkham		

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

**FROM THE VICARAGE** - A couple came to see me about being married in one of our churches recently. One of them used to live in the area, and so they had come to me – but that was partly because when they had first telephoned their local parish the person taking the call had come across as abrupt, and they hadn't wanted to go back to them. I was surprised, because I know the person in question to be a warm, friendly soul who would do anything for anybody – but we all know how it is when the phone rings just as dinner is ready, or when we have just got out of the shower. I made a mental note to be more conscious of how I answer the phone – it just goes to show how first impressions count. I have had to remember this myself when answering the phone during the past week. Colds make me grumpy, and things that don't usually bother me become irritating. It began last weekend with a tickle at the back of the throat and by midweek I was already onto my second box of tissues. During my student days I attended a church in London. In those days large parishes often had a vicar and two curates, and there they were all single and shared a vicarage with a housekeeper, rather like TV's Father Ted - except that this housekeeper, unlike the cheery Mrs Doyle, was a retired hospital matron who meant well but could nevertheless reduce anyone who rang the vicarage doorbell to jelly in seconds. I once mentioned in front of her that colds make me grumpy. "That's because you're a man!" she thundered. "Men think it's beneath their dignity to have colds!" Jesus once went to dinner with friends. While Mary sat listening to Jesus, her sister Martha was preparing dinner, fretting about all she had to do – until she finally lost patience and complained. "You are worried and distracted by many things," Jesus replied. "There is need of only one thing." Martha reminds me of myself with a cold. If she did have one it might explain why she was fretting, and why Jesus had to remind her – and us – not to worry about the little things in life that don't matter as much as we might think they do. **Brian Williams**

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**Newsletter** Brian Wimsett 824969

email [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com)

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824791alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net

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**Village Hall booking** Val Fowler 827635

**W.I. secretary** – Susan Lees 822661

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**Footpaths** [antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk)

**Police – 999 emergency & 101**

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**Church Wardens** Geoff Gaskill 823100

and Richard Tapsell 822295

**MP** Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669

**County Councillor** - Geoffrey Lymer  
079604 90 929

**District Councillors** - Sue Nicholas  
823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187



# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

**No. 239 September 2013**  
Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

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**A GREAT SUCCESS** – The trial run for the film event in the village hall went very well with a lot of positive feedback especially for the quality of the picture and sound system. The informal arrangement of the chairs and tables was popular and most people liked the interval and enjoyed the film 'Hitchcock'. At the Preview evening a poll was taken to choose what films should be shown in the future. The result was a broad cross section of drama, comedy, thriller, and romance. From this poll result the next film to be shown at the Village Hall has been selected as .....

**LINCOLN** which stars Daniel Day-Lewis as United States President Abraham Lincoln, Sally Field as his wife and is directed by Steven Spielberg. It will be on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September in the village hall starting at the earlier time of 7.30pm. The price of a ticket is £4.50 and these can be booked by ringing Geoff Hillier on 01303 892878 or Brian Wimsett on 824969.

**WHAT A VERY** well organised and enjoyable evening we all spent on Monday watching the Hitchcock film, and I understand a big thank you is particularly due to Geoffrey Hillier and Brian Wimsett, who spent a great deal of time beforehand ensuring that the evening ran smoothly. This is I am sure was the feeling of everyone who attended the film show. It was a good choice of film, and the layout in the hall of the tables and chairs was a very good idea. It enabled us village folk to chat and have a glass of wine or a can of coke before the film started. Congratulations to all those who had a hand in the choice of film and helped with all the preparations. I am sure all who attended the film show will look forward with pleasure to the next occasion in September. Monday evening really was appreciated. **Pamela Sayers**



**FETE COMMITTEE MEETING** - Firstly, a huge thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Fete the best ever! Looking forward, there will be a Fete Committee meeting on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September at 8 pm in the Village Hall; we will be discussing the Fete, dealing with the financial matters arising and making preliminary arrangements for the next Fete. Everyone is welcome to come along and contribute to the discussions. **Paul Tapsell**



**THE STAGE** in the village hall is almost complete and the curtains are ordered and should be put up shortly. We are currently looking at organisations that

are offering live shows such as plays, concerts, jazz evenings etc. and more details will be given in future Newsletters. If you have suggestions regarding putting on live shows, whether amateur or professional, please contact Brian on 824969 or email [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com).

**FETE** – In last month's Newsletter we forgot to thank Paul Tapsell for organising the fete. Without Paul the popular village event, which many people from outside the parish come to, wouldn't take place. Many thanks go to Paul for all his hard and unnoticed work.

**HARVEST SUPPER** – On the 14<sup>th</sup> October from 7.00pm the Harvest Supper will be held in Alkham Village Hall. We would be very grateful to receive raffle prizes and apple pies. For tickets please phone Marion Banks-Nash on 820701 or Sue Lees on 822661. More information next month. **Marion Banks-Nash**

**ALKHAM GARDEN CENTRE** – The only recycling bins which remain at the garden centre are the ones for newspaper and clothes/shoes.

**CLEANER REQUIRED** – A lady in the village would like someone to do 1½ hours cleaning per week. Please phone 01304 823483 for more details.



**PHONE BOX** – Does anyone know who repainted the phone box at the top of Wolverton Hill? A name was suggested but on asking he said that he hadn't but thought it was BT.

Philip Young, who sponsors the box, says that BT doesn't repaint boxes so if you know please give me a ring on 824969 as Philip would like to know. **Editor**

**POLICE** – If you would like to raise any issues with our Police Community Support Officer please go and see her between 11am and mid-day on the 7<sup>th</sup> September in the village hall.

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HOUSES OF ALKHAM – When space permits details about some of the



older properties in Alkham will be printed.

**THE OLD POST OFFICE** - Records show that a lease was taken on the land at the bottom of Slip Lane in 1810 and in 1877 Thomas Tunbridge applied for a mortgage. It is probable that the front house half of the house was built around this time with a cat slide roof. At a later date the rear half was added which accounts for the double pitched roof. In 1925 a further mortgage was taken out and this is probably when the shop was built, later to become the post office with a telephone box at the front. The stock was stored in the cellar under the shop and the cellar doors can still be seen by the post box on Slip Lane. Behind the house were a number of buildings, which included stables where horses used for transport were changed or watered. Before WWII the house was coated in pebble dash to reduce the fire risk. Most houses had to use the village well but the post office had its own well which survives to the present day. In 1958 John Luxton bought the property and when he retired built the bungalow called Meadowside in the rear garden. Until 1990 there was a squawk box in the shop where a message would be sent if the Russians were going to attack. Should that have happened rockets (fireworks) would have been let off in the back garden to warn the village. The shop finally closed in 1978. In the foreground of the picture are the thatched barns which were part of Halton Court Farm. **Editor**

**AMANDA'S FOOTCARE** – Mandy Summers (BSYA), who used to live in the village, can provide foot care in your own home. This includes toenail cutting, hard skin removal, general foot care and lower leg/foot massage. For an appointment please phone 07837973290.

**GARDEN TALK** - Glorious weather has inspired many of us to get out into the garden, so we are expecting a good attendance when we next meet to see all the hard work put in by Susannah and Richard Tapsell. We meet at 'Bramhall', Alkham Valley Road on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September, from 7.00p.m. The earlier start gives us more time to admire the garden and views of the valley. All welcome.



**JOBS FOR SEPTEMBER** - This is harvest time for many of the vegetable crops: melons, tomatoes, sweet corn, runner beans and marrows. The shortening daylight hours make us feel that autumn is well on the way. Plums, damsons and some apples and pears can be picked. Those for storage should be picked in cool conditions, stored in trays in a frost free shed. The fruit trees can then be summer pruned. Blackberries and loganberries can be harvested, with the fruiting growth being cut out and new shoots tied in. Once it has rained, lawns can be aerated and scarified to remove debris. Worn patches can be reseeded and autumn fertiliser applied. Summer bedding can gradually be removed and spaces filled with daffodil and hyacinth bulbs - also pots of bulbs to flower at Christmas can be started. In the greenhouse, any shading used can be removed as well as spent plants to allow more light. Cuttings can be taken of fuchsias and pelargoniums. Fish in garden ponds should be fed as live food becomes more scarce.

**Janet Adamson**

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**OZ on OGBURN** – Many years ago, just before I retired from an authority undergoing continual reorganization, downsizing and outsourcing in preparation for privatization, we kept our morale high by circulating subversive comments and/or pinning them on staff notice boards. One such read as follows: “We trained hard, but it seemed that every time we were beginning to form up into teams we would be reorganized. I was to learn later in life that we tend to meet any new situation by reorganizing; and a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress while producing confusion, inefficiency, and demoralization.” This quotation was attributed to Gaius Petronius Arbiter (27AD – 66 AD), a Roman writer and courtier during the reign of Nero. As it seemed to strike such a chord with us from nearly 2,000 years ago a colleague invited me to verify its source. Over the last fifteen years I discovered that the Petronius attribution was widely regarded as a spoof, but found no evidence of the true author. The other day, I Googled it again for old time’s sake, and Wikipedia came up with the answer. Charlton Ogburn, Jr. (1911-1998), was an American writer and journalist who joined military intelligence in World War II, became a captain, and worked for the US State Department after the war. In 1957 he wrote an article for Harper’s Magazine entitled Merrill’s Marauders, a first-hand account of the Burma Campaign, that contained the ‘Petronius’ lines, presumably commenting on the military hierarchy. Harper then gave him a contract for the book The Marauders, published in 1959, allowing him to be a full-time writer. Amongst other things, Ogburn was an authority on Oxfordian Theory, but surely now is the time for his name to be attached to the glorious ‘Petronius’ quotation. **(Steve Osborn)**

**POSTSCRIPT** – In last month’s ‘From the Vicarage’ reference was made to a couple who wanted to get married and to the abrupt nature with which the enquiry was treated. Brian Williams says that the misunderstanding was resolved and the couple mentioned have been married. Congratulations and best wishes go to both of them.

**ALKHAM WI** - The August meeting was thoroughly enjoyed by all - reason? Debbie Griggs has booked all the speakers for 2014 and even one for 2015! Cherry Leppard has booked an outing to all the famous Law Courts in London in October and also the W.I. Christmas Dinner in December! Janet Barrow has arranged a December Carol Singing for a Dementia Group! The August Jumble Sale raised £75. After all this information members were able to sit back and enjoy the fish/chicken and chips that were ordered and collected by Edith Neve. The last part of the evening was a musical backed four parts Keep Fit, organised so well by Susannah Tapsell - most members joined in and enjoyed the event. September's speaker will be Helen Kendall showing how 50 ways can be used to tie a scarf - **Susan Lees**

**JUMBLE SALE** – On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> of September from 11am to mid-day there is a jumble sale in the village hall in aid of PCC funds.

**BOOKS** – In the village hall there are second hand books for sale with money being put in a pot. To date Sue Lees has collected over £60 which is put in the Alkham Fund that currently has £480 in the Building Society account. This money is to be spent on the village.

**COMMENTING** on a complaint from a Mr. Arthur Purdey about a large gas bill, a spokesman for North West Gas said, "We agree it was rather high for the time of year". It's possible Mr. Purdey has been charged for the gas used up during the explosion that destroyed his house." **Daily Telegraph (JH)**

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Monday	2	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm in VH – all welcome
Tuesday	3	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Wednesday	4	Film event trial run 8.00pm in village hall
Saturday	7	PCSO in the village hall from 11am to mid-day
Tuesday	10	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.00pm
Saturday	14	SEK astronomical society in village hall pm
Monday	16	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	24	The film Lincoln in village hall – see page 1
Saturday	28	PCC jumble sale in VH from 11am to mid-day

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1st	Benefice Eucharist 10am at Alkham		
Sunday 8th	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 15th	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6 pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 22nd	Benefice Eucharist 10 am at St Mary's		
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Eucharist 9.30am	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am

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

**FROM THE VICARAGE** - Some years ago a new soap powder appeared in the shops. While other products washed whiter than white, this one claimed not just to make clothes look clean but to smell clean. At last! The answer to a problem we didn't know we had! 'How is the church doing?' I have been asked that question a couple of times lately, and each time my stomach has churned because it feels like I'm being asked how I am doing. Each time I've muttered something or other in reply, but it has made me wonder – how do I know how the church is doing? Is it to do with numbers? At Pentecost, Christians celebrate how, after Jesus rose from the dead, the Holy Spirit came upon his disciples. There must have been a commotion, because a crowd gathered in the street, wanting to know what was going on. Peter, one of the leaders of the Church, told them that it was to do with Jesus – they had killed him, God had raised him from the dead. But Peter had the answer to a problem they didn't know they had, and apparently once they had heard his sermon about 3000 of them joined. None of my sermons has ever had quite the same effect as that, but then so far the crowds that flock to hear them have been rather smaller than the crowd that Peter preached to that day – much smaller, in fact. Someone asked me if I ever get discouraged. I hope not – because I remember that Jesus had the same problem with dwindling congregations. It seems that at one point huge crowds followed him – until he explained to them what they had to do to be his followers. When many of them left, he asked his disciples if they were going to leave too. Peter replied that there was nobody else for them to go to – his words were words of eternal life. Jesus, they realised, was the answer to problems that others didn't know they had. So as long as the Church keeps offering answers to problems that people don't necessarily know that they have. I think we might be doing OK. **Brian Williams**

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**DYKE** – Kent Highways installed new headwalls on the culvert in Meggett Lane and whilst the road was closed the blocked culvert was jet blasted. However, because the dyke to the east is higher than the culvert Geoff Hillier persuaded KCC to clear it across the Garden Centre. A

level survey between Meggett Lane and the dual pipes to the east of the Garden Centre showed a slight fall except for two high points. It is difficult to get some riparian owners to maintain the dyke and KCC don't have sufficient funds so the .....

**ALKHAM FUND** will pay. The latter was mostly accrued when Ken and Brian recycled waste, for environmental reasons, from about 90 houses between 2004 and 2009. At the Parish Council meeting someone objected to the money being spent on this project, presumably because he put rubbish out. However, this project satisfies the aim that the money should be used for the good of the parish so a quote is being sought for some of the work but for the rest .... **VOLUNTEERS** would be greatly appreciated. If you'd like to help please phone Geoff on 01303 892878 or Brian on 824969.

**SLIP LANE** – The Parish Council was asked if KCC could put a mirror at the bottom of the lane as it is difficult to see vehicles approaching from the Folkestone direction. The response was that drivers may be dazzled by reflecting headlights; a concave mirror gives a false impression as to how far away the approaching vehicle is; there are no recorded accidents apart from a bullion van that overturned and the police are not in favour. In short the answer was no.

**SIRENS** – The Parish Council have written to the police to ask why vehicles using sirens, which are audible all the way from Folkestone to Dover, are heard daily or several times a day travelling the length of the Alkham Valley Road.

**ALKHAM FETE** - At the post fete meeting last night it was suggested, that although this years was very successful, we should all consider having the fete every other year instead of annually. For various reasons it was cancelled last year and it seems from comments that most volunteers came back with renewed enthusiasm and va va voom! We do struggle each year to find villagers to step forward and run a stall and particularly realize that the same faces are involved year after year, with none of us getting any younger, so it's vital that younger villagers begin to help and show interest. There was only a small number in attendance last night so this new suggestion will be carried forward for further discussion at the AGM in November (date to be advised) so please come along and join in with your views and comments. **Irene Barnard, Secretary**

**CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES** - Please could you possibly give your support to "Operation Christmas Child" by preparing a shoe box with gifts for children who have nothing at Christmas. I have the leaflets with all the details and can be contacted on 01304 822295. The completed boxes can either be collected by me or dropped off at the Village Hall any Wednesday at 10.30am up to and including the 13<sup>th</sup> November. Thank you very much indeed. **Susannah Tapsell**

**CALLING ALL "SINGLIES"** - Are you a single person (male or female) living in the Alkham area? Do you appreciate solo-life some of the time, but would prefer company for occasions such as theatre trips, London shows or other days out? Do you sometimes fancy a mini-break or longer holiday but are put off by extortionate single supplements and wouldn't mind sharing accommodation? If any of the above ring bells with you, then you may be interested in joining a list (rather than a club) of like-minded individuals. If there is a fair response, I could organise an introductory meeting when we could draw up a contact list. Feel free to get in touch if the idea appeals to you. **Margaret Danstead Tel. 01304-829006**

## FILM EVENT

next showing in village hall

**29th October**

## FLIGHT

**With Denzel Washington**

Tickets £4.50 - to book please phone

Geoff 01303 892878 or

Brian 824969

Bring your own refreshments

**THE HARVEST SUPPER** will be in the Village Hall on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm for 7.15pm. Tickets will be £6 per person and are available from Marion (820701), Rosie (822585) and Sue Lees (822661). As usual any donations of produce to decorate the church would be gratefully received and will be auctioned during the Harvest Supper. This year, we are hoping to donate some items to the Dover Foodbank and any non-perishable items for this charity would be appreciated. The Foodbank has been formed to try to help people in need in the local community. Some suggested items could be sugar, (500g), cartons of fruit juice, tins of tomatoes or rice pudding or meat or fish or fruit and also biscuits or snack bars. Any items donated will also be used to decorate the church. Our donations will help to provide three days of emergency food for individuals and families in crisis. We look forward to seeing you at the Supper. **Marion Banks-Nash**

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**BEE AWARE!** - Dover District Beekeepers Annual Honey Show is coming up so why not come and join us on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October at the wonderful hall at Beechgrove, Nonington - home to the Bruderhof Community. It's a great afternoon for adults and children alike with displays of live bees at work in a special observation hive (weather permitting), microscopes to get a close up of bees and their pests, hive and equipment displays and of course lots of different honeys. Creams, lip balms, soaps and honey, all locally produced, will be on sale. Entry is free with refreshments available to purchase, so come along and join us to find out what beekeeping is all about. Don't forget! Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October - doors open at 2.30 at Beechgrove, Nonington CT15 4HH. **Chris Holdstock Show Secretary**

**WE ALL NEED A FRIEND** - With our increasingly ageing population one of the biggest problems is growing social isolation and carers often do not have the time to stop and talk. Dover District has their own scheme, aiming to provide volunteers who can offer that much needed regular friendly contact. Befrienders work with vulnerable people, so we do ask you to go through a simple vetting process and attend initial training. Once that is complete we aim to match you with someone who is based fairly near you and who has compatible interests. Your role will be to act as the "good neighbour" – offering company, keeping an eye on the person and flag up other sources of support or services. If you are interested in becoming a Befriender, or if you would like to have a Befriender please contact the scheme Co-ordinator, Roisin Murray on 01304 367917 (Tuesday to Thursday) or 07969 698165, or e mail [training@doverdistrictvolunteering.org.uk](mailto:training@doverdistrictvolunteering.org.uk)

**U3A** – Forthcoming courses for members at £1.50 per session include: September 18 at 13.30-15.30 hrs: "Young Dickens and Dickens in London" a talk by Ian Porter at Deal Town Hall: October 9 at 13.30-15.30 hrs "Strange history of Buckingham Palace" a talk by Patricia Wright at the Phoenix Centre, Sandwich : November 6 at 13.30 – 15.30hrs: "Blowing m own Trumpet" a talk by Roy Bilham: November 13 at 10.30-12.00 a coffee morning with a presentation by U3A Member and Course Leader, Tony Grist entitled "Drama in my life". See website [u3asites.org.uk/white-cliffs](http://u3asites.org.uk/white-cliffs) or to get full programme and membership details contact 01304 851744 or email [diane.mcgeary@sky](mailto:diane.mcgeary@sky).

**ALKHAM WI** – The National and Local WI members are very concerned about how shops are closing down in Towns; people here can see this in Dover and Folkestone. It does make people wonder what is going to happen to Towns. Helen Kendall gave a really interesting talk and demonstration at the September meeting, showing members not only which scarves should be worn but how they can be used in all sorts of different ways. Next month there will be a quiz run by Edith Neve – **Susan Lees**

**GARDEN TALK** - Although the evenings are drawing in, we still have lots of garden-related topics to discuss, and our December party to arrange. We next meet on Friday 11th October, at 7.30p.m. at Burley Cottage, Newcastle Lane, Ewell Minnis. Our hosts are Barbara and Neil Williams. All welcome, plenty of parking. If directions needed, please contact Janet Adamson 01303 893413

**Gardening tasks for October:** We hope for a mellow Indian summer to start tidying up the garden. Autumn digging is a priority to take maximum benefit from winter frosts that break down the soil into good condition for spring planting. Summer bedding should be removed, and bulb planting completed. Old plants in a herbaceous border should be divided and the vigorous outer shoots replanted. Dahlias should have the top growth removed as soon as blackened by frost - if lifting, store in a frost free shed, covering with damp peat (we leave them in the ground and cover with a thick layer of compost). Harvest the last of the tomatoes and ripen green ones indoors. Marrows, pumpkins and squashes should be cut and stored in a frost-proof place. Leaves should be raked up and stored as mulch. **Janet**



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## HISTORIC HOUSES OF ALKHAM. HALTON COURT

Halton Manor was owned by noblemen from the 15<sup>th</sup> century with the Earl of Radnor being the last entitled owner. The barons

collected their dues for the manor at the court, which was originally held in Halton Forstall with the Courts Baron sometimes taking refreshment at the adjacent hostelry, now called the Marquis. In time the dues were collected at Halton Court, which was originally built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century as a hall house having a central fire with a hole in the roof. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century the living area was reconstructed in the Dutch style with narrow bricks and later the big fireplace was added with moulded stone jambs. In 1740 the front wall, which became unstable, was rebuilt with iron ties and some of the workmen's dated initials can be seen cut into the bricks. The farm had numerous outbuildings which included a timber thatched barn and a brick and flint tiled wagon lodge and owned acres of arable land. The photo above was taken in 1959 and shows Halton Court with a bus in front of its cowshed with barns to the right. In the 1960's, as was the case with Norton Farm, the land adjacent to the house was sold as building plots. Halton Court is now a listed building and has a plaque denoting it as a 'Historical House of Kent'. **Editor from Sue Lee's archive**



**OZ on INDIAN SUMMER** – On 2 September the Met Office announced that the weather during June, July and August made 2013 one of Britain's top ten summers since records began in 1910. This, combined with the summer's late start and continuation into September, has caused much talk of an 'Indian summer.' It's a misnomer so far, as 'Indian summer' refers properly to a prolonged warm spell only after the first sharp frosts, usually between October and November. All my life I've assumed that the term 'Indian summer' originated in the Anglo-Indian sub-continent, and it was only when I couldn't find it in my Hobson-Jobson that I looked further afield. It comes in fact from North America, and is thought to describe the ideal warm conditions in autumn when native American Indians preferred to hunt. The first reference to it in the Oxford English Dictionary is from 1794, when E Denny wrote in his journal "Oct 13th. – Pleasant weather. The Indian summer here." In English-speaking countries the previous names for this season were 'St Martin's Summer', 'St Luke's Summer', or 'All Halloween Summer.' In Welsh, it is 'Haf Bach Mihangel' meaning 'St Michael's Little Summer.' Across Western Europe, the names are generally translations of the above four saints, while in Eastern Europe they are variant translations of 'Old Ladies' Summer' or 'Gypsy Christmas.' China has probably the most vivid name of 'qiu laohu' meaning 'tiger in autumn.' Hot autumn weather can occur with the remains of Atlantic hurricanes bringing warmth from the tropics towards us, as is happening now, but predicting Indian summers is not easy and we may still be surprised one way or the other. As Grace Metalious said in her notorious 1956 novel Peyton Place "Indian summer is like a woman. Ripe, hotly passionate, but fickle." **Steve Osborn**

### Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)

**07.59 08.27 09.47 11.17 13.17 14.47 17.27 Sat. 09.47 11.17 13.17 15.27**

**09.06 10.36 12.06 14.06 16.06 18.01 Sat. 10.36 12.06 14.06 16.06**

This space is reserved for an advert which will be coming shortly. The price of some adverts have been reduced as the Newsletter is non-profit and only the costs for printing and postage have to be recouped.

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

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

**Other events in the village**

Tuesday	1	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	5	PCSO in the village hall from 11am to mid-day
Tuesday	8	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	14	Harvest Supper in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	21	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	26	PCC jumble sale in VH from 11am to mid-day
Tuesday	29	Film Lincoln in village hall start 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6th	Evensong 6.30pm	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 13th	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 20th	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6 pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 27th	Benefice Eucharist 10 am		

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

**FROM THE VICARAGE** - "We haven't seen you!" she said. Then she walked away, without introducing herself. It sounded – and felt – like criticism. I was evidently going wrong somewhere, and I wondered what I could do to put things right. I told one of our churchwardens that apparently I was not as visible locally as some might like. "Ah!" he said, "Your predecessors have all been keen dog walkers." Since moving in we have acquired a cat, but if she catches me leaving the house she sometimes follows me along the pavement, crying for me to come home - so she's no help. Next I spoke to someone at the Capel Farmers' Market. I explained the problem – no dog. "But I see you all the time!" she smiled reassuringly. I asked her advice: should I just walk around without a dog, greeting people? She seemed to think that some people might find that strange, so not a good idea. I was still stuck when a few days later I found a book called The Country Vicar in my office. I bought it a while ago – perhaps this would explain what people should expect, and what I should be doing. So I started to read it again. George Herbert, a seventeenth century courtier and poet turned vicar, wrote a book called The Country Parson. He describes a parson as, ideally, one who treats his flock like a father treats his children - he knows everyone, visits them, takes an interest in them and lots, lots more. As Vicar to about two hundred mainly poor and illiterate farm labourers in Bemerton, Wiltshire, Herbert tried to live up to all this, as have many vicars since, but sadly died after just three years in the job. The world has moved on since Herbert's time. Just as the village policeman who walked his beat, knew everybody and clipped the ears of boys who scrumped apples is now just a fond memory, so too is Herbert's Country Parson – though understandably many still wish that vicars were just like that. Today, a police officer's tools are radios and patrol cars. Today most vicars have more than one parish, mounds of paperwork, inboxes heaving with emails and telephones that keep ringing (eight calls since I sat down to write this!) Unlike Herbert's flock, their parishioners can now read, drive cars, watch TV, and use computers. I read on, and realised that whatever I do I can't win - I'm never going to match George Herbert's ideal parson. But never mind, because neither will anybody else. So I'll just do my best, like the rest. So you might just see me in the pub, despite what Herbert said about parsons and alehouses. Actually, you may well see me out walking, perhaps even being followed by a cat. But just as the police are now only a phone call away, so too is this particular country parson. Just ring 01303 243784. **Brian Williams**

**Newsletter** Brian Wimsett 824969  
 email [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com)  
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 Alkham.pc@outlook.com  
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**Village Hall booking** Val Fowler 827635  
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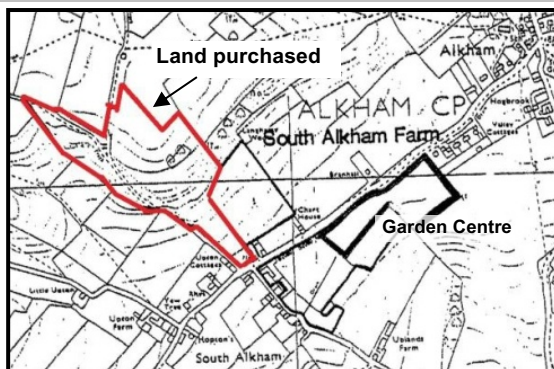


# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett  
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**No. 240 November 2013**  
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**PIMLICO** – The land opposite Meggett Lane, around Pimlico Way, has been purchased by Martin Scherer to establish a vineyard nursery. Recently retired, Martin searched for a commercially viable project that will keep him physically and mentally agile. The first thing Martin knows he must do is bring together all interested parties to find a solution to the problem of abuse by off-road vehicles. He also wants to work with local archaeologists and historians to explore the fascinating history of Pimlico Way. Martin believes that with goodwill and success, Pimlico Way Vineyard Nursery will become an attractive and valuable asset to the Alkham Valley.

**KEN SMITH** - It is very sad to report that Ken passed away at home on the 19<sup>th</sup> September (one month before his 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday). Some will remember him as the elderly gentleman who loved walking, others his memorable 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in the Marquis. Dad often remarked "what a lovely village we live in", and how welcoming the residents were towards him. Remarkably Ken never spent a day in hospital during his whole life. He will be greatly missed by his close family. **John Pearson-Smith**

**ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY** - Our Annual General Meeting will be in the Village Hall on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 pm. We have arranged a carvery supper at the Fox, Temple Ewell to follow to which all are welcome; please book with Hon. Secretary Jo Walker or a committee member. This last year has been busy and with some expenditure on advice and assistance so please use this opportunity to contribute subscriptions/ donations or send to Hon. Treasurer, Barry Sheppard, Ellinge House, Alkham, DOVER CT15 7EG.

## FILM EVENT

next showing in village hall at 7.30pm

**November 26<sup>th</sup>**

### Behind the Candelabra

With Michael Douglas

Tickets £4.50 - to book please phone  
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**VILLAGE EVENTS** – There are few evening events in the village hall each year to which a large number of people come and the idea behind the new stage and film show is to have more. They are not intended to be fund raisers but Film Night has started well with 45 people seeing 'Hitchcock' and 39 people coming to see 'Lincoln'. The licence to show the film is £100 and then there is the cost of the film and free raffle so we are covering the expenditure but a large audience is not guaranteed. The curtains for the stage are currently being made and when everything is complete we will have some entertainment, so please come along and support us. The feedback for Film Night has been very positive, the opening to which can be seen in the picture on the left.

**WI JUMBLE SALE** – Alkham Village Hall Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October 11am – Midday. Anyone willing to help or contribute should arrive before 10.30am. **Sue Lees**

**A BIG THANK YOU** to all the ladies who came and helped decorate the church for Harvest Festival. St Anthony's looked stunning. Thank you **Rosie Hansraj**

**YOU DECIDE** - Dover District Council and Kent County Council have allocated funding to the 'You Decide' Grant Scheme and Alkham has applied for £500 to pay for some of the cost of the new stage curtains. The application for the Dover West Ward is lower than expected so it has been combined with Sandwich but the funding remains the same. The project will be considered at St Mary's Art Centre, Sandwich on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November when we will do a presentation for which the public can vote using an electronic system.

**W.I. AND CHURCH BAZAAR** on the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup> December. If anyone would like to hire a table please contact Sue Lees on 822661.

**THE HARVEST SUPPER** was very well attended and everyone had a good time. We made an overall profit of £550 from the raffle and auction of which £200 will go to the church and the remainder to the Food Bank in Dover. Many thanks to everyone who came along and made the evening so enjoyable. **Marion Banks-Nash**

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The Alkham Valley Historical Research Group are looking for a small dry area to store a small quantity of the groups archaeological equipment i.e. buckets, tarpaulin's, finds trays, plastic fencing, turf cutter etc. We only need a small area if anyone in the valley could help. Access to equipment would be daytime 5-6 times a year. If you can help please contact Vince Burrows 01304 219550 or [v.burrows@gtwiz.co.uk](mailto:v.burrows@gtwiz.co.uk)

**SOUTHDOWN STORES** which is on London Road, Temple Ewell is having an annual Taster Evening on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November between 7.00 - 8.30pm at which you can try, buy or order for Christmas a variety of local Kent produce. These include local Kent beers, Rochester ginger and mulled wines, preserves & pickles, Kentish oils & crisps, Solley's Farm ice cream, British & local Kentish cheeses, Korcker's sausages and more. Also available is a limited edition Temple Ewell 2014 calendar & village Christmas cards.

**TEMPLE EWELL** - Church of England Primary school - Reception Class September 2014 Open Day Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 9.30am-11.30am 2013. Come and meet us and find out why Temple Ewell CEP School is the school to start your child's primary school learning journey. Meet our Head teacher and our brilliant Early Years team. Come for a tour, refreshments and ask our pupils why they love our school! OFSTED rated us as outstanding in behaviour & safety and good in pupil achievement, quality of teaching and leadership & management (March 2013). For more information please call 01304 822665.

**BOOK CLUB** for November is on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> at 7.30p.m. hosted by Anita James at Firbank, Slip Lane Tel 824964. The book for discussion is The Mystery of Edwin Drood by Charles Dickens. If you are interested in joining the book club contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729 for more details.

**GARDEN TALK**- Our visits to local gardens having finished for this year and we can look back on some highlights. Particularly worth a mention is the cherry blossom at Val's, the philadelphus at Rosemary's and the globe artichokes at Susan's. Richard's neat rows of vegetables amazed us all and the panoramic views of the valley from 'Countryside' were an unexpected bonus. Questions with a gardening theme were enjoyed, particularly Susannah's anniversary quiz and solutions to Helen's glut of quinces. The hospitality of our hosts was amazing - Geoff's sangria and Gordon's wine being much enjoyed. We are now planning our end of year celebration, taking place on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December at Halton Court, Alkham Valley Road, where Irene and Den Barnard are our hosts. Numbers needed, in advance, and offers of food please to Janet & Gordon Adamson (01303 893413).



**GARDENING TIPS FOR NOVEMBER** - Time to continue with the pre-winter clear up including digging as vegetables are harvested and cleared, and raking up leaves. Brassicas still need to be checked for caterpillars. Gooseberry bushes can be pruned and autumn-fruiting raspberry canes cut down to the ground. To enhance the lack of sunlight, wash and keep clean the glass on greenhouses.. This is the best time to plant rose bushes, fruit trees and herbaceous perennials. Weed alpine beds and scatter a layer of small stone chippings to suppress weed seedlings.. Lawns may still need to be mown this year, with the cutters on a high setting. Ensure bulbs being forced in pots do not dry out. Sow broad beans for an early crop next year; onion sets can also be planted. **Janet Adamson**  
**ALKHAM WI** – Members were reminded that there will be a WI Jumble Sale on the 26<sup>th</sup> October; Carol Singing 5<sup>th</sup> December at the Dementia Coffee Morning in Dover; a Christmas Bazaar to prepare for on 7<sup>th</sup> December; and the WI Christmas Dinner on 10<sup>th</sup> December. Members were reminded that next month would be the WI AGM and consider who should be on the Committee next year. Shoe boxes were available for members to take and fill with children's needs. The final part of the evening was taken up by Edith Neve providing an excellent quiz competition – won by 2 Debbie's, a Jackie and a Lucy – **Susan Lees**

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## HISTORIC HOUSES OF ALKHAM - FORSTAL COTTAGE

The picture on the right, which is a water colour from the 19th century, shows the properties which will be later called the Marquis and Forstal Cottage. In between these two properties is the village well where locals went to collect their water. It can be seen that Forstal Cottage did have roofs of



different heights as it was more than one property. The part with the lower roof was the first to be built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and became an early public house called the Fox and Goose with a blacksmith's plus a barn and stable to the rear where school cottages now stand. In the 1780's, when the pub had closed, the part with the higher roof was

built of brick and the whole made into two properties later to be known as Shoemakers Cottage as three shoemakers lived there. The two houses were made into one in the late 1960's by the wife of James Robertson Justice, a famous film actor, who then lived in the property.



**OZ on FRUIT FLIES** – For weeks now I've suffered ever-increasing swarms of tiny flies, and at times have blamed myself for sloppy kitchen hygiene. That may well be part of the cause, but I was relieved to discover that the problem has been shared with the whole country in this year's wild weather extremes. It seems that the cold spring, high summer temperatures and heavy autumn rain have created the ideal conditions for these busy little creatures. They feed on fermenting fruit, and the importance of this is reflected in their scientific name, *Drosophila melanogaster*, from the Greek for 'dark-bellied dew lover' (drosia = dew, philia = love, malano = dark-coloured, gaster = belly). Beware confusion with three other insects called 'fruit fly': Asian Fruit Fly (*Drosophila sukuzii*); Olive Fruit Fly (*Bactrocera oleae*); and Mediterranean Fruit Fly (*Ceratitidis capitata*). Our Common Fruit Fly, *Drosophila melanogaster*, has a complete life cycle of seven days, and so has produced many generations this year, time which has been spent feeding on fruit, vegetables, wine dregs, both indoors and outside, and latterly on compost heaps, wet from the autumn rains. They are extremely athletic creatures, flapping their wings at over 220 beats per second and capable of rotating 90 degrees in less than 1/40 of a second. Fruit flies live in a close symbiotic relationship with humans and, amazingly, share 75% of human disease genes. For this reason they are used extensively nowadays in medical research into aging, immunity, diabetes and cancer, amongst other conditions. People often seek ways of destroying fruit flies, and it seems that the most reliable method is beer traps, as I recommended in this column many years ago for wasps. But why kill friendly recycling relatives? Just keep the kitchen clean and enjoy their company - outdoors! **Steve Osborn**

### Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)

**07.59 08.27 09.47 11.17 13.17 14.47 17.27 Sat. 09.47 11.17 13.17 15.27**

**09.06 10.36 12.06 14.06 16.06 18.01 Sat. 10.36 12.06 14.06 16.06**



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

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

### Other events in the village

Tuesday	5	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	9	SEK astronomical society in village hall pm
Tuesday	8	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	18	Dover and District Bird Club 7.30pm in village hall
Tuesday	19	Alkham Valley Society AGM in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	26	Film Behind the Candelabra in village hall start 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3rd	Evensong 4.30pm	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 10th	Remembrance Service 10:15 am	Remembrance Service 10:15am	Remembrance Service 10:15am
Sunday 17th	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6 pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 24th	Benefice Eucharist at St. Radigunds, Capel 10.00am		

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

**FROM THE VICARAGE** - "How much does it cost?" "Nothing," I replied. Stunned silence at the other end of the phone – understandably, perhaps. After all, if you want something, you usually expect to have to pay for it, and if it's any good it will cost you a fortune. No wonder that it came as a surprise to the caller to learn that their child could be christened at their local parish church without it costing them a penny. Soon the Hallowe'en displays in the shops will have been replaced by the Christmas ones. Businesses survive by providing what people want - they have to make money, and Christmas provides an opportunity to make quite a bit of it. The shops will soon be full of things that we simply must have. A while ago I read that years ago, when machines began to take over jobs that had been done by hand, there was panic. People would work less hours – so what would they do with their spare time? Then someone came up with an idea – convince them that they needed luxuries. Then they would happily go back to working long hours so that they could afford them. Perhaps that is why we are often suspicious of things that are cheap, or even free – modern living has led us to believe that such things are worthless. This might be bad news for churches, which are in the not-for-profit business of helping people to find God and reach heaven and only charge what they need to when people want their services. Children often have as much fun with cardboard boxes than the expensive toys that come in them. As Christmas approaches, it is worth confronting our obsession with spending by remembering that some of the best things in life are still cheap, if not free. **Brian Williams**

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**Newsletter** Brian Wimsett 824969  
email [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com)

**Parish Clerk** Angela Miller 824791  
[Alkham.pc@outlook.com](mailto:Alkham.pc@outlook.com)

**Alkham web site** [www.alkham.org](http://www.alkham.org)

**Village Hall booking** Val Fowler 827635

**W.I. secretary** – Susan Lees 822661

**AVS** [cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk) 821641

**Footpaths** [antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk)

**Police – 999 emergency & 101**

**Vicar** Revd. Brian Williams 01303 243784

**Church Wardens** Geoff Gaskill 823100  
and Richard Tapsell 822295

**MP** Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669

**County Councillor** - Geoffrey Lymer  
079604 90 929

**District Councillors** - Sue Nicholas  
823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187

# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett  
The Old Post Office  
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Telephone 01304 824969

**No. 241 December 2013**  
Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

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## Merry Christmas



**THE DYKE** – There was a good response to the request for people to help clear the dyke between Meggett Lane and the village. Anthony Barrier, Gordon Adamson, Mike Ross and Geoff Hillier took out a 20 metre long high spot in the field by Meggett Lane with mattocks and shovels. Gordon removed the last of the blockage and the water flowed. John Huggins then very kindly cleared the dyke through the Garden Centre with a superb display of machinery skills.



The Council thought that it would be wrong to allocate money to one specific problem and that in doing so could set a precedent. They did agree that a team of volunteers can be formed to clear the dyke annually for a couple of years and then they will review the situation.

**GULLIES** – A major problem associated with flooding is the number of road gullies that are blocked. It is accepted that in some locations there is a large amount of silt that is washed over them and it is a continual problem. However, it would be of help if people reported a blocked gully to KCC and this can be done on-line. Rather than print the link, simply go on Google and type 'KCC report a fault' and the site will come up.

**GATEWAY** – At the Parish Council meeting it was suggested that gate like structures should be erected either side of the road at the entrances to the village. This would give the appearance that motorist were entering a village and might persuade them to reduce their speed. It was also suggested that '30' could be marked on the road just after the gates. The Council are writing to KCC Highways to ask if they will do this.

**SIRENS** – The police were asked by the Parish Council why there were so many vehicles with sirens blaring using the Alkham Valley Road, seemingly for the whole of its length. The police replied and said that all their officers were trained in the use of sirens and went on to explain the usual reasons. It was however accepted that a number of vehicles using sirens were para-medics and that they were responding to an emergency.

**FILM EVENT** - Because of Christmas there won't be a film in the village hall this month. In January we intend to show the film Philomena; more details next month.

**THE LIGHTS** for the Christmas tree on the village green will be switched on at 4.45pm on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Father Christmas will be there and carols will be sung and afterwards Mark and his team have kindly invited everybody to mulled wine and mince pies at the Marquis – and .....

**A CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** will be held in the village hall on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December from 10.30am to mid-day where there will be stalls selling festive items plus the usual attractions. Tea, coffee and mince pies will be for sale so please come along.



**THE ANNUAL QUIZ** will be in the village hall on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> February starting at 7.30pm. Please give me a ring on 824969 if you would like to book a table for up to 8 people. The cost is £5 per person and as usual food will be served in the interval.

**Brian**

**MULTIYORK** armchair in cream and rose floral print - very comfortable but hardly used. Cost £600 will accept any reasonable offer. Please telephone 01304 824845 to view if interested.

**CHURCHYARD** - We are arranging a date to spend a morning tidying the Churchyard before Christmas. If you would like to be involved in this annual event, please contact me indicating the days you are available; I can then arrange a convenient date and time. We are also looking for someone to tend the two borders in the Garden of Remembrance, which Sue Hooker has maintained for the past few years; if you can offer to help with this we would be very grateful. Thank you.

**Richard Tapsell 01304 822295**

**FREE PARKING** - Dover District Council is offering free parking on Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 December in all DDC owned car parks across the district and notices will be placed to confirm this (does not include on-street Pay & Display areas).

**HANDYMAN WANTED** for gardening and fixing fences etc. for 2 to 3 hours a week in the Wolverton area. Please ring 01304 829959 or 07760415522.

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Temple Ewell Primary School is in the final of the Kent Walk to School Song contest with the song "Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah". They need as many votes as possible so please text 87474 to vote for them and type **SONGB** followed by a space and your name and postcode. All votes cost 25p plus standard network charge and at least 7p of this

will go to the children's charity KM Walk to School. Votes must be received by 12 noon on the 17<sup>th</sup> December.

**NEWS FROM THE MARQUIS** - After five years as general manager of the Marquis, Ben Walton has now left to pursue a career in IT and our new general manager Mark Rankin has been appointed. Mark has a wide experience in hotels and catering having worked in amongst others The French Horn, The Imperial and Eastwell Manor. He is looking forward with Charlie Lakin (of Great British Menu fame), our Chef, to continue to provide locally sourced food, fine wine, good service and luxury accommodation. The 10% discount card for all villagers will also continue - if you don't have one please pop in and collect one. Finally we are pleased to announce that we now have available for sale at The Marquis to drink or take away, Chalksole Estate Reserve sparkling wine blended from grapes grown in our own vineyard in Alkham, hand picked by friends and Marquis staff and bottled by Chapel Down Vineyard. **Tony Marsden**

**U3A** are holding the following events: Wednesday 4 December 13.30-15.30 hrs at Deal Town Hall: "The great Storm of 1987 and how it changed my life" a talk by Bob Ogley: Wednesday 8 January at 13.30 – 15.30 hrs at The Phoenix Centre, Sandwich: "The Father of Nobody's Children" a talk by Frank Andrews: Do please join us – you are welcome any time. Just turn up on the day! For further details contact 01304 851744 or email [diane.mcgeary@sky.com](mailto:diane.mcgeary@sky.com).

**GARDEN TALK** - We end the year with a celebration at Halton Court where Irene and Den Barnard are our hosts. We gather at 7.30p.m. on Friday 13th December for food, wine and party fun. We need to know numbers in advance, and contributions of food etc, so please contact Janet Adamson (01303 893413) by 3rd December..



**GARDENING TIPS FOR DECEMBER** - A time to clear up in the garden, whether it be clearing and composting leaves or washing labels, pots and seed trays in the shed. Gutters need to be cleared of debris and leaves, and bird boxes

should be cleaned out to provide winter shelter for small birds. Outdoor water taps need to be lagged and garden tools cleaned and oiled. Now is the time to spray fruit trees and bushes with winter wash and shorten any long growth on roses. The ground around newly planted shrubs should be covered to avoid frozen roots. Control mice if found eating broad bean seed or vegetables stored for the winter. Keep indoor pots of bulbs moist but not too hot and plant outdoors after flowering. So lots to do, if anyone has a spare moment over the busy Christmas season - enjoy it! **Janet Adamson**

**ALKHAM WI** held its AGM on 12th November. Apart from the usual business, discussions did take place how the Christmas Bazaar could be organised for 7th December in the Village Hall. Carol singing will take part that day too. Debbie Griggs organised a different type of quiz than usual and members enjoyed it. The December 'get together' will be a Christmas Dinner. The next WI meeting in the Village Hall will be Tuesday 14th January. **Susan Lees**

**GUSTON** Parish Council asked the Alkham Parish Council to support them regarding concerns about possible exploration for energy reserves in their area. The council will consider the matter and get back to them.



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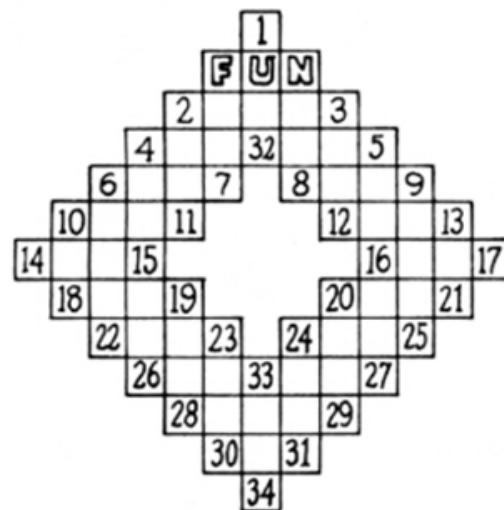
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**HISTORIC HOUSES OF ALKHAM** – The photo above, which was taken in the 1930's, shows part of Slip Lane with the Rectory in the top left corner. In the foreground is Box (Tree) Cottage and it can be seen that it was made up of two houses with the smaller part being built first in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. At least two families lived in the property over the years and in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century the Kirby family moved into the house. Their father reared livestock, which was slaughtered in shed to the right and butchered in the smaller house. Pam Sayers says that when they moved into the house in the 1960's hooks still remained on the walls where the meat was hung for sale. Box Tree Cottage is now a charming Grade II listed building. On the right of the photo is the Wesleyan Chapel that was built in 1880 and Malmain's Farm is opposite with the dairy by the road where milk churns were left in a hole in the wall to be collected (now a window). Adjacent to the dairy is a 2 storey granary where the grain from the farm was processed. All the properties are now private houses and further houses have been built on the land either side of Box Tree Cottage.



## OZ on FIRST CROSSWORD - FUN'S Word-Cross Puzzle

This month sees a very special anniversary for word-lovers; the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the first crossword puzzle. Its inventor, Arthur Wynne, was born in Liverpool in 1871, and emigrated to the US in 1890. He lived and worked first in Pittsburg as a journalist, also playing violin in the city orchestra, and then moved to New Jersey to work for the paper New York World. Instructed to devise a new game for the entertainments pages he compiled a puzzle called 'Word-Cross', published in the Sunday 21 December 1913 paper. It was an instant hit, and, renamed 'crossword', led to a national craze in the USA, causing some alarm about 'time-wasting' and then arriving here in 1922. So why not have a go at the first one? (Steve Osborn)



**FILL** in the small squares with words which agree with the following definitions:

2-3. What bargain hunters enjoy.  
4-5. A written acknowledgement.  
6-7. Such and nothing more.  
10-11. A bird.  
14-15. Opposed to less.  
18-19. What this puzzle is.  
22-23. An animal of prey.  
26-27. The close of a day.  
28-29. To elude.  
30-31. The plural of is.  
8-9. To cultivate.  
12-13. A bar of wood or iron.  
16-17. What artists learn to do.  
20-21. Fastened.  
24-25. Found on the seashore.

10-18. The fibre of the gomuti palm.  
6-22. What we all should be.  
4-26. A day dream.  
2-11. A talon.  
19-28. A pigeon.  
F-7. Part of your head.  
23-30. A river in Russia.  
1-32. To govern.  
33-34. An aromatic plant.  
N-8. A fist.  
24-31. To agree with.  
3-12. Part of a ship.  
20-29. One.  
5-27. Exchanging.  
9-25. Sunk in mud.  
13-21. A boy.

## Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)

**07.59 08.27 09.47 11.17 13.17 14.47 17.27 Sat. 09.47 11.17 13.17 15.27**

**09.06 10.36 12.06 14.06 16.06 18.01 Sat. 10.36 12.06 14.06 16.06**



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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	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 7.30pm
Tuesday	3	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	7	Christmas Bazaar 10.30am to mid-day in village hall
Tuesday	10	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	14	SEK astronomical society in village hall pm
Monday	16	Dover and District Bird Club 7.30pm in village hall

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Carol Service 4.30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Family Service 11am	9 Lessons & Carols 3pm VH	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9 Lessons & Carols 6.30pm		
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Crib Service 4pm	Sung Eucharist 1.30pm	
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>			Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>		Benefice Eucharist 10am	

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

**FROM THE VICARAGE** - "A ray of hope flickers in the sky, a tiny star lights up way up high..." Recognize it? Yes - the opening words of A Child is Born, a Christmas number one for Johnny Mathis in December 1976, now mainly heard when Christmas shopping. Cardinal Albino Luciani, later Pope John Paul I, wrote a monthly column in a magazine when he was a bishop in Venice. He wrote a series of open letters to all kinds of characters, from Charles Dickens to Pinocchio which were later collected and published in a little book called Illustrissimi. Someone once gave me a copy. A charming, entertaining read, it made me think - how about an open letter to Johnny Mathis? You see, I'm not a fan of the song. It begins with the excitement of a new birth - the sort of hopes that we celebrate at christenings. Then, as the orchestra takes up the melody: "All of this happens because the world is waiting, waiting for one child... that will turn hate to love, war to peace and everyone to everyone's neighbour..." Fine - Christians think that Jesus was just that. But then: "It's all a dream, an illusion now..." What? Christmas a dream, an illusion? Mr. Mathis, why did you really think that Jesus somehow wasn't up to the job? Didn't Jesus talk about loving our enemies as well as our neighbours? Is it really his fault that not everyone does that? Being only human, people don't always listen. That's the problem. St John's Gospel puts it like this: "9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.\*10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him..." So, Mr. Mathis, why not record something about that? Perhaps that would help to build the peaceful world you dream of - one where people listen. In the meantime, a very happy Christmas to you, and to everyone. **Brian Williams**

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