

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 276 January 2017

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CHRISTMAS TREE – On the 3rd December over 60 adults and children sung carols before the tree lights were switched on by Star and Scarlett. Father Christmas then appeared and thanks go to Roy Smith for arranging this; later mulled wine and mince pies were

enjoyed courtesy of the Marquis. Den Barnard received a letter from Freya Miller, which said that the little fir tree on the green looked very sad next to the big one. She enclosed a star and asked that it be put on the little tree with some baubles. Pleased to say that the little tree now looks very happy. There was a raffle afterwards, which raised £100 for Doctor Barnardo's and thanks to the Marquis and Lady's Keep Fit for donating the prizes. The £90 for the big tree was paid for by the Alkham Fund and thanks go to Richard Tapsell, Don Hobday and Ken Spencer for their help.

PIMLICO WAY – John Huggins has done a superb job restoring Pimlico Way and the spur to Everden. As can be seen the ground was ripped with some local chalk infill underneath. A seasonal off-roader ban is being sought.



CULVERT – Mike Munn said that when we had the heavy rains recently the culvert on his side of Short Lane got completely blocked with leaves, resulting in three green bags full for disposal. He is writing to our MP asking that a rectangular culvert of the correct size be put under the road thus allowing the passage of all debris, which will disperse and rot in the fields en route to Dover.

VACANCY FOR CLERK TO ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Approximately 25 hours per month paid according to the NJC hourly pay scale. The clerk will work from home providing administrative support and also attend bi-monthly meetings in the Village Hall. The role requires good organisational skills, familiarity with computers and Excel for parish accounts. To apply, or to find out more information, please send an email to alkham.pc@outlook.com by 10th January

Happy New Year

THE ANNUAL QUIZ – Please let me know if you would like a table for the quiz either by phoning me on 824969 or emailing brianwimsett@hotmail.com so I can get an idea of numbers. It would also be nice to see newcomers to the village. It's on the 11th February at 7.30pm, costs £5 a head for a table of up to 8 people and food will be supplied at the interval. **Brian Wimsett**

BE AWARE – Bev Hubbard reported that he found damage to undergrowth and trees along the side wall of his property facing Slip Lane giving easy access to the oil tank, which is not in use. Police are aware and ask people to keep vigilant and check all out buildings and oil tanks.

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	

THE ALKHAM SPEEDWATCH team have been busy recording traffic speeds through the village over three days in December. In this period, which included a weekend, some 4 hours of recording resulted in a total of 64 vehicles being caught travelling over the 30mph speed limit in the village. The fastest speed recorded was 46mph. This all helps towards building up evidence to support proposals as to how we might control speeds and volumes of traffic through the village. We are looking for more Speedwatch volunteers to help man these roadside sessions and collect the evidence we need. Anyone interested please contact Geoff Hillier on 01303 892878

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WELCOME TO ALKHAM ROAD SIGNS - Some years ago the Alkham Valley Society proposed the installation of "Welcome to Alkham" and "You are leaving Alkham thank for driving safely" gates at the boundaries to the village on both sides of the Alkham Valley Road in order to encourage and promote more of a village environment to Alkham. Regretfully at the time the installation was not supported by the then Parish Council when submitted to Kent Highways and therefore they were not installed. It has now been suggested by a number of residents and AVS that the time may now be right to resurrect the initiative, given the increase in traffic flow through the village due in part to the speed restrictions on the A20 as well as the planned development of some 6,000 new homes at Whitfield. This development is likely to add even more traffic through the village thus making the Alkham Valley a fast "rat run" for those wishing to gain access to Folkestone and beyond on the M20. As a village resident having to cope on a daily basis with this increase in traffic, is this initiative one that you would support which could help in the calming of the traffic's speed through the village thus improving safety for pedestrians and horse riders alike. It would certainly help to promote a "you are now entering a village" environment for all drivers as well as improving the image of the village. Several residents have already indicated that they would be willing to contribute towards the purchase and installation of such "gates" but ideally the Parish Council should be the leaders and funders of this initiative in order to help improve the traffic issues and promote the village. To get the Parish Council to support and help fund this initiative we need to lobby our Parish Councillors which we can via alkham.pc@outlook.com. By taking on this challenge the PC has the ideal opportunity to conduct a local competition for residents to design the gates with a final selection event in the village hall which could raise funds to help with the costs? It is also possible that our County Councillor and Dover Borough Councillors would also be willing to contribute towards the cost. **Bev Hubbard Greenwood Manor**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our first meeting of the New Year is on the 10th January. Debbie Saunders will be giving a talk entitled 'A Long Way From Home'. Hostesses Pat Yeomans and Eileen West. Raffle Lucy McKenzie. VOT Debbie Griggs.



GET ACTIVE IN 2017 – Are you an older adult that wants to get moving, have fun and meet like-minded people then join us as we launch our 'Active 50' timetable at Three Hills Sports Park (Cheriton Road) on 20th January. Optional sessions between 10am and 2pm are: 10-11.30am guided walk round Folkestone; 11-12 'Give it a go' workshop; 12-1pm free buffet; 1-2pm walking football or ballroom dancing lessons; free access to the gym. Contact Jordan Mann to register - j.mann@shepwaysportstrust.org or 01303 760677.

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ALKHAM BOOK

Whilst compiling a new page for the Alkham history book about Pimlico, I tried to find exactly where it was. Brenda Trundell at South Alkham was very helpful but Alan

Latham sent me an aerial view of the area from Google Earth in 1940, which showed it clearly. Martin Scherer also provided information about Pimlico and its derivation and Sue Lees found a photo of the house, shown above. By chance I met Irene Saunders and her husband from Hawkinge who, to my surprise, gave me a photograph of petrol pumps that used to be on the Valley Road by Drellingore. The petrol was 1 shilling 5 pence a gallon or £5 in today's prices. **Brian Wimsett**



OZ on SPOONER - It sometimes happens that individuals, by their actions, donate their surnames to the language as uncapitalized everyday words, as in 'sandwich', 'wellington' and 'boycott'. Another such word is 'spoonerism', defined by Chambers Dictionary as "a transposition of initial sounds of spoken words - eg 'shoving leopard' for 'loving shepherd'. From Rev W A Spooner...a noted perpetrator." William Archibald Spooner was, for over sixty continuous years, a member of New College, Oxford, first as a scholar, then Fellow, and, finally, Warden from 1903 to 1924. He was a tiny albino, with an unusually large head and pale blue eyes. William Hayter wrote that "All his life, Spooner looked like a white-haired baby. His appearance hardly changed." Spooner was, in his own words, never more than "a moderately useful man" and, arguably, would have remained unnoticed save for the spoonerisms. Many of these, such as 'tasted a whole worm', 'hissed my mystery lectures', and 'half-warmed fish', are now regarded as apocryphal, invented by undergraduates and colleagues to tease their beloved 'Spoo', although he did once admit to announcing a hymn as 'Kinquering Kongs'. Of more lasting interest are the well-documented examples of Spooner's transpositions of ideas. After a puzzling sermon, he remounted the pulpit to say, "In the sermon I have just preached, whenever I said Aristotle, I meant St Paul." Eleanor Jourdain recalled that once, at dinner, Spooner upset a salt-cellar and then dripped claret on the salt "until he had produced the purple mound which would have been the end-product if he had spilled claret...and had then cast a heap of salt on the pool to absorb it." Spooner died peacefully in 1930. For epitaph, we need only his words, comparing his misattributions with those of Homer and Shakespeare: "I err in very good company." **Steve Osborn**



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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
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
Monday	9	Parish Council meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	10	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	14	SEK Astronomical Society in village hall in afternoon
Monday	16	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	28	Beekeepers in village hall in the afternoon
Tuesday	31	Film show in VH 7.30pm – Bridget Jone's Baby

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1 st	Benefice Eucharist Capel 10.00am		
Sunday 8 th	Evensong 4.30pm	Eucharist 9.30am	Christingle 11am
Saturday 12 th	Messy church St. Radigunds 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 15 th	Eucharist 9.30am	Christingle 11am	
Sunday 22 nd	Christingle 11am	Evensong 6.00pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 29 th	Benefice Eucharist St. Radigunds 10.00 am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - Dear Friends, I told you a few months ago that I recently went back to being a student – at least on one day a week. As Christmas approached, one of my fellow students told us a story which I rather like. She has lived much of her life in Turkey. Her father is Turkish and a Muslim, and her mother is English – and her mother likes to celebrate Christmas, in spite of living in a mainly Muslim village. When she invited some Muslim friends round for Christmas dinner, they were totally confused. Were they going to celebrate New Year? No, they were told, they were going to celebrate *Christmas*. They turned up at the house, not really knowing what to expect or even if they really ought to be there, given what they had been told was being celebrated. After all, isn't Christmas for *Christians*? First they admired the tree, with all its decorations and presents all around. Then they enjoyed the roast dinner with turkey and stuffing, and the Christmas pudding and mince pies that followed. They pulled crackers, wore silly hats, and even had a visit from Santa. In fact they had a wonderful time. They left asking to be invited to Christmas again next year. I thought afterwards that while we hope and pray for Peace on Earth, it's great to know that there are those who, in their own small way, are actively working towards bringing it about. A happy and peaceful 2017 to everyone! **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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Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791 alkham.pc@outlook.com : **Vicar** Brian Williams 01303 243784 : **Church Warden** Richard Tapsell 822295 **MP Charlie Elphicke** - 01304 379669 : **County Councillor** - **Geoffrey Lymer** 079604 90 929
District Councillors Pauline Beresford 216187: Nick Dixon 07815691638
W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585 **Footpaths** antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641

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PARISH PLAN – At the Parish Council meeting in December it was agreed that the precept should be increased by £500 to £8000. They also discussed ways to improve the setting of the precept for future years, to budget effectively for potential projects and expenses. It was agreed that a Parish Plan should be considered and this would involve opinions and suggestions from parishioners. Further details will be announced in the near future.

ENTRY GATES – A number of parishioners have suggested that there should be symbolic gates either side of the road at the entries to Alkham, so that drivers know they are entering a village. However, KCC have said that you can't put up these gates without approval and a consultant would have to be employed to design the layouts at a projected cost of £2000, with a further £3000 being spent on the gates and associated signs. The Parish Council thought that these costs were exorbitant and are going to ask KCC for a site visit to discuss the matter.

FLASHING SPEED SIGNS – KCC have checked the signs, which are at the entrance to the village, and have confirmed they are working correctly. The signs flash to warn drivers they are approaching a 30mph zone, so will flash if vehicles are approaching the village at speeds greater than 34mph.

LORRIES – Following a complaint from a resident about the number of heavy lorries using the Valley Road at the weekend, the Parish Council wrote to the haulier. The response was not very helpful; they said that because of the tachographs a lot of drivers would not be able to work at the weekend as they would exceed their hours.

TRAFFIC – The Parish Council agreed that a Traffic Action Group should be set up to build up evidence to submit to KCC regarding traffic problems in the parish. Geoff Hillier will head the group, which will comprise some of those involved in the speed check.

BUS STOP – It was proposed to install a bus stop at the top of Meggett Lane, on the Valley Road, but it has been decided that it would be too dangerous for a bus to stop there. The bus drivers have therefore been told that if anyone requests, they should stop.

A PILATES class is held in the village hall every Friday from 9.30am to 10.30am and new members are always welcome.

AGA FOR SALE in Alkham - Fully operational, it's just not needed; all reasonable offers considered and we can assist with the removal if required. We also have a coalbunker and coal for sale. Please call Tim on 01303 894633.

WILL GOLDFINCH – It is sad to report that Will died on the 7th January aged 88. He was born in Rose Cottage on Slip Lane, as were his two brothers, and worked in Alkham for most of his life at Hogbrook Farm. When the farm was sold and Newlyns Meadow built, he went to St Radigund's Abbey and worked there for some years. Will also delivered the Newsletter along the valley, from Chilton to Alkham, well into his 80's. A good man who will be missed by his friends and family.

FETE MEETING - There will be a meeting to plan the 2017 Fete on the 1st February (8th July 2017, put it in your diary now!) at 8 pm in the Village Hall; please come along if you are willing to help in any way. We would love to see some new people (as well as the established regulars) and hear some new ideas and, in particular, if anyone would be willing to take on the job as Treasurer please give me a call on 07947 016697. We may also be singing "Happy Birthday" to someone and there may even be some cake! **Paul Tapsell**

PARISH COUNCILLOR – Ruth Marczin-Bundy, who lives at Chilton, has been co-opted onto the Parish Council following the interviews carried out in November for the vacant position.

PARISH CLERK – Three people have applied for the post of Parish Clerk and the Parish Council will be interviewing the applicants shortly.

FILM NIGHT

Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50

Date	Film
Jan 31	Bridget Jones's Baby
Feb 28	Sully with Tom Hanks

Please bring your own refreshments

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SECOND EDITION – A Brief History of Alkham Parish has been re-printed, as the original version sold out. Seven pages have been added which include details about; Tunbridge the local builder; Edward Hasted; Post Offices; Halton Forstal; Pimlico; petrol pumps; harvest time and windmills. The profit from the original was used to pay for the re-print, so anybody who had a copy of the original and would like a copy of the re-print they can have one free of charge. Please contact Brian on brianwimsett@hotmail.com or 824969, and if anybody else would like a copy, it costs £5.



PIMLICO WAY – The off-road vehicles have started to use Pimlico Way before the ground has had a chance to stabilise with the result that ruts have appeared again. A fair amount of money was spent to make the byway usable and this has been wasted by the actions of a few.

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - Happy New Year. We needed a new one. The Alkham Valley Walk took place on 27th December leaving the Village Hall at about 10.30 am, a party of about twenty with several fine children, dogs and a lot of young faces, most of whom do not unfortunately live in the village. But welcome to all those at Beechwood, Short Lane who have come to live here - Geoff's family. We had lovely weather and some walked the Bull Run area where off-road traffic have cut such deep ruts they themselves may well get stuck. Thank you for all who came from far and wide, and France. **Jo Walker (Secretary Alkham Valley Society)**

ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHERS from Sainsbury's – Temple Ewell Primary School have a target of 15,625 vouchers this year. They would be grateful if any unwanted ones could be donated to the school. They can be sent to them in the post (3-4 Brookside, Temple Ewell) or popped in the letter box at the end of the school drive.

GARDEN TALK - We are making plans for our summer season of visits - all offers or suggestions gratefully received. We hope to finalise events at a Meeting at 'Sunrise' Meggett Lane early in March. Janet Adamson 01303 893413

ALKHAM W.I. - January 10th 2017 was our first meeting back since Christmas and we had an enjoyable evening; thank you to Debbie Saunders. Our next meeting will be Feb 14th; spend £10 or less in a charity shop then we will have a fashion show that evening. Hostesses are Alison Warnock, Susannah Tapsell and Raffle Sue Ross. Anybody that wishes to join would be most welcome, thank you. **Debbie Griggs**

BOOK CLUB for February will be on Wednesday 22nd at the home of Jane Steatham 2 Mill Race, River, Tel 826888 starting at 7.30. The book we shall be discussing is 'The Road to Little Dribbling' by Bill Bryson. If you are interested in joining the book club and would like more information, contact Jane Aslett 824729.



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OZ on UTOPIA – Eager to write seasonally on Hygge last month, I overlooked the 500th anniversary of a remarkable literary work. Thomas More, born in 1478, was an English lawyer, philosopher, writer, and statesman, who eventually became King Henry VIII's councillor and Lord High Chancellor of England. In 1515, while in Antwerp, representing English wool merchants, More began writing the novel, Utopia, based on his religious beliefs and his observations of other European nations. It describes a fictional island, Utopia, that has reached an idyllically high degree of perfection. The name could arise from Greek 'eu topos', (good place), or from 'ou topos' (no place). This, together with the purpose of the book, may be deliberately ambiguous. Did More create Utopia as a possible political model, or was he simply pointing out the failings of other European countries? Certainly, many of Utopia's laws were contradictory, and would raise eyebrows today. For example, Utopia favours guaranteed income and work for all, but also a patriarchal attitude towards women; it advocates happiness and contentment, but is harsh on personal liberty; it is totally against war, except of course when neighbouring countries are particularly troublesome. The novel was written in Latin, and published by Dirk Martens in Leuven, Belgium, in December 1516. More's position as a prominent Catholic in the court of Henry VIII was always precarious, and the ambiguities and contradictions in Utopia, coupled with the Latin text, may well have been part of More's defensive strategy. However, his luck ran out in 1535 when he was executed for treason after refusing to take the Oath of Supremacy. Utopia was first published in English in 1551, giving the world not only a new word, but a new tradition of political writing that has lasted now for half a millennium. **Steve Osborn**

WEB SITES – The village web site is www.alkham.org which has a PDF copy of the Newsletter on, a comprehensive map of the footpaths in the parish and suggested walks plus various other pages including details about those who lost their lives fighting in WWI and WWII. The Parish Council also has a web site www.alkhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk which, apart from other items, has the Parish Council minutes on. The latter are generally two months previous as they cannot be displayed until they have been signed by the Chairman at the following meeting.



NOT SO SAFE - Dover Transport Museum attended a course about documentation and brought an exhibit, which is shown in the photograph. Early production models of all Morris 1933 season cars, except for the Minor, were equipped with direction indication devices known as the Wilcot Robot, which in appearance resembled a miniature set of traffic lights. For example, if the driver wished to turn left it would show a green light on the off side and a red and amber would flash on the near side. Not surprisingly, criticism of the dangers came from many quarters, and eventually the Minister of Transport refused to sanction their use.



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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 hall

Wednesday	1	Fete Meeting 8pm in the village hall
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Saturday	11	Annual quiz in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	14	W.I. in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	20	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	25	Beekeepers in village hall in the afternoon
Tuesday	28	Film Club in village hall 7.30pm

CHURCH SERVICES, February 2017

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Saturday 11th	Messy Church St Radigund's Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 12th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	
Sunday 19th	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 26th	Benefice Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - I recall a session during my training for ministry on Dealing with the Press. It was about how to write articles Like this one, and perhaps more importantly how to stay out of The News of the World, though nobody actually said that. The News of the World would feature a Naughty Vicar Story fairly regularly. You can imagine what went into such stories, all guaranteed to sell newspapers, of course. A bishop once complained bitterly that it was only news when the vicar ran off with the churchwarden's wife, not when the parish raised enough money to build a hospital in Ethiopia. I was reminded of this not long ago when, among the crisp packets and sweet wrappers that had collected under the vicarage hedge, I found a scrap of newspaper and with it, a mystery. Had the wind just blown it there? When I picked it up I found that it had been torn, cut and folded so that just the headline was showing. It was a Naughty Vicar Story. Had it been left as a prank? I looked up the story on the internet. St Paul, in his famous passage from I Corinthians 13, wrote of love being patient and kind, keeping no score of wrongs and enduring all things. But newspapers don't work that way, and neither apparently did the Naughty Vicar's wife when, hurt and angry, she went to the newspaper about his antics. He lost his job, and no doubt gave its readers something to snigger at over their cornflakes - but I found myself praying about a broken marriage, their children and his parishioners. And if anyone did accidentally drop anything under the hedge because they wanted to know what I thought about it – well, now you know. **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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District Councillors Pauline Beresford 216187: **Nick Dixon 07815691638**
W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585 **Footpaths** antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641 – **Webs** alkham.org & alkhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
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No. 278 March 2017

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JOHN HUGGINS has put in a ditch/gully running alongside Slip lane (the bottom part of his field parallel to Slip Lane) which should take over 120m³ of runoff water from both the fields and Pimlico. This is a cracking example of work on behalf of the community by John and whilst we know it will not actually stop any severe flooding it will slow any excess runoff from normal rainfall and therefore benefit the village. **Bev Hubbard**

PARISH CLERK – The Parish Council is pleased to confirm that Mrs. Janice Lambert has been appointed as Parish Clerk. You can find her contact details on the back page.

TRAFFIC - The Parish Council has set up a Traffic Action group to look into the problems of traffic through the village with the aim of putting forward possible solutions, which have the support of the residents of Alkham. Your views and opinions will be sought at each stage of this process and you will shortly be asked the following questions by the Group: " How do you feel about current traffic activity and management through the village, and what action you think would improve road safety, calm traffic, reduce traffic volume, noise, and pollution through the village and along the length of the Alkham Valley Road?" **Geoff Hillier**

**JUMBLE SALE in the
Village Hall
4th March 11 o'clock
For Alkham Church**

OFF ROAD VEHICLES – There are 4 by 4's which are causing problems around the Parish. The vehicles have lights on their roofs and have been along Pimlico Way, which is now like

treacle, and they also entered a field in the Ellinge area causing a lot of damage. If they are causing a problem and you contact the police, please send an email (via county.hall@kent.gov.uk) to the Public Rights of Way with details such as the date and crime reference number. If it is not reported to PROW they will say there are few problems and getting a Traffic Regulation Order will be more difficult.

THE ANNUAL QUIZ on the 11th February in the village hall, went well. There were 10 tables and the winners were led by Den Barnard, each of whom won an inscribed plaque. The profit on the night was equally divided between the Alkham W.I. and the Alkham Fund.

IF YOU would like an Easter lily at St Anthony's in remembrance of a loved one could you please contact Linda Gaskill 823100. The cost is £5.00 per person to be remembered: please make cheques payable to St Anthonys PCC and enclose the name(s) of your loved one(s).

BOB PALMER – It is sad to report that Bob died at the beginning of February, aged 89. He was born in Suffolk and later joined the army as a boy soldier; his first posting was to India and then the Middle East. He had previously attended night school and passed the exams to become a Chartered Engineer, so that when he left the Army he became a Civil Servant in the Ministry of Transport. He retired at the age of 56 and moved, with his wife Barbara, to Alkham in 1989 where they bought a house on Slip Lane. Bob was very involved in all village activities and was a Parish Councillor for some years. Sympathy goes to his wife Barbara and all the greatly extended family.

THE CINNAMON TRUST - As part of my bronze Duke of Edinburgh award, I am required to volunteer with a charity. I am excited to support the good work provided by The Cinnamon Trust as I understand just how important pets are to their owners. This national charity helps elderly or ill pet owners by walking their dogs, or maybe even fostering pets until their owners are well again. If you think I may be able to help you out, then please contact The Cinnamon Trust on 01736 757 900 or www.cinnamon.org.uk. Thank you, Jessica Miller, 14, from Alkham.

RISER RECLINER - This chair was bought in mid-November last year. It is in perfect condition with full guarantee, hardly used and in burgundy colour fabric. New £795. Accept £400. Please ring 01304 824973.

FILM NIGHT

Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50

Date	Film
Feb 28	Sully with Tom Hanks
March 28	A United Kingdom A heartwarming story

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DEMENTIA - Dover District Council has joined with the Kent Dementia Action Alliance to make the district more dementia friendly - and local businesses and community organisations are being asked to get involved. To help combat issues faced by people living with dementia, DDC's Community Services team is creating a Later Life Address Book. This is a vintage-style address book, designed to be easy to read, containing details of local businesses and organisations that have come forward to be 'Dementia Friends'. DDC is offering businesses and community organisations the opportunity to attend a Dementia Friends session, and have their services promoted. The sessions will last around 45 minutes and will be held throughout the district. If you are interested in becoming a Dementia Friend, and attending one of the local sessions, please email community@dover.gov.uk and we will send you details.

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY Pimlico/ER25 - This Byway open to all traffic (BOAT) is being destroyed for use by ANY traffic, except motorised recreational vehicles. What many of us want is a change of status of the Byway to a Bridleway, usable by all except motorised vehicles. Since the Byway is no longer used as a service road to the defunct settlement of Pimlico it surely has no use as a Byway, thus the rebranding of the Byway to Bridleway would seem entirely credible. Off Roaders destroy but do not repair, they have had a chance or two. The KCC Public Rights of Way Officer notes such a change of use is unlikely, possible legal challenges being likely to occur and costs reflected onto the KCC. It would incur costs and has already done so: the Byway was repaired in December 2016 at the cost of £16,000, some of this money being put up by the KCC. The Alkham Valley Society supports any campaign stopping the destruction of all local byways and damage to the countryside.

POLICE are warning people to be on their guard against distraction burglars. A female rang the bell and asked the occupant, a woman in her 70s, if she could use her phone because she had locked her keys in her car. It was only after she had left that the victim realised her own car keys had been stolen, as had her car. At another house a similar event occurred to a lady in her 70's and her purse was stolen. Distraction thieves prey on a person's good nature and often ask the occupant for a glass of water or to use the phone. There are also doorstep callers posing as workers from Dyno-Rod claiming that work has been carried out and that they need to check your water pressure.

GARDEN TALK - We start our season with the usual fruity wine quiz, on Friday 10th March at Sunrise, Meggett Lane, from 7.30p.m. Further details, and suggestions for our summer programme to Janet Adamson 01303 893413

BOOK CLUB - The book club for March is on Wednesday 29th at the home of Mairi Jones - Turangi, Newlyn Meadows, Alkham 01304

826619, commencing at 7.30 The book chosen for discussion is The Dust That Falls from Dreams by Louis de Bernieres. For more information about book club contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

**The snow has gone but here I stay,
on the Meadow for another day.**

The Snowman



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ALKHAM HEROES - SIDNEY MARSH was a Private in the 3rd Battalion, Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. He died on Thursday, 15th February 1917 aged 19. Sidney died "at home" which explains how he came to be buried at Alkham on February 20th 1917.

ALKHAM HEROES - GEORGE RYE was a Private in the 44th Battalion, Australian Infantry. George was "killed in action" on Wednesday, 14th March 1917 aged 26. George is brother to John who was killed six months earlier on the Somme.

There is more information on each man in the Heroes section of the Village Website. Crosses will be added to the memorial wall at the bottom of Slip Lane on each of the anniversaries. **Mark Robson**



THIS WAS MOTORING

In Dover Transport Museum, which is worth a visit, they have the sign on the left. It was probably by the side of the road near Meggett Lane and gives an exact distance to London.

MITCH on PARKING – Anyone out there want to join me in a beef about parking charges, meters, multistoreys? Frequently overheating (me not the car) as the charges rise exponentially it seems, and frequently overheating (the car not me) as I head to the top floor, I marvel at the idyllic life of village dwellers who never ever have to pay to park. Us townees live another life... a pound for thirty minutes the norm here (Southampton. Editor) now and no sign that this easy revenue stream ever converts to improvements. Having lived for thirty years before these metal monsters were invented my contemporaries and I have learnt to deal with: simply feeding them cash, then with cash or notes, and now with the ubiquitous plastic card – each designed for the convenience of the system never that of the user. Imagine the scene – you are standing (with difficulty) in a wet and windy street trying to see your mobile screen amid the falling autumn leaves or the dazzling summer sun, and it takes three goes to succeed - meanwhile your appointment time leers close and your blood pressure zooms up in response, what then? The nadir – or do I mean zenith? – of My Parking Life was in Stratford last summer when surprisingly the car park was easy to find, easy to enter, and it had loos on every floor – amazing! But come to retrieve the motor after the play and not so good. The first paypoint said No Change Try Another Machine. Hobbling a bit that day I inched up to the next floor – Machine Out of Order.. and the third and last gave me fourteen pound coins for my 6 pound fee! Most bizarre of all perhaps was in a local multistorey. I must have taken longer than allowed to exit and the barrier stayed stubbornly down. Walked over to the Customer Care booth. Knocked, called, knocked again. No-one. Aware my motor would cause a big and annoying queue at the exit I went round the back of the Customer Care booth and halloed louder. A rather strangulated cry came back: I'm on the loo!! Is the bus the future d'you think? **Jane Mitchell**



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Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am Whist Drive 7.30 pm

Other Events in the village hall

Saturday	4	Jumble Sale village hall 11am
Monday	6	Parish Council meeting in village hall – all welcome
Tuesday	7	Metal detectors in village hall 7 to 9pm
Tuesday	14	W.I. in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	20	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	25	Beekeepers in village hall most of the day
Tuesday	28	Film Night in village hall 7.30pm

CHURCH SERVICES, February 2017

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Wednesday 1st			Eucharist 7.00 pm
Sunday 5th	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Saturday 11th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 12th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	
Sunday 19th	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 26th	Family Service 11am	Family Service 11am	Eucharist 9:30 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 - The other day someone showed me a photograph of a crucifix, and asked me what I made of it. Looking at it, I saw that the figure on the cross was not Jesus, but a gorilla. My first thought was that this might be someone's idea of a joke. But then a closer look revealed that the photograph had been taken in a church. It turned out to be part of an exhibition –an artist's way of pointing to the fact that suffering is not limited only to humans. The beginning of March coincides with the beginning of Lent this year – the time that leads up to Easter, and the period when Christians think especially about the events that led up to Jesus' death on the cross. Put simply, the cross is not just about the suffering of one man long ago. All suffering is there, and God cares about it all. At the combined service that we have on the last Sunday of each month, we have begun to offer to anyone who would like it the opportunity to have others pray for them. Sometimes people ask for prayer for themselves, sometimes for others. Anybody can come. A glance at the Bible shows that people were always going to Jesus to ask for healing, and with our prayers we do the same. Does it make any difference? I have known people who have been prayed for and apparently got better. More often, though, people seem to be given the strength just to keep going - which in itself might sometimes seem like a miracle. So whatever is going on in your life just now, why not give prayer a go? There can't be any harm in trying it, can there? **Brian Williams**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our February meeting was an enjoyable one. The ladies had modelled there outfits that they had bought from there local charity shops. Our next meeting will be on 14th March our speaker will be Claire Ashby who will be talking about Nursing in Camp Bastion. Hostesses are Debbie Saunders and Pam Sayers, Raffle Sue Harman, VOT Helen Price. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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KENT SPRING CLEAN COMES TO ALKHAM

The nationwide Keep Britain Tidy Campaign came to Alkham early in March and our new Clerk to the Parish

Council, Janice Lambert, organised the band of volunteers shown here who filled ten bags with rubbish in just an hour of work. Well done! How about we do this on a regular basis? **Den Barnard**

TRAFFIC ACTION GROUP QUESTIONNAIRE - Following our announcement that we are concerned with the volume and speed of traffic on the Alkham Valley Road we now want your views on the current traffic situation. The enclosed Questionnaire is the first step in collecting the concerns of the people of Alkham. We want everyone to respond to this questionnaire, not just the head of the household. It can be completed on line by following the link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Alkham> or the paper version can be completed and returned to the Parish Council by placing it in the 'Parish Council Suggestion Box' located outside the Village Hall. Responses via the internet are preferred. If more than one person in the household wishes to respond, then photo copy the Questionnaire as many times as needed for each respondent to complete or alternatively they can respond via the internet. The cut-off date for responses is the 16th April 2017. In due course, on analysing the responses, further work will be done on collecting traffic information in order to reach a series of suggested solutions as to what measures we consider practical that should be applied to calm traffic along the Alkham Valley Road and through the village. At that stage a further Questionnaire will be circulated to seek your views on the suggested solutions. **Geoff Hillier**

ALKHAM FETE - There will be a Fete Meeting at 8pm on Wednesday 12th April to discuss whether we are able to go ahead with this year's Fete (on Saturday 8th July) - we are desperately short of volunteers for a number of key stalls and need some (new) people to volunteer. If you are willing to help, please come along on the 12th so we can decide whether we have enough helpers to cover the essential jobs - if not we'll have to pull the plug! Thank you, Paul Tapsell 01303 892082

HORSE MANURE free to collect from The Hermitage. The latter is about a third of a mile up Slip Lane on the left. Park in the drive and walk through to the field on the right and help yourself.

THE ALKHAM VALLEY GARDEN CENTRE

is now under new management having been bought by brothers, David and Paul. They warmly welcome you to the Garden Centre, which will be revitalised and restocked with the Tea Room remaining the same. They will also now be stocking everyday essentials such as bread, milk and vegetables.

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING is on Monday 3rd April at 7.00pm in the village hall and the speaker will be Mark Robson who will talk about our Alkham war heroes. Please come along to what promises to be an interesting evening.

FILM NIGHT

Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50

Date	Film
March 28	A United Kingdom A heartwarming story
April 25	The Danish Girl

Please bring your own refreshments

VILLAGE HALL - The Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall will be held on Tuesday 18th April, starting at 7.00p.m., in the Village Hall. This meeting is open to all Alkham residents, and those who visit regularly to support the various Groups that meet in the Hall. Please come along and voice your views on the work of the Village Hall Committee. The AGM will be followed by a Committee Meeting, and new members are welcomed. **Janet Adamson**

FOR SALE - A ladies Raleigh folding bicycle, little used. Cost £200 new, offers over £50. A bath lift operated from rechargeable batteries. The unit needs a flat wall beside the bath. It is safe and effective, any offer considered. Please phone 01304 829006.

JUMBLE SALE - The Alkham W.I. are holding a jumble sale on the April 1st in the village hall from 11am to midday.

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APOLOGY – In last month's Newsletter I printed an article in which it said that the cost of repairs to Pimlico ER5 was £16,000. I now understand that the cost was £5000 and I apologise for the mistake.

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB - As you may be aware the Cricket Club has struggled to find players (and supporters) in the last couple of years - if you would be interested in playing, even if it's just a couple of games over the year, please give me a call and we'll see what we can sort out. Age, sex and ability are mostly irrelevant - for some of us it's just a chance to run around a bit in the sunshine and pretend we know what we're doing - although we are always on the look out for individuals who will raise the standard overall! Alternatively, if you'd rather demonstrate your support financially please give me a shout; having re-roofed the pavilion last year we're pretty much skint. **Paul Tapsell 07947 016697**

MOBILE HOMES – There have been a number of new mobile homes installed at the site adjacent to the Alkham Valley Garden Centre. At the Parish Council meeting, Kent County Councillor Geoff Lymer spoke on behalf of the residents and said that the Romany community was a minority group that felt victimized and had to have a place to live. There was some discussion following this comment, but the overall feeling was that, irrespective of merit, the planning laws had to be followed and that a planning application was needed.

VILLAGE GATES – A site meeting was held to discuss possible locations for the symbolic entrance gates, either side of the Valley Road, at the approaches to the village. It is thought that the amount KCC would charge to install the gates and associated works would be too high and that an independent firm would charge much less. The latter is being investigated and the plans would have to be drawn up.

WOOD – The wood about a mile east of Alkham is called Wolverton Wood. At the Parish Council meeting it was reported that a stop order has been issued on the site by DDC, and further Tree Preservation Orders are being sought. It was also thought that the newly erected fence may be too close to the road as it could be on Highway land.

TRAFFIC – Parish Councillor, Geoff Hillier, reported that speed watches on the Valley Road through Alkham had been carried out in January and February and showed that a proportion of drivers are exceeding the speed limit. They also did a traffic count at peak times, both morning and evening, and around 790 vehicles were recorded at each time. In 2010 the traffic count was 558 so it means there has been a 40% increase in traffic, which is almost certainly due to the speed restrictions on the A20 to Dover.

OIL THEFT – A resident at Ewell Minnis was awoken by the sound of thieves trying to access their oil tank at 3am. The kitchen light scared them away but some oil was taken. The police reacted well and visited the house where they found finger prints.

GARDEN TALK - We are looking forward to visiting a selection of local gardens this summer, and are already working hard, inspired by the spring flowers and blossom. Our first outdoor visit is to Thorn Cottage in Meggett Lane on Friday 28th April, where Rosemary & Geoff Hillier are our hosts from 7.30p.m.

ALKHAM WI - We had a lovely evening; Barry Daniels entertained us with his lovely singing and all members were joining in. Our next meeting will be April 11th with the Ukulele Band. Hostesses will be Beryl King and Janet Adamson; Raffle and VOT will be Sue Harman. New members always welcome **Debbie Griggs**

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ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD – If there was a major problem on the principle roads, the Alkham Valley Road could be used as a diversionary route and for that reason is classified as such. Geoff Lymer said that it would therefore be very difficult to install calming measures along the valley, such as width restrictions and street furniture. Hopefully this is just his view as it's patently unfair to just accept that the status quo will remain for a perceived emergency.

TEMPLE EWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL - Following our recent Ofsted inspection, we are delighted to announce that we have been graded as "Outstanding". The Head Teacher, staff and children are thrilled with the outcome and wanted to share the news with you and thank the village for your continued support of our school.

AIR AMBULANCE - The Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance is inviting local groups, clubs, societies and other organisations to book a talk (free of charge) to find out more about the work of the charity. By inviting one of our volunteer speakers to your group, you will be helping to raise awareness of our work and therefore ensuring we can be there for those who need us, now and in the future. For more information or to book a talk, please contact us on: 01622 833 833 talks@kssairambulance.org.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - People are being urged to be vigilant after reports that a couple have been knocking on doors in Thanet claiming to be deaf and selling hand-drawn pictures for £10 to £15, which turn out to be a photocopy.

RIVER CHIMNEY SWEEP – Call Marcus Wright on 01304 761081 or 07971699220 for a sweep from £35. He also advertises stoves and flues, plus undertakes chimney repointing. *Free ad as no space.*

OZ on THOMAS IN ARRAS – This month, we conclude the story of the first three years of the First World War seen through the eyes of the poet Edward Thomas, after having left him at Hare Hall Camp at Christmas 1915. During January 1916 Thomas became increasingly preoccupied with the idea of volunteering for the front, and, at the end of that month, wrote a poem beginning "Now all roads lead to France". Throughout that hard winter and hot early summer Thomas wrestled with conflicting feelings of duty and fear, and finally volunteered in July for artillery service overseas. Over the next few months, he underwent artillery training and prepared his first book of poems for publication. On 23 November Thomas was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Royal Artillery, and transferred to Lydd for final training. There followed a brief period of hope while the British considered, and rejected, a phony German 'peace note'. Thomas departed from Southampton for Le Havre, together with thousands of guns and other men, on 29 January 1917. There followed a ten day journey by train and on foot to Arras, the capital of Nord-Pas-de-Calais, where they camped in an orchard less than a mile from the German lines. For the next two months, Thomas was busy with the observation post, paperwork, and a little bird-watching, while his seniors planned the Battle of Arras for 9 April, Easter Monday. On 8 April, the Germans bombarded heavily, and a shell fell two yards from Thomas. Luckily, it failed to explode, and he spent the evening with his mates, celebrating his good fortune. After the next day's fighting, the last shell of the day passed so close to Thomas that the air blast stopped his heart, leaving no mark on his dead body. **Steve Osborn**



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Church Warden Richard Tapsell 822295
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
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District Councillors Pauline Beresford 216187
 Nick Dixon 07815691638
W.I. Secretary - Janet Barrow 829585
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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 hall	
Saturday	1 Jumble Sale village hall 11am
Monday	3 Parish Council meeting
Tuesday	4 Metal detectors in village hall 7 to 9pm
Saturday	8 SEKAS in village hall in afternoon
Tuesday	11 W.I. in village hall 7.30pm
Wednesday	12 Fete meeting 8pm – see page 1
Monday	20 Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	18 Village Hall AGM 7pm in village hall – see page 1
Wednesday	19 PCC AGM in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	25 Film Night in village hall 7.30pm

CHURCH SERVICES, February 2017

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 2 nd	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Saturday 8 th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 9 th	Eucharist and Palm Procession 9.30 am Alkham: 11am Capel		
Compline: Mon. 10 th 7 pm Capel: Tues. 11 th 7pm Alkham: Wed. 12 th 7pm Hougham			
Thursday 13 th	Benefice Eucharist Capel 7.30 pm		
Friday 14 th	Devotion 12.00–1.00	Devotion 1.00–2.00	Devotion 2.00-3.00
Saturday 15 th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 16 th	Eucharist 11.00 am		
Sunday 23 rd	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 - Working in school the other day, I recognised her the moment she walked into the classroom. We had first met years before when I was covering her English teacher's sick leave, and I remembered her for all the wrong reasons. But now aged sixteen, and with her exams just months away, surely she would settle to the work her teacher had left for her without any fuss. No such luck. Smiles, gentle persuasion, the promise of what would happen if she continued to throw pencils at the boys – none of this had any effect. She eventually stormed out of the room. 'All you need is love,' sang The Beatles. The New Testament describes love as the greatest of God's gifts. Jesus spoke of the need to love God, our neighbours and even our enemies if we want to make it into heaven – which, as we all know, is easier said than done. For a gift to be of any use, it has to be used. As I write, Easter is still about a month away. Giving up biscuits or chocolate for Lent would have been a challenge, but the greatest challenge is to practice the gift. So I close my eyes and think of all those who – well, present me with a challenge. I pray for them, and remember that God loves them, and pray that I might love them too; and one of life's frustrations becomes a ticket to heaven. **Brian Williams**

IF YOU would like an Easter lily at St Anthony's in remembrance of a loved one could you please contact Linda Gaskill 823100. The cost is £5.00 per person to be remembered: please make cheques payable to St Anthony's PCC and enclose the name(s) of your loved one(s).

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No. 280 May 2017

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FETE - I am pleased to report that there will be a Fete on July 8th from 1 pm (though we are still in need of more volunteers, so please give me a shout if you'd like to help). Please support the various stallholders who are asking for donations elsewhere in this newsletter. Raffle Tickets, Posters, etc. will be available very soon! At the meeting on Wednesday 12th April we formally recorded our thanks to Barbara Palmer for her and Bob's many years of supporting the Fete and everything they have done for the Fete and the village; we are all thinking of her and sending her our best wishes and hope to see her up and about very soon. **Paul Tapsell 07947 016697**

TRAFFIC - The Traffic Questionnaire form, circulated to all parishioners in the April Newsletter, has resulted in a good response. We do need, however, those who haven't responded to do so as soon as possible. The more results we get the greater the overall impact the results will have when discussing the traffic situation with the authorities. This we need, as to date they have shown little interest in wanting to do anything to help our village. Do not forget that responses can be made on-line via the link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Alkham> and also paper copies are hanging in a bag on the entrance door of the village hall, to fill in and leave in the Parish Council box at the front of the hall. To give those yet to respond more time, the closing date for responses has been extended to the end of April. Please act now.

BE CAREFUL TO LOCK UP your garages and sheds. A garage in Alkham has been broken into on at least two occasions in the last month. During the last break-in, in the first week of April, an adult's bike was stolen. If anyone has any information please contact through the Newsletter (see top and back page).



ARE YOU looking for a loveable companion? A 6-year-old male Yorkshire Terrier with lots of love to give the right person; needs a calm home with 1 or 2 adults. He needs to be the sole pet in the home as he likes all the attention to himself. Please contact Brian on 01304 824969 for further details

THE MARQUIS on Friday 5th May are presenting a Michael Buble tribute act starting at 7pm. It costs £55 and includes cocktails and the 4-course tasting menu. Mr. Duble will play from 8.30pm to 9.30pm; see advert on the back page for contact details.

WANTED PLEASE, your unwanted paintings, prints, historic photographs, and wall hangings of any kind, for the Art Stall at this year's fete. Please contact Rosemary on 01303 892878.

PLANT STALL - I am running the plant stall at the fete this year and would be glad of any plant donations please. Vegetables, herbs, flowers, shrubs anything that grows. Will gladly pick them up if you would like. Carol Mannall, Poets End: Tel:01304 826514.

JEWELLERY STALL - Donations required please for the fete this year. Do you have unwanted Jewellery that never sees the light of day? If the answer is YES, then let's give it a new lease of life and raise funds for our village! If you can help please contact Brenda Smith on 01304 822311.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - Neil Burrows gave the annual parish report and said that future precepts will take into account any agreed parish projects. Janice Lambert then gave the financial report and this was followed by a talk by Mark Robson. Mark was excellent and told the stories of the Alkham Heroes who were killed in the First World War.

MANY THANKS go to the footpath people who put in the steps and rail on the hill opposite Valley Cottages. The path goes through the hedge on a very slippery slope; also, thanks for the handrail at the bottom steps.

FILM NIGHT	
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50	
Date	Film
April 25	The Danish Girl
May 30	Manchester by the sea
Please bring your own refreshments	

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ALKHAM BOOK – The reproduction of the photos in the first revision of 'A Brief History – Alkham Parish' were not very good, so there has been a further reprint. A new

company was used and the book is now bound, rather than stapled, and is of a higher quality. I took the opportunity to do further additions with more details about South Alkham (see Yew Tree Cottage and Rhys Cottages above), Wolverton, Drellingore and Chalksole. If you have previously bought the book and would like a copy of the latest version, it is available free by contacting me on 824969 or brianwimsett@hotmail.com. The price of the book is £5.

COMMENT - Geoff Lymer, Kent County Councillor, would like to make some comments about articles in last month's Newsletter. Regarding the Romany community and the mobile homes by the Garden Centre, he says that he offered to act as mediator with DDC to avert a costly enforcement notice because planning permission had not been applied for. He would also like to say that it is not just his view regarding installing traffic calming measures on the Valley Road, because of its status as a diversionary route. He says that the Highways Authority must comply with certain standards and this precludes most calming measures. **editor**

MEETING in the village hall about byways on 15 March - Forty-five or so local residents met in the village hall to discuss local byways and Pimlico and the Bullrun in particular. Andrew Hutchinson, Kent County Council's East Kent Area Manager, Public Rights of Way and Access Service, came to the meeting to explain KCC's views. The meeting followed one in February 2016 at which it was agreed that local byways open to all traffic (BOATs) were being severely damaged by 4x4s and off road motor bikes making them unsafe and unusable by walkers and horse riders. The view taken at both meetings was that KCC should be asked to make use of its power to impose Traffic Regulation Orders on both BOATs excluding non-essential motor vehicles and bikes. At the recent meeting, Glyn Jones gave a Power Point summary of the photographic assessments given to KCC last year ascertaining the condition of both BOATs and whether they were safe for use by different categories of users. Andrew Hutchinson answered questions and explained the process that KCC must follow when considering the BOATs including the consultation process that must be followed. He said that the byways will be considered when he has a member of staff available. **Peter Smith**

GARDEN TALK - Our next Meeting will be at "Bramhall", Alkham Valley Road, where Susannah & Richard will be showing us the progress of their large garden - flowers, fruit and veg in a lovely setting with far reaching views. We meet at 7.30p.m. **Janet Adamson**
ALKHAM W.I. - We had a lovely evening being entertained by the ukulele band and look forward to seeing them again. Our next meeting will be on the 9th May which will be our Resolutions evening. Hostesses Sue Ross Lucy McKenzie; Raffle Alison Warnock. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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ALKHAM HEROES - Edward Collard was a Private in the 2nd Battalion, The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment. He was "killed in action" on Sunday 13th May 1917 aged 37. At this time, his regiment was involved in an attack on the Hindenburg Line including the action at Bullecourt. According to the CWGC website, Edward has no known burial place and is remembered on the memorial at Arras, however, the family headstone at St Anthony's says he is "interred at Bullecourt".

I suspect Edward may have been buried originally at Bullecourt but his grave's location lost in subsequent battles that raged in this area. For more information on Edward, including a photograph please visit the 'Heroes' section of the Village website www.alkham.org. **Mark Robson**


LOCAL HISTORY - Folkestone History Society have published an article on line about Percy Reed who worked for the Folkestone and District Water Company and lived at Standen Terrace. It was written by his son Paul and gives a history of the work at the old pumping station. Click the link on www.folkestonehistory.org.

OZ on COATES – One of my earliest memories is of being two years old in 1942, playing indoors on the lino, with my mother nearby working while listening to Music While You Work on the 'wireless'. This BBC programme was broadcast twice each workday from 1940 to 1967, initially to aid war work, and later to assist peacetime production. The signature tune, Calling All Workers, was written by Eric Coates, a viola player and composer. Born in 1886, Coates studied at London's Royal Academy of Music, and in 1912 became principal violist in the Queen's Hall Orchestra under Henry Wood, founder of the Promenade concerts. Seven years later, Coates was "dismissed through sending deputies to take my place when I was conducting my works elsewhere". Coates's composing career then blossomed; his craftsmanship and melodic skill were ideally suited to the growing gramophone and radio industries, and to the inter-war patriotic climate. In 1933 his London Suite was published; the last movement, Knightsbridge, was immediately adopted as signature tune for the BBC's In Town Tonight. In January 1942, the BBC Forces Programme first broadcast the famous Desert Island Discs, still running today on Radio4, having recently celebrated its 75th anniversary. The signature tune chosen was Coates's By the Sleepy Lagoon (1930) together with "sounds of surf breaking on a shore and the cries of sea birds", unaltered to this day. His suite The Three Elizabeths was used to celebrate the Queen's Coronation, and as theme music for the 1967 BBC TV series The Forsyte Saga. Typical of Coates's quiet humour is that, asked to write a theme for the 1955 film The Dam Busters, he submitted an unnamed march that he'd composed some time previously, which later became almost a second national anthem. This gentle happy man died in 1957 in Chichester and was cremated at London's Golders Green. **Steve Osborn**

AN OPEN-AIR CINEMA event for the whole family is at Kearsney Abbey on Friday 26 May from 7.30pm, for a screening of Disney's The Lion King. Gates open at 7.30pm and the film will start around 8.45pm. It is ticket only booked through See Tickets for £5.50 each. All under 18s must be accompanied by an adult. The only parking available at Kearsney is for blue badge holders. For more details, or to book tickets, please go to www.kearsneyparks.co.uk/cinema. (I've included this but previous events have sold out)



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Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
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Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am Whist Drive 7.30 pm
Other Events in the village hall	
Tuesday	2 Metal detectors in village hall 7 to 9pm
Thursday	4 KCC elections in village hall 7am to 10pm
Monday	8 Parish Council meeting 7.30 in village hall – all welcome
Tuesday	9 W.I. in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	13 South East Kent Astrological Society in village hall
Monday	15 Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	30 Film Night in village hall 7.30pm

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sun30th April	Benefice Eucharist at St Mary's: 10.00 am		
Sunday 7th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship 11am
Saturday 13th	Messy Church St Radigund's Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 14th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	Rogation 3.00 pm
Sunday 21st	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Thursday 25th	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 7.00 pm		
Sunday 28th	Benefice Eucharist with prayer ministry 10.00 am Hougham		
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 Saturday afternoon before Palm Sunday, and Messy Church (Church, but perhaps not as many people remember it!) was in full swing. The grown-ups had spent ages quietly colouring a huge poster, while the children and their parents had made palm crosses from card, shakers from plastic beakers and whizzers from clothes pegs and bits and bobs. We tried them out as we talked about Jesus arriving in Jerusalem on a donkey, waving our whizzers and shakers just as the crowds waved palm leaves to welcome him. Question: where did Jesus go when he arrived in the city? A clue: I held up a photograph of the model of the Temple we made out of Duplo blocks that I had taken a couple of months previously. A certain someone's hand shot up: "LEGOLAND!" she squealed excitedly. Now, it's true that the first Palm Sunday took place long before LEGOLAND was ever thought of. But it got me thinking. One memory of the first Easter Day is of two disciples walking to a place near Jerusalem called Emmaus. As they walk, a stranger joins them, and they talk. They only recognise him as Jesus, raised from the dead, in the moment before he vanishes. Perhaps Easter reminds us that life often seems that way – we might often feel as though we walk alone, not recognising that someone walks with us, often unseen. If you know the Footsteps poem, you know what I mean. People often speak of meeting God at low points in their lives, when things are going wrong. But why shouldn't they meet God at the high points, too? Even while visiting LEGOLAND, perhaps? Well, why not...? **Brian Williams**

Newsletter brianwimsett@hotmail.com: **Hall booking** Val Fowler 827635
Parish Clerk **Janice Lambert** 07800 943434 alkham.pc@outlook.com
Vicar **Brian Williams** 01303 243784: **MP** **Charlie Elphicke** - 01304 379669
KCC - Geoffrey Lymer 07960490929: **DDC - P Beresford** 216187: **N Dixon** 07815691638: **AVS** cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 01304 821641
W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585: **Footpaths** antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
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Telephone 01304 824969

No. 281 June 2017

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TRAFFIC SURVEY – There was a good response to the questionnaire regarding traffic on the Alkham Valley Road, with replies from 203 households and parishioners filling in the form included with the Newsletter or going on-line. 84% of people thought their quality of life was affected by the volume of traffic, 88% by speed, 73% by noise and 97% thought that the speed of traffic was too high. 97% agreed road safety was at risk, 94% that the traffic volume was too high, 93% said there were too many lorries plus 91% agreed it was unsafe for children to walk to the bus stop.

FUNDING – 80% of the people who responded to the Traffic Survey thought that the Parish Council should pay up to £1000 to carry out traffic surveys, if KCC refuse to pay. At the Parish Council meeting, when an excellent display of the results of the survey was given, Geoff Hillier said that a private company would do a survey of traffic speed and volume either side of the village for £490 (plus vat). Two surveys were required, one later in the year after the variable speed measures had been installed on the A20. Geoff said that £300 had been pledged for the first survey and therefore a further £190 was required from the council. After some deliberation, the Council agreed to pay this and to pay for the second set of surveys if funding could not be found from other sources. **editor**

SPEEDWATCH – With Parish Council approval, Geoff Hillier is heading a team to carry out speed checks on the Alkham Valley Road. The members of the team wear reflective jackets and use speed guns to measure the speed of traffic. Geoff needs five further volunteers, so if you 'd like to help please contact him either by email at gdhillier@hotmail.com or ring 01303 892878.

SUMMER GUITAR CONCERT at St Anthony's - For the seventh year running Jimmy D'Alton Bellas is bringing his past and present students to St Anthony's for another Summer Evening Guitar Concert on Saturday 24th June at 6:30pm. He has also managed to obtain the services of award-winning Grant Dowse who is now performing at the highest professional level and is eager to perform in the beautiful setting of St Anthony's once again. All proceeds go the Friends of St Anthony's. Tickets are £8.00. Tickets available from Den(824845) or Brian(824969). **Den Barnard**

FETE MEETING - We will be having the final fete meeting on Wednesday 7th June at 8 pm in the Village Hall; please come along if you are (or would like to be) involved in any way on the day - we still have some important jobs which will need doing and the more helpers we have the better the day will be. Please support the stallholders who are asking for help or donations and Raffle tickets will be coming in the next Newsletter. **Paul Tapsell 01303 892082.**

GRACE STACEY died in April at the age of 87. She was a lovely lady who had lived in Alkham for many years and involved herself in village life, at one time being a church warden. Grace lived in Glebelands and a short distance away lived her friend **LUCY MATCHAM** who also died in April aged 87. She also was a lovely lady and had lived in the village of Alkham for 61 years and was the first occupant of the newly built bungalows in upper Glebelands.

THE WI will be providing the refreshments in the village hall on fete day and would be very grateful for donations of cakes - large or small. Also, there will be a cake stall and cakes, biscuits, etc. to sell would also be very much appreciated. There will be someone in the hall from 10 o'clock onwards or we can collect. **Janet Barrow**

HANDBAGS please - If you can spare a handbag or two for my stall at the Fete I would be very grateful. Perhaps you would drop them into the Village Hall on Wednesdays 10.30am or let me know and I will collect. Thank you very much indeed. **Susannah 01304 822295**

FETE BOOK STALL - Do you have any books, both adult and children's, that you no longer need and would like to donate to the book stall? We're also interested in receiving jigsaws. Just call Sue Lees on 822661, or Mike/Rachel Fountain on 823173 or 07905206702. We're happy to arrange collection. Thank you.

FILM NIGHT

Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50

Date	Film
May 30	Manchester by the sea
June 27	La La Land

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THE NEWSLETTER – This month, I have been producing the Newsletter for 20 years. Originally it was photocopied but I now use two duplex laser printers producing

1360 A4 prints, which are stapled to make 340 Newsletters. I then take them to the 17 deliverers around the parish, who very kindly walk round and put it through your letter box. Many thanks go to these deliverers some of whom have been delivering the Newsletter since it began in September 1993. The adverts just cover the cost of the toner, paper and postage with any profit going into the Newsletter Club Account at Nat West. I very rarely mention myself but on this occasion, I thought I would. **Brian Wimsett – editor**

PARISH COUNCIL AGM – At the well-attended meeting, Neil Burrows was elected Chairman again with Den Barnard as his deputy. Various matters were discussed and the stop order on Wolverton Wood continues. The KCC quote for installing symbolic entrance gates to the village would cost £6000, but the works could be done for a fraction of that cost, and various options will be considered. The telephone apparatus has been removed from the box opposite Newlyn Meadow and the box's demise is imminent. The Parish Deeds relating to Vicarage Meadow, Chalksole Green (new and old village green) and land fronting Newlyn Meadow are available to view by contacting the Parish Clerk. **editor**

BYWAYS - Temporary repairs to the Bull Run are imminent. By the time you read this, work should have been completed and the byway reopened. The Parish Council agreed with Andrew Hutchinson (PROW Area Manager (East Kent)), after discussions and site visits, that temporary repairs were the only way forward. The Parish Council were happy to make up the very small shortfall in the budget for repairs to Pimlico. When the repairs to Pimlico had been approved by Andrew there wasn't enough money to do repairs to The Bull Run which remained closed. Any day now the Bull Run should be open to all users. Had temporary repairs not been approved the byways in question would have remained closed indefinitely. The Parish Council will continue to press for measures to reduce damage and long term solutions to these byways. **Anthony Barrier FP Warden**

GARDEN TALK - On Friday 16th June we have been invited to visit the garden at Chalksole Cottage, where our hosts Linda & Geoff Gaskill have a fine display of shrubs, roses and vegetables, despite the recent unseasonal weather. We meet at 7.30p.m. **Janet Adamson**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our next meeting will be on the 13th June and our speaker will be Rosemary Piddock talking about Soldiers of the first World War; the evening will be an open evening so men and women are invited. It starts at 7.30pm to 8.30pm so please come along. Hostesses are Shelley Jackson and Debbie Saunders; Raffle and VOT Debbie Griggs. New members welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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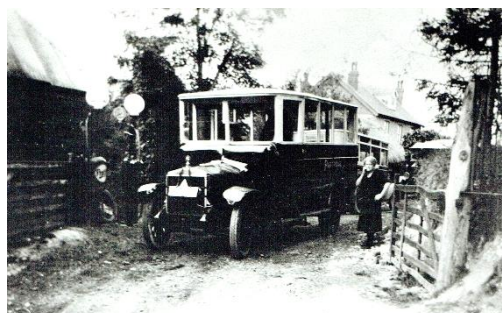
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OZ on OVERLORD – On 'D-Day', 6 June 1944, Allied forces commenced their invasion of German-held Western Europe with the Battle of Normandy, codenamed 'Operation Overlord.' This followed 'Operation Bodyguard', the Allies' campaign of deception, designed to achieve maximum surprise. The British government had long been aware of the espionage possibilities of the daily crossword, invented only 31 years previously. A Daily Telegraph crossword, published the day before the Dieppe Raid in August 1942, contained 'Dieppe' as one of the answers. The Telegraph's crossword compiler, the headmaster of a school evacuated to Surrey, was interrogated by intelligence officers, who concluded that it was simple coincidence. In the run-up to D-Day, the words 'Gold', 'Sword', and 'Juno', codenames for landing beaches, occurred in Telegraph crossword answers, but were again regarded as coincidental. However, from 2 May to 1 June 1944, the words 'Utah', 'Omaha', 'Overlord', 'Mulberry' and 'Neptune' appeared, on different days but more frequently as D-Day approached. M15, now seriously alarmed, arrested the compiler and a colleague, and subjected them to lengthy and gruelling investigations. Once again, no explanation was found, beyond pure coincidence. It emerged later that the compiler managed his puzzle-setting work by giving boys crossword blanks to fill with words that he would then clue. The same boys spent much time socialising with American and Canadian soldiers in a nearby military camp, and so knew all the codenames, some of which they inserted in the blanks. The clues to these words were simple, with the exception of that for 'Overlord', which is the word COMMON (from the previous clue) together with "...but some bigwig like this has stolen some of it at times." Over the years and world-wide, many academics have attempted explanations of this highly cryptic clue, perhaps the most plausible being Robert Heath at <https://www.quora.com/How-did-the-D-Day-cryptic-puzzle-clue-work> Readers may care to look it up and see if they can find a simpler solution. (Steve Osborn)


NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - At the recent Parish Council meeting mention was made of burglaries in the parish. Further research has shown that there were 7 burglaries in the last 12 months and 35 other offences which included anti-social behaviour, car crime etc. If you think it would be worthwhile starting a Neighbourhood Watch scheme then please contact the Parish Clerk (see back page) and it can be raised at the next Parish Council meeting. When responding it would be helpful to say whether you would be willing to be involved in the running of Neighbourhood Watch.



THE NUMBER 11 BUS now runs along the valley but in 1929 it was the Partridge family who provided the bus service. The photograph shows Mrs. Bertha Partridge standing at the gate of Wolverton Court.



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Tuesday	27	Film Night in village hall 7.30pm

CHURCH SERVICES

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Saturday 10th	Messy Church St Radigund's, Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 11th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	
Sunday 18th	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 25th	Benefice Eucharist and rededication of bells 10.00 am, Hougham		

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

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

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FROM THE VICARAGE - I have never forgotten the Sunday morning, just a few weeks after I arrived, when I climbed into the pulpit and began my sermon with the story of the three vicars who had bats in the belfry. If you were there, you probably remember how it goes. If you weren't, sadly I don't have space here to tell you how it ends. In any case, it hasn't seemed quite so funny since it turned out that I also have bats, not just in the belfry but in other places too – and they're not housetrained, either. Bats love old church buildings just as much as many humans do. The buildings tell the stories of those who have prayed in them down the centuries, and the stories of the communities that they serve. But they need looking after, which is why they are inspected by architects every five years. The bells at St Laurence Church, Hougham had been declared unsafe many years ago and not rung for at least forty years. It was while looking through an architect's report a while ago that we realised that nobody had inspected the bells in years. Might we walk in one morning and find bits of bell strewn across the floor? Brian Butcher, from Hythe, who knows about these things, kindly agreed to take a look. The result? Last month the bells rang for a wedding for the first time in decades. Thanks to Brian and his team the bells, which date from around 1500 up to 1724, have been made safe and restored to working order. We're looking forward to 25th June, when Bishop Trevor Wilmott, Bishop of Dover, will be at the 10.00 am service to rededicate them. What the bats will make of it is another matter... **Brian Williams**

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No. 282 July 2017

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ACCIDENT – A serious accident occurred in Alkham at about 1.30am on the 17th June. A car travelling in the Dover direction failed to take the sharp bend on the Valley Road, a short distance past the Marquis, and hit the high flint wall in the garden of Bren Tor. Several ambulances arrived plus the Air Ambulance, which took a seriously injured passenger to a London Hospital. The three other occupants of the car were taken by road to local hospitals. The road was closed for several hours for the police to carry out forensic examinations and later a pick-up truck arrived to take the car away. The latter already had a vehicle on board, which gave the impression that two vehicles were involved. The Police are asking for witnesses who can phone 01622 798538 quoting reference number AH/137/17 or email sciu.td@kent.pnn.police.uk

SECURITY – An alternative to Neighbourhood Watch is a web site called NextDoor, on which you can post alerts regarding security and other matters. Several people in the parish have signed up and at present Alkham is included in the Hawkinge area. It is hoped that many more people in the parish will join NextDoor (<https://nextdoor.com>) so there is a wide coverage of possible points of concern. The site is also used for local events and other items such as finding a plumber. In 2003 a Neighbourhood Watch scheme was set up in the parish with coordinators covering specific area but it only lasted a year.

ALKHAM FETE 8th JULY - Just a reminder that donations of cakes for the cake stall and refreshments in the village hall would be very much appreciated. They can be brought to the village hall any time after 10am on the day. Thank you, **Sue Ross**.

HANDBAGS please - If you can spare a handbag or two for my stall at the Fete I would be very grateful. Thank you very much indeed. **Susannah 01304 822295**

FETE BOOK STALL - Do you have any books, both adult and children's, that you no longer need and would like to donate to the book stall? We're also interested in receiving jigsaws. Just call Sue Lees on 822661, or Mike/Rachel Fountain on 823173 or 07905206702. We're happy to arrange collection. Thank you.

FETE RAFFLE – The first prize is £200 and the other prizes are: One night at Howfield Manor Hotel for 2 people including dinner and breakfast donated by the Alkham Valley Garden Centre; a rug from Action carpets; a train set from Bigjig Toys; 3 course lunch/dinner for 2 at the Grand Burstin Hotel; a guided tour of the Grand for 2 people plus a cream tea; Brewers brush sets; £25 Homebase voucher; Afternoon tea at the Marquis for 2 people. Other prizes are promised and thanks go to Bill and Valerie Hellyer for sourcing the prizes.

ALKHAM FETE - The Village Fete will be held on Saturday 8th July 2017, starting at 1 pm (please not the earlier start time!); all the usual attractions and entertainments and we've some extra special new additions. Please support the various stallholders who have asked for prizes, donations, help, etc. elsewhere in the Newsletter. As always there are lots of opportunities to help on the day -please call me on 07947 016697 and we'll find you a suitable job for as long, or as short, a period as you can spare - "many hands make light work" as they say. We will be putting the tents up from 8:30 am on the Meadow so if you can lift or wield a tent peg mallet or hammer please come along - with the earlier start time we'll need all the usual "A" team and some energetic younger helpers too please - and any help taking the tents down would be gratefully received. Raffle tickets are included with the Newsletter - thanks to Brian and his distributors - please let me have the unsold tickets or ticket stubs and money by Thursday 7th, or bring them along on the morning. We look forward to seeing you on the day. **Paul Tapsell**

PICTURES – Geoff and Rosemary Hillier have acquired a lot of pictures which will be on sale at the fete.

ALKHAM VALLEY MUTTON ½ or whole, for details or to order please ring Lindsay on 827956 or 07860592649.

FILM NIGHT

June 27	La La Land
July 25	Viceroy's House with Hugh Bonneville

Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50
Please bring your own refreshments

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ADDERS - A vet in Dorset is warning dog owners about an increase in adder attacks on dogs. Adders, which may reach 70cm in length, can be told apart from grass snakes and slow worms by their distinctive zig-zag markings. Snake

bites can be fatal so dog owners need to act quickly if a dog has been bitten. The dog will almost certainly cry out as bites are very painful. There is usually severe swelling around the bite area and if around the face or throat can be very dangerous. If your dog has been bitten, try and keep the dog as calm and still as possible and it is better to bring transport to the dog rather than making them walk back. Go straight to your vet and do not interfere with the wound or tie any sort of tourniquet because there is a danger of tissue damage around the bite.

LANDOWNERS - Dover District Council is asking land owners to suggest sites that they consider have future development potential as part of the district's Local Plan Review. The call for sites is open for eight weeks from 12 June to midnight on 7 August 2017 and will be available online on the Planning Policy pages. Landowners are required to demonstrate that a site is suitable and available for development and that it is deliverable. Putting forward potential land does not necessarily mean it will be developed and any subsequent development would be subject to the usual planning permissions. DDC carried out this exercise in 2010 and although 3 sites were suggested no development took place.



FITNESS - A York Fitness x101 cross trainer is for sale and all offers will be considered. If you'd like to make an offer or view it, please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com or ring 01304 824969.

GARDEN TALK - We are enjoying viewing a collection of interesting gardens this summer. Our next visit is to 'Countryside', off the Alkham Valley Road on Friday 14th July, where Sue & Mike Ross are our hosts, from 7.30p.m. For directions: **Janet Adamson (01303 893413)**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our June meeting was an interesting talk by Rosemary Piddock about soldiers of the 1st World War. Our next meeting will be on the 11th July and our speaker will be talking to us about the Air Ambulance. Hostesses are Sue Harman and Lucy McKenzie. Raffle Debbie Saunders VOT Janet Gibbons. New Members always welcome **Debbie Griggs**

30th DOVER FESTIVAL PROM - Local musicians will again combine as the Dover Festival Prom Chorus & The Connaught Orchestra to present a festive charity concert in the style of "The Last Night of the Proms", at 7.30 pm on Friday 7th July in Dover Town Hall. This year's theme is "Viennese Favourites", and features Celebration Songs from Die Fledermaus by Johann Strauss II, and a selection from The Sound of Music by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II. Also included is Dover Castle, by Wiltcher, Nunn & Lewis, together with Dauntless Dover and the traditional Proms Finale of Jerusalem, Rule Britannia and Land of Hope and Glory. Tickets are available at £7 and £3.50 (promenaders) from the Dover Tourist Information Centre, online at ticketsource.co.uk/doverchoral or call Forwoods Music on 01304 872812. **Steve Osborn**

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OZ on DAVISON – In the July 2013 edition of the newsletter my daughter Catherine wrote on the centenary of the death of Emily Davison and why we should always use our vote, even if only to spoil the voting paper. This month, four years on, and since the recent General Election, I feel that it's time to look briefly at Emily's life and legacy. Emily was born in 1872 in Blackheath, South-East London, to Charles and Margaret Davison, and had two sisters, a brother, and nine half-siblings from her father's previous marriage. After Kensington High School and Royal Holloway College, Emily obtained first-class honours at St Hugh's, Oxford, but, being a woman, was not allowed to graduate. She then taught privately for a while, joined the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), which was Emmeline Pankhurst's militant campaign for women's suffrage, and took a London University external degree in Modern Foreign Languages. Over the next few years, Emily became increasingly militant in support of the campaign, often without the blessing of the WSPU. These activities sometimes involved criminal damage, resulting in nine prison terms that included brutal force-feeding when on hunger-strike. More innocently Emily hid beneath the Palace of Westminster on the 1911 census night, thus making her residence "the House of Commons." Catherine described in the 2013 article how Emily's life ended abruptly after she threw herself under the King's horse at the Epsom Derby on 4 June 1913 and died in Epsom Cottage Hospital four days later. For many years I've felt myself to be "disenfranchised" so haven't bothered to vote. However, last month, on General Election Day, having read all the manifestoes, I walked to the polling station and used the traditional fat pencil stub to select the one closest to my views. Well done, Emily! Well done, Catherine! **Steve Osborn**

ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH PROJECT - We are thrilled to announce that the St Anthony's church project has made significant progress with the recent approval by the church authorities of the detailed design for the new toilet and associated internal changes. These will update the building so that it is more useful for services and events. Dover District Council has also approved the Planning Application for the car parking improvements and external lighting in the churchyard. Villagers can see the plans displayed in the church as part of the public consultation process. Thanks to all who have so generously contributed to the project either directly or by supporting the various fundraising events. We have raised the huge sum of £70,000 of the £92,000 project cost, leaving a £22,000 shortfall. One way of closing this funding gap is by "gifts in kind" of materials and services to the project. We are extremely grateful to Warren Dixon of Action Carpets (flooring), John Huggins of Chunnel Plant Hire (ground works) and John Prince (cabinet making) for their kind offers of help. We invite you to become part of contributing to this lasting legacy to St Anthony's in whatever way you are able, please contact myself or Irene Barnard. **Geoff Gaskill (823100)**



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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 hall	
Monday	3 Parish Council meeting 7.30pm VH – all welcome
Tuesday	4 Metal detectors in village hall 7 to 9pm
Saturday	8 Alkham Fete on the village green starting at 1pm
Tuesday	11 W.I. in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	17 Bird club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	25 Film Night in village hall 7.30pm

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 25th June	Benefice Eucharist and rededication of bells by the Bishop of Dover 10.00 am at Hougham		
Sunday 2nd	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Saturday 8th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm (01303 243784)		
Sunday 9th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	
Sunday 16th	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 23rd	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		
Sunday 23rd	Benefice Eucharist at St Mary's (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

Newsletter brianwimsett@hotmail.com; **Hall booking** Val Fowler 827635
Parish Clerk Janice Lambert 07800 943434 alkham.pc@outlook.com
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784; **Church Wardens** Susannah Tapsell 822295 & Geoff Gaskill 823100; **MP Charlie Elphicke** - 01304 379669
KCC - Geoffrey Lymer 07960490929; **DDC - P Beresford** 216187; **N Dixon** 07815691638; **AVS** cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585; **Footpaths** antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
Webs www.alkham.org & www.alkhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk

FROM THE VICARAGE - A conversation I had recently brought back a long-forgotten childhood memory. I must have been about eight, and at school another boy had been picking on me for weeks. In the playground he finally shoved me once too often, and I retaliated by landing a punch on his chin. The sense of satisfaction didn't last, and what happened next must have persuaded me that it wasn't worth it. I've followed a rather different path in life ever since. The conversation was about the recent tragic events in Manchester and London. In the face of apparently senseless, indiscriminate violence our first thought is so often to hit back. But a while ago I came across an unusual book by former Archbishop of CapeTown Desmond Tutu and his daughter Mpho. Entitled The Book of Forgiving, what makes it unusual is that it is, I suppose, a handy guide to how to forgive. He writes from his own experience of how, with the end of apartheid in South Africa, the country could have chosen a bloodbath but chose forgiveness instead. He gives examples of the horrors that people there have, amazingly, managed to forgive - they don't make easy reading. Tutu would probably tell us faced with our own horrors we can choose between forgiveness and revenge. Revenge, he warns, is always costly. Choosing forgiveness doesn't excuse anything – it's not a soft option – but in the end it is those who forgive who find peace. That boy who made my life a misery? We ended up at the same secondary school and, until he and his family moved away and we lost touch, actually became friends. **Brian Williams**

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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No. 283 August 2017

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ALKHAM FETE - A huge "thank you" to everyone who helped out with the Fete on the 8th July. It was truly wonderful to see so many people, and so many new faces who mucked in with the

reliable regulars, there from the start of tent erecting at 8:30 a.m. through to the final clear up about 6 p.m. Thank you to all the stallholders, prize donators, fetch-and-carriers, and everyone who helped behind the scenes, before, during and after the Fete itself. You know who you are and it would be unfair to single out any individuals, but I am eternally grateful for your untiring and sterling work and the fact that I know that when you say something will be done, it is sorted. We took £3,865 on the day which, after the various expense, etc. should leave us with about £2,400 to donate to the church and village hall funds, so a marvellous effort all round. We will be having the usual September meeting (watch this space) to divide the spoils - please come along so I can thank you personally. **Paul Tapsell**

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION - There are two vacancies on the Alkham Parish Council and an election will be held at Alkham Village Hall on the 7th September to fill these positions. Notice of the election will be posted on the 4th August and candidates must apply to the Electoral Office of Dover District Council for a candidate pack (01304 872344). They will then have until 4pm on the 10th August to personally hand their application into the Electoral Offices at Whitfield. If anyone standing would like to put some details in the next Newsletter, please contact me. **editor**

PARISH PLAN - At the last Parish Council Meeting it was decided to look into the formulation of a Parish Plan which would outline the strategy for the village over the next few years. Geoff Hillier and Den Barnard have been tasked to review how we will proceed and they will be producing a proposal for the next Council Meeting on the next steps. It is envisaged that a small group will be set up of volunteers who can represent the village and decide how to involve the whole of Alkham by such things as questionnaires, village meetings, focus groups etc. It is hoped that this will lead to drafting of a Community Led Plan. If you are interested in helping with this initiative in any way please contact Geoff (01303 892878) or Den (01304 824845).

TRICIA WRIGHT, who lived in Glebelands, died on the 2nd July aged 86. She loved Alkham where she had lived for many years and involved herself with village activities. She was a keen animal and wildlife lover and will be missed by all her knew her.

THANKS - At the Parish Council meeting there was a rousing round of applause for Sue Lees, who has retired from her post as a Parish Councillor. From 1982 to 2005 she was a very effective Parish Clerk before moving onto the Parish Council. Sue is also the village historian with copious records and photos and the Alkham book would not have been possible without her. The applause was thoroughly deserved. **editor**

MANY THANKS to all of you who contributed such a wide variety of pictures for our very successful stall at the Fete.

Geoff and Rosemary Hillier

CONTACT DETAILS - The Parish Clerk said that she was contacted and asked what telephone number should be used to contact the police, apart from 999. The number to use for non-emergency incidents is 101 and on the back of this Newsletter there is now a separate box which also gives other contact details.

FILM NIGHT

July 25

Viceroy's House
with Hugh Bonneville

Aug 29

Their Finest
With Bill Nighy

Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50
Please bring your own refreshments

WOLVERTON - The temporary stop order on works at Wolverton Wood expired on the 26th June and a permanent stop order is now being pursued by Dover District Council.

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SEWAGE - We have had sewage problems at Chilton for more than 7 years and it is worsening. The latest incident has lasted 3 weeks, involves overflow from 3 manholes and has caused the death of another one of our sheep through pollution. We have written to Southern Water and the Environmental Agency, who are on the case. SW put it down to the waste people put down the drains: nappies, wipes, flushable wipes, food fat. **Ruth Marczin-Bundy**

MAJOR INCIDENT PLANNING - In the event of a major incident occurring in the village, the first line of contact will always be the 999 emergency services. However, it will probably be of great help to have local knowledge which can assist the professionals during major accidents or incidents. A volunteer group already exists for flood coordination and this will be extended to cover any type of major incident in the village. A proposal will be put forward at the next Parish Council Meeting in September; if you would like to be added to the volunteer list please contact Neil Burrows or Den Barnard.

DOVER - In a survey of UK's least favourite towns, Dover came first as the worst place to live in England. The authorities are trying to do something about it and have designated Temple Ewell as an area to work on and intend to make the first part of the 50mph section on the valley road from Bushy Ruff to Chilton a 40mph zone. The Parish Council thought this was a good idea as there have been a number of fatal accidents in this area, but they are writing to the authorities asking that it be extended to Alkham. Councillor Lymer thought they wouldn't agree to this as drivers don't like speed limits when there appears to be no good reason. **editor**

SPEED LIMIT - Hopefully the end of the 40mph speed limit from Round Hill Tunnel to Aycliffe on the A20 will reduce the amount of traffic on the Alkham Valley Road. When there is queueing at Aycliffe the variable speed signs will revert to 40mph.

CRAB APPLES are available for free in the centre of the village, if you'd like to pick them. Please phone 07973341772.

LAMB or hogget from local rare breed shetland sheep is for sale during the next few weeks. Shetlands produce very high-quality meat with outstanding flavour and fine texture. As with other primitive breeds Shetlands have far leaner meat than modern sheep breeds. Hogget is between 12 and 24 months and even more flavoursome than lamb. If you are interested in a half or whole animal please let me know. A whole is 16 -18kgs. Price is £7.95 per kg. **Peter Smith 07711 648255**

ALKHAM W.I. - We had an interesting talk from David Fagg about the Air Ambulance and how they work. Our next meeting will be on the 8th August and its fish and chip night followed by a quiz by the two Debbie's. Those of you who weren't at the July meeting but would like fish and chips please contact me on 07796360473 by end of July so then I can order them. Raffle, Helen Price and new members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

GARDEN TALK - Our next visit is to The Wicket, in Hogbrook Hill Lane (near the Village Hall) on Friday 18th August where we will see the major works that have been undertaken at this extended garden. Alison & Barry Spicer will welcome us from 7.30p.m. **Janet Adamson**

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ST ANTHONY'S GUITAR CONCERT

The annual St Anthony's Guitar Concert was an outstanding success once again on 24th June. A packed church was treated to some excellent performances from the past and present students of James D'Alton Ballas. From the solos of pupils as young as seven-year-old to the international standard of Grant



McFarlane Dowse (pictured) and the talented Simon Langton Quartet; the quality seems to improve every year. One of the highlights of the evening was created by invited guest Barney Court on piano when he played and sang 'Bridge Over Troubled Water' to a tremendous ovation. The evening raised £700 for the Friends of St Anthony's which will be doubled by a fabulous donation from Mark Loveday. Thanks to all who contributed, performed and helped. Looking forward to next year! **Den Barnard**

MITCH on NO WORDS NEEDED - So we were staying in a Maharaja's palace – as you do! An upmarket hotel now of course, but what splendour! What opulence! Huge airy rooms with carved doorways, immaculate blue and white linen; elegant courtyards with inlaid marble floors - birds, trees; balconies overlooking wide plains and salt pans, and barracks on the roof for the king's private army. Oh, and a pool of cool water gouged out of the rock inside. For kings they were, and lived like kings. But what I'm remembering is a moment of stillness in a day of bustle and heat. We had chosen bedrooms and gone down to the town below- a short jeep ride. So steep the gradient, the hairpin bends were only navigable alternatively forwards then backwards! We hung on with hands feet and fingernails giggling with the danger and excitement of it all. The driver loving every zig and zag! Walking in the town below the first surprise was a pig calmly walking across our path with six piglets following mum. Oblivious to our stares. Then down a narrow street flanked with waist-level cupboards almost – each a workshop for a single owner. Some with bales of cloth to sell, another a Singer sewing machine like one we had at home fifty years ago – this one a family's livelihood. Can you make me a skirt like this? asked one of our group. No, he said, I don't know that shape. And a girl selling water from a copper can with a curved swan's neck spout she'd pour water into your open mouth. Not free of course...Then, surrounded by chattering boys, playing cricket till we arrived – sport perhaps the best route out of poverty - they played on rough grit not smooth grass – until it became a bit too lively and we were hurried into the safety of a row of waiting took- tooks. Just before we moved off, an old man and I exchanged glances. I smiled. He smiled. Then held out my hand, as did he. Mine soft and pink, his dark and leathery, felt like wood. Eyes met. A shared smile across continents. You don't always need words.

Jane Mitchell



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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

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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 hall

Tuesday	1	Metal detectors in village hall 7 to 9pm
Tuesday	8	W.I. in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	19	SEK astronomical society in village pm
Monday	21	Bird club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	29	Film Night in village hall 7.30pm

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 6th	Benefice Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Saturday 12 th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 13 th	Benefice Eucharist St. Radigunds 10.00 am		
Sunday 20th	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 27th	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 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 - "I don't want my vicar on a racing bike with Lycra and a black cycle helmet!" said the voice on the radio. My ears pricked up. "I want my vicar on a sit-up-and-beg bike, with a long coat, horn-rimmed glasses and a cheery 'Good Morning!'" I try to fit the bill. I returned to two wheels a couple of years ago, more as an occasional cyclist than a serious twenty-mile-a-day man. I manage with just a fluorescent green jacket and a blue cycle helmet rather than Lycra. I've lost the reflective cycle clips – they were useless anyway. I'll attempt the cheery 'Good Morning,' as long as it doesn't involve falling off or hitting anything. True, in recent years cycling has been transformed from a gentle pursuit involving countryside, lemonade and sandwiches into something much more competitive. As a pedestrian, I'm uncomfortable with this - I dislike having to leap into the undergrowth on Dover Hill in order to avoid being run down by Team GB as they race down the footpath I'm using. Nor did I appreciate my close encounter with the Pink Tornado in the white helmet who was going for gold near Sainsbury's the other day. We vicars aren't allowed to do things like that. The expected smile and cheery 'Good Morning' should be essential kit for every cyclist anyway. Missing your parishioners by a whisker as you tear past lacks pastoral sensitivity, and forcing them off the footpath and into the undergrowth is definitely bad form. I work on Sunday mornings, but if your Sundays usually feature racing bikes and Lycra, remember – the churches are open. Drop in and give them a try - they should offer smiles, cheery 'Good Mornings,' coffee if you're lucky, and prayers for a safe ride home.

Brian Williams

POLICE 999 or 101

Newsletter brianwimsett@hotmail.com
Parish Clerk Janice Lambert 07800 943434 alkham.pc@outlook.com
Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
Church Wardens Susannah Tapsell 822295 & Geoff Gaskill 823100
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KCC - Geoffrey Lymer 07960490929
DDC - P Beresford 216187
WEBS www.alkham.org & www.alkhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
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No. 284 September 2017

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PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS – There are two vacancies on Alkham Parish Council and four people have put their names forward. **On page 2 of this Newsletter** they have written about themselves and why they are standing. The election takes place on the 7th September in Alkham Village Hall, times yet to be confirmed.

RIDE AND STRIDE is the county wide sponsored bicycle ride or walk to raise funds for Kent churches of all denominations and takes place on Saturday 9th September. This raised £137,000 in 2016 so get sponsorship to ride, walk or go by car to cover as many churches as possible to do the same or better in 2017. For Alkham, please contact Ken Hammond on 07552123205.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING - There will be a coffee morning on Saturday 23rd September in the village hall from 10am until 12noon. The coffee morning is in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, a very special charity that gives practical and financial help to cancer sufferers and their families. There will be a variety of stalls and a tombola. I would be very grateful to anyone who would be willing to bake a cake to sell on the day. Please come along to support this worthwhile cause and enjoy a hot drink, a piece of cake and great company. For further details please contact Sue Ross on 01304 825736. Thank you.

MARQUIS - Special 20% discount offer for Alkham Villagers at the Marquis for lunch and afternoon teas between 12 and 4pm – Mondays and Tuesdays. This includes drinks when consumed with food. The offer is also extended to people who receive the Newsletter by email. Book by calling 01304 873410 or email reception@themarquisatalkham.co.uk. Quote Alkham20 to obtain discount.

CHRISTINA BALIT lives in the village and is an accomplished artist. She is having an exhibition of limited prints in the Eight-Square Gallery, 64 The Old High Street, Folkestone, from Friday 2nd to the 16th of September (private viewing Friday 1st September 5pm to 8pm).

THE BIG SPORTS OPEN DAY - Come along to our fun, exciting and FREE open day at Three Hills Sports Park and discover what Shepway has to offer. Open to all! Fun runs; inflatables; bbq; Give it a go sessions with local sports clubs; workshops with sports ambassadors; family friendly activities and much more. Sunday 3rd September, Three Hills Sports Park, CT19 5JU, 10am-3pm, free entry. For more information, call 01303 760677.

GARDEN TALK - Heavy rain has not dampened our spirits, and has made everything look very lush in the garden. We next meet on Friday 8th September (please note change of date) at Woodstock on the Alkham Valley Road, where Helen and Don Hobday will welcome us from 7.00p.m. Full details of the programme for the remainder of this year from Janet Adamson (01303 893413).

FETE MEETING - There will be a Fete Meeting at 8 pm on the 6th September at 8 pm at the Village Hall to discuss this year's Fete, to decide the division of the spoils and to think about whether we are having a Fete next year - please come along if you have any views on these, or any other Fete-related, subjects. **Paul Tapsell 07947 016697**

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL is reviewing its Rights of Way Improvement Plan, which will be consulted on in late 2017/early 2018. They would like to hear views of Kent residents who use Public Rights of Way and those that do not. It would help if you could complete the survey on line <http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/rightsofwayimprovementplan/consultationHome> and, if you wish, it will give you a chance to write your concerns about damage to byways open to all traffic caused by motor vehicles and motor bikes.

W.I. JUMBLE SALE will be held in the village hall on the 9th September starting from 11am to midday.

PART TIME GARDENER required in central Alkham. 4 hours a week to do weeding, pruning and general gardening jobs. £10 per hour paid in cash. Please phone 07825 884295.

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26

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PEOPLE STANDING FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION

Tracey Prince BSc (Hons), PGCE, QTS, CELTA: I am 38 year old, qualified science teacher and founder of a successful private tutoring business in Alkham. I have lived in Alkham for over 10 years and have a strong determination to help maintain and strengthen our local community. I have a background in Maritime Environmental Science, ecology, and am a proactive conservation volunteer for organisations such as Pathwatch and the Marine Conservation Society. Should I be successful, I would strive to protect our beautiful parish and Sites of Special Scientific Interest from excessive traffic and over-development.

Martin Hibbert - I have lived in Alkham for 35 years and worked for the Dover Harbour Board managing port operations, liaising and negotiating with statutory and local authorities. For eleven years I was a Health and Safety advisor to the Government's Home Office departments. I have also supported charities for years with my miniature horses - "Alkham Small Wonders." Since retirement I have attended Parish Council meetings and believe that more can be achieved if the Council listens to and acts on residents' concerns such as valley traffic, increased off-road activity causing safety issues and inappropriate housing development. I support the need for a Parish Plan that fully listens to the voice of the community.

Gill Butler - I live with my husband, Graham, just off the Alkham Valley Road in Meggett Lane, and I'm therefore well aware of some of the growing concerns people have around the traffic and flooding problems on the Alkham Valley Road. I have worked for one of the South East's biggest Housing Associations for 15 years and currently I'm Head of Resident and Community Engagement. I consult with residents and listen to their views and ensure those views are put into action to make a difference to people's lives. I'm very aware of the impact of excessive and inappropriate housing development on communities and so fully supports the creation of a community-led plan which incorporates a development plan for the Parish going forward.

David Beaney - I was born and brought up in Alkham. I am a local business man, employing local people, sourcing locally produced products when ever possible. I am keen to preserve the wonderful character of our parish by ensuring development is tightly controlled by DDC. I am a great believer in listening to local people to ascertain what are their concerns, then attempt to resolve those concerns, a method I use in my business. I am aware the concerns of many in our community relate to commuter traffic, flooding, restricting the use of byways, ensuring community integration across the ages to support each other when and where ever possible to ensure we have a harmonious community for a better health and well being. This is why I wish to stand as a candidate for the Parish Council elections.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our August meeting started of with fish and chips from the Seafarers in Cheriton. We had a lovely fruit punch made by Debbie Saunders, which we enjoyed with our fish and chips. This was followed by a quiz from the two Debbie's and congratulations go to the winning team. It was lovely to see some new members and our next meeting is the 12th September about the Dogs Trust. Hostess's Debbie Griggs, Janet Gibbons; Raffle Susannah Tapsell; V.O.T Sue Ross. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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ALKHAM HEROES - Ralph Drake-Brockman was the son of Alfred and Catherine Drake-Brockman and born on the 17th March, 1888 at 78 Cheriton Road, Folkestone. The Brockman family lived at Chalksole from 1913 - 1919. Between 1902 - 1906 Ralph attended Dover College and was a Prefect, Head of House and Captain of the Running Team.

The 1911 Census shows that Ralph was single and a 23 year old Law Student. By 1913, Ralph was working as a solicitor in Folkestone. Ralph, serving as Lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery, was awarded the Military Cross on 18th June 1917. He was "killed in action", aged 29, at Messines, Belgium on Saturday, September 29th 1917 when a shell exploded as he, his brother and their Colonel were reconnoitring for an observation post. Ralph is buried at Kandahar Farm Cemetery, Belgium. A cross will be placed on the wall at the bottom of Slip Lane on the anniversary of the centenary of Ralph's death. See the Heroes section of the village website for more details. **Mark Robson**

BEWARE of cards being left through letterboxes by scammers, advising you have missed a delivery. The cards are very similar to those left by Royal Mail, except they don't have the Royal Mail Logo. They ask you to phone an 0208 number about re delivery but this is a scam taking money by dialling this false telephone number.

OZ on 'MESSIAH' AGAIN – I'm adding the word 'again' because I've written here before, in January 2003, on the life of Georg Handel and the profound influence of his great oratorio Messiah on the development of English choral music. Throughout the 19th century, thousands of large amateur choral societies sprang up all over the country and Dover was no exception. The Dover Choral Society archive records that between 1846 and the present day at least six major choirs, under slightly different names, fed the town's choral aspirations. The most recent of these, Dover Choral Union from 1892 to 1941, and Dover Choral Society from 1946 to today, formed a continuum that would probably have remained unbroken were it not for the war. It was for that reason that, earlier this year, it was decided to hold a dinner in Dover Town Hall to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the two societies. By far the most frequently performed work over those years has been Handel's Messiah and we are performing it again at this year's autumn concert. If you have ever considered trying out choral singing for the first time, or returning to it, there is no better time or place to start or resume! There are friendly singers in all voice parts who are very happy to help and guide new singers. Rehearsals are held every Thursday in River Methodist Church. The concert will take place on Saturday 18 November in Dover Town Hall, with full orchestra and professional soloists. If you would like further information about this concert, our fees, rehearsal commitments, or anything else, please do not hesitate to contact us via our Facebook page – Dover Choral Society – or webpage – doverchoralsociety.org.uk. The concert promises to be a fantastic experience both for performers and audience members. Don't miss out! Steve Osborn



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Other Events in the village hall		
Tuesday	5	Metal detectors 7 to 9pm
Wednesday	6	Fete meeting 8.00pm
Thursday	7	Parish Council elections.
Saturday	9	W.I. Jumble Sale 11 am
Saturday	9	SEK astronomical society in the afternoon
Monday	11	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm – all welcome
Tuesday	12	W.I. 7.30pm
Monday	18	Bird club 7.30pm
Saturday	23	Macmillan Coffee Morning 10am – see page 1
Tuesday	26	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sun 3 rd	Evensong 6.30 pm		Communion 9.30 am
Saturday 9 th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm <i>All welcome!</i>		
Sunday 10 th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	
Sunday 17 th	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		
Sunday 24 th	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am

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

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FROM THE VICARAGE - There must something about coffee. My father lived alone in later life. When I rang to ask how he was, he nearly always told me that he had taken the bus into town, been shopping, and had coffee. He never missed having coffee. He had become quite deaf, and would avoid family and other social gatherings rather than face the embarrassment of not being able to follow conversation. But I've never forgotten going with him to the café where he used to have coffee – and for the first time in years seeing him smiling and chatting with people who had become his friends, and who naturally raised their voices to include him in their conversation without giving it a second thought. In the parish where I was a curate, a young man started coming to church whose life had been difficult. One morning after the service he asked if we could meet for coffee and a chat. Sadly, it never happened. Tragically and unexpectedly, he died a couple of weeks later. I remarked to someone that the promised coffee and chat would have to wait for heaven. "Don't worry," he replied, "he'll have a coffee waiting for you when you get there." I was reminded of all this by the twice-monthly Friday coffee mornings that we have started holding at St Radigund's in Capel, and the joy of seeing people coming together, chatting, smiling and making friends. Yes, there is definitely something about coffee. I don't know whether they have coffee in heaven or not - but since Jesus once described the Kingdom of Heaven as being like someone giving a banquet, I wouldn't be at all surprised. There must be something there that goes with coming together, chatting, smiling and making friends...

Brian Williams

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TRAFFIC – In 1993, before the new A20 to Dover was opened, there was about 7000 vehicles per day (vpd) on the Alkham Valley Road. In 1998, after the first traffic calming measures were

introduced in Alkham, KCC did a traffic count and recorded 5500 vpd but predicted that it would rise to 7000 vpd again. Geoff Hillier said at the recent Parish Council meeting that the traffic count in May recorded 5366 vpd west bound and 5136 vpd east bound. The Parish Council have agreed to fund another survey, following the removal of the 40mph limit on the A20 (TAP), to see if any traffic has returned to the A20. The photo (thanks to Pat Yeomans) shows the bend by the green in the 1930's when there was, a then worrying, 300 vpd. **editor**

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS – There was a very good turn'out for the election with 268 people voting. The winning candidates are Martin Hibbert and David Beany and the losing candidates, Gill Butler and Tracey Prince, did commendably well. The new Councillors were welcomed at the well-attended Parish Council meeting on the 11th September and promised to represent the interests of all the community and different groups within the community.

PARISH PLAN - It was reported at the last Parish Council Meeting that a small group of volunteers have put themselves forward to help to draft a Parish Plan. It is important that the whole of the village is included in this exercise by ensuring that all views and ideas are included so please if you have any thoughts and ideas on how you would like to see the future of Alkham please let us know. Whilst the Parish Council will be coordinating this work, it is hoped that the result will be a Community Led Plan which will help in decision making in the future and will help to communicate to the village what is being planned. There will be a variety of methods to seek your views such as questionnaires, focus groups, village meetings etc so please have a think and participate when these are organised. In the mean time ideas and thoughts please to Geoff Hillier (01303 892878) or Den Barnard (01304 824845.) **Den Barnard**

BUSES – The timetable for buses through Alkham has been changed and during the main part of the day there is a bus almost every hour. The revised timetable at Alkham is on the back page of the Newsletter.

HARVEST SUPPER - The harvest supper will take place Monday October 9th at 7.30pm in the village hall. Please come along to this traditional village evening and enjoy the popular hot supper of cottage pie and vegetables followed by apple pie/crumble and cream. This usually becomes a jolly sociable event – some say with the aid of one or two glasses – and with the expertise of the ever-youthful Paul Tapsell we continue the evening with the auction and raffle. Prizes for the raffle would be appreciated. It would be most helpful to know numbers as early as possible please. Tickets and payments in advance only please. Tickets £6.00 from Anne Huggins 824340 and Irene Barnard 824845.

MANY THANKS to Valerie Banks for delivering the Newsletter to Meggett Lane and the Valley Road for nearly 20 years. Lynn Fournier has kindly agreed to take over from her.

CONGRATULATIONS to Beverley Tailor, of Drellingore Terrace, for completing the 100K South Coast Challenge Walk over the August Bank Holiday.

ALKHAM GARDEN CENTRE is now selling basic groceries such as milk, sugar, and teabags and also beefburgers, sausages and bacon. They have made a lot of improvements and look forward to seeing you.

FILM NIGHT

Sept. 26	LION with Nichol Kidman
October 31	Churchill with Brian Cox

Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50
Please bring your own refreshments

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PATH – Although it is not a public footpath, the village hall has had a concrete path constructed behind and to the side of the hall. It is used by a lot of people to avoid going through the narrow gap on the Valley Road. The work was carried out by Ben Spicer, who lives nearby,

and he has done a superb job. Fencing was put across the path whilst the concrete set but someone pulled it down and walked over the path, which was both thoughtless and arrogant. Any discolouration is down to the hall as we asked Ben to use the sharp sand from the rotting sandbags (probably with road salt in) and aggregate. **editor UPDATE** - The three people who were seriously injured as a result of the car hitting the wall in the centre of Alkham in June have been discharged from hospital. There were no fatalities and no arrests have been made but the investigation is ongoing.

WOLVERTON WOODS a permanent tree preservation order has been placed on Wolverton Woods, which was sold at auction on the 12th September for £88,000.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE ON BYWAYS - For the second time in recent weeks 4x4s have driven off the Bullrun (ER122) through crops at Chalksole Farm. The latest incident on the night 21/22 August was driving through a field of maize that is approximately six feet high. That follows an identical incident on 31 July at the same place. Vehicles are also driving around in circles in pasture and up steep banks which contain masses of wild flowers. These incidents have been reported to the Police and details and the crime reference numbers given to KCC Public Rights of Way. If you see damage caused by byway related crime - such as criminal damage to adjoining property or driving off the byways - do report it to the Police by calling 101 and obtaining a reference number. Please give details to KCC Public Rights of Way. **Peter Smith**

GARDEN TALK - Our next visit is to Box Tree in Slip Lane on Friday 6th October, where Pam Sayers looks forward to welcoming us from 7.00p.m. Whilst there we will be preparing for our December Meeting - the last for this year. **Janet Adamson**

GRANTS worth up to £30,000 are available for property adaptations to help disabled people, both young and old, to continue to live independent lives in their own homes. Funding is available for homeowners and those who rent privately or through a housing association. Items covered include outdoor ramps, flush floor showers, through lifts, stair lifts, widening doorways and extensions. Call Dover District Council on 01304 872397 or email privatesectorhousing@dover.gov.uk.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our speaker for the evening was Lara Murphy from the Dogs Trust who gave us a very interesting talk. Our next meeting is 10th October when our speakers are George Taylor and Peter Clayton on 'We'll Meet Again'. Hostesses are Janet Adamson and Pat Yeoman's; V.O.T. Shelley Jackson; Raffle Alison Warnock. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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COME AND JOIN US decorating Saint Anthony's Church for Harvest Festival on Saturday morning October 7. Bring with you any wonderful flowers that you might have in your garden, berries, pumpkins too! We will be in the church from 9:30 am for a couple of hours. Everybody is welcome. **Linda Gaskill**

OZ on THE GREAT STORM – Thirty years ago, on 15 October 1987, after being reassured by BBC TV's weather presenter Michael Fish that no hurricane was on its way, we drove with friends to Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre to enjoy Mozart's The Magic Flute. Seated high up "in the Gods" we were mightily impressed in Act II when, as the Queen of the Night started to sing "A hellish rage burns in my heart", the theatre roof began to flap up and down, apparently about to lift off, and we could hear the wind shrieking outside. Driving home along the A2 afterwards, we saw many huge TIRs blown off course, two of them onto their sides, and realized that something unusual was going on. Next morning, awoken at 4am by the wind noise, we looked out of the window to see all the branches on the oak tree rotating furiously, with what appeared to be coloured lights at their tips. The road was silent as trees had fallen on each side of us. There seemed little we could do at that stage, so we returned to bed and pulled the sheets over our heads. Later, after some trees had been cleared, my wife managed to drive to work but had to walk the last half mile, stepping over fallen trees blocking the drive. The storm's damage, particularly to ecology, was enormous and well-documented. What is less reported are the positive effects of the disaster, such as increased diversity and health of woodlands, and a vast increase in techniques of weather prediction and reporting. After the storm, the Meteorological Office set up the National Severe Weather Warning Service. Incidentally it wasn't technically a hurricane, as it didn't originate in the tropics. A more accurate description would have been 'winds of hurricane strength.' **Steve Osborn**

NEWSLETTER – The financial year for the Newsletter ended in August and I'm pleased to say it broke even. The cost of producing the Newsletter over the year was £456; posting the Newsletter to 24 people was about £144; petrol was £12 and the web site cost £36. The total was £648 and the revenue from adverts was £658. **editor**



Every little helps

ELHAM VALLEY – The Elham Valley Light Railway Company built a line from Folkestone to Canterbury, serving the villages of Lylinge, Elham, Barham, Bishopsbourne, and Bridge. The line is no more but the station at Lylinge is still there as are a lot of tunnels and bridges. In 1884 the South Eastern Railway hurriedly absorbed the Elham Valley Company to counteract the threat from the London, Chatham & Dover Railway's plan to build a line from Kearsney to Folkestone via the Alkham Valley. In March 2006, there was a model of the proposed Alkham station in the British Railway Modelling magazine, which was later displayed in the village hall.



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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 hall		
Tuesday	3	Metal detectors 7 to 9pm
Monday	9	Harvest Supper 7.30pm – see page 1
Tuesday	10	Alkham W.I. 7.30pm
Saturday	14	SEK astronomical society in the afternoon
Monday	16	Bird club 7.30pm
Saturday	24	W.I. quiz
Tuesday	31	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 1st	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Sunday 8th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11 am	West Hougham
Harvest Festival	Village Hall 4.00 pm		
Saturday 14th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 15th	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 22nd	Benefice Eucharist 10am Alkham		
Sunday 29th	Benefice Eucharist St Mary's (Capel Old Church) 10.00 am		

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

07.59 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 14.16 15.16 17.16 18.16
Sat. 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 15.16 17.16
9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 16.07 16.32 17.32 18.32
Sat. 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 16.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - The battle to tame the Vicarage garden continues. I haven't won yet, but neither have I completely lost. You should see what surfaced unexpectedly over the summer when I attacked the undergrowth with the rake – plastic carrier bags, yoghurt pots, toys lost while being played with in the garden years ago (too broken to salvage – sorry, kids!), and even a faded Walkers Crisps packet that the internet says dated from 1988. I binned it along with everything else, though I suppose I could have tried selling it to a collector... Plastic doesn't go away. In fact an email I received recently claims that the Pacific Ocean now contains enough waste plastic to cover an area the size of France and that if nothing changes there will one day be more plastic than fish in our oceans. So would I sign a petition demanding that the United Nations declare all this plastic the world's 196th country – The Trash Isles? Now as ideas go, this isn't as daft as it sounds. Under international law, the argument goes, if The Trash Isles were recognised as a country, the other 195 would be legally obliged to clean it all up instead of continuing to add to it. Many churches are observing the Season of Creation between 1st September and 4th October – St Francis of Assisi's Feast Day. Harvest Festival follows. It's a time for thinking about the natural world, our care of it, our dependence on it, giving thanks for all that it gives us and thinking of the needs of others. In case you're wondering, yes, I did sign. No, I'm not planning to emigrate to The Trash Isles anytime soon – but I'm still out in the garden with my rake and wheelie bin, doing my bit. **Brian Williams**

POLICE 999 or 101

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Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
Church Wardens Susannah Tapsell 822295 & Geoff Gaskill 823100
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
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PATH – Many thanks to Alison Spicer (and son Ben) who very kindly offered to plant the verges by the new concrete path behind the village hall. We gave Alison £100 to buy the shrubs, which her son Ben then planted. The narrow road adjacent to the Marquis is

difficult to walk through, so we have improved the path round the back of the hall and added another light; the path cost £1263 to construct.

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY AGM - The AGM of the Society will be held on Tuesday 21st November at 7pm in the Village Hall. The acting Chairman and Honorary Treasurer for the past 14 years, Mr Barry Sheppard, has stood down and elections for all officers and committee members of the Society will be held. Nominations for the election of officer from any current member should be made by emailing the Hon Secretary (Jo Walker) at alkhamvalleysociety@btinternet.com prior to the meeting; all nominations must be supported by a seconder who should also be a current Society member. The guest speaker will be Robert Warnock from Church Farm at Capel on the subject of "farming in the Alkham Valley". Members are reminded that their annual subscriptions (£5 per person) will be due and should be paid at the AGM. We will welcome anyone who has the interest of the Valley at heart and who wishes to listen to the very interesting talk from Robert to join us on the evening. As usual a curry supper (£5 per head) and quiz after the AGM at the Fox in Temple Ewell has been arranged by the Hon Sect for members. **Bev Hubbard**

SPEEDWATCH - We want to carry out more regular sessions of Speedwatch but to do so we need further volunteers to share the load. Drivers need to be aware that Speedwatch operates in Alkham. Please email Geoff Hillier on gdhillier@hotmail.com if you'd like to help.

Southern Equestrian and the Alkham Valley Garden Centre would like to invite you all to our Annual Christmas Late Night Shopping on Thursday 30th November until 8pm! There will be mince pies and mulled wine and we look forward to seeing you there!

FATHER CHRISTMAS is visiting Alkham at Greenwood Farm, Chalksole Green Lane, on the 3rd and 10th of December from 4pm to 5.30pm. He will be in his log cabin with his elves in the enchanted fairy lit wood and every child will receive a gift from Father Christmas. Donations to Demelza House. **Anne & John Huggins**

TEMPLE EWELL C of E Primary School - Our 2018 Reception class Open Morning will be held on Thursday 16th November 2017 at 9.15 or 10.30am. Please call the office on 01304 822665 to book your place.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

A huge thank you to all who supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning in the village hall on Saturday 23rd September. We all had a lovely morning and with the money raised on the day and lots of very generous donations given before and after the event I have been able to send £800.00 to this wonderful charity. So many of you were kind enough to bake the most delicious cakes, which were all sold! I was given some wonderful items to sell on the various stalls and lots of prizes for the tombola. The plant stall was also very popular. Thank you to everyone who helped in so many different ways to make it such a success. **Sue Ross**

ALKHAM VALLEY GARDEN CENTRE

Free Tearoom tasting days 4th & 5th November 11.00am to 3.00pm. Come along and try the food we serve and sell. See our new Christmas display and meet Santa! Visit our new Farm Shop, Fresh Fruit and Veg along with numerous other essentials.

BIKE – A lady's bike, which is in good condition, was found by the gate of Alkhamhurst Kennels. If you have lost it, or would like to have it, please phone Cate on 01304 822420.

FILM NIGHT

October 31	Churchill with Brian Cox
Nov. 31	Dunkirk

Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50
Please bring your own refreshments

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TRAFFIC – The Alkham Valley Road has always been a source of concern. In 1905 the Parish Council wrote to the Rural DC about the smoke from traction engines going through the village and 18 years later complained that 20 vehicles per hour were travelling along it. In the 1960's some improvements were made to the road and in 1969 the Parish Council complained that the traffic had greatly increased and was driving too fast (see photo). In 1981 the M20 was built to Folkestone and in 1993, when the new A20 to Dover was opened, it effectively made the Valley Road an elongated slip road. The Parish Council are looking at options and more details will be included in next month's Newsletter. **editor**

HARVEST SUPPER – Once again the evening went very well and everyone seemed to enjoy the cottage pie supper. It was wonderful to see so many friends and neighbours gathered together for this annual event. The evening raised a total of £720.00 which is being doubled by The Mark Loveday Charitable Trust for which we are truly grateful. This year the proceeds will be donated to the St Anthony's Church kitchen and toilette project, with work planned to commence in January. This evening could only be the success it was because of those who helped by making cottage pies and crumbles, preparing the hall and washing up, and donating produce and raffle prizes. Finally, thank you Paul for your sparkling wit and encouragement throughout the auction. **Anne Huggins and Irene Barnard**

GUY FAWKES NIGHT will soon be upon us but already residents are being subject to the misuse of fireworks within the village area. Nothing wrong with celebrating events with fireworks, and the law supports this with published guidance. What I would respectfully suggest is that it is not acceptable to set off bird scarier type rockets in the village mid-afternoon, upsetting neighbours, the elderly, dog walkers, horse riders and livestock. Living in a rural community, especially Alkham, residents are just a stone's throw away from valuable livestock and vulnerable people. There is a need to respect that. Fireworks used responsibly are not a problem, used irresponsibly they are dangerous, anti-social, and likely to cause harm. Let us not accept this behaviour in our community. **Martin Hibbert**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our speakers for October were George Taylor and Peter Clayton who they gave a very interesting talk. Our November meeting is our AGM meeting followed by an auction; members that weren't at the October meeting please bring something along with you i.e. unwanted presents or gifts that you have received in the past. There will be no WI Quiz in the village hall at the end of October. Hostesses are Debbie Griggs and Susannah Tapsell; Raffle Cherry Leopard. New members welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

GARDEN TALK - After a busy summer of enjoyable meetings, we are now preparing for our seasonal meal to round off the year. This will be at Halton Court, Alkham Valley Road on Friday 8th December. Any members wishing to attend, please let me know by mid-November as catering needs to be arranged. **Janet Adamson 01303 893413**

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ALKHAM versus ELHAM

A House of Commons Select Committee was instructed to investigate the proposals of two competing companies to provide a railway service from Folkestone to Canterbury. On the 23rd of

May 1884 they started taking evidence from the London, Chatham and Dover Railway Company (LC & DR) and the South Eastern Railway Company (SER). The LC & DR wanted to connect to the London to Dover main line at Ewell (Temple Ewell) and then build a railway along the Alkham Valley to the up-and-coming resort of Folkestone. The SER favoured a route from Shorncliffe (Cheriton) along the Elham Valley to Canterbury where it would join the London to Dover line. There was spirited discussion and John Collard, the publican at the Marquis of Granby who also produced hop poles, wanted a station at Alkham and so preferred the LC & DR proposal. The Committee found in favour of the SER and a main line standard railway was built along the Elham Valley. The photo shows a model of a station, that might have been, at Alkham as imagined by Ian Hollis. Time has shown that both proposals had no future as the Elham valley line was closed in 1947. If you have some spare time, go and search for the route along the Elham valley; there are some fascinating remnants including two tunnels and a deep cutting through Etchinghill (Each end Hill AL). **editor**

OZ on THE GREAT STORM (2) – While researching last month's story, I discovered that in 1703 England suffered a previous massive weather event, the first to be reported nationally by the new and growing journalism trade. It was known as 'The Great Storm', and occurred on 26 November (7 December in today's Gregorian Calendar), over southern England, with similar, but much heavier, consequences than those of the 1987 storm. The 1703 storm, retrospectively classified as a hurricane, hit the Welsh coast at midnight on 7 December and travelled rapidly through the Midlands to the South coast, where it did the greatest damage. On the way, it caused flooding that killed hundreds of people and thousands of animals in the West Country, and drove ship 15 miles inland. The first Eddystone Lighthouse was destroyed, killing the builder and five others. In the New Forest 4,000 oak trees were uprooted, and London alone lost 2,000 brick chimney stacks. Among the heaviest losses were those of shipping and seamen, both naval and commercial. The Royal Navy lost 13 ships and over 1,500 seamen, including the whole Channel Squadron, and over 40 merchant ships were lost. Over 1,000 men were lost on East Kent's Goodwin Sands, but amazingly some 200 were rescued by Deal boatmen in their tiny luggers, 82 years before the invention of the first unsinkable lifeboat. Many of these facts were collected by Daniel Defoe for inclusion in his book *The Storm*, published in July 1704. It didn't sell well, maybe because the events were recent and distressing, maybe at revulsion against Defoe's archaic view that the storm was a divine punishment for England's poor performance during the first year of the War of the Spanish Succession. However, the book is now regarded as 'the first substantial work of modern journalism.' **Steve Osborn**



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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm	
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am	
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am Whist Drive 7.30 pm	
Other Events in the village hall		
Tuesday	7	Metal detectors 7 to 9pm
Saturday	11	SEK astronomical society in the afternoon
Tuesday	14	Alkham W.I. 7.30pm
Monday	20	Bird club 7.30pm
Tuesday	21	AVS AGM 7pm – see page 1
Saturday	25	Beekeepers in the afternoon
Tuesday	28	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 5th	Praise 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Saturday 11th	Messy Church Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 12th	Remembrance Service		
	10.15 am	10.15 am	10.30 am
Sunday 19th	Service 11.00 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 26th	Benefice Eucharist with Prayer Ministry 10.00 am Capel		

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

07.59 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 14.16 15.16 17.16 18.16 Sat. 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 15.16 17.16
9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 16.07 16.32 17.32 Sat. 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 16.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - The girl on the bus had quarrelled with someone. "I told her – I'm fed up with it!" she told her friend. I know what you're thinking: "Fancy eavesdropping on private conversations - how rude!" Well, it wasn't exactly private; she was sitting at the front of the bus, telling all to her friend who was sitting half way along; I was sitting at the back along with everyone else. She was still explaining to a busload of passengers why she was so fed up when we reached my stop. November brings All Saints Day and Remembrance Sunday, with their focus on thoughts of our Eternal Home. Jesus said plenty about the best way to get there. In explaining, he warned his disciples that what is said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what is whispered behind closed doors will be proclaimed from the housetops. You can probably work out what he was trying to tell them. Of course, this was in a world before buses and mobile phones. I was once aboard a busy morning train to London when peace and quiet gave way to the ringing of a mobile phone just a few seats away. It rang again, and then again. Gradually we all became aware that Daughter Two was resisting Daughter One's attempts to get her ready for school. Mum's voice rose with exasperation as the drama at home unfolded, until everyone knew where to find her clean PE kit! I wonder – did Jesus know that we would one day live in a world in which what is whispered behind closed doors might easily end up being proclaimed not just from the housetops but also on the top decks of buses, or aboard trains to London? I wonder... **Brian Williams**

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 AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
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 KCC - Geoffrey Lymer 07960490929
 DDC - P Beresford 216187
 WEBS www.alkham.org &
www.alkhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk

To contact the Parish Clerk or Councillors phone 07800 943434 or email alkham.pc@outlook.com

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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No. 287 December 2017

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FATHER CHRISTMAS is visiting Alkham at Greenwood Farm, Chalksole Green Lane, on the 3rd and 10th of December from 4pm to 5.30pm. He will be in his log cabin with his elves in the enchanted fairy lit wood and every child will receive a gift from Father Christmas. Donations to Demezla House. **Anne & John Huggins**



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS DISCO – There will be a disco for children, from tots to teens, in the village hall on the 9th December starting at 2pm and finishing at 4:30pm, giving time to get to the Christmas Tree lights switch-on. The cost of the disco is £3 per child and there will be a tuck shop and light refreshments for sale. **David Beaney**



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – The lights on the village Christmas tree, which is near the swings on the green, will be switched on at 4.45pm on the 9th December. Carols will be sung and afterwards The Marquis has invited everybody over for mince pies and mulled wine.

THE SPEED LIMIT will be revised from Temple Ewell along the Valley Road to Alkham with the 30mph limit being extended by about 300m followed by a 40mph limit to the Chilton area.

BYWAYS – Andrew Hutchinson, KCC Rights of Way Officer, kindly came to the Parish Council meeting to give an update on Pimlico Way and the Bull Run. We are now top of the list and he will shortly be seeking the views of local people as to the way forward.

BUSES – Following the introduction of the new timetable, the bus to Dover now takes longer as it goes via River and Buckland Hospital.

FOOTBALL PITCH – A bollard is going to be installed at the entrance to the football pitch to stop vehicles going onto the grass and causing damage. In addition, a post and rail fence is being erected over the open ground behind the goal post adjacent to the bollard.

ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH temporary closure - We are delighted that the long awaited and planned project to install a kitchenette and toilet will begin mid-January 2018. We are also very happy that the works will include much needed path lighting and Phase 2 will include limited parking. The works is expected to last between 15/16 weeks and the Church will be generally closed daily during this time. However, there are some planned services which will be advertised on the notice board and in the Newsletter. **St Anthony's PCC**

FOR SALE lady's size 16 Cotton Traders quilted coat with detachable hood – colour lilac. Worn once only £30. Please call 01304 268731.

THE PROPOSED traffic calming solutions for Alkham, drawn up by the Parish Council's Traffic Action Group (see page 2), will be explained and discussed, at an open meeting, to be held at the Village Hall on Thursday 7th December at 7.00 pm. Please come along and voice your views on this important subject. **Geoff Hillier**

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - There will be the annual walk on 27th December starting from the Alkham Village Hall at 10.30 a.m. and ending around midday. Everyone, and their dogs are welcome. It is an opportunity to meet, walk and talk. As usual, the more the merrier. Get your brain sharp for the Village Quiz. **J Walker (Sec)**

DEMONSTRATION and opportunity to create your own Christmas arrangement on Wednesday 13th December between 2pm and 5pm in the village hall. The workshop costs £25 and for more information please ring Shirley Prince on 828098.



NOVEMBER FILM

Sorry, we got it wrong, as the Dunkirk film for November is not available until mid-December. We will therefore be showing 'Midnight Run' with Robert De Niro in its place and entry is free.

FILM NIGHT

November 28	Midnight Run
December	No film
Jan 30	Dunkirk

Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50
Please bring your own refreshments

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TRAFFIC ACTION GROUP (TAG) - At the Parish Council meeting, Geoff Hillier outlined the groups proposals for making the Alkham Valley Road less attractive to through traffic and said that these proposals will be presented to the residents of Alkham for their views via a questionnaire to be distributed in the next Newsletter. In summary, the proposals are to move the start of the eastern 30 mph speed limit to Wolverton Hill and at the western end to the existing 40 mph signs by Spring Meadow. A gateway will be erected here at the western end of the village and another at the eastern end where the existing 30 mph sign is located. The road width will be reduced giving priority flow to traffic leaving the village. There will be a 20 mph speed limit, through the village, from the eastern gateway to the location of the existing 40 mph sign, which will become a 30 mph sign, towards the west. To enforce the limit, further road narrowings with priority flow will be installed at several locations within the 20 mph zone, including the Marquis, where the carriageway width will be reduced to have a 1.2m wide footpath by the wall to Forstal Cottage. A pedestrian crossing is also proposed near the village green play area. From the new 30 mph signs by Spring Meadow a 40 mph speed limit would be introduced to just beyond the Capel/ Hawkinge cross road by Patio Products, and then a 50 mph limit for the rest of the Alkham Valley Road westward. Weight restrictions are also proposed. The estimated cost of these measures would be in the order of £100,000 and it may be necessary to introduce the measures in a phased way to spread the cost to KCC and it is expected that the Parish will be called upon to contribute towards these costs, requiring funds to be raised over the period. By means of a questionnaire the residents of Alkham will be asked to prioritise these changes in the order to which they should be introduced (the original is on www.alkham.org). **Geoff Hillier**

ALKHAM HISTORY – An index for 'A Brief History – Alkham Parish' has been produced. It is one sheet of A4 and if you'd like a free copy please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com or phone 824969. There is a photo in the book of two boys standing outside a house called Homestead, and evidently the person in the bubble car in the photo on page 2 of last month's Newsletter was their brother Brian. **Editor WHIST** is played in the village hall every Friday night and Chris Tapsell currently organizes it, but would like someone to take over from him. Please ring Chris on 01304 831724 if you are interested. In the 1950's, whist used to be played in the public bar of the Marquis of Granby and a reporter from the Dover Express wrote an article about them together with a photo, which showed the players, with the ladies wearing hats. The following week the police raided the Marquis as playing cards for money was against the law.

COMMUNITY PLAN - The first meeting of the team, which is putting together the Community Plan for Alkham, has taken place.

SNOW WARDENS are local volunteers who give up their spare time to help clear snow during bad weather in the winter. More details www.dover.gov.uk/Community/Snow-Wardens.aspx.

ALKHAM W.I. - The meeting on 14th November was the AGM, our last meeting before Christmas. Our Christmas meal will be on the 12th December at the Fox at Temple Ewell; all members to be there between 7 to 7.30pm. Alkham W.I. members will be carol singing on the 30th November at 6pm at Alkham Valley Garden Centre. We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. **Debbie Griggs**

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ALKHAM HEROES - George Bailey was the 'dearly beloved only son' of Robert and Sarah Bailey. The 1911 Census shows that George was aged 21, single and a Railway Clerk. George enlisted as a Gunner in the 2nd Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery on January 11th 1916 at Shorncliffe. George's Service Records, and the note from his commanding officer to his parents, states that George was killed instantaneously serving his King and Country, but this was not the case. George's Unit's War Diary records that "A sad incident occurred about 11 p.m. tonight, one of our gunners, Gnr George Bailey, was shot and killed by a French civilian". George is recorded as dying on Wednesday 26th December which was also the birthday of his twin sisters. He was 26 years old. George is buried at Villers-au-Bois Cemetery, Pas de Calais. At the time of his death George's parents ran the Carpenter's Arms at South Alkham. A cross will be added to the memorial wall at the bottom of Slip Lane to mark the centenary of George's death. For more info please visit the Heroes page of the village website. **Mark Robson**

PIMLICO WAY – The Parish Council wrote to the local authority in the 1930's and said that the condition of the road from South Alkham to Pimlico, known as Marsh's Hill, was in a very bad condition due to increased use by motorists and requested action. The same was said about the track to Mount Ararat, so 80 years later the same problems prevail except it's now mostly leisure related. 

MITCH ON GRANNIE - Born the twelfth of fifteen children, Grannie was the prettiest and lived the longest - a hundred minus six weeks. Walnut Tree Cottage in a small Shropshire village was home, though not to all at once! The eldest few would have been long gone when the youngest arrived. Selling home-made bread from the cottage door was one income but what did the others do? I'm a bit hazy on that front though I know of at least one farm worker, another a horse doctor, another in charge of a 'big house' garden, and Grannie left school about twelve - to look after a vicar's three children, thirty miles away, home just once a year on Mothers' Day. There is a wonderful family portrait - mother and father Anne and Levi sitting serious and sedate with all the offspring pranged around, the oldest already greying, the youngest about twelve. Anne's nightly prayer was to live to see the youngest grow up. And she did! He was a young teenager and she an old lady of sixty-five. And what did Grannie's three children do? My Mum taught ceramic design after Goldsmith's; my lovely aunt was a hairdresser and Uncle Johnnie a land surveyor. But what I'm thinking today is that more than half of my generation (we are ten cousins) chose to teach – Languages, Chemistry, Primary Children, Maths, English Lit - a good spread! But that none of our children just one generation later is a classroom teacher. So was teaching a stepping stone career for us – a route out for the aspiring socially mobile? Certainly no lack of respect in those days – teachers and vicars equally valued in towns and villages. Now teenagers dream of being famous but without quite knowing what they want to be famous for. When my son aged twelve saw both parents up late marking every night I heard him mutter, 'I'm going to be a milkman when I grow up'. The wheel turns! Sociologists will know the whys and hows... **Jane Mitchell**



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Saturday	9	Christmas tree lights turn-on – see page1
Saturday	9	SEK astronomical society in the afternoon
Monday	18	Bird club 7.30pm

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 3rd	Benefice Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		
Saturday 9th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 10th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Carols Capel Village Hall 3.00 pm	Carols West Hougham Hall 5pm
Sunday 17th	9 Lessons & Carols 6.30 pm	Worship 11.00 am	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 24th	Crib service 4.30 pm Midnight Mass 11.30pm	Crib service 3.00 pm Midnight Mass 11.30 pm	
Monday 25th			Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 31st	Benefice Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

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

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9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 16.07 16.32 17.32 Sat. 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 16.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - I made a cup of tea and settled down to watch the news on television. Although outside the sound of fireworks was telling me that it was barely November, my TV had updated itself. It was nearly Christmas, it was saying, and it had added a channel that would allow me to watch as many sugary, sentimental Christmas films as I liked just to prove it. That, of course, along with all the snowy, tinselly commercials telling me where I should be doing my Christmas shopping this year, and what I should be buying. No doubt at some point Dicken's A Christmas Carol will be shown; Marley's ghost will send the spirits to miserly old Scrooge once again, Scrooge will change his ways and not only stop being so mean to poor Bob Cratchit but actually end up wishing everyone a happy Christmas. Dickens, like everyone else, had an idea of how he thought Christmas should be. It is sad when Christmas doesn't live up to expectations – the family reunion doesn't happen for some reason, the turkey is off and the Christmas cake tastes like a bullet. And yet when Boxing Day arrives you will still tell anyone who asks that yes, you had a wonderful Christmas! It's just when many people seem to think that Christmas is nearly over that Christians start to celebrate what for them is the meaning of Christmas – God's gift of Himself, coming into the world as one of us to share the ups and downs of our lives. A gift for life, not just for Christmas, meaning that we are never alone. I hope that your Christmas is all that you are hoping for it to be. And, in the words of Tiny Tim, "God bless us, every one!" **BrianWilliams**

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