

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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The Old Post Office
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Telephone 01304 824969

No. 253 January 2015
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CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS

There was a good turn-out for the switching on of the lights on the Alkham Christmas tree. About 50 adults and children gathered round the tree at the top of the village green and sang carols. At 5pm seven year old Ezara Broadley, seen in the photo, pushed the magic plunger and the tree lights were illuminated to a great cheer. Shortly afterwards

Father Christmas arrived, having parked his sleigh by the cricket hut, and gave sweets to all the children. The tree, which cost £130, was paid for by the Alkham Fund and installed by Den Barnard who has done a terrific job. Thanks must go to Steve Comfort who arranged for Santa to be there.

ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE Many thanks once again to Bill at Alkham Garden Nursery for providing such a splendid tree. Much appreciated.

Irene Barnard



ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY CHRISTMAS WALK 27 DECEMBER

2014 - Numbers of people have offered their apologies for not being able to attend the walk this year for various (good) reasons. If, therefore, should anyone consider the walk, it will be up to those who congregate to make their own way up hill and down dale in depleted numbers. On behalf of our members and we imagine many others, we would like to take the opportunity to thank Stan Fowler and Brian Wimsett for having organised the Alkham Calendar 2015, another much appreciated venture and excellently priced. In the past John Huggins has helped substantially with the aerial photos from his flying machine, thank you as well. YET another thing: the 250th number of the Alkham Newsletter slipped into our lives with no fanfare. The Newsletter is a remarkable local resource and is a constant feature of the village life. Thank you Brian! **Joanna Walker (Sec)**

THERE WILL BE A FETE COMMITTEE MEETING on Wednesday 14th January at 8 pm; we need to decide whether we shall be having a Fete this year (i.e. 2015) so if you have a view and are willing to help with the arrangements please come along! (Paul Tapsell 01303 892082).

FILM EVENT

Next showing in village hall at 7.30pm

Tuesday 27th January

WHAT WE DID ON OUR HOLIDAY

David Tennant and Rosamund Pike

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

Bring your own refreshments

LOGS FOR SALE -

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ROCK and ROLL

What a terrific evening it was when Somethin' Else came and played live rock and roll music from the 60's in the village hall on the 13th of December.

The lead guitarists were Keith Owen and Barry Spicer, both of whom live either side of the village hall. Over 50 people came along and most danced and jived to the music. The Rolling Stones, The Beatles, Cliff Richard, The Shadows, Status Quo and other great names from the sixties were featured. Everybody enjoyed themselves and hopefully they will return.



THE ANNUAL QUIZ will be in the village hall on Saturday 7th February 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.

NEWS FROM THE MARQUIS - Charlie Lakin, our chef of 4 years, has now moved with his family to live and work in South Africa and the new Chef is Andrew King. Andrew has worked in some of the country's top kitchens including the Michelin starred Lucknam Park, and Reads of Faversham. He has created new innovative menus using Kentish produce from land and sea with his own twist on some classic dishes" and hopes you will come and sample them soon.

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LORRIES – As most people who live in Alkham and in the parish will know, there has been a large number of heavy lorries going along the valley road recently. It appears that they are taking excavated material to the Ashford area and coming back empty. A complaint regarding this was made to the Parish Council and as a result a letter was sent to KCC, which included a request for signing on the road saying 'Unsuitable for HGV's'. The reply was that these signs were advisory and therefore to prevent HGV's using the road a Traffic Regulation Order would be required. This is a lengthy and costly legal process and such orders must be prioritised and as there have been no HGV accidents in the last 3 years the valley road is not a priority. The same would apply to the road in general with regard to measures to dissuade HGV's or other traffic from using the valley road. Unfortunately, as most people know, the Alkham Valley Road is just a long slip road to the M20 at Folkestone and unless restrictions are imposed or constructed, it will always be so. On the first day that the new A20 from Folkestone to Dover opened in 1993 most traffic disappeared from the valley road but next day they were back. The section from Aycliffe through to the Eastern Docks has five roundabouts and also traffic lights, so it proved not to be so attractive.



GARDEN TALK - We have had an enjoyable year, with lots of good visits and plenty of chat. Arrangements are now in hand for hosts for 2015 - please get in touch if you have any ideas, or wish to join us. **Janet Adamson 01303 893413**

THE SILVER ASTRA in the field by the Alkham Valley road near Drellingore was abandoned and set on fire.

ENERGY DEAL supported by the councils of Dartford, Dover, Gravesham, Tonbridge and Malling and Tunbridge Wells - helping you save money on your energy bill. Registration opens on 2 December 2014. Energy Deal is your local collective switching scheme – register to see if you can save. The Energy Deal scheme, supported by Dover District Council, is free to join and there is no obligation to switch your supplier. Information required to register can be found on your annual energy statement or energy bill: - the name of your current supplier the name of your current energy tariff annual energy consumption in kWhs (detailed on your annual energy statement/energy bill) how you pay for your energy. The scheme will negotiate directly with energy suppliers at a reverse auction on 3 February 2015 with the aim of securing a competitive tariff for the majority of residents taking part. The second campaign in spring last year saw average savings of £190 (over all categories) per year. The current campaign launches on 2 December and will continue until 2 February 2015. Registration can be completed online at www.energydealswitch.com If you don't have access to a computer, call the Council on 01304 872428 (leave your name and telephone number to receive a call-back). Could you be paying less for energy? For further information & to register go to www.energydealswitch.com. **Dover District Council**

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THE FILM FURY When Peter Comfort (father of Stephen and his wife Patsy who live in Hogbrook Lane) landed on the beaches of Normandy on D Day, many thoughts must have crossed his mind. He obviously never

imagined that in the years to come, at the age of 92, he would be one of the only survivors left who remember his tank landing in France on the morning of the 6th July 1944. His never-to-be forgotten memories of this era, and of his fellow men in that tank, are now being portrayed in the film Fury. David Ager, the writer and director, asked him to recall his memories of that dreadful day, to ensure the film would be as realistic and as near to the truth as possible, and Peter spent a day with them last year relating the events and stories. As a thank you, Peter was invited to the premiere of the film in London, where he met Brad Pitt and other actors. When he came home he spoke highly of Brad Pitt whom he liked and got on well with, and obviously Brad felt his portrayal was more accurate as a result. **Pam Sayers**

OZ on ADLESTROP – On 24 June 1914, the poet Edward Thomas and his wife Helen were travelling by train to Leddington in Gloucestershire and had to stop at one point for a signal. Here is how Thomas described it in his notebook: “Then we stopped at Adlestrop, through the willows could be heard a chain of blackbirds’ songs at 1245 and one thrush and no man seen, only a hiss of engine letting off steam. Stopping outside Campden by banks of long grass, willow herb and meadowsweet, extraordinary silence between the two periods of travel – looking out on grey dry stones between metals and the shiny metals and over it all the elms willows and long grass – one man clears his throat – and a greater rustic silence. No house in view. Stop only for a minute till signal is up.” And here is what Thomas made of it 6 months later and 100 years ago, on 8 January 1915:

Yes. I remember Adlestrop—
The name, because one afternoon
Of heat the express-train drew up there
Unwontedly. It was late June.
The steam hissed. Someone cleared his throat.

No one left and no one came
On the bare platform. What I saw
Was Adlestrop—only the name
And willows, willow-herb, and grass,
And meadowsweet, and haycocks dry,
No whit less still and lonely fair
Than the high cloudlets in the sky.

And for that minute a blackbird sang
Close by, and round him, mistier,
Farther and farther, all the birds
Of Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.

Thomas was killed at the Battle of Arras on 9 April 1917. His poem, titled simply ‘Adlestrop’, was published as a tribute to him in the New Statesman on 28 April 1917, and went on to become one of the most loved poems in the English language. 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
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	5	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm – all welcome
Tuesday	6	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	10	SEKAS in village hall in the evening
Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	19	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	27	Film Night 7.30pm in village hall – see page 1
Saturday	31	Beekeepers in village hall in the afternoon

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 4 th	Evensong 4.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Christingle 11am
Sunday 11	Sung Eucharist	Christingle Service 11am	
Sunday 18 th	Christingle Service 11am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 25 th	Benefice Eucharist, 10.00 am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - January is the time when letters like this are usually about New Year resolutions, and the difference that not eating cream cakes, biting nails or whatever will make to our lives and the lives of those around us. Not this time. For many years, I taught Religious Education in schools – not just about Christianity, but other faiths, too. Although I am a Christian, I'm not afraid to learn from other faiths – and I reckon that Judaism can teach us a thing or two about New Year. Jewish New Year falls in the autumn. On Rosh Hashana, as New Year's Day is called, it is said that God surveys all that an individual has done during the past year and, on the evidence of that, decides what will lie ahead of them in the year to come. What if someone has made a mess of things during the past year? They have ten days to sort things out before Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. During these days - and this is the bit I like – a conscientious Jew will seek forgiveness not just from God, but from anyone with whom they have quarrelled during the past year – it's very similar to what Jesus once told his followers to do. That way, they can truly make a fresh start as the New Year begins. So forget New Year Resolutions - most don't last until February anyway. Instead, how about we all pick up the phone, call someone we would prefer not to speak to, and wish them a Happy New Year. Imagine what a difference it would make to the world if everyone tried it. Happy New Year! **Brian Williams**

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Newsletter Brian Wimsett 824969
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Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791
alkham.pc@outlook.com

Alkham web site www.alkham.org

Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635

W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641

Footpaths 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

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A SMALL WORLD

Sue Lees went to Australia and later Peter Rose flew out as did Den and Irene Barnard. Amazingly they all met up in Sydney.

PARISH

COUNCILLOR - Would you like to become a Parish Councillor for Alkham? It's a worthwhile job and is the local authority closest to the community. Polling day is on the 7th May, and 25 days before this date nominations are called for, with only a 6 day window for applications. Dover District Council will be holding seminars for anyone who may be interested. Further details will be published in the next Newsletter. **Parish Council**

DRAMA – I am thinking of starting a Drama Workshop group, a fun session of drama games, experimenting with characters and situations, maybe try some short sketches. Thursday afternoon seems to be vacant at the Village Hall so would be a possibility. Anybody interested? Ring me on 829006 or e-mail margaretdanstead@yahoo.co.uk and we'll see if it's worth a try. **Margaret Danstead**



FLOOD WORKS – The new bridges across the dyke in front of Valley Cottages should be constructed in February and the adjacent private road resurfaced. At the same time the dyke will be cleared through the village and unblocked to the east of Short Lane. A tubular steel parapet will be installed where the brick wall was knocked down on the culvert at Short Lane.

FIREWORKS – Following numerous complaints the Parish Council are writing to the Marquis regarding the very loud fireworks that were let off at 9pm on the 23rd December. There were also complaints about fireworks in Glebelands, an article about which is on page 3 of this Newsletter.

EASTER BALL - After the roaring success of our first music night in December, the Village Hall will be holding the village's very first (as far as we know!) Easter Ball on 28 March. Renowned Kent rock/pop/party band Bittersweet were formed 20 years ago and founding members Colin on drums and singer/rhythm guitarist Lee will be joined by bassist Stuart, keyboard player Graham and latest recruit Alkham's own Barry Spicer on guitar. They'll play a 2-hour set of favourites from the 60s to the present day and will be supported by Alkham singer/songwriter Keith Owens. Come along for a dance, a singalong or just a chat with friends! The ball starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £7.50 which can be paid for on the night.

ALKHAM FETE – At the fete meeting on the 14th January it was decided, for a variety of reasons, that we will not have fete this year. We will come back with reinvigoration on the second Saturday in July (12th) 2016. **Paul Tapsell**. Barbara Palmer, who lives in Slip Lane, has been a staunch supporter of the fete and next year will be 90. Barbara has kindly agreed to open the fete in 2016 and says she is proud that she was born in the same year as Queen Elizabeth II.

CABARET – A group of 6 local singers, who have either worked professionally or belong to the Dover Operatic and Dramatic Society, are going to present a Pop Up Cabaret in the village hall on the 28th February. The show, which will be to a professional standard, will include the singing of songs from movies plus popular, classic and contemporary songs. The doors open at 7.30pm with the cabaret starting at 8pm. Tickets, costing £7, are available in advance by ringing 07786191274 and will be for sale at the Farmers Market at Alkham on the 5th February between 10 and 11am. Please bring your own drinks and nibbles.

FILM NIGHT

Next showing in the village hall at 7.30pm

Tuesday 24th February

Mr Turner

Starring Timothy Spall

Tickets cost £4.50

Bring your own refreshments

FILM NIGHT has proved successful and generally between 40 and 50 people come along. For this reason we have decided that it is not necessary to book, so please just turn up on the night. If more come along we can easily put out extra seats and tables.

THE ALKHAM CALENDAR sold out. Many thanks for your support.

FOR SALE upright piano £50 or offer. Please ring 01304 829006.

W.I. JUMBLE SALE – On Saturday the 14th February the W.I. are running a jumble sale in the village hall starting at 11.00am.

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This inspirational article was written by Margaret Danstead who lives in the centre of Alkham.

A DANISH INITIATIVE – Throughout Scandinavia there are establishments known as Folk High Schools – forget any British equivalent (we don't have one). They are residential centres of learning for adults where, unlike conventional schools, there is no pressure of exams or competition and no age barrier. The staff assist the students to explore and develop their personal skills and goals. Students contribute to the life of the school as a family, sharing responsibilities for the care of the facilities and of each other.

In 1921, a certain Dane by the name of Peter Manniche, appalled by the destruction and loss of life caused by the 1st World War, decided to do something positive about nurturing understanding and friendship between nations. He saw the Folk High School as the obvious tool and brought about the formation of an International Folk High School. So in the little town of Helsingor – 1 hours train journey from Copenhagen – IPC (The International People's College) was established and still flourishes.

The difference between IPC and other Folk High Schools is that the term-long courses are in English and the students come from a wide range of cultures and countries. They learn together, work together, have fun together and form life-long friendships.

I was fortunate enough to attend the Autumn 2014 term and found it an utterly amazing experience. In the first week we made our own timetable from a range of subject choices. With a core value of peace, subjects included 'Global Citizenship', 'Human Rights', Peace and Conflict Issues and environmental studies. There were other subjects for personal interest and development, such as choir and band playing, art, photography, sports, creative writing and journalism. It was a busy schedule but so enjoyable. We were about 80 students from 28 different countries and found plenty of opportunities to learn from each other. Every so often there was a 'Cultural Evening' when a group of students from a shared background put on an evening's entertainment centred around their traditions. Great secrecy surrounded the preparation for these, and they were hugely popular. In the final week of term we had a 'Performance Night' where we entertained each other. The choir sang, the film-makers came up with amazing films, the drama group did sketches. In fact everybody had something to contribute to a fantastic night ending in dancing to the music of the band-players.

Saying a tearful 'farewell' after 4 months of living together, was very hard, but we are now established as a Global Family and many of us will stay in touch and have reunions. Hopefully we are better World citizens, equipped to stand up for equality and human rights and acknowledge our responsibility towards those whose lives do not enjoy such privilege. One important lesson I have learned from IPC is that in a world of diminishing resources, cooperation and sharing are not just altruistic and cosy, but vital to our survival as a species. Strong stuff but complacency-shattering. **Margaret Danstead**

NESTING BIRDS – I have been asked to include this item: It is an offence under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built.

GARDEN TALK - We are looking forward to spring, and are completing our programme of visits in the Alkham area. There are still some spaces, and we are open to offers of suitable venues. However we start our informal meetings with an indoor gathering at 'Sunrise' Meggett Lane on Friday 13th March at 7.30p.m. Please contact Janet Adamson (01303 893413) for further details.

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PLEASE THINK!!! - To the inconsiderate selfish person in Glebelands who set off the very loud 'cannon like' fireworks on New Year's Day, please could you consider the horses that are right on your doorstep!! Surely those kinds of fireworks are meant for displays only, NOT a small cul-de-sac like Glebelands. The horses don't mind fireworks / thunder etc. but not the very loud ones that went right over into their field. You have to consider that it all could have turned out a complete disaster, with a visit from the fire brigade or even a huge vet's bill because of the horses frantically trying to get out of their field. It's just so irresponsible as there is no thought for terrified animals whether they be horses, dogs or cats. I spent my New Year trying to calm the very distressed horses down and cleaning all the debris from your fireworks, which by the way were only a couple of feet away from the hay ring!! So please next time.....think!! **Karen King**

Shown in the photo is a new type of ATM skimming device which is used to capture your PIN number. The message from Neighbourhood Watch is always check the keypad.

PRECEPT – The precept, which is the amount of money claimed by the Parish Council on the rates to carry out parish works, remains the same as claimed last year at £7,500.

SALT BINS – The salt has been delivered to the Parish Council and it is thought that all bins are now filled. If anyone knows of any which are not please contact the Parish Clerk as detailed on the bottom of the back page.

OZ on HAYDN'S 45th – Occasionally I attempt, with varying degrees of failure, what is possibly the most difficult cryptic crossword in the world, the Listener Crossword, published in the Review Section of The Times every Saturday. Just before Christmas a friend, who enjoys much more success than I with these puzzles, finished one and alerted me to the fact that it was a particularly good one, with a charming theme. This time I failed spectacularly, unable to complete enough even to detect the theme, hinted at in the title of 'Off We Go', which referred to Haydn's Symphony No 45, named the Farewell. Haydn wrote this work for his patron, Prince Nikolaus 1, whilst staying with the court orchestra at the Prince's Summer Palace in [Eszterháza](#) in the summer of 1772. As the symphony neared completion, the hot weather continued into autumn, and the musicians became frustrated at the Prince's reluctance to allow them to return home to their wives and girlfriends in Eisenstadt. Haydn solved the problem with a subtle musical message when he conducted his new symphony for the Prince. During the final haunting adagio, each musician in turn stopped playing, snuffed out the candle on his music stand and left the stage, until only Haydn and Tomasini, the concert-master, remained, coaxing the gentlest of sounds from their muted violins. The Prince took the hint at once, declaring "Well, if they all leave, I suppose that I had better leave too!", and the whole court returned to Eisenstadt the next day. My friend was right; it's a charming story, so typical of Haydn's impish humour, so different from his sometimes solemn reputation. I'd like to write more about him, but it would need a whole book, not just the 300 words I aim for here. **Steve Osborn**



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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

Tuesday	3	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	7	Annual quiz in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	10	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	14	W.I. jumble sale in village hall 11am
Monday	16	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	24	Film Night 7.30pm in village hall – see page 1
Saturday	28	Beekeepers in village hall in the afternoon
Saturday	28	Pop up cabaret in village hall 7,30pm – see page 1

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 1st	Evensong 4.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship Tgr 11am
Sunday 8 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship Together 11am	
Sunday 15 th	Worship Tgr 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9:30am
Wed'day 18 th		Eucharist 7.00 pm	
Sunday 22 nd	Benefice Eucharist 10:00am Capel		

FROM THE VICARAGE - In the school hall, all was quiet. It was a day at my other job, and the class I had been asked to look after that morning were taking an exam – all I had to do was to watch for anyone who needed paper, or a fresh pen. High above where rows of pupils sat writing, a butterfly fluttered along – not what anyone expected on a cold, bright morning in the week before Christmas. Minutes before the exam was due to end, a hand went up. I went across to see what this young man wanted, but he pointed at the curtains. The butterfly, a Small Tortoiseshell, was there, basking in the winter sunshine that streamed through the window. It should have been hibernating, but electric lights, heating and winter sunshine together had fooled it into thinking that spring had arrived. The exam over, I found the butterfly, still on the curtains, and popped it gently into a box. Outside the hall, I reassured a group of anxious pupils that had gathered along with one of the office staff that I was going to take it home and put it somewhere cool and dry to continue hibernating, and that I would release it in the spring. It made me think. Across parts of Africa and Asia, people are slaughtering each other for this, that and the other reason while others profit from their misery by smuggling refugees to safety in rusty cargo ships in exchange for their life savings. Meanwhile, some schoolchildren are rooting for the butterfly sleeping in my loft to survive until spring. How is it that human beings can so easily show compassion to a butterfly, yet struggle to show compassion to each other? **Brian Williams**

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Newsletter Brian Wimsett 824969
email brianwimsett@hotmail.com
Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791
alkham.pc@outlook.com
Alkham web site www.alkham.org
Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Footpaths 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
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District Councillors - Sue Nicholas
823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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No. 254 March 2015
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ALKHAM EASTER DANCE – On the 28th March the band Bittersweet (guitars, keyboard and drums) will be playing a 2 hour set of favourites from the 60's to the present day in the village hall. Come along to dance or just enjoy the occasion. The Ball starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £7.50, which can be paid for on the night.

FILM NIGHT – The last film shown in the village hall was 'What we did on our holiday' and it was superb. There were 38 people in the audience, but we can accommodate more. Please come along and try 'Film Night'; it only costs £4.50 and with the informal arrangement of seats and chairs it's a great night out.



QUIZ NIGHT – The annual Alkham quiz was great fun with about 80 people coming to the village hall on the 7th February. A couple of questions went awry but these were democratically corrected with some amusement. The winning table was from Ellinge and Chalksole with an impressive score of 116 out of a possible 130 and they each received a bottle of wine as a prize. The profit on the night was £300 which has gone to the Alkham W.I. who also prepared the food, which was served at the interval.

FILM NIGHT APOLOGY – We got it wrong and unfortunately the film Mr Turner will not be released to DVD until the 2nd of March. We are now going to screen it on Thursday 5th March at 7.30pm. The film 'Gone Girl' will be shown on the 24th February and because of the mix up tickets will only cost £2.50. 'The Imitation Game' with Benedict Cumberbatch will be shown on the 24th March.

BE A PARISH COUNCILLOR- If you'd like information about being a Parish Councillor, Dover District Council is holding an event for prospective candidates at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Thursday 12 March from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. Nomination packs will be made available for collection at the conclusion of the briefing. Alternatively they may be collected following the publication of Notice of Election on 16 March 2015 between 10am and 5pm on any weekday excluding Bank Holidays from the Election Office, Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3PJ. To book your place for the briefing please email elections@dover.gov.uk or telephone the Elections Office on 01304 872344.

FILM NIGHT

Next showing in the village hall at 7.30pm

Tuesday 24th March

The Imitation Game

Starring Benedict Cumberbatch

Tickets cost £4.50

Bring your own refreshments

BARN DANCE – The village hall is going to hold a Barn Dance on the 16th May and the Meadow Folk Band, who played in 2010, will provide the music. The caller is David Brown, who did such a good job last time. Tickets are £5.00 each and can be pre-booked by phoning Geoff on 01303 892878 or Brian on 824969. We haven't decided on the food, which will be either bring your own or an American Supper.

BOOKS – Many thanks to Sue Lees for donating the money for the books that are sold in the village hall. Another £35.40 has been added to the Alkham Fund, which makes a total of £210 donated since 2011.

LILLIES - The flower team in the church will be arranging lilies again this Easter. If you would like to dedicate a lily in memory of a loved one, please call Linda Gaskill 01304 823100 or e mail lindagaskill@btinternet.com by March 20th with your name and your loved one's name. Each stem will be £5.00. **Linda Gaskill**

LENT LUNCH – Marion Banks-Nash is holding a Lent Lunch at the Hermitage, Slip Lane on the 25th March from 12.30 to 2.00pm when soup, bread and cheese costing £3.00 will be served. All money raised will be given to a charity.

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FIREWORKS – In last month's Newsletter there was an article complaining about extremely loud fireworks being let off in Glebelands on New Year's Eve. Martin Hibbert, who lives in Glebelands, phoned to say that the fireworks were not let off in Glebelands but somewhere to the west. I apologise if any offence was caused but at least it raised the subject of letting off fireworks which explode with an enormous bang and the discomfort and alarm that they cause. **Editor**

LAND ALLOCATION – Dover District Council has adopted their plan for land that has been allocated for development within the district. The documents give developers and residents certainty about land identified for potential development for the next 20 years and will now be used in the determination of planning applications. It lists area which can be developed and sets out any issues or criteria that subsequent planning applications will need to address. All the major towns are included plus villages, but Alkham, Goodnestone, Preston, Ringwould, Ripple and West Hougham have not been identified for development. The document can be downloaded at <http://www.dover.gov.uk/Planning/Planning-Policy/Local-Development-Framework/Land-Allocations/Land-Allocations.aspx>

NESTING BIRDS – Further to last month's article, Tricia Wright phoned to say that as we are in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty 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 between 1 March and 31 July. If nesting birds are present, you must not under-take any work which might harm the birds or destroy their nests, or you will commit an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

ALKHAM W.I. - "The Shadow of the Lamp" was the title of the fascinating talk given to us by Sarah Grazebook. She is a fairly local author who is in the process of writing a book about Florence Nightingale. She spoke of her research and also read extracts from the book relating to conditions in the Crimean War and her readings were much appreciated. We also welcomed new members and had an enjoyable evening. At the next meeting, Avril Woolf, whom many of us have enjoyed before, will be coming to give us her talk entitled "Joyce Grenfell Part 2" in word and song. We welcome new members and hope you can join on Tuesday, March 10th 7.30pm in the Village Hall. **Susannah Tapsell**

GREAT BRITISH FISH AND CHIP SUPPER – Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 15th May 2015 and raise awareness of spinal cord injury and support S.I. Association's vital services. The supper can be in your home, at work or in the village hall. SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. Last year they raised £20,000 from the suppers. Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone. The money raised will support and help these people and for more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 071 4350 or email fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk or visit www.siafishandchips.co.uk

BOOK CLUB for March is on Wednesday 25th March at the home of Anita James, Firbank, Slip Lane 01304 824964 starting at 7.30. The book for discussion is The Dinner by Herman Koch. If you are interested in joining the village book club contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729 for more details; new members are always welcome.

GARDEN TALK - The full programme for the year is now ready - we have some new gardens to view. Thanks to everyone who has offered to host an evening for us. Our first event is at 'Sunrise' Meggett Lane on Friday 13th March at 7.30p.m. when we look forward to our fruity wine quiz. **Janet Adamson**

REMEMBERED – If someone has passed away and you would like to record or celebrate their life in the Newsletter, I would be pleased to

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OZ on THOMAS'S OWL – In the January newsletter I described the poet Edward Thomas's notebook account of a train journey through Gloucestershire in June 1914, and what he subsequently made of it in his poem 'Adlestrop' in January 1915. This month I would like to continue the story of Thomas to 24 February 1915, when he wrote a poem called 'The Owl.' During the first few months of 1915, Thomas had become obsessed with the problem of whether or not to enlist in the forces. The first two verses are a straightforward account of rest and comfort after exertion, and then the tone darkens, to reveal his personal torment in the last three lines of the poem:

Downhill I came, hungry, and yet not starved;
Cold, yet had heat within me that was proof
Against the North wind; tired, yet so that rest
Had seemed the sweetest thing under a roof.
Then at the inn I had food, fire, and rest,
Knowing how hungry, cold, and tired was I.
All of the night was quite barred out except
An owl's cry, a most melancholy cry
Shaken out long and clear upon the hill,
No merry note, nor cause of merriment,
But one telling me plain what I escaped
And others could not, that night, as in I went.
And salted was my food, and my repose,
Salted and sobered, too, by the bird's voice
Speaking for all who lay under the stars,
Soldiers and poor, unable to rejoice.

At that time Thomas, as 'a mature, married man', need not have enlisted, but he did, joining the Artists' Rifles in July 1915, and the Royal Garrison Artillery in November 1916. As I mentioned in the January newsletter, Thomas was killed at the Battle of Arras on 9 April 1917. **(Steve Osborn)**

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will present a concert in Dover Town Hall at 7.30 pm on Saturday 28th March 2015, featuring Duruflé's Requiem and Dvorak's Mass in D. Tickets £12 (Students £6) are available from Dover Tourist Information Centre, Dover Museum, members of the society, or by calling 01304 820149; and, if any remain, at the door on the night. **(Steve Osborn)**

A CHURCHYARD CONUNDRUM - "The churchyard looks awful; can't you get any volunteers to cut it?" was the question a parishioner asked me at the WW1 Remembrance service. I explained that whilst volunteers cut the footpaths and some areas close to the building, the long grass in the churchyard cut once a year in the autumn, was part of the wildlife management regime for "God's acre". However, following a review by our insurer, the grass cutting has had to change. For safety reasons, we are now required to keep the grass short in the new churchyard where graves are actively tended. This has cost the church an additional £300 per year, on top of an increase in our insurance premium of £600 per year. Who should pay?" Considering every parishioner has a legal right to be buried there, is it fair for the small group of worshippers, who already gift much time and money to keeping the church alive, to have to maintain this community asset. Alternatively, should the Parish Council, who already pay 50% of the cost of the annual cut, be expected contribute more? Ironically, if the churchyard was declared closed for burials, the District Council would take over the cost of maintenance. So, if there are any churchyard angels out there who would like to make a donation to the cause, the church committee would love to hear from you. If you are a UK taxpayer, any charitable donation is tax deductible and we can claim Gift Aid on your contribution. **Geoff Gaskill (Churchwarden) 823100**



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Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

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Tuesday	3	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Thursday	5	Film Mr Turner in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	14	SEKAS in village hall
Monday	16	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	24	Film Night 7.30pm in village hall – The Imitation Game
Saturday	28	Beekeepers in village hall in the afternoon

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Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1st	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship Tog 11am
Sunday 8 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship Together 11am	
Sunday 15 th	Family Service 11am	Family Service 11am	Eucharist 9:30am
Sunday 22 nd	Benefice Eucharist Hougham 10:00am		
Sunday 29 th	Benefice Eucharist Capel 10:00am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - March this year falls in Lent, the forty days before Easter when we Christians contemplate our shortcomings and try to pull our socks up a bit, with God's help of course. So what am I doing for Lent? Well, when anyone becomes a priest they have to promise to be 'diligent in prayer' – after all, others should be able to depend on our prayers. But all too often my prayers end up being squeezed into odd moments instead of getting the attention they really deserve. So this Lent I'm determined to tackle that. On a visit to Canada years ago I came across a museum that had once been a courthouse. There I learned that during pioneering days a convicted felon had once been sentenced to hang. No word of his appeal had been received as the fateful day dawned, and a crowd gathered outside the courthouse. They fell silent when, just before nine, the prisoner was brought to the gallows and made ready to meet his Maker. The local preacher stepped forward just as the grand finale was due and, as was customary, began to pray for the condemned man's soul. So natural was prayer to this man that at midmorning they were all still waiting for him to finish. In fact he only finished praying when, just before midday, a dispatch rider arrived with the order for a pardon. Could others depend on my prayers in the same way? That's the challenge. So please pray for me this Lent – or at least wish me luck.

Lent Lunch from 12.30 until 2.00 p.m. £3 for soup, bread & cheese to charity	
4 th March	Mrs & Mrs Tapsell, Bramhall, Alkham Valley Road, Alkham
11 th March	Mr & Mrs Finnis, The Old School, Stoneyway Lane, Church Hougham
25 th March	Mr & Mrs Banks-Nash, The Hermitage, Slip Lane, Alkham
1 st April	Dr & Mrs Gaskill, Chalksole Cottage, Alkham

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Newsletter Brian Wimsett 824969
 email brianwimsett@hotmail.com
Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791
alkham.pc@outlook.com
Alkham web site www.alkham.org
Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk

Police – 999 emergency & 101
Vicar Revd. Brian Williams 01303 243784
Church Wardens Geoff Gaskill 823100
 and Richard Tapsell 822295
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
County Councillor - Geoffrey Lymer
 079604 90 929
District Councillors - Sue Nicholas
 823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
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Telephone 01304 824969

No. 255 April 2015

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VARIETY SHOW – There will be an evening of entertainment organised by Heather Waller in aid of Macmillan and Air Ambulance in Alkham Village Hall on the 25th April starting at 7.30pm. The show will include a couple of sketches, a monologue and a band at the end of the evening. Please bring your own food and drink. Tickets cost £8 and are available by phoning Heather Waller on 01304 823635.

SUPERFAST BROADBAND – BT are planning to install a fibre optic cabinet at the top of Short Lane (near the 30mph signs on the Dover side of the village) in the near future. KCC are in partnership with the Government to bring superfast broadband to properties in Kent, and Alkham is included in Phase 6, which is scheduled for April to September of this year. KCC are unable to say which premises are likely to get superfast broadband as they may be not connected to the nearest street cabinet or are too far away from the cabinet to benefit from a speed uplift. Where these premises are receiving less than 2Mbps alternative solutions are being considered. **editor**

VILLAGE HALL – Traffic coming down Hogbrook Lane frequently drive onto the village hall car park resulting in large puddles. KCC will not put in a kerb, so a short piece of fence has been erected by the car park. The part where the large puddles are will be filled in shortly and another stretch of fencing erected. When it's finished there will be a 7m gap (23 foot) in the middle for vehicles to get in and the posts are in metal such that the fence can be replaced.



ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL warmly invite you to the Annual Parish Meeting on 13th April 2015 in the Village Hall at 7pm. We are delighted to welcome Mr Gomez from the Battle of Britain Memorial as our guest speaker who will be giving a presentation about the exciting new developments at the Capel-le-Ferne memorial site. The 'Wing' is a new visitor centre due to open this year together with the 'Scramble Experience' and 2015 also celebrates the 75th anniversary of The Battle of Britain, so please join us for an interesting evening with complimentary tea and coffee available.

FILM NIGHT

Next showing in the village hall at 7.30pm
Tuesday 28th April

Pride with Bill Nighy, Imelda Staunton
Tickets cost £4.50 - bring refreshments

VILLAGE HALL - The AGM of the Village Hall will be held in the Village Hall, on Tuesday 21st April at 7.00p.m. This is your chance to make your comments and suggestions and participate in the

running of the Village Hall. All welcome to attend. **Janet Adamson**

NAILBOURNE MAINTENANCE - As a result of pressure by our Parish Council, work has been carried out on parts of the Nailbourne to remove silt and to restore the ditch at the bottom of Short Lane. The bridges in front of Valley Cottages will also be replaced and that part of the Nailbourne will also be cleared. KCC reported at our last Parish Council meeting that the funding for this work might be lost but Neil Burrows and myself have just been told that the money has now been guaranteed to finish the project. I am now pursuing Kent Highways to clear the vast amount of silt in the sump in front of the Village hall and to clear the blocked up drains there and in Meggett Lane, the Garden Centre and the road leading to Hawkinge. **Den Barnard**

ALKHAM VILLAGE FLOOD VOLUNTEERS - On very rare occasions when the Nailbourne has overflowed badly, we have needed some emergency effort to minimise damage to properties and the Village Hall. Various official agencies get involved but I would like to set up a list of able-bodied and willing men and women who might be available to give a hand at such times. Please let me know if you would like to be put on the list. Message, email or phone to 07770 648394, denbarnard@hotmail.com, 01304 824845. If you have any queries, comments or ideas regarding flooding and its prevention in Alkham please let me know. **Den Barnard – Flood Warden**

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BARN DANCE – A reminder that the village hall is going to hold a Barn Dance on the 16th May with Meadow Folk providing the music. Tickets are £5.00 each and can be booked by phoning Geoff on 01303 892878 or Brian on 824969. Please bring your own food and drinks.

IN MEMORIAM - 19th January 2015 saw the passing of Jadwiga Sroka (Mama) in the William Harvey Hospital at the age of 98, mother and mother in law to Nina and James D'Alton Bellas. She had resided with them in Slip Lane in the village of Alkham. Born in Czersk 1916 in Poland to a large family, one of 8 children "Mama" witnessed the early rise of her nation between the two world wars. Surviving two fronts in the latter with ensuing occupation by both Germany and Russia. The last of the Russian military leaving in 1991! Soon after this "Mama" came to live in England, her husband, Nina's father, having passed away from illness in 1971. Present at many village "events" right up until 2013. "Mama" was always unassuming, uncomplaining and greeted everyone with a warm and winning smile, a loving legacy for which she will be fondly remembered. Her final resting place was in the cemetery alongside her husband in Gdynia, Poland 20th February 2015 after a beautiful and moving ceremony attended by many friends and family where she may now rest in peace.

HISTORIC BOARD – The board showing details about Alkham past is going to be replaced and picnic benches will be installed near the play area on the village green. This has been made possible with funding from the KCC Members Fund courtesy of Councillor Geoff Lymer. He is also planning to obtain new 'Alkham' signs that have 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty' on them for both entrances to the village.

RING lost in Short Lane, phone 824845.

RESURFACING – The section of the Valley Road in front of Valley Cottages is going to be resurfaced on the 15th April because of the floods.

BOOK CLUB – The Book Club for April will be discussing the book 'A Cat, A Hat and a Piece of String' by Joanna Harris. The meeting will be hosted by Susannah Tapsell 01304 822295 at Bramhall, Alkham Valley Road commencing at 7.30p.m. New members to book club are always welcome; if you would like more details contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

GARDEN TALK - Spring is now well on its way and we look forward to an enjoyable season of visits to local gardens. On Friday 10th April we meet at Box Tree, Slip Lane where Pam Sayers will welcome us from 7.30p.m. Further details from Janet Adamson (01303 893413)

ALKHAM W.I. - Avril Woolf truly gave us a lovely evening at the last meeting - singing songs poems of Joyce Grenfell. Next month 14 April will be Barrie Daniels on "Wondering Minstrel" that too sounds good; 22 April Whitfield Group Meeting; 25 April WI to help the Church with their Jumble Sale; 16 May there is a Barn Dance; 2 July there is a trip to Lullingtonstone Castle. New members are always welcome - **Susan Lees**

MY NAME is Jo Shapter and I am a full-time private practitioner of over 10 years' experience, providing the local community with a high level of hand and foot care on a domiciliary practice basis. I specialise in treating and managing common foot problems, corns, callus, verrucae, thickened nails, toe nail management, fungal problems, diabetic foot assessments etc. I am a member of the British association of Foot health Professionals and offer weekday, weekend and evening appointments. My contact number is 07745 532075.

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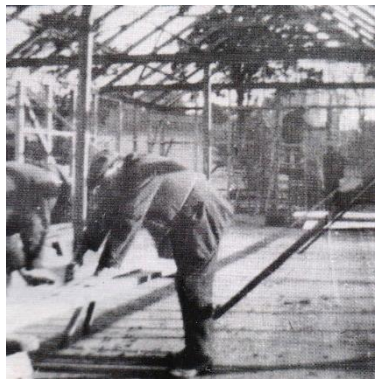
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ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL HISTORY
 Hogbrook Farm donated a piece of land to the Parish and on February 6th 1931 Alkham Village Hall was opened. Alkham school had previously been used for village activities and in the photo Henry Harvey is cutting the timber for the hall, which is still there today. The lighting must have been by oil lamps as Sue Lees says that electricity wasn't brought to

the village until 1932. The hall cost £740 to build, which equates to about £40,000 in today's money. The kitchen was at the rear and heating was provided by a solid fuel stove. The toilets were rudimentary with the ladies outside to the left and the gents to the right in a small shed. The gent's urinal was a hole in the ground which fed into the dyke and the lavatory was a bucket. In 1965 a planning application was made to install new toilets and these were built at the back of the hall. The stove was later replaced with electric ceiling mounted heaters and in 2002 gas central heating was installed. The original stage, with attendant piano, was removed after the floods in 2001 and replaced with a small dais; in 2013 a new stage was built. The entrance to the hall was originally at the front but in 1999 an extension was built to the side (at a similar cost to the original hall) with a new entrance, store room and toilets. When Newlyn's Meadow was built in the 1990's a piece of land was donated to the hall for the adjacent car park. Halls such as Alkham's are becoming historic and a similar one is preserved at the Museum of Kent Life in Maidstone. **editor**

OZ on LADYBIRDS – World Book Day is celebrated in most of the world on or near to 23 April, as that is the date on which both Shakespeare and Cervantes died. However, because it is also Saint George's Day, and to avoid clashes with school holidays, books are celebrated in the UK on the first Thursday in March. Last month's event was particularly newsworthy as this year marks the hundredth birthday of Ladybird Books. The story begins in Loughborough in 1904, when stationer and printer Henry Wills and stationer William Hepworth amalgamated to form the printing company Wills and Hepworth. Wills retired in 1905 and died in 1913. As war approached in 1914, Hepworth decided to publish "pure and healthy literature for children", under the imprint Ladybird, and the logo was registered in 1915, when the first Ladybirds appeared. Between the wars, production of Ladybirds ceased as normal commercial printing resumed. In 1939, the presses slowed again due to war, and Hepworth returned to producing Ladybirds. There were restrictions on paper, so the size and number of pages was determined by the fact of being able to make a 56 page book from one small sheet. That page size of 4½ x 7 inches has remained constant to this day. During the next sixty years Ladybirds became a household name. Subjects ranged from fairy stories, ancient myths, school topics, reading schemes, religion, to technology, space travel, computers and internet. Each page had beautiful illustrations, and the hard covers made Ladybirds a delight to hold. Their heyday was in the 1960s and 1970s, so they meant a lot to my children, a whole library at half a crown a volume, but they also mean a lot to me now, a box of old books that I can't let go. **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
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

Tuesday	7	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	11	SEKAS in village hall
Monday	13	Annual Parish Meeting in village hall 7.00pm, all welcome
Tuesday	14	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	20	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	21	Village Hall Committee AGM 7.00pm
Thursday	23	PCC AGM in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	25	PCC jumble sale 11.00am and show 7.30pm – see page1
Tuesday	28	Film Night 7.30pm in village hall – Pride

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
Wednes' 1 st			Compline 6.30 pm
Thursday 2 nd	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 7.30 pm		
Friday 3 rd	Devotion 2.00 – 3.00	Devotion 12.00 – 1.00	Devotion 1.00 – 2.00
Sunday 5 th	Eucharist 11.00 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 12 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	
Sunday 19 th	Worship Tog 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9:30am
Sunday 26 th	Benefice Eucharist 10:00am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - I answered the phone to be told gently that some information that I had put on the church notice sheet was wrong. I checked, and he was right. It wasn't the first mistake I've made, and it won't be the last. Research shows that the more severe the consequences, the less likely people are to admit their failings or learn from them. I learned that as a student. When I started teaching discovered that it was true. In those days the thick ear was still part of a teacher's essential toolkit in many schools. Not surprisingly, many pupils quickly learned how to avoid getting caught, how to deny everything when cornered, and how to blame someone else. Lessons learned in childhood are taken into adulthood, which explains why many of us go through life covering our backs and blaming others when things go wrong. So with an election looming, spare a thought for bankers, teachers, social workers, health care professionals and all others whose failings someone – not having read the research - will no doubt be pledging to tackle yet again However, Easter is also looming. As April begins, Christians remember the failings of Jesus' disciples who either denied him or ran away when he needed them most. Yet incredibly, he appeared to these same people that first Easter and sent them to tell others about what had happened. Forgiven, and with the chance to start again, they continued what he had started. "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you," wrote one of Jesus' followers to the church at Ephesus. I'm blessed by the kindness of my congregations who, bless them, forgive me and my failings, and let me start again. Happy Easter! **Brian Williams**

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No. 256 May 2015

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BARN DANCE – On the 16th May there is a Barn Dance in Alkham Village Hall starting at 7.30pm with Meadow Folk providing the music. Please phone Geoff on 01303 892878 or Brian on 824969 if you would like to come. Tickets cost £5 and please bring your own food and drinks.

SUPERFAST BROADBAND – The fibre optic box at the top of Short Lane has been installed. If you access <https://www.btwholesale.com/includes/adsl/main.html> it will tell you which BT cabinet your phone line is connected to, and the one at the top of Short Lane appears to be cabinet 9. If you are connected to cabinet 9, your speed should be increased dependent on the distance from the cabinet.

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING was attended by 30 people at which a very interesting talk was given by Jules Gomez from the Battle of Britain Memorial at Capel-le-Ferne. On the 26th March this year the Queen opened 'The Wing', a new £3.5 million pound visitor centre, which is worth a visit especially because it's on our doorstep.

THE PARISH COUNCIL AGM will be held on Tuesday the 19th May at 7.30pm in the village hall and everyone is welcome to attend.

THE ALKHAM EASTER DANCE was a great success despite a fairly low turnout, partly due to conflicting engagements. From the first rendition the dance floor was full and the overall opinion was that the music was superb.

FENCE – We thought the fence at the village hall would be hit by passing traffic but once again it has been run into from the car park side. The fence is essential to keep passing traffic off the car park so some protection will be installed.

FILM NIGHT

Next showing in the village hall
at 7.30pm

Tuesday 26th May

The Theory of Everything

Starring Eddie Redmayne
Tickets cost £4.50

VILLAGE HALL

We are currently looking at installing a hearing loop system in the village hall to help those with hearing aids hear more clearly.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION - There are 8 people standing for the seven posts of Parish Councillor in Alkham, who can be voted for at the May 7th General Election. The candidates are:

Den Barnard is the flood warden for Alkham and also Chairman of the Friends of St. Anthony, which has raised considerable funds to preserve the historic building. He is also involved in numerous activities in the village.

Anthony Barrier is currently a Parish Councillor and has been responsible for the Public Rights of Way in the Parish for the past seven years.

Neil Burrows is a local Farmer and is currently and has been the Chairman of Alkham Parish Council for the past 10 years. Neil's family have farmed at South Alkham for 50 years and he has served 24 years on the Council.

Geoff Hillier is a retired Chartered Civil Engineer. He is Chairman of the Alkham Village Hall Committee and has initiated rejuvenation of the Hall and introduced numerous events for village community life including Film Nights and various Live Performances.

Susan Lees is the Village Historian and has copious historical records relating to the parish. For many years she was the Parish Clerk, is currently a Parish Councillor and is involved in most activities in the village.

Geoffrey Lymer is currently an Alkham Parish Councillor and also a Kent County Councillor for the Dover West ward. He has used his member's grant to fund several projects in the village such as the new bus shelter, the Historic Notice Board and the improved football pitch.

Fiona Macaskill lives at Chilton and is a Doctor. Fiona has been involved with rights of way maintenance and is passionate about historic buildings. Fiona is aware of the threat increasing traffic brings and of the need to improve road safety without urbanising our valley.

Julian Mead is a GP at the Lydden Surgery who has lived in Ewell Minnis for 14 years and served on the Parish Council since 2010.

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CARPENTER'S ARMS, SOUTH ALKHAM and obituary for Barbara Heritage - Many local people remember the 'Carpenter's Arms' in Meggett Lane when it was still a Public House. It closed in 1972, and was purchased by Barbara Heritage, who lived there until her death earlier this year. Barbara is much missed in South Alkham – a keen plantswoman and animal lover, she kept goats, sheep and chickens in the small paddock behind the house, and entirely created the lovely and productive garden. Barbara was born in Coolinge, Folkestone, where her father farmed extensively; her nephew Richard Heritage (known as Dick) was at Great Everden Farm until his early death in 1972. The tall distinctive building was built in the 1840s, incorporating an older property. At the time of the 1834 tithe map the house and land were owned by Elizabeth Benn (who lived elsewhere in Alkham) and was occupied by William Free. However research has shown that a Richard Thomas was a Victualler in South Alkham in 1653, and was also a carpenter – perhaps this is where the name comes from. Being an ale house keeper was not always a sole occupation; by 1901 the occupier was John Marsh, with a wife, a son and 6 daughters, listed as a Licensed Victualler and a shoeing blacksmith. In 1911 Robert Bailey, from Wootton was the 'beer house keeper'. He had a wife and two daughters living with him, so less mouths to feed. It seems that Bushell Watkins, the Brewers of Westerham owned the property by 1906; it was taken over by Whitbreads by 1953. Their archives show that extensive renovation work was undertaken by local building firms – a bathroom and ladies toilet being installed in 1959, and a roof put on the gent's urinal in 1962. At this time the tenant was Thomas Rockall, he died in 1965, when his wife continued as licensee until July 1968, paying a rent of £80 per year.

BOOK CLUB for May is to be held at the home of Jane Steatham, 2 Mill Race, River on Wednesday 27th at 7.30; ring 01304 826888. The book for discussion is 'I am Pilgrim' by Terry Hayes. If you would be interested in joining the Alkham Valley book club contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729. New members are always welcome.

GARDEN TALK- Lots to talk about, and view at our next Meeting - the first to be held at 'Foxgloves', Ellinge, on Friday 1st May. Our hosts are Shelley and John Jackson - we start from 7.30p.m. Further details, and the programme for the whole year from Janet Adamson (01303 893413).

SPOOKY TALES OF ALKHAM LONG AGO – Before 1952, two old cottages stood where the modern extension to the Marquis now is. During their demolition to make way for one new house (Olive Harvey's home for many years) the skeleton of a baby was found hidden behind the fireplace of one of the houses. What could the explanation of this be? Was it possibly a 'concealed birth? We have to remember that before our present times a pregnancy or birth out of wedlock was considered shameful. Any other thoughts? **Robert Ferguson**

ALKHAM W.I. - At our last meeting Barrie Daniels came as a Wondering Minstrel and he highly entertained us with his lovely singing. There is a Church Jumble Sale on 25th April in the morning 11am - members of W.I. help; 16 May a Barn Dance can be booked; and 2nd July a trip to Lullingstone Castle may be booked. Next Meeting on 12th May 'Resolutions & Hobbies'; new members are always welcome- **Susan Lees**

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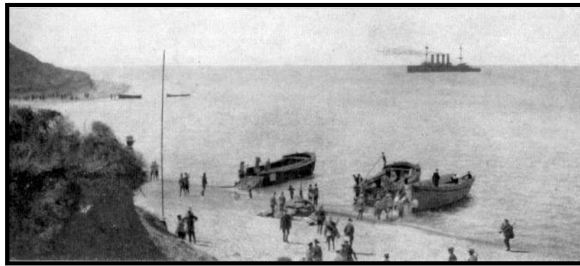
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ALKHAM HEROES

The third cross has been erected in the garden at the bottom of Slip Lane to commemorate the centenary of the death in the First World War

of Stephen James Maple. Stephen served as Leading Seaman in the Royal Navy and was on board H.M.S. Bacchante when he was killed on the first day of the Gallipoli campaign. In the 1901 census Stephen is recorded as being an Able Seaman based at Gillingham and, by the 1911 census, he is recorded as being a 'Hotel Hall Porter' married to Mary and father to two children, Arthur aged 5 and Edith aged 2 months. They lived at 179, Clarendon Place, Dover. Stephen was killed by 'shore fire' on Sunday April 25th 1915. The Bacchante was brought close to the shore to give protective fire to the troops who were being landed on the Gallipoli beaches and this brought it into the range of the enemies' guns. Stephen is remembered on the Chatham Naval Memorial as well as on the village memorial. The photo was taken, poignantly, on the morning of the 25th April and shows H.M.S. Bacchante providing light covering fire as men, mules and ammunition are landed at Anzac Cove. "We will remember them" **Mark Robson**

OZ on MAY 1940 – This month my thoughts moved on from 100 to 75 years ago, when the 'Phoney War' ended. Germany defeated Norway early in April, and by 1 May Allied troops had started to withdraw. On 8 May the Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, lost support in the Norway debate and was replaced by Winston Churchill. On 13 May Churchill delivered his famous "blood, sweat, toil and tears" speech to the House. Over the next two weeks German forces swept across Luxembourg, Belgium, the Netherlands and France, where on 26 May Calais gave in, and Operation Dynamo, the Allied evacuation of 340,000 troops from Dunkirk, commenced. Between 26 and 28 May the British War Cabinet met nine times to discuss whether to support Churchill in fighting on alone, or to seek a truce as advocated by the Foreign Secretary, Lord Halifax. Churchill won; within the next month France surrendered to, and Italy allied itself with, Germany. The real war had started. May 1940 was also a turbulent month on the home front. Men were being called up, either into the armed forces or into directed or reserved occupations; women were also working in the armed forces, the Women's Land Army or in factories; the young and the elderly were being evacuated, sometimes to locations that proved more dangerous than those from where they had come. Over it all was the oppressive feeling of dread, fear and incomprehension, coupled with a humorous stoicism, that is so well described by John Lukacs in his book "5 Days in London – May 1940". I knew little of all this, having been born on Whit Monday, 13 May 1940. Friends tell me that, in view of what was said on that day, I was very lucky not to have been christened 'Winston'. **(Steve Osborn)**

DOGS – A lady phoned to say that dogs had fouled the footpath on Short Lane and also the footpath at the bottom. She asks dog owners to clear up after their pet as it's very thoughtless (and illegal) not to.



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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
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

Tuesday	5	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Thursday	7	General Election voting in village hall 7am to 10pm
Saturday	9	SEKAS in village hall
Tuesday	12	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	16	Barn Dance in village hall starting 7.30pm – see page 1
Monday	18	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	19	Parish Council AGM 7.30pm in village hall – all welcome
Tuesday	26	Film Night 7.30pm in VH – The Theory of Everything

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 3 rd	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping Tog 11.00
Sunday 10 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping Tog 11.00 am	
Thursday 14 th	Benefice Eucharist Hougham 7.00 pm		
Sunday 17 th	Family Service 11.00 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 24 th	Benefice Eucharist Hougham 9.30 am		
Sunday 29 th	(St Mary's) Benefice Eucharist 10.00 am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - I didn't wear robes. I didn't read the Burial Service. In fact, I wasn't sure quite what to do – the Church of England doesn't tell its ministers what to do at the funeral of a butterfly. In February I told you about a butterfly I rescued from a school hall just before Christmas. It should have been hibernating, and so I put it in a box in my loft, hoping that it might hibernate there. When one warm spring afternoon a Peacock butterfly came to sunbathe on the garden path it led me to check on our friend – but in the box was no living butterfly, just a sad little corpse. Committing it to a flower bed, I thought of the lives this amazing little creature had touched - the pupils who had willed it to live, a friend who told me that she had wept at my story, and another who kindly rang to discuss with me what I had written. When someone becomes a priest, they often order a special stole (the thing priests wear over their shoulders at services) to mark the occasion. Mine has gold Jerusalem crosses to symbolise life's journey – I wear it at baptisms and weddings. A friend chose butterflies for hers. She felt that it summed up her life – crawling like a caterpillar through some tough times when younger, then growing and changing until emerging as someone ready to fly, so to speak. The book of Revelation, sometimes read at funerals, describes a heavenly city as a place of light and life to which we're all invited. I don't know if there butterflies in Heaven, but I sometimes think that butterflies describe all of us – crawling like caterpillars through this world, but with the possibility of greater things to come in the next. **Brian Williams**

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Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
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SUPERFAST BROADBAND – I apologise for not making it clear in the last Newsletter that it is just the cabinet installation which is complete at the top of Short Lane. KCC have said that getting a power supply to the new cabinet or problems installing a fibre circuit from the Archers Court telephone exchange may affect completion. The timeline for Superfast Broadband to Alkham is April to October this year. **editor**

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS – The seven people elected to serve as Parish Councillors in the Parish of Alkham are: Sue Lees, Den Barnard, Neil Burrows, Julian Meade, Geoff Hillier, Anthony Barrier and Fiona Macaskill. Three hundred and eight four people were eligible to vote and there was a 66% turnout, with 240 votes for the person who polled the highest. At the Parish Council AGM on the 19th May the current chairman Neil Burrows, who does an excellent job, was re-elected with Julian Meade elected as vice-chairman.

MANY THANKS to Paul Tapsell who has retired after being a Parish Councillor for many years. Thanks also to Geoff Lymer, who continues as our County Councillor, and to Edith Neve who has written an article on page 2.

W.I. Coffee Morning

Alkham Village Hall 6th June
10.30 to 12 o'clock
Cake stall, Bric-a-brac, Tombola. Bring
& Buy - All welcome

FOUND on the village green at the end of April, a Yale and dead lock key. Please ring 824969 if you have lost them.

OTHER MATTERS discussed at the Parish Council Meeting
Problem of camper vans parking on the village car park – PCSO will be asked to investigate: New picnic benches for the village green were delivered damaged and returned: John Prince is working on the new Historic Noticeboard: KCC couldn't empty the sump to the dyke opposite the village hall because their equipment is not powerful enough – an outside contractor will be used: New litter bins due to be sited near the bus stop: The Flood Warden, Den Barnard, gave an update of works that have been carried out by KCC: Various planning matters.

ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD – A meeting is to be set up with Kent Highways and the Parish Council to discuss measures that could be taken to reinforce the fact that drivers are passing through a village when going through Alkham. In other villages light coloured surfacing has been placed and features introduced to persuade drivers to slow down.

SUMMER GUITAR CONCERT at St Anthony's - Once again Jimmy D'Alton Bellas is bringing his past and present students to St Anthony's for another Summer Evening Guitar Concert on Saturday 27th June at 6:30pm. He has also managed to obtain the services of award-winning Grant Dowse who is now performing at the highest professional level, and Emily Renshaw (mezzo soprano) who are both eager to perform in the beautiful setting of St Anthony's once again. All proceeds go the Friends of St Anthony's. Tickets are £7.50 and £3.50 for optional finger buffet from Den (824845) or Brian (824969).

Den Barnard



THE BRIDGES across the dyke in front of Valley Cottages will be replaced, with works starting in August this year.

DROP IN FOR COFFEE - A group of us are always in the Village Hall having coffee [50p] on Wednesdays from 10.30am -11am. [Any profits go to various charities] If anyone, young or less young, male or female, with children or without, with friend or partner would like to drop in and join us for a bit of chat about everything and nothing, then we assure you that you will go home with a smile on your face. Take a risk, we are all too puffed out from our Keep Fit to be alarming. **Susannah Tapsell**

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PUMPING STATION WORKS – There was an animated discussion at the Parish Council meeting regarding the traffic management works on the Valley Road. The Parish Council had written to the water company complaining about the measures and the use of traffic lights when no works were taking place. The reply inferred that all these measures were necessary to stop accidents and referred to a car that had crashed near the gates (despite the traffic management being in place). It is fair to say that the traffic management has been very poor and didn't meet the requirements for an enforceable speed limit.

THE BARN DANCE in the village hall on the 16th May was great fun with music provided by a live band called Meadow Folk. Thirty eight people came along and as before there was the usual mayhem of people turning in the wrong direction.

DEAR PARISHIONERS – My many years as a Parish Councillor has been a privilege, serving the village and also serving alongside my fellow councilors. It is only fitting that a tribute should go to the kingpin of our Parish Council, our very own clerk Angela Miller and also to our Chairman, Neil Burrows, who has guided us over many years. I have sadly resigned due to ill health as I can no longer attend site meetings because of my lack of mobility. I wish the new Council and its chairman many happy and successful years. **Edith Neve – Ewell Minnis**

SPOOKY TALES OF ALKHAM long ago 2 – Approximately half way up White Hill (off Slip Lane) there used to be a cottage in a field, which I believe was demolished early in the last century. My great-grandmother Jane Appleton lived in the cottage – I think it would have been in the mid-Victorian era. One snowy night she answered the door to find an old couple asking the way to Capel. Jane directed them to the village and up Hogbrook Lane (I believe she assumed they were vagrants of some sort). The following day they were found frozen to death approximately where the bungalow 'Countryside' now stands (behind Valley Cottages). Who were they and why were they going to Capel? We will never know. **Robert Ferguson**

GARDEN TALK - Our next visit is to the productive garden of Richard and Susannah Tapsell at Bramhall, Alkham Valley Road on the evening of Friday 12th June, where we will be assured of a warm welcome from 7.30p.m.

BOOK CLUB for June is to be held at the home of Avi Munn, Poems Short Lane on Wednesday 24th June at 7.30p.m. The book for discussion is *Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins. If you would like more details of the Book Club contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

ALKHAM WI - June 9th 7.30pm in the Village Hall - Martyn Harrison will give a talk about 'Phantom and the Opera' that sounds fascinating, so anyone wishing to join are welcome. Hostesses - Susan Lees, Beryl King & Lucy McKenzie. Raffle prize - Pam Sayers. **Susan Lees**

VERY SPECIAL INVITATION! - Hadlow College will be exhibiting a garden at this year's RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show and we are holding a preview at Fowlmead Country Park, off the A258 near Sholden, Deal CT14 0BF, on 28th May at 11.00am with opportunity to meet the designers. The Green Seam garden we shall exhibit depicts the transformation of the former colliery site into a sustainable park for education, sustainable business and community use. RSVP to: Pat Crawford : pat.crawford@hadlow.ac.uk or 01732 852243.

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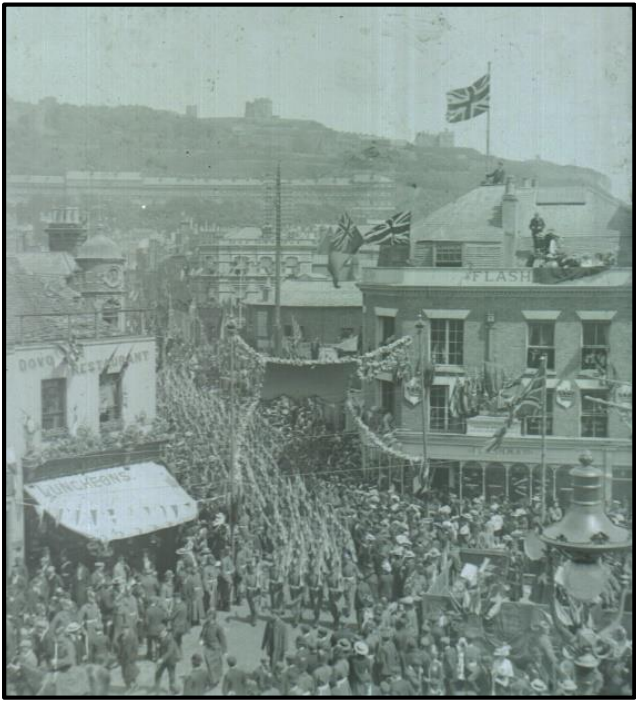
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OZ says – Last month my partner's sister Jane shared our holiday in Bognor and here's what she wrote about it afterwards:

B*GGER BOGNOR! Well – if you look at the portraits, he looks so upright and serious - sedate even - with that Edwardian style moustache and beard - like Elgar, Bernard Shaw, Conan Doyle...Yes, I know he's not Edwardian - of course not - but the hair is, isn't it? So what I'm saying is, he – George V, seems far too proper to have ever said, “Bugger Bognor” even in extremis. And if you do try to find proof or evidence, you can't. He stayed here quite a long time it's true - ill with something lingering - chest I think - but no, he didn't die here, and those are not his dying words. Sorry. But what of the place itself? Well, a wonderful long esplanade to walk by the sea – south-facing of course - and several grand-looking hotels. The Norfolk the grandest. The Norfolk in Sussex? The Earl of Norfolk owned a large estate here so you'll see the name often - pubs, road names and the like. There's a good little town behind The Front - independent shops as well as the inevitable chains. A market on Wednesdays, a pleasant arcade, some art shops and dress shops, and a fine old-fashioned haberdasher if that's your bag. And down the road of course there is Butlins! Bognor Butlins! What a visionary that man was! Give people neat terraced chalets with pleasant planting in front, a fun fair and some coffee shops and a huge dome full of bright flashing games and slot machines - and you have the recipe for inexpensive family fun. Before package hols to Alicante and Lanzarote and all points south...and still today in fact... And the future for this town of former glory and elegance and fame? More of the same I trust! Sunshine and sea breezes, sun hats and ice-creams! But take care, you Town Planners, with the power to enhance and retain or damage and destroy – please keep the character of Bognor true to its illustrious name – Regis after all means Royal and Regal, and The King gave it this accolade! Forget the B*ugger Bognor myth. It just ain't true! **(Jane Mitchell)**



WW1 – Sue Lees found a box of glass negatives, which probably show the celebrations at the end of WW1. The photo looks over Market Square in Dover, with troops marching down Castle Street. The slide was scanned with the scanner lid open. If you would like to see more please contact Sue on 821147 or Brian on 824969.



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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
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

Tuesday	2	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	6	W.I. Coffee Morning 10.30am to mid-day
Tuesday	9	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	15	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	21	W.I. jumble sale in the village hall from 11am
Tuesday	30	Film Night 7.30pm in VH – Testament of Youth

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 th		Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship Tog 11.00 am
Sunday 14 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship Tog 11.00 am	
Sunday 21 st	Family Service 11.00	Evensong 6.00 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 28 th	Joint service starts at St Peter & St Paul River at 10.30 & picnic if fine.		

We are now online at: www.church-alkham-capel-hougham.org.uk

From a Retired Churchwarden - "Uugh – what's that smell?" exclaimed my wife as she entered St Anthony's vestry to decorate the church for Easter. Investigations quickly revealed the source – someone had used one of the flower buckets as a chamber pot. "If you can put a positive spin on such a thing" I replied "it shows, without doubt, the need for a toilet in St Anthony's" - something Bishop Trevor calls a basic human right in the 21st century. At the recent church annual meeting, after 7 years in the role, I have stood down as churchwarden. It has been a privilege to serve St Anthony's with help from Richard Tapsell, Ken Hammond and Grace Stacey - the other wardens who have served with me, not to mention two vicars and two interregnums. A lot has happened during that time, including the formation of the Friends of St Anthony's, who do so much to keep the fabric of the church sound, the solar panels on the church roof, concerts and special services such as the WW1 Remembrance Weekend last August. It has become clear that we need to bring St Anthony's, the only open public building in the village, up to date for wider community use. This multi-year project will involve putting a toilet, kitchenette, enclosed heated meeting area and small car park at St Anthony's. Soon, through a survey, your opinions will be sought to identify local priorities for the project. Finally, a big thank you to three donors who came forward, to pledge money for the additional cost of the churchyard grass cutting which has now been met for 2015. This shows the generosity of people in our community to the church and its heritage. God bless. **Geoff Gaskill**

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email brianwimsett@hotmail.com

Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791
alkham.pc@outlook.com

Alkham web site www.alkham.org
Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635

W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641

Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk

Police – 999 emergency & 101

Vicar Revd. Brian Williams 01303 243784

Church Warden Richard Tapsell 01304 822295

MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669

County Councillor - Geoffrey Lymer

079604 90 929

District Councillor - Pauline Beresford

216187: Nick Dixon 07815691638

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Brian Wimsett
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No. 258 July 2015

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ALKHAM BOYS still on the road

A belated many happy returns to Ken Hammond who has just turned 80 years young and still going strong. He is still the fastest sprinter in the Alkham Cycling

Club as well as our technical expert and cycling guru and we wish him all the best for many more years on the road. Ken is seen here with Geoff Gaskill, Alan Latham, Ken, Den Barnard and Brian Wimsett, whose combined age is 350.

SUPERFAST BROADBAND – The information given by KCC regarding superfast broadband was a bit misleading as the speed will not increase unless you subscribe to it. Your current speed will remain the same and to get the increased speed you will either have to upgrade with your present provider, at an increased cost, or look around for a new deal.

ANNUAL HACKERS CRICKET MATCH - The annual cricket match between The Harrington Hackers and Alkham Cricket Club has been going for nearly fifty years, and this year's game ranks amongst the most exciting finishes. The statistics before this year's contest were 21 victories each, the rest drawn or abandoned, so the excitement was high at the start. Put into bat The Hackers started slowly but ended with a comfortable score of 130 in spite of light showers most of the afternoon. Alkham batted steadily after tea and seemed to be in command with an outstanding innings from Alkham skipper Toby Foster. After his dismissal, The Hackers took command and in the final over they needed just one wicket to win and Alkham requiring 6 for victory. Paul Tapsell missed the first 4 balls, so with 2 balls to go all was surely lost. No way. Paul hit the penultimate ball for one of the best sixes ever seen on the village green followed by the team chairing him off in triumph. Arrangements are being made for his knighthood or at least an OBE. As always many thanks to Sam and Lucy and all their helpers for the excellent lunch and to Barbara Palmer for her usual magnificent cricket tea. **Den Barnard**

RACE NIGHT – We are considering holding further events in the village hall and one of these is Race Night. There are companies that provide sealed DVD's of obscure horse races which would be projected onto our large screen. Before the race small bets (50p to £1 is recommended) can be placed on the horses using the Tote system, which pays out a large proportion of the bets as winnings. A Master of Ceremonies will run proceedings and a number of Tote ticket sellers will take the bets. Another idea is to have a Casino Night, but we would welcome any other ideas you might have for further entertainment. Please let either Geoff or Brian know if you have any suggestions or contact through the web site.

FILM NIGHT

Next showing in the village hall at 7.30pm

Tuesday 28th July

Still Alice

Tickets cost £4.50 - bring refreshments

FOR SALE £50 Qualcast 1600W electric hover mower, which cost £75 new when bought recently; genuine reason for sale. Please see Ken at Meadowside on Slip Lane.

PIMLICO WAY - If you know the person who is cutting tree limbs on Pimlico Way, please contact Martin Scherer so it can be done properly; please phone 07 971 22 22 26.

RIVER SUMMER FAYRE - This year we have the New Foundland dogs, classic cars, owls, Atlantis entertainment, horse & cart rides, plus many craft stalls and a variety of food and drink. The Fayre is on Sunday July 12th from 11am-4pm at the Recreation Ground on Lewisham Road.

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8,000 W.I. LADIES at Buckingham Palace to celebrate at a Centenary Garden Party for which Her Majesty the Queen had given her "graceful permission". Sue Harman and I received one each as representatives of Alkham W.I. Before the

occasion we became friendly with two ladies from Elms Vale and Maxton W.I., Barbara Hatton and Ivy Harvey, and consequently the four of us were together all day, which was lovely except for the queues to get into the Palace (which could not possibly have been avoided). I thought it was superbly organized, and certainly an occasion not to be missed. The tea was lovely, and you helped yourself to dainty sandwiches and cakes, some of which were decorated with strawberries, raspberries and cream. There was even ice cream if you wanted it. We were all very impressed. As soon as one plate was finished, another took its place. As all these ladies from just about everywhere had put on their best bib and tucker, we tried hard to find two ladies dressed alike, but only one pair did we find. Unfortunately the Queen and the Duke did not attend, which we were told about beforehand. It was hosted by the Duchess of Cornwall, the Duchess of Gloucester and the Duchess of Wessex, and Princess Alexandra. The Calendar Girls were also there, and of course an added interest. Sue took some photographs outside the Palace gates in the courtyard, as we had been told we could not take photos in the gardens, but some of the W.I. did not appear to have read this instruction! For Sue and I it was indeed a fascinating occasion - a day to remember. **Pamela Sayers - Alkham W.I.**

CORRECTION – The number of people registered to vote in the Parish of Alkham was 580. The turnout was 66.21% turnout which is the 384 as stated in the last Newsletter and apologies to Dr. Julian Mead for putting an 'e' on the end of his name.

GARDEN TALK - We were able to spend the whole of the evening in the productive garden at 'Bramhall' this month, and hope for similar good weather when we visit 'Thorn Cottage' in Meggett Lane on Friday 24th July. Rosemary & Geoff Hillier are our hosts - all welcome from 7.30p.m. **Janet Adamson**

BOOK CLUB for July is on Wednesday 29th at the home of Helen Price, Megget Farm, Megget Lane commencing at 7.30. The book for discussion is Heart Breaker by Julie Garwood. For more information contact Jane Aslett.

ALKHAM W.I. - Martyn Harrison gave us another truly lovely performance with him singing. On the 14th July, Helen Scopes our chairman, will talk about the R.S.P.C.A., a lady with much knowledge. Any ladies are welcome to come to this meeting in the Village Hall 7.30pm - **Susan Lees**

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OZ on LOREM IPSUM – During a pub lunch with friends, one of us noticed several lines of Latin painted in gold archaic script above the door. After spending some considerable time trying to translate the text from our failing memories, we asked the manager what it meant. “I dunno”, he shrugged, “we saw it somewhere and thought it would look good up there.” It was a risky course of action, we thought. Recently, I discovered the concept of ‘lorem ipsum’ and wondered whether the pub Latin was an example. The phrase comes from the publishing industry and describes a ‘filler text’, devised to demonstrate the appearance of the text in a document without the distraction of viewing anything meaningful. Filler texts have been in use since the 16th century, but the ‘lorem ipsum’ was developed in the 1960s by Letraset, and is now standard in computing. The text comes from the first few letters of a suitably scrambled section of Cicero’s 1st century BC work ‘[De finibus bonorum et malorum](#)’. In practice it might look like this: “Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum”, and so on. Including that example of lorem ipsum has made it very easy for me this month to puff my story to the usual 300 words, but I don’t think that either the editor or you, dear readers, would be very happy if I were to make a habit of it. **Steve Osborn**

FROM A VERY OLD RETIRED CHURCH WARDEN regarding the smell in the vestry and being used as a toilet. The vestry is locked at all times and only a small minority of church people have access. The smell could have come from flower containers with stagnant water that should have been emptied. As for the suggestion that one of us is using the vestry as a toilet takes some believing. The article in the Newsletter should not have been printed for all the village to draw their own conclusions as to who the culprit is. If there is a culprit, which is most unlikely, it is a private matter which should have been dealt with by the PCC. I think an apology to all those implicated would be the only thing to do. It’s always better to think before you act as it can cause bad feeling. **ex Church Warden Ken**

ST LAURENCE IN HOUGHAM will be visited by Sabotage Theatre Company on Saturday 8th August, to perform their new smuggling play *Owlers* by Zoe Hinks, starting at 7.30pm. The story is inspired by a series of real events which led to the demise of the infamous Aldington Gang of smugglers, when what started as a routine landing of contraband at Dover in 1826 ends in disaster. It follows the extraordinary lives of ordinary people when the world was turned upside down; Lighthouse Sisters, cross-dressing tub boys and the outlawed vicar who harboured contraband in his church. Tickets cost £10 (£5 conc.) from www.sabotagetheatre.com and for more details email zohinks@gmail.com or phone 07940108121.

DOVER FESTIVAL PROM – A festive charity concert at 7.30 pm on Friday 3rd July in Dover Town Hall. Featuring Two Songs by Gershwin, and Broadway Medley, selections from My Fair Lady, and, of course, Dauntless Dover. Finally the audience will be invited to join the choir in singing the traditional Proms Finales. Tickets at £7 from Dover Tourist Information, www.ticketsource.co.uk/doverfestivalprom or from Forwoods on 01304 872812. **Steve Osborn**



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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	6	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm in village hall – all welcome
Tuesday	7	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Tuesday	14	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	20	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	28	Film Night 7.30pm in VH – Still Alice

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

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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
Sunday 5 th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship Tog. 11.00
Sunday 12 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship Tog. 11.00 am	
Sunday 19 th	Family Service 11.00	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 26 th	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 9.30 am		

We are now online at: www.church-alkham-capel-hougham.org.uk

FROM THE VICARAGE - In the Bible the book of Genesis tells us that in the beginning God's real reason for making animals was nothing to do with Man exploiting them, but just so that the Man (OK, humankind) - would not be alone. No wonder that so many of us value the companionship of a pet. When our cat arrived in our home two years ago care was taken to set out some ground rules from the start. Someone insisted that demands for food, cuddles and attention would be met immediately. In return, she would bring us presents – of mice, mainly. In fact recently she met me as I arrived home, meowed for me to follow her across the garden, and then sat down beside the hedge, meowing excitedly. Puzzled at first, I soon realised what she was telling me: this is where the mice live. Not good news for mice, perhaps. But Isaiah, one of the Biblical prophets, foresaw a golden future in which the lion and the lamb will lie down together. Perhaps the same will apply to cats and mice. As it is, our world is not an ideal one but a work in progress. Faith is not a charm against misfortune but is rather about coping with our world as it is while hoping, praying and working for something better. Meanwhile, lions still prey on lambs, cats still prey on mice, laughter mingles with tears, and road traffic preys on cats - even vicarage cats. She lies with the mice, in the corner of the garden beside the hedge where they live. The vicarage seems strangely empty, and no - it is not good for us to be alone. **Brian Williams**

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FOOTPATH DIVERSION

An application has been made to divert the public footpath that currently passes through the garden of the Old Rectory in Alkham. The main reason for the application is the insecurity caused by the footpath passing so close to the house. The proposal is to

close the footpath from the churchyard at point A, through the Old Rectory garden to point B. The new footpath diversion will run from point B, past the back of the big green barn to point D where it will join the other footpath which passes by the church. The stile to the north of point B, where the footpath meets Slip Lane, will be replaced with a pedestrian gate.

TRAFFIC – It appears that there is more traffic going along the Alkham Valley since the introduction of speed cameras on the A20. The Port Authority and the police are trialling a 40mph speed limit on the A20 east of Roundhill tunnel in conjunction with the traffic lights near Aycliffe. Evidently it's rigidly enforced and some drivers may be diverting to the valley. If the trial is successful, gantries could be installed to show variable speeds which might alleviate the matter.

RIGHTS OF WAY - As a few of Alkham's rights of way have something of the jungle about them, the Parish council thought that it would be worth reminding people of their rights and responsibilities. In brief if the obstruction is overgrown trees and hedges, then removing these is considered the responsibility of the landowner, or if the obstruction is from surface vegetation or poor surface condition it is the responsibility of the Highways Authority. In practice expecting landowners or the Highways Authority to maintain all our paths is unrealistic. If your way is blocked by overhanging vegetation then you are legally allowed to remove enough of the obstruction to pass safely, and strictly you should leave whatever you have removed on the property of the landowner. As overgrown trees are more of a problem for riders I wondered whether we might raise a band of horsey volunteers to help maintain some of our routes? If you are a landowner with an overgrown path I would be glad to hear from you, so we could coordinate our plans. Please email Fiona Macaskill; fmacaskill1@gmail.com

CHARLOTTE TAPSELL - I am sure you will all want to congratulate Charlotte, who lives in South Alkham, on her wonderful achievement of being selected for the England U16 Alpine Ski Squad. Her success is rather staggering considering she only started skiing a little over three years ago. Well done Charlotte, we will all be cheering you on. **Irene Barnard**

FILM NIGHT

Next showing in the village hall at 7.30pm
Tuesday 25th August
The Second Best Marigold Hotel
Tickets cost £4.50 - bring refreshments

FREE DOG CHIPPING - From 6 April 2016 dogs have to be micro-chipped by law and Dover District Council is offering free dog microchipping at various locations. Events are listed to take place on 28th July at the Elms Vale Recreation Ground, 12 noon to 1.30pm: 2nd August, Frandham Kennels Open Day, Minnis Lane, River – 11am to 4pm: 25th August, Barton Footpath, Dover – 10am to 12 noon and 4th September, Connaught Park, Dover – 12 noon to 1.30pm. These details should be checked before going.

ITEMS discussed at the Parish Council meeting – The Historic Notice board has been made and awaits the graphics from DDC: The picnic benches will be installed on the green shortly: The replacement bridge works to the front of Valley Cottages will start in August: If there are further problems with camper vans on the village car park the PCSO should be phoned on 101: Hydrocleanse is scheduled to clear the sump in the dyke opposite the village hall: A councillor said that the Parish Council needed to be more proactive in obtaining what the parishioners want from them and to set up a Parish Council web site to help achieve this.

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SQUATTERS WARNING - We returned from a holiday in France to find our bungalow home occupied by a number of squatters. It's an old property that started life as a cowshed. Consequently the eaves are open with no fascia or soffit boards and

some cave like spaces. We were surprised to find that a Wren, normally quite timid, had made its home above the patio door in the eaves space. The scientific name for the wren is troglodytes, which means cave dweller and the space it found is very cave like. More research revealed that male wrens hold large territories in which they build several nests in holes in walls or trees or in old nests of other birds. The male sings near a nest to attract a female. If she accepts, she adds a lining of feathers to the nest and lays the eggs. When food is abundant a male may persuade two or more females to lay in his territory. Any unused nests are known as 'cock nests' and may be used for roosting. The female feeds the young with little help from the male but when the young fly, the male takes over the care and even leads them to roost in one of his cock nests. Much activity was viewed from our lounge chairs as these tiny birds carried insects to the hungry young. We eventually saw one of the young squatters perched on a cable just outside the nest. From start to finish took around one month. Amazing. Oh, we also found two bumble bee nests in the eaves elsewhere and wasps looking for a doorway into the roof. Leaving your house unguarded can be unwise but very interesting. **Alan Latham**

A HEARING LOOP for the hard of hearing has been installed in the village hall and is now operational.

PETER SMITH has Shetland sheep fleeces available for spinning at £10 each. These fleeces are unwashed and from our pedigree flock in Alkham. Shearing took place in July 2015. Shetland wool is very soft and well crimped. The wool is the finest of all native breeds and shows an amazing variety of colours and markings. We have various natural colours including white, fawn, moorit, grey and black. We will also have Shetland lamb available in the next few weeks. Contact Peter Smith on 07711 648 255 or pnsmith755@gmail.com.

GARDEN TALK - On Friday 14th August, we have been invited to Chalksole Cottage to view the well-stocked and interesting garden of Linda and Geoff Gaskill. We look forward to seeing the varied planting and productive fruit and vegetable sections - all welcome from 7.30p.m.

Janet Adamson

ALKHAM W.I. - July was a truly lovely meeting because we all praised Cherry Leppard, bought wine and a lovely cake and flowers because she is to receive the British Empire Medal from Queen Elizabeth II for voluntary service to the

community. Helen Scopes gave a lovely talk for the RSPCA about cats and kittens. Although three people were in charge of serving food, Barbarah Palmer had made two lovely cakes. On 11th August there will be Fish & Chips and a Quiz. **Susan Lees**

FARMERS MARKET

Alkham Village hall
August 6th & 20th
10am to 12am

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OZ on THOMAS'S PRIVATE – This month, further to my January and March stories, I'd like to continue viewing the first year of the First World War through the eyes of the poet Edward Thomas. During the spring of 1915 Thomas completed nearly 50 poems while still agonizing over enlistment in the forces, especially since at that time, as a 'mature, married man', he was exempt. Eventually, Thomas settled the matter by joining the Artists' Rifles in July 1915. Now, with military training under way, there was little time for poetry. However, in January 1915, Thomas had made sketches for a simple short poem on the death of a labouring man. The second draft read as follows:

The labouring man here lying slept out of doors
Many a frosty night, and merrily
Answered good drinkers and bedmen and all bores:
'At Mrs. Greenland's Hawthorn Bush', said he,
'I slept.' None knew which bush. Above the town,
Beyond 'The Drover' a hundred spot the down.

This draft is untitled and makes no mention of the war. In August 1915, Thomas rewrote the poem and added another two lines, so that it became a war poem reflecting on the plight of young men, killed and buried in another country, and titled "A Private". Here it is:

This ploughman dead in battle slept out of doors
Many a frozen night, and merrily
Answered staid drinkers, good bedmen, and all bores:
'At Mrs. Greenland's Hawthorn Bush', said he,
'I slept.' None knew which bush. Above the town,
Beyond 'The Drover' a hundred spot the down
In Wiltshire. And where now at last he sleeps
More sound in France – that, too, he secret keeps.

This version was finally published under Thomas's pseudonym Edward Eastaway, in Gordon Bottomley's 1917 anthology, An Annual of New Verse. **Steve Osborn**

U3A – Places are available on the these events: Wednesday 19th August (10.30-14.30) **Workshop**: "Working through a Crime Scene from Forensics to Crown Court Trial" led by Ex-DCI Roy Murphy at Astor Community Theatre, Deal: Wednesday 26th August (10.30-12.30) **TALK**: "Zero Aggression" : Speaker: Prison Officer Sean Talbot at Astor Community Theatre, Deal: Please email bgouge@tiscali.co.

GREEN SEAM GARDEN IS BEST IN SHOW - Hadlow College's vision for the regeneration of Betteshanger, near Deal, has seen it win 'Best in Show' at this year's RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show. Green Seam tells the story of the transformation from colliery to country park, and looks forward to the area's future built on the combination of sustainable green technologies and innovation, further education and creation of new jobs. Steel structures and metal cables support climbing plants reflect the shape of the colliery pithead, while black opaque glass pillars represent the future. After the show, the garden will be relocated to Betteshanger Sustainable Parks and reconstructed near the site of the Kent Mining Museum, part of the visitor Centre.



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Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
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

Tuesday	4	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Tuesday	11	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	17	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	25	Film Night 7.30pm in VH – The second best Marigold Hotel

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 2nd	Evensong 6.30 pm		
Sunday 9th	ST LAURENCE Patronal Festival, Hougham Benefice Eucharist 10.00 am		
Sunday 16th	ST RADIGUND Patronal Festival, Capel le Ferne Benefice Eucharist 10.00 am		
Sunday 23rd	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		
Sunday 30th	Benefice Eucharist 10.00 am at St Mary's (Capel Old Church)		

We are now online at: www.church-alkham-capel-hougham.org.uk

FROM THE VICARAGE - Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Gandhi have all spoken of the power of small acts of kindness. A vicar friend used to say that on Judgement Day it will be something small, like a cup of tea offered to someone at a difficult moment, which will make all the difference to us. The Battle of Britain Memorial is just inside the parish of Capel le Ferne, and again this year I was privileged to assist in leading prayers at the annual Memorial Day – and this year marked the 75th anniversary of the beginning of the Battle. The service was about to begin as we took our seats. I was in the front row, near the microphone, and my wife Angela sat behind. Also in the front row was one of the veterans of the Battle who was to read the Exhortation. Just before we began someone asked Angela for a tissue. Prayers were offered and wreaths were laid. Sadly low cloud meant that the eagerly anticipated flypast had to be cancelled, and the afternoon ended after tea. That evening the telephone rang. Did we know that we were on the television news? Overcome by curiosity we turned on the TV. Of course, the news report concentrated on the remaining members of The Few who were present, but I caught a fleeting glimpse of myself in the background as a wreath was laid. Angela, too, was on screen for just a couple of seconds. But then the camera focused on one of the wonderful old men who fought in the skies above us so long ago – and he was clutching a tissue... If there's a lesson in that, it's probably that Mother Teresa, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Gandhi were right all along... **Brian Williams**

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Newsletter Brian Wimsett 824969
email brianwimsett@hotmail.com

Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791
alkham.pc@outlook.com

Alkham web site www.alkham.org
Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635

W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641

Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk

Police – 999 emergency & 101

Vicar Revd. Brian Williams 01303 243784

Church Warden Richard Tapsell

822295

MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669

County Councillor - Geoffrey Lymer

079604 90 929

District Councillor - Pauline Beresford

216187: Nick Dixon 07815691638

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No. 260 September 2015
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RACE NIGHT – The Village Hall is going ahead with Race Night where there is a Tote to bet on screened horse races. We have decided to pay a company to run the first one, which will be on the 7th November. More details later.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – If you want to raise an issue or just find out what the Parish Council do, the next meeting is on Monday 7th September starting at 7.30pm in Alkham village hall.

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - The AGM of the Alkham Valley Society will take place on 29 October at 7.30 pm in the Alkham Village Hall. After the Meeting a supper will be held at The Fox, Temple Ewell from 8.30 pm. Please let the Secretary know (tel. beneath) if you intend coming to The Fox, for numbers they might expect. Thank you, and for

Further information - At the invitation of the President of the Society an evening party will be held at the Old Rectory in June 2016, at a date to be decided, since this is the month when the roses are good and the wine flows generously. The party will be open to all (paid up) members of the Alkham Valley Society. **Joanna Walker (Secretary) 01304 821641**

GUITAR CONCERT – Many thanks to Jimmy Dalton-Bellas for donating £400 from the Guitar Concert to the Friends of St. Anthony again. The concert was held in June in St. Anthony's church and was a great success. The Friends pay for essential repairs and improvements to the church building.

FARMERS MARKET – There should be a regular fresh fish stall at the market, called 'Steve the Fish' so fresh it looks alive. There is also fruit & veg, meat, cakes and other stalls.

THE HARVEST SUPPER will be held on Monday 12th October in Alkham village with cottage pie, fruit crumble or pie being served. The cost is £6 per person and to book please phone Carol Mannall on 01304 826514 or if after the 25th September, Anne Huggins on 824340.

ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL - items discussed at the last committee meeting: Various options were put forward to deal with the possible flooding of the hall, all of which would put the hall out of operation for a while. One solution is to wait for it to happen and then replace the floor with a concrete one: Den Barnard is monitoring the dyke problems and the stretch by the hall needs to be cleared: Holes in the car park to be filled and fence to be erected: A new amplifier will be bought as the current one doesn't have an output for the loop amplifier.

COFFEE MORNING Saturday 26th September - There will be a Coffee Morning on Saturday 26th September in the village hall from 10am until 12noon. The coffee morning is in aid of MacMillan Cancer Support, a very important charity that gives practical and financial help to cancer sufferers and their families. There will be various stalls and I would very much appreciate any items you may like to donate towards the bric a brac stall or tombola; jewellery would also be welcome. I would also be very grateful to anyone who would be willing to bake a cake for the cake stall. For any further information please contact **Sue Ross - 01304 825736**

FILM NIGHT

Next showing in the village hall at 7.30pm

Tuesday 29th September

Penguins of Madagascar

Tickets cost £4.50 - bring refreshments

WELL DONE – Mark and Clare Naris, who live in the centre of the village, are proud to say that their daughter, Eleanor, achieved 4 A* results in her A-Levels and has secured a place at Oxford University (Mansfield College) to study Civil Engineering.

Valley Cottages Bridge Replacement
The work to replace the access bridges to Valley Cottages will commence in September. The Kent County Council Highways Division have completed the test drillings and the tendering process is under way. When the start date has been finalised the KCC project manager will organise a site meeting with the Valley Cottages residents and any other interested parties to explain the details and answer any questions.

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AS A FORMER PARISH COUNCILLOR I had the privilege to work alongside two sincere hard working colleagues, Paul Tapsell and Geoffrey Lymer. Both contributed immensely in their own ways. Paul Tapsell with his wealth of legal knowledge and Geoffrey Lymer who achieved many improvements to our village they being: a village green bench: football pitch lights: a beautiful bus shelter: an historic notice board: picnic benches: drain gullies and highway ditches cleared: a complete length of the Valley Road resurfaced due to flood damage all at no cost to the Parish Precept. Due to ill health I retired from the council after many years. However I feel it is important that newly appointed Parish Councillors do not rush into trying to make a name for themselves by proposing ideas that are not well considered. There has been a suggestion to have a Parish Council web site. Whilst this may work fine in some surrounding villages with a multitude of activities, in Alkham we have gone from the 12th century to the present day very well through promulgating information to the residents via the noticeboard and Newsletter. If we had a web site, then many elderly residents of the village do not have access to the Internet, so straightaway a section of the village would be disadvantaged by this proposal. It is important to remember Councillors are elected by the community. Those Parish Councillors should not propose suggestions that would disadvantage a sector of the village, otherwise they will make a name for themselves, perhaps not a name of their choice. **Edith Neave Ewell Minnis**

THE HANGING GARDENS of Slip Lane, a fascinating opportunity for speculation and wonder for several months now, are a vision of what can be done to create a 21st century garden out of a steep rise of hitherto unused land. The carefully designed slopes provide a view, a series of multifunctional terraces which will have plants of all sorts cascading from its levels - and a venue for summer book club meetings! Thanks for this daring addition to our sleepy hollow, Anita and Vernon James! **Jo Walker**

FARMERS MARKET

Alkham Village hall
September 3rd & 17th
10am to 12am

ALKHAM W.I. - At our last meeting we ate Fish & Chips or other foods and had a super Quiz too. A Jumble Sale is on 5th Sept, members are invited to come and help 10am. Anybody (men & women) invited to come to our next meeting on 8th September - the speaker will be Paul Skelton talking about "Pubs" of Alkham and Capel. Raffle: Susannah Tapsell Hostesses - Susannah Tapsell, Alison Warnock & Pat Yeomans. **Sue Lees**

GARDEN TALK - Our next gathering is at Burley Cottage, Newcastle Lane, Ewell Minnis on Friday 11th September, where our hosts are Barbara and Neil Williams. Please note our earlier start time of **7.00p.m.** to make the most of the evening light. **Janet Adamson**

WHITE CLIFFS METAL DETECTORS - At the next club meeting in Alkham village hall on Tuesday 1st September at 7.30pm, we have a talk by Jon Iveson, who is the Senior Curator at Dover Museum. The talk will be based on Napoleonic Dover. Non club members are welcome to come along, £2.00 per person. **Vince Burrows**

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MITCH on GULLS – Waking with the dawn chorus the other day was a big surprise – new grandson Leo of the Red Hair is only week's old but sleeps like a top! But if I tell you it was Brighton or thereabouts you'll know I'm talking seagulls! Very loud! Very early! Now this island of ours has thousands of miles of sea coast and thousands of birds we love and cherish – indeed we take delight in recognising puffins and terns, guillemots and curlews. My own favourite is the oystercatcher – those delicate red legs, red beak and haunting cry. But the commonest gull, the herring gull – you know the one – yellow beak, grey wings, lots of white – is quite a thug. Not just scavenging chips and sandwiches on seafronts, but 99 Flakes snatched from kiddies' hands – there are even photos of them swallowing small rodents whole, and warnings against leaving babies unwatched in their prams! Shades of the rats of Hamelin here! Apparently there's been some evolving going on. In the old days gulls lived their days at sea and fished for their supper. Now they prefer a land-based lifestyle and a diet of chips and ice cream just like us! What's to be done? A cull of the gull? Brighton, Blackpool and Bognor might sign up for that. But here the law intervenes. It is an offence to kill, maim or poison a gull, or prevent it nesting. Rarely, an individual licence-to-kill may be granted (damage to crops or livelihoods) but not often! So whereas they are protected from aggression by us, we are not protected from aggression by them! Conundrum! However, I for one would hate a seaside hol without their cries, wouldn't you? It's just one of those unsolvable riddles I guess. And at least if I'm woken early I'm ahead of the grannying game and ready for a day with young Leo. **(Jane Mitchell)**



U3A - On Wednesday September 16th from 13.30-15.30 hrs. in Dover Town Council Chamber, Maison Dieu House, the monthly meeting will include a talk by Ann Hall entitled "Magic of the Middle East".

BEECHES - Emerald Extra Care housing for people aged 55 and over. The new housing development in Cranleigh Drive, Whitfield is an extra care scheme for people aged 55 and over. It's a social housing development and delivers affordable homes with care on site if you need it. With high quality fixtures and fittings, these one and two bedroom apartments provide flexible, independent living accommodation. Among the community facilities there when you want them, are a restaurant, bar, lounge, and computer room. The outside space enables residents to get involved or simply enjoy the beautiful landscaped gardens. There's a dedicated management service and an onsite care team offer extra care and support if needed. Rents vary according to circumstances. To apply you must be: 55 years or over and *registered for housing with Dover District Council and live in Kent. * Those with an assessed social care need for housing will receive priority. Contact West Kent on 01732 749400, email enquiries@wkha.org.uk or visit www.westkent.org

POTHoles – A transverse pothole was reported to KCC through their web site and it was quickly filled in. To report a pothole go to <http://www.kent.gov.uk/highwayfaults>.



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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
Saturday	5	PCC Jumble Sale in village hall 11am
Tuesday	8	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	19	SEKAS in village hall in the afternoon
Monday	21	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	26	Coffee morning in village hall 10 to 12 – see page 1
Tuesday	29	Film Night 7.30pm in VH – Penguins of Madagascar

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 th	Sung Eucharist 11.00am		Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 13 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship Together 11.00 am	Songs of Praise 5.15 p.m.
Sunday 20 th	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 9.30 am		
Sunday 27 th	Family Service 11.00 am	Family Service 11.00 am	Sung Eucharist 9.30am

We are now online at: www.church-alkham-capel-hougham.org.uk

From the vicarage - Buses to Hastings pass the vicarage several times a day – and recently, we decided to leave the car at home and take the bus – just for fun, enjoying a grandstand view of the countryside from the top deck along the way. We set off past The Valiant Sailor, down through the familiar streets of Folkestone and out towards the Romney Marsh. After a break at Dymchurch, we continued through New Romney, past the Lydd ranges and on into East Sussex, arriving at Hastings in time for lunch. After ice cream and a visit to the Aquarium, we decided to return through Fairlight to Rye, and pick up our connection there. Our bus arrived – but there was a problem. Some roadside vegetation had catapulted the nearside mirror through the door, showering the entrance with glass. The driver phoned for advice. As we waited one woman disembarked, lit a cigarette and fumed in more senses than one. She grumbled impatiently that she just wanted to get home. Something would soon be arranged, he reassured her gently. Eventually it was decided to change to a replacement bus at Lydd, and we boarded and set off. We arrived at Lydd – with the promised replacement bus nowhere in sight. This would have driven some to fury – but not our friend. It finally arrived; we climbed aboard and continued homewards, now running very late. Even so, at Hythe our driver still paused to wait for a prospective passenger who smiled her thanks as she ran towards the stop, his kindness saving her a long wait for the next bus. Patience really is a virtue! There are still those who are blessed with it, and who in turn are themselves a blessing to others... **Brian Williams**

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Newsletter Brian Wimsett 824969
email brianwimsett@hotmail.com

Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791
alkham.pc@outlook.com

Alkham web site www.alkham.org
Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635

W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641

Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk

Police – 999 emergency & 101

Vicar Revd. Brian Williams 01303 243784

Church Warden Richard Tapsell

822295

MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669

County Councillor - Geoffrey Lymer

079604 90 929

District Councillor - Pauline Beresford

216187: Nick Dixon 07815691638

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RACE NIGHT - The first Race Night in the village hall will be on the 7th November and be run by the company that provides the events. Horse races from various courses will be projected on to a screen and pre-race betting can be made on the Tote. The

minimum bet will probably be £1 and 50% of the total amount wagered will be given in prize money. It should be great fun and we hope you will come along and support this new village event.

COUNTRY & WESTERN – On the 24th of October in Alkham Village Hall there will be a Country & Western Night, starting at 7.30pm., with all your favourite songs. Bring your dancing shoes, drinks and pickies. The cost is £5 per person at the door and profits will go to the Hospice. **Helen Scopes**

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7th SEPTEMBER - Some time was spent discussing communications outside Parish Meetings and engaging with Parishioners. It was concluded that the village Newsletter would remain the vehicle for news at present. The silt removal from the Drellingore in front of the Village Hall and from the culvert in Meggett lane would be done in the next two weeks and the outstanding replacement of the fence at the bottom of Short Lane will be completed by mid-September. The problems of flooding at Wolverton Cottages and Little Everden Lane will be investigated by the Flood Warden and reported next time. The replacement of the bridges in front of Valley Cottages is still planned for September even though the costs are more than expected. A donation was agreed for assistance in grass cutting in St Anthony's churchyard with the comment that this was not a regular payment but would be assessed as and when requested. Councillors were asked to consider questions for a village survey to be discussed at the next meeting which will be held on 2nd November at 7:30pm. The full minutes of the meeting will be available on the Village website when approved. **Parish Council**

HISTORIC NOTICE BOARD – The board is complete and the graphics await final approval. The new board will be placed opposite the village hall and the existing one will be re-sited near the bus shelter. A comment was made that half the information is in French translation and very few French people are seen in Alkham.

HARVEST FESTIVAL - We really do need help to decorate the Church for Harvest Festival. So, please do come along to the Church on Friday 9th October from 2pm and join us. Whether it is just trailing some ivy round a rail or shaking a few flowers into a vase, your help would be much appreciated and I'm sure you would enjoy an age old village tradition. If possible bring some flowers or foliage from your garden and your willing fingers. Thank you very much. **Susannah Tapsell** [*You would of course, receive an even bigger welcome if you could join us for Harvest Festival on Sunday 11th at 9.30am*]

PETER SMITH has Shetland lamb available. Shetland lamb is very high quality meat with outstanding flavour and fine texture. It is far leaner meat than modern breeds. Contact Peter for details on 07711 648 255 or pnsmith755@gmail.com.

5.5 ACRES OF GRAZING LAND available at Pimlico Way, South Alkham, half of which is stock fenced and water is available in the next field. There is a peppercorn rent in return for fencing the remaining half and connecting water. Phone Martin on 07 971 22 22 26.

FILM NIGHT

Next showing in the village hall at 7.30pm

Tuesday 27th October

Far from the madding crowd

Tickets cost £4.50 - bring refreshments

MANURE – Have you got any horse manure which you want to get rid of? If so you can dump it in the pens at Pimlico Way Vineyard (by the Valley Road at South Alkham). Phone Martin on 07 971 22 22 26

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TEMPLE EWELL SCHOOL AUTUMN BALL – On Saturday 17th October the ball is being held at Dover Town Hall and costs £30 a head for a 3 course meal with coffee and disco. Black tie is optional and tables of 6 to 10 are available and can be booked by ringing 01304 823232.

PRINCE TUTORING – Due to popular demand, literacy and numeracy group lessons at Prince Tutoring, Nailbourne Cottage, will be moving into Alkham village hall on a Monday and Wednesday after school, 3.30 – 5pm. Lessons include fun spellings, timestables, reading and vocabulary. Join 'The Badgers' age 5-10 with Mrs. Shirley Prince and 'The High Flyers' ages 8-12 with Miss Tracey Prince. Call 07814354122, 01304 828098 or go to Prince Tutoring on Facebook for more details.

IMPRESSED – KCC upgraded the byway between Slip Lane and Chalksole Green Lane with lean concrete and put sharp sand on the top. Heavy rain washed the sand off which went down Slip Lane and across the Valley Road making cycling hazardous. On the 24th of August a rain storm washed further sand down to Hogbrook Lane and a resident reported it to KCC. Two days later KCC had a JCB, a lorry and a road sweeper on site to clear the current deluge away.

KENT FIRE & RESCUE - Between 2010 and 2014, Kent Fire and Rescue Service tackled almost 1,350 chimney fires in Kent and Medway and one of the main causes is not having your chimney swept regularly. Sign up for the free KFRS clean sweep email alert to receive an email in summer to remind you to get your chimney swept.
<http://www.kent.fire-uk.org/news/campaigns/clean-sweep-alert/>

WEB SITE – The minutes of Parish Council meetings from March 2012 to August 2015 are on the village web site www.alkham.org.

GARDEN TALK - We have visited a variety of colourful and interesting gardens in the village this year. Our next meeting is on Friday 2nd October at Woodstock, Alkham Valley Road from 7.00p.m. where Helen & Don Hobday will welcome us. We are finalising details for our meal on 11th December - numbers, and offers of food to Janet Adamson (01303 893413), please.

NEWSLETTER – The financial year ended in August and the cost of producing the Newsletter was about £50 a month. Toner and paper (1360 A4 prints) was £38, posting 19 envelopes cost £11 plus a nominal £1 for delivery. The revenue from adverts was £615 so the Newsletter effectively broke even. Around the Parish there are 16 people who deliver the Newsletter, some of whom started in 1993, and I am most grateful to them all. Many thanks go to Peter Mercer who delivered across country and down Meggett Lane for many years. He has now left Alkham and Anthony Barrier has kindly agreed to take over. **Editor**

THE PICNIC TABLES will be placed on the village green between the two benches near the climbing frame and by the Christmas tree adjacent to the swings.

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OZ on LISTS – There's a blustery wind, and yellow leaves are falling onto the road. Indoors, AGM agendas are falling onto the doormat. After a lazy August, autumn approaches, heralding a return to busyness necessitating an updated to-do list. Most of my friends now seem to need such lists, partly because of the hectic nature of retirement these days, and partly as a defence against failing memories. The nature and method of production of these lists varies wildly, from scribbles on scraps of paper to elaborate computer-generated charts detailing almost every hour of the day. When I was preparing our first New Zealand holiday, a friend warned me "Don't overplan!" and told me of his neighbour, who had planned everything, down to when and where to drink coffee and buy papers. "What happened?" I asked, expecting a disaster story. "They did it!" came the solemn and shocked reply. My planning routine for holidays comprises a computerised list of things to remember, which is updated for each trip, with unused items kept 'behind the screen' for future reference. Another friend once remarked, "All you need is P³ - pills, passport, plastic" (To which one could nowadays add 'phones') For everyday use, my system is a bit more complicated. Upcoming events are recorded in my pocket diary, transferred to a paper year planner on the kitchen wall, and from there each month to an adjacent erasable monthly planner. From there I scribble the day's activities onto a scrap of paper, which I keep in my trouser pocket with the small change and the keys. But then everyone's list is different. Here's a rather touching one, written by the singer Johnny Cash: "Not smoke/Kiss June/Not kiss anyone else/Cough/Pee/Eat/Not eat too much/Worry/Go see Mama/Practice piano." It fetched \$6,250 at auction in 2010. **Steve Osborn**

THE SEASONS – It's nice to think Summer lasts until the end of September but the weather men say it ends in August. Astrologically however, Autumn starts on September 21/22 when the earth's tilt is farthest from the sun. The tilt of the sun is reflected in the other astronomical seasons with Winter starting on December 21/22, Spring on March 21/22 and Summer on June 20/21. Therefore if you round up to the nearest month the four seasons are: Winter, January to March: Spring, April to June: Summer, July to September: Autumn, October to December. As you get older there is some comfort in this as winter doesn't start until next year. **editor**

BIKE RIDE – Ken, Den and Brian, for the fun of it, did the Church Bike Ride on the 12th September. They visited 17 churches and covered 30 miles and in the process received £205 in sponsorship. Many thanks to all those who sponsored the Alkham Cycle Club. It was noticeable that fewer churches were manned this year but hospitality was offered at those which were.

U3A – On Wednesday October 7th between 13.30 -15.30 hrs. at the Astor Community Theatre in Deal the monthly meeting will include a talk given by Derek Murphy entitled "3 Battles & 3 Nations". On Wednesday the 21st between 10.30 – 12.30 hrs. at the monthly meeting in Deal Town Hall there is Dementia Awareness talk by Sue Beer and "Your Army" presentation by the Army Engagement Group.



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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
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

Tuesday	6	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	10	SEKAS in village hall in the afternoon
Monday	12	Harvest Supper 7.30pm in village hall
Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	17	W.I. Jumble Sale in village hall 11.00am
Monday	19	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	24	Country and Western evening in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	27	Film Night 7.30pm in VH
Thursday	29	Alkham Valley Society AGM 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
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Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4 th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship Together 11.00
Saturday 10 th		Messy Church 3.00 pm	
Sunday 11 th Harvest Festival	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship Together 11.00 am	Harvest Festival 4.00 pm in W H village hall
Sunday 18 th	Family Service 11.00 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 25 th	Benefice Eucharist 10.00 am Alkham		

FROM THE VICARAGE - I recently decided to leave my collar at home, find a cathedral and spend a couple of days praying, reading, and generally recharging my batteries. I chose Chelmsford - not too far away, and with the railway station, Cathedral and pleasant riverside walks all near each other. Arriving after lunch I made my way to the Cathedral. Deliberately dressed to look like an ordinary visitor rather than a vicar, I walked through the door – and straight into a graduation ceremony. I clearly wasn't supposed to be there. So I retreated back through the door, and decided to go for a walk instead. A young woman stopped me: "Is it OK to go inside?" We started chatting. Tears welled up as she explained that she would have graduating herself had treatment for a brain tumour discovered during her studies not destroyed her ability to learn. She asked what I was doing there – and my cover was blown. I ended up promising to pray for her. She thanked me and left, warning that if I saw her again an hour from then, she wouldn't recognise me. By the following morning the Cathedral staff, too, had worked out who I was. After the morning Communion service I was taken to a coffee shop. There I told the Precentor about the young woman I'd met whose dreams had been so cruelly shattered, and yet who hadn't given up on life – she was working in a garden centre, and volunteering for a cancer charity. Despite her disappointment, no self-pity or brooding about what might have been for her. She had been there that day because she was genuinely glad for her friends, and wanted to wish them well. "Wow! What an amazing young woman!" he said. Amen to that. **Brian Williams**

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SUPERFAST BROADBAND has arrived in Alkham and two subscribers on Short Lane and Slip Lane are getting 37.7Mb download speed. The fibre optic goes to cabinet 9 at the top of Short Lane so if your line is connected to that you should get an increased download speed with fibre. **editor**

HORSE RACING at the Village Hall! Saturday 7th November at 7.30pm. Don't miss out on this fun night which brings Ascot, Goodwood, and Newmarket to the centre of Alkham. A social evening where you can have a flutter if you like or just sit back with your friends and enjoy the thrill of the race. An evening of 8 races, 8 horses per race and 8 chances to bet on the winner and collect your share of the tote. All for a good cause. Funds raised will go towards the maintenance of the Village Hall. The cost of entrance is £3.00. **Geoff Hillier**

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY, a reminder – The AGM will be held on the 29th October at 7.30pm in the village hall. Election of Committee members will be held so anyone wishing to give it a go, prime yourselves. The Fox is putting on a curry supper for us after the meeting at £7.50 a head. While I have names of several people wishing to attend the latter, please get in touch with the Secretary Joanna Walker 01304 821641.

OLD NEWSPAPERS – Alkhamhurst Kennels would be very grateful if you could let them have your old newspapers. The kennels are about ¾ of a mile east of the village on the Alkham Valley Road.

FLOOD PREVENTION - The wire fencing in the field in Short Lane has at last been replaced. This had been cut during the floods of 2014 by the army in order to relieve the flow of flood water from the lane. The culvert at the bottom of Short Lane has been cleared and the ditch to the north of the culvert has been dug out to enable the water to drain to the fields. The ditch running through Vicarage Green has been deepened and the sump in front of the Village Hall has been cleared. The drains leading to the sump have also been cleaned including the massive soakaway chamber adjacent to the houses in Hogbrook. Some work has been done in Meggett Lane but more silt removal is required there. Some work has been done to the ditch behind Wolverton Cottages but at the time of writing this needs to be investigated further. There is also a requirement to check the drains around Hopton Manor which KCC will be carrying out. The ongoing problem in Little Everden Lane near Wentworth House has been inspected by the KCC Drainage Engineer but there is no solution so far. Assistance has been given the Alkham Valley Garden Centre to clear the silt from the grating where the drainage pipes go underground and this will be checked regularly. KCC will be digging out the part of the ditch running alongside the Village Hall in the near future to help the flow of water under the newly-cleaned culvert under Hogbrook. **Den Barnard (Flood Warden 01304 824845)**

Macmillan Coffee Morning - I would like to give a HUGE thank you to all who supported the Coffee morning held for Macmillan Cancer Support on Saturday 26th September. So many people gave me wonderful items for the various stalls. The two raffles and plant stall were very successful and so many people baked the most delicious cakes. Thank you to everyone who helped in so many different ways on the day. I was delighted to receive so many donations from people before, during and after the event and I am thrilled that the total raised was £1,025.00. Thank you everyone. **Sue Ross**

PARISH COUNCIL meeting 2nd November in village hall, 7.30pm. Everybody is welcome, and speak to the Parish Council if you wish.

LOOKING for a special person to do housework at a local house, payment by arrangement. Please phone 01304 448206 and please leave your phone number if no reply.

TEMPLE EWELL CEP open morning for Reception admissions

2016. Please ring the school on 01304 822665 to make an appointment on Thursday 5th November at either 9.15 am or 10.30am. Our school sits in an idyllic location, nestled in a picturesque valley on the outskirts of the historic port of Dover. We are a popular and friendly school at the heart of the village and make every effort to involve the entire community in all that we do.

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Tuesday 24th November

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VALLEY COTTAGES BRIDGE REPLACEMENT - Our hopes were raised during September when all Valley Cottage residents received a note from EDF to say that the electric power would be switched off 'in order for the bridge replacement work to start'. However, after a few hasty phone calls, there was no disruption to power as there had been a breakdown in communication and the start had been cancelled. The latest news, as of 14th Oct is that there is still a problem with the costs and KCC are awaiting a go ahead from the Environment Agency. The KCC project manager is still confident of getting the OK but until it comes through no date for the site meeting or the start of work can be given. **Den Barnard 01304 824845**

THE PADDOCK FERNE LANE EWELL MINNIS - Planning application decisions made by the Parish Council are based on sound mature judgement calling on decades of local knowledge, being un-emotive and invariably evidence based. I therefore disapprove most strongly of the perverse action that the Alkham Valley Society is attempting to do with regard to the above property. Decisions on planning applications are administrative rather than political, which means they must be made in line with the law and not based upon political affiliation or emotive public pressures. Unless the particular Council has delegated decision making powers, then their views and opinions given, carry no more or less weight than any other comments that a District, Borough or Town Council may receive from elsewhere. There is currently a due legal process that this application is undergoing and I am deeply concerned about the actions proposed by the Alkham Valley Society. Additionally, the society have requested donations from Alkham residents which could fund a defence against the appeal by the applicant of the above property. The community of Alkham therefore needs to be aware that in the future if they have a planning application turned down, and they decide to submit an appeal, that the Alkham Valley Society could be paying a member of the legal profession to contest your appeal and will be asking residents of the village to fund that legal challenge. However, if the Alkham Valley Society choses to be selective then that raises some disturbing questions. It is for these reasons I object most strongly to Alkham Parish Council making any contribution whatsoever to the Alkham Valley Society. **Geoffrey Lymer**

LAST MINUTE.com Fly In at Greenwood Farm. Due to very changeable weather it was not reliable enough to plan ahead. We decided to go for 13th September as it was looking ok at the time but unfortunately not, with very heavy rain all day; one plane braved the weather flying in from Sussex. We had a BBQ and raffle (thank goodness for the hanger) and family and a few Alkham residents braved the weather. We raised £430 for Pilgrims Hospice at Ashford and we'd like to thank everyone for their help and support. **John and Anne Huggins**

GARDEN TALK - We are preparing for our Christmas get together on Friday 11th December. Please let me know if you are coming, as we need to organise food and think about plans for 2016. **Janet Adamson (01303 893413)**


ALKHAM W.I. was a good Meeting, especially with the interesting speaker, Eric Spears who talked about his visit to the 'isolated' Easter Island in the Pacific Ocean. The next meeting 10th November will be the AGM and after the first business Sue Ross will give a First Aid demonstration. Hostesses - Debbie Griggs, Janet Gibbons & Sue Harman - raffle - Pat Yeomans. The following meeting on 10th December we will meet at The Fox for a Christmas Meal - lovely! Always new members are welcome - **Susan Lees**

PILATES class now in the village hall on Wednesday from 1.30 to 2.30pm.

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Harvest Festival Celebrations
 What a fabulous, Thanksgiving (thanks and giving weekend) we have enjoyed. It began on Friday when so many of us came to decorate the Church for Harvest in the time honoured way. From the Children's farming table, the elegant flower displays, the many garden flower and hedgerow arrangements to the wheat sheaves and Harvest loaf, the Church was ablaze of colour. The morning service on Sunday was a happy and joyful time to come together to give thanks and to celebrate Harvest. The Harvest Supper on Monday evening brought over 70 parishioners together to enjoy the meal, (so well arranged by Anne and Carol and with the cottage pies and apple crumbles cooked by volunteers) and then to generously support the Auction and the raffle. A substantial amount was raised which will help the Church to continue to be there "to hatch, match and dispatch them" and also to offer a place of spiritual calm at all times. Heartfelt thanks to all involved in the weekend. The year moves on and now we can think about **the Christmas Shoe Boxes** that we send to children who would have nothing on Christmas Day. If you would like to prepare a box before the 2nd week in November and would like more details, then please contact me on 01304 822295. **Susannah Tapsell COUNTRY and Western Night** 24th October, 7.30pm in village hall.
OZ on THOMAS'S NOVEMBER – This month, I'm returning to my ongoing theme of viewing the first year of the First World War through the eyes of the poet Edward Thomas. After having enlisted in the Artists' Rifles in July 1915, Thomas was posted in November 1915, as a map-reading instructor, to Hare Hall Camp, Romford, Essex. It had been a cold, wet autumn, with sunny interludes, rather like our current autumn, and on 1 November 1915 Thomas wrote in his notebook: "Sweet as last damsons on spangled tree when November starling imitates the swallow in sunny interval between rain and all is still and dripping." Later he rewrote these words as part of the poem "There's Nothing Like the Sun". In this poem Thomas describes how the sun is "Kind as it can be...To all things that it touches except snow," and continues "November has begun, Yet never shone the sun as fair as now", followed by four lines derived from Thomas's note: "While the sweet last-left damsons from the bough/With spangles of the morning's storm drop down/Because the starling shakes it, whistling what/Once swallows sang." Here the mood changes suddenly, from a lyrical celebration of autumn to a boisterous, almost jokey, statement that "...there is nothing, too, like March's sun...", or indeed any month's sun, and concluding with the couplet "There's nothing like the sun that shines today./There's nothing like the sun till we are dead." It's a startling last line, typical of Thomas's love of life and also an illustration of his profound humanism, having rejected organized religion at an early age in favour of fellow humanity and nature. "Almost as soon as I could babble" he once said, "I babbled of green fields." By Christmas he had written another great poem, this time attacking anti-German hatred. **Steve Osborn**
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 November 5th and 19th
 10am to 12am



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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
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	2	Parish Council meeting in VH 7.30pm – all welcome
Tuesday	3	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	7	Race Night in VH 7pm – see page 1
Tuesday	10	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	14	SEKAS in village hall in the afternoon
Monday	16	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	21	Beekeepers in village hall in the afternoon
Tuesday	24	Film Night 7.30pm in VH

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship Tog. 11.00
Sunday 8	Remembrance 10.15	Remembrance 10.15 am	Remembrance 10.30
Saturday 14		Messy church 3.00 – 5.00	
Sunday 15	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 22	Benefice Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		
Sunday 29	Advent Carols 4.00		Eucharist 10.00 am

FROM THE VICARAGE - With shorter and colder days November arrives, bringing with it first All Saints Day and then Remembrance Sunday – both occasions when we remember those who are no longer with us. In church, the Bible readings begin to focus our attention on our eternal home. November follows October, when I have a birthday. This year I've had a Big Birthday, and my eternal home feels nearer than usual. Now that I no longer pay prescription charges the NHS has taken a greater than usual interest in my well-being, which is how I found myself at the doctor's surgery seeing the practice nurse. She promptly urged me to give up ice cream, cakes, and just about everything else that I enjoy and take more exercise if I wanted to do more to avoid going to my eternal home too soon. So I bought a bicycle. I had one years ago, but hadn't been on one in years. The purchase made, after a few circuits of the Vicarage lawn I was ready for the road. I set off, savouring the benefits of fresh air and exercise as I went. Arriving back, I found myself torn between making a cup of tea and giving myself the last rites. The trip had proved Nurse's point. Five centuries ago, St Teresa of Avila wrote a terrific prayer about Jesus having no body now on earth but ours, and about how he uses our hands to bless now and our feet to go about doing good. So unless we look after our bodies, Jesus doesn't get very far. Well, so far he's made it to West Hougham and back - so I'm improving. Will it make a difference to when I go to my eternal home? Maybe, if I can avoid the potholes... **Brian Williams**

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Newsletter Brian Wimsett 824969 email brianwimsett@hotmail.com

Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791 alkham.pc@outlook.com

Alkham web site www.alkham.org

Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635

W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641

Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk

Police – 999 emergency & 101

Vicar Revd. Brian Williams 01303 243784

Church Warden Richard Tapsell 822295

MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669

County Councillor - Geoffrey Lymer 079604 90 929

District Councillor - Pauline Beresford 216187: Nick Dixon 07815691638

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VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS will be switched on at 4:45pm on Saturday 5th December. Father Christmas will be there and we will sing a few carols before moving on to The Marquis where once again Dave Hall and his team have invited us all for mince pies and mulled wine. See you there. **Den Barnard**

CHRISTMAS ROCK'N'ROLL DANCE with "Somethin' Else"

The band returns after last December's successful gig at the Village Hall on Saturday, 12th December. Doors open at 7.00p.m. and the show starts at 7.30 p.m. Tickets £8.50 in advance, £9 on the door. Bring your own drinks & nibbles. Three hours of live music of Rock'n'Roll classics and sixties' pop, including twenty three number one hits. Dance the night away, listen to the music and start the Christmas season with a great night out. The band features two Alkham residents: Keith Owens on lead guitar and vocals and Barry Spicer on guitar. Last year's band members Barry Crossby on drums, Martin Wright on bass and Judy Moseley on vocals are augmented by Lynn Guest on rhythm guitar and vocals. Tickets from Keith: 01304 768875 kwowens@sky.com. Tickets will be on sale at the Farmers Market and the Wednesday lady's keep fit - and on the door.

PARISH SURVEY – The Parish Council are planning to produce a questionnaire which will be delivered to every house in the parish. They would like to know if they are doing what parishioners want and also get their views on topics such as traffic, flooding and community issues. Other parishes have carried out similar surveys and these will be viewed to get further ideas. The Parish Council funding comes from the precept, which is the amount that is added to the rate demand. Currently this precept is around £30 a year and parishioners may be asked if they would be happy to pay more, such that the Parish Council can carry out more activities which would be of benefit to the parish.

PHILIP YOUNG – It is sad to report that Philip died earlier this year at the age of 67 as a result of injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident in Burma. A lot of people will not have heard of Philip but as a child he lived in Ewell Minnis and retained a strong love of the village and parish. He gave various donations to the village and was sponsoring the classic red telephone box at the Minnis. Philip was founder and Rally Director of the Endurance Rally Association and in 2011 organised the London to Cape Town Rally, which because of Philip, diverted to pass through Alkham.

THE ANNUAL QUIZ will be on the Saturday 6th February at 7.30pm in the village hall. Tickets cost £5 each and food will be served at the interval. To book a table for up to 8 people please phone Brian on 824969 or email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD – At the Parish Council meeting a parishioner raised concerns about the state of the high skid resistant surfacing adjacent to the bus stop in the centre of the village. The concern was that speeding vehicles, particularly in relation to the heavy lorries going through the village, could skid on the poor surfacing and hit the schoolchildren waiting at the bus stop. She reiterated that the volume of traffic on the valley road had increased because of the speed restrictions and cameras on the A20 plus operation TAP. The Parish Council intends to set up a meeting with Kent Highways to discuss traffic and road problems. Funding is the main issue but narrowing the road to slow large lorries could be an option.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

St. Anthony`s Alkham

Sunday 20th December

Nine lessons and Carols 6.30pm

Thursday 24th December

Blessing of the Crib 4.30pm

Midnight Mass 11.30pm

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

RACE NIGHT was great fun and everybody enjoyed themselves. There were 8 races, two with Afghan dogs and Irish pigs. The bets were a pound and the largest amount won was £8.

DONATION – The Alkham Valley Society had asked the Parish Council if they would be willing to donate £500 to the society as their funds were depleted and money was required for further activities. At the well-attended Parish Council meeting, following an animated discussion, it was accepted that the council should not donate any money to the society.

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Poppy Appeal 2015 - Grand Total £705.50 - Once again I'd like to thank the residents of Alkham and Ewell Minnis for their extraordinary generosity. I'd also like to thank the local businesses who had collection boxes - the Alkham Garden Centre and Tea Rooms, Southern Equestrian, The Marquis and Alkhamhurst Kennels. Last, but not least, my grateful thanks to those villagers who helped with the house-to-house collecting. I couldn't do it without them! **Rachel Fountain**

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - The AGM of the Society was held on 29 October. Thank you all for your attendance.



The Committee was re-elected, with the exception of Liz Lambourne who had submitted her resignation from the committee while remaining a member. It was unanimously agreed that the annual sub would be raised from £1 a year to £5 a year to be paid before November each year. Questions were raised about a web site for the AVS, and possible courses in country crafts such as coppicing, hedge laying and flint wall repairs. These matters will be investigated by the Committee. The need for members' emails is of importance. The Christmas Walk will take place on 27 December at 10.30am starting at the Village Hall; all welcome and dogs too. The outing will be to Sandwich, a date and details forthcoming. We went on to enjoy a supper at The Fox where there was a pleasant atmosphere of an evening well spent among friends. Apropos Funding, having inadvisedly approached the Parish Council for a tiding loan which was turned down, we would like to reassure members that in the meantime several members have lent us the necessary funds at no interest. The committee thank all who responded to our reminder of subscription due and donations welcomed. We have had very good response from existing members and a number of new members have joined us as a result **Joanna Walker (Secretary)** and on behalf of the Acting Chairman of the AVS

MY WIFE took our nine year old Springer Spaniel Holly for a walk and on the way back saw a lady with two dogs in the distance, which were loose. Before she could attach Holly's lead the two dogs ran up and attacked with their teeth firmly hooked in. My wife carried our badly shaken dog home and took her to our vets where 4 lacerations were found. Despite speaking to the owners no apologies were given so it appears we have people in our village who refuse to take responsibility for their animals. **Siward Lambert**

GARDEN TALK - Everyone has been busy in the garden in the unseasonably warm weather in November and we look forward now to our December Party on Friday 11th December - and are making plans for our series of visits for 2016. Please contact Janet Adamson for information and ideas. (01303 893413)

WEB SITE – KCC are trialling a new web site design and the Parish Council will discuss at a December meeting whether they will have one.

ALKHAM W.I. – The November meeting was the AGM and the committee remains as last year. Sue Ross gave a resuscitation demonstration and the hosts were Debbie Griggs and Sue Harman, with Pat Yeomans doing the raffle. There will be no meeting in December as we are meeting at the Fox on the 8th December for our Christmas meal. **Janet Barrow**

BRIDGES – Den Barnard said that the cost of replacing the bridges by Valley Cottages is greater than expected. KCC are waiting for the Environment Agency to confirm whether they will pay this cost. The bridges are not unsafe but do not meet current design standards.

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PIMLICO - English wine has a fabulous future, promising a substantial contribution to the UK's balance of payments, the Chancellor's call for the countryside to be a UK economic driver, those who love the countryside, and benefits for everyone who seek employment, own a house or business near a vineyard. Alkham has good winemakers, not least Gordon Adamson, and one bijou vineyard, at Chalksole which has a rational marketing strategy selling through the Marquis of Alkham - a deservedly 5* restaurant and guesthouse. Now Alkham has another vineyard, at Pimlico Way. Pimlico Way has a fabulous history starting in flint trade of the Stone Age, through the Crusades, to the Elizabethan era of Shakespeare, pirates, Spanish Armadas, and the colonisation of North America. Pimlico Way is the origin of London's Pimlico, which behind Buckingham Palace is one of Britain's most affluent locations. Through emigration, Pimlico is a place name in Australia, South Africa, Canada, California, Texas, and Baltimore's famous Pimlico Racecourse. With the help of Alkham's historian Susan Lees, archeologist Vince Burrows, and Derek Donnelly of Alkham's Detectors, we are uncovering Pimlico's history with some fascinating finds we plan to exhibit. **Martin Scherer**

OZ on WESTMINSTER CHIMES – Here we are again, hot on the heels of Halloween and Guy Fawkes, heading inexorably into December and another Christmas. At the end of it all, in the last few seconds of the year, we'll hear once more the chimes ringing in the New Year from the Elizabeth Tower at the Palace of Westminster. This tower, previously known as 'St Stephen's Tower', or 'Clock Tower', is often referred to, along with the clock and chimes, as 'Big Ben', although strictly that is the name of the 13½ ton Great Bell. The sequences played every quarter of an hour are called the Westminster Chimes, each sequence comprising one or two of four permutations of the notes B3, E4, F#4 and G#4, and one of E4, F#4, G#4, E4. The melody was originally called the Cambridge Quarters, and was composed in 1793 for the new clock at St Mary the Great, Cambridge University. There is some doubt over exactly who composed it. There is also an unsubstantiated, but plausible, belief that the four notes are based on the fifth bar of the orchestral introduction to "I know that my Redeemer liveth" from Handel's Messiah, especially as the melody is shared with the bells of the Red Tower, in Halle, Handel's home town. The clock and bells were installed in the new tower in 1859 during the rebuilding of the Palace of Westminster, the old building having been destroyed by fire in 1834. Since then, the chimes have become an important symbol in the UK, used by the media to announce and highlight events of national importance, from the daily news to elections and the Olympic Games. They are now used internationally, in security alarms, school bells and the like, a fitting tribute to those industrious Victorians. **Steve Osborn**

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will lead the singing in 'Come Carolling' in Dover Town Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 7th December. Tickets at £1.50 (children 50p) are now available from Mrs Carrol Moore on 01304 820150, or can be reserved by emailing 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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Excellent facilities including large floodlit indoor school

tel. 01304 824499
Mobile 07900545235

www.hogbrookequestriancentre.co.uk

Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
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

Tuesday	1	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	5	SEKAS in village hall in the afternoon
Monday	7	Parish Council meeting in VH 7.30pm – all welcome
Saturday	12	Christmas Rock'n'Roll in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	21	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6 th	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Carols V.H. 11.00
Saturday 12 th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 13 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Carols V. Hall 3.00 pm	
Sunday 20 th	9 lessons/carols 6.30	Worship Tog. 11.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am
Thursday 24 th	Crib service 4.30 pm	Crib service 3.00 pm	
Friday 25 th			Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 27 th	Benefice Eucharist at Capel 10.00am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - Should I be shocked? Some are saying I should be. In case you haven't heard, this year there's a Christmas advertisement doing the rounds which some say sends up the Nativity. I've seen it. Accompanied by an angelic choir, shepherds and wise men join a couple in drooling over a designer handbag. I'm puzzled. Why would anybody pinch the Christmas story and use it to sell a designer handbag? After all, it isn't exactly a story built around luxury items, rather the opposite. If anyone gave birth in a stable today, people would demand to know what Social Services and the NHS were doing about it. If today, almost as soon as she had given birth, Mary, Joseph and the baby were fleeing for their lives it would not be very different to what we have been seeing on our TV screens every evening for months now. It's a disturbing story about homelessness, deprivation and persecution all too often repeated in today's world. At each of our churches there will be a crib this Christmas, with baby Jesus and his parents surrounded by farm animals and straw, and shepherds. Everything but the smell to remind us of where Jesus started out, and how and where he spent his life. We shall celebrate how God loved our world enough to have risked being part of it, and how the things he taught us can make it a better place, if only we listen. That, to me, is worth much more than a designer handbag. As 'Joe' in the ad says, 'It's only a bag.' In any case, it wouldn't match my shoes ... Have a very Happy Christmas, and a Peaceful New Year. **Brian Williams**



ALKHAM VALLEY HISTORICAL RESEARCH – y.burrows@gtwiz.co.uk 01304 219550
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

Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791 alkham.pc@outlook.com

Alkham web site www.alkham.org

Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635

W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641

Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk

Police – 999 emergency &101

Vicar Revd. Brian Williams 01303 243784

Church Warden Richard Tapsell 822295

MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669

County Councillor - Geoffrey Lymer 079604 90 929

District Councillor - Pauline Beresford 216187: Nick Dixon 07815691638