

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office, Slip Lane
Alkham CT15 7DE Tel. 824969

No. 88 January 2001

Free – non profit
Independent

FREDERIC HALL

Solicitors

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& Clyde House, Dover 01304 202411

A Happy New Year

FLOODING – Susannah Tapsell has suggested that a competition be held in the New Year to find the best photograph taken of the recent flooding in the Valley. All the photographs submitted will be put on exhibition in the village hall for public viewing. Another idea is a competition for the best sad or funny story about the flooding in Alkham Parish, which could later be published in the Newsletter. There will be more details next month and time will be allowed to finish the films, develop the pictures and put pen to paper. Please do join in.

PUBLIC MEETING – because of the concerns, which have been expressed about the recent flooding along the Alkham Valley, an evening meeting is being arranged for either the first or second week in January. It will be held in the village hall and the Highways Department, The Environment Agency, Southern Water and Folkestone and District Water Company will be present, with the proceedings chaired by George Tyler, the Parish Council chairman. Further details will be placed on the notice board outside the village hall by Christmas. (Susan Lees, Parish Clerk)

ALKHAM BATHING BELLES – does water, winter and women go together? Find out at 11.00 am on Saturday the 23rd of December at Vicarage Meadow, when the bathing belles will test the water (weather permitting) with bets being taken on the day. (Susan Lees)

CHURCH BAZAAR – After a dramatic start deciding to cancel or not because of the weather, we went ahead and it was remarkably successful considering the circumstances. £150 was raised. (Susan Lees)

POLICE – although I was aware that it had happened, I didn't report in last month's Newsletter a frightening incident which took place with what was thought to be an air rifle. Mrs Norris who lives in the last bungalow on the Folkestone side of the village had her front window shattered by a pellet or similar projectile. She immediately phoned the police because she obviously thought there could be someone in the front garden who could fire further shots or break in. The police declined to act as they considered that the person responsible would not still be there. They did not however know this and Mrs Norris was understandably very upset. In the event it appears that the shot was fired from a car as a shot was also fired at a farmhouse in Stombers Lane with a similar lack of response from the police. It does make you wonder what would have to happen to get the police to come to the village. (editor)

POLICE – the Neighbourhood Watch headquarters have moved from Deal to Dover Police Station but the phone numbers remain unchanged, as printed on the back of the Newsletter.

MOBILE PHONES – the police have advised that if you own a mobile phone you should either mark it in some way or put your name and address under the battery. This is because the police have many handed into them and they are unable to identify whom they belong to, so consequently they are destroyed.

ROYAL BRITISH Legion Poppy Appeal 2000 – The house to house collection raised £176.98 and the church collection £66. Many thanks to all who contributed especially Rachel Fountain, Susan Lees, Barbara Trundell, Shirley Tapsell, Grant Preston and the Marquis of Granby who collected. Thank you for your support for this ongoing need for our soldiers and their dependants. As I am moving north in the early part of the year I do hope that someone will take on this worthwhile but not too demanding a job. (Betty Preston)

GOLF BALLS – it appears that the field adjacent to Green Lane, Ewell Minnis is being used by someone to practice their golf swing, as golf balls have been found lying in the field. Cows and other animals are kept in this field and if they swallow a golf ball it could kill them. I have therefore been asked to include this item in the hope that the person practising golf in the field will now stop. (editor)

W.I. CAROL MORNING – Again the weather was to have its effect but Oliver the donkey with the help of Helen, Heather and Santa gave rides and the coffees etc raised a princely sum of £200 for Cancer Research. (Susan Lees)

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Tel. 01304 852960

LORRIES – Mrs Holliman who lives at Hopton Manor, South Alkham is badly affected by lorries, which pass close to her property. She wrote to Sandy Bruce Lockhart, the Leader of Kent County Council to ask him about his target to reduce lorries on unsuitable roads and also to ask why the local council had apparently ignored the Parish Council's proposal for lorry calming. *This is his reply* – Many thanks for your letter dated 21 November 2000 concerning the number of lorries using Alkham Valley Road. The County Council is very concerned about the number of lorries using rural roads in Kent and is committed to finding ways of reducing them, wherever possible. I am aware that over 200 lorries per day use Alkham Valley Road and,

although this is high for a rural road, you might be interested to know that our traffic surveys show that it is only half the number using the road in 1993, before the opening of the new A20 Trunk Road. Therefore, the new A20 and the A256 Whitfield Bypass, with the associated signing changes, together with the introduction of traffic management measures in Whitfield and Alkham villages, appear to have been successful in reducing lorry traffic on Alkham Valley Road. Having said that, however, I agree with you that we still need to consider whether there are any further measures that could be introduced to discourage heavy vehicles from using this route. It would be difficult to prohibit lorries from using Alkham Valley Road, because if a long length of the road was involved, there would have to be exemptions for access, which would bring enforcement difficulties. Alternatively, if a prohibition were brought in over a short length only, drivers would be tempted to seek less suitable alternative country lanes to avoid the prohibited length. I would like to assure you that the Parish Council's ideas have not been ignored, they are being considered by the local Highway Unit, along with other possible lorry management measures in Alkham and in other parts of Dover. It is anticipated that a scheme for Alkham Valley Road will be among a number of schemes put forward for funding next financial year. I hope that I have reassured you that we are aware of the problems in Alkham and are endeavouring to find practical solutions. (editor comment The 1993 traffic count was almost certainly inflated by A20 construction traffic. The 1998 County Council's stated target was to reduce the number of lorries on unsuitable roads. The reference to the A20 is therefore irrelevant, as this was a DTp scheme started in the 1970's and constructed in the 1990's as a strategic and political route to Dover. Any effect on the Alkham Valley Road was incidental. The Whitfield bypass was also government and EEC funded on the back of the Channel Tunnel. Irrespective of this it is unlikely that the Whitfield Bypass has had a beneficial effect on Alkham as Hanson brick lorries from Tilmanstone and other tipper lorries still use the valley. We await any KCC proposals)

GARDEN TALK – Thanks to Lucy and Ian for a lovely evening on the 6th of December at the Old Vicarage. A jolly time was had by all. The next meeting is at the Willows, Slip Lane on Thursday the 8th of February at 7.30 pm. New and old members are very welcome. (Rosemary Crothall)

WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE IN THE 1500's - Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and were still smelling pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the odour. Houses had thatched roofs, thick straw piled high with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to keep warm so all the pet dogs, cats and other small animals, mice, rats and bugs lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof hence the saying 'raining cats and dogs.' There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could really mess up your nice clean bed so they found if they made beds with big posts and hung a sheet over the top it solved the problem hence four poster beds. The floor was just dirt and only the wealthy had anything other than dirt hence the saying 'dirt poor.' They cooked in a big pot which hung over the kitchen fire. Every day they lit the fire and added something new to the pot, mostly vegetables. They would eat the stew for dinner leaving the stew to get cold overnight and then start over again the next day. Sometimes the stew had food in it, which had been there for a month, hence the rhyme 'peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old.' Very rarely they might obtain some pork to put in it. When they had company they would bring out some bacon and hang it up to show off. It was a sign of wealth and that a man could 'bring home the bacon.' They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and 'chew the fat. Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with a high acid content caused some of the lead in it to leach into the food. This happened most often with tomatoes so they stopped eating them for 400 years! Most people ate off trenchers a piece of wood with the middle scooped out like a bowl. Trenchers were never washed and a lot of the time worms got into the wood. After eating off wormy trenchers they would get 'trench mouth'. Bread was divided according to status. Servants got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle and the guests got the top or 'uppercrust'. Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock them out for days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait to see if they would wake up hence the custom of holding a 'wake'. England is old and small and they started running out of places to bury people so they would dig up old coffins and take the bones to a house and reuse the graves. In opening the coffins some were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realised they had been burying people alive. They decided they would tie a string to the wrist of the body and thread it through the coffin and up through the ground to a bell. Hence on the 'graveyard shift' they would know someone was 'saved by the bell' or was a 'dead ringer.' (Jo Reynolds for the Blo Norton Bugle, kindly passed to me by Barbara and Bob Palmer)

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William Hazlitt as "plain, broad, downright English", as witness his description of Dover itself: "...like other sea-port towns; but really, much more clean, and with less blackguard people in it than I have ever observed in any sea-port before." Cobbett was a fine example of the English 'radical patriot', fiercely loyal to his country, but determined to expose government mismanagement and corruption wherever they occurred. During his stay in Dover, he inspected the underground defences, and became incensed at what he saw as the colossal waste of money on "the only set of fortifications in the world ever framed for mere *hiding*." Uncertain whether to continue to France or along the coast to Thanet, Cobbett allowed his horse to decide, and stopped next at Deal, which he described as "a most villainous place full of filthy-looking people." As a Deal-born radical patriot, I feel obliged to say that Cobbett sometimes got it wrong. (Steve Osborn)

W.I. NEWS – Due to excess water around the village hall the December meeting was cancelled. We hope the January meeting will take place as planned. However, seven members joined in the Kent Federation W.I. outing to France – an outing although much enjoyed was spent mainly on the coach. We set off at 8.30 am and believe it or not we were not able to eat or drink anything until 4.00 pm. Never has Pizza Hut hospitality been better enjoyed. The crystal factory, ride through the countryside, Boulogne, lights at Calais and shopping were great. (Susan Lees)

THE NAILBOURNE has probably never flowed as it has done this year. You may be aware that there is a natural spring at Drellingore just on the Folkestone side of the big white pumping station. In times gone by when there was a water shortage farmers used to come from Capel and other villages with water tanks on their wagons to collect water from the spring. After the water company started pumping water from the aquifer the size of this spring diminished. However, when there is a lot of rain and the water table rises, the spring changes into the Nailbourne which is a term used for similar water courses that occasionally run in other parts of the county. In olden days it was referred to as the 'Woe waters' as it obviously caused woe. A dyke was dug through the village to take these waters and in recent times the banks across the village green were raised to help prevent the flooding. To the west of the village the dyke had become overgrown and the water this year spilled out onto the Alkham Valley Road causing flooding and subsidence to the road. The local council has now dug the dyke out but the problem continues. The water table is now so high that springs have appeared at other places along the valley particularly at Lower Standen where water has appeared in the yard at Patio Products. The Alkham Valley Road is now completely flooded at the entrance to Newlyn Meadow and also in front of Valley Cottages. No wonder it was called the Woe Waters. (editor)

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will perform Parts 2 and 3 of Handel's 'Messiah' at 7.30 pm on Sunday 21st January 2001, in the parish church at St Margaret's at Cliffe. The concert, to be given in memory of Dorothy Cornwell, who died last October, will feature international soloists Joseph Cornwell (tenor) and Roisin Cornwell (soprano) together with local soloists Elizabeth Weaver, June Woodland and Philip Spendley. All proceeds will be donated to the Mike Stone Cancer Research Fund. Tickets, price £5, are available from Friends of St Margaret's, members of Dover Choral Society, Bob Joslin (01304 363344) or at the door on the night. (Steve Osborn)

RECYCLING UPDATE - KCC, in partnership with Kent Community Recycling, has now introduced containers for aluminium foil at the recycling centres at Whitfield, Deal and Sandwich. Aluminium can be recycled continually and the process saves over 95% of the energy used to create aluminium from bauxite. (Steve Osborn)

A POEM

The weather is in turmoil
The garden's all a swim,
I wish the rain would go away
We've had enough of him.

The nasty wind, he's as bad
Chilling all our bones,
Sending debris flying
And damaging our homes.

When you hear the thunder clap
You see the willows weep,
Then you hear the oaks all groan
And there's no way you can sleep.

Let us all hope very soon
We'll see a clear blue sky,
With a little sunshine
To wave the storms goodbye.

Margaret Ashman

OZ on RURAL RIDES - The writer of the *Daily Telegraph* article quoted from in 'Cold Spots' last month might be tickled to know that he reminded me somewhat of William Cobbett. Between 1822 and 1826 Cobbett made a number of fact-finding tours on horseback across the south and east of England, his accounts of which were published in 1830 as *Rural Rides*. On Monday 1st September 1823, he travelled from Folkestone to Dover, not via the Alkham Valley, but along the main road, known today as 'the old A20' or the B2011. He noted the valley "descending all the way to Dover, a distance of about six miles...each side of which may be about a mile and a half", concluding that "there are *eighteen square miles of corn*." This clarity of observation is matched only by Cobbett's vigorous prose style, described by

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WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	'Get it off club' 10.30 am in the village hall. (weight loss for Alkham ladies)
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 8.00 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Monday	8	Parish Council meeting in the VH at 7.30 pm - all welcome
Tuesday	9	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	13	Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Monday	18	Cage bird society in village hall 7.30 pm
Thursday	21	D & D canine society - village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	20	SEK astronomical society VH
Monday	22	Village Hall committee meeting in village hall at 8 pm
Saturday	27	Beekeepers in village hall
Saturday	27	Annual quiz 7.30 pm in VH
Saturday February	3	Jumble sale in village hall at 11.00 am for village hall fund

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
January 7 th	Evensong 4.00 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am
January 14 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 4.00 pm
January 21 st	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
January 28 th	Joint Benefice - Sung Eucharist at St Lawrence, Hougham 10.00 am		

News from St Anthony's

A happy New Year to you all!
On Sunday the 14th of January our Benefice Sunday Club will be celebrating their birthday. Although they meet at 9.30am every Sunday in Capel, the club has served children from both Alkham and Capel so do join us for a birthday celebration at the 11.00am service if you can. On the following Sunday we are marking "The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity" by inviting the Revd. Paul Christian from Temple Ewell to come and preach at Capel evensong. Paul is an Anglican priest who is also a member of "Forward in Faith" (the organisation opposed to women's priesting). We are overjoyed that he has accepted an invitation to preach in one of our churches and I do hope you will make that service a date in your diary. It is good to reflect on how we can bridge divisions in our own denomination, as well as looking further afield. Last year some of you will remember a chilly, candle lit service in our old St Mary's church, on the road between Capel and Alkham, to celebrate the feast of Candlemas. We found a special stillness in that beautiful old church dedicated to our Lord's mother and intend to worship there again for this festival on February 2nd. It's a Friday night and our service will be at 7.00pm. So, if you are coming, wrap up warm and bring a torch! (Gill Calver)

CAROL SERVICE - St. Anthony's had a full congregation for the traditional carol service on the 17th of December. The church was decorated and lit by what must have been a record number of candles. Charlie Preston was there as he has been for over 75 years. A few things have changed during his lifetime notably the loss of the children's choir. He told me that they only got paid on their annual outing to the seaside when they each got a shilling, probably worth £4 or £5 in today's money. This year's choir was in good voice and sang a few extra carols at the church door for which they deservedly got a round of applause. (editor)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Alkham Valley Society secretary
Pamela Sayers 822397

Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0171 2193704

Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969
e mail brian@bwimsett.freemove.co.uk

Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295
and Betty Preston 822421

County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976
and work number 01795532547

Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661
e mail susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk

Village Hall booking
Rosemary Polden 8248

District Councillor Fred Scales 201382
and Trevor Bamfield 202334

Police - Community Support 218151
Report crime taking place 01303 850055

Women's Institute
Betty Neely 822688

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn Meadow 824201
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance & removal	Wolverton 824853 & 07973 501390
BED & BREAKFAST	Owler Lodge with Pat and Bill Owler	Alkham Valley Road 826375
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 824991
CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians , dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis 822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 828007 & 0589 310479
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham 01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmains Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with village shop and tea room,	South Alkham 01303 893351
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton 822420
LIVERY	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liversies	Megget Lane, South Alkham 01303 892056
METALWORK	Cook Fabrications Hawkinge Welding and other metal work	Fernfield Lane, Hawkinge 01303 893011
POST OFFICE	Southdown Stores general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	London rd, Temple Ewell 827100
SCHOOL	Capel-le-ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-ferne 01303 251353
VEHICLES	Vehicle Valuations Used car specialist, Folkestone	53 Bradstone Avenue, 01303 253212
WINDOW CLEANING	Turtle Window Cleaning: Houses, shops & businesses welcome	Dover 206986 or 07971 011736

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NEWSLETTER – I am grateful to Mr Gordon of Evergreen, Slip Lane for pointing out that the number on the January edition was the same as that on the December one. It's really encouraging that the Newsletter is so well read by some people if not by me. (editor)

ROYAL BRITISH – It is disappointing to report that nobody has offered to take over the organisation of the Poppy Appeal from Betty Preston who is going to leave the village. She tells me that it does not involve a lot of work. If you can spare a little bit of time to organise this worthwhile activity please give Betty Preston a ring on 822421. (editor)

BATHING BELLES – a large crowd turned out to see the bathing belles enter the flooded village green on the 23rd of December. The Dover Express took a wonderful photograph of the belles in the lake, which was published the following week. The ladies taking part were Moira Hoyle who later did an unwise jump to catch a cricket ball as her wellies were stuck in the mud, Cherry Leppard, Helen Scopes, Susan Lees looking particularly fetching in a tutu, Susannah Tapsell and Grace Stacey sporting a Santa hat. After the photograph, some members of the Alkham Cricket Club entered the water for a short game with Mark Robson batting, Den Barnard bowling and Matthew Gerrard and Ian Calloway in the out water. Den Barnard then went on to swim the length of the pitch. It was great fun and congratulations must be given to the great sports who took part. (editor)

VILLAGE PICTURE – at question time during the Parish Council meeting on the 8th of January, Ahmed Ovais of the Three Bells at Swingfield Street presented a framed water colour picture that he had recently painted of the village green in flood. He was warmly thanked for this very generous gesture by the chairman, George Tyler, and was applauded by the council and audience. The picture will be hung in the village hall and a brass plaque put below. Ahmed started the art classes, now held in the village hall, at his pub where further examples of his work can be seen. I can also say that he's a good cook and recommend the mixed grill and curries that are served up by his wife Valerie, in very convivial surroundings. (editor)

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING will be held on the 2nd of April in the village hall. It hasn't been decided who the speaker will be and therefore any suggestions will be welcomed. If you have any ideas please phone Susan Lees, the Parish Clerk, on 822661. (editor)

PRECEPT – the Parish Council agreed a figure of £5500 for the coming financial year. It was felt that an increase in the precept, the amount that the Parish will get through the rating system, was necessary, as there were various expenses to be met, one of which is the costs associated with buying Vicarage Meadow. (editor)

PARISH SPECIAL CONSTABLE – would anybody like to do this worthwhile job? You would be an unpaid volunteer but a uniform and training will be given. I haven't got all the details but last time I put it in the Newsletter there was an age limit of 55. It would be terrific if someone did volunteer, almost like having a village Bobby again. If you are interested and want more details please contact the Parish Clerk, Susan Lees on 822661. (editor)

ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL quiz evening on Saturday the 24th of March at 8.00 pm. Teams should be no more than 8 and no less than 6 and to book a table please ring Doreen Lott on 824876. The price will be £3.00 per person and food will be provided. (Doreen Lott)

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL (see also page 3) was congratulated by the Parish Council Chairman, George Tyler, on the splendid work they had done during the recent floods. Doug McHattie was singled out for praise. They have now completed two new overflows to the dyke at Newlyn Meadow, as suggested by a resident master mariner. (editor)

YOUR FLOOD WATER PHOTOS

Don't put them away in a drawer never to be seen again, let other people share them. It doesn't matter if they are grand panoramic views or unposed snapshots, there has to be something for everyone. There will be a **COMPETITION** for the most interesting entry when the photos are **EXHIBITED** in the village hall on Sunday the 8th of April between 2.00 pm and 4.30 pm. You can enter up to six photos, which will remain anonymous until the winning picture is selected. Please give them to either Susan Lees or Brian Wimsett by the 8th of April. The winning photo will be enlarged, framed and hung in the village hall with a suitable inscription underneath. Entry to the competition is free and all photos will be returned. (Susan Lees)

Gary Docherty

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Tel. 01304 852960

like someone to do it with, then please contact me. (editor)

HOGBROOK BARN – the parish council wrote to DDC regarding the inclusion of Hogbrook barn within the village boundary and said that if you include one addition you must look at others. DDC replied (precised) 'It was the Inspector who recommended that the 'Atcost' barn should be within the village confines but this did not provide a presumption in favour of conversion of the barn for residential uses. The Inspector did not recommend any other amendments to the village confines. Any further amendments will be addressed at first review when the housing strategy is reconsidered.' A revised planning application for two houses on the site was discussed by the Parish Council and unanimously rejected for the same reasons as before (intrusive, outside boundary etc). It however appears likely that development of the barn will take place eventually. (editor)

UPPER WEST HILL FARM – following the decision of High Quality Lifestyles not to develop the farm at Ewell Minnis as a home for people with learning difficulties, George Tyler and Lindsay Bennett of Ewell Minnis visited two of HQL's homes. The Managing Director, Jamie Emberson, was very open and caring and explained the training and also training courses which he runs for other organisations. George Tyler said that the major problem at Ewell Minnis was access but if wasn't for that then the type of home run at Temple Ewell would present no problems. The home at Wolverton had people with greater learning difficulties and George and Lindsay found it a bit frightening. George Tyler said however, that he would go as far as to say, that if a home similar to the one at Temple Ewell was set up next to him he would have no objections. (editor)

THE NEW YEAR'S EVE party held in the village hall was a great success and was enjoyed by villagers of all ages. Our thanks must go to the families of Polden and Lott for organising the evening. Doreen has told me that she has already booked the disco for next New Year's Eve. I take this opportunity of wishing you all a Happy New Year for 2001. (Betty Neely) Doreen Lott also wrote an article saying what a success it was and that a profit of £130 was made for the village hall funds. They hope to make it an annual event and send a big thank you to all those people who made it a great evening.

A KEEP FIT and SLIMMING CLUB is held in the Village Hall on Wednesdays from 10.30am to 12md. There is a structured exercise session designed to improve and strengthen muscle tone, balance control and cardiac output. The exercises are performed by the participants to suit individual needs, limitations and goals, none involve getting down on the floor. The exercise session is followed by optional coffee, discussions about healthy eating, and weekly weighing. If you think this programme would suit you, then you are welcome to join us. If you would like to join us just for coffee you are welcome but we would request that you arrive after 11.25am to avoid disturbing the class. Fees, £1 weekly, proceeds after costs donated to charity. For any further details contact Helen Scopes Tel.822899.

THE VILLAGE HALL now has uPVC double glazed windows, which were installed on the 16th of January.

GARDEN TALK - Please note change of date. The next meeting of GARDEN TALK. will be held at The Willows, Slip Lane on Wednesday, February 7th at 7.30pm when Mr. Keith Turner, the gentleman who judged at the Produce Show & put on that wonderful display of fuschias, will be coming to speak to us. If you do not normally come to GARDEN' TALK but would like to hear Mr. Turner's talk on fuschias, please know that you will be very welcome. (Susannah Tapsell)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY CHRISTMAS WALK - There was mud, mud, glorious mud, but Paul Tapsell kept us to the roads fairly well and. I think everyone enjoyed the breath of fresh air after Christmas, and, wonder of wonders it didn't rain. It was attended by a good crowd with quite a few members meeting in the Marquis afterwards to quench their thirst. A Happy New Year to All. (Pamela Sayers; Secretary)

NOTHING NEW – Steve Osborn makes mention of 'More Christmas Crackers' by John Julius Norwich in his article this month. Steve e-mailed a quotation by Petronius, who died in AD 65, which is included in the 'Crackers' book.

'We trained hard; but it seemed that every time we were beginning to form into teams we would be reorganized. I was to learn later in life that we tend to meet any new situation by reorganizing; and a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress while producing confusion, inefficiency and demoralization.'

It is amazing how a statement made nearly 2000 years ago can be so relevant today. (editor)

COUNTRY NOTES – for various reasons Devina Bartlett is unable to continue with her article. She started writing for the Newsletter in September 1997 and I would like to thank her for all the support and help she has given to the Newsletter over the past three years. (editor)

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR – this is not competition for beautiful duck ponds, roses round the doors and litter free greens. It is now judged in five sections, any of which can be entered, these being Environment, Business, Young People, Older People and Community Life. Last year forty-five villages entered the competition, so would anyone from Alkham like to enter this year? If you are interested but feel you would like some help, I would be willing to get involved. In the first instance you have to fill out a straightforward form, which is then judged. If you get to the second round you are then visited with prior arrangement by judges for that section. If you would like to know more please contact the Parish Clerk on 822661 or if you would

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by-day life of an English game-keeper is still of considerable interest to outdoor-minded readers, as it contains many passages on pheasant-raising, the apprehending of poachers, ways to control vermin, and other chores and duties of the professional game-keeper. Unfortunately, one is obliged to wade through many pages of extraneous material in order to discover and savour these sidelights on the management of a Midland shooting estate, and in this reviewer's opinion the book cannot take the place of J R Miller's *Practical Gamekeeper*." I discovered that glorious quotation in *More Christmas Crackers* by John Julius Norwich. For the past thirty years, Norwich has sent out personal selections of poetry, prose and literary oddities, instead of Christmas cards, to his friends. At the end of each decade, he published these selections, collected into single volumes, as *Christmas Crackers* (1980) and *More Christmas Crackers* (1990). I was delighted to discover in my Christmas stocking that *Still More Christmas Crackers* had been published in November 2000. As the Chancellor of the Exchequer will soon say, of something rather different, "I commend it to you." (Steve Osborn)

W.I REPORT -The January meeting was taken by the Vice President, Rosemary Crothall, who warmly welcomed the new members. Reports were given on our various activities, namely the Carol Coffee morning, which you will have read last month raised £200 for Cancer Research, the trip to France, our Christmas dinner and The "Bathing Belles" fun in the floods, which raised nearly £100 for The British Heart Foundation. Great appreciation was expressed for Cherry Leppard's organisational skills as social secretary and other necessary tasks were assigned. Paul Tapsell gave an interesting and informative talk entitled "A Life of Crime". He provided us with contrasting amusing anecdotes and a compassionate insight into his work as a barrister. A vote of thanks was given by Susan Lees. The speaker at our next meeting, Tuesday, February 13th, will be Eric Hart on "Reflections of Folkestone in the 1960's". This will be an open meeting, so anyone who would like to come will be very welcome at 8pm. (Susannah Tapsell)

A FETE COMMITTEE meeting will be held in the village hall on the 27th of February at 8.00 pm. Will anybody who is interested in helping with the fete on the 14th of July please come along. (Paul Tapsell)

FLOODING - a meeting was held in the village hall to discuss the recent flooding with the appropriate agencies. The meeting was very well attended and George Tyler, the chairman, said that it was not the intention to apportion blame. He complimented Doug McHattie from DDC on all the work he had done recently and this generated a round of applause. Ian Murrell from the Environment Agency spoke first and said it was very unusual to see surface water run-off on chalk soils as the latter normally absorbed the water. Because of the rain intensity the ground had become saturated and the surface water run-off had flooded fields and roads. He said that the September rainfall was 3 to 4 times the seasonal average and that bournes had run in other areas (speaking to him afterwards he was insistent that ours is known as the Alkham Bourne and not 'Nailbourne'). He said that the Agency had no flood defence responsibilities for this area and that the maintenance of the dyke/ditch was the duty of the riparian owner as defined in the Land Drainage Act 1961. Ian McAthey spoke next for Folkestone and Dover Water Company. He said that under licence from EA they extracted clean water from Drellingore and Lower Standen and both these boreholes had been at 40-year highs. Because of turbidity (cloudy), water was not extracted from Drellingore but an overall equal amount was taken at Standen. They will however, when conditions allow, install a facility such that the turbid water can be pumped to waste. He said that it was not possible to store excess water as it flows out to sea. Alan Blackburn and Barbara Moody from DDC spoke next. Following criticism of the state of the ditches and culverts they said that they had taken over the watercourses 18 months ago and were trying to come to grips with the situation. They also said that a MORI poll had been carried out in the past by KCC and with a finite budget the majority said that they would rather have money spent on street lighting than gully emptying. Therefore gullies subject to flooding were cleaned four times a year and others every other year. They were trying to resolve the question of who owned bridge crossings. In summary DDC agreed to work with the Parish Council on drainage clearance, carrying out a survey of the drainage system and if necessary serve notice of entry on riparian owners. Paul Kent of Southern Water spoke last and said that the sewage system had flooded because of the ingress of surface water. Where people had lost sanitation because of this, Portaloos had been installed. Ernie Cook said that water entered the sewage system because the sewers and manholes leaked badly. To a certain extent this was agreed and an order has been placed for contractors to look at the system. Overall it was quite an impressive meeting with people there who knew what they were talking about. It is easy to blame large anonymous organisations for problems but it was clear that individuals were doing their jobs well, within financial constraints. DDC were particularly impressive. (editor)

OZ on CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

- On New Year's Eve, we celebrated forty married years. At the wedding there was talk of "starting the 1960's properly" and "the new century and millennium in forty years' time." The following summer, during a visit from parents, my father, an inveterate reader, found the newly-published, still shocking, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, on our shelves and disappeared with it into the garden. Hours later, smiling, he replaced the book with "Well, that was a good yarn!" In similar vein is the following review from the American magazine, *Field and Stream*, November 1959: "Although written many years ago, *Lady Chatterley's Lover* has just been re-issued by Grove Press, and this fictional account of the day-

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WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	'Get it off club' 10.30 am in the village hall. (weight loss for Alkham ladies)
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 8.00 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Saturday	3	Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Saturday	3	Jumble Sale in VH 11.00 am in aid of Village Hall funds
Tuesday	6	Youth Club in VH at 7.00 pm
Wednesday	7	Garden Talk at the Willows, Slip Lane at 7.30 pm
Thursday	8	D & D canine society - village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	10	SEK astronomical society VH
Tuesday	13	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Thursday	15	D & D canine society - village hall 7.30pm
Monday	19	Cage bird society in village hall 7.30 pm
Tuesday	20	Youth Club in VH at 7.00 pm
Saturday	24	Beekeepers in village hall
Tuesday	27	Fete Committee 8.00 pm in VH
Saturday March	3	Jumble sale in village hall at 11.00 am for W.I. funds

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
February 2 nd	Joint Candlemas Service St. Mary's (old church) Capel-le-ferne 7.00 pm		
February 4 th	Evensong 4.00 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am
February 11 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 4.00 pm
February 18 th	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
February 25 th	Joint Benefice - Sung Eucharist at St Anthony's, Alkham 10.00 am		
February 28 th Ash Wednesday	Joint Benefice - Sung Eucharist at St Radigunds, Capel 7.30 pm		

News from St Anthony's - Those of you who value our old church of St. Mary's (on the road between Alkham and Capel) will be glad to know that we are opening it again on the evening of February the 2nd at 7.00 pm. We shall be celebrating the feast of Candlemas, which marks the presentation of Jesus in the Temple by his parents. Do wrap up warm and join us for this candle lit service in a church we only use two or three times a year. Many of you will have contributed indirectly (via Harvest Supper proceeds) to the hospital in Katete in Zambia, which our church supports through the U.S.P.G. On Sunday the 25th of February, at our joint service at Alkham, we have a preacher coming in to update us on the work of the organisation. Don't forget its Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday) on February the 27th. Tickets are available from me for our Pancake Supper (6.30 pm at St. Radigunds, Capel). And finally, Lent starts on Wednesday the 28th of February, an occasion we shall mark with the celebration of the Holy Communion at St. Radigunds at 7.30 pm. **N.B. ALKHAM CHURCH AGM IS AT 7.30 pm ON WEDNESDAY THE 4th OF APRIL IN THE VILLAGE HALL.**

(Gill Calver)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

TELEPHONE NUMBERS	Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119
Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0171 2193704	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brian@bwimsett.freemove.co.uk	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Betty Preston 822421
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
District Councillor Fred Scales 201382 and Trevor Bamfield 202334	Police - Community Support 218151 Report crime taking place 01303 850055	Women's Institute Betty Neely 822423

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn's Meadow 824201
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance & removal	Wolverton 824853 & 07973 501390
BED & BREAKFAST	Owler Lodge with Pat and Bill Owler	Alkham Valley Road 826375
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 824991
CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians, dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis 822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 828007 & 0589 310479
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham 01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmains Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with Gift Shop and village shop	South Alkham 01303 893351
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton 822420
LIVERY	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liversies	Megget Lane, South Alkham 01303 892056
METALWORK	Cook Fabrications Hawkinge Welding and other metal work	Fernfield Lane, Hawkinge 01303 893011
POST OFFICE	Southdown Stores general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	London rd, Temple Ewell 827100
SCHOOL	Capel-le-ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-feme 01303 251353
VEHICLES	Vehicle Valuations Used car specialist, Folkestone	53 Bradstone Avenue, 01303 253212
WINDOW CLEANING	Turtle Window Cleaning: Houses, shops & businesses welcome	Dover 206986 or 07971 011736

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office, Slip Lane
Alkham CT15 7DE Tel. 824969

No. 91 March 2001

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DRUGS – children playing on the bank between the flooded football pitch and the garden to Hill View came across five syringes, foil, little bottles, discarded lighters, beer cans and plastic cups. They went to see Wilf Atkins who lives in Short Lane and he phoned the police. They said it was nothing to do with them and he should phone the local council. The children took the items and burnt them by the village green car park. Much to their credit Eliot and Chelsie Woodison of Catherine Cottages and Carla Saltmar who lives in Short Lane came to see me so I could put something in the Newsletter. It is both depressing and discouraging to find such activities taking place in the village but it is encouraging that there are also sensible and decent children around. (editor)

CONGRATULATIONS to Sandie and Paul Tapsell on the birth of their daughter, Charlotte Emily, who was born on Friday the second of February at 10.45 am and weighed in at 7 pounds 3 ounces.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL – The new official organiser for Alkham District is Mrs Rachel Fountain of Fair Acres, Alkham, telephone number 823173. Many thanks to all who have helped in the past and to Rachel for volunteering. (Betty Preston)

THE VILLAGE HALL has been closed from Monday the 12th of February because of the floodwater. The water has covered the kitchen floor and come up under the floorboards in the hall. The major problem is that the toilets won't flush and it has therefore been decided to cancel all bookings for March. In the mean time if anyone wants to hold a meeting or an activity for upto 20 people, the old shop on the side of my house may be used. The shop was converted to residential use and has a clear space of about 8 metres long by 5 metres wide. If you would like to use it please give me a ring on 824969 and we can discuss it. The Parish Council meeting will probably be held in the shop but see back page for further details. (editor)

CONGRATULATIONS to father and son, John and Simon Huggins, for obtaining their pilot's license for helicopters on the same day at Manston, on Sunday the 18th of February. (Anne Huggins)

PHOTO COMPETITION – the hire of the hall was discussed at the recent Village Hall Committee meeting. George Tyler very generously offered to pay the hire charge but Doreen Polden suggested selling refreshments and holding a raffle. So please do submit your photos to either myself or to Sue Lees by the beginning of April and then come along and view the competition between 2.00 and 4.30 pm on the 8th of April. (editor)

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR – reading through the literature on the latter, the winning villages appear to be very good, especially Egerton which won the overall title. However, many villages do enter so I thought I would enter Alkham under the 'Community Life' section. I drafted something out and e-mailed it to Sue Lees who expanded on some of the items and now it is ready to go off. If we get through the first phase the judges will come and visit us, so if you see Sue Lees and I walking round with a group of people, please smile. (editor)

THE W.I. JUMBLE SALE scheduled for March the 3rd has been cancelled.

THE QUIZ scheduled for the 24th of March in the village hall has been cancelled because of the flooding. It has provisionally been rescheduled for April the 21st; further details in next month's Newsletter.

CONGRATULATIONS to Ray Ashman of Green Lane, Ewell Minnis who has been granted by Her Majesty the Queen the dignity of an Officer in the Most Venerable Order of St. John, which means he is now known as Maj. Ray Ashman MBE O St. J.. Both he and his wife Margaret are delighted with this award.

MISS KATE FRIEND formerly of Fryers Fern Farm, Ewell Minnis, and later "Ferndale", Alkham, died peacefully on Sunday the 11th of February. She would have been 92 on 14th of the month.

HIGHWAYS AND FLOODING – KCC have written to the Parish Council to say that the recent floods have had a hugely detrimental effect on all their roads with large potholes appearing. KCC has spent about £1 million clearing up after the floods and this does not include repairs. They are disappointed that the government's grant for road repairs has only increased by 0.25% but nonetheless they have increased the highway maintenance budget by 16.5% to over £34 million. The purpose of their letter was to tell us they are very conscious of the state of the roads and are doing all they can to put funds into their repair. They ask that we bear with them but to let DDC know of any problem areas or priorities. (editor)

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roof, will be called Old Malmains Dairy. Francesco is more than happy to show people round if you are interested to see what he has done. (editor)

A260 – no doubt most of you will have seen the new road connecting to the roundabout at the bottom of White Hill, which goes up to the centre of the old airfield at Hawkinge. The road was promoted by the developer and the local council and at the moment it is intended to act as an access for construction vehicles and people who live on the new housing estate. I understand that the consortium intend to extend this road in the reasonably near future such that it completely bypasses Hawkinge. There will be a roundabout on Aerodrome Road with the bypass continuing to connect directly into the A260 somewhere near the road to the Transfer Station. The existing A260 will be shut at this connection point making the bypass the through route. (editor)

KIRSTY TAPSELL who lives with her parents in Valley Cottages has recently been awarded a Baden Powell Trefoil Certificate, which is the highest award for a Guide. She was one of two of the River Guides to get the certificate, which is awarded to girls who have proved themselves in Guiding. Activities include exploring the arts, thinking for themselves, home-making, enjoying the outdoors, keeping Guide laws, getting to know people and keeping fit. Kirsty is now going on to help with Rainbows, the 5 to 7 year olds before they go onto Brownies, which meets weekly during school time. Well done Kirsty. (editor)

GARDENTALK - Members of GARDENTALK very much enjoyed an interesting and informative evening with Mr. Keith Turner who spoke to us about raising and caring for fuschias. Thank you to Cal and Helen for your kind hospitality. The next meeting will be held at Bramhall on Thursday April 5th when, hopefully, we will be able to wander round the garden before enjoying our wine and nibbles. (Susannah Tapsell)

FLOODING – in last month's Newsletter I said that Dover District Council should be congratulated on the way they had dealt with the recent floods. Someone phoned from Newlyn Meadow to say that he and other people disagreed with this and went on to say that DDC had been unhelpful especially when contacting them on the phone. I think the praise as given, was mainly for Doug McHattie of DDC who had come out on most days of the flood to try and deal with the situation and others might have not been so helpful. The floods however returned with a vengeance and once again swamped the entrance to Newlyn Meadow. The water in the dyke had never been so high with water over running the bridges and flooding the Alkham Valley Road. Slip Lane literally turned into a river, driving stones and debris down onto the main road. The ground is obviously waterlogged with any downpour now causing a flood. (editor)

PROFESSIONAL DESIGN STUDIOS – Jan Martinez, who is a professional Garden and Interior Designer, is running courses from her studio at Everden. The courses are in Gardening (varied aspects), Quilting (American and English), Drawing (techniques), Samplers (sewing, design and history), Stencils (design and make your own) and Colour (how to use colour in the home). The day rate is £55 including light lunch or from Friday pm to Sunday pm including all meals and stay in country house, £150. Jan started at Camberwell School of Arts getting a National Diploma in Design and then went on to work in the Chelsea Interior Design Studio, London before going on to Scandinavia and Europe doing hotel and garden design. She then opened a studio in Eltham and later gained an RHS certificate from Wisley. Moving to Everden she has done commercial designs for Eastern Docks and other people. Her writings have featured in magazines, slots on Radio Kent and she was also on Garden Question Time. Jan is running the courses to help people who may feel design is for them and want to change career direction. Phone 01303 893462 to book.

MILLENNIUM FUND

The committee, which raised funds for the millennium projects, did a splendid job and ended up with a surplus of about £1000. They have decided to donate the money to various organisations. The Village Hall, The Cricket Club and the Youth Club are each to receive £100 and the remaining £640 is to be given to the Parish Council so that they can buy a new seat to replace the broken one on the corner near the top of Hogbrook Hill. The Committee did a splendid job, the village party being a highlight of last year and the Alkham sign a lasting remembrance of the new millennium. (editor)

THE OLD GRANARY – Francesco Conti, who is converting the buildings on Slip Lane by Malmains Farm, is to be congratulated on the way he has carried out the conversion. The original structure has been retained and brick and flint walls built to fill in the voids. The windows are purpose made box sash and the original flooring to the upstairs has been sanded and sealed. Most of the other flooring is oak as are the stairs and some of the doors. It would have been much easier for him to have carried out a modern conversion but he has spent the money and produced a couple of buildings which Alkham can be proud of. The larger part of the building is called the Old Granary and the single storey structure, which has a room in the

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longer each day before demanding his afternoon exercise. The third seasonal indicator is the sudden and reassuring appearance of snowdrops, in clumps along the flooded edges of Bushey Ruff, undoubtedly descendants of those planted in the original grounds of the Big House. These simple flowers are such hardy survivors that it's difficult to believe that they are not native to Britain. It's all so evocative of Roger McGough's cheerful poem *The Fight of the Year*, which uses a boxing match as a metaphor, starting with "And there goes the bell for the third month / and Winter comes out of its corner looking groggy / Spring leads with a left to the head, followed by a sharp blow to the body." As for *Rustle of Spring*, it's the English translation of *Frühlingsrauschen*, that haunting piano piece by the Norwegian composer Christian Sinding. It was composed in 1896, but not published until 1909, so this is as good a time as any to celebrate its centenary. (Steve Osborn)

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will present their Easter concert at 7.30 pm on Saturday 7th April 2001 in Dover Town Hall. The concert opens with a lively setting of the *Gloria* by Michael Lewis, well known locally as the Conductor of the Snowdon Male Voice Choir. There follow two major works by Mozart: the *Clarinet Concerto* (K622), featuring Bill Kenchington on clarinet; and the '*Great*' *C Minor Mass* (K427), with chorus and soloists. Tickets costing £8 (Students £4) are available from Dover Town Hall, the Music Box in Maison Dieu Road, and members of Dover Choral Society; and, if there are any left, at the door on the night. For further details please ring Michael Foad on 01303 242694. (Steve Osborn)

Kids news around Alkham

Drugs - drugs are very harmful, you should never take them. If you see any signs of people taking drugs go straight away. These are the signs of drugs: needles, smell - sometimes it will be herby, foil, lighters/matches, there are other things too. Drugs can sometimes lead to Aids and other deadly diseases. If you see someone taking or has just taken it, find an adult straight away. I hope we have helped you find out about drugs and the effects it causes.

Youth Club - There is still the youth club down in the village hall but it is now on Tuesday. We have not been able to run it because of the recent flooding. We hope to see you in the youth club to come. (Carla Saltmar & Chelsie Woodison)

welcome Tony into our benefice and hope you will introduce yourself to him when you're next in church. Our benefice Lent course begins at 7.30pm in St Radigunds Church on Monday March 25th and will run on the four following Mondays. We shall be exploring our journey of faith in words and music and all are welcome. Finally, don't forget that it's Mothers Day on March 25th and we hope mums. and all those who have responsibility for caring for youngsters at home, will be able to be with us on that day at our 3pm service in St. Anthony's, traditionally followed by tea in the village hall (weather permitting!). This is a special opportunity to express our gratitude to those who have cared for us over the years. (Gill Calver)

OZ on RUSTLE OF SPRING - Last week, the tortoise awoke from her hibernation, as predictably as usual, three days before our daughter's birthday. Other hibernators, for example hedgehogs, bats, amphibians and reptiles, are less conspicuous, but must surely be stirring now. Many insects and small mammals merely become sluggish during the winter, waking from time to time when the temperature rises. Some creatures, such as birds, squirrels, foxes and rats, remain active all winter, using their high mobility and intelligence to maintain food supplies. Another sign of the season is the lengthening of the days. At this time of year, the increase is about four minutes in every day, or half an hour a week, a fact which has not gone unnoticed by our dog, Jak, who waits

NEWS FROM ST ANTHONY'S - We do hope to see many of you at our evening service on the first Sunday this month, to be held in St. Radigund's, Capel. It is a special occasion in the life of St. Anthony's, as well as the rest of our benefice, and the Bishop of Dover is coming to mark the event, to celebrate the Eucharist and to preach at the 6.30pm service. The reason for this special service are two fold. Some of you will remember that when I came here some five and a half years ago, I was appointed as "priest in charge" of Alkham, Capel & Hougham with special responsibility as chaplain of Dover College. I was licensed at a special service in St. Anthony's in September 1995 and my appointment was for a period of 5 years. As work in the parishes developed, I relinquished the position of chaplain eighteen months ago. I was not technically called your "Vicar", because the freehold was suspended while we looked at what was happening here. Now the five years have come to an end. Things seem to be fairly stable. There are no plans afoot to combine our parishes with any others so there is no reason for that suspension to continue, and the three church councils have agreed to my institution as their Vicar. That is why the Bishop will be coming to institute me as Vicar to the benefice on March 4th. The second event he will mark is the licensing of our newly arrived Reader, Tony Elcombe, who has recently joined in the leading of worship across the benefice. 'Readers' in the Anglican church are lay ministers who have undergone three years training, and are much used in the church's preaching and teaching ministry. They are recognisable by the blue scarf worn round their necks for worship. We are very pleased to

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Wheel Chair Access

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
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Other events (VH= village hall)

The village hall will be closed during March because of the flooding. The old shop attached to the Old Post Office will be used for the Bingo. The Parish Council meeting will also be in the shop unless it is possible to use the hall without the use of the toilets. The lights will be on in the shop if it is used.

Saturday	3	Bingo at 7.30 pm ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Monday	5	Parish Council meeting at 7.30 pm – all welcome

THE WINE AND WISDOM held on the 27th of January raised £325 for Demelza House, £102.50 of which was from the raffle and £5 from Beattie Jeapes. The questions had been made a bit easier than last year and most of the tables did well with Temple Ewell Post Office once again being the winners. Thanks must go to Sue Lees and Tricia Wright for doing the scoring, which with the introduction of playing cards is not straightforward. Thanks also to Doreen Lott, Doreen Polden and Rosemary Polden who did an excellent job preparing the food. (editor)

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
March 4 th	United Benefice Eucharist Bishop of Dover to preach and celebrate St. Radigunds – Capel 6.30 pm		
March 11 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 4.00 pm
March 18 th	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
March 25 th	Joint Benefice – Sung Eucharist at St Radigunds - Capel 10.00 am		
	Mother's Day Service St. Anthony's – Alkham 3.00 pm		

W.I. REPORT - As the February meeting could not be held in the Village Hall due to flooding, Karen's extremely kind offer that we could meet in The Marquis of Granby was gratefully accepted. Thank you, Karen. The meeting was chaired by the President, Kathleen Goldfinch who informed members of the many and varied activities available within The East Kent Federation of W.I.'s. Alkham W.I. will be host to the Group meeting to be held in October and also to the annual Top Team Quiz, for which Brian Wimsett will be preparing the questions. Olive Harvey read the thank you letter that she had received from Imperial Cancer Research for money raised by the Carol Coffee Morning. This contained very interesting and the latest facts about cancer research. Mr. Eric Hart then gave a delightful talk about restoring the Standaard organ from The Odeon Cinema, Folkestone, sadly long since demolished, and showed slides of the area taken in the 1960's. (Susannah Tapsell)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0171 2193704	Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brian@bwimsett.freemove.co.uk	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Betty Preston 822421
District Councillor Fred Scales 201382 and Trevor Bamfield 202334	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	Police - Community Support 218151 Report crime taking place 01303 850055	Women's Institute Betty Neely 822688

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VEHICLES	Vehicle Valuations Used car specialist, Folkestone	53 Bradstone Avenue, 01303 253212
WINDOW CLEANING	Turtle Window Cleaning: Houses, shops & businesses welcome	Dover 206986 or 07971 011736

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Produced by Brian Wimsatt
The Old Post Office, Slip Lane
Alkham CT15 7DE Tel. 824969

No. 92 April 2001

Free – non profit
Independent

FREDERIC HALL

Solicitors

York House, Folkestone 01303 851185
& Clyde House, Dover 01304 202411

FLOOD – the cartoon on the right was published in the Dover Mercury on the 28th of February and they have given their kind permission to reproduce it. (editor)

BEQUESTS – Mrs. Southall, who died on the 31st of January very kindly left £10,000 to St Anthony's church and £5000 to the village hall. An obituary is on page 2.

POND WARDEN – The Pond Warden scheme is sponsored by Southern Water and BTCV who run training courses on pond survey, management, design and creation and their use in the community. It's an interesting and worthwhile job and one is needed for Alkham as Grant Preston, the present pond warden, has moved out of the village. If there is anybody who would like take over or like more information, please phone the Parish Clerk on 822661. (editor)

FOOTWAY LIGHTING – if anyone in the Parish considers that further footway lighting is required would you please ring the Parish Clerk, Sue Lees on 822661 and let her know. Any lighting proposed must be for the illumination of a footpath as highway lighting will not be considered. (editor)

VILLAGE HALL – the insurance company has not yet given the go ahead for repairs to the village hall following the recent flooding. Wet rot is starting to appear on the floor and there is the horrible smell of damp. It looks as though it will be at least another month before it can be used again. Meanwhile the old shop to the Old Post Office has been used by two committees, the 'Get it Off Club' each week and Bingo at the beginning of the month with any payments going to the village hall. The old shop will be used for the Village Hall AGM on the 23rd of April.

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – because of problems arising from the foot and mouth epidemic, it has been decided to postpone the Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for the 2nd of April until a later date. If there are any pressing problems please phone the Parish Clerk on 822661 or George Tyler on 822451.

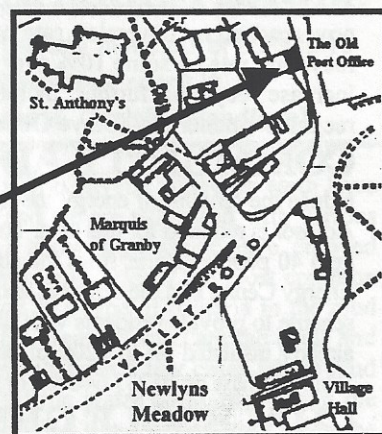
COFFEE MORNING in aid of the village hall is going to be held at Doreen Lott's house, 4 Valley Cottages on 7th of April at 10.30 am.

OLIVE HARVEY has unfortunately undergone another major operation and we wish her a speedy recovery.

PHOTO COMPETITION – the competition for the best photos of the recent floods in the village will still take place on the 8th of April between 10.00 and 4.30 pm. The venue will be the old shop attached to the Old Post Office, which is shown on the plan to the right. Please walk up the front steps and into the old shop. We would appreciate it if you would let us have your photos in plenty of time as we need to mount them. (editor and Sue Lees)



'That's agreed then, cancel the fete and have a regatta instead!'
By George Pitts



Gary Docherty

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PAPER CHASE – during the last ten months, 907.95 tonnes of paper has been collected for recycling in the Dover District. DDC's challenge is to improve on this, so please take your newspapers and junk mail to the Farm Shop recycling centre if you can. There are also bins for cans and bottles. (Parish Council)

VANDALISM – at the Parish Council meeting, mention was made of the electricity box on the cricket pavilion. Once again the door to the meter has been smashed by individuals who are known to the council. It was considered that exposing the meter was a greater danger than the needles that have been found recently. Should it happen again, witnesses will be sought and appropriate action taken against the vandals.

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High Street, St. Margarets at Cliffe, Dover CT15 6AT
Tel. 01304 852960

lived but in partnership with Theodore Greville she established the well-known camera shop in Folkestone, Hawksworth Wheeler. The business prospered and this enabled them to move to Alkham in the 1950's and buy Greenwood. The house is being put on the market but it is not known whether the extensive lands, which go with the property, will be split up and whether the derelict building by the bridleway will be developed. (editor)

GARDEN TALK - The next meeting will be held at Bramhall on Thursday the 5th of April, hosted by Richard and Susannah. The programme will be a wander round the garden and a topic presented by Devina. All welcome. (Susannah Tapsell)

HOGBROOK BARN - a revised planning application has been submitted for the development of the Atcost barn site on Hogbrook Lane, just past the village hall. The application is for two houses one of which has gable windows in the roof. The Parish Council unanimously voted to reject the application for the same reasons as before, that the development was intrusive and not in keeping with the village. It does however appear that Dover District Council are looking sympathetically at the new application. (editor)

PLANNING APPLICATION - a revised planning application has been submitted for further garages at Brindene, which is the first bungalow past the Marquis. The previous application was turned down by DDC as it was considered not in keeping with the conservation area. The Parish Council approved the application but were concerned that it may be rejected on the previous grounds. The Parish Council thinks that the extra garages could solve the problem of vehicles being parked on the footway and road. (editor)

TREES - Mick Wingfield has done a superb job making small brass plates to be put on the trees which were planted on the village green for the millennium. Unfortunately the floods have taken their toll on the trees and some have not survived. Paul Tapsell is going to do a survey and the remaining trees will form the basis of those which are to be tagged. If there are any objections to this, as the trees were planted in peoples names, would you please phone Paul on 01303 892082. (editor)

PLAY EQUIPMENT - Mike Kingston, who lives in Slip Lane has kindly inspected the swings on the green and pronounced them safe. The steps to the slide have been put in abeyance, as it is impossible to get a vehicle onto the green but as soon as it is dry, the work will be carried out. The steps will also include a handrail as recommended by DDC. (editor)

MORE RUBBISH RECYCLED - It was reported last month that the KCC Whitfield recycling site has now reached a conversion rate of almost 44%, which places it fourth in the Kent league table. Overall, Kent has increased its recycling rate by some 10% over the previous year. Residents across the county are now trying different pilot schemes to try and increase recycling further, including home collection of garden waste and cardboard, and colour coded bin liners to identify recyclable materials. (Steve Osborn)

COMMUNITY ADVISOR - under the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995, all local authorities are required to reduce the amount of energy the homes in their area consume. The Kent Energy Centre forms a crucial part of this and a Community Advisor is required for this area. The amount of time it will take is up to the advisor but as a guideline they are looking for each advisor to help 40 people benefit from the scheme. You would be expected to tell the people you come across in your daily life about the Kent Energy Centre and the schemes and their benefits. Examples are free advice on reducing fuel costs, grant schemes and KASH which is a scheme to provide residents with discounted insulation measures. If you took up the post your house could be insulated for £50 or if it is already insulated up to £200 of other energy efficient measures such as energy efficient appliances. If you are interested please ring Jennifer Shaw on 01233 646806 or ring Sue Lees on 822661 and get an application form. (editor)

CHALKSOLE GREEN - at the Parish Council meeting it was agreed that the official village green, which is at the top of White Hill on the left, should have the brambles and weeds trimmed with a flail and overlying branches cut off. It was also suggested that the boundary of the green should be marked.

HELP LINES - for people who are badly affected by farming problems, especially the foot and mouth epidemic, there are various helplines. Kent Farmline, Kent's rural helpline with people who will listen and help, is 01304 813 808 or kentfarmline@hotmail.com. Others are: The Samaritans 08457 909090; The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution 01865 727 888 or rabi@btinternet.com; Rural Stress Information Network 024 7641 2916 who have helpful contacts nationwide plus rusin@btinternet.com.

MRS. SOUTHALL - I did not print the obituary last month for security reasons. She died on the 31st of January and the funeral service was held in St. Anthony's on the 5th of February with a congregation of 71 present. Mrs. Southall lived alone at Greenwood, which is the impressive part timbered house on Chalksole Green Lane bedecked by hydrangeas in the summer months. She was a rich lady and unfortunately had no known living relatives to leave her house and money to. I understand that the bulk of the estate has been left to charity with numerous bequests of £5000 and £10,000 to organisations and people she knew and also those who had been good to her. She was born in 1911 and was later adopted. Her marriage in the 1940's was short

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along Russell Gardens, we discovered a newly planted monkey puzzle tree, the *Araucaria*, also known as the "Chile pine." The name of this strange-looking tree derives from the supposed power of the twisted prickly leaves to confuse monkeys in its native South America. The monkey puzzle was brought to this country in 1796, when the botanist Archibald Menzies, accompanying Captain Vancouver on his exploration of Chile, sent some seeds to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. The name *Araucaria* is also the pen name of the crossword compiler, John Graham, who was 80 in February. His greatest invention was the alphabetical puzzle, where solvers have not only to deduce the 26 answers starting with every letter from A to Z, but also where to place them. He also discovered that "The Old Vicarage, Grantchester" gives rise to the anagram "Chaste Lord Archer vegetating." Finally, near the Abbey gate, we spotted a beech, stained with the crusty green lichen *Lecanora conizaeoides* that thrives on dog urine; but lichens are a story for another day. (Steve Osborn)

W.I. REPORT - The meeting was again held at The Marquis of Granby, very many thanks to Karen, and taken by the President, Kathleen. Opportunities were given for members to attend the Group meeting at Whitfield where the talk will be '60 Glorious years of Fashion' and the Annual Council Meeting held in Margate when the speaker will perform her one woman show 'The Sixth Wife' an account of the life of Katherine Parr. Details of outings to the Agriculture Museum Brook, May 9th and to Pashley Manor, July 18th were given and the social secretary, Cherry, kindly undertook to make all the arrangements. It was reported that three of the members have taken the course of French lessons, two will be attending a Public Speaking Workshop and two a Drama Workshop; all available through East Kent Federation of W.I.'s. Ian McKenzie from 'The Vicarage' then gave a most interesting and thought provoking talk on 'Drug Development from chemical to Pill', which was very warmly received and appreciated. (Susannah Tapsell)

HORSES - Welcome to our new feature! From now on we will be addressing a number of equestrian issues ranging from seasonal horse care to local competitions and events. If there is anything that you wish to know or about or highlight a local issue, please contact me on the number below! Kicking on to the first edition, I think we can all start to look forward to the lighter, longer days. We will soon be wondering how we coped with the dark mornings and even darker afternoons and, not forgetting the persistent rain! We still cannot forget the last point as, if you hadn't noticed - if you haven't where on earth have you been! - the results of the immense rainfall are still visible. The waters are yet to recede and we are still faced with various conditions that can affect our equine friends. Although there have been good points- I know my horses have enjoyed incorporating some water schooling with their hacking - there have also been a number of problems. One of the most common ailments over the winter has been "mud fever". Mud fever is quite simply that- a skin reaction to a type of bacteria in the mud which causes a reaction when in contact with the skin for a prolonged time. Predominantly, the areas affected are the heels and lower legs of horses and ponies- spreading further if left untreated. However, this year there have been a few cases where mud fever has appeared on higher areas of horses straight away. This has been due to the rise of the water table, preventing the absorption of the rainfall into the soil. Certain bacteria have therefore been left at a higher level and come into contact when the horse has possibly rolled or laid down. So, those of you who are still under water or have particularly sensitive neddies, beware! Another common problem that a lot of people have had over this winter is that of respiratory problems. Limited turn out has resulted in a lot of horses being stabled for longer hours than normally. There are various ways you can prevent respiratory problems, and remember- prevention is better (and easier) than cure! Severe respiratory problems are not just for Christmas, but for life! However, now that we are nearing spring, these problems should be easing away. Easy from now on I hear you all say! We now have to think about the return of the flies, excessive amounts of grass and- YES you will be moaning about it soon - HARD GROUND!! (Debbie Holliman BHSAI - 01303 892481)

OZ on TREES - The floods continue, and it remains difficult to gain access to Bushey Ruff. We've been getting there by scrambling up and through the woods behind the walled garden. One day in February, descending the treacherous steps on the far side of the Big House, we heard the snarl of a chainsaw. Three tree-fellers were, with great skill and humour, dismantling the recently deceased giant sequoia opposite The Stables. These enormous trees were unknown to Europeans until the California Gold Rush of 1849. They were introduced in 1857 to the Duke of Wellington's estate in Hampshire and were henceforth known as *Wellingtonia*. Sadly they were never seen by the "Iron Duke", who had died in 1852. On our return journey, halfway

Kids news around Alkham

Accident - On Saturday the 17th of March Bethany Saunders dog, Ellie was hit by a Landrover. The Landrover was speeding up Short Lane and after it hit Ellie it drove off without stopping. The Saunders family would like to know who did it and why they didn't stop. It could have been a child it hit.

Foot and mouth - you are not allowed in any of the fields or woods because of the foot and mouth. It is a disease which only sheep, pigs and cows can get. We can carry foot and mouth but not catch it. The only way to stop any more outbreaks is to slaughter animals that carry it.

(Carla Saltmar & Chelsie Woodison)

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Regular events

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Other events

The village hall is closed because of flood damage and the old shop to the Old Post Office is being used for meetings – please see below

Thursday	5	Garden Talk at Bramhall
Saturday	7	Coffee morning at 4 Valley Cottages in aid of village hall.
Saturday	7	Bingo at 7.30 pm in old shop Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Sunday	8	Flood photo competition in old shop 10.00 am to 4.30 pm – please see page 1
Monday	23	Village Hall Committee AGM 8.00 pm in the old shop.

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
April 1 st	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am
April 6 th Lynn Chapman's Farewell Service	Sung Eucharist at St Radigunds - Capel 7.30 pm		
April 8 th Palm Sunday	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
April 12 th Maundy Thursday	Sung Eucharist at St Radigunds - Capel 7.30 pm		
April 13 th Good Friday	The Last Hour on the Cross – Meditation at St. Radigunds – Capel 2.00 – 3.00 pm		
April 15 th	Sung Eucharist 11.00 am	Sung Eucharist 8.00 am	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
April 22 nd	Joint Sung Communion (using reserved sacrament) at St. Lawrence – Hougham 10.00 am		
April 29 th	Compline 6.30 pm	Eucharist 10 am Book of Common Prayer	No service

NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S – As you can see from our service rota Lynn Chapman will be leaving us to join the religious community at Whitby this month. We shall say our goodbyes on Friday April 6th at a service in St. Radigunds at 7.30 pm followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

In preparation for Easter, our benefice will meet together in one of our three churches each night during Holy Week (April 8th – 15th) – all at 7.30 pm:

Monday: Gill Calver leads a meditation 'Aspects of Love' at Hougham. **Tuesday:** Frank Conley leads a meditation in words and music 'The Suffering Servant' at Alkham. **Wednesday:** 'The Stations of the Cross' led by Lynn Chapman at Alkham.

Thursday: Maundy Thursday Communion at Capel. **Good Friday:** 'Last Hour on the Cross' 2.00 to 3.00 pm led by the Revd. Dr. Michael Hinton.

Our Easter Day celebration will be at 11.00 am and we do hope our whole village can share in this joyful acknowledgement that death and evil never have the last word. A Happy Easter to you all. (Gill Calver)

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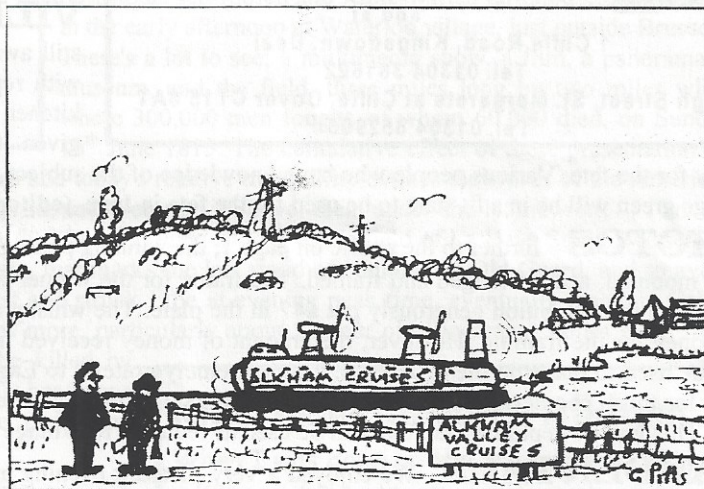
FLOOD – Once again I am grateful to the Dover Mercury for allowing me to print this cartoon by George Pitts of the recent floods. Things are almost back to normal although sticky wicket springs to mind. (editor)

PHOTO COMPETITION – what a great success the competition for the best photograph of Alkham in flood turned out to be. Susannah Tapsell came up with the idea and the people of Alkham and Capel responded by entering 160 photographs. The old Post Office shop was opened on Sunday the 8th of April and during the day about 90 people visited the exhibition. Adrian Harrison of Seymour Harrison Camera shop, Folkestone, judged the entries and declared Brian Cane of Capel the winner, with Debbie Saunders and Christine Tapsell of Alkham second and third. Their photographs will be enlarged, framed and hung in the village hall. Brian Cane also received a bottle of Teachers Whisky. Debbie Saunders entered a photograph with a liner sailing onto the village green, which was terrific and caused a lot of double takes. Visitors were also asked to nominate the photo, which they thought was the best and 63 people voted. Seven voted for Larry Lambourne's photo of the lake, 5 for another by Debbie Saunders and 5 for the winning entry by Brian Cane. There was also a competition to find the photo that had purposely been mounted upside down. Although many thought it was the Parish Clerk in a fetching tutu and wellingtons, it was actually one of the Old Vicarage. There were 42 entries, most of which were right. With apologies to the adults, I decided to include only the entries made by children and picked out 3 winners. They were Tom Robson, Bethany Saunders and Jacob Ball (grandson of Eve Hartwell who lives in Glebelands) and each received a large Easter egg. (editor)

CONCESSIONARY FARES – the new scheme will start on the 1st of June and this year every resident of pensionable age as well as residents with certain categories of disability will be entitled to claim a free, half fare or off peak Bus Permit for travel within Kent (conditions apply). You can register your application in advance by writing to: Concessionary Fares, Director of Finance and Central Support, DDC, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover CT16 3PF or ring 872122. (editor)

YOUR 'VISIONS OF KENT' – KCC will be launching this major document in July and are inviting entries of photographs which reflect Kent and its unique nature. The deadline is May the 4th and for further information or an entry form please ring 01622 221977. (editor)

BRITISH RESISTANCE FIGHTERS – are you, or do you know someone who was, a former member of the Home Guard Auxiliary Units, Special Duties Section or XII Corps Observation Unit in Kent? Winston Churchill ordered a secret army to be formed comprising men who knew the Kent hills, forests and marshes to hold up the Germans should they invade. Adrian Westwood living at Hawksdene, The Street, Hastingleigh TN25 5HU, telephone 01233 750563, is researching a book on the subject and would love to hear from you.



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Tel. 01304 852960

ready for the fete. Various people who have knowledge of the subject are confident, so long as it doesn't rain hard again, that the village green will be in a fit state to be used for the fete in June. (editor)

PHOTOS – further to the article on page 1, the winning photographs in the flood water competition will be enlarged to A4 size, mounted, acknowledged and framed. The frame for the winner will be larger than the second and third places. On the day, visitors to the exhibition generously put £47 in the plate. The whisky and Easter Egg prizes cost about £20 so there is a shortfall in money for the framing. However, the amount of money received from various groups and committees for using the old shop will be used to make up the difference. I am extremely grateful to Eagle Star Insurance for covering third party risks, at no extra cost, for those people who have visited the old shop. The money raised from those parties who have insisted on paying is about £60. This will be kept in a fund that can be used as required for village activities. (editor)

GARDENTALK -We enjoyed a very pleasant evening at Bramhall. First we peered through the windows into the wild and wet night to see the shape and structure of the gardens and to enjoy the views, then we worked together in groups designing a herbaceous border, discussing companion planting for the control of pests and planting to encourage wildlife; all questions posed by Devina. Then the wine flowed as we discussed our projects and a merry time was had by all. The next meeting will be held at "The Willows" Slip Lane on Friday May 4th at 7.30pm. (Susannah Tapsell)

ODE TO A VANDAL

I've got a new motor, no MOT,
a bit of a banger but rubbish free,
because out of the window I chuck,
all cans, boxes and other such muck.

Updating the lounge, we got a good deal,
on a settee with a leathery feel.

The old one was a bit of a pain
so we dumped it in Hogbrook Lane.

The engines knocking it's almost gone,
I need a new motor, I'll get Ron,
to tow the car down some country lane,
then take me to the auctions again.

verse one and three now repeat

can collect waste paper, bottles and cans from outside homes. The service will be available to 9, 000 properties initially and will be phased in for the remainder over the following two years. (Steve Osborn)

THE COFFEE MORNING and Easter Egg draw held at 4 Valley Cottages on Saturday the 7th of April, was a great success and raised a total profit of £183 for Village Hall funds. In order the following were the winners of eggs: Mrs Powell, Ferndale: Pam Sayers: Tricia Wright: Pauline, 17 Glebelands: Shirley Tapsell: Margaret Milroy: Cath Goldfinch: Mrs Elliott: Ellis Milroy: Charlie Preston: Mrs Wenham: Mrs Robson: Margaret Ashman: Sharon, 5 Glebelands: 8 Newlyn Meadow: Doreen Lott: Mr Trent: Holmans 'Woodlands': Ellis Milroy: M Ashman: Mr Elliott: Mrs D Polden: R Dryden: S Milroy: Val & Bernie.

BREAK IN – on the 21st of April a property in the village was robbed. Just after midday a van backed into their drive, two men got out and smashed a lower window and escaped with some antiques. A neighbour who was alerted by the noise had a missile thrown at her when she asked what they thought they were doing. She dialled 999 but by the time the police arrived the robbers were long gone. (editor)

VILLAGE HALL AND FETE – we are still awaiting the approval of the insurance company to go ahead with repairs. The estimate for replacing the floor to the hall and kitchen plus new kitchen units is about £12500. When approval is given it should take about 3 weeks to do, so the hall could be

GET IT ON? The 'Get it Off' weight watchers club have been using my old shop whilst the village hall is closed. Unfortunately, on the 11th of April, I went out and totally forgot about them. I think it is my duty to report that rather than suffering from my lapse in memory they had a wonderful time by repairing to Bramhall where they ate meringues, scones dripping with jam and cream plus various other fattening foods. Happy birthday, Helen. (editor)

On behalf of the Village I would like to thank Brian Wimssett for enabling the flood photographic exhibition to go ahead despite the temporary loss of the Village Hall. Not only did he provide the Venue (The Old Post Office Shop) but also set up the excellent and interesting display of photographs. It was good to see it was well attended but let's hope it's not an annual event! Well done Brian.

THE RED CARPET – the walkways, aisle and altar area of St Anthony's church have been covered in red carpet, replacing the old matting. It looks superb and the considerable cost was paid by someone who wishes to remain anonymous. Whomsoever it was, is to be congratulated for such a truly altruistic gesture. (editor)

CHURCH WARDEN – I would like to congratulate Ken Hammond, my neighbour, on becoming a Church Warden at St. Anthony's. It is a considerable achievement of which he should be proud. (editor)

GREEN BOXES - Good news on the recycling front. From next April Dover District Council is introducing a "green box system" whereby contractors

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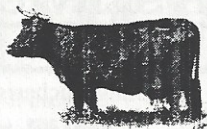
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overwhelming. The contrast between the dreadful war scenes and today's relative tranquillity evokes the words of the American poet, Carl Sandburg, in *Grass*: "Pile the bodies high at Austerlitz and Waterloo, / Shovel them under and let me work - / I am the grass, I cover all." After climbing the 227 steps of the Butte du Lion, and one last look at the field of La Haye Sainte, we set out for home. In order to see the Monument of the Broken Eagle, that marks the last stand of Napoleon's Old Guard, and to avoid the horrors of the Brussels Ring Road, we drove south-west and struck Lille at evening peak time, eventually reaching Calais with twenty spare minutes. The day encouraged me to learn more, particularly about 23-year old Lieutenant James Hart, from Dover, who survived a day of cavalry charges only to be killed by shrapnel, late in the evening, on the other side of the hill. His headstone is in St Mary's churchyard, underneath the tree by the pedestrian precinct. (Steve Osborn)

W. I. REPORT - The last meeting was held in The Marquis of Granby, thank you Karen. Brian and Erica Gray gave a most enjoyable slide show and narrative about the social and economic history of the Waterways of England. The photography of wildlife was superb. Arrangements were made for coming events and outings, previously reported and Rosemary reported on the W.I. walk and lunch. The next meeting will held on May 8th 7.30pm in Capel Church Hall when the Resolutions for the I.G.M.2001 regarding "Provision of School Nursing Service" and "Training of Staff Working with Older People" will be discussed, followed by some fun with hats so bring one of your hats along. There will be a Programme Planning meeting on 16th May 7pm held at "Appletrees" Slip Lane. (Susannah Tapsell)

VILLAGE HALL committee AGM was held in the old shop on the 23rd of April. It was agreed, subject to planning requirements, that two additional windows would be put in the end gable wall by the green. The windows to the hall will also be cleaned quarterly, both inside and out. All the officers were re-elected with Doreen Lott as Chairman, Larry Lambourne as Treasurer and Brian Wimsett as Secretary. All committee members agreed to continue which is a good thing, as the amount of work done by them is phenomenal and a credit to the village. (editor)

HORSE TALK - By the time you get to read this months' horse section, hopefully we will be looking forward to some good weather and, more importantly, an end to the foot and mouth crisis. The impact that the FMD has had on the equestrian world has been immense. Major events on the equestrian calendar have been forced to cancel, including the Cheltenham Festival (racing) and Badminton (3 day eventing). There are still many more events hanging in the balance of whether to run or not. The knock on effects from the cancellations of the equestrian events, on a whole, is actually greater than one would expect. It is not only the venue of the event that suffers, but also a large number of individuals that contribute to the running of the event and of the horses. Such events taking place in the countryside over a couple of days generate millions of pounds to local B&B's, pubs, restaurants, etc. Some business solely run on the money made during such events. The horses that would have been prepared for this season's competitions also face an early holiday (or at least a great reduction in their workload). The people that have spent the past few months preparing the horses also face a great reduction in their work. Attention from the farrier is less frequent, grooms duties are far less, less feed is required, and the list goes on. Mr Blair's boasting of less than 1 million unemployed is sure to be short lived! But then again, he rarely listens to the countryside! Politics apart, we must look on a more positive note. During this time, we can do all of the jobs that we seldom find time to do: Give your horse a thorough daily groom. You will assist the appearance of his summer coat and get to know your horses' anatomy in a greater depth: Pull manes and tails and trim unwanted hair ready for when the shows restart: Ensure you horses jabs and teeth are up to date: Thoroughly clean all of your tack, checking the stitching, buckles, etc: Clean winter rugs to store away for next winter: Spring clean your stable and attend to any maintenance. And, whilst you are limited as to what you can do on horseback, why not seek some tips off the professionals by reading or watching one of the many good books or videos on the market! (Debbie Holliman 01303 892481)

OZ on WATERLOO - Last month we travelled with the Royal Artillery Association on a one-day coach trip to Waterloo battlefield in Belgium. The outward crossing had that feeling of expectation described in Auden's line "... the cliffs of Dover vanish, and the Calais flats appear." After a long drive across the unvarying Franco-Belgian landscape, ("wall-to-wall Gazen Salts" someone commented), punctuated only by occasional red-roofed and white-walled farmhouses, we arrived in the early afternoon at Waterloo village, just outside Brussels. There's a lot to see; a multimedia show, a film, a panorama, a museum, and the field, three miles long by two miles wide, where 300,000 men fought, of whom 60,000 died, on Sunday 18th June 1815. The cumulative effect of these presentations is

Kids news around Alkham

When I was down on the green I saw a boy walking a dog and letting it do its business on the grass. I asked him to pick it up and he said no he didn't want to. He knows who he is and if he can't pick it up let his parents walk it. It is very dangerous for kids on the park and if they get it on their fingers and rubbed his/her eyes they could go blind. So please pick it up in future.

(Carla Saltmar & Chelsie Woodison)

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WHAT'S ON

Regular events

THURSDAY

Mobile Library Vicarage
Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am

Other events

The village hall is closed and The Old Post Office shop is being used for meetings – please see below

Friday 4 Garden Talk The Willows 7.30

Saturday 5 Bingo at 7.30 pm in old shop
Kathleen Goldfinch 822776

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
May 6 th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping Together 11 am
May 13 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping Together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
May 20 th	Joining Other Christians From Dover at a Rogation Service at St. Radigunds Abbey 10.30 am		
	Joint Benefice Evensong at St. Radigunds Capel 6.30 pm		
May 27 th	Joint Benefice Eucharist at St. Anthony's Alkham 10.00am		

NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S – Christian Aid week begins on May the 13th so watch out for your envelope through the door and for any people being asked to be sponsored on 'the walk'. It's a good opportunity to support some of the poorest people in the world. If every household could spare just the price of a lottery ticket, what a difference that would make to those suffering as a result of natural disaster in so many parts of the world. Watch out for news of our Rogation Service at St. Radigunds Abbey on May the 20th. We shall be joining with other local Christians to mark this event in a service of Blessing of fields and crops at 10.30 am in the 12th century barn, thanks to Grace and Albert Moynan's hospitality. Children's activities are included as the them 'Garden of Eden' is developed with displays of flowers, plate gardens, collage music and refreshments. Bring a picnic too if you wish. At our recent AGM, Ken Hammond was elected as warden as sadly, Betty Preston stood down, in preparation for her move north to be nearer her daughter and family. Thank you Betty for all you have done for St Anthony's over the years. It would take this whole Newsletter to itemise everything. We know you will still be beaver away in the background for a while yet and we will no doubt say our proper farewells later on. Thank you Ken for being prepared to serve the village as its Church Warden, along with Richard Tapsell a practised and much trusted hand! Thank you too to Grace Stacey who has joined our PCC and to all those continuing to serve. Thank you too to the generous donor of our beautiful red carpet. Come and see it if you haven't done so already. It makes our church feel really warm. (Gill Calver)

HEDGE TRIMMING in Short Lane. My most grateful thanks to David Beaney junior, Rob Allen and later joined by Ashley and Nathan Hughes for the excellent work they carried out trimming the hedge in Short Lane. (Tricia Wright)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Alkham Valley Society secretary
Pamela Sayers 822397

Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0171 2193704

Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969
e mail brian@bwimsett.freemove.co.uk

Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295
and Betty Preston 822421

County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976
and work number 01795532547

Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661
e mail susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk

Village Hall booking
Rosemary Polden 824876

District Councillor Fred Scales 201382
and Trevor Bamfield 202334

Police - Community Support 218151
Report crime taking place 01303 850055

Women's Institute
Betty Neely 822688

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn Meadow 824201
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance & removal	Wolverton 824853 & 07973 501390
BED & BREAKFAST	Owler Lodge with Pat and Bill Owler	Alkham Valley Road 826375
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 824991
CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians, dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis 822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 828007 & 0589 310479
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham 01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmains Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with Gift Shop and village shop	South Alkham 01303 893351
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton 822420
LIVERY	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liveries	Megget Lane, South Alkham 01303 892056
METALWORK	Cook Fabrications Hawkinge Welding and other metal work	Fenfield Lane, Hawkinge 01303 893011
POST OFFICE	Southdown Stores general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	London rd, Temple Ewell 827100
SCHOOL	Capel-le-ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-ferne 01303 251353
VEHICLES	Vehicle Valuations Used car specialist, Folkestone	53 Bradstone Avenue, 01303 253212
WINDOW CLEANING	Turtle Window Cleaning: Houses, shops & businesses welcome	Dover 206986 or 07971 011736

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 94 June 2001

Free Non
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TRAFFIC - Alkham has been selected by the Highway Authority as one of the sites for installation of interactive speed limit signs. As the name suggests a microwave detector registers the speed of an approaching vehicle and if it is exceeding the limit, displays the speed in the centre of the sign. At the same time two pairs of amber lights flash either side of the speed attracting the driver's attention. There is automatic night-time dimming so the signs should not be too intrusive. They have been used with great effect at other locations in the country and have significantly reduced the speed of traffic. On the Dover approach to the village the signs will be about 12 metres before Short Lane and on the Folkestone side, just past the entrance to John Ullmann's field opposite the end of Valley Cottages. It is good news for Alkham that the problem has been identified and hopefully this will lead on to some measures to deter lorry traffic. (editor)

VICARAGE MEADOW

Paul Tapsell has drawn up the proposed Restrictive Covenant for Vicarage Meadow. A meeting will be held with the Church Property Board on June 14th and hopefully, shortly after that subject to payment, Vicarage Meadow can be called the Village Green. (editor)

THE VILLAGE HALL

repairs to the hall are now complete with new floors to the hall and kitchen, a new smaller stage and new electrical appliances in the kitchen. On Saturday the 2nd of June from 10.30am a **coffee morning** is being held in the hall so that villagers can come and have a look at what has been done. There will also be a raffle, plus other attractions. (editor)

CAMERA - a small black camera was lost on the village green recently. If anyone has found it will they please ring 01303 245654.

KIDNEY RESEARCH

Larry Lambourne would like to thank all the people in Newlyn Meadow who generously donated £22.50 in the recent collection for kidney research.

**FREDERIC
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Solicitors

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THE ANNUAL PARISH

meeting will be held in the village hall on Thursday the 31st of May at 7.30 pm. Please do come along and have your say or ask the Parish Council any questions you like. (editor)

VILLAGE FETE - the fete will be held on Saturday the 14th of July at 2.00pm. As always new helpers will be most welcome. Please come to the open meeting on the 14th of June at 8.00 pm in the village hall or phone me on 01303 892082 for more information. Stallholders and competition details will be in next month's Newsletter. (Paul Tapsell)

FROM OLIVE HARVEY to all my dear friends in Alkham and beyond. Thank you so much for your prayers, your thoughts, your visits and all the lovely cards with their encouraging messages. Progress is slow, but the situation is gradually improving and I am extremely well looked after by family and friends. The hospital staff are all so kind and helpful too. I have been overwhelmed by everyone's kindness.

THE CRICKET PITCH

is going to be re-seeded and to deter vandalism a big fence is going to be put up around it. In the past such fences have been vandalised and Paul Tapsell has said that if any should take place he will prosecute for criminal damage (he is a barrister). The rest of the village green is recovering remarkably well and there will be no problem with it hosting the annual fete in July. Please do come to the fete meeting on the 14th of June. (editor)

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EWELL MINNIS - at the Parish Council meeting it was reported that youngsters in Ewell Minnis are going around firing air rifles, scaring pets and horses. If it does not stop action will be taken against the offenders. (editor for parishioner)

FOOTPATHS - you are probably aware that footpaths which do not cross fields with livestock in are now open to the public. Signs will be put up at these locations but if you come across pasture land you must stop and re-trace your steps. (PC)

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE

of Queen Elizabeth II will be next year and volunteers are needed to arrange a suitable celebration. If you would like to join a committee to organise events then please ring the Parish Clerk on 822661. Generally it's members of the W.I. who organise things but it would great if other volunteers came forward. (editor)

EWELL MINNIS - Coco Ward of Burley Cottage, Ewell Minnis has kindly agreed to be the Parish representative for Ewell Minnis and her phone number is 826914. (editor)

TENNIS tuition is available for all ages starting at three, for individuals or groups, at Hockley Sole. The Alkham Valley Road towards Folkestone widens where there is a crossroads with 'Patio Products' workshop on the right. Turn left at the crossroads and a short distance along you will find Hockley Sole. For further information please ring Ange Snape on 01303 850284. (editor)

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GARDENTALK - We had a most enjoyable evening at "The Willows" thanks to Helen's hospitality. We strolled round her garden helping to name some mystery shrubs, admiring her new gravel garden and pondering on the plight of her camellia. Over wine and nibbles we all contributed to a discussion on plants and shrubs failing to thrive. The next meeting will be held on Tues. 5th June 7.30pm at "the Hermitage", when Derek will be introducing a topic about laying a patio. (Susannah Tapsell)

HIGHWAYS - as mentioned in the last edition, it will be some time before road repairs caused by the flood will be carried out. If you are concerned about a particular pot hole, please ring the Parish Clerk on 822661 and she will inform DDC. (editor)

COMPOST ADVISER wanted for Alkham. Any volunteer will get a free bin, free training and back up support. Age and ability is no limitation (i.e. could be a youngster) and for more information please ring Pauline Chamberlain on 01233 812033.

BRINDENE - the planning application for further garaging at the bungalow to the left of the Marquis was again rejected by DDC because of the loss of grass bank and the serious effect it would have on the conservation area. (editor)

POSTHOUSE - Dover Posthouse at Whitfield have asked me to advertise the fact that they are offering their Bleriots Room for use by group/club/charity meetings absolutely free. Please phone Karen on 821230. (editor)

ABANDONED CAR - further to the anonymous poem in last month's Newsletter, I see that a car has been dumped in Hogbrook Lane. The bed can't be far behind! A car was also dumped outside Valley Cottages, scavenged and taken away; the one near Chilton has been removed to be replaced by a Ford Sierra at Lower Standen. It is a national disease that needs stamping out. (editor)

ALKHAM BOURNE or locally known as the Nailbourne was walked from Megget Lane to Short Lane by DDC Highways and the Parish Council on the 10th of May to identify problem areas. Where the dyke passes from the garden centre it goes into two pipes, which were put in 1965 when the road was widened, as highway drainage. The pipes are almost blocked, which was one of the reasons for the flooding and partial closing of the Valley Road. DDC appear to have accepted responsibility for these pipes and they will attempt to clear them. The dyke up to the bungalows was cleared in the flood but in front of Valley Cottages and Newlyn's Meadow trees are growing in the middle of the dyke. These will be cleared. By the village hall the dyke is filled with silt and rubbish and the Village Hall Committee have agreed to part fund its clearance. The Parish Council will pay for the dyke cleaning across Vicarage Meadow and the adjacent landowner will be asked to move builder's rubble and rubbish. Two footpaths cross the dyke and Kent County Council have agreed to replace the bridges swept away with new ones suitable for disabled access. All but two of the millennium trees survived the flood and these will be re-staked, the latter having the tags made by Mick Wingfield nailed on. (editor)

TREES - up to recently if you wished to fell or pollard a tree you would probably have to get planning permission. Research has shown that only 2.7% of the applications had any comments and only 0.7% had any revisions. It has therefore been decided that no consultation should be necessary where the tree has no amenity (presumably this is open to judgement) and where it does, the Parish Council will be consulted. The filling in of a simple form is required and should you want further information phone DDC and ask to speak to the tree officer. (editor)

DDC have a Local Agenda of which number 21 is awareness-raising articles. I have been asked to print these and here's the first.

- Reduce waste! Stop the assistant packaging twice - say 'I don't need a bag'
- Turn the tap off when brushing teeth
- Take short showers instead of baths
- Consider buying from Charity shops

Did you know? The UK generates more than 10 million tons of packaging waste each year - almost 10% of the total waste generated.

PHOTOGRAPHS - two of the winning photos in the flood competition have been framed. They look superb and will be hung in the village hall ready for its opening. (editor)

HOGBROOK BARN - a further planning application has been received by the Parish Council who still object to the development on the grounds of size and scale. (editor)

SYMPATHY goes to Mrs Nicklinson and family on the death of Frank Nicklinson, husband and father, who lived at 5 Valley Cottages.

BOWLS - Capel short mat bowling club have some vacancies and any one, young or old, is welcome to come along and try their hand. It is played in Capel Village hall on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons from 2.00 to 4.00 pm and Tuesday evening from 7.15 pm to 9.30 pm. For further details please ring Doris Breedon on 01303 257246. The game is similar to bowls played outside but as the name suggests, the length is shorter. Bowls are available for use. (editor)

HEDGE - I have been asked to point out that the hedge adjacent to Hogbrook Lane was inspected by two responsible adults to make sure there were no nesting birds before it was cut down to size. It does look good and allows more daylight onto adjacent properties plus the cricket pavilion can be clearly seen from the houses, which hopefully will deter the vandalism to the electricity box and pavilion. (editor)

POND WARDEN - very pleased to report that Mick Wingfield of Newlyn's Meadow has volunteered to take on the job. Colin Griggs is continuing as Tree Warden. (editor)

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OZ on LICHENS - Last September, during the first downpour, I wrote to a friend in Toronto and commented that I was considering building an ark or two. Since then the combination of the floods and the foot-and-mouth epidemic has given some idea of the distress that once afflicted Noah, Job, or the ancient Egyptians. With so much of the countryside out of bounds, we have amused ourselves by examining more closely the minutiae of our surroundings, in particular the lichens that I mentioned briefly in the April newsletter. Until recently, little was known of the structure of these strange and beautiful organisms; botanists classified them, along with mosses, as *Musci*, the Latin for 'mosses'. Around the middle of the 19th century, it was established that the lichen consists of two quite different organisms, a fungus and an alga, growing together. The alga creates food from carbon dioxide and water in the air, together with a few simple minerals, and the fungus then feeds on the alga. It follows that lichens are sensitive to impurities, and so they are used to measure atmospheric pollution. When dry, lichens survive extremes of temperature by going into suspended animation; when wetted, they rapidly absorb water and grow, albeit by only a few millimetres a year. The Victorian poets were very aware of the distinctive nature of lichens, from William Allingham's "crust of lichens yellow and gray", through John Clare's "Grey lichens, mid thy hills of creeping thyme", to Edith Nesbit's "golden-lichened roof and gray-green stone." More recently, Ruth Pitter has described how "the myriad lichens start each into the eye a separate splendour." However, and much as I love the lichens, I shan't mind if their animation is soon re-suspended by a prolonged spell of hot dry weather. **(Steve Osborn)**

NEWS FROM ST

ANTHONY'S - This month is a particularly significant one in the life of our church. Ken Pilgrim, who has been training for ministry with the Ordained Local Ministry scheme for the last 3 years, is to be ordained deacon in Canterbury Cathedral on Saturday June 30th at 3pm. He will have been on retreat in the Old Palace, the Archbishop's house, for 3 days before that, so if you want to wish him well, do so before he leaves. We are incredibly privileged to have Ken as a minister in our benefice. He already gives all his service to us free and will now be licensed to us as our benefice deacon, to continue and develop that work. In a year's time he will be ordained priest and will continue serving Alkham, Capel and Hougham in that capacity. Many of you who come to church regularly, know him well already. He is

an important cog in our growing ministry team and we all share in his and wife Wendy's joy at the ordination. Each candidate at that ordination will only receive a small number of tickets but there will be plenty of seats available for other friends. If you would like to be present at the service, make sure you arrive early to get a good seat. The Cathedral opens at 2.15 pm. Contributions for our gift to Ken are being collected by wardens Richard Tapsell and Ken Hammond. Lets make his homecoming party on July 1st a real day to remember. Do make a really special effort to come to his celebratory service and lunch at Capel. This is a benefice event and we have only chosen St. Radigund's because it has all the necessary facilities on one site with very easy access for everybody. The service will be at 10.30 am and will be followed by a shared lunch and reception. We hope people coming to the lunch will bring suitable finger buffet food. We intend to use our new church for the service and party, gathering in the hall and garden for drinks between the two events. Please let us know if you are coming so we can arrange appropriate seating. A list will be put at the back of each church for signatures or phone Vad or Colin Blake on 01303 241399. Its good to be celebrating what is happening amongst us, the body of people who make up the Christian community here. It makes a welcome change from our preoccupation with our building and grounds, vital plant though they are for our life in the village. Have a good summer! **(Gill Calver)**

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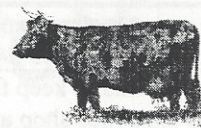
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HORSE TALK - Sunday 6th May saw the annual jumping show at Greenhill Farm, Megget Lane, Alkham. Amidst the recent mass cancellations of the show calendar, Greenhill Farm enabled local riders to finally get out & start to compete again! Following strict foot & mouth guideline precautions, 60 riders took part in the jumping show, which saw 2 rings of show jumping classes. One of the rings, based in their large sand school, hosted a range of classes from absolute beginner to the more experienced. The outdoor ring ran a warm up clear round class until midday, then progressed up to the open class of a 3'O course. The first class of the day was that of bottom hole in the sand arena. This is based at the younger riders & resulted in the 10 entries all completing double clear rounds! The next class, the mini minimus, still aimed at the more novice combinations, saw all 8 entries achieving a clear round. This class went on to a timed jump off over a shortened course with Jodi Randall on Tom Thumb the winners! The 'Local' jumping class was open to riders living within 20 miles of the show ground. This class was at a height of 2'9" with Samantha Brinkhurst on Pansy the winners. Over in the grass arena, once the clear round jumping had finished, the Novice class commenced. Rose Spicer won this on Milly Molly Mandy. The pairs jumping followed the novice & provided great entertainment for those watching. This class is based on 2 riders each being timed over a course of jumps. This was a fast competition, won by Samantha Brinkhurst & Eleanor Roy. The last class of the day — the open proved the most challenging class & resulted in no clear rounds over the 3'O course. A jump off was decided on the least faults gained per rider with an eventual winner, Helen Bayley. A good day was had all round with the advantage of good weather as well! Riders were able to take home a memento of the day, thanks to Quantum Photographic's services. Greenhill Farm would like to thank all of their helpers & sponsors on the day. If you would like to sponsor a class at their Open show, please contact Mr. & Mrs. Burrows. Greenhill Farm Annual Open show, Bank holiday Monday 27th August 2001. There will be classes for everyone ranging from In-hand & ridden classes to show jumping & working hunters! **(Debbie Holliman)**

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Ladies keep fit in the old Post Office shop at 10.30 am every Wednesday
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 8.00 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Thursday May	31	Annual Parish meeting in the village hall 7.30 pm - see page 1
Saturday	2	Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Saturday	2	Coffee morning 10.30 am in village hall - see page 1
Tuesday	5	Garden Talk at The Hermitage 7.30 pm - see page 2
Thursday	7	General/local election voting in village hall 7 am to 10 pm
Tuesday	12	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Thursday	14	Fete meeting in village hall 8.00 pm
Monday	18	Cage bird society in village hall 7.30 pm
Thursday	21	D & D canine society village hall 5.00pm

Note: There may be other events in the village hall but these were the only ones booked by the 22nd of May. Please phone Rosemary on 824876 to check.

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
June 3 rd Whitsun Day	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am
June 10 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30pm in Canterbury Cathedral (for all Dover churches)
June 17 th	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
June 24 th	Joint Benefice - Sung Eucharist at St Lawrence - Hougham 10.00 am		

W.I.REPORT - The resolutions to be presented at the I.G.M.2001 were discussed at the May meeting. Provision of school nursing services was well supported, but specific training to a recognised qualification for all staff caring for the elderly was thought to exclude many people who would make good carers, so this resolution was not passed. Final arrangements were made for the visit to Brook Museum which incidentally took place the next day and which proved to be a most interesting and informative venue, made more so by Brian Wimsett's knowledge of the agricultural exhibits. The meeting continued with some fun and gaiety trying on the many hats that members had brought along. It is hoped that the next meeting will be held in Alkham Village Hall. (Susannah Tapsell)

TELEPHONE BOX

Does anyone have any photographs of the Old Post Office when there was a telephone box at the top of the steps? Whilst clearing the front garden I came across a concrete base, which Doreen Polden told me was the site of the telephone box before it was moved to the Marquis and then on to its present site. I'd love to see any photos of the shop, which subject to agreement, could be scanned and returned. Please give me a ring on 824969 if you have any. (editor)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Alkham Valley Society secretary
Pamela Sayers 822397

Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0171 2193704

Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969
e mail brian@bwimsett.freemove.co.uk

Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295
and Ken Hammond 823720

County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976
and work number 01795532547

Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661
e mail susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk

Village Hall booking
Rosemary Polden 824876

District Councillor Fred Scales 201382
and Trevor Bamfield 202334

Police - Community Support 218151
Report crime taking place 01303 850055

Women's Institute
Betty Neely 822688

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn's Meadow	824201
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance & removal	Wolverton	824853 & 07973 501390
BED & BREAKFAST	Owler Lodge with Pat and Bill Owler	Alkham Valley Road	826375
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton	824991
CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians , dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis	822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis	828007 & 0589 310479
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham	01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malma's Farm	Alkham	202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham	827644
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton	822420
LIVERY	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liveryes	Megget Lane, South Alkham	01303 892056
METALWORK	Cook Fabrications Hawkinge Welding and other metal work	Fernfield Lane, Hawkinge	01303 893011
POST OFFICE	Southdown Stores general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	London rd, Temple Ewell	827100
SCHOOL	Capel-le-ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-ferne	01303 251353
VEHICLES	Vehicle Valuations Used car specialist, Folkestone	53 Bradstone Avenue,	01303 253212
WINDOW CLEANING	Turtle Window Cleaning: Houses, shops & businesses welcome	Dover	206986 or 07971 011736

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ALKHAM VILLAGE

FETE this year will take place on the Vicarage Meadow at 2 pm on Saturday the 14th July 2001. Anyone who would like to help either with a stall or otherwise should contact me and I can guarantee that I will be able to find you a job. As usual we will be putting the tents up from 8.30 a.m. on the Saturday and the more helpers we have the easier everything becomes. We also need more helpers to take the tents down afterwards **please, please** stay to help even if it's just for half an hour. Please note - We will need to clear the village hall car park by 1 p.m. to allow for disabled parking. In addition to the usual attractions and features (band, dancing, tug of war, children's races, etc) we should have a fire engine in attendance (siren and all). All of the traditional favourite stalls will also be present but if you can help the following by donating goods/prizes, please liaise directly with the relevant smallholders.
Bric-a Brac - Den & Irene Barnard (824845); Tombola and/or Raffle Prizes - The Poldens (824876); Needlework - Margaret Knowles (822220); Produce - Richard Tapsell

(822295) - who urgently needs to borrow two sets of metric scales to comply with new regulations!; Plants - Sue Tapsell (822295); Books - Sue Lees (822661); Baskets and/or Hoopla prizes - Christine Tapsell (822282); Jewellery and/or Cakes Barbara Palmer (824973). We also have the competitions please do take part, none of them are meant to be too serious and the more entries there are the more fun it is for everyone and the better the displays are for our visitors. Children's Art competition - The theme is "Alkham Vicarage Meadow", with two age ranges "under 7" and "8 to 12" and entries can be paintings, drawings, or models. (Shirley Tapsell 822638). Cookery Competition - Categories are: For the Children only - A Gingerbread Person: and for everyone (adults and children welcome) (a) A Savoury Flan (b) A Fruity Dessert (c) Victoria Sponge, (d) Two Scones, (e) Home made Jam, (f)

Home made wine and (g) Home made liqueur (Shirley Tapsell 822638). The Produce show is open to everyone (the more entries the better) classes as follows - Section A, Vegetables Class (1) 3 potatoes (white), (?) 3 potatoes (coloured), (3) 3 carrots (with tops), (4) 3 turnips (white with tops) (5) 3 beetroots (with tops), (6) 9 pods of peas, (7) 5 pods of Broad Beans, (8) 2 lettuces (tall variety), (9) 2 lettuces (cabbage variety), (10) 3 Tomatoes, (11) 1 Cucumber, (12) 3 onions, (13) 3 shallots and (14) Any kind of vegetable not listed above. Section B, Soft Fruit. Class (1) 12 Raspberries, (2) 12 Gooseberries, (3) 6 strigs of currants (red, black or white) and (4) 9 Strawberries - Section C, Cut Flowers: Class (1) 1 Vase of mixed annuals, (2) 1 Vase of mixed perennials, (3) 1 Vase of decorative dahlias (3 blooms) (4) 1 Vase of mixed sweet peas, (5) 1 Vase of Roses (floribunda), (6) 1 Vase of Roses (hybrid tea) - Section D, Pot Plants. Class (1) 1 Begonia in pot, (2) 1 Fuschia in pot, (3) 1 Geranium in pot, (4) 1 Cactus in pot, (5) 1 Pot Plant (foliage), (6) 1 Pot Plant (flora), (7) 1

Planted hanging basket. Can everyone who won a trophy last year please get it/them back to Chris Tapsell (824765) as soon as possible. Raffle Tickets and Fete Posters/Car Stickers are still available, if you want either please call me on (01303 892082 (not after 8.30p.m. though!). Alternatively please ensure all unsold raffle tickets are returned to Dot Polden or myself by Wednesday July 11th. (Paul Tapsell)

BRIC-A-BRAC - Irene and Den Barnard are running the bric-a-brac stall at the fete and would like items for the stall, so long as they are not too big. Please give them a ring on 824845 and they will collect or pop them down to Halton Court on the corner of Slip Lane and the Alkham Valley Road. (editor)

OVERHANGING

BRANCHES - Would anybody who has a garden with branches overhanging footpaths please cut them back so pedestrians can pass safely. (Parish Council)

A PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH

will be held in the village hall on the 4th August from 11.00 pm onwards in aid of village hall funds.

BETTY NEELY'S

ANNUAL coffee morning is being held in the village hall on the 28th of July from 10.30 pm onwards with all profits going to the church and the village hall.

THE QUIZ EVENING in the village hall, which was cancelled due to the floods will now take place on the 18th of August. It costs £3 per person with food provided and tables can be booked for not less than 6 or more than 8 by phoning Doreen Lott on 824876.

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IT DOES HAPPEN

It appears that a vicar in the 19th century took a parishioner's word literally. On entering the churchyard through the lychgate to the left are four gravestones. The furthest is in memory of James Gilham who died in 1869 and his wife who died in 1875. Her inscription reads 'MARY ANN SIR'. Sue Lees informs me that this is almost certainly due to reverence on the part of Mary's mother, who finished naming her child by adding the word 'sir' in respect to the vicar. It could have been worse. (editor)

GARDENTALK—The meeting held at "The Hermitage" was much enjoyed by everyone. The garden was looking wonderful and Derek gave a very interesting talk about building a patio; thank you both for your hospitality. The next meeting will be held at "The Vicarage" on Wed. 4th July 7.30pm. If anyone has some spare plants for the plant stall at the fete, we would be most grateful.

KEEP FIT—In order to develop more fully and freely the Keep Fit has decided to book it's own time, which is 9.30am-10.30am every Wednesday in the Village Hall, so if anyone wishes to just do a session of Keep Fit only, then they are welcome to join us at 9.30am. May we take this opportunity to sincerely thank Brian Wimsett for his hospitality in the last few months.

WEDNESDAY CLUB

Following the Keep Fit (above) from 10.30am to 11.30am there will be the Wednesday Club, which used to be called 'The Get It Off' club.

TENNIS tuition by a qualified tennis coach at Hockley Sole. All ages catered for, individual or group. Holiday sessions are also available for children. Please phone Ange Snape on 01303 850284. (editor)

THE ANNUAL PARISH meeting held on the 31st of May in the village hall was poorly attended. Trevor Bamfield, one of our local councillors, said that Alkham would in the future be in the same district as River, Capel and Hougham. As only three councillors would be required he was stepping down. He said there was a fair chance that South Alkham would get main drainage, that abandoned cars were to be moved more swiftly and that the White Cliffs Experience could become a Centre of Excellence for adult education and library services. He also said that it was going to cost DDC £350,000 to convert parking metres to take the Euro. Various reports were given culminating with Question Time. Terry Connolly who lives in the bungalow by the traffic island asked if the 30 mph limit could be moved towards the Farm Shop so the interactive speed signs would slow vehicles before they reached the village. (editor)

DDC LOCAL AGENDA

Regarding a more sustainable lifestyle

- If you are going a short distance, walk, cycle or bus instead of the car.
- Reduce waste! Re-use items such as bottles, carrier bags and containers.
- Don't leave electrical goods on standby – save energy!
- Gardeners – compost rather than throw away, collect water in butts phone 872427 for more details

WHAT A DIFFERENCE AN HOUR MAKES

– Fledglings against commerce, Short Lane bungalow new roofs. Scaffolders arrive, before they even start unloading, I told them about the fledglings and the law. Rang Dover D.C. and tried to speak to the Council's Architect. I explained to one of his colleagues and was assured they would leave an area around the nest and not disturb the parents, which of course resulted in very distressed parents, not feeding the young for some hours. Next morning the roofing chaps arrived with every intention of proceeding with just the front of the roof. In the mean time the Council's Architect phoned me and after some discussion he decided it wasn't really practical for just half the roof to be done and two weeks wasn't too long a delay after the length of time it has taken to get this project underway; he would immediately inform the contractors. I would contact him once the birds had left the nest. About one hour later the said gentle man rings me to say that after consultation with the RSPB, it is eye contact which will disturb the parents and it isn't too long from the contractor's start to finish, maybe 7 to 8 hours for the fledglings not to be fed. I am very sad, the laws are passed and we should uphold them. I tried but the big boys won. What have they done to feel proud, I hope they hang their heads in shame. (Tricia Wright)

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR

Doreen Lott told me that somebody connected with the judging of the Village of the Year was in Alkham recently. He had looked round the church and then went to Vicarage Meadow. Here he met Doreen and family and she was able to show him the village hall, and the village in flood photo winners. Doreen was also the ideal person to tell him about all the fund raising, which takes place and the other activities in the village. This of course was written in the submission, so it was good to find out it was true. It's quite encouraging and further judges will be visiting in the near future. (editor)

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

– further to the appeal for people to join a committee to organise events for Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee, only one person has so far volunteered. It would be great if other people came forward, so if you'd like to help please ring Sue Lees on 822661. Youngsters would be very welcome, to help organise events for the youth in the village. (editor)

MALMAINS FARM – John Ullmann phoned to say that he is re-tiling the roof to Malmaings Farm. It's finished now and certainly looks attractive. I met John recently and he told me with some pride that he had just celebrated his 75th birthday. Happy Birthday, John (editor)

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HORSE TALK - At last we are seeing some good weather & things are getting back to some form of normality. At the time of writing this article, paths that are free of livestock have reopened & hopefully it won't be long until they all open. As the show season is now under way, we now need to ask ourselves- are we (horse & rider) fit & ready to compete? Recent reports from shows have been commenting on the huge entries in all classes. As riders flock to these shows, often eager to qualify for the bigger shows & make up on some of their loss earnings over the past few months, reports show an above average number of falls & errors. Why is this so? As riders, we are all fully aware of the possibility of 'hitting the deck', sometimes for what can seem no real apparent reason!

However, we can minimise the possibilities of errors if we get our preparation right. After a couple of months with no competitions, a little rustiness can be expected. However much schooling & work done at home, the whole show atmosphere cannot be simulated. It is therefore better to compete at a lower level to get horse & rider going again, rather than jump the gun & risk a silly mistake. It takes seconds to knock horse or rider confidence, but weeks to rebuild! With the recent lull in work, one also has to consider the fitness of horse & rider. This will vary as to what discipline a rider competes in, but ensuring your horse is fit enough to do the job you put to him is vital. An unfit horse that is asked to perform tasks it is not fit enough to do so is dangerous. Not only may this cause injury to the horse-joint & muscular problems-but also a tired horse may fall. Equally, a rider has to consider their fitness. An unfit rider will hamper the performance of the best of horses.

No horse would ever be prepared to lug a tiring weight around on their backs. Remember you are 50% of the partnership not just a passenger!!
(Debbie Holliman)

OZ on FINZI - This year's BBC Proms programme celebrates, amongst other things, the centenary of the birth of an unsung hero of 20th century English music. Gerald Finzi was born on 14th July 1901 in St John's Wood, London. When he was eight, his father died. Rejecting the family business, Finzi plunged himself into music, studying with Ernest Farrar at York. By 1918, Finzi had lost his three elder brothers and Farrar, two of them killed in the final stages of World War I. Finzi bravely completed his studies at York with Edward Bairstow and then moved to London, where he started to teach at the Royal Academy of Music and to compose. In 1933 he married the artist Joy Black, and they lived in Berkshire, later building a house at Ashmansworth in Hampshire, where Finzi began, in addition to his musical works, to build his fine collections of books and rare apple-trees. During World War II, Finzi worked for the Ministry of War Transport. After the war ended, he was in great demand as a composer, particularly in connection with the Festival of Britain. Sadly, he fell ill in 1951 with Hodgkin's disease, and died in 1956, just as he started to receive recognition as a composer. Finzi will be remembered as a master of the difficult art of setting to music the words of the great poets, such as Traherne, Milton, Wordsworth, and, most notably, Thomas Hardy. Stephen Banfield describes how, in the 50 settings of Hardy poems, Finzi arranged melodies to such unlikely phrases as "enlarged in scope", "It's gunnery practice out at sea" and even "I have unbarred the backway." He did, however, balk at setting Hardy's *Childhood among the Ferns*, on the not unreasonable grounds that it ended with the word 'perambulate.' (Steve Osborn)

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB - Though the Cricket club is plying its trade away from the Meadow this year, not many things actually change - as we have yet to force a victory after 7 attempts. The first game of the season saw us travel to Margate and play in near Siberian conditions against Courtstairs. Batting first Dennis Barnard and Ian Callaway carried on their excellent form of last year with a opening partnership of 50 before the rest of the batting failed and we reached 94/6. In reply they reached the total with ease, and the only thing the side came away with was a cold and a runny nose. Shepherdswell were the next opposition at a lovely ground in weather 100 times better than the previous week and with the sun blazing down we forced a draw. They hit 186 while we replied with 132-4. Dennis again missed out on a century and in turn Irene missing out on a nice slap up meal as he was dismissed for 76. Old Hartsdonians were the hosts the following week with their Skipper Ian Wroot who smashed 200 against us 2 seasons ago was up to his old tricks again as he smashed a 100 in their total of 174 with that man Barnard excelling with the ball this time with 3 wickets. We batted sensibly to force a draw with all the batsman chipping while Paul Simpson did his best for gender relations by being dismissed first ball to their female spinner. The River Woodpeckers match was saw both clubs play for the Mick Sherrell trophy in honour of a fine gentleman who sadly died in April. Mick was a regular in the Alkham side in the early nineties and was a classy left handed bat and will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Woodpeckers took the trophy as our front line batsman failed and we were indebted to Neil Moors in scoring 31 to get our total to 95. They easily picked off the runs for the loss of one wicket taken by Alky resident Sam Marlowe. Further defeats have occurred against Hythe, Betteshanger and Worth but the spirit of the club does not diminish as we carry on our merry route around East Kent. Matches in July see us play Westbourne, Coldred (we are coming after you Mr Bianchi) as well as the tour to Eastbourne, which we are all looking forward to. The censored version of our shenanigans to Sussex can be read in the August issue!!! Special note of thanks to Club Chairman Paul Tapsell for his excellent Bar-B-Q on the 16th June which was enjoyed by one and all and special mention to Barbara for her wonderful cakes which definitely have been a missing ingredient in the teas this year. (Matt Gerrard)

W.L.REPORT-The speaker, Sheena McIntosh, a dietician from the local hospitals, gave a most interesting and informative talk on "Healthy Eating". This was followed by a report given by Noreen Knott, the delegate for the 1GM. 2001. Both the resolutions relating to The Health of School-Age Children and The Abuse of the Elderly, discussed at last month's meeting, were passed at national level. A very successful Drama day, a visit to the London Eye were reported on by members and Christine, treasurer, quietly efficient, gave the financial report. Coffee Mornings will be held on 28th July (Village Hall) and 11th August (The Willows). Arrangements are in hand for the visit to Pashley Manor on 26th July. (Susannah Tapsell)

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Ladies keep fit in the VH 9.30 am to 10.30am followed by the Wednesday club until 11.30 am
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 8.00 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Monday	2	Parish Council meeting in VH at 7.30 pm – all welcome
Wednesday	4	Garden Talk at The Vicarage 7.30 pm – see page 2
Saturday	7	Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Tuesday	10	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	14	Alkham Village Fete-see page 1
Thursday	19	D & D canine society village hall 5.00pm
Monday	23	Village Hall Committee meeting 8.00 pm village hall
Saturday	28	Coffee morning in the village hall see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
July 1 st	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist At St Radigund – Capel Followed by Ken's Post Ordination Party 10.30 am		
July 8 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
July 15 th	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
July 22 nd	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Anthony – Alkham 10.00 am		
July 29 th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am

NEWS FROM ST ANTHONY'S – Please note that our services are in a slightly different order this month as we shall all be joining together at Capel on the first Sunday to celebrate Ken Pilgrim's ordination. It is Alkham's turn for a joint benefice service on July the 22nd. Next month we hope to open the old St Mary's church for worship on Sunday August the 26th at 10.00 am. As one time Chapel of Ease to Alkham, many people have happy memories of that place, so do spread the word. (Gill Calver)

PASHLEY MANOR AND MERRIMENT GARDENS – Although the outing has been arranged by the W.I. everybody is welcome to come along on the 26th of July. The coach will leave Alkham at 9.30 am and return in the late afternoon. The final cost will depend on numbers, so the more people going the cheaper the cost will be. Please ring Cherry Leppard on 01303 251105 for more details.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0171 2193704	Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brian@bwimsett.freemove.co.uk	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Ken Hammond 823720
District Councillor Fred Scales 201382 and Trevor Bamfield 202334	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	Police - Community Support 218151 Report crime taking place 01303 850055	Women's Institute Betty Neely 822688

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn's Meadow 824201
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BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 824991
CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians, dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis 822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 828007 & 0589 310479
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham 01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmains Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton 822420
LIVERY	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liveries	Megget Lane, South Alkham 01303 892056
METALWORK	Cook Fabrications Hawkinge Welding and other metal work	Fernfield Lane, Hawkinge 01303 893011
POST OFFICE	Southdown Stores general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	London rd, Temple Ewell 827100
SCHOOL	Capel-le-ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-ferne 01303 251353
VEHICLES	Vehicle Valuations Used car specialist, Folkestone	53 Bradstone Avenue, 01303 253212
WINDOW CLEANING	Turtle Window Cleaning: Houses, shops & businesses welcome	Dover 206986 or 07971 011736

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SUMMER FETE

– Despite the weather forecast the fete went well with £3200 being taken on the day of which about £2400 was profit, which is similar to last year. I thought it might be interesting to publish the amount of money each stall collected: Hot dogs £310: Bric-a-brac £279: Tea tent £226: Cakes £203: Lucky dip £193: Coconut shy £172: Fresh produce £168: Ice cream £164: Books £155: Plants £146: Textiles £116: Tombola £111: Bowling at the pig £60: Golf £49: Jewellery £31: Mini ponies £30: Cards £15: Nails in floor £28 plus £564's worth of draw tickets were sold. Thanks must go to all the stallholders for the marvellous job they did. Thanks also to the small band of people who turned up to erect the tents and then take them down again. There was a downpour just before the last four tents were struck and they have been hung in Hogbrook barn. Our thanks to Peter Rye for letting us use the barn and his forklift truck. It was nice to see my folding bike make a welcome return with John Crothall, the purchaser from last year presumably trading up for something better (not difficult). I'm pleased to say it was resold and we're hoping to see it again next year. The Bowling at the Pig was won by young Jack Hopkins who scored 20. Mrs Burrows senior won the Cookery Shield for her sponge and raspberry jam. Bob Palmer won a lot of prizes in the vegetables competition. In the children's cookery 'Gingerbread Person' competition, Paris Bates was the winner and in the children's art competition 'Alkham Vicarage Meadow', 7 years and under, Paris Bates won again with Fiona McKenzie and Katy Williams second. In the 8 to 12 year old group Sarah Ryder was first and Troy Bates second. Finally thanks go to John Garlinge for working out the finances and also to Paul Tapsell and his team who made the whole thing possible. (editor)

FOOTPATHS – The majority of footpaths around Alkham are now open. However, where farmers have a special case for continuing the foot and mouth restrictions there will be signs up asking you not to proceed on the footpath or bridleway. This particularly applies to Sladden Farm, where Derek and Di Smith have a prize winning herd of Dexter cattle. (editor)

EWELL MINNIS – I have been asked to print a thank you to the children in Ewell Minnis who responded to the plea in the last Newsletter to stop using their air rifles. (editor)

PLANNING – The revised planning application for two houses on the site of the Atcost barn, adjacent to Hogbrook Lane, was once again turned down on the grounds that the development would be too high and bulky. It would also not be in keeping with village, the boundary of which has been extended to include the barn but not the concrete area to the front. DDC once again turned down the application for extra garages to the bungalow by the Marquis. The Parish Council are sending a strong letter to DDC who still have no Enforcement Officer and people are getting away with breaches of planning. (editor)

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR

We got through the first inspection as two ladies turned up to see Sue Lees and myself again. We have an invite to the presentation in September but are realistic about our chances. However Alkham has appeared in the competition and that's the main thing. (editor)

SPEED SIGNS – at the time of writing the posts for the interactive speed signs have been put up opposite Valley Cottages and just before Short Lane. (editor)

FETE – There will be a meeting in the village hall on the Thursday the 9th of August at 8.00pm for people to give their views about the fete held on the 14th of July. Please come along and express your views, whether positive or negative as it may help us to raise even more money next year.

JUBILEE – A meeting is being held in the village hall on the 21st of August at 7.30 pm to discuss ideas to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. The festivities are over a couple of months so please do come along and give us your ideas. Youngsters would be particularly welcome. (editor)

ART EXHIBITION

– Ahmed Ovais of the Three Bells and Joanna O'shea are organising an art exhibition in the village hall on the 25th of August from 7.00pm onwards. Paintings will be for sale and there will also be cheese and wine available. (editor)

FOOTBRIDGE – KCC have agreed to install a footbridge suitable for use by the disabled a few metres down from where the previous bridge was, opposite the village hall. A bridge made from sleepers will be installed at the far end of the green. (editor)

OLIVE HARVEY – it is pleasing to report that Olive has returned home and would welcome visitors. (editor)

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WHAT'S AGE? – At the fete, one of the helpers putting up the tents was Terry Connolly who lives in Hazeldene, the last bungalow on the Folkestone side of Alkham. I was amazed when he told me that he was 79 and then he went on to say that he was a hockey referee. He belongs to the Folkestone Optimists Hockey Club and gave up playing hockey when he was 76 and that's when he decided to become a referee. He umpires for the entire league throughout Kent and recently went to Le Touquet to referee a match. He and his partner also belong to the local operatic society and perform in plays and musicals. A further surprise was that he and his partner, Pauline Woodward who is 80, got married on the 20th of July and then went to the Little Theatre in Sandgate for a blessing ceremony performed by our vicar, Gill Calver. I think congratulations are in order. (editor)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY ANNUAL OUTING

– A trip is planned to the Hop Farm Country Park, formerly known as the Whitbread Hop Farm on Saturday 1st September, 2001, which will depart from Alkham at 9.00 a.m. and leave the Hop Farm at about 5 p.m. There seems to be many interesting things to see there, both indoors if it rains and outside, including the beautiful shire horses, which I believe give daily demonstrations and displays, the Hop

Story Museum, The Decades Experience, described as “a highly interactive walk through the main decades of the twentieth century” and other interesting features, including many especially for children. There is also a collection of military vehicles on permanent display. The week-end is also Hop Picking Festival time, and visitors are invited “to join us in our hop gardens, and enjoy our traditional hop picking trip down memory lane”, but I am not too sure what that involves! On top of this, at an extra cost of 60p per head for each item, you can join in a Pottery Workshop or have a dray ride, and on this particular day there is also a free birds of prey display. There certainly seems to be great deal going on, and in between all this, if you can find time to eat, there is the Roundels Country Kitchen which has a licensed bar and serves hot food between 12 p.m. and 2.30 p.m., or you can take a picnic of course. The cost per person will be, not including food:- Adults £11, Senior Citizens £9.50, Children (aged 4-15 incl.) £8, Under 4 years free. 6Op, or £1.20 needs to be added to these figures if you are going to have a “go” at the above extras.

Extras unfortunately have to be booked early, so if you are including these, your name and full payment needs to be received by me by Wednesday, 8th August. Otherwise, payment please by Wednesday, 22nd August 2001. It is hoped to welcome a good crowd, and I

LORRIES – There is and always has been a problem with lorries using the Alkham Valley Road. The Parish Council recently received a letter from DDC in which they put the argument that because of the recently published ‘Lorry Route Map for Kent’, lorries are not finding their way along the Alkham Valley Road because of signing but because they are doing so in error or they are aware that it saves them time and money. It may be surprising to DDC but we already knew this and this is the problem, which we have been asking them to address. The letter is extremely patronising and written by someone who hasn't the slightest idea what they are talking about. The Parish Council have written to Brian Cope, our County Councillor, asking if he would look into the matter. It was only a short while ago that DDC asked the Parish Council to come up with proposals to deter the ‘error’ and ‘knowing’ truck drivers from using the Valley Road but now they have conveniently forgotten about it. It is generally accepted that we can't have a lorry ban; all the Parish Council wanted were measures, such as single lane entries either end of the village, which would induce lorry drivers to use more appropriate routes. In 1998 the County Council published a document entitled the next five years. One of their goals was to reduce the number of lorries on unsuitable rural roads and presumably the KCC map is the solution they have come up with. It certainly will make no difference. (editor)

CHURCHYARD – Recently, comments were made about the state of the churchyard, as some people thought it was overgrown and untidy. Every year the grass, flowers and weeds are allowed to grow in the churchyard until late July for environmental reasons, to promote plants which don't grow elsewhere because of pesticides and also to let the wildlife flourish. It has always been this way and hopefully always will be. Credit must also go to the Tapsell families and Ken Hammond who then cut down the overgrown churchyard for little or no reward. (editor)

shall be writing to members giving them the above information, but it is really appreciated if you can let me have your names and monies by the due dates. (Pamela Sayers, Secretary)

NEWSLETTER – my grateful thanks to Ted Baker, Bill Rolfe and Betty Neely for their kind donation of money to the Newsletter. With regard to the cost of producing the Newsletter, which basically comprises 1300 photostats and some postage each month, income just about covers the annual production cost of about £420 a year. There is however a small reserve, inherited from Tony Ingall, to cover any eventualities. (editor)

OLIVER At the Broadstairs and St Peters Horse show on the 1st of July,



Oliver the donkey owned by Helen and Cal Scopes did very well in his classes. This gave him enough points to win the

championship shield and rosette. For the last three years, Poppy had won the ‘Best Mare’ class cup but this year didn't do so well with a second and three fourths in her classes. (Helen Scopes)

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NEWS FROM ST ANTHONY'S

As our noble churchyard working party wait for a dry spell to do the hay cut, this seems a good opportunity to thank them all for all their hard work they do in keeping our village churchyard so beautifully. In many country churchyards it is the task of families to keep the area clear around the graves amidst brambles and thick undergrowth. We are extremely fortunate to have such a well kept area with marguerites, butterflies and all kinds of wild grasses in the spring and a complete cut at this time of the year. So THANK YOU, every member of the team. During August our services follow the usual pattern with a joint service at St Mary's (our old Chapel-at-Ease for Alkham) on the last Sunday. Don't forget Capel Church Barbecue on August the 18th (tickets from the Vicar or the Capel Wardens) and Hougham Fete on August the 25th. And finally, feel free to pick up a Church Newsletter from the porch if you're passing through the churchyard.

P.S. If anyone in the village is interested in confirmation (young people or those who are more mature!) we have a benefice confirmation service planned for November the 4th when the new bishop of Maidstone, Bishop Graham, will be visiting. Phone Gill on 01303 244119 for further details. (Gill Calver)

W.I. REPORT - At the July meeting Mr. Ottewill, a gold and silversmith from Evegate, gave a most interesting talk about his work, which

was thoroughly enjoyed by all. There was special pleasure in having the £25,000 punch bowl, the rings and other works of art, worth thousands of pounds passed around for members to examine closely and marvel at their beauty. There will almost certainly be a visit organised by the social secretary to Mr. Ottewill's workshop later in the year. The business of the meeting was conducted prior to the talk in the usual way, things of note being the osteoporosis scan and a visit to the Marlowe theatre in November. The next meeting will be Members Night and will take the form of an American Supper and members were asked to each bring a plate of food.

(Susannah Tapsell)

GARDENTALK - A very enjoyable evening was spent at "The Vicarage". Fortified by our usual tippie we wandered round the garden, basked in the evening sun, delighted in the various plants and herbs, grieved over the beech tree and chatted over Lucy's list of problems, which she had given us. Thank you Ian and Lucy. The next meeting will be at 1 Standen Terrace on Wed.8th August 7.30pm when Maureen will be hosting and introducing the topic. Following some conversations at the fete, please know that the Garden Talk meetings are very relaxed affairs and that people are very welcome to come and join us when they are able. May we thank everyone who supplied plants for the stall at the fete.

(Susannah Tapsell)

OZ on BEMPTON - On holiday in July, we fulfilled a long-term ambition by visiting the RSPB reserve at Bempton Cliffs on the East Yorkshire coast. Nothing had adequately prepared us for the sight of these majestic chalk cliffs rising sheer from the North Sea to a height of some 400 feet. The coastline here appeared almost straight with several small bays, alternating with headlands that stood in line and upright like palace guards, silent and shimmering in the afternoon heat. From the cliff-top viewpoints the sea and sky framed a dizzying tangle of seabirds screeching their continual babel of competing cries, and the ammoniac smell of bird dung from the cliff-face was quite overpowering. In a moment we went from never having seen a puffin to seeing hundreds simultaneously. These strange and chubby birds are readily identifiable in flight by their rapid wing action, reaching 400 beats per minute to achieve speeds of 55mph. The puffin has the quaint Latin name of *Fratercula arctica*, or "little brother of the north", perhaps an allusion to its stance and plumage, both reminiscent of a monastery brother. It was once believed that puffins were fish, due to their prowess at underwater swimming, and this allowed the eating of puffins on Fridays and during Lent to avoid the Catholic meat prohibition. Moufet and Bennett wrote in 1655 that "Puffins...the feathered fishes...are accounted...by the Cardinals to be no flesh but fish." Others amongst the 200,000 birds clinging to Bempton cliffs are the puffins' relatives, the razorbills and guillemots; 150,000 kittiwakes; 5,000 gannets in Britain's largest mainland gannetry; fulmars, herring gulls and shags. After Bempton, we stopped briefly at Flamborough Head, and saw orchids, butterflies and, with great joy, our first sand-martins of the year, nesting in soil exposed by a recent cliff-fall. (Steve Osborn)

HORSE TALK - This month sees the build up for our local annual horse show at Greenhill Farm, Meggett Lane, South Alkham on Monday 27th August (Bank Holiday Monday). There are classes for everyone, whether you like to keep your feet firmly on the ground for the in-hand showing classes, or attempt a challenging number of obstacles in one of the show jumping classes! The jumping classes range from the mini minimus, for the younger, less experienced rider, to the open, which is for those that like more of a challenge! The jumping classes will run in 2 rings - one on sand, the other on grass. The showing classes will take place both in-hand & ridden. These classes are judged on the confirmation & behaviour of each horse within its suitable class. Presentation of both horse & rider/handler & their equipment are also taken into consideration. For our younger riders, there is a special in-hand child handler class & lead rein ridden classes. Rosettes will be given to all lead rein entrants. At the end of all the in-hand & ridden showing classes, those placed 1st and 2nd in their class, will contest for the annual championship shield. Spectators are more than welcome to attend, with refreshments available on site. There will also be tack stands to browse around! For further information, contact Mr & Mrs Burrows on (01303) 892056 or Debbie Holliman (01303) 892481. (Debbie Holliman)

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WEDNESDAY	Ladies keep fit in the VH 9.30 am to 10.30am followed by the Wednesday club until 11.30 am
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FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Saturday	4	Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Saturday	4	Ploughman's lunch 11.00 pm onwards in village hall
Wednesday	8	Garden Talk at 1 Standen Terrace 7.30 pm - see page 2
Thursday	9	Fete meeting - see page 1
Tuesday	14	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Thursday	16	D & D canine society village hall 5.00pm
Monday	20	Cage Birds V H 7.30 pm
Tuesday	21	Jubilee Meeting - see page 1
Saturday	25	Art exhibition in the village hall - see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
August 5 th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Baptism and Worshipping together 11 am
August 12 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
August 19 th	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
August 26 th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Mary's 10.00 am		

WATER TABLE - It was said at the Parish Council meeting that a well at South Alkham still had 36 foot of water in it. This is not good news, as a heavy downpour would cause the dyke to flood again. (editor)

THE DYKE - Letters have been sent to all riparian land owners (owner of land by a river) by the Parish Council asking them to make sure that the dyke adjacent to their property is clear and that water can easily flow. The Village Hall Committee received such a letter and the dyke adjacent to the hall is to be cleared at the same time as the Parish Council has the ditch cleared across Vicarage Meadow. Work on the latter has started and currently has a fair amount of water in it mainly due to the ditch being deepened. (editor)

FLY TIPPING - There has been a lot of fly tipping around the parish of Alkham recently. At the junction of Slip Lane and Chalksole Green Lane an enormous pile of building rubbish was tipped on the road and there were similar piles on Hollow Way Lane leading to Swingfield and Warren Lane towards Lydden. A fine of up to £20,000 or imprisonment doesn't deter these people, probably because they know they are unlikely to be caught. If you do see anyone fly tipping please ring the Freephone number 08000 288828. (editor)

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Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0171 2193704	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brian@bwimsett.freemove.co.uk	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Ken Hammond 823720
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ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham 01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmains Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
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LIVERY	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liveries	Megget Lane, South Alkham 01303 892056
METALWORK	Cook Fabrications Hawkinge Welding and other metal work	Femfield Lane, Hawkinge 01303 893011
POST OFFICE	Southdown Stores general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	London rd, Temple Ewell 827100
SCHOOL	Capel-le-ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-ferne 01303 251353
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WINDOW CLEANING	Turtle Window Cleaning: Houses, shops & businesses welcome	Dover 206986 or 07971 011736

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DAVE WILKINS

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DRUGS – The Parish Council has been informed that drugs, namely cannabis, have recently been sold in Alkham to children living in the village. This is naturally a matter of grave concern to parents. The Parish Council has contacted the police, who at first were indifferent to the situation but now say they are mounting a surveillance operation. (Parish Council)

LOST CAT – You may have seen this in the local press but I've been asked to include it in the Newsletter. An 83 year old pensioner was taken into hospital on the 22nd of July and his cat, Ben, was boarded at Alkhamhurst. Unfortunately Ben escaped and hasn't been seen since. Evidently when a cat is really frightened it may go to ground for some time. If you see Ben, who is black and white like the cat in the Felix advert, please ring me or 823324 in the evening. (editor 824969)

WHOOPS – In last month's Newsletter I reported that Pauline Woodward and Terry Connolly were going to get married. Due to a slight misunderstanding on the phone I said that Pauline was 80 but she is in fact 64. Fortunately Terry and Pauline thought it was highly funny (editor)

BETTY PRESTON died on the 8th of August and printed below is a moving tribute written by Grace Stacey and friends. I thought Betty was a terrific person and she will be greatly missed by all her knew her. (editor)

Betty Preston (nee Fowler) was born and educated in Durham. She joined the WAAF during the war and trained as a Morse decoder in Blackpool. Whilst stationed in Bedford, Betty met Gordon at a dance; they were instantly attracted and Gordon later proposed by letter (a letter which was carefully preserved and kept by the family). Married in the summer of 1946 Gordon and Betty settled in Alkham and had four children, Kent, Boyce, Elizabeth and Grant, and although the family grew up and moved away, "3 Valley" was always home. Betty was a real homemaker, her bread always at the ready for a hungry "bairn", or a slice of cake for a visitor. The beautiful shawls for the babies and later the amazing jumpers for her grandchildren. Who among us will forget that vibrant, purposeful lady, striding through the village or walking her beloved banks with the dogs. For a number of years Betty was employed at Woodside, working with children in care, and later becoming deputy manager of the home. More recently she helped in the Demelza Hospice shop in Dover, where again she was much loved. The newer residents of Alkham will not know perhaps how much a part of village life Betty was. As Churchwarden, a long serving member of both the W.I. and Mothers Union. She helped with refreshment for the over sixties, the cricket teas and took her turn supervising the youth club. Everyone who knew Betty will miss her more than these few words could ever convey. "Greatness is not found only in possessions, power, position or prestige. It is discovered in truth, goodness, humility, service to others and character"

GARDEN PARTY – A Garden

Party is being held at Hillview, Short Lane on September the 8th. It starts at 1.00 pm and will be opened by John Bonmy O.B.E., J.P. There will be a brass band, side-shows, white elephant stall, second hand bookstall, bring and buy stall, golf games, cake stall, plant stall, kill the rat, spin the wheel, roll the ball and pitch the coin. Afternoon teas and soft drinks will be available in the garden, which will be open to the public plus scuba diving induction course in the pool. Entrance costs £2 for adults with children entering free. All money raised will go to the Boys and Girls Masonic Trust. Everybody welcome. (George Tyler)

FETE – first of all my apologies to Kathleen Goldfinch as I didn't mention the £98.40, which she gave to the fete funds from her regular Saturday Bingo evenings. From the fete profits £1300 will be given to the church, £1300 to the village hall, £100 each to the Snowdon Colliery Band and the Dover Transport Museum, £25 to Capel School, £25 to the Cricket Club and £40 to the British Red Cross. (editor)

THE HARVEST SUPPER

this year will be on Monday the 8th of October. Please contact Betty Neely on 822688 to book a seat.

THE CHRISTIAN AID

collection in Alkham raised £186. In addition to this Ken Hammond raised £150 on his sponsored walk round Samphire Hoe and Sally (mongrel) sponsored her owner for a modest amount doing the same. (editor)

THE PLOUGHMAN'S lunch in the village hall on the 4th of August, despite being poorly attended, raised over £100 for village hall funds.

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Wheel Chair Access

I am grateful to a couple of donkeys,
which sent me the following poem.

The Churchyard

Two donkeys would be very sad
If the grass looked like a park
For it provides our winter-feed
When days are cold and wet and
dark.

If people want the churchyard neat
We'd protest with our back feet
We two donkeys like our hay
So please don't mow the grass each
day.

Zebedee and Zara
Common Hill House

The Tapsell families and Ken
Hammond should be congratulated for
cutting and baling the hay from the
churchyard. In addition I understand
that Mark Robson and Larry
Lambourne also pitched in, so thanks to
them as well.

The Church PCC and the team
who cut the churchyard grass would
like to say many thanks to John
Ullmann for his generosity and
kindness for once again letting us
borrow his motor scythe to cut the
grass. (David Tapsell)

THE W.I. COFFEE morning
hosted by Helen Scopes at the Willows,
Slip Lane raised £109 for W.I. funds.

LORRIES – In last month's Newsletter I reported that DDC considered 'The Lorry Route Map for Kent' was the solution to the lorry problem on the Alkham Valley Road. This statement seemed to be fatuous so I wrote to the Leader of Kent County Council, Sandy Bruce-Lockhart to see if he agreed, as one of his five year targets was to reduce the number of lorries on unsuitable roads. I said that DDC had written to the Parish Council in June 2000 asking them for suggestions as to how the number of HGV's on the Alkham Valley Road could be reduced. Irrespective of this he mentions the new A20, which was opened 7 years ago and also says that the 'pinch point' measure at either end of the village was rejected because of poor visibility and that it could be hazardous. This is not true, as the most recent proposal by the Parish Council had the 30 mph signs moved slightly out of the village so that there was full stopping sight distance for 30 mph in both directions. He says that there are no HGV signs to indicate that Valley Road is a lorry route, which is true but totally unhelpful, as it is the existing lorry problem which needs addressing. The letter ends by saying that should the Parish agree that HGV's are still a problem, a further survey could be carried out to establish the number of lorries plus their destinations, given that a proportion may be servicing local premises (sic). The pinch point option could also be re-investigated. (editor)

THE DYKE – irrespective of past performance DDC are to be congratulated for the work they have done in cleaning out the dyke from the Farm Shop to Valley Cottages. They will continue along the front of Newlyn Meadow. The Parish Council and the Village Hall have paid for the dyke to be cleared from the hall and across Vicarage Meadow. I have been asked to include a request for the other riparian owners to clean their part of the dyke. If there are any problems please contact the Parish Council. (editor)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY

annual outing to the
Hop Farm Country Park - There are
still some spare seats on the coach trip
to the Hop Farm, and if anyone who is
not a member is interested in going, we
shall be pleased to welcome them on
board. It certainly seems a popular
place to go and there are many different
things to see, including this particular
weekend a Hop Picking Festival and a
Birds of Prey Display. Fuller details
were given in the August issue of the
Newsletter, but if anyone wishes to
know more about it please give me a
ring. The cost per person is as follows:-
Adults £11, Senior Citizens £9.50,
Children (aged 4-15 incl.) £8, under 4
years free. The coach is, of course,
inclusive., and will leave Alkham at 9
a.m., and depart from the Hop Farm at
about 5 p.m. If there is anyone who
would like to join us, then please do
contact me as soon as possible,
payment to be by the 22nd August.

(Pamela Sayers 822397)

COFFEE MORNING

I would like to thank everyone who
came to my annual coffee morning on
the 28th of July for their support and
donations. A profit of £129 was made,
which was equally shared between the
church and the village hall.

(Betty Neely)

BEATTIE JEAPES

would
like to give her heartfelt thanks to
everybody for their prayers, cards and
messages to get well. On the 4th of July
she dialled 999 after collapsing at
home, and was taken by ambulance to
the very busy A & E at William Harvey
Hospital where she was 'stacked up' by
the very frustrated staff until a bed was
available in the assessment ward. They
found she was a serious case and was
later taken to St Thomas's in London
for a pre-arranged appointment. On the
25th she remembers being wheeled to
surgery, being 'zapped' and then the 2 ½
hour heart operation took place. She
was later transferred to a ward with
views of the Thames and Houses Of
Parliament Ward joining fellow patients
walking up and down clutching teddies,
or in Beattie's case a towel, having left
home in the ambulance. The staff were
superb and the food was good. On the
31st of July Beattie came home and
Alkham never looked lovelier. (editor)

THE QUIZ

on the 18th of August
in the Village Hall was a great success
generating a profit of £108. The
questions were set by Mike Stevens of
Thanet Local Radio who was
impressive as was the food prepared by
the Lott and Polden families. It made a
very pleasant evening and bookings are
now being taken for his next quiz on
the 24th of November. Please ring
824876. (editor)

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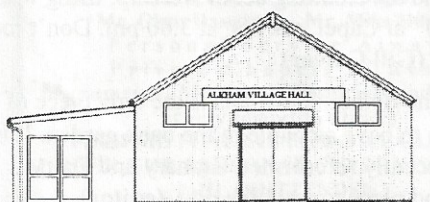
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VILLAGE HALL



The Village Hall Committee have agreed to have two additional windows installed in the front of the hall and a village hall sign placed above the old entrance. Also, quotations have been obtained for installing gas central heating and hopefully work on this should start before the winter.

JUBILEE COMMITTEE

met for the first time on the 21st of August in the village hall to decide what events to stage for the Queen's Jubilee and how to raise the necessary funds. It was decided to have events on each day of the Jubilee celebrations, from the Saturday to the Tuesday. On Saturday the 1st of June it is planned to have a dance similar to the very successful one staged for the Millennium. It is hoped that the Atcost barn can be used but with the site subject to repeated planning applications, this might not happen. Alternative venues will be sought but it is accepted that a marquee would be an expensive option. On the Sunday a 'silly' game of cricket is planned perhaps with a mixture of women, men and children. On the Monday a walking treasure hunt will be organised ending up with a barbecue, probably on Vicarage Meadow. Tuesday will be primarily for youngsters in the village

with races, fancy dress and other events. Fund raising will be from a number of sources. Profits from the annual quiz, already booked for the 26th of January, will go to the fund as will a further one in March. There will be jumble sales, coffee mornings and perhaps a Boot Fair but the most intriguing idea is a slave market. People will offer their services for a fee, say gardening or cooking and these will be auctioned with the money raised going to the fund. The next committee meeting will be on the 20th of November at 7.30 pm in the village hall. If you've got any ideas please come along or if you want to have your say now, phone Sue Lees on 822661. The committee members are Doreen Polden and Lott, Rosemary Polden, Betty Neely, Maureen Hever, Grace Stacey, Lou Matcham, Devina Bartlett, Tricia Wright, Marion Banks-Nash, Andrea Smith and Susan Lees. Roy Adams will probably keep the finances but this may be the first he knows about it.

W.I.REPORT-The August meeting is traditionally known as Member's Evening, there being no speaker or business, only socialising and entertainment arranged by members. A marvellous spread was enjoyed by all, whilst brains were teased by two quizzes, after which the first rehearsal for the Fashion Show was held. Helen's coffee morning for W.I. funds raised £109. The osteoporosis scanning co-ordinated by Belly is on Sept. 13th, Cherry is arranging a meal out that evening and there will be a Jumble Sale on Saturday September the 15th. The next meeting will be on September 11th.

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)

GARDENTALK-A very enjoyable time was spent in Maureen's garden at Standen Terrace followed by a most entertaining quiz, which she had prepared. Thank you, Maureen for your hospitality. The next meeting will be on Friday the 7th of September at Brook House, Megget Lane, when John will be introducing the topic. (Susannah Tapsell)

Horse Talk - This month's horse talk column is here to warn everybody of some recent thefts & crimes related to horses. There have been a number of tack rooms broken into, resulting in large quantities of horse equipment being taken. To reduce the risk of your tack being stolen, always make sure your tack room is padlocked at all times. There are some alarm systems on the market that may act as a deterrent, but those that are the most effect will prove to be very expensive. And, last but not least, if you have none of the above on your tack room or keep your horse in a very remote area, don't risk leaving your tack on site- take it home! Another recent crime- this time far worse - was that of an attack on a horse. The horse, kept in West Langdon, suffered 2 cuts on the flanks, both of which were about 18" long. Veterinary attention was sought, although the cuts proved to be superficial. Kent police are urging everyone to keep an eye out for anyone acting suspiciously around field kept horses & ponies. If anyone does suspect anything, please give them a call before an animal is seriously injured! (Debbie Holliman)

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Ladies keep fit in the VH 9.30 am to 10.30am followed by the Wednesday club until 11.30 am
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Monday	3	Parish Council meeting in the VH 7.30pm - all welcome
Friday	7	Gardentalk 7.30 pm Brook House, Megget Lane
Saturday	8	Garden Party - see page 1
Saturday	8	SEK astronomical society in VH
Tuesday	11	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	15	Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH - ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Saturday	15	W.I. jumble sale in VH 11.00 am
Monday	17	Cage Birds V H 7.30 pm
Thursday	20	D & D canine society village hall 5.00pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
September 2 nd	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am
September 9 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
September 16 th	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
September 23 rd	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St. Lawrence - Hougham 10.00 am		
September 30 th	Workshop 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm "Exploring the Music for Common Worship" Followed by tea and Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist 6.00 pm - St. Radigund's Capel		

NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S - last month was a very sad month for us as we held the funeral of our much loved former Church Warden, Betty Preston. She will be much missed for her many unobtrusive acts of love and service in the village and church and our sympathy goes to her whole family as they grieve her loss. This month we shall be exploring new ways of using music in our services, especially the Eucharist. Come and enjoy an afternoon's singing, a shared tea and the resulting act of worship, using what we've learned on September the 30th at Capel, starting at 3.00 pm. Don't forget a plate of food to share at tea time. (Gill Calver)

CHALKSOLE GREEN has been given its annual tidy up. For those of you who do not know, this is the only piece of common land in the parish where you can officially water your cattle, should you happen to have a couple in the back garden. It is situated at the top of White Hill, which is the very steep hill off Slip Lane opposite the recently refurbished Granary and Dairy. I understand the pond has been puddled such that it should now hold water. It is also a good place to walk the dog. (editor)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

	Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119
Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0171 2193704	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brian@bwimsett.freemove.co.uk	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Ken Hammond 823720
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
District Councillor Fred Scales 201382 and Trevor Bamfield 202334	Police - Community Support 218151 Report crime taking place 01303 850055	Women's Institute Betty Neely 822688

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn's Meadow 824201
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance & removal	Wolverton 824853 & 07973 501390
BED & BREAKFAST	Owler Lodge with Pat and Bill Owler	Alkham Valley Road 826375
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 824991
CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians, dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis 822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 828007 & 0589 310479
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GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with gift shop and village shop	South Alkham 01303 893351
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DAVE WILKINS



HIGHLY COMMENDED – In the Village of the Year competition, Alkham was highly commended in the Community Life section. Ashurst came first, Egerton second and we were in third place with three other villages. A further five villages were commended with a total of 18 villages having entered. The overall village of the year was Ashurst but Alkham should feel proud of itself particularly the W.I., Parish Council, Village Hall Fund Raising Committee, the AVS and the Church with its Garden of Remembrance, bell ringers and services, plus all the other committees and clubs. Susan Lees and myself went to the award ceremony in Egerton Village hall on the 18th of September. The ceremony was extremely well organised with a BBC Radio Kent presenter hosting the evening and the sponsors awarding the prizes. Alkham got a certificate for being highly commended and, subject to agreement, this will be framed and hung in the village hall. (editor)

EWELL MINNIS

The local representative for the Parish Council in Ewell Minnis is Coco Ward. If you have any problems or queries, which you would like her to raise at Parish Council meetings, please give her a ring on 826914.

LOST CAT – The cat belonging to an 83 year pensioner, reported in last month's Newsletter as being lost, was found safe and well on the 22nd August in the garden behind Alkhamhurst Kennels.

THE THREE

BELLS – Sadly the Three Bells at Swingfield Street is now closed and will become a private residence. Ahmed and Valerie would like to thank you all for your valued support. (Ahmed and Valerie Ovais)

THE DYKE – the Highway Authority decided they would leave the trees growing in the dyke when they cleaned it out. The Parish Council is unhappy about this and will ask DDC to remove them. DDC are to be congratulated on their cleaning works, having had a large jet washer on site to clean the culverts. (editor)

CESSPOOLS – DDC has decided it would be uneconomic to put properties at the west of Alkham on main drainage, even though they give large subsidies at present. (editor)

BRIDGES – as you may have seen KCC have installed a couple of bridges over the dyke on the rough line of public footpaths. The one nearest the Village Hall is three sleepers wide with a chestnut rail on one side and a toe-board on the other. The one at the end of the football pitch is two sleepers wide.

20 MPH SPEED

LIMIT – without going into technical details, the highway authority have said no to a 20 mph speed limit through Alkham.

(editor)

INTERACTIVE

SPEED SIGNS – as you can no doubt see, the posts are in place but the signs are not. Evidently this is because SEEBOARD have not got round to installing them and no date has been given to DDC as to when they will be put up. (editor)

VICARAGE MEADOW

According to Paul Tapsell, negotiations to buy Vicarage Meadow from the Church have hit a brick wall. Evidently DDC are not keen on the ideas of Trustees being ultimately responsible for the village green. George Tyler said that an urgent meeting should be set up between all parties to resolve the matter. (editor)

THE MILLENNIUM

SEAT, which is currently in storage, will be installed as a replacement for the existing seat at the junction with Hogbrook Lane, near the bus stop. (I did see Rob Lees mending it, so this may change) (editor)

CHALKSOLE GREEN has been tidied up but further works are necessary. It was suggested at the Parish Council meeting that a **working party** should be put together to do these works. If you'd like to express an interest in volunteering to help, please phone Sue Lees on 822669. It will be a worthwhile job as the Green is a historic part of Alkham.

GARDEN PARTY – The Garden Party held at Hillview, Short Lane on the 8th of September raised £2900 with all the money going to the Boys and Girls Masonic Trust. I would like to thank all the people who donated cakes and raffle prizes and helped us on the day. (George Tyler)

A VILLAGE TRANSPORT

representative is required to report back to the Parish Council, perhaps three times a year, on the transport facilities available in the village. This will primarily be bus use, so if you'd like to help please phone the Parish Clerk on 822669.

QUIZ – There will be another quiz organised by Mike Stevens of Thanet Local Radio in the village hall on the 24th of November. To book a table please phone 824876.

CROSS STITCH – Devina Bartlett has a large collection of cross-stitch magazines, which she would like to give free to a good home. Please phone her on 827548.

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Manager

GREENWOOD FARM

Some people had raised concerns about the earth moving taking place in the fields adjacent to Greenwood Farmhouse. The latter is nearly opposite the half-timbered property on Chalksole Green Lane, which is currently up for sale. At the parish council meeting it was confirmed that the fields had been graded to form two landing strips and this inevitably caused large mounds of earth to appear for a short period. The fields are now level and will be grassed for sheep to graze on. The new owners of the farm appear to be within their rights to carry out the works and the fields can be used for landing aircraft on 28 days in a year. Concern was raised at the meeting about horses being scared when aircraft came in to land over the bridleway, which crosses the fields. Reassurance was given, that if an aircraft was going to land the pilot would check to make sure there were no horses in the vicinity and if there were, the plane would circle until the horses were at a safe distance. (editor)

CYCLE RIDE

- both Ken Hammond and Billy Hollis took part in the Friends of Kent Churches cycle ride on the 8th September. Remarkably Ken did 71 miles and visited 71 churches raising £218.15 in sponsorship and Billy Hollis also did very well, raising over £100. It nearly killed me when I cycled to Capel, so congratulations to you both. (editor)

LORRIES

- in the interval at the Parish Council meeting a member of the audience complained that the Newsletter was always having a go at lorry drivers and went on to give the reasons why he thought it was unfair. After the meeting I had a chat with the person concerned and explained the reason why I wrote about lorries. Last year the Highways Authority said that there were funds available to deal with lorry problems on unsuitable rural roads and the Parish Council were invited to propose solutions. Their response was that a single lane entry at either end of the village would be the best idea and this was submitted to DDC. Previously the Parish Council has tried to get KCC to install traffic calming in the village but KCC always said that limited funds were available and that sites are mainly judged on their accident record. Alkham village has a pretty good accident record and is therefore a long way down the list. When they said they had money for lorry calming, it seemed a good idea to keep banging away about lorries in the hope that the Highway Authority would install some traffic calming. I'm sorry that the person was upset by the articles and I accept that lorry drivers have a living to make and will try, where possible, to minimise the effect on villages and towns. In the meantime KCC and DDC have conveniently forgotten that they asked the Parish Council for suggestions and we are now back at square one. (editor)

MOTORBIKES

- continuing the above discussion at the Parish Council meeting, the subject of motorbikes was raised. Evidently various speed records exist going from points to points along the valley and this is certainly borne out by the high speeds that some travel at. Everyone thought it was a problem and a nuisance and the inevitable result was that someone was going to get killed. On the 17th of September two motorbikes overtook cars between Hogbrook Lane and the Marquis of Granby. (editor)

MARGARET MAXTED

passed away recently. She was born in Alkham 68 years ago and was a well-known character. At various times she lived at Rose Cottage, Slip Lane and in a house at the bottom of Glebelands.

HEDGE LAYING

We are about to renew our efforts, and at the end of October, continue the hedge laying of Pimlico Way. Very little was actually achieved last winter because of the horrors of the foot and mouth epidemic but it is hoped that this year will be more productive. We are rather few in number and so I would welcome any new volunteers, male or female, who would be interested in learning the ancient art or would just like to get out into the fresh air and help. Please ring John Garlinge on 824201.

WELCOME DAYS

are for volunteers to get involved in practical and varied conservation activities with a friendly group. On October the 24th at 9 am and 28th at 10 am it's Lydden, Temple Ewell. I don't know this location but a pick up is available on request from Kearsney Station. You need to take a packed lunch and strong shoes. For further information please contact Debbie Atwill at Kent Wildlife Trust on 01622 662012. (editor)

ALKHAM VALLEY

SOCIETY Annual Outing.

It was unfortunate that due to lack of numbers the coach arranged for this trip to the Hop Farm Country Park had to be cancelled. However, eighteen members and friends went by car to visit the Hop Farm and had a most enjoyable day. We were obviously lucky that our trip was booked for their Hop Festival weekend when there were other attractions going on, such as a birds of prey display and a gent who admirably imitated George Formby playing and singing with his ukulele. It was, I felt, an enjoyable and interesting day out and worth the extra effort involved. Will members please note there has been a change of date for the A.G.M., which will now be held on Thursday the 22nd of November, and not the 29th of November. (Pamela Sayers)

GREEN UPDATE

In the August 2000 edition I described the new facility for recycling garden waste at the Whitfield refuse disposal centre. The processed material is now available at the centre as soil improver, costing £2.50 for a 40-litre bag. (Steve Osborn)

GAS should be connected to the village hall on the 28th of September with central heating works starting shortly afterwards.

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W.I. REPORT

A minutes silence was observed in view of the terrible events in America. Our speaker, Mr Black, then gave a very interesting talk on his career in the Customs and Excise. He began with an intriguing question, "Why were there no women Custom Officers working in the dock area before 1972?" The answer being simply that the toilet facilities were not thought suitable for those of the fairer sex! Refreshments were as delicious as usual. The destination for the Christmas outing is as yet undecided. There will be fashion show rehearsals on October the 2nd and 11th for the Group meeting on the 16th of October. Our next meeting will be on the 9th of October.

(Devina Bartlett)

GARDEN TALK

Thank you to Rosemary and John who hosted our Garden Club; a lovely time was had by all. John organised a very interesting quiz based on shrubs and plants found in fields and hedgerows around their home. The next meeting jumps to November the 8th at Bramhall. (Devina Bartlett)

HAIRDRESSER

There is now an advert for a local mobile hairdresser under Local Businesses and Services on the back page.

OZ on DOVES AND HAWKS - Since the Yorkshire holiday in July, we've been confined to the house, nursing an aged and disabled parent. A continual accompaniment has been the relentless "coo-cooo-cu" of the collared dove that resides on the chimney during the day. The effort of accenting the second syllable seems to lower its pitch by a semitone. Sometimes the song changes to triplets of "coo-cooo-cu"s, involving falls in pitch of two tones, then one, and finally a semitone, in that order. Collared doves spread slowly at first from India, arriving in Asia Minor in the 16th century and the Balkans three centuries later. After 1912, they embarked suddenly on a remarkable colonisation of western Europe, reaching Austria in 1938, Germany in 1943, France in 1950 and England in 1952, eventually nesting as far north as Iceland. Ernst Mayr explained that "After a long period of stagnation a land-bird suddenly enters upon a phase of aggressive expansion." James Fisher suggested that the collared dove, a grain-eater with little fear of man or other creatures, found such expansion easy in Europe at a time when the chicken-farming industry was growing and waste grain was available. As the long hot summer finally gives way to chilly autumn, and we start winter bird-feeding, a different kind of raider lurks. The sparrowhawk will undoubtedly kill a small bird or two in the shrubs by the bird-table. Unlike the collared dove, the "sperhauke" has been around for at least a thousand years, according to literary sources alone, being known as a long-term resident to both William Langland (1362) and Geoffrey Chaucer (1382). I just hope that the sparrowhawk doesn't attack the collared dove. It might prove too much of a mouthful, and also I've become rather attached to the dove's second song. (Steve Osborn)

ALKHAM CHURCH

YARD - The Autumn edition of *Wild Kent*, published by the Kent Wildlife Trust, features an article on wildlife in Kentish churchyards, entitled "Life from Beyond the Grave", in which the authors illustrate how churchyards can become havens for wild life. As a result of recent assessments, the Trust has now designated a number of churchyards as Wildlife Sites, including those at Adisham, Alkham, Mereworth and Sutton at Hone. This means, amongst other things, that the sites are registered with the District and County Councils for use in considering planning applications. Among the matters noted in the Alkham report are the presence of 65 different lichens on walls and tombstones, and the fine example of a chalkland grass meadow. (See the 'Churchyard' article in our August edition). Paul Cottingham, the KWT's Wildlife Sites Officer, is happy to give further information and advice, and may be 'phoned on 01622 - 662012. (Steve Osborn)

NEWS FROM ST.

ANTHONY'S - Harvest Festival time is here again and we shall celebrate in church on October the 7th. In a year when our farming communities have been very much in our minds as a result of the foot and mouth outbreak, this is a good

time to remember, in our prayers, all who grow and produce our food. We are also recognising St. Luke's tide this year. St. Luke was a doctor, as well as one of the gospel writers, and the Revd. Paul Kirby has agreed to come and speak to us about the healing ministry in our hospitals at a joint service at 10.00 am at Capel on October the 21st (the nearest Sunday to St. Luke's Day, which falls on October the 18th). Paul is the senior chaplain in the team, which serves the local hospitals. On the last Sunday of the month we will be hearing about an exciting community project being run by the United Dover churches on Buckland Estate. Nigel Collins, the project coordinator, will be preaching at Alkham at the 10.00 am service and in the evening we shall be joining other Dover Christians in a United Service at the London Road Methodist church..... and don't forget that the new Bishop of Maidstone, Bishop Graham will be coming to a confirmation service at Alkham on the first Sunday in November at 10.00 am. Do join us for that special occasion. And to the wider world stage our prayers go out to those affected by events in the United States on September the 11th as we await with some trepidation, the response from the United States government with others. Some of you might find the two prayers overleaf put into words feelings it is difficult to express. (Gill Calver)

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Ladies keep fit in the VH 9.30 am to 10.30am followed by the Wednesday club until 11.30 am
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Saturday	6	Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH - ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Monday	8	Harvest Supper in village hall
Tuesday	9	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	13	PCC jumble sale in VH 11.00 am
Monday	15	Cage Birds V H 7.30 pm
Tuesday	16	W.I. Group meeting in VH
Thursday	18	D & D canine society in VH
Saturday	27	Beekeepers in VH during the day with their Honey Show

TELEPHONE NUMBERS – I am grateful to a person from Everden who pointed out that the code for London had changed. The only other number to change was unsurprisingly the Police, where the Community Support number has disappeared to be replaced by one number.

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
October 7 th	Sung Eucharist Harvest 11 am	Sung Eucharist Harvest 9.30 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
October 14 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
October 21 st	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Radigund's Capel 10.00 am Revd Paul Kirby to preach (East Kent Hospital Chaplain)		
October 28 th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Anthony's Alkham 10.00 am Nigel Collins to preach ('Crosslinks' ecumenical project on Buckland Estate)		
	United Service for all Dover churches London Road Methodist church 6.00 pm		

Prayer for those affected by the events in the USA

Almighty God, we pray for all those affected by the events in the United States of America. We pray for those who have died, those who are injured, those who mourn and those who still wait for news of loved ones. We pray, too, for all members of the emergency services and the communities where they serve. Comfort them with the presence of your Holy Spirit, and with the confidence of Your Love that never fails, even in times of darkness. In the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen

The Peace Prayer

Lord, lead us from Death to Life
From Falsehood to Truth
Lead us from Despair to Hope
From Fear to Trust
Lead us from Hate to Love
From War to Peace
Let Peace fill our hearts
Our World.
Our Universe. Amen

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 2193704	Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brian@bwimsett.freemove.co.uk	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Ken Hammond 823720
District Councillor Fred Scales 201382 and Trevor Bamfield 202334	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	Police – all calls except 999 phone 01303 850055	Women's Institute Betty Neely 822688

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn's Meadow 824201
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance & removal	Wolverton 824853 & 07973 501390
BED & BREAKFAST	Owler Lodge with Pat and Bill Owler	Alkham Valley Road 826375
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 824991
CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians , dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis 822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 828007 & 0589 310479
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham 01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malma's Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with gift shop and village shop	South Alkham 01303 893351
HAIRDRESSER – Mobile	Registered hairdresser – Senior citizens at reduced rate	Ewell Minnis 01304 824492
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cat; & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton 822420
LIVERY	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liveryes	Megget Lane, South Alkham 01303 892056
METALWORK	Cook Fabrications Hawkinge Welding and other metal work	Fernfield Lane, Hawkinge 01303 893011
POST OFFICE	Southdown Stores general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	London rd, Temple Ewell 827100
SCHOOL	Capel-le-ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-ferne 01303 251353
VEHICLES	Vehicle Valuations Used car specialist, Folkestone	53 Bradstone Avenue, 01303 253212
WINDOW CLEANING	Turtle Window Cleaning: Houses, shops & businesses welcome	Dover 206986 or 07971 011736

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DAVE WILKINS



VILLAGE OF THE YEAR – We had feedback from the competition organisers and their comments are as follows: **‘Community Life:** Neat and tidy village sliced through the middle by the main valley road to Dover. They had a wretched winter with severe flooding problems. They haven’t been able to use the cricket pitch (Club 200 yrs old) at all this summer because of water. The village hall was under water, but good for them, they held meetings in a house for many months and now they have a beautiful new floor and kitchen installed. We had the impression of a close knit community. They made good efforts for the millennium; the new cross on Church Tower is in place. Their churchyard would have pleased the Environment section - half cut - half wild. The fete sounded excellent.’ *We didn’t win but at least Alkham made a showing and we’ll enter next year. It would be great if some youngsters would enter the Environmental section. (editor)*

VILLAGE HALL

Susan Lees has decided to give up the job as caretaker to the village hall. If anyone is interested in taking it on please send an application to, The Village Hall Secretary, The Old Post Office, Alkham CT15 7DE by the 23rd of this month so that the matter can be discussed at the Village Hall Committee meeting on the 26th. At present about two hours a week is paid for. (editor)

WORKING PARTY

We need some help to carry out the ‘Autumn Tidy up’ of the churchyard. If you can help on Saturday the 3rd of November between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm, please come along armed with spades and forks etc. and some liquid refreshment. Thank you.

(R Tapsell & K Hammond)

CHURCH BAZAAR

on the 24th of November from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. Please bring items to sell and do join us for a coffee and the raffle.

BLUEWATER

Cherry Leppard is organising a trip to the Bluewater shopping centre on the 30th of November. There are spare seats and the cost will depend on the numbers who go. Please ring Cherry on 01303 251105 for further details.

QUIZ – a quiz organised by Mike Stevens of Thanet Radio is being held in the village hall on the 24th of November. Tables may be available, please ring 824876 for details.

TYPIST – Stephen Comfort, who lives at Hogbrook Farmhouse and has a physiotherapy practice in Deal, requires a typist. If you are interested please give Steve a ring on 822619 in the evening. The work will have to be carried out from home with the use of your own computer..... and

HELP is needed by Steve to let out and put animals back in at Hogbrook Farm. Please give him a ring on 822619 in the evening for more information.

FRIGHTENING

Fancy Dress Parade on the 27th of October at Kearsney for 7 year olds and under and 8 year olds and over. It is organised by a consortium of organisations including DDC, KCC and Shepway DC and is part of activities for children during the school holidays. If you’d like to enter the competition go to Kearsney Abbey Café car park by 5.00 pm dressed as either a ghost, witch, wizard, vampire or a miscellaneous ‘spooky’. This is followed by the Pumpkin Parade Walk at 6.00 pm. If you don’t want to enter the fancy dress parade just go along at 6.00 pm and bring along a pumpkin lantern to join the family parade around the park. There are prizes for both events and the entry cost is £1. Any queries please phone Melanie Wrigley on 241806. (editor)
See also page 2 for two other events

CHILDREN IN NEED

The Alkham Fashion House invite you to view their infamous Autumn Collection at a **“CRISPS AND CRUMPET”** evening in aid of Children in Need on Wednesday the 14th November at 8.00 pm. in the Village Hall. Entrance £2. Come and support us at this fun evening and please bring a plate of nibbles to share. In order to keep expenses to the minimum, if you would like to donate a bottle of wine, please leave it with one of the following people before Saturday the 10th of November: Christine Tapsell, Slip Lane; Esther Preston, Glebelands; Joan Scott, Newlyn Meadow; Paul Tapsell, South Alkham. (Susannah Tapsell)

CHALKSOLE GREEN

Even though I phone Sue Lees on a regular basis, I still managed to get her phone number wrong twice in last month’s Newsletter. I have apologised to the lady in River who had 5 phone calls offering to join a working party to finish tidying up Chalksole Green. Irrespective of the mistake it was encouraging to get a positive result, so if there are any other people who would like to help please ring Sue on 822661. (editor)

A FETE COMMITTEE

MEETING will be held in the village hall on the 22nd November at 8.00pm. Everybody is welcome, so please come and support the fete.

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VILLAGE HALL - for

those of you who live outside the village and haven't seen them, the village hall now has two additional windows in the front wall above the old entrance. It certainly gives the hall a more airy feel and should you be bored in a meeting you can watch the traffic as it negotiates its way round the bends by the village green. The gas supply is also now connected to a meter on the village hall so the installation of the central heating can go ahead. (editor)

HARVEST FESTIVAL & HARVEST

- Unbelievably after last winter's floods the year's produce has been excellent and the church looked so attractive bedecked in autumn flowers, fruit and produce, the final touch being the magnificent Harvest Loaf made by George Mittens. All the goods were taken to the village hall for Monday's Harvest Supper and displayed on the stage for the auction at the end of the evening. The auction was of course preceded by the excellent supper. There are too many people to be named here and so many donated things for the supper and auction. All that can be left to say is the evening raised £550 to be divided equally between the hospital in Africa and the Kent Air Ambulance. (Susan Lees & Betty Neely)

GREEN GANG

- on the front page of the Newsletter, I have put an article about a fancy dress and pumpkin parade. Unfortunately the information was sent to me at the beginning of October for events during the month, so most of the activities have passed. As mentioned, it is organised by a number of bodies who have arranged fun activities over the half term...

HEAVENLY MOBILES

at 2.00 pm on the 28th of October at the Amphitheatre, Lower Leas Coastal Park, Folkestone, there is the chance to create mobiles of the moon and stars as the nights begin to draw in.....

GHOSTS IN THE LANDSCAPE

on the same date and time at The Square, Elham there is an afternoon stroll as a landscape detective to search for clues to lost features in the changing countryside. (editor)

W.I. FASHION SHOW

- On the front page is an item inviting people to help Children in Need on the 14th of November, when the W.I. will repeat their fashion show last seen at the Group Meeting. I was there helping with the sound and the show was great. I've been asked not to give anything away but they were all great sports and there were some terrific performances, so please do come along on the 14th as it really shouldn't be missed. (editor)

HOGBROOK BARN

- A further planning application has been received by DDC for the Atcost barn on Hogbrook Lane. The proposal is for a terrace of 6 houses with carports. The Parish Council has yet to meet to discuss the proposal but I understand there are mixed feelings. At present the original planning application for detached properties has gone to appeal and the decision is awaited. Either way it looks as though the property developer will eventually build on the site of the old farm building. (editor)

CHURCH JUMBLE

SALE

- where do all the goodies come from for the sale? Takings on the sale and raffle raised £75 for the church funds.

GARDENTALK

The next meeting will be held at "Bramhall" on Thursday the 8th of November at 7.30pm. when the topic will be Autumn Planting. It will be a good time to bring along plants for the Swap table.

(Susannah Tapsell)

ALKHAM VALLEY

SOCIETY - It is difficult to believe this year has passed so quickly, and that it will soon be time to hold our Annual General Meeting. Will you please note the date for this has changed and it is now on Thursday, 29th November 2001, and not the 22nd November as reported in the October Newsletter. My apologies to members - will you please alter your diaries. It will, as usual be held in the Village Hall, commencing at 7.30 p.m. After the meeting there will be a talk by Johanna Westgate on Wildflower Gardening accompanied by slides. Johanna Westgate runs a wildflower nursery and is, I understand, very knowledgeable on this subject. All are welcome at the meeting so please do come along. (Pamela Sayers)

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY

will present two very different settings of the Mass for their Autumn concert in Dover Town Hall at 7.30 pm on Saturday 24th November. **Mozart** sadly died before he could finish his **Requiem Mass**, and the work was completed by his friend and pupil Franz Süssmayer. Although Mozart began the work as the result of an anonymous commission, as he lay dying he saw it as his own Requiem and this is reflected in the passionate intensity of the music. **Haydn's Harmony Mass**, so called because it uses a full complement of woodwind instruments including clarinets, was written in 1802, eleven years after the death of his "dear friend Mozart". It was Haydn's last major work, but shows no signs of failing inspiration, and is, typically, full of musical surprises. Soloists, chorus and The Connaught Orchestra (leader George Simpson) will be conducted by Dover Choral Society's Musical Director, Michael Foad. **Tickets £8** (Schoolchildren £4) are available from Dover Town Hall, The Music Box in Maison Dieu Road, and from members of Dover Choral Society. For further information ring Michael Foad on 01303 242694. (Michael Foad and Steve Osborn)

MARSHALL & CLARKE

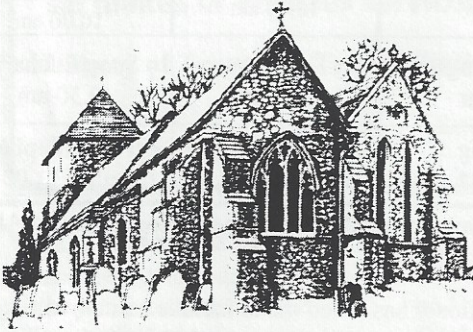
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NEWS FROM ST ANTHONY'S

Come and hear the new Bishop of Maidstone, Graham Cray, preach at the benefice confirmation service on the 4th of November A good opportunity to celebrate together. November is a special month of Remembrance in our churches and as usual our Remembrance Day service in the church concludes with the wreath laying and two minutes silence round the memorial in the churchyard. On the evening of November the 4th we shall all meet at St. Radigund's to remember our loved ones who have died. There will be a chance to light a candle and members of our three parishes who have lost loved ones during the last year are given a special invitation to attend this All Souls tide service..... and don't forget to look at the rota if you're coming to church any time this month because the plan is slightly different from usual.

(Gill Calver)

W. I. REPORT

At the October meeting, final arrangements were made for hosting the Group Meeting, which would be held on October the 16th. Members were invited to attend the various activities arranged by the local Group W.I.

The social secretary gave information about the trips to Bluewater, to shop, The Marlowe, to be entertained and the Christmas Dinner, to eat! Unfortunately the booked speaker was unable to attend, but that did mean that the social time over refreshments was extended, which is always enjoyed by members. The next meeting will be on the 13th of November. The Group meeting was held on the 16th of October and the Alkham W.I. ladies as usual came up trumps, not only providing a sumptuous feast but also entertaining group members with their riotous Fashion Show.

(Susannah Tapsell)

ALKHAM CHURCH YARD KENT WILDLIFE TRUST -

Further to last month's article, Steve Osborn has now received from KWT a copy of the schedule for Alkham Churchyard. The summary reads as follows: This large churchyard comprises relict unimproved chalk grassland on a south-facing slope, together with both acid and calcareous rock surfaces in the form of walls and tombstones. The present management regime, with the area close to the front of the church and the grassy paths cut short on a regular basis and the remainder being cut less frequently, is ideal for wildlife. The grassland supports a diverse flora, with an abundance of

OZ on EARLE - This year marked the 400th anniversary of the birth of essayist John Earle. I chuckled on first discovering, in an ancient anthology, his comment that "The common singing-men in cathedral churches are a bad society, and yet a company of good fellows that roar deep in the choir, deeper in the tavern." That came from *Microcosmographie: or A Piece of the World discovered in Essays and Characters*, that Earle started to write while studying at the Oxford colleges of Christ Church and Merton. He graduated in 1624, becoming chaplain to Lord Pembroke and joining Viscount Falkland's liberal circle at Great Tew, near Oxford. The *Microcosmographie*, eventually published in 1628 to instant acclaim, was a collection of witty character sketches and essays. The first line of each sketch consisted of a definition, eg "A young raw preacher is a bird not yet fledged that has hopped out of his nest to be chirping on a hedge", or "A handsome hostess is the lodestone that attracts men of iron, gallants and roarers." Earle was appointed tutor to Prince Charles in 1641 and then became chaplain to him during his exile in France. After the Restoration, Earle was rewarded with the Deanery of Westminster. Later he became Bishop of Worcester (1662) and Salisbury (1663) in which roles he defended persecuted Nonconformists. In 1665 he retired to Oxford with the court to avoid the plague, and died in his old college lodgings. The reading of "characters" was popular in the 17th century, at a time when the distinctiveness of individuals was still considered important. Earle's characters were devastatingly accurate because he lived among and loved the people he described. "The singing-men's gowns are laced with streamings of ale" - yes, that certainly has the ring of truth about it. (Steve Osborn)

both calcicoles and neutral grassland plants such as yellow rattle *Rhinanthus minor*, oxeye daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*, bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* and other small legumes. Quaking grass *Briza media* and downy oat-grass *Helictotrichon pubescens* are the dominant grasses present. The tombstones, church and churchyard walls support an excellent range of lichen species, with both lime-loving and acid-loving species present. A total of 65 species have been recorded recently, including *Ramalina farinacea* on a vertical tomb face. This species is more usually seen on trees. Other interesting species include *Parmelia revoluta* and *Pertusaria amara* on acid tombs. The shady churchyard wall supports *Collema tenax* and *C. auriforme* in the mossy mortar, together with *Acrocordia salwayi*. The grassland held good numbers of common blue, small heath and orange tip butterflies on the day of visit. (Kent Wildlife Trust - for further information contact Paul Cottingham on 01622 - 662012).

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WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Ladies keep fit in the VH 9.30 am to 10.30am followed by the Wednesday club until 11.30 am
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Saturday	3	Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH - ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Monday	5	Parish Council meeting 7.30 pm
Thursday	8	Garden Talk Bramhall 7.30 pm
Saturday	10	Jumble sale in VH 11.00 am
Tuesday	13	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Wednesday	14	Crisps and crumpets in village hall 7.30 pm - see page one
Thursday	15	D & D canine society in VH
Monday	19	Cage Birds V H 7.30 pm
Tuesday	20	Jubilee Committee meeting 7.30 pm in village hall - all welcome
Thursday	22	Fete committee 8.00 pm in VH
Saturday	24	Church bazaar - see page 1
Saturday	24	Beekeepers in VH 2 to 5 pm
Saturday	24	Quiz in VH at 7.30 pm
Thursday	29	Alkham Valley AGM - see P2

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
November 4 th	Benefice Confirmation and Sung Eucharist St Anthony's Alkham - Bishop of Maidstone to preach 10.00 am A Service of Remembrance for our loved ones who have died (where candles are lit and prayers are said for the departed) St. Radigund's - Capel 6.30 pm		
November 11 th	Remembrance Day Service (followed by 2 minutes silence at the memorial in the churchyard) 10.00 am	Remembrance Day Service (followed by 2 minutes silence) 10.00 am	Remembrance Day Service (followed by 2 minutes silence at the memorial in the churchyard) 10.00 am
November 18 th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
November 25 th	Evensong 4.00 pm *	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am

* Please note that, during the winter months, Evensong at Hougham and Alkham is at 4.00 pm

BB Guns - A parishioner has asked me to include an item asking parents to make their children aware of the danger of firing BB guns.

MANY THANKS to the Hyland family at Little Garth and Heather Dodd at Ewell Minnis for volunteering to deliver the Newsletter. Thanks also go to the other deliverers without whom it would not be delivered free to every house in the parish. Should anyone wish to see the accounts for last year please give me a ring. (editor)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119
Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 2193704	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Ken Hammond 823720
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
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Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freeseerve.co.uk	
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DAVE WILKINS



NEWSLETTER 100 – This month the Newsletter has reached its one hundredth edition. Tony Ingall started it in September 1993 and I took over in June 1997 with issue number 46, when it was expanded to four pages. Thanks go to all those who have contributed articles over the years, to the advertisers who pay for it and the people who deliver it free to your door.

Merry Christmas



A CAROLS and coffee morning will be held in the village hall on Saturday the 8th of December at 10.30 am. Oliver the donkey will be giving rides in his trap. Please see W.I. report on page 3.

BURGLARY -unfortunately two properties in the centre of the village were burgled on the 21st of November..... I'd like to say a big thank you to Luke Baber, who lives in Glebelands, for being so kind and brave when I was recently burgled. He happened to be walking past when I ran out into Slip Lane as a quivering wreck. I'd never met him before but he walked in front of me into the house and we went round holding hands. He was so kind and comforting and I'm so grateful. A lot of people, including Gill Calver, have been so good to me and it just goes to show what a great village we live in. I'd also like to say that the police have been superb. (Irene Barnard)

CHILDREN IN NEED evening raised £1028. Please see full story on page two. (editor)
ALKHAM VALLEY Society Christmas walk is on Thursday the 27th of December starting at 10.30 am from the village hall car park and finishing at the Marquis about 12 noon. Please come and join us, dogs as well. (Pamela Sayers)

NEW YEAR' EVE PARTY – tickets are still available. The cost is £5 with food included but bring your own drink. Please ring 824876 for more details.

THE ANNUAL QUIZ, which this year will be in aid of the Jubilee fund, will be held in the village hall on the 26th of

January. Arrangements will be similar to last year and to book a table please ring either Sue Lees on 822661 or me on 824969. The assumption will be that those people who regularly have a table will join us again but please ring to confirm. (editor)

SOUP KITCHEN –

There is a soup kitchen in Dover on the car park in front of the old MFI building. Alkham has volunteered to provide food and drinks at a number of times through the year. Some ladies in the village have agreed to make sandwiches and donations of tins of corn beef, tuna or any other fillings would be greatly appreciated. Tins of soup, cheese, biscuits and the like would also be welcomed. If you would like to donate any items there is a box in the church or alternatively they can be left in the red box outside Meadowside, Slip Lane behind the Old Post Office. (editor)

POPPY APPEAL –

thank you to all the villagers who donated money to this year's Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and to all those who helped. A total of £184.41 was raised. (Rachel Fountain)

VICARAGE MEADOW

After approaching both parties again (DDC & Church), it now appears that they are quite happy to proceed with the sale of the meadow. Paul Tapsell said he was waiting for the draft contract and that things should proceed swiftly after that. We will then be able to call it the village green. (editor)

NEWS from EWELL MINNIS

Fly tipping – Concern was expressed about the amount of fly tipping, which was being carried out at the Minnis, especially in Ferne Lane. The Parish Council will write to DDC and ask them to remove the rubbish.

Quad bike – would the person(s) who is upsetting people at the Minnis by riding a quad bike at speed round the lanes please stop or at least slow down and do it less often.

Upper West Hill Farm – the Parish Council is going to write to Mr Emberson of High Quality Lifestyle to find out what the plans for the buildings are, as there is some concern that they may be used by HQL Ltd.

Marker posts – Mrs Wash informed the council that the verge marker posts adjacent to the Valley Road near Wolverton Hill had disappeared and there is a dangerous drop into the woods. The Council will write to DDC. (From the Parish Council meeting)
IF you live in Ewell Minnis and would like to put something in the Newsletter please send, phone, e-mail or deliver it to me. (editor)

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CHILDREN IN NEED - £ 1028

was raised in the village hall on Wednesday the 14th of November. Susannah Tapsell had organised a repeat of her W.I. fashion show with a few surprises, of which there were many. All the tickets had been sold before the event and bouncers were on the door to prevent any gatecrashers. The bouncers were Doreen Lott and Sandie Tapsell both of whom were dressed in dinner jackets with Sandie sporting a threatening moustache and goatee beard together with rings and a knuckle-duster on her hands. Betty Neely was dressed as a 'Madame' with long eyelashes, a stylish hat and a boa round her neck taking money for the raffle. Rosemary Polden also helped with the raffle going around the hall dressed as a member of the Salvation Army. At 8.00 o'clock to a trumpet fanfare, Paul Tapsell announced to the hundred people present that each table would have a waitress to supply the food and drinks, for a suitable donation. To further fanfares the waitresses appeared, some of whom were clearly men dressed as women. I'm sure Den Barnard will not mind me saying that he looked horrible as a woman dressed in a wig and fish net stockings. Some people found John Garlinge and Mark Robson attractive (at a distance) and Ken Hammond looked resplendent in a bow tie and cycle shorts. John Huggins also came as a would-be Chippendale except that he was wearing a kilt with some debate as to what was underneath. The attractive waitresses were Irene Barnard, Debbie Robson, Maureen, Lou Matcham and Lucy McKenzie. The fashion show started at 9.30 with Sue Garlinge dressed as an outrageous teenager, followed by Pam Sayers

elegantly attired as English country style. Susan Lees then bounced on in rural country wear complete with wellingtons, bucket and fork. Emma, Helen Scope's granddaughter, was next dressed in sophisticated horse riding gear. Devina Bartlett demonstrated the soft lines of rural summer charm and shortly after Margaret Batcheldor and Joan Scott appeared as a couple of city swells who were the worse for drink, dressed in evening suits. Margaret Knowles was a city slicker in a very smart outfit, carrying a mobile phone and brief case. Next, Rosemary Crothall appeared as a very convincing bag lady. She was quite hilarious and trudged up and down looking very much the part covered in old clothes and carrying two carrier bags. Tricia Wright was dressed as a French onion seller and Grace Stacey as an English football hooligan with a draped England flag and the cross of St. George on her face. Then came Cherry Leppard who gave a bravura performance as Madonna suitably clad with pyramidal attachments and she was followed by Doreen Wilks as a past/present W.I. lady in a traditional tweed suit. Liz Lambourne was the lady of the future with a laptop computer, CD and DVD and Helen Scopes completed the show. To the ringing tones of 'Hey big spender' she came on as one of the W.I. calendar ladies (the revealing one) with a feather in her hair and wrapped in a towel. Another stunning performance, which was repeated as an encore with all the fashion models following behind as they walked down the hall to enormous clapping and cheering. A really great evening and once again congratulations to Susannah Tapsell for organising the event, thanks to all the people who took part and the generous people in the hall who donated so much money for a good cause. (editor)

LITTER BIN - the Parish Council have agreed to buy a litterbin from Dover District Council for £104.50, which will replace the one opposite the village hall. The reason for purchasing it is that DDC will now empty it free of charge.

THE PLANNING

application for a terrace of 6 houses on the site of the barn on Hogbrook Lane was rejected by the Parish Council.

THE STEPS to the slide on Vicarage Meadow have been completed and granny tested according to the Parish Council. (editor)

CHURCHYARD -

thanks go to Paul and David Tapsell, Dennis Barnard and Brian Wimsett for helping us carry out the annual tidy up of the churchyard. (Richard Tapsell & Ken Hammond)

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY

will lead the singing in 'Come Carolling', the Christians Together in Dover

carol concert, in Dover Town Hall at 7.30 pm on Monday 10th December. Accompaniment will be provided by the St Edmund's School Wind Band, and the concert will also feature a production by the children of St Richard's Primary School. Tickets are available from local churches and the Town Hall. (Steve Osborn)

PUB WALK arranged by Coalfield Parishes: Old Deal on the 8th, ring David Collyer 364326 or on the 9th meet at Ripple, ring Chris Hall on 241806. On the 22nd there is a mysterious Christmas 'Crackers' walk round Deal. Phone 364326.

SOUTHERN

WATER are aware that some of their covers need replacing to stop sewage coming out in the floods. Orders have been issued and the work is awaited. (editor)

GARDENTALK - The November meeting was held at "Bramhall" and the wide topic of autumn jobs in the garden was discussed in full, the discussion animated by our wine and nibbles! Our next meeting will be our Christmas do, on Monday 17th December 7.30pm at "The Vicarage" when old and new members will be made most welcome to join in the fun. (Susannah Tapsell)



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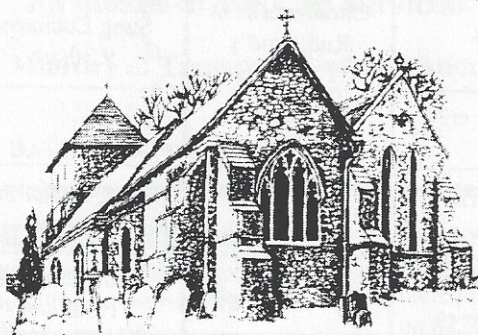
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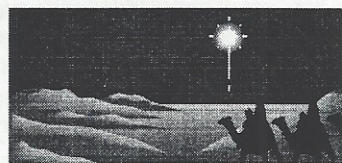
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NEWS FROM ST ANTHONY'S

Thank you to all those who made our church look so beautiful and who provided refreshments for last month's visit of our Bishop for the confirmation service. It was an inspiring event. This month our church will be celebrating once again the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. How fortunate we are to have at the centre of our village, a beautiful building where all from the village can gather to share in such celebrations. Surely, this year as we look at all the hatred in our world and hear the harsh words of those who wish to fan the flames of prejudice, we need to home in again on the one who brought us good news – good news of a God who loves us and came to share in all the messy affairs of our world, caring for someone. We hope that somewhere in our programme of services there is something for you whether it be the informal family service on Christmas Eve or the traditional 9 lessons and carols service on December the 16th. And do have a Very Happy Christmas, wherever and however you celebrate it.

(Gill Calver)



W. I. REPORT - The A G.M. was held on Tuesday the 13th of November in the Village Hall in the presence of the V.C.O. and tellers from local W.I.'s. Kathleen Goldfinch, the retiring President, was given a vote of thanks by Susan Lees, and the new President, Rosemary Crothall, was welcomed by members. The committee remains the same except that Doreen Polden had to stand down due to work commitments and Iris Bowshell was voted on in her place. On Saturday the 8th of December at 10.30am in the village hall, there will be "A Carols and Coffee morning" with Oliver the donkey giving rides in his trap, aided by Helen, all in aid of Cancer Research. The W.I. Dinner will be on Thursday the 13th of December and the next meeting will be on Tuesday the 11th of December at 7.30pm. (Susannah Tapsell)

May I give a huge thank you to everybody involved with the "Crisps and Crumpet" evening for their help, support and enthusiasm and to the generous people who donated so much money.

OZ on BARNES - In October we holidayed in Dorset, staying for a week in a rejuvenated farm-cottage in Upway, between Weymouth and Dorchester. The walking, bird-watching and Thomas Hardy trail happened as planned, but tracking the 'Dorset Poet', William Barnes, became a major obsession. Barnes was born 200 years ago at Bagber, in North Dorset, into a large and poor subsistence-farming family. He left school aged 13 to become a solicitor's clerk, and embarked on a long and ambitious programme of self-education, becoming proficient in the sciences, arts, languages, and, above all, literature, especially his great vocation of poetry. In 1823, Barnes founded a school in Mere, Wiltshire, followed by another in 1827 after his marriage to Julia Miles. Following the birth of their eldest children, the couple moved to Dorchester where they continued to run schools, allowing Barnes to study as a 'ten-year-man' for an external degree from St John's College, Cambridge. He graduated and was ordained in 1850, having been curate of Whitcombe for the previous three years. In 1852, his 'beloved Julia' died of cancer, and the school went into a rapid decline. From 1862, Barnes was rector of Winterborne Came, near Dorchester, until his death in 1886. Barnes was a lyrical but realist poet, whose subjects and language came directly from his own experience. He wrote in two tongues, 'National English', (ie Standard English), and Dorset dialect, as in "birds do hush their zingen" and "cloudless zunseen", both from *Linden Lea*, famously set to music last century by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Barnes also proposed a 'purified language', with words of Latin or French origin substituted by Anglo-Saxon equivalents, such as "birdlore" for "ornithology" and "moonmad" for "lunatic". If he'd had his way, this *Alkham Monthly Newsletter* "centenary edition" might translate as "hundredth givewords." (Steve Osborn)

THE ALKHAM VALLEY

Garden Centre, incorporating Southern Equestrian Supplies and country clothing wish to invite you to their Christmas weekend on the 8th and 9th of December. Southern Equestrian Supplies have a wide range of equestrian products for horse and rider; feed supplements are also available – livestock feed available to order. Over the Christmas weekend, Southern Equestrian is offering discounts on various items and a free raffle. The Garden Centre boasts a wide variety of Christmas gifts and garden pots * look out for their customer loyalty discount cards!! Open Monday – Sunday 9.00 am to 5.30 pm. For the Garden Centre telephone 01303 893351 and for Southern Equestrian Supplies telephone 01303 891996.

(Debbie Holliman)

MILLENNIUM SEAT

John Huggins has kindly offered to do the groundwork and supply the concrete base for the seat, which was bought for the Millennium. Because of this it can now go down on the green, rather than replace the one on the corner near the bus stop.

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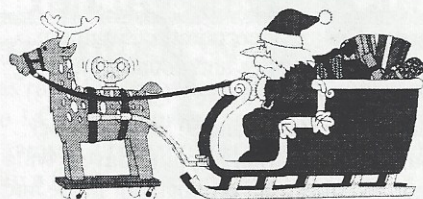
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Saturday	8	Carols and coffee morning in VH at 10.30 am - see page 1
Tuesday	11	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Monday	17	Garden Talk at The Vicarage at 7.30 pm
Monday	17	Cage Birds V H 7.30 pm
Thursday	20	D & D canine society in VH
Monday	31	New Year's Eve party in village hall 8.00 pm



CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
December 2 nd	Evensong 4.00 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
December 9 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	A Village Service at the Village Hall 'Preparing for Christmas' 11.00 am Evensong 4.0 pm
December 16 th	9 Lessons and Carols 6.30 pm	9 Lessons and Carols 10.00 am	
December 23 rd	Evensong 4.00 pm	Christmas at St Radigund's 11.00 am	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
December 24 th	Blessing of the crib 6.00 pm	Midnight Mass 11.30 pm	
December 25 th	Sung Eucharist 11.00 am		Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
December 30 th			Joint Benefice 10.00 am

Weekday Services: Morning Prayer is said at Capel Monday- Friday at 8.30 am, Evening Prayer at Hougham Wednesday at 5 pm and there is a Eucharist at Capel every Thursday at 9.15 am.

WELCOME – a welcome to the village is extended to Max and Jo Walker who have moved into Rectory Cottage – also to the new people who have moved into 3 Valley Cottages.

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Mob: 07812 834013

HELP REQUIRED to work with horses 2 to 3 mornings per week. Please contact Wendy at Greenhill Farm, Meggett Lane or phone 01303 892056.

THE ANNUAL QUIZ, in aid of the Jubilee fund, will be held in the village hall on the 26th of January, starting at 7.30pm. Food will be supplied but it has been decided not to include drinks this year. The cost will be £4 per head and this will be collected on the night. (editor)

VILLAGE HALL – Karen Mears has accepted the position as caretaker to the village hall and will take over in a couple of month's time from Sue Lees. Thanks must go to (although she won't thank me) Sue Lees for doing such a splendid job over the years. (editor)

FETE COMMITTEE

On Thursday the 24th of January at 8.00 pm, the AGM of the Fete Committee is being held in the village hall. Everybody is welcome. Please come and support us. (Paul Tapsell)

Happy New Year

SLAVE AUCTION – To raise funds for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations, a slave auction is going to be held in the village hall on the 23rd of February 2002. The idea is that people in the village will offer their services and these will then be auctioned, with the highest bidder winning. Volunteers are therefore needed to be slaves for whatever time period they choose. Most people have got something to offer, such as doing gardening, cleaning, cooking, typing, sewing, driving, tuition of some variety, or any other activity that you can think of. Please ring either Helen Scopes on 822899 or Sue Lees on 822661 to offer your services. A man is shown on the right, as that was the only suitable graphic that I could find, but it is hoped that there will be good mix of both men and women volunteering to be slaves. (Sue Lees/editor)



CAPEL – for the first time a book on Capel's history has been published. Capel Parish Council decided the history of the parish was worth telling and Susan Lees took the project on. There are 136 pages full of history and with 159 photos worth reading at £7.50 per copy. Farms, airships, the war years, smuggling romance and murder. It's all there. Ring Sue Lees on 822661 to order your copy.

FOREIGN COINS –

Ockenden International, which is one of the few British charities in Afghanistan at the moment, would like any old currency, which you may have. It can be from any country and with the advent of the Euro in Europe some coins may become invalid. If you would like to donate any currency, coins or notes, please drop it in my local mail box at the top of the drive behind the Old Post Office. It will be bagged up and taken to a local bank. I understand there will also be a box at the church. (editor)

DONKEY RIDES and

Carol Singing – what a seasonal morning with lovely handmade Christmas gifts to buy. Well supported by grandparents and grandchildren with a sprinkling of the very busy parent age group. It was a truly excellent morning with Helen dressed as Father Christmas leading Oliver the donkey giving children rides. The grand sum of £225 was raised for Cancer Research. (Susan Lees)

CAROL SINGERS – Five of our village teenagers, took it among themselves, to go out and about singing Christmas carols. When they came to me, I asked them who was going to benefit from their efforts? They sort of looked at each other, blank expressions on their faces. It was then said, they had rather dry and sore throats, so cough sweets would be rather nice. I then gave them a sort of lecture and suggested they thought of people less fortunate than themselves. Their smiling faces said 'what a good idea', they would donate it to the church, and off they went. The following morning, at approximately 8.30 am, David handed me this bag of money, saying they had collected £9.61, but his mum had made it up to ten pounds and would I please make sure it goes to Demelza. I think it is wonderful that David Beaney, Paul Reed, Joel and Holly Degruessa and Bethany Saunders, just five of our young village teenagers, listened to what I said and then thought of others before themselves. I am so proud of them. I have been told there is about £8 more to come. (Tricia Wright)

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Dover care and repair is a

long established Home Improvement Agency giving advice to elderly (55 and over) and disabled homeowners regarding essential repairs, improvements or adaptations to their houses. There is a growing problem of disrepair in Britain's housing stock and this problem is particularly acute in private property occupied by elderly people. Older people spend much of their time at home and are vulnerable to the effects of damp, cold or lack of amenities. Surveys have shown that elderly people do not make full use of improvement grants where these are available. They do not always apply for the support to which they are entitled under the Welfare Benefits system. As a condition of funding Care & Repair must charge a fee for their services but the grants, which finance the cost of repair work, also meet the cost of fees incurred. Staff will advise on the extent of building works required, ways of financing the work, e.g. local authority grants, interest only loans etc, and will also check welfare benefit entitlement where appropriate. Reliable builders can be recommended for all sizes of jobs, from the replacement of guttering to major renovations and the Projects Technical Officer will supervise work through to completion. Dover Care & Repair will be happy to provide further details. Please phone Dover Care and Repair on 211551.

ALKHAM VALLEY

SOCIETY - AGM - In spite of the weather this was reasonably well supported. Mr. Paul Tapsell took the Chair and was re-elected as were the officers and members of the committee - Pamela Sayers Secretary, John Garlinge, Treasurer and committee Marion Banks-Nash, Mary Sullivan, William Rolfe and Ken Hammond. John Garlinge and his helpers were sincerely thanked by the Chairman for the good work they were carrying out hedge laying at Pimlico. Volunteers were requested for this and also for the Parish Council's Working Party on the 13th and 27th January to tidy up Chalksole Green Common. Questions were asked about the recent flooding in the village and what improvements had been carried out to avoid a recurrence. Susan Lees, Clerk to the Parish Council assured members that the dyke had been dug out by the authorities from The Garden Centre to Chilton Farm. It was hoped this would alleviate the problem considerably. The demolition of Hogbrook Barn was discussed and concern was expressed over the developers' planning application to construct six cottages, and also their planning application under appeal at the moment for the development of two houses. There were objections to both application both by the Parish Council and the Society. It would be possible to give verbal representation at the

EDITORIAL - The purpose of the Newsletter is to report what is going on in the village and not to give personal opinions, except when they relate to anonymous bodies like KCC and DDC. However, a parishioner brought me a note that he had written and on reading it, I agreed to publish the gist of the letter. He says that some people find it easier to go ahead with projects without consulting adjacent property owners, the Parish Council or the planning authority and then argue about it afterwards. The latter is made easier because there is no effective enforcement of planning requirements by DDC. It may be that some of the items to which he refers are not subject to planning constraints but he feels that just out of courtesy people should be told before works are begun. The Parish Council is aware that planning requirements have been ignored and have written on a number of occasions to DDC requesting that there is effective enforcement. DDC's response is that they do not have enough Enforcement Officers, so it is very difficult to monitor all planning breaches. The Parish Council was extremely irritated by this response and is taking the matter further. In summary, the letter effectively says that it would at the least be polite to let people know what is going on before carrying out works, which affect the parishioners of Alkham. **(editor)**

CENTRAL HEATING - The installation of gas central heating in the village hall is almost complete.

INTERACTIVE SPEED SIGNS - despite the posts being erected in July the speed detector signs have not yet been installed. I phoned SEEboard but they couldn't help and DDC appear to be out on site as there's only voice mail. Hopefully more news next month. **(editor)**

Committee meeting regarding the six cottages, and a Hearing on the Appeal was scheduled for January. As usual the Christmas Walk will be on the 27th December, meeting at 10.30 a.m. in the Village Car Park. Members, their friends and anyone else, including our faithful dogs are welcome to join in. Mr. Christopher Tapsell will be leading it. The meeting closed at 8.20 and an extremely interesting talk was given by Mrs. Johanna Westgate on Wildflowers, who illustrated the beauty and the benefits to nature of wild flowers in gardens, woods, fields and by water.

(Pamela Sayers, Secretary)

THANKS go to Peter Chambers and Bill Rolfe for their generous donations to the Newsletter. **(editor)**

MRS SOUTHALL - several people have thought that I (as Secretary to the Village Hall) should write to the executors to thank Mrs Southall for her kind bequest of £5000 to the village hall. As Mrs Southall had no near relatives, I could see no point in writing to the solicitor acting as her executor, as his interest is purely pecuniary. Therefore, on behalf of the Village Hall Committee, I would like to express our gratitude to the memory of Mrs Southall for her very kind donation. **(editor)**

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NEWS FROM ST ANTHONY'S

A packed church enjoyed our pre-Christmas festival of nine lessons and carols to the full again this year. Hundreds of tiny candles lit the church thanks to Ken Hammond and team and the warmed mince pies (thanks to Sue Lees' microwave in the vestry) were as added bonus after the service. Many thanks to Betty Neely who organized the wine and Richard Tapsell and team who waited on us in our pews. Thanks especially to our musicians, singers, choirmaster and organist who led the service for us so well. As I write this piece we are just preparing for the Christmas weekend and then a break before our New Year festivities. A custom started in our benefice at the beginning of the millennium. It was the use of a special service at the first Eucharist (communion service) of the New Year to enable us to renew our commitment to God. We use the words of the Covenant Service, which comes from the Methodist Church and, for many it is a profoundly moving occasion, faced again with what it really means to follow the way of Christ and all too conscious of how we fall short. Come if you can. It's at

Capel on January the 6th. If you can't make it, then how about using the prayer on page 4 to start 2002. And don't forget we're holding another Candlemas Service at 7.00 pm on February the 1st (the night before feast day). It will be in the old St. Mary's church. Wrap up warm and bring a torch. A Very Happy New Year to you all. (Gill Calver)

W. I. REPORT - The shopping trip to Bluewater was eventually cancelled due to lack of numbers. Everyone enjoyed the Marlowe trip, many thanks to Cherry, and Doreen spoke of an enjoyable time at the Capel carol service. The next walk with Rosemary will now be in January. It was reported that the Christmas fete, complete once again with Oliver the Donkey, raised a wonderful £225 in aid of Cancer research. Betty and Kathy attended a meeting regarding the constitutional changes that are to take place soon. It was quite a complicated session, but one thing became clear, those ladies who have dual membership of institutes will only be able to vote at one branch of their choice. Subs are now due at a cost of £16.25. Mr Easdown then gave us a tour of Pleasure Piers in Britain. He was obviously very passionate about his subject and that came over in his talk. Many thanks to him for coming out on such a cold night.

OZ on CORVIDS - Every year around this time, I'm struck by the behaviour of crows, those "clever and resourceful birds", as I described them in the November 1999 Newsletter. Collectively, the crows, magpies and jays are known as 'corvids' from the family name *Corvidae*, which in turn comes from the Latin 'corvus' for raven. It's interesting to note that the Romans also used 'corvus' for a military grappling-hook, presumably from its resemblance to a raven's beak. Corvids comprise 107 distinct species, and are found worldwide, except in New Zealand. Currently, there is much research into whether corvids have a "theory of mind", bordering on self-awareness, that allows them to picture, and hence take advantage of, future situations. Henry Gee, in *The Guardian* on 22 November 2001, reported that: "One kind of crow has learned to drop nuts in front of the obliging tyres of trucks - but only on pedestrian crossings, so the crows can retrieve their dinner in relative safety." N J Emery and Nicki Clayton, a husband-and-wife team from Cambridge University, described in November's *Nature* journal how the corvids have extended this tool-using behaviour to manipulation of social situations. They have observed, across Europe and North America, that when some birds store food in full view of their rivals, they often return later, in private if possible, to move their caches elsewhere. In further experiments, Emery and Clayton showed that birds, which carry out cache switching, are those "with established criminal form", i.e. they have previous experience of raiding other birds' caches. The suggestion is that corvids can construct scenarios of the form "Now, what would I do, if I were him?" It's not surprising that science has found this trait in corvids, confirming the traditional view of them as thieves and mischief-makers. (Steve Osborn)

The Christmas meal over at Sandwich was a great success, the food was delicious and a good time was had by all. The January meeting will be a talk on "Health When Flying" by Ian McKensie. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone. (Devina Bartlett)

CHRISTMAS

Now the weathers changing
The frost is first to call,
Then the gentle blanket snow
Will softly start to fall.
Once the land is covered white
And I'm all tucked up indoors,
I certainly count my blessings
I hope you too count yours.
I've hung the Christmas decorations
With holly on the wall,
To make a seasonal welcome
For all who care to call.
When I write out my Christmas list
For old friends and anew,
I never forget my precious pets
For they like presents too.
After a super Christmas lunch
With brandy or a stout,
I sit and relax on the sofa
For I'm truly all worn out.
I wish you all a Merry Christmas,
God luck and lots of cheer,
And hope you are, like myself
Looking forward to New Year.
(Margaret Ashman)

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Ladies keep fit in the VH 9.30 am to 10.30am followed by the Wednesday club until 11.30 am
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Saturday	12	Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH - ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Tuesday	15	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Thursday	17	Jubilee Committee meeting 7.30 pm in village hall
Saturday	19	SEK astronomical society in VH
Thursday	24	Fete Committee meeting in the village hall 8.00 pm
Saturday	26	Beekeepers in village hall
Saturday	26	Annual Quiz 7.30 pm in the village hall

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
January 6 th	Evensong 4.00 pm	Sung Eucharist Covenant Service 9.30 am	Worshipping together with Baptism 11.00 am
January 13 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 4.00 pm
January 20 th	Worshipping together with Baptism 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
January 27 th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist at St. Radigunds - Capel 10.00 am		

PRAYER (see page 3, News from St. Anthony's)

I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you: let me be full, let me be empty; let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and whole heartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen

SOUP KITCHEN - many thanks to the ladies who donated items and to those taking part. The response to last month's article for items for the soup kitchen was disappointing. Many people feel that the soup kitchen is taken advantage of by alcoholics, drug addicts and spongers. To a certain extent this is true but of the people who come to the portakabin in Dover, there are people who live rough and are genuinely in need. As it is the policy not to ask questions, anyone who comes to the soup kitchen can have soup, drinks and sandwiches and at least in this way the needy are served. There is no problem with refugees, as they don't come mainly because they are catered for elsewhere. If you can help, please leave any items in the box at Meadowside, behind the Old Post Office or at the church.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Alkham Valley Society secretary
Pamela Sayers 822397

Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 2193704

Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969
e mail brian@bwimsett.freemove.co.uk

Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295
and Ken Hammond 823720

County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976
and work number 01795532547

Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661
e mail susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk

Village Hall booking
Rosemary Polden 824876

District Councillor Fred Scales 201382
and Trevor Bamfield 202334

Police - all calls except 999 phone
01303 850055

Women's Institute
Betty Neely 822688

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn Meadow 824201
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance & removal	Wolverton 824853 & 07973 501390
BED & BREAKFAST	Owler Lodge with Pat and Bill Owler	Alkham Valley Road 826375
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 824991
CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians , dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis 822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 828007 & 0589 310479
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham 01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmaims Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with gift shop and village shop	South Alkham 01303 893351
HAIRDRESSER - Mobile	Registered hairdresser - Senior citizens at reduced rate	Ewell Minnis 01304 824492
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton 822420
LIVERY	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liversies	Megget Lane, South Alkham 01303 892056
METALWORK	Cook Fabrications Hawkinge Welding and other metal work	Fernfield Lane, Hawkinge 01303 893011
POST OFFICE	Southdown Stores general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	London rd, Temple Ewell 827100
SCHOOL	Capel-le-ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-ferne 01303 251353
VEHICLES	Vehicle Valuations Used car specialist, Folkestone	53 Bradstone Avenue, 01303 253212
WINDOW CLEANING	Turtle Window Cleaning: Houses, shops & businesses welcome	Dover 206986 or 07971 011736

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THE QUEEN'S GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

We are going to have a jam packed weekend for you from the 1st to 4th of June this year, so make sure you keep this time free to join in the fun. But, and there is always a but, money will be needed to keep costs down. We have a very short time in which to raise the funds, so we hope you will all help in one way or another. The first fund raising activities are (i) the quiz on the 26th of January (ii) Jumble sale on the 9th of February – jumble received at 10 am, doors open 11 to 12pm (iii) slave auction on the 23rd of February. Watch out for more events in March. **NEEDED** – ideas for a long-term project to commemorate the occasion. Two ideas have been named to date. The first is to replace the more awkward and well used stiles with kissing gates, and the second is to plant a mature oak tree, site not chosen. The next Jubilee Committee meeting is on the 13th of February at 7.30 pm in the village hall. (Sue Lees)

SLAVE AUCTION on the 23rd of February in the village hall at 7.30 pm. This is a new event to the village and we hope, one you will enjoy. There will be a charge of £1 per person, bring your own drink with nibbles provided. You can inspect the slaves and look at the tasks they have offered to do, and then make your bid. **ANYONE WILLING TO PUT THEMSELVES IN CHAINS?** Please phone either 822661 or 822688 to offer your services. (Sue Lees)

CAPEL BOOK – the excellent book by Susan Lees about Capel-le-ferne is available for purchase from the author at a cost of £7.50. Please phone 822661 or pop round to Forstal Cottage by the Marquis of Granby and see her.

DELIVERY -- Would any dog walker/walker be willing to deliver 9 Newsletters on a two mile hilly circuit, starting and finishing in Alkham? If you would like to help, please give me a ring on 824969. (editor)

HELP WANTED - A very busy couple are seeking reliable and experienced help at their home in the centre of the village. It's an old characterful house and they need someone to do regular cleaning and general housework. They also need ironing to be done, but this could be a separate role if necessary. Also, once the spring arrives they need someone to mow lawns. Anyone interested in any of the tasks should call Peter or Denni on 820067.

EWELL MINNIS – High Quality Lifestyle Ltd. have confirmed that they do not intend to use Upper West Hill Farm. It is being refurbished and has been put up for sale. George Tyler, Parish Council Chairman, confirmed that all the items raised by Mrs Neve at the Council meeting on the 5th of November had been addressed. (editor)

SKIP LORRY – evidently a council skip lorry goes once a month to River and Capel etc. to pick up bulk waste. DDC are to be approached to provide this facility at Alkham. Also the bars at the waste centres are to be raised 150mm.

INTERACTIVE SPEED

SIGNS – DDC are acting as agents for KCC and the latter have been waiting for SEEboard to install the power supply. I understand that one of the speed signs should be in position by the time you read this and the other will be when SEEboard have done their work. It's a great pity that the works have been delayed by one company for so long. Alan Ross of KCC is in charge of the project and on past experience is very conscientious and I've no doubt he's trying his best to resolve the situation. (editor)

GRASS CUTTING - We are looking for someone to take on the job of cutting the churchyard grass. The requirement is to cut and clear the total area of the churchyard during the month of July. The request is open to individuals or a contractor. Anyone interested is asked to contact either David Tapsell on 822282 or Richard Tapsell on 822295 or Paul Tapsell on 01303 892082 so we can meet to discuss proposals including payment.

PRECEPT is the amount that the Parish Council obtains from the District Council for parish activities. The Parish Council discussed the required precept for the next financial year and decided that because of increased costs the precept should be increased by £1000 to £6500.

FOREIGN MONEY – The appeal for old European Community money for help with an Afghanistan charity has been quite successful to date. We received French, Belgian and Swiss francs, German marks, lira, guilders, schillings, pesetas, escudos and drachma. In addition there were coins from the USA, Cyprus and Israel plus various coins, which were undecipherable. At a rough count, I think there was about £70's worth of coin and notes at exchange rate value. Having sorted out all the coins I'm now a great fan of the Euro in mainland Europe. The collection will continue, so please drop any coins in my local mail box or leave at the church. (editor)

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proposals (Newlyns Meadow was cited as an example). Because of his bias he passed the chair to Neil Burrows. Neil said that we should be realistic and that the approval for six houses would probably go through at the next planning meeting. He went on to say that in the latest proposal (5 houses), the architect had reduced the roof height by a metre and dropped the base level by half a metre into the ground (Colin Griggs later said this was a flood waiting to happen). The eaves height had also been dropped by two thirds of a metre. The houses are within the revised village boundary but the car parking is outside. The meeting was then opened to the audience. Mark Robson (adjoining property) said he was concerned about loss of light and thought the height of the properties totally inappropriate. Larry Lambourne asked about the status of the first planning application for two houses. It was confirmed that this was subject to appeal, with a decision in the next 4 weeks, so the latest proposals could be superseded by the decision. Pam Sayers was concerned about the skylights; these have now been angled so that only sky can be seen. There was justified concern that the loft space would be turned into a further room with dormer windows. Various other comments were made about noise, intrusion and sewage disposal. The Highway Authority had objected to the two house development but not the terrace of 6, which was thought nonsense. When Newlyn's Meadow was proposed they wouldn't allow an access off Hogbrook Lane but now they would, for possibly 12 cars plus visitors. Stephen Comfort expressed concern about the high television aerial masts which would be needed to gain a signal. The Parish Council then voted on the latest proposal with 4 against and one abstention. The Council will object on the grounds of height, noise, traffic, cars and parking outside the village envelope, dustbins, skylights, sewage and TV aerials. (editor)

CHALKSOLE GREEN is now looking a bit better. On the 13th of January a working party got stuck in and cleared trees and branches left when the previous tidy up took place. A couple of people had rightfully complained that they couldn't get on the green because of the mass of material blocking the entrance at the Chalksole end. This gap has now been cleared and all the wood burnt on a large bonfire, which finally got to working temperature by applying age old techniques (sic). Thanks must go to Colin Griggs for organizing it and to Ron Smith, Mike Rook, me (I suppose) and Paul Tapsell (plus young James) for clearing some of the site. There will be another working party on Sunday the 27th of January, so please come along at about 10.00 am. for a couple of hours. It is our official village green, so please do use it. (editor)

OFF ROAD VEHICLES –

At the Parish Council meeting Kevin Elks, who lives on Pimlico Way, raised the subject of off road vehicles. The previous weekend, various four wheel drive vehicles had gone up Pimlico Way to get to the farm land overlooking South Alkham, to do

some off road driving. He said that he had spent over £1000 laying tarmac strips from Slip Lane up to his house and resented the damage which these vehicles could do. They then proceed along Pimlico Way leaving deep ruts. He said he had no objection to lots of horses, dogs and walkers using the bridleway but could anything be done to stop vehicles? George Tyler said he was aware of the problem but there was nothing the council could do, as by an inherited right, any vehicles could use Pimlico Way. He said that he would get Barbara Andrews, the KCC footpath officer, to come out and walk the route to see the damage which had been done. Paul Tapsell said that he suffered similar problems at the other end of Pimlico Way at South Alkham and said that if DDC were phoned they would send out an officer to make sure no mud was taken onto the road. Neil Burrows said that the Countryside Right of Way Act was out to consultation and this should close the loophole, but not for a couple of years. Somebody had suggested contacting the police but because it was thought that one of the off road drivers was a policeman, there seemed little point. (editor)

HOGBROOK BARN – The Parish Council organised a meeting on the 16th of January for parishioners to express their views on the various planning applications made for the development of the barn, which was part of Hogbrook farm. The meeting was well attended with 18 parishioners studying the latest plans for a terrace of five houses. George Tyler started the proceedings and said that there had been a meeting with the planning authority on site regarding the previous proposal for a terrace of 6 houses. Two were in favour, two against and one abstained. The same happened at the full planning meeting with the vote split down the middle. The Chairman said that he would defer the decision for a month so the for's and against's could think further on the matter. George Tyler went on to say that if tonight's meeting voted in favour of a terrace of 5 houses and planning permission was ultimately given, experience showed that some developers then changed their

E-mail- please note, I have had to change my e-mail address because of multiple spam (800), and it is now brian@alkham50.freemove.co.uk (editor)

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OZ on QUIZZES - It's winter again, the Wine and Wisdom season.

Writing in 1941, in his essay *The Lion and the Unicorn*, George Orwell described England as "a nation of stamp-collectors, pigeon-fanciers, amateur carpenters, coupon-snippers, darts-players, crossword-puzzle fans", to which he might well have added "quiz competitors". The quiz is long established as an educational and recreational device. Mr Gradgrind, in Dickens's *Hard Times* (1854), declared that "...what I want is Facts...facts alone are wanted in life." Later, in the 1890's, the two great literary quizzes, *Nemo's Almanac* and *Hide and Seek*, were established to encourage and entertain students in close reading of texts. During the 20th century, the rise of universal education combined, first with radio to produce such programmes as *Have a Go* and *Twenty Questions*, and then with television, resulting in *64,000 Dollar Question*, *Double Your Money*, and, more recently, *15-1*, *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*, and *The Weakest Link*. The last decade has seen the growth of the Wine and Wisdom quiz as an important part of community life, in which several strands may be detected. The provision of food and drink often reflects the pattern of the American Supper of thirty years ago, enlivened by today's easier access to alcohol in the supermarkets. Also important is the availability of personal computer technology, enabling quiz setters to research information rapidly and to organise the paperwork. But above all the Wine and Wisdom quiz is an outlet for controlled competitive aggression. Orwell's essay continues, "All the culture that is most truly native centres round things which even when they are communal are not official - the pub, the football match, the back garden, the fireside and the nice cup of tea"; to which we should perhaps now add "the wine and wisdom quiz". (Steve Osborn)

NEWS FROM ST

ANTHONY'S - Those of you who look forward to the occasions when we hold a service in the old St. Mary's church (off the road between Alkham and Capel) will be glad to hear that we'll be there again on February the 1st. We shall once again be celebrating Candlemas at an evening service, so don't forget your torch. The box for the foreign currency, superseded by the Euro, will be in the church until the end of February. So sort out any loose change you've still got. It will be sent, with that of other churches to the charity 'Ockenden International' which helps displaced people especially in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and the Sudan. Finally 'thank you' to all of you who sent me cards, visited me and prayed for me, during the recent spell in the William Harvey Hospital for surgery on my knee. The walk up to St. Anthony's is proving excellent physiotherapy as I get back into working order. (Gill Calver)

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR

The Parish Council are keen for Alkham to be entered in the competition again. Sue Lees and I will do Community Life but would anyone fancy doing the Environmental category? The main reason for wanting to enter is that the churchyard has been praised by Kent Wildlife Trust. It is only cut once a year and plants flourish. We also score well on recycling facilities. If you'd like help please give me a ring on 824969 or send me an e-mail. (editor)

W.I. NEWS - Ian McKenzie gave us a very interesting talk on the health side of flying. It became apparent that there is a lot we take for granted when we board an aircraft. The oxygen levels and air pressure are all designed to keep us comfortable and safe at high altitudes. However, the onus is on us to be reasonably fit before attempting a flight and there are some extra precautions that we should take. Our luggage should include nasal decongestant for blocked sinuses, support tights against DVT, we should drink copious amounts of water, swallow and yawn a lot, walk up and down as much as possible and allow screaming babies to do so, in order to keep their ear pressure safe. If you survive all this, you should have a good holiday! Members are reminded that this year's subs are now due. Jobs for the year have all been re-allocated to the same ladies as last year and the previous centuries before! (Devina Bartlett)

COUNTRY FILE - During these winter months and when the countryside is in its dormant state, I wonder if the following statement would mean anything to you. What grows overnight and then stays still? One would only have to look round the lanes and footpaths to soon find the answer. I think of course, if you had not guessed already, it is the dumpers or fly tippers (to give them the modern name) from vehicles, garden waste, household goods and building materials. These individuals load their vehicles with

unwanted items, and as we have all seen at various times, deposit it in any secluded spot, be it hedgerow, gateway, field or lay by, usually under the cover of darkness, then return home feeling that's out of my way! It makes one wonder how much disregard these people have for the countryside. Unfortunately it's then left to the landowners or the District Council to clear up behind them. Weather-wise, although we have had rainy times just lately, it's worth mentioning how dry the last two months have been. Last November and December rainfall only amounted to 3.75ins. (9mm), which is less than 50% normal for the time of year? Compare it with the same period last year, when we were in the middle of that deluge, when 10.20ins. (255mm) fell. Then just to remind us that we do still have seasonal weather, at the turn of the year we had eight days of frosts with temperatures down to minus 4. The gardeners and farmers among us were very grateful as this does a lot of good in different ways, from checking diseases, killing off bugs etc. and especially helps break up the soil, that's if you have managed to get it turned over in time! (Keith)

This article is written for 'Grapevine', which is the Newsletter for Capel, and because there is a family connection with the village, I hope to include it each month, space permitting.

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Ladies keep fit in the VH 9.30 am to 10.30am followed by the Wednesday club until 11.30 am
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Saturday	2	Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH - ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Wednesday	6	Garden Talk at 8A Newlyn's Meadow at 7.30 pm
Saturday	9	Jumble sale in village hall in aid of Jubilee fund at 11.00 am
Tuesday	12	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Wednesday	13	Jubilee Committee meeting - see page 1
Monday	18	Cage Birds V H 7.30 pm
Saturday	23	Beekeepers in VH
Saturday	23	Slave Auction - see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
February 3 rd	Evensong 4.00 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
February 10 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 4.00 pm
Wednesday February 13 th	CAPEL ST. RADIGUND'S ASH WEDNESDAY EUCARIST 7.30 pm		
February 17 th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
February 24 th	ALKHAM Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist 10.00 am		

GARDEN CLUB - Belated thanks to Ian and Lucy for hosting the December meeting and providing us with pre-Christmas goodies and mulled wine on a grand scale. The entertainment was fun, (guessing items sewn into bags), and raised a few laughs, particularly the oxo cube! Thanks to Fiona for the game of Jack Straws. The next meeting will be held at Debbie and Marks, 8A Newlands Meadow, on February 6th at 7.30pm. (Devina Bartlett)

ALKHAM CARDS - You are probably aware that Margaret Knowles has, over the years, drawn some wonderful pen and ink drawings of features around Alkham, which have been copied onto cards. I understand that following the recent sale of these cards, she has put £100 into the Church Fabric Fund. Margaret is to be congratulated for producing such wonderful cards and also for passing on the profits to the church. If you want to see any of these cards, I understand they are on sale at the Garden Centre and in St. Anthony's church or failing that, contact Margaret herself. (editor)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 2193704	Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brian@alkham50.freemove.co.uk	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Ken Hammond 823720
District Councillor Fred Scales 201382 and Trevor Bamfield 202334	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	Police - all calls except 999 phone 01303 850055	Women's Institute Betty Neely 822688

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn's Meadow 824201
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance & removal	Wolverton 824853 & 07973 501390
BED & BREAKFAST	Owler Lodge with Pat and Bill Owler	Alkham Valley Road 826375
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 824991
CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians, dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis 822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 828007 & 0589 310479
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham 01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malma's Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with gift shop and village shop	South Alkham 01303 893351
HAIRDRESSER - Mobile	Registered hairdresser - Senior citizens at reduced rate	Ewell Minnis 01304 824492
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton 822420
LIVERY	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liveryes	Megget Lane, South Alkham 01303 892056
METALWORK	Cook Fabrications Hawkinge Welding and other metal work	Fernfield Lane, Hawkinge 01303 893011
POST OFFICE	Southdown Stores general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	London rd, Temple Ewell 827100
SCHOOL	Capel-le-ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-ferne 01303 251353
SLADDEN FARM	Phone 825188	
VEHICLES	Vehicle Valuations Used car specialist, Folkestone	53 Bradstone Avenue, 01303 253212

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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Tel. 01304 852960

ALKHAM GOES ONLINE - Following a discussion with Sue Lees and Brian Wimsett we thought it was about time Alkham was brought into the 21st century, so we have set up a web site for Alkham. If you have Internet access you will find us on, www.alkham.info. Sorting this out has been an intense learning experience for Vince and myself. As you may know, web design is very expensive and so is web space. We have saved a huge amount of money by buying the name [alkham.info](http://www.alkham.info) as soon as it was launched (£37.50 for two years!). Vince has donated the web space and by doing the artwork ourselves we have probably saved at least another £200.00. The only thing we have had to pay for is the name, the software for the scripting and a small sum paid to the professional to finalise and upload the whole thing. Final start-up figures will be available in a few weeks to anyone interested. We would be very interested in your opinions, comments and suggestions. We do have a few sponsors but we need more to keep the site running. Any profit made from this venture will be ploughed back into the village. *(Debbie Saunders) I have accessed the site and it really is terrific. Debbie and Vince are to be congratulated on their achievement. (editor)*

EASTER COFFEE MORNING on the 30th of March from 10.30 am at the Willows, Slip Lane, home of Helen and Cal Scopes. Look out for the girls selling Easter egg raffle tickets at your door prior to the coffee morning. All profits will go to the Jubilee fund.

GWYN PROSSER MP will be holding a surgery in the village hall on the 8th of March from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm.

QUIZ - tables are still available for the quiz run by Mike Stevens from Thanet Radio on the 23rd of March. Please phone 824876 to book.

BYGONE DAYS ON EWELL MINNIS

I would like to thank Bill and Sarah Roberts for allowing me to visit them and talking to me about Ewell Minnis as it was when Bill was a boy. I spent about two hours quite spellbound, talking to them. Bill's memory is quite amazing and as he is probably one of the oldest residents on the Minnis it was a privilege to talk to him. He agreed that I could make notes to pass on to Sue Lees so eventually she can use them in a new updated book on Alkham and Ewell Minnis. If anyone else has memories they would like to pass on to myself (Pauline Boy) or Sue Lees we would love to hear from them. (Pauline Hoy - 828007)

POST BOX - It was probably a combination of the postman and me getting on to Melven Kirby, who farms at Chalksole, that he very kindly installed a post box on his farm gate. Unfortunately his bull leant against it, so we are now back to using the cat flap. (editor)

PLANNING PERMISSION

The original planning application for two houses on the site of the barn adjacent to Hogbrook farmhouse was approved at appeal. The developer also revised the 5 terrace house proposal and this was approved by Dover District Council before the Parish Council could comment on it. A meeting was held in the village hall on the 11th of February to discuss the matter, which several local residents attended. The Parish Council has written to the Complaints Officer at DDC with regard to the passing of the terrace proposal. (editor)

GREEN LEARNING

As part of the White Cliffs Countryside Project, there is a chance to find out about hedge laying at Sladden Farm. If you are interested, please go there on the 3rd of March at 10.20 am and join in with the group. There are many other activities; please ring me on 824969 for a leaflet. (editor)

STEVE LUXTON - I'm very sorry to report that Steve Luxton died in the Pilgrim's Hospice on the 17th of February at 10.30 am, where he had been for three weeks. He was born in 1946 and was the brother of Cherry Leppard. They moved with their parents from Enfield to Alkham when they bought the Post Office Stores, the house I now live in. His father, John was a neighbour of mine for some years and Steve became a good and generous friend. Sympathy goes to his family and friends. (editor)

GRASS CUTTING

There was no response to last month's appeal so I'm reprinting it. The requirement is to cut and clear the total area of the church yard during the month of July. The request is open to individuals or a contractor. Anyone interested is asked to contact either David Tapsell on 822282 or Richard Tapsell on 822295 or Paul Tapsell on 01303 892082 so we can meet to discuss proposals including payment.

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GARDENTALK - We had a most enjoyable meeting, held at Mark and Debbie's home, in February. Our hosts had prepared a plan of their garden for us to try our hands at garden design and for them to get some fresh ideas. A good time was had by all, thank you for a lovely evening. The next meeting will be at "The Willows" on Friday 12th April at 7.30pm.
(Susannah Tapsell)

THE PINES GARDEN & St. Margaret's Museum can be found by taking the A258 to Deal and turning off, through St. Margaret's to Beach Road. The magnificent gardens were created in the early 1970's and look spectacular in Spring. The gardens are open through the year from 10.00 am to 5.30 pm, entry £2 and the museum £1. Children go free on the weekends between the 23rd of March and 14th of April. Phone 852764 or 851737.

INTERACTIVE SPEED

SIGNS - As most villagers will have seen the speed signs have been put up at either side of the village. The one on the Folkestone side has yet to get an electrical supply. It was expected that the signs would show the speed of the vehicles but it looks as though they just flash 30 mph. When the Dover one was flashing it did have a marked effect on driver's speed as did the Folkestone one, as with no power it looks like a speed camera.

ACCIDENT - In January, a schoolboy was hit by a car after he overbalanced and fell forward onto the Alkham Valley Road opposite the bottom of Slip Lane. Fortunately he suffered only cuts and bruises but was obviously badly shocked. Children play on the swings and horse before crossing the road to board the school bus and this is when the accident occurred.

ACCIDENT - On the 15th of February a car was pulling out of Slip Lane onto the Alkham Valley Road when a security van, carrying money, came through the gap between Forstall Cottage and Martinvale. The van braked sharply, lost control, hit the wall and overturned. As I understand it there were no injuries but several people suffered from shock, especially the lady driver of the car.

POLICE - The police response to the above two incidents is worthy of mention. Just after the child was hit by the car, I came out of the drive with my dog and I saw three or four people standing on the pavement with a car parked by the side of the road and traffic flowing smoothly in both directions. There appeared to be room for an ambulance to park in front. When I returned from the walk, there were a number of police cars and the traffic was at a halt. With regard to the other accident, just after the van had turned over, I drove out of Slip Lane. The van was across the road but traffic was being controlled by two villagers with alternate flow of vehicles. It was abundantly clear that there was no threat of robbery. Shortly after this I understand a number of police cars arrived. According to one eye witness a late arrival made an entrance like an excerpt from the Sweeney. One police car later went at high speed round the village car park and disappeared past the Marquis to presumably stop vehicles at the Folkestone end. Going through the village at a safe speed would have added 30 seconds to the journey caused by a non life threatening incident. It would appear that on both occasions there was a lack of communication from the first officers on the scene as to what the situation was. (editor)

NEWSLETTER - Many thanks to Peter Mercer for volunteering to deliver the Newsletters around the hilly circuit to the south of the village. Also thanks to Helen Price, Diana Crockford and Clive Batchelor for also volunteering. (editor)

VILLAGE OF THE

YEAR - It has been decided to concentrate our village entry this year on the Environmental Section as we do quite well in most categories. We have a pond warden and the recently puddled pond at Chalksole, John Garlinge and his merry men doing some hedge laying and Bethany Saunders with Carla Saltmer concentrating on the church yard. We have nothing to put in the 'Transport Issues' section, so if you have any information with regard to the use of bicycles, 'walking bus', car sharing or something on the bus service please give me a ring on 824969. (editor)

BENCH & BIN

Thanks go to John Huggins for getting his firm to place the concrete and then fix the Millennium seat and new waste bin by the car park on the village green. There was probably a day's work involved and this saved the Parish Council quite a lot of money. (editor)

DOVER CHORAL

SOCIETY will present a very special performance of J S Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* at 7.30pm on Saturday 23 March in Dover Town Hall. It will be a semi-dramatic production with Kent Opera baritone John Hancorn singing and acting the role of Jesus. Especially dramatic will be the confrontation between Jesus and Pilate (sung by local bass Philip Spendley), with the Crowd, i.e. the Choral Society, dressed in everyday clothes, not their usual 'black and whites', shouting 'Let him be crucified!' The score is the new English translation by the celebrated tenor Neil Jenkins, and we are privileged in having Neil himself to sing the part of the Evangelist. It will also be a great joy to welcome back international soprano soloist Mary Seers who was born and educated in Dover. Two fine local singers, June Woodland (contralto) and Paul Young (tenor) complete the line-up of soloists. The performance will be accompanied as usual by the Connaught Orchestra led by George Simpson, and conducted by Michael Foad. Tickets £8 (Children £4) are now available from Dover Town Hall, The Music Box in Maison Dieu Road, and members of Dover Choral Society; also - if there are any left - at the door on the night. This work is one of the most sublime pieces of music ever composed - do come and hear it! For further information ring Michael Foad on 01303 242694. (Steve Osborn)

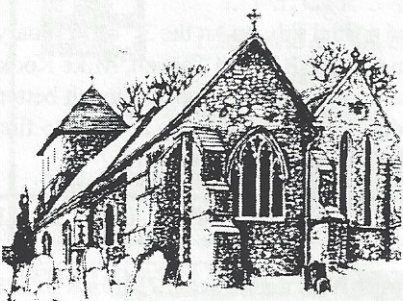
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NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S

— Mothering Sunday in Alkham will be marked once again by a 3.00 pm service in church where flowers will be given to all mothers attending. This will, as usual, be followed by afternoon tea in the village hall. Do join us, with those of all ages from your family, on this happy occasion. During Holy Week and Easter we try to use all three churches, which make up our benefice in a series of services. In recent years some people have found the journey from Palm Sunday to Easter Day has been well marked by an hour taken out each night to meditate in a different way on Jesus passion. Once again Frank Conley will be leading us in a musical meditation at St. Anthony's on the evening of Tuesday the 26th of March at 7.30 pm. On Monday, our deacon Ken Pilgrim will lead a meditation at St. Radigund's, Capel and on Wednesday Tony Elcombe, our Reader, will lead us at St. Laurence's at Hougham. Our Maundy

Thursday service will also be at Hougham. All these chances to step aside and be still will start at 7.30 pm ... and on Good Friday we have the Diocesan Leader of 'Weeks of Guided Prayer' coming to lead us in an hour's meditation at St. Radigund's from 2 to 3 pm. Our Easter celebration at Alkham will be at 6.30 pm on Easter Day. I do hope something from this programme will enable you to join us. Have a very Happy Easter. (Gill Calver)

W.I. NEWS - Ian Smith-Biggs gave us a very interesting talk on his career as an artist, starting in Scotland and after some interruption, i.e. the war, he eventually made his way south. He is obviously very passionate about his subject and that came through in his talk. He had the very great honour of meeting two of the world's best known artists, namely Salvador Dali and Picasso. He is very committed to the Alkham Art Group, which meets on a Tuesday. He extended an invitation to anyone who would like to join in, or at least see the members and their work, to come down to the Village Hall and have a look. The summer outing was discussed, but as yet a decision has not been made. The options are a trip through the tunnel to Boulogne or a return visit to Groombridge, which is always popular. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday March 12th at 7.30pm. The theme will be the Story of English Cheeses. (Devina Bartlett)

OZ on BIRDWATCH – Last autumn, we joined Garden BirdWatch, a project organised by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). Thousands of amateur volunteers collect data on wild birds in their gardens for use by BTO in influencing decisions on conservation and protection issues. The discipline of observing and recording produces some unexpected insights. For example, we assumed that, when the clocks go back in October, birds flock into the garden looking for peanuts. Not so – as Derwent May pointed out recently in the *Times*, summer fruits last well into winter, and the most difficult months are February and March. James Fisher took the view that really hard winters, putting food sources outside foraging range, occur on average eight times in a century. Fisher quoted the Reverend Gilbert White on one such, the famous frost of January 1776, when "skylarks settled in the streets because they saw the ground was bare...rooks frequented dunghills close to houses." More recently, Fisher was quoted as saying that over half the birds living in the country before December 1962 were dead after the end of the terrible winter that followed. Richard Fitter estimated that, during that winter, British housewives saved at least a million birds by feeding them in gardens. On a radio programme, Fisher once asked listeners directly "Why do you feed the birds?" The consensus seemed to be "Somebody's got to do it." As Fisher summarised, "people feel their duties pressingly, and so deeply, that to them the birds are "their" wild birds like family dogs and cats. It is a dignified acceptance that humans adopt from early childhood, without much sentimentality. People just *do it*." Readers who wish to just do it, and record it, should write to Garden BirdWatch, BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford IP24 2PU, or 'phone 01842 750050. (Steve Osborn)

COUNTRY FILE - Although we have had a few colder days lately, how noticeable it's been, so far this year, seeing the bulbs and plants flowering early, brought about by a lengthy mild spell since early in the new year. Now as we near the end of the short month of February, the days are getting noticeably longer, and the birds sounding their cheerful notes, one does anticipate that spring cannot be far away. Talking of birds, I wonder if those of us who keep a fish pond in the garden have counted the fish lately, because in several different locations a heron has been seen lurking. These birds are noted for taking fish from ponds and no doubt awaiting the opportunity to test out any vulnerable ponds which haven't been guarded. These large birds are not that common in this part of the countryside, but around the lakes notably along the Alkham valley, they can be seen more often. Weather wise, looking back to last November and up until mid January, we had an exceptionally quiet period of weather, where winds were mostly light, which is unusual for this time of year, normally strong to gale force wind at this time are common, but nature has a habit of evening itself out, as the first two weeks of February proved, because the S.W wind blew strong to gale force nearly all the time. Rainfall total for the last four weeks amounted to 3.55ins (88mm) which is slightly above average. (Keith)

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Ladies keep fit in the VH 9.30 am to 10.30am followed by the Wednesday club until 11.30 am
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Saturday	2	Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH - ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Monday	4	Parish Council meeting in the VH at 7.30pm - all welcome
Friday	8	Gwyn Prosser MP surgery in VH from 10.00 to 12.00 pm
Saturday	9	Jumble sale in village hall in aid of W.I. funds at 11.00 am
Sunday	10	Mothering Sunday tea in VH see page 3
Tuesday	12	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	16	SEKAS in village hall
Monday	18	Cage Birds V H 7.30 pm
Saturday	23	Quiz in VH at 7.30pm - see P1
Tuesday	26	Jubilee committee 7.30 in VH
Saturday	30	Coffee morning - see page 1
Saturday	30	Beekeepers in village hall

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
March 3 rd Lent 3	Evensong 4.00 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
March 10 th Mothering Sunday (Lent4)	Mothering Sunday Service followed by tea in the village hall at 3.00 pm	Mothering Sunday service 11.00 am	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
March 17 th Lent 5	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
March 24 th Palm Sunday	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Radigund's, Capel 10.00 am		
March 28 th Maundy Thursday	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Laurence, Hougham 7.30 pm		
March 29 th Good Friday	The Last Hour on the Cross St Radigund's, Capel 2.00 pm - 3.00 pm		
March 31 st EASTER SUNDAY	Sung Eucharist 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 11.00 am	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am

Weekday Services Morning Prayer, Capel Monday - Friday 8.30 am. Evening Prayer at Hougham at 5 pm and Eucharist at Capel every Thursday at 9.15 am

CHALKSOLE GREEN had a final tidy up on the 3rd of February with a working party comprising Colin Griggs, Richard Tapsell, Mike Rook, George Tyler, Paul Tapsell and son James plus me. It's looking much better and James planted a small tree. Sue Lees is currently looking at maps to find how the common land went from Alkham to Chalksole. (editor)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

	Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119
Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 2193704	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brian@alkham50.freemove.co.uk	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Ken Hammond 823720
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
District Councillor Fred Scales 201382 and Trevor Bamfield 202334	Police - all calls except 999 phone 01303 850055	Women's Institute Betty Neely 822688

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ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn's Meadow 824201
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance & removal	Wolverton 824853 & 07973 5013
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SLADDEN FARM		Phone 825188
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Tel. 01304 381622

High Street, St. Margarets at Cliffe, Dover

Tel. 01304 852960

ALAN MINTER the World Middleweight boxing champion
in 1980 has agreed to open the fete this year. Great news.

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR – This year's entry for Alkham
has been submitted in the Environmental Action section. This covers the
natural environment, conservation, waste, transport and education. (editor)

GOLDEN JUBILEE - Regardless of the public's opinion
of the Royal Family, the Queen inherited the thankless task of wearing the
Crown fifty years ago, and she has carried out the task to the best of her
ability. We should support the Queen, respect her wishes and try to
celebrate the past fifty years. It is towards this end that a committee of 10
women and 1 brave man has set out to give everyone in Alkham Parish a
chance to join in the festivities and enjoy the first weekend in June. It is
not easy to whip up enthusiasm, because we have only just finished fund
raising for the Millennium. We aim to provide even more entertainment on
this occasion, and hope the sun will shine this time. It is hard to believe,
but the committee has raised £1386 since the 26th of January. This money
will go a long way to pay for the fun and games planned for the four days
1-4 June, however, we aim to raise more money, and your support at the
following functions would be appreciated. **Spring Quiz** 23rd March,
Village Hall 7.30pm (01304 824876); **Easter Coffee Morning** at The
Willows, home of Helen & Cal Scopes 30th March 10.30 am; **Coffee
Morning** at 6 Glebelands, home of Lou and Steve Matcham 4th May 10.30
am; **Boot Fair** 6th May, details next month; **Ploughman's Lunch** 18th
May, Village Hall, details next month. Any other suggestions? (01304
822661 or 01304 822688) (Susan Lees)

BUSES – KCC and DDC with
funding from the Rural Challenge
scheme have set up Dart Kent Karrier.
This is a Dial a Ride bus service for
people in rural areas who live more
than 500 metres from a bus service and
those with mobility impairment
irrespective of where they live. You
have to pay £5 to join the scheme and
then pay £2.20 return no matter where
you live around Alkham. The service is
on Fridays and goes to Dover urban or
central plus Whitfield Tesco. To join or
Dial a Ride phone 209660 or for more
information phone 01622 605349 and
speak to Mick Barnard. (editor)

THE SLAVE AUCTION

Was it the name of the event, which
put you off attending? We do hope not,
because the 38 adults and 10
youngsters thoroughly enjoyed the
evening. Paul Tapsell, despite looking
like a priest in the Dover Express
photo, made an excellent auctioneer.
The first slave was Matthew Elliot
bedecked with chain around his neck
and a ball and chain around his ankle,
being dragged across the floor by his

father, who offered him to clean
someone's car. The auction was not
only for slaves, but for the many
generous gifts donated by local
business men, and other people - steam
clean carpet (John Hoy), an Acer tree
(Peter Davis), three pet beds
(Alkhamhurst Kennels), tea for two
(the Barn Tea Rooms), a car valet and
in addition a school run in a Rolls
(George Tyler), a juicy rib of beef
(Sladden Farm) a family ticket to
Dover Castle (English Heritage), and
two green fees for Sene Valley Golf
Course — wish you had been there?
The grand total raised at the event was
£724. Thank you for the support.
(Susan Lees)

A LOCAL – After attending the
Slave Auction, I was pleased to have
bid for a number of services and helped
financially towards the village. But
alas, apart from two of my bids, not
one person has come forward to
arrange their slavery. I feel very
disappointed by this because if I make
a promise, I try my hardest to keep it.
(The Local)

AMERICAN SUPPER

An American Supper will be held in
the village hall on the 13th of April at
8.00 pm with profits going to
Meningitis Research. There will be live
music provided by 'Cut Loose' who
play 60's style music and folk music.
The entrance charge is £5.50 and you
should bring your own food and drink.
Please phone 824340 to reserve your
tickets. (Anne Huggins)

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

– This is not a
Parish Council meeting but a meeting
for parishioners to express views on
anything in the parish. Please do come
along to the village hall on the 29th of
April at 7.30 pm and have your say.
There is normally a speaker who gives
a short talk on some topic and at the
moment we don't have one. If you
have any suggestions please phone the
Parish Clerk on 822661.

SWINGS – Thanks go to Mike
Kingston for overhauling the swings on
the village green and replacing all the
'U' bolts. A replacement seat has been
ordered.

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Victor Prescott 1919-2002 - We are sad to report the death of Vic Prescott of Sunaryse, Meggett Lane, South Alkham on 17 January. Vic was born on 16 August 1919 at Chart House, South Alkham, the fourth of seven children of Ted and Frances Prescott. Vic attended Alkham School and left at the age of 14 to start work on local farms and at the Hawkinge brick fields. Ted Prescott took over sole ownership of South Alkham Farm when his brother, Tom, moved to Densole. At this time, Vic came to work on the family farm and did so until his retirement and the sale of the property in 1984. This was the first time that the 49-acre farm had been on the market for 75 years. Vic was well known as a local character who upheld traditional farming practices. He had two working Shire horses, Prince and Duke, long after tractors were the norm and milked his dairy cows by hand morning and night every day of the year until he retired. He was also renowned for his thatched corn stacks and the 'dollies' that adorned their conical roofs. Those who knew Vic well will remember him as a true character who enjoyed nothing more than a good yarn or to reminisce about times gone by. Fewer people will be aware, however, that Vic's love of the countryside and its characters often inspired him to write poetry. One of his poems was published in the book 'Poetic Moods' by Poetry Press. Vic will be missed and fondly remembered by both his family and friends alike. (Colin Smithen)

FOOTPATHS - Anybody who has walked up Common Hill to Green Lane at Ewell Minnis will know the general state of the footpath through the wooded part. At the far end it is not helped by an overflowing soakaway but one reason why it is so boggy is because of the water running off the hill. The relevant authority hopes to dig a ditch on the high side to intercept the water and hopefully solve the problem. A lady had complained about the path being blocked at the far end by a gate. This gate to a house, which is opened when the yard is being cleaned and can be removed from the path should a walker or horse rider wish to pass by. (editor)

PONDS - Mick Wingfield, who is the pond warden for Alkham, has just finished a two day course relating to ponds at the Canterbury Environmental Centre. A comprehensive survey is now planned for the ponds at Chalksole Green to discover what wildlife is present before any other work is carried out. (editor)

TREES - If anybody was wondering why the trees outside Valley Cottages have been pruned the way they have, it was that the work had to be done by SEEboard because of their overhead wires. (editor)

FOOTPATHS - Thanks go to Ken Hammond for repairing the stile to the footpath off Chalksole Green Lane. KCC are quite happy for people to carry out repairs to stiles so long as Barbara Andrews is contacted to arrange suitable insurance. Further details can be obtained by phoning Sue Lees on 822661. The footpath through Upper West Hill Farm at Ewell Minnis is now clear and a sign will be put up at the southern end. (editor)

ALKHAM WEB SITE has now got photos of individual members of the cricket team, their averages and fixtures. There are also details about nearby towns, a short history of Alkham, a complete footpath map with 5 walks described in detail and also a prize crossword. Do visit alkham.info and have a look. On the Dover web site is a list of abandoned

cars, their location and a photograph. Currently there are 106 cars listed and the previous month 166 cars were removed. There is also a recycling site from which the following was copied. 'In 2001 it will be time to say goodbye to National Spring Clean and welcome a brand new campaign. There are 2 things everyone can do:

SPREAD MESSAGE: Remember the slogan - 'Just Bin It' -

whenever you or anyone else around you is about to drop rubbish.

GET INVOLVED: Nominate a litter 'grotspot' in your area, somewhere in need of a clean up and get together with friends to sort it out. This won't cost you a penny because Tidy Britain Group will provide the protective tabards and rubbish sacks you need for the clean up.' For further information please access the web site. (editor)

LORRY SIGNS - Bryan Cope, our County Councillor, is trying to get lorry signs put up at either end of the valley to deter lorries from using the Valley road.

BELSEY LANE - Doug McHattie from Dover District Council is very concerned about the state of Belsey Lane in Ewell Minnis and he definitely wants to repair it when funds become available. Several road signs also need to be replaced around Ewell Minnis.

A FEW WORDS OF WISDOM

my father said to me long ago and always remembered 'Never a borrower or lender be'. Words that common sense tells us we should try to adhere to but of course, being human, we do forget sometimes. There are a lot of retired people in this village who should not be taken advantage of and I find it sickening that this could be happening. Please remember my old father's words. (I was asked to print this anonymously but hopefully the person to whom it is directed will get the message - editor)

GARDEN TALK - The next meeting of Garden Talk will be held at the 'Willows' Slip Lane on Friday 12th April at 7.30 pm. (Susannah Tapsell)

WATCH OUT for bogus cheap remnant carpet sellers from the back of a van and ring 218151 if any 'knockers' selling dusters etc come to your door. (Neighbourhood Watch)

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NEWS FROM ST.

ANTHONY'S – Every few years our Anglican Churches ask their regular attenders to fill in a form to enable them to become members of our electoral rolls. This year is the year on which a fresh roll is drawn up, so if you would like to be registered as a voting member of our church of St. Anthony, do contact one of our wardens. They will explain the procedure more fully and indicate the responsibilities associated with such a commitment. We do hope all who are interested in the ongoing life of the church in our village, will be at our Annual Parochial Church Meeting. It will be held at 7.30 pm in the village hall on Thursday the 18th of April.... and an advance notice – on the 12th of May we shall join our Methodist and Anglican friends from River in a special service at St. Radigund's Abbey. Albert and Grace Moynan open their farm to us on this Rogation Sunday. We invite young and old to a service, which will enable us to thank God for his gifts and pray for the blessing on all farming endeavours. The service is at 10.30 am. Do bring a chair and a picnic for after the service. There will be plenty to keep youngsters amused. (Gill Calver)

SOAKAWAY – On behalf of Richard Tapsell and myself, I would like to thank Max and Jo Walker for cleaning out the soakaway on the church side of the lych'gate. It is the first time I can remember in the seven years I have lived in the village that it

has been cleaned. I would like to say well done to both of you; it goes to show what a wonderful Christian spirit there is in this lovely old village.

(Ken Hammond)

W.I. NEWS – We had an excellent talk on the subject of English Cheeses. Mr. March is an obvious connoisseur, his favourite being the king of them all, Stilton. His explanation of how it was discovered included a sick relative, some goat's milk, a long camel ride and a thirsty Arab gentleman! It has been found in the tombs of the Pharaohs and fed the roman legions, monks and of course all those hungry ploughmen. A 4oz piece of cheese has as much protein as a steak. We had a wonderful taster session and my favourite was the Wensleydale with cranberries, absolutely delicious! The summer outing seems to be favouring the trip through the tunnel to Boulogne. Anyone who has any ideas of talks or crafts they would like to see featured in next years programme can contact me, and I will see what can be done. Please have a good think as any fresh ideas are most welcome. The next meeting is on April 19th, the subject is a Caribbean Childhood.

(Devina Bartlett)

PHEASANT – has anyone lost a fancy pheasant? Helen Scopes has been feeding a rather beautiful semi tame one up at the Willows recently. It is obviously not a wild one and someone may be missing him. Please phone Helen on 822899.

OZ on SWORDS AND PLOUGHSHARES

Among the most pleasant of literary activities is the discovery of an unexpected but recurring theme. One such is "The helmet now a hive for bees becomes", the first line of Ralph Knevet's poem *The Vote*. Knevet (1600 – 1671) was Rector of Lyng in Norfolk, and wrote the poem as a thanksgiving at the end of the Civil War. The image is uncannily pre-dated in George Peele's 1590 poem *A Farewell to Arms*, with its line "His helmet now shall make a hive for bees." Peele, a friend of Shakespeare, addressed the lines to Queen Elizabeth to mark the retirement of Sir Henry Lee, the Queen's Champion. It isn't difficult to imagine the relief when, after years of wearying battle, sometimes against brothers and cousins, soldiers were allowed to return to peaceful normality. Thomas Dekker, in *The Magnificent Entertainment* (1603), wrote "And when soft-handed Peace so sweetly thrives / That bees in soldiers' helmets build their hives." Many years later, at the end of the American Civil War, the great American poet, John Greenleaf Whittier, wrote, in *The Hive at Gettysburg*, the lines "A stained and shattered drum / Is now the hive, where, on their flowering rounds, / The wild bees go and come." And last century, Robert Graves, in *Spoils*, declared that "When all is over and you march for home, / The spoils of war are easily disposed of: / Standards, weapons of combat, helmets, drums / May decorate a staircase or a study." The earliest references I can find to this theme are in the Greek and Persian poets, writing of spiders weaving in abandoned armour. The most recent examples, probably shared by all, come from our memories of parents and grandparents and their use of shell-cases from the two World Wars as ashtrays and spill-holders. (Steve Osborn)

COUNTRY FILE - One of the privileges of working in the countryside is seeing what is happening round and about you, seeing the wild habitat living in its natural environment. When a friend asked me, a few days ago, if I saw hares in the fields these days, I was able to say that hares are quite a common site in some areas. Like all wild creatures they like to be left alone and not disturbed, and it's usually away from roads, footpaths etc. that they are more likely to be found. Hares are difficult to detect, with their grey/brown coated camouflage they make themselves small by crouching in a small depression they've made for themselves, usually 3-4ins. deep. It's not until the last moment, they decide to make off from the approaching tractor. March for hares is the start of their breeding season, and the old saying "mad as a March hare" is often very true. It is not uncommon to see three or four hares together chasing after one another at a very fast rate of knots. Although hares do a certain amount of damage to grass and cereal crops because they keep moving around to feed, damage is minimal. Weather wise, March is the month when the weather and temperature fluctuate more than any other time. This year it has lived up to its reputation, the thermometer has been down to freezing and up again to the mid 60's (17C), with some pleasant days but also rainy ones. Rainfall these last 28 days has been 2.52 (63mm) which is just about the average for this time of the year. (Keith)

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Ladies keep fit in the VH 9.30 am to 10.30am followed by the Wednesday club until 11.30 am
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Saturday	6	Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH - ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Saturday	6	Jumble Sale in aid of PCC funds 11.00 am in V.H.
Tuesday	9	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	13	Coffee morning in village hall 10.30 am for V.H. funds
Friday	12	Garden Talk at the Willows, Slip Lane 7.30 pm
Saturday	13	American Supper - see page 1
Monday	15	Cage Birds V H 7.30 pm
Thursday	18	PCC AGM in village hall 7.30 pm
Monday	22	Village Hall AGM in village hall at 8.00 pm.
Monday	29	Annual Parish Meeting - see page 1

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P.	0207 2193704
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District Councillor Fred Scales	201382 and Trevor Bamfield 202334

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Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
Women's Institute Betty Neely 822688

Alkham web site alkham.info

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
April 7 th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
April 14 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
April 21 st	Evensong 6.30 pm	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
April 28 th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Laurence, Hougham 10.00 am		

TRAFFIC CALMING

- At the Parish Council meeting mention was made of the interactive speed signs and Paul Tapsell said that we should now ask for phase two to go ahead. Phase two is the narrowing of the road to one lane between Martinvale and Forstall Cottage with a footpath on one side and traffic giving way to the priority flow. The Parish Clerk is pursuing the matter.

BETTESHANGER BAND will be at Whitfield Village Hall on the 29th of June to raise money for their Jubilee celebrations. It is between 7.30 and 10.00 pm and tea and coffee will be available. The entrance fee is £4.00 and to book please phone Edie on 820343.

VILLAGE HALL AGM is on the Monday the 22nd of April at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall.

THE BULK WASTE collection, which was mentioned in last month's Newsletter, will not come to Alkham as it would be very costly.

MILLENNIUM TREE TAGS - Paul Tapsell says that the tree tags showing the sponsors of the trees on the village green will be attached by the end of April.

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Tel. 01304 852960

FOOTBALL – Den

Barnard and Ken Hammond, after
requests from some lads in the
village, have started football practice
on the pitch by the village green. It is
on Wednesday evening beginning at
6.00 pm and everyone is welcome.

BONFIRES – I have been
asked to include an item in the
Newsletter about bonfires. Would
people please give some
consideration to not having a bonfire
in the mornings when washing is
invariably on the line. (editor)

STILES – Mark Loveday has
given his approval for the two stiles
on his land to be converted to kissing
gates or some other easy access as
part of the Queen's Jubilee
celebrations. The stiles are on the
footpath which exits from the top of
the churchyard.

BRIC-A-BRAC – Irene
and Den Barnard are running the
bric-a-brac stall again at this year's
fete. If you have any items please
give them a ring on 824845

CHURCHYARD

The only offer for cutting the
churchyard was for shredding in
May and a later cut in the year. This
would obviously kill the ox-eye
daisies and seriously affect our
Village of the Year submission, so I
suggested that the churchyard be
split into 10 areas and volunteers
sought. I'm delighted to say that the
proposal was accepted and at any
time during the week commencing
the 15th of July the volunteer can cut
his area and then turn the hay. At a
later date it will be baled. There was
no problem in getting volunteers
and they are Den Barnard, Larry
Lambourne, Ken Hammond, Gerry
Newitt, Derek Banks-Nash, Clive
Batcheldor, Mark Robson, Roger
Lott, Mick Wingfield and me. It is
difficult to see how the judges of the
Village of the Year Award can
failed to be swayed by such an
impressive line up. (editor)

FETE Committee stall holders
(past, present and future) meeting
on the 16th of May at 8.00 pm in the
village hall.

ANN HIBBERT - I am very sorry to report that Ann Hibbert
passed away at the beginning of April. For those unfamiliar with the name,
you may have seen her at the annual village fete with her miniature ponies.
She was a kind and gentle person who I often met walking up Slip Lane,
always with a treat for my dog in her pocket. Sympathy goes to her
husband Martin, family and friends. (editor) ..I would like to take this
opportunity to thank all of Ann's friends in the village for all of the help
offered and given to both of us over the last few weeks. I was overwhelmed
and moved at the spirit and generosity and genuine care existing within the
people of the village. Sadly, although Ann lost her battle against her illness,
I am sure that she was aware of the genuine outpouring of love given and
prayers said on her behalf. She will always be in our hearts. Again, thank
you to all of you – if the world was full of people from Alkham it surely
would be a better place to live in. (Martin Hibbert)

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS – There should be a
separate piece of paper included with this Newsletter giving details of the
celebrations. In précis they are: June 1st a dance in the village hall and
attached marquee: Civic Service at St. Anthony's on the 2nd: Monday the
3rd a fun cricket match: a family treasure hunt followed by a barbecue with
pig roast: Tuesday a Teddy Bear's picnic, fancy dress parade, races and a
bouncy castle. On the 9th of June there is a buffet supper for the over 60's.
If you don't have the extra page please phone Betty Neely on 822688.

BEST DRESSED HOUSE – An appropriate prize will be
given to the owners of the house which is voted the best dressed with flags
and bunting etc. in celebration of the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

AMERICAN SUPPER

The American Supper held in the village hall
on the 13th of April, raised £4011.60 for
Meningitis Research, of which £1220 was
through donations. Anne Huggins would like
to thank all the people who gave donations and
also apologise to the people who couldn't get
in because all the tickets were sold.

STORAGE SPACE WANTED!

Do you have a dry, spare room in your home
which we could "hire"? Would you be willing
to allow us to store our furniture and effects,
with occasional access if necessary? We live
in a small cottage in the centre of Alkham and
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etc. for 6 months to a year. Please contact
Nikki or Mel on 0780 3656866 with details and
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POISONING - Illegal poisoning of wildlife is unacceptable. The illegal use of poisoned baits is indiscriminate and poses a high risk to wildlife, domestic pets and even people. It is dangerous and unnecessary. The latter was taken by a leaflet published by DEFRA, which goes on to say: **We have a problem** - Farmers, gamekeepers and landowners need to protect their livestock, crops and game. Legal methods of pest control exist, including pesticides, provided they are used properly. Most pesticide users are responsible and stick to the law. But a few are using pesticides illegally to poison wild animals including birds. This is cruel, dangerous and damaging to wildlife. Legal methods of pest control must be humane, selective and safe. Methods including cage traps, shooting, snares and pesticides - under strict rules, certain pesticides can be used for rats, moles and rabbits, but must not be accessible to other animals. Animal lovers may find that even the legal methods of pest control are distressing. However it is vitally important that they are not interfered with as this may encourage illegal methods, which are far more cruel and dangerous. Almost a fifth of birds are killed by illegal poisoning. **ACTION PLAN** If you discover a possible poisoning incident: Do not touch the dead animal, bird or bait as poisons can go through the skin: Warn people to stay away: Note the exact location: Cover the evidence to make it safe, if this will not disturb it: **Report the incident on 0800 321 600:** If your pet or another animal shows signs of poisoning (e.g. breathing difficulties, convulsions) get vet help immediately.

GARDENTALK - A delightful evening was held at Helen's home for our April meeting. Thank you Helen, for your hospitality and Devina, for testing our knowledge, or lack of it, on herbs. Our next meeting will be on Friday 10th May 7.30pm at 9 Newlyn Meadow. All welcome. NB. If anyone is able to put on even just a couple of extra plants ready for the Plant Stall at the Fete, their contribution would be much appreciated. (Susannah Tapsell)

VAN MAN - In last month's Newsletter I put a warning about men selling leftover carpet at exorbitant prices from the back of a van. Sure enough they turned up at Glebelands and were quite aggressive to one lady and quoted £700. A relative phoned the printed number as did Tricia Wright who was also approached. Unfortunately there was no one in, so Tricia phoned the police and they came out but van man was long gone. If it should happen again, perhaps the best idea is show them this article and then phone the police on 01303 850055. (editor)

EASTER EGG RAFFLE

The following people won one or more prizes in the Easter Egg raffle: Sue, 24 Glebelands, Rosemary Hedde, 17 Newlyn Meadow, Pam and George Tyler, Liam and Ellis Milroy, Doreen Polden, Mrs Barrow, Isabel Bartlett, the Sayers, Karen at the Marquis, 2 Valley Cottages, Peter and Marilyn Mercer, Dave, 3 Short Lane, Mrs Barrow, Lucy Matcham, Ron Dryden, Pat Gittus, Kath Norris, 18 Newlyn Meadow, John Petulla, Daisy, Sue Lees, Mike Kingston.

PONDS - Mick Wingfield, who lives in Newlyn Meadow, is doing a splendid job as Pond Warden. He regularly attends their meetings and is going to chair the next one. We did a plan and level survey of the pond at Chalksole Green on the 20th of April and Mick also looked for pond life. He hopes to renovate the pond. (editor)

ALKHAM VALLEY

SOCIETY Sissinghurst Castle Garden. This is our proposed venue for the Society's annual trip on Saturday 29th June, 2002. Several members suggested these famous gardens, designed by Vita Sackville-West, so it is hoped it will be well supported. The coach will leave Alkham at 9 a.m. and depart from Sissinghurst at 4.30 p.m. There is a licensed restaurant which serves hot and cold meals at reasonable prices, or, of course, you can take a picnic. What could be more enjoyable than to eat outside in such lovely surroundings? The cost per adult will be £13.50, children 5 - 16 years inclusive £10.50 and the under fives are free (although if a seat on the coach is taken, there will be a charge for this). If you are a member of the National Trust there is no entrance fee, just the coach to pay for. Sissinghurst Gardens are lovely with their lakes and woodlands, and it is hoped this venue will appeal to members their families and friends. Please contact me if you are interested, indicating if you are a member of the National Trust.

(Pamela Sayers)

CARNIVAL

PROMS Why not celebrate the Jubilee by supporting the Dover Carnival "Golden Jubilee" Prom Concert, as either singer or

listener? The concert, on Friday 5 July at 730pm in Dover Town Hall, will feature various Coronation anthems, the first performance of Peter Cork's *A Man of Kent Suite*, and the traditional Proms Finale: *Jerusalem*, *Rule Britannia* and *Land of Hope and Glory*. All singers are welcome, but must attend at least 5 rehearsals, the first of which is at 730pm on Thursday 23 May in the Methodist Church, Lewisham Road, River. For further details ring Michael Foad on 01303 242694. (Steve Osborn)

CHURCH KNEELERS

At the A.G.M. of the Alkham P.C.C. it was suggested that some more kneelers could be worked as part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations, to give continuity and to complement the wonderful work done by the ladies of the village 25 years ago at the Silver Jubilee. The kneelers come complete in kit form, cost £25 and I am assured that they are simple to do. If anyone would like to make one or donate the money to have one made, could they contact me Tel. 01304 822295 by Sunday 3rd May. (Susannah Tapsell)

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NEWS FROM ST.

ANTHONY'S

- It is a very old tradition of our Christian church, to set aside some special days around Ascensiontide, to acknowledge mankind's dependence on God. Our Methodist and Anglican friends have met several years at St. Radigunds Abbey for an 'all-age' Sunday service (thanks to Grace and Albert Moynan's hospitality). Last year some from our benefice joined them and once again this year our churches have sent representatives to be involved in planning the 45 minute outside service (under cover if wet weather prevails). The service concludes with a short walk to the nearby field for a simple act of blessing and a hymn. Toilet facilities are available and there will be a play area for very young children. Some seating is provided but do bring a garden chair if you'd like to and a picnic lunch if you care to stay on and enjoy the beautiful setting after the service. This Rogation tide service is at 10.30 am on Sunday May 12th and will be the main service for all our benefice that day. **DON'T FORGET CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 12th - 18th MAY. (Gill Calver)**

W.I. NEWS

- We had a very pleasant evening in the company of Tammy Stewart Jones who told of her childhood in the Caribbean. In some ways life for her was very sad, her mother died 3 hours after her birth and her father, although he loved her, wasn't there for her. In stepped a wonderful Grandmother to take care of her.

OZ on POND INVADERS

- At last we've cleared the garden pond, a heavy and smelly task. Strained backs are guaranteed by lifting while standing on pond-edges and dividing huge matted clumps of iris, lily and sedge. These problems, however, are small compared with those presented by some recently imported pond invaders. The environmental organisations English Nature and Frogwatch have identified the Australian Swamp Stonecrop *Crassula helmsii* as a particular threat. This plant can grow an inch a day, and has colonised over 2,000 ponds and lakes, including many in the Lake District, choking native plants such as the Floating Water-plantain *Luronium natans*. Physical destruction of the invader worsens the situation as each broken piece regrows into a new plant, and English Nature is now implementing total weedkilling and replanting. Additionally they are seeking to control sale of the plant, often described as an oxygenator or mislabelled *Tillaea recurva*. Another such invader, with leaves six feet long, is Parrot Feather *Myriophyllum aquaticum* from the Amazon basin. Older invaders such as Floating Pennywort and Water Fern continue to damage wildlife when uncontrolled. After our spring-clean the shadows and ripples on the pond's surface gave rise to those images, "psychic invaders" perhaps, that so often feature in literature. The playwright John Webster, writing in 1613, saw "in the fishponds... a thing, arm'd with a rake." Wordsworth's poem *The Thorn* described "the shadow of a baby's face", while Tennyson's *Churchwarden and the Curate* spoke of "nasty sins in my pond", and William Davies's *The Pond* held "a dead woman's upturned face." Part of the reason for our efforts was to assist frogs in rearing tadpoles. Within two days a mallard duck and two attendant drakes invaded and ate all the frogspawn, some of the duckweed and, thankfully, more than a few slugs. (Steve Osborn)

The local people were wary of her as they believed she had caused her mother's death and was therefore a "Witch". School was something to be endured and it was obvious that some of her relatives disliked her. However her Grandmother's position within the community offered some protection and respect. She eventually came to England on the death of her beloved Grandmother where, at the age of 12, she believed the streets of London were "paved with gold"! Throughout her life she has always remained happy and positive, despite those early years, and her wonderful smile cheered us all up. The next meeting will be in the village hall on May 14th at 7.30 pm. There is no speaker as it is a Resolution night.

(Devina Bartlett)

COUNTRY FILE

Although there doesn't seem to be so many around these days, one of our best loved mammals is the hedgehog. These harmless creatures do us a power of good in the garden. If you are fortunate enough to come across one on the vegetable patch or the flower border, they are well worth encouraging (for example putting out cat food). It's usually at dusk that they appear, looking for insects, snails, slugs etc. which at this time of year, when plants and seedlings are small and vulnerable, hedgehogs can be a gardener's best friend. Weather wise, as these notes are written, the weather has been mostly dry these last 4 weeks, often with a cold N.E. wind and night frosts, the ground already getting

dry. Looking back to this time last year, it was very wet having had 17.68 ins. (442mm); by contrast the same period this year has produced 9 ins. (225mm) which goes to prove that there is very rarely two seasons alike. (Keith)

GOOD FRIDAY MEMORIES

As a child during the 1950's, my sister and I attended London Road Methodist Church Sunday School and every Good Friday, a group of children together with the Sunday School Superintendent (Mr. Walter S Lewis) and other members of the Church, would walk from London Road, Dover via Buckland, Kearsney and onward through the Alkham Valley to Alkham village. On the journey, we would chat, pick flowers and generally enjoy ourselves, thinking nothing of the long walk and at that time did not see a lot of traffic. The purpose of our journey was to help celebrate the Anniversary of Alkham Methodist Church and upon arrival, we would join members of the village congregation for a service. Following this, we would enjoy our picnic in the Village Hall followed by more games on the Green. I do remember one occasion when we saw some lovely daffodils and primulas by the side of the Green which we innocently proceeded to pick, only to be confronted by the Vicar in whose garden these plants were growing! He was very kind and let us keep the picked flowers. By late afternoon we began our return journey having had an enjoyable day out and every Good Friday my thoughts and memories return to Alkham. (Margaret Hancock)

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Ladies keep fit in the VH 9.30 am to 10.30am followed by the Wednesday club until 11.30 am
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Saturday	4	Bingo at 7.30 pm in VH - ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Saturday	4	Coffee morning 10.30 am at 6 Glebelands - see opposite
Friday	10	Garden Talk at 9 Newlyn Meadow 7.30 pm
Saturday	11	Table Fair in aid of Jubilee funds in VH 10.00 to 4.00pm
Monday	13	Parish Council meeting 7.30 pm in VH all welcome.
Tuesday	14	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Thursday	16	Fete stallholders meeting - see page 1
Saturday	18	Ploughman's lunch in aid of Jubilee Fund 11.30 am
Monday	20	Cage Birds V H 7.30 pm
Saturday	25	SE Kent Astronomical Society in Village Hall pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
May 5 th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
May 9 th Ascension Day	No service	Sung Eucharist 9.15 am (refreshments)	No service
May 12 th (bring a packed lunch)	No service	Said Eucharist 8.00 am	No service
	Joint Benefice Rogationtide Service St Radigund's Abbey (with River Methodists and Anglicans) 10.30 am		
May 19 th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
May 26 th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Anthony's - Alkham 10.00 am		

A COFFEE MORNING is being held at 10.30 am on May 6th at Lou Matcham's house, 6 Glebelands, to raise money for the Jubilee fund. On the 11th there is a Table Fair at 10.00 am and on the 18th a Ploughman's Lunch at 11.30 am both in the village hall with profits going to the Jubilee funds.

CIVIC SERVICE - As part of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations there will be a Civic service in St. Anthony's on June the 2nd at 11.00 am. The Parish Council has been invited as are all parishioners and friends. Please do come along

SOUP KITCHEN - Alkham is now doing the soup kitchen on a regular basis. Donations of sandwich fillers, soup etc would be most welcome. For ease, please leave donations in the box on my property and I'll pass them on. (editor)

APOLOGIES to the houses in hearing distance of the bells at St. Anthony's as we have been practicing ringing the bells up and down on Friday evenings. The insurance company say the bells should be pointing downwards when they are not in use as they weigh 4, 5, 6 and 7 hundredweights each.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 2193704	Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brian@alkham50.freemove.co.uk	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Ken Hammond 823720
District Councillor Fred Scales 201382 and Trevor Bamfield 202334	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	Police - all calls except 999 phone 01303 850055	Women's Institute Betty Neely 822688

Alkham web site alkham.info

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn Meadow 824201
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance & removal	Wolverton 824853 & 07973 501390
BED & BREAKFAST	Owler Lodge with Pat and Bill Owler	Alkham Valley Road 826375
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 824991
CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians, dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis 822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 828007 & 0589 310479
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham 01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmains Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES	Alkham Valley Garden Centre - everything for horse and rider	South Alkham 01303 891996
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with gift shop and village shop	South Alkham 01303 893351
HAIRDRESSER - Mobile	Registered hairdresser - Senior citizens at reduced rate	Ewell Minnis 01304 824492
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton 822420
LIVERY	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liveryes	Megget Lane, South Alkham 01303 892056
POST OFFICE	Southdown Stores general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	London rd, Temple Ewell 827100
SCHOOL	Capel-le-ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-ferne 01303 251353
SLADDEN FARM		Phone 825188
VEHICLES	Vehicle Valuations Used car specialist, Folkestone	53 Bradstone Avenue, 01303 253212

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CONCESSIONARY

TRAVEL – Free permits are now available to all residents of pensionable age and residents with certain categories of disability. The permit provides half fare travel within Kent at or after 9am Monday to Friday and all day Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays.

Information and application forms are available from Concessionary Fares, The Council Offices, DDC, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, CT16 3PF or Maison Dieu Gardens, Dover. Enquiries can be made on 01304 872122.

RUNNING FOR RYAN

Sponsored Fun Run (or walk) over approx. 3 miles for Meningitis Research on the 7th of July. Entry fee is £3.00, tee shirt supplied by the Meningitis Foundation. For details and sponsor form ring Anne Huggins on 824340

THE CHRISTIAN AID

WALK sponsorship from Alkham raised £160. Thanks go to all the people who sponsored the walk. There were 30 people from the Dover area who took part in the walk over a distance of 10 miles and in total £1600 was raised.

TWIN TOWNS

– What do you think? Is it worth twinning Alkham with another town? The Parish Council is very keen to have parishioner's opinions on the matter, so please ring the Parish Clerk on 822661 and have your say. It does seem quite an attractive proposition especially if we could get another village similar to ourselves in Europe or even America. (editor)

MOTORCYCLISTS

– The Parish Council are very aware that some people in the Parish find speeding motorcyclists a nuisance. They therefore wrote to the police and as a result two speed checks were carried out. The first was on Thursday the 4th of April when 37 fixed penalties and 2 summonses were issued and the second on Sunday the 21st of April when 44 fixed penalties and 1 summons were issued. These were for all vehicles and there is no breakdown as to how many were motorcyclists but 11 motorcyclists have been caught speeding in the village and 4 outside where the national speed limit applies. The Parish Council is writing to the police to thank them for their efforts and suggest that they have another session. It is clear that the Alkham Valley Road is very attractive to motorcyclists with the number of twisting bends and rural setting. (editor)

CHURCH

– St. Anthony's church was left some money in the will of Mrs Southall, who lived at Chalksole. Some of the money has been spent but Gill Calver, the vicar, would like suggestions from parishioners as to how the rest of the money could be spent on the church. If you have any ideas will you please write to Betty Neely at Mount Ararat, Abbey Road, Alkham CT15 7DJ before the end of June.

AN OPEN GARDEN AND BARBECUE

will be held at Hillview on the 15th of June from 2.00pm to 6.00 pm. There will be a plant stall, cake stall, games, tombola and side shows. Chicken, hot dogs, beef burgers, with salad and drink cost £5.00, children £2.50. All in the aid of the Masonic Hall Building Fund. (George Tyler)

KATH GOLDFINCH after 11 years has decided to cease running the monthly Bingo. The Fete Committee is nearly £1000 better off for this effort. Thanks must be given to Kath and husband Will and friends Brian and Mary who have helped raise the goodly sum over these years. (Susan Lees)

ALKHAM WEB - Steve Finch of Columbia, Missouri, USA found the Alkham Web site and e-mailed Vincent Holness and said what a good site it was, particularly the News Page. He said that his grandparents, Thomas Smith and Elizabeth Palmer emigrated from Alkham in about 1833 moving to New York State and then on to Michigan. He also wondered what an American Supper was. (editor)

CHURCH

– At the Parish Council meeting the invitation from Gill Calver was read out inviting the Parish Council Chairman and other members to the Civic Service at St Anthony's on the 2nd of June at 11.00 am to commemorate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. The invitation is also extended to all parishioners.

GATES

– Some of the gates on bridleways around Alkham cannot be passed by horse riders. Please would the owners of these gates have a look at them and see if they can be made passable. If a horse rider comes across a gate they cannot get through please phone Paul Tapsell on 01303 892082.

CAMERON SALTNER

was crossing the road over to Elliot Woodison on the 24th of May. He looked to see if anything was coming down the road. Nothing was coming so he started to cross. He was hardly off the path when a lady driver hit him hard enough to knock him to the floor. He got cut on his hip. The lady who knocked him got out of the car and asked him where he was hurt. He showed her, she then said it will be all right and then got in her car and drove off. (Bethany Saunders)

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AM or PM that is the question?

Sue Lees put in her flyer for the Jubilee events that the Coffee Morning was 10.30 am to 12.00 am. I said that I thought it should be 10.30 am to 12.00 pm. I asked Steve Osborn (OZ) and he went on the Greenwich Web site which confirmed we were both wrong.
(editor)

GREENWICH SITE

AM and PM start immediately after Midnight and Noon (Midday) respectively.

This means that 00:00 AM or 00:00 PM (or 12:00 AM and 12:00 PM) have no meaning.

Every day starts precisely at midnight and AM starts immediately after that point in time e.g. 00:00:01 AM To avoid confusion timetables, when scheduling around midnight, prefer to use either 23:59 or 00:01 to avoid confusion as to which day is being referred to.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

At the Parish Council meeting Mike Chalkley, the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator gave a short speech. He accepted that Neighbourhood Watch had been dormant since the local police officer left but nevertheless still thought it a good idea. Neil Burrows suggested that Local Co-ordinator meetings should start again and Mike is going to consider this. Mike also said that a quarterly magazine was going to be published shortly. He is a crime prevention officer and if people want advice on security matters to get in contact with him on 820798.

TO THE GENTLEMAN

who attended the last Parish Council Meeting criticising the uselessness of the councillors, which he has every right to do provided he has the facts correct. I would just like to point out that these councillors not only give their time freely, but amongst them is included the Chairman of the Cricket Club, the Chairman of the Fete Committee, W.I. President and members of the following committees: Fete, Golden Jubilee, Village Hall, W.I., Cricket Club, PCC, bell ringers, Alkham Valley Society etc. etc. (also time freely given). So come on, instead of criticising us how about contributing? You would be most welcome except by the W.I. of course. Maybe this would give us more time to wander around the village and note all the misdemeanours that are going on.
(Councillor Rosemary Crothall)

On a personal note, as editor of the Newsletter I regularly attend the Parish Council meetings and I think we are extremely lucky to have such a committed group of people representing us. They may not have wide powers but they do make sure that the voice of the village is heard and also do very effective work. (editor)

GATES - Mark Loveday has said that if the stiles adjacent to the Old Rectory are replaced for the Jubilee he would prefer them to be wrought iron kissing gates. Sue Lees is getting quotes for making them.

LETTER OF THE WEEK?

It was with some surprise to see a 'Letter of the Week' in the Dover Express, from a youth in Alkham complaining about the attitude of other youths in the village. It appears that he listens to Goth music and gets abused and threatened by the local 'Rude boys' and wonders whether this is Nazi Germany. He also asks what the elders of Alkham are going to do about it? I think I understand his predicament but writing to the local paper in such a fashion about Alkham doesn't seem to be the best way to solve the problem. Perhaps he would like to drop me a note about the situation and I will publish the gist of the letter. Alternatively the 'Rude boys' can let me have their version. (editor)

GRAHAME WHITE

passed away on May the 3rd 2002 at the grand old age of 92. Many of you will recall the 'heady' years in the seventies when Betty and Grahame were publicans at the Marquis, when time was called, the doors were bolted and barred and the punters locked in! The tales to be told of those years are as long as the nights spent in the pub. Betty and Grahame have left many happy memories.
(Susan Lees)

GARDENTALK

- Although, due to 'affairs of the heart' I was unable to attend the meeting held at 9 Newlyn's Meadow, I know that members thoroughly enjoyed wandering around the beautiful garden and identifying various plants. Thank you, Joan and Peter, for a lovely evening. As June will be very busy with various events, we have decided to hold the meeting on Tuesday July 2nd at 7.30pm when we have been invited to enjoy the gardens of Hockley Sole. (Susannah Tapsell)

MILLENNIUM TREES

Paul Tapsell has sensibly decided that putting tags on stakes adjacent to the trees planted at the millennium would not be a good idea because of possible vandalism. He and son James have therefore done a survey of the trees and will put a plan on the village notice board showing the trees and the names of the people who sponsored them. (editor)

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NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S

We have celebrations both at the beginning and end of the month. Our church will join in the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations with a special service to mark the event at 11 o'clock on June 2nd (timed so you can have a lie in after the party the night before!). We shall use symbols and readings to remind us of the Queen's coronation as well as those to help us look forward to the future of the village and our nation. Then at the end of the month, our Deacon Ken Pilgrim will be ordained priest in Canterbury Cathedral. The ordination is at 3 pm on Saturday the 29th of June. Sign up at the back of the church if you'd like to join the group going by coach (at £4 a head). Then at 10 am on Sunday the 30th of June, Ken will preside at his first celebration of the Eucharist at Capel, when his old friend and former priest in Dover, Canon Brian Duckett will be coming to preach. (Gill Calver)

W.I. NEWS - It was Resolutions night this week and both motions were passed with no one against. We are urging the Government to look at ways of opening more localised abattoirs to stop animals having to be transported hundreds of miles for slaughter and to also impose stricter checks on food imports. There then followed a series of small 2 minute plays in which most of us took part and a good time was had by all. Thanks to Margaret and Helen for the arrangements. Highlights had to be

Barbara with her chest amply padded as a washerwoman and Iris with a lampshade on her head!!! Next meeting is on Tuesday June 11th at 7.30 pm when Sue Chitty will give us a demonstration on Rug Making. (Devina Bartlett)

ANNUAL PARISH

MEETING - An audience of 16 people turned up for the Annual Meeting to hear reports from the Parish Council Chairman and other representatives in the village. George Tyler's speech included reference to the fact that all Parish Councillors would now have to sign up to a Code of Conduct. He also mentioned the ongoing purchase of Vicarage Meadow, pressure for implementation of phase 2 traffic calming and the speeding motorcycles problem. Bryan Cope, our County Councillor gave a short speech as did Paul Tapsell for the Alkham Valley Society. Den Barnard said the Alkham Cricket Club was well known for its hill and sportsmanship and now had 7 players who lived in the village with all others having a historical connection. John Garlinge reported on hedge laying and Betty Neely spoke about the Jubilee celebrations. The audience remarked on sheep worrying by dogs at Ewell Minnis, Neighbourhood Watch (or lack of it) and speeding on the Alkham Valley Road. (editor)

PARISH COUNCIL

The officers of the Parish Council came up for re-election at the meeting on the 13th of May. George Tyler was unanimously voted in as Chairman again

OZ on MIGHTY OAKS - A new tree disease, "sudden oak death", has arrived from America, leading to a ban on certain imports in order to protect English oaks. The fungus *Phytophthora ramorum* also attacks some garden shrubs, which become carriers. In infected trees the bark splits, leading to sap loss and tissue death within months. Horticulturists consider that the disease can be controlled using sensible precautions, unlike Dutch elm disease, which spread because elms were specifically targeted by elm bark beetles. Oaks have been sacred to Europeans since prehistoric times, for both spiritual and practical reasons, and hold a central place in our culture. In 1791 William Cowper wrote, but never finished, the poem *Yardley Oak*. William Hayley discovered it after Cowper's death "amid a heap of discarded note-books and blotted manuscripts", adding that he could hardly have been more surprised if "an oak, in its natural majesty, had started up from the turf of the garden, in full foliage", before him. Cowper tells the oak "Thou wast a bauble once; a cup and ball, which babes might play with" and continues that "a thievish jay might have purloined the auburn nut that held thee." Later, he describes how "Time has made the oak a cave for owls to roost in." That could almost be a description of our largest oak, at Bowthorpe Park in Lincolnshire, and estimated to be 1,000 years old. In 1768 its hollow trunk was smoothed to make a dining-room for the squire and twenty friends. Nearer home, in Fredville Park at Nonington, is the second largest oak, called 'Majesty', and sketched by Jacob Strutt in 1820. Both of these gentle giants have survived centuries of storm and disease to face, not a "sudden oak death", but rather a slow demise from what Cowper described as "the rottenness which Time is charged to inflict." (Steve Osborn)

as was Neil Burrows as Vice Chairman. The other Parish Councillors retain their duties, these being: Parish Emergencies - George Tyler, Neil Burrows and Susan Lees: Highways - Paul Tapsell: Footpaths - Colin Griggs: KAPC - Paul Tapsell and Stephen Comfort: Environment - Rosemary Crothall, Betty Neely and Stephen Comfort: Tree Warden - Colin Griggs: Pond Warden - Mike Wingfield. Whatever the sentiments of some people to the Parish Council, they should be congratulated for giving up their time to present the Parish on various committees, planning applications and other matters such that at least the voice of the local people is heard. (editor)

JUBILEE - It really is impressive that some people in the village get together when there is a notable event and raise money for various celebrations. The Golden Jubilee Committee have worked tirelessly, holding numerous events to raise money and whether you agree with the celebration or not, their efforts are to be congratulated. To date £2225 has been raised and this will be spent on the items listed in the flyer included with last month's Newsletter. Whatever your thoughts on the monarchy it is a good occasion to have a celebration, so do come along to the events and have a good time. The committee are also keen to hear from anyone who has any other ideas as to how the Jubilee can be remembered. Please phone Betty Neely on 822688 if you have any ideas. (editor)

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Ladies keep fit in the VH 9.30 am to 10.30am followed by the Wednesday club until 11.30 am
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Saturday	1	Jubilee Celebrations as detailed in enclosed flyer
Monday	3	As above
Tuesday	4	As above
Saturday	8	Age 60 plus buffet in the village hall at 7.30 pm
Tuesday	11	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	15	Open Garden at Hillview – see front page
Monday	20	Dover & District Bird Club in village hall 7.30 pm

There should be a flyer with this Newsletter describing all the Jubilee celebrations, which are taking place. If there isn't and you want to know more please phone Betty Neely on 822688.

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
June 2 nd	Jubilee Service 11.00 am	Jubilee Service 9.30 am	Jubilee Eucharist 6.30 pm
June 9 th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	No service
June 16 th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Radigund's, Capel 10.00 am		
June 23 rd	Evensong 6.30 pm	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
June 30 th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Radigund's, Capel 10.00 am (welcoming back Ken Pilgrim after his ordination to the priesthood in Canterbury Cathedral the previous day)		

Morning Prayer is said at Capel Monday-Friday at 8.30 am. Evening Prayer at Hougham on Wednesday at 5.00 pm and there is Eucharist at Capel every Thursday at 9.15 am

HOGBROOK – As local residents can see, the barns adjacent to Hogbrook Farmhouse have been demolished. It is understood that the current proposal is to build a terrace of five houses on the site. (editor)

BINGO is cancelled in June because of all the Jubilee celebrations.

COFFEE MORNING - Lou and Steve Matcham had their first coffee morning on the 4th of May and raised £261 for the Jubilee celebrations. They would like to thank everybody who helped and came along.

FIELD ACCESS – DDC have said that the new field access off Chalksole Green Lane adjacent to Slip Lane is an acceptable alternative to the existing. The latter can be removed, including the curved hedge entrance and the gap filled in with new hedge plants.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 2193704	Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119
County Councillor , Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Newsletter , Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brian@alkham50.freemove.co.uk	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Ken Hammond 823720
District Councillor Fred Scales 201382 and Trevor Bamfield 202334	Parish Clerk , Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	Police – all calls except 999 phone 01303 850055	Women's Institute Betty Neely 822688

Alkham web site alkham.info

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn's Meadow 824201
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery : Planning, planting, maintenance & removal	Wolverton 824853 & 07973 501390
BED & BREAKFAST	Owler Lodge with Pat and Bill Owler	Alkham Valley Road 826375
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 824991
CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians , dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis 822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 828007 & 0589 310479
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham 01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malma's Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES	Alkham Valley Garden Centre – everything for horse and rider	South Alkham 01303 891996
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with gift shop and village shop	South Alkham 01303 893351
HAIRDRESSER – Mobile	Registered hairdresser – Senior citizens at reduced rate	Ewell Minnis 01304 824492
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton 822420
LIVERY	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liveryes	Megget Lane, South Alkham 01303 892056
POST OFFICE	Southdown Stores general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	London rd, Temple Ewell 827100
SCHOOL	Capel-le-ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-ferne 01303 251353
SLADDEN FARM		Phone 825188
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VILLAGE OF THE YEAR

The judges for the Environmental Section of the Village of the Year visited Alkham on the 12th of June. They were shown photographs of the hedge laying, the footpath map and walks which were put on the Alkham web site, a plan of the churchyard showing the areas for the 11 man volunteer cutters, an excellent report by Mick Wingfield of the pond at Chalksole and various extracts from the Newsletter. The feeling that Sue Lees and I got was that they had already formed an opinion and we're still unsure whether it was good or bad. One thing that was certain was that they were unimpressed by the taps and the long flush in the toilets of the village hall. They were keen to see the churchyard and again it was difficult to determine their reaction. (editor)

Alkham Village Fete

Saturday the 13th July 2002 and our celebrity opener will be Alan Minter, former boxing champion of the world. On a more mundane level anyone who would like to help either with a stall or otherwise should contact me and I can guarantee that I will be able to find you a job. All stall holders are reminded that they should send someone along to help put up the tents on Saturday morning (9 o'clock) – and to take them down afterwards. The more helpers we have the easier everything becomes; any other volunteers will be gratefully received. Please note - We will need to clear the village hall car park by 1 p.m. to allow for disabled parking: in addition for safety reasons all stallholder's cars must be removed from the Meadow before 1.30. We should have all the usual attractions and features (band, dancing, tug of war, children's races, etc) as well as all your favourite stalls (and a couple of new ones!): If you can help the following by donating goods/prizes, please liaise directly with the relevant smallholders. Bric-a Brac - Den & Irene Barnard (824845); Tombola and/or Raffle Prizes- The Poldens (824876); Needlework- Margaret Knowles (822220), Produce - Richard Tapsell (822295); Plants-Sue Tapsell (822295); Books- Sue Lees (822661), Baskets and/or Hoopla prizes- Christine Tapsell (822282); Jewellery and/or Cakes Barbara Palmer (824973). In addition we have the Children's Art competition The theme is "Alkham in the Jubilee", with two age ranges "under 7" and "8 to 12" and entries can be paintings, drawings, or models (Shirley Tapsell 822638). The Produce show classes are as follows - Section A, Vegetables: Class (1) 3 potatoes (white), (2) 3 potatoes (coloured), (3) 3 carrots (with tops), (4) 3 turnips (white with tops), (5) 3 beetroots (with tops), (6) 9 pods of peas, (7) 5 pods of Broad Beans, (8) 2 lettuces (tall variety), (9) 2 lettuces (cabbage variety), (10) 3 Tomatoes, (11) 1 Cucumber, (12) 3 onions, (13) 3 shallots and (14) Any kind of vegetable not listed above. Section B, Soft Fruit: Class (1) 12 Raspberries, (2) 12 Gooseberries, (3) 6 strigs of currants (red, black or white) and (4) 9 Strawberries. It is not possible to have the Cookery or Flower competitions this year. There will also be a large scale model of "the Alkham that might have been" and a display of Fuchsia in the village hall. Raffle Tickets and Fete Posters/Car Stickers are still available, if you want either please call me on 01303 892082 (not after 8.30p.m. though!). Finally **please ensure all unsold raffle tickets are returned** to Dot Polden or me by Wednesday July 10th. (Paul Tapsell).

RARE ORCHID?

Continuing the theme of the environment, Sue Lees came across an orchid in St Anthony's churchyard, which couldn't be identified from the reference books. I took a couple of photos with my digital camera and e-mailed them to Kew Gardens. There has been no reply and swarms of botanist and press have not descended on Alkham so I assume it wasn't quite as rare as we thought. (editor)

CRICKET has started again this year and on the 7th of July they will be at home to the Coldred XI, starting at 2.30 pm and then again on the 28th of July playing the Bekesbourne XI. Please do come along and support them as they bat to hopeful victory on the newly restored pitch.

GOLDEN JUBILEE

There is an extra page in the middle of this Newsletter with articles and letters about the Jubilee celebrations, which were a great success. There is an amount of money left over from the fund raising and ideas from the committee were sought as to the best way to spend it. One suggestion was a sign on the village hall saying 'Alkham Village Hall' and another was for a wooden flower trough around the foot of the Millennium badger sign. Some of the committee thought that kissing gates should be purchased to replace a couple of difficult stiles in the village but this was not supported by some members. I understand the Parish Council is going consider the matter. (editor)

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GOTHS AND RUDE BOYS

- In last month's Newsletter I made comment about a letter that had been published in the Dover Express from a youth in Alkham who had been subject to bullying. I had two phone calls and I now understand that Goths wear dark clothing and the Rude Boys, apart from other things, have their trousers tucked into their socks. In the 1950's there were the Beatniks and the Teddy Boys and in the 1960's and 70's the Mods and Rockers. Skinheads and Greasers. I'm sure there was similar in the next two decades but what it does show is that things never change. Beatniks were picked on by Teddy Boys and Mods by Rockers but in most cases this was just posturing. As was said in the letter, tolerance and respect for the other person's point of view is what is needed (as a matter of interest I rode a 500cc Matchless in the 1960's and Steve Osborn (Oz) was a Beatnik. Please write in if you have any similar stories to tell of your youth). (editor)

TRAFFIC - Whilst the Jubilee cricket match was going on a car overtook another going through the village forcing a motorcyclist to clip the pavement. Unfortunately he also hit a young girl's foot and leg causing bruising and distress. The motorcyclist did not stop but in fairness the rider may not have been aware of the incident. The little girl after some comforting was bruised but otherwise all right.

BELL RINGING - Does anyone fancy having a go at learning how to bell ring? I used to class it with Morris Dancing but since I've learnt to ring I've found it most enjoyable and good company. If you'd like a go please ring Richard Tapsell on 822295. (editor)

DONATION - Many thanks to the anonymous donor, who lives at Campus near Drellingore, for the generous donation of £20 to the Newsletter, which he passed to Sue Lees at the Golden Jubilee dance. (editor)

GARDEN TALK -

On Tuesday 2nd of July at 7.30pm, we will be visiting Hockley Sole to enjoy the gardens at the kind invitation of Angie Snape. All contributions to the Plant Stall for the fete will be gratefully welcomed.

(Susannah Tapsell)

GREENWOOD,

which is the mock Elizabethan house at Chalksole, previously owned by the late Mrs Southall, is being extended and improved. There are plans for a swimming pool between the house and adjacent bridleway and the detached brick property, which used to house chickens, is to be converted into holiday lets. There are various improvements to the property but it is understood that the façade will remain unaltered. It is thought that the owner is also involved with the old paper mill in Dover. (editor)

FOOTBALL

- Football practice is being held on the pitch by the village green every Tuesday evening from 6 pm to 7.30pm. Ken Hammond is currently running it and would like another adult to help, so please give him a ring on 823720 if you are willing to help. Ken took eight year old Jamie Reid to Dover Rangers, which is an affiliated FA youth club, for them to assess his football skills. Jamie was accepted and will play in the football tournament.

Congratulations to Jamie.

ALKHAM

VALLEY SOCIETY

trip to Sissinghurst Castle Garden. Will anyone interested in this trip to these famous gardens please note it is now on the 6th July (Saturday) and NOT the 29th June as published in the May Newsletter. As there are still some spaces on the coach, if anyone is interested in going please do contact me. The cost will be £13.50 for Adults, £10.50 for children 5-16 years inclusive, and the under fives can go free into the gardens, but there will be a charge for a seat on the coach. Unfortunately there is no reduction for senior citizens at

these gardens. However, for members of the National Trust entry is free, so please do tell me when you book if this is so. The coach will leave Alkham at 9 a.m. and depart from Sissinghurst at 4.30 p.m. Food is not included in the cost, but I understand there is a good restaurant there, not too expensive or take a picnic. Sissinghurst is probably one of the most famous gardens in England, so if you are interested, please contact me. (Pamela Sayers 822397)

POND - The survey of the pond at Chalksole found no evidence of animal or plant life in the pond. This is not surprising as it fills and then empties dependent upon the weather. Mick Wingfield, the pond warden, is looking into ways of getting grants such that the pond can be lined to retain the water.

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THE GOLDEN JUBILEE IN ALKHAM

The ten months leading up to it

- The first committee meeting held in August 2001 started the ball rolling. The second meeting in November saw the committee really getting stuck in and coming up with ideas of ways in which to celebrate the Jubilee, and even more importantly dreaming up new ways to raise funds. The fund raising started in earnest with a Quiz in January, a Slave Auction in February, a second quiz in March, coffee mornings, a Jumble Sale, a Table Fair, a Ploughman's Lunch, £100 from Help The Aged and individual donations, all of which brought in a grand total of just over £2600. Now all that was needed was fine weather. The days and hours leading up to the 1st June were extremely busy with volunteers decorating the Village Hall on the Thursday and collecting together tables, chairs and all the other paraphernalia needed for the Jubilee week. Saturday dawned, the weather could not have been better, the Marquee arrived on time, Roger Lott raised the Union Flag on the pole by the pavilion, balloons were blown up, children ran hither and thither putting up bunting and helping in all sorts of other ways. The Meadow, the Hall and the Marquee all looked the part displaying red white and blue bunting, balloons, tablecloths and serviettes. Roy Adams and Brian Wimsett sorted the electrics for lighting and all was nearly ready. Evening dawned and Ian Shawcross and his band arrived, soon to be followed by some 250 guests. There were people from all corners of the parish, and from all age groups, babies and ninety year olds included. One party from Ewell Minnis even brought a beautifully embroidered tablecloth, made at the time of the Coronation, to put on their table

but soon realized that more people would enjoy it by displaying it on the wall. It was a great evening and a very successful start to a week of celebrations. (Susan Lees)

The Jubilee Committee

who should be thanked are:

Grace Stacey, Lou Matcham, Doreen Polden, Rosemary Polden, Doreen Lott, Tricia Wright, Devina Bartlett, Betty Neely, Maureen Hever, Helen Scopes, Sue Lees and Roy Adams

THE DECORATED

HOUSE competition was judged by Michelle and Ian Briggs-Smith. The 1st prize was awarded to Tim and Vanessa for decorating 9 Glebelands with such originality, joint 2nd prize winners were, Cal & Helen at The Willows, Slip Lane and Mark & Debbie at 8a Newlyn Meadow, and the 3rd prize went to Maureen at 1 Standen Terrace.

PHOTOS – did you take any interesting or funny pictures? Please let us know – remember the exhibition of flood photos? Perhaps we could do something similar with Jubilee photos.

(Sue Lees 822661)

TREASURE HUNT

Whilst the cricket match was being played, children and adults joined in a treasure hunt. Nineteen items had been photographed between the village hall and Short Lane and a letter and number put on each item. The photos were put on an A4 sheet with numbered boxes to write the letters in, giving the message 'Write date of the W.I. bin'. A separate box was provided for this and a team of children won. They were Polly and Rosie Comfort with Hannah Foreman: Second was young Sue Garlinge with Olivio, Antonio and Dino Conte: Third was Jan: 4th Natasha and Katie: 5th Chris and Luke Hyland: 6th Jack and Matthew Bryant: 7th Fiona and Natalie: 8th Bronwen and Tom Robson: 9th Daniel Stephen and Alex Smith:

10th Katharina Conte: 11th Jade Trent: 12th Ashley and Natalie Hughes and 13th the Bundy family. Others took part but didn't complete the hunt. Some people said the letters and numbers had been rubbed off but when I looked next day they were all still there. (Brian Wimsett)

Golden Jubilee

Challenge Cricket

Match After two years, and to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee, Alkham Cricket Club took to the newly reinstated wicket to restore their honour after their last home match when they suffered defeat at the hands of the W.I. whilst playing waist deep in flood water. Budding county players prepared to dazzle as Brian Luckhurst bowled the first ball. That was all it took to assess the assembled talent and then, due to pressing decorating demands, Brian left 'to watch paint dry'. He missed the Villagers storm to a magnificent victory that they will be able to tell their grandchildren of and mention should go to Den Barnard of Alkham C.C. and Stuart Milroy for the Village who both scored 66 runs for their teams. 9 year old Liam Milroy looked like batting the Cricket Club towards an undefeatable number of runs before Paul Tapsell ran him out! Paul is now considering moving from the village. It is hoped that some of the villagers will be available to play for the club. Knowing how to hold a bat is usually requirement enough but knowing how to play with one could lead to legend status on the Vicarage Meadow. Special thanks must go to the ladies for the traditional, excellent, Alkham tea. (Mark Robson)

LETTERS

TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC

Unfortunately due to the persistent rain the picnic, bouncy castle and fancy dress competition had to be squeezed into the village hall. It was because of this squeezing that the event was a little chaotic, especially when the judge pushed to carry out her duties as quickly as possible because she had to go on to do a report at another village. The judging of the fancy dress was over a little too quick and three families arrived after the event much to their understandable annoyance.

However, the rain did eventually ease up sufficiently for the races to take place. (Susan Lees)

See also Pam Sayer's letter

JUBILEE SERVICE

The Jubilee Service in St Anthony's was quite well attended considering the competition from the World Cup match and there was double peal of bells to mark the celebration. Susan Lees took a copy of her Alkham book to the altar as a token of the village and the two church wardens, Richard Tapsell and Ken Hammond, also took appropriate tokens. Gill Calver based the service and sermon on the Jubilee and Frank Connelly, the organist completed the service by playing Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance on the organ.

PIG ROAST -

The Jubilee Bank Holiday celebrations culminated in a free pig roast on the village green, which was dispensed in bread rolls to parishioners. The pig weighed about 120 pounds and was roasted whole on a covered spit. Doyle's the butcher of London Road, Dover donated 50 beef burgers and 50 sausages which were also cooked and handed out. Helen and Cal Scopes plus helpers did all the hard work for which the village and parishioners are very grateful.

Wasn't it a splendid four days in Alkham due to the Jubilee Committee's magnificent efforts to provide entertainment and activities for us all. It commenced with the American Supper, so well organised with the advantages of the marquee and the band to add to the gaiety of the evening. Everyone was made to feel welcome, and it was lovely also to see the children joining in and enjoying themselves. How delightful the Teddy Bears' Picnic was too. It was really touching to see all the teddy bears dressed up. What a varied assortment there was sitting around their little tablecloths with a variety of dainty cakes and sandwiches laid out in front of them, and to add to the colourful scene their owners were in fancy dress. There was the cricket match, which was enjoyed particularly by the players, as well as the onlookers; the Treasure Hunt, my goodness what a lot of cheating went on; the pig roast, which was delicious and so ably catered for by Cal and Helen, and the races enjoyed, I rather think, as much by the grown-ups as by the children. However, it didn't finish on Tuesday, at least not for the over 60s. There was a delicious buffet laid out for the senior citizens of Alkham the following Saturday, very capably organised by Doreen and Rosemary Polden and helpers, and what an enjoyable chatty evening that was for us all. Not only were all these events efficiently organised but no one had to pay for them due to all the fund raising activities. A big thank you to all concerned. Besides the national celebrations, the events held in Alkham to commemorate the Jubilee will not be forgotten for a very long time. (Pamela Sayers)

VILLAGE HALL

Chairman writes - After a weekend of much celebration for the Golden Jubilee I felt I had to put onto paper how wonderful it was to see everyone participating - the young and the not so young alike! Susan Lees (Jubilee Committee Chairman) is to be congratulated on all the work she and her committee

put in to making this such a success. The celebrations on the Saturday (1 June) - much enjoyed by all who were there: the Church Service giving a different perspective on the event; the Cricket Match - how satisfying it was to see a game played with such good sportsmanship all round (the Pig Roast going down particularly well!); the Fancy Dress and Teddy's Picnic - shame about the weather but the children still enjoyed themselves; and, finally, the Senior Residents Buffet - another evening of entertainment and great to see people obviously enjoying themselves. Throughout all the celebrations the Village Hall played a central role - much bedecked in Jubilee attire - how different it looked only 18 months ago when it was under some 6 inches of water! While I am on the subject of the Village Hall, I would like to extend a big "thank you" to all those who so generously give their support to its upkeep, either by supporting events held to raise funds or in the time given to "keep it in order". Work has been done in the last few years to improve the facilities and replace older systems (the new gas central heating and double-glazed windows being two very good examples). Having stood the test of time for some 70-odd years now, it is looking in remarkably good condition. In order to keep it that way, the Village Hall Committee hold various events throughout the year to raise funds (Jumble Sales, Ploughman's Lunches, Quiz Nights, Table Fairs, etc. etc) - many of you already support them and to those I extend the Committee's grateful appreciation - to those who haven't in the past, please come along to some of these events and help us to ensure that Alkham Village Hall is still standing in another 70 years!!

(Doreen Lott)

On behalf of our family, we would like to thank you all very much for providing such a lovely Jubilee weekend. We all enjoyed the dance, especially the grandchildren, a real family evening. Although we didn't partake in every event, we know that it was all a great success. Once again many thanks. (Rosemary and John Crothall)

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NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S

By now I am sure most of you will know that I shall be leaving this benefice at the beginning of August to take up a new position. Rector of Staplehurst in West Kent. This means that for a while (hopefully only a few months) you will have no Vicar and your church wardens will be arranging for different ministers to take the church services and meet any pastoral needs. We are particularly fortunate in Alkham to have a lay reader, Tony and an assistant curate, Ken, to help out where they can. We need to remember of course, that Ken has a full time job as an Immigration Officer, as well as serving the church as a priest. The wardens will also be closely involved in the selection of your new vicar so bend the ears of Richard Tapsell and Ken Hammond if you want *your* views to be taken on board! Some of you have spoken to me about why I am leaving and I have tried to explain. Firstly, it is rare for my generation of priests to stay in one place for more than about 7-10 years. Many of us believe it is good for us and for church people if we move on. It prevents all of us free wheeling and getting stale and there are always new challenges which benefit from new vision and a new approach. The church is a body of people... not just the Vicar. Secondly, we clergy are still guided by our Bishop, about where we might best serve God and we often explore a new position when we are

nudged, as I was. Our Bishops know us well and they see the broader picture of the church and its needs. So it is not just about making an application at our own whim. And thirdly I am leaving because I believe it is the right thing for me to do and I look forward to a new challenge. That does not mean that I shall not miss the many people here, with whom I have shared so much. We have been through some good times, such as the renovation of our church and the dawn of a new millennium, marked by the new cross on our tower. We have also weathered some difficult times together, both in my life and in many of your personal lives. So thank you for your friendship and support and for the privilege of being alongside you. I trust that very soon you will have a new Vicar with whom the life of your church can go from strength to strength. Meanwhile if any of you are able to come to my last service for all three villages on August 4th at 10am at Capel, it would be great to say a proper goodbye to you there. (Gill Calver)

W.I. NEWS - The June meeting was a demonstration of rug making by Sue Chitty. It was interesting to note how many different ways and mediums there are for making them up. Plastic carrier bags from the supermarket were one of the more unusual ones. It could be argued that it is easier to buy one from the shops, but there is something to be said about a homemade project. Several ladies have expressed an interest

OZ on JUBILEE PROMS - There's a pleasing symmetry to the way that the late Queen Mother's life spanned the century between Victoria's death and Elizabeth's golden jubilee. In this year's Dover Carnival Proms Concert the choir sings music from coronation services, commencing with Parry's monumental *I was Glad* from the 1902 coronation of Edward VII. SS Wesley's 1853 anthem *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace*, sung at the 1937 and 1953 coronations, is followed by Stanford's *Te Deum* from the 1902 service, and two settings by Vaughan Williams for Elizabeth's coronation. This half concludes with Handel's *Zadok the Priest*, so successful at George II's coronation in 1727 that it has been performed at every coronation since. The second half features the première of a newly commissioned work, *A Man of Kent*, described by its composer, Peter Cork, as an "instrumental evocation of the Kentish countryside south of the Medway." The three movements comprise Romney Marsh, Alkham Valley, and The White Cliffs. The Romney Marsh movement has a folk-song quality suggesting a lonely and clear marshland day, complete with the bleating of sheep. Cork remembers Alkham Valley as "in the Fifties a quiet and remote area" and so the second movement uses the ballad *The Lark in the Still Air* together with the tolling of Alkham's church bell. The final White Cliffs movement includes squawking seagulls, a sea-shanty, and a heroic second tune that, in Cork's words, "could embody the spirit of Dover citizens in the hell-fire corner days of the Second War." After this, patriotic Dovorianians will again hear the 1908 pageant song *Dauntless Dover* before joining in the traditional finale of *Jerusalem, Rule Britannia and Land of Hope and Glory*. So make sure your tickets, hats and flags are ready for 7.30pm on Friday 5 July in Dover Town Hall. (Steve Osborn)

in making up the Storysacks for local school children and it has been decided to do something after the fete. We have also welcomed some new ladies recently and hope to see Julia back next month as the next in a long line. Snacks were as scrumptious as ever!! Next meeting July 9th at 7.30 pm and the speaker will be Mrs Ault with her talk "Through the looking glass".

(Devina Bartlett)

COUNTRY FILE

I know we have all said it, but doesn't time fly. Already we have got the longest days of the year. The weather, as always, has been the main talking point. Up until now its been mostly disappointing, with low pressure often not too far away, giving us the unsettled weather, indeed by the time of writing we have had 2.5ins. (62mm) which is more than we should expect for the first three weeks of June, also this changeable weather does not help the pollen count, which is at its highest just now, much to the discomfort of hay fever sufferers amongst us. There is, of course, another side of this unsettled weather, one only has to look in the garden or out in the fields to see just how plants and crops have progressed over recent weeks, everything appears very forward. The ingredients are there for an early harvest and hopefully lots of summery weather for everyone to enjoy. (Keith)

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Wednesday club 10.30-11.30am
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Monday	1	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm all welcome.
Tuesday	2	Garden Talk – see page 2
Saturday	6	Bingo 7.30 pm in VH – ring Kathleen Goldfinch 822776
Sunday	7	Cricket 2.30 pm on Green
Tuesday	9	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	13	FETE see page 1
Saturday	20	Craft Fair in aid of Cancer Research in VH 10 am to 4 pm
Monday	22	Village Hall committee meeting in VH at 8.00pm
Sunday	28	Cricket at 2.30pm on Green

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
July 7th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
July 14th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
July 21st	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
June 28th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Lawrence, Hougham 10.00 am		

Morning Prayer is said at Capel Monday-Friday at 8.30 am. Evening Prayer at Hougham on Wednesday 5.00 pm and Eucharist at Capel Thursday at 9.15 am

SOUP KITCHEN – A team from Alkham did the Soup Kitchen in Dover twice in June. There have been a few donations of cheese, sugar and tins containing sandwich fillers but more would be appreciated, especially soup. On the 12th of June two 1.8 litres flasks of soup were consumed by the men who came into the soup kitchen. If you would like to donate anything it is probably easiest to leave it in the box at the rear of my property, The Old Post Office. Blankets and sleeping bags would be appreciated as quite a few people end up living in tents on the cliffs above Dover. (editor)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 2193704	Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brian@alkham50.freemove.co.uk	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Ken Hammond 823720
District Councillor Fred Scales 201382 and Trevor Bamfield 202334	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
Alkham web site alkham.info	Police – all calls except 999 phone 01303 850055	Women's Institute Betty Neely 822688

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn's Meadow 824222
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance removal	Wolverton 824853 & 07973 501390
BED & BREAKFAST	Owler Lodge with Pat and Bill Owler	Alkham Valley Road 826375
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 824991
CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians , dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis 822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 828007 & 0589 310479
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham 01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malma's Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES	Alkham Valley Garden Centre – everything for horse and rider	South Alkham 01303 891996
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with gift shop and village shop	South Alkham 01303 893351
HAIRDRESSER – Mobile	Registered hairdresser – Senior citizens at reduced rate	Ewell Minnis 01304 824492
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton 822420
LIVERY	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liveryes	Megget Lane, South Alkham 01303 892056
POST OFFICE	Southdown Stores general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	London rd, Temple Ewell 827100
SCHOOL	Capel-le-ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-ferne 01303 251353
SLADDEN FARM		Phone 825188
VEHICLES	Vehicle Valuations Used car specialist, Folkestone	53 Bradstone Avenue, 01303 253212

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PRIZE WINNERS at the fete in the children's art competition 'Alkham in the Jubilee' were: 7 and under Paris Bates: 8 to 12, 1st Troy Bates, 2nd Jay Bates.

CHURCHYARD – What a great crowd of people volunteered to cut the churchyard. It was quite hard work but there were few complaints and everybody just got on with it. Thanks go to Gerry Newitt, Derek and Marion Banks-Nash, Ken Hammond, Den Barnard, Rob Lees, Clive Batchelor, Larry Lambourne, Brian Wimsett, Roger Lott and Mick Wingfield. It was decided not to bale the hay but to leave it on the ground as it will soon rot away.

FETE – Someone driving through Alkham at 8.00 am and returning at 6.30pm would have thought that nothing had happened as Vicarage Meadow was empty at both times. However by 9.00 am tents and marquees had started to spring up around the green being put up by a group of amiable villagers. There was a pretty good turn out of volunteers this year and a similar number stayed at the end to take the tents down and return them to Hogbrook barn. Soon the stalls were in place and made ready for the grand opening by Alan Minter the World Middleweight boxing champion in 1980. This year there seemed to me more people at the fete but takings were slightly down on last year at £3200, which after expenses left a clear profit of £2100. The Maypole dancing by Capel School was most impressive and the children managed to win one of the tug-of-war contests, which was the culmination of the children's races. Billy Hollis eventually ran out of petrol on his mini Volkswagen, which carried delighted children round and round the green. It was a terrific day and thanks go to all those who helped with the fete and particularly to Paul Tapsell who organised the whole event. **(editor)** **May I add my own thanks** to all those who helped at this year's Fete and made my job so much easier: There are too many people involved to thank individually but I have to mention, in addition to the stallholders and other attractions or entertainments, the backroom boys and girls who get so much done behind the scenes, from the people who do the monthly bingo evenings, the shopping, distribute the raffle tickets, collect the prizes, put out the bunting, organise the car parking, put up the tents and set out the meadow. I was particularly pleased to see the large number of people who stayed behind to help clear the meadow afterwards – everything was away by 6:30 which was fantastic. Anyone who enjoyed mucking in should come along to the AGM or Fete committee meetings and we'll find you a bigger job for next year. Thank you all. **(Paul Tapsell)**

COFFEE MORNING

You are invited to a coffee morning on Saturday August the 10th between 10.30 am and noon at the home of Rosemary and John Crothall, Brook House, Meggett Lane, South Alkham. The money raised will go to their granddaughter's play group.

HOG ROAST – Helen and Cal Scopes are holding a Hog Roast and dancing to a Line Band, in aid of Air Ambulance on the 17th of August from 7.00 pm. Tickets will be £5 per head in advance and can be obtained by phoning 822899. Pork will be served with salads, coleslaw, French bread and cheese. Please bring your own chair, glass and drink. There will be a raffle and donations of prizes would be gratefully received.

DOGS – Would the owners who are allowing their dogs to foul the football pitch please clear the mess up as the area is used extensively by children playing football. Also would the people letting off fire crackers please stop as they are terrifying some dogs in the village.

FETE – There will be a meeting in the Village Hall on the 28th of August at 8.00 pm to discuss this year's fete and ideas for the next. I know quite a few people have made suggestions about the fete, so please do come along and have your say.

KENT'S SECRET ARMY

In a previous issue of the Newsletter there was an article on a resistance organisation set up in 1940 to counter the expected German invasion. Parishioners were asked to write if they had any information on the above. The researcher has now uncovered more details of people involved and they are: G Marsh, Drellingore Rise; L Osborne, Drellingore Farm; G Richards, Upton College. If any of these people are still alive or if their families are still in the district would they please contact Adrian Westwood, Hawksdene, The Street, Hastingleigh, Kent TN25 5HU (01233 750563). He would also like to hear from anyone who has photos of local Kent Home Guard Units, ideally with names and addresses of the members.

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BINGO - Kathleen Goldfinch would like to thank everyone who has supported and helped during the last eleven years and would like to wish Beverley Tapsell, who will be taking over from me the best of luck.

THANKS go to Ted Baker for sending his annual donation to the Newsletter. For those to whom the name is unfamiliar, Ted used to live in Alkham Parish and now lives in Devon with his wife where they called their house 'Wolverton'. They are both in their 90's and despite recent setbacks are keeping reasonably well and hoping for a good summer. (editor)

MANY THANKS to the kind people who have donated soup and other items to the Alkham Soup Kitchen run.

DOGS - I would just like to say that stories related across the bar at the Marquis of Granby are not always accurate or true.

(Brian Wimsett)

RECYCLING - In the Dover Mercury there was a picture and article about the doorstep recycling scheme which has been a great success, recycling 22 tonnes during the first week. It's being trialled in Sandwich, Ash, Eastry, Worth, Preston and Wingham. The next phase is Deal in October and the rest of our next year. (Steve Osborn)

FAMILY HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES - There are various events organised during the summer for children and families to join in. On Saturday the 10th of August there is an Open Weekend at Samphire Hoe. As you probably know, Samphire Hoe is accessed from the new A20 on the hill leading from the roundabout by Shakespeare Cliff, just outside Dover. There will be a children's colouring competition with prizes, angling experts on site to give advice and local divers will have displays, quizzes and games. At 1.00 pm there is a guided tour round Samphire Hoe and at 3.00 pm a lantern making workshop. At 8.30 pm there is a spooky ghost walk around the Hoe, so bring your lantern or torch. On the following day there will be a mini beast safari, pebble art and then a Samphire Sun downer with a gentle stroll round the Hoe followed by a fruit cocktail. All this is organised by the Green Gang and further information on the above and other activities through the holiday can be obtained by phoning 241806. (editor)

HIGHWAYS - Frustration was expressed at the Parish Council meeting regarding the filling of pot holes. The men on site are only allowed to fill holes with white lines round so it is both frustrating for them and local residents when there is clearly a hole that needs filling in but as it hasn't been marked nothing can be done. The Parish Council are going to contact DDC.

FOOTBALL NETS - There was a request from the youngsters in the village for the nets on the goal posts on the football pitch adjacent to Vicarage Meadow to be replaced. The Parish Council commented that they had previously replaced the nets which had then been quickly vandalised, so it was suggested that an appeal be put in the Newsletter for any person who has suitable netting to contact Sue Lees on 822661. (editor)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY

outing to Sissinghurst Castle Garden. To the relief of members and their friends, the sun actually shone and it was warm, although umbrellas were up before we boarded the coach to Sissinghurst. The gardens were lovely with a tremendous variety of plants which were labelled so you could take note for future use of those you fancied in your own garden, although finding a nursery which sold them might present a little problem. Some of us had aching feet at the end of the day, but I think we all agreed it was a very interesting and pleasant day out. (Pamela Sayers, Secretary)

SKY COMET Congratulations to Sandie Tapsell and Sky Comet, her 18 year old Arab Stallion, who from six outings to National-level Horse Shows this year has been 1st and Reserve Champion Pure Bred Arab Stallion/Colt at The Royal Show, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire; 1st and Supreme Arab Champion (for the third time) at the Kent County Show (hence her late arrival at the Fete!); 2nd in the Ridden Arab Stallion and Reserve Ridden Champion of Show at the Arab Horse Society Spring Show at Ardingly, Sussex; and 1st in the Ridden Arab at the National Pony Society Show at Towerlands, Essex. Comet has also

qualified for the British Arab Championships at Hartpury in September.

GARDEN CLUB. A big thank you to Nigel and Angie Snape, for once again allowing us to see and enjoy their lovely garden. The weather was absolutely foul, starting to rain about two seconds after we all arrived, but their kind hospitality more than made up for it.

(Devina Bartlett)

JUBILEE PROJECTS

- There is some money left from the fund raising carried out for the Jubilee and also the Parish Council are going to consider proposals to further commemorate the Golden Jubilee. The suggestions are for two stiles to be replaced by kissing gates through the Old Rectory land, the words 'Alkham Village Hall' put on the hall and a seat on Vicarage Meadow. By the first bend of the Valley road adjacent to Vicarage Meadow there was a stile as the meadow used to be grazed by cows and was fenced off. The stile disappeared a few years back and it was thought that it would be a good idea to reinstate it in part as it did look attractive and featured in drawings by Margaret Knowles. The Parish Council are currently considering the options. (editor)

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OZ on MINSMERE – One of life's more intriguing discoveries is that with age one increasingly resembles one's parents. As Robert Lowell, in his poem *Middle Age*, said, "At forty-five, what next, what next? At every corner / I meet my father / my age, still alive." At sixty-plus, my wife's parents began to disappear regularly to watch birds at the RSPB reserve at Minsmere in Suffolk. It seemed inevitable therefore that this spring found us driving up the A14 to Saxmundham, our base for exploring Minsmere and its surroundings. The reserve originated in the early days of World War II, when, responding to invasion threats, the government flooded the Minsmere saltings. By the end of the war the area had reverted to nature and the RSPB acquired it in 1947. Minsmere is now the most famous and heavily visited (by both birds and humans) of the RSPB reserves. Over 300 bird species have been recorded there, 200 of them annually, with about 100 species breeding regularly. We saw a modest 23 of these on our first visit, and 58 during the week. On the third day, we celebrated my birthday (at sixty-two, what next, what next?) with a rare sighting of a bittern after a wait of only 20 minutes in the Bittern Hide. During the next few days we found East Suffolk to be a green and gentle place, the roads bordered by hedges and oak standards rather than fences, much like East Kent was 50 years ago, and so, like the parents before us, we've booked to return in the autumn. Lowell's poem ends "You never climbed Mount Sion / yet left dinosaur death-steps / on the crust / where I must walk." We'll have to go some to match the parents' "dinosaur steps". In between trips to Minsmere, they visited Norway, Yugoslavia and Morocco. (Steve Osborn)

OBITUARY - The Revd. John David King, Vicar of St. Anthony's, Alkham, 1976 – 1982, and Vicar of St. Andrew's, Deal 1982 – 2002. Born in a tiny village in Carmarthen, South Wales 1937 he sadly died while still in office in June. He arrived in Alkham with his Welsh wife Lyn and their two boys Andrew and David to live at Alkham Vicarage but shortly after they were to be moved to the new Vicarage at Capel-le-Ferne. John worked hard to bring the three parishes of Alkham, Capel and Hougham together and make them a true Benefice. Lyn, a lay reader, was always very supportive of John and worked hard in the parishes in particular with the Sunday school at Capel. John's especial quality was in his pastoral work he was a true friend to those in sorrow and sickness whatever religion or creed they followed. The numbers of people at his memorial service reflect the esteem in which he was held. (Susan Lees)

W.I. NEWS - Dresses in period costume, Lee Ault gave us a moving and evocative talk on the lives of Victorian Seamstresses. They lived in abject poverty, worked 18 hours a day and all for a few pennies. The work they turned out was exquisite and was sold on for a vast profit, so not much change there really! A sad and moving account of the harshness of life in Victorian times if you were poor. Next meeting is members night on 13th August at 7.30 pm. (Devina Bartlett)

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS - Clive Batchelor is interested in ancestry and as a bell ringer gave me this article from one of his magazines. A lady called Sybil Bellis wrote about some of her ancestors dying at an early age but was puzzled as to why a relative, Edward had died at the age of 34. The death certificate stated that he had been accidentally killed by being drawn by the weight of the bell against a beam in the belfry in the church. The newspaper account of the accident, in the Maidstone Journal, Kentish Advertiser and South Eastern Intelligence of September 24 1844, explained what happened: "SANDGATE. - FATAL ACCIDENT On Thursday night last, about 8 o'clock, while a party of persons were engaged ringing the bells at Newington church, next Sandgate, the bell of one of them, Edward Maycock, canted (*toss suddenly*) and pulled him up to the ceiling of the bellfry, against which his head struck with such violence that he immediately fell to the floor, and melancholy to relate, expired in the course of half an hour. The man who has been thus awfully and suddenly called into eternity, was a labourer in the employ of the Rev. Win. Brockman of Beachborough, and has unhappily left a pregnant wife and three children to mourn their loss."

COUNTRY FILE

If you were asked what your favourite wild flower was, it would not be an easy answer, as there are so many to choose from. You don't have far to go to see an array of them, be it along the roadside or footpaths. There could be dandelions, clover, daisy, cow parsley, poppy, dog rose or maybe even honeysuckle. They all have their own attraction. Wild flowers in summer also attract a range of insects, moths and butterflies, the more common and colourful being the Peacock or Red Admiral, these are seen in our gardens dodging among the flowers.

Weather-wise, having had almost 2.5ins (62mm) of rain during the first 10 days of July, what a change there has been since then, with several settled warm and sunny days. The temperatures were in the 70's with winds often coming from a cool northerly direction, which is unusual for July. (Keith)

There is no News from St Anthony's this month as Gill Calver is leaving the Parish to take up ministry at Staplehurst. An article will be included in next month's addition and I'm sure we all wish her the very best of luck in her new Parish.

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Wednesday club 10.30-11.30am
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Saturday	3	Bingo 7.30 pm in VH – ring Beverley on 824765
Saturday	10	Coffee morning see page 1
Tuesday	13	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	17	Hog Roast see page 1
Sunday	18	Cricket versus George Brown XI 2.30pm on green
Monday	19	Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30 pm
Sunday	25	Cricket versus Harrington Hackers XI noon on green
Wednesday	28	Fete meeting see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
August 4th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Radigund, Capel-le-Ferne 10.00 am		
August 11th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
August 18th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
August 25th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Lawrence, Hougham 10.00 am		

Morning Prayer is said at Capel Monday-Friday at 8.30 am. Evening Prayer at Hougham on Wednesday 5.00 pm and Eucharist at Capel Thursday at 9.15 am

WANTED old unused musical instruments, music books, stands and instrument cases to be refurbished and given to schools across Kent. Please phone 01622 605977 for more details.

BEWARE of a female who comes to your door and says that her car has broken down and can she use your phone to call her husband. In some cases she enters a number on your phone that then allows her to charge all the calls from another phone to your account. You have no option but to pay the amount, which could run to hundreds of pounds. Fairly obviously say yes and ask for the husband's number so you can ring it yourself.

(Neighbourhood Watch Bulletin from Sue Lees)

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS At the Parish Council meeting thanks were extended to all those who were involved in arranging the Jubilee events in the village.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 2193704	Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Gill Calver 01303 244119
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brian@alkham50.freemove.co.uk	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Ken Hammond 823720
District Councillor Fred Scales 201382 and Trevor Bamfield 202334	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
Alkham web site alkham.info	Police – all calls except 999 phone 01303 850055	Women's Institute Betty Neely 822688

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn Meadow 824201
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance removal	Wolverton 824853 & 07973 501390
BED & BREAKFAST	Owler Lodge with Pat and Bill Owler	Alkham Valley Road 826375
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 824991
CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians, dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis 822902
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GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with gift shop and village shop	South Alkham 01303 893351
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SLADDEN FARM		Phone 825188
VEHICLES	Vehicle Valuations Used car specialist, Folkestone	53 Bradstone Avenue, 01303 253212

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MERIDIAN TV. – Through the excellent Alkham Web Site (alkham.info), Vince Holness was contacted by Meridian Television about the possibility of filming in the village, probably around Harvest Supper time. The matter is being discussed at the moment and should Meridian decide to go ahead a number of people in the village will be interviewed for the programme. **(editor)**

NEWSLETTER – September is the beginning of the financial year for the Newsletter. In the last financial year to August 2002 the income was £430 from adverts, £56 from donations plus an additional income of £27 for items included as the Village correspondent in the Dover Express (I also do the Mercury but claiming money is tricky and fairly poor so I don't bother). The cost of photostating the Newsletter over the year is about £400, petrol to go to Staples at Canterbury plus distribution to deliverers is about £50, stamps to send the 11 copies per month by post is £28 and ink for the printer is £12. The net result of this is that there was a profit of about £40 over the year, which is taken forward in the Building Society account. If anyone would like to see a copy of the accounts please give me a ring. **(editor)**

PLANT – Olive Harvey has a large plant growing in her conservatory, which had arrived via birds or imported soil. It had pretty flowers on and the overall appearance was striking but nobody had the slightest idea what it was. I took some photos with a digital camera on a Wednesday and e-mailed them to Radio Kent for their gardening programme. On the Friday, although we didn't hear the broadcast, the question was raised in the show. Radio Kent e-mailed me the information and said that it had been identified as a nightshade and the advice was to get rid of it. Olive would still like more details though. **(editor)**

FOR SALE – Ladies bike in good condition and recently overhauled. It has Sturmey Archer gears, a dynamo with lights and a carrier on the back. The cost is £20 and the money will go to some worthy cause. Please phone 823720 for more

CONGRATULATIONS to Charlie Preston on his 80th birthday.

HARVEST SUPPER

will be in the village hall on the 30th September at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £4.00 and available from Betty Neely, phone number 822688. There is a chance (see above) that Meridian Television will be there filming.

QUIZ NIGHT – There will be a quiz in the village hall on the 21st of September at 7.30pm in aid of Cancer Research. Mike Stevens from Thanet Radio will be running it and bookings for tables of up to eight can be made by phoning the Polden and Lott families on 824876.

FOOTBALL – Ken Hammond is running a football practice night on the green when a group of about 12 girls and boys come along. Ken took Jamie Reed and Eliot Avery, who both live in the village, to Crabble for them to be assessed by Dover Rangers Youth team. Both of them were accepted and have been taken by Dover Rangers to see Manchester United play a friendly match and also went to Pontin's holiday camp as part of the club activities. Paul Reed and Robert Alan who also play on Tuesdays are involved with Folkestone Invicta football club. Congratulations to them all and if you fancy going along and having some fun the football practice is at 6.00 pm on Tuesdays but this may change to Thursday. Ring Ken on 823720 for further details. **(editor)**

DOG FOULING – I have been asked to include an item regarding the fouling of Vicarage Meadow and walkways by dogs. Would owners please pick up and remove droppings.

PIG ROAST – Helen and Cal Scopes wish to thank everyone for their support in raising £520 for The Air Ambulance at the Pig Roast and disco night held at the 'Willows' on the 17th of August.

CONGRATULATIONS to Catherine Bates of Smithfield Farm, Ewell Minnis on her marriage to Steve Smith on the 10th of August at St. Anthony's church

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR

Sue Lees and I are going to attend the Kent Village of the Year prize giving at St Margarets at Cliffe on the 17th of September. We don't expect to win but it's usually a good evening and there will be a report next month. **(editor)**

CONGRATULATIONS to Lucy Mears who got 5 A stars, 2 A's and 4 B stars in her GCSE exams.

A JUMBLE SALE in aid of W.I. funds will be held in the village hall on Saturday the 14th of September, with the doors opening at 11.00 am.

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KENT FAMILY HISTORY

magazine has a photo from a person in Australia of two ladies holding sheep. She is researching the names of Bean from Folkestone, Eythorne and Ewell Minnis, especially with the name Valentine. She also has a Mount line traced back to Thomas Mount born in 1846 in Alkham. If you think you can help please phone Sue Lees on 822661. (The photo won't photostat)

EGYPT WITH A DIFFERENCE

- A month ago my daughter and I spent a week in Egypt. No ... we didn't go to Cairo, Luxor, mummies' tombs or pyramids. We went to Dahab which is on the edge of the Sinai Peninsular on the shores of the Red Sea and looks out towards Saudi Arabia, which is but a few miles away on the other side of the water. Dahab is not a great tourist centre although a few modern hotels have appeared in recent years but it is really a Bedouin settlement that has not changed in centuries. A short distance from the Hilton Hotel where we stayed is the original Bedouin village where traditions, culture and the way of life have fortunately, not yet moved to the 21st century. The main purpose of our visit was scuba diving. The Red Sea is quite wonderful with many coral reefs, fascinating fish and other creatures, breath-taking underwater rock formations and plant life and above all, completely clear visibility. One morning we were collected at 5.15 by our driver, Ahmed, dressed in his usual Bedouin attire and driving the most battered-looking and dilapidated jeep type vehicle that you have ever seen. We went to the dive centre and collected some other divers and then took off along the beach and drove for 3 or 4 miles until we came to the famous "Blue Hole". This dive site was discovered many years ago by Jacques Cousteau and is one of the few such sites in the world. We dived to 35 metres and saw the most amazing marine life and coral formations that I have ever encountered and the water was bluer than a midsummer sky! It was truly breath taking. On another day we took a car and went inland across the vast expanse of the Sinai desert. This is a real wilderness but its rugged charm and varying landscapes of sand, rock formations, mountain ranges including some very inhospitable terrain, were most impressive. We came to the foot of Mt Sinai. Here we visited the monastery of St Katherine where the body of this 3rd century saint still rests. After some serious negotiations, (as only a used car salesman can do!) prices were agreed and we jumped aboard two camels and began the ascent to the top of Mt Sinai. It took two hours to get near the summit but a fascinating ride with really stunning views. We left our camels and walked up 700 steep and precarious steps that were roughly cut out of the rock and shale and eventually we were on the top of the mountain where Moses received the Ten Commandments about 3500 years ago. What a place and what an experience!! Each direction we looked, the scenery was different: large barren mountains with no vegetation, vast areas of sandy desert, smaller desolate areas of shale and rock. With the temperature about 45 C, this was not a trip for the faint-hearted! There is a small church built next to the place where Moses is said to have sheltered and by the church is a Muslim mosque! I thought how wonderful it was that two of the worlds religions which so often are seen as being at odds with each other were represented in such harmony at this Holy and Spiritual place. The descent was in some ways harder than the ascent! Finding good footholds on the steps back to where our camels were waiting patiently was not easy and the return journey on the back of a camel was far from comfortable! Have you ever looked at a camel saddle and imagined the problems it can cause the male gender when facing downhill?! However, it was all a truly great and memorable experience and if any readers were contemplating a week away with a difference, then do get in touch and I will show you many photographs and be happy to tell you more. (Billy Hollis)

NEIGHBOURHOOD

WATCH

The following was received by Susan Lees from the Police Community Support Officer: An elderly resident of Wingham was approached by a man at her door enquiring as to whether she required any garden work doing. She told him he could remove a 4ft conifer tree which he did. He charged the lady £200 for the work. There is no crime here as the lady instructed him to do the work and was pleased with it and agreed to the price. However, please be advised that these people do charge very high prices for the work they carry out and we would advise people to get 3 quotes for work being carried out by reputable companies. 2 shed breaks were reported recently at Milner Crescent, Aylesham. Lock hasp unscrewed. Items to the value of £480 were stolen including a lawnmower, 2 strimmers, mountain bike, and golf clubs. Alison Crescent, Whitfield. Padlock to shed removed. Items stolen to the value of £1050 include 2 mountain bikes and golf clubs. Shed/Personal Attack Alarms are available at £5 each from the Community Support Police Officer, Caroline Barnett on 01304 218151.

AS some people may know, I had an accident prone week first puncturing my gas pipe then the water pipe and finally cutting the top of my big toe off with the rotary mower and spending three days in hospital. Quite a week really. I'd like to thank all the people who sent best wishes and cards and particularly thank my neighbour Ken Hammond who cut my grass, moved earth and regularly walked my dog, Sally. (editor)

VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall committee have decided to replace the curtains in the hall. The new ones are ivory with russet decoration. They also decided to buy ten new tables with ivory coloured tops to replace the dilapidated old card tables.

SOUP KITCHEN

Thank you to the people who have donated soup and other items for the Alkham Village soup run. Also thanks to the anonymous person (probably Eileen West) who has donated blankets. We have 12 at the moment and these will come in very handy when the winter weather comes along.

THE RESTING BAR

adjacent to the Alkham Valley Road at the top of Vicarage Meadow has been replaced by good old Rob Lees.

THE JUBILEE SEAT

forming a semi-circle round the Millennium Badger sign should shortly be in place.

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FAREWELL TO GILL

CALVER - As a comparative newcomer to Alkham, I have only enjoyed the benefit of Gill's wonderful ministry for about 2½ years, but many of you have known her for a lot longer and are well aware of all her many attributes. Gill was not exclusively "our property" but somehow she managed to give so much time and care to the people of Alkham, always taking a keen and active interest in village life and always available to anyone in the village be they a churchgoer or not. I know these sentiments are echoed by those who live in Capel and Hougham and it is quite remarkable that she was able to give so much time and attention to the three villages. Her ministry was refreshing. She brought to the parish enthusiasm, concern and love in such huge quantities that she is going to be a very hard act to follow. She will be remembered for her quick wit and a sense of humour which never offended anyone and brought much laughter and happiness to so many. Gill was a very trusting lady she even trusted me to sell her two motor cars although I would say that I owe a vote of thanks to her son Richard who kindly wrote off the first one thus enabling a second deal to be done!! I remember Gill at the village Millennium party which, for some strange reason, took place in May 2000!! I think she talked to everyone in the barn on that joyous occasion and certainly showed us all how to boogie with such energy - it was exhausting just watching her! I have listened to many sermons delivered from the pulpit of St Anthony and each one was

original, thought-provoking and usually quite challenging. Whilst Gill would identify with ordinary people, there was nothing ordinary about her preaching and although her Christian faith was central to her life, the way she communicated this was refreshing, humorous and pitched at a level that was appreciated by all. She will be sadly missed but the work she has done will never be forgotten and as a tribute to her work we must continue to support our new incumbent who will be very fortunate to start work in a parish with strong Christian and community values and so much of this is contributable to Gill. So, goodbye Gill and thank you very much indeed. We will miss you terribly and we hope you will come back and visit us. Don't forget to bring with you that wonderful smile which has meant so much to us all, and may God bless you in your new parish. (Billy Hollis)

W.I. NOTES

- Members Night saw a return darts match between ourselves and the ladies of Temple Ewell. Having won the first round, we clinched the final by 2 games to 1. Congratulations to Doreen and the team. A small group of us have made a start on the storybook bags for local school children. A menagerie of animals is being proposed for our fist book, including bats, lions and an octopus. If any one could donate craft

OZ on McGonagall - Driving near St Mary's Loch, in the Borders, one Sunday in August 1984, we braked hard on seeing second-hand books displayed on a low dry-stone wall at the side of the road. "There's more in here", cried the elderly owner as she opened the double doors of a barn, stacked high with thousands of volumes. Among our purchases that afternoon was *Poetic Gems* by William Topaz McGonagall, the self-styled "poet and tragedian of Dundee". This memory resurfaced when I read that 29th September is the centenary of McGonagall's death. Born in either 1825 or 1830 into an Irish weaving family, he declared himself a poet in 1877 and embarked on a 25 year career as a working poet and actor, "delighting and appalling audiences across Scotland", according to *The Scotsman*. He was soon regarded as the country's favourite bad poet, although the great Scottish poet, Hugh MacDiarmid, decided that "William McGonagall was not a bad poet; still less a good bad poet - he was not a poet at all." McGonagall wrote extensively on the Empire, his beloved Queen Victoria, disasters, and, most famously, on the construction and subsequent collapse of the Tay Bridge. It's difficult to understand why he persisted, in the face of rotten fruit and ridicule, even being turned away from Balmoral. My view is that, as a hand-loom weaver with a large family to support, he felt obliged from economic necessity to suffer these supposed humiliations. After all he was paid fees of 5 or 10 shillings per performance. His only venture into the world of commercial advertising produced the following poem, for which he was paid two guineas by Sunlight Soap: "You can use it with great pleasure and ease / Without wasting any elbow grease / And when washing the most dirty clothes / The sweat won't be dripping from your nose." (Steve Osborn)

materials it would be much appreciated. Please give me a ring. The next meeting is a surprise! (By that I mean that we haven't yet got a speaker). Tuesday September 10th at 7.30 pm.

(Devina Bartlett)

COUNTRY FILE

- In farming circles when August is mentioned, you automatically think of harvest. It's the biggest project undertaken in the farming year by most arable farms, although harvest is not the long drawn out affair it used to be, with modern efficient methods in use today. However one thing which does and always will play a vital part is our weather conditions. Whatever job is being done, be it harvesting or baling straw, it needs to be done at the right time, to achieve the best results. Machinery too always works better and easier when conditions are right. Speed to which jobs are done can be born out when looking about the countryside. Fields change colour virtually overnight where cultivators quickly follow harvest. Weather wise, contrary to weather forecasts some days have left a lot to be desired. We have been most fortunate to have missed all the heavy downpours which covered most of the county recently. (I know the gardens and water butts need some rain.) August, as if you need reminding, has been mostly dry, hot and sunny so far with temperatures touching 80 F or 27C on several days. Consequently only 0.5 inches (12mm) of rain fell, mostly on the 9th. (Keith)

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WEDNESDAY	Wednesday club 10.30-11.30am
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Other events (VH= village hall)

Sunday	1	Cricket versus Hythe on Village Green 2.00 pm
Monday	2	Parish Council meeting in the village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	7	Bingo 7.30 pm in VH – ring Beverley on 824765
Tuesday	10	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	14	Jumble Sale – see page 1
Sunday	15	Cricket versus New Romney 2.00pm on green
Monday	16	Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	21	Quiz – see page 1
Monday	30	Harvest Supper – see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
September 1st	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
September 8th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
September 15th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
September 22nd	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Anthony's Alkham 10.00 am		
September 29th	Harvest Festival Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Harvest Festival Worshipping together 11.00 am St Radigund's	

Morning Prayer is said at Capel Monday-Friday at 8.30 am. Evening Prayer at Hougham on Wednesday 5.00 pm and Eucharist at Capel Thursday at 9.15 am

LITTER – The football pitch recently looked like a large litter bin with paper and bottles all over the place. Before football practice on a Tuesday evening Ken Hammond took some carrier bags to the pitch and the assembled children, much to their credit, picked up all the rubbish.

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See 'What's on' - back page

PELLETS? A local resident whilst
driving along the Alkham Valley Road
near South Alkham had the side window
of the car smashed. On later investigation
they came to the conclusion it was
caused by an air gun pellet or similar. If
something like this has happened to you
would you please ring the Parish Clerk
on 822661.

THE ANNUAL tidy up of the
churchyard will take place on Saturday
the 12th of October between 10 am and
0.30 pm. If you can spare the time please
come along and help.

THE QUIZ in the village hall on
the 21st of September made a profit of
£130, which will go to Cancer Research.
A good time was had by all and thanks
go to the Polden and Lott families.

ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD - A fatal car crash occurred on the 7th
of September on the Alkham Valley Road near Chilton Farm. As a result of this,
the residents of Bushy Ruff Cottages on the Alkham Road have approached
Dover District Council requesting that urgent consideration be given to traffic
calming in the valley. They had a sympathetic hearing from a member of DDC's
Highways Department, Steve Henson, who has suggested that residents should
write to him expressing their concerns. As you are aware the Parish Council has
campaigning for many years to get traffic calming measures along the valley with
limited success. They have recently been told that there is no chance of phase 2 of
the traffic calming through the village being implemented (narrowing just past the
Marquis) but it would still be worthwhile writing to Steve Henson of DDC at the
White Cliffs Business Park, Dover CT16 3PJ. The more letters the better. (editor)

WOLVERTON HILL - At the Parish Council meeting, justified
concern was expressed about the junction of Wolverton Hill with the Alkham
Valley Road. It is the main access to Ewell Minnis and is dangerous because of
very limited visibility. When I was in the west country I came across a dangerous
junction in the middle of nowhere which had a 40 mph speed limit around it. I
have therefore written to the Parish Council suggesting that they approach the
Highway Authority and ask whether a 40 mph speed limit could be implemented
say 100 metres either side of the junction. Over such a short distance it would be
easy to implement a speed check and also prosecute drivers as a result of an
accident caused by excessive speed. (editor)

FETE - My brother in law took a lot of photos at this year's fete in Alkham
and has put them on the web under www.backwater.clara.net. (editor)

HOGBROOK LANE

The construction of the terrace of five
houses on the site of the old barn has
commenced. It is understood that they
will go on the market starting from
about £200,000 or maybe a bit less.

MATTHEW HYLAND

got nine A stars, one A and one B in
his GCSE exams. Well done.

THE FUN RUN organised by
Anne Huggins on the 7th of July raised
£2754.29 for Meningitis Research
with 71 runners taking part.

PARISH COUNCIL

ELECTIONS - next May there
will be an election in Alkham for
Parish Councillors. This has been
included now so that you can have a
think about it to see if you would like
to stand. It is a good Parish Council
doing a lot of worthwhile things.

THE MINISTRY OF

DEFENCE is looking to buy
land in other rural areas one of which
could be Alkham. This was tried
before in 1986 but defeated by the
Parish Council and locals. The
Chairman said they'd fight again.

EWELL MINNIS

- The
representative for Ewell Minnis was
present at the recent Parish Council
meeting. I was asked to include an item
about a sandy coloured lurcher, which
has been seen worrying sheep and
another lurcher which howls all night.
Would the owner please try to control
the dogs. Also, off road motorcycles
have been speeding through Ewell
Minnis particularly along Newcastle
Lane. Will they please stop.

NEWLYNS MEADOW

To some surprise a letter was read out
at the Parish Council meeting saying
that the roads in Newlyn Meadow
have not yet been adopted by the
Highway Authority. The Parish
Council will write to DDC.

STILES - As mentioned in last
month's Newsletter the intention is to
replace the two stiles on the path
leading from the churchyard with
kissing gates. The family of Betty and
Gordon Preston have kindly offered to
pay for them in memory of their
parents who spent most of their lives in
the village. The new ones will have to
cater for handicapped people.

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VILLAGE OF THE YEAR – Alkham was highly

commended in the Environmental Action section of the Village of the Year competition. It was held in the village hall at St Margarets at Cliffe and was very well organised with Radio Kent being the master of ceremonies. An amusing touch was the award of a 2 metre high tree to the winners from the Kent Men of Trees. As was said, it was like an excerpt from Dad's Army as people walked surreptitiously across the stage behind a tree. The organisers have written to us with regard to the entry and said: "They have certainly read the supplementary notes - more than many! - which helped us in the short-listing and visit. Their churchyard is very impressive; they have a well established management plan, wildlife area with a small cleared area. Very ordered. We also liked what they had done, so far, for the village hall, e.g. timer for the heating, insulating the roof, new more efficient central heating but they now need to consider water issues such as spray (push button) taps in the toilets, and perhaps dual flush loos. They seem to know and understand water, i.e. their flooding issues and when groundwater flooding might occur. However, they need to be more active over transport issues. They understand that the competition is not about pretty-pretty villages, i.e. Best Kept Villages, and the need to look after the environment.' Unfortunately no mention was made of the hedge laying, the footpath map on alkham.info or the excellent pond report by Mick Wingfield. The winning large village was Wye, which has a thing called Wye Cycle. A very public spirited group go round in a van powered by recycled cooking oil picking up the usual things plus items which might be suitable for resale. Anyone fancy doing that in Alkham?

ATLANTIC ELECTRIC AND

GAS – Recently a very plausible young man came knocking on doors saying that they had taken over the billing for SEEboard and British Gas. This turns out to be a lie and therefore the other promises made could be untrue as well.

CORRECTION – In the last edition of the Newsletter I said that Rob Lees had replaced the resting bar by Vicarage Meadow. Some people interpreted this as Rob being put there in place of the resting bar. I can confirm that this is not the case and that he repaired it and that its proper title is a stile.

ALSO Rob Lees is to be congratulated on the splendid job he has done in replacing the small grass patch at the bottom of the Forstal, by the Alkham Valley Road, with flint cobbles and brick circles. Although he will not take any praise it does look very good and is a big improvement. (editor)

BILL and ANDREA SMITH have sold their house in Alkham and are going to live in a house which is being built in Kefalonia, Greece. Their delightful Springer Spaniel, Benji has gone with them passport and all. Bill's father was Greek so they do know some people on the island. I'm sure we all wish them good luck in their new life. If you want their address please contact me. (editor)

KENT'S SECRET ARMY – In the August edition of the Newsletter there was an article about Kent's Secret Army, which was set up in WWII to fight against a possible German Invasion. Melvyn Kirby of Chalksole Farm tells me that his father, George, was a member of the Army and even after the war he had to keep his membership a secret in case of further invasion (presumably the Russians). Evidently there were trees with aials running up inside the bark. It would be great to know more and hopefully Melvyn will write something for the Newsletter. (editor)

UPTON FARM HOUSE –

The full story is on the Alkham web site alkham.info if you'd like to see it. The farmhouse was built in 1703 and is a Grade II listed Georgian building. The owners wanted to renovate a room in period details and contacted various make-over shows. In the end Sky agreed to do it and the results can be seen on Uk-style with the programme called 'get the look'. For exact details of when it is going to be transmitted log on to the Alkham web site. (editor)

VICARAGE MEADOW

The purchase of the above from the church has got to the Conveyancing stage. They however want a clause in the contract which says that if in future years the Meadow was sold for development the church will benefit from any such sale. The motion was carried on the vote and hopefully it is very unlikely that the Meadow will ever be developed.

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ST. ANTHONY'S is still without a vicar (interregnum) so if there are any queries regarding the church please contact one of the church wardens listed on the back page.

WITH REGARD to the above, because there is no 'News from St. Anthony's' plus other affected items, I'd be very grateful for articles about anything to be put in the Newsletter. You can put them in the box behind my house, through the letter box or send me an e-mail.

CHURCHYARD – The Benefice has given me a cheque for £50 to cover the costs of cutting the churchyard. The costs were only £25 and since they insist I keep the money I've put the other £25 in a contingency fund together with the £20 for the bike advertised last month. The lady who bought it took it for a test ride and returned some two hours later. Evidently she had been chatting. (editor)

ALKHAM PARISH MAGAZINE 1937

Monday's washing – To prevent socks or stockings shrinking cut pieces of 3 ply wood the shape of the foot and put in the socks while drying: when nearly dry, take out. For cloth or woollen berets cut a circle the size required, then cut in half as it is easier to put in and out when in two pieces. (Miss E Borrett)

OZ on GWYER – In last month's article I didn't mention that we had our own "English McGonagall" at one time. Joseph Gwyer, "The Penge Poet", was born at Redlynch, in Wiltshire, on 17th November 1835, into a large family of Wesleyan Methodists. His mother died when he was eight years old, after which he and his eight siblings were raised by their grandmother on their uncle's farm. At the age of 17, he left home for Bermondsey to find work, and experienced a vivid religious experience that converted him to Baptism. Later he moved to Croydon, where he was married in 1864. Gwyer was a potato salesman, but in connection with his work for the Penge Tabernacle and the temperance movement he published an "almanack" containing amongst other things his own poems. It sounded much like our newsletter "with local and popular events ... getting from £30 to £40 per year for advertisements." Gwyer travelled extensively in the south-east, selling both potatoes and poems, and penning poetic sketches that included Folkestone, Sandgate, Herne Bay and Margate (...the Fort Arcade we see / High up above the rolling sea"). Like McGonagall, he found disasters, shipwrecks and royalty irresistible; he was equally rejected by Queen Victoria, and much of his verse was pure doggerel. Where he differed was in his greater underlying earnestness, what Nicholas T Parsons called "a seriousness of tone befitting the grandeur of his themes." Gwyer and McGonagall shared with certain "naïve" writers in 19th century America this combination of solemnity and humour that reflected the spirit of the age. However, Gwyer's sense of fun was never far below the surface, and always erupted when he advertised his beloved potatoes: "Many lasses know home duties well, choose your wife from such / Can cook and roast a joint, POTATOES, or anything they touch." (Steve Osborn)

RECYCLING UPDATE

I'm looking forward to hearing details of the second stage of Dover District Council's kerbside recycling service, due to start in Deal this month. As reported in August, the first stage, in villages north and west of Deal, was a great success, and the scheme will be extended next year to the rest of the district. Recyclable materials are collected fortnightly, using special black plastic boxes supplied by the council. The boxes, made from 100 per cent recycled plastic, are supplied free of charge. The new kerbside scheme builds on the council's existing recycling centres that remain in use. It's difficult to overestimate the importance of recycling in terms of land use, energy conservation and care of non-renewable resources. Currently, within the Dover district, around 39,000 tonnes of household waste are collected each year and disposed of to landfill. Over the whole country, the amount threatens to double by 2020 to over 40 million tonnes a year. There's a long way to go - the recycling rate in the UK is 9%, compared with 35 - 46% in Europe, 59% in Canberra and a massive 70% in Edmonton, Canada. Recycling is often spoken of as if it were a novelty, but it's waste that's new - the throw-away society came about with increased affluence. Indeed, recycling was,

before the 1950s, a natural part of manufacturing processes that included the activities of rag-and-bone men, the re-use of milk, beer and soda bottles, and the salvage of materials from demolished buildings. *Good Housekeeping* magazine, in 1885, advised readers that "No fragments of linen sheets or of damask table-cloths ... should ever be thrown away". The government has now set recycling targets of 16% by 2003 and 25% by 2005 - a tall order but achievable with a little of our co-operation. (Steve Osborn)

W.I. NOTES - Angela

Twydall very kindly stepped into the breach with her talk on the history of yoga. At first glance it appears to be an ancient form of torture to the body.

I was amazed at the positions the human body can get into! One book in particular was written by a man who is now 82. I didn't know that anyone could get their legs as high as that, and at his age it defies belief!

There then followed the most wonderful 10 minutes of my life for a long while, when she showed us just how to slow down and RELAX. I for one thought it was wonderful stuff and I believe she may be looking to start some classes in Alkham so watch the Newsletter if you are interested. Next meeting is October 8th at 7.30 pm the subject being Christmas Decorations.

(Devina Bartlett)

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Wednesday club 10.30-11.30am
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Yoga 9.30 to 11.00 am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Saturday	5	Bingo 7.30 pm in VH – ring Beverley on 824765
Tuesday	8	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	12	PCC Jumble Sale – see article opposite
Saturday	19	Art exhibition – see article opposite
Monday	21	Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	26	Beekeeper's Honey Show from 9am to 5 pm in the village hall

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
October 6th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
October 13th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
October 20th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
October 27th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
	Christians Together in Dover Ecumenical Service St Radigund's Capel 6.00 pm		

Morning Prayer is said at Capel Monday-Friday at 8.30 am. Evening Prayer at Hougham on Wednesday 5.00 pm and Eucharist at Capel Thursday at 9.15 am

JUMBLE SALE – There will be a Jumble Sale in the village hall on Saturday the 12th from 11.00 am in aid of PCC funds.

AN EXHIBITION of the works of the members of the Alkham Art Workshop will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday the 19th of October between 5.30 pm and 9.30 pm. The admission charge is £2.00 but refreshments are free.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

TELEPHONE NUMBERS		Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar please ring Church Wardens
Gwyn Prosser M.P.	0207 2193704	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brian@alkham50.freemove.co.uk	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Ken Hammond 823720
County Councillor, Bryan Cope	207976 and work number 01795532547	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
District Councillor Fred Scales	201382 and Trevor Bamfield 202334	Police – all calls except 999 phone 01303 850055	Women's Institute Betty Neely 822688

Alkham web site alkham.info

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance removal	Wolverton 824853 & 07973 501390
BED & BREAKFAST	Owler Lodge with Pat and Bill Owler	Alkham Valley Road 826375
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 824991
CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians, dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis 822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 828007 & 07889310479
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham 01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmains Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES	Alkham Valley Garden Centre – everything for horse and rider	South Alkham 01303 891996
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with gift shop and village shop	South Alkham 01303 893351
HAIRDRESSER – Mobile	Registered hairdresser – Senior citizens at reduced rate	Ewell Minnis 01304 824492
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton 822420
LIVERY	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liveries	Megget Lane, South Alkham 01303 892056
POST OFFICE	Southdown Stores general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	London rd, Temple Ewell 827100
SCHOOL	Capel-le-ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-ferne 01303 251353
SLADDEN FARM		Phone 825188
VEHICLES	Vehicle Valuations Used car specialist, Folkestone	53 Bradstone Avenue, 01303 253212

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AN OLD WIFE said to me recently, that because there are so many berries on the trees this year we are going to have a very hard winter. It will be interesting to see whether her tale is true or not, but what is for certain is that bread is being left on bird tables and nut-feeders untouched. (editor)

SUNFLOWER – They have a competition at Goodnestone for the tallest sunflower grown in the village. Evidently it is quite competitive and generates a fair amount of amusement. I thought it would be a good idea to have the same competition in the Parish of Alkham. If you'd like to take part please let me know. Hope over experience has shown me that asking people to contact the Newsletter is something which rarely happens, so there will also be the direct approach (Charlie, Jane, Derek, Barbara, Christine, Susannah, Paul, Shirley, Ken, Rob, George, Doreen, Den, Maurice, Devina, John, Clive, Mark, Mick, John, Larry to name but a few). It's all the parish so please let's hear from the areas outside the village. A cup will be awarded to the winner. I'm going to try and find a fire-proof variety. (editor)

WELCOME to Alan and Krys Latham, plus dog Pie, who have just moved into Church View, Slip Lane.

BABE – I would imagine there are a lot of people who have seen the delightful film Babe, in which a pig thinks he's a sheepdog. In Derek Banks-Nash's garden recently there was a pheasant who thought he was Rotweiler. Evidently he had the large brown dog next door penned in a corner and had to be shooed away with a broom. It also bit Derek's feet and attacked Marion. My dog Sally stood in bewilderment when the pheasant approached her. It then attacked, which wasn't the smartest move it had ever made. I managed to drag Sally off and the pheasant was last seen walking briskly up the hedge line, no doubt a wiser old bird. (editor)

A MICROPHONE and a pre-amp have been bought for the Village Hall. It is there for anyone to use and it's just a matter of turning the hi-fi on and selecting 'auxiliary'. The speakers are near the ceiling on the top of the screen and are quite effective. There is also a switch on the mike.

SARAH GOODWIN AND BILL PEPPER

It is sad to report that Sarah Goodwin and Bill Pepper died recently. Obituaries have been written for both of them and they are on page two. Sarah bravely fought an illness over a long period of time and our thoughts go to relatives and friends who suffered with her. Bill Pepper was a remarkable man who still carried on working round the house and garden in his 9th decade and regularly walked up the steep path to St Anthony's. (editor)

ROUND HILL TUNNEL – Mention was made that the tunnel through Round Hill on the A20 as it emerges into the Alkham Valley seemed to be closed every couple of weeks for maintenance. This is not so but I remembered that when I worked for KCC someone had remarked that they had written 'a nice little earner' with regard to maintenance, so I sent an e-mail to the Department of Transport. To my surprise I got a reply and they are insistent that the maintenance work is carried out to the Department of Transport Specification and I'd be sent further details. Without reading the specification I'd guess that it covered tunnels in general with no differentiation with regard to distance. Conversely it could be said that with the tunnel being regularly closed some drivers might be reluctant to use the Alkham Valley Road and use the A20 instead. (editor)

A CHRISTMAS FAIR will be held in the village hall on the 1st of December from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm in aid of Cancer Relief.

NEW YEAR'S EVE - It is now time to book for the New Year's Eve party in the village hall. For further details please ring 824876.

Read Oz on page 3 to see where your 11 days went.

Kent's Mobile Library Service visits nearly every village and hamlet in the county, making over 700 stops, the length of stop depending on how many people use the service. Most carry over 2000 books and audio items. Once you have joined the library, you can borrow up to 12 items and keep them for up to one month. In Alkham the bus comes every Thursday to the Village Hall at 9.25 am and stays for 25 minutes.

PIMLICO WAY runs from South Alkham to Slip Lane. The adjacent farmer quite reasonably complained about four wheel drive vehicles detouring onto his land where they could not pass the overgrown hedge. The Alkham Valley Society accepted responsibility and will get the hedge cut. I suppose 4 wheel drive vehicles are no larger than the horse drawn wagons of old but the latter didn't cause mayhem by climbing near vertical slopes for fun. (editor)

Flymo 400 electric lawnmower, unused, still in box, selling for about £138 in shops; reasonable offers will be considered. Contact Mark & Debbie, 8a, Newlyn Meadow 820459.

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Harvest Celebrations

Once again we have had a splendid Harvest celebration. The Church looked beautiful with both wild and cultivated fruits, flowers, vegetables and greenery, including "Old Man's Beard". Thank you Carol, Betty, Pam, Patsy and Grace. Sadly most of this had to be dismantled on the Monday when Ken and Brian had the task of transporting the goodies to the village hall in their wheelbarrows for the annual auction, which follows the Harvest Supper. Doreen, Susan, Betty Barbara Esther, Grace and Christine organised the attractive and wholesome array of food which was laid out as a buffet. The hall was full to capacity with 80 seats taken. One extra celebration this year was Olive Harvey's birthday for which Doreen Lott had made a special cake The Tapsell "lads" as always do a splendid job serving the drinks and running the auction of produce. The Auction always seems a prolonged affair but Paul rarely paused for breath. In fact he must have had difficulty talking the next day. Marion Banks-Nash, treasurer, was pleased to announce that £368 had been raised, half of which would go to the Kent Air Ambulance Service and the remainder to the USPG's work in Africa. The Jumble Sale for Church Funds on 12th October made £160 profit. (Susan Lees)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY

The Annual General Meeting is on Tuesday, 19th November 2002 Another year has gone, and it is hoped to welcome members and anyone else who is interested to the A.G.M. to be held in the Village Hall, Alkham, at 7.30 p.m. After the meeting Mr. Brian Wimsett has kindly agreed to show us three old films in his possession. One is on the Women's Land Army, taken in the 1940s and the other two are Farming in the 1930s. These will, I feel sure, bring back memories to some people, combined with feelings of nostalgia. We look forward to seeing as many people as possible. (Pamela Sayers)

GARDENTALK-Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 7th November 7.30pm at the home of Pam Sayers, Box Tree Cottage, Slip Lane and Pam will be introducing the topic. Please bring usual nibbles etc and perhaps something for the Swap table. All welcome. (Susannah Tapsell)

**DOVER CHORAL
SOCIETY** will present another varied and lively programme in their autumn

concert at 7.30 pm on Saturday 23rd November 2002 in Dover Town Hall. Paul Patterson's *Millennium Mass*, first performed at Southwall Minster on 2nd January 2000 and already sung worldwide, is followed by Vivaldi's *Concerto for Two Trumpets*. Both of these works will feature exciting trumpet duets from Kevin Kay-Bradley and Andrew Deacon. The concert concludes with *The Reluctant Dragon*, by John Rutter, a setting of Kenneth Grahame's 1898 story of Christmas and reconciliation. The narrator is George Ruck, and the soloists are Emily Renshaw (soprano), Ian Kennedy (tenor), and Philip Spendley (bass). The chorus and The Connaught Orchestra (leader George Simpson) will be conducted by Dover Choral Society's Musical Director, Michael Foad. Tickets costing £8 (Students £4) are available from Dover Town Hall, the Music Box in Maison Dieu Road, and members of Dover Choral Society; and, if there are any left, at the door on the night. For further details about the concert please ring Michael Foad on 01303 242694. (Steve Osborn)

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BILL PEPPER - Alkham has lost one of its most elderly senior citizens Bill Pepper, from 1 Old School Cottages. He died at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital in the presence of his daughter Rosemary Crothall, on the 11th of October 2002 at the age of 92. Originally from Canterbury, Bill and his wife Nell moved to Capel where they lived for three years and eventually came to Alkham in 1975. Following the loss of his wife, Bill continued to live alone at the above address for a further seven years, with frequent visits from Rosemary. Born in Harbledown, Bill was the eldest of six children. He attended the local village school and was the first boy from that school to win a scholarship to go to Simon Langton Grammar school until leaving at age 16. Career wise it was to be the RAF, which he joined as an apprentice engineer, serving for 30 years. Overseas duties took him to Iraq and the Indian north west frontier. Ensuring the fitness of aircraft for freight and being in charge of a secret weapons factory figured largely in his responsibilities. In the Second World War he managed to escape from France in 1940. After retiring from the RAF, Bill joined the Social Services Department and finally retired in 1977. (Olive Harvey)

SARAH GOODWIN - Sarah was born in May 1972 and lived at Low Slip Lane in Hougham with her brother and parents. Her grandparents ran the nearby Chequers Pub. Sarah later went on to be a member of the choir at St. Laurence church and before she left school she had made up her mind to go into catering. After the family had moved to the bungalow at the bottom of Short Lane, Sarah got a part time job in the kitchens at the Marquis of Granby. Here she gained experience and went on to study to be a chef, which she eventually became. Sarah married Kevin Goodwin in 1994 and joined him in his love of boats and rowing, resulting in having a boat named after them. About three years ago it was discovered that Sarah had cancer. Sarah was a strong willed and happy person who wasn't going to let the illness get the better of her. She fought bravely, with amazing courage and drew a lot of comfort from her faith and the support of the vicar, Gill Calver. (Beattie Jeapes)

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OZ on CALENDARS – This September saw the 250th anniversary of the adoption, by the British government and King George II, of the Gregorian calendar. Lord Chesterfield's Calendar Act of 1751 took effect in 1752, when September 2nd was immediately followed by September 14th. Reaction was instant and dramatic, with nation-wide riots based on the slogan "Give us back our eleven days!" The uproar soon settled as people realised that they wouldn't lose 11 days life or income, and that Chesterfield's act specifically prohibited the charging of a month's rent for 19 days lodgings. Change was necessary because the Julian calendar, introduced by Julius Caesar in 46 BC, had become inaccurate in an age of increasing precision in astronomy, navigation and chronometry. The problem arises because, due to the continually changing egg-shaped orbit of the earth around the sun, the year varies in length from 365.2416 to 365.2427 days, averaging just less than 365.2422 days. The Julian calendar had tried resolving this by adding a day every four years, making the year 365.25 days long. The Gregorian calendar, introduced by Pope Gregory XIII in October 1582, made only one in four century years a leap year (eg 1700, 1800 and 1900 were not, but 2000 was, a leap year). This caused the year length to be 365.2425 days, very close to the true figure. The Gregorian calendar was resisted in Protestant northern Europe as a "Popish plot" for nearly 200 years, until astronomers convinced governments of the severity of the computational problems. By the time the Gregorian calendar was accepted in Britain, accumulated errors made it necessary to delete 11 days. Occasionally, after dates in old documents and on tombstones, you will see the letters "OS", short for "Old Style", signifying that the date quoted was according to the Julian Calendar. (Steve Osborn)

NEWS FROM ST.

ANTHONY'S - In the absence of a Parish Priest, the Church Wardens and the P.C.C. would like to thank everyone who helped with the Harvest Festival Service and the Harvest Supper. The Church was beautifully decorated with all the traditional fruit, vegetables, greenery and flowers. The Harvest Supper buffet was very much appreciated by everyone and was followed by the Auction and Raffle which raised £368. This has been divided between The Kent Air Ambulance and the U.S.P.G. hospital in Africa. Thank you also to those who arranged and supported the Church Jumble sale. £160 was raised. On Sunday 3rd November we will be commemorating All Souls Day, when we will be remembering our Parishioners and all loved ones, who have passed away in this last year. The service will be at 4pm. The Remembrance Day service will be at 10am on Sunday November 10th with the laying of the wreath at the War Memorial and the two minutes silence at 11 am. Please support these services if you can. Finally, we all send our sympathy to Rosemary and John Crothall following the death of Bill Pepper. He will be sadly missed both in the Church and by everyone who knew him in the Village. (Richard Tapsell and Ken Hammond)

SOME CHILDREN in the village are looking into the possibility of setting up a project. More next month. (editor)

W.I. NOTES

Caroline Austin delighted us all with her home made Christmas decorations. There was such a variety of designs from printed patterns sewn together, through to cross stitch, paper craft and good old cereal packets cut into shapes, glued together and decorated with beads etc. Each item had a story behind it and evoked memories of Christmases past for her and her family. I imagine that her tree must be the most wonderful sight, and I for one would love to see it all set up in readiness. Here was a lady who obviously enjoys Christmas and gains much pleasure from her craft. Truly inspirational, and I imagine a good few of the ideas will be scribbled down and we will all be very busy for the next few weeks making things for the Bazaar as well as for our family and friends. I would love to spend Christmas with her!! Next meeting is our AGM on 12th November and we have a competition for this meeting - appropriately a Christmas tree decoration in any medium. So come on everyone there are no excuses! (Devina Bartlett)

THANK YOU to the lady from Glebelands, who wishes to remain anonymous, who gave me £20 for the Newsletter. (editor)

COUNTRY FILE

- In times past, one of the most popular trades amongst the rural communities was the local Blacksmith and his forge. Whether it was shoeing horses, or mending farm machinery you would always visit the forge. In fact, give the blacksmith a piece of metal and by using his skill, the help from his fire and anvil he can practically do anything. But as times move on smithy's are now few and far between, mainly because of the decline of working horses and the increased mechanisation on our farms. Although today, horses are as popular as ever, mainly as one's hobby, the demise of the blacksmith, means nearly all shoeing is done by farriers using mobile units. Some of us who are old enough to remember the forge, will have memories of perhaps going inside on a cold winters day, having a warm by the fire, and catching up on all the local gossip, after all if the smithy didn't know any news, it usually wasn't worth knowing!! Weather-wise having had mostly favourable weather to end our summer and part of autumn. It didn't come as any surprise when rain and gales arrived on the 12th October, to herald a very unsettled spell. Looking back over the last 9 months, the rainfall total so far stands at 21.80 ins. (545mm) which is close to average. (Keith)

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Wednesday club 10.30-11.30am
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Yoga 9.30 to 11.00 am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Saturday	2	Bingo 7.30 pm in VH – ring Beverley on 824765
Monday	4	Parish Council meeting 7.30 pm in village hall – all welcome
Tuesday	12	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Monday	18	Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30 pm
Tuesday	19	Alkham Valley Society AGM see page 2
Saturday	23	Church bazaar – see opposite
Saturday	23	SEKAS in village hall - pm
Monday	18	Village Hall Committee meeting at 8.00 pm in the VH
Saturday	30	Beekeeper's in the village hall

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
November 3rd All Souls	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
November 10th	Remembrance Service 10.00 am at all three churches		
November 17th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
November 24th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St. Radigund's Capel 10.00 am		

Morning Prayer is said at Capel Monday-Friday at 8.30 am. Evening Prayer at Hougham on Wednesday 5.00 pm and Eucharist at Capel Thursday at 9.15 am

A PLANNING application has been received by the Parish Council for a new property at Greenwood Farm, on Chalksole Green Lane. I understand that it is in the style of the beautiful (my opinion) Vernacular Home built adjacent to Chalksole Green at the top of White Hill. (editor)
CHURCH BAZAAR – There is a bazaar and coffee morning in the village hall on the 23rd of November from 10.30 am to mid-day in aid of church funds. Everyone welcome.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

TELEPHONE NUMBERS	Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar please ring Church Wardens
Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 2193704	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brian@alkham50.freemove.co.uk	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Ken Hammond 823720
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
District Councillor Fred Scales 201382 and Trevor Bamfield 202334	Police – all calls except 999 phone 01303 850055	Women's Institute Betty Neely 822688

Alkham web site alkham.info

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn's Meadow 824201
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning planting, maintenance removal	Wolverton 824853 & 07973 501390
BED & BREAKFAST	Owler Lodge with Pat and Bill Owler	Alkham Valley Road 826375
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 824991
CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians, dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis 822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 828007 & 07889310479
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham 01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmains Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES	Alkham Valley Garden Centre – everything for horse and rider	South Alkham 01303 891996
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with gift shop and village shop	South Alkham 01303 893351
HAIRDRESSER – Mobile	Registered hairdresser – Senior citizens at reduced rate	Ewell Minnis 01304 824492
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton 822420
LIVERY	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liveryes	Megget Lane, South Alkham 01303 892056
POST OFFICE	Southdown Stores general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	London rd, Temple Ewell 827100
SCHOOL	Capel-le-ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-ferne 01303 251353
SLADDEN FARM		Phone 825188
VEHICLES	Vehicle Valuations Used car specialist, Folkestone	53 Bradstone Avenue, 01303 253212

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

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A Happy New Year

REFUSE COLLECTION

The Christmas Day and Boxing Day collections have been omitted with the collection returning as normal the following week. All other days are as normal.

SWEET SUCCESS? A slimming club meets once a week in the Village Hall and is run by someone called Susannah, who lives on the Isle of Thanet. She also runs slimming classes at other villages in the area and thought it would be a good idea that if members of the slimming clubs who got chocolates for Christmas should donate them to a good cause. On behalf of the people who do the Soup Kitchen run from Alkham, I volunteered to collect all the chocolates and then distribute them to the other teams who man the portakabin nightly at Dover. However, like Topsy it grewed, and Susannah wants to hand over the goodies in the New Year at a venue in Dover where the media will be present. Steph Perron, who is the driving force behind the soup kitchen, has agreed to be there and hopefully speak on behalf of the soup kitchen and also to thank Susannah and the slimmed ladies (sic). As a matter of interest the soup kitchen is manned daily by the churches in the region but some of the helpers are not church goers. Donations for the Alkham team would be gratefully accepted so please leave anything appropriate in the box behind my property. Blankets would be especially welcome as seven have been given out recently. (editor)

VANDALISM – The back door of the village hall was badly damaged recently by an act of vandalism. It is thought that the perpetrators were trying to gain access to the hall to do further damage. The police were informed but are taking no action and it is possible that the vandalism is carried out because this fact is known. However the Village Hall Committee will bring a private prosecution against anyone found damaging the hall or surroundings. They will also pursue the matter through the small claims court to recoup any expenditure caused by vandalism. This means that if vandalism is carried out by minors, the parents will be liable for any resultant costs and also if the matter goes to court and the Village Hall wins the culprits will be treated as if the prosecution had been brought by the police. (Village Hall Committee)

BATTLE OF BRITAIN at Hawkinge. One of the few remaining items linked with the RAF presence at the old Hawkinge Aerodrome is the Battle of Britain Museum on Aerodrome Road. It is manned by a group of volunteers who are currently trying to stop the roof leaking. There was an

article in the Adscene recently about the museum and its attempt to raise money. Sue Lees read the article and thought it would be a good idea if the profits from the Annual Quiz on January the 25th in the village hall could go to this fund. This seems an excellent idea as they are finding money hard to come by. With regard to the quiz, if you haven't booked your table yet, please ring Sue Lees on 822661 or me on 824969. The more tables we get means more money for this local worthwhile cause. (editor)

DID YOU VISIT the Village Hall on Saturday the 14th of December? There you would have met the ladies of Alkham busy serving coffee and mince pies, tables of handicrafts, home made pies, cakes etc, bric-a-brac, cards and Christmas tree decorations. These were soon snapped up by eager visitors. In a festive dressed hall everyone joined in the singing of carols with the children having a solo spot. Santa Claus and Oliver the donkey were kept busy giving excited children rides up and down Hogbrook Lane. This enjoyable event raised £255 for Cancer Research UK. Happy Christmas to you all (one of the Alkham Ladies)

GWEN BAKER – Our sympathy goes to Ted Baker whose wife, Gwen, died recently at the age of 92. They moved to Devon some time ago from Alkham and called their house Wolverton. Ted's mother was a Collard, a well known name in days gone by, and Gwen's father was the local policeman, Bert Jenkins. He can be seen on page 128 of the Capel book by Susan Lees being lowered down the Warren in 1915 to inspect a house, which had slipped down the cliff. I understand that she lived in one of the Church Cottages and she married in 1936. Ted has now moved to a Nursing Home but will continue to receive and read the monthly Newsletter as he has done since its inception. (editor)

KEEP FIT will resume on Wednesday the 8th of January from 9.30 to 10.30 am in the village hall. The session consists of a gentle warm up, some yoga style and balance exercises and some pulse raisers (suitable for a bypass surgery patient!) followed by a few minutes relaxation. So do come and join us for fun and attempted fitness. Fee usually 50p. (Susannah Tapsell)

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TRAFFIC – In the October edition of the Newsletter I wrote about the actions being taken by some residents at Bushey Ruff regarding traffic calming along the Alkham Valley Road and suggested that readers might like to write to Steve Henson of DDC in their support. An e-mail was received from a Bushey Ruff campaigner who says that Steve Henson remains very supportive. He has continued to work on traffic calming proposals outside the cottages at Bushey Ruff and in the vicinity. Unfortunately, because of the cost, and the way in which the funding process works, it is unlikely that any work will be carried out before 2004. He was pleased to say that a significant number of valley residents have written to Steve Henson as a result of the Alkham parish newsletter and leaflets distributed in Temple Ewell. These letters are now on file and will be used to support the funding bid. I have been asked to thank all those who wrote in and encourage you to keep a record of any accidents or incidents, which will be of use in supporting the case. The council are informed only of accidents where injury occurs, so a lot of the incidents in the valley may go unreported unless records are kept. On the 10th of January 2003 a site meeting is to be held with the Parish Council, Steve Henson, the police and probably the representative from Bushey Ruff to look at the problems on the Alkham Valley Road. I understand that they will start at the Lower Standen crossroads, where the slab makers are, and then progress by car to Bushey Ruff looking at sites on the way. (editor)

CONGRATULATIONS to the Parish Council and the contractors who cleared all the undergrowth on the dyke over the green and around the outside.

FIREWORKS – In last month's Newsletter there was an article from Jackie Lee at South Alkham about the distress caused by letting off exploding fireworks. Several people have commented on this article and have said that no mention was made about fireworks continuing on evenings after the 5th of November. The reason for this is that her e-mail was received on the 6th and had it been written later, I'm sure there would have been further comments. It's not for me to put personal opinions in the Newsletter but I think that the people who do let off the exploding fireworks probably don't have pets or livestock. My dog shook almost uncontrollably, but before I got her I was quite happy to sit through the outdoor concert at Rochester Castle where fireworks were let off and gave no thought to the enormous bangs during the 1812 overture. Now of course I would. (editor)

NEWSLETTER (see page 1)

If you count the box adverts you can see there are 6, which at £3 a month generates £18. There are 16 line adverts on the back page at £1 each taking the total to £34. It costs £30.08 to print (1280 photostats at 2.35p each), £4 in petrol to go to Canterbury plus take out to the 14 deliverers around the parish, £2.80 to post 11 copies and £1 for ink in my printer. The total is £37.88 and most of the shortfall is made up by generous small donations from Newsletter readers. Even Mr Micawber would have been happy. (editor)

BENJI – Most of the dog walkers in Alkham would have seen Benji, a delightful Springer Spaniel, running all over the place with his tail wagging, on the set-aside land round the village. His owners, Bill and Andrea emigrated to Greece and took Benji with them. There was some concern about the heat but Bill made a flying visit to Alkham recently and told me that Benji is thriving. Bill said that there was some concern on the island that some kittens and a couple of other small animals had gone missing. After an intensive hunt they were eventually found nicely snuggled up and very content in Benji's kennel. (editor)

HOGBROOK – Oakley New Homes are building five traditionally styled country cottages each with three bedrooms on the site of Hogbrook Farm in the middle of Alkham. Each home has been designed to a very high standard with features such as an integral conservatory at the rear of the property and use of a traditional oak-framed barn for covered parking. Alkham is the perfect backdrop for these superbly crafted homes and is ideally placed for all major routes both in the UK and Europe. Prices start at £198,000 and for a brochure please call Stephen Murphy on 01732 368545 and visit our website www.oakleynewhomes.com. (Oakley New Homes)

THE PRECEPT or the amount claimed by the Parish Council in the local rate was discussed recently and the Parish Councillors decided to leave the precept as it is. Although they appreciate costs are going up on nearly every front, the council will try and keep expenses down and live within its income. You will perhaps appreciate this fact when next year's Council Tax demands are announced – the increase will not be the fault of your Parish Council despite the purchase of Vicarage Meadow. (Parish Clerk) ... matters have moved on with regard to the purchase of Vicarage Meadow and this will be announced in next month's Newsletter.... also at the meeting some councillors said I didn't charge enough for adverts. They may be right but I just about break even (see left). (editor)

THE DYKE – The Parish Council have asked me to include an item to remind people they are responsible for clearing the dyke, which runs past their property. Within the village it looks quite good especially past Poems in Short Lane. The grass is growing up again outside Valley Cottages and perhaps DDC should have a look at it. As most people know, the main problem is where the two pipes go under the end of Short Lane but it is thought very doubtful that DDC will do anything about this. If it is any consolation to new residents, it is the road that gets flooded in this area.

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NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S

Following interviews with the three candidates for the appointment of the new vicar, we were able to make a clear evaluation of the merits of each candidate for the needs of the benefice. We now have to wait for the relevant organisations that deal with clergy appointment to make their formal decision. Once again we would like to thank everyone who helped to make the Church Bazaar such a success with more than £200 raised for church funds. (**Richard Tapsell & Ken Hammond**)

W I NEWS - Disappointingly for us, our speaker failed to turn up or leave any message as to her absence. Mention was made by a member that her daughter was quite poorly in hospital, so I hope she is now on the mend. However, nothing keeps us down, so we had the refreshments earlier than usual and then much chatter and gossip ensued. We are all looking forward to our annual Christmas Meal in Sandwich which will round off the year nicely. The New Year sees us inviting Patrick Smalley, retired vet, to give us a talk on his funniest moments.

See you all on 14th January 2003. Anyone out there thinking of joining us, please do, we will make you very welcome so don't be shy. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at Alkham W.I. (**Devina Bartlett**)

SUPERMAN & Co IN

ALKHAM - Imagine the thrill!!! An early winter afternoon, darkness already threatening to close in early, curtains as yet undrawn, a steady fire burning where it should be, and the TV licence earning its keep by showing Superman. In a flash - Superman resplendent in blue and red hurtles

OZ on 'MESSIAH' - Twenty-one years ago, after celebrating New Year's Eve with blackberry wine, we awoke wondering what we'd promised friends. Singing in Bach's *St Matthew Passion* at Easter, that's what, after which we never looked back. In November 1982 we sang Mendelssohn's *Elijah* and that Christmas found us with the 1000-strong Kent Choir, in the Royal Albert Hall, singing Handel's *Messiah*. Georg Friederich Händel, born in Germany in 1685, came to England in 1710 and was naturalized in 1726, becoming George Frideric Handel. In 1727 he wrote four anthems for George II's coronation, including *Zadok the Priest*, which has been sung at every subsequent British coronation. In 1737, broken by bankruptcy and overwork after 30 years of composing operas, Handel suffered a stroke and was temporarily paralyzed. After recovery, he turned to *oratorio*, the setting of religious texts, inexpensive and already popular in Britain. On 12 September 1741 he completed *Messiah* after three weeks of continuous toil. For Handel it had been a visionary experience. He said of the *Hallelujah Chorus*, "I did see all Heaven before me and the great God himself." A year later *Messiah* was first performed in Dublin, ironically for a charity that assisted bankrupt prisoners. In London in 1743, George II stood for the *Hallelujah Chorus*, followed by the audience, and established a permanent tradition. This is typical of the ongoing hold of *Messiah*. Arthur Jacobs said, "It has made reputations for choirs, soloists and conductors; fortunes for editors and publishers." *Messiah's* popularity in 19th century Britain was boosted by the spread of universal education and access to cheap printed music. Additionally, temperance societies approved of choral music's role in keeping working men out of taverns, but perhaps they wouldn't have objected too much to the use of blackberry wine as a recruiting agent. (**Steve Osborn**)

past the window. What is THIS? Virtual reality near Dover? Must see! A dash to the back door in time to catch a glimpse of Superman. Christopher Reeves. Whatever YESSSS! Not disappointing at all, hardly. A despairing and breathless Editor of this Newsletter, clad in red and blue jacket (no blue tights) with a cheerful brown dog attached to lead cries out 'So sorry to invade your garden (Space?) - Tiny is lost' (small and sometimes intrepid brown and white dog). At the same moment adding to the sense of occasion, a haggard-looking Ken appears at the top of the steps "too old for this sort of thing", he pants (Superman and his companions NEVER grow old. Ken). In a minute all is well and Superman finds Tiny inspecting a bleak vegetable patch, looking extremely pleased with himself indeed. NOT every dog has Superman and his cohorts just where he wants them. Yes, well, just for a moment Superman did visit Alkham, before quickly disguising himself as Brian and co. (**Jo and Max Walker**)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY AGM was held on 19th November. The Chairman reported that representations had been made to DDC regarding several planning applications, including Hogbrook Barn and Greenwood Farm. The planning application for five cottages on the site of Hogbrook Farm Barn was granted. A decision had not yet been made on the application

regarding alterations to Greenwood Farm. The farmer on the land either side of Pimlico Way, which leads from Slip Lane to South Alkham had complained that horses and riders were walking on his land, as well as four wheeled vehicles, as there was not a sufficient gap between the hedge and the trees on the other side. John Garlinge, with helpers, had done some excellent work laying part of this hedge, and the best solution was to cut the sides and then the top could be laid next year. However, the Chairman did not consider the Society should be responsible for its future maintenance. An enjoyable outing had been made to Sissinghurst Castle Gardens, but numbers had been down and a loss of £63 resulted. The Treasurer was unable to be at the meeting, but sent a detailed account for the year ended 31st October, showing the Club was in a very healthy position. After the meeting two very interesting old films, taken in the thirties in Kent, were shown by Brian Wimsett on Farming during this decade. It was fascinating to compare the difference in manpower to the efficient machinery used today, and to emphasise this, he also showed slides of old farm machinery housed in the museum at Brook. Thank you Brian, they brought back many nostalgic memories. A reminder that the A.V.S. walk will take place as usual on the 27th December (Friday), meeting at the Village Hall Car Park at 10.30 a.m. A very Happy Christmas and New Year. (**Pamela Sayers**)

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Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Keep Fit 9.30 -10.30 am Wednesday club 10.30-11.30am
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Yoga 9.30 to 11.00 am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Monday	6	Parish Council meeting 7.30 pm everyone welcome
Tuesday	14	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	25	Beekeepers in village hall during the day
Saturday	25	Annual Quiz in village hall starting 7.30 pm
Monday	27	Village Hall Committee meeting 8.00 pm in VH

On the 31st of December there is the New Year's Eve party in the Village Hall. Check with the Poldens and Lotts on 824876 to see if any tickets are left

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
January 5th	Evensong 4.00 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
January 12th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 4.00 pm
January 19th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
January 26th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St. Radigund, Capel 10.00 am		

Morning Prayer is said at Capel Monday-Friday at 8.30 am. Evening Prayer at Hougham on Wednesday 5.00 pm and Eucharist at Capel Thursday at 9.15 am

GARDEN TALK – A lovely Christmas party evening was enjoyed at 'The Vicarage' by the garden gurus of the village! Very many thanks to Lucy and Ian. The winning team showed high levels of skill and intellect and gross lack of modesty, whilst the losing team, mine, showed dignity in defeat. A super evening. The next meeting will be on Friday the 21st of February 7.30pm at 'Brook House' Meggett Lane. (Susannah Tapsell)

BETTY NEELY would like to thank everybody who helped and came to the carols and coffee morning held by the ladies of the village on the 14th of December. £255.90 was raised for Cancer Research including the £19 Helen and Oliver the donkey took giving children rides.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Alkham Valley Society secretary
Pamela Sayers 822397

Vicar please ring Church Wardens

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207
2193704

Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969
e mail brian@alkham50.freemove.co.uk

Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295
and Ken Hammond 823720

County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976
and work number 01795532547

Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661
e mail susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk

Village Hall booking
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District Councillor Fred Scales 201382
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EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES	Alkham Valley Garden Centre – everything for horse and rider	South Alkham 01303 891996
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with gift shop and village shop	South Alkham 01303 893351
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton 822420
LIVERY	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liveryes	Megget Lane, South Alkham 01303 892056
POST OFFICE	Southdown Stores general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	London rd, Temple Ewell 827100
SCHOOL	Capel-le-ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-ferne 01303 251353
SLADDEN FARM		Phone 825188
VEHICLES	Vehicle Valuations Used car specialist, Folkestone	53 Bradstone Avenue, 01303 253212

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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FLOODS – The Alkham Bourne flowed again from the spring rising at Drelingore. The sterling work carried out by DDC, land and home owners on the dyke paid off and there was no flooding of properties. It is clear that the bottleneck is at the bottom of Short Lane where two pipes go under the road. These cause the water to back up and flood the road. DDC will look at the situation but it's not thought likely that any work will be done. The waters, which rose on the village green and formed a large lake, provided great fun for children and dogs when it froze over. I understand a tummy sliding child did go through the ice but no harm was done. (editor)

BURGLARY – A shed behind a property on Slip Lane was broken into recently and a petrol lawnmower, chainsaw, drill and circular saw were stolen.

THANKS – Brian has given me a little space to express my thanks to everyone who sent me Christmas cards conveying their good wishes. They were all greatly appreciated and heart warming. Thank you very much indeed. (Olive Harvey)

THE VILLAGE GREEN now belongs to the Parish. The correct name up until recently, for the large expanse of grass opposite the Village Hall, was Vicarage Meadow as it was owned by the church and those of a certain age in the parish will remember cows grazing there. The Parish Council has agreed there should be some kind of ceremony to mark the occasion and Betty Neely has taken on the task. I'm sure she would welcome any suggestions so please phone her on 01303 251475 if you have any ideas. (editor)

NEWLYNS MEADOW – DDC have been trying to contact the owners of the road in Newlyn Meadow such that the Highway Authority can adopt it. Four companies have owned the site since the original planning application was lodged and finally Wimpey have acknowledged ownership. The DDC Legal Department are discussing the matter with the bondsman such that an appropriate amount of money is lodged to cover any problems during the adoption period. It was stressed that the residents of Newlyn Meadow will not have to pay any further costs.

WATER SUPPLY – The terrace of houses on the site of the barn off Hogbrook Lane requires a new water supply. This will come from the Alkham Valley Road and part of the pipe run will be through the village green before continuing up Hogbrook Lane. It is not possible to extend the supply from Newlyn Meadow as there is not sufficient water pressure and Hogbrook Farm House and the Equestrian Centre have their own supply.

TONY INGLE – I'm pleased to report that Tony Ingle has been in contact and both he and his wife are healthy and living in Canterbury (Tony Ingle started the Newsletter in 1993 and continued until 1997).

AMERICAN SUPPER - The Alkham Art Workshop is holding an American Supper in the village hall on the 8th of March starting at 7.30pm. There will be live music by Toucan and proceeds will be split between the Village Hall and the Art Therapy Group, New Romney. The cost is £5 per person and for further information or tickets please ring Rosemary Polden on 824876.

QUIZ NIGHT – Capel School PFA are holding a quiz at the school on Saturday 8th of February, 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm start. Tables are for up to eight people and the cost is £2 per adult and accompanied child. There will be a raffle and you should take your own food and drink. Please ring 01303 251353 to book a table.

ALKHAM IN BLOOM
Is anyone interested in entering the village in the above competition? There are twelve categories and prizes are based on the Royal Horticultural Society Gold, Silver Gilt, Silver and Bronze medals. Immediate entry required so please ring 822661 for details.



Free to collector, small cottage style 2 seater settee with two armchairs. Please ring Rosemary on 01303 892438

Alkham Fete Committee

AGM -The adjourned AGM will take place on 5th February 2003 in the Village Hall at 8 p.m. when we will be discussing last year's Fete (can anyone remember it?) and making arrangements for this year's one – Saturday 12th July 2003 at 2 p.m. Everyone will be welcome to the meeting and hopefully we can have a lively discussion and lots of new ideas! (Paul Tapsell)

THE POLICE and members of the Parish Council drove and walked the Alkham Valley Road from Lower Standen to Chilton (i.e. most of road) to look at the traffic problems. There will be a report next month. (editor)

FOUND near St. Anthony's Church just before Christmas, a single ear-pierced earring with opalescent stone and silver (coloured?) surround. Also a grey cashmere scarf found in the adjacent meadow. Please ring me on 824969 to collect. (editor)

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IT WAS QUITE encouraging to get some response from last month's Newsletter. Everybody seemed to enjoy Jo and Max Walker's story about Superman, and it was nice to find that other people found Benji, the Springer Spaniel, delightful as well. The five houses at the site of the barn on Hogbrook Lane are taking shape but some people think them more imposing than the barn. Of the old Hogbrook Farm (which was split up) there is probably only one part of the farm on which the last owner can now grow houses. There was also comment about the article on fireworks as printed below. (editor)

TOLERANCE - There is of course a famous saying that one man's meat is another man's poison. For example: Some people like dogs and don't like the fact that fireworks may upset them. Or some people like fireworks and don't like the fact that dogs barking, urinating and defecating is an unacceptable infliction. Some people adore cats and the affection gained from them. Other people hate cats and the damage to gardens and wildlife caused by them. Some people like cars and hate the intimidation caused by the speed of motorcycles. Other people like the freedom gained on motorbikes and don't like having to regularly avoid myopic car drivers. Some people like the regimental appearance of a close-cropped patch of grass outside their house. Others like their environment to be a more natural provider to native flora and fauna. I could go on of course, but who is right and who is wrong? It seems sad in a time when it appears the world is heading for another major war that we can't be more tolerant of our nearest neighbours, who for 99% of the time are unthreatening. I agree that extremes of behaviour are unacceptable if they interfere to a major extent in other peoples' lives. But remember that we are all unique, and that by your very existence you too are probably annoying someone, somewhere. (Darren Mowat, Valley Cottages)

PLANNING - Greenwood Farm on Chalksole Green Lane was discussed at the Parish Council meeting. The pretty mock Elizabethan house, once owned by Mrs Southall, is known as Greenwood Farm south and the farmhouse on the other side of the road, Greenwood Farm north. The planning application for the latter, to demolish the farm house and build another house, was turned down by the Planning Authority. The reason given was that it would make the area suburban and give the appearance of millionaire's row. The Parish Council were amazed that they were now saying this as that was exactly what they, and various other bodies, had been saying with regard to Chalksole Green farmhouse. The latter was bought by a developer who got permission to knock down the old farmhouse, dating from the 16th century, and build a new house in its place. A revised planning application is going to be submitted. (editor)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY

What a lovely muddy day it was for our Christmas Walk, which was attended by over thirty people walking in a long procession. We all thoroughly enjoyed it, as the after effects of too much Christmas food gradually wore off, (not to mention the wine). A big thank you to Christopher Tapsell for leading us up hill and down dale, and well done those who completed the walk to South Alkham and didn't 'slip' down Slip Lane. A happy New Year to you all. (Pamela Sayers)

ARE YOU OPEN-MINDED

and a good listener? If your answer is yes, would you consider becoming a volunteer for the Samaritans? We are ordinary people, from all walks of life, selected and then thoroughly prepared to support people in crisis. We do not counsel, we aim to listen without judging and so help people to see things differently and more hopefully. Our local centre, where we answer phones and see callers face-to-face is in Folkestone, at 9 Cambridge Gardens, CT20 1DB. Our next Selection Day (your chance to find out more) is on February 2nd 2003 at a venue in Folkestone. The preparation course will follow in Feb/Mar and consists of 6 sessions, some during the evening and some at weekends. If you are interested please call 01303 255000 or write to 9 Cambridge Gardens, Folkestone CT20 1DB. We will reply with details of our commitment, etc and you can then decide if you wish to go forward to the Selection Day.

SWEET SUCCESS - In last month's Newsletter it should have said Sharon and Whitfield rather than Susannah and Alkham, with regard to the slimming club chocolates! (nearly got it right). However, I'm pleased to report, that there's a sack full of chocolates to be picked up at their next meeting. (editor)

DART BUSES

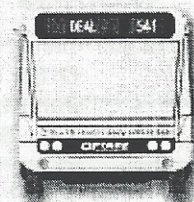
I have been asked to repeat this information - all details as of April last year).

This is a Dial-a-Ride service for people who live more than 500 metres from a bus service or those with mobility impairment irrespective of where they live. It is £5 to join the scheme and then £2.20 return fare no matter where you live around Alkham. The service is on Friday and goes to Dover and Whitfield Tesco's. Please phone 209660 for more information..

THANKS to Maurice and Pam Sayers for their kind donation to the Newsletter. (editor)

GARDEN TALK - The next meeting will be held on Friday 21st February at 7.30pm at John and Rosemary Crothall's Brook House in Meggett Lane. I hope we will all be able to peer into the well, in their conservatory, to check the level of the water table. (Susannah Tapsell)

CONGRATULATIONS to Ray Ashman of Green Lane Ewell Minnis on his promotion. He is now Lt. Colonel R Ashman MBE O St.J



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OZ on PHENOLOGY – Among the Christmas post on our doormat was *Nature's Calendar 2003*, the recording form of the UK Phenology Network. Phenology is the study of organisms as affected by climate, using the dates of seasonal phenomena such as opening of flowers or arrival of migrant birds, and has a long history. In 570, the Abbot of Iona reported that Columba, the Celtic saint, knew the migration dates of birds so well that he detected a missing crane and nursed the exhausted bird for three days, after which "it returned across the sea to Ireland in a straight line of flight." In China and Japan festival dates were fixed by reference to the blossoming of cherry and peach trees, giving valuable data from the 8th century onwards. Throughout Europe in the Middle Ages observers concentrated on naming and classifying species, but by the 18th century, with the rise of scientific method, attention returned to observing phenomena. Individual records included the *Redditch Weather Diary* (1703), Robert Marsham's *Indications of Spring* (1736) and, later in the century, the diaries of Gilbert White and Daines Barrington. In 1875 the Royal Meteorological Society established a national network of recorders who published annual reports until 1948. In 1998, Tim Sparks, a research biologist, revived the network and, in 2000, joined forces with the Woodland Trust to form the UK Phenology Network. Over the last four years the number of recorders has grown from 74 to 18,600 and is still growing. Members record their observations either in *Nature's Calendar* or online at www.phenology.org.uk for subsequent computer analysis. The network may also be contacted at The Woodland Trust, Autumn Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL. Our first entry this year was the solitary daffodil that appeared briefly after Christmas only to succumb to slugs on 1st January. (Steve Osborn)

NEWS FROM ST ANTHONYS

We are pleased to announce that Kevin Mephram has been appointed as the new vicar for our benefice. Kevin is currently Priest-in-Charge at All Souls Church in Hastings. His Induction service, which the Bishop of Maidstone will lead, is to be held at St Radigunds Church Chapel on 20th March 2003. We would like to thank our Ministry Team namely, Ken, Tony and Pam for all the hard work they have done in the parish and benefice during the Interregnum, and also for the loyal support of the parishioners in maintaining the activities within the Church and the Parish of St Anthony's during the past 7 months. Christmas seems a long time ago now, but the Carol service and the Blessing of the Crib service saw the Church full to capacity on both occasions. The children holding their candles aloft is always a wonderful if not nerve racking delight.

(Richard Tapsell and Ken Hammond)

WI NEWS - Unfortunately, disaster! I managed to get the speakers mixed up on the wrong dates and hence we ended up with no one. Apologies to everyone; I put it down to old age!! Susan, as usual, stepped into the breach magnificently and showed us some of her slides of the village dating back to the early sixties. There was much oohing and aahing and "hey isn't that Christine"? Pam had some difficulty recognising which one of her offspring was dressed as scarecrow...was it John or Jenny? Maybe we will never know! Next meeting is on 11th Feb at 7.30 and is entitled "wild women", and before you ask, it is not a talk about any of our activities! (Devina Bartlett)

NORMALLY at the Blessing of the Crib service children are given sweets from a tin as they leave the church. This year, much to their amazement, they were given a large tube containing 16 mini Cadbury bars comprising Crunchy, Whisper, Caramel and Dairy Milk. The tubes were piled high by the church door and each of the 75 children who came to the service got one. Huge thanks go to Eileen and Bill West, who used to live in Newlyn's Meadow, for providing them through the Salvation Army for whom they work. Eileen has kept in touch via the Newsletter and has provided blankets and soup for the Alkham Soup kitchen team. She phoned to say that that the Salvation Army had been given the chocolates and would we like some for the Soup Kitchen? This led on to the Blessing of the Crib and Eileen and Bill's children very kindly delivered 10 boxes of 12 tubes on the 23rd of December. Ten tubes were given out at the Soup Kitchen on Christmas Eve and all the recipients seemed quite moved by the gesture. (editor)

OBITUARIES

Sad to report four people with strong connections with Alkham have died recently. Our sympathy goes to all their families.

Evelyn, wife of Stan Beamish of Chilton Farm, died unexpectedly 20th December 2002. Born in Ireland,

Evelyn and Stan, moved first to farm in Wales, and then in the early 1980's to Alkham. Evelyn retained her ability to handle the stock side of the farm until they gave up farming. She left 2 daughters and three sons, each son paying a loving tribute to their mother at her funeral.

Asta, Norwegian wife of Gerry Snape, lived at Cauldham but formerly of Hockley Sole, died after a long illness 5th January 2003, three days before her 76th birthday. Asta met her husband to be by chance when each was holidaying in "Champagne Country". Gerry's mother had a fall and Asta, as a newly trained physiotherapist offered her help, and thus met Gerry, and so their friendship started. Asta's daughter Karin read Norwegian poems, and son Nigel and the five grandchildren extracts reflecting a life well lead and bravely fought.

Evelyn, wife of the late Wing-Commander Harold Cadman They lived for sixteen years at Little Garth, Alkham. After "Caddy" died in 1981 Evelyn moved to Deal where she lived to the grand age of 93 dying at the end of December 2002, leaving a son and daughter and four grandchildren.

Pat, wife of the late Harry Gittus, lived a relatively solitary life by choice. Her health had begun to deteriorate recently and she died at her home in Alkham in her sleep in the early hours 16th January. She and Harry moved to Alkham over forty years ago.

(written by Susan Lees)

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Keep Fit 9.30 -10.30 am Wednesday club 10.30-11.30am
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Yoga 9.30 to 11.00 am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Saturday	1	Bingo 7.30pm in VH – ring Beverley on 824765
Wednesday	5	Fete committee meeting – see page 1
Tuesday	11	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	15	SEKAS in VH afternoon
Saturday	15	W.I. jumble sale in the village hall 11.00am
Monday	17	Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	22	Beekeepers in village hall during the day

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
February 2nd	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist for Candlemas St. Mary's Church, Capel 4.00pm		
February 9th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 4.00 pm
February 16th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
February 23rd	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St. Lawrence, Hougham 10.00 am		

Morning Prayer is said at Capel Monday-Friday at 8.30 am. Evening Prayer at Hougham on Wednesday 5.00 pm and Eucharist at Capel Thursday at 9.15 am

NEW YEAR'S EVE - In keeping with tradition Susan Lees and Milly Woodrow rang out the old year and Richard Tapsell, Paul Tapsell, Ken Hammond, Stephen Comfort and Brian Wimsett rang in the New Year at St. Anthony's Church at midnight on the 31st of December.

QUIZ - On the 29th of March there will be a quiz in the village hall run by Mike Stevens of Thanet Radio. For more information or to book a table please ring 824876.

JUMBLE SALE - The W.I. are holding a jumble sale in the village hall on the 15th of February starting at 11.00am. The hall is open for jumble from 10.30am.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Alkham Valley Society secretary

Pamela Sayers 822397

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207
2193704

Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969
e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com

County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976
and work number 01795532547

Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661
e mail susan@susanlees.freeserve.co.uk

District Councillor Fred Scales 201382
and Trevor Bamfield 202334

Police – all calls except 999 phone 01303
850055

Vicar please ring Church Wardens

Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295
and Ken Hammond 823720

Village Hall booking
Rosemary Polden 824876

Women's Institute
Betty Neely 01303 251475

Alkham web site alkham.info

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn's Meadow 824201
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance removal	Wolverton 824853 & 07973 501390
BED & BREAKFAST	Owler Lodge with Pat and Bill Owler	Alkham Valley Road 826375
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 824991
CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians, dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis 822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 828007 & 07889310479
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham 01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmains Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
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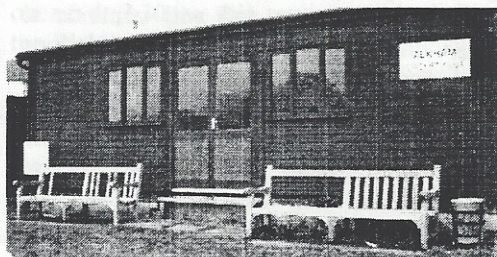
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REWARD – Criminal damage was carried out to the benches in front of the cricket pavilion on Vicarage Meadow. The majority of the vertical slats on one bench were broken and on the other, about half. The slats were hit with such force that the tenon on the rear of the seats is broken making repair almost impossible. One of the benches had been donated and the replacement cost of each is probably about £500. The Parish Council is offering a reward of £100 to anyone who is willing to give evidence in the Small Claims Court against the person or persons who carried out this criminal damage. This will take courage but it is hoped that someone will come forward as the Small Claims Court is not as intimidating as a criminal court. Please phone 824969. (editor)

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS (and Town) take place on the 1st of May. If you want to stand as a Parish Councillor you should get the Nomination Pack from Sue Lees (Forstal Cottage by the Marquis, 822661) as soon as possible as candidates are advised to return their nomination papers as near as possible to the 14th of March (Statutory deadline 1st April). Candidates will be elected automatically if there is no contest, otherwise it will be put to the vote on May the 1st. (editor)

THE STORY OF THE SHEEP on Ararat Common On Sunday the 4th of February the white ball on the hill was finally realised to be an apparently lifeless sheep. The farmer was contacted and the situation reported to his wife. Time ticked by and the sheep remained unattended so Grace Stacey and Debbie Saunders took matters into their own hands and deployed Bethany Saunders, Ashley Hughes and Carla Saltmar with secateurs, because Grace was now positive the sheep was tangled in a bramble bush. The children soon reached the sheep and did what they could but the sheep, no doubt exhausted from struggling, was unable to help herself. A mobile call to Debbie explaining the situation enabled her to contact the farmer yet again and very soon the stockman arrived. Once free the sheep rolled down the hill and was taken back to the farm to recover. Thank you Bethany, Ashley and Carla. (Sue Lees)

CONGESTION CHARGING

If the Ken Livingstone charging could be applied to the Alkham Valley Road for non-essential drivers at £2 a trip, about £2.5 million could be raised each year. Now there's a thought. (editor)

CIVIC CEREMONY

On Saturday the 22nd of March at 11.00am opposite the village hall, there will be a ceremony on Vicarage Meadow to celebrate the fact that the Parish now owns the meadow, having purchased it from the Church. Please come along and help celebrate this momentous occasion. There will be light refreshments in the village hall afterwards. (Sue Lees)

RUBBISH – Susannah Tapsell was so fed up with the litter in and around Alkham that she organised a W.I. working party on Tuesday the 18th of February. Eight W.I. members turned up and cleared the rubbish from Vicarage Meadow, the football field, Short Lane, Glebelands and the two approaches to the village. Eight dustbin bags were filled, which were collected the following day. Congratulations all round. (editor)

A JUMBLE SALE in aid of Village Hall funds will be held in the hall on 15th March, starting at 11.00am.

THE NEW VICAR for Alkham, Kevin Mephram, will conduct his first service at St. Anthony's on the 23rd of March at 10.00am. Please do come and give Kevin a very warm welcome on this special occasion. (Church Wardens)

FLOOD - The flooding of the bottom of Short Lane was not helped by some - one putting two dustbin lids over the pipes which go under the road. (editor)

CURTAINS AND BLINDS

There is a new line advert on the back page from Marie Hewitt, who has just moved into Chart House, regarding the making of curtains and blinds.

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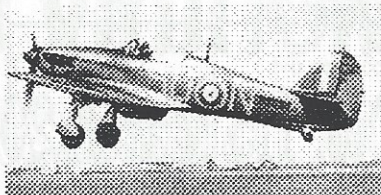
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Tel. 01304 381622

High Street, St. Margarets at Cliffe, Dover
Tel. 01304 852960



QUIZ – The January Quiz was a great success and a big thank you goes to the 82 competitors who supported this annual event. The quiz is always run for the benefit of local charities and this year the Battle of Britain RAF Museum at Hawkinge was the choice. The Chairman of the Museum, Dave Brocklehurst, joined in with the quiz, sitting on the end of one of the tables. Brian compiled the questions and was master of ceremonies for the evening. Susan Lees coordinated the event, Devina Bartlett was the scorer, Betty Neely ran the raffle and Doreen Lott, Doreen and Rosemary Polden provided the supper. A profit of £316.50 was made. It was great to see so many local people with friends and family. The winners were Darren and Joanna's table and there was a tie for the last place, the members of the latter teams receiving a ribbon medallion with an appropriate attachment. Make sure you join us next year and help us support some worthy local charity. (Sue Lees) – *The following letter was received from the museum*

Thank you very much for donating the proceeds from your Quiz Night to the Hangar Roof Appeal. The £316.50 you raised will certainly buy quite a lot of replacement sheets for the repairs to the Museum's roofs. It was very nice to see and witness such a friendly atmosphere and community spirit last Saturday, something that is rarely seen in villages and towns today! Could you also pass on my thanks to the ladies on the table I joined for the second-half. I hope I didn't hinder them too much with some of my answers! I hope you have many more successful Quiz Nights in the future and raise lots of money for Charity. Thank you once again and I hope you are able to visit the Museum this summer to see for yourselves the results of the generosity of so many local people. Kindest regards, Dave Brocklehurst. (Chairman/historian)

THANK YOU to Rosemary and John Crothall for their kind financial donation to the Newsletter. (editor)

PLANNING APPLICATION FOR GREENWOOD FARM

NORTH – Having spoken to DDC on comments made referring to our planning application (*in the Newsletter*), Tim Fisher Planning Officer from DDC, says it is not a comment made from one of his officers. So it appears the comment (Millionaire's row) has come from the Parish Council. We are not sure what Alkham wants, obviously not Millionaire's Row joining Snob Alley. (Mrs A Huggins)

In reporting the story about planning in last month's Newsletter, there was no intention of upsetting anybody or to infer a bias against the above part of the Parish. I go to the Parish Council meetings to report what happens and the article was based on notes taken at that meeting. (editor)

CHALKSOLE GREEN LANE

– I would like to protest about the preoccupation with planning matters in Chalksole Green Lane. This lane, 3/4 mile from the village centre is neither suburban nor a "millionaires row". The accessibility to country views has improved immensely with recent developments and will continue to improve in the future. Nothing critical seems to be written so often about other planning matters, for example, the obvious 'suburban' houses being built near the village green. Why is there an apparent obsession with one lane, which hardly anybody (besides equestrians and dog walkers) uses? A more balanced approach would be appreciated in the future! (Mrs. R B Hickman, Chalksole Green Farm)

With regard to the 'suburban' houses at Hogbrook, these have been extensively commented on in the Newsletter the first in November 2000, then February, April, June and November 2001. The well attended open meeting in February 2002 was extensively reported and included the parishioners objections regarding height, noise, traffic, cars, TV aerials etc. There is no preoccupation with Chalksole Green Lane, I just report what is going on in the Parish and at the moment the Chalksole Green Lane area is a matter of public debate. (editor)

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NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONYS

There will be no service (4pm) at Alkham on 2nd March, as there is to be a Diocesan Eucharist service at 3.00pm in the Cathedral for the new Archbishop Dr. Rowan Williams on that day. On Thursday 20th March the Induction and Institution service for our new vicar, Kevin Mephram will be held in Capel church at 7.30pm; this service will be led by the Bishop of Maidstone. The Joint Benefice service at Alkham on 23rd March will be Kevin's first service in the benefice, so please do come and give Kevin a very warm welcome on this special occasion. On March 30th we will be celebrating Mothering Sunday at 3.00pm and look forward to greeting all the children and their families at the traditional service, with flowers and cards followed by tea in the village hall.

(Richard Tapsell & Ken Hammond)

TEASPOONS – there seemed to be general acceptance of the answers given at the Annual Quiz except for 'How many teaspoons in a tablespoon'. I said the answer was three but this was disputed and some other tables agreed that it should be four. The correct answer is either. My brother-in-law, tongue in cheek, checked up and sent me the following. 'My first step was to research the subject and I consulted a number of learned texts on the matter. The older texts (for texts read Cook Books) gave a conversion of 2 teaspoons equals one dessertspoon and two dessertspoons equals one tablespoon. That leads to the answer of 4. However the more modern texts give the teaspoon as being equal to 5 millilitres and the table spoon as being 15 ml leading to an answer of 3. (editor)

OZ on JAZZ – A bleak Wednesday evening in January found us settling down in the Marlowe Theatre at Canterbury for the *Kings of Jazz* concert. This music of "exuberant melancholy" as once described has, amongst other musical forms, been a lifelong passion, but we hadn't actually attended a jazz concert since Duke Ellington at the Hammersmith Odeon some 40 years ago. Audiences for opera at the Marlowe include people of all ages, from the teens to the nineties. Jazz, by its informal and transient nature, attracts followers from roughly the same generation as its performers. This audience consisted almost entirely of couples aged from fifty to eighty years, many of the men grey-bearded and leather-jacketed, the women well-preserved and lively in trousers, tapping their feet and snapping their fingers on the off-beat, and occasionally exuding the sweet and unfashionable scent of tobacco. First up was Humphrey Lyttelton, the grand old man of British jazz. At 82 he remains a tall and impressive figure, ex-Etonian and ex-Guardsman, who, with trumpet dangling from fingertips, prowls constantly around the stage like a caged tiger. It was pleasing to rediscover that Humph is an equally proficient clarinettist and raconteur. Next came the Digby Fairweather band, featuring George Melly, outrageous in a flamboyant Ascot-style hat, now almost chairbound, but as boisterous a blues-shouter as ever. The final set, from Kenny Ball and His Jazzmen, concluded with an arrangement of the Beatles' *All You Need is Love*, that had the audience on its feet, delightedly taking part in choreographed clapping and hand-dancing. On the way home, we recollected that jazz instrumentation was originally dictated by the availability, in pawnshops at the end of the 19th century, of surplus marching band instruments from the American Civil War, a fine example of recycling, another lifelong passion. (Steve Osborn)

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Having expressed dismay to our editor that the name "Village Green" appeared to be insidiously usurping the original of "The Vicarage Meadow", he very kindly suggested that my thoughts may be of interest to a wider audience. I do hope that the change of ownership of "The Vicarage Meadow" from Church to Parish does not necessitate a change of name. The history of a village is daily expressed through place names and it is that history which makes a village unique. We are so fortunate to live in Alkham and be part of its history and to be caretakers for future generations as best we can. So let's grieve at the loss of lovely road names like "Greenwood Slip" to the less interesting "Slip Lane, wince at the bureaucracy of "Hogbrook Hill Lane" when "Hogbrook Hill" sufficiently described and cringe at the lack of the apostrophe "s" that would correctly describe the original ownership of "Newlyn's Meadow", but go into the future delighting in and caring about village by maintaining the old names. Names such as "Priest's Walk", "School Cottages", "The Old Post Office", "Glebelands", "Old Rectory", "The Vicarage", "Coachman's Cottage" "Carpenters Arms", "Newcastle House" and "Forge House". Let's hope that "Church Cottages" and "Church Hill House" are never

added to this list of memories and take pride in connecting with the past and in Alkham's originality in having "The Vicarage Meadow" and not merely the ubiquitous village green.

(Susannah Tapsell)

It was for people new to the village that I used 'village green'. However it is wrong so from now on it will be Vicarage Meadow in the Newsletter. (editor)

W.I. NEWS - I have always assumed that the art of storytelling belonged in the past. That it was a craft no longer in existence and even if there were such people, they were old and wizened and were persuaded to tell their tales over a pint of something in a smoky pub somewhere in the depths of Ireland maybe. Well, I am glad to say that I was mistaken when Mr Cooper graced us with his presence, his hat set at a jaunty angle and his waist coat dotted with tiny mirrors. He regaled us with tales of fishermen and mermaids, pick pocketing babies and explained the mystery of why we sneeze when we go out into strong sunlight! It is all Queen Goldentree's fault apparently, (or was it Queen Silvertree)? Anyway, he made us laugh and feel sad and that is what it is all about I suppose. Next meeting is on 11th March and is entitled Magic Lanterns. (Devina Bartlett)

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Keep Fit 9.30 -10.30 am Wednesday club 10.30-11.30am
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events (VH= village hall)

Saturday	1	Bingo 7.30pm in VH – ring Beverley on 824765
Monday	3	Parish Council meeting in the village hall 7.30pm all welcome
Saturday	8	American Supper in the village hall 7.30 pm – live music
Tuesday	11	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	15	SEKAS in VH afternoon
Saturday	15	Jumble sale in the village hall 11.00am for VH funds
Monday	17	Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	22	Ceremony see page 1
Saturday	29	Quiz in village hall 824876
Saturday	29	Beekeepers in village hall

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
March 2nd	No service	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
Wednesday March 5th Ash Wednesday	Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes St. Radigund, Capel 7.30 pm		
March 9th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 4.00 pm
March 16th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
March 23rd	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St. Anthony's, Alkham 10.00 am		
March 30th Mothering Sunday	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St. Radigund, Capel 10.00 am (Bishop of Dover presides)		
	Mothering Sunday Service St. Anthony's, Alkham 3.00 pm followed by tea in hall		

Morning Prayer is said at Capel Monday-Friday at 8.30 am. Evening Prayer at Hougham on Wednesday 5.00 pm and Eucharist at Capel Thursday at 9.15 am

LOST YEW FOREVER

What a sad sight to see, Mount Ararat without its old yew tree standing proud in the front garden, a landmark for all around. The new owners of Mount Ararat obviously did not feel proud and privileged to become the custodians of such a beautiful and ancient tree. The yew was home to all kinds of wildlife and originally planted to bring luck to all around. What a great shame some people cannot commune with nature instead of destroying it. (Anon)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 2193704	Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar please ring Church Wardens
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Ken Hammond 823720
District Councillor Fred Scales 201382 and Trevor Bamfield 202334	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	Police – all calls except 999 phone 01303 850055	W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475
		Alkham web site alkham.info

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn's Meadow 824201
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance removal	Wolverton 824853 & 07973 501396
BED & BREAKFAST	Owler Lodge with Pat and Bill Owler	Alkham Valley Road 826375
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 824991
CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians , dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis 822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 828007 & 07889310479
CURTAINS & BLINDS	Curtains and blinds made to your specification	Alkham Valley 01303 891806
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham 01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmains Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES	Alkham Valley Garden Centre – everything for horse and rider	South Alkham 01303 891996
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with gift shop and village shop	South Alkham 01303 893351
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton 822420
LIVERY	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liveryes	Megget Lane, South Alkham 01303 892056
POST OFFICE	Southdown Stores general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	London rd, Temple Ewell 827100
SCHOOL	Capel-le-ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-ferne 01303 251353
SLADDEN FARM		Phone 825188
VEHICLES	Vehicle Valuations Used car specialist, Folkestone	53 Bradstone Avenue, 01303 253212

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shops, offers considered. Mark
and Debbie Robson, 8a, Newlyn's
Meadow. Tel.820459.

PARISH COUNCIL - There have
been a number of people requesting the
application form to become a Parish
Councillor and it is therefore likely that the
May election will be contested.

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR - I have
entered Alkham in the Village of the Year in
the Community Life category. (editor)

PETROL - Someone has been siphoning
petrol from a vehicle parked by the side of
the Alkham Valley Road on the west of the
village. The first time none was left and a
villager drove to Sainsbury's to get a can of
petrol. If you live in this area please keep a
lookout for anything suspicious.

FOOTBALL - To the parents of the
children who play football in the car park in
Glebelands and who use my garden fence as
a goal post; could they please replace the
broken strut of the said fence.

(Eve Hartwell)

VICARAGE MEADOW



There was a great turn out on the
22nd of March when a ceremony
was held to celebrate the
ownership of Vicarage Meadow
by the Parish. About 60 people
turned up in the warm sunshine to
hear the Parish Council chairman
give a speech in which he thanked
all the people who had helped over
the years. At the count of three the
helium filled balloons were
released to excited cries from the
children. Refreshments, paid for
by Norman Knowles and prepared
by the Lott and Polden families,
were then enjoyed in the village
hall. It was great fun and a day
that will be remembered by old
and young alike. (editor)

CHURCHYARD - The
PCC are going to decide at their
AGM in April if they are willing
to purchase a sickle mower. Last
year it was hard work cutting the
churchyard and using brush cutters
is not the answer. One way or
another we will get the self
propelled front cutting mower
with large rubber tyres and, as
usual, there will be an appeal for
volunteers to help cut the grass.
The mower, made by Victa
Shanks, costs £700. (editor)

SUNFLOWERS - There
will be a competition in Alkham
this year for the largest sunflower.
Entry is free and a cup will be
awarded to the person who grows
the tallest sunflower. Please
contact me if you'd like to enter
but hope over experience tells me
that there will have to be the
direct approach. (editor)

**THE ANNUAL PARISH
MEETING** is on the 14th of April
at 7.30pm in the village hall. Please do
come along and have your say.

HELP THE AGED - Many
thanks to the people in Newlyn's
Meadow, where a collection for Help
the Aged raised £23.

(Larry Lambourne)

COFFEE MORNING - In aid
of Meningitis Charity was held in the
Village Hall on Saturday 3rd March. A
total profit of £173 was made with the
tombola and cake stalls proving
extremely popular. Many people
commented on how nice it was to see
'new' faces coming along and joining
in (even though some of the 'regulars'
were not present). Thank you to all who
attended and gave to this very worthy
cause. The money has already been
forwarded on and will, I'm sure, be put
to good use. (Karen Mears)

WE OFFER our sympathy to
Eileen Townsend and family on the
death her husband Philip at the grand
age of almost 91, a truly "gentle"
gentleman.

ALKHAM ROAD - Various
points were discussed when the Parish
Council, Police and Highway Authority
walked and drove along the Valley
Road. Apart from other things it is
probable that hard standings for buses
will be put at the eastern end of the
village and at Wolverton Hill.

HOME GUARD - A researcher
is looking for photographs with names
of Kent Home Guard Units and
individuals from 1940 - 41 to copy and
use in a forthcoming book on X11
Corps Observation Unit. Please contact
Adrian Westwood on 01233 750563.

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users Anyone interested in having broadband connection to the internet for this area (numbers beginning 82), may register their interests with BT at their website www.bt.com/broadband. BT requires a target of 250 customers within each exchange area, before they will install the necessary equipment and update the lines for high speed connection. Registering your interest for broadband doesn't mean that you are committing yourself, It is merely to find out how many customers may require it in the future. (Vince Holness - webmaster www.alkham.info)

MATTHEW HULYER - At the recently held Kent Indoor Championships Matthew (*who lives in the centre of the village*) set an all time Kent best, jumping 6.83 metres in the Junior Men's (under 20's) Long Jump event to win Gold. Later in the day Matthew competed in the 60 metres sprint, beating the current Kent champion to take gold with a winning time of 7.3 seconds. Matthew holds silver for Long Jump in the South of England championships and again won silver at the Welsh indoor championships held in Cardiff last month. Matthew holds several Long Jump records for his club Ashford AC and set a personal outdoor best last year with a jump of 7.26 metres. This distance places Matthew 6th in the UK under 20 rankings and 20th in the UK overall. Matthew is 18 years old and is trained by a qualified England coach who considers Matthew destined for major national and international honours.

BRIC A BRAC STALL

We feel as though Christmas was only yesterday and yet here we are thinking and planning the summer Fete again. It has proved to be an enormous pleasure since taking over this stall a few years ago. It takes a lot of preparation and we spend a lot of time cleaning and pricing and realize that our home resembles a warehouse for the two weeks before. It has been a learning curve too and have learnt how to handle the difficult customers, those who haggle over an eighteen piece tea-set and only want to give a pound, the children who take something to 'show my mum' and never return and in particular the obnoxious dealers who persist in harassing us before the start by continually lifting and moving items about in hope we will relent and allow them priority. We even had a bruised foot and grazed elbow in our first year. Not to be put off we have continued on and each year now becomes a challenge. This is where you all come in to help, can you please 'look out' any spare items. We are not fussy at all and will take any unwanted old Spode, Wedgewood or Coalport and will even collect your unwanted family heirlooms. Just kidding, we take practically anything saleable as long as it is not broken or suffering decay. Thanks for your help. (Irene Barnard)

DOVER

SOCIETY will present a concert, in Dover Town Hall at 7.30 pm on Saturday 12th April, featuring two very different Requiems by Fauré and Brahms. At first sight, a double bill of Requiems would seem the recipe for a gloomy evening. However the singers know, from their success with the same programme in 1994, that these works are remarkably exuberant, expressing feelings of consolation and hope rather than death, damnation and judgment. Soloists, chorus and The Connaught Orchestra (leader George Simpson) will be conducted by Dover Choral Society's Musical Director, Michael Foad. **Tickets £8** (Schoolchildren £4) are available from Dover Town Hall, The Music Box in Maison Dieu Road, and from members of Dover Choral Society; and, if there are any left, at the door on the night. For further information ring Michael Foad on 01303 242694. (Steve Osborn)

CHORAL

VIEWFINDER - English Heritage have put 20,000 photos from England's history on their web www.englishheritage.org.uk/viewfinder. St Mary's church at Capel is pictured. (editor)

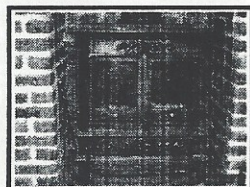
EAST KENT - Paul Tapsell reported that it looks likely that East Kent will become a unitary authority in the next three or four years. This is good news as Medway appear to have made a success of it.

THE ALKHAM PRODUCE SHOW held in the Village Hall on the day of the Fete July 12th will have a slightly different format this year in that there will be less classes but more varied. We would like to make a wonderful, colourful display of fruits, vegetables and flowers that can all be grown in our village. Accolades will, of course, be given but the greatest emphasis will be in displaying to our visitors that we can still put on a bit of a show and that good food and beautiful flowers can be produced in our gardens. So, please, can you get your little patch producing something to put in the show. perhaps just 3 radishes, 3 courgettes, peas, beans or a lettuce and some sweet peas. A full list of all the classes is available from me and I hope to be delivering forms around the village in early June. Thank you. (Susannah Tapsell)

GARDENTALK - A most enjoyable evening was spent at John and Rosemary Crothall's home at the end of February. They had devised a pretty stiff quiz for us, which meant that we learnt a considerable amount. John had also prepared a number of different types of wood for us to identify which proved very interesting. We also, as always, thoroughly enjoyed our ample refreshments to which we all contribute. Thank you, John and Rosemary. The next meeting will be held at "Bramhall" Alkham Valley Road on Tuesday, 15th April. (Susannah Tapsell)

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NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONYS

Our Church Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. This is an open meeting and your support of the Church in Alkham will be very welcome, so please do come along. Also any parishioner whose name is already on the Church Electoral Roll is entitled to vote in the election of the parochial representatives from the laity, so come and use your vote. To the donors of the beautiful gifts given to the Church on Sunday March 16th we give a very big thank you. We thank, also, everybody who has helped and supported us during the Interregnum. There will be a Jumble Sale in aid of the Church Fund in the Village Hall on Sat. 12th April. (Richard Tapsell)

27TH FEBRUARY ARCHBISHOP ROWAN WILLIAMS'S enthronement. One of those truly memorable days. I do not know how my name came to be drawn out of the hat, but I will be eternally grateful to those who put my name forward. The sun shone, and the City seemed to be full of people Cathedral bound: clergy of all

OZ on FISH'N'CHIPS - One of our winter Wine and Wisdom fixtures has, as centre-piece, a fish and chip supper. After this year's contest I decided to research the origins of the great British meal and discovered two historical strands. The technique of deep-frying fish in batter seems to have arrived in the 16th century with Marreno refugees, Jews who adopted Christianity and eventually fled from Portugal to avoid persecution. The pre-presidential American, Thomas Jefferson, visiting Britain in the late 18th century, described eating "fried fish in the Jewish fashion." At the same time, the eating of fried chipped potatoes spread from Ireland to Lancashire and on through the expanding industrial cities to London. The two strands fused in 1860, when Joseph Malin, a Jewish immigrant from Eastern Europe, opened a shop in London's East End selling deep-fried fish and chipped potatoes. As with many social changes the trade took off with the continuing growth of the Industrial Revolution. Professor John Walton, author of *Fish and Chips and the British Working Classes 1870-1940*, explained how the arrival of steamships and the development of refrigeration produced a massive expansion in supplies of sea fish. This coincided with a general growth in working people's incomes that allowed some luxuries including the fish and chip supper. The number of 'chippies' peaked at 35,000 in 1927, falling to about 8,600 today. The meal has always been valued as a morale-booster by governments, who succeeded in keeping supplies available throughout both World Wars. It remains well-regarded as a good supply of protein, vitamins, carbohydrates, and the fatty acids considered "good for the brain" and hence of value to quiz contestants. The ultimate tribute to the meal is its continuing incorporation into the menus of new generations of ethnic restaurants from India, China and elsewhere. (Steve Osborn)

nationalities, clutching cases full of robes to be donned later; smartly dressed ladies, clutching their hats, which the February breeze was trying so hard to separate from their heads; young, and not so young, men and women carrying their "Anti-War" placards, and finally, what appeared to be hundreds of fluorescent decked police, guarding every possible access to the Cathedral. Finally the time came to brave the crowds and edge my way around the police. I don't know why, but the police seemed to take one look at me and decide that I was not a national threat, because they barely looked at my invitation! Once in the Cathedral I was again surprised to find that I was in the row of seats facing and adjoining the main aisle. I had been fully prepared to be seated behind one of the cathedral's huge pillars. I thus had a very close up view of all the people arriving many bedecked in weighty chains of office. The procession of other dignitaries seemed to go on for hours, too many to be named here. But suffice it to say I could have put my hand out to touch Archbishop Rowan Williams or Prince Charles. There is no need for me to describe the Service, but there were many parts never to be forgotten. The three raps made by the archbishop on the main cathedral door before

entering, echoed eerily around the old walls giving one a spine chilling feeling. The audio system and monitors discretely placed around the walls meant that the entire service could be seen and heard by everyone. However, when the choir sang alone, the audio system seemed to be switched off and the singing came from afar, beautiful but so distant and so mediaeval, taking one back to times long forgotten, and bringing home to just how marvellous it is that this ceremony can still be conducted in these ancient surroundings but in these modern times of brashness and uncaringness. (Susan Lees)

W.I. NEWS - Mr Crook gave us an interesting talk along with slides using a "magic Lantern" which was over 100 years old. Most of the slides were hand painted and he showed us many humorous ones to start with. For many, this was their only form of entertainment and huge groups used to gather in halls to watch them. Our next meeting is entitled, "it shouldn't happen to a vet" by Mr Patrick Smalley. To be held on April 8th at 7.30 pm (Devina Bartlett)

NEIGHBOURHOOD

WATCH will be discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting on the 14th of April, to decide the best way forward.

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Wednesday	9	PCC AGM 7.30 pm in VH
Saturday	12	SEKAS in VH afternoon
Saturday	12	Jumble sale in the village hall 11.00am for Church funds
Monday	14	Annual Parish Meeting 7.30pm – see page 1
Saturday	19	Coffee morning – see opposite
Monday	21	Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	22	Village Hall AGM 8.00 pm
Saturday	27	Cricket on Vicarage Meadow at 2.00pm versus River

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
April 6th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
April 13th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11 am	Evensong 6.30 pm
Thursday 17th Maundy Thursday	Sung Eucharist St. Anthony's, Alkham 7.30 pm		
Friday 18th Good Friday	The Hour Before the Cross St. Radigunds, Capel 2.00 – 3.00 pm		
April 20th Easter Sunday	Sung Eucharist 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Sung Eucharist 11.00 am
April 27th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St. Lawrence, Hougham 10.00 am		

Morning Prayer is said at Capel Monday-Friday at 8.30 am. Evening Prayer at Hougham on Wednesday 5.00 pm and Eucharist at Capel Thursday at 9.15 am

COFFEE MORNING and Easter Egg Raffle in the Village Hall on the 19th April at 10.30 am with all profits going to Kent Air Ambulance.

SOUP KITCHEN – The rota for Soup Kitchen has been completed and the Alkham team will be doing ten evenings this year. There are some generous people in the village who have, at their own expense, been making sandwiches, cakes or soup. Donations would be gratefully received and these can be left in the box on the end of the brick outhouse behind the Old Post Office. Alternatively, if you would like to make a loaf of sandwiches for the night please give me a ring. There are people who take advantage of the Soup Kitchen but on any night there is always several who are really down on their luck and need food and soup. (editor)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 2193704	Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar please ring Church Wardens
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Ken Hammond 823720
District Councillor Fred Scales 201382 and Trevor Bamfield 202334	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	Police – all calls except 999 phone 01303 850055	W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475
		Alkham web site alkham.info

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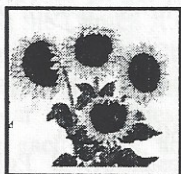
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SUNFLOWER COMPETITION

There has been a good
response to the sunflower
competition. About 30
people have entered,

several of whom are children and they will
be awarded a separate cup. It's supposed to
be a bit of fun and the entrants should
contact me when they think their flower has
reached full height. The closing date is
flexible but the Vicar is fairly keen to have a
display at the Harvest Festival in September
should you wish to show your bloom (editor)

PARISH COUNCIL - As there were
seven applicants for seven vacancies in this
year's election the applicants have
automatically been elected. The Parish
Councillors will therefore be Devina
Bartlett, Helen Scopes, Caroline Ward, Edith
Wash (Neve), Neil Burrows, Richard
Holdron, Vince Holness and Paul Tapsell. It
is good to see two representatives from
Ewell Minnis joining the council plus two
other new members. The next Parish Council
meeting will be on the 12th of May in the
Village Hall at 7.30pm should you wish to
welcome the new councillors and thank the
retiring members. (editor)



This is a great idea
by Neighbourhood
Watch. You are
given a pack in
which there is a
piece of paper to write down your
personal details including allergies,
medicines taken, illnesses, doctor's
details and next of kin. The details
are put in a film container and a
sticker attached. It is then placed in
the fridge with a sticker on the
fridge and a third sticker placed
near the front door. Should the
emergency services have to enter
your property they will see the
stickers and know where your
essential details are. These packs
are free and Dover NW has given
me some. If you'd like one please
give me a ring on 824969. (editor)

25 SCHEME - For £1 you
can get a pack which has a couple
of tamper proof stickers. These are
stuck to the windows of your car
and tell police that there should not
be anyone under 25 driving your
car. This scheme has been quite
effective in cutting down joy
riding. Please contact Pat Martin
on 827174.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

- At the next Parish
Council meeting Neighbourhood
Watch is going to be discussed. As
I understand it there will be a new
co-ordinator and volunteers will be
sought to be representatives for
various areas. I've volunteered,
together with Ken Hammond, to be
the representative for Slip Lane.
This entails receiving information
via Email and alerting people
should there be anything relevant.
If someone in an area sees
something suspicious (or of
concern) they should phone the
numbers as given on page 2 and
not the representative. Vince
Holness has been given all the
information with regard to
Neighbourhood Watch and has
posted it on the Alkham website
(www.alkham.info). Keep in touch
by logging on. (editor)

BURGLARY - On Saturday 19th
April a property in Alkham and another
at South Alkham was burgled. Burglars
may be in the area so please report
anything suspicious to the police (see
next page). (editor)

E.T. - On April the 15th just after
midnight strange lights were seen over
South Alkham. They hovered then
moved from side to side before the craft
finally landed behind a bungalow by the
Valley Road. Fortunately it was not
alien life but the Air Sea Rescue
helicopter. Evidently an ocean going
yacht distress signal had gone off in the
vicinity and they, plus the police, had
come to investigate. I don't think any
further words are necessary. (editor)

MARATHON MAN - against
his wishes I think it is fair to report that
Stephen Comfort, who lives in
Hogbrook Farm, completed the Paris
Marathon in 3 hours 35 minutes on
Sunday 13th April. He came about 9300
in an entry of 32,000 and averaged just
over an 8 minute mile pace. Eighteen
years ago he finished it in 2 hours 59
minutes. Congratulations are in order.

HOUGHAM VILLAGE FAYRE
is being held on the 26th of May starting
at 1.30pm and there will be the usual
attractions. It is well signposted when
you reach Hougham and those of a
sensitive nature will be pleased to hear
that my neighbour and I will not be
Morris Dancing this year. (editor)

VIRGIN VIE - This is a cosmetics
party to be held in the Village Hall on May
22nd from 7.30pm. Evidently you should take
a washing up bowl and a hand towel.
Refreshments will be available and there will
also be a raffle. For further information please
ring 824876.

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High Street, St. Margarets at Cliffe, Dover
Tel. 01304 852960

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

was held in the Village Hall on the 14th of April and 24 villagers turned up. It was George Tyler's last official duty as Chairman of the Parish Council and thanks must go to him for the great job he has done over the last 14 years. The Local Councillors from River were present and if re-elected will represent us in the new ward. Fred Scales has been working hard to get main drainage approval for Drellingore and there should be good news in a couple of months. Paul Tapsell gave a report on behalf of the Alkham Valley Society and said it had been a quiet year. Den Barnard gave a stirring report about Alkham Cricket Club reinforcing the point that playing with a good spirit and sportsmanship was more important than winning. He said there was new blood in the team and Matthew Hyland of Little Garth was singled out for praise. Thanks went to Barbara and Bob Palmer for their renowned teas and Richard Tapsell for getting the crease back in fine order. Pat Martin from Dover Neighbourhood Watch was the guest speaker and talked a lot of sense, some of which is on the front page. At question time one parishioner disputed that the Speed Signs had been a success and that the cleaning of the dyke would have done little to alleviate future flood problems. The Chairman disagreed. (Ed)

EVENING RECYCLING

The KCC household waste recycling facility at Whitfield is now open till 8pm on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer until 24th September. Bang goes another excuse for not recycling. (Steve Osborn)

VILLAGE VIDEOS

I've transferred edited copies of the celebration marking the passing of Vicarage Meadow to the Parish last month, the raising of the Millennium Cross in December 1999 and the W.I. Christmas pantomime in 1997 to CD, which can be viewed on a DVD player (each is about 6 minutes). If anyone would like a copy they cost £1.50 and can be purchased by phoning me on 824969. Profits go towards the Sunflower cups. (editor)

GUIDED WALKS – White Cliffs Countryside Project organize walks and these are some in this area:

White Cliffs Country Trail 4th May meet 2 pm Martin Mill Railway station, Dover: distance 6 miles, 3 hrs.
A New Park for Dover 5th May 2pm meet outside the Ark Centre, Noah's Ark Road, Dover : 1.5 miles, 1.5 hrs.

Convicts, Coastguards and Coast Defences 10th May 2pm, meet NT Visitor Centre, Langdon Cliffs: 2 miles, 2hrs.

Downland Spring 11th May 2pm meet Crete Road West: 3 miles, 3 hrs.

Discover the French Canals (book) 15th May phone 01797 367934. Distance 25 miles, 8 hours.

Forgotten Fortress 25th May meet St Martin's Battery Car Park, Western Heights: 3 miles, 3 hrs.

The above are just a few and for more information please phone 241806. Donations may be required.

KISSING GATES – The new kissing gates to replace the existing ones between the churchyard and set-aside behind the Old Rectory are going to be installed shortly. They are of a modern type with one hinging from the top so you can easily walk through. (editor)

EASTER EGG RAFFLE

The winners in prize order were:

3 School Cottages, D Turner, 2 School Cottages, Mrs F Hall, Janet Baron, Vanessa, Sarah Milroy, 10 Newlyn's Meadow, Liam Milroy, Nana Scopes, Debbie Saunders, R Luckhurst, Margaret Tobey, John the Builder, Ted the Builder,, Vanessa's Mum, Carol Dryden, Vanessa, 11 Newlyn's Meadow, Chris P, Knowles, H Preston, 6 Newlyn's Meadow (c/o Larry), Vicar, Greta Cook, Duncan, "Sunnybank", Val Kingston, 2 School Cottages, Pam Sayers, Richard Lott, Vanessa, Building Site. Over £200 was raised for Kent Air Ambulance. Congratulations to all concerned.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NUMBERS

WHEN SHOULD I RING THE POLICE on 999?

- When Life is threatened
- When a Crime is in progress
- When there is a road accident and there is Serious injury

01303 850055/01304 240055

- To report a suspicious incident
- To report a car that is abandoned or untaxed
- To report a problem that YOU cannot resolve and YOU think involves the Police
- To report a Community Issue (Nuisance kids, motorbikes etc.)

01622 690690

To Report a Crime that has happened to you and the offenders have gone (If the offenders have just been disturbed and are still in the area dial 999)

0800 192 192

SCOOT.com (Talking Pages)

If you are locked out, have a problem with Seagulls or want a chemist or anything else they will put you in touch with who you want

01304 218151 Watch Office

and 01304 218130

PC Ian Foster Rural Police Officer (until further notice)
Open Mon-Fri generally between 08.30 & 1600 hrs. An answerphone is in use when the office is unmanned owing to meetings etc. Use this number to discuss Neighbourhood Watch issues or a matter that does not require Police attendance straight away.

This number should not be used to request urgent police attendance.

You may like to cut this out and keep it for future reference. Some people are sceptical about the effectiveness of Neighbourhood Watch. However, if it is organised properly, there are hundreds of people watching out for anything suspicious and an organization to back it up. Police response may not be immediate (except 999) but all details are logged and passed on.

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NEWS FROM ST ANTHONYS

A bishop began a sermon by asking, "The Dinosaur? The Dinosaur? What happened to him? What destroyed him? His answer: "What destroyed the dinosaur? Nothing! The climate around him changed. He didn't. He died!" "Change" is something we either yearn for, or fear. Our response to change depends on our hopes for things to improve. At the Church A.G.M. I drew attention to the priorities that Church members saw as the tasks that face us in all three parishes in the near future. These priorities will be different in each Parish, and each Church Council has been asked to set two objectives for the coming year that we will try to achieve. St Anthony's Church has been at the heart of the village for centuries, while villagers, whether church goers or not, have come and gone. What do you see as the challenges that face village life today and what would you like the 'Church' to be doing? I believe in miracles, but the miracles I tend to see happening today are those that come about through ordinary people working together for a purpose. I look forward to hearing from you.

(Kevin Mephram).

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OZ on HAZLITT – The bell of St Anne's, Soho, which tolled at the burial of the great essayist William Hazlitt in 1830, rang again last month to celebrate his 225th birthday and the restoration of his grave. Born in Maidstone, the youngest son of a Dissenting minister, Hazlitt soon inherited his father's radical views and passion for truth, qualities which often alienated fellow citizens. After years of travelling from one disgruntled congregation to another the Hazlitts finally settled at Wem in Shropshire, where young William enjoyed his happiest years. In 1794, to his father's great disappointment, he abandoned his ministry training at New College, Hackney, and commenced a life of portrait-painting interspersed with idling and reading. "For many years", he wrote, "I did nothing but think. I had nothing else to do but dip in some abstruse author, or look at the sky, or wander by the pebbled sea-side. I cared for nothing. I wanted nothing." At last, under the influence of another great essayist, Charles Lamb, Hazlitt began a long and productive career as journalist, critic and essayist, meeting literary contemporaries at Lamb's weekly gatherings. Eventually he quarrelled with them all. This prickly temperament, combined with his support of Napoleon and the French Revolution, caused further hostility, even accusations of treason. Finally, worn down by marital breakdown, debt and scandal, he succumbed to a malignancy and died in a cheap Soho lodging-house. His last words were "Well, I have had a happy life!". It is not a surprising comment, as this enthusiasm is part of what was celebrated at St Anne's last month. It is the appetite for life of the man who wrote, of his 20th birthday: "It was on the 10th of April, 1798, that I sat down to a volume of the New Eloise, at the inn at Llangollen, over a bottle of sherry and a cold chicken." (Steve Osborn)

SICKLE MOWER – I'm very pleased to report that the PCC agreed to the purchase of a sickle mower to annually cut the grass in the churchyard. The cost has come out of church funds and the PCC would like to replace the money by donations. Grateful thanks go to Ted Baker who lives in Devon for his very generous donation. Should anyone else like to give some money to cover the £700 cost please contact either of the Church Wardens, Richard Tapsell 822295 or Ken Hammond 823720.

OBITUARIES

Tony Ingall, the founder of the Newsletter, died peacefully at the age of 82 during an afternoon nap last month. He was a terrific man with a great sense of humour and the funeral, to mark his association with the church and religion, was held in the crypt of Canterbury Cathedral.

Ted Capon of Minnis Farm died recently aged 82. A Surrey lad, he moved to Kearsney with his parents over 70 years ago. He served in the Army in North Africa and later had a coal round at Temple Ewell. He and his wife came to live at Alkham first at Hillview, Short Lane, and finally to Ewell Minnis in the early sixties.

Jean Mary Childs died aged 83, widow of Fred Childs whose roots were in Alkham, his father being head gardener at the Old Rectory. Jean and daughter Rosemary, both keen family historians, have always appreciated their connection with Alkham and particularly its attractive churchyard.

W.I. NEWS - We had a most enjoyable and amusing talk about Mr Smalley's life as a country vet.

His tales of a donkey drinking whisky and eating Mars bars, and a small child's curiosity about the birth of a lamb had us in fits of laughter. The next meeting is our yearly Resolutions one, where we vote on current issues that affect all our lives, in the hope that the Government will take notice and make changes or not as the case may be. See you all on Tuesday 13th May at 7.30 pm. (Devina Bartlett)

GARDENTALK

A very pleasant time was spent at "Bramhall", walking round the garden and enjoying the spring evening. We then went indoors to see some slides of Alkham gardens, many taken over 30 years ago, whilst we enjoyed our usual drink, nibbles and natter. For our next GARDENTALK, we will be meeting at Elwin End's nursery at Temple Ewell on Tuesday 20th May at 7.30pm when Mr. End will be talking to us and showing us around. Afterwards we will be visiting "The Fox", so if you would like to join us you will be sure of a warm welcome. (Susannah Tapsell)

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Keep Fit 9.30 -10.30 am Wednesday club 10.30-11.30am
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events

(VH= Village Hall and VM= Vicarage Meadow)

Thursday	1	Local elections in Village Hall 8.00am to 9.00pm
Saturday	3	Bingo 7.30pm in VH - ring Beverley on 824765
Sunday	4	Cricket v Courtstairs 2pm VM
Saturday	10	Christian Aid Walk. Ring Church Wardens as below
Sunday	11	Cricket v Shepherdswell 2pm VM
Monday	12	Parish Council meeting 7.30 in Village Hall - all welcome
Tuesday	13	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Sunday	18	Cricket v Old Hartsdonians 2pm
Tuesday	20	Garden Talk - see page 3
Monday	19	Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Thursday	22	Virgin Vie - see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

Day	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
May 4th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worshipping together 11.00 am
May 11th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Ecumenical Service at St. Radigund 11am	Evensong 6.30 pm
May 18th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
May 25th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St. Radigund's, Capel 10.00 am		
May 29th Ascension Day	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St. Anthony's, Alkham 7.30 pm		

Morning Prayer is said at Capel Monday-Friday at 8.30 am. Evening Prayer at Hougham on Wednesday 5.00 pm and Eucharist at Capel Thursday at 9.15 am

COUNTRY FILE - Now that the warm weather is just around the corner, there is no better time to get out and take advantage of the many public rights of way to be found in our area. However, it is a sad fact that our public footpaths are often spoiled by a minority who use these paths to exercise horses, drive motor vehicles or motor cycles along them and make walking a hazardous task. I sometimes wonder whether people know where they can go, or could it be they are a law unto themselves! A way-marker with 'footpath' on it is just for walkers. If you use a bridleway you would expect to be rough going because horses have every right to use it. The definition of a byroad or byway means it can be used by vehicles as well as walkers and horse riders. **(Keith Leppard)**

VILLAGE HALL - Planning permission has been granted to place a large sign on the hall saying 'Alkham Village Hall'. It has also been decided to increase hire charges by about 15% from June 2003.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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	Police - 999 phone and 01303 850055	W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475
	Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130	Alkham web site alkham.info

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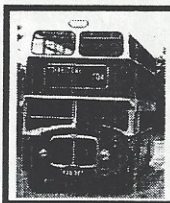
MARQUIS REOPENS – The Marquis of Granby opened for business again on the 23rd of May after being closed for a couple of weeks for a complete refurbishment. The Marquis is owned by Hugh Oxborough but the tenancy has been bought by Paul and Alison Hood who used to be at the Park Inn in Dover. They would like to welcome all villagers back to the pub including families and children. There will be a revamped menu and a number of real ales. A pint of Adnams will cost about £1.80 and future guest ales may be cheaper. The bar nearest the road will eventually be a non-smoking lounge bar with comfortable seating. The dartboard has been replaced in the other bar and seating will be put outside in front of the pub. There will be an official opening in late June. (ed:tor)



SUNFLOWER COMPETTITION

I'm pleased to say that there have been some more entries in the children's section. Keran and Keel

Jones who live off Hogbrook Lane have entered as well four year old Molly and one year old Ellie Laflin. The Laflin family have recently moved into the village and we wish them a warm welcome. (editor)



EAST KENT HERITAGE

have started a service on Sundays with the old cream and red buses. They

pick up in Alkham and go to Dover or Folkestone. For further information please look on the village notice board or give me a ring on 824969. (editor)

MANY THANKS to Ted Baker, who used to live in the Alkham, for his very generous donation to the village. Ted now lives in a nursing home in Devon and the donation is in memory of his late wife and also himself.

FARMER'S MARKET

Capel-le-Ferne Village Hall
each Tuesday 10am to 1pm.

Local produce - vegetables,
fruit, meat, bread, fish,
preserves, eggs, cakes, crafts,
refreshments etc
Phone 01303 245399

THE PARISH COUNCILLORS

are Neil Burrows (Chairman), Paul Tapsell (Vice Chairman), Vince Holness, Helen Scopes, Geoffrey Lymer, Edith Wash-Neve and Devina Bartlett. The outgoing Chairman since 1989, George Tyler, was warmly thanked at the Parish Council meeting for all his work over the years and was given a framed picture of Alkham, painted by Margaret Knowles.

FETE COMMITTEE

A meeting will be held in the Village Hall on the 4th June at 8.00pm to finalise arrangements for this year's fete. Everybody is welcome so please come along and give support.

TENNIS COACH – David Whitehouse, who lives in the parish, gives tennis coaching for groups and individuals both adults and juniors. To find out more please ring him on 07810261834.

FOOTBALL PRACTICE

There will be football practice every Tuesday evening from 6.00 pm until 7.15 pm on the Vicarage Meadow football pitch. Children of all ages are welcome, both girls and boys. Anyone who has football skills will, if interested, be introduced to either Dover or Folkestone Youth football clubs. We need your support so come and along and see. Mums and Dads are welcome to take part if they can stand the pace. It's rough, it's tough, it's great fun. Anyone can contact me on 823720 (Ken Hammond known by the lads as Tiger, a very old tiger) *At the Parish Council meeting it was agreed that, subject to cost, new nets would be bought and stored to be put up and then taken down at the end of each practice session.*

RURAL COMMUNITY WARDEN

– The Parish Council is going to express an interest in having a Rural Community Warden. As I understand it, they are paid civilians who patrol rural areas and report back to the police. There have been some items on the Teletext pages praising their contribution so it looks as though it would be a good idea. (editor)

For sale: 'Multiyork' mahogany table lamp, excellent condition, no offers please. If interested please contact Irene, Halton Court, tel. 824845

BOB & BARBARA PALMER

would like to thank everyone who came to the coffee morning on Saturday 17th. It was a great success and a total of £210 was raised. Your support and generosity was much appreciated. Thank you.

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1 Cliffe Road, Kingsdown, Deal

Tel. 01304 381622

High Street, St. Margarets at Cliffe, Dover

Tel. 01304 852960

Alkham Valley Meadows recently purchased the field, which is a touring caravan site, adjoining the Alkham Valley Garden Centre. You may have seen the improvements made to the site, which include a safe run-off from the Valley Road, various signs to do with safety and a new water pipe. There was a Caravan Club meeting over the May Bank Holiday and on the Sunday someone turned the water off, which resulted in a few irate caravanners. The owners would particularly like to thank Clive Banks, who lives at Sheriden, for supplying a water source and Sue Lees for helping out. The owners hope to attract a small number of tourists to the site and this should help support the Farm Shop, Tea Rooms and the Marquis of Granby. They should also be able to take advantage of all the lovely walks round Alkham and get a flavour of village life. (editor)

Alkham Valley Meadows

Touring Caravan Park

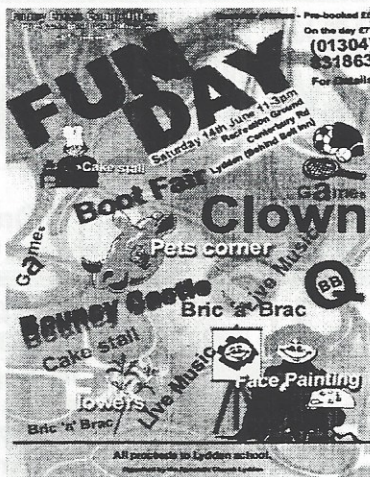
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206344



WOLVERTON – The post box at the bottom of Wolverton Hill will probably be moved to make way for a hard standing for the bus stop. There is also talk of changing the old telephone box at the top of the hill for a new one. This is opposed by some residents and also the Parish Council because it is a well-loved feature at Ewell Minnis.



14th June 11-3pm at Lydden behind the Bell Inn NEIGHBOURHOOD

WATCH is gradually getting off the ground again with Pat Martin from Dover as the overall co-ordinator. Area representatives have volunteered and these are: Larry Lambourne, Newlyn's Meadow; Vince Holness, Short Lane and Glebelands; Two at Ewell Minnis; Sue Lees, main road within the 30mph limit; Brian Wimsett, Slip Lane, Chalksole and Ellinge. In the near future all the representatives will meet to discuss the best way forward. I did have an e-mail from the owner of the house, which was burgled at South Alkham. He said that burglars are definitely in the area rather than as reported 'may be in the area'. The burglar had broken into one of his outbuildings and then smashed through a double glazed window using his garden spade. He also quite rightly comments that not everybody has access to the Internet to keep informed. However, the representatives for the area will be able to inform people by phone or in person. I asked the co-ordinator what common sense precautions could be taken to avoid such a burglary and she suggests a shed alarm or a DIY house alarm. She also says that with an active N.W. scheme some burglaries are prevented by vigilance and reporting of possible suspects using the telephone numbers printed in last month's Newsletter.....

REPRESENTATIVES are still required for South Alkham, Drellingore/Lower Standen, Chilton and the area towards Hougham, so if you'd like to volunteer please give me a ring on 824969. (editor)

RUBBISH has accumulated on White Hill, particularly at the Slip Lane end. DDC is going to clear it.

CARNIVAL PROMS

Dover Carnival Association, supported by local musicians, will again stage a festive "Last Night of the Proms" concert at 7.30 pm on the Friday of Dover Carnival Week, in Dover Town Hall. Being 4th July, the programme will include Gershwin and *Alexander's Ragtime Band*, but will also have a strong 'humanitarian' theme, and will still end with the traditional Proms Finale: *Jerusalem, Rule Britannia* and *Land of Hope and Glory*. All singers are welcome, but must attend at least 4 rehearsals, the first of which is at 7.30 pm on Thursday 5 June in River Methodist Church. For further details ring Michael Foad on 01303 242694. (Steve Osborn)

A FOOTWAY has appeared behind the new 5 house development on Hogbrook Lane causing concern to the adjoining homeowners. This was not in the planning application and the Parish Council is writing the developers about it. (editor)

GARDEN TALK - Members had a very pleasant time at Mr. End's nursery in Temple Ewell getting in supplies for summer bedding and the hanging baskets and also looking around. We then repaired to 'The Fox' for drinks, chips and chatter much enjoyed by all. Our next meeting will be at John and Sue Garlinge's home, 18 Newlyn's Meadow, on Tuesday 17th June. If you are new to the village and would like to come, be assured of a warm welcome. Garden wise we are very laid back. Speaking of which, forgive the pun, I think John may be talking about Hedge Laying. (Susannah Tapsell)

RUBBISH – I have had an e-mail asking if I'd print the following. There is a problem in Dover town whereby people put out their rubbish bags the night before collection for some reason or other. The result is that seagulls, foxes and other things break into the bags and scatter rubbish about. The situation is made worse when there is high wind and the mess is never properly cleaned up. I am noticing that this habit is creeping into our village with similar results and as our collection is not early morning we are being littered unnecessarily. If it is possible, please would parishioners give some thought to putting the rubbish out on collection day.

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ALKHAM PRODUCE SHOW

on July 12th. Here is a list of classes so that everyone will be well prepared to support the show in the Village Hall on Fete day! Seriously though, please do try to support us in our efforts. **PRODUCE** (Judge Keith Turner). **Section A.** Vegetables, 12 Classes-3 potatoes, any variety. 3 radishes with tops. 3 carrots with tops. 3 courgettes. 5 French beans. 5 pods of peas. 5 pods of broad beans. 1 lettuce any variety. 3 tomatoes. 3 onions, any other vegetable. **Section B.** Soft fruit, 4 Classes-6 raspberries. 6 gooseberries. 6 strigs of currents any colour. 6 strawberries. **Section C.** Cut flowers, 4 Classes-1 vase of sweet peas. 1 vase of dahlias. 1 vase of roses. 1 vase of flowers, any variety. **Section D.** Pot Plants. 4 Classes-1 geranium. 1 begonia, 1 fuchsia. 1 planted hanging basket. **COOKERY CLASSES** (Judge Maureen Hever)-5 Classes-1 decorated Madeira cake(to be judged overall). 1 Summer fruit flan. 6 Fruit Scones. 1 jar homemade Jam(soft or hard). 1 jar homemade Chutney. **CHILDREN'S CLASS.** A Gingerbread family. **YOUNG ART.** 11 years and under-

"A Day at the Seaside". 12 years and over-

"A **SURREALIST GARDEN**". So you see, there is something for everyone, we do hope you enjoy taking part. If you are the proud holder of any of the cups from past times, please could you return them to me in the next couple of weeks in order to keep costs down. Entry forms for the produce classes are available from Grace & Beattie, Glebelands, Susan Lees, Christine Tapsell, Sue Garlinge, 18 Newlyn's Meadow, Shirley Tapsell, 2 Valley Cotts. Rosemary Crothall, South Alkham, myself or in the hall on the day. If anyone from Ewell Minnis would like to have some to distribute, please let me know. Entry forms are not needed for the cookery and art classes. (**Susannah Tapsell**)

W.I. NEWS - We had our resolutions meeting when all of the motions were agreed, as they always are. We then proceeded to have our programme meeting. Many things were discussed and so hopefully next year's events should be as interesting as all those that have gone before. Next meeting is on June 10th and the speaker is Mrs Lambert on House Sitting. See you all there. (**Devina**)

CYCLING - A couple of mature parishioners have started cycling on a regular basis and average 20 to 40 miles most days (the latter with a tub of cockles at Deal). If anyone is interested in joining please ring 823720 (Tiger) for further details.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE

TAX MAN! There are envelopes on the pews in church, with a note inside explaining how we can claim back the tax on these donations or other gifts. If you have signed a Declaration form please put the money into the envelope with your name then seal and put it into the collection bag. We can then claim the tax on the amount given. If you have not yet given us a Declaration and you and/or your spouse are tax payers maybe you would consider completing the slip inside the envelope and enclosing it with your collection. You do not need to specify any amount, or regular payment, but when you have signed a form we can claim tax on anything given at a future date from the Inland Revenue getting an extra 28p for every £1 donated. At the end of the year 2002 we had an excess of expenditure over income of more than £3,000. This is almost entirely due to the expiry of some old covenants, people leaving the village and, sadly, the demise of some of our supporters. Obviously, we now have to find ways of rectifying this worrying situation and reclaiming as much money as possible from the tax man is one way. Even if you are no longer a tax payer, if you pay tax on investments or savings and provided you pay enough tax in the year to cover your donation, we can claim some of it. I don't think there are many of us who would not like to "be one up on" the tax man and this is one way. If you need further details my phone number is 01304 820701. (**Marion Banks-Nash - Church Treasurer**)

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WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Keep Fit 9.30 -10.30 am Wednesday club 10.30-11.30am
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events

(VH= Village Hall and VM= Vicarage Meadow)

Sunday	1	Cricket v The George Brown Invitation XI 2pm VM
Wednesday	4	Fete meeting 8.00pm in Village Hall – all welcome
Saturday	7	Bingo 7.30pm in VH – ring Beverley on 824765
Sunday	8	Cricket v Betteshanger 2pm VM
Tuesday	10	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Monday	16	Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	17	Garden Talk – see page 2
Sunday	29	Cricket v Westbourne 2pm VM

RIVER – Alkham is now in the District of River and the local Councillors are as below. Sue Nicholas said at the Parish Council meeting that they hoped to change the name to 'Alkham and River'.

CHURCH SERVICES

	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
June 1st	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping Together 11.00a.m.
June 8th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping Together 11.00 a.m.	Dover Deanery Service, Canterbury Cathedral 6.30 p.m.
June 15th	Worshipping Together 11.00 a.m.	Sung Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
June 22nd	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Anthony's Alkham, 10.00 a.m.		
June 29th	Worshipping Together 11.00 a.m.	Benefice picnic tea 5.30 p.m. followed by Evensong at St Mary's at 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.

Weekday Services: Morning Prayer at St Radigund, Capel - Monday-Saturday at 8.30 am (except Bank Holidays); Evening Prayer at St Laurence, Hougham - Wednesday at 5.00 p.m. Eucharist at St Radigund, Capel - Thurs at 9.15 a.m. followed by refreshments

ELDERFLOWER WINE 1 (generous) pint elderflowers, 1 tspn grape tannin, 3 ½lb sugar [nutrient], 1 crushed Camden tablet, 8 oz raisins, juice 3 lemons, or any 3 citrus fruits, 1 gallon water, yeast. **Recipe** : - Collect the flowers on a sunny day when they are fully open. If the flowers don't fall off easily, cut them from the stems with a pair of scissors. Put them in a plastic bucket, with the sugar and raisins and pour over the boiling water. When cool, add (tannin, nutrient, Camden tablet if available), lemon juice and yeast. Put in a warm place, well covered for 4-5 days to ferment, then strain into the fermentation jar or plastic container. Top up to a gallon with cooled boiled water and cover the top allowing gasses to escape but preventing any minute inquisitive insects to enter! Strain off of the sediment after 2 months. This wine should be ready after about 6 months. (Sue Lees)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 2193704	Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Kevin Mephram 01303 244119
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Ken Hammond 823720
District Councillors Sue Nicholas 823956 Andrew Richardson 211835	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	Police – 999 phone and 01303 850055	W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475
	Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130	Alkham web site alkham.info

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn Meadow 824201
ALKHAM MEADOWS	Touring Caravan Park – Next to Garden Centre	Alkham Valley Road 206344
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance removal	Wolverton 824853 & 07973 501390
BED & BREAKFAST	Owler Lodge with Pat and Bill Owler	Alkham Valley Road 826375
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 824991
CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians , dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis 822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 828007 & 07889310479
CURTAINS & BLINDS	Curtains and blinds made to your specification	Alkham Valley 01303 891806
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham 01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmains Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES	Alkham Valley Garden Centre – everything for horse and rider	South Alkham 01303 891996
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with gift shop and village shop	South Alkham 01303 893351
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton 822420
LIVERY	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liveries	Megget Lane, South Alkham 01303 892056
POST OFFICE	Southdown Stores general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	London rd, Temple Ewell 827100
SCHOOL	Capel-le-ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-ferne 01303 251353
VEHICLES	Vehicle Valuations Used car specialist, Folkestone	53 Bradstone Avenue, 01303 253212

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ALKHAM VILLAGE FETE will
be held on Vicarage Meadow on the 12th
July. For full details, please see page 2.

OOPS - In last month's Newsletter I
included an advert for Irene Barnard and
somehow managed to get everything wrong.
I thought that the advert was for a table lamp
but it was actually for a lamp table. I also
lost the price somehow, so the advert is:

For sale: 'Multiyork' mahogany
side table 20" square. £60. If
interested please contact Irene,
Halton Court, on 824845

CROP CIRCLES - There was an
article and picture in the 12th of June edition
of the Dover Express about crop circles,
which had appeared in the field opposite
Sladden Farm. Dover Express had phoned
me and I said that it was almost certainly due
to the farmer cutting thistles down with a
mower. In true journalistic fashion, they had
no wish for facts to come into the story and
printed it anyway. I later went to the field
and spoke to a small green man with an
aerial on his head who did in fact confirm
that they were crop circles. (editor)

TWO more people have entered
the Sunflower competition
bringing the entries to about 40.
All children entered will be given a
certificate and the winner, a cup.

THE GOOD NEWS is that
the sickle mower works well and
Ken Hammond and I will cut the
majority of the churchyard with it.
Volunteers will be sought to turn
the hay and also do some
strimming round the more difficult
graves. If anybody would like to
volunteer, please give me a ring on
824969. (editor)

THANKS go to Peter Frater for
his generous donation to the sickle
mower appeal. Church finances
have nothing to do with me but I
do know that the church runs at a
loss and this is one reason for
safeguarding any capital that the
PCC hold. (editor)

FARMER'S MARKET
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each Tuesday 10am to 1pm.

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fruit, meat, bread, fish,
preserves, eggs, cakes, crafts,
refreshments etc
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CHURCH WINDOW

Some moron broke the stained
glass window on the left hand side
of the porch to St. Anthony's
church. A couple of children have
said who was responsible and I'd
like to print the name but without
categoric proof, I can't. However,
his name has been noted and a
careful watch will be kept, such
that if any further incidents occur it
is hoped that some adult will give
evidence in court. (editor)

THE VILLAGE HALL has
its new sign on the front wall,
thanks to Ernie Cook who
persuaded two chippies from the
new development to put it up. It
certainly stands out and thanks
must go to the Jubilee Committee
for donating it.

LOCAL PRODUCE - Alkham
Valley Nursery, which is accessed
through the Garden Centre, has 'pick
your own' strawberries, runner beans
and other local produce sourced from a
20 mile radius of Alkham for sale.

**ALKHAM VALLEY GARDEN
CENTRE** has been sold and bought by
Bill and Caroline, who have 15 years
experience in the business. Their aim is
to get it back to being a proper garden
centre and they are currently restocking
with a full range of plants. They will
continue with the terracotta pots, a better
range of stoneware (existing is reduced
by 50%) plus garden furniture and create
something the village can be proud of.
They will carry on selling milk, eggs and
newspapers and the restaurant will
continue as normal. (editor)

A COFFEE MORNING at Box
Tree Cottage, Slip Lane, will be held on
Saturday 5th July from 10.30 to 12 noon.
The proceeds will be split between the
Church Fabric Fund and the Village
Hall, so please do come along and
support it. There will be the usual Bring
and Buy stall and raffle, and if you fancy
a swim (the water should be warm), dive
in. All welcome, and this certainly
includes the gents. (Pamela Sayers)

MEADOW HILL COTTAGES
which stand on the site of the old barn on
Hogbrook Lane are now complete. Oakley
New Homes are to be congratulated on the
high standard of workmanship and finish,
which includes fencing, landscaping and
shrubs. At present, all but one of the
houses is sold. (editor)

COFFEE MORNING to be held
at Forstal Cottage, home of Rob and
Susan Lees on Saturday 26th July.
Everyone welcome. Proceeds to St.
Anthony's Alkham. (Sue Lees)

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ALKHAM VILLAGE FETE

The Fete this year will take place on the Vicarage Meadow at 2 pm on Saturday the 12th July 2003 to be opened by our Vicar Kevin Mephram. Anyone who would like to help either with a stall or otherwise should contact me and I can guarantee that I will be able to find you a job. Please can we have lots of hearty souls (including at least one from each stall) to help put up the tents on Saturday morning (9 o'clock) and to take them down afterwards - and the more helpers we have the easier everything becomes (last year was wonderful, please let's do the same, or better, again!). Please note - We will need to clear the village hall car park by 1 p.m. to allow for parking for the disabled; in addition for safety reasons all stallholder's cars must be removed from the Meadow before 1.30. We will have all the usual attractions and features (classic vehicles, brass band, dancing, tug of war, children's races, etc) as well as all your favourite stalls (and a couple of new ones!). If you can help the following by donating goods/prizes, please liaise directly with the relevant smallholders. Bric-a-Brac - Den & Irene Barnard (824845); Tombola and/or Raffle Prizes- The Poldens (824876); Needlework- Margaret Knowles (822220); Produce - Richard Tapsell (822295); Plants-Sue Tapsell (822295); Books- Sue Lees (822661); Baskets

Alkham Valley Meadows

Touring Caravan Park

Alkham Village

Telephone

01304 206344



and/or Hoopla prizes- Christine Tapsell (822282); Jewellery and/or Cakes Barbara Palmer (824973). In addition we have the Children's Art competition - The theme is "A Day at the Seaside", for the "under 11's" and A Surrealist Garden" for those "12 and over" and entries can be paintings, drawings, or models. (Shirley Tapsell 822638) and the Produce show classes as follows - Section A, Vegetables Class (1) 3 potatoes (2) 3 radishes (with tops), (3) 3 carrots (with tops), (4) 3 courgettes (5) 5 french beans, (6) 5 pods of peas, (7) 5 pods of Broad Beans, (8) 1 lettuce, (9) 3 Tomatoes, (10) 3 onions, (11) Any kind of vegetable not listed above. Section B, Soft Fruit. Class (1) 6 Raspberries, (2) 6 Gooseberries, (3) 6 strigs of currants (red, black or white) and (4) 6 Strawberries. Section C Cut Flowers (1) 1 vase of sweet peas, (2) 1 vase of dahlias (£0 1 vase of roses, (4) 1 vase of flowers (any variety) Section D Pot Plants (1) 1 geranium, (2) 1 begonia, (3) 1 fuchsia (4) 1 Hanging basket. Cookery Competition (1) decorated Madeira cake, (2) 1 Summer fruit flan, (3) 6 fruit scones, (4) 1 jar homemade Jam (5) 1 jar homemade chutney. Children's Cookery A Gingerbread family. There should also be a large scale model of "the Alkham that might have been" and a display of Fuchsias in the village hall. Raffle Tickets and Fete Posters/Car Stickers are still available, if you want either please call me on 01303 892082 (not after 8.30p.m. though!). Finally please ensure all unsold raffle tickets are returned to Dot Polden or myself by Wednesday July 9th. (Paul Tapsell)

GARDEN TALK - A delightful evening was spent at the home of John and Sue Garlinge. Slurping our wine we wandered round the garden, all of us able to appreciate the hard work and clever design that had developed it from building site to the lovely garden that it is today. John then gave us an informative and sometimes hilarious talk on hedge laying. The work that he and his fellow helpers do can be seen if you take a walk along the Pimlico byway. We then assaulted our senses finding out about herbs through touch and smell, by way of an exercise prepared by Sue. Thank you both very much. The next meeting will be on Friday 18th July 7.30pm at Brook House, Meggett Lane when we will not only be visiting John and Rosemary's

garden but also John and Hilary's, who live next door and have to cope with major floods every time the Alkham Bourne flows.

"ANYONE WHO HAS A HEART" problem, and there are sadly very many of us in Alkham who have experienced first hand the sterling work that The British Heart Foundation does and will want, I'm sure, along with many others, to support and sponsor our editor, Brian together with Ken Hammond and Billy Hollis when they take part in one of The British Heart Foundation's major annual fund raising events, "The London to Southend Cycle Ride" on Sunday 13th July. I do hope you can support them by contacting Brian (824969) with your pledge. (Susannah Tapsell)

FOOTBALL - Since last month, we have had a good response. On one Tuesday evening, we had as many as 25 young people playing football on the pitch by Vicarage Meadow. We had a great game but the best part of these football sessions is the building of friendship and that can only be good for young people and our village. There are six lads, all about 9 years old, who are interested in joining Dover Rangers Football Club. I think they have got what it takes as long as they get full support from their parents. We also have three lads who will be fifteen by August, who have a fairly good session with Folkestone Invicta. They want to play for Dover Athletic next season and they are, Robert Allen, Paul Price and Lee Martin. All three have a lot to offer football. Last but not least, we have two ladies, Tasha and Haley who have both regularly attended our Tuesday football, both giving 100%. They are keen, skilful and very popular with the lads. Oh, and of course, there is young Ben, a very skilful player and great in goal who could go a long way but shows no real interest in joining a club. Maybe one day? - watch this space. The Parish Council has given us some money for new nets, which have arrived. That's all for now except with the talent and skills we have, one day it could be watch out Manchester United. (Ken Hammond alias Tiger) 15 yellow tops have also been purchased recently, 5 each of boy's, youth's and men's sizes.

MANY THANKS to Betty Neely for her kind financial donation to the Newsletter. (editor)

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OBITUARIES

KEVIN SMITH died recently in the Pilgrim's Hospice at Canterbury. On a lovely June evening his coffin, decorated with wild flowers, was carried on the back of a tractor from the car park at Sladden Farm, which he owned with wife Di, up to the edge of the wood. 100 mourners followed behind and stood round the grave with 'Maggie' (Rev. Margaretta Bundy) conducting the service, which consisted of hymns and a lovely solo by Maggie accompanied by her son on the guitar. Deepest sympathy goes to Diana Smith (Di) who organised a ceremony, which was a definite celebration of a life well lived.

RONALD PRESCOTT - Ron was the youngest son of the Prescott family who farmed at South Alkham Farm until the 1980's. Ron (born 1925) and his wife Tessa, who predeceased him, lived at Chalksole Green. They left daughters Christine and Linda and grandchildren, Matt, Lee, Abby and Hannah.

GERALD SNAPE - Gerry (born 1919) farmed Hockley Sole from 1954, taking over the estate on his father's death. A much respected farmer in the district. Gerry was not long to survive his wife Asta, who died January this year. They left daughter Karin and son Nigel and grandchildren Hugo, Toby, Catherine, Jamie and Flora.

PHYLLIS AUSTIN - Phyllis moved to Alkham from Dumfries with her two sons in 1970 and bought the bungalow 'Cherrybank'. She lived in Alkham until 2000 when she moved to Sholden Hall residential home in Deal where she lived until she passed away peacefully on the 13th June 2003, aged 89 years. Phyllis qualified in poultry farming at Writtle College of Agriculture before the Second War.

OZ on BORROW - July 5th is the 200th birthday of perhaps the most athletic of Victorian eccentrics. George Borrow was born in East Dereham, Norfolk, the younger son of a Cornish army captain and a local farmer's daughter. The family continued moving with the regiment, being stationed at Hythe in 1806 and Canterbury in 1807. While completing his education at Norwich, Borrow distinguished himself by saving a lad from drowning in the river. Working as solicitor's clerk, he became fluent in over twenty languages, including Romany, and spent his spare time with gypsies, who admiringly named him Lavengro, meaning "Word Master". In 1833 Borrow applied to work with the Bible Society. The interview was in London, a distance of 112 miles, which he walked in 27½ hours at a cost of fivepence halfpenny for a bread roll, two apples, a pint of ale and a glass of milk. He got the job and spent seven happy years travelling the world as the society's agent. In 1840 Borrow married a wealthy officer's widow and retired to Oulton Broad, where he wrote the books on autobiographical and gypsy themes that made him famous. In 1853, he performed another life-saving exploit, single-handedly rescuing the crew of a boat foundering in thirty-foot waves off Yarmouth. Borrow was an unusual man, arousing mixed feelings in others; he was physically strong and active, but morbidly shy, and suffered intermittently from "the horrors", his name for recurring depression. For one who loved the outdoors, he was remarkably ignorant of wildlife, his consciousness revolving around mood and atmosphere. This sensitivity is beautifully expressed by Gypsy Petulengro's lyrical outburst in *Lavengro*: "There's night and day, brother, both sweet things; sun, moon, and stars, brother, all sweet things; there's likewise a wind on the heath. Life is very sweet, brother; who would wish to die?" (Steve Osborn)

After various jobs working with poultry in and around Essex, she became a labour officer for the Women's Land Army during the War in South-West Scotland covering Dumfries and Galloway. She had a little Austin 7 car to get about. She had many 'memorable' experiences sorting out the problems of the Army of mainly young Glaswegian girls sent to work on the isolated farms. On one farm in Galloway that she visited, she found that they would cook porridge and then pour it into the sideboard drawer to set. It was then sliced and eaten when required! She met her future husband, Will, whilst she was working for the Land Army in Scotland after the War. She married in 1950 and settled in Dumfries, but after only seven years of marriage, Will died in 1957 after a long period of ill health. Phyllis was now left a widow with two young sons aged 6 and 4 years old, and no immediate plans for the future. The Duke of Norfolk, to whom Will had been a tenant farmer, then offered her the opportunity of continuing in the farm until such a time as the boys became of age and could decide for themselves if farming was to become their career. After much deliberation, she accepted. The challenge would have tested even the strongest of men, let alone a woman with two young children to care for. She was fortunate to find a good foreman and

his wife who became loyal friends throughout her time as a farmer. She successfully ran the mixed farm for 13 years producing wheat, barley, oats, potatoes and rearing beef cattle and sheep which were much sought after. When her sons decided not to make farming their careers Phyllis moved down to Alkham. Retirement never entered her mind. Initially she became a business partner in a small hotel at Kearsney for a couple of years. Phyllis then worked for several years as a voluntarily escort driver for the blind taking them out on daytrips and making more good friends. In Alkham, she had the friendship of many over the years including Betty and Gordon Preston, Elaine Crothall, Adsey Cowans and Dorothy and Steve Norris. In later years her neighbours at Cherrybank, Bert and Barbara, as well as John and Diane, gave her help and support. Bert was always on hand to help her during the many winter power cuts! Her friendship with Will and Kath Goldfinch, in particular, was a continual feature over the years. She was a compulsive knitter throughout her life producing many fine pieces including intricate Christening shawls of Shetland wool, as well as making many kneelers for Alkham Church. Phyllis enjoyed her 30 years at Cherrybank and was always very grateful for the many friends who featured in her life there and who helped her to continue to live independently in her bungalow for so many years. (Ian Austin)

Apologies to Bradford and Bingley for the omission of their advert - an extra one will be placed at the end of the year.

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Keep Fit 9.30 -10.30 am Wednesday club 10.30-11.30am
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events

(VH= Village Hall and VM= Vicarage Meadow)

Saturday	5	Bingo 7.30pm in VH – ring Beverley on 824765
Saturday	5	Coffee Morning – see page 1
Sunday	6	Cricket v Coldred 2.30pm VM
Tuesday	8	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	12	FETE see page 2
Sunday	13	Cricket v Bossingham 2.30pm on Vicarage Meadow
Monday	14	Village Hall Committee meeting in VH 8pm
Thursday	17	Neighbourhood Watch
Friday	18	Garden Talk – see page 2
Monday	21	Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	26	Coffee Morning – see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
July 6th	Evensong 6.30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worshipping together 11.00am
July 13th	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worshipping together 11.00am	Songs of Praise in village hall 6.30pm
July 20th	Worshipping together 11.00 am	Sung Evensong 6.30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am
July 27th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Laurence, Hougham 10.00 a.m.		

Weekday Services: Morning Prayer at St Radigund, Capel - Monday-Saturday at 8.30 am (except Bank Holidays); Evening Prayer at St Laurence, Hougham - Wednesday at 5.00pm Eucharist at St Radigund, Capel - Thurs at 9.15 a.m. followed by refreshments

W.I. NEWS - We had a wonderful evening's entertainment from the very feisty Mrs Lambert. She regaled us with her many experiences as a house sitter, from being instructed by a vicar to keep his daughter and her boyfriend out of the bedroom!, apprehending a stranger on the landing, only to find out he was a family friend! Then there was the spider who set off the alarms of the mansion she was staying at and frightening her and a young policeman to death. Her obvious love of animals came through as well from the gun dog with the "bad leg" to the snake that everyone said was in her imagination. We laughed all the way through. Next meeting is on July 8th and is entitled Joyce Grenfell. (Devina Bartlett)

LIGHTNING – It's odd to report myself, but on June 1st, both Ken Hammond and I were struck by lightning in the field opposite Valley Cottages. I went elsewhere for a few seconds and Ken fell to the ground unconscious. We both survived but in the interest of science, I bought a Lottery ticket on the next Wednesday and got two numbers. (editor)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 2193704	Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Kevin Mephram 01303 244119
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Ken Hammond 823720
District Councillors Sue Nicholas 823956 Andrew Richardson 211835	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susandlees.freemove.co.uk	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	Police – 999 phone and 01303 850055	W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475
	Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130	Alkham web site alkham.info

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn's Meadow	824201
ALKHAM MEADOWS	Touring Caravan Park – Next to Garden Centre	Alkham Valley Road	206344
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance removal	Wolverton	824853 & 07973 501390
BED & BREAKFAST	Owler Lodge with Pat and Bill Owler	Alkham Valley Road	826375
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton	824991
CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians, dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis	822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis	828007 & 07889310479
CURTAINS & BLINDS	Curtains and blinds made to your specification	Alkham Valley	01303 891806
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham	01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmains Farm	Alkham	202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham	827644
EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES	Alkham Valley Garden Centre – everything for horse and rider	South Alkham	01303 891996
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with gift shop and village shop	South Alkham	01303 893351
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton	822420
LIVERY	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liveryes	Megget Lane, South Alkham	01303 892056
POST OFFICE	Southdown Stores general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	London rd, Temple Ewell	827100
SCHOOL	Capel-le-ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-ferne	01303 251353
VEHICLES	Vehicle Valuations Used car specialist, Folkestone	53 Bradstone Avenue,	01303 253212

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No. 120 August 2003

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THE FETE - Vicarage Meadow was once again transformed on the 12th of July as a small band of volunteers erected tents, marquis and the coconut shy. The weather was superb and this may have been the reason that the takings were up on last year with £3659 being raised. After expenses the net profit was £2672, which will be split in a similar fashion to last year with the exact amounts being decided on the 27th August.

WHAT A GREAT DAY for the fete. To you who worked so hard before, during and after; the poor tired few who create and then stay behind to leave the Meadow as it was! Such organisation in anything is wonderful and hard work, but you who care for our village were superb - excellent. Thank you all. We are proud of you. (Beattie Jeapes)

FETE RAFFLE - The first prize of £200 was won by S Ryder. Richard Lott won a case of beer. The Old Rectory a bottle of port and Julie Horne won an M & S gift voucher. There were 18 other prize winners all of whom have been contacted.

SUNFLOWER ENTRIES - Most sunflowers must now be flowering so it's probably time to measure them. Please ring me on 824969 or get an independent person to measure it and send the details. (editor)

CAL & HELEN would like to thank everyone who supported the Charity Pig Roast & Disco recently. The weather was wonderful and we had lots of fun. The music was great, thanks to Dave Chapman and his wife who gave their services free. A special thanks go to our friend Brian who worked so hard for days before and after plus Richard Tapsell who gave his time making the garden look so nice. We raised £625 of which £400 will go to the Pilgrim's Hospice and £225 to our local RSPCA. (Helen Scopes)

SEATS - The two wooden seats, which were vandalised in front of the cricket pavilion, are to be replaced and sited at locations that are more visible. One will be placed near the large tree by the bus shelter and the other on the car park side of the dyke mirroring the Millennium seat by the wooden bridge across the dyke. The undergrowth round the seat on the bank on the Dover side of Vicarage Meadow will be cut back by a working party later in the month. Bob Palmer has kindly offered to mend the two vandalised benches, which will be reinstated at new locations. (editor)

FARMER'S MARKET

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YOUNGSTERS - At Capel-le-Ferne and at the bottom of Dover Hill there is a meeting point for youngsters. The first is a shelter arrangement and the second three tubular steel seats in a circle with a roof over. It has been suggested that a similar arrangement should be provided at Alkham but the Parish Council cannot afford the cost, which would run into thousands of pounds. Bryan Cope, the County Councillor for this region, said that

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the third highest priority for the Council was the provision of sports facilities for teenagers and the shelter may come under that category. Parish Councillor Vince Holness is going to investigate the matter. (editor)

SHORT LANE - A request had been made to the Highway Authority to install road humps on Short Lane because of the number of children who play in the road and the danger from speeding traffic. Dover District Council say that humps cannot be justified because there have been no recorded accidents. The Parish Council advised that the best course of action was to report all near misses and other incidents to the police or Parish Council such that pressure will be put on DDC to respond.

DESECRATION - Action has been taken with regard to the smashing of the stained glass window in the porch of St. Anthony's and the desecration of a tablet on the memorial wall. Proceedings are continuing and it is hoped that further details can be published when the enquiries are complete. (editor)

PAST TIMES - I recently showed Brook Junior School round the Agricultural Museum where I'm the curator. We got to the point where the bellows and anvil are situated and I asked the class if they knew what a blacksmith was. An innocent looking lad at the back put his hand up and said "Yes, it's a pub". (editor)

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

A meeting was held in the village hall to kick start the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. At present, the representatives are: Larry Lambourne, Newlyn Meadow; Ken Hammond, Alkham Valley Road from Slip Lane to the village limit westwards; Brian Wimsett, Slip Lane to White Hill and up to Chalksole; Helen Scopes, upper Slip Lane; Vince Holness, Short Lane and Glebelands. Various names have been suggested for the remaining areas of the parish and these people will be contacted to see if they are willing to join. Representatives should have a computer or access to one and I've been checked and currently receive e-mails from the 'ringmaster'. Should there be anything of concern then the representatives will produce copies of the information and distribute it to the people in their area. The system works in the opposite direction with information going back to the 'ringmaster'. Of the e-mails I've had so far, there are details of burglaries which have taken place when people have left windows open when going out or going to bed and the advice is to make sure they are closed. There will be another meeting at the end of August to finalise arrangements. (editor)

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BIKE RIDE - The bike ride from London to Southend in aid of the British Heart Foundation on the 13th of July went well and grateful thanks go to the people in Alkham who sponsored the four riders to a sum in excess of £500. Ken Hammond and I completed the 60 mile course in about four hours but this achievement was nothing compared to the families who cycled in groups and the individuals who only rode occasionally through the year. Whilst taking a drink break by the side of the road a lady, not dissimilar to the Vicar of Dibley, rode serenely by as did a fellow on a chopper bike who is still probably walking like John Wayne. It was a terrific day and greatly enjoyed by the locals who took part and this was only possible because of the generosity of Billy Hollis (Hollis Motors) who provided the two vehicles and drivers to take us from Alkham to London and then home from Southend. (editor)

THE LETTER BOX at the bottom of Wolverton Hill has been removed. It was generally thought that it was at a dangerous location but the Parish Council considered that it would have been better if the parish had been consulted first. If anybody does object to its removal would they please ring the Parish Clerk on 822661.

PRODUCE SHOW. May I thank all those people who supported the show with their many exhibits. The judge was very complimentary about the standard of entries. Certificates were awarded to very many exhibitors and the display of their produce was much appreciated by the many visitors. The Best Exhibit in the Vegetable Section was won by John Norris with his magnificent onions, the Fruit Section by Richard Tapsell with his blackcurrants, Barbara Palmer won the Floral trophy for her lovely vase of flowers and Bob Palmer won not only Best in Section with his begonia, but also Best Exhibit in Show. Winners in the Cookery competition were Sue Garlinge and Paris Bates and in the Art, Gemma Tapsell and Sarah Ryder. Thank you to everyone, especially John and Simon Norris and Shirley Tapsell for their help. (Susannah Tapsell)

BOOK STALL - What a day (steaming hot sun), what a site (facing the steaming hot sun) and something like a thousand books marked up and ready to sell! 2pm and away we go hands waving with piles of books to buy - two hours later £234 taken, and still there are books for sale; interested? Then go to the Village Hall and take your pick, donations to Village Hall. (Sue Lees)

THANKS - May I take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to this year's Fete. It is invidious to name individuals because there were so many people whose efforts made the whole so much greater than the sum of the parts, but I must thank the unsung backroom boys and girls, particularly the tent erectors (and movers), the car parkers, the tea ladies, the veggie hot dog sellers, the very generous donators of raffle prizes, the competition organisers, judges and competitors and everyone who helped clear the site. The Fete AGM will be at 8 p.m. on the 27th August 2003 in the Village Hall so, if you enjoyed the day and want to help next year, or didn't and can give us a hand to improve it please come along. (Paul Tapsell)

Without Paul there would be no fete to organise - so many thanks to Paul. (editor)

CHALKSOLE GREEN at the top of White Hill, which is officially the village green, is going to have the undergrowth cut down. Mick Wingfield, who is the pond warden for Alkham is still considering options for the pond on the green. If you've got any opinions as to what should be done to the area please contact the Parish Clerk on 822661. Chalksole Green is seldom used and it would seem like a good idea to have some paths defined and perhaps a few clearings where a seat could be put perhaps overlooking a refurbished pond? We own it so we may as well make use of it.

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W.I. NEWS - Mrs Woolf gave us an insight into the life of Joyce Grenfell. She quoted her favourite pieces from some of her many books and sang to us with the most beautifully clear voice. It was very brave of her to just up and do all of this in front of an audience, but then that is exactly what Ms Grenfell herself would have done in her day. A thoroughly entertaining evening. Next meeting will be Member's Night on August 12th. (**Devina Bartlett**)

GREEN GANG - White Cliffs Countryside Project has organised some family activities for the summer holiday. On the 9th of August there is a Samphire Hoe Weekend when there will be displays about its wildlife, competitions and hints on sea angling. On the 23rd of August, there is National Bat Night with a walk round the Western Heights with bat detectors. On the 25th of August, there is Kings, Castles and Cutthroats at Deal. There is something arranged for every day during August so if you want to know more please ring me to see the brochure (824969) or the contact the organisers on 241806. (**editor**)

GARDENTALK - This month we visited the gardens of next door neighbours, John and Rosemary Crothall and John and Hilary Mitchell in Meggett Lane. and we enjoyed a lovely evening. The gardens were absolutely delightful and after we had enjoyed them to the full, we then teased our brains with a most interesting famous gardens quiz. Thank you for your hospitality. The next meeting will be held at "The Vicarage" on Tuesday 19th August at 7.30pm when you are most welcome to join us. (**Susannah Tapsell**)

OZ on BEWICK - This summer has been abrim with anniversaries, including the 250th birthday of the engraver Thomas Bewick. Born on 14th August 1753, at Cherryburn House near Eltringham in Northumberland, to a tenant farmer and collier, Bewick was the oldest of eight children. He was apprenticed at the age of fourteen to the engraver Ralph Beilby, a prolific producer of everything from door-plates and clock-faces to banknotes and gold seals. After serving his seven years, Bewick worked at home for local publishers, but soon became restless. In the summer of 1776 he walked 500 miles from Newcastle through the Scottish Highlands, later explaining "I felt just as a bird would feel on escaping from its cage." After a brief and unhappy spell in London, Bewick returned to Newcastle, married, and rejoined Beilby in a partnership that lasted 20 years. During this time many of his exquisitely detailed wood-engravings were published in the *General History of Quadrupeds* and the *History of British Birds*, bringing immediate fame. These publications were reprinted many times from the original blocks well into the 19th century, one particular block producing over 900,000 prints without wear. The reason was that Bewick worked in hardwoods, across, instead of along, the grain, so that the blocks were small but robust. This method also allowed him to use natural cross-grain in his designs rather than adding hatching. Another technique was to lower parts of the blocks' surfaces to suggest distance. Bewick remained busy in old age with engraving, teaching, and writing his memoirs. Dr Blakey remembered him from this period as "a man of portly size... spending the evenings sipping his favourite beverage to the tune of five or six pints." Bewick died in November 1828 and is buried in Ovingham churchyard, just across the river from Cherryburn. (**Steve Osborn**)

COFFEE MORNING at Box Tree Cottage. A big thank you to all who so generously supported the coffee morning held on the 5th July in aid of the Church Fabric Fund and the Village Hall, and this includes all those who were unable to come but who thoughtfully gave donations beforehand. £234 was raised. Where did it all come from? This has been divided as above. It was good to see children and a few mums and dads in the pool, taking advantage of the warm weather. The weight of the cake was won by Susanna Tapsell and guessing the secret of Beattie's brown envelope - a thong - was won by a most embarrassed gentleman - Mike Sharp. The help given by many friends on the day was also particularly appreciated. The morning certainly couldn't have happened without their efficient help and assistance. A very sincere thank you. (**Pamela Sayers**)

VALLEY SOCIETY - To mark the Society's twenty fifth birthday we are planning to have a walk and picnic on Saturday the 23rd August meeting at the Village Hall about 10.30 and making our way to St Radigan's Abbey Farm for a spot of lunch. We propose to arrange things as an American Supper-type Bring and Share event with food being transported up to the Abbey by car while the majority of us

with dogs, children and all will enjoy a leisurely amble. The Society will even dip into its funds and stump up for a few bottles to mark the occasion. If you are interested in coming please call me on 01303 892082 so that we can arrange a variety of foodstuffs (otherwise it'll be scotch eggs all round). (**Paul Tapsell**)

COFFEE MORNING - Betty Neely is hosting a coffee morning in the Village Hall on the 23rd of August starting at 10.30 am. The reason for the coffee morning is to raise some funds for the Alkham Soup Kitchen. A couple of teams man the soup kitchen on about 12 evenings in the year and it is estimated that the cost of providing sandwiches, soup, coffee and tea is between £7 and £10 per night. Some people think that the soup kitchen is abused by people who are not homeless and just want a free meal. In part, this is right but there are also people there who are in desperate need who would not get anything to eat or drink without the soup kitchen.

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Tuesday	12	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Monday	18	Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	19	Garden Talk at 7.30 pm in the Old Vicarage
Saturday	23	Coffee morning – see page 3
Sunday	24	Cricket v Harrington Hackers 12 pm on Vicarage Meadow
Wednesday	27	Fete meeting in Village Hall at 8.00 pm
Saturday	30	Jumble Sale in the Village Hall 11.00 am – see opposite

CHURCH SERVICES

	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3rd	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.
Sunday 10th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.	Evensong 6.30 p.m.
Sunday 17th	Worshipping together 11.00a.m.	Sung evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
Sunday 24th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Radigund, Capel 10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 31st	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Sung Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Worshipping together 11.00 a.m.

Weekday Services: Morning Prayer at St Radigund, Capel - Monday-Saturday at 8.30 am (except Bank Holidays); Evening Prayer at St Laurence, Hougham - Wednesday at 5.00pm Eucharist at St Radigund, Capel - Thurs at 9.15 a.m. followed by refreshments

JUMBLE SALE – There is a jumble sale in the Village Hall on the 30th of August in aid of W.I. funds starting at 11.00 am.

OPEN DAY – An Open Day is being held at New Church Farm, Church Hougham on the 2nd of August from 10 am to 5.00 pm. There will be games, stalls and refreshments with proceeds going to Hougham Church.

FASHION SHOW – A fashion show is being held in the Village Hall on Thursday the 11th of September starting at 7.30 pm. On show will be well-known surplus High Street brands of women and men's clothing at reduced prices. Entry is £2 and further details can be obtained from Doreen Lott on 824876.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 2193704	Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Kevin Mephram 01303 244119
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Ken Hammond 823720
District Councillors Sue Nicholas 823956 Andrew Richardson 211835	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	Police – 999 phone and 01303 850055 Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130	W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475 Alkham web site alkham.info

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn's Meadow 824201
ALKHAM MEADOWS	Touring Caravan Park – Next to Garden Centre	Alkham Valley Road 206344
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance removal	Wolverton 824853 & 07973 501390
BED & BREAKFAST	Owler Lodge with Pat and Bill Owler	Alkham Valley Road 826375
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton 824991
CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians, dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis 822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis 828007 & 07889310479
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ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmains Farm	Alkham 202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham 827644
EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES	Alkham Valley Garden Centre – everything for horse and rider	South Alkham 01303 891996
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with gift shop and village shop	South Alkham 01303 893351
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton 822420
LIVERY	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liversies	Megget Lane, South Alkham 01303 892056
POST OFFICE	Southdown Stores general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	London rd, Temple Ewell 827100
SCHOOL	Capel-le-ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-ferne 01303 251353
VEHICLES	Vehicle Valuations Used car specialist, Folkestone	53 Bradstone Avenue, 01303 253212

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett: The Old Post Office
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Telephone 01304 824969

No. 121 September 2003

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WINDOW DAMAGE – In previous issues, mention has been made of the breaking of the stained glass window to the porch of St. Anthony's and the desecration of a plaque on the Memorial Wall. Because of the seriousness of the matter, the police were contacted and an officer from Dover came to the village and saw the damage. He then interviewed the young witness and later the police went to the house of the youth who allegedly caused the damage. He was interviewed with his parents with the result that the police wrote to the vicar, Kevin Mephram. They said that the young person had been given a reprimand and will therefore not be appearing in court but the action had been recorded and it may be brought to the attention of the court following any future conviction. The reaction and action of the police in this case is to be applauded. (editor)

CAR STOLEN – A car was stolen from the drive of a house in South Alkham shortly after the family returned home and fortunately, the baby had just been lifted out of the back and taken into the garden. There was no sound of the car being driven off so they must have pushed it into the road. The car was later found undamaged with the handbag inside in Millfield, Hawkinge.

FOUND – A watch was found on Vicarage Meadow on the 27th July. Please phone Vince on 827530 to claim. Also a distinctive Teddy Bear was found on Sladden Farm. Please ring Di on 825188.

ANNIVERSARY - TIN

It sometimes feels like an association by marriage as the Newsletter is ten years old this month. The first edition, produced by Tony Ingall, was in September 1993 and I took over in June 1997 with issue No. 46. Please see page 2 as well. (editor)

FARMER'S MARKET

Capel-le-Ferne Village Hall
each Tuesday 10am to 1pm.

Local produce

Phone 01303 245399

VANDALISED SEATS

Bob Palmer has asked me to print a correction to last month's Newsletter in which I said he was going to repair the seats in front of the cricket pavilion and they were going to be replaced at a different location. A condition of Bob repairing the benches is that they are put back where they are and not as reported. (editor)

A QUILT, FLOWER and Craft weekend is being held on the 13th and 14th of September in St. Lawrence Church, Hougham. The church will be filled with patchwork quilts and other crafts plus demonstrations and stalls. It will be open from 10am to 5pm and coffee, tea and lunches will be available. On Saturday there is a fish and chip supper and concert. For further details please ring Mr & Mrs Finnis on 01304 214891.

PETER CHAMBERS

Best wishes for a speedy recovery go to Peter Chambers, who lives in the village and has suffered a stroke. (editor)

MARQUIS OF GRANBY

Wednesday

MOULES NIGHT £7.95

Thursday

STEAK NIGHT £7.95

(16oz rib-eye)

COFFEE MORNING – I'm very pleased to report that a coffee morning, arranged by Betty Neely, in aid of the Alkham Soup Kitchen run made a profit of £162. Many thanks to all the people who helped and to those who came along to support. In addition, the Alkham PCC gave a cheque for £50. A detailed breakdown of costs show that one evening at the Soup Kitchen costs between £10 and £15 so the funds raised should provide enough money for the next 18 months. (editor)

A QUIZ NIGHT will be held in the village hall on Saturday the 18th of October commencing at 7.30pm. To book a table please ring Doreen Lott on 824876.

TRAVELLING TRENDS

Bargain price High Street clothes and other items will be on sale in the village hall on Thursday 11th September. Entry is by ticket only (£2) and these can be obtained from Doreen Lott on 824876.

ALKHAM VALLEY Society walk from the village hall to St. Radigunds Farm on the 23rd of August was cancelled because of a poor response. (*I understand that some people couldn't go because of holiday and other commitments*). (editor)

A COFFEE MORNING will be held in the Village Hall on September 6th at 10.30am in aid of Alkham PCC.

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Tel. 01304 852960

Alkham Valley Meadows

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Alkham Village

Telephone

01304 206344



and this sunflower came second in the competition

The photo may not print too well but it is Ken Hammond plus plant, which was 3.63metres high. The winner in the adults section was Shirley Tapsell who lives at 2 Valley Cottages and was 4.14 metres (13 foot 7 inches) high and she will hold the Sunflower Cup for a year. In third place was John and Shelley Jackson (3.47m) followed by Helen Scopes (3.1m), Derek Banks-Nash (2.7m), Diane Crockford (2.54m), John Watts (2.4m), Barbara Palmer (2.34m), Jo and Max Walker (2.3m), Krys Latham 1.92 and me (1.9m but feel the quality). There were several others entrants but their plants died or withered. The winner in the children's section will be announced next month as there are still some plants growing. (editor)

PLEASE RESPOND to the Questionnaire distributed round the village regarding a teen shelter and return them to 4 Short Lane. If you haven't received one, a copy can be obtained at the same address. Vince Holness has been recently elected as a Parish Councillor for the village and has been asked to look into facilities for the young people in Alkham. Vince has suggested that a "Teen Shelter" be erected (probably at the bottom of Vicarage Meadow) where teenagers can congregate. Even if you are not a parent but have a view on the subject please write to Vince at 4 Short Lane, Alkham or access him through the web site alkham.info. (editor)

NEWSLETTER TEN

years old. The non-profit making Newsletter continues to be free to all houses in the Parish. There are 14 people who deliver 284 Newsletters and Grace Stacey, Kathleen and Will Goldfinch, Roy and Gail Dyche, Alan Woodgett, Shirley Tapsell, and Christine Tapsell have delivered them from the outset. The other deliverers are Peter Mercer, Heather Dodd, Derek Banks-Nash, Larry Lambourne, Valerie Banks, Sue Lees, Ken and Dot Hammond and the Hyland family. Of the rest, I deliver 24 and post 11 outside the village. Grateful thanks go to all the people who deliver the Newsletter and also to advertisers and contributors, particularly Oz who has managed to write 43 original stories since starting in February 2000. (editor)

NEIGHBOURHOOD

WATCH - Volunteers are still being sought and apologies go to Edith Neve (Wash) for omitting her name from the list of representatives. Edith will look after the Ewell Minnis area. (editor)

THE GREEN GANG

have three organised events in September. On the 6th between 2.00 and 5.00 pm there is an Expressive Feat Workshop led by Shepway District Council (01303 852322) at the Amphitheatre, Lower Sandgate Road, Folkestone. On the 12th between 6.00 and 8.00 pm there is a Children's Craft Workshop, with qualified Nursery staff on hand, at Crabble Corn Mill, Dover (823292). On the 27th between 10.00am and 4.30pm, children can make and decorate a Roman style pot at Dover Museum on the Market Square. There are small charges for the events and further information on the above and other events can be obtained by ringing the White Cliffs Countryside Project on 241806 or, for further afield, the Romney Marsh Countryside Project on 01797 367934.

DAGGINGS - An 80 year old friend of mine has told me about daggings, and with the Sunflower competition in mind, I thought I'd pass the information onto anyone who may be interested in a strong fertiliser. The word 'dag' refers to the wool around the behind of a sheep, which becomes matted with dirt etc. and has to be removed before the sheep is sheared. If the dags are collected and put in a large porous sack (like an onion sack) and placed in a barrel of water a very potent fertiliser is produced. It can be used straight away but is better left to ferment and then mixed in the ratio of ½ pint of daggings to 2 gallons of water. It's very high in nitrogen and is a truly organic fertiliser so if you're interested contact your nearest sheep farmer to find out if he's got any dags. (editor)

VEHICLE DAMAGE - A vehicle which is parked on the road in Alkham near Newlyn Meadow has been systematically damaged over the last few months. Attempts were made to access the vehicle and damage has been caused to it, including the siphoning of petrol. The damage is thought to been caused by one individual, so if anyone has any information please ring me on 824969 and I will pass the information on. (editor)

GARDENTALK - Another highly enjoyable evening; this time spent at "The Vicarage". Very many thanks to Ian and Lucy, where, apart from the usual pleasures of the garden and the vibrant and ever increasing vivacious conversation we were entertained by a most amusing and clever garden quiz devised by Devina. We were very much of the opinion that she should copyright this gem. The next meeting will be on Friday September 12th 7.30pm at "Bramhall." (Susannah Tapsell)

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Would you like to know more about
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Would you like a refresher course
in a friendly environment?

Are you just curious about what
Church means?

An Emmaus group will be starting in
September to encourage us all on our
journey of faith. For further
information, please contact the Vicar
on 01303 244119

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

There will be a Confirmation Service in
November in Canterbury cathedral. If you
would like to be confirmed, or just to find
out more about Confirmation, please contact
Kevin Mephram (Vicar) on 01303 244119.

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OZ on HEATWAVE – Alistair Cooke once recalled, in his radio programme *Letter from America*, the headline in a British newspaper “74° tomorrow - no end in sight”. As temperatures rocketed and physical activity plummeted this summer I found myself increasingly preoccupied with the derivation and usage of the term “heat wave”. Of the larger dictionaries, *Chambers* has it hyphenated, while *Oxford* gives two separate words, but they agree that it describes excessive heat, especially when regarded as moving from one place to another. That was certainly the case when American reporters first used the term in describing the Great Heat Wave of 1892. The *Democratic Watchman* of July 28 1892 declared that “True to predictions the great heat wave came rolling in from the West last week”. Sir Robert Ball, the Victorian astronomer and science populariser, soon became the first English writer to use ‘heat-wave’ in a book. In his *In the High Heavens* (1893), under the heading “The ‘Heat-Wave’ of 1892” he gently poked fun at the new term, describing it as the “somewhat absurdly designated ‘great heat-wave’”, and later “The so-called heat-wave then seems to have travelled eastward”. Despite Ball’s doubts, the term is obviously powerful and attractive, and was soon taken up by society, not least the entertainment and advertising industries. Over the years, countries have devised many local definitions of “heat wave” for various administrative reasons. Meteorologists are now attempting to agree a formal universal definition reflecting not only widely varying temperature ranges but also degrees of humidity, resulting from excessive evaporation, which adds to human distress during heat waves. It will be quite a formula when resolved, needing to interpret record high temperatures varying from 134°F at Death Valley, California, on July 10 1913, down to 59°F at Vanda Station, Antarctica, on January 5 1974. (Steve Osborn)

Church News - On Sunday 7th

September during the Evensong service [6.30pm] Ken Pilgrim will be presented with a farewell card from Alkham parishioners. Ken, who works for the Immigration service, is taking up a new post in Norwich. He has served the Benefice for a number of years and is very involved in the work of the Parish and together with Tony Elcombe was very supportive during the Interregnum. Please join us at the service to say farewell and wish Ken and Wendy every happiness in the future. On Sunday 20th September at 11am we will be celebrating Harvest Festival when it would be lovely to welcome all those who will be gracing the tables at the Harvest Supper the following day. As, unfortunately, we cannot decorate the Church on Saturday, due to the wedding arrangements of that day, we are asking that perhaps you would very kindly bring your Harvest gifts to Church before the service, between 10.30am and 10.45am and we will all work together to decorate the Church. Failing that, perhaps you would take your Harvest gift for the traditional auction to the Supper. After the service the “Millennium Yew”, which is now large enough to survive the Churchyard environment, will be ceremoniously planted out. (Richard and Ken, Churchwardens)

VICTORIA SMITH

The untimely death of Victoria has hit us all. It has left a mark on everyone as she was such a nice person. I have known Vicky since I was a young lad and we have always been close friends. Vicky seemed to get on with everyone and those of you that knew her would know what a wonderful person she was. There will always be a place in our hearts for Vicky. She will be sorely missed. (Luke Baber)

It is very sad to report that Victoria died in a traffic accident on the Alkham Valley Road near Chilton recently. She was 17 years old and from Newcastle House at Ewell Minnis. Deepest sympathy goes to her family and everyone who knew her.

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Keep Fit 9.30 -10.30 am Wednesday club 10.30-11.30am
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events

(VH= Village Hall and VM= Vicarage Meadow)

Saturday	6	Bingo 7.30pm in VH – ring Beverley on 824765
Saturday	6	Coffee morning for PCC 10.30am
Monday	8	Parish Council meeting in the village hall 7.30pm – all welcome
Tuesday	9	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Thursday	11	Fashion show see page 1
Friday	12	Garden Talk at 7.30 pm at Bramhall
Monday	15	Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	22	Harvest Supper in the Village Hall

CHURCH SERVICES

	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping Together 11.00a.m.
Sunday 14th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping Together 11.00 a.m.	Songs of praise 5.00 p.m.
Sunday 21st	Harvest Festival 11.00 a.m.	Sung Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
Sunday 28th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Laurence, Hougham 10.00 a.m.		

Weekday Services: Morning Prayer is said at Capel Monday-Friday at 8.30 am (except Bank Holidays); Evening Prayer at Hougham on Wednesday at 5 pm Eucharist at Capel every Thursday at 9.15 am Benefice Prayer Group – Saturday 10.00 am – Capel

W.I. NEWS - August saw our Members Night slowly develop into total chaos. It was to be a Beetle Drive, simple you would think, nothing to it! Not so, as we gathered around our respective tables, dices paused at the ready the air crackling with tension, and we were off! The only thing was that we were all playing to a completely different set of rules!! It was all down hill from there as we descended into chaos. Never mind, it was such a good evening and I think everyone enjoyed themselves. I myself was the lucky winner of a rather fetching plastic stag horn beetle, 6 inches long and bright pink, can't decide whether to put it with the Royal Albert or the Ming!! Many thanks to Mandy and Debbie for such a memorable evening. Next meeting Sept 9th with Miss Yeo discussing antiques. (Devina Bartlett)

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	Police – 999 phone and 01303 850055	W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475
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VEHICLES	Vehicle Valuations Used car specialist, Folkestone	53 Bradstone Avenue,	01303 253212

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VINCE HOLNESS – it is extremely sad to report that Vince died on Sunday the 21st of September from a massive heart attack at the young age of 43. For those to whom the name is unfamiliar, Vince set up and ran the Alkham Web site and he recently became a Parish Councillor for Alkham. He was keen and eager to see right was done for the people in the parish and was in the process of looking at options for a meeting point for teenagers in the village. He will be sorely missed and our sympathy goes to Debbie and Bethany, his parents and all friends and relatives.

PARKING IN DOVER

As you are probably aware, the district council took over the responsibility for parking in Dover and that's why there are few free-to-park spaces left. If you have any suggestions with regard to parking in Dover please pass your comments onto the Parish Clerk, Sue Lees, on 822661.

FARMER'S MARKET

Capel-le-Ferne Village Hall each
Tuesday 10am to 1pm.
Local produce
Phone 01303 245399

SUNDAY CLEAN UP

Please come along to Vicarage Meadow on Sunday morning 5th October about 10am and help to clear unwanted branches, bushes, rubbish or whatever isn't wanted around the playing field. It would be great if some of the teenagers join in and put their ideas and strength into the project. Everyone of any age welcome. (Parish Clerk)

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR

When I entered Alkham in the above competition, I didn't really think that we would get commended as we had no specific projects. This has proved to be the case but the letter from the organisers said that the judges thought Alkham was a nice place to live, self contained and had a strong community spirit. They were particularly impressed by how tidy and well maintained the village was. For those who walk across the football pitch you may find this hard to believe but as a whole the village is well maintained thanks to the Parish Council and people who cut grass and keep verges tidy. (editor)

ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD -

There was a considerable amount of discussion about the safety of the Alkham Valley Road at the Parish Council meeting, particularly in the light of the recent fatal accident at Chilton. In April of this year, members of the Parish Council walked and drove the length of the valley with the police and the Highway Authority and none of the issues raised have been acted upon. People at the Parish Council meeting thought that a speed limit should be imposed along the road but this is thought to be unlikely mainly because of enforcement by the police. It was also thought that it was only a matter of time before a fatal accident occurred at the bottom of Wolverton Hill. It is hoped that the local paper, the Dover Express, will get involved and also the CPRE with a public meeting eventually being called. (editor)

MARQUIS OF GRANBY

Wednesday

MOULES NIGHT £7.95

Thursday

STEAK NIGHT £7.95

(16oz rib-eye)

RIVER SURGERY – There are no plans to close this surgery but they feel that they are under some pressure as the Health Authority would like them to move into Dover. The surgery is used by a lot of people at Ewell Minnis and therefore the Parish Council is writing a letter of support to the Health Authority requesting that it remain at its present location or in the River area.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

A meeting is to take place in the Village Hall on Wednesday 8th October at 7.30pm. This will be the first meeting of a new scheme being set up in the parish. It is hoped that all those who have been asked to help will be able to attend. However, anyone who would like to help in any way is welcome to come along. The more people who can help the better. It would be great to be able to cover all areas, whether it is Alkham village, Ewell Minnis or smaller groups of houses such as Everden, Chalksole and Ellinge. (Parish clerk)

A JUMBLE SALE in aid of Village Hall funds is being held in the village hall on Saturday the 4th of October at 11.00am. There is also a Jumble Sale on the 1st of November in the village hall for Alkham PCC.

A LADIES WATCH has been found at the top of Slip Lane. Please ring me on 824969 (editor).

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Telephone

01304 206344



GATE FOR MEADOW – Because some people drive their cars onto Vicarage Meadow from Hogbrook Hill Lane, it was thought that it may be a good idea to put a gate in the gap opposite Martinvale. This however would make it impossible for emergency vehicles to enter Vicarage Meadow quickly, as required a couple of years ago when the cricket pavilion was set alight. A large moveable object like the roller was suggested but because this is already moved at random round the green by some youngsters, this was thought impracticable. The matter will however be pursued by the Parish Council. (editor) *The reason the roller was painted with three white stripes by some children in the village was to simulate a wicket.*

NEWSLETTER – In the financial year for 2002, the Newsletter made a profit of £16. Thanks to people who gave individual donations in the 2003 financial year ending in August, the Newsletter made a profit of just under £100, some of which has been spent on the cups for the Sunflower competition. It is probable that a couple of advertisers will not renew for this year so the profit made will cover any deficit. The expenditure on the year was £365 for photostats, £51 for petrol going to Staples, Canterbury, plus delivering to deliverers, £38 for postage to those outside the village and £12 for printer ink giving a total of £466. If anyone would like to see the accounts for the last financial year please give me a ring on 824969. (editor)

MANY THANKS to Margaret Hancock for her financial donation to the Newsletter and also to the Parish Council for the bottle of whiskey they gave me for the tenth birthday of the Newsletter. (editor)



SUNFLOWER CUPS were awarded to Shirley Tapsell in the adult class and Benjamin Norris in the junior class. I decided that the winners could keep the cups so there will be a new one each year. The cup is inscribed on the front with 'Alkham Sunflower Competition Senior (or junior) and on the back with the name of the winner. Because of summer holidays quite a few of the flowers in the junior section died through lack of water but Benjamin Norris, the grandson of Kath and John Norris, had a winning entry at 3.28 metres. Recent arrivals in the village, Molly and Elly Laffin were second and fourth with 3.03m and 2.75m. Third was Sarah Ryder, grandchild of David and Christine Tapsell, at 2.8m (David had a late entry at 2.4m). James Tapsell's sunflower was 2.67m high, Henry Burrows 2.21 and Ellis Milroy 1.9m. Many congratulations to all the children who entered who apart from the cup winner have been given a colour certificate showing a sunflower and the height that there flower reached. (editor)

BIKE RIDE – All the money pledged to Ken Hammond and Brian Wimsett for the London to Southend Bike Ride has been collected and sent in. The final sum was £403, which goes to the British Heart Foundation. Many thanks to all those who supported the ride and also to Sue Lees for helping to get a lot of the sponsorship. (editor)

and continuing

THE CYCLE RIDE

organised by the Friends of Kent Churches took place on the 13th of September with Ken Hammond and Billy Hollis cycling for Alkham. They raised over £230 half of which will go to St. Anthony's. The latter was manned all day and it was disappointing that the only cyclists who came to the church were Ken and Billy. They visited 61 churches and covered a distance of 54 miles.

'A MATTER OF CONVENIENCE?'

From Eastry Union Workhouse, guardians minutes: *At meeting on 17.5.1853. It was decided that one sheet of paper per week be supplied to each inmate to stop the use of rag etc. in the water closets and later: The Clerk said as it had been decided that waste paper should be provided for the use of the workhouse inmates in the water closets, he had procured half a ream from Mr BAYLEY of Eastry at 4 shillings. The Clerk suggested that the Goods Tickets issued by the Relieving Officers, of which there is a great quantity in his possession, may be used for the purpose required, first removing the pins, which he considers could be done by the girls, this would effect not only the saving in the purchase of paper but of pins also, which could be made use of again. This suggestion was adopted. Dated 24.5.1853 noted by Kathleen (Sue Lees, Parish Clerk) Because of financial constraints the resolution is to be discussed by the Alkham Village Hall Committee at their next meeting. (Hon. Sec. 20.9.2003)*

VICARAGE MEADOW

The Parish Council has paid for the extensive weed growth either side of the dyke on Vicarage Meadow to be cut down. It certainly looks better and the weed areas will be sprayed with chemicals, at the appropriate time, to inhibit future growth. I also think my dog Sally, should be congratulated for sniffing out 6 cricket balls from the side of the Meadow. (editor)

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THE MILLENNIUM YEW

After the Harvest Festival service at St. Anthony's on the 21st of September the yew tree, which had been given to the church at the millennium, was planted in the churchyard. The reason for the delay was so the tree could grow to a reasonable height before planting outdoors and have a good chance of surviving. At the service Kevin Mepham, our vicar, read out the names of the children who had entered the sunflower competition and also the winners of the adult section, two of whom were in the congregation.

CONGRATULATIONS to Chris Tapsell and Jane Hixon (nee Taylor) who got married at St. Anthony's on the 20th of September. Before the ceremony, Chris led his brothers David, Richard and Alan on the bells and then after the service, as is the custom, four other ringers rang a peal of celebration. Chris and Jane have gone on a cruise for their honeymoon. The theme music from the film Titanic was played on the organ whilst the register was being signed at the end of the service.

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OZ on STUMPS – We've finally removed the last Leylandii stump in the border by the back lawn. *Cupressocyparis Leylandii* first appeared in Wales in 1888, an accidental cross between Monterey Cypress and Alaskan Cedar, and a rare example of conifers interbreeding. The hardy fast-growing tree soon became popular for windbreaks and boundaries, and then unpopular, being blamed for plunging gardens into shadow, depleting soil, and causing neighbours to quarrel. Our stump was created by an itinerant "tree-feller" who, instructed to leave enough trunk for rocking the roots out, left it six inches above ground level. After years of poking and prodding at the stump, we turned to friends and the Internet for advice. The first method is, of course, to avoid stumps, by ensuring their clearance as part of tree-felling operations. Failing that, three of the most macho solutions are stump-grinders, backhoes and explosives, all expensive and, in many ways, unsuitable for our situation. Interestingly there are small businesses devoted entirely to stump removal, often for a fixed fee. Among other methods there are burning, by lighting a fire over the stump, and rotting, sometimes with chemicals or manure poured into holes drilled in the stump. One idea that we particularly liked was that of building a compost heap over the stump, the drawback being that it would take a year or two to decompose. Eventually we settled for the time-honoured back-breaking method of digging a trench around the stump, exposing the roots and attacking them with an axe and a pruning saw. The stump, when freed, was an 18-inch cube. After an inconclusive debate over which waste skip to use at Whitfield we simply placed it in a dark corner of the garden, where it will eventually erode, providing meanwhile a home for tiny flora and fauna. (Steve Osborn)

NOWS YOUR CHANCE TO BE A COMPOST

ADVISER - Assuming you are still reading, BTCV the UK's leading practical conservation charity is looking for a volunteer to promote, educate and provide support on composting queries and encourage people to take up composting. BTCV will provide free training, a compost bin, reference book and back-up support. If you'd like to apply please ring me on 824969 and I'll give you the form. (editor) and

PLASTIC COMPOST BINS are still available at the discounted price of £10 from Kent County Council. Please ring 0870 844 3001 to order and free delivery will be within 28 days.

W.I. NEWS - Josie Yeo gave us a very interesting and informative talk on antiques and collectables. She had a very impressive collection of things to show us and certainly knew her stuff. Not so when she was younger when, she explained, she took apart a chandelier made up of hundreds of pieces of crystal to clean, and had no idea how to put it back together again. To this day, she still has some of the pieces that she was unable to fit back on!! Next meeting will be October 14th speaker Mrs Tammy Stewart Jones. (Devina Bartlett)

HARVEST SUPPER

The produce which was displayed in St. Anthony's for the Harvest Festival service was taken to the village hall to be auctioned at the Harvest Supper. This took place on the 22nd of September and thanks must go to Betty Neely for organising it, Doreen Lott and helpers for the superb spread and to all the ladies who made apple pies. There were about 80 people at the supper who contributed to the raffle and auction, which raised between £350 and £400. The money will be split between the Kent Air Ambulance and the hospital in Africa, which Gill Calver supported.

VILLAGE HALL – We have received information that the hall should have an Occasional Licence to sell alcohol. This is because that even a bottle of wine in a raffle is being bought by the sale of tickets. Similarly for instance, if a Cheese and Wine evening is held, in paying for the ticket you are effectively buying alcohol. If the wine supplied at such an event is bought in France then the organiser is breaking the law as alcohol purchased abroad is for private consumption only. An Occasional Licence costs £10 a year and covers 12 events the only problem being is that you have to know all the dates in advance. I've sent for the form. (Hon. Sec. Village Hall)

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Keep Fit 9.30 -10.30 am Wednesday club 10.30-11.30am
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events

(VH= Village Hall and VM= Vicarage Meadow)

Saturday	4	Bingo 7.30pm in VH - ring Beverley on 824765
Saturday	4	Jumble Sale - see page 1
Wednesday	8	Neighbourhood Watch meeting in the village hall - see page 1
Tuesday	14	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Saturday	18	Quiz in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	20	Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	1/ 11	Jumble Sale - see page 1

plants: Cinderella Farm, cut flowers (returns in spring): Just a Fold, hand made cards: Just a Bead, hand -made jewellery: Sheer Bliss, hand made soaps (monthly): Heathmore, decorated T shirts: D Turner, painted glass: S Lees, wood turning & crafts: V A Cunningham, wood turning & crafts. We also provide refreshments, so many of our customers come along to do their shopping and meet their friends, have a coffee and chat. For further information, please contact Mrs Jenny Barraclough 01303 245399 or e mail barraclough@jenny-frank.fsnet.co.uk

CHURCH SERVICES

	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Harvest Festival 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping Together 11.00a.m.
Sunday 12th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Worshipping Together 11.00 a.m.	Songs of praise in village hall 6.30 p.m.
Sunday 19th	Worshipping Together 11 am	Sung Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
Sunday 26th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Anthony's, Alkham 10.00 a.m.		

Weekday Services: Morning Prayer is said at Capel Monday-Friday at 8.30 am (except Bank Holidays); Evening Prayer at Hougham on Wednesday at 5 pm Eucharist at Capel every Thursday at 9.15 am Benefice Prayer Group - Saturday 10.00 am - Capel

CAPEL-LE-FERNE FARMERS' MARKET is held every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Village Hall. Started in April 2003 the market was an idea put forward by the Village Hall Management Committee, to provide a service for the community and every penny we raise goes back into the maintenance of our village hall. Stallholders regularly attending are:- G Palmer Farms, meat supplier: The Fish Tank, fresh fish: P Davis, free range eggs: Syndale Valley, cheese (fortnightly): W Foster, vegetables & fruit: Buss Farms, vegetables & fruit: Perry Court Farm, organic vegetables: Goodchild, cakes & pastries: Marshmellow Bakeries, bread & rolls: Classic Preserves, jams, honey, chutneys, etc.: Kari Mix, curry pastes & chutneys (occasionally): Core Juices, apple & pear juice (fortnightly): B Marshall,

TELEPHONE NUMBERS		Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Kevin Mephram 01303 244119
Gwyn Prosser M.P.	0207 2193704	Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Ken Hammond 823720
County Councillor, Bryan Cope	207976 and work number 01795532547	Parish Clerk, Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freeserve.co.uk	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
District Councillors Sue Nicholas 823956 Andrew Richardson 211835		Police - 999 phone and 01303 850055 Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130	W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475 Alkham web site alkham.info

LOCAL BUSINESSES & SERVICES

ACCOUNTANCY	John Garlinge Accountancy, taxation, book keeping services	18 Newlyn Meadow	824201
ALKHAM MEADOWS	Touring Caravan Park - Next to Garden Centre	Alkham Valley Road	206344
ARBORICULTURE	Alkham Valley Tree Surgery: Planning, planting, maintenance removal	Wolverton	824853 & 07973 501390
BED & BREAKFAST	Owler Lodge with Pat and Bill Owler	Alkham Valley Road	826375
BUILDING WORK	E R Woodruff carpentry and joinery, decorating, maintenance	Swanbourne, Wolverton	824991
CAT & DOG GROOMING	Canine beauticians, dogs and cats groomed, Newcastle House	Ewell Minnis	822902
CLEANING SERVICES	John Hoy domestic/commercial carpet and upholstery cleaning	Ewell Minnis	828007 & 07889310479
CURTAINS & BLINDS	Curtains and blinds made to your specification	Alkham Valley	01303 891806
ELECTRICAL	Simon Price electricians & computer installation, Megget Farm	South Alkham	01303 252764
ENVIRONMENTAL	J H Ullmann Environmental contractors, Malmains Farm	Alkham	202004 or 822888
EQUESTRIAN	Hogbrook Equestrian Centre Livery yard, instruction, hacking	Hogbrook Lane, Alkham	827644
EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES	Alkham Valley Garden Centre - everything for horse and rider	South Alkham	01303 891996
GARDEN CENTRE	Alkham Valley Garden Centre with gift shop and horse supplies	South Alkham	01303 893351
KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton	822420
LIVERY	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass livers	Megget Lane, South Alkham	01303 892056
POST OFFICE	Southdown Stores general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	London rd, Temple Ewell	827100
SCHOOL	Capel-le-ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-ferne	01303 251353

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ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD

If you receive the Newsletter before the 27th of October, you will be interested to know that Shepway District Council is closing the Alkham Valley Road between Lower Standen (where the paving slab place is) to the roundabout connecting to the M20, for three days. Resurfacing work will start at 9am on the 27th and is scheduled to finish on the 29th at 7pm. (editor)

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR - The annual Christmas Bazaar and Coffee Morning, which raises funds for St. Anthony's Church, will be held in Alkham Village Hall on Saturday 29th November, 10.30am to 12 noon. The Bring and Buy table, Home Made Goodies and Raffle will have a distinct Christmas flavour. Please come along and give your support.

WOODEN BENCH - Bob Palmer is to be congratulated on the splendid job he has done repairing the first bench in front of the cricket pavilion. It looks brand new.

FARMER'S MARKET

Capel-le-Ferne Village Hall each
Tuesday 10am to 1pm.

Local produce
Phone 01303 245399

NEIGHBOURHOOD

WATCH - Another meeting has been held with regard to setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme and a number of people have come forward to act as 'Link persons'. The latter have agreed to take on an area within the Parish of Alkham and will be contacting you shortly to see if you would like to become a member. Usually there is a cost involved in becoming a member but because there is sufficient funds in the NW account, membership will be free. The Link person will explain what is involved in being a member and you will receive a sticker, which you can put in your window. (editor)

VICARAGE MEADOW

Two bikes, two skate boards, one tent, two lengths of rainwater drain pipe and two lengths of 4 x 2 timber were found in the dyke when it was cleaned out on the 5th of October. There was also four bags of sundry rubbish mainly containing alcoholic drink bottles and cans. The side of Vicarage Meadow adjacent to the Old Vicarage was also given a thorough tidy up with a number of public spirited volunteers cutting down the undergrowth and brambles. It is hoped that this can now be ganged-mowed to increase the size of the meadow. Several youngsters came along, mainly to claim one of the six cricket balls that my dog had sniffed out in the previous month. These had been passed on to Den Barnard and he offered to let them have all six if they would help for half an hour and this, with a little encouragement, they did. (editor)

FOR SALE a pair of good quality pine single beds, in good condition complete with mattresses. The cost is £60 each or £100 for the pair. If interested please ring 826202.

FOUND in St. Anthony's church, a small bag containing money and lipstick. To claim please phone one of the churchwardens (see back page).

MARQUIS OF GRANBY

Wednesday

MOULES NIGHT £7.95

Thursday

STEAK NIGHT £7.95

(16oz rib-eye)

PIANO LESSONS

Is there anybody in the parish who could teach two young children to play the piano? If there is, would you please phone Patsy on 822619.

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY

The AGM will be held on the 13th November, 2003 (Thursday) in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. It is hoped as many members as possible will come and anyone else who is interested is very welcome. To attend an AGM is not the most popular pastime, but to attract people Mr. Martin Newcombe, who is well known as a speaker, has agreed to come and give us a talk on The Natural History of Kent, accompanied by slides. So please do come and put up with forty minutes of the AGM before you listen to what, I am sure, will be an interesting talk. (Pamela Sayers (Secretary))

ALKHAM WEB SITE

Following the tragic and unexpected death of Vince Holness, who set up the Alkham web site, I have taken over the running of the site. (editor)

POPPY APPEAL - A door to door collection will be taking place in the village in the week leading up to Remembrance Sunday on the 9th of November when the service will conclude with 2 minutes silence at 11.00am by the War Memorial in St. Anthony's churchyard.

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Tel. 01304 852960

Alkham Valley Meadows

Touring Caravan Park
Alkham Village
Telephone
01304 206344



YELLOW CARD - A scheme has just been launched in which vulnerable people have a nominated neighbour. Those who are at risk will display a yellow card to unrecognised and unexpected visitors that will ask the visitor to call at the home of their nominated neighbour (the card displays this address). The neighbour will verify the caller and if everything is in order escort the caller back to the vulnerable neighbour. Packs will be available from various sources including Dover Police Station. If you think you know of someone who would benefit from a card please contact your NW Link person or give me a ring on 824969. (editor)

SLADDEN WOOD - New signs have been put up on either side of Sladden Wood, which is managed by the Kent Wildlife Trust. On the signs, it says that dogs are not allowed apart from guide dogs but as there is a footpath going through the wood, this is not strictly true. It's probable that the sign is a standard one for Wildlife Trust wooded areas who quite reasonably don't want dogs running about all over the place but it should say that dogs are permitted on the footpath. I checked and they agree that this is the case. (editor)

ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL - Thanks go to the Polden and Lott families plus helpers for organising three events in aid of the hall, which raised over £500. On the 11th of September the Fashion Show, which was very well supported, made a profit of £149 plus a further £23 in commission from the fashion company. The Jumble Sale on the 4th of October raised £115 and the Quiz on the 18th, which was highly enjoyable, made a profit of £220.

HANDYVAN SCHEME

The Help the Aged HandyVan Scheme protects vulnerable older people against loss through burglary by securing their homes. The scheme is primarily aimed at people over the age of 60 and there is no charge for labour or for the products that are installed. The kits comprises a smoke alarm, door chain, five lever mortice lock (deadlock) for the front door and mortice bolts for the back, spy hole and window locks for downstairs and vulnerable upstairs windows. The HandyVan Scheme was launched in the South East Kent Policing area in November 2001 and the NHW Office is one of the referral points and holds the application forms. Requests can be made over the phone by calling 01304 218151 and arrangements will be made to complete an application form. They will then advise the Client in writing that the application form has been received and processed and receiving attention. (editor - précis NW Link Persons have full details)

ALKHAM figured twice in the Autumn/Winter edition of 'The Orchid', which is the newspaper of the Kent Downs AONB, within which Alkham falls. The first picture is of a flint house in the Kent Downs, this being Martinvale, which is the house opposite the swings on Vicarage Meadow. The second is a superb photo of the grave stones and yew tree in St. Anthony's churchyard near the kissing gate leading to the back of the Old Rectory. The latter is included because the churchyard is a Site of Nature Conservation Interest as the grass is only cut once a year. It is an oasis for native wild flowers, grasses and invertebrates. This year the churchyard was cut by three people, who disposed of most of the arisings. A letter has been sent to the PCC to say that because of the enormous amount of work involved the three people are not willing to do it again without considerable help. It is hoped that the church will be able to come up with a solution as it would be a pity if the churchyard lost its wildlife status. (editor)

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY

will present their autumn concert at 7.30 pm on Saturday 22nd November 2003 in Dover Town Hall. *Music's Jubilee* was written by Andrew Carter for Otley Choral Society in Yorkshire in 1992 and was performed by Dover Choral Society in November 1998. Although modern, it is full of both tender and lively tunes, and even the most staid members of the choir admit to enjoying it. This is followed by Peter Cork's *A Man of Kent Suite*, premiered to great applause in last year's Dover Carnival Proms Concert. The concert concludes with Part 1 of Handel's *Messiah*, which is the Christmas part, but ending with the mighty *Hallelujah* chorus. The soloists are Elizabeth Weaver and Jean Pearson (sopranos), June Woodland (contralto), Martin Rendle (tenor), and Philip Spendley (bass). The chorus and The Connaught Orchestra (leader George Simpson) will be conducted by Dover Choral Society's Musical Director, Michael Foad. Tickets costing £8 (Students £4) are available from Dover Town Hall, the Music Box in Maison Dieu Road, and members of Dover Choral Society; and, if there are any left, at the door on the night. For further details about the concert please ring Michael Foad on 01303 242694. (Steve Osborn)

HOUSEHOLD BULK

WASTE - A special collection service is available for the removal of small quantities of bulky domestic household items. It costs £18.80 and can be booked through the local council by phoning 872410. There are weekend Bulky Waste Collection Services at various locations the most relevant being on the first Saturday of each month at St. Radigunds Road Dover (8 to 9am), St Patricks Road, Aycliffe (9.30 to 10am) and the Village Hall Car Park at Capel-le-Ferne (11 to 12).

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NEWS FROM ST. ANTHONY'S.

The Remembrance Day Service will be held on Sunday 9th November at 10.15am and will conclude at the War Memorial at 11am to share in the two minutes silence with the rest of the country, to hear those wonderful words spoken so movingly and to lay a wreath for those of our village and for all the others who lost their lives in service for their country. Do come and take part in this tribute. (Richard Tapsell and Ken Hammond. Churchwardens).

MEETING POINT is held every Thursday at 10.00 a.m. in St Radigund's Church, Capel. You are warmly invited to come along for a cup of coffee or tea and a chat with other villagers to keep in touch and make new friends. All are most welcome, friendly and informal, no strings. (Vicar)

YOUTH CLUB - A number of youngsters in the village have asked if a Youth Club could be set up again? The last attempt had to be abandoned because there was a minority who spoilt it for the others. As the minority has moved on there is a possibility that one will be set up shortly subject to finding an authorised person.

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OZ on EPHEMERA - "Winter draws on" goes the phrase, banned by the BBC in its 1947 *Green Book*, along with jazzing the classics and swipes at solicitors. One of the pleasures of winter drawing on is the enforced move from outdoor to indoor pursuits, including collecting various 'ephemera'. The word, from Greek *epi* (for) and *hemera* (a day), was first recorded in English in 1398, meaning 'one-day fever', and later it named the mayfly that lives for only a few hours. Samuel Johnson coined its modern sense, of 'transient paperwork', in 1751, describing "these papers of a day, the Ephemeræ of learning." Maurice Rickards, founder of The Ephemera Society in 1980, echoed this with his "minor transient documents of everyday life". Ephemera includes stamps, postcards, tickets, labels and much else and is attractive because of the delusion that it doesn't take up too much room. Be warned by the example of John Johnson. During his time as Oxford University printer between 1925 and 1946 he collected over two million separate items related to the University Press, describing much of it as "everything which would ordinarily go into the waste paper basket after use." The collection was transferred to Oxford's Bodleian Library in 1968. Collecting ephemera can be justified from various viewpoints, of the genealogist, librarian, archivist, museum curator, researcher, hobbyist and dealer. There are now many ephemera societies and university departments dealing with what are rich primary resources, and the whole business is aided by the enormous archiving possibilities of personal computers. One of my favourite pieces of ephemera is a reference to a copy of *A Woman's Guide To Practical Knitting*, probably published around 1950, whose headline was the invitation to "Knit A Little Dutch Cap for Windy Days!" The old BBC guidelines would certainly have rejected that. (Steve Osborn)

GARDENTALK - At our last meeting in September, held at "Bramhall", we took the subject of harvesting the products of our labours in the garden, as our topic. Being completely sexist, we divided the discussion, with the men presenting the information about harvesting and storing vegetables and the ladies talking about storing, preserving and jam making, the fruits of the garden. Needless to say, recipes for wine making were also included. A good time was had by all. The next meeting is on Friday 7th November 7.30pm at "The Willows", Slip Lane. All welcome. (Susannah Tapsell)

GUIDED WALKS including wildlife conservation events and cycle rides are included in a pamphlet issued by the White Cliffs Countryside project. If you'd like a copy, ring me or contact Sue Lees as there are a wide variety of things to do in November. Examples are a Pumpkin Parade on Samphire Hoe on the 1st. A walk to South Foreland Lighthouse on the 5th. A visit to Shepherdswell (I know this is pedantic but at the latter they have Shepherds Well, which is equally incorrect as it should probably have an inverted comma) and East Kent light railway on the 8th. Baked potatoes and scrub clearing at Whinless Down on the 11th. Deal's vanished pubs on the 15th. Creteway Down Ramble on the 16th and on the 29th a ramble round River. (editor)

OBITUARY Marjorie Tutt, who died recently, was better known to friends and family as Marj. Despite her bluntness, she had a great sense of humour. She was born at Box Cottage, Slip Lane, in 1918 to Charles and Eva Goodchild. Marj's mother was of the long established Harvey family in Alkham, the family being local builders and carpenters. Marj was in the Land Army during WWII and in June 1940 married William Harvey, who by coincidence was also a builder. He was to build Hillview, Short Lane, Alkham. They were to have one son, Bill, who was to become one of Alkham's well known cricketers. Marj's second marriage was to Maurice Tutt who died in 1980. Marj was a keen supporter of all things Alkham, in particular its Whist Drives and W.I.

SALT BINS - I've been asked to print the following: Salt in roadside bins is for highway and footway use only; some members of the public still believe that salt is provided for private roads and driveways, which is not the case. Salt bins are provided for spot salting to make roads and footways safer at specific locations where local Parishes know there are problems in prolonged spells of snow and freezing temperatures.

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Keep Fit 9.30 -10.30 am Wednesday club 10.30-11.30am
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events

(VH= Village Hall and VM= Vicarage Meadow)

Saturday	1	Bingo 7.30pm in VH - ring Beverley on 824765
Monday	3	Parish Council meeting in the village hall at 7.30pm
Friday	7	Garden Talk, Willows 7.30pm
Tuesday	11	W.I. in village hall 7.30 pm
Thursday	13	AVS AGM 8pm - see page 1
Monday	17	Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	24	Village Hall Committee meeting in VH at 8pm
Saturday	29	Christmas bazaar - see page 1
Saturday	29	Beekeepers honey show in village hall from 2 to 7pm

CHURCH SERVICES

	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2nd	Memorial Service 4.00pm	Said Eucharist 8.00am Memorial Service 9.30am	Memorial Service 11.00am
Sunday 9th	Remembrance Service 10.15am	Remembrance Service 10.15am	Remembrance Service 10.15am
Sunday 16th	Worshipping Together 11am	Sung Evensong 4.00pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 23rd	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Radigund's, Capel 10.00 a.m.		
Sunday 30th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Thanksgiving Service 4.00pm	Worshipping Together 11.00am

If you or anyone you know in the village would like to make contact with someone in the church please telephone the Vicar, the Revd Kevin Mephram on 01303 244119. Weekday Services: Morning Prayer is said at Capel Monday-Friday at 8.30 am (except Bank Holidays); Evening Prayer at Hougham on Wednesday at 5 pm Eucharist at Capel every Thursday at 9.15 am Benefice Prayer Group - Saturday 9.00 am - Capel

EXHIBITION - Incorporated with the Farmers' Market, which is held every Tuesday between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Village Hall, Lancaster Avenue, Capel-le-Ferne there will be exhibitions by local artists, photographers, clubs, societies, history etc If interested in exhibiting your work contact Village Hall Secretary 01303 245399 or e-mail barraclough@jenny-frank.fsnet.co.uk

ALKHAM - I'm in danger of becoming an anorak but did you know that in 1835 there was over 20 acres of hop gardens in the parish of Alkham? Hop gardens used to be a lovely feature of the Kent countryside but apart from areas like Paddock Wood, they have all disappeared. Apparently a lot of the hops, which give beer its flavour, comes from America in paste form. That's progress for you. (editor)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Gwyn Prosser M.P. 0207 2193704	Alkham Valley Society secretary Pamela Sayers 822397	Vicar Kevin Mephram 01303 244119
County Councillor Bryan Cope 207976 and work number 01795532547	Newsletter , Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com	Church Wardens Richard Tapsell 822295 and Ken Hammond 823720
District Councillors Sue Nicholas 823956 Andrew Richardson 211835	Parish Clerk Susan Lees 822661 e mail susan@susanlees.freemove.co.uk	Village Hall booking Rosemary Polden 824876
	Police - 999 phone and 01303 850055 Neighbourhood Watch 218151/218130	W.I. Betty Neely 01303 251475 Alkham web site alkham.info

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KENNELS	Alkhamhurst Kennels dogs, cats & unusual boarded. All pet needs	Alkham Valley Rd, Wolverton 822420
LIVERY	Greenhill livery yard Do it yourself and grass liveryes	Megget Lane, South Alkham 01303 892056
POST OFFICE	Southdown Stores general groceries, videos, fruit & veg, off licence	London rd, Temple Ewell 827100
SCHOOL	Capel-le-ferne school Your local primary school; free bus from Alkham	Capel Street, Capel-le-ferne 01303 251353

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 124 December 2003

Delivered free to all
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Alkham Valley Garden Centre

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PARISH COUNCIL

VACANCY – As you will no doubt be aware from the posters displayed around the Parish, a vacancy has occurred on the Parish Council due to the untimely death of Vince Holness. An election to fill this vacancy will take place if at least ten people request one. If DDC has heard nothing by December the 2nd, nominations to fill the vacancy can be given in writing to the Parish Clerk, Susan Lees, Forstal Cottage, to be received not later than December 31st 2003. (Clerk)

ANNUAL QUIZ – The quiz, which is held every winter, will take place in the Village Hall on the 31st of January starting at 7.30pm. As usual, there will be tables of eight and food will be provided. The cost per person is £3.50 and if you would like to book a table please either ring me (Brian 824969) or Sue Lees on 822661.

SLIP LANE – At the Parish Council meeting, it was suggested that repeater 30mph signs be put in Slip Lane. The latter are the small signs, which you see at intervals in 40mph and 50mph areas. It was accepted that these are not applicable to 30mph areas but it was considered that some drivers thought that Slip Lane is derestricted when they turn off the Valley Road. It was proposed that back to back signs go on the telegraph pole by Appletree Cottage.

ALKHAM ROAD - An application has been sent to DDC for money to be made available to resurface the Alkham Valley Road between Wolverton and Kearsney. There have been a number of fatal accidents along this stretch of road and as a result DDC have placed it number three on the list of projects should money become available.

MARQUIS OF GRANBY

Wednesday

MOULES NIGHT £7.95

Thursday

STEAK NIGHT £7.95

(16oz rib-eye)

FOOTBALL – Ken Hammond has been doing a great job organising football practice during British Summer Time. Now that winter is here, the football has had to stop because of the early nights. A generator was considered but a better option, put forward at the Parish Council meeting, was to extend the Parish Council lighting to the electricity pole one third of the way along the pitch. It was accepted that it wouldn't give a lot of light but it's not first division football. It would also light the footpath across the Meadow.

TED & SANDRA DRAY

It is very sad to report that Ted and Sandra Dray died recently within three hours of each other. Sandra was in the Pilgrim's Hospice and Ted died on returning home to their bungalow in Glebelands. Sympathy goes to family and friends (their lovely dog, Sunny, has been found a good home).

ALKHAM VALLEY GARDEN

CENTRE would like to thank all those people who supported the open evening on Thursday 20th November (they have very kindly donated a Christmas tree to Alkham - see also advert at top).

Merry Christmas

If you want to walk off the Christmas lunch and Boxing Day bubble and squeak there is the annual Alkham Valley Society walk on the 27th of December. It starts at 10.30am from the car park opposite the Village Hall and finishes at about mid-day at the Marquis of Granby. Everybody is welcome to come along and if you've got a dog please bring it as well.

CHANGE OF FONT -I've changed the font to Arial from Times New Roman. If you think the old style was better than the new one then please let me know. I'm also omitting 'editor' from the end of articles, which I write, so if there is no acknowledgement it was written by me (i.e. the name at the top of this page).

FARMER'S MARKET

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High Street, St. Margarets at Cliffe, Dover

Tel. 01304 852960

Alkham Valley Meadows

Touring Caravan Park

Alkham Village

Telephone

01304 206344



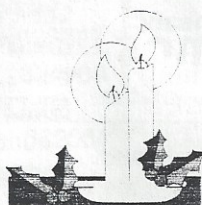
ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - The 26th AGM was held on the 13th of November and was reasonably well attended, although several members were at a confirmation in Canterbury Cathedral. After 9 years in office, Paul Tapsell announced his retirement as Chairman. However, as there were no nominations for this office, he kindly offered to continue as Vice Chairman for a period of three months. John Garlinge will continue as treasurer and Joanna Walker has taken over as secretary from Pamela Sayer's who wished to retire from this office. Members of the committee elected were Mary Abbott, Marion Banks-Nash, Kenneth Hammond, Shelley Jackson, Bill Rolfe, Christopher Tapsell and Pamela Sayers. The Chairman thanked the officers and committee for their work during the year which had been very useful and constructive, and he was sincerely thanked for the time he had given the Society during his term of office. The Treasurer's Report revealed the Society's assets were up to approximately £2,060. The good work John Garlinge and his assistants were doing laying the hedge on By-way No. 25 (Pimlico) was particularly mentioned. The sides of the hedge had been cut by contractors this year but the top left in order that John could continue his work. Several local matters were mentioned. Patsy Sayers asked if the Society could possibly help with the cost of hiring contractors to mow the Churchyard, which this year had been nobly tackled by Ken Hammond and Brian Wimsett. This will need to be discussed by the committee as the cost would be approximately £1,000. The cost of hiring a coach for the annual

outing was mentioned as this was prohibitive making the cost per person expensive. Norman Knowles said it was important to have an annual outing so that members could meet, and suggested that a block booking could be made on one of the many coach trips operating locally. The meeting finished with an interesting talk given by Martin Newcombe, accompanied by slides, on the Natural History of Kent, and coffee was then served. My very best wishes to you for Christmas and the New Year. (Pamela Sayers)

See local photos on
the Alkham Web site
alkham.info

REPLACEMENT SEATS

Bob Palmer said that it was not possible to restore the second vandalised seat, which had been outside the cricket pavilion. It was therefore decided to put one of the new replacement seats in its place. The other seat will be put under the tree by the swings. Clive Hyland and his sons have kindly offered to install them.



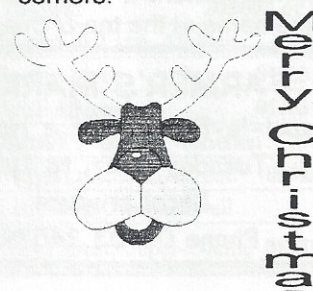
GARDENTALK Our last meeting was an enjoyable evening spent at "The Willows" thanks to Helen's hospitality and one of Devina's mind stretchers. Our Christmas party will be on Friday 19th December 7.30pm at 'The Vicarage'. Please remember to bring along your goodies for the spread and your contribution to the entertainment. (Susannah Tapsell)

SHORT LANE - with regard to the sad loss of Vince Holness, Paul Tapsell has volunteered to continue the monitoring of traffic in Short Lane in the hope of having traffic calming at some point in the future.

CHAT ROOM - There was quite a good response to the questionnaire regarding a meeting place for teenagers in the village. Vince Holness had proposed the project and a minutes silence was held in his memory at the Parish Council meeting. Some of the people who filled in the form were against the project and felt the money should be spent on something else. However, there is no pot of money and grants will be have to be obtained for such a specific project. The Parish Council, as a whole, is going to look into the feasibility of the proposal.

CHALKSOLE GREEN

has recently had the undergrowth removed so that it is again possible to walk the dog through it. Chalksole Green is about an acre in size and is at the top of the hill leading off Slip Lane by Malmains Manor. It was awarded to Alkham church wardens and overseers of the poor before it was eventually taken over by the Parish Council. There were two ponds and the 1846 Commissioner declared that the ponds 'shall be for ever hereafter left open with free access thereto for the purpose of watering cattle of such persons as have hereto been accustomed to use the same...'. In 1972 when the main drainage was laid, a lot of spoil was unfortunately dumped on Chalksole Green virtually filling one of the ponds. The last time it was used by the Parish was in 1977 when a walk, organised for the Queen's Silver Jubilee, ended at the green where a grand bonfire was lit and refreshments dispensed to all comers.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

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W.I.

The annual general meeting was held on Tuesday 11th November. The committee was voted back on with Iris leaving and Grace and Susannah coming on. Rosemary Crothall was voted President again; she makes such a good job we would not let her go! Secretary is Betty Neely and Treasurer Christine Tapsell who are also excellent. The two vice presidents are Susan Lees and Susannah Tapsell. As it was the A.G.M., we did not have a speaker but some members brought some antiques and spoke about them. There will not be a meeting in December at the hall as we are having our Christmas dinner and combined 75th birthday at the Lighthouse Inn at Capel. The Carols at the village hall with Helen's Donkey is Saturday 20th December at 10am. Teas coffees and mince pies will be available, also stalls. Everyone welcome. Our next outing is to Brugge Christmas Market on Saturday 6th December. The coach will pick us up in Alkham for a ferry crossing, we pray for a calm day! (Cherry)

OZ on CONKERS

– Two popular outdoor activities for British fathers and children are kicking footballs and, in autumn, lobbing missiles into horse chestnut trees to release conkers. We all do so and, equally inevitably, complain of mindless vandalism when succeeding generations follow suit. This year in Kearsney Abbey, Bushey Ruff and elsewhere, the kicking season was extended by the long hot summer but conkers have been disappointing; soft due to lack of early summer water, and small because of being premature September windfalls. Before the introduction to England of the horse chestnut from Eastern Europe in the 16th century, the game of conkers was played with snail-shells, sometimes "not tenantless", as ominously recorded by Edward Dowden. The game was itself an earlier import from France, hence the French dialect word 'conker' from 'conche' for 'shell'. The word 'conkers' for the English game was especially attractive because of its similarity to both 'conquers' and 'conk' (to hit on the head). Eventually 'conkers' came to mean the fruit of the horse chestnut, as when John Clare wrote "An' near blue sloos an' conkers red" in his Victorian dialect poem *Meaple Leaves be Yellow*. The Australian game "bullies" is played with the stones of 'bullies', the bright red fruit of the quandong tree. The bully stone is round and dimpled like a golf ball, about 20 millimetres in diameter and as hard as iron. Many generations of British players have tried making their conkers this hard by baking, pickling, storing, varnishing or, as reported recently, vacuum impregnating with epoxy resin. The organisers of the World Conkers Championships at Ashton, Northamptonshire, tolerate none of it. At this year's championships, held on the village green on October 12th, they handed out over 1,500 perfect conkers as usual, collected in spite of the season's problems, so as to ensure fair play. (Steve Osborn)

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will lead the singing in 'Come Carolling', the Christians Together in Dover carol concert, in Dover Town Hall at 7.30 pm on Monday 15th December. Accompaniment will be provided by the St Edmund's School Wind Band, and the concert will also feature a production by the children of Shatterlocks Infants School. This year's appeal will be on behalf of Pallisa Children's Concern Project, a charity that helps children, orphaned for various reasons, in Uganda. Tickets at £1 are available from local churches and the Town Hall. (Steve Osborn)

News from

St. Anthony's

A Baptism and Confirmation



service was held in the Cathedral in November when two of our congregation, together with around 50 other candidates from the Diocese, were confirmed by the Bishop of Dover. They will be receiving communion in St. Anthony's on 30th Nov. 9.30am and as this is a special occasion, we do hope you will be able to come and share it with us. The Christmas Carol service on 21st. Dec. at 6.30pm is always a joyful and happy way to start the week and the Blessing of the Crib at 4.30pm on Christmas Eve, a wonderful way to let the children share in the Christmas story. Christmas Day Communion will be at 11am. Do come and join in the Christmas celebrations. (Richard Tapsell and Ken Hammond, Church Wardens)

FOUND IN SLIP LANE

a walking stick. It is of the usual kind and if you'd like to claim it please phone Devina on 827548.

TABLE FAIR – On Saturday the 13th of December between 2.00pm and 6.00pm there will be a table fair in the Village Hall with all profits going to Cancer Research. All tables are sold and there will a variety of items for sale, such as crafts, cakes and board games. There will also be a raffle.

THE W.I.

is holding their annual carols and coffee morning in the Village



Hall on Saturday the 20th of December starting at 10.00am. Oliver the Donkey will be there to give rides to children who come along and all profits will be going to Cancer Research.

WHAT'S ON

Regular events

TUESDAY	Art classes in VH 10 to 1 pm ring 01303 243115 for details
WEDNESDAY	Keep Fit 9.30 -10.30 am Wednesday club 10.30-11.30am
THURSDAY	Mobile Library Vicarage Meadow car park 9.25 - 9.50am
FRIDAY	Whist Drive at 7.30 pm - contact Chris Tapsell on 824765

Other events

(VH= Village Hall and VM= Vicarage Meadow)

Monday	1	W.I. Carol Service in St. Anthony's 10.00am and then mince pies in the hall
Saturday	6	Bingo 7.30pm in VH – ring Beverley on 824765
Tuesday	9	W.I. out to dinner
Saturday	13	Christmas Fair in Village Hall from 2 to 6pm – see page 3
Monday	15	Dover and District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Friday	19	Garden Talk at The Old Vicarage 7.30pm
Saturday	20	W.I. Coffee Morning in the Village Hall – see page 3

CHURCH SERVICES

	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th	Evensong 4.00pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worshipping Together 11.00am
Sunday 14th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	Family Carol Service 11.00 a.m.	West Hougham V.H. carols 4.00pm
Sunday 21st	Carol Service 6.30 p.m.	Carol Service in Capel Village Hall 3.00pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
Wednesday 24th	Crib Service 4.30 p.m.	Midnight Mass 11.30 p.m.	NO SERVICE
Thursday 25th	Sung Eucharist 11.00 a.m.	NO SERVICE	Sung Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
Sunday 28th	Joint Benefice Sung Eucharist St Laurence, Hougham 10.00 a.m.		

If you or anyone you know in the village would like to make contact with someone in the church please telephone the Vicar, the Revd Kevin Mephram on 01303 244119. Weekday Services: Morning Prayer is said at Capel Monday-Friday at 8.30 am (except Bank Holidays); Evening Prayer at Hougham on Wednesday at 5 pm Eucharist at Capel every Thursday at 9.15 am Benefice Prayer Group – Saturday 9.00 am – Capel

WORLD CUP FEVER HITS ALKHAM – I don't think she was sitting with Union Jack wrapped round her and drinking pints of lager but evidently Olive Harvey was jumping up and down in her wheel chair when England won the Rugby World Cup. Beattie Jeapes goes round to see Olive, who is in her 80's, on Saturdays and she suggested that they watch the rugby and they saw the whole game and the triumphant finish.

SUNNY the Golden Retriever, whose owners tragically died recently, has settled down very well at his new home in Canterbury. There have been frequent e-mails to Helen Scopes, who was instrumental in getting Sunny re-homed, about what a character the dog is. When he was with Beattie Jeapes, he'd walk in with his food bowl or slippers in his mouth.

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