

# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

**No. 242 January 2014**  
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**STEVE MATCHAM** - It's sad to report that Steve died on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November at the age of 86. He was a keen cricket player and in the 1960's photo of the Alkham cricket team he can be seen kneeling on the left with bat in hand. His brother Barrie, who lives in Glebelands, is in the back row third from left. Steve

married his wife Lucy in 1950 and three years later moved into a new bungalow in Glebelands where they lived until the present day. Steve was involved in a lot of other village activities including the annual fete and he will be remembered as a smiling and amiable person.

**THE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS** were lit on the 7<sup>th</sup> December by Callum Huggins who can be seen in the photo with Father Christmas (we have to thank Callum's dad Simon for being a good sport and arranging for the real Father Christmas to be there). Also thanks go to Mark Rankin and the Marquis team who supplied the wine and mince pies after the event and to the W.I. who led the carol singing round the Christmas tree.



**YOU DECIDE** – They did and we didn't win. The Alkham Village Hall entered the competition and asked for £500 towards the cost of the curtains for the new stage. We did a presentation at the St. Mary's Art Centre in Sandwich where there were 11 entries from the Dover Ward and 12 separate entries from the Sandwich area. Each entrant



for the whole event could have 5 people to vote on electronic devices for the other entrants. Few people visited our stand so most had no idea why we had entered, especially those from Sandwich. However there were worthy winners but I don't think with the current voting system we would enter again.

**ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY** - The AGM took place on 19 November in the Village Hall and thanks to all who attended. The committee remains the same and plans are taking place for next year's events. Do not forget that the Christmas walk will take place as usual on 27 December, leaving the Village Hall car park at 10.30 am. All are welcome to this usually family event with dogs as well. A Merry Christmas to all. ( **J. Walker, Sec** )

**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 Wimsett**

**Happy New Year**

**FETE MEETING** - There will be a Fete Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> January at 8 pm in the Village Hall to decide whether we have sufficient supporters to hold the Fete this year on the 12<sup>th</sup> July; If you are willing to commit to helping please come along (or contact me in advance). **Paul Tapsell** 01303 892082. **If we don't** have enough supporters there won't be a Fete!

**£562.14** - This is the fantastic amount of money that was collected in Alkham for the Poppy Appeal. That is an Alkham record.....so thank you all very much. The Royal British Legion will use it to continue the important work they do supporting and caring for serving members of the armed forces, veterans of all ages, and their families. Thanks must go to also to those who helped with the house to house collections, Shirley, Helen, Avi, Larry and Sue, and to the Alkham businesses that had collection boxes - Alkhamhurst Kennels, Alkham Garden Centre and Tea Rooms, Southern Equestrian and The Marquis. **Rachel Fountain**

## FILM EVENT

next showing in village hall at 7.30pm

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February**

**Philomena**

**With Judi Dench & Steve Coogan**

Tickets £4.50 - to book please phone Geoff 01303 892878 or Brian 824969

Bring your own refreshments

**PHILOMENA is not being released until the 1<sup>st</sup> of February**, but because so many people want to see it we have changed the date to the 6<sup>th</sup> of February.

**CHRISTMAS TREE** – The cost of the tree on the village green was £95, which was paid for by the Alkham Fund. We intend to raise further money and a committee comprising Ken Hammond, Brian Wimsett, Den Barnard and Val Fowler will now manage the fund. Please contact any of the committee if you want money for some parish related project.

**MANY THANKS** to Bill at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre for his generous donation of a £40 Christmas tree for St. Anthony's church.

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## FILM REVIEW – BEHIND THE CANDELABRA

Village cinema is a brilliant idea. The picture was very good indeed for the recent showing of the biopic, more or less, of Liberace played in all his glory by Michael Douglas and based on the book by Liberace's boyfriend Scott Thorson (Matt Damon). Liberace was best known for his flamboyance and piano playing (we needed more of that perhaps) at the height of his fame, and not for his homosexuality. The film directed by Steve Soderberg (sex, lies and videotapes) took us directly into the shiny glittering decor and lifestyle of a Las Vegas star, and the overwhelming of a reluctant Thorson by the private life of Liberace. Lots of flesh, lots of gasps from the audience particularly at the extensive facial plastic surgery performed on Thorson in an effort to recast his features in resemblance of his 'master' Liberace. The plastic surgeon (Rob Lowe) was particularly creepy, helping to make Thorson drug dependant. The story was told taking dates into account, a countdown towards the Aids tragedy to which Liberace fell victim. Thorson himself walked out after a change of lovers by Liberace and survived to tell the sad, agonising tale of what went on behind the famous candelabra. As the lights went up someone wondered out loud if the film suited the Village Hall ambience...were we all shook up? Probably (**Jo Walker**)

**BURGLAR ALARMS** – A vulnerable home owner in the village has been phoned three times over the past year or so from different firms offering to install a burglar alarm system. Each time the representative came to the house and persuaded the owner to sign up for a system at a cost of between three and five thousand pounds. Fortunately neighbours became aware of what had happened and the contract was cancelled. It appears as though vulnerable people are targeted (the rep couldn't say how the number was obtained) so please keep an eye on any vulnerable people you know so that they don't end up with a totally unsuitable and overpriced burglar alarm system. **editor**

**USA** are holding the following events: Wednesday 22 January at 10.30-12.30 hrs at The Guildhall Sandwich "Tales from a Bulgarian Winter" a talk by Sue Beer: Wednesday 12 February at 13.30 – 15.30 hrs at The Astor Community Centre "Saltwood Summer; The orchid Foxglove" a talk by Susan Scrivens. 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** - After an interesting and enjoyable year, planning is starting for a programme of activities for 2014. Suggestions are needed for hosts, venues and visits so that a programme will be available for our first event in the spring. All ideas to Janet Adamson (01303 893413) please.

**TIPS FOR JANUARY** - A Happy New Year to all Gardeners in the Alkham Valley area. We hope for a mild period of weather, without too much frost and snow, but if we are unlucky there will be plants needing protection and pots to be wrapped in fleece. Snow will need to be brushed off shrubs, and off the top of fruit cages. If the weather is mild, fruit trees and shrubs can be planted. Winter pruning can be done, checking stakes and ties. Rhubarb crowns should be protected with straw; a cover with a box or forcing jar will encourage an early crop. Complete winter digging in flower and vegetable beds, and plan the spring planting programme. Now is a good time to order from the seed catalogues. **Janet Adamson**

**BOOK CLUB** - The next meeting will be on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January at the home of Jane Aslett, Dry Brook, Short Lane, tel. 824729. The book for discussion is *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn; the meeting starts at 7.30p.m. If you would like to find out more about book club please contact Jane.



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## HISTORIC PROPERTIES OF ALKHAM – THE SCHOOL



Behind the house which is now Forstal Cottage there used to be a number of small buildings, which included a blacksmith's and a barn. In 1862 these were sold and three years later Alkham school was completed, probably paid for by a government grant and administered by a voluntary body. However, by 1874 the school became a National School and can be seen in the centre of the photo above with the larger part being the headmaster's house where children also hung their clothes. At one time there were over 90 children attending the school with the bell tower on the right summoning them to lessons. A toilet block was added at a later date and adjacent to the Forstal an air raid shelter was built in WWII. For part of the time a working men's club met in the large house after the headmaster moved out. The school closed in 1972, at which time there were 25 children attending with one full time and two part time teachers. The school was later sold and converted into three houses with garages on the playground. **editor**



**OZ on SLOE GIN** – Last month, we drove to Romney Marsh for sloe-picking, after friends told us of the enormous number of sloes that they had collected from the blackthorn hedges that line the ditches near St Mary's Bay. We could see where they'd been, as the bushes next to the road had been stripped bare, but even so we managed to pick enough fat sloes in two hours to make 8 pints of sloe gin. At the last bush, I leaned over the ditch and held down a branch while my partner picked the last few sloes. When I released the branch, it sprang up violently, and a thorn caught my woollen glove, projecting it gracefully through the branches in a perfect parabolic arc, to land, utterly irretrievable, in the water. So much for greed. Back indoors, we pricked and bottled the sloes, added sugar and then, as an experiment, added either gin, the French 'Alcool pour fruits', or white rum, and left it to infuse for a couple of months. When mature, it will be, as always, a gorgeous winter drink, strong and sweet with a distinctive sharp edge at the back of the tongue. No one described it better than the great Irish Poet, Seamus Heaney, in his poem Sloe Gin: "The clear weather of juniper darkened into winter. She fed gin to sloes and sealed the glass container. When I unscrewed it I smelled the disturbed tart stillness of a bush rising through the pantry. When I poured it it had a cutting edge and flamed like Betelgeuse. I drink to you in smoke-mirled, blue-black, polished sloes, bitter and dependable." **(Steve Osborn)**

**ALKHAM WI** - Next meeting 14<sup>th</sup> January 2014 when the speaker will be Christine Cuss about 'Notes to my daughter in father's blitz diary'. Hostesses are Janet Adamson, Iris Bowshell & Margaret Batcheldor with the raffle by Pat Yeoman. **Sue Lees**

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

### Other events in the village

Monday	6	Parish Council 7.30pm in village hall - all welcome
Tuesday	7	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	11	SEK astronomical society in village hall pm
Tuesday	14	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Wednesday	15	Fete meeting in village hall at 8.00pm
Monday	20	Dover and District Bird Club 7.30pm in village hall
Saturday	25	Beekeepers in village in the afternoon
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> February - Film night - Philomena in village hall 7.30pm		

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th	Evensong 4.30pm	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 12th	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 19th	Worship Tog'r 11am	Evensong 6 pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 26th		Benefice Eucharist 10am	

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

**FROM THE VICARAGE** - Dear Friends, We are greatly blessed by having a brother-in-law who is both a plumber and the sort of person who is happy to help when trouble strikes. So you can imagine how glad we were of his help when our central heating began giving trouble one Christmas. We were very grateful to him, of course, and in a telephone conversation with my sister, offered to give him a large tin of his favourite chocolates. Imagine our surprise when she told us the news - he'd gone healthy! Once capable of demolishing a whole tin of chocolates single-handed, he now never touches them! That said, my offer of a bag of muesli was also politely declined, for some reason. As we get older we realise that none of us lasts for ever. Good health, which we tend to take for granted when young, begins to become more precious. I recall two of my colleagues at a school where I used to work chatting. One had decided to try to give up smoking as a New Year resolution. The other had given up some months before, to the relief of her non-smoking boyfriend who liked the idea of her smelling sweeter, and her young son who liked the idea of her living longer. This year, Lent begins in March - traditionally a time for giving things up, though a friend of mine never fails to point out that the word itself relates to Spring, which is a time for growth. Health and growth - the two go together. New Year, and Lent - both opportunities for a long look at ourselves, and for Christians moments for asking God to help us to give up what gets in the way of our spiritual health and stops us growing. As my colleague said, nobody who loves us will ever want us to be unhealthy. **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

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and Richard Tapsell 822295

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

# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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**A JAZZ EVENING** - Keep this date free in your diary. On 6<sup>th</sup> March we have booked The Richard Rascals jazz quartet to come and perform at the Village Hall. Just sit in a cafe style atmosphere and enjoy the jazz or for the active get up and dance. Bring your own refreshments. The programme begins at 8.00pm and the ticket price will be £7 per person. Book by phoning Geoff on 01303 892878, or Brian on 01304 824969 and pay at the door on the night. **Geoff Hillier**



**LUCY MATCHAM** would like to thank everybody for their kind thoughts and help following the recent death of her husband, Steve. St. Anthony's church was packed for Steve's funeral and donations amounting to £110 were given, which has been sent to the British Heart Foundation.



**COFFEE MORNING** - August the 4<sup>th</sup> 2014 will mark 100 years since the outbreak of the First World War and to mark this event we are holding a commemorative weekend in St Anthony's church, Alkham on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> August. To raise funds

for this event a coffee morning is being held from 10:00 am till 12:30pm on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February in Alkham Village Hall. If you would like more information regarding the commemorative weekend or would like to help in any way, especially anyone who has memorabilia from the First World War, we would love to hear from you. Please contact. Rosie Hansraj on 01304 822585.

**NO POWER** - The Prince family who live at Nailbourne, the pretty bungalow on the west of the village, had no power over Christmas and played Scrabble by candle and torch light on Christmas day. UK Power put in a temporary overhead connection in October when a fault developed and promised to come back shortly and finish the job. Despite the Prince's ringing the power company and having assurances given, nothing happened with the result that the power failed for 6 days over the Christmas period.

**BUS SHELTER** - Subject to funding, the Parish Council intend to replace the bus shelter on the Valley Road by the village green. The present one, apart from not being very attractive, does obscure the traffic for vehicles coming out of Hogbrook Lane and to some extent Slip Lane. The proposal is to erect a new shelter at the same location but further from the edge of the road such that visibility is improved. There would be a new concrete hard standing and the probable choice for the shelter would be one made of wood. **editor**

**ENTERTAINMENT** - The Baroque Theatre Company are coming to Alkham village hall on the 11<sup>th</sup> May and presenting the comedy "Up Pompeii". More details will follow and if the show is popular it is intended to have further shows towards the end of the year.

**ALKHAM W.I.** - Unfortunately the speaker cancelled for the last meeting but a good time was had chatting and eating cake. The speaker for the next meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> February is Sarah Grazebrook talking about 'Life as a suffragette'. Hostesses will be Margaret Danstead, Debbie Griggs and Janet Gibbons.

**LOST DOG** - A Dachshund /Spaniel Cross called Ferny went missing on 6<sup>th</sup> January from a house on Abbey Road, Hougham. She has a black coat with a white patch on her chest, answers to her name and is micro chipped. Please ring 0776 3327548 or email paulking9691@gmail.com if you have any information.



**WHEELIE BIN** - The wheelie bin, which was in St. Anthony's churchyard, has gone missing. It was donated by a parishioner, as DDC do not provide bins for churchyards, and was vital for separating non-recyclable material from the compost heap. If you have any information please phone 824969.

**JUMBLE SALE** - On the 15<sup>th</sup> February the W.I. are holding a jumble sale in the village hall from 10.30am to mid-day. Please bring any donated items to the hall before the start of the jumble sale.

## FILM EVENT

next showing in village hall at 7.30pm

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February**

**Award nominated**

**Gravity**

**with Sandra Bullock & George Clooney**

Tickets £4.50 - to book please phone  
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Bring your own refreshments

## ALKHAM FETE 12TH JULY 2014

Following the splendid turnout at the emergency meeting last month there will be a Fete this year, so mark the 12<sup>th</sup> July in your diary today! There will be another meeting to make further arrangements on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at 8 pm in the Village Hall, so if you are willing to run or help on a stall, particularly if you have any ideas or suggestions for new stalls or attractions to "ring the changes", please come along! Also, if you would be willing to act as Secretary to the Committee please let me know. Thank you for your continuing support. **Paul Tapsell (01303 892082)**

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**FILM NIGHT** - An email was sent by Peter Mercer to say he was pleased that it was decided to have the film shows in the Village Hall and that he was very much more likely to stroll across the Village Green than travel to a cinema. Regarding the film about Liberace, as shocking as the subject matter may have been to some, he thought it was great cinema with Michael Douglas playing a marvellous and very believable Liberace.

**GARDEN TALK** - The programme for 2014 is well under way, but new suggestions are still welcome. The first event will be another fruity wine quiz at Sunrise, Meggett Lane on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March, starting at 7.30p.m. Please let us know if you are coming. **Janet & Gordon Adamson (01303 893413)**



**THE NAILBOURNE** - The ground water rose again in January and the Nailbourne flowed down the valley from Standen. The recent works carried out on the dyke to the west of the village seems to have kept the water flowing with the result that the bottom of Meggett Lane didn't flood.

**ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY** - Yes, there was an Alkham Valley Society Walk on 27 December. The one damp day sandwiched as it transpired between two beautiful sunny days. While the President, family and Secretary set forth at 10.35 with one dog and an 18 month year old on his Dad's back, no one else braved the weather.. however the six of us travelled Sladden Woods, Ewell Minnis, Bailey's Bottom, Ellinge and back across the top fields and had an at times blustery walk and a very good time. Next year? The Society plans to have a tour of Sandwich with a guide and a lunch on June 26, 2014, advance notice for diaries. A Talk is being planned, probably 25 September, in the Village Hall on Canterbury Cathedral, its restoration and conservation given by Heather Newton. The date is still to be confirmed but in the pipe line. **Jo Walker**



**GARDENING TASKS FOR FEBRUARY** - Much depends on the weather as many are still clearing up from the storms of January. Broken branches should be removed from evergreen trees; shrubs should be hauled upright and staked or heeled in. If we get mild dry weather, then deciduous trees, shrubs and hedging could be planted. Sedums and deciduous grasses can be cut down to avoid damaging early new growth later. Firm alpine plants into place, remove weed seedlings and dress soil with fine stone chippings. Complete pruning of apple and pear trees, vines and climbing roses. Sow half-hardy annual seeds under glass, also tomato seeds to be raised in a cool greenhouse. Put out seed potato tubers in trays for sprouting and store in a light frost-proof shed. Tackle small invasive weeds in flower beds, taking care not to damage emerging bulbs. **Janet Adamson**

**PIMLICO WAY** – The Parish Council tried to get a Traffic Regulation Order put on Pimlico Way restricting access over the winter period, because of damage to the surface. The request was rejected by the authorities who said that it is very difficult to enforce a TRO and barriers are ineffective. Such orders are generally the last resort and it is very unlikely that any more will be made nationally. They also thought that the byway was in a reasonable condition and that there has been less off-roading of late. **editor**

**BOOK CLUB** for February - The Book Club meeting for February will be on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> at the home of Mairi Jones, Turangi Newlyn Meadows tel – 01304 826619 The books for discussion are Now We Are 60 and The Man Who dropped the Le Crouset on his Toes both by Christopher Matthew. The meeting starts at 7.30pm. If you would like more information please contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729

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**ALKHAM, A BRIEF HISTORY** - The Lordship of the Barony of Folkestone had original claim to this area, subordinate to which was the manor of Alkham, owned by the Malmaines family. There were other manors such as Hopton, Evering (Everden), Halton and Wolverton but over the years, because of financial pressures and other factors, they became farms. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century most of the parishioners worked on the farms and local names predominated but gradually the individual farms began to disappear. One of these was Norton Farm, which stood on the east side of Slip Lane and is shown in the photograph. In WWII the army was in residence and finally used it for machine gun practice such that the lovely period property was demolished. The house called Apple Tree was built on part of the land for the grandson of William Wordsworth, who had returned from India. Malmaines Farm was owned by John Ullmann, who relished the name 'Diesel Johnny', and when he died recently some old farm buildings became houses and the land was returned to agriculture. Hogbrook Farm continued into the 1980's but an owner sold land in parts with one piece becoming Newlyn's Meadow, its



name being derived from a previous farmer. Halton, Hopton and Everden are no longer farms but the beautiful houses remain and this includes Upton Farm House at South Alkham. The population of the parish has remained roughly the same over the years at about 690 but those who work do so elsewhere and the age

range has changed significantly. **editor**

**OZ on HOGGART** – I was sorry to hear of the death from cancer last month of Simon Hoggart, the political sketch writer and columnist, who spent a long working life treating this often divisive topic with a uniquely sharp but healing humour. Simon was born on 26 May 1946 in Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire, to Richard Hoggart and his wife Mary (nee France). Richard was a highly respected academic who later became famous as author of *The Uses of Literacy* (1957), and was an expert witness in the Lady Chatterley's Lover trial in 1960. After education at grammar schools in Hull and Leicester, Simon taught for a year in Uganda and then followed in his father's footsteps by reading English at King's College, Cambridge. Here he became involved in journalism through the university paper, and in 1968 he was one of the two graduates recruited annually by the Manchester office of the Guardian newspaper. In 1973 the paper's parliamentary sketch writer, Norman Shrapnel, resigned, and Simon moved to the London office, starting a long career with both the Guardian and the Observer, including a spell as the latter's Washington correspondent. At the same time, he appeared on radio and TV, and wrote some 20 books on a variety of topics. His appeal was easy to understand, but difficult to emulate; he was clever but not cruel; he was not partisan, but attacked sloppy thinking wherever he found it. Two of my favourite Hoggarts are "Another day, another U-turn" and his challenging of "Now is not the time for cowardice!" with "Just when is the time for cowardice?" "After a lifetime of being asked "Are you related to Richard Hoggart?" he was delighted to hear recently that someone had asked his father "Are you related to Simon Hoggart?" They'll both be greatly missed. **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	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	Annual Quiz in village hall starts at 7.30pm
Tuesday	4	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Thursday	6	Film Night - Philomena in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	11	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	15	W.I. jumble sale in village hall from 10.30am to mid-day
Monday	17	Dover and District Bird Club 7.30pm in village hall
Saturday	22	Coffee morning 10am to 12.30pm - see page 1
Tuesday	25	Film Night - Gravity in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2nd	Evensong 4.30pm	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 9th	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 16th	Worship Tog'r 11am	Evensong 6 pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 23rd	Benefice Eucharist St. Radigund's Capel 10 am		
Weekday Services: Wednesday Eucharist 9.15 am St Radigund, Capel-Le-Ferne			

**From the Vicarage** - Is it just me - or do people behave differently when they think that someone is watching? While training for the priesthood I did a placement shadowing the chaplain to the Channel Tunnel. That was how I came to see how lorries have their wheels chocked as they are loaded onto the freight shuttle, before beginning the journey through the tunnel. People there seemed were happy to chat to a trainee vicar - but one eyed me suspiciously until I told him why I was there. I gave a friend a lift back from a meeting in Dover recently. As we followed the A20 along Townwall Street on the return journey we were overtaken by a Fiesta, which accelerated away. Climbing the hill out of Dover, we came upon a queue of lorries grinding along in the nearside lane - along with the Fiesta. Remembering my Advanced Driver training from years ago I carefully planned my next move and followed through, safely overtaking them all. Taking the slip road for Capel, as we approached the roundabout I noticed headlights in my mirror, some distance behind. Nearing the village itself the headlights in the mirror drew closer. It was Fiesta - and soon it was tailgating impatiently. My passenger laughed when I jokingly asked him if he wanted to flag it down and have a word. Would they have been that close, I wondered, had they known that my passenger was a former traffic cop? I once knew a family who kept a sign in their hall that described Jesus as their 'unseen guest'. What effect did it have? I don't know - maybe it had the same effect as the badge on my car that reminds me that, as an Advanced Driver, I have no excuse for not driving safely. Perhaps I'll try it and let you know. **Brian Williams**

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**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)

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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  
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**No. 243 March 2014**

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**JOLLY BOATING WEATHER** Jimmy and his wife Nina, from Slip Lane, go for a paddle on the village green in February.

**THE FLOODING RISK** to the Village Hall is very real. A letter on this issue has been written from the Village Hall Committee to our local MP with copies to Alkham Parish Council, Dover District Council, Kent County Council, and Affinity Water Limited demanding action is taken in the form of using agricultural grazing land to create a holding pond to the South West of the village on Affinity Water land. Whether action is taken we'll have to wait and see but pressure on those who can make things happen needs to be kept up and All residents in Alkham are encouraged to write to our MP and to those other bodies mentioned above to demand that real measures are put in place to eliminate the risk of flooding along the Nailbourne. **Geoff Hillier**



**BEATTIE JEAPES** – We write these words to express our gratitude to all who attended the church and crematorium services to say goodbye to Beattie recently. We will always remember this lovely, caring, kind, gentle lady for all she did and gave within and around our parish. Thanks to everyone who sent floral tributes and also to those who most generously donated money to Alkham church, which was the chosen charity. We conclude by saying thank you to everyone who helped to make this occasion such a treasured memory for those of us she meant so much to. **Irene (Beattie's sister) and David Tapsell**

**THE ANNUAL QUIZ** was great fun and I hope everybody enjoyed themselves. The winning team was led by Rachel Fountain, who were one point ahead of the South Alkham team. The raffle was well supported such that we made a profit of £435 which has been put in the Alkham Fund. This fund will pay for works in the parish that the local councils do not take responsibility for. If you would like funding please contact Den Barnard, Val Fowler or myself. **editor**

**COFFEE MORNING** - We are holding a coffee morning on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March from 10 till noon at Halton Court to help raise funds for the PCC. The PCC are exploring the possibility of installing a kitchen and toilet in St Anthony's so perhaps any monies raised could be an early step towards funding. There will be a bring and buy table, a bottle raffle and hopefully a cake stall. We have recently cleared our attic so have several items to sell such as small tables, cheval mirror and various china ornaments. We look forward to seeing you all. **Irene Barnard**

**HOSPICE** – Anne Huggins donated the Hyundai pedal bike, which she tried to auction at her cream tea event in 2012, to the Pilgrim's Hospice. They raffled the bike and raised £3500, all of which went to the hospice. Congratulations to all involved.

**VILLAGE TRIP TO THE SOMME** A day trip to the Somme on Tuesday May 13<sup>th</sup> 2014 is planned. The proposed itinerary is: depart Alkham 07.30 for Eurotunnel; Thiepval Memorial where villager John Rye is remembered; Lochnagar crater; Bullecourt where, 97 years to the day, villager Edward Collard was killed. Return approximately 19.00. We have reserved a coach with air-con, toilets and a guide for £45 per person - to include a picnic lunch. Confirmation, **and payment**, is needed by March 15<sup>th</sup> to secure the booking - please contact Den Barnard on 824845 or at Halton Court, Slip Lane. **Mark Robson**

**FETE SECRETARY** - This post has now been filled by Anita James of Firbank, Slip Lane 01304 824964. Our thanks and very best wishes to her. **Irene Barnard**

## FILM EVENT

next showing in village hall at 7.30pm

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March**

**Captain Phillips**

**Starring Tom Hanks**

Tickets £4.50 - to book please phone Geoff 01303 892878 or Brian 824969  
Bring your own refreshments

**TRAD JAZZ** evening – On the 6<sup>th</sup> March the Richard Rascals quartet are playing in the village hall from 8.00pm. Tickets cost £7 and can be booked by phoning Geoff on 01303 892878 or Brian on 824969. When booking please let us know of any numbers you'd like the band to play.

**THE WHEELIE BIN** missing from the churchyard has been found.

**SANDBAGS** – Many thanks to Clive, Gordon, Anthony, Peter, Brian, Richard and Rosemary for helping fill the sand bags round the village hall. **Geoff Hillier**

**POLICE** – It is worth phoning 101 for minor issues as the person who answers is helpful. The 101 number should be used for the PCSO.

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**FEEDBACK** – Sarah Whitfield King, who lives at Martinvale in the centre of the village, sent an email regarding Oz's article about the late Simon Hoggart. She said that Simon had a profound impact on her career when she arrived at The Guardian as a young 21 year old secretary on the woman's page in the 1970's. Over many pub drinks after work, he persuaded her that she should train as a journalist and with his help basically changed her life. Sarah was transferred to the Travel Desk as a researcher and was sent out on stories, which was wonderful. She then went as a journalist to the Mail on Sunday and Today newspaper and ended up as Travel Editor of the Daily & Sunday Mirror. Oz also emailed to say he apologizes unreservedly for the error in the last line of the Hoggart article, which suggested that Simon's father, Richard, is also dead. Richard is in fact alive and will be 96 next September. **editor**

**CHLOE HUGGINS** – A few weeks ago I watched as Chloe came into church shivering with cold and having damp hair. I enquired as to why she looked and felt this way – even though it was raining hard outside – and she explained she had just finished swimming practice and had been out of bed since 7am, then called in at McDonald's for a speedy hot breakfast before coming to church with mum and grandma to also do her first ever reading. Impressed with this, I decided to do a 'Chloe profile' and have recently met up with her and mum Tracy to take a few notes. Chloe is nearly 11 and attends Capel-le-Ferne primary school. Her interest in swimming was obvious and soon she began private lessons once a week at 6yrs old at the Folkestone Sports Centre. Being very keen she quickly showed promise executing each stage by completing eleven disciplines in every category and progressed from stage 3 to 6, when the instructor encouraged her to join the Folkestone Swimming Club at 8yrs old. Chloe practices four times a week for a total of four and three quarter hours and enjoys and excels in all strokes but particularly likes front crawl. With her consistency and determination she has won several certificates and medals. Recently she achieved her personal best and swam 5000m (approx. 3.5miles) in just over two and a half hours and was awarded with the Reindeer Spirit Championship medal for 2013. Chloe says she would like to continue improving her times in hope that one day she may be able to represent Kent. Who knows perhaps even GB in 2021! Chloe also likes reading, drawing and writing poems and has been in several school plays and panto. Monopoly is a favourite home past time played with her brother Calum. **Irene Barnard**

**TOTS2TEENS**, a registered charity in Lydden, is holding a Nearly New Sale for baby and toddler items on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March from 9.30am - 12.30pm at Lydden Village Hall. Contact details - Debbie at Tots2Teens on 01304 826511.

**GARDEN TALK** - We start the season with an indoor event on Friday 7th March with another fruity wine quiz at Sunrise, Meggett Lane, South Alkham, at 7.30p.m. The programme for the year will then be available, which includes a variety of gardens, and some quizzes. Please let us know if you are joining us. Janet & Gordon Adamson 01303 893413

**ALKHAM WI** - Despite the rising of the Nailbourne, members were able to go to their meeting and run their Jumble Sale. Sarah Grazebrook, originally an actress, talked about the Suffragettes, a talk full of interest. The speaker at the next meeting 11th March will be Christine Cuss talking about 'Notes to my daughter & father's Blitz Diary'. Anyone interested is welcome to come.

**U3A** – On Wednesday 26 February from 10.30 to 12.30pm at the Astor Community Centre, Deal there will be a presentation by Sue Beer "Tales from a Bulgarian winter". Do please join us. Just turn up on the day! For further details contact 01304 851744 or email [diane.mcgeary@sky.com](mailto:diane.mcgeary@sky.com)

**CARE EXTRA** is a 'not for profit' Community Interest Company offering companionship and respite care to people living in the Deal and Dover area. If you would like to know more about this service please contact: [coordinator@careextra.co.uk](mailto:coordinator@careextra.co.uk) or tel. 07715847356

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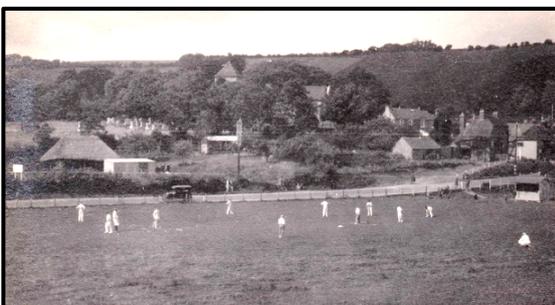
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## NEWLYNS MEADOW

The picture was taken in the 1930's from the field behind what is now Newlyn Meadow and shows the Alkham cricket team playing a match. On the right, by the cricket hut, there is

a short path and this explains why the footpath now officially stops before the village hall. Church Hill house is just out of the picture on the left and a petrol station was originally planned for the land to the right but in 1967 the bungalows were built. Alkham cricket club is the second oldest in the county and they played in the field above until 1938 when they moved to Vicarage Meadow (village green) after the dyke was dug to alleviate flooding. In the above photo there is no dyke, as the road was used to take the flood water, and there is a car which was an unusual sight at that time. **editor & Sue Lees**

**OZ on RAMANUJAN** – This month marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival in England of one of our cleverest immigrants. Srinivasa Ramanujan was born on 22 December 1887 in Erode, Madras Presidency (now Tamil Nadu), India, to a Brahmin family. Ramanujan did well at local school, coming top in his district at the age of 10, and transferred to the secondary school. Here his mathematical genius unfolded, as he raced through the school's maths books, leaving teachers and fellow pupils far behind. By his late teens, Ramanujan was working alone, discovering new theorems and re-discovering old ones. However, this obsessive searching caused him to fail two degree courses because of neglecting other subjects. He married in 1909 and worked as a clerk while continuing his research and dealing with the first of his lifelong health problems. By 1914 Ramanujan's fame was such that he was invited to England by eminent mathematicians Hardy and Littlewood to work with them at Cambridge University. Over the next 5 years Hardy and Ramanujan collaborated on an enormous amount of original research, and Ramanujan was showered with long-deserved academic qualifications. Ramanujan's illness worsened in 1919 and he returned to India, dying there on 16 April 1920, aged 32. The anecdote best illustrating Ramanujan's lightning mathematical reflex was told by George Hardy after going to visit Ramanujan when he was ill at Putney. Hardy had ridden in taxi cab number 1729 and remarked to Ramanujan that the number seemed rather a dull one, and that he hoped it was not an unfavourable omen. "No," replied Ramanujan, "it is a very interesting number; it is the smallest number expressible as the sum of two cubes in two different ways." ( $1^3 + 12^3$  and  $(93 + 10^3)$ ). To this day 1729 is known as the Ramanujan-Hardy number. **(Steve Osborn)**

**ON EACH WEDNESDAY** in Lent members of our benefice 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: March 5<sup>th</sup> 143 Old Dover Road Capel hostess Coleta Spillett: March 12<sup>th</sup> The Old Village School, Church Hougham hostess Wendy Finnis: March 19<sup>th</sup> Holly Lodge Hougham hostess Helen Scopes: March 26<sup>th</sup> Forstal Cottage Alkham Valley Road Alkham hostess Sue Lees: April 2<sup>nd</sup> 43 The Street West Hougham hostess Theda Mulloy: April 9<sup>th</sup> Hermitage, Slip Lane Alkham hostess Marion Banks-Nash: April 16<sup>th</sup> 56 Alexandra Road, Capel hostess Vad Blake. For further information please contact Jerry Spillett on 01303 242146.



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

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
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Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

**Other events in the village**

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Saturday	8	SEK astronomical society in village hall in afternoon
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Wednesday	12	Fete meeting in village hall 8.00pm
Tuesday	25	Film Night – Captain Phillips in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	29	Beekeepers in village hall in the afternoon

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2nd	Taise Service 4.30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Wednesday 5th			Eucharist 7pm
Sunday 9th	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 16th	Worship Tog'r 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9:30am
Sunday 23rd	Benefice Eucharist Hougham 10:00am		
Sunday 30th	Mothering Sunday 9:30am	Mothering Sunday 11am	Mothering Sunday 11

**DEAR FRIENDS,** It was a Friday morning when the wind blew. From the office window at the Vicarage, Yours Truly saw the recycling bin on its side, and rubbish strewn across the garden. I heaved the bin upright, wedged it against a wall, and replaced the rubbish inside. Then another gust of wind landed a neighbour's bin in the road, and its contents in our hedge. Reminding myself to love my neighbour as myself, I righted my neighbour's bin and picked its contents out of the road. No sooner had I finished than another terrific gust of wind blew a cloud of card and paper along the street, along with a torrent of tins and cartons. Another gust took it all either into our hedge, or across our garden. Now I had to love all of my neighbours at once. Filling a bin sack, I wondered - if I made a time capsule of my sack and buried it, what would our descendants make of our rubbish, discovering it years from now? No milk bottles, but plastic milk cartons would date the hoard AM – After Milkmen. Cat food sachets would tell their own story. But what of the dozens of yoghurt pots, their labels carefully removed, or the blister packs? A few cigarette packets and some beer cans would reveal our guilty pleasures – but our main vice would seem to be pies and cakes, nearly all from supermarkets. That packaging, and the catalogue that landed on the path, would show us to be tribe of shoppers. The ring binder and papers on the lawn would show how our society was organised, and archaeologists would be fascinated by the writing on the scraps of paper raked from under the hedge. However, the dustcart arrived, and these treasures showing how we lived and what mattered most to us were lost forever. **Brian Williams**

**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

**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)

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**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  
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**No. 245 April 2014**

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**PLEASE COME** to the meeting about flooding where it is hoped that Charlie Elphicke, our MP, will be present. KCC Flood Risk Management, KCC Highways, Affinity Water, Southern Water and the Environment Agency will also be there. The risk of future floods is high and the impact of flooding affects the whole community of Alkham and this is a chance to hear what plans are in hand to minimise the future risk. It is also a chance to say what we think should be done and to demand some action. The meeting is on the 7th April at 7.30pm in Alkham village hall and it would reinforce our concerns if as many people as possible were at the meeting.

**FLOODING** – At the Parish Council meeting Geoff Hillier asked the council in detail what initiatives they had taken regarding the recent floods. The Parish Council defended their record and said that they had numerous on-site meetings plus copious correspondence but one major problem was the turnover of council staff. Geoff Hillier said he had sent a letter to our MP, Charlie Elphicke, with a petition suggesting that a bund should be put in the field west of Meggett Lane to form a holding pond. Vigorous discussion followed and it was finally agreed that a public meeting should be arranged where all parties would be present to work out the best way forward. **Editor**



**BUS SHELTER** – The concrete eyesore that was the village bus shelter has been replaced by a new one. It's a great improvement and congratulations go to the Parish Council, especially the Parish Clerk Angela Miller and to Geoff Lymer. The Local Members Fund

(KCC/Geoff) paid £5584 and the Rural Bus Shelter Grant gave £2000 to cover the costs. Harmer and Sons Ltd. did a very good job removing and replacing the shelter. **editor**

**ENTERTAINMENT** – More events are being organised in the village hall for the parish and hopefully we will get your support. On the 11<sup>th</sup> May the Baroque Theatre Company are coming to present the light hearted romp 'Up Pompeii'. It will start at 7.30pm and a ticket costs £10 which can be reserved by either phoning Geoff on 01303 892878 or Brian on 824969.

**MATT HYLAND** who lives in the village, is looking for some extra work to help pay off his student debt after finishing a degree at University. Garden work, grass cutting, hedge trimming, painting and decorating, household, odd-jobs, clearing work after the floods. Good worker, good rates and convenient as a local lad. If you are interested his contact number is **07788241375** for a quote on any jobs you need done. If no answer, then leave a message or send a text and he will get back to you asap.

**"ANY LADIES"?** Alkham WI is having a truly interesting FASHION SHOW on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April in Alkham Village Hall. The Show will be presented by BON MARCHE and you are all welcome to come at 7.30pm. **Sue Lees**



**JAZZ** – The Richard Rascals quartet came to the village hall on 6<sup>th</sup> March and were superb. The newly installed stage and LED lighting added to the ambience and made it a truly memorable evening.

## FILM EVENT

next showing in village hall at 7.30pm

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April**  
**Saving Mr. Banks**

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Geoff 01303 892878 or Brian 824969  
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**POPCORN** – Another good reason to come to Film Night is that the Marquis are providing free bags of popcorn. When you pay for the ticket you can pick up a bag of Popcorn. A great idea by the Marquis

**VILLAGE HALL AGM** - The Annual General Meeting for the Village Hall will be held on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, in the Village Hall at 7.00p.m. All villagers and those representing organisations that use the Hall are invited to attend, and vote in members of the Committee. It has been a busy year with new initiatives - comments and suggestions would be welcomed.

**Janet Adamson** Hon Secretary, Village Hall Committee 01303 893413

**A JUMBLE SALE** will be held in the village hall from 10.30pm to mid-day on the 12<sup>th</sup> April in aid of PCC funds.

**CHICKEN BOARDING** – We would be grateful if anyone in the local area could provide a Chicken Boarding Service for our 3 laying hens for approx.10 days, probably during May or June. Please contact H Enterkin on 01304 826449.

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**PHONE BOX** – The traditional BT phone box in Ewell Minnis is sponsored by Philip Young, who used to live in the parish. He very kindly sent the Parish Council a cheque for £5000, half of which is for the box and the other half for the council to spend as it feels fit. The BT logs show that the box wasn't used at all last year for phone calls and therefore they have asked if the Parish Council would like to buy the box for £1 and take on its maintenance without the phone facility. The Council is writing to Philip to ask what he would like to do. **Editor**

**POTHOLE** – Many thanks go to our new postman in Alkham who organised for the mega pop hole on Hogbrook Hill Lane outside my drive to be filled last week. Like me (and Barry & Alison) he could see such a pothole would eventually cause a car accident and he contacted Highways who within hours filled it. **Sarah Chambers**

**A CHURCH FOR THE 21ST C?** You may be surprised that there is no mains water in St Anthony's. The last significant renovation of the church was 140 years ago. Not surprisingly, what was right for the Victorians doesn't fit with today's ideas of a multi-functional building. Thanks to the Friends of St Anthony's, and work by volunteers, the fabric of the church building is in a good state of repair, and the church committee now want to focus on the future. We would like to have a warm meeting area linked to a small kitchen and toilet. Access to the church is also a problem, so we are considering a car park in the churchyard and path lighting. High speed internet access from satellite receivers in church towers is also possible. All in all, we want to extend the use of the building to a wider range of people and activities. There is a long way to go, and much money to raise, before concept turns to reality. In the meantime please give us your comments either at the Annual Church Committee meeting in the village hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April, or email Margaret Batcheldor ([batcheldors@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:batcheldors@tiscali.co.uk)) **Geoff Gaskill 823100**

**THE BOOK CLUB** meeting for April will be on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 hosted by Sue Latham at Woodlands, Short Lane, Alkham 01304 824924. The book for discussion is The Accidental Apprentice by Vikas Swarup. For more information contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

**GARDEN TALK** - We look forward to lighter evenings and a chance to view some local gardens. On Friday 11th April, we have been invited to Bramhall, Alkham Valley Road where Susannah & Richard Tapsell are our hosts and we will see welcome spring blooms and preparations for vegetable crops. We start at 7.00p.m. on this occasion. The wine quiz in March was well received, the person with the most discerning palate being John Jackson. **Janet Adamson**

**LILIES** - We will be decorating the church for Easter with lilies as usual. If you would like to remember a loved one with a lily, please contact Linda Gaskill 823100. Each stem will cost £3.50. We need to order the lilies two weeks before Easter so the deadline this year will be April 6th. **Rosie Hansraj**

**ALKHAM WI** - The March speaker was very interesting because Christine Cuss talked about her young days with her parents in WWII. The tragic experiences in bombing killed parts of her family and other parts survived. Next month 8th April 7.30pm there will be a fascinating fashion show given by Bon Marche. Members and non-members are all invited to attend - **Susan Lees**

**WHAT A RELIEF** it is to branch off Slip Lane onto ER25 and be sheltered from stinging cold rain and sharp winds by the Pimlico Hedge. A vote of thanks goes up from at least this hiker to those brave people who replanted the hedgerow after its demolition in the late 1970s. People such as Bob Palmer, Pam Sayers (who did legal research), John Garlinge who laid most of the hedge among many others of the then newly founded Alkham Valley Society. Recent rain and erosion by 4x4s has exposed some of the original flint byway leading to the Pimlico settlement, another reminder of past rural history. **J Walker**

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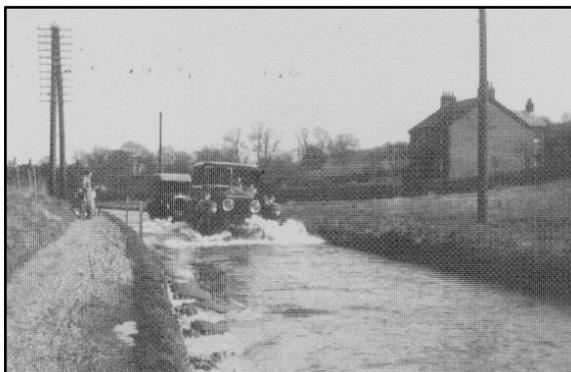
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## THE NAILBOURNE

An old legend goes that St Augustine's first summer in Kent was a very dry one, which started a rumour that the old gods Woden and Thunor were angry at the new religion. Augustine prayed for

rain, and where he knelt a spring came forth. The Dover Express in March 1893 said the Nailbourne last flowed in 1888 and attracted a large number of visitors and in 1901 it anticipated that owing to the sinking of a well at Drellingore, to supply the town of Folkestone, it will rise no more. There were major problems during WW1 and in 1928 Alkham Parish Council complained to Highways re-flooding and the Surveyor was ordered to construct a dyke. In 1937 Dover RDC agreed a channel should be dug about 530 yards long to connect the Nailbourne to a pond. Part of this was probably across what is now the village green as the cricket team moved there in 1938. In 1956 a teacher studied the flow of the Nailbourne and said that there were five major springs, two at Lower Standen, one at Drellingore, one at South Alkham and one at Wolverton. Lower Standen yielded over 2 million gallons in 24 hours in winter and the Drellingore well had a normal yield of more than 2.5 million gallons per day. Alkham Valley with its porous chalk is vital in providing domestic water to the surrounding area; in very wet periods the chalk becomes saturated and the Nailbourne flows. The picture above is of the Valley Road and was taken in 1937, near the current 30mph limit to the west of the village. On the right is the police house by which Valley Cottages were built in the 1946/47. From 1961 the Nailbourne ran significantly in 1974, 1987, 2001 and 2014 which appears to be a 13 year cycle but this is by no means certain.

*Many thanks to Sue Lees, the Village Historian, for most of the details. editor*

OZ on COCKNEY ALPHABET – I haven't had time this month to write the usual kind of story, but thought that readers may like to try and improve on the Cockney Alphabet popularized on BBC radio in the 1930s by the comedy duo Clapham and Dwyer. It goes as follows: A for 'orses (hay for horses); B for mutton (beef or mutton); C for th' highlanders ([Seaforth Highlanders](#)); D for 'ential (differential); E for Adam ([Eve](#) or [Adam](#)); F for 'vescence (effervescence); G for police (Chief of police); H for respect (age for respect); I for Novello ([Ivor Novello](#)); J for oranges ([Jaffa oranges](#)); K for restaurant, (cafe or restaurant); L for leather (Hell for leather); M for 'sis (emphasis); N for 'adig (infra dig); O for the garden wall (over the garden wall); P for relief (pee for relief); Q for a song (cue for a song), or Q for billiards ([cue](#) for billiards) or Q for everything (queue for everything); R for mo' (half a mo'); S for you (it's for you); T for two (tea for two); U for me (you for me); V for La France (Vive La [France](#)); W for a bob (double you for a [bob](#)); X for breakfast (eggs for breakfast); Y for Gawd's sake (why, for God's sake); Z for breezes (zephyr breezes). Clapham and Dwyer later renamed it the Surrealistic Alphabet, which in my view added nothing to its appeal; the original version sounded irresistibly Cockney. However, some of the allusions seem rather dated, and some really don't work at all well and can probably be bettered. I have my own preferred version, but would also be interested to receive readers' suggested alternatives, at: [steveaosborn@hotmail.com](mailto:steveaosborn@hotmail.com) No prizes, but I will publish a list of winning suggestions, just for the glory. Steve Osborn



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Saturday	12	PCC Jumble sale in village hall 10.30am
Saturday	12	SEK astronomical society in village hall pm
Tuesday	22	Village hall AGM 7.00pm all welcome
Thursday	24	PCC AGM in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	29	Film Saving Mr. Banks in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
<b>Sunday 6th</b>	Evensong 6.30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worship 11am
<b>Sunday 13th</b>	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
<b>Thursday 17th</b>	Eucharist & Washing of Feet 7.30pm at Alkham		
<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Vigil of the Cross 2 - 3pm	12 - 1pm	1 - 2pm
<b>Sunday 20th</b>	Easter Day Eucharist 9.30am	11.00am	9.30am
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	Benefice Eucharist 10am at Hougham		
Weekday Services: Wednesday Eucharist 9.15 am St Radigund, Capel-Le-Ferne			

**FROM THE VICARAGE** - I met him just once but have never forgotten Brother Raymond, his gentle sense of humour and the stories he told. With his cropped hair, Franciscan monk's robes and sandals you couldn't miss him in a crowd – not even in London. Travelling on the Underground one day he attracted the attention of a slightly tipsy Australian tourist who was visibly amused by the friar's appearance. The train pulled into a station. "I don't believe in your God!" the tourist sneered as he stepped onto the platform. "He believes in you!" Brother Raymond yelled back as the doors began to close. As the train moved off, a man sitting opposite spoke. "Thank you," he said quietly. "I needed to hear that." Jesus once compared God to a father whose wayward son left home and who never gave up hoping for his return – never stopped believing in him. Easter is the time when Christians celebrate Jesus, crucified by people who didn't believe in him, being raised to life by his Heavenly Father, who did. And I remember Brother Raymond, and those words that gave hope to the man on the train - and I hope that they give hope to you, too. Happy Easter! **Brian Williams**

**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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# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

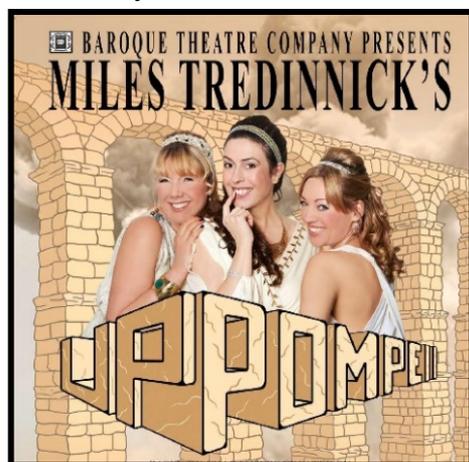
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**No. 246 May 2014**

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**FLOOD MEETING** – Speaking to people after the meeting the general impression was that they were talked down to by a couple of speakers and that the other representatives were there because they had to be. No firm proposals were given and little was achieved except to be reminded that there is no money and it's unclear as to who owns what. About 70 people came to the village hall on the 7<sup>th</sup> April to hear what representatives from KCC, DDC, Affinity Water, Southern Water, the Environment Agency and local councillors had to say about the recent flooding and their proposals to ameliorate the situation. Spirited comments were made by the audience regarding the lack of maintenance of the dyke and the lamentable size of culverts and pipes. The idea of a holding pond was summarily dismissed with one speaker saying the water would just come up further along. Since the Nailbourne rises at Standen and Drellingore this does seem unlikely although there are other natural springs. The representatives seemed pleased with themselves at the end of the meeting but this is not the end of the matter. On a positive note DDC has bid for some of the £3 million government money given to KCC after the flooding and it is recognised that Grove Ferry and Alkham were the areas worst affected in Kent. It should also be said that DDC employees worked hard during the flooding period to help the local community. **editor**



The Baroque Theatre will be presenting a performance of 'Up Pompeii' in Alkham village hall on the 11<sup>th</sup> May starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 and it should be great fun. To book a ticket please phone Geoff on 01303 892878 or Brian on 824969 with payment taken on the door. Please bring your own drinks and refreshments.

**THE FINAL FETE MEETING** for all stallholders and participants will be on 21<sup>st</sup> May at 8 pm in the Village Hall - I promise I'll be there this time! Please can everyone attend so we can ensure that all the various elements and arrangements are sorted out in good time for the Fete itself (on Saturday 12th July at 2 pm). **Paul Tapsell 01303 892082**

**THE FILM** in the village hall for June will be 'The Grand Budapest Hotel' with Ralph Fiennes and Tilda Swinton. This film is not to be confused with 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel' film with Judi Dench and other famous actors. Film Night is proving quite popular with generally about 40 people in the audience.

**SOMME TRIP** - Information for those coming on the trip to the Somme on May 13th: Irene has assured me that the day will be hot and sunny so please bring sun protection as required! I have no reason to doubt Irene's meteorological expertise but please make sure your shoes are suitable for walking on wet grass and unmade tracks etc. (There is not a great deal of walking). Lunch will be provided but you will need to bring a picnic chair unless you want to sit on the sodden/parched (delete as applicable) ground. Please meet up at the Village Hall car park at 07.45. The coach will depart promptly at 08.00. We should return at about 20.30. Here's to an interesting and enjoyable day!

**Mark Robson**

## FILM EVENT

next showing in village hall at 7.30pm

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May**

### THE RAILWAY MAN

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Tickets £4.50 - to book please phone

Geoff 01303 892878 or Brian 824969

Bring your own refreshments



**POPPIES** - Wouldn't it be marvellous if, as part of the WW1 Centenary Commemoration, Alkham was ablaze in August with red poppies. You can get involved by picking up some poppy seeds and sowing them in a sunny spare spot you have in your garden. Even better if they will be seen by passers-by. Poppy seed boxes are in the village hall, St Anthony's and the Garden Centre. Donations will go towards funding a number of village commemoration events in early August centred around the lives of the Alkham Heroes. More information on that in next month's Newsletter, together with a report on the Somme battlefields visit organised by Mark Robson and Den Barnard. **Geoff Gaskill**

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**A BIT OF A BORE** – The chalk in the Drellingore area is highly porous but has low permeability and because of this water is abstracted from the ground. Another well was constructed in 1922, slightly to the west, at Lower Standen for the Folkestone and District Water Company and an excavating machine patented and made in 1919 was used. It had been designed to be used on a possible channel tunnel link to France and had a 7 foot (2.1m) rotary cutter which was powered by electricity and pushed forward by hydraulic power. The main motor was 25 horse power and the machine had a 4 foot cast steel centre carrying four steel buckets with a conveyor belt taking the chalk to spoil wagons. There were only three operatives, one at the face and two removing the spoil wagons. Chalk is a rock and at lower levels is extremely hard and because of this the cutting knives had to be constantly replaced and the blocky chalk jammed the machine. After it had dug about 200 feet (61m) along the shaft it was abandoned and is believed to still be in the disused gallery. *editor details from Sue Lees*

**HALTON COURT COFFEE MORNING** - Thanks must go to all those who came to support our event, those who gave generously whether donating goods for the bring and buy table, the raffle or the clever ones who baked the most delicious selection of cakes and buns. Of course we must also thank the ladies who kindly helped serve and wash up too. The total raised on the day was £391.00 and with two late donations managed to round the total to £400.00 for the proposed installation of toilet/kitchenette in St Anthony's church. **Irene and Den Barnard**

**BROADBAND** – I was emailed to say that if enough locals register their interest, BT will look into providing Fibre Optic broadband to the Alkham Valley area in the next phase of the roll-out. This is believed to be June this year. To register an interest go to [www.productsandservices.bt.com/products/broadband/packages](http://www.productsandservices.bt.com/products/broadband/packages) and click on 'Can I get fibre optic broadband' and then click on 'register interest'. If the latter doesn't come up click 'Check BT Infinity availability' and enter your phone number and then register.



**GARDEN TALK** - We continue our informal approach to gardening matters with our next meeting, at Thorn Cottage, Meggett Lane on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May. Rosemary & Geoff Hillier are our hosts from 7.30p.m. when we expect to see late spring shrubs in full colour. **Janet Adamson**

**BOOK CLUB** - The next Book Club meeting will be on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May at the home of Susannah Tapsell, Bramhall Alkham Valley Rd 01304 822295 starting at 7.30. The book for discussion is State of Wonder by Ann Patchett. If you are interested in joining the village book club contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

**EUROPEAN** parliamentary elections take place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May and the village hall will be open from 7.00am to 10.00pm. Our constituency is the South East of England comprising of the counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, East Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Oxfordshire, Surrey and West Sussex.

**ALKHAM WI** - Last month's meeting was lovely because the Bon Marche shop in Folkestone came and supplied many clothes. Several members offered themselves to be the ones to wear the clothes and show them to the other people, and they performed well. It was a lovely evening. Next meeting will be on the 13<sup>th</sup> May and the 'Resolution' will be discussed. - it being "More Organ Donations" to be made and provided - an interesting discussion. The Hostesses for the evening will be Barbara Palmer, Helen Price and Sue Ross.

**Sue Lees**

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## THE ARCHBISHOP VISITS

**ALKHAM** - In the photo on the left is the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Michael Ramsey, who walked up the Forstal in 1968 for a thanks giving service following the restoration of St. Anthony's Church. In the photo on the right, almost 50 years later on the 17th April 2014, Justin Welby walked up the Forstal to the Maundy Thursday service at St. Anthony's Church. As there were no facilities at the church, Justin Welby and his fellow clergy had changed into their vestments in Sue Lee's house at the bottom of the Forstal. The Archbishop spent Holy Week in the Dover area and visited various locations including the Emmaus Centre for the homeless at Archcliffe Fort and the Food Bank. He later carried one of three life-size crosses through the streets of Dover up to St Mary de Castro, the church in the castle, where they were planted. **editor**

**OZ on HOGGART (2)** – An observant reader spotted that the final sentence of my February article suggested that Simon Hoggart's father Richard was already dead. In fact Richard outlived Simon by some three months, dying aged 95 on April 10 2014. Some of the following necessarily repeats facts in the February article. Richard was a highly respected academic who became famous as author of *The Uses of Literacy* (1957), and expert witness in the Lady Chatterley's Lover trial in 1960. He was born to a soldier and house painter on September 24 1918 in Potternewton, Leeds, and raised by his grandmother in Hunslet after both parents died. After studying at Cockburn High School, Richard read English at Leeds University. During World War II, he served in the Royal Artillery in North Africa and Italy. There followed a thirteen year period when Richard built his career lecturing at Hull University. His reputation was finally established in 1957, with the publication of *The Uses of Literacy*, in which he used his own experiences to comment on the conflict between traditional British working class culture and the radical new Americanised culture of the Fifties. In 1959 he moved to Leicester University, and in 1960 was called as a defence witness at the Lady Chatterley's Lover trial, during which the chief prosecutor famously asked the jury if the book were the "kind of book you would wish your wife or servants to read." Richard was invited to Birmingham University in 1962, where he founded the Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies, and then worked at UNESCO for five years. On his return he became Warden of Goldsmith's College, London, where he stayed until retirement. Richard and Simon Hoggart – a brilliant father and son. I can now repeat February's final line without any ambiguity. They'll both be greatly missed. **(Steve Osborn)**



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

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am – 6.15 to 7.15 aerobics dance class
Thursday	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	6	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	10	SEK astronomical society in village hall pm
Monday	12	Parish Council meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	19	Dover and District Bird Club 7.30pm in village hall
Wednesday	21	Fete meeting in village hall 8.00pm
Thursday	22	European Elections in village hall 7am to 10pm
Tuesday	27	Film 'The Railway Man' in village hall 7.30pm

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

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
4 <sup>th</sup> May	6.30pm Evensong	9.30am Eucharist	11pm Worship Tog.
11 <sup>th</sup> May	9.30 Eucharist	11.00 Worship Together	
18 <sup>th</sup> May	11.00 Worship Together	6.00 Evensong	9.30 Eucharist
25 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00 Benefice Eucharist at St Laurence, Hougham		

There is a Eucharist at St Radigund's each Wednesday morning at 9.30

**FROM THE VICARAGE** - Dear Friends; using a computer is like driving a car. Both offer opportunities to explore the world – but first you have to get them to start. For a while I taught computing, encouraging young people to learn how to drive computers so that they could use them to explore the world, rather than merely to amuse themselves. Too often they often settled for merely amusing themselves. Has technology made life better? You may well ask. E-mail, for instance, has caught on to the extent that in the USA some workers spend the equivalent of two working days each week just checking, writing and reading e-mails, slaves to a monster that once promised to make life easier! Easter continues through May, Christians recalling how God surprised Jesus' followers by raising Jesus to life, and again at Pentecost by sending his Holy Spirit upon them. In the New Testament Book of Acts Peter, on the Day of Pentecost, explains this to the crowds. It ends with the crowds asking Peter what they must do about it. He replies that they must repent, be baptised, and receive the Holy Spirit. Technology easily takes on a life of its own. It makes all kinds of things possible – and with it comes the temptation to just use technology for its own sake, rather than using it to make the world a better place. For Christians our world, filled as it is with technology, is the same one that Christ died for and in which his Spirit lives and in which God can still spring surprises. Nothing has ever been invented that can compete with repentance, baptism, and the gift of the Holy Spirit for power to change the world for the better. **Brian Williams**

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# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett  
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**No. 247 June 2014**

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## UP POMPEII

Thanks to all those who came to see Up Pompeii at the Village Hall on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May. Your support was much appreciated even though one concedes this particular show

was possibly not to everyone's taste. The level of attendance though was such that we, the Village Hall Committee, are encouraged to put on future live theatre events, not necessarily in the same vein, for the entertainment of all in the Village. These events are primarily intended to provide all in the community with the opportunity to get together socially and at the same time to enjoy and share in the experience of live theatre. We look forward to announcing shortly our future programme of live entertainment. There were 46 people in the audience for Up Pompeii and it cost £500 to stage the show but with the sales of ice creams at the interval the cost was almost covered.

**PLAY** – Following the positive responses to the live entertainment, we have booked the Baroque Theatre Company to perform 'The Haunting of Hill House' in Alkham village hall on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September. Billed as a chilling and mystifying study, a group of psychics visit a Victorian mansion where a learned doctor conducts research into supernatural phenomena. Tickets will be on sale at various venues in the near future and cost £10.

**FLOODING** – The Parish Council chairman, Neil Burrows, and Steve Rivers from DDC are going to meet on site and walk the route of the Nailbourne from just west of Meggett Lane to east of Short Lane. There will probably be others in the group and they will discuss what action needs to be taken to address further flooding problems. Kent Highways have agreed to replace the bridges across the dyke in front of Valley Cottages.

**ST ANTHONY'S GUITAR CONCERT** Saturday 29th June at 6:30. For the fourth successive year Jimmy D'Alton Bellas is bringing his past and present students back to St Anthony's for another Summer Evening Guitar Concert. He has also managed to obtain the services once again of Grant Dowse who is now performing at the highest professional level and is eager to perform in the beautiful setting of St Anthony's once again. Tickets are £7.50 from Den (824845) or Brian (824969). **Den Barnard**



**CORRECTION** – At the flood meeting in the village hall, one of the representatives said that Grove Ferry and Alkham were the worst affected areas in Kent and this was stated in last month's Newsletter. The Parish Council have asked me to say that this is not the case as conditions at Yalding and other places were much worse.

**CHICKENS** - I am looking to find a good home for two cockerels and 4 chickens. They are very young birds, not yet a year old and all 4 hens are laying, two of which lay pale blue eggs. They are lovely birds, but unfortunately my dog will not accept them so I must rehome them. If you can offer them a home please contact the Newsletter at [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com) or phone 824969.

## FILM EVENT

next showing in village hall at 7.30pm

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June**  
**THE GRAND BUDAPEST**  
**HOTEL**

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Tickets £4.50 - to book please phone

**FETE BOOK STALL** - 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.

**HANDBAG STALL** - Please could you spare a handbag or scarf for my handbag stall at the fete; ring me for collection or bring them to the Village Hall any Wednesday at 10.30am. Thank you very much indeed. Susannah Tapsell 01304 822295.

**WW1 COMMEMORATION** – The Parish Council agreed to give the organisers of the Alkham WWI commemoration £100 to help cover the costs. The Alkham Village Hall and the PCC have also donated £100 each.

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**SOMME TRIP** - As part of the village's commemorations of the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, 47 people travelled to the Somme to commemorate two of the villagers who were killed there. The first stop was at the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme where, amongst the 73,000 names, is

that of John Rye who was killed, aged 24, in the Battle of Flers-Courcelette. The memorial has a sobering effect on most visitors. The panels bearing the names overwhelm as they tower above you and surround you and your own sense of being is diminished in the presence of this catalogue of suffering and by the knowledge that each name represents the loss of life of an individual and heartbreak and misery for those left behind. We gathered at John Rye's inscription to hear a little about his life and death and Richard Tapsell laid a wreath in remembrance. A picnic lunch followed and thanks must go to Helen Scopes who organised this for us; everyone was well fed and full of admiration for the appearance of such a spread from such a small box! The second stop was at La Boisselle to see the Lochnagar Crater. Blown on the first day of the Somme the hole in the ground, which still remains, is evidence of some of the destructive power that was unleashed. A truly terrifying prospect now but even more so for the men who had to advance towards it across open fields and through machine gun fire a hundred years ago! The final stop was at Bullecourt where we commemorated villager Edward Collard. We stopped outside the village to appreciate again how flat and open the land is that Edward and his colleagues had to cross. Pam Sayers laid a wreath in Edward's memory (see photo) and it would have been hard not to have felt a connection to the man being at the spot of his death on the 97th anniversary. A full day which highlighted the enormity of the slaughter and also, through the village connections, the personal scale of loss. Thanks to Den Barnard for his help in making the trip happen and to those who came with us. "When you go home, tell them of us and say "For their tomorrow, we gave our today" (John Maxwell Edmonds). **Mark Robson PIMLICO** - Local archaeologists are surveying Pimlico Way Vineyard paying particular attention to the byway and bomb craters. Martin Scherer, who owns the land at South Alkham, has been confidently advised that the craters were caused by WW2 bombs, not flint mining, because of the bowl shape. The archaeologists will return when the bottom field is ploughed. If there are any significant finds they will go to a local museum, if possible after display in Alkham.

**ALKHAM W.I.** - A quiet meeting due to a number of members visiting the Somme. Those members present discussed a W.I. resolution on organ donation and this was followed by a quiz organized by Debbie Saunders and Debbie Griggs; congratulations to the winning teams who came joint first and not forgetting the team that came second. Next meeting is on 10<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm when we will be entertained by Martyn Harrison, who is an excellent tenor, singing just one cornetto. Everybody welcome. Hostesses are Pam Sayers, Debbie Saunders and Susannah Tapsell and Pam Sayers will bring the raffle prize.

## Debbie Griggs

**GARDEN TALK** - A good attendance enjoyed the garden, chat and hospitality at Thorn Cottage in May. Our next hosts are Val & Stan Fowler, when we meet at 'Evergreen', Slip Lane on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June. All welcome from 7.30p.m. **Janet Adamson**

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**TRUE STORY** – My son John and daughter-in-law Angie moved house a few years ago. They were very pleased indeed with their new home except for one thing – the sitting room had no fireplace. John therefore decided to put a fireplace in for a good old fashioned fire and build a chimney stack on the outside wall. Their three dogs, Bear a German Shepherd, Poppy a Border Collie and Bella a small black dog settled in well and they decided to have a cat so a lovely kitten called Charlie came to live with them. Angie was in the kitchen when Bear came in and deposited a rat at her feet. Angie was horrified but suddenly realised it was the kitten covered in wet concrete. She held the kitten under the tap until it was all washed off. Angie then went to see what had happened and there in the patch of wet concrete was a scuffle mark and in front of it two paw marks. Bear had obviously seen the kitten struggling and had picked it up in his mouth to free him and take it to Angie. A lucky kitten and a very clever, intelligent dog, don't you think? **Pamela Sayers**

**WELL** – In last month's Newsletter there was an article about a machine that was abandoned in a well near Lower Standen in 1922. John Richards emailed to say that he can recall his father speaking of it as he worked there. His father would travel down the well in a bucket, big enough for two men, powered by a donkey engine at the top. The bucket routinely stopped half way down when it was possible to phone the donkey engine operative. John went down the well as an 8 year old, which was pretty brave. There has also been some correspondence about the natural spring being called the nailbourne. The word appears in an old dictionary and the definition is that it is a natural spring that flows when the water table is high. It is a word that is used in other areas and therefore should be prefixed with the location. The one that flows through Alkham should be referred to as the Drellingore nailbourne or in some correspondence simply as the Drellingore. **editor**

**OZ on THE BARD** – In these columns I try to avoid the well-known in favour of more obscure corners, in the spirit of "Not many people know that." However, I can't let this April's 450th anniversary of William Shakespeare's birth pass unnoticed. Little is known of his early years except that he was baptised in Stratford-upon-Avon on 26 April 1564. His birth is popularly celebrated on 23 April, because that is St George's Day, and he died in 1616, also on 23 April, the day after the great Spanish writer Miguel Cervantes. In addition to 38 plays and some 165 poems, Shakespeare is also famous for the number of new words he added to the English language. During the 200 years from about 1500 onwards, England was changing rapidly under the combined influences of religion, science, exploration and war, and the language needed new words, some of which were imported from foreign languages. It fell to the writers of the age to absorb these words or create new ones, a process called 'neologizing', and Shakespeare became the greatest of the neologizers. Computer analysis shows that Shakespeare's works have a vocabulary of 17,677 words, around 10% of which were first used by him. They include: new meanings of old words; new words, such as 'lewdster'; 'un-' words as in the verb 'to unhappy'; and compound words such as 'archvillain'. These days, we're very sniffy about the practice of turning nouns into verbs, as in the phrase 'to action' something, so it comes as a salutary surprise to discover how often Shakespeare did the same, as when he invented the verb 'to blanket'. One of his words that unsurprisingly didn't take off is 'anthropophaginan', meaning 'cannibal'. Here I have to confess that my favourite Shakespeare word is the politically incorrect, but very funny, 'kickie-wickie' for wife. **Steve Osborn**



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

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

**Other events in the village**

Tuesday	3	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Tuesday	10	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	14	W.I. jumble sale 11.00am in village hall
Saturday	14	SEK astronomical society in village hall in the evening
Monday	16	Dover and District Bird Club 7.30pm in village hall
Tuesday	24	Film 'The Grand Budapest Hotel' in village hall 7.30pm

**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

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
1 <sup>st</sup> June	United service for Rogation Sunday at St. Radigund's Abbey Farm at 10.30am		
8 <sup>th</sup> June	9.30 Eucharist	11.00 Worship Together	
15 <sup>th</sup> June	United service for Trinity Sunday at Temple Ewell 10.00am		
18 <sup>th</sup> May	Benefice Eucharist at Hougham 10.00am		
25 <sup>th</sup> May	Benefice Eucharist at St Mary's, Manor House Lane, Capel-le-Ferne 10.00am		

There is a Eucharist at St Radigund's each Wednesday morning at 9.30

**FROM THE VICARAGE - LIVE AND LET LIVE** it said. There it was, at the back of the church – large black letters printed on white card, propped against the wall. Who had put it there – and why? What was the story behind it – and did it belong in church? What was I to do with it? Eventually the mystery was solved, and the explanation turned out to be simpler than I had at first thought – but it did make me think. Why LIVE AND LET LIVE? At first sight, it's not that different to something Jesus said. Don't judge or condemn others, and you won't be judged or condemned yourself. Great, if that's what LIVE AND LET LIVE really means. Or is it just about me getting on with my life while others get on with theirs? Is that what it means? Jesus once answered a question with a story about a victim of crime left for dead at the roadside. LIVE AND LET LIVE could have been the motto of the two outwardly respectable people who passed by, not doing any harm, but not doing any good either. The unlikely hero of Jesus' story would not usually have been the sort to stop and help, but nevertheless he did. 'Who is my neighbour?' That's what Jesus had been asked – his point being that the world is a better place when treat others as we would like to be treated ourselves. So I have removed the sign, and it is waiting for its owner to collect it. Why? Well, the trouble with LIVE AND LET LIVE is that it leaves my neighbour a victim – friendless, destitute, and bleeding at the roadside. If we're serious about making the world a better place, we're going to have to treat our neighbours better than that. **Brian**

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**W.I. secretary** – Janet Barrow 829585  
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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. 248 July 2014**

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**A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE** The photo was taken from a remote controlled mini helicopter and shows the Marquis and St. Anthony's church. Dean has agreed to take further photos along the line of the dyke.

**ALKHAM FETE** – This year's fete is on Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> July and starts at 2.00pm on the village green, so please come along and support this traditional event. There will be all the usual attractions including a beer stall, books, cakes, jewellery, produce etc. In the column opposite are requests for various items for the stalls so please help if you can. The tents will be put up from 8.30am on the day so please come along and help as there's a lot to do and new volunteers are always very welcome. The same applies at the end of the fete when the tents have to be taken down and the meadow cleared of rubbish. Two books of raffle tickets should be delivered with the Newsletter so please either buy or sell them and return the stubs to Paul Tapsell by the 10<sup>th</sup> of July and if this is not possible, please bring them on the day.

**WW1 COMMEMORATION** - Thanks to Eunice at the Garden Centre, and also to Mo Brown for her artistic collection boxes; the poppy seed distribution raised nearly £100. Together with donations from the Village Hall Committee, the Parish Council and St Anthony's church, the target of £370 was reached, ensuring that the various WW1 Commemoration events in August will be memorable. A candle lit service in St. Anthony's church on the evening of 4<sup>th</sup> August will mark the anniversary of the start of hostilities. The main activities will centre around the weekend of 9 – 10<sup>th</sup> August with displays in the church and a commemorative evening in the Village Hall. **Geoff Gaskill**

**PHOTOS** - If anyone who went on the recent trip to the Somme has any digital photos they would like to share could they please send them to me at [mark.robson@btinternet.com](mailto:mark.robson@btinternet.com). I would like to update the village website and my photos weren't the best!

**CORRECTION** – In last month's Newsletter it said the Guitar Concert in St. Anthony's was on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June; it should have said the 28<sup>th</sup>.

**VICARAGE MEADOW** will again be the venue for the annual open air songs of praise on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July at 11am with the River Worship Band. All are welcome for joyful celebration with a mixture of traditional hymns and modern worship songs - the perfect antidote for post fete blues. **Geoff Gaskill**

**CAKES** and refreshments are needed for the Alkham fete. If you can help please contact Sue Ross on 825736 for the cake stall and Janet Barrow on 829585 for cakes and refreshments plus help on the day.

**HABERDASHERY** - Fabrics, throws, linens, sewing items, buttons, wool, belts, remnants etc, required for the fete stall at the Fete - in advance if possible. Please contact Rosemary (01303 892878) or Janet (01303 893413) who can arrange collection.

**FETE PLANT STALL** – Gardeners; we will be collecting plants at Chalksole Cottage in the days shortly before the fete or alternatively please bring them on the morning of the fete to the plant stall near the cricket hut. **Geoff Gaskill**

**RAFFLE PRIZES** – Bill Hellyer has done a great job getting prizes for the Alkham Fete Grand Raffle. Prizes donated so far are: P & O Ferries, Bigjigs Toys of Folkestone, Terlingham Vineyards, Alkham Valley Garden Centre, Sladden Farm, Alkhamhurst Kennels, Angela Miller, Hogbrook Equestrian Centre, South Eastern Equestrian Supplies, Grand Burstin, The Marquis and MacDonald's. **Many thanks to all concerned**

## FILM EVENT

Scheduled for June but not released until 7<sup>th</sup> July now showing in village hall at 7.30pm on

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July**  
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**MISSING CAT** - A black and white cat with a pink collar, which lives at 26 Glebelands, has been missing for some weeks. She is chipped, petit and loving so if you have seen her please phone Laura on 01304 825265. Laura also requests that if you see a stray cat please do not feed it otherwise it won't return home.

**STRAY CAT** white/light grey in colour, fluffy and female with kittens found living in Slip Lane area. Please phone 824969 if you have any information.

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**PIMPICO WAY** - On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May, members of the White Cliffs Metal Detecting Club based in Alkham village hall, detected land owned by Martin Scherer at Pimlico, south Alkham. The on-going surveys of land in the Alkham valley, under the direction of Vince Burrows, forms part of the extensive historical, geophysical and archaeological investigations by the Alkham Valley Historical Research Group. Finds recovered from Pimlico, despite hard undisturbed ground, by the group include: A Georgian coin dated 1806; trade tokens dated 1607-1667; five late medieval spectacle shoe-buckles; musket and pistol shot; a 16th century clothing fastener; a small casket key dating between 1350-1450; a Crotal bell and a lead seal dating between 18-1900s. Most of the items so far recovered date between 1600-1900. Our aim is to record as much background historical material as possible. This will allow us to collate and understand ancient occupation and the use of the land throughout the centuries within the valley and generally around the North Downs. The metal detecting surveys are organised events that operate under the Countryside codes, archaeological recording codes of practice (Portable Antiquities Scheme) and the Treasure Act 1996. Should items of high values be recovered, landowners are entitled to market value rewards under the Treasure Act. The Alkham Valley Historical Research Group would like to hear from interested landowners for surveys on their land after harvest time. Please contact: Vince Burrows on 01304 219550 or email [V.Burrows@gtwiz.co.uk](mailto:V.Burrows@gtwiz.co.uk)

**ELECTRICHALL** are a local Domestic Electrical company that is available for any size electrical job that needs doing in your home, from changing a fuse board to moving a socket. Based in West Hougham and happy to provide free quotations. Call Matt on 07980448796. *Free article as no advert space left – ed.*

**ADVERTS** – Advertisers in this Newsletter might like to know that the adverts are now listed free on the Alkham web site [alkham.org](http://alkham.org).

**BOOK CLUB** - The Book for discussion in July is Old Filth by Jane Gardam. The meeting will be held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm hosted by Sue Latham, Woodlands, Short Lane; telephone 824924. If you are interested in the Alkham Book Club and would like more details contact Jane Aslett 824729.

**U3A** (University of the third age) On Wednesday 30 July, 14.00-16.00 hrs in the Council Chamber, Maison Dieu House, Dover "Murphy's Law on homicide - "What can go wrong just did" this will be a welcome second talk by ex-DCI Murphy which we know will be hugely popular and entertaining: Wednesday 20 August, 14.00-16.00 hrs at the Astor Community Theatre, Deal "A quarter of a Century of Tracing Change in the Middle East" a talk by Mark Goldfinch who had had a career in communications in the Middle East and will give a personal perspective on changes in this important region. The cost of entry is £1 for non-members and for a copy of the new programme and a membership application, contact 01304 851744 or email [diane.mcgeary@gmail.com](mailto:diane.mcgeary@gmail.com).

**GARDEN TALK** - On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July we visit a new venue. Helen and Don Hobday have made great progress with their garden in the last two years, and are welcoming us to their home - "Woodstock" on the Alkham Valley Road from 7.30p.m. For directions, please contact Janet Adamson (01303 893413).

**RIVER FAYRE** is on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July from 11-4pm. Plenty of stalls, hot food, hot and cold drinks. Entertainment in the arena - tug of War, 4 teams competing for a cup and many other items.

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**LOCAL LAD** – Joseph Mount was born in 1896 at Guston, which is the village just to the east of Dover. When he was fifteen Joseph was working on a nearby farm, but in 1914 enlisted as a driver in the Army Service Corp. He first saw active service on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 1914 in France; however later in the war he was exposed to gas and was discharged as medically unfit. In 1918, as a war pensioner, he was employed as a War Goods Inspector in Salford, near Manchester, where he married Edith Bailey. Edith's parents ran the Carpenters Arms public house on Meggett Lane in South Alkham and lost their son George, who was killed in the war. Sadly, two weeks after his wedding in St. Anthony's church Joseph also died, with his wife at his side. His death was probably due to the Spanish flu, which caused more fatalities than WWI. Joseph's body was brought back to Alkham and he was buried on 15<sup>th</sup> October 1918 at St. Anthony's church where his gravestone is a short distance from the war memorial on which both his and George Bailey's name are inscribed. **editor** - article based on information provided by Mark Robson – see also the 'Alkham Heroes' page on [www.alkham.org](http://www.alkham.org)



**OZ on W . . . . R** – Last winter was remarkable for its unusually warm, wet, windy weather. Due mainly to the warmth and the consequential lower incidence of ice, snow, falls, 'flu and breathing problems, the UK mortality rate was its lowest for five years. Between 1 December 2013 and 15 March 2014, 10,881 (6.7%) fewer people died in England and Wales than in the same period last year. The winter was the warmest, at 5.2° C average, since 1989, when the average was 5.8° C. It was the wettest since 1766, with almost double the average rainfall in south-eastern and central south England. It was also the windiest, with the most number of severe gale days since 1871. The Met Office has linked these events to disturbances in the Atlantic and Pacific jet streams following heavy rainfall over the West Pacific last year. We took a big trip down under in February and March, and found that the South Pacific was also affected, as a cyclone was on its way. Singapore was its usual sticky self, with both humidity and Fahrenheit temperature at 92. Temperatures in Australia were high, as normal in February. At Port Douglas the temperature reached 44°C and plastic bottles were melting on the beach. When we drove the campervan up through New Zealand in March, the cyclone approached, circled, dumping rain and gales on us, and then drifted away into the Pacific, leaving us deliciously sunny autumn weather. What we'd planned, after two months sunshine down under, was a classic English summer, which seems to be a strong possibility this year, according to the Met Office. Will it happen? As A P Herbert wrote 70 years under the title THE W. . . . R: "I think I mentioned June the other week: About July I simply cannot speak." **(Steve Osborn)**

**DOVER FESTIVAL PROM** – Local musicians will again present a festive charity concert in the style of "The Last Night of the Proms", at 7.30 pm on Friday 4th July in Dover Town Hall. This year's choral offerings are a collection of World War One songs, arranged by Peter Lawson, to mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of war, and a medley of 15 Beatles songs, arranged by Ed Lojeski, to reflect the very changed world of 50 years ago. Finally the audience will be invited to join the 60-strong choir in singing the traditional Proms Finale of Jerusalem, Rule Britannia and Land of Hope and Glory. This year's proceeds are in support of The Dover, Deal & District Citizens Advice Bureau. Tickets at £7 and £3.50 (promenaders) are available from the Dover Visitor Centre or from chorus members. For further details ring Sue or Steve Yarrow on 01304 872812. **(Steve Osborn)**





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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
Monday	7	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm in village hall, all welcome
Tuesday	8	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	12	Alkham Fete on village green starts 2.00pm
Monday	21	Dover and District Bird Club 7.30pm in village hall
Tuesday	29	Film 'The Grand Budapest Hotel' in village hall 7.30pm

**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

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Evensong 6.30pm	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11.00am
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Outdoor Songs of Praise Vicarage Meadow, Alkham 10.00am		
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Worship Tog'r 11am	Evensong 6.00pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Benefice Eucharist 10.00 at Alkham		

**From the vicarage** - We plough the fields with tractors, we sang. (Yes, slightly different words to the original hymn, I know). Seeds had been sown, and as quaint or as superstitious as it may seem to some, we prayed, as the Church has for centuries on Rogation Sunday, for farmers and for the harvest. Pests, disease and bad weather – much can go wrong, even in our modern world. The anniversary of D Day was tinged with sadness for the congregation of St Radigund's as we prepared to say goodbye to a friend of ours. As a young merchant seaman he had been there, sowing with others of his generation the seeds of the freedoms we have enjoyed since. Few of us now make a living from the land – but perhaps we sow seeds in other ways. A while ago, I was asked to work at a school some distance away. It involved an early start, a long drive, and some difficult classes. I was asked to teach Maths. I'm definitely no mathematician but I did my best, and in the class I taught about half settled to work, while others sat sullenly or chatted among themselves. Not great, but a few days later the phone rang. Would I go back there and teach Maths until a new teacher arrived? I'm no mathematician, I replied – but they pleaded. So I survived by learning the night before what I had to teach the next day and muddled through until, to my relief, the new teacher arrived. I was at that school again recently, for the first time in about a year. Passing some vaguely familiar faces in the corridor, I heard a voice behind me. Hey, Sir – I PASSED MY MATHS! I smiled and gave him a thumbs-up sign. Harvest had arrived. Sown any good seeds lately? **Brian Williams**

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**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** – Janet Barrow 829585  
**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  
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**County Councillor** - Geoffrey Lymer  
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**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. 249 August 2014**  
Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

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**ALKHAM FETE**  
Another great day with all the events associated with a traditional fete. The weather wasn't as good as last year so visitor numbers were down but a profit

of £2300 was made on the day. Congratulations to Paul Tapsell and his team for organising another memorable day.

**BBC HOLIDAY SERIES** – The BBC are looking for couples/families to take part in a short four day home holiday swap between now and early September. It's a chance to have a memorable experience and taste superb cuisine. For an application form email [homeswapholidays@bbc.co.uk](mailto:homeswapholidays@bbc.co.uk)



**ANNUAL GUITAR CONCERT at St Anthony's** - For the fourth successive year Jimmy D'Alton Bellas brought his past and present guitar students back to St Anthony's for another highly successful 'Summer Evening Guitar Concert'. From students as young as seven years old to teenagers playing their own arrangements

of classical music we once again had entertainment of the highest order. Grant McFarlane Dowse (pictured), a former pupil of Jimmy's, covered the second half of the evening with his usual professional expertise. He is now performing at national and international level with recording sessions for film, television and radio and has played with a variety of orchestras including the London Philharmonic. How lovely also to see St Anthony's full (see picture) and as the reverend Brian Williams said in his closing remarks 'This concert is a wonderful reflection of youngsters of today'. He also thanked the Friends of St Anthony's for the support they have given Jimmy in putting on the event. All proceeds amounting to £680 have gone to the Friends. **Den Barnard**



**FLOODING** – KCC just want to involve key players with regard to the flooding problem in Alkham. They are therefore setting up a meeting with the Environment Agency, Southern Water and others, including the Parish Council, to discuss the matter and might do a walk through later in the year.

**THE CENTENARY** of the beginning of WW1 is fast approaching. A team has worked over the past few months to ensure that 'we will remember them'. Beginning on August 4th at 22.15 in the church with a candlelit service comprising readings, music and prayers, and ending over the weekend of the 9/10 with a commemorative flower display, themed art exhibition, poet's corner and photo exhibition in the church. Teas and coffees will be served. In addition, during the week, you will see an art installation of 16 crosses appear on the bank by the Old Post Office representing fallen Alkham soldiers. You are also invited to participate in an interactive installation on Vicarage Meadow on Saturday morning by bringing flower heads from your garden to place on the words 'Lest We Forget'. On a Saturday evening there will be time to remember those that paid the ultimate sacrifice in poetry, music and readings. The weekend will finish with a 4pm service in the church on Sunday afternoon. Full details of timings are on the insert. We welcome young and old to these events. Please invite others who may be interested to come with you. **Linda Gaskill**

## FILM NIGHT

As part of the WW1 commemoration we would like to screen an appropriate film.

Three films are being considered.

1 Oh What a Lovely War 2 War Horse

3 Bird Song

Please phone Geoff 01303 892878 or Brian on 824969 to state a preference.

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August**

Tickets £4.50

**FOOTPATHS** – There was a discussion about footpaths at the Parish Council meeting with regard to them being almost impassable due to overhanging vegetation; this particularly applied to the rape fields. The Government web site states that a 1.5 metre width of footpath must be left clear and that disturbed footpaths must be made good within 14 days. The Parish Council are writing to the landowner and tenant farmer.

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## FLOODING OF ALKHAM – I have been asked to print this open letter from Geoff Hillier to Alkham Parish Council.

In February of this year a petition was signed by 60 parishioners and was sent, amongst others, to our local MP and our Parish Council, calling for consideration to be given to the building of a Detaining Pond on Affinity Water owned land to the South West of the Village, to hold back excessive water at times when the Drellingore Nailbourne runs. This suggestion was favourably received by our MP. At the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall in March, this matter was discussed and the Parish Council Chairman withdrew from the discussion, declaring a personal conflict of interest with such a suggestion. There is to be a meeting convened at which Kent County Council, The Environment Agency, and others will attend to discuss what actions can be taken to alleviate the flood risk to Alkham. The Parish Council Chairman will also attend this meeting. In light of the declared 'personal conflict of interest' by the Chairman, it is felt that his views could be compromised and therefore not represent, impartially, the expressed views of the parishioners. In view of this we respectfully ask the Chairman to stand down from any meetings or discussions on the matter of flood alleviation and appoint another Parish Council Member to attend and dutifully represent the Parish interest as a whole. It is felt that all such meetings which affect the whole village should be open, and attendance available to all interested parties. Failing this, the village should have at least an unbiased representative, from the public, present as an observer to be able to report back impartially to the village through the Newsletter. **Geoff Hillier**

**HGV'S** – Some HGV's are still coming along the valley and having to turn round at the low bridge at River. This is probably due to owner drivers who don't have HGV satnav and rely on the domestic version. A suggestion is that flashing yellow lights should be fitted to the warning signs on the Alkham Valley Road which would only be activated by high vehicles.

**BINS** – The village hall was exempt from paying rates but now has to pay a contribution and as a result was given recycle and rubbish bins. These have been put in a locked store because they are not for commercial use and also rubbish of all varieties was being left which then needed sorting. Regular non-commercial users can have access to the bins by contacting any member of the village hall committee.

**ALKHAM W.I.** - The July speaker, Dennis Chambers, spoke so interestingly about 'Magic of Mind Power' so, no doubt, the 12th August speaker - Veronica Ashby - on 'Dungarees to Diamonds' will also be a good speaker. Hostesses Iris Bowshell & Margaret Batcheldor - Raffle Helen Price. The meeting is 7.30pm in the Village Hall - everyone welcome. **Sue Lees**

**GARDEN TALK** - Our next arranged visit is on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August when we meet at Halton Court, Alkham Valley Road from 7.30p.m. We anticipate our usual warm welcome from Irene & Den Barnard, whose garden is a great focal point in the centre of the village.

**GARDEN WARNING** – Barbara Heritage, who lives in Meggett Lane, said that she had to cut a young Jay from a plum tree where it was hanging from a branch for some hours by a single black sewing thread. She was attracted to it by its parents who were screeching away and once free it flew away. It appears that someone must be using this thread in their garden, which is a real hazard to thieving birds, and she says please will people stop using thread.

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A **THANKFUL VILLAGE** is one in which all the men who went to war from that village in WW1 survived. There are 32 such villages in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland having none. The only village in Kent is Knowlton, which is 13 miles from Alkham and lies to the west of Betteshanger

and Eastry. Knowlton had a population of 39 with 12 men enlisting and because of this they won a competition in 1915 as the bravest village. Knowlton was actually an estate and few people lived there but it has an estate church which is now redundant but under the care of the Churches Conservation Trust and open to the public. Alkham was not a Thankful Village with 16 of its men being killed in WW1. The number of people in the right age group in the Alkham Parish at the time was about 300 so there was probably about 150 males who could have enlisted or been conscripted. If anyone has further details about the number of men from Alkham who fought in WW1 please contact the Newsletter (details on front and back page). **editor**

**OZ on TIPPERARY** – Last month we sang in the Dover Proms Concert, which included songs from World War One to mark its centenary. The song that stayed in my head for days afterwards was “It’s a Long Way to Tipperary”, and there’s quite a story behind it. It was written by Jack Judge and Harry Williams in 1909 as a music hall song entitled “It’s a Long Way to Connemara”, later changed to “...Tipperary”, as that was where Judge’s Irish grandparents lived. It was first noted as a marching song on 13 August 1914 by a Daily Mail reporter, who watched the Irishmen of the 2nd Connaught Rangers singing it as they marched into Boulogne, welcomed by cheering French crowds. The battalion was part of the British Expeditionary Force, and the song was soon adopted as a marching song by other British units. By the end of 1914 it had become popular worldwide, following a recording by the Irish tenor John McCormack, and soon German and Russian troops had developed their own versions. The song’s popularity continued in peacetime, but Judge and Williams didn’t benefit equally. Initially they had shared royalties 50/50, but in 1915 Judge needed money to settle debts and he secured it by selling his royalties to Williams. After the war, moved by stories of the song’s importance to the troops, Williams gave £1,000 (£65,000 in today’s money) to the Great War Injured Beneficiary Fund. Williams died in 1924, and his royalties are still earning over £30,000 a year. Before Judge died, in 1938, he wrote a sequel called “It’s a Long Way No Longer”, the words of which were lost. It’s a pity, as it could well have been a fitting tribute to the ever-loved and much sung “It’s a Long Way to Tipperary”. **(Steve Osborn)**

**THE ALKHAM HISTORICAL RESEARCH GROUP** are planning to carry out a geophysical (Magnetometer) survey, probably mid-late September, at St Radigund’s Abbey having discussed the matter with the landowners. Small test pits (one-two days) are to be arranged at Chilton Farms central horse paddock, which follows a geophysical survey two years ago.



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Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Evensong 6.30pm	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11.00am
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	WWI service 4pm	Benefice Eucharist St. Laurence 10.00am	
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Worship Tog'r 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 10.00am		
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Benefice Eucharist 10.00 at St. Mary's		

**From The Vicarage** - Using a computer is like driving a car. Both offer opportunities to explore the world – but first you have to get them to start. For a while I taught computing, encouraging young people to learn how to drive computers so that they could use them to explore the world, rather than merely to amuse themselves. Too often they often settled for merely amusing themselves. Has technology made life better? You may well ask. E-mail, for instance, has caught on to the extent that in the USA some workers spend the equivalent of two working days each week just checking, writing and reading e-mails, slaves to a monster that once promised to make life easier! Easter continues through May, Christians recalling how God surprised Jesus' followers by raising Jesus to life, and again at Pentecost by sending his Holy Spirit upon them. In the New Testament Book of Acts Peter, on the Day of Pentecost, explains this to the crowds. It ends with the crowds asking Peter what they must do about it. He replies that they must repent, be baptised, and receive the Holy Spirit. Technology easily takes on a life of its own. It makes all kinds of things possible – and with it comes the temptation to just use technology for its own sake, rather than using it to make the world a better place. For Christians our world, filled as it is with technology, is the same one that Christ died for and in which his Spirit lives and in which God can still spring surprises. Nothing has ever been invented that can compete with repentance, baptism, and the gift of the Holy Spirit for power to change the world for the better.

**Brian Williams**

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**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. 250 September 2014**  
**Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council**

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**ALKHAM REMEMBERS** The week of commemorating those Alkham men who fell in the Great War, together with the hundreds of thousands of others who gave their lives, began with the tolling of the lone bell at St Anthony's. At the very hour, 11pm, when war was

declared exactly 100 years ago, a Commemorative Vigil was held at the church, of music, prayers and readings, so well organised by Geoff and Linda Gaskill, and attended by some 70 parishioners. An impressive display, arranged by Richard and Susannah Tapsell, of 16 white crosses was erected on raised ground at the entrance of the village, at Slip Lane, each one representing one of the Alkham fallen. On Saturday villagers turned out to lay their floral contributions onto the letters mowed into the grass of Vicarage Meadow by Paul Tapsell spelling out the words 'Lest We Forget'. This whole idea was that of Susannah, the result producing a dramatic effect when viewed from across the Village Green. In St Anthony's an exhibition of imaginative displays was held on the Saturday and Sunday, of beautiful floral arrangements representing, amongst others, Explosions and Peace. Also displayed were copies of WW1 poems laid out in a Poets' Corner, while elsewhere in the church, photographs of the Alkham Heroes, commemorative art, and flags were there for all to handle and appreciate. The art exhibition in the



North Chapel was an excellent example of our local artists led by Jo O'Shea. On Saturday evening in the Village Hall Den Barnard and Mark Robson presented an informative and moving series of talks, illustrated by projected images of historic photographs, recounting the build up to the First World War, its impact on the world and subsequent horrific events that have taken place despite it having been supposedly The War to End All Wars. The talks were supported by readings given of WW1 poems, and other powerful statements made by influential figures of the day. During the interval those present were able to view contemporary newspapers, photographs, and artefacts displayed in the hall. A biography of each of the Alkham 16 heroes was given concluding what had been a very moving experience for all. The Sunday church service concluded the week's imaginative and so well presented commemorative events for which every villager can be proud. Thanks and congratulations to all involved. **(Geoff Hillier)**

**WE WOULD** like to thank all those who gave their time, imagination and thoughts to the way that Alkham remembered the centenary of the outbreak of WW1. The forethought and planning of the different aspects covered was first class. **David Tapsell**

**FARMERS MARKET** – The Village Hall has been approached regarding a proposal to hold a Farmers Market in the hall and part of the car park on a Thursday morning starting from October 9<sup>th</sup>. To begin with it would be every two weeks but if successful it would be held weekly. We are informed that the produce will be local and varied and if everything goes to plan there will be full details in next month's Newsletter.

**ALKHAM CALENDAR** – We are producing a calendar entitled 'Houses of Alkham' which shows 12 different photos of houses around the parish taken by Stan Fowler. The photos for each month are A4 and there is an A4 calendar below, both in landscape form. It is currently at the printers but will be available shortly at a cost of £6. If you would like a calendar please contact the Newsletter (page 4 and above) or ring Val Fowler on 01304 827635 or Den Barnard on 01304 824845.

**LIVE THEATRE** – On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 7.30pm the Baroque Theatre Company are presenting 'The Haunting of Hill House' in Alkham Village Hall. Billed as being sinister and foreboding it begins with jovial informality but things then start to become eerie. The idea of the evening is to bring live entertainment to the village and at the last event we just covered our costs. Tickets costing £10 have been printed and are available from Geoff Hillier (01303 892878), Den Barnard (01304 824845), Sue Lees (01304 822661) or Brian Wimsett (01304 824969).

**COFFEE MORNING SATURDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER** - We are holding a coffee morning on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September from 10am until 12 noon in the Village hall. The coffee morning is in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. In addition to tea/ coffee and cake we hope to have a bring and buy stall, a tombola and a cake stall. If you are able to donate anything for the sale tables or bake a cake we would be very grateful and it would be lovely if you could come along and support this very important charity on the day. **Sue Ross** (01304 825736)

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**NOT ALL JAM AND JERUSALEM** – Belonging to the W.I. is an opportunity to create friendships and have fun, so why don't you ladies come and join us at our monthly meetings. All ages are welcome and it would be great to have more youngsters. Apart from the meetings we have enjoyable outings and get involved in national and local campaigns. The W.I. is a very important part of village life so if you fancy coming along to Alkham Village Hall on the 9<sup>th</sup> September and 14<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm to see what's it like, we would be very pleased to meet you.

**HARVEST SUPPER** – This year the Harvest Supper will be on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm in Alkham village hall. We will be serving cottage pie and vegetables followed by apple pie and ice cream. Please come and support this event and enjoy the evening with friends and neighbours. Tickets costing £6 must be purchased in advance to ensure available places. Please contact Anne Huggins on 824340.

**NEWSLETTER** – The financial year for the Newsletter ended in August. The revenue from adverts was £701 and the cost of printing the Newsletter per month was £38, petrol to deliver to delivers £1, and postage £13 making £624 for the year. The renewal of the web site [www.alkham.org](http://www.alkham.org) was £36. Therefore there was a surplus of £41 which remains in the Newsletter's account. If you'd like to see the accounts please contact me. **editor**

## FILM NIGHT

next showing in the village hall at 7.30pm

**Tuesday 30 September**

## LAST VEGAS

Starring Robert De Nero, Morgan Freeman,  
Michael Douglas and Kevin Kline

Please phone Geoff 01303 892878 or  
Brian on 824969 to book a ticket.

Tickets £4.50

**VILLAGE HALL** - There is now a book for recording comments regarding anything that you feel needs doing to the fabric of the building. It is kept in a drawer in the kitchen, near the fridge. Remarks can be anonymous and will be responded to on a regular basis.

**JUMBLE SALE** – There will a jumble sale in the village hall on the 13<sup>th</sup> September starting at 11.00am in aid of PCC funds.

**GARDEN TALK** - Our next gathering is on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September when we meet at "Countryside" off the Alkham Valley Road where Sue and Mike Ross are our hosts. We meet from 7.00p.m., an earlier time so as to take advantage of the views before the evening draws in. **Janet Adamson**

**APOSTROPHE** – Does Farmers Market have an apostrophe? Evidently it is a descriptive phrase, not a possessive phrase. A descriptive phrase means the word "farmers" is being treated as an adjective, not as a noun. In such cases, an adjective cannot possess, so it cannot be a possessive. The latter is from Google and it appears to be a minefield so for the present the Newsletter is sticking with no apostrophe. **editor**

**WOMEN'S INSTITUTE** – The talk by Veronica Ashby at the last meeting was very interesting. It was about Haddo Castle in Scotland. At the next meeting, 9<sup>th</sup> September, will be a talk by Patsy Baker about a 'Day in the Life of a Make Up Artist'. Hostesses – Debbie Griggs, Janet Gibbons and Sue Harman and Raffle – Barbara Palmer. **Sue Lees**

**APOLOGY** – The open letter in last month's Newsletter entitled 'Flooding of Alkham' was from the Chairman of the Alkham Village

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**ALKHAM HEROES** - The First World War was to make itself felt in the village only 41 days after it was declared when Charles (Charlie) Grainger was killed on September 14th. Charlie was the son of Richard (Insurance Agent) and Sarah Grainger of Pimlico, South Alkham.

Charlie was one of the 'Old Contemptibles', the original British Expeditionary Force, sent to France at the outbreak of The Great War. He served as a Private in the 1st Battalion, The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. Charlie has no known grave and is remembered with honour at the La Ferte-Sous-Jouarre Memorial, Seine-et-Marne, France. Eight days later the second villager was killed. Ernest Tupper was born in Alkham on January 21st 1884. In 1914 he was a Petty Officer Stoker in the Royal Navy serving on HMS Aboukir. H.M.S. Aboukir was one of three ships torpedoed by U-boat 9 on Tuesday, September 22nd 1914. Ernest died during this attack. Prior to enlisting in the Royal Navy, Ernest was employed as a labourer by the South Eastern & Chatham Railway Company. For more information on these men and the others killed in war please go to <http://www.alkham.org/heroes.htm> "We will remember them."

**Mark Robson**

**OZ on ZWEIG** – As the end-credits rolled up after Alkham Film Club's July showing of The Grand Budapest Hotel, I read that "the film was partly inspired by the works of Stefan Zweig." I've since discovered that the two Zweig works most responsible for Wes Anderson's script were (in English translation) [Beware of Pity](#) and [The Post Office Girl](#). Zweig was born in Vienna on 28 November 1881 into a wealthy middle-class and multilingual Jewish family. At Vienna University he studied philosophy and published his first collections of essays and poems. After gaining his doctorate, he moved into journalism, whilst still producing a stream of literary works throughout the 1900s. When World War I came in 1914, Zweig faced a dilemma; he was intensely patriotic, like many German and Austrian Jews at that time, yet rejected violence. He accepted work as an archivist at the Ministry of War, and remained a pacifist throughout his life. In 1920 Zweig married Friderike Maria von Winternitz and there followed two decades of prolific output when his work became popular worldwide except in the UK. In 1934 Hitler came to power, and Zweig took refuge in England. He and Friderike were divorced in 1938 and in the following year he married his secretary Lotte Altmann. In 1940, as German troops moved towards the Channel, the Zweigs moved again, to New York and then to the town of Petropolis in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Over the next two years, Zweig became overwhelmed by feelings of despair about humanity and its future. On 23 February 1942, the Zweigs died in a suicide pact. His farewell note described how in his life "...intellectual labour meant the purest joy and personal freedom the highest good on Earth." The Petropolis house is now a museum called [Casa Stefan Zweig](#). (Steve Osborn)

**ALKHAM VALLEY** – The works to construct the new pumping station at Standen to pump water to Paddlesworth rather than Folkestone are progressing well. However, you can't help thinking that two large signs warning of construction works and heavy plant crossing would be better than the odd and ineffective methods they have used to try and slow traffic.



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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	1	Parish Council meeting in the village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	2	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Tuesday	9	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	13	PCC Jumble Sale 11am in village hall
Monday	15	Dover and District Bird Club 7.30pm in village hall
Sunday	21	'Haunting of Hill House' in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	30	Film in village hall 7.30pm

**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

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Evensong 6.30pm	Songs of Praise 3.00 pm	Sung Eucharist 11am
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Together 11am	Pet Service village hall 4pm
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Benefice Eucharist 10am		Harvest Festival village hall 3.30pm
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Worship Tog'r 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9.30am

**FROM THE VICARAGE** - Last month we marked the centenary of the outbreak of World War I. At St Anthony's, Alkham, there was a very moving Lights Out service on 4th August, followed by other events held in the village over the following weekend. Fortunately for us, most can now only imagine what it must have been like to sit in a trench, praying for shells to fall somewhere else – but an eventful trip to the Holy Land during July gave me some idea of how it must have been. A cheap taster for clergy considering becoming group leaders, we sailed on the Sea of Galilee, visited the places where Jesus lived and taught, the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, and more. Then we came to Jerusalem. On arrival we took our bags to our hotel rooms. As we admired the view of the ancient city wall from our third floor window, a siren began to wail. Quite possibly a rocket fired from Gaza was about to strike somewhere near us. We scanned the horizon – then realised that the window was not the place to be if anything did explode nearby. Nobody had told us what to do. We ran into the corridor – now what? What about going downstairs? Would we make it before the rocket landed? In the end we could only wait – and, mercifully, nothing happened. So that's my experience of being under fire. It's absolutely nothing compared with what those in the trenches went through – or what others around our world are going through today. If you pray, please pray for them. **Brian Williams**

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## Farmers Market

**START DATE 16<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER** in Alkham Village Hall and car park. The organiser has signed up with the Kent Farmers Market Association so goods will produced in Kent and stalls include: Cottage Loaf, Margate Smokehouse, Home cooked by Hanna, Lilly's Cake Emporium, Butter Box, Alkham Valley Preserves, Beth's Mogador, Marsh Produce Ltd, Kentish Pieman, Sandhya's Kitchen, Heathmor Jewellery, and many more. The market will open at 10am and continue to 1pm and in the future the market will be held on the first and third Thursday of the month.



**COMMEMORATION** – To remember the heroes of Alkham a cross is being mounted on the wall at the bottom of Slip Lane 100 years from the day that they died in WW1. The first is Charlie Grainger who died on 14<sup>th</sup> September and eventually there will be 16 crosses, which were made by Richard Tapsell.

**FLOODING** – KCC has received emergency funding from the Government to deal with problems arising from last winter's flooding. Some of this money has been allocated for Alkham to replace the two culverts that cross the dyke in front of Valley Cottages (The latter are houses on the Folkestone side of Alkham as you leave the village). The dyke will also be improved in that location and the adjacent valley road will be resurfaced. It is accepted that funding is limited but these works will increase the speed of the water in the dyke which culverts downstream will have difficulty in managing. KCC has said that if any funding is left at the end of the financial year then works to the culvert at the bottom of Short Lane will be treated as a priority. This of course leaves Hogbrook Lane by the village hall, where the culvert will have difficulty in managing the flow. The suggestion of a detaining pond to the west of Meggett Lane was rejected out of hand by the authorities as they consider that the land in that area is like a sponge and if a bund was constructed the water would just come out of the ground further along. Keeping to the simplistic analogy a better description maybe a bucket which fills up and overflows. The first bucket is at Standen/Drellingore and when it gets full it overflows. There are other buckets, one being on the village green, which also overflows. It's possible that if a dam was built round the bucket the water level would continue to rise. There are fissures in the chalk so some water may go sideways but, fairly obviously, it needs expert opinion rather than conjecture. **editor**

**MINUTES** – The minutes of the Flood meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> July in Alkham Village Hall at which the Environment Agency, Southern Water, KCC and the Parish Council attended are now on the Alkham web site [www.alkham.org](http://www.alkham.org). The minutes of the Parish Council meetings from March 2012 to July 2014 are also on the web site.



**CALENDAR** – The Alkham calendar is currently being printed. The picture above shows Hockley Sole, which is one of the 12 houses in Alkham which are featured. The picture and calendar are both A4 in size and costs £6. To buy a calendar please contact the Newsletter (page 4 and above) or ring Val Fowler on 01304 827635 or Den Barnard on 01304 824845.

### FILM NIGHT

next showing in the village hall at 7.30pm

**Tuesday 28 October**

**Nothing but the best**

This 1964 black comedy has just been released to DVD and stars Alan Bates, Millicent Martin and Denholm Eliot  
Please phone Geoff 01303 892878 or  
Brian on 824969 to book a ticket.  
Tickets £4.50

**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR** – The District Council elections will be held in May next year. If you'd like to find out more about being a councillor, DDC are holding a Prospective Councillor evening on the 6<sup>th</sup> November. To book a place and get an information pack phone 01304 872303/4/5 or email [democraticservices@dover.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@dover.gov.uk)

**SEWAGE PROBLEMS** – During the flooding of Alkham last winter several properties had problems with sewage blockage. Please would those who were affected contact the Parish Clerk so that a register can be made, which will be submitted to Southern Water so they can see the extent of the problem. Please either write to The Parish Clerk, 6 Newlyns Meadow, Alkham, Dover CT15 7QJ or email [alkham.pc@outlook.com](mailto:alkham.pc@outlook.com).

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**BERTRAND FREDRIC RICK DUCATEL** formerly known as 'The Midnight Coalman' passed away after a courageous battle with cancer on the 5<sup>th</sup> September aged 71 years. Much loved partner to Valerie and father to Isobel and father-in-law to Peter and a much loved grand'dad and great grand'dad. He was born and bred in Ewell Minnis and was well known for milk churns and coal. He even delivered coal at midnight so he was known throughout the village as the 'Midnight Coalman'. He wired most of the valve radios and televisions at Ewell Minnis when electricity came in. He also used to play in the band called 'The good old days' and the love of his life was his many ballroom classes with Valerie. He always decked his coal lorry all over for the village and the W.I. of which he has many photographs of the carnival events with the W.I. As we lose our older generation we lose all the wonderful characters of the village and he was certainly well known and loved. He will be dancing in heaven, Angle Rick. 250 people from his 5 dance classes attended his farewell at Hawkinge, plus family and friends from the Minnis. It would be nice to hear from anyone in the village, through the Newsletter, of events they remember of him.

**SAM GORDON** – It is sad to report the passing of Sam Gordon who lived for some years in Evergreen on Slip Lane. He and his wife Kathleen moved to Folkestone but continued to keep in touch with Alkham through the Newsletter. Sam was a bit of character and will be missed by all who knew him.

**DEVELOPMENT** of Pimlico Way Vineyard will result in footpaths around the field perimeters which responsible members of the public will be allowed to walk and maybe horse ride. These footpaths could also be used for mountain biking. It is not my intention to make a commercial enterprise from mountain biking, and will not charge for individual access but it is my way of encouraging responsible public access to the countryside. Am I being naive? Can my neighbours, especially farmers, see any downside to this idea? If not, are there any mountain bike enthusiasts able to advise me how to do it? Please comment to [Martin@Pimlico-Way.co.uk](mailto:Martin@Pimlico-Way.co.uk) or 07971 22 22 26. **Martin Scherer**

**SHETLAND LAMB** - Peter and Isabelle Smith have local Shetland lamb for sale this autumn. Shetland sheep are a small native breed of hardy sheep raised on grass that produce lean succulent meat full of flavour. Lamb and hogget available. Hogget is between one and two years old and even more flavourful than lamb. It can be cooked as lamb or more slowly. Contact Peter on 07711 648 255.

**HARVEST SUPPER** – This year the Harvest Supper will be on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm in Alkham village hall. We will be serving cottage pie and vegetables followed by apple pie and cream. Please come and support this event and enjoy the evening with friends and neighbours. Tickets costing £6 must be purchased in advance to ensure available places. Please contact Anne Huggins on 824340.

**GARDEN TALK** - After a summer visiting a variety of local gardens, and enjoying much good hospitality, we do not let the darker evenings deter our enthusiasm. We next meet on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October at Burley Cottage, Ewell Minnis from 7.30p.m. when our hosts are Barbara and Neil Williams. Plenty of parking - directions given if needed. **Janet Adamson 01303 893413**

**JUMBLE SALE** – Unfortunately the September one was cancelled, but the next positive one will be Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October 11am

**ART CLASS** – From the 21<sup>st</sup> October and then on the third Tuesday of each month the Art Class are going to display their work for people to buy in the village hall from 10.00 to 12.30. If you'd like to buy a painting then please come along.

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**ALKHAM HEROES UPDATE** - Research on the Alkham Heroes has focused on those whose names are on the village war memorial in an effort to ensure their memories are kept alive. A constant thought has been: 'How many men went to war from the village and did any survive?' Until last week that was unanswered but an email arrived with the following message: "Hi. My grandfather was Edward Gibbens. His regimental employment was from May 1915 to Feb 1919. He was a Brigade runner in the Queens Royal West Surreys and on his discharge papers it states that "He won and richly deserved the Military Medal on September 20<sup>th</sup> 1917 at Messines". When asked how or why he won his medal he always said "For saving the Officer's dog!" He and my grandma lived at Chalksole Green when I was a child and I believe his family were at Standen Terrace during WW1. I thought this might be of interest. I lived in Alkham from 1953 to 1973 when I married and love anything to do with Alkham's past. Hope he qualifies as an Alkham hero. Regards. Christine Carruthers nee Prescott". Edward was being very modest about his Military Medal. The Forces War Records website says: "The military decoration was awarded to E Gibbens for acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire or for individual or associated acts of bravery which were insufficient to merit the Distinguished Conduct Medal" though it does not give the specifics. The London Gazette reported the award on 30th October 1917. It is probable that, on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 1917, Edward was involved in the Third Battle of Ypres, better known as Passchendaele. Edward was indeed an Alkham Hero. If anyone has any information on anyone who died in or survived the wars please contact me [mark.robson@btinternet.com](mailto:mark.robson@btinternet.com) or Brian on [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com).

**Mark Robson**

**OZ on SUPERMOON** – Driving home across Romney Marsh one evening last month, we gradually became aware of the moon, smiling hugely and flooding the fields with light. It was the latest example of a 'supermoon', an astrological term describing the coincidence of a full or new moon with its closest approach to Earth, causing the moon to appear much larger than normal. To describe this phenomenon astronomers use the term 'perigee-syzygy', where 'perigee' is the point where the moon is closest to Earth, and 'syzygy' is the alignment of Earth, moon and sun in a straight line, which is when full and new moons occur. This explains the popularity of the word 'supermoon', used by astrologers since 1979. The moon that we saw over Romney Marsh on 8th September was also a 'Harvest Moon', defined as the full moon in the Northern Hemisphere that falls closest to the autumnal equinox on 22 September, and named after the extra time it gave to farmers to harvest their crops. The strange beauty of these moons has long been a popular theme in poetry, and my favourite is The Harvest Moon by Ted Hughes, which starts: "The flame-red moon, the harvest moon, / Rolls along the hills, gently bouncing, / A vast balloon, / Till it takes off, and sinks upward / To lie on the bottom of the sky, like a gold doubloon. / The harvest moon has come, / Booming softly through heaven, like a bassoon. / And the earth replies all night, like a deep drum." In later lines he describes how cows and sheep "stare up at her petrified, while she swells / Filling heaven" and then how "gold fields of stiff wheat / Cry 'We are ripe, reap us!' " It's a lovely poem. Check it out on the internet – you'll never regret it. **(Steve Osborn)**

**ALKHAM W.I.** was held on 9th September with three new ladies coming to see how interested they are in the W.I. Unfortunately the Speaker was absent but the advantage was that after the Agenda was discussed, people could chat with each other. 14th October will be the next meeting and the Speaker, Colin Breed will give a talk about "The Zeebrugge Ferry Disaster" a very tragic event. Once again visitors are invited – do please come, 7.30pm – **Susan Lees**





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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**

Tuesday	7	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Monday	13	Harvest Supper in village hall 7.30pm – see page 2
Tuesday	14	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	18	W.I. Jumble Sale 11am in village hall
Monday	20	Dover and District Bird Club 7.30pm in village hall
Tuesday	28	Film Night in village hall 7.30pm – see page 1

**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

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship Together 11am	
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Worship Tog'r 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9:30am
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 10:00am		

**FROM THE VICARAGE** - I was approached recently by someone who asked me: "What is the Church doing about Muslims?" He went on: churches are closing, mosques replacing them; the Archbishop of Canterbury says nothing; look at what's happening in the world; something should be done. Taken aback at first, I pointed out that churches only usually close once they run out of money, that actually the Archbishop has had plenty to say, and that the minority responsible for the horrors that have made headlines recently are hardly representative of the 23% of the world's population who belong to its second largest religion. As for what should be done, he couldn't expect a vicar to go along with what he suggested. The Crusaders tried that centuries ago, and it did nobody any good. I heard a powerful sermon from the Bishop of Jerusalem when I visited the Holy Land in July. As missiles fell on Gaza, he thundered: Jesus clearly expects a harvest from his followers – peace, not war; love, not hatred. I would like to have told our friend that Jesus taught his followers to love their enemies and pray for those that hate them – and stuck with the idea even as he was nailed to the cross. Treat those who we think of as our enemies with love, and they stop being our enemies – that's the logic. Perhaps not so easy when we are angry and anxious about what we read in the newspapers. Peace, not war; love, not hatred. More people in our world should try it. **Brian Williams**

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**W.I. secretary** – Janet Barrow 829585  
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# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett  
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**No. 251 November 2014**  
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**THE HAUNTING**  
There was an audience of 72 people for 'The Haunting of Hill House' by the Baroque Theatre Co. in Alkham Village Hall on the 21<sup>st</sup> September. The play was well performed

and most people enjoyed it. We intend to support this travelling theatre company again and they will therefore be staging:

**SHERLOCK HOLMES and the case of the Christmas carol** in Alkham Village Hall on the 16<sup>th</sup> November. To book a ticket please contact Geoff Hillier on 01303 892878 or Brian on 824969. The show is suitable for ages 8 and upwards.

**FARMERS MARKET** – The first Farmers Market in Alkham Village Hall on the 16<sup>th</sup> October was a great success with 15 stalls selling fresh produce and sundry items. Over 100 people came along and the next Farmers Market will be on the 6<sup>th</sup> November.

**THE DYKE** – A level survey was carried out along the dyke from the back of the village hall to a point east of Short Lane and showed that the dyke is substantially flat over this length. However, just to the east of Short Lane the dyke virtually disappears because of a build-up of earth and other matter. Lowering the dyke across the green would be possible but behind Glebelands the dyke has trees adjacent to it and further along increasing the size would be very difficult. If Hogbrook culvert was power jetted and the culvert at Short Lane was replaced with a bigger one, plus unblocking the dyke to the east, the flow of water would be significantly improved.

**CHARITY FLY IN AT GREENWOOD FARM** - John and Anne Huggins had 24 planes fly in from various air strips in the area for a barbecue on 27<sup>th</sup> September. They raised £615 which



was donated to Canterbury Hospital renal unit. Everyone said they enjoyed it so much that they hope it will be an annual event.

**HARVEST SUPPER** - Thank you to everyone who helped and supported the evening. The amount raised was £684 which will go towards the kitchen and toilet in Alkham church. **Anne Huggins**

**TEMPLE EWELL CEP** – For prospective parents of children starting school in September 2015 come to Temple Ewell CEP on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November from 9.30am to 11.30am and meet the staff and children of our lovely village school.

**ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY** - The Annual General Meeting of the Alkham Valley Society will take place in the Alkham Village Hall on Tuesday 18 November at 7.30 pm. Everyone is welcome. There will be the customary election of a new Committee and Chairman and report on the year's proceedings. Afterwards we will again have supper at The Fox in Temple Ewell. This year however we will take advantage of their Curry Night which costs £5 a head. Those who do not want curry can select from the main menu. It is a chance for people to meet and talk. Those interested please contact the Secretary on 01304 821641. **Joanna Walker (Sec)**

**COFFEE MORNING** - I would like to thank everyone who supported our coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Support. Altogether we raised £500 which is an amazing amount to be able to send to this important charity. Thank you Sue Ross

## FILM NIGHT

next showing in the village hall at 7.30pm

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November**

**ONCE MORE**

Morgan Freeman and Virginia Madsen

Please phone Geoff 01303 892878 or

Brian on 824969 to book a ticket.

Tickets £4.50

**WHO'S A PRETTY BOY?** The photo was



taken by Peter Smith, who lives at Chalksole, of a robin sitting on their car door admiring himself in the wing mirror.

**ROMAN VILLA** - Keith Parfitt of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust will be giving a talk on the Roman Villa excavation at Folkestone, for the White Cliffs Metal Detecting Club, at Alkham Village Hall on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 7.45pm. Everyone is welcome to come along and entry is £2.00 per person.

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**CONGRATULATIONS** - Chloe Huggins, who lives in Alkham, is a very keen swimmer and goes regularly to the Folkestone Sports Centre. The Swimming Club's club champion-ships took place in July and at the presentation of awards in September she received medals for coming first in the girls 11 years old 50m butterfly; third in girls 11 years old 100m freestyle; third in girls 11 years old 400m freestyle; third in girls 11 years old 100m IM;

third in girls 11 years 400m IM and third in the girls 11 years 100m butterfly (IM is individual medley). Many congratulations to Chloe for all her hard work and look forward to hearing more in the future.

**CHALKSOLE VINEYARD** - A big thank you to everyone who helped us pick the 2014 crop of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier. We were blessed with wonderful sunny weather; a great experience. The grapes were very good quality and promise to make excellent wine; 2014 vintage should be a great year. Our Chalksole Estate Reserve is a fantastic sparkling wine made and blended for us by Chapel Down of Tenterden and is only available for sale through The Marquis either by bottle or by case – see our advert on the back page.

**PATSY'S BLACKBERRY AND APPLE CRUMBLE!** Who dun it? Who stole the pie? Patsy's mum, Pam, was very pleased when she bid for a large blackberry and apple crumble at the Harvest Supper; it would, Pam thought, be lovely for her busy daughter to have a dessert already made. Sarah told Pam that she made it so when someone later picked it up, Sarah said 'that's Pam'. 'She's left' was the reply from the person with itchy fingers but Pam was in the kitchen and on returning Sarah told her the story. An announcement was made there and then asking about its whereabouts and this was repeated at W.I. the following night, but no one owned up. Someone else obviously fancied it and had no intention of giving it up. I wonder who it was? **Pam Sayers**

**FEEDBACK WW1** – Lucy Matcham, who lives in Glebelands, said that her father fought in and survived WW1. His name was William James Howarth and he was born in 1889 and lived in Ewell Minnis. He enlisted in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 1913 and fought in France and was awarded numerous medals one of which was the Victory War Medal 1914-1919.

**BOOK CLUB** for November - The Book Club meeting for November will be on Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> at the home of Jo Walker, The Old Rectory Slip Lane - Tel 821641, Starting at 7.30pm. The book for discussion is The Innocent by David Baldacci. For more details of the Alkham Book Club contact Jane Aslett 824729

**GARDEN TALK** - After lots of garden-related discussions at our recent meeting, we now are thinking ahead to the festive season. Our next meeting will be on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 'Bramhall', Alkham Valley Road where Susannah and Richard Tapsell will be hosting our Christmas meal at 7.30p.m. Numbers are needed in advance, and offers of food - please contact Janet Adamson (01303 893413) by 1st December if you wish to join us.

**DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY** will present a concert in Dover Town Hall at 7.30 pm on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, featuring a new setting of the Magnificat. Tickets £12 (Students £6) are available from Dover Tourist Information Centre, Dover Museum, members of the society, or by calling 01304 820149 and at the door. **Steve Osborn**

**ALKHAM W.I.** - There was an excellent talk given by Colin Breed about the Disaster of the Zeebrugge Ferry when it sank and as we know people lost their lives. 11<sup>th</sup> November the AGM will have discussions and a game, but no speaker. Hostesses - Lucy McKenzie,

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**OZ on WHISTLING** – A friend mentioned one of his neighbours, who often whistles and always seems happy and healthy, and asked “Does whistling have health benefits and, if so, why don't people whistle so much now as they used to?” My partner and I spend a lot of time in our retirement helping people of all ages, particularly the elderly, take up music, especially singing, partly for the sheer pleasure of it, and also for the undoubted mental and physical benefits it brings. Research to demonstrate this has taken place worldwide, including locally at the Sidney de Haan Research Centre at Canterbury Christ Church University. It hadn't occurred to us until our friend's question that whistling might have similar properties, and so we were pleased to discover that whistling is indeed advocated world-wide by medical researchers. In addition to raising mood and reducing stress, the deep diaphragmatic breathing of whistling directly aids the heart and lungs, by exercising them and importing more oxygen, and indirectly benefits the other internal organs and circulation. In particular, the 'puckered lips position' necessary to whistle is similar to that used in 'purse-lipped breathing', a therapy prescribed sometimes in dealing with chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD). As for the second part of the question, it's true that whistling is not heard so much these days, and I suggest that the reason is the popularity of cheap portable digital devices, often permanently plugged into the ear. In former times, whistling was very much part of popular culture, ranging from the 'whistle while you work' phenomenon to music-hall entertainers such as Ronnie Ronalde. Today, workplaces are full of artificial noise from security alarms, PA systems, and the like, and much popular music is heavily electronic. Perhaps nowadays we all need a little whistling therapy. **Steve Osborn**

**ALKHAM VALLEY HISTORICAL RESEARCH GROUP**

During 2007-8 many readers may remember the Bronze Age (BA) and Anglo-Saxon (A/S) cemeteries discovered by the author near Wolverton on the ridge. Our initial thoughts from the A/S artefacts recovered from the double-tiered weapons burial are now in a case at Dover Museum for public and school educational use. These finds date to the 6th & 7th centuries and the cemetery was assigned to this date. However recent C14 (carbon dating), financed from donations mainly from the Alkham Valley residence, has allowed the (AVHRG) to have four samples tested. To our surprise, the results from other burials provided a date range from 353 AD to 424 AD towards the end of Roman rule in Britain. The extent of this cemetery would not be large enough for general use over a 400 year period and therefore may allude to a private place of interment by successive generations of the same landowner's family and perhaps farm labours. Along with the unique burials now in the case at Dover, the site has the potential to be the only private cemetery in use for a long period to be found in this region of Kent? Another first for Alkham. The former B/A burial barrow MII located on the ridge has been dated to 1800BC however, up until now we have no date for MI. A C14 sample from a destroyed grave on MI has since revealed a date of 1463BC. The AVHRG has now run out of funds to carry out further date tests and Isotope analysis. Isotope could tell us where these people lived when children whether in this area or the continent! Unfortunately, our funding relies mainly on local support and we appeal to you for assistance to continue this research. We need around £3,000. Anyone wishing to donate any amount to the group are kindly asked to send donations to (The Alkham Valley Historical Research Group) via Susan Lees, Forstal Cottage, Alkham, Dover, CT15 7DE. We will list the supporters of the project and keep you updated with the running total and new research information. Thank you in advance for your kind support. **Vince Burrows** [www.alkhamarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.alkhamarchaeology.co.uk)



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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
Thursday	First and third Thursday Farmers Market in VH from 10am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

### Other events in the village

Monday	3	Parish Council 7.30pm meeting in village hall; all welcome
Tuesday	4	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	8	SEKAS in village hall in the evening
Tuesday	11	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Sunday	16	Baroque Theatre in village hall 7.30pm – see page 1
Monday	20	Dover and District Bird Club 7.30pm in village hall
Tuesday	18	Alkham Valley Society AGM in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	25	Film Night 7.30pm in village hall – see page 1
Saturday	29	Beekeepers in village hall 2pm

### 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

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Services 10.15am and Capel Baptist's 10.55am		
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Worship Tog'r 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9:30am
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Benefice Eucharist at Capel 10.00am		
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Benefice Eucharist St. Mary's Capel 10:00am		

**FROM THE VICARAGE** - One morning recently the telephone rang early. A couple of teachers at one of the schools I work at had rung in to say that they were sick. Could I work in school that day? That morning I discovered that the place had been infested with a cold bug, which was why they had called me in. Needless to say, a couple of days later I awoke with a tell-tale tickle at the back of my throat. This turned out to be no ordinary snuffle, but the full works. I had a list of jobs to do, and I soon found myself fretting about all the things I would have been doing if I hadn't been sitting around nursing a heavy cold. It actually seemed strange not to be rushing off and doing this and that. But then, checking my emails, I found one from another parish priest. It ended, "I hope you're not too busy." Priests are supposed to pray – it's one of the things we have to promise to do. Discussing that with my friend a while ago made me realise that there are some days when, by spending the day in a school and the evening in a meeting, my prayers get neglected – too busy, as he pointed out, to keep my promises. Rabbi Lionel Blue once suggested that prayer is like a cigarette – it allows you to pause, but without the health risks. In a strange way having a heavy cold, I've been reminded, has a similar effect. Not only has it made me pause, but it has also taught me how easily being busy becomes a habit – and not necessarily a good one. Whatever you're doing this month, I hope that you avoid the bugs – and that you're not too busy... **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** – Janet Barrow 829585

**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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Telephone 01304 824969

**No. 252 December 2014**  
Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

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**A 60'S/ ROCK'N'ROLL EVENING** on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December in the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £7.50 and can be paid for on the night; bring your own refreshments. Alkham's very own Keith Owens and Barry Spicer together with Keith's band "Somethin' Else" will be playing music of the 60's. Just listen or dance to a live rock'n'roll band playing those old favourites featuring music made famous by the likes of Eddie Cochran, Chuck Berry, The Shadows, Eric Clapton, The Beatles and many more. Two hours of that foot tapping, hand clapping music of yesteryear; a great evening of nostalgia. Don't miss it! **Geoff Hillier.**

**CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS** - The lights will be switched on at 4.45pm on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Father Christmas will be there and we will have a few carols before moving to the Marquis where once again we have been invited for mulled wine and mince pies.



**Den Barnard**

**THE ANNUAL QUIZ** will be on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February in the village hall starting at 7.30pm. As usual it will be for tables of up to 8 people and the cost will be £5 per person, which includes some food at the interval. To book a table please contact Brian on 01304 824969 or email [brianwimsett@hotmail.com](mailto:brianwimsett@hotmail.com).

**THE ALKHAM CALENDAR** has finally arrived from the printers so if you'd like a calendar showing the houses of Alkham please ring 01304 824969. It costs £6.



## SHERLOCK HOLMES

The Baroque Theatre company performed a play based on Sherlock Holmes at Christmas in the village hall on the 16<sup>th</sup> November. It was one of their best with the actors playing multiple parts and seemed to be enjoyed by all who came along.

**FLOOD WARDEN** – Den Barnard has agreed to be the flood warden for Alkham and is the first point of call if you have any issues to raise regarding the dyke or any other matters associated with flooding. He has recently been on a Flood Warden course and can be contacted by phoning 01304 824845 or emailing [denbarnard@yahoo.com](mailto:denbarnard@yahoo.com)

**VALLEY COTTAGES** – The replacement of the bridges in front of Valley Cottages to the west of the village is still going ahead. As some of the structures require a splayed entrance they are currently being designed, which accounts for the delay. Trees have been removed from the dyke in this area to improve the flow but it was noted that the shredded timber had been left in the dyke.

**PUMPING STATION** – There has been a slight delay to the new pumping station at Lower Standen due to unforeseen ground conditions and completion is expected by spring 2015.

**DYKE** – Following the walk-through with various bodies associated with the flooding, KCC have agreed, as a one off, to clear the dyke. This will be from Hogbrook Lane, by the village hall, across the village green and down to Short Lane where they will also remove the blockage to the west.

**PHONE BOX** – The phone box in Ewell Minnis at the top of Wolverton Hill is not working and has also been vandalised with at least 7 panes being broken. The cost of maintaining this phone box is being met by Philip Young, who used to live at the Minnis, and the fault has been reported to BT.



## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

**St. Anthony's Alkham**

**Sunday 21st December**

Nine lessons and carols 6.30pm

**Wednesday 24th December**

Blessing of the Crib 4.00pm

Midnight Mass 11.30pm

A Warm Welcome awaits you and we wish you a Very Happy Christmas

**AT THE CHRISTMAS FARMERS MARKET** on the 18<sup>th</sup> December in the village hall there will be carols, free mince pies and mulled wine. All the usual stalls will be there plus tea, coffee and soup will also be on sale. The Market is organised by Beth Topp and profits are going to three charities which are: Breast Cancer, Macmillan and Lion Aid. Please come along and support this worthwhile venture.



**THE VILLAGE HALL** central heating is still not working properly. We are doing everything we can to get it fixed.

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**WORDS OF WISDOM** - 'The word 'genius' isn't applicable in football. A genius is a guy like Norman Einstein.' - Joe Theisman, NFL sports analyst. 'Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country,' - Mayor Marion Barry, Washington, DC. **JH**

**ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY** - The AGM was held on 18 November and was well attended though the weather was against us. Members of the 2015 Committee remain the same with the addition, in place of Anthony Barrier, Richard O'Rorke who was warmly welcomed, while Anthony was thanked for his input. During the meeting Pam Sayers was presented with the Memorial Scroll for Maurice Sayers which will be hung in the village hall. Then it was on to The Fox for what turned out to be a most enjoyable curry night, pub quiz included which we think all enjoyed. A reminder that the next Committee meeting is on 15 January at Evergreen, Slip Lane at 8pm. And the Christmas Walk will take place 27 Dec at 10.30am from the Village Hall. **Joanna Walker (Sec)**

**ALKHAM W.I.** - This November was the AGM Meeting with no speaker needed. However, the two Debbie's brought a big bag of presents, which each member dug into, each finding a lovely prize, after which was a happy quiz. Next month on 9<sup>th</sup> December, will be a meal out to celebrate Christmas - **Susan Lees**



**GARDEN TALK** - Preparations are well under way for our Christmas celebration on Friday 12th December at 7.30p.m. This will be at 'Bramhall' in Alkham Valley Road where Susannah & Richard Tapsell will be welcoming us. Please confirm your attendance (and food contributions) to Janet Adamson by 1st December (01303 893413)



**ARTISAN NURSERY** will be selling Christmas trees again this year from 29<sup>th</sup> November. See their advert at the bottom of page 3.

**HEDGE AND BUSH TRIMMING** – A local resident has asked if something could go in the Newsletter about trimming hedges and bushes. Before carrying out any work to trim, cut, coppice or lay a hedge, you must check for nesting birds. These are most likely to be found in the main nesting period which is from 1 March to 31 July, as a general guide. If nesting birds are present, you must not undertake any work which might harm the birds or destroy their nests as you could be prosecuted under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

**POPPY APPEAL 2014** – I would like to thank Alkham for giving so generously to the poppy appeal this year. Altogether a grand total of £545.29 was collected, and this is put to good use by the British Legion. Thanks must also go to those who helped with collecting, Shirley, Helen, Janet, Larry and Sue, and to the businesses that had collection boxes – Alkhamhurst Kennels, Alkham Garden Centre and Tea Rooms. **Rachel Fountain**

**PLAY EQUIPMENT** – Many thanks go to Larry Lambourne for carrying out works to the children's play equipment on the village green. The swings have been repainted and the shackles replaced together with repairs to the mats and works have been done to the slide on the other side of the green.

**SPEEDING** – Comment was made about the speed of the traffic through the village at a recent Parish Council meeting. It was thought that the only deterrent was speed checks and the Police are going to be asked to do one.

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**ALKHAM HEROES** - I was recently contacted by John Fagg, nephew of Louis Fagg whose name is on the Village War Memorial. John revealed some interesting facts about Louis including the spelling of his name as well as his time in service leading up to his death. John also sent a photo which accompanies this article. It is gratifying to get such information as it fills the gaps, corrects suppositions and, with a photo, makes a powerful sense of connection to the individual. The updated information can be

read at the Heroes section of the village website. Many thanks, John. There are still 13 of the 22 men for whom we have no photograph so if anyone reading has any connection to these men or their families please contact either Brian or me. "We will remember them". **Mark Robson** ([mark.robson@btinternet.com](mailto:mark.robson@btinternet.com))

**OZ on TRUCE** – In December 2004 I wrote about Bruce Bairnsfather, the Royal Warwickshire Regiment lieutenant and war cartoonist, who participated in the famous 'Christmas Truce', when on Christmas Eve 1914, British and German soldiers silenced their guns, collected their dead, and spent Christmas exchanging food, drink, tobacco and songs. Ten years on, it is the centenary of that truce and a good time to ponder on how it came about and what it meant. It was not the first unofficial truce ever, either at Christmas or any other time. Such events have been recorded for centuries, from the Anglo-French wars, the Napoleonic wars, the American Civil War and War of Independence, the Crimean War and the Boer War, in fact whenever combatants were forced into close proximity and got to know each other. That was certainly so in December 1914; some trenches were as little as 5 to 10 yards apart, enabling troops to hear the enemy talking. According to Tony Ashworth, in his book "Trench Warfare 1914-1918", this gave rise to the 'Live and let Live' principle, whereby soldiers, unless instructed, didn't open fire unless the enemy did so. Furthermore, neither side opened fire at important times, such as breakfast and dinner. With the two sides sharing a common culture and religion it was only a short step to a full-blown truce on Christmas Day 1914. Bairnsfather described how at St-Yvon the Germans decorated Christmas trees and sang carols, the British responded, and soon the combatants exchanged tobacco, spirits, sausages and chocolate, sang and hugged, and played football in no man's land. It all had to end; by New Year fighting had recommenced, ordered by the rival military authorities, who were noisily outraged, but quietly lenient, as their trenches had been strengthened and their troops reinvigorated during the truce.

**Steve Osborn**



**DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY** will lead the singing in 'Come Carolling', the Christians Together in Dover carol concert, in Dover Town Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December. The charity appeal will be on behalf of WASPFA (Whitfield Aspen School Celebration Garden Project). Tickets at £1.50 (children 50p) are now available from Carrol Moore on 01304 820150, or can be reserved by emailing [comecarolling@outlook.com](mailto:comecarolling@outlook.com) and leaving your name and number of tickets required. You will receive a confirmation email which you bring with you on the night. **Steve Osborn**



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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
Thursday	First and third Thursday Farmers Market in VH from 10am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

### Other events in the village

Monday	1	Parish Council 7.30pm
Tuesday	2	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	6	SEKAS in village hall in the evening
Tuesday	9	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	13	Rock & roll evening – see page 1
Monday	15	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm

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

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Carols 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Together 11am	Carols 5pm V Hall
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	Carols 6.30pm		Eucharist 9:30am
Christmas Eve	Crib service 4pm Midnight Mass 11.30	Crib Service 2.30pm Midnight Mass 11.30pm	
Christmas Day	Benefice Eucharist at Hougham 9.30am		
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Benefice Eucharist St. Mary's Capel 10:00am		

**FROM THE VICARAGE** - Do you ever find that you're too busy to stop, even for a moment? At Capel on Remembrance Sunday, the congregations of St Radigund's and Capel Baptist Church gathered in front of the memorial in Lancaster Avenue. We read the names of The Fallen, and laid a wreath. Then we honoured their memory by keeping the silence. Then it happened. The silence was shattered by the impatient revving of an engine. I looked up to see a white van mounting the pavement, attempting to advance past the ranks. At once one of our troops engaged the enemy, and started remonstrating with the driver. However, having just committed ourselves before God to work for Peace on Earth we now had to practice it. I began the prayer commending The Fallen into God's keeping. Would our friend stop what he was doing, just for a moment? No - he was evidently on a mission of his own, and went on his way. Now Christmas looms. I'm sure that the chances of being run down by a supermarket trolley increase dramatically during December. You know how it is – preparing for the Season of Goodwill so easily leaves people rushing around, stressed and with no time to spare. But here's a thought - read the Christmas story, and you'll notice that when the angels told the shepherds about Jesus' birth, they weren't so busy watching their flocks by night that they couldn't stop for a moment, and go and look. Otherwise they might have been missed the whole thing. So I hope that you find time to stop, and have a Happy Christmas – and a Peaceful New Year. **Brian Williams**

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CANINE BEAUTICIANS, dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House Ewell Minnis - 822902  
KENNELS AND CATTERY, Canine Hydro-therapy and Pet Shop Wolverton 01304 822420  
R CUNNINGHAM - Flat and pitched roof specialist Alkham – 01304 821042 or 07725402939  
SIMON PRICE Part P electricians and data installers, South Alkham - 01303 252764

**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** – Janet Barrow 829585

**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