

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 264 January 2016
Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

Non-profit & delivered free
to all properties in the Parish
HAPPY NEW YEAR



THE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS were switched on jointly by Jessica Carter and Isabella Thompson (both aged five) on 5th December, well supported by a large crowd of villagers. After a few carols Father Christmas arrived to give out chocolates before we all adjourned to The Marquis where once again they provided mince pies and mulled wine to all. We are grateful to Brian Wimsett and his Alkham Recycling Fund for supplying

the tree also to Richard Tapsell and Ken Spencer for their help in setting up the tree and decorations. Irene Barnard organised a raffle for St Anthony's church funds which raised a brilliant £112. A big thank you to Susanna Tapsell's Keep Fit Ladies for donating one of the prizes and to Dave Harris and his Team at The Marquis for their hospitality and raffle prize. Keith Owens also did a great job in making sure Father Christmas arrived on time. **Den Barnard**

PARISH COUNCILLOR – Following the resignation of a Parish Councillor there is a vacancy on the council. The due processes have been followed and now the Parish Council can co-opt a new member. If you would like to put your name forward please contact the Parish Clerk, Angela Miller, by email at alkham.pc@outlook.com or phone her on 824791. The closing date for applications is the 14th of January.

THE ROCK'N'ROLL evening took place at the Village Hall on Saturday, 12th December. "SOMETHIN' ELSE" returned, following last year's inaugural gig in the village. The band performed over fifty songs: rock'n'roll classics, sixties hits and a little seventies' country rock, too. The sound was good and the hall had a nice atmosphere. The audience was good-humoured and enjoyed the music. There was plenty of dancing, the highlight of which was a synchronised dance performed by the ladies of the Wednesday morning exercise class. It was elegant and flawlessly done - I had a great view from the stage, as Judy and I sang "(All I Have to Do Is) Dream." Susannah's raffle raised around £80 for the church fund. The band members all had a great time, too. It was a pleasure to play and sing for you all. A date for your diaries: Our event next year will be held on Saturday, November 26th 2016. Advertising for this event will be published well in advance. Tickets will be sold from early October 2016. Happy Christmas & New Year from all of us in "SOMETHIN' ELSE". Special, grateful thanks to Den & Irene Barnard for their enthusiasm, pro-active promotion and invaluable help and support on the night. **Keith Owen**

ALKHAM FETE Saturday 9th July 2016

There will be a Fete meeting at 8pm on Wednesday 13th July in the village hall. Please do come and offer any help you can give to make this summer event a great day and enable us all to support village charities. If you are unable to attend but would like to help please contact Paul Tapsell on 01303 892082.

CURIOS BEERS – The Marquis has Chapel Downs award winning Curious beers on draught which include Curious IPA (4.4%) and Curious Brew lager (4.7%). They are offering them to residents of Alkham at a special price of £4 a pint and included with this Newsletter there is a voucher for one free pint of a curious beer. The voucher can only be redeemed between the 1st and 31st January 2016 and is limited to one voucher per person.

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.

QUESTIONNAIRE – At the Precept meeting there was a general consensus by the Parish Council that they would not produce a questionnaire. However they would be pleased to receive suggestions or requests and these can be made at the Parish Council meetings or contacting the Parish Clerk (see page 4).

THE PARISH COUNCIL voted to keep the Precept at £7500. This is the same as previous years and is derived from the figure that is added to the rates demand.

CRIB SERVICE 4.30pm on 24th December at St. Anthony's church – please come along.

FILM NIGHT

Next showing in the village hall at
7.30pm

Tuesday 26th January
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MORE SPOOKY TALES OF ALKHAM PAST – No. 3

On an otherwise normal day in the early 1950's my mother Margaret was walking along the lane from our cottage at Ewell Minnis (where we lived before moving to Alkham in 1955) when she saw her brother-in-law, Tom Harvey, draw up in his van just ahead of her. He called out 'do you want to see old Swisher?' As my mother neared the van she saw that Tom had the rather stiff body of village resident 'Swisher' Smith, recently deceased in the back of the van, on his way to the workshop at the back of Martinvale at Alkham to be measured for his coffin!! At that time the Alkham building firm of E Harvey and Sons was also the village undertakers. Needless to say my mother did not accept Tom's invitation for a lift!! **Note:** why was he nicknamed 'Swisher'? Answers on a postcard to the editor. **Robert Ferguson**

CAST needed for Murder Mystery Evening 'Who is Daddy?' on February 27th to raise money for St. Anthony's Church. Ages are approximate: Greg, 28 years old, son of deceased, quiet, thinker and always smartly dressed: Angel 23 year old daughter of the deceased, spoilt, does not work and has allowance from Daddy: Dixie, 30 year old P.A., Don's affair, flirt, gold digger: Bertie, 50 year old cockney, spivvy, ducker and diver: Molly, 45 years old Irish wife of Bertie, life and soul of the party, good and kind. If interested, for more details contact Brian Croucher on brian@pymldge.f9.co.uk

IN 1978 a small select club was formed by Mr. Maurice Sayers, his wife Pam as secretary, a village man known as Storming Norman and his wife, Sue Lees and a few more select members. It was known as the Alkham Valley Society and Maurice became lifetime president. In my opinion the AVS should not have asked the Parish Council for £500, which might have been used to take racist legal action against a 62 year old resident of Ewell Minnis. County Councillor, Mr. Geoff Lymer, made it quite clear what he thought of the 5 out of 6 Parish Councillors who were members of the AVS. He said that they should not vote and as a result no vote was taken or money offered. On a more cheerful note it was a wonderful idea to have a letter box at the village hall for all the requests by parishioners, who cannot make it to the meetings, instead of a district spread of leaflets. **Edith Neve**

TRAFFIC COUNT – You may have seen the rubber strips on the Alkham Valley Road which are used to record traffic numbers and speed. The assumption is that these have been installed by Kent Highways to see what effect Operation Tap has had.

GARDEN TALK - Arrangements are being made for the programme of visits for 2016. Suggestions, or offers of gardens to visit would be welcomed, either in the Alkham Valley or further afield. Please get in touch. Janet Adamson 01303 893413

VALLEY COTTAGES BRIDGES - It was over a year ago when the work to replace the bridges should have started but it is looking very likely that Kent County Council will not have the money to start the project. They are still waiting for a grant from the Environment Agency but if this does not come through by the end of this month the work will not be done. It has been confirmed by the KCC engineer that the bridges are safe but it was hoped to bring them up to modern design standards. **Den Barnard**

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MITCH on DOCTOR! DOCTOR! – It was an ordinary doctor's surgery - chairs round the walls, an alcove for the pretty receptionist (all long dark hair and the excitement of youth) and steps up to the doctor's door. The door into the street was glass and there was a story being played out there... This is downtown Mumbai I should say, where you pay to see the doctor. They also visit - a tall reserved Parsi doctor had arrived two nights ago - a bad case of Delhi Belly. Now I needed her help again ahead of the long flight home. Need I say more! The pills each a different bright colour had to be collected before midnight from the cubbyhole dispensary on the edge of a highway. We crossed streets lined with sleeping homeless - you had to tread carefully... A woman opposite with her parents - eighties? Nineties? the daughter positive, bright, the parents weighted with age... But now it was the scene outside that took over - a tiny boy bright and beautiful held by Dad and a bite clear to see on his arm. Was it dangerous? poisonous? Mum and Dad animated, nearly arguing - could they, couldn't they afford the 100 rupees doctor's fee clutched in Mum's hand? Obviously poor, there were a hundred other needs and wants for that note. I could have afforded it but stayed silent. Did nothing. Afraid it would look condescending? Legacy of post- Raj guilt? who knows. Whatever it was I regret that passive moment. And hope fervently that that little boy – he'd be about ten now - is healthy and cheeky and naughty - and alive! **Jane Mitchell**

PIMLICO VINEYARD – The byway opposite Meggett Lane and to the west of the Garden Centre leads to an area known as Pimlico. There are five fields, three of which are for grazing and the other two have been planted with 7,000 Champagne, Chardonnay, Pinot Grigio, and Pinot Meunier vines. In three to five years, the vines will produce sufficient grapes for 10,000 bottles. Before then I must decide if I am to build a winery, or hope for formation of a Kent community winery as exist throughout Europe. Pimlico's wine will be marketed direct to London's Pimlico and Baltimore's Racecourse, through a website. Until then Pimlico has a Facebook page. One of the Alkham valley's greatest delights is its genuine and generous people. Pimlico's Facebook page is for you, and friends, many American, to keep you informed and welcome your comments and ideas. Click 'like' on Pimlico way Vineyard and you will be first to know of Pimlico's plans and development. **Martin Scherer** - *As a footnote some 4x4's have started trespassing again and have moved tree trunks which were put there as barriers.*

ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD – The Parish Council are trying to set up a meeting with Kent Highways to discuss safety issues. In particular they would like to meet by the Marquis to look at what measures could be taken regarding the narrow piece of road just to the east. Various options have been proposed before such as priority traffic and lights but these have all been dismissed. A hatched area with 'Give Way to pedestrians sign' has also been suggested and this would seem to be a measure that would be reasonably cheap to install. This too was rejected.

FARMERS MARKET

Alkham Village hall

No market in January



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Tuesday to Saturday

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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 – Pilates 1.30 to 2.30pm
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	4	Parish Council meeting in VH 7.30pm – all welcome
Tuesday	5	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	9	SEKAS in village hall in the afternoon
Tuesday	12	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	18	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	30	Beekeepers in village hall in the afternoon

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3rd	Evensong 4.30pm	Eucharist 9.30am	Christingle 11am
Saturday 12 th	Messy Church St Radigund's Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 10 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Christingle 11am	
Sunday 17 th	Christingle 11am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 24 th	Benefice Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		
Sunday 31 st	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		

Dear Friends, You may have noticed that the world didn't collide with another planet in 2012, although a couple of years before some websites had forecast that it would. Cleverly – and controversially – this turned out to be publicity for the film *2012*, which tells a tale of how, microwaved by the sun, the Earth begins to disintegrate. A feast of special effects follows, and eventually a bunch of boffins who have foreseen these events build a modern Noah's Ark and save the day. For Christians, January comes with memories of another bunch of boffins who, after some stargazing of their own, similarly set out to investigate what has been revealed to them and share this with King Herod who takes this as a threat. Troops descend on Bethlehem while Mary and Joseph flee to Egypt – there must be a box office hit in that somewhere! *2012* certainly puts any anxieties about what 2016 might bring into perspective. Films sometimes make interesting observations on what people are like. Faced with dying along with the planet some act selfishly, others discover previously undiscovered gifts, and others act unselfishly – as Jesus put it, some in seeking to save their lives lose them, and others in losing their lives find them. The story of the Wise Men also makes observations on human nature. Confronted with what God is doing, individuals set out on epic journeys, acting with generosity and obedience while others regard his purposes as a threat to their own. As God's gift is revealed to the world, the story of how humanity receives him begins to unfold. It is a story which continues today, and in which we all have a part whether we are conscious of it or not. With best wishes for a peaceful New Year, **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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FLOODING – The photo shows the village green on the 5th of January after torrential rain. The fields either side of Slip Lane were saturated and the heavy rain caused the Slip to become a river

CONGRATULATIONS to Barbara Palmer who will celebrate her 90th birthday on the 25th of February. Barbara is proud to have been born in the same year as Queen Elizabeth and she is still as active. She married Bob in 1951 and they had four children and now have 10 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. Barbara and Bob live in Slip Lane and Barbara continues her involvement with the village especially providing tea and refreshments for the Alkham cricket club.

with a tidal wave across the Valley Road and down onto Hogbrook Lane where it flooded the green and football pitch. South Alkham was badly affected plus the Alkham Valley Road near Standen was flooded, which resulted in the police closing the road. A number of villagers, who must be thanked, turned up to try and get the water, which was threatening to flood properties on Hogbrook Lane, down to the dyke. Special mention has to go to Den Barnard, the Flood Warden, who was terrific trying to sort things out and John Pearson-Smith at the Equestrian Centre for helping with his tractor. **editor**

EXCEPTIONAL FLOODING on the 5th January. Although there has been some anti-flood work carried out over the past year, the rainfall in the first few days of January exceeded the previous record rainfall level for the whole of January. The Nailbourne couldn't cope and we had various problems in Hogbrook Lane, Meggett Lane, Wolverton Cottages, Hopton Manor and Slip Lane. I will be drafting a report for the Parish Council with a review of what happened and what we have learnt for the future. Please let me know if and how you were affected and I would be grateful for any ideas or suggestions for what we can improve the next time this happens. Thanks to all those who helped on the day. **Den Barnard** 01304 824845, denbarnard@yahoo.com

BROADBAND – The village hall will have a phone line connected on the 1st February and a Broadband service installed shortly afterwards. Where appropriate, people who use the hall and need a signal will be given the access code.

FILM NIGHT – We thought you'd like to know that the film we will have in March is 'The Lady in the Van' with Maggie Smith.

KEEP FIT LADIES – Just to let you all know that from weekly subs, the Keep Fit ladies have donated over £400 in 2015 supporting various charities and village activities.

AN AMERICAN SUPPER evening is being held at Alkham village hall in aid of our church on 27th February at 7.30 pm and tickets cost £5.00. The entertainment is a Murder Mystery sketch written by Sandra Hathaway. Please come and enjoy a family fun evening directed by our own professional Brian Croucher. Phone Anne Huggins 01304 824340.

NEW NEIGHBOURS - With so many new families arriving in Alkham village and nearby areas in the past year or so, we thought it a good idea to hold a coffee morning in our village hall to enable us locals to meet, greet and befriend. Please come along with all your families on Saturday 16th April between 10 and noon. Hopefully you will find us to be outreaching, kind and friendly. In the meantime if I can help in any way (except for lifting wardrobes and digging gardens) please let me know. Irene Barnard, Halton Court. 01304 824845. To all locals - Please come along to village hall on Saturday 16th April 10 - noon and enjoy a coffee while meeting our new neighbours.

PILATES – From the 29th of January the Pilates Class will be on every Friday in the village hall from 9.30am to 10.30am.

FILM NIGHT

Next showing in the village hall at 7.30pm

Tuesday 23rd February

The Martian with Matt Damon

Tickets cost £4.50 - bring refreshments

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SLIP LANE – During the flood water was bubbling out of the ground by the Willows which is just before the tree canopy, about ½ a mile up Slip Lane. This will be dealt with and the stretch of road under the canopy is going to be resurfaced.

THE ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY continues to carry out its duties according to the constitution on behalf of the locality, and the committee is grateful to all who have responded to our appeal and made donations which allows us to carry on. **Barry Sheppard**

BREAK IN – The shed of a property in Alkham was broken into and the thief made off with a knapsack leaf blower on 4th December. They were frightened off by the alarm so nothing else was taken.

FLOODING – Should Pimlico Way be a bridleway? Bev Hubbard of Greenwood Manor and residents have written to KCC Councillor Lymer concerned the flooding is aggravated by 4x4 use of Pimlico Way. Martin Scherer, who owns part of Pimlico Way, says that rather than water naturally dispersing onto field, the deep ruts 4x4's cut drain the land and channel rain water down Pimlico Way onto Slip Lane and Alkham Valley Road, aggravating valley flooding. Bev Hubbard says 4x4 use damages Pimlico's surface, causing erosion that washes debris and flints onto the roads creating risks for drivers and pedestrians, and increasing KCC's maintenance costs. Martin says 4x4 users drive at excessive speed on Pimlico, putting pedestrian and equestrian users at risk of injury. He says, 4x4 users are prone to trespass, causing damage to fencing and gates and respond aggressively to anyone who objects. Pimlico is subject to Police public disturbance notices, but with cuts to Police budgets the Police cannot respond immediately to every incident. With climatologist predicting wetter winters, Martin says these problems will get worse with more regular winter valley floods. Residents say the most effective solution to these problems is to restore Pimlico Way to a bridleway. Bev says

he does not see why the interests of a minority of 4x4 leisure users should be given priority over the majority of Pimlico users, and Alkham residents. As far as Martin is aware, the change of status from bridleway to byway occurred without consultation with the landowner or Alkham's residents and that KCC should reconsider Pimlico with regard to changing weather patterns increasing flood risks and public safety with increased demand for access to the countryside. KCC Councillor Geoff Lymer has replied to Bev Hubbard sharing residents' concerns and giving support to the bridleway or at least restricting vehicles from the Pimlico Way in winter months. To succeed, Bev Hubbard believes Councillor Lymer needs your support. If you believe, restoring Pimlico to a bridleway will reduce flooding and the risks to you, write to Cllr Lymer (Geoff.lymer@kent.gov.uk) and copy to Bev Hubbard (bevh@btinternet.com)

BOOK CLUB - The book club meeting for February will be hosted by Jo Walker on Wednesday 24th at The Old Rectory Slip Lane starting at 7.30pm. Tel 01304 821641. The book for discussion is The Luminaries by Eleanor Catton. If you would like more information about the Alkham Book Club contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

GARDEN TALK - We are arranging the programme of Garden visits for 2016. Offers and suggestions are welcomed - please get in touch. We intend to start the season with our annual fruity wine quiz which will be in early March. **Janet Adamson** 01303 893413

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THE BELLS

Richard Tapsell, Margaret and Clive Batcheldor and Geoff Hillier plus well-wishers in the bell tower of St. Anthony's after they rang in the New Year at midnight on the 31st December.

OZ on PANTO – After Christmas we went with our two families to the Greenwich Theatre to see and hear this year's pantomime, Red Riding Hood. It was a hilarious romp, on the tenth anniversary of the revival of pantomime by Greenwich Theatre, and demonstrated why many describe Greenwich's as 'the best panto in the country.' Pantomime has a long history in Europe, the word itself coming from Greek 'pantomimos' and Latin 'pantomimus', both deriving from 'panto-' (all) and 'mimos' (actor), originally a group that "imitates all", often in dancing accompanied by vocal and instrumental music. Later, Latin poets, such as Lucian, wrote about, and for, pantomime. In medieval Europe, pantomime grew alongside, and was reinforced by, other influences such as the Mystery Plays, the Mummers' Plays, and later, in 16th century Italy, the 'commedia dell'arte', a form of street comedy that also led to the Punch and Judy show. Early in the 18th century the first English pantomimes appeared, but struggled as "dumb shows" under the heavy theatre censorship of that time. It wasn't until the Theatres Act (1843) that control of spoken drama was relaxed, allowing talents such as Joseph Grimaldi and Dan Leno the freedom to push the modern pantomime, or 'panto', to where it is today; traditional, bawdy, but essentially live, with much audience participation. In a recent article Jon Bradfield quoted Chris Goode's "cat test" of whether a performance was truly live, which asks "If a cat wandered into the midst of the event, could that event accommodate the cat without breaking down?" He concluded that "Panto would not only accommodate a cat, it would tickle its belly and carry it around for the audience to stroke." For interested readers, tickets are already on sale for the next Greenwich panto, Peter Pan, which opens on 18 November. **Steve Osborn**

ALKHAM W.I. - We started our first meeting back with speaker Mr. Len Howell talking about Dover Castle. A very enjoyable evening learning the history of the castle. Next meeting will be 9th Feb 2016 and our speaker will be Mr. Alan Haines on 'kick up the sixties'. Hostesses are Shelley Jackson and Beryl King, raffle Janet Barrow. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

TALKING TURKEY or rather the turkey is, as one of the sewer pipes that flows from Alkham village to Chilton overflowed into the adjacent pond as it had been blocked by fat. The Christmas turkey is the main suspect whose fat was poured down the sink.

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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	Pilates 9.30am to 10.30am - Whist Drive in VH 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Tuesday	2	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	6	Annual quiz in the village hall starting at 7.30pm
Tuesday	9	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	13	SEKAS in the village hall in the afternoon
Monday	18	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	23	Film show in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	27	W.I. jumble sale in the village hall 11.00am
Saturday	27	Beekeepers in village hall in the afternoon

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th	Evensong 4.30	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship Tog. 11am
Wedn 10 th	Benefice Eucharist St. Radigunds Capel 7.00 pm		
Saturday 13 th	Messy Church St. Radigunds Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 14 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship Tog. 11am	
Sunday 21 st	Worship Tog.	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 28 th	Benefice Eucharist St. Radigunds Capel 10.00 am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - I told you last November about how I gave up peanut butter, ice cream and everything else that's fun in an attempt to stay healthy. Now I have a problem: Lent begins on 10th February. Try as I might, I can't think of anything to give up – there's nothing left that I would really miss! Of course, I'm not thinking hard enough. Since I decided to take Christian faith seriously back in my student days, I've lost count of the years in which I've kept Lent. Over the years, I've spent the forty days leading up to Easter in different ways. I've given things up; one year I skipped lunch on Fridays; I've taken up a new activity; I've studied the Bible with others, and I've led discussion groups. But what am I going to do this year? The day before Lent begins is called Shrove Tuesday, not because we gorge pancakes but because it was when people came to church to be shriven, or to confess their sins. This, says Richard Holloway, a former Bishop of Edinburgh, is a good thing because recognising our failures and seeking and accepting forgiveness for them can more liberating for us than anything else we can imagine. The Bible says that Jesus spent forty days and nights in the desert, thinking about who and what he was, and what to do about it, and Lent is a time for us to do the same. That I can admit that I'm still not quite the person that I would like to be, Richard Holloway would say, is a good thing. Everyone makes mistakes; real tragedy, he says, lies in refusing to recognise them. There's still time to make a difference. So I wish you a good Lent, and look forward with you to Easter. **Brian Williams**

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County Councillor - Geoffrey Lymer 079604 90 929

District Councillor - Pauline Beresford 216187: Nick Dixon 07815691638

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No. 266 March 2016

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EXPERIMENT – The Newsletter in A3 format was sent by mistake to an A4 printer with this result. If you don't like it please let me know. As some advertisers didn't renew in September the Newsletter was running at a £7 loss each month and if the format is successful this will be recouped and advertising rates revised down for the next financial year. **editor**

THE PARISH COUNCIL have co-opted a new member to fill the vacant position of Parish Councillor. We welcome Peter Smith from Chalksole to the Parish Council. **Angela Mill Parish Clerk**

ALKHAM FETE - Following a meeting in January there will be a Fete this year on Saturday 9th July; having had a year off we're planning to return bigger and better than ever before, but we need your support! Please come along to an **OPEN MEETING on the 16th March** at 8 pm in the Village Hall especially if you'd like to run or have fresh ideas for a stall; we are always on the lookout for new volunteers to bring in fresh ideas and "oomph!". We will also need lots of help on the day from erecting the tents in the morning to clearing the meadow in the evening, so the more the merrier (especially as a number of our stalwart regulars will be unable to assist quite as physically this year). If you would like to help, but are unable to attend on the 16th, please let me know so I can include you in our plans - there will be another meeting in June but we really need to know who will be involved at the meeting so we can cover all the stalls. Look forward to seeing you on the 16th. **Paul Tapsell 01303 892082**

THE ALKHAM ANNUAL QUIZ was held in the village hall on the 6th February and 85 people came along to fill 11 tables. The winning team was from Chalksole who scored 110 points out of 130 and they each received a bottle of wine. Thanks go to the W.I. for preparing the food and to the unflappable Margaret Danstead for keeping the score. After expenses for food and prizes the profit was £315 which went to the Alkham Fund – please see page 2.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – A group of youths have been causing trouble in the centre of the village by harassing properties and throwing things in the dyke. The police were called via 101 and came to Alkham and after visiting some individuals say the problem should cease.



DRAINAGE – KCC really pulled out all the stops to clean the pipes under the Garden Centre. Thanks to Den Barnard and the Parish Council for all their efforts.

**COME TO THE SPECIAL
Mothering Sunday Service
St. Anthony's Church
Sunday 6th March 11am
Everyone welcome**

LENT LUNCH - This year we are having a Lent Lunch again at The Hermitage, in Slip Lane, on Wednesday, 9 March. There will be a choice of home-made soups and a roll, followed by cheeses. We will not ask for payment but any donations will be gratefully received. These were previously sent to Great Ormond Street Hospital but this year we will ask for suggestions on the day and the money will go to the most popular charity. You don't need to be a "churchgoer", everyone will be welcome, so please do come along, from about 12 o'clock, and have a good time and enjoy a chat. **Marion Banks-Nash**

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THE ALKHAM FUND was started in 2004 when the Alkham Recycling scheme was set up. To date £3700 has been raised from recycling (£1300), the annual quiz, Philip Young, Sue Lee's books and small donations. We have spent £2550 on projects around the village and if you have a cause that is of benefit to the parish and would like some help please phone 824969.



ALKHAM W.I. - Barbara Palmer, who soon will be 90yrs old, celebrated at the W.I. with a lovely big cake made by Shelly Jackson, and wine - Happy Birthday Barbara. The next W.I. Meeting will be on 8th March at 7.30pm. The speaker is Colin Breed on the "Royal Family". Janet Adamson and Lucy McKenzie are Hostesses and the Raffle provided by Iris Bowshell - **Susan Lees**

VALLEY COTTAGES BRIDGES - I reported in December that it was very doubtful that the project to replace the bridges in front of Valley Cottages would go ahead. Shows you how much I know. The Environment Agency have now found the money and Kent County Council will start work mid-March and will be completed in four weeks. The Valley Cottages residents will receive official notification in the next two weeks and a site meeting will be arranged. If you have any queries before then please let me know. **Den Barnard**, denbarnard@yahoo.com, 01304 824845.

MANY THANKS go to Mark Loveday, who owns the Old Rectory, for installing a kissing gate in place of the difficult stile by the Old Granary and for having a rail put up to assist walkers entering the meadow to the south.

SUSTAINABILITY Connections are an independent government funded organisation that provide free impartial advice and support for the community about switching energy suppliers. They tell people if they are eligible for any support and can talk about what to do about arrears on power bills. Each person will also receive a free home energy monitor. Sustainability Connections can set up a session or drop-in in Alkham. Please phone 824969 to register an interest and more details on www.sustainabilityconnections.co.uk.

CLUBBERCISE bringing a night out to your work out on Wednesday evening at Whitfield village hall starting at 7pm and at The Churchill school Hawkinge starting at 7.10pm. It costs £5 a session and is a great way to exercise whilst having a lot of fun.

GARDEN TALK - We start the season with a fruity wine quiz on Friday 4th March at 'Sunrise', Meggett Lane, starting at 7.30p.m. We hope by then to have the programme of visits finalised for the summer. Further details: Janet & Gordon Adamson (01303 893413)

NESTING BIRDS –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.

THE FARMERS MARKET has closed due to lack of support. Beth Toth is to be congratulated for all her efforts in trying to make it work.

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LOCAL BYWAYS OPEN TO ALL TRAFFIC - On 17 February more than 40 people met in the Village Hall to discuss the state of byways in and around Alkham and damage caused by 4x4s and motor bikes. Local residents described damage caused to the surfaces of these byways and to surrounding land and properties. Kent County Council has the power to impose Traffic Regulation Orders (TPOs) on byways that are open to all vehicles. TPOs can prohibit motor vehicles during certain months of the year or permanently. There are eight legal grounds for TPOs. They include - avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the byway; for preventing damage to the byway or any building nearby; for facilitating passage on the byway of any class of traffic including pedestrians; and for preserving the character of the way where it is specially suitable for use by people on foot or horse. Many of these legal grounds appear to be satisfied for some local byways. At the meeting it was agreed to form an association to take co-ordinated action to deal with these problems and gather the evidence needed for TPOs. If any local residents who were not at the meeting or already in contact with Peter Smith would like to join the association they should email pnsmith755@gmail.com. Volunteers are also requested to join a committee to take this forward. **Peter Smith**

OZ on APRIL RISE – Since Christmas I've been dipping repeatedly into two books: Tolstoy's *War and Peace*, to help me follow the story on the BBC's exciting new TV version; and, for pure enjoyment, Laurie Lee's *Village Christmas and Other Notes on the English Year*. The latter, a Christmas gift from my daughter, is a collection of previously unpublished essays, and is a welcome addition to Lee's modest but powerful oeuvre. I've admired Lee's work for nearly 60 years, ever since a young and enthusiastic English teacher introduced us, a class of unromantic Lower VIth Science boys, in a General Studies lesson, to Lee's poem *April Rise*. With its vivid imagery, lyricism, and alliteration, it speaks for itself and explains the affection that is still held for Lee nowadays. Here it is: **Steve Osborn**

If ever I saw blessing in the air/I see it now in this still early
day /Where lemon-green the vaporous morning drips /Wet
sunlight on the powder of my eye.

Blown bubble-film of blue, the sky wraps round/Weeds of warm
light whose every root and rod/Splutters with soapy green, and
all the world/Sweats with the bead of summer in its bud.

If ever I heard blessing it is there/Where birds in trees that
shoals and shadows are/Splash with their hidden wings and
drops of sound/Break on my ears their crests of throbbing air.
Pure in the haze the emerald sun dilates, The lips of sparrows
milk the mossy stones,/While white as water by the lake a
girl/Swims her green hand among the gathered swans.

Now, as the almond burns its smoking wick,/Dropping small
flames to light the candled grass;/Now, as my low blood scales
its second chance,/If ever world were blessed, now it is.



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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
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am Whist Drive 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Tuesday	1	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Monday	7	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm VH all welcome
Tuesday	8	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	12	SEKAS in the village hall in the afternoon
Wednesday	16	Fete meeting 8pm VH please see page 1
Monday	21	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	26	Beekeepers in village hall in the afternoon
Tuesday	29	Film show in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6 th	Worship 11am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Saturday 12 th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 13 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	
Sunday 20 th	Benefice Eucharist and Palm Procession 10.00 am		
Compline 7 pm	Monday 21 st	Tuesday 22 nd	Wednesday 23 rd
Thursday 24 th	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 7.30 pm		
Friday 25 th	Devotion 1-2	Devotion 12 - 1	Devotion 2 – 3
Saturday 26 th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 27 th	Celebrate Easter at St Mary's Capel (Capel Old Church) at 10.00		

FROM THE VICARAGE - Beards are fashionable; two priests serving culturally mixed parishes in East London have grown beards; the Bishop of London has commended them for reaching out to the culture of the majority of their parishioners, pointing out that in some cultures a beard is seen as a mark of holiness. But not every newspaper that ran the story last month explained that his original article in the Church Times was a learned discussion of the Church's changing attitudes to beards through the ages. 'Reach out to Muslims by growing a beard, bishop tells the clergy' one headline ran - even though that wasn't exactly what he said. Like the Bishop, I also have a beard. I probably grew mine at about the time that he grew his. Unlike him I wasn't staying in a monastery in Egypt. Aged twenty, training to be a teacher and facing a stint in an inner city school that autumn, I realised that some of my pupils would be the same age as my sister, and I was desperate not to look like their older brother. At the bus depot where I was working as a conductor for the summer, the drivers had nicknamed another young conductor 'Bearded Wonder' - but I took the risk nonetheless. To their amusement, stubble appeared on my chin until one finally told me: "You want to shave that **** lot off!" But I didn't. Like the Bishop, I kept it – and my beard and I have stuck together through thick and thin ever since. Now we are growing old together. Has having a beard made me wiser, holier, or done anything for community relations? To be honest, I've never thought about it until now. I must ask my Bishop what he thinks... **Brian Williams**

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A SPECIAL CHURCH SERVICE was held at St Anthony's in October 1903 to celebrate 50 years of marriage of Charles and Jane Appleton. In March 2016 a similar service was held to celebrate 50 years of marriage of their great grandson Richard Tapsell. The whole village sends congratulations to Richard and Susannah on this wonderful achievement.

THE BAROQUE THEATRE COMPANY, who have previously brought to us in Alkham such plays as 'Up Pompeii' and 'The Haunting of Hill House' are returning to Alkham on the Sunday 3rd April at 7.30pm with the farce 'Kindly Leave The Stage' a play by John Chapman, and directed by Adam Morley. This is a light-hearted take on stage folk. It is a celebration of fun, mayhem and thespian mischief and similar in format to 'Noises Off' - a play within a play. It's a fast-paced farce, easy to watch and lots of fun. Tickets are available from Ann Huggins, 01304 824340, Brian Wimsett, 01304 824969, or Geoff Hillier, 01303 892878, at £10 per person. Cafe style seating. Bring your own refreshments. Proceeds to the Alkham Village Hall.

EXCITING NEWS for St Anthony's church - Following a recent meeting with the Architects, Rev Brian Williams, PCC members and the project team, we are happy to report that the toilet/kitchenette project has been agreed. The total amount to be raised is £76000 which will include improved access to the church and pathway lighting. We have just over £1000 already in the fund from a past coffee morning and the recent Murder Mystery evening, and are thrilled to announce that within several hours of the meeting, were given a private donation of £1000, so we are clearly up and running! We will be shortly planning our first fund raising event and hope for your support for this project. If you would like to know more about the proposal and plans please let us know. Geoff Gaskill (Lead), Irene Barnard and Brian Wimsett. **Irene Barnard**

A PARISH COUNCIL suggestion box has been installed in front of the village hall for parishioners to leave suggestions about what works they would like the Parish Council to do or matters to resolve. They'd love to hear from you.

NEW NEIGHBOURS - Just to remind everyone, as mentioned in the February Newsletter, we are holding a coffee morning to 'meet and warmly welcome' all families recently moved into the area. This is on Saturday April 16th between 10 - noon. To all you lovely established locals, please don't forget to come along too. **Irene Barnard**

ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL warmly invite you to the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 4th April at 7pm. Our guest speaker is from the Port of Dover presenting details on the Western Dock Revival, the new Marina, piers and cruise terminal. It is an overview of their plans to give Dover a wonderful seafront. Complimentary tea and coffee will be available so please join us for an interesting evening. **Angela Miller PC**

CHARITY BINGO NIGHT - I am holding a charity bingo night in aid of cancer charities which will be held in Alkham Village Hall at 7pm on 30th April. Come and enjoy an evening of bingo, raffle etc. There will be refreshments on sale such as tea, coffee and cake. Please don't bring any children. **Debbie Griggs**

CHEST FREEZER in good order available free in to anybody interested. Please ring Derek, The Hermitage, on 01304 820701.

VILLAGE HALL A.G.M. - The Annual Meeting of the Village Hall will be held on Tuesday 19th April at 7.00p.m. followed by a Meeting of the Committee. All welcome to come along and express your views and ideas for the future, and possibly to be involved in the running of the Hall by offering to stand for the Committee - we welcome your interest. **Janet Adamson**, Hon Secretary 01303 893413

FILM NIGHT

Next showing in the village hall at 7.30pm

Tuesday 26th April

Bridge of Spies with Tom Hanks

Tickets cost £4.50 - bring refreshments

IN MAY the film is 'Spotlight', the Boston Globe investigation similar to Watergate

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MURDER MYSTERY - The village hall was a sell-out for the murder mystery evening "Who is the Daddy?". Set in 1928, the audience had to determine who was the assassin of Donald Merton, club owner and shady character, found dead in his guest box at Aintree Racecourse on Grand National day. Directed by Brian Croucher and produced by Anne Huggins, the cast was made up of four Alkham villagers and three amateurs from the Temple Ewell Players. In a thoroughly enjoyable and humorous evening, two of the fourteen tables managed to correctly deduce the identity of the killer. A total of £619 was raised for the St Anthony's church project.

ALKHAM – In 1985 Sue Lees and Roy Humphreys published a book entitled 'A Pictorial Study of Alkham Parish' which gives the history of Alkham together with many photographs from the past. It is out of print but Barry Spicer has scanned a copy in PDF format and if you would like a copy of the file, which can be opened on the Internet, please email Barry on barryspicer@tiscali.co.uk.

BROADBAND – Alkham Village Hall now has Superfast Broadband. Where appropriate, people who hire the hall will be given the password so they can use the Internet.

A JUMBLE SALE is being held in the village hall on the 2nd April starting at 11.00am. Please come along and grab a bargain.

LOCAL BUSINESS ADVERTS - The Parish Council has recently installed a new Historic Noticeboard in the car park opposite the Village Hall and has designed it so that local businesses can advertise. This enables visitors to Alkham to see at a glance what services or amenities are on offer nearby. If you would like to advertise your business in the new board, please give your A5 advert to the Clerk at 6 Newlyns Meadow.

TRAFFIC – Highways England, whilst laying new lighting cables at the western end of the Alkham Valley, installed traffic lights and queues stretched back almost 2 miles to the Garden Centre. If evidence was needed that we are a slip road for the M20 this was it. Additionally, two roundabouts on the A20 leading to the docks are going to be changed to traffic signals, which in the short term will probably increase the traffic. **editor**

MANY THANKS to Heather Waller, Kent PROW Officer, and the volunteers who have installed a couple of extra steps on the footpath behind the Old Rectory where the opening kissing gate used to be. They also installed a handrail on the opposite bank and previously installed the handrail on the meadow by Slip Lane. Thanks go to Anthony Barrier for making it happen and also to Jo Walker and the Parish Council.

GARDEN TALK - We start our season of garden visits and chat on Friday 8th April at The Wicket, Hogbrook Hill Lane, where our hosts are Alison & Barry Spicer. All welcome from 7.00p.m. The programme for this year is now available from Janet Adamson (01303 893413).

ALKHAM W.I. - Colin Bread talked about the Royal Family as he had been taken on as a Chief Policeman and had photos taken in their presence from the Queen's Mother to the Queen's son and his first wife. The next meeting is 12th April 7.30pm and there will be the "East Kent Chorus" - guests are invited. Hostesses - Edith Neve & Helen Price - Raffle provided by Debbie Griggs. **Susan Lees**

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OZ on MINSKY – On 24 January, Marvin Minsky, a leading but lesser-known founder of the computer revolution, died aged 88 in Boston, USA, of a cerebral haemorrhage. I've long been interested in his work, which I discovered in 1973, when, approaching middle-age, I was midway through a mathematics degree. One of that year's set books was Minsky's "Computation: Finite and Infinite Machines", which followed and extended the work of British mathematician Alan Turing and his WWII Enigma machine. I was, and remain, captivated by it. Minsky was born in New York in 1927, the son of eye surgeon Henry and his wife Fannie. After serving in the US Navy from 1944 to 1945, Minsky graduated in mathematics from Harvard in 1950, married paediatrician Dr. Gloria Rudisch in 1952, and gained his doctorate from Princeton in 1954. From 1958 to his recent death, he worked at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), mostly in the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory that he and John McCarthy founded in 1959. Over the next half century, Minsky invented various electronic components, collaborated with Seymour Sapert on the first Logo Turtle, published books and papers on artificial intelligence, and received many awards, including appropriately, the Turing Award in 1969. Minsky's other great passion was music. He was an accomplished pianist, and one of the few in the world who could spontaneously improvise fugues as complex as those of Bach and Handel. In the preface to Minsky's book "Music, Mind and Meaning", his daughter Margaret describes how the Boston family home had three pianos which Minsky played incessantly, even when visitors were talking and children were kicking balls around under the piano. However, for Minsky, music was not simply an amusing hobby; it was central to his self-imposed and lifelong task of "thinking about thinking." **Steve Osborn**

SNOW WARDEN – DDC are co-ordinating a Snow Warden Scheme and need volunteers to help. Please contact the Parish Clerk, Angela Miller (details back page), if you are interested.

GUIDE COMMUNICATOR Support Worker Vacancy. Kent Association for the Blind is a charity providing comprehensive rehabilitation services to sight and hearing impaired people across Kent. We currently have opportunities throughout Kent for enthusiastic, reliable, motivated and caring individuals to provide local support on a 1 to 1 basis to clients who have a sight loss or dual sensory impairment. Flexible hours. Full driving license and use of car essential. No personal or domestic care is involved in this role. Full training provided. Salary £8.25ph. Visit www.kab.org.uk or contact Katy Wright: katy.wright@kab.org.uk or 01622 691357.

SOUTH EAST COAST AMBULANCE SERVICE is looking to increase the number of Community First Responders in local rural communities. These are volunteer members who are trained to respond to emergency calls in conjunction with SECAMB. This can mean that CFR's are able to attend the scene of an emergency within minutes, often before the emergency services arrive, therefore increasing the patients chances of survival. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact: Kent.CFR@secamb.nhs.uk



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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
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am Whist Drive 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Saturday	2	W.I. jumble sale 11am in village hall
Monday	4	Annual Parish Meeting 7.00pm – please see page 1
Tuesday	5	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	9	SEKAS in the village hall in the afternoon
Tuesday	12	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Thursday	14	PCC AGM in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	18	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	19	Village Hall AGM - please see page 1
Tuesday	26	Film show in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3 rd	Evensong 6.30	Eucharist 9.30	Worship 11am
Saturday 9 th	<i>Fun, fellowship and food – please let Brian (01303 243784) know if you plan to come. St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm</i>		
Sunday 10 th	Eucharist 9.30	Worship 11am	
Sunday 17 th	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00	Eucharist 9.30
Sunday 24 th	Benefice Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - When asked what he regretted most in life, the comedian Woody Allen is said to have replied that he most regretted that he wasn't someone else. As I write this Easter is just a fortnight away. Soon we will have kept Holy Week, recalling Jesus' entry into Jerusalem with a Palm Sunday service at Hougham, the Last Supper with a service at Alkham on Maundy Thursday, his death on the cross on Good Friday, and celebrating the Resurrection at the beautiful old church of St Mary's on Easter Day. It may be tempting to regard all this as irrelevant, belonging to a time long ago and far away. But often reading the Bible is like looking in a mirror – if we look long enough we may just begin to see ourselves in the characters we meet in its pages. As the story of Jesus reaches its climax, his followers emerge as people who, having promised never to desert or deny him, did just that. At that point, they may well have wished that they were someone else – or at least that they could be themselves, only without their failings. I suspect that many of us feel that way – if only we could be ourselves, minus our failings! What a difference it would make! That point was driven home by someone telling me recently that he believes, and might have more time for the Church if it weren't for its failings. The Easter story tells of how, despite their failings, the risen Jesus appeared to his disciples and gave them the job of continuing what he started – possible because, as I Corinthians 13 famously says, love keeps no score of wrongs. Easter reminds us that there is always the chance of a fresh start. Happy Easter! **Brian Williams**

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

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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DEBBIE ROBSON - Many of you will have known Debbie who lived in Alkham for many years with her husband Mark and children Rachel, Bronwen and Tom until five and a half years ago when they moved to River. Debbie, only 57 years old, sadly died on Monday April 11th following a seven month illness. Debbie was always friendly to everyone she met and excelled as a social worker with her natural compassion, empathy and determination to help those in her care. She will be sorely missed. **Irene Barnard**

THE FUNERAL of Debbie Robson was held in St. Anthony's on the 22nd April and the church was filled with over 180 people who had come to say goodbye. Tributes were read by friends who spoke of her zest for life and their happy memories and a very touching tribute was read by her children Rachel, Bronwen and Tom. This was later followed by an emotional tribute from her husband Mark. The song 'It's your world now' by the Eagles was played followed by The Irish Blessing that had been read at their wedding. As the coffin was taken from the church the four bells were rung as a celebration of Debbie's life for a person who was much loved and respected by all who knew her.

FOOTPATH - The Inspector appointed to consider the diversion of the footpath that runs through the garden of the Old Rectory, has confirmed that order. The new route of the footpath will run parallel to the northern side of the Old Rectory, continuing past the large green barn, where it will join the existing path which goes down to St. Anthony's church.

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING on the 4th April was well attended and a talk was given by Richard Christian, Head of Communications at the Port of Dover. He gave an overview of the development of Dover Sea Front, Western Docks revival, Marina and the cruise terminal. It is probably fitting that the demolished Burlington House will be used as fill at the Western Docks. The precept for the year remains the same at £7500.

THE MEET AND GREET new people to the Parish on the 16th April was a great success. About 80 people came to the village hall and a good proportion were new to the village and were welcomed by existing residents. Many thanks to all those who helped and particularly to Irene who organized the event. The Alkham Fund paid the costs involved thereby exactly fulfilling its function.

HABERDASHERY - Rosemary Hillier and I will be running a stall selling fabric items, curtains, cushions, sewing accessories, scarves, wools etc at the Fete. Any unwanted items can be passed to us in advance, or we will arrange collection of bulky items. When spring-cleaning, please think of us - and get in touch. **Janet Adamson 01303 893413**

IRENE AND DEN'S COFFEE MORNING Saturday June 11th from 10 - 1pm at Halton Court (bottom of Slip Lane opposite the Village Green) please come and celebrate the Queen's birthday and also raise funds for St Anthony's toilet/kitchenette project. We have booked a sunny day and there will be superb homemade cakes, biscuits and raffle. There will also be a table of new and preloved items for sale. As you lovely ladies already know I'm not particularly fond of cake making, only eating it, so if you could all be kind and help by making cakes for the day it will be hugely appreciated. Also, should anyone have any saleable items you would wish to donate, then that would be wonderful to. Thank you.

Irene and Den Barnard

THE BAROQUE THEATRE Company came to the village hall again on the 3rd April to perform a farce entitled 'Kindly leave the stage'. They are jobbing actors who tour the country and the village hall has supported them to provide entertainment for the parish.

FILM NIGHT

Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50

Date	Film	Genre
April 26	Bridge of Spies	Thriller
May 24	Spotlight	Drama
June 28	Black Mountain Poets	Comedy

Please bring your own refreshments

THE ELECTION of the Police Commissioner is on the 5th May and voting takes place in the village hall between 7.00am and 10.00pm. There are 6 people standing and for more information go to www.choosemypcc.org.uk or phone 0800 1070708.

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BONFIRES – A parishioner has asked that something be put in the Newsletter regarding bonfires. There are no laws against having a bonfire but there are laws for the nuisance they can cause, so please think of the neighbours before having one.

THANKS to Rosemary and John Crothall for their kind donation to the Newsletter. The finances for the Newsletter are now in the black after receiving a further payment for advertising.



THE THREE new box culvert bridges, paid for by the Environment Agency, outside Valley Cottages and adjacent to the Valley Road are progressing well. It certainly is an improvement and time will tell if it increases the flow downstream.

THE VILLAGE HALL AGM was held on the 19th April and four villagers turned up to join the committee at the meeting. There has been some feedback regarding what entertainment the Parish would like the hall to put on and this will be reviewed. If you have any suggestions about what the Village Hall could put on please put them in the letter box at the Old Post Office. The hall is still operating at a small profit but there are times when the hall is not used, so if you'd like to hire the hall for a new club or event please contact Val on 827635. For those living in the Parish the cost is only £6.50 an hour and for those outside the Parish it is £13.00.

AN ARTICLE was published in KM Kentonline about MP Charlie Elphicke visiting a right of way between Guston and Pineham with members of the White Cliffs Ramblers to see the damage done by off road vehicles. The deep ruts make walking very difficult and Charlie Elphicke is therefore going to raise the off-road path problem with Environment Secretary Elizabeth Truss. The same problem exists at Pimlico Way which starts at South Alkham and the owner, Martin Scherer, has also contacted the MP. Further details are on his Facebook Page - Pimlico Way Vineyard Nursery.

GARDEN TALK - After a very enjoyable evening visiting the colourful garden at The Wicket on a beautiful evening, we look forward to revisiting Halton Court, where Irene & Den Barnard will welcome us from 7.30p.m. on Friday 20th May. A full programme for the year is available - just contact me - **Janet Adamson 01303 893413**
THE BOOK CLUB meeting for May will be on Wednesday 25th at the home of Avi Munn, Poems Short Lane 01304 829484 starting at 7.30pm. The book for discussion is The Sixth of June by Lionel Shapiro. If you would like more information about the Alkham Book Club contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729, new members are always welcome.

ALKHAM W.I. - Edith Neve chaired the Meeting. The "East Kent Chorus" were truly excellent, and would like to come again. However, there were more singers than W.I. members! Next meeting on 10th May there will be "Resolutions". Hostesses - Helen Price & Pam Sayers, Raffle - Janet Gibbons. **Susan Lees**

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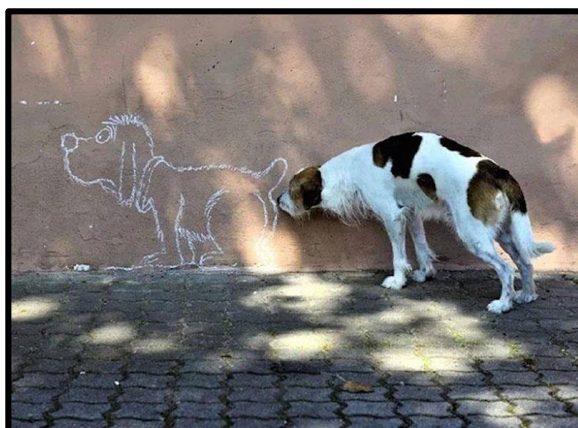
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HILDIE'S HORSES - It was a cold morning – white frost across the fields – but it would be hot by midday with lizards and crickets galore. She was there ahead of me, Hildegard, as I predicted, caressing the horses, murmuring to each of them under the single big oak. For today was to be a day of days for the two mothers and two daughters – and Hildie too of course – all their lives changed by sunset. The two daughters wild since birth were to be sent away to school. They would not return. The schoolmaster would train them to take saddle and rider and then they would be sold. For the two mothers life would return in a way to how it had been before. Day after day the same. Hildie had won the first in a tombola. Decided she needed a friend. So then there were two black mares under the oak. But then a boy came riding into town (or at least from the top of the village) and two became four. All girls, all black, all wild! But today the horse box for two. The mums were taken away down the lane out of sight, then the horseman and his girl started wheedling and cajoling, then getting tough. They had never been contained in outhouse stable or shed so the narrow dark box was entirely alien. They fought and kicked and ran down the field. The fear palpable. We watched in silence hardly breathing, not to disturb the high concentration. Two hours it took. Man's will battling beast's will. And then they were away. The mums' mourning could be heard all day. "Come on," said Hildie, "let's get your photos up on my computer." So glad I'd taken camera not carrots. And now the sun was hot and the frost melted away... **Jane Mitchell**

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL - There's still time to join our Energy Deal collective scheme and the last day to register is 16 May. It's free to join and you don't have to accept the winning offer. Registration is quick and easy and all you need is the the name of your current supplier, the name of your current energy tariff and the annual energy consumption in kWhs. Up to five households can register on the same email address. If you need assistance call 01304 872428 – leave your contact details to receive a call back or bring your energy bills into the Council Offices, Whitfield on 11 May between 2pm and 4pm for assistance with registration. How does it work? Energy providers will compete to offer you the best Energy Deal at a reverse auction on 17 May 2016. What happens then? You get a personal offer showing whether you can save. Offers will be sent out from 27 May and you decide by 27 June 2016 - if you want to switch you'll be helped through the process. **DDC**



As there was some space this month I thought I'd include this picture which you might find amusing.



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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
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am Whist Drive 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Tuesday	3	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Thursday	5	Election Police Commissioner 7am – 10pm VH
Tuesday	10	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	14	SEKAS in village hall
Monday	16	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	24	Film show in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1st	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30	Worship 11am
Thursday 5th	Benefice Eucharist Hougham 7.00 pm		
Sunday 8th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	
Saturday 14th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 15th	Worship Tog. 11am	Evensong 6.00	Eucharist 9.30
Sunday 22nd	Benefice Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Sunday 29th	Benefice Eucharist Capel Old Church 10.00 am		

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

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

FROM THE VICARAGE - It was The Beatles who sang the bleak ballad of Eleanor Rigby, the lonely woman who kept her face in a jar by the door. They also sang of Father McKenzie, who wrote the words of a sermon that no one would hear. The two met only when Eleanor Rigby finally died and he buried her, along with her name. While I was training my tutor told us of a time when, as a teenager, he had arrived at church to find only the Vicar had arrived. He suggested that they just went home. We've got the angels, the archangels and the whole company of heaven here, the Vicar replied. How many more do you want? Of course, he was preparing us for those times when that would happen to us. On the Tuesday before Easter I arrived home from the school where I had been working, finished the sermon that I had begun the evening before, and made my way to church. I prepared everything and waited – but only the angels, the archangels and the whole company of heaven arrived. In front of me, the words of a sermon that no one else would hear. It was a Father McKenzie moment. Never mind. Some say that the one who most needs to hear the sermon is the one who writes it, so that was OK. Of course I would have preferred others to have joined me – but then I had the angels, the archangels and the whole company of heaven, so that was OK, too. Like the first monks who went into the desert to find God in solitude, I was able to pray about all kinds of things. And, Dear Reader, I did say one for you... **Brian Williams**

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

Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635

W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

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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

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
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Telephone 01304 824969

No. 269 June 2016

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ALKHAM FETE - There will be the final Fete Meeting on Wednesday 8th June at 8 pm - all stallholders should attend please, as well as anyone who would be willing to help with the various tasks which are essential if the Fete is going to be a success. This is a wonderful opportunity to be involved in a whole village event, but we need your support, especially setting up the tents, etc. on the day and clearing the site afterwards - a number of our stalwarts are not able to assist this year so we need some fresh helpers! Please come along, or call me on 01303 892082 if you are unable to attend but will be able to help on the day (Saturday 9th July). **Paul Tapsell**

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - There will be an illustrated talk given by Paul Hadaway of the Kent Wildlife Trust on Thursday June 9 at 7 p.m. in the Village Hall. Mr Hadaway will be giving an overview of the work of the Trust which will include a more detailed look at their landscape scale (work done to link reserves and make the wider countryside better for wildlife), all be related to our area of East Kent. There will be a donation box for contributions to the work of the Trust. **Joanna Walk (sec)**

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 18th June at 6:30pm. He has also managed to obtain the services of his ex-pupil and 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 sandwiches, cakes and drinks will be available during the interval at nominal cost. Tickets from Den (824845) or Brian (824969). **Den Barnard**

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

ALKHAM SUMMER FETE Saturday 9th July 2016 - There will be a cake stall at the summer fete again this year and I would be very grateful for any donations of cakes, biscuits etc. The W.I. will be providing the refreshments again in the village hall and would also be very pleased to receive cakes to sell. You have all been so busy baking in the past that we have been very lucky to have a fantastic selection of cakes to sell on the day. I am able to collect cakes on the day before the fete (8th July) or I will be in the village hall from 12.30pm on the day. For more information please contact me on 01304 825736. Thank you **Sue Ross**.

You are invited to a Service at
St. Anthony's Church on
Sunday 12th June at 9.30am to mark
The Queen's Official 90th Birthday

HANDBAGS please - If you can give one or two handbags for the stall at the fete, could you drop them into the Village hall Wednesdays 10.30am or let me know and I will collect. Thank you very much indeed. **Susannah 01304 822295**

DOMESTIC HELP needed for general household chores in Alkham for 2 to 3 hours a week. Hours and wage negotiable. Please phone 01304 614886 or 07879 627373.

DOG LOVER wanted to help with Springer Spaniels daily care and chores on occasional days with possible future house sitting. Needs to be good at handling dogs and relatively fit. Wage negotiable - 01304 614886 or 07879 627373.

THE PARISH COUNCIL web site is now active, but still under construction, at www.alkhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk

FILM NIGHT

Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50

Date	Film	Genre
May 24	Spotlight	Drama
June 28	Black Mountain Poets	Comedy
July 26	High Rise	Drama

Please bring your own refreshments

Thursday 21st July at 7.30pm when we plan a short presentation on the project and will display the architect's drawings. This is a very exciting time for St Anthony's and we hope you will join us for a free glass of wine and cheese. **The Project Team**

ST ANTHONY'S KITCHEN & TOILET - We are very pleased to announce that we have the go ahead to install a toilet and kitchenette in our beautiful village church bringing it into the 21st century. We invite all to the village hall on

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DEBBIE ROBSON - Forgive the impersonal nature of this letter but it seems the best way to reach as many people in a short space of time. On behalf of the children and myself I wanted to write to say thank-you to everyone who made the celebration of Debbie's life at St Anthony's the fitting tribute that it was. When Debbie was diagnosed with 'incurable but treatable' cancer late last October we asked not to be phoned or visited to allow us time to come to terms with it. As frustrating as this must have been our wishes were respected but we were aware of the huge amount of love and support that there was for us beyond the four walls of our house; it was palpable and I have never experienced anything like it before. After Debbie's death we were again offered support to arrange the celebration and I must thank Den and Irene who took on much of the Alkham arrangements. I know that there were many who assisted in the logistics – booking the church, arranging flowers, cutting the grass, ringing the bells, baking cakes, making and serving teas in the village hall afterwards and a myriad of other jobs we are unaware of - so please accept our thanks and gratitude for making a day (that I never expected or wanted to see) go so well. With thanks and best wishes. **Mark, Rachel, Bronwen and Tom Robson**

BONFIRES - With regard to the item in the May Newsletter, as the saying goes "if the cap fits wear it"! I feel sure the parishioner who raised the subject was referring to me as I require to have a bonfire on a fairly regular basis. Although I have three compost heaps plus two plastic compost containers I still need to burn much that will not rot. Incidentally, two of my last three bonfires were lit at 5 o'clock in the morning. I would like to think that would go some way towards "thinking of neighbours". However, I think it would be more neighbourly to openly talk of any concern and not whether it be a personal or editorial decision to hide behind the cloak of anonymity.

Bert Wall – Church Hill House

TRAFFIC MIRROR – The criteria required for Highways to install a visibility mirror is that there should be an accident record and no speed limit. For this reason they won't install one opposite the bottom of Slip to see traffic approaching from the Folkestone direction, but the Parish Council may be able to and are going to meet Highways on site. It was also suggested that a sign could be installed by the Marquis warning of a dangerous junction.

PARISH COUNCIL suggestion box – Three were received and their answers were: A sign that shows vehicle speed encourages some drivers to achieve a high reading: Maintenance of memorials should be funded when erected and this will be dealt with on submission: Installing highway drainage on upper Slip Lane would be very expensive and cause major disruption during installation.

GARDEN TALK - Our next Meeting will be held at Thorn Cottage, Meggett Lane on **Friday 17th June**, where Geoff & Rosemary Hillier are keen to show us the many alterations to their garden. We start at 7.30p.m. There is also a visit arranged to the organic gardens of Old Bladbean Stud on **Friday 1st July** where a tour has been arranged with the owner, followed by coffee and cake. This visit starts at 6.00p.m. and we need to know numbers in advance - and directions will be given out – satnav's no use in that part of the Elham Valley! Please contact Janet Adamson (01303 893413) for full arrangements.

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A CHARITY BINGO night was held in the village hall on the 30th April and £1060 was raised of which £530 went to the Pilgrim's Hospice and £530 went to Alder Hey Children's Hospital. Many thanks to Southern Equestrian Supplies, Alkham Valley Garden Centre Tea Rooms, The Marquis and The Fox at Temple Ewell for their support and also to everybody who helped and those who came along on the night. **Debbie Griggs**

OZ on PERCY – One of my lifelong enthusiasms is for tracking down obscure literary quotations, and that has led in part to the acquisition of a very eclectic personal library. Some years ago, in an antiquarian book-dealer's closing-down sale, I bought cheaply a promising-looking Victorian volume entitled "The Percy Anecdotes", consisting of several hundred tales, varying in length from just a few lines to a page or more, and covering every imaginable subject. The authors were named as "Reuben and Sholto Percy, brothers of the Benedictine monastery of Mount Benger." Over the years, labouring through the anecdotes, I became much more interested in the true identity of the Percy brothers, which I eventually discovered with the aid of the internet. "Reuben Percy" was in fact Thomas Byerley, a London journalist, and "Sholto Percy" was Joseph Clinton Robertson, a patent agent and writer. Their massive work was published in forty-four monthly instalments between 1820 and 1823. The pen-name 'Percy' referred to the Percy coffee-house, Rathbone Place, Fitzrovia, London, where the 'brothers' used to meet. It is thought that the purpose of these anecdotes was to satisfy the need among the wealthy leisured class for subjects for small talk and table talk in order to appear well-read. This aim was certainly satisfied by the huge selection of anecdotes, ranging from The 42nd Highlanders to How to Deal with Sorcerers, complete with index. Leslie Stephen, in the Dictionary of National Biography, notes Lord Byron's remark that 'no man who has any pretensions to figure in good society can fail to make himself familiar with The Percy Anecdotes'. However, Stephen adds the dismissive comment 'but the work is now acknowledged to be of no real value', so perhaps I 'figure in good society' when finding the anecdotes a little tedious at times. **Steve Osborn**



AFTER A PERIOD of 14 months since the last villager was killed news came of the death of Edwin Daniels killed by a shell on Thursday, June 8th 1916. Edwin was born in June 1886 at Whitfield. The 1911 Census reveals that he was an 'Agricultural Labourer'. Edwin was a Private in the 1st Battalion, The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) when he was killed by a shell on Thursday, 8th June 1916. He is buried at Essex Farm cemetery in Belgium. Those who came on the first coach trip to Flanders will recall this is where we laid a wreath in Edwin's memory and also where John McCrae, a Canadian medical officer, wrote the poem 'In Flanders Fields'. Edwin was one of four sons in the Buffs and was married to Lilian (18th November 1915) a 'pupil teacher' of Crabble Farm Nursery, River. A cross will be added to the wall at the bottom of Slip Lane on the anniversary. **Mark Robson**



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Other events in the village

Tuesday	7	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Wednesday	8	Fete meeting in village hall 8 pm
Thursday	9	Alkham Valley Society talk 7pm village hall
Tuesday	14	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Thursday	23	Referendum voting village hall
Tuesday	28	Film show in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th	Evensong 6.30	Eucharist 9.30	Worship 11am
Saturday 11th	Messy Church Garden Party St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00		
Sunday 12th	Eucharist 9.30	Worship 11am	
Sunday 19th	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00	Eucharist 9.30
Sunday 26th	Benefice Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		

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FROM THE VICARAGE - Perhaps you have heard – the nation’s new polar research ship is to be named the RRS Sir David Attenborough rather than Boaty McBoatface, the frivolous suggestion of a former BBC radio presenter that the majority of those who took part in an online poll to name the vessel seized upon, and apparently would have preferred. Humour – and giving people their say – can both backfire. I have never forgotten being asked to marry a couple whose wedding plans, apart from standing before God and making their vows, turned out to be aimed mainly at amusing their friends. Weddings are joyful occasions, yes – but they include some essential solemn bits too. They point to something beyond which is all too easily missed if we’re too busy laughing, as I’ve been careful to remember ever since. Perhaps that’s why a recent survey of churchgoers revealed that although most like their minister to have a sense of humour they generally dislike sermons peppered with jokes – they prefer solid content to comedy. Jesus’ disciples didn’t follow him just because he made them laugh, as far as anyone can tell. There was much more to it than that. Stand-up comics take centre stage and try to be funny. But Sir David Attenborough doesn’t take centre stage. He directs our attention towards something beyond - anything from a whale to an ants’ nest - and in doing so reminds us what a fascinating place our world is. No doubt some will be disappointed that Boaty McBoatface will be the name of an unmanned submarine instead. But like its namesake, the RRS Sir David Attenborough will deepen our understanding of our world and perhaps encourage us to take better care of it. At the end of the day, that’s no laughing matter. **Brian Williams**

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ST ANTHONY'S toilet and kitchenette project coffee morning - Prayers were said and fingers crossed for a dry mild day last Saturday and that's what we were lucky enough to get as the event was held in our front garden. The total raised on

ALKHAM FETE 9th JULY - You will find with the Newsletter a book of 5 raffle tickets (tickets £1 each). Please can you return the counterfoils and the cash (or cheques payable to "Alkham Fete Committee") or any unsold tickets to me by the 7th July. More tickets are available - just give me a call on 07947 016697 if you are able to sell more! As always we are short of volunteers for various jobs on the day - to help put the tents up on the morning (meet at the Meadow from 8:30 please; even if you can only stay for an hour or so, it'll get the job sorted) - on stalls (call me and I'll tell you which stalls need help) and - clearing the site (again an hour of your time would make a world of difference). This is a Village Fete: without your support getting the work done, there won't be a Fete! Please also give what help you can to the various stall-holders (see elsewhere in the newsletter). See you on the day, tell your friends and 'Like' our Facebook page (search for "Alkham Fete") and pray for good weather.

Paul Tapsell 07947 016697

ALKHAM FETE stall requests for items to sell and buy please see page 2

the day was £902.20 and with further donations, now have a grand total of £957.20. Of course this type of event can only be successful with help, and I would like to personally thank Sue and Mike, Alison and Barry, Helen and Don, Frances and Tom, Ken and Sandie and Margaret for being stall holders. I have been quite overwhelmed with everyone's kindness from donating saleable goods, raffle prizes to the amazing display of cakes. So thanks to all who came along and supported us by making it such a fabulous event. I am also delighted that the £957.20 is being very generously doubled by Mark Loveday's Charitable Trust. **Irene Barnard**

ST ANTHONY'S PROJECT

Please come along to a short presentation and see the architect's plans on Thursday 21st July at 7.30pm and enjoy a free glass of wine and cheese.

SHOW TIME AT ALKHAM - The Temple Ewell Players are coming to Alkham on the 13th August and will perform a show entitled 'A Song to Remember' featuring sketches and songs from the First and Second World Wars. It starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £8 with proceeds going to the Alkham church project and a donation to motor neurone disease. Bring your own drinks and nibbles for this evening not to be missed. Please phone Anne Huggins on 01304 824340 or Tracey on 07879 476681 to reserve your tickets.

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - Following the necessary cancellation of the talk by the Kent Wild Life Trust on 9th June, another date has been arranged for Thursday 14th July at 7pm. The talk will include a detailed look at the work of the Trust relating particularly to East Kent. Paul Hadaway will be speaking and the talk illustrated. Everyone is welcome. There will be a collection box for contributions towards the work of the Trust. 'Venez' enfants de la Patrie, (apologies) since we will share the day with France. **Joanna Walker (Sec)**

CALLING all Parish businesses and trades - Remember that you can display an advert for your business in the new noticeboard adjacent to the Village Green. This needs to be postcard size and printed on card please. Just drop it in to 6 Newlyns Meadow. **Angela Miller Parish Clerk**

FILM NIGHT

Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50

Date	Film	Genre
June 28	Black Mountain Poets	Comedy
July 26	High Rise	Drama
Aug 30	Dad's Army	Comedy

Please bring your own refreshments

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Contact Howard Cole
07889 242604

THE ALKHAM FETE is nearly upon us and many excellent prizes have been donated by local businesses for the Grand Raffle. The top prize is £200 donated by The Alkham Committee and there are at least 12 prizes ranging from dinner for two at The Marquis, overnight stay and breakfast included; a ticket on Le Shuttle for a car and up to 9 passengers donated by Mrs S Jones; meal for 2 Grand Burstin; local produce of wine and Dexter Beef and not forgetting a wooden train set to please the children, so something for everyone. Companies donating are: - Action Carpets: Alkham Valley Garden Centre: Brewers!: The Grand!: Halfords: Homebase: The Marquis: Sladden' Farm: S E Equestrian Supplies: Terlingham Vineyards: Grand Burstin: The Toy Den. **From Bill and Val Hellyer**

PLANT STALL – To make a success of the plant stall at the fete on the 9th July garden plants are needed. Any plants that you would like to donate would be much appreciated so either bring on the day or phone Barbara or Neil on 01304 821003 to arrange collection.

FETE BOOK STALL - Do you have any books, jigsaws, games and children's books that you no longer need and would like to donate to the book stall? If so, we're very happy to collect them. Please call Sue Lees on 821147, or Mike/Rachel Fountain on 823173 or 07905206702 to arrange collection. Thank you.

FETE - My 'china and glass' stall is rapidly becoming a 'White Elephant' stall instead so if anyone has any small saleable item please let me know. Thank you. **Irene Barnard 824845**

BONFIRES - see Newsletters 268 and 269. How can one notify neighbours of an impending bonfire, except perhaps through smoke signals? I am also responsible for the occasional bonfire and in order to keep the residual fire going on embers one feeds the fire over some hours, very effectively. You can also cook potatoes in the same embers. I apologise to all neighbours for discomforts occasioned by the smell of burning twigs but it cuts down on the gas used by waste collectors lorries. Bonfire nuisance factor issues stem from UK regulations and not the EU, by the way. Acknowledgements to Mr. Wall. **Jo Walker, Rectory Cottage**

GARDEN TALK - We have a visit arranged to the gardens at Old Bladbean Stud on **Friday 1st July**. The tour starts at 6.00p.m. at a cost of £7.50 (including good refreshments!). Please let me know if you wish to join us, as car sharing to this remote location may be needed. Our next meeting in the village is on **Friday 15th July** when we visit Woodstock (at the top of the bend in the Alkham Valley Road) where Helen & Don Hobday welcome us from 7.30p.m. **Janet Adamson 01303 893413**

BOOK CLUB The meeting for July will be held on Wednesday 27th at the home of Anita James, Firbank Slip Lane 01304 824964 starting at 7.30 p.m. The book for discussion is The Bone Clocks by David Mitchell. For more information contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

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CONGRATULATIONS to Charlotte Tapsell, who lives in South Alkham, for being selected to be a Snow Sport England Dry Slopes Ambassador. Charlotte, who is 15, was recently selected for the England U16 Alpine Ski Squad who travelled to the English Alpine Ski Championships in Bormio, Northern Italy, in February. She started skiing when she was ten and hopes to inspire people to start ski racing, as she was by others in the sport.

A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING will be held in the village hall on Monday 4th July starting at 7.30pm and everybody is welcome to attend. If you can't make the meeting and you have something that you would like the Parish Council to do or carry out, you can leave a note in the suggestion box which is by the notice board outside the village hall.

LIBRARY BUS – The number of people using the Mobile Library Bus that comes to Alkham each Thursday is very small and maybe only one person goes along. Kent County Council are trying to save some of the cost of running this service and the person who uses the library was told that it will cease on the 30th of June.

ALKHAM W.I. - We started our Meeting with the speaker Phil Lewis. However, he did talk 1hr 20mins re. "Twins - Reg and Ron", who went in and out of prisons and have now died. The next Meeting will be "Spooky Kent" by Neil Arnold. Hostesses - Alison Warnock, Eileen West & Raffle - Sandra Hancock. **Sue Lees**

MITCH on THAMES GREEN - We didn't go down that often - picnics on the water meadows on hot Summer days - and even rarer, swimming in the 'Thames Green' water. Gill my sis was always the better swimmer, but I expect our dips were rare because Mother didn't swim. A near-drowning as a girl had left her traumatised – until we took her in hand in her fifties and helped her lose the fear. What I remember is the breathless excitement of the cold water when you first dared plunge in, and the feel of oozy mud between the toes touching down again to clamber out. And Dad's favourite joke: Bowler hat floating gently down the river, raises to show man's head. Man in Thames to man on bank: Is this the way to London? Man on bank to man in Thames: Yes – but you can get a train from here. Man in Thames: It's ok thanks. I've got me bike down here see...I love it! Our bedrooms faced north across the valley to the Chilterns beyond, and the thin silver ribbon widened in winter to cover miles of meadows – a shiny expanse by day, a watery glimmer by night. And the locks – each had a huge post sunk deep in the water painted black with bright white marks to show the worst years' flood levels: 1947, 1962, and now 2013..... and the names of the locks conjure each of them too (all of course take the place name on the northern bank, not the southern) – hence Whitchurch not Pangbourne, Mapledurham not Purley, Goring not Streatley. A feeling of pride and ownership whenever 'The Thames' is mentioned (though I've lived away for years) - that's my river I think! Does everyone feel the same about theirs I wonder? **Jane Mitchell**

THE BUS TIMES on page 4 ended up where they were on their own accord, so I thought I'd leave them there as they were giving me a bit of trouble.



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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
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am Whist Drive 7.30 pm

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

Other events in the village

Monday	4	Parish Council meeting village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	5	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	9	Alkham Fete on village green 2pm
Tuesday	12	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Thursday	14	Alkham Valley Society talk 7pm village hall
Monday	18	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	26	Film show in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3rd	Evensong 6.30	Eucharist 9.30	Worship 11am
Saturday 9th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 10th	Eucharist 9.30	Worship 11am	
Sunday 17th	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00	Eucharist 9.30
Sunday 24th	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		
Sunday 31st	Benefice Eucharist Capel Old Church 10.00 am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - When I wrote about my Father McKenzie moment back in May – how, during Holy Week, I ended up in church with only the angels, the archangels and the whole company of heaven and the words of a sermon that no one would hear, just like the priest in The Beatles’ song Eleanor Rigby – it certainly struck a chord with some of you. (Sorry!) Thanks to those who kindly wrote or sent emails. As far as church is concerned, let’s be honest – I’m the only one who has to be there. People were probably busy with other very important and worthwhile things that evening. Most of us live busier lives than ever before. Even if we don’t expect to be busy when we retire, the chances are that our children will be, so we shall end up being busy with our grandchildren...The gospels tell us that when Jesus’ disciples were so busy that they did not even have time to eat, he invited them to come away to a quiet place by themselves. I sometimes think of church that way – being in a service is a lot like putting being busy to one side and coming away to rest, listen, and be quiet for a while. Rabbi Lionel Blue once wondered whether prayer is like a cigarette (this was before the smoking ban came along) - a chance to pause, he said, but without the nasty side-effects. Prayer has more going for it than that. It isn’t smelly or messy, and you don’t need to find a sheltered corner at the bottom of the garden. You can do it indoors – St Mary’s Capel, St Anthony’s at Alkham and St Laurence Hougham are all open during the day. Come and treat yourself to a quiet moment soon. **Brian Williams**

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

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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No. 271 August 2016

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FETE - Thank you to everyone who helped, supported, attended and, we hope, enjoyed the Fete, from the brilliant team of volunteer tent erectors, to the stallholders who have slaved for months to prepare and collect

SHOW TIME AT ALKHAM – The Temple Ewell players are coming to Alkham on the 13th August and will perform a show entitled 'A Song to Remember' with sketches and songs from the World Wars. It starts at 7.30pm and tickets costing £8 are obtainable from Anne Huggins on 01304 824340 or Tracy on 07879476681. Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

their wares, the Folkestone Car Club and Vintage Motorcyclists and the clearer-up-ers who did a fantastic job. Particular thanks to Warren of Action Carpets and Richard Miller of Coastal Spares for the generous use of their vehicles and time for shifting the tents before and after. Thank you all so much. We took about £3,900 on the day, so are hoping for a significant sum (after expenses) for sharing between the Church and Village Hall (meeting in early September - date to be fixed). See you all next year, we hope. Alkham Fete Committee. **Paul Tapsell**

Mike, Ken, Geoff and Den were some of the burger boys at the fete and can be seen ready for action in the photo.

SPEED CHECK – It was suggested at the recent Parish Council meeting that residents carry out speed checks on vehicles going through the village. Shepherdswell have such a scheme and it has proved effective at reducing speeding. Volunteers are called 'practitioners' and are trained in using the speed guns, with the police providing insurance for the practitioners. If a driver is repeatedly recorded exceeding the speed limit a letter is sent by the police, which generally has an effect. The Parish Council are looking for volunteers to be practitioners and if you would like to be involved please contact the Parish Clerk, Angela Miller on 01304 824791 or email alkham.pc@outlook.com.

PLAY EQUIPMENT – The Parish Council would be grateful if people who see any defects on the swings and other play equipment on the village green if they could contact the Parish Clerk, Angela Miller, on 01304 824791 or email alkham.pc@outlook.com.

SANDBAGS – Many thanks to Gordon Adamson, Tom Marcus, Peter Rose, Clive Batchelor, Den Barnard and Mike Ross for helping Geoff Hillier and Brian Wimsett empty the large bags of sharp sand on the village hall car park into 160 sand bags. The bags will be used to protect the village hall should there be another major flood.

ANTI-SOCIAL cars and quad bikes were discussed at the Parish Council meeting on the 4th July. They are causing distress to some people in the village and the police have been informed and they will take the necessary action should it continue.

MIRRORS – A trial is going to be carried out with a visibility mirror opposite the bottom of Slip to see whether it would be effective in showing vehicles approaching from the Marquis direction. If it is, one will be installed and another considered at the Common Hill road, by the dangerous corner on the Valley Road opposite the village green.

NOISY LORRIES – Comment was made at the Parish Council meeting about the heavy lorries that go through the village. A number of lorries appear to be speeding and also, probably because they are empty, are extremely noisy. One firm was contacted and appeared unapologetic but said they would speak to their drivers. If the speed check (see left) goes ahead it might have an effect.

FILM NIGHT		
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50		
Date	Film	Genre
July 26	High Rise with Tom Hiddlestone	Drama
Aug 30	Dad's Army	Comedy
Please bring your own refreshments		

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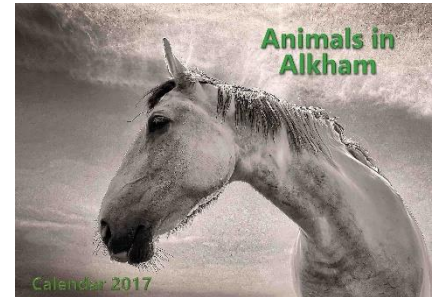
ALKHAM PARISH



Produced by Brian Wimsett. In 2016 and based on a book
by Susan Lees and Roy Humphreys published in 1983

ALKHAM BOOK – In 1983 Sue Lees and Roy Humphreys published a book about the history of Alkham. It was very popular but unfortunately it was not possible to get a reprint. I have therefore produced a book based largely on the original but with updates and additional material. It is currently being printed and will cost £5 with any profits going to the Alkham Fund. If you'd like a copy please phone 01304 824969 or email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

CALENDAR – An Alkham calendar is being produced for 2017 with the usual superb photographs by Stan Fowler. The theme is animals around the village, of which there are 12 different ones, and when printed the calendar will cost £6.



UPDATE – The St. Anthony's coffee morning at Irene and Den Barnard's on the 11th June finally raised the impressive total of £1005.

FRIENDS of Temple Ewell Autumn Ball, Saturday 8th October at Dover Town Hall. Tickets cost £30 per head for a 3 course meal with coffee and tables of up to 10 are available. For more details and booking please contact Nicola on 01304 822665.

BUSES – At the top of Meggett Lane there is a request stop for buses, but it appears as though some bus drivers are not aware of this and therefore permanent bus stops have been requested.

PARKING – I received an unsigned letter regarding dangerous parking and obstruction of a sign. Rather than publish the details I have shown the letter to the person to whom complaint was directed.

BOOK CLUB - The meeting for August will be at the home of Margaret Danstead, 2 Meadow View Cottages, Hogbrook Hill Lane on Wednesday 31st at 7.30p.m. We will be discussing "Code to Zero" by Ken Follett. For more information about the book club contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

GARDEN TALK - We have been fortunate to have good weather for our Friday evening visits to local gardens and our tour of Old Bladbean Stud. We continue the season by viewing the many features of the garden at 'Bramhall' on the Alkham Valley Road, where Susannah and Richard Tapsell will welcome us from 7.30p.m. on Friday 19th August. **Janet Adamson**

PICNIC BENCHES – Congratulations to the Parish Council for providing the two new picnic benches on the village green.

ALKHAM W.I. - George and Peter had to come to the W.I. at a very short notice, however, they truly entertained us in a very happy method. There were lots of famous songs and music - it was in the 1950's - great. The next meeting will be on 9th August 7.30pm and "Come dine with me". Debbie Griggs had all members to produce a lovely meal. Raffle - Shelley Jackson - **Susan Lees**

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THE VILLAGE GREEN OR VICARAGE MEADOW – There is a small minority that refuse to accept that the Vicarage Meadow does not exist. I can understand that people who have lived in the village all their lives do not like change, but the fact is that in 2003 the church officially handed over Vicarage Meadow to the Parish Council, which then became the village green. New people to the village find it confusing when they see a poster with Vicarage Meadow on it as they seem to think it is the meadow next to the Rectory, but the fact remains that Vicarage Meadow no longer exists. **Ken Hammond**

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - An outing to Sandwich has been arranged for a guided tour of Sandwich (2 hours) for Tuesday 27th September. It is suggested we arrive for the tour at 10.30 am. We then hope to lunch at the King's Head and to visit the Salutation Gardens after lunch. The guided tour costs £2 a head, entrance to the Salutation Gardens £7 a head. The gardens close at 5pm and tea is available there. Further notice of the Sandwich outing will appear as reminders or for any alterations to times, dates. Please let the Secretary know if you would like to come along. We would most likely travel under our own steam, unless 49 people wish to come along! Thanks to all those who came to the Kent Wildlife talk on 14 July, and to the Village Hall for use of all the equipment. It was a very thought provoking talk. Between us we raised £47 towards the work of the KWT. **J Walker** 01304 821641 - cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk

OZ on THE LOST CHORD – My girl-friend Gillian has, at the age of 77, started to sing solos, the most recent being in June, at a concert in Brabourne Church, where she performed Arthur Sullivan's masterpiece The Lost Chord. The words were written originally in 1858 as a poem called A Lost Chord, by Adelaide Anne Procter, an English poet and philanthropist. She was, in fact, Queen Victoria's favourite poet and the second most popular with the public after Lord Tennyson. Sullivan, in addition to collaborating with W S Gilbert on their operas, composed serious orchestral and choral works, interspersed with hymns and parlour pieces. In 1871 Sullivan started trying to set Procter's poem to music, with little success. He returned to the task in 1876, when his brother Fred, an actor who had appeared in many of the G&S operas, became ill. During many visits to the dying Fred's bedside in King's Road, Fulham, Sullivan worked on the music, and finally signed the manuscript on 13 January 1877. Fred died five days later. It is thought that, when not in Fulham with Fred, Arthur worked on The Lost Chord at the organ of the Manor House, Hothfield Place, where he often visited Lord and Lady Hothfield, and where he played publicly in 1877. In the late 1890s the organ was moved to St Margaret's Church, Hothfield, where it remains to this day. Over the years, The Lost Chord has been recorded by many great singers, most notably the English contralto, Dame Clara Butt. Italian tenor Enrico Caruso sang it in 1912 at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, in a benefit concert for families of Titanic victims. Sullivan was rightly proud of the song, once commenting: "I have composed much music since then, but have never written a second Lost Chord." **Steve Osborn**



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Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am Whist Drive 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Tuesday	2	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Tuesday	9	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	13	'Show Time' 7.30pm in village hall – see page 1
Monday	15	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	30	Film show in village hall 7.30pm – Dad's Army

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th	Benefice Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Saturday 13th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm All		
Sunday 14th	Benefice Eucharist St. Radigund's Capel 10.00 am		
Sunday 21st	Worship 11am	Sunday 21st	Worship 11am
Sunday 28th	Benefice Eucharist at St Mary's (Capel Old Church)		

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

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

FROM THE VICARAGE - I wonder – in years to come, will the Referendum result be like the death of John F Kennedy or 9/11? You know – people will always remember where they were when they heard the result? I was getting ready for a day in school when I heard the news. On the morning when some rejoiced at the prospect of throwing off the shackles of Brussels, each class I met was the same - a sea of glum faces. Some had planned to live, work or study in Europe – but perhaps not any more. At home, our resident budding research scientist desperately trawled the internet for a crumb of hope as he realised that without EU funding his career plans would be in doubt. What is there to say at such times? It may be tempting to rerun the campaign again, but as the Old Testament Book of Proverbs reminds us, 'the way of a fool is right in his own eyes.' Revisiting the debate is pointless. Only time will tell who had wisdom on their side. Tempted to promise that things will work out, somehow? The New Testament Letter of James reminds us, 'let your 'Yes' be yes and your 'No' be no.' It's no use making promises that aren't ours to keep. Last word from Psalm 118: It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes. Not much has changed in two thousand years, it seems.
Brian Williams

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

Hall booking Val Fowler 827635

W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

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Vicar 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

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 272 September 2016

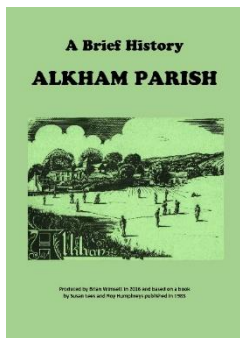
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BYWAYS CLOSURE – On the 8th August over 60 people came to a meeting at Alkham Village Hall to discuss and complain about the temporary closure of three byways, which have been severely rutted by off-road vehicles. The byways are Pimlico Way, which runs from South Alkham across the hill to Slip Lane with an offshoot towards Ellinge and the third is called the Bull Run, to the east of the Parish. Horse riders are badly affected by the closures and KCC does not have the funds to repair them. A suggestion at the meeting was that alternative funding should be sought such that repairs could be carried out by contractors to make the byways safe for use whilst at the same time applying pressure to make them restricted byways, such that off-road vehicles cannot use them. This idea was generally accepted and Neil Burrows, the Parish Council Chairman, said that the priority was to get the byways open as quickly as possible and the Parish Council would meet shortly to discuss the best way forward.



ALKHAM SHOWTIME – On the 13th August the Temple Ewell players came to the village hall to perform 'A Song to Remember'. They were superb and thanks go to everyone who helped and supported the evening. Many thanks to Susannah Tapsell and the Keep Fit ladies for donating £100 towards the raffle that raised £357 for Motor Neurone disease. The hall was packed to capacity and enjoyed by everyone. The amount raised for St Anthony's church project was £727 which will be doubled by the Mark Loveday Trust, for which we are most grateful. We look forward to seeing you all at our next function - watch this space.



THE ALKHAM BOOK is a photographic record and written account of the Parish as it used to be covering the many things that made up the Parish and the people who lived there, plus a brief account of the present. It is 35 pages, A4 in size, on good quality paper and is available at a cost of £5; for postage add £1. Please contact brianwimsett@hotmail.com or ring 01304 824969.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING on Saturday 24th September in the village hall from 10am until 12 noon. The coffee morning is in aid of Macmillan Cancer support, a very important charity that gives emotional, practical and financial help to cancer sufferers and their families. There will be a few stalls and I would very much appreciate any items you may like to donate towards a bric a brac stall or a tombola; jewellery would also be very welcome. I can collect items if that would help. There will be a cake stall and I would be very grateful to anyone who would be willing to bake a cake and bring it along on the day. Please come and support this very worthwhile cause and enjoy a cup of tea / coffee, piece of cake and friendship. For any further information please contact Sue Ross - 01304 825736.

THE HARVEST SUPPER will be held in the village hall on 10th October at 1900. It will be cottage pie and crumble at £6.00 per person. If you could donate a pie it would be most appreciated. Please could we have numbers asap as we need to know how many to cater for. Ring Carol Mannall 01304 826514.

Anne Huggins

THE PARISH COUNCIL meeting will be on **Monday 12th September**, at 7:30pm in the village hall and everyone is welcome to come along.

FILM NIGHT

Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50

Date	Film
Aug 30	Dad's Army Comedy, famous British cast
Sept. 27	Florence Foster Jenkins Comedy with Meryl Streep

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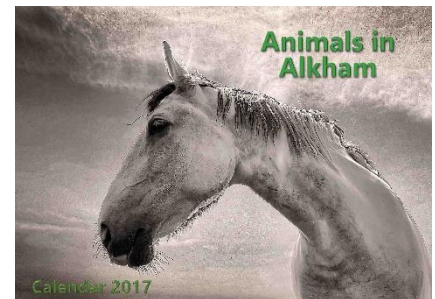
Contact Howard Cole
07889 242604

FLOWERS IN CHURCHYARD – The heads of roses and other flowers have been cut off in St. Anthony's churchyard and left by the grave. It is not known who has done this but it is very upsetting for the relatives who put the flowers there, to see such thoughtless desecration. If anybody is aware of the people who may be responsible for this act of stupidity, please speak to them and tell them to stop.

CHRISTINA BALIT lives in Slip Lane, Alkham and has illustrated over 20 children's books by hand such Atlantis, The Legend of a Lost City, Treasury of Norse Mythology and Zodiac. Twelve of these books are now on display in the Gallery at Foyles, London until the 6th September with selected original illustrations by Christina.

OPINION - In response to the article in the last Newsletter 'From the Vicarage', it is not appropriate for our vicar, the reverend Brian Williams, to express his views on the referendum as it sends out the wrong message to our young people. As for young people not having any future in Europe, absolute rubbish. As for quoting from the Bible 'the way of a fool is right in his own eyes', suggests that all who voted leave are fools. Fools we may be in Brian's eyes, but we do not give up the fight as Brian suggests. Let me remind all who think we are fools, that the majority of people in this country of ours are the older generation. I was a boy in the last war and some of my family and friends gave their lives for our great country. The older generation made this country great and I find it very offensive to suggest we are all fools. We should take a leaf out of Teresa May's book, that we must be as one to make this country great again. We won two world wars not for being defeatist when things go wrong; we fight, we are winners not losers and we are British. **Ken Hammond**

CALENDAR – An Alkham calendar has being produced for 2017 with the usual superb photographs by Stan Fowler. The theme is animals around the village, of which there are 12 different ones, and when printed the calendar will cost £6.



ALKHAM W.I. - Helen Scopes chaired the meeting at which members brought along various types of food, which was shared and enjoyed by all. In the formal part of the meeting it was decided that we will have our Birthday Party next Easter with a musical evening. On the 14th September there will be "skittles" at Capel le Ferne, a Group Meeting at Hawkinge on 26th October and on December 16th there will be a Pantomime. Next meeting "Tile Painting" by Jan Fagg, Hostesses - Iris Bowshell & Debbie Griggs & Raffle - Beryl King - Susan Lees.

GARDEN TALK - We visit 'Countryside', the picturesque garden off the Alkham Valley Road with magnificent views on Friday 9th September. Sue & Mike Ross are our hosts, all welcome from 7.00p.m. For directions and offers of hosting an event, please contact Janet Adamson (01303 893413)

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ALKHAM HEROES - John Rye died on September 16th 1916 aged 24 and is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial to the 73,000 'missing' of the Somme. I have not been able to ascertain how John died but his regiment had been involved in action to take High Wood up until the 15th September so he could well have engaged in some of the fiercest fighting on the Somme. Prior to enlisting, John is recorded in the 1911 census as being a 'Pigman on Farm' at Little Cauldham Farm, Capel Le Ferne. A cross to John's memory will be added to the wall at the bottom of Slip Lane. There is more information on John in the Heroes section of the Village website. If you can add any further information please contact me or Brian Wimsett. **Mark Robson (mark.robson@btinternet.com)**

OZ on TRAHERNE – Recently, researching an obscure literary quotation, I took home the wrong book from the library and accidentally discovered the fascinating story of a little-known poet. Thomas Traherne was born c.1637, a "shoemaker's son of Hereford", according to Anthony à Wood. After being educated at Hereford Cathedral School and Brasenose College, Oxford, Traherne was appointed rector of St Mary's, Credenhill, near Hereford, on 30 December 1657. Here he lived for most of the remainder of his short life as a humble country priest, producing a steady stream of intense religious poetry and prose, and only occasionally visiting Oxford and London for professional purposes. In February 1674 Traherne moved to Teddington, Middlesex, to be the domestic chaplain to Sir Orlando Bridgeman. Sadly, Bridgeman died in June, followed by Traherne, still in Teddington, on 10 October 1674. Little of Traherne's work was published during his lifetime, and his manuscripts passed to his brother Philip, and then, on Philip's death, to the Skipp family of Herefordshire. Here they remained, undiscovered, until the winter of 1896-1897, when William T Brooke, a London book-collector, discovered "a barrow of books about to be trashed." Brooke and Alexander Grosart, a literary expert, agreed that the manuscripts were unknown works by Henry Vaughan, a contemporary of Traherne. However, Grosart died before he could include the works in his next edition of Vaughan. The manuscripts were then examined by Bertram Dobell, who, after some amazing detective work, concluded that they were by Thomas Traherne. So here we have the strange situation of a great poet who lay silent for over 200 years, but has inspired so many in the last century. As for the quotation I was seeking, I can't tell you that yet, as it's part of a national competition which doesn't close until 1st September. **Steve Osborn**

Time to Switch? - If your energy tariff is due to expire why not sign up to Energy Deal. Internet users can register their interest via the DDC website or at www.energydealswitch.com. Alternatively call 01304 872428 (until 10 October) and leave your contact details and DDC will call back to complete the form. Registration is easy, but you need the name of your current energy tariff, your annual energy consumption in kWhs and your supplier. Energy providers will compete to offer you the best deal at a reverse auction on 11 October and then you get an offer after 26th October showing whether you can save. The deadline to accept is 29 November.



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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
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am Whist Drive 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Tuesday	6	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	10	SEK Astronomical Society in village hall in afternoon
Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	17	Jumble Sale in village hall 11am
Monday	15	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	24	Macmillan Coffee morning in VH 10 – 12 noon
Tuesday	27	Film show in VH 7.30pm – Florence Foster Jenkins

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4 th	Benefice Eucharist Alkham - St Anthony's Day 10 am		
Saturday 10 th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 11 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	
Sunday 18 th	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 25 th	Benefice Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		

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

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

FROM THE VICARAGE - It's true! St Anthony's Church in Alkham really is haunted! As we had coffee after the service a few Sundays ago, two younger members of our congregation excitedly produced an iPad which clearly showed a picture of me standing in the church with a spook looking over my shoulder. Moments later, the same iPad revealed that the churchyard was full of them! You couldn't see any of them without an iPad of course. Download something called Pokémon Go onto a smartphone and the screen reveals a map of your surrounding area. It may show a brightly coloured monster or Pokémon nearby for you to catch and train – a Pikachu, perhaps, or a Jigglypuff. Use it to fight other Pokémon at a Pokémon gym – there are two in Capel (I think!) You can stock up with supplies at PokéStops like the one at St Radigund's Church Hall. But once again, without a smartphone you won't see any of this. At home, we had a deep discussion about what reality is. I pointed out to my son that by running around town clutching his smartphone he was behaving as though Pokémon are real. He retorted that I behave as though God is real, which of course I do. Interestingly, our two quests overlap. I like the idea of hunting Pokémon - it involves fresh air, exercise and, with luck, making new friends. Although the antics of some have led Cologne Cathedral to ban Pokémon Go ("the cathedral is not a playground"), other churches have connected with their PokéStop status by offering squash, biscuits, phone chargers and conversation to passing players. Confused? Don't worry if you don't follow any of this. Ask any teenager with a smartphone. They will be able to explain it far better than I have... **Brian Williams**

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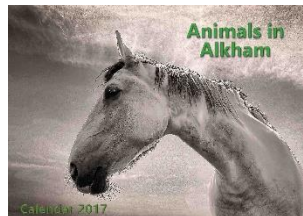
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BALLOON – At the Alkham Fete on the 9th of July, 45 sponsored balloons were let off and one was carried by the wind in an easterly direction. It probably travelled over Calais, Antwerp and Dusseldorf before landing some 600 miles away at a village in Germany called Erlau, west of Dresden. It was found by Thomas Christ who emailed Tracey Prince and she told him he had won 10 Euros, which he has kindly donated to the village. Dave Saltmer, who bought the balloon gets a bottle of Champagne and a £10 prize.

THE ALKHAM CALENDAR has been printed and is available at a cost of £6 from Den Barnard 824845 or Brian 824969. It features 12 different animals in Alkham, photographed by Stan Fowler.



THE LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN is currently out to consultation until October 30th but there are no works planned for the Alkham Valley. At Whitfield, over the next 20 years, 5750 new homes are to be built and it seems highly likely that some residents will access the M20 via the Alkham Valley Road. The Parish Council have been made aware of this plan and details are on <http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/LTP4>.

HARVEST SUPPER TICKETS for the 10th October are going fast so if you would like them please ring Anne 824340 or Irene 824845. Carol 806514 will be away until the 2nd October. Any cottage pies or fruit pies or crumbles donated would be much appreciated, also raffle prizes please. **Carol Mannall**

MIRROR – A convex mirror was installed on the bank opposite the junction of Slip Lane with the Valley Road. Unfortunately it didn't work as it was very difficult to see vehicles coming past the Marquis and when you did, they were almost upon you. It was worth trying but it made the situation more dangerous so it was removed and will be put opposite North Hill Lane (top of hill by village green).

HARVEST AT ST. ANTHONY'S - Please come along on Friday 7th October at 10 o'clock, to help us decorate the Church for our Harvest Festival service, which is at 9.30am on Sunday 9th October. All welcome at both events, Thank you. **Richard Tapsell, Church Warden**

THE BRIEF HISTORY OF ALKHAM BOOK has been well received with 78 copies either sold or donated so far, with one copy going to America. If you would like a copy of the book, which costs £5, please ring 824969 or email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

PARISH COUNCILLOR - There is a vacancy on Alkham Parish Council. Please send an email to alkham.pc@outlook.com if you wish to apply. **Angela Miller PC**

FETE COMMITTEE MEETING - there will be a Fete Meeting at 8 pm on 19th October in the Village Hall, to review the last fete, divide the profits and plan for next year. Please come along.

Paul Tapsell 07947016697

SPEED WATCH – Eleven people have volunteered to take part in speed watch and the next step is for the volunteers to get some training in the use of the speed guns.

A COFFEE MORNING is being held at Holly Lodge, next to Helen Scope's house, on the 15th October from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Please phone Helen on 01304 210591 for further details.

ST ANTHONY'S PROJECT - We are delighted to inform you all that we finally got the authorities approval in principal for the design of the toilet and kitchenette. The new pathway lighting and additional parking has already been given the green light. Thank you all so much for your kind donations so far which means we have raised half the money needed. The plans will be displayed in the church during the month of December.

The Project Team

FILM NIGHT	
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50	
Date	Film
Sept. 27	Florence Foster Jenkins Comedy with Meryl Streep
Oct 25	The Nice Guys Russell Crowe - Ryan Gosling
Please bring your own refreshments	

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BYWAYS – The Parish Council met representatives from KCC on site and walked the length of Pimlico Way to see the extent of the damage caused by 4 by 4's. It was decided to get quotes to carry out temporary repairs before a long term solution can be found. At the Parish Council meeting there was a spirited discussion in which it was said that no money should be donated by the Parish Council for these repairs because another major deluge would wash all this material away and it would end up, as before, by the village hall. Martin Scherer suggested that the temporary closure of the byways should only apply to 4 x 4's on a seasonal basis and to stop the latter using them, large concrete blocks should be put at the entrance to the byways. Evidently KCC have some concrete blocks that could be used for this purpose. If this was adopted the byways could be made safe for horse riders and pedestrians and in the long term efforts should be made to make them restricted byways.

MEDAL – Congratulations to Glyn Jones, who lives in Newlyn Meadow, for being one of the first recipients of a Merchant Navy Medal for Meritorious Service. He was awarded it for services to the Merchant Navy and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. **SOUTHERN** Equestrian & the Alkham Valley Garden Centre would like to invite everyone to their Late Night Christmas Evening on Thursday 24th November 2016, open til 8pm. Mince Pies, Mulled Wine & refreshments on the night!

ALKHAM GUITAR CONCERT JUNE 2016 – Number six of this annual June event in St. Antony's church was enjoyed by all who attended. A resulting £406 donation was raised by the concert towards the latest church project fund. As a footnote, I would personally like to thank all those who generously contributed so much behind the scenes to making this lovely evening such a resounding success. **James D'Alton Bellas** (*congratulations to Jimmy as well*)

SMALL WORLD – An email was received from Minnesota after a 'Garden Talk' article in the Newsletter was read. Not sure how that was achieved but it led to photos being taken of the Coat of Arms of the Slater family on the front wall of Box Tree Cottage in Slip Lane. Correspondence then ensued with the result that the 'Brief History of Alkham' book was sent to Minnesota at no charge. Despite requests for no payment £100 was received, which has been added to the Alkham Fund. Many thanks to Steve Slater in Rochester, Minnesota. **Editor GARDEN TALK** - We next meet on Friday 7th October at 'Box Tree' Slip Lane from 7.30p.m. Our host will be Pam Sayers and we are assured of a warm welcome. We will also be discussing arrangements for our end of season meal in December.

FAMILY HISTORY CLASSES will start in early October for beginners and those requiring refresher information. These are held at The Cube (top of Tontine Street) in Folkestone on Tuesday mornings and will cover internet sites as well as looking at original materials. There is also a Saturday morning course on Finding Military Records in November, and a new one on Using Wills for Family Historians next March. Full details from Janet Adamson (01303 893413), the Adult Education Tutor, as prior booking is needed to ensure adequate numbers.

ALKHAM W.I. – We enjoyed Martin Harrison's entertaining us with humour and songs of Harry Secombe. Next meeting 11th October.

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BUS STOP – Stage Coach are amenable to permanent bus stops being installed on the Valley Road at the top of Meggett Lane and KCC Councillor Geoff Lymer has kindly offered to pay for this from his Member's Fund and also the new rubbish bin on the green.

POWER CUTS – UK Power Networks have launched a free phone line for the reporting of power cuts. The number is 105 and it was reported that it does work although in the first place you may get a message with the promise of a 'ring back'.

A NEW BIN will be installed by the picnic tables at the top of the village green. The latter have been most successful and the Parish Council, who give their time for free, should be congratulated.

MITCH on FAMILY HOLS - Oldest daughter: would you like to join us in The Highlands for a week? And then maybe look after the girls in Edinburgh for a bit? Instinct says Yes to both, though it seems strange to enjoy the reward before the work doesn't it? Ever the optimist that a) Scots weather will be uncharacteristically clear and warm, and that b) I can be calm and patient with small children if I try hard! So we set off in Edinburgh's Friday night rush hour in this fashion: Dad Charlie in the driving seat, Gran beside him, Mum Sarah and two girls in the back, four bikes on the back rack, another on the roof with the roofbox - oh and kitten Joe in a basket on Mum's knee. Luckily a car with a big heart, since the last bit of the drive is over a mountain pass - the highest in the UK. Not just highest also bendiest – hairpins galore. And by then it was dense mist and dark. And now and again a handsome stag loomed up in the mist! And now and again the kitten was just a little bit ill...But then we arrived and all was well – the sound of the sea lapping inches from the door and dark shadows of hills just visible across The Sound...It all reminded me of holidays in Wales or the West Country as a teenager – the car rather different, the speed too – it would take all day from Berkshire! and the route had to be carefully chosen to exclude all possible inclines either up or down. The old Austin Seven up Porlock Hill was not an option. And Mother, sister and me had to push uphill many a time while kid bro (younger) sat in state on the back seat...And I'll save tell of our journeys to Orkney (with cat and kittens!) for another day...

(Jane Mitchell)



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Hall booking Val Fowler 827635

W.I. secretary - Janet Barrow 829585

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Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.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
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am Whist Drive 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Tuesday	4	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	8	SEK Astronomical Society in village hall in afternoon
Monday	10	Harvest Supper in village hall 7pm
Tuesday	11	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	17	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Wednesday	19	Fete Committee meeting in village hall 8.00pm
Tuesday	25	Film show in VH 7.30pm – The Nice Guys

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2 nd		Eucharist 9.30	Worship 11 am
Saturday 8 th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 9 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11 am	Village Hall 4.00
Sunday 16 th	Worship 11 am	Evensong 6.00	Eucharist 9.30
Sunday 23 rd	Benefice Eucharist St. Anthony's Alkham 10.00 am		
Sunday 30 th	Benefice Eucharist Capel Old Church 10.00 am (weather		

Bus times from Alkham to Dover

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

FROM THE VICARAGE - I was sorry to learn from the last edition of the Alkham Newsletter that Ken Hammond had taken such offence to my letter in the August edition. When I read it, I immediately telephoned him to apologise, and I apologise to anyone else who was similarly offended. My monthly letter is usually a reflection upon an experience or conversation that I've had. In this case it was about listening to a group of young people – something that as a teacher I've been doing for thirty-eight years now. It so happened the group I met and wrote about were worried about Brexit, but they could just have easily have been worried about acne, boys, girls, parents or exams. Young people are under tremendous pressure to pass exams and to succeed in life. In my experience listening to their concerns and being honest with them works better than delivering a lecture in difficult moments. I'm sorry if I appeared to be saying something else. However, one thing I really must challenge. A stained glass window by Eric Bossanyi in Canterbury Cathedral shows Jesus blessing the peoples of the world – of every colour, creed, nationality and opinion. It is just a few yards from where I stood, fifteen years ago on 29th September, to make my ordination vows. As the moment drew near, the Archbishop told us: Remember always with thanksgiving that the treasure now to be entrusted to you is Christ's own flock, bought by the shedding of his blood on the cross. It is to him that you will render account for your stewardship of his people. There you have it. I promise you that nobody reading this is a fool in my eyes. Everyone is treasure. Don't forget it. I haven't. **Brian Williams**

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County Councillor - Geoffrey Lymer 079604 90 929

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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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No. 274 November 2016

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ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - Yes, it is *THAT* time of year again, already. The **AGM of the Alkham Valley Society** will take place on Tuesday 15 November at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. There will be supper afterwards at The Fox, Temple Ewell where we can have a curry and quiz for £5.00 a head. The Society is NOT a secret society, unless you have your head firmly in the sand; it tries to act on behalf of the natural environment not only for the Village and neighbouring villages but for visitors as well. All are welcome, membership has risen to £5.00 a head p.p. If possible, consider whether you would like to join the committee which meets on average 5 times a year. We aim to have a shortish **Christmas Walk on 27 December** starting from the Village Hall at 10.30 am.

SANDWICH TOUR - This attractive sounding visit to Sandwich has been cancelled. Burn-out? Lack of response was the reason for its cancellation. However, we will try again next year through the good services of Cherry Leppard who can rustle up a crowd.

Jo Walker (Secretary - 01304 821641)

TEMPLE EWELL Primary School has a Reception Class 2017 Open Day on Monday 7th November 2016 from 9.15am and 10.30am. Please ring on 01304 822665 to book your place. We were rated outstanding by OFSTED in behaviour & safety and good in pupil achievement, quality of teaching and leadership & management.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING - I would like to thank everyone who supported the Macmillan coffee morning held on the 24th September in the village hall. I was given some wonderful items to sell on the various stalls and lots of prizes for the tombola. It was great to have the plant stall again this year and so many people baked the most amazing cakes. Than you to everyone who helped in so many different ways on the day. I was given so many donations before, during and after the event and I am delighted to say that the total raised this year was £650.00. Thank you everyone. **Sue Ross**

ROCK'N'ROLL - Please note that the 'Rock'n'Roll; Evening', with "Somethin' Else" that was scheduled for November 26th will not go ahead. Due to several unforeseen circumstances, we cannot do this gig this year. We hope to be able to perform again later in 2017. Our Apologies. **Keith Owens**

CHRISTMAS FLORAL WORKSHOPS – Shirley Prince is proposing to hold several Christmas Floral Workshops in the village hall for anyone who wishes to make decorations for their homes. Demonstrations and step by step help will be given. For further information regarding dates, times and cost please ring Shirley on 01304 828098.



CRUISE – By chance Janet Barrow and Edith Neve, both of whom live in Alkham, ended up on the same cruise from Dover to Spain and Portugal. They can be seen in the photo above on board the Balmoral.

PARISH COUNCILLOR

There is a vacancy on Alkham Parish Council. Please send an email to Alkham.pc@outlook.com if you wish to apply

HARVEST SUPPER - Thank you to everyone who helped and contributed to the Harvest Supper. We had a fabulous night and great fun. We raised £701.40 with the takings, raffle and auction which will go to St Anthony's restoration fund. Hopefully we will have another next year so come and join us if you couldn't make it on Monday. **Carol Mannall**

FILM NIGHT

Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50

Date	Film
Oct 25	The Nice Guys Russell Crowe - Ryan Gosling
Nov 29	Elvis & Nixon Kevin Spacey Michael Shannon

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LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN – Martin Scherer responded to the plan on-line and said the only reason he disagrees is because DDC has awarded planning for 5750 houses at Whitfield but KCC's local transportation plan fails to recognise the impact of that development on Alkham. As a result of KCC strategic planning to make Ashford a regional hub, the Alkham Valley Road is a 'back double' for both cars and lorries from north Dover to Ashford. That problem is aggravated by frequent A20 congestion caused by Dover Port problems and the irrational A20 permanent speed limit. Now DDC plans to add substantial traffic by 5750 houses at Whitefield? There is a lack of 'joined up' thinking between DDC planning, KCC planning, and the Highways Authority. At the very least it is reasonable to expect the Local Transport Plan to have the foresight to recognise the potential problem, plan to monitor congestion and accident rates, and have some plan for solutions if the worst comes to the worst. He also commented on byways and the use by off-roads and their effect on other users and also the lack of strategic planning. To comment by October 30th go to <http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/LTP4/respondByQuestionnaire>

ALKHAM BOOK – I have written four more pages, with a lot of help from Sue Lees and Chris Tapsell, about the houses that used to be behind the Marquis, the post offices, the local builder Tunbridge and also some pictures of farming. If I do a reprint of 'A Brief History of Alkham Parish' the pages will be included, but If you would like a copy of these pages please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com, or ring 824969. **Brian Wimsett**

TEMPLE EWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL are having a "Phil the Bag" collection at school on Wednesday 9th November to raise money for the school. We need to collect a minimum of 40 black sacks containing all kinds of clean adult and childrens' clothing, hats, shoes, belts, handbags, and household textiles including sheets, pillow cases, duvet covers, curtains and towels. Other items are not acceptable. If need be we can arrange a collection of items - please ring the school on 01304 822665 and we will organise this. Items need to be at school by 9am on Wednesday 9th November as the collection is anytime from then onwards.

ALKHAM W.I. - On the 11th October Jan Fagg brought along tiles for us to decorate and the pictures painted were great! In December there will be a meal at "The Fox", and meals should be chosen before then. The next meeting is on the AGM on the 8th November when the hostesses are Sandra Hancock and Shelley Jackson with Cherry Leppard doing the raffle. **Sue Lees**

GARDEN TALK - After a season of visiting gardens in the Valley and beyond, we are now thinking ahead to our end of year celebrations with a get together on Thursday 8th December at Burley Cottage, Ewell Minnis. We would be grateful for names of those wishing to attend, and offers of food so that catering can be organised in good time. Please contact me - Janet Adamson 01303 893413

CALENDAR – The Alkham calendar for 2017 featuring 12 animals living in Alkham can be purchased for £6 by ringing Den on 824845 or Brian on 824969. When open it is A3 in size with an A4 picture and an A4 calendar underneath.

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MITCH on BRING! BRING! - Having just taxed the car, checked Jamie Oliver on fish pie and got advice on honey fungus – all while sitting here at my desk – I reminisce on phones past and present. None at home till I was ten, then a shared line with neighbours whose teenage daughters were always on the phone. So I would be sent down the lane to the phone box in the Post Office garden. Four old pennies and press button A. Or press B and four heavy pennies returned to the refund cup. But as you stood there already nervous with the whole newness and grown-up-ness of it all - you had the beady eyes of Miss Pocock the Post Mistress staring and prying in Harry Potter round-rimmed glasses, over the net half curtain in the Post Office office...Rumour had it she had never spent a night away from her own bed, whereas her sister Laura was a cut above – she had been in service with all that that implied.. There was a brother too who limped and rode a bicycle round the lanes...But now the world is on your phone and your phone in your pocket. A good thing? certainly very convenient. But with that comes a loss of freedom, a loss of privacy and a knowledge that you can be interrupted by anyone at any time. And if you lose it, mislay it, drop it in the sink or over the side of a boat - Help! Disaster! I recently went with my son to test drive a couple of second hand cars. We went off round the county for a bit, assessed the speed and manoeuvrability and how well she cornered. Then off home in my motor for supper. Only then needing his mobile and not for ages remembering where it was. In the between-seats-pocket you get in big near-limos! He'd forgotten it. I'd forgotten it. Next day a long drive back to retrieve it. Wasn't like that sixty years ago! So while I love the tricks and images and sheer accessibility of info from these state-of-the-art gismos, I reserve the right to not turn it on sometimes. Maybe I'll end up a hermit... **Jane Mitchell**



ALKHAM HEROES - Arthur Henry Daniels was a Lance Corporal in the 7th Battalion The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment). Arthur was 'killed in action' aged 21, on Saturday, 18th November 1916 - just 22 weeks after his brother, Edwin. It seems probable that Arthur died during the Battle of the Ancre which

was fought in sleet and snow and ended on November 18th marking the end of the Battle of the Somme. Arthur is buried at Regina Trench Cemetery, Grandcourt. There is more information on Arthur in the Heroes section of the village website. If you can add any more information, please get in touch. A cross will be added to the memorial wall at the bottom of Slip Lane to commemorate Arthur. **Mark Robson**

EXHIBITION at Foyle's Bookshop, Charing Cross Rd by Christina Balit (Croucher). A word about Christina's work, illustrations of ancient Egyptian legends, Norse Tales, Greek and Roman mythology which was exhibited at Foyle's last month. It is a splendid corpus of artistic achievement and utilised the famous staircase at Foyle's as an exhibition showcase. The detail is astonishing, not unlike mediaeval manuscript work and the colours suit the tales being recounted. All this work serves as illustrations for a series of books produced by the National Geographic Society which have wide usage in schools, overseas societies dedicated to the history of their nations. Very popular with children and adults. It was also an experience to visit a place which may not exist for very much longer, to be demolished (that 1903 fabulous place!) for plodding office block. **Jo Walker**



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Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am Whist Drive 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Tuesday	1	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Monday	7	Parish Council meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	9	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	12	SEK Astronomical Society in village hall in afternoon
Saturday	19	Jumble sale in village hall 11am
Monday	21	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	26	Beekeepers in village hall in the afternoon
Tuesday	29	Film show in VH 7.30pm – Elvis & Nixon

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6 th	Praise 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship 11 am
Saturday 12 th	Messy church St. Radigunds 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 13 th	10.15 am	10.15 am; at	10.30 am
Remembrance		Memorial, 10.55.	
Sunday 20 th	Service 11.00 am	Evensong 6.00	Eucharist 9.30
Sunday 27 th	Benefice Eucharist St. Radigunds 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 – in fact I’ve now had rather a lot of them, as one of my cousins cruelly reminded me recently. Actually, he meant well. On learning that an attempt at taming the Vicarage garden had left me with a bad back he recited the standard NHS advice about such things (he’s a nurse), and finished with: “...and remember you’re not twenty anymore!” “So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom,” say the Psalms. Others have their bucket lists; with my days numbered and my eternal home drawing nearer, I’ve decided to apply my heart to wisdom and keep my grey cells going for a bit longer by studying for the postgraduate degree I never got round to before. The clerk at the Registry pulled a face when I told him my date of birth. I walked into class to find that I’m old enough to be grandfather to most of my fellow students. That said, they seem happy enough to put up with me. They even laugh at my jokes. Now all I just need to read a pile of books and hand in my first essay by January. I used to do things like that, and even though I’m not twenty anymore I’m still going to try. And now, if you’ll excuse me, I’ve just remembered the applying my heart to wisdom that I’ve got to do for next Wednesday morning. Here goes... **Brian Williams**

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

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

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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 275 December 2016
Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

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Merry Christmas

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS - The Christmas tree lights will be switched on at 4:45pm on Saturday 3rd 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**
ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY
There will be a walk on 27th December starting from the Village Hall at 10.30 a.m. and ending around midday. There are still many viable footpaths we can use! Everyone and their dogs are welcome. It is an opportunity to meet, walk and talk. **J Walker (Sec)**

ALKHAM CALENDAR – If you would like to buy an Alkham calendar that features 12 different animals photographed around the village, please ring Den on 824845 or Brian on 824969. It costs £6 and is A3 in size when opened.

THE PHONE BOX opposite Newlyns Meadow on the northern side of the Alkham Valley Road has been used only four times in the last 12 months. This is well below the number of calls BT require to keep a phone box in use and the Parish Council unanimously agreed that they were in favour of its removal.

DRAINAGE – Lockering Lane, which is about 500 metres before the Garden Centre on the northern side of the Valley Road, is a major problem when there is heavy rain, with water and silt running across the road. A blocked soakaway has been found by the bends on Lockering Lane and this has now been cleared out and water diverted to go into it. The silt in the sump opposite the village hall has been cleared and it is thought that this will help in clearing the silt in the culvert under Hogbrook Lane. Other works have been carried out including the removal of the brickwork at the bottom of Short Lane, where the head wall was backed into by a vehicle. Den Barnard is to be thanked for facilitating all these works.

SPEED CHECKS – The eleven people who signed as volunteers to do speed checks with radar guns, completed an internet training exercise and carried out some on-site training with the speed guns in the centre of the village. As a result of this, some drivers were found to be exceeding the speed limit and will be written to.

THE ANNUAL QUIZ will be on Saturday February 11th starting at 7.30pm in the village hall. Please contact Brian on 824969 or brianwimsett@hotmail.com if you would like to book a table for up to 8 people. The cost is £5 a head and food will be served at the interval.

FOR SALE - A Bradley yew finish table, extendable with 6 chairs, £100. Please ring 01304 822365.

FILM NIGHT

Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50

Date	Film
There is no film in December	
Jan 31	Bridget Jones's Baby

Please bring your own refreshments

FENCE – Opposite the village hall there is a sump that collects the silt in flood waters. Many years ago the relevant authority put a fence round it to prevent youngsters from falling into it but now it is a bit of an eyesore. The Parish Council are going to ask DDC to repair the fence but if anyone can think of a better solution please leave a note in the suggestion box by the village hall.



THE 2016 POPPY APPEAL in Alkham has raised £758.28. I'd like to thank Alkham residents for their enormous generosity, and the local businesses, Alkhamhurst Kennels, The Marquis, Alkham Tea Rooms and Garden Centre, and Southern Equestrian for taking collection boxes. Last but not least huge thanks to those who helped with the house-to-house collecting.

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EDWARD HASTED – Susan Lees very kindly lent me a book, the original of which was printed in Canterbury in 1799, entitled 'The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent' written by Edward Hasted. Edward dedicated his life to this



book and the majority of the historical information in 'A Brief History, Alkham Parish' before 1800 was from his book. Edward covered just about every town and village in Kent and not only gave historical information but topical as well. He says that 'a near modern' house was built in Stanford (presumably Georgian) and that Buckland was adjacent to the Great London Road and had a leper hospital. When I Googled his name 'British History on Line' came up and the whole of his book, in the final version amounting to several volumes, has been transcribed and published free of charge. Edward Hasted had a colourful life including leaving his wife for another woman and going to France but they had to return because of the Napoleonic war. Another page for the Alkham book has been written and will be included in a reprint. If anyone would like a copy of the page please contact me. **Brian Wimsett**

FOR THOSE who are new to the village and don't know Sue Lees (see above), she was for many years the Parish Clerk and is also the Village Historian. Sue spent many hours in libraries whilst her late husband Rob visited other places of interest. As there is no Book or Garden Club or W.I. this month an article from Rob is included below:

THE OPEN ROAD - Lovely day, Open Golf at Sandwich, but no money, solution – bike into back of car, drive to Sandwich with wife, park at riverside, off-load bike, send wife shopping. Cycle along footpath partially following river which leads to sea. Arrive at point where footpath crosses the Royal St. George Golf Course. Footpath guarded by police constable. Constable insists on escorting one across Course to seaside road and seeing one off premises. Sit on roadside verge, can of beer, watch some golf and have a doze. Tide is turning. Walk out to water's edge. Follow tide in, gathering cockles as they rise from sand to greet sea. Quick swim when tide high enough. Watch a bit more golf, another beer, but time getting on. Decide to use Sandwich Bay Estate roads to get back. A nice pint in The Crispin by the toll bridge, picked up by wife, cockles for supper.

PIMLICO WAY has been closed because of the state of the byway. The contractor, who is going to do remedial works, has walked the route with Martin Scherer to discuss the details. To begin with the section across the top fields west of Slip Lane will have the deep ruts filled in and also have work carried out on the spur off the main part of Pimlico Way. If funds permit, further small works may be carried out. The washing out of flints by flood water on the byway cause major problems on Slip Lane, where one driver has had multiples tyres replaced; it is hoped that something can be done.



VILLAGE HALL – Following comments made by users of the hall, over three hundred pounds has been spent on new kitchenware and 20 padded chairs have been bought. We also have free wi-fi and if you'd like to use it please ask when booking.

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OZ on HYGGE – When the clocks went back at the end of October, followed by dark skies, cold wet weather, and a vicious chest cold, I was soon overwhelmed by severe seasonal tetchiness. What was missing, of course, was a little ‘hygge’, a Danish word that has been much discussed of late, and was third in this year’s Collins Dictionary Word of the Year award. Hygge (pronounced ‘hooga’), a design concept that may soon rival Swedish glass and Norwegian wood, originally meant ‘well-being’ in Norwegian, but in Danish it means roughly ‘cosy’, and describes a feeling of comfort and contentment. The Danish suffer long, cold, winters with up to seventeen hours of darkness a day, and so hygge is very much concerned with securing warmth, light, comfort food, strong drink, and companionship. This year, hygge has become popular across the whole of Europe, with consumers searching for, and companies providing, these things, together with furnishings, candles, fashion, toys, indoor games, and the like. In particular there are many books on hygge to be purchased this Christmas, including no less than eighteen titles in Waterstone’s. This transcontinental enthusiasm for hygge may also be explained in part by the fact that for many people it has been quite a hard year politically, with ongoing worries about jobs, money and wars. It’s also very gratifying to be advised to do things



that immediately make one feel good. So I don’t intend any more to pussyfoot around in dealing with these attacks of tetchiness. If I feel low, I shall eat, drink and be merry, and if anyone says anything about it, I shall look them straight in the eye and bellow “Hygge! Hygge! Hygge!” (pronounced of course “Hooga! Hooga! Hooga!”). A Very Happy Christmas to you All! **(Steve Osborn)**

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4 th	Advent 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Saturday 10 th	Messy Church St Radigund’s 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 11 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Nine Lessons and Carols 11.00 am	Carols Hougham Village Hall 4.00 pm
Sunday 18 th	9 Lessons and Carols 6.30 pm	Carols Village Hall 3.00 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
Saturday 24 th Christmas Eve	Crib service 4.30 pm; Mass 11.30 pm	Crib service 3.00 pm; Mass 11.30 pm	
Sunday 25 th	Christmas Day no service		Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 1 st	Benefice Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

Get into the Christmas spirit by helping to decorate the church for the festive season. We will be decorating it on Friday 16th December at 9.30am in red and gold whilst listening to carols. Contributions of red flowers, gold baubles and any seasonal foliage are very welcome. Come with a glad heart and warm clothes! Call Linda 823100 if you have any questions.



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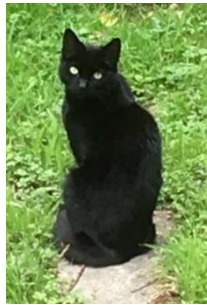
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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am Whist Drive 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Saturday	3	Christmas Tree lights switch on – see page 1
Monday	5	Parish Council meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	6	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	21	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm



MISSING PETS – If you have found a stray pet you can put the details on the web site www.petslocated.com for free. A person in the village had a stray cat in the garden and put the information on the site, which resulted in the owner being found. If you have lost a pet you can search the site but you have to register your details, and it costs £12 for a year.

FROM THE VICARAGE - By the time you read this the mad rush to post Christmas cards, finish Christmas shopping and visit friends and family before the 25th will be in full swing. Advent calendars are supposed to last through December all the way to Christmas Eve – opening another door each day as Christmas edges closer. At church, we prepare to welcome Jesus again, as if getting ready to welcome a guest. But this time of anticipation is easily missed. As we know, the temptation with Advent calendars is to scoff the chocolate all at once, as if we can't wait for Christmas to arrive. By the time the rush is over, some of us are already 'Christmassed out,' and ready to collapse in a heap, thankful that it's all over for another year. As it stands, the Christmas story is an unsettling one. A young couple arrive in town with nowhere to stay. The young woman gives birth in a cowshed. Before long soldiers are looking for them and they go on the run, arriving in Egypt as refugees. What lifts this story of homelessness, deprivation and persecution is the hope that shines through it - the angels sing of what this baby means to the world and the mysterious wise men from the East follow a star especially to find him. In the middle of turmoil, God shows his hand. There's so much to think about that Christmas is a whole twelve days long. But how often do you hear people asking others if they had a nice Christmas, as if it's already over, on Boxing Day? They're missing a whole ten days of Christmas! I hope that you manage to make Christmas last this year. I wish you all its blessings, and a peaceful New Year. **Brian Williams**

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

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

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