

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 189 June 2009

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CARAVANS, SOUTH ALKHAM

There was a planning appeal regarding the placement of caravans on the piece of land adjacent to the Garden Centre at South Alkham. The Inspector found in favour of the applicant and said 'I allow the appeal and grant planning permission for a change of use for the stationing of caravans for 2 no. gypsy pitches with hard-standing and a utility/day-room building ancillary on land to the south of Alkham Valley Road'. There were various conditions placed on the application and the Inspector goes on to say that with regard to 'A Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation for East Kent' (GTAA) there is an un-met need for residential pitches at regional, sub-regional and local level. **(editor)**

BRIC-A-BRAC - As the annual Fete is fast approaching we would be grateful for any items suitable for the bric-a-brac stall - Clare & Mark Naris, Owl Lodge. 826577.

QUIZ NIGHT 6th June 7.30 pm. Cost £5.00 including ploughman's supper. Please bring your own drink. Only a few tables left so please contact Brian Wimsett 824969 or Rosemary Heddle 827880 as soon as possible.

ON BEHALF of the PCC we would like to thank Larry Lambourne for cutting the footpaths in the cemetery due to the illness of Richard Tapsell, who has looked after the cemetery for many years, and we wish him a speedy recovery. Your effort has not gone unnoticed Larry and is much appreciated.

SPEED CHECKS - Our PCSO, Gretel Stevens, says that because of the narrowness and alignment of the Alkham Valley Road she is not allowed to use a speed indicator gun. A Special Constable has been using a laser gun at Kearsney and he will be doing further checks in the Alkham area.



ALKHAM CYCLE CLUB

At last we have got enough cyclists to form a club and the photo shows us in our new jerseys. On the left is Ken Hammond followed by Geoff Gaskill, Den Barnard and Brian Wimsett. The photo was taken by Peter Hooker, who is also a club member as is Alan Latham. The shirts were christened on a 50 mile sponsored bike ride in aid of Friends of St Anthony which raised over £240. We are keen to get more members so don't be put off by thinking you won't be able to keep up with us

as new members are taken on short rides to begin with and you can borrow a bike. We go out on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings and it's great fun, reinforcing the fact that men never grow up. So if you are retired or generally available please see Ken at Meadowside, which is the bungalow about 100 metres up Slip Lane behind the Old Post Office, or give Brian a ring on 824969. **(editor)**

NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM is a new way of involving local people in the way public services are delivered. They replace the Dover Local Board (run just by KCC) joining all three tiers of local government giving residents greater influence over local services. Alkham is in the Dover West Forum and I'll try and publish when the next Forum will take place. The first one was in April. **(editor)**

HGV'S - Progress on installing further signs regarding the low bridge at Kearsney is slow but pressure pads may be put in the Alkham Road which will be triggered when an HGV goes over to warn the driver. **(editor)**

SHEEP - There have been a large number of sheep killed at Ewell Minnis. It is thought that dogs are responsible and the police have been involved but it appears to be very difficult to find those responsible. **(editor)**

RICHARD and I would like to thank everyone for the cards, good wishes, love and support that we have received over the last few months. Richard continues to make good progress in getting back to a degree of normality.

PLEASE may I ask if ladies would be able to contribute a handbag (or two) over this next month, to the Bags and Basket stall for the Fete. Please let me know re. collection. Thank you very much indeed. **(Susannah)**

A.R.S.E (Alkham's Relieved Survivors of the Earthquake) - A late surge saw another good turn-out for the April meeting which commemorated the second anniversary of the earthquake. The next meeting is Friday, May 29th. Don't forget, it is always the last Friday of the month, 8.00 p.m. at the Marquis. See you there. **(Mark Robson)**

TO WHOM it may concern, would they please use the telegraph pole at the entrance to the football pitch for car parking signs as nails or staples can damage the young trees. Thank you. **(Ken Hammond)**

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CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FUND Alas and alack, I am undone! There I was at the V.I.P. departure lounge at Heathrow when members of the FSA and SFO arrested me on the instructions of a Mr Paul Tapsell. Mr Tapsell spotted a discrepancy in the accounts as published in last month's Newsletter in that £11.39p was outstanding on the cost of electricity for the Christmas tree lights. After a gruelling interview and a full body search (which, admittedly, I paid extra for) I coughed up and was released. To round off a bad news day the 'dead cert' winner in the 2.15 at Folkestone let me down too and can now be found in tins in the pet food section at the supermarket. After a few weeks of community payback, however, I am delighted to be able to report that the corrected Christmas Lights' Fund stands at £9.24 and that this has been independently audited by the Financial Department at the Houses of Parliament.

(Mark 'Fingers' Robson)



GARDEN TALK

Our last meeting included a cosy chat and a fun quiz at South Alkham Farm. We are hoping for glorious weather when we next meet - at 'Evergreen' in Slip Lane on Friday 19th June, where Val and Stan Fowler are our hosts. We welcome anyone interested in gardening - flowers, fruit or veg - and start at 7.30p.m. (Janet Adamson)

CALLING ALL SINGERS! – Local musicians are preparing again for the Dover Festival Prom Concert, to be performed at 7.30pm on Friday 3rd July in Dover Town Hall. Included is a medley from Les Miserables, a Handel anthem and three topical songs, together with Jerusalem, Rule Britannia and Land of Hope and Glory. All singers are welcome, but must attend at least 3 of the 4 working rehearsals, the first of which is at 7.30pm on Thursday 4th June in the Methodist Church, Lewisham Road, River. For further details ring Sue or Steve Yarrow on 01304 872812. (Steve Osborn)

COMBINED OUTING of the Alkham Valley Society, W.I., Gardeners' Club and ARSE. Tuesday, June 23rd, 2009. A joint trip to Faversham has been planned between the above groups - a village outing. The cost of the coach per person will be £10, providing that we have 30 people going; only 25 going and the price rises to £12, but let's hope it is over 30. Faversham is a very interesting town, and so a guided tour has been planned, costing £3.50 each, and also a tour of the Shepherd Neame Brewery - £6.75 each person. At the end of the tour samples of their different brews can be tasted. These two activities are optional, but it is, of course, hoped people will join in and make it more fun. Arrangements for lunch are "what you will", but quite a few of us will be visiting a French restaurant which is recommended. Jo has the details and will make the necessary booking for party of us, so do give her a ring for details. The coach will leave Alkham at 10 a.m. and pick everyone up at Faversham at 6 p.m. The guided tour will be in the morning on arrival, and the brewery trip after lunch. We do hope the itinerary appeals to folk, and as we have to confirm the coach quickly, it would be appreciated if we could have names a.s.a.p. accompanied by payment for the coach. We would also be pleased to have your decisions on the tours as these also require deposits beforehand. Please contact either Helen Scopes (01304 210591) or Jo Walker (01304 821 641). (Pam Sayers)

NEWSLETTER – Inevitably the Newsletter gets taken for granted and there is very rarely any feedback so it was particularly pleasing for me and Larry, who delivers at Drellingore, to be told by a lady there that she looks forward to receiving it and then giving a small contribution. The adverts pay for the cost of the Newsletter but all monies go in the Nationwide BS to cover any future problems. In addition I am giving £10 a month to the Rainbow Centre, who print the Newsletter. (editor)



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FOOTPATHS – I had hoped that the resurfacing of the tree root rutted path (ER161) north of the church would have been completed by now. This had been promised 'sooner rather than later' earlier in the year. 'Later rather than sooner' now appears to be the case but I have been assured that the work is still scheduled. I am hopeful that this much needed resurfacing will be done soon. The new gate on ER25 Pimlico to Slip Lane has now been installed. At this time of year footpaths quickly get overgrown and unless they are on the KCC cutting list they will remain overgrown. Please report overgrown paths so that I can get them added to the cutting list. My preference is to be contacted by e-mail (so I have a record of the complaint) but I am in the phone book should you not have access to the internet. **(Anthony Barrier)**

ALKHAM WI - The May meeting was full of business but it was one where members were finally able to sit back and have a chat with each other. Special thanks were given to all the members who had helped at the WI Group Meeting. The food they provided was great and the floral arrangements made by Rosemary Heddle and Rosie Hansraj outstanding. The poetry readings and Margaret Dansted's solo performance on the harp was enjoyed by all. Outings to Faversham in June, and the WI's 90 year Celebrations in July at Goodnestone, Canterbury in August and dinners in October were all discussed plus the possibility of Christmas shopping by coach! Although many other business matters arose, the meeting finalized with the Annual Resolution discussion soon to be raised at the Annual Meeting of the WI at The Albert Hall - the Resolution was on the matter of bee keeping and requesting the Government to back the need to investigate the matter. All members backed the resolution. Next meeting 9th June will have Imogen Corrigan giving a talk about 'Medieval Children'. **(Sue lees)**

OZ on MISTLES – On the last day of a short stay in Norfolk in April we awoke at 5.30am to a delicious outpouring of fluting birdsong that continued all through breakfast, causing much debate amongst fellow guests as to the songster. The answer came at 9am when we walked out to board the coach and saw two birds in the tops of adjacent trees, singing their hearts out to each other. They were mistle-thrushes, and their behaviour was typical, not just of spring, but also of autumn and winter, because this hardy bird is resistant to both wind and rain, which explains one of its other names, the 'storm cock'. Excluding spelling variants, there are over thirty names for the mistle-thrush, many relating to the bird's appetite for mistletoe berries. This diet was first noted in Aristotle's History of Animals, written in the 4th century BC. The scientific name Turdus viscivorus comes from the Latin Viscum for mistletoe. In Britain mistles are more likely to be seen feeding on holly or hawthorn, and their success is largely due to the way they defend their trees. When attacked their call changes to a harsh rattle and they hurl themselves at raiders, often with devastating results. Cocker and Mabey's book Birds Britannica has accounts of a mistle that killed a jackdaw, another that knocked a peacock over and one that knocked a barn owl "clean off its perch". This impressive bird has always captured the imagination of writers, perhaps most notably Thomas Hardy in his poem The Darkling Thrush, written on 31 December 1900, the last day of the 19th century. It could only have been a mistle-thrush, in Hardy's bleak "spectre-grey" winter land, that sang in "full-hearted evensong of joy illimited", and gave him "some blessed Hope" for the coming century. **(Steve Osborn)**

BOOK CLUB - The reading book for this month is The Tenderness of Wolves by Stef Penney. Margaret Danstead will kindly be hosting on the 3rd June. (829006)

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T	Community Warden 07977981994

Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)	
Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am – Wednesday Club to 11.30am in VH
Thursday	Karate classes from 7.15pm to 8.45pm in VH - 821336
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village		
Thursday	4	Village hall open 7am–10pm Europe/Local elections
Saturday	6	Quiz in the village hall 7.30pm
Sunday	7	Cricket v Eastry Vicarage Meadow 2.30pm
Tuesday	9	W.I. meeting in the village hall at 7.30pm
Wednesday	10	Fete meeting in the village hall 8.00pm
Monday	15	Bird Club in village hall from 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th	Evensong 6.30pm	Eucharist 9.00	Worship together 11am
Sunday 14th	Eucharist 9.00am.	Worship together 11 am	
Sunday 21st	Family Worship 11am a.m.	Evensong 6.00pm	Eucharist 9.00am
Sunday 28th	Joint Benefice at Hougham 10.0am		

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

From the Vicarage: The Christian Aid Coffee Morning at the Vicarage was very well supported and raised £280. It was great to have so many people from all the parishes take part. Thank you to each of you. For my part it felt good to be part of a group that was working together and even more importantly enjoying being together. I think this is one of the most important points about living in a village. There is the opportunity to join in activities, get to know each other and to enjoy events together. We now have two little white dogs, Bob has moved in and is settling well. He is a Bischon Freise and is about half Rolo's size but at present they are still working out who will be top dog. They enjoy racing up and down the back garden and they are both sleeping well! The next step will be going to training and I hope he will not be going with Rolo's expectation. He thought that I was the one who would be trained to do everything to suit him! The garden is thriving, the potatoes, broad beans, onions, garlic, raspberry canes, black current and red current bushes are all doing well. We have had 8 pounds of rhubarb already and the strawberries are in flower. The green house has been a great success, we have been eating salad leaves and radishes for the past month, the peas are in flower and the tomatoes have set fruit already. There is still much to do but it is a joy to have a garden and to be able to watch it develop, enjoying the flowers and the fruits! Whenever I am at St. Anthony's I am always bowled over by the views from the church door. There is always so much to drink in and to be refreshed, I feel privileged to be serving here and I give thanks that I am here. **(Sue White)**

Newsletter , Brian Wimsett 824969 e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com Alkham web site www.alkham.org Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791 alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net Neighbourhood Watch PCSO (left) & 218151 GP out of hours 0844 800 1234	Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635 W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585 AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641 Footpath Warden antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk Vicar – Rev. Sue White 01303 240539 Church Wardens - Geoff Gaskill 823100 and Grace Stacey 822756
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BATTLEFIELD TOUR

On Wednesday May 27th 40 villagers travelled to Belgium to honour the memory of some of the villagers who died in the First World War. A packed day included visits to Poperinge where it was possible to visit the cells and the courtyard where some of the 350 soldiers who were 'shot at dawn' spent their last hours. From there we travelled to Essex Farm cemetery where John McCrae wrote the poem 'In Flanders Field' which inextricably linked the poppy to the battlefields and

remembrance and where Edwin Daniels is buried. Edwin, one of four brothers from Alkham, was killed by a shell on 8th June 1916. The photo above shows James Tapsell laying a poppy spray from present day villagers in memory of Edwin. After a superb lunch provided by Helen Scopes the group moved on to the German cemetery at Langermarck. This cemetery was stark in comparison with the beautifully maintained British cemeteries which include Tyne Cot near Ypres. Tyne Cot is the biggest Commonwealth military cemetery in the world where there are graves and names of 35000 'missing' soldiers who could not be fitted onto the Menin Gate memorial. The tour finished at Ypres and the Menin Gate, which is an enormous arched entrance to Ypres where the Last Post is sounded every evening at 8.00pm. Soldiers marched through the gate on the way to the front and the names of 54,896 Commonwealth soldiers who died without graves are inscribed on it. Percy Parker, who was born in Alkham in 1896 and died aged 21, is one of those commemorated. At the Last Post wreaths can be laid and people from a village or town walk across the road under the Menin Gate to place the wreath. The oldest and youngest members of the Alkham group were chosen with Grace Stacey and James Tapsell placing the wreath in memory of Percy Parker. Thanks go to Mark Robson for organising the trip, Helen Scopes for providing the wonderful picnic and also to the tour guide who was excellent as was Mark the driver who lives in Alkham and magically knows how to get a coach on the Shuttle. **(editor)**



PHOTOS – If you have other photos taken on the trip please let me have them for possible inclusion on the Alkham web site. **(Brian Wimsett)**

A POLICE community surgery will be held by Gretel Stevens in a mobile police station outside the village hall on Tuesday 7th July between 10 and 12.

DRINK UP – The temporary events notice has been approved for this year's fete so if everything goes to plan there will be a beer stall selling Shepherd Neame Spitfire and Masterbrew plus Sandie and Denni will be serving Pimms. A new system of dispensing the beer is to be tried and Stan and Brian have decided to wear waterproofs just in case.

ALKHAM FETE - This year's Fete is on Saturday 11th July starting at 2pm. The following stallholders have asked me to ask you for help with items for sale and/or other donations, please contact them direct if you are able to assist:-

Books (Sue Lees on 822661): **Bric a Brac** (Clare Naris on 826577),

Cakes & Jam (Val Fowler on 827635): **Handbags** (Sue Tapsell on 822295):

Hoopla (Christine Tapsell on 822282): **Jewellery** (Barbara Palmer on 824973):

Plants & Flowers (Rosemary Heddle on 827880) or **Produce** (Richard Tapsell on 822295). I am,

as always, on the lookout for helpers to put the tents up and prepare the meadow on the morning (meet at 8.30 am please), to man the car parks, assist stallholders, help supervise the children's races, etc, and help clear the meadow afterwards; it's actually a lot of fun and with a group of people all mucking in together the work gets done really quickly. We are intending to have a main cash prize for the Grand Raffle and a number of other prizes; please contact Irene Barnard on 824845, if you are able to help with a prize or cash donation (however large or small) to go into the prize pool. As with last year we have included a couple of books of raffle ticket with every newsletter, please do what you can to sell them, and drop the counterfoils and money (or any unsold tickets) to Irene, Sue Lees or me before the day of the Fete. Please tell your friends and family and come along on the day to enjoy a traditional village fete with all the trimmings!

(Paul Tapsell 01303 892082).

JUST A reminder to say that we are still collecting items for the bric-a-brac stall at the Fete. All donations gratefully received. Clare and Mark Naris, Owlter Lodge – 826577.

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SANDIE Tapsell and Denni Frater pause for a well earned pint at The Swan, Whittersham whilst on the 60 mile Great Kent Bike ride on the 14th June. From Ashford the route went to Newchurch then along the coast through Camber to Rye and back via Appledore and Tenterden. Den, Ken and Brian rode as well through lovely countryside with riders of all abilities. Join us next year for a good day out.

THE FRIENDS was set up to help preserve the fine listed building which is St Anthony's church and two events in aid of the Friends were held on 6th of June in the village hall. Rosemary and Martin Heddle are congratulated for their **QUIZ** which was a great success raising over £400 with the natural entertainer Den Barnard asking the questions (**editor**). Earlier in the day Rosie and Bashir Hansraj organised **A COFFEE MORNING** which was a great village effort with everyone pulling together with baking, preparation, selling raffle tickets, tidying up and all the other bits and pieces that make a village event work. It really was a great morning and the magnificent sum of £220 was raised. Thank you to every one for their help, support and contribution and here's looking forward to the next event. Watch this space. Best wishes **Rosie Hansraj**.

The Alkham Valley Society speaker for the year: Vince Burrows will give us an account of the Wolverton Archaeological project on 26 August at 7.30 pm. Refreshments will be available. Vince has already given this talk for the AGM of the Alkham Parish Council this year, so several people will already have heard it. However, numbers did not since they were away. Mention will be made of a forthcoming Alkham Valley archaeological project as well. All very welcome. Members free, non-members join up and pay a £1 for a year's membership. (**Jo Walker**)

BOOK CLUB - Margaret Danstead will kindly host the next Book Club on the 1st July at 7.30. We will discuss any classic book members wish to read. New members welcome. Contact Margaret on 829006 for further details.

OCCASIONAL, part time vineyard workers required throughout the summer months, needed to assist in young vineyard, tying up, side shooting, weeding, grape picking and other ad hoc duties. Ideal for students. Ideally you will be hard-working, reliable and enthusiastic and not afraid to get dirty! I am looking to build up a pool of people who I can call upon to come and do a day or so work, even if you can only spare a few hours a week, when needed at short notice. If you 'd like to be on the list, please email Claire@chalksolevineyard.co.uk, with any relevant experience, a bit about you and your full contact details. I look forward to hearing from you.

A.R.S.E. (Alkham's Relieved Survivors of the Earthquake) - The meeting that marked the second anniversary of the earthquake revealed some worrying side effects. Members were quite relaxed at the actual session but afterwards some reported flashbacks in the form of a 'wobbly walk' when going home and a 'fuzzy head' the next day. It is clear that there is still some way to go with this therapy so we are embarking on our third year of meetings starting at 8.00 p.m. on Friday, June 26th at The Marquis. New members are always welcome. (**Mark Robson**)



www.themarquisatalkham.co.uk

Summer Solstice al fresco dinner and Jazz on Sunday 28th June at 6pm

2 course supper and Jazz from 'Joanna & her Pianna' for £ 25 per person.

Beer tasting evening with Beer aficionado Julian Herrington, who for 15 years was head brewer at Shepherd Neame and is now at the Whitstable Brewery on Wednesday 8th July. Feel free to take a peek at our event calendar on the website for more information or give us a call on 01304873410 to make a reservation

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OZ on SHAUN - When our rescue collie Jak died eighteen months ago at the early age of seven we were grief-stricken. "Never again" we muttered, softening into "Next year perhaps" and then "OK, for our next birthdays." That is why in May we returned to the rescue centre, fell in love with Shaun, and took him home a week later. Shaun is a two-year old West Highland White Terrier cross and came with problems, as do most rescue dogs, because that's often why they're there. The first line of his dossier read "Shaun is a worried little man." This showed itself mainly in soiling, but after a few days Shaun realised that he is here to stay and became clean and dry. The other problems, such as barking and defensiveness over food, have lessened, but seem to be part of the breed's temperament. Similarly, Shaun's qualities, such as his fearlessness, compact physicality and eagerness to please, stem largely from the same genetic inheritance. Westies were first bred from Scottish terriers in Argyllshire to hunt vermin after King James 1 of England requested some 'little white earth dogges'. The breed was confirmed later when Colonel Malcom of Potalloch, Argyllshire, tragically shot his favourite dark red terrier, mistaking it for a fox, and vowed to have only white dogs from then on. At first Shaun didn't respond to his name, so we considered changing it to something more percussive and perhaps Scottish, such as Mak, (too much like Jak), Ben, Monty or Angus (ridiculed by my daughter and her family as too reminiscent of an Aberdeen steak). We found only noisy disagreement amongst family and friends, so we're sticking with 'Shaun', especially as he now responds to it. "You'll do", we often tell him, "and so will your name". **(Steve Osborn)**

GARDEN TALK - After a convivial evening chez Val & Stan Fowler, we have planned the next two evenings, when we hope the weather will be equally kind. On Friday 24th July we are invited to The Old Vicarage where Lucy and Ian are our hosts - and on Friday 14th August we meet at Box Tree in Slip Lane. We gather at 7.30p.m. and the chat is garden-based, and related topics. All welcome. **(Janet Adamson)**

ALKHAM W.I. - May meeting - this was well attended despite the Book Club members being tempted to attend a different meeting!. Pam Sayers gave an excellent report on the W.I.'s AGM which she had attended at The Royal Albert Hall and Imogen Corrigan gave an interesting talk on medieval children. Mrs Page will speak about Ikebana at the meeting on 14th July. Members don't really need reminding but just in case anyone should forget all help and gifts etc are needed for the fete on 11th July. **(Sue Lees)**

CHRISTIAN AID beats the Credit Crunch - Thank you to all who gave so generously to Christian Aid week, and the dedicated team of Alkham collectors. We raised £293 in total - very close to last year's sum despite the credit crunch and showing that we do care about improving the quality of life for the poorest in the Third World. As an example, Christian Aid are funding a solar energy powered irrigation project in central Malawi - enabling locals to grow more of their own food (www.christianaid.org.uk). Gift Aid means that the government will contribute a further £115 to the amount we raised. **(Geoff Gaskill)**

DOVER FESTIVAL PROMS - Local musicians will again present a festive charity concert in the style of "The Last Night of the Proms", at 7.30 pm on Friday 3rd July in Dover Town Hall. The programme commemorates anniversaries of the deaths of Handel (1759) and Haydn (1809), and Bleriot's maiden cross-channel flight (1909). Included is a medley from Les Miserables, a Handel anthem and three topical songs arranged by Michael Lewis, together with Dauntless Dover and the traditional Proms Finale of Jerusalem, Rule Britannia and Land of Hope and Glory. This year's proceeds are in support of Nicole's Fund at The Teenager Cancer Trust. Tickets are available at £6 and £3 (promenaders) from the Dover Visitor Centre or from chorus members. For further details ring Sue or Steve Yarrow 01304 872812 or Mike Lewis on 01227 831208. **(Steve Osborn)**

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ALKHAM CRICKET at home versus

5th The Marquis at 2.30pm

9th Dover College at 6.00pm

15th Aquarius at 6.00pm

19th Wick. And Stod. At 2.20pm

23rd Dover Cosmos at 6.00pm

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District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956,
Andrew Richardson 211835

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Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am – Wednesday Club to 11.30am in VH
Thursday	Karate classes from 7.15pm to 8.45pm in VH - 821336
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Monday	6	Parish Council meeting in village hall at 7.30pm
Saturday	11	Annual fete 2pm Vicarage Meadow – see page 1
Tuesday	14	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	20	Bird Club in village hall from 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th	Evensong 6.30pm	Eucharist 9.00	Worship together 11am
Sunday 12th	Eucharist 9.00am	Worship together 11am	
Sunday 19th	Family Service 11am	Songs of Praise 4pm	Eucharist 9.00am
Sunday 26th	Joint Benefice 10.00am at Alkham		
Weekday Services: Wednesday Eucharist 9.15 am St Radigund, Capel-Le-Ferne			

From the Vicarage - What a glorious week it has been. Real June days, the cool early mornings with the birds singing and Rolo and Bob happily running in the fields and the welcome heat of the day doing the flowers and vegetables a power of good. The tomatoes are ripening in the greenhouse and there is fruit on the ones in the garden, the broad beans, French beans and peas are delicious and there are strawberries ripening. The fruit trees have 'taken' and we now have apples and cherries but I have been told that I need to remove these the first year to encourage strong growth in the trees. I still have some space and I am hoping to plant a damson and a pear this autumn. Bob is now off the lead in the fields but is still very nervous and barks first when he meets new dogs, it's an anxiety bark but rather off-putting to everyone and we are trying to stop this but it may take some time. He is aptly named as he does 'bob' up and down in the grass but if he thinks it's too tall or thick he just sits and waits to be carried! At the end of May we had our first wedding for this year at St. Anthony's and there is another booked for September. Bookings are coming in for next year and with the relaxation in the requirements it is possible for me to marry couples who may not live in the village but have a connection with Alkham, Hougham or Capel through other family members. There is a real sense of community in Alkham and it is lovely to be part of the events that take place. I am very much looking forward to the Fete on the 11th July. Last year it was such a good afternoon, there was so much to see and to do for all of us. **(Sue White)**

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Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969

e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com

Alkham web site www.alkham.org

Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791

alkham.parcouncil@virgin.net

Neighbourhood Watch PCSO (left) & 218151

GP out of hours 0844 800 1234

Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635

W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641

Footpath Warden antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk

Vicar – Rev. Sue White 01303 240539

Church Wardens - Geoff Gaskill 823100
and Ken Hammond 07909563479

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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THE FETE was a great success and thanks must go to Paul Tapsell for being the prime organiser. The picture shows Chris Tapsell, Maurice Sayers and Bob Palmer at the drinks stall where beer and Pimms was served. **(editor)**

KENT POLICE YOUTH PANEL is made up of young people, aged 11 and over living in Kent, who tell us what they think about a number of crime and policing issues. During a year, panel members will be invited to take part in up to four surveys or discussion groups. We will ask for your opinions by email, telephone or post or at informal discussion group meetings. Get involved - If you are aged 11 years and older, live in Kent and would like more information, please email the Youth Panel or call 01622 652667. Please visit

www.kent.police.uk/youthpanel for more information **(PC Mick Wright)**

ALKHAM FETE - I'd like to say a big 'Thank you' to everyone who helped with the Fete this year, despite some ominous rain clouds we had a fabulous day, taking something in the region of £4,130 so after expenses we should have the best part of £2,500 to £3,000 to divide between the Church and Village Hall. It's invidious to name individuals when so many people put so much into the day, but I should give particular mention to Doreen Wilkes who is bowing out having run the needlework and textiles stall for many years, to the generous donors who put money towards the prize fund (John and Ann Huggins, the Keep Fit Club and Mrs Ann Onymous - you know who you are!), to Barbara Palmer for taking me (and the children) shopping and to the W I Ladies in the Village Hall/Tea Tent. Thanks must also go to the Tapsell brothers and their wives - Richard and Sue, David and Christine and Alan and Shirley (as well as Chris and Jane, who because of a mix up on my part, missed out this year!) - and their children and grandchildren (S, J & C, L, A & S, M & G, and A & K); without whose unflinching support and assistance, frankly, there probably wouldn't be a Fete! I should also like to thank our PCSO Gretl for her hard work on the day dealing with waspish motorists and motoring wasps and for the young lads who came and offered, without being asked, to help cut the grass for me! If you'd like to come along to the post-Fete meeting in early September, or any of next year's Fete meetings to get involved, please do - the more the merrier! **(Paul Tapsell)**

THE HISTORIC VILLAGE SIGN opposite the village hall is in a very poor state. The Parish Council have approached DDC with regard to replacing it but DDC say that it is not their responsibility. However, the sign does say that it was installed by the Tourism department of DDC and therefore the Parish Council are contacting them again. Rather than enhancing the village as was intended it now appears to be doing the opposite, so maybe a village solution is required. **(editor)**

CLEANER - The Alkham village hall requires a cleaner for 3 hours a week from September this year. If you would like to apply, or would like further information, please contact Sue Lees on 822661, or pop in and see her at Forstal Cottage by the Marquis.

JUMBLE SALE - Saturday 15th August 11am - an unusual month but a Sale well worth coming to - run by the Alkham WI.

GARDENER wanted. Experienced gardener required to assist with maintaining two average size gardens in the centre of the village (probably 2 to 4 hours per week). While the main tasks involve mowing, weeding, occasional hedge trimming and strimming, plus generally keeping the gardens neat and tidy, we'd ideally like to find someone who has a genuine interest in gardening. Hours and rate negotiable. Please call Peter on 01304 820067 (leave your name and number on answer machine if no reply)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY

A very interesting talk by the archaeologist, Vince Burrows, will take place in the village hall at 7.30pm on 26th August. Light refreshments will be served and all are welcome. An ideal opportunity to learn about our local history.

GARDEN TALK - Our next gathering will be on Friday 14th August at Box Tree in Slip Lane, where our hosts will be Pam and Maurice Sayers. All welcome to join us for an informal tour and chat about gardens in particular and anything else. Further suggestions for visits gratefully received.

(Janet Adamson 01303 893413)

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NAKED MAN IN VILLAGE SCANDAL - After a gruelling twenty five mile cycle ride last week, I had just stepped out of the shower with back door wide open when I was confronted on the doorstep by a well known lady of the village who, it is widely known, has a soft spot for me. I hastily wrapped my towel around me, but I think it was too late judging from the expression on her face. I mention no names but I will say that Sue Lees keeps calling when Irene's not in with spurious excuses and, when she finds me fully clothed, always looks disappointed. I still don't know why she came round. **(Den Barnard)**



Alkham Group

Outing: The Alkham Valley Society, Alkham W.I., Alkham Gardening Club and a.r.s.e. made a successful group expedition to Faversham 23 June. We nearly filled a bus and the Excellent Company enjoyed a tour of the town : Bricks, Barges and Beer

apparently the three Bs making Faversham's wealth. The town only seems to have been bombed once, and revealed extraordinary mediaeval and Georgian buildings, an unusual number of flourishing public houses and, of course, the creek at lowish tide with the brown sails of the barges furled against their tall masts. Lunch followed at the Anchor Inn, which nearly panicked at the growing group but coped very well. The afternoon tour of the Shepherds Neame Brewery was well attended, a 'must do' in Faversham, and its products enjoyed. Adventures befell some who did not go on the brewery tour such as a cafe owner felled by flowerpots, a brawl in an alleyway (NOT Alkham villagers), more near panic in other cafes owned by the same flowerpot victim and so on: aspects of mediaeval and modern life thrown in en passant, as it were. They need not have worried, we enjoyed Faversham old and new. Thanks to all who came to make this day enjoyable, some from as far away as Bath. **(Jo Walker, Sec)**

WE ARE RECRUITING volunteers to the Clean Kent Watch as part of Neighbourhood Watch Kent, to help observe and report illegal environmental activities. 'Eyes and ears' reporting plays a valuable role for the Clean Kent Campaign, which seeks to improve and enhance the quality of the local street scene by reducing fly tipping, abandoned vehicles and associated fires. As a Clean Kent Watch volunteer you will be provided with an information pack which includes a unique identification number, enabling you to report information to trained staff 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Your reporting will be used to inform clean-up activity through to enforcement action and help prevent and deter these environmental offences. To find out more and to register log onto www.cleankent.co.uk/cleankentwatch.html or e-mail clean.kent@kent.gov.uk. Your help is very much appreciated in order to make Kent clean and beautiful. **(PC Mick Wright)**

BOOK CLUB - We will be meeting this month at the home of Linda Gaskill on Wednesday 5th August at 7.30pm. The Book chosen for discussion is Testament of Youth by Vera Britton. If members are unable to attend please contact Linda direct, Tel: 823100. New members are always welcome to join our friendly group. **(Rosemary Hedde)**



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ALKHAM W.I. - Very few members realized that the talk on 'Ikebana' was not 'keep fit' but a delightful demonstration on Japanese flower arranging - so elegant and so few flowers and greenery needed. Members were reminded that the WI Open Air Quiz is to take place at Alkham on 3rd August 10am - 2pm. The next WI meeting 11th August is one for members just to sit back, relax, talk, eat fish & chips and drink wine, or eat and drink their preferred refreshments. **(Sue Lees)**



Look what happens when dogs are allowed to roam loose.

BOOK CLUB - We will be meeting this month at the home of Linda Gaskill on Wednesday 5th August at 7.30pm. The Book chosen for discussion is Testament of Youth by Vera Britton. If members are unable to attend please contact Linda direct, Tel: 823100. New members are always welcome to join our friendly group. **(Rosemary Heddle)**

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY has a big season coming up, with Handel's Messiah this autumn and Verdi's Requiem next spring. Also our website went live at: www.doverchoralsociety.org.uk

Go there now and see our lovely picture on the home page, read all about us and our past and future performances, or simply browse in our library of music for hire. And why not join us, either to sing or as a Friend?

(Steve Osborn)

OZ on THE SHIPPING FORECAST

- Most readers will identify with the first line of Charlie Connelly's 2004 book Attention All Shipping, where he says "The solemn, rhythmic intonation of the shipping forecast is as familiar to us as the sound of Big Ben chiming the hour." It is a travel book, written after Connelly undertook "a journey round the shipping forecast" and it describes both the geography of the forecast areas and the history of the forecast. The first forecast was called Weather Shipping, and was broadcast from the Air Ministry, London, on 1 January 1924. At that time the seas around Britain were divided into just thirteen weather areas, the Kent coast being shared between Thames and Wight. The Dover area was introduced in 1956, and extends from Thanet to Bruges in the north, and Beachy Head to Dieppe in the south. Today there are 31 weather areas, and so Connelly describes some 60 locations. After reading the book I did some research of my own. What impressed me was how central the shipping forecast has become to our national culture, appearing time after time in the arts and media and of course in quizzes. Seamus Heaney's sonnet The Shipping Forecast starts with "Dogger, Rockall, Malin, Irish Sea...", while Carol Ann Duffy's poem Prayer ends with "Darkness outside. Inside, the radio's prayer - Rockall. Malin. Dogger. Finisterre." To return to Connelly, his chapter on Dover starts with the traditional jibe about passing through, rather than staying in, the town, but then progresses through 16 pages of increasingly sympathetic portrayal of various wars, immigrations, Bleriot's first channel crossing and the ferry business. The other locations are described in equally thorough and humorous manner, making it a difficult book to put down once started, and all for only £6.99 from Amazon. **(Steve Osborn)**

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6th St. Margaret 6.00pm

9th Westbourne 2.30pm

16th Balham Roamers 2pm

30th Hackers 12 noon

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Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Monday	3	W.I. treasure hunt 9.30am
Tuesday	11	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	15	W.I. jumble sale in village hall 11.00am
Monday	17	Bird Club in village hall from 7.30pm
Wednesday	26	Alkham Valley Society Archaeological Talk 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2nd	Evensong 6.30pm	Eucharist 9.00am	Worship together 11am
Sunday 9th	Eucharist 9.00am	Worship together 11am	
Sunday 16th	Family Service 11a.m.	Sung Evensong 6 p.m.	Eucharist 9.00am
Sunday 23rd	Joint Benefice 10.00am at Alkham		
Sunday 30th	Joint Benefice 10.00am at St. Mary's		

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

From the Vicarage - Well St. Swithin's day brought a little rain – we can do with some but not forty days worth! The garden is continuing to thrive, flowers, vegetable and weeds are in earnest competition but with a little help from the hoe the flowers and veg are winning. It's amazing how the garden has changed, it's looking quite colourful and welcoming now. I shall have to make some changes for next year such as planting the onion sets and the garlic bulbs nearer the surface of the soil. Most of them decided that mining was not their forte and have either died or headed for Australia. The rhubarb has been fantastic and this year I have made some into chutney but I fear it will need some time to mature (probably a year or ten) before being eaten. The Fete was excellent and once again I was fortunate in meeting many people; we must all be very thankful for all the hard work that is put in to plan and run this event. The postal service at the Farmers Market in Capel is very welcome and we shall all have to support the efforts that are being made to bring back a permanent service. I hear of other village post offices and facilities being closed and hear of the problems that there are in getting into the nearest town where there is a post office service. It seems strange to me that the post office in Folkestone was also closed because it is evident that the counter at W. H. Smiths cannot cope. No matter what day or time I have been there is always a long queue. In fact it's the length of queue I could wish for on a Sunday morning before I begin a service!! I wish you all a pleasant summer with the children at home for the holidays, safe journeys and happy days. **(Sue White)**

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Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969

e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com

Alkham web site www.alkham.org

Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791

alkham.parcouncil@virgin.net

Neighbourhood Watch PCSO (left) & 218151

GP out of hours 0844 800 1234

Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635

W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641

Footpath Warden antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk

Vicar – Rev. Sue White 01303 240539

Church Wardens - Geoff Gaskill 823100

and Ken Hammond 07909563479

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 192 September 2009

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Damage is caused to the trees, hedges and verges on a fairly regularly basis by these misdirected HGV's. The Highway Authority has been approached to install a 'Not suitable for long vehicles' sign at the top of Meggett Lane and the Parish Council has been trying for some time to get them to erect a sign at Lower Standen warning HGV's of the low bridge at Temple Ewell; it would seem a good idea to add the 'not suitable' to this sign. Large HGV's are frequently seen going up the hill by Vicarage Meadow and inevitably they will have to turn round causing inconvenience to road users and also the driver who has been directed along the valley by the stupid software. **(editor)**

SHEEP – The killing continues with a sheep being attacked and gored to death, by what is thought to be dogs running loose, on land owned by John Huggins adjacent to Chalksole Green Lane. John asks all owners to make sure their dogs are on the lead when near livestock and warns that if he sees a dog worrying his sheep he will shoot it. **(editor)**

FETE POST- MORTEM - Please come along to the Fete Committee meeting on the 15th September for the annual review of the Fete, financial reports and division of the spoils - if you're good I might bring a couple of bottles of wine to share afterwards! We can also set things in train for next year's Fete to be held on Saturday the 10th July 2010 so put the date in your diaries now to avoid the embarrassment of explaining that you're going to a wedding or have booked your holiday for the same day as the most important date in the village's year! **(Paul Tapsell)**

VARIETY SHOW – Helen Scopes is hoping to put together another Variety Show in 2010. If anyone is interested in taking part or would like to have a meeting to discuss ideas or please ring Helen on 01304 210591. Also it is hoped to hold a May Day event in the village in 2010, so if you have any ideas, please ring Helen.

PERILS OF SAT NAV The photograph was taken by a person who lives in Meggett Lane where this monster had been directed by its Sat Nav and then got stuck; it took an hour and a half to get the truck to reverse back up the hill to the Alkham Valley Road.

ALKHAM PRODUCE - Vigilant walkers passing St. Anthony's church will have seen the notice advertising local Alkham produce in the porch. The concept, picked up on a recent wet holiday in Cornwall, is of vegetables, fruit, flowers, plants and other items being offered for sale in aid of church funds. A recent inspection of the church building, revealed a total of £35,000 needed for various refurbishments.

At present, payment is on a voluntary donation basis, but, depending on how this works, we may switch to a "price per item" later. Recent offers have included greengages, French beans, chili peppers, peaches and courgettes. So, whether you are a green-fingered gardener with surplus produce to offer, or just enjoy eating your "five a day", please give generously. **(Geoff Gaskill)**

ALKHAM CC v THE MARQUIS The 2nd Annual ACC v Marquis cricket match will be on the 28th September from 1 pm, with a number of all-star players from the Counties and England national teams, pitting their wits and skill against the Alkham badgers (and the unpredictable wicket). Come along to support us (or them, suit yourselves!) and enjoy the spectacle of village cricket at its very best. There will be various fund-raising activities to raise money for the club and our chosen charity (or which more anon!). A super time is, pretty much, guaranteed and it will be a wonderful round off to an eventful 170th year for the Club. Once again there will be a special meal at the Marquis afterwards with guest speakers at 8pm and tickets are £24.95 for three courses including a glass of house wine (call 01304873410 for more information). **(Paul Tapsell)**

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DEN AND CYCLING (Part Four) - Nelson Mandela once said 'After climbing a great hill one only finds that there are many more hills to climb'. He obviously used to go cycling with Ken and Brian. I believe now that I have seen all the big hills in Kent but still nothing compares with the mountain next to Etchinghill Golf Course which, I might add, Brian and Ken have no problem with. We have two new regulars in the club, Geoff Gaskill and Alan Latham, who both have very quickly reached cycling fitness and Geoff has stopped falling off. Sandy Tapsell and Linda Gaskill have also had their first ride with the team showing superb style and fitness and adding some glamour to the club. Ken and Brian have both bought new bikes and are putting pressure on me to do the same but I have resisted majestically so far. At two to three thousand pounds a time I think my resistance will remain pretty strong. I have noticed that car and lorry drivers seem to be more supportive of us cyclists recently. We have less rude gestures and angry swear words these days but there is always the odd one who believes we should not be on the road and you can spot them a mile off. As Mandela once said 'If you don't like the look of someone just punch them' – I am, of course, referring to Ronnie Mandela, the kid who used to sit next to me at school. **(Den Barnard)**

HOUSE FOR RENT OR EXCHANGE – A couple in the village need to move to Canterbury for work and education purposes. If anybody has any family that already lives in the Canterbury area and would like to move to Alkham please get in touch! Ideally we are looking for a 2/3 bedroom house close to the city centre in exchange for our 2 bedroom house with big garden and beautiful views! In addition we wonder if anyone has a property for rent in Canterbury. If you are interested please phone us on 01304 829295.

FAMILY HISTORY - If you are interested in starting, or progressing with this fascinating hobby, there are classes which may be of help. Family History: the Basics and Beyond is an 11 week course being held on Monday afternoons in Dover Discovery Centre from 28th September, and at Wood Avenue Library, Folkestone (Top of Canterbury Road) on Tuesday afternoons from 29th September. Run through Adult Education, courses are listed in their new brochure - or further details can be got from Janet Adamson 01303 893413.

NAKED MAN SCANDAL – a Reply. Since the last Newsletter several people have asked me what I was doing when I 'accidentally' saw Den Barnard coming out of his shower one day last month. I would like to make it clear that I had a genuine reason for being there and I think a lot of fuss is being made about such a small thing. **(Sue Lees)**

NEWSLETTER – It is the end of the financial year for the Newsletter and I'm pleased to say a profit was made on the year. All money received goes into the Nationwide Building Society and the account shows a healthy balance. The printing costs were £447; petrol for delivery was £24 and the postage for 24 copies a month, £85. In addition, £60 has so far been donated to the Rainbow Centre who do such a good job in the community and printing the Newsletter.

(editor)

GARDEN TALK - A large number enjoyed the hospitality of Pam & Maurice Sayers in August, also viewing the pretty garden and new 'Bandstand'. Our next meeting will be on Friday 9th October, when Susannah and Richard Tapsell will be our hosts. All welcome from 7.30p.m. **(Janet Adamson)**

THE MARQUIS are offering either free private dining room hire or a birthday cake or a bottle of bubbly for any special celebration (birthdays, anniversaries etc) meals for tables of 6 people or more. They are also taking wedding bookings at the Marquis for 2010 if anyone locally would like to make a date before we start to get booked up.



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I wish this dog flap was a bit bigger

DOGS - www.doglost.co.uk was founded in 2003 with the sole aim of reuniting lost and stolen dogs with their owners and relies on the efforts of volunteers. In April 2008, www.doglost.co.uk started a partnership with Kent Police, concerned about the issues of missing dogs and the rising wave of pet thefts and the force is now officially recommending www.doglost.co.uk to distraught owners who contact them. www.doglost.co.uk strives daily to extend its partnerships with organisations and individuals and is committed to becoming the most comprehensive database of lost and found dogs. To date they have reunited over 8000 dogs. It's about time that Police Services looked at dog thefts as a CRIME. A dog is property and although some of them are very valuable it is the emotional connection to the animal that is normally the hardest part for the loser to cope with. **(Kent Police)**

ALKHAM W.I. - August was a pleasant month of activity, starting with Audrey Chant's Annual Open Air Quiz. Mandy Summers brilliantly devised the questions for the members from eight W.I.'s to take part. The weather was good and all enjoyed the event on a lovely sunny day. Member's night was very relaxing giving everyone the chance to chat while eating fish & chips, kindly ordered and collected by Edith Neve. This was followed by a Jumble Sale on 15th which was a great success, over £200 collected on the day. The 8th September meeting will have a talk on the 'Language of Flowers' by Georgina Reed.

(Sue Lees)

OZ on PAINTED LADIES

All summer the buddleias in the back garden have been abrim with up to thirty brightly-coloured butterflies. Twenty were Vanessa cardui, or Painted Ladies, so called because of their many-coloured markings; black, brown and orange on the upper wing surface, grey on the lower wing surface, together with white spots and red and blue markings. The creatures were part of a huge immigration of Painted Ladies first noticed on 21st May off Portland Bill in Dorset. Fine weather saw large numbers heading north over central London, Norfolk and East Yorkshire, and arriving in Scotland on Spring Bank Holiday, Monday 25th May. Scientists predicted this year's exodus in February when they observed the butterflies leaving their winter quarters in Morocco's Atlas Mountains. Numbers were high because heavy winter rain had encouraged the growth of their caterpillars' food-plants. Before arriving here the butterflies were seen over Spain in April and over France in early May. Every year a new flock of tiny creatures makes the same journey, guided only by the sun. Migration is limited to the excess population, as travel to Britain is a one-way ticket, requiring some to stay at home to reproduce. Flying at an average speed of 9mph would require a week to travel 1100 miles to Scotland compared with the actual journey time of 3 months. This extra time is taken up with feeding and egg-laying, creating extra colonies that either continue north or return to Morocco. The Painted Ladies that arrive here in May produce a second generation, which continues north, but can't survive the winter there. Occasionally Painted Ladies are found on the south coast attempting to hibernate in January but they never attempt the return journey and usually die in the winter frosts. It's an unremarkable end to a remarkable life.

(Steve Osborn)

Butterfly Conservation always welcomes details of sightings at www.butterfly-conservation.org

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Andrew Richardson 211835
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Police Support Officer 07772226209

The Newsletter was printed at the Rainbow Centre in
Folkestone 01303 850733

Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am – Wednesday Club to 11.30am in VH
Thursday	Karate classes from 7.15pm to 8.45pm in VH - 821336
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Monday	7	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm in village hall.
Tuesday	8	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	15	Fete meeting 8pm – see page 1
Monday	21	Bird Club in village hall from 7.30pm
Tuesday	22	Harvest Supper
Saturday	26	PCC jumble sale in village hall 11.00am

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2nd	Evensong 6.30pm	Eucharist 9.00am	Worship together 11am
Sunday 9th	Eucharist 9.00am	Worship together 11am	
Sunday 16th	Family Service 11a.m.	Sung Evensong 6 p.m.	Eucharist 9.00am
Sunday 23rd	Joint Benefice 10.00am at Alkham		
Sunday 30th	Joint Benefice 10.00am at St. Mary's		
Weekday Services: Wednesday Eucharist 9.15 am St Radigund, Capel-Le-Ferne			

From the Vicarage - We have been enjoying a splendid summer. Bob the Bischon has passed his bronze award at dog training so we are now doing the silver. He's a very engaging little dog though that wasn't my comment when I realised that he had taken the butter dish from the table and eaten all the butter! Having eaten part of a newly baked loaf the previous day he knows that he is not to eat our food although that didn't stop him finishing off Richard's porridge on another occasion. We think he eats in anticipation of a famine and as that is unlikely it's difficult to know when that will stop. He and Rolo often wrestle together and both seem to enjoy it although it can look ferocious to an onlooker; two little dogs with bared teeth standing on their hind legs each trying to topple the other. We continue to try and curb Bob's inclination to bark and at present are trying the 'stones in the plastic bottle' approach. Rolo barks, we shake the bottle and Bob leaves the room. When Bob barks we pick up the bottle and at present he runs for it so we think this technique has been used on him before and if so it has not been a permanent solution but we shall see. The garden continues to thrive and we are eating well on our own produce. It still seems quite amazing that such small seeds can produce such a rich harvest. It's good for us all to enjoy the present even though there is much that lies ahead. Our new Authorised Lay Ministers, Theda Mulloy, Keith Hughes, Helen Scopes and Raye Luckhurst have been commissioned and are embarking on their ministry amongst us, visiting people at home and leading services. It's good to be part of a team in the village and I look forward to future developments. **(Sue White)**

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HGV SIGNING – The Highway Authority have produced a comprehensive signing scheme with regard to the low bridge at Temple Ewell. At the Folkestone end of the valley there are signs on both slip roads of the A20 directing the HGV traffic to the A260 (also signed) up Spitfire Way, round Hawkinge to the A2 and back to Whitfield roundabout. If an HGV misses these signs there are further signs on the valley road at Standen crossroads (by the paving slab makers) and at Wolverton Hill; with care, this should allow for the vehicle to back up the side road and turn round. At the Dover end there is signing before and at the valley road warning of the low bridge. Congratulations to both the Parish Council and the Highway Authority. **(editor)**

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

LONGER WALKS FROM ALKHAM - It has been suggested (thank you Linda!) that there may be people in the village who would like to do some longer walks. I do most of my walking alone and I am happy to do so but I know, for what ever reason, some people are uncomfortable walking on their own. The walks I do locally range from 7 to 17 miles. I know Rosemary Heddle has tried, with limited success, to start a walking group. The distances planned were quite modest but there may be walkers out there who would like more of a challenge. I'm quite happy to lead a few walks to start things off so if you are interested please email me at antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk or phone 823993 if you don't have access to the internet. **(Anthony Barrier)**

CALENDAR AND CHRISTMAS CARDS – Friends of St. Anthony are currently working to produce a calendar that features an old and new photo related to Alkham on each monthly page. We are also intending to produce some Christmas cards which will show snow scenes of Alkham. If everything goes to plan they will be ready in plenty of time for Christmas at a reasonable price – and in aid of FOSA a **COFFEE MORNING** will be held in the village hall on the 7th November from 10.30am to mid-day. There will also be bric-a-brac stalls.

iPOD – A couple of weeks ago an iPhone/iPod was found opposite Alkham village hall. If you have lost one please phone Mr. Allan on 820179 and mention some songs which are on the iPod.

JULIA & PAUL are seeking person/s to look after their 11 dogs! on an occasional basis, especially 5 days at half term. We live just outside the village towards Hougham and will offer an excellent hourly rate. Please phone 01303 221953 for more details.

EWELL MINNIS telephone kiosk A businessman by the name of Philip Young whose family have lived on the Minnis for three generations, has very kindly donated a sum of money to the Parish Council to allow the phone box at Ewell Minnis to remain in working order. BT had recently short listed the phone box for removal due to lack of use, however, the Parish Council are delighted that it can now be saved as a working kiosk rather than an empty shell. Many thanks go to Philip for his generous donation!

VILLAGE BUS STOP - The concrete bus stop is in poor condition and due to its age is beyond reasonable repair. This means it may have to be removed at some point in the not too distant future. **(Parish Council)**

DOG WALKERS - The Parish Council have received reports about dog walkers using the route through the graveyard not clearing up properly behind their dogs. Sometimes there are bags of dog waste left on the stone bench by the kissing gate and also in and around nearby properties on the Alkham Valley Road. Please can all dog walkers be reminded to take home their bags of waste and not leave them lying around! **(PC)**

COFFEE MORNING – On Saturday the 10th October from 9.30am to 12.30, there will be a coffee morning provided on behalf of the Conservative association at Alkham village hall. We welcome anyone from the village and the surrounding area to come and meet us. **(Geoff Lymer)**

GARDEN TALK - The next gathering will be on Friday 9th October, from 7.30p.m. at "Bramhall", Alkham Valley Road. All welcome.

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THE ALKHAM HONEY SHOW - On Saturday 24th October the Dover and District Beekeepers' Association will again be holding its annual Honey Show in the Alkham Village Hall, and I'd like to extend my usual invitation to Alkham residents to look in during the afternoon. The number of villagers who take up this invitation has grown steadily over the last two or three years and it's not hard to understand why. The media have done an excellent job in alerting the public to the very real problems honeybees are currently facing and the disastrous consequences there would be for the natural environment and for agriculture if the bee population declined much further. One pleasing result of this publicity is that beekeeping seems no longer to be regarded as a quaint pursuit for dysfunctional eccentrics but as an important way of helping to safeguard a vital economic asset, conserve our wild flora and ensure our gardens continue to bloom. I'm sure it is this changed perception of beekeeping that largely explains the increased attendance at our shows and the fact that a good few of our visitors have then gone on to acquire hives of their own. They have been keen to take advantage of the support we are always happy to give anyone new to beekeeping and consequently our membership has risen quite dramatically. The show is open to the public from 2.30 and we do hope you will find an hour or so to spend with us. Entrance is free, refreshments will be available and there will be displays of different hive products, honeys for you to sample, a small exhibition of beekeeping equipment and various items for sale, including jars of local honey — a commodity that has been in short supply of late as you are probably aware. (Roy Dyche - Honey Show Secretary)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - The talk given by Vince Burrows on 26 August in the Alkham Village Hall was a comforting affair: matter can neither be created nor destroyed still apparently stands as a rule in science. Good news for the archaeological remains uncovered near Mean Ridge, Chilton area. The Wolverton Warrior and a little girl of 4 lie not far from each other, uncovered in the course of the dig to explore an ancient barrow. Now it remains to do something effective with the finds. This is why an amount (nearly £500) was collected earlier this year by Alkham Village, the purpose being to conserve and make accessible the finds to us all by preserving them in Dover Museum. There was a great deal of interest in Mr Burrow's passionate talk about the very old inhabitants of our Valley. There is a year in hand before the finds have to be conserved by a museum other than Dover. These days we have a great many pressing needs for public funds, the Parish Church among them. But, thank you to all who came and made for a refreshing and informative evening. At this stage it is probably best to say 'watch this space', and to remember we are not alone. (J Walker. Sec)

BROADBAND – There are adverts for Broadband speeds of up to 8Mb but I get a download speed of about .015Mb per second (or 15Kb per sec which is dial-up rate). Evidently the speed to Alkham is 0.9Mb and taking into account usage by all the Internet providers the speed decreases dramatically. There is something called Rambo, which is a piece of software that reduces the speed to your property if there is noise on the line. After talking to BT the cap was taken off and the download speed increased to 50Kb per second but the noise immediately appeared such that after a short while it was back down to 15Kb. The only way to get a better service is for BT to do something about the telephone line and I am told if enough people complain they might do something about it. Please contact me on 824969 or brianwimsett@hotmail.com if you would like to join a petition. (Brian Wimsett)

FOOTPATHS - I had been promised an update from our PROW Officer in time for this Newsletter but at the time of going to press I am still waiting. There are various outstanding issues including blocked paths, poor surfaces, gates and way marking. I hope to have some news by next month. (Anthony Barrier)



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OZ on JOHNSON – My topic in a previous article was the 250th birthday of Samuel Johnson's Dictionary of the English Language. Now it is time to remember the man himself, as last month saw his 300th birthday. The child of elderly parents, Johnson was born in Lichfield, Staffordshire, on 18 September 1709, suffering from a condition that permanently affected his eyesight and health. He grew into a heavy man with awkward gestures, believed now to signify Tourette's Syndrome, that disturbed people on first acquaintance. After a year's study at Oxford University, Johnson was destitute and tried teaching, but failed because he frightened the children. In 1735, he married an older widow, and the couple moved to London. Over the next ten years Johnson became a writer, with a huge output of essays, poems and general hack-work. Between 1746 and 1755 Johnson and six poorly-paid assistants laboured on the Dictionary of the English Language. During this time, in 1752, Johnson, devastated by the death of his wife, invited her blind friend and his needy friends to share his house. Johnson's national importance was finally recognized when he received a government pension in 1762, followed by Master's degrees and doctorates from Oxford and Dublin. Johnson wrote into old age, his semi-retirement enriched by friendships with James Boswell, a young Scottish lawyer, and the Thrales, a brewer and his wife. Boswell accompanied Johnson to Scotland, documenting the trip as The Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides, a forerunner to his Life of Johnson. Typical is this from Johnson, a huge drinker with occasional long periods of abstinence, to the young Boswell: "Not to drink wine is a great deduction from life; but it may be necessary." Johnson died on 13 December 1784 and was buried, of course, in Poets' Corner, Westminster Abbey. **(Steve Osborn)**

FROM THE VICARAGE - We had the ten mile Parish Walk on 30th August. We started at St. Radigund's in Albany Road then across the fields to St. Mary's where we had a service of Holy Communion. We walked on to Alkham Village hall where the Badgers were practicing for their match against the Hackers. We ate our sandwiches there and watched the practice and ducked to avoid the odd ball. It was a lovely day, not too hot and no rain. The six dogs enjoyed it although Rolo was nearly guillotined at one stile. The idea is that the walker climbs over the stile and raises a piece of wood which allows the dog to pass through, in Rolo's case it was a very slow passing and the wood was heavy so he narrowly missed having his tail docked! Having travelled through miles of stiles as one companion put it we arrived at The Old School House at Church Hougham. Whilst we enjoyed cakes and cups of tea the dogs put on their own show of chase through the garden! Needless to say Wendy's Megan won, Rolo and Bob don't have the legs for sprinters and having done at least 20 miles I was surprised they had the energy. The garage Safari was a great success, people have an amazing appetite for Bacon rolls and Wendy was hard at it all day. This past weekend was the Quilt Festival at St. Lawrence Hougham, it's amazing the talent that there is in our villages and it was good to be part of the community effort which made the weekend so enjoyable. We are starting to plan the services for the Autumn and will once again be collecting for the Dover Soup kitchen, tins of meat and packets of biscuits and crisps will be very welcome. There are more young people who are jobless and homeless and they are in need of our help. Please give what you can at the school or the churches. We shall also be doing the Christmas Shoe boxes for the children who receive nothing at Christmas. **(Sue White 01303 240539)**

BOOK CLUB - The next meeting will take place at the home of Susanna Tapsell on the 7th October at 7.30pm. The book to be discussed is intriguing, The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Stieg Larsson, which has sold more than 7.5 million copies. If you have read the book, and wish to join our lively group, please contact Rosemary Heddle 827880 for more details.

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District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956,

Andrew Richardson 211835

Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am – Wednesday Club to 11.30am in VH
Thursday	Karate classes from 7.15pm to 8.45pm in VH - 821336
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Saturday	10	Conservative Association Coffee morning see page 1
Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	18	Bird Club in village hall from 7.30pm
Saturday	24	Honey Show in village hall 2.30pm – see page 2
Tuesday	27	Cricket AGM in village hall 8.00pm
Saturday	31	W.I. jumble sale in village hall 11.00am

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4th	Evensong 6.30pm	Harvest Eucharist 9.00	Worship Together 11am
Sunday 11th	Eucharist 9.00	Worship Together 11am	Songs of Praise 5p.m
Sunday 18th	Family Service 11am	Sung Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9.00am
Sunday 25th	Joint Benefice 10.00am at Alkham		

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

ALKHAM W.I. – Autumn has started and everyone was pleased to meet up again and listen to active days ahead - Outings and fund raising events such as Jumble Sale 26th September & 24th October, a Christmas Bazaar 5th December as well as a Christmas Dinner at The Marquis on 14th December. All very exciting. However, the talk on the Language of Flowers was not as anticipated and the majority of members had difficulty following the read speech – such a shame. It is to be hoped the talk at the next meeting 13th October, on 'Life in the Victorian Workhouse' by Peter Ewart will be more interesting. Members are reminded to have a list of names of members, for the October Meeting, who are prepared to stand on the committee next year – **(Susan Lees)**

NEW MENU LAUNCH, anniversary, music & magic all in one night !

We will be celebrating our anniversary on Saturday 10th October with live music, magic & an introduction to Charlie's new tasting menu, which will then be available, along with matching wines, to order in the restaurant permanently. We are all proud of everything which has passed in the last year & think it will be well worth celebrating, so reserve your place now for £85 for the 7 course tasting menu (£57.50 food only) including selected wines & coffee. **(Ben Walton)**

THANKS to all the people who sponsored the Alkham Cycle Club on the 60 miles Air Ambulance ride and also the Friends of Kent Churches. It was a joint sponsorship and a cheque for £65 has been sent to both with more money to follow.

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Neighbourhood Watch PCSO (left) & 218151

Police – 999 phone & 01303 850055

Police Support Officer 07772226209

Alkham web site www.alkham.org

Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635

W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641

Footpath Warden antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk

Vicar – Rev. Sue White 01303 240539

Church Wardens - Geoff Gaskill 823100

and Ken Hammond 07909563479

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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No. 194 November 2009

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CALENDAR and CARDS – The Alkham calendar ‘Past and Present’, which has a black and white picture taken around Alkham in the past and an associated present day colour photo for each month, has now been printed. It costs £5.00 and can be purchased by contacting me on 824969 (email brianwimsett@hotmail.com), Den Barnard on 824845 or Val Fowler on 827635. Please contact us as soon as possible as we expect a good response and we can also give you details about the Christmas cards which are currently being produced. **(editor)**

BROADBAND PETITION – As a result of the article in last month’s Newsletter about poor Broadband connection, 27 people responded to the request to add their name to a petition asking BT to improve the speed. The petition was sent to BT’s head office on the 8th October with a copy to Gwyn Prosser MP who has acknowledged receipt. **(editor)**

EVENING OF REMEMBRANCE - On Saturday November 14th an evening of Remembrance will be held in the Village Hall. It will follow the format of last year’s, held to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the First World War, but will also include the Second World War as this year marks the 70th anniversary of the start of this conflict. The evening will comprise readings, music, personal accounts as well as displays of memorabilia provided by villagers. If you would like to come to the evening, to participate or to listen, please contact either Den & Irene Barnard (01304.824845) or Mark & Debbie Robson (01304.820459). You will need to provide your own nibbles and drink and a collection will be held for the Royal British Legion. The evening will start at 7.30. On the theme of Remembrance the information regarding the villagers whose names are on the war memorial has dried up so if you have any knowledge, stories or photos of any of the men but in particular photos of the men killed in the Second World War and John Rye (killed World War 1) it would be gratefully received. For those with access to the internet the current information is available at: <http://www.alkham.org/heroes.htm> **(Mark Robson)**

MESSY CHURCH has been set up to encourage children and families to come to St. Anthony’s church. Alkham village hall has been booked for Friday the 4th and 11th of December between 3.30pm and 4.30pm for parents and children to come along and make decorations, crowns, angels and sheep for the Christmas Eve crib service. It should be fun and if you’d like more details phone Tracy on 01304 821336.

CHALKSOLE THIEVES - Over the last two weeks an electric fence energiser and battery were stolen from a field opposite Whitehill, a huge amount of horse related items, rugs, buckets, fences, wheelbarrows, feed, forks etc., were stolen from a field and stables on Ferne Lane and a pressure washer on a trailer was stolen from Chalksole Farm. The only things left were the rugs on the horses back. The police have been informed, and we are all being extra vigilant. **(Claire Ward)**

TABLE FAIR – 7th Nov (Formerly Coffee Morning). The Friends of St Anthony are holding a fund-raising Table Fair in the village hall on the 7th Nov from 10 til 12. There will be collectables, objet d’art, linen, hand-made craft work, cake stall, raffle as well as refreshments. The Alkham Village 2010 calendar and Christmas cards will also be available. If you would like to hire a table for £10 to sell your own articles or produce please let us know (Brian on 824969 or Den 824845) If you are unable to come along on the day but would like to donate one or two items please contact Irene (824845) who will organise this for you. We look forward to seeing you. **(Den Barnard)**

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS extravaganza - Saturday December 14th is the date of the Christmas tree lights switch-on. As usual the proceedings will start at 4.45 p.m. when the W.I. choir will serenade us with carols and at 5.00 p.m. a selected child will perform the switch-on. (If you are under 16 years old and would like a chance to switch the lights on please see me at 4.45 when names will be placed in a hat and the lucky person chosen at random). The switch-on will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies kindly provided by Hannah and Ben at the Marquis. But that is not all!! This year we are proposing a village get-together in the Village Hall from 6.45 to which all are invited. It will be an American Supper and the aim of having this at such an early time is that the children can enjoy the festivities. I have it on very good authority that Father Christmas is willing to interrupt his busy schedule to make an appearance during the evening too so make sure you are on his ‘good list’! We hope this will be a good, old fashioned village event which all ages will enjoy. Numbers are limited by the size of the Hall so please book your places with Helen Scopes (01304.210591), Den & Irene Barnard (01304.824845) or Mark & Debbie Robson (01304 .820459). There will be a raffle to help fund the cost of the lights and electricity so please don’t forget your wallets; donations of prizes will be much appreciated too!! Any fit (ish), young(ish) men (in fact, “warm and walking” will be good enough!) who could help put the tree up on the morning of Saturday 5th December would be welcomed. Please contact Mark or Den on the above numbers. **(Mark Robson)**

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THE BEAST SIGHTED? - You may recall that recently the Newsletter included a shocking report of the savaging of five sheep grazing in a field in Ewell Minnis; those that survived the attack were so badly injured that they had to be put down. The finger of suspicion naturally pointed at local dogs, especially the lurchers kept by one or two of our villagers. However, their owners protested that the dogs were kept under such tight control that they could not possibly have committed the atrocity. There was also some talk of the notorious black panther being the culprit. Oh yes? There have been regular claims that this creature has been spotted in the area but I was, to say the least, extremely sceptical. In fact I rather doubted the creature's existence at all in our corner of Kent; I'd seen no photographic evidence to suggest otherwise. Oh ye of little faith! Today my next-door neighbour, the owner of the field in which the slaughter occurred, phoned to ask me to verify that what she was then watching, in the corner of the same field, was in fact ... a panther. A minute later, camera at the ready, I was standing with her and two other onlookers, inspecting through quite powerful binoculars what was clearly no ordinary tabby. Though it was perhaps a hundred and fifty yards from us, I could observe quite clearly that the beast was completely black and considerably larger and more muscular than any domestic cat of my acquaintance. It moved in the powerful predatory fashion that I associate with the leopard or the cheetah and frankly I was convinced that it was an animal of that sort that I was seeing. Still, I'm certainly no expert on such matters. What I could do was provide a photograph for others better informed to examine. I switched on my camera, only to discover that the battery was dead — the only time this has happened in the four years I've had it. So what could have been the Newsletter's scoop of the decade must, I suppose, be counted as just another unauthenticated sighting! **(Roy Dyche)**

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY AGM will take place on Wednesday 18 November at 7.30 p.m., at the Village Hall, all welcome. This will be followed by supper at The Fox, Temple Ewell, two courses at £8.95 per person. All those interested please give their names and the money (cheques made out to The Fox) to Pam Sayers (01304 822397). It would be a great help if subs could be brought with you and thus names ticked off the list. Broad agreement has been reached to subscribe towards the conservation and display in the Dover Museum of the ancient remains from the Mean Ridge dig in which the Wolverton Warrior was excavated. More details will follow. Initial conservation costs will be in the region of £5000. There will be a short raffle after the supper in aid of this conservation. There will also be a suggestion box at the AGM in which members are asked to put suggestions for feasible places to visit for next year's outing. **(Joanna Walker - Sec)**

ALKHAM FLOWER FESTIVAL 2010 - It is with sadness that I write to inform you that the Alkham Flower Festival 2010, has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control. The Flower Festival, which would have been entitled 'Alkham through the ages', would have featured floral displays sponsored by local people and business. We the flower ladies would like to say a huge thank you to all those people who had offered support and offers of sponsors. **(Rosie Hansraj)**

FIREWORKS - We are holding a family party on the 31st October which will include some fireworks for the children, so there will be a number of bangs to accompany the werewolf howls! The fireworks should start about 1900hrs and last for approx 20/30 minutes. **(Martin Hibbert 5 Glebelands)**



From our Christmas lunches available throughout December to our New Years Eve Dinner & Dancing evening, there really will be something for every celebration in 2009 (& into 2010)

Christmas Lunches - 3 courses £ 22.50
30th November - 23rd December
served 12 - 2.30pm

Christmas Dinner - 3 courses £ 29.50
30th November - 23rd December
served 6.30 - 9.30pm

Christmas Eve - Carol singing & dinner
Mulled wine & mince pies

Restaurant open for dinner as usual
24th December served at 5 pm

Christmas Day Lunch - 5 course Festive
feast £ 75 - 25th December
Served from 1.30pm

Boxing Day Lunch - 3 courses £ 29.50
26th December - Served 12—6pm

New Years Eve - 6 course Dinner &
Dancing £ 75 - 31st December
Served from 8.00pm

New Years Day Brunch - 3 courses £ 29.50
1st January 2010 - Served 12—6pm

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CHILD - If you would like to fill a shoe box with gifts and goodies to send to children in disadvantaged situations in Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, then please contact me for details of requirements and collection (last day 18th Nov.) Thank you so much. **(Susannah Tapsell 01304 822295)**

SPONSORED BIKE RIDE Margaret and Corliss Danstead would like to thank local friends who kindly supported them in the recent 'Friends of Kent Churches' event. Margaret raised £204 on behalf of River Methodists, and Corliss raised £260 on behalf of St. Anthony's. Cheques have now been sent off, so in due course, half of those amounts will be returned to the respective churches. Seventeen churches were visited – not quite as many as the Cycle Club managed, but then they are experts. **(Margaret Danstead)**

GARDEN TALK - Our next gathering is at Thorn Cottage, Meggett Lane where Geoff and Rosemary are our hosts on Friday 13th November. All welcome from 7.30p.m. A large turn-out at " Bramhall " in October when we discussed all that had gone well- and badly-in the garden this past summer; many thanks to Susannah and Richard for their hospitality. **(Janet Adamson)**

ALKHAM W.I. – An excellent talk was given by Peter Ewart on how our great grand parents had to keep themselves working to stay out of the dreaded workhouses; the description of those buildings and how they were run was forbidding. Please NOTE the next meeting i.e. the AGM will be the 17th NOT the 10th November. **(Sue Lees)**

W.I. JUMBLE SALE in the village hall on 31st October from 11am with profits in aid of the Alkham archaeologists

OZ on TIMARU – My cousins and I have been fortunate in tracing our East Kent family back to 1595 and finding only one jailbird, our mutual great-great-grandfather, who was jailed twice, in 1844 and 1851, for persistent tobacco smuggling. He was a Deal boatman, struggling to survive the collapse of the local economy after the end of war with France and the rise of steam shipping. He died in 1858 just as one of his in-laws, John Wilds, found a more respectable means of dealing with the recession. Wilds and his wife, along with twelve other Deal boatmen and families, joined a government-aided scheme to encourage emigration to a rapidly expanding New Zealand. They totalled 58 out of 320 people that boarded the Mystery in December 1858 in London and landed 3 months later at Lyttelton Harbour on the east coast of New Zealand's South Island. The journey had been wild and hard, with deaths, births and conceptions occurring on board. The Deal boatmen set to work unloading the ship and soon gained employment at Timaru, loading and unloading ships into small boats and vice versa, similar to their old work on Deal beach. They named their settlement area in Timaru 'Dealtown', and their street 'Middle Street'. To this day, their descendants in Deal and Timaru exchange Christmas cards addressed 'From Deal to Deal'. The whole story has now been told by Jerry Vyse in his recent book Time to Go: A Journey from Old Deal to New Zealand. I already knew that John Wilds had become a successful farmer and market gardener. From Jerry I've gleaned much more detail and yet another reminder of the eventful lives of otherwise ordinary people. Time to Go is available from Amazon at £2.99, even better value than my previous recommendations here. **(Steve Osborn)**

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County Councillor, Bryan Cope 206510

District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956,
Andrew Richardson 211835

Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am – Wednesday Club to 11.30am in VH
Thursday	Karate classes from 7.15pm to 8.45pm in VH - 821336
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Monday	2	Parish Council meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	7	Table Fair and coffee morning in VH – see page 1.
Saturday	14	Remembrance evening in village hall – see page 1
Tuesday	17	W.I. AGM in village hall 7.30pm
Wednesday	18	AVS AGM 7.30pm in village hall
Tuesday	24	Fete AGM in village hall
Saturday	28	Beekeepers in village hall

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1st	Eucharist 4.30	Eucharist 9.00	Eucharist 11a.m.
Sunday 8th	Remembrance 10.15 a.m.	10.30 a.m.	10.15 a.m. Sunday
Sunday 15th	Family Service 11a.m.	Sung Evensong 6 p.m.	Eucharist 9.00
Sunday 22nd	Joint Benefice 10.00 at Capel		
Sunday 29th	Joint Benefice 10.00 at St. Mary's		
Weekday Services: Wednesday Eucharist 9.15 am St Radigund, Capel-Le-Ferne			

From the Vicarage - Time to start looking at the seed catalogues and sorting out what to do for next year. I have decided to abandon cabbages – last year the caterpillars had them and this year they went to seed! I didn't mind the fennel going to seed that looked rather attractive so next year I'll grow it in a flower bed. I've been planting bulbs and there are now 320 in the garden and in the grass where the fruit trees are growing. I have a new bulb planter which I am hoping will stand up to the strain as there are another 110 bulbs on the way! I can actually dig it in and take up a good plug of soil. Rolo and Bob are getting used to the new citronella collar. It gives them a puff whenever they bark and it's working!! Rolo has reached the stage where he takes himself out of the dining room when he barks before we have ordered him out. He then stands in the hall and barks!! I've been taking the two of them down to the Warren to run on the beach which we all enjoy and this month they are still white. Sand doesn't colour their coats like soil from the fields! However Bob seems to have no sense of self preservation. The tide was out so they were down near the sea and exploring the pools, Rolo steps neatly round them, Bob goes straight in and gets soaked and then chases Rolo as if to say 'It's all your fault. You never told me it was wet!' November could be a grey month but we have the Christmas Fete to look forward to on 5th December. That is always a bright and busy occasion with a variety of stalls, good home made refreshments and plenty of Christmas presents. See you all there! **(Sue White 01303 240539)**

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Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969

e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com

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alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net

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Police Support Officer 07772226209

Alkham web site www.alkham.org

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W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641

Footpath Warden antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk

Vicar – Rev. Sue White 01303 240539

Church Wardens - Geoff Gaskill 823100
and Ken Hammond 07909563479

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 195 December 2009

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CALENDAR AND CARDS

The first run of 100 Alkham past and present calendars have been sold and a further 30 have been printed. The cards are going well and feature 4 snow scenes of Alkham, one of which is shown on the left. A pack of four different cards cost £1.50 and if you would like to

buy some please contact Rosemary Heddle on 827880.

THE ANNUAL QUIZ will be held in the village hall on the 16th January starting at 7.30pm. If you'd like to book a table for up to 8 people please contact Brian on 824969 or Den Barnard on 824845. The cost is £5 per person and a ploughman's supper, similar to the quiz in June, will be provided in the interval. As usual, please bring your own drinks. **(Brian)**

SHOOTING – As Alkham residents will know, on the 26th October at about 10.20pm a car stopped another car on the hill by the bus shelter on Vicarage Meadow. There was an altercation which resulted in the Fiesta driver being shot in the stomach. He was taken to William Harvey hospital and is recovering. The gunman, who lives in Dover, handed himself in to the police on 4th November and has been charged with attempted murder. **(editor)**

BROADBAND – The results of the Broadband petition is included in the Newsletter on a separate A4 sheet. The reply was as expected. **(Brian)**

LONG(ISH) WALKS FROM ALKHAM - Two people gamely signed up to join me on some of my walks. Others have shown interest so I expect the group to grow. The inaugural group walk (if two people constitute a group) took place on a humid, misty but mild Thursday in September. Maggie and I set off on a seven mile circular walk passing through Lydden and returning via Swanton Court Farm. Two weeks later Clive joined us for another seven mile walk this time going south to pick up the coastal path. We stopped for a welcome coffee at the Hilltop Cafe before returning to the village. The walk was really just over nine miles but nobody hit me when they found out! If you are interested my email address is on the back page. **(Anthony Barrier)**

THE MARQUIS is open to non residents for breakfast & coffees from 7.30 to 9.30am during the week and 8 to 10am at the weekend. **(Ben Walton)**

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON will take place on Saturday December 12th. The evening will start at 4.45 p.m. when the W.I. Choir will lead carol singing until the actual switch-on at 5.00 p.m. Anyone under 16 years old who would like to perform the switch-on should see me and their names will be entered into a hat and drawn just before 5.00. **Father Christmas** has told me that he will be attending the switch-on. After the switch-on we are invited to the Marquis for mulled wine and mince pies courtesy of Tony, Hugh, Ben and Hannah. At 6.45pm an American Supper for the village will be held in the Village Hall. Please bring some food to share and your own drink. Please also bring some money as we will hold a raffle to raise funds to pay for the electricity for the lights. If you want to attend the American Supper please let Den and Irene (01304.824845) or me and Debbie (01304.820459) know. Many thanks and Merry Christmas! **(Mark Robson)**



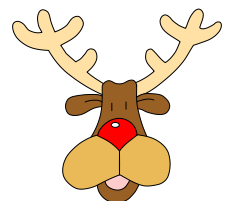
Santa's Charity Fun Run (or jog or walk) on Sunday 6th December 11.30am Folkestone Town Centre, organised by The Rotary Club

of Folkestone Channel to raise funds for Cystic Fibrosis Trust Kent and many other charities in the area. For further information text or call 07914273421 or full details can be found on Santa's personal website at www.santasfunrun.org.uk. There is also another Santa Fun Run on 29.11.09 at Leeds Castle. Fun starts at 8.30am. Enter online at www.cftrust.org.uk – Free Santa suit for all entrants. **(Julie Saltmer)**

THE X FACTOR - St Anthony's is looking for musical talent to try out some new ideas at its monthly Family Service. So if you play an instrument or could lead a small group in lively worship songs in a relaxed and friendly environment, we would like to hear from you.

(Linda & Geoff Gaskill - 823100)

THE ROCKING HORSE on Vicarage Meadow is being refurbished and the same will soon happen to the slide. The Parish Council also agreed to install low level timber play equipment.



POPPY APPEAL - We have had a very good collection this year with a total of £344.76 being raised. Many thanks go to my team of collectors who went door to door; I couldn't do it without them. Thanks also go to the local businesses (Alkham Garden Centre and Tea Rooms, Equestrian Centre, The Marquis and Alkhamhurst Kennels) that had collecting boxes. Last but not least a big thank you to the Alkham villagers who gave so generously. **(Rachel Fountain)**

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*A photo of Val Fowler asking Stan
why he has just put his foot through
the kitchen ceiling.*

BIKING TO BOULOGNE. Motley crew of ten cyclists assemble at Eastern Docks, no sign of lycra or helmets, and embark for Calais. Breakfast at Yvettes on Place D'armes of croque m'sieur (posh cheese on toast) and pernod. Scenic ramble to Ardres, forest, canals etc., and back to Wissant including all the cafés. Decide against climbing Cap Gris, Cap Nez (been there) and have a few beers instead. Amble on to Ambleteuse and a couple of beers before wandering on to Wimereux. Main stop of day, get it right. Swim first before it becomes dangerous with too much booze, then lunch of moules frites washed down with copious carafés. Climb back to coast road for descent to Boulogne. Minor disaster on descent – clownish colleague knocks me flying and I have to limp last kilometre to Hengist. Arrive on car deck to find nine bikes but no bodies. Finally manage to stagger and crawl alone up to passenger deck. About to moan at colleagues and order beer when some idiot announces 'Point Alpha' (15 minutes to dock) and have to start climbing down again. Arrive at Folkestone. Colleagues disappear again so have to limp alone to pub, where, a little later, I forgive everyone after all. Total distance covered about 50k, time 10 hours. Must do it properly next time, take it seriously, dress up in all the fancy gear, make a race of it, and spoil the fun. **(Rob Lees)**

GARDEN TALK - Our Christmas event will be on FRIDAY 4th December,

when we return to Ian and



Lucy's. All welcome, please bring some festive food and a raffle prize for the popular Dutch auction. We meet at The Old Vicarage from 7.30p.m. In November we had a pleasant evening at Thorn Cottage, where the quiz revealed just how little we knew about emblematic flowers! **(Janet Adamson)**

An evening of Remembrance was held in the Village Hall to remember those killed in conflicts from WW1 to Afghanistan. Poems written by serving soldiers from all conflicts (from Wilfred Owen's 'The Sentry' to Danny Martin's 'Haddock of Mass Destruction') formed the mainstay of the evening but we also had a short story about the Christmas truce of 1914, a letter written by the father of a villager with his recollections of his service in the Second World War and an account of the Battle of Britain. There were several exhibits including a selection of wartime magazines and newspapers, rifles and machine guns, maps of the tunnels used as air-raid shelters in Dover, medals and items belonging to relatives who had served in the wars. Many thanks to all who brought these to share as well as the stories that accompanied them. The evening prompted them to some further information regarding one of the men on the village war memorial too and I look forward to receiving this in more detail. There are also some villagers with personal stories (yes, you Ernie!) and maybe next year we could persuade share these with us to ensure the Remembrance goes on. Thanks to all who donated to the Royal British Legion - we raised £56.05p of which the Keep Fit Ladies donated £20. Thanks too to Den Barnard who did much of the preparatory work to make the evening a success. **(Mark Robson)**



From our Christmas lunches available throughout December to our New Years Eve Dinner & Dancing evening, there really will be something for every celebration in 2009 (& into 2010)

Christmas Lunches - 3 courses £ 22.50
30th November - 23rd December
served 12 - 2.30pm

Christmas Dinner - 3 courses £ 29.50
30th November - 23rd December
served 6.30 - 9.30pm

Christmas Eve - Carol singing & dinner
Mulled wine & mince pies

Restaurant open for dinner as usual
24th December served at 5 pm

Christmas Day Lunch - 5 course Festive
feast £ 75 - 25th December
Served from 1.30pm

Boxing Day Lunch - 3 courses £ 29.50
26th December - Served 12—6pm

New Years Eve - 6 course Dinner &
Dancing £ 75 - 31st December
Served from 8.00pm

New Years Day Brunch - 3 courses £ 29.50
1st January 2010 - Served 12—6pm

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FOOTPATHS - By the time you read **OZ on INTERNET** – I first became this the tree root rutted path, behind aware of computers in the 1950s the church, should have been from an enthusiastic maths resurfaced. Not everyone will teacher who predicted the welcome this but I think the majority invention of the personal will. Other outstanding issues have computer and the internet. In been added to our PROW Officer's 1958, after an interview at a top small job list so some progress is international company at being made. It has been reported to Sandwich, I politely declined a me that motorcyclists have been job that seemed to involve riding on brideways in the Ellinge pushing pencils through holes in area and I have noticed that horse cards. It was of course a simple riders have been using some of the explanation of how computers local footpaths. Can I remind all work and I had rejected it. In PROW users that: FOOTPATHS those days computers were big (which should be 1 metre wide) may and clumsy. At Cambridge in the be used for walking. BRIDLEWAYS 1950s the caretaker's first job (which should be 2 metres wide) may each morning was to switch the be used for riding or leading a horse, EDSAC on to warm up the for walking and cycling. BYWAYS valves. In the 1960s we had our (which should be at least 3 metres first huge mainframe computers wide) as for brideways plus any kind at work. All input data was of wheeled vehicle including motor pencilled on coding sheets. cars and horse drawn vehicles. These were then typed as square holes on cards by two

(Anthony Barrier) square holes on cards by two typists, so that a rectangular was held for the AGM, all sat around hole would be accepted by the tables chatting and doing a 'Flower' computer and square ones Quiz. For once there was no voting for rejected. They were also the committee, which now includes - numbered to ensure the correct Janet Barrow, Margaret Danstead, order. All this took several days Mairi Jones, Sue Lees, Edith Neve, to turn around and then Helen Scopes, Pam Sayers, Grace the printout would Stacey and Doreen Wilks. A reminder often come back to all is given about the Carol Singing with an error to take place at Kearsney Manor message, Nursing Home on 10th December at sometimes 2pm. Also next months meeting on resulting from 8th December, when Devina Bartlett the computer operators dropping is going to show everyone how to the cards and putting them back to make Christmas decorations. New in the wrong order. Such stories members and friends are always seem incredible in this era of the welcome. **(Sue Lees)** internet, which was 40 years old

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will lead last month. At 10.30pm on 29 the singing in 'Come Carolling', the October 1969 Charley Kline sat Christians Together in Dover carol down at a computer at California concert, in Dover Town Hall at 7.30 University and started to type the word LOGIN to his opposite pm on Monday 14th December. number at Stanford University. Accompaniment will be provided by After typing the G, the system the St Edmund's School Band. The crashed, but the almost biblical concert will include a production by message "LO" had been Whitfield Primary School, and the transmitted to Stanford. It was the arrival of the Peace Light from St the birth of the internet, which Paul's, having landed at Dover from became, after the development of the World Wide Web by Tim Jerusalem on the previous day. The of the Berners-Lee 20 years later, the charity appeal will be on behalf of the Pegasus Playscheme. Tickets at massive intellectual, economic and social revolution that, good £1.50 (children 50p) are available from Carrol Moore on 01304 820150. or bad, is undoubtedly here to stay. **(Steve Osborn)**



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Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Friday	4	4.30pm – 5.30pm Messy church for children
Saturday	5	PCC and W.I. bazaar
Monday	7	Parish council meeting
Tuesday	8	W.I. in village hall 7.30pm
Friday	11	4.30pm – 5.30pm Messy church for children
Wednesday	16	4.30pm – 5.30pm Messy church for children
Monday	21	Dover & District Bird Club

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6th	Evensong 4.30	Eucharist 9 a.m.	W.T. 11a.m.
Sunday 13th	Eucharist 9 a.m.	Worship Together 11	Carol Service VH 5
Sunday 20th	9 lessons, carols 6p.m.	9 lessons, Carols 11	Eucharist 9.00
Thursday 24th	Crib Service 4.30p.m.	Crib Service 3p.m.	
Friday 25th	Eucharist 9.30 a.m.	NO SERVICE	Eucharist 9.30 a.m.
Sunday 27th	Joint Benefice 10 a.m. at Capel		

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

From the Vicarage- I'm very glad I got as much done in the garden as I did before the winds came. One compost bin was found on its way to Dover and I'm very grateful to the kind neighbour who returned it. It's now weighted down with the old vacuum cleaner so it can't travel at all. Rolo and Bob are very underwhelmed by the wind and rain, in fact Bob tries walking back into the house when he sees the weather! But it struck me that there was a positive side to this wind, it clears out all the dead stuff from the hedges despite the inconvenience of it falling on the path. I'm also hoping that it will strengthen the roots of the trees I've planted and make them tough enough to produce plenty of fruit. With a group of mums I was covering shoe boxes for the Christmas Shoe box appeal at the school and we now have 70 plus boxes. This is a mammoth response and I would like to thank everyone for their part. I did say to the children that we should aim for 100 this year and I have no doubt we shall reach that target because Alkham W.I. are also doing the boxes. It's great that we are teaching our children to help others who are less fortunate than themselves and especially at this time of year. There will be two Crib Services this year, 3pm at St. Radigund's and 4.30pm at St. Anthony's. In addition we shall be having two sessions to prepare for the crib service at Alkham Village Hall on 4th and 11th December from 3.15 to 4.30p.m. The children will be making crowns etc for the service and we hope to prepare a nativity play with them. Children with parents are very welcome to attend. A happy Christmas and a blessed New Year to you all. **(Sue White)**

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DRAMA/WRITING WORKSHOPS AT THE VILLAGE HALL

My wife and I are new to your village and are thinking of starting a Drama Workshop on an evening – say possibly on a Mon/Tue/Wed between 7pm – 10pm. We would start by understanding a character and how they fit in to the telling of the story. We would develop through improvisation, text exercises and possible writing tasks an understanding of how to build a character and what that characters' journey is through the play. Everybody would be welcome – say over the age of 15? All we ask is that you have a serious attitude to the evening. The price per session would depend on numbers. 'Outsiders' would of course be welcome. I am an Actor/Director. My wife the playwright/children's book illustrator Christina Balit. Please contact me personally if you'd like to discuss the workshop. My mobile is 07973 341 772. **(Brian Croucher)**

*Brian Croucher is a well known actor who has appeared in many popular series such as Shoestring, Minder, The Professionals, Lovejoy, Casualty, Blake's 7 and The Bill. From 1995 to 1997 he played Ted Hills in EastEnders and he is a friendly and approachable person.***(editor)**



After the switch-on

of the village Christmas tree lights on the 12th December, the Marquis team invited everyone for mulled wine and mince pies and took the opportunity to present cheques for £1165 each to the Friends of St Anthony's and the Alkham

Cricket Club, the results of the September Charity game on the meadow. The photo shows Tony Marsden and Hugh Oxborrow with Friends Chairman Den Barnard, vicar Sue White and the cricket club chairman Paul Tapsell gratefully accepting the excellent Christmas present.. **(Den Barnard)**

BROADBAND – It does appear that within the 30mph limits of Alkham a speed approaching 1Mb is possible if there are no problems with the incoming cable or internal wiring. After removing all the internal telephone extensions in my house and having one phone plugged into the entry box serving 3 other phones my Broadband speed remained stable at about 1Mb for some time. This compares with the 0.34Mb per second that I was getting previously and I would like to thank the local BT engineer for all his help. What is clear however is that Rambo will reduce your signal dramatically if there is noise on the line and at present I am back to the earlier speed as noise re-appeared. I contacted BT and they have tested the line and say the problem is in the house and I think they are right. At least the petition put Alkham on BT's books and since writing directly to the Chief Executive they have been in contact regularly to make sure the complaint has been dealt with to our satisfaction, which it has been by writing but not technically. **(editor)**

THE ANNUAL QUIZ will be held in the village hall on the 16th January starting at 7.30pm with tables of up to 8 people. The cost is £5 per person and a ploughman's type meal will be served at the interval.

CHRISTMAS TREE - This has become a true village event and it was good to see so many young families and children at the switch on. Having had six trees donated we have now run out! Hopefully someone will come to our aid to ensure we can keep this village event going into the future. Many thanks to John Huggins, Chris Bowshell, Mike Ross, Mick Wood, Richard Miller, Den and Anthony Barrier for helping put the tree up and to Simon Price for coming to the rescue with the electricians. Thanks to the people who gave prizes for the raffle prizes who were the Alkham Valley Garden Centre, Mick and Janet Woods, Paul Tapsell, the generous benefactor who put up £25 as prize money, The Marquis, Pam Sayers and Den & Irene. Also to Tony, Hugh, Hannah and Ben and team for the warm hospitality and the mulled wine and mince pies afterwards at the Marquis and of course to the W.I. choir and Dick and Mary for the beautiful tree plus the Parish Council who paid for one set of lights and everyone who bought raffle tickets and donated money to cover the cost of the second set of lights. **(Mark Robson)**

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY The Christmas Walk will take place on 27th December, starting from the Village Hall Car Park at 10.30 am. Everyone welcome including of course dogs. Various events are planned or being planned for 2010 which we hope will interest members and friends. Thank you to all who attended the AGM in record numbers and the supper afterwards at The Fox, also record numbers dealt with kindly and efficiently by the Staff as usual. Happy Christmas to all of Alkham and its Valley. The Committee are reminded that the next meeting is on 14th January 2010 at 8.pm at Box Tree Cottage. **(Jo Walker, Sec)**



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HAZEL BURROWS, who lives at South Alkham, has for many years recorded the local weather for the Met Office and the Environment Agency. On the left you can see her pet sheep and chickens with the rain gauge on the far left. There are volunteers all over the country providing this service and each month a completed

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form is sent to add to the Met Office records. This year, in the south east, the weather was fairly kind with March to June averaging about 35mm, 64mm in July, 11mm in August and 21mm in September. October was 102mm and November 185mm and December started wet and looks to continue dry but cold. **(editor)**

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GIVING UP GOLF - The first tee at Sene Valley Golf Club and I've sliced badly again. I gaze out across Hythe to Dungeness, the sun glinting off St. Mary's Bay, and I wonder. Just manage to beat 90 for the round, but other than finding a few blackberries I'm not happy. The week before, taking advantage of spring low tides, I was driven to Sene Valley and out to Greatstone. A nice bay of cockles on the incoming tide, a few pints at the New Romney Tavern, then, on the way home, found some mushrooms in Donkey Street. The following day on the first tee at Kingsdown and this time I hook. Sunlit sea below me, Deal to the left, ferries off Dover to the right, and I wonder again. Beat 90 (just) but no blackberries and not happy. The week before I was driven to Kingsdown but dropped with prawn net at the base of the cliffs below the Golf Club. A few happy hours in the sea and rock pools, and I wander along the beach with a nice bag of prawns to The Rising Sun pub, where I happily drink beer, waiting for my lift. Drinking and playing dominoes with guests from Heathrow in The Marquis that night (those were the days my friend, tra la, tra la) everyone is moaning. Even on shift work, able to play weekdays all over the South East, all our handicaps are still ridiculous. So we drink more beer and try to win some money. Not easy at only 2p a point. That night I have a dream. A dream from youth, where I seem to spend every summer day on the beach and every other moment in the Temperance Billiard Hall drinking Bovril. It's an omen. So I pack up golf (I hated it in the winter anyway), join a snooker club, and add winkles to the free seafood from Abbots Cliff or Ramsgate Bay! **(Rob Lees)**

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BOOK CLUB - Last month members spent an enjoyable evening exchanging presents, eating good food and sipping wine by a cosy fire hosted by Linda Gaskill. This month we will discuss The Girl Who Played With Fire by Stieg Larsson. Avi Munn will host the evening at Poems on 6th January 7.30pm. Tel: 829484. New members always welcome. **(Rosemary Heddle)**

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GARDEN TALK - Our meeting in December was much enjoyed at the Old Vicarage where we were greeted with mulled wine and plenty of food. Lots of chat - some of it to do with gardening. We do not meet again until February (date still to be confirmed). A happy and productive year to all our members. **(Janet Adamson)**

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HEARTFELT THANKS to Ken Hammond for his kindness in restoring my bike to new. It is now on its way to a new home on Sandgate beach where I will be able to ride along the flat promenade to Hythe (as opposed to the daunting hills of the Alkham valley)! **(Sarah Chambers)**



From our Christmas lunches available throughout December to our New Years Eve Dinner & Dancing evening, there really will be something for every celebration in 2009 (& into 2010)

Christmas Lunches - 3 courses £ 22.50
30th November - 23rd December
served 12 - 2.30pm

Christmas Dinner - 3 courses £ 29.50
30th November - 23rd December
served 6.30 - 9.30pm

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ST ANTONIN DE NOBLEVAL One of OZ on SPARROWS

We haven't seen any house caravanning "Tour de France" was sparrows in our garden for exactly at this town close to the a year now. I know this from spectacular gorges of the Aveyron reviewing our quarterly reports to river in south west France. It has a the British Trust for Ornithology. historic centre with half timbered It's part of a general decline in houses in the local Quercy honey sparrow numbers and no one coloured limestone - obviously knows the reasons. In eastern appealing to the many brits who England the fall has been over have settled there. Its link with 90% in 30 years with London Alkham is that it is named after the alone losing 75% between 1994 patron saint of our church, St and 2000, while nationally Anthony; being his last resting place numbers have fallen by over 60% after his martyrdom at Pamiers in 506 AD. We spent a fascinating hour in the church, testing our French



to the limits, with the warden telling included the usual rogues such as us about the life of St Anthony as cats and sparrowhawks, unlikely depicted in the stained glass to be guilty in view of the huge windows. His bones are stored in a numbers involved, and some new boat shaped casket in the church suspects such as additives in and, as is the catholic custom, unleaded petrol, and mobile brought out for veneration on his phones that are alleged to saint's day - 2nd September. The interfere with sparrows' nervous area is soaked in history, and the systems. One of the more ancient pilgrims' route to Santiago plausible theories concerns the de Compostella passes nearby ;effect of pesticides on the prompting the idea of a future availability of insects, particularly walking trip to St Antonin. His spirit spiders, for feeding young must have been with us, as, sparrows. Another problem arises before leaving, we found a superb from the loss of nesting sites as €11 three course lunch at a urban areas are tidied and restaurant in the town square. developed using modern (Geoff Gaskill) techniques and synthetic

ALKHAM W.I – The December materials that exclude breeding meeting was presided over by Pam sparrows. However, it is by now Sayers and all agreed that she took obvious that there are no simple her first meeting very pleasantly and answers. Passer domesticus is in efficiently – many more to follow! decline across the whole world, Devina Bartlett helped people learn from the Americas to Europe, how to make Christmas cards. The India and the Far East. The next meeting will be 12th January the problem is global and the when Ken Palmer from River will be research has now become global. In this country the work is talking about 'How perfume is created'. (Sue Lees) undertaken by the universities,

KENT HEALTH WATCH is a 24 hour a day response line on 08458 247 103 the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). So here's a suggestion for a New Year's resolution. Join Garden BirdWatch and record your own observations at BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford IP24 2PU. 'Phone 01842 750050. Website: <http://www.bto.org/gbw> (Steve Osborn)

Alternatively you can email kenthealthwatch@kent.gov.uk.

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County Councillor, Bryan Cope 206510
District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956,
Andrew Richardson 211835
Alkham web site www.alkham.org

Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am – Wednesday Club to 11.30am in VH
Thursday	Karate classes from 7.15pm to 8.45pm in VH - 821336
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Monday	11	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm in VH - all welcome
Tuesday	12	W.I. in village hall from 7.30pm
Saturday	16	Annual quiz in village hall starting at 7.30pm
Monday	18	Dover and District Bird Club
Tuesday	19	Village Hall committee meeting
Saturday	30	Beekeepers in the village hall

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3rd	Evensong 4.30pm	Eucharist 9.00am	W.T. 11 a.m.
Sunday 10th	Eucharist 9.00am	W.T. 11 a.m.	
Sunday 17th	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6 p.m.	Eucharist 9.00am
Sunday 24th	Joint Benefice 10.00am at Capel		
Sunday 31st	Joint Benefice 10.00am at St. Mary's		

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

From the Vicarage - January is a cold month but what a great time we have had in December. Messy Church was fun; it's true that most of the helpers ended up with more glue and glitter than they had thought possible but the children were magnificent!. No we didn't glue them together! They created angels, crowns, sheep, horses, giraffes, snowflakes, crackers, and Christmas cards. They practiced singing carols and prepared to dress up for the Crib services so a good time was had by all. Then we all came together again to turn on the lights on the Christmas Tree. That was a lovely evening and we were hosted royally in The Marquis. There's much to be said for bringing together the Cricket Club, the Church and the Pub as Tony Marsden said to us. We are very lucky to have such a community spirit in the village and we must all look forward to it growing in the future. Like all plants it is tender in its infancy and each one of us needs to take care to foster its growth. Already plans are afoot for more activities which will bring us together. Do join us for Christingle on Sunday 17th January at 11 a.m. The children will be busy and the adults involved. In the coming year we shall have ten weddings at St. Anthony's and on 23rd January we are having a Marriage preparation Day in the village hall. The day will be fun for both participants and helpers; it certainly won't be a series of lectures but gives the couples the opportunities to do things together, visit the church and meet the organists. We have so much to offer and it's good to share it with young couples who come to us. I still have some free Saturdays in 2010 so do contact me soon or book for 2011. May you all face the New Year in hope and expectation and may it be a blessed year for you and your family. **(Sue White 01303 240539)**

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Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Footpath Warden antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
Vicar – Rev. Sue White 01303 240539
Church Wardens - Geoff Gaskill 823100
and Ken Hammond 07909563479

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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No. 197 February 2010

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BARN DANCE - Alkham is set for a fun evening on the 8th May when we have a Barn dance planned. Music will be provided by Meadow Folk who have many years experience, together with David Brown, their caller. The cost of the tickets will be £8.00 including a ploughman's supper and starts at 7.30pm in the village hall. Tickets go on sale from 1st February and will be available from either Val Fowler Tel: 01304 827635 or Sue Lees 01304 822661. Early purchase of tickets is strongly recommended as this looks set to be a popular event, judging by the response we have had so far. Cheques should be made payable to The Friends of St. Anthony.....



A LADY in Glebelands had an asthma attack and the ambulance in the background of the photo could not get to William Harvey because of the snow so she was delivered by the Air Ambulance which landed on the green. *(thanks to Alec for the photo)*

EVIDENTLY some people were heard complaining bitterly about all the money that is being raised for the church through the Friends of St. Anthony. The Church Of England won't, or can't, provide money for the upkeep of their buildings and therefore the options are to let it fall into disrepair or do something about it. Despite being an atheist, I think the Grade 1 listed building should be preserved for the village and for future generations to use for secular or religious purposes. No money raised goes to the clergy and in addition the Friends are doing things which otherwise wouldn't have happened such as the barn dance, cards and calendar. If the person or persons who object to the Friends would like to write an article for the Newsletter I'd be pleased to print it. **(editor)** ... *and we got an email from Shanghai complimenting us on our calendar*

SALT BOXES - I received an email saying that 'the salt box at the junction of Slip Lane and Chalksole Green Lane is only for use on that road and not for people's driveways - also please use sparingly as a little goes a long way and the salt box is too small.

BUS SHELTER - The bus shelter is owned by the Parish and a replacement would be expensive. The main problem with the existing shelter is that people waiting can't see the buses coming round the corner so the Parish Council is looking into the possibility of cutting part of a panel out on the Dover side to provide a type of window.

FOR SALE to a local person, 2 Bedroom House at Short Lane, Alkham. £127,800 for a 71% share. For an application form please contact Liz Fitzsimmons (Rural Housing Trust) on 01462 742099. Deadline for returned applications is Wednesday 10th Feb 2010. (For Sale posters have also been on display in the village since 15th January 2010) **(Angela Miller, Parish Clerk)**

POLICE SURGERY

On Wednesday 3rd February between 3pm and 5pm the mobile police station will be outside the village hall and also on Friday 19th March between 10am and 12 noon. Please come along and see me if you would like to discuss a policing issue. **(Gretel Stevens)**

HELEN SCOPES is holding a sale of various bits and pieces at the Granary, West Hougham, on Saturday 27th February between 11.00am and 2.00pm - tea and coffee will be served.

THE MARQUIS is looking for rooms to let for 3 month periods for students who are doing work experience placements at the Marquis. Please contact Ben on 873410 or pop into the Marquis.

SHEEP - I have been asked to include an item to say that the farmer is going put sheep in the field to the east of the houses in Short Lane. He asks that you keep dogs on the lead whilst walking through the field. **(editor)**

AFTER MUCH persistence from the Parish Council, Kent Highways installed a new salt bin at the bottom of Wolverton Hill. How disappointing it is however, that someone has seen fit to steal this bin in less than a week! Fortunately we have been able to get a replacement bin on this junction, which is essential for what can be a very icy road for motorists. The Parish Council wish to thank KHS for replacing it so quickly and let's hope that the problem does not arise again. **(Angela Miller)**

THE LOW BRIDGE signage is ongoing and an additional sign is to be put on the A20 advising HGV drivers not to use the valley road. The sign at Standen will be before the crossroads and an 'unsuitable for HGV's' has also been added (presumably for Meggett Lane) **(editor)**



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PIMLICO WAY

A farmer removed the hedges and trees from either side of Pimlico way in the 1980's and in 1990 the Alkham Valley Society decided, with the approval of the farmer, to plant a new hedge and some trees. It was a great success and the hedge has grown large and the trees are doing well.

However, the space between the trees and hedge was wide when planted but over the years the track is now too narrow for the hedge to be cut and for vehicles to pass through. Pimlico Way can legitimately be used by 4 x 4's but because they can't use the track the vehicles drive over the farmer's field causing deep ruts. At the Parish Council meeting the council voted unanimously, but with regret, that the trees should be removed so the farmer can trim the hedge. There appears to be no other option and subject to the Valley Society giving approval the trees will be removed. It is hoped that others can be planted elsewhere. **(editor)**

QUIZ –The annual quiz on the 16th January appeared to go very well with 100 people coming along to fill 13 tables. The team from Short Lane won with Jo Walker's table from the Rectory and Chalksole coming second (*I regretted including the question 'You too could have a body like mine' in the adverts round*). Including the raffle, after deducting expenses for food, prizes and hall hire, the profit on the night was about £470 which will be added to the funds to carry out essential repairs at St. Anthony's. It is estimated that it will cost about £20,000 to replace the plaster which is falling from the roof; about half this cost will be for the scaffolding which obviously will have to be high and wide. It is hoped that the work may be done by local people and when the specification is complete quotations will be sought. **(editor)**

THE CHRISTMAS WALK was undertaken by the hardy regulars (annuals one might say), under the leadership of Richard Tapsell. Next year we will welcome even more people and more dogs as well, especially huskies in case it is whiter earlier. Thank you for the support and we hope to have more news soon. **(J Walker - Secretary Alkham Valley Society)**

GARDEN TALK - The next meeting will be on Friday 19th February at 'Sunrise', Meggett Lane when Gordon and Janet invite you all to join us in a local fruit themed evening. We start at 7.30p.m. - all welcome. **(Janet Adamson)**

YOUR LOCAL AMBULANCE service, S. E. Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust is aiming to become an NHS Foundation Trust in 2010; it will still be part of the NHS, providing free care and treatment to patients. The main difference is that foundation trusts are run locally, and are accountable to patients. As an FT we'll be able to respond to people's needs more immediately because we'll be working with them as members and have more say over how and what we invest our money in meaning our public, patients and staff will get the ambulance service they want and need. Becoming a member of our NHS Trust is simple and free. Membership doesn't need to take up your time – you can just receive our free quarterly informative newsletter and it will also give you the chance to get more involved if you want to. Please join us today or visit our website www.secamb.nhs.uk. For membership forms contact Izzy Allen on 01273 897840 or ftmembership@secamb.nhs.uk. Thank you for your support.



New ! regular monthly Jazz & tableside magic events on a Sunday afternoon starting from :

Sunday 24th January 3pm - 5pm for live table side magic

Sunday 14th February 4 – 7pm for live jazz

We are open for lunch from 12 – 6pm every Sunday & the bar is open all day to all so we look forward to seeing you then! Mention the newsletter and get a free bottle of house wine when 2 or more people dine at any time before 11th February. T&C apply.

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EASTER LILIES in remembrance of a loved one. When the one you love becomes a memory, that memory becomes a treasure ... we would like to ask if you would like to sponsor an Easter lily in memory of your loved one(s) and to sign a book of remembrance. We invite a donation of £4.50p which you should put in an envelope together with the name of those you wish to be remembered plus, your name and telephone number and give to Avi Munn 01304 829484 or Rosie Hansraj 01304 822585. Names and numbers of lilies can be put on the list in St Anthony's Church if easier. Orders have to be given to the wholesaler by 28th February. **(Rosie Hansraj)**

THE BOOK CLUB meeting this month on Wednesday 3rd February will be hosted by Jane Aslett at Drybrook Short Lane where we will discuss Ordinary Thunderstorms by William Boyd. New members are always welcome and for more details please contact Jane Aslett on 824729.

ALKHAM W.I. – The closing date for members who wish to go to the Annual Council Meeting on Wednesday 24th March at the Lees Cliff Hall has been extended to Friday 12th February. The meeting is from 10.30am to 3.30pm and tickets cost £9.00. Please let Janet know at our next meeting if you wish to go. There has been no extension to the date at the end of January when the voting form for the resolution has to be sent to the N.F.K. W.I. at Canterbury for inclusion in the November/December issue of W.I. Life. Pamela Sayers has copies of this form for anyone who hasn't got one. The speaker for the next meeting on February 9th is Mary Griffen who will be talking about Kent Greeters. Hostesses for the meeting are Debbie Burris, Sheila Clements and Val Fowler. Pam wishes everybody a Happy New Year and looks forward to seeing a full house. **(Pamela Sayers)**

OZ on PEPYS - Samuel Pepys started writing his famous diary 350 years ago. The first line said simply: "Jan 1st 1660. This morning (we living lately in the garret,) I rose, put on my suit with great skirts, having not lately worn any other clothes but them." He then described visiting Gunning's chapel and dining at home with Mrs P, followed by "looking over my accounts" and "to my father's." At the time, the 27-year old Pepys was very poor and had just started working for Sir Edward Montagu. In spring 1660 Pepys accompanied Montagu to Holland to bring Charles II back from exile. On their return Montagu was made 1st Earl of Sandwich, and Pepys gained a secure position on the Navy Board as Clerk of the King's Ships. Pepys proved a very successful administrator, so good that his work was often hampered by his superiors' failings, and he was soon promoted to Surveyor-General of the Victualling Office. During this period Pepys continued to write a daily diary, remarkable not only for first-hand accounts of major events, such as the Restoration, the Second Dutch War, the Great Plague and the Great Fire, but also for the minutiae of everyday life in London. In May 1669 Pepys suddenly ended the diary because he feared, incorrectly, that his eyesight was failing, and in November his wife died. Pepys sought comfort in yet more work, as Secretary to the Admiralty, Master of Trinity House and Member of Parliament for various constituencies. This part of his career was sabotaged by unproven assertions of Jacobitism from political opponents, and he retired to Clapham in 1701, where he died in 1703. Fellow-diarist John Evelyn, in his own diary, remembered this "particular friend" of 40 years as "a very great cherisher of learned men." **(Steve Osborn)**

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Monday	22	W.I. pamper evening
Saturday	27	Beekeepers in the village hall 2.00pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7 th	Evensong 4.30	Eucharist 9.00	W.T. 11 a.m.
Sunday 14 th	Eucharist 9.00.	W.T. 11 a.m.	
Wednesday 17 th		6p.m. Eucharist	
Sunday 21 st	Family Service 11a.m.	Evensong 6 p.m.	Eucharist 9.00am
Sunday 28 th	Joint Benefice 10.00am at Capel		
Weekday Services: Wednesday Eucharist 9.15 am St Radigund, Capel-Le-Ferne			

FROM THE VICARAGE - Well we know February is a cold month but what a time we had with all the snow. You will be pleased to know that two residents of Capel enjoyed it tremendously. Rolo perfected his skids on ice and Bob was sure that if he ate enough snow he could walk and keep his feet dry! We took a walk every day and they enjoyed meeting other dogs and playing tag. It was quite a sight with sprays of snow flying up as they tried to execute a quick turn and catch each other unawares. I lost Bob a couple of times in the drifts but he didn't seem to mind and surfaced with all four legs going like crazy. It was a combined effort when we got home, they ate the ice on their legs and I tried to dry them as quickly as possible. Whilst the school was closed I met some of the children who were very happy to be out playing instead of in school but there will be a lot of catching up to do and that goes for the adults as well. Some firms have said that they will not pay those who were unable to get into work and this will have a major effect on household budgets. The 'March of the Kings' a sponsored walk in aid of the Rainbow Centre which supports families was postponed. But I hope those who are supporting the Centre will continue to do so as we can be sure that there will be increased demand for their services this winter. I haven't done a thing in the garden, hopefully the bulbs will begin to appear this month and I might be able to get out and do a bit of clearing up. At least the cold spell will have killed off a lot of garden pests and the plants that survive will be that much stronger!

(Sue White 01303 240539)

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THE ALKHAM VALLEY FIELDWORK PROJECT 2010-2012

is open to everyone that wishes to take part in the various activities and researches planned for this project. The list for fieldwork dates is as follows: **South Alkham**, Meggett Farm, Meggett Lane (CT15 7DG) Saturday 27th February: **Site TBA** March 2nd and 30th: **Site TBA** Oakwood excavating near Wolverton, Thursday 6th May, Friday 7th, Saturday 8th, Tuesday 25th, Wednesday 26th. Further dates will be advised at intervals from now until the end of 2012. Children over the age of 10 years of age can join the team providing they are supervised by an adult at all times. **Before you are able** to join the Alkham team, please ensure you have sent the following details to Vince Burrows (project director) at V.Burrows@gtwiz.co.uk giving your full name, telephone contact numbers and email address. Your details will be held in confidence on the Alkham Valley Project Register. Please advise of any medical conditions or complaints that you or a third party accompanying yourself may have. These details will be held in strict confidence for health, safety and medical emergency reasons during the time you are involved with the project. For all fieldwork, please bring with you outdoor clothing suitable for all weather conditions (walking or ankle protecting boots are recommended) and a packed lunch and drink. Due to changeable weather conditions, fieldwork may be cancelled in the event of very bad weather. In this case, we recommend that you check your email the evening or early morning before the scheduled fieldwork. If unsure, please contact Vince on 01304 219550 or 07935 284955 (Please do not call before 9am and after 8.30pm). Please note, whilst every care is taken for your safety; The Alkham Valley Historical Research Group and Sub Scan South East Geophysical Surveys, do not except any liability for injury to volunteers or loss or damage to personal property. Each individual is responsible for his or her own insurance cover. When bringing third parties along with you, it will be your responsibility to ensure such persons have read this site safety notice and or, viewed a printed copy from you prior to joining the fieldwork team. **(Vince Burrows)**

THE DRAMA WORKSHOP has got off to a good start with generally about 12 people in the group but there are still spaces available. If you'd like to join them or just want further information please phone Brian Croucher on 07973 341 772 and he will phone you back.

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY presents Verdi's thrilling Requiem at Dover Town Hall at 7:30pm on Saturday 27th March. Tickets at £10 (students £5) are obtainable from Dover Tourist Information Centre, or by calling 01304 822042/820149, and, if lucky, at the door on the night. For further information please call Donald Beck on 07808 272047 or log onto www.doverchoralsociety.org.uk **(Steve Osborn)**

CHRISTMAS TREE - I would like to thank Dover District Council and Mandy Pile in particular, for arranging for the village Christmas tree to be collected from the Vicarage Meadow for recycling. Thanks too to the men from Sita who collect the tree as an addition to their round. The collection is good for the environment in that it saves many car journeys to the tip and the tree could even end up as compost on your garden! **(Mark Robson)**

PHOTOS – The Friends intend to produce another 'Alkham past and present' calendar for next Christmas. If you have any old photos of Alkham which would be appropriate please ring Brian on 824969.

CONCERT IN ST. ANTHONY'S

April 17th is a date not to be missed if you enjoy guitar music of the highest standard. Jimmy D'Alton Bellas, who moved to the village in the summer, has arranged an evening of classical and Spanish music with his pupils past and present. More details will follow in next month's Newsletter.

(Den Barnard)

BARN DANCE – The tickets to the barn dance on the 8th May are selling well but there are still some left. The cost of the tickets is £8.00 including a ploughman's supper and the event starts at 7.30pm in the village hall. Tickets are available from either Val Fowler on 827635 or Sue Lees on 822661.

RECTORY FOOTPATH - Dog walkers galore will have noticed that the KCC has sent a contractor to make the paths smooth. Some necessary adjustments to the overall plan of rather brutal new paths are to be made and a pleasant stroll can be enjoyed by all. **(Jo Walker)**

TRAILER – A trailer was stolen from a small field adjacent to Slip Lane probably on the 7th February. The barbed wire to the field was cut and even though two wheels had been removed from the trailer it was pulled through a newly planted hedge. If anyone can help please contact the local police (see P4).

W.I. JUMBLE SALE - Alkham Village Hall Saturday 20th March 11am – entrance 20p.

BOOK CLUB - The meeting for Wednesday 3rd March will be hosted by Sue Latham at Woodlands, Short Lane 01304 824924. The book for discussion is The Testament of Gideon Mack by James Robertson described by the Times as 'Superb' and by the Sunday Telegraph as 'Fascinating, extraordinary, strange and rich'. New members are always welcome and for more details telephone Jane Aslett 01304 824729.



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PIMLICO TREES (ER25) - The future of a line of some fifteen trees planted 20 years ago by the Alkham Valley Society at their own cost and with their own labour has been a matter of local concern for some time. As reported in the Newsletter the trees hinder the farmer from maintaining the hedge, planted at the same time as the trees to replace those destroyed by a previous owner. The path is now too narrow for use by vehicles and the field is used instead. The vote to remove the trees in the public interest was taken at a meeting of the Alkham Valley Society on 4 February. It was agreed by a majority vote that the trees be felled. There will now be no excuse for the 4x4 leisure vehicles to use the farmer's field instead of the ER25. It is sad; few enjoy seeing the right trees in the wrong place being axed. It is to be hoped that another batch of trees be planted in some suitable area. Since Pimlico Way has apparently the same status as the M20, it should perhaps be renamed as such. **(Jo Walker)**

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB celebrated an excellent 2009 season with its annual awards dinner, held this year at Paul's Restaurant in Folkestone. Club President Mark Loveday presented the trophies, which went to: Batting - Mark Naris; Bowling - Nick Price; Catching - Peter Frater; Young Player of the Year - Zac Hassan; Player of the Year - Toby Foster; Clubman - Tom Bird; Duck trophy (hotly contested!) - Dan Humphries. Special presentations were made to Barbara Palmer for managing the teas at home matches, and to Paul and Richard Tapsell, for sterling work preparing the pitch. Villager Mark Naris was deservedly thanked for organising a great event. The final award of the evening - the coveted "Players' Player of the Year Trophy" which is selected by secret ballot of the players - went to Nick Price, who turned in many fine batting and bowling performances. A dedicated club stalwart for many seasons, Nick takes over as captain for 2010. Alkham CC's Sunday XI won nine matches in 2009, drawing 2 and losing 12. The midweek XI won six and drew six. Indoor net practice at Kent Cricket Club's St Lawrence Ground (7pm to 8.30pm) begin on February 24. Other sessions are booked for March 10, 24 and 31, plus April 8 and 15.



The photo above shows India where most people phone for Broadband help.

BROADBAND – In the update there was an advert for satellite broadband and they have asked me to let you know that they now provide 1Mbps for £27.49 per month - www.1stcallaerials.co.uk/

IN RESPONSE to the article in last month's magazine regarding the money that is being raised for the Church by the Friends of St Anthony I thought I should offer an explanation in the hope that it will, perhaps clear any misgivings. Firstly, I should explain that, last year, the expenditure, for heating, lighting and other day-to-day running expenses and some minor repairs to the fabric, exceeded the income by almost £2,000. Of that expenditure 77% was taken up by the Parish Share which contributes towards Clergy stipends, housing and pensions. For a small parish such as ours, with our limited opportunities for raising funds, it is easy to see, therefore, that there is very little money available for major repairs to the building. From time to time one hears it said that the Church of England is wealthy as it owns a lot of land and buildings. In fact, these investments fund most of the cost of clergy in the parishes and in the Cathedrals and, if these investments were sold off there would be no money to pay the clergy. **(Marion Banks-Nash)**



New ! regular monthly Jazz & tableside magic events on a Sunday afternoon starting from :

Sunday 24th January 3pm - 5pm for live table side magic

Sunday 14th February 4 – 7pm for live jazz

We are open for lunch from 12 – 6pm every Sunday & the bar is open all day to all so we look forward to seeing you then! Mention the newsletter and get a free bottle of house wine when 2 or more people dine at any time before 11th February. T&C apply.

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BEER OR WINE? Even people who are not involved in the church might find this interesting. One of the church services is the Eucharist in which the sacraments of the Last Supper, bread and wine, are given to worshippers. There is a church in the United States in which beer is used rather than the traditional wine. The Beer Church argues that as grain was the principle crop in the Middle East in biblical times and grapes were rare, beer was the drink of the common man. It contends that Jesus, a carpenter, being of the working classes was used to beer, with wine having no place in his life. The argument goes further by saying that beer was very likely served at the Last Supper and that historical and anthropological study has suggested that Noah's Ark was actually a barge hauling beer on the Euphrates. It is also pretty certain that the beer would qualify as "real ale". **(Clive Batchelor)**

ALKHAM WI – As the snow and ice cancelled the January meeting, president Pam Sayers, had a great deal to catch up with in February. Cherry Leppard was welcomed back as a member because she is a great 'Outing' organiser as well as being a really nice person! Alkham W.I. raised £255 for Cancer Research in 2009. Susannah Tapsell, being a representative of the Kent Voluntary Emergency Service, related how 4 members were on standby to help the night of December 19th because of problems that blocked the Channel Tunnel and prevented Cross Channel ferries docking, resulting in hundreds of transport drivers and passengers being held up in Dover and along motorways. This was the first occasion this 'Providers' service had been required. Speakers - there were two representatives of the "Kent Greeters" present to give a talk about how they and other Kent local persons are available to take visitors around the Dover area, a service members were unaware of and surprised to learn that it was provided free of charge. Members were reminded Ann Finney would be speaking about Edith Piaf at the next meeting on 9th March and that they should bring a 'Spring time' photo to the meeting for a competition; also that there will be a Jumble Sale 11am on Saturday 20th March. **(Sue Lees)**

OZ on WORST WINTERS This winter's snowfall will be remembered as the "worst since" 1947, 1963 or 1980, depending on your age, "worst" meaning longest persistence of snow over the whole country. "Worst winters" usually start just before Christmas and end just before Easter, with heaviest falls in January and February. Between December 1946 and March 1947, snow fell somewhere in this country every day, constantly deepening in freezing temperatures. My brother and I enjoyed a wonderful February as our father was unemployed and helped us build many large snowmen. In June 1947 small patches of ice still survived on Deal beach under the seawall, where the sun didn't reach. December 1962 to March 1963 was similar, but very much colder. Beakers of water froze on the bedside table in our unheated cottage, and wild birds fell frozen from hedges, making easy prey for cats. New Year 1980 was less clear, being unpleasant in Dover, but variable in intensity and duration over the remainder of the country, so not really a "worst winter". It was in fact the first of a series of bad winters in the early 1980s that occurred coincidentally alongside climate warming elsewhere. People are already saying that this year's "worst winter proves beyond doubt that there's no such thing as global warming." I wish it were that simple. I wrote here in December 2000 that "if global warming melts the northern ice-cap, the release of fresh water into the North Sea will halt the Gulf Stream in its tracks, leading to another Ice Age, at least over Northern Europe." That's still a possibility, as the Millennium Bug and Swine Flu once were. Perhaps the current furore over the Himalayan glaciers will lead to a bit more honesty and humility on both sides of the debate. **(Steve Osborn)**

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Saturday	27	Beekeepers in the village hall 2.00pm

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Sunday 14th Mothering Sun.	Eucharist 9.00. 3p.m. Service	W.T. 11 a.m.	
Sunday 21st	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6 p.m.	Eucharist 9.00am
Sunday 28th	Joint Benefice 10.00 at Hougham		
Monday 29th	6p.m Compline		
Tuesday 30th		6p.m Compline	
Wednesday 31st			6p.m Compline
Weekday Services: Wednesday Eucharist 9.15 am St Radigund, Capel-Le-Ferne			

From the Vicarage - I bought some snowdrops to plant 'in the green' and decided that trying to dig down through a foot of snow and find the soil was not on! Here's hoping I can do it sometime very soon otherwise I shall have snowdrops 'in the brown'. The dogs and I gave up on the fields when they came back double their normal weight and bandy legged from carrying so much snow. We decided to try the beach only to find the snow was over the shingle and barely above the tide mark. Bob did think he'd try the water but fortunately common sense kicked in and he didn't. The paths and road have been very slippery and I have been very wary but I do remember a time when I loved sliding down icy pavements but I bounced better then! We are now in the season of Lent and there are more decisions to be made, what will you give up for Lent? Maybe we should all think of something extra that we could do instead, like making time to chat with a neighbour who is on their own or giving them a lift to the shops? I'm sure we can all think of offering help and friendship to someone this Lent. We shall celebrate Mothering Sunday at 3p.m. on 14th March at St. Anthony's followed by tea in the Village hall. Do come and join us as it will be a family occasion. The children will take part in the service and enjoy the cakes and playing on the swings afterward. We are also planning to have another 'Messy Church' session on Easter Saturday 3rd April from 10-12 midday where the children with their parents will make Easter gardens, paint eggs and create other symbols of Easter. **(Sue White 01303 240539)**

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No. 199 April 2010

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ALMOST – The water table rose again at Drellingore and a natural spring, the Nailbourne, ran down the valley. The football pitch was flooded but the raised dyke stopped the water flowing onto Vicarage Meadow although some permeated to the surface. The water was flowing quite fast solely due to the ground water pressure.

BROADBAND – I've found out a bit more about Broadband which I thought I'd pass on. If you are with BT and do a speed test using <http://speedtester.bt.com/> (don't include www.) you will get your download speed. In the box underneath where it says 'Additional information' it gives your DSL Connection Rate. Note the Down-Stream figure and then compare it with the line underneath where it gives the IP Profile for your line. Basically the DSL connection rate is the figure that your line could have and the IP profile is what the exchange has set your line at. If the two are widely different there is a problem somewhere and it generally ends up being a fault in the house. **(editor)**

DEN BARNARD - TRAVEL WRITER? - I have long enjoyed Den's accounts of cycling that have appeared in the village Newsletter and I wonder if he has thought of turning his pen to other areas that would be of interest. In particular I am thinking of his recent trip to Vietnam which I am sure many would love to read about. Yours in hope, A. Villager.

CHRISTMAS TREE – Neil Burrows suggested at the Parish Council meeting that a Christmas tree should be planted rather than putting a new one up each year. A villager is looking into the matter.

THE APPROVED MINUTES of the Alkham Parish Council are now included on the Alkham web site www.alkham.org.

LITTER – The Parish Council is writing to the two authorities to ask them to do something about all the litter that is by the sides of the Alkham Valley Road.

A20 – On a trial basis a ban on lorries overtaking on the A20 as they come out of Dover from the Limekiln roundabout to Court Wood slip road is going to be introduced. For those who are familiar with this bit of the A20 they will know that some HGV's overtake each other at a very slow speed and cause enormous tailbacks. They should, of course, have included a crawler lane in the original design.

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB - Our season starts this year with home games on the 18th and 25th April and, hopefully, a full card of weekend games through till the end of September and midweek games from 19th May to the end of July. If you'd like to get involved as either a supporter or player please get in touch with me on 01303 892082 or just come along to a game and meet the team. It's fair to say that we are enthusiastic rather than talented, but that tends to make for interesting games for spectators, as do the short boundaries and natural hazards! I will try and get the editor to include details of home games in the newsletter, or pick up a fixture card from the pavilion or the Marquis. **(Paul Tapsell)**

ALKHAM FETE 10th July 2010

There will be a Fete Meeting on Tuesday 6th April at 8 pm in the Village Hall to set everything up for this year's Fete; the woeful attendance at the AGM (thank you Clive, Margaret and Barbara for coming along) means that it is essential that we get an accurate idea of how many people are actually willing to contribute to this year's Fete, so either come along on the 6th or let me know in advance that you are unable to attend but that you are available to help on the 11th July. It would be a huge shame if we lost our village Fete, but unless more people from the village are willing to get involved in organising it we will simply have to throw in the towel! **(Paul Tapsell 01303 892082)**

AFTER EASTER, repair work is planned for the slide on Vicarage Meadow. There will be some manual work required beforehand to dig out the bank so that the necessary repairs can be done. The date is yet to be confirmed but please contact Angela on 824791 if you would be willing to help!

THE LAST JUMBLE SALE this Spring will be on 17th (or 24th) of April at 11am - midday. Funds will go to the Alkham Archaeology Project. Any articles to sell would be welcome. **(Susan Lees)**

THE ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY voted by majority that the trees by the side of Pimlico Way which they planted about 20 years ago should be cut down. It is very much regretted but the 4x4's are badly damaging the farmer's field and it is the only answer. **(Jo Walker)** **and** the trees are now down and in some ways it looks better as you can clearly see the hedge plus the old track way is accessible. **(editor)**

THE MARQUIS are holding a Murder Mystery Evening on Friday 16th April at 7.30pm. Visit the website for more details.



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This photo on the left was on a postcard printed by Harris, of Dover circa 1905 - 1914. It is believed to be or have been in the Alkham area, but if anyone can identify the photo it would be a great help. **(Susan Lees)**

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ALKHAM ARRIVAL 1972 - From a flat in Twickenham to a country cottage in a village in a quiet lane. School for the kids over back wall, and next to a pub. Even independent structural survey O.K., nothing worse than crossed polarity on cellar light switch, whatever that means. Perfick. Euphoria slightly dented by ultimatum two days before exchange of contracts. Same price, no separate garage plot. Gazumped by the ex-wife of some actor, James Robertson something, but so what, plenty of other space. More dents when floor coverings removed. Old woodworm and death-watch beetle in kitchen floorboards and joists means immediate new floor. Joists in lounge absolutely rotten and collapsed in corner with floor 4 inches lower. Reason? Sodden joists in past. Evidence? Thousands of dead snail shells. So much for survey. Solution? Second hand floor boards for 1p and joists for 2p a yard, and a new floor for about £20. More dents follow. Change to mains instead of cesspool drainage. Employ locals to build wall which falls down! Watch school close and my original garage plot become garage for No.1 Old School Cottages etc. etc. Overwhelming nostalgia for old maintenance free flat and Heathrow. No joy. What about kids and new school? - says 'er indoors. What about my W.I? And, anyway you've got the pub! So, give up, put up with and shut up. **(Rob Lees)**

GARDEN TALK - After two visits to Meggett Lane, our next gathering is at Box Tree Cottage, Slip Lane where Pam & Maurice Sayers are our hosts on Friday 23rd April, from 7.30p.m. We hope that spring will have sprung by then and everyone is able to talk enthusiastically about gardening. On Thursday 20th May there is a coach trip organised to Leonardslee Gardens near Horsham, where the spring blossom is amazing. As this private estate has recently been sold, it is unlikely that the gardens will open to the public after the end of June - so this really is an opportunity not to be missed. Further details from Janet Adamson (01303 893413) or Cherry Leppard (01303 255114).

BOOK CLUB - Born Under A Million Shadows by Andrea Busfield is the book to be discussed at the April meeting which will be hosted by Avi Munn at Poems, Short Lane on April 7th at 7.30. Tel 01304 829484. The Author is a British journalist who has made her home in Afghanistan after covering the fall of the Taliban; it is a heart warming tale which gives a unique viewpoint on Afghanistan and it's people. New members are always welcome. For more details contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

ALL RIGHT JACK – Ken and Dot's Jack Russell, who is called Tiny, gets upset when Ken moves away from him and can start barking. Ken was sitting with Tiny on the settee but wanted to go in the conservatory to check his emails so he waited until Tiny was asleep and slid onto the floor. Tiny opened one eye and looked at him so Ken sat there for some time until he dropped off again and then started crawling on his hands and knees to the door and slithered down into the conservatory. He sat on the chair booted the computer and then became aware that he was being stared at. Tiny was sitting in the doorway with a 'what on earth are you doing look' on his face. He's a great and much loved dog. **(editor)**



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THE PATH running through the Rectory from the churchyard has been surfaced by KCC with type 1 aggregate. A couple of people think the tree roots were a natural obstacle but most people are pleased that they can now walk without difficulty. Thanks go to Anthony Barrier for getting the work done. (editor)

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - Pimlico Trees and Rectory Footpath should have come under Alkham Valley Society and not just Jo Walker, apologies. (Jo Walker)

ALKHAM WI - this was a busy meeting with many dates to be noted such as the district Top Team Quiz in June, Emergency Team training day in April, outing by coach to Leonardslee near Horsham 20th May, cost approx £17, anyone interested must contact Cherry Leppard. Also organised are outings to historic sites such as Ostidge near Faversham, anyone interested please contact Janet Adamson. President, Pam Sayers thanked Mandy Saunders for setting up the Pamper Evening once again, an event thoroughly enjoyed by all. The speaker for the evening was C C who not only showed a few magic tricks but also spoke about the years he has spent working as a magician, starting tricks when a very young boy and still learning new tricks in his mid seventies. Two members spring photos, Edith Neve's and Pat Yeoman's were chosen to be put in the Group W.I. competition in April. (Susan Lees)

OZ on PALAVERY – Twenty years ago, in another life, I worked with a talented and eccentric bridge engineer. Alex was of Polish ancestry and shared my love of literature and language. One day he burst into the site office where we worked, beaming with excitement. “I’ve just found an amazing word,” he cried, “can you guess what it means?” The word was ‘sesquipedalian’, and it describes both long words and the people that use them, so that the word ‘sesquipedalian’ itself and its user can each in turn be described as ‘sesquipedalian’. The word is derived from the Latin phrase sesquipedalia verba, meaning ‘words one and a half feet long’, coined by the Roman poet Horace in The Art of Poetry, first published in 18BC. The word now makes a welcome appearance in Foyle’s Palavery and Foyle’s Further Palavery, published by Chambers in 2008 in an attractive boxed set. The books, subtitled ‘A treasury of unusual words’ and laid out as a dictionary, were compiled by Christopher Foyle, chairman of the world-famous Foyle’s Book Shop in London’s Charing Cross Road. He started collecting in 1990, after hearing the Gulf War General Schwarzkopf describe worthless information as ‘bovine scatology.’ The word ‘palavery’ was shamelessly fabricated from ‘palaver’ by Christopher’s mother-in law, ‘a demon at Scrabble’, during a particularly aggressive game. I wonder if Christopher ever suffered from ‘pentheraphobia – an abnormal fear of one’s mother-in-law’? Another word that we really need every day is ‘apocolocynosis – the process of being turned into a pumpkin.’ There must be a phobia associated with this but I have yet to find it. I hope that Alex, wherever he is now, received Foyle’s Palavery from a kind relative at Christmas as I did, and remembers the fun we once had with ‘sesquipedalian’ and the like. (Steve Osborn)

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am – Wednesday Club to 11.30am in VH
Thursday	Karate classes from 7.15pm to 8.45pm in VH - 821336
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Saturday	3	Messy church
Tuesday	6	Fete meeting in village hall 8.00pm
Monday	12	Parish Council meeting (not regular one)
Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	19	Dover and District Bird Club
Tuesday	20	Village hall committee AGM 7.30pm in village hall
Wednesday	21	PCC AGM in village hall
Saturday	24	Archaeological jumble

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Thursday 1st		Eucharist 6pm	
Friday 2nd	Meditations 12-1p.m.	Meditations 2-3p.m.	Meditations 1-2p.m.
Saturday 3rd	Messy Church 10-12		
Sunday 4th	Eucharist 10.00	Eucharist 9	Eucharist 11 a.m.
Sunday 11th	Eucharist 9.00.	W.T. 11 a.m.	
Sunday 18th	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6	Eucharist 9.00
Sunday 25 th	Joint Benefice 10.00 at Hougham		

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

From the Vicarage - March has been a busy month; we have had our first wedding, it somehow seems very right to have a spring wedding. There are several events planned for this year and I hope you will support them all. I met the new Bishop of Dover at a clergy study day. He told us that he will be going to all the deaneries over the coming months and he will be in the Dover deanery on 22nd April. He also enjoys going to village fetes so I am e-mailing him with details of the Alkham fete. He particularly enjoys the plant stalls as he is a keen gardener. There has also been a study day for our A.L.M.s, Helen Scopes, Theda Mulloy and Keith Hughes. It was a very encouraging day for us all and Archbishop Rowan spoke about the importance of ministry teams. I am sure that many of you have already benefited from the work that Helen, Theda and Keith are doing and of course from Raye. We hope that Raye will be able to put her expertise to good use in her new parish. It's very important to me to be able to work in a team. I think that most of you will agree that working with others is so much better than working alone. The support, the constructive criticism, the fun and laughter which is part of good working together is so vital for us all. We grow and thrive in such an environment. Writing this it seems as though 'Spring has sprung', the sun is shining and we can look forward to a blessed and joyful Easter. We shall be having a 'Messy Church' session at Alkham Village hall on 3rd April, making Easter gardens, hats, cards and painting eggs to roll on the Vicarage field. Do bring the children to enjoy the fun. **(Sue White 01303 240539)**

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W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Footpath Warden antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
Vicar – Rev. Sue White 01303 240539
Church Wardens - Geoff Gaskill 823100
and Ken Hammond 07909563479

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A Spring Evening guitar concert - What an outstandingly successful evening. James D'Alton Bellas and his pupils enraptured a completely full church in their guitar-based magic, from the charmingly competent Alex Set with 'Licence to Chill' (Powlesland) to 'De Aires Antiguos' (Angulo) by the outstanding artists Grant Dowse (guitar)

and Travis Finch (mandolin). The standing ovation for this wonderful musical dialogue was a sign of appreciation for everyone's talent. The extensive repertoire demonstrated musical education in progress: the central part of the programme being performed by the up and coming pupils, accompanied on one or two occasions by James D'Alton Bellas and Dr Duncan MacKay on Double Bass, the latter raising a chuckle when he smoothly coped with the pin of the bass slipping on polished tiles, and culminating post-interval with the extraordinary musical talents of Dowse and Finch. Thanks to everyone for such a fine evening, especially to James D'Alton Bellas, his pupils, to Den Barnard (Chairman of the Friends) for his masterly introductions and commentary on the history of the church building, to all the back scene workers who made it possible. £900 was raised for the church repairs. Polish was the evening's thrill, from the shining music to the shining candlelit brass chandelier, to the fine supper afterwards in the Village Hall. We were bowled over. Please come again. **(Jo Walker)**

THE ANNUAL PARISH meeting was held in the village hall on the 12th April. This used to be a very important event but I guess in the age of mass communication it is not so important for parishioners to come to such meetings to air their problems. Apart from the local and Parish councillors there were only 10 people in the audience but it is worth continuing with the tradition especially as the talk given by Melanie Wrigley from the White Cliffs Countryside Project was excellent. Neil Burrows, the Parish council chairman, gave his annual report and Angela Miller gave the finance report and confirmed that the precept for the year remains at £8000. There were some questions about the fence round the dyke by the village hall and a request for a salt bin at Newlyn's Meadow.

PAMPER EVENING – The Alkham W.I. are holding a pamper evening on Monday 14th June in Alkham village hall from 7pm to 9pm, so come and enjoy a relaxing evening. On offer will be massage, pedicure, nail polishing, waxing, spray tans and much more. The £2.50 entrance includes refreshments and nibbles and you just pay for the treatments that you want. **(Mandy Summers)**

AV PROJECTOR – The village hall has bought an AV projector that can be connected to a DVD player or computer. It is free to use for locals who book the hall and if you would like further information please ring Brian on 824969 or email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

BARN DANCE 8th MAY

We still have tickets for the above. There will be live music by Meadow Folk with an excellent caller David Brown. Tickets are only £8 which includes a Ploughman's Supper (bring your own drinks) and from previous experience it will be a fun night. It doesn't matter if you are not a dancer, in fact, it might be a help if you are not. Tickets from Sue Lees (82261), Brian Wimsett (824969), Linda Gaskill (823100), Rosie Hansraj (822585) or Den Barnard (824845). **(Den Barnard)**

ROCK ON – It's great to see that the rocking horse on Vicarage Meadow is back after complete refurbishment. This complements the excellent children's play equipment which has been installed recently as a result of money left over from the grant given for the lighting on the football pitch.



ALKHAM ARCHAEOLOGY

I would like to thank people for their generosity with gifts. Although the Jumble Sale has not yet taken place, many bags of jumble have been received for sale on the day. **(Susan Lees)**

VARIETY SHOW – There will be a variety show in the village hall, similar to last year's, on the 26th September. If anyone is interested in helping or have suggestions, please come to a meeting which will be held in the village hall on Monday 10th May at 2.00pm. **(Helen Scopes)**



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DEN AND TRAVELLING – VIETNAM. Vietnam is a stunningly beautiful country with friendly and welcoming people who are eager to please. I know this because I read it in a book. I had air tickets to go there but never made it. After a fabulous holiday in Australia visiting our son David in Sydney, also incorporating a cruise to New Zealand, we had booked to stop off in Saigon (now called Ho Chi Min City) for a few days to visit Irene's brother currently living there. At the Qantas check-in desk at Sydney airport the airline clerk had a long look at my passport and announced that I did not have a clear six months left on the said document. 'No problem' I say who do I pay to sort it. 'Yes problem' she replies 'You can't fly'. After speaking to her supervisor who was much more helpful because he smiled as he said 'You can't fly'. I then resorted to the old Red Indian trick of crying and begging but to no avail. Finally we found someone with a solution. 'We can cancel your ticket and get you a flight straight back to London for an extra 250 dollars each' said the man. We took up this offer and arrived back in England six days early. Irene took it quite well I feel, she has written me a note stating that she will be speaking to me again in two years time, this, after the row that we had at the airport which was like World War Two but with more violence. Look out for my next article in the newsletter when I will be describing some other countries I've been banned from entering. Finally, please don't tell anyone about this, I would not like anyone in the village to find out about my stupid mistake. **(Den Barnard)**

FUN NEW AEROBICS CLASS - Come and join me Izzy at Alkham village hall May 25th 7.30 to 8.30 pm. This is a beginners to mixed ability class so suitable for everyone. There are low options and high options throughout so you only do as much as you want to. First class will be free as a taster and then £3.00 thereafter. I have booked the hall on the following dates 25th May, 1st June, 15th June and 22nd June. So will run for a month and then if people are interested I will book for another month from there. Depending on the response and the lever of fitness of participants I will be changing my routines each month so there will be variety. I am also training to teach Pilates at the moment so once I have passed the exam I can offer that too. I live in Ewell Minnis and have done all my life so I thought it would be great to offer something to the community. Some people find going to leisure centres or gyms quite daunting so I feel my class will be more accessible to people. The emphasis is to have FUN and have a great workout at the same time. So grab you water bottle and a mat (some mats will be provided) and join me. If you would like any further information please call me on 07921823802 **(Isobel Swinbourne)**

ALKHAMHURST KENNELS - The owner of the kennels at Wolverton has a deep interest in anything "old". Although the house is not ancient, he believes it to be about one hundred years old, he would love to know more about the place. The house is actually called Rhodes House, which probably goes back to the time when there was a chicken farm at the site. If you have any information about the history of Rhodes House please contact me on 01304 824969 or email brianwimsett@hotmail.com and I will pass the details on. **(editor)**

BOOK CLUB - The meeting for Wednesday 5th May will be hosted by Margaret Danstead at 2 Meadow Hill Cottages, Hogbrook Hill Lane 01304 829006. The book for discussion is Night Train to Lisbon by Pascal Mercier. This is an International Bestseller described as a rare reading pleasure. New members are always welcome, for more details contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729. **(Jane Aslett)**

ACRYSE YOUNG FARMERS Annual Farming Fayre will be at Capel Church farm, Manor House Lane, Capel-le-ferne (CT18 7EX) on the 20th June starting at 1.30pm.



Get a complimentary glass of wine with your Lunch Tuesday – Sunday during April when you mention the Alkham Newsletter.

Remember we have Live jazz and magic regularly on a Sunday.
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HELEN OSBORN – It is very sad to report that Helen, the wife of Steve who writes as Oz in this Newsletter, died unexpectedly on the 8th of April. Steve and Helen met when they were in their teens and married at the age of 20 and this year they would have celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary. In her working life she was a school teacher and in retirement enjoyed gardening and the Dover Choral Society of which Steve is a member. The funeral was held in a packed church at St. Mary-in-Castro in Dover Castle where her life was celebrated. She will be sorely missed.

Steve will continue with Oz in the next edition of the Newsletter.

ALKHAM W.I. – The April meeting was one of the best after the long winter months and it was lovely to see Raye Luckhurst and Betty Neely back with us for the evening. Unfortunately there was a large amount of business to catch up with. However, Mairi Jones' report on the East Kent's Annual Council Meeting was very interesting. The main talk in the evening by Ken Palmer on 'How perfume is created' was presented in a different way than expected. By the time something like 50 dippings of perfume were passed around all were confused – some scents were lovely and others – ugh! The May meeting will be the one when the W.I. resolution is discussed – but be prepared there might just be some more interesting things taking place, and members will have more time to chat with each other. **(Susan Lees)**

THE CHURCH in Alkham, St. Anthony's, is now open daily for people to walk round. At the Guitar Concert the building contributed greatly to the success of the evening.

THE WHITE CLIFFS - Melanie Wrigley gave a talk about the White Cliffs Country-side Project and provided some very interesting information:

The white cliffs of Dover are rare as apart from the sister cliffs across the channel there are few others in the world.

Gelatinous material fills cavities in the sediment, such as holes bored by crustaceans, and this becomes silica which is what flints are made of.



The grassland needs to be grazed and Di Smith of Sladden Farm has some Dexter cattle on the cliffs.

One wild flower that grows is the cow slip; originally this grew where cow pats fell and the plant was called cow slap. The Victorians didn't like this so they changed the 'a' to 'i'.

Peregrine falcons are being reintroduced to the area as they were shot during WWI because they ate the carrier pigeons.

It is thought that a cliff connected England to France some 10,000 years ago and a large inland freshwater lake was formed behind it being fed by the Thames and other rivers. Eventually the weight of water made the cliffs collapse and the English Channel as we know it was formed.

Chalk grassland needs to be managed, otherwise it is invaded by shrubs and trees and the rare plants are shaded out and lost forever. The traditional method of managing chalk grassland is by grazing and this ceased at Folkestone Warren in 1924 with many areas becoming woodland.

Butterflies are found in abundance on chalk grassland and the blue butterflies are most characteristic of the area and in ideal circumstances they can be seen in large numbers during the summer. Many butterflies such as the Adonis Blue or the Chalkhill Blue require short grazed grassland, whereas other species such as the Meadow Brown or Marbled White depend on longer grassland.

CRICKET – The Alkham Cricket Club will be playing at home on Vicarage Meadow against Old Hartsdonians 2nd on the 16th May starting at 2.30pm and on the 29th May against Stowting, again starting at 2.30pm.

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Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am – Wednesday Club to 11.30am in VH
Thursday	Karate classes from 7.15pm to 8.45pm in VH - 821336
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Thursday	6	General election voting in village hall 7am to 10pm
Saturday	8	Barn Dance – please see page 1
Monday	10	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm in village hall
Tuesday	11	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	17	Dover and District Bird Club in VH 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2nd	Evensong 6.30	Eucharist 9.00	W T 11am
Sunday 9th	Eucharist 9.00	W.T 11 a.m.	
Thursday 13th	Joint Benefice Eucharist Hougham 7 p.m.		
Sunday 16th	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9 a.m.
Sunday 23rd	Joint Benefice 10.00 at Hougham		
Sunday 30th	Joint Benefice Eucharist 10.00a.m at St. Mary's Capel.		

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

From the Vicarage - Easter was a wonderful time. On Easter Saturday the children made an Easter garden, chocolate birds nests, Easter posters and masks and sang 'Roll, roll, roll the stone, roll the stone away! Jesus is alive today, hip, hip, hip hooray with great gusto! It was a most enjoyable morning for everyone and that is what Messy Church is about. The Pet Service is becoming an annual event and it's amazing how well the animals behave. We have enjoyed the classical guitar evening thanks to Jimmy at St. Anthony's and this month we look forward to the Barn dance. It seems that Alkham is a hive of activity. There is much work going on behind the scenes to prepare for the Village Fete and I do hope that when you are asked to help you will feel able to say 'Yes'. The success of any venture depends on each one of us playing our part and it is fun to be part of activities with others. The weddings continue apace. We have had families and friends who have been thrilled to be in our village to celebrate the wedding of a son or daughter. We shall not be doing any weddings after the 12th September because the work on the ceiling of the church will begin in October and getting married surrounded by scaffolding is not very picturesque! I have had a few days off which has been lovely. My parents came up and were welcomed by us all. Bob hid his favourite bone under my dad's pillow. Quite how he managed to leave the bed looking untouched we are not sure but Dad didn't find out until he turned over in the early hours and felt something hard sticking in his ear! Needless to say he was not expressing love and affection for Bob at that moment! A joyful Spring to you all as you work in the garden. **(Sue White 01303 240539)**

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W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641

Footpath Warden antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk

Vicar – Rev. Sue White 01303 240539

Church Wardens - Geoff Gaskill 823100
and Ken Hammond 07909563479

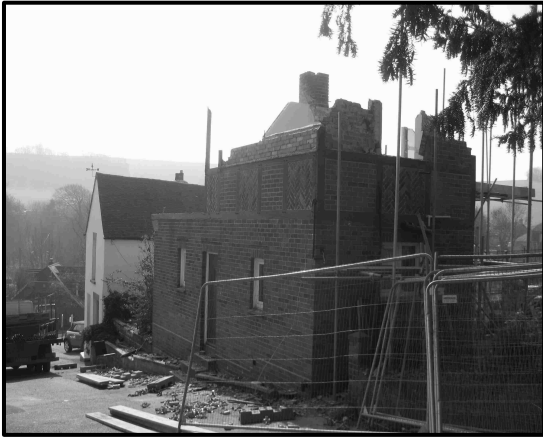


Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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No. 211 May 2011
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HALTON FORSTALL is no more with the demolition being completed on the 1st April. Work has begun on the extension to the Marquis which should be finished by September 25th 2011.

BILL ROLFE – Bill died on the 12th March at the age of 77 having been in ill health for some time, which was borne without complaint. Bill and his wife Margaret were the last owners of the Post Office Stores in Alkham having bought the business in 1973. They moved from the village in 1986 and finally settled in Hythe. Bill involved himself in many village activities whilst in Alkham and was liked by all who knew him because of his pleasant personality and kind nature....

The 12th of March was a sad day as Rob Lees also passed away and St. Anthony's was packed for his funeral with over 140 people filling the church....

LADIES PAMPER EVENING - Alkham W.I. is arranging another 'Pamper' Evening on Monday 13th June in the Village Hall from 7.00p.m. Taster beauty treatments including manicures, facials, reflexology and much more. Entrance costs £2.50 and includes refreshments. Tickets can be obtained in advance from Janet Adamson (01303 893413) or Pam Sayers (01304 822397). Tell your friends - it promises to be an enjoyable evening!

50MPH SIGNS – Residents in Standen Terrace contacted the Parish Council regarding the 50mph signs on the Valley Road. Their houses were before the limit but the Highway Authority has now agreed to move the signs westwards.

FETE COMMITTEE - There will be a Fete Committee meeting on Tuesday 3rd May at 8 pm in the Village Hall, to check that everything is in hand for the big day (9th July) - please come along to confirm that you will be able to help on the day (or let me know if there's a problem!). See you there. **(Paul Tapsell 01303 892082)**

THE EASTER WALK will (has) take place on Monday 25th April leaving from Foxgloves at 10.30am. All welcome, lets hope the weather is good and the ground not too muddy. Any enquiries 826202.

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - It will be of interest to our members that the completed case and the Wolverton Warrior display will be formally opened on 28th April at Astor College, Dover. Thank you for your support and agreement about funding part of the project. Since the venue is small and the exhibit large it means that numbers attending the opening are limited and the members of the Committee will be attending as your representatives. The event takes place at 2.30 p.m. and refreshments will be provided by the College. It is very satisfactory to bring the project to this stage and thanks to all who enabled it. **(J Walker - Sec)**

THE CURRY fund raising event in the village hall for the ABS soldiers' charity appeared to be enjoyed by all and raised £342.20p.

THANK YOU - I would like to thank so many more people than I can even name for all the support they have given me over the unexpected departure of Rob. Gerry Maguire, an ex work colleague, summed up Rob at the funeral by saying that he appeared grumpy and irascible but this hid a deep shyness under which was a kind and gentle man. **(Susan Lees)**

CONGRATULATIONS to Ernie Cook and his wife Greta who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last month.

ACRISSE YOUNG FARMERS annual farming fayre is on Sunday 19th June, 1pm at Bell Farm, Canterbury Road, Lydden (CT15 7EX for sat-nav). There will be a charity day shoot plus vintage tractors, arts and crafts, games, dog show, raffle, teas and lots more. Admission is £3 for adults, children under 16, £2.50 and under 3's free.

GARAGE SAFARI – Saturday, 14 May. Plans are now in hand for the Garage Safari. There will be a charge of £8 for each stall, payable in advance to either Margaret or Marion. We have had a number of enquiries but would still like to have a lot more stalls so please do let us know if you would like to have a table in your garden. As before, there will be plenty of space at The Hermitage for anyone from outside the Village. We also need help with selling village maps, car park, bacon rolls etc in the Village Hall as well as generally "spreading the word". Also, maybe someone would like to sell ice creams and drinks in their garden. Please let us know as soon as possible if you want to have a table or make any contribution to the success of the day. Phone numbers are Margaret Batchelor 823568 or Marion Nash 829791.



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GARDEN TALK - A very pleasant evening was spent at Bramhall in early April when we admired the spring colours in the tidy garden and discussed watering vegetables and moss in lawns as well as many other topics. We next meet on Friday 13th May at Box Tree Cottage, Slip Lane where Pam & Maurice Sayers will be our hosts from 7.30p.m. All welcome. *Please note change of date from the published programme.*

ENVIRONMENTAL REGENERATION - The Environment & Natural History Group of the W.I. has arranged an afternoon of presentations which may be of interest to many in the Village. Speakers will be Judy Whittaker, Communications Manager for Fresca Group who set up the award-winning Thanet Earth glasshouse Project. After a break for refreshments we will hear from Mandy Broughton of Vattenfall UK on Offshore Windfarms - particularly the Thanet one. Both ladies will be prepared to answer searching questions. The meeting starts at 2.00p.m. and there is a small charge to cover the hall cost - everyone is welcome!

THE ANNUAL VILLAGE OUTING this year, organised by the Alkham Valley Society, is going to Quex Park, near Birchington, on 2nd June. A coach will leave the Village at 10.00am, returning by 6.00pm. There are a lot of things to see at Quex Park – a museum, gardens, the house, etc. with a lot of history, and there are two eating places for those of us who would like to have lunch, or we can take a picnic. Estimated cost for the coach will be £15 and the entrance fee for Senior Citizens will be £4.50 or £6.00 for other adults. The exact cost for the coach will be given in the next newsletter. If you would like to join us please call Marion Nash on 820701, or Pam Sayers on 822397. More information next month.

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB - The new season will start/started on the 17th April (results to follow next month) and there are home games on the 1st (Betteshanger) and 28th May (Stowting) and away games on the 7th (Stowting), 15th (Old Hartsdonians), 21st (Elham) and 23rd (Hythe) - please come along to support the Badgers in 2011. Fixture cards are available from the Pavilion (during home games), the Marquis and the Village Hall so you can plan your month around the sound of leather on willow! If you'd like to play, come along to one of our nets sessions on a Wednesday (4th, 11th and 18th only, weather permitting) from 6 pm on the Meadow to see if you meet the required standard ("enthusiastic but hardly athletic!"). **(Paul Tapsell 01303 892082)**

ALKHAM W.I. - The April meeting prepared members for the discussion of the Annual Resolutions in May (1) Mega farming - how farm animals are confined to buildings instead of grazing in open fields, and (2) the closing down of Public Libraries which have been available for so many years. Both will be discussed next month with advice from, hopefully Jim Warnock who farms at Capel and Alkham, and Janet Adamson who will explain why libraries are already closing. The speaker was the well known Paul Harris, who talked about Pantomimes. This is the second time Alkham W.I. has listened to his superb talks. There are many events occurring this summer, the two nearest are 2nd June outing to Quex Park and 13th June a Pamper Evening in the Village Hall. **(Susan Lees 01304 822661)**

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OZ ON HISTORICKENT.COM –When I first began writing this column, I would prepare stories well in advance to meet my self-imposed deadline for submission to the editor. As time went by, I found the deadline an invaluable stimulant to concentrating the mind, and recently I've not even thought about the story until the last minute. This month I finally came to grief, staring at a blank sheet, with concert weekend, followed immediately by a holiday, looming up in front of me, and not a clue what to write about. I've decided to use the space to publicise a charming and interesting website I discovered recently at http://www.historickent.com/vill_a.html Here's what they say about Alkham: "The epitaph Here lieth Herbert, offspring of Simon. A man open-hearted, assured by hope of good things, fluent in words of faith is inscribed on the lid on the stone coffin of Herbert de Avenches, monk of St Radigund's Abbey at Alkham. The coffin lid is now in the church of St Anthony the Martyr, and the inscription is claimed to be the earliest to be found in any Kent church, dating as it does from the 12th century. Alkham is a pleasant little village, snuggled into the woods and Downs west of Dover, and well worth a visit just for the pleasure of finding such a delightful spot. The church was built in the early 13th century by monks of nearby St Radigund's Abbey, the remains of which brood demurely at the end of a narrow country lane leading out of the village. When the Abbey was closed by Henry VIII, most of the stone of which it was built was carted away to help build Henry's coastal defence castle at Sandgate during the invasion scare after 1538."
(Steve Osborn)

AS SUMMER is approaching and people spend more time outside a parishioner has said that a gentle reminder for people to consider neighbours when playing radios in their gardens would be appropriate. That although they may like to listen, perhaps they would consider the fact that their neighbours may not want to hear them. Also in these days of i-pods etc, they are not necessary, and can be considered a nuisance. Similar noise problems can emanate from quad and trial bikes.

THE ALKHAM FUND which holds money from when we recycled still has nearly £500 in the Building Society. If you can think of any worthwhile village cause that could use some of this money please speak to Ken Hammond or contact Brian Wimsett.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – Again there was a low turn-out with 11 people in the audience. After the formal business had been completed Tracy Stewart from the Western Heights Preservation Society gave a very interesting talk about its importance in history.

VOTING – Just a reminder that the district councillor elections and the referendum on the AV vote is on the 5th May with the village hall being open from 7.00am to 10.00pm.

MAY marks the anniversaries of the deaths of 3 Alkham Heroes

Edward Collard was "killed in action" on 13th May 1917 aged 37. The gravestone at St Anthony's says that he is 'interred at Bullecourt'.

George Collard "died of wounds received in action in France" 51 weeks after his brother Edward, on 6th May 1918. He is buried in St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen.



Ernest Richards was an Ordinary Seaman C/JX 157953 serving on H.M.S. Gloucester sunk on 22nd May 1941 with the loss of 722 of the 807 crew members. He has no known grave and is commemorated on Chatham Naval Memorial.

Visit the 'Heroes' section of the village website (www.alkham.org) for more details.

If you can add any further information please contact Brian or me (mark.robson@btinternet.com)

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Thursday	Karate classes from 7.15pm to 8.45pm in VH - 821336
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Tuesday	3	Fete committee meeting 8.00pm in village hall
Thursday	5	Voting for DDC and AV referendum
Monday	9	Parish Council meeting in village hall – all welcome
Tuesday	10	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	16	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	21	Barn Dance in the village hall

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1 st	Evensong 6.30pm	Eucharist 9.00	Worship Together 11am
Sunday 8 th	Eucharist 9a.m.	WT 11.00am?	
Sunday 15 th	Family Worship 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9.00am
Sunday 22 nd	Joint Benefice 10.00 at Hougham		
Sunday 29 th	Joint Benefice 10.00 at St. Mary's Capel		

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

From the Vicarage - What a glorious week we have had, every bush seems to be bursting with blossom and the trees in the Warren are putting on beautiful new coats of fresh green leaves. It's so wonderful to walk through the countryside and be able to appreciate all the changes that are taking place. The rape is beginning to colour very quickly and now Bob and Rolo get lost in it. I can usually see Rolo's tail as he bounds along but Bob isn't tall enough. If Rolo gets worried he checks on where I am by standing up like a meercat and peering across the field. Bob just barks until I find him! The weather seems to affect everyone's spirits and it's surprising how many cheerful greetings I receive and people have time to stop and chat. It seems to me that we don't spend enough time just listening to each other and sharing our stories. I'm frequently amazed by the accounts that people share with me, some good and some not so good but what often shines through is their determination to make the best of whatever and wherever they find themselves. I probably have the best job in the village and it is such a privilege to share both the joyful and the sad occasions and I thank you all for admitting me into your confidence. At 7.30 p.m. on 13th May we shall have Lt. Col. Mike Martin as our speaker at St. Radigund's. He will be talking about the Home Guard and having heard him speak before I am sure we shall be in for a good evening. I have no doubt he will have many tales to tell and no doubt there are many of you who will be able to recall stories from your parents generation. My mother was in the Home Guard in Gosport and she recalls marching through the town on one occasion when the command came: 'Eyes right!' 'I never saw what we were supposed to be looking at' she said 'but then I never could tell my left from my right!' I was so reassured by that, clearly it's an inherited trait because I can't tell my left from my right either. **(Sue White 01303 240539)**

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Neighbourhood Watch 01304 218110 &

Police Support Officer (07772226209)

Police – 999 phone & 01622 690690

W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641

Footpath Warden antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk

Vicar – Rev. Sue White

01303 240539

Church Wardens -

Geoff Gaskill 823100

and Ken Hammond



Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 212 June 2011

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ERNIE COOK – Many people in Alkham probably didn't know Ernie who died on the 5th May but he did do a lot for the village. He lived next door to the village hall and for many years did all the maintenance jobs on the hall as well as holding the key. Ernie was involved with the fete and did a host of other unsung jobs around the village. My particular memory was agreeing to go to the beer tent with him at the cricket match on Vicarage Meadow for a half of lager: some time later the beer tent had been drunk dry and Ernie, Rob and I just managed to stagger home. Good memories and a good bloke who would help anybody and the village has yet again lost a character from its midst. Sympathy goes to his wife Greta, with whom he recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary, and their two sons and families.

HANDBAGS! Please could you possibly find a handbag or two for my stall at the fete on July 9th. Do let me know if you need me to collect otherwise I am always at the Village Hall 10.30am-11am on Wednesdays if you could drop them off then. Thank you very much. (**Susannah 01304 82295**)

LADIES PAMPER EVENING Monday 13th June in the Village Hall from 7.00p.m. Spray tanning, manicures, waxing, eyelash tints, reflexology etc, etc. Come and join us for a fun and relaxing evening with a chance to sample a variety of treatments. Entrance costs £2.50 which includes wine & nibbles - tickets can be obtained in advance from Pam Sayers (822397) or Janet Adamson (01303 893413) or purchased on the door.

GARDEN TALK Our next meeting will be on Thursday 16th June (instead of the more usual Friday) when we are visiting Hockley Sole where our hosts will be Angie & Nigel Snape. A chance to see a number of alterations in the extensive grounds as well as a flourishing rose garden. All welcome - an idea of numbers in advance would be welcomed. Please contact Janet or Gordon Adamson (01303 893413).

FETE STALLHOLDERS' MEETING - There will be a Fete meeting on Tuesday 7th June at 8 pm in the village hall. Please could all stallholders attend or contact me beforehand so that we can see who is doing what! If anyone would like to be involved in the Fete please come along to the meeting or give me a call and I promise I will find you a job for as little or as much of the day as you can spare. (**Paul Tapsell 01303 892082**)

THE GARAGE SAFARI on the 14th May was a great success with takings of £470. After expenses were deducted the overall profit was £398. Marion Banks-Nash did a great job organising the event and she would like to thank all those who took part and helped on the day.

THE FOOTWAY opposite the Garden Centre has been inspected and hopefully works will be carried out to return it to its original width.

ARE YOU INTERESTED in volunteering but for one reason or another aren't quite ready to take the plunge? Dover District Volunteering Centre understands there are many reasons why taking on a volunteer role may seem daunting. You may lack confidence or need encouragement, you may worry about your childcare options or travel costs, and you may be struggling to decide what sort of volunteer work you would like to do. If this sounds familiar to you, then our Free course could greatly benefit you. The course takes place in Dover on Wed 8th and Thurs 9th June 2011. Lunch and refreshments are included free of charge, and travel expenses can be reimbursed. All previous course participants have found them informative, fun and interesting. If you would like to book a place, please contact Karen at the Volunteer Centre on 01304 367898 or email office@doverdistrictvolunteering.org.uk



MY TWIN sister has got lost and I am missing her. She is micro chipped but refuses to wear a collar. Cleo is her name, and is quite small. Please look out for her; if you see her please call little Garth, Alkham 01304 823380 or 077693 12913. Many thanks **Archie x**.

OFF ROADERS – At the Parish Council meeting the subject of motorcycles using the land around Pimlico Way was discussed. The area in question is parallel with Lockering Lane (opposite and west of the Garden Centre). The noise caused by the motorbikes is a problem for adjacent properties and the Police Bike Team have visited but on arriving the bikes are on the byway so no action can be taken, The landowner says that he only allows 4x4's to use the land 3 times a year so DDC are monitoring the situation and will take action if necessary.



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DISPLAY CASE - This is the display case which was unveiled by the Deputy Mayor of Dover at Astor College of Arts on 28th April. It is a double tiered burial case of 7th Century Anglo-Saxon burials discovered in the Wolverton & Chilton farmland area in 2008. The display is

going to be used a great deal as an educational tool by schools and other interested groups of people. A date will soon be issued when Alkham people can go and see the display. The case is the only one of its kind in the UK and has been mainly funded by local people, especially the residents of Alkham. The donations made are truly appreciated. **(Sue Lees)**

WINDFARMS AND GREENHOUSES: Environmental Regeneration, Monday 6th June in the Village Hall. The W.I. has arranged an afternoon of presentations which may be of interest to many in the Village. Speakers will be Judy Whittaker, Communications Manager for Fresca Group who set up the award-winning Thanet Earth glasshouse Project. After a break for refreshments we will hear from Mandy Broughton of Vattenfall UK on Offshore wind farms - particularly the Thanet one. Both ladies will be prepared to answer searching questions. The meeting starts at 2.00p.m. and there is a small charge to cover the hall cost - everyone is welcome! **(Janet Adamson)**

BOOK CLUB - The Book for June is Jump by Jilly Cooper an entertaining romp through the world of jump racing. Light reading for a summer evening. The meeting will be hosted by Mairi Jones at Turangi Newlyns Meadow (826619) Wednesday 29th June starting at 7.30pm. For more information contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

ALKHAM W.I. - The May meeting had two Resolutions to discuss this year. One was connected with the closing down of many libraries and the other was connected with Mega Farming of far more than the average 100 cows per unit. Both being of considerable concern to all members. The Curry lunch raised £362.20 for the Charity. Outings to Quex Park and the Women's Horse Racing event in August appealed to many members. The Pamper Evening will take place on 13th June; visitors are welcome. The next W.I. meeting on 14th June will not be the talk on Canterbury Cathedral as expected but will now be a talk by Helen Tobias about "How to pack for holidays". **(Sue Lees)**

JUNE marks the death of two Alkham Heroes



Edwin Thomas Daniels was a Private in the 1st Battalion of The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment). He was killed by a shell on 8th June 1916, and is buried at Essex Farm cemetery in Belgium. Edwin was one of four sons in the Buffs of Thomas and Elizabeth Daniels, of Alkham.

Percy William Frank Parker was born in June 1896 at Ewell Minnis and died on 23rd June 1917 in Flanders. He was aged 21 and is one of the 54394 "missing" of Flanders commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial.

Visit the 'Heroes' section of the village website (www.alkham.org) for more details on each of the men.

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OZ on PERFECT SUMMER – At the end of April a friend and I escaped with Shaun the Westie to deepest Gloucestershire to avoid the razzmatazz of the Royal Wedding. What were we doing at 11am on 29 April ? Holding hands while watching the TV, and oohing and aahing over the wedding service, that's what. I suppose it's an unstoppable atavistic instinct, perhaps on a par with the ex Poet Laureate Andrew Motion's justification of church-going: "I like to observe the customs of my tribe." It has combined with the two mini heat waves of the last two months to remind me of what I've read of the summer a century ago, when the start of a heat wave in May 1911 heralded the Coronation of George V and Mary on 22 June. That ceremony was deliberately restrained, because of memories of the extravagance of George IV's coronation 90 years previously. It was also proud, with a greatly extended introduction to Parry's "I was Glad", and the repeat from Edward VII's 1902 coronation of "Land of Hope and Glory", the great product of Elgar's music and A C Benson's words. After all, this was a country at its most powerful and confident, where even striking workers signified hope for the future. On 10 August the temperature reached 100° F, and supplies of food and milk began to suffer. In late September, the weather broke, with thunderstorms seeming to echo national unease about tensions in Europe. All this is the subject of Juliet Nicolson's 2006 book "The Perfect Summer", an exhilarating overview of a small but important period of time, typified by Lord Beresford's cheery "Good morning! One day nearer the German War!" I hope that our summer, if perfect, will presage something a bit less ugly than that. **(Steve Osborn)**

CUBA continued – *(In the March edition I printed the first part of Clive Batcheldor's article about their trip to Cuba – this is the second piece).* The next part of our tour took us further west to Vinales Valley which is an area of outstanding natural beauty and a unique tropical landscape. This is probably the wealthiest part of the country and the main tobacco growing region. Someone described our hotel "as worse than an East German hostel" so I won't dwell on this. Our journey to this area was on a good quality highway, but with very little traffic. This was because no drivers ventured far from the towns in case they broke down. No recovery services. The final few days took us to Cienfuegos, 160 miles to the east of Havana, an area characterised by palaces and mansions overlooking a deep bay. Our accommodation was an improvement. Close by Trinidad, a UNESCO heritage site is reputed to be one of the best preserved colonial cities in the world. We enjoyed traditional Cuban music played by members of the renowned Buena Vista Social Club, whilst drinking a unique rum cocktail made with sugar cane juice. In the same region, in Santa Clara, is the final resting place of Che Guevara and the visit to the mausoleum and the museum dedicated to his life was outstanding. We were also taken to the nearby site where the decisive moments of the Cuban revolution took place. Returning to the airport, we encountered the same long delays as when we arrived. Photos were taken before we were permitted to enter the departure lounge and there was a danger of missing our flight as a result. Our overall impression was of a small country being bullied by a much larger nation although there is evidence that President Obama is easing some of the restrictions and that some cultural exchanges are beginning to occur. Internally economic changes are being phased in with a liberalisation of rules governing small businesses. At present only about 20% of agricultural land is worked. Next month over one million of public sector workers will be laid off. But in the mean time rationing will continue and essentials such as soap etc. will be in short supply or unaffordable.

(Clive Batcheldor)

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District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956,
Andrew Richardson 211835
Alkham web site www.alkham.org

Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am – 6.15 to 7.15 aerobics dance class
Thursday	Karate classes from 7.15pm to 8.45pm in VH - 821336
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Monday	6	Environmental talk from 2pm VH – see page 2
Tuesday	7	Fete meeting 8pm – see page 1
Monday	13	Pamper evening 7pm – see page 1
Tuesday	14	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	20	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Thursday 2 nd	Joint Benefice Eucharist 7 p.m. at CAPEL		
Sunday 5 th	Evensong 6.30pm	Eucharist 9am	W.T. 11 a.m.
Sunday 12 th	Joint Benefice Eucharist 10.00am at ALKHAM		
Sunday 19 th	Joint Benefice Eucharist 10.00am at HOUGHAM		
Sunday 27 th	Joint Benefice Eucharist 10.00am at HOUGHAM		

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

FROM THE VICARAGE - The clouds gather over Capel, they look thick and black, the clouds depart from Capel and there we are out in the garden with the hosepipes. The water butts were emptied ages ago and even the toads are in hiding much to Rolo's disgust. He was busy searching the other evening and came in rather dolefully as if to say 'Well I've done the seeking now you'd better find me one!' We had a great evening with Lt. Colonel Mike Martin talking about the Home front in World War Two. He told us enough jokes to keep me in sermons for a year so we shall have to have him back next year! We also had a splendid classical guitar concert at St. Anthony's and I do hope we shall have one next year. We are fortunate to have so many talented people in our villages who offer so much for the enjoyment of us all. On June 10th Keith Radford is speaking to us on the birth of the modern musical so do come along to St. Radigund's at 7.30 p.m. Hougham Summer Fete is on June 11th and there will be fun for all the family. I sometimes think that many people feel that church is a very solemn place and whilst there is a place for solemnity there are many more occasions for joyful participation. People often forget that many of the stories that Jesus told were full of fun. Whoever would have thought of putting a camel through the eye of a needle, after all which end do you start? Or calling to a man who had hidden himself in a tree so that he could see Jesus but hopefully not be seen, 'I can see you! Come down, I'm coming to your house for dinner!' Or telling his mother to hush and then turning water into wine so that everyone could have a good drink up? We worship because we enjoy doing so and anyone and everyone can join in! **Sue White 01303 240539**

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ANNUAL FETE JULY 9th - We are all looking forward to another happy and successful day and once again hope for support for the Village Fete. This annual event could not take place without help and donations and support from the whole village (this means YOU!) and we particularly need cash donations towards the Grand Raffle £200 first prize please and other suitable raffle prizes (all to Vanessa Hyland) and the following goods for stalls: **cakes** (see anyone in the WI); **jewellery** (Barbara Palmer); **plants** (Geoff Gaskill); **books** (Sue Lees); **bric-a-brac** (Mark Naris); **handbags** (Sue Tapsell) and **tombola items** (Lesley Tapsell). Please make arrangements with the named stall holders in advance so they know what they've got to deal with! In many cases the same people have been running stalls etc for many years and it would be fantastic to have new faces volunteering - please give us a ring and we'll find a job to fit all volunteers! Of course we also need volunteers to help put up the tents at 8.30am and be around at the end of the afternoon to take down and clear the meadow. We have arranged a team of security people for the car park and, while we will not (this year, at least) be charging for car parking we would be grateful for any donations towards the cost and would encourage people to leave their cars at home that day to reduce congestion. The sunshine's been booked and we have the very talented Jimmy D'Alton Bellas opening the fete so let's have a lovely afternoon. **(Paul 01303 892082 or Irene 01304 824845)**

BRIC-A-BRAC - If anyone has items for the bric-a-brac stall at the fete we would be very pleased to receive them. Mark and Clare Naris (Owler Lodge) 826577.



MISSING - Her name is Willis and she is ginger and white cat with a ginger smudge on her face. If you have seen her or know where she is please ring 077111 56230. They are willing to give a reward to anyone who finds her.

BOOKS - If you have any kind of books which you would like to give to sell on the book stall at the fete, I would be pleased to receive them before the 9th of July. **(Susan Lees 822661)**

WEDDING RECEPTION - The couple who live in Greenwood Manor are getting married on the 25th June and are holding the reception in their garden with live music playing. If you receive the Newsletter in time they would like to apologise for any disturbance caused. Greenwood Manor is about half a mile up Slip Lane on the left at the bottom of Pimlico Way.

WI JUMBLE SALE in Alkham Village Hall on Saturday 23rd July starting at 11.00am. Jumble gratefully received about 10am. **(Susan Lees)**

THE MARQUIS - As you will be aware the Marquis is being extended and the owners would like to run a competition to name one of the new rooms (the existing room names are related to Alkham). If you would like to win a night's bed & breakfast in the named room on the opening night please submit an entry either by popping in or emailing ben@themarquisatalkham.co.uk

A VISIT TO HIGHGROVE - The Prince of Wales has spent 30 years transforming the grounds of Highgrove. His strict adherence to organic and sustainable methods has helped to create gardens which are magical and intriguing, while being environmentally sound. I would like to organise a visit to Highgrove and exclusive garden tours for a maximum of 26 people cost £16.50pp (not including bus hire... to be organised and costed). Journey time to Highgrove from Alkham is approximately 3 hours and 26mins. The visit would last 3 hours and 30mins approximately, this will include time for refreshments. There are no picnic facilities on the estate, but they do have a tea room where light lunches and refreshments are available. The garden tour lasts up to 2 hours and covers 2 miles of gardens. The next tour is due for October 2011 or we can wait till April /May 2012 when the gardens are full of spring flowers and beautiful bird song. If you are interested please Contact Rosie Hansraj 01304 822585.

GARDEN TALK - A large number attended the garden tour of Hockley Sole in June. Our welcoming hosts, Angie and Nigel Snape, showed us many improvements since our last visit, and discussed their further plans for the grounds. The weather stayed fine and their hospitality was enjoyed by all. Our next venue is 'Evergreen' in Slip Lane, where our hosts are Val and Stan Fowler. All welcome from 7.30p.m. on Friday 22nd July. **(Janet Adamson)**

FOR SALE a Cannondale Cyclo Cross bike in excellent condition with 105 gearing, £350. Also a nearly new Carrera mountain bike (over £500 when new) for £300. Please contact Ken at Meadowside, Slip Lane or phone 824969.

RAFFLE TICKETS are included with this Newsletter. If you'd like to buy some then they can be returned to Paul Tapsell, Vanessa Hyland, Irene Barnard, Brian Wimsett or Sue Lees. Otherwise please hand them in at the Raffle table on the day of the fete.



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SOLAR POWER – The church committee has commissioned a project to install solar photovoltaic (PV) panels at St. Anthony's. The Church of England is keen to promote green energy thereby cutting the use of fossil fuels. The electricity generated will be used for church purposes as well as being fed into the National Grid. It is thought that the revenue from the electricity over a year could be £1200 so the initial outlay would be recouped in 10 to 12 years. Geoff Gaskill, project leader, is applying for a number of grants and the committee has submitted a planning application for the panels to be installed on the flat roof next to the path by the side of the church. The panels will be hidden by the parapet and will benefit from the fact that churches are built east/west and therefore have a southern face aspect. It is estimated that the 16 panels will save about 41 tonnes of carbon dioxide over their 25 year life. Although solar PV is not new for churches, if the necessary consents are secured, this would be a first for a church in Kent. It is hoped to involve Capel school and the wider community in this project.

RIVER SUMMER FAYRE is on Sunday July 10th from 11-4pm in the Recreation Ground, Lewisham Rd This year we have more stalls including some new food stalls. Atlantis entertainment will have games for all ages plus the Birds of Prey will be returning. There will be our usual Dog Show and in addition there will be a dog obedience display. Light refreshments will be available in the bowls club and there will be BBQs and a beer tent on the main field.

BELL TO BELL CAR TREASURE HUNT! Did you, your child or a relative go to Temple Ewell Church of England Primary School? If so, would you like to help us celebrate our 140th anniversary and raise funds to have our school bell refurbished? Why not come and join our 'Bell to Bell Car Treasure Hunt' on Sunday 18th September! The treasure hunt will take approximately an hour; this will then be followed by a 'Baby BELL Cheese Rolling' competition held at Woodville Hall, Temple Ewell, where you are invited to enjoy a Cheese Ploughman's. Tickets must be purchased in advance. The cost for the Cheese Rolling and Ploughman's will be just £5.00 per adult and £3.00 per child or £15.00 for a family of two adults and two children. The Treasure Hunt is priced at £2.00 per car. We will be meeting at the B&Q car park in Whitfield at 10.00pm prompt. For the Ploughman's and Cheese Rolling only please meet at Woodville Hall, Temple Ewell at 12.00 noon. For more tickets and more information please call Pamela Mousley on 01304 825256 or call the school directly on 01304 822665. 'Bell Quiz'; a copy of which can be found in the Fox Pub and the Village Shop is just £1 each. Correct entries will be placed into a draw for a grand prize. This is a community project and your support will enable us all to be a part of the history of Temple Ewell C of E Primary School.

BOOK CLUB - The book for July is The Clan of the Cave Bear by Jean M. Auel. A very readable epic of life on the glacial continent of the last Ice Age, following the journey of an orphan and a traveller. The meeting is on Wednesday 27th July at 7.30pm to be hosted by Helen Price at Meggett Farm (01303 252764). Please bring suggestions for books for the next programme, we are able to order our books from the Dover library and need to give them as much notice as possible. For more information contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

DOVER FESTIVAL PROM – Local musicians will present a festive charity concert in the style of "The Last Night of the Proms", at 7.30 pm on Friday 1st July in Dover Town Hall. The choir programme includes a selection from Gilbert and Sullivan's The Mikado, four song settings of Shakespeare's and the return of Dauntless Dover! Finally the audience will be invited to join the 90-strong choir in singing the traditional Proms Finale. Tickets at £6 and £3 (promenaders) from the Dover Visitor Centre. For further details ring 01304 872812. **(Steve Osborn)**

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OZ on РОССИЯ – Last December a friend and I, recent widowers, depressed and marooned by the snowfall, agreed to share a Russian cruise cabin in May, with the heady possibility of meeting a couple of mad rich widows. We booked and began preparing for the trip, the first hurdle being the Russian visa. The online application form was straightforward, but demanded information such as full details of my primary school, which was converted into flats in the 1950s. Soon it was May, time for reluctant separation from my new partner, and we departed from Heathrow. Three hours later we landed in St Petersburg, and transferred to the cruise ship, from where we explored the city, formerly known as Petrograd and Leningrad, over the next two days. Its big tourist attraction is the Hermitage Museum, housing over 3,000,000 items and estimated to take 10 years to view completely. During the next five days we sailed up many lakes, rivers and canals, including twelve locks, to Moscow, landing each day to explore a village or town. On-board activities included music, talks, and three Russian language classes, where we learnt to say 'yellow-blue-bus' which is the phonetic pronunciation of the Russian for 'I love you.' The food was excellent, with plenty of vegetables and fish, and a moderate amount of meat. Caviar and vodka were as good as expected, and overall I neither gained nor lost a pound. All too soon we moored in Moscow for our last weekend, visiting Red Square, the Kremlin and the famous Metro. And then it was the last day, with surprising displays of emotion, laughter and tears, and exchanging of email addresses, all feeling that we'd been taken over by something akin to 'Hostage Syndrome.' We didn't find any mad rich widows, just plenty of sane comfortably-off ones. **(Steve Osborn)**

OPEN AIR SONGS OF PRAISE - River Worship Band will be joining us again for an open air "Songs of Praise" on Vicarage Meadow on Sunday 24th July at 11 am. It promises to be a lively and exhilarating experience with both traditional hymns and modern worship songs. All are welcome. If it is wet we will move to the Village Hall.

ALKHAM WI - Helen Scopes chaired the June meetings. There were two meetings in a row - the first was a Pamper Evening when members enjoyed themselves and raised £50 for WIHQ - the second had a speaker Helen Tobias who advised on the best way of packing cases for holidays. Fete Day - WI members were reminded that they are needed to give cakes to the Cake stall and to the Refreshment stall. The next WI meeting 12th July will be an American Supper, members to bring yellow raffle prizes and photos of themselves as babies for a competition. **(Susan Lees)**

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - Thanks to Marion we had very nearly a bus full for the annual outing, this time to Quex Park, museum, house and gardens. The principal feature of the place is without doubt the extraordinary Africana collected between about 1906 and 1927 by a son of the house. The displays of taxidermied, ok stuffed animals, are remarkable and since it is a personal foray fairly precisely dated it challenges aspects of the Natural History Museum in South Kensington. There is a splendid collection of ethnic artefacts from all parts of south Saharan Africa, some of the baskets and weaving impossible to find today so fine is the technique. The house opens only in the afternoon leaving a fair gap to fill with visits to craft and plant outlets, the barn where food was available and various foodstuffs were for sale as well. The main feature of the garden is the walled area now rather dilapidated, but the roses were lovely. I think there were birds of prey but while the signage no doubt existed and the cries of the falcons could be heard, I never found them. Some one did say, what would we have done if it had rained, but it did not; we had a wonderfully sunny and satisfactory day. Thanks to all who were able to come. You made it. **(Jo Walker)**

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Thursday	Karate classes from 7.15pm to 8.45pm in VH - 821336
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Monday	4	Parish Council meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	9	Annual Fete – Vicarage Meadow 2.00pm
Tuesday	12	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	18	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	23	W.I. Jumble sale 11.00am

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3 rd	Evensong 6.30	Eucharist 9 a.m.	W.T. 11 a.m.
Sunday 10 th	Eucharist 9 a.m.	W.T. 11 a.m.	
Sunday 17 th	Service & Baptism 11am	Evensong 6 p.m.	Eucharist 9 a.m.
Sunday 24 th	11.00 at Alkham Songs of Praise on green	Said Eucharist 9 a.m.	
Sunday 31 st	Joint Benefice Eucharist 10.00 at ST. MARY'S		

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

From the Vicarage - It's not been an easy month; yes we wanted the rain but the wind has played havoc with the plants. I now have poppies creeping along the ground and flattened asparagus but the pears, plums, cherries and apples have stayed on the trees. The garden is full of birds and there are some nesting in the beech hedge which is now thick enough to hide them. It's been a very mixed month for Bob and Rolo; they've enjoyed our walks down to the Warren which is lovely now the trees are in full leaf. The rabbit population is enormous and Rolo remains hopeful that he will catch one someday. But Bob cannot cope with rain, he stands at the kitchen door, puts his head out and with draws rapidly then looks up as if to say, 'You are joking, I can't go out in this!' When we insist he returns and stands there shaking each paw as if in disgust. Even being rubbed down with a towel fails to appease him and he will go to his bed and stay there- until he hears food being prepared, then he's the eager assistant, ready to test everything and eat anything! We had a very good evening with Keith Radford speaking on the birth of the modern musical. He played excerpts from a number of musicals much to the delight of us all. On July 8th at 7.30 p.m. at St. Radigund's we have Susan Pope on the history of airships so do come along. The Deanery Service on 10th July in the Cathedral is open to all and we are celebrating the work taking place in all the communities of the deanery. On Vicarage Meadow at Alkham we have our annual Songs of Praise with River Youth Band at 11 a.m. Do join us, everyone in Alkham will be able to hear the service and there is plenty of room for everyone from Capel and Hougham! **Sue White 01303 240539**

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Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635

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Police – 999 phone & 01622 690690

W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

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Footpath Warden antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk

Vicar – Rev. Sue White

01303 240539

Church Wardens -

Geoff Gaskill 823100

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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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ALKHAM FETE - A huge "Thank You" to everyone who helped make the Fete this year such a success; there were times when it looked as though we wouldn't be able to go ahead because of the apparent lack of support, but just like in the film "Field of Dreams" it came good in the end! Particular thanks must go to Richard Cunningham and his faithful van who



shifted all the kit (tents, tables, books, etc) in the morning and again after the Fete, even though he was already late for the British Grand Prix (he would have had a better grid position if he hadn't used the van on the Sunday too!), to Den who picked up the slack when work commitments conspired to keep me from my Fete preparations, and to the faithful regulars who put up tents (and put up with me moving them afterwards!), manned stalls, baked cakes, served teas and ice creams, stole bric-a-brac, jewellery and handbags, and otherwise contributed so generously. Thank you to Brian C and my gazebo for frankly winding me up so that I swore and walked away and Den (again) for picking up the pieces (of the gazebo!). Also thanks to the Tug of War rope for taking the strain yet again and for restoring my faith in human nature - that rope has much to teach us of the virtue of stoicism, dealing with tension and the importance of regular stretching! Finally I must thank the various arms of the Tapsell family who, largely unsung, do so much hardwork for the Fete, and then hear the gobby one getting the credit on the day! If you enjoyed the Fete this year, please make a promise to help with the arrangements with the next one; if you didn't, get off your moaning, lazy backside and get involved to make it better! **(Paul Tapsell)**

More on the Fete – After expenses were paid the profit on the day was about £2700 which is terrific. This year an outside firm was hired to look after the car parking which was a great success and will be repeated. It is invidious to thank individuals but young James and Charlotte Tapsell made £45 profit selling sweets and programmes plus Matthew and Luke Hyland, on the spur of the moment, improvised a football game which raised £18. The latter very much adds to a village fete, all of which would not be possible if Paul Tapsell didn't organise it in the first place. **(editor)**

ROUNDHILL TUNNEL – A biannual inspection of the viaduct at the end of the tunnel on the A20 through Roundhill showed that two expansion joints needed replacement. The latter are placed between the immovable tunnel and the viaduct which expands or contracts slightly dependent on weather conditions. It also allows for vertical displacement but as the viaduct bases are presumably piled this should not happen. As a safety precaution two lanes have been shut and a temporary plate placed over each joint. The replacement parts have to be specially made and this takes time which would account for the apparent lack of activity. There are varying reports as to how long the closures will remain but let's hope the problem is resolved in the near future as it has led to long delays on the A20 and the connecting roads.

WILLIS FOUND safe and sound after being missing for 6 weeks (*Willis is the lost cat featured in last month's Newsletter*). We would like to give thanks for the help and phone calls we have received and for the help of the Newsletter for printing the message and photo. Also a great big thank you to Christine and Joan of Meggett Lane who found her and has made the whole family happy. **(Ann and Terry – Lone Barn Bungalow)**

CREAM TEA - John & Anne Huggins are holding a cream tea event in aid of Breast Cancer Care on Saturday 20th August at Greenwood Farm starting at 3.30pm. For those unfamiliar with the location, it is on Chalksole Green Lane which is a right turn about ¾ mile up Slip Lane. The imposing house cannot be missed and the cream tea consists of tea/coffee, sandwiches, cakes, scones, cream and jam. Tickets are £4.00 for adults and £1.00 for a child. Please phone Anne on 824340 or Tracy on 821336.

THE RAILING by Vicarage Meadow, just down from the village hall on Hogbrook Lane, was damaged when a car crashed into it. The mess was cleared up and the concrete bollards and metal tubing were left by the side of the road but next day the tubing had gone. The Parish Council are trying to get the insurance details of the car so they can have the railing replaced.



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SEA, SUN AND WIND - Artists talk of Kent's "big skies", so it was no surprise to hear at the recent WI Environment Group's open meeting that our south east corner enjoys on average 12% more light over a year than the north of England. That, together with proximity to large centres of population, were a couple of key factors in establishing the new Thanet Earth glasshouse complex. There are three large greenhouses rented to Dutch growers for tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers and supplying a staggering 8% of UK demand. They use state of the art technology, including computer controlled heating, ventilation and hydroponics for supplying the water and nutrients to the growing plants. Whilst conventional glasshouses have boilers to provide heat during the winter, the really ingenious feature of Thanet Earth is the large natural gas fuelled engines used to generate electricity which is exported to the grid. The waste heat from the engines is used for greenhouse heating and a controlled amount of exhaust carbon dioxide is injected into the hothouse atmosphere to promote plant growth. As such, they claim to have a lower carbon footprint than produce shipped from southern Spain, as well as providing much needed employment to the local community. A second talk was from Vattenfall, the Swedish owner/operator of the Thanet and Kentish Flats offshore wind farms. The 100 turbine Thanet installation is more recent, having been completed in 2010, whilst Kentish Flats near Whitstable has 30 turbines and dates back to 2005. Total investment is close to £1000M and collectively they generate electricity equivalent to the demand of 260,000 UK homes. As such they are central to the UK's push for more renewable energy. **(Geoff Gaskill)**

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BOOK CLUB – The August Book club will be on Wednesday 31st August to be hosted by Helen price at Meggett Farm commencing at 7.30. We will discuss last month's advertised book The Clan of the Cave Bear and also City of Veils by Zoe Ferraris. We also need suggestions for our Autumn programme. For more details contact Jane Aslett 824729.

GARDEN TALK - Our next meeting will be at Chalksole Cottage, where we will view the award-winning garden created by Linda & Geoff Gaskill. We meet at 7.30p.m. All welcome

(Janet Adamson 01303 893413)

ALKHAM WI - The July meeting was very pleasant chaired once again by Pam Sayers. The American supper and chat was just what everyone enjoyed. The most difficult thing was identifying the baby photos of members because the most anyone could work out was three. Once again the August meeting will be a relaxed 'Members' night, sitting back chatting and playing the games that people have been asked to bring, whether they are old fashioned or new.

(Sue Lees)

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AS SPACE becomes available I thought I'd print some old photos of Alkham as the Friends are not going to produce any more Alkham Past and Present calendars (or any cards and calendars this year). The above photo was sent to me by Bill Harvey (an old Alkham name) and shows the Alkham school garden being tended by the boys in 1924 whilst the girls were learning about domestic matters. Bill tells me that the garden was by the Alkham Valley Road, roughly opposite the top of Short Lane near the 30mph signs on the eastern side of the village. At the top right of the photo is a chicken shed and above it is the old edge of Sladden Wood. The bungalow Boni Clare now stands on the site of the garden and Sunnybank was built at the top left. Some of the boys are wearing caps and therefore maybe the sons of farm workers? If you think you know one or more of the boys please let me know. (editor)

OZ on GLOW-WORMS – Experts say that glow-worms are currently enjoying their best year ever. The creatures came out of hibernation a month early, in the April heatwave, and have yet to reach their peak in some areas. They are actually beetles, found worldwide in five major families, the British one being the wingless adult female of the European firefly, *Lampyrus noctiluca*. Because the females cannot fly, they emit a yellowy-green light to attract flying males to mate with them. After mating, the female turns off her light, lays eggs and then dies. Because of this static lifestyle, glow-worm colonies often stay in the same place for many years. Their larvae, being toxic, also emit the green light as a warning signal to predators. References to the glow-worm, often associated with elves and fairies, are frequent in literature, the first being recorded in Bozon (1320), where he notes that the Latin 'eruke' is named 'glowworm' in English. Often the quotation refers to the coldness of the creature's light, as in Shakespeare's glow-worm "that begins to pale his ineffectual fire" in *Hamlet*, and Shenstone's "No lover blessed the glow-worm's pallid ray." This column's favourite vicar-naturalist, the Rev Gilbert White, commented in his diary on 11 June 1791 that "Male glow-worms, attracted by the light of the candles, come into the parlor." Glow-worms can be seen over most of the British Isles, particularly in chalk or limestone areas, on disused railway lines, and in areas where small snails are found. The best time to look is during the evening in June and July. There is much information about glow-worms at the website www.glowworms.org.uk which is home to the UK Glow Worm Survey, and is run by Robin Scagell. He will always welcome news of sightings of these strange and beautiful creatures. (Steve Osborn)

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Other events in the village

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Monday	15	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	20	Cream tea at Greenwood Farm – see page 1

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7 th	Evensong 6.30 p.m.	Eucharist 9 a.m.	W.T. 11 a.m.
Sunday 14 th	Eucharist 9 a.m.	W.T. 11 a.m. & Baptism	
Sunday 21 st	Service & Baptism 11 a.m.	Evensong 6 p.m.	Eucharist 9 a.m.
Sunday 28 th	10.00 at ALKHAM Benefice Sung Eucharist Celebrating St. Anthony		

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

From the Vicarage - The past month has been very busy and Rolo, Bob and I have made fewer visits to the Warren. In part because we have been going through the fields locally and the boys have been enjoying doing their bit as 'lion hunters' also known as local rabbits. Fortunately they make too much noise, well Bob does when he gets excited, he sounds as though he smokes 50 a day – all at once! Rolo is rather disappointed at their lack of success but I can't say I am. It's wonderful to see the changes in the landscape as the year progresses and to marvel at just how resilient nature is in the face of the elements. My little orchard is doing very well though I had to relieve the apple trees of most of their apples because the branches were touching the ground in the wind. The cherry tree is producing fruit but it is very sour – is this normal and does it improve with age I wonder? The Battle of Britain Memorial Service was a splendid occasion with so many people coming to share in the service and in the flight of the Spitfire and the Hurricane. I am overwhelmed by the bravery of the men who flew those aircraft and to see them march onto the parade ground is a truly humbling experience. The new Learning Centre that is to be built will be a great asset for future generations. They will have the opportunity to learn of the willingness of some to put the good of others before themselves. It's a lesson that we all need to learn if we are to have justice and peace for all. As we go into the summer holidays I pray that you will all have good times with families and friends and travel safely. We will all need to be very alert for our children as they enjoy the opportunities to meet and play with friends this month. **(Sue White 01303 240539)**

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e mail brianwimsett@hotmail.com

Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791

alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net

Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635

Neighbourhood Watch 01304 218110 &

Police Support Officer (07772226209)

Police – 999 phone & 01622 690690

W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641

Footpath Warden antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk

Vicar – Rev. Sue White

01303 240539

Church Wardens -

Geoff Gaskill 823100

and Ken Hammond



Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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CREAM TEA

John and Anne Huggins would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who supported the cream tea on Saturday the 20th August at Greenwood Farm. We would

also like to thank all the people who kindly gave donations and raffle prizes. A great time was had by all on such a beautiful afternoon. We raised over £2000 which is going to Breast Cancer Care. Many thanks also to Kylie Marsh, Kerry and Michelle for their hard work and support.

PHOTOGRAPHY – A photographic exhibition is to be held in the village hall on the 12th of November to display photos taken by people in the parish. It will be a village event and there will be no charge for entry or for people to view as the Alkham Fund will pay the costs. The photos will be numbered so visitors can vote for the ones they think are best and a prize will be awarded to the winners. All ages are welcome to submit photos and if enough children enter there will be a separate competition for them. If you'd like to take part contact me (see page 4) or Sue Lees on 822661. Please do take part and make this village event a success. **(editor)**

PRINTING – There has been a management change at the Rainbow Centre and as a result they don't want to print the Newsletter. I have therefore bought a printer for £380 and I'll do it myself and it was suggested that the Alkham Fund pay it. This is a good idea as I will make it available for parishioners to use; I haven't work out how much the toner costs yet but it should be cheap. If anyone wants multiple or single printing they should contact me and copy can be by email or on memory stick. **(editor)**

ALKHAM FUND – The Alkham Fund was generated from the village recycling which we did until October 2008 when DDC started their scheme. All the money was spent on the village and after buying the printer there is about £100 left which will be spent on the photographic exhibition.

A JUMBLE SALE will be held in the village hall on Saturday the 17th September at 11am in aid of the PCC.

KEY - Has anybody lost a key for a Kia car? One has been found near the footpath, opposite The Marquis, which leads to the Village Hall. Contact Tel: 01304 822661.

THE MARQUIS held a competition to name two of the rooms in the extension that they are currently having built. The winning names are: **The Everden Suite** and this was proposed by Eileen West who used to live in Newlyn's Meadow and whose mother was a Collard. The Collard family was large and active in the village from the 1200's and owned the original Ale House, built the Marquis of Granby on its present site in 1810 and owned it until 1928.

The Nailbourne Suite which was suggested by Isabelle & Peter Smith who live at Chalksole. The Nailbourne is the natural spring that bubbles up at Drellingore when the water table is very high and runs down the valley.

The Luckhurst Dining Room was proposed by Mark Robson who also used to live in Newlyn's Meadow. Brian Luckhurst was a Kent and England cricket player who lived at South Alkham.

The other new rooms are to be called the Drellingore, the Berridge Suite and the Wolverton. The latter were decided by the Marquis. The 3 winners will be able to take a night's bed & breakfast during the opening week which should be in the middle of October. If anyone has got any further information on the names chosen then please contact Ben at the Marquis, email ben@themarquisatalkham.co.uk or pop in.



THE PICTURE

is probably the building of Halton Forstall in 1952 but we are not sure. GSE are now building the extension for the Marquis on the same site

and building practices have certainly changed over the intervening 60 years. The picture does appear to be earlier but Halton Forstall had upper windows partially in the roof as in the photo. Comments please.

CONGRATULATIONS to Nolly and Colin, who live in central Alkham, on their recent wedding. They would like to apologise if they caused a disturbance on the evening of the 16th July and say that hopefully it won't happen again.



The Marquis at Alkham
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WOLVERTON WARRIOR – You may remember reading about the Anglo Saxon cemetery dating from the 6th and 7th centuries which was found at the eastern end of the Alkham Valley. Items from the site were put in display cases and an article about them has been accepted by the widely read archaeological quarterly magazine 'Current Archaeology' to be run in either the September or following issue. This article will cover the funding work, an overview of archaeological findings, what the case represents to the community and the benefits that can be achieved from working together.

TRACING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY? - Anyone who has been inspired to trace their ancestors, either through family anecdotes, finding old photographs or watching recent TV programmes such as 'Heir Hunters' or 'Who do you think you are?' may want to search further in a friendly group. Classes run by Janet Adamson for Kent Adult Education Service take place in Folkestone starting on Tuesday 4th October for beginners from 3.00p.m. to 5.00p.m. for 10 weeks. To enrol (which needs to be at least 1 week before the course starts) phone 0845 606 5606 or visit: www.kentadulthoodeducation.co.uk quoting course code: 7028. Further details from Janet (01303 893413).

AN INTERNATIONAL classic-car rally comes to the edge of Alkham and Ewell Minnis on January 1st. The organiser is Philip Young and his event is The London to Cape Town World Cup Rally, which starts from the Houses of Parliament on the evening of Jan 1st, and drives through Kent, where drivers have to work at maps on a navigational exercise; the last section has the cars driving up Chalksole, and round part of the Minnis, past what was the family home at the junction of Greenwich Lane and on to Lydden and the boat at Dover for France. Cars have to survive 10,000 miles in 29 days through a series of checkpoints to finish at Cape Town's waterfront. The leader of Kent County Council, Cllr. Paul Carter, is one of the drivers, in a Volvo. The oldest car is a 1923 Vauxhall - there is also a class for modern hatchbacks up to 1600cc (will they survive Africa?) and a few 4x4s. Philip Young was the third generation of the Young-family who lives on Ewell Minnis, and who attended Alkham village school. He first learned to drive on Ewell Minnis, aged six, when he shot off in the family Austin Seven to the Baptist Church with his startled grandparents in the back.

ALKHAM W.I. - The August meetings are always different to the regular ones and Debbie Griggs and Debbie Saunders made this one great. They put together all sorts of fun games for members to compete in. Everyone was relaxed and enjoyed themselves. The next meeting on the 13th September has a talk 'Hearing Dogs for the Deaf' by Robert Stichbury. Members are reminded that their help would be appreciated at the Church Jumble Sale on 17th September. **(Susan Lees 01304 822661)**

GARDEN TALK - Our next Meeting will be on Friday 16th September at Thorn Cottage, Meggett Lane where Rosemary and Geoff Hillier will be our hosts and will talk of the reconstruction of their garden and show us all their hard work. All welcome, from 7.30p.m. **(Janet Adamson)**

PLASTIC BAGS have been distributed through letterboxes in North Kent homes asking for clothing donations in support of poor families, orphans and asylum seekers. The leaflet asks you to put unwanted clothes, bedding etc. into the inserted plastic sack for collection on a specified day. The bag is labelled 'The Drops of Help Ltd', and Trading Standards are investigating this business in relation to its claims to help the vulnerable. If you have received these particular bags and feel misled please contact Kent Trading Standards with details on 01732 525201. **(Neighbourhood Watch)**

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HARVEST SUPPER this year will be on Monday 10th October at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. The meal will be a cold plate followed by home made apple pies cooked by the village ladies. As usual, produce from the church Harvest Festival, which is on the Sunday 9th, will be auctioned after the meal. Tickets priced at £6 are available from Irene Barnard (824845) and Sue Lees (822661).

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE HEROES - I recently visited some of the graves of Alkham Heroes in France and Belgium. It was a very moving trip; knowing you were standing in places that, almost a hundred years ago, an Alkham resident may have stood, fought or died made for a strong sense of connection. I took some stones from the village and left one by each memorial or grave that I visited to leave a piece of Alkham with the men. I have written an account of the trip which is now in the Heroes section of the village website (www.alkham.org). There are still some men for whom information is patchy and who we have no pictures of. It may well be that there are photos in existence of these men – especially those associated with the Second World War - whether that be a school photo or general village photo. Should anyone have, or know the whereabouts of, such a photo please let me or Brian know. To have a photographic record adds another dimension to the accounts. **(Mark Robson)**

HOME INSULATION - The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target requires all large domestic energy suppliers to make savings in the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by householders. The Suppliers meet this target by subsidising the uptake of low carbon energy solutions (such as loft and cavity wall insulation) to domestic energy consumers. However the current programme comes to an end in 2012. Contact your supplier and find out what deals they are offering. Homeowners over the age of 70 or in receipt of qualifying benefits may be eligible for free measures. The Energy Saving Trust 0800 512 012 are also able to give advice on the latest local offers on insulation that are available. **(DDC)**

OZ on ZZXJOANW – Whilst nursing my girl-friend after an operation last month I re-read a favourite book, Dmitri Borgmann's Language on Vacation: An Olio of Orthographical Oddities, first published in 1965. In one chapter, Borgmann describes an amazing word, ZZXJOANW, thus: "This spectacular word is so versatile that it possesses not merely one, but three different meanings: (a) drum; (b) fife; (c) conclusion. The term is of Maori origin." In this, Borgmann was simply following the words of Rupert Hughes, who first coined ZZXJOANW in his 1903 book, The Musical Guide, where it appeared as the final entry after 'zymbel' (German for 'cymbal'), with the pronunciation given as 'shaw'. In 1974 Josefa Heifetz Byrne, in Mrs Byrne's Dictionary of Unusual, Obscure, and Preposterous Words, gave the definition as 'Maori drum', but rejected 'shaw', preferring the pronunciation 'ziks-jo'an'. ZZXJOANW was exposed as a hoax by Ross Eckler in 1996 in his book Making the Alphabet Dance, when he described how Philip Cohen noted the oddities of the pronunciation, meanings and spelling, especially as Maori doesn't use J, X or Z and all Maori words end in vowels. Later, in You Say Tomato: An Amusing and Irreverent Guide to the Most Often Mispronounced Words in the English Language (2005) R W Jackson accepted the word as meaning 'Maori drum', commenting on the pronunciation that "We'll leave the pronunciation to you, although Welshmen and Poles are said to be able to do wonders with it." Apparently Hughes intended simply to coin a word beginning with ZZ, otherwise unknown in English. With the alleged pronunciation 'shaw' Hughes was also having a pop at George Bernard Shaw, a fervent advocate of phonetic spelling, who once said that GHOTI spelt FISH: GH as in 'rough' O as in 'women', and TI as in 'nation'. **(Steve Osborn)**

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am – 6.15 to 7.15 aerobics dance class
Thursday	Karate classes from 7.15pm to 8.45pm in VH - 821336
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	17	PCC jumble sale in the village hall at 11.00am
Monday	19	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4th	Evensong 6.30pm	Garage safari no service	Eucharist 11a.m.
Sunday 11th	Eucharist 9.00am	Worship Together 11am	
Sunday 18th	Family Service 11a.m.	Sung Evensong 6 p.m.	Eucharist 9am
Sunday 25th	Joint Benefice 10.00 at Alkham		

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

From the Vicarage - The apples are getting bigger and the branches are bending under the weight, the tomatoes are ripening and the weeds are flourishing so all is well in the garden. Rolo is very happy as it seems that Bob has at last learnt to keep quiet when they go hunting – not that they ever catch that elusive rabbit. But Rolo will set off very determinedly and Bob will follow in his wake and the birds continue to sing. It's clear that they set off in hope and that hope is undiminished when they return empty handed, rather like going fishing I suppose. When I speak to fishermen in the Warren they often say that they have caught nothing but they seem quite happy to continue to try. There are a lot of references to fishing in the Gospels and one story involves Jesus walking on the water to meet the disciples. They are scared at the sight of this and then Peter hops out of the boat and starts walking towards Jesus but he gets frightened and sinks so Jesus grabs him and pulls him out. Another version of walking on water involves a Vicar, a curate (one who's learning to be a vicar) and a bishop. They decide to go out for a days' fishing. Once they are in the boat and have pulled away from the jetty the curate realises he's left the bait behind so he steps out of the boat and walks across the water to get the bait. Then the vicar realises he's left his favourite flies behind so he steps out of the boat, walks across the water and collects them. All three are back in the boat when the Bishop realises he's left his sandwich box behind so he steps out of the boat - and sinks. The curate turns to the vicar and says 'Do you think we ought to have told him about the stepping stones?'
(Sue White 01303 240539)

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MALMAINS FARM – People have asked what is going to happen to the land which has been recently ploughed so I contacted Nigel Snape, who is the tenant farmer, and he says: Some of the land has been planted with a grass seed mix; this is the swathe of land through the middle of the farm and this will be used to make hay and silage to feed my Sussex cattle through the winter months. The remainder of the holding has been planted with milling wheat (for making bread). A small proportion of the farm, such as some steep banks and headlands areas, will be left unfarmed for conservation purposes as we are trying to maintain a wildlife corridor through the middle of the farm.

SLIP LANE – There is a small piece of land at the end of the old school playground that no one is taking responsibility for and the bushes have become overgrown and are protruding into Slip Lane. The best solution is to clear the area (about 10m x 2m) and put a raised bed in the middle with weed suppressant fabric on the rest with stone chippings on top. A quote has been sought for doing the work and hopefully it can start before the



winter. The area can be seen from vehicles on the Valley Road and should enhance the village.

PHOTO EXHIBITION in the Village Hall on Saturday 12th November. There are no set rules – the photos can be on any subject and printed at any size. They can be taken by any age group, but we would ask you to put your name on the back and if a child please add their age. There is no cost for entry. The photos will be numbered so visitors can vote for the ones they like best and a prize will be awarded to the winners. Let's make this a new excuse for an Alkham Parish Exhibition – don't forget this includes all people in the areas in the Parish such as Ewell Minnis. If you would like to take part please let us know by the end of October. Contact Sue Lees 822661 (susan932@btinternet.com) or Brian Wimsett 824969 (brianwimsett@hotmail.com). If you can help us with display boards it would be appreciated.

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY – SEKAS will be holding talks and lectures on astronomy in Alkham village hall over the next three months. Entrance is free and on the 8th October, starting at 7.30pm, there will be a talk about Pluto. You are very welcome to come along and join us on the night or become a member. **(Alan Woodgett)**



THE VILLAGE HALL has a new sign on the front and a finger sign by the road.

DINING ROOM -

I was amazed when I heard and then read that the dining room at the Marquis had been named the 'Luckhurst Dining Room'. I would like to thank Mark Robson very much for making the suggestion and the Marquis for agreeing to it. I look forward to eating in the re-named Dining Room on my next trip back.

(Raye Luckhurst)

THE MARQUIS ANNUAL CHARITY CRICKET Game will take place this year on Sunday 25th September. This limited overs game will commence at 1pm and will see The Marquis All-stars batting it out once again against the Alkham Badgers. A whole host of sporting celebrities will be playing including Kent Captain Rob Key, former Middx Captain Shaun Udal, clay pigeon world champion George Digweed to name but a few. This fun day will be followed by a fantastic meal, raffle and auction at The Marquis. Raffle tickets will be available at The Marquis for some fantastic prizes; they will also be on sale throughout the day. The auction will have a whole host of prizes which simply money cannot buy! Our chosen charities this year are Cystic Fibrosis, Friends of St Anthony's, Alkham CC & Rob Key benefit year. Remember to book your place at the meal as this dinner sells out very quickly, further details can be found at www.themarquisatalkham.co.uk or pop in! Last year we raised in excess of £3000, with your help and support we can make this total even higher. Come along to this fun day, watch some great cricket and give your support to these great causes.

W.I. JUMBLE SALE - Alkham Village Hall Saturday 15th October 11am to midday. Jumble gratefully received 822661.

NEWSPAPER – Alkhamhurst Kennels would like some of your old newspapers for use at the kennels. Please see their advert on page 3 for contact details or pop in and see them.

THE MARQUIS is starting to offer afternoon teas.



The Marquis at Alkham
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The Marquis daily changing set menu is now available for £ 17.50 for 2 courses Tuesday – Friday Lunch and Sunday – Friday Dinner.

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This is a birthday card that Sue Lees received this year.

A “Meet Your Local Councillors” event is being held on Saturday morning 22nd October between 10am-12noon at Temple Ewell Village Hall. Attending will be:- Cllr Sue Nicholas, Cllr Pauline Beresford - River & Alkham, Cllr Geoff Lymer - Temple Ewell & Lydden. Cllr Bryan Cope for KCC Charlie Elphicke MP.

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FOOTPATHS - For many years the unofficial footpaths on Malmains Farm have been used without restriction. Now that the fields are being worked it is inappropriate that these paths continue to be used. This will be a great loss to many people who have benefitted from free access to this land but there is no right to roam nor any 'de facto' access. Therefore can I ask, on behalf of the Landowner and Tenant Farmer, that all users obey the Countryside Code and only use the official Public Rights of Way. **(Anthony Barrier)**

THE ANNUAL DOVER AND DISTRICT HONEY SHOW will take place again in the Alkham Village Hall on Saturday 22nd October. The show has obviously become a popular event in the village calendar and we're delighted that so many of you are dropping in to see us during the afternoon. The value of bees to the nation's economy is officially estimated at nearly £200 million a year and close to home, Kent's commercial orchards are especially reliant on pollination by bees and the consequences for our fruit farmers could be catastrophic if bee numbers fell much further. Because our wild honeybees have already disappeared much depends on Britain's 44,000 beekeepers. The show is open to the public between 2.30 and about 4.00. Entrance is free. Refreshments will be available and there will be the usual displays of hive products and beekeeping equipment, honeys to sample, a raffle and various items for sale, including jars of local honey — quite a scarce commodity these days. We do hope you will be able to spend a little time with us on 22nd October. **(Christopher Holdstock Honey Show Secretary)**

JUST A SHORT WORD to say thank you to everyone for voting me as one of your Councillors for Alkham. I will be working hard for all the residents of the District and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at various events. I am also look forward to working along side Cllr Sue Nicholas, who has represented River Ward extremely well for over 20yrs. I am already feeling my way and getting involved in various projects. I realise that not everyone has a computer or even a fast connection so if anyone does need to contact me with any problems or concerns please phone me on 01304 216187. **(Pauline Beresford)**

GARDEN TALK - After a summer of successes and failures in our gardens, we end the season with a visit to Burley Cottage, Newcastle Lane, Ewell Minnis, where our hosts are Barbara and Neil Williams, on Friday 7th October, 7.30p.m. **(Janet Adamson)**

BOOK CLUB - The book for October is the much acclaimed thriller “The Snowman” by Jo Nesbo. The meeting will be hosted by Avi Munn at Poems, Short Lane 01304 829484 on Wednesday 26th October starting at 7.30pm. For more information contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

PUDDING, PUNCH & PAMPER event in aid of Help for Heroes will be held on 23rd November at Shepherdswell Village Hall from 6.30pm to 9.30pm. Visit www.orangeblossomspa.co.uk Help for Heroes page for details.

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CHURCH BIKE RIDE – Many thanks to all the people who generously supported us this year. Because of a leg injury we had to cut the ride short but we did 37 miles, visited 30 churches and raised £160. Den was seen disappearing through the gravestones at St. Leonard's in Hythe when he misjudged a corner on the path but otherwise it went well.

WELL DONE – The footpath opposite the Garden Centre at South Alkham was encroached by the bank that was falling onto the path and was also overgrown with vegetation. The council, with the aid of a digger, have removed the vegetation and bank so that the path can now be used freely. Congratulations to them for doing this.

ALKHAM WI – September meeting had a talk by Robert Stichbury about 'Hearing Dogs for the Deaf' something nobody had really heard about. Such dogs must be a great help to deaf people because they can tell their owners for example when someone knocks at the door. The two deaf ladies present with a dog for the deaf were able to show how good such dogs are for them. The next WI meeting will have a talk by Charis Muir about Wills and Power of Attorney and members must put forward names of members willing to be on the WI Committee 2012. There will be a WI Jumble Sale on 15th October. **(Sue Lees)**

MASSAGE & SPA DAY Saturday 19th November 10 am to 3pm. Enjoy a relaxing or energising Neals Yard Organic Massage or treat yourself to a Manicure or Pedicure! Luxurious Full Body Massage 1 hour, £26. Ultimate Top to Toe Full Body Massage including Face & Scalp 1hr 30mins, £39: 30 min Massage of Back, Neck & Shoulders or Face & Neck & Scalp (Indian Massage Based) or Lower Leg & Foot or Arm & Hand all £13 !! Manicure & Pedicure 30 mins £13 or 1 hour £26 - booking essential. Please phone 07813 893148 or see www.orangeblossomspa.co.uk for more information. Pamper Parties also available. *As no advertising space is available I agreed to a one-off free listing.*

OZ on FREECCELL – My house is in total uproar. What started as the installation of a new boiler and a second fridge-freezer, for storage of autumn fruits and beer, has escalated, as these projects always do, into a major domestic revamp. The knock-on effects have cascaded into every room, including the potting-shed and garage, and the house now resembles nothing so much as a huge Freecell game. Freecell is the ever-popular computer game that comes free with the Microsoft Windows operating system and has caused major downtime in workplaces worldwide over the last decade. It is a solitaire-based game that involves moving blocks of cards onto other blocks or into spaces, subject to certain rules, and it is this activity that is so similar to moving furniture. The game is a descendant of older solitaire games such as Eight Off and Baker's Game, the latter having originated in England in the 1920s. In 1978 Paul Alfille modified Baker's Game and computerised it, complete with playing-card graphics, for an educational system at the University of Illinois, and this became known as Freecell when it was taken up by Microsoft in the 1990s. The original Windows version had 32,000 games, each with a unique identification number so that users could retrieve and replay games if they wished. Only one game, No 11982, has been shown to be unsolvable. The latest version features 1,000,000 games, of which 8 are unsolvable. When my late wife and I retired we played the first 32,000 games in order for half an hour after lunch each day and had reached 56,000 or so when she died. Perhaps after my house is restored to order I should solve the remainder of the 1,000,000 games. At 10 games a day it will only take 259 years. **(Steve Osborn)**

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am – 6.15 to 7.15 aerobics dance class
Thursday	Karate classes from 7.15pm to 8.45pm in VH - 821336
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

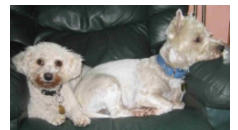
Other events in the village

Monday	10	Harvest supper in the village hall
Tuesday	11	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	15	W.I. jumble sale in the village hall at 11.00am
Monday	17	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	22	Honey Show open to public 2.30pm to 4.00pm - free

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2nd	Evensong 6.30pm	Eucharist 9.00am	11am Pet Service VH
Sunday 9th	Harvest Eucharist 9.00	Harvest Service 11 a.m.	Harvest 4 p.m.
Sunday 16th	11a.m. PET SERVICE	Sung Evensong 6 p.m.	Eucharist 9.00
Sunday 23rd	Bible Sunday - Joint Benefice 10.00am at Alkham		
Sunday 30th	All Saints with All Souls - Joint Benefice 10.00am at St. Mary's		

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

From the Vicarage - The nights are drawing in but what a harvest we have enjoyed this year. Kent has grown more plums than ever but the supermarkets weren't ready for such a bumper crop and had already brought them in from overseas. It seems to be that they are always trying to second guess the weather and the levels of produce. It used to be so much simpler when the shops stocked what was available and we enjoyed fruits and vegetables at their proper times. I doubt we've gained much from importing so much from all over the world. It is now possible to produce local melons and we are self sufficient in tomatoes. Surely this is a 'greener' solution for all of us. Harvest Festival will be celebrated on 9th in all our churches and I would like the children to take part so do bring them along. We are also celebrating having pets this month and I have invited them all to come and bring their owners. This will be on 2nd October in the Village Hall at Hougham at 11 a.m. and on 16th October at St. Anthony's at 11 a.m. I think our pets give us so much that it's good to bring them to a service once a year. Last year they were all very well behaved apart from Bob. Rolo sat sedately on a pew and remained there throughout the service but Bob decided to join in, which would have been fine if he'd confined himself to the hymns but he didn't. But that of course is the pleasure in having pets, usually they are predictable but it's the unexpected which makes us all chuckle in delight. On 14th October we shall have Boz and the Boys at St. Radigund's with the Sounds of the Sixties. Last year was a sell out so do book a ticket sooner rather than later. John Oliver and I missed it last year so we have the first two tickets this



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Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791

alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net

Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635

Neighbourhood Watch 01304 218110 &

Police Support Officer (07772226209)

Police – 999 phone & 01622 690690

W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585

AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641

Footpath Warden antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk

Vicar – Rev. Sue White

01303 240539

Church Wardens -

Geoff Gaskill 823100

and Ken Hammond



Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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CONGRATULATIONS TO KEN SMITH ON HIS 100th BIRTHDAY

Ken, who is the father of John Pearson-Smith the owner of Hogbrook Equestrian Centre, reaches the age of 100 on the 28th of October. Ken can be seen each day walking up Slip Lane, along Chalksole Green Lane and back down the 1 in 5 White Hill. A remarkable and very likeable man. **His son has written:**



Ken, 100 years old on 28th October 2011 and can still be seen walking in the village "weather" permitting". Dad had an interesting life after getting married in 1936 he set sail for Singapore and set up business as a Quantity Surveyor but war broke out and he returned to England and worked in the Woolwich Arsenal. His next move was to Palestine, then India and eventually Tanganyika (where I was born). He finally ended up in Italy, Rome being one of his favourite cities. Eventually he returned to the U.K. and retirement. Since moving in with my family in Alkham he has been overwhelmed by the welcoming friendship he has received from the village. **(John)**

Ken helping John Huggins with the driveway at Greenhill Farm in 2011

SLIP LANE

You may have seen that the overgrown area on the top of the wall at the bottom of Slip Lane has been removed. This



was partly funded by a generous donation of £500 from Philip Young who is organising the London to Cape town car rally. As Philip lived at Ewell Minnis the rally will pass through Alkham on News Year's day and for this reason he donated the money to the village. Not only have the dangerous overhanging branches been removed but the whole area has been cleared and covered in weed suppressant material. The area is being left as it is until next year when it will be decided how to embellish it. Please contact me (Brian Wimsett - see P4) if you have any ideas bearing in mind that there is quite a slope at one end and we don't want large shrubs again or complete groundcover. The work was carried out by Alan Hammond the son of Ken who lives at Meadowside. Alan is now working for himself so if there are any jobs that you would like him to do please contact Ken.

PHOTO EXHIBITION on the 12th November Come along and join in the fun and look at the photos taken by other villagers – everyone is welcome and it's all free. The hall will be open from 11.00am to 4.30pm and for those who have not given us the photos before the event please bring them to the hall after 9.00am. You can vote for your favourite photo and a prize will be awarded to the best three.

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - The AGM will be held on 9th November at 7.30 pm. The general business is as usual: minutes, elections, subs reminders if needed, and supper at The Fox, Temple Ewell (two course – carvery and pudding for £10.00 a head). The company is also great. All welcome and new members encouraged. If you are planning to attend the supper The Fox likes to know approximately how many so please contact Pam Sayers, Marion Banks Nash or the Secretary. Thank you. **(Joanna Walker (Sec) 821641)**

JACK'S MUM - My mum has recurrent breast cancer which has spread into the lymph nodes in her chest wall, so they can't operate to remove it. This is called secondary breast cancer which means she's relying on drug treatment to stop it spreading further and she really needs them to find a cancer cure. I decided to help by riding solo in the Fowlmead 6-hour day/night Enduro mountain bike race for Cancer Research. Being off-road it was a really tough race but I managed to finish it; I did 60.23 miles at an average of 11 mph. As I was the only Junior I won my age category and I didn't do too badly overall, I did 22 laps and the winner (Phil Webb) did 26. My mum was there at the end of the race and is really proud of me. I want to raise at least £1,500 and have nearly done it, but I need more support so if you would like to help me and donate some money please go to <http://www.justgiving.com/Jack-Spicer>. **(Jack Spicer)**
Message from Jack's Mum & Dad, Barry & Alison – "Well done Jack, an inspirational ride and we're very proud of you not just for finishing the race but for doing it solo for Cancer Research. Those last few laps must have been really tough but you kept going to the end! Cancer Research is there for everyone, including the other village residents who are fighting cancer."



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CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES - Please could you give your support once again to "Operation Christmas Child" by preparing a shoe box with gifts for children who have nothing at Christmas. I have the leaflets with all the details and can be contacted on 01304 822295. The completed boxes can either be collected by me or dropped off at the Village Hall at 10.30am any Wednesday up to and including 16th November. We sent 44 boxes from Alkham to children last year, which was wonderful and it would be great if we could do that again. Thank you so much. **(Susannah Tapsell)**

A CHRISTMAS BAZAAR will be held in the village hall on the 3rd of December when there will be stalls selling festive items plus the usual attractions. It will be a real Christmas event and there will be more details in next month's Newsletter. **(Sue Lees)**

FULLY FUNDED COURSE for anyone thinking about volunteering Are you interested in volunteering but for one reason or another aren't quite ready to take the plunge? Dover District Volunteering Centre understands there are many reasons why taking on a volunteer role may seem daunting. You may lack confidence or need encouragement, you may worry about your childcare options or travel costs, you may be struggling to decide what sort of volunteer work you would like to do. If this sounds familiar to you, then our Free course could greatly benefit you. The course takes place in Dover on Wed 23rd and Thurs 24th November 2011. Lunch and refreshments are included free of charge, and travel expenses can be reimbursed. All previous course participants have found them informative, fun and interesting. Courses are funded by NLDC Response. If you would like to book a place, please contact Karen at the Volunteer Centre on 01304 367898 or email office@doverdistrictvolunteering.org.uk

FOOTPATHS - I'm pleased to report that a gate has been installed where the footpath from Upton Farm (ER157) joins the Byway to Everden and Pimlico (ER185). This junction had been blocked by a fence for some time. I first reported it over three years ago and the PROW people were already aware of the problem then. I had received numerous complaints and despite promises of action nothing was done until late last month. **(Anthony Barrier)**

GARDEN TALK - Our season of visits to homes and gardens in Alkham has now finished - and we have enjoyed marvellous hospitality, great food and wine, good quizzes and lots of chat. We finish the year with a celebratory meal at The Fox, Temple Ewell on Friday 9th December. We meet at 7.30 for 8.00p.m. - 2 courses for £10. Please let me know by the end of November if you will be joining us. **(Janet Adamson 01303 893413)**

ALKHAM W.I. - The October meeting was a very interesting one with a very helpful talk by Charis Muir about 'Wills and Power of Attorney'. Members were reminded that the next meeting will be the AGM and the names must be put forward for the 2012 committee. Pam Sayers said that she will be able to stand for the committee but would not be able to be Chairman and Marie Jones said that she too would not be able to continue as the Treasurer, so members must consider who they would like to take their places. Ann Lockwood the W.I. Group Advisor will be present. The fun event for the evening will be to play Bingo and this will be the first time that all will be able to see the excellent number board made by Debbie Griggs husband. All members should try and be present at this meeting and then they can be told about the exciting event for December. **(Sue Lees)**

A BLACK CAT which is very friendly has been found. If you have lost one please phone Brian on 824969 and he will put you in contact with the people who found the cat.

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THE HARVEST SUPPER once again, was a huge success and only made possible by those supporting it. There were more than sixty enjoying the ploughman's meal and delicious home-made apple pies. Big thanks to all those that made them. Thanks of course to all who provided produce, floral displays, cakes and preserves which were auctioned by Paul, who I thought was in particular good form on the night with some items reaching record amounts. We received some lovely raffle prizes too. With the kindness and generosity shown by all we, after deducting expenses, raised a grand total of £708.35 for St Anthony's Church and its been agreed to make a donation to the soup kitchen. **(Irene Barnard)**

A TAIZE SERVICE will be held in St Anthony's church Alkham on Saturday the 26th November at 7:00pm. Refreshments will be served and everybody is welcome to come along. **(Rosie Hansraj)**

THANK YOU - I would like to say a huge "Thank You" to Katie Ann, Patsy, Pam, Susannah, Margaret, Avi, Rosemary, Irene and not forgetting Richard, for helping to decorate St Anthony's Church for Harvest Festival. The Church looked wonderful. Thank you once again. **(Rosie Hansraj)**

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will present a concert in Dover Town Hall at 7.30 pm on Saturday 19th November. Titled Baroque! the programme consists of five of the most sublime examples of choral music from the baroque repertoire: Bach's "Magnificat", Handel's "Zadok the Priest" and "The King Shall Rejoice", Monteverdi's "Beatus Vir" and Vivaldi's "Dixit Dominus". With professional soloists, the 85-strong chorus and Connaught Orchestra. Tickets £10 (students £5) are available from Dover Tourist Information Centre, members of the society, or by calling 01304 822042/820149; and, if any remain, at the door on the night. For further information please ring Donald Beck on 07808 272047. **(Steve Osborn)**

BOOK CLUB - The Book for November is The Hare With Amber Eyes by Edmund De Waal winner of the 2010 Costa Biography Award. The meeting will be hosted by Liz Lambourne at 4a Newlyn Meadows tel 822365 starting at 7.30. For more information contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

OZ on BIG CATS – One evening in September, driving in the dark, I turned right from the Alkham Valley Road into Cowgate Lane to take the back road to Hawkinge. On emerging from the woods, just before the first house, I saw a huge cat amble across the road and dive into the trees. It was much too big for a domestic cat, and appeared in the headlights to be black with dark chestnut markings. A friend reminded me later of Roy Dyche's article in the November 2009 Alkham Monthly Newsletter, and indeed what I saw was almost identical with Roy's description. Like Roy I'm not gullible over these things and the size of the cat impressed me. It seems to be the latest of a string of sightings of a 'black panther' in this area. Nationally, such animals have been seen for at least the last 250 years. William Cobbett, in Rural Rides, described seeing, as a child in the 1760s, a cat "that was as big as a middle-sized spaniel dog", the reporting of which earned him a beating for telling lies. In recent years, there have been many sightings of big cats, usually black, tan or both, including a lynx that was shot near Norwich in 1991 after killing 15 sheep in two weeks. Their locations are often indicated by colourful names, as in Surry Puma, Shooters Hill Cheetah, and Sheppey Panther. There are many explanations for their existence, such as escape from captivity, descent from supposed extinct species, or the Wild Animals Act 1976, while sceptics claim that it's simply mass hysteria or an urban myth. Having now seen a wild big cat I'm a reluctant convert and would like to discover more about them. After all, as people often tell me, "There's something out there." **(Steve Osborn)**

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am – 6.15 to 7.15 aerobics dance class
Thursday	Karate classes from 7.15pm to 8.45pm in VH - 821336
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Monday	7	Parish Council meeting in the village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	8	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Wednesday	9	AVS AGM – see page 1
Saturday	12	Photo exhibition in village hall 11am to 4.30pm
Saturday	12	SEKAS in village hall 7 to 10pm – visitors welcome
Monday	14	Fete meeting in village hall 8.00pm
Monday	21	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6th	4.30 p.m. Evensong	9 a.m. Eucharist	11 a.m. W.T.
Sunday 13th Remembrance Day Service	9.30 Said Eucharist 10.15 p.m.	10.30 a.m.	10 .30a.m.
Sunday 20th	11 a.m. Family Service	5.30 Service at Canterbury	9a.m. Eucharist
Sunday 27th	Joint Benefice 10.00 at Capel		
Weekday Services: Wednesday Eucharist 9.15 am St Radigund, Capel-Le-Ferne			

From the Vicarage - The October sunshine has really set us up for whatever comes next. On Friday I took Bob and Rolo down the Warren, it was wonderful to walk in the warm sunshine and see the leaves in their glorious autumn colours, we are so fortunate! We went onto the beach and there were two ladies sunbathing, they had just started their lunch and Bob was sure it was his lucky day. He offered to help them out but they didn't fall for his charms. Rolo had continued to sniff his way up the beach so Bob gave in and joined him. They are always so pleased with themselves when they discover a new smell and follow it, they really do live for the moment. Bozz and the boys gave us the Sounds of the Sixties on 13th October and it was a great evening. There were over 100 people at St. Radigund's Church and by the end of the evening pretty well all of them were on their feet dancing. I was thrilled to see members of all my congregations joining in and clearly this is an opening for me to introduce dancing in the aisle on Sundays. It also brings home the importance of reliving the times we have enjoyed in the past. November is often described as a grey month but it is also a time to remember and to be thankful for all those who gave their lives for us and who continue to do so in our armed forces today. We have so much to be thankful for and I would like to thank everyone who contributed to our Harvest Festivals. In addition to our Sunday services we celebrated Harvest with Capel School and what a Tuesday that was! The teachers had worked hard with the children who were in fine voice and the parents sent in an enormous bounty for the soup kitchen and the Rainbow Centre. Thank you all so much. **(Sue White 01303 240539)**

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AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Footpath Warden antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
Vicar – Rev. Sue White
01303 240539
Church Wardens -
Geoff Gaskill 823100
and Ken Hammond



Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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THE MARQUIS

extension was formally opened on the 10th November followed by a tour round the new building which has a new kitchen, suites and luxury rooms. The standard of furnishings is superb and includes super king size beds,

monsoon showers and roll top baths; the overall effect is quite stunning. Tony Marsden and his wife Lilian are to be congratulated on getting the project together as are the contractors GSE especially as they had to work in such close confines.

THANK YOU to everyone on behalf of my father Ken Smith for making his birthday evening so special. When he arrived at The Marquis and was welcomed by you all he was overwhelmed. Thank you to John Huggins for instigating the celebration and Tony Marsden for providing the toast in his lovely venue, not forgetting all of the villagers, too many to name, who filled The Marquis and toasted Dad's 100th birthday. Thank you all once again for making his evening one to remember. Another fabulous memory to add to his collection. **(John Pearson-Smith)**

ROUNDHILL TUNNEL – The new expansion joints to the viaduct at Roundhill tunnel have been made and are being installed. A further ramp has been made for the London bound carriageway so that traffic can be put in contra-flow whilst the coast bound joint is placed. Weather permitting it is hoped that the work will be finished by the end of January.



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS SWITCH ON

will be on Saturday 10th December at 4:45pm. This will be followed by carol singing led by the WI and a visit by Father Christmas. Ben and Hannah have kindly once again invited

everybody to the Marquis afterwards for mulled wine and mince pies. **(Den Barnard 824845)**

CHRISTMAS TREES on sale from 26th November direct from the grower, Artisan Nursery at Fern farm Abbey Rd, Hougham. Nordman, Blues and Norway spruce any size any variety £20 each. Friday, Saturday Sunday only 07763327548 for directions.

CRIB SERVICE – On the 24th of December there will be a building of the crib and carols in St. Anthony's church at 4.30pm when all children and parents are invited to come and take part.

Merry Christmas

THE PHOTO EXHIBITION in the village hall on the 12th November went well with 80 people coming to view the 180 photos on display. Everybody agreed that the standard of entry was very high and visitors were invited to vote for the best overall photo. The winner was Stan Fowler with a superb picture of Alkham; second was Derek Coppins with a photo of a dog with a chicken and third was Alan Latham showing St. Anthony's church at sunset. All three photos will be framed and displayed in the village hall.



THE MARQUIS is now doing afternoon teas and is offering a 2 for 1 for Alkham residents until Christmas. They are also open for breakfast to non residents.

LOCAL PRODUCE – If you have any that you would like to offload, Charlie Lakin the chef at the Marquis will be happy to take it and swop with chutneys or jams. Please call him on 07979412946

CHRISTMAS WREATHS and door garlands suitable for remembrance or decoration made with fresh materials from £7.50. They will be on display at Nailbourne Cottage, Alkham Valley Road (near the Folkestone side 30mph signs) from 1st December. Please call Shirley on 828098.

HORSE RIDER – I received an email from Sue Chambers who is an administration assistant with the Kent Community Health NHS Trust. She said that she just wanted to advise the girl she saw riding her brown horse towards Folkestone on the 2nd November, on the busy main Alkham Valley Road, that it is not safe to text and ride at the same time.



CAT FOUND – Lower Standen area, Alkham Valley Road. Black/grey tabby, young male cat. Very friendly and is wearing a collar. If you have lost this cat please call 07900 263702

SHOE BOXES - May I thank each one of you who responded so generously to the Christmas Shoe Box appeal. I know it takes time, money and effort to do them; you gave these in full and I was privileged to take 47 boxes from Alkham on your behalf. Forgive me if I give a special thank you to the girls in Alkhamhurst Kennels, who were absolutely marvellous. Thank you all so much. **(Susannah Tapsell)**



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PARAGLIDING - On September 11th 2011 myself and 2 friends, Jon Chivers and Darren Graves (team DAFT), set off on an adventure to climb to the summit of Mont Blanc and fly our paragliders back to the bottom. On the 23rd of September

after a week of training and acclimatizing on various smaller climbs and glacier crossings we were ready for the summit. The 3 of us accompanied by Irwyn Jehu (our guide) and his friend Jennie Flemming set off from the refuge du gouter 3817 m at 3.30am carrying our gliders weighing approx 16 kg each. We crossed the dome du gouter in the dark and reached the vallot hut 4362m (a small emergency shelter) in time to see the sun rise. Finally at 10.00am 6½ hours later we reached the summit at 4810m. Having spent the previous 2 days climbing to the gouter refuge we were exhausted and I for one was glad we weren't going to walk down. At 11.00am after considering our take off options I inflated my paraglider and began the 1 hour flight back down to where we had started 3 days ago. The others followed laden with ice from the summit that we enjoyed with a bottle of whisky that evening. I'm pleased to say that we all managed to fly down without incident and so far have raised over a £1000 for "Click Sargent", a charity that supports children with cancer. We plan to take up more DAFT challenges next year in the hope of raising more. If you would like to help us in this cause please go to www.justgiving.com/DAFT-challenge. (**Colin Downer** - DAFT is Dover and Folkestone Team)

CRICKET CLUB AWARDS - Newcomer Paul Tomkies picked up three trophies at Alkham Cricket Club's annual awards dinner at Paul's Restaurant, Folkestone. Paul made an immediate impact as a star opening batsman when he joined the village team at the start of the 2011 season, scoring 87 not out in his first match and went on to score 814 runs in the season, including a best of 138, to win the Batsman of the Year Trophy. Paul also finished the season with the club's second best bowling figures so his all-round contribution won him the Player of the Year award and also the coveted "Players' Player" award. The Bowling Trophy went to Toby Foster, who took 31 wickets, including a best of 5-16, while club wicketkeeper Peter Frater took the Fielding Trophy and Richard Tapsell was named as Clubman of the Year for his sterling work in preparing the pitch. Paul Hatton had mixed fortunes - receiving the Duck Trophy for the highest number of noughts (6) but also the "Moment of the Season" trophy for a spectacular one-handed catch. Zac Hassan and Paul Tomkies shared the Rob Culley Memorial Trophy, awarded in memory of the much-loved former player who added real character to the club. The trophies were presented by Club Vice President Barbara Palmer, who attended with her husband Bob, also a Club VP. (**Peter Frater**)



GARDEN TALK - A reminder that the last event of 2011 is a meal at The Fox, Temple Ewell on Friday 9th December; please contact me as soon as possible if you wish to join us. Suggestions are always welcomed for gardens to visit in 2012, or if you would be prepared to host an evening.

(**Janet Adamson 01303 893413**)

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NEWSPAPERS – Following the article in the Newsletter, Alkhamhurst Kennels has received a lot of old newspapers. They are very grateful and say 'please keep them coming'.

SOUP KITCHEN – At the Ark in Dover there was a meeting for volunteers who do the Dover Soup Kitchen and the Alkham contingent went along. Remarkably there were about 80 people present who are involved with providing soup and food 365 days a year for the homeless. Mention was made of scroungers and people on benefit who use the soup kitchen but it was thought that if you could just help a couple of people it was worthwhile. At present the soup kitchen has a small portakabin in the car park opposite the Sports Centre but shortly a large container will replace it.

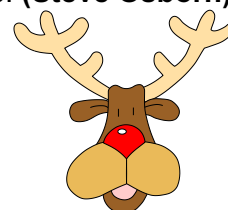
THE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR will be held in the village hall on the 3rd of December when there will be stalls selling festive items plus the usual attractions.. **(Sue Lees)**

BOOK CLUB for December will be held on Wednesday 14th at 7.30pm. The meeting will be the Christmas party hosted by Sue Latham at Woodlands Short Lane (01304 824729). The book for discussion is Scribble Scribble Scribble by Simon Schama. For more details contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

ALKHAM W.I. – The AGM was a well attended meeting, however a vote was needed not just for a new committee but for a president and a treasurer as well. Pam Sayers and Mairi Jones have both worked well in these posts over the past years. Helen Scopes is the new president and Susannah Tapsell the vice president. Cherry Leppard is treasurer and Janet Barrow is still the hard working secretary. The meeting ended with a game of bingo, Debbie Grigg's father having made a really good job making the bingo set. There will be carol singing at Canterbury Cathedral on the 29th November at 11.00am and the W.I.'s Christmas dinner is on the 12th December in the village hall. There will be more carol singing at Kearsney Manor on the 15th December. **(Sue Lees)**

OZ on LIVING LIVELY – I would like to use my column this month to publicise a very worthwhile and enjoyable activity that is coming to Dover after Christmas. I'll say no more now, but simply let Living Lively speak for itself. Below is LL's press release. **(Steve Osborn)** :

Discover Your Voice - Free Singing Sessions for People over 50 - River (Dover) - January - February 2012. Do you sing in the bath, shower or car but would never admit it? Would you like to sing but are put off by the idea of reading music and formal choirs? Are you over 50 and free on Thursday afternoons? If the answer to these questions is 'yes' and you are looking for fun and a challenging activity for the New Year then we have just the thing for you. Living Lively is a local not-for-profit organisation which specialises in running singing activities for people over 50. We have been given funding by Awards for All to enable us to run a 6 week project in River for people who are interested in trying singing in an enjoyable, informal and relaxed atmosphere. Sessions will take place from 14.00 - 15.30 in the foyer of River Methodist Church for 6 weeks starting on January 19th 2012 (January 19th and 26th, February 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd.) We will help you learn about breathing, posture and making a good sound, and the sessions will include a wide variety of music to meet all tastes. There is no charge and refreshments are included. You can just turn up on any of the days, or if you require more information or want to book a place please call Celia on 01233 750585, or email her at celia@livinglively.org.uk. We look forward to seeing you and helping you to 'Discover Your Voice'.



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Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Saturday	3	Christmas bazaar 10.30am then Beekeepers 2 – 5pm
Monday	5	Parish Council
Tuesday	6	White Cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9 pm
Saturday	10	SEK Astronomical Society 7 – 10pm
Monday	12	W.I. Christmas dinner
Monday	19	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4th	Evensong 4.30	Eucharist 9 a.m.	W.T. 11a.m.
Sunday 11th	Eucharist 9 a.m.	Worship together 11 a.m.	Carols VH 5pm
Sunday 18th	Nine lessons and carols 6p.m.	9 lessons and Carols 10.30 a.m. Baptist Chapel	Eucharist 9.00
Saturday 24th Christmas eve	Crib Service 4.30p.m. Midnight Eucharist 11pm	Crib Service 3p.m. Midnight Eucharist 11pm	
Sunday 25th	NO SERVICE	NO SERVICE	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 1/1	10 a.m. Joint Benefice Eucharist at St. Radigund's		

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

From the Vicarage - December is a month of hopefulness but also a time of reflection as we look forward to celebrating the birth of Christ. The Bible teaches us that we are to give secretly so that the left hand does not know what the right has done. We are asked to support those whom we would rather not, those who are difficult, who have an addiction, who are anti-social, abusive, whose contempt for all we believe in, is clearly stated and we struggle with such an idea. It's so much easier to give to appreciative family and friends. Jesus was born into a society that was expecting a warrior king who would rid them of the hated Romans. He would be on the side of the Jewish leaders in the temple, and he would maintain the status quo in religious observance. Jesus was God's gift to his people, through him God's relationship with all people was to be forged. It didn't work out quite like that. Before he was two, King Herod was trying to murder him, as far as Herod was concerned this was one gift he could do without. The Pharisees, Sadducees and temple leaders rejected God's gift. They didn't want the Light of the world to shine on all their sharp practices, their commercialisation of the Temple. They certainly didn't want the people to hear what Jesus had to say and to follow him. And they couldn't abide Jesus going constantly to the poor, the tax collectors, the prostitutes, the lepers and every undesirable in their society. They succeeded where Herod had failed and the gift from God was killed. But in his death Jesus gave the greatest gift of all, hope for the future, salvation to everyone and his presence with them no matter how hard and difficult the journey. So a joyful Christmas to you all. **Sue White 01303 240539**

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