Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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No. 219 January 2012

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Happy New Year

THE ALKHAM Christmas tree lights were illuminated on the 10th of December. As usual the W.I. choir and others sang three carols round the tree and then Irene Barnard pushed a plunger to turn the lights on. Santa was there and gave sweets to the children before the adults went to the Marquis who had kindly provided mulled wine and mince pies. The photo was taken by Alec Bristow who lives in Alkham and evidently knows Father Christmas. Thanks must go to the Sullivans at Ellinge who donated the tree, to John Huggins and driver for somehow getting it to the village green and to Den Barnard for helping to plant and decorate it.

A & E IMPORTANT INFORMATION – Did you know that every time someone goes to A+E that their GP gets a bill to pay from his patients' budget? There is a campaign to persuade people that instead of going to A&E for trivial matters they consider seeing their GP or pharmacist instead which would leave more money in the budget to spend on other services for patients. One suggestion for these savings is an Intermediate Care Bed centre - a bit like old cottage hospitals. If someone is quite ill and can't stay at home but isn't very ill and doesn't need to go to one of the big hospitals they could be admitted to the local "halfway house" hospital. Buckland hospital deals with minor injuries and if you visit them a charge still applies but at least the money goes to a local hospital. This will help to keep it open and maybe additional clinics and services could be restored. **(editor** *from discussion at PC meeting***)**

WORLD CUP RALLY - A reminder that the London to Cape Town World Cup Rally is passing through Alkham on its way to Dover late in the night of January 1st, having set out from the Houses of Parliament. The organisers apologise in advance if this causes any disturbance, and drivers have been warned to treat Alkham as a "Quiet Zone" and dip their lights. The route goes up what organiser Philip Young describes in the route-notes as "the steepest hill in Kent". He should know, as a nine-year-old he used to hurtle down from Chalksole to the primary-school with Alan Dodd, Tony Harrington and Melvyn Kirby from the Minnis where they lived, on bicycles with dodgy brakes. This would have been around 1960 when there was less traffic, although nine-year-olds considered themselves invincible then... and immortal today. The oldest car is a 1923 Vauxhall, providing it's still on-route and hasn't cut out lots of navigation stuff in the lanes to ensure the crew from Australia catch the ferry on time. Philip Young hopes nobody will notice their passing.

THE NEWSLETTER can be emailed in colour if you like – please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com

THE ANNUAL QUIZ will take place on the 11th February at 7.30pm in the village hall. Please give me a ring on 824969 if you would like to book a table which as usual are up to the maximum of 8 people. Food will be served at the interval probably comprising French bread, cheese, pate etc, so reasonably filling. The cost is £5 per person. **(Brian)**



CHALKSOLE ESTATE VINEYARD had its first proper harvest of grapes this year. On the 21st & 22nd October, friends and family gathered together to pick some 3200kgs of Chardonnay & Pinot grapes. Many thanks go out to all those who helped with the harvest, and I hope your backs are now recovered! The grapes have now been pressed by Chapel Down and 1800 bottles of sparkling wine have been produced and are now fermenting. First release of the Chalksole Estate 2011 Vintage will be on general sale June 2013. Pre orders are welcome as this vintage is limited! If you would like to join us next year, be regularly updated with goings on at Chalksole Estate Vineyard or wish to pre order, please email Claire@chalksolevineyard.co.uk or 'Like' us on Facebook – Chalksole Estate Vineyard, for up to the minute updates and reports. **Claire Joblin)**

THE NEW PHONE NUMBER for non emergency calls to the police is 101; no other number should be used other than 999 for emergencies.

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THE SOLAR photo-voltaic (PV) system on the roof of St. Anthony's has been commissioned. The 16 panel array will produce some 3,300 kilowatt hours per year of renewable electricity; about the same as that consumed by the average UK house and over the 25 years life of the PV system, the carbon dioxide emissions savings will amount to some 42 tonnes. Being oriented east-west, all churches have a south facing roof and St Anthony's has a south aisle roof hidden from view by a surrounding parapet – a perfect location for solar PV and which preserves the natural beauty of the building. Geoff Gaskill is to be congratulated for getting the system installed and the PCC for backing the project.

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB is seeking new players plus people prepared to assist off the pitch. I am taking over as club captain for 2012 and my key objectives are to strengthen the squad and to encourage villagers to support the club. We need more people involved with the club – on and off the pitch - in order to sustain what is one of the oldest cricket clubs in Kent, having been formed in 1839. While there is a fantastic spirit and comradeship within the team, the squad was depleted during 2011, which caused some games to be cancelled, and club finances are also precarious. We have seen several village clubs close in recent seasons due to waning interest and rising costs – but the committee has no intention of ever allowing Alkham CC to suffer the same fate. We want to see the club prosper and remain a key part of the village for many years to come. Anyone interested in playing for the club or offering assisting off the pitch should contact me on 01304 820067. **(Peter Frater)**

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - Thanks to all who attended our AGM last month. Maurice Sayers was re-elected as our Chairman, and the supporting cast remains as usual, though Anne Huggins place has been taken by Mike Ross. Our thanks to the Treasurer Barry Sheppard and to Dick Sullivan who audits our account yearly. The Christmas Walk will take place as customary on 27th December at 10.30 am from the Village Hall. ALL WELCOME and dogs of course. Happy Christmas to all. **(Jo Walker, Sec)**

THE BOOK CLUB will meet in January on Weds 25th at the home of Jane Aslett, Drybrook, Short Lane, Alkham starting at 7.30p.m. We will once again discuss the book Scribble Scribble Scribble by Simon Schama. Please bring along book suggestions for the New Year. For more information contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

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OZ on TV – Just lately I've been so busy trying to decide on a new TV system to install in time for Christmas that I completely missed the 75th anniversary of the start of public service television broadcasting that took place in Britain in November 1936. The technology had developed very slowly over the previous 75 years, from the Italian Giovanni Caselli's 'pantelegraph' in 1862, through the German Paul Nipkow's 'scanning disc' in 1884, the Russian Boris Rosing's use of the cathode ray tube in 1907, to the Scottish inventor John Logie Baird's first television in 1926. Baird followed this with 'Phonovision', an early form of video recording, in 1927. The first day of BBC television, transmitted from Alexandra Palace, began at 3pm on Monday 2 November 1936, when the Postmaster General, G C Tryon MP, gave a speech, followed by news, weather and a half-hour variety show. Further development of TV broadcasting in Britain was delayed by World War II, finally taking off in 1953, when 22 million viewers tuned in to the Coronation. We watched on a neighbour's set, taking it in turns to peer into a tiny almost horizontal monochrome screen. My father's comment was "It's quite interesting, but it won't last." Just four years later, he was glued to the TV set, watching the news, sport, soaps and films, especially on the newly emergent ITV. In the last 50 years, TV has come into its own in a rapidly changing world, bringing wars, revolutions and the space race into people's homes, alongside rock and pop music, some legendary comedy series, educational programmes, general elections, the Queen's Speech, and a fair amount of trash. The choice is huge, and will be even greater if I finally succeed in connecting my new TV system to the internet. **(Steve Osborn)**

FROM THE VICARAGE - January is a new Year, new beginnings and brings for me a time of saying goodbye as I shall be moving to a new post in Eythorne Benefice with Whitfield after Easter. That may seem like a long way away but I fear that the time will pass ever more swiftly and I will be seeing the removals van before I have even packed one box. So January will also be a time of reflection on all that has happened in the four years I have been here. It has certainly been a time of change and development and I have relished the opportunities to be involved. Alkham has scored a great first in the Diocese, the installation of the solar panels and what a great job Geoff Gaskill and the PCC have done. Richard Tapsell and Ken Hammond were the men on the spot when Geoff went on holiday and they ensured that all went to plan. It should be a matter of immense pride for the whole village and demonstrates to everyone just what can be achieved when people work together. I recently witnessed that working together with Bob and Rolo. As most of you are aware I often take the boys to the Warren and have known some of the people living there. One lady has three hens living in a wire enclosure just outside her little 'house'. (This is a very cosy affair made of scrap wood with a plastic roof and a wood burning stove.) She and I were chatting, Bob distracted us both playing with her very small fox terrier pup. Rolo appeared to be sitting quietly, then one of the hens came out to peck on the ground, silently and swiftly Rolo pounced, fortunately Maria was faster and the hen lives for another day! Rolo and Bob then proceeded to examine the enclosure for any gaps, there were none. Happy New Year to you all. **(Sue White 01303 240539)**



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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	**3**	Archaeologists in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	**9**	Parish Council meeting in the village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	**10**	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	**14**	SEKAS in village hall 7 to 10pm – visitors welcome
Monday	**16**	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1st	10 a.m. Joint Benefice Eucharist at Capel		
Sunday 8th	Eucharist 9.00.	W.T. 11 a.m.	
Sunday 15th	Family Service 11a.m.Christingle	Evensong 6 p.m.	Eucharist 9.00
Sunday 22nd	Joint Benefice 10.00 at Capel		
Sunday 29th Candlemas	Joint Benefice 10.00 at St. Mary's		

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

MICRO PUB – Mark Robson and his daughter Bromwen have as expected opened a micro pub called 'The Just Reproach' in King Street, Deal. They are open from 12 to 2pm and 5 to 9pm daily except Mondays. We wish them well and I'm sure they'd love to see you; there will be more news in next month's Newsletter.

SUE WHITE will be leaving the Benefice after Easter 2012 to take up a new post at Eythorne. There are more details in her report on page 3 and we wish her well. A full report will be included in a later edition.

ALKHAM W.I. – This month was the celebration of Christmas having a really excellent meal in the village hall. The caterers were the Chapline from Dover. The next meeting is on the 10th January and everybody is welcome to come along. **(Sue Lees)**

BINS – Dog waste has been put in the new bins which stand outside the bungalows adjacent to the Marquis. The residents are upset by this and ask that whomsoever is dropping the bags in the bins to stop doing so.

GARDEN TALK - We are preparing the programme for 2012 now - suggestions welcome. The season starts with a meeting at 'Sunrise', Meggett Lane on Friday 17th February, from 7.30p.m. The evening promises to be tasty and to have a fruity theme! All welcome. For directions etc, please contact Janet or Gordon Adamson (01303 893413).

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District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187
Alkham web site www.alkham.org

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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 – 999 & 101

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

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JANUARY was a sad month for Alkham with the passing of Betty Neely, Maurice Sayers and Vic Wash-Neave whose lives are remembered on page 2. Sadly, **TONY BARROW** another Alkham resident, died on the 19th January in the River/Temple Ewell Care Home. Our sympathy goes to Janet and all the families.

A CONSULTATION is being held by Kent County Council regarding recycling centres and as part of this the one at Hawkinge is earmarked for possible closure in 2013. Locals feel that this will lead to fly tipping as the alternatives are Folkestone or Whitfield. However KCC say that all views will be taken into account and encourage people to submit feedback. Details can be found at www. kent.gov.uk/hwrcconsultation

GARDEN TALK - This year's visits start with a lighthearted wine tasting quiz featuring local fruit (no need to bring a bottle!) at 'Sunrise', Meggett Lane, South Alkham on Friday 17th February from 7.30p.m. All Welcome. It is hoped to have the programme for the year completed and ready to distribute that evening. Further details: Janet or Gordon Adamson 01303 893413.

BOOK CLUB - The club meeting for Wednesday 29th February will be hosted by Margaret Danstead at 2 Meadow Hill Cottages, Hogbrook Hill Lane (01304 829006) starting at 7.30. The book for discussion is The Lantern by Deborah Lawrenson. For more information contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

ALKHAM W.I. - Helen Scopes, the new President, chaired the meeting in January. Debbie Saunders, an Alkham member, gave a very amusing talk about comic events. The next meeting will be on 14th February 7.30pm; the talk will be highlighted with photos of 'The Everest Pioneer, Capt. John Nowel' talk by Sandra Nowel. New members welcome. **(Sue Lees)**

REFUSE COLLECTION – There has been a torrent of complaints about the new recycling and rubbish bins mainly due to their size and where to put them. The problem is particularly acute at Ewell Minnis where the large lorries can't access and some collections have not been made. The District Councillor said there were 5 people taking calls at DDC with a queue of people waiting. It does look as though there was a lack of planning and an avoidable problem now has to be resolved.

PLANTING – After receiving a number of suggestions the easiest solution for planting the area at the bottom of Slip Lane is a ground cover plant and periwinkle has been suggested. Richard Tapsell is potting some vinca and if anybody else can do the same I'd be very pleased to receive them. **(editor)**

FENCING – In the fields at Ewell Minnis adjacent to Neck Wood somebody has been cutting the wire fences presumably to bypass the stiles. The land is farmed by Di Smith and there are bulls and rams in the fenced fields and if they get together mayhem will ensue. The police have been informed and hopefully arrests will follow.

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY We extend our profound sympathies to Maurice Sayer's family and great crowd of friends. Maurice was a founder member of the Society and our Chairman from the beginning – 1977 to 2012 - a telling record. Wise, kind, persevering and principled Maurice enriched our neighbour-hood, helping conserve its essential character. Thank you, Maurice for your legacy, You will not be forgotten and will be tremendously missed. **(Jo Walker Sec)**

THE ANNUAL QUIZ will be in the village hall on the 11th February at 7.30pm. There are spaces on some tables so please ring me on 824969 if you'd like to join us. **(Brian)**

CHURCH LEAD THEFT - It is sad to report that St Anthony's has not been immune from the current spate of metal theft. Some lead was taken from the church porch roof in early January. Ken Hammond and his son Alan have made a temporary repair to keep the weather out whilst we await a permanent re-sheeting by a specialist company. Further preventive measures have been put in place by the PCC and we are looking at restricting vehicle access into the churchyard. In the meantime, please keep your eyes open and challenge any strangers acting suspiciously around the church. **(Geoff Gaskill)**

OFF-ROADERS - There has been a lot of complaints about the use of off-road vehicles on and off Pimlico Way. The latter is a byway which runs from South Alkham across the top to Slip Lane. Club off-road Europe has permission to use the land adjacent to Pimlico Way on the south side at agreed organised events but over the last year there has been a huge increase in off-road vehicles using the Pimlico area. Every Sunday Pimlico Way is used but if the vehicles are taxed and insured they can legally use the byway but not the adjacent land without the landowner's permission. At an event on the 27th December there were 36 such vehicles using the area and it was felt that damage was being caused to the byway and its edges and also to the land in general. Following representations at the Parish Council meeting they are going to pursue the matter as it does cause a lot of distress to adjacent homeowners and one avenue to be pursued will be whether in terms of planning the land used is fit for purpose.

SMALL car wanted – please ring Brian Croucher on 01304 820055.

JUMBLE SALE – On February 25th the W.I. are holding a jumble sale in the village hall starting at 11am.

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MAURICE SAYERS (1928-2012) – The service on the 16th January was to celebrate the life of Maurice and that is exactly what happened with over 300 people coming to St. Anthony's church. The service began with a eulogy by his son John which was touching and amusing; he said his father was a good man but a little bit naughty. There were tales of his exploits throughout his life mainly featuring rugby which was one of his passions, plus the associated partying afterwards. He captained and played for Dover Rugby Club finally ending up as president from 1990 to 2009. At the end of the John's eulogy there was spontaneous applause. A second eulogy was by John Ayling who went to school with Maurice. They were both evacuated to Ebbw Vale in WWII and unsurprisingly rugby featured again. John told many anecdotes about Maurice most of which were very funny and again finished with applause. The grandchildren then came to the lectern and each read part of a poem. Most people know about Maurice's working life as a solicitor at Stillwell and Harby and a leading character in Alkham but the service said all there was to say about him; a man with many friends and one who enjoyed his life to the full. The reception was at the Dover Rugby Club where no doubt a few pints were drunk in his memory.

BETTY NEELY (1926-2011) was a Lancashire lass who moved to Kent with her husband and lived for 52 years at a farm about a mile from the centre of Alkham called Mount Ararat. The door was always open and you could be sure that you would get a friendly welcome. Earlier in life Betty trained as a florist under Constance Spry and she put these talents to good use for the church often supplying the flowers herself. She had five children who in turn gave her 8 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. She was very active in the village and at various stages was a church warden at St. Anthony's, a Parish Councillor, W.I. secretary and a member of many committees. She was always at the fete, was a master at running a raffle and very persuasive on the phone when drumming up support for events. In 1998 she and three others collected money for the Millennium celebrations and as a result we have the badger sign on Vicarage Meadow and had a village party in the old Hogbrook barn. She was a generous and likeable person who will be greatly missed.

VIC (JOHN) WASH-NEAVE - Vic came to Ewell Minnis with his wife Edith 16 years ago. A very likeable and much respected man being well known in Ewell Minnis and Alkham village. Originally from Sevenoaks, West Kent, Vic joined the RAF in 1955 aspiring to becoming a pilot, however, health issues took him on another path within the service, becoming an electronics specialist in Research & Development. He became so proficient in this field that later, in his professional life, he was hired by the theatrical & entertainments profession by such celebrities as Paul Daniels to design and build the special effects equipment used in his business of magician. Vic saw much of the world whilst in the RAF and this passion for travel would stay with him throughout his life, even during his long illness he managed two world cruises with his ever devoted wife, Edith. Vic was such an interesting and intelligent man to converse with, that to pop in for a five minute chat on subjects as diverse as politics to engineering or Coy Carp, that five minutes invariably became one to two hours. Though always a busy man, he would always have time for friends and family a sincere and personable man, he had been a Freemason for many years at Deal; his popularity being demonstrated by a Freemason's guard of honour at his funeral comprising 125 Brothers. Sadly, following a long bravely suffered illness, Vic passed away during December 2011. He will be missed by all who knew him. A bright light has gone out in Ewell Minnis but his memory lives on. Our thoughts are with Edith at this sad time. **(Geoffrey Lymer)**

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MAURICE SAYERS - DIED 5TH JANUARY, 2012 - The village telegraph service is wonderful. When Maurice died, myself and the family couldn't believe it when cards and letters from everyone started to arrive immediately. It truly gave us all a great feeling of comfort that we had friends who really cared, and helped us tremendously. A big thank you to everyone for your support. Maurice would have been delighted to see all his friends, and there were some there I know he hadn't known for long, all honouring him with their presence. I myself was very touched indeed to see the Church so full, and will never forget the feeling it gave me. The Rev. Sue White conducted the service beautifully, with Ernest and Rachael playing the organ, and the choir gave the finishing touch to it all in that church with its lovely flowers. Myself, Jenny and Andrew, Patsy and Stephen and John and Angie wish to thank everyone, and there were many friends,- who helped to relieve our grief and make Maurice's funeral service a memorable one. **(Pamela Sayers)**

KRYS LATHAM who lives in Slip Lane and whose parents were Polish has written a book entitled 'Journey to the Baobab Tree'. It is the true story of two children's epic journey from Eastern Poland to Siberia, their escape to Persia and finally to Africa during World War Two. Alinka's family lived in a small river town in Eastern Poland where her father was the chief of police. Witek's father was a forest keeper in the remote forest regions bordering Russia. When the war began in September 1939, the Soviets, allied for the first two years of the war with the Nazis, invaded Eastern Poland and deported over one and a half million Polish people to the far ends of Soviet Union. Alinka and Witek, both ten years old at the time, were among those taken. A million died in the deportations. Against all odds, Witek and Alinka survived and escaped. The stories of those war years are narrated in the book, and tell of resourcefulness, faith and humour even in the darkest times. A few chapters are on her web site www.kryslatham.co.uk and if you would like to buy a copy of the book costing £9.99 please ring Krys on 01304 824089.

OZ on PALINDROMES – Whilst sifting ideas for this month's column I noticed that the date, 2.1.12, was a palindrome, that is to say something that reads the same forwards and backwards. There is an even better one coming, 21.02.2012., and many more occur later this year, depending on exactly how the dates are abbreviated. These are numeric examples, but the 17th century English playwright Ben Jonson originally derived the word 'palindrome' to describe words or phrases that read either way, from the Greek 'palin dromos' meaning 'again direction'. They are found in all languages and at all times, back to at least AD79, and are often associated with mystical beliefs. Two well-known English examples are "Madam, I'm Adam", and Leigh Mercer's "A man, a plan, a canal – Panama!" John Julius Norwich has collected palindromes for many years and included them in the 'Christmas Crackers' that he sends to friends each Christmas. They range from the elegant warning "Sex at noon taxes" to Roy Dean's "Senile's Reverie I' Reverse Lines", which is a poem consisting of 72 lines, each of which is a complete palindrome, and took Dean twenty years to compose. Among the longest palindromic English words are the Oxford English Dictionary's 'tattarrattat', coined by James Joyce in Ulysses to represent a knock at the door, and 'detartrated' meaning cleaned of tartar, in the Guinness Book of Records. Guinness also gives the 19-letter Finnish word 'saippuakivikauppias' meaning 'soapstone vendor', as the world's longest palindromic word. Finally, Wikipedia tells me that two complete English palindromic novels have been published: Veritas by David Stephen, 1980, (58,795 letters), and Dr Awkward & Olson in Oslo by Lawrence Levine, 1986, (31,954 words). Perhaps the next challenge should be the longest palindromic novel with numbers of letters, words and publication date all being palindromic. **(Steve Osborn)**

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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	**7**	White Cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm
Saturday	**11**	Annual quiz in village hall starts 7.30pm
Tuesday	**14**	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	**18**	W.I. jumble 11am & SEKAS 7-10pm in village hall
Monday	**16**	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	**25**	Beekeepers in village hall from 2 to 5pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th	Evensong 4.30pm	Eucharist 9.00am	W.T. 11 a.m.
Sunday 12th	Eucharist 9.00am	W.T. 11 a.m.	
Sunday 19th	Family Service 11a.m.	Evensong 6 p.m.	Eucharist 9.00
February 22nd	Ash Wednesday -7 p.m. Sung Eucharist at Alkham		
Sunday 26th	Joint Benefice 10.00 at Capel		

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

From the Vicarage - February will be upon us by the time you read this but already the daffodils and crocus are appearing in the garden. Nature really is wonderful, this morning was our first real frost and as I drove to Dover the frost patterns on the bushes and trees were a sight to behold. Granted I was sitting in the warmth and comfort of the car but I did see one intrepid runner in shorts! The boys and I have had some lovely walks in the Warren and we have met up with another Bischon called 'Bobby'. It's great fun to see the two little white dogs playing together, they are very much into wrestling, standing up face to face until one or the other topples over. It never fails to surprise me just how accepting dogs are of each other, we rarely meet antisocial dogs and both Rolo and Bob are always keen to make friends. It would be nice if we could be as accepting of others but that openness seems to desert us as we grow up. It is there when we are young, I remember shortly after we were married and had moved into our first home there was a knock at the door. The little boy from the flat next door stood there, 'I's Robert. Can your boy come out to play?' he asked, pointing to my husband. The Church Wardens are preparing for my departure as they will be responsible for the church buildings and for the maintenance of the services in each church. They will call upon other clergy and our Authorised Lay Ministers, Theda Mulloy, Helen Scopes and Keith Hughes will play their part. The Church Hall in Capel has been revamped and is looking very trim and the solar panels in Alkham are generating cash regularly, and in Church Hougham we shall have the Quilt Festival in September. There's a great deal happening this year. **Sue White 01303 240539**

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MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 206510
District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187

Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969
email brianwimsett@hotmail.com
Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791
alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net
Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
Police – 999 & 101
Alkham web site www.alkham.org

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

NSPCC HELPLINE 0808 800 5000 help@nspcc.org.uk

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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No. 221 March 2012

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HAVE SOME JUBILEE FUN and put June 4th in your diary! Come along to a diamond jubilee village lunch party at 1pm on Vicarage Meadow (village hall if wet). Bring your own food and drink to share, and then join in some good old fashioned races and competitions. More details will be announced nearer the time. **(Linda Gaskill - FOSA)**

TONY BARROW – I would like to thank all residents of Alkham who sent sympathy cards and flowers and also helped on the day of Tony's funeral. In particular I would like to thank Shirley Prince and family for all their hard work in preparing the food and Shirley in particular for all the beautiful flowers. Also I must thank Sue White for the church service and others who helped on the day. Tony is now resting in peace in the valley that he loved. **(Janet Barrow)**

THE ANNUAL QUIZ seemed to go well again with 12 tables filling the hall. The winners were on a table led by Rachel Fountain who lives in the west side of the village. There was a tie for second place between the team from Newlyns Meadow and the one from Ellinge. On a tie-breaker question Newlyns answered first and was declared second. The winners each received a bottle of wine and the runners up a can of double measure spirit and mixer. A profit of £400 was made and this is being split equally between the Friends of St Anthony and the Alzheimer Society.

BOOK CLUB - The next book club meeting will be on Wednesday 28th March at the home of Avi Munn, Poems, Short Lane, Alkham Tel 01304 829484 starting at 7.30. The book for discussion will be The Stranger's Child by Alan Hollinghurst. For more information about the village book club contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

BROADBAND – KCC have a commitment to get better broad-band for communities in Kent and hope to get 2Mb for everyone by 2015. KCC and the Government are investing over £20 million to help make this happen. However, to achieve this, they need broad-band providers to invest and demonstrate the demand for better broadband. The greater the demand, the more broadband providers will be prepared to invest in Kent. It only takes five minutes to register your demand and it could make a great difference, so please register now and encourage your neighbours to get involved as well. The link to register is:



www.makekentquicker.com

I TOOK my racing car to South Africa again in January for two events near Johanesburg and Capetown. The car is as built for LeMans and International racing in the late 1960s and is powered by a 1.7 litre Ford engine so is only competitive in the lower classes. The two meetings offered three sprint races and two 45 minute races competing against GT40s, Porsche 917s, McLaren and Lola cars and I managed to win my class for the overall trophy. Racing in South Africa is very enjoyable as the whole scene is relaxed compared to here and of course a break from our winter weather is very welcome. I raced in 40degrees on Sunday and arrived home the following Tuesday to have to dig the car out of the snow. **(Barry Sheppard -** Alkham**)**

FULLY FUNDED COURSE 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 under-stands 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 7th and Thursday 8th March 2012. Lunch and refreshments are included free of charge, and travel expenses can be reimbursed. If you would like to book a place, please contact Karen at the Volunteer Centre on 01304 367898 or email office@doverdistrictvolunteering.org.uk

GARDEN TALK - Hopefully signs of spring will be well on their way for our next Meeting on Friday 16th March at South Alkham Farm when our hosts will be Maureen & Roland Brown. You don't have to be an expert gardener to join us! Lots of chat, mostly about gardening. We aim to start around 7.30p.m. Parking to rear of farmhouse, first gate on left after turning into Meggett Lane. **(Janet Adamson)**

A JUMBLE SALE will be held in the village hall in aid of PCC funds on the 17th March starting at 11.00am.

THE JUMBLE SALE held by the W.I. on the 18th February went very well and raised £104.

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WINDMILLS – John Richards, who was born in Alkham, sent me a photo of his aunt Winnie standing in front of a windmill. He thinks the mill was between Lower Standen and Hawkinge and most probably in the parish. Hawkinge was a small village just north of Standen crossroads but the name is now applied to the larger conurbation that used to be called Uphill. Another picture of the mill was found on the University of Kent web site and it looks a bit different. However it was a smock windmill where only the top revolves, so it is possible they are the same but with a different top. The web picture was taken in 1940 and shows the Alkham valley in the background but the mill has now gone. There was also a mill at Drellingore but this was dismantled in the early part of the 19th century and taken to Ringwould (Ripple mill) and another windmill at Uphill (now Hawkinge) on Mill Lane by the school, was demolished in the recent past. Sue Lees thinks there may have been a windmill at the top of Common Hill (opposite Slip Lane) but there are no records. If anyone has any further information please let us know. **(editor)**



SHEPWAY LIFELINE was established in 1982 to give added security to residents in the Shepway area and since that time has grown into a telecare service provider with clients throughout Kent. Lifeline is a fully accredited and innovative 24/7 monitoring centre supplying all facets of telecare alarms, including care and security solutions for vulnerable individuals, lone workers and local businesses. The service is run from a control centre in the Civic Centre in Folkestone. There is also a team of mobile engineers that travel to wherever they are needed in the county. Shepway Lifeline is a not-for profit service working alongside care and health services and Kent Police to provide community alarms and public safety. The primary product is the Lifeline alarm. The high quality standards coupled with the lowest prices in Kent (**still under £3.00 per week**) remains the secret of its success. If you are interested in having a Lifeline or, if you know somebody that would benefit from this service, we would like to hear from you. We will happily visit the potential service user, give them a free demonstration and if it is acceptable, we can leave the alarm in place and them protected immediately. Please contact us as follows: - Phone - (01303) 242615 or 242971: Address - Shepway Lifeline, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone,CT202QY: Email lifeline.proactive @shepway.gov.uk or see web site www.shepway.gov.uk/lifeline.

ALKHAM W.I. – The February meeting had an excellent talk by Sandra Noel who showed superb photographs taken by her grandfather Captain John Noel who was a premier climber of mount Everest. Next month's talk is about fashion and ration. New members are always welcome to join whether they live in the parish or outside.

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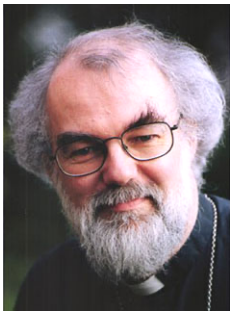
OZ on BITTERNS – It was pleasing to read recently that Britain's bittern population is recovering, after a century of near extinction. The Great Bittern (Botaurus stellaris) is related to the Grey Heron, but lacks the heron's elegance, being large, plain, brown and very shy. It is identifiable by its repeated booming that has the lowest frequency of any other birdcall, and sometimes likened to the sound of someone blowing into an empty bottle. For this reason the bittern is often known as 'boomer', 'bottle bump', and 'bull o' the bog', amongst many other alliterative names. Because of its pathological shyness, the bittern is rarely seen. I saw one only once, at Minsmere in Suffolk, on my birthday ten years ago. We entered the Bittern Hide before lunch, fully expecting a long wait, or more probably no sighting at all. After only twenty minutes, a great shout went up and there was a loud thump as the bittern hit the reed bed below us. Much later came the sonorous booming that confirmed the bird's arrival. Humans have hunted bitterns from Neolithic times, particularly over the last two millennia. In the Middle Ages, bittern was a popular dish amongst aristocracy and the merchant classes, and in the 18th and 19th centuries many bitterns were killed by taxidermists. The final blow was the draining of the wetlands, and bitterns were nearly extinct by 1900. Over the next 50 years numbers rose, fluctuated, and fell again, to just 11 in 1997. Faced with threats from salt water flooding freshwater areas such as Minsmere, the bittern has now attracted funding from the European Union, and the RSPB is building new inland nesting areas, for example at Lakenheath in Sussex. The number of bitterns in Britain is now over 100 and rising, mostly in Southern England. **(Steve Osborn)**

FROM THE VICARAGE - I'm writing this following the visit of the Archbishop Rowan to the Benefice to celebrate and to preach on



Sunday 12th February. The Baptist Fellowship with Pastor Colin Patience joined us which was a pleasure as there are so many activities which we are engaged in together. Do take a look at the pictures which Tony Bentham took which are on www.villageyak.co.uk (in search option type 'archbishop'). For the 110 plus people who were there it was a real celebration and an opportunity to speak with the Archbishop and pose for photos! I was told by Dick Salmon, our churchwarden, that this was the first time an Archbishop had visited the Benefice. As we go into the season of Lent (purple on the altar and on my stole) we enter a time of reflection and anticipation of all that Easter means. The realities of life mean that we have to cope with both joyful and troubling times and like the weather we cannot choose when to have the sunshine or the storms. There are many who look back on past Lents as being the time they were exhorted to 'give up' sweets, chocolates, biscuits. It took me a long time to understand what giving up sweets had to do with Easter. Did it mean a bigger Easter egg or more of them? I have to say that as far as Bob the Bischon is concerned the last thing he would ever do is give up any item of food, in fact if you do give up sweets, chocolate, cakes, he'll eat them for you! But maybe we should be thinking of doing something extra, taking the children out for a nature ramble rather than sitting on the computer; doing a regular stint in a charity shop or taking an elderly neighbour shopping. We shall be looking at environmental issues as our bible study for Lent and it may well provoke us to consider how we can better protect the beautiful environment in which we live. We all of us need to take time to reflect on our life style and consider the choices we have. If you need Bob's help just let me know! **Sue White 01303 240539**

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Other events in the village		
Tuesday	**6**	White Cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm
Saturday	**10**	South East Kent Astronomical Society 7 to 10pm
Tuesday	**13**	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	**17**	PCC Jumble sale 11.00am
Monday	**19**	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	**31**	Beekeepers in village hall from 2 to 5pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4th	4.30 p.m. Taise Service		10am Joint Benefice
Sunday 11th		10 a.m. Joint Benefice	
Sunday 18th	10 a.m. Joint Benefice	6 p.m. Service of Healing	
Sunday 25th			10am.Joint Benefice

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

THE ENVIRONMENT is the theme for the Benefice 2012 Lent Course to be held on Thursday afternoons at St Radigund's, Capel starting on 23rd February. Over four weeks it is an opportunity to learn, discuss and reflect on the relationship between Christian faith and our fragile earth. We plan to finish it off with a candlelit supper on 31st March to mark Earth Hour. To find out more and book a place call Geoff or Linda on 823100.

THE EASTER LILY for many is the beautiful trumpet shaped white flower symbolizing purity, virtue, innocence, hope and life; the Spiritual Essence of Easter. For the last couple of years during Easter, the flower ladies of St Anthony's Church have invited you to purchase an Easter Lily in honour or memory of a loved one. Each lily is then used to help decorate St Anthony's Church for our Easter Sunday Celebration. Each Lily cost £3.50 and you can place an order by sending a Cheque made payable to "Alkham Flower Club". Please put the name (s) of those you wish to commemorate and the amount and return to me Rosie Hansraj, Rose Cottage, Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DB. For more information please telephone 01304 822585.

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will present a performance of Mendelssohn's Elijah at 7.30 pm on Saturday 24th March in Dover Town Hall. The 100-strong chorus, together with professional soloists and a choir of Angels from the Dover Grammar School for Girls and The Connaught Orchestra. Tickets costing £12 (Students £6) are available from Dover Tourist Information Centre (next to the Town Hall), members of Dover Choral 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)**

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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

MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 206510
District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187

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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 222 April 2012

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SAVE THE ALKHAM FETE! There will be a Fete Committee meeting on 4th April at 8 pm in the Village Hall; the first topic for discussion will be whether there is sufficient support to actually have the Fete this year; the AGM was very poorly attended and without a reasonable core of people to share the work before and on the day we will not be able to continue having an Annual Fete. If you are willing to help, please come along to the meeting, or if you really cannot attend, let me or Irene Barnard or Clive Batcheldor know in advance. It would be a shame to break over forty years of tradition, but without the support of the village we will not be able to continue. **Paul Tapsell (01303 892082)**

THE QUEEN'S Diamond Jubilee Community Tea Party - The Chairman of Dover District Council, Councillor Sue Nicholas is holding a Community Tea Party for residents of the district to come together and reminisce about their memories of the Queen ascending to the throne. The event is on Thurs 10th May at the Town Hall from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. There are 4 tickets available for Alkham parishioners, so if you would like to attend please contact Angela on 824791 before 16th April. The tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis, so if you fancy sharing your own memories of the Queens coronation whilst enjoying afternoon tea, please get in touch as soon as possible. Thank you. **Angela - Clerk to Alkham Parish Council**

MAX WALKER – It is sad to report that Max died on the 10th March at the age of 77. He and his wife have lived in Rectory Cottage on Slip Lane for some years having returned from South Africa where Max practiced as an architect. Our sympathies go to his wife Jo, family and friends…. **And** *Jo would like to thank everyone for their support and kindness at this difficult time.*



THE PICTURE shows the bend at Drellingore on the Alkham Valley Road where it appears as though someone has stolen the large aluminium chevron boards. Surrey are replacing boards with plastic or fibre glass based signs because of this problem.

A Town Unearthed: Folkestone before 1500 - The Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 2nd April at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. We are pleased to let you know that our guest speaker will be Dr Andrew Richardson from 'A Town Unearthed' which is a 3 year community archaeology project to unearth and record Folkestone's early history. Please come along and listen to his presentation on this very interesting local topic and enjoy some refreshments afterwards. We look forward to seeing you there! **Angela - Clerk to Alkham Parish Council**

WANTED - Easter egg hunters and gardeners! We will be having our annual Easter Garden competition and Easter Egg Hunt at the 9 am service at St Anthony's on Easter Day , 8th April. This will also be Revd Sue's last service as our vicar, so it would be great to have as many of you as possible to say goodbye. Please make your Easter gardens on a tray to bring up to church for us all to enjoy. **Geoff Gaskill**

DR ALLAN GRAEME BUNDY sadly died on the 19th February and Steve Osborn (OZ) will write about his very interesting life in next month's Newsletter

ST ANTHONY'S GUITAR CONCERT 14th April at 6:30. For the third successive year Jimmy D'Alton Bellas is bringing his past and present students back to St Anthony's for another Spring Evening Guitar Concert. He has also managed to obtain the services once again of Grant Dowse who is now performing at the highest professional level and is eager to perform in the beautiful setting of St Anthony's once again. Tickets are £7.50 from Den (824845) or Brian (824969).

Den Barnard

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB Our season starts on 22nd April away at Northbourne with the first home game on the 29th against River Woodpeckers; we are also hoping to run some mid-week nets sessions on Wednesdays on the Meadow from mid May (weather permitting). If you are interested in playing or training, whether regularly or occasionally, please contact Peter Frater (01304 820067) or Paul Tapsell (01303 892082). I'm waiting for confirmation that Peter's happy to have his home number in the newsletter (in case of stalkers - it often happens with famous sportsmen!), but I hope we won't need to blank his number out!

THE VILLAGE HALL is run by a committee and new members are needed. Anyone over the age of 18 who lives in the parish can put themselves forward to be a member at the AGM, which will be held on the 24th April in the village hall starting at 7.00pm. If you would like to express an interest before that time please phone Sue Lees on 822661.

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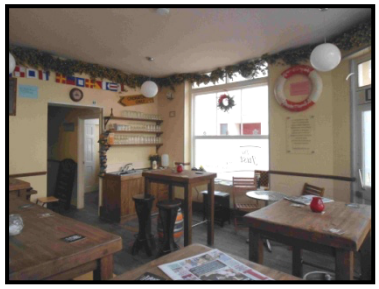
THE JUST REPROACH - Situated in King Street, Deal, this is the name of the latest micropub to open in Kent and is run by Mark Robson and daughter Bronwen who moved from Alkham a couple of years ago. Mark has always had a keen interest in real ales and after a visit to The Butcher's Arms in Herne Village he decided to give up a 20 year career as head teacher working with pupils with autism to open The Just Reproach with Bronwen. It was launched in December and has already a large nucleus of regulars enjoying a wide selection of real ales from microbreweries across the country and Kentish breweries in particular. In addition to real ales, red and white house wines and soft drinks are also available. In line with the philosophy behind the micropub movement, there is no music, no fruit machines or television and mobile phone conversations are forbidden! Mark and Bronwen are looking forward to meeting all old friends and neighbours at the earliest opportunity. They are closed all Monday and open 12:00 – 14:00 and 17:00 – 21:00 Tuesday to Thursday with later closing at 23:00 on Friday and Saturday. Visit their web site www.thejustreproach.co.uk. **Den Barnard**



DRAMA IN SLIP LANE – The case of the missing lady. In the spring of 1957 I was an 8 year old living at Malmains Cottage (formerly 'Bletchley') in Slip Lane. One evening my parents, Harold and Margaret, had gone to bed somewhat later than usual when about midnight they heard a car stop outside our house. Now in 1957 it was quite unusual to hear a car go up the lane in the evening and my parents were not expecting any visitors at that hour. My father got up and pulled aside the curtain and saw to his amazement some men pulling something through the hedge of the Manor gardens opposite our house and loading it into a car. At first my parents thought it might be a cow. At the time the field behind the Manor gardens was used by local farmer George Kirby (my uncle) to graze his cows and even in 1957 a cow was quite a valuable thing. My father immediately noticed another man standing on the steps leading up to our front gate. The thought occurred to him to switch on our outside light but thought better of this in case the man was armed. We later found out that two further vehicles were positioned at the top of the lane and at the bottom by the shop, presumably to stop any vehicle which might appear whilst the gang were carrying out the robbery. The car departed and of course my parents hardly slept a wink after the theft. At 5.30 next morning my father went to the home of the village policeman (what were they!) to report the crime after realising what they had taken was not a cow but a lead statue of a (Greek?) lady from the Manor gardens then owned by a Mrs. French. The policeman's reaction was 'oh we'll never find that now, it will already be up in London and melted down!'. We heard nothing more of this crime but have often told the story in our family. **Robert Ferguson**

THE BYWAY which runs from South Alkham and across the top to Slip Lane used to have three houses by the side of it at a place called Pimlico. The line of the byway has been altered over the years and a hole appeared in the track where the houses used to be. At the top the hole was about a metre wide and quite deep. It is thought that it was either the site of a well or an old cellar and the hole has now been filled in.

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FAREWELL TO SUE AND RICHARD - We are planning a farewell party for Sue and Richard on Easter Monday, 9th April, which will be held in Capel Church Hall from 6.00pm. Everybody in the Benefice will be very welcome to come along and share in the evening. A 'co-ordinator' has been appointed for each village and I have been delegated for Alkham to organise our share of the food, etc., for the supper. If anyone would like to donate a favourite dish or dessert, salad etc., or can offer help in any way it would be very helpful if you could let me know as soon as possible. It would also be helpful from the catering point of view if we could have an idea of the numbers. My telephone number is 820701. **Marion Banks-Nash**

ALKHAM W.I. - Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the speaker, Judi Knight. She had a genuine exhibition of WW11 clothes and told the tale of how the problem started in the War with Ration Books and how that problem continued for several years after the War. Although president, Helen Scopes has made a 'Queen's Crown' for a Group Meeting competition, any other member can make one too and bring it to the next WI meeting. That meeting on 10th April is also to be a competition for all members, if they wish to. Everyone is asked to dress up in second hand clothes, preferably purchased at a Charity Shop. **Sue Lees**

THE BOOK CLUB meeting for Wednesday 25th April will be hosted by Susannah Tapsell at Bramhall, Alkham Valley road (01304 822295) commencing at 7.30. The book for discussion is The Uncommon Reader by Alan Bennett. For more information contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729

GARDEN TALK - Our next Meeting is a visit to see the delightful garden of Richard and Susannah Tapsell. We meet at 'Bramhall', Alkham Valley Road from 7.00p.m. All welcome to join us for an enjoyable evening of viewing and chatting. Details of the year's programme available from Janet Adamson 01303 893413.

THE RESIDENTS of Green Lane, Ewell Minnis, would like to thank John Huggins for clearing the snow with his tractor snowplough such that they could get their cars out. Green Lane is a mainly unmade road running from the Minnis to the top of the hill above Slip Lane.

OZ on SANDWICH – Having recently rediscovered the account of how, in April 1762, John Montagu, the 4th Earl of Sandwich, invented the humble sandwich, I thought that it would be amusing to present it here and now as a 250th anniversary. The story goes that Montagu was in the habit, while playing cards, of eating meat wrapped in bread, to save time and avoid making the cards greasy, and his playmates would call for "The same as Sandwich!" That much, recorded in Edward Gibbon's Journal, is probably true, but this method of eating was first recorded well over 2,000 years ago, when Hillel the Elder, a Jewish sage, used to place lamb and herbs between two slices of matzah at Passover. In Britain during the Middle Ages, thick slabs of bread, called 'trenchers' (from Old French 'tranchier' to cut), were cut and used as plates. When the meal was over, the trencher, together with left-over food, was either eaten by the diner, often with sauce, given to the poor, or fed to the dogs. 'Trencher' in turn gives rise to the beautifully trenchant word 'trencherman' for someone enthusiastically addicted to food and drink. Similar customs were noted by the English naturalist John Ray in 1673 in the Netherlands, when he described how Dutch drinkers ate beef, between slices of bread and butter, in their taverns. In 19th century Europe, as the Industrial Revolution gathered momentum, the sandwich became widespread as a convenient, cheap and fast meal. Its popularity continues into today's Sloppy Joes, BLTs and Subs, alongside the still-loved traditional 'butties' and 'sarnies'. So although the Earl of Sandwich didn't actually invent the sandwich, his title did much to enrich the language with such descriptive phrases as 'to sandwich', 'sandwich-boards', 'sandwich construction', sandwich course', sandwich-man and 'sandwich technique'. **Steve Osborn**

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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	**2**	Annual Parish meeting in village hall at 7.30pm
Tuesday	**3**	White Cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm
Wednesday	**4**	Fete meeting in village hall 8.00pm
Tuesday	**10**	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	**14**	South East Kent Astronomical Society 7 to 10pm
Monday	**16**	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	**24**	Village Hall AGM 7.00pm in village hall

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1st	Joint Benefice 10am		Songs of P 5pm VH
Thursday 5th		Eucharist 7p.m.	
Friday 6th	Meditation 12-1p.m.	Meditation 2-3p.m.	Meditation 2-3pm
Sunday 8th	Sung Eucharist 9am	Sung Eucharist 11.30am	Eucharist 10.15am
Sunday 15th	Family Worship 11 a.m.	Evensong 6.00 p.m.	Eucharist 9.00 a.m.
Sunday 22nd	Joint Benefice 10.a.m.		
Sunday 29th	Joint Benefice at St. Mary's at 10 a.m.		

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

From the Vicarage - The weeks are flying by and there is still so much to do. I've started to clear things out and am well on the way to having a long term friendship with the men who man the Hawkinge site. They have willingly unloaded the van and sent me in the right direction for unwanted batteries, general rubbish, hardcore and wood! Why didn't I start this before I even knew I might be moving!? We all know we need to clear out things but there are very few of us who can do it ruthlessly and systematically. But now I've started I'll continue. Thank goodness for friends who can make use of books, I hate throwing them out even when I know I won't be returning to them; for the Rainbow Op shop which took our son's fancy dress clothes from Uni, he won't want them again. It's a very appropriate time for me to be sorting things out for Christians are asked to reflect during Lent on the way they live. On Easter Day we will celebrate the risen Lord Jesus at each church. It will be a celebration that will be tinged with sadness because it is always hard to say farewell to friends but I am thankful for all that has been given to me over the past four years. This has been my first incumbency and I have learnt because you have been generous enough to allow me to do that. I thank you for the times I have 'done it for the first time' and you have told me it was 'well done'. Thank you for encouraging me. We haven't told Rolo and Bob that they are moving but I am sure that they sense something is afoot. Bob surpassed himself when we went out yesterday. Our suppers were defrosting in what I assumed was a safe place, I was wrong. Bob had eaten both and could barely move but Rolo was pleased to see us! **Sue White 01303 240539**

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SPRING LAMBS – A couple in the parish have recently acquired some rare breed sheep. On the 8th April they proudly found, with the aid of a torch, that their first two Shetland lambs had been born, which were then taken to the shelter of the barn.

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Plans for the Jubilee lunch party on June 4th at 1pm on Vicarage Meadow are underway. Everyone is welcome! Bring food to share, something to drink and don't forget your plates and cutlery. Old fashioned races will be held for young and old. There will be a Jubilee hat competition with the theme: red, white and blue.... surprise, surprise, so get cracking. ! We will be buying mugs for village children to commemorate the event so if you would like your child to receive one, please email lindagaskill@btinternet.com with your name, address and child's name. To allow us to plan effectively please email Linda (above) or Den at denbarnard@yahoo.com. **Linda Gaskill**

FARMERS MARKET – The Marquis would like to know if there would be any interest in holding a Farmers Market in their car park. They would be happy to organise it if people were going to spend some money at the market so please let them know either by popping in or contacting them on 01304 873410 or ben@themarquisatalkham.co.uk

ALKHAM FETE - At the meeting on Wednesday 4th April it was decided that because of the various Jubilee and Olympic events that would be occurring in the village (and elsewhere) it would be sensible not to have a Fete this year; however I would ask you all to mark Saturday 13th July 2013 in your diaries now as the Fete will be back (with a vengeance) next year! I understand from the Dover and Folkestone papers, who ran a couple of very entertaining "Fete in Crisis Talks" articles, that the Glastonbury Festival has made the same decision. I would like to thank everyone who came along to the meeting on the 4th or called me after seeing the last newsletter (or the items in the Newspapers!); I am sure we can look forward to a very rosy future with such loyal and committed helpers. **Paul Tapsell**

OIL THEFT - Some time on the 21st March after a delivery of 1000 litres of fuel oil was made to a house in the parish the oil was stolen. The police say that there have been no similar incidents in the area recently, but it would be as well if people were made aware of the theft.

NEWSLETTER – I would like to thank Larry Lambourne for delivering the Newsletter to the houses at Hockley Sole, Lower Standen and Drellingore for so many years. It is a difficult round to do and quite understandably he has now decided to call it a day. **Editor**

THE MARQUIS won Kent restaurant of the year at a recent awards ceremony held by Produced in Kent. They are also offering bar snacks plus afternoon tea every day from 2.30 – 5pm on their terrace with a 10% discount for Alkham residents if they use their 10% off cards (details from the Marquis).

THE GREAT BRITISH MENU on BBC2 is a competition to create a menu for the London 2012 Olympic Games. The chef at the Marquis, Charlie Lakin, is representing the north east of England and also the Marquis. The programme has started and Charlie's round is in the week 23rd to 27th of April.

THE ANNUAL PARISH meeting on the 2nd April was quite well attended. A very interesting talk was given by Dr. Andrew Richardson about works at the East Cliff in Folkestone to uncover a Roman Villa. In fact two were found plus a major iron age industrial site which is of national importance. If you'd like further details please contact me. **Editor**

A ROOM is wanted by the Marquis for one of its staff. Please contact Ben on 01304 873410 (07921331508) or email ben@themarquisatalkham.co.uk if you can help.

The Friends of St Anthony's started three years ago purely to raise money for repairs and maintenance of our beautiful parish church. The committee now feel that we need to expand the team so if you are interested in joining the Friends Committee please contact any of the current committee members: Brian Wimsett, Rosemary Heddle, Rosie Hansraj, Val Fowler, Linda Gaskill or Den Barnard. **(Den Barnard)**

THE BOOK CLUB meeting for Wednesday 30th May will be at the home of Helen Price, Meggett Farm, Meggett Lane Alkham 01303 252764 .The book for discussion is Birds Without Wings by Louis de Bernieres. The meeting starts at 7.30p.m. For more details please ring Jane Aslett on 01304 824729.

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1901 FIRE - At 7.30am a fire broke out at Everden Farm, Alkham and a messenger was dispatched to the headquarters of the Folkestone fire brigade. The three horse steamer was immediately sent but owing to the long-standing complaint of using inferior horses one had to be abandoned by the road and the others arrived at walking pace at 9.00am. Water was at once poured on the flames, being drawn from a pond in the yard but despite exertions the fire was not under control until 5.00pm. A ten stall stable, two sheds and a barn were destroyed. The outbreak was caused by a farm-hand leaving a burning lantern and the damage was estimated to be about £1000 (£100,000 today). *This story is from a local paper in the archives held by Sue Lees.*

GUITAR CONCERT - For the third year running this was another tremendous success. Each year, Jimmy D'Alton Bellas organises this concert which features a selection of his current guitar pupils together with some of his past, now professional, star students. Jimmy takes part himself and also has invited guests. This year Emily Renshaw returned with Tim Kidd singing unaccompanied with such quality that at least two members of the audience were reduced to tears. Grant McFarlande Dowse, who now regularly plays at all the big music festivals, again stunned the audience with his ability and interpretation. Alice Thompson on flute finished the evening with some beautiful flute solos then joined Grant with some guitar/flute duos. Each year the church has been filled to capacity for these concerts, a great tribute to Jimmy. All proceeds go to the Friends of St Anthony's. **(Den Barnard)**

AIR AMBULANCE – There is a petition to encourage the Government to exempt Air Ambulance services from duty on the fuel they use, in the same way as the Lifeboats (RNLI) are exempt. If 100,000 signatures are gained, Parliament is duty bound to debate the issue - currently there is over 15,000 signatures. To sign the petition please log on to http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/29349.

GARDEN TALK - On Friday 18th May we visit Box Tree Cottage in Slip Lane (white picket fence) where our host is Pam Sayers. A chance to view the extensive garden and discuss lots of gardening topics in convivial company. All welcome from 7.30p.m. **Janet Adamson**

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY 2012 started in a sad way as our chairman Maurice Sayers passed away. The society started in the mid '70s as a reaction to the devastation of hedgerows and woodland by a farmer determined to gain as much open space as possible despite breaking the law and some of the land being completely unsuitable for crops. The society was very active in restraining the man's activities with protests and requiring tree preservation orders. The man moved away to north Kent and subsequently served a prison sentence for similar activity in that locality. Maurice became chairman when the society was formally set up in 1977 and, apart from a ten year period, remained in that position throughout. We are now moving into a new era with Maurice's enthusiasm for our area as a guide we will be able to respond to any development or behaviour considered unsuitable by our many members acting as an independent voice with their backing. It can be the case that we can speak more freely than the Parish Council and certainly add our support to it when the occasion arises. We are seeking a new chairman and will let you know the successful candidate in due course. In the meantime your subscriptions (£1 per member) or donations are most welcome, to any committee member, I expect you know one of them; Martin and Rosemary Heddle, Marion Banks -Nash, Jo Walker, Val Fowler, Mike Ross or to Barry Sheppard, Honorary Treasurer, Ellinge House, Alkham, CT15 7EG

MASSAGE AND SPA DAY in Temple Ewell Village Hall 12.30-6.30pm on Monday the 21st May. Phone Wendy Duncan on 01304 830371 or visit www.orangeblossomspa.co.uk

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OZ on BUNDY - When my wife died two years ago, the first friends at the door with condolences were the Bundys. It was typical of 30 years of kindness from them, and so I welcome the opportunity to assist Ruth in writing this tribute to Allan. **Steve Osborn**

DR ALLAN GRAEME BUNDY, a greatly loved husband, father, grandfather, and GP in Dover for over 30 years, passed away quietly on 19th February, aged 82, after a full and adventurous life. Born in Golders Green, London, Allan attended school in Battle and Harrow and, after military service, studied medicine at St George's, London, tropical medicine in Liverpool, and industrial medicine in Dundee and Aberdeen. His love of adventure took him to West Africa, where he lived amongst the people, learning their culture and researching rare tropical diseases. He was a 'David Attenborough' of sorts and even resembled him in looks. Allan also worked in Guyana, South America, at Mackenzie Hospital and the Bauxite Company. In the 1960s he helped prevent a major malaria epidemic by reporting increasing numbers of cases to the government. Back in England to study gynaecology, Allan met Margaretta in Newbury, Berkshire, where she worked as a nurse. They married and returned to Guyana, where Allan adopted Andrew, and they went on to have three more children, Christopher, Ruth and Richard. With his young family Allan moved to Saskatchewan and Alberta, Canada, where his adventures continued; visiting patients by water-plane and skidoo, and dealing with bears, forest fires and heavy snowfall. On returning to England, Allan worked at William Harvey Hospital, Ashford, and Buckland Hospital, Dover, until he joined the Maison Dieu Surgery as a GP. He was later the co-founder of Pencester Surgery in Dover, and practised forensic medicine as a police surgeon across Kent, until his work was abruptly interrupted by the first of a number of strokes. Allan loved the countryside, especially the Alkham Valley where he and his family lived for over 30 years. He enjoyed farming and keeping sheep, aided by friends, and shared a passion for music with his whole family, particularly in supporting Margaretta in her singing with Dover Choral Society. Throughout his life he maintained his eloquence and humour, the quintessential English gentleman, and will be remembered for his kindness, interest and concern for others and his upbeat and adventurous way of life. **Ruth Marczin-Bundy and Steve Osborn**

SOLAR PANELS - Sunday 13th May promises to be sunny in more ways than one. St Anthony's church will be celebrating the successful commissioning of its solar panel system with a special service conducted by the Bishop of Dover, Trevor Willmott. All are welcome to this service which starts at 10am, followed by refreshments in the Village Hall. **Geoff Gaskill**

AFTER BELL PRACTICE in the church Geoff drove the short distance home and was a bit concerned about the change in the weather and poor visibility. Ken also returned home and watched television but couldn't settle. Geoff later phoned Ken and after a short chat they arranged a meeting and glasses were exchanged.

ALKHAM W.I. - Helen Scopes (President) is the only member to make a 'Crown' for the Jubilee Competition at the next W.I. Group Meeting - we all hope she wins. Cherry Leppard has booked an outing to Southend on a paddle steamer boat from Kingsmear for 9th August. Susannah Tapsell ran the entertainment for the April meeting - members displaying themselves in clothes bought at charity shops. A great display, the winner was Grace Stacey who was truly elegant. A meeting will be held at Pam Sayers home on 15th May to discuss the agenda for the 2013 programme, all welcome. The next monthly meeting will be on 8th May - mainly held to discuss W.I. Resolutions.**(Sue Lees)**

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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	**1**	White Cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Tuesday	**8**	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	**12**	South East Kent Astronomical Society 7 to 10pm
Monday	**14**	Parish Council meeting in village hall – all welcome
Monday	**21**	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6th	Evensong 6.30	Eucharist 9.00	Worship 11a.m.
Sunday 13th	Joint Benefice Eucharist 10.00 - Bishop Trevor at Alkham		
Thursday 17th	Joint Benefice Eucharist Hougham 7 p.m.		
Sunday 20th	10 .30 All Parishes with River and River Methodists to St.		
Sunday 27th	Joint Benefice Eucharist 10.00a.m at Hougham		

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

FROM THE VICARAGE - This is my last note to you all. It's been a privilege to have served you for the past four years and I shall be visiting, already there are dates in my diary for the Friday evening events at St. Radigund's, the Quilt Festival at St. Lawrence and the weddings at St. Anthony's. As I look back I recall the many occasions when there has been much laughter and joy which has included everyone. The wedding where the ring was so tight there was no way that bridegroom would ever get it off and the bride's determination to push it on! The baptism where the two year was delighted to be the centre of attention and decided that he could do my job, no problem, and proceeded to splash all his family and include them in the service and of course the assemblies that I took at the school. The children were amazing and for my final assembly we sang the Caribbean 'Our Father' and we all kept time. I won't say we were all in tune as my singing is unreliable at the best of times. But what I will always remember is the way that everyone became involved in the Christmas Shoebox appeal. Pastor Colin and the Baptists started it and before long everyone in all the villages was playing their part and doing what they could to ensure that as many children as possible in Eastern Europe had a Christmas present. Loving our neighbours even when we don't know them. But I want to say thank you to you for the wonderful gifts and the party that you gave me. It would have been described as a typical Capel night with rain, wind and cloud but St. Radigund's was filled with light and love and I thank you all. Bob and Rolo were very disappointed to miss it (Bob especially) and I know they will miss our walks through the fields and down to the Warren. We should be moving at the beginning of May so we shall explore Whitfield and find some new walks. Thank you all and God bless you. **Sue White**

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alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net
Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
Police – 999 & 101
Alkham web site www.alkham.org

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

NSPCC HELPLINE 0808 800 5000 help@nspcc.org.uk

MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 206510
District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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No. 225 June 2012

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THE JUBILEE mugs have been ordered and should arrive before the celebrations on the 4th June. The (colour) picture above is printed on the front and the one on the right is on the back as a symbol of Alkham, making the mugs unique. A mug will be given to every child in the parish who would like one and if there are any left we may sell them at about cost price. The cost of the mugs has been paid for from fund raising events and not from donations to the Friends.



MOUNT KILIMANJARO - In the December edition of the Newsletter there was a photo of Colin Downer paragliding off Mont Blanc. He has now been chosen to join a group of adventurers from every corner of the globe to fly on a record breaking attempt from the top of mount Kilimanjaro, the highest free-standing mountain on the planet, and in doing so to raise over $1million for charity. 100% of all fundraising for the event will go directly to 'Plant With Purpose' and 'The One Foundation'. Colin, who lives in the village, needs to raise $5000 in charitable support to be part of the team, so if you would like to support the charities enabling Colin to fly please log on to http://wingsofkilimanjaro.com/index.php/pilots/official-pilots/colin-downer.

JUBILEE CELEBRATION
All are invited to the Queen's Jubilee Lunch Party on 4th June at 12 noon on Vicarage Meadow (village green) or in the hall if wet. Bring food to share, drinks and picnic things. Why not decorate a hat in red, white and blue to enter the hat competition or maybe even put some flags and bunting up around your home to get the village in the party mood? Come along and join the fun with old fashioned games in the afternoon for all. **Linda Gaskill**

MAKE KENT QUICKER – In the March edition an article was included about KCC's desire to have faster Broadband in Kent and I have been asked to reprint the details, which are: To help achieve this visit **www.makekentquicker.com** , a KCC website, where people can register to tell them they want faster Broadband. It only takes a couple of minutes to do and if enough names are registered it might make things happen.

PIMLICO WAY, which is the byway that runs from South Alkham to Slip Lane has had new signs erected warning off-road vehicle users that they are prohibited from using the area to the sides of the byway. The Police solicitor has sent a letter to all off-road users, recorded during February and March, a letter warning them that fines will be imposed if they are caught. The landowner has also withdrawn permission to allow off-roaders to use his land, including Offroad Europe. This is good news for the residents in the vicinity of Pimlico Way and also for the preservation of the hillsides and byway. If any illegal off-road activity is witnessed in the future, you are encouraged to report it. **Parish Council**

BIG CAT spotted again – Anne Huggins phoned to say that when they were driving home at night along Chalksole Green Lane they spotted a large black cat with white stripes walking along the road. It was much larger than a domestic cat and maybe the same one previously spotted at the Minnis.

TO DISPEL rumours, there is still an active riding school at Hogbrook Equestrian Centre catering for adults and teenagers, lessons and hacks. Please telephone 01304 824499 or 07900545235.

CENTENARIAN KEN – For those who have been missing Ken walking round the parish he sends a "salaam". He says he is keeping well but restricts his daily walks to around the equestrian centre, where he can only be run over by horses!

NEWSLETTER – I would like to thank Anne at Lower Standen and Jacqui at Drellingore for agreeing to deliver the Newsletters in those areas. *Last month I failed to spot that I had not changed the month on the front page until I filed a copy.* **editor**

SOUTHEND PIER - Visit by sea the longest pleasure pier in the world at 1.34 miles; don't worry there is a train if you don't want to walk…. The annual outing of the Alkham Valley Society has been chosen to join in with the trip organised by Cherry Leppard on Thursday August 9th which will be a coach trip to Chatham starting at 9am, then boarding the steam paddle ship "Kingswear Castle" for a run to Southend for a two hour stop before returning. The cost of the steamer is £25.00 and the coach £11.00, so £36.00 in all (bring your own "Kiss Me Quick" hat). Please contact Cherry directly on 01303 255114 to make a reservation. **Barry Sheppard**

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ACCIDENTS – When there is an accident on the Alkham Valley Road and it is closed, traffic is diverted up country lanes. A particular problem is Wolverton Hill, by the kennels. The police divert the traffic up the hill and on reaching the top the vehicles are directed by the satnav to turn right at the telephone box down Newcastle Lane. On reaching the end of the lane they find there is an unmade track where the satnav helpfully gives the option to turn left or right and chaos ensues. A short distance to the left is Greenwich Lane but there is a heavily rutted byway in between and it is unclear whether this is a highway and whether people at the Minnis would like it to be. The police generally put a diverted traffic sign at the bottom of a road but nothing further on. It was agreed at the Parish Council meeting that traffic should be turned round and sent back down the valley as all side roads are inappropriate; the council will contact the police.

ASSISTANCE for paying for home care can be found by accessing the Kent Card through The KCC East Kent Area, Thistley Hill, Melbourne Avenue, Dover, Kent CT16 2JH. Tel: 08458 247205. This entails an assessment of your needs which is done at your convenience in your home. It is not means tested, just NEEDS tested. It is a great help towards paying for the extra two or three hours for paid help thus giving a carer gets out to do everyday things. The Kent Card does not seem to be widely known so this is why I add it to the Newsletter. It may also be a way of getting into the loop of Social Care. **Jo Walker**

A BAG OF NICKERS were lost in the churchyard recently. Actually it was a plastic bag containing two 'tops' for ladies and a little old metal pot which had been found in a garden. The bag was hidden under a low tree behind a gravestone whilst the 'ladies' went dog walking, but on their return 3/4 hr later the bag had disappeared - has anybody any ideas where it is???? **Sue Lees**

FOWLMEAD – For those who don't know, Fowlmead is a superb country park that has been created on what was Betteshangar Colliery. The shale was taken from the 2 million cubic metre slag heaps and mixed with fertilizer to create rich topsoil. Trees and shrubs have been planted and the area landscaped to incorporate woods and lakes. There is a large children's playground and many paths to walk with an observation platform for bird watchers. In addition they have made a wide paved traffic free cycle track. Bikes can be hired at the visitor centre where there is a café and toilets. There are also mountains bikes courses around the site. It's free to enter but if you take a car there is a small charge for all day parking. It is off the A258 about 2 miles from Deal and well worth a visit. *It is now one of our cycle rides from Alkham when we do one lap and return; new members welcome – it's great fun.* **Editor**

ALKHAM W.I - there was no speaker for the May meeting but a discussion took place on the Resolution to be raised by the W.I. at the AGM this summer regarding "The chronic shortage of midwives". Lucy McKenzie explained the whole matter of 'needs' for midwives and the difficulties occurred with their work and explained how essential it is to have more midwives. All W.I. members present understood and agreed with the matter. Ideas for next year's meetings will be discussed at Pam Sayers on 29th May 7pm. Speaker at the June meeting will be John Pearce talking about "Murder comes gift wrapped" **Sue Lees**

GARDEN TALK - We have held two pleasant evenings in local gardens looking at lovely spring colours and a variety of plants and shrubs. Plenty of nostalgic chat and good hospitality. Our next visit is to Chalksole Cottage on Friday 22nd June where our hosts are Linda and Geoff Gaskill. We will view a garden always full of interest in flower, fruit and vegetable areas. All welcome from 7.30p.m. **Janet Adamson**

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SOLAR PANELS BLESSED The sun did indeed shine for us last month when the Bishop of Dover, the Right Revd Trevor Willmott, came to St Anthony's for a special service to bless the new solar panels. Clearly an upwardly mobile bishop, he climbed onto the roof at the end of the service and then stayed to chat to parishioners and visitors in the Village Hall. The panels are meeting their generating target even in the wet and cloudy April we have just had. There was some media coverage of the visit on Radio Kent and Meridian. Thanks to all who worked to make the bishop's visit such a success. **Geoff Gaskill**

OZ on VACATION – On hearing that someone was busy, having just returned from a "vacation", my mental image of him changed, from elderly English gentleman to someone young or American or possibly both. I checked out the word in the Oxford English Dictionary and discovered that it has an interesting pedigree. Originally it meant "freedom from" as in Chaucer's "leisure and vacation / From other worldly occupation" (1386). In the 15th and 16th centuries the meaning was extended to "suspension of activity", as of law-courts, universities and schools, and hence generally to the resulting "holidays". It was in this sense that "vacation" was adopted in America as a word for "holiday" or "take a holiday". Emily Dickinson's The Masque of Poets (1878) reported that "At Saratoga…you meet …people spending short vacations." Later I learnt from the newspaper that Allen Walker Read, the distinguished American word-researcher, had died at the age of 96. He had outlived his wife of 49 years, fellow scholar Charlotte Schuchardt, by just three months. Read's popular fame was due to his investigation into the origins of the term "OK". He rejected several appetising theories, including the Choctaw "okeh", the Haitian "Aux Cayes" and the biscuit made by Orrin-Kendall for the US Army, eventually settling for the jokey "Orl Korrect" deliberately misspelt in an 1839 Boston newspaper. The term was later used in the election campaigns of the eighth US president, Martin Van Buren, nicknamed "Old Kinderhook". Read also wrote articles for dictionaries and encyclopaedias, and produced a stream of books whose subjects included the history of words, US and UK slang, and graffiti in public lavatories. His latest books, published in 2001 and 2002, came at the end of a retirement that was, thankfully, long but not a "vacation" in any of the above senses of the word. **Steve Osborn**

BEES - The effect of the Neonicotinoid group of insecticides which includes clothianidin, thiamethoxam and imidacloprid sprayed or dusted onto fields such as rapeseed is suspected of having, not unsurprisingly, a fatal effect on bees. Even though trouble has been taken by the producers of the insecticide to restrict the material to the crop the talc mixed for easier release of the sticky spray wafts to a wider area, often affecting wild flowers around the crop. Bees apparently love rapeseed and the traces of the insecticide are transported to the hive inducing a loss of bees immune system and big die-offs. The NFU (according to Private Eye) does not discourage its use by British farmers but it is strictly limited in France and suspended in Germany. A Dutch toxicologist (2010) wrote a paper 'A Disaster in the Making' (Wikipedia). Is this group of insecticides being used in the Alkham Valley surroundings, and if it so can a case be put forward to find out the pros and cons in a public arena (the Village Hall)? Have the local beekeepers any views? **Jo Walker (Sec. Alkham Valley Society)**

DOVER DISTRICT VOLUNTEERING CENTRE course (free) in Dover on Wed 20th and Thurs 21st June. Lunch free of charge, and travel expenses can be reimbursed. To book a place, please contact Karen on 01304 367898 or email office@doverdistrictvolunteering.org.uk

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am – 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	**4**	Jubilee Party 12 noon on village green
Tuesday	**12**	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	**21**	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3rd	Evensong 6:30pm	Sung Eucharist 9am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 10th	Sung Eucharist 9am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 17th	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 24th	Joint Benefice10.a.m.		

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

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB - It's good news-bad news time (as always with ACC). We have just finished our longest spell of unbeaten games with a close loss to Old Hartsdonians, however this was largely a result of being unable to play two games due to the weather and one because we were unable to field a full side. The season started with a draw at Northbourne on 22nd April (although as we had 100 more runs than Northbourne it was a moral victory, even if we were unable to get the other side out in time), we then had the three game gap referred to above followed by an evening game against Dover College on 16th May which went to 3 the final couple of balls (Alkham winning with 143 for 4 to Dover's 139 all out). The Dover match saw the return to the Meadow of Paul "Simmo" Simpson after about five years, and Robert Mitchell after a year or so, and the Old Harts match saw the return of Colin Groombridge after about 25 years playing for certain other local sides (who shall remain nameless)! It's good to have former Badgers returning to the Meadow-Sett! Tonight also marks (we hope) the first 2012 game for this year's skipper Peter Frater, leading from the front from behind the stumps. June's home games are on the 2nd (Stowting), 17th (PFPR) and 24th (Nortbourne) with mid week (home) matches on the 11th (River) and 27th (Cavaliers) - spectators are always welcome. **Paul Tapsell**



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District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187

Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969
email brianwimsett@hotmail.com
Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791
alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net
Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
Police – 999 & 101
Alkham web site www.alkham.org

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

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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
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Telephone 01304 824969

No. 226 July 2012

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THE JUBILEE

CELEBRATION in the village hall on the 4th of June was a great success with about 80 children and adults turning up. Tables were placed around the edge of the hall where people sat and a long table was placed at the front for the communal food. After lunch races were held in the hall with both young and older sprinting and hopping. There was then the best hat competition for those who had decorated a hat to celebrate the Jubilee. Avril Munn won in the adult category and Freya Miller the children's category plus she was voted best in show by Susannah Tapsell. Further games followed and it was clear that people were enjoying the party. The 72 mugs which had been ordered for children in the parish were all spoken for and were then given out to the children who had come to the hall. As other people had asked for their grandchildren or themselves a further order had been placed for 36 mugs. The carrier managed to break four in transit but the remaining 32 were sold for £5 each, which just covered the cost of this order. The event was organised by the Friends which was set up to preserve the building that is the church in Alkham and also to promote village events. **Editor and photos by Stan Fowler, Slip Lane, Alkham**



CREAM TEA PARTY – Anne Huggins and friend Rosemary are holding a fund raising scrumptious tea party in aid of Breast Cancer Care at Greenwood Farm. The house is on Chalksole Green Lane which is about ¾ mile up Slip Lane. It will be held on the 11th of August from 3.00pm to 6.00pm and tickets cost £5, which must be purchased in advance. If you would like to buy tickets please phone Anne on 824340 or speak to one of her family. Last year it was great success and raised over £2000 for the charity.

THANK YOU to the Friends of St. Anthony for organising the Jubilee party and mugs. A great deal of work went into the preparation and running of the event plus the tidying up afterwards. It gave great pleasure to the children and adults and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. It was also a lovely gesture by the Friends to give a mug to all the children in the parish who asked for one especially as they are unique. Thanks very much. **Councillor E Neve**

CHURCHYARD SECURITY

Following the theft of lead from the St Anthony's roof, the church council have decided, as one of a number of preventive measures, to restrict vehicle access to the churchyard during the hours of darkness. A lockable security post will be fitted to the churchyard access track off Alkham Valley Road. Ken Hammond will be the main key holder and will unlock the post in the morning and relock it at night. **Geoff Gaskill**

RIVER SUMMER FAYRE Sunday July 15th from 11am to 4pm. Various stalls plenty of refreshments plus Punch & Judy to entertain the children, Also this year we have East Kent Motorcycles. As usual we have the birds of prey & Atlantis Entertainment & walking about, 2 Daleks.

BEN SPICER is halfway through his foundation degree course in Landscape and Garden Management and is looking for work over the summer vacation. An experienced and popular gardener, he is now hoping to broaden his experience with fencing, patios, decking or brick-laying jobs. Anyone who needs some guidance and help with these projects, please contact Ben on 079200 92121.

STANDEN CROSSROADS

Does anybody know who has photos of the Standen Farm house with farm buildings, pond, and other dwellings nearby which stood at Standen crossroads? Any photos of farms and/or people who lived and worked in that part of the Alkham Valley would be of interest to me. Thank you. **Susan Lees 01304 822661**

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ROOK – The photo doesn't show up so well in black and white but the bird on the left is a light grey to grey rook. The photo was taken by Isabelle Smith behind the house that she lives in at Chalksole, Alkham. It is thought to be quite rare and various opinions have been given, such as albino or rich chalk diet but if anyone knows why it is this colour rather than black we'd be pleased to know. The photo is better in colour so if anyone would like to be added to the list to whom the Newsletter is emailed please let me know by emailing me at brianwimsett@hotmail.com (you can still receive the paper copy).

GARDEN TALK - We look forward to our next meeting, on Friday 20th July at Halton Court, at the home of Irene & Den Barnard, where the garden has recently been remodelled. It is on the corner of Slip Lane and the Alkham Valley Road - all welcome from 7.30p.m. **Janet Adamson**

THE BOOK CLUB meeting for Wednesday 25th July will be held at the home of Susannah Tapsell, Bramhall Alkham Valley Road Tel. 822295, starting at 7.30. The book for discussion is 'Before I go to sleep' by S.J. Watson. For more information about the Alkham Book Club telephone on Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

ALKHAM W.I. - Members are reminded that W.I. calendars £3.75 and diaries £3.55 can be purchased and the trip from Chatham to Southend by a paddle steamer in August, can be booked through Cherry Leppard. The June meeting was enjoyed by all when the speaker John Pearce (retired police officer) encouraged everybody into the mystery of "Murder comes gift wrapped". A fascinating story which was not solved for many years; the culprit Keith Cottingham from Denton died before the Court could prove the case. The next meeting's speaker on 10th July is Margaret Ovenden on "Catwalk to Choir". **Sue Lees**

THE VILLAGE HALL has bought a wall mounted boiler for making tea and hot drinks. It cost over £300 but is worth the money as it makes filling the pots much safer. Please be aware that the machine has to boil before water comes out. It holds 7.5 litres or 13 pints.

50 YEARS – Not only has the Queen changed over 50 years but so has Alkham. In 1962 buses, which still had 'No Spitting' signs by the door, stopped at the bottom of Slip Lane in the morning to take men to work in Dover and Folkestone. Cows in the early morning and at tea time were driven from the fields with some coming up Hogbrook Lane and across the valley road to the milking parlour in front of Halton Court, which was then a farmhouse. On the opposite side of Slip Lane there was the Post Office and shop which sold most items including tin baths as a lot of houses still didn't have bathrooms. The papers were delivered to the shop every morning together with bread and milk. There was a pub on Meggett Lane, one at the Minnis and also the Marquis of Granby that had an active darts team and smoke filled lounge and public bars. St. Anthony's church was well attended and they had a choir and Sunday school. The school by the Marquis was attended by children in Alkham and nearby with nearly all having to walk to the school. The bus service was infrequent and cars going along the Valley Road, which was then very narrow, were a rare sight. There was a police house in the village and the council houses at Glebelands had recently been built. I wonder what Alkham will be like in 50 years time?

NEWSLETTER – As there isn't a fete this year filling the Newsletter is difficult in the summer months. If you have any stories or details for a

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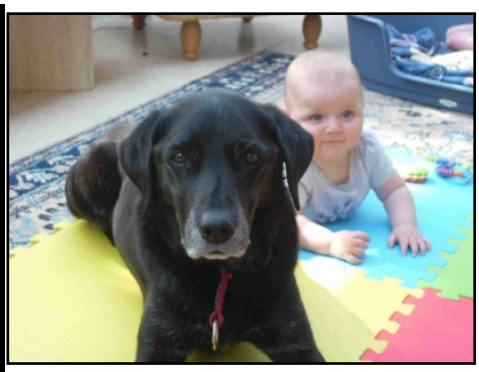

PET SERVICE and songs of praise. Returning by popular demand, there will be a pet service in the church on Sunday 15th July at 11am. It's always interesting to see the range of animals that are kept as pets; and in the past we have had everything ranging in size from hamsters to sheep; horses will probably have to be blessed outside! The following Sunday, 22nd July, again at 11 am, we will have an open air Songs of Praise on the Vicarage Meadow. River Band will be with us again for the modern worship songs and with Jerry Spillett on the electric organ, there will be music that appeals to everyone. It's all very informal, so do come and raise the celestial roof. **Geoff Gaskill**

OZ on SHEDS – In last October's column I mentioned how my installation of a new boiler had caused knock-on effects that had "cascaded into every room, including the potting-shed and garage." I remembered this on my recent birthday when given Frank Hopkinson's The Joy of Sheds, a welcome addition to the literature of that most respectable of male passions; 'respectable' because an extra shed can usually be justified as a 'need'. All my life I've loved pottering in sheds, which is puzzling because I'm not at all practical, and sometimes have to think of an excuse to go and potter. Hopkinson's sub-title explains the real reason: "...because a man's place isn't in the home."; the shed is actually a refuge. Under 'Shed Lit' Hopkinson describes the sheds of various writers, including Dylan Thomas, Bernard Shaw, Virginia Woolf and Daphne du Maurier. That most famous of phrases "something nasty in the woodshed" comes from Cold Comfort Farm by Stella Gibbons. Other chapters cover the role of sheds in fields such as music, art, films and TV. Always the reason for the shed is to get away from distraction and concentrate on the job in hand, a need that women share. Perhaps women generally get the time and space that they need if the man is in his shed away up the garden. Of course a shed doesn't even have to be outdoors. My favourite shed, grandly called "The Study", is in fact my daughter's old bedroom. It's where I keep my 'stuff' and write these stories. It also serves as a bedroom when the grandchildren visit, a situation which will need to change as they grow up, and will necessitate the moving of my clutter to another place. So perhaps then I'll truly 'need' another proper outdoor shed. **(Steve Osborn)**

DOVER FESTIVAL PROM – 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 6th July in Dover Town Hall. The Festival Prom Orchestra and Chorus will be conducted by Michael Lewis and Stephen Yarrow. This year's programme celebrates the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens, the Queen's Silver Jubilee and the London Olympics. The orchestral offerings are Binge's Elizabethan Serenade, Walton's Crown Imperial and Ron Goodwin's theme from The London Marathon. The choir programme comprises a selection from Lionel Bart's Oliver!, and four coronation anthems: Handel's Zadok the Priest, Parry's I was Glad, Stanford's Te Deum and Vaughan Williams's O Taste and See. Finally the audience will be invited to join the 85-strong choir in singing the traditional Proms Finale of Jerusalem, Rule Britannia and Land of Hope and Glory. This year's proceeds are in support of The Pilgrims Hospice. Tickets at £7 and £3.50 (promenaders) are available from the Dover Visitor Centre or from chorus members. For further details ring Sue or Steve Yarrow on 01304 872812. **(Steve Osborn)**

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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 – all welcome
Tuesday	**10**	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	**16**	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	**28**	W.I. jumble sale in village hall at 11.00am

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1st	Evensong 6:30pm	Sung Eucharist 9am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 8th	Sung Eucharist 9am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 15th	Family & Pet Service 11am	Evensong 6pm	Sung Eucharist9.30am
Sunday 22nd	Benefice Songs of Praise - Vicarage Meadow, Alkham 11am		
Sunday 29th	Benefice Eucharist , St Mary's 10am		

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

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB - I doubt whether Alkham CC has had many such miserable starts to a season in its entire 173 year history. In the first two months, half of the 14 games have been cancelled due to the appalling unseasonal weather, or by us being unable to field a team (once), the opposition being unable to field a team (twice) and the opposition's fixture secretary getting dates mixed up! It has also been difficult to field a full-strength side for the games that have gone ahead so far, so the Alkham Badgers are hoping for better luck as the season progresses and as a couple of former regulars become available once again. In the hope that summer will finally arrive, the club is aiming to make the most of the second half of the season, starting with three tough away games in July – at St Margaret's (July 1), East Langdon (July 8) and Goodnestone Park (July 15). There's then just one home match – a midweek 20/20 game against the Court Cavaliers on July 22, before the team set off on their annual weekend tour to East Anglia on July 27-29. The rain has failed to dampen the team's spirits and I feel sure that we will put in some creditable performances and achieve some positive results to ensure 2012 is remembered for more than just soggy pitches and cancelled matches. **Peter Frater (Skipper)**



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CAPTAIN NORMAN KNOWLES 1925 – 2012.

It is with great sadness that I am writing to say that Norman Knowles, known to many people in Alkham, and indeed who had many friends here and throughout the area, has died at the age of 87 years. He was very ill for the last six months of his life, and was nursed both day and night by his wife Margaret. He and Margaret moved here in 1961 to Pastoral in Slip Lane. Margaret was a very keen painter, and painted many views of Alkham. They both took an active part in village activities and attended St. Anthony's Church. In 2007 they moved to Bath to be near their son Simon, and even more importantly their granddaughter Faye, Simon and Jane's daughter, now aged 8. They had three children, Robin Q.C., H.H.J., Simon and Heather, all of whom have succeeded very well in their careers, and all of whom commenced their schooling at the local village school in Alkham, which was then in existence. After the war Norman became a Trinity House Pilot, and he was also a very effective magistrate in Dover. During the war, something he never mentioned was the fact that at the age of 18 he was on the dreadful relief convoy to Malta, 33 ships leaving G.B., and only three of them arriving at their destination. He was on one of these three. A terrible experience seeing 30 ships blown up. He only mentioned it when there was a programme on the T.V. about it. Norman was cremated in Bath on Thursday, 12th July. There was a Memorial Service first at St. Stephen's Church, which he and Margaret attended regularly. They both took an active interest in the Church's activities. I am sure we all offer our very sincere sympathy to Margaret and her family. **Pamela Sayers, Box Tree Cottage**



FETE DAY This was supposed to be Alkham fete day on the 14th of July and as you can see the village green was flooded as was the football pitch with Slip Lane turning into a river.

CREAM TEA PARTY – Tickets are still available for the tea party in aid of Breast Cancer Care at Greenwood Farm. It will be held on the 11th of August from 3.00pm to 6.00pm and tickets cost £5, which must be purchased in advance. If you would like to buy tickets please phone Anne on 824340 or speak to one of her family. Last year it was great success and raised over £2000 for the charity.

CISTIC FIBROSIS – Megan Saltmer has a brother who suffers from cystic fibrosis and she would like to raise some money for the cystic fibrosis charity, which is very close to her heart. On the 7th August Megan is going to freefall from 12000 feet in an attempt to raise money and awareness for them. Anyone wishing to make a donation please either leave or send to Megan at 3 Short Lane, Alkham CT15 7BZ or donate on line by going to www.virginmoney.com (giving) and click 'give a donation' and then type Megan who was on page 4. I have put a direct link on the Alkham web site www.alkham.org to make it easier. Please donate as Megan is 17 years of age and it means so much to her. Visit www.cftrust.org.uk for more information.

NOISY NEIGHBOURS include persons living in the vicinity who may be affecting your life so if you are being affected by noisy neighbours you should phone 101 and report it. You can also speak to Environmental Health at Dover District Council on 01304 872428 (email envhealth@dover.gov.uk) or refer it to their planning department if you think they might be in breach of planning laws. **Parish Council**

JAN MARTINEZ is a retired garden designer who both wrote and featured in the gardening press and did a series of Prime Time talks for Radio Kent. She was on the panel for Gardeners Question Time and also taught Garden Design and Interior Design for Kent Adult Education. Her garden near Everden will be open on a private basis for local people, their friends, family and colleagues to view. Please telephone 01303 893462 in advance to enquire about dates. She will give a guided tour around the garden and answer any questions on plants, design etc, finishing with tea/ coffee/ biscuits in the conservatory where an Animal Aid collection box will be placed and the suggested donation is five pounds per person. There will be various leaflets which may be taken on Animal Aid.

GREAT COURAGE – My daughter Billie has a boyfriend Hugh who is taking part in a bike ride for charity from Land's End to John o'Groats. Please read his story and donate http://www.justgiving.com/ Hugh-Boyd-Jones. If you all give a 'bluey (£5 for the unstreet) it would be a great help. **Brian Croucher - Slip Lane, Alkham**

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ERIC GOES CYCLING (our postman) – Last Christmas after a glass or two of wine and a conversation with my son about keeping fit, I found myself entered for the London to Brighton bike ride. At first the proposal was quite daunting with all the training that was needed (long hours in the saddle etc.) and I didn't even own a bike. But now six months later it's all over and I'm so glad I volunteered. It's a 55 mile ride and you share the route with 30,000 other riders all there to raise money for the British Heart Foundation. It is a truly amazing day out with everyone helping and encouraging each other. For me the true meaning was summed up by one young lady riding in front of me with a sign on her back saying 'I'm pedalling to keep my Daddy alive a little bit longer'. Let's hope her wish comes true. Thanks to Ken and Brian for all their encouragement?!! especially the advice about Vaseline. **your postie** *Congratulations to Eric for cycling up Ditchling Beacon.*



SCHOOL PHOTO Sue Lees would like to know where this photo was taken and also the rough date. If you can help please ring her on 01304 822661. The wall in the background is too high for the old playground so it may be against the church wall.

GARDEN TALK - We meet on Friday 10th August at Thorn Cottage in Meggett Lane, where we look forward to some better weather, and a chance to talk about our plant and crop failures - as well as the successes of this changeable season. Our hosts are Rosemary and Geoff Hillier, who will show us all the recent work they have been doing to transform this cottage garden. All welcome from 7.30p.m. **Janet Adamson**

ACCIDENT PROCEDURE – The police were contacted by the Parish Council regarding their policy of diverting traffic up unsuitable roads when there was an accident on the valley road. Their response was that they appreciated the comments but the police on the spot had to react immediately to the situation and get traffic out of the way. It is unlikely that the police are aware that the roads they have diverted the traffic onto are poor quality. However to turn the traffic round on the valley road would cause further disruption but in the long run it would be better as the suitable alternatives are at both ends of the valley. The PCSO who was at the meeting said she would speak to her inspector about the situation.

ALKHAM W.I. - The July meeting was very pleasant despite many members not being present. The speaker Margaret Ovenden told many interesting and funny stories about herself, the quire and Canterbury Cathedral. Business - Jumble Sale in Village Hall Saturday 28th July 11am. Members help will be needed from 10am. The next WI meeting will be in the Village Hall Tuesday 14th August. It is a Chat n' Chip evening. If you have not yet ordered your food please ring Edith 01303 824030. Raffle Prize - all members are asked to bring a 'green' coloured prize. Also bring wine or your choice for the evening. Ladies Racecourse Evening August 23rd gates open 3.30pm with the first horse race at 5.30pm, and prizes for Best Dressed Ladies. **Sue Lees**

WWII - Air Raid Shelters - can anyone tell me if air raid shelters were provided to residents? If not what did the authorities expect people in Alkham to protect themselves in? **Sue Lees**

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OZ on HORNIMAN – Like many other small children, growing up in World War II, I learnt to read by deciphering words found at the breakfast table, such as 'Camp Coffee' and 'Horniman's Tea.' At that time, Horniman's tea was very popular, as it had been since 1826, when John Horniman founded his company in Newport, Isle of Wight. John succeeded by mechanizing tea packaging, which cut production costs and guaranteed quality. By 1891 Horniman's was the world's largest tea-trading business. In 1869, John retired and his son, Frederick Horniman, took over. Frederick was both philanthropist and voracious collector of everything, and used his wealth to repeatedly travel the world, returning to London's Forest Hill laden with objects "to inform those who had not had the opportunity to visit distant lands." His declared mission was to "bring the world to Forest Hill", to which his wife replied "either the collection goes or we do." The Hornimans therefore moved next door, to Surrey Mount, and the old house, with objects, was renamed Surrey House Museum and opened to the public. By 1898, the collection had outgrown all available space. Frederick ordered the demolition of the old museum, and commissioned Charles Harrison Townend, the great art nouveau architect, to produce a new design. Foundations were laid later that year, and the new Horniman Museum was opened to the public in 1901. I visited it for the first time recently and was captivated by the sheer vitality and enthusiasm that still shines through from over a century ago. Here are 350,000 objects embracing natural history, music, textiles, and anthropology, together with an aquarium and extensive gardens. As for Horniman's Tea, Frederick's son Emslie sold it to Joe Lyons in 1918, and it was later acquired by Douwe Egberts – a fitting end for a quality product. **Steve Osborn**

MORE MEMORIES - Philip Young was a schoolboy in Alkham and his father was called Donald with sisters Barbara and Joy. Their bungalow on Greenwich Lane at the Minnis was thus called Joy-Don-Bar, often being mistaken for Welsh. Aunt Joy recalled that the first motor-car used by a resident of the Minnis was run by the Duketell family and when Philip was a schoolboy a coal lorry lumbered up Wolverton Hill driven by Mr. Duketell with the tail-gate down and the truck half full of coal. Fellow schoolboys Alan Dodd, Tony and Michael Harrington, would all jump up on the back of the dusty coal-truck for a lift up the hill after school, only to receive a scalding once home for getting short-trousers in a filthy state. Joy thought that the first car around Alkham was probably an Austin 12. Philip's grandfather built Joy-Don-Bar out of upright sheets of corrugated iron mounted onto old bed frames, lined inside with sheets of asbestos in the summer of 1919. Joy was born at Newcastle Cottage, while the building work was carried out. Philip recalls Sunday night rituals of bath-time in a tin bath bought from the Alkham post-office. Philip's Grandfather was a well-known character around the Alkham Valley. He survived the First World War losing a leg and an eye whilst serving in the Grenadier Guards, and would cycle around the lanes with a fixed-wheel bicycle that allowed the one good leg to complete a full circle power pedal with a boot constantly in touch with the one pedal. He would ride it to Dover and back in order to sell eggs from the flock he reared in the back garden, which eventually gave way for the building of Deepdeene, the bungalow also being built out of corrugated-iron, which all the neighbours helped to erect. The land for Joy-Don-Bar was given free to the ex-Guardsman, as part of Prime Minister David Lloyd George's government programme of "homes for heroes" - a number of plots in the valley were given to ex-servicemen, who had to erect a house themselves. Sgt. Young handed over the residency of Joy Don Bar to his son Donald in 1958. **(based on an article from Philip Young)**

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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	**14**	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	**20**	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th	Evensong 6.30pm	Eucharist 9.00am	Worship Tog. 11am
Sunday 12th	Eucharist 9.00am	Worship Tog. 11am	No service
Sunday 19th	Family service 11am	Evensong 6.00pm	Eucharist 9am
Sunday 26th	Joint Benefice 10am	No service	No service

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

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB



So much for my optimism in the last Newsletter that the weather would improve and Alkham Cricket Club would enjoy July's fixtures away to St Margaret's, East Langdon and Goodnestone Park. All three were cancelled due to the rain. And to make matters worse the flooding on Saturday July 14th left the Alkham pitch waterlogged and littered with debris that had washed down Slip Lane and Hogbrook Hill – ruling out the midweek match against Eastry, scheduled for July 18. Still, at least we've got the annual tour to East Anglia to look forward to on July 27-29, haven't we? Sadly no, it's been cancelled as we could only muster seven players! Could this season get any worse? Will we actually manage a few games before we hang up our whites for winter? Right now it's not looking likely, unless we get that late summer that some are predicting. Personally I'll believe it when I'm actually sunning myself on The Meadow while our openers both knock up centuries, which, with our lack of match practice, is about as likely as a scorching September! **Peter Frater (Club Captain)**

W.I. JUMBLE SALE will be held in Alkham Village Hall on Saturday 28th July from 11am to Midday

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District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187

Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969
email brianwimsett@hotmail.com
Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791
alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net
Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
Police – 999 emergency &101 for non-emergency including PCSO
Alkham web site www.alkham.org

W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Footpath Warden antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk White 01303 240539
Church Wardens Geoff Gaskill 823100 and Richard Tapsell 822295

NSPCC HELPLINE 0808 800 5000 help@nspcc.org.uk

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 227 September 2012

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CALENDAR – Stan Fowler, who won last year's photographic competition, has taken 12 superb photos depicting each month around and in Alkham. These have been put in a calendar as full colour A4 pictures with an A4 calendar below. It is impossible to put a photo in the Newsletter as they are such large files but if you'd like to see a low quality PDF please look on www.alkham.org. The calendar has been produced by the Friends and costs £6. It will be available shortly and if you'd like to buy one please tell either Rosemary Heddle, Val Fowler, Den Barnard, Linda Gaskill, Rosie Hansraj or email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.



SKY DIVE - Well done to Megan Saltmer who did the skydive from 12000 feet in aid of her brother who suffers from cystic fibrosis. She has raised £500 so far and if you'd like to donate please leave money at 3 Short Lane, Alkham or see www.alkham.org.

THE MARQUIS Annual Charity Cricket Game will take place this year on Sunday 23rd 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, plus a host of other celebrities. This fun day will be followed by a fantastic meal, raffle and auction at The Marquis. There will be a raffle with some fantastic prizes; tickets will be available at The Marquis and also 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, and Alkham Cricket Club. If you would like to donate any prizes, please contact Claire@hartsheadgroup.co.uk. Your support is really appreciated. 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 £2500, with your help and support we can make this total even higher. Please come along to Vicarage Meadow, lend your support and have a great day. **Claire Joblin**

WWII – As a result of Sue Lee's article about air raid shelters, Bill Harvey and John Richards sent further information and a number of people rang her. The village school had a shelter and Chalkdown Cottage had one dug into the hill. At Ewell Minnis some houses had shelters whilst other people just reinforced the table and sat under it. Many houses bought Anderson shelters made of corrugated iron and excavated earth whilst a number of houses had cellars.



LANDING STRIP - According to Philip Young, Chalksole Farm had a rubber landing strip laid by the American air force (perhaps for D-day) and the blockhouse off Warren Lane near the descent to Lydden still exists (photo above). Evidently the rubber was well used by people in Alkham after the war.

WOLVERTON - Reg Woodruff, who lives at Wolverton, emailed to say he was told that the wooden shed/lean-to building attached to the side of his house was used as a Midwife's Office.

If anyone has information on any of the above please contact me (details page 4). **editor**

DRAINAGE – Along the lines of properties through which the course of the Nailbourne flows are known as riparian owners. It is there responsibility to make sure the river bed is cleared out and not obstructed in any way to prevent the free flow of water. This helps to prevent flooding of properties upstream of the river. **Parish Council**

WHEELCHAIR for sale. Excellent condition - only used twice, £75.00. Suitable for a person of small to medium frame. Please contact Rosemary Heddle on 01304 827880.

CHURCHYARD – A security post has been installed at the valley road vehicular entrance to St. Anthony's churchyard. It is currently being put up in the evening and taken down in the morning.

GARDEN TALK - We meet on Friday 7th September at Burley Cottage, Newcastle Lane, Ewell Minnis to view the garden and see the building work being undertaken by Barbara and Neil Williams., We intend to talk about all things connected with this topsy-turvy gardening season. We meet from 7.00p.m. There is plenty of parking and if directions are required, please contact Janet Adamson on 01303 893413.

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THE STRAWBERRY CREAM TEA in aid of breast cancer care held at Greenwood Farm was a great success raising £2144. Anne would like to thank everyone who helped with cakes and raffle prizes and donations. Thank you all for making this another successful year for a worthy cause. **Anne Huggins**
Anne hopes to raise some more money from the event and donate it to the Pilgrim's Hospice.

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

(Australia to Alkham) - Back in 1995 I became intrigued by our family history and started to research along various branches of our family tree. As the experienced family historians advocate, start from the known and move to the unknown and ask lots of questions of older relatives. My mother, who was born in Kent, and her parents and brother had emigrated to Australia in 1956 following her sister who had married an Australian. Having exhausted the combined family knowledge of my mum and her sister, I embarked on some letter writing to their English cousins. One reply fleshed out a little about my great grandmother, Susannah Sutton, who was my maternal grandmother's mother. Mum's cousin Winnie told me that Susannah, was born 1866, died 1st Feb 1936 and was born in Box Cottage' Alkham, Kent. With further research, I discovered that Susannah Sutton's parents were Thomas Sutton (born about 1835 in Brabourne, Kent) and Ann Easter (born about 1837 In Sandwich, Kent). Thomas was a master shoemaker. This couple had thirteen children and because of our impression of Box cottage being a small dwelling, we always laughed about them all being able to squeeze in. Seventeen years on and we are planning a trip to the United Kingdom this Autumn. Thinking of exploring the areas that relate to our family history and looking to book some accommodation, I turned to Google….and up came the Alkham website. Upon browsing through the site, imagine my surprise and delight to see a photo of "Box Tree Cottage" in Alkham on the website. Looking at the size of the village, I feel that this must be the cottage that family members said my great grandmother, Susannah Sutton, lived in as a child – and not such a tight squeeze as we thought! It is amazing that when I wrote to England in the 90s to find out about the family history, a few words were all I received...and now, with the power of the internet, we can actually see the home where my great grandmother spent her childhood over a hundred years ago…and all from the other side of the world. The power of the internet! **Fiona Moore Sydney, Australia**. If anyone has any further information about the family of Thomas and Ann Sutton and their lives in the village of Alkham, Kent during the 1860s and 1870s, I would be delighted to hear from you. fhmoore@bigpond.net.au

ALKHAM W.I. - Not a month when members must have a regular meeting, so one can understand how everyone enjoyed sitting back with fish and chips and having a good chat. Thanks to Edith Neve for organising the delivery of the boxes of food. Next month will be back to normality with W.I. business and an interesting talk by Eric Spear on 'Victorian Village School' a time when the majority of schools were set up. The meeting to which new members are welcome is 11th September 7.30pm in Alkham Village Hall.

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A FUNERAL to celebrate the life of Thomas Glyn Thomas (1928 – 2012) was held at a packed St. Anthony's church on the 20th of August. He was well known by a number of people in Alkham and before retirement was an acknowledged orthopaedic surgeon working at hospitals throughout East Kent. Before he died in the Pilgrim's Hospice, he published with the help of his son, a 2013 calendar featuring a dozen east Kent churches that they had painted or drawn. It is now on sale for £10 in aid of the Pilgrim's Hospice at Canterbury and can be ordered by contacting Heidi Stone on aitchfitz@gmail.com or purchased from Gould Gallery at 35 Harnet Street, Sandwich.

OZ on UP NORTH – After the Olympics got under way last month, we headed up North with Shaun the Westie, partly to escape round-the-clock games coverage on TV and the expected traffic congestion in the South-East. Both fears were unnecessary: transport ran unexpectedly smoothly, and the games were as thrilling as last year's Royal Wedding, more so when Team GB's medal count escalated. The other reason for our round trip was to visit relatives in the Midlands and North, some of whom we hadn't seen for many years. We're both descended from Vikings. Her ancestors were the original invaders who landed on the North-East coast between the 8th and 10th centuries AD; mine were Norman Vikings who accompanied William the Conqueror in his 1066 Invasion. During that battle, King Harold was aided by Northern English Vikings, and some of their descendants still mutter accusingly "You invaded us!" As we set off, my friend told me "I have twenty-four cousins, but you won't have to meet them all, as two are dead!" And so we made our way up North by motorway and Travelodge, visiting her brother and family in Rugby and cousins in Stoke and Huddersfield; to Lancashire to see my sister and family; and back home via cousins in Blyth, Nottinghamshire. In all, we met only seven cousins, but it was a fascinating week, with a family party, pub lunches, and much talk about family history. We drove home from up North as the Olympic athletes were leaving London. The latest news was that if Team Yorkshire had competed as a separate country, they would have come 11th in the final medal table, beating Australia. Three of those Yorkshire athletes, from the same family, would have come 49th as a team. It seemed a fitting end to a gloriously quirky week. **Steve Osborn**

WHITE HILL is the very steep hill that goes from Slip Lane up to Chalksole and the Parish Council received a letter regarding its use. It was thought that the narrow and winding road was being used by HGV's and the council were asked if they would contact the highway authority regarding the installation of a 'Not suitable for HGV' sign. After some discussion it was thought that the main problem was probably caused by the proliferation of light vans that deliver parcels to houses and that the sighting of HGV's was rare. However the council recommended that logs be kept of problems and they would take further action if necessary. The PCSO, Janet Claringbould, who was at the meeting said that she should be contacted as well and this can be done by phoning 101.

BOOK CLUB is now back after the summer break, hopefully we will all have some interesting holiday reading to discuss as well as the month's chosen novel which is Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen. The meeting will be on Wednesday 26th at the home of Sue Latham, Woodlands, Short Lane, 01304 824924 commencing at 7.30p.m. For more information about the village book club contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

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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	**3**	Parish Council meeting in village hall – all welcome
Tuesday	**4**	White Cliffs metal detecting
Saturday	**8**	South East Astronomical Society pm
Tuesday	**11**	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	**17**	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	**22**	Church jumble sale 11.00pm in village hall

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2nd	Evensong 6:30pm		Eucharist 11am
Sunday 9th	Sung Eucharist 9am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 16th	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 23rd	Benefice Eucharist 10am		
Sunday 30th	Benefice Eucharist St Mary's 10am		

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

POST OFFICE – In 1850 post messengers were dispatched at 6.00am from Folkestone with letters for Alkham, Capel, Hawkinge, Hougham, Everden, Swingfield & Swingfield Minnis. In 1863 James Hogben became postman and delivered to Uphill, Hawkinge, Acrise, South Alkham and Capel wearing a cape, soldier's leggings and a round 'billy-cock' hat with a G.P.O. badge on. To signal to residents that he was in the area he blew a tin horn in each village. In 1891 Mrs. Eliza Harvey, had the first post office in Alkham at Longways (opposite the Old Vicarage) and received (and sent) letters through Dover by foot messenger at 8.20am. In 1898 the second delivery of post was granted but it had to be left at the post office for individuals to collect as it was too costly to deliver. In 1910 the post office was at Martinvale and in 1917 it moved to Halton Forstal Cottages (by the Marquis). It is likely that the post office at the bottom of Slip Lane (opposite) commenced in 1925 and continued there until it closed in 1978. **From research carried out by Sue Lees**



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R CUNNINGHAM - Flat and pitched roof specialist Alkham – 01304 821042 or 07725402939

MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 206510
District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187

Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969
email brianwimsett@hotmail.com
Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791
alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net
Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
Police – 999 emergency &101 for non-emergency including PCSO
Alkham web site www.alkham.org

W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Footpath Warden antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk White 01303 240539
Church Wardens Geoff Gaskill 823100 and Richard Tapsell 822295

NSPCC HELPLINE 0808 800 5000 help@nspcc.org.uk

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 228 October 2012

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DYKE – In last month's Newsletter there was a reminder from the Parish Council that it is the responsibility of riparian landowners to make sure that there is free flow of water across their land. The Parish Council is going to arrange a meeting with the highway/drainage authority to discuss the matter further as part of the problem arises from the run off from the roads. The authority has agreed to clear the culverts at Meggett Lane and Hogbrook Lane and it is hoped that they will walk part of the route.

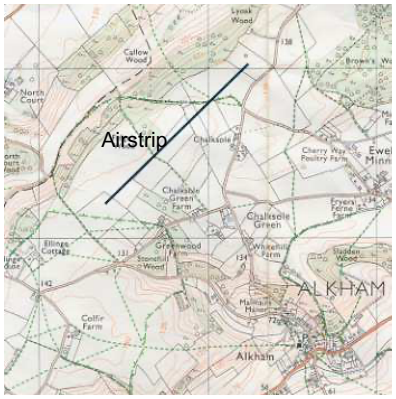
THE RUBBISH BIN opposite the village hall is going to be removed and re-sited by the cricket pavilion. The bin was placed there by the Parish Council some years ago but it is not regularly emptied. People who book the village hall are requested to take their rubbish away with them but some hirers see the bin and think it is a local authority one and leave sacks there. The hirers are told not to do this but it is impossible for anyone from the hall to be there when they close up. If there is any recurrence money will be taken from their £50 deposit and a reminder notice to this effect has been posted in the village hall.



PEDESTRIANS – Where the Alkham Valley Road passes between Martinvale and Forstal Cottage adjacent to the Marquis, the road is narrow and very difficult for pedestrians to negotiate. An alternative route is round the back of the village hall but a lot of people are not aware of this. Various options have been put forward in the past such as narrowing the road but this has been rejected for a number of reasons. A suggestion was put to the Parish Council that a dotted white line be put on the Forstal side of the road 1.2m away from the wall with pedestrian symbols within. If there are no pedestrians the flow of the traffic would not be impeded and if there are motorists would hopefully realise the pedestrian had the right to be there and give way. Signing would also be required and if the authority were willing to consider a 20mph limit over this section it should improve the situation as well.

FREE FURNITURE items! If a local resident would like any of the following please telephone to arrange to collect them – must be local resident, not dealer: two brown leather sofas (faded by sun), pine table and four chairs, wicker two-seater sofa. Also, for sale (offers considered) reproduction yew items: extending dining table and six chairs, bookcase and two corner glazed cabinets. Also various light fitments – wall, ceiling and standard lamp. Tel: Peter on 07968 036030

AIRFIELD – There are a few corrections to be made to last month's article about a war time airstrip at Chalksole. Melvyn Kirby says the blockhouse shown in the photo last month is actually a Folkestone & District water reservoir and the landing strip was made of a bitumen type felt. Neil Burrows said the airstrip was not built for D Day but was an emergency airfield and he remembers ploughing up the fuel pipeline post war. It was constructed by American forces billeted with local people and was probably opened by Group Captain Johnny Johnson and guarded by the Home Guard. The airstrip was little used although a badly damaged plane landed there as did a German pilot who gave himself up to Melvyn's grandfather. After the war an investigator came to Alkham to try and find the asphalt felt. According to Bill Harvey, the inspector went into the Marquis of Granby and the landlord said he couldn't help him but evidently the inspector was standing on it. John Huggins says that some remnants of the felt remain on his land. Melvyn's father George was a Special Constable in the war but was taken out by the Ministry to set up a secret transmitter station in their shepherd's hut to report troop and tank movements if the invasion came. Melvyn, who farms at Chalksole, still has his code deciphering board.



THE ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY will hold its Annual General Meeting in the Village Hall on Wednesday 14th November at 7.30pm. The meeting is usually quite short and followed by an excellent supper at the Fox in Temple Ewell. The Meal is a carvery followed by dessert at £10.50 per head, members and guests are welcome. Please book for the meal with any committee member, Rosemary and Martin Heddle, Jo Walker, Val Fowler, Marion Banks-Nash, Mike Ross, Barry Sheppard. The occasion is a good opportunity to pay subscriptions and donation for the forthcoming year; we look forward to seeing you. **Barry Sheppard**

THE HARVEST SUPPER this year will be on Tuesday 16th October at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. The meal will be similar to last year; a Ploughman's/ pate with apple pie and cream to follow. Tickets at £6 are available from Irene Barnard (824845) and Sue Lees (822661). Could we also please have raffle prizes for the evening's festivities. **Geoff Gaskill**

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WWII – The article about the airfield at Chalksole generated quite a response. Jo Walker says that the garage at the Old Rectory was used to house the village fire engine. Evidently it was small one, probably an Austin, with a cylinder on the back. These are now rare but a very good one can be seen at a museum in Maidstone.
Peter Smith, who lives at Chalksole, says there was also an airfield from 1917 to 1945 at Swingfield (west of Lydden and behind Alkham). It was mainly used in WW1 but in WW2 it was an advanced landing ground (ALG) which were small airstrips built to support D Day. They were designed for fighters such as Hurricanes and Spitfires or light bombers, such as the Mosquito and it was originally planned to build 72 ALG'S in southern England but only 23 were constructed. They were very basic as it was thought that they would be in use for a very short period of time. More information can be found on the web site www.abct.org.uk/airfields/swingfield.



ALKHAM CALENDAR
Shown on the left is the cover of the calendar which is in full colour and costs £6. Each month is a different A4 picture taken around and in Alkham by Stan Fowler. To reserve a calendar please contact Rosemary Heddle, Val Fowler, Den Barnard or brianwimsett@hotmail.com

WEST DOVER Conservative Branch invites you to an evening buffet and drinks reception with Kent Police and Crime Commissioner candidate Craig Mackinlay on Saturday 13th October, 7.40pm for 8pm. The local MP, Charlie Elphicke, will also be present. It is in the Olive Room at The Ramada Dover Hotel (off the A2 at Whitfield) and tickets cost £5 per person. To book a place please contact Geoff Lymer on 07960 490929 or glymer@doverconservatives.com. Craig will talk about the forthcoming Police and Crime Commissioner elections on Thursday 15th November and answer any questions you may have. This event is open to all.

GARDEN TALK - On Friday 5th October we meet at "Evergreen", in Slip Lane from 7.30p.m. where our hosts are Val and Stan Fowler. As the evenings are drawing in, we won't be able to see much of the garden, but there will be plenty to talk about, including some advance planning for our Christmas get-together in early December. All welcome. **Janet Adamson**

THE BOOK CLUB meeting for Wednesday 31st October will be at the home of Anita James, Firbank, Slip Lane 01304 824964 .The book for discussion is A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson. The meeting starts at 7.30p.m. Members are invited to bring suggestions for Autumn reading! For more details telephone Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

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. The course takes place in Dover on Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd October. 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

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OZ on PUNCH – On the first day of the recent long-awaited and hoped-for Indian summer, after a paddle in the sea, some real ale, fish and chips, and ice-cream, we felt that an old-fashioned Punch and Judy show would complete our happiness. There wasn't one available close by, but whilst looking I discovered that this year is the 350th birthday of the show. The Punch and Judy story originated in the 16th century in the Italian 'commedia dell'arte', a form of street comedy theatre. It featured a male hunchback, Pulcinella, who had a long nose and a squawking voice produced by a 'swazzle-stick.' In 1662 an Italian puppet-master named Pietro Gimonde ('Signor Bologna') came to London's Covent Garden with his puppet show, based on Pulcinella, but anglicised as Punch and Joan. Samuel Pepys wrote in his diary of 9th May 1662 that he had seen "...an Italian puppet play...very pretty, the best I have ever seen...", and this date became the official birth of the show in England. Over the next century, as Punch's popularity grew and spread across Europe and America, his nature changed, from a rudely sarcastic stringed puppet to a violent glove-puppet who murders his wife, now named Judy, and child, and then tries to hang the hangman. It's not really surprising that well-meaning attempts have been made over the years to censor Punch; happily they've failed, as the story seems to provide a necessary psychological outlet for adults and children alike. Certainly, modern literature contains many quotations resembling Edmund Gosse's childhood concern over "the internal troubles of the Punch family." Finally, I've discovered that a reliable place to go for a Punch and Judy show these days is underneath the Herne Bay Clock Tower, where they are celebrating Punch's 350th birthday as I write. **Steve Osborn**

BIKE RIDE – Whether you are a believer or not the church bike ride is great fun. Apart from visiting the historic churches in Kent there is the friendly welcome that you get from the volunteers who are there to sign your sheet and ply you with refreshments. They seemed particularly amused by the three ageing and garrulous men in lycra from Alkham (Ken, Den, Brian) who descended upon them. We went east this year passing through many villages including Shepherdswell, Nonnington, Woodnesborough and Waldershare but did fewer churches as the towns were not visited. We covered 37 miles in 6 hours and visited 20 churches and raised over £200. Many thanks to all those who sponsored us.

BMX BIKES – Youngsters in the village have formed mounds and dips at the far end of the football pitch to use their BMX bikes on. They saw Ken Hammond and asked if they could have a proper BMX track. The question was asked at the Parish Council meeting and they have agreed to consider the request when the exact details are provided.

ALKHAM W.I. - Eric Spear spoke about schools set up in Victorian times when all children were encouraged to be educated; a talk everybody enjoyed. As Eric talks on other subjects he will be invited again. Afterwards Janet Barrow, the secretary, had much paperwork to deal with; the main topics being that the annual salary will raised to £33 next year and the fact that names of members who are willing to be on next year's committee must be brought to the October meeting. Speaker at that meeting will be Prue Anderton on "Can I call you 'Mum'?" - **Sue Lees**

A JUMBLE SALE in aid of W.I. funds will be held in the village hall on Saturday 27th October starting at 11.00am.

SNAKES – Brian Croucher said that he has seen a number of snakes behind the Old Granary on the path that leads to the Old Rectory. He wasn't sure what they were but thought that walkers should be aware.

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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	**2**	White Cliffs metal detecting
Tuesday	**9**	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	**15**	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	**16**	Harvest Supper in village hall at 7.30pm
Saturday	**27**	W.I. jumble sale 11.00pm in village hall

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th	Evensong 6:30pm	Eucharist 9.00am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 14th	Sung Eucharist 9am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 21st	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9.00am
Sunday 28th	Joint Benefice 10am at Alkham		

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

THE 2012 CRICKET season is one that will be easily forgotten by Alkham CC. There has been little to cheer up the players during a summer when numerous matches were postponed due to water-logged pitches and a handful of others were called off when it was impossible for either Alkham or the opposition to raise a team. At least the August Bank Holiday weekend brought brief smiles to the team's faces with a famous victory in the annual match against the Harrington Hackers – a fixture that dates back well over 40 years. Responsibility for the Hackers is now in the hands of Sam Loveday, having taken over the captaincy from his father, Mark. But Sam and his friends came up against an Alkham side determined to salvage some pride from a disappointing season and keen to narrow the gap on the Hackers, who have a small advantage in terms of matches won over the last 40-odd years. The Alkham victory on a glorious sunny day almost helped the team wipe away thoughts of the rest of the damp, miserable season. The club aimed to finish the season on a high note to as it prepared for the final match (Sept 23) with Kent skipper Rob Key lining up as Alkham's guest player to face a Marquis XI led by former Hampshire and Middlesex spinner Shaun Udal. BBC cameras were expected on The Meadow to film Marquis chef Charlie Lakin for footage to be used on the Great British Menu TV programme – but the village team were determined he'd face more pressure batting than in his kitchen! **Peter Frater – Club Captain**

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No. 229 November 2012

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THE DYKE Peter Mercer sent a photo of the dyke where it passes under Short Lane at the east of the village. There are two pipes under the road which are clearly incapable of dealing with the flow of water with the result that debris builds up. This causes the bottom of Short Lane to flood with a knock on effect along the dyke. The Highway Authority has been informed but it seems unlikely that anything will be done. There are similar pinch points along the dyke.

POLICE COMMISSIONER – On the 15th November from 8am to 10pm voting will take place in the village hall for the election of the Police Commissioner for Kent. The purpose is to give locals a say in how policing is carried out in the local area. There are 4 independents standing plus Labour, Conservative, UKIP, National Liberal Party and English Democrats candidates. All have pledged that frontline policing will not be privatised if they win but some candidates say they will be willing to consider contracting services to private companies where it saves the taxpayer money.

THE ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY'S AGM will be held in the village hall on Wednesday 14th November starting at 7.30pm. Please come along and find out what the society has been doing to help safeguard the valley and its plans for the future. The meeting is generally brief before those who pre-booked go to the Fox at Temple Ewell for a meal.

NEWSPAPERS – Alkhamhurst Kennels are very grateful to the people who responded to the previous request for old newspapers but supplies have dwindled lately and they need to replenish their stock with some urgency. So please take your old papers to the kennels which are on the valley road east of Alkham adjacent to Wolverton Hill.

ALKHAM CALENDAR – Please could the people who have reserved a calendar either pop in about lunch time or ring me to pick them up. There are only 12 left so if there is anyone who has expressed an interest but not reserved one directly please contact me straight away. We have sold 88 and at present we don't intend to do a reprint unless there is sufficient demand. **Brian 824969 – Old Post Office**

COFFEE MORNING - There will be a coffee morning with homemade cakes in Alkham Village hall on Saturday 10th November in aid of the Alzheimer's Society. We will be holding it from 10am until 12 noon and it will include a tombola and bric-a-brac stall. Please try to support us on this occasion to help raise funds for a very worthy cause. Thank you. **Sue Ross 01304 825736**



CAT – Eileen Delamare phoned the Newsletter to say that her cat was missing. A couple of week's later Spikey was found some distance away in John and Diana Crockford's greenhouse looking fit and rather pleased with himself.

MUCH as we love our furry friends, strimming over a doggy doo-doo is not one of life's more pleasant experiences. As the volunteers maintaining the churchyard will testify, regrettably this has not been an isolated incident. Equally distressing, but in a different way, is the sight of a dog poo on a loved one's grave. There are three well used footpaths through the churchyard and dog walkers are asked to respect the sanctity of this place by not allowing their pets to foul in the churchyard. So please pick it up and bag it; there is a bin at the back of the churchyard by the bonfire pile. In leaving the church open during the day we are also trusting owners not to allow their dogs unattended into the church. Thank you. **Alkham PCC**

THE BOOK CLUB meeting for November will be at the home of Sue Latham, Woodlands, Short Lane, telephone 01304 824924. The book for discussion is Round Ireland with a Fridge by Tony Hawks. The meeting starts at 7.30pm. New members are welcome. For more information contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

FOR RENT – A five acre flat field is available to rent in the centre of Alkham. Please phone Patsy Sayers on 07764 183 781.

THE VILLAGE HALL now has a small archive room. If any societies or clubs connected with the hall would like to archive some material please let us know either by contacting Brian (824969) or Janet Adamson (01303 893413).

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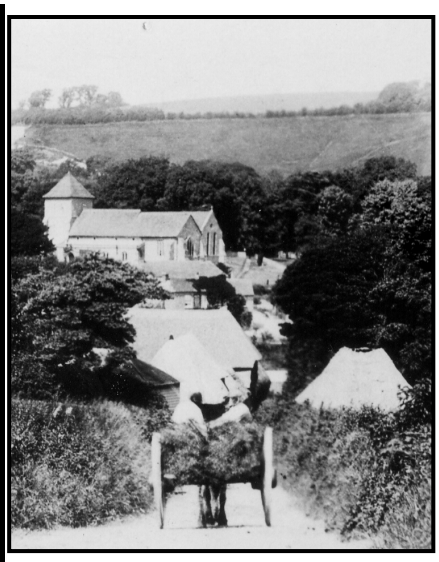

1929 - '...and an hours walk will bring you to the peaceful village of Alkham, buried in the folds of the hills just where the hill road branches off by Hogbrook Farm to Capel and Folkestone. My 'sleepy hollow', I used to call it. Peaceful, health-giving Alkham, with its kindly and friendly village folk and its simple and enjoyable village, full of interest and full of pleasure for me ... two pipes long I used to reckon that walk from the little bridge on the road outside Kearsney to the vicarage at Alkham - a two pipe walk of sheer pleasure for me at any time of year.'

(Kelly's Directory 1929) *Many thanks to Jo Walker for sending this article – the photo is Hogbrook Lane circa 1930.*

EMERGENCY LANDING STRIP – As mentioned in last month's Newsletter there was a wartime ELS at Swingfield. John Richards, who was born in Alkham and captained Alkham cricket club, says that the changing rooms at Selsted cricket club were constructed from buildings that were on the ELS and this year he managed to get a grant of £4500 from Shepway DC to refurbish them.



SHEEP – Peter and Isabelle Smith, who live in Alkham, went to the sale of Traditional and Native Breeds at Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire to buy some sheep. They planned to buy a Moorit Shetland ram but didn't see any they liked so bought three fine ewes - two Moorit and one White All from Scotland. Next year they will compete and sell some sheep. Countryfile presenter Adam Henson was there to judge the best sheep and also filming for a forthcoming episode. Adam bought some magnificently wild looking Boreray which were almost extinct in the 20th century. In the 19th century they were mated with Southdownsheep to establish a new breed, the Suffolk, which is one of the most numerous in the world. Boreray originate on the St Kilda archipelago off the west coast of Scotland and survive as a feral animal on Boreray island. It is the most endangered breed of sheep in the UK.

ALKHAM W.I. - The Speaker Prue Anderton at the October meeting was a bright, speedy talker about setting up a home for foreign students - so many tales told! October 27th WI Jumble Sale in the Village Hall help & contributions pre 11am welcome. 13th November is the AGM. A list of names given for the Committee remains as for this year. Anyone who has shoe boxes with suitable contents to be contributions for the 3rd World, please bring to the AGM. The Xmas Dinner to be on 11th Dec should be paid for at the AGM and the menu chosen. The joint WI Carol Service will be at Whitfield 3rd Dec. The joint WI & Alkham Church Xmas Coffee/Bazaar Morning will be Village Hall 8th Dec 10am - Midday. January onwards the WI Meetings will start at 7pm rather than 7.30pm. **Sue Lees**

GARDEN TALK - After an interesting year, which started with a fruity wine quiz, included many interesting and colourful gardens during the summer evenings, and recently some fake flower photos, we intend to finish the year with a party involving all the participants. This will be in the evening of Friday 7th December - please contact Janet Adamson for more details (01303 893413).

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GILL CALVER will be at St. Radigunds church on November 9th to give a talk entitled 'To Find Out'. It starts at 7.30pm and tickets costing £5 are available from John Oliver on 01303 251403. In 2002 Gill left the Alkham Benefice and went on to become the Queen's Chaplain and Canon of Canterbury Cathedral. Should be an interesting evening.

FIRE ENGINES – Margaret Ashman phoned to say that if anybody was wondering why a couple of fire engines arrived at Green Lane Ewell Minnis on the 7th October it was because of an electrical fire alert which was brought under control. The fire and ambulance crews couldn't get any further than Fryers Ferne Farm so the owner, Lieutenant Colonel Ray Ashman MBE, ferried the crews back and forth repeatedly across farm land to the affected property in his 4x4 vehicle.

NEWSLETTER – The financial year for the Newsletter ended in August and a profit of £38 was made. 340 copies are produced each month and as I now print the Newsletter most of a toner cartridge is used at a cost of about £35; paper cost is £3. Twenty eight Newsletters are posted each month at a cost of £10 (28 emailed). The revenue from adverts was £611 and the overall expenditure was £573 with the profit going into the Newsletter's BS account. I would like to thank the people who deliver the Newsletter, some having done so for nearly 20 years. **editor**

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will present a concert of English music at 7.30 pm on Saturday 17th November in Dover Town Hall. The programme comprises Benjamin Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols" and "Rejoice in the Lamb", Ralph Vaughan Williams's "Five Mystical Songs", and Michael Tippett's "Five Negro Spirituals". The chorus, together with professional soloists and accompanied by harp and piano, will be conducted by Dover Choral Society's Musical Director, Michael Lewis. Tickets costing £12 (Students £6) are available from Dover Tourist Information Centre (Dover Museum), members of Dover Choral 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**

OZ on 1812 – It has been a remarkable year for anniversaries, some of which are: the 1000th anniversary of the murder of Archbishop Alphege of Canterbury by Viking raiders, on 19 April 1012; the 100th anniversaries of Captain Scott's arrival at the South Pole in January, his team's death in March, and the loss of the Titanic in April; the Diamond Jubilee in June; and last month's 25th anniversary of the Great Storm. Some of this year's 200th anniversaries are well-known, others less so, but they're all significant to us as the western world was changing rapidly in 1812. On 7 February of that year, Charles Dickens was born in Portsmouth, later to become the literary giant who recorded many of those changes. The word 'gerrymander' was invented on 11 February when Elbridge Gerry, the governor of Massachusetts, redrew the election boundaries to favour his own party. The amended map resembled a salamander, and so Gerry's Federalist opponents combined the words 'gerry' and 'salamander' to describe Gerry's action. On the next day Napoleon introduced the metric system to France. During a recent visit to Canada, we discovered how the conflicting interests of these three countries led to the War of 1812 between the US and Great Britain. Britain was already at war with France and was annoying the US by impressing American sailors into the Royal Navy, interfering in trade with France and supporting the American Indians. On 18 June, the US declared its first ever war, on Great Britain, and occupied the Canadian town of Sandwich on July 12. The war was to last another two years, but the big event continued in Europe. Napoleon was defeated at Moscow on 19 October 1812, giving rise seventy years later to Tchaikovsky's ever popular 1812 Overture, without which life today would be incomplete. **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	**5**	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm in VH – all welcome
Tuesday	**2**	White Cliffs metal detecting 7pm
Saturday	**10**	SE Astronomical Society in village hall 7pm
Tuesday	**13**	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Wednesday	**14**	Alkham Valley Society AGM in village hall 7.30pm
Thursday	**15**	Police Commissioners election in VH from 8am to 10pm
Monday	**19**	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	**24**	Beekeepers in village hall from 2pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4th	Evensong 4:30pm	Sung Eucharist 9am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 11th	Remembrance Day 10:15am	Remembrance Day 10:30am	Rememb. Day 10:15am
Sunday 18th	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 25th		Benefice Eucharist 10am	

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



AT THE END of the 19th century a pumping station was built at Drellingore which supplied water to the Folkestone and District area. In 1931 it was decided to dig another well and that is when the white art deco style building on the bend of the valley road was constructed.

A ten foot (3m) diameter well was dug 172 feet (52m) into the chalk and 12 feet above the bottom, shafts totalling 543 feet (165m) were dug to the east and the west. In the drought of 1933 the adits were extended by another 185 feet (56m). At that time the well could produce 2 million gallons in a 24 hour period and because of the purity of the water it was not treated. Just to the west of the housing development at Hawkinge is the Terlingham reservoir which is filled from Drellingore and there is a satellite station at Lower Standen. Today it can produce over 3 million gallons a day and the water is treated. The high porosity of the chalk provides the volume of water, which as locals will know also accounts for the dyke through the village and the occasional flooding of the village green. **editor** – *many thanks to Gill Osborne for providing some of the material*

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MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
County Councillor, Bryan Cope 206510
District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187

Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969
email brianwimsett@hotmail.com
Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791
alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net
Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
Police – 999 emergency &101 for non-emergency including PCSO
Alkham web site www.alkham.org

W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Footpath Warden antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk White 01303 240539
Church Wardens Geoff Gaskill 823100 and Richard Tapsell 822295

NSPCC HELPLINE 0808 800 5000 help@nspcc.org.uk

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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No. 230 December 2012

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

Merry Christmas

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VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE - The Christmas tree lights switch on will be on Saturday 8th December at 4:45pm. This will be followed by carol singing led by the WI and a visit by Father Christmas. Many thanks to Mary and Dick Sullivan who have once again kindly donated the tree and to Ben who has again invited everybody to the Marquis afterwards for mulled wine and mince pies. **Den Barnard 824845**



NHS and RURALITY – The Primary Care Trust (PCT) has changed some of the areas around Dover, Deal and Sandwich from being rural to non-rural for NHS purposes. The Parish Council has been asked if they would like to be involved in the appeal against this change to which they have agreed. If you live in a rural area your prescriptions can be dispensed at the GP surgery (if you also live at least a mile away from a chemist). It may be that only new people moving into the area are affected initially but rural GP surgeries rely on the money generated from dispensing. Over time the loss of dispensing income might mean they have to close and the patients transferred to town practices. Alkham is set to remain rural, but if the appeal is rejected then the rural surgeries that some Alkham residents currently attend may close. If you want further information perhaps the best idea is to ask at your local surgery.

SURVEY – Kent Highways are carrying out a survey for people to comment on their services and needs. It really is worth taking the time to fill in the survey as it covers such subjects as the condition of roads and pavements, public transport and hot spots. For instance, if you think the junctions at the end of the valley road with the A260 or the old A2 are a problem you can say so as well as commenting on the state of roads in general. The survey can be accessed on the Internet at www.tinyurl.com/d6t6pff but it's not clear if it can be completed on a paper copy. There is a 24 hour helpline on 08458 247 247 if you want to phone them and responses to the survey should be made by the 12th December 2012. **Editor**

GARDEN TALK - Arrangements are well in hand for our Christmas meal on Friday 7th December. We look forward to planning an interesting programme for 2013. Please contact Janet Adamson (01303 893413) with suggestions or for further information.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR/COFFEE MORNING

This is being held on Saturday December 8th in the village hall from 10 til noon on behalf of the WI and St Anthony's Church. There will be various stalls including handmade crafts, gift cards and cakes. We are also planning to have Tombola and bric-a-brac stalls and for these we need suitable donations of goods please. Also, cake donations would be greatly appreciated too. Please do come along and bring some festive cheer to this event even if you pop in just to say hello and enjoy a coffee and join in some carol singing. **WI / St Anthony's**



THE ANNUAL QUIZ will take place on the 2nd February at 7.30pm in the village hall. Please give me a ring on 824969 if you would like to book a table which are up to the maximum of 8 people. Food will be served at the interval which should be reasonably filling. The cost is £5 per person. The profits this year will go to the Pilgrims Hospice at Ashford. **(Brian)**

COFFEE MORNING - I would like to thank everyone who contributed in any way to the success of the coffee morning for the Alzheimer's Society on Saturday 10th November in the village hall. Thank you to all who gave me prizes for the tombola, made cakes or donated items to sell on the various stalls. I would like to give a very big thank you to those who gave me generous donations of money. I am so pleased to be able to send a cheque to the Alzheimer's Society for £420. Thank you all very much. **Sue Ross**

MAY WE THANK everyone for their kind thoughts, good wishes, prayers, flowers and cards and for all the wonderful support we have received since Richard's accident. Never, ever, was it so good to be home. Thank you so much. Susannah and Richard

POPPIES - Once again, I am pleased to tell you that Alkham has been generous in giving to the Poppy Appeal in 2012. The total collected this year is £393.42. A big thank you to those villagers who help me collect door-to-door in Alkham. And also thanks to the businesses, that collect - Alkham Garden Centre and Tea Rooms, Southern Equestrian, The Marquis, and Alkhamhurst Kennels. **Rachel Fountain**

VILLAGE GREEN – The Highway Authority has no objection to the concrete post and rail fence adjacent to Hogbrook Lane being removed and replaced with hedging. This will probably happen early next year with the hedging continuing round the fencing to the sump in the dyke.

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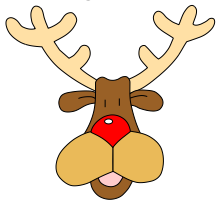
CROSSROADS VILLA – The address does sound attractive but according to Google it is actually Di Smith's cowshed at Sladden Farm, which even has its own postcode. It does seem unlikely that the cows registered the barn although her pigs Snowball and Napoleon are looking rather pleased with themselves.

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - The AGM of the Society took place in the Village Hall on 14th November. It was pleasant to see the number of members who had attended; many thanks. The meeting was shorter than usual and although the basic ground was covered we still have to resolve certain questions. At present Barry Sheppard is Acting Chairman and Treasurer which matter will be resolved at the next Committee meeting (January 17, 2013). The Committee members are: Marion Banks-Nash, Barry Sheppard, Val Fowler, Mike Ross, Liz Lambourne Joanna Walker and Geoff Hillier. Pam Sayers offered her resignation from the Committee as did Martin and Rosemary Heddle. Thanks for their support, Pam's invaluable input has spanned over 25 years. Tribute was paid to Maurice Sayers, our excellent Chairman for most of the Society's existence, Max Walker, Betty Neely, Glyn Thomas and Dr Bundy. Our loss is greatly felt by their passing. Welcome to Anthony Barrier as a new member. A good supper at The Fox followed as now customary. The Christmas Walk will take place on 27 December starting from the Village Hall at 10.30 all being well. Thanks to all. **Joanna Walker (Sec)** *Extraordinary Meeting planned for 8pm, 22 November at the Old Rectory*

CORRECTION – In last month's Newsletter there was an article about sheep where I said Suffolk sheep are a result of crossing Borerays with Southdowns but they are actually the result of crossing Norfolk horn sheep with Southdowns.

CAT – You may have seen the article last month about Spikey the cat who went missing and was found at Diana Crockford's bungalow. After returning home he was kept in for some time but was let out and once again went missing. A little while later Diana found him behind her bungalow. Evidently this is a trend with some cats and Eileen, Spikey's owner, is going to make sure it doesn't happen again.



PEDESTRIANS – The suggestion to put a pedestrian symbol and dotted white line on the valley road at the narrow point near the Marquis was rejected out of hand by the Highways Authority. They consider the road is narrow enough already without the latter and that there have been no recorded accidents. In the morning and evening children can be seen walking through this gap and it is far from ideal. Highways say they can use the footpath round the back of the village hall. Pedantically this is not a public footpath as the piece around the village hall is owned by the hall and in using this route the children will have to cross the road near the bends on the valley road.

ALKHAM WI AGM - Susan Lees stood in as Chairman due to three other Committee Members being on holiday! However, names requested for next year's Committee remain the same so no ballot had to take place. The Annual Reports for Dec 2011-Nov 2012 were given by Janet Barrow the Secretary and Cherry Leppard the Treasurer. The Annual Finances are not quite so healthy this year, possibly due to the fact that Jumble Sales are not doing so well. The next event will be the Christmas Coffee Morning/Bazaar on 8th December in the Village Hall 10am being run with Alkham Church Members. As the Village Hall needs Christmas decorating members are invited to help at 10am on Monday 3rd December. - **Susan Lees**

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OZ on LEAR – Last month's story overlooked the fact that 2012 also saw the 200th anniversary of much-loved British artist and author, Edward Lear, born on 27 May 1812 in Holloway, twentieth of twenty-one children of stockbroker Jeremiah Lear and Ann (née Skerrett.) The Lear family suffered financial problems so severe that Edward was raised from the age of four by his sister Ann, twenty-one years his senior. From infancy he suffered chronic ill-health, including epilepsy, bronchitis and asthma; and then, perhaps due to childhood insecurity, attacks of depression which he called "The Morbids." Lear started work as 'ornithological draughtsman' in his teens, first for London Zoological Society, and then for Lord Derby, who owned a private zoo. There followed a lifetime of painting while travelling, mainly to Greece, Egypt, India and Ceylon, while pursuing a parallel career writing 'literary nonsense', an activity which grew from hours spent amusing Lord Derby's grandchildren. His most famous poem is The Owl and The Pussycat, written in 1871, and containing the phrase 'runcible spoon', totally meaningless but appearing in many modern dictionaries. He also popularized limericks, his being free of the usual innuendo, and of varying lengths, often depending on how much space was available beneath the associated drawing. Having twice been turned down by a lady 46 years his junior, Lear never married, but settled in San Remo in the 1870s with his cat and Albanian chef, 'Giorgis', who he described as his "faithful friend and thoroughly unsatisfactory chef." After years of increasing blindness and heart trouble, Lear died in 1886. This year has seen many celebrations of his life, the last being a limited edition reprint of his Birds Drawn for John Gould. At £895 per copy, I think I'll stick to my old Penguin edition of his limericks. **Steve Osborn**

THE WOLVERTON Anglo-Saxon double-tiered weapons burial display case which was at the Astor College for the Arts has been used by the college and its satellite primary schools as an educational tool for History, Art and English lessons. The case has now moved to Dover Museum where the exhibit will be permanently used by over 12,000 school children visiting the museums education facilities each year. As from 27th November 2012, the general public will now be able to view the case during the normal museum opening times. **Vince Burrows Alkham Valley Historical Research Group**



HARVEST SUPPER - The annual village Harvest supper on 16th October proved to be very successful thanks to invaluable help on the day from Sue Ross, Rosemary Heddle, Den and Geoff. Thanks of course to Paul for his brilliant and amusing auctioneering and David for assisting. Of course the event was successful and fun only because of the enormous support from all who attended and considering the numbers swelled to 73 we had a full hall. A huge thank you too to all who kindly donated goods to the auction and raffle in particular Barbara Palmer, Peter Hooker and Shelley Jackson for making another stunning Harvest cake. After expenses we made a profit of £670.75 which will be going to St Anthony's church funds. Richard Tapsell was sorely missed and all send their best wishes for a full recovery.

Irene Barnard

Sent by Jo Walker - an extract from John Betjeman's 'Septuagesima'

But most of all let's praise the few
Who are seen in their accustomed pew
Throughout the year, whate'er the weather
That they may worship God together.
These, like a fire of glowing coals,
Strike warmth into each other's souls
And though they be but two or three
They keep the church for you and me.

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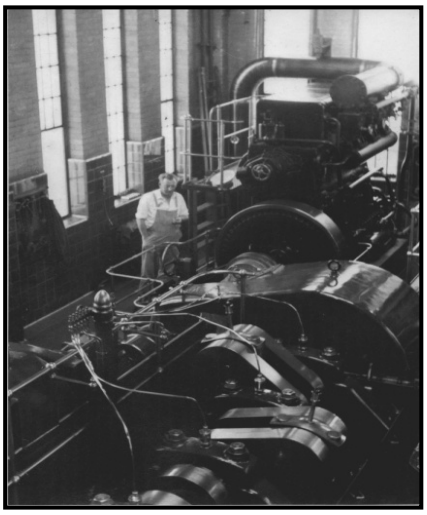
Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am – 6.15 to 7.15 aerobics dance class
Thursday	Karate classes from 7.15pm to 8.45pm in VH - 821336
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Monday	**3**	Parish Council
Tuesday	**4**	White Cliffs metal detecting 7pm
Saturday	**8**	Coffee morning in village hall 10 to 12 – W.I./PCC
Saturday	**8**	SE Kent Astronomical Society in village hall 7pm
Monday	**19**	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2nd	Evensong 4:30pm	Sung Eucharist 9am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 9th	Sung Eucharist 9am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Wednesday 12th	Licensing of Revd. Brian Williams 7pm at Capel		
Sunday 16th	9 Lessons/Carols 6:30pm		Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 23rd	Benefice Eucharist at Hougham 10.00am		
Monday 24th Christmas Eve	Crib Service 4pm Sung Eucharist 11:30pm	Sung Eucharist 11:30pm	
Tuesday 25th		Worship Tog'r 11am	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 30th	Benefice Eucharist at Capel10am		

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



PUMPING STATION – In last month's Newsletter there was an article about the pumping station at Drellingore. Joan Allen has sent a photo, probably taken in the 1950's, showing the inside of the station with her uncle Geoff who worked there with John Richard's father. John says that the first satellite pumping station was by the bend and his father worked in the tunnels and John remembers as a 10 year old a 'not too sure it was a pleasure' of a trip down the 300' well. He also says that 'drilling' and 'gore' means rising water. The original Victorian two storey pumping station was demolished in 1981 much to the annoyance of local industrial archaeologists but the water authority was concerned that if it was left the water source might be contaminated.

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MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
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District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187

Newsletter, Brian Wimsett 824969
email brianwimsett@hotmail.com
Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791
alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net
Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
Police – 999 emergency &101 for non-emergency including PCSO
Alkham web site www.alkham.org

W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Footpath Warden
antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
Church Wardens
Geoff Gaskill 823100
and Richard Tapsell 822295

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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 231 January 2013

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CHRISTMAS TREE The photo shows Brian on the left trying to give the appearance that's he's doing something whilst the other 5 struggle under the tree to get it in the hole on the 2nd of December. Many thanks to Richard, Peter, Mike, Den and Barry, who can be seen in the photo below, for all their hard work. On the 8th of December about 40 people gathered round the tree and sang carols led by the W.I. choir. There was then a count of 10 and the lights were turned on by Rhiannon, who has recently moved into the village with her family, and can be seen beaming happily below. Father Christmas made an appearance and gave sweets to the children and later at the Marquis mulled wine and mince pies were given to the adults. Thanks to Den Barnard for organising the event and to Dick and Mary Sullivan for the tree. **Brian**





ST ANTHONY'S Christmas Tree - Once again the Alkham Valley Garden Centre have donated a fabulous Christmas tree for St Anthony's Church. A big thank you to Eunice and Bill and also to Ken Hammond for setting it up and to Grace Stacey and daughter Debbie for decorating it. **Den Barnard**

THE MARQUIS will be hosting an **'Alkham supper'** every Wednesday evening at £10 for 2 courses. Served 6-7pm. The first one – Wednesday 9th January – will be Beef Stew & dumplings followed by Bread & Butter pudding with custard. We can cater for dietary requirements. After that we are open to suggestions as to what the menu will be.

Happy New Year

DO YOU FANCY SINGING at the 02 Arena?
I went along to a taster session with Rock Choir in Folkestone and loved it. Everyone is welcome and you don't have to be able to read music, just enjoy singing. We often join up with other Rock Choirs and perform but it is all very laid back, you can do as little or as much as you like. There is a large range of ages although we could do with a few more men! The 02 performance is in July and I am sure it will be an amazing experience. If anyone is interested they can either give me a call or log onto www.rockchoir.com. and book in for a taster session. Trust me singing in the shower will never be the same again! **Sue Latham 01304 824924**

THE ANNUAL QUIZ will take place on the 2nd February at 7.30pm in the village hall. Please give me a ring on 824969 if you would like to book a table which are up to the maximum of 8 people. Food will be served at the interval which should be reasonably filling. The cost is £5 per person. The profits this year will go to the Pilgrims Hospice at Ashford. **Brian**

CHURCH SECURITY - The mindless actions of a few individuals have denied villagers of access to the church during daylight hours. St Anthony's has been unlocked for over two years and we are sad to report that during this time we have had three thefts, including the attempted forced entry to the collection box with a crowbar, theft of money from the honesty box and most recently, early last month, the theft of the altar cloths after an act of disgraceful vandalism. These cloths will be difficult and expensive to replace and regrettably the church committee has concluded that the church should be locked again, at least until spring when they will review the situation with the vicar. **Geoff Gaskill**

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR held for Alkham Church and W.I. on 8th December - The event went well and raised over £400 much of which will go to Charity. There were lots of lovely stalls, most of which did well. Sadly there were not so many people who supported it this year, but despite that, all went well - thank you. **Susan Lees**

HEATING OIL – A house just outside the village had its oil tank filled up recently at a cost of £1100. A couple of days later it was found to be empty so people are warned to be aware of this theft and where possible take suitable precautions.

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SECRET ARMY – Drellingore featured in the article about the pumping station and again features with regard to the secret army. In the months after Dunkirk the British realised that there was a distinct possibility of a German invasion and in the south there was over 400 miles of coast to protect. The army division responsible for its defence was pitifully ill-equipped so it was decided to set up a 'devil-may-care' force of volunteers to outwit the German divisions. Auxiliary units were scattered throughout Kent and Sussex and were largely made up of civilians who knew the area like the back of their hands. Security was very tight and few people knew of their existence. In the autumn of 1940 sappers were sent into the countryside to build underground bunkers and one of these was at Drellingore. It was on the hillside about 1km from the nearest road in the middle of a coppice. The chamber was about 5 metres square with an entrance hole covered with a hinged tree stump. The group was commanded by Lieutenant Lines with Sergeant George Marsh, Thomas Holmans, Charles Fayers, Dennis Dewar and Samuel Osborne (*the details for this article were provided by Gill Osborne, the daughter of Samuel who used to live at Drellingore Farm, from an article written by Roy Humphries for the local press*). They were issued with a .38 Smith and Wessen revolver, a commando knife and a brass knuckleduster. The men were trained to wreak havoc on the Germans and twice a week they mustered at the bunker and attended training sessions at Wye and Bilting where they learned the skills of unarmed combat and how to kill silently. They also attended evening practice in the grounds of Tappington Hall at Denton where they were shown how to throw grenades and learn about explosives. Whilst their primary function was to blow up fuel and ammunition dumps they were also required to blow up buildings which might be of use if the invasion happened. One of these buildings was Hockley Sole, which is near the crossroads at Lower Standen and also the high brick rail viaduct in Folkestone would have been demolished. If the men had been caught they would almost certainly have been shot as they effectively didn't exist. The Drellingore bunker has now disappeared although part of the concrete shaft may remain and the defence squads were disbanded in 1943. **Editor**

NEWSLETTER – The stories that I have included from the past have generated a fair amount of interest and I'd like to keep the theme going. If you have any memories or tales from the past please let me know. They can either be written articles or just some details around which a story can be put. My address and phone number are on the top of page 1 and my email address is on page 4. Please do contact me, it would be much appreciated. **editor**

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - I have been delving through the archives and had a chance to read the constitution of the Alkham Valley Society. One point that immediately struck me was that it was signed and dated by the late Maurice Sayers on the 28th November 1977 thus we have just celebrated our thirty fifth year. You may know that the society was founded to help combat the ravaging of the valley's trees and hedgerows by an aggressive farmer and it has kept a watchful eye over any unsympathetic developments ever since. We are still here and ready to support the Parish Council and all whenever there is a matter of concern, be it inconsiderate systems of rubbish collection to blatant disregard of planning regulations. In its thirty five years of life Paul Tapsell was chairman for ten years and Maurice has been the only other until the beginning of this year.
*** The need for an organisation like ours in these times becomes more and more important so we will continue our work with your backing ***. **Barry Sheppard, Acting Chairman**

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OZ on DATES – Last Christmas I chuckled over a beautifully drawn cartoon in a family history magazine, depicting a man wearing a Father Christmas hat and seated in an armchair, and reading from a long scroll the words "...my uncle was born on the 2nd April 1910...". The man's wife is wearily explaining to the guests "I asked him to get some dates for Christmas." I was reminded of this today when I sat down to write an OZ story, and noticed that the date was 12/12/12, a 'special date' of a type that only occurs twelve times in each century, the next being 01/01/01 in 2101. There are reports of a huge increase across the country in marriages planned for 12/12/12, including many couples who want the vows said on the 12th second of the 12th minute of the 12th hour of that day. Maybe as you read this, we'll know the final figures. The BBC added that the date 09/09/09 had been particularly prized as a marriage date for couples working in the emergency services. Interviewed by the BBC, Marcus du Sautoy, Professor of Mathematics at Oxford University, Professor for the Public Understanding of Science, and President of the Mathematical Association, said that he thought that the desire to marry on 12/12/12 shows that "people have mathematical minds", because they love to find pattern in numbers There are many other classes of 'special dates', such as double dates, palindromes, square root dates and so on, far too many to deal with here, so I'll try to deal with them as they come up in 2013. For as Marcus du Sautoy said in his interview: "We are all incredibly lucky to be living in this 12-year period because it's pretty fallow after that.", and I think that 2013 is the final year of this magical 12-year period. **Steve Osborn**

SNOW CLEARING outside your house - You are perfectly entitled to clear snow and ice on the pavement outside your home. Don't be put off clearing paths because you're afraid someone will get injured. It's unlikely you'll be sued or held legally responsible for any injuries on the path if you have cleared it carefully. Be careful when you are shovelling snow, ensuring your own safety and visibility, especially if you clearing snow when it's dark or at night. **Kent Highways**

BOOK CLUB - The next book club meeting will be on Wednesday the January 30th at the home of Avi Munn, Poems, Short Lane, Alkham - Tel 01304 824729 starting at 7.30. The book for discussion will be The Fishing Fleet Hunting in the Raj by Anne de Coursey. For more information about the village book club contact Jane Aslett on 01304 824729.

ALKHAM W.I. - A lovely evening was spent by 27 members at 'The Arlington' in Dover with a lovely Christmas Dinner and a good chat, despite the heavy frost at -7'c in Alkham. Hopefully the next meeting on 8th January will not be so cold. The talk will be 'Eve's Stained Glass' BUT due to the winter weather the **MEETING WILL START AT 7pm** - please note this time. **Susan Lees**

ASH DIEBACK – A house owner in the village has reported that some of the ash trees in his property appear to be affected by the dieback disease. If you think that any ash trees in your property or any that you have seen are affected by the disease please report it to The Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA) by phoning 08459 33 55 77 or email plant.health.info@fera.gsi.gov.uk . Indications of the disease are dark usually diamond shaped lesions on the bark or tiny fungi growth on stalks in early autumn. When in leaf, blackening of the leaf extending into the veins and stalk and dieback of the crown of the tree with a flush of new growth below. **Woodland Trust**

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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 VH – all welcome
Tuesday	**8**	W.I. in village hall at 7pm
Saturday	**12**	SE Kent Astronomical Society in village hall 7pm
Monday	**21**	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	**29**	Village Hall committee meeting in village hall 7.00pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6th	Evensong 4:30pm	Sung Eucharist 9am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 13th	Sung Eucharist 9am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 20th	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 27th	Benefice Eucharist 10am		

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



GARDEN TALK - After a full year of visiting gardens in Alkham, talking of gardening and much more , as well as enjoying good company, we ended our year with a very successful meal, mulled wine and entertaining quizzes at Thorn Cottage. Thanks to everyone who made the evening so special; also to those who were our hosts during the year. Now 2013 visits are being planned - offers of hospitality are always welcomed. **Janet Adamson (01303 893413)**

PRECEPT – This is the amount that the Parish Council request from the local authority for expenditure on Parish matters. The precept they are requesting for 2013 is £7500, which is a reduction of £500 from previous years.

Further to the poem by John Betjeman in last month's Newsletter Margaret Batcheldor sent the following:

Some go to church to meet a lover
Some the fashion to discover
Some go to church to sleep and nod
But very few to worship God.

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ONCE again the ground water rose out of the ground at Drellingore and became a small river. As a lot of people will know there is a well at South Alkham in which the water can be seen to be rising as the underlying chalk becomes saturated and eventually the Nailbourne flows. In times gone past it was known as the 'Woe Waters' and even today it causes problems for people especially in the Meggett Lane area.



SALT – The winter salt bag has been delivered and placed at the back of the village hall car park on Hogbrook Lane. The Parish Council wish to remind people that the salt is there such that traffic can run as freely as possible on Hogbrook Lane and it is not to be used for private paths or drives.

THE BELLS – An option at a wedding is to have the bells rung in celebration after the register is signed. We do this in Alkham but the number of bell ringers is diminishing and this year the bells were not rung at New Year. To begin with, like driving, it takes a while to get confidence but once learnt it just comes naturally. Anyone can ring including young adults and it's not necessary to stay for the service (in the past some used to go to the pub). Please help us to maintain the tradition and either see Ken Hammond or give Richard Tapsell a ring on 822295. Bell practice is on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month between 7 and 8pm.

ALKHAM FETE - There will be a Fete Meeting on Wednesday 13th February at 8 pm in the Village Hall - please come along (or get in touch with me direct beforehand) as we need to establish whether there is sufficient support to allow us to run the Fete this July - we're aiming for Saturday 13th July. Without enough people to help with the stalls, etc. and with the necessary work we may be unable to re-instate this proud village tradition! Paul Tapsell 01303 892082.

GARDENING TIPS – I'm pleased to report that from next month there will be a regular feature giving gardening tips for the month written by Geoff and Margaret Hillier.

DRAINAGE – The Parish Council meeting on the 7th January was dominated by discussion about problems caused by the Nailbourne flooding and Kent Highways not keeping drains clear. To deal with the Nailbourne flowing a dyke was dug some years ago and it is the responsibility of the landowners to keep it clear. The problem is that most of the blockage in the dyke is caused by the silt being washed off the road and therefore it seems reasonable that Highways should deal with the matter. The culverts and pipes are similarly affected and the result is that the bottom of Meggett Lane becomes under water and there is a good chance that flooding will occur elsewhere. Another problem is the turnover of staff at Highways such that the new people don't know the historical facts. The Parish Council are trying to put as much pressure as they can on KCC Highways to deal with the matter and some work has started. Also in the past channels have been cut in the sides of the road to allow water to flood onto adjacent land but Highways are not willing to continue this practice. As a result water streams down Lockeringe Lane and then hits a barrier of hedge cuttings and debris lodged on the road gulley before shooting over the road onto Hopton Manor resulting in property damage. Kent Highways do have budget problems but let's hope they can find resources to resolve the situation.

LENT LUNCHES - On each Wednesday in Lent members of the Alkham, Capel and Hougham benefices will be hosting a series of lunches to which all are welcome. For £3.00 per person, you will be served with soup, bread and cheese, and ALL proceeds will be donated by the host/hostess to a local charity of their choice. Turn up anytime between 12.30pm and 2pm to partake of a tasty meal and enjoy the company of others from all three villages. The venues are: - **February 13th** 143, Old Dover Road, Capel – hostess Coleta Spillett: **February 20th**, The Old Village School, Stonyway Lane, Church Hougham – hostess Wendy Finnis: **February 27th**, Forstal Cottage, Alkham Valley Road, Alkham - hostess Sue Lees: **March 6th**, 56, Alexandra Road, Capel - hostess Vad Blake. The venues for the 13th, 20th and 27th March will be posted in next month's Newsletter. For further information please contact Jerry Spillett on 01303 242146.

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB - The AGM will be on Monday 11th February at 8 pm in the Village Hall followed by a curry at Whitfield. If anyone is willing to assist either playing or as a temporary groundsman (while Richard T is indisposed) please let me know and/or come along to the meeting! Paul Tapsell 01303 892082.

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SHAGGY DOG STORY

This picture was sent to me as an attachment on the Internet and it seemed a pity not to include it in the Newsletter. It looks as though the sheep are rounding up the sheep dog. Further training is obviously required

A SURPRISING DISCOVERY – John and Hilary Mitchell lived at Thorn Cottage on Meggett Lane until 2007. They both came from what they believed to be long-established northern stock having lived in the Manchester area. In 2010 John began to research the ancestry of his paternal grandmother and it confirmed the northern connection but the 1881 census suggested that her grandfather had been born in Dover and that his wife, Susanna, was from Alkham. Susanna's parents, Richard and Hannah (nee Rouse) Fakeley had been married in St Anthony's, Alkham on October 13th 1819 and spent all their married life living in the Chalksole Green area. Richard and Hannah had a number of children, one of them being Susanna John's great-great-grandmother, and she was baptised in St Anthony's on 20th October 1833. She later married John Mercer as shown on the birth certificate of Susanna's son, John Henry Mercer. However the only marriage recorded in Dover for the right period is between Susanna Fakeley and a John Rigden. Records show that John Mercer had a niece, Emma Brown, whose mother, Jane, had the maiden name of Rigden and it would therefore appear that John and Jane were siblings in the Rigden family. One hundred and fifty years later John and Hilary knew nothing of this when they attended St. Anthony's and walked through the graveyard where John's ancestors are buried and John wonders if there is someone in the Alkham area today, reading this, who also has a Fakeley in their family tree or any further information. If so please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com or ring Brian on 01304 824969.

GARDEN TALK - We start the year with another fruity wine quiz on Friday 15th February from 7.30p.m. at 'Sunrise', Meggett Lane. We hope to finalise the programme for 2013 on that evening, so please bring diaries and suggestions. Janet Adamson (01303 893413)

ALKHAM W.I. - Our first meeting in 2013 was presided over by Janet Barrow - Secretary last year and President this year. Cherry Leppard spoke about the trip to the tulip fields in April, which seems to be popular. It was decided money raised at our Christmas Bazaar should be donated to Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. Janet thanked members for attending the lighting of the Christmas tree on the Village Green, and said how much the mulled wine and mince pies, so kindly provided by the Marquis were appreciated. The Annual Council Meeting at Margate was on the 13th March, and members were asked to give their names in at the next meeting. Members would be able to exhibit three, items of their art work for sale. Our Secretary, Sue Lees, has now booked jumble sales for this year, and the dates are 23rd February, 3rd August and 26th October. Our excellent speaker was Eve Muggridge who gave a demonstration on cutting stained glass and how to put it together to make different things, such as a butterfly, an owl, or just an attractive glass shape. It was a fascinating subject and an interesting evening^ Please note our next meeting will start at 7 p.m. not 7.30 p.m., and it is a Hobbies Evening. Members are asked to bring their hobby to the meeting. **Pamela Sayers**

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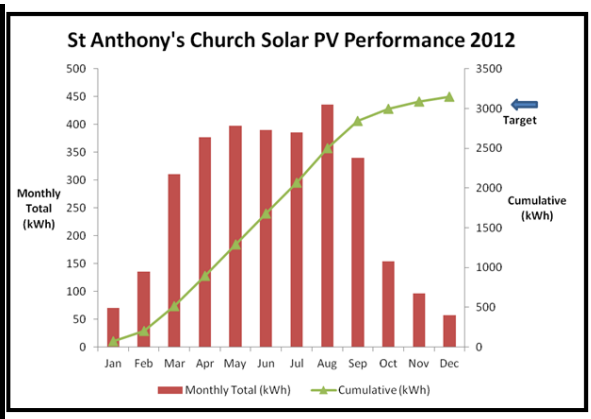

DESPITE one of the gloomiest summers on record, in its first year of operation the St Anthony's solar photo-voltaic (PV) system actually exceeded its electricity production target of 3,067 kWh. In so doing it saved some 1.6 tons of carbon dioxide entering the atmosphere from generating electricity from non-renewable sources, such as coal and gas. For comparison, the average UK house uses about 2,500 kWh of electricity a year. As the attached graph shows, most of the electricity was generated in the sunnier March to September period. Don't be fooled by those that claim that solar PV works well even on cloudy days. It needs direct sunlight to generate appreciable amounts of electricity. Winter months generated only about 15% of the electricity in the summer months. The clue is in the name! Here is to a sunnier 2013. **Geoff Gaskill**

OZ on PHENOLOGY UPDATE – Stuck for a theme this month, I looked back ten years to my February 2003 story on phenology, which I had defined informally as 'the study of organisms as affected by climate, using the dates of seasonal phenomena such as opening of flowers or arrival of migrant birds.' The article went on to discuss the history of phenology and in particular the work of the UK Phenology Network, a partnership between research biologist Tim Sparks of the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, at Cambridge, and the Woodland Trust. It was here that I realised that an update was needed, as so much progress has been made in the last ten years in recording and evaluating results. Between 1998 and 2003 the number of observers rose, from 74 to 18,600. Now, just ten years later, over 50,000 people, both amateurs and professionals, are involved. The Nature's Calendar Survey combines observations with historical records, providing a database of over 2 million records from the UK since the 1600s. Members are not required to be experts as the Nature's Calendar team provides free assistance, identification booklets and recording forms. If preferred, members may record their observations online. The team may be contacted online at naturescalendar@woodlandtrust.org.uk or at Woodland Trust, Kempton Way, NG31 6LL, or by 'phoning 01476 584878. Phenology is a pleasant activity that I recommend unreservedly, not least because it is totally unstressful. There is no pressure to tick every, or indeed any, boxes on the recording form, as all that matters is the anonymous aggregate of entries. I am in fact returning to it now after a lapse of three years when my personal circumstances were disrupted. My first entry this year? A catkin near the A4 on the way home from Berkshire on 12 January. **(Steve Osborn)**

HOURGLASS FITNESS CLUB is a local friendly fitness club recently opened in Ladywell Dover by two sisters. Offering classes such as Zumba, Bokwa, Spin, Candlelit Pilates, Fit Kids, Mature Movers this is a club for all ages and fitness abilities wrapped up in an affordable membership price with 3 studios, luxury changing facilities and a member's lounge. Contact us on 01304 212444 or email: info@hourglassfitnessclub.co.uk for more information.

THANKS – In the November edition there was an article about a fire at Ewell Minnis where Ray Ashman helped the emergency services. The property affected was Common Hill Cottage and Christopher Oakley, who lives there, would also like to thank Denise Prior, Bill Ruffle and Jane Hill for all their help and kindness.

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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

Saturday	**2**	Annual quiz starting at 7.30pm in the village hall
Tuesday	**5**	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Monday	**11**	Cricket Club AGM 8.00pm in village hall
Tuesday	**12**	W.I. meeting 7.00pm in village hall
Wednesday	**13**	Fete meeting 8.00pm in the village hall
Monday	**18**	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	**23**	W.I. jumble sale in village hall 11.00am
Saturday	**23**	Beekeepers in village hall from 2.00pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3rd	Evensong 4:30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 10th	Sung Eucharist 9am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 17th	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 24th	Benefice Eucharist 10am Hougham		
Thursday 28th	Maunday Thursday Eucharist 7pm Hougham		
Friday 29th	Meditation on the Cross 12pm	Meditation on the Cross 2pm	Meditation on the Cross 1pm
Sunday 31st	Eucharist 9:00am	Eucharist 10.30am	Eucharist 9.30am

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

SIXTEEN MEMBERS attended the Alkham Valley Society Walk, which took place on the 27th December, as it has done every year since the Society was inaugurated in 1977. For various reasons there was difficulty in finding someone to lead the walk this year, but at the last minute John Sayers, who was brought up in Alkham, agreed to do it. He was a little dubious as he now lives in Temple Ewell, but he certainly knows the hills and walks around here as well as anyone. He was concerned about the mud, as were other people, saying he'd never known it so slippery. However, we have most certainly carried out our walk in far worse conditions and, I'm pleased to say there were no accidents. Thank you John for "filling in" at the last minute. It would have been a great shame not to have held it. **Pamela Savers**

ARCHAEOLOGY – The Parish Council has given Vince Burrows of the Alkham Valley Historical Research Group permission to carry out geo-physics investigation on Vicarage Meadow (village green).

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Parish Clerk Angela Miller
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Alkham web site www.alkham.org
Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
W.I. secretary – Susan Lees 822661
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
Police – 999 emergency &101

Vicar Revd. Brian Williams 01303 243784
Church Wardens Geoff Gaskill 823100 and Richard Tapsell 822295
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
County Councillor Bryan Cope 206510
District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187

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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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No. 233 March 2013

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THE ANNUAL QUIZ in the village hall seemed to go very well with the usual hub-bub and playfulness with the question master. There were 99 people on 14 tables taking part in the quiz and they were generous when buying raffle tickets such that an overall profit of £480 was made, which has been sent to the Pilgrim's Hospice at Ashford. The winners were Helen Price and her team from Meggett Farm and Den Barnard's table came second. *The Hospice replied to the donation and gave their grateful thanks.*

BUSES – On the back page of this Newsletter the times of buses from Alkham to Dover and Folkestone have been added. The times quoted are for the Marquis but obviously the times at the bus stops by the village green will be almost the same. It will be a regular feature so if anybody is aware of any times changes in the future please let me know. **Editor**

MEADOW WORK PARTY - There will be a working party on the Vicarage Meadow from 10 am on Saturday 8th March, when we will be planting a hedge and generally giving the meadow a spring clean and tidy up. Blow away those winter blues and join our happy team of groundsmen and women as we repair the damage from the dyke clearance and dig a suitable drainage channel to try to stop the water puddling in the road. Bring wellies and some basic gardening equipment (and a song in your heart). Please call me to give me an idea about numbers so I can ensure suitable refreshments are available to reward your efforts! **Paul Tapsell 01303 892082**.

THE MARQUIS is now offering a weekly 'Alkham Supper' with a choice of main courses (meat or fish) followed by pudding, cheese or coffee for £10 on Wednesday nights between 6 and 7pm.

THE VILLAGE HALL AGM will be held in the hall on Wednesday 17th April at 8.00p.m. We need more members on the committee and any resident in the village aged 18 years and over or a representative of an organisation that regularly uses the hall may put themselves forward for election as a committee member. The village hall is a vital part of the community and is run by the committee who all give their time free of charge to make sure it is in good condition, clean and warm when required. We really need people in the village to help us so please come along on the 17th and see how it works and also to consider joining the committee.

MIRROR – If you have a long upright free standing mirror (known as a cheval) which you would like to sell or dispose of please ring Edith on 01304 824030.

THANK YOU to everyone who attended the meeting on the 13th February - I am pleased to say there will be a Fete this year on Saturday 13th July. There will be another meeting in May and anyone who is interested in taking part should contact me on 01303 892082 as soon as possible so we can allocate jobs, etc. There will be lots to do and a number of new stallholders will be required as some of the regulars are unable to do as much as they have in past years but that's why we need YOU to get involved! Watch out for requests for help from stallholders and/or from me in future newsletters and please don't think "I'll leave it, someone else will volunteer". So, mark the date in your diary, cancel any clashing weddings, birthdays and holidays and be a part of the Village's biggest day of the year! Thank you in (tingling) anticipation. **Paul Tapsell**

PRODUCE SHOW – At the fete this year we might have an Alkham Produce Show in the village hall where local gardeners can enter into competitions. The categories have yet to be decided but it will be flower and vegetable. Please phone Brian on 824969 if you'd like to enter so we can judge the response.

LOOKING FOR A BETTER ENERGY DEAL? Dover District Council has joined up with Tunbridge Wells BC, Dartford BC and Gravesham BC to set up a collective switching scheme called Energy to help households in the district get a better deal on their gas and electricity bills. Residents register free and provide information about their energy (gas and electricity) usage, and current tariff. At the end of the registration period an auction will take place, and the energy supplier offering the best 'energy deal' will be appointed. All those residents that registered will then be contacted with their individual energy offer and it is then up to them whether or not they accept the offer. Energy Deal will be launched (registration open) in Spring 2013, however if you are interested in finding out more log onto the DDC website energy pages at http://www.dover.gov.uk/environment/energy_advice/cut_energy_bills.aspx), and leave your details.

BOOK CLUB - The next book club meeting will be on Wednesday 27th March hosted by Helen Price at Meggett Farm , Meggett Lane 01303 252764 starting at 7.30.pm. The book for discussion will be Two Brothers the latest novel by Ben Elton. If you are interested in Book Club and would like more details telephone Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

CHURCH JUMBLE SALE - Alkham Village Hall Saturday 23rd March at 11am.

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FEEDBACK – **Bill Harvey** emailed to say that in the 1970's he put four secured stainless plates on Vicarage Meadow to mark out the cricket square and to let Vince Burrows know as he is going to carry out a geo-physical survey on the village green (Vicarage Meadow).

Mike and Sue Ross emailed with regard to the 'Surprising Discovery' article in the February newsletter and said that Sue's maiden name was Fakley and a few years ago saw a family tree on the internet written by someone in America which started in Alkham and came right down to Sue herself. Like the Mitchell's, who featured in the article, Sue had no idea that her ancestors came from Alkham.

John Richards emailed and said that as a boy the first sign of the Nailbourne running was a great excitement and that the local authority had a gang of men (Bert Alan, Bill Polden …) who amongst other things cleared drains and gulleys but most importantly maintained the dyke along its entire length. He wonders if the cart outside Nailbourne Cottage was the one used by the gang.



GARDENING TIPS FOR MARCH when we need to start to tackle these early jobs when the weather improves and frosts allow: Move evergreen shrubs: Mulch bare soil in beds and borders: Prune bush and shrub roses: Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials: Finish planting bare-root trees and shrubs: Aerate lawn and possibly begin mowing: Plant early potatoes and onion sets. **Garden Talk**

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE - There are over 807 U3As in the United Kingdom and White Cliffs Country U3A has members in Deal, Dover and Sandwich and their associated villages. We offer opportunities for the retired and semi-retired to share the company and interests of like-minded people; our programme of activities includes informal learning courses, autonomous special interest groups, talks and presentations from invited speakers, as well as social events. Each month we have two events; on 5th March there is an afternoon Meeting and a Talk "Samphire Hoe Stories" a humorous reflection on 3 Years at the Hoe by Mr S. Walker, to be held at 2-4pm at St Andrews Hall, West Street, Deal. On 20th March, we have a coffee morning from 10-12noon at The Golf Road Centre, North Deal when our special interests groups will be planning more activities. If you would like to come along and meet some members and find out more about the benefits of joining, please do. Guests Tickets are available at £1.00. Details of these events can be seen on our website at www.u3asites.org.uk/white-cliffs or contact anncook.u3a@gmail.com. You can then just turn up at the event of your choice.

STRAVA – Just for fun you might like to see the bike rides which the Alkham Cycle Club goes on. These are shown on www.strava.com where there is Google map of the routes plus an elevation underneath. You have to sign in but it is free and if you choose to follow a rider it will give you updates. Alan Latham is the rider who carries the smart phone which records the ride so if you click on the cycling tab at Strava and then follow Alan it will show our rides. The ride from Alkham over to Saltwood and back by the promenade from Hythe to Folkestone looks quite dramatic especially as one rider went over the sea wall. Fortunately the rider and the bike were ok. Den has gone into hibernation for the winter but Geoff Gaskill comes occasionally on his road bike and Alan and I are 7th and 8th fastest up Meggett Lane but admittedly only 6 other people have tried it. **Brian**

GARDEN TALK - We hope that we can soon see the beginnings of Spring, and that we can all enjoy the spring bulbs after their covering of snow. Our February Meeting has been rescheduled, and will now take place on Friday 15th March, still at 'Sunrise' Meggett Lane, from 7.30p.m. We then intend to finalise the Programme for the rest of 2013. **Janet Adamson**

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OZ on TRANSLATION – Every Boxing Day, I hibernate with the most enticing book received, and devour it very quickly, often within a day or two. This year was very different. It took the whole of Christmas week followed by a week in Malta for me to digest Is That a Fish in Your Ear? by David Bellos. The content of the book is much more difficult than the jokey title might suggest, and is described perfectly by its subtitle The Amazing Adventure of Translation. Bellos is Princeton professor in the fields both of Translation and French Literature, and is best known as an authority on, and translator of, the works of the French writer Georges Perec. He explains for general readers all the problems and complexities of translation, by writing some 400 pages in 32 short chapters, each containing a huge amount of information and humour, with titles such as "Meaning is No Simple Thing" and "The Myth of Literal Translation." The latter title highlights the problems involved in translation when there isn't an equivalent word in the other language. The "100 Eskimo words for snow" story is now exploded as a myth, but the fact remains that in Russian, there are words for "light blue" and "dark blue", but not for "blue", while some languages have no word at all for 'left' or 'right.' Bellos concludes with an optimistic epilogue, asserting that we should see translation as civilizing rather than divisive, adding that "Languages merge when people do." It took me a while to decode the main title, which derives from Douglas Adams's Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, where the mythical Babel fish, stuck in the ear, gives instant and perfect translation. It's an unlikely development, comments Bellos, while acknowledging the impressive achievements of some web-based translation tools. **Steve Osborn**



EASTER LILIES - Easter will soon be upon us and the flower ladies would like to decorate the Church with Easter Lilies in memory of a loved one. If you would like to donate a Lily in memory of a loved one, then please contact Rosie Hansraj by March 16th at Rose Cottage, Slip Lane, Alkham, Kent CT15 7 DB stating how many lilies, costing £3.50 each, you would like to buy. Please write the name of the loved one on a piece of paper and a cheque made payable to "The Alkham Flower Club".

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will present Haydn's great oratorio "The Creation" at 7.30 pm on Saturday 23rd March 2013 in Dover Town Hall. The chorus, together with professional soloists and The Connaught Orchestra (led by Amanda Wyatt), will be conducted by Dover Choral Society's new Musical Director, Stephen Yarrow. Tickets costing £12 (Students £6) are available from Dover Tourist Information Centre (Dover Museum, Market Square), members of Dover Choral Society, or by calling 01304 820149; and, if any remain, at the door on the night. For further information please ring Donald Beck on 07808 272047. **Steve Osborn**

ALKHAM W.I. – Although the snow still lay on the ground and only 14 members were able to attend the meeting on 12th February, it was enjoyed. Several members brought 'Hobbies' which were beautifully handmade. Members need reminding that the meeting now starts at 7pm. There are two main events ahead – the first being a Jumble Sale 23rd February in Village Hall 11am-Midday – the second the WI Group Meeting, for this area, will be held at Alkham Village Hall 16th April. The next monthly meeting is on 12th March when John Pearce will give a 'Fun Music Presentation' – **Susan Lees**

IMPRESSED – Sarah Chambers emailed to say that she was hugely impressed that young Jack Spicer cleared Hogbrook Hill Lane by the junction with the Valley Road of snow in January. He then put down grit & salt thus enabling all horse riders safe journey up to the stables. Drivers were appreciative as well.

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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	**4**	Parish Council meeting in village hall – all welcome
Tuesday	**5**	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	**9**	SE Kent Astronomical society 7pm to 10pm
Tuesday	**12**	W.I. meeting 7.00pm in village hall
Monday	**18**	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	**23**	PCC jumble sale in village hall 11am

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3rd	Evensong 4:30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 10th	Sung Eucharist 9am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 17th	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 24th	Benefice Eucharist 10am Hougham		
Thursday 28th	Maunday Thursday Eucharist 7pm Hougham		
Friday 29th	Meditation on the Cross 12pm	Meditation on the Cross 2pm	Meditation on the Cross 1pm
Sunday 31st	Eucharist 9:00am	Eucharist 10.30am	Eucharist 9.30am

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

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

07.59 08.27 09.47 11.17 13.17 14.47 17.27 Sat. 09.47 11.17 13.17 15.27
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FROM THE VICARAGE - You might think that people mainly talk to me about whether God exists or not. They don't. People seem to talk to me more about times in their lives – real or imagined – when they feel that they have messed up – about things they did or said that they have regretted ever since, or times when they feel that they let others down. Those who Jesus chose as his followers were just as human as we are – they all messed up, just as we all do. But Easter, which we celebrate this month, brings a twist in the tale. In St John's gospel the story ends with Jesus, now risen from the dead, cooking breakfast for his disciples on the beach. Instead of ranting at them about how they let him down, he simply asks Peter if he loves him. Anyone else might have fired Peter for having got it wrong. Instead, Jesus gives Peter a new job - caring for the others - and a chance to start again. Easter is about more than chocolate – it offers the hope of new life, laying our mess ups to rest, and no end to new beginnings. Happy Easter! **Brian Williams** *This is an extract from the article printed in the Capel newsletter.*

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Parish Clerk Angela Miller
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Alkham web site www.alkham.org
Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
W.I. secretary – Susan Lees 822661
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641

Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
Police – 999 emergency &101
Vicar Revd. Brian Williams 01303 243784
Church Wardens Geoff Gaskill 823100 and Richard Tapsell 822295
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
County Councillor Bryan Cope 206510
District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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No. 234 April 2013

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WORKING PARTY – What a good job they did and most can be seen smiling in the photo. Sixteen people turned up to help Paul Tapsell dig a new drainage grip, fill an old one and level the mounds of earth dug out of the dyke on the village green. Neil Burrows and tractor removed the old concrete post and rail fence by Hogbrook Lane and this was then replaced by young hedging plants. Many thanks to all the people who helped.

BOOT FAIR - We will be holding a Boot Fair from 8.00am to 1.00pm on the Vicarage Meadow on Sunday, 28 April, to raise funds for our church. The charge for a pitch will be £8 in advance or £10 on the day. We are advertising "far and wide" around the district in order to attract as many people (buyers as well as sellers) as possible. To book a pitch in advance please phone 01304 820701. There will be bacon butties, hot dogs, etc, as well as hot and cold drinks available in the Village Hall. We will need some help with car parking as well as a few people to direct the cars to park and set up stalls on the Meadow and if you would like to come along and help in that way on the day you would be very welcome. **Marion Banks-Nash**

PRODUCE EXHIBITION – Shirley Prince has kindly offered to arrange the vegetable and flower competition for the fete in July. The categories will be tomatoes, runner beans and carrots plus a display of dahlias and sweet peas. In addition there will be a competition for children 5-11, 12-16 and adults to create a miniature garden on a dinner plate using fresh or artificial materials. Please phone Shirley on 828098 if you'd like to take part and support us.

USEFUL and attractive shiplap mobile home/static beach hut for sale in coastal Verton, France (11 km from Montreuil). Two bedrooms, one en suite, on a year- round site Le Cerisier. Own parking, friendly mostly French speaking neighbours. This is well worth a look. For sale £22,500 (26,000 euro). For further enquiries contact J Walker (01304-821641)

COFFEE MORNING – Theda Malloy is holding a coffee morning at her house in West Hougham on the 13th April from 10am to mid-day. Please ring Helen on 01304 210591 for more details.

BATTLE OF BRITAIN



The guest speaker at the Annual Parish meeting on the 8th April will be from the Battle of Britain museum at Hawkinge. His talk will be relevant to Alkham and surrounding areas and photos will be shown using the hall's AV projector. It promises to be a very interesting evening so please come along. The meeting is in the village hall and starts at 7.30pm when there is also the opportunity for parishioners to air their views and question the Parish Council.

CARDIAC RESUSCITATION - On Wednesday 24th April 10.45am in the Village Hall, a training session will be given by a St. John's Ambulance member on this subject. It is being held for anyone in the village who would like to attend, to learn, to refresh knowledge or even just for general interest in C.P.R. It is a morning session only. **Susannah Tapsell**

REFUSE COLLECTION – At the Parish Council meeting there was some discussion about the bins provided by DDC. It was thought that if the bins are damaged and it was not caused by the householder (hot ashes etc) then DCC would replace them. Also the bins should not be left outside the house and if the latter is not possible DDC should be contacted for alternative arrangements.

THE VILLAGE HALL AGM will be held in the hall on Wednesday 17th April at 8.00pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

MANY THANKS to Grace Stacey who has delivered the Newsletter to upper Glebelands and adjacent houses for the past 19 years. Wonderful job, wonderful lady. Barrie Matcham has very kindly agreed to take over this round.

THE NAILBOURNE – The Environment Agency may take over the maintenance of the dyke which carries the Nailbourne. This should be good news.

HORSE RIDING at Hogbrook Equestrian Centre David Pearson-Smith (BHSAI & Accredited Level 2 Coach) specialising in private tuition for adults on his well trained horses, is finding increased demand from adults wanting to get back into horse riding, not only with lessons in our large indoor school to improve their standards, but also hacking out in the beautiful countryside surrounding Alkham. There can be no better way of enjoyable exercise. Please contact me on 07900545235.

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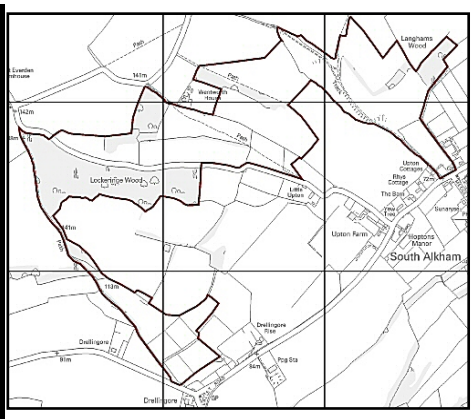

KENT WILDLIFE TRUST

South Alkham Farm and Lockeringe Wood was designated as a Kent Local Wildlife Site in 2012 because it contains ancient woodland which supports at least 26 ancient plant species and unimproved chalk grassland. Its designation is non-statutory and the only protection comes via the planning system but the landowners are given advice and help with regard to maintaining the site and applying for grants. Sladden Wood, on the east of the village, has been a KLW site for some years.

PARISH REGISTERS ON LINE - It is now possible to view a number of Church of England parish registers, covering baptisms, marriages and burials for many churches in the historic Archdeanery of Canterbury, often from 1538-2005 , including ALKHAM on the http://www.findmypast.co.uk/ website. These registers can be browsed under the 'Search' section, titled Canterbury Collection. If looking for a specific name the 'parish records search' facility is new, and very useful. Also included is the register of baptisms at the Buckland (Dover) Workhouse between 1855 and 1912, which includes Alkham, Capel-le-Ferne, Hougham, Lydden and Temple Ewell. To search the indexes is free, otherwise the website requires a payment. However, the whole of the Findmypast website is free to use at any of the Kent Public Libraries - you just need to get a membership ticket and book a computer for one hour. **Janet Adamson**

GARDEN TALK - Our April Meeting will be held on Friday 19th at Box Tree, Slip Lane, from 7.30p.m. where our hostess will be Pam Sayers. We anticipate another enjoyable evening, with plenty of chat and a fun quiz, even if the garden is not quite as colourful as usual due to the cold spring. **Janet Adamson**



Monthly gardening tips: We are hoping for some better weather, and a resumption of gardening activities, and catching up with what was not achieved in March! Sowing seeds of vegetables and hardy annuals are a priority, as well as tidying up our lawns. Daffodils need to be deadheaded after flowering and all the spring bulbs need feeding. Early- flowering shrubs and those grown for large foliage need pruning, and grey-leaved shrubs need trimming to keep them bushy. Perennial plants need to be divided and container-grown fruit trees should be planted. A trench for runner beans should now be dug out and filled with newspaper and manure. Annual climbers and grasses should be sown - and there is always weeding to be done. **Garden Talk**

ON SATURDAY the 2nd of March, my family and I had left our home at 3pm to do the weekly shopping. At about 4:30pm we had a phone call from our neighbour/landlord Mr Reg Woodruff informing us that he had spotted an intruder in our garden. The intruder was a lone teenager wandering around the outskirts of our house, and by the time Mr Woodruff had approached him he had partially removed the cover from my scooter which thankfully is secured to the ground. When apprehended by Mr Woodruff, the teenager stated that he was looking to buy a bike. This is however suspicious as I have not advertised the bike for sale and is hidden behind the house, out of view. By the time Mr Woodruff had closed our gate, the teenager had quickly disappeared up the hill. We had a dog inside the house at the time, and we fear that without him the intruder may have been interested in accessing the property. I would like to bring this to the attention of local Alkham residents so that they may be aware and take extra precautions. **Mr and Mrs Betts**

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OZ on PARAPROSDOKIAN – An amusing email, currently doing the rounds, concerns the word 'paraprosdokian', meaning a phrase that ends in a surprising way, such as 'Where there's a will I want to be in it' and describing the derivation of the word from the Greek 'para prosdokia', meaning 'beyond expectation. I immediately thought "What a lovely topic for Alkham readers." But guess what? Neither the word, nor its derivation, appears in the Oxford English Dictionary. The Canadian writer Bill Casselman has exploded the myth on his website "Words of the World" at www.Billcasselman.com He considered the term to be ungrammatical and contrived, invented recently by an American professor, then lazily copied by other academics using the internet. In the discussion that followed, according to another authority at www.LanguageHat.com , Casselman reluctantly agreed that the word 'paraprosdokians' was used in an 1891 edition of Punch magazine, but he maintained defiantly that "educated people call them 'sentences with surprise endings.' " I think the word will be accepted soon in the OED, as it's in such common usage now on the internet due to the controversy, and a word is needed as the examples are so funny. Winston Churchill was an expert coiner of these phrases, describing Clement Atlee as 'a modest man, who has much to be modest about', and declaring that "You can always count on the Americans to do the right thing—after they have tried everything else." The writer "Saki" (H H Munro) wrote of a cook who was "good as cooks go, and as cooks go she went." Finally, Groucho Marx once told an unresponsive audience "I've had a perfectly wonderful evening, but this wasn't it." While you're searching for more examples, I'll email the OED to see if they plan to accept the word soon. **Steve Osborn**

BOOK CLUB - At the beginning of March the village book club met in the Marquis and enjoyed the Alkham Residents 'Pub Supper' where we discussed last month's book; The Guernsey Literary Potato Peel Pie Society. The next book club meeting for April will be on Wednesday 24th April at 7.30pm. The book for discussion is The Village Green Affair by Rebecca Shaw. The meeting will be hosted by Mairi Jones at Turangi, Newlyn Meadows, 01304 826619. For more information about book club contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

ALKHAM W.I. – Unfortunately the snow put a stop to the March meeting, but everybody anticipated that fact when they felt the wind and the temperature. Let us hope that the 9th April meeting will be better. The speaker is Martyn Harrison talking about Harry Secombe, somebody we all liked. Members are therefore asked to bring friends and relatives to hear the talk as well - everybody welcome. Hostesses – Janet Adamson, Iris Bowshell & Margaret Batcheldor. Members are reminded about the Group Meeting which Alkham is responsible for 16th April; all members are welcome to help especially when it comes to provide cakes and/or cheese scones. **Susan Lees**

Retired? Semi-Retired? Love Learning? If that is the case, White Cliffs Country U3A (the University of the Third Age) is the association for you. Disregard the rather grandiose title: with members in Deal, Dover and Sandwich, we have an annual programme of low-cost high-value courses run by leaders from our own membership. Other activities include monthly events with presentations, Talks and Debates and there are social activities arranged for members and their guests. Our courses are informal – no classroom pressures or compulsory homework – often small groups meet in the Leader's home; larger groups use external venues. There is a wide range of subjects to enjoy. Or perhaps you are a potential member who could lead a subject on your special interest? You can find out more about membership by looking at our website or ringing 01304 852724. Once you know more you will want to join us! U3A

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Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village		
Tuesday	**2**	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	**6**	Beekeepers in village hall 2.00pm
Monday	**8**	Annual Parish meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	**9**	W.I. meeting 7.00pm in village hall
Monday	**15**	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	**16**	W.I. Group meeting in village hall
Wednesday	**17**	Village Hall AGM 8.00pm in village hall
Tuesday	**23**	PCC AGM 7.00pm in village hall
Saturday	**28**	PCC Boot Fair 9.00am to 1.00pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th	Evensong 6:30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 14th	Sung Eucharist 9:30a	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 21st	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 28th	Benefice Eucharist 10am at Hougham		

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

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FROM THE VICARAGE - Spare a thought for Justin Welby, the newly enthroned Archbishop of Canterbury. After ten years in the job, Dr Rowan Williams told *The Daily Telegraph* that he had concluded that Britain possibly benefits from having someone to be angry with, and that he had got off more lightly than some. Whatever Archbishop Justin does or says is bound to be criticised by somebody. I wonder, is the Church itself there for people to be angry with, too? I once heard of a woman who was a churchgoer, and passionate about animal rights. She talked to other members of the congregation, offered them pamphlets and invited them to meetings, but nobody seemed to show any interest. Surely the Church should have been doing more for animals? In the end she left in disgust. A while later, she and the Vicar met while shopping. He remarked that he had not seen her in a while, and how was she? There in the supermarket she poured out her anger and frustration – the Church just didn't care about animal rights, she finally told him. "It used to," he replied. "But then you left." **Brian Williams**

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No. 234 May 2013

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FILM EVENTS – The village hall committee is considering starting a monthly showing of films that have just been released (and others) in Alkham village hall. A company called Film Bank provide the films and with a single title screening licence it allows us to charge for admission so we can recoup the cost involved. If everything works out it is intended that there will a film shown every month from September to March and the films will be advertised in Alkham and Temple Ewell/River. A new screen will have to be purchased as the cross beams in the hall would obstruct the projection and it is also likely that we will have to get a more powerful AV projector. The seating capacity is currently being assessed and tickets for each viewing will be sold by named individuals and also on the door if any remain. We estimate that the cost of each ticket should be about £4. Further details will be published in the Newsletter and it is hoped that it will become a popular village event.



BOOT FAIR - We are holding a Boot Fair on the Vicarage Meadow on Sunday 28th April from 8.00am to 1.00pm. The charge will be £8 to book a pitch in advance, or £10 to come along on the day. Quite a few people from the Village have already booked their pitch and if you would like to do so please call Marion Banks-Nash on 820701. Advertisements have been put in the local press including one on the 25th April as we hope to attract as many people as possible from Folkestone and Dover areas. Refreshments such as bacon butties, hot dogs, etc., as well hot and cold drinks will be available in the Village Hall. What we especially need is a lovely warm, sunny day – so let's hope and pray. **Marion Banks-Nash**

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB - After several sessions of winter nets, the finely-honed bodies of the elite squad of players are finally ready for the rigours of a full season of weekend and evening games. Our first three games are away (Walmer on the 5th, Old Hartdonians on the 19th and Elham on the 25th) with evening games on the 20th May at Hythe (away) and 29th Westbourne (home); we will also be having some nets on the Meadow (weather permitting) on the 15th and 22nd May from 6 pm, you're welcome to come along to join us, either playing or as a spectator. Finally, there will be a working party on the 4th May from 9.30 am to ensure that the wicket meets our usual high standards; please come along with nail scissors (for the grass cutting) and a spirit level and teaspoon (to sort out any irregularities in the playing surface)! **Paul Tapsell 01303 892082**

FRIENDS – The Friends of St. Anthony are holding their AGM in the village hall on the 28th May starting at 7.00pm and everyone is welcome to attend. The Friends is a body which was set up to preserve the building which is St. Anthony's for future generations to use whether it is for religious or secular purposes and to date we have spent about £16,500 on repairs and improvements. The Friends have also organised events in the village and produced calendars and cards for sale at Christmas. If you would like to join the Friends or just find out more about what we have been doing please come along to the AGM and also have a complimentary glass of wine.

FETE STALLHOLDERS' MEETING on 15th May

We will be having a Stallholders' meeting to put arrangements in place for the Fete on 13th July; please come along if you are doing a stall, would like to help on a stall or can offer any assistance on the day, whether with putting the tents up, selling raffle tickets, providing prizes or helping to clear things away - we really need to see who we've got available so we can sort out who is doing what (and deal with any 'gaps'). Please come along to the Village Hall at 8 pm on Wednesday the 15th so we can make sure the Fete returns with a bang (rather than the sound of me whimpering!). **Paul Tapsell 01303 892082**

CARE HOME – Mandy Summers has contacted the Newsletter to say that her mother Doreen Wilks is now in the Kearsney Manor Nursing Home. Doreen and George Wilks used to live in the bungalow called Apple Tree on Slip Lane and they were a great asset to the village over many years.

ELECTIONS – According to the KCC web site there are 5 candidates standing for election as Dover West County Councillor. They are representatives of the Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrat and UKIP parties plus one other candidate. The election is on the 2nd of May and voting takes place in Alkham village hall from 7am to 10pm. *DDC objected to a previous article on elections so please check details yourself.*

A RESIDENT in Newlyns Meadow phoned to say that persons acting suspiciously had been seen in Newlyns Meadow on a couple of occasions and the police had been called. The police checked the area but the intruders were not found. Their advice is to make sure that gates are secured and sheds are locked together with taking the usual precautions.

A STRAWBERRY TEA is being held by Wendy Finnis at The Old School House, Church Hougham on June 1st from 2pm to 4pm with all proceeds will go to charity.

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ALKHAM VALLEY RESEARCH HISTORICAL RESEARCH GROUP (AVHRG) has planned a number of non-invasive geophysical surveys at different locations within the Alkham Valley for 2013. The continuous wet weather over the winter has put back most of our investigations due to the intrinsic moisture levels retained in the near surface of the soil. High water levels cause a marked reduction in the effectiveness of our instruments and profound effects to the image data collected. Basically, waterlogged areas will make it difficult to see potential smaller archaeological features and reduce the depth at which the instruments can scan. Owing to a substantial amount of our investigation being located in fields and paddocks used for crops and hay, these delays this spring may lead to projects being pushed back until late summer or even moved to 2014. On a more positive note, we are looking to source alternative areas of land that may be more conducive for geophysics. In the meantime, Sub Scan South East Geophysics is commencing the long awaited search for the Roman road from Folkestone to Dover that allegedly runs across the West Down and Church Hougham ridge. With the kind support of Mr & Mrs Stokes of Little Hougham Court Farm, Mr & Mrs Richardson of Farthingloe Farm, two potential locations across this high Down are to be investigated shortly. This important route listed as route 131, has never been archaeologically or geophysically proven and has recently been removed from English Heritage "Roman Roads of Britain" map. Over the next coming weeks and months we would like to broaden our search area in and around Church Hougham with the support of further landowners. If any readers can help by allowing us access to land across the ridge to Abbots Land Farm area or you have any information on Roman finds in the area, we would appreciate your kind assistance. Last but not least, we are grateful to the Alkham Parish Council for allowing permission for a survey over the Alkham Village Vicarage Meadow (village green), which is provisionally scheduled for Saturday 29th June 2013. The group will keep valley residents and readers of this Newsletter updated on our discoveries as we go. **Vince Burrows AVHRG 01304 219550 www.alkhamarchaeology.co.uk**

THE BOOK CLUB meeting for May will be on Wednesday 29th May commencing at 7.30p.m. at the home of Anne Humphery-Smith, 22 Glebelands, Short Lane. The book for discussion is The Ice Princess by Camilla Lackberg. If you are interested in joining the book club and would like more information contact Jane Aslett on 01304 824729.

GARDEN TALK - We hope to see some lovely late blossom when we meet on Friday 17th May for our garden visit and chat at 'Evergreen', Slip Lane where our hosts are Val and Stan Fowler who always make us very welcome. Come and join us from 7.30p.m.



GARDENING TIPS FOR MAY - Much of what we suggested for April still remains to be done, as we are still waiting for the winds to abate and spring to finally arrive! We still need to beware of frosts until the end of the month, so although summer bedding plants can be 'hardened off' in a sheltered outside spot, there is no rush to plant out. Vegetable seeds can still be planted, and those that have grown can be thinned out. Spring-flowering shrubs such as forsythia, viburnums, flowering currant and winter heathers can be pruned once they have flowered, and hedges may need clipping. Lawns may need feeding, weeding and mowing to encourage good growth. Soft fruit bushes may need to be fed, and watered and fruiting canes tied in. Main crop potatoes can be planted, and early varieties earthed up. There will always be weeding to be done. .A busy time in the garden, if the weather allows, but a rewarding one. **Janet Adamson**

THE ANNUAL PARISH meeting went well with 25 people turning up to listen to a talk by David Brocklehurst about aircraft and airmen that were shot down in and around Alkham. David is the chairman and historian at the Kent Battle of Britain Museum at Hawkinge which is well worth a visit.

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NOTHING CHANGES - There was spirited opposition when an inquiry was held in 1923 to decide whether the Alkham Valley Road should be closed. The Surveyor to the Rural District Council said that there was a considerable amount of traffic on the road, and a census had shown that 20 vehicles per hour passed along it. However he said it was of no importance to through traffic and in places there was a considerable drop from the road to the ground below. For an ordinary omnibus to pass it was very dangerous in parts and wholly unsuitable for heavy traffic. A man from Mongeham said he had known the road for 40 years and its use by heavy traffic was detrimental to legitimate traffic. Asked if he used the road the witness said that he did, to his sorrow, on his trotting pony. The East Kent Road Car Company was in favour of the Alkham road because of the congestion in Dover and Deal. So 90 years later nothing much has changed except for the volume of traffic. At peak times it's probably 20 cars a minute and the road is unsuitable for heavy traffic and trotting ponies. **Editor** – Dover Express 1923 – Sue Lee's archive

OZ on LICKBARROW – Ever since my wife died, in April 2010, my children and I have chosen a poem each anniversary to remember and celebrate her, the April theme serving also to symbolize Spring, rebirth, and hope. Last month, I began toying with the idea of compiling an anthology of such poems; perhaps entitled April Showers, maybe with the added words Make May Flowers. In so doing I came across some lines from 200 years ago titled Written in May, 1813, describing a distinctly 'stormy May.' They were written by a little-known poet, Isabella Lickbarrow, born in Kendal in November 1784, the eldest of four daughters of James Lickbarrow, a Quaker school-teacher. When Isabella was five, her mother died, and the girls were raised partly by a great-aunt, while James taught them Latin, Greek and French. After James died, a huge burden fell on 20-year old Isabella as she laboured constantly to fend for herself and her sisters. Isabella had always written poems privately, and in 1811 she began publishing them in the Westmoreland Advertiser. By 1814, the poems had become so popular that the paper published Poetical Effusions, her first book, to instant acclaim. For the rest of her life, Isabella never really achieved sufficient time and money to publish further, and she died in 1846, worn-out and ill, at the age of 62. Poetical Effusions was republished by the Wordsworth Trust in July 2004 after being out of print for many years. Now it's out of print again, and I'm hoping that it will be republished next year on the 10th anniversary of the Wordsworth edition and the 200th anniversary of the first edition. I could then see whether Isabella has, for inclusion in my anthology of optimism, any happy alternatives to "Sad dirges for thy blasted charm." **Steve Osborn**

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL has teamed up with iChoosr to provide a collective switching scheme which aims to help residents access a better deal for their gas and electricity bills. From 22 April to 3 June you can register at www.energydealswitch.com to take part in the scheme. You will need an energy bill or annual energy statement so that we can make you an offer suited to your needs. You can register up to five households on the same email address. Alternatively register by phone 01304 872428, at your local Gateway in Castle Street, Dover or at the Council Offices, Whitfield. An auction will be held on 4 June when energy suppliers will compete to offer the best energy deal. You will then receive an offer telling you the result and how much you could save.

VOLUNTEERING – *The course advertised here will have been held but they hold them at regular intervals so if you are interested please give them a ring.* A free course about volunteering takes place in Dover on Tuesday 23rd April 2013. Lunch and refreshments are included free of charge, and travel expenses can be reimbursed. If you would like to book a place, please contact Karen at the Volunteer Centre on 01304 367898 or email office@doverdistrictvolunteering.org.uk

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MIN ORDER APPLIES

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

Thursday	**2**	KCC elections in village hall from 7am to 10pm
Tuesday	**7**	White Cliffs Metal Detecting 7pm to 9pm in VH
Saturday	**11**	SE Astronomical society 7pm to 10pm in village hall
Monday	**13**	Parish Council meeting in village hall – all welcome
Tuesday	**14**	W.I. meeting 7.00pm in village hall
Monday	**20**	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	**28**	Friends of St. Anthony AGM 7pm in village hall

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th	Evensong 6:30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Thursday 9th	Eucharist 7pm		
Sunday 12th	Joint Rogation Day Service at St Radigund's Abbey 10.30 am		
Sunday 19th	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 26th	Benefice Eucharist 10am at Hougham		

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

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

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

FROM THE RECTORY - According to the Old Testament book of Genesis, God decided in the beginning that it is not good for man (OK – humankind, then) to be alone. So he made animals, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. No surprise, perhaps, that so many of us appreciate the comfort and companionship that pets bring. I found myself thinking of that just the other day when, towards the end of a busy afternoon, I took our new cat to the vet for her vaccination. I was wearing my collar. The receptionist gave me a bit of an odd look when she saw it, but said nothing. We sat down and waited and waited. Had they forgotten us? I glanced across at the reception area. A woman was just leaving. Receptionist, nurse and vet were talking together quietly – I guessed that something sad had happened. For a moment, I wondered – being a clergyman, would I be asked to pray over someone's pet? What would I say? Then, finally, it was our turn. The vet apologised for the delay, and explained that an apparently healthy cat had suddenly suffered a fit, and the owner had rushed it to the surgery. It hadn't been old or obviously sick, and they were all shocked and upset at having been unable to save it. We chatted for a while. As with people, the hardest part of pet ownership comes with having to say goodbye. Jesus once said that even though five sparrows are sold for two pennies, not one is forgotten before God. So if I *were* asked, I would say that I believe that God loves our pets at least as much as we do. In the same breath, Jesus also said that *we* are worth more than many sparrows. **Brian Williams**

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Newsletter Brian Wimsett 824969 email brianwimsett@hotmail.com
Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791 alkham.parishcouncil@virgin.net
Alkham web site www.alkham.org
Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
W.I. secretary – Susan Lees 822661
Alkham Valley Society cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641

Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
Police – 999 emergency &101
Vicar Revd. Brian Williams 01303 243784
Church Wardens Geoff Gaskill 823100 & Richard Tapsell 822295
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669 **County Councillor Bryan Cope** 206510
District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Pauline Beresford – 216187

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ALKHAM now has a permanent Christmas tree. Thanks go to Geoff Hillier who donated it and to Den Barnard and Anthony Barrier who planted it.

FILMS – Works are progressing on the proposed screening of recently released films in the village hall. A 3m square pull down screen has been put up and shortly longitudinal supports will be in installed to support the AV projector. In addition a new amplifier has been bought but as we needed a microphone input the amplifier can be used for karaoke as well.



SUMMER GUITAR CONCERT at St. Anthony's. Once again Jimmy D'Alton Bellas is bringing his past and present students to St. Anthony's for another Summer Evening Guitar Concert on Saturday 29th June at 6:30pm. He has also managed to obtain the services of award-winning Grant Dowse (above) who is now performing at the highest professional level, and Emily Renshaw (mezzo soprano) who are both eager to perform in the beautiful setting of St Anthony's once again. All proceeds go the Friends of St. Anthony. Tickets are £7.50 and £3.50 for optional finger buffet from Den (824845) or Brian(824969). **Den Barnard**

COUNCILLOR – Congratulations to Geoffrey Lymer, who is an Alkham Parish Councillor, on being elected as the Kent County Councillor for the Dover West District. Geoff says that whilst I stood as a candidate for a particular political party, it is my opinion that the role of County Councillor, as with District or Parish Councillor, is to serve and protect the interests of the community to promote a good quality of life for all those who live and work here irrespective of their political views, for we are the custodians of this beautiful countryside for future generations. Also he asks that any requests or complaints about anything around the area to go through the Parish Council or District Councillor Beresford in the first instance and should they be unable to deal with the matter they will pass the information for my attention. That way everyone is kept updated regarding requests or complaints to ensure they are dealt with as quickly as possible for the benefit of the community.

MANY THANKS – Ken and Dot Hammond would like to thank all the wonderful people in Alkham for their kind thoughts and offers of help recently when Ken had his heart bypass operation. Special thanks go to Den and Irene Barnard, Brian Wimsett and Susannah and Richard Tapsell. Ken originally went to St. Thomas' in London on the 11th of April because of a cancellation and just before the pre-med an emergency case came in so he was discharged (ask Ken what happened when he was told to take a shower). He had been booked in for the 22nd April and the following day the operation was successfully carried out. Ken returned home on the 29th April and is gradually recovering and will eventually be back on his bike.

POLICE SURGERY – Janet Claringbould, who is the Police Community Support Officer for Alkham, will be holding a surgery in Alkham village hall on the first Saturday of each month between 10am and 11am. Please just pop in and see her if there are any matters that you would like her to look into.

A FETE MEETING will be held in the village hall on the 25th June at 8.00pm to finalise details. It's never too late to get involved so please give me a ring or come along on the 25th. **Paul Tapsell 01303 892082**

FOR SALE lightweight wheelchair, used twice, not required in heaven. Cost £167 for sale at £50. Please ring 01304 824030.

ALKHAM FETE 2013 REQUESTS

PLANT STALL - The fete plant stall needs plants. So if you could please pot up a few extra seedlings, cuttings or herbaceous perennial divisions that would be great. Please either drop them off at Chalksole Cottage as close as possible to the 13th July or bring them the stall on the morning of the fete so we can price them up. Thanks. **Linda Gaskill 823100**

PLEASE DO you have any handbags, scarves and belts for the handbag stall at the fete; also anything connected to haberdashery i.e. material remnants, silks, wool, pairs of knitting needles, cottons etc, etc for the stall to be run by the Keep Fit Ladies. Offerings can be brought to the Village Hall from now on Wednesday's between10.30am -11am. Thank you so much. **Susannah Tapsell**

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

BRIC-A-BRAC – If you have any items which would be suitable for this stall please phone Sandra Hancock on 01303 893074 or Edith Neve on 01304 824030

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THE POLICE community support officer said at the Parish Council meeting that there had been a number of burglaries recently in River, which mainly occurred during the day.

MEGGETT LANE – At some time in the near future Meggett Lane is going to be closed for drainage works to be carried out by KCC. It is not clear whether this is to replace the culvert, clean it out or do general drainage works.

BRING YOUR GARDEN to life with chickens and ducks from Greenfarm. Have you ever thought of having chickens or ducks? You'll be amazed how a 'little family' of birds will transform your life as well as being fantastic alternative pets for children and grandchildren - plus mum and dad get to eat the eggs! Greenfarm are local breeders between Bridge and Adisham with over 20 different breeds of chickens and 10 varieties of ducks who can help you choose what breeds of birds will best suit you. For more information call Simon on 0773 829 3246. *One-off free ad as no advertising space available. Ed*

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE - U3A are holding the following events for non-members with tickets costing £2.00 per person.

Tuesday 4 June: 2pm – 4pm at Deal Town Hall a talk by Ian Philpott, entitled Operation Dynamo: "A Colossal Military Disaster" or "A Miracle of Deliverance": **Friday 2 August:** 3pm – 5pm at the Astor Community Theatre, Deal "Authors' Agents – who needs them?" a talk by Jane Gregory, a literary agent: **Friday 9 August:** 2pm – 4pm at Deal Town Hall "Murders What I Have Done" a talk by former Detective Chief Inspector Roy Murphy. Bookings can be made by contacting bgouge@tiscali co.uk. or just turn up on the day. General and membership enquiries can be made by contacting our website: u3asites.org.uk/white cliffs or ringing 01304 851744 (9am-5pm).

BOOK CLUB - The next Book Club meeting will be on Wednesday 26th June hosted by Susannah Tapsell at Bramhall, Alkham Valley Road, starting at 7.30pm. The book for discussion is Smutt by Alan Bennett. The village Book Club is held once a month hosted by members in their homes, the books are usually available and collected from Dover library. If you are interested in joining the book club contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

PARISH COUNCIL – At the AGM Neil Burrows was re-elected as chairman with Paul Tapsell as Vice Chairman. The other offices were: Parish Emergencies – Neil Burrows and Geoff Lymer: Highways – Julian Mead: Footpaths – Anthony Barrier: MOD and Environment – Geoff Lymer.

GARDEN TALK - Our June Meeting is held on the longest day, so we hope for a lovely light and warm evening..We meet at 'Countryside' on the Alkham Valley Road, on Friday 21st June, from 7.30p.m. Our hosts are Sue & Mike Ross - all welcome to join us for an interesting and enjoyable evening. **Janet Adamson**



Garden tips for June - Some of us are still waiting for spring, so much of May's tips are still relevant. The annual talk of the 'June drop' with fruit trees would be very premature, as at the time of writing the apple blossom is not fully out and it will be sometime before we see any sign of fruits setting. However, seeds planted in propagators and other seedlings could now be transplanted and sweet peas and bedding plants once the risk of frost recedes. Hardy annual seeds can still be planted and successions of vegetables such as peas and carrots, sweet corn can be sown directly into the soil now. The growing tips of broad beans should be pinched out to prevent blackfly and rose bushes checked for pests and diseases. Remember to consider suitable material for the Show at the Village Fete. **Janet Adamson**

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OZ on MANWOOD – As I write this, on 9 May 2013, Sir Roger Manwood's School, in Sandwich, is celebrating its 450th anniversary. Tonight's event is a lecture by historian Dr David Starkey entitled 'Would Manwood be happy with Manwood's today?' I'm sure there'll be much about the history of the school, but I'm hoping that Starkey will reveal more about Manwood the man, whose nature remains surprisingly elusive for one so powerful and influential. Roger was born in 1532, the second son of Thomas and Catherine Manwood of Sandwich. He was educated at Thomas Ellis's grammar school in Sandwich, trained as a barrister at the Inner Temple, and was called to the bar in 1553. Over the next few years, Roger worked hard in East Kent, as Sandwich Recorder and Counsel to the Cinque Ports, both of which he combined with being the MP for Sandwich continuously from 1558 to 1572. Roger moved from Sandwich in 1563 after being given the huge Hackington estate, near Canterbury, by Queen Elizabeth 1. After working as a circuit judge for many years, Roger was appointed Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer in 1578 and served Queen Elizabeth I until his death in 1592. Sir Roger presented two faces to the world. On the one hand, he was a stern judge, awarding harsh sentences such as fines for skipping church and tongue removal for disloyalty to the Queen. On the other hand, he was a very generous benefactor, as when he helped the poor by providing free education in Sir Roger Manwood's School, free meals at his house, and building the Hackington almshouses. Some of Roger's words on big business still resonate today, describing "...corporations that were invisible, immortal and had no soul, therefore no subpoena lieth against them, because they have no conscience..." **Steve Osborn**

FROM THE VICARAGE - Leaving the school where I had been working the other day, I found myself in a queue of traffic weaving past school buses, parked cars and children on their way home. I paused to give way to a car coming the other way. Just as I started to move again the car that had been behind me suddenly roared past and cut in front of me, causing me to brake hard. Of course, I soon caught up at the next set of traffic lights – the other driver having gained nothing. Time is an interesting thing. We only have so much of it in this life, so perhaps it is not surprising that we hate wasting it – so much so that it can bring out the worst in us – but why is it, I wonder, that we think of time spent queuing at traffic lights or supermarket checkouts as wasted, but don't seem to mind vegetating in front of the TV or a computer screen? I have never forgotten an occasion, many years ago, when I was travelling on the London Underground. I had bought my ticket and was making my way along a passageway when I heard a train arriving. I started to run and arrived on the platform just as the doors closed and the train pulled away. In a corner of the deserted platform a door opened and a uniformed figure emerged and walked towards me. Smiling, he asked me if I was in a hurry. I replied, truthfully, that I wasn't, not really. I would only have five minutes to wait, he told me – and then he asked me what I would have done with the five minutes that I would have saved if I had caught that train. I had no real answer, and as it was they were well spent talking to this wise man, whose working life was probably spent dispensing wisdom to travellers and sending them safely on their way. Jesus once made a similar point by telling a story about a rich man who planned to build bigger barns in which to store his wealth, not knowing that his time had run out and his plans were therefore pointless. Whenever I catch myself hurrying, I think of that day on the Underground, and the question that I couldn't answer. And then, usually, I slow down a bit. **Brian Williams**

NEWSLETTER – To the lady who left a message on my answer machine complaining about the Newsletter being delivered late; the Newsletter is produced and delivered by volunteers who take no expenses and the only costs recouped are the price of paper, printer toner and the 27 copies posted through Royal Mail. **Editor**

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
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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

Saturday	**1**	PCSO in village hall 10-11am
Tuesday	**4**	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	**8**	SEKAS in village hall in afternoon
Tuesday	**11**	W.I meeting in village hall 7.00pm
Monday	**17**	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2nd	Evensong 6:30pm	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 9th	Eucharist 9:30am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 16th	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 23rd	Benefice Eucharist 10am at Hougham		
Sunday 30th	Benefice Eucharist 10am at St. Mary's		

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

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

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

ALKHAM WI - How difficult has this year been for us so far? Weather meant that the March meeting, the Margate ACM and a Jumble Sale were not possible; and then the April meeting had 6 members of the committee away in Holland! Thankfully Edith Neve and Debbie Saunders stood in and ran the meeting. However, the Group Meeting, which covered the Dover W.I.'s, at Alkham went very well, so finally something was achieved. Debbie is to represent Alkham at the AGM in Cardiff. The next meeting hopefully will be fine weather as it will take place on the Village Green 11th June 7.30pm. Do join us if you wish - **Susan Lees**

BOOT FAIR – I would like to say 'thank you' to everyone who was involved with the boot fair in April. It was good to have so much support from the village and know it was a success for all the stallholders. There was a lovely atmosphere on the village green and we had a lot of very good feedback from visitors. We were actually asked when we planned to have another one – so watch this space. At the end of day we made a profit of £270 for the Church, which was gratefully received. Thanks must also go to Doreen Lott and her family for again providing the bacon butties etc., which were very popular. Thank you again for your help and support. **Marion Banks-Nash**

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Alkham web site www.alkham.org
Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
W.I. secretary – Susan Lees 822661
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
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Church Wardens Geoff Gaskill 823100 and Richard Tapsell 822295
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County Councillor - Geoffrey Lymer 079604 90 929
District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187

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DOREEN WILKS – It is sad to report that Doreen died at the Kearsney Manor Care Home recently. Doreen and her husband George lived for many years in the house called Apple Tree on Slip Lane. She was an enthusiastic member of the Alkham W.I. and could always be relied on to help out at village events especially the annual fete where she ran the needlework stall, a craft in which she was very accomplished. The well attended funeral was held at St. Anthony's church on the 21st of June.

HEROES - As the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War approaches (August 4th 2014) I am keen to tie up some loose ends with the Alkham Heroes – those men killed in the two World Wars. Oddly there is more information on the men who were killed in the First World War than there is on those killed in the Second. If you have any knowledge of any of these men, or their families, or if you have any skills in the area of research, and the time! please have a look at the current information at http://www.alkham.org/heroes.htm and feel free to contact me (mark.robson@btinternet.com) or Brian (brianwimsett@hotmail.com). It would seem a fitting tribute to complete the missing pieces and so bring these men back to life in time for the anniversary.



MOUNTAIN BIKE
Probably a Saracen, cost £200 a few years ago. Ken says it's ok; all offers considered. Please contact Brian on 824969 or Ken – all monies to Alkham Fund.

MAIL – Royal Mail is having a reorganisation and unfortunately Eric, who has been the central village postman for some years, has been moved to another area. It's a great pity as he enjoyed this round and we enjoyed having Eric as our postman.

STAGE – Before the floods in 2001 the village hall had a full size stage with curtains but because the hall became waterlogged the floor was replaced and the stage removed. We are now going to replace the stage. It will be about 4.4m wide and normally 2.1m deep (as existing) and 0.6m high but will have a pull out front which will extend the stage to 3.1m for variety shows etc. There will be a curtain across the front which can be pulled right back to the walls plus side curtains. We hope that in the future someone will be willing to organise an Am Dram society.

WANTED to rent in the local area, a 2 bed house or preferably a bungalow. Please phone Brian Croucher on 820055.

NEWS – It's great when the Newsletter actually delivers news. In the June edition I said that a Christmas tree was donated by Geoff Hillier and planted on the village green. On returning home from Turkey the Hilliers read the Newsletter and then dashed to the window.

CENTENARIAN – Ken Smith, who lives at the Hogbrook Equestrian Centre in the village, is now 102 and doesn't like being left alone. His son asks if there is anyone in the village who would sit with him for a few hours when they have the chance to go out. John's quite happy to pay anyone willing to volunteer. Please phone 01304 824499 for more information.

ALKHAM FETE - Preparations are well underway for the Fete on 13th July, but any additional help would be gratefully received - call me and I'll find you something fun to do. The newsletter includes various requests for items (bric-a-brac, books, cakes, jewellery, etc) for different stalls - please see what you can do to support these! We will be putting the tents up from 8.30 am on the Saturday and many hands make light work, so please come a join the ageing team of regulars and remind us how easy it once was to carry a tent canvas on your shoulder! Also, we need help clearing afterwards - I know it can seem like a long day but every extra clearer makes a huge difference. You will receive **2 books of raffle tickets** with your Newsletter, please either sell them and return the stubs and money, or any unsold tickets, to me by 11th July if possible, otherwise on the day! Above all come along and enjoy yourself on the day - it's Alkham's big chance to shine; be a part of it! **Paul Tapsell (01303 892082)**

ALKHAM FETE – Just a reminder that the following are needed for the fete on 13th July. Plants please contact Linda on 823100. Handbags and sundry haberdashery to Susannah at the village hall on Wednesday 10.30am to 11am. Books please contact Rachel Fountain on 823173 or Sue Lees 822661. Bric-a-brac please contact Sandra Hancock on 01303 893074 or Edith Neve on 01304 824030.

CAKES are required for both the cake and refreshments stalls at the Alkham fete on July 13th. Please contact Janet Barrow on 829585 for the refreshments and Sue Ross on 825736 for cakes or bring them along on the day.

FILMS – The supports and cradle for the projector have been installed in the village hall and shortly we will have a trial run with a film to try the system out. Following this there will be a monthly film event showing films that have just been released. More details in next month's Newsletter.

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AFTER WWII an American was asked about his memory of England and said 'it was the magical way in which spring merges into Autumn'.



Peter and Isabelle Smith, who live at Chalksole, have managed to get a picture of a very elusive character than has been visiting them every spring and summer for the past 3 years. It is a rook, seemingly not disadvantaged by his/her colour variance but as yet unique in the flock that visits them.

SPIKEY THE CAT who lives just outside the village was reported missing last November and was later found at Diana Crockford's bungalow by St. Anthony's churchyard. His owner then kept him indoors but let him out once and off he went. Some time later a familiar face poked itself under Diana's fence where he spent the night in the kitchen after a chicken breast meal. Next morning he was taken to the greenhouse with the dirt tray to do his ablutions but unfortunately Di fell over and off he went again. Scraped and bleeding Diana managed to catch Spikey and he was returned to Eileen never to go out again.

THE BOOK CLUB meeting for Wednesday 31st July will be at the home of Avi Munn Poems, Short Lane (01304 929484) starting at 7.30 p.m. The book for discussion is The Thread by Victoria Hislop. For more details contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

GARDEN TALK - After such unpredictable weather so far this year, we hope for a calm evening for our next visit, which will be to Thorn Cottage in Meggett Lane on Friday 19th July. Rosemary & Geoff Hillier are our hosts from 7.30p.m. Their garden has suffered from flooding last winter, but always looks colourful and full of plants showing the amount of hard work they put in. **Janet Adamson**



TIPS FOR JULY: Such a windy June has meant that many plants need to be checked, tied in or staked, especially any that have grown vigorously. Gladioli need to be staked individually, as might lupins. Spring-flowering shrubs such as forsythia and philadelphus should be pruned - lilacs, paeonies, rhododendrons need to be deadheaded. Hedges may need a light trim, also topiary shaped box. Break off all side shoots as tomato plants grow and feed weekly. Soft fruit such as gooseberries, currants and raspberries should be ready, and may need netting to keep birds away, and can be pruned after picking. Try to keep on top of the weeding, feeding and watering - and remember surplus plants can be taken to the Village Fete in the morning for pricing on the plant stall - and prepare your prize vegetables for the Show. **Janet Adamson**

ALKHAM WI - Although the June meeting was aimed to take place in the evening on the Meadow, as we all know, the weather was still chilly and damp, so once again it took place in the Village Hall. However, it was an evening enjoyed by all - eating, drinking and playing Bingo! The July meeting will be a talk by John Pearce, but a different one to 'Flowers by Emma'. The discussion for the 2014 programme took place mid June and many interesting ideas were raised; all will be told at the July meeting. An outing will be arranged - as always by Cherry Leppard, no doubt something exciting. Sadly, as all members know, Doreen Wilks, a long term Alkham Committee Member died. Flowers will be sent in Alkham W.I.'s memory - **Susan Lees**

RIVER SUMMER FAYRE on July 14th from 11am to 4pm on the Recreation Ground Lewisham Road. This year we have Parrot Rescue coming and a Tug of War for the children. Vista Twisters will be giving a display as will Teeny Boppers. Also we have Motor Cycle & Land Rovers. As usual we will a dog show & Atlantis Entertainment Plus craft stalls.

CHRISTIAN AID - I would like to thank those people who assisted with the "house to house" collection in the village, and also to the residents who gave so generously. This year the total raised was £344.34. Thank you. **Richard Tapsell**

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OZ's daughter writes - June 8th this year saw the centenary of the death of Emily Davison, from injuries she received running out in front of the King's horse at Epsom, and it's an important anniversary that doesn't deserve to pass unnoticed. She may not have intended to kill herself, and there's still some debate about whether her actions helped or harmed the women's suffrage movement, but her death was a significant milestone, nonetheless. Many people believe that women achieved suffrage in 1918 but that's only partially true; because of the heavy losses we sustained in WWI, women would have significantly outnumbered men at the polling stations, and that would never have done. So suffrage was limited to women over 30 with property – in their own right or by marriage. Women didn't achieve full suffrage until 1928. One hundred years on, and the question is not so much, "Am I allowed to vote?" as "Can I be bothered?" And that's pretty understandable. This may not be the political landscape the Suffragettes envisaged us voting in, but we are still lucky enough to have the vote, and that right was won for us with blood, sweat and tears. That's why I was delighted when my friend, a newly elected councillor, told me that all the election candidates have to gather round to hear the spoilt papers read out. I once wrote a diatribe on mine, and I hope that even if I failed to shame the candidates, I at least bored them to tears. Staying at home achieves little; it just gives the politicians the mandate to do as they please, knowing they'll hear nothing more than a whimper in return. If you can't decide who to vote for, spoil your paper! And take pleasure in knowing the candidates will, quite literally, have to listen. **Catherine del Campo**

ALKHAM VALLEY HISTORICAL RESEARCH GROUP

On Saturday 29th June, the AVHRG group will undertake a non-invasive geophysical survey over Vicarage Meadow in Alkham. The aim of the investigation is to scan the area for potential archaeology and more specifically, to search for possible remains of a former river landing stage that may once existed alongside the ancient banks of the Nailbourne. After the Romans left Britain, the Roman road system was not maintained and eventually many roads degraded and fell-out of use. It was not until the 1800s that any concerted effort was made to build or repair roads. Since the 5th century and until modern times, the transport of quantities of goods to and from many locations in Kent would wherever possible, have been by water. Many of the interconnecting land routes of communication between villages and towns, at best in the summer would have been holed and rutted and impassable by wagons and carts in the winter months. The Kent river system over the centuries has either dried-up or been reduced to mere dykes because of a number of geological and man-made reasons. Hundreds of years ago they provided a safe and more commercially viable way of transporting goods inland between the settlements of Britain and the continent. Valley residents are more than welcome to join our voluntary team. Please contact me at: V.Burrows@gtwiz.co.uk *The above is the first part of Vince's article – the rest will be printed later.*

DOVER FESTIVAL PROM – 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 5th July in Dover Town Hall. This year's theme is Spain, the main orchestral work being the Overture to Rossini's Barber of Seville. The proceeds are in support of The Kent Air Ambulance. Tickets at £7 and £3.50 (promenaders) are available from the Dover Visitor Centre or from chorus members. For further details ring Sue or Steve Yarrow on 01304 872812. **Steve Osborn**

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)	
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Other events in the village

Tuesday	**2**	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	**6**	PCSO in village hall 10-11am
Tuesday	**9**	W.I meeting in village hall 7.00pm
Saturday	**13**	Annual village fete starts 2.00pm on village green
Monday	**15**	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Sunday	**28**	PCC Songs of Praise 10.00am village green

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th	Evensong 6.30pm	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 14th	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 21st	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6 pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 28th	Benefice Songs of Praise Vicarage Meadow 10am		

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

FROM THE VICARAGE - WWJD? You can buy ties and t shirts displaying the logo WWJD? and I must admit that I've been tempted but don't actually have one. Why WWJD? It stands for What Would Jesus Do? It is supposed to remind people like me of how we are supposed to approach tricky situations. There's a prayer by St Teresa of Avila that I like which includes the words, "help us to remember that Christ has no body now on earth but ours, no hands but ours, no feet but ours…" so it's important that we ask ourselves: WWJD? A couple of weeks ago, returning from an event at Canterbury Cathedral, I boarded the Park & Ride bus to back to where I had left my car. Shortly after I had sat down, a couple boarded with their teenage son and sat in the seats in front of me. Catching sight of my collar, Dad made a comment to nobody in particular and then proceeded to whistle the tune to Monty Python's Always Look on the Bright Side of Life all the way back to the car park. If you haven't made the connection yet, that's the song that accompanies the spoof crucifixion scene in the film Monty Python's Life of Brian. WWJD? The gospels tell of how Jesus' family once went to take charge of him because people were saying that Jesus had a demon, or was a bit strange as we would probably put it today. Perhaps the man on the bus thought that I was a bit strange. Jesus responded by asking his critics a question about whether someone possessed by demons could cast out other demons, which I suppose could mean, "How could I ever do other people any good if I were that strange?" But this man never said anything to me directly – he just whistled. As it was, I kept quiet and let my collar do the talking. WWJD? It was all that I could think of to do at the time. By the way, if you happen to be the gentleman in question - nice whistling! **Brian Williams**

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MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
County Councillor - Geoffrey Lymer 079604 90 929
District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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No. 238 August 2013

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FREE FILM PREVIEW – On the 12th of August at 8.00pm we will show our first feature film in Alkham village hall to test the system and get audience feedback. The film to be shown is 'Hitchcock' which stars Anthony Hopkins and Helen Mirren and is about their relationship during the making of the film Psycho. Entrance will be free to the first 50 people who apply for tickets which can be obtained by contacting Geoff Hillier (01303 892878), Brian Wimsett (824969) or Edith Neve (824030). The seating for the preview will be informal with chairs adjacent to tables and people are invited to bring their own drinks and refreshments. A company called FilmBank provide the films, which are generally those not yet released to DVD, and a list of these films will be given to those attending the preview to indicate their preference for future screenings. The first formal showing will be on the 24th September with tickets costing £4.50 each. The film will be advertised in the Newsletter and locally with tickets obtainable as for the preview and following this films will then be shown on the last Tuesday of each month.



ALKHAM FETE 13TH JULY - Wow what a fantastic afternoon! Glorious weather and a huge crowd helped to raise a truly amazing and best ever amount. Monies taken on the stalls on the day together with grand raffle tickets sold totalled £5557.00. A big thank you to all volunteers who worked tirelessly not only on the day but weeks before preparing stalls and events. Grateful thanks to the generosity of the prize donors, all of whom were listed on the day, and also to those who donated items necessary for individual stalls. It was a surprise to see Dr Who asking for a hamburger, I'm not sure who was the hottest me or him!
Irene Barnard (Secretary)





THE WEATHER was hot at the fete but it was even hotter for Geoff Hillier on the burger stall who can be seen in the photo behind the smoke. Many thanks to Stan Fowler who took all these photographs.

PUMPING STATION – Standen Terrace is the group of four houses above the brick wall on the bend of the Alkham Valley Road to west of the Drellingore pumping station. Opposite these houses used to be a Victorian pumping station which was demolished in 1981. Affinity water is planning to build a new pumping station, at a cost of about two million pounds, on this site utilising the old basement. Above the Channel Tunnel complex is the Hills Reservoir and Affinity Water is concerned about possible seismic activity that may affect this site to which the water is currently pumped. The new pumping station is designed to pump the water to the reservoir at Paddlesworth, which is further inland and adjacent to Hawkinge. This will also give greater resilience to the water supply to Folkestone and the adjacent area. Affinity will not extract further water from Standen and the existing pipes to Hawkinge will be used except for a short connection down to Standen crossroads. The new pumping station will be a single storey building about 16m long by 11m wide and in its finished state will appear to be brick with a Kent peg tile style roof. There will be an adjacent water storage tank, partially underground with an embankment around it and the whole site will be screened by trees and landscaping. Access during construction will be by a one-way road from Standen crossroads along which will be the contractor's site offices. The planning application has been submitted and it is hoped that work will start in October with the main construction commencing in January 2014 and finishing in August 2014. A presentation of the proposals was given to the Alkham Parish Council at their meeting on the 8th July with local residents in attendance. **editor**

VICARAGE MEADOW will again be the venue for the annual "Songs of Praise" at 11 am on Sunday 28th July. All are welcome to join the Worship Band from River church in this informal and engaging, open air service. The Village Hall will be open for refreshments after the service. **Geoff Gaskill**

POLICE SURGERY – Janet Claringbould, who is our Police Community Support Officer, will be holding a surgery on Saturday 3rd August between 10 and 11am in the village hall.

WASTE RECYCLING – The Hawkinge recycling centre will close permanently on Saturday 31st August 2013 with the 30th being the last operational day.

WI JUMBLE SALE in the village hall on the 3rd August from 11am to midday.

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DYKE – At the Parish Council meeting there was a long discussion about the state of the dyke which carries flood water from Meggett Lane through to Alkham village and beyond. Geoff Hillier showed pictures of the blocked and overgrown dyke to the east of Meggett Lane. He said it appeared that all authorities denied responsibility for its upkeep and finally suggested that a working party be set up to deal with the problem with a donation from the Parish Council. Neil Burrows commended the proposal but said that it would be a short term solution as the dyke would silt up again. The only long term solution was for KCC Highways to take responsibility for the dyke and the District and County Councillors were asked to put pressure on Highways to deal with the problem. Kent County Councillor, Geoffrey Lymer, was sympathetic to the problem but said that KCC had to deal with numerous problems such as this and had to prioritise their commitments. Geoff said that he would raise the issue with Highways and Sue Nicholas, the District Councillor, will also pursue the matter. It was agreed that a long term maintenance solution was required and Geoff Hillier accepted this for the present. KCC Highways intend to pressure jet the culvert in Meggett Lane in August. **editor**

SUMMER GUITAR CONCERT - For the fourth year running St Anthony's was packed on 29th June to listen to the past and present pupils of Jimmy D'Alton Bellas with some quite brilliant guest performers. From the opening performance by eight year old Matthew Purkess to the close by Grant McFarlande Dowse, now a professional artist, the quality of the playing was quite outstanding. The music ranged from Duke Ellington to Francis Cutting (16th century) with some arrangements by the pupils themselves. Emily Renshaw returned again this year singing unaccompanied in the beautiful surroundings of St Anthony's. Grant McFarlande Dowse also brought along Sarah Brennan on flute to accompany him. Sarah has played in various orchestras and performed for the BBC. Grant continues his career playing at various festivals and recording film scores. A big thank you to Jimmy D'Alton Bellas, his family, the Friends of St Anthony's and for those who helped. The £400 collected has been donated to the Friends of St Anthony. **Den Barnard**

GARDEN TALK - We hope the fine weather will continue for our next visit - to the interesting garden at Forstal Cottage in the village, where local historian Susan Lees will be our hostess This will be on Friday 16th August, from 7.30p.m. We anticipate another enjoyable evening in good company. **Janet Adamson**



TIPS FOR AUGUST - The warm July weather has meant that vegetables have managed to catch up a bit, especially if well watered. Gardeners should be enjoying harvesting courgettes, beans, peas and tomatoes; regular picking means a better crop. Heavily-laden plum and apple trees may need extra support this year. Rooted strawberry runners can be planted out now, and spring flowering bulbs should be ordered. Hedges can have their last cut, hoe and weed the hedge bottoms and repair fences before the possible autumn gales. Take and root cuttings of herbs, fuchsias, hydrangeas, geraniums and heathers. Plants will still need deadheading, feeding and watering. **Janet Adamson**

BOOK CLUB meeting for August will be held on Wednesday 28th at the home of Jo Walker, The Old Rectory, Slip Lane - Tel 821641. The book for discussion will be Sea of Poppies by Amitav Ghosh. The meeting starts at 7.30p.m. For more details of the club contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

The Daily Telegraph - At the height of the gale, the harbourmaster radioed a coastguard and asked him to estimate the wind speed. He replied he was sorry, but he didn't have a gauge. However, if it was any help, the wind had just blown his Land Rover off the cliff. **JH**

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OZ on COCKCHAFERS – The late arrival of summer this year has already disrupted the natural calendar, from the absence of ladybirds in May to the widespread cancellation of rose shows in mid-June. Another such delay emerged at the start of June when my son-in-law reported seeing his first cockchafer this year. These beetles usually appear at the end of April and live throughout May, giving them the alternative name of 'Maybug' (not to be confused with the Stag Beetle, also known as May Bug.) Other names in English are 'billy witch', 'mitchamador', or 'spang beetle', while my son-in-law's Spanish family know it as 'obejorro.' The Latin name is Melolontha melolontha, meaning 'apple tree blossom', perhaps one of the beetle's foods, although the acknowledged favourite is oak leaves. Cockchafer means in Middle English 'little man who gnaws' and they certainly do, swarming round trees and bushes as they devour the leaves. The larvae, known as 'chafer grubs', are equally voracious, eating the roots of potatoes and similar crops. Cockchafers are present right across Europe, and over the centuries various attempts were made to control their numbers. In mediaeval times the only method available was direct physical destruction of adult beetles so as to break the reproductive cycle. Remarkably, in France in 1320, cockchafers ('hannetons' over there) were put on trial and ordered to move to a designated area. When they 'refused' they were rounded up and executed. In other countries, cockchafers were simply cooked and eaten. In 20th century Europe, pesticides were very effective in controlling numbers, to the extent that the cockchafer neared extinction in some areas. However, over the last 40 years pesticides have given way to biological remedies and numbers are once again increasing. I think it's time to dig out the recipe for sugar-coated cockchafers. **(Steve Osborn)**

IN LAST MONTH'S Newsletter there was a partial report by the Alkham Valley Historical Research Group regarding a possible landing stage at Alkham. They have just done a survey of the village green to find out as there could have been a landing stage because the Alkham Valley Nailbourne, that now only runs during extended periods of wet weather, may have been at a best guess about 8 metres (30ft) wide and 2.2 metres (10ft) deep in ancient times. This volume of water would have enabled shallow draft vessels to navigate into the hinterland via Dover and Kearsney upstream to at least the village of Alkham if not further beyond. **From an article by Vince Burrows**

ALKHAM WI - The July meeting went well, starting with an excellent talk by John Pearce about Glen Miller. Next month, 13th August will be a 'Fish & Chip' and chat evening (something other than fish may be ordered). However, the first event in August will be a JUMBLE SALE ON the 3rd in the Village Hall. Members are reminded to come and help by approx 10am. The Sale starts at 11am and closes about midday. Members are thanked for all the work they did at Alkham Fete this year, it went very well. Cherry is arranging a coach trip to London to see the Legal Courts and other things in October. **Susan Lees**



STAGE – Works are well underway for the new village hall stage. All the supports have been made (see photo) and shortly they will be assembled in the hall. The stage has been designed such that the wooden tables, currently in the cellar of the Old Post Office, will fit underneath. The existing stage has been removed. **Geoff Hillier & Brian Wimsett**

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)	
07.59 08.27 09.47 11.17 13.17 14.47 17.27	**Sat. 09.47 11.17 13.17 15.27**
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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 details
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**	PCSO 10-11am – **W.I. jumble sale 11am**
Tuesday	**6**	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Monday	**12**	Film event trial run 8.00pm in village hall
Tuesday	**13**	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.00pm
Monday	**19**	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4th	Evensong 6.30pm	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 11th	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 18th	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6 pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 25th	Benefice Eucharist 10 am at St. Anthony's, Alkham		

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

FROM THE VICARAGE - A couple came to see me about being married in one of our churches recently. One of them used to live in the area, and so they had come to me – but that was partly because when they had first telephoned their local parish the person taking the call had come across as abrupt, and they hadn't wanted to go back to them. I was surprised, because I know the person in question to be a warm, friendly soul who would do anything for anybody – but we all know how it is when the phone rings just as dinner is ready, or when we have just got out of the shower. I made a mental note to be more conscious of how I answer the phone – it just goes to show how first impressions count. I have had to remember this myself when answering the phone during the past week. Colds make me grumpy, and things that don't usually bother me become irritating. It began last weekend with a tickle at the back of the throat and by midweek I was already onto my second box of tissues. During my student days I attended a church in London. In those days large parishes often had a vicar and two curates, and there they were all single and shared a vicarage with a housekeeper, rather like TV's Father Ted - except that this housekeeper, unlike the cheery Mrs Doyle, was a retired hospital matron who meant well but could nevertheless reduce anyone who rang the vicarage doorbell to jelly in seconds. I once mentioned in front of her that colds make me grumpy. "That's because you're a man!" she thundered. "Men think it's beneath their dignity to have colds!" Jesus once went to dinner with friends. While Mary sat listening to Jesus, her sister Martha was preparing dinner, fretting about all she had to do – until she finally lost patience and complained. "You are worried and distracted by many things," Jesus replied. "There is need of only one thing." Martha reminds me of myself with a cold. If she did have one it might explain why she was fretting, and why Jesus had to remind her – and us – not to worry about the little things in life that don't matter as much as we might think they do. **Brian Williams**

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A GREAT SUCCESS – The trial run for the film event in the village hall went very well with a lot of positive feed back especially for the quality of the picture and sound system. The informal arrangement of the chairs and tables was popular and most people liked the interval and enjoyed the film 'Hitchcock'. At the Preview evening a poll was taken to choose what films should be shown in the future. The result was a broad cross section of drama, comedy, thriller, and romance. From this poll result the next film to be shown at the Village Hall has been selected as .....

LINCOLN which stars Daniel Day-Lewis as United States President Abraham Lincoln, Sally Field as his wife and is directed by Steven Spielberg. It will be on Tuesday 24th September in the village hall starting at the earlier time of 7.30pm. The price of a ticket is £4.50 and these can be booked by ringing Geoff Hillier on 01303 892878 or Brian Wimsett on 824969.

WHAT A VERY well organised and enjoyable evening we all spent on Monday watching the Hitchcock film, and I understand a big thank you is particularly due to Geoffrey Hillier and Brian Wimsett, who spent a great deal of time beforehand ensuring that the evening ran smoothly. This is I am sure was the feeling of everyone who attended the film show. It was a good choice of film, and the lay out in the hall of the tables and chairs was a very good idea. It enabled us village folk to chat and have a glass of wine or a can of coke before the film started. Congratulations to all those who had a hand in the choice of film and helped with all the preparations. I am sure all who attended the film show will look forward with pleasure to the next occasion in September. Monday evening really was appreciated. **Pamela Sayers**



FETE COMMITTEE MEETING - Firstly, a huge thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Fete the best ever! Looking forward, there will be a Fete Committee meeting on Wednesday 4th September at 8 pm in the Village Hall; we will be discussing the Fete, dealing with the financial matters arising and making preliminary arrangements for the next Fete. Everyone is welcome to come along and contribute to the discussions. **Paul Tapsell**



THE STAGE in the village hall is almost complete and the curtains are ordered and should be put up shortly. We are currently looking at organisations that are offering live shows such as plays, concerts, jazz evenings etc. and more details will be given in future Newsletters. If you have suggestions regarding putting on live shows, whether amateur or professional, please contact Brian on 824969 or email brianwimsett@hotmail.com .

FETE – In last month's Newsletter we forgot to thank Paul Tapsell for organising the fete. Without Paul the popular village event, which many people from outside the parish come to, wouldn't take place. Many thanks go to Paul for all his hard and unnoticed work.

HARVEST SUPPER – On the 14th October from 7.00pm the Harvest Supper will be held in Alkham Village Hall. We would be very grateful to receive raffle prizes and apple pies. For tickets please phone Marion Banks-Nash on 820701 or Sue Lees on 822661. More information next month. **Marion Banks-Nash**

ALKHAM GARDEN CENTRE – The only recycling bins which remain at the garden centre are the ones for newspaper and clothes/shoes.

CLEANER REQUIRED – A lady in the village would like someone to do 1½ hours cleaning per week. Please phone 01304 823483 for more details.



PHONE BOX – Does anyone know who repainted the phone box at the top of Wolverton Hill? A name was suggested but on asking he said that he hadn't but thought it was BT. Philip Young, who sponsors the box, says that BT doesn't repaint boxes so if you know please give me a ring on 824969 as Philip would like to know. **Editor**

POLICE – If you would like to raise any issues with our Police Community Support Officer please go and see her between 11am and mid-day on the 7th September in the village hall.

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HOUSES OF ALKHAM – *When space permits details about some of the*



older properties in Alkham will be printed.

THE OLD POST OFFICE - Records show that a lease was taken on the land at the bottom of Slip Lane in 1810 and in 1877 Thomas Tunbridge applied for a mortgage. It is probable that the front house half of the house was built around this time with a cat slide roof. At a later date the rear half was added which accounts for the double pitched roof. In 1925 a further mortgage was taken out and this is probably when the shop was built, later to become the post office with a telephone box at the front. The stock was stored in the cellar under the shop and the cellar doors can still be seen by the post box on Slip Lane. Behind the house were a number of buildings, which included stables where horses used for transport were changed or watered. Before WWII the house was coated in pebble dash to reduce the fire risk. Most houses had to use the village well but the post office had its own well which survives to the present day. In 1958 John Luxton bought the property and when he retired built the bungalow called Meadowside in the rear garden. Until 1990 there was a squawk box in the shop where a message would be sent if the Russians were going to attack. Should that have happened rockets (fireworks) would have been let off in the back garden to warn the village. The shop finally closed in 1978. In the foreground of the picture are the thatched barns which were part of Halton Court Farm. **Editor**

AMANDA'S FOOTCARE – Mandy Summers (BSYA), who used to live in the village, can provide foot care in your own home. This includes toenail cutting, hard skin removal, general foot care and lower leg/foot massage. For an appointment please phone 07837973290.

GARDEN TALK - Glorious weather has inspired many of us to get out into the garden, so we are expecting a good attendance when we next meet to see all the hard work put in by Susannah and Richard Tapsell. We meet at 'Bramhall', Alkham Valley Road on Friday 13th September, from 7.00p.m. The earlier start gives us more time to admire the garden and views of the valley. All welcome.



JOBS FOR SEPTEMBER - This is harvest time for many of the vegetable crops: melons, tomatoes, sweet corn, runner beans and marrows. The shortening daylight hours make us feel that autumn is well on the way. Plums, damsons and some apples and pears can be picked. Those for storage should be picked in cool conditions, stored in trays in a frost free shed. The fruit trees can then be summer pruned. Blackberries and loganberries can be harvested, with the fruiting growth being cut out and new shoots tied in. Once it has rained, lawns can be aerated and scarified to remove debris. Worn patches can be reseeded and autumn fertiliser applied. Summer bedding can gradually be removed and spaces filled with daffodil and hyacinth bulbs - also pots of bulbs to flower at Christmas can be started. In the greenhouse, any shading used can be removed as well as spent plants to allow more light. Cuttings can be taken of fuchsias and pelargoniums. Fish in garden ponds should be fed as live food becomes more scarce. **Janet Adamson**

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OZ on OGBURN – Many years ago, just before I retired from an authority undergoing continual reorganization, downsizing and outsourcing in preparation for privatization, we kept our morale high by circulating subversive comments and/or pinning them on staff notice boards. One such read as follows: "We trained hard, but it seemed that every time we were beginning to form up into teams we would be reorganized. I was to learn later in life that we tend to meet any new situation by reorganizing; and a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress while producing confusion, inefficiency, and demoralization." This quotation was attributed to Gaius Petronius Arbiter (27AD – 66 AD), a Roman writer and courtier during the reign of Nero. As it seemed to strike such a chord with us from nearly 2,000 years ago a colleague invited me to verify its source. Over the last fifteen years I discovered that the Petronius attribution was widely regarded as a spoof, but found no evidence of the true author. The other day, I Googled it again for old time's sake, and Wikipedia came up with the answer. Charlton Ogburn, Jr. (1911-1998), was an American writer and journalist who joined military intelligence in World War II, became a captain, and worked for the US State Department after the war. In 1957 he wrote an article for Harper's Magazine entitled Merrill's Marauders, a first-hand account of the Burma Campaign, that contained the 'Petronius' lines, presumably commenting on the military hierarchy. Harper then gave him a contract for the book The Marauders, published in 1959, allowing him to be a full-time writer. Amongst other things, Ogburn was an authority on Oxfordian Theory, but surely now is the time for his name to be attached to the glorious 'Petronius' quotation. **(Steve Osborn)**

POSTSCRIPT – In last month's 'From the Vicarage' reference was made to a couple who wanted to get married and to the abrupt nature with which the enquiry was treated. Brian Williams says that the misunderstanding was resolved and the couple mentioned have been married. Congratulations and best wishes go to both of them.

ALKHAM WI - The August meeting was thoroughly enjoyed by all - reason? Debbie Griggs has booked all the speakers for 2014 and even one for 2015! Cherry Leppard has booked an outing to all the famous Law Courts in London in October and also the W.I. Christmas Dinner in December! Janet Barrow has arranged a December Carol Singing for a Dementia Group! The August Jumble Sale raised £75. After all this information members were able to sit back and enjoy the fish/chicken and chips that were ordered and collected by Edith Neve. The last part of the evening was a musical backed four parts Keep Fit, organised so well by Susannah Tapsell - most members joined in and enjoyed the event. September's speaker will be Helen Kendall showing how 50 ways can be used to tie a scarf - **Susan Lees**

JUMBLE SALE – On Saturday 28th of September from 11am to mid-day there is a jumble sale in the village hall in aid of PCC funds.

BOOKS – In the village hall there are second hand books for sale with money being put in a pot. To date Sue Lees has collected over £60 which is put in the Alkham Fund that currently has £480 in the Building Society account. This money is to be spent on the village.

COMMENTING on a complaint from a Mr. Arthur Purdey about a large gas bill, a spokesman for North West Gas said, "We agree it was rather high for the time of year". It's possible Mr. Purdey has been charged for the gas used up during the explosion that destroyed his house." **Daily Telegraph (JH)**

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)	
07.59 08.27 09.47 11.17 13.17 14.47 17.27	**Sat. 09.47 11.17 13.17 15.27**
09.06 10.36 12.06 14.06 16.06 18.01	**Sat. 10.36 12.06 14.06 16.06**

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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	2	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm in VH – all welcome
Tuesday	3	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Wednesday	4	Film event trial run 8.00pm in village hall
Saturday	7	PCSO in the village hall from 11am to mid-day
Tuesday	10	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.00pm
Saturday	14	SEK astronomical society in village hall pm
Monday	16	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	24	The film Lincoln in village hall – see page 1
Saturday	28	PCC jumble sale in VH from 11am to mid-day

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1st	Benefice Eucharist 10am at Alkham		
Sunday 8th	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 15th	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6 pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 22nd	Benefice Eucharist 10 am at St Mary's		
Sunday 29th	Eucharist 9.30am	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am

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

FROM THE VICARAGE - Some years ago a new soap powder appeared in the shops. While other products washed whiter than white, this one claimed not just to make clothes look clean but to smell clean. At last! The answer to a problem we didn't know we had! 'How is the church doing?' I have been asked that question a couple of times lately, and each time my stomach has churned because it feels like I'm being asked how I am doing. Each time I've muttered something or other in reply, but it has made me wonder – how do I know how the church is doing? Is it to do with numbers? At Pentecost, Christians celebrate how, after Jesus rose from the dead, the Holy Spirit came upon his disciples. There must have been a commotion, because a crowd gathered in the street, wanting to know what was going on. Peter, one of the leaders of the Church, told them that it was to do with Jesus – they had killed him, God had raised him from the dead. But Peter had the answer to a problem they didn't know they had, and apparently once they had heard his sermon about 3000 of them joined. None of my sermons has ever had quite the same effect as that, but then so far the crowds that flock to hear them have been rather smaller than the crowd that Peter preached to that day – much smaller, in fact. Someone asked me if I ever get discouraged. I hope not – because I remember that Jesus had the same problem with dwindling congregations. It seems that at one point huge crowds followed him – until he explained to them what they had to do to be his followers. When many of them left, he asked his disciples if they were going to leave too. Peter replied that there was nobody else for them to go to – his words were words of eternal life. Jesus, they realised, was the answer to problems that others didn't know they had. So as long as the Church keeps offering answers to problems that people don't necessarily know that they have, I think we might be doing OK. **Brian Williams**

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Newsletter Brian Wimsett 824969
email brianwimsett@hotmail.com
Parish Clerk Angela Miller
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Alkham web site www.alkham.org
Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
W.I. secretary – Susan Lees 822661
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk

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

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No. 240 October 2013

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DYKE – Kent Highways installed new headwalls on the culvert in Meggett Lane and whilst the road was closed the blocked culvert was jet blasted. However, because the dyke to the east is higher than the culvert Geoff Hillier persuaded KCC to clear it across the Garden Centre. A level survey between Meggett Lane and the dual pipes to the east of the Garden Centre showed a slight fall except for two high points. It is difficult to get some riparian owners to maintain the dyke and KCC don't have sufficient funds so the ….....

ALKHAM FUND will pay. The latter was mostly accrued when Ken and Brian recycled waste, for environmental reasons, from about 90 houses between 2004 and 2009. At the Parish Council meeting someone objected to the money being spent on this project, presumably because he put rubbish out. However, this project satisfies the aim that the money should be used for the good of the parish so a quote is being sought for some of the work but for the rest ….

VOLUNTEERS would be greatly appreciated. If you'd like to help please phone Geoff on 01303 892878 or Brian on 824969.

SLIP LANE – The Parish Council was asked if KCC could put a mirror at the bottom of the lane as it is difficult to see vehicles approaching from the Folkestone direction. The response was that drivers may be dazzled by reflecting headlights; a concave mirror gives a false impression as to how far away the approaching vehicle is; there are no recorded accidents apart from a bullion van that overturned and the police are not in favour. In short the answer was no.

SIRENS – The Parish Council have written to the police to ask why vehicles using sirens, which are audible all the way from Folkestone to Dover, are heard daily or several times a day travelling the length of the Alkham Valley Road.

ALKHAM FETE - At the post fete meeting last night it was suggested, that although this years was very successful, we should all consider having the fete every other year instead of annually. For various reasons it was cancelled last year and it seems from comments that most volunteers came back with renewed enthusiasm and va va voom! We do struggle each year to find villagers to step forward and run a stall and particularly realize that the same faces are involved year after year, with none of us getting any younger, so it's vital that younger villagers begin to help and show interest. There was only a small number in attendance last night so this new suggestion will be carried forward for further discussion at the AGM in November (date to be advised) so please come along and join in with your views and comments. **Irene Barnard, Secretary**

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES - Please could you possibly give your support 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 any Wednesday at 10.30am up to and including the 13th November. Thank you very much indeed. **Susannah Tapsell**

CALLING ALL "SINGLIES" - Are you a single person (male or female) living in the Alkham area? Do you appreciate solo-life some of the time, but would prefer company for occasions such as theatre trips, London shows or other days out? Do you sometimes fancy a mini-break or longer holiday but are put off by extortionate single supplements and wouldn't mind sharing accommodation? If any of the above ring bells with you, then you may be interested in joining a list (rather than a club) of like-minded individuals. If there is a fair response, I could organise an introductory meeting when we could draw up a contact list. Feel free to get in touch if the idea appeals to you. **Margaret Danstead Tel. 01304-829006**

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THE HARVEST SUPPER will be in the Village Hall on Monday, 14th October at 7.00pm for 7.15pm. Tickets will be £6 per person and are available from Marion (820701), Rosie (822585) and Sue Lees (822661). As usual any donations of produce to decorate the church would be gratefully received and will be auctioned during the Harvest Supper. This year, we are hoping to donate some items to the Dover Foodbank and any non-perishable items for this charity would be appreciated. The Foodbank has been formed to try to help people in need in the local community. Some suggested items could be sugar, (500g), cartons of fruit juice, tins of tomatoes or rice pudding or meat or fish or fruit and also biscuits or snack bars. Any items donated will also be used to decorate the church. Our donations will help to provide three days of emergency food for individuals and families in crisis. We look forward to seeing you at the Supper. **Marion Banks-Nash**

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BEE AWARE! - Dover District Beekeepers Annual Honey Show is coming up so why not come and join us on Saturday 19th October at the wonderful hall at Beechgrove, Nonington - home to the Bruderhof Community. It's a great afternoon for adults and children alike with displays of live bees at work in a special observation hive (weather permitting), microscopes to get a close up of bees and their pests, hive and equipment displays and of course lots of different honeys. Creams, lip balms, soaps and honey, all locally produced, will be on sale. Entry is free with refreshments available to purchase, so come along and join us to find out what beekeeping is all about. Don't forget! Saturday 19th October - doors open at 2.30 at Beechgrove, Nonington CT15 4HH. **Chris Holdstock Show Secretary**

WE ALL NEED A FRIEND - With our increasingly ageing population one of the biggest problems is growing social isolation and carers often do not have the time to stop and talk. Dover District has their own scheme, aiming to provide volunteers who can offer that much needed regular friendly contact. Befrienders work with vulnerable people, so we do ask you to go through a simple vetting process and attend initial training. Once that is complete we aim to match you with someone who is based fairly near you and who has compatible interests. Your role will be to act as the "good neighbour" – offering company, keeping an eye on the person and flag up other sources of support or services. If you are interested in becoming a Befriender, or if you would like to have a Befriender please contact the scheme Co-ordinator, Roisin Murray on 01304 367917 (Tuesday to Thursday) or 07969 698165, or e mail training@doverdistrictvolunteering.org.uk

U3A – Forthcoming courses for members at £1.50 per session include: September 18 at 13.30-15.30 hrs**:** "Young Dickens and Dickens in London" a talk by Ian Porter at Deal Town Hall: October 9 at 13.30-15.30 **hrs** "Strange history of Buckingham Palace" a talk by Patricia Wright at the Phoenix Centre, Sandwich **:** November 6 at 13.30 – 15.30hrs: "Blowing m own Trumpet" a talk by Roy Bilham**:** November 13 at 10.30-12.00 a coffee morning with a presentation by U3A Member and Course Leader, Tony Grist entitled "Drama in my life". See website u3asites.org.uk/white-cliffs or to get full programme and membership details contact 01304 851744 or email diane.mcgeary@sky.

ALKHAM WI – The National and Local WI members are very concerned about how shops are closing down in Towns; people here can see this in Dover and Folkestone. It does make people wonder what is going to happen to Towns. Helen Kendall gave a really interesting talk and demonstration at the September meeting, showing members not only which scarves should be worn but how they can be used in all sorts of different ways. Next month there will be a quiz run by Edith Neve – **Susan Lees**

GARDEN TALK - Although the evenings are drawing in, we still have lots of garden-related topics to discuss, and our December party to arrange. We next meet on Friday 11th October, at 7.30p.m. at Burley Cottage, Newcastle Lane, Ewell Minnis. Our hosts are Barbara and Neil Williams. All welcome, plenty of parking. If directions needed, please contact Janet Adamson 01303 893413



Gardening tasks for October: We hope for a mellow Indian summer to start tidying up the garden. Autumn digging is a priority to take maximum benefit from winter frosts that break down the soil into good condition for spring planting. Summer bedding should be removed, and bulb planting completed. Old plants in a herbaceous border should be divided and the vigorous outer shoots replanted. Dahlias should have the top growth removed as soon as blackened by frost - if lifting, store in a frost free shed, covering with damp peat (we leave them in the ground and cover with a thick layer of compost). Harvest the last of the tomatoes and ripen green ones indoors. Marrows, pumpkins and squashes should be cut and stored in a frost-proof place. Leaves should be raked up and stored as mulch. **Janet**

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HISTORIC HOUSES OF ALKHAM. HALTON COURT

Halton Manor was owned by noblemen from the 15th century with the Earl of Radnor being the last entitled owner. The barons collected their dues for the manor at the court, which was originally held in Halton Forstall with the Courts Baron sometimes taking refreshment at the adjacent hostelry, now called the Marquis. In time the dues were collected at Halton Court, which was originally built in the 14th century as a hall house having a central fire with a hole in the roof. In the 17th century the living area was reconstructed in the Dutch style with narrow bricks and later the big fireplace was added with moulded stone jambs. In 1740 the front wall, which became unstable, was rebuilt with iron ties and some of the workmen's dated initials can be seen cut into the bricks. The farm had numerous outbuildings which included a timber thatched barn and a brick and flint tiled wagon lodge and owned acres of arable land. The photo above was taken in 1959 and shows Halton Court with a bus in front of its cowshed with barns to the right. In the 1960's, as was the case with Norton Farm, the land adjacent to the house was sold as building plots. Halton Court is now a listed building and has a plaque denoting it as a 'Historical House of Kent'. **Editor from Sue Lee's archive**



OZ on INDIAN SUMMER – On 2 September the Met Office announced that the weather during June, July and August made 2013 one of Britain's top ten summers since records began in 1910. This, combined with the summer's late start and continuation into September, has caused much talk of an 'Indian summer.' It's a misnomer so far, as 'Indian summer' refers properly to a prolonged warm spell only after the first sharp frosts, usually between October and November. All my life I've assumed that the term 'Indian summer' originated in the Anglo-Indian sub-continent, and it was only when I couldn't find it in my Hobson-Jobson that I looked further afield. It comes in fact from North America, and is thought to describe the ideal warm conditions in autumn when native American Indians preferred to hunt. The first reference to it in the Oxford English Dictionary is from 1794, when E Denny wrote in his journal "Oct 13th. – Pleasant weather. The Indian summer here." In English-speaking countries the previous names for this season were 'St Martin's Summer', 'St Luke's Summer', or 'All Halloween Summer.' In Welsh, it is 'Haf Bach Mihangel' meaning 'St Michael's Little Summer.' Across Western Europe, the names are generally translations of the above four saints, while in Eastern Europe they are variant translations of 'Old Ladies' Summer' or 'Gypsy Christmas.' China has probably the most vivid name of 'qiu laohu' meaning 'tiger in autumn.' Hot autumn weather can occur with the remains of Atlantic hurricanes bringing warmth from the tropics towards us, as is happening now, but predicting Indian summers is not easy and we may still be surprised one way or the other. As Grace Metalious said in her notorious 1956 novel Peyton Place "Indian summer is like a woman. Ripe, hotly passionate, but fickle." **Steve Osborn**

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)	
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09.06 10.36 12.06 14.06 16.06 18.01	**Sat. 10.36 12.06 14.06 16.06**

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)	
Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
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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	1	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	5	PCSO in the village hall from 11am to mid-day
Tuesday	8	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	14	Harvest Supper in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	21	Dover District Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	26	PCC jumble sale in VH from 11am to mid-day
Tuesday	29	Film Lincoln in village hall start 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6th	Evensong 6.30pm	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 13th	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 20th	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6 pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 27th	Benefice Eucharist 10 am		
Weekday Services: Wednesday Eucharist **9.15 am** St Radigund, Capel-Le-Ferne			

FROM THE VICARAGE - "We haven't seen you!" she said. Then she walked away, without introducing herself. It sounded – and felt – like criticism. I was evidently going wrong somewhere, and I wondered what I could do to put things right. I told one of our churchwardens that apparently I was not as visible locally as some might like. "Ah!" he said, "Your predecessors have all been keen dog walkers." Since moving in we have acquired a cat, but if she catches me leaving the house she sometimes follows me along the pavement, crying for me to come home - so she's no help. Next I spoke to someone at the Capel Farmers' Market. I explained the problem – no dog. "But I see you all the time!" she smiled reassuringly. I asked her advice: should I just walk around without a dog, greeting people? She seemed to think that some people might find that strange, so not a good idea. I was still stuck when a few days later I found a book called The Country Vicar in my office. I bought it a while ago – perhaps this would explain what people should expect, and what I should be doing. So I started to read it again. George Herbert, a seventeenth century courtier and poet turned vicar, wrote a book called The Country Parson. He describes a parson as, ideally, one who treats his flock like a father treats his children - he knows everyone, visits them, takes an interest in them and lots, lots more. As Vicar to about two hundred mainly poor and illiterate farm labourers in Bemerton, Wiltshire, Herbert tried to live up to all this, as have many vicars since, but sadly died after just three years in the job. The world has moved on since Herbert's time. Just as the village policeman who walked his beat, knew everybody and clipped the ears of boys who scrumped apples is now just a fond memory, so too is Herbert's Country Parson – though understandably many still wish that vicars were just like that. Today, a police officer's tools are radios and patrol cars. Today most vicars have more than one parish, mounds of paperwork, inboxes heaving with emails and telephones that keep ringing (eight calls since I sat down to write this!) Unlike Herbert's flock, their parishioners can now read, drive cars, watch TV, and use computers. I read on, and realised that whatever I do I can't win - I'm never going to match George Herbert's ideal parson. But never mind, because neither will anybody else. So I'll just do my best, like the rest. So you might just see me in the pub, despite what Herbert said about parsons and alehouses. Actually, you may well see me out walking, perhaps even being followed by a cat. But just as the police are now only a phone call away, so too is this particular country parson. Just ring 01303 243784. **Brian Williams**

Newsletter Brian Wimsett 824969 email brianwimsett@hotmail.com
Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791 Alkham.pc@outlook.com
Alkham web site www.alkham.org
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W.I. secretary – Susan Lees 822661
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
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Vicar Revd. Brian Williams 01303 243784
Church Wardens Geoff Gaskill 823100 and Richard Tapsell 822295
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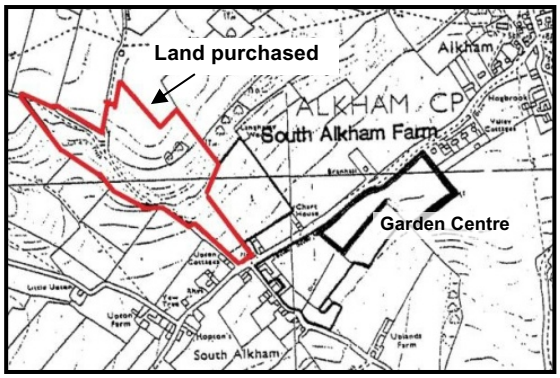

PIMLICO – The land opposite Meggett Lane, around Pimlico Way, has been purchased by Martin Scherer to establish a vineyard nursery. Recently retired, Martin searched for a commercially viable project that will keep him physically and mentally agile. The first thing Martin knows he must do is bring together all interested parties to find a solution to the problem of abuse by off-road vehicles. He also wants to work with local archaeologists and historians to explore the fascinating history of Pimlico Way. Martin believes that with goodwill and success, Pimlico Way Vineyard Nursery will become an attractive and valuable asset to the Alkham Valley.

KEN SMITH - It is very sad to report that Ken passed away at home on the 19th September (one month before his 102nd birthday). Some will remember him as the elderly gentleman who loved walking, others his memorable 100th birthday in the Marquis. Dad often remarked "what a lovely village we live in", and how welcoming the residents were towards him. Remarkably Ken never spent a day in hospital during his whole life. He will be greatly missed by his close family. **John Pearson-Smith**

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - Our Annual General Meeting will be in the Village Hall on Tuesday 19th November at 7.30 pm. We have arranged a carvery supper at the Fox, Temple Ewell to follow to which all are welcome; please book with Hon. Secretary Jo Walker or a committee member. This last year has been busy and with some expenditure on advice and assistance so please use this opportunity to contribute subscriptions/ donations or send to Hon. Treasurer, Barry Sheppard, Ellinge House, Alkham, DOVER CT15 7EG.

FILM EVENT

next showing in village hall at 7.30pm

November 26th

Behind the Candelabra

With Michael Douglas

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VILLAGE EVENTS – There are few evening events in the village hall each year to which a large number of people come and the idea behind the new stage and film show is to have more. They are not intended to be fund raisers but Film Night has started well with 45 people seeing 'Hitchcock' and 39 people coming to see 'Lincoln'. The licence to show the film is £100 and then there is the cost of the film and free raffle so we are covering the expenditure but a large audience is not guaranteed. The curtains for the stage are currently being made and when everything is complete we will have some entertainment, so please come along and support us. The feedback for Film Night has been very positive, the opening to which can be seen in the picture on the left.

WI JUMBLE SALE – Alkham Village Hall Saturday 26th October 11am – Midday. Anyone willing to help or contribute should arrive before 10.30am. **Sue Lees**

A BIG THANK YOU to all the ladies who came and helped decorate the church for Harvest Festival. St Anthony's looked stunning. Thank you **Rosie Hansraj**

YOU DECIDE - Dover District Council and Kent County Council have allocated funding to the 'You Decide' Grant Scheme and Alkham has applied for £500 to pay for some of the cost of the new stage curtains. The application for the Dover West Ward is lower than expected so it has been combined with Sandwich but the funding remains the same. The project will be considered at St Mary's Art Centre, Sandwich on Saturday 23rd November when we will do a presentation for which the public can vote using an electronic system.

W.I. AND CHURCH BAZAAR on the morning of the 7th December. If anyone would like to hire a table please contact Sue Lees on 822661.

THE HARVEST SUPPER was very well attended and everyone had a good time. We made an overall profit of £550 from the raffle and auction of which £200 will go to the church and the remainder to the Food Bank in Dover. Many thanks to everyone who came along and made the evening so enjoyable. **Marion Banks-Nash**

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The Alkham Valley Historical Research Group are looking for a small dry area to store a small quantity of the groups archaeological equipment i.e. buckets, tarpaulin's, finds trays, plastic fencing, turf cutter etc. We only need a small area if anyone in the valley could help. Access to equipment would be daytime 5-6 times a year. If you can help please contact Vince Burrows 01304 219550 or v.burrows@gtwiz.co.uk

SOUTHDOWN STORES which is on London Road, Temple Ewell is having an annual Taster Evening on Monday 4th November between 7.00 - 8.30pm at which you can try, buy or order for Christmas a variety of local Kent produce. These include local Kent beers, Rochester ginger and mulled wines, preserves & pickles, Kentish oils & crisps, Solley's Farm ice cream , British & local Kentish cheeses, Korker's sausages and more. Also available is a limited edition Temple Ewell 2014 calendar & village Christmas cards.

TEMPLE EWELL - Church of England Primary school - Reception Class September 2014 Open Day Thursday 14th November, 9.30am-11.30am 2013. Come and meet us and find out why Temple Ewell CEP School is the school to start your child's primary school learning journey. Meet our Head teacher and our brilliant Early Years team. Come for a tour, refreshments and ask our pupils why they love our school! OFSTED rated us as outstanding in behaviour & safety and good in pupil achievement, quality of teaching and leadership & management (March 2013). For more information please call 01304 822665.

BOOK CLUB for November is on Wednesday 27th at 7.30p.m. hosted by Anita James at Firbank, Slip Lane Tel 824964. The book for discussion is The Mystery of Edwin Drood by Charles Dickens. If you are interested in joining the book club contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729 for more details.

GARDEN TALK- Our visits to local gardens having finished for this year and we can look back on some highlights. Particularly worth a mention is the cherry blossom at Val's, the philadelphus at Rosemary's and the globe artichokes at Susan's. Richard's neat rows of vegetables amazed us all and the panoramic views of the valley from 'Countryside' were an unexpected bonus. Questions with a gardening theme were enjoyed, particularly Susannah's anniversary quiz and solutions to Helen's glut of quinces. The hospitality of our hosts was amazing - Geoff's sangria and Gordon's wine being much enjoyed. We are now planning our end of year celebration, taking place on Friday 13th December at Halton Court, Alkham Valley Road, where Irene and Den Barnard are our hosts. Numbers needed, in advance, and offers of food please to Janet & Gordon Adamson (01303 893413).



GARDENING TIPS FOR NOVEMBER - Time to continue with the pre-winter clear up including digging as vegetables are harvested and cleared, and raking up leaves. Brassicas still need to be checked for caterpillars. Gooseberry bushes can be pruned and autumn-fruiting raspberry canes cut down to the ground. To enhance the lack of sunlight, wash and keep clean the glass on greenhouses.. This is the best time to plant rose bushes, fruit trees and herbaceous perennials. Weed alpine beds and scatter a layer of small stone chippings to suppress weed seedlings.. Lawns may still need to be mown this year, with the cutters on a high setting. Ensure bulbs being forced in pots do not dry out. Sow broad beans for an early crop next year; onion sets can also be planted. **Janet Adamson**

ALKHAM WI – Members were reminded that there will be a WI Jumble Sale on the 26th October; Carol Singing 5th December at the Dementia Coffee Morning in Dover; a Christmas Bazaar to prepare for on 7th December; and the WI Christmas Dinner on 10th December. Members were reminded that next month would be the WI AGM and consider who should be on the Committee next year. Shoe boxes were available for members to take and fill with children's needs. The final part of the evening was taken up by Edith Neve providing an excellent quiz competition – won by 2 Debbies, a Jackie and a Lucy. - **Susan Lees**

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HISTORIC HOUSES OF ALKHAM - FORSTAL COTTAGE



The picture on the right, which is a water colour from the 19th century, shows the properties which will be later called the Marquis and Forstal Cottage. In between these two properties is the village well where locals went to collect their water. It can be seen that Forstal Cottage did have roofs of different heights as it was more than one property. The part with the lower roof was the first to be built in the 17th century and became an early public house called the Fox and Goose with a blacksmith's plus a barn and stable to the rear where school cottages now stand. In the 1780's, when the pub had closed, the part with the higher roof was built of brick and the whole made into two properties later to be known as Shoemakers Cottage as three shoemakers lived there. The two houses were made into one in the late 1960's by the wife of James Robertson Justice, a famous film actor, who then lived in the property.



OZ on FRUIT FLIES – For weeks now I've suffered ever-increasing swarms of tiny flies, and at times have blamed myself for sloppy kitchen hygiene. That may well be part of the cause, but I was relieved to discover that the problem has been shared with the whole country in this year's wild weather extremes. It seems that the cold spring, high summer temperatures and heavy autumn rain have created the ideal conditions for these busy little creatures. They feed on fermenting fruit, and the importance of this is reflected in their scientific name, Drosophila malanogaster, from the Greek for 'dark-bellied dew lover' (drosia = dew, philia = love, malano = dark-coloured, gaster = belly). Beware confusion with three other insects called 'fruit fly': Asian Fruit Fly (Drosophila suzukii); Olive Fruit Fly (Bactrocera oleae); and Mediterranean Fruit Fly (Ceratitis capitata). Our Common Fruit Fly, Drosophila malanogaster, has a complete life cycle of seven days, and so has produced many generations this year, time which has been spent feeding on fruit, vegetables, wine dregs, both indoors and outside, and latterly on compost heaps, wet from the autumn rains. They are extremely athletic creatures, flapping their wings at over 220 beats per second and capable of rotating 90 degrees in less than 1/40 of a second. Fruit flies live in a close symbiotic relationship with humans and, amazingly, share 75% of human disease genes. For this reason they are used extensively nowadays in medical research into aging, immunity, diabetes and cancer, amongst other conditions. People often seek ways of destroying fruit flies, and it seems that the most reliable method is beer traps, as I recommended in this column many years ago for wasps. But why kill friendly recycling relatives? Just keep the kitchen clean and enjoy their company - outdoors! **Steve Osborn**

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Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Tuesday	5	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	9	SEK astronomical society in village hall pm
Tuesday	8	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	18	Dover and District Bird Club 7.30pm in village hall
Tuesday	19	Alkham Valley Society AGM in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	26	Film Behind the Candelabra in village hall start 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3rd	Evensong 4.30pm	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 10th	Remembrance Service 10:15 am	Remembrance Service 10:15am	Remembrance Service 10:15am
Sunday 17th	Family Service 11am	Evensong 6 pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 24th	Benefice Eucharist at St. Radigunds, Capel 10.00am		

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

FROM THE VICARAGE - "How much does it cost?" "Nothing," I replied. Stunned silence at the other end of the phone – understandably, perhaps. After all, if you want something, you usually expect to have to pay for it, and if it's any good it will cost you a fortune. No wonder that it came as a surprise to the caller to learn that their child could be christened at their local parish church without it costing them a penny. Soon the Hallowe'en displays in the shops will have been replaced by the Christmas ones. Businesses survive by providing what people want - they have to make money, and Christmas provides an opportunity to make quite a bit of it. The shops will soon be full of things that we simply must have. A while ago I read that years ago, when machines began to take over jobs that had been done by hand, there was panic. People would work less hours – so what would they do with their spare time? Then someone came up with an idea – convince them that they needed luxuries. Then they would happily go back to working long hours so that they could afford them. Perhaps that is why we are often suspicious of things that are cheap, or even free – modern living has led us to believe that such things are worthless. This might be bad news for churches, which are in the not-for-profit business of helping people to find God and reach heaven and only charge what they need to when people want their services. Children often have as much fun with cardboard boxes than the expensive toys that come in them. As Christmas approaches, it is worth confronting our obsession with spending by remembering that some of the best things in life are still cheap, if not free. **Brian Williams**

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MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
County Councillor - Geoffrey Lymer 079604 90 929
District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 241 December 2013

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Merry Christmas



THE DYKE – There was a good response to the request for people to help clear the dyke between Meggett Lane and the village. Anthony Barrier, Gordon Adamson, Mike Ross and Geoff Hillier took out a 20 metre long high spot in the field by Meggett Lane with mattocks and shovels. Gordon removed the last of the blockage and the water flowed. John Huggins then very kindly cleared the dyke through the Garden Centre with a superb display of machinery skills.





VOLUNTEERS – The Parish Council were asked if they would help finance the further maintenance of the dyke. The Council thought that it would be wrong to allocate money to one specific problem and that in doing so could set a precedent. They did agree that a team of volunteers can be formed to clear the dyke annually for a couple of years and then they will review the situation.

GULLIES – A major problem associated with flooding is the number of road gullies that are blocked. It is accepted that in some locations there is a large amount of silt that is washed over them and it is a continual problem. However, it would be of help if people reported a blocked gully to KCC and this can be done on-line. Rather than print the link, simply go on Google and type 'KCC report a fault' and the site will come up.

GATEWAY – At the Parish Council meeting it was suggested that gate like structures should be erected either side of the road at the entrances to the village. This would give the appearance that motorist were entering a village and might persuade them to reduce their speed. It was also suggested that **'30'** could be marked on the road just after the gates. The Council are writing to KCC Highways to ask if they will do this.

SIRENS – The police were asked by the Parish Council why there were so many vehicles with sirens blaring using the Alkham Valley Road, seemingly for the whole of its length. The police replied and said that all their officers were trained in the use of sirens and went on to explain the usual reasons. It was however accepted that a number of vehicles using sirens were para-medic and that they were responding to an emergency.

FILM EVENT - Because of Christmas there won't be a film in the village hall this month. In January we intend to show the film Philomena; more details next month.

THE LIGHTS for the Christmas tree on the village green will be switched on at 4.45pm on Saturday 7th December. Father Christmas will be there and carols will be sung and afterwards Mark and his team have kindly invited everybody to mulled wine and mince pies at the Marquis – and …….

A CHRISTMAS BAZAAR will be held in the village hall on Saturday 7th December from 10.30am to mid-day where there will be stalls selling festive items plus the usual attractions. Tea, coffee and mince pies will be for sale so please come along.

THE ANNUAL QUIZ will be in the village hall on Saturday 1st February starting at 7.30pm. Please give me a ring on 824969 if you would like to book a table for up to 8 people. The cost is £5 per person and as usual food will be served in the interval. **Brian**

MULTIYORK armchair in cream and rose floral print - very comfortable but hardly used. Cost £600 will accept any reasonable offer. Please telephone 01304 824845 to view if interested.

CHURCHYARD - We are arranging a date to spend a morning tidying the Churchyard before Christmas. If you would like to be involved in this annual event, please contact me indicating the days you are available; I can then arrange a convenient date and time. We are also looking for someone to tend the two borders in the Garden of Remembrance, which Sue Hooker has maintained for the past few years; if you can offer to help with this we would be very grateful. Thank you. **Richard Tapsell 01304 822295**

FREE PARKING - Dover District Council is offering free parking on Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 December in all DDC owned car parks across the district and notices will be placed to confirm this (does not include on-street Pay & Display areas).

HANDYMAN WANTED for gardening and fixing fences etc. for 2 to 3 hours a week in the Wolverton area. Please ring 01304 829959 or 07760415522.

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Temple Ewell Primary School is in the final of the Kent Walk to School Song contest with the song "Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah". They need as many votes as possible so please text 87474 to vote for them and type **SONGB** followed by a space and your name and postcode. All votes cost 25p plus standard network charge and at least 7p of this will go to the children's charity KM Walk to School. Votes must be received by 12 noon on the 17th December.

NEWS FROM THE MARQUIS - After five years as general manager of the Marquis, Ben Walton has now left to pursue a career in IT and our new general manager Mark Rankin has been appointed. Mark has a wide experience in hotels and catering having worked in amongst others The French Horn, The Imperial and Eastwell Manor. He is looking forward with Charlie Lakin (of Great British Menu fame), our Chef, to continue to provide locally sourced food, fine wine, good service and luxury accommodation. The 10% discount card for all villagers will also continue - if you don't have one please pop in and collect one. Finally we are pleased to announce that we now have available for sale at The Marquis to drink or take away, Chalksole Estate Reserve sparkling wine blended from grapes grown in our own vineyard in Alkham, hand picked by friends and Marquis staff and bottled by Chapel Down Vineyard. **Tony Marsden**

U3A are holding the following events: Wednesday 4 December 13.30-15.30 hrs at Deal Town Hall: "The great Storm of 1987 and how it changed my life" a talk by Bob Ogley: Wednesday 8 January at 13.30 – 15.30 hrs at The Phoenix Centre, Sandwich: "The Father of Nobody's Children" a talk by Frank Andrews: Do please join us – you are welcome any time. Just turn up on the day! For further details contact 01304 851744 or email diane.mcgeary@sky.com.

GARDEN TALK - We end the year with a celebration at Halton Court where Irene and Den Barnard are our hosts. We gather at 7.30p.m. on Friday 13th December for food, wine and party fun. We need to know numbers in advance, and contributions of food etc, so please contact Janet Adamson (01303 893413) by 3rd December..



GARDENING TIPS FOR DECEMBER - A time to clear up in the garden, whether it be clearing and composting leaves or washing labels, pots and seed trays in the shed. Gutters need to be cleared of debris and leaves, and bird boxes should be cleaned out to provide winter shelter for small birds. Outdoor water taps need to be lagged and garden tools cleaned and oiled. Now is the time to spray fruit trees and bushes with winter wash and shorten any long growth on roses. The ground around newly planted shrubs should be covered to avoid frozen roots. Control mice if found eating broad bean seed or vegetables stored for the winter. Keep indoor pots of bulbs moist but not too hot and plant outdoors after flowering. So lots to do, if anyone has a spare moment over the busy Christmas season - enjoy it! **Janet Adamson**

ALKHAM WI held its AGM on 12th November. Apart from the usual business, discussions did take place how the Christmas Bazaar could be organised for 7th December in the Village Hall. Carol singing will take part that day too. Debbie Griggs organised a different type of quiz than usual and members enjoyed it. The December 'get together' will be a Christmas Dinner. The next WI meeting in the Village Hall will be Tuesday 14th January. **Susan Lees**

GUSTON Parish Council asked the Alkham Parish Council to support them regarding concerns about possible exploration for energy reserves in their area. The council will consider the matter and get back to them.



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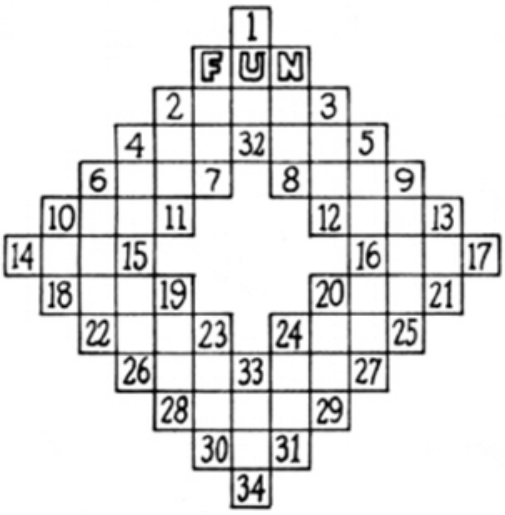
HISTORIC HOUSES OF ALKHAM – The photo above, which was taken in the 1930's, shows part of Slip Lane with the Rectory in the top left corner. In the foreground is Box (Tree) Cottage and it can be seen that it was made up of two houses with the smaller part being built first in the 18th century. At least two families lived in the property over the years and in the late 19th century the Kirby family moved into the house. Their father reared livestock, which was slaughtered in shed to the right and butchered in the smaller house. Pam Sayers says that when they moved into the house in the 1960's hooks still remained on the walls where the meat was hung for sale. Box Tree Cottage is now a charming Grade II listed building. On the right of the photo is the Wesleyan Chapel that was built in 1880 and Malmain's Farm is opposite with the dairy by the road where milk churns were left in a hole in the wall to be collected (now a window). Adjacent to the dairy is a 2 storey granary where the grain from the farm was processed. All the properties are now private houses and further houses have been built on the land either side of Box Tree Cottage.



OZ on FIRST CROSSWORD - FUN'S Word-Cross Puzzle

This month sees a very special anniversary for word-lovers; the 100th birthday of the first crossword puzzle. Its inventor, Arthur Wynne, was born in Liverpool in 1871, and emigrated to the US in 1890. He lived and worked first in Pittsburg as a journalist, also playing violin in the city orchestra, and then moved to New Jersey to work for the paper New York World. Instructed to devise a new game for the entertainments pages he compiled a puzzle called 'Word-Cross', published in the Sunday 21 December 1913 paper. It was an instant hit, and, renamed 'crossword', led to a national craze in the USA, causing some alarm about 'time-wasting' and then arriving here in 1922. So why not have a go at the first one? (**Steve Osborn**)



FILL in the small squares with words which agree with the following definitions:

2-3. What bargain hunters enjoy.
4-5. A written acknowledgement.
6-7. Such and nothing more.
10-11. A bird.
14-15. Opposed to less.
18-19. What this puzzle is.
22-23. An animal of prey.
26-27. The close of a day.
28-29. To elude.
30-31. The plural of is.
8-9. To cultivate.
12-13. A bar of wood or iron.
16-17. What artists learn to do.
20-21. Fastened.
24-25. Found on the seashore.
10-18. The fibre of the gomuti palm.
6-22. What we all should be.
4-26. A day dream.
2-11. A talon.
19-28. A pigeon.
F-7. Part of your head.
23-30. A river in Russia.
1-32. To govern.
33-34. An aromatic plant.
N-8. A fist.
24-31. To agree with.
3-12. Part of a ship.
20-29. One.
5-27. Exchanging.
9-25. Sunk in mud.
13-21. A boy.

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

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

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

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

Other events in the village

Monday	2	Parish Council 7.30pm
Tuesday	3	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	7	Christmas Bazaar 10.30am to mid-day in village hall
Tuesday	10	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	14	SEK astronomical society in village hall pm
Monday	16	Dover and District Bird Club 7.30pm in village hall

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1st	Carol Service 4.30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 8th	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 15th	Family Service 11am	9 Lessons & Carols 3pm VH	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 22nd	9 Lessons & Carols 6.30pm		
Tuesday 24th	Crib Service 4pm	Sung Eucharist 1.30pm	
Wednesday 25th			Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 29th		Benefice Eucharist 10am	

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

FROM THE VICARAGE - "A ray of hope flickers in the sky, a tiny star lights up way up high…" Recognize it? Yes – the opening words of A Child is Born, a Christmas number one for Johnny Mathis in December 1976, now mainly heard when Christmas shopping. Cardinal Albino Luciani, later Pope John Paul I, wrote a monthly column in a magazine when he was a bishop in Venice. He wrote a series of open letters to all kinds of characters, from Charles Dickens to Pinocchio which were later collected and published in a little book called Illustrissimi. Someone once gave me a copy. A charming, entertaining read, it made me think – how about an open letter to Johnny Mathis? You see, I'm not a fan of the song. It begins with the excitement of a new birth – the sort of hopes that we celebrate at christenings. Then, as the orchestra takes up the melody: "All of this happens because the world is waiting, waiting for one child… that will turn hate to love, war to peace and everyone to everyone's neighbour…" Fine – Christians think that Jesus was just that. But then: "It's all a dream, an illusion now…" What? Christmas a dream, an illusion? Mr. Mathis, why did you really think that Jesus somehow wasn't up to the job? Didn't Jesus talk about loving our enemies as well as our neighbours? Is it really his fault that not everyone does that? Being only human, people don't always listen. That's the problem. St John's Gospel puts it like this: "9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.*10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him…" So, Mr. Mathis, why not record something about that? Perhaps that would help to build the peaceful world you dream of – one where people listen. In the meantime, a very happy Christmas to you, and to everyone. **Brian Williams**

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Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791
Alkham.pc@outlook.com
Alkham web site www.alkham.org
Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
W.I. secretary – Susan Lees 822661
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
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STEVE MATCHAM - It's sad to report that Steve died on the 22nd November at the age of 86. He was a keen cricket player and in the 1960's photo of the Alkham cricket team he can be seen kneeling on the left with bat in hand. His brother Barrie, who lives in Glebelands, is in the back row third from left. Steve married his wife Lucy in 1950 and three years later moved into a new bungalow in Glebelands where they lived until the present day. Steve was involved in a lot of other village activities including the annual fete and he will be remembered as a smiling and amiable person.



THE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS were lit on the 7th December by Callum Huggins who can be seen in the photo with Father Christmas (we have to thank Callum's dad Simon for being a good sport and arranging for the real Father Christmas to be there). Also thanks go to Mark Rankin and the Marquis team who supplied the wine and mince pies after the event and to the W.I. who led the carol singing round the Christmas tree.

YOU DECIDE – They did and we didn't win. The Alkham Village Hall entered the competition and asked for £500 towards the cost of the curtains for the new stage. We did a presentation at the St. Mary's Art Centre in Sandwich where there were 11 entries from the Dover Ward and 12 separate entries from the Sandwich area. Each entrant for the whole event could have 5 people to vote on electronic devices for the other entrants. Few people visited our stand so most had no idea why we had entered, especially those from Sandwich. However there were worthy winners but I don't think with the current voting system we would enter again.



ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - The AGM took place on 19 November in the Village Hall and thanks to all who attended. The committee remains the same and plans are taking place for next year's events. Do not forget that the Christmas walk will take place as usual on 27 December, leaving the Village Hall car park at 10.30 am. All are welcome to this usually family event with dogs as well. A Merry Christmas to all. **(J. Walker, Sec)**

THE ANNUAL QUIZ will be in the village hall on Saturday 1st February starting at 7.30pm. Please give me a ring on 824969 if you would like to book a table for up to 8 people. The cost is £5 per person and as usual food will be served in the interval. **Brian Wimsett**

Happy New Year

FETE MEETING - There will be a Fete Meeting on 15th January at 8 pm in the Village Hall to decide whether we have sufficient supporters to hold the Fete this year on the 12th July; If you are willing to commit to helping please come along (or contact me in advance). **Paul Tapsell** 01303 892082. **If we don't** have enough supporters there won't be a Fete**!**

£562.14 - This is the fantastic amount of money that was collected in Alkham for the Poppy Appeal. That is an Alkham record…..so thank you all very much. The Royal British Legion will use it to continue the important work they do supporting and caring for serving members of the armed forces, veterans of all ages, and their families. Thanks must go to also to those who helped with the house to house collections, Shirley, Helen, Avi, Larry and Sue, and to the Alkham businesses that had collection boxes - Alkhamhurst Kennels, Alkham Garden Centre and Tea Rooms, Southern Equestrian and The Marquis. **Rachel Fountain**

FILM EVENT

next showing in village hall at 7.30pm

Thursday 6th February

Philomena

With Judi Dench & Steve Coogan

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

Bring your own refreshments

PHILOMENA is not being released until the 1st of February, but because so many people want to see it we have changed the date to the 6th of February.

CHRISTMAS TREE – The cost of the tree on the village green was £95, which was paid for by the Alkham Fund. We intend to raise further money and a committee comprising Ken Hammond, Brian Wimsett, Den Barnard and Val Fowler will now manage the fund. Please contact any of the committee if you want money for some parish related project.

MANY THANKS to Bill at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre for his generous donation of a £40 Christmas tree for St. Anthony's church.

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FILM REVIEW – BEHIND THE CANDELABRA



Village cinema is a brilliant idea. The picture was very good indeed for the recent showing of the biopic, more or less, of Liberace played in all his glory by Michael Douglas and based on the book by Liberace's boyfriend Scott Thorson (Matt Damon). Liberace was best known for his flamboyance and piano playing (we needed more of that perhaps) at the height of his fame, and not for his homosexuality. The film directed by Steve Soderberg (sex, lies and videotapes) took us directly into the shiny glittering decor and lifestyle of a Las Vegas star, and the overwhelming of a reluctant Thorson by the private life of Liberace. Lots of flesh, lots of gasps from the audience particularly at the extensive facial plastic surgery performed on Thorson in an effort to recast his features in resemblance of his 'master' Liberace. The plastic surgeon (Rob Lowe) was particularly creepy, helping to make Thorson drug dependant. The story was told taking dates into account, a countdown towards the Aids tragedy to which Liberace fell victim. Thorson himself walked out after a change of lovers by Liberace and survived to tell the sad, agonising tale of what went on behind the famous candelabra. As the lights went up someone wondered out loud if the film suited the Village Hall ambience...were we all shook up? Probably **(Jo Walker)**

BURGLAR ALARMS – A vulnerable home owner in the village has been phoned three times over the past year or so from different firms offering to install a burglar alarm system. Each time the representative came to the house and persuaded the owner to sign up for a system at a cost of between three and five thousand pounds. Fortunately neighbours became aware of what had happened and the contract was cancelled. It appears as though vulnerable people are targeted (the rep couldn't say how the number was obtained) so please keep an eye on any vulnerable people you know so that they don't end up with a totally unsuitable and overpriced burglar alarm system. **editor**

U3A are holding the following events: Wednesday 22 January at 10.30-12.30 hrs at The Guildhall Sandwich "Tales from a Bulgarian Winter" a talk by Sue Beer: Wednesday 12 February at 13.30 – 15.30 hrs at The Astor Community Centre "Saltwood Summer; The orchid Foxglove" a talk by Susan Scrivens. Do please join us – you are welcome any time. Just turn up on the day! For further details contact 01304 851744 or email diane.mcgeary@sky.com.

GARDEN TALK - After an interesting and enjoyable year, planning is starting for a programme of activities for 2014. Suggestions are needed for hosts, venues and visits so that a programme will be available for our first event in the spring. All ideas to Janet Adamson (01303 893413) please.



TIPS FOR JANUARY - A Happy New Year to all Gardeners in the Alkham Valley area. We hope for a mild period of weather, without too much frost and snow, but if we are unlucky there will be plants needing protection and pots to be wrapped in fleece. Snow will need to be brushed off shrubs, and off the top of fruit cages. If the weather is mild, fruit trees and shrubs can be planted. Winter pruning can be done, checking stakes and ties. Rhubarb crowns should be protected with straw; a cover with a box or forcing jar will encourage an early crop. Complete winter digging in flower and vegetable beds, and plan the spring planting programme. Now is a good time to order from the seed catalogues. **Janet Adamson**

BOOK CLUB - The next meeting will be on Wednesday 29th January at the home of Jane Aslett, Dry Brook, Short Lane, tel. 824729. The book for discussion is Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn; the meeting starts at 7.30p.m. If you would like to find out more about book club please contact Jane.

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HISTORIC PROPERTIES OF ALKHAM – THE SCHOOL



Behind the house which is now Forstal Cottage there used to be a number of small buildings, which included a blacksmith's and a barn. In 1862 these were sold and three years later Alkham school was completed, probably paid for by a government grant and administered by a voluntary body. However, by 1874 the school became a National School and can be seen in the centre of the photo above with the larger part being the headmaster's house where children also hung their clothes. At one time there were over 90 children attending the school with the bell tower on the right summoning them to lessons. A toilet block was added at a later date and adjacent to the Forstal an air raid shelter was built in WWII. For part of the time a working men's club met in the large house after the headmaster moved out. The school closed in 1972, at which time there were 25 children attending with one full time and two part time teachers. The school was later sold and converted into three houses with garages on the playground. **editor**



OZ on SLOE GIN – Last month, we drove to Romney Marsh for sloe-picking, after friends told us of the enormous number of sloes that they had collected from the blackthorn hedges that line the ditches near St Mary's Bay. We could see where they'd been, as the bushes next to the road had been stripped bare, but even so we managed to pick enough fat sloes in two hours to make 8 pints of sloe gin. At the last bush, I leaned over the ditch and held down a branch while my partner picked the last few sloes. When I released the branch, it sprang up violently, and a thorn caught my woollen glove, projecting it gracefully through the branches in a perfect parabolic arc, to land, utterly irretrievable, in the water. So much for greed. Back indoors, we pricked and bottled the sloes, added sugar and then, as an experiment, added either gin, the French 'Alcool pour fruits', or white rum, and left it to infuse for a couple of months. When mature, it will be, as always, a gorgeous winter drink, strong and sweet with a distinctive sharp edge at the back of the tongue. No one described it better than the great Irish Poet, Seamus Heaney, in his poem Sloe Gin: "The clear weather of juniper darkened into winter. She fed gin to sloes and sealed the glass container. When I unscrewed it I smelled the disturbed tart stillness of a bush rising through the pantry. When I poured it it had a cutting edge and flamed like Betelgeuse. I drink to you in smoke-mirled, blue-black, polished sloes, bitter and dependable." **(Steve Osborn)**

ALKHAM WI - Next meeting 14th January 2014 when the speaker will be Christine Cuss about 'Notes to my daughter in father's blitz diary'. Hostesses are Janet Adamson, Iris Bowshell & Margaret Batcheldor with the raffle by Pat Yeoman. **Sue Lees**

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)	
07.59 08.27 09.47 11.17 13.17 14.47 17.27	**Sat. 09.47 11.17 13.17 15.27**
09.06 10.36 12.06 14.06 16.06 18.01	**Sat. 10.36 12.06 14.06 16.06**

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

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

Other events in the village

Monday	6	Parish Council 7.30pm in village hall – all welcome
Tuesday	7	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	11	SEK astronomical society in village hall pm
Tuesday	14	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Wednesday	15	Fete meeting in village hall at 8.00pm
Monday	20	Dover and District Bird Club 7.30pm in village hall
Saturday	25	Beekeepers in village in the afternoon
Thursday 6th February - Film night – Philomena in village hall 7.30pm		

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th	Evensong 4.30pm	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 12th	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 19th	Worship Tog'r 11am	Evensong 6 pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 26th		Benefice Eucharist 10am	

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

FROM THE VICARAGE - Dear Friends, We are greatly blessed by having a brother-in-law who is both a plumber and the sort of person who is happy to help when trouble strikes. So you can imagine how glad we were of his help when our central heating began giving trouble one Christmas. We were very grateful to him, of course, and in a telephone conversation with my sister, offered to give him a large tin of his favourite chocolates. Imagine our surprise when she told us the news – he'd gone healthy! Once capable of demolishing a whole tin of chocolates single-handed, he now never touches them! That said, my offer of a bag of muesli was also politely declined, for some reason. As we get older we realise that none of us lasts for ever. Good health, which we tend to take for granted when young, begins to become more precious. I recall two of my colleagues at a school where I used to work chatting. One had decided to try to give up smoking as a New Year resolution. The other had given up some months before, to the relief of her non-smoking boyfriend who liked the idea of her smelling sweeter, and her young son who liked the idea of her living longer. This year, Lent begins in March – traditionally a time for giving things up, though a friend of mine never fails to point out that the word itself relates to Spring, which is a time for growth. Health and growth – the two go together. New Year, and Lent - both opportunities for a long look at ourselves, and for Christians moments for asking God to help us to give up what gets in the way of our spiritual health and stops us growing. As my colleague said, nobody who loves us will ever want us to be unhealthy. **Brian Williams**

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Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791
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Alkham web site www.alkham.org
Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
W.I. secretary – Susan Lees 822661
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
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Vicar Revd. Brian Williams 01303 243784
Church Wardens Geoff Gaskill 823100 and Richard Tapsell 822295
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
County Councillor - Geoffrey Lymer 079604 90 929
District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187

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No. 243 February 2014

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A JAZZ EVENING - Keep this date free in your diary. On 6th March we have booked The Richard Rascals jazz quartet to come and perform at the Village Hall. Just sit in a cafe style atmosphere and enjoy the jazz or for the active get up and dance. Bring your own refreshments. The programme begins at 8.00pm and the ticket price will be £7 per person. Book by phoning Geoff on 01303 892878, or Brian on 01304 824969 and pay at the door on the night. **Geoff Hillier**

COFFEE MORNING - August the 4th 2014 will mark 100 years since the outbreak of the First World War and to mark this event we are holding a commemorative weekend in St Anthony's church, Alkham on the 9th and 10th August. To raise funds for this event a coffee morning is being held from 10:00 am till 12:30pm on Saturday 22nd February in Alkham Village Hall. If you would like more information regarding the commemorative weekend or would like to help in any way, especially anyone who has memorabilia from the First World War, we would love to hear from you. Please contact. Rosie Hansraj on 01304 822585.

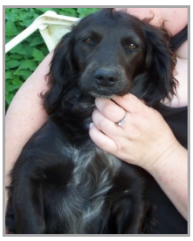
NO POWER – The Prince family who live at Nailbourne, the pretty bungalow on the west of the village, had no power over Christmas and played Scrabble by candle and torch light on Christmas day. UK Power put in a temporary overhead connection in October when a fault developed and promised to come back shortly and finish the job. Despite the Prince's ringing the power company and having assurances given, nothing happened with the result that the power failed for 6 days over the Christmas period.

BUS SHELTER – Subject to funding, the Parish Council intend to replace the bus shelter on the Valley Road by the village green. The present one, apart from not being very attractive, does obscure the traffic for vehicles coming out of Hogbrook Lane and to some extent Slip Lane. The proposal is to erect a new shelter at the same location but further from the edge of the road such that visibility is improved. There would be a new concrete hard standing and the probable choice for the shelter would be one made of wood. **editor**

ENTERTAINMENT – The Baroque Theatre Company are coming to Alkham village hall on the 11th May and presenting the comedy "Up Pompeii". More details will follow and if the show is popular it is intended to have further shows towards the end of the year.

ALKHAM W.I. – Unfortunately the speaker cancelled for the last meeting but a good time was had chatting and eating cake. The speaker for the next meeting on the 11th February is Sarah Grazebrook talking about 'Life as a suffragette'. Hostesses will be Margaret Danstead, Debbie Griggs and Janet Gibbons.

LOST DOG - A Dachshund /Spaniel Cross called Ferny went missing on 6th January from a house on Abbey Road, Hougham. She has a black coat with a white patch on her chest, answers to her name and is micro chipped. Please ring 0776 3327548 or email paulking9691@gmail.com if you have any information.



LUCY MATCHAM would like to thank everybody for their kind thoughts and help following the recent death of her husband, Steve. St. Anthony's church was packed for Steve's funeral and donations amounting to £110 were given, which has been sent to the British Heart Foundation.

WHEELIE BIN – The wheelie bin, which was in St. Anthony's churchyard, has gone missing. It was donated by a parishioner, as DDC do not provide bins for churchyards, and was vital for separating non-recyclable material from the compost heap. If you have any information please phone 824969.

JUMBLE SALE – On the 15th February the W.I. are holding a jumble sale in the village hall from 10.30am to mid-day. Please bring any donated items to the hall before the start of the jumble sale.

FILM EVENT

next showing in village hall at 7.30pm

Tuesday 25th February

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ALKHAM FETE 12TH JULY 2014

Following the splendid turnout at the emergency meeting last month there will be a Fete this year, so mark the 12th July in your diary today! There will be another meeting to make further arrangements on the 12th March 2014 at 8 pm in the Village Hall, so if you are willing to run or help on a stall, particularly if you have any ideas or suggestions for new stalls or attractions to "ring the changes", please come along! Also, if you would be willing to act as Secretary to the Committee please let me know. Thank you for your continuing support. **Paul Tapsell (01303 892082)**

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FILM NIGHT - An email was sent by Peter Mercer to say he was pleased that it was decided to have the film shows in the Village Hall and that he was very much more likely to stroll across the Village Green than travel to a cinema. Regarding the film about Liberace, as shocking as the subject matter may have been to some, he thought it was great cinema with Michael Douglas playing a marvellous and very believable Liberace.

GARDEN TALK - The programme for 2014 is well under way, but new suggestions are still welcome. The first event will be another fruity wine quiz at Sunrise, Meggett Lane on Friday 7th March, starting at 7.30p.m. Please let us know if you are coming. **Janet & Gordon Adamson (01303 893413)**



THE NAILBOURNE - The ground water rose again in January and the Nailbourne flowed down the valley from Standen. The recent works carried out on the dyke to the west of the village seems to have kept the water flowing with the result that the bottom of Meggett Lane didn't flood.

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - Yes, there was an Alkham Valley Society Walk on 27 December. The one damp day sandwiched as it transpired between two beauriful sunny days. While the President, family and Secretary set forth at 10.35 with one dog and an 18 month year old on his Dad's back, no one else braved the weather.. however the six of us travelled Sladden Woods, Ewell Minnis, Bailey's Bottom, Ellinge and back across the top fields and had an at times blustery walk and a very good time. Next year? The Society plans to have a tour of Sandwich with a guide and a lunch on June 26, 2014, advance notice for diaries. A Talk is being planned, probably 25 September, in the Village Hall on Canterbury Cathedral, its restoration and conservation given by Heather Newton. The date is still to be confirmed but in the pipe line. **Jo Walker**



GARDENING TASKS FOR FEBRUARY - Much depends on the weather as many are still clearing up from the storms of January. Broken branches should be removed from evergreen trees; shrubs should be hauled upright and staked or heeled in. If we get mild dry weather, then deciduous trees, shrubs and hedging could be planted. Sedums and deciduous grasses can be cut down to avoid damaging early new growth later. Firm alpine plants into place, remove weed seedlings and dress soil with fine stone chippings. Complete pruning of apple and pear trees, vines and climbing roses. Sow half-hardy annual seeds under glass, also tomato seeds to be raised in a cool greenhouse. Put out seed potato tubers in trays for sprouting and store in a light frost-proof shed. Tackle small invasive weeds in flower beds, taking care not to damage emerging bulbs. **Janet Adamson**

PIMLICO WAY – The Parish Council tried to get a Traffic Regulation Order put on Pimlico Way restricting access over the winter period, because of damage to the surface. The request was rejected by the authorities who said that it is very difficult to enforce a TRO and barriers are ineffective. Such orders are generally the last resort and it is very unlikely that any more will be made nationally. They also thought that the byway was in a reasonable condition and that there has been less off-roading of late. **editor**

BOOK CLUB for February - The Book Club meeting for February will be on Wednesday 26th at the home of Mairi Jones, Turangi Newlyn Meadows tel – 01304 826619 The books for discussion are Now We Are 60 and The Man Who dropped the Le Crouset on his Toes both by Christopher Matthew. The meeting starts at 7.30pm. If you would like more information please contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729

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ALKHAM, A BRIEF HISTORY - The Lordship of the Barony of Folkestone had original claim to this area, subordinate to which was the manor of Alkham, owned by the Malmaines family. There were other manors such as Hopton, Evering (Everden), Halton and Wolverton but over the years, because of financial pressures and other factors, they became farms. In the 19th century most of the parishioners worked on the farms and local names predominated but gradually the individual farms began to disappear. One of these was Norton Farm, which stood on the east side of Slip Lane and is shown in the photograph. In WWII the army was in residence and finally used it for machine gun practice such that the lovely period property was demolished. The house called Apple Tree was built on part of the land for the grandson of William Wordsworth, who had returned from India. Malmains Farm was owned by John Ullmann, who relished the name 'Diesel Johnny', and when he died recently some old farm buildings became houses and the land was returned to agriculture. Hogbrook Farm continued into the 1980's but an owner sold land in parts with one piece becoming Newlyns Meadow, its name being derived from a previous farmer. Halton, Hopton and Everden are no longer farms but the beautiful houses remain and this includes Upton Farm House at South Alkham. The population of the parish has remained roughly the same over the years at about 690 but those who work do so elsewhere and the age range has changed significantly. **editor**



OZ on HOGGART – I was sorry to hear of the death from cancer last month of Simon Hoggart, the political sketch writer and columnist, who spent a long working life treating this often divisive topic with a uniquely sharp but healing humour. Simon was born on 26 May 1946 in Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire, to Richard Hoggart and his wife Mary (nee France). Richard was a highly respected academic who later became famous as author of The Uses of Literacy (1957), and was an expert witness in the Lady Chatterley's Lover trial in 1960. After education at grammar schools in Hull and Leicester, Simon taught for a year in Uganda and then followed in his father's footsteps by reading English at King's College, Cambridge. Here he became involved in journalism through the university paper, and in 1968 he was one of the two graduates recruited annually by the Manchester office of the Guardian newspaper. In 1973 the paper's parliamentary sketch writer, Norman Shrapnel, resigned, and Simon moved to the London office, starting a long career with both the Guardian and the Observer, including a spell as the latter's Washington correspondent. At the same time, he appeared on radio and TV, and wrote some 20 books on a variety of topics. His appeal was easy to understand, but difficult to emulate; he was clever but not cruel; he was not partisan, but attacked sloppy thinking wherever he found it. Two of my favourite Hoggarts are "Another day, another U-turn" and his challenging of "Now is not the time for cowardice!" with "Just when is the time for cowardice? "After a lifetime of being asked "Are you related to Richard Hoggart?" he was delighted to hear recently that someone had asked his father "Are you related to Simon Hoggart?" They'll both be greatly missed. **Steve Osborn**

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)	
07.59 08.27 09.47 11.17 13.17 14.47 17.27	**Sat. 09.47 11.17 13.17 15.27**
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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

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

Other events in the village

Saturday	1	Annual Quiz in village hall starts at 7.30pm
Tuesday	4	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Thursday	6	Film Night – Philomena in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	11	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	15	W.I. jumble sale in village hall from 10.30am to mid-day
Monday	17	Dover and District Bird Club 7.30pm in village hall
Saturday	22	Coffee morning 10am to 12.30pm – see page 1
Tuesday	25	Film Night – Gravity in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2nd	Evensong 4.30pm	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 9th	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 16th	Worship Tog'r 11am	Evensong 6 pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 23rd	Benefice Eucharist St. Radigund's Capel 10 am		

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

From the Vicarage - Is it just me – or do people behave differently when they think that someone is watching? While training for the priesthood I did a placement shadowing the chaplain to the Channel Tunnel. That was how I came to see how lorries have their wheels chocked as they are loaded onto the freight shuttle, before beginning the journey through the tunnel. People there seemed were happy to chat to a trainee vicar – but one eyed me suspiciously until I told him why I was there. I gave a friend a lift back from a meeting in Dover recently. As we followed the A20 along Townwall Street on the return journey we were overtaken by a Fiesta, which accelerated away. Climbing the hill out of Dover, we came upon a queue of lorries grinding along in the nearside lane – along with the Fiesta. Remembering my Advanced Driver training from years ago I carefully planned my next move and followed through, safely overtaking them all. Taking the slip road for Capel, as we approached the roundabout I noticed headlights in my mirror, some distance behind. Nearing the village itself the headlights in the mirror drew closer. It was Fiesta – and soon it was tailgating impatiently. My passenger laughed when I jokingly asked him if he wanted to flag it down and have a word. Would they have been that close, I wondered, had they known that my passenger was a former traffic cop? I once knew a family who kept a sign in their hall that described Jesus as their 'unseen guest'. What effect did it have? I don't know - maybe it had the same effect as the badge on my car that reminds me that, as an Advanced Driver, I have no excuse for not driving safely. Perhaps I'll try it and let you know. **Brian Williams**

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Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
W.I. secretary – Susan Lees 822661
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District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187

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Brian Wimsett
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No. 243 March 2014

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JOLLY BOATING WEATHER Jimmy and his wife Nina, from Slip Lane, go for a paddle on the village green in February.



THE FLOODING RISK to the Village Hall is very real. A letter on this issue has been written from the Village Hall Committee to our local MP with copies to Alkham Parish Council, Dover District Council, Kent County Council, and Affinity Water Limited demanding action is taken in the form of using agricultural grazing land to create a holding pond to the South West of the village on Affinity Water land. Whether action is taken we'll have to wait and see but pressure on those who can make things happen needs to be kept up and All residents in Alkham are encouraged to write to our MP and to those other bodies mentioned above to demand that real measures are put in place to eliminate the risk of flooding along the Nailbourne. **Geoff Hillier**



BEATTIE JEAPES – We write these words to express our gratitude to all who attended the church and crematorium services to say goodbye to Beattie recently. We will always remember this lovely, caring, kind, gentle lady for all she did and gave within and around our parish. Thanks to everyone who sent floral tributes and also to those who most generously donated money to Alkham church, which was the chosen charity. We conclude by saying thank you to everyone who helped to make this occasion such a treasured memory for those of us she meant so much to. **Irene (Beattie's sister) and David Tapsell**

THE ANNUAL QUIZ was great fun and I hope everybody enjoyed themselves. The winning team was led by Rachel Fountain, who were one point ahead of the South Alkham team. The raffle was well supported such that we made a profit of £435 which has been put in the Alkham Fund. This fund will pay for works in the parish that the local councils do not take responsibility for. If you would like funding please contact Den Barnard, Val Fowler or myself. **editor**

COFFEE MORNING - We are holding a coffee morning on Saturday 22nd March from 10 till noon at Halton Court to help raise funds for the PCC. The PCC are exploring the possibility of installing a kitchen and toilet in St Anthony's so perhaps any monies raised could be an early step towards funding. There will be a bring and buy table, a bottle raffle and hopefully a cake stall. We have recently cleared our attic so have several items to sell such as small tables, cheval mirror and various china ornaments. We look forward to seeing you all. **Irene Barnard**

HOSPICE – Anne Huggins donated the Hyundai pedal bike, which she tried to auction at her cream tea event in 2012, to the Pilgrim's Hospice. They raffled the bike and raised £3500, all of which went to the hospice. Congratulations to all involved.

VILLAGE TRIP TO THE SOMME A day trip to the Somme on Tuesday May 13th 2014 is planned. The proposed itinerary is: depart Alkham 07.30 for Eurotunnel; Thiepval Memorial where villager John Rye is remembered; Lochnagar crater; Bullecourt where, 97 years to the day, villager Edward Collard was killed. Return approximately 19.00. We have reserved a coach with air-con, toilets and a guide for £45 per person - to include a picnic lunch. Confirmation, ***and payment***, is needed by March 15th to secure the booking - please contact Den Barnard on 824845 or at Halton Court, Slip Lane. **Mark Robson**

FETE SECRETARY - This post has now been filled by Anita James of Firbank, Slip Lane 01304 824964. Our thanks and very best wishes to her. **Irene Barnard**

FILM EVENT

next showing in village hall at 7.30pm

Tuesday 25th March

Captain Phillips

Starring Tom Hanks

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

Bring your own refreshments

TRAD JAZZ evening – On the 6th March the Richard Rascals quartet are playing in the village hall from 8.00pm. Tickets cost £7 and can be booked by phoning Geoff on 01303 892878 or Brian on 824969. When booking please let us know of any numbers you'd like the band to play.

THE WHEELIE BIN missing from the churchyard has been found.

SANDBAGS – Many thanks to Clive, Gordon, Anthony, Peter, Brian, Richard and Rosemary for helping fill the sand bags round the village hall. **Geoff Hillier**

POLICE – It is worth phoning 101 for minor issues as the person who answers is helpful. The 101 number should be used for the PCSO.

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FEEDBACK – Sarah Whitfield King, who lives at Martinvale in the centre of the village, sent an email regarding Oz's article about the late Simon Hoggart. She said that Simon had a profound impact on her career when she arrived at The Guardian as a young 21 year old secretary on the woman's page in the 1970's. Over many pub drinks after work, he persuaded her that she should train as a journalist and with his help basically changed her life. Sarah was transferred to the Travel Desk as a researcher and was sent out on stories, which was wonderful. She then went as a journalist to the Mail on Sunday and Today newspaper and ended up as Travel Editor of the Daily & Sunday Mirror. Oz also emailed to say he apologizes unreservedly for the error in the last line of the Hoggart article, which suggested that Simon's father, Richard, is also dead. Richard is in fact alive and will be 96 next September. **editor**

CHLOE HUGGINS – A few weeks ago I watched as Chloe came into church shivering with cold and having damp hair. I enquired as to why she looked and felt this way – even though it was raining hard outside – and she explained she had just finished swimming practice and had been out of bed since 7am, then called in at McDonald's for a speedy hot breakfast before coming to church with mum and grandma to also do her first ever reading. Impressed with this, I decided to do a 'Chloe profile' and have recently met up with her and mum Tracy to take a few notes. Chloe is nearly 11 and attends Capel- le-Ferne primary school. Her interest in swimming was obvious and soon she began private lessons once a week at 6yrs old at the Folkestone Sports Centre. Being very keen she quickly showed promise executing each stage by completing eleven disciplines in every category and progressed from stage 3 to 6, when the instructor encouraged her to join the Folkestone Swimming Club at 8yrs old. Chloe practices four times a week for a total of four and three quarter hours and enjoys and excels in all strokes but particularly likes front crawl. With her consistency and determination she has won several certificates and medals. Recently she achieved her personal best and swam 5000m (approx. 3.5miles) in just over two and a half hours and was awarded with the Reindeer Spirit Championship medal for 2013. Chloe says she would like to continue improving her times in hope that one day she may be able to represent Kent. Who knows perhaps even GB in 2021! Chloe also likes reading, drawing and writing poems and has been in several school plays and panto. Monopoly is a favourite home past time played with her brother Calum. **Irene Barnard**

TOTS2TEENS, a registered charity in Lydden, is holding a Nearly New Sale for baby and toddler items on Saturday 22nd March from 9.30am - 12.30pm at Lydden Village Hall. Contact details - Debbie at Tots2Teens on 01304 826511.

GARDEN TALK - We start the season with an indoor event on Friday 7th March with another fruity wine quiz at Sunrise, Meggett Lane, South Alkham, at 7.30p.m. The programme for the year will then be available, which includes a variety of gardens, and some quizzes. Please let us know if you are joining us. Janet & Gordon Adamson 01303 893413

ALKHAM WI - Despite the rising of the Nailbourne, members were able to go to their meeting and run their Jumble Sale. Sarah Grazebrook, originally an actress, talked about the Suffragettes, a talk full of interest. The speaker at the next meeting 11th March will be Christine Cuss talking about 'Notes to my daughter & father's Blitz Diary'. Anyone interested is welcome to come.

U3A – On Wednesday 26 February from 10.30 to 12.30pm at the Astor Community Centre, Deal there will be a presentation by Sue Beer "Tales from a Bulgarian winter". Do please join us. Just turn up on the day! For further details contact 01304 851744 or email diane.mcgeary@sky.com

CARE EXTRA is a 'not for profit' Community Interest Company offering companionship and respite care to people living in the Deal and Dover area. If you would like to know more about this service please contact: coordinator@ careextra.co.uk or tel. 07715847356

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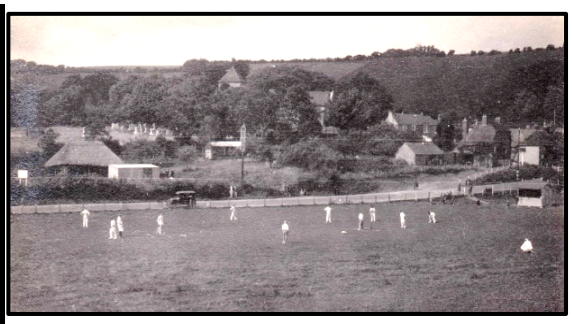

NEWLYNS MEADOW The picture was taken in the 1930's from the field behind what is now Newlyns Meadow and shows the Alkham cricket team playing a match. On the right, by the cricket hut, there is a short path and this explains why the footpath now officially stops before the village hall. Church Hill house is just out of the picture on the left and a petrol station was originally planned for the land to the right but in 1967 the bungalows were built. Alkham cricket club is the second oldest in the county and they played in the field above until 1938 when they moved to Vicarage Meadow (village green) after the dyke was dug to alleviate flooding. In the above photo there is no dyke, as the road was used to take the flood water, and there is a car which was an unusual sight at that time. **editor & Sue Lees**

OZ on RAMANUJAN – This month marks the 100th anniversary of the arrival in England of one of our cleverest immigrants. Srinivasa Ramanujan was born on 22 December 1887 in Erode, Madras Presidency (now Tamil Nadu), India, to a Brahmin family. Ramanujan did well at local school, coming top in his district at the age of 10, and transferred to the secondary school. Here his mathematical genius unfolded, as he raced through the school's maths books, leaving teachers and fellow pupils far behind. By his late teens, Ramanujan was working alone, discovering new theorems and re-discovering old ones. However, this obsessive searching caused him to fail two degree courses because of neglecting other subjects. He married in 1909 and worked as a clerk while continuing his research and dealing with the first of his lifelong health problems. By 1914 Ramanujan's fame was such that he was invited to England by eminent mathematicians Hardy and Littlewood to work with them at Cambridge University. Over the next 5 years Hardy and Ramanujan collaborated on an enormous amount of original research, and Ramanujan was showered with long-deserved academic qualifications. Ramanujan's illness worsened in 1919 and he returned to India, dying there on 16 April 1920, aged 32. The anecdote best illustrating Ramanujan's lightning mathematical reflex was told by George Hardy after going to visit Ramanujan when he was ill at Putney. Hardy had ridden in taxi cab number 1729 and remarked to Ramanujan that the number seemed rather a dull one, and that he hoped it was not an unfavourable omen. "No," replied Ramanujan, "it is a very interesting number; it is the smallest number expressible as the sum of two cubes in two different ways." ($1^3 + 12^3$ and $(93 + 10^3)$. To this day 1729 is known as the Ramanujan-Hardy number. **(Steve Osborn)**

ON EACH WEDNESDAY in Lent members of our benefice will be hosting a series of lunches to which all are welcome. For £3.00 per person, you will be served with soup, bread and cheese, and ALL proceeds will be donated by the host/hostess to a local charity of their choice. Turn up anytime between 12.30pm and 2pm to partake of a tasty meal and enjoy the company of others from all three villages. The venues are: March 5th 143 Old Dover Road Capel hostess Coleta Spillett: March 12thThe Old Village School, Church Hougham hostess Wendy Finnis: March 19th Holly Lodge Hougham hostess Helen Scopes: March 26th Forstal Cottage Alkham Valley Road Alkham hostess Sue Lees: April 2nd 43 The Street West Hougham hostess Theda Mulloy: April 9th Hermitage, Slip Lane Alkham hostess Marion Banks-Nash: April 16th 56 Alexandra Road, Capel hostess Vad Blake. For further information please contact Jerry Spillett on 01303 242146.

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Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am – 6.15 to 7.15 aerobics dance class
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village		
Monday	3	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm in village hall, all welcome
Tuesday	4	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Thursday	6	Jazz evening 8.00pm in village hall – see page 1
Saturday	8	SEK astronomical society in village hall in afternoon
Tuesday	11	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Wednesday	12	Fete meeting in village hall 8.00pm
Tuesday	25	Film Night – Captain Phillips in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	29	Beekeepers in village hall in the afternoon

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2nd	Taise Service 4.30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Wednesday 5th			Eucharist 7pm
Sunday 9th	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Sunday 16th	Worship Tog'r 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9:30am
Sunday 23rd	Benefice Eucharist Hougham 10:00am		
Sunday 30th	Mothering Sunday 9:30am	Mothering Sunday 11am	Mothering Sunday 11

DEAR FRIENDS, It was a Friday morning when the wind blew. From the office window at the Vicarage, Yours Truly saw the recycling bin on its side, and rubbish strewn across the garden. I heaved the bin upright, wedged it against a wall, and replaced the rubbish inside. Then another gust of wind landed a neighbour's bin in the road, and its contents in our hedge. Reminding myself to love my neighbour as myself, I righted my neighbour's bin and picked its contents out of the road. No sooner had I finished than another terrific gust of wind blew a cloud of card and paper along the street, along with a torrent of tins and cartons. Another gust took it all either into our hedge, or across our garden. Now I had to love all of my neighbours at once. Filling a bin sack, I wondered - if I made a time capsule of my sack and buried it, what would our descendants make of our rubbish, discovering it years from now? No milk bottles, but plastic milk cartons would date the hoard AM – After Milkmen. Cat food sachets would tell their own story. But what of the dozens of yoghurt pots, their labels carefully removed, or the blister packs? A few cigarette packets and some beer cans would reveal our guilty pleasures – but our main vice would seem to be pies and cakes, nearly all from supermarkets. That packaging, and the catalogue that landed on the path, would show us to be tribe of shoppers. The ring binder and papers on the lawn would show how our society was organised, and archaeologists would be fascinated by the writing on the scraps of paper raked from under the hedge. However, the dustcart arrived, and these treasures showing how we lived and what mattered most to us were lost forever. **Brian Williams**

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)
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PLEASE COME to the meeting about flooding where it is hoped that Charlie Elphicke, our MP, will be present. KCC Flood Risk Management, KCC Highways, Affinity Water, Southern Water and the Environment Agency will also be there. The risk of future floods is high and the impact of flooding affects the whole community of Alkham and this is a chance to hear what plans are in hand to minimise the future risk. It is also a chance to say what we think should be done and to demand some action. The meeting is on the 7th April at 7.30pm in Alkham village hall and it would reinforce our concerns if as many people as possible were at the meeting.

FLOODING – At the Parish Council meeting Geoff Hillier asked the council in detail what initiatives they had taken regarding the recent floods. The Parish Council defended their record and said that they had numerous on-site meetings plus copious correspondence but one major problem was the turnover of council staff. Geoff Hillier said he had sent a letter to our MP, Charlie Elphicke, with a petition suggesting that a bund should be put in the field west of Meggett Lane to form a holding pond. Vigorous discussion followed and it was finally agreed that a public meeting should be arranged where all parties would be present to work out the best way forward. **Editor**



BUS SHELTER – The concrete eyesore that was the village bus shelter has been replaced by a new one. It's a great improvement and congratulations go to the Parish Council, especially the Parish Clerk Angela Miller and to Geoff Lymer. The Local Members Fund (KCC/Geoff) paid £5584 and the Rural Bus Shelter Grant gave £2000 to cover the costs. Harmer and Sons Ltd. did a very good job removing and replacing the shelter. **editor**

ENTERTAINMENT – More events are being organised in the village hall for the parish and hopefully we will get your support. On the 11th May the Baroque Theatre Company are coming to present the light hearted romp **'Up Pompeii'**. It will start at 7.30pm and a ticket costs £10 which can be reserved by either phoning Geoff on 01303 892878 or Brian on 824969.

MATT HYLAND who lives in the village, is looking for some extra work to help pay off his student debt after finishing a degree at University. Garden work, grass cutting, hedge trimming, painting and decorating, household, odd-jobs, clearing work after the floods. Good worker, good rates and convenient as a local lad. If you are interested his contact number is **07788241375** for a quote on any jobs you need done. If no answer, then leave a message or send a text and he will get back to you asap.

"ANY LADIES"? Alkham WI is having a truly interesting FASHION SHOW on Tuesday 8th April in Alkham Village Hall. The Show will be presented by BON MARCHE and you are all welcome to come at 7.30pm. **Sue Lees**



JAZZ – The Richard Rascals quartet came to the village hall on 6th March and were superb. The newly installed stage and LED lighting added to the ambience and made it a truly memorable evening.

FILM EVENT

next showing in village hall at 7.30pm

Tuesday 29th April

Saving Mr. Banks

Starring Emma Thompson & Tom Hanks

Walt Disney making Mary Poppins

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

Bring your own refreshments

POPCORN – Another good reason to come to Film Night is that the Marquis are providing free bags of popcorn. When you pay for the ticket you can pick up a bag of Popcorn. A great idea by the Marquis

VILLAGE HALL AGM - The Annual General Meeting for the Village Hall will be held on Tuesday 22nd April, in the Village Hall at 7.00p.m. All villagers and those representing organisations that use the Hall are invited to attend, and vote in members of the Committee. It has been a busy year with new initiatives - comments and suggestions would be welcomed. **Janet Adamson** Hon Secretary, Village Hall Committee 01303 893413

A JUMBLE SALE will be held in the village hall from 10.30pm to mid-day on the 12th April in aid of PCC funds.

CHICKEN BOARDING – We would be grateful if anyone in the local area could provide a Chicken Boarding Service for our 3 laying hens for approx.10 days, probably during May or June. Please contact H Enterkin on 01304 826449.

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PHONE BOX – The traditional BT phone box in Ewell Minnis is sponsored by Philip Young, who used to live in the parish. He very kindly sent the Parish Council a cheque for £5000, half of which is for the box and the other half for the council to spend as it feels fit. The BT logs show that the box wasn't used at all last year for phone calls and therefore they have asked if the Parish Council would like to buy the box for £1 and take on its maintenance without the phone facility. The Council is writing to Philip to ask what he would like to do. **Editor**

POTHOLE – Many thanks go to our new postman in Alkham who organised for the mega pop hole on Hogbrook Hill Lane outside my drive to be filled last week. Like me (and Barry & Alison) he could see such a pothole would eventually cause a car accident and he contacted Highways who within hours filled it. **Sarah Chambers**

A CHURCH FOR THE 21ST C? You may be surprised that there is no mains water in St Anthony's. The last significant renovation of the church was 140 years ago. Not surprisingly, what was right for the Victorians doesn't fit with today's ideas of a multi-functional building. Thanks to the Friends of St Anthony's, and work by volunteers, the fabric of the church building is in a good state of repair, and the church committee now want to focus on the future. We would like to have a warm meeting area linked to a small kitchen and toilet. Access to the church is also a problem, so we are considering a car park in the churchyard and path lighting. High speed internet access from satellite receivers in church towers is also possible. All in all, we want to extend the use of the building to a wider range of people and activities. There is a long way to go, and much money to raise, before concept turns to reality. In the meantime please give us your comments either at the Annual Church Committee meeting in the village hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 24th April, or email Margaret Batcheldor (batcheldors@tiscali.co.uk) **Geoff Gaskill 823100**

THE BOOK CLUB meeting for April will be on Wednesday 30th at 7.30 hosted by Sue Latham at Woodlands, Short Lane, Alkham 01304 824924. The book for discussion is The Accidental Apprentice by Vikas Swarup. For more information contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

GARDEN TALK - We look forward to lighter evenings and a chance to view some local gardens. On Friday 11th April, we have been invited to Bramhall, Alkham Valley Road where Susannah & Richard Tapsell are our hosts and we will see welcome spring blooms and preparations for vegetable crops. We start at 7.00p.m. on this occasion. The wine quiz in March was well received, the person with the most discerning palate being John Jackson. **Janet Adamson**

LILIES - We will be decorating the church for Easter with lilies as usual. If you would like to remember a loved one with a lily, please contact Linda Gaskill 823100. Each stem will cost £3.50. We need to order the lilies two weeks before Easter so the deadline this year will be April 6th. **Rosie Hansraj**

ALKHAM WI - The March speaker was very interesting because Christine Cuss talked about her young days with her parents in WWII. The tragic experiences in bombing killed parts of her family and other parts survived. Next month 8th April 7.30pm there will be a fascinating fashion show given by Bon Marche. Members and non-members are all invited to attend - **Susan Lees**

WHAT A RELIEF it is to branch off Slip Lane onto ER25 and be sheltered from stinging cold rain and sharp winds by the Pimlico Hedge. A vote of thanks goes up from at least this hiker to those brave people who replanted the hedgerow after its demolition in the late 1970s. People such as Bob Palmer, Pam Sayers (who did legal research), John Garlinge who laid most of the hedge among many others of the then newly founded Alkham Valley Society. Recent rain and erosion by 4x4s has exposed some of the original flint byway leading to the Pimlico settlement, another reminder of past rural history. **J Walker**

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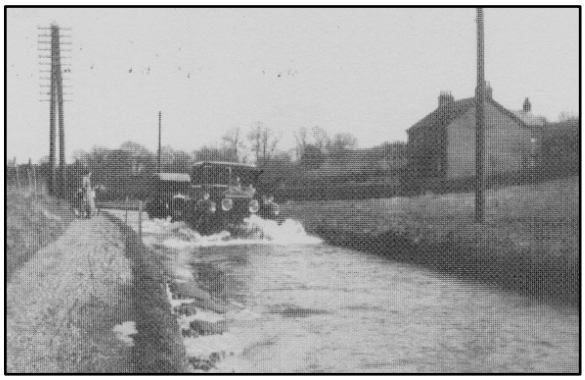

THE NAILBOURNE

An old legend goes that St Augustine's first summer in Kent was a very dry one, which started a rumour that the old gods Woden and Thunor were angry at the new religion. Augustine prayed for rain, and where he knelt a spring came forth. The Dover Express in March 1893 said the Nailbourne last flowed in 1888 and attracted a large number of visitors and in 1901 it anticipated that owing to the sinking of a well at Drellingore, to supply the town of Folkestone, it will rise no more. There were major problems during WW1 and in 1928 Alkham Parish Council complained to Highways re-flooding and the Surveyor was ordered to construct a dyke. In 1937 Dover RDC agreed a channel should be dug about 530 yards long to connect the Nailbourne to a pond. Part of this was probably across what is now the village green as the cricket team moved there in 1938. In 1956 a teacher studied the flow of the Nailbourne and said that there were five major springs, two at Lower Standen, one at Drellingore, one at South Alkham and one at Wolverton. Lower Standen yielded over 2 million gallons in 24 hours in winter and the Drellingore well had a normal yield of more than 2.5 million gallons per day. Alkham Valley with its porous chalk is vital in providing domestic water to the surrounding area; in very wet periods the chalk becomes saturated and the Nailbourne flows. The picture above is of the Valley Road and was taken in 1937, near the current 30mph limit to the west of the village. On the right is the police house by which Valley Cottages were built in the 1946/47. From 1961 the Nailbourne ran significantly in 1974, 1987, 2001 and 2014 which appears to be a 13 year cycle but this is by no means certain.

Many thanks to Sue Lees, the Village Historian, for most of the details. **editor**

OZ on COCKNEY ALPHABET – I haven't had time this month to write the usual kind of story, but thought that readers may like to try and improve on the Cockney Alphabet popularized on BBC radio in the 1930s by the comedy duo Clapham and Dwyer. It goes as follows: A for 'orses (hay for horses); B for mutton (beef or mutton); C for th' highlanders (Seaforth Highlanders); D for 'ential (deferential); E for Adam (Eve or Adam); F for 'vescence (effervescence); G for police (Chief of police); H for respect (age for respect); I for Novello (Ivor Novello); J for oranges (Jaffa oranges); K for restaurant, (cafe or restaurant); L for leather (Hell for leather); M for 'sis (emphasis); N for 'adig (infra dig); O for the garden wall (over the garden wall); P for relief (pee for relief); Q for a song (cue for a song), or Q for billiards (cue for billiards) or Q for everything (queue for everything); R for mo' (half a mo'); S for you (it's for you); T for two (tea for two); U for me (you for me); V for La France (Vive La France); W for a bob (double you for a bob); X for breakfast (eggs for breakfast); Y for Gawd's sake (why, for God's sake); Z for breezes (zephyr breezes). Clapham and Dwyer later renamed it the Surrealistic Alphabet, which in my view added nothing to its appeal; the original version sounded irresistibly Cockney. However, some of the allusions seem rather dated, and some really don't work at all well and can probably be bettered. I have my own preferred version, but would also be interested to receive readers' suggested alternatives, at: steveaosborn@hotmail.com No prizes, but I will publish a list of winning suggestions, just for the glory. Steve Osborn

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

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

Other events in the village

Tuesday	1	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Monday	7	Parish Meeting 7.30pm in village hall – see page 1
Tuesday	8	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	12	PCC Jumble sale in village hall 10.30am
Saturday	12	SEK astronomical society in village hall pm
Tuesday	22	Village hall AGM 7.00pm all welcome
Thursday	24	PCC AGM in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	29	Film Saving Mr. Banks in village hall 7.30pm

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6th	Evensong 6.30pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worship 11am
Sunday 13th	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11am	
Thursday 17th	Eucharist & Washing of Feet 7.30pm at Alkham		
Friday 18th	Vigil of the Cross 2 - 3pm	12 - 1pm	1 - 2pm
Sunday 20th	Easter Day Eucharist 9.30am	11.00am	9.30am
Sunday 27th	Benefice Eucharist 10am at Hougham		

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

FROM THE VICARAGE - I met him just once but have never forgotten Brother Raymond, his gentle sense of humour and the stories he told. With his cropped hair, Franciscan monk's robes and sandals you couldn't miss him in a crowd – not even in London. Travelling on the Underground one day he attracted the attention of a slightly tipsy Australian tourist who was visibly amused by the friar's appearance. The train pulled into a station. "I don't believe in your God!" the tourist sneered as he stepped onto the platform. "He believes in you!" Brother Raymond yelled back as the doors began to close. As the train moved off, a man sitting opposite spoke. "Thank you," he said quietly. "I needed to hear that." Jesus once compared God to a father whose wayward son left home and who never gave up hoping for his return – never stopped believing in him. Easter is the time when Christians celebrate Jesus, crucified by people who didn't believe in him, being raised to life by his Heavenly Father, who did. And I remember Brother Raymond, and those words that gave hope to the man on the train - and I hope that they give hope to you, too. Happy Easter! **Brian Williams**

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

07.59 08.27 09.47 11.17 13.17 14.47 17.27 Sat. 09.47 11.17 13.17 15.27
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Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk

Police – 999 emergency &101
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Church Wardens Geoff Gaskill 823100 and Richard Tapsell 822295
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FLOOD MEETING – Speaking to people after the meeting the general impression was that they were talked down to by a couple of speakers and that the other representatives were there because they had to be. No firm proposals were given and little was achieved except to be reminded that there is no money and it's unclear as to who owns what. About 70 people came to the village hall on the 7th April to hear what representatives from KCC, DDC, Affinity Water, Southern Water, the Environment Agency and local councillors had to say about the recent flooding and their proposals to ameliorate the situation. Spirited comments were made by the audience regarding the lack of maintenance of the dyke and the lamentable size of culverts and pipes. The idea of a holding pond was summarily dismissed with one speaker saying the water would just come up further along. Since the Nailbourne rises at Standen and Drellingore this does seem unlikely although there are other natural springs. The representatives seemed pleased with themselves at the end of the meeting but this is not the end of the matter. On a positive note DDC has bid for some of the £3 million government money given to KCC after the flooding and it is recognised that Grove Ferry and Alkham were the areas worst affected in Kent. It should also be said that DDC employees worked hard during the flooding period to help the local community. **editor**



The Baroque Theatre will be presenting a performance of 'Up Pompeii' in Alkham village hall on the 11th May starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 and it should be great fun. To book a ticket please phone Geoff on 01303 892878 or Brian on 824969 with payment taken on the door. Please bring your own drinks and refreshments.

THE FINAL FETE MEETING for <u>all</u> stallholders and participants will be on 21st May at 8 pm in the Village Hall - I promise I'll be there this time! Please can everyone attend so we can ensure that all the various elements and arrangements are sorted out in good time for the Fete itself (on Saturday 12th July at 2 pm). **Paul Tapsell 01303 892082**

THE FILM in the village hall for June will be 'The Grand Budapest Hotel' with Ralph Fiennes and Tilda Swinton. This film is not to be confused with 'The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel' film with Judi Dench and other famous actors. Film Night is proving quite popular with generally about 40 people in the audience.

SOMME TRIP - Information for those coming on the trip to the Somme on May 13th: Irene has assured me that the day will be hot and sunny so please bring sun protection as required! I have no reason to doubt Irene's meteorological expertise but please make sure your shoes are suitable for walking on wet grass and unmade tracks etc. (There is not a great deal of walking). Lunch will be provided but you will need to bring a picnic chair unless you want to sit on the sodden/parched (delete as applicable) ground. Please meet up at the Village Hall car park at 07.45. The coach will depart promptly at 08.00. We should return at about 20.30. Here's to an interesting and enjoyable day!
Mark Robson

FILM EVENT

next showing in village hall at 7.30pm

Tuesday 27th May

THE RAILWAY MAN

Starring Colin Firth and Nicole Kidman

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

Bring your own refreshments



POPPIES - Wouldn't it be marvellous if, as part of the WW1 Centenary Commemoration, Alkham was ablaze in August with red poppies. You can get involved by picking up some poppy seeds and sowing them in a sunny spare spot you have in your garden. Even better if they will be seen by passers-by. Poppy seed boxes are in the village hall, St Anthony's and the Garden Centre. Donations will go towards funding a number of village commemoration events in early August centred around the lives of the Alkham Heroes. More information on that in next month's Newsletter, together with a report on the Somme battlefields visit organised by Mark Robson and Den Barnard. **Geoff Gaskill**

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A BIT OF A BORE – The chalk in the Drellingore area is highly porous but has low permeability and because of this water is abstracted from the ground. Another well was constructed in 1922, slightly to the west, at Lower Standen for the Folkestone and District Water Company and an excavating machine patented and made in 1919 was used. It had been designed to be used on a possible channel tunnel link to France and had a 7 foot (2.1m) rotary cutter which was powered by electricity and pushed forward by hydraulic power. The main motor was 25 horse power and the machine had a 4 foot cast steel centre carrying four steel buckets with a conveyor belt taking the chalk to spoil wagons. There were only three operatives, one at the face and two removing the spoil wagons. Chalk is a rock and at lower levels is extremely hard and because of this the cutting knives had to be constantly replaced and the blocky chalk jammed the machine. After it had dug about 200 feet (61m) along the shaft it was abandoned and is believed to still be in the disused gallery. **editor** *details from Sue Lees*

HALTON COURT COFFEE MORNING - Thanks must go to all those who came to support our event, those who gave generously whether donating goods for the bring and buy table, the raffle or the clever ones who baked the most delicious selection of cakes and buns. Of course we must also thank the ladies who kindly helped serve and wash up too. The total raised on the day was £391.00 and with two late donations managed to round the total to £400.00 for the proposed installation of toilet/kitchenette in St Anthony's church. **Irene and Den Barnard**

BROADBAND – I was emailed to say that if enough locals register their interest, BT will look into providing Fibre Optic broadband to the Alkham Valley area in the next phase of the roll-out. This is believed to be June this year. To register an interest go to www.productsandservices.bt.com/products/broadband/packages and click on 'Can I get fibre optic broadband' and then click on 'register interest'. If the latter doesn't come up click 'Check BT Infinity availability' and enter your phone number and then register.



GARDEN TALK - We continue our informal approach to gardening matters with our next meeting, at Thorn Cottage, Meggett Lane on Friday 9th May. Rosemary & Geoff Hillier are our hosts from 7.30p.m. when we expect to see late spring shrubs in full colour. **Janet Adamson**

BOOK CLUB - The next Book Club meeting will be on Wednesday 28th May at the home of Susannah Tapsell, Bramhall Alkham Valley Rd 01304 822295 starting at 7.30. The book for discussion is State of Wonder by Ann Patchett. If you are interested in joining the village book club contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.

EUROPEAN parliamentary elections take place on the 22nd May and the village hall will be open from 7.00am to 10.00pm. Our constituency is the South East of England comprising of the counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, East Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Oxfordshire, Surrey and West Sussex.

ALKHAM WI - Last month's meeting was lovely because the Bon Marche shop in Folkestone came and supplied many clothes. Several members offered themselves to be the ones to wear the clothes and show them to the other people, and they performed well. It was a lovely evening. Next meeting will be on the 13th May and the 'Resolution' will be discussed. - it being "More Organ Donations" to be made and provided - an interesting discussion. The Hostesses for the evening will be Barbara Palmer, Helen Price and Sue Ross.
Sue Lees

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THE ARCHBISHOP VISITS

ALKHAM - In the photo on the left is the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Michael Ramsey, who walked up the Forstal in 1968 for a thanks giving service following the restoration of St. Anthony's Church. In the photo on the right, almost 50 years later on the 17th April 2014, Justin Welby walked up the Forstall to the Maundy Thursday service at St. Anthony's Church. As there were no facilities at the church, Justin Welby and his fellow clergy had changed into their vestments in Sue Lee's house at the bottom of the Forstall. The Archbishop spent Holy Week in the Dover area and visited various locations including the Emmaus Centre for the homeless at Archcliffe Fort and the Food Bank. He later carried one of three life-size crosses through the streets of Dover up to St Mary de Castro, the church in the castle, where they were planted. **editor**

OZ on HOGGART (2) – An observant reader spotted that the final sentence of my February article suggested that Simon Hoggart's father Richard was already dead. In fact Richard outlived Simon by some three months, dying aged 95 on April 10 2014. Some of the following necessarily repeats facts in the February article. Richard was a highly respected academic who became famous as author of The Uses of Literacy (1957), and expert witness in the Lady Chatterley's Lover trial in 1960. He was born to a soldier and house painter on September 24 1918 in Potternewton, Leeds, and raised by his grandmother in Hunslet after both parents died. After studying at Cockburn High School, Richard read English at Leeds University. During World War II, he served in the Royal Artillery in North Africa and Italy. There followed a thirteen year period when Richard built his career lecturing at Hull University. His reputation was finally established in 1957, with the publication of The Uses of Literacy, in which he used his own experiences to comment on the conflict between traditional British working class culture and the radical new Americanised culture of the Fifties. In 1959 he moved to Leicester University, and in 1960 was called as a defence witness at the Lady Chatterley's Lover trial, during which the chief prosecutor famously asked the jury if the book were the "kind of book you would wish your wife or servants to read." Richard was invited to Birmingham University in 1962, where he founded the Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies, and then worked at UNESCO for five years. On his return he became Warden of Goldsmith's College, London, where he stayed until retirement. Richard and Simon Hoggart – a brilliant father and son. I can now repeat February's final line without any ambiguity. They'll both be greatly missed. **(Steve Osborn)**

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Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	19	Dover and District Bird Club 7.30pm in village hall
Wednesday	21	Fete meeting in village hall 8.00pm
Thursday	22	European Elections in village hall 7am to 10pm
Tuesday	27	Film 'The Railway Man' in village hall 7.30pm

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

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

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
4th May	6.30pm Evensong	9.30am Eucharist	11pm Worship Tog.
11th May	9.30 Eucharist	11.00 Worship Together	
18th May	11.00 Worship Together	6.00 Evensong	9.30 Eucharist
25th May	10.00 Benefice Eucharist at St Laurence, Hougham		

There is a Eucharist at St Radigund's each Wednesday morning at 9.30

FROM THE VICARAGE - Dear Friends; using a computer is like driving a car. Both offer opportunities to explore the world – but first you have to get them to start. For a while I taught computing, encouraging young people to learn how to drive computers so that they could use them to explore the world, rather than merely to amuse themselves. Too often they often settled for merely amusing themselves. Has technology made life better? You may well ask. E-mail, for instance, has caught on to the extent that in the USA some workers spend the equivalent of two working days each week just checking, writing and reading e-mails, slaves to a monster that once promised to make life easier! Easter continues through May, Christians recalling how God surprised Jesus' followers by raising Jesus to life, and again at Pentecost by sending his Holy Spirit upon them. In the New Testament Book of Acts Peter, on the Day of Pentecost, explains this to the crowds. It ends with the crowds asking Peter what they must do about it. He replies that they must repent, be baptised, and receive the Holy Spirit. Technology easily takes on a life of its own. It makes all kinds of things possible – and with it comes the temptation to just use technology for its own sake, rather than using it to make the world a better place. For Christians our world, filled as it is with technology, is the same one that Christ died for and in which his Spirit lives and in which God can still spring surprises. Nothing has ever been invented that can compete with repentance, baptism, and the gift of the Holy Spirit for power to change the world for the better. **Brian Williams**

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Newsletter Brian Wimsett 824969
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Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791
Alkham.pc@outlook.com
Alkham web site www.alkham.org
Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
W.I. secretary – Susan Lees 822661
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk

Police – 999 emergency &101
Vicar Revd. Brian Williams 01303 243784
Church Wardens Geoff Gaskill 823100 and Richard Tapsell 822295
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No. 247 June 2014

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UP POMPEII
Thanks to all those who came to see Up Pompeii at the Village Hall on Sunday 11th May. Your support was much appreciated even though one concedes this particular show was possibly not to everyone's taste. The level of attendance though was such that we, the Village Hall Committee, are encouraged to put on future live theatre events, not necessarily in the same vein, for the entertainment of all in the Village. These events are primarily intended to provide all in the community with the opportunity to get together socially and at the same time to enjoy and share in the experience of live theatre. We look forward to announcing shortly our future programme of live entertainment. There were 46 people in the audience for Up Pompeii and it cost £500 to stage the show but with the sales of ice creams at the interval the cost was almost covered.

PLAY – Following the positive responses to the live entertainment, we have booked the Baroque Theatre Company to perform 'The Haunting of Hill House' in Alkham village hall on Sunday 21st September. Billed as a chilling and mystifying study, a group of psychics visit a Victorian mansion where a learned doctor conducts research into supernatural phenomena. Tickets will be on sale at various venues in the near future and cost £10.

FLOODING – The Parish Council chairman, Neil Burrows, and Steve Rivers from DDC are going to meet on site and walk the route of the Nailbourne from just west of Meggett Lane to east of Short Lane. There will probably be others in the group and they will discuss what action needs to be taken to address further flooding problems. Kent Highways have agreed to replace the bridges across the dyke in front of Valley Cottages.

ST ANTHONY'S GUITAR CONCERT Saturday 29th June at 6:30. For the fourth successive year Jimmy D'Alton Bellas is bringing his past and present students back to St Anthony's for another Summer Evening Guitar Concert. He has also managed to obtain the services once again of Grant Dowse who is now performing at the highest professional level and is eager to perform in the beautiful setting of St Anthony's once again. Tickets are £7.50 from Den (824845) or Brian (824969). **Den Barnard**



CORRECTION – At the flood meeting in the village hall, one of the representatives said that Grove Ferry and Alkham were the worst affected areas in Kent and this was stated in last month's Newsletter. The Parish Council have asked me to say that this is not the case as conditions at Yalding and other places were much worse.

CHICKENS - I am looking to find a good home for two cockerels and 4 chickens. They are very young birds, not yet a year old and all 4 hens are laying, two of which lay pale blue eggs. They are lovely birds, but unfortunately my dog will not accept them so I must rehome them. If you can offer them a home please contact the Newsletter at brianwimsett@hotmail.com or phone 824969.

FILM EVENT

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Tuesday 24th June

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

HANDBAG STALL - Please could you spare a handbag or scarf for my handbag stall at the fete; ring me for collection or bring them to the Village Hall any Wednesday at 10.30am.Thank you very much indeed. Susannah Tapsell 01304 822295.

WW1 COMMEMORATION – The Parish Council agreed to give the organisers of the Alkham WWI commemoration £100 to help cover the costs. The Alkham Village Hall and the PCC have also donated £100 each.

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SOMME TRIP - As part of the village's commemorations of the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War, 47 people travelled to the Somme to commemorate two of the villagers who were killed there. The first stop was at the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme where, amongst the 73,000 names, is that of John Rye who was killed, aged 24, in the Battle of Flers-Courcelette. The memorial has a sobering effect on most visitors. The panels bearing the names overwhelm as they tower above you and surround you and your own sense of being is diminished in the presence of this catalogue of suffering and by the knowledge that each name represents the loss of life of an individual and heartbreak and misery for those left behind. We gathered at John Rye's inscription to hear a little about his life and death and Richard Tapsell laid a wreath in remembrance. A picnic lunch followed and thanks must go to Helen Scopes who organised this for us; everyone was well fed and full of admiration for the appearance of such a spread from such a small box! The second stop was at La Boiselle to see the Lochnagar Crater. Blown on the first day of the Somme the hole in the ground, which still remains, is evidence of some of the destructive power that was unleashed. A truly terrifying prospect now but even more so for the men who had to advance towards it across open fields and through machine gun fire a hundred years ago! The final stop was at Bullecourt where we commemorated villager Edward Collard. We stopped outside the village to appreciate again how flat and open the land is that Edward and his colleagues had to cross. Pam Sayers laid a wreath in Edward's memory (see photo) and it would have been hard not to have felt a connection to the man being at the spot of his death on the 97th anniversary. A full day which highlighted the enormity of the slaughter and also, through the village connections, the personal scale of loss. Thanks to Den Barnard for his help in making the trip happen and to those who came with us. "When you go home, tell them of us and say "For their tomorrow, we gave our today" (John Maxwell Edmonds). **Mark Robson**

PIMLICO - Local archaeologists are surveying Pimlico Way Vineyard paying particular attention to the byway and bomb craters. Martin Scherer, who owns the land at South Alkham, has been confidently advised that the craters were caused by WW2 bombs, not flint mining, because of the bowl shape. The archaeologists will return when the bottom field is ploughed. If there are any significant finds they will go to a local museum, if possible after display in Alkham.

ALKHAM W.I. - A quiet meeting due to a number of members visiting the Somme. Those members present discussed a W.I. resolution on organ donation and this was followed by a quiz organized by Debbie Saunders and Debbie Griggs; congratulations to the winning teams who came joint first and not forgetting the team that came second. Next meeting is on 10th June 7.30pm when we will be entertained by Martyn Harrison, who is an excellent tenor, singing just one cornetto. Everybody welcome. Hostesses are Pam Sayers, Debbie Saunders and Susannah Tapsell and Pam Sayers will bring the raffle prize. **Debbie Griggs**

GARDEN TALK - A good attendance enjoyed the garden, chat and hospitality at Thorn Cottage in May. Our next hosts are Val & Stan Fowler, when we meet at 'Evergreen', Slip Lane on Friday 13th June. All welcome from 7.30p.m. **Janet Adamson**

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TRUE STORY – My son John and daughter-in-law Angie moved house a few years ago. They were very pleased indeed with their new home except for one thing – the sitting room had no fireplace. John therefore decided to put a fireplace in for a good old fashioned fire and build a chimney stack on the outside wall. Their three dogs, Bear a German Shepherd, Poppy a Border Collie and Bella a small black dog settled in well and they decided to have a cat so a lovely kitten called Charlie came to live with them. Angie was in the kitchen when Bear came in and deposited a rat at her feet. Angie was horrified but suddenly realised it was the kitten covered in wet concrete. She held the kitten under the tap until it was all washed off. Angie then went to see what had happened and there in the patch of wet concrete was a scuffle mark and in front of it two paw marks. Bear had obviously seen the kitten struggling and had picked it up in his mouth to free him and take it to Angie. A lucky kitten and a very clever, intelligent dog, don't you think? **Pamela Sayers**

WELL – In last month's Newsletter there was an article about a machine that was abandoned in a well near Lower Standen in 1922. John Richards emailed to say that he can recall his father speaking of it as he worked there. His father would travel down the well in a bucket, big enough for two men, powered by a donkey engine at the top. The bucket routinely stopped half way down when it was possible to phone the donkey engine operative. John went down the well as an 8 year old, which was pretty brave. There has also been some correspondence about the natural spring being called the nailbourne. The word appears in an old dictionary and the definition is that it is a natural spring that flows when the water table is high. It is a word that is used in other areas and therefore should be prefixed with the location. The one that flows through Alkham should be referred to as the Drellingore nailbourne or in some correspondence simply as the Drellingore. **editor**

OZ on THE BARD – In these columns I try to avoid the well-known in favour of more obscure corners, in the spirit of "Not many people know that." However, I can't let this April's 450th anniversary of William Shakespeare's birth pass unnoticed. Little is known of his early years except that he was baptised in Stratford-upon-Avon on 26 April 1564. His birth is popularly celebrated on 23 April, because that is St George's Day, and he died in 1616, also on 23 April, the day after the great Spanish writer Miguel Cervantes. In addition to 38 plays and some 165 poems, Shakespeare is also famous for the number of new words he added to the English language. During the 200 years from about 1500 onwards, England was changing rapidly under the combined influences of religion, science, exploration and war, and the language needed new words, some of which were imported from foreign languages. It fell to the writers of the age to absorb these words or create new ones, a process called 'neologizing', and Shakespeare became the greatest of the neologizers. Computer analysis shows that Shakespeare's works have a vocabulary of 17,677 words, around 10% of which were first used by him. They include: new meanings of old words; new words, such as 'lewdster'; 'un-' words as in the verb 'to unhappy'; and compound words such as 'archvillain'. These days, we're very sniffy about the practice of turning nouns into verbs, as in the phrase 'to action' something, so it comes as a salutary surprise to discover how often Shakespeare did the same, as when he invented the verb 'to blanket'. One of his words that unsurprisingly didn't take off is 'anthropophaginian', meaning 'cannibal'. Here I have to confess that my favourite Shakespeare word is the politically incorrect, but very funny, 'kickie-wickie' for wife. **Steve Osborn**

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Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
1st June	United service for Rogation Sunday at St. Radigund's Abbey Farm at 10.30am		
8th June	9.30 Eucharist	11.00 Worship Together	
15th June	United service for Trinity Sunday at Temple Ewell 10.00am		
18th May	Benefice Eucharist at Hougham 10.00am		
25th May	Benefice Eucharist at St Mary's, Manor House Lane, Capel-le-Ferne 10.00am		
There is a Eucharist at St Radigund's each Wednesday morning at 9.30			

FROM THE VICARAGE - LIVE AND LET LIVE it said. There it was, at the back of the church – large black letters printed on white card, propped against the wall. Who had put it there – and why? What was the story behind it – and did it belong in church? What was I to do with it? Eventually the mystery was solved, and the explanation turned out to be simpler than I had at first thought – but it did make me think. Why LIVE AND LET LIVE? At first sight, it's not that different to something Jesus said. Don't judge or condemn others, and you won't be judged or condemned yourself. Great, if that's what LIVE AND LET LIVE really means. Or is it just about me getting on with my life while others get on with theirs? Is that what it means? Jesus once answered a question with a story about a victim of crime left for dead at the roadside. LIVE AND LET LIVE could have been the motto of the two outwardly respectable people who passed by, not doing any harm, but not doing any good either. The unlikely hero of Jesus' story would not usually have been the sort to stop and help, but nevertheless he did. 'Who is my neighbour?' That's what Jesus had been asked – his point being that the world is a better place when treat others as we would like to be treated ourselves. So I have removed the sign, and it is waiting for its owner to collect it. Why? Well, the trouble with LIVE AND LET LIVE is that it leaves my neighbour a victim – friendless, destitute, and bleeding at the roadside. If we're serious about making the world a better place, we're going to have to treat our neighbours better than that. **Brian**

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Alkham web site www.alkham.org
Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
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District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187

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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
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Telephone 01304 824969

No. 248 July 2014

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A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE The photo was taken from a remote controlled mini helicopter and shows the Marquis and St. Anthony's church. Dean has agreed to take further photos along the line of the dyke.

ALKHAM FETE – This year's fete is on Saturday the 12th July and starts at 2.00pm on the village green, so please come along and support this traditional event. There will be all the usual attractions including a beer stall, books, cakes, jewellery, produce etc. In the column opposite are requests for various items for the stalls so please help if you can. The tents will be put up from 8.30am on the day so please come along and help as there's a lot to do and new volunteers are always very welcome. The same applies at the end of the fete when the tents have to be taken down and the meadow cleared of rubbish. Two books of raffle tickets should be delivered with the Newsletter so please either buy or sell them and return the stubs to Paul Tapsell by the 10th of July and if this is not possible, please bring them on the day.

WW1 COMMEMORATION - Thanks to Eunice at the Garden Centre, and also to Mo Brown for her artistic collection boxes; the poppy seed distribution raised nearly £100.Together with donations from the Village Hall Committee, the Parish Council and St Anthony's church, the target of £370 was reached, ensuring that the various WW1 Commemoration events in August will be memorable. A candle lit service in St. Anthony's church on the evening of 4th August will mark the anniversary of the start of hostilities. The main activities will centre around the weekend of 9 – 10th August with displays in the church and a commemorative evening in the Village Hall. **Geoff Gaskill**

PHOTOS - If anyone who went on the recent trip to the Somme has any digital photos they would like to share could they please send them to me at mark.robson@btinternet.com. I would like to update the village website and my photos weren't the best!

CORRECTION – In last month's Newsletter it said the Guitar Concert in St. Anthony's was on Saturday 29th June; it should have said the 28th.

VICARAGE MEADOW will again be the venue for the annual open air songs of praise on Sunday 13th July at 11am with the River Worship Band. All are welcome for joyful celebration with a mixture of traditional hymns and modern worship songs - the perfect antidote for post fete blues. **Geoff Gaskill**

CAKES and refreshments are needed for the Alkham fete. If you can help please contact Sue Ross on 825736 for the cake stall and Janet Barrow on 829585 for cakes and refreshments plus help on the day.

HABERDASHERY - Fabrics, throws, linens, sewing items, buttons, wool, belts, remnants etc, required for the fete stall at the Fete - in advance if possible. Please contact Rosemary (01303 892878) or Janet (01303 893413) who can arrange collection.

FETE PLANT STALL – Gardeners; we will be collecting plants at Chalksole Cottage in the days shortly before the fete or alternatively please bring them on the morning of the fete to the plant stall near the cricket hut. **Geoff Gaskill**

RAFFLE PRIZES – Bill Hellyer has done a great job getting prizes for the Alkham Fete Grand Raffle. Prizes donated so far are: P & O Ferries, Bigjigs Toys of Folkestone, Terlingham Vineyards, Alkham Valley Garden Centre, Sladden Farm, Alkhamhurst Kennels, Angela Miller, Hogbrook Equestrian Centre, South Eastern Equestrian Supplies, Grand Burstin, The Marquis and MacDonald's. Many thanks to all concerned.

FILM EVENT

Scheduled for June but not released until 7th July now showing in village hall at 7.30pm on

Tuesday 29th July

THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL

Starring Ralph Fiennes & Tilda Swinton

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

MISSING CAT - A black and white cat with a pink collar, which lives at 26 Glebelands, has been missing for some weeks. She is chipped, petit and loving so if you have seen her please phone Laura on 01304 825265. Laura also requests that if you see a stray cat please do not feed it otherwise it won't return home.

STRAY CAT white/light grey in colour, fluffy and female with kittens found living in Slip Lane area. Please phone 824969 if you have any information.

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PIMPICO WAY - On Sunday 18th and 25th May, members of the White Cliffs Metal Detecting Club based in Alkham village hall, detected land owned by Martin Scherer at Pimlico, south Alkham. The on-going surveys of land in the Alkham valley, under the direction of Vince Burrows, forms part of the extensive historical, geophysical and archaeological investigations by the Alkham Valley Historical Research Group. Finds recovered from Pimlico, despite hard undisturbed ground, by the group include: A Georgian coin dated 1806; trade tokens dated 1607-1667; five late medieval spectacle shoe-buckles; musket and pistol shot; a 16th century clothing fastener; a small casket key dating between 1350-1450; a Crotal bell and a lead seal dating between 18-1900s. Most of the items so far recovered date between 1600-1900. Our aim is to record as much background historical material as possible. This will allow us to collate and understand ancient occupation and the use of the land throughout the centuries within the valley and generally around the North Downs. The metal detecting surveys are organised events that operate under the Countryside codes, archaeological recording codes of practice (Portable Antiquities Scheme) and the Treasure Act 1996. Should items of high values be recovered, landowners are entitled to market value rewards under the Treasure Act. The Alkham Valley Historical Research Group would like to hear from interested landowners for surveys on their land after harvest time. Please contact: Vince Burrows on 01304 219550 or email V.Burrows@gtwiz.co.uk

ELECTRICHALL are a local Domestic Electrical company that is available for any size electrical job that needs doing in your home, from changing a fuse board to moving a socket. Based in West Hougham and happy to provide free quotations. Call Matt on 07980448796. *Free article as no advert space left – ed.*

ADVERTS – Advertisers in this Newsletter might like to know that the adverts are now listed free on the Alkham web site alkham.org.

BOOK CLUB - The Book for discussion in July is Old Filth by Jane Gardam. The meeting will be held on Wednesday 30th July at 7.30pm hosted by Sue Latham, Woodlands, Short Lane; telephone 824924. If you are interested in the Alkham Book Club and would like more details contact Jane Aslett 824729.

U3A (University of the third age) On Wednesday 30 July, 14.00-16.00 hrs in the Council Chamber, Maison Dieu House, Dover "Murphy's Law on homicide - "What can go wrong just did" this will be a welcome second talk by ex-DCI Murphy which we know will be hugely popular and entertaining: Wednesday 20 August, 14.00-16.00 hrs at the Astor Community Theatre, Deal "A quarter of a Century of Tracing Change in the Middle East" a talk by Mark Goldfinch who had had a career in communications in the Middle East and will give a personal perspective on changes in this important region. The cost of entry is £1 for non-members and for a copy of the new programme and a membership application, contact 01304 851744 or email diane.mcgeary@gmail.com.

GARDEN TALK - On Friday 18th July we visit a new venue. Helen and Don Hobday have made great progress with their garden in the last two years, and are welcoming us to their home - "Woodstock" on the Alkham Valley Road from 7.30p.m. For directions, please contact Janet Adamson (01303 893413).

RIVER FAYRE is on Sunday 13th July from 11-4pm. Plenty of stalls, hot food, hot and cold drinks. Entertainment in the arena - tug of War, 4 teams competing for a cup and many other items.

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LOCAL LAD – Joseph Mount was born in 1896 at Guston, which is the village just to the east of Dover. When he was fifteen Joseph was working on a nearby farm, but in 1914 enlisted as a driver in the Army Service Corp. He first saw active service on the 11th October 1914 in France; however later in the war he was exposed to gas and was discharged as medically unfit. In 1918, as a war pensioner, he was employed as a War Goods Inspector in Salford, near Manchester, where he married Edith Bailey. Edith's parents ran the Carpenters Arms public house on Meggett Lane in South Alkham and lost their son George, who was killed in the war. Sadly, two weeks after his wedding in St. Anthony's church Joseph also died, with his wife at his side. His death was probably due to the Spanish flu, which caused more fatalities than WWI. Joseph's body was brought back to Alkham and he was buried on 15th October 1918 at St. Anthony's church where his gravestone is a short distance from the war memorial on which both his and George Bailey's name are inscribed. **editor** - article *based on information provided by Mark Robson – see also the 'Alkham Heroes' page on www.alkham.org*



OZ on W . . . . . R – Last winter was remarkable for its unusually warm, wet, windy weather. Due mainly to the warmth and the consequential lower incidence of ice, snow, falls, 'flu and breathing problems, the UK mortality rate was its lowest for five years. Between 1 December 2013 and 15 March 2014, 10,881 (6.7%) fewer people died in England and Wales than in the same period last year. The winter was the warmest, at 5.2º C average, since 1989, when the average was 5.8º C. It was the wettest since 1766, with almost double the average rainfall in south-eastern and central south England. It was also the windiest, with the most number of severe gale days since 1871. The Met Office has linked these events to disturbances in the Atlantic and Pacific jet streams following heavy rainfall over the West Pacific last year. We took a big trip down under in February and March, and found that the South Pacific was also affected, as a cyclone was on its way. Singapore was its usual sticky self, with both humidity and Fahrenheit temperature at 92. Temperatures in Australia were high, as normal in February. At Port Douglas the temperature reached 44ºC and plastic bottles were melting on the beach. When we drove the campervan up through New Zealand in March, the cyclone approached, circled, dumping rain and gales on us, and then drifted away into the Pacific, leaving us deliciously sunny autumn weather. What we'd planned, after two months sunshine down under, was a classic English summer, which seems to be a strong possibility this year, according to the Met Office. Will it happen? As A P Herbert wrote 70 years under the title THE W. . . . . R: "I think I mentioned June the other week: About July I simply cannot speak." **(Steve Osborn)**

DOVER FESTIVAL PROM – 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 4th July in Dover Town Hall. This year's choral offerings are a collection of World War One songs, arranged by Peter Lawson, to mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of war, and a medley of 15 Beatles songs, arranged by Ed Lojeski, to reflect the very changed world of 50 years ago. Finally the audience will be invited to join the 60-strong choir in singing the traditional Proms Finale of Jerusalem, Rule Britannia and Land of Hope and Glory. This year's proceeds are in support of The Dover, Deal & District Citizens Advice Bureau. Tickets at £7 and £3.50 (promenaders) are available from the Dover Visitor Centre or from chorus members. For further details ring Sue or Steve Yarrow on 01304 872812. **(Steve Osborn)**

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)	
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Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am – 6.15 to 7.15 aerobics dance class
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village		
Tuesday	1	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Monday	7	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm in village hall, all welcome
Tuesday	8	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	12	Alkham Fete on village green starts 2.00pm
Monday	21	Dover and District Bird Club 7.30pm in village hall
Tuesday	29	Film 'The Grand Budapest Hotel' in village hall 7.30pm

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

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

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6th	Evensong 6.30pm	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11.00am
Sunday 13th	Outdoor Songs of Praise Vicarage Meadow, Alkham 10.00am		
Sunday 20th	Worship Tog'r 11am	Evensong 6.00pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 27th	Benefice Eucharist 10.00 at Alkham		

From the vicarage - We plough the fields with tractors, we sang. (Yes, slightly different words to the original hymn, I know). Seeds had been sown, and as quaint or as superstitious as it may seem to some, we prayed, as the Church has for centuries on Rogation Sunday, for farmers and for the harvest. Pests, disease and bad weather – much can go wrong, even in our modern world. The anniversary of D Day was tinged with sadness for the congregation of St Radigund's as we prepared to say goodbye to a friend of ours. As a young merchant seaman he had been there, sowing with others of his generation the seeds of the freedoms we have enjoyed since. Few of us now make a living from the land – but perhaps we sow seeds in other ways. A while ago, I was asked to work at a school some distance away. It involved an early start, a long drive, and some difficult classes. I was asked to teach Maths. I'm definitely no mathematician but I did my best, and in the class I taught about half settled to work, while others sat sullenly or chatted among themselves. Not great, but a few days later the phone rang. Would I go back there and teach Maths until a new teacher arrived? I'm no mathematician, I replied – but they pleaded. So I survived by learning the night before what I had to teach the next day and muddled through until, to my relief, the new teacher arrived. I was at that school again recently, for the first time in about a year. Passing some vaguely familiar faces in the corridor, I heard a voice behind me. Hey, Sir – I PASSED MY MATHS! I smiled and gave him a thumbs-up sign. Harvest had arrived. Sown any good seeds lately? **Brian Williams**

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ALKHAM FETE
Another great day with all the events associated with a traditional fete. The weather wasn't as good as last year so visitor numbers were down but a profit of £2300 was made on the day. Congratulations to Paul Tapsell and his team for organising another memorable day.

BBC HOLIDAY SERIES – The BBC are looking for couples/families to take part in a short four day home holiday swap between now and early September. It's a chance to have a memorable experience and taste superb cuisine. For an application form email homeswapholidays@bbc.co.uk



ANNUAL GUITAR CONCERT at St Anthony's - For the fourth successive year Jimmy D'Alton Bellas brought his past and present guitar students back to St Anthony's for another highly successful 'Summer Evening Guitar Concert'. From students as young as seven years old to teenagers playing their own arrangements of classical music we once again had entertainment of the highest order. Grant McFarlane Dowse (pictured), a former pupil of Jimmy's, covered the second half of the evening with his usual professional expertise. He is now performing at national and international level with recording sessions for film, television and radio and has played with a variety of orchestras including the London Philharmonic. How lovely also to see St Anthony's full (see picture) and as the reverend Brian Williams said in his closing remarks 'This concert is a wonderful reflection of youngsters of today'. He also thanked the Friends of St Anthony's for the support they have given Jimmy in putting on the event. All proceeds amounting to £680 have gone to the Friends. **Den Barnard**



FLOODING – KCC just want to involve key players with regard to the flooding problem in Alkham. They are therefore setting up a meeting with the Environment Agency, Southern Water and others, including the Parish Council, to discuss the matter and might do a walk through later in the year.

THE CENTENARY of the beginning of WW1 is fast approaching. A team has worked over the past few months to ensure that 'we will remember them'. Beginning on August 4th at 22.15 in the church with a candlelit service comprising readings, music and prayers, and ending over the weekend of the 9/10 with a commemorative flower display, themed art exhibition, poet's corner and photo exhibition in the church. Teas and coffees will be served. In addition, during the week, you will see an art installation of 16 crosses appear on the bank by the Old Post Office representing fallen Alkham soldiers. You are also invited to participate in an interactive installation on Vicarage Meadow on Saturday morning by bringing flower heads from your garden to place on the words 'Lest We Forget'. On a Saturday evening there will be time to remember those that paid the ultimate sacrifice in poetry, music and readings. The weekend will finish with a 4pm service in the church on Sunday afternoon. Full details of timings are on the insert. We welcome young and old to these events. Please invite others who may be interested to come with you. **Linda Gaskill**

FILM NIGHT

As part of the WW1 commemoration we would like to screen an appropriate film. Three films are being considered.
1 Oh What a Lovely War **2** War Horse
3 Bird Song
Please phone Geoff 01303 892878 or Brian on 824969 to state a preference.

Tuesday 26th August

Tickets £4.50

FOOTPATHS – There was a discussion about footpaths at the Parish Council meeting with regard to them being almost impassable due to overhanging vegetation; this particularly applied to the rape fields. The Government web site states that a 1.5 metre width of footpath must be left clear and that disturbed footpaths must be made good within 14 days. The Parish Council are writing to the landowner and tenant farmer.

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FLOODING OF ALKHAM – I have been asked to print this open letter from Geoff Hillier to Alkham Parish Council.
In February of this year a petition was signed by 60 parishioners and was sent, amongst others, to our local MP and our Parish Council, calling for consideration to be given to the building of a Detaining Pond on Affinity Water owned land to the South West of the Village, to hold back excessive water at times when the Drellingore Nailbourne runs. This suggestion was favourably received by our MP. At the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall in March, this matter was discussed and the Parish Council Chairman withdrew from the discussion, declaring a personal conflict of interest with such a suggestion. There is to be a meeting convened at which Kent County Council, The Environment Agency, and others will attend to discuss what actions can be taken to alleviate the flood risk to Alkham. The Parish Council Chairman will also attend this meeting. In light of the declared 'personal conflict of interest' by the Chairman, it is felt that his views could be compromised and therefore not represent, impartially, the expressed views of the parishioners. In view of this we respectfully ask the Chairman to stand down from any meetings or discussions on the matter of flood alleviation and appoint another Parish Council Member to attend and dutifully represent the Parish interest as a whole. It is felt that all such meetings which affect the whole village should be open, and attendance available to all interested parties. Failing this, the village should have at least an unbiased representative, from the public, present as an observer to be able to report back impartially to the village through the Newsletter. **Geoff Hillier**

HGV'S – Some HGV's are still coming along the valley and having to turn round at the low bridge at River. This is probably due to owner drivers who don't have HGV satnav and rely on the domestic version. A suggestion is that flashing yellow lights should be fitted to the warning signs on the Alkham Valley Road which would only be activated by high vehicles.

BINS – The village hall was exempt from paying rates but now has to pay a contribution and as a result was given recycle and rubbish bins. These have been put in a locked store because they are not for commercial use and also rubbish of all varieties was being left which then needed sorting. Regular non-commercial users can have access to the bins by contacting any member of the village hall committee.

ALKHAM W.I. - The July speaker, Dennis Chambers, spoke so interestingly about 'Magic of Mind Power' so, no doubt, the 12th August speaker - Veronica Ashby - on 'Dungarees to Diamonds' will also be a good speaker. Hostesses Iris Bowshell & Margaret Batcheldor - Raffle Helen Price. The meeting is 7.30pm in the Village Hall - everyone welcome. **Sue Lees**

GARDEN TALK - Our next arranged visit is on Friday 15th August when we meet at Halton Court, Alkham Valley Road from 7.30p.m. We anticipate our usual warm welcome from Irene & Den Barnard, whose garden is a great focal point in the centre of the village.

GARDEN WARNING – Barbara Heritage, who lives in Meggett Lane, said that she had to cut a young Jay from a plum tree where it was hanging from a branch for some hours by a single black sewing thread. She was attracted to it by its parents who were screeching away and once free it flew away. It appears that someone must be using this thread in their garden, which is a real hazard to thieving birds, and she says please will people stop using thread.

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A THANKFUL VILLAGE is one in which all the men who went to war from that village in WW1 survived. There are 32 such villages in England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland having none. The only village in Kent is Knowlton, which is 13 miles from Alkham and lies to the west of Betteshanger and Eastry. Knowlton had a population of 39 with 12 men enlisting and because of this they won a competition in 1915 as the bravest village. Knowlton was actually an estate and few people lived there but it has an estate church which is now redundant but under the care of the Churches Conservation Trust and open to the public. Alkham was not a Thankful Village with 16 of its men being killed in WW1. The number of people in the right age group in the Alkham Parish at the time was about 300 so there was probably about 150 males who could have enlisted or been conscripted. If anyone has further details about the number of men from Alkham who fought in WW1 please contact the Newsletter (details on front and back page). **editor**

OZ on TIPPERARY – Last month we sang in the Dover Proms Concert, which included songs from World War One to mark its centenary. The song that stayed in my head for days afterwards was "It's a Long Way to Tipperary", and there's quite a story behind it. It was written by Jack Judge and Harry Williams in 1909 as a music hall song entitled "It's a Long Way to Connemara", later changed to "...Tipperary", as that was where Judge's Irish grandparents lived. It was first noted as a marching song on 13 August 1914 by a Daily Mail reporter, who watched the Irishmen of the 2nd Connaught Rangers singing it as they marched into Boulogne, welcomed by cheering French crowds. The battalion was part of the British Expeditionary Force, and the song was soon adopted as a marching song by other British units. By the end of 1914 it had become popular worldwide, following a recording by the Irish tenor John McCormack, and soon German and Russian troops had developed their own versions. The song's popularity continued in peacetime, but Judge and Williams didn't benefit equally. Initially they had shared royalties 50/50, but in 1915 Judge needed money to settle debts and he secured it by selling his royalties to Williams. After the war, moved by stories of the song's importance to the troops, Williams gave £1,000 (£65,000 in today's money) to the Great War Injured Beneficiary Fund. Williams died in 1924, and his royalties are still earning over £30,000 a year. Before Judge died, in 1938, he wrote a sequel called "It's a Long Way No Longer", the words of which were lost. It's a pity, as it could well have been a fitting tribute to the ever-loved and much sung "It's a Long Way to Tipperary". **(Steve Osborn)**

THE ALKHAM HISTORICAL RESEARCH GROUP are planning to carry out a geophysical (Magnetometer) survey, probably mid-late September, at St Radigund's Abbey having discussed the matter with the landowners. Small test pits (one-two days) are to be arranged at Chilton Farms central horse paddock, which follows a geophysical survey two years ago.

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

Other events in the village

Tuesday	5	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	9	World War 1 commemoration from 7.30pm
Tuesday	12	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	18	Dover and District Bird Club 7.30pm in village hall
Tuesday	26	Film in village hall 7.30pm

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

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

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3rd	Evensong 6.30pm	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Tog'r 11.00am
Sunday 10th	WWI service 4pm	Benefice Eucharist St. Laurence 10.00am	
Sunday 17th	Worship Tog'r 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 24th	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 10.00am		
Sunday 31st	Benefice Eucharist 10.00 at St. Mary's		

From The Vicarage - Using a computer is like driving a car. Both offer opportunities to explore the world – but first you have to get them to start. For a while I taught computing, encouraging young people to learn how to drive computers so that they could use them to explore the world, rather than merely to amuse themselves. Too often they often settled for merely amusing themselves. Has technology made life better? You may well ask. E-mail, for instance, has caught on to the extent that in the USA some workers spend the equivalent of two working days each week just checking, writing and reading e-mails, slaves to a monster that once promised to make life easier! Easter continues through May, Christians recalling how God surprised Jesus' followers by raising Jesus to life, and again at Pentecost by sending his Holy Spirit upon them. In the New Testament Book of Acts Peter, on the Day of Pentecost, explains this to the crowds. It ends with the crowds asking Peter what they must do about it. He replies that they must repent, be baptised, and receive the Holy Spirit. Technology easily takes on a life of its own. It makes all kinds of things possible – and with it comes the temptation to just use technology for its own sake, rather than using it to make the world a better place. For Christians our world, filled as it is with technology, is the same one that Christ died for and in which his Spirit lives and in which God can still spring surprises. Nothing has ever been invented that can compete with repentance, baptism, and the gift of the Holy Spirit for power to change the world for the better.
Brian Williams

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Newsletter Brian Wimsett 824969
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Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791
Alkham.pc@outlook.com
Alkham web site www.alkham.org
Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
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Vicar Revd. Brian Williams 01303 243784
Church Wardens Geoff Gaskill 823100 and Richard Tapsell 822295
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
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No. 250 September 2014

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ALKHAM REMEMBERS The week of commemorating those Alkham men who fell in the Great War, together with the hundreds of thousands of others who gave their lives, began with the tolling of the lone bell at St Anthony's. At the very hour, 11pm, when war was declared exactly 100 years ago, a Commemorative Vigil was held at the church, of music, prayers and readings, so well organised by Geoff and Linda Gaskill, and attended by some 70 parishioners. An impressive display, arranged by Richard and Susannah Tapsell, of 16 white crosses was erected on raised ground at the entrance of the village, at Slip Lane, each one representing one of the Alkham fallen. On Saturday villagers turned out to lay their floral contributions onto the letters mowed into the grass of Vicarage Meadow by Paul Tapsell spelling out the words 'Lest We Forget'. This whole idea was that of Susannah, the result producing a dramatic effect when viewed from across the Village Green. In St Anthony's an exhibition of imaginative displays was held on the Saturday and Sunday, of beautiful floral arrangements representing, amongst others, Explosions and Peace. Also displayed were copies of WW1 poems laid out in a Poets' Corner, while elsewhere in the church, photographs of the Alkham Heroes, commemorative art, and flags were there for all to handle and appreciate. The art exhibition in the North Chapel was an excellent example of our local artists led by Jo O'Shea. On Saturday evening in the Village Hall Den Barnard and Mark Robson presented an informative and moving series of talks, illustrated by projected images of historic photographs, recounting the build up to the First World War, its impact on the world and subsequent horrific events that have taken place despite it having been supposedly The War to End All Wars. The talks were supported by readings given of WW1 poems, and other powerful statements made by influential figures of the day. During the interval those present were able to view contemporary newspapers, photographs, and artefacts displayed in the hall. A biography of each of the Alkham 16 heroes was given concluding what had been a very moving experience for all. The Sunday church service concluded the week's imaginative and so well presented commemorative events for which every villager can be proud. Thanks and congratulations to all involved.**(Geoff Hillier)**



WE WOULD like to thank all those who gave their time, imagination and thoughts to the way that Alkham remembered the centenary of the outbreak of WW1. The forethought and planning of the different aspects covered was first class. **David Tapsell**

FARMERS MARKET – The Village Hall has been approached regarding a proposal to hold a Farmers Market in the hall and part of the car park on a Thursday morning starting from October 9th. To begin with it would be every two weeks but if successful it would be held weekly. We are informed that the produce will be local and varied and if everything goes to plan there will be full details in next month's Newsletter.

ALKHAM CALENDAR – We are producing a calendar entitled 'Houses of Alkham' which shows 12 different photos of houses around the parish taken by Stan Fowler. The photos for each month are A4 and there is an A4 calendar below, both in landscape form. It is currently at the printers but will be available shortly at a cost of £6. If you would like a calendar please contact the Newsletter (page 4 and above) or ring Val Fowler on 01304 827635 or Den Barnard on 01304 824845.

LIVE THEATRE – On Sunday 21st September at 7.30pm the Baroque Theatre Company are presenting 'The Haunting of Hill House' in Alkham Village Hall. Billed as being sinister and foreboding it begins with jovial informality but things then start to become eerie. The idea of the evening is to bring live entertainment to the village and at the last event we just covered our costs. Tickets costing £10 have been printed and are available from Geoff Hillier (01303 892878), Den Barnard (01304 824845), Sue Lees (01304 822661) or Brian Wimsett (01304 824969).

COFFEE MORNING SATURDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER - We are holding a coffee morning on Saturday 27th September from 10am until 12 noon in the Village hall. The coffee morning is in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. In addition to tea/ coffee and cake we hope to have a bring and buy stall, a tombola and a cake stall. If you are able to donate anything for the sale tables or bake a cake we would be very grateful and it would be lovely if you could come along and support this very important charity on the day. **Sue Ross** (01304 825736)

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NOT ALL JAM AND JERUSALEM – Belonging to the W.I. is an opportunity to create friendships and have fun, so why don't you ladies come and join us at our monthly meetings. All ages are welcome and it would be great to have more youngsters. Apart from the meetings we have enjoyable outings and get involved in national and local campaigns. The W.I. is a very important part of village life so if you fancy coming along to Alkham Village Hall on the 9th September and 14th October at 7.30pm to see what's it like, we would be very pleased to meet you.

HARVEST SUPPER – This year the Harvest Supper will be on Monday 13th October at 7.30pm in Alkham village hall. We will be serving cottage pie and vegetables followed by apple pie and ice cream. Please come and support this event and enjoy the evening with friends and neighbours. Tickets costing £6 must be purchased in advance to ensure available places. Please contact Anne Huggins on 824340.

NEWSLETTER – The financial year for the Newsletter ended in August. The revenue from adverts was £701 and the cost of printing the Newsletter per month was £38, petrol to deliver to delivers £1, and postage £13 making £624 for the year. The renewal of the web site www.alkham.org was £36. Therefore there was a surplus of £41 which remains in the Newsletter's account. If you'd like to see the accounts please contact me. **editor**

FILM NIGHT

next showing in the village hall at 7.30pm

Tuesday 30 September

LAST VEGAS

Starring Robert De Nero, Morgan Freeman, Michael Douglas and Kevin Kline

Please phone Geoff 01303 892878 or Brian on 824969 to book a ticket.

Tickets £4.50

VILLAGE HALL - There is now a book for recording comments regarding anything that you feel needs doing to the fabric of the building. It is kept in a drawer in the kitchen, near the fridge. Remarks can be anonymous and will be responded to on a regular basis.

JUMBLE SALE – There will a jumble sale in the village hall on the 13th September starting at 11.00am in aid of PCC funds.

GARDEN TALK - Our next gathering is on Friday 12th September when we meet at "Countryside" off the Alkham Valley Road where Sue and Mike Ross are our hosts. We meet from 7.00p.m., an earlier time so as to take advantage of the views before the evening draws in. **Janet Adamson**

APOSTROPHE – Does Farmers Market have an apostrophe? Evidently it is a descriptive phrase, not a possessive phrase. A descriptive phrase means the word "farmers" is being treated as an adjective, not as a noun. In such cases, an adjective cannot possess, so it cannot be a possessive. The latter is from Google and it appears to be a minefield so for the present the Newsletter is sticking with no apostrophe. **editor**

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE – The talk by Veronica Ashby at the last meeting was very interesting. It was about Haddo Castle in Scotland. At the next meeting, 9th September, will be a talk by Patsy Baker about a 'Day in the Life of a Make Up Artist'. Hostesses – Debbie Griggs, Janet Gibbons and Sue Harman and Raffle – Barbara Palmer. **Sue Lees**

APOLOGY – The open letter in last month's Newsletter entitled 'Flooding of Alkham' was from the Chairman of the Alkham Village

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ALKHAM HEROES - The First World War was to make itself felt in the village only 41 days after it was declared when Charles (Charlie) Grainger was killed on September 14th. Charlie was the son of Richard (Insurance Agent) and Sarah Grainger of Pimlico, South Alkham. Charlie was one of the 'Old Contemptibles', the original British Expeditionary Force, sent to France at the outbreak of The Great War. He served as a Private in the 1st Battalion, The Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. Charlie has no known grave and is remembered with honour at the La Ferte-Sous-Jouarre Memorial, Seine-et-Marne, France. Eight days later the second villager was killed. Ernest Tupper was born in Alkham on January 21st 1884. In 1914 he was a Petty Officer Stoker in the Royal Navy serving on HMS Aboukir. H.M.S. Aboukir was one of three ships torpedoed by U-boat 9 on Tuesday, September 22nd 1914. Ernest died during this attack. Prior to enlisting in the Royal Navy, Ernest was employed as a labourer by the South Eastern & Chatham Railway Company. For more information on these men and the others killed in war please go to http://www.alkham.org/heroes.htm "We will remember them." **Mark Robson**

OZ on ZWEIG – As the end-credits rolled up after Alkham Film Club's July showing of The Grand Budapest Hotel, I read that "the film was partly inspired by the works of Stefan Zweig." I've since discovered that the two Zweig works most responsible for Wes Anderson's script were (in English translation) Beware of Pity and The Post Office Girl. Zweig was born in Vienna on 28 November 1881into a wealthy middle-class and multilingual Jewish family. At Vienna University he studied philosophy and published his first collections of essays and poems. After gaining his doctorate, he moved into journalism, whilst still producing a stream of literary works throughout the 1900s. When World War I came in 1914, Zweig faced a dilemma; he was intensely patriotic, like many German and Austrian Jews at that time, yet rejected violence. He accepted work as an archivist at the Ministry of War, and remained a pacifist throughout his life. In 1920 Zweig married Friderike Maria von Winternitz and there followed two decades of prolific output when his work became popular world-wide except in the UK. In 1934 Hitler came to power, and Zweig took refuge in England. He and Friderike were divorced in 1938 and in the following year he married his secretary Lotte Altmann. In 1940, as German troops moved towards the Channel, the Zweigs moved again, to New York and then to the town of Petropolis in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Over the next two years, Zweig became overwhelmed by feelings of despair about humanity and its future. On 23 February 1942, the Zweigs died in a suicide pact. His farewell note described how in his life "...intellectual labour meant the purest joy and personal freedom the highest good on Earth." The Petropolis house is now a museum called Casa Stefan Zweig. **(Steve Osborn)**

ALKHAM VALLEY – The works to construct the new pumping station at Standen to pump water to Paddlesworth rather than Folkestone are progressing well. However, you can't help thinking that two large signs warning of construction works and heavy plant crossing would be better than the odd and ineffective methods they have used to try and slow traffic.

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Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village		
Monday	1	Parish Council meeting in the village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	2	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Tuesday	9	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	13	PCC Jumble Sale 11am in village hall
Monday	15	Dover and District Bird Club 7.30pm in village hall
Sunday	21	'Haunting of Hill House' in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	30	Film in village hall 7.30pm

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

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

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th	Evensong 6.30pm	Songs of Praise 3.00 pm	Sung Eucharist 11am
Sunday 14th	Sung Eucharist 9.30am	Worship Together 11am	Pet Service village hall 4pm
Sunday 21st	Benefice Eucharist 10am		Harvest Festival village hall 3.30pm
Sunday 28th	Worship Tog'r 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9.30am

FROM THE VICARAGE - Last month we marked the centenary of the outbreak of World War I. At St Anthony's, Alkham, there was a very moving Lights Out service on 4th August, followed by other events held in the village over the following weekend. Fortunately for us, most can now only imagine what it must have been like to sit in a trench, praying for shells to fall somewhere else – but an eventful trip to the Holy Land during July gave me some idea of how it must have been. A cheap taster for clergy considering becoming group leaders, we sailed on the Sea of Galilee, visited the places where Jesus lived and taught, the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, and more. Then we came to Jerusalem. On arrival we took our bags to our hotel rooms. As we admired the view of the ancient city wall from our third floor window, a siren began to wail. Quite possibly a rocket fired from Gaza was about to strike somewhere near us. We scanned the horizon – then realised that the window was not the place to be if anything did explode nearby. Nobody had told us what to do. We ran into the corridor – now what? What about going downstairs? Would we make it before the rocket landed? In the end we could only wait – and, mercifully, nothing happened. So that's my experience of being under fire. It's absolutely nothing compared with what those in the trenches went through – or what others around our world are going through today. If you pray, please pray for them. **Brian Williams**

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

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

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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No. 250 October 2014

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Farmers Market

START DATE 16th OCTOBER in Alkham Village Hall and car park. The organiser has signed up with the Kent Farmers Market Association so goods will produced in Kent and stalls include: Cottage Loaf, Margate Smokehouse, Home cooked by Hanna, Lilly's Cake Emporium, Butter Box, Alkham Valley Preserves, Beth's Mogador, Marsh Produce Ltd, Kentish Pieman, Sandhya's Kitchen, Heathmor Jewellery, and many more. The market will open at 10am and continue to 1pm and in the future the market will be held on the first and third Thursday of the month.



COMMEMORATION – To remember the heroes of Alkham a cross is being mounted on the wall at the bottom of Slip Lane 100 years from the day that they died in WW1. The first is Charlie Grainger who died on 14th September and eventually there will be 16 crosses, which were made by Richard Tapsell.

FLOODING – KCC has received emergency funding from the Government to deal with problems arising from last winter's flooding. Some of this money has been allocated for Alkham to replace the two culverts that cross the dyke in front of Valley Cottages (The latter are houses on the Folkestone side of Alkham as you leave the village). The dyke will also be improved in that location and the adjacent valley road will be resurfaced. It is accepted that funding is limited but these works will increase the speed of the water in the dyke which culverts downstream will have difficulty in managing. KCC has said that if any funding is left at the end of the financial year then works to the culvert at the bottom of Short Lane will be treated as a priority. This of course leaves Hogbrook Lane by the village hall, where the culvert will have difficulty in managing the flow. The suggestion of a detaining pond to the west of Meggett Lane was rejected out of hand by the authorities as they consider that the land in that area is like a sponge and if a bund was constructed the water would just come out of the ground further along. Keeping to the simplistic analogy a better description maybe a bucket which fills up and overflows. The first bucket is at Standen/Drellingore and when it gets full it overflows. There are other buckets, one being on the village green, which also overflows. It's possible that if a dam was built round the bucket the water level would continue to rise. There are fissures in the chalk so some water may go sideways but, fairly obviously, it needs expert opinion rather than conjecture. **editor**

MINUTES – The minutes of the Flood meeting held on the 28th July in Alkham Village Hall at which the Environment Agency, Southern Water, KCC and the Parish Council attended are now on the Alkham web site www.alkham.org . The minutes of the Parish Council meetings from March 2012 to July 2014 are also on the web site.



CALENDAR – The Alkham calendar is currently being printed. The picture above shows Hockley Sole, which is one of the 12 houses in Alkham which are featured. The picture and calendar are both A4 in size and costs £6. To buy a calendar please contact the Newsletter (page 4 and above) or ring Val Fowler on 01304 827635 or Den Barnard on 01304 824845.

FILM NIGHT

next showing in the village hall at 7.30pm

Tuesday 28 October

Nothing but the best

This 1964 black comedy has just been released to DVD and stars Alan Bates, Millicent Martin and Denholm Eliot

Please phone Geoff 01303 892878 or Brian on 824969 to book a ticket.

Tickets £4.50

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR – The District Council elections will be held in May next year. If you'd like to find out more about being a councillor, DDC are holding a Prospective Councillor evening on the 6th November. To book a place and get an information pack phone 01304 872303/4/5 or email democraticservices@dover.gov.uk

SEWAGE PROBLEMS – During the flooding of Alkham last winter several properties had problems with sewage blockage. Please would those who were affected contact the Parish Clerk so that a register can be made, which will be submitted to Southern Water so they can see the extent of the problem. Please either write to The Parish Clerk, 6 Newlyns Meadow, Alkham, Dover CT15 7QJ or email alkham.pc@outlook.com.

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BERTRAND FREDRIC RICK DUCATEL formerly known as 'The Midnight Coalman' passed away after a courageous battle with cancer on the 5th September aged 71 years. Much loved partner to Valerie and father to Isobel and father-in-law to Peter and a much loved grand'dad and great grand'dad. He was born and bred in Ewell Minnis and was well known for milk churns and coal. He even delivered coal at midnight so he was known throughout the village as the 'Midnight Coalman'. He wired most of the valve radios and televisions at Ewell Minnis when electricity came in. He also used to play in the band called 'The good old days' and the love of his life was his many ballroom classes with Valerie. He always decked his coal lorry all over for the village and the W.I. of which he has many photographs of the carnival events with the W.I. As we lose our older generation we lose all the wonderful characters of the village and he was certainly well known and loved. He will be dancing in heaven, Angle Rick. 250 people from his 5 dance classes attended his farewell at Hawkinge, plus family and friends from the Minnis. It would be nice to hear from anyone in the village, through the Newsletter, of events they remember of him.

SAM GORDON – It is sad to report the passing of Sam Gordon who lived for some years in Evergreen on Slip Lane. He and his wife Kathleen moved to Folkestone but continued to keep in touch with Alkham through the Newsletter. Sam was a bit of character and will be missed by all who knew him.

DEVELOPMENT of Pimlico Way Vineyard will result in footpaths around the field perimeters which responsible members of the public will be allowed to walk and maybe horse ride. These footpaths could also be used for mountain biking. It is not my intention to make a commercial enterprise from mountain biking, and will not charge for individual access but it is my way of encouraging responsible public access to the countryside. Am I being naive? Can my neighbours, especially farmers, see any downside to this idea? If not, are there any mountain bike enthusiasts able to advise me how to do it? Please comment to Martin@Pimlico-Way.co.uk or 07971 22 22 26. **Martin Scherer**

SHETLAND LAMB - Peter and Isabelle Smith have local Shetland lamb for sale this autumn. Shetland sheep are a small native breed of hardy sheep raised on grass that produce lean succulent meat full of flavour. Lamb and hogget available. Hogget is between one and two years old and even more flavourful than lamb. It can be cooked as lamb or more slowly. Contact Peter on 07711 648 255.

HARVEST SUPPER – This year the Harvest Supper will be on Monday 13th October at 7.30pm in Alkham village hall. We will be serving cottage pie and vegetables followed by apple pie and cream. Please come and support this event and enjoy the evening with friends and neighbours. Tickets costing £6 must be purchased in advance to ensure available places. Please contact Anne Huggins on 824340.

GARDEN TALK - After a summer visiting a variety of local gardens, and enjoying much good hospitality, we do not let the darker evenings deter our enthusiasm. We next meet on Friday 17th October at Burley Cottage, Ewell Minnis from 7.30p.m. when our hosts are Barbara and Neil Williams. Plenty of parking - directions given if needed. **Janet Adamson 01303 893413**

JUMBLE SALE – Unfortunately the September one was cancelled, but the next positive one will be Saturday 18th October 11am

ART CLASS – From the 21st October and then on the third Tuesday of each month the Art Class are going to display their work for people to buy in the village hall from 10.00 to 12.30. If you'd like to buy a painting then please come along.

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ALKHAM HEROES UPDATE - Research on the Alkham Heroes has focused on those whose names are on the village war memorial in an effort to ensure their memories are kept alive. A constant thought has been: 'How many men went to war from the village and did any survive?' Until last week that was unanswered but an email arrived with the following message: "Hi. My grandfather was Edward Gibbens. His regimental employment was from May 1915 to Feb 1919. He was a Brigade runner in the Queens Royal West Surreys and on his discharge papers it states that "He won and richly deserved the Military Medal on September 20th 1917 at Messines". When asked how or why he won his medal he always said "For saving the Officer's dog!" He and my grandma lived at Chalksole Green when I was a child and I believe his family were at Standen Terrace during WW1. I thought this might be of interest. I lived in Alkham from 1953 to 1973 when I married and love anything to do with Alkham's past. Hope he qualifies as an Alkham hero. Regards. Christine Carruthers nee Prescott". Edward was being very modest about his Military Medal. The Forces War Records website says: "The military decoration was awarded to E Gibbens for acts of gallantry and devotion to duty under fire or for individual or associated acts of bravery which were insufficient to merit the Distinguished Conduct Medal" though it does not give the specifics. The London Gazette reported the award on 30th October 1917. It is probable that, on the 20th September 1917, Edward was involved in the Third Battle of Ypres, better known as Passchendaele. Edward was indeed an Alkham Hero. If anyone has any information on anyone who died in or survived the wars please contact me mark.robson@btinternet.com or Brian on brianwimsett@hotmail.com.
Mark Robson

OZ on SUPERMOON – Driving home across Romney Marsh one evening last month, we gradually became aware of the moon, smiling hugely and flooding the fields with light. It was the latest example of a 'supermoon', an astrological term describing the coincidence of a full or new moon with its closest approach to Earth, causing the moon to appear much larger than normal. To describe this phenomenon astronomers use the term 'perigee-syzygy', where 'perigee' is the point where the moon is closest to Earth, and 'syzygy' is the alignment of Earth, moon and sun in a straight line, which is when full and new moons occur. This explains the popularity of the word 'supermoon', used by astrologers since 1979. The moon that we saw over Romney Marsh on 8th September was also a 'Harvest Moon', defined as the full moon in the Northern Hemisphere that falls closest to the autumnal equinox on 22 September, and named after the extra time it gave to farmers to harvest their crops. The strange beauty of these moons has long been a popular theme in poetry, and my favourite is The Harvest Moon by Ted Hughes, which starts: "The flame-red moon, the harvest moon, / Rolls along the hills, gently bouncing, / A vast balloon, / Till it takes off, and sinks upward / To lie on the bottom of the sky, like a gold doubloon. / The harvest moon has come, / Booming softly through heaven, like a bassoon. /And the earth replies all night, like a deep drum." In later lines he describes how cows and sheep "stare up at her petrified, while she swells / Filling heaven" and then how "gold fields of stiff wheat / Cry 'We are ripe, reap us!' " It's a lovely poem. Check it out on the internet – you'll never regret it. **(Steve Osborn)**

ALKHAM W.I. was held on 9th September with three new ladies coming to see how interested they are in the W.I. Unfortunately the Speaker was absent but the advantage was that after the Agenda was discussed, people could chat with each other. 14th October will be the next meeting and the Speaker, Colin Breed will give a talk about "The Zeebrugge Ferry Disaster" a very tragic event. Once again visitors are invited – do please come, 7.30pm – **Susan Lees**

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

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

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Tuesday	28	Film Night in village hall 7.30pm – see page 1

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Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship Tog'r 11am
Sunday 12th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship Together 11am	
Sunday 19th	Worship Tog'r 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9:30am
Sunday 26th	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 10:00am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - I was approached recently by someone who asked me: "What is the Church doing about Muslims?" He went on: churches are closing, mosques replacing them; the Archbishop of Canterbury says nothing; look at what's happening in the world; something should be done. Taken aback at first, I pointed out that churches only usually close once they run out of money, that actually the Archbishop has had plenty to say, and that the minority responsible for the horrors that have made headlines recently are hardly representative of the 23% of the world's population who belong to its second largest religion. As for what should be done, he couldn't expect a vicar to go along with what he suggested. The Crusaders tried that centuries ago, and it did nobody any good. I heard a powerful sermon from the Bishop of Jerusalem when I visited the Holy Land in July. As missiles fell on Gaza, he thundered: Jesus clearly expects a harvest from his followers – peace, not war; love, not hatred. I would like to have told our friend that Jesus taught his followers to love their enemies and pray for those that hate them – and stuck with the idea even as he was nailed to the cross. Treat those who we think of as our enemies with love, and they stop being our enemies – that's the logic. Perhaps not so easy when we are angry and anxious about what we read in the newspapers. Peace, not war; love, not hatred. More people in our world should try it. **Brian Williams**

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THE HAUNTING There was an audience of 72 people for 'The Haunting of Hill House' by the Baroque Theatre Co. in Alkham Village Hall on the 21st September. The play was well performed and most people enjoyed it. We intend to support this travelling theatre company again and they will therefore be staging:

SHERLOCK HOLMES and the case of the Christmas carol in Alkham Village Hall on the 16th November. To book a ticket please contact Geoff Hillier on 01303 892878 or Brian on 824969. The show is suitable for ages 8 and upwards.

FARMERS MARKET – The first Farmers Market in Alkham Village Hall on the 16th October was a great success with 15 stalls selling fresh produce and sundry items. Over 100 people came along and the next Farmers Market will be on the 6th November.

THE DYKE – A level survey was carried out along the dyke from the back of the village hall to a point east of Short Lane and showed that the dyke is substantially flat over this length. However, just to the east of Short Lane the dyke virtually disappears because of a build-up of earth and other matter. Lowering the dyke across the green would be possible but behind Glebelands the dyke has trees adjacent to it and further along increasing the size would be very difficult. If Hogbrook culvert was power jetted and the culvert at Short Lane was replaced with a bigger one, plus unblocking the dyke to the east, the flow of water would be significantly improved.

CHARITY FLY IN AT GREENWOOD FARM - John and Anne Huggins had 24 planes fly in from various air strips in the area for a barbecue on 27th September. They raised £615 which was donated to Canterbury Hospital renal unit. Everyone said they enjoyed it so much that they hope it will be an annual event.



HARVEST SUPPER - Thank you to everyone who helped and supported the evening. The amount raised was £684 which will go towards the kitchen and toilet in Alkham church. **Anne Huggins**

TEMPLE EWELL CEP – For prospective parents of children starting school in September 2015 come to Temple Ewell CEP on Tuesday 4th November from 9.30am to 11.30am and meet the staff and children of our lovely village school.

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - The Annual General Meeting of the Alkham Valley Society will take place in the Alkham Village Hall on Tuesday 18 November at 7.30 pm. Everyone is welcome. There will be the customary election of a new Committee and Chairman and report on the year's proceedings. Afterwards we will again have supper at The Fox in Temple Ewell. This year however we will take advantage of their Curry Night which costs £5 a head. Those who do not want curry can select from the main menu. It is a chance for people to meet and talk. Those interested please contact the Secretary on 01304 821641. **Joanna Walker (Sec)**

COFFEE MORNING - I would like to thank everyone who supported our coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Support. Altogether we raised £500 which is an amazing amount to be able to send to this important charity. Thank you Sue Ross

FILM NIGHT

next showing in the village hall at 7.30pm

Tuesday 25th November

ONCE MORE

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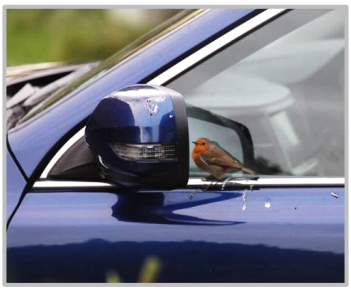
WHO'S A PRETTY BOY? The photo was taken by Peter Smith, who lives at Chalksole, of a robin sitting on their car door admiring himself in the wing mirror.



ROMAN VILLA - Keith Parfitt of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust will be giving a talk on the Roman Villa excavation at Folkestone, for the White Cliffs Metal Detecting Club, at Alkham Village Hall on Tuesday 4th November at 7.45pm. Everyone is welcome to come along and entry is £2.00 per person.

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CONGRATULATIONS - Chloe Huggins, who lives in Alkham, is a very keen swimmer and goes regularly to the Folkestone Sports Centre. The Swimming Club's club champion-ships took place in July and at the presentation of awards in September she received medals for coming first in the girls 11 years old 50m butterfly; third in girls 11 years old 100m freestyle; third in girls 11 years old 400m freestyle; third in girls 11 years old 100m IM; third in girls11 years 400m IM and third in the girls 11 years 100m butterfly (IM is individual medley). Many congratulations to Chloe for all her hard work and look forward to hearing more in the future.

CHALKSOLE VINEYARD - A big thank you to everyone who helped us pick the 2014 crop of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier. We were blessed with wonderful sunny weather; a great experience. The grapes were very good quality and promise to make excellent wine; 2014 vintage should be a great year. Our Chalksole Estate Reserve is a fantastic sparkling wine made and blended for us by Chapel Down of Tenterden and is only available for sale through The Marquis either by bottle or by case – see our advert on the back page.

PATSY'S BLACKBERRY AND APPLE CRUMBLE! Who dun it? Who stole the pie? Patsy's mum, Pam, was very pleased when she bid for a large blackberry and apple crumble at the Harvest Supper; it would, Pam thought, be lovely for her busy daughter to have a dessert already made. Sarah told Pam that she made it so when someone later picked it up, Sarah said 'that's Pam'. 'She's left' was the reply from the person with itchy fingers but Pam was in the kitchen and on returning Sarah told her the story. An announcement was made there and then asking about its whereabouts and this was repeated at W.I. the following night, but no one owned up. Someone else obviously fancied it and had no intention of giving it up. I wonder who it was? **Pam Sayers**

FEEDBACK WW1 – Lucy Matcham, who lives in Glebelands, said that her father fought in and survived WW1. His name was William James Howarth and he was born in 1889 and lived in Ewell Minnis. He enlisted in the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry on the 15th September 1913 and fought in France and was awarded numerous medals one of which was the Victory War Medal 1914-1919.

BOOK CLUB for November - The Book Club meeting for November will be on Wednesday the 26th at the home of Jo Walker, The Old Rectory Slip Lane - Tel 821641, Starting at 7.30pm. The book for discussion is The Innocent by David Baldacci. For more details of the Alkham Book Club contact Jane Aslett 824729

GARDEN TALK - After lots of garden-related discussions at our recent meeting, we now are thinking ahead to the festive season. Our next meeting will be on Friday 12th December at 'Bramhall', Alkham Valley Road where Susannah and Richard Tapsell will be hosting our Christmas meal at 7.30p.m. Numbers are needed in advance, and offers of food - please contact Janet Adamson (01303 893413) by 1st December if you wish to join us.

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will present a concert in Dover Town Hall at 7.30 pm on Saturday 22nd November, featuring a new setting of the Magnificat. Tickets £12 (Students £6) are available from Dover Tourist Information Centre, Dover Museum, members of the society, or by calling 01304 820149 and at the door. **Steve Osborn**

ALKHAM W.I. - There was an excellent talk given by Colin Breed about the Disaster of the Zeebrugge Ferry when it sank and as we know people lost their lives. 11th November the AGM will have discussions and a game, but no speaker. Hostesses - Lucy McKenzie,

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OZ on WHISTLING – A friend mentioned one of his neighbours, who often whistles and always seems happy and healthy, and asked "Does whistling have health benefits and, if so, why don't people whistle so much now as they used to?" My partner and I spend a lot of time in our retirement helping people of all ages, particularly the elderly, take up music, especially singing, partly for the sheer pleasure of it, and also for the undoubted mental and physical benefits it brings. Research to demonstrate this has taken place worldwide, including locally at the Sidney de Haan Research Centre at Canterbury Christ Church University. It hadn't occurred to us until our friend's question that whistling might have similar properties, and so we were pleased to discover that whistling is indeed advocated world-wide by medical researchers. In addition to raising mood and reducing stress, the deep diaphragmatic breathing of whistling directly aids the heart and lungs, by exercising them and importing more oxygen, and indirectly benefits the other internal organs and circulation. In particular, the 'puckered lips position' necessary to whistle is similar to that used in 'purse-lipped breathing', a therapy prescribed sometimes in dealing with chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD). As for the second part of the question, it's true that whistling is not heard so much these days, and I suggest that the reason is the popularity of cheap portable digital devices, often permanently plugged into the ear. In former times, whistling was very much part of popular culture, ranging from the 'whistle while you work' phenomenon to music-hall entertainers such as Ronnie Ronalde. Today, workplaces are full of artificial noise from security alarms, PA systems, and the like, and much popular music is heavily electronic. Perhaps nowadays we all need a little whistling therapy. **Steve Osborn**

ALKHAM VALLEY HISTORICAL RESEARCH GROUP

During 2007-8 many readers may remember the Bronze Age (BA) and Anglo-Saxon (A/S) cemeteries discovered by the author near Wolverton on the ridge. Our initial thoughts from the A/S artefacts recovered from the double-tiered weapons burial are now in a case at Dover Museum for public and school educational use. These finds date to the 6th & 7th centuries and the cemetery was assigned to this date. However recent C14 (carbon dating), financed from donations mainly from the Alkham Valley residence, has allowed the (AVHRG) to have four samples tested. To our surprise, the results from other burials provided a date range from 353 AD to 424 AD towards the end of Roman rule in Britain. The extent of this cemetery would not be large enough for general use over a 400 year period and therefore may allude to a private place of interment by successive generations of the same landowner's family and perhaps farm labours. Along with the unique burials now in the case at Dover, the site has the potential to be the only private cemetery in use for a long period to be found in this region of Kent? Another first for Alkham. The former B/A burial barrow MII located on the ridge has been dated to 1800BC however, up until now we have no date for MI. A C14 sample from a destroyed grave on MI has since revealed a date of 1463BC. The AVHRG has now run out of funds to carry out further date tests and Isotope analysis. Isotope could tell us where these people lived when children whether in this area or the continent! Unfortunately, our funding relies mainly on local support and we appeal to you for assistance to continue this research. We need around £3,000. Anyone wishing to donate any amount to the group are kindly asked to send donations to (The Alkham Valley Historical Research Group) via Susan Lees, Forstal Cottage, Alkham, Dover, CT15 7DE. We will list the supporters of the project and keep you updated with the running total and new research information. Thank you in advance for your kind support. **Vince Burrows** www.alkhamarchaeology.co.uk

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am – 6.15 to 7.15 aerobics dance class
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Thursday	First and third Thursday Farmers Market in VH from 10am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Monday	3	Parish Council 7.30pm meeting in village hall; all welcome
Tuesday	4	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	8	SEKAS in village hall in the evening
Tuesday	11	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Sunday	16	Baroque Theatre in village hall 7.30pm – see page 1
Monday	20	Dover and District Bird Club 7.30pm in village hall
Tuesday	18	Alkham Valley Society AGM in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	25	Film Night 7.30pm in village hall – see page 1
Saturday	29	Beekeepers in village hall 2pm

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

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

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2nd	**Evensong 6.30 pm**	**Sung Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Worship Tog'r 11am**
Sunday 9th	Remembrance Services 10.15am and Capel Baptist's 10.55am		
Sunday 16th	**Worship Tog'r 11am**	**Evensong 6pm**	**Eucharist 9:30am**
Sunday 23rd	**Benefice Eucharist at Capel 10.00am**		
Sunday 26th	**Benefice Eucharist St. Mary's Capel 10:00am**		

FROM THE VICARAGE - One morning recently the telephone rang early. A couple of teachers at one of the schools I work at had rung in to say that they were sick. Could I work in school that day? That morning I discovered that the place had been infested with a cold bug, which was why they had called me in. Needless to say, a couple of days later I awoke with a tell-tale tickle at the back of my throat. This turned out to be no ordinary sniffle, but the full works. I had a list of jobs to do, and I soon found myself fretting about all the things I would have been doing if I hadn't been sitting around nursing a heavy cold. It actually seemed strange not to be rushing off and doing this and that. But then, checking my emails, I found one from another parish priest. It ended, "I hope you're not too busy." Priests are supposed to pray – it's one of the things we have to promise to do. Discussing that with my friend a while ago made me realise that there are some days when, by spending the day in a school and the evening in a meeting, my prayers get neglected – too busy, as he pointed out, to keep my promises. Rabbi Lionel Blue once suggested that prayer is like a cigarette – it allows you to pause, but without the health risks. In a strange way having a heavy cold, I've been reminded, has a similar effect. Not only has it made me pause, but it has also taught me how easily being busy becomes a habit – and not necessarily a good one. Whatever you're doing this month, I hope that you avoid the bugs – and that you're not too busy… **Brian Williams**

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

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A 60'S/ ROCK'N'ROLL EVENING on Saturday 13th December in the Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £7.50 and can be paid for on the night; bring your own refreshments. Alkham's very own Keith Owens and Barry Spicer together with Keith's band "Somethin' Else" will be playing music of the 60's. Just listen or dance to a live rock'n'roll band playing those old favourites featuring music made famous by the likes of Eddie Cochran, Chuck Berry, The Shadows, Eric Clapton, The Beatles and many more. Two hours of that foot tapping, hand clapping music of yesteryear; a great evening of nostalgia. Don't miss it!' **Geoff Hillier**.



SHERLOCK HOLMES
The Baroque Theatre company performed a play based on Sherlock Holmes at Christmas in the village hall on the 16th November. It was one of their best with the actors playing multiple parts and seemed to be enjoyed by all who came along.

FLOOD WARDEN – Den Barnard has agreed to be the flood warden for Alkham and is the first point of call if you have any issues to raise regarding the dyke or any other matters associated with flooding. He has recently been on a Flood Warden course and can be contacted by phoning 01304 824845 or emailing denbarnard@yahoo.com

VALLEY COTTAGES – The replacement of the bridges in front of Valley Cottages to the west of the village is still going ahead. As some of the structures require a splayed entrance they are currently being designed, which accounts for the delay. Trees have been removed from the dyke in this area to improve the flow but it was noted that the shredded timber had been left in the dyke.

PUMPING STATION – There has been a slight delay to the new pumping station at Lower Standen due to unforeseen ground conditions and completion is expected by spring 2015.



DYKE – Following the walk-through with various bodies associated with the flooding, KCC have agreed, as a one off, to clear the dyke. This will be from Hogbrook Lane, by the village hall, across the village green and down to Short Lane where they will also remove the blockage to the west.

PHONE BOX – The phone box in Ewell Minnis at the top of Wolverton Hill is not working and has also been vandalised with at least 7 panes being broken. The cost of maintaining this phone box is being met by Philip Young, who used to live at the Minnis, and the fault has been reported to BT.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS - The lights will be switched on at 4.45pm on Saturday 6th December. Father Christmas will be there and we will have a few carols before moving to the Marquis where once again we have been invited for mulled wine and mince pies.



Den Barnard

THE ANNUAL QUIZ will be on Saturday 7th February in the village hall starting at 7.30pm. As usual it will be for tables of up to 8 people and the cost will be £5 per person, which includes some food at the interval. To book a table please contact Brian on 01304 824969 or email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

THE ALKHAM CALENDAR has finally arrived from the printers so if you'd like a calendar showing the houses of Alkham please ring 01304 824969. It costs £6.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

St. Anthony's Alkham

Sunday 21st December

Nine lessons and carols 6.30pm

Wednesday 24th December

Blessing of the Crib 4.00pm

Midnight Mass 11.30pm

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

AT THE CHRISTMAS FARMERS MARKET on the 18th December in the village hall there will be carols, free mince pies and mulled wine. All the usual stalls will be there plus tea, coffee and soup will also be on sale. The Market is organised by Beth Topp and profits are going to three charities which are: Breast Cancer, Macmillan and Lion Aid. Please come along and support this worthwhile venture.



THE VILLAGE HALL central heating is still not working properly. We are doing everything we can to get it fixed.

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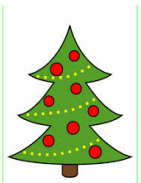
WORDS OF WISDOM - 'The word 'genius' isn't applicable in football. A genius is a guy like Norman Einstein.' - Joe Theisman, NFL sports analyst. 'Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country,' - Mayor Marion Barry, Washington, DC. **JH**

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - The AGM was held on 18 November and was well attended though the weather was against us. Members of the 2015 Committee remain the same with the addition, in place of Anthony Barrier, Richard O'Rorke who was warmly welcomed, while Anthony was thanked for his input. During the meeting Pam Sayers was presented with the Memorial Scroll for Maurice Sayers which will be hung in the village hall. Then it was on to The Fox for what turned out to be a most enjoyable curry night, pub quiz included which we think all enjoyed. A reminder that the next Committee meeting is on 15 January at Evergreen, Slip Lane at 8pm. And the Christmas Walk will take place 27 Dec at 10.30am from the Village Hall. **Joanna Walker (Sec)**



ALKHAM W.I. - This November was the AGM Meeting with no speaker needed. However, the two Debbies brought a big bag of presents, which each member dug into, each finding a lovely prize, after which was a happy quiz. Next month on 9th December, will be a meal out to celebrate Christmas - **Susan Lees**

GARDEN TALK - Preparations are well under way for our Christmas celebration on Friday 12th December at 7.30p.m. This will be at 'Bramhall' in Alkham Valley Road where Susannah & Richard Tapsell will be welcoming us. Please confirm your attendance (and food contributions) to Janet Adamson by 1st December (01303 893413)



ARTISAN NURSERY will be selling Christmas trees again this year from 29th November. See their advert at the bottom of page 3.

HEDGE AND BUSH TRIMMING – A local resident has asked if something could go in the Newsletter about trimming hedges and bushes. Before carrying out any work to trim, cut, coppice or lay a hedge, you must check for nesting birds. These are most likely to be found in the main nesting period which is from 1 March to 31 July, as a general guide. If nesting birds are present, you must not undertake any work which might harm the birds or destroy their nests as you could be prosecuted under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

POPPY APPEAL 2014 – I would like to thank Alkham for giving so generously to the poppy appeal this year. Altogether a grand total of £545.29 was collected, and this is put to good use by the British Legion. Thanks must also go to those who helped with collecting, Shirley, Helen, Janet, Larry and Sue, and to the businesses that had collection boxes – Alkhamhurst Kennels, Alkham Garden Centre and Tea Rooms. **Rachel Fountain**

PLAY EQUIPMENT – Many thanks go to Larry Lambourne for carrying out works to the children's play equipment on the village green. The swings have been repainted and the shackles replaced together with repairs to the mats and works have been done to the slide on the other side of the green.

SPEEDING – Comment was made about the speed of the traffic through the village at a recent Parish Council meeting. It was thought that the only deterrent was speed checks and the Police are going to be asked to do one.

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ALKHAM HEROES - I was recently contacted by John Fagg, nephew of Louis Fagg whose name is on the Village War Memorial. John revealed some interesting facts about Louis including the spelling of his name as well as his time in service leading up to his death. John also sent a photo which accompanies this article. It is gratifying to get such information as it fills the gaps, corrects suppositions and, with a photo, makes a powerful sense of connection to the individual. The updated information can be read at the Heroes section of the village website. Many thanks, John. There are still 13 of the 22 men for whom we have no photograph so if anyone reading has any connection to these men or their families please contact either Brian or me. "We will remember them". **Mark Robson** (mark.robson@btinternet.com)

OZ on TRUCE – In December 2004 I wrote about Bruce Bairnsfather, the Royal Warwickshire Regiment lieutenant and war cartoonist, who participated in the famous 'Christmas Truce', when on Christmas Eve 1914, British and German soldiers silenced their guns, collected their dead, and spent Christmas exchanging food, drink, tobacco and songs. Ten years on, it is the centenary of that truce and a good time to ponder on how it came about and what it meant. It was not the first unofficial truce ever, either at Christmas or any other time. Such events have been recorded for centuries, from the Anglo-French wars, the Napoleonic wars, the American Civil War and War of Independence, the Crimean War and the Boer War, in fact whenever combatants were forced into close proximity and got to know each other. That was certainly so in December 1914; some trenches were as little as 5 to 10 yards apart, enabling troops to hear the enemy talking. According to Tony Ashworth, in his book "Trench Warfare 1914-1918", this gave rise to the 'Live and let Live' principle, whereby soldiers, unless instructed, didn't open fire unless the enemy did so. Furthermore, neither side opened fire at important times, such as breakfast and dinner. With the two sides sharing a common culture and religion it was only a short step to a full-blown truce on Christmas Day 1914. Bairnsfather described how at St-Yvon the Germans decorated Christmas trees and sang carols, the British responded, and soon the combatants exchanged tobacco, spirits, sausages and chocolate, sang and hugged, and played football in no man's land. It all had to end; by New Year fighting had recommenced, ordered by the rival military authorities, who were noisily outraged, but quietly lenient, as their trenches had been strengthened and their troops reinvigorated during the truce. **Steve Osborn**



DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will lead the singing in 'Come Carolling', the Christians Together in Dover carol concert, in Dover Town Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 8th December. The charity appeal will be on behalf of WASPFA (Whitfield Aspen School Celebration Garden Project). Tickets at £1.50 (children 50p) are now available from Carrol Moore on 01304 820150, or can be reserved by emailing comecarolling @outlook.com and leaving your name and number of tickets required. You will receive a confirmation email which you bring with you on the night. **Steve Osborn**

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Tuesday	2	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	6	SEKAS in village hall in the evening
Tuesday	9	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	13	Rock & roll evening – see page 1
Monday	15	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm

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

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th	**Carols 6.30 pm**	**Sung Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Worship Tog'r 11am**
Sunday 14th	**Eucharist 9.30am**	**Worship Together 11am**	**Carols 5pm V Hall**
Sunday 21st	**Carols 6.30pm**		**Eucharist 9:30am**
Christmas Eve	**Crib service 4pm** Midnight Mass 11.30	Crib Service 2.30pm Midnight Mass 11.30pm	
Christmas Day	**Benefice Eucharist at Hougham 9.30am**		
Sunday 28th	**Benefice Eucharist St. Mary's Capel 10:00am**		

FROM THE VICARAGE - Do you ever find that you're too busy to stop, even for a moment? At Capel on Remembrance Sunday, the congregations of St Radigund's and Capel Baptist Church gathered in front of the memorial in Lancaster Avenue. We read the names of The Fallen, and laid a wreath. Then we honoured their memory by keeping the silence. Then it happened. The silence was shattered by the impatient revving of an engine. I looked up to see a white van mounting the pavement, attempting to advance past the ranks. At once one of our troops engaged the enemy, and started remonstrating with the driver. However, having just committed ourselves before God to work for Peace on Earth we now had to practice it. I began the prayer commending The Fallen into God's keeping. Would our friend stop what he was doing, just for a moment? No - he was evidently on a mission of his own, and went on his way. Now Christmas looms. I'm sure that the chances of being run down by a supermarket trolley increase dramatically during December. You know how it is – preparing for the Season of Goodwill so easily leaves people rushing around, stressed and with no time to spare. But here's a thought - read the Christmas story, and you'll notice that when the angels told the shepherds about Jesus' birth, they weren't so busy watching their flocks by night that they couldn't stop for a moment, and go and look. Otherwise they might have been missed the whole thing. So I hope that you find time to stop, and have a Happy Christmas – and a Peaceful New Year. **Brian Williams**

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County Councillor - Geoffrey Lymer 079604 90 929
District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187

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No. 253 January 2015

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CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS
There was a good turn-out for the switching on of the lights on the Alkham Christmas tree. About 50 adults and children gathered round the tree at the top of the village green and sang carols. At 5pm seven year old Ezara Broadley, seen in the photo, pushed the magic plunger and the tree lights were illuminated to a great cheer. Shortly afterwards Father Christmas arrived, having parked his sleigh by the cricket hut, and gave sweets to all the children. The tree, which cost £130, was paid for by the Alkham Fund and installed by Den Barnard who has done a terrific job. Thanks must go to Steve Comfort who arranged for Santa to be there.



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

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY CHRISTMAS WALK 27 DECEMBER 2014 - Numbers of people have offered their apologies for not being able to attend the walk this year for various (good) reasons. If, therefore, should anyone consider the walk, it will be up to those who congregate to make their own way up hill and down dale in depleted numbers. On behalf of our members and we imagine many others, we would like to take the opportunity to thank Stan Fowler and Brian Wimsett for having organised the Alkham Calendar 2015, another much appreciated venture and excellently priced. In the past John Huggins has helped substantially with the aerial photos from his flying machine, thank you as well. YET another thing: the 250th number of the Alkham Newsletter slipped into our lives with no fanfare. The Newsletter is a remarkable local resource and is a constant feature of the village life. Thank you Brian! **Joanna Walker (Sec)**

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

FILM EVENT

Next showing in village hall at 7.30pm

Tuesday 27th January

WHAT WE DID ON OUR HOLIDAY

David Tennant and Rosamund Pike

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

Bring your own refreshments

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ROCK and ROLL What a terrific evening it was when Somethin' Else came and played live rock and roll music from the 60's in the village hall on the 13th of December. The lead guitarists were Keith Owen and Barry Spicer, both of whom live either side of the village hall. Over 50 people came along and most danced and jived to the music. The Rolling Stones, The Beatles, Cliff Richard, The Shadows, Status Quo and other great names from the sixties were featured. Everybody enjoyed themselves and hopefully they will return.



THE ANNUAL QUIZ will be in the village hall on Saturday 7th February starting at 7.30pm. As usual it will be for tables of up to 8 people and the cost will be £5 per person, which includes some food at the interval. To book a table please contact Brian on 01304 824969 or email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

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

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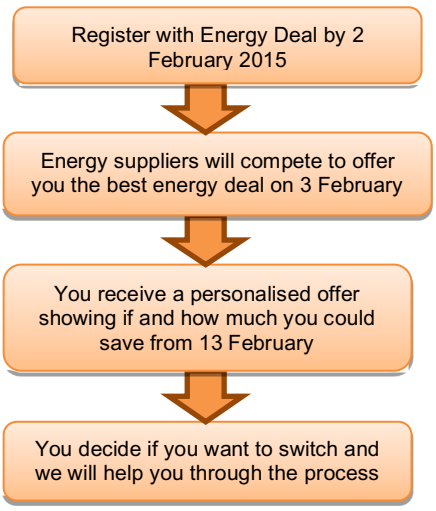
LORRIES – As most people who live in Alkham and in the parish will know, there has been a large number of heavy lorries going along the valley road recently. It appears that they are taking excavated material to the Ashford area and coming back empty. A complaint regarding this was made to the Parish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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Thomas was killed at the Battle of Arras on 9 April 1917. His poem, titled simply 'Adlestrop', was published as a tribute to him in the New Statesman on 28 April 1917, and went on to become one of the most loved poems in the English language. Steve Osborn

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Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	19	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	27	Film Night 7.30pm in village hall – see page 1
Saturday	31	Beekeepers in village hall in the afternoon

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

FILM NIGHT

Next showing in the village hall at 7.30pm

Tuesday 24th February

Mr Turner

Starring Timothy Spall

Tickets cost £4.50

Bring your own refreshments

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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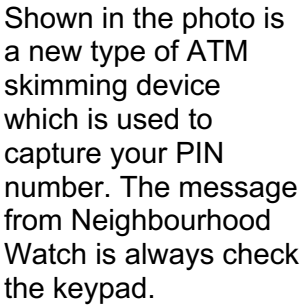
PLEASE THINK!!! - To the inconsiderate selfish person in Glebelands who set off the very loud 'cannon like' fireworks on New Year's Day, please could you consider the horses that are right on your doorstep!! Surely those kinds of fireworks are meant for displays only, NOT a small cul-de-sac like Glebelands.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



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

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

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

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

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Thursday	First and third Thursday Farmers Market in VH from 10am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

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

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

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

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

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Newsletter Brian Wimsett 824969
email brianwimsett@hotmail.com
Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791
alkham.pc@outlook.com
Alkham web site www.alkham.org
Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
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MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
County Councillor - Geoffrey Lymer 079604 90 929
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ALKHAM EASTER DANCE – On the 28th March the band Bittersweet (guitars, keyboard and drums) will be playing a 2 hour set of favourites from the 60's to the present day in the village hall. Come along to dance or just enjoy the occasion. The Ball starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £7.50, which can be paid for on the night.

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



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

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

BE A PARISH COUNCILLOR- If you'd like information about being a Parish Councillor, Dover District Council is holding an event for prospective candidates at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Thursday 12 March from 2:00pm to 4.00pm. Nomination packs will be made available for collection at the conclusion of the briefing. Alternatively they may be collected following the publication of Notice of Election on 16 March 2015 between 10am and 5pm on any weekday excluding Bank Holidays from the Election Office, Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3PJ. To book your place for the briefing please email elections@dover.gov.uk or telephone the Elections Office on 01304 872344.

FILM NIGHT

Next showing in the village hall at 7.30pm
Tuesday 24th March
The Imitation Game
Starring Benedict Cumberbatch
Tickets cost £4.50
Bring your own refreshments

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

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

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

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

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

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

NESTING BIRDS – Further to last month's article, Tricia Wright phoned to say that as we are in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty before carrying out any work to trim, cut, coppice or lay a hedge, you must check for nesting birds. These are most likely to be found between 1 March and 31 July. If nesting birds are present, you must not under-take any work which might harm the birds or destroy their nests, or you will commit an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Downhill I came, hungry, and yet not starved;
Cold, yet had heat within me that was proof
Against the North wind; tired, yet so that rest
Had seemed the sweetest thing under a roof.

Then at the inn I had food, fire, and rest,
Knowing how hungry, cold, and tired was I.
All of the night was quite barred out except
An owl's cry, a most melancholy cry

Shaken out long and clear upon the hill,
No merry note, nor cause of merriment,
But one telling me plain what I escaped
And others could not, that night, as in I went.

And salted was my food, and my repose,
Salted and sobered, too, by the bird's voice
Speaking for all who lay under the stars,
Soldiers and poor, unable to rejoice.

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

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

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

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Thursday	First and third Thursday Farmers Market in VH from 10am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Monday	2	Parish Council meeting in village hall 7.30pm all welcome
Tuesday	3	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Thursday	5	Film Mr Turner in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	14	SEKAS in village hall
Monday	16	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	24	Film Night 7.30pm in village hall – The Imitation Game
Saturday	28	Beekeepers in village hall in the afternoon

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

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1st	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship Tog 11am
Sunday 8th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship Together 11am	
Sunday 15th	Family Service 11am	Family Service11am	Eucharist 9:30am
Sunday 22nd	Benefice Eucharist Hougham 10:00am		
Sunday 29th	Benefice Eucharist Capel 10:00am		

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

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

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Alkham web site www.alkham.org
Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk

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

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No. 255 April 2015

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

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

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



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

FILM NIGHT

Next showing in the village hall at 7.30pm

Tuesday 28th April

Pride with Bill Nighy, Imelda Staunton

Tickets cost £4.50 - bring refreshments

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

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

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

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

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

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

RING lost in Short Lane, phone 824845.

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

FARMERS MARKET
Alkham Village hall
2nd and 16th April
10am to 12am

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

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

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

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

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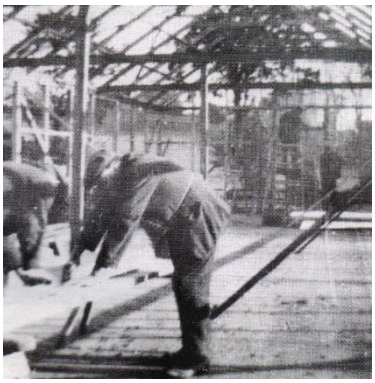

ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL HISTORY

Hogbrook Farm donated a piece of land to the Parish and on February 6th 1931 Alkham Village Hall was opened. Alkham school had previously been used for village activities and in the photo Henry Harvey is cutting the timber for the hall, which is still there today. The lighting must have been by oil lamps as Sue Lees says that electricity wasn't brought to the village until 1932. The hall cost £740 to build, which equates to about £40,000 in today's money. The kitchen was at the rear and heating was provided by a solid fuel stove. The toilets were rudimentary with the ladies outside to the left and the gents to the right in a small shed. The gent's urinal was a hole in the ground which fed into the dyke and the lavatory was a bucket. In 1965 a planning application was made to install new toilets and these were built at the back of the hall. The stove was later replaced with electric ceiling mounted heaters and in 2002 gas central heating was installed. The original stage, with attendant piano, was removed after the floods in 2001 and replaced with a small dais; in 2013 a new stage was built. The entrance to the hall was originally at the front but in 1999 an extension was built to the side (at a similar cost to the original hall) with a new entrance, store room and toilets. When Newlyns Meadow was built in the 1990's a piece of land was donated to the hall for the adjacent car park. Halls such as Alkham's are becoming historic and a similar one is preserved at the Museum of Kent Life in Maidstone. **editor**

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

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Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Thursday	First and third Thursday Farmers Market in VH from 10am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

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

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

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

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

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Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791
alkham.pc@outlook.com
Alkham web site www.alkham.org
Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
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Police – 999 emergency &101
Vicar Revd. Brian Williams 01303 243784
Church Wardens Geoff Gaskill 823100 and Richard Tapsell 822295
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
County Councillor - Geoffrey Lymer 079604 90 929
District Councillors - Sue Nicholas 823956, Pauline Beresford - 216187

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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No. 256 May 2015

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

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

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

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

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

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

FILM NIGHT

Next showing in the village hall at 7.30pm

Tuesday 26th May

The Theory of Everything

Starring Eddie Redmayne

Tickets cost £4.50

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FARMERS MARKET
Alkham Village hall
7th and 21st May
10am to 12am

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

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

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

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

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ALKHAM HEROES

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

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

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

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Thursday	First and third Thursday Farmers Market in VH from 10am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

W.I. Coffee Morning

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

FILM NIGHT

Next showing in the village hall at 7.30pm
Tuesday 30th June
Testament of Youth
Tickets cost £4.50 - bring refreshments

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

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

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

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

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

FARMERS MARKET
Alkham Village hall
June 4th & 18th

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

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

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

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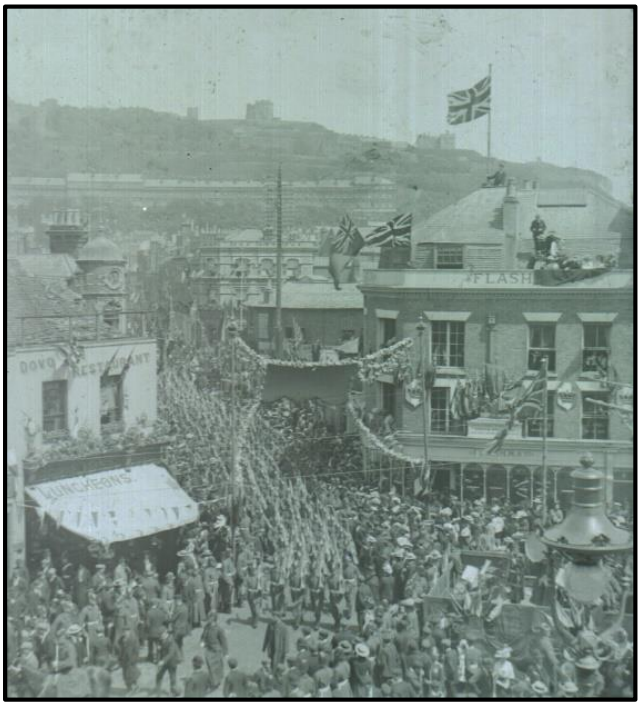
OZ says – Last month my partner's sister Jane shared our holiday in Bognor and here's what she wrote about it afterwards:

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



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

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

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Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Thursday	First and third Thursday Farmers Market in VH from 10am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

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

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

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th		Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship Tog 11.00 am
Sunday 14th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship Tog 11.00 am	
Sunday 21st	Family Service 11.00	Evensong 6.00 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 28th	Joint service starts at St Peter & St Paul River at 10.30 & picnic if fine.		
We are now online at: www.church-alkham-capel-hougham.org.uk			

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

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Newsletter Brian Wimsett 824969 email brianwimsett@hotmail.com
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Alkham web site www.alkham.org
Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
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Vicar Revd. Brian Williams 01303 243784
Church Warden Richard Tapsell 01304 822295
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County Councillor - Geoffrey Lymer 079604 90 929
District Councillor - Pauline Beresford 216187: Nick Dixon 07815691638

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No. 258 July 2015

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ALKHAM BOYS still on the road

A belated many happy returns to Ken Hammond who has just turned 80 years young and still going strong. He is still the fastest sprinter in the Alkham Cycling Club as well as our technical expert and cycling guru and we wish him all the best for many more years on the road. Ken is seen here with Geoff Gaskill, Alan Latham, Ken, Den Barnard and Brian Wimsett, whose combined age is 350.

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

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

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

FILM NIGHT

Next showing in the village hall at 7.30pm

Tuesday 28th July

Still Alice

Tickets cost £4.50 - bring refreshments

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

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

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

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8,000 W.I. LADIES at Buckingham Palace to celebrate at a Centenary Garden Party for which Her Majesty the Queen had given her "graceful permission". Sue Harman and I received one each as representatives of Alkham W.I. Before the occasion we became friendly with two ladies from Elms Vale and Maxton W.I., Barbara Hatton and Ivy Harvey, and consequently the four of us were together all day, which was lovely except for the queues to get into the Palace (which could not It possibly have been avoided). I thought it was superbly organized, and certainly an occasion not to be missed. The tea was lovely, and you helped yourself to dainty sandwiches and cakes, some of which were decorated with strawberries, raspberries and cream. There was even ice cream if you wanted it. We were all very impressed. As soon as one plate was finished, another took its place. As all these ladies from just about everywhere had put on their best bib and tucker, we tried hard to find two ladies dressed alike, but only one pair did we find. Unfortunately the Queen and the Duke did not attend, which we were told about beforehand. It was hosted by the Duchess of Cornwall, the Duchess of Gloucester and the Duchess of Wessex, and Princess Alexandra. The Calendar Girls were also there, and of course an added interest. Sue took some photographs outside the Palace gates in the courtyard, as we had been told we could not take photos in the gardens, but some of the W.I. did not appear to have read this instruction! For Sue and I it was indeed a fascinating occasion - a day to remember. **Pamela Sayers - Alkham W.I.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

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

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

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

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship Tog. 11.00
Sunday 12th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship Tog. 11.00 am	
Sunday 19th	Family Service 11.00	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 26th	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 9.30 am		
We are now online at: www.church-alkham-capel-hougham.org.uk			

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

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

Police – 999 emergency &101
Vicar Revd. Brian Williams 01303 243784
Church Warden Richard Tapsell 822295
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
County Councillor - Geoffrey Lymer 079604 90 929
District Councillor - Pauline Beresford 216187: Nick Dixon 07815691638

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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No. 259 August 2015

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FOOTPATH DIVERSION An application has been made to divert the public footpath that currently passes through the garden of the Old Rectory in Alkham. The main reason for the application is the insecurity caused by the footpath passing so close to the house. The proposal is to close the footpath from the churchyard at point A, through the Old Rectory garden to point B. The new footpath diversion will run from point B, past the back of the big green barn to point D where it will join the other footpath which passes by the church. The stile to the north of point B, where the footpath meets Slip Lane, will be replaced with a pedestrian gate.

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

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

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

FILM NIGHT

Next showing in the village hall at 7.30pm

Tuesday 25th August

The Second Best Marigold Hotel

Tickets cost £4.50 - bring refreshments

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

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

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SQUATTERS WARNING - We returned from a holiday in France to find our bungalow home occupied by a number of squatters. It's an old property that started life as a cowshed. Consequently the eaves are open with no fascia or soffit boards and some cave like spaces. We were surprised to find that a Wren, normally quite timid, had made its home above the patio door in the eaves space. The scientific name for the wren is troglodytes, which means cave dweller and the space it found is very cave like. More research revealed that male wrens hold large territories in which they build several nests in holes in walls or trees or in old nests of other birds. The male sings near a nest to attract a female. If she accepts, she adds a lining of feathers to the nest and lays the eggs. When food is abundant a male may persuade two or more females to lay in his territory. Any unused nests are known as 'cock nests' and may be used for roosting. The female feeds the young with little help from the male but when the young fly, the male takes over the care and even leads them to roost in one of his cock nests. Much activity was viewed from our lounge chairs as these tiny birds carried insects to the hungry young. We eventually saw one of the young squatters perched on a cable just outside the nest. From start to finish took around one month. Amazing. Oh, we also found two bumble bee nests in the eaves elsewhere and wasps looking for a doorway into the roof. Leaving your house unguarded can be unwise but very interesting. **Alan Latham**

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

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

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

ALKHAM W.I. - July was a truly lovely meeting because we all praised Cherry Leppard, bought wine and a lovely cake and flowers because she is to receive the British Empire Medal from Queen Elizabeth II for voluntary service to the community. Helen Scopes gave a lovely talk for the RSPCA about cats and kittens. Although three people were in charge of serving food, Barbarah Palmer had made two lovely cakes. On 11th August there will be Fish & Chips and a Quiz. **Susan Lees**

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Alkham Village hall
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10am to 12am

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Thursday	First and third Thursday Farmers Market in VH from 10am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

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

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

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

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

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

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RACE NIGHT – The Village Hall is going ahead with Race Night where there is a Tote to bet on screened horse races. We have decided to pay a company to run the first one, which will be on the 7th November. More details later.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FILM NIGHT

Next showing in the village hall at 7.30pm

Tuesday 29th September

Penguins of Madagascar

Tickets cost £4.50 - bring refreshments

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Thursday	First and third Thursday Farmers Market in VH from 10am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

Tuesday	1	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Saturday	5	PCC Jumble Sale in village hall 11am
Tuesday	8	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	19	SEKAS in village hall in the afternoon
Monday	21	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	26	Coffee morning in village hall 10 to 12 – see page 1
Tuesday	29	Film Night 7.30pm in VH – Penguins of Madagasca

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

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

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6th	Sung Eucharist 11.00am		Sung Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 13th	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship Together 11.00 am	Songs of Praise 5.15 p.m.
Sunday 20th	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 9.30 am		
Sunday 27th	Family Service 11.00 am	Family Service 11.00 am	Sung Eucharist 9.30am

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

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

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

Police – 999 emergency &101
Vicar Revd. Brian Williams 01303 243784
Church Warden Richard Tapsell 822295
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
County Councillor - Geoffrey Lymer 079604 90 929
District Councillor - Pauline Beresford 216187: Nick Dixon 07815691638

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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No. 261 October 2015

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RACE NIGHT - The first Race Night in the village hall will be on the 7th November and be run by the company that provides the events. Horse races from various courses will be projected on to a screen and pre-race betting can be made on the Tote. The minimum bet will probably be £1 and 50% of the total amount wagered will be given in prize money. It should be great fun and we hope you will come along and support this new village event.

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

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

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

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

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

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

FILM NIGHT

Next showing in the village hall at 7.30pm

Tuesday 27th October

Far from the madding crowd

Tickets cost £4.50 - bring refreshments

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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November 5th and 19th
10am to 12am

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OZ on LISTS – There's a blustery wind, and yellow leaves are falling onto the road. Indoors, AGM agendas are falling onto the doormat. After a lazy August, autumn approaches, heralding a return to busyness necessitating an updated to-do list. Most of my friends now seem to need such lists, partly because of the hectic nature of retirement these days, and partly as a defence against failing memories. The nature and method of production of these lists varies wildly, from scribbles on scraps of paper to elaborate computer-generated charts detailing almost every hour of the day. When I was preparing our first New Zealand holiday, a friend warned me "Don't overplan!" and told me of his neighbour, who had planned everything, down to when and where to drink coffee and buy papers. "What happened?" I asked, expecting a disaster story. "They did it!" came the solemn and shocked reply. My planning routine for holidays comprises a computerised list of things to remember, which is updated for each trip, with unused items kept 'behind the screen' for future reference. Another friend once remarked, "All you need is P^3 - pills, passport, plastic" (To which one could nowadays add 'phones') For everyday use, my system is a bit more complicated. Upcoming events are recorded in my pocket diary, transferred to a paper year planner on the kitchen wall, and from there each month to an adjacent erasable monthly planner. From there I scribble the day's activities onto a scrap of paper, which I keep in my trouser pocket with the small change and the keys. But then everyone's list is different. Here's a rather touching one, written by the singer Johnny Cash: "Not smoke/Kiss June/Not kiss anyone else/Cough/ Pee/Eat/Not eat too much/Worry/Go see Mama/Practice piano." It fetched $6,250 at auction in 2010. **Steve Osborn**

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

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

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

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Saturday	10	SEKAS in village hall in the afternoon
Monday	12	Harvest Supper 7.30pm in village hall
Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	17	W.I. Jumble Sale in village hall 11.00am
Monday	19	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	24	Country and Western evening in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	27	Film Night 7.30pm in VH
Thursday	29	Alkham Valley Society AGM in village hall 7.30pm

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

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

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship Together 11.00
Saturday 10th		Messy Church 3.00 pm	
Sunday 11th Harvest Festival	Sung Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship Together 11.00 am	Harvest Festival 4.00 pm in W H village hall
Sunday 18th	Family Service 11.00 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Sung Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 25th	Benefice Eucharist 10.00 am Alkham		

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

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

Police – 999 emergency &101
Vicar Revd. Brian Williams 01303 243784
Church Warden Richard Tapsell 822295
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
County Councillor - Geoffrey Lymer 079604 90 929
District Councillor - Pauline Beresford 216187: Nick Dixon 07815691638

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No. 262 November 2015

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FILM NIGHT

Next showing in the village hall at 7.30pm

Tuesday 24th November

'Spy' featuring Jude Law

Tickets cost £4.50 - bring refreshments

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Harvest Festival Celebrations

What a fabulous, Thanksgiving (thanks and giving weekend) we have enjoyed. It began on Friday when so many of us came to decorate the Church for Harvest in the time honoured way. From the Children`s farming table, the elegant flower displays, the many garden flower and hedgerow arrangements to the wheat sheaves and Harvest loaf, the Church was ablaze of colour. The morning service on Sunday was a happy and joyful time to come together to give thanks and to celebrate Harvest. The Harvest Supper on Monday evening brought over 70 parishioners together to enjoy the meal, (so well arranged by Anne and Carol and with the cottage pies and apple crumbles cooked by volunteers) and then to generously support the Auction and the raffle. A substantial amount was raised which will help the Church to continue to be there "to hatch, match and dispatch them" and also to offer a place of spiritual calm at all times. Heartfelt thanks to all involved in the weekend. The year moves on and now we can think about **the Christmas Shoe Boxes** that we send to children who would have nothing on Christmas Day. If you would like to prepare a box before the 2nd week in November and would like more details, then please contact me on 01304 822295. **Susannah Tapsell**

COUNTRY and Western Night 24th October, 7.30pm in village hall.

OZ on THOMAS'S NOVEMBER – This month, I'm returning to my ongoing theme of viewing the first year of the First World War through the eyes of the poet Edward Thomas. After having enlisted in the Artists' Rifles in July 1915, Thomas was posted in November 1915, as a map-reading instructor, to Hare Hall Camp, Romford, Essex. It had been a cold, wet autumn, with sunny interludes, rather like our current autumn, and on 1 November 1915 Thomas wrote in his notebook: "Sweet as last damsons on spangled tree when November starling imitates the swallow in sunny interval between rain and all is still and dripping." Later he rewrote these words as part of the poem "There's Nothing Like the Sun". In this poem Thomas describes how the sun is "Kind as it can be…To all things that it touches except snow," and continues "November has begun, Yet never shone the sun as fair as now", followed by four lines derived from Thomas's note: "While the sweet last-left damsons from the bough/With spangles of the morning's storm drop down/Because the starling shakes it, whistling what/Once swallows sang." Here the mood changes suddenly, from a lyrical celebration of autumn to a boisterous, almost jokey, statement that "…there is nothing, too, like March's sun…", or indeed any month's sun, and concluding with the couplet "There's nothing like the sun that shines today./There's nothing like the sun till we are dead." It's a startling last line, typical of Thomas's love of life and also an illustration of his profound humanism, having rejected organized religion at an early age in favour of fellow humanity and nature. "Almost as soon as I could babble" he once said, "I babbled of green fields." By Christmas he had written another great poem, this time attacking anti-German hatred. **Steve Osborn**

USE IT OR LOSE IT – Why not give the Farmers Market a visit. There is fresh food and fish for sale plus other items.

FARMERS MARKET
Alkham Village hall
November 5th and 19th
10am to 12am

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Thursday	First and third Thursday Farmers Market in VH from 10am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

St. Anthony`s Alkham

Sunday 20th December
Nine lessons and Carols 6.30pm

Thursday 24th December
Blessing of the Crib 4.30pm

Midnight Mass 11.30pm

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

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

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

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



ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - The AGM of the Society was held on 29 October. Thank you all for your attendance. The Committee was re-elected, with the exception of Liz Lambourne who had submitted her resignation from the committee while remaining a member. It was unanimously agreed that the annual sub would be raised from £1 a year to £5 a year to be paid before November each year. Questions were raised about a web site for the AVS, and possible courses in country crafts such as coppicing, hedge laying and flint wall repairs. These matters will be investigated by the Committee. The need for members' emails is of importance. The Christmas Walk will take place on 27 December at 10.30am starting at the Village Hall; all welcome and dogs too. The outing will be to Sandwich, a date and details forthcoming. We went on to enjoy a supper at The Fox where there was a pleasant atmosphere of an evening well spent among friends. Apropos Funding, having inadvisedly approached the Parish Council for a tiding loan which was turned down, we would like to reassure members that in the meantime several members have lent us the necessary funds at no interest. The committee thank all who responded to our reminder of subscription due and donations welcomed. We have had very good response from existing members and a number of new members have joined us as a result **Joanna Walker (Secretary)** and on behalf of the Acting Chairman of the AVS

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

FARMERS MARKET
Alkham Village hall
December 3rd and 17th
10am to 12am

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

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

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

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

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

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

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will lead the singing in 'Come Carolling' in Dover Town Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 7th December. Tickets at £1.50 (children 50p) are now available from Mrs Carrol Moore on 01304 820150, or can be reserved by emailing comecarolling@outlook.com and leaving your name and number of tickets required. You will receive a confirmation email which you bring with you on the night. **Steve Osborn**

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Thursday	First and third Thursday Farmers Market in VH from 10am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

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

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6th	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Carols V.H. 11.00
Saturday 12th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 13th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Carols V. Hall 3.00 pm	
Sunday 20th	9 lessons/carols 6 .30	Worship Tog. 11.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am
Thursday 24th	Crib service 4.30 pm	Crib service 3.00 pm	
Friday 25th			Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 27th	Benefice Eucharist at Capel 10.00am		

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



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Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791 alkham.pc@outlook.com
Alkham web site www.alkham.org
Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
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Police – 999 emergency &101
Vicar Revd. Brian Williams 01303 243784
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County Councillor - Geoffrey Lymer 079604 90 929
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HAPPY NEW YEAR



THE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS were switched on jointly by Jessica Carter and Isabella Thompson (both aged five) on 5th December, well supported by a large crowd of villagers. After a few carols Father Christmas arrived to give out chocolates before we all adjourned to The Marquis where once again they provided mince pies and mulled wine to all. We are grateful to Brian Wimsett and his Alkham Recycling Fund for supplying the tree also to Richard Tapsell and Ken Spencer for their help in setting up the tree and decorations. Irene Barnard organised a raffle for St Anthony's church funds which raised a brilliant £112. A big thank you to Susanna Tapsell's Keep Fit Ladies for donating one of the prizes and to Dave Harris and his Team at The Marquis for their hospitality and raffle prize. Keith Owens also did a great job in making sure Father Christmas arrived on time. **Den Barnard**

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

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

ALKHAM FETE Saturday 9th July 2016
There will be a Fete meeting at 8pm on Wednesday 13th July in the village hall. Please do come and offer any help you can give to make this summer event a great day and enable us all to support village charities. If you are unable to attend but would like to help please contact Paul Tapsell on 01303 892082.

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

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

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

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

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

FILM NIGHT

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MORE SPOOKY TALES OF ALKHAM PAST – No. 3

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FARMERS MARKET
Alkham Village hall
No market in January

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am – Pilates 1.30 to 2.30pm
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Thursday	First and third Thursday Farmers Market in VH from 10am
Friday	Whist Drive in VH starting at 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

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

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3rd	**Evensong 4.30pm**	**Eucharist 9.30am**	**Christingle 11am**
Saturday12th	**Messy Church St Radigund's Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm**		
Sunday 10th	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Christingle 11am**	
Sunday 17th	**Christingle 11am**	**Evensong 6.00 pm**	**Eucharist 9:30 am**
Sunday 24th	**Benefice Eucharist Capel 10.00 am**		
Sunday 31st	**Benefice Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am**		

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

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MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
County Councillor - Geoffrey Lymer 079604 90 929
District Councillor - Pauline Beresford 216187: Nick Dixon 07815691638

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 265 February 2016
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FLOODING – The photo shows the village green on the 5th of January after torrential rain. The fields either side of Slip Lane were saturated and the heavy rain caused the Slip to become a river with a tidal wave across the Valley Road and down onto Hogbrook Lane where it flooded the green and football pitch. South Alkham was badly affected plus the Alkham Valley Road near Standen was flooded, which resulted in the police closing the road. A number of villagers, who must be thanked, turned up to try and get the water, which was threatening to flood properties on Hogbrook Lane, down to the dyke. Special mention has to go to Den Barnard, the Flood Warden, who was terrific trying to sort things out and John Pearson-Smith at the Equestrian Centre for helping with his tractor. **editor**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FILM NIGHT

Next showing in the village hall at 7.30pm
Tuesday 23rd February
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SLIP LANE – During the flood water was bubbling out of the ground by the Willows which is just before the tree canopy, about ½ a mile up Slip Lane. This will be dealt with and the stretch of road under the canopy is going to be resurfaced.

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

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

FLOODING – Should Pimlico Way be a bridleway? Bev Hubbard of Greenwood Manor and residents have written to KCC Councillor Lymer concerned the flooding is aggravated by 4x4 use of Pimlico Way. Martin Scherer, who owns part of Pimlico Way, says that rather than water naturally dispersing onto field, the deep ruts 4x4's cut drain the land and channel rain water down Pimlico Way onto Slip Lane and Alkham Valley Road, aggravating valley flooding. Bev Hubbard says 4x4 use damages Pimlico's surface, causing erosion that washes debris and flints onto the roads creating risks for drivers and pedestrians, and increasing KCC's maintenance costs. Martin says 4x4 users drive at excessive speed on Pimlico, putting pedestrian and equestrian users at risk of injury. He says, 4x4 users are prone to trespass, causing damage to fencing and gates and respond aggressively to anyone who objects. Pimlico is subject to Police public disturbance notices, but with cuts to Police budgets the Police cannot respond immediately to every incident. With climatologist predicting wetter winters, Martin says these problems will get worse with more regular winter valley floods. Residents say the most effective solution to these problems is to restore Pimlico Way to a bridleway. Bev says he does not see why the interests of a minority of 4x4 leisure users should be given priority over the majority of Pimlico users, and Alkham residents. As far as Martin is aware, the change of status from bridleway to byway occurred without consultation with the landowner or Alkham's residents and that KCC should reconsider Pimlico with regard to changing weather patterns increasing flood risks and public safety with increased demand for access to the countryside.KCC Councillor Geoff Lymer has replied to Bev Hubbard sharing residents' concerns and giving support to the bridleway or at least restricting vehicles from the Pimlico Way in winter months. To succeed, Bev Hubbard believes Councillor Lymer needs your support. If you believe, restoring Pimlico to a bridleway will reduce flooding and the risks to you, write to Cllr Lymer (Geoff.lymer@kent.gov.uk) and copy to Bev Hubbard (bevh@btinternet.com)

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

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

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THE BELLS

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

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

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

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

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Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Thursday	First and third Thursday Farmers Market in VH from 10am
Friday	Pilates 9.30am to 10.30am - Whist Drive in VH 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

FILM NIGHT
Next showing in the village hall at 7.30pm
Tuesday 29th March
The Lady in the van
Tickets cost £4.50 - bring refreshments

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

NESTING BIRDS –Before carrying out any work to trim, cut, coppice or lay a hedge, you must check for nesting birds. These are most likely to be found between 1 March and 31 July. If nesting birds are present, you must not under-take any work which might harm the birds or destroy their nests, or you will commit an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

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

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

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

If ever I saw blessing in the air/I see it now in this still early day /Where lemon-green the vaporous morning drips /Wet sunlight on the powder of my eye.
Blown bubble-film of blue, the sky wraps round/Weeds of warm light whose every root and rod/Splutters with soapy green, and all the world/Sweats with the bead of summer in its bud.
If ever I heard blessing it is there/Where birds in trees that shoals and shadows are/Splash with their hidden wings and drops of sound/Break on my ears their crests of throbbing air.
Pure in the haze the emerald sun dilates, The lips of sparrows milk the mossy stones,/While white as water by the lake a girl/Swims her green hand among the gathered swans.
Now, as the almond burns its smoking wick,/Dropping small flames to light the candled grass;/Now, as my low blood scales its second chance,/If ever world were blessed, now it is.

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am - 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am **Whist Drive** 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

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

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

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

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Village Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
Police – 999 emergency &101

Vicar Revd. Brian Williams 01303 243784
Church Warden Richard Tapsell 822295
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
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A SPECIAL CHURCH SERVICE was held at St Anthony's in October 1903 to celebrate 50 years of marriage of Charles and Jane Appleton. In March 2016 a similar service was held to celebrate 50 years of marriage of their great grandson Richard Tapsell. The whole village sends congratulations to Richard and Susannah on this wonderful achievement.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FILM NIGHT

Next showing in the village hall at 7.30pm

Tuesday 26th April

Bridge of Spies with Tom Hanks

Tickets cost £4.50 - bring refreshments

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am **Whist Drive** 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

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

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

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

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Church Warden Richard Tapsell 822295
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
County Councillor - Geoffrey Lymer 079604 90 929
District Councillor - Pauline Beresford 216187: Nick Dixon 07815691638

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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

No. 268 May 2016

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

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

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

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

FILM NIGHT
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50

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

Please bring your own refreshments

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

GARDEN TALK - After a very enjoyable evening visiting the colourful garden at The Wicket on a beautiful evening, we look forward to revisiting Halton Court, where Irene & Den Barnard will welcome us from 7.30p.m. on Friday 20th May. A full programme for the year is available - just contact me - **Janet Adamson 01303 893413**

THE BOOK CLUB meeting for May will be on Wednesday 25th at the home of Avi Munn, Poems Short Lane 01304 829484 starting at 7.30pm. The book for discussion is The Sixth of June by Lionel Shapiro. If you would like more information about the Alkham Book Club contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729, new members are always welcome.

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

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

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



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

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am **Whist Drive** 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUMMER GUITAR CONCERT at St Anthony's - Once again Jimmy D'Alton Bellas is bringing his past and present students to St Anthony's for another Summer Evening Guitar Concert on Saturday 18th June at 6:30pm. He has also managed to obtain the services of his ex-pupil and award-winning Grant Dowse who is now performing at the highest professional level, and Emily Renshaw (mezzo soprano) who are both eager to perform in the beautiful setting of St Anthony's once again. All proceeds go the Friends of St Anthony's. Tickets are £7.50 and sandwiches, cakes and drinks will be available during the interval at nominal cost. Tickets from Den (824845) or Brian (824969). **Den Barnard**

FILM NIGHT
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50

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

Please bring your own refreshments

ST ANTHONY'S KITCHEN & TOILET - We are very pleased to announce that we have the go ahead to install a toilet and kitchenette in our beautiful village church bringing it into the 21st century. We invite all to the village hall on Thursday 21st July at 7.30pm when we plan a short presentation on the project and will display the architect's drawings. This is a very exciting time for St Anthony's and we hope you will join us for a free glass of wine and cheese. **The Project Team**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Contact Howard Cole
07889 242604

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
Thursday	Mobile Library in car park by village hall 9.25am to 9.50am
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am **Whist Drive** 7.30 pm

Other events in the village

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

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

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

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

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

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W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
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Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
Church Warden Richard Tapsell 822295
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
County Councillor - Geoffrey Lymer 079604 90 929
District Councillor - Pauline Beresford 216187: Nick Dixon 07815691638

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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No. 270 July 2016

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ST ANTHONY'S toilet and kitchenette project coffee morning - Prayers were said and fingers crossed for a dry mild day last Saturday and that's what we were lucky enough to get as the event was held in our front garden. The total raised on the day was £902.20 and with further donations, now have a grand total of £957.20. Of course this type of event can only be successful with help, and I would like to personally thank Sue and Mike, Alison and Barry, Helen and Don, Frances and Tom, Ken and Sandie and Margaret for being stall holders. I have been quite overwhelmed with everyone's kindness from donating saleable goods, raffle prizes to the amazing display of cakes. So thanks to all who came along and supported us by making it such a fabulous event. I am also delighted that the £957.20 is being very generously doubled by Mark Loveday's Charitable Trust. **Irene Barnard**

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

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

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

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

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

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

FILM NIGHT
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other events in the village

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FILM NIGHT

Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50

Date	Film	Genre
July 26	**High Rise** with Tom Hiddlestone	Drama
Aug 30	**Dad's Army**	Comedy

Please bring your own refreshments

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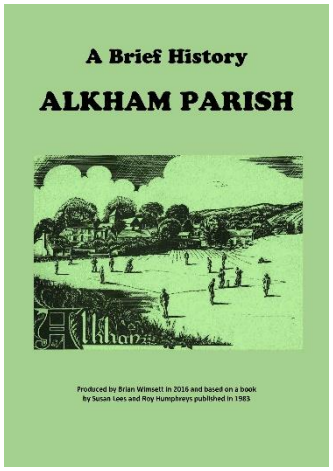
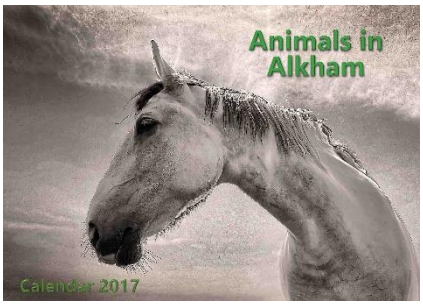


ALKHAM BOOK – In 1983 Sue Lees and Roy Humphreys published a book about the history of Alkham. It was very popular but unfortunately it was not possible to get a reprint. I have therefore produced a book based largely on the original but with updates and additional material. It is currently being printed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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

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

Other events in the village

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

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

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)
07.59 08.27 09.47 11.17 13.17 14.47 17.27 Sat. 09.47 11.17 13.17 15.27
09.06 10.36 12.06 14.06 16.06 18.01 Sat. 10.36 12.06 14.06 16.06

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

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Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
Church Warden Richard Tapsell 822295
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
County Councillor - Geoffrey Lymer 079604 90 929
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No. 272 September 2016

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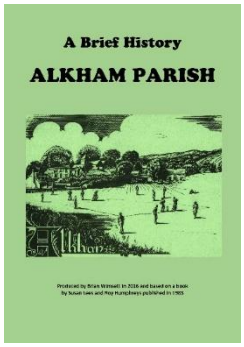
BYWAYS CLOSURE – On the 8th August over 60 people came to a meeting at Alkham Village Hall to discuss and complain about the temporary closure of three byways, which have been severely rutted by off-road vehicles. The byways are Pimlico Way, which runs from South Alkham across the hill to Slip Lane with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



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

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

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



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

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

FILM NIGHT

Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50

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

Please bring your own refreshments

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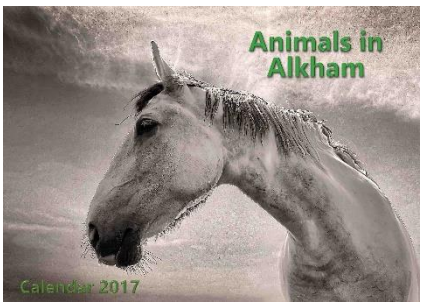
FLOWERS IN CHURCHYARD – The heads of roses and other flowers have been cut off in St. Anthony's churchyard and left by the grave. It is not known who has done this but it is very upsetting for the relatives who put the flowers there, to see such thoughtless desecration. If anybody is aware of the people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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791 alkham.pc@outlook.com
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W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
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Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
Church Warden Richard Tapsell 822295
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
County Councillor - Geoffrey Lymer 079604 90 929
District Councillor - Pauline Beresford 216187: Nick Dixon 07815691638

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
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Telephone 01304 824969

No. 273 October 2016

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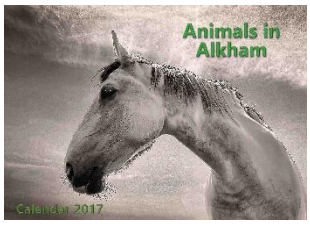
BALLOON – At the Alkham Fete on the 9th of July, 45 sponsored balloons were let off and one was carried by the wind in an easterly direction. It probably travelled over Calais, Antwerp and Dusseldorf before landing some 600 miles away at a village in Germany called Erlau, west of Dresden. It was found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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FETE COMMITTEE MEETING - there will be a Fete Meeting at 8 pm on 19th October in the Village Hall, to review the last fete, divide the profits and plan for next year. Please come along.
Paul Tapsell 07947016697

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

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

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

FILM NIGHT

Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50

Date	Film
Sept. 27	**Florence Foster Jenkins** Comedy with Meryl Streep
Oct 25	**The Nice Guys** Russell Crowe - Ryan Gosling

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

MEDAL – Congratulations to Glyn Jones, who lives in Newlyns Meadow, for being one of the first recipients of a Merchant Navy Medal for Meritorious Service. He was awarded it for services to the Merchant Navy and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

SOUTHERN Equestrian & the Alkham Valley Garden Centre would like to invite everyone to their Late Night Christmas Evening on Thursday 24th November 2016, open til 8pm. Mince Pies, Mulled Wine & refreshments on the night!

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

SMALL WORLD – An email was received from Minnesota after a 'Garden Talk' article in the Newsletter was read. Not sure how that was achieved but it led to photos being taken of the Coat of Arms of the Slater family on the front wall of Box Tree Cottage in Slip Lane. Correspondence then ensued with the result that the 'Brief History of Alkham' book was sent to Minnesota at no charge. Despite requests for no payment £100 was received, which has be added to the Alkham Fund. Many thanks to Steve Slater in Rochester, Minnesota. **Editor**

GARDEN TALK - We next meet on Friday 7th October at 'Box Tree' Slip Lane from 7.30p.m. Our host will be Pam Sayers and we are assured of a warm welcome. We will also be discussing arrangements for our end of season meal in December.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Wednesday	19	Fete Committee meeting in village hall 8.00pm
Tuesday	25	Film show in VH 7.30pm – The Nice Guys

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

Bus times from Alkham to Dover

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

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

SANDWICH TOUR - This attractive sounding visit to Sandwich has been cancelled. Burn-out? Lack of response was the reason for its cancellation. However, we will try again next year through the good services of Cherry Leppard who can rustle up a crowd.
Jo Walker (Secretary - 01304 821641)

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

FILM NIGHT
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50

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

Please bring your own refreshments

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



ALKHAM HEROES - Arthur Henry Daniels was a Lance Corporal in the 7th Battalion The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment). Arthur was 'killed in action' aged 21, on Saturday, 18th November 1916 - just 22 weeks after his brother, Edwin. It seems probable that Arthur died during the Battle of the Ancre which was fought in sleet and snow and ended on November 18th marking the end of the Battle of the Somme. Arthur is buried at Regina Trench Cemetery, Grandcourt. There is more information on Arthur in the Heroes section of the village website. If you can add any more information, please get in touch. A cross will be added to the memorial wall at the bottom of Slip Lane to commemorate Arthur. **Mark Robson**

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

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W.I. secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

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

Other events in the village

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

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6th	**Praise 4.30 pm**	**Eucharist 9.30am**	**Worship 11 am**
Saturday 12th	**Messy church St. Radigunds 3.00 – 5.00 pm**		
Sunday 13th Remembrance	**10.15 am**	**10.15 am; at Memorial, 10.55.**	**10.30 am**
Sunday 20th	**Service 11.00 am**	**Evensong 6.00**	**Eucharist 9.30**
Sunday 27th	**Benefice Eucharist St. Radigunds 10.00 am**		

FROM THE VICARAGE - With shorter and colder days November arrives, bringing with it first All Saints Day and then Remembrance Sunday – both occasions when we remember those who are no longer with us. In church, the Bible readings begin to focus our attention on our eternal home. November follows October, when I have a birthday – in fact I've now had rather a lot of them, as one of my cousins cruelly reminded me recently. Actually, he meant well. On learning that an attempt at taming the Vicarage garden had left me with a bad back he recited the standard NHS advice about such things (he's a nurse), and finished with: "…and remember you're not twenty anymore!" "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom," say the Psalms. Others have their bucket lists; with my days numbered and my eternal home drawing nearer, I've decided to apply my heart to wisdom and keep my grey cells going for a bit longer by studying for the postgraduate degree I never got round to before. The clerk at the Registry pulled a face when I told him my date of birth. I walked into class to find that I'm old enough to be grandfather to most of my fellow students. That said, they seem happy enough to put up with me. They even laugh at my jokes. Now all I just need to read a pile of books and hand in my first essay by January. I used to do things like that, and even though I'm not twenty anymore I'm still going to try. And now, if you'll excuse me, I've just remembered the applying my heart to wisdom that I've got to do for next Wednesday morning. Here goes… **Brian Williams**

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

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

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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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No. 275 December 2016

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Merry Christmas

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS - The Christmas tree lights will be switched on at 4:45pm on Saturday 3rd December. Father Christmas will be there and we will sing a few carols before moving on to The Marquis where once again Dave Hall and his team have invited us all for mince pies and mulled wine. See you there. **Den Barnard**



ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY There will be a walk on 27th December starting from the Village Hall at 10.30 a.m. and ending around midday. There are still many viable footpaths we can use! Everyone and their dogs are welcome. It is an opportunity to meet, walk and talk. **J Walker (Sec)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

FILM NIGHT **Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50**	
Date	**Film**
There is no film in December	
Jan 31	**Bridget Jones's Baby**
Please bring your own refreshments	

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



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

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EDWARD HASTED – Susan Lees very kindly lent me a book, the original of which was printed in Canterbury in 1799, entitled 'The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent' written by Edward Hasted. Edward dedicated his life to this book and the majority of the historical information in 'A Brief History, Alkham Parish' before 1800 was from his book. Edward covered just about every town and village in Kent and not only gave historical information but topical as well. He says that 'a near modern' house was built in Stanford (presumably Georgian) and that Buckland was adjacent to the Great London Road and had a leper hospital. When I Googled his name 'British History on Line' came up and the whole of his book, in the final version amounting to several volumes, has been transcribed and published free of charge. Edward Hasted had a colourful life including leaving his wife for another woman and going to France but they had to return because of the Napoleonic war. Another page for the Alkham book has been written and will be included in a reprint. If anyone would like a copy of the page please contact me. **Brian Wimsett**



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

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

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



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

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OZ on HYGGE – When the clocks went back at the end of October, followed by dark skies, cold wet weather, and a vicious chest cold, I was soon overwhelmed by severe seasonal tetchiness. What was missing, of course, was a little 'hygge', a Danish word that has been much discussed of late, and was third in this year's Collins Dictionary Word of the Year award. Hygge (pronounced 'hooga'), a design concept that may soon rival Swedish glass and Norwegian wood, originally meant 'well-being' in Norwegian, but in Danish it means roughly 'cosy', and describes a feeling of comfort and contentment. The Danish suffer long, cold, winters with up to seventeen hours of darkness a day, and so hygge is very much concerned with securing warmth, light, comfort food, strong drink, and companionship. This year, hygge has become popular across the whole of Europe, with consumers searching for, and companies providing, these things, together with furnishings, candles, fashion, toys, indoor games, and the like. In particular there are many books on hygge to be purchased this Christmas, including no less than eighteen titles in Waterstone's. This transcontinental enthusiasm for hygge may also be explained in part by the fact that for many people it has been quite a hard year politically, with ongoing worries about jobs, money and wars. It's also very gratifying to be advised to do things that immediately make one feel good. So I don't intend any more to pussyfoot around in dealing with these attacks of tetchiness. If I feel low, I shall eat, drink and be merry, and if anyone says anything about it, I shall look them straight in the eye and bellow "Hygge! Hygge! Hygge!" (pronounced of course "Hooga! Hooga! Hooga!"). A Very Happy Christmas to you All! **(Steve Osborn)**



CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

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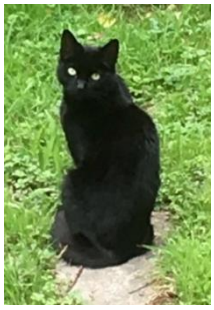
Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

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

Other events in the village

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



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

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

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

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Parish Clerk Angela Miller 824791 alkham.pc@outlook.com **: Vicar** Brian Williams 01303 243784 **: Church Warden** Richard Tapsell 822295 **MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669 : County Councillor - Geoffrey Lymer 079604 90 929**
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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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No. 276 January 2017

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CHRISTMAS TREE – On the 3rd December over 60 adults and children sung carols before the tree lights were switched on by Star and Scarlett. Father Christmas then appeared and thanks go to Roy Smith for arranging this; later mulled wine and mince pies were enjoyed courtesy of the Marquis. Den Barnard received a letter from Freya Miller, which said that the little fir tree on the green looked very sad next to the big one. She enclosed a star and asked that it be put on the little tree with some baubles. Pleased to say that the little tree now looks very happy. There was a raffle afterwards, which raised £100 for Doctor Barnardo's and thanks to the Marquis and Lady's Keep Fit for donating the prizes. The £90 for the big tree was paid for by the Alkham Fund and thanks go to Richard Tapsell, Don Hobday and Ken Spencer for their help.

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



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

VACANCY FOR CLERK TO ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Happy New Year

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

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

FILM NIGHT

Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50

Date	Film
There is no film in December	
Jan 31	**Bridget Jones's Baby**
Please bring your own refreshments	

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

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

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



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

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ALKHAM BOOK Whilst compiling a new page for the Alkham history book about Pimlico, I tried to find exactly where it was. Brenda Trundell at South Alkham was very helpful but Alan Latham sent me an aerial view of the area from Google Earth in 1940, which showed it clearly. Martin Scherer also provided information about Pimlico and its derivation and Sue Lees found a photo of the house, shown above. By chance I met Irene Saunders and her husband from Hawkinge who, to my surprise, gave me a photograph of petrol pumps that used to be on the Valley Road by Drellingore. The petrol was 1 shilling 5 pence a gallon or £5 in today's prices. **Brian Wimsett**



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

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Other events in the village

Tuesday	3	White cliffs metal detecting 7 to 9pm in village hall
Monday	9	Parish Council meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	10	W.I. meeting in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	14	SEK Astronomical Society in village hall in afternoon
Monday	16	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	28	Beekeepers in village hall in the afternoon
Tuesday	31	Film show in VH 7.30pm – Bridget Jone's Baby

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

FROM THE VICARAGE - Dear Friends, I told you a few months ago that I recently went back to being a student – at least on one day a week. As Christmas approached, one of my fellow students told us a story which I rather like. She has lived much of her life in Turkey. Her father is Turkish and a Muslim, and her mother is English – and her mother likes to celebrate Christmas, in spite of living in a mainly Muslim village. When she invited some Muslim friends round for Christmas dinner, they were totally confused. Were they going to celebrate New Year? No, they were told, they were going to celebrate *Christmas*. They turned up at the house, not really knowing what to expect or even if they really ought to be there, given what they had been told was being celebrated. After all, isn't Christmas for *Christians*? First they admired the tree, with all its decorations and presents all around. Then they enjoyed the roast dinner with turkey and stuffing, and the Christmas pudding and mince pies that followed. They pulled crackers, wore silly hats, and even had a visit from Santa. In fact they had a wonderful time. They left asking to be invited to Christmas again next year. I thought afterwards that while we hope and pray for Peace on Earth, it's great to know that there are those who, in their own small way, are actively working towards bringing it about. A happy and peaceful 2017 to everyone! **Brian Williams**

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

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

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No. 277 February 2017

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FILM NIGHT
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50

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

Please bring your own refreshments

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)	
Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am **Whist Drive** 7.30 pm

Other Events in the village hall		
Wednesday	**1**	Fete Meeting 8pm in the village hall
Tuesday	**7**	Metal detectors in village hall 7 to 9pm
Saturday	**11**	Annual quiz in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	**14**	W.I. in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	**20**	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	**25**	Beekeepers in village hall in the afternoon
Tuesday	**28**	Film Club in village hall 7.30pm

CHURCH SERVICES, February 2017

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

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

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)
07.59 08.27 09.47 11.17 13.17 14.47 17.27 Sat. 09.47 11.17 13.17 15.27
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District Councillors Pauline Beresford 216187: Nick Dixon 07815691638
W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585 **Footpaths** antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641 – **Webs** alkham.org & alkhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk

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No. 278 March 2017

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

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

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

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

OFF ROAD VEHICLES – There are 4 by 4's which are causing problems around the Parish. The vehicles have lights on their roofs and have been along Pimlico Way, which is now like treacle, and they also entered a field in the Ellinge area causing a lot of damage. If they are causing a problem and you contact the police, please send an email (via county.hall@kent.gov.uk) to the Public Rights of Way with details such as the date and crime reference number. If it is not reported to PROW they will say there are few problems and getting a Traffic Regulation Order will be more difficult.

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

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

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

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

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

FILM NIGHT
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50

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

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

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

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

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

BOOK CLUB - The book club for March is on Wednesday 29th at the home of Mairi Jones - Turangi, Newlyn Meadows, Alkham 01304 826619, commencing at 7.30 The book chosen for discussion is The Dust That Falls from Dreams by Louis de Bernieres. For more information about book club contact Jane Aslett 01304 824729.



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

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

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



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

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

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Nick Dixon 07815691638
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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

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

Other Events in the village hall

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

CHURCH SERVICES, February 2017

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Wednesday 1st			**Eucharist 7.00 pm**
Sunday 5th	**Evensong 4.30 pm**	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Worship 11am**
Saturday 11th	**Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm**		
Sunday 12th	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Worship 11am**	
Sunday 19th	**Worship 11am**	**Evensong 6.00 pm**	**Eucharist 9:30 am**
Sunday 26th	**Family Service 11am**	**Family Service 11am**	**Eucharist 9:30 am**

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)
07.59 08.27 09.47 11.17 13.17 14.47 17.27 Sat. 09.47 11.17 13.17 15.27
09.06 10.36 12.06 14.06 16.06 18.01 Sat. 10.36 12.06 14.06 16.06

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

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

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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No. 279 April 2017

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KENT SPRING CLEAN COMES TO ALKHAM

The nationwide Keep Britain Tidy Campaign came to Alkham early in March and our new Clerk to the Parish Council, Janice Lambert, organised the band of volunteers shown here who filled ten bags with rubbish in just an hour of work. Well done! How about we do this on a regular basis? **Den Barnard**

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

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

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

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

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

FILM NIGHT
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50

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

Please bring your own refreshments

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am **Whist Drive** 7.30 pm

Other Events in the village hall

Saturday	**1**	Jumble Sale village hall 11am
Monday	**3**	Parish Council meeting
Tuesday	**4**	Metal detectors in village hall 7 to 9pm
Saturday	**8**	SEKAS in village hall in afternoon
Tuesday	**11**	W.I. in village hall 7.30pm
Wednesday	**12**	Fete meeting 8pm – see page 1
Monday	**20**	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	**18**	Village Hall AGM 7pm in village hall – see page 1
Wednesday	**19**	PCC AGM in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	**25**	Film Night in village hall 7.30pm

CHURCH SERVICES, February 2017

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 2nd	**Evensong 6.30 pm**	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Worship 11am**
Saturday 8th	**Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm**		
Sunday 9th	**Eucharist and Palm Procession 9.30 am Alkham: 11am Capel**		
Compline: Mon. 10th 7 pm Capel: Tues. 11th 7pm Alkham: Wed. 12th 7pm Hougham			
Thursday 13th	**Benefice Eucharist Capel 7.30 pm**		
Friday 14th	**Devotion 12.00–1.00**	**Devotion 1.00–2.00**	**Devotion 2.00-3.00**
Saturday 15th	**Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm**		
Sunday 16th	**Eucharist 11.00 am**		
Sunday 23rd	**Benefice Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am**		

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)
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09.06 10.36 12.06 14.06 16.06 18.01 Sat. 10.36 12.06 14.06 16.06

FROM THE VICARAGE - Working in school the other day, I recognised her the moment she walked into the classroom. We had first met years before when I was covering her English teacher's sick leave, and I remembered her for all the wrong reasons. But now aged sixteen, and with her exams just months away, surely she would settle to the work her teacher had left for her without any fuss. No such luck. Smiles, gentle persuasion, the promise of what would happen if she continued to throw pencils at the boys – none of this had any effect. She eventually stormed out of the room. 'All you need is love,' sang The Beatles. The New Testament describes love as the greatest of God's gifts. Jesus spoke of the need to love God, our neighbours and even our enemies if we want to make it into heaven – which, as we all know, is easier said than done. For a gift to be of any use, it has to be used. As I write, Easter is still about a month away. Giving up biscuits or chocolate for Lent would have been a challenge, but the greatest challenge is to practice the gift. So I close my eyes and think of all those who – well, present me with a challenge. I pray for them, and remember that God loves them, and pray that I might love them too; and one of life's frustrations becomes a ticket to heaven. **Brian Williams**

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

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No. 280 May 2017

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FILM NIGHT
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50

Date	Film
April 25	The Danish Girl
May 30	Manchester by the sea

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ALKHAM BOOK – The reproduction of the photos in the first revision of 'A Brief History – Alkham Parish' were not very good, so there has been a further reprint. A new company was used and the book is now bound, rather than stapled, and is of a higher quality. I took the opportunity to do further additions with more details about South Alkham (see Yew Tree Cottage and Rhys Cottages above), Wolverton, Drellingore and Chalksole. If you have previously bought the book and would like a copy of the latest version, it is available free by contacting me on 824969 or brianwimsett@hotmail.com. The price of the book is £5.

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

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

GARDEN TALK - Our next Meeting will be at "Bramhall", Alkham Valley Road, where Susannah & Richard will be showing us the progress of their large garden - flowers, fruit and veg in a lovely setting with far reaching views. We meet at 7.30p.m. **Janet Adamson**

ALKHAM W.I. - We had a lovely evening being entertained by the ukulele band and look forward to seeing them again. Our next meeting will be on the 9th May which will be our Resolutions evening. Hostesses Sue Ross Lucy McKenzie; Raffle Alison Warnock. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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ALKHAM HEROES - Edward Collard was a Private in the 2nd Battalion, The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment. He was "killed in action" on Sunday 13th May 1917 aged 37. At this time, his regiment was involved in an attack on the Hindenburg Line including the action at Bullecourt. According to the CWGC website, Edward has no known burial place and is remembered on the memorial at Arras, however, the family headstone at St Anthony's says he is "interred at Bullecourt". I suspect Edward may have been buried originally at Bullecourt but his grave's location lost in subsequent battles that raged in this area. For more information on Edward, including a photograph please visit the 'Heroes' section of the Village website www.alkham.org. **Mark Robson**

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

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

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

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

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

Other Events in the village hall

Tuesday	**2**	Metal detectors in village hall 7 to 9pm
Thursday	**4**	KCC elections in village hall 7am to 10pm
Monday	**8**	Parish Council meeting 7.30 in village hall – all welcome
Tuesday	**9**	W.I. in village hall 7.30pm
Saturday	**13**	South East Kent Astrological Society in village hall
Monday	**15**	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	**30**	Film Night in village hall 7.30pm

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sun30th April	**Benefice Eucharist at St Mary's: 10.00 am**		
Sunday 7th	**Evensong 6.30 pm**	**Eucharist 9.30am**	**Worship 11am**
Saturday 13th	**Messy Church St Radigund's Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm**		
Sunday 14th	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Worship 11am**	**Rogation 3.00 pm**
Sunday 21st	**Worship 11am**	**Evensong 6.30 pm**	**Eucharist 9.30am**
Thursday 25th	**Benefice Eucharist Alkham 7.00 pm**		
Sunday 28th	**Benefice Eucharist with prayer ministry 10.00 am Hougham**		

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)
07.59 08.27 09.47 11.17 13.17 14.47 17.27 Sat. 09.47 11.17 13.17 15.27
09.06 10.36 12.06 14.06 16.06 18.01 Sat. 10.36 12.06 14.06 16.06

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

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

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No. 281 June 2017

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FILM NIGHT
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50

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

Please bring your own refreshments

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THE NEWSLETTER – This month, I have been producing the Newsletter for 20 years. Originally it was photocopied but I now use two duplex laser printers producing 1360 A4 prints, which are stapled to make 340 Newsletters. I then take them to the 17 deliverers around the parish, who very kindly walk round and put it through your letter box. Many thanks go to these deliverers some of whom have been delivering the Newsletter since it began in September 1993. The adverts just cover the cost of the toner, paper and postage with any profit going into the Newsletter Club Account at Nat West. I very rarely mention myself but on this occasion, I thought I would. **Brian Wimsett – editor**

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

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

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

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

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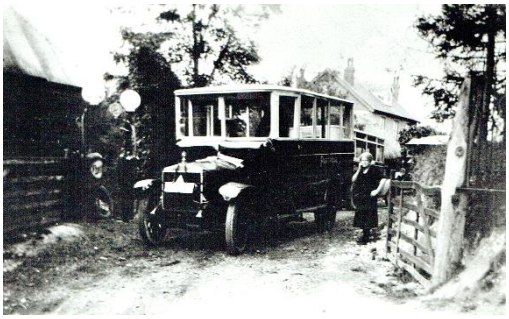
OZ on OVERLORD – On 'D-Day', 6 June 1944, Allied forces commenced their invasion of German-held Western Europe with the Battle of Normandy, codenamed 'Operation Overlord.' This followed 'Operation Bodyguard', the Allies' campaign of deception, designed to achieve maximum surprise. The British government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

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



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

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)	
Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am **Whist Drive** 7.30 pm

Other Events in the village hall

Tuesday	**6**	Metal detectors in village hall 7 to 9pm
Thursday	**8**	Parliamentary elections in village hall 7am to 10pm
Saturday	**10**	South East Kent Astrological Society in village hall
Tuesday	**13**	W.I. in village hall 7.30pm
Monday	**19**	Bird Club in village hall 7.30pm
Tuesday	**27**	Film Night in village hall 7.30pm

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 4th	**Evensong 6.30 pm**	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Worship 11am**
Saturday 10th	**Messy Church St Radigund's, Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm**		
Sunday 11th	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Worship 11am**	
Sunday 18th	**Worship 11am**	**Evensong 6.00 pm**	**Eucharist 9:30 am**
Sunday 25th	**Benefice Eucharist and rededication of bells 10.00 am, Hougham**		

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

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

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Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784: **MP Charlie Elphicke** - 01304 379669 **KCC - Geoffrey Lymer** 07960490929**: DDC - P Beresford** 216187**: N Dixon** 07815691638**: AVS** cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
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FROM THE VICARAGE - I have never forgotten the Sunday morning, just a few weeks after I arrived, when I climbed into the pulpit and began my sermon with the story of the three vicars who had bats in the belfry. If you were there, you probably remember how it goes. If you weren't, sadly I don't have space here to tell you how it ends. In any case, it hasn't seemed quite so funny since it turned out that I also have bats, not just in the belfry but in other places too – and they're not housetrained, either. Bats love old church buildings just as much as many humans do. The buildings tell the stories of those who have prayed in them down the centuries, and the stories of the communities that they serve. But they need looking after, which is why they are inspected by architects every five years. The bells at St Laurence Church, Hougham had been declared unsafe many years ago and not rung for at least forty years. It was while looking through an architect's report a while ago that we realised that nobody had inspected the bells in years. Might we walk in one morning and find bits of bell strewn across the floor? Brian Butcher, from Hythe, who knows about these things, kindly agreed to take a look. The result? Last month the bells rang for a wedding for the first time in decades. Thanks to Brian and his team the bells, which date from around 1500 up to 1724, have been made safe and restored to working order. We're looking forward to 25th June, when Bishop Trevor Wilmott, Bishop of Dover, will be at the 10.00 am service to rededicate them. What the bats will make of it is another matter… **Brian Williams**

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
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Telephone 01304 824969

No. 282 July 2017

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FILM NIGHT	
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July 25	Viceroy's House with Hugh Bonneville
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ADDERS - A vet in Dorset is warning dog owners about an increase in adder attacks on dogs. Adders, which may reach 70cm in length, can be told apart from grass snakes and slow worms by their distinctive zig-zag markings. Snake bites can be fatal so dog owners need to act quickly if a dog has been bitten. The dog will almost certainly cry out as bites are very painful. There is usually severe swelling around the bite area and if around the face or throat can be very dangerous. If your dog has been bitten, try and keep the dog as calm and still as possible and it is better to bring transport to the dog rather than making them walk back. Go straight to your vet and do not interfere with the wound or tie any sort of tourniquet because there is a danger of tissue damage around the bite.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am **Whist Drive** 7.30 pm

Other Events in the village hall

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

CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

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

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No. 283 August 2017

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FILM NIGHT	
July 25	Viceroy's House with Hugh Bonneville
Aug 29	Their Finest With Bill Nighy
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50 Please bring your own refreshments	

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

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

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

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

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

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

LAMB or hogget from local rare breed shetland sheep is for sale during the next few weeks. Shetlands produce very high-quality meat with outstanding flavour and fine texture. As with other primitive breeds Shetlands have far leaner meat than modern sheep breeds. Hogget is between 12 and 24 months and even more flavoursome than lamb. If you are interested in a half or whole animal please let me know. A whole is16 -18kgs. Price is £7.95 per kg. **Peter Smith 07711 648255**

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

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

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ST ANTHONY'S GUITAR CONCERT



The annual St Anthony's Guitar Concert was an outstanding success once again on 24th June. A packed church was treated to some excellent performances from the past and present students of James D'Alton Ballas. From the solos of pupils as young as seven-year-old to the international standard of Grant McFarlane Dowse (pictured) and the talented Simon Langton Quartet; the quality seems to improve every year. One of the highlights of the evening was created by invited guest Barney Court on piano when he played and sang 'Bridge Over Troubled Water' to a tremendous ovation. The evening raised £700 for the Friends of St Anthony's which will be doubled by a fabulous donation from Mark Loveday. Thanks to all who contributed, performed and helped. Looking forward to next year! **Den Barnard**

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

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

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

Other Events in the village hall

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

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 6th	Benefice Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Saturday 12th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 13th	Benefice Eucharist St. Radigunds 10.00 am		
Sunday 20th	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 27th	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		

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

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

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

Brian Williams

POLICE 999 or 101
Newsletter brianwimsett@hotmail.com
Parish Clerk Janice Lambert 07800 943434 alkham.pc@outlook.com
Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
Church Wardens Susannah Tapsell 822295 & Geoff Gaskill 823100
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
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No. 284 September 2017

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FILM NIGHT	
Aug 29	Their Finest With Bill Nighy
Sept. 26	LION with Nichol Kidman
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50 Please bring your own refreshments	

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PEOPLE STANDING FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION

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

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

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

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

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

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ALKHAM HEROES - Ralph Drake-Brockman was the son of Alfred and Catherine Drake-Brockman and born on the 17th March, 1888 at 78 Cheriton Road, Folkestone. The Brockman family lived at Chalksole from 1913 - 1919. Between 1902 - 1906 Ralph attended Dover College and was a Prefect, Head of House and Captain of the Running Team. The 1911 Census shows that Ralph was single and a 23 year old Law Student. By 1913, Ralph was working as a solicitor in Folkestone. Ralph, serving as Lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery, was awarded the Military Cross on 18th June 1917. He was "killed in action", aged 29, at Messines, Belgium on Saturday, September 29th 1917 when a shell exploded as he, his brother and their Colonel were reconnoitring for an observation post. Ralph is buried at Kandahar Farm Cemetery, Belgium. A cross will be placed on the wall at the bottom of Slip Lane on the anniversary of the centenary of Ralph's death. See the Heroes section of the village website for more details. **Mark Robson**

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

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

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

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

Other Events in the village hall

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

CHURCH SERVICES

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

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)
07.59 08.27 09.47 11.17 13.17 14.47 17.27 Sat. 09.47 11.17 13.17 15.27
09.06 10.36 12.06 14.06 16.06 18.01 Sat. 10.36 12.06 14.06 16.06

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

Brian Williams

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W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
Church Wardens Susannah Tapsell 822295 & Geoff Gaskill 823100
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
KCC - Geoffrey Lymer 07960490929
DDC - P Beresford 216187
WEBS www.alkham.org & www.alkhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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No. 285 October 2017

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TRAFFIC – In 1993, before the new A20 to Dover was opened, there was about 7000 vehicles per day (vpd) on the Alkham Valley Road. In 1998, after the first traffic calming measures were introduced in Alkham, KCC did a traffic count and recorded 5500 vpd but predicted that it would rise to 7000 vpd again. Geoff Hillier said at the recent Parish Council meeting that the traffic count in May recorded 5366 vpd west bound and 5136 vpd east bound. The Parish Council have agreed to fund another survey, following the removal of the 40mph limit on the A20 (TAP), to see if any traffic has returned to the A20. The photo (thanks to Pat Yeomans) shows the bend by the green in the 1930's when there was, a then worrying, 300 vpd. **editor**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FILM NIGHT	
Sept. 26	LION with Nichol Kidman
October 31	Churchill with Brian Cox
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50 Please bring your own refreshments	

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PATH – Although it is not a public footpath, the village hall has had a concrete path constructed behind and to the side of the hall. It is used by a lot of people to avoid going through the narrow gap on the Valley Road. The work was carried out by Ben Spicer, who lives nearby, and he has done a superb job. Fencing was put across the path whilst the concrete set but someone pulled it down and walked over the path, which was both thoughtless and arrogant. Any discolouration is down to the hall as we asked Ben to use the sharp sand from the rotting sandbags (probably with road salt in) and aggregate. **editor**

UPDATE - The three people who were seriously injured as a result of the car hitting the wall in the centre of Alkham in June have been discharged from hospital. There were no fatalities and no arrests have been made but the investigation is ongoing.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Every little helps

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

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

Other Events in the village hall

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

CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

07.59 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 14.16 15.16 17.16 18.16
Sat. 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 15.16 17.16

9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 *16.07* 16.32 17.32 18.32
Sat. 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 16.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - The battle to tame the Vicarage garden continues. I haven't won yet, but neither have I completely lost. You should see what surfaced unexpectedly over the summer when I attacked the undergrowth with the rake – plastic carrier bags, yoghurt pots, toys lost while being played with in the garden years ago (too broken to salvage – sorry, kids!), and even a faded Walkers Crisps packet that the internet says dated from 1988. I binned it along with everything else, though I suppose I could have tried selling it to a collector… Plastic doesn't go away. In fact an email I received recently claims that the Pacific Ocean now contains enough waste plastic to cover an area the size of France and that if nothing changes there will one day be more plastic than fish in our oceans. So would I sign a petition demanding that the United Nations declare all this plastic the world's 196th country – The Trash Isles? Now as ideas go, this isn't as daft as it sounds. Under international law, the argument goes, if The Trash Isles were recognised as a country, the other 195 would be legally obliged to clean it all up instead of continuing to add to it. Many churches are observing the Season of Creation between 1st September and 4th October – St Francis of Assisi's Feast Day. Harvest Festival follows. It's a time for thinking about the natural world, our care of it, our dependence on it, giving thanks for all that it gives us and thinking of the needs of others. In case you're wondering, yes, I did sign. No, I'm not planning to emigrate to The Trash Isles anytime soon – but I'm still out in the garden with my rake and wheelie bin, doing my bit. **Brian Williams**

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PATH – Many thanks to Alison Spicer (and son Ben) who very kindly offered to plant the verges by the new concrete path behind the village hall. We gave Alison £100 to buy the shrubs, which her son Ben then planted. The narrow road adjacent to the Marquis is difficult to walk through, so we have improved the path round the back of the hall and added another light; the path cost £1263 to construct.

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY AGM - The AGM of the Society will be held on Tuesday 21st November at 7pm in the Village Hall. The acting Chairman and Honorary Treasurer for the past 14 years, Mr Barry Sheppard, has stood down and elections for all officers and committee members of the Society will be held. Nominations for the election of officer from any current member should be made by emailing the Hon Secretary (Jo Walker) at alkhamvalleysociety@btinternet.com prior to the meeting; all nominations must be supported by a seconder who should also be a current Society member. The guest speaker will be Robert Warnock from Church Farm at Capel on the subject of "farming in the Alkham Valley". Members are reminded that their annual subscriptions (£5 per person) will be due and should be paid at the AGM. We will welcome anyone who has the interest of the Valley at heart and who wishes to listen to the very interesting talk from Robert to join us on the evening. As usual a curry supper (£5 per head) and quiz after the AGM at the Fox in Temple Ewell has been arranged by the Hon Sect for members. **Bev Hubbard**

SPEEDWATCH - We want to carry out more regular sessions of Speedwatch but to do so we need further volunteers to share the load. Drivers need to be aware that Speedwatch operates in Alkham. Please email Geoff Hillier on gdhillier@hotmail.com if you'd like to help.

Southern Equestrian and the Alkham Valley Garden Centre would like to invite you all to our Annual Christmas Late Night Shopping on Thursday 30th November until 8pm! There will be mince pies and mulled wine and we look forward to seeing you there!

FATHER CHRISTMAS is visiting Alkham at Greenwood Farm, Chalksole Green Lane, on the 3rd and 10th of December from 4pm to 5.30pm. He will be in his log cabin with his elves in the enchanted fairy lit wood and every child will receive a gift from Father Christmas. Donations to Demelza House . **Anne & John Huggins**

TEMPLE EWELL C of E Primary School - Our 2018 Reception class Open Morning will be held on Thursday 16th November 2017 at 9.15 or 10.30am. Please call the office on 01304 822665 to book your place.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

A huge thank you to all who supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning in the village hall on Saturday 23rd September. We all had a lovely morning and with the money raised on the day and lots of very generous donations given before and after the event I have been able to send £800.00 to this wonderful charity. So many of you were kind enough to bake the most delicious cakes, which were all sold! I was given some wonderful items to sell on the various stalls and lots of prizes for the tombola. The plant stall was also very popular. Thank you to everyone who helped in so many different ways to make it such a success. **Sue Ross**

ALKHAM VALLEY GARDEN CENTRE

Free Tearoom tasting days 4th & 5th November 11.00am to 3.00pm. Come along and try the food we serve and sell. See our new Christmas display and meet Santa! Visit our new Farm Shop, Fresh Fruit and Veg along with numerous other essentials.

BIKE – A lady's bike, which is in good condition, was found by the gate of Alkhamhurst Kennels. If you have lost it, or would like to have it, please phone Cate on 01304 822420.

FILM NIGHT	
October 31	Churchill with Brian Cox
Nov. 31	Dunkirk

Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50
Please bring your own refreshments

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TRAFFIC – The Alkham Valley Road has always been a source of concern. In 1905 the Parish Council wrote to the Rural DC about the smoke from traction engines going through the village and 18 years later complained that 20 vehicles per hour were travelling along it. In the 1960's some improvements were made to the road and in 1969 the Parish Council complained that the traffic had greatly increased and was driving too fast (see photo). In 1981 the M20 was built to Folkestone and in 1993, when the new A20 to Dover was opened, it effectively made the Valley Road an elongated slip road. The Parish Council are looking at options and more details will be included in next month's Newsletter. **editor**

HARVEST SUPPER – Once again the evening went very well and everyone seemed to enjoy the cottage pie supper. It was wonderful to see so many friends and neighbours gathered together for this annual event. The evening raised a total of £720.00 which is being doubled by The Mark Loveday Charitable Trust for which we are truly grateful. This year the proceeds will be donated to the St Anthony's Church kitchen and toilette project, with work planned to commence in January. This evening could only be the success it was because of those who helped by making cottage pies and crumbles, preparing the hall and washing up, and donating produce and raffle prizes. Finally, thank you Paul for your sparkling wit and encouragement throughout the auction. **Anne Huggins and Irene Barnard**

GUY FAWKES NIGHT will soon be upon us but already residents are being subject to the misuse of fireworks within the village area. Nothing wrong with celebrating events with fireworks, and the law supports this with published guidance. What I would respectfully suggest is that it is not acceptable to set off bird scarier type rockets in the village mid-afternoon, upsetting neighbours, the elderly, dog walkers, horse riders and livestock. Living in a rural community, especially Alkham, residents are just a stone's throw away from valuable livestock and vulnerable people. There is a need to respect that. Fireworks used responsibility are not a problem, used irresponsibly they are dangerous, anti-social, and likely to cause harm. Let us not accept this behaviour in our community. **Martin Hibbert**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our speakers for October were George Taylor and Peter Clayton who they gave a very interesting talk. Our November meeting is our AGM meeting followed by an auction; members that weren't at the October meeting please bring something along with you i.e. unwanted presents or gifts that you have received in the past. There will be no WI Quiz in the village hall at the end of October. Hostesses are Debbie Griggs and Susannah Tapsell; Raffle Cherry Leopard. New members welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

GARDEN TALK - After a busy summer of enjoyable meetings, we are now preparing for our seasonal meal to round off the year. This will be at Halton Court, Alkham Valley Road on Friday 8th December. Any members wishing to attend, please let me know by mid-November as catering needs to be arranged. **Janet Adamson 01303 893413**

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ALKHAM versus ELHAM
A House of Commons Select Committee was instructed to investigate the proposals of two competing companies to provide a railway service from Folkestone to Canterbury. On the 23rd of May 1884 they started taking evidence from the London, Chatham and Dover Railway Company (LC & DR) and the South Eastern Railway Company (SER). The LC & DR wanted to connect to the London to Dover main line at Ewell (Temple Ewell) and then build a railway along the Alkham Valley to the up-and-coming resort of Folkestone. The SER favoured a route from Shorncliffe (Cheriton) along the Elham Valley to Canterbury where it would join the London to Dover line. There was spirited discussion and John Collard, the publican at the Marquis of Granby who also produced hop poles, wanted a station at Alkham and so preferred the LC &DR proposal. The Committee found in favour of the SER and a main line standard railway was built along the Elham Valley. The photo shows a model of a station, that might have been, at Alkham as imagined by Ian Hollis. Time has shown that both proposals had no future as the Elham valley line was closed in 1947. If you have some spare time, go and search for the route along the Elham valley; there are some fascinating remnants including two tunnels and a deep cutting through Etchinghill (Each end Hill **AL**). **editor**

OZ on THE GREAT STORM (2) – While researching last month's story, I discovered that in 1703 England suffered a previous massive weather event, the first to be reported nationally by the new and growing journalism trade. It was known as 'The Great Storm', and occurred on 26 November (7 December in today's Gregorian Calendar), over southern England, with similar, but much heavier, consequences than those of the 1987 storm. The 1703 storm, retrospectively classified as a hurricane, hit the Welsh coast at midnight on 7 December and travelled rapidly through the Midlands to the South coast, where it did the greatest damage. On the way, it caused flooding that killed hundreds of people and thousands of animals in the West Country, and drove ship 15 miles inland. The first Eddystone Lighthouse was destroyed, killing the builder and five others. In the New Forest 4,000 oak trees were uprooted, and London alone lost 2,000 brick chimney stacks. Among the heaviest losses were those of shipping and seamen, both naval and commercial. The Royal Navy lost 13 ships and over 1,500 seamen, including the whole Channel Squadron, and over 40 merchant ships were lost. Over 1,000 men were lost on East Kent's Goodwin Sands, but amazingly some 200 were rescued by Deal boatmen in their tiny luggers, 82 years before the invention of the first unsinkable lifeboat. Many of these facts were collected by Daniel Defoe for inclusion in his book The Storm, published in July 1704. It didn't sell well, maybe because the events were recent and distressing, maybe at revulsion against Defoe's archaic view that the storm was a divine punishment for England's poor performance during the first year of the War of the Spanish Succession. However, the book is now regarded as 'the first substantial work of modern journalism.' **Steve Osborn**

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)	
Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am **Whist Drive** 7.30 pm

Other Events in the village hall		
Tuesday	**7**	Metal detectors 7 to 9pm
Saturday	**11**	SEK astronomical society in the afternoon
Tuesday	**14**	Alkham W.I. 7.30pm
Monday	**20**	Bird club 7.30pm
Tuesday	**21**	AVS AGM 7pm – see page 1
Saturday	**25**	Beekeepers in the afternoon
Tuesday	**28**	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 5th	**Praise 4.30 pm**	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Worship 11.00 am**
Saturday 11th	**Messy Church Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm**		
Sunday 12th	**Remembrance Service**		
	10.15 am	**10.15 am**	**10.30 am**
Sunday 19th	**Service 11.00 am**	**Evensong 6.00 pm**	**Eucharist 9.30 am**
Sunday 26th	**Benefice Eucharist with Prayer Ministry 10.00 am Capel**		

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)

07.59 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 14.16 15.16 17.16 18.16 Sat. 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 15.16 17.16
9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 *16.07* 16.32 17.32 Sat. 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 16.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - The girl on the bus had quarrelled with someone. "I told her – I'm fed up with it!" she told her friend. I know what you're thinking: "Fancy eavesdropping on private conversations - how rude!" Well, it wasn't exactly private; she was sitting at the front of the bus, telling all to her friend who was sitting half way along; I was sitting at the back along with everyone else. She was still explaining to a busload of passengers why she was so fed up when we reached my stop. November brings All Saints Day and Remembrance Sunday, with their focus on thoughts of our Eternal Home. Jesus said plenty about the best way to get there. In explaining, he warned his disciples that what is said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what is whispered behind closed doors will be proclaimed from the housetops. You can probably work out what he was trying to tell them. Of course, this was in a world before buses and mobile phones. I was once aboard a busy morning train to London when peace and quiet gave way to the ringing of a mobile phone just a few seats away. It rang again, and then again. Gradually we all became aware that Daughter Two was resisting Daughter One's attempts to get her ready for school. Mum's voice rose with exasperation as the drama at home unfolded, until everyone knew where to find her clean PE kit! I wonder – did Jesus know that we would one day live in a world in which what is whispered behind closed doors might easily end up being proclaimed not just from the housetops but also on the top decks of buses, or aboard trains to London? I wonder… **Brian Williams**

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W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
Church Wardens Susannah Tapsell 822295 & Geoff Gaskill 823100
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
KCC - Geoffrey Lymer 07960490929
DDC - P Beresford 216187
WEBS www.alkham.org & www.alkhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk

To contact the Parish Clerk or Councillors phone 07800 943434 or email alkham.pc@outlook.com

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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No. 287 December 2017

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FATHER CHRISTMAS is visiting Alkham at Greenwood Farm, Chalksole Green Lane, on the 3rd and 10th of December from 4pm to 5.30pm. He will be in his log cabin with his elves in the enchanted fairy lit wood and every child will receive a gift from Father Christmas. Donations to Demezla House. **Anne & John Huggins**



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS DISCO – There will be a disco for children, from tots to teens, in the village hall on the 9th December starting at 2pm and finishing at 4:30pm, giving time to get to the Christmas Tree lights switch-on. The cost of the disco is £3 per child and there will be a tuck shop and light refreshments for sale. **David Beaney**



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – The lights on the village Christmas tree, which is near the swings on the green, will be switched on at 4.45pm on the 9th December. Carols will be sung and afterwards The Marquis has invited everybody over for mince pies and mulled wine.

THE SPEED LIMIT will be revised from Temple Ewell along the Valley Road to Alkham with the 30mph limit being extended by about 300m followed by a 40mph limit to the Chilton area.

BYWAYS – Andrew Hutchinson, KCC Rights of Way Officer, kindly came to the Parish Council meeting to give an update on Pimlico Way and the Bull Run. We are now top of the list and he will shortly be seeking the views of local people as to the way forward.

BUSES – Following the introduction of the new timetable, the bus to Dover now takes longer as it goes via River and Buckland Hospital.

FOOTBALL PITCH – A bollard is going to be installed at the entrance to the football pitch to stop vehicles going onto the grass and causing damage. In addition, a post and rail fence is being erected over the open ground behind the goal post adjacent to the bollard.

ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH temporary closure - We are delighted that the long awaited and planned project to install a kitchenette and toilet will begin mid-January 2018.We are also very happy that the works will include much needed path lighting and Phase 2 will include limited parking. The works is expected to last between 15/16 weeks and the Church will be generally closed daily during this time. However, there are some planned services which will be advertised on the notice board and in the Newsletter. **St Anthony's PCC**

FOR SALE lady's size 16 Cotton Traders quilted coat with detachable hood – colour lilac. Worn once only £30. Please call 01304 268731.

THE PROPOSED traffic calming solutions for Alkham, drawn up by the Parish Council's Traffic Action Group (see page 2), will be explained and discussed, at an open meeting, to be held at the Village Hall on Thursday 7th December at 7.00 pm. Please come along and voice your views on this important subject. **Geoff Hillier**

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - There will be the annual walk on 27th December starting from the Alkham Village Hall at 10.30 a.m. and ending around midday. Everyone, and their dogs are welcome. It is an opportunity to meet, walk and talk. As usual, the more the merrier. Get your brain sharp for the Village Quiz. **J Walker (Sec)**

DEMONSTRATION and opportunity to create your own Christmas arrangement on Wednesday 13th December between 2pm and 5pm in the village hall. The workshop costs £25 and for more information please ring Shirley Prince on 828098.



NOVEMBER FILM Sorry, we got it wrong, as the Dunkirk film for November is not available until mid-December. We will therefore be showing 'Midnight Run' with Robert De Niro in its place and entry is free.

FILM NIGHT	
November 28	Midnight Run
December	No film
Jan 30	Dunkirk
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50 Please bring your own refreshments	

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TRAFFIC ACTION GROUP (TAG) - At the Parish Council meeting, Geoff Hillier outlined the groups proposals for making the Alkham Valley Road less attractive to through traffic and said that these proposals will be presented to the residents of Alkham for their views via a questionnaire to be distributed in the next Newsletter. In summary, the proposals are to move the start of the eastern 30 mph speed limit to Wolverton Hill and at the western end to the existing 40 mph signs by Spring Meadow. A gateway will be erected here at the western end of the village and another at the eastern end where the existing 30 mph sign is located. The road width will be reduced giving priority flow to traffic leaving the village. There will be a 20 mph speed limit, through the village, from the eastern gateway to the location of the existing 40 mph sign, which will become a 30 mph sign, towards the west. To enforce the limit, further road narrowings with priority flow will be installed at several locations within the 20 mph zone, including the Marquis, where the carriageway width will be reduced to have a 1.2m wide footpath by the wall to Forstal Cottage. A pedestrian crossing is also proposed near the village green play area. From the new 30 mph signs by Spring Meadow a 40 mph speed limit would be introduced to just beyond the Capel/ Hawkinge cross road by Patio Products, and then a 50 mph limit for the rest of the Alkham Valley Road westward. Weight restrictions are also proposed. The estimated cost of these measures would be in the order of £100,000 and it may be necessary to introduce the measures in a phased way to spread the cost to KCC and it is expected that the Parish will be called upon to contribute towards these costs, requiring funds to be raised over the period. By means of a questionnaire the residents of Alkham will be asked to prioritise these changes in the order to which they should be introduced (the original is on www.alkham.org). **Geoff Hillier**

ALKHAM HISTORY – An index for 'A Brief History – Alkham Parish' has been produced. It is one sheet of A4 and if you'd like a free copy please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com or phone 824969. There is a photo in the book of two boys standing outside a house called Homestead, and evidently the person in the bubble car in the photo on page 2 of last month's Newsletter was their brother Brian. **Editor**

WHIST is played in the village hall every Friday night and Chris Tapsell currently organizes it, but would like someone to take over from him. Please ring Chris on 01304 831724 if you are interested. In the 1950's, whist used to be played in the public bar of the Marquis of Granby and a reporter from the Dover Express wrote an article about them together with a photo, which showed the players, with the ladies wearing hats. The following week the police raided the Marquis as playing cards for money was against the law.

COMMUNITY PLAN - The first meeting of the team, which is putting together the Community Plan for Alkham, has taken place.

SNOW WARDENS are local volunteers who give up their spare time to help clear snow during bad weather in the winter. More details www.dover.gov.uk /Community/Snow-Wardens.aspx.

ALKHAM W.I. - The meeting on 14th November was the AGM, our last meeting before Christmas. Our Christmas meal will be on the 12th December at the Fox at Temple Ewell; all members to be there between 7 to 7.30pm. Alkham W.I. members will be carol singing on the 30th November at 6pm at Alkham Valley Garden Centre. We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. **Debbie Griggs**

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ALKHAM HEROES - George Bailey was the 'dearly beloved only son' of Robert and Sarah Bailey. The 1911 Census shows that George was aged 21, single and a Railway Clerk. George enlisted as a Gunner in the 2nd Brigade, Canadian Field Artillery on January 11th 1916 at Shorncliffe. George's Service Records, and the note from his commanding officer to his parents, states that George was killed instantaneously serving his King and Country, but this was not the case. George's Unit's War Diary records that "A sad incident occurred about 11 p.m. tonight, one of our gunners, Gnr George Bailey, was shot and killed by a French civilian". George is recorded as dying on Wednesday 26th December which was also the birthday of his twin sisters. He was 26 years old. George is buried at Villers-au-Bois Cemetery, Pas de Calais. At the time of his death George's parents ran the Carpenter's Arms at South Alkham. A cross will be added to the memorial wall at the bottom of Slip Lane to mark the centenary of George's death. For more info please visit the Heroes page of the village website. **Mark Robson**

PIMLICO WAY – The Parish Council wrote to the local authority in the 1930's and said that the condition of the road from South Alkham to Pimlico, known as Marsh's Hill, was in a very bad condition due to increased use by motorists and requested action. The same was said about the track to Mount Ararat, so 80 years later the same problems prevail except it's now mostly leisure related.



MITCH ON GRANNIE - Born the twelfth of fifteen children, Grannie was the prettiest and lived the longest - a hundred minus six weeks. Walnut Tree Cottage in a small Shropshire village was home, though not to all at once! The eldest few would have been long gone when the youngest arrived. Selling home-made bread from the cottage door was one income but what did the others do? I'm a bit hazy on that front though I know of at least one farm worker, another a horse doctor, another in charge of a 'big house' garden, and Grannie left school about twelve - to look after a vicar's three children, thirty miles away, home just once a year on Mothers' Day. There is a wonderful family portrait - mother and father Anne and Levi sitting serious and sedate with all the offspring pranged around, the oldest already greying, the youngest about twelve. Anne's nightly prayer was to live to see the youngest grow up. And she did! He was a young teenager and she an old lady of sixty-five. And what did Grannie's three children do? My Mum taught ceramic design after Goldsmith's; my lovely aunt was a hairdresser and Uncle Johnnie a land surveyor. But what I'm thinking today is that more than half of my generation (we are ten cousins) chose to teach – Languages, Chemistry, Primary Children, Maths, English Lit - a good spread! But that none of our children just one generation later is a classroom teacher. So was teaching a stepping stone career for us – a route out for the aspiring socially mobile? Certainly no lack of respect in those days – teachers and vicars equally valued in towns and villages. Now teenagers dream of being famous but without quite knowing what they want to be famous for. When my son aged twelve saw both parents up late marking every night I heard him mutter, 'I'm going to be a milkman when I grow up'. The wheel turns! Sociologists will know the whys and hows... **Jane Mitchell**

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am **Whist Drive** 7.30 pm

Other Events in the village hall

Monday	**4**	Parish Council in the village hall
Tuesday	**5**	Metal detectors 7 to 9pm
Thursday	**7**	Traffic meeting 7pm – see page 1
Saturday	**9**	Christmas tree lights turn-on – see page1
Saturday	**9**	SEK astronomical society in the afternoon
Monday	**18**	Bird club 7.30pm

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 3rd	Benefice Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		
Saturday 9th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 10th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Carols Capel Village Hall 3.00 pm	Carols West Hougham Hall 5pm
Sunday 17th	9 Lessons & Carols 6.30 pm	Worship 11.00 am	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 24th	Crib service 4.30 pm Midnight Mass 11.30pm	Crib service 3.00 pm Midnight Mass 11.30 pm	
Monday 25th			Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 31st	Benefice Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)

07.59 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 14.16 15.16 17.16 18.16 Sat. 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 15.16 17.16

9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 *16.07* 16.32 17.32 Sat. 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 16.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - I made a cup of tea and settled down to watch the news on television. Although outside the sound of fireworks was telling me that it was barely November, my TV had updated itself. It was nearly Christmas, it was saying, and it had added a channel that would allow me to watch as many sugary, sentimental Christmas films as I liked just to prove it. That, of course, along with all the snowy, tinselly commercials telling me where I should be doing my Christmas shopping this year, and what I should be buying. No doubt at some point Dicken's A Christmas Carol will be shown; Marley's ghost will send the spirits to miserly old Scrooge once again, Scrooge will change his ways and not only stop being so mean to poor Bob Cratchit but actually end up wishing everyone a happy Christmas. Dickens, like everyone else, had an idea of how he thought Christmas should be. It is sad when Christmas doesn't live up to expectations – the family reunion doesn't happen for some reason, the turkey is off and the Christmas cake tastes like a bullet. And yet when Boxing Day arrives you will still tell anyone who asks that yes, you had a wonderful Christmas! It's just when many people seem to think that Christmas is nearly over that Christians start to celebrate what for them is the meaning of Christmas – God's gift of Himself, coming into the world as one of us to share the ups and downs of our lives. A gift for life, not just for Christmas, meaning that we are never alone. I hope that your Christmas is all that you are hoping for it to be. And, in the words of Tiny Tim, "God bless us, every one!" **BrianWilliams**

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AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
Church Wardens Susannah Tapsell 822295 & Geoff Gaskill 823100
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
KCC - Geoffrey Lymer 07960490929
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No. 288 January 2018

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CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS - About 50 adults and children turned up on the 9th December to sing carols before Leo Lambert and Jacob Taylor turned on the lights. Graham Bissett was the master of ceremonies this year and is seen above playing the piano accordion. Many thanks go to Graham and Irene Barnard for arranging the evening. In previous years everyone went to the Marquis afterwards but this year the mulled wine, provided by the Marquis, was heated on a portable stove by the tree and together with mince pies dispensed to the carollers. Many thanks also go to Helen and Don Hobday for braving the cold and heating the wine.

CHILDREN'S DISCO – Thanks to David Beaney for arranging a children's disco in the village hall before the Christmas lights turn-on. Forty children came along, but there were only 8 from the village. However, it was the first time and there will be more in the future.

MANY THANKS to the Marquis and the Alkham Valley Garden Centre for donating generous raffle prizes to the children's Christmas disco.

ST ANTHONY'S CHRISTMAS TREE - In keeping with tradition Paul and Ian of the Alkham Valley Garden Nursery, have very kindly donated a beautiful tree for our church. On behalf of the PCC committee and all villagers we thank you very much. **Irene PCC Secretary**

BYWAYS – Pimlico Way and the Bull Run have been damaged yet again by off-road vehicles and there has also been criminal damage. Andrew Hutchinson, from KCC PROW, has placed a new emergency temporary traffic regulation order on motor vehicles, excluding motorcycles and quadricycles. Pedestrians, equestrians and cyclists will still be entitled to use the byways. The closure by notice can last a maximum of 21 days, but he intends to make an order to close the same for up to 6 months.

POPPY APPEAL - I'd like to thank everyone from the Alkham, Ewell Minnis and surrounding areas who donated to the Poppy Appeal. The Grand Total for 2017 is a magnificent £763.03. I'd also like to thank my helpers who, every year, come rain or shine, are out collecting. Last, but not least, thanks go to the local businesses who have had Poppy boxes by their tills. **Rachel Fountain**

GROTTO - Despite dreadful weather, Father Christmas's grotto was well attended on the 10th December and many thanks to all who attended and gave donations. Special thanks to Susannah and her Keep Fit ladies. The total raised was £614 for Demelza Children's Hospice (more next moth). **Anne and John Huggins**

Happy New Year

THE ANNUAL QUIZ will be held in the village hall on the 3rd March starting at 7.30pm. Graham Bissett has offered to take over the running of the quiz, which Brian has been doing for the last 15 years. However, for this year Brian will ask the questions for 5 rounds and Graham will do the rest. If you'd like a table for up to 8 people, please speak to either Graham or Brian; phone Brian on 824969 or email brianwimsett @hotmail.com. The cost is £5 per person and food will be served at the interval.

ESTHER PRESTON was a wonderful person, who never had a bad word for anyone, died on the 15th of November aged 88. She was of the old Alkhamite generation and was married to Charlie who spent his life as a shepherd. Most of the extended Preston family came to the funeral where tributes were given by the grandchildren and memories of Esther spoken by son Robert.

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - Please do not forget the annual walk 27 December 10.30 am from the Village Hall. It should last no longer than 2 hours. Dogs welcome. Mark Loveday, founder member and President of the Alkham Valley Society, would like to thank all well-wishers and says that there is a steady improvement. **J Walker (Sec)**

FILM NIGHT	
December	No film
Jan 30	Dunkirk

Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50
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FRAUD IN ALKHAM – Yodel delivered an unexpected but correctly named and addressed parcel to a house in Alkham. Thinking it might be a present the parcel was accepted, but on opening it was found to contain items of some value. Shortly afterwards a woman phoned (number withheld) purportedly from the supplier, who said a package had been addressed incorrectly and someone would pick it up later that evening. The homeowner was suspicious and phoned the supplier directly and they confirmed the details were correct but on checking credit card and bank details found them to be different. It was established that the scammer had set up a bank account, e-mail contact and an account with the sender of equipment. The police were informed and a little later a man in a high vis jacket arrived at the door to pick up the parcel. He was told the sender had been contacted and the police informed with the result that the man then left at great speed.

TRAFFIC - On December 8th, 42 people attended a presentation by Cllr Geoff Hillier at the Village Hall to learn about progress on the traffic action plan for the Alkham Valley. The plan objectives are to reduce vehicle speed, road accidents and the number of vehicles using the valley as a through route to avoid the A20. Financial constraints will dictate the requirement for a phased implementation of the plan over several years with the Parish expected to provide KCC with about 30% of the total capital cost which is anticipated to be in the range of £100-£120k for initial stages and circa £240k overall. The proposals were well received by all those present. A questionnaire is contained within the Newsletter and all adult residents are requested to either complete it, and place it into the Parish Council Suggestion box outside the village hall, or preferably, visit www.alkham.org, where on the home page you will find, "Alkham Resident Traffic Calming Survey response click here", to complete the questionnaire on line. If you require additional photocopies of the questionnaire, please call Glyn 01304 826619 or Harlan 01304 768236. GLYN.JONES. glynmarine@btinternet.com.

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - The Society formed in 1977 is actively seeking new members to help protect and preserve the beauty of the Alkham Valley for all. The large number of byways, footpaths, bridle paths and all different areas that you and your families love to walk and explore in the Valley continually come under threat from illegal or inappropriate development or use; we aim to stop that. Our aim is to work with Kent Public Rights of Way (PROW), Parish Councils, Kent Wildlife Trust and local land owners in order to identify, protect and preserve the flora and fauna that is still abundant in the Valley for future generations. Yearly Membership costs just £5 per person or £10 per household. Please either contact us at alkhamvalleysociety @btinternet.com or send a cheque payable to The Alkham Valley Society to The Treasurer, Greenwood Manor, Slip Lane Alkham CT15 7EF, please include your name, address and email address. **Bev Hubbard**

PRECEPT – The Parish Council discussed the precept requirement for 2018 and decided to increase it by the rate of inflation to £8142.

POWER CUTS - UK Power Networks have a Priority Services Register which will ensure you will receive extra support if you experience a power cut. If you are of pensionable age, have medical conditions, young children, dementia or are disabled you should qualify. Ring 0800 169 9970 or go to UK Power Networks web site for further details.

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GLEBELANDS – The deeds to the land on which the village hall stands showed the word 'Glebe' on the other side of Hogbrook Lane. Glebe is an old word for a field, but glebe land means land attached to a parish church and this was true until 2003; hence Vicarage Meadow. Opposite what is now the village hall was the village pond (photo), which was where the large sump area is now fenced off. The village pond eventually silted up and in 1926 the dyke was dug. **editor**

OZ'S CHRISTMAS COMPETITION – The 2017 edition of Hide and Seek, a quotation competition, included a page from me on the White Cliffs of Dover. The competition is now over, and readers might like to sample it this month. For each quotation, solvers must identify the author, the work, and chapter or verse. The digital temptation is obvious, but I can confirm that finding the sources in books is much more fun. Please email answers to steveaosborn@hotmail.com by the end of January. The first complete, or best incomplete, entry will receive a free copy of Hide and Seek 2018.

1. His eye, methinks, pursued the flight
Of birds to Britain half-way over
With envy; they could reach the white
Dear cliffs of Dover.

2. There are blackbirds over
The greyish cliffs of Dover

3. On the hill to the North, stands the Castle of Dover, which is fortified in the ancient manner, except on the sea-side, where it has the steep cliff for a fortification. On the South side of the town, the hill is, I believe, rather more lofty than that on the North side; and here is that cliff which is described by SHAKSPEARE in the Play of King Lear.

4. "...an Englishman who is a Scotchman who is a Norwegian who is a Canadian who is a Negro at heart from Dahomey who is married to an American who is on a French ship in distress which has been built by Americans and who finds at last that he is a Mexican dreaming of the White Cliffs of Dover..."

5. He is the capricious smile behind the colored bottles.
He eats not lest the poor want some.
He breathes of attitudes the piney altitudes.
He indeed is the White Cliffs of Dover.

6. Oh, England! thy white cliffs are dearer to me
Than all the famed coasts of a far foreign sea;

Happy Christmas and happy hunting! - **Steve Osborn**

CHRISTMAS 1917 – From The Times of 6 December 2017, quoting from the parish newsletter of St Mary's, Amersham, where the vicar recorded the following. In the trenches of Christmas 1917, German soldiers decided to extend a festive greeting to their enemy and raised a banner that read "Gott mit uns" (God with us). The Tommies replied with their own banner which read "We got mittens too." - **Steve Osborn**

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Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am **Whist Drive** 7.30 pm

Other Events in the village hall

Tuesday	**2**	White Cliffs Metal detectors 7 to 9pm
Tuesday	**9**	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Saturday	**13**	SEK astronomical society in the afternoon
Monday	**15**	Bird Club 7.30pm
Saturday	**27**	Beekeepers in the afternoon
Tuesday	**30**	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 7th		**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Christingle 11am**
Saturday 13th	**Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm**		
Sunday 14th	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Christingle 11am**	
Sunday 21st	**Family Service Alkham Village Hall 11am**	**Evensong 6.00 pm**	**Eucharist 9:30 am**
Sunday 28th	**Benefice Eucharist Capel 10.00 am**		

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)

07.59 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 14.16 15.16 17.16 18.16 Sat. 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 15.16 17.16

9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 *16.07* 16.32 17.32 Sat. 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 16.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - A while ago I was fortunate enough to visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem - the traditional site of the death and resurrection of Jesus. It is usually thronged with pilgrims and, as you can imagine, there is much to see. Among them are the tiny crosses that medieval pilgrims used to carve into the walls when they finally arrived at this holiest place of the Christian world. Why? We can only guess – perhaps in thanksgiving for having survived the journey without being shipwrecked, murdered or succumbing to the plague. I was in St Laurence Church, Hougham, a while ago when some visitors walked in and started to look around. Eventually one noticed something that I had never spotted before. On one of the pillars in the chancel are carved some crosses exactly like those in Jerusalem – difficult to see but there nonetheless, left centuries ago probably as a 'thank you' for a safe return from the Holy Land. People talk about being able to read churches. Everything in them – fine monuments, elaborate stained glass windows, tiny carved crosses, and everything else in between - tells the stories of those who were there before us. Now, at our own St Anthony's, work is about to begin to install the kind of facilities that we have come to expect. They will be there in the church together with the coffin lid of Herbert de Averenches, the fine arcade in the North Aisle that the monks of St Radigund's left us and all the other things that tell the stories of the people who have lived here over the centuries – a testament to the vision, expertise, dedication, hard work and generosity of those of our own time. God bless you, every one.

Brian Williams

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BOXING DAY WALK – The weather on Boxing Day was pretty grim and only Mark Loveday, his son Sam, grandson Finlay aged 5, Sam's brother-in-law Richard and Dillon the dog turned up. They did a circular walk up the hill behind Alkham and down to Warren Lane in driving sleet and some snow, then home for hot showers. For those new to the Parish, Mark Loveday owns the Old Rectory and is president of the AVS; he cares very much about Alkham and generously helps local causes. Mark also bought the land to the west of the village, which was part of Malmains Farm, such that it remained farmland.

TRAFFIC CALMING QUESTIONNAIRE - Those of you who have previously expressed concern over the growth of traffic through the village, and haven't yet submitted your completed Questionnaires, please do so before the **deadline of 31st January**. In order to exert maximum pressure on the Authorities to take action, it is essential that we demonstrate, in overwhelming numbers, demand for measures to be taken to calm traffic on the Alkham Valley Road. This could possibly be your last chance to do something about traffic through the village. Don't miss it. Act now. The Questionnaire can be completed on line via Alkham.org and all members of the household are urged to complete and submit their own forms. **Alkham Traffic Action Group** - **Geoff Hillier**

CHURCH PEWS - With building work for St Anthony's project now underway, a number of surplus church pews have become available for sale. Offers from parishioners are invited and should be made to Irene Barnard (824845) or Geoff Gaskill (823100).

KCC COMMUNITY TRANSPORT – The Alkham Valley is well served by buses but the outlying communities such as Ewell Minnis, West Hougham and Church Hougham are not. A solution is to have community transport and KCC Councillor, Geoff Lymer, is proposing that a mini bus be purchased. Funding for this will come from various sources and times of the bus will be published. A fare will have to be paid and there will be a late evening service to bring youngsters back from the towns. It is hoped that it will be introduced by September.

FETE AGM & Committee Meeting. There will be a Fete AGM and Committee meeting at 8 pm on 8th February in the Village Hall to prepare for the 2018 Fete (Saturday 14th July 2018 - put it in your diary now!). Please come along if you'd like to help in any way towards the 2018 Fete - the most important event in village life this (or any) year! Fresh ideas and helpers are always welcome! **Paul Tapsell**

EWELL MINNIS – There is a lack of signing at Ewell Minnis and therefore signs will be installed to that effect. In addition, there will be further road signing indicating Warren Lane and other roads.

THE ANNUAL QUIZ will be held in the village hall on the 3rd March starting at 7.30pm. Graham Bissett has offered to take over the running of the quiz, which Brian has been doing for the last 15 years. However, for this year Brian will ask the questions for 5 rounds and Graham will do the rest. If you'd like a table for up to 8 people, please speak to either Graham or Brian; phone Brian on 824969 or email brianwimsett @hotmail.com. The cost is £5 per person and food will be served at the interval.

ALKHAM WALK - White Cliffs Countryside Partnership, Saturday 20th January 1pm Alkham Village Hall. Dogs on leads welcome - 01304 241806.

FILM NIGHT	
Jan 30	**Dunkirk**
February 27	**Victoria and Abdul**
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50 Please bring your own refreshments	

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - Martin Hibbert has been working on a new website for the Parish Council; this should be ready in the near future. Geoff Hillier has advised the deadline for returning traffic surveys is 31st January. The Parish Council are looking into the option of a minibus for the rural areas. This was suggested by Geoff Lymer at the last meeting. The areas covered would include Akham and Ewell Minnis. David Beaney has been working with KCC regarding installation of signs at Ewell Minnis; this will be funded in full by KCC. If you would like any extra information or would like to give us your thoughts please contact one of your councillors, contact email addresses are on the Alkham website.



ALKHAM COURT, which is at top of Meggett Lane, won gold in the Tourism South East's Beautiful South Awards both for Bed & Breakfast of the Year 2017/18 and Glamping Business of the Year. Glamping is glamour camping and at Alkham Court you stay in a beautifully restored 19th century shepherd's hut. Congratulations to Wendy and Neil Burrows.

NEW YOGA CLASS on Thursdays in term time 9.30-11 am in the village hall. Equipment provided but please bring a blanket and wear loose clothing. Flexibility is not a pre-requisite, nor the ability to touch your toes. We build a strong foundation and work with the breath to extend out to the peripheries to find lightness and love in our postures. Cost is £8. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at all. Every question is important. **Hilary Horton 07905 520832**

WHILST we appreciate our neighbours wish to enjoy their celebrations, we would ask they are mindful of the horses and pets living in the vicinity. Despite being a rural community, our horses are kept fairly near to the neighbouring houses and we endeavoured to close off fields to keep them as far away as possible from any firework displays. Regulations state that fireworks must not be set off near livestock or horses in fields or buildings housing the same. Anyone planning to set off fireworks should warn neighbours in advance and set off the fireworks in the opposite direction away from them. Most people don't realise how much suffering fireworks cause to animals, particularly horses. So, we would ask that if you intend to let off fireworks in your back garden, please think carefully how it will affect the local animals. There are many villagers, horse and pet owners who share these views – just a bit of mindfulness would go a long way in reducing the stress levels of the animals as well as their owners! **Barrie & Tina Matcham**

GARDEN TALK – We are planning our Programme of visits to local gardens for this summer, and would welcome offers of hospitality within the village – we are usually lucky with the weather on a Friday evening! We start the season with an indoor venue – 'Sunrise', Meggett Lane, South Alkham on Friday 9th March at 7.30p.m. Please contact Janet Adamson on 01303 893413 with suggestions.

ALKHAM W.I. – Our first meeting back was January 9th and our speaker was Paul Norris who did a magic show for us, which was an enjoyable evening. Our next meeting will be February 13th at 7.30pm; our speaker will be Eileen West talking about the work of the Salvation Army. Hostesses are Janet Gibbons Sue Harman; Raffle Helen Price and VOT Helen Scopes. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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IN MARCH 1772 there was an advert in the Kentish Express: *Oak timber to be sold by auction on Monday the 13th day of April instant, at three o'clock in the afternoon, at the sign of the Fox and Goose, in Church Alkham Street. About one hundred and sixty trees, marked and landing upon a piece of wood land, called Stone Hill wood, in the parish of Alkham. For further particulars, enquire of Mr. Fabricant Attorney, Dover.* Stone Hill wood is at the junction of Slip Lane and Chalksole Green Lane and The Fox and Goose, which was the pub, is now called Forstal Cottage. Perhaps the trees went to Chatham for a ship that fought Napoleon.

ALKHAM WHIST DRIVE – Prior to the 1950's, whist was played in the Long Room at The Marquis before moving to the Village Hall because gambling wasn't allowed on licensed premises. George Kitham, Maurice Tutt, Ted Goldfinch, Cecil Godden, Margaret Archer and the Polden family ran the whist over the years and then Mabel Tapsell, Chris's first wife, took over in the 1980's until her death in 1991. Chris Tapsell continued to run the drives until December 2017 and in addition to renting the hall, money was given for the hall improvement and over the years a substantial amount was raised. Chris has attempted to find some alternative, either playing in the afternoon or a volunteer willing to continue with the Friday evenings but to no avail. If after reading this, you feel that you could assist, the opportunity remains – those loyal whist players, none of whom are from the village, are still willing and even keen to support the popular evening. Please ring Chris on 01304 831724 if you'd like to help.

MITCH ON MUSIC MAKING - Most self-respecting towns and cities have one and ours in my south coast home city is no exception. We even celebrated fifty years of music making a year ago. I'm talking Youth Orchestras. Seedbed of lifelong amateurs, seedbed of some - a few - professionals. Saturday mornings in some towns, Friday night when I were a lass, and lots of excitement as the bassoon player began grinning at me over the music stands - cherished memory now! And then a foreign trip in the summer hols. Ours then was to Dusseldorf. Recently a trip to Nurnberg as a German speaking accompanying adult. No, we weren't taken to the infamous parade grounds. But we were taken to see The Wall. A hot July day, we tumbled out of our coaches laughing and excited, and walked just a short way down the hill – and there it was, plastered and graffitied and watched over by the armed guards in high towers. Just like all those films. Now so believable - all those stories of divided families and daring escapes. No laughter now. Very moved. One lad said he'd learnt more today than in all his history lessons. But we did play in the cathedral that we and the allies had razed to knee height and which had been rebuilt exactly as before from photos and architects' plans. In the afternoon the doors were open to all comers and people drifted in and out. In the evening it was full house! And dusty old chairs were dragged out of back rooms for more and yet more audience. I remember the mood of warmth and pleasure - and of pride too - and a high fine oboe floating up into the rafters above. Music the international language, the builder of bridges. **Jane Mitchell**

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)

Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
Thursday	Yoga 9.30 to 11.00am
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am

Other Events in the village hall

Tuesday	**6**	White Cliffs Metal detectors 7 to 9pm
Thursday	**8**	Fete meeting 8pm – see page 1
Saturday	**10**	SEK astronomical society in the afternoon
Tuesday	**13**	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Monday	**19**	Bird Club 7.30pm
Saturday	**24**	Beekeepers in the afternoon
Tuesday	**27**	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 4th		**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Worship 11am**
Saturday 10th	**Messy Church St Radigund's, Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm**		
Sunday 11th	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Worship 11am**	
Wednes 14th	**Ash Wednesday Benefice Eucharist 7.00 pm Capel**		
Sunday 18th	**Worship 11am (Village Hall)**	**Evensong 6.00 pm**	**Eucharist 9:30 am**
Sunday 25th	**Benefice Eucharist Capel 10.00 am**		

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)

07.59 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 14.16 15.16 17.16 18.16 Sat. 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 15.16 17.16

9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 *16.07* 16.32 17.32 Sat. 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 16.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - I have never been able to keep a diary, and admire the self-discipline of those who do. Maybe that's why, when I first came across it years ago, I enjoyed reading a book entitled Transport of Delight by Methodist minister and now-retired Norwich bus driver Jack Burton. Over a year, he wrote about his day-to-day existence – not just about church and his wife and family, but also his love of football, evenings in the pub, and life seen from behind the wheel of a bus. One entry describes how, while on a meal break during their shift just before Christmas, he persuaded his conductor to join him in visiting Norwich Cathedral. This was not something his conductor would normally have done, and walking through the door, he gazed around. In front of them was a huge crib, ready for the Christmas services. He looked at it, turned to his driver and asked: Is this for everyone? Sadly, some people seem to think that churches only welcome a certain kind of person. Not true - Jesus seems to have been ready to mix with just about anyone, and I'm sure that if asked, Jesus would say that he wants his followers to do as he did. I once invited someone whose wife had recently died to a church coffee morning, hoping that he might try making new friends. But I'm not religious! he said. But you can drink coffee and talk to people – so you're in! I replied. When we can, we keep our churches open so that people can just go in and pray, be quiet, look around or whatever. You don't have to be a churchgoer or a certain type of person to be welcome. It really is for everyone. **Brian Williams**

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W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
Church Wardens Susannah Tapsell 822295 & Geoff Gaskill 823100
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To contact the Parish Clerk or Councillors phone 07800 943434 or email alkham.pc@outlook.com

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No. 290 March 2018

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GET TOGETHER – The Village Hall would like to set up a weekly event, during the day, where people can come along and meet other people, whether they be old friends or new ones, and have a chat. There could be a computer, which those new to the Internet will be shown how to use, and an opportunity to set up an email account that could be checked regularly. Entrance would be free, and refreshments will be provided. People of any age are invited to come along so please ring 824969, email alkhamnews@gmail.com or leave a note in the Parish Council mail box outside the village hall if you are interested.

TRAFFIC - At the next Parish Council meeting on the 12th March a presentation will be made to the Parish Council of the results of the latest Questionnaire where parishioners were asked for their views on suggested measures to calm traffic on the Alkham Valley Road. All are invited to the meeting to learn how the Parish Council proposes to present these findings to KCC with a view to their implementation. **Geoff Hillier**

ALKHAM – Has Alkham lost its identity? The Boundaries Commission has set up a consultation on the election boundaries that make up Dover and Deal. It also recommended that Dover District Council should have only 32 councillors in the future, a reduction of 13. Alkham is currently in the River ward and as such is not recognised as a defined area within the ward. If you have a view on this please go to https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/ and leave a comment. The closing date is the 9th April 2018. **Bev Hubbard**

BREAK INS – A number of sheds have been broken into at Ewell Minnis recently and the police have advised that people should check that their outbuildings are secure.

LENT LUNCH - As Richard and I are unable to host a Lent Lunch this year, which would raise money for a charity of our choice, we are making a donation to the local Salvation Army. If anybody would like to add to this donation during Lent, Wednesday 14thFebruary-Wednesday 28th March, by contributing a small amount, perhaps the price of a coffee, then the Village hall is open on Wednesdays, 10.30am-11am. when you could drop in with it. **Thank you. Susannah Tapsell**

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BYWAYS – Despite there being a closure notice on Pimlico Way, off road vehicles are still using it and are trespassing on adjacent land. It is very difficult to block the byway as it can still be used by equestrians and horse drawn vehicles. However, it is a road traffic offence so please report any incidents to the police (101) and also the local Community Safety unit at www.kent.police.uk/your-area/ canterbury-and-dover/river/

FILM NIGHT	
February 27	**Victoria & Abdul**
March 27	**The Party** Comedy drama
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50 Please bring your own refreshments	

VILLAGE HALL – Following comments received about keeping food warm, the village hall now has a new electric cooker which has two ovens and a ceramic top.

ALKHAM MEMORIES - An exhibition in the Village Hall on the weekend of 21 &22 April, including material from the Local History Collection held by Susan Lees. The Hall will be open from 11.00a.m. until 4.00p.m. both days. Mark Robson will be giving a presentation "The Alkham Heroes" at 3.00p.m. on the Saturday, followed by tea and cake. All welcome, no admission charge! **Janet Adamson**

CHURCH – The water pipe has been laid and awaits connection and the lighting to the path is partially installed. Inside the font has been moved and other works for the new toilet and kitchenette continue.

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - NEW WEBSITE LAUNCH

The new Alkham website is now live; click and enjoy www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk. Some of you may have found the site already, but if this is your first time have a search around. The improved features allow easy navigation to access the information you want. Thanks go to the website team for delivering a greatly improved site, especially to Harlan Weber for the web development. This is still a "work in progress" website, and we are open to host information for village and club activities, including additional useful link information. We would welcome your feedback. Please let us know what you think by emailing clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk.

FACEBOOK – The link to the Alkham Facebook page is currently on www.alkham.org. If you want twitter added, please email – see web site.

CONSULTATION ABOUT PIMLICO AND BULLRUN (Byways ERs 122,185 and 25) - Andrew Hutchinson of Kent County Council has sent a letter about these Alkham byways to people who he believes have an interest. He is asking for observations, views and information about the byways and their future management. He wants the consultation to be as inclusive as possible and for the letter to be circulated to others who wish to contribute to the process. The consultation is the next step in a process that may lead to Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) excluding 4x4s and motor bikes from these byways. There is no certainty at all that this will happen - the byways may be left open to all vehicles and they may be closed to all users on the grounds of safety as happened in 2016-7. To get TROs excluding motor vehicles we need to make the case to KCC. The Alkham & District byways group has provided safety assessments, photos and much else to KCC about the damage to byways and surrounding land caused by vehicles. Residents and users of the byways also need to give their views to KCC in this consultation. I have sent copies of the consultation letter to people who I know have an interest. That includes those who attended meetings in the village hall about byways last year or in 2016. If you have not received copy of the letter and would like one, please let me know. **Peter Smith - pnsmith755@gmail.com - 07711 648 255**

LADIES KEEP FIT in the village hall was started by Susannah Tapsell 18 years ago and is still going strong and last year it raised £600 for various charities and groups as well.

GARDEN TALK - We start the year with our (now traditional) wine quiz on Friday 9th March from 7.30p.m. at 'Sunrise', Meggett Lane. Gordon has been busy over the last 2 years preparing many fruity wines for sampling. Our outdoor garden visits will start in April - suggestions and hosts are still needed. Please contact Janet Adamson (01303 893413)

DUE TO the church alterations there will be no memorial flowers this Easter but if you would like your loved ones remembered in our prayers please give me a ring and I will pass them on to Brian Williams. Perhaps you would like to make a donation to the church on the day. Please contact Carol on 01304 826514.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our February meeting was about the Salvation Army at which we had an excellent speaker who was Eileen West. Our next meeting will be 13th March and our speaker will be Jean Hatton, subject prison reformer. Hostesses Shelley Jackson, Beryl King; Raffle Sue Ross and VOT Eileen West. New members always welcome **Debbie Griggs**

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• ENGLISH as a FOREIGN LANGUAGE (EFL)
Tracey Prince BSc (hons), PGCE, QTS, CELTA, CRB



LIME KILN – About 400 metres up Slip Lane there is a right turn to Lydden, known locally as White Hill or Chalky Hill. The road is very steep and at the top of the first rise there used to be a lime kiln by the side of the road (not photo). The location is easy to spot as there is a large hole where the chalk was excavated to make lime. If chalk (CaC_{03}) is heated to 900°C it changes to lime (CaC_{01}) and carbon dioxide (C_{02}) with the resultant lime being primarily used to make mortar. The kiln would have been funnel shape with alternate layers of chalk and coal in it and after three days of burning, lime was produced. Many thanks to Alan Latham for finding the 19th century map. **editor**

THE WOLVERTON WARRIOR - A few weeks ago I visited two of Alkham's oldest residents who have recently moved to Dover. They are two Anglo-Saxon males excavated in 2007 and 2008 by a team led by Vince Burrows that included students and Alkham residents. The excavations identified two Bronze age barrows (burial mounds) and an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery on the barrows. Anglo-Saxons in Kent often chose to bury their dead on much earlier burial sites perhaps as a way of associating themselves with their ancestors. The small cemetery included a remarkable double grave containing the Wolverton warrior with his sword, spear, knife, shield boss (the metal cone at the centre of a wooden shield) and a pottery wine vessel. Remarkably a second male burial was directly underneath the first burial separated by wood planking. The double grave and its contents are now in a display case at the museum. Alkham residents contributed to the cost of the case. I recommend visiting the museum to see the impressive display cabinet with a reconstruction of the grave and the finds accompanied by a story board. Entry to the museum is free. More information and interim reports can be found at http://www.alkhamarchaeology.co.uk. Vince plans to publish the full excavation report in Archaeologia Cantiana, the journal of Kent Archaeological Society. **Peter Smith**

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will present a concert in Dover Town Hall at 7.30 pm on Saturday 24th March, featuring Gioachino Rossini's "Stabat Mater", Gerald Finzi's "Lo, the Full, Final Sacrifice" and the world premiere of an orchestral work, Michael Lewis's "A Day at the Lakes". The concert, performed by professional soloists, the society's chorus and The Connaught Orchestra, will be conducted by the society's Musical Director, Stephen Yarrow. Tickets £14 (Students £7) are available from members of the society, online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/doverchoral , or telephone 01304 872812 and, if any remain, at the door on the night. For more information email info@doverchoralsociety.org.uk or find us on Facebook or Twitter @ DoverChoral. **Steve Osborn**

CANTORES DOMINICAE will perform "A German Requiem" by Brahms in Holy Trinity Church, Folkestone, at 7pm on Saturday 10th March 2018. Soloists Penelope Martin-Smith (soprano) and Stephen Foster (baritone) will be accompanied by Cantores in the double piano London 1871 version, all conducted by the choir's Musical Director, Adrian Bawtree. Tickets £10 (under 12 free) are available from members of the society, Laing Bennett (Lyminge), or pay on entry. **Steve Osborn**

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Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
Thursday	Yoga 9.30 to 11.00am
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am

Other Events in the village hall

Tuesday	**6**	White Cliffs Metal detectors 7 to 9pm
Saturday	**10**	SEK astronomical society in the afternoon
Monday	**12**	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm all welcome
Tuesday	**13**	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Monday	**19**	Bird Club 7.30pm
Tuesday	**27**	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1
Saturday	**31**	Beekeepers in the afternoon

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 4th		**Eucharist 9.30 am Compline 5pm**	**Worship 11 am**
Saturday 10th	**Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm**		
Sunday 11th Mother Sunday	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Worship 11 am Compline 5 pm**	**Worship 11 am**
Sunday 18th		**Evensong 5 pm**	**Eucharist 9.30 am**
Sunday 25th	**Benefice Eucharist and Palm Procession 10.00 am Hougham**		
Thursday 29th	**Maundy Thursday Benefice Eucharist 7.30 pm Hougham**		
Friday 30th	**Good Friday Benefice Service 10.00 am Hougham**		
Saturday 31st	Building the Easter Garden at Messy Church **St Radigund's 3.00-5.00 pm**		
Sunday 1st April	**Easter Day Eucharist 9.30 am**		

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)

07.59 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 14.16 15.16 17.16 18.16 Sat. 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 15.16 17.16

9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 *16.07* 16.32 17.32 Sat. 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 16.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - At university one Wednesday morning I found myself with a few moments before my next lecture, and decided to grab a coffee. Beside the till in the coffee shop was a plateful of muffins – carrot cake muffins, no less, irresistible to Yours Truly. Moments later I sat contemplating the muffin that felt as though it had been destined for my tummy since the beginning of time itself, and recalled a conversation that had ended with the words, "You'll be there, Brian – there will be cake!" I wondered – could I really be addicted to cake? If so, what else could I be addicted to? Fast forward to the same coffee shop one week later, with more muffins on show – but this Wednesday was Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, and this time I did manage to resist temptation and make do with just the coffee. The forty days of Lent recall the stories from the gospels of Jesus fasting in the wilderness and resisting temptation in preparation for what was to follow. 'Lent' is an Old English word for spring – a time of growth. For some of us Lent is a time when we take a long, hard look at ourselves in preparation for Easter, and pray for strength to grow. I'm facing forty days without cake, of course, and others will be facing their own wildernesses without chocolate or biscuits or whatever. But it's all wasted if Lent isn't a time of growth for us – if we haven't grown a bit more into the people that we are really intended to be. So I wish you all a fertile Lent, and look forward to celebrating the joy of Easter Day. **Brian Williams**

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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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No. 291 April 2018

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GET TOGETHER – There has been sufficient response from the article in last month's Newsletter to start a 'Get Together' in the village hall. The exact details will be finalised in April with the first get together announced in the May Newsletter. Everyone is invited to come along, but it is primarily directed at those who feel isolated or alone, and we are quite happy to ferry people to the village hall if necessary. Entrance is free, and refreshments will be provided, so if you'd like to come along please ring 824969, email alkhamnews@gmail.com or leave a note in the Parish Council box.

SAM SWEET CHARITY presents a stroll down memory lane in aid of motor neurone disease. American supper style in Alkham village hall on Saturday 5th May at 7.30pm. Tickets £8 each available from Anne Huggins on 824340.

TRAFFIC – Geoff Hillier gave a presentation of the results of the Traffic Action Group questionnaire at the March Parish Council meeting and said 82 responses had been received from the 89 households adjacent to the Alkham Valley Road, whilst the replies from those away from the road were lower. Over 90% wanted a weight restriction introduced and 76% were in favour of a 20mph speed limit through the village; 86% wanted a pedestrian crossing and about 80% agreed to single lane entries to the village and a road narrowing by the Marquis. Several respondents said there should be average speed cameras, and this will be looked at again. The next stage is for the Parish Council, after validating the Draft Final Report, to set up a "Traffic Implementation Group" to consult the emergency services and other bodies for their comments and to then submit The Final Report to KCC Highways for their approval to the proposed scheme.

COMMUNITY BUS – In the February Newsletter mention was made of a community bus that could be introduced in the Alkham area. At the Parish Council meeting the Thanet Community Transport Association gave a talk about their service, that they have expanded to cover the Dover area. The 'Dial a Ride' is a door to door service to assist the elderly and disabled, who are unable to travel with the conventional bus service, to go shopping or to medical appointments. The annual membership is £20 with a current charge of £3.50 to use the bus and at present the service is under used. They also offer other services such as trips, holidays and group transport. If you would like more information please phone 01843 602030 or, if able, go to www.transportinthanet.co.uk. A booklet is also available if you ring the Parish Clerk on 07800 943434.

THE ANNUAL QUIZ went well with 10 tables competing. The winning team was from Ellinge and Chalksole and Graham Bissett, who asked half the questions, will take over from Brian next year.

ALKHAM MEMORIES - The exhibition of local history material, mostly from the 19th & 20th centuries will be held in the Village Hall over the weekend of 21st & 22nd April from 11 - 4 with free admission. Mark Robson will be giving a presentation 'The Alkham Heroes' at 3.00p.m. on the 21st, to be followed by refreshments. All welcome. Bring along your memories to be shared. **Janet Adamson**

VILLAGE HALL AGM - The Annual Meeting will take place on Tuesday 17th April at 7.00p.m. which is open to all villagers and those involved in organisations that use the Village Hall. All welcome to attend and show an interest in this important village facility. It will be followed by the quarterly Committee Meeting.

TEA ROOMS – Edith Neve would like to thank the tea rooms at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre for being so helpful to someone who is unable to get there through illness. They packed the food for Edith to take away and she thinks they are marvellous. They are willing to do this for other people on certain ranges of food.

JUMBLE SALE in aid of the W.I. is on the 14th April in the village hall. The sales will now start at 10.30am Instead of 11am.

DO YOU NEED someone to do occasional cooking, housework, changing beds etc. If so, please get in touch with Shirley on 828098.

FILM NIGHT	
March 27	**The Party** Comedy drama
April 24	**The Limehouse Golem** with Bill Nighy
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50 Please bring your own refreshments	

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - **Community Led Plan (CLP)**
The village is moving forward with the CLP. Funding for a launch day was requested at the recent Parish meeting and is being considered by the Councillors. The launch day intends to be a day full of fun for all the family! The purpose of this event is so the Steering Group can get information from parishioners as to what they would like included in the CLP. This could be ideas ranging from facilities for the elderly to having a new swing for the children. Any suggestions whether big or small would be greatly received. Please give this some thought ready for the launch day. The date for the event is yet to be confirmed.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR – I wanted to write about lime manufacture chemistry described in the Lime Kiln piece last month. I also thought I should filter my letter through 'Is it true, is it kind and is it necessary?' questions. I think it would be fair to say that it is so filled with chemistry formula howlers that it would make an excellent test question for a school-child to be asked to comment – best regards **Tom Marcus**

RETIRING QUIZ MASTER - We want to say how much we have enjoyed Brian's annual Quiz Nights over these past decades and that we will miss his humorous way of asking those ambiguous questions! Thank you, Brian, for having amused us over those brain teasing years. Your Alkham friends.



GARDEN TALK - We have been invited to Hockley Sole, where Angie Snape has been creating a colourful spring garden. We meet there on Wednesday 4th April at 6.45p.m. Please note earlier time, to make the most of the daylight. For directions, contact Janet Adamson 01303 893413.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our March meeting was a very interesting one at which Jean Hatton told us about the life of Elizabeth Fry. Our next meeting is April 10th and our speaker will be Linda Warren, subject Swinging 60's. Hostesses are Susan Lees, Lucy McKenzie; Raffle Pam Sayers and VOT Debbie Griggs. New Members always welcome. There will also be a jumble sale on 14th April doors open at 10.30am. **Debbie Griggs**

PIMLICO BYWAYS - There is some misinformation being expressed that the Pimlico byways should be restored to bridleways as they had been for centuries. The Pimlico byways have never been bridleways. In 1949 when the PROWs were first recorded ER185, for example, was listed as a 'Cart Road Footpath' which it clearly was as it served the Pimlico hamlet. This didn't really clarify who was allowed to use it. The 1968 Countryside Act attempted to address this requesting that Highway Authorities research what actual rights did exist and reclassify all PROWs as either a footpath, bridleway or byway (BOAT). At this stage ER185, ER25 and ER122 were shown as byways on the draft map. After public consultation and due process they were all recorded as byways and byways they remain. There may be some confusion caused when ER185 was erroneously finger posted as a bridleway. ER185 was part of a KCC promoted 'Alkham Valley Rides' which was created by KCC officers who were no part of the PROW team. They appear to have signed paths at will with no reference to their actual status. Locally these erroneous status indicators have been removed and the correct status restored. **Anthony Barrier (footpath warden)**

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OZ on APRIL FOOL'S DAY – Over the years, I've often mentioned April Fool's Day in passing, but never as a topic because its origins are so obscure. The most popular theory concerns European calendar reform. In 46BC, Julius Caesar introduced his Julian calendar that made 1 January the first day of the year. Over the next 1500 years, some European countries moved their first day to 1 April for theological reasons. One such was France, but in 1564 the French King Charles IX moved his first day back to 1 January for secular reasons. In 1582, Pope Gregory also moved the date back to 1 January for all Christian Europe (except Britain). The story then goes that, in continental Europe, those who continued celebrating New Year on 1 April were teased as "April Fools." The only flaw in all this is that there are continental references to "April Fools" from before 1564, and British references from hundreds of years before 1752, the year that Britain adopted the Gregorian calendar. The earliest British reference is probably the Nun's Priest's Tale in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales (1392), describing the tricks played by a fox in catching the cock Chauntecler, but the wording is so ambiguous that the date could be either 1 April or 3 May. Throughout the 16th century there were several references in France to 'poisson d'Avril', meaning 'April fish' (still used today.) In 1686 the English antiquarian John Evelyn wrote 'Fooles Holy Day. We observe it on ye first of April.' This was the first clear reference to the tradition in Britain. Finally, on 2 April 1698, a British newspaper reported that 'Yesterday being the first of April, several persons were sent to the Tower Ditch to see the Lions washed.' April Fool's Day was at last a fixture. **(Steve Osborn)**

ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH PROJECT - The installation of a toilet and kitchenette is well under way and beginning to look like the Architects' drawings. Considering the amount of building work over the past weeks, we are now hoping for a work party of volunteers to help with the clean-up. We do have a budget for professional cleaners within the reordering but will still need extra help for the areas not covered by that. This clean-up will probably be towards the end of April so if you can, please contact Irene 01304 824845 and let us know your interest. With the help of marigolds, some happy music, coffee and cake this could even turn into a pleasant couple of hours with friends and neighbours. **The Project Team**

ALKHAM HEROES - There will be more information on all the men whose names are on the village war memorial at the Alkham Local History weekend on Saturday April 21st at 3.00p.m. The work of the Heroes is ongoing and if you can add any further information please contact me or Brian Wimsett. **Mark Robson**

ALBERT FRANCIS, the son of James (a Poultry Keeper) and Rose Francis was born about 1898 in Yew Cottage, South Alkham. The 1911 Census reveals he was a 12-year-old school boy. Albert was a Private in the 2nd Battalion, Essex Regiment and died on Thursday, 18th April 1918. At this time his parents were living in Folkestone. Albert was aged 20 when he died, and he is buried at Chocques Military Cemetery, Pas de Calais.

CECIL G ALLEN was the son of Mrs E Allen of Chalksole Green. The 1911 Census reveals that he was a 13-year-old schoolboy. Cecil enlisted at Woolwich and was in 'C' Company, 11th Battalion, Border Regiment when he died on Tuesday, 30th April 1918. The regiment had been in the Front Line until the 25th April but between the 25th and 30th was 'out of the line' and taking part in military training, church parades and a football tournament. It is recorded that Cecil "died of wounds" which presumably he received whilst at the Front. Cecil was aged 20 when he died. Cecil is buried at Bagneux British Cemetery, Gezaincourt.

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Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
Thursday	Yoga 9.30 to 11.00am and 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am

Other Events in the village hall		
Tuesday	**3**	White Cliffs Metal detectors 7 to 9pm
Tuesday	**10**	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Saturday	**14**	Jumble Sale 10.30am
Saturday	**14**	SEK astronomical society 7pm to 10.00pm
Monday	**16**	Bird Club 7.30pm
Tuesday	**17**	Village Hall AGM 7pm – all welcome
Saturday	**21**	Alkham memories – 11am to 4pm – see page 1
Sunday	**22**	Alkham memories – 11am to 4pm – see page 1
Tuesday	**24**	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1
Thursday	**26**	PCC AGM – check time

CHURCH SERVICES			
DATE	**ALKHAM**	**CAPEL**	**HOUGHAM**
Sunday 1st	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Eucharist 7.00 am**	**Eucharist 11 am**
Sunday 8th	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Worship 11 am**	
Saturday 14th	**Messy Church Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm**		
Sunday 18th	**Worship in hall 11am**	**Evensong 6 pm**	**Eucharist 9:30 am**
Sunday 22nd	**Benefice Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am**		
Sunday 29th	**Benefice Eucharist at St Mary's (Capel Old Church) 10.00 am**		

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)
07.59 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 14.16 15.16 17.16 18.16 Sat. 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 15.16 17.16
9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 *16.07* 16.32 17.32 Sat. 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 16.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - Many of you will remember the late, great actor and comedian Peter Sellers – perhaps as the accident-prone French detective Inspector Clouseau in the Pink Panther series of films, or in some of the other roles that he played. Sitting with a cup of tea in front of the TV and flicking through the channels recently, I came across one of his earlier films - Heavens Above! In it, he plays a vicar. As you can imagine, I was instantly hooked, and ended up spending much longer over my cup of tea than I had meant to. In the film Sellers' character is appointed to a well-to-do parish – completely by mistake. Practising what he preaches, he scandalises his parishioners by taking in various waifs and strays, appointing a dustman as churchwarden, and persuading a local landowner to provide free food for the townspeople. Nobody ever expected him to take Christianity that seriously, and in the resulting chaos it becomes clear that he really will have to go – but how? The Church comes up with a solution – appoint him Bishop of Outer Space! He ends up in orbit, warbling hymns about love and forgiveness to a global audience as he circles the Earth. It was very funny to watch, of course – but it also contained a grain of truth. Just as Sellers' vicar character ended up with little thanks for his sincerity, so not everything Jesus said and did suited everyone. As I write Holy Week is approaching, when Christians remember how Jesus, too, practised what he preached, and how it all ended on the cross. But Easter reminds us that his story doesn't end there, but continues in the lives of those who set out to follow him. Happy Easter! **Brian Williams**

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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE
Telephone 01304 824969

No. 292 May 2018

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TEA AND TALK – The first 'Get Together', as mentioned in previous Newsletters, will be on Thursday 24th May in the village hall between 2pm and 4pm. Everyone is welcome to come along but it is primarily directed at those who feel isolated or alone, and if you would like to be picked up and returned home please ring 824969 and something will be arranged. A computer will be available, and tea and biscuits will be provided. Further 'Tea and Talks' will be on the 4th Thursday of each month at the same time.

ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH PROJECT has been completed other than water connection and snagging, which will be completed by the end of April. We now have a kitchenette and toilet with disabled facilities. The work has been carried out to a very high standard with oak doors throughout and is a credit to the church, so please do come and have a look as the church is open during the day. The font has been moved to the North Chapel and has an impressive oak floor around it. Lighting has been installed by the sides of the paths and the next phase is to make a driveable access from the Valley Road to 5 parking spaces adjacent to the path leading from the cemetery. A number of people have been involved in the project, but thanks must go to Irene Barnard and Geoff Gaskill for making the project happen.



SUE LEES – At the Annual Parish meeting Sarah Barker, who is the Chairman of the Kent Association of Local Councils, presented Sue Lees with a certificate which was in recognition for all the work she has done over the years for the parish. Sue was a very effective Parish Clerk for 23 years and then went on to be a Parish Councillor and in addition was the Village Historian who amassed copious details about the parish. The certificate was richly deserved, and we wish her well for the future.



KEY – A key was found near the village hall and it looks as though it may be for a safe because of the number of levers. It has a distinctive fob, so please phone 824969 for further details.

DEREK BANKS-NASH – It is sad to report that Derek died on the 10th April. He was in his 90th year and up until recently had been very active, including digging up a tree. His wife Marion bought a tumbledown cottage in Alkham in the 1980's at auction, without Derek's knowledge, and they renovated it to a high standard such that it is much admired by all who pass by. Derek made friends easily with his pleasant personality and lack of guile and will be missed by all who knew him. A Memorial Service will be held in St. Anthony's church on the 26th April at 2.30pm, and everybody is welcome to go to Marion's afterwards for refreshments.

FETE - The Fete this year is on Saturday 14th July from 1 pm - tell everyone you know. In addition, there will be a stallholders' meeting on Wednesday 2nd May at 8 pm in the Village Hall - please come along as we still need some more volunteers and ideas for a couple of stalls and new ideas/faces are always welcome. **Paul Tapsell 01303 892082**

ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH - As mentioned in last month's newsletter article, the date for extra church cleaning following the installation of kitchenette and toilet facilities, is Tuesday 8th May at 10am. Please come and help if you can. Coffee and cake provided. Thank you.

FILM NIGHT	
April 24	**The Limehouse Golem with Bill Nighy**
May 29th	**Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri**
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50 Please bring your own refreshments	

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - Just a reminder that Alkham has a new website up and running; we would like as many people to subscribe to it as possible. Please also offer any suggestions on what you would like to see on the website by emailing clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk. Events happening in and around Alkham can be added to the website too. The Community Led Plan (CLP) group met again in April to discuss moving forward with the launch day. If you are interested in finding out more about what the CLP do, or you would like to join the group, please contact the clerk.

UNOFFICIAL BUS STOPS - When you wish to get off a bus, bus companies advise you to ring the bell, remain seated and wait for the bus to stop. This is all well and good for official bus stops, but it doesn't work for unofficial bus stops. In rural areas bus drivers are instructed to stop on request if safe to do so. When KCC ran the 91-bus service with their own buses and driver's local knowledge enabled the driver to know where to stop when requested at an unofficial bus stop. When Stagecoach took over the route that local knowledge was lost especially with their all drivers drive all routes policy. This problem was raised by a parishioner at a Parish Council meeting. So, what to do? I contacted Stagecoach for advice. Sorry to say the advice given wasn't very helpful. "When boarding the bus advise the driver where you want to get off. Due to the low volume of passengers on the 91 route it shouldn't be difficult for the driver to remember your request". In theory fine, in reality nonsense. For example, three unofficial stops: Drellingore Rise, Meggett Lane and Valley Cottages. Most drivers will not know these locations (local knowledge lost) and will not know where to stop unless you ring the bell, walk to the front of the bus and make your request in person. I will try the official advice next time I catch the bus and see what happens. **Anthony Barrier**

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING was on the 9th of April in the village hall and 15 people came along. After official business and the award to Sue Lees (shown on the front page), a talk was given about Coast Watch and more details about this are given below.

NATIONAL COAST WATCH – At the Annual Parish meeting a talk was given by John Keeble about Coast Watch and he said that some 20 years ago lightships, lighthouses and other lookouts were manned by people. All these were then automated so there was no one looking for other possible problems. In 1994 three people got together and started Coast Watch and today there are 50 stations around Britain manned by 2000 volunteers, who also raise the funds to run the service. The one at Folkestone is at Copt Point by Wear Bay Road in a former WW2 command post and is open 364 days a year from 10am to 6pm. For more details visit www.nci.org.uk/folkestone or phone 01303 227132.

GARDEN TALK - Following on from a blustery spring walk at Hockley Sole last month, where the bulbs were much admired, despite the late spring, we look forward to visiting Chalksole Cottage on Friday 11th May, where Linda & Geoff Gaskill will welcome us from 7.30p.m. For directions please contact Janet Adamson (01303 893413)

ALKHAM W.I. - Our speaker for April was Linda Warren who gave us an interesting talking about the swinging 60's. The next meeting is 8th May, our resolutions meeting, followed by a Quiz by the two Debbies. Hostesses are Helen Price and Debbie Griggs and Raffle Debbie Griggs. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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STATIONARY ENGINES - Richard Miller, who lives in Newlyns Meadow, started collecting stationary engines about 4 years ago. His first engine was a 1946 Lister D which he bought as a non-runner, but after many hours fully restored it to a 'like new' smooth running condition. He also rebuilt a 1945 Wolseley WD8 engine from a non-runner to show standard; the WD refers to the War Department and they were built to run smoothly and as quietly possibly behind enemy lines. He has also restored an Amanco Hit 'n' Miss engine, which only has one mechanically operated valve (the exhaust valve), hence its name 'Hit 'n' Miss' and a Lister Junior twin flywheel engine built in 1945. So, the next time you go to a Steam Rally or Vintage Fayre have a look at these engines as each one will have had many hours spent on restoration to preserve them as running pieces of industrial history. If you think you have any old vintage engines buried in your sheds etc., please give Richard a ring on 07867 368 508.

ALKHAM HEROES - George Collard, who the 1911 Census reveals, was single, aged 18 and a "General Labourer", died 51 weeks after his brother, Edward. George had emigrated to Australia in 1912 (the year his mother died) when he was 20 years old. He lived at Coonabarabran, Warrumbugle Shire, New South Wales, where he worked as an agricultural labourer. It was here that he enlisted on 3rd July 1916. Following basic training George sailed from Sydney on 17th October 1916 on the requisitioned P&O steamship H.M.A.T. Borda as a Gunner in the 34th Battalion, Australian Infantry. George "died of wounds received in action in France" on Monday, May 6th 1918, about 100 miles from his Alkham home. He was aged 25 and is buried in St. Sever Cemetery Extension, Rouen. **Mark Robson**

CHRISTMAS COMPETITION ANSWERS – There were no entries for the Christmas quotation competition, so no prizes to award, but I did receive two emails, one saying "I'll have a look at it tomorrow" and the other "Had a quick look but can't see anything yet." In preparing this answer page, I'm reminded how fearsomely difficult are the annual competitions such as Nemo's Almanac and Hide and Seek, whose half-mad devotees stay up half the night, speed-reading poetry books while trying to resist the lure of the internet. The quotations were in the January Newsletter and the answers are below. **Steve Osborn**

1. Thomas Campbell, Napoleon and the British Sailor, verse 4. Written 1840.
2. Noel Coward and Gertrude Lawrence, There Are Bad Times Just Around The Corner, Refrain 2, lines 3-4. Written in 1952, to cheer Britain up after 6 years of post-war austerity.
3. William Cobbett, Rural Rides, DOVER, Wednesday Sept 3, 1823 (Evening).
4. Malcolm Lowry, from Through the Panorama, in Hear Us O Lord from Heaven thy Dwelling Place, a short story collection published posthumously in 1961.
5. John Ashbery, He, verse 2. From his first collection, Some Trees, (1956).
6. Eliza Cook, The Land of My Birth, verse 2, lines 1-2. Published in 1838 in Melaia and Other Poems.

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)	
Tuesday	Art Workshop from 10am – 1pm Yoga 1.10pm – 2.10pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
Thursday	Yoga 9.30 to 11.00am and 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am

Other Events in the village hall		
Tuesday	**1**	White Cliffs Metal detectors 7 to 9pm
Tuesday	**8**	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Saturday	**12**	SEK astronomical society 7pm to 10.00pm
Monday	**14**	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm – all welcome
Monday	**21**	Bird Club 7.30pm
Tuesday	**29**	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)

07.59 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 14.16 15.16 17.16 18.16 Sat. 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 15.16 17.16
9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 *16.07* 16.32 17.32 Sat. 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 16.32

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 29th April	Benefice Eucharist at St Mary's 10.00 am		
Sunday 6th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Thursday 10th	Benefice Eucharist Capel 7.00 pm		
Saturday 12th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 13th	Eucharist 9.30	Worship 11 am	
Sunday 20th	Worship 11 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 27th	Benefice Eucharist with prayer ministry 10.00 am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - In school, I once asked one of my classes how many of them would like to be famous. Some liked the idea – finding their X-Factor or becoming a famous athlete really appealed to them. Others weren't so sure – they preferred their lives as they were. Here at the Vicarage we now have a Celebrity Bunny. Not the Easter Bunny, but our own Peter Rabbit. He is getting old, and problems with his teeth require a visit to the vet every couple of months. Now the question of why suffering exists is among the thorniest of thorny questions. But turn on the TV, and you will find any number of programmes about hospitals, ambulances, doctors – and vets. We recoil from suffering, but we're still fascinated by it, it seems. When we arrived at the vets recently, a young woman with a clipboard came over and peered into the carrier. She explained that she was from a television company - they were making a programme about the veterinary practice. Please could they film Peter Rabbit? The next thing I knew, a microphone had been attached to my jacket, and we were on our way in to see the vet - who was wearing a camera on her head. The initial consultation, the procedure itself, and the check up afterwards were all filmed. Afterwards, in a Portakabin, I sat on a sofa with Peter alongside me in his carrier as his big moment arrived. Would he come out for the cameras? I opened the door. He turned his back on everyone, and then retreated to the far end of the carrier. No, he definitely wasn't coming out. I don't blame him. I wouldn't want to be famous for having wonky teeth either…**Brian Williams**

POLICE 999 or 101
Newsletter brianwimsett@hotmail.com
Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths **antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk**
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
Church Warden Geoff Gaskill 823100
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
KCC - Geoffrey Lymer 07960490929
DDC - P Beresford 216187
WEBS www.alkham.org & www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

To contact the Parish Clerk or Councillors phone 07800 943434 or email clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

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DEREK BANKS-NASH - The family and I would like everyone who came to Derek's funeral to know how much it meant to us, and would have done so to Derek, when he saw such a lot of people from the village. We were even more delighted when we got back from the Crematorium to see everybody enjoying themselves and circulating the room. All of our family, especially the girls and I, would like to take this opportunity to give our heartfelt thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who so kindly arranged everything. When we arrived at the hall in the morning with all the food etc., and even more so when we arrived after the service, we were not expecting to see so many people 'with their sleeves rolled up'. It was lovely, and we can't thank you all enough for making the occasion so good a 'send-off' for Derek. He would have been overjoyed. Thank you all again, from all of us, especially Anna, Rachel and myself. **Marion Banks-Nash**

GUITAR CONCERT - For the eighth year running Jimmy D'Alton Bellas is bringing some of his past and present pupils to St Anthony's for a 'Summer Evening Guitar Concert' on Saturday 30th June at 6:30pm. Once again special guest star Grant Dowse will be back eager to perform in the beautiful setting of our church. Mezzo Soprano Emily Renshaw will also be returning. Tickets are £8 with all proceeds going to St Anthony's and you will also be able to see the new kitchen and toilet facilities of the church which have just been completed. Tickets from Den (01304 824845) or Jimmy (01304 823164). **Den Barnard**

SWEET CHARITY - On Saturday 5th May, those attending the Sweet Charity event, at the Village Hall, for a stroll down memory lane were given an absolutely first-class evening of entertainment. The event, organised by Heather Waller in aid of the motor neuron disease charity, was fully booked out. It was an evening of two halves the first being acts of the old-time music hall nature followed in the second half by outstanding performances of well-known tunes of the past rendered by 5 professional singers from Maidstone, including Heather's son David Waller. The standard of their singing, individually and as a group, was quite remarkable. Thank you to all those involved for such an entertaining evening. **Geoff Hillier**

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS – As part of an Emergency Plan the Parish Council have put together a list of contact numbers. If a crisis should occur, and when necessary the emergency services have been contacted by dialing 999, the list gives the contact details of other agencies and people who can be contacted. The list is on the notice board outside the village hall and also on the two village web sites as shown on the back page of this Newsletter.

FETE MEETING - there will be the (final) Fete Stallholders' Meeting on **Thursday 7th June at 8 pm** in the Village Hall; we are nearly ready to go with the arrangements for the **Fete on the 14th July** starting at 1 pm, but all stallholders (or anyone interested in helping) should attend so we can make sure everything is in hand. We have a number of exciting new features this year, including Lamb Racing, so watch out for further information in the next newsletter and please come along to the meeting (and obviously the Fete) and get involved in the premier village event of the year. **Paul Tapsell 01303 892082**

FETE - Any pictures, paintings or wall hangings you no longer want will be much appreciated if donated to our 'Art and Picture' stall at this year's Fete. Please contact Rosemary at 01303 892878. Happy to collect.

FETE - Handbags and scarves for the Fete. Please if you can donate a handbag for my stall, I would be most grateful. I am always in the Village Hall on Wednesdays at 10.30am if you can drop it in, if not please ring me and I will collect. Thank you very much. Susannah Tel. 01304 822295.

FILM NIGHT	
May 29th	**Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri**
June 26th	**Darkest Hour Gary Oldman**
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50 Please bring your own refreshments	

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BUS TIMES – Evidently the Alkham 91 bus timetable is changing from the 4th June. The StageCoach web site doesn't give the latest timetable so the details on the back of this Newsletter haven't been changed. However, I understand it should still be the same time at The Marquis going towards Folkestone but will now go via Warren Way and Canterbury Road, so it takes longer to get into Bus Station (and doesn't go via the Central Station and Royal Victoria Hospital). The return from Folkestone will be at 39 minutes past the hour, not 59 minutes. If possible, please check these details before travelling.

AVS are pleased to announce that they are in possession of a number of sketches depicting local scenes of Alkham by former resident and local artist Margret Knowles who now resides in Bath. Margaret has very kindly said that she is delighted to help and support AVS by allowing us to reproduce her sketches by way of notelets for sale for fund raising purposes in aid of AVS. AVS are therefore very pleased to announce that the first edition set of four views of Alkham are now available as notelets for just £4 for the set. The set consist of views of "The Old Post Office & Halton Court", "Hogbrook Hill Lane", "Village entrance from Dover" and "Meggett Lane South Alkham". Full details of the set can be obtained and ordered from alkhamvalleysociety@ btinternet.com or from The Treasurer, AVS, Greenwood Manor, Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7EF. Watch out for further views to be released later in the year. **Bev Hubbard**

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - At the AGM on 14th May 2018, Martin Hibbert was elected as the new Vice Chairman; he will also take on the role of Flood Warden. Martin has been in contact with KCC Highways to arrange for assessments to take place of the affected areas of Alkham. If there are any ditches, gullies or sumps that you know of that need attention then please feel free to let us know. A new budget for the CLP launch day has now been agreed so plans can move forward. As always, if you would like to raise anything with the Parish Council, please email clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk.

ALKHAM MEMORIES - After two years of planning, the local history exhibition took place over a weekend in April. Based on some of the material that Susan Lees had collected over the past 40 years, the photographs and scrapbooks were supplemented by maps and farm records as well as the opportunity to research further, and to watch a collection of DVDs put together by Den of village events. A highlight was an updated version of Mark Robson's presentation on Alkham heroes of both world wars. The numbers who came, from the village and surrounding areas were appreciative: many stayed a couple of hours sharing reminiscences. Our grateful thanks to all who helped, and to Sue for hosting our Meetings.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our May meeting was a resolutions meeting about mental health. The next meeting will be on June 12th when our speakers will be George Taylor and Peter Clayton speaking about the story of Frank Sinatra. Hostesses are Sue Ross and Pam Sayers; Raffle Debbie Saunders and VOT Helen Price. New Members always welcome **Debbie Griggs**



GARDEN TALK - Our next visit is to Bramhall, Alkham Valley Road where Susannah & Richard Tapsell will be showing us around their garden and offering hospitality on Friday 8th June from 7.30p.m. We look forward to early summer colour and an immaculate vegetable garden. **Janet Adamson**

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OZ on CREATION – In the spring, we went to Maidenhead to hear Maidenhead Choral Society, which includes my daughter in the soprano line, sing Haydn's oratorio The Creation. It was a superb performance from choir, soloists and orchestra; I've sung this same work many times over the years, but never to this high standard. From where we sat in the front row, I could see and hear every musician; halfway through the second half I began to think of the complexity of what was going on in their heads and nervous systems, and how and why it all came about. I grew up in a devout religious environment, and learned that God created humans between 6,000 and 10,000 years ago on the sixth day of a week in which he had created the remainder of Life, the Universe and Everything. Animals and the first two humans emerged fully formed and there was no mention of who had created God. Later, a scientific education taught me that the whole universe emerged from nothing in a Big Bang 13.8 billion years ago, with the earth appearing 4.5 billion years ago, and humans evolving from primitive life-forms from 2.5 billion years ago to today, especially over the last 7 million years. For me, both theories were perfectly plausible, and I remain happy with my teacher's explanation that the first story was "just a parable for what actually happened, as that was so complicated." The bigger puzzle is why is there a universe at all? What if there were no universe? I'm quite capable of brooding on this subject until my head spins and I wonder if indeed I exist or not. At that point the only remedy is to listen to some music, Haydn perhaps or even my old idol Count Basie. **Steve Osborn**



ADDERS have been sighted in the dog walking area in Alkham and they can be told apart from grass snakes and slow worms by their distinctive zig-zag markings. Snake bites can be fatal, so dog owners need to act quickly if a dog has been bitten. The dog will almost certainly cry out as bites are very painful. There is usually severe swelling around the bite area and if around the face or throat can be very dangerous. If your dog has been bitten, try and keep the dog as calm and still as possible and it is better to bring transport to the dog rather than making them walk back. Go straight to your vet and do not interfere with the wound or tie any sort of tourniquet because there is a danger of tissue damage around the bite.

CROSSWORD – In January 1942 a £100 prize was offered by the Daily Telegraph to anyone who could solve one of their crossword puzzles in 12 minutes or under. People were invited to the Telegraph newsroom and 12 contestants completed the crossword in the allotted time. However, they were considered so good that they were recruited by Bletchley Park as codebreakers. If anyone would like to have a go I can give you a copy. **editor**

ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH - Following two hours of extra deep cleaning St Anthony's is now sparkling again, and it was wonderful to be able to use the new kitchen facilities for a well-earned coffee break. I would like to offer a huge thank you to Sue and Mike Ross, Avi Munn, Sandie Spencer, Anne Huggins, Linda Gaskill, Richard Tapsell and Den Barnard. **The Project Team**

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)	
Tuesday	Art Workshop from 10am – 1pm Yoga 1.10pm – 2.10pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
Thursday	Yoga 9.30 to 11.00am and 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am

Other Events in the village hall		
Tuesday	**5**	White Cliffs Metal detectors 7 to 9pm
Thursday	**7**	Fete meeting 8pm – all welcome
Saturday	**9**	SEK astronomical society 7pm to 10.00pm
Tuesday	**12**	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Tuesday	**26**	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)

07.59 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 14.16 15.16 17.16 18.16 Sat. 10.16 11.16 12.16 13.16 15.16 17.16
9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 *16.07* 16.32 17.32 Sat. 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 16.32

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 3rd	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Saturday 9th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 10th	Eucharist 9.30	Worship 11 am	
Sunday 17th	Worship 11 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 24th	Benefice Eucharist Hougham with Prayer Ministry 10.00 am		

From the vicarage - Norwich was once the home of the first woman to write a book in English – Julian of Norwich. She lived towards the end of the fourteenth century and lived as an anchoress – a woman who lived in a cell alongside a church, dedicated to a life of prayer and to doling out advice to those who came to her window asking for it. Today visitors can see St Julian's Church, heavily rebuilt after being bombed in 1942, and Mother Julian's cell – just as I did recently. Mother Julian was convinced that with God, our failings – whatever and however serious they might be – never have the last word. "All Shall Be Well," she famously wrote – a comforting thought in our anxious times, ideal for printing on a mug. Yes, I do have one. I had travelled to Norwich by train. Everything had gone smoothly until about half an hour away from journey's end when we slowed to a crawl. The PA system crackled. The conductor explained that we were approaching a series of level crossings. There had been reports of something on the line, and they had been told to slow and keep a sharp lookout. In mid-sentence, he suddenly interrupted himself: LOOK AT THAT VOLVO! Of course, everyone did just that. With the barrier down and nothing in sight, the Volvo driver had impatiently positioned himself ready to zig-zag over the line until alerted to the approach of our train. He sat sheepishly at the wheel as one coachload of passengers after another rumbled past, eyeballing him as they went, accompanied by a furious lecture from the conductor over the PA system about rules at level crossings. "All Shall Be Well," wrote Mother Julian. But whatever our shortcomings are, it probably helps if we work on them…
Brian Williams

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No. 294 July 2018

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ALKHAM FETE - It's finally upon us - this year's Fete is on 14th July from 1pm. As always, we need as much help as possible putting the tents up from 8:30 a.m. on Saturday morning - please come along with your second favourite heavy hammer! - and there are always jobs to help with up to and including clearing the meadow afterwards; many hands make light work, so please come along and share the load. We have a number of new attractions this year, as well as the traditional favourites, including Lamb Racing (sign up early to become an "owner" in one of the four races), a "Smashing" Shy, Morris Dancing, Tai Chi, the Band, The Astronomical Society (and alien guests), "The Parish Council Gazebo", Tractors, Firemen, Vintage Cars, a Wedding Dress display and refreshments (including cakes, tea, ice creams, burgers and beer and "Pimms"-ish), and more stalls than I care to name (further details, and requests for help, elsewhere in the newsletter). You have received a couple of books of Raffle tickets (£1 per ticket, £5 a book) with your Newsletter - please sell some and let me have the counterfoils and cash beforehand. This is THE village event of the Year, so please come and be a part of making it a success. Any questions - give me a call on 07947 016697. **Paul Tapsell**

ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL is seeking to recruit a Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer, salary according to experience in accordance with the NJC salary scales. Hours are approximately 10 per week. Please see page 2 for more details.

The first Village Hall 'Tea and Talk' get together event was held on Thursday 24th May when 13 parishioners gathered at the hall. Tea and biscuits were provided, free of charge, and those who came along were able to chat and be amongst friends in an informal atmosphere. The aim of these sessions is to encourage those who don't have the possibility to meet up with people on a daily basis to come along and spend a couple of hours a month in the company of others. These informal get togethers are held in the Village Hall, between 2pm and 4pm on the last Thursday of the month. The next will be on Thursday 28th June and the following one will be on the 26th July. All are welcome. **Geoff Hillier**

ALKHAM HEROES TRIP - On Tuesday, September 11th, Den Barnard and Mark Robson are taking a coach to France to visit various sites linked to the First World War. Full details on page 3.

OPERATION STACK – Highways England want to hear your views on the proposed approach to develop one or more lorry holding areas to reduce the congestion in Kent caused by any cross-channel disruption. The full details are on the Internet at https://t.co/D49PURG8j8.

ALKHAM FETE - Saturday 14th July. Cake Stall and Refreshments. We would be very grateful for donations of cakes for the cake stall and refreshments at the fete. These will be for sale in the village hall. Cakes can be brought to the village hall from 12 noon on the day or we can collect on Friday evening. For more details please ring Janet Barrow 01304 829585 or Sue Ross 01304 825736 - Thank you.

PLANTS - Please could I ask for any plant donations for the fete; I am quite happy to pick them up. Carol Mannall, Poets End, Short Lane. tel 01304 826514.

FETE BOOK STALL - Do you have any jigsaws you would like to donate to the Book Stall? We would also like any children's books - all ages - jigsaws, and box games, e.g. snakes & ladders, ludo, card games etc, that you no longer need and would like to donate. Happy to collect - please call Mike/Rachel Fountain on 823173 or 07905206702. Thank you.

WANTED small workshop for a local carpenter moving into the area. A new resident to the village is looking for a small workshop / large garage / farm outhouse to rent mainly for storage, but occasionally as a carpentry workshop. If you have anything suitable, please email info@5wayscarpentry.com. All offers greatly appreciated.

KEYS – A Yale and mortise key were found by the slide on the green. Please phone 01304 822365 for details.

FILM NIGHT	
June 26th	**Darkest Hour** **Gary Oldman**
July 31st	**Finding your feet** Timothy Spall, Imelda Staunton
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ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL is seeking to recruit a Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer, salary according to experience in accordance with the NJC salary scales. Hours are approximately 10 per week. Duties for this home-based appointment include attending a minimum of 8 monthly evening Parish Council Meetings per year on the first Monday of the month; preparing the agendas; taking minutes and giving procedural advice; carrying out the Council's administrative tasks; keeping financial records; preparing accounts and the annual budget and preparing records for audit purposes; dealing with general enquiries and correspondence; updating an
d co-ordinating the Parish Council website. The ideal candidate will have previous experience in a similar role, good IT, organisational, administrative and financial skills, be able to work on their own initiative. Applicants should forward their CV, with a covering letter explaining their suitability for the role to clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk. The closing date for applications is Monday 24th June 2018. Interviews will take place during June/early July 2018 in Alkham.

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ROAD NAME – The Parish Council decided that the name of the road off Slip Lane up to Chalksole could be called White or Chalky Hill. In the March edition of the Newsletter there was an article about the Lime Kiln, which was on White or Chalky Hill. In 1846 notice was given regarding a meeting in the Marquis of Granby to discuss the enclosure of the Common Land and Limekiln Hill was included. **editor**

ALKHAM BOOK – I have completed three new pages for the Alkham History book, which are: Ellinge particularly coal and iron, plus more details of farms at Everden; North Hill House and Common Hill House including the associated road; Glebelands. Also, the brewery at Upton, brickyard at Fernfield and the lime kiln have been added. If you'd like a copy, please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com or ring 824969. **editor**

SPOTTED – A person walking through the land at Chalksole is certain that he saw a wallaby hopping across the field. This did seem unlikely but looking on the Internet one was seen at Bethersden last year and a kangaroo recently caused havoc on the A20 near Lenham.

30mph – Lyminge Parish Council have taken the initiative and are distributing A4 bin stickers which say 30mph 'Please - slow down in our village'. Seems like a very good idea.



GARDEN TALK - After some lovely sunny weather and fine evenings, we hope the trend continues when we next meet, on Friday 6th July at 4A Newlyns Meadow. Liz and Larry Lambourne are our hosts from 7.30p.m. **Janet Adamson**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our June meeting was the story of Frank Sinatra, which was very interesting. Next meeting will be on July 10th when we have a Ukulele Band. Hostesses are Debbie Saunders and Susannah Tapsell, Raffle Susannah Tapsell and VOT Sue Harman. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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ALKHAM HEROES TRIP - On Tuesday, September 11th, Den Barnard and I are taking a coach to France to visit various sites linked to the First World War. Our first stop will be at Vimy Ridge. This was the scene of particularly fierce fighting which involved some of the Alkham men though is now known as the scene of a famous Canadian victory. The land on which the memorial stands was donated by the French to the Canadians and is a moving memorial to the men who died here. You are able to see and walk through the trench system and gain an insight into the strategic importance of the Ridge. We are hoping that we will also be able to have a guided tour of the tunnels in which troops sheltered and gathered before battle. This can only be booked on the day so will depend on demand at the time. There is plenty to see and absorb on the site if a tour of the tunnels is not possible. This will be our lunch stop too. The afternoon will be a time for reflection on the direct impact of war. We will visit the French National Military Cemetery at Ablain St-Nazaire which also houses a memorial to those killed in the region and where several Alkham men are named. We will then travel the short distance to Neuville St-Vaast to visit a German War Cemetery. Den and I have carried out a recce of the trip and feel this is a fitting way to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War. If you would like to join us the details are: Cost: £30 (inc a Ploughman's lunch); Depart Alkham: 07.20 return: 19.00 (approx.). Payment will be required on booking and, if you have to drop out it will be up to you to find replacement and cover your costs (we've been caught out on this before!). We anticipate great interest so advise early booking. Please take payments to Den (01304 824845) at Halton Court. You will need a passport and an EHIC card is recommended. **Mark Robson**

OZ on STONE – It's 75 years since summer 1943, when Allied forces were busy planning D-Day, the attempt to land in Normandy. One of the problems was delivery of petrol to the forces after landing, as tankers and ship-to-shore pipelines would be susceptible to attack. In 1942 an undersea pipeline was proposed by Admiral Mountbatten, and agreed between him, Geoffrey Lloyd (Secretary for Petroleum), and Arthur Hartley (Chief Engineer of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company). The strategy was code-named Operation Pluto (Pipe-Lines Under The Ocean). Later that year the government instructed Siemens Brothers of Woolwich to design a suitable pipeline. Initial designs showed numerous problems when stress-tested, particularly with joints. And it was here that three more of the war's unsung heroes emerged, when Siemens employed a specialist lead business, W P Stone of Brockley, to devise a technique for jointing the 700-yard lengths of lead alloy pipes. After successful trials in the Thames, Stone was awarded the contract, and the three Stone brothers, Frank, Albert, and Ron began making the joints at Woolwich and Callenders Cables of Erith. They worked 18 hours a day and 7 days a week producing the joints for 492 miles of pipeline from Dungeness to Boulogne and Shanklin to Cherbourg. Of necessity the work was done in such secrecy that the Stone family had no idea what the brothers were up to. In October 1944 the Boulogne pipelines delivered 3,000 tons of fuel a day, rising to 4,500 tons by the end of the war. By 1949, over 90% of the pipeline was salvaged, the value of which far exceeded the recovery costs. After the war Frank extended the family business into lead shielding for the expanding nuclear and medical industries, working as a consultant until the age of 83. He died aged 90 in 2004. **(Steve Osborn)**

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Tuesday	Art Workshop from 10am – 1pm Yoga 1.10pm – 2.10pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
Thursday	Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am

Other Events in the village hall

Monday	**2**	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm – all welcome
Tuesday	**3**	White Cliffs Metal detectors 7 to 9pm
Tuesday	**10**	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Saturday	**14**	Alkham Fete on village green from 1pm
Saturday	**14**	SEK astronomical society 7pm to 10.00pm
Monday	**16**	Bird Club 7.30pm
Tuesday	**31**	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)

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CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 1st	Evensong 6.30	Eucharist 9.30	Worship 11am
Sunday 8th	Eucharist 9.30	Worship 11am	
Saturday 14th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 15th	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00	Eucharist 9:30
Sunday 22nd	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		
Sunday 29th	Benefice Eucharist at St Mary's (Capel Old Church) 10.00		

From the vicarage - By the time you read this, the Royal Wedding will be a dim and distant memory, from way back before the World Cup took over our TV screens. But think for a moment – which memory of that day most sticks in your mind? For me, it was the number of people who remarked on *that sermon*. Actually, it wasn't Bishop Michael Curry's fourteen minutes of fame, as some of the newspapers seemed to suggest – he is, after all, in the USA what the Archbishop of Canterbury is in the UK – but his thoughtful, carefully prepared and energetically delivered sermon (I did read it) certainly got him noticed on this side of the Atlantic. Sermons are strange things. I sometimes turn up on a Sunday with what I expect to be an absolute winner, and nobody says a word about it afterwards. But there have also been times when I've struggled to come up with anything that I felt was worth saying to be told afterwards, *"Great sermon – thank you!"* I remember being recognised by a receptionist at the opticians once. She told me that she had heard me preach a couple of years previously on one of her occasional visits to church, and then completely surprised me by reminding me of exactly what I had said. Why did Bishop Curry hit bullseye? I think people were expecting ten minutes of boredom. Instead, they had fourteen minutes of anything but. They listened, and whatever they thought of what they heard, many were still talking about it days afterwards. That's success. The much loved and sadly missed Rabbi Lionel Blue used to say that God shows his hand in the unlikeliest of places, airport lounges and parties included. Add weddings to that list! **Brian Williams**

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to all properties in the Parish



FETE - A huge thank you to everyone who helped with the Fete on Saturday 14th July, from bringing the tents on site and putting them up to the final clearing of the meadow. I hope everyone enjoyed the day as much as I did, especially the brilliant lunacy of the lamb racing! There are far too many people to thank by name, but I must single out Warren, Dave and Richard for the use of their vehicles and sponsorship of the beer tent and Pimm's pavilion. Thank you also to all the committee members for their support and hard work over the last year; please come and join us at the next meeting in early September when we will sort out the finances - I'm told we took over £5,000 so after expenses we should have a tidy sum to divide between the church and the village hall. Finally, thank you for coming on the day and for selling the Grand raffle tickets to all and sundry! **Paul Tapsell 01303 892082**

THE PARISH PLAN – Your Village Needs You! On Saturday 1st September you are invited to come along to the village hall and have some input to the Alkham Parish Plan. The Parish Council would like to know what your vision for the future of Alkham over is the next few years and they want it to be a community led plan – so this is where you come in. Over the next few months there will be a variety of occasions for you to help formulate the plan from questionnaires, focus groups, one to one meetings etc. and you can email, text, write a letter, use the Parish Council web site or any other method of communication. The important thing is to make sure you have your say. The first event is Saturday 1st September, Village Hall, 10:00 am til 4:00pm. If you can't make it let us know and we will come and see you – that's how important it is**! (Den Barnard 824845, Martin Hibbert 07796444860, Dave Beaney 825355)**

TEA AND A CHAT – The second 'Tea and a chat' was held in the village hall on the 28th June and not many people turned up; however, those that did really enjoyed themselves and therefore we will continue with this free event. The idea is that people who are alone or isolated can meet up with other people in a friendly environment and have a chat plus tea or coffee and biscuits. We are happy to pick anyone up and bring them to the hall and take you home afterwards; if you'd like us to do this please ring 01304 824969 or 01303 892878. Tea and chat is held on the last Thursday of the month from 2 to 4pm in Alkham Village Hall.

ALKHAM VALLEY GARDEN CENTRE are holding their first Farmers Market on August 27th Bank Holiday Monday. There will be many stalls and great offers in house. Why not come along for a Big Valley Breakfast, lunch or afternoon tea.

ART EXIBITION in Hythe Library 1st September to the 27th September 2018, showing work by Jacqui Botwright, Liz Lambourne and Helen Taylor.

ALKHAM HEROES TRIP September 11th Spaces are available but please book before the 3rd August - 01304 824845

HARVEST BARN DANCE - Dancing to Spring Barley, Alkham Village Hall Saturday 6th October 2018 19:30 to 23:15. Tickets £8.00 to include Ploughman's Supper. Tickets available from Graham Bissett, Bren Tor, Alkham Valley Road CT15 7BX 07789 690786 Graham.bissett@talk21.com

FOR SALE a Coalbrookdale Darby 15K log burning stove. Heats more than a large space, X condition, back boiler facility £550. Contact brian@pymlodge.f9.co.uk or phone 01304 820055.

THE MARQUIS has been sold to the owners of the Imperial Hotel at Hythe, which is part of the Ashford based GSE Group that has civil engineering and plant divisions. There will be no major changes and Tony Marsden says that it is time for him to move on to new projects and wanted to make sure he was leaving The Marquis in the right hands.

FILM NIGHT	
July 31st	**Finding your feet** Timothy Spall, Imelda Staunton
Aug. 28	**The Shape of Water**
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50 Please bring your own refreshments	

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THE PARISH COUNCIL have appointed a new Clerk, Irene Bowie and would like to officially welcome her. Plans are moving forward to improve the fencing around the play area to make it safer for children. It is also hoped that the noticeboard nearest the Village Hill will go under some refurbishment in the near future. As always, if you would like to raise anything with the Parish Council, please email clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk. **Parish Clerk**

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS – At the Parish Council meeting on the 2nd July the new Parish Clerk, Irene Bowie was introduced, who is taking over from Janice Lambert. It was reported that monies for the repairs to the byways was likely to be made available this year. On September 1st at the Village Hall there will be an event, open to all, for people to give their suggestions as to what should be considered to be included in the Community Led Plan (CLP). The event will include entertainment and refreshments. More details will be made available closer to the time. The Traffic Action Group draft report has been accepted by the Parish Council and will now be discussed with the various emergency services and police to get their comments for inclusion into the final report before it is submitted to KCC. The draft report will be available to be viewed on the Parish Council website (www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk). As always, if you would like to raise anything with the Parish Council, please email clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk



CYCLING – Alan, Brian and Margaret Danstead have an electric bike each and they are all powered differently with the motor either in the back or front wheel or in the middle. Margaret is the unflappable scorer at the Annual Quiz and her first country ride was 16 miles starting at Slip Lane and onto Hawkinge, Acrise, Paddlesworth and back through Hawkinge. Great fun on a lovely day.



GARDEN TALK - Our next visit is on Friday 10th August, when we go to Thorn Cottage, Meggett Lane where we always find much of interest, and great hospitality from Rosemary and Geoff Hillier. All welcome from 7.30p.m. **Janet Adamson**



WALLABY – In last month's Newsletter there was an article regarding the sighting of a wallaby on the byway leading up to Chalksole. An adjacent resident has emailed to say that she disturbed one a few years' ago while living at Pluckley. The animal was outside the garden gate early one Sunday morning, but hopped away extremely quickly. It was seen several times in that vicinity for a couple of years and was thought to be an escapee from who knows where.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our July meeting was an enjoyable evening. We had a ukulele band and everyone was singing along with them; it was a fun evening. Our next meeting will be August 14th which will be fish and chip night. Any members who weren't at the last meeting and would like fish and chips ordered please can you let me know by the 5th August; please ring me on 07796360473 and bring a bottle of wine. Any members wishing to take part in a decorate your own hat competition please bring them on the night and the best one wins a prize. There will also be a quiz by the two Debbies; Raffle, Alison Warnock; VOT of thanks Beryl King. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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ST ANTHONY'S Summer Evening Guitar Concert.
For the eighth consecutive year Jimmy d'Alton Bellas brought his past and present guitar pupils to St Anthony's for another highly successful concert. A packed church was treated to a delightful evening of classical music from twenty students from the age of six. In the second half, invited guest Emily Renshaw (mezzo soprano) and Grant McFarlane Dowse (guitar) once again provided breathtaking performances. Jimmy also had on show his father's mandolin which had been returned to the family after many years (see picture). This instrument had been played all over the world by Hugo d'Alton with Igor Stravinsky and Julian Bream and many world-famous orchestras. The £700 that was raised has been donated to the Friends of St Anthony's. **Den Barnard**

OZ on PROMS (2018) – It's a busy time of year, both in the country, as harvest nears, and in the city, buzzing with tourists. Perhaps the only people who escape this seasonal pressure are children and the retired. Charles Lamb, in The Superannuated Man (1825), wrote "I have lost all distinction of season." For many, the summer season is marked by eating alfresco, drinking wine, and enjoying the Henry Wood Promenade Concerts, either live or on BBC radio and television. The Proms were founded in 1895 by Robert Newman, manager of the Queen's Hall, who appointed a young singing teacher called Henry Wood to conduct the concerts. Wood composed the Fantasia on British Sea-Songs, incorporating James Thomson's Rule Brittania, for the Proms concert celebrating the 100th anniversary of Trafalgar in 1905. Elgar's Land of Hope and Glory was sung to end the first night in 1914, and was triumphantly repeated on the last night in 1918. Early in the next war, in 1941, the Queen's Hall was gutted in an air-raid, and the Proms moved to the Royal Albert Hall, where they have since remained. Each Proms season has several themes, and one of this year's, marking the end of World War 1, is the way that British composers responded to that war and its aftermath. Hence there is music by Hubert Parry, Vaughan Williams, Holst, John Ireland and Frank Bridge. I'll know when the season changes again, from summer to autumn, when committee agendas fall through the letterbox, and the Last Night of the Proms is over. As Barrie Hall says, "Sunday morning after the Last Night feels strange and hollow, like the sad ending of a lovely long holiday" and he looks forward to the next season "when like summer's flowers the glorious Proms will once more burst into bloom, all over again." **Steve Osborn**

RSPCA Canterbury are looking to build a community of alternative homes for some of their more outdoorsy cats, which have missed out on socialisation with humans at crucial stages in their development as kittens. In order to help these cats they need to find people with large outside space and shelter who would be willing to offer this as a home for a cat. This could be anything from a shed in a large garden to a barn in a farmyard. All you need to supply is shelter**,** daily food supply and fresh water. If you would like to know more, please phone 01227 719113 or email them at info@rspca-canterbury.org.uk

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Regular events in the village (VH=village hall)	
Tuesday	Art Workshop from 10am – 1pm Yoga 1.10pm – 2.10pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
Thursday	Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am – check to make sure

Other Events in the village hall		
Tuesday	**7**	White Cliffs Metal detectors 7 to 9pm
Tuesday	**14**	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Saturday	**18**	SEK astronomical society 7pm to 10.00pm
Monday	**20**	Bird Club 7.30pm
Tuesday	**28**	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)
8.00, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.04, 18.34
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 16.27 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

CHURCH SERVICES			
DATE	**ALKHAM**	**CAPEL**	**HOUGHAM**
Sunday 5th	Benefice Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Saturday 11th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 12th	Benefice Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		
Sunday 19th	Benefice Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Sunday 26th	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - As we all know, certain things happen at the same time each year, almost without exception. Easter is over and done with for this year, but once summer is over Harvest Festival, Remembrance Day and the run up to Christmas seem to follow in quick succession. But before all that, there's August, when the annual ceremony of the Trimming of the Hedge takes place at the vicarage. May I say how much I appreciate the kindness of all those passers-by who are kind enough to smile, wave or pass the time of day during the ceremony when they see Yours Truly balancing on top of a stepladder. But August is about more than just trimming hedges. The church at Hougham is dedicated to St Laurence, whose feast day is on 10th August. He lived in Roman times at a time when the Church was being persecuted. Ordered to hand over its treasures, he produced a group of poor people – these were its treasures, he said. At Capel, the church is dedicated to St Radigund, a princess who turned her back on a life at court to set up an abbey and to look after the poor and sick. Her feast is on 13th August. Alkham is dedicated to St Anthony of Pamiers, or Antoninus as he is sometimes called. A convert to Christianity, he is said to have returned home as a missionary after being ordained priest in Rome, and to have been martyred. He is remembered on 2nd September. The Prayer Book describes saints as 'lights of the world in their several generations' – people whose devotion has been an inspiration to others to bring light to the world's dark places. Now you know what I'm thinking about when I'm trimming that hedge.

Brian Williams

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Hall booking Val Fowler 827635
W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
KCC - Geoffrey Lymer 07960490929
DDC - P Beresford 216187
WEBS www.alkham.org & www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

To contact the Parish Clerk or Councillors phone 07771616795 or email clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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No. 296 September 2018

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PARISH PLAN - OPEN DAY 1st SEPTEMBER - With this newsletter you will have received a personal invite to the Parish Plan Open Day on Saturday 1st September. Please come along to the Village Hall for a few minutes between 10:00 and 16:00 to give your views on how you would like to see the future of our village. There will be various headings displayed where you can make your comments, anonymously if you wish, whilst enjoying a cup of tea or coffee with cake. Just to make it even more interesting please bring along your invite, or pick up one on the day, to be entered into a prize draw with several prizes courtesy of our sponsors. There will also be giant garden games for children and we would also like to see the young people of the village having their say on what they would like for Alkham. The Parish Plan team plus Parish Councillors will be on hand for any questions on the day. If you can't make it, please let us know and we will organise a follow up. **(Den Barnard 824845, Martin Hibbert 07796444860, Dave Beaney 825355)**



CORN FIRE - On the 25th July ten fire engines tackled a huge blaze on the cornfield adjacent to Great Everden Farm on the high ground above Alkham. It made the national news and the cause is unknown.

HARVEST BARN DANCE - Saturday 6th October 19:30 to 23:15 in Alkham Village Hall there will be Barn Dancing to Spring Barley. Tickets costing £8, including a Ploughman's Supper, are available from Graham Bissett, Bren Tor, Alkham Valley Road CT15 7BX, phone 07789 690786 or email Graham.bissett@talk21.com.

TEA AND A CHAT - The next Tea and a Chat event will be at 2pm on Thursday 30th August in the Village Hall. It is open to all to come along for a couple of hours on the last Thursday of the month for free tea and biscuits and a chat with old friends and to have also the opportunity to meet new ones from 2pm to 4pm. Come along and join in with friendly company. September's event will be on the 27th. Put it in your diary.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – The next Parish Council meeting, to which everyone is welcome attend, will be at 7.30pm on the 3rd September in the village hall.

STAN FOWLER died on the 4th August after a short illness, aged 80. He lived with his wife Val in a bungalow in Slip Lane and used to have a shop in the village of Boughton where he made and sold clocks. His wife Val was for many years the booking secretary for the village hall and going to the bungalow was like visiting an oasis of calm with a grandfather clock clicking slowly in the background. Stan was a good man and a great photographer whose photos were used in several Alkham calendars. Val is moving to Margate to be near her daughters and many thanks go to her for doing the bookings and key holding for the village hall for so many years.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING Saturday 22nd September in the village hall from 10am until 12noon. This coffee morning is in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, a very worthwhile charity that as well as providing nursing support also gives practical and financial help to cancer sufferers and their families. As in previous years there will be a variety of stalls including a tombola. I am always overwhelmed at the generosity of all those who support the coffee morning each year and I would again be very grateful to anyone who would be willing to bake a cake (large or individual!) for the cake and refreshment stalls. For any further information please contact Sue Ross - 01304 825736.

FILM NIGHT	
Aug. 28	The Shape of Water
Sept 25	The Post Tom Hanks Meryl Streep
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50 Please bring your own refreshments	

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - We are only a couple of weeks away from the PARISH PLAN open day, which is being held on the 1st of September @10am - 4pm at the village hall. There will be free refreshments and activities to keep the children interested such as a penalty shoot out and giant outdoor games. The parish has never held an event like this before. It is time to bring your ideas along and have your say. We want all age groups to join us in the future of the parish. It maybe that you have lots of ideas or you just the parish to stay the way it is. EITHER WAY WE NEED YOU!! This is a parish event for parish people.
NEWSLETTER – I'm pleased to report that the Newsletter broke even last year. Printing cost £456, postage was £108, and delivery was £9 making £573 in total and the revenue from adverts was £578 (some non-payments were written off). **editor**
WHO are the thoughtful gents who mow the path through the churchyard? They are well kept, and it is a pleasure to walk on them rather than a tangle of grass. I'm sure I'm speaking for all the locals and visitors and particularly dog walkers who regularly use them. A big thankyou to those responsible, you really are appreciated. Please carry on the good work – don't stop! **Pamela Sayers (dog walker)**
ALKHAM BYWAYS, **latest position** - In June Pimlico and Bullrun byways were re-opened to vehicles following a six-month closure by Kent County Council to prevent further vehicle damage over the winter. This followed KCC's preliminary consultation on their future management. Possible management outcomes include permanent Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) excluding all motor vehicles throughout the year - something which local residents having been calling for. Following the consultation KCC were due to present their recommendations to its consultative group called the Byway Management Working Group in June. Unfortunately, this was not done, and we are still waiting for the recommendations. At present the byway surfaces are in good condition in most places because of the last closures and exceptionally dry weather. KCC have funds available for some work on parts of the byways in poor condition. The byways group will continue to press for permanent TROs. Please contact me if you would like further information. **Peter Smith** - pnsmith755@gmail.com and 07711 648255.



GARDEN TALK - Our next visit will be to Woodstock, Alkham Valley Road, where we will be welcomed by Helen and Don Hobday. This will be on Friday **14th Septembe**r (which is a change of date from previous details), starting at 7.00p.m. to be able to view the garden in daylight. **Janet Adamson**
ALKHAM W.I. - Our August meeting was a fun one and we had fish and chips followed by a Quiz which everyone enjoyed; thank you to Debbie Saunders for helping me. Well done to Sue Ross who came 1st in the decorated hat competition and also the runner up Gina Daniels. Our next meeting will be on September 11th when our speaker will be Bob Ogley talking about the Great Storm of 1987; this will be an open evening so everyone is welcome and it starts at 7.30pm. Hostesses are Alison Warnock and Eileen West; Raffle Eileen West and VOT Janet Gibbons. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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Tracey Prince BSc (hons), PGCE, QTS, CELTA, CRB

EVERDEN BYWAY – At South Alkham, Pimlico Way rises to the high ground where the byway splits with one arm leading to Everden. Martin Scherer, who owns the land, has been carrying out a lot of work adjacent to Pimlico Way and the Everden Byway including clearing the scrub land which has pleased many people including Kent Wildlife Trust and Natural England who want to see sheep grazing. The crater field is too steep and undulating for vine trellising so agro-forestry and grazing between widely spaced nut trees is planned. Having cleared the vegetation alongside the Everden byway it was realised that parts were precipitously close to the craters, so the byway is being widened to increase safety and the banks used by 4 x 4's removed. In the process it was discovered that part of the Everden Byway is in the wrong place, which KCC will reinstate. Martin intends to start grazing sheep and another field will be filled with vines next year. Pimlico is beautiful and should be shared so a track along the bottom boundary of the Crater Field will be created for a beautiful walk beneath trees, which friends of the Vineyard can walk or ride horses; friends are free to walk anywhere there are not grazing animals. To be a vineyard friend, people need to click 'like' to Pimlico Vineyard's FaceBook page.

MITCH on PROVENÇAL SONG – If you had a halfway decent voice and a love of music and a smattering of one or two European languages you might just be invited on the Summer Tour to the south of France - along with twenty young musicians. Oh and a willingness to cook for about twenty five mouths or so...And you would stay in the little village houses where the travelling grape pickers would stay come the vendage in September. The students all played at least one instrument, and sang too of course, so an evening concert consisted of a chamber group plus a concerto plus a solo sonata and two sets by the choir – reward for the cooks was to join in. The first church we sang in was one of those mediaeval gems - ancient and lofty and festooned with cobwebs, wooden pews with the patina of centuries. The priest in charge was nervous, lighting a lot of candles I noticed. Something to do with the bare shoulders and knees of the girls maybe? The heat was an invitation to wear a lot less than usual... But as soon as they started to sing and play the glories of Mozart and Vivaldi he relaxed – no more candles needed. For the shoulders were covered in performance black and the sounds were glorious. And they stood to applaud – best of all rewards. I think surprised that students so young were so professional in every way – the high standard of all the players, the high standard of behaviour too. Little did they know we all partied late into each hot southern night! **Jane Mitchell**

THANKS to John Prince for the kind donation of his time and cabinet making skills in the construction of a storage cupboard for St Anthony's. The cupboard, beautifully constructed in European oak, is integrated into the kitchenette and completes the internal improvements to the church (please pop in and see it). The new toilet and facilities were put to good use at the recent guitar concert and will be blessed by the Bishop of Dover at a special service on 9th September to which all are welcome.

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Tuesday	Art Workshop from 10am – 1pm Yoga 1.10pm – 2.10pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
Thursday	Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am – check to make sure

Other Events in the village hall

Saturday	**1**	Parish Plan meeting 10am to 4pm – seepage1
Sunday	**2**	PCC
Monday	**3**	Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm all welcome
Saturday	**8**	SEK astronomical society 7pm to 10.00pm
Tuesday	**11**	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Monday	**17**	Bird Club 7.30pm
Saturday	**22**	MacMillan coffee morning 10am to midday
Tuesday	**25**	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)

8.00, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.04, 18.34
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41

7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 16.27 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 2nd	**Benefice Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am**		
Saturday 8th	**Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm**		
Sunday 9th	**Benefice Eucharist Alkham with Bishop Trevor 10.00 am**		
Sunday 16th	**Worship 11am**	**Evensong 6.00 pm**	**Eucharist 9:30 am**
Sunday 23rd	**Benefice Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am**		
Sunday 30th	**Benefice Eucharist at St Mary's (Capel Old Church) 10.00**		

FROM THE VICARAGE - As a student teacher, I remember the advice that we were told always to follow when on school placements. *Before taking a seat in the staff room, make sure that it's not the one that Mr Bloggs always sits in – you won't be forgiven!* Visiting a cathedral one afternoon recently I decided to stay for Evensong, at which a visiting choir would be singing. I found a quiet corner and waited for the service to begin. Shortly afterwards an elderly couple sat down next to me. The woman smiled and asked if I was with the choir. I explained that I was just a visitor. Still smiling, she welcomed me – and happened to mention that she usually sat where I was sitting! *But there's no reason why you shouldn't sit there*, she reassured me. I resisted the temptation to reply that in my own church I always sit in the same seat too, but that nobody else wants it because it goes with the job… But by now she had turned her attention to a group of tourists who had sat down in front of us and were busily taking selfies. She spent the rest of the service leaning across, smiling and making sure that they had their prayer books open at the correct pages. The service ended with a procession during the final hymn. She wouldn't be taking part, she had told me – her legs wouldn't let her. The hymn began, we smiled our goodbyes, and together with the tourists I sang my way to a chapel for the Blessing (and more selfies). What's the moral of this story? If someone sits in your seat, try smiling and making them welcome. If you have ever mistakenly sat in someone else's, I know how you felt… **Brian Williams**

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W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
KCC - Geoffrey Lymer 07960490929
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WEBS www.alkham.org & www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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No. 297 October 2018

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PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - The question of overnight parking by camper vans on the village car park was discussed. This is a seasonal problem for those residents living near the Village Hall, but no action was agreed as this land is not owned by the Parish Council. This is not just a problem for Alkham as Temple Ewell suffers similar problems. During the interval representatives from Ewell Minnis voiced their concern that adverse remarks regarding caravans and planning issues in Ewell Minnis, were made by some residents at the Parish Plan launch on the 1st September. This was considered by those present from Ewell Minnis as a racial slur. It was agreed that more effort is needed by the Parish Council to ensure problems of those living in the outlying communities get equal attention to those given to the problems in Alkham village itself. We all need to live harmoniously together within the parish observing the rights of others within the law. **Geoff Hillier**

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY - The Annual General Meeting of the Alkham Valley Society will take place on November 20th at 7 pm in the Alkham Village Hall. there will be a supper and quiz at The Fox, Temple Ewell following the meeting (£5 p.p.). Please let the Secretary know if you intend coming along to The Fox. Thank you. The Secretary (01304 821641).

FILM NIGHTS - We normally don't have a regular Film Night at the village hall in December but this year we are proposing to have, in early December, a Week of Classical Films. They will be shown, free of charge, over 5 or 6 afternoons or evenings at the Village Hall; dates yet to be fixed, early in December. We are looking for suggestions as to what films you, the public, would like to see screened during this 'Film Festival Week'. Please contact either Geoff Hillier (01303 892878) or Brian Wimsett (01304 824969) with your favourite ideas and a selection of the most popular films will be shown.

TEA AND A CHAT - About a dozen people gathered at the Village Hall on Thursday 30th August to meet and chat over free cups of tea and biscuits. This event, held on the last Thursday of the month from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm is proving popular, giving people the chance to meet old and new faces and anyone wishing to come along is most welcome. The next Tea and a Chat is on the 27th September followed by one in October on the 25th.

COMPUTER – If anyone would like to know how to use a computer either for general use or surfing the internet please come to the Tea and a Chat as detailed above.

HARVEST BARN DANCE – Please come and support the barn dance on Saturday 6th October from which proceeds will be used to support village projects. It starts at 7.30pm in Alkham Village Hall and tickets cost £8, including a Ploughman's Supper. Please phone 07789 690786 or email Graham.bissett@talk21.com.

CHURCH JUMBLE SALE is on the 20th October in Alkham Village Hall with doors opening at 10.30 am.

THE HARVEST FESTIVAL service will be held on October 21st at 11.00am in St Anthony's. Unlike previous years, this year we are asking for donations for the Dover Foodbank. Please give generously, your donations can be left in the church. If you would like to help to decorate a window or another area of our beautiful church, please contact Linda 01304 823100. All help is very welcome.

CAMERA UNIT – People driving through the village will have noticed that the Safety Camera Unit has been regularly placed on the verge by Valley Cottages. This is because the data submitted by Speedwatch in Alkham has highlighted Alkham as a location that is experiencing a consistent high volume of speeding vehicles per hour. Hopefully this will lead to traffic calming measures being carried out. Apart from recording the vehicle speed the camera also shows drivers who are not wearing seat belts and using mobile phones.

FILM NIGHT	
Sept 25	**The Post** **Tom Hanks Meryl Streep**
Oct 30	**Battle of the sexes** **Emma Stone Steve Carell**
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50 Please bring your own refreshments	

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DEFIBRILATOR – When someone suffers sudden cardiac arrest, prompt action is required; an immediate 999 call for an ambulance and starting CPR immediately are essential. Most people who survive will have needed a shock from a defibrillator to correct a chaotic heart rhythm. The photo shows a public-access defibrillator with a key pad for which the 999 operator should give the code. They are expensive and there is a slight delay but a number of people in Alkham have been asking for one.



FENCE – The play area and picnic tables beside the Alkham Valley road at the top of the green are regularly used by families with small children. Because of this, it was decided to put up a fence from the start of the green by the Old Vicarage all the way round to Hogbrook Lane with access gates by the bus shelter and at the far end. Rustic would be the best way to describe the fence, which also has wire netting on, but it will blend into the village and it does not restrict visibility. **editor**



GARDEN TALK - Our last outdoor visit of this year will be on Friday 12th October when we visit the garden of 'Countryside' off the Alkham Valley Road, where Sue & Mike Ross will welcome us from 7.00p.m. **Janet Adamson**

BOOK CLUB - The October meeting of the Alkham Village book club will be on Thursday 25th October at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre at 1.30. We will discuss Little Fires Everywhere by Celeste Ng. All are welcome to come along and join in. **Jane Aslett**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our September meeting was a very interesting talk by Bob Ogley about the great storm of 1987. Our next meeting will be on October 9th which will be hosted by the two Debbies, it will also include an auction. Hostesses are Janet Adamson and Janet Gibbons, raffle Beryl King and VOT sue Ross. New members always welcome **Debbie Griggs**



BREWERY – There was brewery at South Alkham which was called the Drellingore Brewery. In the Dover Express on the 9th June 1869 they had an advert which advertised "every description of ale & porter constantly on sale. Orders by Post". However, three months later the brewery was for sale by auction, including all the equipment and barrels plus the contents of the house and associated buildings. The house, with malt house, stable and outbuildings plus a double dwelling cottage and land were also for sale and this became Upton Farm. Upton Farmhouse (above) was built around 1710 and is almost identical to the Old Rectory in the centre of Alkham with a dentilled cornice at roof level. **editor**

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ALKHAM HEROES - October marks the centenary of the last of the Alkham Heroes of the First World War.

JOSEPH EDWARD MOUNT was born about 1896 in Guston. In 1911 the Census reveals he was a 15-year-old, 'Farm Yard Boy'. Joseph enlisted as Driver T1/1765 in the Army Service Corps and first saw active service in France on the 26th October 1914. Later in the War, as a result of gas poisoning, he was discharged as medically unfit for further active service. Medals awarded: Victory Medal, British War Medal, 1914 Star, & Silver War Badge. By 1918 he was employed as a War Goods Inspector (Army Pensioner) and worked in Salford near Manchester. He married Edith Bailey (George Bailey's sister), on the 26th September 1918 at St Anthony, Alkham. Only two weeks after their marriage, on Friday, 11th October 1918, Joseph died, at 58 Great Cheetham Street, West Broughton, Salford (Lancs) - aged 23. The cause of death was recorded as Enteric Fever [Typhoid] but this was also the time of the second wave of the so-called Spanish Flu, an epidemic which killed more people than the First World War and which was often mistakenly reported as Typhoid. Joseph's new bride, Edith, was with him at his death. His body was brought back to be buried on 15th October 1918 at St. Anthony, Alkham. **Mark Robson**

OZ on FOYLES – In the 1950s, a day in London was a wondrous thing. We would arrive by the slow train from East Kent, and head straight for the Trafalgar Square soup kitchen that sold soup and bread for one shilling, accompanied by a jukebox playing classical music at sixpence a go. This was often followed by a trip to Foyles, the eccentric bookshop in Charing Cross Road, either to sell used books, buy new ones or simply browse. I was surprised and a little concerned recently when news arrived of the sale of the famous Foyles chain to Waterstones. Foyles began in 1903 when the brothers William and Gilbert Foyle failed their Civil Service exams, successfully sold their textbooks, and began selling books from home. In 1904 they set up a shop in Peckham, followed by the Charing Cross Road shop in 1906. In 1930, William's daughter Christina started the literary lunches at the shop that continue today; over the years over 1,000 authors and 500,000 guests have attended, including international leaders and most British Prime Ministers. Christina took over the business in 1945, and there followed a difficult period, due partly to postwar lack of investment and partly to the legendary eccentricity of Foyles management. For instance, Christine rejected all artificial aids such as electronic tills or calculators, and would not accept orders by telephone. Customers queued three times: to collect an invoice, to pay the invoice, then to collect the book, as sales staff were not allowed to handle cash. In 1999 Christina died and control passed to her nephew Christopher, who modernized Foyles business practices and expanded the number of shops. Waterstones now promises to keep the Foyles name and standalone status intact, so as to help fight Amazon, which is comforting news for booklovers. **(Steve Osborn)**

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Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am - Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am – check to make sure

Other Events in the village hall

Tuesday	**2**	White Cliffs Metal Detectors 7 to 9pm
Saturday	**6**	Barn Dance 7.30pm – see page 1
Tuesday	**11**	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Saturday	**13**	SEK astronomical society 7pm to 10.00pm
Monday	**15**	Bird Club 7.30pm
Tuesday	**11**	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Saturday	**20**	Jumble Sale 10.30am – see page 1
Tuesday	**31**	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)

8.00, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.04, 18.34

Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41

7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 16.27 17.32 18.32

Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 7th	Evensong 6.30	Eucharist 9.30	Worship 11am
Saturday 13th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 14th	Eucharist 9.30am	Harvest F 11 am	Harvest V hall 4.pm
Sunday 21st	Harvest F 11 am	Evensong 6.00	Eucharist 9:30am
Sunday 28th	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - If you drive, you probably know what it's like to turn into a busy supermarket car park, carefully follow the arrows to a suitable parking space, and have to swerve to avoid someone who has apparently noticed neither the arrows nor the 'no entry' signs telling them that they are going the wrong way. In such a situation you and I would naturally smile, apologise and politely allow others to go safely on their way. But I was shown an online video recently that showed someone who, having made such a mistake, reacted rather differently. Someone chose to film what followed on their smartphone and posted it on the internet for the entire world to see. I once visited a house where a plaque hung in the hall. It read: *"Christ is the head of the home, the unseen guest of every meal, the silent listener to every conversation."* I must admit that at the time this idea felt a bit creepy – but like everyone else, I've grown used to being in shops, in streets and on trains where cameras watch my every move, so the idea of Christ watching me as well doesn't really bother me. The writer of Psalm 25 pleads with God: *do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions.* Online videos offer a 'watch again' option at the end – fine if it's *Gone with the Wind*, your favourite band or Rooney scoring for England, but not if the world's watching you having a difficult moment on a bad day over and over again. But the Psalmist would probably say that God isn't interested in watching our mistakes over and over again, only in our new beginnings – and that's where He scores over *YouTube*. **Brian Williams**

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LOCAL AMBASSADOR - Dylan Aunger, who is 16 years old, has lived in Alkham for all his life and believes that now is the time for the younger community to be involved in the decisions that are being made by others that impact on their everyday lives, and future needs. Dylan would like to propose that he becomes a Local Ambassador for the Alkham younger generation and get involved with parish matters to ensure that the younger generation voice gets heard on community matters that affects them. He believes that over the years the younger generation has had no say in what happens in the Alkham parish and by being the Ambassador can present their views. Please contact Dylan with your opinions by phone on 07375866347 or email dylanaunger7@hotmail.co.uk and he will get back to you. All feedback is confidential and if the proposed initiative is successful he intends to hold regular meetings in the village hall, the dates of which will be published in the Alkham newsletter and on the local website.

DECEMBER FILM FESTIVAL - Some 36 film titles have been put forward for showing at the forthcoming free classical film festival from which the following short list of 12 films have been made. These are: 'Some Like it Hot', 'The Third Man', 'Gone with the Wind', 'Love is a Many Splendid Thing', 'Casablanca', 'Singing in the Rain', 'Roman Holiday', 'Top Hat', 'Kind Hearts and Coronets', 'Genevieve', 'Tale of Two Cities', and 'The Quiet Man'. From this short list a final selection of 7 films to be shown at matinees and evening performances over the period 4th to 14th December. Please send to the editor (01304 824969) those titles you would wish to be included to be shown. **Geoff Hillier**

THANK YOU to all those of you who supported the Harvest Barn Dance and made it such a success. Your enthusiasm and energy made the evening and I received several comments from folk who came from outside the village about the friendliness of the welcome they received. Thank you too, to those who helped prepare and distribute the supper and who cleared up afterwards. I haven't finished paying the bills yet. When that has happened, I will let you know how much was raised. As the dance was so successful I was wondering if there would be any interest in the village for a Folk Dance Club? I envisage a non-serious social evening, occasionally dancing to live music. There would be an opportunity to learn both English and Scottish Dances and, perhaps, some French and American Dances too. We could decide at our initial meeting how many times a month we would like to meet. If you are interested, please contact me on 07789 690786 or graham.bissett@talk21.com

FOR SALE substantial conservatory furniture; three-seater sofa and an armchair, £100. Please phone 01304 822365.

FACEBOOK – 'All about Alkham' is a Facebook page about Alkham and some locals have left comments about recent events. The easiest way to access is by the Facebook logo on www.alkham.org.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

I would like to thank everyone who supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning held on Saturday 22nd September in the village hall. Once again so many people baked wonderful cakes and gave me great items to sell on the various stalls. Thank you to everyone who helped in many different ways on the day and to all who gave me donations before, during and after the event. It was a wonderful community event and I am delighted to say that TOGETHER WE RAISED £1,010.00 for this great charity. Thank you everyone. **Sue Ross**

PARENT & TODDLER GROUP – I propose to start a group if there is sufficient interest. To be held on Mondays or Thursdays, whichever is the most popular from 9.30am to 11.30am. The cost will be £3 including a drink and biscuit for all. For more information please ring Shirley Prince on 828098.

ALKHAM VALLEY GARDEN CENTRE have late night opening until 8.00pm on Thursday 29th November and a Christmas Farmers & Craft Market on Saturday 1st December from 10am to 4pm.

TEA AND A CHAT will be held again on the 29th November between 2pm and 4pm in the village hall. Please do come along as it's been enjoyed by those who have turned up, plus there's free tea/coffee and biscuits. There won't be a Tea and a Chat in December.

FILM NIGHT	
Oct 30	**Battle of the sexes**
Nov 27	**Mama Mia Here we go again**
Village Hall 7.30pm entry £4.50 Please bring your own refreshments	

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ER163 SLADDEN WOOD

For some time, I have been trying to get the gate at the top end of the path running through Sladden Wood repaired or replaced. At the same time Jo Walker, with the backing of the Alkham Valley Society, has been trying to get some steps created on the steep part of the path leading up to the gate. I'm happy to report that the gate has been replaced and steps installed together with a handrail at the steepest part. I would like to thank all those involved especially the volunteer team, who I believe, carried out the work. **Anthony Barrier Footpath Warden**

BOOK CLUB - The November meeting of the Book Club will be on Thursday November 29th at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre at 1.30. We will discuss The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah. New members always welcome. **Jane Aslett**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our October meeting was a good evening where we had our own little auction amongst ourselves; thank you to Lucy Mckenzie for all your help. Our next meeting will be our AGM on November 13th. Hostesses Sue Harman and Shelley Jackson; Raffle Pat Yeomans. New members are always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

PARISH PLAN OPEN DAY

Firstly, a big thank you to all of you who turned up at the Village Hall on the 1st September to give your input to the Village Plan. About 150 villagers came and about 800 comments were left under the various categories. Some very interesting views were expressed including, of course, the main issues surrounding the Alkham Valley Road, Flooding, the Village Green, Community Activities and the work of the Parish Council. If you missed the opportunity of having your input – it's not too late, the Parish Plan Team (a mixture of three Parish Councillors and four volunteers and one young villager - Freya Miller) are currently analysing the results and will then be deciding on the next steps, so if you missed out on 1st September please submit your comments to any of the contacts below. Please stick with the original headings as used on the day if you wish: Conservation, Sports and Recreation, Economy Businesses and Employment, Public Transport, Heritage, Traffic and Road Safety, Local Governance, Young and Old, Environmental (including Flooding), Education Skills and Training, Health and Social Care, Community Buildings, Roads and Infrastructure and Development (including Housing). An interim report is going to the Parish Council for the November meeting together with the next steps of the project. One thing has become quite apparent from the data is that we will need as many volunteers as possible for the various ideas that have been suggested so let us know if you would like to be involved with the future of Alkham – in any way. Thanks again. **Martin Hibbert (mrtnhbb@sky.com), Dave Beaney (dbeaney@gmail.com), Steve Edwards (Stephen_edwards@taktalk.net)**

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Saturday 1st December 10am - 4pm
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Alkham Heroes - The final cross has been put up at the bottom of Slip Lane commemorating the 100th anniversary of the death of Joseph Edward Mount who was the last to die of the Alkham heroes. A small gathering of villagers assembled on 15th October led by Mark Robson and the Reverend Brian Williams. **Den Barnard**

WILDLIFE IN THE GARDEN - Our garden is generally wildlife friendly and a bit too friendly on occasions; squirrels and a young rat have used the bird feeder more recently. We don't use the green refuse collection service and consequently have piles of decaying greenery and brownery (compost heaps?) in all corners of the garden. We also have 5 plastic compost bins. Opening these can make one jump especially when there are a couple of serpents in there. We knew we had a grass snake as we had seen it by the nature pond that is about two inches deep but attracts mating frogs and their predators every year. In the middle of June we found our snake in the plastic compost bin at the other end of the garden, shortly after, it was still in there when we saw another sliding away from the base of the bin leaving its skin behind it. Research revealed that they can produce up to 50 eggs but are unlikely to deposit them in plastic compost bins and so I did not look for them. Yesterday, in the middle of September, I saw the results of their visit. I thought it was a small slow worm but completely the wrong colour; it was on the paving just outside my garage but quickly slipped away under the door cill. The markings with intermittent dark patches down each side and the yellow collar are those of a young grass snake. I wonder where the other 49 are and how many will make it through the winter? Interested in the subject then visit https://kentarg.org or if you see a grass snake tell them**. Alan Latham**

REMEMBRANCE AND RECONCILIATION - Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 November 2018 in Canterbury Cathedral. Cantores Dominicae is hosting a special weekend of choral events to be held in Canterbury Cathedral, marking the centenary of the ending of the First World War. More than 200 musicians from Britain and Germany will take part. The focus of the weekend is on mutual remembrance and reconciliation. Saturday 10 November 12:00: a lunchtime concert performed by Cantores Dominicae and Heinrich-Schütz-Kantorei from Kiel. This will include some movements from Brahms' 'German Requiem'. Sunday 11 November 18:15: an evening concert. Cantores Dominicae from Lyminge, Heinrich-Schütz-Kantorei from Keil, the Oyster Singers from Whitstable and the Canterbury Singers will perform 'Remembrance & Reconciliation', a work composed especially for this occasion by Cantores Dominicae's Musical Director Adrian Bawtree. All are welcome to these free choral events, each lasting about 45 minutes. Our grateful thanks go to the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral and the Roger De Haan Charitable Trust for their generous sponsorship. **Steve Osborn on behalf of Cantores Dominicae**

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Tuesday	Art Workshop from 10am – 1pm Yoga 1.10pm – 2.10pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am
Thursday	Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am – check to make sure

Other Events in the village hall

Tuesday	**6**	White Cliff Metal Detectors 7pm to 9pm
Saturday	**10**	SEK astronomical society 7pm to 10.00pm
Tuesday	**13**	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Monday	**19**	Bird Club 7.30pm
Tuesday	**27**	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)

8.00, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.04, 18.34
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 16.27 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 4th	**Evening 4.30 pm**	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Worship 11.00 am**
Saturday 10th	**Messy Church Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm**		
Sunday 11th REMEMBRANCE	**10.15 am**	**10.15 am** at Memorial	**10.30 am**
Sunday 18th	**Service 11.00 am**	**Evensong 6.00 pm**	**Eucharist 9.30 am**
Sunday 25th	**Benefice Eucharist Capel 10.00 am**		

FROM THE VICARAGE - I once heard of a young curate (no, not me) who stood up in church to preach his first ever Remembrance Sunday sermon. He had just begun by asking the congregation to imagine what the Somme must have been like, with its trenches, mud, and shells exploding everywhere when an elderly gentleman rose to his feet. "YOUNG PUPPY! I WAS THERE!" he barked, before storming out. Growing up, I sometimes heard my father and my uncles talking about their experiences in World War 2. Dad was an ammunition storeman in the Ordnance Corps; one uncle served aboard a minesweeper, another was an officer's batman. But one, who had seen action in Italy, spoke little about what he had done. I remember he mentioned Anzio, and also Monte Cassino. To a small boy, his stories sounded exciting. Only later did I realise the truth: that while still just a teenager he had seen - and done - things that nobody should have to see or do at any age. Returning home, at first he had talked endlessly about one particularly traumatic incident; only his uncle, himself a veteran of the Great War, seemed to understand what he had been through. This month sees the centenary of the end of World War 1. We are urged to remember. The services that will be held will include not only prayers for those who lost their lives in the world wars and in other conflicts since, but also for peace now and in the future. Thankfully, like that young curate most of us can only imagine trenches, mud, shells and what my uncle and great uncle went through; most of us have been spared the reality. Let's pray that those who come after us may be as fortunate. **Brian Williams**

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Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
KCC - Geoffrey Lymer 07960490929
DDC - P Beresford 216187
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THE VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS

The Christmas tree lights will be switched on at 4.45pm on Saturday 8th December. Father Christmas has promised to be there, and we will sing a few carols accompanied by Graham Bissett on the accordion with mulled wine and mince pies to get the party season started. See you there especially you children. **Den Barnard**

Meet the new team at The Marquis at the Christmas lights switch-on Join the new management team at The Marquis for mulled wine and mince pies as part of the village Christmas Lights switch-on event on December 8th, and find out more about what they have planned for your local pub. The 200-year-old inn was bought by Ashford's GSE Group earlier this year and is being run by the team behind the iconic Hythe Imperial hotel, which has recently undergone a four-year, multi-million-pound refurbishment. One of the first decisions of the new management team has been to restore the pub's original full name, so it will once again be known as the Marquis of Granby, while an application has been submitted to Dover District Council for permission to make cosmetic improvements to the exterior of the building, along with some internal changes. The pub will close from January 1st for refurbishment, and when it reopens Friday, March 29th under the new name, the aim is for it to become an important part of village life, a great place for you to eat and drink and meet up with your friends and neighbours, and a supporter of local projects and community events. The architect behind the refurbishment is John Rogers, the creator and owner of the Ramblinns group that includes the Five Bells at Brabourne, The Globe Inn at Rye, The Woolpack at Warehorne and the Radnor Arms at Folkestone. The new menu will see a move back to good quality, locally sourced food at realistic prices, accompanied by a selection of real ales and Kentish wines. The bar will be dog friendly and have open fires, while the hotel rooms will be refurbished to reflect the new country pub feel, with a number of beautiful new suites being created.

CLASSIC FILM FESTIVAL - As a Pre-Christmas treat and in lieu of the regular Film Night, during the period 4th to 13th December the Village Hall will be showing 7 classic films which have been chosen, by popular request, from an original list of 36 films proposed by the public. The films will be free to watch, and you are welcome to bring along whatever refreshments you wish. The programme of dates and time of the performances is as follows: Tuesday Dec 4th at 3 pm - Roman Holiday; Thursday Dec 6th at 7.30 pm –Genevieve; Saturday Dec 8th at 3 pm - Tale of Two Cities; Sunday Dec 10th at 7.30 pm - Some Like it Hot; Monday Dec 11th at 7.30 pm - Singing in the Rain; Tuesday Dec 12th at 3 pm - Love is a Many Splendid Thing; Thursday Dec 13th at 7.30 pm - The Quiet Man. All are welcome.

CHRISTMAS WALK



The annual Alkham Valley Society walk will be on 27th December starting from the Alkham Village Hall at 10.30 a.m. and ending around midday. Dogs and their owners are welcome. It is an opportunity to meet, walk and talk. As usual, the more the merrier though it can be pretty merry with only five like last year, the weather being rough, cold and rainy. **J Walker** (Secretary)

FETE COMMITTEE MEETING - There will be a Fete Committee Meeting on Wednesday 5th December 2018 at 8 pm in the Village Hall - this is the post-Fete meeting to discuss this year's Fete and decide the division of the spoils - a perfect way to start the run in to the Christmas period. Please come along to give your thoughts and suggestions as regards the 2018 Fete and, if the meeting wills it, the possibility of one in 2019. Merry Christmas. **Paul Tapsell 01303 892082**

TEA AND A CHAT on the 29th November will be our Christmas one and in addition to the usual tea/coffee and biscuits there will be mince pies and the hall will be decorated. Please come and join us.

THE ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY are holding a Curry & Quiz Night on Tuesday 20th November 8pm at the Fox, Temple Ewell. Please contact Jo Walker on 01304 821641 to book at £5 per head.



FILM NIGHT	
Nov 27	**Mama Mia Here we go again**
DECEMBER – Please see article on the left	
Village Hall 7.30pm Please bring your own refreshments	

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LEAD THEFT – An attempt was made to remove some lead panels from the roof of St. Anthony's church. A ladder must have been used, so if anyone saw suspicious activity or has local CCTV please contact the police quoting crime report number WTGTV7HGJJ.

ANNIE THURGARLAND the Watercourse Officer at the Kent Stour Countryside Partnership, gave a presentation to the Parish Council on the 5th November. Despite not being able to project her slides Annie proceeded to explain her role, acting with KCC, to identify possible solutions to mitigate against flooding in Alkham. Her focus is on using natural flood management measures to slow down flood water before it becomes a problem. There are many different techniques to do this using natural materials to create detaining ponds, but they are still on a learning curve to select the right solution to each problem area. Her suggestions for the creation of a holding pond on part of the Village Green, for example, was met with some objections but the PC undertook to consider her approach to flood control and reconvene a meeting in the near future to discuss specific areas where such natural flood management techniques might be applied.

TRAFFIC ACTION GROUP (TAG) REPORT - The Parish Council, at their meeting on the 5th November, agreed to the setting up of a 'Traffic Implementation Group' (TIG) consisting of Councillors Geoff Hillier, Martin Hibbert and David Beaney, to carry forward the agreed traffic calming strategy for the Alkham Valley Road. The traffic calming measures, developed by TAG and having the overwhelming support of the people of Alkham are outlined in TAG's final report, a copy of which can be read on the Alkham Parish Council website www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk.



ALKHAM BOOK – The book 'A Brief History – Alkham Parish' has been updated and reprinted with four new pages which are: Coal exploration at Ellinge and other farms at Everden; Glebelands, the brickwork company and the lime kiln; North Hill and Common Hill and properties; an index at the back. Previous buyers of the book can have a copy otherwise it costs £5 with profits going to the Alkham Fund. Please ring Brian on 01304 824969 or email brianwimsett@hotmail.com if you would like a copy.

OVERNIGHT CAMPING – There has been a problem with campers parking on the car park opposite the village hall. Not only do some cause a noise disturbance but the small wooded area behind became badly soiled by human faeces. The matter was reported to DDC on their website, using the dog fouling heading as there is no specific one for humans, and the matter was swiftly dealt with and rectified by Paul Jaconelli, Waste Services Officer, DDC, and his team who cleaned area. The problem is probably caused by the increased use of the smaller type of camper van that do not necessarily have onboard chemical toilet facilities. A sign has been put up saying that the car park should not be used by overnight campers and the web site that advertises the location has been asked to remove it.

CO-OP LOCAL CAUSE - The Friends of Temple Ewell Primary School want to improve the outside area for all children to enjoy and explore by creating an area where they feel safe and can develop their independence. If you'd like to support them, please go to https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/29159.

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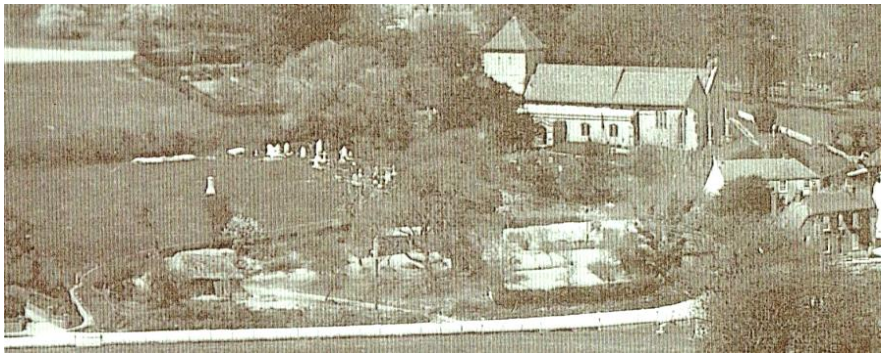

WAR MEMORIAL – The photo above shows the newly erected war memorial on the piece of land donated to the church by Malmain's farm in the late 19th century. The existing cemetery extended to most of the gravestones seen in the photo and new land was consecrated by the Bishop of Dover in October 1902. On Saturday 4th October 1919 the memorial, which was erected for the sixteen men of Alkham who were killed in the First World War, was unveiled by Mr. Harman who was the schoolmaster at Alkham. It cost £88 (£4300 in today's money) and was paid for by donations from residents of Alkham. The Marquis can be seen on the right of the photo and the land to the left, in front of cemetery, was later sold and bungalows were built there in the 1960's. **Brian Wimsett**

OZ on THE WIPERS TIMES – On 7 October 1914 some 8,000 German cavalrymen swept through Ypres, western Belgium, in one day, to refuel and stock up on their way to the coast. When British troops arrived on 14 October 1914, their first problem was how to pronounce the name of the town, and they quickly decided on 'Wipers'. Their second task, in conjunction with the French forces, was to stop the enemy from either reaching the coast or returning to Ypres. The subsequent battle ended inconclusively on 22 November. It was just the first in the series of five battles for Ypres, the last ending in October 1918, that came to define the nature of modern industrial warfare. In winter 1916 Captain Fred Roberts and Lieutenant Jack Pearson, of the 12th Battalion, Sherwood Foresters, discovered a damaged printing press in the ruins of the shelled Ypres. One of their sergeants, a peacetime printer, repaired the press, and the three of them used it to print the first edition, in February 1916, of The Wipers Times, a satirical newspaper in the tradition of school magazines and Punch. It was a morale booster, combining wickedly humorous reflections on trench life with poems, lampoons and in-jokes; one classic Lonely Hearts advertisement, commenting on the USA's absence from the war at that time, was headlined "Lonely President wishes to correspond with anyone." As the action moved around, the title changed, to The Kemmel Times, The Somme Times, and then to The BEF Times for security reasons. Other than this, the newspaper had "little trouble with the censors" according to Captain Roberts. In December 1918, the final edition, titled The Better Times, was published, with the sub-title "Xmas, Peace and Final Number." It's food for thought during the coming 100th anniversary Christmas season. **Steve Osborn**

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Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am - Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am – check to make sure

Other Events in the village hall

Tuesday	**4**	White Cliff Metal Detectors 7pm to 9pm
Wednesday	**5**	Fete Committee meeting 8pm – see page 1
Saturday	**8**	Christmas Lights turn on – see page 1
Saturday	**8**	SEK astronomical society 7pm to 10.00pm
Monday	**17**	Bird Club 7.30pm

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)

8.00, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.04, 18.34

Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41

7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 16.27 17.32 18.32

Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 2nd	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Saturday 8th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 9th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11 am	
Sunday 16th	Worship 11.00 am	Carols VH 3.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am
Saturday 22nd		Carols 7.30pm	
Sunday 23rd	9 Lessons & Carols 6.30pm pm	Benefice Eucharist 10.00 am	Eucharist 9.30 am
Monday 24th	Crib service 4.30 pm Midnight Mass 11.30 pm	Crib service 3.00pm Midnight Mass 11.30 pm	
Tuesday 25th			Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 30th	Benefice Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - Grumpy Vicar Moment: NONE of the Advent calendars that I saw in the seasonal aisle of a local supermarket had anything to do with the Christmas story! Grrr! Now, I can guess what you are probably thinking: "What an old meanie! We've been looking forward to our daily dose of chocolate throughout the first twenty-four days of December all year!" Or perhaps you prefer beer, or maybe perfume – you can buy Advent calendars with those in, too. But the ones I remember were magically Christmassy, with a picture behind each door until you reached the Nativity scene behind number 24. Then there was the Blue Peter Advent Crown! Remember that? How many families anticipated Christmas by collecting wire coat hangers, wire, baubles and tinsel ready for the moment when Valerie Singleton appeared on our TV screens and showed us one she had made earlier? She didn't just use real candles, she lit them, too! The instructions on the BBC website now recommend the tamer option of more baubles instead. For me a similar tradition that we have in church – the Advent ring – is my favourite. In the gloom of a grey early December morning we light a single candle (no baubles for us!) for the prophets, who foretold Jesus' birth. A week later, we light another - for John the Baptist, who prepared the way for Jesus. A third is lit for Mary, Jesus' mother until, as Christmas approaches, four candles are blazing away. Finally Christmas arrives, the white candle in the centre representing Jesus is lit, and darkness gives way to light. All through January the Advent Ring, with Jesus in the middle, lights up the sanctuary. Meanwhile, the chocolate, beer and perfume are all long gone…Peace and light to you this Christmas – **Brian Williams**

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MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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No. 300 January 2019

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CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS - Thanks to everybody who came for the Village Christmas Tree lights switch on. In spite of the weather, it was amazing that nearly 100 turned up to watch five-year-old Phoenix do the honours. A big thank you also to Darren Healey, the new owner of the Marquis, for providing refreshments and outlining their plans for the future. Well done to Louise, Nadine, Hailey and the rest of the Marquis staff who coped brilliantly with the incredible turn out. Our thanks also to Ken and Gordon Spencer who made sure that Father Christmas arrived safely and to Brian Wimsett and his Alkham Fund who supplied the new lights. **Den Barnard**

SLADDEN FARM ON TV – Di Smith, who runs Sladden Farm, will appear on the BBC in January. She took part in a programme called 'The Farmers' Country Showdown' which is billed as a heart-warming series that celebrates inspirational farming families and the rural events where they showcase their hard work, as they try to win the top prizes. The BBC spent a whole day with Di at her farm, just to the east of the village, where she has her Dexter cows and they also filmed at Shakespeare cliff where her animals also graze. The programme is not yet scheduled but should be shown in January or early February. **editor**

PARISH PLAN UPDATE – VOLUNTEERS - The Parish Plan is now entering a crucial phase of its development. Analysis of the open day results is well underway with the production of a master spreadsheet. This document will allow the team to identify key actions and list them under priorities and types of action. This is the evidence phase of the Parish Plan. There is much essential work to be undertaken on the identified actions to ensure the credibility of the plan. The work will require further research and consultation, and the Parish Plan team are seeking community volunteers to join various sub working groups to carry out this important work. If you want to volunteer, please submit your name to the Parish Clerk (see back page). Many thanks. **Martin Hibbert**

CLASSIC FILMS - Over a period of 10 days in December 7 classic 1950's film were shown at the Village Hall. The showings were free and attended by a core of enthusiastic film goers. The films ranged from musicals like 'Singing in the Rain' to classics like 'Genevieve' and 'Some like it Hot'. Those who came enjoyed the experience of revisiting their memories of films from their past. **Geoff Hillier**



TEA AND A CHAT – There won't be a Tea and a Chat in December but there will be one as usual on January 31st at 2.00pm. If you haven't been before, please do come a long as it's a very pleasant way to spend a couple of hours with good company.

ANOTHER great Poppy Appeal - £820.66 - from Alkham and Ewell Minnis residents, who gave so generously in this Centenary year. Thanks to The Marquis, Alkham Tea Rooms, Alkhamhurst Kennels, Southern Equestrian and Alkham Valley Community Project, that had Poppy Boxes. And a special mention to the Garden Centre who also donated the money they received from their charity book shelves. Thanks also, to Shirley Prince for providing the wreath for the Remembrance Service at the church. Finally, to the collecting volunteers – **Rachel Fountain**

DOMESTIC OIL thefts are still happening as a property in Ewell Minnis had some oil taken recently.

FILM NIGHT	
There is no film in December	
Jan 29	**King of Thieves** Michael Caine - Ray Winstone
Village Hall 7.30pm Please bring your own refreshments	

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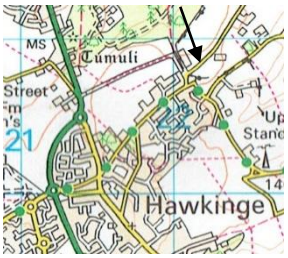
ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL has increased the 2019/20 precept level this year by an average of £0.27p per week per household. In determining the budget and precept the Parish Council has set the priority projects it wishes to achieve against the current and future finances of the Council. The precept has not been increased significantly for many years. Indeed, for the last two financial years, the Parish Council's expenditure was greater than its income. The overspend is taken directly from reserves. Savings have been made where possible, with many budget items reduced by a small % to try and limit the increase in Precept for 2019/20, without having a dramatic impact on village services. The Parish Council will seek grants and external funding for projects before reserves are spent. A critical factor in the increase in precept has been the non-availability of Kent County Council and Dover District Council funding for projects such the Parish Plan and the Traffic Implementation Group. Also, the increased administrative costs due to greater legislative requirements for Parish Councils. The Alkham precept proposed for 2019/20 is £ 12,500, which when divided by the tax base of 307.61 Band D equivalent houses within the parish, results in Parish Council Tax figure of £ 40.64 for the year or £0.78 per week. This equates to an average annual increase per household of £14.17 on last year's figure of £26.47. The Parish Council are always reluctant to increase the Precept but hopes that residents will feel that the increase will be beneficial. Alkham continues, deservedly, to be a very popular parish, because of its vibrant community and excellent facilities. The Parish Council is seeking to do everything in its power to make sure the village continues to be a good place to live. **Neil Burrows Chairman**

ST ANTHONY'S CHRISTMAS TREE - On behalf of Rev Brian, the PCC and all who worship and visit this beautiful old church, we would like to offer our appreciation and thanks to Paul and Ian at the Alkham Garden Centre for providing, once again, a beautiful tree. **Irene Barnard**



PLANNING APPLICATION – The boundary of the parish of Alkham stretches to Hawkinge and the Parish Council were asked their opinion regarding the erection of 19 dwellings on the land shown by the arrow. With reservations, they approved as do the Planning Department.

BYWAYS - KCC wishes is to keep the byways open and not to close them unless they are badly damaged, but the Parish Council would prefer seasonal TRO's and report damage as necessary. However, the Parish Council accepts that the decision lies with KCC.

ALKHAM WI had their Christmas meal on the 11th December at the Marquis, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Our next meeting will be on the 8th of January when our speaker will be Jo Murrell talking about the Alkham Valley community project.

DOVER COLLEGE - Do you have a child due to start Reception in September 2019? Here at Dover College we believe our Reception class offers the best start to education but don't just take our word for it, see for yourself at our Reception Entry Open Evening on Thursday, 10th January at 6pm. To book call 01304 244523 or jsadmissions@dovercollege.org.uk (free newsletter entry for local school)

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ALKHAM'S OAK TREES – In the February 2018 edition of the Newsletter there was an article about Stonehill wood, which is at the junction of Slip Lane and Chalksole Green Lane in Alkham. In March 1772 the standing oak trees in this wood were sold at an auction in the Fox and Goose pub next to the present-day Marquis. In 1793 the Napoleonic Wars began, and this brought increased prosperity to Dover partly because of the increase in ship building. The King shipyard at Dover was the only commercial ship builder but there were other shipyards around and they saw an increase in orders from the government. The keels were laid down on the beach and the ships were mainly built out of locally grown oak from woods or forests that surrounded Dover at Alkham, Elham, Lydden, Lyminge, Temple Ewell and Whitfield and it is quite probable that the oak trees from Stonehill wood were used in these ships to fight the French. A ship required about 40 acres of woodland to build and Stonehill would have provided around 9 acres. One ship, The Zephyr, was built at Dover in 1795 and cost £2,660, which in today's money is £380,000; today a frigate costs about £70 million to build. The maritime information came from doverhistorian.com, which is an excellent site with a lot more information about Dover. **Brian Wimsett**

OZ on CABBAGES – Recently I received a very funny but alarming report on Facebook that went as follows: "Pythagoras' Theorem is 24 words long. The Lord's Prayer: 66 words. Archimedes' Principle: 67 words. The Ten Commandments: 179 words. The US Constitution with all 27 Amendments: 7,818 words. The EU Regulations on the Sale of CABBAGES: 26,911 words. This says it all." I thought this a wonderful piece of invective, but was wary – were the numbers correct? – why did cabbages require 26,911 words of regulation? So I checked out the word counts, and the first five were acceptable, after allowing for variations in translation and editing. However, in references to EU cabbage regulations, the numbers varied wildly, with a preponderance of the number 26,911. This number dates back to World War II, long before the EU, let alone their cabbage regulations. According to Professor Barry O'Neill of the University of California, the US government regulated the sale of cabbage seeds in a 2,600 page report. Later it was rumoured that the regulations would be extended to include cabbage plants in a 26,000 page report. By 1951, the rumoured figure had grown to 26,911, even occurring from time to time in the US Senate in the 1980s. The story crossed the Atlantic in 1953, when a British MP used the same device, but substituting eggs for cabbages, to criticize the activities of the Egg Marketing Board. The 26,911 figure was again used in 2006 during a Lords debate on EU regulations on duck eggs. In the same year, the EU issued Regulation (EC) No 634/2006 regarding the sale of cabbages, in a report between 1,800 and 2,000 words long, but this was withdrawn in 2009 after criticisms regarding its relevance. The whole area of farm produce is now included in a single EU document of some 32,000 words. However, UK farmers still have to follow our Red Tractor Assurance Scheme's Protocol for Cabbage, which, according to its author, Andy Richardson, has 23,501 words. Which is, I think, about where we came in – give or take. **Steve Osborn**

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Monday	**14**	Bird Club 7.30pm
Saturday	**26**	Beekeepers in the afternoon
Tuesday	**29**	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1

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Sunday 20th	Christingle 11am	Evensong 6.00	Eucharist 9:30
Sunday 27th	Benefice Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - On a train journey recently, Mrs Vicarage announced that she would like a cup of tea. So, Yours Truly duly made his way to the On-Board Shop (that's what the Buffet Car is called now) in search of refreshments. Arriving at the On-Board Shop, I stood at the counter and expected to be greeted with the usual "Can I help you?" The attendant, however, was chewing the end of a pen and puzzling over a form that she was trying to fill in. Looking up, she waved her pen towards me and asked if I could help her! She opened a flap on the machine behind her and pointed to something that appeared to contain coffee granules. She needed to order some of that - but she wasn't quite sure which box to tick. We studied the form together, ticked what we thought might be the correct box, and agreed to attach a Post-It note to explain, just in case. Then she made tea. Of course, it was flattering to think that I might have looked intelligent enough to be able to understand the form – but it made me think. It would have been easier for that attendant to have pretended to have known what she was doing and to have just ticked anything rather than ask a stranger for help. Not for nothing were Christians in medieval times taught that humility was one of the seven virtues. How often are we too proud to admit that we don't know everything? It may well be that, as you read this, that buffet car attendant is hard at work somewhere between London and the North. God bless her – not only is she honest, humble and conscientious, but she also makes a decent cup of tea…

Brian Williams

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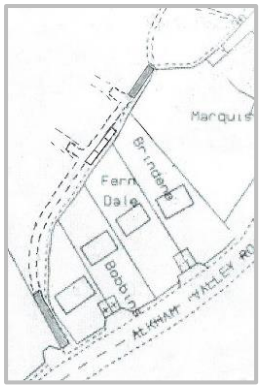

CHURCHYARD – Comments have been made about the vehicle access to the churchyard and the state of the ground. The paved areas by the road and church have been completed and, if funds allow, a grass reinforcement mesh at least 2.5 metres wide will be laid over the 60m length between the paved areas in the summer. Three parking bays and two turning bays will be similarly created, as shown on the plan.

ST ANTHONY'S CHURCHYARD has now been formally designated as a Commonwealth War Graves Commission site. The sign on the right is situated by the lychgate and commemorates the three Alkham Heroes buried in the churchyard.



COMMUNITY BUS - The Parish Council has joined, as a group, the Thanet Community Transport Association and paid the membership fee. If any parishioner wants to use the service you will have to register under the Parish Council membership but will not have to pay the joining fee, only the cost of your journeys. To use the service, you must live more than 500 metres from a bus stop, be unable to use public services and are elderly or disabled. If you are interested, then phone 01843 602030 and say that you are an Alkham parishioner and they will answer any queries you may have and register you. If you are unsure, ask any Parish Councillor or friend to ring them on your behalf. **editor**

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY- The new steps, kissing gate and path repairs in Sladden wood were admired by members who attended the Christmas Walk on 27th December, thanks to all who came. The work was carried out by the White Cliffs volunteers and make the whole wood more accessible and enjoyable. Thanks also to Anthony Barrier (Parish Councillor) for supporting our request for the said repairs. **Jo Walker (SEC)**

PARISH PLAN UPDATE – An A5 sheet has been delivered with this Newsletter and gives an update on the Parish Plan. No volunteers came forward after the appeal in the January newsletter, but it's not too late; please let us know if you would like to help in any way by contacting Irene Bowie, the Parish Clerk (see bottom of back page for details). **Den Barnard**

THE POWER CUT in Alkham on the 15th January was due to branches being cut off trees by Newlyns Meadow and bringing down three overhead cables. The police and fire brigade attended as the cut cables were arcing badly.



SLADDEN FARM is just to the east of Alkham village and appeared on BBC 1's 'The Farmers' Country Showdown' on the 16th January. In the programme it featured a breeder of Dexter cattle in Essex and Di Smith at Sladden Farm as they prepared to go to the Royal Norfolk Show. Di was shown at her 74-acre farm and on Shakespeare cliff where her Dexters also graze in an eco-friendly environment. In a charming programme, narrated by Bill Paterson, Di's Dexter, Meadow flower, won a second and Di then went on to win another second and a third with Martin, who helps at the farm, showing some of the Dexters. Di considers the show to be her holiday, as that is the only time she gets off, and is quite amazing at the age of 81 running the farm and caring for her 100 or so Moomin Dexters. **editor**

FOR SALE - Traditional hat and coat hall stand with mirror, glove/key box and original umbrella drip trays. Made by Flashmans & Co of Dover. Very good condition, buyer collects £130. If interested, please ring Irene 01304 824845

TEA AND A CHAT – The next Tea and a chat will be on the 28th February at 2pm. Please do come along to the village hall for some company and refreshments.

FILM NIGHT	
Feb 26	**Monsoon Wedding**
Jan 29	**King of Thieves** Michael Caine - Ray Winstone
Village Hall 7.30pm Please bring your own refreshments	

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ALKHAM BYWAYS - Off road cars and motor bikes have returned to the Pimlico and Everden byways 185 and 25 cutting ruts, removing barriers, and trespassing. Kent County Council's restoration has been undone, the ruts put pedestrians and horse riders at risk. As a result of the serious damage KCC have made a further emergency order temporarily excluding motor vehicles (other than quads and motor bikes). Although vehicles are causing further damage to the Bull run (ER122) KCC have said that they do not consider that it needs closing at this stage. The section through the woods has suffered severe damage which KCC say they will repair. In the meantime, it seems unsafe for walkers and horse riders. After two or so year's delay the Parish Council's minutes of its November meeting stated the council's position on local byways that it would prefer seasonal Traffic Regulation Orders but that "it is mindful that the decision ultimately rests with Kent Count Council." Although it is known that KCC are more likely to make seasonal TROs than permanent ones it is not apparent why the Parish Council do not support the many residents who, at meetings in the Village Hall, clearly prefer permanent TROs. **Peter Smith, Alkham Byways Group**



GARDEN TALK - We are looking forward to spring, and our new series of garden visits, which we hope to begin in March. Anyone who wishes to host an event, or has suggestions of local places to visit or wants more information, please contact: **Janet Adamson 01303 893413**

AIR AMULANCE Would you like one of our volunteer speakers to visit? If you are a member of a local group, club or society (over age 16), then you can book a talk with us - free of charge. Our volunteer will talk about how we work, innovate and save lives. It promises to be an interesting and inspiring meeting for your members, whilst enabling us to raise vital awareness of our charity. If you would like to hear more about us, then we would love to hear from you. Get in touch now to book a talk at a time and place that suits you; 01634 471 900 or talks@aakss.org.uk.

TEMPLE EWELL and District Produce Association's Coffee morning is on Saturday the 9th February in Temple Ewell Village Hall between 10am-12noon. It is free to all members and friends of the club and there will be news of this year's coach trip and you will be able to book your seat with a small deposit. There will also be a table top quiz for you to do while meeting up with friends and having tea/coffee and biscuit. If you would like to join the club, they will have the new schedules (fee only £1) starting with the Spring Show on Saturday March 30th between 2-4pm in Temple Ewell Village Hall.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our January meeting started with a very interesting talk by Jo Murrell talking about the AVCP. Our next meeting will be on February 12th when our speaker will be Girling Solicitors talking about Wills and Inheritance Tax. Hostesses are Cherry Leppard, Christine Peel; Raffle Janet Barrow and VOT Edith Neve. All new members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

BOOK CLUB - The next Alkham Village Book Club meeting will be on Thursday 14th February at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre at 1.00p.m. The book for discussion is The Hidden Legacy by G.J. Minett. **Jane Aslett**

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ALKHAM TITHE BARN - In the Old Testament a tithe, meaning a tenth, was an offering of one's agricultural income to the Lord as an expression of thanks and dedication. In medieval times, and later, it was the assumption that the world was governed by God and that the clergy should be paid a tithe so that it could operate in his name; there were agnostics who resented paying but it was enforced by law. The church also gained revenue from the Glebe lands and church fees. Originally the tithe was paid in kind and therefore the church needed somewhere to store the corn and other items and in Alkham there was a thatched tithe barn behind the Rectory, as shown on the left in the photograph. An 1836 Act converted tithes into an annual rent and the Marquis paid tithes on the homestead, pasture, hops, arable, garden and sainfoin to the value of just over £6 (£600 today) of which the church got about 10%. In 1936 an act was passed which revoked the payment of the rent tithes but invoked an annuity of an agreed sum which was to last for 60 years. In 1977 the government decided, because of increased administrative costs, that the scheme should cease. The tithe barn was demolished in the 1930's and thanks go to Jo Walker for pointing the barn out and to Alan Latham for providing the links to the tithe records. **editor**

OZ on CHRISTMAS PAST – At the December meeting of Lyminge Laureates, after reading our own poems on the Seasonal Offering theme, we discussed the idea that 'Charles Dickens invented Christmas as we know it.' Opinion was divided, and I decided on further research, partly with a view to this newsletter story. The Oxford English Dictionary's earliest entry for Christmas is from the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (1101), which, in translation, says "...this year at Christmas King Henry held his court in Westminster." But this is hardly 'as we know it' and the OED records many further examples with varying degrees of relevance and humour from the next 900 years. Among my favourites are John Swan in Specula Mundi (1635) recording that "...a hot Christmas makes a fat Church-yard.", and Richard Steele in The Spectator (1712) complaining that officials "...have the Impudence at Christmas to ask for their Box." During the 17th century, Christmas Day celebrations were banned by Puritan governments both in England from 1647 to 1660 and the American colonies between 1659 and 1681, effectively abolishing Christmas 'as we know it.' By the time Victoria came to the throne in 1837, the western world had changed significantly. The effects of the British Industrial Revolution and the Second British Empire had fed on each other to produce enormous wealth, of which a little trickled down to ordinary families, sufficient for a modest annual celebration. Prince Albert introduced the Christmas tree and decorations at Windsor Castle in 1841, after which the popularity of Christmas grew rapidly. Charles Dickens's great achievement was in using, rather than inventing, 'Christmas as we know it' to cause change. My father once explained it all to me much more succinctly: "Well, son, what they have to do is turn your pockets out once a year, else they run out of money." **Steve Osborn**

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Tuesday	Art Workshop from 10am – 1pm Yoga 1.10pm – 2.10pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am - Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am – check to make sure

Other Events in the village hall

Tuesday	**5**	White Cliff Metal Detectors 7pm to 9pm
Saturday	**9**	SEK astronomical society 7pm to 10.00pm
Tuesday	**12**	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Monday	**18**	Bird Club 7.30pm
Saturday	**23**	Beekeepers in the afternoon
Tuesday	**26**	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1

Bus times from Alkham to Dover (top) and Folkestone (bottom)

8.00, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.04, 18.34

Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41

7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 16.27 17.32 18.32

Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
	Evensong 4.30	**Eucharist 9.30**	**Worship 11am**
Saturday 9th	**Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm**		
Sunday 10th	**Eucharist 9.30**	**Worship 11am**	
Sunday 17th	**Worship 11am**	**Evensong 6.00**	**Eucharist 9:30**
Sunday 24th	**Benefice Eucharist Capel 10.00 am**		

FROM THE VICARAGE - Other churches have tried it – quite successfully apparently – and I thought that we might try it too. Holding a special service for those planning to marry, or who were newly married, on St Valentine's Day, that is. To be honest, it fell a bit flat. What everyone seems to remember was that it was a bitterly cold afternoon, and nobody who came has asked when we're having the next one… So who was St Valentine, and what did he have to do with cards, flowers or chocolates? It seems that around 270, when one of the Roman Emperors, possibly Claudius II, gave orders that anyone helping Christians should be arrested. In Rome someone of that name – possibly a priest – was imprisoned, tortured and executed. The Church declared him a saint and chose to remember him on 14th February. By chance, it was around this time that a pagan festival called Lupercalia was celebrated in Rome. This involved young men being matched with young women, along with other things - many of which would be banned today. Over time the connection between the Saint's Day and the old Roman festival has encouraged people to make the connection between Valentine and the celebrations that we are so familiar with. There's more. Legend says that while awaiting execution Valentine was visited by his jailer's daughter. She was blind, and it is said that when he prayed, she miraculously received her sight. Sadly, there was to be no fairy-tale ending for them. Following his execution, a note was found in his cell, addressed to her and signed 'From Your Valentine.' This St Valentine's Day, prayers and best wishes for all those who are setting out on one of life's greatest adventures… **Brian Williams**

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W.I. Secretary Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
MP Charlie Elphicke 01304 379669
KCC - Geoffrey Lymer 07960490929
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THE VILLAGE HALL was built in 1931 and in the photo, Henry Harvey can be seen cutting the timber. In the Museum of Kent Life at Maidstone there is a similar hall on display and some people think that's where ours should be. However, people visiting our hall love the wood panelled walls and floors and the homely feel, but it is looking a bit tatty on the outside with flaking paint. The Hall Committee therefore got three tenders to repaint the hall and Roberts will start work when the weather gets a bit warmer. The colour will be green with the exact shade to be decided; if you have an opinion on this please let us know. **editor**

HANDRAIL – The entrance to the churchyard off the Valley Road opposite Newlyn's Meadow was recently paved with tarmac and as it is a quite steep it was decided to install a handrail to assist pedestrians. The adjacent house owner Norman very kindly agreed to have the handrail attached to his close boarded fence and the height of the rail was dictated by the fence's cross bracing. The materials were bought at Wickes and paid for by the Alkham Fund and the work was carried out for free by Den, Brian and Alan.



NEW VILLAGERS - MEET AND GREET COFFEE MORNING
There are many new families in the village since the last coffee morning, so thought it a good idea to have another. This event is a lovely way to meet new friends and neighbours and enjoy free coffee and tea, with biscuits, and treats for the children. Like before, we need established locals to come to act as welcomers. Please come along to the village hall on Saturday 4th May from 10am - 12.30. This event is sponsored by Brian Wimsett, Alkham Fund. **Irene Barnard**

100 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK – 'The Parish Clerk was directed to write to the District Council calling their attention to the overflowing of the road between Church Alkham and South Alkham and asking if it cannot be remedied, the Parish Council have called your attention to it before and nothing has been done and they now hope that the matter will now receive your attention.' (Extracted from Parish Council Meeting minutes 21st February 1919). **Den Barnard**

PRINCE TUTORING will be running courses in the village hall in the Easter holidays on Mondays and Thursdays from 9 to 12am; courses include 11+ etc. (see ad page 3). Please ring Tracey on 07814354122.



ALKHAM WI JUMBLE SALE in the village hall, 11th May from 10.30am to 12 o'clock. Refreshments available. Entrance 25p.

TEA AND A CHAT is held on the last Thursday of each month in the village hall starting at 2pm and finishing at 4pm. The next Tea and a Chat will be on March 28th so please do come along and, apart from free coffee, tea and biscuits, meet other people for a chat.

POWER CUT – Some people wondered why parts of Alkham came on earlier than others when the power line was brought down by Newlyns Meadow. When there is a major fault on the line the power feeding Alkham is turned off at Little London to the east of Chalksole. When the fault is found that area is isolated and then the power is turned back on, which accounts for Slip Lane etc. coming on 4 hours before the properties adjacent to Newlyns Meadow.

FILM NIGHT	
February 26	**Monsoon Wedding**
March 26	**Overboard** Kurt Russell Goldie Hawn
Village Hall 7.30pm Please bring your own refreshments	

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A NEW GARDENING SERVICE IN THE VILLAGE - James West is the son of long time Alkham resident Eileen West. After eight years in Canada, James is returning to Alkham to develop a high-class garden maintenance business. He spent four years training in horticulture at Hadlow College, near Tonbridge and the next nine years working for English Heritage, maintaining the diverse plants in the gardens of Walmer Castle. He moved to Ontario and to a large garden centre where his role was to advise customers on the selection and care of trees, shrubs and other plant stock. He also headed up their planting service. At the beginning of April he will commence his business in the village, offering a complete garden maintenance service whilst focusing on planting and plant care. He will operate as "James West Gardens" and, initially, can be contacted on 01304 268464.

THIS YEAR, The Friends of Temple Ewell Primary School has been chosen to benefit from the Co-op Local Community Fund. We are raising funds for the outside area of the Millennium Hall to be resurfaced and made more accessible for access to the hall from the Church and a nicer area for the young children in our school to play. To help us raise vital funds, we'll be relying on Co-op shoppers every time they buy Co-op own-brand products. Co-op members can decide which local group they would like to back by going online www.coop.co.uk/membership where you can also join. **Nicola Church**



RSPCA CANTERBURY AND DISTRICT ANIMAL CENTRE has lots of 'Masterful Moggies' who are in the prime of their lives and have sadly found themselves looking for new homes. These cats have spent their whole lives in a home and are desperate to return to their home comforts. If you're looking for a companion to spend your evenings watching TV with, then an older cat is perfect. Timmy (photo) is 10 years young and likes nothing better than to sit on a lap and relax. At 18 years Tammy is the oldest cat at the centre and all of the cats have been health checked by a vet and have been neutered, vaccinated and treated for fleas and worms .www.rspca-canterbury.org.uk

THE MARQUIS – The alterations to the Marquis include removal of paint to all elevations and the replacement of a door with a window. The existing steps are to be removed and an illuminated hanging sign installed. Internally there will be a new fireplace and a glazed lobby plus various stud partitions to ground floor. The bin store will be relocated, and a retaining wall erected with an additional 19 car parking spaces created. The Parish Council approved the proposals and the village looks forward to the opening of the Marquis of Granby in March.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our February meeting was an enjoyable evening with a talk from Girling Solicitors. Our next meeting will be on the 12th March when our speaker will be Gehad Homsey talking about the charity mercy ships. Hostesses Edith Neve, Helen Price; Raffle Gina Daniels and VOT Eileen West. New members are always welcome. We are organising an American supper evening for the 18th May; more information will follow in next month's newsletter. **Debbie Griggs**

GARDEN TALK - We start the year with a visit to 'Woodstock' on the Alkham Valley Road on Friday 8th March, where Don & Helen will welcome us from 7.00p.m. The Programme for the year is almost complete but offers to host an evening are still welcome**. Janet Adamson (01303 893413)**

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• ENGLISH as a FOREIGN LANGUAGE (EFL)
Tracey Prince BSc (hons), PGCE, QTS, CELTA, CRB

DIARY OF A COUNTRY PARSON - In St Anthony's church behind the Marquis of Granby there can be found on the chancel floor a ledger stone to record the passing of George Slater in 1709. He was the lay parson and lessee of the nearby rectory. On the stone he is described as a gent of Wiltshire. His role in Alkham? The obvious deduction was that he was serving the church and its flock. That was perhaps not correct as there was also a vicar by the name of John Daulinge at that time who also has a ledger stone in the church chancel. It is more than likely that reverend Daulinge dealt with all matters liturgical. This assumption is based on information from James Woodforde's diary, "Diary of a Country Parson 1758 – 1802". In the diary it is recorded that he hired a curate to look after the matters of the local church in Weston, Norfolk. It seems likely that George Slater had a similar relationship with his vicar. Further evidence may be drawn from knowledge of the tithing system of that period. Tithes were divided into greater (rectorial) tithes, the product of the arable fields and value of stock, and lesser (vicarial) tithes, raised from labour and minor produce i.e. the day labourers and cottagers. Where the Rector was not the incumbent, he took a share of the greater tithes and his appointed vicar would have to survive on the lesser tithes supplemented by the glebe income and the freehold of the churchyard (mdlp.co.uk). Note the connection with the roads Glebeland. If James Woodforde's life as portrayed in his diary reflects the life of lay parson George Slater then he would have been a country gentlemen with an income from the tithes paid by the local farmers. It is also probable that he was chairman of the Vestry which was a little like our parish council but that is another story. **Alan Latham**

OZ on RONNIE'S – After reading my October 2018 story, a reader asked what we got up to in Soho in the evening after visiting Foyles bookshop in the Charing Cross Road. I'm sorry to say that it was nothing more shocking than visiting some of the many jazz clubs that had sprung up across the country in the 1950s, particularly in London, from the Chislehurst Caves Club in the south-east to the Bull's Head, Barnes, in the south-west. Of these, we most favoured Ronnie Scott's Club, both for musical quality and the cheap entrance fee of half a crown (about £3 in today's money). Ronnie was born in 1927 in Aldgate into a Jewish family. In his early teens he discovered jazz and studied the tenor saxophone under Jack Lewis, the father-in-law of Vera Lynn. After the war Ronnie played tenor saxophone with all the major British big bands, occasionally working his way on the Cunard liner Queen Mary to New York to hear the great American jazz musicians playing live. During the 1950s, the big bands declined for economic reasons, and Ronnie led a series of smaller groups. In 1959, he and fellow tenor saxophonist Peter King acquired the Gerrard Street, Soho, basement that became Ronnie Scott's Club, later moving to 47 Frith Street, also in Soho, where it remains today. Over the years, Ronnie's became a Mecca for musicians and listeners from all over the world. Part of the attraction was the food, particularly during the legendary 'all-nighters', and part was Ronnie's irresistible humour. The two were combined in his defensive remark "a thousand flies can't be wrong." Ronnie died in December 1996 following dental surgery, epitaphed by his comment, still used for publicity at the entrance to the club, "I love this place, it's just like home, filthy and full of strangers." **(Steve Osborn)**

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Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am – Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am

Other Events in the village hall

Tuesday	**12**	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Saturday	**16**	SEK astronomical 7pm
Tuesday	**26**	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1
Saturday	**30**	Beekeepers in the afternoon

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 3rd	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Wednesday 6th	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 7.00 pm		
Saturday 9th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 10th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	
Sunday 18th	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 25th	Benefice Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Sunday 31st	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	Worship 11am VH

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.00, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.04, 18.34
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 16.27 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - As I write, it is the day after St Valentine's Day. While shopping earlier I found yesterday's left-over roses being sold off, and the shelves beginning to fill with Easter Eggs. It won't be long before we are shopping for those, too, and cheerfully parting with our money in the process. Before Easter comes Lent – the 40 days of which I had never really thought of as a business opportunity for anyone until this morning, when the phone rang. Here I should explain that there are companies that sell churchy things, everything from communion wine to altar cloths. Their brochures arrive in the post, land in a corner of my office, and stay there until we either order something or throw them out. But one of these companies, I learned, wants to get to know me better - with Lent approaching they had thought to give me a ring. I spent the next few minutes reassuring their sales rep that I have palm ash for Ash Wednesday, palm crosses for Palm Sunday, and will contact him if I need any Easter candles. We were on first-name terms by the time I hung up. By tradition Lent, as you may know, is a time of prayer and fasting. It recalls the stories from the gospels of Jesus being led by the Spirit into the wilderness, resisting temptation with words from scripture and coming through it all unbroken. For Yours Truly, it will be 40 days of prayer, Bible reading and probably no cake (sigh!) and perhaps for some of you it will also be a time of denying yourselves a favourite treat, and we shall all arrive at Easter the better for it. But making money out of Lent? I had never thought of that… **Brian Williams**

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No. 303 April 2019

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PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS – If you would like to be a Parish Councillor for Alkham, nomination forms can be obtained from the Election Office, Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover CT16 3PJ. However, the nomination papers must be delivered to the Returning Officer, Wellesley and Pitt Rooms, Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover CT16 3PJ no later than 4 pm on Wednesday, 3rd April. There are seven positions to be filled and if the election is contested the poll will take place on Thursday, 2nd May.

PARISH PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE - The Parish Plan Team have been working for some time and the end is now in sight and we're hoping to have a draft plan ready by the end of the summer. The team is made up of eight volunteers plus two young villagers (including three parish councillors) and advice and guidance has been given by Kent County Council, Dover District Council, the Kent Association of Local Councils and several other Parish Councils who are producing Community Led Plans. Most importantly of all, the team have been obtaining input from Alkham Villagers. Last September our Village Plan Open Day had a great turn out and nearly 800 comments/issues/ideas were put forward. We have also had excellent feedback from individuals from the village. The next step is to quantify the amount of support for all the issues/ideas and you will have received with this newsletter an envelope containing a questionnaire and a stamped address envelope for its return. Please complete and return as per the instructions; if you need help please ask. We would also really like to hear from our young villagers. All forms are confidential, and the information is only to be used for formulating a Parish Plan. There is a sponsored prize draw with several prizes just to give you one more reason for returning the questionnaire. A big thank you for all Brian Wimsett's newsletter deliverers for their help. Thanks in anticipation. **Neil Burrows and the Parish Plan Team**

FETE - We had a Fete Committee meeting on the 6th March and due to a number of key personnel not being available we have decided that there will not be a Fete this year, but we will be back next year on the 11th July 2020, so put the date in your diary now. We will, however, be having a Grand Raffle with the intention of raising money for the Church and Village Hall and to supplement our funds for the next Fete - watch this space for details! **Paul Tapsell 01303 892082**

VILLAGE HALL - The Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall Committee takes place on Tuesday 16th April, at 7.00p.m. in the Village Hall. This will be followed by the quarterly Committee Meeting. All residents of the village, and representatives of groups that use the Village Hall are welcome to attend and make suggestions and/or comments on what activities should be planned and general suggestions regarding the running of the Hall. If anyone wishes to serve on the Committee, they would be made most welcome. **Janet Adamson**

PAMELA SAYERS – It is sad to report that Pam died on the 13th March aged 84. She was a lovely lady and will be missed by all her knew her and sympathy goes to the extended family. The funeral will be at St. Anthony's on the 25th March at 4pm and a full obituary will be included in next month's Newsletter.

TEA AND A CHAT - On the 28th February we had about 13 people come to the village hall for free tea and biscuits to meet fellow residents to chew over the fat and exchange gossip and news with each other. For entertainment we had a short play reading session where all took part, which was fun, and we plan further fun activities at future Tea and a Chat afternoons. So do come along on the last Thursday of the month between 2pm and 4pm to meet up with similar minded people and enjoy a couple of hours of relaxed conversation.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING is on the 8th April at 7.30pm in the village hall and it is hoped that there will be a speaker. Everyone is invited to attend.

THE A.G.M. for St. Anthony's Church, Alkham will be on Thursday, 11th April 7pm in the Village Hall. All welcome.

ALKHAM WI JUMBLE SALE in the village hall, 11th May from 10.30am to 12 o'clock. Refreshments available. Entrance 25p.

FILM NIGHT	
March 26	**Overboard** Kurt Russell Goldie Hawn
April 30	**Green Book**
Village Hall 7.30pm Please bring your own refreshments	

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THANKYOU to Councillor David Beaney for putting up the Christmas tree at the Minnis; for getting the Ewell Minnis signs put up; getting the rubbish picked up around the Minnis and for filling in the verge passing places on Warren Lane – may the good work continue. **Laurence Jones Little West Hill Farm**

ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL – The regular meetings, to which all parishioners are welcome, are held on a Monday evening starting at 7.30pm in the village hall. The dates for this year are 13th May, 1st July 9th September, 4th November. To see the agendas for the meetings and minutes, please go to www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk/council-admin/agenda-minutes/.

TB TESTING – Di Smith of Sladden Farm hosted a meeting in Alkham village hall in February for farmers to express their feelings regarding TB testing in the Dover area. Di's herd of 70 cows are confined to the farm under DEFRA regulations and she and her fellow farmers wanted answers from the government's animal welfare vet who was present. There had been an incident in Guston last April which triggered the TB restrictions and after some heated debate the NFU area secretary, who chaired the meeting, said he would take up the issues with DEFRA on their behalf.

HGV'S – The problem of HGV's using unsuitable roads continues. In February a large artic with HGV sat-nav, drove up Warren Lane from Lydden and came down White Hill to Slip Lane. At this junction the road is narrow and going around the corner the HGV removed the downpipe and eaves board from The Old Granary. The details of the lorry were taken and shortly there will be scaffolding on Slip Lane to repair the damage. Rose Cottage, which is also on this corner, had their fence and gate badly damaged by a heavy lorry a short time ago.

THE BOOK CLUB for April will be on Thursday 11th at 1.00p.m. The meeting will be at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre where we will discuss 'On The Front Line With Women Who Fight Back' by Stacey Dooley. If you are interested in joining the book club, please come along and join us. **Jane Aslett**

GARDEN TALK - Our next visit will be on Friday 12th April, starting at 7.00p.m. to allow time to see the garden in daylight. Please contact Janet Adamson, 01303 893413 for full details.

RAIL TO CHURCHYARD - Appearing in March's newsletter: old men preparing to camp or picnic in the Church Yard, or are they propping up the bar in preparation for the Marquis of Granby opening? Who are these old men? Do we know them? A sympathiser must have ganged up to take the photograph, another old man? The new rail will undoubtedly assist further incursions into the Church Yard, but many thanks anyway!' **anon**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our March meeting was a very interesting talk about Mercy Ships and our next meeting will be on April 9th which will be a member's night. Hostesses are Debbie Griggs and Debbie Saunders, Raffle Helen Scopes. On 18th May we are having an American supper night, 7-7.30pm to 10.30pm, and at £5 per person includes entertainment which will be a ukulele band and a prize will be awarded for the best decorated table. Please bring your own food and refreshments, plates, cutlery and glasses. If you would like to book a table, please contact Debbie on 07810890637 or 07796360473. New members always welcome. **Debbie**

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PARISH COUNCIL – Today local affairs are dealt with by the Parish Council but before the latter was enacted parish matters were administered by the Vestry. The word vestry was originally associated with the church but as the parishioners met in the vestry, they too adopted the name. The Vestry was entitled to vote on all parish matters and to elect parish officers with a vestry clerk being responsible for the minutes and organization of the meetings. Parish Officers were mainly elected by the vestry annually at Easter and the positions were largely unpaid but some carried ancient perks such as a piece of land or rights to grazing in the churchyard. All parishes had to have a parish clerk, two church wardens, who had significant powers, and a sexton. There was also a constable who would be responsible for the ale houses, beggars, church and poor rate collection, maintenance of pillories and stocks and the village lock up; he was unpaid but allowed expenses. The post of surveyor was generally the most avoided as he too was unpaid and was responsible for the parish roads, lanes and drainage ditches the works for which were under funded and under resourced. In 1894 a Local Government Act created Rural District Councils as well as Parish Councils and Alkham Parish Council met for the first time on the 4th December 1894 and similar responsibilities were assigned to councillors, but any works are generally carried out by the District or County Council where underfunding still remains a problem. **editor**

OZ on FORTY YEARS ON – I need first to quote from the writer Gavin Ewart: "My purpose … is not to stimulate sentimentality about vanished schooldays – or to make any sort of political propaganda about the kind of schools we ought to have." That came from the introduction to his Forty Years On, a 1969 anthology of school songs. After February's Alkham Film Night, I chatted to a fellow viewer about my recent 1950s stories, and we discovered that we had both attended Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club and the same old school. At this point it would be easy to lapse into sentimentality as the school is truly magnificent, built on the side of a steep hill, with terraced sports pitches, a tower, and the Great Hall, containing an organ gallery which is still in use. However, the most evocative feature is the school song, Forty Years On, written by Edward Ernest Bowen in 1872 for Harrow, and shared similarly with many other schools. It is an unashamed tear-jerker, warning the young and reminding the old of what the passage of forty years means for them, in four verses, each followed by a chorus commencing 'Follow up! Follow up! Follow up!', using football as a metaphor for life. Bowen was born in County Wicklow, Ireland in 1836, and educated at Blackheath Proprietary School, King's College London, and Trinity College Cambridge. After completing his first teaching post at Marlborough College, he moved to Harrow where he worked as a progressive and enlightened teacher while composing at least 17 other school songs for Harrow before his death in 1901. Such songs were traditionally sung at speech days and other major events. Today's school songs seem smaller and more numerous, promoting modern values, health and relationships, but without the sheer boisterous energy of Forty Years On. **Steve Osborn**

COMMEMORATION - If you would like to commemorate a loved one this Easter with a lily, please contact Linda Gaskill 823100. Each lily will be £5.00.

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Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am

Other Events in the village hall

Monday	**8**	Annual Parish meeting 7.30pm – see page 1
Tuesday	**9**	W.I. meeting at 7.30pm
Thursday	**11**	St. Anthony's church AGM 7pm
Saturday	**13**	SEK astronomical 7pm
Tuesday	**16**	Village Hall AGM 7pm – see page 1
Tuesday	**30**	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 31st M	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	Worship 11am VH
Sunday 7th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Saturday 13th	Messy church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 14th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Palm Service 11am	
Thursday 18th	Maundy Thursday Benefice Eucharist Capel 7.00 pm		
Friday 19th	Good Friday Benefice Service Capel 10.00		
Saturday 31st	Building the Easter Garden at Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 21st	Eucharist 11.00 am	Eucharist 7.00 am	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 28th			Eucharist10.00am

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.00, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.04, 18.34
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 16.27 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - Easter is late this year, and as I write most of Lent stretches ahead of us. So perhaps it was contemplating the thought of no cake for the next few weeks that drew my eye to a newspaper article by the singer Charlotte Church. In her case, it was not cake but alcohol that she had been abstaining from. Feeling the benefits of 'Dry January' had led her to embrace a dry February as well, resisting pressure from others to drink and feeling so much better for it. Apparently, the current health and fitness cult has pinched some features of Lent – the "giving up" bit when it comes to chocolate, cream cakes and the rest – but mostly leaves the prayer, Bible reading and other bits to one side. But as liberating as the ideas of wellness and wholeness might seem, as with anything else the joy drains away all too easily when reduced to a list of do's and don'ts: Thou shalt drink green tea and go to the gym; thou shalt not loaf in front of the TV eating pizza... No commandment demands that Thou shalt give up cake for Lent – it's my choice. Just as Charlotte Church finds that her new-found regime makes it easier for her to reach out to people and connect with them, so doing Lent – with all the bits – does something similar for me. It shifts my attention away from my own selfish wants – even for little things like cake – and keeps the joy by helping me to reach out to God and other people and connect with them. So, bless you if you're doing Lent - especially if you're doing it with all the bits. And a very Happy Easter to you, when the time comes.
Brian Williams

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NEW VILLAGERS Meet and Greet Coffee Morning - There are many new families in the village since the last coffee morning, so thought it a good idea to have another. This event is a lovely way to meet new friends and neighbours and enjoy free coffee and tea, with biscuits, and treats for the children. Like before, we need established locals to come to act as welcomers. Please come along to the village hall on Saturday 4th May from 10am - 12.30. This event is sponsored by the Alkham Fund. **Irene Barnard**

MIDSUMMER BARN DANCE - Thanks to the generosity of Ann and John Huggins the Alkham Community Midsummer Barn Dance will be held at Greenwood Farm on 29th June 2019. Dancing from 19.30 to 23.30 to "Contraband'. Tickets will be £10.00 each and will include a light supper. Licensed bar on the night. Tickets available from Graham Bissett. Contact 07789690786 or at graham.bissett@talk21.com. All proceeds from the event will be given to a local charity.

ALKHAM PARISH PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE - By now you should all have received a questionnaire. We need your views and thoughts on the focused questions. With your help we can work together towards building an inclusive social community within our Parish. If you haven't yet received a questionnaire, please contact your local councillor or Parish Clerk. The deadline for completion and return of the questionnaire is 30th April, so don't Delay – Have Your Say. **PP Team**

THE MARQUIS OF GRANBY has reopened as a village pub and the official opening was on the 5th of April to which parishioners were invited. The evening was a great success as the pub was absolutely crowded with people who also enjoyed a complimentary glass of champagne. The Marquis has been refurbished to a very high standard with a pub appeal (and rooms) and we wish the new landlords, Will and Nadine, all the best for the future.

A MAJOR slip up means the advertised film for April Film Night, which was to have been ' Green Book', has now had to be postponed and in its place the film to be screened on April 30th is 'Bohemian Rhapsody', the story of the band 'Queen'. The May film is still 'The Favourite'.

ST. ANTHONY'S church was absolutely packed on the 13th March for Pam Sayers funeral service and it was a fitting tribute to a much loved and respected lady. On page 3 is a recollection written by her.

BASKETS – Two hanging baskets have been put outside the entrance to Alkham village hall and they look great. They are part of privately funded initiative by Tracey Prince to bring colour to the village.

JUNIOR BAKE OFF is looking for bakers aged between 9-15 to take part in Series 5! For more information or an application form go to applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk. Applications close Monday 6th May 2019.

LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS will be held on the 2nd May with voting at Alkham village hall. Only the District Councillor for Alkham and Capel-le-Ferne Ward will be voted for because the Parish Council is uncontested as less than seven people applied. The elected councillors are therefore Anthony Barrier, David Beaney, Neil Burrows, Martin Hibbert, Ruth Marczin-Bundy and Tracey Prince.



FREE LOGS

A large bay tree has just been felled, with DDC approval, in the centre of the village. If you'd like some free logs, please ring 01304 824969 or email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

THE APRIL 'Tea and a Chat' will take place at the Village Hall on Thursday 25th when parish residents are invited to come along between 2pm and 4pm to join others for free tea and biscuits in convivial company. May's meet will be on the last Thursday of the month, the 30th. So, if you're feeling you'd like to join in and meet up with like-minded friends for a couple of hours, then do come along. **Geoff Hillier**

ALKHAM WI JUMBLE SALE in the village hall, 11th May from 10.30am to 12 o'clock. Refreshments available. Entrance 25p.

FILM NIGHT	
April 30	**Bohemian Rhapsody**
May 28	**The Favourite**
Village Hall 7.30pm Please bring your own refreshments	

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GUITAR CONCERT - For the ninth year running Jimmy D'Alton Bellas is bringing some of his past and present pupils to St Anthony's for a 'Summer Evening Guitar Concert' on Saturday 29th June at 6:30pm. Once again Jimmy's young pupils will be eager to perform in the beautiful setting of our church together with star performers including Emily Renshaw who will be returning once again. Tickets are £8 and refreshments will be available at nominal cost. All proceeds as always go to the Friends of St Anthony's for the upkeep of our church. Tickets from Den (01304 824845) or Jimmy (01304 823164).

A CAUTIONARY TALE – A man with an expensive house butchered an oak tree that was blocking the view. The tree was subject to a preservation order and as he had not asked for permission he was taken to court and fined £1200. However, as the value of the house had increased by £21,000 it was deemed to be proceeds of a crime and with that plus legal costs the bill came to £40,000. In addition to preservation orders, if you live in a conservation area then you must also get permission to fell or work on a tree.

TRAFFIC - A complaint has been raised with Kent Highways on their website because of the increase in traffic and oversized vehicles on Slip Lane recently and the amount of damage they are causing to the banks, verges and trees lining the Lane, as well as being a safety risk to all users of the Lane be they walkers, horse riders or other vehicles drivers (the oversized vehicles cannot reverse safely). The request is, that as there is a "not suitable for HGV or oversized vehicles" sign at the bottom of Slip Lane, junction with Alkham Valley Road for traffic coming up Slip Lane; there is not one at the top of the Lane junction with Chalksole Green Lane, for traffic coming down, can Highways please erect one there? This traffic appears to be coming via Hawkinge; maybe their satnav directs them this way? **Bev Hubbard**

THE BOOK CLUB meeting for May will be on Thursday 9th at the Alkham Valley Garden centre starting at 1.00p.m. We will be discussing The Long Song by Andrea Levy. If you are interested, please come along and join us. **Jane Aslett**

A DOG WALKING SERVICE called Lunabees is run by Gretel who is insured and CRB checked. She charges £10 an hour and can be contacted on 07853889014. *(free one-off as no advertising space)*

ALKHAM W.I. - Our April meeting was a member's night and our next meeting will be on the 14th May at 7.30pm. It's our resolutions evening followed by a Quiz by the two Debbies. Hostesses are Susannah Tapsell, Alison Warnock; Raffle Mari Jones. New members welcome. Sadly, our American supper evening has been cancelled. **Debbie Griggs**

GARDEN TALK - We have started our garden visits this spring and have enjoyed meeting new neighbours. The next visit is to 'Bramhall' on the Alkham Valley Road on Friday 10th May from 7.30p.m. Further details from Janet Adamson (01303 893413).

DOVER CHORAL SOCIETY will present a concert in River Parish Church, Minnis Lane, River, CT17 0RG, at 3.00 pm on Saturday 11th May 2019, featuring Faure: Requiem, Mozart: Coronation Mass, Faure: Cantique de Jean Racine, and Rutter. Soloists Bridget Tizzard, June Woodland, Joseph Yarrow and Kye Clarke, the society's chorus, and Rod Spencer (organ). Tickets (£10) are available from members of the society or at the door on the night. For further information email lindsaypowellwilliams@btinternet.com phone Lindsay 01304 203066.

Alkham Valley Garden Centre
Visit our new houseplant section which has a great selection of traditional/unusual plants. Summer flowering bulbs, potatoes and onion packs now in stock.
Our new garden and gift areas are full with unusual/practical gifts for the garden & home. Why not visit our tearooms for a Big Valley Breakfast, Lunch or afternoon Tea. Our homemade cakes are delicious!

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PAM SAYERS died in March and the following article, which she wrote about George and Mabel Jenkins, is printed as a tribute.

My grandfather's brother, great-uncle George, and his wife, Mabel, lived in France before the First World War. Why, I do not know. When the war started, Uncle George was fighting for the allies and was captured by the Russians and made to work in the salt mines*. To me as a child he always seemed a little odd, which I realised in later life was due to his treatment as a prisoner of war. After the First World War, Uncle George and Aunt Mabel went back to live in France and the War Graves Commission put him in charge of all the cemeteries, to make sure they were tended regularly and looked immaculate. Which they did. When the Second Word War commenced, he and his wife fled to England from the advancing German army, to Dover, where all their close relatives lived and they stayed with another sister, Jessie Jenkins, who lived in Folkestone Road. When the war ended, they went back to France and Uncle George was again put in charge of the cemeteries. At the age of fourteen I went to stay with them and was taken by Uncle George on a tour of the cemeteries with all their crosses, row after row of them, very upsetting at that age but the grounds were immaculate. Unfortunately, I cannot remember the death of either of them because all the Jenkins family, including my grandmother, fled from Dover and the shelling to Bodicote, a village near Banbury, Oxfordshire. They all returned, except for two daughters who married in Banbury and settled there in Oxfordshire. **P. E. Sayers**

The Russians were our allies in the First World War, so this is more likely to have been the Germans (Prussians?) who did employ slave labour in salt mines in Germany and Poland* – **Mark Robson.

OZ on ENGLAND, THEIR ENGLAND – This time of year, with birds singing and the world coming to life again, reminds me of my father and his joy at the return of the cricket season. He was always keen on sport, playing football and tennis when young, and cricket well into middle and early old age. I couldn't follow in his cricketing footsteps, as being both half-blind in my left eye and right-handed was a lethal combination in front of the wicket. Teachers didn't allow me to abstain from batting, and so I often saved my life by simply raising the bat and letting the ball demolish the stumps. However I always supported Dad in his enthusiasm by watching him play, score keeping, taking him to Test matches, and exchanging cricketing literature such as Beyond a Boundary, by the West Indian C.L.R. James, or England, Their England, written in 1933 by Scottish writer A.G. Macdonell. During World War 1, MacDonnell had served as a lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery and been invalided out, later becoming a journalist. The life of Lieutenant Cameron, the hero of England, their England, follows the same trajectory in a narrative described by Helen Moran as being 'somewhat autobiographical.' The story concerns the nature of England between the wars, with humorous anecdotes about town and country life: "Boone was a huge, awe-inspiring colossus of a man, weighing at least eighteen stone..." The most hilarious passage is the account in Chapter 7 of a village cricket match, where the village blacksmith secures a draw by hitting the ball so high that it takes MacDonnell three pages to describe its return to earth. My father died in April 1996, so in the next few days I shall read a few pages from England, Their England to myself in his memory. **(Steve Osborn)**

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Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/11.00am – Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am

Other Events in the village hall

Thursday	**2**	Local council voting 6.30 – 10.30 see page 1
Saturday	**4**	Meet and greet 9am to 12 see page 1
Tuesday	**7**	Whitecliffs Metal Detectors 7.30pm
Saturday	**11**	W.I. jumbles sale 11am – SEKAS 7pm to 9pm
Tuesday	**14**	W.I. meeting at 7.30pm
Thursday	**23**	Possible European elections
Tuesday	**28**	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1
Thursday	**30**	Tea and a Chat 2pm to 4pm see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 5th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Saturday 11th	Messy church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 12th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	
Sunday 19th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00 pm
Sunday 26th	Benefice Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Thursday 30th			Eucharist 7.00 pm

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.00, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.04, 18.34
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 16.27 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - On Sunday mornings at the church where I served as a curate a small group of familiar faces would gather in one corner, just as the service began. Mumbling their way through the hymns and hardly ever going forward for communion, or even a blessing, they knew that after the service everyone stayed on for coffee and biscuits. They always chose the nearest corner to the coffee urn, and as the last chords of the final hymn died away the biscuits would start to disappear. Jesus once compared God to someone who, his invitations to a banquet having all been turned down by those for whom they were intended, then told his servants to bring in anyone they found on the streets or in the hedgerows. For me, that small group always brought that parable to life – here were not just characters in a story, but real people from the streets and hedgerows for whom free church coffee and biscuits might easily have been breakfast. As I write, Easter is still a week away and once again, in church, we are thinking of what led up to Jesus' crucifixion and that first Easter, and the parts played by those whom Jesus chose as his friends in what happened. They were not just characters in a story, but real people who, just like us, could get things wrong, fall out with each other and maybe even turn their backs on a friend at the worst possible time. But Easter is about new beginnings. Convinced that he was risen from the dead, those same friends set about spreading the news that people still talk about today. It reminds Christians, that God isn't defeated by our failings, and doesn't give up on us either. **Brian Williams**

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W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669
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MIDSUMMER BARN DANCE - Thanks to the generosity of Ann and John Huggins the Alkham Community Midsummer Barn Dance will be held at Greenwood Farm on 29th June 2019. Dancing from 19.30 to 23.30 to "Contraband'. Tickets will be £10.00 each and will include a light supper. Licensed bar on the night. Tickets available from Graham Bissett. Contact 07789690786 or at graham.bissett@talk21.com. All proceeds from the event will be given to a local charity.

SAM'S SWEET CHARITY - Heather Waller, on behalf of Alzheimer's and the British Heart Foundation is holding an American Supper style evening in Alkham village hall on Saturday 6th July. Tickets costing £8 are available from Anne Huggins by ringing 01304 824340.

PARISH PLAN - A great big thank you for all those who returned the Parish Plan Questionnaire - what a fabulous response! Over 200 villagers replied (from about 125 households) and we also had over 40 names who have volunteered for future activities. The mammoth task of inputting the data onto a spreadsheet has started and the team would like to thank Irene Barnard for taking this on. When completed the Prize Draws will take place (date and time to be announced). Just a reminder that all data remains confidential and will only be used for the purpose of formulating the Plan. For the analysis no names will be associated with the answers given on the questionnaire. Thanks again. **Parish Plan Team**

NARROW LANES – There has been an increase in heavy lorries using the narrow lanes, particularly to the north of Alkham. A lorry from Lithuania stopped at the unauthorized sign saying 'No Entry HGV's and large vehicles' on Warren Lane where White Hill begins; it was directed by a local resident to go via Chalksole Green Lane and across the top to Hawkinge as it was trying to access the M20. Clearly this is not acceptable, and the recent increase may be due to these lorries using non-hgv sat nav. Signage is required at Lydden, where Warren Lane starts and at Fernfield, just outside Hawkinge, to stop large unsuitable vehicles using these roads. The Parish Council have been informed as have the Highway authority so hopefully something will be done. A resident has said that it would be helpful if delivery companies could be made aware that they may need to use a restricted size vehicle.

MEET AND GREET COFFEE MORNING - It was pleasing to see many enjoying coffee and biscuits, although the village hall was not bursting like before. It was lovely to be able to meet new families and the children enjoyed the tasty treats. With help from Susannah, Helen and Sylvia the morning went very well. Thanks also to Brian for funding this event from the Alkham Fund. **Irene Barnard**

TEMPLE EWELL SCHOOL is holding a Fete on Saturday 29th June 11am -2pm and a "Pamper Evening" at Crabble Cornmill on Friday 5th July 7.00pm-9pm (Tickets £5).

JOHN JACKSON - I would like to express my thanks for all the support and kindness I have received during John's illness and recent passing. I am grateful to you all. **Shelley Jackson**

John Jackson was a keen supporter of village activities and regularly attended Garden Club. Before retirement John was the captain on a cross-channel hovercraft, a job which he enjoyed and in retirement could be seen walking his two beloved Jack Russells. The funeral was at Barham Crematorium, which was attended by a large number of people, and reflected the respect and affection in which he was held.

PARISH COUNCILLOR – There is a vacancy on Alkham Parish Council for a Parish Councillor and if anybody would like to be considered for co-option please write to the Clerk, Irene Bowie, Pollyfield Cottage, Scragged Oak Road, Detling ME14 3HD or clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk. You can also ring 01622 737749**.**

THE VILLAGE HALL is scheduled to be painted externally in the first or second week of June.

THE JUNE 'Tea and a Chat' will take place at the Village Hall on Thursday 27th between 2pm and 4pm; join others for free tea and biscuits in convivial company.

FILM NIGHT	
May 28	**The Favourite**
June 25	**Stan and Ollie** With Steve Coogan
Village Hall 7.30pm Please bring your own refreshments	

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CHURCH ACCESS - Geoff Gaskill and helpers have installed a 2.5m wide grass mesh roadway from the Valley Road entrance to St. Anthony's paved access. There is also room for cars to park and turn.

GUITAR CONCERT - On Saturday 29th June starting at 6:30pm, Jimmy D'Alton Bellas past and present pupils are coming to St Anthony's for a 'Summer Evening Guitar Concert'. Tickets are £8 and refreshments will be available at nominal cost. All proceeds as always go to the Friends of St Anthony's for the upkeep of our church. Tickets from Den (01304 824845) or Jimmy (01304 823164).

THE AIR AMBULANCE is a charity which receives no government funding and relies on charitable donations. They can recycle used postage stamps to help fund these vital services and all kinds of stamps are welcome, on or off paper; just leave no more than a 5mm single thickness border around them, and the perforations should not be damaged. Stamps can be sent to: Air Ambulance Stamp Appeal, Xchange Master, 272 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4JR. Freepost envelopes can be requested by emailing: airambulance@xchange-master.co.uk.

YOUNG PEOPLE can now prepare for their adventures abroad by signing up for a travel safety training that will cover topics such as items to pack, how to stay safe and healthy, and how to avoid becoming a victim of crime, as well as giving basic first aid training. The first course will be at Invicta Grammar School in Maidstone from 10am to 4pm on Tuesday, June 25 and is open to young people from all schools. To request a booking form please email Victoria.Parker @theeducationpeople.org. Please do not contact the school. Young people will gain a Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance (HABC) accreditation for attending the course. **Geoff Lymer**

PSYCHIC DAY at Alkham Village Hall Saturday 22nd June 11-4pm, last readings 3.30; £3 entrance and 20-minute sessions for £15. Everglow the Rebecca Kruza Foundation Campaign is working to improve support services and provide respite for mothers and their babies suffering the affects of post natal depression symptoms. Please join us for professional: Tarot/medium readings: Reiki healing, Mystic stalls and refreshments and you'll find a friendly welcome while you join our worthy cause. For more information and to make donations go to Facebook; Everglow the Rebecca Kruza Foundation or contact Lyn Richardson on 07879627373.

GARDEN TALK - Our June visit will be to ' Countryside' off the Alkham Valley Road, where we meet at 7.30p.m. on Friday 7th June. For directions, please contact Janet Adamson (01303 893413).

BOOK CLUB - The meeting for June will be on Thursday 13th starting at 1pm at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre. The book for discussion is Behind The Mask - The Life of Vita Sackville -West by Matthew Dennison. If you are interested, please come along and join us. **Jane Aslett**

ALKHAM W.I. - May the 14th was our resolutions evening followed by a Quiz by the two Debbies. Our next meeting is on June 11th when our speaker is Tony Barnes who is a vet and he will be speaking on how things have changed. **Debbie Griggs**

Alkham Valley Garden Centre
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Tracey Prince BSc (hons), PGCE, QTS, CELTA, CRB

SEWAGE - If you are not connected to a main drainage sewer you will probably have a cesspit/pool, septic tank or proprietary treatment works. Legislation in 2015 introduced restrictions, on where the discharge from these systems can be disposed of. If it's a cesspool it must be totally sealed and allow no discharge and should be emptied periodically. If it's a septic tank it must only discharge into a drainage field, sometimes known as a soakaway and if you have a septic tank you can't discharge into a water course from 2020. A sewage treatment plant (Klargester BioDisc for example) is more effective in treating sewage and may discharge into a ditch. This is fine without an environment agency permit providing it is under the maximum daily discharge volume to fall within their permit system. The latest regulations came out in 2015, and are called 'General binding rules: small sewage discharge to a surface water' and it's a very important document for many property owners. Once upon a time, you could 'discharge' the separated waste water from within the septic tank through one of two ways: To a drainage field or soakaway system - here, the waste water percolates through holes or slots into the pipework, into the surrounding sub-soils. This provides a form of treatment of the water, and it allows the waste water to disperse safely without causing a pollution. To a watercourse - the waste water would flow through a sealed pipe straight to a local watercourse such as a stream or a river. So, what's changed? In a nutshell, you can no longer do no. 2 above. The reason for this is because the 'quality' of the waste water is no longer considered clean enough to flow straight into local watercourses without causing pollution. **Alan Latham**

A LOCAL resident emailed – '*We are not ruled by the majority but by the majority who participate.* ***Thomas Jefferson'***

MITCH on ROUGH SLEEPING – First item on to-do list on each occasion was to send a child to the shop for chewing gum. With orders to chew thoroughly. Strange since I was normally a stuffy mum who disapproved of both gum and chewing. Said gum when ready was to become cork, bung or stopper at the top of the tent. Then the hard work began. A lot of pumping on one of the old-fashioned foot pumps to fill the four inflatable ribs of the tent till it looked like a small version of the London Dome. Or O2 as it now is. Except it was blue. High wind was not good news though and to avoid the whole thing sleeping children and all being lifted up up and away we tied the guy ropes to the door handles of the heavy old Saab. Seemed to work. The other problem of course was inferior chewing gum leading to the collapse in the wee small hours, so it looked like a lobster pot imploding onto innocent sleepers. Scouring the farmyard by moonlight and finding a handy clothes prop I spent the hours till daylight standing there propping up tent and family. Children blissfully unaware. Different now isn't it - three-bedroom detached numbers cover the sites - with bedrooms and kitchens just like home. Good memories though. Shame creaky joints tell me to hang up the guy ropes... **Jane Mitchell**

LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS – Jamie Rose, who represents the Conservative party, was elected District Councillor for Alkham and Capel-le-Ferne and in Dover Downs and River, David Beaney was elected.

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Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/11.00am – Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am

Other Events in the village hall

Tuesday	**4**	Whitecliffs Metal Detectors 7.30pm
Saturday	**8**	SEKAS 7pm to 9pm
Tuesday	**11**	W.I. meeting at 7.30pm
Tuesday	**25**	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1
Thursday	**27**	Tea and a Chat 2pm to 4pm see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 2nd	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Saturday 8th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 9th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	
Sunday 16th	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 23rd	Benefice Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Sunday 30th	Benefice Eucharist at St Mary's (Capel Old Church) 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.00, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.04, 18.34
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 16.27 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - Here's a question: is life something just to be got through, or something to be explored? In Richard Bach's story Jonathan Livingstone Seagull, Jonathan is always being told that seagulls only fly so that they can eat. That doesn't suit the young gull – he loves flying for its own sake, wants to know what a seagull can really do, and so sets out on a voyage of discovery. I sometimes refer to that story at christenings, the point being that baptism is also intended to mark the beginning of a voyage of discovery that starts in this world and ends in the next. I was reminded of this recently when my son mentioned finding a dead herring gull in the gutter on Dover Hill. Something had hit it; it had a ring on each leg. Following discussion, we set out with bin sack and gardening gloves, retrieved the body and tapped the number on the ring into the computer. Suddenly, Our Gull had a story to tell. We learned that GR94363, as Our Gull was known, had been trapped and ringed as a two-year-old in January 2015 at a tip at Pitsea, Essex. At some point Our Gull flew the Thames Estuary, and then the English Channel. He or she was spotted near Boulogne in August 2017, inland at Curgies, near Valenciennes and the Belgian border in December 2017, and finally back on the French coast near Le Touquet in August last year. Jesus once said that though five sparrows are sold for two pennies not one of them is forgotten in God's sight. Our Gull now rests from his or her journeys in this world in a corner of the vicarage garden; remembered both in this world, and in the next. **Brian Williams**

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AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
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ANNUAL ALKHAM QUIZ NIGHT – The Alkham W.I. are holding a quiz in the village hall on the 7th of September between 7.30pm and 10pm, with doors opening at 7pm. The cost is £3 per person for a table of up to 6 people; please bring your own food and drink. To book a table please contact Debbie Griggs on 07796360473 or Debbie Saunders on O7810890637.

SAM'S SWEET CHARITY SHOW- A reminder to book your tickets for this Variety Show and American Supper at the Village Hall on Saturday 6th July. Tickets costing £8 are available from Anne Huggins by ringing 01304 824340. The evening is being held on behalf of the Alzheimer's and British Heart Foundation charities.

MIDSUMMER BARN DANCE – If you have never been to a barn dance before please do come along as it really is great fun; people don't always do what the caller says, and brief interruptions can ensue whilst things are sorted out. The barn dance will be at Greenwood Farm on the 29th June, thanks to the generosity of Ann and John Huggins, and dancing is from 19.30 to 23.30 to "Contraband'. Tickets are £10.00 each and will include a light supper with a licensed bar. Tickets are available from Graham Bissett on 07789690786 or at graham.bissett@talk21.com. All proceeds from the event will be given to a local charity.

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB - After a couple of quiet years due to reduced numbers (and the closure of several other local clubs we used to play), we are looking to revitalise the Alkham Cricket Club. We may not be able to play on the Meadow due to insurance-related issues, but the Club has been around officially since 1839 and it'd be sad for it to pass into history as so many village clubs, so we are looking into our options. With that in mind, we will be holding a meeting in the Marquis at 8 pm on Sunday 7th July; if you are interested in being a playing, or a "social", member of the club please come along so we can assess how best to meet the wishes of the members and the needs of the club going forward, i.e. whether the preference would be for evening T20-style matches or weekend 40/50 over games, social evenings, fund-raising opportunities, etc.. It goes without saying that we welcome players of either sex and or any (or, like me, no) ability. If you are unable to make the meeting please give me a call on 07947 016697 to let me know your views, and I'll pass them on to the meeting. The Club would like and needs the support of the villagers if it is to continue, so please come along. **Paul Tapsell**

CONGRATULATIONS to Helen Hobday who ran the Race for Life 10K in Folkestone on the 9th June and raised over £200 for Cancer Research.

TEA AND A CHAT is on Thursday 25th of July from 2pm to 4pm. If you fancy a chat and some company, please do come along.

ALISON SPICER – In a very moving service at St. Anthony's church on the 14th of June tributes were given to Alison who died on the 25th of May aged 57 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Despite her concerns the weather was fine, and the church was absolutely full of people who had come to celebrate Alison's life and remember a wonderful lady. Her husband Barry read an emotional eulogy in which he spoke of their first meeting when he immediately and completely fell in love with her. This was followed by memories from their children Sian, Ben and Jack to a wonderful mother and a tribute from Irene Barnard to friendship. Barry and Alison moved to Alkham in the 1980's and lived close to the village green with the inevitable result that the house was occasionally hit by an errant cricket ball. Alison was an expert on plants, although she wouldn't admit it, and helped numerous people with their gardening problems. A truly lovely person who will be missed by all who had the privilege to know her.

FILM NIGHT – The film this month is 'Stan and Ollie' about Laurel and Hardy's twilight tour of Britain and Ireland. John C Reilly and Steve Coogan are exceptional in the lead parts.

FILM NIGHT	
June 25	**Stan and Ollie** With Steve Coogan
July 30	**Green Book**
Village Hall 7.30pm Please bring your own refreshments	

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ALL ABOUT ALKHAM FACEBOOK PAGE exists for Alkham residents to share whatever you want and comment as freely as you choose, within the bounds of reasonable decorum. Currently, All About Alkham reaches around 1,000 and engages around 200 people per month. That seems more people than live in Alkham but many who follow are friends and relatives of Alkham residents. Think of a notice board where you can share news of events you are organizing or attending in or outside Alkham, services you provide, goods you produce, items you are selling or want to dispose of and may be useful to others, but only if you live in Alkham. Share your good times, anniversaries, family achievements. When times are rough share that too. Share your hobbies. Post photos of Alkham through the seasons. Share what makes you proud of Alkham. Express your concerns. Say what you want Alkham to be. Say what you want of your Parish Council, Alkham's District and County councillors. All About Alkham cannot replace Alkham's Newsletter which is guaranteed to reach every Alkham household every month. All about Alkham does not and there may be months when nothing is posted. The newsletter has to be brief and is expertly edited. All about Alkham, you can post as long or short as you like and there is no editing. All About Alkham recognizes there will be differing views, some strongly held. If you are advertising a business or organising an event, best to notify Alkham Newsletter than follow up with reminders and additional information on All About Alkham. Within the bounds of reasonable decorum, comment as you want. **Martin Scherer**

HOLISTIC FAIR 13th July 11-4 Alkham Village Hall £3 entrance. The prices are up to £15 for 20 minutes of aromatherapy/massages or reflexology, Reiki, gel nails, spray tan and makeovers. There is a creche plus a raffle/auction and beverages and cakes. Come along for a friendly welcome while you join our worthy cause: Everglow, The Rebecca Kruza Foundation Campaign to improve support services, provide respite for mothers and their babies suffering Post Natal Depression symptoms and to prevent maternal suicide. To learn about why please visit Facebook; Everglow The Rebecca Kruza Foundation or contact Lyn Richardson on 07879 627373. Any kind donations please make through or on the day.

GARDEN TALK - We meet on Friday 19th July at Halton Court in the centre of the Village. Irene & Den are our hosts from 7.30p.m.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our meeting in June was an enjoyable one at which the speaker was veterinary surgeon Tony Barnes talking about how things have changed. Our next meeting will be Tuesday 9th July and the speaker will be Clive Nuttman talking about primates of Uganda. Hostesses are Janet Adamson and Gina Daniels, Raffle Debbie Griggs and VOT Debbie Griggs. All new members welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL is proposing to install a puffin crossing on the Alkham Valley road between Kearsney Abbey and Russell Gardens. A consultation on the proposals was launched on the 30th May and will be open for comments until 24 June 2019. Funding for the proposed crossing has been secured from government funding via Kent County Council's Local Transport Plan. The scheme is proposed to be implemented in the this financial year and for more information, and to have your say, visit the KCC Consultations website.

AN OVERNIGHT CLOSURE of part of Alkham Valley road at Kearsney, is planned for Tuesday 2nd July from 11.00 pm to 6.00 am.

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Visit our new houseplant section which has a great selection of traditional/unusual plants. Summer flowering bulbs, potatoes and onion packs now in stock.
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LOCAL WOOD TURNER - All the wood I get is either from fallen trees through bad weather, trees that have been cut down for safety reasons, like standing dead wood at the side of a road for example, or wood that has been in someone's shed for a long time. The drinks tumblers are treated with a non-toxic food safe glaze that really gives them a superb finish. They are available in a variety of colours using non-toxic wood dyes or just in the natural wood colour itself. If you would like to design one yourself with a particular colour scheme inside and/or outside of the cup, then let me know so I can put a quote together for you. Christmas decorations tend to be from the paler wood with Christmas trees being carved from discarded Christmas tree trunks thus giving them a further life. If you have something else in mind, then let me have the details; I'm always looking to make something different. Albert Beaver-Less burning, more turning.... albertbeaver@outlook.com



OZ on ALLHALLOWS – After a particularly busy period recently, we both felt the need for a holiday, not too long and not too far away. In the end, we chose four days in a caravan at Allhallows Leisure Park, with a view to exploring Rochester, the Hoo Peninsula and the Isle of Grain. The name Hoo Allhallows is derived from Old English for 'spur' + 'all saints'. In 1932 the Southern Railway opened up a branch line to the area in order to develop it as a holiday resort, "four times the size of the one at Blackpool"; the terminus was named Allhallows-on-Sea. The project was abandoned because of the war and the closure of the line in1961, but the name Allhallows-on-Sea for the caravan park remained. On the second day of the holiday we visited Rochester Cathedral, England's second oldest, having been founded in AD 604 by Bishop Justus, and still free to enter. Across the road is Tiny Tim's Tearooms, a reminder of the many locations featured in the works of Charles Dickens. On the third day, we drove out to Cooling Church, the setting for the opening scene from Great Expectations. The view from the caravan across the Thames to Canvey Island and Southend was stunning, with boats, both large and small, plying up and down, not as many as sixty years ago perhaps, but equally evocative. The other time-consuming occupation involved two free i-phone apps, one called VesselFinder, which, when you click on a vessel, reveals everything there is to know about it, and another called Planes Live, which does the same with planes. This, combined, with the lure of the penny arcades, is why we need another two short holidays to explore the Hoo Peninsula further and the nearby Isle of Grain. **Steve Osborn**



THE PAINTING of the village hall has begun and the new colour can be seen in person on the wall leading to the entrance doors. The colour is forest green, which is not so bright as the existing paint, and may satisfy those who were hoping for a grey.

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Saturday	**13**	SEKAS 7pm to 9pm
Thursday	**25**	Tea and a Chat 2pm to 4pm see page 1
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CHURCH SERVICES

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Sunday 28th	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.00, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.04, 18.34
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Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - The Old Testament prophet Isaiah looked forward to a time when the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. In later life my father suffered from hearing loss; and a couple of years ago I realised that it was happening to me, too. It was while teaching in school one day that I addressed a girl as Kayleigh. She wasn't Kayleigh, she explained gently, but Katie. This and similar incidents showed that I wasn't hearing the 't' sound. I saw my GP, was referred to Audiology, diagnosed as a "textbook case of age-related hearing loss" and given hearing aids. They're great, but don't solve every problem, especially not in busy classrooms. Another occasion, when a girl had to repeat the same thing to me three times, finally convinced me that it was time to lay down my whiteboard marker. Mind you, perhaps there are compensations. I once met someone who had been taught by the late, great and profoundly deaf Professor William Barclay, Church of Scotland minister, one-time Professor of Divinity at the University of Glasgow and, in his day, popular writer and broadcaster who had a reputation for turning his hearing aid off when writing. He recalled Barclay's words to his students: I would remind you that I wear a hearing aid – and I'm not obliged to listen to rubbish! I still cope with tutoring pupils individually, and with most other situations, so please don't let anyone feel that they need to shout slowly or wave their arms for me to understand them – not yet, anyway. I'm certainly not despondent – in Heaven, after all, my ears will be unstopped…

Brian Williams

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MIDSUMMER BARN DANCE Well, what a treat! The weather was beautiful, the evening was warm - perhaps a little too warm for some - the surroundings were spectacular – Greenwood Farm looking better than Wimbledon - the music was great, and the dancing was even better. Over 100 people came together to enjoy an evening of social dancing and lively chat. In particular I would like to thank John and Ann Huggins, who, when I proposed the event to them, immediately said yes, to members of their family, Ed, Paul and Joanne who helped with the bar, to Izara for helping with the raffle, to Contraband for providing the wonderfully lively music, to Mike Fountain and Ken and Sandy Spencer for their help before, throughout and after the evening, and to my wife, Charlotte for the same. Most of all I would like to thank those who attended and joined in so enthusiastically. Thanks to you all we raised over £1100 for the Demelza Children's Hospice which is a super total. Look out in the newsletter for the next dance in October. There will only be 65 tickets on sale so it will be first come first served. **Graham Bissett**

DRAMA IN ST ANTHONY'S! - Never let it be said that nothing happens in Alkham. After helping to set up the church ready for the evening's Guitar Concert on 29th June, I was carrying out a last-minute check including giving the toilet a final once over. All was OK except I couldn't open the toilet door to get out. After a bit of shoving, obviously the door was just a bit stiff, so my superior strength was going to force the issue, but no! It would not open. After a few minutes of this I summoned up the courage gained in bravery I'd shown in fighting in two world wars and started crying and calling for my mum. What was I going to do? Then a miracle happened (well I was in a church after all). Now, as my family will tell you, I never carry my mobile phone with me ever, but for some reason had it in my pocket on this occasion so, frantically, I phoned Irene and recounted my predicament. Irene immediately snapped into action and rented out my room on Air B&B. After she had finished watching 'Housewives of Orange County' she enlisted Brian Wimsett and Ken Hammond to see what they could do. After unscrewing the handle and some more pushing and shoving we were getting nowhere, and I distinctly heard Irene say that it would not be a problem if they couldn't get me out as she could easily get married again. Brute force finally won the day and on my release, I was surprised to see that there were no press or television coverage of my 20 minute ordeal. Please do not pass this on as I don't want the rest of the village to find out. **Den Barnard**

SAM'S SWEET CHARITY variety show in Alkham Village hall on the 6th of July was a great success and raised £755 for Alzheimer's and the British Heart Foundation. Many thanks to all those who helped and to those who came on the night.

HGV's – A parishioner raised concerns about the number of HGV's on the Alkham Valley road and their speed. In 1994, after the completion of the new A20, the same concerns were raised and the then MP for this area wrote to all the known lorry companies. The replies were either conciliatory or negative because of the additional cost of using other roads and after a brief period things remained the same. Hopefully some TAG traffic calming proposals will be approved in the near future.

CAT - A pale ginger adult cat, with a white mask and front and two distinct nicks in its left ear has been staying in a garden in the centre of the village. It is friendly and is used to being around people so if you have lost such a cat please ring 01304 824969 for more details.

LIFE – Oz has written an article on page 3 about describing your life in 6 words and he invites you to join in. It would be great to receive some replies which can be named or anonymous.

FILM NIGHT	
July 30	**Green Book**
August 27	**A Star is born** Bradley Cooper Lady Gaga
Village Hall 7.30pm Please bring your own refreshments	

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THE FINAL GUITAR CONCERT - A packed church on 29th June was present for the final St Anthony's Summer Guitar Concert. Over the past nine years Jimmy d'Alton Bellas has brought his current guitar students and some of his old boys to perform in this beautiful setting and over £7000 has been raised for the Friends of St Anthony's to help maintain the fabric of the church. Once again in the first half of the concert, Jimmy's current pupils, some of whom have appeared in every concert since 2010, performed brilliantly and there were also some lovely tributes paid to Jimmy from some of the performers. The second half saw the return of mezzo soprano Emily Renshaw with songs from 'Matilda' and 'West Side Story'. One of Jimmy's former pupils Grant McFarlane Dowse, now a professional musician, closed the concert with the Bach Suite (1007) and The Danza Del Maiz Maduro. Grant has performed on the South Bank and has recorded in sessions with Oscar nominated film directors and has become a world authority on South American guitar music. He also thanked Jimmy for his help and guidance over the years. Grant has appeared in every one of the annual Alkham concerts. On behalf of the Friends of St Anthony's can I personally thank Jimmy for the hard work in setting up these concerts over the years and congratulate him on the quality that he has produced in his students. **Den Barnard**

PELICAN CROSSING – In last month's Newsletter there was an article about a Pelican crossing being installed between Kearsney Abbey and Russell Gardens at Temple Ewell because of the high volume of pedestrians that cross the road from the car park to Bushy Ruff. Some years ago, Alkham Parish Council tried to get a controlled crossing installed near the bus shelter by the village green. A count was carried out by KCC and the number of pedestrians didn't warrant having a crossing and it is likely that the same would apply today.

ONE WAY – At the Parish Council meeting there was some discussion about making White Hill/Chalky Hill one way. The latter is the steep hill off Slip Lane leading to Lydden, which is completely unsuitable for HGV's. Councillor Geoff Lymer is going to give some feedback on a similar scheme at Barham.

QUIZ – Pleased to report that all the tables for the Annual Quiz in the village hall on the 7th September are now taken.

VILLAGE HALL – The painting of the external walls of the village hall, in a forest green colour, is now complete. The work was carried out by Roberts from St. Margarets Bay who have done an excellent job.

GARDEN TALK - Our series of visits continues, when we are usually lucky with the weather. This month we meet on Friday 16th August at 4A, Newlyns Meadow, where

Liz & Larry Lambourne are our hosts, from 7.30p.m. **Janet Adamson**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our July meeting was a talk about primates of Uganda which was very interesting. Our next meeting will be on the 13th of August and is a members' fish and chip night followed by a Quiz by the two Debbies; raffle prize Beryl King - new members always welcome. Please Note that any members who didn't come to our July meeting but would like fish and chips in August please let me know on 07796360473. **Debbie Griggs**

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OZ on BRIEF LIVES – While decluttering recently I came across an old yellow Post-it, on which Gillian had written eight anonymous autobiographies, each just six words in length. Intrigued, I did a Google search and discovered a new literary phenomenon. The story begins in the 1920s, when the writer Ernest Hemingway, at lunch in the Hotel Algonquin, Manhattan, was challenged to write a story in just six words. He won the bet with "For Sale: baby shoes, never worn." This clever and sad narrative achieved a wider audience in November 2006, when Larry Smith and Rachel Fershleiser, editors of Smith Magazine, an American story telling magazine, invited their readers to submit their life stories in exactly six words. The project was a huge success, and Smith's "Not Quite What I Was Planning", sub-titled "Six-word Memoirs from Writers Famous & Obscure", was published in early 2008. Since then Smith's have published three more Six-Word Memoir books; a sequel to Life Story; on Love & Heartbreak; and I Can't Keep My Own Secrets. The Post-it Six-word Memoirs were originally transcribed, from a 2008 BBC Radio 4 programme report on the phenomenon, as follows: Not quite finished, tell you later. / Any chance I could start again? / Too many sausages, not enough sex. / Age crept up and mugged me. / Blankets, books, bottles, books, blankets. / Ditched the map, found better route. / Conceived, implored, employed, adored, retired, ignored. / Slow lane, fast lane, hard shoulder. My attempt is "Milk, fizz, beer, whisky, wine, water". Readers are invited to submit their own life stories, in exactly six words, to me at steveaosborn@hotmail.com by Wednesday 14 August, for inclusion in the September 2019 Newsletter. Let me know if you want your entries to be anonymous. No prizes, but local fame guaranteed. **Steve Osborn**

SEWAGE – In the June Newsletter there was an article about septic tanks which, although informative, didn't mention that there are penalties or fines for not complying with the new legislation that comes into effect in Jan 2020. All sellers of property will also have to complete a legal sellers pack in which they state what type of sewage drainage/disposal the property has and the maintenance records, including emptying details. Although the following is not an option for house owners at present another email was received regarding anaerobic digestion of sewage. In Norfolk there is a site that requires approximately 35,000 tons of plant material per annum, which is primarily local maize, hybrid rye, wildflowers and grass. The natural process uses harmless bacteria to digest biomass into a stream of biogas and a sludgy fibrous material in sealed tanks so as to capture the biogas and the fibrous material and produces methane and carbon dioxide plus organic fertilizer. The biogas is then upgraded into biomethane suitable for injection into the national gas grid, to be used by consumers both industrial and domestic nationwide equivalent to a 2MW electrical plant which can provide enough gas to heat 2,500 homes during the winter and up to 40,000 homes during the summer. Approximately 25,000 tons of high-quality organic fertiliser is produced to spread on local land.

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Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/11.00am – Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am

Other Events in the village hall

Tuesday	**6**	Whitecliffs Metal Detectors 7.30pm
Saturday	**10**	SEKAS 7pm to 9pm
Tuesday	**13**	W.I. meeting at 7.30pm
Tuesday	**27**	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1
Thursday	**29**	Tea and a Chat 2pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 4th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Saturday 10th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 11th	Benefice Eucharist St Laurence 10.00 am		
Sunday 18th	Benefice Eucharist St Radigunds 10.00 am		
Sunday 25th	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.00, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.04, 18.34
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 16.27 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - I write this not long after attending this year's Memorial Day at Capel's National Memorial to the Few. I remember the first one that I attended: several veterans of the Battle of Britain were present. On spotting my collar one, Tony Pickering, told me proudly that he had been churchwarden at his local parish church. He and several of his comrades have since departed this life; just one, Paul Farnes, was there this year, one of the few remaining witnesses to events that are slipping from living memory into history. Consequently, an appeal was made for relatives to share their departed loved ones' stories. That reminded me of the one I was told as a boy, about my Uncle Will. My other uncles told me that he had flown Hurricanes in the Battle of Crete, dying from his injuries after baling out. Years later, I sent for his records; the truth had been rather different. He had indeed been on Crete and had indeed died on active service – only not as a pilot, but while operating the new-fangled (and top secret) radar. I once visited a family whose mother had recently died. She had been very musical, they told me, unlike her late husband. Despite being tone deaf he had nevertheless built an electronic organ for her, tuning it with her help. A telephone engineer by trade, electronics had been his hobby. This interest had come in handy during his war service in the desert, when he had managed to modify radios so that British tanks could communicate without being overheard by the enemy… This unsung hero's skill and ingenuity must have saved many lives. An amazing story – which I would love to think could be true…!

Brian Williams

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No. 308 September 2019

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HARVEST BARN DANCE - As trailed in last month's newsletter, there will be a Harvest Barn Dance held in Alkham Village Hall on Saturday 5th October. Dancing to Spring Barley from 19:30 to 23:00. Tickets are £10 each and include a Ploughman's Supper; bring your own drinks. Tickets are available from Graham Bissett 07789 690786 or at graham.bissett@talk21.com. There will only be 65 tickets available on a first come first served basis. **Graham Bissett**

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING This year's coffee morning is planned for Saturday 21st September 10am - 12 noon. It will be held in Alkham village hall and as in previous years there will be a variety of stalls including a tombola. This coffee morning is in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, a very worthwhile charity that as well as providing nursing care, also gives practical, financial and emotional support to cancer sufferers and their families. This has become a fantastic community event and I am always overwhelmed at the generosity of all those who support the coffee morning and those who help on the day. I would again be very grateful to anyone who would be willing to bake a cake (large or individual) for the cake and refreshment stalls. For any further information please contact Sue Ross - 01304 825736.

THE HARVEST SUPPER - will be held on Monday 14th October and tickets will be £7.00 per person. Any help would be much appreciated; for instance, large cottage pies and fruit pies or crumbles to feed about 8 persons. If you have anything for the raffle that would be a bonus. We will also need volunteers on the night for serving and washing up etc. so if you can help in any way, or to book your tickets, please ring Carol on 01304 826514; hurry as they normally go very quickly. **Carol Mannall**

FLY IN – A charity Fly In is being held at Greenwood Farm in Alkham on the 15th September; invitations have been sent to flying clubs and airfields inviting plane owners to fly to Greenwood Farm where there will there will also be a barbecue. The event starts at 1pm and costs £5 per person with all profits, plus the £10 landing fee, going to the Martha Trust. Tickets are available from Anne Huggins on 824340.

ANNUAL ALKHAM QUIZ - For those people who have booked tables for the Quiz on the 7th September, please be at Alkham village hall by 7pm so we can start promptly at 7.30pm. All the tables have been booked and don't forget to bring your refreshments and nibbles and think of a team name. We look forward to seeing you. **Debbie Griggs and Debbie Saunders**

TEA & A CHAT is on the last Thursday of each month at 2.00pm and it's an opportunity to meet new friends and have a chat in convivial surroundings; please do come along and join us.



THE ALKHAM PARISH SLOW WORM WATCH (try saying that 3 times quickly!) I would like to start collecting sightings of these lovely creatures from around the parish. Please send me details of locations, dates and times that you spot them and include a photo if you can. (I am always happy to receive photos of any other fabulous Alkham wildlife too!) If you would like any more information about slow worms you can visit https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer/reptiles/slow-worm and I will leave an informative poster on the village hall notice board. **Tracey Prince tracey.prince@hotmail.co.uk**

A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING is being held on the 9th September from 7.30pm in the village hall when a report will also be given on the progress of the Parish Plan; everyone is welcome to attend.

VILLAGE HALL TABLES – If the hall is booked for an event the tables and chairs can be used free of charge but otherwise tables and chairs must be booked with the Booking Secretary and there is a charge of 50p per chair and £6 per table; however, if the event is for an agreed charitable purpose there will be no charge.

FILM NIGHT	
September 24	**Fisherman's Friends**
August 27	**A Star is born** Bradley Cooper Lady Gaga
Village Hall 7.30pm Please bring your own refreshments	

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PRINCE TUTORING will be holding a series of fund-raising activities between now and Christmas to raise money for much needed repairs to the Alkham Christmas tree display on the meadow. The first of the activities will be a monthly raffle with a £25 cash prize. Tickets are £1 a strip and the first winner will be announced at the end of August. Tickets can be purchased from Tracey Prince and will also be available at various village clubs over the next few weeks. **Tracey Prince**

FOR SALE - Antique Regency Mahogany Pembroke table, on a turned pedestal base. 2 folding leaves, extending to 114cms by 95cms. Offers. Contact: 01303 893413

SIGHTLOSS GROUP - The Folkestone Macular Society Support Group meets on the last Friday each month from 10:30am to noon at The View Hotel 30-32 Clifton Rd Folkestone CT20 2EF. All welcome. Meeting other people with macular disease helps you understand your condition, share information about treatments and stay independent. For more information call Margaret on 01303 226 877 or email help@macularsociety.org. If it is of interest, please keep a note of these details as a short reminder will be on the back page of the newsletter.

HOLISTIC FAIR 13th JULY - A big thank you to Alkham Village Hall baking team: Rachel, Katie, Helen, Sue and Shelley for their tasty and really appreciated efforts of a variety of delicious cakes and biscuits, including those for gluten free folk. We raised a respectable £493 and still have some donations to come, which with the Psychic Fair totals £956 + towards our campaign for better services and respite for mothers and their babies. **Lyn Richardson**

GARDEN TALK - On Friday 13th September we meet at Thorn Cottage, Meggett Lane from 7.00 p.m. where Rosemary & Geoff are our hosts for the evening. We are already looking at venues for next year, so offers would be welcome. For further details please contact **Janet Adamson 01303 893413.**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our August meeting was a member's night so we treated ourselves to fish and chips from seafarers in Cheriton, Folkestone which we would certainly recommend, and this was followed by a Quiz. The next meeting is on September 10th and our speaker will be Mark Woollard who will be talking about bee keeping. Hostesses are Janet Gibbons and Margaret Shepherd, raffle Shelley Jackson and VOT Beryl King. New members are always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**



HAY COLLECTION

Nowadays we see a tractor and baler going around the field and leaving bales of hay behind. In 1928 things were a bit different at Wolverton Court in Alkham, as shown in the photo. The car being used as a hay cart is probably a 1912 Bullnose Morris.

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• ENGLISH as a FOREIGN LANGUAGE (EFL)
Tracey Prince BSc (hons), PGCE, QTS, CELTA, CRB



THE SUMP opposite the village hall has been recently cleaned out as it was full of silt. The photo on the left was taken about a hundred years ago, at almost the same location, and shows the pond which was used by the vicarage, local farms and villagers. This too silted up and in 1926 a dyke was dug across what is now the village green to alleviate the flooding caused by the Nailbourne and heavy rain. There is no doubt that the cleared-out sump will fill with silt again, which is caused by the large run-off from Slip and Hogbrook Lane and the ditch itself from the west. KCC are of the opinion that the dyke needs to be cleaned out and lowered to the east, removing nearly 100 years of build up, so that the water can flow away.

OZ on SHIRLEY – Last month, the Alkham Film Night audience was treated to a stunning 2018 film, Green Book, an American comedy-drama directed by Peter Farrelly. It's a true story about the 1962 tour of America's Deep South by 'Doctor' Don Shirley, an African American pianist, and his driver and bodyguard, an Italian American called Frank 'Tony Lip' Vallelonga. The title comes from the Negro Motorist Green Book, a guidebook to the law for African American road-users, which was abolished shortly after the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The subject matter is difficult, but as the film unfolded the audience became captivated by its pace, attention holding and sensitivity, and at the end there was spontaneous and sincere applause. I don't intend to write much more here about the actual film for fear of boring those who've seen it, and spoiling it for those who haven't; just a little more about Shirley himself. Shirley was born in 1927 in Pensacola, Florida, to Jamaican immigrants. He began to play the piano aged two, and studied in a variety of locations until he received his music degree in Washington in 1953. Disillusioned by the lack of opportunities for classical black pianists, Shirley worked briefly as a psychologist before returning to music. In late 1950s and 1960s he achieved success with a jazz/classical amalgam and made a stream of albums for Cadence Records. After working with the Civil Rights Movement, Shirley returned to classical music, writing symphonies and performing both nationally and internationally. He died at home in Manhattan in 2013, aged 86. If you haven't seen the film, watch it at once; if you have, watch it again. For me Green Book is up there with my favourite films; The Wizard of Oz, The Battle of the River Plate and Lawrence of Arabia. **(Steve Osborn)**

BRIEF LIVES RESULTS – Two anonymous readers submitted entries for August's Brief Lives competition, in which readers were invited to write their life story in six words. **Anon1** hilariously describes a drinking/medical life in "Castor Oil, Corona, Double Diamond, Party 7, Guinness, Finasteride"; **Anon 2** a singing life with "Lullabies, Hymns, Reggae, Musicals, Oratorios, Requiems." I've decided to award joint first place to each, one for complying with, and the other for courageously breaking, the six-word rule. **(Steve Osborn)**

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Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/11.00am – Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am
Last Friday	Sightloss group View Hotel Folkestone 1030 to noon

Other Events in the village hall

Saturday	**7**	W.I. Quiz Night
Monday	**9**	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm all welcome
Saturday	**14**	SEKAS 7pm to 9pm
Saturday	**21**	Macmillan Coffee morning 10 to 12 noon – see p1
Tuesday	**24**	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1
Thursday	**26**	Tea and a Chat 2pm to 4pm see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 1st	Evensong 6.30 pm	Benefice Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am	
Sunday 8th	Eucharist 9:30 am	Worship 11am	
Saturday 14th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 15th	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 22nd	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		
Sunday 29th	Benefice Eucharist at St Mary's (Capel Old Church) 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.00, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.04, 18.34
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 16.27 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - Sitting in a lecture at university last year, I remember how shocked and surprised we were when our lecturer told us excitedly that he had tickets for a Roy Orbison concert - "The Big O," after all, having died in 1988! Technology, he went on to explain, would enable him to enjoy Orbison's music in all its digitally remastered glory while watching a hologram of the 60's pop star performing on stage. It all sounded like something out of Star Trek. We wondered: could he really claim to be going to a Roy Orbison concert? It's tempting, sometimes, to look back at the past through rose-tinted spectacles – especially if we weren't there. As I write, the first Spitfire flight of the day has just droned past on its way along the White Cliffs. Someone has paid handsomely for the experience, and they will indeed be able to say that they have flown in a Spitfire – but they will only be able to imagine 1940, and I suspect without choosing to imagine too many of the horrors that went with it. Church buildings also offer opportunities to imagine – the older ones are steeped in history and often have associations for people, as some of the entries in the visitors' books show. The challenge is to avoid giving the impression that they are only about the past. Faith draws on the past but belongs to the present and looks to the future; churches are living places, not museums. I hope to be around for a while yet. But when I do finally go, I hope that I will be replaced by a living, breathing human being. Please, no holograms accompanied by digitally remastered sermons.
Brian Williams

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No. 309 October 2019

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FLOOD – Part of the road to Everden, which is to the north of the village, regularly flooded. In the past there were grips from the side of the road into the adjacent field, but these were filled in as the landowner, quite reasonably, didn't want a flooded field. After some complaints KCC has addressed the problem by drilling a 150mm diameter hole 20 metres deep to the underlying chalk with a small sump on top. Visually it is not clear how the water gets into the hole, but the next downpour should show if it works.

A HARVEST BARN DANCE will be held in Alkham Village Hall on Saturday 5th October. Dancing to Spring Barley from 19:30 to 23:00. Tickets are £10 each and include a Ploughman's Supper; bring your own drinks. Tickets are available from Graham Bissett 07789 690786 or at graham.bissett@talk21.com. There will only be 65 tickets available on a first come first served basis. **Graham Bissett**

HARVEST FESTIVAL - St Anthony's church in Alkham is being dressed for the Harvest Festival by the community. Can we invite any and all to come join in the fun either with assistance or materials for Friday October 11th between 10 and 1 pm and again Saturday 12th between 10 and midday. Tea, coffee and cakes supplied. Any questions contact catie@thewebbers.org.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL is taking part in the NHT Public Satisfaction Survey on highways and transport services and have web-based surveys on specific issues: Highway maintenance; Accessibility; Walking and cycling; Public transport; Road safety; Tackling congestion. These surveys are publicly available online, and may be accessed via our website using this link: https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/Nationaltransportsurvey2019_20/consultationHome.

ALKHAM QUIZ in the village hall on the 7th September was a great success with 15 tables taking part. The quiz master was Tony Holman, who is the postman for the centre of Alkham, and the winning team of 6 was Meggett Minds from Meggett Lane.

ALKHAM PARISH is a member of Thanet Community Transport - a door to door service for the whole community, individuals and groups. Typically used for medical appointments, shopping trips and days out. Registered to accommodate wheelchairs to transport disabled and elderly. Price Alkham to Dover: £4.50 single, £9 return. To register on Alkham Parish account. Telephone: 01843 602030 Email: transport@transportinthanet.co.uk. **Ruth Marczin-Bundy**

RAFFLE – Many thanks to all those who supported the August Christmas lights raffle which was won by Wendy Burrows. I'm pleased to report that the electrics are now safe and certified. **Tracey Prince**

STEPS - I would like to thank Heather Waller (Public Rights of Way Officer) for organising, arranging and supplying materials for the new steps at the gate exiting Vicarage Meadow on to Hogbrook Hill Lane. Thanks, also, to the volunteer group that installed them. **Anthony Barrier (Footpath Warden)**

SLOW WORMS - Tracey Prince has received 5 sightings of slow worms in Alkham but would like more before they nod off for winter – please email tracey.prince@hotmail.com.

ALKHAM GARDEN CENTRE has Christmas gifts and decorations from the 1st October; Christmas Trees will arrive on 22nd November; A Christmas Fair Sat/Sun 23rd/24th November 10.00am – 4.00pm and late-night opening from 28th November till 8pm.

ART CLASS – On Tuesday mornings between 10am and 1pm a group of amateur artists get together in Alkham village hall. They are keen to get more members, so if you'd like to join a friendly group to draw or paint please drop in on the day.

FILM NIGHT	
October 29	**Rocketman**
September 24	**Fisherman's Friends**
Village Hall 7.30pm Please bring your own refreshments	

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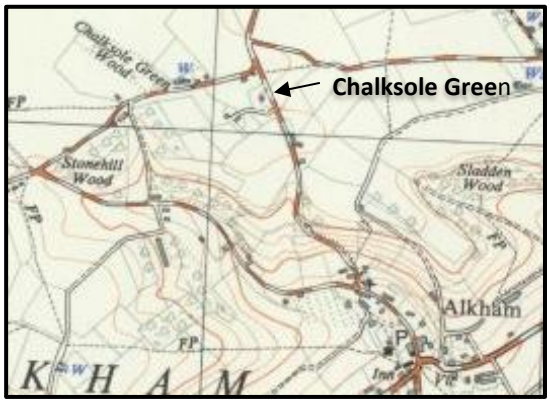

In the 17th century some common land, that is land that all could use, stretched across the hill behind Alkham and continued through Chalksole. Gradually this land became enclosed and divided by Government Acts such that plots were then owned by someone and a small area of land at the top of White Hill was given to the Alkham church wardens. This land eventually passed to the Parish Council and until 2003 was officially the village green, although the last time it was used as such was for the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977. In 2005 some work was carried out with one of the ponds being puddled such that it held water, but the land has become overgrown again. The good news is that Parish Councillor Tracey Prince is looking into options to bring the historic site back into use and would be grateful for suggestions as to what should be done with the land. **editor**

MARQUIS - When we bought our house in Alkham in 2017, all that was missing from the village was a proper local pub. Thankfully, under Nadine & Will's stewardship of The Marquis of Granby, we've now got one and I write this after an excellent paella night. The food, cooked by Harry, was delicious and with a good choice of Spanish wine and a superb Spanish guitar player, you could almost have been in a Spanish taverna on this balmy evening. Meanwhile, on Monday, as it's the first Monday in the month, I'm looking forward to postman Tony's pub quiz. While I might be new to the village, I've worked in the pub sector for over 25 years and with three pubs a day closing their doors for good, I know how much local pubs rely on the support of the local community. Nadine and Will tell me they are looking to do more special evenings like the paella night – I do hope that many of you will join in, or come along to the quiz, and help them put the pub at the heart of the community where it belongs. **Georgina – Short Lane**

TOKENS – Good news, Temple Ewell Primary School has been chosen by Waitrose in Canterbury to be a Community Matter for September (you are given a token at the till to deposit in the charity box).

GARDEN TALK - Our next gathering is on Friday 4th October, when we meet at 18 Newlyns Meadow. Catie will welcome us from 6.00p.m. so that we can view the garden in daylight. **Janet Adamson**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our September meeting was an enjoyable one; it was about bee keeping and we all enjoyed the talk by Mark Woollard. Our next meeting will be on the 8th October and it will be our 91st birthday. We will be celebrating with members from different W.I.'s. plus we will be having the East Kent choir and Paul Harris from the radio**. Debbie Griggs** … and we'd just like to say thank you to everyone who came to the quiz and hope everyone enjoyed themselves. We would also like to thank the Marquis of Granby and Alkham Valley Garden Centre for their lovely raffle prizes. **Debbie Griggs and Debbie Saunders**

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MARGARET GOES TO THE FRINGE - This year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival held special significance—not to mention excitement—for me and fellow East Kent 'Rockies', all members of "Rock Choir", the country's leading choir/singing organisation. We had been invited to take part in Rock Choir's contribution to the festival. In all there were 3700 Rockies from various areas of the U.K. descending on Edinburgh to take part. Of the 61 performances, the East Kent choirs had 4 slots. The weather was kind to us as we went through line-up and marshalling procedures outside to get us ready for a slick entry and exit from the concert venue. Timing was crucial and the Edinburgh Rockie team soon had us smartened up like professional troopers! Once on stage we poured our hearts into the singing of our ten songs, one of which was video-streamed for a live broadcast. We had a fantastic time singing for a really appreciative audience. Apart from the buzz we got from our own show, it was such an amazing experience to be part of this happy gathering of enthusiastic artists, entertainers and spectators. I think this has got to be an annual pilgrimage for me now! **Margaret Danstead**

OZ on KING OF HAY – The man who almost single-handedly put Hay-on-Wye on the map died on 20 August this year. Richard George William Pitt Booth was born in Plymouth on 12 September 1938, and educated at Rugby school and Oxford University. He grew up in the Welsh Borders after his father inherited the Brynmelyn estate in Cusop, near Hay-on-Wye. In 1961, Richard bought Hay's defunct fire station to house his first second-hand bookshop, stocked partly with redundant books imported in containers from the United States, where public libraries were closing. The abandoned cinema was similarly used in 1965, together with free parking, disabled access, and 'dogs welcome.' Currently the Hay Cinema stocks about 200,000 books on every subject under the sun, together with new film facilities installed in 2012. By the time my wife and I visited Hay in 1977, most shops in the town had been converted to second-hand bookshops including the greengrocer's, which sold books by the pound, priced according to quality, and weighed on old-fashioned Avery scales. On April Fools' Day 1977, Richard proclaimed himself King of Hay, declared Hay-on-Wye to be an independent sovereign state, and appointed his horse as Prime Minister. Among other initiatives he issued rice-paper currency and set up an intelligence agency called 'C.I.Hay'. This cultivated eccentricity ran alongside serious political convictions, namely a concern for the Welsh economy and a hatred of bureaucracy in all its forms. Perhaps the most lasting economic legacy of Richard's life will be the Hay Literary Festival, created in 1988 by festival director Peter Florence, Peter's parents, and friends. Although not directly involved, Richard created the vision and environment for this international event, now in its 31st year. As many booklovers and commentators across the world have commented on hearing this news: "The King is Dead. Long Live the Kingdom." **Steve Osborn**

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Saturday	**5**	Barn Dance starts 7.30pm
Tuesday	**8**	W.I. meeting at 7.30pm
Monday	**14**	Harvest Supper in evening
Thursday	**24**	Tea and a Chat 2pm to 4pm
Tuesday	**29**	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 6th	**Evensong 6.30 pm**	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Worship 11am**
Saturday 12th	**Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm**		
Sunday 13th	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Harvest Festival 11 am**	**Harvest Festival Village hall 4.00 pm**
Sunday 20th	**Worship 11am**	**Evensong 6.00 pm**	**Eucharist 9:30 am**
Sunday 27th	**Benefice Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am**		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.00, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.04, 18.34
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Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - While visiting Durham recently even I was surprised to encounter a funeral procession, apparently making its way through a shopping centre. In fact, it was a full-size bronze sculpture of some monks carrying the body of St Cuthbert. Cuthbert led a life of prayer and simplicity on Lindisfarne, just off the Northumbrian coast. When he died in 687 his brother monks buried his body at the monastery there. Now when it comes to sending someone on their way from this world many settle for some kind words and tracks from a favourite CD – but not these monks! They soon built Cuthbert a splendid new tomb, and on moving his body found that it had not decayed at all – a sure sign of great saintliness. Pilgrims began flocking to his shrine – but so, too, did Viking raiders. The monks fled, taking their most precious possessions - including Cuthbert's body – first to Chester-Le-Street, then to Ripon. The story goes that as they were returning to Chester-Le-Street the saint appeared to one of the brothers in a vision, demanding that his remains be buried on the spot overlooking the River Wear where Durham Cathedral now stands. There's a charming video online, worth watching, which uses LEGO figures to tell the story of Cuthbert and Durham Cathedral. It's a great story, but one that I find humbling - it reminds me that my own attempts at prayer, simplicity and saintliness are still very much works in progress. Mind you, I do like the thought of my sorrowing parishioners carrying my remains around the parish when I finally go to my Eternal Home, waiting for a sign as to which churchyard to bury it in. But they're more likely to just make a cup of tea, and go home… **Brian Williams**

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WHAT A PERFECT DAY – The sun shone all day and twenty-two planes landed, the furthest coming from near Paris. Everyone said what a fantastic time they had, and the amount raised for Martha trust was £1,200. Many thanks to everyone who supported the event and helped on the day especially our family and Paul and Sarah who did the food and BBQ. **John & Anne Huggins**

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING - A very big thank you to everyone who supported our Macmillan Coffee Morning, held in the village hall, on Saturday 21st September. Once again so many kind people brought along a wonderful selection of homemade cakes and preserves to sell and so many other items were provided for the various stalls. Thank you to everyone who helped in so many ways on the day and to all who gave me donations before, during and after the event. A big thank you to the ladies of our village keep fit group who also gave a very generous donation. Your support was overwhelming and I am delighted to say that together we have raised £1,037 for this deserving charity. Thank you everyone. **Sue Ross**

CHALKSOLE COTTAGE GOODBYE - After 16 happy years in Alkham we will soon be moving to Surrey closer to our daughters and grandchildren. As always, we have more "stuff" than we need and will be having a Garage Sale on Saturday 26th October at midday. Even if you don't want to buy anything, do come and say goodbye over a glass of wine. Car parking in our field. **Linda and Geoff Gaskill 01304 823100**

HAVING a Christmas present problem for the person who has everything? Why not give them a certificate of sponsorship to replace a tile on the roof of St. Anthony's Church Alkham. The Friends of St. Anthony's are concerned only with the preservation of this beautiful building and would like to contribute to the £15,000 needed to remove and re-fix the tiles on the south elevation of the nave roof. This work is required due to nail rot in the battens, which has caused many tiles to slip. It is estimated that in excess of 6000 tiles are needed to be replaced and we ask your help, please, [Christmas present or any other reason] for this necessary work. Sponsorship of one tile is £5.00 and the certificate will have the appropriate name and state the number of tiles sponsored. Contact Susannah Tapsell 01304 822295, Den Barnard 01304 824845 or Brian Wimsett 01304 824969.

FOLKESTONE PUBLIC LIBRARY now closes on a Wednesday but is open on Sundays from 10:00 to 16:00 hours.

EVERDEN ROAD FLOODING
The borehole reported in last months' Newsletter was to determine the soakage rate and if the results are positive a soakaway and a sump will be constructed.

PCSO - The new Police Community Support Officer for Alkham is Megan Keehner and she has booked the village hall on Friday 15th November between 2 and 3pm to hold a surgery for residents to raise concerns and meet their new local PCSO.

BREAK IN – In late September a shed in upper Slip Lane was broken into by removing the 13 screws on the door's hinges but nothing major was taken. In addition, another person in the same area phoned to say that a suspicious person had been loitering near their house.

THE FINANCIAL year for the Newsletter ended in September. The cost of producing 340 copies (1360 A4 sheets) per month is about £30 plus £13 for posting and £36 per year for alkham.org web site giving a total of about £550. The revenue from adverts was slightly less but manageable.

TEA AND A CHAT – The date in the last Newsletter was wrong and it should have read October 31st. If you'd like to have a chat and a cuppa between 2 and 4pm on the 28th November, please do come along.

FILM NIGHT	
November 26	**Land of Mine**
October 29	**Rocketman**
Village Hall 7.30pm Please bring your own refreshments	

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TRAFFIC CALMING? Perhaps the Victorians had the right idea about traffic going along the Alkham Valley in 1856. Initially a 4-foot trench was dug across the road at Bushy Ruff and when this was filled in a gate was installed, but not for the same reasons as today. A toll was briefly charged at the gate and if today we had congestion charging cameras at Temple Ewell this would be a successful, but unpopular, solution to traffic going along the valley. The Valley Road, then described as very wretched, used to be on the higher ground at Bushy Ruff but because of the building of a paper mill people started using the lower ground where the road is now. The landowner took exception to this and hence the trench and the gate. Various litigation ensued but, in the end, it was ruled as a highway and that the Highway Surveyor was bound to keep it free from obstruction. The Surveyor had been taken to court by John Collard who was the first owner of the Marquis of Granby. *(The details are from an article by J. G. Harman in a 1986 Bygone Kent and thanks go to Jo Walker for providing the copy).* **Brian Wimsett**

SUE ROSS - Knowing Sue would be writing to thank the helpers at the recent Macmillan coffee morning, I thought perhaps a few words should be written about her. Sue is another one of those friends who, when you meet is instantly likeable, and within a short time, her kindness and generous soul shine through. She is a very valued and genuine friend and neighbour to many in Alkham and will often be seen walking their adorable dog Tilly up and over the hills. Sue worked as a family liaison officer in her local school while also tirelessly volunteering in many areas which included St Johns Ambulance, PCC secretary to All Souls Church, WI member and school governor to name a few. Sue has true understanding of other's needs, is non-judgmental and is happy and content. Like I said, Sue is so nice she never kills a spider (I do) and even puts water bowls in the garden during heatwaves for the insects (I don't)!! Of course, Sue doesn't know I'm writing this article but I'm sure with her kind heart I will be forgiven! **Irene Barnard**

MAY I suggest that person or persons unknown who find it necessary to drive over the small piece of garden at the entrance to the footpath leading to the church put their names forward for the next run of advertisements for Specsavers. **Bert Wall - Church Hill House**



GARDEN TALK - We are planning for our Christmas get together, to be held in the evening of Friday 6th December. Could those intending to come contact me - so that we have an idea of numbers, and to plan food, drink etc. I need to know by 22nd November. Many thanks Janet Adamson (01303 893413) or email: janet.a.adamson@btinternet.com

ALKHAM W.I. - Our October meeting was celebrating our 91st birthday and we had members from each local WI to help us celebrate; we also had East Kent Choir and Paul Harris from the radio show. Our next meeting, which is our AGM, will be on the 12th November and this will be followed by an auction, so please would all members bring something that you don't need i.e. any unwanted gifts etc. Hostesses are Debbie Griggs and Beryl King, raffle Helen Price. New members are always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

Alkham Valley Garden Centre
"Your One Stop Shop for Christmas"
Dates for your diary: - Now in stock- a wide range of Christmas food and treats. Christmas gift and decoration shop open from the 1st October. Christmas Trees – arriving 22nd November. Christmas Fair – Sat/Sun 23rd/24th November 10.00am – 4.00pm. Late Night Opening 28th November till 8pm. A new range of books and puzzles will be on sale very soon.

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ALKHAM CHARITY BRIDGE DAY which was held on the 5th October supported two local charities, Dover Foodbank and Community Table – both of these charities are managed and staffed completely by volunteers. Foodbank has been running, and sadly very successfully, for several years now and its numbers increase annually by about 8% - this year it fed 3363 people in crisis of which 36% were children – when they came to pick up the donations on Saturday they were overwhelmed by the kindness and support shown to them and their cause. Community Table, which receives no government or grant aid has been running for just 19 months but is filling a very large gap in our midst – this wonderful volunteer labour force provide, every Sunday, coffee and biscuits on arrival followed by a home cooked dinner and pudding and coffee or tea to the homeless people of Dover who are then welcome to stay and play board games or cards for the remainder of the afternoon – their numbers have risen dramatically – when they first opened their doors they had 19 for dinner – now they feed between 40 and 50 weekly and the numbers are expected to rise with the onset of winter. We raised over £1000 and would like to thank those generous people and companies who donated vouchers or money for the event. I can't name all of those kind people but would like to say a special thank you to the Alkham Valley Garden Centre, the Alkham Ladies keep fit group, The Lydden Bell, Howfield Manor Hotel, DFDS Ferries and the Aylesham Butcher. Thank you for reading this – it gives me untold pleasure to be able to offer some assistance to both of these charities which are close to my heart. **Jane Tapsell**

OZ on SINGULARS AND PLURALS – For many years as an amateur grammar policeman, I've obsessed at times over the rule about singular subjects taking singular verbs and plural subjects taking plural verbs, as in "the boy sings" and "those boys sing". It's easy to find transgressions in everyday speech, as witness some examples from respectable sources such as newspaper and books - "...the history of the railways are...", "...there was collisions...", "...there's no tricks...". And now a headmaster speaking: "Somebody in that family have had to work hard." That mistake was due to identifying 'family' as the subject rather than 'somebody'; the phrase 'in that family' is a descriptive sub-clause that doesn't alter the verb. Another problem is that of choosing between a singular or plural verb with a collection of subjects that are linked by other words, such as 'and', 'or', 'some', 'neither', 'nor', 'along with', 'the majority of', and so on. There are advanced rules for this aspect, but these are sometimes complex and dependent on style and context, so that the usual advice is "if things get too difficult just rewrite the sentence." As with many grammar and spelling problems, there is usually a long and respectable history. Shakespeare, for example, often combined a singular subject with a plural verb, sometimes for stylistic reasons and sometimes because the rule on singular and plural verbs in English was not finally established until the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. As for recent excuses for getting it wrong, people often blame the computerised spell-checkers that allegedly always attach verbs to the immediately preceding noun, not necessarily the subject. The other day a young person informed me that "... 'there's' is always right because it's easier to say than 'there are' or 'there're'.", to which I could only reply "!". **(Steve Osborn)**

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Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/11.00am – Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am
Last Friday	Sightloss group View Hotel Folkestone 1030 to noon

Other Events in the village hall

Tuesday	**5**	White Cliffs Metal Detectors 7.30pm
Tuesday	**12**	W.I. meeting at 7.30pm
Tuesday	**26**	Film Night 7.30pm – please see page 1
Thursday	**28**	Tea and a Chat 2pm to 4pm
Saturday	**30**	Beekeepers 2pm to 5pm

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 3rd	Praise 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Saturday 9th	Messy Church St. Radigund's 3.00pm – 5pm		
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY			
Sunday 10th	10.15 am	10.15 am	10.30 am
Sunday 17th	Service 11.00 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 24th	United Parish Eucharist with Prayer Ministry 10.00 am Capel		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.00, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.04, 18.34
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 16.27 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - I've just been reading about a curate who, on discovering that her local tea shop had booked a medium to give a talk, assembled her congregation on the pavement outside. There they caused a bit of a stir by praying so loudly against the Powers of Darkness that those inside could scarcely hear each other, let alone anyone from the Other Side. At this time of year shops are filling with pumpkins, costumes and Hallowe'en treats – an excuse for some harmless fun as far as many people are concerned, perhaps, but no laughing matter to others. Those who brought Christianity to these shores found that some of the locals were lighting bonfires, dressing up and feasting so as not to offend the spirits of the dead, so worried were they about what the departed might get up to as winter approached. St Paul, who wrote much of the New Testament, taught that we are surrounded by unseen dangers - but that faith in Christ, while not necessarily making bad things go away, does offer a way of dealing with them. So, as November began, the Church started keeping All Saints Day and then All Souls Day, celebrating the promise that the departed are safe in God's keeping. In our own time ghoulies, ghosties, long-legged beasties, and things that go bump in the night don't seem to bother most people very much, though as we have seen some take them seriously. Probably most of us find that life summons up other things for us to worry about – and again, some find that faith in Christ offers a way of dealing with those, too. I'm not planning any pavement demonstrations – not at the moment, anyway. But I do wish you a Happy All Saints Day. **Brian Williams**

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Hall booking Tracey Prince 828098
W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
MP Charlie Elphicke - 01304 379669 **KCC - Geoffrey Lymer** 07960490929 **DDC – Jamie Rose** 07802 428353
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No. 311 December 2019

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THE VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS will be switched on at 4.45pm on Saturday 7th December. Father Christmas has promised to be there, and we will sing a few carols accompanied by Graham Bissett on the accordion. Will and Nadine have also invited everybody to Marquis of Granby afterwards for mulled wine and mince pies to get the village party season started. See you there – especially you children. **Den Barnard**

WHAT'S ON over the Christmas period at The Marquis of Granby. On the 7th December the village is invited to come and enjoy mince pies provided by us (see above). Christmas parties will be from the 1st to the 23rd December with our offering being a 3-course meal for £30 per person. On Boxing Day there is Bottomless brunch for £35 which includes a 2-course brunch with as much prosecco as you would like for 2 hours. If you feel that you have already consumed enough alcohol over the Christmas period, come and enjoy the brunch from £15. Our New Year's Eve party will start from 6.30pm and will include a champagne and canape reception, music entertainment and a 3-course meal all for £70; please book directly with the pub in order to reserve your table. Our doors will be open from 9.30pm for drinkers if they would like to join us in counting down to 2020! There is a Quiz Night on the first Monday of every month from 7.30pm, £3 per person and teams of up to 6. A Burger and Pie night every Monday, £10 from 6pm and a Steak night from 6pm starting at £17 every Thursday.

ALKHAM GARDEN CENTRE - Christmas Trees will arrive on 22nd November and a Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday and Sunday 23rd/24th November from 10.00am to 4.00pm (local woodturner as well) and late-night opening from 28th November till 8pm.



PARISH PLAN PROGRESS as of 4/11/19 - The Parish Plan team continue to meet regularly and have agreed the format of each individual areas that were identified from the village Open Day and the village questionnaire. The template has been taken from the standard used by other Parish Plans. Team members are now drafting their allocated sections ready for discussion, and so far about half of the twelve areas have been completed. As a reminder the twelve areas are: Conservation, Environment, Heritage, Housing, Community Buildings, Local Governance, Health and Social, Young and Old, Sport and Recreation, Economy, Business and Employment, Roads and Infrastructure, Public Transport. When completed the draft will be circulated to the full Parish Council for final review. As always, the team welcome any input, and assistance, and would like to remind everybody that the success of the Parish Plan will depend on the number of volunteers putting themselves forward to put the plan into practice. **Den Barnard**



WHITE HILL runs from Slip Lane to Chalksole and is narrow and steep. There have been several accidents and HGV's are a problem as satnav directs them up Warren Lane. At the Slip Lane junction, the lorries have caused significant damage and a petition with 20 signatures from villagers was presented at the recent Parish Council meeting for White Hill to be made one way from Slip Lane.

GEESE – Four white geese are available for rehoming. Please phone Patsy on 07764183781 at Hogbrook Farm for further details.

SEASONED LOGS & Kindling, 5 Bags logs 60x46 £20, 7 Bags kindling 60x36 £20. Free delivery 15 miles radius Dover tel: 07795 190598.

TEA AND A CHAT – October's Tea and a Chat welcomed 15 local people, including several new faces new faces, for free tea and biscuits. All are welcome to come along to these informal gatherings at the Village Hall on the last Thursday afternoon of the month between 2 and 4 pm but there will no Tea and a Chat in December because of the festive period.

FILM NIGHT	
November 26	**Land of Mine**
December	**No film this month**

Village Hall 7.30pm
Please bring your own refreshments

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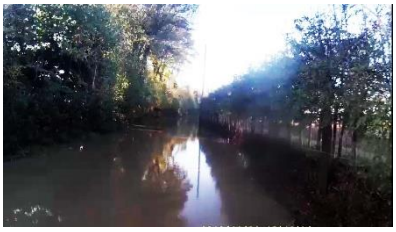

EVERDEN – It is highly unlikely that a proposed soakaway could deal with the 6th November flood on Little Everden Road. Alkham cyclists use this road and the latest flood, probably 60m long, was the biggest they had ever seen.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY - The co-option policy for new councillors was agreed and Billy Roberts was co-opted and welcomed on to the Parish Council. The problem of the untidy piles of road salt in the car park – the Chairman was willing to supply bags and when filled, remove them, volunteers are now required to fill them. Notification has been received from DDC concerning the celebration of VE day next year. The Dover Council representative informed the meeting that the head of DDC, Keith Morris, has suddenly resigned and has been replaced by Trevor Bartlett. He reported that Charlie Elphick has replied to the Alkham TIG Team and stated that the TIG report had been well received. He added that money has now been sanctioned for the widening of the A2 down to the docks. The Dover District Plan team had reviewed the housing situation and discussions will be held with each Parish Council. The Parish Plan Team have now started to draft a report for each area identified at the Open Day and Village Questionnaire. There was no further news regarding the bus shelter at Ewell Minnis and the ownership of the land is to be investigated. Several areas of drainage work are being carried out in the village and riparian owners were asked to ensure their respective areas of the ditch are cleared before the winter. The Chalksole Green area and discussions have been held with Natural England on what can be done including the possibility of having a pathway. Kearsney Abbey and Gardens should be completed by next year and will probably be available for weddings etc. Full minutes of the meeting will be available on the Council website. The question and answer session is now held at the start of Parish Council meetings. **Den Barnard**

TEMPLE EWELL Primary School have been chosen for another round of the Co-op Community Fund. The monies this time are going towards the playground markings on the King George V playground and areas around the school used by all. Please can you choose Temple Ewell School again as your chosen charity as the current round has finished. Please go to https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/35432 to choose us again**.** Many thanks to those that supported us last time round - we managed to raise a massive £2,097.28**. Nichola Church**

BORDER FORCE is holding training courses for new Customs officers, which involves a lot of practical exercises, and is seeking volunteers to play a passenger for them. Training takes place at their hub in Folkestone or a local hotel between 09:00 and 17:00. Volunteers are urgently needed for courses up to March 2020 and beyond and there are lots of dates coming up. For more information or to register an interest, please contact the Admin team by email HRLLCTTrainingAdminTeamFolkestone@homeoffice.gov.uk or phone 01303 299030.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our November meeting was our AGM meeting and Helen Scopes remains our president which is lovely as she does such a good job. We don't have a December meeting as we are having our Christmas meal on the 10th December at the Marquis which we are all looking forward to. Those members that weren't at November meeting please be at the Marquis at 6.30pm for 7pm. **Debbie Griggs**

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• Literacy & numeracy skills – reading & writing, 11+
• Supporting special educational needs
• ENGLISH as a FOREIGN LANGUAGE (EFL)
Tracey Prince BSc (hons), PGCE, QTS, CELTA, CRB



A BIG THANK you to the community for decorating St Anthony's for harvest festival. We had 10 people on Friday 11th and another 4 on Saturday all braving terrible weather. Locals pillaged their gardens and hedgerows for beautiful vegetables and flowers, berried branches, autumn coloured leaves and glossy greenery. Savvy savers brought dried teasles and seed heads which we carefully spray painted in between thunderous downpours in bright orange, red and yellow. Plus, we had donations of wheat sheaths, lavender and the loan of several lovely baskets to display everything. Debbie Saunders and her granddaughter continued a long-standing family tradition making the ornamental harvest loaf. It proved the adage of "many hands make light work". More importantly, we had fun together. You only realise St Anthony's is big when you try to cover it in fresh greenery. The harvest loaf and several arrangements were auctioned off at the very enjoyable Harvest Supper on Monday 14th October. I only hope we can do similar community decorations for St Anthony's for Christmas on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th December 10-12 midday. I promise to reward labour with homemade cake and cookies again.



Catie Webber catie@thewebbers.org

OZ on FLOWERS – In recent years much has been written about the mathematician Alan Turing and his role in developing algorithms to decipher the German Enigma codes during World War II. Less well-known is the man who built Colossus, the world's first programmable electric computer, to help Turing in his task. Thomas Harold Flowers, or "Tommy", as he was known, was born in Poplar, in London's East End, in 1905. While working as a mechanical engineering apprentice at Woolwich Arsenal, he gained a B.Sc. in electrical engineering at the University of London in the evenings. In 1926 Tommy joined the telecommunications branch of the General Post Office, and in 1930 moved to their research station, where he began researching valve-based electronics for telephone exchanges. In February 1941, Alan Turing, working at Bletchley Park, needed an electronic decoder, and his director sent for Tommy, starting a remarkable partnership. The project was cancelled, but in 1943 Turing introduced Tommy to Max Newman, the team-leader trying to crack the 'Lorenz Cipher', a code much more complex than Enigma. During 1943 Tommy worked on his Colossus 1 Project, involving 1,500 valves. It was opposed by the Bletchley Park management for "squandering good valves" and Tommy was obliged to provide his own funds. However, his work was appreciated by the GPO and by the government, who awarded Tommy the OBE in June 1943. In February 1944, Tommy started work on Colossus 2, a 2,400 valve machine that was commissioned on 1 June 1944 and used for the D-Day landings five days later. After the war, Tommy returned to electronic telephone exchanges and the design of ERNIE, the National Lottery machine, retiring in 1969. His work was declassified in the 1970s after which he received many awards, both before and after his death in 1992. **(Steve Osborn)**

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Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/11.00am – Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am
Last Friday	Sightloss group View Hotel Folkestone 1030 to noon

Other Events in the village hall

Tuesday	**10**	W.I. meeting at 7.30pm
Thursday	**12**	General election vote
Saturday	**14**	SEKAS 7pm
Saturday	**28**	Beekeepers 2pm to 5pm



CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 1st	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Sunday 8th	Eucharist9.30 am	Worship 11.00 pm	*Carols VH 5.00 pm*
Saturday 14th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 15th	Worship11.00 am	*Carols VH 3.00 pm*	Eucharist 9.30 am
Saturday 21st		Carols 7.30pm	
Sunday 22nd	9 Lessons and Carols 6.30 pm	Eucharist10.00 am	
Tuesday 24th	Crib service 4.30 pm; Midnight Mass 11.30pm		
Wednesday 25th			Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 29th		Eucharist 10 am	

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.00, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.04, 18.34
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 16.27 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - I hadn't been a curate very long when it was decided that I should try my hand at christenings. A date was fixed, and as instructed I contacted the family and arranged to meet them to discuss the service. I made sure that I was at the house in good time. Arriving at the front door, I heard sounds coming from inside. Someone inside was evidently upset about something or other and was giving vent to their frustration - waiting seemed like a good idea. Eventually the tirade subsided and, thinking that it was all over, I rang the doorbell - just as it started again. Then, in panicked tones, another voice: THE VICAR! HE'S HERE ALREADY! I know myself that there's nothing worse than the plumber you were expecting half an hour later arriving early just as you are stepping into the shower, and I've since worked out that, in the same way, the vicar arriving early doesn't work for everyone. Perhaps Christmas is a bit like that. Although, as my sister always says, it's at the same time each year, I often feel as though it's here before I'm quite ready for it - a bit like when the doorbell rings before you've had a chance to clear the sweet wrappers and biscuit crumbs away. It often seems to me that Advent easily gets lost in all the excitement leading up to Christmas. Though many people associate it with Advent calendars and chocolate, for Christians it is a solemn time when we have a spiritual declutter in readiness for welcoming Jesus at Christmas. So I wish you a good declutter for Advent - and a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas to you and yours when it finally arrives. **Brian Williams**

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Brian Wimsett
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No. 312 January 2020

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CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS SWITCH ON - A fantastic turnout of over eighty villagers sang carols on the village green on the 7th December accompanied by Graham Bissett on accordion followed by the switch on by Nancy and Rupert Beaney and George Chittenden. After Father Christmas distributed chocolates, we were all invited to The Marquis of Granby for mulled wine and mince pies. A cheerful start to the party season in the village! A big thank you to all involved including Tracey Prince who raised over £150 for the lights fund, to Leigh Taylor for upgrading the electrics and to Nadine, Will, Huw and the Marquis of Granby staff and finally to Kevin Rolfe who made sure Father Christmas knew how to get to Alkham. **Den Barnard**



THE MARQUIS OF GRANBY would like to thank the community for its support in its first year; we are pleased that the changes we have made to the pub have been embraced by the community and look forward to many more years of hosting you all. A few important updates; The Marquis of Granby will be closed for minor refurbishments on the following dates: January 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th. To that end, we will be hosting our first quiz of 2020 on Monday 13th January from 7.30pm. Although all of our dining spaces are now full for New Year's Eve, we would love to host you from 9pm for drinks to celebrate the New Year with us.

MANY THANKS to the staff at the Marquis of Granby for being so kind to Sue Lees. Sue and her family moved to Alkham in the 1970's and until 2005 she was a very effective Parish Clerk and also the parish historian with copious records which will be archived. Sue recently developed dementia, but she visits the Marquis every day where they treat her with kindness and understanding and makes sure she gets home safely. **From Helen and friends**

ROOF REPAIRS - The church in Alkham is a Grade 1 listed building and should be preserved for future generations to be used for social or religious purposes. It is estimated that in excess of 6000 tiles are needed to be replaced on the roof at a cost of £15,000 and following the last appeal £285 has been received. The Friends of St. Anthony will donate some of the money and if you would like to donate to this worthwhile cause please contact Susannah Tapsell 01304 822295, Den Barnard 01304 824845 or Brian Wimsett 01304 824969.

CONGRATULATIONS to Tracey Prince and Sam on the birth of their son who weighed in at a healthy 9lbs 10ozs on the 11th December.



CONGRATULATIONS to David Beaney who won the Young Councillor of the Year at the Achievement Awards held in the Royal Horseguards Hotel Westminster on the 5th November. This award reflects the amount of work he has carried out since he became a councillor for Dover Downs and River in May 2019. David is also a Parish Councillor for Alkham and has been very active in resolving local problems. **Laurence Jones**

ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE - For those of you who have already visited the church you will see how exceptionally beautiful it is this year. It's the grandest and tallest tree we have ever had and needed to be placed on the floor instead of the usual tabletop. Our thanks and enormous appreciation to **Alkham Garden Centre** for providing and delivering. The owners and team of our garden centre never waver in supporting St Anthony's and other events throughout the year and I personally can recommend the tea rooms, especially the cakes. **Irene Barnard**

FILM NIGHT

December	**No film this month**
January 28th	**Downton Abbey**

Village Hall 7.30pm
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ON THE DOORSTEP – OZ's article on page 3 about the Lydden and Temple Ewell Nature Reserve, where the wart-biter bush cricket can be found, was first published here as Country Notes in October 1999. This location could make a festive breath of fresh air. The reserve lies on a south facing slope between Temple Ewell and Lydden and is very steep in places and not suitable for wheelchair access. In addition, the adjacent roads, such as the old A2 past Lydden, have Roadside Nature Reserves which are managed by the Kent Wildlife Trust. On the main road at Temple Ewell there used to be pub on the northern side just to the Dover side of the village shop and behind the pub there is a free car park and access to the reserve. **Editor**

ALKHAM VALLEY after WW1 was described as delightful by a man who walked its length; a two pipe walk of sheer pleasure at any time of the year from Kearsney to the peaceful village of Alkham. He walked by road but, further to the article above, a two pipe walk from Ewell Minnis to Scotland Common at Kearsney is also delightful.

THE GREENING OF ALKHAM - Once again Brian sets the pace. Not far from Alkham's red letterbox in Slip Lane are the newly painted green doors of The Old Post Office. How smart are we? This repaint was carried out in spite of speeding vehicles so thank you, Brian, for saying goodbye to buttercup yellow. Looks grand! **Jo Walker**

POPPY APPEAL - Another bumper year for the Poppy Appeal in Alkham and Ewell Minnis - £801.74. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously. I must thank my helpers who collected in some pretty dodgy weather. And thanks too to all the local businesses that had Poppies. **Rachel Fountain**

THANKS - On 29th November at around 5.00 pm near the top of Warren Lane we punctured a front nearside tyre. I stopped (as it happened the right) passing car and the young man driving could not have been more kind or helpful - he looked at the situation, went home for better tools and a good torch (ours was very poor) and returned to change the wheel for us - he even directed me to the best option for a new tyre! this took him time and he got very dirty to boot. When I offered him well earned money for his trouble, he refused to take it. My husband and I are so very grateful to you - you are our 'knight of the road'. You know who you are and I will not embarrass you by mentioning your name but would like to say a great big thank you for all that you did not only in assisting with the tyre but by giving us both peace of mind. May I take this opportunity of wish you and yours the very best of seasonal compliments and a very happy and healthy 2020. **Jane Tapsell**

PCSO – On the 21st of November our Police Community Support Officer held a surgery at the village hall to which 6 people turned up. Her name is Megan Keehner and she confirmed that if you needed to report something you should dial 101 when you will also be given a reference number so you can check on progress if necessary. She is also contactable by email Megankeehner@kent.police.co.uk but stresses that if she is on holiday then the email might not be read and that is why it's best to phone 101. She is also the PCSO for River, Hougham, Temple Ewell and Capel-le-Ferne.

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ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB – *To mark their centenary an article was printed in the Dover Express in June 1939 and the following is a digest*. According to a very old copy of the original rules in the Marquis of Granby, the club was first formed on 1st July 1839. Early fixtures were played on any day of the week, and usually commenced in the morning. The players had dinner at the Marquis, and a long afternoon's cricket was followed by tea and a singsong in the pub. There was no pavilion, but a tent built of poles and hurdles, covered with tarpaulin was erected for the players to change. Around 1900 a pavilion was erected in Newlyn's Meadow which in 1932 was transported on rollers to Vicarage Meadow. Level ground was very limited, and this was reduced when the main road was widened and in 1938 further reduced when a dyke was constructed to divert the nailbourne from the main road. The Club moved to Vicarage Meadow in 1932 and when the nailbourne flowed it flooded such that in 1937 the ground was transformed into a beautiful lake. The Club relies entirely on local players and has a useful nursery in the village school, but young men are leaving the village nowadays, many joining H.M. Forces. There are 13 rules and 3 rules are particularly interesting: Rule 10 "That any member who shall be guilty of swearing shall be fined one penny, and every time he repeats the offence the fine shall be double"; Rule 11 "That any member who shall misconduct himself quarrelling or drunkenness shall be fined sixpence; Rule 12 "That all fines shall be paid to the Treasurer within ten days, or double the amount inflicted."

COUNTRY NOTES - It was gratifying to learn last month [September 1999] that Kent Wildlife Trust had succeeded in its appeal for resources to buy another area of land at Lydden Temple Ewell Down. The land is necessary in order to save several endangered species, including the wart-biter bush cricket. A reference from 1829 states that "In Sweden warts are destroyed by the *Gryllus verrucivorus* or wart-eating grasshopper." A.H. Swinton, in *Insect Variety* (1880) refers to "The Great Green Leaf-cricket, or Wart-biter." Fifty years ago the wart-biter was common on the chalk downlands of Kent. As with many other species it then went into a rapid decline under severe environmental pressures and was finally declared extinct in Kent in 1976. In 1993, 20 adult wart-biters were re-introduced onto Lydden Temple Ewell Down. Currently, the population, although still expanding, remains vulnerable, which is why the extra land is needed. Gilbert White, the author of *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne,* was, when not investigating owl sounds, fascinated by crickets. Writing in the late eighteenth century, he devoted three long and consecutive letters to this topic. In the second one, he refers to house crickets (*Gryllus domesticus*) as "…noisome pests… like Pharaoh's plague of frogs…" and goes on to say that they "may be destroyed, like wasps, by phials half filled with beer …for, being always eager to drink, they will crowd in till the bottles are full." We've been destroying slugs that way for some years now, the best bait being a dark, sweet, mild beer, purchased in 2-litre brown plastic bottles from a local supermarket. It's amazingly successful, killing thousands during the season. Most people accept that it works, but occasionally I get that wary, disbelieving look that sometimes greets the news of the wart-biters. **(Steve Osborn – first published here October 1999)**

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Other Events in the village hall

Tuesday	**9**	W.I. meeting at 7.30pm
Saturday	**11**	SEKAS 7pm
Tuesday	**23**	Village Hall committee meeting 2pm
Tuesday	**30**	Film Night 7.30pm – please see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Saturday 4th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 5th	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Sunday 12th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	
Sunday 19th	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 26th	United Parish Eucharist, Capel 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.00, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.04, 18.34
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 16.27 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - As I write, Christmas is still ahead of us and, like everyone else I know I am feverishly working my way through a list of things to be done before 25th December. By Boxing Day some people seem to regard Christmas as already over. But there are Twelve Days of Christmas, as the song reminds us, and five are in January. Not until 6th January, when the New Year festivities are over and everyone is back at work, does the Church celebrate Epiphany, the wise men arriving at the crib with their gifts for Jesus almost unnoticed, at least as far as the UK is concerned. But in other parts of the world the arrival of these mysterious travellers in Bethlehem after following a star from the mysterious East is widely celebrated, and their story has inspired other legends. One concerns Baboushka, an old woman who, in the depth of a Russian winter, offers shelter from the bitter weather to three travellers who explain that they are following a star to find a new-born king. When the weather clears they invite her to join them, but she tells them she must finish her chores and find a gift for the baby first. By the time she is ready to leave fresh snow has covered their tracks. When she eventually reaches Bethlehem, not only have the Wise Men already left, but the baby too. They say that Baboushka is still looking for that baby. Every year, at the time that the Wise Men came, she is said to go around giving presents to the children – just in case one of them happens to be *the* child. A story of kindness and generosity that makes Christmas last a bit longer, perhaps? **Brian Williams**

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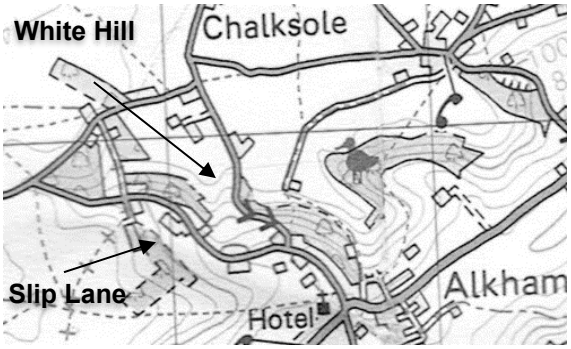

WHITE HILL ONE-WAY

Further to the proposal to make White Hill one-way, a letter was given to the Parish Council saying that whilst there is a great deal of sympathy for those whose property has been damaged it is not considered that the making of White Hill one-way will solve the problem. A lot of horse riders, walkers and cyclists use Slip Lane and the increased traffic of both HGV and other vehicles could make it a major safety risk. Additionally, further damage will be caused to the fabric of the verges/banks of Slip Lane when HGV's realise they can't get through and try to turn round. It is also likely that vehicles will speed up White Hill when it's one way causing problems for residents, walkers and riders. It is thought that making these roads 'access only' and further 'Unsuitable for HGV's' signs, as recently installed at Lydden, would help reduce the problem. The Parish Council said they will wait to see what the findings of Kent County Councillor Geoff Lymer are before making any decisions.

WEIGHT LIMIT - Glyn Jones, Speedwatch and Lorry Watch Co-ordinator, has suggested to the Parish Council that they consider a policy to campaign for a 7.5 t vehicle limit through the whole parish AONB, except for access. This happens in many areas and would be supported by the law and reduce the need for excessive advisory signage in the AONB, making the AV road safer, reduce vibration damage to adjacent houses and reduce road surface and sewer damages.

PARISH PLAN UPDATE - Each subject area of the village plan has now been drafted by the Plan Team and reviewed. The analysis and action plan from these reports have now been documented after an all-day workshop in the Village Hall. The overall structure of the Parish Plan document has also been agreed and will be subject to final review and checking by the team in the next few weeks. The completed draft document will then be reviewed by the Parish Council and the Dover District Local Planning representative. After two years work – we're nearly there! **Den Barnard**



JACK – Local resident Jack was delighted with his Christmas present

ALKHAM FETE MEETING - There will be a fete meeting on Wednesday 5th February 2020 at 8 pm in the Village Hall to start making arrangements for the 2020 Fete (date to be confirmed but probably 11th July); please come along if you would like to be involved in any way and/or have any queries you'd like to raise. All welcome! See you there. **Paul Tapsell 01303 892082**

TEA AND A CHAT in the village hall on Thursday 30th January and February 27th from 2.00pm till 4.00pm. All are welcome to come along for free tea and biscuits and friendly chat amongst friends.

THE VILLAGE HALL has a new boiler, which can be remotely controlled, and this should solve previous heating problems.

FILM NIGHT	
January 28th	**Downton Abbey**
February 25	**Judy** Renee Zellweger
Village Hall 7.30pm Please bring your own refreshments	

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A GOOD EVENING – The photo shows 30 keen gardeners who turned out for the annual Christmas Supper in the village hall on December 6th.

GARDEN TALK - With thoughts of spring, the programme of visits to gardens within the village is being prepared. We would be grateful for offers of residents who are prepared to host an evening, usually a Friday, when we can enjoy the garden and talk about gardening over a convivial drink. Please contact me if you wish to take part. **Janet Adamson 01303 893413**

KEEP US FLYING HIGH Air Ambulance Kent Surrey Sussex. Would you like to know more about us or get involved? Learn about how the charity works, innovates and saves lives with one of our informative talks. Book one of our volunteer speakers to visit your group for free and find out more about our life-saving work. Contact Talks @aakss.org.uk, call 01634 471957. To volunteer go to volunteering @aakss.org.uk or ring 01634 471900. If you'd like to find out more, please get in touch.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our January meeting was an enjoyable one with a talk about Great Ormond Street Hospital. Our next meeting is on February 11th with Mark Moynan talking about how he started his work as a butler plus many other stories. Hostesses are Debbie Saunders and Christine Peel, Raffle Janet Barrow and VOT Helen Scopes. **Debbie Griggs**

NEWSLETTER – If you would like to write an article for the newsletter, or have something included, please contact me as both would be very welcome. The latter can be left in the 'Local Mail' box at the top of the rear drive to the Old Post Office or email brianwimsett@hotmail.com**.**

ALKHAM HISTORY BOOK - I'm thinking of doing a further update of the Brief History of Alkham. If you would like something changed or added please contact me as above. At present Rose Cottage and Church Cottages have been added plus tithes, wells and further details of the Parish Council. The Marquis has also been revised. **Brian Wimsett**

SUE LEES – As mentioned in last month's Newsletter, Sue is suffering from dementia and has moved into a care home called Pelham House. The home is just off the main Folkestone to Hythe road and approaching from the Hythe direction it is the first turning on the left after you have driven up Sandgate hill. The address is 5-6 Pelham Gardens, Folkestone CT20 2LF, telephone 01303 252145 and her son says that they are quite happy to have visitors and can be contacted via email at hello @pelhamhousecarehome.co.uk.

OFF ROADERS are churning up Pimlico Way again. Not only are they damaging the byway surface, but vehicles have trespassed into the crater despite the steep embankments which were constructed. This results in the 4x4's crossing the byway and causing further erosion which will eventually make the byway impassable to others. For this reason, Pimlico Way and the adjacent byway to Everden were closed to motor vehicles (except trikes and trail bikes) on the 10th January by KCC for 21 days but this order is expected to be extended.

Alkham Valley Garden Centre
Visit our new houseplant section which has a great selection of traditional/unusual plants. Summer flowering bulbs.
Our new garden and gift areas are full with unusual/practical gifts for the garden & home.
Why not visit our tearooms for a Big Valley Breakfast, Lunch or afternoon Tea. Our homemade cakes are delicious!

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OZ on HYPHENS – Last month the editor emailed me the exasperated query "Any idea why Word insists on putting a dash between words which are not normally hyphenated?" I explained that the main concern of hyphen use, as with most punctuation, is to avoid ambiguity. For instance, a man eating shark is one thing, a man-eating shark quite another. Before replying, I looked up various authorities on English usage, and discovered, as usual, a minefield. John Benbow, former editor of the Oxford University Press, said "If you take hyphens seriously, you will surely go mad." Sir Ernest Gowers, in *The Complete Plain Words*, points out the difficulty of dealing with "fried fish merchant". That problem is dealt with in *Fowler's Modern English Usage*, where R W Burchfield advocates rewriting when the hyphen burden becomes too great, as in 'poets of the early nineteenth century' rather than 'early-nineteenth-century poets'. The most thorough account is to be found in *Hart's Rules for Compositors and Readers*, published by the OUP, a useful little book I've kept close at hand for the last twenty years. Under the heading Hyphenated and Non-hyphenated Words *Hart* lists eight rules, with five pages of examples. Perhaps the most confusing of these is the distinction between sentences such as "These are the most up-to-date records" and "The records are not up to date", depending on the position of 'up to date'. The answer to the editor's question is probably that language evolves and that Word aims to eventually reflect those changes. For example, the fifth word of this story would, twenty years ago, have been 'electronically mailed', 'e mailed' or 'e-mailed'; now it would be unthinkable to be anything other than 'emailed'. Finally, when in doubt, I have three options: consult a good dictionary, phone a friend, and/or rewrite the sentence. **Steve Osborn**

In the year 2000 a Databox was prepared for Alkham to record people's lives and activities in the parish. To mark 20 years passing various extracts will be included in the newsletter…

THRESHING WWII – Steve Matcham had two threshing machines during the war for which he was paid so much per year. He went from farm to farm threshing. He did well because the farmers had little choice. Dockets were signed by farmers and sent back to the Ministry of Agriculture to record how much was threshed during the year. The thresher was hired for £1 per hr. When threshing at Flegg's Court with his son Steve and seven men, a doodle bug came straight for them, so he pulled in the clutch and yelled at the men to dive for the ground. The doodlebug took of the chimney pots of the house and landed on its belly north of Hawkinge Church. The bomb didn't explode so they had to leave it for the army/air force to deal with. They were off work three days, but they were compensated for the lost work. Today it is the norm for farmers to own their own machinery whereas in the past you had labourers who hired themselves to farms for the season.

COMMUNITY LED HOUSING FORUM – Dover District Council are holding sessions for people who are interested in community housing or self build. At a previous conference the people attending found it very useful to chat with like-minded people and because of this DDC have organised free forums. There are forums on the 19th February and 26th of March from 6pm to 7.30pm at DDC offices in Whitfield (CT16 3PJ). You can email communityhousing@dover.gov.uk or access their web site http:/dover.gov.uk.

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Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/11.00am – Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am
Last Friday	Sightloss group View Hotel Folkestone 1030 to noon

Other Events in the village hall

Tuesday	**11**	W.I. meeting at 7.30pm
Tuesday	**25**	Film Night 7.30pm – please see page 1
Thursday	**27**	Tea and a chat 2pm to 4pm
Saturday	**29**	Beekeepers in afternoon

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 2nd	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Saturday 8th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 9th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	
Sunday 16th	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 23rd	United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		
26th	United Parish Eucharist Hougham 7.00 pm		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.00, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.04, 18.34
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 16.27 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - Cold, miserable February has never been my favourite month. But when I was a student and still discovering church, I encountered something that happens every 2nd February that changed all that. Church would be worth a visit that evening, others had told me. I walked in from a bustling South London Street as the organ sounded the first notes of a hymn. Before long I was in the middle of a procession, clutching a hymn book in one hand and a candle in the other, following everyone else around the church. Candlelight flooded the place, incense hung in the air – it was a celebration unlike anything I had ever experienced before, and I found myself wanting to go back for more. The Gospel read during the Candlemas service, forty days after Christmas, recalls Mary and Joseph taking the infant Jesus to the Temple and being met by the old priest Simeon. Seeing the child, he knows that his days are done: Now, Lord, let your servant depart in peace; for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel…' No sadness for Simeon at the prospect of leaving the world, or not seeing the child grow up. Simply joy at holding the Light of the World in his arms who from then on would light the way for him and the rest of humanity through this world and into the next. Joy, too, at the prospect of departing in peace. I've seen the commercials on TV for simple, fuss-free funerals. They might suit some, but I'm with Simeon – for me, the prospect of leaving this world with joy and hope is worth making some fuss about… **Brian Williams**

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To contact the Parish Clerk or Councillors email clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

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No. 314 March 2020

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PLEASE SAVE THE ALKHAM FETE - We had a low turnout for the February meeting so we are having a further meeting on Wednesday 18th March at 8 pm in the Village Hall to see if there is sufficient support to enable us to have a Fete this year. Please could all stallholders, helpers and volunteers either come to the meeting or get in touch with me by Monday 16th March to confirm that they are available on Saturday 11th July and let me know what they are willing to do. Thank you, and we really hope to see you on the 18th. **Paul Tapsell 07947 016697**

ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB – "The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated!" We are pleased to announce that the Alkham Cricket Club is planning a return to the meadow later this year and, indeed, a revival of cricket in the village; we have been holding nets at the Three Hills centre over the winter and are looking forward to several matches this year (mostly evening T20-type matches) but including the regular Hackers Match on Saturday 20th June. If you would like more information, to join us for nets, join the Club or just make a donation, please give me a call. **Paul Tapsell 07947 016697**

OPINIONS – Our Parish Councillors should be thanked for the unpaid work they do for the community but because of the council's new rules, for a reason that will become apparent, I have been asked to include two opinions in the newsletter.

The Parish Council meetings for many years were relaxed with parishioners holding their hands up to interrupt. Now the meetings follow Parish Council rules where no comments are allowed from the floor and you must wait for the interval to say something; a person attending recently gave up after an hour and a half and went home as the interval was still some way distant. This has been countered by having an interval at the beginning of the meeting which rather negates its purpose and the number of parishioners attending has dropped considerably. Recently, regarding the matter of traffic calming, studies, surveys, public questionnaires and reports highlighted the problem of traffic volumes and speed through the village. The Parish Council subsequently had meetings with KCC regarding the matter and the results of these discussions have not be made public such that parishioners will not be able to comment before any final decisions are made and it is felt there is no reason for this secrecy. There also appears to be a problem in contacting the Parish Council with regards to payments as it's almost impossible to get any response. **editor**

GORDON ADAMSON - It was with great sadness I learned of Gordon's passing. He was a quiet and helpful friend to all those who knew him. Always ready to give advice on matters of growing fruit and vegetables, and only too happy to keep an eye on gardens and animals when owners were absent. His one great passion, and to the pleasure for many of us, was his skill and perfection in making country wines. The wine tasting contests associated with the first 'Garden Talk' meetings of the year were always keenly enjoyed. Thank you, Gordon. We'll miss you. **Geoff Hillier**

ALKHAM WI JUMBLE SALE
in the Village Hall 25th April 2020
10.30 - 12 pm Entrance 25p.

ALKHAM WI COFFEE MORNING
in the Village Hall 7th March 2020
10.30. - 12.30 pm
Homemade cakes, raffle, bric-a-brac, etc.



WANTED volunteers to plant trees to make hedges at Upper Standen Farm, Standen Lane, Hawkinge, CT187AS on Saturday 29th February from 10 – 4pm. Booking is essential so please phone 03000 410 900 or email: stour@kent.gov.uk. Wear sensible shoes, dress for the weather and bring a packed lunch. Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership are planting hedgerows in order to 'Slow The Flow' and are planting 6000 trees.

FILM NIGHT	
February 25	**Judy** Renee Zellweger
March 31	**In Search of Mozart**
Village Hall 7.30pm Please bring your own refreshments	

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LISTED BUILDINGS – A further page has been added to the Alkham History book giving details of the listed buildings that are around Alkham. In the centre of the village there are 12 with St. Anthony's church being Grade I and the others being Grade II which includes the Marquis of Granby (photo) and the granary at Hogbrook Farm. In addition, the walls and gate piers to the Old Rectory and a monument plus 14 headstones in the churchyard are also Grade II listed. At South Alkham, Upton Farmhouse, Hopton Manor and Brook House are also listed as Grade II. **Brian Wimsett**

THE MARQUIS OF GRANBY is thrilled to be in the top three of the Kent Taste Awards for Kent Dining Pub or Bistro of the year, all before completing our first year of trading. Building on what we have already established, we are hosting some fantastic events in March and April with St Patrick's day and Mother's Day fast approaching. But don't just wait for our events……. Our ever-changing lunch menu and seasonal specials are always in demand from our customers both near and afar. With spring around the corner, The Marquis of Granby is already preparing the terrace for some fantastic outside dining and entertaining. With a fully functioning bar and barbecues every Sunday coming into play from May, the 90 seats outside will be the perfect spot to enjoy a wonderful view of the Alkham valley and our renowned offering. As we look to celebrate our first year, we will be hosting our first monthly Marquis dining club on April 7th. Menu details and timings will follow in the April newsletter but worth saving the date as we would love to celebrate with our locals.

KCC COUNCILLOR Geoffrey Lymer reports that Kent Highways crews are finding, and fixing potholes caused by the extensive rain over the last few weeks and ensuring dangerous potholes are filled immediately. Potholes not considered to be dangerous are placed into a programme and will be filled in within 28 days and KCC encourages residents that spot potholes to report them online via Kent.gov.uk. Dover District Council says that the street light that failed in Slip Lane is included in their programme but they are experiencing some difficulty with the box that the cable feeds into as it is too dangerous for the lighting engineers to isolate and are discussing whether they need to upgrade the cable.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our February meeting was speaker Mark Moynan and what an excellent talk he gave us about what the butler saw; we didn't realise how much work was involved on becoming a butler. Our next meeting is March 10th when the speaker is Susan Howell talking about Laura Ashley clothes. Hostesses are Sue Ross and Alison Warnock, Raffle Susannah Tapsell, VOT Debbie Griggs. **Debbie Griggs**

FOR SALE - 2015 Venus 540 caravan in excellent condition and hardly used: Light weight & easy towing, no dents, scratches or damp; 4- berth including fixed bed, rear bathroom with shower, electric mover, microwave, tv & radio. To include air pro awning (used twice); water and waste containers, gas bottles, awning matting and other caravan equipment as may be needed. Please phone 07734 312710.

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Tracey Prince BSc (hons), PGCE, QTS, CELTA, CRB

ALKHAM HEROES - After about fifteen years of intermittent research I have decided to end my investigations into the lives of the men whose names are inscribed on the village war memorial. I'm pleased to say that there is far more information on each of the men than was the case when I began this project. I'd like to thank the many people who have kindly given information, time and expertise to add to the overall picture. The investigation led to several events in the village hall, trips to the battlefields and cemeteries of the First World War and the placing of the crosses on the wall at the bottom of Slip Lane as we marked the recent centenary of the war. I will remove the crosses at the end of March and update the website with all the information that I have. Should anyone wish to add information at a later date I'm sure that Brian will facilitate this. We will remember them. **Mark Robson**

OZ on HENLEY – Recently I spent a night in hospital after a routine 'procedure' that was quick and effective. While convalescing I read a narrative about someone who suffered for much longer. William Ernest Henley was an influential English writer, born in Gloucester in 1849 to Mary Morgan and bookseller William Henley. At the age of twelve, he began study at the Crypt School, Gloucester, at the same time as developing the tuberculosis of the bone that resulted in the loss of his left leg in 1868 and the start of a lifelong battle to save the other leg. After the operation Henley moved to London and started work as a journalist and publisher. By 1873, his right leg had become critical, and Henley sought treatment from the famous surgeon Joseph Lister at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. Lister's skills eventually saved the leg, but at the cost of Henley spending twenty months in hospital before discharge in 1875. During that time, Henley had written much, including twenty-eight poems dealing specifically with life in the hospital and published as a collection entitled *In Hospital*. The poems are early experiments in free verse, dealing with the hospital environment, the other patients and his own fears and feelings. Among Henley's frequent visitors to the hospital was his friend Robert Louis Stevenson, who later revealed that the character Long John Silver, in Stevenson's novel *Treasure Island*, was inspired by Henley and his wooden leg. After discharge Henley returned to life in journalism. In 1878, while working as editor of *The London Magazine*, Henley married Hannah Boyle, and went on to produce a stream of poems, plays, translations, criticism and editing. Henley died tragically young in 1903 after a fall from a railway carriage the year before had caused the return of his latent tuberculosis. **(Steve Osborn)**

Dover Telegraph 25th July 1846 - Robbing Hives - On Friday night, or early the following morning, the honey from stocks of bees was stolen from the hives of a poor man named William Moslin, at Alkham. From a fragment of card found near the spot, it was pretty certain that a man named Edmund Baxter, of Charlton, labourer, was concerned in the robbery. A search warrant was obtained, and on the officers entering the house the wife smashed two or three pans containing about 1 cwt of honey, which covered the floor of the cellar, whilst Baxter, who caught sight of the officers, jumped upon a pony, and rode off as hard as he could go, and has not been seen since.

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Tuesday	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit 9.30/11.00am – Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm
Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am
Last Friday	Sightloss group View Hotel Folkestone 1030 to noon

Other Events in the village hall

Tuesday	**3**	Metal detectors 7.30pm
Saturday	**7**	W.I. Coffee Morning 10.30am to 12.30pm
Saturday	**14**	SEKAS 7.00pm
Wednesday	**18**	Fete meeting 8pm
Thursday	**26**	Tea and a chat 2pm to 4pm
Saturday	**28**	Beekeepers in afternoon
Tuesday	**31**	Film Night please see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Wed 26th Feb	United Parish Eucharist Capel 7.00 pm		
Sunday 1st	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Sunday 8th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	
Saturday 14th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 15th	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 22nd	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	Worship 11am
Sunday 29th	United Parish Eucharist at St Mary's (weather permitting) 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.01, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - I must admit that I do enjoy visiting cathedrals – especially ones that I haven't visited before. Visiting Gloucester not long after Christmas, I took the opportunity to have a proper look around the Cathedral. I discovered that it contains the tomb of King Edward II. He became king when his father, Edward I, died while campaigning against the Scots in 1307. His father had been widely respected. Not so Edward, who seems to be remembered mainly for falling out with powerful barons, losing the Battle of Bannockburn to Robert the Bruce, and lavishing gifts on his favourites at court while neglecting his wife, Princess Isabella of France. She took her revenge when she returned from a diplomatic visit to her brother with not only her lover, a nobleman whom Edward had exiled, but also an army. Supported by several nobles who shared her low opinion of her husband, she deposed him in January 1327 and had their son, also Edward, crowned in his place. A sign next to the once-magnificent tomb that Edward III had built for his father in the Cathedral tells visitors that Edward was imprisoned in Berkeley Castle and probably murdered there soon afterwards. It goes on: Edward's poor judgement lost him the confidence of his people and the throne. How can we help others find a way forward in life when everything seems to have gone wrong? An interesting thought. We may not have thrones to lose, but I suspect that most of us can probably think of times when we've made mistakes too, and perhaps wish that we had done things differently. St Paul wrote in I Corinthians 13 that "Love keeps no score of wrongs." God, he reminds us, never gets tired of our new beginnings.
Brian Williams

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W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
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WEBS www.alkham.org & www.alkhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk

To contact the Parish Clerk or Councillors email clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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No. 315 April 2020

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IF anybody has self-isolated and needs some assistance please ring 01304 824969 and someone will be found to help you.

MIDSUMMER BARN DANCE - Thanks to the generosity of Ann and John Huggins the Alkham Community Midsummer Barn Dance will be held at Greenwood Farm on Saturday 20th June 2020. Dancing from 19.30 to 23.30 to "Contraband'. Tickets will be £10.00 each and will include a light supper. Licensed bar on the night. Tickets available from Graham Bissett. Contact 07789690786 or graham.bissett@talk21.com. All proceeds from the event will be given to a local charity to be decided by John and Ann. **Graham Bissett**

WITH THE MARQUIS OF GRANBY close to completing its first year, we are pleased to announce that we made it in to the top 3 dining pubs and bistro in Kent with the Taste of Kent awards. Thank you to all that voted for us and for your continued support. We are pleased to offer a monthly dining club known as The Contemporary Dining club. Our first event for this will be held on Tuesday the 28th April of which there will be a glass of champagne on arrival and a chef's showcase 4 course menu. We are offering this to the local community and friends and family first, please call 01304 873410 or email info@marquisofgranby.co.uk to enquire further and to make your reservation. Our terrace will also be in full swing with the outside bar being fully functional from May.

CHURCHYARD – A dog accompanying a visitor to Alkham foraged behind the church and was later diagnosed as having eaten poison. Brian Williams, the Benefice vicar, warned people and posted notices about the poisoning and contacted the relevant authorities who recommended that he employ a pest control company to carry out a survey of the churchyard. Their report states that nothing was found to suggest that there were any poisons present in the churchyard at that time, nor any foodstuffs that might have been used to administer poison. The good news is that the dog recovered completely.

THANKS AND AN OFFER - What a great community there is in Alkham. I am so grateful for all the messages, cards and flowers that I have received since Gordon died; as well as the practical support and advice in making his service, and the whole day so stress-free for me. Throughout the 17 years since we bought 'Sunrise' we have felt welcomed in the village - and not just because of Gordon's wine making expertise. If anyone has a use for clean glass demi-johns, airlocks, plastic buckets etc. please get in touch. **Janet Adamson 01303 893413**

LESLIE HOYLE died on the 17th of February, aged 69, after a brave fight against a serious illness. Les lived with his wife for many years in the centre of Alkham and was a self-employed plumber and expert tiler who could often be seen driving a pick-up with his beloved Jack Russell on the front seat. Les was a great fellow and liked by all who knew him, and sympathy goes to his wife Moira, daughter Josie, who was marvellous during his illness, and the rest of the family. The funeral service at Hawkinge on the 5th of March was packed with people which showed the affection in which he was held.

ALKHAM HISTORY BOOK has been updated and reprinted again on 100gsm silk paper and now has 52 pages. It is A4 in size with photos on almost every page and as the Alkham Fund is in good shape, it now costs £2.50. If you'd like a copy, please contact brianwimsett@hotmail.com or 824969.

TEA AND A CHAT and FILM NIGHT have been cancelled until further notice because of the coronavirus problem.

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE A.G.M.

The Annual meeting of the Management Committee running your local Village Hall will be held, in the Village Hall, on Tuesday 21st April, starting at 7.00 p.m. Anyone from the village, or from any of the organisations using the Hall is welcome to attend to hear what your Committee has been doing, and to offer suggestions for the future use of the facilities. **Janet Adamson**

OUR PCSO is holding a surgery in the village hall on Saturday 11th April from 10 to 11am.

FILM NIGHT	
March 31	**Cancelled**
April 28	**Cancelled**

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PARISH PLAN UPDATE - At the Parish Council meeting on 2nd March the draft Parish Plan was discussed. The councillors had only one week to read it apart from all the other council documents to be studied so a more detailed discussion will be held at the next meeting. There was some immediate feedback concerning the volume of recommendations in the plan and some concern over the timescales for some of the actions. The amount of volunteers required was considered a problem although it was made clear that this was a Community Led Plan and this meant that, whilst the Parish Council would coordinate and lead on the actions, the villagers would need to take an active part and if they didn't this would not reflect on the Council. It was agreed for the Planning Team and the Parish Council (which includes three of the Planning Team) to have a workshop to agree on the way forward. **Den Barnard**

CONSERVATION AREA, ALKHAM - A few residents seem to be unaware that most of the centre of Alkham is in a Conservation Area and has been so since the 1970s. This means that trees in the area are protected from felling without the permission of the Dover District Council. A Planning Application to take the tree/trees down must be made to the DDC. Once the Council has given permission, nothing may be done to the tree trees before the DDC has placed an official notice of intent on the tree/trees. This gives the all-important opportunity for objections or support by the public for action to be taken and is the legal situation in a conservation area. **J Walker sec. Alkham Valley Society**

GARDEN TALK - The Programme of visits for this year is nearly arranged. The meeting on Friday 27th March at 8 Newlyns Meadow has been cancelled due to coronavirus. Should anyone not on the mailing list wish to join us, please contact me. **Janet Adamson 01303 893413**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our March meeting was about the story of Laura Ashley which was enjoyable. Our next meeting is April 14th which will be a games night hosted by Debbie Saunders and Eileen West. Hostesses are Beryl King and Janet Gibbons, raffle Mari jones. All new members are welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

QUIZ - On the 2nd May the W.I. are having a quiz night and if you would like a table please phone Debbie Griggs on 07796360473 or Debbie Saunders on 07810890637. Tables are for 6 to 8 people at £3 per person and bring refreshments for a fun evening.

GEORGE RYE was one of our Alkham Heroes who had emigrated to Western Australia at the outbreak of the WW1 and was the son of William and Ann Rye of Chilton Farm. He enlisted on 11th January 1916 as a Private in the 44th Battalion, Australian Infantry. George's unit embarked from Fremantle, Western Australia, on board H.M.A.T. A9 Shropshire on 31st March 1916. At the time of enlisting George was single but by the time of his death (just over a year later) he was married to Lucy Louisa Rye from 3 Burrow Road, Folkestone. George was 'killed in action' on Wednesday, 14th March 1917 aged 26. Whilst on holiday in Perth a few weeks ago Irene and I visited the Australian war memorial in Kings Park Perth and found George's name. There is a one-minute silence daily held at the memorial. We will remember them. **Den Barnard**



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OZ on JIGSAWS – For some years now my 81-year old girlfriend and I have been resisting the lure of the jigsaw puzzle. On principle we would never have bought one, but last year she won a 1000-piece specimen in an AgeUK raffle. We continued our resistance until the middle of March, finally capitulating after the first week of voluntary isolation from the current virus. It has been a heady reminder of childhoods past, with the old disciplines of doing the outside first, then the sky, artificial things next, and foliage last, and all the time looking for the 'sticky-outies' and the 'sticky-inies', all with a fair degree of rivalry. The answers to the questions of when and where the jigsaw phenomenon started are known exactly. John Spilsbury, a London engraver and cartographer, produced the first jigsaw in 1762, when he mounted maps on hardwood sheets. He then cut around the boundaries of countries, using a marquetry saw, forming a 'dissected map' that was used for teaching geography. From about 1880 the puzzles were called 'jigsaws', mistakenly, because they were actually cut by a fretsaw, not a jigsaw, which is a tool for cutting larger awkward things. From 1890 onwards the modern paperboard puzzles began to take over and reached a peak during the Great Depression because of their cheapness and the fact that they could be used over and over again. In early 1933 Parker Brothers were selling 10 million puzzles per week. Post-war the jigsaw puzzles continued to hold their own as popular interests, in spite of the twin attacks from television and rock'n'roll. Now puzzles are increasingly presented on-line, including such refinements as multi-dimensional puzzles. For us, until isolation is over, we'll just content ourselves with the 3000-piece puzzle from the 1970s that my son lent me last week. **(Steve Osborn)**

GREAT STORMS – In 1362 it is recorded that many steeples and towers were blown down and in 1658 the whole of Europe was visited by a great storm. But it is the storms of 1703 and 1780 that were so well attested by contemporaries. Daniel Defoe experienced the storm of 7/8 December 1703 and was inspired to invite reports from all parts of the country by inserting a notice in The Gazette. He received many replies and, summarised, they comprise 'The Storm' published in 1704 and subtitled "Remarkable Casualties and Disasters Which Happened in the Late Dreadful Tempest, both by Sea and Land." His testimony has the merit of scientific support by two reverend gentlemen, both amateur meteorologists, who carefully recorded their barometer readings (as low as 28.5) at Townley (Lancs.) and Upminster during the night of the storm. Curiously, little rain fell during the storm and the noise of the gale drowned the thunder. Sir Walter Besant, commented in 1902, that 'The Great Storm of 26/27 November has happily had no successor and had no predecessor.' From Defoe's 'Storm': "… (in London) the streets were covered with the slates and tiles from the roofs; practically all the roofs were stripped of their tiles. So great was the demand that the price of tiles went up from 21s to 120s per thousand while bricklayers' labour rose to 5s per day. All the winter long a great number of houses remained uncovered and exposed to the wet and cold while a great many buildings were covered with deal boards and so continued for many years … two thousand stacks of chimnies were … destroyed … the lead on the roofs of churches was simply rolled up like skins of parchment. Westminster Abbey thus lost its leaden roof. **Jackie Grebby** (Slip Lane, Alkham)

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Friday	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am
Last Friday	Sightloss group View Hotel Folkestone 1030 to noon

Other Events in the village hall

Saturday	**11**	PCSO surgery 10am to 11am
Saturday	**11**	SEKAS 7.00pm
Tuesday	**21**	Village Hall AGM 7pm
Saturday	**25**	W.I. jumble sale 10.30 to mid-day

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 5th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Service 11am
Thursday 9th	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 7.00 pm		
Friday 10th	Good Friday Benefice Service Alkham 10.00 am		
Saturday 11th	Messy Church.St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 12th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 7.00 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 19th	Worship 11.00 am	Evensong 6.00 p.m.	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 26th	United Parish Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.01, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
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Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - First there were floods. Then a plague which, if not Biblical, looks like it will make it into the history books. And when it comes to soap and toilet rolls, a famine, too. Perhaps it takes Coronavirus to bring home to us how comfortable life has been for most of us in the recent past – we haven't had to cope with things like cholera, as people living in Victorian London did and others around the world still do, or the plague, which is mercifully a thing of the past. When we do, people start behaving strangely - we end up with doctors appealing for those visiting hospitals to leave the sanitizer intended for the use of medical staff alone! Wading through the emails that have arrived in my inbox over the past week about the precautions that churches must now take made me wonder: if I was asked to preach a sermon about Coronavirus, where would I start? I thought that I might start with John the Baptist, the one who the gospels say appeared in the desert to prepare the way for Jesus. Crowds went out to the River Jordan to hear him speak. What was coming, he warned them, was a crisis that would demand something of them. When the crowds ask what they should do, he replies: Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise. A crisis is best met with generosity: John would have urged us to share, not hoard. Easter is approaching. For many, it's about chocolate and bunnies – but for Christians the story represents the triumph of love and life over death and despair, and offers hope when life seems uncertain. Stay safe, and God bless you this Easter.
Brian Williams

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FETE - I'm sure it will come as no surprise that we have decided to cancel the Fete this year; the uncertainty and issues regarding Covid-19 have made the decision for us! We will, however, be having a Fete next year so please mark it in your diaries for the 10th July 2021 as I don't want anyone to be arranging weddings, birthday parties or cruises for that weekend! We are hoping to be able to arrange some sort of mini-Fete in late August/September, assuming that the all-clear has been given and life has started to return to a "new normal" by then, so keep an eye out for something in future newsletters. I suspect we'll all need a little something to lift our communal spirits by then! In the meantime, from everyone on the Fete Committee, please keep safe! **Paul Tapsell**

BARN DANCE – Because of the current restrictions the barn dance scheduled for the 20th June has been cancelled and postponed indefinitely until matters become clear.

ISOLATION – In last month's newsletter there was an article saying that if anybody has self-isolated and needs some assistance to ring 01304 824969 and someone will be found to help you; this still applies. Please to report that no one has asked for assistance but 6 people from the village, Chilton and Ewell Minnis, have volunteered to help if anyone does.

KCC - If you are vulnerable and have an urgent need for supplies and medication you can contact the Kent Together helpline at www.kent.gov.uk/KentTogether or by call 03000 41 92 92 (24-hour service).

THERE are pharmacies that deliver prescriptions and one of those is in River but there are others. It would be necessary to have the chosen pharmacy on your prescription which can be done by contacting your surgery.

A LOCAL resident contacted to say that she drove through the village on the 30th March at 5.45pm to get essential shopping and saw a large group of people picnicking on the village green. Enraged by their disregard of the virus rules she beeped the horn and shook her head and later phoned the police who did not answer. Hopefully they got the message.

FISH - Folkestone Trawlers have recently delivered fish to a person in Alkham. To find out if they still do, and if there is a minimum order, their phone number is 01303 254608 ... also Alkham Valley Garden Centre may be able to do local deliveries; please see www.alkhamvalley.com for more details.



A WORK OF ART
Ben Spicer has made a seat which he has placed in St. Anthony's churchyard close to his mother's grave. It really is superb and a fitting tribute to Alison who died in June 2019. Ben has carried out other works in the village to the same high standard such as the path behind the hall and steps to the cottages and if you'd like to contact him regarding the seat or anything else please phone 07554 737149.

THE TANKERS on the village car park have been continually sucking out the ground water that has risen because of the Nailbourne running which blocked the sewer system coming down Hogbrook Lane from the main road.

PROWLER – Evidently there is a prowler going around the properties at Ewell Minnis and this has been reported to the police who have taken items away for fingerprinting.

TREES – In last month's newsletter it said you had to have planning permission to remove trees in a conservation area. This was incorrect but you must notify the council, and then wait six weeks and if the council has not responded in that time you are free to proceed.

NEWLETTER – It does look unlikely that there will be a newsletter for next month as most events in the parish have been cancelled because of the Covid-19 virus.

FILM NIGHT

Film Night is cancelled until further notice

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ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB - Our weekly nets sessions and plans for a busy season of evening games and a big bash for the Hackers match in June have, obviously, been put on hold for the moment. However, with so many people now doing an hour of outdoor exercise every day we are confident that when the lockdown is lifted we will be inundated with lots of eager players keen to maintain their heightened levels of fitness and activity, and/or to join us for a well-earned pint after a game! Obviously places for players will be limited and there will have to be a robust selection process, so if you'd like to pay your subs and confirm your membership to improve your chances of being picked to play, please give me a call and I'll give you the Club's bank details! Finally, more so than ever before, please remember the Club's motto and "Just Stay In!". **Paul Tapsell 01303 892082**



GARDEN TALK - We are looking forward to being able to visit local gardens later in the year but have cancelled until the end of June. Meanwhile, we are taking this opportunity to cultivate, weed and plant - encouraged by the local deliveries being organised from the Alkham Garden Centre and you can enter your details on their website www.alkhamvalley.com. **Janet Adamson**

ALKHAM W.I. - The ladies of Alkham W.I. would like to wish a speedy recovery for all the people that have the coronavirus in the parish and a big thank you to the NHS for all their hard work during this difficult time. We wish you all a happy Easter and stay safe. **Debbie Griggs**

VE DAY 75 ANNIVERSARY 8th MAY - As the VE Day community celebrations have been cancelled or postponed because of the virus the Pageant Master says that the following provides a suitable tribute: **Friday 8th May** – VE Day at 2.55pm live on TV and Radio, a pre-recorded lone Piper plays "Battle's O'er"; **3pm** - speech by Churchill live on TV, Radio and through social media, the recording of the famous speech made by Prime Minister Churchill, announcing the end of the war in Europe. Following the speech and led by the Prime Minister the hundreds of millions of individuals and families throughout the UK would be encouraged to raise their glass/cup of refreshment of their choice and undertake the 'Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW II'.

ENERGY DEAL – Collective Energy Switch Scheme Dover District Council has worked in partnership with iChoosr since 2013 and achieved a total saving of £262,326.66 for residents in our district by using the combined buying power to access highly competitive tariffs. To join the hundreds of other residents that have cut their energy bills through this scheme register for the May 2020 auction. It is free and you are under no obligation to switch. Register online at www.dover.gov.uk Cut your energy bills, or www.energydealswitch.com; call 0800 048 8439 (May 2020 auction only) or 01304 872428. Energy companies then try and under-bid one another to provide you with the cheapest tariff auction and after the auction you will be contacted by email/ letter with your personal energy offer. If you are happy to accept and switch you will be supported through the process by iChoosr. There are two further auctions in October and February if your tariff end date isn't soon.

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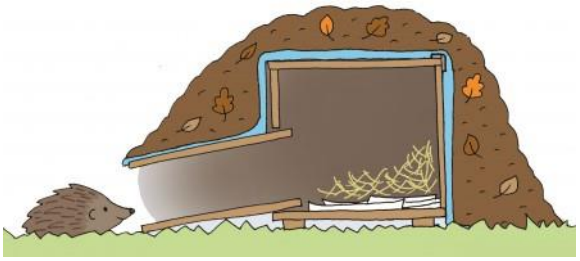
OZ on CAMUS – One way that people are coping with the current lockdown is in seeking reassurance in literature from the past. Among the most impressive stories is that written by Albert Camus, in his 1947 novel *The Plague (La Peste)*. The book describes the impact of bubonic plague on an Algerian town in the early1940s but is based on an 1849 cholera epidemic in Oran, Algeria. Camus was born in 1913 in Mondovi, Algeria, to Catherine Camus; he never saw his father, Lucien, as he was killed at the Battle of the Marne in 1914. I need here to correct the popular myth that "Albert Camus was goalkeeper for the Algerian football team." Football was always important to him, but the truth is that, while at secondary school, he was goalkeeper for a local club, the Racing Universitaire d'Alger junior team, from 1928 to 1930, when his footballing career was ended by a tuberculosis diagnosis. In 1936, Camus gained his Licence de Philosophie at the University of Algiers and started work as journalist, philosopher and writer. When the anti-fascist newspaper, *Alger Republicain,* was banned in 1940 Camus moved to Paris briefly to edit *Paris-Soir*. After the fall of France, Camus joined the French Resistance and edited their newspaper *Combat* under the nom-de-guerre Beauchard. From then on, he was on the move; to Lyons, where he married Francine Faure; to Algeria teaching; and to the French Alps, all the time working for the Resistance. After the war Camus and Francine returned to Paris where they produced twins in 1945. Camus then embarked on a hugely successful writing and political career that was rewarded in 1957 with the Nobel Prize in Literature. Only three years later Camus tragically died, one of two victims in a car crash in Villeblevin, north-central France. **Steve Osborn**

KENT WILDLIFE TRUST says there are fewer than 1 million hedgehogs left in Britain and suggest making a home for them in your garden. The graphic shows such a home which is about 300mm by 400mm in size with a 300mm long 130mm wide by 170mm high entrance tunnel. A hosepipe can be connected into the back of the box to add some extra ventilation. Pick a shady, quiet spot for the hedgehog house, lift the lid off the house and put newspaper, leaves and dry grass in and then cover with polythene sheeting (making sure it's still accessible for cleaning later on), and pack soil and dead leaves around the outside, leaving the entrance and air pipe free of debris. Clear out the hedgehog house once a year (late March – early April) to prevent the build-up of pests but do not clean it out if a hedgehog is in residence. Making log pile or compost heap are also good options for providing space for hedgehogs to nest and have the added bonus of attracting lots of insects for them to eat.



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Tuesday	**The village hall is closed until further notice**
Wednesday	
Friday	
Last Friday	

Other Events in the village hall

Saturday	**The village hall is closed until further notice**
Saturday	
Tuesday	
Saturday	

CHURCH SERVICES

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM

There are no church services but the vicar, Brian Williams, has put something on-line at https://www.facebook.com/BeneficeofACH/

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.01, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - I remember her well; there I would be, standing in front of the class waiting to start the lesson while she chatted and laughed with her mates, my blood pressure probably soaring. Time passed. She and her mates left school, and I didn't see her again. Not until, that is, a few years later when I lay in a hospital bed having undergone surgery for bowel cancer. She had swapped her school uniform for that of a student nurse; I remember waking briefly around 2 in the morning and recognising her. She was standing next to me, checking my vital signs. Almost ten years on I still remember her, Jess, Amy, Gary, Emily, the two Elaine's and all the others who cared for me – especially Rebecca, the junior doctor who, when things were going wrong, kept me from going to my Eternal Home. The NHS was as wonderful then as it is now – perhaps it's taken the coronavirus crisis to make us realise that we've tended to take those who work in it, along with so many others whose work makes everyday life possible, for granted. For me, the past decade has been a bonus – I've learned how easily things in this life – and life itself – are taken for granted. In this country, decent sanitation and modern medical science have protected us from what the Prayer Book calls the 'pestilence' that our ancestors so dreaded – until now. No doubt treatments and vaccines will be developed that will defeat this particular pestilence. But I wonder – when it does, will we go back to our old ways of taking things for granted and complaining when things go wrong? Or will we have learned the value of 'Thank You?' Stay safe, and God bless you this Eastertide. **Brian Williams**

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W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
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AVS cjmwalker@tiscali.co.uk 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
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WEBS www.alkham.org & www.alkhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk

To contact the Parish Clerk or Councillors email clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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No. 317 June 2020

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IN LAST MONTH'S NEWSLETTER I said that it was unlikely that there would be a June edition because of the virus. However, several people contacted me and said that they would provide some items which are included in this edition. Next month will probably be the same so please email articles to brianwimsett@hotmail.com or phone 01304 824969.



V.E. DAY – Bunting was put around the end of the village green by the valley road and opposite along the front of Halton Court to remember V.E. Day in Alkham on May 8th.

COVID 19 - What an experience! I think I can echo everyone's voice when I say this situation can't be over quick enough. Perhaps though it has brought the best out of us. We have always had wonderful camaraderie in Alkham and feel that these past weeks have showed deeper compassion and care for others. No one has been rushing anywhere with no time to chat, the roads and lanes have been remarkably quiet and life seems to have taken a slower pace. We have been truly blessed with so much fabulous weather, so gardens are looking amazing with landscaping, newly dug ponds and refurbished garden furniture. Being in lockdown, and using our daily exercise time, we have been able to explore areas of Alkham, and discovered more walks, woods and bridle ways than we knew about. I think the Thursday night clap is a wonderful national event and thank goodness for Zoom, Skype and Facetime. It's been deeply upsetting hearing daily number of deaths, being reminded of those struggling financially, and all of us who have been deprived of visiting family and friends. I cannot comprehend how families without gardens have managed, and very relieved that outside areas are now open again. As we move forward, I can only hope that we will finally come through better people. I hope the kindness, caring and compassion remains. For sure, this pandemic has humbled me, opened my eyes even wider and allowed me to stand still and breathe. **Irene Barnard**

RIDE ON MOWER - Larry cuts a lot of grass around the centre of the village and his old ride on mower has been scrapped and he would like to get another. If you have one for sale or know of one, please ring him on 01304 822365

A POEM written by Jo Cooke who is a consultant at William Harvey Hospital and sent by Ruth Marczin-Bundy.

Corona used to be a beer,
They garnished it with limes,
But now it's filled the world with fear,
These days are scary times.

Cease from travel, cease from flying,
Shops stripped bare by panic buying,
No shaking hands, no social hugs
They've even closed the clubs and pubs.

Keep your distance, stay away,
Now's not the time for simple play,
Stay indoors, self-isolate,
More stringent measures, well they await.

But never fear, for we are here,
Your frontline team, a healthcare dream,
With PPE, gown, gloves, face shields,
Onwards we venture, to the battlefield.

Come on you virus, bring it on,
Do your worst, we'll take you on,
For we have spirit, compassion and love,
We shall destroy you and rise above.

Months, years from now, you'll be no more,
A mere memory of what passed through our shore,
Carry on we will, the human race,
Supporting each other, our saving grace.

And another from Gail Swainston, The Minnis

I am sparrowhawk
Sometimes I hit the hedge
And yet I miss
So open up your heart
To my last kiss
The flying arrow that
Betokens bliss
Will take you to another
Part of this.



And some further comments from the Minnis regarding lockdown.

I'm living the dream.

I love it. I'm starting to appreciate the little things in life.

Is it too late to prune a hydrangea?

It's all right. At least we're painting our gates.

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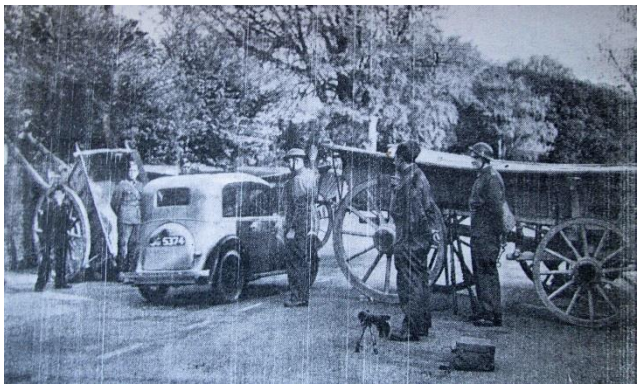

CHECKPOINT on the Alkham Valley Road at Kearsney at the outbreak of WWII from Sue Lee's records. Identity cards are inspected, and a machine gun is ready just in case.

ALKHAM HEROES - I have finally been able to update the village website page (alkham.org) on the men whose names are inscribed on the war memorial. Although I am intending to step back from this project, I am sure more information will come to light to add to the individual stories and Brian has kindly agreed to update as required in the future. I have come to feel a connection to these men and have been pleased to be able to add a bit more colour to their story than a simple inscription on a monument can do. "We will remember them". **Mark Robson**

BUSES - A resident says she has been told that the village bus service (No 91) is still running, but every 2 hours at present - i.e. 9.30, 11.30, 13.30 etc. from The Marquis to Folkestone.

BRIAN CROUCHER writes that on New Year's Eve 2009 they had been in Alkham since that October and were thinking what a lovely quiet little village Alkham was, tucked away between Dover and Folkestone with no HGV 's travelling along the valley road. They had not met anyone but had several welcoming cards although no one really knew they were there, not even the Inland Revenue let alone the Old Bill. Their kids went out partying and they were about to switch on Jools and Hootenanny but decided to pop down to the Marquis for a quick one before midnight instead. There was nobody they knew, and no hellos so after a swift one they walked home via St Anthony's church and passing the open door voices were heard shouting 'Hop it', 'On your way' and 'Begone'. With that they moved on a bit sharpish and later learnt the bell ringers were shouting the old year out followed by the bells ushering in the New Year. Arriving back at midnight and having a Hogmanay night cap there was a sudden rat tat tat at the front door and standing there were Bruce and Sue from the manor, Dr Ian and his wife Lucy and Ben and Jaques their neighbours down from London for the holidays. They were practicing the old Scot's custom of 'first footing' and carrying three items, one representing sustenance as a piece of bread, a piece of coal for warmth and three a penny for wealth plus Bruce had a few bottles of booze. Jaques 'first footed' as a tall dark stranger across the threshold and they partied on till all the booze was consumed. They now consider that they are truly part of the village and Sue and Bruce remain close friends to this day.

ELDERFLOWER CORDIAL - When elderflowers are fully open, and in full sunshine, pick 24 flowerheads. Put 3lbs sugar in a large bowl or bucket (not metal) and pour on 3 pints boiling water to dissolve and then add a 50g tub of citric acid (from Wilco or pharmacy), stir and cool. Grate the rind of 3 lemons, slice lemons, shake flowerheads to remove insects and add pushing down well. Cover and leave for 24 hours, stirring occasionally then strain through nylon sieve. It freezes well and keeps in fridge for about 7 days; dilute to taste. **Janet Adamson**

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OZ on FURLOUGH – No, the title isn't a description of my current status, just the meanings and derivation of the word 'furlough'. At the end of March this year the UK government introduced the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, part of which subsidized many employers to pay workers during lockdown; the ancient word 'furlough' was resurrected to describe this action. The word derives from the German military 'verlaub', meaning 'for leave' in the Middle Ages, and later from the Dutch as 'verlof'. After the English language imported the word, the number of spelling variants and meanings grew. For example, in 1631, Ben Jonson, in his play *The Staple of News*, declares: "The deed…is a thing of greater consequence, than to be borne about in a black boxe, Like a Low-countrey vorloffe, or Welsh-briefe." The first modern spelling of the word is recorded in the *Oxford English Dictionary* as that of Nathaniel Greene in a 1738 letter to George Washington: "The Northern Army does not choose to be furloughed." Britain caught up with America on both spelling and meaning in 1804 when the Duke of Wellington ordered that "Officers not on furlough…are to join their corps without delay." Nowadays, in both the UK and the US, the word is used as a euphemistic term for enforced leave, sometimes without pay, as with business failure or misdemeanour, or with pay, as with the pandemic legislation. In the UK, compulsory paid leave before termination of employment is often referred to as 'gardening leave', an informal euphemism traditionally used in the Civil Service, and popularized in 1986 in the BBC sitcom *Yes, Prime Minister*. Recently the current coronavirus furlough was extended from July 31st to October 31st. Like the virus, the word 'furlough' will be with us for quite a while yet. **(Steve Osborn)**

WI MEMORIES - I joined the Alkham WI in February 2003 when my friend Mandy Summers invited me along to one of the meetings which took place on the second Tuesday of every month. Everyone made you feel so welcome and I remember our president then was Rosemary Crothall, secretary Betty Neely and treasurer Christine Tapsell with Grace Stacey and 6 other members on the committee. Doreen Wilks used to have a table selling fresh produce grown from her garden and Barbara Palmer used to make all the jams and marmalade plus she would always make me a plum jam for my mum. Mandy and Debbie Saunders went with their mums to Bruges to see the Christmas market but couldn't find it so ended up seeing the ice sculptures instead followed by a vodka in ice cups. I'll never forget the evening when Pam Sayers came to the meeting and said that someone kept whistling at her, but it turned out to be her hearing aid. I remember the village fete when all the WI ladies would make the cakes along with other villager which always sold out. Whatever the job was the WI ladies have always done us proud. Stay safe everyone. **Debbie Griggs**

THE NEW KENT & MEDWAY Medical School is asking residents to complete a survey to help them make sure they train their students to be the doctors we want to treat us in the future. They wish to become a first-class medical education and research centre in collaboration with Canterbury Christ Church University and the University of Kent and will welcome its first 100 students this year. For the survey please go to https://t.co/nz6AKAMKYk.

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CHURCH SERVICES

There are no church services but the vicar, Brian Williams, has put something on-line at https://www.facebook.com/BeneficeofACH/

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Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

OUR CHURCHYARD - I'm sure that everyone will have admired the photograph of Ben Spicer's bench made in memory of his mother in the last edition of the Newsletter – but did you know that rather in the same way that you need planning permission to extend your home, there are some things in churchyards that need special permission? These can include not just benches, but even things like some flower containers. The good news is that with Ben's help we have now been able to prepare and submit the paperwork that will hopefully lead to his bench being made official, and we're hoping for a decision before too long. In the meantime, if anyone is thinking of putting something on a plot or introducing anything else into the churchyard I'm happy to help – just have a word with me for free before you spend any money. **Brian Williams**

FROM THE VICARAGE - The past few weeks have been full of surprises. In the first few weeks of the year, before the lockdown, church services were going on much as they always had, Sunday by Sunday. Across three village churches our regulars, visitors and others were turning up – usually somewhere between twenty-five and thirty-five people on average - and it was always a joy to see them. Then came coronavirus. The point in the service where we exchanged The Peace – greeting each other warmly with a handshake – was the first casualty, and for a few short weeks we made do with smiling and waving at each other instead. Hand sanitizer appeared alongside the collection plate. Then came the lockdown, services were called off, and us priests were told to stay out of our churches. The thing about the Church of England is that we are always there - not just for those who want us but also for those who don't at the moment but might do one day. So, how to keep things going? My tiny office became a studio, and I gave myself a crash course in filming, editing, and posting video services online – something I had never done before. So, at the moment, I'm writing scripts instead of sermons (you can see what I've managed to produce on our Facebook page – BeneficeofACH). One surprise has been the emails from those who, having lost loved ones, have asked me to pray and light candles at the time of the funeral they couldn't attend – people I wouldn't have heard from otherwise. The other surprise is that if the number of online views is anything to go by, the numbers of those coming to church by video have almost quadrupled our congregation…The new normal? We'll see… **Brian Williams**

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No. 318 July 2020

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THE MARQUIS OF GRANBY is pleased to inform the community that we will be opening our doors from the 4th July subject to Government announcements and rulings. It has been a challenging few months for all of us however we can now see the light at the end of the tunnel and look forward to hosting you all again soon. With this in mind, amendments have to be made in order for us to keep our customers and staff safe! Will and I have been busy creating comfortable dining space in line with current government information both with the terrace and the main indoor dining areas. Hygiene is at the forefront of our minds so signs, anti-spacing measures and hand sanitiser units will be in use as well as strict cleaning regimes for the staff to abide by and keep you all safe. We envisage that relaxing measures will take place outside before inside dining is permitted. Our terrace has ample heating and cover, with three areas being completely sheltered from the elements and will be bookable via the website, email or telephone as done previously. We will also be offering recipe boxes and takeaway dishes so you can enjoy our hospitality from your own home! We would also like to put to the community of Alkham if a delivery service would help those who would still like to enjoy our lovely dishes from the comfort of their home without having to leave the house? If we could gauge some feedback from you, please could I ask you to email manager@marquisofgranby.co.uk - In the meantime, I hope you are all doing well and have been able to keep yourselves safe through these unprecedented times! With some positive news, the latest addition to the Marquis family will be joining us in mid-July with Nadine and Will expecting their first child! **Hugh Thompson Manager**

THE ALKHAM GARDEN CENTRE – A parishioner has said that the Garden Centre is now be doing take away food & drinks, sandwiches, scones, cakes etc. They hope to open an outside seating area, with waitress service from 15th June.

PORT LYMPNE RESERVE is open from 15th June, but all non-concession tickets must be purchased online in advance and park members and season ticket holders must also pre-book such that visitor numbers can be responsibly managed.

TOGETHER 4 DOVER COVID 19 SUPPORT can do shopping, and prescription deliveries for isolated residents who do not have the support of family or friends from Monday to Saturday between 9am and 5pm. Please ring 01304 892519 or email help@together4dover.org.uk. For referrals to our Food Support, Laundry Help and Counselling Support call DDC Community Hub on 01304 821199.

VILLAGE HALL – During the lock down the inside of the hall is getting a new coat of paint and the floor has been polished thanks to Shirley Prince. We are also awaiting a quote to fill the sunken area in front of the hall which floods with water. The erosion is caused by traffic running over the car park and the superficial covering will be protected by three half barrel planters which can be replaced if damaged.



ON OUR REGULAR WALKS we have noticed an increasing number of water bowls put out for thirsty canines, especially along Slip Lane. These are most welcome, and on behalf of my own walking buddy, we extend our appreciative thanks. We have, of course, reciprocated and there is a water bowl outside our gates too. From a grateful dog walker. (Name and address supplied)

NEWSLETTER – If you would like to write an article for the newsletter please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

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EVERY HEDGE COUNTS and other things we can all do to help slow flooding. Kent County Council will help fund hedge/ tree planting and restoration in the Alkham Valley to 'Slow the Flow' of water running down hillsides. Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership have been working with KCC to implement Natural Flood Management in areas of Kent experiencing episodes of flash flooding. Natural Flood Management is about putting back the natural processes into the countryside, which we have lost**.** Intense **r**ainfall events with excessive volumes is in part due to hotter summers increasing evaporation. Loss of trees, hedges, ponds, wetlands and floodplains, straightened rivers and streams, soils depleted of organic matter, bare soils and compacted soils means this larger volume of water moves faster through the landscape. The drains and enclosed streams and rivers cannot cope. We have paved over gardens, filled in ponds, removed hedges and trees and built on our soils. Putting back the natural processes 'Slows The Flow' of water, provides habitat for our declining wildlife and can make farming more resilient to future climate issues. We want to put in hedges, trees and ponds, re-create wetlands and restore rivers and streams wherever it is possible. We have funding to work in areas particularly struggling with flooding. In Alkham we have added some hedging into the landscape. We would like to do more of this. Adding permeable surfaces to driveways and paved areas allows water to infiltrate into the ground. Putting in rain gardens, green roofs, hedges, ponds and water collection butts will all slow the flow of water. Farmers and landowners are working to improve the health of soils which means better infiltration of water as well as other measures. They are adding cover crops, increasing soil organic matter, trying to reduce soil compaction, planting hedges and trees and putting in ponds; see www.nffn.org.uk, Nature Friendly Farming Network. We can give advice on how to hold water on your property to benefit the wildlife and reduce flooding. Every hedge counts. For further information contact Partnership Officer, Annie Thurgarland at Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership annie.thurgarland@kent.gov.uk or phone 03000 410900.



THINGS have changed a bit since the 1930's when this photo of St. Anthony's church choir was taken in the school playground with the (Old) Post Office behind. At the back right are Charlie and Gordon Preston and Gordon worked at Hogbrook Farm having to milk their cows in Newlyn's Meadow before school l. He then delivered milk in a pail round the village which was dispensed with a measure and because there was always spillage he had, by law, to give an extra splash. Charlie went on to be a shepherd and both were great characters.

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ROB LEES was a great character who lived in Alkham and he wrote the article below in 2010 which is whimsical and amusing.

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. 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!



OZ on SUMMERTIME – I wrote this poem in July 2018 to celebrate that summer's extraordinary heatwave. It recycles some ideas from my August 2000 story on the PROMS and looks forward to a more normal summer in 2021.

At the solstice, summertime starts
and the days shorten to autumn.
Strange that the temperature rises
as the time to enjoy it decreases.

It's a season of sun, sea and sand,
a time for beer, wine and ice cream,
pasties, fish and chips alfresco,
and a seat at the Albert Hall Proms.

I'll know that autumn is here when
committee agendas fall like
leaves through the letterbox and the
Last Night of the Proms is over.

Steve Osborn

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Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - As I write, the statue of a former Tory MP, philanthropist and slave trader has just been fished out of Bristol Docks, and the fate of other statues is under review. Recent events have led to soul searching not just in the USA but also here in the UK, and we have to reckon with the fact that not everything that Britannia got up to when she ruled the waves was universally appreciated by the rest of the world. But where does it end? For example, Charles Dickens is remembered as a fine novelist and tireless campaigner for social justice – but a rotten husband. Does he deserve a statue? Does anyone? *All have sinned, and fallen short of the glory of God*, wrote St Paul to the church in Rome. Nobody's perfect. Tucked away in the New Testament is a personal note from Paul to his friend Philemon. It concerns Onesimus, thought to be Philemon's runaway slave. While with Paul, Onesimus had come to faith, and Paul had grown fond of him: *I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus,* he wrote, *whose father I have become.* Paul was sending Onesimus back to Philemon, offering to make good any loss that he had suffered, and urging him to receive Onesimus *no longer as a slave but… as a beloved brother*. No doubt the debate about which statues should stay and which should go will go on. I'm not sure that Paul would have been very interested. Rather, he might have encouraged us to stop and think about how we look upon others – and challenged us to change the world for the better by receiving them as if they were our sons or daughters, or beloved brothers or sisters. What a world *that* would be… **Brian Williams**

AS FAR AS the reopening of churches is concerned, it's nothing like a return to business as usual. We have a lengthy risk assessment to carry out, and I gather that the practicalities are such that some churches are deciding to remain closed for the moment. We are looking at what might be feasible before deciding what to do. I will let you know once we know what we are doing. **Brian Williams**

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No. 319 August 2020

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A CAT has been visiting a house in Newlyns Meadow on a regular basis and is being fed by the owner, as can be seen in the photograph. It is thought that the cat may be a stray so if anyone recognizes it please ring 824969 or email brian wimsett@hotmail.com.

VILLAGE HALL – Tai Chi classes are to resume in the village hall on Wednesday nights subject to the following of government guidelines. In addition, hirers must sign a form to confirm that they will follow the rules as set down in the Conditions of Use which the hall has just introduced because of the Covid 19 virus. These include the requirements that the hirer must sanitise all affected surfaces in the hall at the end of the session with the cleaning products provided and that the use of the kitchen is not allowed. Other groups of up to 6 people are permitted to book the hall subject to social distancing, following government guidelines and agreeing to the Conditions of Use. The hall has carried out a safety audit, put up the necessary signs and anti-bacterial wipes are provided at the entrance for hand use and cleaning purposes. The hall is run by a small group of unpaid volunteers and does not have the resources of private gyms but wants to help the local community as much as it can to get back to some semblance of normality.

TRACEY PRINCE, local private tutor and qualified teacher, is pleased to announce that her yearly Kent Test summer workshops will proceed this year as normal from the 23rd July. Every Monday and Thursday morning through the summer. Year 4s and 5s welcome. Please ring 07814354122.

CAN I JUST say a big thank you to Southern Equestrian Supplies for staying open during the Covid 19 lockdown. They also stock horse feed and dog food the one that is kept in stock is Chudleys working dog crunch and Chudleys classic. If anyone has chickens they also sell layers pellets, mixed corn and layers crumble. I would also like to wish all businesses in Alkham all the very best and urge all people in Alkham to support their local businesses during these hard times. **Debbie Griggs**

BECAUSE of these strange times I was not able to get round to saying goodbye to everyone. So here goes, to all the keep-fit ladies, the book club ladies and to all the good friends I have made over the years, thank you for your friendship, how lucky we are to live in Alkham! Best wishes **Shelley Jackson**.

FROM THE VICARAGE - I am very sorry to have learned that some people were offended by my article in the July Newsletter. It was certainly not my intention to offend anyone, and I apologise unreservedly for any distress that my writing may have caused. **Brian Williams**

THE MARQUIS reports that their terrace has been a godsend and the local support has been brilliant! They are going to put their recipe boxes and takeaway offering on hold for a few more weeks whilst they get to grips with the changes that have been made due to Covid 19 virus.

GARDEN TALK - Despite everyone being very busy in their garden, and some looking lovely at present, unfortunately we have not been able to meet this year so far - and will not be able to do so before September, at the earliest. However, home visits are already being rescheduled for next year, which gives us something to look forward to. **Janet Adamson**

CHURCH ROOF – St. Anthony's church needs about 6000 tiles replacing at a cost of £15,000. It is a Grade 1 listed building and needs to be preserved for future generations for religious or secular purposes. To try and raise the money 'buy a tile' was started at £5 per tile. To date 18 people have donated £615 and if anyone else would like to buy a tile please phone Susannah on 01304 822295, Den on 01304 824845 or Brian on 01304 824969.

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PIMLICO WAY – The byway which runs from South Alkham and across the top to Slip Lane is called Pimlico Way and at the point where the latter diverges to the right and a byway continues to Everden there is a brick foundation. Sue Lees records it as a pond where the water coming down the hill runs into it and Brenda Trundell, who lives in South Alkham, remembers it as a pond when she was a girl. However, KCC Heritage maps have marked it with a red dot which means an archaeological site and building. It goes on to say it is brick-built, roofless structure rectangular (approx. 2m x 2.5m) protruding about 50cm above the ground. Removal of surface scrub has revealed a concrete ramp with surface ridges leading into the structure. The ramp and location suggest the possibility that this is a Second World War gun emplacement, although the wall is thin compared to other examples. If anyone has any further information, please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

DATA BOX – In the year 2000 a Data Box was produced for Alkham to include details of Alkham and recollections; these are two of them: **Wally Sharp's** grandparents and father (bn 1898) lived on Great Everden Farm and when his granny wanted to go to Dover she had the long walk across fields and down the hill to Alkham where she rode in a Landau which carried 4 passengers, run by "Two-fisted Miller". Wally thought the price of the journey was 4 pence (about £1.30 today) and Two-fisted Miller also brought the Landau out on a Sunday to run pleasure trips. Wally's father attended school at Hawkinge where both boys and girls were taught to sew in those days. Later his father was to become a farm labourer and told this tale of ploughing time. He worked with the more senior ploughman, Mike Childs, who sent him downhill to The Carpenters Arms at South Alkham to buy a stone jar of beer for himself and wine for Mike. These were tied to the plough and they would take a swig each time they ended a furrow.

Gordon Preston – When Hawkinge aerodrome was being built before WWII, Gordon was 16 ½ year's old and he and, two brothers named Dougie and Harold Richards, went there looking for work. The foreman said "follow me" and gave them the work of fixing girders together for the hangers some 70ft in the air and they got over their fear of height in a few days. At that time a labourer was earning 9 ½d per hour and a skilled man 10 ½ d so when they were paid ½ d they thought they were rich – they discovered much later that they should have been paid far more as danger money.



This photo of the Alkham Cricket Club was taken in 1965. Gordon is in the middle of the back row and was also in the choir picture in last month's newsletter. Wally is front right in the photo, and both were great village characters.

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THE KENT DOWNS Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty invite you to participate in the public consultation on their Draft Management Plan 2020-2025. The plan will provide the strategy for conserving and enhancing this nationally protected landscape and provides a bold vision for the future and welcome you to take part in the consultation and help shape the plan before it is finalised and published. Highlights include building climate resilience, mitigating climate change, nature recovery and biodiversity enhancements, sustainable development, access and inclusivity, and supporting health and wellbeing for all. The Draft Plan was prepared before the Covid-19 pandemic and it will be important to consider how it should respond to the crisis. Please go to www.kentdowns.org.uk to take part in the survey. You can comment on the Alkham Facebook page as well.

OZ on CHOIRS – I was amused by last month's newsletter photograph of St Anthony's church choir in the 1930s, because it reminded me of similar scenes from the 1940s and 1950s. In 1947 I enrolled in the choir of St Andrew's Church, Deal, joined two years later by my younger brother. It was a useful introduction to choral singing, with eight boy trebles, and about the same number of adult voices. In 1950 the Royal Marines School of Music returned to Deal from the Isle of Man, where they had been evacuated since 1940. The choirmaster of the Royal Marine Depot Church of St Michael and all Angels, a retired Marine music professor, recruited boys, ladies, and male voices from all over Deal, including my brother and me, to supplement the Marine personnel in the choirstalls. It was a magnificent choir of some forty voices, singing at three services each Sunday, and at rehearsals on Wednesday and Friday evenings. Rehearsals were followed by free and optional use of Marine leisure facilities such as the swimming pool, boxing ring and gloves, table tennis, darts and snooker, all supervised by Marine instructors. That was a long time ago. Since then I've continued singing with other choirs in East Kent until March this year when the Covid-19 virus struck. From being a recipe for good health, especially in the frail and aged, singing in public as well as talking, shouting and playing brass instruments, are at the moment regarded as extremely dangerous to health. Some people dispute this, but I find the evidence to be sufficiently convincing to stay off the stage for as long as it takes to eliminate the virus. **Steve Osborn**

EARLY EARLY
The sun steeds are saddled
Their harness set shining
Backed into the chariot
Ready for driving
Their feet strike the flints
Breaking sparks in their rising
Scattering darkness
Impatient and dancing
Necks flexing out to the eastern horizon
And breaking the edge of the world without warning.

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Please see the article on page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2nd	Prayer 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Sunday 9th	United Parish Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Sunday 16th	United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		
Sunday 23rd	United Parish Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		
Sunday 30th	United Parish Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.01, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - Churches can reopen; so there I was, kneeling on the floor. *Training for ministry never covered this*, I told myself. Not that I needed training to use a tape measure to lay strips of masking tape on the floor of a church 2 metres apart. Being there on my hands and knees brought back a memory from my student days in South London, where I first became involved with the Church. The then Bishop of Southwark lived in the parish and would sometimes invite himself to take part in services at the church where I had become an altar server. Positioned centrally in the church was a plinth. On this stood a large altar upon which, at the appropriate point in the service, the bread and wine for communion would be placed. It was at that point on the day in question that the Bishop, flanked on either side by a server, approached the altar. Suddenly, there was a resounding crack. The wooden surround to the plinth gave way beneath his right foot and for a moment Bishop, robes and accompanying accoutrements seemed destined to land in an undignified heap in front of the altar. Miraculously, the servers intervened and somehow retrieved the situation. Then I remembered my own narrow escape at a funeral in a muddy, rain-soaked churchyard. While in full flow, I found myself sliding sideways down the bank that I had been standing on and surprised myself, not to mention the mourners, by somehow staying upright. I stood up and looked down at the floor. *Memories are strange things - what will people say about me in years to come?* I asked myself. *Do you remember Reverend Brian? How he used to stick masking tape everywhere….?* **Brian Williams**

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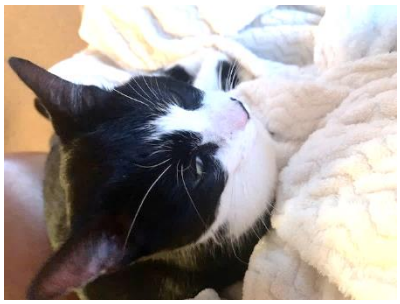
RESPONSES TO LAST MONTH'S NEWSLETTER ARTICLES



THE CAT which was featured as a possible stray is owned by a person in Alkham. It is a popular cat as it visits at least 5 other people around the village, one of whom emailed the photo; the look of contentment says it all.

FUND RAISING – Further to the article about St. Anthony's church needing 6000 tiles replacing at a cost of £15,000, Barrie Matcham has suggested that if there was a Garage Safari and a Boot Fair in Alkham then that would be a good way of raising some money. To find out if the proposals are viable please ring 01304 826100 or email tinamatcham@yahoo.co.uk.

CRICKET PHOTO - Barrie Matcham named all the people in the photo of the cricket team of which he was third left and John Richards emailed to say he was third from the right also in the back row. The others in the photo are from the back; Chris Dodds, Malcolm Norris, Bill Harvey – who provided the photo, Ron Prescott, Denis Jarvis, Stephen Matcham and Mike Goldfinch.

A DRONE has been flying above properties in Ewell Minnis and the police have been informed. If you have any information, please ring 101 to contact our PCSO.

KEEP FIT - Just before lockdown the Keep fit ladies had booked a celebratory lunch at the Marquis. We were going to celebrate 20 years of meeting every Wednesday and enjoying keeping fit, through music, exercises, dance and good company. I started keep fit in 2000 following a heart bypass, on the premise that if I had to do cardiac exercises then maybe others would like to join in, strictly for charity... They did and following a few hiccoughs while I had another bypass, stents and angioplasty, keep fit has gone from strength to strength. Over the last few years, we have donated approximately £500 a year to all manner of local and international charities just by enjoying ourselves. Sadly, Covid has temporarily brought us to a halt and I think we should wait until more certain times to resume, especially as I would find breathing and exercising in a mask just one dance step too far!! So, I wish you well and keep doing those routines in your own space. **Susannah Tapsell**

A SMALL ICE CREAM cornet and no chocolate toppings please. Happy to report that Jack, who lives in Alkham, got his wish.



FISH AND CHIPS – A mobile van will be coming to Alkham, as an experiment, and parking by village hall on Friday 25th September between 4.45pm and 6.00pm. The menu includes freshly cooked cod, haddock, scampi, sausage, burgers as well as veggie food and gluten free. Children are also catered for and please pre order (if possible) on 07955 926 835 by 4.00pm or by emailing hotchef1968@hotmail.com.

GREAT EVERDEN MANOR – This was originally Great Everden Farm, which is to the west of Alkham, and is now a special occasion holiday house costing £2000 a night or £10,000 per week. It is very well appointed and a lovely location but locals have complained to Dover District Council's Environmental Health about the loud noises, which could be heard in Ellinge, Chalksole and upper Slip Lane and elsewhere, caused by a recent booking which continued into the early hours of the morning.

GARDEN TALK - Our need to enjoy our gardens continues at this time, even if we cannot all meet together. Following the precedent set by Rosemary & Geoff Hillier in July, in September Catie & Harlan Webber would be pleased to see anyone wishing to view their colourful garden at 18, Newlyns Meadow any time between the 7th and 11th September. Prior booking essential - please contact Catie by text or phone: 07976 649726 or email:Catie@TheWebbers.org



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PIMLICO WAY – In last month's newsletter there was an article about a brick foundation on Pimlico way which was thought to be either a pond or a gun emplacement. Two ladies who were children in the 1930's thought that it was a pond but Martin Scherer who owns the land says that the site was originally a quarrymen's hut for flint used to build Pimlico and some South Alkham properties. In WW2 the authorities were concerned the Germans would land somewhere between Hythe and Dungeness and race up the coast to take Folkestone Harbour from behind and then up the Alkham Valley to take Dover from behind. They therefore dug out the site of the quarryman's hut to take a tank and erected earth retaining walls made of brick, hence the ramp with ridges; the hut was then put back on top. In addition, 'Dad's Army' dug foxholes one of which was thought to be a Saxon grave, but Martin was advised that it was a fox hole. Martin will restore these sites and erect information boards to tell the history of Pimlico for the public to see if funding becomes available…

THE HISTORY – Just past the garden centre and almost opposite Meggett Lane is Pimlico Way which is about ¾ of a mile long and runs across the hill to Slip Lane. Roughly halfway along was the hamlet of Pimlico whose name originates from the colonisation of North America and an indigenous tribe called Pamlico. The land to the south of Buckingham Palace leading down to the river Thames was known as 'Five Fields', a market garden that supplied London with fresh food. This area is now known as Pimlico and its name came from a man called Ben Pimlico who in the 17th century owned several public houses in the area, one of which was called 'Olde Ben's Pimlico Tavern'. Ben Pimlico was born in the Dover area and the hamlet near Alkham was probably named after him. It consisted of two houses, which were last occupied in the 1950's and in the 1970's the council refused planning permission to restore them, so they were demolished. It is possible that Pimlico Way was used by pilgrims to walk from St. John's Commandery, just outside the parish, to St. Radigund's which is diametrically opposite on the other side of the valley.

The above information is from a 'Short History of Alkham' which includes photos of Pimlico. The book is A4 with photos on just about all the 52 pages and costs £2.50. If you would like a copy, please see contact details in the newsletter heading on the previous page.

SNAKES - The grass snake is non-venomous, over a metre long and is usually a grey-green colour with a black and yellow collar behind the head. Adders are not an aggressive species and rarely bite people unless disturbed, but any bites should be immediately checked at a hospital or vets. They are shorter but stockier than a grass snake and are usually grey-brown with a distinctive zig-zag pattern along the back. Slow worms are often mistaken for snakes but are a lizard and much smaller than adult snakes and have eyelids (unlike snakes) and a fatter, less forked tongue. **Kent Wildlife Trust** (edit)

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL says that solar panels are a good investment and are holding an auction on 6th October when the pre-vetted solar installers will bid for the work. Registration opens on 1st September and if you would like to take part go to www.solartogether.co.uk/dover and they will give you a personal recommendation from 26th October for you to decide. If you have any questions ring Solar Together for free on 0800 014 8721.

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SPOONER - It sometimes happens that individuals, by their actions, donate their surnames to the language as uncapitalized everyday words, as in 'sandwich', 'wellington' and 'boycott'. Another such word is 'spoonerism', defined by *Chambers Dictionary* as "a transposition of initial sounds of spoken words - eg 'shoving leopard' for 'loving shepherd'. From Rev W A Spooner…a noted perpetrator." William Archibald Spooner was, for over sixty continuous years, a member of New College, Oxford, first as a scholar, then Fellow, and, finally, Warden from 1903 to 1924. He was a tiny albino, with an unusually large head and pale blue eyes. William Hayter wrote that "All his life, Spooner looked like a white-haired baby. His appearance hardly changed." Spooner was, in his own words, never more than "a moderately useful man" and, arguably, would have remained unnoticed save for the spoonerisms. Many of these, such as 'tasted a whole worm', 'hissed my mystery lectures', and 'half-warmed fish', are now regarded as apocryphal, invented by undergraduates and colleagues to tease their beloved 'Spoo', although he did once admit to announcing a hymn as 'Kinquering Kongs'. Of more lasting interest are the well-documented examples of Spooner's transpositions of ideas. After a puzzling sermon, he remounted the pulpit to say, "In the sermon I have just preached, whenever I said Aristotle, I meant St Paul." Eleanor Jourdain recalled that once, at dinner, Spooner upset a salt-cellar and then dripped claret on the salt "until he had produced the purple mound which would have been the end-product if he had spilled claret…and had then cast a heap of salt on the pool to absorb it." Spooner died peacefully in 1930. For epitaph, we need only his words, comparing his misattributions with those of Homer and Shakespeare: "I err in very good company." **Steve Osborn**

Gail Swainston lives in Ewell Minnis and like Steve Osborn is a fan of poetry.

Your body's lean
Still eyes serene
Who knows what nightmares
you have seen?
Welcome to your dream.
Your chains are freed
You must succeed
You have a family to feed
And a life to lead.
But can you leave that horror
Endless squalor
Far behind you now you follow
Your new tomorrow?
Your body's lean
Still eyes serene
Who knows what nightmares
you have seen?
Welcome to your dream.

Gail Swainston

PLANNING – If you wish to comment on the Government's planning proposals to streamline the process go to www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future, email planningforthefuture@communities.gov.uk or write to Planning for the Future Consultation, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government 3rd floor, Fry Building, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL is taking part in the NHT Public Satisfaction Survey on highways and transport services and six web-based surveys on specific issues: Highway maintenance; Accessibility; Walking and cycling; Public transport; Road safety; Tackling congestion. Go to kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/NTH2020_21/consultationHome

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CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6th	Prayer 6.30 pm		United Parish Eucharist 10.0am
Sunday 13th	Eucharist 9:30 am	Worship 11.00 am	
Sunday 20th	Worship11.00 am	Prayer 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 27th	United Parish Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.01, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - My first experience of the world of work was a summer vacation job as a bus conductor during my student days – a long time ago now. Bus conductors are now extinct. If you don't remember them, watching an episode of the 1970's TV sitcom *On The Buses,* which still appears on TV from time to time, will explain all. Watch out for Jack. I did what he does in the show, though without being a chain-smoking womaniser (honest!) or persecuting bus inspectors (at least, not deliberately). I remember one character who claimed to be one of the longest serving conductors with the company – at least at our depot. He might even have started before the war, returning to the job as others did after serving his country. With horn-rimmed glasses and trademark white cap, he was notoriously loud - and somewhat eccentric. He came up in conversation once when I was sitting with another crew in the canteen. *You know he was a Japanese POW*, someone said. As I led the service at the Battle of Britain Memorial marking the 75th anniversary of VJ Day, I suddenly remembered him. A mist descended, swirling around as we kept silence, remembering a generation now all but gone, the stories they told passing into history. My memories of youth are of college, friends, a vacation job that I enjoyed and dreams of a future that lay ahead. I suddenly realised that his must have been of jungle warfare, fallen comrades, the brutality of a POW camp and dreams of home. I led the prayers, and then we committed ourselves to work for peace and for the relief of want and suffering. I hope that perhaps he might have liked that… **Brian Williams**

THE SALT BIN outside the lychgate to the church is being used as a bin for dog pooh bags. If anyone is using it for that purpose, please stop as a local will have to clear the bin. This also applies to the beer cans and other detritus left there.

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WEBS www.alkham.org & www.alkhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk

To contact the Parish Clerk or Councillors email clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Brian Wimsett
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No. 321 October 2020

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FLINTS – Bev Hubbard of Greenwood Manor, Slip Lane, recently had the first MOT on his car and all 4 tyres, which were visibly in good condition, were found to have cuts to the tread which on 3 of them went through to the cords making them illegal. The Volvo Dealership confirmed that the cuts were more than likely have been made by flints. The flints mainly come from Pimlico Way at its eastern end where it slopes down to Slip Lane and water erosion and use by trail bike users has caused the surface to break up so much that after any rainfall flints are washed onto the lane. Flints also arise from the erosion of the lane's banks, probably caused by large vehicles, and at least 8 other people who use Slip Lane have had 14 tyres replaced because of flints. If anybody else has suffered punctures or cuts to their tyres please email Bev on bevh@btinternet.com to help him understand the size of the problem and the impact the damage and costs incurred has had on residents and users of the lane, for his discussions with Kent County Council.

FLINTS – Further to the above article Bev has been in contact with Kent Rights of Way manager regarding the matter who acknowledges there is a problem but with a tight budget cannot promise that he can resolve the situation. He did arrange for Kent Highways to clean the lane with a JCB using the bucket to scrape and clear the surface of Slip Lane. This is to be applauded but the only long-term solution is to pave the slope and hopefully funds will be found.

NEW RESIDENTS IN DRELLINGORE - We have recently been fortunate enough to be able to take ownership of the barns which were once part of Little Drellingore Farm (just past the pumping station on the valley road). We're excited to be creating an environmentally and ecologically friendly family home for our two daughters (aged 11 and 7). Although we live a little further down the M20 in Ashford, as newcomers to Alkham we're keen to learn as much as we can about the site, the area and the community, and also hope to use local materials and expertise once work commences. If you have any information about the history of the site, the ecology of the area, or know someone with vernacular building skills, we'd love to hear from you via family@drellingorebarns.com. One thing we're especially keen to find out about is the natural, pre-agricultural plant life. Here's hoping that we get to know you soon! **Jeanette and Daniel**

ROAD CLOSURE – Little Everden Road will be closed between the 14th September and 11th October. This is part of the road which goes from the top of Slip Lane to Hawkinge and markings on the road indicate it is a new soakaway where the road floods. The diversion is via Lockeringe Lane.

VALLEY VEG BOX has been successfully operating during lockdown and continues to provide quality local fruit and vegetables in your area, direct from our Kentish farmers and growers. We supply seasonal produce happily doing our bit in helping to keep Britain farming. Please check our website for details on collection and delivery: www.valleyvegbox.com. We are soon to be opening a farm shop in the Alkham Valley Garden Centre which will make a trip more worthwhile; whether you are shopping for plants, having lunch or coffee with friends, looking for that special gift or buying your essential horsey gear and feed from Southern Equestrian Supplies, you will now be able to incorporate your weekly produce shop! We will update you on our progress via our website and we so look forward to hearing from you and seeing you – SOON!' (one-off free article)

FOR SALE - French dresser with open shelves, cupboards and drawers and original fixtures. Painted but left unwaxed so easily changed to preferred choice. Length 188cm, Height 183cm, Depth 51cm, bargain at £200 and buyer collects. Also for sale, collection of Blue and White China - Copeland, Spode etc. **Irene 01304 824845**

DOGS – Please will people who walk their dogs along the bottom of Short Lane clean up after the dogs have fouled. Part of the road is owned by the householders and one owner encountered 5 piles of dog poo while strimming.

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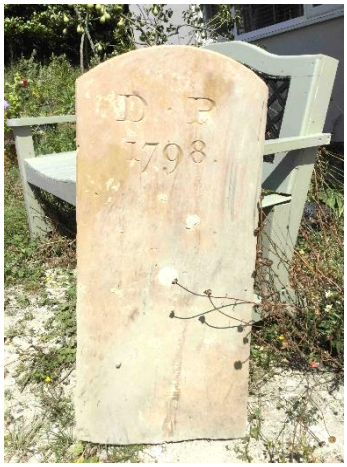

A MARKER POST was unearthed in the garden of Catherine Cottages, opposite Glebelands, with the inscription DP and dated 1798. It is an old parish boundary marker, presumably Dover Parish, and in the past the 'beating of the bounds' took place by progressing round the parish and beating each boundary marker. It was important to define the boundary to prevent encroachment by neighbouring parishes and because the parish was responsible for the poor and other matters.

SPEEDWATCH – Kent police, who are legally responsible for health and safety, will not allow Speedwatch to take place in Alkham because of the Covid 19 virus. The reason for this is that most of the group carrying out the watch are over 70 and considered to be in an extremely vulnerable category should a passing driver stop and confront them. However, if younger and fit people joined the group it may be allowed. To report speeding or any topic related to Alkham Valley traffic at present e-mail alkham.hgvincident@btinternet.com.

LORRY WATCH - If you would like to report something about lorries the e-mail address is as above. **Glyn Jones**

AT PRESENT there are only 6 registered members in the Speedwatch and Lorrywatch group so a roadside observation team cannot be fielded. If anyone is interested in helping please email glynmarine1 @btinternet.com. **Glyn Jones**

PIMLICO – Martin Scherer has given the approval for one person to use a metal detector on his land adjacent to Pimlico Way, but it appears there are other detectorists doing the same. Martin is concerned that historical artefacts will be removed without his knowledge so if anyone sees a detectorist on the land please let him know by emailing Martin@ABACAN-Consultants.net. If you have a camera, please take a photo and let Martin know.



NOSTALGIA - In the past when driving down from the north you knew that you were in Kent when the lovely burgundy and cream buses came into view. Brian Williams, our vicar, wrote about being a bus conductor and John Vince has contacted to say that he too was a bus conductor in his university vacations based at Folkestone bus garage and thoroughly enjoyed it. With the advent of large companies with bland paintwork and driver only buses this is a thing of the past as are other holiday jobs such as working at Brocks Fireworks in the 1960's and filling wooden crates to be sent to Kampala for the Ugandan independence celebrations. There was a possibility of being blown up doing the latter and if you have similar nostalgic memories, please let me know. **editor**

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OZ has sent a poem this month and the events occurred in May 2011 on a Russian cruise ship and he wrote the poem in March 2017.

YAROSLAVL

A noisy night on the Nikolay Chernyevsky,
Fuelled by vodka, stories and sweet songs.
Deep sleep and silence followed, as we
Scraped through the last lime-encrusted lock before Moscow.

Dawn rose with velvet fog-swirl
Over guerrilla-green fields,
We tumbled tousled and yawning into Yaroslavl,
Babylon-like city of grey-cemented walls,
Entwined with icon-lined Byzantine monasteries,
And a myriad of churches with green and gold onion roofs.

As I crossed the town square in late afternoon
A sudden fierce wind corkscrewed the road-dust into the air
And all the church bells jangled wildly for 5pm prayer.
My brain exploded for a moment, and then suddenly,
mysteriously, all was well.
Steve Osborn.

Rob Lees, who was not a fan of the Alkham Cycle club, wrote an amusing story about his cycle trip to France

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.

MASQUERADE

In the street when we meet
Each other smile and greet
I wear my mask.
With leisure a pleasure
The friends that I treasure
I wear my mask.
When I pop to the shop
Precious things I forgot
I wear my mask.
Is it fear? Blink a tear
You must not come too near
I wear my mask.
See the eyes no disguise
You tell me no more lies
But I wear my mask.

Gail Swainston

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Other bookings are possible – please contact as above.

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4th	Prayer 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Sunday 11th	Eucharist 9:30 am	Worship 11.00 am	
Sunday 18th	United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am *followed by* ***Annual Church Meeting (APCM)***		
Sunday 25th	United Parish Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.01, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
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Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - Yes, it's true! Since last month, Yours Truly has been a victim of crime! For the first time ever, the plum tree in the Vicarage garden had surprised us by producing a decent amount of fruit. We returned home one afternoon to find it stripped - not a single plum left, nothing even lying on the grass. Admittedly, it was hardly the Crime of the Century - people suffer far worse, as indeed we have ourselves in the past - but there was still the sense of disbelief, violation, sadness and uneasiness at the thought of someone having been there uninvited. Harvest, when we give thanks for God's goodness to us, is approaching. It would be wrong to be selfish over our small part of it – after all, in Ancient Israel it was the custom, when the harvest was gathered in, to leaving some of it for the those who really needed it. Had someone called at the door and asked if they could have had a handful of plums, the answer would have been yes. But we hadn't got as far as gathering in our harvest, and nothing was left for us or anyone else, whether they needed it or not. When I was teaching, I met plenty of children for whom a handful of plums would have been a rare treat. I would like to think that our plums went to someone like that. Of course, it may be that someone, somewhere, is conscious of what the Prayer Book calls 'misdoings.' They might even be 'heartily sorry' and find the remembrance of their misdoings 'grievous' and the 'burden of them intolerable'. In which case, they could always try easing their conscience with a donation towards the St Mary's Lychgate Appeal… **Brian Williams**

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No. 322 November 2020

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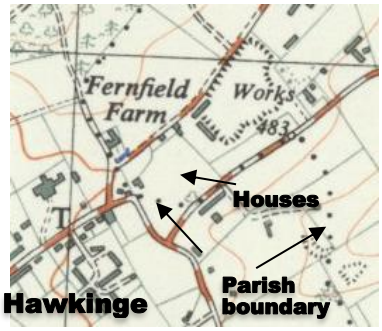
DOG FOULING – Further to the article in last month's newsletter about dog fouling an email was received to say there has been an increase in dog poo on the green and on the football pitch area. Most of this has been in the bottom corner near the footbridge but some was found near the playground, which is a danger to children from roundworm eggs which causes blindness in over 100 cases. It is also illegal not to clear up after a dog. The Parish Council has been asked if they would contact DDC to see whether a bin could be installed in Alkham.

TEA & A CHAT – Pleased to report that Tea & a Chat will start again on the last Thursday of each month at 2pm the first being October 29th. To comply with Covid rules please bring your own tea and biscuits and maintain the social distancing.

HOUSES – The parish of Alkham extends to the outskirts of Hawkinge and a piece of land adjacent to Hawkinge and opposite Fernfield Farm has outline planning consent for houses. It is under offer and when the houses are built the majority will be in Alkham parish.



CHILTON FARMYARD B&B OPEN! - After 20 years as tenant dairy farmers in Winchester, Susannah and Keith Mannerings moved to Chilton Farm 3 years ago. To make the small farm viable, a degree of diversification was needed. Following a lot of planning and hard work, four renovated redundant farm buildings are now opening as Chilton Farmyard B&B. This small group of charming flint buildings can cater for up to 11 people, ideal for families or friends to get away and explore this lovely part of Kent. There is also a spacious breakfast room which they hope will be used for small groups for 'out of town' meetings. "This has been a huge ambition of ours and it's hard to believe we have got to the point of welcoming guests to Chilton Farm. We would be only too happy to show any interested persons round." www.chiltonfarmyardbandb.co.uk - 01304 268621.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER - All being well, assuming no further lockdowns, there will be a Remembrance service at Alkham Church, at 10.30 followed by remembering the fallen from Alkham and two minutes silence at the war memorial at 11.00. There will be social distancing in both the church and churchyard, and masks should be worn. **Rachel Fountain**

MOBILE FISH & CHIPS - Just thought that we would pen a few words as four happy customers in Short Lane who have just had a lovely Friday night fish supper from the fish and chip van. The food was excellent - our three large haddocks and a large rock were delicious, and it was all ready and waiting at the time agreed. We will definitely be going back, and thoroughly recommend it to anyone who missed out. **Georgina Wald**

MOBILE FISH & CHIPS will be back on Friday 30th October at the village hall car park from 4.45pm to 6.15pm and will return on the last Friday of each month, except for December, at this time. The menu includes freshly cooked cod, haddock, scampi, sausage, burgers as well as veggie food and gluten free. Children are also catered for and please pre-order (if possible) on 07955 926 835 by 4.00pm or by emailing hotchef1968@hotmail.com.

POPPY APPEAL 2020 - Sadly, there will be no house-to-house Poppy collections this year. These are extraordinary times and we have had to adjust to doing things differently. There will still be Poppies available at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre and Tea Rooms, and in Southern Equestrian Supplies. They will also be at the Marquis of Granby and the Alkhamhurst Kennels. So do pop along to get your poppies from them. The larger out of town stores will also have manned Poppy collection tables. If you would like to find out more about how the British Legion are fundraising this year, or if you would like to make a donation, please go to britishlegion.org.uk. **Rachel Fountain**

CHALK - If anybody wants some chalk to use for a driveway, hard standing or yard, any amount large or small can be collected. Call Mike 07905 206702.

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HARVEST FESTIVAL - Despite coronavirus hampering gatherings, we put together a display for the Church at the last minute. We were given lots of flowers, greenery, and many very handsome bunches of grapes by Janet Adamson together with a bottle of homemade wine. Jo Walker brought lovely hops to drape over the font and Mark and Liza Loveday supplied beautiful hydrangeas. Martin Scherer sacrificed an entire corn stalk as well as some beautiful flowers. Debbie Saunders and her lovely granddaughter Amy Bennet made a Harvest Loaf with 3 decorative mice: kudos and many thanks to Debbie and Amy. Mairi and Glynn Jones supplied a very handsome monster pumpkin, Avi Munn magicked up 3 truly stunning flower and seed head displays, and Brenda Smith brought a lovely lantern and grass stalks. Brenda, Jo Walker and I spent a lot of time decorating the porch, Font and Alter. The Church was a little eerie and silent late Thursday as I fumbled together a pedestal arrangement of vegetables and fruit. I used skewers found neglected at the back of the kitchen drawer. Fortunately, Den Barnard was an angel and cleaned up after us all. On Sunday 11th morning, as we few trickled in to sign our track and trace register, the Church gleamed with polish and looked loved and lovely. Brian Williams delivered a thoughtful sermon about cheerful giving. Indeed, many Alkham residents cheerfully gave of their time and produce. We paraded out to the organ playing "An English Country Garden" in great delight. I only wish more of you could have joined in as I doubt my photos do it justice. With luck we will still be able to observe Remembrance Day and then Advent. Until then, stay safe. Regards **Catie Webber**

STORMY WEATHER - The persistent rain and strong winds we have been experiencing since the latter part of September have caused considerable damage in Ewell Minnis. By the morning of Friday 2nd October there was no BT telephone, no Wifi, and no power, as a telegraph pole on Wolverton Hill had snapped in half, bringing down all the lines together. The lines had already been supporting the weight of fallen branches from one side of the road. A tree that crashed down from the Neck Wood side was the final straw! Another pole further up the hill was split by the force of the impact, so that two poles have had to be replaced, even though they were only about 11 years old. The Hill was closed while all this work was carried out, and now you cannot really appreciate the extent of the chaos, but walkers will be able to identify the new poles by their smell! **Gail Swainston**

NEWSLETTER FINANCES – For the year September 2019 to August 2020 the cost of printing 320 newsletter per month was about £270, posting to 22 people was £158 and hosting alkham.org website £36 giving a total of £464. The revenue from adverts was £454.

ADDERS – An article in the Daily Telegraph said that adders could become extinct as they are being killed by pheasants. Most of the pheasants are a result of the breeding for shooting and those that are not shot escape to the countryside. There is a judicial review being carried out into game bird shooting and RSPB is going to end its neutrality, but gamekeepers say breeding keeps rare animals alive.

LASHED BY G - I've recently moved to Ewell Minnis and started a business from home called Lashed By G. I offer a range of semi-permanent eyelash extensions starting from just £20 and an at home salon experience if preferred! Please see my page on Facebook or Instagram or send me a message on 07860172817. **Georgia**

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BUS – In last month's newsletter there was a photo of a bus. John Vince emailed to say that it was a Dennis Lancet single decker that used to ply through the Alkham Valley on route 91 until the late 1950's. Before the bus garage was built the buses parked in Bouverie Square as shown above.

APOSTROPHES – Recently I adjudicated for a friend over the placing of an apostrophe in the title of a new organization, and became fascinated by the origins of this useful but exasperating mark. Most European, especially Latin-based, languages have used apostrophes to denote omissions, as in 'wish'd' for 'wished'. In the 17th century, English printers began to use the apostrophe before an 's' in words denoting ownership, such as 'dog's dinner' for 'dinner belonging to the dog'. This derived from the Old English syllable '-es' that was added to words to denote possession. However, a word like 'doges' looks strange on the page, so printers used the apostrophe to omit the 'e', giving the familiar 'dog's dinner'. This did not solve all the problems, and by the 18th century printers were distinguishing between the dinner of one dog and the dinners of many dogs by placing the apostrophe after the plural, as in 'dogs' dinners.' It was now possible to cause the maximum confusion, between 'dog's dinner', 'dog's dinners', 'dogs' dinner' and 'dogs' dinners.' Thus was born the phrase 'greengrocer's (or greengrocers') apostrophe', from the incorrect forming of plurals, such as onion's and apple's. It's all rather unfair to greengrocers, when other shops often advertise "Ice Cream's", "Tea's" and even "Xma's Tree's". Lynne Truss, in her hilarious book on punctuation, *Eats, Shoots & Leaves*, points out also that greengrocers have a particularly hard time deciding how to describe more than one thing ending in a vowel, giving rise incorrectly to "mango's" and "tomato's". She adds the story of a Somerset market gardener unfortunately named Carrott, noting that "the sign said "Carrott's" at the top but then listed other vegetables and fruits spelled and punctuated perfectly correctly." That's the apostrophe for you – tricky but capable of great precision.

Steve Osborn

When I saw her
Leap into his arms
I remembered what I had
forgotten.
When I saw his
Feet matching her steps
I remembered what I had
forgotten.
When I saw two
Meet becoming one
I remembered what I had
forgotten.
When I saw life
Beat in front of me
I remembered what I had
forgotten. And who I used to be.

Gail Swainston who recently went to a ballet at Rye.

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Tai Chi and Pilates have restarted
Other bookings are possible – please contact as above.

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1st	Praise 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Sunday 8th Remembrance	10.30 am	Eucharist 9.30 am 10.30 am	10.30 am
Sunday 15th	Eucharist 9:30 am	Worship 11.00 am	
Sunday 22nd	Worship 11.00 am	Prayer 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 29th	United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.01, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - My mother had two brothers. Both served in the Forces during the war; afterwards, the family relocated from London to Ramsgate. But the younger of the two took a job at a hotel in the Lake District, met and married my aunt, and settled at the opposite end of England to the rest of the family. Each summer they would visit, and for my sister and I there would be outings and trips to the beach with our cousins. Our uncle was the best kind of uncle – kind, funny, and full of stories about his adventures as a lorry driver, delivering flour in and around Cumbria. Sadly, those adventures ended when he became ill. He lived just long enough to see his first granddaughter. By then I had passed my driving test. The annual visits continued, now usually in the opposite direction. However, my aunt travelled to Kent when I married, and for my ordination – she liked the idea of her nephew being a priest. But as the years passed, age and the onset of ill health took their toll. It was during one of our visits that the inevitable conversation took place: yes, I would assist at her funeral when the time came. Following her ninetieth birthday infirmity confined her first to her flat and then to her bed. Then came the pandemic and all that it has carried with it and finally, last month. There could be no funeral service as such; I wouldn't be able to keep my promise. On All Saints Sunday, the first Sunday of November, I will join with others in giving thanks for those who rejoice with us, but on another shore and in a greater light. Then I shall light a candle, and think of her… **Brian Williams**

PLEASED to report that as of the beginning of October Sue Lees is physically very well and living in Pelham House.

THE NEW soakaway in Little Everden road, which was scheduled to finish on the 11th October, is still being constructed and there is still a fair amount of work to do.

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W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
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THE CAR PARK to the village hall was regularly run over by passing vehicles with the result that large puddles formed. Road planings have been rolled into the puddles and half barrels put on top.

THE PARISH COUNCIL is hoping to set up a register of vulnerable people in our community. If you would like to be on that register or if you need assistance, please email: alkham.assist@outlook.com. We will reply as soon as we can and will direct you to organisations who may be able to assist you during the Covid pandemic. The Parish Council would also like to collect a register of professionals or ex-professionals in the village who could be called on in an emergency. So, if you are, or were, a doctor, nurse, registered first aider, paramedic, police or fire officer please send your details to alkham.assist@outlook.com.

CALL FOR A CHAT with Ruth - If you are on your own or feeling isolated and would like a chat Councillor Ruth Marczin-Bundy is happy to hear from you on 07906 213716. Please note that this is not relating to parish council matters or medical concerns, but Ruth would like to offer a friendly conversation with anyone who would like to chat.

MARQUIS - With another lockdown coming in to play for a month, the Marquis of Granby is having to close its doors once again. Where the support has been overwhelming since re-opening in July, it is our time to give back and support our community in Alkham and assist where we can by offering free "school meals" and help to feed the over 70s and vulnerable throughout the national lockdown who are unable to leave their homes within the village. In order for us to be able to offer this, we ask that you call or email manager@marquisofgranby.co.uk with an address and information stating if this is a "school meal" or for an over 70s individual(s). We will be delivering the food for the elderly and vulnerable on a Friday afternoon and ask that one parent accompanies their children on a Friday at the time agreed by both parties for you to pick up your meal. **Hugh Thompson**

CLAGGY WALKING - muddy shoes? If so, there is an excellent shoe scraper by the church porch, preferable and more efficient than the bar of the wooden bench along the footpath to the open fields and the benches in the lychgate. **Jo Walker**





CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS - The lights on the village Christmas tree will be switched on early in December and unfortunately, we won't be having our usual gathering and party - we'll make up for it next year! As always thanks to all our supporters including Tracey Prince, Will and Nadine and all the Marquis of Granby staff, Ken Spencer, Brian Wimsett and Leigh Taylor. **Den Barnard**



CHRISTMAS CRIB SCENE
We probably won't have the usual delightful crib service at St Anthony's, so let's try a socially distanced one. From December 1st we will organise a cork board in the open air porch of St Anthony's Alkham for children to come and pin up their cut out figures of drawings from crib scenes and they can rearrange the crib scene to their liking. We are sure there are budding artists who can knock up great sheep, donkeys, Joseph, Mary, the star, wisemen etc. Remember baby Jesus doesn't arrive until Christmas morning and remember to treat other people's prior drawings with respect when moving them around. Please also observe the usual social distancing rules and stay safe. For up to date details about Christmas please go to our Facebook page www.facebook.com/BeneficeofACH.
Looking forward to seeing great Christmas spirit despite COVID. **Catie Webber & Reverend Brian Williams**

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WALL – A vehicle, probably a lorry which didn't stop, hit the flint wall to Halton Court at the bottom of Slip Lane causing the wall to collapse and block one side of the road. The intention is to rebuild the wall as it was originally.

BIN – The bins owned by the village hall were stored outside with a piece of wood across and someone removed the bar and stole the recycling bin. A more secure bin store has been made and a new bin ordered.

PIMLICO WAY and the connection to Everden have been closed to 4 wheeled vehicles for 6 months from the 9th November.

THE SOAKAWAY on Little Everden road has been completed with gullies to take the water and appears to be working.

CONSERVATION AREA - If you want to cut down, top or lop trees in a conservation area you must notify your local planning authority six weeks before work begins; the authority will then consider whether a TPO is necessary. If you want to demolish your building, you will need Planning Permission and Permitted Development rights are different. This means you need to make planning applications for some forms of development such as two-storey extensions and dormer windows. See www.alkhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk for details.

TYRE DAMAGE - Further to the article requesting information from local residents to be sent to me regarding damage caused to their tyres from flints on Slip Lane, I can report that 9 residents, including myself, have within the past 12 months had to replace 22 tyres at a cost of some £3,500. This number is likely to increase as drivers will not realise that they have any tyre damage until they either have a puncture or fail their MOT due to deep flint cuts in the treads. A further 5 residents have informed me that in the past two years they have had to replace 6 tyres with a total cost of £900 which means that within the past two years 14 Alkham residents have had 28 tyres replaced due to cuts from flints on Slip lane with a total cost of £4,400, which is totally unacceptable These flints have been deposited on the lane from the damaged surface on the lower part of byway ER25 due to lack of regular maintenance by Kent County Council Public Rights of Way, who blame lack of funds. Residents of Slip lane who have suffered the most tyre damage and costs have canvassed Kent PROW regularly but regrettably so far without success. Public safety concern for all drivers that use Slip Lane should be that they could be driving with damaged tyres and that a tyre could "blow" at any time possibly resulting in a major accident and regrettably, even a fatality. The postman whose round is the top part of Slip Lane down as far as Malmains Manor, has been questioned more than once by his bosses within the past year about the number of punctures that his vehicle has suffered and residents are now concerned about the financial justification of this round and the possibility of our postal delivery service being curtailed due to the damage caused to Post Office vehicles using Slip Lane. **Bev Hubbard**

TEMPLE EWELL Primary School Reception 2021 - If you are looking for an outstanding school for your child please call the school on 01304 822665 and they can send you a virtual tour. In 2017 Ofsted said that the pupils were happy, safe and exceptionally well cared for.

TAI CHI – Anna Dashwood runs a Tai Chi class in Alkham village hall on Wednesday evening from 6pm to 7pm and she would like more members. For details please see www.pfstaichi.com or phone 01304 205405, 7736849194 or e-mail anna@pfstaichi.com.

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BOTANY LABOTOMY

On an outing to a botanical garden with a friend it struck us that the names of the plants were similar to those of diseases and this piece of nonsense was my friend's result:

Do you suffer from Plumbago?
Is your back a little sore?
Or perhaps it's Pyracanthus
That you caught in Singapore?
You've a nasty little Hosta,
Which I think I'll have to lance,
And I notice your Spirea
Has been leading you a dance!
Are you getting quite forgetful?
Is Nemesia the cause?
Does your Antirrhinum pain you
When you're walking out of doors?
You've had Skimmia Rubella,
I can see that by your nose,
And Cornus Capitosa
Has played havoc with your toes.
How is your Viburnum Tinus?
Have you lost your sense of smell?
Use a Syringa Reflexa,
That should help to make it well.
I'm afraid your Macrocarpus
Isn't really up to scratch,
And DO avoid Nigella
It's a nasty thing to catch.
Still, I think you're doing nicely,
Watch that Quercus in your knees.
Take your Berberis twice nightly.
Cheerio! Next patient please.

Jackie Grebby

HEROES – An email was received regarding Edwin Alberic Musk who has a Commonwealth War Grave in St. Anthony's churchyard. He was a leading signalman in WWII and died aged 45 on the 27th January 1946. He is not listed in the Alkham Heroes page on the alkham.org web site and therefore assume that he died of injuries sustained during the war. If anybody has further details, please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

OZ on MAYHEW - At school in the 50's, my favourite reading matter in the library was the many bound volumes of Punch from the 19th century and onwards. *Punch* was a satirical magazine, started in 1841 by Henry Mayhew and Mark Lemon. Henry was born in London in 1812 to Joshua Mayhew, a wealthy solicitor, and grew up in a huge family of sixteen other siblings. While still at Westminster School, Mayhew ran away to sea, working as a midshipman for the East India Company. After his return, he worked with his father as a solicitor, and then as a dramatist and journalist. During this time, he wrote many plays, some very successful, and books on science, religion, education and travel. Of special mention are the books on Germany, where he lived briefly in 1865. In 1846, as one of the founders of *Punch,* Mayhew fell out with others and left abruptly. By 1849, Mayhew had begun to publish *London Labour and the London Poor,* an ambitious survey in 82 monthly instalments, the last issued in 1851. By 1856 Mayhew started another new venture to publish *The Great World of London* in monthly sections, 9 of which were brought together in a volume at the end of the year. He then incorporated this with *The Criminal Prisons of London* to form *The Criminal Prisons of London and Scenes of Prison Life (1862),* which he considered to be the most important work of social criticism he had written. In that book, by revealing the starvation, disease and daily threat of transportation, in both the poor and prison occupants, his plain but harrowing descriptions, often in the words of those he spoke with, did much to stir the public conscience towards reform. Mayhew died on 25th. July 1887. **(Steve Osborn and Gillian Heywood)**

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CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham

I have not produced a schedule of services for December, as at the moment it remains to be seen whether the current restrictions will have eased by then. I will do my best to ensure that up-to-date information is available via our website, Facebook page, and on church noticeboards. **Brian Williams**

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.01, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - As December approaches, Advent Calendars and chocolate are the first things that come to mind for many. Beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, Advent is a time of reflection and spiritual preparation for Christians. In church, the readings recall God's promises spoken by the prophets; John the Baptist at the river, warning the crowds to prepare for the coming of one who is greater than he is; and Mary accepting God's invitation to be the mother of Jesus. It is intended to be a solemn time, and accordingly on the first Sunday of Advent the church is bereft of flowers, the hangings are a sombre purple, the winter gloom pierced only by the first candle on the Advent Ring. However, this time of watching and waiting – just over three short weeks -tends to get cut short. Week One, and the rest of the world is already busily shopping, partying, and wishing everyone a Happy Christmas. Week Two, and a Christmas tree has replaced the church flowers. Week Three, and pleas that it's still too early to sing carols risk being met with accusations of unseasonal grumpiness. Week Four, and the place is festooned with cards, bottles, toffees, and biscuits from those who have already set off to spend Christmas with family elsewhere. That, of course, is what usually happens. As I write, Lockdown 2 is under way, and I'm meeting enquiries about Christmas services this year with more of a sense of hope than expectation - but then I remember that I succeeded in celebrating Easter by lighting the Paschal Candle at the Easter Garden on the Vicarage drive. Maybe the solemnity of Advent will seem longer than usual this year – but Christmas will happen! A Happy Christmas, and a Peaceful New Year.



Brian Williams

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MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669
KCC Geoffrey Lymer 07960490929
DDC Jamie Rose 07802 428353
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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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No. 324 January 2021

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LOCAL PLAN - Dover District Council is to consult with residents, community groups, local businesses, and key stakeholders early in the New Year on the first draft of its new Local Plan. This will start on the 20th January 2021 and it is likely that some of the proposals will affect Alkham and details of how to access the plan will be given in a later edition. On page 2 of this newsletter there are articles from Geoff Lymer regarding new housing at Whitfield plus a lorry park which could also have a significant effect on Alkham.

THE PARISH COUNCIL is hoping to set up a register of vulnerable people in our community. If you would like to be on that register or if you need assistance, please email: alkham.assist@outlook.com. We will reply as soon as we can and will direct you to organisations who may be able to assist you during the Covid pandemic. The Parish Council would also like to collect a register of professionals or ex-professionals in the village who could be called on in an emergency. So, if you are, or were, a doctor, nurse, registered first aider, paramedic, police or fire officer please send your details to alkham.assist@outlook.com ...

REPORT a problem on a road or pavement please go to www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem**.** You can report non-urgent issues online including: streetlight faults; potholes; drainage; traffic signal faults; overgrown vegetation (including hedges and grass). Please use this service as any problems reported are automatically logged for the attention of the Highways Steward. You will be given an incident number and you can log in again to see the progress.

LOST FOOTPATHS REGISTRATION 2026 DEADLINE - Do you know of any lost Public Rights of Way (PROWs) in the parish? Any that are not identified, mapped and application made for legal recognition before 1st January 2026 will be lost forever. If you know of any paths that are lost please report them to the clerk, clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk or me at antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk. All recognised PROWs can be seen on the copy of the definitive map noticeboard opposite the village hall. The Ramblers are the leading group running this campaign - for more information go to ramblers.org.uk - don't lose your way - find out more. **Anthony Barrier**

CHICKENS were culled at a farm in Deal because of bird flu and the chief vets in Britain have decreed that all hens, turkeys and other captive birds will have to be kept indoors from the 14th December to prevent the spread of the bird flu.



ST. ANTHONY'S ALKHAM - A service will be held on Christmas Eve at 10.00 pm and anyone wishing to attend will need to wear a face covering and associate only with members of their own households or 'Christmas bubbles'.

CHRISTMAS ON THE MINNIS - Once again, David Beaney has gladdened the hearts of the residents of Ewell Minnis by providing and setting up a magnificent Christmas tree at the top of Wolverton Hill. Next to the red telephone box and covered in twinkling lights it is bringing seasonal cheer to us all at this very strange Christmas time. Well done! **Gail Swainston**

FISH AND CHIPS - The mobile fish and chip van has proved so popular that they are changing days and giving us more time when visiting Alkham. The van will park on the village hall car park between 4.45pm and 6.45pm on Saturday 16th January and then monthly; for these dates, please ask the operators. Please pre order (if possible) on 07955 926 835 by 4.00pm or by emailing hotchef1968@hotmail.com.

NHS Gift - Conditions at local A&E's are strapped. The best Christmas gift you'll give this year is not catching Covid. If you can, stay home. Don't travel. Don't extend your bubble. Don't catch Covid. Don't overrun the NHS. I know it's hard. But fighting Covid is harder. Happy Christmas and a better New Year. Regards **Catie Webber**

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The articles below are an edit from an email from our Kent County Councillor, Geoffrey Lymer.

The Government is overhauling its planning algorithm used to determine where a swathe of new homes will be built across England and hopefully this will mean building more houses on brownfield urban sites in the Midlands and the North and lead DDC to have a rethink regarding their unrealistic strategy of intending to build thousands of new houses in Whitfield when the surrounding areas do not have the infrastructure or number of jobs to cater for such an increase in population. As a result, the government is giving Dover District Council £16 million to build a Dover Rapid Bus Transport System. The idea is to take shoppers and commuters from villages north of the A2 down to the rail station and shoppers to the shops quicker than they reckon could be done currently on a bus by saving up to 10 minutes on journey time. The Rapid Bus Scheme is to be put in place ready to accept the occupants of thousands of new houses expected to be built in Whitfield and the government is offering £16 million for the projected £40 million to build and that £24 million could be put to better use improving the town centre.

A Customs Transit lorry park is projected to be built by the government at the rear of the B&Q site on the White Cliffs Enterprise park Whitfield. The lorry park will be roughly two and a half times larger than the entire current business park stretching from B&Q right to Whitfield roundabout. Natalie Elphicke the local MP states she wants to keep the roads around Dover clear as we transit from the EU but this lorry park is simply not going to do that with the result that main roads and rural lanes will become grid locked. You will be told that this will create 160 new jobs which is not accurate, for currently HM Customs operate a Custom Handling Import and Export Facility, employing a similar number of staff that will be closed. Our area will be damaged by these HGVs unless you can try to stop it now, by emailing the Under Transport Minister Rachel Maclean on rachel.maclean@dft.gov.uk, your local MP Natalie Elphicke on email address natalie.elphicke.mp@parliament.uk and the leader of Dover District Council Cllr Trevor Bartlett on Cllr-Trevor.Bartlett@DOVER.GOV.UK. I would be appreciative if you would be so kind as to copy me into your emails to ensure you receive replies to your objections. **Geoffrey Lymer**

CALL FOR A CHAT with Ruth - If you are on your own or feeling isolated and would like a chat Councillor Ruth Marczin-Bundy is happy to hear from you on 07906 213716. Please note that this is not relating to parish council matters or medical concerns but Ruth would like to offer a friendly conversation with anyone who would like to chat.

AIR AMBULANCE - Would you like one of our volunteer speakers to join you on your group or club's video call or meeting? If you are a member of a local group, club or society, then you can book a talk with us - free of charge. Our volunteer will talk about how we work, innovate and save lives. It promises to be an interesting and inspiring meeting for your members, whilst enabling us to raise vital awareness of our charity and hear how you and your members could get involved in supporting us. If you would like to hear more about us, then we would love to hear from you. Get in touch now to book a talk at a time and place that suits you. 01634 471 900 talks@aakss.org.uk

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THE VICTORIANS AND THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS

In an anonymous book published in 1871, the author advocated the use of flowers as superior to writing love letters because: "Written love-letters would often be inadequate to convey the idea of the feelings which are thus expressed through the medium of flowers. Thus orange-blossoms signify hope; marigolds, despair; roses, beauty." If a young man decided that he wanted to pursue a young lady he might tell her this by sending her a bouquet made up of ivy (friendliness), snowdrops (hope), and roses (love). Conversely, if a young lady wanted to send a similar message to a gentleman that his attentions are indeed not repulsive to her, she might dress her hair with these flowers. If two young lovers wanted to meet in private and in secret the message could be conveyed with flowers. This bouquet would be comprised of sweet peas (meeting); convolvulus (night) and forget-me-not (Do not forget). A gentleman could tell a lady that he loved her simply by sending her one red rose. A lady could show that he returned his affection by wearing that rose. Much of the language of flowers originated in the romantic myths that give the flowers their names or in the superstitions that are associated with the flowers. For instance, the anemone, which signifies withered hopes and being forsaken derives its name from the Greek word from wind. Anemones are also known as Windflowers. There were different meanings ascribed to the same flowers (and lovers could have an understanding between themselves as to what a particular flower would mean). **Jackie Grebby**

LITTLE EVERDEN ROAD – The soakaway and gullies that the Highway Authority installed on the road appear to be working. Now that the road is not flooded it's interesting to see that the water is coming from the adjacent field, however the landowner is not responsible for water run-off from his land.

THE SPARROWHAWK

Stalking the hedgerows
Close by twigs by rustling leaves
Silent as breath -
The sparrow dives, flies,
Tries to escape
Too late. With arrowed wings
I am the arc of death.

Nip and rip
Tug and tear
Sunday lunch
Lies flat
On its back
Right there
Where
I brought it down
And stripped it bare.

Gail Swainston

GARDEN ENTHUSIASTS - One of the few positive signs of the past year has been the interest shown in gardening and growing our own fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers. Time spent outside has paid dividends to our mental health. So, I expect that many gardens in the village will be a blaze of colour in 2021. Our local group is always welcoming those who are keen to host a visit to their garden, possibly with some refreshment and lots of chat. I am intending to prepare a programme for our Garden Talk Group for this coming summer - please contact me if you are able to participate, or just want details of the events as they are arranged. **Janet Adamson** 01303 893413 janet.a.adamson@btinternet.com

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Sadly, because of the pandemic and the need to keep everyone safe, our Carol Services and Crib Services have to be online this year: please visit our Facebook page (see below). **If you choose to come to a service in church**, please remember to wear a **face covering**, use **sanitizer** on arrival, maintain **social distancing** and **keep to the rules** that apply to the Tier that we find ourselves in about who you can interact with.

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 20th	United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		
Online Carol Service www.facebook.com/BeneficeofACH from Saturday 19th.			
Online Crib Service www.facebook.com/BeneficeofACH from Tuesday 22nd.			
Thursday 24th	Midnight Mass 10 pm	Midnight Mass 11.30 pm	
Online Christmas Service www.facebook.com/BeneficeofACH from Thursday 24th.			
Friday 25th			Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 27th		Eucharist 10.00 am	

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Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - Doing my other job, like everything else just now, is proving tricky. I was a supply teacher working in secondary schools until a couple of years ago. Now I work with children who, for one reason or another, find school tricky, usually spending an hour or two working alongside them in their homes. That worked until the pandemic came along - home tuition and social distancing don't really go together. Going through my school bag the other day I came across some books that I had been lent to me by one of the schools I work with to use with one of my proteges. We had finished with them and the school probably needed them – so I rang up to see when I could drop them in. Reception answered. Covid had struck; their pupils had all been sent home and only a skeleton staff remained on site – please would I hang onto the books until after Christmas? Needless to say, Christmas itself promises to be rather different this year. Having a good loud sing, even carol singing, presents risks. And how do you explain sanitizer, social distancing, and the dangers of spreading infection by touching the crib figures to a small child? So reluctantly, like other churches up and down the country, we shall celebrate much of Christmas online. There will be services at Alkham and Capel on Christmas Eve, and at Hougham on Christmas morning – socially distanced, of course. For Christians, behind Christmas lies the conviction that in a time no less troubled than our own, God walked the earth as one of us. Whatever 2021 brings, we need not feel that we must face it alone. So I wish you and yours a Happy Christmas, and a peaceful New Year.
Brian Williams

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No. 325 February 2021

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PIMLICO WAY – Despite the byway being closed to off road vehicles 4x4's are still using Pimlico Way and have made it almost impassable for walkers and very difficult for horse riders. Bev Hubbard has asked the Kent Police Rural Task Force if it is possible to have a visible police presence on occasions to try and stop further damage to the byway by this blatant illegal use of 4x4's on the byways. One of the 4x4's came down Pimlico Way at the Slip Lane end and continued up the byway on the opposite side. The adjoining house owner tried to speak to one of the drivers but was knocked over and suffered bruising; the vehicles registration number was taken, and the police have been informed. Trail bikes can use Pimlico Way but groups of more than 12 riders require police approval. At least 26 trail bikes came down the byway recently and were told of the rule as they passed by, but an earthy response was received. The feeling is that the byway requires urgent closure.

HOUSING - Dover District Council has welcomed the government's decision to scrap plans to revise housing targets, which would have seen the number of new homes targeted for development in the Dover district rise from 596 to 1,279 a year. The original target placed too much pressure on rural and coastal communities and would have ultimately led to poor quality development and loss of green space. The National Planning Policy Framework requires local authorities to plan for the minimum number of homes needed, based on the Standard Method calculation set out in national planning guidance. For the Dover district, this currently equates to delivering 596 new homes a year or a minimum of 11,920 new homes over a 20-year period. Dover District Council will now press ahead with the first round of public consultation on its draft Local Plan which launches online on 20 January for eight weeks.

TETRA PAK – From the 16th of January Dover District Council will no longer recycle Tetra Pak in their household collection bins. They are most commonly used for long-life milk, fruit juices, soups and ice lolly cartons and they are made of wood, aluminium and plastic, which are difficult to separate. These cartons should no longer be put in recycling bins but with the rest of the non-recyclable household waste, allowing it to be used for generating electricity. It will not be sent to landfill.

CLIVE BATCHELDOR – It is very sad to report that Clive died after a short illness at his home in Alkham on the 28th of December a month before his 76th birthday; he was a good man and liked by all who knew him. Clive involved himself with many village activities such as the Alkham Recycling scheme in the early 2000's and used his banking skills as the village fete treasurer for a number of years. He was a trustee of the village hall and an accomplished bell ringer and rang at many weddings, funerals and services at St. Anthony's church. His wife Margaret is also a bell ringer. He will be missed by his fellow walkers from Alkham who sometimes took the bus to a town or village and walked back, generally with a stop for lunch at a pub. Clive will be buried in the churchyard on the 25th of January at St. Anthony's with the preceding funeral service in the church at 2pm but because of the virus this is restricted to a maximum of 30 people.

EXPLOSIONS – On New Year's Eve there were two very loud explosions above Slip Lane followed by a further one at midnight. There appeared to be no fireworks associated with the bangs and it is thought that they were launched from the south side of the valley road. Whoever was responsible please think before you do it again as they terrified dogs and horses and woke a number of people.

LITTLE EVERDEN ROAD – With the continual rain the new soakaway on Little Everden Road had reached capacity and was flooding the road again. The water should soak away but it does highlight the problem of run-off of water from the adjacent fields. It would be interesting to know if it occurred in times gone by when there were numerous ponds, slightly raised hedges and ditches.

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"HOW'S YOUR LOCKDOWN LIFE?" - Are you fed-up and bored or are you becoming overburdened with all those new skills, resurrected hobbies or DIY projects you've finally got time for? Perhaps you've become a Jack-of-all-trades... Personally, on top of my normal activities of 'night owl reading' and choir singing (via the incredible Zoom) I seem somehow to have grown into a Jill of all Hobbies (master of none? never let it be said!!). With the first Lockdown—after rushing out to arm myself with wool and cardigan pattern, for fear of housebound syndrome—I was happy to have catch-up time for some long-neglected clearing and sorting jobs. In the course of clearing (soon abandoned as charity shop drop-offs banned) I came across some material I'd intended to use for a skirt and straightway began cutting and pinning. Then I heard the call for volunteers to make hospital 'Scrubs'. With my trusty machine staring at my conscience, what could I do? Skirt just had to wait again. Some weeks later when the Scrubs project ended, said skirt got completed! Next came my knitting phase! I surprised myself by actually enjoying knitting a cardigan, it being years since I'd made adult-sized woollies. However, I didn't expect my twiddling fingers to demand to go on knitting when the job was done (Ha-ha is this addiction?) and discovered "Winwick Mum", a delightful lady running a Facebook group for sock-knitters. When I read about free patterns, tutorial videos and helpful members, I was hooked! After a bit of trial and error on sizing, I produced three decent pairs to give away as Christmas presents. Knitting is all very well, but not too good for keeping anything but fingers in good physical shape. The fitness gurus have had a fine old time cajoling us to get on the move. I'm fascinated by the great variety of schemes that appear on the screen and in newspapers, all claiming to have the answer to getting us active, healthy and trim. Being the indecisive person that I am I tend to jump (not literally) from one idea to another—morning stretches, pilates, yoga poses, squat & lift, cycling, walking.....not forgetting some 'recovery' days! I must mention brain training—that's where I'm a dedicated addict! For years I've made use of the Duolingo app. to sharpen up language skills in Danish (my late husband's Mother tongue), but now I've added French (Not too taxing) and Scottish Gaelic (very taxing) just to guard against brain rot. I'm not altogether sure that it's working. Here I am stretching my memory with the intricacies of Gaelic spelling, whilst forgetting people's names or which day of the week it is! Enough said about my goings-on; it would be really interesting to hear how the rest of you are faring. Incidentally, if you want to kick-start a hobby, there are plenty of tuition videos available through YouTube or Google —Music, Art, Handwork are all there. Until we get vaccines, stay safe, keep occupied and enjoy the freedom we have in our village community to get our ration of fresh air without crowds. **Margaret Danstead**

MANY THANKS to Margaret and all the other people who have contributed to this newsletter. **Brian**

ELECTRIC CHARGING - Dover District Council is to install 49 electric vehicle charging points at 18 locations in Dover, Deal and Sandwich, including both DDC-owned, public car parks and on-street. In Dover they will be at Albany Place, Fishmongers Lane (Bench Street) and Maison Dieu Road car parks. The charging points are planned to be installed by March this year.

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OPEN LETTERS – Two residents have written open letters to Alkham Parish Council regarding Pimlico Way. Gill Butler who lives at South Alkham says that she rode her horse up Pimlico Way recently and was shocked with the condition and had never seen the tracks on the byway so deeply carved into the ground. Irrespective of the ban she asks the council to stop the 4x4's driving at speed, which is the main cause of the rutting, and repair the surface. Jackie Grebby who lives by Slip Lane asks that the Parish Council take an extremely serious view of the current situation regarding the two byways currently with closure notices for 4 x 4 vehicles; since there are no obstructions preventing access by said vehicles the prohibition is a joke. The byways are now unusable for pedestrians and cyclists and provide serious difficulty for horse riders and she asks the council to put pressure upon the KCC PROW team to accept that there is now a serious need to prioritise these routes on a basis of public safety. Jackie proposes that removable bollards be installed at the entrances to the byways stating that this is not a new idea as they have been installed elsewhere and suggests that the Parish Council offer a contribution from their contingency fund.



DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL has secured funding to install a fully funded gas connection first-time gas central heating system and other insulation measures for homeowners or private-renting tenants living in the district. To be eligible, the homeowner/occupier must be in receipt of benefits, or on a low income living with someone in the household who is suffering from a health condition that is impacted by living in a cold home. Households heated by storage heaters, electric radiators, or solid fuel fires are encouraged to apply. Eligible homes will be checked/surveyed to ensure they are in close proximity to the mains gas network. This scheme is free to those residents who qualify. For further information please email Amanda.martin@dover.gov.uk.

In August 1727 Benjamin Bayshee, a sailor, began to keep a Common Place Book.

Benjamin Bayshee's Phisicall Directions for January and February.

January:

Warm meats this month convenient be.
White wines also as wholesome is:
Flee sloth, sweet drinks, be Rules by me,
Bleed not, but bathe, forgett not this.

February:

Now diverse secret agues breed.
Be Choice of food, beware of Cold:
Abstaine from Milk, no vein let bleed
In taking medicines be not to Bold.

Personally, I doubt if these directions would alleviate the current medical crisis.

Jackie Grebby

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If you come to a service please remember to bring a face covering, use sanitizer when you arrive, leave contact details, observe social distancing at all times, and mix only with members of your household or support bubble. Thank you!

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th	Prayer 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Prayer 11.00 am
Sunday 14th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Prayer 11.00 am	
Wednesday 17th	*United Parish Eucharist 7.00 pm*		
Sunday 21st	Prayer 11.00 am	Prayer 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 28th	United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.01, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - I can still remember the sound of footsteps on the garden path before dawn; milk bottles rattling, more footsteps, then the whine of the motor as the milk float drew away. Then the same sounds repeated, only further along the street. The milkman was on his rounds, and all was well. But as it became cheaper and easier to buy milk with the rest of the shopping those once familiar sounds all but disappeared. A newspaper article I that read recently said that churches are now in the same bind as our High Streets. Just as the pandemic and online shopping has left many High Street stores struggling without their customers, so many churches are struggling to get by without their usual congregations. When the pandemic first struck and churches were closed, like many others I took my camera and turned to putting services online as a way of keeping things going – temporarily, as I thought. I never expected that many more would be joining us online than ever came through the church door on Sunday mornings, or that my congregation would ever be able to attend church while in bed with a cup of tea, fast forward to the best bits, or switch off without the upset that would usually go with walking out of a service! So to my online congregation, bless you, you're welcome, and I'll keep going for as long as you keep watching. But I do hope that this isn't the new normal. Standing in front of a camera lens instead of a live congregation - it's just not the same… Will the sound of church bells in the English countryside eventually go the same way as that of the morning milk round? I hope not… **Brian Williams**

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W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641
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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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No. 326 March 2021

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FLOODING – John Huggins is to be congratulated for the works that he has carried out to his field by Slip Lane adjacent to the ditch that he previously dug. Small trees, hawthorn, field maple and hazel have been planted next to faggots of sticks by the edge of the field which should, in time, form a partial barrier to the water.

DOVER DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN - The public consultation period for the plan lasts for 6 weeks, finishing on the 17th of March and the details can be found on their website www.doverdistrictlocalplan.co.uk. It is a well-designed site with a lot of information on but clicking 'Where I Live' and then' view proposed sites' will take you to a page with Alkham on. Land to the east of Short Lane is shown as an area for possible housing but this area was shown on their 2010 plan and there is the possible extension of the gypsy site at South Alkham. There are seven other headings which can be commented on.

FLY TIPPING – In this time of lockdown there has been an increase in despicable fly tipping. The photo shows a Slip Lane layby on the 23rd of January which was reported to Country Eye by Jackie Grebby.



TRUSTEES - Alkham Village Hall is held on a charitable trust by Trustees, who are its legal owners, on behalf of the Parish and the day to day running of the Hall is in the hands of a Management Committee. The main responsibilities of the Trustees are: 1. To deal with any matters arising with third parties from the legal ownership of the Hall. 2. To ensure that any proposals of the Management Committee do not run counter to the Charitable Trust upon which the Hall is held. 3. To comply with any requirements of the Charity Commission and to deliver to it an Annual Return. For legal reasons, the bare number of Trustees is two, but a comfortable number would be four. Due to the unfortunate demise of Clive, we are looking for at least one committed person in the village to take on the role of Trustee. Official appointment is by Deed and necessitates the transfer of ownership of the land, which is dealt with by a solicitor. Anyone interested in taking on the role of Trustee please contact the Secretary Janet Adamson, in the first instance, at janet.a.adamson@btinternet.com.



WE HAVE DONE something to make people happy during lockdown. We have set up a trail of kindness rocks for people to find all around the village! We hope that it will really encourage people to feel happy during the difficult lockdown. If you want to add your own, this is what to do: 1. Get some good shaped rocks; 2. wash the rocks with soap and water; 3. Once they are dry, grab some paint pens or acrylic paint; 4. Draw on the rocks with the paint pens in whatever pattern you would like to do - make sure it's kind; 5. Paint them with some gloopy PVA glue mixed with water and leave them to dry so they don't wash off in the rai; 6. Leave them out around the village for people to find! That is what you do.

Nina (age 7) and Robin (age 4½)

A SEVEN FOOT high snowman was built in front of a house in Alkham and this too added some lockdown cheer. It's unlikely that the dog helped with the build, but she is looking pretty pleased with herself.



NOT IN COMPETITION but added appreciative voice: the refuse collectors, postmen, all those who are woven into our lives with their service. Thank you. **Jo Walker**

COLOUR – If you would like to see this newsletter in colour then either email brianwimsett@hotmail.com or go on the website www.alkham.org.

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CALLING ALKHAM KNITTERS - From Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU) around the UK a big thank you, which I would like to pass on to all those involved, was received this week from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Glasgow for the recent parcel we sent, and the email stated that they have enough hats but would like more blankets if possible. There are several patterns for NICU blankets online, but they should be made small enough to fit in an incubator i.e. about 12 x 18 ins or 18 x24 in and not have any patterned holes which little feet or fingers can get tangled in. If anyone has time and spare wool and would like to get involved, please phone me. **Mairi Jones 07766410442**

WHAT IS FAIRTRADE? - Fairtrade is a simple way each one of use can make a difference through our everyday choices. It is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. Fairtrade aims to enable the poorest farmers and workers to improve their position and have more control over their lives. The Fairtrade mark means that: A minimum price is paid to Fairtrade producers covering their costs of production; the producers receive an additional Fairtrade premium, an extra amount of money to invest in their communities on economic, social or environments projects; workers on farms also get rights under Fairtrade like decent wages and they are allowed to join unions; The Producers in Fairtrade co-operative always get a democratic say in decisions – women included. By supporting Fairtrade in your weekly shop, it benefits others considerably; and also demonstrates a better understanding of where our food (and other Fairtrade products) come from . Both Dover Deal have Fairtrade town status and it is very important that we continue to work with the Community to maintain this status; our aim is to have a Fairtrade District. We have the support of both town councils and DDC. As it is Fairtrade Fortnight From 27/2/21 to 7/3/21 our activities will include a virtual meeting with a speaker on 3 March 2021 – anyone interested in attending and /or wanting to know more about our Fairtrade groups please contact pambrivio@ntlworld.com. Additionally, we have donations of Fairtrade Footballs to make and if anyone has contact with youth groups who would be interested in receiving a couple, please get in contact. Thanks

A CONSULTATION Directory provides a full list of KCC's past, current and planned consultations. It will help to let them know what you think about the local services and policies that matter to you and also look at planned, current and past consultations and look at the results. If you register and tell them the issues you are interested in, they will contact you when an activity is due to take place, or you can join in as and when they happen. You can also register to be emailed when the feedback for a particular consultation or involvement activity is published on this website. To access the consultation document, go to https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/.

NEW TOILETS are now open daily from 8am to 4pm in Kearsney Abbey and the new visitor facilities will be opened when the lockdown restrictions are eased. The car park is open along with a temporary café. Further details are on their web site www.kearsneyparks.co.uk.

PIZZA – A local resident said there was a good pizza delivery to Alkham and to let people know; Google 'Alkham Valley Pizza Project' to access their site.

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BOOK – Steve Osborn has been writing a 300 word monthly article in this newsletter for the last twenty years and an A5 size book that contains the articles for the first 10 years has been printed. It has a glossy cover and is printed on 100gsm silk finish paper, has 124 pages and each article has a small picture depicting the theme. The book costs £2 and if you would like a copy please contact me by ringing 01304 824969 or emailing brianwimsett@hotmail.com. **Brian**



FEEDBACK – Barry Sheppard emailed to say that he has lived at Ellinge for 38 years and the Christmas/New Year period was the worst he has ever known for transgressions by 4x4s, motor bikers, horse riders and pedestrians which is continuing. In addition, a van arrived in Slip Lane and deposited motorbikes and riders who then rode up Pimlico Way. John Richards, whose grandma lived in Upton Cottages at the bottom of Pilgrims Way, played as a boy on the byway and emailed to say that he was appalled at what the 4x4's were doing to Pimlico Way and that something needs to be done. His grandmother lived opposite Prescott's milking parlour and John has strong images of George Prescott crossing the road with a yoke and two churns of milk on his shoulder.

THE ARBORICULTURAL ASSOCIATION - The bird nesting season is officially from February until August and tree or hedge cutting should be done outside of the nesting season. The busiest time for nesting birds is from 1st March until 31st July which varies according to species.

HANDFORTH – If you missed the Parish Council meeting on the media it can be seen on https://youtu.be/lgGmYeAm0jk. It's chaotic and amusing and don't argue with the person who is controlling Zoom. It was also good to get a bit of light relief in these difficult times.

THE FISHER KING

A kingfisher above a clear chalk stream
Is filmed in Dover, Countryfile's next dream.
It flies, it hovers, then attacks a fish
And pins it flapping on the bank, you wish
For resolution, for what happens next,
Instead you hear voice-over and a text
Prewritten to remove your anxious doubt
That one grew thinner and the other stout.
At last you can relax and take a breath,
Whatever's shown it wasn't instant death.
Some kinds of agony you recognize
As forming part of life before your eyes.
It's breathless without hope that's hard to face,
That suffering denied a last embrace.

Gail Swainston

Benjamin Bayshee's 1727 Phisicall Directions for March and April

March

March in Mans body breeds humors great,
and divers dolours* that dangerous be:
Then give heed to that ye shall eat,
yet bleed and Bath with modesty.

*Divers dolours: various sorrows

April

This moneth all things thier strength Renue
the pores are oppen and Bloud abounds:
by letting bloud you shall not Rue,
off purging also no harm Redounds.

Jackie Grebby

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If you come to a service please remember to bring a face covering, use sanitizer when you arrive, leave contact details, observe social distancing at all times, and mix only with members of your household or support bubble. Thank you!

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th	Prayer 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Prayer 11.00 am
Sunday 14th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Prayer 11.00 am	
Sunday 21st	Prayer 11.00 am	Prayer 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 28th	United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.01, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - As I write, it's a Sunday afternoon and I'm feeling slightly the worse for wear. No, I didn't have a wild night last night - but I did have my first Covid vaccination yesterday. Aspirin got me through two services this morning, and I'm telling myself that short-term pain is worth the long-term gain – which I'm sure it is. It was in March of last year, during Lent, that the first lockdown began and everything suddenly changed. Mothering Sunday services didn't happen; by Palm Sunday I was filming myself making paper palm crosses for others to try making at home; and the Easter Garden took shape on the vicarage driveway, hurriedly decorated with a tray of pansies from a supermarket. Most just shrivelled up in the spring sunshine, but a couple of them seemed to celebrate the hope and joy of Easter by not just surviving but blooming all the way into October. As I write, Lent is just about to begin. Forty days and nights, not just without cake, chocolate and other such things, but without things that usually make everyday life what it is. This Mothering Sunday will probably be another of those occasions when we would normally be with family and friends but may well end up sending flowers through the post and chatting on Skype instead. So here's some hope and encouragement for Lent: think of those pansies - they wouldn't have grown on the vicarage driveway had it not been for the pandemic. Perhaps in the same way, we'll look back on this time in years to come and find that there are things that we've gained as well as lost – perhaps small things, like the pansies, easy to miss for the moment– but still growing, all the same. **Brian Williams**

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W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641
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KCC Geoffrey Lymer 07960490929
DDC Jamie Rose 07802 428353
WEBS www.alkham.org & www.alkhampc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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SNOW SCENE – Marian Barber emailed this lovely photo of the village green which she took in February.

MARQUIS - With life returning to some sort of normality, we are pleased to announce we will be re-opening our outside terrace on the 12th of April with additional heating and wind protection being installed to make everyone feel as comfortable as possible. And what a few months it has been for us… When lockdown restrictions came into place in November, we decided to do our bit for the local community by offering complimentary meals to the vulnerable and children that weren't able to take advantage of school meals during this time, totalling 263 mouths fed during the November and December period. On the 23rd of December 2020, we teamed up with the Hythe Imperial to make 1000 "packed lunches" for the lorry drivers that were stuck on the A2 and unable to travel to the continent during that festive period. And from January we adapted our offering to cater to those that still wanted a taste of the Marquis menu with fully prepared boxes to cook at home of which we have received overwhelming praise - we would like to thank those of you that helped support us through these last few months! We are incredibly excited to be opening our doors and seeing some familiar faces once again. Our kitchen will be open lunchtimes throughout the week with drinks available well into the evening. Dinner services will initially be available on a Friday and Saturday with bookings being take until 7pm and with Sunday lunch finishing at 5pm. Of course, we cannot wait to welcome you inside as of the 17th of May but be rest assured, we've got your comfort covered outside. **Hugh Thompson**

GEOFF HILLIER – It is sad to report that Geoff died on the 5th of March aged 82. He was taken from his house in London to St. Thomas's hospital late last year suffering from the Covid virus and was eventually sent home but was later readmitted having contracted pneumonitis which was found not be treatable and he was therefore discharged to palliative care. Geoff lived with his wife Rosemary at South Alkham and was very involved with the village and instrumental in getting the stage reconstructed in the village hall which was used for a variety of entertainment. He was chairman of the Village Hall Committee and started Film Night in the hall, which proved to be very popular, as was Tea and a Chat. Geoff was a Parish Councillor for several years and apart from other activities which included linking Alkham into the Kent Police and Community Speedwatch scheme, he led the Traffic Action Group set up in response to widespread village concern. Rosemary says that until his illness Geoff was also deeply concerned to establish effective management of the Nailbourne along its entire course from Drellingore to Short Lane which, as an engineer, he recognised as an ever-growing hazard to both health and safety of the village and the cherished village hall. He gave his time generously to all these matters out of his fondness for Alkham and the exceptional friendliness of so many here. He did it all with a lightness of touch and his characteristic good humour. As was his wish his funeral will be at 1.30 at St. Anthony's Church on 31st March, followed by committal at Hawkinge Crematorium.

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BARBARA PALMER - Sadly Barbara passed away on 22nd February shortly before her 95th birthday. She spent her early years in Suffolk going into service at 13 as was the custom in 1939. Barbara served in the Women's Land Army 1943-1950 in Suffolk as a relief milk worker amongst other things. She met Bob in a pub when he was home on a month's army leave from Egypt. Four years later in 1951, they married. Barbara joined Bob living in Tripoli, Libya, for three years, with three children under five years of age, before being posted back to Ashford where their fourth child was born. Barbara, following her husband Bob's retirement from the Ministry of Environment, moved to Slip Lane, Alkham in 1989. Barbara was a huge champion of the village for 30 years: an active WI member, Alkham cricket team supporter especially the cricket teas, stall holder at fetes and fayres running the jewellery and cake stalls, holding charitable coffee mornings with Bob in their beautiful gardens to name just some of the activities Barbara was involved in. Barbara was a keen and knowledgeable gardener and her baking and jam making were legendary, especially known for her cakes, Date and Walnut loaf, apple pies and marmalade. She will be remembered with great fondness as a stylish lady with generosity, wit, humour, legendary resilience and a sparkle in her eye! **Beverley Mann**

WILDLIFE – Bread was put on the tree trunk behind the house and disappeared overnight. I bought an Apeman camera, and it first recorded a mouse and a fox then the next night a badger. **Brian**





WEB SITES – It appears that the Parish Council web site has been terminated, so it is no longer included in this newsletter. The other web site alkham.org is still running where you can see the Alkham Newsletter in colour. It's not the most modern site but it does have local details which may be of interest to those searching for Alkham.

REGARDING Kearsney and Russell Gardens, in 1929 Hilton Russell was present at a celebration of the Klassical Konfraternity of Kongenial Konfreres a club for locals over the age of eighty years, of which there were 83 members in attendance and a further 800 who could not make the celebration. They received vouchers which they could exchange for goods. Evidently there are about 6800 people over 80 in the area now. **Jo Walker**

ILLEGAL use by 4x4's on Pimlico Way continues and it's now almost impassable for horses and walkers. A local resident has but up a sign to say the byway is closed to motor vehicles and that it is in a very dangerous condition for horse riders and walkers.

TANKERS – As a result of the wet weather and the underlying chalk becoming saturated the sewer which goes down Hogbrook Lane becomes flooded and overflows through some manhole covers. Because of this, tankers which have been seen on the car parks near the village hall, are sucking some of the excess out of the sewers to help the flow. In the flood of 2001, the toilets in the village hall and adjacent properties could not be used.

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RECONNECT WITH NATURE: **Chilton Farm and Awesome Valley.** What a winter we had! As many of you know the COVID pandemic has affected our family life in many ways especially with members of the family working frontline in leading national hospitals and having high risk and elderly members. Among these difficulties, how lucky we are to live in this beautiful area of natural beauty and having the opportunity of spending time even during the lockdown walking through the vast fields of Chilton Farm, listening to the wind in the ancient woodland and even enjoying sledging on the gentle slopes for the few days of snow we had in February. We feel that not all members of the community are lucky enough to ease the pressures of the lockdown and the consequences of the pandemic. I and my family feel it an inner and moral duty to share these opportunities with the community. In this current time when the lockdown and restrictions are gradually easing, we would like to offer our outdoor amenities and invite members of Alkham Parish to take a peaceful stroll, away from the crowds around the perimeter of the field at Chilton Farm, and the accessible part of the woodland with beautiful views stretching across the wonderful Alkham Valley. For some of you it can be a peaceful time of reflection on the past year's events, being grateful for successes in overcoming the pandemic. For those of you who have lost loved ones, you can reflect and give thanks for their life. We would like to offer you to dedicate a sapling as a memorial for people that you would like to remember, that have sadly left us or that you feel have made a difference in your life of difficulty or contributed to helping others. The perimeter walk is about a 2 km circuit with flat footpaths, also hills to raise your heart rate! There are bridleways through Chilton Farm that link to the field or there is an area where you can park. Please call 07906213716 to book your free private walk. **Ruth Marczin-Bundy**

Kent in English Proverbs

If you would know your county
Hear what the proverbs say;
Take note of some old sayings
Recalled from yesterday

Parts of Kent have wealth and health,
And parts have only wealth;
Parts have neither wealth nor health,
And parts have only health.

Knight of Cales,* or Knight of Vales
Or lord of north country,
Kentish yeoman has the rent
To buy them out all three.

Once, 'tis said, the devil gave
Daughter fair in marriage;
With her too, they say, he gave
Dover, Deal, and Harwich.

Naughty Ashford, surly Wye,
Poor Kennington hard by;
But where prospect all around
More blessed to the eye?

* Knights of Cales (Cadiz, formerly Cales, in Spain) were made by Robert, Earl of Essex, following the capture of the City in 1596. Many were said to be of low fortune.

If you'd see a church mis-went, **
Go at once to Cuckstone;
If you'd speak at Dover Court,
Don't, for none will listen. ***

What was a Jack of Dover?
A dish, they say of old,
That must have been twice heated,
And must have been twice cold.

One more thing they also said,
When they spoke of Dover:
When it's dark on Shakespeare Cliff,
It's dark the whole world over.

Such are old English proverbs,
All well remembered still;
Such are old English sayings,
Make of them what you will.

**** Of unusual proportion.**
*** It was said that in Dover Court all were speakers, none hearers.

Jackie Grebby

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CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Thursday 1st	United Parish Eucharist Alkham 7.00 pm		
Friday 2nd	Good Friday Service Hougham 10.00 am		
Sunday 4th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 8.00 am	Eucharist 11.am
Sunday 11th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Prayer 11.00 am	
Sunday 18th	Prayer 11.00 am	Prayer 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 25th	United Parish Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.01, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - During Lent many people give up something like chocolate or biscuits or take on something like joining a Lent Group. Lent Groups usually involve meeting with others for tea and discussion – difficult this year, since it is difficult for any of us to meet at all. My chosen solution? Record videos that people can watch, think, and pray about and post them on Facebook. But how to keep them interesting? Why not add some photographs taken when I visited the Holy Land some years ago? One photo showed my fellow pilgrims crammed into a cave – social distancing didn't matter back then. Tradition has it that it was there, beneath the Paternoster church near Jerusalem, that Jesus' disciples asked him to teach them to pray. His teaching – the Our Father or Lord's Prayer – appears on the walls of the church in more than 140 languages. They were to ask forgiveness for their sins and forgive those who sinned against them - Jesus knowing full well that forgiveness is something that most of us struggle with. We all know what it is like to be sinned against – and how tempting it is, when it happens, to take to social media, tell all to the world and get others to take our side. But Jesus taught forgiveness. Make no mistake, forgiveness excuses nothing. Rather, it faces up to whatever has happened and bears the cost of mending what would otherwise stay broken. As Easter approaches, Holy Week and the cross point to the cost of forgiveness, and Easter morning and the empty tomb to its reward. A soft option? St Augustine thought that by bearing grudges, we hurt ourselves far more than we could ever hurt anyone else. Forgiving others, then, is good for us after all…
Brian Williams

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No. 328 May 2021

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LOCAL ELECTIONS are being held on the 6th of May in Alkham Village Hall for KCC Councillors and the Police and Crime Commissioner. Those standing for the KCC Councillor post are David Beaney, who lives in Ewell Minnis, for the Conservative Party, Rick Blackwell for the Democrats, Pamela Brivio for Labour and Cooperative Party and Nicolas Shread for the Green Party. Three people are standing for the post of Police Commissioner and they are Graham Colley Liberal Democrat, Matthew Scott Conservative and Lola Oyewusi Labour.

PARISH COUNCIL - Our new website will be live on Monday 19th of April and if you need to contact the parish council my email address remains unchanged: clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk. The next meeting of the council will be on Wednesday 5th of May at 7pm via Zoom and please check the website near to the time for the agenda. **Irene Bowie Clerk to Alkham Parish Council**

STOMBERS LANE – An email was received regarding Stombers Lane which is the road at the bottom of the dip by the valley road close to the 1930's pumping station. The road is generally one lane wide and in some places in poor condition. Irrespective of the this it is being used as a rat run to Hawkinge with some people driving at speed and this can only get worse when the new houses are built near the top of the road. The Parish Council have been asked if they would contact the Highway Authority to erect signs to say that the road is only for resident's use and deliveries (access only). The writer also thinks there should be a width restriction at the entrances to the village and a 20mph speed limit. This was echoed in the Traffic Action Group questionnaire results presented to the Parish Council 2 years ago and a progress report is still awaited.

FREE FIREWOOD - Pimlico vineyard has been planted with over 500 walnut, hazel, elder, and sweet chestnut. Beside commercial sales these will feed wildlife, reduce flooding risk and even make a small contribution to fighting global warming risks. Sadly, it seems Pimlico will lose most of its mature Ash trees to Ash dieback. The dead trees standing will be felled. The main trunks will be planked but that will leave loads of branches. If you want firewood, have a saw and trailer or means to cart away all you want, then send an e-mail to Martin@Pimlico-Way.Co.UK . **Martin Scherer**

PILGRIMS HOSPICE – Mike Moore who lives at Drelligore is running in the Folkestone 10K on the 30th of May and is raising money for the Pilgrims Hospice. If you would like to find more about what their amazing staff and volunteers do and also donate money for the hospice, please go to the Just Giving page on https://www.justgiving.com/ fundraising/mike-moore11.

GEOFF HILLIER – Charlotte and I wish to convey our deep gratitude and appreciation for the contributions, and hours, even days, of dedication that so many put into making St. Anthony's church so extra beautiful for Geoff's funeral. Particular thanks go to Catie Webber and Shirley and Tracy Prince for their special input which was generously supported by a very large number of other Alkham friends. From exquisite arrangements to simple bunches of glowing spring bulbs, they demonstrated for us the affection and respect in which Geoff was held, sentiments which I know he had felt in equal measure for our Alkham friends. We would also like to thank those who, prevented by government restrictions from entering the church for the service, nevertheless attended by their presence outside. Thank you all so very much. In addition to this, we have also received so many cards and letters of condolence which have been heartwarming and comforting in our dreadful loss of Geoff. Our thanks go out to everyone for their support at this desperate time. **Rosemary Hillier**

VILLAGE HALL – To help prevent transmission of the Covid virus as the restrictions ease on the opening of venues it will be necessary for people who come to Alkham village hall to enter their details. This can be done by scanning the QR code poster that is displayed at the entrance or if the latter is not possible to enter their name and contact details in the folder provided. This is to make sure that they can receive public health advice if they may have been exposed to Covid 19.

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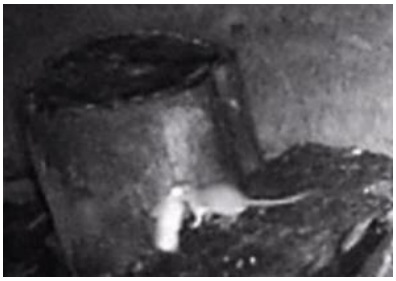
FILM NIGHT – People have been asking if Film Night will start again in the village hall when the Government allows. Geoff Hillier and I ran the event and I generally set things up and took the money on the door but didn't stay for a number of films. Therefore, I will not start Film Night by myself so please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com or ring 01304 824969 if you would like to help. **Brian Wimsett**

TAI CHI will be restarting in the village hall from Wednesday 19 May from 5.30pm to 6.30pm. If you would like further details, please contact Anna Dashwood on 01304 205 405 or 07736 849 194 or go to the web site www.pfstaichi.com.



BUS RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM - Dover District Council has been awarded £15.8m to support the development of a Bus Rapid Transit System between Whitfield and Dover and the Priory railway station. This has arisen from the building of many houses in Whitfield and those proposed at the old Connaught Barracks which could amount to 6,250 new homes in total. The road will run from Whitfield across a new bus, cyclist and pedestrian bridge over the A2 and through the business park past Tescos and on to the improved Dover Road which runs past the Connaught Barrack site. The junction at the top of Castle Hill will be improved as will others into the town and those to the Priory station. It will take some years to complete and it's unlikely to have an effect on the number of new drivers coming down the valley.





ANIMALS – Last month there were photos from my Apeman camera. During the night the fox, badger and mice arrive with the mice being the most active and the badger coming a bit late. **Brian Wimsett**

SUMMER GRANTS SCHEME 2021 - Local community groups looking for funding are encouraged to apply to Dover District Council's Community Grants Scheme. Building on the success of previous years' schemes, the Council has increased the Annual Community Grants Fund to £130,000 this year to help local community groups deliver projects in a Covid-safe way. The grant has been split into two rounds for the summer and winter and £65,000 is now available for the summer round. Community groups who benefit the local area can bid for grants from £100 up to £2,000. Bids will be accepted from Monday 12 April 2021 until 12 noon on Monday 24 May 2021 and successful applicants will be notified in early July. Community groups and charities can apply for a community grant online at website www.dover.gov.uk/Community. For more information, please call: 01304 872277 or email: communitygrants@dover.gov.uk.

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ADDERS – Bev Hubbard sent an article written by Rodger McPhail about adders and this adds to previous articles in the newsletter. In early April having spent the winter months underground the adder slithers into the weak spring sunshine having not eaten for six months, but food is not on their minds; it is the mating season. Rival males indulge in spectacular ritual combat, rearing up side by side and twisting and wrestling at great speed. After mating the snakes disperse and spend the summer in solitary pursuit of mice, voles, lizards, frogs and fledglings. Adders never use more energy than is necessary and spend a lot of their time basking getting a great deal of their energy directly from the sun, and so efficient is their metabolism that they only require six to ten meals a year. Most snakes live in climates that are hot enough to incubate their eggs. The adder insures against our northern summer by basking at every opportunity and incubating the developing embryos inside her body, eventually giving birth to between six and 20 live young in August or September. This adaptation has allowed the adder to range further north than any other reptile. The young adders are dark brick-red, except for the end of the tail which is lime yellow which can be wriggled like a little maggot to entice froglets and baby lizards. Adders are surprisingly vulnerable and are preyed upon by birds, badgers and hedgehogs. Disturbance and loss of habitat has caused the adder to disappear from many places where it was once common resulting in isolation, leading to inbreeding and congenital weakness. In the past decade, the adder population has declined by more than half and could be extinct in Britain in 20 years. Humans have a primal and deep-rooted mistrust of snakes. From Genesis to *Harry Potter*, they've had a bad press. Now, at last, we are treating this much-maligned snake with sympathy, and naturalists are doing their best to halt its decline. **(edited article)**

LA BELLE DAME

I met an angel on the train
Travelling with High Speed One
St. Pancras, Dover, down the line
Till journey's done.
I felt protected,safe but free,
She spread her pearly sheltering wing
I knew whatever she might be
The birds would sing.
I heard a gentle feathery sound
That hung and shimmered in the air
Her voice from nowhere, all around
Caressed my hair.
Then I awoke, a flash of pain
The seats quite empty, she had gone.
But knowing we might meet again
I'm not alone.

Gail Swainston

UP TO £200 Micro Grants available for creative groups in Kent to start or restart creative activities in local community centres or village halls once restrictions allow. Funding Aims: Get creative, bring people back together, reduce loneliness & share skills. Applications to be submitted by 9pm 30th May 2021. To apply, you can fill in the online form via http://bit.ly/GC-Kent or charlotte@vaengland.org for more information and to receive the application form.

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CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2nd	Prayer 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Prayer 11.00 am
Sunday 9th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Prayer 11.00 am	
Sunday 13th	United Parish Eucharist Capel 7.00 pm		
Sunday 16th	Prayer 11.00 am	Prayer 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 23rd	United Parish Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Sunday 30th	United Parish Eucharist at St Mary's Capel 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.01, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - Sitting with a cup of tea and clicking through the channels with the TV remote, I came across an old film that I hadn't seen in years. And since Emperor of the North features spectacular landscapes and steam trains, my cup of tea lasted much longer than intended. Set during the Great Depression in 1930s Oregon, the plot features a battle of wills between a crazed train conductor (Ernest Borgnine) who will stop at nothing to see that no one ever gets a free ride aboard his train, and a tramp (Lee Marvin), whose reputation for outwitting Borgnine has led other tramps to dub him Emperor of the North. Another, younger man (Keith Carradine) attaches himself to Marvin. Jumping aboard moving trains and hiding in freight cars, the older man looks out for the younger one as they face trial and tribulation together. But the partnership crumbles; the young man is interested only in himself, and in stealing his mentor's crown. When Marvin and Borgnine finally fight it out aboard a flat wagon, he just stands and watches. It's a temptation almost as old as time itself. We depend on each other for so many things in life - but at the same time the thought of being the one who gets noticed, takes the credit and wins the admiration of others is so enticing. The New Testament tells us that even Jesus' disciples struggled with it; more than once he had to remind them that for them, true greatness lay in serving others rather than in being served themselves. A similar point, perhaps, to Marvin's parting shot to his selfish protégé in the film's final scene as he throws him from the train into a pond: You had the juice, kid, but not the heart… **Brian Williams**

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W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669
KCC Geoffrey Lymer 07960490929
DDC Jamie Rose 07802 428353
Web site www.alkham.org

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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brianwimsett@hotmail.com

No. 329 June 2021

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KEEP FIT – It's great to see things getting back to some normality as the lady's keep fit class resumes on the football pitch on a sunny day with beautiful trees and Alkham in the background.

FILM NIGHT – It was very encouraging to get an offer of help with Film Night from someone who has recently moved into the village. In addition, two other people offered to help so I will start it again. In the summer we found that the number of people coming to the films dropped considerably because of holidays and other factors so the first Film Night will be in September assuming that the government regulations allow it. **Brian Wimsett**

GARDEN TALK - During this last year we have been spending more time in our own gardens. We have really enjoyed the vibrant seasonal colour despite a wet winter and cold dry spring and are now planning ahead for the summer.



The Garden Group had to cancel all arranged meetings in 2020 and, unfortunately, the take up on individual booked visits was very poor, despite the effort put in by the owners. So now seems the right time to consider the way ahead. Could any villager who is willing to host a gathering to view their garden in an afternoon or evening, with possibly some light refreshment, or who is prepared to arrange a programme of events, please contact me? Janet Adamson 01303 893413 email: janet.a.adamson@ btinternet.com

WEB SITE – The new Parish Council web site is up and running and can be accessed by going to www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk. It has a lot of useful information which includes Planning Applications, the Local Plan, Alkham Community Plan and Lorry Watch and various other topics relating to Alkham.

CONGRATULATIONS to David Beaney on becoming our KCC Councillor following the recent elections. David lives in Ewell Minnis and takes over from Geoffrey Lymer who should be thanked for all the work he did for the community. Geoff was not afraid of controversy and was also quite happy to criticise his own political party putting the community and those without a voice before the party he was supposed to support. Matthew Scott was re-elected as the Police Commissioner.

RUBBISH - On our many village walks, recently we've noticed rubbish strewn across the green within yards of the nearest bin! On more than two occasions bags of dog waste. No trees nearby to hang it in but 2 yards from the bin! Can we all try to be more considerate through our lovely village. Thank you. **Brenda Smith**

BUS - The 8 o'clock 91 bus to Dover is now the 91a as it seems that a lot of school children are picked up from Hawkinge before coming down the Alkham Valley Road, hence the bus has, rather inflexibly, been designated for children only. Tough on people who have to use this bus to reach work. The matter has been referred to the Alkham Parish Council, so we expect a firm and timely response. The advantage is that if you miss the bus, you have another hour to admire the Barnards' wonderful panoply of seasonal flowers. For which, much thanks. **Jo Walker**

SURGERY diagnosed with empty waiting room syndrome: Lovely for Staff? But are we fed up with remote control medicine and peremptory services? To the barricades! **Citizen-client Walker**

FOUND In a black squashy case, a pair of blue framed, probably prescription spectacles in Slip Lane area. Please ring 01304 821641.

HOLIDAY LET available on small local farm with garden, patio and barbecue. There is a large utility room, a farmhouse range, 2 beds plus a sofa bed and spa bath. Dogs are welcome. For further details please ring Angela Peddle 07760224174

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A LOVELY PHOTO of the fox taken in my garden by the Apeman camera. With this picture in mind, it is pleasing to hear that government has promised to make any necessary changes to UK law to recognise that animals can feel pain. This can be described by the word sentient which is the capacity to be aware of feelings and sensations. As owners know, their pet has a personality of its own and is aware of feelings and this applies to all animals. Sheep graze in the field as a flock for the inevitable but a local pet sheep startled my dog some years ago when it was intent on giving her a head butt. It will be interesting to see what any legislation achieves. **Brian Wimsett** fox in colour alkham.org



ADDERS - Further to the article last month about adders, Trevor Johns sent an email with the adjacent photo and said it gave him a hell of shock when he "appeared" on top of our side gate right next to the house.

SPLATOMETRIST – Continuing with the nature theme, Kent Wildlife Trust is carrying out a bug survey. Before making a journey in a vehicle clean the number plate and when you reach your destination count the bugs squashed on the number plate using a splatometer grid. The latter is provided by the Trust when you sign up by going to kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/bugs-matter and runs from June to August.

DDC COUNCILLOR – A suggestion has been made that if there are any matters regarding the Alkham Valley that result in communication with Kent County Council, Dover District Council or Alkham Parish Council that a copy be sent to our Dover District Councillor Jamie Rose to update him. His email is cllr-jamie.rose@dover.gov.uk, and hopefully he can exert pressure on those concerned and also see how well he responds regarding representing Alkham and its residents.

BROADBAND – The Parish Council have been asked if they can help with the problem of low Broadband speed on upper Slip Lane and the Ellinge area. In central Alkham a speed of 35mbps or better can be achieved but in upper Slip Lane it is generally 8mbps and at Ellinge it can be as low as 0.5mbps. It was pointed out that Ewell Minnis, a similar rural location, is supplied via a separate Openreach fibre line and is probably receiving up to 80mbps. If you would like to give evidence of slow speed, go to www.gov.uk/government/consultations/improving-broadbandfor-very-hard-to-reach-premises which finishes on the 11th of June.

PIMLICO WAY - The byway closure is due to expire on 9th of May unless KCC decide to extend it because of the problem with off-roaders. In the past the track was just used by horses and carts and then in the 20th century by tractors. At the bottom of Pimlico Way on the south side is the valley road which in the middle ages ran as a river. Because of this the track was sometimes used by the pilgrims walking from St. John's Commandery near Swingfield Street to St. Radigunds on the other side of the valley as the river was shallower at South Alkham and then continuing up Meggett Lane. Their usual route was down Slip Lane and across what is now the village green, along Short Lane and then up the byway known as the Priest's walk.

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CONQUERING SEASICKNESS on cross-channel ferries - The South Eastern and Continental Steam Packet Company was formed when the South Eastern Railway reached Dover in 1845 and, with the French Northern Railway, a scheduled service from London to Paris became a reality. The fleet comprised of ten small paddle steamers, each 140 feet long. Those early ferries, over 175 years ago, had a remarkable turn of speed but, coupled with being very small paddle steamers, it made them very uncomfortable. The arrival of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway brought competition, faster ferries, and more discomfort! In the mid-1870s, an attempt was made to provide a service offering comfort in an enormous ship with four paddle wheels and a length of 350 feet. But at low speeds it became difficult to control and, on her trials, she crashed into the wooden pier at Calais, demolishing about 50 yards of it. The failure of the Bessemer was soon followed by the arrival at Dover of the catamaran Castalia. The English Channel Steam Ship Company was formed to promote this strange newcomer to the great cause of reducing the horrors of sea-sickness. Throughout her short career everyone agreed that there was hardly any problem with sea-sickness. When the Castalia was retired she was purchased in the early 1880's by the Government for use as an isolation hospital. **Jackie Grebby**



RUSSELL GARDENS - A natural play area which includes a play hut, log climbing frame, cantilever swing, seesaw, and balance beams along with boulder play and natural pea shingle safety surfacing has opened at Kearsney.

SPRINGTIME

It's time to give up the past
Nothing can last
For ever
It's time to give up the past
You know whatever
You do
To keep it true
To keep it just
Like you remember
That what you thought
You knew
Just tangles up
Life's a dissembler
So
It's time to give up the past
Nothing can last
For ever

Gail Swainston

A FOWLHOUSE THEFT AT ALKHAM

At the Dover Police Court Patrick Kane, tramp tinker, was charged with stealing 18 ducks' eggs and 8 china nest eggs, value 2s 6d, the property of Charles Newlyn, of Alkham, on the night of April 29/30 1907 plus an overcoat from Upton Farm. Mrs. Martha Ribbens, wife of the landlord of the Carpenters' Arms, South Alkham, said: I saw the prisoner last Tuesday, April 30th, about 7.30 in the morning. He came to the bar and had half a pint of beer. He started talking about eggs, and produced a duck's egg from his pocket, and asked if I would give him 2d for it and said that if I put it under a hen, I should soon have a duck. I told him he had better keep it. The prisoner denied all knowledge of the theft, but seven china nest eggs were handed over as having been found his possession and he was remanded in custody.

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CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6th	Prayer 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Prayer 11.00 am
Sunday 13th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Prayer 11.00 am	
Sunday 20th	Prayer 11.00 am	Prayer 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 27th	United Parish Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.01, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - I can still remember the Sunday morning when I climbed into the pulpit and began my sermon with a tale of three vicars. I hadn't been in the parish long and was still in the process of discovering what I had taken on. There were three vicars, I began, who had bats in the belfry… Suddenly someone spoke: So have you! I haven't told that story since. According to the Book of Genesis, among the things that God made on the fifth day of Creation was everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And it was good. Our modern church at Capel – St Radigund's – might attract the odd ant or spider, but not much more than that. Medieval churches, however, seem to be the ones that bring us closest to nature. It was as a curate that I discovered that bluebottles could navigate towards communion wine from the other end of a church with pinpoint accuracy. I was once taking a service in another church and discovered a bluebottle that had already taken the plunge – I lost sight of it as it crawled under the altar, presumably looking for somewhere to sober up. Spring has been chillier than usual this year, and apart from a few dead wasps nothing much had appeared until I came to light a candle the other day and found a ladybird sleeping next to the wick. I went to another candle – and there was another ladybird. When I came to extinguish the candle at the end of the service, another ladybird was already crawling up it, heading for home. Yes - it's taken me twenty years to discover that church candles attract ladybirds. Everything that creeps upon the ground seems to be in a church somewhere…

Brian Williams

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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Produced by Brian Wimsett
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Non-profit & delivered free to the Parish of Alkham

ELECTION - Jamie Rose resigned his position as councillor for the Alkham and Capel-le-Ferne Ward of Dover District Council due to a possible conflict of interest. If the post is contested an election will take place on the 22nd of July and because the village hall is booked the polling station will be in St Anthony's Church Alkham.

THE PARISH COUNCIL is actively progressing a solution to the litter on the Village Green with Dover District Council. We originally purchased the existing bins but they were 'adopted' by DDC and it is their responsibility to ensure they are emptied regularly. We have commissioned and paid for 13 new 'Not Suitable for HGV's signs that will be sited on key roads within the village. KCC Highways will not progress any traffic calming measures until they have conducted an official Speed Survey; we have asked for this to be undertaken. All Highways matters are dealt with via a KCC Highways Improvement Plan (HIP). KCC Highways will agree two Highway Improvements per parish council per year and there is no specific funding allocation for this. Therefore, it is very likely that the parish council will have to fund any works or surveys. We have incorporated much of the TAG report into our HIP. Thank you for the many positive comments regarding the new parish council website, the cost of which was covered by a grant from the Kent Association of Local Councils. The new website is available at: https://alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk/ . **Irene Bowie Parish Clerk**

MESSY DEVELOPMENTAL PLAY is coming to Alkham Village Hall, CT15 7BU for September and October. We will be combining messy play, songs and stories to create fantastic sensory learning experiences. The benefits of messy play are huge!! Your baby will get to explore new sensations whilst laying the foundations for independent play. What's even better...they get to make the mess and I clear up! All play will be thematic and use edible and baby safe materials including food stuffs, paint, materials and heuristic props. This is a 7 week block for the first Autumn term and spaces are limited to ensure the best experience for all. Book early to avoid disappointment and secure your place for September. www.botreebabywellness.co.uk/book-online. First class starts Thursday 9th September at 10:30 - 11:30, suitable for babies from 6 months onwards. All messy play provided in individual play trays and following Covid-19 safety guidance. Sessions delivered by an experienced primary and EYFS lead teacher. Free parking, refreshments and opposite play area.

FOR SALE £50 a wheelchair which is as new and only used twice. It folds up and has its own travel bag. Please ring 01304 824030.

VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - It is hoped to be able to hold the postponed Annual Meeting on Tuesday 20th July at 7.00p.m. in the Village Hall. All welcome to come along and find out what this village amenity can offer. Also to give your input on what developments, improvements and events you would like to see, as we plan ahead after such a long break. **Janet Adamson** - Secretary

WILD FLOWER MEADOW - I would like to congratulate John Huggins on the beautiful wild flower meadow he has created on his strip of land that stretches from Pimlico Way to the top of Slip Lane. It has now been there for a few years and has seeded to create a wonderful area for all kinds of pollinators and butterflies. I have walked along it on many occasions, my favourite time is early in the morning and it is at its very best in June. Thank you John for thinking of our insects and butterflies who really need our help when so many meadows have been lost. **Sue Ross**

TEA N' CHAT - We hope to resume the popular informal afternoon get togethers from 29th July in the Village Hall. These are regular opportunities (last Thursday of each month from 2.30-4.00p.m.) for relaxed company with free refreshments, and nice biscuits. Just come along and meet up with residents old and new. All welcome.

PILATES – Pilate classes which are currently on Friday mornings from 10am to 11am will also be on Tuesdays at the same time.

THE ART CLASS will start again in the village hall on Tuesdays 11am to 2pm.

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Tai Chi

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SAILING – A person in the village has built a radio controlled toy yacht for his grandchildren and the maiden voyage was in the lake at Kearsney on June the 11th. He put his bike camera in the stern and a suitable size sailor in the boat and the recording that has been made is mesmerizing. The video has been uploaded to YouTube and can be accessed by going to https://youtu.be/tGB2B6vMpVY.



WILDLIFE – Previous newsletters have shown the fox and the badger getting fed and not to be outdone a pheasant regularly visits a house in Alkham and goes to the patio door demanding his oats whilst his partner stands on one leg drying out. At a relative's house in the village a bat was seen recently hanging in a tree and was rescued by the owners. However, it did not survive and was collected by a wildlife organization which said there had been a number of mortalities because of a shortage of insect food. I upload the newsletter to alkham.org where the photos can be seen in colour. If you would like a regular colour copy, please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com. In addition to animals there is a sea of Ox Eye daisies on the large area of non-cultivated land to the left of the footpath as you go up the path behind the church to Ellinge. **Brian Wimsett**





RUBBISH – In last month's newsletter there was an article about rubbish being strewn across the ground opposite the village hall. A nearby resident says that our feral fox is partly to blame as it scavenges in the bin. Also, probably visitors, are leaving disposable barbecue kits which are a particular danger to children and pets.

AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM



At Brook, which is halfway between Ashford and Wye, there is an agricultural museum which has just about all the items from when the horse was the power round the farm. The main collection is housed in a Grade 1 listed barn and is worth a visit just to see the building. Behind the barn is a 19th century almost intact oast house with a large variety of items associated with hop growing. On the second floor of the oast is a varied selection of implements and small objects relating to farming. There is a large grassed area where people can picnic, toilets and a room which has numerous models of carts and wagons. The museum is open at the weekend between 2pm and 5pm until mid-September and the cost of entry is £2.50 (concession £1.50) and children under 14 are free. **Brian Wimsett** curator

W.I. – The meeting scheduled for July has been cancelled due to the current restrictions.

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RIOT AT DOVER - The following was reported in *The Times* on 29 May 1820. "On Wednesday the *Lively* excise cutter captured a smuggling galley, having on board 57 half-ankers of spirits and 37 bags of tea, which, with the crew, consisting of 11 persons, were landed here [Dover]; and 10 of them being fit for the Navy, the whole crew were committed to Dover gaol, until the 10 could be removed to some of HM's receiving ships. This morning was fixed for the removal of the 10; but it being thought, from the vast influx of ill-looking men into the town that a rescue would be attempted, every precaution was taken by the Mayor and Magistrates to guard against it… The mob… notwithstanding the Riot Act was twice read from the gaol, with crowbars, pickaxes, hammers, saws, etc. unroofed the top, and threw part of the side wall down, and not only released the whole 11 smugglers but several other prisoners… Since the release of the smugglers, who all belonged to Folkestone, the town remains tranquil." *The Times* reported the next day that "It is a fortunate circumstance that the Magistrates did not authorise the Military to fire, for, had they done so, great slaughter must have ensued, there being amongst the crowd numbers of women … were the wives of the smugglers with 40 children all belonging to Folkestone." **Jackie Grebby**

MOONWALK – Jane Day, who lives at South Alkham, is raising money for a breast cancer charity and on the 15th May walked 26.2 miles for this charity which is called 'walkthewalk'. She has raised £1200 already and was wondering if any of the newsletter's lovely readers would like to donate. The walk normally takes place in London at night and is called the 'moonwalk' but due to Covid it was walked locally by women and men all over the UK. Over a million pounds has been raised for this worthy cause and if you'd like to donate please go to https://walkthewalk.enthuse.com/pf/jane-day

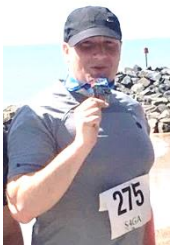
HARRY - MY SPARROWHAWK

A peaceful Sunday afternoon
Hawk eyes dozing in the broom
Little birdies all around
Pecking at the chalky ground.
Lightning fast without a sound
He drops and pierces. All around
Sunday peaceful afternoon -
Hawk eyes glitter in the broom.

Looping left and arcing right
Angling through the splintered light
Faster than the sense of sight
Ripping into fluttering flight
Gripping with his talons tight
Crushing daylight into night
Streaking red across my white
In his medieval might.

Gail Swainston

CHARITY RUN



Congratulations to Michael Moore, who lives at Drellingore, on completing his 10k run in aid of the Pilgrims Hospice on Sunday the 30th of May. Michael says he was chuffed with his time of 1 hour 37 seconds and has to date raised £215. The 10k run was along the seafront on a beautiful, but very hot sunny day.

A SPARROWHAWK



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If you come to a service please remember to bring a face covering, use sanitizer when you arrive, leave contact details, observe social distancing at all times, and mix only with members of your household or support bubble. Thank you!

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4th	Prayer 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Prayer 11.00 am
Sunday 11th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Prayer 11.00 am	
Sunday 18th	Prayer 11.00 am	Prayer 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 25th	United Parish Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.01, 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - *Say One For Me* – it's the sort of remark that churchgoers sometimes hear as they set off for church on a Sunday morning, usually from a neighbour who's engaged in gardening or washing the car. It also inspired the title of a book that sits on my bookshelf about the fact that there are some people who may not choose to attend church themselves but are nevertheless glad that others do. For people of faith prayer is as natural as a conversation with a friend. Yet it can be surprisingly controversial. I have seen people bristle at the thought that someone might be praying for them. When Richard Dawkins, the celebrated biologist and outspoken critic of all things religious suffered a minor stroke a few years ago, the Church of England asked for prayers for his recovery on its website – only to be accused by some of 'trolling'! The discussion went on: if prayer works, great! If it's all nonsense, where's the harm? There are certainly those who are comforted by the thought that others are praying for them – we remember those who have asked for our prayers at our services, and others pray for them privately. But we live in strange times, and I've recently noticed something that I haven't noticed before: I've taken phone calls from people who I cannot recall ever having spoken to before, but who having been left stressed and anxious by the pandemic want to know that someone is praying for them. And judging by some of the messages I've received from them, it seems to be working…

Brian Williams

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clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk
Hall booking Shirley Prince 828098
W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669
KCC David Beaney 07818 024487
DDC No one at present
Web sites www.alkham.org and www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

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ALKHAM SPEEDWATCH VOLUNTEERS post covid restrictions return into full Operational Service on Wednesday 28th July, all being well. We have a new speed measuring device, new hi viz clothing and we welcome three new volunteers who will join us once fully trained. We welcome new volunteer operators and also are seeking one or two people who would like to help but do not want to work at the roadside to work at home to analyse data collected by the roadside teams and enter it into the Kent Police Speedwatch database within 36 hours of a monitoring session. Villagers may be interested to know that in the last 31 speed watch monitoring events in the village, 800 speeding motorists exceeding 35mph in the 30 mph limit were booked according to our police records. Although lots of people continue to raise concern with me, Lorry Watch has received only two reports of HGV problems in the Parish over the past 12 months and KCC will not take action without evidence of a problem; all parishioners are urged to advise alkham.hgvincident@btinternet.com every time they become aware of a problem. This may be dangerous turning, road damage, speeding, clearly lost, high vehicles heading towards Kearsney bridge, HGV's using unsuitable side lanes (unless for bona fide access reasons), overnight parking in unsafe places, etc. **Glyn Jones**

AWARD - I attended the Alkham Parish Council meeting on the 28th of June 2021 and was delighted to be present to witness Brian Wimsett receive the Kent Association of Local Councillors (KALC) award for services to the local community. I am writing this article knowing Brian's modesty would not entertain notifying the local community of such a well-earned and well deserved award recognising the inordinate amount of time he gives each month to ensure the gathering of sufficient number of articles which have then to be edited to compose and print in the monthly Alkham newsletter. Brian has always worked tirelessly to promote the work of the parish council and that of the community in a selfless manner. "Congratulations Brian, you deserve it". **Geoff Lymer** …



I WOULD like to thank the Parish Council for nominating me for this award and also thank the 11 people who deliver the newsletter each month around the parish some of whom have been doing it since I started in 1997. Also, many thanks to Steve Osborn (OZ) who has written a monthly article from 1999. **Brian Wimsett**

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE - Can I be the first person this year to mention Christmas! The tree is now thriving and getting taller which means that I will have to succumb to family pressure and ask if anyone would like to take over putting up the tree lights as I am not to be trusted up a ladder these days!



Den Barnard 01304 824845

ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH – Last August there was an article in the newsletter regarding the replacing of 6000 Kent peg tiles on the roof of St. Anthony's church. 'A buy a tile' fund was started at £5 a tile and 23 people responded with £980 being raised which was placed in the Friends of St. Anthony bank account. The cost of the roof work has increased but the Friends are giving £12,500 towards the works with the church providing the rest.

SIGNS – The 13 'Not Suitable for HGV's' signs paid for by the Parish Council have been erected by the minor roads off the Valley Road around Alkham. This is to be commended as they have listened to parishioner's comments and hopefully the signs will also deter some drivers using these roads as short cuts.

FILM NIGHT could start again in September but there doesn't appear to be any suitable films that have recently been released to DVD. The only one that could appeal is 'Peter Pan goes wrong' but only lasts an hour. Please let me know what you think of the latter or suggest a film that we could show – brianwimsett@hotmail.com or 824969.

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ALKHAM COMMUNITY LED PLAN - You have not heard much on this subject for some time but with the improving news this month it is a good moment to remind everybody where we are on producing the plan. It seems an age ago when the village hall was packed at the Community Plan Open Day. Over 150 villagers attended and about 800 comments, ideas, thoughts and feelings were put forward. The Planning Team (Cllr Tracey Prince, Cllr Dave Beaney, Cllr Martin Hibbert, Rachel Fountain, Jo Walker, Glyn Jones, Steve Edwards and Den Barnard) had taken advice from KALC (Kent Association of Local Councils), Dover Council Planning, Kent County Council and many other sources on how to go about producing a CLP. The Village Survey followed and after many iterations a draft plan was put forward early last year when other priorities took over. With some sort of normality now returning the team will be reconvening after feedback from the Parish Council and the next steps will be reported at the next Parish Council meeting. As always this is a good time to remind us all that although the Parish Council instigated the project, as the name implies, it is Community led so we will be needing volunteers and all types of help to make it a success. We have a list of volunteers obtained from the village survey and if you would like to add your name to that list please let any of the team know or email denbarnard@yahoo.com. For any newcomers to the village we can supply full details of the work done so far. **Den Barnard**

GEOFFREY LYMER sent an article for publication in which he expressed his concern about a few people who are aggressive at Parish Council meetings. He wishes to remind these people that the councillors are volunteers and they should be treated with respect and the Parish Clerk who has also done a great job with the Parish Council website. He was also critical about the role of the Alkham Valley Society and considers it to have no mandate in Parish Council affairs.



IN LAST month's newsletter the abundance of Ox Eye daisies on the hill behind the church was mentioned and Marian Barber sent a photo which shows this sea of daisies. Evidently Ox Eye daisies are particularly rampant on fertile land.



The photo on the right is amusing and evidently the dog is thinking 'the farmer should get some new glasses as goodness knows where the ram is.'

ALEC AND Marie who live in the centre of Alkham visited the Agricultural Museum at Brook (TN25 5PF) and found it fascinating. They thought the barn roof was awesome, and the oast house was of great interest as well. If you'd like to visit the museum, it is open at the weekends from 2pm to 5pm until mid-September and entrance costs £2.50 (concession £1.50) with most children free. **Brian Wimsett**

W.I. - Our WI meeting will be on Tuesday the 10th of August. It will be an informal meeting and I have promised to do a quiz to round the evening off. Hostesses are Sue Koo and Katie and Raffle Beryl King. Looking forward to seeing you all there and new members are always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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CASTALIA – In the June edition of the newsletter there was an article about a revolutionary catamaran which was used in 1870 as a cross channel paddle steamer. When the Castalia was retired she was handed over to the Metropolitan Asylum Board and converted into a hospital. Five large wards were made in the old cabin arrangement covering the whole mid-ship section and another five above. Separate rooms were provided for isolating patients who may have been sent under a mistaken diagnosis of small-pox but proved to be suffering from measles, fever, etc. Small-pox was such a terrible and infectious disease that it was evidently thought desirable to isolate the isolation hospital that dealt with such cases. A completely self-contained floating hospital complex was certainly unusual, and the organisation seems to have been very well thought out. Before the arrival of the re-built Castalia it consisted of two large ex-sailing ships; the Atlas, which accommodated the patients, and the Endymion, which housed the staff and services such as the laundry. With the arrival of Castalia, the Atlas was given over to the female patients, and all the male patients were treated aboard Castalia. The functions of Endymion remained as before. The whole complex was anchored well out in the river between Purfleet and Dartford. Castalia remained a part of this floating hospital for over twenty years and was then broken up. **Jackie Grebby**

CRAFT CLASS – There used to be an Art Class on Tuesday mornings in the village hall and this will commence again as a Craft Class which can include any other craft or hobby. If you would like to join them the first class is on Tuesday 3rd of August from 11am to 1pm.

THE HUNTER

There are those that hunt forever
In the camouflage of light
Blending black stripe white together
Tiger like.
On occasion there's a hunter
One who waits until the night
Blending shadows with the rock face
Leopard like.
But avoiding confrontation
There is danger out of sight
Mythic fearsome reputation
Cobra like.
Breathing in with every heartbeat
Breathing out as you let go
Blending with your own persona
To and fro.
With a strike that came from nowhere
Nothing you had seen before
Shock so violent in your bloodstream
To the core.

Gail Swainston

WOLVERTON WOOD

The 12 acre wood, which is adjacent to the Alkham Valley road roughly opposite Alkhamhurst Kennels, is for sale again at £85,000 pounds and the agents say that there may be potential to erect forestry barns or wildlife hides subject to consent. It is encouraging to see that the agents are being realistic regarding the use of the site which suggests it is purely for nature purposes.

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Tuesday		Craft class 11am to 1pm (check on day)
Wednesday		Tai Chi 5.30pm to 6.30pm
Other events in the village hall assuming no changes		
Tuesday	3	White Cliffs Metal Detectors 7.30pm
Tuesday	10	W.I. meeting at 7.30pm
Saturday	14	SEKAS 7pm **All events subject to Covid**
Thursday	26	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4.00pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1st	Prayer 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Prayer 11.00 am
Sunday 8th	Patronal Festival Hougham 10.00 am		
Sunday 15th	Patronal Festival at St Mary's Capel 10.00 am		
Sunday 22nd	United Parish Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		
Sunday 29th	United Parish Eucharist St Radigund's 10.00 am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - I read that in Britain, more than three million pets were bought during lockdown. It's easy to understand why – many of us look to our pets for love and companionship. We have a family of cockatiels, who seem to find someone arriving home as exciting as anything you can imagine. Of course, the downside of pet ownership is that inevitably the moment comes when we have to say goodbye. More than once when I was teaching in school, I was asked by a grief-stricken child whether their much-loved pet might have gone to heaven. And frustratingly, nothing – not even the Bible - offers a clear answer. We had a goodbye of our own recently. At ten years old, Peter Rabbit – the name that the pet shop gave him always stuck – was ancient by bunny standards. In later life he had needed almost monthly visits to the vet to have his teeth fixed. Arriving home, he would be sleepy for a day or so and then normal service would resume – eating, being stroked, and running over my foot. But then age finally caught up with him, and we laid him to rest in the garden where his hutch used to stand. It was after dark one evening about a week later when I noticed that something had triggered the light outside the front door. I investigated – and there, playing on the garden path, was a young wild rabbit. At one point it stretched up the door and looked through into the porch. But before I could fetch my camera, it hopped off across the garden and disappeared. Bunny heaven? I used to tell children that I believe that God loves our pets just as much as we do - and I still do. **Brian Williams**

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clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk
Hall booking Shirley Prince 828098
W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669
KCC David Beaney 07818 024487
DDC No one at present
Web sites www.alkham.org and www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE
Telephone 01304 824969
brianwimsett@hotmail.com

No. 332 September 2021

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AFTER twenty years of leading the Keep Fit Girls each Wednesday in the village hall, Susannah has finally decided to take life easier. We are all very grateful to her commitment, leadership and dance routines, enabling us all to maintain more flexibility. We all enjoyed a wonderful coffee morning, with great thanks to Sue Koo for hosting, to wish Susannah well. **Irene Barnard**.

AN EXCITING DAY when film crews arrived at Greenwood farm, on the 19th of July with Joanna Lumley. They filmed Joanna taking of in a microlight to fly over the white cliffs of Dover for a program to be shown in September or November. The photo shows Joanna with our 7 year old grandson Vinnie. **Anne Huggins**



MEET AND GREET COFFEE MORNING - It's been a while since the last event, and as we see many new families in and around Alkham, thought it about time to do another. This coffee morning is relaxed and a way to meet new friends and neighbours - especially for those who have moved into the village during the past year. Please come along from 10 - 12.30 and enjoy free refreshments and treats for the children on Saturday 23rd October in the village hall. Hopefully many villagers will come along to meet the newcomers and enjoy a pleasant Saturday morning. The cost for this event is being met by The Brian Wimsett Alkham Fund. **Irene Barnard**

VILLAGE HALL - It is heartening to see that many of our regular events are resuming after the Hall has been out of use for over a year. Our recent AGM was well supported and has meant that we now have two new members on the Committee, a new Trustee and we are pleased that Brian Wimsett is now Chairman of the Management Committee. Precautionary cleansing and safety measures are still in place but we welcome ideas for future functions in the Hall. (booking details on back page). **Janet Adamson**

I WOULD like to take the opportunity to thank all the residents that turned out to vote at the recent DDC ward by-election for Alkham & Capel le Ferne. As the winning candidate, I promised to listen to you all and fight for the issues that matter most to you. My job will be to ensure that the interests of the ward communities are fully represented and I will work hard to get things done on your behalf. **Cllr Martin Hibbert Alkham and Capel le Ferne**

A COFFEE MORNING in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support is being held in the village hall on Saturday the 25th of September from 10am to 12 noon. There will be a number of stalls selling cakes, plants, jewellery and bric-a-brac plus a tombola stall. Tea, coffee and cakes will be available with seats and tables laid out in the hall.

TEA N' CHAT - The Village Hall is open, on the last Thursday of the month, for an informal get-together with refreshments, biscuits and sometimes cake! A chance for villagers to meet up, reminisce, swop books, magazines and stories. All welcome between 2.30 and 4.00p.m.

FILM NIGHT

Tuesday 28th September 7.30pm

Fairy Tale: A True Story

Starring Paul McGann, Harvey Keitel, Peter O'Toole and Bill Nighy about two girls in 1917 who say they have seen fairies and produce photographs which are authenticated by an expert. Entry to the village hall is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated.

THE ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY wishes it to be known that it was founded in 1977 with the sole purpose of preserving the beauty of the Valley and to conserve its surroundings and has no mandate in Parish Council affairs and does not interfere with the business of the Parish Council. **Mark Loveday**

FISH & CHIPS - The ladies apologise for the non-appearance of the van in July, as it broke down; new leaflets are being distributed. The next dates are Saturdays 28th August and 18th September, by the Village Hall. To preorder: 07955 926 835.

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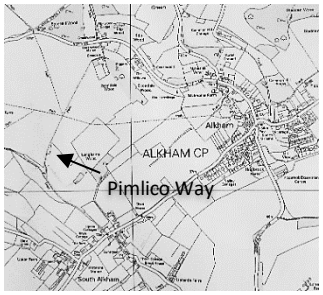
SOMETHING GOOD which has come out of the pandemic has been the Slip Lane sunflower competition, which was started by Vernon and myself when we received a free pack of Sunflowers in the post on the first lockdown. Vernon popped 10 in and shared the seedlings with Apple Tree cottage and Shortlands and the rest we kept ourselves. In 2020 Ken and Sandie won and this year we now have a trophy and this was presented on Sunday to Ang and Kev from Shortlands who won by growing a sunflower 3.3 metres high. Next year we have the intention of opening this fiercely fought contest to the entire village to take part. We shall be keeping some of the seeds back and using them for providing seedlings to anyone wishing to take part next year for the now renamed Alkham Sunflower Cup , details to follow. **Anita James**

HERE IS a free garden refuse disposal site for Alkham residents. At the top of Pimlico Way from the Alkham Valley Road, on the branch to the right, there is a section now called The Poo Store. This is private land, on which there is horse manure, just before the gate. There, and until the council's collection or November 1st, Alkham residents may dump the same as the council collected and can be put on a compost heap including grass cuttings, twigs and leaves, prunings and hedge clippings, flowers and plants, weeds (except Japanese Knotweed and ragwort), turf and topsoil. Do not dump rubble or stones, cooked foods or kitchen waste, wood of any kind, non-organic waste, garden chemicals, pet litter/bedding. This free service will be stopped if abused. Your vehicle registration will be recorded by CCTV and you may be asked to prove you are an Alkham resident, so carry a utility bill in your glove compartment. **Martin Scherer**





FOLLOWING the splendid display of Oxeye Daisies in the both the meadow above the church and the meadow strip running beside the sheep field between Pimlico Way and Slip Lane, the latter is now full of wonderful grasses, yarrow, and scabious all accompanied by moths, butterflies and these rather interesting 6-spot burnet. **Jackie Grebby**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our August meeting was just an informal one and it was lovely to see all members again. Our next meeting will be on the 14th of September at 7.30pm and we will be having fish and chips followed by a short quiz by the 2 Debbie's. Please would all members bring your own refreshments and any members that weren't at the last meeting but would like fish and chips please let me know by 3rd September; my number is 07796360473. Raffle prize Gina Daniels. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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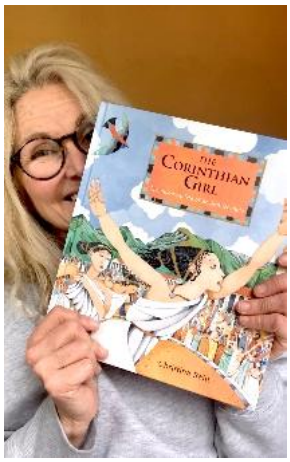

CHRISTINA BALIT has illustrated over 20 children's books and been short listed for the Kate Greenaway Medal twice winning the Commended award for *Ishtar and Tammuz* in 1996. One of her books, *Atlantis - The Legend of a Lost City* and *Escape from Pompeii* is now extensively used throughout the UK in primary schools and other illustrations are in five huge anthologies for National Geographic. Christina's latest book 'The Corinthian Girl' is the story of young girl in Ancient Greece, who despite being abandoned by her father in a marketplace to be discarded - or picked up by someone else in case she was of any use - ends up becoming a champion at Olympia. It's especially suitable for children in class three to five of primary school and written specifically to show what life might have been like for a real child in the Ancient World. If anyone in the village fancies purchasing a copy it is available at booksellers or from Christina at the Old Granary, Slip Lane, Alkham. If a teacher would like her to visit their class, she is happy to do so, at no charge - so long as it's not too far away. You can contact her directly on Instagram or via the website www.christinabalit.com.



SHOPPING – At the beginning of the 20th century most people in Alkham walked to Dover to get their weekly supplies. There was some transport available but the Alkham Valley road was rough and unsurfaced and made for an uncomfortable journey. The photo shows Mr Balcombe with his wagonette, probably at Kearsney, which left Alkham at 9am and arrived in Dover around noon and returned at 3pm with one shilling being charged (about £5 now). Another character called Fisty Miller drove a four-in-hand brake and later the Partridge family at Wolverton started a bus service. **editor**

SITTING

In the secret garden
In the very heart of Rye
Looking out for Henry James
And Benson strolling by.

Peaceful contemplation
Letting thoughts run wild and vast
Opening to freedom's dreams
The stillness of the marsh.

Gail Swaiston

WASTE COLLECTION – Veolia, who collects waste for DDC, is facing a number of challenges, including a national HGV driver shortage, and the need for staff to self-isolate. Veolia recently signed a new contact and changes to routes and collection days were introduced. DDC are aware of areas where collections have been missed, and these will be collected as soon as possible. Given the volume of enquiries please do not contact DDC about their collections. Please see the DDC website for the latest information.

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Other events in the village hall assuming no changes		
Tuesday	7	White Cliffs Metal Detectors 7.30pm
Saturday	11	SEKAS 7pm **All events subject to Covid**
Tuesday	14	W.I. meeting at 7.30pm
Saturday	25	Macmillan coffee morning 10am to 12 noon
Tuesday	28	Film Night 7.30pm – please see page 1
Thursday	30	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4.00pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th	Prayer 6.30 pm Alkham - Parish Eucharist 10.00 am Hougham		
Saturday 11th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 12th	Eucharist 9:30 am	Worship 11.00 am	
Sunday 19th	Worship 11.00 am	Prayer 6pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 26th	United Parish Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - While out shopping recently, we passed a young woman sitting in a doorway clutching a piece of paper: *I'm hungry, please help*. We gave her some change, knowing that she would soon be hungry again. Sadly, surviving on the charity of others becomes a way of life for some, and it is not always easy to know what to do for the best when approached. Once, on my way to a meeting in Canterbury – and so wearing my clerical collar - someone staggered up to me in the street. Someone had thumped him in the head the previous evening, he said, and he had had a headache ever since. The police had done nothing, and at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital he had been told to go to the QEQM Hospital at Margate. But how to get there? He was already late for his appointment and had no money. Yes, I know what you're thinking – I was being taken for the proverbial ride. But since "*On your bike"* was neither Christian nor practical in the circumstances, I walked him to the bus station, found a bus that was going to the QEQM Hospital, explained to the driver where he needed to get to and bought his ticket. But he didn't take a seat; now he needed to find his friend. He must have been one of the bus driver's regulars; thanking me on his behalf for his ticket, she scolded him: *"I've told you before about asking for money!"* I have no idea where he ended up. But the New Testament Letter to the Hebrews warns: "*Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels."* So, maybe I did the right thing after all… **Brian Williams**

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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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The Old Post Office
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE
Telephone 01304 824969
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No. 333 October 2021

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HARVEST SUPPER - I am arranging a Harvest Supper for Monday the 11th of October. As you all are aware our churches were closed during the pandemic and consequently we had no money coming in. For the upkeep of our beautiful churches, we need your money please. I think cottage pies and fruit crumbles are the way to go so if anyone can donate these, I would be most grateful and also anything for the auction or the raffle. We will start at 7.00pm in Alkham village hall and tickets will be £8.00 per person; please ring Carol Mannall on 01304 826514 or 07946106742.

ALL THINGS CHRISTMAS – With winter fast approaching we are now looking forward to Christmas, myself (Debbie) and Graham have decided to take over the mantle of all things Christmas in Alkham this year. We would like to thank Den and Irene for all their work over the years and their support this year. Hopefully, we can go a little way in filling their shoes. With that said we have two dates for the diary. The first being **Saturday 4th December** for the Christmas Party, all are welcome at the village hall from **7-11pm**. It will be a bring your own drink and we are also looking for contributions for a food sharing table. We will also be running a Christmas raffle, in support of our local village, donations welcome. Please contact us via **west_deborah@ymail.com** if you will be attending and/or bringing along food donations so we can ascertain numbers. We are also open to any party ideas or help on the day! Please join us for the Christmas Light switch-on at **4:45pm** on **Saturday 11th December**. Graham Bissett will be supporting us with a short carol service, weather permitting. Mince pies, mulled wine and squash for the children, will be served at our lovely local pub, The Marquis, straight after. We also have it on good authority that Santa may also be making an appearance! Keep an eye out for further details in November's newsletter. **Debbie West**

PANTOMIME – The actor Brian Croucher, who lives in Slip Lane, will be playing Baron Hardup in the pantomime Cinderella at the Lees Cliff Hall in Folkestone this year. The pantomime runs from the 10th of December to the 31st twice daily, except some Sundays which only have matinees at 2pm and there will be no shows on the 20th, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

MEET AND GREET COFFEE MORNING – Just a reminder that it will be on Saturday 23rd October in the village hall from 10 - 12.30 with free refreshments and treats for the children. It is a relaxed way to meet new friends and neighbours, especially for those who have moved into the village during the past year. Please come along and hopefully many villagers will come along to meet the newcomers and enjoy a pleasant Saturday morning. **Irene Barnard**



THE NEW bus shelter has now been installed at the bottom of Wolverton Hill and Alkham Valley Road. The parish council has worked very closely with KCC Highways to provide a much needed shelter. Our thanks go to Geoff Lymer for funding the project from his KCC Members Grant. **Irene Bowie**

THERE IS A VACANCY on the parish council. If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor or would like more information please email the Parish Clerk , Irene Bowie, on clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

JEANETTE AND DANIEL would love to know about heritage fruit varieties that may have been grown in Alkham Valley. They wish to restore the orchard that was once present at Drellingore Barns, and by replanting local varieties they can provide a benefit to both the ecology of the site and the sympathetic treatment of its heritage. Any insights or suggestions sent to family@drellingorebarns.com would be most gratefully received. **Daniel Jones**

FILM NIGHT

Tuesday 26th October 7.30pm

The hitman's wife's bodyguard

This is a comedy starring Ryan Reynolds and Samuel L Jackson.

September's film is Fairy Tale: A True Story

Entry to the village hall is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated

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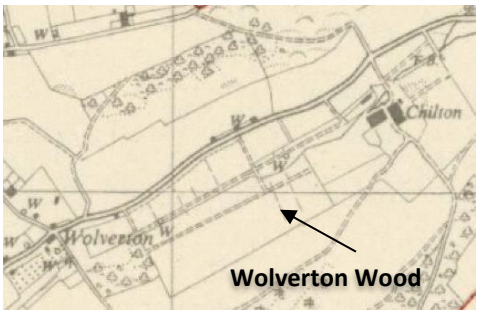

WOLVERTON WOOD In the August newsletter there were details regarding the sale of Wolverton Wood and Reg Woodruff says that this wood used to be a nursery. Chris Tapsell confirmed this and provided further information regarding the area that is now the wood which was part of the adjacent Chilton Farm. The access was from Chilton Farm which was owned by Clarkes who were the Dover nurserymen and they kept it until after WWII when the farm was sold to Mr. Dodd. He cultivated all the cultivatable land leaving the area where the nursery had their shrubs and trees to grow into what it is today and the above map shows the nursery as it was in the 1930's. The wood is currently for sale by auction with Clive Emson. **Editor**

IN THE AUGUST newsletter there was criticism about the role of the Alkham Valley Society which was unfair. They are a separate entity from the Alkham Parish Council and are free to express their concerns about events and actions happening in the Valley including expressing these opinions at Parish Council meetings. **Brian Wimsett**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our September meeting was our fish and chip night and we would like to thank Streez 2 Streez for cooking them for us; we would certainly recommend them. This was followed by a quiz by the 2 Debbie's. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday October 12th at 7.30pm and our speaker will be Shirley Prince on flower arranging. Hostesses Alison Warnock and Helen Price, raffle Sue Koo, V.O.T Helen Scopes. New members always welcome. All the ladies from Alkham WI would like to congratulate Debbie Holliman and Michael Bacon on their forthcoming wedding on the 24th of September. **Debbie Griggs**



SEAGULLS – The car was having an MOT at Halfords in Folkestone so I went walking and bought a sandwich in Asda and exited across the precinct below. Close to the coffee shop I was mugged by a seagull which bashed into the side of my head and flew off with the half sandwich which I wasn't particularly enjoying at the time. A neighbour related this story to his daughter in law on the seafront at Whitstable and shortly after she too was mugged by a seagull. **Brian Wimsett**

TEA N' CHAT - The Village Hall is open, on the last Thursday of the month, for an informal get-together with refreshments, biscuits and sometimes cake! A chance for villagers to meet up, reminisce, swop books, magazines and stories so please come and join us between 2.30 and 4.00p.m in the village hall.

GOOD NEIGHBOURS SERVICE is run by Kent Coast Volunteering, and you can become a volunteer befriender to support older, lonely, and isolated people in the local area. If you are interested in volunteering or would like to know more about the services they offer please phone 07816406350 or email katy.murray@kcv.org.uk.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SERVICE – If you need help with transport or getting to appointments or other places to go Kent Coast Volunteering offer a volunteer's service that can help. For more information ring 01303 259007 or email info@kcv.org.uk.

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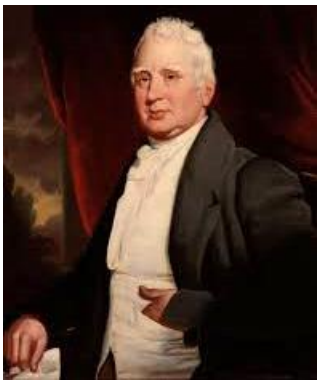
AN ELEPHANT Hawk Moth Caterpillar was discovered in my garden last week. I have never seen such a large caterpillar, nor one that looked back at me with such an unflinching gaze. Closer inspection revealed - of course - that what I had taken to be eyes were in fact on the back of the head as a means of scaring away potential predators out searching for a banquet. Just as I was beginning to feel a whole lot more relaxed about what I'd originally thought might be a small snake, it raised its trunk. It's not named 'The Elephant' for nothing. How common are these locally? Have you found one in your garden? **Gail Swainston**

The photo above does give some food for thought as a caterpillar has very little intelligence so how would it know that a pair of false eyes on its rear would scare predators? ***ed***

THE GARDEN GORGON

When you're pruning back the fuchsia
Don't forget to look beneath her.
Under those pink and purple skirts
A fearsome garden monster lurks -
As terrible as Old Godzilla
The Elephant Hawk Moth Caterpillar!

Gail Swainston



OZ ON RURAL RIDES - The writer of the Daily Telegraph article quoted from in 'Cold Spots' might be tickled to know that he reminded me somewhat of William Cobbett. Between 1822 and 1826 Cobbett made a number of fact-finding tours on horseback across the south and east of England, his accounts of which were published in 1830 as Rural Rides. On Monday 1st September 1823, he travelled from Folkestone to Dover, not via the Alkham Valley, but along the main road, known today as 'the old A20' or the B2011. He noted the valley "descending all the way to Dover, a distance of about six miles…each side of which may be about a mile and a half", concluding that "there are eighteen square miles of corn." This clarity of observation is matched only by Cobbett's vigorous prose style, described by William Hazlitt as "plain, broad, downright English", as witness his description of Dover itself: "…like other sea-port towns; but really, much more clean, and with less blackguard people in it than I have ever observed in any sea-port before." Cobbett was a fine example of the English 'radical patriot', fiercely loyal to his country, but determined to expose government mismanagement and corruption wherever they occurred. During his stay in Dover, he inspected the underground defences, and became incensed at what he saw as the colossal waste of money on "the only set of fortifications in the world ever framed for mere hiding." Uncertain whether to continue to France or along the coast to Thanet, Cobbett allowed his horse to decide, and stopped next at Deal, which he described as "a most villainous place full of filthy-looking people." As a Deal-born radical patriot, I feel obliged to say that Cobbett sometimes got it wrong. **Steve Osborn**

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Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday - Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am
Tuesday	Craft class 11am to 1pm (check on day)
Wednesday	Tai Chi 5.30pm to 6.30pm
Thursday	Mother and toddler group 10am to 12am

Other events in the village hall assuming no changes

Tuesday	5	White Cliffs Metal Detectors 7.30pm
Saturday	9	SEKAS 7pm
Tuesday	12	W.I. meeting at 7.30pm
Saturday	23	Meet and greet 10am to 12.30pm – please see page 1
Tuesday	26	Film Night 7.30pm – please see page 1
Thursday	28	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4.00pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3rd	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Saturday 9th	Messy church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 10th **Harvest Festival**	Harvest Eucharist 9:30 am	11.00 am	4.00 pm
Sunday 17th	Worship 11.00 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 24th	United Parish Eucharist 10.00 am Alkham		
Sunday 31st	St Mary's: Eucharist, 9.30 St Radigund's Thanksgiving Service, 11.00		

FROM THE VICARAGE - I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day…! Most of us will know Wizzard's Christmas song: first recorded in 1973, it has, apparently, made the charts each year since 2007. You don't recognise it? Don't worry – it's bound to be playing in a supermarket near you soon enough. Thankfully In church, it isn't Christmas every day! As I write, Harvest, All Saints, Remembrance Sunday and Advent are still to come, each with their own distinctive hymns, readings and prayers. Christmas every day would leave us bloated from too many mince pies; the different times and seasons of the Christian year offer a healthier. more varied diet of things to think about. All Saints arrives as leaves turn brown and days grow shorter. Before the Christmas rush begins, there comes a pause that reminds us that our home in this world is only temporary, holds out the hope of a better one to come, and encourages us to give thanks for those who have been lights of the world in their several generations, as the Prayer Book puts it. The pandemic deprived many of opportunities to say goodbye to their departed loved ones as they would have liked. So, this year we are planning to celebrate All Saints by holding Thanksgiving Services in each of our churches to which anyone who cares to come is welcome. Flowers or photographs can be brought along and arranged beforehand, candles lit for loved ones during the service, and light refreshments will be available afterwards. These will be at Alkham on 24th October at 10.00, St Radigund's Capel on 31st October at 11.00, and Hougham on 7th November at 11.00. If you want to come, please do – a phone call or email will help us to cater for everyone. **Brian Williams**

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Newsletter brianwimsett@hotmail.com
Parish Clerk and Parish Councillors
clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk
Hall booking Shirley Prince 828098
W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669
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Web sites www.alkham.org and www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Produced by Brian Wimsett
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brianwimsett@hotmail.com

No. 334 November 2021

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NOVEMBER SOCIAL DANCE - I have provisionally booked the village hall on Friday 12th November to hold a social folk dance (i.e. barn dance) on that evening starting at 19.30 and finishing at 11.30. There will be a small charge of £3.00 per person to defray the costs of hiring the village hall and providing a ploughman's supper during the break in the dancing. I am hoping that there will be live music, but if not we will be dancing to pre-recorded music. I am aware that, in the current circumstances, folk may be nervous at the prospect of dancing with others so I propose the following: **1**. All attendees must be double vaccinated. You will be asked to provide proof of this on entry via the NHS app which is available for both IoS and Android mobile phones. Failing this a copy of your NHS vaccination certificate, which is available online, will suffice. **2**. A rapid flow test must be carried out before attending and the results recorded on the NHS app. **3.** Personal sanitisers should be carried. With regard to the dance itself, I am proposing that all the dances we do will not involve any changes of partner, unless all those attending are happy to do so. I recently called a dance at Sandwich Festival which was very successful and enjoyable, so it is, even in the pandemic, possible to let our hair down and enjoy ourselves again. If you would like to join us, please email me at graham.bissett@talk21.com stating how many places you would like. Payment can be made to me directly via bank transfer, or you can pop an envelope through our door at Bren Tor if you would prefer to use cash. **Graham Bissett**

MARQUIS - Although what summer we had is now behind us and it seems that Winter is fast approaching and the log bill will certainly be increasing, we want you, our community, to enjoy your pub as much as possible and want to give back what we can to make it your continued watering hole and second kitchen; don't worry we will do the cooking for you here! We are conscious of you being our neighbours and want to do something for you all so that you can enjoy your pub as Winter closes in. So, starting from the 21st October, we are offering a "locals night" which will include music entertainment and 10% off your food and drinks bill every Thursday! You'll have the chance to indulge off of our new Autumn Menu, with some great pub classics and seasonal produce cooked to perfection. We are also want to host a quiz night on the last Monday of every month from 7pm - we realise this has been a tough year for everyone and although we are all returning to normal, we want you all to know that we are pub first and foremost and want you to socialise as much as you feel comfortable here with us. Everyone is always welcome for a drink or a meal and we have some new faces here both in the kitchen and out front, don't worry, Will, Nadine and myself are always around and look forward to seeing some of you soon!" **Hugh Thompson General Manager**

PARISH COUNCIL - There are currently two vacancies on the parish council. If you would like to become involved in shaping and representing your community, please have a look on our website where there is additional information about the role. You can also contact Irene, the parish clerk via clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk and arrange an informal chat.

HARVEST SUPPER – A big thankyou to all those who generously supported the supper with a grand total of £712 being raised for church funds. **Carol Mannall**

MAGIC GARDEN – At October half term why not join the adventures at Chilton Magic Garden? Details on www.chiltonmagicgarden.com or email chiltonmagicgarden@gmail.com.

JP'S BARBER and hairdressing bus is coming to Alkham starting on the 18th of October and then once a month, details on Facebook page. It will be in the village hall car park at 2.30pm and to contact either call 07500 504788 or email jpsbarberbus@gmail.com.

TEMPLE EWELL Primary School is having Open Mornings for children starting in Reception in September on the 17th and 18th November between 9.30am and 11am. To book a place please ring 01304 822665.

PLEASE NOTE that the film for October has been changed to Dream Horse which is a feel good film.

FILM NIGHT - 7.30pm
Tuesday 30th November
Nomadland with Frances McDormand
Tuesday 26th October
Dream Horse with Damian Lewis
Entry to the village hall is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated

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MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING - A huge thank you to everyone who supported our coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Support, held in the village hall on Saturday 25th September. Once again so many kind people provided a wonderful selection of homemade cakes and preserves to sell and donated so many other items for the various stalls. Thank you to everyone who helped in so many ways on the day and to all who gave me such generous donations before and during the event. It was such an enjoyable morning, and so great to be able to meet up once again with such wonderful friends and neighbours. I am delighted to say that together we have raised £1,310 for this deserving Charity. Thank you so much to everyone. **Sue Ross**

A NUMBER of people in the course of conversation have admired the new wall alongside Stansfield, Slip Lane. It really is very good and a pleasure to pass. It is in a salute to Stan Couchman, that the name for this house has been retained by the present owners. Stan served as a navigator on the Lancaster planes during the Berlin Airlift, and was present at the atomic bomb trials on Bikini. Lots of history there, so thank you James and Nina Bellas for your contribution to our environment. **Jo Walker (sec AVS)**

ALKHAM COUNCIL ELECTIONS - You may not be aware but one of my Ward councillor tasks is to help contribute to open government and encourage all sections of the community to participate in the democratic process. The recent councillor vacancies arising within the Alkham Parish Council provides me with that opportunity. Parish councils are the first tier of local government and play a vital role in the democratic framework as they represent the interests of the local community. In these challenging times it is more important than ever for councils to engage with communities in a positive and proactive manner, acting on communities needs and aspirations as best they can via the devolved powers they have. Post pandemic, this is no time to sit on the fence or offer views from the side lines. All councils want to build back better. Parish councils need active, interested, and committed people to serve and get involved with their work and local issues. Becoming a councillor does not mean you are expected to have all the solutions for your community, but to be viewed as a positive opportunity to help make a difference by influencing decisions that affect your community. Also, it gives the opportunity to work together in a diverse team with a range of skills to enable the job to get done – with an essential open-mindedness. Being a councillor will be challenging, exciting and at times frustrating! But always with the personal satisfaction of knowing that you have made a difference. If you are considering putting yourself forward, I would recommend visiting the Alkham Parish Council website where there is posted an excellent video titled on What is Parish/Town councillor, and a PDF The Good Councillor's Guide. Good Luck. **Cllr Martin Hibbert Alkham and Capel le Ferne Ward**

ALKHAM W.I. - The October meeting was an enjoyable evening and our speaker Shirley Prince showed us how easy it was to do flower arranging and also how easy it was to do a hand tied bouquet. Our next meeting is on Tuesday the 9th of November which is our AGM meeting followed by an auction organised by Lucy McKenzie and Debbie Griggs; so any members that have any unwanted items please bring them along (no clothes). Hostesses Sue Ross and Margaret Batcheldor, Raffle Sue Ross. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

ON THE LEFT is a photo taken at the Harvest Festival service on the 10th of October in St. Anthony's church by Catie Webber.

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SMUGGLER'S BROADSTAIRS - My esteemed colleague, Steve Osborn, in his article 'OZ on Rural Rides', commented that William Cobbett was uncertain whether to continue from Dover to Thanet, or travel to France. Stopping at Deal, he cast its residents in a disparaging light. Had he continued to Thanet and discovered the coastal area north of Broadstairs towards the Foreland at Kingsgate, he may well have encountered the notorious local smuggler, 'Joss Snelling', who seemed to have a mafia style influence over the local residents and who gave his name to 'Joss Bay'. By all accounts Joss Snelling was a tricky customer. He was born in 1741 at St Peters-in-Thanet. Although he was seldom caught in the act, he was a prolific rum runner. Joss recruited his gang from the local pubs; notable among them was the Fig Tree Inn, which is now a private residence. He also had connections with Stone House, on North Foreland Avenue, which had a vast cellar and was one of his secret storehouses. There was an underground tunnel leading from the cellar to the tide-washed foreshore off the Foreland, ideal for unloading small boats at night. He had another hideaway for his goods in caves situated between the Fig Tree Inn and Joss Bay. The caves, now largely obscured by overgrowth, may sometimes be seen in the sunken part of the front garden of the 'Thatched Cottage', in Elmwood Avenue, adjacent to the North Foreland Golf Course, and opposite Elmwood Farm. Joss lived in a cottage in Lanthorne Road which conveniently linked Stone House at one end with Fig Tree Inn at the other. His contraband comprised mostly various liquors from France. Joss Snelling seemed able to evade detection by bribing or threatening the local inhabitants to keep quiet, but not always. In 1830 William Pitt the Younger's revenue men, supported by the 13th Light Dragoons cornered Joss's 'Callis Court Gang' between Kingsgate and Botany Bays. A fierce battle ensued with loss of life on both sides. In the aftermath the revenue men made a search of houses around the village of Reading Street and captured eight of Snelling's gang. All were tried and hanged, but Joss seemed to escape the gallows with a hefty £100 fine, because nobody would prove against him. He merrily paid the fine, avoided jail, and carried on smuggling until reaching the ripe old age of 96. **John Vince**

A REMEMBRANCE service is being held at Canterbury Cathedral on the 6th of November at 11.30am for anyone who has lost a baby in pregnancy, birth or early years at any time or have been unable to conceive.

WOLVERTON WOOD – The guide price for the wood was £85,000 but it sold for £101,500 at the Clive Emson auction on the 22nd of September.

CONSULTATION – The Kent Police and Crime Commissioner has launched a public consultation on a new police and crime plan and encourages all sections of the community to participate in the democratic process by going to www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ PCC2021/.

THIS POEM was sent by Tony Holman who is an Alkham postman

Autumn has arrived, the season of the fall
The nights are drawing in, the writings on the wall
The temperature is dropping, winters on its way
Bitter winds, snow and ice, will be the order of the day.
But by March it should be over, Spring is knocking at the door
The longer days and warmer sun, Winter is no more.
From Spring we enter Summer, with its hot and sunny days
Thunderstorms and lightning frequent this seasonal phase
The Summer sun has lost its heat, no longer will it burn
The trees are losing all their leaves, Autumn has returned

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Saturday	13	SEKAS 7pm
Saturday	20	Beekeepers 2 to 5pm
Thursday	25	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4.00pm
Tuesday	30	Film Night 7.30pm – please see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th	**Evensong 4.30 pm**	**Eucharist 9:30 am**	**Service 11.00 am**
Saturday 13th	**Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm**		
Sunday 14th Remembrance Day	**10.15 am**	**10.15 am**	**10.30 am**
Sunday 21st	**Worship 11.00 am**	**Evensong 6.00 pm**	**Eucharist 9:30 am**
Sunday 28th	**United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am**		

FROM THE VICARAGE - My grandad lived with us when I was small. He was a keen gardener, and in summer the flowers he grew would be smothered in butterflies. I spent hours watching them, and a fascination grew that has stayed with me ever since. When a friend of mine became a priest, she chose to have her stole – the decorated strip of cloth that priests wear – embroidered with butterfly shapes. For Christians, the transformation from a caterpillar crawling on a leaf, through being a chrysalis hanging apparently lifelessly from a twig, to becoming a butterfly flying across the countryside recalls Jesus walking the earth, then lying in the tomb following his crucifixion, then his resurrection from the dead and all that has followed from it. It spoke to her of her journey through life, growing and changing through some dark times before reaching that moment when her new life as a priest could begin. By early November, butterflies have all but disappeared. Peacocks and Small Tortoiseshells will have found a tree trunk, outhouse, or even a church for their winter sleep. The colder weather seems to catch out Red Admirals, leaving them lying on pavements, unable to fly and in danger of being trodden underfoot. Me being me, I must admit that I pick up any I find and move them - but that is all anyone can do for them. At church, November is a solemn month. With it comes All Saints, All Souls and Remembrance Sunday, celebrating and remembering those whom we love, but see no longer. The readings and prayers confront us with our mortality, but also offer words of hope, and a way through. For the moment, the cold, grey days of winter lie ahead. But beyond that, the spring – and more butterflies… **Brian Williams**

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W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669
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Web sites www.alkham.org and www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Produced by Brian Wimsett
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AS CHRISTMAS is now fast approaching, we would like to give you some gentle reminders of dates for your diaries. Firstly, the Christmas party, which is booked in the village hall on the 4th of December, everyone is welcome and although we have had good response, please continue to email to let us know you are coming. Please contact us via **west_deborah@ymail.com** you just need to bring your own drink, we are also looking for contributions for a food sharing table, if you could support this that would be great. We will be running a Christmas raffle, in support of our local village, donations welcome. Finally, we are also open to any party ideas or help on the day! Secondly, please join us for the Christmas Light switch-on at **4:45pm** on **Saturday 11th December**. Mince pies, mulled wine, and squash for the children, will be served at our local pub, The Marquis of Granby, straight after. **Debbie West**

"AND THE BAND PLAYED ON…. "



The "Gumboots Reggae Band" of Folkestone played live at the Marquis of Granby Alkham on Thursday, October 27. The numbers visiting the weekly live shows are really picking up. Make sure you fellow townspeople support our local pub and the local acts that appear there every Thursday night the next one being on the 2nd December. **Catie Webber** …

MARQUIS OF GRANBY - I'd like to welcome our new Manager, Marina Stone who has just joined us and already doing a brilliant job! Marina has worked in some fantastic places and is a seasoned hospitality professional and will be here, along with myself, Nadine and Will to keep you entertained, watered and fed! With Christmas just around the corner now, and with the traditional lights turn-on being on the 11th of December, we look forward to welcoming you all for some mince pies and Plum "Mulled" Wine that evening. We have reserved a large section until 7:30pm when we will start to take table reservations should you wish to join us for some food. We will have a Christmas Set Menu running throughout December up until Christmas Eve to run alongside our A La Carte Menu. And lastly, we have some great entertainment in the form of a band and a magician on New Year's Eve and a fantastic menu created by Steve. We'd love to have you here and see the New Year in together, we have some space left so should this be of interest, details are on our website or feel free to contact us directly on 01304 873410 or info@marquisofgranby.co.uk. **Hugh Thompson**



THE CHRISTMAS walk by custom takes place on 27th December. This year it will be the same, leaving the Village Hall at 10.30 a.m. and lasting about 2 hours. It is not a strenuous walk but provides a chance for people to meet up during the holiday season. Dogs are welcome as well. **Jo Walker (sec AVS)**

GOOD NEWS - Next January the surface of Pimlico Way will be repaired from its junction with Slip Lane up the rise by and past Etondale and along first part of Pimlico. The surface will be covered in higher grade hydraulically bound material (recycled materials and cement) and hopefully this will stop a lot of the debris and flints coming onto Slip Lane. They are also looking to divert runoff water from the top of Pimlico into the field and carry out minor repair work to the byway by Flintwood Lodge.



CLEANER – If you would like some help with your cleaning, please contact Shirley Prince on 01304 828098 or email at shirleyannprince@gmail.com.

FILM NIGHT - 7.30pm
Tuesday 30th November
Nomadland with Frances McDormand
There will not be a film in December
Entry to the village hall is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated

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MEET AND GREET COFFEE MORNING - The recent coffee morning proved, once again, to be popular with more than seventy enjoying refreshments. A power cut right at the start didn't affect the enjoyment as the water boiler was piping hot and so we were able to continue until power was resumed. It was particularly nice to meet several new families and were able to introduce them to more established residents. It appears all seem to have settled nicely, even with the horrid interruption of the pandemic - with some expressing wishes to be more involved in the village with any future events. Thanks to Linda and Debbie for help and to Brian Wimsett's Alkham Fund. **Irene Barnard**

NEWSLETTER – The financial year for the Alkham Monthly Newsletter ended in August and with predicted income will break even. I print the 320 (1280 A4 sheets) newsletters each month on two laser printers using about £27 of toner. In addition to this is the paper, stamps for copies sent and £36 for the alkham.org web site. The advert revenue goes in the newsletter's club account which covers any profit or loss. **Brian Wimsett**

FASTTRACK – In the May edition of the newsletter there was an article about a bus rapid transport system which runs from Archers Court Road Whitfield to the Priory station in Dover. This requires a new bridge over the A2 and a section of carriageway from the roundabout at the end of road which goes past Tesco's to connect to the Old Dover Road. The route continues to the top of Castle Hill by Dover Castle where a roundabout will be built. This is now scheduled to start in April 2022 and will serve the housing development at Whitfield and 300 new homes at the Old Connaught barracks and use electric buses. Hopefully this will induce some drivers to use the train rather than the cars which will probably come down the Alkham Valley Road.





THE WORKS to the roof on St. Anthony's church in Alkham are complete at a cost of over £18,000. To preserve the building for future generations, whether religious or secular, the Friends of St. Anthony gave £12,914 and the church paid the remainder.

WHITE CLIFFS COUNTRY – It is very encouraging to know that Kent's Heritage Coast was placed 4th on a list of the world's best regions to visit in 2022 by the Lonely Planet … and

KEARSNEY ABBEY and Russell Gardens have been awarded The Green Flag Award, the first parks owned and managed by Dover District Council (DDC) to receive the prestigious recognition. The Green Flag Award scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our November meeting was our AGM Meeting followed by an auction; thank you to Lucy McKenzie for all your help. We do not have a December meeting as it will be our Christmas Dinner at the Marquis of Granby. The ladies from Alkham WI would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. **Debbie Griggs**

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HEROES – On the alkham.org web site there is a 'Heroes' link where details of the men who lost their lives in WWI and WWII are given. There is also a separate link to 'About Alkham' where there is a photo taken around 1928 of a group of children in the playground adjacent to Alkham School. An email was recently received from John Fagg to say that in the photo second from right in the front row is his uncle Louis Fagg and in the centre is Henry Keeler both of whom later lost their lives in WWII and are listed on the 'Heroes' page. Louis was born at the Butt and Ben on Wolverton Hill and Henry was born at Pimlico South Alkham and it is sad to learn the connection between the two pages. **Brian Wimsett**

A TURNPIKE ROAD IN DOVER - Turnpike roads originated in the 17th century mainly due to parishes unwilling or unable to invest in roads. Run by a trust, they made charges on road users and were locally managed. The name originated from the pikes (long sticks) that blocked the way until the fare was paid. Eventually the pike became a toll house. The first two Turnpike Acts relating to Kent were passed in 1709 and 1711 and were in the west of the county. By 1753, the route from Dover to Barham Downs (part of the London Road) was turnpiked. The first tollhouse in Dover was opposite the Eagle Tavern on the London Road, Charlton. This marked the boundary of the town and was where the gallows were. The road followed the old road crossing the River Dour at Buckland where the brick bridge was financed by the toll money. Those wishing to avoid paying a toll would go along the old way through the ford at Bridge Street – until a tollgate appeared at Crabble Hill. The Charlton tollhouse was demolished in 1855 while Crabble Hill housed a Dover police constable collected dues on coal brought into Dover from Kearsney Station. **Jackie Grebby**



POPPY APPEAL - I'm very happy to say that this year, from Alkham and Ewell Minnis, we have collected a grand total of £718.13 - a figure that we can all be proud of. This will go towards helping members of the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Airforce, veterans and their families, when they need support. I'd like to thank my collectors Shirley, Helen, Larry, Georgina and Beverley. And also The Marquis of Granby, the Alkham Valley Garden Centre, Alkham Tea Rooms and Southern Equestrian, who all displayed Poppy collection boxes. And many thanks too, to all the residents and visitors who contributed. **Rachel Fountain**

FARE WELL



The swallows gather on the wire
Swoop down, circle higher,
So numerous it takes your breath away.

Fifty one and counting in a cloud,
A mist of delicate sound
Rising to vanish in the endless sky.

So very small prepared to fly so high -
Your heart is in your mouth, migrating south.

Gail Swainston

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Regular events in the village hall	
Tuesday - Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am
Wednesday	Sit Fit 10am to 11.30am: Tai Chi 5.30pm to 6.30pm
Thursday	Mother and toddler group 10am to 12am

Other events in the village hall assuming no changes		
Tuesday	7	Metal detectors 7pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Saturday 11th	Messy church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 12th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am *Carols at Capel Village Hall 3.00 pm*	*Carols at West Hougham Village Hall 5.00 pm*
Saturday 18th		Carols by Candle 7.00	
Sunday 19th	9 Lessons and Carols 6.30 pm		Eucharist 9.30 am
Friday 24th Christmas Eve	Crib service 4.30 pm Mass 11.30 pm	Crib service 3.00 pm Mass 11.30 pm	
Saturday 25th			Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 26th	United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - Christmas is coming – and this year Christmas Day, when Christians celebrate God's gift of His Son to the world, falls on a Saturday. On the Sunday, however, the mood shifts, even before we've had a chance to recover from all those satsumas. It's the Feast of St Stephen. That's right! The day when, according to the carol, Good King Wenceslas looked out, saw a poor man gathering winter fuel, and was so filled with compassion that he and his page braved a blizzard to deliver pine logs and what we would now call a takeaway to where the man lived: Ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing… What of Stephen himself? He, too, blessed the poor - the New Testament describes him as full of faith and the Holy Spirit, chosen for the task of caring for those in need. The signs and wonders he performed and the wisdom with which he spoke evidently brought him to the attention of the authorities. On trial for his life, he criticised them for having had Jesus killed. That led to him being dragged out of the city and stoned to death, the first of Jesus' followers to die as a martyr. His body was buried some distance from the city, and its location possibly forgotten. It so happens that the saintly King Wenceslas of Bohemia, whom the carol celebrates, also suffered martyrdom - his power-hungry brother had him murdered in September 935. And Stephen's tomb? It is said that in 415 its location was revealed in a dream to a Christian priest called Lucian as he slept in his church. Following their discovery the saint's remains were moved to Jerusalem on 26th December that year. Have a wonderful Christmas, and a peaceful New Year. **Brian Williams**

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THE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS were turned on at 5pm on Saturday the 11th of December by Ben Church who can be seen in the photo together with Father Christmas**.** Over 50 people came along and sung carols to music played on the accordion by Graham before a 10 second countdown when Ben turned on the lights to a loud cheer. The Marquis of Granby kindly invited everyone to their inn afterwards for mulled wine and mince pies which rounded off a pleasant festive start to Christmas.

CHRISTMAS PARTY - What an absolute success the party was, not only a lot of people, but we had the pleasure of meeting new people. We want to say a massive thank you to everyone for the fantastic and huge amount of food provided and the very nice selection of raffle prizes donated. A big thank you to Graham Bissett, the music was fab, and everyone was on their feet. We would also like to thank Den and Irene for showing us the ropes and the Sit Fit ladies who made sure the hall was decorated before the party giving a lovely Christmas feel as soon as you walked into the hall. You will all be pleased to know we made £140 from the raffle and this money will go into the Alkham fund, to help with whatever comes next. **Deborah West**

ALKHAM FUND – Thanks to all the people who organised the above party and the £140 has gone into the fund which has just paid for two sets of new lights for the Alkham Christmas tree. The Garden Club also had a very successful evening in the hall and a further £72 was donated to the fund. If anyone in the village would like financial support for an Alkham related project or activity, please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.



CONGRATULATIONS – Reverend Brian Williams, who is currently an Assistant Curate, has been appointed Priest in Charge of Alkham with Capel Le Ferne and Hougham.

CHRISTMAS WALK – Just a reminder that the Christmas walk is on the 27th of December and if you'd like to join in, please go to the village hall car park at 10.30am. The non-strenuous walk lasts about 2 hours and provides a chance for people and dogs to meet up during the holiday season.

SHEEP - There have been three attacks by a dog or dogs on sheep in Alkham leaving 15 sheep dead and others injured. The Police are appealing for witnesses to three incidents. On Saturday 4th December, at around 5.50pm, the owner of a farm between Alkham Valley Road and Ewell Minnis saw a grey, scraggy haired, lurcher type dog in amongst her sheep. She shouted and the dog ran away in the direction of Green Lane. Six of her sheep were dead and four were injured and continue to receive medical care. The following day, on 5 December in Wolverton Hill, seven sheep from another farm were found dead. It is believed they were attacked by an animal, but it is not clear when this took place. Overnight on 6 December the farm between Alkham Valley Road and Ewell Minnis reported a second attack in which two more sheep were killed and one was seriously injured. Anyone who witnessed anything suspicious or who has information regarding the dog sighting is asked to call Kent Police on 01843 222289 quoting references 04-1449 for Alkham Valley Road and 05-0416 for Wolverton Hill. **Peter Smith**

MYSTERY GIFT – A delicious pot of 2021 quince and lemon marmalade was put in Jane and Richard O'Rorke's post box recently and they would like to thank the person responsible so please phone them on 01304 825771.

FILM NIGHT - 7.30pm
Tuesday 25th January
In the Heights
A feel good musical
Entry to the village hall is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated

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THE ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY (AVS) held its 2021 AGM In the Village Hall on 8th November, followed by wine and delicious snacks. The Officers elected for the coming year were Richard O'Rorke (Chairman), Jane O'Rorke (Vice-Chair), Catie Webber (Hon Treasurer) and Joanna Walker (Hon Secretary). Two further members of the Society, Harlan Webber and Frances Marcus, also volunteered and were elected to serve as members of the Executive Committee. The finances of the AVS are in a healthy state. After a relatively inactive period due to various retirements and then the Covid 19 pandemic and lockdowns, the Society is now up and running again and ready for business. Under its Constitution the aims and purposes of the Society are as follows: - to stimulate public interest in the area; to promote high standards of planning and architecture in, or affecting, the area; to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the area; to protect the surrounding countryside. Since its formation in 1977 the Society has campaigned on many fronts to preserve the beauty of the Alkham Valley. The role of the Society is as relevant today as it has ever been with issues, such as traffic calming, damage to Byways, preservation of woods, trees and hedgerows and the risks of uncontrolled development in Areas of Outstanding Beauty, needing to be watched and addressed to protect the Alkham Valley for future generations. The Society is keen to make membership interesting and stimulating fun, and so will be organising various events over the next year. The first of these is the traditional AVS Christmas Walk on Monday, 27 December 2021. Other events which have proved popular are talks on a topical subject and visits will include a talk on a topical subject and a visit to an interesting local site of historical, scientific or architectural interest. The Society's Constitution states that 'Membership is open to all who are interested in actively furthering the purposes of the Society'. There is an annual membership fee of £5 per person and £10 per household. We hope that those living in the Alkham Valley will wish to support the aims of the Society and become members. Please contact the Secretary, Jo Walker - email: joannawalker777@gmail.com or address: Rectory Cottage, Slip Lane, Alkham, Dover, CT15 7DA.

AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY Kent Surrey Sussex - If you belong to a group or club and would like to learn about the life-saving care by your local Air Ambulance plus real life stories and how you can help support our work, you can book a talk with us, free of charge. During an interesting and inspiring presentation, you will get an insight into how we work, innovate and save lives. As a charity we would welcome an opportunity to raise awareness of our work and to explain how your members can get involved in supporting us. If you would like to know more, we would love to hear from you. Get in touch now to book a talk at a time and place that suits you. 01634 471 900 talks@aakss.org.uk.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our next meeting will be on 11th January 2022 and it will be called the picture game. If possible, could all members bring a photo of themselves i.e., baby photo or a little older photo of themselves and will explain on the night of the meeting. Hostesses are Gina Daniels, Christine Peel, Raffle Debbie Griggs. New members always welcome. Don't forget on the 18th of December outside the village hall will be streetz 2streetz with the fish and chip van so why not treat yourself and pop along and see Jane and Jackie – check times ring 07955 926 835. **Debbie Griggs**

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CHOUGHS – A legend goes that when Thomas Becket was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral in 1190 the choughs walked in his blood and gave them red feet. After his death, Thomas was given a coat of arms featuring three choughs and in the 14th century the City of Canterbury adopted a coat of arms with three choughs and a royal lion. Choughs are part of the crow family and used to be common above the chalk downs but over the years have declined due to intensive farming and persecution. Because of this the Kent Wildlife Trust have brought an aviary of choughs to Dover Castle and this aviary is the first step to introduce them back into Kent where they could nest in Dover's chalk grasslands and white cliffs. Kent Wildlife need to raise another £60,000 by the end of January and if you'd like to donate, please go to www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/choughappeal. The Trust is also introducing Bison to Blean Woods near Herne Bay in late spring and similar projects in Europe have proved that bison, known as ecosystem engineers', can restore the natural biodiversity of the landscape. **Brian**



TREES – You may have noticed that a number of trees adjacent to the Alkham Valley Road by Newlyns Meadow have been cut down. This is because they were ash trees that had succumbed to the ash die-back and for safety reasons had to be removed.



PIMLICO WAY is again heavily rutted by 4x4's and is considered unsafe for public use and locals have put a sign up by Slip Lane.

KCC - If you would like updates and news, information and guidance about their activities and services plus useful advice and suggestions on where to get help and support from Kent County Council you can sign up to the mailing list on their website www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/how-the-council-works/residents-e-newsletter.

THE ACTUARY OF LOVE

When you ponder if you can
Afford to make a forward plan -
When you calculate the cost
Of what is won and what is lost,
That valuation of the gain
Is set against all future pain.
The one subtracted from the other
Might reveal a lifelong lover
Yet weigh that plus or minus sign
Within the balance sheet of time.

Gail Swainston

WE WOULD like to say a big thankyou to those people that gave up their time to ring the church bells for Theo's christening on the 28th of November at St. Anthony's church; it was very much appreciated. Also to Brian Williams who had been forewarned that anything could and probably would happen during service. It was with great relief that in the end it was quite uneventful! All in all, a very special, happy day. **Shirley Prince**

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Regular events in the village hall		
Tuesday - Friday		Pilates 10am to 11am
Wednesday		Sit Fit 10am to 11.30am: Tai Chi 5.30pm to 6.30pm
Thursday		Mother and toddler group 10am to 12am
Other events in the village hall assuming no changes		
Tuesday	18	Village Hall Committee meeting 2pm
Saturday	29	Beekeepers 2pm to 5pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2nd	United Parish Eucharist and licensing of Revd. Brian Williams as Priest-in-Charge, Capel 10.00 am		
Saturday 8th	Messy Church Christingle St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 9th	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Sunday 16th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	
Sunday 23rd	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 30th	United Parish Eucharist, Capel 10.00 am		

FROM THE VICARAGE - Every now and then, I find myself having a conversation with someone that begins: *"Mr Williams! You used to teach me…"* I'm usually in a supermarket aisle somewhere. We chat, and they usually tell me how life has been since they left school – about their jobs, families and so on. But once – I think this was in a coffee shop – the conversation continued: *"I always remember you saying…"* My former pupil went on to recount what I had said. I didn't remember saying it, or when I might have said it or even why – but evidently, he did, and fortunately it had struck him as worth remembering. Nevertheless, I cringe at the thought that some of my former pupils out there may still remember some of the *other* things that I've probably said… There's a story about a 4th Century Christian named Pambo, who joined a group of monks in the Egyptian desert. Another monk set out to teach him to from the scriptures. Pambo was inspired by words from Psalm 39 - *'I will watch how I behave, and not let my tongue lead me into sin'* – to speak no more than was necessary. He died thanking God that in all his years in the desert, he had never said anything that he had afterwards regretted. Not many of us will be able say that. But I suspect that it's easier to earn a reputation for wisdom and holiness if you're living among monks in a desert than if you're teaching a tricky Year 10 class on a wet and windy Friday afternoon. *'I will watch how I behave, and not let my tongue lead me into sin.'* Maybe I'll try that as a New Year Resolution…

Brian Williams

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Newsletter brianwimsett@hotmail.com
Parish Clerk and Parish Councillors
clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk
Hall booking Shirley Prince 828098
W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669
KCC David Beaney 07818 024487
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Web sites www.alkham.org and www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Produced by Brian Wimsett
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No. 342 February 2022

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

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ACCIDENT – In the early morning of the 17th of December there was a very serious traffic accident in Alkham near the Folkestone entry island to the village. Two cars collided with the result that one was thrown into the air and ended up in the entrance to the field opposite Valley Cottages and both drivers were badly injured. The Air Ambulance was called but because the field was muddy it was not able to land so ambulances were used to take them to an intensive care ward at Kings Hospital in London. The driver of one of the cars was an Alkham resident and she is now making steady progress and able to walk with some difficulty and she would like to thank everyone for their warm wishes, cards, gifts and a special lady who provided John with a cooked meal while she was in hospital.

NEW FOOTPATH



Catie Webber would like a footpath to be installed between the path that runs behind the village hall to the path that leads into Newlyns Meadow as shown by the hedge line in the photograph. This route is used frequently by school children, but the grass is very muddy at times, and they have been crossing the Alkham Valley Road twice to get to the path behind the hall from where some again cross the road near the bus shelter to get to the Dover bus stop. Additionally, the streetlight by the Marquis of Granby is not working such that footpath crossing is not well illuminated and Catie has written to the Parish Council about this and funding for the footpath.

TRAFFIC – There has been numerous comments recently about the volume and speed of traffic on the Alkham Valley and if you wish to contact the Highway Authority about this it is probably best to go through the Parish Council by sending an email to clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk. The matter will come up as an item on the agenda and a letter sent to KCC and if enough are received some notice may be taken. In the past KCC have always considered that the Alkham Valley Road is an essential route for emergency vehicles and are reluctant to install obstacles. **Ed.**

MENU CHANGES - We have been incredibly busy throughout December and am pretty certain the teams in our kitchens will be pleased to see the back of the roast Turkey for another 11 months! The chefs have been getting creative coming up with new dishes and am pleased to announce the launch of our new seasonal menu with daily specials being on offer throughout the week. You can see our new menu on our website, www.marquisofgranby.co.uk or our social media platforms. **Hugh Thomson**

ALKHAM GARDEN AND TEAROOMS On behalf of all those who visited St Anthony's church during the festive period and saw the tall, beautiful Christmas tree, I would like to say thank you to Ian, Dave, and Paul, owners of the garden centre, for donating it. It looked rather impressive when dressed, as did the decorations and floral arrangements displayed by several Alkham ladies. **Irene Barnard**

NEIGHBOURLY HELP – Anita James, who lives in Slip Lane, is a keen walker and on the 6th of January slipped on the steps behind St. Anthony's and was unable to get up. She phoned a neighbour Nina Bellas who then stayed with her for 3 hours in the cold until the ambulance man arrived and other neighbours Alex Bristow and Caroline Harcourt assisted (aka Alkham Valley search and rescue society). Many thanks to all of them for helping and also to Ken Spencer for feeding the chickens whilst Anita is on crutches.

THE MOBILE FISH & CHIP van is returning to Alkham and will be in the village hall car park on the 22nd of January from 5pm to 6.30pm and then monthly after that. Please see their advert on page 2 of this newsletter.

FILM NIGHT - 7.30pm

Tuesday 22nd February
The Courier
Benedict Cumberbatch

Tuesday 25th January
In the Heights
A feel good musical

Entry to the village hall is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated

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POSTCARD – Pat Yeomans gave me the original postcard which is in the Alkham History book. The card was posted in Dover by Mary at 4pm on the 14th of May 1913 to her brother who lived in Rochdale, Lancashire. It is also relevant to recent articles about Wolverton Wood which used to be Clarkes Nursery as she says that she didn't know what to buy their mother for her birthday, so Mary bought her a pink spiraea from the nursery which is sending it up to her early morning. The postcard shows the Alkham Valley Road adjacent to where Pat lives and on the left is what is now the village green, on the bend is the cattle shed to Halton Farm (Court) which is next to Little Garth and in the distance can be seen the tower of St. Anthony's church. Pat remembers having to drive down the valley road in the 1960's and it was difficult journey as the road was mostly single carriageway with numerous bends. **Brian Wimsett**

TASTE OF KENT AWARDS - Voting has now opened for the Taste of Kent Awards!! Both of our pubs are in the category "Kent Dining Pub Of The Year" and we would love your vote and support. The Marquis of Granby came runner up 2 years ago and we would love to have both of our pubs shortlisted and a Contemporary Pubs winner would be a huge accolade to receive for us and the team. To vote for us please do so by going to the web browser www.tasteofkentawards.co.uk and clicking on the category "Kent Dining Pub Of The Year". **Hugh Thomson**

NUMBERS - An email was received to say that I had used the same number in the masthead for the November, December and January edition, that being 334. I was grateful for this advice and pleased that he had noticed, and it does appear that 334 was wrong as well. The first edition of the newsletter was in September 1993 so for that year there would be 4 editions and from then it is 28 years making a total of 340.

KENT'S POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER Matthew Scott has launched his budget and thanks to a combination of council tax payer support and extra funding from the Government's Uplift Programme, police officer numbers have risen by 788 since 2016. Kent will soon have 3970 officers, with a further 185 to be recruited by March 2023. The county now has specialist teams working in both urban and rural communities, a dedicated squad to reduce burglary and another to tackle drug dealing gangs. To deliver this it will require about 84 pence per month more on your council tax and further efficiencies will be made to deliver a balanced budget. If you have any comments, please get in touch before Sunday 23rd January at haveyoursay@kent.police.uk.

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL regarding climate change - All new council housing built in the district will include solar Photovoltaics (PV), electric heating and additional insulation; the Council's Green Energy Grant Scheme is available for local businesses to help small businesses save carbon; 49 electric vehicle charging points have been installed; electric buses will operate on Dover Fastrack; Kearsney Abbey has been awarded The Green Flag Award; for National Tree Week native trees were planted to create a woodland walk at North Deal; 25 eco dog waste bins installed across the district by DDC; 14 trees have been planted in Sandwich and also 63 new fruit trees have been planted recently. **DDC**

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THE LICENSING - After nine years as our curate-in-charge, on the 2nd of January, the 8th day of Christmas, Brian Williams was licensed by Justin, Lord Archbishop of Canterbury to become the priest-in-charge of the benefice. The licensing ceremony was carried out by an upbeat Darren, the Archdeacon of Ashford who kindly came to officiate. The tall, lively Archdeacon cut a splendid figure with mitre and gorgeously embroidered chasuble. The red-robed church choir, sung a rendering of the 23rd Psalm. The setting of this licensing was St Radigunds, Capel Le Ferne. This a comfortable, warm 1997 building, blessed with toilets and carpark. Brian's benefice, as well, as our own Alkham, contains Houghham and Capel-le Ferne. At the end the service the Archdeacon explained that Covid worship regulations would now give way to Hospitality regulations: tea or coffee was served accompanied by Dick's homemade fruit cake, sausage rolls and biscuits to round off the occasion. Brian is now "officially" Priest in Charge – congratulations Brian! **Tom Marcus**

FOOTBALL MATCH - On December 12, 1891, a local derby took place between Burnley and Blackburn on a bitterly cold day with fierce winds and heavy snowfalls and Blackburn became even more disheartened when they went 3-0 down. After half-time Blackburn were reluctant to return to the pitch and when they eventually did, things grew worse when a fight broke out between a Blackburn and Burnley player. Both men were sent off and the rest of the Blackburn team then walked off in protest, leaving only their goalie. In a scene worthy of Monty Python, play resumed with 11-man Burnley against the hapless keeper and Burnley quickly scored, only to have the goal disallowed for offside. The referee then abandoned the game. **(Times newspaper)**

LACK OF WOODLAND management in Britain is one reason wild species have declined and therefore the Kent Wildlife Trust are introducing bison to the wood at Blean near Herne Bay. European bison are being used because they are ecosystem engineers, meaning that they can change their environment through their natural behaviours. Bison can alter woodlands in a way that no other animal can as they eat bark and create dust baths which each have benefits for many plants and animals. These are functions that have been missing from our woodlands for thousands of years and bringing them back can help restore an abundance of wildlife.

LOVE'S LAMENT

When beauty seats herself between your feet
Gazes at you combing her golden hair,
And your heart skips and misses out a beat
As you breathe in a look beyond compare,
You hear a voice that rises to the skies.
A sweet crescendo flying through the air,
A joy of joys that makes you realize
That there is nothing that you cannot dare.
Congratulate yourself, you've won a prize
That once you thought was far beyond your reach,
But listen carefully to that song, it sighs.
It tells of sailors stranded on a beach.
It sings of broken lovers far from home,
The sirens tell you that you're on your own.

Gail Swainston.



THE PHOTO
above shows local dog Jack searching for his Christmas presents

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Regular events in the village hall	
Tuesday - Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am
Wednesday	Sit Fit 10am to 11.30am
Thursday	Mother and toddler group 10am to 12am

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6th	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Saturday 12th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 13th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	
Sunday 20th	**Songs Of Praise 11.00 am**	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 28th	United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

If you decide to come to a service please remember to bring a face covering and use sanitizer when you arrive. Thank you!

FROM THE VICARAGE - Sunday morning, and the last echoes of the final hymn were dying away. The choir were making their way to the vestry, the organist quietly improvising as the congregation knelt in prayer. Suddenly, he threw in a tune that the younger choristers recognised instantly. The elderly retired priest who had taken the service had failed to spot the *Ghostbusters* theme and was therefore at a loss to understand why they were all sniggering helplessly. Having a strong sense of what was and was not proper at moments such as these, he was not amused - and said so in no uncertain terms. Organists have been known to get away with all kinds of things – I once heard of one who, tasked with playing at the wedding of a former boyfriend, slipped in a few bars of *Can't Stop Lovin' That Man of Mine* as he and his new wife left church. William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, famously asked why the devil should have all the best tunes and came up with new words to sing to the popular music hall songs of his time. Not much has changed - *The Dambusters March* has become a hymn tune as well as a film score. It's difficult to imagine church without music and singing – which is why, when we were told last year that singing in church had to stop because of the pandemic, it felt like a real hardship. So, to make up for it, St Anthony's is holding a *Songs of Praise* at 11.00 on 20th January. We can't promise a visit from Aled Jones, but we can promise that people will be able to choose their favourite hymns, perhaps say a few words about their choice - and come and have a good sing!

Brian Williams

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MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669
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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Produced by Brian Wimsett
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No. 343 March 2022

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HRH THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATION

To celebrate this unique occasion, we are holding a traditional street party on the Vicarage Meadow on Sunday June 5th from 1pm and it is for all who live in Alkham parish. We are hiring the village hall for table and chairs and toilet facilities, and suggest you bring along gazebos, sunshades and picnic blankets as I'm sure the weather will be amazing! Should it not - then this event will transfer to the village hall. If there is anyone that needs a lift to the meadow, then give me a call, and I will arrange a pick up from someone who lives nearby. The aim is to have as many as possible sitting at the tables, especially children and seniors (but not you Den!), and thanks to the Parish Council and Brian Wimsett's Alkham Fund, I have recently purchased Union Jack bunting, tableware and balloons. To keep it simple the afternoon will be a bring your own food and drink, and there will be a children's fancy dress competition with prize, and a prize for best decorated cake. I do hope you will all come along and join in, and not leave me and Den sitting at the table like two lonely Larry's! **Irene Barnard 01304 824845**

THE VILLAGE HALL is also getting ready for the jubilee with the tubular railing on the hall side of Hogbrook Lane having a coat of white and black paint applied. The short fence on the car park has also been repaired and thanks to Ben Spicer for doing this work. In addition, some troughs are being refurbished which will be put by the hall and red, white and blue plants put in them ready for the jubilee plus other decoration is proposed.



AN ALKHAM resident phoned to say that there was a suspicious group of men, possibly foreign, going round Newlyns Meadow and he thought that they might be intent on stealing items from cars or houses and to make other people aware of this.

GARDEN CLUB - The Alkham Garden Club is really an excuse for locals to meet and catch up and drink. We try to meet in each other's gardens once a calendar month usually on a Friday evening at 7:30pm from May - October. I'm taking over the planning this year and hoping to have the first one at mine on April 29th. Please email me at catie@thewebbers.org and I will get back to you with further details.

TEA AND A CHAT – On the last Thursday of each month between 2pm and 4pm Tea and a Chat is held in the village hall. It is an opportunity to meet new friends and have a convivial chat so do please come along and join us.

AUSSIES RULE? - Perhaps you've noticed the over-representation of Australians and strong Australian connections in this village. We had a spur of the moment gathering at the Marquis on Wednesday 26th January in celebration of Australia Day. Being an ex-penal colony, you won't be surprised to hear we plan to be repeat offenders next year! If you have Australian family connections too, please join us next year. Bonus points we livened up a quiet evening for the Marquis on a cold grey night. **Catie Webber**

FILM NIGHT - 7.30pm

Tuesday 29th March
The Good Liar
Helen Mirren Ian McKellen

Tuesday 22nd February
In the Heights
A feel good musical

Entry to the village hall is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated

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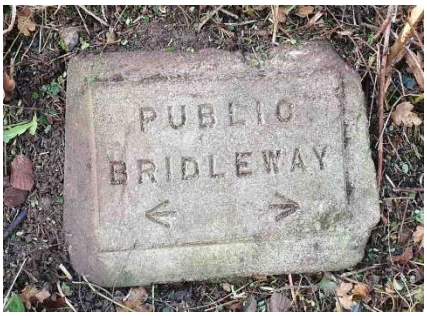

PIMLICO WAY – Whilst clearing the overgrowth by Pimlico Way recently a stone with Bridleway inscribed on it was uncovered which begged the question as to how it was now a byway. At a Parish Council meeting in 1954 Pimlico Way was mentioned regarding the overgrown state of the road and that the postman would not now deliver letters to the two houses at Pimlico. A 1950 act did review PROW's and it is likely that with the growth of car use an order was made to make the byway open to all traffic. There is no longer a hamlet at Pimlico and only one house at the Slip Lane end where the postman still rightly complains about the state of the byway. Reverting to bridleway status would seem sensible especially as it's generally closed for traffic in winter (as it is now) because of the off-road vehicles making it hazardous for other users. **Ed.**



THE ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY CHRISTMAS WALK took place on 27th December 2021. It was a damp, wet and drizzly morning, but eleven intrepid walkers, including the President, the Chair, the Deputy-Chair and the Hon Treasurer and three dogs arrived at the Village Hall determined to keep the tradition going. The President gave a short welcoming speech and passed over to Anita James as the leader of the walk, who took the group up Common Hill, along the bridleway, left at the house on the corner towards Ewell Minnis, then left onto Ferne Lane, left onto Chalk Hill and right onto Chalksole Green Lane and past the Vineyard. At that point seven walkers went down the track to reach Slip Lane and scuttle back home, while Anita and the Chair, the Deputy-Chair and one other were braver and went on to Everden, down to the Alkham Valley Road and back. A good and bracing time was had by all despite the appalling weather." **Jo Walker, Hon Secretary of the AVS**.

MARQUIS - With 2021 now behind us, we can hopefully look forward to a year of more normality! But what a whirlwind of a year it has been for us at Contemporary Pubs; Staycations have been in high demand with our occupancy rate higher than previous years and the feedback has been positive to say the least. The success of this wouldn't have been possible without your continued support and our staff's continued dedication to the business. **Hugh Thomson**

CONSTRUCTION of Dover Fastrack, Kent's first zero-emission bus service connecting Whitfield with Dover town centre and Dover Priory railway station will start this month and construction is expected to take around 18 months. It includes a new bus, cycle and pedestrian-only bridge across the A2 at Whitfield, and a new link road from the B&Q roundabout in Whitfield to the Dover Road at Guston. The new link to Dover Priory railway station can be used for commuting, business, and leisure trips to and from London and also provide a quick and easy way to reach the town centre and Dover Castle.

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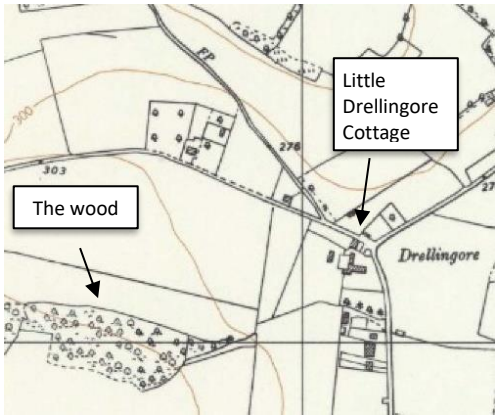

IDA BAILEY – An email was received from a nephew of Ida Bailey who was researching his past and asking if I had a picture of Little Drellingore Cottage, which I did, and he also sent a link to the Secret Army. In the months after Dunkirk in WWII it was decided to set up a secret army to outwit the Germans should they invade. An underground bunker was built in a wood (shown) at Drellingore with a chamber about 5 metres square and accessed by a hinged tree stump. Ida Bailey lived at Little Drellingore Cottage on the bend in the old Alkham Valley Road just past where the big white pumping station is. She used to walk her dog in that wood and accidently came across someone accessing the bunker and it was decided that if the Germans invaded, she would be shot. However, the members of the secret army agreed that in the event they would put her on a train to London. Ida continued to live in the cottage and was unconcerned about ivy sprouting through the ceiling and died in 1994 aged 96. A little while later the house was demolished and a new vernacular house built in its place. **Brian Wimsett**



THE RUNNER

The open air, the deeper breath,
A stretch across the moors
Where vistas reach beyond blue hills
The sweep of great outdoors.
The calm, the space, expansive place
Where all your thoughts are free,
Where light and night and tight and fright
Go floating out to sea.

Where you are running in the void
A shell of empty space
Of air around you pace by pace,
A clear and breathing grace
Extending wide to leave a trace
A footprint far behind.

Gail Swainston

ALKHAM W.I.

Our February meeting was a fashion show and the first 1st prize was won by Christine Peel, 2nd prize was won by Sue Ross and 3rd prize by Sue Koo; thank you to all members who took part. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 8th March at 7.30pm and our speaker will be Jane Napper on chocolate tasting. Hostesses are Janet Adamson and Helen Price, Raffle Margaret Batcheldor and VOT Sue Ross. New members always welcome

Debbie Griggs



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Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday - Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am
Wednesday	Sit Fit 10am to 11.30am

Other events in the village hall

Tuesday	**8**	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Thursday	**24**	Tea and a Chat 2pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Wednesday 2nd	United Parish Eucharist Capel 7.00 pm - Ash Wednesday		
Sunday 6th	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship 11am
Saturday 12th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 13th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	
Sunday 20th	United Parish Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Sunday 27th Mothering Sunday	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	Worship 11am

There is usually a Eucharist at St Radigund's, Capel at 11.00 on Thursday mornings.

BUS TIMES To Dover 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - As we chatted to a friend who told us that she had 'done Dry January' my wife told her that *He* (meaning me) *gives up cake for Lent*. That made me think: how to explain that there's more to Lent than just giving things up? I had to do just that one morning years ago when OFSTED arrived in the school where I was teaching. I was given the job of taking assembly. In front of me, not just those I taught but, at the back of the hall, three inspectors clutching clipboards, scribbling away furiously. The pressure was on. Lent happens between pancakes and Easter Eggs, I began. Then I moved on the Biblical story of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness – you may know it. On the screen above my head, a slide of a medieval painting showed Jesus, unfazed as the devil appears and tries to lead him astray. The artist had taken the story literally; I wondered aloud how many of them had ever seen anyone with horns and a tail. Then I showed them a modern painting by a Stanley Spencer, *Christ in the Wilderness – The Scorpion*. Christ sits alone in a barren landscape, looking down at a scorpion in his hand, deep in thought. I asked: what might Christ be thinking? About the person he really is, perhaps, and how to be his true self? For Christians, Lent is a time for taking time to think about the people we really are, and how to be our true selves. I finished by reading a traditional Lent prayer. The hall emptied. One of those at the back thanked me for showing the Spencer painting as another smiled over the top of his clipboard. Have a good Lent… **Brian Williams**

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W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669
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DDC cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk 07796444860**.**
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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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Telephone 01304 824969
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No. 334 April 2022

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THE PHOTO sent by Bev Hubbard sums up the damage caused by the storm on the 18th of February when the trees in upper Slip Lane were blown down near Pimlico Way and the road was still blocked on the following day. As people will know, other trees were blown down causing the power cuts and thanks should go to the engineers who worked through the rain and storm to restore the power.

THE 2022 VILLAGE SUNFLOWER COMPETITION IS HERE



Who can grow the tallest one? This is a fun contest which has been extended to the entire village for 2022 from the mini Slip Lane sunflower competition between neighbours held on previous years. We will be sowing the sunflowers in April for anyone who would like to enter to collect at the end of May, they are totally free, or if contestants prefer, they can grow their own. Once collection of the seedlings has taken place there are no special growing rules, pop them in the garden and water them; grow them anyway you like. We will then have Sunflower measuring day which is the last Sunday of the School summer holiday in September. Winner wins the coveted Sunflower cup and bragging rights to the entire village. Anyone who would like to enter please let me know so that we can plant enough seeds or if you are growing your own and know you are a contestant. Please contact anitajames163@gmail.com with your name address and telephone number. Let's cover the place in sunflowers. **Anita James**

SPEEDWATCH – It's good to see the Speedwatch volunteers carrying out their work in Alkham to educate rather than prosecute drivers regarding dangerous speeding and driving. Offenders are sent letters which specifically target the driver based on various criteria such as age, type of car, speed and the measurement site. In the past three months they completed 22 sessions, recording 421 vehicles speeding and 333 letters were sent out by Kent police. Drivers who have been reported three times and those speeding above a certain criteria have their letters hand delivered by a Police Officer. Since Speedwatch started 1375 vehicles have been reported despite 2 years being lost to Covid problems. The fastest vehicle recorded in the last three months was measured by a Police Constable using his own camera to record a vehicle approaching Short Lane 30mph zone at 70mph; the driver has been prosecuted.

VILLAGE HALL AGM - The Annual Meeting will take place on Tuesday 19th of April at 7.00p.m. in the Village Hall. All villagers and anyone involved in using the Hall are welcome to attend. This is your opportunity to have your say about the Hall and any activities that take place and to make suggestions for the future. **Janet Adamson**

JUBILEE – Please contact Irene on 01304 824845 if you'd like to go to the Platinum Jubilee celebration in Alkham on the 5th of June.

ALKHAM WI are having a coffee morning and a Bring and Buy sale on the 14th of May at 11am in Alkham Village Hall, everyone welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

GARDEN CLUB will have its first meeting for the year at Catie and Harlan Webber's on Friday April 29th 5-8 pm. Please bring whatever you like to drink. The earlier time is because of the short days. Please email me at catie@thewebbers.org if you need more details. Existing club members should receive an email soon. We already have hosts/ venues for our May and June gatherings. But we are looking for more later in the year. 2021 provided a lot of challenges from a rough spring, dry summer, desperate need to keep ourselves occupied during the pandemic and Ash Dieback. I'm sure there's lots to see and talk about. And I will make sure there's lots to drink too, as is tradition. **Catie Webber**

FILM NIGHT - 7.30pm

Tuesday 26th April
West Side Story (2021)
Tuesday 29th March
The Good Liar

Entry to the village hall is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated

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MANY OF YOU know the lovely Susannah Tapsell led Keep Fit classes in the Village Hall every Wednesday morning for 22 years. Whilst not formally trained, she had a wealth of knowledge and experience and designed an age appropriate programme. And she rewarded us with tea and chat afterwards. This has been a lifeline for many of the local ladies providing wisdom, camaraderie and motivation with the side effect of actually helping us feel better. I credit her with my rehabilitation. Many of you also know that I have now taken up the baton. I'm not formally trained either but have learned a lot from both Susannah and my NHS physio and osteopathic practitioners. Thanks to Covid and social distancing I have made changes to the programme that are perhaps worth mentioning. First of all we wear masks as we are a vulnerable crowd and we sign in as track and trace. We still do a thorough warm up which is vital as we get older and stiffer. We then move on to 12 minutes of seated exercises to music. That ensures we stay 2m apart. You might think that wouldn't break a sweat but it does. And then we do about 15 minutes light cardio standing on the spot so we keep 2m apart. With all the exercises there's an easy version and a harder version and if a particular exercise is contrary to your medical advice you are encouraged to sit that one out. We all have things we can't and shouldn't do. You won't be surprised to hear I always take the easy out! I'm far from the fittest. Because we hire the Village Hall we all pay £2 contribution towards the cost of coffee and hiring charges. We generally have a surplus which we give to a local charity chosen by the group. It's a wonderful Wednesday Alkham tradition. **Catie Webber**

DRELLINGORE COTTAGE – In last month's newsletter I wrote an article about Ida Bailey in which I said that her house had been demolished and a new one built. That was wrong as I have been told that the existing cottage was renovated and improved. Other emails were received about Ida and John Richards said that as a boy whenever he accompanied his mum to meet relatives along the road in Drellingore, Ida always seemed to be leaning on her gate with a sweet for him. His father, who lost an eye as a child, and couldn't get into the regular forces at the beginning of the WWII, was originally in the local force and he showed John not only the tunnel mentioned in the previous article but another across the small valley and said there were more around Alkham and Dover. Melvyn Kirby said Ida was a real character and after shopping regularly drunk a bottle of vinegar that she had bought. **Brian Wimsett**

VILLAGE HALL – The work continues to get the floral display ready for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and gardeners might be interested to know that pachysandra, euonymus, hydrangea, heuchera, pulmonaria, petunia, geraniums, white bacopa and ivies have been ordered.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our March meeting was very interesting all about making chocolate by Jane Napper and our next meeting is on April 12th at 7.30pm when our speaker will be Clive Nutting talking about Madagascar the Enchanted Isle. Hostesses Beryl King and Janet Gibbons. For the raffle would all members bring a yellow raffle prize and also members that want to take part would they make an easter bonnet and bring on the night. VOT Debbie Griggs. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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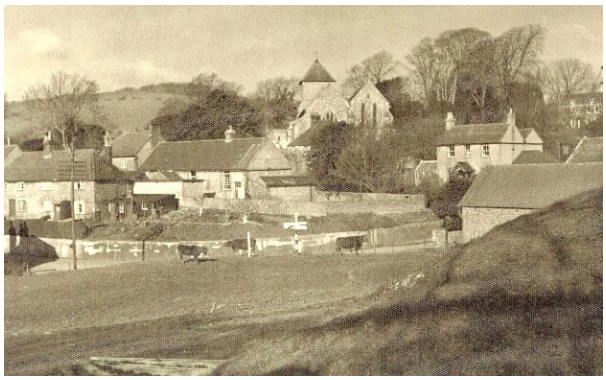
An email was received regarding the above photo asking if we had a copy of it as it included their grandfather, and we were pleased to say we had. In July 1934 the Dover Cycling Club Annual Ride took place and they stopped in Alkham to have their photo taken on Vicarage Meadow which is now the village green. There is also another photo of Alkham taken in the 1930's from almost the same spot but in the opposite direction. **Brian Wimsett**





BADGERS – Bev Hubbard sent the Nature Notes from the Times in which it said that February was the main month for badger births which take place in a special nursery chamber in the sett and typically, they will stay underground for the first two months. On my wildlife camera there is a badger that visits but usually comes later than the fox who has eaten most of the food which has been left.

FORCE FIVE

Where harsh rocks suffer splashes from the sea
Rough stone is worn away from year to year
So what seemed permanent, the great white cliffs,
Are elemental happenings, transient.
And as the seasons merge winter to spring
They crash into the ocean with a roar
Destroying landscape, tearing down the view.
Unseen for centuries, unsuspected,
The dragon's song bursts from his scaly heart
Spit, resin, blood, all streaming in the wind
Exposing a perspective quite unknown.
New life from old caresses and desires,
The snap, the crack, ballooning sail, force five,
Fresh breeze, waves dancing, glittering, alive.

Gail Swaiston

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Tuesday	**12**	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Thursday	**28**	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 27th March Mothering Sunday	**Worship 11.00 am**	**Worship 11.00 am**	**Eucharist 9.30 am**
Sunday 3rd April	**Evensong 6.30 pm**	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Worship 11.00am**
Saturday 9th	**Building the Easter Garden at Messy Church 3.00 – 5.00 pm**		
Sunday 10th	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Palm Sunday 11.00 am**	
Sunday 17th	**Eucharist 11.00 am**	**Eucharist 7.00 am**	**Eucharist 9.30 am**
Sunday 24th	**United Parish Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am**		

There is usually a Eucharist at St Radigund's, Capel at 11.00 on Thursday mornings.

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Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - Like most clergy, I have plenty of very weighty, very serious theological books on my shelves – but also others which, although lighter and rather less serious, nevertheless contain pearls of wisdom. I've been reading one which takes a sideways look at all things religious - including the increasingly popular idea that pictures our departed loved ones smiling as they look down at what we are doing from On High – rather like a celestial TV lounge, perhaps, with angels serving tea. It's not an idea supported by anything found in the New Testament, but many people nevertheless seem to find it attractive - although, as the book points out, it rather loses its appeal when you're in the shower or doing something that you know they would disapprove of. An inscription on an ancient headstone beside the path in the churchyard at Alkham takes a different view: *He is not dead but sleepeth.* The words come from the gospels, spoken by Jesus to a distraught father whose young daughter had just died, and who he was about to restore to life - words which once offered such hope and comfort to a grieving local family that they chose them to be carved on their loved one's memorial. For Christians Easter brings with it the celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead and the hope of heaven for those who trust in Him. *What no eye has seen,* wrote St Paul*, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived… God has prepared for those who love him.* To me, that promises that Eternity will be a much more exciting prospect than simply being expected to look down and smile as what's left of my life savings is blown on computer games. I hope so, anyway… Happy Easter! **Brian Williams**

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Hall booking Shirley Prince 828098
W.I. Secretary – Janet Barrow 829585
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AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
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Web sites www.alkham.org and www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Produced by Brian Wimsett
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HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN - JUBILEE PARTY SUNDAY JUNE 5th VICARAGE MEADOW - 1PM - Here's a reminder of the above village party which is proving to be very popular. We have tables and seating for 80 so please, if possible, bring along extra picnic tables and chairs. Still hoping for a dry weather day but any overhead cover will probably be a good idea too for a light shower - or as sun shade - but as mentioned before, we have the village hall booked as back up. As this event is a bring your own food and refreshments, there is no need to ring and let me know you are coming. Don't forget to get the children involved for the fancy dress competition from any decade in the last seventy, and hopefully you clever bakers are already planning your cake decoration. Finally, I'm planning traditional fun games for all such as egg and spoon, three legged and so on so should be a good afternoon. **Irene Barnard**

TWO GIRLS at Temple Ewell Primary School decided they wanted to raise funds for the Ukraine relief effort. They held a cake and craft sale in school and as part of that decorated some pebbles to sell. Some of those pebbles are now hidden around our village of Alkham. If you find one, please keep it, pass it on or re-hide it elsewhere. To date they have raised £388. **Nicola Church, Temple Ewell Primary School**

SPEEDWATCH – Further to last month's article regarding Speed Watch, Glyn Jones has asked the Parish Council to support the purchase of a new speed device and also the video equipment recommended by the police due to an increase in abusive and aggressive issues against some Speedwatch units (fortunately not Alkham to date). They have also submitted a paper to the Parish Council to consider when they review their Highway improvement Plan Policy and action for 2022/23, to include a 30mph limit from Hopton Manor to Wolverton bend and 20mph through the heart of the village with 40mph on the rest of the road between Standen cottages and Temple Ewell.

ALKHAM WI are having a coffee morning and a Bring and Buy sale on the 14th of May at 11am in Alkham Village Hall, all welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

FILM NIGHT - 7.30pm

Tuesday 31st May

Marvellous – Toby Jones

Tuesday 26th April

West Side Story (2021)

Entry to the village hall is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated

EDITH NEVE - On the 15th of March, the parish of Alkham lost a much admired and respected member of the local community, Mrs Edith Neave. She was 86 years of age. Edith had lived with her late supportive husband, Vic, in Ewell Minnis having moved to the hamlet several decades ago from Wolverton, where she had operated a care home. When Edith moved to Ewell Minnis she integrated with the local community readily, often providing support to those who sought it, in the immediate area. It is as a result of this she was encouraged to stand for and was elected onto Alkham Parish Council. She served the Parish Council loyally for many years, retiring, due to the declining health of her husband in order she could care for him towards the end of his final days. Edith always had an enquiring mind and never ceased to amaze me with her many entrepreneurial ideas and schemes which she would run pass me on my many visits to see her. She enjoyed life to the full with the daily support of her daughter Coco. Edith was certainly a fun loving character and will be missed by those who knew her. Her spirit is reunited with her husband's, whom she adored and loved so much. **Geoffrey Lymer**

CHRISSIE ROSE died on the 6th of April after being diagnosed with cancer in January and given a prognosis of only weeks. Apart from a spell in the hospice whilst they brought pain management under control, she had her wish of spending her last days at home. Chrissie and her husband Peter were resident in Slip Lane for some years and they were well liked and always ready to help and get involved with village activities.

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Join the Refill Revolution! It is estimated every UK Household uses around 480 plastic bottles each year but only around 270 get recycled meaning 23 million end up in landfill where they sit for up to 500 years slowing degrading into micro-plastics that pollute our soil, oceans and waterways. If you are fed up with the sheer volume of plastic that comes with your weekly shop and want to start reducing your plastic waste, then The Refillable Van is here to help! The Refillable Van is a zero waste mobile refill shop offering dry goods - oats, rice, pasta, pulses & grains, nuts & seeds, dried fruits; herbs & spices; household cleaning products - laundry liquids, washing up liquid, hand soap, all purpose cleaner; self care products - shampoo, conditioner, body wash. We also offer plastic free alternatives of dental, cleaning and beauty products. Simply bring your own clean empty bottles and containers to us and we will refill them for you with as much or as little as you need so you can reuse your containers over and over again. All products are vegan and environmentally friendly and aquatic safe. No parabens, sulphates or synthetic fragrances mean they are better for you and for the planet. We will be visiting Alkham once a month at the Village Hall starting 23rd April 5pm – 6.30pm (the same night as Streetz2Streetz Fish & Chips) and then on 14/5/22, 4/6/22, 23/7/22, August tbc, 24/9/22. Or if you prefer message 07495916088 to book a home visit. Check out our website www.refillablevan.com and follow us on social at www.facebook.com/Refillablevan or Instagram @refillable_van.



STEPS IN FIELD BEHIND THE CHURCH

After the dire accident suffered in deepest, coldest January by a local resident (four hours prone on icy ground), people climbing these steps now, will find them much safer and easier to use, all repaired and strengthened by the KCC in late March. In addition, a new handrail has been installed on the second upgoing set of steps. Thanks to the KCC response and Anthony Barrier's encouragement (our footpath warden) a good job has been done, and speedily too. **Jo Walker**

MEMBERSHIP – Someone gave £10 as membership to the Alkham Valley Society but a record of the name was not made. Please email Catherine Webber at catiewebber@me.com to register your name.

LIGHTNING – On the first of April there was an enormous flash of lightning followed by a similar size bang and it appears that the lightning struck the power line serving properties near Newlyns Meadow and Hogbrook Lane causing a power surge that put at least 3 modems out of action plus some phones. The power surge caused damage to other properties' electrical equipment and the modem in the village hall was one casualty which was swiftly replaced by Plusnet.

KENT VOLUNTEER PARTNERSHIP – You can change a person's life in Kent today by becoming a volunteer and if you'd like more information then go to the web site www.Kentvolunteers.org.uk. You can search for volunteer opportunities across Kent, register your interest in volunteering opportunities that interest you or choose to allow organisations who want volunteers to contact you.

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SNOWFLAKES – Most people know about snowdrops which are the first flowers to bloom generally before or coinciding with the vernal equinox at the end of March and symbolises sympathy, consolation and hope. Another prevalent white flower which is not so well known is the snowflake, or summer snowflake, and blooms in mid to late spring, just after the daffodils and resembles the snowdrop but is much taller. If you are interested in nature the Wildlife Trust has an annual challenge where they ask everyone to do one wild thing a day throughout the month of June and in 2021 saw over 760,000 people being involved. It is called **30 DAYS WILD** and if you'd like to sign up and receive a free pack to help you go wild, go to wildlifetrusts.org/30days wildlife site.



EVER WANTED TO BE AN ARCHAEOLOGIST? Now's your chance to get involved in a choice of community digs at Dover's Maison Dieu led by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust. The first dig was in April and the other digs take place between 25-29 July, and 8-12 September, one near Biggin Hall and the other beneath a municipal flowerbed on the other side of the River Dour. Participants will be offered a choice of roles, from excavating and washing finds, to engaging with visitors or running a mini dig for families. The opportunity is open to anyone age 18 plus and full training will be given. Young people, age 18 to 25, are particularly welcome, including those currently unemployed or looking for work experience opportunities. Please contact Martin Crowther at martin.crowther@dover.gov.uk. or phone 07596 889 668 or go to www.maisondieudover.org.uk for further details.

THE CIRCLES OF HELL

I saw you once with Oscar
His rounded eyes aglow
With knowledge of all sorts of things
That children shouldn't know.
You showed him off so proudly
Pretending all was well
You needed me to love him
In those sad surrounds of hell.

A multi-storey carpark
The walls were grey and gloom
You must have paid to enter
And then there wasn't room.
You had to circle driving down
Looking for a space
Hoping that you might find some
And that he would find his place.

Gail Swainston

ALKHAM W.I. - Our meeting was a very interesting one at which we had Clive Nutting talking about Madagascar the Enchanted Isle. Our next meeting is on the 10th May which is resolutions followed by a quiz. Well done to Vanessa Oakley on winning 1st prize for her Easter Bonnet. Hostesses are Debbie Saunders and Janet Gibbons, raffle Helen Scopes. All new members welcome. **Debbie Griggs**



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Regular events in the village hall	
Tuesday - Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am
Wednesday	Sit Fit 10am to 11.30am

Other events in the village hall		
Tuesday	**10**	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Thursday	**26**	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1st	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Praise 11.00 am
Sunday 8th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	
Saturday 14th	Messy Church at St Radigund's Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 15th	Worship 11.00 am	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 22nd	United Parish Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Thursday 26th	Ascension Day United Parish Eucharist Hougham 7.00 pm		
Sunday 29th	United Parish Eucharist at St Mary's Capel 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - I boarded the train and found a seat. The man sitting opposite smiled and asked if I had had a good day. I had, I replied, and I asked him how his day had been. Celtic had beaten Rangers 2-1! He and his friend's nephew had travelled to Scotland hoping to get tickets for the match but had ended up watching it on a big screen. They had celebrated the win, and his young friend was now sprawled across the seat next to him. As I reassured him that I wasn't a Rangers supporter, his friend suddenly began clapping and chanting in honour of the genius who had scored the winning goal. In all honesty, sport and I have never understood each other, and I'm no football fan. I remembered this when I came across this headline: *Revealed: The most boring person in the world is a religious data-entry worker who watches TV.* It was about a study from the University of Essex. It listed jobs and activities – religion counts as a hobby, apparently - that are often dismissed as boring. But on reading it I found that it didn't pretend, as the headline suggested, to identify the most boring people in the world. It was really about the negative effect that being branded as boring by others can have on our lives. I once read somewhere that anything can be interesting – it's just a matter of whether we see it that way. Sport gives pleasure to millions of people – no doubt I'm missing out on something. I live with the constant challenge of how to reveal the interest in something that people sometimes dismiss. I'm no football fan – but I am a God supporter. And not boring. At least, I don't think so… **Brian Williams**

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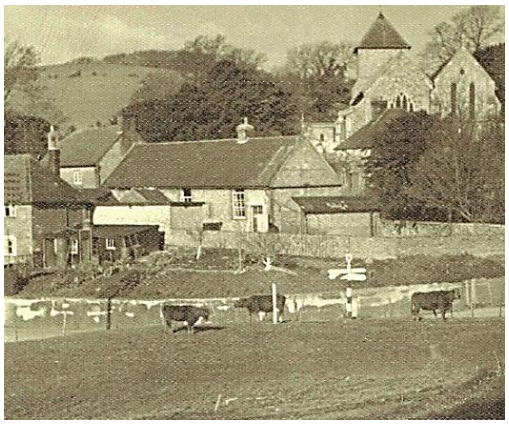

VICARAGE MEADOW
In last month's newsletter a headline said that the Jubilee Party on the 5th of June is on Vicarage Meadow and a local has said that some people might not know this name. The 1930's photo shows the meadow, known as glebe land as it provided revenue for the church which owned it, was behind the vicarage and therefore called Vicarage Meadow. The meadow was subsequently rented by the Parish Council to use as the village green, but the original village green was at the top of the steep hill off Slip Lane at Chalksole and it was last used for the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977. It is still owned by the parish but in 2003 the Parish Council bought Vicarage Meadow from the church and it became the official village green. **Editor**

MARQUIS OF GRANBY - May has given us a hint that Summer is around the corner and with that in mind, we have launched our new Summer Menu. We have included some more snacks and open sandwiches as well as kept our trademark A La Carte in keeping with our usual offering, giving our customers more flexibility. We have also introduced a monthly Dining Club with the next one coming on the 14th of June, on a booking only basis. The first event was a huge success with a five course tasting menu and a Master of Wine hosting the event, pairing some great and obscure wines with the food, it was nice to see some familiar faces! All details are on our website, but should you wish to know more, please call us on 01304 873410 or email info@marquisofgranby.co.uk. In addition, with The Jubilee Weekend fast approaching what better way to celebrate the Queen's reign than with Pimm's, bunting and our favourite band, Gumboots on Friday 3rd of June! We will be open all day as usual with the event kicking off from 4pm and we would love to see the community come together for such a special occasion.
Hugh Thompson
General Manager

FILM NIGHT - 7.30pm
Tuesday 28th June
Still Life – Eddie Marsan
Tuesday 31st May
Marvellous – Toby Jones
Entry to the village hall is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated

JUBILEE VILLAGE PARTY - JUNE 5TH FROM 1PM ON VILLAGE GREEN
Final prompt regarding this event which has been well advertised in previous newsletters so hopefully all will come along and enjoy BYO lunch/drinks and fun with friends and neighbours. Don't forget your gazebo's, parasols and picnic table and chairs - we only have seating for eighty. **Irene Barnard**

TRAFFIC – Glyn Jones and Speedwatch have set up an email address alkhamvalleytraffic@btinternet.com for parishioners to report any road traffic incidents that they are aware of in the Alkham Valley as many incidents go unreported. It is important that they can produce an accurate list of accidents and other road safety incidents when asking for support from Kent Police and KCC officers. At present we appear to be experiencing an average of about one significant road traffic incident a week, but many go unreported into official statistics as the police do not attend. Hopefully a local record of actual incidents can be built and the information can be used to ensure that KCC prioritises road safety along the Alkham Valley Road.

THE SUNFLOWER COMPETITION which has been organised by Anita and Vernon James has attracted 18 entries. The winning entrant will receive a cup which will have to be relinquished at the end of the year but a friend of Anita, who is very artistic, is making a wooden plaque that they can keep. Sunflower plants are still available and if you'd like one, please email anitajames163@gmail.com.



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PIMLICO WAY – A firm laid hydraulically bound material from its junction with Slip Lane to the top of the rise at the end of April but either the material wasn't laid or compacted correctly or was faulty and the contractor will return to site to put things right. The material is being laid to make the byway safer and stop flints and other debris being washed down onto Slip Lane.

NEW FOOTPATH – In the February edition the need for a paved path linking the one at Newlyns Meadow to the path behind the village hall was mentioned. The Parish Council is applying for a KCC Members grant of £1500 towards the cost of the path and say that the maximum cost should be no more than £3500 and since this expenditure was not in the budget it will be funded from the parish council reserves.

VILLAGE HALL – For the last financial year the hall made a loss of £1500 and in the previous financial year a loss of £3400 was incurred. In addition to this there was capital spend which amounted to about £3000. However, the hall was given a small business grant under the Government's scheme for Covid and this has covered the loss incurred. Despite lower usage the running costs have to be paid and the hall's annual insurance is £850 and last year the utilities bill (gas, electricity and water/drainage) despite the reduced bookings came to £1250. In addition to this there is the hall cleaning which adds another £1200 plus Council rates, grass cutting, broadband and general maintenance.

EASELS – The Art Workshop has been held in the village hall for many years but has now had to cease and Margaret Danstead and Margaret Tovey, with help from Liz Lambourne, have kindly donated their 6 easels to the Harvey Grammar School for boys in Dover.



THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG mentioned in last month's newsletter at Dover's Maison Dieu (or House of God) has produced some interesting finds. Maison Dieu was founded by Hubert de Burgh in the early 1200s as a place for poor pilgrims to stay the night on their way to the shrine of St Thomas Becket at Canterbury Cathedral, or when travelling to the Continent. Pilgrims received free bed and board (weak beer and bread) from the Augustinian monks who looked after the building. The impressive Stone Hall was built circa 1290 and at the digs in April the most spectacular finds discovered by first time local volunteers were over 50 small fragments of decorated window glass found in a rubble layer beneath one of the Stone Hall's six medieval windows. Photographs of the glass have been seen by medieval stained-glass experts who believe the fragments date from the late 1200's or early 1300's and say are a very exciting find. Please contact Martin Crowther at martin.crowther@dover.gov.uk. or phone 07596 889 668 or go to www.maisondieudover.org.uk for details of future digs.

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IN MAY 2023 district council seats will be up for election and anyone can apply as you don't have to be a member of a political party. If you'd like to find out more about being a councillor, on Tuesday the 14th of June 2022 from 6pm to 9pm DDC are holding a Prospective Councillor Evening at their offices in Whitfield, CT16 3PJ and to book a place please phone 01304 872303/4/5 or email democraticservices@dover.gov.uk.

MOSELING'S HOLE – An email was received from Paul Reed asking if anyone in the parish knew if an archaeological assessment had been carried out on a local dene-hole. A dene-hole was a shaft which was dug into the ground in ancient times to extract chalk and a well-preserved dene-hole exists in a wood just on the parish boundary some 60 metres east of the footpath/bridle way leading to St. Radigunds's Abbey. It is on private land and is about 2 metres in diameter, 11.5 metres deep and has three shafts radiating off it and is marked on a map. Legend has it that it was called Moseling's Hole because a man of that name who lived in Alkham fell down it and when Paul was a boy, he and friends used to explore the area, but he didn't have the courage to go down it on the end of a rope. If anyone has any more information about the dene-hole, please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com. **Brian Wimsett**



NOW the lighter evenings are here the seagulls and rooks take any food that is left outside. To get round this the food was left in a flowerpot and the animal camera shows the badger with his head in the pot with the fox looking on. The fox previously wouldn't put his head in the pot but on the next night, after some trepidation, he followed suit. Unfortunately, the rooks got the message as well and so the pot has been removed.

PRIMA BALLERINA

Point the toe
Slipper on
Tie pink ribbons tight
Plait a binding
For today
That will last all night.

Ribbons press
Silken edge
Cuts the ankles sore
Knots and pressure
Building up
Rubbing flesh red raw.

Welcome smile
Graceful arms
Circle out the view.
Pain is pulsing
In the feet
Toes are bleeding through.

Gail Swainston

ALKHAM W.I. - Our May meeting was our resolutions meeting followed by a quiz. Our next meeting is on the 14th of June when our speaker will be Rosemary Crippin talking about Bags Beads and embroidered books. Hostesses Lucy McKenzie and Eileen West, Raffle Janet Barrow and VOT Helen Scopes; new members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**



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Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday - Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am
Wednesday	Sit Fit 9.30am to 11.00am

Other events in the village hall

Tuesday	**10**	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Thursday	**26**	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Saturday 11th	*Messy Church, followed by tea.* 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 12th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	
Sunday 19th	Worship 11.00 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 26th	United Parish Eucharist 10.00 am Hougham		

BUS TIMES To Dover 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - You may have noticed that Archbishop Justin's Easter Day sermon got a bit of a reaction this year – certainly a bigger one than mine did, judging by the newspaper headlines it generated. Archbishops of Canterbury have a way of ruffling feathers, with three having come off especially badly: the Martyrdom in Canterbury Cathedral recalls how Thomas à Becket, having annoyed King Henry II, was murdered there by four of his knights. Thomas Cranmer and William Laud also met sticky ends, one burned on the orders of Mary Tudor, the other executed by Parliament during the English Civil War. Thankfully Archbishop Justin is still in one piece, at least as far as I know. Approached for a comment, one MP thundered: *The Archbishop… should not assume to know what God knows in my humble opinion*. This strikes me as odd – a bit like saying that a doctor should not presume to write prescriptions. Christians have always recognised praying and reading the Bible as a way of finding out what God thinks – they don't call the Bible *the Word of God* for nothing. In fact, the laws that govern the Church of England are made by Parliament and oblige its clergy, archbishops included, *not being let by sickness or some other urgent cause, to say daily the Morning and Evening Prayer, either privately or openly*. So, the law obliges me, and people like me, to read the Bible; and reading it is more likely to prick my conscience than confirm my opinions: I'm left asking whether I have loved God, and my neighbour as myself, or whether I have judged or condemned anyone, or whether I have forgiven others when I have needed to. So please spare a thought for Archbishop Justin. He's only doing his job. **Brian Williams**

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Hall booking Shirley Prince 828098
W.I. Secretary Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Produced by Brian Wimsett
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brianwimsett@hotmail.com

No. 337 July 2022

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JUBILEE VILLAGE PARTY - It was so lovely to see so many friendly faces at the Jubilee lunch. Up until the morning, we were using Plan B and setting up in the village hall as the weather had been so miserable. Luck was on our side and the decision changed back to the village green which proved to be far more successful considering the high numbers. There was fun with the races and congratulations to Meadow for winning the fancy dress competition and Catie for first prize in the cake decoration competition. Huge thanks to Ken and Sandy, Kev, Sue and Andrew and Graham West for helping with bunting, and the hard task of moving tables and chairs from village hall to the green, and a special thank you to Graham Bissett for providing the music which created a wonderful atmosphere. Finally, this event was sponsored by Alkham Parish Council and Dover District Council. **Irene Barnard**

MEN UNITED IN SONG - Graham Bissett and I have signed up to the recent campaign that you may have seen advertised for forty men to create a male voice choir in support of Prostate Cancer UK. For 8 weeks we will be rehearsing under the musical direction of the Snowden Male Voice Choir and we will be performing at a Gala Concert on Saturday 16th July at 7.00pm to 9.30pm in the Nye Hall at the Duke of York School in Dover. One in eight men are affected by Prostate Cancer and it kills more men annually than women from breast cancer, no research comes from government funding only public donations. While we're not directly asking for sponsorship, although it would be nice https:/www.justgiving.com/team/menunitedinsong, we do hope that some of you will come along to the concert for a fun evening in support of a great cause. Please contact me if you'd like tickets and I will send details when they are released. **Kev Rolfe e: kev.rolfe@yahoo.com**

A CRAFT FAIR will be held in aid of the Air Ambulance on the 23rd of July from 2pm to 4.30pm at Greenwood Farm, Alkham CTI5 7EE.

LOST – A person in Glebelands has lost a blue Samsung A12 phone with a black see through case; please ring 01304 824969 if found.

MOBILE VANS in Village Hall Car Park

The popular Mobile Fish and Chip Van will next be visiting Alkham on Saturday 30th July (not 9th July as previously arranged) between 5 and 6.30pm. Call 07955 926835 for booking and menu.

The Refillable Van, which includes a wide range of dry goods, household cleaning items, dental and beauty products has often been in the Car Park at the same time, but hours vary over the summer period. The next visits are on Saturday 23rd July and Saturday 27th August between 5.00 and 6.00p.m. This is a zero waste mobile refill shop, so bring your own bottles and containers.

MARQUIS OF GRANBY - We are so grateful to see so many local faces enjoy the Jubilee Sunday and support the pub, we are donating all proceeds from the Curious Defender outside bar and the barbecue towards a community project we have in mind, totalling £414.80. SAVE THE DATE Tuesday 21st June!!! From 6.30pm we will be hosting a local's night, with 10% off all food and drink - we will also be doing some small bites for anyone able to attend and not wanting anything too substantial plus the local maestro Graham performing some pop classics from 7pm. Quiz night we are amending slightly moving forward to fuel those brains. We will be doing a chilli at an additional £7 should anyone wish." **Hugh Thompson**

FILM NIGHT - 7.30pm

Tuesday 26th July

The Duke Jim Broadbent, Helen Mirren

Tuesday 31st May

Still Life – Eddie Marsan

Entry to the village hall is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated

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JUBILEE VILLAGE PARTY – There wasn't enough room on the front page to thank Irene Barnard for all her hard work in organising the party, it really was appreciated. Her house was also decked for the Jubilee and the front garden is a lovely welcoming sight as you come into the village.



DUCKS - Mr. Alan Latham and Mr. Wimsett spotted a mother duck and trio of ducklings taking a trip down Slip Lane in the ominous direction of the Alkham Valley Road racetrack. These fearless heroes formed an unarmed guard and escorted the small family across the Red Sea and onto the village green which, as if in anticipation of the visit, had been cheerfully decorated with jubilee bunting (thanks for that). The brood had probably been bigger and may have come from the direction of the marvellous Malmains Manor lake. But Alkham can breathe again, thank you wildlife protectors. **Jo Walker**



BIN N GONE - The photo shows the result of a car backing into the bin on the village car park on the 29th of May. The suspect car's registration details were recorded and it is hoped that DDC will contact the driver for comment and that the very essential bin will be replaced.



SPEED LIMIT – At the Parish Council meeting in March the results of the three KCC Speed surveys commissioned by the parish council to support requests for 20mph speed limit and additional speed reduction initiatives were discussed. It was noted that because of these surveys KCC Highways did not consider it was necessary to take any further action as the speeds recorded were suitable for the road environment. There is little evidence to show that introducing a 20mph speed limit without any obvious change in the road environment will make any significant difference to the driven speeds. Also, there would be a need for a permanent system of street lighting, whilst there is none now. The speed limits recorded were considered, by KCC Highways, to be within the given parameters for the road, and shows good compliance for a 30mph limit. (extract from PC minutes)

KENT PRIORITY SURVEY – The police have a web address where there is a survey regarding the issues that may affect the local community and an opportunity to give an opinion on their performance. The web site is www.survey.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk/Survey and after logging in you should get details of how to report a non-urgent crime and to talk to them using LIveChat.

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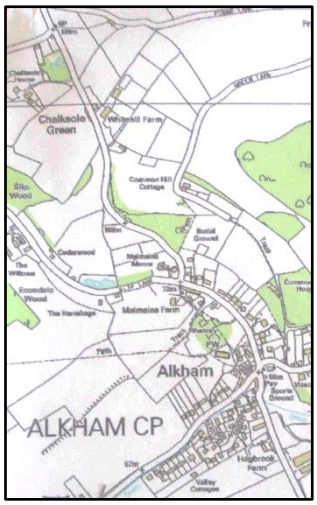
MOSELINGS HOLE – John O'Shea sent the photo on the left taken when he and his wife Joanna went down the dene-hole mentioned in last month's newsletter. A dene-hole is a chalk mine with a small shaft that doesn't take up valuable farmland that an open cast pit would. In the 1960's boys from Alkham school went down Moselings Hole and Jim Matcham emailed to say that he was one of them with Boyce Preston, Malcolm Sharp, Leo McCann, Barry Solly plus others. It was visited in other eras and a boy, who doesn't wished to be named, had to be rescued by the fire brigade. **Ed**

CHALKSOLE GREEN was mentioned in the last newsletter and the picture on the right shows it at the top left hand corner. Until the 17th century common land belonged to the Lord of the Manor, but tenants would have been entitled to graze their animals on it. Government Acts enclosed this land and gave it to various people and the piece of land forming Chalksole Green was awarded to the Alkham Churchwardens. The land eventually passed to the Parish Council and became the village green and subordinate to village green by the valley road it still is. **Brian Wimsett**



ALMOST OVERLAP

Jupiter came wandering by
Wanted Venus to say Hi
Venus said Wow, what a handsome
How expensive is the ransome?
He said No, it costs you nothing
Be with me I'll give you something
That you surely won't forget
She said All life's one regret.

Gail Swainston

ALKHAM W.I. - Our June meeting was all about how Rosemary Crippin made bags, books, and beads; very talented. Our next meeting is on July 12th at 7.30pm when our speaker will be Clive Nuttman talking about orchids. Hostesses are Gina Daniels, Alison Warnock, raffle Debbie Saunders and VOT Janet Adamson. All new members welcome
Debbie Griggs



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Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday - Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am
Wednesday	Sit Fit 9.30am to 11.00am

Other events in the village hall

Monday	**4**	Parish Council meeting 7pm all welcome
Saturday	**9**	SEKAS 7pm to 9pm
Tuesday	**12**	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Tuesday	**19**	Village Hall meeting 2pm
Thursday	**28**	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3rd	**Evensong 6.30 pm**	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Worship 11am**
Saturday 9th	**Messy Church Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm**		
Sunday 10th	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Songs/Praise 11am**	
Sunday 17th	**Worship 11.00 am**	**Evensong 6.00 pm**	**Eucharist 9.30 am**
Sunday 24th	**United Parish Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am**		
Sunday 31st	**United Parish Eucharist 10.00 am (St Mary's Capel)**		

BUS TIMES To Dover 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - Think of when you last went to a wedding, and you may remember how, between arriving at the venue and the reception itself beginning, there was perhaps an interlude when people could mingle, chat, have a drink and relax. We attended a wedding reception not long ago and, as we waited to go in, a photographer wandered around, taking snaps of the guests as they chatted. Now it's one thing to have your photo taken when you've had the chance to comb your hair and straighten your tie, but it's quite another when you're snapped as you pulled a face at something that you were being told, and the result isn't guaranteed to be flattering. The photos duly circulated a few days later; *do I really look like that?* I wondered, looking at a snap of my open-mouthed self, my glasses perched on the end of my nose. 3rd July is the feast day of St Thomas - *Doubting Thomas* as he is often known from the unflattering snapshot of him in St John's gospel. You may know the story: Jesus, risen from the dead, appeared to his disciples when Thomas wasn't there. Later, they told Thomas what they had seen; he refused to believe it until a week later, when he saw Jesus for himself. But less well known is the tradition that Thomas went on to travel to India where he founded several churches. He is rumoured to have been martyred near modern Chennai. In the end faith, rather than doubt, sustained him on his travels, and at the end. He became India's patron saint. Thomas and his doubts; me and my open mouth - it all goes to show just how misleading a single snapshot can be…

Brian Williams

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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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The Old Post Office
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No. 343 August 2022

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THE MARQUIS OF GRANBY and the Alkham Cricket Club are hoping to team up for T20 cricket match on the August Bank Holiday, Monday 29th of August for a community Cricket game. We will have live entertainment back at the Marquis afterwards with two bands playing throughout the afternoon, a Sunday style lunch service and a Hog Roast to accompany. An outside bar will also be "on tap" and an auction will be held later in the afternoon with funds going towards a community project and those effected by the war in Ukraine. If anyone would like to contribute in the form of any prizes to help raise money for these two causes or want further information, please email me at ht@contemporarypubs.co.uk

SPEED LIMIT – In last month's newsletter there was an article regarding the speed through Alkham as recorded in the Parish Council minutes which resulted in a parishioner contacting the Parish Clerk. He was disappointed that only compliance with the 30mph was mentioned and that a permanent system of street lighting would be needed for a 20mph limit as there is none at present. The main concern was for the properties that are adjacent to the valley road just past the blind bend by the top of the village green. Vehicles and pedestrians emerging from these properties face a high risk of causing an accident and such actions can only be safely accomplished with extreme caution and preferably with assistance from an observer on the opposite footpath. The village centre also suffers from narrow defiles, lack of footpaths and defined crossing places together with an absence of warning signs regarding concealed exits, emerging traffic and pedestrians crossing the road. He says that nearly everyone he has spoken to comments on the alarming speed and danger of many vehicles coming round the blind bend. It is his opinion that it is irresponsible for the KCC Highways to make remote, bland, dismissive statements about the road environment and parameters without addressing the real, obvious and well-known dangers of the road through the village, particularly after the considerable concerns and prolonged discussions that have taken place on this matter… ***please see page 2***

SUNFLOWERS - The day for measuring the sunflowers will be Sunday the 28th of August and we have borrowed a professional piece of equipment to do this, so all those taking part had better get the Miracle Grow out. Please may we be allowed access to the places where they are growing, on this day. If there are any problems or anyone is on holiday, please would they contact me on anitajames163@gmail.com. **Anita James**

FILM NIGHT
August 30th 7.30pm
Goodbye Mr Chips
Martin Clunes
Tuesday 26th July
The Duke
Jim Broadbent

EDWARD BEANEY



It is with deep sadness I report the passing of Edward Beaney, known as Eddie, born on the 9th of June 1952 and died on the 11th of June 2022. Eddie was born at Cranbrook, near Tunbridge Wells, the family relocating to Ewell Minnis whilst in his infancy. He had nine sisters and brothers, George, Phoebe, Henry, Patience, Priscilla, Derek, David, Dolly and Gary. Eddie leaves two sons and a daughter, who still reside at Ewell Minnis. Eddie was an extremely popular man in the Alkham and Shepherdswell parishes and though suffering a permanent eye injury from childhood was a formidable darts player taking on and beating a future national darts player for England. Eddie was highly respected for his integrity, being very popular and well-loved among the community, always with a dapper dress sense, who never really retired but was struck by failing health over the past few years. He was a man always there to help others, a wonderful, kind, caring man who is greatly missed. Eddie may have passed over, but his spirit will remain amongst us for some time to come. **Geoffrey Lymer**

GARAGE/BARN CONTENTS SALE

On Saturday 30th of July there will be a sale of household, gardening, building, farming tools at 'Sunrise', Meggett Lane, South Alkham from 10.30a.m. A clearance of years of hoarding, with proceeds to Charity. Any reasonable offer accepted. Please enter by the farm gate (first on the right when entering the Lane) and park in the field where there is some hard standing. **Janet Adamson**

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ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD – About 30 years ago the Alkham Valley Road was classified as the B2060 but was downgraded to a C road so it didn't show as an orange route on maps and to dissuade drivers from using the road, but this had no effect and the volume of traffic continued to grow. At that time KCC Highways considered that the Alkham Valley Road was an important alternative route should there be problems on the A20, now A2020, and it is likely that this mind set has continued despite the new A20 dual carriageway being built and is therefore in direct conflict with the original aim. What does seem sensible is that there should at least be a 20mph speed limit from just before the Marquis of Granby through the narrow gap and continuing past the village green to the other side of the blind bend leading to Dover. KCC may consider that this would have little effect on driver speeds, but it would emphasise that Alkham is a village and should be treated as such. Perhaps the person from KCC who wrote the 20mph speed limit rejection letter would like to come to a public meeting in Alkham to explain and justify the reasons for refusal. **Editor**

SPEEDWATCH – The email address for the Speedwatch team was hijacked and effectively destroyed and their new address is alkhamvalleytraffic2 @btinternet.com.

BIN – After the bin on the car park was demolished some people have been leaving pooh bags on the bins at the village hall**.** Please stop doing this and find another authorized bin or take the bag home.

CLEANER required in central Alkham for 2 hours every two weeks. Please phone 07973341772.

A NEW WEBSITE www.kearsneyparks.co.uk is showcasing the district's most popular parks following completion of a £3.1 million programme of improvements at Kearsney Abbey and Russell Gardens. The website, which also covers Bushy Ruff, helps people to plan their visit and explore the upgraded visitor facilities, learn about the history, flora and fauna of the parks, keep up to date with the latest news, and find out ways to get involved through volunteering. Kearsney Abbey and Russell Gardens are the most significant heritage parks in the Dover district. Russell Gardens is Grade II listed in The Historic England Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England, whilst Kearsney Abbey contains many Grade II listed features and is the most popular public park in the district. Both parks are highly valued by the community and attract a significant number of visitors from outside the district.

EDWARD BEANEY – The obituary for Edward Beaney is on page 1 and below is a photo of his grave in Alkham churchyard. His coffin was brought to the church in a horse drawn carriage where there was a large number of people to commemorate his passing.



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FILM NIGHT – The latest Downton Abbey film will be shown at Film Night in September as some people may be away on holiday in August.



GARDEN CLUB - On the 24th of June the Garden Club met up in the Old Rectory by invitation of Mark Loveday. The reason is 'June - you should have seen them last week - roses' with which the Old Rectory is blessed. A good number of members attended without whose keen attendance there would be no garden club and were shown around the garden and encouraged to explore the grounds. The evening was warm but grew chillier. However, buoyed up by the splendid scents and sights as well as plentiful beverages, time was well and enjoyably spent. It does help a lot to have an enthusiastic gardener/owner partnership in a garden of this size. Original sketches for the garden made in the early 1960's were on display. With thanks to Mark Loveday, the garden club looks forward to further visits to gardens in and around Alkham. It would not be out of place to mention the absence of Catie Webber, whose father had died two days earlier. Our respects to her and her family at this sad and difficult time. **Jo Walker**

KENT POLICE sent an email regarding the theft of catalytic converters and says one was stolen from the Sandwich area on the 29th of June. They are targeted by thieves as they contain valuable metals and can be removed in less than a minute and thefts most frequently occurs in car parks and you can find advice regarding locks or guards that are approved by the vehicle manufacturer and tested to Sold Secure Gold. If you don't have a garage, park in an area that's well-lit and overlooked and try to park so that the converter can't be easily reached by thieves. You should also register your converter and mark it with a forensic marker, which will make it harder for thieves to dispose of.

A MEETING IN THE PUB

In my past and in your past
There is so much that's left unsaid
So many years of happiness
In other lives with other dreams.

Misty edges shade our sight
There is so much that's left unseen
So many islands off the chart
With rocky outfalls to the sea.

So though we sit together
Gazing closely at each other
Over beer mugs on the table
There's a distance comes between us.

Rising up and rushing in
Thick grey cloud across the skyline
Wind has shifted daylight grazing
Wooden table, our Atlantic.

Gail Swainston

ALKHAM W.I. - Our July meeting was a talk on orchids from Kent by Clive Nuttman. Our next meeting will be on the Tuesday 9th of August when we have no speaker, but all members get together for fish and chips. Any members that weren't at the last meeting please let me know on 07796360473 if you would like some ordered. Bring your own refreshments, there will be no hostesses. Every member to bring a raffle prize in the colour blue. New members always welcome.

QUIZ NIGHT coming up in September 2022; will let you know the date nearer the time. Hosted by Debbie Griggs and Debbie Saunders it will be tables of 6. **Debbie Griggs**



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Regular events in the village hall		
Tuesday - Friday		Pilates 10am to 11am
Other events in the village hall		
Tuesday	**9**	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Thursday	**25**	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES			
Date	**Alkham**	**Capel**	**Hougham**
Sunday 7th	**United Parish Eucharist 10.00 am Hougham**		
Saturday 13th	Messy Church, followed by tea Capel **3.00 – 5.00 pm**		
Sunday 14th	**United Parish Eucharist 10.00 am Capel**		
Sunday 21st	**Worship 11.00 am**	**Evensong 6.00 pm**	**Eucharist 9.30 am**
Sunday 28th	**United Parish Eucharist 10.00 am Alkham**		
Sunday 4th Sept.	**Evensong 6.30 pm**	**United Eucharist 10.00 am Hougham**	

BUS TIMES To Dover 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - Some years ago, while visiting relatives in Cumbria, I came across Long Meg and Her Daughters. Not friends of my cousins, you understand, but a prehistoric stone circle set among the hills a few miles from Penrith. Long Meg herself stands about 12 feet high, while her smaller daughters form a circle 350 feet across. Where did they come from? According to one legend they were a coven of witches, turned to stone as punishment for dancing on a Sunday. How times have changed! Dancing, playing football, shopping, running errands gardening, DIY – the list goes on. Nobody now seems to worry about being turned to stone for doing any of these things on a Sunday! Numbers attending our church services having slumped since the pandemic, I've been carrying out a survey, asking people what we could do to turn things around. Part of the picture that is emerging is that for many people, the day that used to be about time off for church and visiting family has become filled with other things. So much is going on, and we're all so busy. Jesus is recorded as having once told his disciples, when they had been so busy with everything that they had had no time to eat, to go with him to a quiet place by themselves and get some rest. He spoke of the Sabbath as a gift, rather than an imposition – a gift that only benefits us if we make time to receive it. We're all so busy - but we may find that time spent with him in a quiet place by ourselves isn't time wasted, but stops us turning to stone inside. And if you want to take part in our survey, do please send me an email…

Brian Williams

POLICE 999 or 101
Newsletter brianwimsett@hotmail.com
Parish Clerk and Parish Councillors clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk
Hall booking Shirley Prince 828098
W.I. Secretary Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669
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DDC cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk 07796444860.
Other sites www.alkham.org
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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
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Telephone 01304 824969
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No. 344 September 2022

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THERE ARE two articles about choirs, with the second on page 2, and having more than one group locally is a positive thing as people will attend several groups and it helps recruit new members.

COME ALONG AND SING FOR FUN - Following the success of the Men United in Song project there has been much talk of the health benefits of singing, just for fun. We are very fortunate that our own, musically talented, Graham Bissett has decided that he could start a Community Choir and with the support of Ken Spencer and Myself, we have already promoted him to Musical Director. Ken and I will attempt to assist Graham with a few organisational and secretarial duties and we have already recruited the services of our lovely wives to come along and take part. The community choir will be open to all ladies and gents regardless of ability and there are no auditions, so if you ever thought you'd like to sing with others, this is the opportunity. We will book the Alkham Village Hall as our venue for a weekday evening and we'd like to get a feel for how many might like to join so please do get in touch even if just to chat, you really are all welcome. Kev Rolfe e: kev.rolfe@yahoo.com Ken Spencer e: s33krs@gmail.com

MARQUIS OF GRANBY - Monday 29th of August is our community cricket match with live music, hog roast and a charity auction back at the Marquis with funds raised for those effected by the war in Ukraine and projects within the village. We would love to see as many of you there as possible, it'll be a great atmosphere and brilliant community spirit as well as an opportunity to raise some money for some great causes. Posty Tony has also moved the Marquis Quiz night this month, so the two dates don't clash to Monday 22nd of August. **Hugh Thompson**

THE CHURCH is running a fete again at the Capel Garage Safari on the 4th of September at St Radigunds and since the pandemic we have very little money coming in. I am sure you would not like to see your beautiful old church go into disrepair and close as we need an awful lot of money to maintain it. We would like any donations of plants and bric-a-brac and also any raffle prize donations please. I hope we can rely on you all to buy tickets to support us. If you can help in any way, it would be much appreciated; please ring Carol Mannall on either 07946 106742 or 01304 826514 - thank you.

CATIE WEBBER'S father died whilst on a visit to Alkham. He lived in Australia and his family would like to acknowledge the marvellous support Alkham residents gave their family following Dick's death and could not have managed such a community spirited, uplifting service and wake in Brisbane. It was a splendid send-off.

A BOOT FAIR is being held at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre on Sunday 11th of September, sellers to arrive at 6.30am and buyers from 8am. Cars £10, vans £15, no food vans.

BARRY SHEPPARD – It is sad to report that Barry died at the Ashford Pilgrims Hospice on the 4th of August. For many years Barry has spared time to put his energies and mind towards the support of the Alkham Valley, serving as chairman of the Alkham Valley Society from 2010 to 2017. He stood down from this not always easy position on grounds of ill health but remained at the wheel in many other ways. We will miss you Barry, your commitment and often humorous support. Thank you. Our deep sympathy to Margaret and to their sons and their families. **Jo Walker (sec Alkham Valley Society).** Miss you, Barry

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

This year's coffee morning is planned for Saturday 24th September 10am - 12noon. It will be held in the village hall and as in previous years there will be a variety of stalls, including a tombola and cake stall. The coffee morning is in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, a charity that not only provides nursing care but also gives practical, financial and emotional care to cancer sufferers and their families. The coffee morning has always been a wonderful community event and has always been so well supported, it would be lovely to see you all there again this year. I would be so grateful to anyone who would be willing to bake a cake (large or individual) for the cake and refreshment stalls. For further information please contact Sue Ross on 01304 825736.

FILM NIGHT

September 27th

Downton Abbey: A New Era (2022)

August 30th 7.30pm

Goodbye Mr. Chips - Martin Clunes

Entry to the village hall is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated

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RIVER VOICES ARE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS - Are you over 50 and have always wanted to sing? River voices meets in River Methodist Church on Thursday afternoons from 2.00 - 3.30, our next term starts on 15th September. We sing a wide range of musical material with the aim of enjoying singing together and learning to use our voices. There are no auditions, you do not need any previous musical experience or be able to read music. River Voices is run by Living Lively, a Kent based charity which runs singing groups for people over 50. We grew out of an NHS research project into the health benefits of singing and over 400 people attend one of our groups each week. For more information, please contact Matthew on 07951 572920 or matthew@livinglively.org.uk

A HUGE THANK you to our Alkham neighbours for their many kindnesses this past July. You all made my father's sudden death while visiting the UK a bit easier to bear and certainly gave him a tremendous send off. Thank you for decorating the Church, making food, attending the funeral and singing your hearts out and making the wake a celebration of his life and a genuine delight. Thank you too, for lending an ear whilst providing cups of tea/coffee/ wine with warmth, understanding and wisdom to all three of us - Harlan, Margaret and me. **Catie Webber**

SOUTHERN EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES at the Alkham Valley Garden Centre would like to invite you to discuss your equines Autumn/Winter feeding needs with Representatives from Spillers Horse Feed & Omega Equine Supplements. There will be special offers on the day throughout the shop! We look forward to seeing you!! (01303)891996

MEN UNITED IN SONG - On July 16th the gala concert of the MUIS choir took place in the Nye Hall at the Duke of York Military School in Dover. Over the 8 week rehearsal period Graham Bissett and myself were joined by Ken Spencer and the three of us all took part in the concert which we thoroughly enjoyed. At the time of writing the Choir had raised almost £35,000 for Prostate Cancer UK and still the money comes in. We'd like to thank everyone who has sponsored us and especially to those who came along to support us on the evening. It's not too late to get involved as there will soon be a DVD of the concert available to purchase and anyone who would like one can get in touch and we will let you know when the details are released. If you'd like a little taster, please take a look at the Kent Messenger TV report which can be found at www.kentonline.co.uk/kmtv/video/amateur-male-choir-in-dover-raises-35-0000-in-aid-of-prostate-cancer-52590/.**THANK YOU ALL**.
Kev Rolfe e: kev.rolfe@yahoo.com

PIMLICO WAY – The dry spell has helped to consolidate the byway and hard material has been laid from what used to be known as 5 ways where the path from Alkham meets the byway and continues to the wood at the Folkestone end. The part towards Dover appears to be firm and then the hard material continues down the slope to Slip Lane.

159 BANK HOTLINE – If you receive an unexpected, suspicious, or fraudulent call and are worried by it you can call 159 and between September last year and April this year 75000 calls have been made to that number. The number can also be used if you suspect a rogue trader and you can also report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

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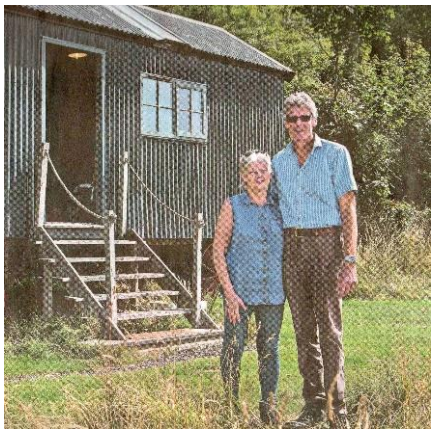

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH on the 6th of August had a three quarter page article about Neil and Wendy Burrows who live in South Alkham. Neil is a farmer whose family have farmed in South Alkham for the past 57 years, and also has an award-winning farmhouse bed and breakfast which he runs with his wife Wendy. The newspaper article was about an abandoned late 1880's rusty shepherd's hut. Neil often drove past the hut which was on Romney Marsh and realised there was the potential to make a modern use of history and turn the hut into a five-star retreat for glamorous camping now known as glamping. It took some time to do the conversion, which included many contemporary and period details, and they have since added another hut both of which are proving very popular. More details can be found on greenhillglamping.co.uk

IN JUNE 2022 at the South of England Show, Diana Smith of Sladden Farm had great success showing her pedigree Dexter cattle, helped by Matt Weiss. 'Magnolia ' came first in her class, and her daughter 'Magenta' followed in her mother's hoof prints by also winning her class. Another of 'Magnolia's' offspring, Millie, maintained the family's high standards by coming second in the Maiden Heifer class. Sladden Farm gained many further awards at the Kent County Show in July. **Gail Swainston**

CRAFT FAIR - Thank you to everyone who supported craft fair at Greenwood Farm it was a beautiful day and enjoyed by all who came, unfortunately due to travel chaos in Dover and Folkestone some were unable to come so we were lower in numbers. The amount raised including donations was £550 which goes to Air ambulance. **Anne Huggins**

Meditation on First Light

I am the bones
I face the east
Each morning I rise up
And clatter my skeleton

The rattle flies
Out, hits the sun
Bounces back and echoes
Over your wide expanse.

Your openness
Quivers the sound
But it can't hold me,
I ripple out to your distant edges.

Gail Swainston

ALKHAM WI - On Tuesday the 9th of August we had an enjoyable evening and had fish and chips which were from Seafarers in Cheriton Folkestone. Our next meeting is on September 13th and our speaker is Jane Muddle all about hats and bags. Hostesses Sue Ross, Margaret Batcheldor, Raffle Alison Warnock and VOT Helen Scopes. All new members welcome **Debbie Griggs**

QUIZ NIGHT – On Saturday the 17th of September in Alkham village hall at 7.30pm. Anyone wishing to book a table please contact Debbie Griggs on 07796360473 and if you would like to donate a raffle prize that would be appreciated. Tables of 6 people £4 per person.



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Wednesday		Keep Fit 9.30am to 11am
Other events in the village hall		
Tuesday	**13**	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Thursday	**29**	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4th	Prayer 6.30 pm	Parish Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am	
Saturday 10th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 11th	Eucharist 9:30 am	Worship 11.00am	
Sunday 18th	Worship 11.00 am	Prayer 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30am
Sunday 25th	United Parish Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - This month I have a confession to make; I've been spotted indulging in my latest guilty pleasure. Yes, my car was still parked on the drive, and yes, I really was standing at the bus stop. No, there was nothing wrong with the car. And yes, I really am old enough to have a bus pass! But I don't think of myself as getting old. It's not so long ago that I was still working in schools as a supply teacher. But when a girl pupil had to repeat herself to me no less than three times, I realised that I was reaching my sell-by date. Retirement came in the form of an appointment with the Audiology Department, and I was rewarded with a pair of hearing aids rather than a carriage clock for my long years of service. Not that I'm done yet. I'm heartened by the story of a bishop, new in post, who discovered that one of his priests had been running the same parish for over forty years and was still there, even though aged well over eighty. He wrote, thanking him for his years of faithful ministry and asking if he had thought of retiring. Back came the reply: nothing had ever been said about his being a temporary appointment until then! I still work with young people who have been excluded from school for one reason or another. My last protégé succeeded in producing a spectacular model of Dover Castle and in gaining a Food Safety Certificate, among other things – he should be stating a college course soon. Having finished working with him, I was asked if I wanted to retire. I was tempted - until I read the Thank You card that he sent. So, maybe not just yet… **Brian Williams**

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Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
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Telephone 01304 824969
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No. 345 October 2022

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MARQUIS OF GRANBY - Thank you to everyone who made the bank holiday Monday so special! The cricket was a great success with only one run in it, Paul Tapsell has already confirmed a rematch is on the cards for next year…….. What an atmosphere it was, both on the green and at The Marquis, the turnout from the village and further afield surpassed all expectations, great to see the community all come together. I'd like to also thank everyone who took part in the auction, we raised a grand total of £6570 which is a phenomenal amount! The majority of the funds will be going towards the World Central Kitchen with the rest of the money raised going towards community projects. I'd like to come to the next Parish Council meeting and discuss how we should spend this. On a separate note for the quiz goers, Tony has asked if we can move the quiz to Monday 19th September? If anyone has any hesitations on this, please email me at ht@contemporarypubs.co.uk. **Hugh Thompson**

WHO HAS THE BIGGEST IN ALKHAM? (Sunflower that is). 18 households gallantly started the now Annual Alkham Sunflower competition, with 8 falling by the wayside owing to extreme weather or the dreaded slug! Of the 10 that were left the winner of this year's contest was Richard Tapsell whose sunflower reached the dizzy heights of 11 feet 1 inch. The cup and plaque were presented to Richard by John Huggins. Full results are 1st Richard Tapsell 11 feet 1; 2nd Sue Latham 10 feet 9; 3rd Geoff and Emma Box Tree Cottage 8 feet 6; 4th Tracey South Alkham 8 feet 4; 5th Nina Bella's Slip Lane 8 feet; 6th Alan Latham/Agatha 7 feet 4 ½; 7th Anne Huggins 7 feet 2; 8th Charlotte Bissett 7feet 1; 9th Alan Latham/Pip 6 feet 7 ½; 10th Ken Spencer Slip Lane 6 feet 6; 11th Jo Walker Slip Lane 3 feet. Would the person in Slip Lane who tried to fool the judges please note we are able to tell the difference between a real sunflower and a plastic one on a twenty feet pole - Ken Spencer (mention no names – see page 3). Thanks to everyone who took part and to Vernon for growing the seedlings and we will be holding the contest next year. **Anita James**



AS A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN ELIZABETH II one of the bells at St. Anthony's Church was tolled at 12pm on the 9th of September by each of the bellringers in turn. Bells at many other churches also rang to commemorate the passing of the Queen who selflessly dedicated her life to public duty with humour and spirit.

HARVEST SUPPER - We are having a harvest supper on Monday 10th Oct at 19.00 in the village hall. Could anyone help on the night or make a cottage pie or a fruit crumble please. Tickets will be £9.00 each, please phone Carol on 01304 826514 or mobile 07946106742.

VALLEY VOICES – Yes! – we have a name for our 'sing for fun' community choir. Our first session will be held in the village hall on Wednesday the 28th of September from 7.30pm until 9pm and then every Wednesday after that. To everybody who has expressed an interest, thank you; we look forward to meeting you. Remember these sessions are open to all, there are no auditions. So, if you want a fun evening with others, please come along. If you can't make the first session it's not a problem, just come whenever you can, you will always be welcome. **Graham, Kev and Ken**

FOR SALE Viking Rotavator hardly used vgc, cost £450 will accept £300. Also, Ford Fiesta alloy wheel with tyre on size 195x45 R16 12 spoke. Good condition £55ono. Telephone Vernon on 07342080104.

FOUND on the village green a red badminton racquet; please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com to claim.

FILM NIGHT 7.30pm
October 25th
Keeping Mum – Maggie Smith
September 27th
Downton Abbey: A New Era (2022)
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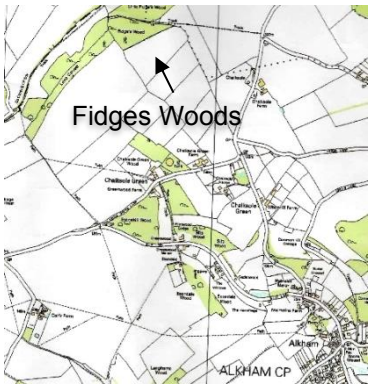
TREES – At the western end of the Alkham Valley Road towards the A20 overbridge trees are encroaching on the road. These trees are at the back of the verge to the adjacent A20 and have grown through the fence and are a danger to road users, especially cyclists. Kent Highways have been informed with the caveat that Highway England may be responsible and KCC left a message on the answerphone to say that they have emailed Highways England with a copy of the Land Registry showing their ownership. Adjacent landowners are aware they are responsible for cutting back trees and shrubs which obstruct the road, but it does seem unlikely Highways England will do anything. **Editor**

BARN/GARAGE SALE - The recent sale in Meggett Lane has raised £580 for Cancer Research. My thanks to everyone who came, and made it a very pleasant morning, meeting locals old and new. Especial thanks to my immediate neighbours - I couldn't have done it without you. **Janet Adamson**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our September meeting was an enjoyable evening and we had Jane Muddle talking about hats and bags that were made in Madagascar. I think most of the ladies bought a bag, so Jane didn't have too many to take home with her. Our next meeting will be an Auction Night where each member will bring in something to auction, no clothes please, and our auctioneers will be Lucy and Debbie G. Hostesses Helen Price Christine Peel, Raffle Janet Gibbons. All new members welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

EDINBURGH – Margaret Tobey, who lived in the centre of the village, is leaving Alkham following the death of her husband who was in his 90's and is moving to Edinburgh to be near her sons. Margaret is a real character and was a stalwart of the Alkham Art Class, Film Night and Tea and a Chat and we wish her all the best in her new life.

TEMPLE EWELL – The post office in Temple Ewell closed in August, which is a pity. They tried for a long time to make a go of it, but it will now be converted into a private residence.



FIDGES WOOD – To the north of Alkham near Chalksole are two woods called Little Fidges and Fidges Wood as shown on the adjacent map. An email was received by someone called Fidge who was tracing their ancestry asking if anyone knew how the woods got their names. We couldn't help and it is very unlikely that anyone will know but if someone does, please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

BETTER LATE than never. I planted one of Vernon James seedlings in the wooden box for the sunflower competition and the frost killed it. Ironically a sunflower seed then somehow managed to grow in a crack in the brickwork but too late for the competition. **Editor**



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THE PLASTIC PIPE didn't fool the sunflower judges, but Ken Spencer deserves a prize for making us laugh. The winner was presented with a prize shown in the photo below which was made by a colleague of Anita James who with husband Vernon organised the competition. Thanks to them both for organising it and those who took part. Everyone is invited to have a go next year.



FOLLOWING on from the South of England show, the Kent County show in July provided further success for the Dexter cattle shown by Diana Smith of Sladden Farm. The Champion Dexter at the show was judged to be 'Magnolia' and her daughter 'Magenta' won first prize in her class. The two of them then went on to be, not surprisingly, chosen as the best pair of Dexter cattle, thus maintaining Diana Smith's excellent record of breeding and maintaining a world class pedigree herd. Congratulations! **Gail Swainston**

In sad surrender raise your eyes
Up to the skies above.
We never knew another Queen
You carried all our love.
We understand that you have gone
But we are not alone.
The power of a monarchy
Will carry on the throne.

Gail Swainston

FOOTPATH – Work has started on the short length of footpath roughly opposite the Marquis of Granby which will connect Newlyns Meadow to the path that runs behind the village hall. This route is well used and previously people had to walk on the grass verge. Thanks go to the Parish Council for this and for getting a replacement bin for the village car park for the one which was flattened a short while back.

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CHURCH SERVICES

Date	**Alkham**	**Capel**	**Hougham**
Sunday 2nd	Evensong 6.30 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Saturday 8th	Messy Church (St Radigund's) 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
	Harvest Festival		
Sunday 9th	Eucharist 9:30 am	11.00 am	West Hougham 4pm
Sunday 16th	Worship 11.00 am	Evensong 6.00pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 23rd	United Parish Eucharist Alkham 10.00 am		
Sunday 30th	St Mary's Capel: United Parish Eucharist 10.00 am		

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Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - There are moments when the world changes; moments we'll look back upon, remembering where we were and what we were doing when we heard about what had happened. Perhaps the loss of our Queen will prove to be one of those moments. She had been there for as long as most of us can remember. She was full of years, and her passing was not entirely unexpected. And yet… suddenly the world has changed. I never met her, have no personal stories to tell, and saw her in the flesh just once. But as Supreme Governor of the Church of England she was my boss. I swore allegiance to her when I was ordained, and when I was licensed to this parish. In a world in which Christians sometimes risk being thought odd, superstitious or amusing, she never disguised the fact that her faith was real, authentic – not just something to which she paid lip service because of the position she held. Our reading from St John Chapter 6 speaks of the hope by which she lived, and with which we commend her into God's keeping. Most of us expect to retire from our employment at some point – but her example reminds us that there are some things from which we never retire. Despite her declining health she remained Queen to the end – still working, still true to her calling, still the person God had called her to be. A reminder that we, too, never lay down our calling to be the people God calls us to be. Today, we give thanks for her faith, integrity and sense of duty, for a life well lived. We pray for King Charles III, the Royal Family and for ourselves, facing a changing world. *From my sermon of Sunday, 11th September 2022.* **Brian Williams**

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No. 346 November 2022

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THE NEW PATH between Newlyns Meadow and the one behind the village hall is finished with KCC Councillor David Beaney providing 50% of the cost and the Parish Council the rest. The path will benefit all those accessing the centre of the village.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING - I would like to thank everyone who came along to support the Macmillan Coffee morning in the village hall on Saturday 24th of September. I would also like to thank everyone who gave me donations before, during and after the event. The morning was such a lovely occasion and as always so many kind people brought along a variety of homemade cakes and preserves. I would like to thank everyone who helped on the day and for all the lovely items that were given for the various stalls and tombola. This year was the eighth community coffee morning held in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support in the village and last week I banked a further £1,030 which has brought our total raised in those eight years to an amazing £10,000. Due to personal reasons that will be the last community coffee morning that I will arrange. I would like to send a big thank you to everyone for your fantastic support. **Sue Ross**

VALLEY VOICES – Our first two sessions have been amazing with 20 plus people attending and making a beautiful sound! We would of course like more to join us in the village hall on Wednesday evening from 7.30pm to 9.00pm (especially more men).



So, if you would like to give it a go you would be most welcome! No singing experience and no auditions required. This is all about 'singing for fun' and 'first session is free'. **Graham, Kevin and Ken**

THANK YOU to everyone who attended, helped and contributed to the Harvest Supper on the 10th of October in the village hall. Thank you also to the Alkham Garden centre for donating raffle prizes. We took £557.50 altogether which is amazing for the amount of people that attended and as ever our auctioneer Paul Tapsell raised a lot of money. Thank you one and all for supporting the church. **Carol Mannall**

THE FISH N' CHIP VAN will be in the Village Hall car park from 5-6.30p.m. on Saturday 22nd of October. New timetable leaflets are being printed and will be distributed as soon as possible.

VAL FOWLER died on the 28th of September after a final short illness. Val and her husband Stan, who predeceased her, moved to Alkham in 2004 and lived in the bungalow called Evergreen which with its grandfather clock was a somnolent oasis. Val was a lovely and truly remarkable lady who when she came to Alkham was suffering from the early stages of MS which gradually got worse over the years such that she eventually became immobile. Val was upbeat and never complained and despite her difficulties became involved with village activities and for many years was the booking secretary for the village hall as well as bringing some sense to the chaos caused by husband Stan and Brian when they ran the fete beer stall.

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October 25th
Keeping Mum – Maggie Smith
Entrance is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated

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ALBIONS - Do you know there is a critically rare cattle breed living in the Alkham Valley? No, they are not Di's Dexters! They are Albions, kept by Susannah & Keith Mannerings down the road at Chilton Farm. Albions originate from the Peak District, they were commonly known as the Bakewell Blues. The intention was to breed a blue roan breed but due to a dominant white gene in the colouring, white Albions and black Albions are also produced. They are a dual-purpose breed i.e. milk producing and beef producing. The breed society only began 100 years ago and was building up numbers when WWII came along, followed by an agricultural depression and two batches of Foot & Mouth disease. By the 1960s, the society was wound up and people believed the breed to be extinct. Not so - some stubborn farmers kept going, swapping bulls amongst themselves and from these few herds, all Albion cattle today are descended. The Mannerings's Speckles herd was started in 1993 by Susannah's mother and was the only herd in Kent or the whole of the South East. Now the RBST (Rare Breed Survival Trust) has officially recognised the Albions as a breed and numbers are increasing but they are still regarded as critically rare (About 240 females total in the world). During the five years that Keith and Susannah have farmed at Chilton Farm, the Speckles herd numbers have slowly increased. Keith and Susannah feel that the native Albions are suited to grazing the chalk downland and fit in well with their Chilton Farmyard B&B business. On 8/9th October, the Mannerings' hosted the annual Albion Cattle Society open weekend. Members came from around the country, the weather was superb and lunch was Albion beef and halloumi cheese made from Albion milk (There is a slogan: "You have to eat them to keep them!"). On the Sunday, a guided tour at Samphire Hoe was given on conservation grazing with cattle and sheep. It was really interesting to learn so much at this local tourist spot. **Susannah Mannerings**

MEMORIES OF ALKHAM – A lady who moved to New Zealand and lived in Alkham as a girl worked at Norton Farm in 1947. The photo shows Norton farmhouse on Slip Lane, which was owned by James Ross where he only spent 6 months of the year as he worked for the Rootes car firm in their Calcutta branch. There was always something going on at the farm but one thing she remembered most concerned the big bull called Farmer which gave her one of the biggest frights of her life. One weekend she was getting ready for bed and heard the most horrendous noise and the clanking of a chain which she thought was some long dead ancestor's ghost coming. Peeping out of the window she saw the bull Farmer approaching not only dragging his chain but half the back of his stall with him. She raced to the granary where the Ross's son Peter slept and asked him for help as Farmer was rapidly approaching the house, destroying everything in his path. Fortunately, the chain got tangled around a post which brought the big bull to a halt and Peter was able to extricate him. Mrs. Ross's father William Christopher Wordsworth was editor of the Calcutta Times and when he retired came to live in Alkham where he had a house built which is still called Apple Tree Cottage, and he was the son of the poet William Wordsworth. **editor**



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NO SHADE, no shine, no butterflies, no bees, no fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds! — November! (Thomas Hood 1844)

ALKHAM W.I. - Our September meeting was an enjoyable one and we will have no meeting in November or December. There is a Pamper Evening going on organised by Nicola Church and Debbie Griggs which has nothing to do with Alkham W.I. but anyone in the village wishing to turn up on the night please do so, the more the merrier. Cost of entry is £5 and there are 12 stall holders including the refillable van outside in the car park. Come and do your Christmas shopping and at the same time have your nails done etc. and if you want any treatments or any shopping done all stall holders will accept cash or credit card; hope to see you all on the evening. **Debbie Griggs**

PAMPER EVENING at Alkham Village Hall on Tuesday the 8th of November from 7pm to 9pm. Tickets are £5 each including a welcome drink. Come along for treats and make a start on your Christmas shopping with crafts, jewellery, Tropics and Bodyshop goodies. Reflexology, nails and mini massage available. Please call Nicola on 07713894408 or Debbie Griggs 07796360473 to book tickets.



THE CROWNING of the Wynsome Mayde is an annual Scottish event held as part of the Duns Summer Festival. This utterly charming ceremony, held at Duns Castle, was inaugurated in the 1940s to raise money for a local hospital. It involves primary school children, kilts, flowers, white dresses, a horseback parade, a pipe band, bowing, curtseying, and a grand presentation to the new Wynsome Mayde, who is then escorted out in an open topped barouche to process through the town of Duns. What's not to like? **Gail Swainston**

BOOK LEARNING

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Crash to the ground in
A flurry of paper and bindings -
A life held in place
Well ordered by subject, alphabet,
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And even tears evaporate.
And so learning is booked,
A path through the forest
Past the precipice, over the rough ground,
Boots provided.
Until they collapse, laces and all,
The fluttering pages give way to wings
And you stand in the birdsong
Amazed.

Gail Swainston

DONATION – The Friends of St. Anthony would like to thank the friends and relations who donated over £3000 to the fund following the death of Catie Webber's father who died recently whilst visiting Alkham from Australia. The secular fund provides financial assistance for the upkeep of St. Anthony's which is a Grade 1 listed building and a number of people in the parish make regular donations to the fund. If you would like to get involved, please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.



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Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am
Wednesday	Sit Fit 9.30am to 11am Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm

Other events in the village hall

Thursday	**24**	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6th	**Evensong 4.30 pm**	**Eucharist 9:30 am**	**Worship 11.00 am**
Saturday 12th	**Messy church St Radigund's Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm**		
Sunday 13th REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	**Remembrance Service 10.15 am**	**Remembrance Service 10.15 am**	**Remembrance Service 10.15 am**
Sunday 20th	**Worship 11.00 am**	**Evensong 6.00 pm**	**Eucharist 9:30 am**
Sunday 27th	**United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am**		

BUS TIMES To Dover 9.11,10.11, 11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
Sat: 9.11, 10.11,11.11, 12.11, 13.11, 14.11, 15.11, 17.11, 18.41
To Folkestone 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32 18.32
Sat. 7.32 9.32 10.32 11.32 12.32 13.32 14.32 17.32,18.32

FROM THE VICARAGE - I find that packing a bag and heading off with my Senior Railcard to somewhere with a cathedral, pleasant walks, and interesting things to see is a good way of recharging my batteries – though I've learned that there's really no such thing as being off duty. I recently headed for Bristol, which indeed does have a cathedral, pleasant walks, and interesting things to see. But while there I took the bus through the Mendip Hills to Wells - England's smallest city – and then on to Glastonbury, with its associations with King Arthur and Joseph of Arimathea, its ruined abbey, sacred thorn, and famous Tor – which yes, I did manage to climb. My trusty smartphone led me to the bus stop, and I arrived with twenty minutes to wait. Along with a woman with her shopping and mums with children and pushchairs, a middle-aged man in a shabby grey suit sat chain-smoking and clutching a can. He thought he knew me from somewhere. I wasn't local, I told him, but from Kent. At once I found myself discussing St Augustine, King Ethelbert, and Queen Bertha – he had, he said, studied History at university. When he learned that I planned to visit Wells he told me that he had once been a chorister at Wells Cathedral. He had known a well-known Church of England cleric - a good priest, he said, but probably bound for Hell. How was I to respond? *Let's hope not*, I replied. I simply listened as he shared his thoughts on churches and psychiatric units. Then the bus arrived. *Enjoy Wells*, he said, smiling. Later, in Wells Cathedral, I prayed and lit a candle for my new friend. And yes, it's true - there's no such thing as being off duty… **Brian Williams**

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
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brianwimsett@hotmail.com

No. 347 December 2022

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CHRISTMAS TREE - It's coming up to Christmas time again, so to start off your Christmas come along on Saturday 10th of December at 5.30pm to see the switching on of the Christmas tree lights on the village green. The cricket hut will be open where there will be mulled wine, a soft drink for the children and even a mince pie. Santa Claus will be in attendance and there will be some Christmas carols to put us in a festive mood. Look forward to seeing you there. **Graham and Debbie West**



SNOWDOWN MALE VOICE CHOIR CONCERT - On Saturday evening the 29th of October St Anthony's was 'full to bursting' when Snowdown Male Voice Choir entertained a capacity audience with an evening of songs and music. We have for the last 3 months been enthusiastic members of the choir and it was an ambition of ours, even before we joined, to bring this event to the village church. Ken long thought it would be a great idea, especially as his father and uncle were both members of the Snowdown choir when they worked as miners in the colliery until it closed in the 80's. The work involved in organising this was at times daunting and without the help and of our wives (Sandy, Ange and Charlotte) it would have been a lot more difficult (thank you ladies). Many thanks also to all our friends who volunteered their time to make the concert possible, and also thanks to the Marquis (parking) and Barham primary school (staging). From the feedback we have received it was a huge success. It was great to see to the church full of life, the chandelier glowing with candles, the voices and music reverberating around the church creating a wonderful atmosphere. Net profits from the concert totalled over £800 which has been donated to St Anthony's Church and Parkinson's UK Dover branch. Ambition fulfilled! Thank you Alkham for all your support. **Ken, Kevin and Graham**



BUS SERVICE From the 30th of October the 91 bus service through Alkham has changed and the new times are shown on the back page. If you wish to double check on the times, go to www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables.

COME TO THE MARQUIS pub for Australia Day drinks 6 pm Thursday 26th of January 2023. There are lots of Aussies and families with Aussie connections in Alkham. **Catie Webber**

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY

Members are advised that the Annual General Meeting will be held on 28th of November 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Alkham Village Hall. Tea/coffee and cake will be served at the end of the meeting. Should attendees have particular items to discuss under Any Other Business, please contact the Secretary (joannawalker777@gmail.com).

TEA N CHAT – There will be the usual Tea n Chat in the village hall on Thursday 29th December from 2.30pm to 4p.m.

FILM NIGHT 7.30pm

No film in December

November 29th

Uncharted – Mark Wahlberg

Entrance is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated

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Wootton Village Hall
Friday, 11.00 AM - 12.00 PM
Hawkinge Community Centre
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Saturday 26th November
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No visit in December
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TEMPLE EWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL - Did you go away at half term, or are you just having a clear-out at home? Please donate any foreign coins/notes you have left (or find) to the school as we can convert this into cash for the benefit of our children. Please drop them into the school office before Friday 16th December or call Mrs. Church on 01304 822665. The school is off Lower Road just past Bushy Ruff.

DOVER DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATATION - Residents are being invited to have their say on the district's Local Plan which helps shape future development in the area up to 2040. A series of in-person and online public exhibition events are being held as part of the consultation, which runs until Friday, December the 9th. The Local Plan sets out the vision and framework for future development, including where new homes, shops and businesses should be built. To view the plan, go to www.doverdistrictlocalplan.co.uk...



DDC appear to use an out of date map as it first shows the large field opposite Valley Cottages as a possible site but scrolling down to another plan it shows it as unsuitable. A previous owner was John Ullmann who had the land as set-aside and when he died in 2007 a planning application was submitted for a very large housing development which was rejected. Following this a person who lives in Alkham and cares about Alkham bought the land and it is now used by a local farmer to grow crops. **Editor**

NEWSLETTER – The financial year for the newsletter ended in September and I'm pleased to say that costs were covered and there was a profit of about £50. All payments go in the Newsletter Club Account with Nat West so, if necessary, this can be used to cover part of the cost of replacing the two Brother laser printers that are used each month. **Editor**

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL is offering free parking in its car parks on Saturdays in December. The Dover Winter Light Up on the 2nd and 3rd of December includes the Dover Winter Fire Garden on the Roman Lawn and a range of seasonal stalls and entertainment in Dover Market Square on Saturday 3rd December with a Winter Lantern Procession lighting up Dover from 6pm. On Saturday 10th December, there will be a meet the Reindeer event in Dover Market Square, with a range of market stalls and entertainment, as well as a live reindeer, and the chance to meet Father Christmas in his grotto.



ALKHAM W.I. - We would just like to say a big Thank you to everyone who turned out on the 8th of November in the dreadful weather to the Pamper Evening; we had a great response. A big thank you from Nicola Church and Debbie Griggs. Our W.I. Xmas meal on the 13th of December will be at the Fox pub at Temple Ewell and we must be there for 7pm. Happy Christmas from Alkham WI. **Debbie Griggs**

SOUTHERN Equestrian Supplies and the Alkham Valley Garden Centre will be having a late night on the Thursday 8th December so please pop along and Alkham W.I. will be singing Carol's at the garden centre. Also every Saturday in December there will be Father Christmas and you must book to save disappointment.

SOUTHERN EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES also sell poultry foods, goat food and dog food i.e., Skinner's foods and Chudley's foods, just give us a call on 01303 891996.

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CHESTNUTS – A question was asked as to why horse chestnuts are so called and the best answer is that before modern veterinary medicines they could be ground and fed to horses to relieve them of coughs. Interestingly chestnut and horse chestnut are two different species with chestnut being related to beech trees and horse chestnut more closely related to maple trees. The leaves are slightly different with the chestnut trees having toothed leaves that grow singly and horse chestnut produce leaf clusters, with 5 to 7 leaflets growing in a circular pattern from each base. Chestnut husks have a more shaggy appearance, similar to that of a porcupine whilst horse chestnut husks are green and leathery, covered with sharp-looking spikes. Chestnuts are edible and nutritious whilst horse chestnuts are poisonous and can cause paralysis and other serious symptoms if eaten raw and unprocessed. However, the horse chestnut is better known as a conker which can be attached to a piece of string and used in playground battles and the chestnut as a sweet chestnut which can be heard roasting on an open fire at Christmas. **editor**





SLIP LANE was closed for 2 days in November to replace a section of road that was damaged some time ago by a vehicle fire.

FILM NIIGHT – Keeping Mum a scythe of a story: Maggie Smith, redoubtable, reliable, shock, horror and laugh. This film went down well in the demure setting of the Alkham Village hall - but who knows what really goes on? Unexpected figures make brief but telling appearances as the tale tantalisingly unravels - look carefully at fields, turned earth, ponds for glimpses of fur or high viz jackets. Thanks for the film choices, most enjoyable. **Jo Walker**



DECEMBER

Under the mistletoe
No one to kiss
Nowadays
It's just hit and miss
Never did know
It would end like this
When what we had
Was bliss.

Gail Swainston



THE ANNUAL Alkham Valley Society Christmas walk will take place on the 27th of December, starting from the Village Hall at 10.30am. The walk generally takes two hours. Children and dogs encouraged. **Jo Walker**



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Other events in the village hall		
Thursday	**29**	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4th	**Evensong 4.30 pm**	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Worship 11.00am**
Saturday 10th	**Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm**		
Sunday 11th	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Worship 11.00 am** *Carols Hall 3.00 pm*	***Carols at village Hall 11.00 am***
Saturday 17th	**Carols by Candlelight Capel 7pm**		
Sunday 18th	**9 Lessons and Carols 6.30 pm**		**Eucharist 9.30 am**
Saturday 24th Christmas Eve	**Crib service 4.30 pm Mass 11.30 pm**	**Crib service 3.00 pm Mass 11.30 pm**	
Sunday 25th			**Eucharist 9.30am**

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.18,9.48,11.23,13.23,14.53,17.28: Sat: 9.48,11.18,13.18,15.28
To Folkestone 9.09,10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09,18.09: Sat 10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09
Check on www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables and 91 bus



FROM THE VICARAGE - I am writing this on Remembrance Sunday - a day of looking back and remembering, as well as looking forward and praying for a better tomorrow. It also happens to be the deadline for the December edition - which means that even though as I write Advent hasn't even begun, by the time you read this Christmas will be well and truly on its way. Some say that Jesus could possibly have been born around September – shepherds would not have been watching flocks in the fields as late as December. But in the year 336, the Roman Emperor Constantine chose to celebrate the birth of Christ on 25th December, and the tradition seems to have stuck. Since it was the time of year when pagan midwinter celebrations were in full swing anyway, some suspect he may have simply got in on the act. But what is there to celebrate? Read about the Nativity, and Mary and Joseph turn out to have more in common with today's homeless couples looking for somewhere to stay than we would like to think; for women to have to give birth in the same circumstances as Mary today would cause an outcry; and refugees of our own time know all too well what it must have been like for that couple and their baby when they had to flee to Egypt to escape the homicidal King Herod. But for Christians, Christmas is a time of looking back to how Jesus came into the world as one of us – and remembering that it's often when life is at its messiest and most difficult that people tend to find him. And that Christmas is also a time of looking forward and praying for a better tomorrow. Happy Christmas, and a Peaceful New Year. **Brian Williams**

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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No. 348 January 2023

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CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS

There was a great turnout for the Christmas tree light illumination with around 70 adults and children turning up. Father Christmas arrived complete with sweets for the children and with a countdown of ten the lights were turned on to a hearty cheer. Carols were then sung followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Thanks go to Graham West for being the prime organiser and to Kevin Rolfe for his lively contribution.

COST OF LIVING – Local Councillor Martin Hibbert forwarded an email about Social Enterprise Kent which has created a centralised resource for the Cost of Living crisis, to aid with signposting and supporting people in East Kent. It contains a wide breadth of support, from fuel grants to social supermarkets, to targeted support for marginalised groups. It includes national and localised support and can be found at https://maps.sekgroup.org.uk/. If you click a location such as Dover, there is a drop down menu where you can select the items you want to know about. If there is anyone in the parish who needs help regarding this matter, in the first place please contact the newsletter the details for which are given in the header at the top of this page; all enquiries will be confidential.



AN AIR AMBULANCE landed on the village green on the 17th of November because Alan Latham, who lives in Slip Lane, fell from the loft and landed on the ladder. He was knocked unconscious, but his Apple watch saved the day and called his brother. A doctor attended who said that it would be alright for Alan to go by ambulance to William Harvey where he was then transferred to Kings as he had some cracked bones and had a small brain bleed. Alan has returned home and is recovering.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL - I would like to thank Alkham villagers and visitors for their generosity. This year we have collected a grand total of £643.38. Thanks, must also go to my fellow collectors, Shirley, Helen, Larry, Georgina and Beverley, and also to the Alkham Valley Garden Centre and Tea Rooms, Southern Equestrian and The Marquis of Granby, who got involved and had collection boxes. Thanks also go to Shirley Prince for making the remembrance wreath that was placed by the war memorial in Alkham churchyard. Thanks to you all. **Rachel Fountain**

Happy New Year

HELLO FROM ST ANTHONY'S

Can I remind everyone that our Carol service is on the Sunday 18th at 06.30 pm and after the service there will be wine and mince pies. The 24th is the crib service at 4.30 pm where all the children are invited to take part and of course there is the midnight mass at 11.30 pm. We look forward to celebrating our Lord's birth with you all and seeing old and new faces. Merry Christmas to you all. **Carol Mannall**

BUS SERVICE – The 91 bus that goes through Alkham is one of the last KCC subsidised services and is running well at present but doesn't carry a lot of passengers. As rural bus services are judged by use, we may will lose it and as people age they may have a future requirement for it, so perhaps people who have never taken it before and have a bus pass should give it a try as it is a hail and ride service too. **Anita James**

ALKHAM GARDEN CENTRE - We offer enormous thanks for the very kind donation of a beautiful Christmas tree for St Anthony's church. Throughout each year our Garden Centre never fails in supporting our village whether its raffle prizes for events, and at Christmas. They sell a variety of gardening needs and furniture and a decent selection of gifts. The tearooms are well worth a visit as well. Once again, thank you very much. **Irene Barnard**

FILM NIGHT 7.30pm
January 31st
Mrs. Harris goes to Paris (2022)
Entrance is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated

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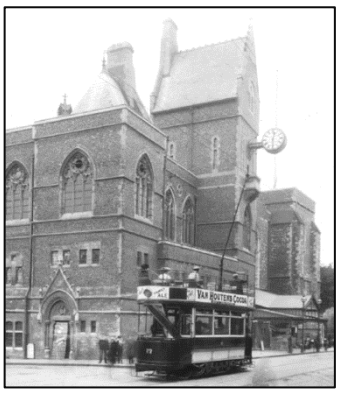
ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY AGM UPDATE - Two-thirds of the 29 strong AVS met at the Village Hall with the new Executive Committee on November 28th. Several presentations were made re: Community Speedwatch, the Community-Led Plan, Dover District Council's Local Plan to 2040, and The Future of the AVS. We encourage all villagers to visit the new web site. (AlkhamVS.org). In addition to materials from the AGM, (thanks to Brian Wimsett), we have an archive of past Alkham Newsletters (to 2011). New members are welcome, so enquire, if interested, via the website or members you may know. The above image from our home page's "panorama" exhibits the beauty of the valley that we strive to preserve. **AVS Executive Committee**



FOR PEOPLE who lived in Dover as a child the tram shelter at the junction of Elms Vale and the old A20 is very evocative and to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the opening of the tram system in 1897 Dover District Council has repainted it in its original colours. Dover was the second electrified tramway in the UK after Leeds, and the first in the south of England with the service continuing until 31st December 1936 when it was replaced by buses. The photo on the right shows a roofless tram passing Maison Dieu in the centre of Dover and left is a tram depot which was at Buckland and the building still exists today as Hollis Motors. **editor**





ALKHAM W.I. -We had our Christmas meal on the 13th of December at the Fox in Temple Ewell and what a lovely meal we had and a lovely atmosphere. Our next meeting will be on January the 10th 2023 when our speaker will be Clive Nuttman talking about primates. Hostesses Margaret Batcheldor, Helen Price: Raffle Janet Barrow: VOT Helen Scopes. New members always welcome **Debbie Griggs**

PAMPER EVENING - Nicola Church and Debbie Griggs would like to thank everyone who came to the pamper evening in November where we raised £635 of which £135 went to the Royal Lifeboat Institution with £500 donated to our local WI.

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TREES – I contacted National Highways about the trees that are at the back of the verge of the adjacent A20 dual carriageway and encroaching onto the Alkham Valley road and said they were a danger to cyclists and other road users. One of their inspectors visited on the 26th of October and an order was raised for the overhanging vegetation to be cut back and I'm pleased to report that they have done it and there is now a verge.





Bicycle photos then and now – near here I hit a dead tree that protruded into the road and was knocked unconscious and taken to A & E for repairs. ***editor***

THE ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY now has a web site called AlkhamVS.org compiled by Harlan Webber who has also put all the Alkham Monthly Newsletters from 2011 to date on the site. An amazing achievement and I'm very grateful to Harlan for spurring me to find the old copies and some of the 2005 to 2010 newsletters will shortly join them (there aren't any digital copies from 1997 to 2005). **editor**

MOVING

Curlews in the estuary at dusk
bantering over the weeds
Still heron, holding all wildness
in the curl of a claw.

Walking the paths of your mind
I haunt your thoughts
I am the whisper to your voice
The echo to your whispered fears
My memory lies about your actions
Unfolds in your decisions
I will always be behind you
Half a pace
My shadow falls in front

And clouds your eyes.
The naming of the name
is as hard as buds growing,
as slow as roots,
rich with air,
and gentle
as the earth's summer.

Gail Swainston

AVS EVENTS - Please join Jo Walker on **Tuesday, December 27th** for the Alkham Valley Christmas Walk which takes off from the Village Hall at 10:30am. It might involve crossing the Alkham Valley Road near Chilton Farm thus it is recommended that as many as possible wear a hi viz jacket or some such visible garment. Meet Trevor Johns, Chairman on **Thursday, January 19th**, at an informal gathering at The Marquis from 7-9pm to sharing nibbles & good cheer while we jot down your ideas. (We'd like monthly activities like this...). Help Catie Webber on **Saturday, February 18th**, with a **Spring Snow Drop Walk (& Litter-Grab**) from the Village Hall at 10:30am. To prepare for muddy conditions, dress warm with gloves & sturdy shoes. Not hard work, but teamwork as most walk on tarmac with a light bag, while some pick-up trash along the route. In case of rain, we might postpone one week. Please contact us or register interest via the web page. **AVS Executive Committee**



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W.I. Secretary Janet Barrow 829585
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AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
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Other sites www.alkham.org
www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk
alkhamvalleytraffic2@btinternet.com
alkhamvs.org (Alkham Valley Society)

ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL – Excellent facilities, reasonable rates
Please ring Tracey for information on 01304 828098

Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday	Sit Fit 10am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall

Thursday	**26**	Aussie drinks Marquis 6pm see page 3
Thursday	**26**	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1st	United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		
Sunday 8th	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30am	Worship 11am
Saturday 14th	Messy church CHRISTINGLE St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 15th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	
Sunday 22nd	Worship 11am	Evensong 6pm	Eucharist 9.30am
Sunday 29th	United Parish Eucharist, Capel 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.18,9.48,11.23,13.23,14.53,17.28: Sat: 9.48,11.18,13.18,15.28
To Folkestone 9.09,10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09,18.09: Sat 10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09
Check on www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables and 91 bus

FROM THE VICARAGE - One of my friends has been treated to a birthday lunch by her husband. Another is recovering well from her operation. Others share photos of their Christmas get together. It can be fun catch up with others online, but it can also be a mixed blessing. My wife once looked up an old school friend on Facebook. Depressingly, her page amounted to a rant against the world and the people in it. I knew someone, years ago, who scoured libraries for details of the Deal fishermen from whom he was descended. That can now be done online – but that, too, as I found recently, can be a mixed blessing. From the day I was born to the day she died, my grandmother was my best friend. As a child, I enjoyed sleepovers and outings with her. Years later, when I was a student in London, I recipro cated by inviting her to college for a weekend. Grandmothers were a rare sight in the dining hall, and as we sat at dinner a crowd gathered. They chatted and smiled. Their verdict: *Your nan's great!* But tracing my ancestry online recently revealed the proverbial skeletons in our family's cupboard, and I understood why she hardly ever mentioned her father, or the father of her children. The story that unfolded brought little credit to either of them - she had plenty to be bitter about, and today she might well have ranted about it online - except that I can't imagine her ever doing that. St Paul, in the New Testament, tells his readers: *Be kind and tenderhearted to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ God forgave you*. Forgiveness is neither easy, nor perhaps fashionable – but as Nan taught me, kindness and tender-heartedness beats anger and bitterness. **Brian Williams**

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE
Telephone 01304 824969
brianwimsett@hotmail.com

No. 349 February 2023

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POWER CUTS – As most people will know there have been a lot of power cuts in Alkham recently and the cause is a fault in the underground power cable which runs across the car park towards the village hall. Newlyns Meadow was put on a generator as were some properties around the top of Meggett Lane. The problem did cause some equipment to trip which accounts for the frequent blackouts and some sympathy should go to the people working for the electricity supplier as one of their crew was out during the day and continued overnight.

THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES - Saturday May 6th
If you are interested in celebrating this day, then please save the date. No definite plans are made as yet but it will probably be similar to the Jubilee event. I have secured the village hall and will give more details later in the year. **Irene Barnard**

THE ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY – If it's not too late they have a casual meet up for drinks at the Marquis of Granby on January 19th from 7pm to 9pm and everyone is welcome to come along.

COME TO THE MARQUIS OF GRANBY for Australia Day drinks from 6pm on Thursday the 26th of January. There are lots of Aussies and families with Aussie connections in Alkham. **Catie Webber**

LITTER PICK UP – On the 18th of February there will be a litter pick and snow drop walk. Please come to the Village Hall at 10:30am dressed appropriately but if the weather is wet it will be postponed to the 25th. **Catie Webber**

COST OF LIVING – Social Enterprise Kent have an updated version of the Cost of Living Support document, which includes information about the Fuel Voucher scheme. Please go to sekgroup.org.uk and click on cost of living.

SALE IN VILLAGE HALL on Saturday 1st April between 10 -12pm. Various items including a vast selection of jewellery, home accessories such as paintings, candle holders, planters, lamps, cushions and rails of quality clothes. **Charlotte and Irene**

DYKE CLEARANCE – Last year KCC were asked by the Parish Council if they would clear a grip to the east of Newlyns Meadow. Further to this the dyke to the west in front of Valley Cottages has been cleared of all vegetation and silt build up carried out with the use of traffic lights and diggers. If you wish to report a highway problem go to kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem.



CHRISTMAS WALK - The rain was in abeyance for the Alkham Valley Society Christmas walk and 20 or so people, a good few dogs and progeny massed outside the Alkham Village Hall on 27th December. A smart pace was set to walk through the Warnock's fields towards St Radigund's. The aim was to reach Chilton Farm, cross the road with Hi-Viz alerts, go up Red Barn Lane to the Minnis then back over Common Hill and back to homes. But a massive tree had blocked the footpath and Paul Tapsell, cometh the hour cometh the man, suggested an alternative via Mount Ararat, across the fields to Megget Lane and over to Pimlico and back to homes. It was deemed a successful walk from various feedbacks. No rain the whole way but, all together now: Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud!….. plus, I bid for a large apple crumble at the Harvest Supper, froze it, ate it shared among 14 people and it was lovely. Thank you whoever made it! A good annual event investment. **Jo Walker**

FILM NIGHT 7.30pm
February 28th
Aftersun
January 31st
Mrs. Harris goes to Paris (2022)
Entrance is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated

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WOOF WOOF
Jack, who lives in the centre of Alkham, loves Christmas and also hunting for all the presents that he gets.



TRAFFIC – Dover District Council asked for comments on their Local Plan and the Alkham Valley Volunteer Community Speedwatch Group sent a response to the section dealing with sustainable transport and travel. In summary they have commented that the policy does not address the road safety concerns raised by parishioners in both the TAG and parish plan consultations. They go on to say that their policy has clearly identified the primary routes to be the A2 to the north and the A20 to the west and no consideration seems to have been given to the regular traffic disruption on the A20 through the Dover due to the inability to manage ferry traffic within the port resulting in heavy usage of the unclassified Alkham Valley Road. In addition to these comments when the new A20 dual carriageway was planned it was envisaged that the junction at the end of the Alkham Valley road was primarily to serve the large development at Hawkinge. Unfortunately, due to the problems encountered in Dover the Alkham Valley Road has become an extended slip road to the A20/M20 and it appears that the Highway Authority accepts this as a norm and are extremely reluctant to introduce any delays to this traffic. **Glyn Jones and editor**

TEMPLE EWELL AND RIVER are also suffering due to the volume of traffic on the Alkham Valley road at peak times. Large queues develop on the valley road where it meets the junction with the old A2 as the latter has priority and visibility to the left is very poor due to the angle at which they meet. Some drivers choose to use Lower Road that goes through River on one side and Temple Ewell on the other side to avoid the junction. The one from Temple Ewell has an oblique bend under the railway viaduct and both sides are narrow and unsuitable for heavy traffic. Various improvements have been put forward to improve the junction but there has been no agreement to date.

SIT FIT – On Tuesday mornings from 10am to 11:30am Sit Fit is held in Alkham Village Hall and those feeling a bit stiff or inspired by New Year Resolutions may like to join us for a gentle but complete workout. We do a thorough warm up and then about 12 minutes seated exercises to music. This is now frequently touted as sofa yoga and then we do about 15 minutes light cardio to music. There are easy versions and hard versions of most exercises. It is very suitable for people who want some ideas for exercises they can do despite some injuries or age related problems. It costs £2 per session as we are not attempting to make a profit but just pay the hall hire and any excess monies go to Charity chosen by the group. And we have coffee and a chit-chat from 11am that everyone is welcome to join even if they don't exercise. Maybe see you there soon. All enquiries catie@thewebbers.org.

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HISTORIC FOOTPATH

At the bottom of Short Lane in Alkham there is a footpath which runs across the fields and up to the road leading to St. Radigund's Abbey and is called the Priest's Walk. In the 12th century the Knights Hospitaller were at St. John's Commandery near Swingfield shown in the photo above, with the purpose of caring for and protecting pilgrims going to the Holy Land. Pilgrims from there walked to Alkham, probably though Ellinge and down Slip Lane to what is now the Alkham Valley Road. At that time, it was a river which they forded and then walked across a field which today is the village green and football pitch and along the line of Short Lane to the Priest's Walk which took them to St. Radigund's Abbey. With the dissolution of the monasteries in the 16th century the commandery was converted into a farmhouse and is now administered by English Heritage. The Priest's Walk also goes by Moseling's Hole which was featured in this newsletter. **Editor**

Hanging out the washing and the white sheets to the wind
Flailing out and sailing out against the deep blue sea
With a skyline flecked with feather
And a crackle of the crispness,
With the saltiness of swollen lips and eyes.
Coloured bedding duvets chosen on a stripe-filled day
Genoa and spinnaker against a brighter sky
But the lashing's coming looser
And the tighter threads are trailing,
As the wind spills out, both sails and dreams collapse.

Gail Swainston

ALKHAM W.I. - Happy New Year everyone and what a start to the new year with nothing but rain and power cuts. Our January meeting was about primates of Uganda by Clive Nuttman but unfortunately, we didn't get to see the slides because of the power cut but we did have an interesting talk while waiting for the power to come back on which sadly didn't. Our next meeting is on February 14th when we will be having the R.N.L.I coming to do a talk for us. Hostesses are Alison Warnock and Vanessa Oakley, Raffle Debbie Griggs, VOT Nicola Church. New members always welcome

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Hall booking Shirley Prince 828098
W.I. Secretary Janet Barrow 829585
Footpaths antbarrier@tiscali.co.uk
AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641
Vicar Brian Williams 01303 243784
MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669
KCC David Beaney 07818 024487
DDC cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk 07796444860**.**
Other sites www.alkham.org
www.alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk
alkhamvalleytraffic2@btinternet.com
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ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL – Excellent facilities, reasonable rates
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Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday	Sit Fit 10am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall

Thursday	**23**	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Saturday 11th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 12th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	
Sunday 19th	Songs Of Praise 11.am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Wednesday 22nd	*United Parish Eucharist Capel 7.00 pm*		
Sunday 26th	United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.18,9.48,11.23,13.23,14.53,17.28: Sat: 9.48,11.18,13.18,15.28
To Folkestone 9.09,10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09,18.09: Sat 10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09
Check on www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables and 91 bus

FROM THE VICARAGE - Three of our churches – St Anthony's, St Laurence, and St Mary's – are open during the day. Anyone can go in, sit, think, and perhaps pray – and some do, as entries in the visitors' books show. They may be out walking or cycling, visiting old haunts or perhaps the church where they were married. A few months ago, someone thought to light a candle for singer Olivia Newton-John following her passing. More recently, someone did the same for Lisa Marie Presley. Not everyone signs the book, so we can't be sure of how many visitors our churches have. But I suspect that more churchgoing goes on than people realise – it's just not always for services. The other day I found a book that I'd forgotten I had. Entitled *Say One for Me,* it was about the remark that people would make on Sundays if they saw a friend or neighbour on their way to church. But times have changed. No longer a day of rest, Sunday has become a day of being busy – for some, even part of their working week. Consequently, there are now fewer people in church on Sundays, especially since the pandemic struck. So, finding someone who will Say One for You isn't as easy as it was. Could we make it any easier? Last year many of those who do come to church completed a questionnaire aimed at finding out and Yours Truly spent ages at the computer, feeding it all into a spreadsheet and trying to work out when and where to hold services so that people can get to them more easily. Anyone with any suggestions, please get in touch! In the meantime, our churches remain open, and anyone can drop in, light a candle, and Say One for Someone. **Brian Williams**

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE
Telephone 01304 824969
brianwimsett@hotmail.com

No. 350 March 2023

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

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CORONATION OF KING CHARLES – The date for the 1pm Lunch Street Party on the village green has been changed and is now Sunday the 7th of May and more details to follow. **Irene Barnard**

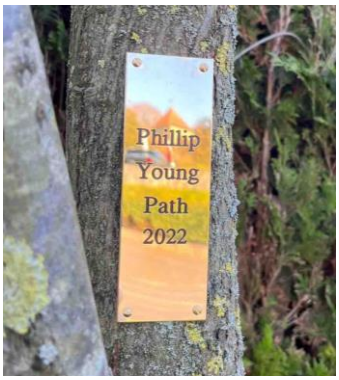
SUNFLOWER COMPETITION 2023 - It's time to sign up for the annual competition the rules are: Grow a sunflower in either your garden or in a pot in your garden, stop the slugs eating it and whoever grows the tallest one wins the cup.



All we ask is that the plant is grown in the parish. We can supply the seedlings which are free, or you can grow your own. Just let us know you are going to take part and if you require any seedlings by emailing anitajames163@gmail.com.or verbally if you prefer. Then on the last Sunday of the school summer holiday, however tall it is, if you have let us know you're in the contest we will come and measure your sunflower. May the best plant win! **Anita James**

MOTHERS DAY AT THE MARQUIS OF GRANBY - Join us at The Marquis of Granby for a memorable and delicious Sunday lunch to celebrate our wonderful Mums. Our Executive Chef Steve Piddock has curated a tantalising Spring themed menu using the finest and freshest local produce Kent has to offer. All Mothers will receive a complimentary glass of English Sparkling Wine! To find out more, give us a call on 01304 873 410 or head to our website.

HELP with heating/boiler repairs and insulation - DDC has funding for residents who are vulnerable to living in a cold home (elderly/health conditions/low income/in receipt of benefits) to help with heating/boiler repairs and insulation to help reduce energy costs. If you think you may be eligible, please call 01304 872414 or email energy@dover.gov.uk.



THE ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY have put up a small brass plaque commemorating the man whose bequest to the village helped pay for the new path from Newlyns Meadow. Philip lived as a boy in Ewell Minnis and retained a strong love of the village and parish and gave various donations but unfortunately died in 2015 as a result of a motorcycle accident in Burma.

TRAFFIC – Further to the article which said that measures to control or limit the traffic through Alkham may adversely affect emergency vehicles, a local resident has asked why such a vague risk is given priority over the safety risks that some families are constantly forced to face on a daily basis as they enter or exit their property.

A SHORT MESSAGE from postman Tony Holman (the shorter fair haired one, not Tony Meadows the tall dark handsome one). After serving the villages of Alkham and Hougham since 2013, now at the age of 65 I have decided to retire. My last day as postman will be on Saturday the 25th of March. I have thoroughly enjoyed my 10 years delivering your mail and I have met some wonderful people and made many friends. I will miss you all, but I will still be running the monthly quiz at the Marquis, so I hope to see a lot of you there. **Au revoir Tony** …

We'll miss you Tony and thanks from us all including your doggie friends.

PARISH COUNCIL – Elections for local District and Parish Councillors will take place on the 4th of May and if you would like to get involved with the parish and carry out this worthwhile job you can make an application in March. For more details go to www.dover.gov.uk and navigate to the elections page.

CONGRATULATIONS to Geoff Lymer who has been awarded the British Empire Medal for services to the community in Dover. Geoff was an Alkham Parish Councillor and a Kent County Councillor for a number of years and was generous in his support of parish projects.

FILM NIGHT 7.30pm
March 28th
Jungle Cruise Emily Blunt
February 28th Aftersun (2022)
Entrance is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated

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Saturday 25th February
will be outside the village hall 5-6.30pm
Call 07955 926 835 for booking & details
Also cater for weddings, kid's parties, christenings, charity events, fish supper parties and boot fairs



WOOF WOOF - Walkers through the church yard and alongside the Old Rectory yew hedge may have noticed wood chippings spread over some of the muddiest bits for better traction. This was with permission. And is thanks to Vicki Roberts and Harry Arnold of No1 Valley Cottages. They have been busy clearing their garden and since the overgrown leylandii was super healthy we could re-use the chippings without fear of spreading disease. Their neighbours are all now enjoying more daylight. And Sue and Mike Ross have got magnificent views of the Church again. There are more chippings to come as they were very big non-native trees. **Catie Webber** *Well done and much appreciated.*

MARQUIS OF GRANBY Monday Cork Club - £5 corkage. Every Monday evening bring a bottle (or more) of great wine, gathering dust at home or something cheap and cheerful from your local off-license. There will be just £5 corkage on each! *Subject to one main course being purchased per person on the table.* **Will Thompson**

SIGNS – A local has said that there is a warning sign regarding horse riders on the s-bend in the village but there are no signs warning motorists of a blind bend, concealed road junction, concealed exits, emerging traffic and elderly pedestrians emerging from a concealed exit and crossing the road. In addition, a safety fence was erected on the bend to protect people, but it isolates the village green, effectively removing it from the centre of the village and reinforcing the view that it is just an obstacle on a busy, main thoroughfare rather than a peaceful rural village.

HARRIETSHAM is similar to Alkham with properties either side of a busy road, in their case the old A20. When the M20 was opened the traffic reduced significantly and now a 20mph speed limit is to be introduced on the minor roads to the east of the village with the old A20 retaining its 30mph limit. A survey was carried out prior to implementation and two of the reasons given for the proposal was avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road and preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs. The latter certainly applies to Alkham plus we are on a 'C' road, have higher traffic volume and speed, a blind bend and narrow sections of road ... **Ed**

THERE ARE several people in Alkham who both value and use our fragile 91 bus service along the valley between Dover and Folkestone. This route has been listed as an asset in plans concerning the village and in Estate Agents advertising. Now serving the village every two hours, the bus even slows down the traffic at the Slip Lane/Hogbrook junction bottleneck. Stagecoach no longer prints the 91 bus route timetable but thanks to the Newsletter, the phone App and the kindness of someone who stuck the new timetable in the bus shelter, we know when it goes and returns. But, will ´several people ´ be enough to keep it going? It is a quick, no parking meter, and now cheap way of travelling. We should use it or… Village bus user. **Jo Walker**



FOR SALE new 10 litre under sink water heater that was installed but not used as it was more difficult than expected to install. It cost £94 new in January this year and if any would like to buy it for £50, please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com or phone 01304 824969.

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LOCAL CONNECTION – In London to the south of Buckingham Palace is a well-known area called Pimlico and this is related to the small hamlet above South Alkham which is also called Pimlico. In the 17th century a man called Ben Pimlico was born near Dover and it is likely that the hamlet was named after him. He later had several public houses in what was called Five fields which was a market garden by the Thames that supplied London with fresh food. One of his inns was called 'Olde Ben's Pimlico Tavern' which later gave its name to the area now called Pimlico. The hamlet of Pimlico in Alkham survived until the 1970's when the local council refused planning permission to restore the remaining building which was in a poor state. The photo shows Richard Goldsack who in the 1870's lived at Pimlico and made the Harvest Festival contribution but sadly died in 1914 in the workhouse in Dover which is now Buckland Hospital. **Editor**



ALL THAT JAZZ

You're speaking prose but utter poetry,
Unscripted verse that springs straight from the heart
Extempore without a written note,
Lacking constraint, free-flowing like the jazz
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Of summoning the scales and tones of life.
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And yet, familiar and understood
Especially when it focuses a truth
Illuminating meaning hidden deep
Behind the ordinary words of speech.
Passion disguised within an easy touch,
A tune so simple, signifying much.

Gail Swainston

ALKHAM W.I. - Our February talk was all about the RNLI which was very interesting as we didn't realise that it wasn't government funded but it was only donations and fund raising that keeps them going. Our next meeting is on the 14th of March which is our AGM meeting followed by a quiz. Hostesses Debbie Griggs, Lucy McKenzie, raffle Helen Price. All new members always welcome.

Debbie Griggs

HOUSING SURVEY - DDC are inviting all residents of the district from all backgrounds and circumstances, to respond to the survey to tell them about your current housing situation and future housing needs. The survey is confidential, free and will take no more than 10 minutes to complete. You can complete it online via the webpage www.dover.gov.uk/Housing/Housing-Development/District-Housing-Needs-Survey-2023.aspx.



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Please ring Tracey for information on 01304 828098

Regular events in the village hall	
Tuesday	Sit Fit 10am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall		
Tuesday	**14**	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Tuesday	**28**	Film Night – Jungle Cruise – please see page 1
Thursday	**30**	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Saturday 11th	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 12th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	
Sunday 19th MOTHERING SUNDAY	Family Service 11.00 am	Family Service 11.00 am	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 26th	United Parish Eucharist, Capel 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.18,9.48,11.23,13.23,14.53,17.28: Sat: 9.48,11.18,13.18,15.28
To Folkestone 9.09,10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09,18.09: Sat 10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09
Assumed correct but check on www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables and 91 bus

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MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669 **KCC** David Beaney 07818 024487
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alkhamvalleytraffic2@btinternet.com alkhamvs.org (Alkham Valley Society)

FROM THE VICARAGE - I once heard a story – which may or may not be true - of a driving examiner who went to conduct a driving test. He took his seat, told the candidate what to expect, and then waited for them to move off. But instead, the candidate sat looking at the controls, muttering quietly. *You have driven before, haven't you?* he asked. *Well, no…* came the reply. *But I've done a lot of watching!* March this year coincides with Lent – the forty days of fasting that lead up to Holy Week and Easter. A friend of mine is fond of pointing out that the word Lent comes from the Old English word for Spring – so according to her, it is best seen as an opportunity, as a time of personal growth, rather than just as forty miserable days without cakes, biscuits, or chocolate. It all begins with Ash Wednesday, when the Gospel reading reminds us that there's a right and a wrong way to set about things. Jesus tells his followers: *Whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward…* It's a bit like that driving test – we can do any amount of watching, but until we get into gear and take the wheel in our hands we don't go anywhere. And simply setting out to please or impress others doesn't get us anywhere either – that doesn't help us to grow. So if you're keeping Lent, I wish you well with whatever you decide to do - and hope that when Easter arrives, we shall all find that we've grown, at least a bit, in one way or another. **Brian Williams**

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE
Telephone 01304 824969
brianwimsett@hotmail.com

No. 351 April 2023

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

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THE DIRTY DOZEN Most of you will recall in prior newsletters my intended Snow Drop Walk and Litter Pick for Saturday 18-2-23. Many of you expressed interest and agreement that our beloved Village was in a right mess. On the day, 12 hardy folks showed up full of gung-ho. We all wore good gloves and high visibility gear and collected 15 bags of trash as well as some larger fly tipped items. Trevor Johns and Steve Edwards kindly took everything to the dump and we were all pretty tired, proud and dirty afterwards. So, we sincerely hope you can all see the difference and feel proud too. **Catie Webber**

THE PARISH COUNCIL wishes to thank a team of volunteers, Catie and Harlan Webber, Trever Johns and Steve Edwards who trimmed the branches of the trees impinging on pedestrians crossing the bridge to the green. Because the trees are on land owned by the Parish Council, Catie contacted the Clerk and permission for the works was given. This ensured that the individual volunteers were covered by the Parish Council Insurance. **Irene Bowie**

ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL has purchased a Scout 2 Speed Recorder. Many thanks go to the volunteers of the Alkham Speedwatch Team, hopefully this new equipment will make their task of slowing down traffic on the Alkham Valley Road a little easier. Previously they had to use borrowed equipment from Kent Police which was shared with other parishes. Now they will have full access to equipment permanently owned by the Parish Council. The Speed Recorder was officially presented to Glyn Jones by The Chairman of the Parish Council, Neil Burrows and the Vice Chairman Martin Hibbert. Parish Councillors have been working extensively with KCC Highways to make the roads in our village safer. Supporting the Speedwatch Team and the now the purchase of the Scout 2 Speed Recorder forms part of that ongoing commitment. **Irene Bowie**



ALKHAM VALLEY GARDEN CENTRE - Part time staff required for Alkham Valley Tea rooms on Saturdays 9am to 5pm and Sundays 10am to 4pm. Must be hard-working as we do get very busy. Please Contact Sue Elliott on 01303 893351

KING CHARLES Coronation Lunch Another reminder for **Sunday 7th May from 12.30** on the village green. As before, table and chairs will be provided so just bring along your own food and drinks. We will have children's races and a ' Royal theme ' fancy dress competition for young and not so young. Last year's Jubilee get together proved successful, so hopefully you will all come along again to join in this village event. We have secured the village hall for toilet facilities and will use it should the weather be unpleasant. I hope not! **Irene Barnard**

ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL A.G.M
Our Annual Meeting is to be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 18th of April, starting at 7.00p.m. The Meeting is open to any village resident, or anyone involved in any of the various activities that take place in the Hall. If you have an interest in the village, or any specific issue that you wish to raise, or suggestions to make , then please come along, or contact Janet Adamson, the Committee Secretary janet.a.adamson@btinternet.com

DISTRICT AND PARISH ELECTIONS will take place on Thursday 4th May and that in order to vote at a polling station, you will need to bring photo ID with you or other acceptable ID. If you don't have photo ID more information is on the GOV.UK and DDC website, and the deadline to apply is the 25th of April.

FILM NIGHT 7.30pm
April 25th
Agatha and The Truth of Murder
March 28th
Jungle Cruise Emily Blunt
Entrance is free but a donation of £4

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Mobile Fish and Chip Unit
Saturday 22nd April
will be outside the village hall 5-6.30pm
Call 07955 926 835 for booking & details
Also cater for weddings, kid's parties, christenings, charity events, fish supper parties and boot fairs

ALKHAM VILLAGE PLAN - At the last Parish Council Meeting the latest draft of the village plan was agreed and signed off. This will now be given the once over by a professional editor then published for action by us all. It was some time ago that nearly half the village turned out for our Open Day followed a few months later by the village questionnaire. The final plan has been produced with assistance from Dover District Council, the Kent Association of Local Councils and many other bodies and individuals. Our thanks go to the team who have worked on the document for so long: Tracey Prince, Steve Edwards, Martin Hibbert, Jo Walker, Rachel Fountain, Glyn Jones, Dave Beaney, and for many others who have contributed help and ideas. **Den Barnard** … **AS YOU SAW** in the last newsletter, this is a good opportunity to remind everybody that we need volunteers to put themselves forward for the Parish Council elections in May as we are currently short of three councillors.

THE PARISH COUNCIL would like to correct a misunderstanding in the March Newsletter. The new path from Newlyns Meadow was **not funded** from the donations left to the Parish Council by Philip Young. The Parish Council commissioned the path and it was funded from two sources. The Parish council contributed £3444 from our general reserves, part of the budget agreed in January 2022, and also with a grant from KCC Cllr David Beaney of £1500. **Irene Bowie**



A PLEA from Temple Ewell Primary School - we are currently collecting some crafty resources and books if you have any to spare! This can include wool, ribbons, embroidery threads, embroidery hoops and felt. Also book wise we are looking for good (used or new) copies of James and the Giant Peach, Charlie and the Chocolate factory, BFG or Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl, The Worst Witch by Jill Murphy, Charlotte's Web by EB White, Sheep Pig by Dick King Smith, Firework Maker or Clockwork by Phillip Pullman and any David Walliams book. Please leave them in the porch of 3 Valley Cottage, Alkham Valley Rd, Alkham or ring Mrs. Church in the school office on 01304 822665 and she will arrange collection. Many thanks on behalf of Temple Ewell school.

FREE SPAB MEMBERSHIP – Bryony Levermore, who bought Forstal Cottage adjacent to the Marquis last year, is offering a free one-year membership for the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB). Please email bryonylevermore@hotmail.com and a winner will be chosen at random. More details will be given in the May edition about the charity dedicated to the protection of old buildings.



Bryony to her credit has also made a drive to the front of Forstal Cottage which apart from parking has made the listed cottage more visible. She has also carried out a lot of work to the house, tidied the corner piece and will repaint the railings and plant lavender.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our March meeting was our AGM meeting followed by a quiz and our next meeting is on April 11th when our speaker will be Garry Manser who will be talking about Scams. Hostesses are Christine Banham and Sue Ross, Raffle Beryl King and VOT Debbie Griggs. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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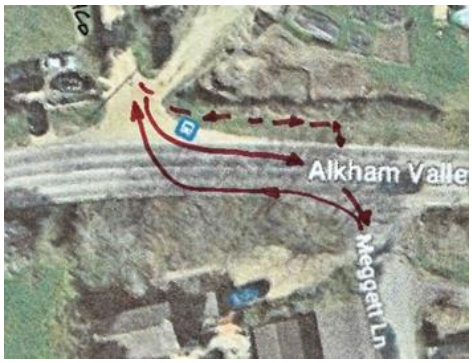
CONSERVATION AREA - Dover District Council have produced a St. Margaret's Bay Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Plan which is very good. Perhaps they could consider doing one for our conservation area as we have 15 listed buildings and six are shown in the photo. Three are on the blind bend with North Hill Cottage and Coachman's Cottage being the oldest and adjacent to the busy valley road. The photo emphasizes that Alkham is a rural village and that some measures should be introduced to reinforce that fact. **Editor**

ACCIPITER

Your colours, blue and yellow, lift the heart
A promise of the Springtime yet to be.
In bold display with fluttering you dart
Across the garden, joyous and carefree.
But when you sense my presence in the sky
Or think you see a movement of shadow,
You tremble at the thought of me close by
And dive towards the leaves of the hedgerow
Away from danger, nestling into green,
Where I await with patience, quite unseen.

Gail Swainston



MARTIN SCHERER has cut back the dead hedge at the bottom of Pimlico Way to substantially widen the verge which horse riders and walkers use when crossing the Alkham Valley road to Meggett Lane and as the two are not opposite this can be extremely dangerous. Martin has suggested to KCC, in accordance with their new policy, that they pave the verge and install new signs and roadside bollards. Martin will also form a collection pond near the bottom of Pimlico to reduce the dirt washed onto Alkham Valley Road and just for fun plant an edible hedge. Well done, Martin.



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Regular events in the village hall	
Tuesday	Sit Fit 10am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall		
Tuesday	**11**	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Tuesday	**25**	Film Night – Agatha and … – please see page 1
Thursday	**27**	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2nd	**Evensong 6.30 pm**	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Service 11.00 am**
Thursday 6th		**Eucharist 7.00 pm**	
Friday 7th	**Good Friday service Capel 10.00 am**		
Saturday 8th	**Messy church Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm**		
Sunday 9th	**Eucharist 11.00 am**	**Eucharist 7.00 am**	**Eucharist 9.30 am**
Sunday 16th	**Worship 11.00 am**	**Evensong 6.00pm**	**Eucharist 9.30 am**
Sunday 23rd	**United Parish Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am**		
Sunday 30th	St Mary's (Capel Old Church) United Parish Eucharist 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.18,9.48,11.23,13.23,14.53,17.28: Sat: 9.48,11.18,13.18,15.28
To Folkestone 9.09,10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09,18.09: Sat 10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09
Assumed correct but check on www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables and 91 bus

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FROM THE VICARAGE - It should all have been going so well – Lent, that is. Except that it isn't. Not for me, anyway. Apart from one understandable lapse on my son's birthday I've managed to abstain from cake. But it's the other things I meant to do during Lent that I've struggled with. As Lent began, I bought a copy of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for this year, fully intending to read a few pages each day. However, as I write I'm still on the first chapter – I had intended to be halfway through by now. Emma Ineson's book, appropriately enough, is entitled *Failure – what Jesus said about Sin, Mistakes and Messing Stuff Up*. Essential reading for me, probably. I should explain that most Christians accept that nobody's perfect – we strive for perfection but, in truth, we still fail. She describes how Archbishop Justin once told a meeting that, Archbishop or not, he sometimes messes up - he's a sinner, like the rest of us. A woman ranted at him afterwards that, had she realised that he was a sinner, she wouldn't have turned up to listen to him! From Psalm 130: *If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?* The Lord might not keep a record of sins, but social media does – once tweeted, it's difficult to move on from a careless remark. As Holy Week approaches, the Church remembers how, at the end, Jesus was betrayed by one disciple, denied by another, and deserted by the rest – a record of sins, remembered to this day. But it also remembers Easter, and how those same disciples witnessed the Resurrection and told the world about it. God never tires of new beginnings, and we shouldn't either. And with that, it's back to my book… **Brian Williams**

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Produced by Brian Wimsett
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No. 352 May 2023

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

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CORONATION LUNCH SUNDAY MAY 7th from 12.30 on the village green or hall if poor weather. All details in previous newsletter editions, but don't forget there's a 'Royal' fancy dress competition for all ages and races. We need help please at 11am on the day to arrange tables and chairs and return them to the village hall at the end of the afternoon. This event is being sponsored by our Parish Council and is for all areas within the parish. Hope to see you there. **Irene Barnard**

LOCAL ELECTIONS for District and Parish Councillors are taking place on the 4th of May and Alkham village hall will be open for voting from 7am to 10pm. There are three candidates for the District Councillor role, one of whom is Martin Hibbert who lives in Glebelands and there are 9 people standing for the 7 Parish Council positions and further details are given below.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS – It really is very encouraging that there are 9 people standing to be a parish councillor and on page 3 of this newsletter there is a brief article written by the nine people giving the reasons why they are standing and details about themselves. Those standing are Den Barnard, Paul Tapsell, Catie Webber, Phil Clements, Martin Hibbert, Trevor Johns, Geoff Kaile, Marian Libaert and Steve Edwards.

MANY THANKS to our kind locals who helped decorate and clean the Church for Easter. Special credit to Vinnie, from team Huggins, for polishing all the wood and making things smell Spring cleaned. Many hands made light work indeed. **Catie Webber**



AVA THE DOG will miss Tony the postman in Newlyn's Meadow. She loved to run up the road, jump in his van and accompany him on the rest of his deliveries! Here they are on his very last round. He was always seen with a smile, and a doggy treat in his pocket and after many years of being our fantastic postman we wish Tony a very relaxing retirement! **No6 Newlyns Meadow x**

I WISH TO THANK everyone in Alkham and Hougham for their generous gifts and best wishes in my retirement. I am already spending more time in my garden and hope to do a lot more fishing in the coming years. Once again, thank you.
Tony Holman ex-postie

MANY THANKS go to Neil Burrows who has now retired from the Parish Council. He has been the Chairman of the Parish Council for the last 18 years and before that was the Vice Chairman and a councillor. He was a very effective chairman presiding with authority and patience and has overseen many improvements and additions to the parish. We wish him well in his retirement and he can now concentrate on his high class B & B and large farm at South Alkham. Thanks also go to Anthony Barrier who has been a councillor and footpath warden for some years and to Ruth Marczin Bundy who are also retiring.

A BIG THANK YOU to Sue Burrows and her tree surgeon Pete Davis for more wood chips which we've used for better traction on the muddy path from Short Lane to the Village Green. And thanks to Dave Horn from Poems and Dara O' Brian for the muscle power. Much appreciated. **Catie Webber**

ALKHAM W.I. are hosting a Bring and Buy cake sale on the 3rd of June at 10.30am in Alkham village hall with refreshments on hand as well. It is open to everyone and we look forward to seeing you all. **Debbie Griggs**

FILM NIGHT 7.30pm
May 30th
A Man Called Otto
Tom Hanks
April 25th
Agatha and The Truth of Murder
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LITTER – This is really for urban areas but could apply to Alkham which has several litter bins. There is a free app called LITTERLOTTO which you can download and take a photograph using the app. All litter counts and each time you bin a piece of litter, you get another entry into the LitterLotto £1,000 weekly jackpot, instant spot prizes and "LitterLotto Coins", which may be redeemed for prizes and extra jackpot entries.

BYPASS – In the past a bypass for the centre of Alkham was considered and the proposal was to take it along the line of the bottom of Short Lane and continue past the football pitch and the village hall then across a meadow to rejoin the valley road. However, housing development has stopped any such proposal. **Editor**

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS

The SPAB is a charity dedicated to the protection of old buildings, and is a must for anybody who lives in, looks after, or is generally interested in historic buildings. From cottage to castles, or mills to mansions, SPAB aim to protect our architectural heritage from the destruction and damage caused by unsympathetic renovations and inappropriate development; something likely to be close to the hearts of many living in a village like Alkham! Bryony has been a member of SPAB for several years and has called upon their assistance with her plans for repairing the house, including technical advice to fight the mortgage provider when unsuitable waterproofing work was requested by the surveyor, and learning how to plaster and repoint using traditional lime mortar. Membership of SPAB is around £55 a year, and helps to fund a free advice line, planning interventions, research, and scholarships. Members receive a quarterly magazine, and access to online resources and events including working parties, group visits and heritage building/ repair skills learning courses. See spab.org.uk for more details. **Bryony Levermore Forstall Cottage**

IN LAST MONTH'S newsletter there was a competition to win a one year membership of SPAB and this was won by Irene and Den Barnard who live in Halton Court in Alkham which is also a listed building.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our April meeting was a talk on scams by Garry Manser and what a lovely speaker he was; you couldn't hear a pin drop in the hall as he told us how easy it was for the scammers to believe they were genuine and how easy it was to send money over to them. Our next meeting is the 9th of May which is our resolutions meeting. Hostesses Debbie Saunders and Gina Daniels, raffle Alison Warnock. Note to all members please bring something along for Pat's table proceeds go to charity. All new members welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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Brief details of the people standing for the Alkham Parish Council

DEN BARNARD - I've lived in the village for 26 years having moved to take up the position of IT Manager at SAGA. In my time here I have been involved with: The Parish Council, Cricket Club, Friends of St Anthony's, the Fete, Christmas Tree Lights and the history of Alkham. There is now an opportunity with a noticeable enthusiasm and a Parish Plan to continue to make our village a safe and pleasant place to live. So, if you fancy voting for an old codger who still thinks he's twenty five – I'm your man!

STEVE EDWARDS - I moved to Alkham in 2015 after early retirement. After settling in I started attending Parish Council meetings, wanting to give input into village matters. Here I joined the Traffic Action Group, led by the late councillor Hillier, and progressed into being one of the co-authors of the T.A.G. Report. I volunteered for the Community Led Parish Plan steering group and assisted with collating villagers' comments and creating the plan. I now feel that it's time to step up to help the community by becoming a Parish councillor.

MARTIN HIBBERT - I have lived in Alkham for 41 years. Born in Dover with grandparents that lived in Temple Ewell, as well as relatives that lived on the Minnis. I have been an active member of Alkham Parish Council since September 2017, helping to resolve concerns on behalf Alkham residents, using skills learnt from working within Dover Port and Civil Service where listening and working together to get things done was essential. Standing again, I will continue to work hard to ensure that the interests of ALL our Parish residents are represented.

CATIE WEBBER - I was born in Brisbane and trained as a chartered accountant before becoming a world traveller. I married an American, became a homemaker and settled in London where we lived for 20 years before becoming British in 2016 and moving to Alkham. I believe in showing up and stepping up to make a strong Village community. I am involved in Keep Fit, the Village Hall, the garden club and I do the Church flowers among other things. Most recently, I organised the litter pick up and car park clean up.

MARIAN LIBAERT – I moved to Alkham in 2020 and have found it a friendly village. I have met many people while walking my dog Annie and also at the quiz night in The Marquess of Granby. I am a member of Alkham WI and the recently formed choir. I am married with two adult children and I'm also a keen reader and gardener. My reason for joining the council is to help in any way to keep Alkham a thriving village and great place to live.

TREVOR JOHNS – I am an engineer, married with two grown up children. I moved on retirement to the village 3 years ago to find and actively partake in community life, whilst creating a garden at our new home. I have been a Parish Councillor in the past and I'm an active member of a number of local groups. I would bring my previous Project Management experience to the role and would like to be part of a proactive team to drive the community plan forward.

GEOFF KAILE – I have lived in Alkham for two years with my wife and dogs. When not dog walking or working on our house I am a psychotherapist in a local NHS service. I previously worked as a designer and as a software consultant on commercial and governmental projects and hope to bring these skills and experience to the parish.

PHIL CLEMENTS – I was born in Guernsey and I am a qualified Fellow Member of the Association of Accounting Technicians and a Fellow member of International Association of Accounting Professionals. After leaving Guernsey for New Zealand, I moved to the UK in 2005, settling in Alkham in 2017. I am a Senior Manager at a top 20 Accountancy firm. Married for over 30 years and I have 2 grown up daughters. I would relish the opportunity to serve for my community in Alkham.

PAUL TAPSELL - I am a barrister working from Canterbury, have lived in the village since 1991, was on the Parish Council for about 15 years (till 2012-ish) and have, to varying degrees, been involved with the village Fete, Cricket Club, Church and the Valley Society for around 30 years. I hope that I can bring some transferable skills and local knowledge to the Council, represent the views of the village and improve and protect the quality of life of the parish.



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CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th CORONATION WKND	**Evening Prayer 5.00 pm**	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Songs of Praise 11.00 am**
Saturday 13th	*Activities and stories at Messy Church, followed by tea.* **3.00 – 5.00 pm**		
Sunday 14th	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Worship 11.00 am**	**Eucharist 11.00 am**
Sunday 21st	**Worship 9.30 am**	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Worship 11.00 am**
Sunday 28th	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Evensong 6.00 pm**	**Eucharist 11.00 am**

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FROM THE VICARAGE - On my fourteenth wedding anniversary, I conducted a wedding for the first time ever. All went well until the end, when as I prepared to give the blessing a camera-wielding guest suddenly approached the altar, stood astride the communion rail, and took the shot he wanted. The bride wasn't impressed. On another occasion I found myself in an empty church - the guests still outside, the ushers having been too preoccupied with playing a prank on the groom to show them in. But then I'll never forget the couple who, during the Covid-19 pandemic, decided to marry anyway, despite their guests having to sit in socially distanced bubbles, and without the trimmings that usually go with weddings – and it was as beautiful as it was simple. As I write, the Coronation is just three weeks away – Britain's first in almost seventy years – and for me, its similarities with weddings are striking. Take the guest list, for example - the newspapers are full of who's been invited, who hasn't, and who may or may not be coming. The Coronation may be a church service, but neither the Archbishop of Canterbury nor the Dean and Chapter of Westminster Abbey have the final say over what happens – so there may yet be surprises in store. Whatever happens, no doubt it will be a memorable occasion, and I'll be there in front of the TV, tea and cake in hand, looking on with the rest of the world - and hopefully all will go smoothly. But if the Archbishop of Canterbury should find himself being made to wait while someone takes a ciggie-break or the King stages an unrehearsed twirl of his robes for the photographers, I for one will know how he feels…**Brian Williams**

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE
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THE CORONATION LUNCH Thankfully the dark clouds didn't stay around for too long and eventually the sun shone through. It was a good turn out and everyone seemed to be happy chatting away and enjoying their lunch. There are always people to thank and I will begin with Ken and Sandy for putting up and then removing the village bunting; Graham for the very enjoyable music played throughout the afternoon; all helpers moving table and chairs back and forth to the village hall and finally Dave for organising the races. Nicola Church won the book token for dressing up as she made the cloak herself. **Irene Barnard …** (many thanks to Irene as well)

THE NEW PARISH COUNCIL - The newly elected Parish Council are now in place and we give the outgoing team our thanks and best wishes especially as they have had to manage with only half of the council positions filled in the past few years. Neil Burrows has been an Alkham councillor for thirty years and chairman for the last eighteen and deserves our special thanks and appreciation. So, the new council starts with a full complement of councillors and a Community Led Plan (soon to be available) and a mixture of experience and energy to build on the successes of the past. We will certainly take Neil's advice to ensure that the whole of the village is included in all plans, and communications with villagers is a high priority. Over the next few weeks the new team will be identifying roles and responsibilities and now is the time to remind everybody that the village plan requires considerable volunteer support. We have the names obtained from the Open Day and village questionnaire but if you weren't around then, now is the time to add yourselves to the list. **Den Barnard (denbarnard@yahoo.com)**



VILLAGE SUNFLOWER COMPETITION – It's time for the sunflower competition which is open to anyone in the parish to see who can grow the tallest one. If you would like to enter you can grow your own or whilst stocks last, get a free one from Anita or Vernon James. The judging takes place at the end of September when the winner will be presented with the coveted cup. Please contact anitajames163@gmail.com with your name, address and telephone number if you'd like to take part or get a free plant.

ON BEHALF of the staff and children of Temple Ewell school we would like to say thank you for all the wonderful donations we received. We will continue to collect wool and crafty supplies for as long as you are able to donate them. **Mrs. Church**

PETER SMITH (born 1 May 1954) It is very sad to record the death of Peter Smith, resident of Alkham, who died on the 19th of April, leaving his wife Isabelle and their family. Peter, among many other activities, was a long term member of the Alkham Valley Society, founded due to the then apathy of civic government in Alkham. He quietly lent his deep love of the countryside to all. He farmed sheep lovingly and knew the names of every piece of local woodland, every field and footpath. Walkers in the Alkham and surrounding areas will probably never know how much we owe to Peter and people like him, who fought the good fight. Peter's quiet presence and thorough goodness will be missed, not only by his family, to whom all sympathy is shared, but our community. Bon voyage, Peter. **Jo Walker**

LINDSAY BENNETT (72) who has lived in Ewell Minnis for over 25 years passed on 22/4/23 at William Harvey. She was a big part of the community looking after animals and people. She is survived by her husband Tony and sons Andrew and James and her mother Patsy. Funeral service will be held on 26/5/23 at St Anthony's at 11.00. The family have requested no flowers donations in Lindsay's name to Pilgrims Hospice. **Tony Bennett**

FILM NIGHT 7.30pm
June 27th
The Lost King (2022)

May 30th A Man Called Otto

Entrance is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated

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MAY THE 8th STREET PARTY on the village green was a bittersweet copy of last year's Jubilee with several absences deeply felt. The music was another lovely playlist, the food was wonderful and the weather warm. There was a predominance of red. white and blue, but a few folks dressed up in crowns and capes. There was a spectacular home-made effort by Nicola Church who quite rightly won the fancy dress competition. There were kids and dogs running around and someone had a bubble machine blowing bubbles for them to chase. It was again well organised by Irene Barnard and it was a marvellous opportunity for Rosemary Hillier to trek down from London and see us all. Poor Harlan had caught a cold and was a bit grumpy until he saw all the desserts. We all had an absolute feast. A huge thank you to those who put out tables and chairs, and bunting and organised a few games and to those who put things away and tidied up too. It was a great day out. **Catie Webber**

ROGUE TRADERS – An email was received from the brother of an elderly lady who lives in Alkham to say she had been the subject of a scam and without him would have been scammed again. He has asked that the word is spread around regarding these evil people.

ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL AGM – In the last financial year the hall made a small loss, which was an improvement on the previous year when there was a loss of £2600. The committee agreed that it was not possible to raise the hire rates as it would result in groups moving elsewhere but the increased costs of heating and lighting the hall would warrant an increase in hourly rates.

THANK YOU to Mrs. Doreen Nichol for mending the Altar Cloth for St Anthony's Church. She made the darn look like a flower and it was such a good job we couldn't even find it for at least 10 minutes. In the past Mr. and Mrs. Hammond did a magnificent job looking after such things for us. And I wish to thank them too. Sadly, they have had to give it up recently and neither Carol nor I have sewing in our skillsets. Again, thank you. **Catie Webber**

DOG WALKING – Jo Walker forwarded an interesting article about dog poo. Most dog walkers clear up after their dogs and generally put it in a small plastic bag which goes in a bin. At Densole there is a pooh bin in which the bags can be put and when the bin is emptied the bags go to landfill with obvious result that the plastic bags almost last forever. The article gives various ideas about how this can be dealt with and the best solution is to have bio-degradable bags but other suggestions are a dog waste composter, a wormery or a compost heap but there are caveats associated with the latter. The full article can be seen at brentwooddogwalker.co.uk/dogpoo.php.

ALKHAM W.I. -Our May meeting was our resolutions meeting followed by a quiz. Our next meeting is on June 13th when our speaker will be Martin Newcombe talking about badgers. Hostesses Nicola Church and Sue Ross, raffle Janet Adamson, VOT Helen Price. New members are always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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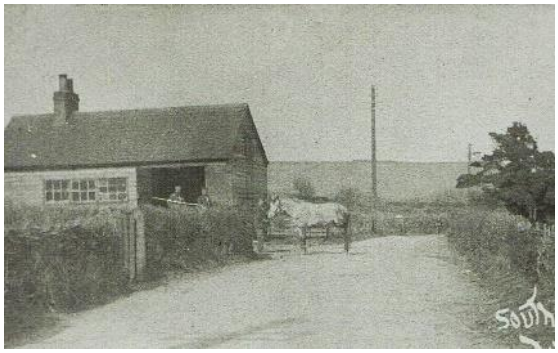
ALKHAM BLACKSMITHS

Before the industrial revolution the blacksmith was a very important person not only working with iron but also turning his hand to dentistry, being a vet and maybe Church Warden. Originally there was a blacksmith behind Forstal Cottage by the Marquis which later became the site of the school but in 1841 they moved across the road to the new premises called Martinvale and the low building behind the house which was the forge is still there. There was also a blacksmith at South Alkham and the photo above shows two proud men at their smithy probably in the 1920's and the other photo a horse waiting on the Alkham Valley road. The house is still there but the smithy has gone and is now a garage. **editor**



KENT COAST VOLUNTEERING

Do you need driving to Hospital, dental appointments, shopping etc.? Try the Kent Coast Volunteering 01304 380513. Requiring 3 days' notice per trip, this service charges £20 a year and 50 p a mile to collect you and take you to where you want to go, does not charge for waiting and takes you home again. It is run by volunteers and is most useful. Transport@kcv.org.uk. **Jo Walker**

FOOTPATHS – Many thanks to Anthony Barrier who has now left the post of footpath warden. It appears that this post is not continuing but is being replaced by a Countryside Warden for which you have to go on a course and thereby qualify. There are two at present but they appear to be very difficult to contact.

ALKHAM W.I. - On the 3rd of June from 10.30am to 12.30 in the village hall we are having a tabletop sale and coffee morning and we have 3 tables left. If you have anything you would like to sell and would like a table, it will be £10; please contact Nicola Church on 07713894408 if you are interested. There will be a fund raising cake sale for Macmillan cancer plus stalls with puzzles, books, children's clothes/toys, bric-a-brac and an equestrian stall. Look forward to seeing you all. **Nicola Church**

LOST PROPERTY – After the Coronation party on the 7th of May a pair of plastic goblets 1 red and 1 teal, a pair of glasses beige tiger stripe and amazingly an expensive knife were found on the village green. Please email Catie at catiewebber@me.com if you think they might be yours.

MARQUIS OF GRANBY– The quiz night in May has been moved to the 22nd owing to the usual Monday being a bank holiday.



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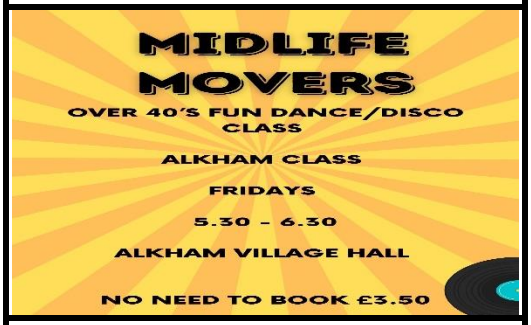

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Regular events in the village hall	
Tuesday	Sit Fit 9.30am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall		
Tuesday	**13**	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Tuesday	**27**	Film Night – The Lost King – please see page 1
Thursday	**29**	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4th	**Prayer 5.00 pm**	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Worship 11.00 am**
Saturday 10th	*Activities and stories at Messy Church Capel* **3.00 – 5.00 pm**		
Sunday 11th	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Worship11.00 am**	**Eucharist 11 am**
Sunday 18th	**Worship 9.30 am**	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Worship 11.00 am**
Sunday 25th	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Evensong 6 pm**	**Eucharist 11 am**

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.18,9.48,11.23,13.23,14.53,17.28: Sat: 9.48,11.18,13.18,15.28
To Folkestone 9.09,10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09,18.09: Sat 10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09
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MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669: **KCC** David Beaney 07818 024487
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FROM THE VICARAGE - In June 2022 the late Queen celebrated her Platinum Jubilee. Crowds flocked to the Palace, and Paddington Bear had tea with her. In September, crowds lined the streets again, this time for her funeral. Now we have witnessed her son's Coronation. Three unique Royal events, all in the space of a year. I wasn't in the Abbey myself on the big day, so didn't get a copy of the Order of Service - but I notice that someone who was is auctioning theirs online. There is a reserve, not yet reached. As I write, the bidding stands at £221. Perhaps when some of the comments that were being made even as the celebrations took place are considered, the chance to own such a slice of history, even at that price, becomes even more tempting. While we were at home on the morning of the Coronation, glued to the television and only leaving the sofa to make tea, others were questioning the whole thing. Was it worth the money? Coronations in other countries are far more restrained – so why not ours? Should we even have a monarchy at all? Would this coronation be Britain's last? But history can play tricks. I recall once visiting a museum in Calais with a group of teenagers. Built as a wartime bunker, it displayed items from the Nazi occupation. An adult helper enthused, but they were bored. "This is for old people," they complained, "it's nothing to do with us!" That would change with 9/11, Afghanistan and Iraq. Remembering The Fallen would stop being something that only old people did. What will happen when William becomes King we can only guess. But in the meantime, I've still got some copies of our service booklets from the Coronation weekend. Offers, anyone? **Brian Williams**

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - Thank you to everyone who attended the first council meeting since the election. Our next meeting is at 7pm on Monday 3rd of July at Alkham Village Hall and as always is open to all. If you would like to attend but require assistance, please get in touch with any of the new councillors or via den.barnard@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk. There will also be a more informal "Come and Meet your new councillors" meeting from 10am - 12pm on Saturday 22nd of July at Alkham Village Hall. In the time since the initial meeting the focus has been on admin tasks and assigning areas of responsibility. We are grateful to the previous council for their ongoing help in this transition. In addition, the Jubilee/ Coronation bench for the village green has arrived and a working party will shortly be installing it and we are awaiting news on the publication of the Village Plan - keep an eye on the Parish Council website for this and other updates. Finally, please let us know if you would like to be added to our volunteers list. **Alkham Parish Council**



ALKHAM v THE MARQUIS 29TH MAY
A welcome return to form for Alkham CC after a few fallow years with the Badgers beating the Marquis "Only a Pub Team" side in a thrilling game before a packed Meadow. Chasing 119 Alkham secured the total with 5 overs to spare. The next home game is against St Margaret's at 6 pm on Wednesday 21st May but mark your diaries for the August Bank Holiday Monday (28th) when the "Alkham Ashes" will be decided with a match against the Marquis, starting at 2 pm. **Paul Tapsell**



THE MARQUIS OF GRANBY had a fantastic Bank Holiday Monday and what an amazing day for the Alkham community. It was great to see so many new and familiar faces showing their support, with a huge turnout for the cricket, BBQ and music. A big thank you to the Alkham Cricket Club who gave us quite the battle on the pitch and beat us for the Alkham Ashes trophy! We can't wait for the re-match and we will come back fighting for the title on the 28th August, we hope to see you all there again! **Hugh Thompson**

COMING SOON: Nightingale Dairy
Kent's first ever milk and milkshake mobile vending machine! Opening in July and situated on select days in the Alkham Village Hall car park, you will be able to buy fresh milk from our beautiful Shorthorn and Albion cows at Chilton Farm, where we milk on a very small scale with a regenerative farming approach. More details and selling timetable to follow closer to opening time. For updates follow @Nightingale_Dairy on Instagram. **From The Mannerings Family, Chilton Farm**. *As it is a worthwhile local venture the Village Hall Committee voted unanimously to let them use the village hall car park.*

CHURCH FETE - We are having the church fete again this year at St Radigund's Capel on the 3rd of September. I know it is the wrong time of year to be asking for plants but even if you can donate indoor plants, I would be most grateful. We are also doing bric-a-brac and of course the raffle so please, if you could help, ring me Carol Mannall on 01304 826514 or 07946106742.

FILM NIGHT 7.30pm
July 25th
The Call of The Wild (2022)
Harrison Ford
June 27th - The Lost King (2022)
Entrance is free but a donation of £4 per person is appreciated

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EVERDEN - Just to the west of the village of Alkham is a Grade II listed building at Everden which was part of an ancient barony. It was called Great Everden Farm, but eventually became a private house with attached farm buildings. The latest owners have changed the name to Great Everden Manor which can be booked to hold venues or for accommodation. Adjacent to the house is a large barn for which a planning application has been submitted to turn it into a hotel and details can be seen on the planning application which is on https://publicaccess.dover.gov.uk under the place name.

ST ANTHONYS CHURCHYARD SOS - The churchyard is left to nature for most of the year except for the walkways which Richard Tapsell has mowed for years with a little help. We all know how pleasant it is to walk through the churchyard and even sit for a few thoughtful moments. If anyone would like to help with the mowing, it takes about an hour for one person to do and would allow Richard to slow down a bit. Reward guaranteed in heaven. If interested please let us know. **Den Barnard 824845 and Richard Tapsell 822295**



A BIG THANK YOU to Alkham for being its warm welcoming kind self to my very handicapped sister Jane. Jane visited from Australia together with her carer my mother Margaret from mid-May to early June in all that cold dry wind. She enjoyed singing with the Valley Voices choir and was thrilled when they sang Happy Birthday to her in 4 parts - definitely a highlight. Jane is an accomplished gardener but was enchanted with English country gardens here in Alkham and very much enjoyed the wine and cheese and conversation at the garden club evening. She had a tour of the Dover Marina thanks to Glyn Jones and the Wet Wheels charity. She went to the Canterbury Cathedral when Joe Public was invited to play the fabulous and newly renovated organ and laughed with the rest of us when a man gingerly pecked out a horn pipe tune. The music master helped him by pulling a special stop and the organ thundered " toot toot" bang on time. Jane also attended Peter Smith's funeral service, which was very emotional for her as an example of what Dad's funeral was like just a year prior and which she was unable to attend. Jane particularly enjoyed watching Spitfires flying overhead and visiting the memorial to the Battle of Britain. Lastly, she very much hopes to come back soon. **Catie Webber**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our June meeting was all about badgers, which was very interesting. Our next meeting is on July 11th when and our speaker is Clive Nuttman talking about The Slave Forts of Ghana. Raffle, Vanessa Oakley, hostesses are Debbie Saunders, Sue Koo, VOT Debbie Griggs. We would like to say a welcome to our two new members Irene Barnard and Alison John's. All new members welcome. **Debbie Griggs** …On the 15th July I have a charity bingo night in aid of pilgrims hospice and motoneuron disease; I have a few spaces left, please contact me if interested on 07796360473.

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THE FORSTAL – In the April edition of the newsletter there was an article about Forstal Cottage which is by the road that runs from the Valley Road past the Marquis of Granby to St. Anthony's church and is called The Forstal. Prior to the 17th century common land belonged to various Lords of the Manor and tenants would have been entitled to graze their animals on this land. Inevitably some of these animals strayed and were taken to a holding pound where they could be retrieved for a small sum of money. This pound was also called the fore stall and there was one of these until the 18th century at the entrance to St. Anthony's church and hence the name of the road. In 1810 the Marquis of Granby was built as well as a row of houses behind it on the ground of the disused pound. These houses were later renamed Halton Forstal after the farm that had maintained the fore stall and in the early 1950's they were demolished and a single house taking the name was built but this too was demolished in 2011 when the Marquis was extended. The aerial photo shows Forstal Cottage on the extreme right, the adjacent Marquis, the original houses behind it and the old school behind Forstal Cottage. **editor**

ONLY 15

Poor Hannah
In the horror
In the darkness
On the path
Where the crashing of the water
Is the beating of her heart
Down into a bubbling pool
Of blackness feeling ill
She only took a little pill
Don't you be such a fool.
Down into the bubbling pool
She said that she was feeling ill
And only took a little pill
A lesson for us all.

Gail Swainston

MANY THANKS go to Alan Woodgett who has delivered the newsletter since it started in 1993 along Greenwich Lane in Ewell Minnis and has now decided it's time to retire. It is pleasing to report that another person has offered to deliver the newsletter. **Brian Wimsett**

EMAIL - Since we are advised not to cut hedges during the nesting period of birds, and can be fined quite a sum should we do, might it not be possible to ensure that during the lambing season dogs should be put on their leads, which might avoid them being shot if worrying sheep, and owners be subject to similar fines? **Local observer**

BREAK IN – In the early hours of the 12th of July a house in the centre of Alkham was broken into and some money stolen. The thief was chased but got away.

THE MACMILLAN table at the recent WI event raised £62.60 for this very worthwhile charity. **Sue Ross**



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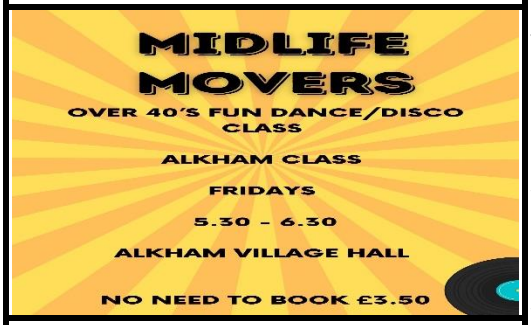

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Please ring Shirley for information on 01304 828098

Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday	Sit Fit 9.30am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall

Monday	**3**	Parish Council meeting 7pm – all welcome
Tuesday	**11**	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Tuesday	**25**	Film Night – The Call of the wild – see page 1
Thursday	**27**	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2nd	**Prayer 5.00 pm**	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Worship 11.00 am**
Saturday 8th	*Activities and stories at Messy Church.* **3.00 – 5.00 pm**		
Sunday 9th	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Worship 11.00 am**	**Eucharist 11.00 am**
Sunday 16th	**Worship 9.30 am**	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Eucharist 11.00 am**
Sunday 23rd	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Evensong 6.00 pm**	**Eucharist 11.00 am**
Sunday 30th	**St Mary's (Capel Old Church) Eucharist 9.30 am**		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.18,9.48,11.23,13.23,14.53,17.28: Sat: 9.48,11.18,13.18,15.28
To Folkestone 9.09,10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09,18.09: Sat 10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09
Assumed correct but check on www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables and 91 bus

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FROM THE VICARAGE - It was evening. I was working in my office when it happened. From just the other side of the door came a startling, banshee-like wail. I opened the door. A mysterious black cat ran down the stairs and out through the cat flap, pursued by a recent addition to our household. We tried using Facebook to find out who our visitor was, and three possible candidates were suggested - but he hasn't been back. I should explain that last November we adopted two rescue cats from the RSPCA. One is a little boy – what he lacks in size he makes up for in character. The other is his rather larger mum, who spent her first month with us in whatever hiding places she could find. But now she has commandeered a spot on the upstairs landing where she sleeps, and where she cries for goodnight strokes at bedtime. That's where she was when our mysterious feline visitor called, and hostilities broke out. Now, before our cats were allowed to come home with us, we had to complete a questionnaire and provide photographs of the garden and where they would sleep - but there was no discussion of how they would cope with life in a Vicarage, where hospitality and generosity are usually the rule. Finding clumps of our visitor's fur scattered across the lawn showed that teaching them to welcome strangers and share their cat food willingly was going to need some work. *Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it,* says the Letter to the Hebrews. Wise words, probably well worth remembering when strangers call unexpectedly. Especially if you happen to be a cat… **Brian Williams**

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE
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No. 355 August 2023

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

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SUNFLOWER COMPETITION - The measuring day to find the tallest sunflower is Sunday August the 6th. Our official measuring team will be running around the village in the morning with their rulers and if anyone is out on the day in question, please may they be allowed access. Thank you. **Anita and Vernon James**

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - The meeting on the 3rd of July had a packed agenda, but the new team have nearly completed the initial admin tasks. Leaders of the working groups have been assigned: Footpaths & Byways - Paul Tapsell; Communication - Geoff Kaile; Highways - Steve Edwards; Parish Plan delivery - Trevor Johns; Community Liaison - Den Barnard; Environment - Catie Webber; Flood and Drainage - Marian Libaert. The Terms of Reference for each group will be agreed at the next meeting. The Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) signed off by the outgoing council will be reviewed by the new team in conjunction with Kent Highways. A team will be siting the new Jubilee/Coronation bench when the final positioning is agreed. We look forward to seeing parishioners at the meet and greet session at Alkham village hall on Saturday 22nd of July from 10am to 12pm. The next council meeting is on the 4th of September. **Alkham Parish Council**

POLICE - A dedicated Ward Beat Officer called James Chenery has been appointed for our area. He will also cover Capel, Hougham, Denton and Wooton, Lydden, Temple Ewell, River, Maxton and Elms Vale and Dover town centre and the best way of contacting him is via email at james.chenery@kent.police.uk.

PIMLICO WAY – At the end of April last year supposedly bound material was laid on Pimlico Way from its junction with Slip Lane to the top of the hill as the byway was in a poor state. At the time it was thought that the laid material was loose and the contractor said they would put it right but the firm went into receivership so nothing was done. The downpour on the 20th of June washed off a lot of the residual sand mix down Slip Lane and left a pile near the village hall. KCC will see what they can do to rectify the situation, but thanks should go to them for trying. **editor**



CYCLING – A photo from Alan Latham's cycle camera showing that riding in Alkham has become a bit more challenging.

MEET AND GREET the new Parish Council in Alkham village hall on Saturday the 22nd of July from 10am to 12pm.

ON PAGE 2 there is an article about the dangers on the Alkham Valley road and a person who recently moved into the village had a nasty accident in June on the valley road just past Kearsney Abbey when returning home. Having slowed up because of a branch in the road a young driver going far too fast smashed into the back of him at great speed. Amazingly no one was seriously injured.

A2 – The A2 from Whitfield roundabout to the A256 junction was due to close from Friday the 14th to Monday the 17th of July to install 30m long steel beams for the new bridge across the A2. It is for the bus, cycle and pedestrian Fasttrack connection to Dover Priory station.

FOUND - A key with a red fob saying 'Keep Calm and Carry On' was found in the village car park near the bin and bench on the 25th of June; please email catiewebber@me.com to retrieve

FILM NIGHT August 29th 7.30pm
The Railway Children Return
July 25th The Call of The Wild
Free but a donation of £4 is appreciated

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Saturday 12th of August
(No visit in July)
will be outside the village hall 5-6.30pm
Call 07955 926 835 for booking & details
Also cater for weddings, kid's parties, christenings, charity events, fish supper parties and boot fairs



THE ALBERTINE rose is very easy to propagate: just stick some cuttings in the ground in autumn and 2 years later you have flourishing rambling roses. Bryony, who lives in Forstal Cottage, has big pink roses growing up her wall which may well be the Albertine rose possibly contemporary to the period in which sharing rose cuttings was fashionable. She was wondering if anyone in Alkham would be interested in starting up the practice again? Bryony will need to cut back the rose by autumn and would be pleased to share the cuttings and receive any cuttings of other roses to try growing. Please either pop round to Forstal Cottage or email bryonylevermore@hotmail.com.

A RESIDENT wrote to KCC about the dangerous blind bend in the centre of Alkham and the reply from a Cabinet Member was considered perfunctory and following the usual mantra without addressing the particular problem. The letter said that schemes are prioritised on the basis of personal injury accidents and there have only been two recorded minor accidents in the adjacent area in the last three years, so the priority is low. The reply to this was that you should review the validity and impact of concerns of unsafe conditions and to strive to remove traffic hazards and unsafe conditions wherever and whenever they are notified. In addition, police statistics do not include accidents not reported to them or the number of daily near-misses, close-shaves and narrow-escapes. He also feels the proposed additional slow markings and warning signs, including a double bend ahead warning sign will have little effect.

SPEED LIMITS – In the past the national speed limit of 60mph applied to the Alkham Valley road outside the 30mph limits. The distance along the valley outside the 30mph limits is about 5 miles so theoretically it could have taken 5 minutes to cover this distance. If a 40mph limit was imposed, then the time taken would be 2.5 minutes more.

BOX TREE CATERPILLARS - Our box trees have been attacked by box tree caterpillars this year, two in the back garden had been stripped of their leaves before we realised there was a problem. The RHS website says that box tree caterpillars feed within webbing and can completely defoliate box plants. It is a relatively new insect to Britain. Whilst the adult moth was first reported in Britain in 2007, caterpillars were not found in private gardens until 2011, it has since become widely distributed across England. I have spotted a few other affected bushes in the village that have webbing and eaten leaves and if managed now could easily be saved. Please check your bushes. We have started by removing caterpillars by hand and are also using a selective moth trap with pheromones to attract just the male box tree moth. The RHS suggest using non-pesticide control such as pheromone traps which can help monitor adult moth activity are available from several suppliers including Agralan, Dragonfli and Solabiol. The mixed nematode biological sold as Fruit and Vegetable Protection has some effect on the larvae. The caterpillars do have a range of natural enemies including parasitoid flies, parasitoid wasps, earwigs, spiders and ants and there have been reports of birds such as blue tits feeding on the caterpillars in some locations. It is not yet clear if this predation will result in a reduction of box tree moth numbers. **Emma at Box Tree Cottage**

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LETTER TO THE TIMES JUNE 1923 - Twenty years ago we constantly saw columns in the Press headed "The Motor Nuisance". Much traffic has moved over the bridges since then, and today there is the "horse-drawn nuisance". Everywhere horse-drawn carts and vehicles block the faster traffic, despite the praiseworthy attempts of the police to enforce the rule that slow traffic should keep near the kerb. In the great thoroughfares of London, the horse-drawn vehicle delays 95 per cent of mechanical traffic and increases the dangers of the streets to pedestrians and road-users alike. If horse-drawn vehicles could be forbidden in certain crowded thoroughfares between 10am and 6pm, what immediate relief there would be. The slowness of London traffic today, owing to the horse-drawn nuisance, costs millions of pounds a year in wasted time, extra consumption of motor spirit or coal in constant stopping and restarting, the wear and tear of brakes and tyres, and the abrasion of the surface of roads. And there is the human aspect of the strain on tempers and nerves. Today the vehicle propelled by petrol, steam, or electricity can do everything a horse-drawn vehicle can do. In most cases it is cheaper. And the time saved by mechanical transport more than compensates for any extra cost. If all our street traffic moved at a higher and more or less equal speed the relief would be immense. Incidentally, our streets would be more sanitary, for it is chiefly in horse-dung that the pestilential fly breeds, which is more deadly to infant life than any other cause.

ET IN ARCADIA EGO

Stepping into sunshine on the lily
Pond, standing on the largest
flatter stones
Testing out the balance needed
to feel
Secure on the dilapidated ford,
Which always took you safely to
your home
Once, long ago, it seems so long
ago
When walking over blossom to
your dream
Was natural, an idyllic homely
scene.
That rocking, shifting path now
throws you down.
The water's cold and smelly, full
of roots,
A gnarly clutching muddy at your
feet
Disturbing with a fear of greater
loss.
An age-old putrid stink hangs
round your past
Reminding you that some things
never last.

Gail Swainston

ALKHAM W.I. - Our July meeting was all about slaves in Ghana and our speaker was Clive Nuttman. Our next meeting is on August the 8th with fish and chips followed by a quiz; please bring your own refreshments. Raffle Sue Ross. New members are always welcome.

Debbie Griggs

KENT FIRE & RESCUE is urging people to close internal doors before going out or going to sleep, as that's what stopped a fire in a spare room from destroying the rest of a home.



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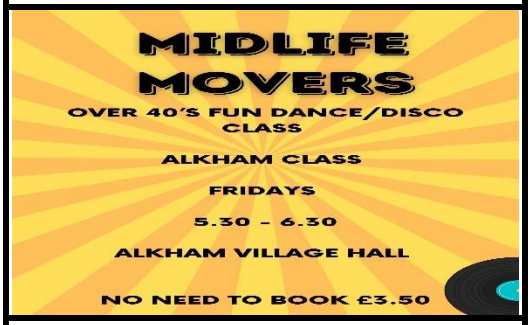

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CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6th	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am
Saturday 12th	*Messy Church, followed by tea* 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 13th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00am	Eucharist 11.00am
Sunday 20th	Worship 9.30 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 27th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00 am

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FROM THE VICARAGE - Over the years I've been given several keepsakes. Some are notelets from grateful couples who were still buzzing with the excitement of their big day – and others, more poignantly, sent with thanks for help through sad and difficult times. One is a photo, given as a memento of a christening when I was still a curate. I had just taken the baby girl in my arms and turned towards the font when she grabbed hold of my beard – and someone, camera at the ready, caught the moment and sent me a copy. I was in that same church once when someone walked in and gazed around. I hadn't seen him before, but he told me proudly that it was *his* family church – it was the place where they always celebrated weddings and held funerals. But it was actually others who, Sunday by Sunday, had kept it going until what they could afford to put in the collection no longer met the cost of keeping it open. Sadly, that baby girl's children – she will be a teenager by now – won't have the option of being christened in the same church as their mum. I've always liked the idea of serving in a church that is there for people when they most need it – but even I must admit that that's getting more challenging. Our numbers have dwindled since the pandemic - but we've responded by holding *more* services in the parish, not less! At least for now, there is a service in each of our churches nearly every Sunday – and everyone is invited! Along with that there are bells to be rung, a choir to sing with, flowers to be arranged and friends to be made. Come and give it a try… **Brian Williams**

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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No. 356 September 2023

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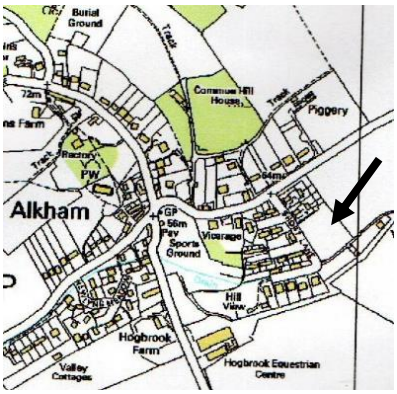

SHORT LANE – A planning application has been made for 8 dwellings on land to the east of Short Lane as shown on the plan. A previous application has been refused and the Parish Council stance remains the same that it is outside the village boundary and the impact on the rural environment.

THE GREAT ALKHAM SUNFLOWER CHALLENGE! - It's not as simple as it sounds growing a sunflower and seeing whose turns out the tallest. 23 people signed up and were at the mercy of slugs, arctic winds, torrential rain, poor timing and storm Antonio and in the case of Irene and Graham a hungry squirrel. However, 18 competitors made it to the end, and this year's winner is Ray Latham who won with 10'8. The rest of the results are Richard Tapsell 9'3; Jo Walker 7'6; Emma 7'3; Tracey 7'0; Vernon 7'0; Ken 6'0; Anne Huggins 5'9; Graham Bissett 5'7; Rachel Fountain 5'6; Nina 5'5; Ross 5'; Trevor 5'; Helen Price 4'8; Tina Matcham 4'8; Irene 4'5; Andrew Koo 4'3; The Marquis 4'3. Thanks to everyone who took part, to Vernon for growing the seedlings and Ang Rolfe for speeding around the village with Vernon measuring Sunflowers and sourcing the prizes. The photo shows Ray, Anita and Ray's granddaughter Edie. **Anita James**



ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL - Over 25 villagers turned out to 'Meet the New Councillors' in July and some interesting ideas and suggestions were put forward. The Jubilee/Coronation bench organised by the previous council has been set up and the old one which it replaced is being refurbished thanks to Paul Libaert. A safety inspection of the village green children's play area by RoSPA has found various safety concerns regarding the 'Trim-Trail' apparatus. Arrangements have been made for its removal after consultation with our insurers. The Speedwatch team continue their regular activities and need more volunteers to keep up the very valuable efforts to improve safety on the Alkham Valley Road. The next Parish Council Meeting is 4th September and although we have to restrict questions and comments from the audience to 15 minutes, please remember all the councillors are very approachable at any time. **Alkham Parish Council.**

NIGHTINGALE DAIRY will be opening soon! Our brand new milk and milkshake vending machine that will be full of fresh, delicious, gently pasteurised milk from our small herd of cows at Chilton Farm is ready to go with a few final admin boxes to tick. Provisional hours at Alkham Village Hall: Monday – Thursday 9.00am to 4pm (supply dependent, when it's gone, it's gone). Please Follow our instagram@nightingale_dairy for more details on official opening dates and other locations throughout the week. We hope to be open in the coming weeks and look forward to seeing our first customers!



GARAGE SALE – There will be garage sale at 10 Glebelands on the 26th August from 9.30am to 4.00pm all welcome.

WELL DONE to Debbie Griggs who held a charity bingo night on the 15th of July that raised a total raised of £1115 of which £615 plus £300 gift aid went to the Pilgrims Hospice and £500 went to motoneuron disease.

ALKHAM CHURCHYARD - The vicar would like to remind people that the churchyard is subject to the regulations. Please see his article on the back page.

FILM NIGHT

September 26th 7.30pm
Phantom of the Open
August 29th 7.30pm
The Railway Children Return
Free but a donation of £4 is appreciated

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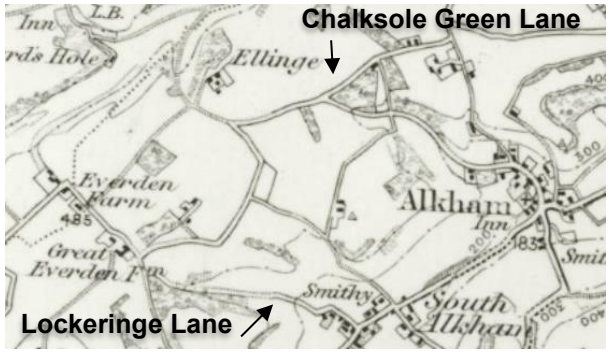
GREAT EVERDEN MANOR The planning application for a hotel at Great Everden Manor (Farm) on Lockeringe Lane has been refused as the proposed development involves external alterations and building operations which are not permitted and the total floorspace created would exceed 500sqm. It would also have a severe impact on the single lane roads which access the site and could also result in unacceptable contamination risks to groundwater. There were over 70 public comments with local people being against the development whilst those outside the parish were in favour. A local businessman says that he has to take his large tractor and trailer up Lockeringe Lane and often meets irate guests from Everden Manor who then have to back up the very narrow and winding lane.



THE OLD MAP on the left shows Lockeringe Lane and Chalksole Green Lane which used to be the priority roads but now have junctions at Little Everden Road and Slip Lane respectively but retain their names.

NEW HOUSES – If you continue along Lockeringe Lane past Everden Farm to the outskirts of Hawkinge a small estate is being built which will be in the parish of Alkham. The photo shows the first phase with a guide price of £800,000.



ROAD RAGE - Several recent events prompted this article; a roadside chat with a resident; advise or abuse from a passing motorist while riding up the valley on my bike; a recent trip to France. Why do drivers scream up and down the valley nose to tail? There have been many accidents and deaths on the valley road during my 20 year residence and as my friend at the roadside said, some treat the speed limits as targets not absolute limits. I can never understand why South Alkham has a 40mph limit rather than 30 mph and why increase the speed limit from 40mph to 50mph after Wolverton Hill when there are a number of houses with driveways. In France they have recently reduced speed limits on roads like the valley from 56 mph to 50mph in order to reduce road accidents and injuries and 20mph limits with traffic calming humps in small settlements like Alkham. In addition, there are a few myths regarding lower speed limits such as congestion, structural changes, ignoring lower limits and emissions and www.transportenvironment.org/wp-content/ uploads/2021/05/11-01-T30.pdf is worth a look as it explains why these are myths. **Alan Latham**

TRAFFIC SPEED – The first speeding fine was in Kent in 1896 when a driver in a Benz was caught doing 8mph. The speed limit was 6mph and the driver was pursued by a constable on a bike and after a 5 mile high speed chase was apprehended. In court he was found guilty and he refused 7 days' hard labour so was fined £4 and 7 shillings, about £200 in today's money.

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SOUTH ALKHAM A safer crossing point at the bottom of Pimlico Way on the valley road is well underway. The landowner Martin Scherer is doing the work himself clearing the old hedge and fence and levelling the ground by the road with an old digger that he bought which has burst a pipe and this accounts for the delay. Martin has the approval of the authorities to provide a widened verge where horses and pedestrians can wait to cross the fast and busy valley road to Meggett Lane and thanks go to him for carrying out this altruistic work.

AVIAN FLU - The Chief Veterinary Officer has confirmed that highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 is present in England and a Protection Zone and a Surveillance Zone has been declared near Elham. The zone has a radius of 3km and encompasses Alkham which is in the surveillance zone and the measures apply from the 20th of July 2023 until the declaration is withdrawn or amended. Further details are at www.gov.uk and kent.gov.uk avian flu.

HELLO, my name is Jodie and I am a local resident with a small sweet business set in Ewell Minnis. I offer a good selection of sweets for all occasions and will offer free delivery to Alkham and Ewell Minnis residents. You can find me on Facebook at Jode's Candy Corner or call on 07834243797. Email is jodescandycorner@gmail.com. There are plenty of pictures for you to view on Facebook. #support small business.

THE OFF-ROADERS are back on Pimlico Way and the Everden link is very difficult to cross on foot. It appears that most of the damage is being done by motorcyclists as there is generally one rut but the 4x4's have gone off the track as can be seen in the photo.





If you go down in the woods today

ALKHAM W.I. - Our August meeting was a relaxing one and we had fish and chips from Seafarers in Cheriton whose food was lovely followed by a quiz and well done to the winning team of Nicola Church, Sue Ross, Sue Koo and Margaret Batcheldor. Our next meeting is on 12th of September and our subject is 'Two truths and a Lie about yourself' and our members will guess which one is the Lie. Hostesses are Christie Peel and Margaret Batcheldor, Raffle Christine Banham. All new members are always welcome.

Debbie Griggs



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Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday	Sit Fit 9.30am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall

Monday	**4**	Parish Council meeting 7.00pm
Tuesday	**12**	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Tuesday	**26**	Film Night – Phantom of the Open
Thursday	**28**	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3rd	Prayer 5.00 pm	Fete at St Radigund's	Eucharist 11.00am
Saturday 9th	Activities and stories at Messy Church 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 10th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	Eucharist 11.00am
Sunday 17th	Worship 9.30 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00am
Sunday 24th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00am

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.18,9.48,11.23,13.23,14.53,17.28: Sat: 9.48,11.18,13.18,15.28
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VICAR Brian Williams 01303 243784
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MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669: **KCC** David Beaney 07818 024487
DDC cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk 07796444860**.**
LOCAL SITES alkham.org alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk
alkhamvalleytraffic2@btinternet.com

FROM THE VICARAGE - *'I told you I was ill!'* Veteran comedian Spike Milligan's epitaph on his tombstone in St Michael's Churchyard, Winchelsea, was voted the nation's favourite in a 2012 poll. For the parish priest, it would have been a headache. The Churchyard Regulations are the Law of the Land, not just what vicars make up when they find graves festooned with plastic gnomes. They are to churchyards what the Road Traffic Act is to motorways – and like speed cameras, they can catch out the unwary. For instance, how many know that stone chippings and kerbs around graves are ruled out on safety grounds? Or that you can plant bulbs or border plants on graves, but not rose bushes, shrubs, or trees? Thinking of planting some bulbs in the Memorial Garden? Please don't. As cremated remains are buried only about a foot deep, digging anywhere near them risks the inevitable. That's why the Regulations allow only wreaths and fresh flowers to be left there. How many realise that you need a faculty – a kind of legal permission – before you can put a bench, or even a flower container, in a churchyard - or that tombstones and their inscriptions must meet certain conditions? As petty as this might seem, the Regulations aim to be fair while maintaining churchyards as *Christian* burial grounds in which the departed are laid to rest in hope of Heaven. In fact, Spike Milligan's quirky epitaph was at first considered inappropriate for a churchyard. Eventually, a compromise was reached: it was carved in Gaelic. Fancy your own quirky epitaph? Perhaps first ask yourself whether something like *Up The Reds* or *Long Live Rock 'n Roll* on your tombstone will mean anything to anyone reading it two centuries or more from now. Especially if it's carved in Gaelic… **Brian Williams**

Alkham Monthly Newsletter

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
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No. 357 October 2023

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THRILLED to announce the Marquis of Granby's team wins at the local cricket tournament, The Alkham Ashes. A big thank you to those who came out and supported the event and to the Alkham cricket Club for their spirited game. We look forward to organising next year's matches and seeing you all there! **The Marquis**

ALKHAM FETE - After a few years' absence, we are aiming to have a Fete next year (probably 13th July 2024) so if you are interested in helping run a stall or on the day, please give me a call on 01303 892082 (and/or leave a message if I don't pick up). We will be having a meeting in late October (date to be confirmed - I'll let you know when you call!). Everyone is welcome, we're always happy to see new faces and hear new ideas! **Paul Tapsell**

THANK YOU to everyone who attended September's parish council meeting. The next one is on Monday 6th November at 7pm in the village hall. The outgoing council Highways Improvement Plan budget has been approved. The Community Led Plan is now on the parish council website. The policies and procedures for the council are now finalised. The terms of reference for the work group are approved. If you have an interest or experience in the following areas - Highways; Communications and Involvement; Parish plan; Environment - please get in touch at clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk. The working groups require parishioners so please put your name forward by 16th October for consideration. **Alkham Parish Council**

TEMPLE EWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN MORNING - Is your child starting in Reception in September 2024? If so, please join us for one of our Open Mornings on Thursday 9th November at 9.15am or 10.45am. To book your place, please call our school office on 01304 822665. **Nicola Church**

HARVEST SUPPER - This year the Harvest Supper will be a little different as we have not got the amount of people to help. It will be an American Supper where you bring your own food, drink, crockery and glasses. It will be on Monday 9th October at 19.00 in Alkham Village Hall and the tickets will be £5.00 each. There will be the usual auction of harvest produce and a raffle. If anyone can help with produce or prizes, I would be very grateful. Please ring me Carol Mannall 01304 826514 or 07946106742 and hope to see many of you there again this year. **Carol Mannall**

HARVEST FESTIVAL - Catie Webber would like some help decorating St. Anthony's church for Harvest Festival on October the 6th and 7th from 2pm to 4 pm. Donations of produce such as jams, honey etc., garden greenery with autumnal foliage or berries to help with the decoration would be appreciated.

THE BELLS – Pat Yeomans who lives in the centre of the village would like to thank the bell ringers at St. Anthony's church for ringing the bells so well as she was sitting in her garden on a sunny evening. Like the cricket on the green it is a quintessential part of village life and long may it continue.

FILM NIGHT

October 31st 7.30pm

The Lost City Sandra Bullock

September 26th

Phantom of the Open

Free but a donation of £4 is appreciated

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Call 07955 926 835 for booking & details
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FLINT WALL – Much to their credit the owners of Malmains Manor on Slip Lane are having their flint boundary wall rebuilt. However, fate has taken a hand and an articulated lorry took the wrong road and whilst trying to turn round knocked a large hole in the wall and on the Warren Lane side a nocturnal vehicle which didn't stop also knocked down a length of new wall.

WATER LEAK - You may have noticed a water leak in Slip Lane recently. This was caused by a split in the 'communication' pipe from the steel water main pipe to a property stop tap. This pipe is made of lead which was banned in 1969 as it is known to be a health hazard. Affinity water has a program of replacing lead pipe but any pipes from the stop tap to your house are your responsibility. I replaced my supply pipe some years ago but it appears there is still a small length in the Lane belonging to Affinity Water. If you do have lead supply pipes the guidance is to get it replaced or at least run the tap for a minute in the morning and if you have been out all day for a minute in the evening. The standing water absorbs lead from the pipe and there is more information on www. affinitywater.co.uk/alerts/lead-pipe-replacement. **Alan Latham**

GARDEN WASTE - Dover District Council will introduce new wheeled bins for garden waste collections from April 2024 and existing customers changing over to the new service will be provided with a free 240L wheeled bin. The current annual subscription fee is £58 for a 25-alternate week service and the 2024/25 subscription will be reviewed as part of the annual review of fees and charges. Not everyone is in favour of this because of the possible weight of the filled bin.

VILLAGE HALL – The hall has two CCTV cameras on the front of the building as a security measure for the hall car park and the premises and one camera does pick up the rubbish bin in the car park opposite.

THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS on the Alkham Valley road near the A20 overbridge are for contractors working for National Highways to carry out their work safely adjacent to the valley road. When the new A20 dual carriageway was built in the 1990's a drainage lagoon was installed at this point to take the run-off rainwater from the A20 and the lagoon is now being cleared of built up material plus other works carried out to mitigate the problem.

ALKHAM W.I. - Thank you to Nicola Church for organising our September meeting, it was an enjoyable one. Our next meeting will be October 10th when it's our auction night so would every member please bring something along for the auction i.e. unwanted Christmas present or something they no longer need. Hostesses Helen Price, Christine Banham, raffle Debbie Saunders. All new members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

BASKETBALL HOOP - If anyone is interested in there being a basketball hoop installed in the village and/or playing basketball in general, please contact Harlan ba@thewebbers.org.

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THE NAILBOURNE or Alkham Bourne as most people know is the natural stream that occasionally flows down the valley. The Alkham area lies on chalk that is highly porous and when saturated the water starts to flow above ground. In the distant past it created a small river which flowed from about a mile west of the village at Drellingore where the water rises and archaeologists have found some evidence of this after unearthing a landing stage at Wolverton just to the east of the village. In 1898 the water company built a pumping station near Drellingore and pumped the water to a reservoir at Terlingham on the high ground by Hawkinge to provide clean water to the Folkestone area and this greatly reduced the flow of the nailbourne and had a bad effect on the lakes at Temple Ewell. The photo was taken in 1897 somewhere near where Newlyns Meadow is now and North Hill House in the centre of Alkham can be seen in the distance on the left. The photo is made more human by the photographer's shadow and two ladies out for a walk. **editor**

COMMUNITY GROUPS in the district looking for vital funding to help support local people with the cost of living are being encouraged to apply to Dover District Council's Cost of Living Community Impact Fund. The funding includes £7,500 from the Dover District Lotto and £30,000 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. DDC's new Cost of Living Community Impact Fund has been developed from the long-standing DDC Community Grants Scheme. Under the new scheme, applicants can apply for between £100 and £2,500. There will be one round of funding for 23/24. The grants are to help people with the cost of living, focusing on supporting communities in financial hardship. The closing date for applications is 5pm Monday 23 October 2023. For more information see DDC website dover.gov.uk/communitygrants.

MEGGETT COTTAGE – We have now re-opened our holiday cottage which is now managed by Keeperscottages.co.uk. It sleeps 6 and has a conservatory overlooking the valley. We are pet friendly with an enclosed garden and ideal retreat for friends and relatives. **Helen and Simon Price 01303 252764** - *The cottage is about ¾ mile south of the centre of Alkham.*





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Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday	Sit Fit 9.30am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall

Tuesday	**10**	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Thursday	**26**	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm
Tuesday	**31**	Film Night – The Lost City

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1st	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Saturday 7th	Messy Church, followed by tea 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 8th HARVEST	Eucharist 9.30 am	Harvest Festival 11.00 am	West Hougham Village Hall 11.00 am
Sunday 15th	Worship 9.30 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 22nd	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00pm	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 29th	St Mary's (Capel Old Church United Parish Eucharist 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.18,9.48,11.23,13.23,14.53,17.28: Sat: 9.48,11.18,13.18,15.28
To Folkestone 9.09,10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09,18.09: Sat 10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09
Assumed correct but check on www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables and 91 bus

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PARISH CLERK AND COUNCILLORS clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk
HALL BOOKING Shirley Prince 828098 **W.I. SECRETARY** Janet Barrow 829585
VICAR Brian Williams 01303 243784
AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641 alkhamvs.org
MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669: **KCC** David Beaney 07818 024487
DDC cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk 07796444860.
LOCAL SITES alkham.org alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk
alkhamvalleytraffic2@btinternet.com

From the vicarage - I had thought that for me, job interviews were a thing of the past. But then I spotted an appeal from Canterbury Cathedral for local clergy to volunteer to assist at the service of Choral Evensong that takes place there each evening. After an informal chat came a voice test - I was given a sheet of music and a note on a piano, and off I went, hoping that what I was singing matched what was on the sheet. Then, a few evenings later came the test: the Cathedral fell silent, I held a tuning fork to my ear, and sang: *O Lord, open thou our lips…* The choir sang the response: *And our mouth shall show forth thy praise…* Over the next forty-five minutes or so I sang a bit more, led the prayers and introduced the final hymn. I'd made the grade, and was subsequently installed as an Honorary Minor Canon – which sounds grand, but I'm still just a volunteer really. Cathedrals need several priests, or Canons, to run everything. The one who organises services is called the Precentor - Canterbury hasn't had one for a while, but that changes in November when Revd Wendy Dalrymple arrives. The photo that accompanied the announcement showed her standing in front of a stained-glass window wearing a short-sleeved blouse and clerical collar with a splendid array of tattoos on her arms. I won't dignify the bile that this photo prompted by repeating it here. But evidently someone who is heavily tattooed themselves saw the story and remarked that they didn't know that people like them were welcome in church – but now they do. I look forward to meeting Canon Wendy and being on her team. And in case you're wondering, I don't have any tattoos – honest! **Brian Williams**

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
and magazine

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE
Telephone 01304 824969
brianwimsett@hotmail.com

No. 358 November 2023

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

Non-profit & delivered free to the Parish



VILLAGE SIGN - Our appreciation and thanks from all in the village to Ken and Sandy Spencer for refurbishing the Alkham sign outside Bren Tor and Halton Court. Looks very smart indeed. Thanks also to Vernon James and Mat Walecki for their assistance in detaching the sign from the signpost. **Irene Barnard**

CHALKSOLE GREEN – The Parish Council are aware of the signs that were put up on Chalksole Green and are pursuing the matter. A request was made not to include further details, but the matter should be resolved soon. Chalksole Green is at the top of the steep hill leading off Slip Lane by Malmains Manor. **editor**

ACCIDENT – On Saturday the 7th of October a Stagecoach bus collided with a machine being drawn by a tractor near Standen Terrace on the Alkham Valley Road. No one was injured but the bus driver was taken to hospital with glass in her eye and the road was blocked for a short time. **Photo by passenger Di Crockford**



THE PARISH COUNCIL have installed four bins at the end of the green near Short Lane. These bins are going to be used to make compost from the leaves etc. that fall in the ditch and surrounding area. The Parish council would be grateful if general rubbish and dog waste are not put into these bins. They are for Parish council use only. **Marian Libaert** …

THANKS also for the getting the sump opposite the village hall and the dyke either side of culvert under Hogbrook Lane cleared and the grip through the hedge from the Hogbrook Lane.

OFFICERS from the Rural Task Force will mark your property free which is aimed at the rural business community, such as farms and stables. Types of property that can be marked range from saddles, powers tools, larger items such as diggers and quad bikes; the items are normally engraved with an address and postcode. To take up this offer please email rural.task.force@kent.police.uk or post a request at the farmwatch WhatsApp group. They could attend Alkham village Hall for a morning so please contact this newsletter (see banner at top) and if there are enough people it can be arranged.

NEWSLETTER – A remark was made that there wasn't much news in the last edition, which was fair comment, so I've revised the banner to include 'magazine'. Some months there is not much news to report so articles (always welcome) are included which hopefully people will find interesting. **Editor**

HARVEST SUPPER - Just a note to say thank you to all who helped, donated raffle prizes and auction produce. The total raised was £572.90 and well done to everyone who participated. It was grand to see villagers socialize and make a lovely evening. **Carol Mannall**

TEA & A CHAT - On the last Thursday of each month, there is an informal get-together which is open to all villagers. A chance to meet and get to know local people over a cup of tea, or coffee, with nice biscuits. No charge, just turn up from 2.30-4.00. All welcome. **Janet Adamson**

ALKHAM VALLEY SOCIETY AGM will be held on the 21st of November in Alkham Village Hall starting at 7 pm, all welcome. The agenda will be on the website and sent to members 14 days prior to meeting. **Catie Webber**

A LADY'S BRACELET was found outside the Marquis on Saturday the 7th of October. Please contact me if it's yours. **Catie@thewebbers.org**

FILM NIGHT

November 28th 7.30pm

Save the Cinema **Jonathon Pryce**

October 31st 7.30pm

The Lost City Sandra Bullock

Free but a donation of £4 is appreciated

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FUTURE OF ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD MEGGETT – PIMLICO JUNCTION



The Meggett to Pimlico junction is one of the most frequently used and yet risky crossing on the Valley Road. There have been multiple vehicle accidents and two horses have died here in the last decade. The Pimlico embankment was being eroded by rabbits and was covered in a dying blackthorn hedge that presented injury risks to passing horses and walkers, and restricted sight lines for safe crossing. This has been cleared to provide a flat and safe surface with no kerb hidden by grass. This will reduce risk to car drivers, help prevent flood waters wash silt, gravel and flints onto the valley road that cut tyres, block drains, and damage the road surface; to horse riders on the dog leg junction that forces diagonal crossing reduce and also the local residents and visitors who frequently cross the road. In addition, the bus stop needs to be upgraded to a shelter similar to that the APC provided at Wolverton Hill Junction. Demand for this bus stop is increasing from the nearby caravan park, garden centre, equestrian centre, and new AirBnB's. The new crossing also fulfils KCC's policy of connecting existing footpaths to enable greater and safer access to the countryside. It's really up to residents to decide what they want together with the Parish and County Councillor's support. **Martin Scherer**

FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE - With the landowners' permissions an excellent AVS work party was organised at short notice on the 16th of September to tidy the Village Hall garden and car park as well as to strim and woodchip parts of several footpaths around the village. With the excessive rain this summer the growth of nettles, brambles and hedges had become nuisances to users. ER 183 in front of Malmains Farm and ER 162 in front of the Church leading to Slip Lane were so overgrown as to be impassable and dangerous. Members enjoyed a hot sunny afternoon working as a group using their own garden tools. Thus the job was done urgently and at no expense to the beleaguered Parish and County Council purses. A woof of appreciation from the dog walkers and a huge thank you to all the generous folks involved. It helped that many of them were loaded with sugar and caffeine from Mike and Sue Ross's excellent MacMillan Coffee morning. **Catie Webber AVS**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our next meeting will be on the 14th of November at 7.30pm and our speaker will be Nicola Church showing us how to make our very own Christmas cards. Hostesses are Jane Aslett and Marian, raffle Christine Peel, VOT Debbie Griggs. New members always welcome **Debbie Griggs**

LATE NIGHT CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

SOUTHERN EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES on the 7th of December we will be open until 8pm; come and join us for mulled wine and festive nibbles.

ALKHAM VALLEY GARDEN CENTRE AND TEA ROOMS late night Christmas shopping; we will be open until 8pm and the local W.I. will be singing carol's on the night by candlelight from 5.30pm on the 7th, please come and join them for a sing along.

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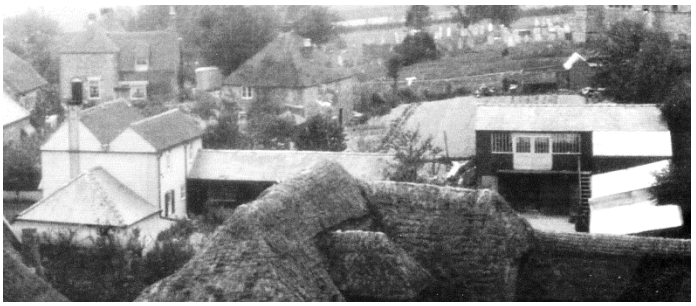

THE OLD POST OFFICE in the past was a property of some importance. On the right of the photo are the stables where coaches changed their horses and on the left is the shop and in the foreground are the thatched barns to Halton Farm. The house dates from about 1880 and originally was half the size with a cat slide roof but was extended to twice the size which accounts for the gully. At the beginning of the 20th century the shop was added to the side of the house and the post office and shop which was behind the Marquis of Granby moved to the new location. The cellar doors to the shop can still be seen on Slip Lane together with the GR post box and a 'Stick No Bills' sign. The paraffin was stored in the raised shed on the right and this together with the stables burnt down in the 1960's. The property had several owners over the years, one being John Luxton who had the bungalow called Meadowside built on part of the land when he retired. The shop eventually closed in 1978 and became part of the main house. **Editor**

ASIAN HORNETS have become very prevalent this Summer in the UK and particularly our area of East Kent. We have just found one in a trap in our garden and many more sightings and nests have been found in neighbouring parishes. What is it? from www.nonnativespecies.org: An invasive non-native hornet originally from Asia. Asian hornet is a highly aggressive predator of native insects and poses a significant threat to honeybees and other pollinators. In 2004 it was accidentally introduced to France where it has spread rapidly and into neighbouring countries. Since 2016 a number of sightings have been recorded in the UK. It looks most like a large wasp, it is smaller than our native European Hornet. The Asian hornet is 25-30mm long. It has yellow legs, a yellowish face and one yellow segment on an otherwise black abdomen. I have put some pictures up on the village hall notice board but the best resource for both identification and reporting is the free app: Asian Hornet Watch. You can also report suspected sightings on the website www.nonnativespecies.org/alerts/asianhornet. Or by email alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk. The response to my reported sighting was very quick. Look out for large nests usually in trees but they may also uses garages or sheds. Now is the time that mated queens are preparing for over wintering in any small refuge. **Emma, Box Tree Cottage**

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL have produced a Green Infrastructure Strategy, www.dover.gov.uk/Planning/Regeneration/PDF/Draft-Dover-District-Green-Infrastructure-Strategy-for-Consultation-2023.pdf and the consultation ends on November the 14th. If you wish to comment, go to www.dover.gov.uk, 'send us a message' and pick Environmental issues.

GET INVOLVED - The Kent & Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy is a strategy for everyone – it will shape what our nature and landscape will look like in years to come across Kent and Medway. We need everyone's input and there will be many opportunities to get involved so please go to www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk/get-involved.



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Tuesday	**21**	Alkham Valley Society AGM 7pm
Tuesday	**28**	Film Night – Save the Cinema
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CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00am
Saturday 11th	Messy Church, followed by tea 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 12th REMEMBRANCE	**Service 10.15 am**	**Service 10.15 am**	**Service 10.15 am**
Sunday 19th	Worship 9.30 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 26th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00 am

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FROM THE VICARAGE - At my other job as a supply teacher one afternoon, I worked with some students who were soon to sit their Maths GCSE exam. As they finished coursework and practiced past exam papers, one looked up: "*'Ere Sir – are you a vicar?"* They thought I sounded like one, apparently – and my cover was soon blown. Fascinated at having a supply teacher who doubled as a vicar, questions began to flow.*"Don't Christians say that God's everywhere?"* one girl asked. I replied that they do. She turned pale. "*So, whatever you're doing, God knows about it…"* The idea bothered her – but she was right. '*O Lord, you have searched me and known me…'* says Psalm 139. *'You know when I sit down and when I rise up… Where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there… if I make my bed in the grave, you are there….'* Yes, Christians do believe that God's everywhere. November begins with All Saints' Day. While others are preoccupied with ghoulies, ghosties and four-legged posties, Christians celebrate the lives of saints. I used to serve in a church that was shared with a Greek Orthodox congregation. Like other Orthodox churches it was decorated with pictures of the saints. We were in their company; their eyes seemed to follow you around, and if that felt unnerving it nevertheless held out the comforting thought that whatever life brings, we never journey through it alone. The saints are everywhere, too. A last word from St John of the Cross, a Spanish Carmelite monk. He once spoke with a nun who was frantic with worry about what God thought of the life she'd lived. *"Don't worry,"* he said. *"At the Judgement, you will be judged by someone who loves you."* **Brian Williams**

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Merry Christmas

AS CHRISTMAS is just around the corner, I want to let everyone know that this year, turning on of the Christmas tree lights will be on Saturday the 9th of December at 5.30pm on the village green. Enjoy some mulled wine and a Christmas carol or two. Father Christmas will be there putting us even more into the festive mood. Please come along, village turnout was fantastic last year, let's make it even better this year. Secondly, we would like to hold another Christmas party in the village hall. Unfortunately, this can't be carried out the same evening as the Christmas tree lights but will be on the 2nd of December, from 7pm. Sharing food worked very well in the past, so we would like to do this again, there will be a raffle, all proceeds will go towards the village fund and of course, any donations would be gratefully received. if you would like to come to the party, please let us know (on the email below) and between us we can decide who will bring what food. This is a great opportunity for a get together, have fun, enjoy good food and a little dancing. Hope to hear from you. **Graham West (west_deborah@ymail.com)**

ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS -The Community-led Parish plan has been published and working groups set up to help implement it. Wardens are in place for priority areas and decisions are beginning to be actioned. The council policies and procedures have been reviewed and modified where necessary. We are about to begin reviewing the financial budget for next year, including replacements for the damaged playground apparatus. The drain clearing work by the village hall has been completed (and tested thoroughly by the recent weather). Some volunteers have come forward to generate some ideas for the telephone box in Ewell Minnis - further ideas gratefully appreciated. We would like to thank volunteers for putting themselves forward for the working groups, but we are still looking for more and for any ideas to improve facilities in the parish. Please do get in touch. Speedwatch have also informed us that they require more volunteers. Please contact Glyn Jones for more information. Thanks to our DDC Councillor Martin Hibbert and KCC Councillor Dave Beaney for their ongoing assistance. **Alkham Parish Council**

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING



On the 7th of December Southern Equestrian Supplies will be open until 8pm with mulled wine and festive nibbles available and Alkham Valley Garden Centre and Tea Rooms will have late night Christmas shopping until 8pm. The Alkham W.I. and the Alkham choir will also be singing carols on the night by candlelight from 5.30pm and everyone is welcome to come and join them for a singalong.

POPPY APPEAL - I would like to thank the Alkham and Ewell Minnis villagers, and visitors, for their generosity. Together you have donated a magnificent £807.12 to the 2023 Poppy Appeal. This will go to members of the Royal Navy, British Army, Royal Airforce, veterans and their families, when they need support. My thanks also go to Shirley, Helen, George, Larry, and Beverley, who went out collecting regardless of the very unhelpful weather! And thanks go too, to the Alkham Garden Centre and Tea Rooms, Southern Equestrian and The Marquis of Granby for having collecting tins. **Rachel Fountain**

FREE DOG CAGE for a small dog. Please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

FILM NIGHT

No film in December

November 28th 7.30pm
Save the Cinema Jonathon Pryce
Free but a donation of £4 is appreciated

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Saturday 9th December
(11th November)
will be outside the village hall 5-6.30pm
Call 07955 926 835 for booking & details
Also cater for weddings, kid's parties, christenings, charity events, fish supper parties and boot fairs



PREDICTION – The Drelligore Nailbourne is a natural spring that runs when the water table is high and appears to flow in roughly a 13 year cycle. In recent times it flowed in 1974, 1987, 2001 and 2014 which makes the village green a lake and cause floods elsewhere and if the cycle continues it should flow again in 2027. Ray Latham who lives in the village has a rain gauge and since 2014 has recorded the monthly rainfall and he predicts it will flow next year as the rainfall in 2023 is the highest it has been over that period. The photo above shows the village green in 2014 with a couple going for paddle.

POWER CUT 2nd NOVEMBER 2023 - Storm Cairan brought down a good number of trees and branches which in turn took out the power supply in the area. It was off from 8.0am to 4.0pm and during that period I walked and met a number of people who told me of their particular problems; no light to read by, no digital telephone line, no TV and no internet browsing, though the latter was not a domestic power issue this time. I had similar and had been looking for a means to provide my own power. One answer is a rechargeable battery power station or pack. I have bought a 0.5kWh EcoFlow available from Argos. Other brands are Anker and Jackery. It has two 3 pin sockets and is rated at 500 Watts and so you can plug in your router, TV, gas boiler, gas cooker, table lamps and many other low power items, less than 500 Watts. The 3kW radiator or kettle will not work though you could buy a low power kettle used by campers. It also has 4 USB sockets for charging items and a 12 volt car socket. The photograph shows the power pack running a TV and router. **Alan Latham**



SAFETY CONCERN – An Alkham resident has been trying to do something about the danger of accessing his property from and to the adjacent busy Alkham Valley road but has had no success with KCC, the Police or the Health and Safety Executive, the latter advising him to contact the Ombudsman. Their initial assessment is that, based on the KCC letter, they are unable to determine whether the KCC have had the opportunity to consider the complaint and reply. They have instructed him to contact KCC directly, again, and request them to escalate the complaint and send him a final response from the Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport.

NATIONAL COASTWATCH INSTITUTION is recruiting volunteers to help people keep safe on the water, on the beach and along the coast path. No experience needed and full training is given. For an information pack please call 01303 227132 and further information is on their web site www.nci-folkestone.org.

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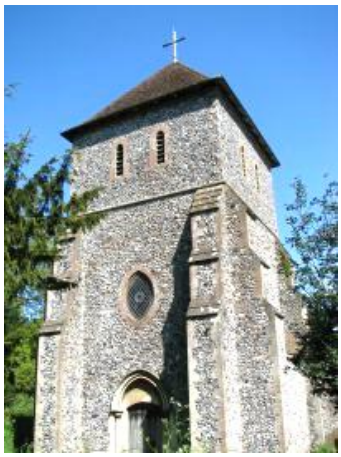

THE BELLS - Have you stood on a Wednesday evening in the village listening to the church bells ringing for their hour of practice session. If you have and like me thought, I can do that it's easy it's just pulling a long piece of rope then wipe that thought from your mind. Having recently taken up church bell ringing with my husband Vernon at Alkham Church in July, it's more difficult than I thought it would be whilst there is an element of simply pulling a rope which is good for the arms I have to say, it also requires good timing something which the rest of the team are better at than myself and a lot of concentration. After 5 months I am getting there and I'm pleased to say, thankfully the rest of team are really patient and very supportive, and I am just about to try to move onto the next step. So, if you heard any clanging about it was probably me at the end of an extremely long rope with concentration written all over my face, unable to get bell 2 to stop. And if you are passing the church in the summer when we have the back door open stick your head in and watch us in action. We usually practice on a Wednesday evening between 6pm and 7pm and welcome visitors. **Anita James**



MARGARET DANSTEAD would like to thank all the Alkham villagers, who together with other friends and family helped her to raise £200 for the recent sponsored Ride & Stride event. Half of this amount will be awarded directly to St. Antony's Church, the rest going into the 'Friends of Kent Churches' fund which provides grants for the preservation of Christian Church buildings. In spite of September the 9th being a particularly sweltering hot day, I enjoyed cycling from village to village, visiting nine Churches. Thank you again for your support.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our November meeting was making Christmas cards and thank you to Nicola Church for being patient with us. We will not be having a meeting in December as on the 12th of December we will be having our Christmas meal. Our next meeting will be January 9th 2024. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

POST PERSEUS

If you had appeared on a snorting dragon
I would have believed.
If you had shown mythic propensities
I would have been intrigued
By your power, with your strength,
In my imaginings.
But you came ambling off the lane,
Shuffled up the drive,
Drifted in a cloud of summer dust,
And changed my world forever.
Gail Swainston

THE NIGHTINGALE DAIRY vending machine is now in the village hall car park on Tuesday and Thursday between 9am and 4pm dispensing fresh pasteurised milk and milkshakes.





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Please ring Shirley for information on 01304 828098

Regular events in the village hall	
Tuesday	Keep Fit 10.00 am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall		
Saturday	**9**	Christmas Tree Lights switch on 5pm village green

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3rd	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00am
Saturday 9th	*Activities and stories at Messy Church.* 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 10th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	*Carols at West Hougham VH 11.00 am*
Saturday 16th		Carols 7.00 p.m.	
Sunday 17th	9 Lessons & Carols 6.30 p.m.	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 24th	United Parish Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Sunday 24th	Crib service 4.30 pm Mass 11.30 pm	Crib service 3.00 pm. Mass 11.30 pm	
Christmas Day			Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 31st	United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.18,9.48,11.23,13.23,14.53,17.28: Sat: 9.48,11.18,13.18,15.28
To Folkestone 9.09,10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09,18.09: Sat 10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09
Assumed correct but check on www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables and 91 bus

FROM THE VICARAGE - If you want to know the true meaning of Christmas, we're told, be like the carrot in one of the cleverest TV commercials I've seen so far this year, based on Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Christmas is, apparently, about being good, unselfish, and prepared to share with others. At least that - along with encouragement to shop in a certain supermarket - seems to be the message of the advert. It's easier to make sense of the advert if you know the original story. On holiday in Scotland years ago I came across a book called *The Story of Goliath and Wee Davie.* It is based on the Biblical story in which, against the odds, David the shepherd boy defeats Goliath the Philistine giant in battle. But according to Jimmie Macgregor's illustrated version, alcohol was the real reason for Goliath's downfall – but the humour only really works if you do know the original story. I was at a clergy meeting not long ago where we were encouraged to have something available in our churches that might explain, in simple terms, what Christianity is about – because the days when it could be assumed that everyone would know the original story have gone. Over the next few weeks there will be plenty of opportunities to hear the original Christmas story. I always look forward to December, and to catching up with those who come to our Carol Services, our Crib Services on Christmas Eve, and Midnight Mass - and I hope that we might see you there. And we must remember that being good, unselfish, and prepared to share with others is for life, not just for Christmas. And not just for carrots, either. Wishing you a very Happy Christmas, and a Peaceful New Year. **Brian Williams**

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
and magazine

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE
Telephone 01304 824969
brianwimsett@hotmail.com

No. 360 January 2024

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

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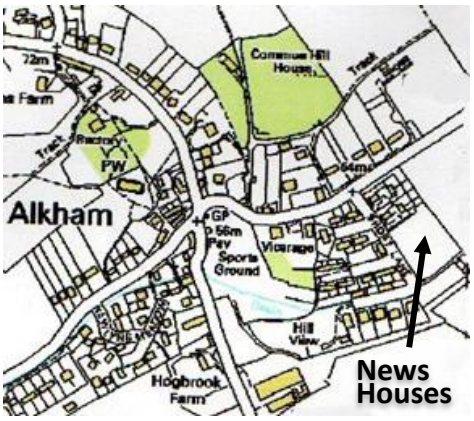

PLANNING PERMISSION has been granted for 8 houses on the land to the east of Short Lane despite the Parish Council objecting to it as not being suitable for housing development and there were also numerous objections from Alkham residents.

DRELLINGORE NAILBOURNE –The prediction in last month's newsletter was correct as the nailbourne is running with some force and the village green has become a lake. Melven Kirby, who lives at Chalksole and is a farmer, has recorded rainfall for the environment agency since 1988 and according to his records the year 2000 was the only year to have had more rainfall to the end of November. In that year the village green was also a large lake and roads in the area were under water, sewers blocked, and the village hall floor had to be replaced. KCC has an emergency line which can be rung if there are dangerous conditions and the numbers are 03000 41 81 81 during working hours and off-peak is 03000 41 91 91. The water level can be viewed at https://riverlevels.uk/river-dour-alkham-valley-borehole.



CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS
There was a good crowd of about 40 adults and children who came along for the turning on of the Alkham Christmas Tree lights on the 9th of December on the village green. Father Christmas was there and gave sweets to the children and to a great cheer Meadow, on the left, turned on the lights which was followed by mulled wine for those who wanted it. Thanks go to Debbie and Graham West who organized the event and heated the wine on a portable stove and Kevin Rolfe who made his annual appearance. If you would like the newsletter in colour please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.



LORRY PUMPS are currently stationed on the village car park opposite the village hall pumping out water and other matter from the sewers which have been overwhelmed by the nailbourne running.

THE ANNUAL post-Christmas walk is held on the 27th of December. Climate change or not We leave, children, animals and the Rest of Us at 10.00am from the Alkham Village Hall in the footsteps of a skilled leader. We return to the Village Hall a couple of hours later where this year we are invited to enjoy drinks and nibbles before dispersing. **Jo Walker On behalf of the Alkham Valley Society**

MANY THANKS to the Alkham Garden Centre for giving a Christmas tree to St. Anthony's church. It will be much appreciated by those going to the carol and crib services.



FIRST few Christmas trees are ready, freshly cut to order and prices start from £20. Message Paul on 07763327548 or Paulking9691@gmail.com. Trees are at Fen Farm Abbey Rd Hougham CT15 7DH

FILM NIGHT

January 30th 7.30pm

The Quiet Girl

Free but a donation of £4 is appreciated

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ALKHAM VALLEY GARDEN CENTRE and Tea rooms winter opening hours as from now: Monday 9am to 4pm, Tuesday 9am to 4pm, Wednesday 9am to 4pm, Thursday 9am to 4pm, Friday 9am to 4pm, Saturday 9am to 6pm, Sunday 10am to 5pm. Please note Monday to Friday last serving is 3.30pm in the tea rooms, Saturday 5.30pm, Sunday 4.15pm. We will be open Christmas Eve 9am to 1pm then reopen on January 5th 2024; please note all through January we will be shutting on Mondays and Tuesdays until the beginning of February. Merry Christmas to all our customers

ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD – There were a number of accidents due to black ice in the Standen area in early December and one driver slid off the road and got out of his car which was then hit by a lorry which skidded on the ice shortly followed by a third car leaving the road. The first driver escaped with a fractured pelvis and is now walking with crutches. Some good news is that the Highway Authority has resurfaced the valley road where that appalling large trench reinstatement carried out in the 1990's near the Old Hawkinge road was.



NEW SEATS – The Parish Council have installed a new seat by the side of the dyke overlooking the village green with a clear view of the cricket pitch. They had previously installed a new seat by the bus shelter with two plaques commemorating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 and King Charles III coronation in 2023. Well done to the Parish Council for all their proactive work. **Editor**

SCAM EMAILS – If you get an email from someone you know asking to send a voucher to a friend or relative of theirs as they cannot access the internet or similar it is probably a scam. Generally, it says that a friend or relative is very ill and please could you email £200 of Apple vouchers to some email address. They also send emails purporting to be a son or daughter who needs some money quickly and this may also be a scam. The advice is to contact the person whose name has been used in the email and ask them if they have sent it.

AN UPDATE on the emergency power station I wrote about last month. After fitting a plug to the electricity supply to my gas boiler (boiler manual says this is ok) I plugged it into my Ecoflow power pack to see if it would work and how long it would keep going for. I had another power pack for many years but its output was a "modified sine wave" which modern electronics do not like and so it would not drive the boiler; avoid. The Ecoflow has a "pure sine wave" and the boiler fired up straightaway. It was before the current cold spell but it kept the boiler going for 9 hours before the power pack battery was exhausted at about 9.00pm. The display on the pack shows how much power is being consumed and the boiler used about 80 Watts when running. I connected my TV to it and it uses about 60 Watts. Surprisingly my TV uses 20 Watts when on standby when all you can see is a little red LED under the screen. In contrast when I put them all in one computer on standby it uses nothing that is measurable. An LED bulb in a table lamp uses next to nothing shooting 0 Watts output even though the bulb is lit. My interest in this small scale test was fired by electric cars and powering your home from the battery. Charge it with low cost electricity and run your home when rates are high. Is there anyone out there with similar interests who would like to share their experience? **Alan Latham**

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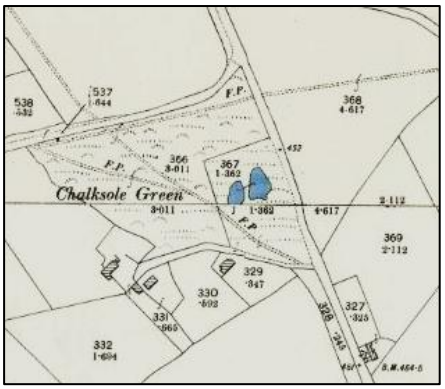

CHALKSOLE GREEN – Until the 17th century some of the land owned by the Lords of the Manor was common land where tenants could graze their animals. A piece of common land went from the centre of Alkham east of Slip Lane and up the hill to Chalksole and continued along Chalksole Green Lane. Near the junction with Warren Lane one acre was listed under the 1845 Enclosure Act and allotted to the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor for the recreational use of the inhabitants of Alkham. Under the 1894 Local Government Act the holding or management of the village green was transferred to the newly formed Parish Councils and therefore the land was and still is a village green and in 1977 was used by the parish for Queen Elizabeth's silver jubilee celebrations. The green has been owned and maintained by the Parish Council since 1894 and the deeds and documents have been reviewed and the land is being registered with the Land Registry. **editor**



THIS BIRD would like to live to see Christmas and has taken sanctuary in our garden and maybe a few others. He does a useful job of clearing up under the bird table and giving us pleasure as he wanders about the driveway. He is a bit demanding and appears just behind you with that hungry look. Occasionally he will tap on the patio door or get up on the table to remind you he is hungry. Hope he makes it. **Alan Latham**

Seasonable

When winters weather's exceptionally mild
It seems as though our senses are beguiled
Into forgetting ice, snow, freezing rain
Imagination grows the flowers again.
Hovering between winter and the spring
We look to find a future that will bring
Exploding apple blossom, pink and white,
The glory and the sunshine and the light.

God is alive, magic is afoot
The world lies trembling at its root
The tiny tendrils twist and curl
The rock hard wood begins to hurl
A thousand arrows to the sky,
A shimmering of greenery.

Gail Swainston

ALKHAM W.I. - We had our Christmas meal at the Marquis on Tuesday 12th of December and the food was very good and the raspberry flavoured gin was lovely, so everyone had a lovely evening and thank you to everyone at the Marquis. Our next meeting will be Tuesday 9th of January 2024 and the subject is how to crochet a square; all members please bring a 3.5mm or 4mm crochet hook with you; you can pick one up in a charity shop. Hostesses Eileen West and Debbie Saunders, raffle Jane Aslett. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**



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Please ring Shirley for information on 01304 828098

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Tuesday	Keep Fit 10.00 am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall		
Tuesday	**9**	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Thursday	**25**	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm
Tuesday	**30**	Film Night – The Quiet Girl

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Saturday 13th	*Fun, fellowship and food* 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 14th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	Worship 11.00 am
Sunday 21st	Worship 9.30 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 28th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00 am

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To Folkestone 9.09,10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09,18.09: Sat 10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09
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FROM THE VICARAGE - As I write, Christmas is still a fortnight away, and I'm focussed on Christmas cards and Carol Services. So being asked to write my column for the *January* Newsletter means having to change gear and think beyond Christmas Day to the New Year - a time when people look back over the past year. So, here's my review of 2023. Looking back through my diary, the year began with what would become several goodbyes. Some I had known well; all of them, at the end, had been commended to God's love and care. Then there were the baptisms of those who were starting out on life's journey. And three weddings. In May not only did we mark the King's coronation, but we also met Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin, the Bishop of Dover, when she paid a visit to our parish and chatted with us over tea. I attended quite a few meetings and spent hours on paperwork. And I realise that we still don't have the money to restore the lychgate at Capel Old Church, attendance at services is still lower than before the pandemic, and we are struggling to pay what the Diocese asks us to contribute towards the cost of running the Parish… But then I remember that St John's gospel tells of how, after Jesus had fed a crowd with loaves and fish, they went after him - until they realised what following him involved. They left – and when he asked his disciples if they were leaving too Peter answered him: "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life." We might love our ancient church buildings, enjoy singing our favourite hymns and seeing friends. But in the end, it's the words of eternal life that matter above all else. **Brian Williams**

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
and magazine

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE
Telephone 01304 824969
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No. 361 February 2024

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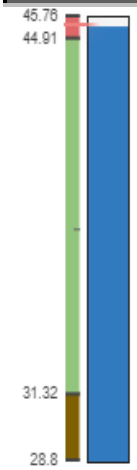

FLOODING – The Alkham Valley borehole still shows a very high reading as shown in the graphic on the left (31.32 is the typically low level and 44.91 the typically high). In December there was a sizeable lake on the village green which disappeared, but it is now reappearing again and the dyke is flowing very fast.

WITH THE NAILBOURNE flowing high this year along with a very high water table, residents will notice that the dyke in the Village Green is flowing very high and fast. Although it is great fun to see sticks and other debris float away fast, throwing these into the water results in possible blockages in culverts further downstream and can cause road flooding. I would kindly ask residents to refrain from doing this to help out those people that live in the lower part of Short Lane. Thank you. **Dave Horn**

ALKHAM FETE – LAST CALL - There was a somewhat underwhelming response to my last message to see what support there would be for having Fete in July 2024 but nevertheless there will be a meeting on Monday 5th February at 8 pm in the Village Hall to see if we have sufficient volunteers to make it possible. We will need help running stalls and setting up and taking down the tents, etc. – all are welcome and it's in a good cause with the proceeds being split between the Church and the Village Hall. Please come along or contact me on 07947 016697 in advance. **Paul Tapsell**

CONGRATULATIONS to Gwyneira Jones (Gwyneira means Snow White in Welsh) who will be 100 years old on the 18th of January. Gwyneira has recently moved into the village to be with her son Hugh who lives in the centre of the village.

VILLAGE HALL – Catie Webber has taken over as booking secretary and the new details are on the back page. The village hall is generally available at £8 an hour for parishioners and if you would like to start a club or book the hall please contact us.

IF WOULD you like to brush up on your conversational Spanish come and join our Spanish speaking group on the first Saturday of each month at the Marquis starting on the 3rd of February at 11.00am. Please email me on alkhamamigos@outlook.com if you would like to give it a try; more details on page 2. **Nina Bellas**

PARISH COUNCIL OPEN SURGERY on Saturday 3rd February 10am-12pm at Alkham village hall. An opportunity to discuss issues informally with your parish councillors such as the meadow and new playground equipment, the Ewell Minnis phone box, flooding/sewage etc. Refreshments provided.



THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS WALK was again led by Paul Tapsell. We were blessed with many dogs and mild dry weather and set off on time just after 10 am. Paul took us a short way up Slip Lane to the path behind Evergreen and then up the steep Common Hill and then on to complete circuit through Fidge's Wood across the Chalksole Area at the top and down past Ellinge Cottage and Stonehill Wood coming back along the valley road to the village hall where we gathered for a lovely chat over mulled wine and cheese. **Catie Webber**

THERE IS A NEW FACEBOOK GROUP setup for the residents of Alkham, although it's not limited to those that live in the village, those from surrounding villages and towns are also welcome. The group is called Alkham Village Residents and if you wish to become a member please search for this name on Facebook and select Join Group, a moderator will approve the request and you will be free to post what you want, when you want to (within reason!) There is currently only 1 group rule: Just be nice! **Geoff Bartlett**

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February 27th 7.30pm
January 30th 7.30pm
The Quiet Girl
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Saturday 17th February
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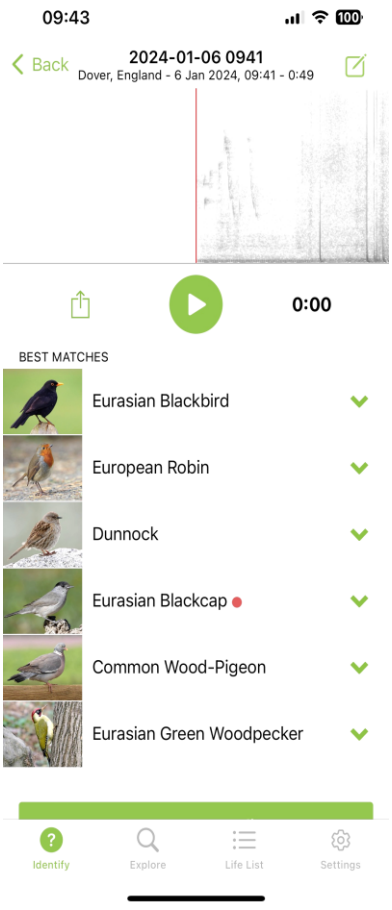
Call 07955 926 835 for booking & details
Also cater for weddings, kid's parties, christenings, charity events, fish supper parties and boot fairs

TREES - We want to let everyone know that one of the large ash trees at Drellingore Barns near the Stombers Lane/Alkham Valley Road junction needs to be felled owing to Ash dieback and proximity to the road. We don't anticipate any impact to road users while the tree is being felled, and wanted to reassure those who enjoy the view that a replacement will be planted and this felling doesn't portend any further tree clearing. Please reach out to family@drellingorebarns.com if you have any questions or want to say 'hello'! **Daniel Jones**

UNION JACK FLAG - The flag on the village green has been taken down and left rolled up on our doorstep, without a note to explain, while we were away from home. Could the person who did this please contact me as I'm keen to understand why - perhaps the rope snapped in the wind? Although I organised the flag for the late Queen's Jubilee, it is owned by the Parish Council and not me. **Irene Barnard**

BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH is the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers like you take part, helping to build a picture of how garden birds are faring. Have a look at the RSPB website to find out how you can help on the weekend of 26 to 28 January. Spend 1 hour looking at the birds in your garden and recording what you see. Last year's most commonly seen bird was the house sparrow followed by the blue tit. If you need some help in identifying birds and have a smart phone you could get the "Merlin bird Identifying" App. as I have done. It has an impressive feature which picks up the bird song and identifies the bird. I spent one minute outside in my garden and switched the App. to Sound ID. It identified the song of Blackbird, Robin, Dunnock, Blackcap. Wood Pigeon and Green Woodpecker. The phone screenshot shows the birds, all you have to do is spot them in the garden and send results to the RSPB. **Alan Latham**



BRUSH UP your Spanish continued from page 1 - Ideally you will be able to hold a simple conversation with others about your life and family. Don't worry if your Spanish is a bit rusty, because the aim of the group is to support one another to improve and enhance your existing skills. Meetings will last about one hour during which people can order their own tea and coffee etc. The first meeting will be held on Saturday 3rd February at 11am at the Marquis of Granby. Please email me on alkhamamigos@outlook.com if you would like to give it a try. **Nina Bellas**

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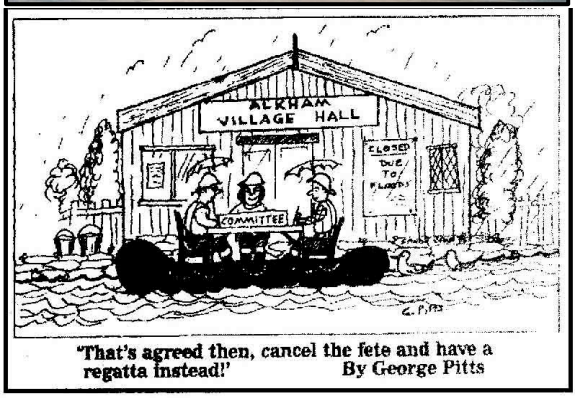

"That's agreed then, cancel the fete and have a regatta instead!" By George Pitts

2001 FLOOD – The village hall was flooded when the Alkham nailbourne flowed in 2001. In the April edition of the Dover Mercury they had a cartoon as shown below and the following month they had another cartoon advertising Alkham cruises. A flood photo competition was held in the old shop (Old Post Office, Slip Lane) and it was a great success with photos taken by villagers covering all three walls with a prize for the best photo. The village green gradually dried out and the fete was held in July and this too was a great success. **editor**



THE 24 HOUR pumping of water and other items from the sewer which is accessed from the village car park continues. The flooding is caused by the Alkham nailbourne running and is obviously an expensive operation and a continuous noise for adjacent properties.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS - The parish council had their first of two meetings this month to set the budget for 2024-25. The ongoing flooding has led again to sewage issues and Southern Water are reporting back weekly on their remedial work and have started to use a quieter pumping system. The Speedwatch Team continue their good work and the parish council are additionally looking to implement a Lorry watch scheme. Trevor Johns represented the parish council at the Dover Council Local Plan hearings, all sessions of which can be viewed on the DDC web site. The Environment work group is organising a tree survey for parish council land and are also obtaining the costs for new playground equipment. New signage has gone up to remind everyone to clean up after dogs.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our January meeting was a fun one trying to show the ladies how to crochet a square. We did have a laugh doing this and our winner was Sue Ross followed by Debbie Saunders and Janet Barrow. Thank you to all the W.I. members that took part and a big thank you to my friend Nicola Church for helping me. Our next meeting is February 13th when our speaker will be Imogen Corrigan, subject Childlike. February's competition is whatever your creative skill is and please make something heart shape as February 14th is Valentines Day. Hostesses Sue Ross and Gina Daniels, raffle Janet Barrow, VOT Helen Price. New members are always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**



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Regular events in the village hall	
Tuesday	Keep Fit 10.00 am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall		
Tuesday	**13**	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Tuesday	**27**	Film Night – Empire of light
Thursday	**29**	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4th	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00am
Saturday 10th	Fun, fellowship and food (accompanied child) 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 11th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	Worship 11.00 am
Wednesday 14th		Eucharist 7.00 p.m.	
Sunday 18th	Worship 9.30 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 25th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00 am

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.18,9.48,11.23,13.23,14.53,17.28: Sat: 9.48,11.18,13.18,15.28
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AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641 alkhamvs.org
MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669: **KCC** David Beaney 07818 024487
DDC cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk 07796444860**.**
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FROM THE VICARAGE - I recall a parent's evening, years ago, in the days when I was teaching Religious Education in school. A parent introduced herself and sat down. Her daughter was a good student - her book was immaculate, work was always completed, and she had done well in her exam – I was really pleased with her, I said. Mum stared at me, listening in silence. Finally, she spoke. *"It's a funny thing to be good at, isn't it? R.E., I mean…"* It was then that I realised that Mum wasn't pleased at all. In fact, she was panicking; she probably had dreams of her daughter becoming a doctor, or a lawyer, or a nursery nurse or something – but surely, not a nun! Anything but that! But why should R.E. be a funny thing to be good at? After all, it's to do with what matters to people, how they find meaning and purpose in their lives and understanding why they do the things they do. It's about understanding, for instance, that there's more to Lent – which this year begins on St Valentine's Day - than just spending forty days doing without chocolate. It's about understanding that there's more to Easter than bunnies – cute and fluffy though bunnies might be - and making up for all the chocolate that you didn't eat during Lent. I doubt that many, if any, of my former students have ended up as nuns. But over the years I was privileged to meet young people who often surprised others – and themselves – by discovering talents that they didn't know they had. So, if a child you know achieves the unexpected, celebrate it. There's no such thing as 'a funny thing to be good at'! **Brian Williams**

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FETE MEETING -Thank you to everyone who attended or contacted me about the Fete Meeting on 5th February - we had an excellent turnout and I'm pleased to confirm that we will be holding a Village Fete on the **13th of July 2024 from 2 pm**; we still need volunteers and will be having a further meeting in late April/early May to finalise details. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact me on 07947 016697. **Paul Tapsell**

ALKHAM UK UNION FLAG - As thought the rope supporting the flag had indeed broken in very windy weather. Our thanks to Elaine and Nathan for caring enough to pick it up. The flag has been laundered and new rope purchased and will be reinstated when we have milder weather**. Irene Barnard**

FOUND by the milk vending machine in the village hall car park a diamond ring. Please ring Catie on 01304 768236 if you have lost it.

DO YOU LOVE FLOWERS, meeting people and learning a craft? Why not come to Dover Flower Club? We are a friendly bunch of people with one thing in common - a love of flowers. We meet monthly on the fourth Monday of the month at Whitfield Village Hall at 7.15pm, other than August and December. Monthly we have demonstrations, talks or workshops. On February 26th Susan Shaw will entertain us with her demonstration 'Chasing Rainbows'. For further information please contact Mig Kimpton on 07831 838851 or Cicely Finnis 07977 334672, visitors are always welcome, come and see us soon. **Maxine West-Burr**

THANK YOU to everyone who attended the parish surgery, we hope you found it useful. If you were unable to attend, please don't hesitate to get in touch. January saw two meetings to finalise the Parish Council budget for the next financial year. The Drop-In Surgery was very well attended. Southern Water sent a team to give an update on the sewage overflow problem in the valley and the Environment Team reported on discussions with playground equipment providers and asked for feedback for both equipment and environmental initiatives. The next parish council meeting will be on Monday 4th of March at 19:00. **Alkham Parish Council**

SNOWDROP WALK and litter pick moved to Sunday February 25th 10:30 outside the village hall. Please wear high viz or light coloured clothing and gloves. Bin bags provided. Last year we made an amazing difference and we hope to do so again. All welcome. **Catie AVS**

WOULD ANYONE be interested in a new group activity in the Village Hall on a Monday or Thursday morning? We know that men's social and support networks often revolve around work and when this changes or they retire, they often lose touch and can become lonely and isolated, which can lead to a wide range of health issues. Kent Sheds grew from this desire to provide a place where Men could come together, make social connections, build friendships, share skills and knowledge whilst hopefully having fun. Kent Sheds vary across the county and provide a wide range of activities, often including woodworking, metalworking, repairing, restoring and gardening. Men's Sheds typically attract older men, but many have women and younger members too. The one thing that all sheds share is their concept of providing a safe place for likeminded people to come together for a sense of belonging. If you have any interest, in the first place please contact brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

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No film in March

Empire of Light Olivia Colman
February 27th 7.30pm
Free but a donation of £4 is appreciated

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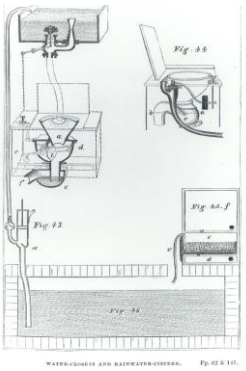
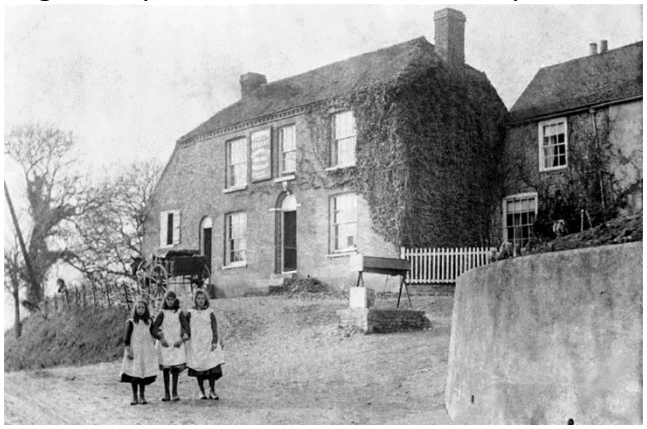


CISTERNS - Money saving expert Martin Lewis says that if you have more bedrooms than people in the house you can save money by having a water meter fitted. We have been awash with water recently so perhaps we should start to harvest it instead of buying it. Rainwater harvesting is a must for the new generation of eco houses but the Victorians were doing it and others before them. Some of the older houses in the village have a large brick and mortar lined chamber either under or adjacent to the house. In Alkham I know of one that is in use and another that was abandoned and filled with all manner of things. Such water holding structures are referred to as cisterns and differ from wells in that they are filled with rainwater from roofs rather than groundwater that fills wells. Cisterns are only a couple of metres deep and lined to keep groundwater out. So why have a cistern if you have a well? The Victorians in hard water areas like Alkham found that doing the laundry in hard water was not as effective as using the soft rainwater and hauling water from the village well was a lot more work than hand pumping from a cistern in the garden. Surprisingly piped water did not arrive in Alkham until just after the Second World War in the late 1940's. If you have saved water and money by having a water meter fitted, your next step is to start rainwater harvesting even if you only use it for watering the garden and digging a 2m deep hole will keep you fit! The illustration shows how you might use your rainwater cistern to fill your toilet cistern. **Alan Latham**



VILLAGE WELL – A lot of the houses in Alkham had cisterns but the village well in front of the Marquis of Granby was a well as can be seen in the 1930's photo on the left. Parish Council minutes record that there were complaints about people not covering the well after they got their water. The cisterns, as mentioned above, could be very big with vaulted ceilings for providing water to hospitals and other large buildings and the Old Post Office in Alkham still has one which works when it wants to for watering the garden in dry periods. **Editor**



ANYONE WILLING to help with materials or labour to decorate St Anthony's Church for Easter on Thursday 28 March and Friday 29th. Long pieces of coloured dogwood stems, forsythia and blossom would be appreciated. Thanks, Catie.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our February meeting was a very interesting one and our speaker was Imogen Corrigan talking about medieval children. Our next meeting is March 12th and it's our AGM when we will be voting for a new president as Helen Scopes will be retiring. Hostesses are Vanessa Oakley and Christine Banham, Raffle Debbie Griggs. All members to wear something yellow e.g. ribbon flower as it is Marie Curie on the 21st of March. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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ON THE 16TH OF MARCH Southern Equestrian Supplies are holding a cake morning at which you can come and buy cakes from us and proceeds go to Marie Curie. If anyone from the village would like to bake a cake or more and drop it into us at the Garden Centre please, we would be very grateful. We would also be very grateful if you would help us to support the charity. Many thanks Debbie Griggs.

CHURCHYARD – Susan Lees, who lived in Alkham, was the Parish Clerk from 1982 to 2006 and she did a survey of the churchyard from which she produced a plan of the graves together with the details on the gravestone. As a result, a 13 page A4 booklet has been made which has been left in St. Anthony's church in which the names of the people are listed in alphabetical order together with the details on the memorial. There is a number against each entry and these numbers in sequential order are shown on a plan of the churchyard so that a visitor can find where a grave is. If anyone would like a PDF copy of this, please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

ASIAN HORNET UPDATE - The Dover and District Bee Keeping Association (DDBKA) met at the end of January in the village hall, the meeting was focused on planning for the coming year and how best to tackle the invasive Asian Hornet (AH). The meeting was very well attended and the number of cars trying to park were more than the car parks capacity, so firstly, sorry to anyone who was inconvenienced. We had a talk from a representative from the National Bee Unit (NBU), they have been pivotal in tracking and locating Asian hornets and nests since the sudden increase last year. Last year the NBU located 72 nests in 55 locations, the majority in the South East. Northern France is now heavily populated by AHs and the NBU believe they have travelled over here in cars, lorries, containers, on ferries and some have flown/been blown over. 7 nests were located in the cliffs at Capel. The AHs trapped in Alkham seem to have come from a nest located in Ewell Minnis. As temperatures rise the NBU expect queens will come out of hibernation and start new colonies. February is therefore the time to set spring traps to try and trap these queens before they start laying. There is more guidance this year regarding safety and insurance when dealing with AHs. The British Bee Keeping Association covers its members for monitoring traps, which includes releasing bi catch and replenishing the bait - Trappit. DDBKA have a team of AH team members lead by Jackie Thomas the AH Coordinator. The plan is to try and place a hornet trap at roughly 1km intervals throughout the area and have these monitored by members. Please, if you can, load the free Hornet Watch App onto your phone. It is a very easy and effective way to report sightings, it is also very helpful in identifying the AH versus the slightly larger but native European hornet. The European hornet poses no risk to our bees and other insects and although it looks large and can give a nasty sting it does not need to be reported. You can also report sightings of the AH by completing an online form on the nonnative species.org website. If you have more questions DDBKA have an email address doverasianhornets@btinternet.com. **Emma Kaile**



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Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
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Other events in the village hall		
Tuesday	**12**	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Thursday	**28**	Tea and a Chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3rd	**Prayer 5.00 pm**	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Eucharist 11.00 am**
Saturday 9th	*Fun, fellowship and food – children plus adult* **3.00 – 5.00 pm**		
Sunday 10th	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Worship 11.00 am**	**Worship 11.00 am**
Sunday 17th	**Worship 9.30 am**	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Eucharist 11.00 am**
Sunday 24th	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Evensong 6.00 pm**	**Eucharist 11.00 am**
Sunday 31st	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Eucharist 7.00 am**	**Eucharist 11.00 am**

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.18,9.48,11.23,13.23,14.53,17.28: Sat: 9.48,11.18,13.18,15.28
To Folkestone 9.09,10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09,18.09: Sat 10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09
Assumed correct but check on www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables and 91 bus

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HALL BOOKING Catie Webber 07976649726 or catiewebber@me.com
W.I. SECRETARY Janet Barrow 829585 **VICAR** Brian Williams 01303 243784
AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641 alkhamvs.org
MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669: **KCC** David Beaney 07818 024487
DDC cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk 07796444860**.**
LOCAL SITES alkham.org alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk
alkhamvalleytraffic2@btinternet.com

FROM THE VICARAGE - I remember the hours I spent as a teenager waiting for the bus to school – and how I would smile whenever I heard older people in the queue start a conversation. If it wasn't the weather, it was their aches and pains that they always seemed to talk about. Years have passed, and I must admit that that particular chicken has come home to roost. There was a time when I could run up a staircase, often two steps at a time, carrying schoolbooks from one lesson to the next – but now my knees usually complain when I try anything like that. At the bus station the other day I happened to see someone I knew. We started by asking each other how we were. Guess how the conversation went...! As I write it is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. It is a time when people talk about giving something up – for Christians, a way of preparing to keep Holy Week and Easter. I've been reading about a monk, St John of the Cross, who lived in Spain during the 16th Century and who, to put it simply, compared getting to know God to going on a journey or, more precisely, to climbing a mountain. It's a journey that, like life itself, has challenging uphill stretches. One of his 'big ideas' is that God wants to help us along on the journey – but we must realise that we can only accept what's on offer if we're prepared to risk letting go of what we already have. We can't accept anything new if our hands are already full. So perhaps I'll try less giving up, and more letting go this Lent. And I'll joyfully embrace life with wonky knees … **Brian Williams**

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
and magazine

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE
Telephone 01304 824969
brianwimsett@hotmail.com

No. 363 April 2024

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FLOOD – It's not clear what is going to happen with the flooding as it rises and falls but a family from Newlyns Meadow had great fun on the lake over the village green in their rubber inflatable.

ALKHAM FETE -There will be a Fete Meeting at 8 pm on the 8th of April 2024 in the Village Hall to finalise arrangements for the Fete - I know it's already in your diary, but it's 13th July 2024 from 2 pm! Please come along - new faces and ideas are always welcome. If you can't make it, please let me know on 07947 016697 or via the Fete WhatsApp Group. **Paul Tapsell.**

ALKHAM FETE - It is now confirmed we are having our Alkham Fete in July so perhaps a good time to ask for unwanted gifts and decent saleable bric-à-brac items for my stall. China, glass, ornaments and prints usually sell well but happy to look at any other item you are kind enough to donate. No clothes please unless it's vintage Dior or Chanel size 12 - just kidding. **Irene 07789 412432**

PLANTS - At this year's fete Vernon James will be running the plant stall. If anyone has planted too much of anything rather than put it on the compost heap, please could they bear us in mind so we can put it on the stall for the Fete and any donations will be greatly appreciated. Please email anitajames163@gmail.com or phone 07760475365 if you can help. **Anita James**

PARISH COUNCIL - The village green and football field flooding appears to have stabilised but Southern Water continue to pump out the sewage system 24hr a day. They have reported that a survey will be carried out to assess where the flood water is leaking into the sewers. A survey of the trees on vicarage meadow will be carried out in the next few weeks. We are still waiting for the last playground equipment quote and we will be holding a fundraising quiz on Friday 3rd May, see separate article for details. We have a volunteer to paint the Temple Ewell telephone box who will be starting the refurbishment when BT confirm parish ownership. Kent Highways are currently running a traffic survey to ratify the Highways Improvement Plan.

VILLAGE HALL - The A.G.M. of the Alkham Village Hall Management Committee will be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 16th April from 7.00p.m. All are welcome. Come and give your views on what we are doing or should be doing for the benefit of the village, the local community and any of the organisations who regularly use the Hall. **Janet Adamson, Hon Secretary** janet.a.adamson@btinternet.com

MARQUIS OF GRANBY - We'd like to take a quick moment to thank you all in the village for your support as this April marks 5 years since we took over the reins of your local and we couldn't be happier to be part of this community. Please do pop in for a drink to help us celebrate over the next few weeks. Don't forget to check out our great value set lunch menu and our latest spring menu which has been launched as well. **Michael Cartwright – Manager**

ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL are organising a quiz evening at the village hall to help raise funds for new play equipment. It will be on Friday 3rd of May from 7:30pm. Tickets £5 per person, tables of up to 6 people. Please bring your own drinks and nibbles. There will also be a raffle with great prizes. To book a table, please ring Marian on 07305 554662 or Catie on 07976 649726.

FILM NIGHT in village hall
The Miracle Club
Maggie Smith, Kaura Linney, Kathy Bates
April 30th 7.30pm
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will be outside the village hall 5-6.30pm
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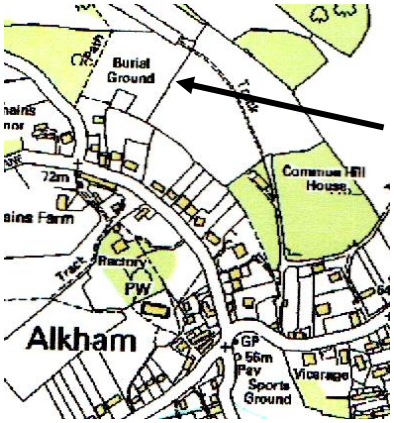
MEMENTO MORI - I recently took an interest in the listed buildings and monuments in the Parish. The Historic England website lists 25. As expected, St. Anthony's Church and the Old Rectory featured amongst the 25 results returned by a search. What surprised me was that seven of the results were gravestones or groups of gravestones. The Historic England listings give the approximate positions and so off I went to find out what made a gravestone worthy of a Grade 2 listing. A common feature was the carving of reliefs depicting death. Skulls, crossed bones, coffins and a little less macabre was a cherub or open book, presumably the bible. They are generally from the 18th century and the symbols and motifs are a reminder that we all must die and to be prepared (memento mori). A little more research led me to a web site entitled 'Find a Grave'. Not to be missed if you're doing the family tree. There are graveyards, crematoria and cemeteries from all over the world and St Anthony's is one of them. It lists 647 people, some with photographs and biographies. It is an open site meaning that after joining for free you can add or edit information and request information from other users. I have responded to a few by uploading photographs of specific stones and received a thank you from a woman in Australia. My intention was to make it known which of the gravestones were listed Grade 2 and I have made a start. Anyone want to help, jump in. Ref. https://historicengland.org.uk/ and https://www.findagrave.com/. **Alan Latham**





CHAPELS – There were two Wesleyan Chapels in Alkham, one being on the hill opposite Glebelands and the other was in Slip Lane which also had a burial ground behind that still exists. The Chapel closed in 1960 and the building was sold but didn't include the graveyard which is now a piece of isolated land. The people buried there are not recorded but some gravestones are still standing. **editor**

DOVER FLOWER CLUB - A friendly flower club for anyone who is interested in arranging, growing, or simply admiring flowers. The club meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 7.15pm, at Whitfield Village Hall, Manley Close CT16 0LY. We organise flower arranging demonstrations, workshops to improve skills, visits and talks. Our programme for Spring is as follows: Monday 25th March, a flower arranging demonstration by Elloise Hasler Scott, entitled 'Spring walk'; Monday 22nd April, a flower arranging demonstration by Iris Shaw entitled 'Anything Goes'. For more details contact Mig Kimpton 07831 838851.

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SHEDS – In last month's newsletter there was an article about Men's Sheds as when men retire, they often lose touch and can become lonely and isolated. There were only two responses to the article so it looks unlikely that one will start in Alkham but please contact brianwimsett@hotmail.com if you think one would be worthwhile. However, there are several sheds locally and the one at Paddlesworth near Hawkinge has activities such as agriculture and woodwork, contact john.roberts1@btconnect.com or 01303 259007. The Cheriton Marigold Shed, Cheriton Road, Folkestone does woodwork and the Crabble Cornmill Shed woodwork and gardening, contact: David.keningale@gmail.com.



THE PHOTO on the left shows the Alkham Village Hall being built in 1930 and Thomas Tunbridge can be seen standing on the ground where the floor will be. They later put wooden battens on this ground and then tongue and groove flooring on top. When the ground water rises outside it will also rise inside the hall and that's why there are no sandbags round the hall, which could make matters worse by stopping the water draining away. **editor**

TREES – The Woodland Trust does a lot of good work and they intend to plant 10,000 trees across 100 hectares of ex-arable land at Hawkhurst in Kent, which also has ancient woodland. Dormice are at risk, but their surveyors found baby dormice in the new nesting tubes which is good news. The Trust offers various subsidised packs of trees, details of which can be found on their web site. **editor**



VILLAGE WEB SITE – Harlan Webber, who lives in the village, is to be congratulated for the unpaid work that he has carried out on the village web site alkham.org and it is now possible to book the village hall through the web site and see what dates are available. He has brought the site up to date but retained the existing format. **editor**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our March meeting was a success when we appointed a new president and a new treasurer. Our next meeting is on the 9th of April when our speaker will be Mr. Garry Manser who will be talking about scams and data protection. This is open to the village so if any non-members would like to pop along it will be £2 entry. Hostesses Margaret Batcheldor and Lucy McKenzie, raffle Sue Ross and VOT Helen Scopes. All new members are always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

SNOWDROP WALK - Eight hardy souls gathered on a cold drizzling Sunday February 25th for the annual AVS snowdrop walk and litter pick. This year we were supported by DDC who once we had submitted our risk assessment provided a loan of high viz jackets and grab sticks plus collected the rubbish afterwards. We split into 4 teams of 2 and managed to collect 16 bags of litter as well as reporting counts of fly tipping and **PLEASE HELP** with the Spring Cleaning of the Church 10:30 am Saturday 27th April. Need to dust and polish and spruce things up. **Catie Webber**



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CHURCH SERVICES

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Sunday 7th	United Parish Eucharist at St Mary's (Capel Old Church) 10.00 am		
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Sunday 28th	Sung Eucharist at St Laurence, Hougham 10.00 am		

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AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641 alkhamvs.org
MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669: **KCC** David Beaney 07818 024487
DDC cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk 07796444860**.**
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FROM THE VICARAGE - I remember the hours I spent as a teenager, waiting for the bus to school – and how I would smile whenever I heard older people in the queue start a conversation. If it wasn't the weather, it was their aches and pains that they always seemed to talk about. Years have passed, and I must admit that that particular chicken has come home to roost. There was a time when I could run up a staircase, often two steps at a time, carrying schoolbooks from one lesson to the next – but now my knees usually complain when I try anything like that. At the bus station the other day I happened to see someone I knew. We started by asking each other how we were. Guess how the conversation went...! As I write it is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. It is a time when people talk about giving something up – for Christians, a way of preparing to keep Holy Week and Easter. I've been reading about a monk, St John of the Cross, who lived in Spain during the 16th Century and who, to put it simply, compared getting to know God to going on a journey or, more precisely, to climbing a mountain. It's a journey that, like life itself, has challenging uphill stretches. One of his 'big ideas' is that God wants to help us along on the journey – but we must realise that we can only accept what's on offer if we're prepared to risk letting go of what we already have. We can't accept anything new if our hands are already full. So perhaps I'll try less giving up, and more letting go this Lent. And I'll joyfully embrace life with wonky knees … **Brian Williams**

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IT'S BACK! Alkham sunflower competition, to win the much-coveted trophy and a prize. All you are required to do is grow the tallest Sunflower and we can supply the seedlings for free, or contestants can grow their own. They can be grown in a pot or in the ground the only rule is that they have to be grown in the parish of Alkham. Then just fend off the slugs and the squirrels and the measuring day is usually at the end of August but yet to specified. Our measurement team will measure all the sunflowers and whoever's is the tallest wins the prize and of course bragging rights. If you would like to take part, please let myself or Vernon know and if you would like us to supply you with a seedling. **Anita James** anitajames163@gmail.com

HANDBAGS - At the fete on the 13th of July Jane will be running the very popular handbag stall. Could the ladies and let's not forget gents of the village please rummage around in any wardrobes and if there is a handbag or perhaps man bag that is no longer of use, please could you let Jane know by phoning her on 07340749788. Jane will even come and collect them if necessary.

ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL - A reminder that we are hosting a quiz night on Friday 3rd of May at 7:30pm to raise funds for the new playground equipment. It is £5 per person and up to 6 people per table. The village green tree survey is now completed and any remedial work will be done in due course. The traffic surveys are now completed and the data is being analysed to help formulate Alkham's Highways Improvement Plan. Alkham Speedwatch now have 3 bodycams thanks to Councillor David Beaney's KCC grant. A public consultation opened on the 11th of April giving residents the chance to have their say on modifications to the Dover District Local Plan. The consultation is open for six weeks and closes at 5pm on the 24th of May. DDC and KCC are working on the current round of Solar Together Kent, a group-buying scheme for households and small businesses to get high-quality solar panels at a competitive price. The more people who register will generate potentially bigger savings. Further information on these is available on the parish council and DDC websites. The local MP Natalie Elphicke has confirmed her attendance at a drop-in at the village hall on 14th of September. Further information to follow.

PIANO available in Alkham for free to a good home! It was last tuned just before lockdown. Must be able to collect and take it away! Call Nicola on 07713894408.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY, a musical evening with Snowdown Male Voice Choir at St. Anthony's church on the 15th of June at 7.30pm. After our very successful concert in 2022 we've had a number of requests for another. As a member of the Snowdon Male Voice Choir, I am so looking forward to this concert in our wonderful church alongside another 'Alkham boy' Harlan Webber who joined the choir last year. Since that last concert we have a new director, our very own 'Alkham music man' Graham Bissett. Many of you who know Graham will be aware how passionate and enthusiastic he is about music and for the last few years has been leading the village choir 'Valley Voices', who meet every Wednesday evening in the village hall. Further concert details (tickets) will be published in next month's newsletter. **Ken Spencer**

FLOODING – The GOV.UK website says that the groundwater levels in East Kent remain very high but are expected to remain at a stable level. The highest borehole level of 45.76m was in 2001 when the village hall flooded and in February of this year it was at 45.75m with a big lake appearing on the village green and ominously creeping towards the hall. Since then, the borehole level has reduced by about 50mm. **editor**

FILM NIGHT

28th May 7.30pm village hall

The Great Escaper

Michael Caine Glenda Jackson

April 30th The Miracle Club

Free entry but £4 donation appreciated

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MURDER, MYSTERY AND TRUTH - I was investigating 'no dig gardening' using wood chips and was interested to know where all your green waste is carted off to. One of my sources states that Dover DC collect it and take it to Hope Farm at Capel. They shred it and pile it up outside where it decomposes, periodically it is turned to get the air in, which is needed for the composting process. Sounded interesting and so I had a look on Google maps at which point I lost interest in compost because Hope Farm is very close to "Cut Throat Lane". I recalled that there had been a double murder in Capel Le Ferne in the 19th century and now thought I had found the scene of the crime. I am not often wrong, ask my wife, but I was wrong on two counts, first of all you don't use composted wood chip/ green waste in no dig gardening. The idea is to protect the soil with an inert layer that does not support growth but keeps the soil underneath moist and free of self seeding weeds. For the full story search the internet and save all your shrub like cuttings complete with leaves for shredding and mulching; no digging. My second error was assuming the double murder by Dedea Redanies in the 1850s was committed in Cut Throat Lane. It had taken place nearer to the cliff tops. It appears from my surfing that there are numerous Cut Throat Lanes across the UK and that the name has probably been derived from "Cut A Thwart Lane" meaning a short cut. "Cut A Thwart Lane" still exists in a number of counties, this one in Essex. **Alan Latham**



GREAT NEWS for our local primary school!! The Schools Minister Damian Hinds has praised a Dover primary school for being in the country's top 1% for reading, writing and maths. Hinds sent a letter of congratulations to Temple Ewell Church of England Primary School in Brookside for its "very high standard of achievement". Mrs. Matthews, headteacher said "We are extremely proud of this achievement and we are 3rd in Kent. We currently have spaces in some year groups so please contact the office on 01304 822665 to make enquiries and to come and have a look round." **Nicola Church**



HORSES – Memorials are held for the men and women killed in WWI but generally not for the horses. About half a million horses from Britain died in the war and conditions for them must have been appalling so it was good to see a memorial on a tree at Acrise in memory of some of their farm horses which were requisitioned by the government and subsequently killed in WWI. **editor**

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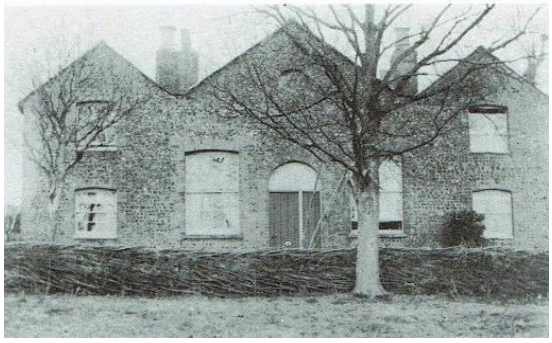



FURTHER to the articles on chapels and Sue Lee's superb cemetery list, the photo on the left shows the Mission Hall on the hill opposite the newly built Glebelands as shown in the background in the 1950's photo. The Mission Hall or chapel is in the centre with a cottage either side and the last people to live in the cottages were George Kitham and his sister Mabel. In 1894 Parish Councils were enacted which replaced the Vestry and George's father was the first Parish Clerk with his son George taking over in 1924 for another 35 years. There are 21 Kitham's buried in St. Anthony's cemetery with Mabel dying in 1958 and George a year later and the earliest Kitham burial was in 1722 so it was an old Alkham name which appears to have ended with Mabel and George. **editor**



THE BELLS – It is good to hear the bells still ringing at St. Anthony's church and also to hear them change ringing when rather than ringing in order they alternate when instructed by the tower captain. However, change ringing in Victorian times was not very orderly with swearing, smoking and a barrel of beer in the tower normal and a deep rift developed between ringers and clergy, with some towers closed by their incumbents. The ringers often broke into the belfries to ring or drink and were usually very independent, reserving the right to choose when to ring. The bells are church property, so the vicar has law on his side, but little can be done against a difficult band of ringers. In rural areas, any action rebounded because the community was close knit and everyone was related, which could result in smaller congregations and collection money. The details above were from an article by the Association of Ringing Teachers and was sent to me by Anita James who with her husband are carrying on the tradition of bell ringing in Alkham but without the habits of the past. **editor**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our April meeting was all about scams and data protection which was an eye opener for us. Our next meeting is on the 14th of May and it's our resolutions meeting. Hostesses are Janet Adams and Sue Koo, raffle Helen Price. Competition time for all members bring something that you have made. New members welcome. **Debbie Griggs**



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Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday	Keep Fit 10.00 am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall

Tuesday	14	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Tuesday	28	Film Night 7.30pm see page 1
Thursday	30	Tea & chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Thursday 9th	United Parish Eucharist Alkham 7.00 p.m.		
Saturday 11th	Fun, fellowship and food – children accompanied 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 12th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	Worship 11.00 am
Sunday 19th	Worship 11.00 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 26th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00 am

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.18,9.48,11.23,13.23,14.53,17.28: Sat: 9.48,11.18,13.18,15.28
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AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641 alkhamvs.org
MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669: **KCC** David Beaney 07818 024487
DDC cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk 07796444860**.**
LOCAL SITES alkham.org alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

FROM THE VICARAGE - Here's an opportunity – a Victorian property in Chester close to the cathedral, city centre and railway station. To the rear, spectacular views across the River Dee into North Wales. Yours for £100,000, but with a very leaky roof. Or if you want to stay closer to home, £500,000 secures a distinctive piece of 1960s architecture situated on the seafront at St Leonards. A little-known corner of the Church of England website lists redundant churches for sale. Some are converted for commercial use, others become executive homes or flats - and therefore off limits to anyone wanting a trip down Memory Lane - while others, sadly, are demolished. Fortunately others, like our own St Mary's, Capel le Ferne, will pass to the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) which acquires those that are of historical interest and opens them to the public. Services are held at St Mary's about three times a year, weather permitting. The church is swept beforehand, and dead leaves, deceased insects and so on removed. Although the church might look neglected, it really isn't, it's just redundant – the CCT check it regularly, and their contractors deal with any repairs needed. Someone recently expressed an interest on social media in forming a group who might like to help to clean the church. I contacted the CCTs Local Community Officer Nick Watts, who writes: It would be fantastic if there are some locals who are willing to support the church, but I must stress that they are currently not permitted to do any repairs or heavy cleaning. This is of course a grade I listed structure, and the group would be in breach of Historic England's heritage listing status if they did anything without the CCTs consent. Interested? Please contact Nick at nwatts@thecct.org.uk or on 07972 767010. **Brian Williams**

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
and magazine

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
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No. 364 June 2024

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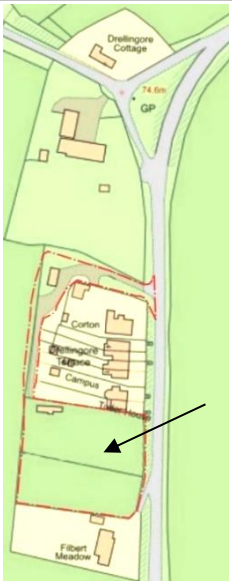

A PLANNING APPLICATION has been made to build 3 detached dwellings, community building and garages on land adjacent to Drellingore Terrace with access to the site by the track that runs alongside the bungalow as shown on the adjacent plan. In addition, there are planning applications for 2 detached properties by Upton Cottages to the east and 2 a little further on by Lockeringe Lane. The company name on the applications is Affinity Water and there have been numerous objectors a lot of whom attended the Parish Council meeting on the 29th of April to express their views. There is also an application for a house by Drellingore Rise which is by the bend on the plan.



CONCERT - A Musical Evening at St. Anthony's Church on Saturday the 15th of June at 7.30pm. Please join us for a great evening with the Snowdown Colliery Welfare Male Voice Choir with special guests your very own Valley Voices Choir in the beautiful St. Anthony's church. There will be an interval for refreshments and presenting an amazing selection of door prizes that will include £100 cash prize, a luxury hamper, lunch for two at the Marquis, afternoon tea for two at the Alkham Garden Centre and a case of vintage wine and a bottle of Moët. Tickets £12 (this includes the draw). Contact Catie Webber 07976649726 or alkham@snowdown-choir.co.uk. **Ken Spencer**

VILLAGE HALL – At the AGM the treasurer reported that the hall broke even in the last financial year which was an improvement on the loss made in the previous year. The officers were re-elected but with two resignations there are only three committee members so if anyone else who would like to become involved with the running of the hall, please email janet.a.adamson@btinternet.com. It was agreed to revise the hire rates and abolish the 10% discount for repeated bookings and increase the local rate from £8 to £10 per hour and the hall is to have a deep clean and the kitchen updated.

FETE MEETING - There will be a Fete Meeting at 8 pm on Thursday 6th of June at 8 pm in the village hall. It's the last one before the big day so please come along so we can ensure everything is ready to go. We still need someone to take charge of the Raffle - please contact me if you're able to assist. I will use the WhatsApp group to arrange a day for checking the tents in advance of the meeting so please check your phones! **Paul Tapsell 07947 016697**

NO MOW – The Parish Council have created a no mow area on the village green – see page 3 for more details.

GOOD NEWS as it appears the Alkham Nailbourne has stopped running and Southern Water have laid planings and crushed rock on the village car park because of the damage caused by the tankers. They were asked to repair the village hall car park, but this hasn't happened yet.

ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL - This month has seen both a very well attended extraordinary parish council meeting and the annual parish and council meetings. The council has reviewed its procedures and policies and progressed with matters around the vicarage meadow in particular. The quiz to help raise funds for new playground equipment was very successful and raised £580. We have also now received quotes for the tree maintenance, which should be completed shortly.

FILM NIGHT

25th June 7.30pm village hall

The Holdovers – Paul Giamatti

28th May The Great Escaper

Free entry but £4 donation appreciated

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DRAINAGE TREATMENT A planning application has been made to install a drainage treatment plant to serve the existing barn buildings adjacent to Great Everden Manor as there is no access to mains drainage. The proposed system will include a new drainage system to serve the two buildings which will connect to a three-stage treatment plant that then can safely discharge to a suitable drainage field. Great Everden Farm is a separate entity from the Manor and as an agricultural and farming piece of land and having the 2 large barns, it needs its own toilets so as to keep the environment clean and healthy …

THERE HAVE BEEN 14 objections to the above application and the main reason is that the barns are empty and at present there no people to use the installation and that the installation of a large plant will in turn lead to a reapplication of previously declined additional accommodation. It was thought that the Foul Drainage Assessment forms last page was nonsense regarding an expected flow of a maximum 10,000 litres per day which equates to 10 tonnes for two currently unoccupied barns. **editor**

NEWSLETTER – Many thanks to Reg Woodruff who has been delivering 10 newsletters each month to the houses at Wolverton. Some of the houses are on the Valley Road and on the last delivery he was nearly hit by a vehicle so quite rightly he has decided to stop and it's unlikely that anyone else will take over. If anybody is willing to do it, please contact me but failing that I will try and get the email addresses and I will add it to the list that I send out. **editor**

HUGE THANK YOU to those who helped me spring clean St. Anthony's Church - namely Alan T, Anne, Carol, Den, Frances, Irene, Marian, Rachel and Richard T. It looks and smells so much better. Thank you. **Catie Webber**

THE RIVER DOUR – In the early 2000's my neighbour Ken and I used to walk the dogs from Alkham up to Ewell Minnis and then down a footpath to Watersend on the old A2 to the east of Lydden. There is a clue in the name, but I didn't realise that Watersend is the source of the river Dour. It is a chalk stream that flows out of the ground and goes through Temple Ewell and River with a tributary coming from the Alkham Valley and is about 4 miles long. There used to be several water mills along the river including eight corn mills and five paper mills, so it was obviously a powerful river. The Dour continues through Dover partly in culvert before entering the sea at Wellington Docks. **editor**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our May meeting was our resolutions meeting the topic was about Dentistry and we had to vote for more NHS dentists than private ones. Our next meeting is on the 11th of June when our speaker will be from The Dover Smart Group. Hostesses are Christine Peel and Jane Aslett, Raffle Janet Barrow and VOT Nicola Church. New members always welcome. The W.I. ladies are very talented and the photo shows one of the items work that was had entered in a W.I. competition. **Debbie Griggs**



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ALKHAM HISTORY BOOK
If you are interested in the history of Alkham an A4 51-page book is available with many old photos in and costs £2.50. Please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com

JAMES CHRISTOPHER TAPSELL - It is with sadness we have to report that Chris Tapsell passed away on the 22nd of April 2024, aged 88 years. Although his name was James, he was known to everyone as Chris. Chris was born on the 8th of January 1936 and he spent his first few years in Dover and then moved to Chalksole Farm Alkham with his family during World War II. Chris attended Alkham School, completed his apprenticeship and worked as a carpenter. He lived in several properties in Alkham and was a member of the congregation at St Anthony's Church, where he was a church warden and sidesman, was a bell ringer and worked on the upkeep of the church and churchyard. Chris was also involved with Alkham Cricket Club, Alkham Valley Society, Whist Drives and was an active member of the Village Hall and Fete committees and opening the fete. He also had a good knowledge of the history of Alkham. Chris enjoyed spending time in his garden, was an avid vegetable grower, had a keen interest in animals, wildlife and the countryside. He also enjoyed playing bowls, card games and watching cricket. In later years Chris and Jane moved to Shepherdswell and then to Hythe. He was always happy to be with his family and many friends. The funeral is on the 23rd of May at 11am at Shepherdswell Church followed by cremation at Barham.

NO MOW MAY, no alcohol August, no dig gardening, where will it end? Looks like sitting back and doing nothing, without a glass in your hand, is the way forward. For me there is a little pleasure in a bit of mowing but apparently, it's not good for the flora and fauna and a little alcohol takes the edge of the woes of life but I think I could give up digging so what's it all about? I thought I would have a look at what the Royal Horticultural Society have to say about it: Using compost produced in your own garden is an environmentally sustainable way to care for your soil and can be used for edible and ornamental beds and borders; it improves any garden soil by adding organic matter and reducing cultivation (digging) and plants access nutrients through the action of soil-dwelling organisms, meaning little or no fertilisers are required. If you are going to have a go then you will need a lorry load of compost because instead of digging you cover the ground with up to 6" of compost. If it's a weedy patch then precede this with a layer of cardboard less plastic tapes and staples. How easy is that compared with digging! I understand that it gets easier as the compost only needs topping up in subsequent years. Plant into the compost without disturbing the topsoil underneath which is where all the magic of undisturbed soil happens. Apparently, the worms and organisms down there will create everything your plants need. Whatever you do, disturb it as little as possible lest you destroy this underground bio factory. No more fertiliser required and self-seeding weeds in that compost layer will be easily dealt with by hoeing. I have never done this but in the UK Charles Dowding is the man with the knowledge and experience and has written much on the subject. There are even more radical no dig methods using wood chips. Replace the compost with freshly shredded wood chips. All of the above advantages are claimed plus weed seeds cannot germinate in the open textured chip material which also prevents evaporation from the soil below and consequently watering is not required. Dr. Linda Chalker Scott is an expert on the subject. Get googling, try "Wood Chip Mulch Gardening Myths and Facts". Alkham Parish council have created a 'No Mow' area on the village green. **Alan Latham**



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CHARITY BINGO - On Saturday the 27th of July at 7pm I will be holding a charity bingo night in Alkham Village Hall in aid of Pilgrims Hospice and Alzheimers which are two charities very close to our families' hearts. There will be a raffle and please bring your own refreshments and nibbles. Anyone wishing to book a table or would like to donate a raffle prize please contact me on 07796360473. **Debbie Griggs**

ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL – Excellent facilities, reasonable rates
Please ring Catie on 07976649726 or catiewebber@me.com

Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday	Keep Fit 10.00 am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall

Tuesday	11	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Saturday	15	Choir in St. Anthony's see page 1
Tuesday	25	Film Night 7.30pm see page 1
Thursday	27	Tea & chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2nd	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Saturday 8th	*Messy Church, followed by tea* **3**.00 – 5.00 pm Capel		
Sunday 9th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	Worship 11.00 am
Sunday 16th	Worship 11.00 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 23rd	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 30th	St Mary's (Capel Old Church) United Parish Eucharist 10.00 am		

BUS TIMES To Dover 8.18,9.48,11.23,13.23,14.53,17.28: Sat: 9.48,11.18,13.18,15.28
To Folkestone 9.09,10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09,18.09: Sat 10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09
Assumed correct but check on www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables and 91 bus

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AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641 alkhamvs.org
MP Natalie Elphicke 01304 379669: **KCC** David Beaney 07818 024487
DDC cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk 07796444860.
LOCAL SITES alkham.org alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

FROM THE VICARAGE - Having been a teacher, I've spent years encouraging young people to plan for the future – to think about what they would like to do in life, and to work hard to try to make it happen. I had done the same at their age - I can still remember nervously opening the envelope containing my exam results, the excitement of being given my first teaching post, and seeing what would be my classroom for the very first time. But I never thought about how it would end. You might expect retirement to be marked by farewell speeches and the presentation of a clock or something. But for me, it was different. At our monthly Messy Church I looked – unsuccessfully - for a dice and counters. Arriving home, I decided to check my school bag. As I rummaged, assorted pens, crayons and a notepad emerged, along with a copy of Shakespeare's Macbeth - a memento of my last assignment. I had home tutored a lad who, though excluded from school, still wanted to sit his English GCSE; I had ordered a copy of the play so that he could tackle his coursework. It arrived at the same time as an email from Mum to say that he had changed his mind - and now he didn't want to work with me anyway. Time had passed since then, suitable offers of work had dried up, and I realised that as is sometimes the way with endings, retirement had crept up on me without me even noticing. There were no farewell speeches, carriage clock or gardening vouchers for me. Instead, I just emptied my bag, rehomed my board pens and revision guides, presented myself with a copy of a Shakespearean tragedy, and celebrated with a cup of tea… **Brian Williams**

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
and magazine
No. 365 July 2024

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE
Telephone 01304 824969
brianwimsett@hotmail.com

Non-profit & delivered free to the Parish

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council



TELEPHONE BOX – At the top of Wolverton Hill there is an old telephone box which belongs to the village. Many thanks go to David and Helen Jenkinson who have recently moved to Ewell Minnis and live opposite the phone box for arranging the restoration and painting of the phone box. It really is appreciated and many thanks to them for their kind work from Ewell Minnis. **David Beaney**

THE ALKHAM FETE will be held on Saturday the 13th of July 2024 from 2 pm. Help will be appreciated putting the tents up from 9 am on Saturday and jobs can always be found for willing helpers throughout the day, particularly with clearing the meadow after the Fete (from 5 pm). You will find 2 books of raffle tickets (£1 per ticket, £5 for a book of 5) included with your newsletter; please return completed counterfoils and cash for sold tickets (or unused tickets) to Paul Tapsell, Upton Cottage, South Alkham in advance or to the Raffle Stall on the day; prizes for the Grand Raffle are always appreciated! In addition to a variety of stalls and refreshments, there will be performances/displays from the Shepway Brass Academy, Nightingale Dairy, Anna Peacock's Tai Chi, classic cars, East Kent Astronomical Society and the Beekeepers children's races, a Tug of war and a Dog Show (and many other attractions). We will be experimenting with cashless payments on some stalls but please bring plenty of cash if you can in case the tech lets us down! Fingers crossed for good weather (but we'll carry on regardless). If you have any questions (about the Fete), please call me on 07947 016697. **Paul Tapsell**

HANDBAGS - Please can I remind everyone we are still on the lookout for more handbags for the fair. If you could have a look we would be most grateful. We are happy to collect, just let us know or pop round to the house. Finally, a huge thank you to all the lovely people that have already kindly donated. **Jane 07340749788**

CAKES & JEWELLERY STALL - Sue Koo & Anne Huggins would welcome any of your old jewellery for this stall at the Fete on the 13th of July. Please ring Sue on 07454921992 or Anne on 07917813182 to arrange collection or drop-off. Also, it would be wonderful if you could help us by making a cake(s) or biscuits - just deliver to the stall on the day!

IT IS WITH SADNESS the Parish of Alkham has lost another member of its community at Ewell Minnis. David John Smissen born 18 July 1982, passed over on 28 April 2024. David, like his brother Luke, was a very kind man always with a happy smile who enjoyed life to the full. A plasterer and landscape gardener by profession who in his spare time loved fishing, a keen rugby player in his youth, representing Dover in the sport. David will be a great loss to his friends and we hope the passage of time and all of our thoughts will ease the pain of his passing for his parents and his dear Brother Luke. **Geoff Lymer**

NEWSLETTER – Following last month's article it's pleasing to report that Tony has offered to deliver the 10 newsletters to the Wolverton area. Tony is a postman and our village postman Steve will collect them and give them to Tony. It does show how lucky we are to have these postmen who give so much to the community. **Editor**

WATER LEVEL – It is good to see that the water level has dropped by about 2.5m from its high level at the Alkham borehole. If you would like to see these details go to riverlevels.uk/river-dour-alkham-valley-borehole. **Editor**

FILM NIGHT 7.30pm
Alkham Village Hall 30th July
Wicked Little Letters
Olivia Colman Timothy Spall
25th June The Holdovers
Free entry but £4 donation appreciated

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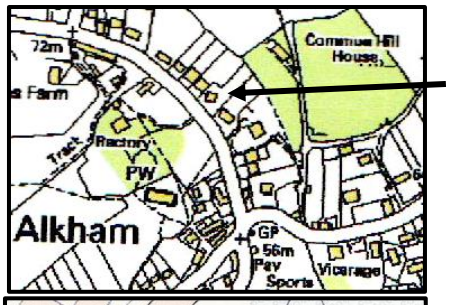
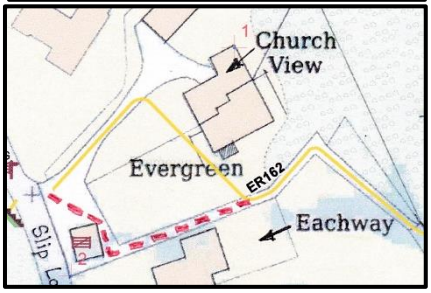
DRELLINGORE - We have just made our second planning application for our self-build conversion of Drellingore Barns. At the time of writing the plans are not available on the Dover District Council website, but a search for the property name should show them when they've been made public. The heritage statement has been a labour of love that locals may find interesting. We really hope that the local community likes what we've proposed, which is a sensitive restoration with big biodiversity gains that will be carbon-negative in its operation. We're happy to answer any questions via family@drellingorebarns.com, and would like to thank the many locals that supported our previous rejected application. We look forward to being your neighbours soon! **Daniel Jones**

CEMETERY – The graves in the burial ground behind the old chapel in Slip Lane have been added to the cemetery details for St. Anthony's church which gives the names and locations for the people buried in the graveyard. There are 8 graves in the burial ground and seven of them are named and if anyone would like a copy of the extra graves or the whole list, please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL has been awarded funding to support local residents improve the energy efficiency of their homes. The money will be invested in homes across the district as part of the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG), funding the likes of loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, internal wall insulation for solid wall homes, air source heat pumps (ASHP) and Solar PV. To qualify for funding the property and the occupants need to meet the criteria: the property is **NOT** heated by gas; has an EPC rating below a C (see web); the total annual household income (gross) is £36,000 or lower, or the occupants are in receipt of a means tested benefit. Residents should express their interest in this HUG2 initiative now as the funding is time limited, with only 35 grants remaining! Call 01304 872128, 01304 872414 or email HUG2@dover.gov.uk. Further details and links to a self-referral form can be found at https://www.gov.uk/apply-home-upgrade-grant.





FOOTPATH - A Parish resident is submitting an application to have a footpath passing through the property of Evergreen between Common Hill and Slip Lane, to be officially acknowledged as a public right of way. The location is shown on the plan on the left and below shows the route of the footpath in a hatched line. Anyone with knowledge to support this and willing to complete a witness statement please contact me and I will pass the details on, contact details are in the banner at the top of the front page. **Editor**

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ALKHAM HISTORY BOOK
If you are interested in the history of Alkham an A4 51-page book is available with many old photos and is free for people associated with Alkham. Please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com



TENNIS – A question was asked as to where tennis was played in the past in Alkham. The tennis court was at the bottom of the garden behind the Old Vicarage and can be seen as the flat piece of ground by the 'No Mow' area on the village green adjacent to the dyke. The photo above shows the Alkham ladies tennis club on this court in the 1930's where decorum was the order of the day and presumably the ladies with the impressive hats were the onlookers. The club was founded at the end of the 19th century and there were a few private courts at Wolverton, the Rectory and Malmains Farm on Slip Lane and the court would have been where the children can be seen standing in the photo on the right and is still visible. **editor**





PLEASE help our local Beekeepers by identifying and reporting Asian Hornet sightings. Asian hornets arrived in France in 2004 and have since spread across large areas of Western Europe; they are not yet established in England, but 6 nests have been found so far this year in the Dover and Folkestone Districts. Asian Hornets are known to feed on many different types of insects including butterflies, moths, beetles and many types of bees. Many of these are vital pollinators and also form a key part of the food chain for birds and small mammals. We caught a queen in our garden wasp trap again this year which we reported on the 'Asian Hornet Watch' app and the bee inspectors came out straight away and collected it for DNA analysis to see if it matched previous catches or was a new arrival, but by destroying it before it could nest it contained any further outbreak; sightings can also be reported by email to alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk with a photo. More information is available at gov.uk/government/news/new-app-to-report-asian-hornet-sightings. **Trevor Johns**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our June meeting was all about the Dover Smart Project which was very interesting. Our next meeting is on the 9th of July when our speaker is Melanie Gibson Barton and the talk is about history of Teddy Bears. Hostesses Marian Libaert, Mari Jones; Raffle Sue Ross; VOT Debbie Griggs. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

ALKHAM WI are doing the refreshments and cakes in the village hall for the fete on Saturday the 13th of July and we are looking for people in the village who would like to bake cakes for us. If you are able to help with this, please bring them along on the day to the village hall but if you can't drop them off please let me know either in person or by ringing me on 07796360473 and I can arrange to pick them up. **Debbie Griggs**



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VILLAGE HALL – It is generally agreed that the village hall needs a bit of refurbishment and the committee have decided to carry out some improvements. The path extension by the brick part of the hall has been halted for the time being to consider what other improvements are needed to the car park area and the kitchen is going to be updated and the hall given a deep clean plus other improvements.

ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL – Excellent facilities, reasonable rates
Please ring Catie on 07976649726 or catiewebber@me.com

Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday	Keep Fit 10.00 am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall

Tuesday	9	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Saturday	13	Fete – please see page 1
Thursday	25	Tea & chat 2.30pm to 4pm
Tuesday	30	Film Night 7.30pm see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00am
Saturday 13th	*Fun, fellowship and food* – 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 14th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	Worship 11.00 am
Sunday 21st	SONGS 11.00 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00am
Sunday 28th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00am

BUS TIMES To Dover 7.59,8.18,9.48,11.23,13.23,14.53,17.28: Sat: 9.48,11.18,13.18,15.28
To Folkestone 9.09,10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09,18.09: Sat 10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09
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FROM THE VICARAGE - An election campaign is underway – you've probably noticed – and perhaps, like me, you have been watching the televised debates between the leaders of the political parties, each trying to persuade us that theirs is the best suited to form a government to serve the nation over the next few years. And while TV debates might seem to have been with us for ever, the first was broadcast as recently as 2010. Turn the clock back even further, and we find that general elections were once very different. When elections were called public meetings would be held in each town – hustings at which candidates would give speeches. These could be quite rowdy affairs, often attended by large crowds - but not everyone could vote. The rules around who could varied from one place to another. Women were excluded. Voting was by a show of hands - there was no secret ballot before 1872 – so the possibility of intimidation, especially if your employer was a candidate, was very real. Back to 2024 and thinking of our upcoming election, here's a quotation from John Wesley - travelling preacher, founder of the Methodist Church and, in his time, something of a celebrity. With the general election of October 1774 approaching, he spoke at a church meeting near Bristol. He later wrote in his Journal: ***I met those of our society who had votes in the ensuing election, and advised them (1) to vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy; (2) to speak no evil of the person they voted against; and (3) to take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side.***Things have changed a lot since 1774. But such wisdom is timeless, and worth remembering. **Brian Williams**

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THE ALKHAM FETE was a great success with a lot of people turning up and having a good time after the fete was opened by Guineara Jones who is 100 years old and a mother of an Alkham resident. Around the village green there were numerous tents selling various items and there was also a coconut shy, a human fruit machine, a ball throwing Victorian Head stand and a putting green which gave it the flavour of a traditional fete. The Night King was there and he was correctly identified by Samuel who can be seen posing with him in the photo above. Refreshments were served in the village hall and beer tent, the Shepway Brass band provided music on the green, SEKAS gave astronomical information, Tai Chi a display and the Dover Fire Brigade later had a tug of war with the victorious children. The dog show went very well with a lot of entrants and the prize for best in show went to a Blue German Shepherd/Collie cross proudly posing for the photo. A Spanish Brando was the most handsome dog and other rosettes were awarded including one to a labradoodle called Macy who looked most like his owner. It was all good fun and enormous thanks must go to Paul Tapsell who was the prime organiser and to all the people who helped with such a great event. There will be further details in the next newsletter regarding the fete and the amount of money raised. **editor**





SUNFLOWERS - I'm not sure how many people are still in the competition bearing in mind slugs, floods and high winds, however anyone who may just about have the remnants of a sunflower still trying to grow would you please let me know so that Ang and I can come out and measure them on Sunday morning of the 25th of August 2024. Anyone still in the competition please let me know on anitajames163@gmail.com. **Anita James**



RAILINGS – Marian Libaertt and husband Paul who live in the village have for some time thought the railings opposite the village hall looked neglected and not very visible. Paul had some spare black and white paint, so they decided to spruce them up which took a few days because of the rain. They also washed the railings opposite and it has made an enormous difference especially as they are more visible to passing traffic. Many thanks to them for doing this splendid work. It is also encouraging to see that a number of people are also getting involved with the village with new parish councillors and an almost new village hall committee who have progressive ideas. Also, thanks go to the people who cleared the compacted mud on Hogbrook Lane which was caused by the tankers emptying the sewer. **editor**

FILM NIGHT 7.30pm

As it is a holiday month there will not be film a in August

30th July Wicked Little Letters
Alkham Village Hall
Free entry but £4 donation appreciated

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TRAFFIC SURVEY RESULTS KCC Traffic Survey 2024 - The Parish Council Highways Group has summarised the data from the files sent to us by Kent Highways. The document below highlights the trends that impact the Parish Council's plans however the data is much as we expected from our experience with Speedwatch. At the eastern end, there is a significant problem with vehicles speeding out of the village, nearly half were recorded at over the prosecution speed of 35mph and with a maximum recorded speed of 76mph! In the centre, the average speed recorded was 22.5mph. The County policy regarding implementing 20mph limits states "20mph limits are generally only recommended where existing mean speeds are already below 24mph" and this gives us a good starting point to request a 20-mph speed limit. There was a peak of 866 vehicles an hour passing through the village and this is with only circa 800 houses completed at Whitfield as eventually a further 5000+ will be built. The Parish Council aims to get these limits agreed upon to make it less attractive as a "Rat-run" and stop sat nav's choosing us as the "quickest" route. At the Western end surprisingly, we have over 50% complying with the speed limit and only 13% over the prosecution level so maybe here Speedwatch has made a difference. But there are always some that will ignore it with 7343 vehicles travelling at over 35mph and a speed of 67mph was recorded exiting the village. One of the other challenges is with the HGVs and their impact on the road especially the tippers servicing the Whitfield development; from the data we can pick out the numbers of movements of >7.5 tons (classes 4-12) of which there were 423 movements during this period, worryingly nearly 20% of these were also doing over 35mph as they came into the village! We also have some information about motorbikes too with over half of them doing more than 35mph and a peak speed recorded of 72mph. Regrettably, the data revealed only 15 bicycle movements were recorded at the western end during the period so despite the beauty of the ANOB it seems cyclists are voting with their pedals. The Parish Council will use this data to have an evidence-based discussion with Kent Highways to ask for improvements to the Alkham Valley Road. **Alkham Parish Council**

TREES – Most of the centre of Alkham is in a conservation area and if you want to cut down a tree with a stem diameter of greater than 75mm you have to get permission from the local authority otherwise you may be subject to a substantial fine. A person who lives in the centre of the village contacted DDC about an ash tree and the reply said that tree is clearly dead and you may go ahead and remove it but under Section 213 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, you do have a duty to plant a new tree of a suitable size and species to replace the dead ash as soon as you reasonably can. I would be grateful if you can send me a photograph of the new tree once you have done this. Evidently DDC are pursuing some people who have not applied for permission. **Editor**

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If you are interested in the history of Alkham an A4 51-page book is available with many old photos and is free for people associated with Alkham. Please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com



GOING WEST - The photo, which was taken in Alkham, shows Ben Spicer with his dog Luna packed and ready and hoping to cycle to Cornwall. Ben is from Alkham and a great character and has borrowed an electric bike to tow two trailers containing food for the dog and all the gear you would need to go camping. It is remarkable that the bike can tow the weight and all his friends in Alkham wish him the best of luck on his adventure. He is currently in Southampton. **Editor**

ALKHAM W.I. - What an enjoyable meeting our July one was when we had Melanie Gibson-Barton come and speak to us about the history of Teddy bears. Our next meeting is on the 13th of August which is our fish and chips night and please bring your own refreshments. Any members that didn't attend the July meeting but would like fish and chips please contact me on 07796360473 by the 10th of August. Raffle Mari Jones, new members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

FUN, FRIENDSHIP AND FABULOUS FLOWERS - Dover Flower Club has planned a series of exciting events in the Autumn, beginning with our September meeting when we shall be celebrating the 60th birthday of our club. Mig Kimpton, our Chairman and well known floral artist, will be giving a flower arranging demonstration entitled '60 Glorious Years'. There will be free cake and fizz available and a competition for members. Our October meeting will be tutored by celebrated floral artist Graham King who will run a workshop to help us improve our flower arranging skills. The finale of our autumn events will be a Christmas themed flower arranging demonstration at The Astor Theatre Deal, run in conjunction with the Deal and District Flower Club. Ian Lloyd, a celebrated floral artist, will give a demonstration entitled 'A Cheshire Christmas'. With the exception of our Christmas event, meetings take place at Whitfield Village Hall, Manley Close, CT16 3LY at 7.15pm. Refreshments are free and visitors are always welcome. To summarise: Monday 23rd of September, Birthday Celebration, Whitfield Village Hall. Members free, visitors £10. Monday 28th of October Workshop, Whitfield Village Hall. Members free, visitors £8.00. Monday 25th of November Christmas demonstration at The Astor Theatre Deal, visitors £15, members free. For more information please phone Mig Kimpton: 07831 838851.

ARTICLES for the newsletter are always welcome and if you would like to write one, please do and email it to brianwimsett@hotmail.com or leave a paper copy in the Local Mail box at the back of the Old Post Office.



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ST. ANTHONY'S OPEN DAY

On Saturday the 20th of July between 11am and 2pm you can try bell ringing, playing the organ, flower arranging and more in the church. On Sunday there is Songs of Praise at 11am when you can choose your favourite hymn. Please contact Brian Williams on 01303 243784 or Jerry Spillett on 07961 994097.

ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL – Excellent facilities, reasonable rates
Please ring Catie on 07976649726 or catiewebber@me.com

Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday	Keep Fit 10.00 am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall

Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Thursday	29	Tea & chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4th	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Saturday 10th	*Fun, fellowship and food – children accompanied* **3.00 – 5.00 pm**		
Sunday 11th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Songs 11.00 am	Worship 11.00 am
Sunday 18th	Worship 11.00 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 25th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00 am

BUS TIMES To Dover 7.59,8.18,9.48,11.23,13.23,14.53,17.28: Sat: 9.48,11.18,13.18,15.28
To Folkestone 9.09,10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09,18.09: Sat 10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09
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HALL BOOKING Catie Webber 07976649726 or catiewebber@me.com
W.I. SECRETARY Janet Barrow 829585 **VICAR** Brian Williams 01303 243784
AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641 alkhamvs.org
MP Mike Tapp:: **KCC** David Beaney 07818 024487
DDC cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk 07796444860.
LOCAL SITES alkham.org alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

FROM THE VICARAGE - *"Hello Mr Williams!"* The greeting was accompanied by the same cheesy grin that I had seen so often at the back of my classroom, the cause of so many of my grey hairs. But now, having taken my car to be serviced, I could only watch anxiously as he took my car keys, and my pride and joy disappeared into the bowels of the workshop. I needn't have worried. He had found his calling – not only did my car come back in one piece, but it ran perfectly. I could safely trust him with my car keys after all. Often, keys represent power. Whether or not you are allowed to have them probably shows where you are in the great scheme of things. Once, when working as a supply teacher, I needed to lock a room that I had been teaching in. Asking for the key at the school office, I was confronted by a ferocious school secretary who demanded to know who I was, and why I needed a key. Her tone changed when I explained what I needed it for. Keys can symbolise trust. The New Testament tells of how Jesus told his friend, Simon Peter, that the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven would be his; he and the other disciples would, through their preaching, be responsible for opening the doors of heaven to others and inviting the world to enter. I sometimes think of that when I look at the heavy church key that hangs in our kitchen – a reminder of the trust that my calling involves. Power and trust. In July there was a General Election, and our nation chose to lend the keys of Number 10 to Sir Keir Starmer. However, you voted, please pray that he may drive safely… **Brian Williams**

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
and magazine

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE
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brianwimsett@hotmail.com

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PÉTANQUE - Over the past few years we've had some very well attended Village Functions on The Meadow most noticeably the last Jubilee and Coronation as well as the hugely successful Village Fete. During these events there have been some planned although often unplanned games and activities. Due to comments, suggestions and sheer enthusiasm but such a varying range of people I have asked the Parish Council to support a request to have a Pétanque Terrain put into the playing field. Pétanque, or Boule as some of you may know it, is a hugely inclusive game played by all ages and genders where skill, technique and blind luck play more of a part in success than athletic prowess. The social connection from playing this game, which can be year-round, could be a real advantage to a healthy local community and simply making friends. I have spoken to the Captain of Alkham Cricket Club as the area needed is likely to impact upon the boundary of the cricket ground and I wish the Petanque Club to be very respectful toward the history of the Cricket club which is something our village is rightly proud of. There is no initial objection particularly if the desire for a Pétanque Terrain is widespread within the community. Before the Parish Council can look to support the request with some funding to create the playing area or Terrain, they have requested I seek some input from anyone who'd like to get involved in playing for a local club, or simply using the facility on an ad hoc basis. To this end I'd really appreciate you taking the time to get in touch and let me know if you'd support having the facility. I need to know names and number of people, but I will not be passing on any contact details to anyone! Get involved and let me know, Thank You.
Kev Rolfe - kev.rolfe@yahoo.com or phone 07857 305044.

PARISH COUNCIL - There will be another Parish Council Open Day on Saturday the 14th of September at the village hall and everyone is invited to meet the councillors and see details of upcoming plans. Please see their full report on page 2.

MARQUIS OF GRANBY - We are very excited to announce that the Marquis of Granby will be hosting a night with Johnny Ball on the 6th of September. This will include a 3-course menu and stories from Johnny on his life, all very much with a funny twist he has assured me. This will be on a pre-booked basis. If you'd like to attend, please email us on info@marquisofgranby.co.uk or call us on 01304873410. **Hugh Thompson Manager**

FETE REPORT - A huge thank you to everyone who supported and participated in this year's Fete on 13th July; it was a marvellous success (if I say so myself) and we took about £6,400 on the day which is amazing and significantly higher than previous years (the last one in 2018 took about £5,000 on the day). After expenses we should have about £4,000 to donate to the Church and Village Hall, so thank you. There are too many people to thank individually (and it would be unfair to single anyone out as it was very much a team effort) but you know who you are and should know how much your efforts are appreciated. There will be a meeting on the 12th of September at 8 pm in the Village Hall to discuss this year's fete, sort out the finances and start arrangements for next year. Please come along (there may even be some wine and nibbles available!). **Paul Tapsell …** I think we would all like to thank Paul for doing such a good job.

THE GARAGE SAFARI at Capel is on the 1st of September and the church has a fete at St Radigund's. If I could ask if you have plants, bric-a-brac, books or raffle prizes I would be most grateful. Please ring me on 070946106742 and I will gladly pick them up. Thank you. **Carol Mannall**

MANY THANKS to the people who came to my charity night when we raised £1150 so the Pilgrims Hospice and Alzheimer's both received £575 each. **Debbie Griggs**

FILM NIGHT 7.30pm
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Fried green tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe
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No visit in August
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PARISH COUNCIL - There will be another council open day on Saturday 14th of September at the village hall, everyone is invited to meet the councillors and see details of upcoming plans. The years financial information was signed off at the Parish Council Meeting on the 24th of June and has been published on the website. Kent Highways are considering proposals to enable Alkham Highways Improvement Plan to move on. Many safety initiatives have been rejected so we are looking for achievable ideas. The cleaning of the road outside the Village Hall after five months of tanker movements has been done with thanks to Kevin Rolfe and his team of volunteers. Also thanks to Paul and Marian Libaert for cleaning and painting the safety rails. The news from Southern Water on remedial work for the sewers is that the survey and assessment has been done and they are waiting for a start date from their contractors. Permission has been obtained for the tree maintenance and is due to begin on August 12th. The council adopted the Ewell Minnis telephone box some years ago and we have finally received the paperwork! The phone apparatus will now be removed and we are asking for ideas of what we want to do with it, please get in touch. An informal meeting has been held with representatives from Temple Ewell and Hawkinge Councils to discuss the Alkham Valley Road. The next Alkham Parish Council meeting is on the 2nd of September.

HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP - The Parish Council have requested a narrowing of the road east and west of the Village with one at Short Lane and the other at the Garden Centre. KCC Highways have not yet responded and the working group have asked KCC Highways to explain what the Parish Council could have to improve traffic safety for residents. It was reported that the 30-mph zone cannot be extended because there are not enough houses to warrant this.

SOLAR TOGETHER KENT - Are you thinking about getting solar panels but not sure where to start? Secure a great deal on solar with the help of your community! Dover District Council is working in partnership with Kent County Council on the current round of Solar Together Kent, as part of Dover District Council's commitment to tackling the climate emergency. Solar Together Kent is a group-buying scheme, which brings Kent households and small businesses together to get high-quality solar panels at a competitive price. Having your own solar panels means you can save on your energy bill as well as reduce your carbon emissions. The scheme helps you through the whole process, keeping you informed at every stage. Installations will generally not need planning permission. However, in some cases, such as in Conservation Areas and on Listed Buildings, planning permission may be required, please visit Buying Solar Panels made easy (dover.gov.uk) for more information.

VILLAGE HALL – When the brick extension to the hall was built a soakaway was installed in the car park but the rainwater regularly flowed over the top of the pipe attached to the guttering and made the grass underneath wet. Recently the car park was excavated to find the soakaway and when found there was a lemonade bottle stuck in the end of the pipe. This has now been cleared and hopefully the water will drain away when it rains. Also, many thanks to Graham Bissett with the help of Harlan Webber for installing the new DVD player and sound system with the hearing loop in the village hall. **Alkham Village Hall** treasurer

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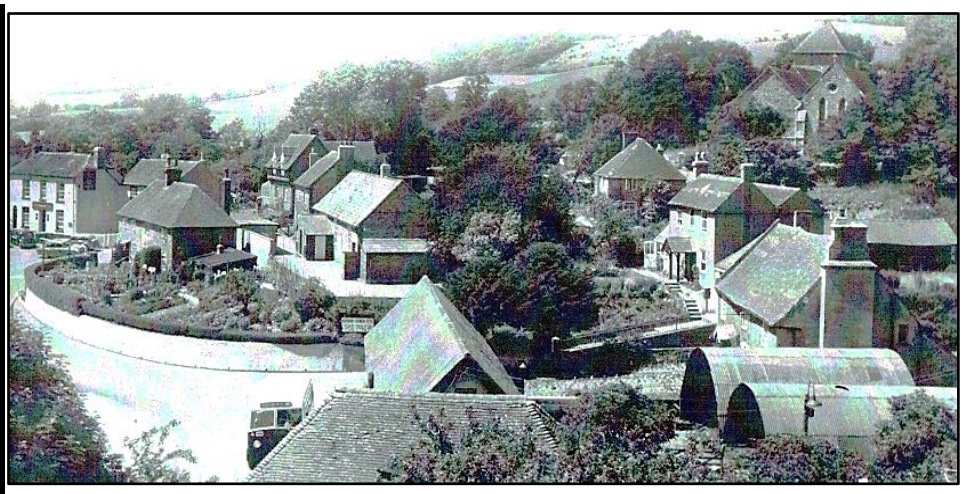

ON THE WALL in the photo above there is a sign advertising the Alkham Fete on Saturday the 15th of July 1959. The fete was held on Vicarage Meadow later to officially become the village green and would have been traditional very much like this year's fete except there would have been a produce show and flower displays. In the foreground is Halton Farm with the cowshed next to where the bus is waiting and some of the cows were herded down Hogbrook Lane opposite for milking which sometimes caused problems for cowman Will when Betty brought her children down to Alkham in her Dormobile. Halton Manor was owned by a nobleman and the barons collected their money at the court which was eventually at Halton and hence the name. The farm was eventually sold and the cowshed and other buildings demolished leaving what is now the fine Grade II listed Halton Court. In the background is Alkham School which closed in 1972 the Post Office Stores which also closed in the 1970's. **editor**

I WOULD LIKE to say a huge thank you, on behalf of the village of Alkham, to Brian Wimsett for all his long years of service looking after Alkham Village Hall. For as long as I have lived in the village (a mere 20 odd years) he was, and had already been, for time immemorial, as far as I could tell, the glue and WD40 that held our delightful hall together and kept it running like clockwork. He has held the role of key holder, treasurer, odd-job man, caretaker and more recently, chairman! Among his many talents, he helped mediate Covid lockdown restrictions, encroaching floods, land disputes and a few captious hall-hirers, steadfastly and in his usual equanimous manner! I understand he is continuing to keep his hand in for now, but I didn't want this moment to slip by unnoticed. I hope you will all join me in thanking Brian and recognising his appreciable contribution to village life and that he is not too modest to put my words into print. **Tracey Prince …** *I really do appreciate this article although I'm not sure all was deserved.* When Geoff Hillier died during Covid I was asked to take over as chairman, but a couple of recently appointed committee members wanted to have a new chairman. **Brian Wimsett**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our August meeting was fun and we had fish and chips from the Seafarers chip shop in Cheriton, Folkestone. Our next meeting will be on September the 10th when our speaker will be Judi Knight and our talk will be Fashion and Ration. Hostesses are Debbie Saunders and Christine Banham, Raffle Margaret Batcheldor and VOT Janet Adams. New members are always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**



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CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1st	Prayer 5.00 pm	Fete	Eucharist 11.00am
Saturday 7th	Messy Church adult accompanied 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 8th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	Worship 11.00 am
Sunday 15th	Worship 11.00 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 22nd	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 29th	St Mary's (Capel Old Church) United Parish Eucharist 10.00am		

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FROM THE VICARAGE - In the Church's calendar, 29th September is the Feast of St Michael and All Angels. It's also the anniversary of the day when I became a 'Reverend'. I can still remember standing outside the West Door of Canterbury Cathedral, waiting in procession for the organ to signal the beginning of the service with the first notes of the hymn *Ye Holy Angels Bright*. One of my favourites, I'd like it at my funeral, which hopefully won't be for a while yet - although you never know. Hymns have a certain something about them. Even today, BBC's *Songs of Praise*, first broadcast in 1961, still appears somewhere in the schedules most Sundays. Some folk were so upset when we were forbidden to sing hymns during the pandemic that they stopped coming to church completely – and in some cases, sadly, they've never been back. But the good news is that a couple of Songs of Praise services in church recently brought in people who we either hadn't seen before, or at least not in a while. Just as on TV, people introduced what they had chosen to sing, and explained why. Sydney Carter's *Lord of the Dance* reminded some of their school days - and even, in one case, of evenings spent in the pub playing with a folk band. Other hymns brought back fond memories of those no longer with us, and others we sang simply because people liked them. At the end there was still time for one more hymn. I happened to mention the offer that I'd made to the bellringers. And even though it wasn't Christmas, there was one hymn that just about everyone wanted to sing. And so it was that we finished with an enthusiastic rendition of *Ding! Dong! Merrily On High*… **Brian Williams**

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
and magazine
No. 368 October 2024

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE
Telephone 01304 824969
brianwimsett@hotmail.com

Non-profit & delivered free to the Parish

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council



VOLUNTEERING! - I wanted to thank the Parish Council for a name check in the last edition of the Alkham News for helping to clear the road outside the village hall; in truth there were too many volunteers to name which all started following a tipsy conversation during the village Garden Club earlier in the year. Any notion that they are my 'band of volunteers' really needs putting to bed as the good spirit of those people volunteering is just an extension of what so many people, for so many years have already done. You all know who you are! Amongst some of the comments made to me were that perhaps it's quite difficult or an imposition when Parish Councillors, Village Hall committee members or anyone in a position of responsibility ask for volunteers. Now I not saying that I'm irresponsible but I'm certainly not a Parish Councillor, a Village Hall committee member or anyone of any significance. However, it does seem to me that we have many skills amongst us in the village and if they can be put to good use for our community, without the need to pay for the services, we could all benefit. During the ongoing improvements to the Village Hall this latest band of volunteers have concreted a new side path following the recent repair of the soakaway and started on the paving slabs and electrical supply into the car park. Who knew we had a master concreter in the form of Bryony Levermore and a master mixer in the form of David Manton. There's more work still to be done and, be it the finesse of Graham West or the brute force of myself, all are welcome to help out as so many already have. The Village Hall for one is a charity, it needs our help and support whatever skill, talent or service that is. As a person of no significance at all, I'm happy to put anyone in touch with the right people where your talents can help. Also, thanks to passer-by, expert photographer and self-titled specialist moaner Barry Spicer who insisted on taking a photo of the four of us! **Kev Rolfe**

CALLING ANYONE who enjoys a thoroughly enjoyable, social evening! I have booked the Village Hall on 5th of October to hold a Harvest Barn Dance/Ceilidh/Folk Dance – call it what you will. There will be live music and a caller, and supper will be included in the ticket price of £10, which I think represents amazing value for money for 4 hours of entertainment. There will not be a bar so, of course, you are welcome to bring your own refreshment. If you have not been to an event such as this before, no dancing skills are necessary, just the ability to walk, to step or to skip in time with the music, as the caller will give you the instructions for each dance. Two feet or either right or left variety is not an excuse! This is not Line Dancing, but traditional English, Irish and Scottish folk dancing, sometimes in couples, but often in sets of several couples. It is super exercise and a great way of socialising and meeting people. I guarantee you will leave the hall with a smile on your face. I need to sell 70 tickets to cover costs of musicians, food etc. Please contact me at 07789 690786 or graham.bissett@talk21.com for tickets – and bring your friends!! **Graham Bissett**

VILLAGE HALL COFFEE MORNING - On Saturday the 26th of October between 10-12 am we are raising funds towards hall improvements and hope you can come along for a cuppa. There will be the usual raffle and cake stall, so could all you lovely people please donate whatever you can. I would appreciate raffles prizes beforehand, so I know what I have but cakes on the day please. **Sue Koo - 07454021992**

IT'S THAT TIME of year again folks Harvest supper time. I have booked the hall for Monday the 14th of October and it will be an American Supper again where you bring your own food and drink. It will start at 19.00 and please if you have any produce that can be auctioned off please bring it along to either our Harvest service on the Sunday or on the night. Tickets will be £7.00 each to book ring Carol on 07946106742 or 01304 826514.

MARK LOVEDAY – It is sad to report that Mark died in September. He owned the Old Rectory in Alkham and further details and thanks for his many contributions are given on page 2.

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MARK LOVEDAY - Mark was born in London in 1943 and lived in London, but he also owned the Old Rectory on Slip Lane which his family regularly visited for many years as he loved Alkham and tried to do everything he could to keep it as a lovely village. When the owner of Malmains Farm died about 10 years ago the beneficiaries applied for a planning application to build a large number of houses on the farmland by the entrance to Alkham on the Folkestone side, but this was rejected and Mark immediately bought the land which continues to be farmed today. Cricket was Mark's life-long interest and each year his team the Harrington Hackers played an Alkham team on the village green and entertained proverbial lunches at the Old Rectory which many may remember. He was also Chairman of the Alkham Valley Society and gave generous donations to the Friends of St. Anthony to maintain the church building and helped with other village activities. He was a kind man and Alkham is very grateful. *This is on behalf of Alkham*

ASIAN HORNETS IN ALKHAM, now more descriptively being referred to as yellow-legged hornets (YLH) - In August, a yellow legged hornet nest was found up Slip Lane. The nest was found after a number of YLH's had been trapped at various locations around the village. The National Bee Unit (Plant and Animal Health Agency) visited as soon as the hornets were identified and started work to locate the nest. This was an involved process with them recording flight time and direction of individual hornets. They then had to work out how best to destroy a nearly 30 metre high nest next to houses and a road. In the end climbers poisoned the colony and later removed the nest. Other nests have been found and destroyed in Lydden and Temple Ewell. The first week of September was "Asian hornet week" and some of the coverage on the BBC featured locations in Alkham. We had YLH and nests last year but there is a greater awareness of what we need to do to prevent this predatory species from becoming established in the UK. There have been traps set up since last year at roughly 1km intervals, the majority of these supplied and monitored by Dover and District Bee Keepers Association. We are going to continue seeing YLH's each year even If nests are cleared as new hornets will arrive from France, so it is important particularly in our area that people know what to do if they suspect they have seen a YLH. The Asian Hornet Watch app remains the best way to do this, otherwise make sure that you have a clear picture to help identification, as the European hornet and various wasps are easily misidentified as YLH's. Please contact me if you would like a card with identification details. **Emma Kaile** emmakaile1@gmail.com

SUNFLOWER COMPETITION - Out of the 29 households which took place in this year's contest, owing mainly to this year's slug fest, odd weather and storm Lilian by the time the day of measuring the sunflowers came only 6 competitors were left. The winner this year are Sue and Ray Latham with an impressive 7'4, followed by Vernon 6', Alan Tapsell 5'8, Paul Tapsell 5'6, Ken Spencer 5'3 and Richard Tapsell 5'1. Thank you to everyone who took part and to Vernon who grew all the seedlings. **Anita James**

A MESSAGE from Temple Ewell School - Mrs Church has been busy again applying for grants to enrich our school programme and support our families. This time we have been successfully chosen as a Tesco blue token nominee. Please, when you shop in Tesco Dover, can you collect a blue token at the till and pop it into the Temple Ewell School slot by the door as you leave. It is also in the Deal store so please share this with your friends and family. The token drop runs from the first week in October until mid-January 25. **Angela Matthews**

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ALKHAM HISTORY BOOK
If you are interested in the history of Alkham an A4 51-page book is available with many old photos and is free for people associated with Alkham. Please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com

PETANQUE SOCIAL TASTER - Following the most recent Parish Council Meeting, I would now like to arrange a Social Taster Event on Vicarage Meadow at 2pm on Saturday the 12th of October. First, I'd like to thank everyone for all the responses, I have reported these back to the Parish Council and I have asked for their support and permission to build a terrain on the The Meadow. I believe that I gave a very fair representation of the feedback including comments about some wishing for children's play area's to be prioritised, about concerns over costs, about fencing (which is not part or the proposal) and about concerns over issues at the Capel-le-Ferne area but that the majority of feedback was supportive and in favour. I'd like to address a few of the comments directly, however space and time are limited so I invite everyone to attend the taster for more information. I've requested to book the village hall so I would suggest that we all meet in the hall at 2pm to discuss the proposal and play some pétanque right after. I will be inviting all the Parish Councillors so this is your opportunity to show your support and find out more, please come along, whatever the weather and bring whatever refreshments you prefer and don't forget your boules, although there will be some available for all to use including children's sets, in fact as the taster will be held on grass it may well prove that we all use plastic sets as the steel boules that many of you have may not be suitable on the day. Finally, the large issue of money! I'll be trying to raise all the construction costs through donations so that when I go back to the council again we are only looking for permission to build and no cost implication. I've already had some very generous offers which I am embarrassed to accept but I'm sure with the number of people supporting this request we can raise enough fairly easily, although donations are not required to join us on the day or use the facilities after. I'm not looking for any cash at this stage, but I will be asking for pledges, anonymously if desired, on the day so we know what we are facing. If successful I'd like to obtain permission from the Parish Council and have the facility built after Christmas and ready for use by Easter 2025! **Kev Rolfe**

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS - So it's that time again, village Christmas lights will be on Saturday 7th December, please come along for a sing song and chat with Santa. We are going to follow this with a party in the village hall. So, get your glad rags on and come along for some fun, music and dancing. We are looking to do sharing platters again and everyone bring their own drinks. Finally, there will be a raffle, this will pay for hire of the hall and any remaining monies will go to support village hall improvements. Hopefully, you can help with donating of a raffle prize/s. One last thing if you could contact me, just ideas of numbers and what you might like to bring along for sharing on the night. Looking forward to seeing you all. Further updates next month. **Graham West** (graham.west28@hotmail.com).

ALKHAM W.I. - What an enjoyable evening, our speaker was Judi Knight telling us all about the war and how there were clothes coupons as well as food coupons. Our next meeting is on the 8th of October and our speaker will be Dean Guston, subject the queens service. Hostesses Lucy McKenzie and Marian Libaert, raffle Helen Price, VOT Eileen West. New members always welcome **Debbie Griggs**



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29th of October
The Family – Robert De Nero
24th of September - Whistle Stop Cafe
Free entry but £4 donation appreciated

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Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday	Keep Fit 10.00 am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall

Saturday	5	Harvest Barn Dance – see page 1
Tuesday	8	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Monday	14	Harvest Supper – see page 1
Saturday	26	Coffee morning – see page 1
Thursday	31	Tea & chat 2.30pm to 4pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6th	Evening 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Saturday 12th	*Fun, fellowship and food - children accompanied* 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 13th HARVEST	Eucharist 9.30 am	Songs 11.00 am	Songs 11.00 am
Sunday 20th	Worship 11.00 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 27th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00 am

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FROM THE VICARAGE - In May 1373 a woman who we now know as Julian of Norwich lay seriously ill, and a priest was summoned. As he held a crucifix in front of her the figure of Christ seemed to speak to her, an experience which, once recovered, she described in her book *Revelations of Divine Love.* Possibly the first book in English to be written by a woman, it's still in print. Her conviction that God's love conquers all, and that come what may *'All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well*' - continues to comfort and inspire. But could such a spiritual classic still be written today? In situations like Julian's people are now more likely to send for a paramedic, rather than a priest. Could the 'Still, Small Voice' have penetrated the flashing of blue lights, and the wail of sirens? Rabbi Lionel Blue used to say that God shows his hand in the most unexpected places. Others talk about 'getting a prod'. I know what they mean. Take a visit to the dentist, for example. Arriving there a couple of months ago I unexpectedly found myself being asked to add one of their work colleagues to our prayer list at church. She was ill, they were concerned about her, and they evidently thought that prayer might help. As I sat in the chair, my dentist handed me a piece of paper with her name on it. I had arrived there expecting to have a broken tooth removed, but ended up with a 'prod'! On a return visit recently I asked how she was. I was told that she is still receiving treatment. I told them that we're still praying. *"Thanks Brian,"* came the reply. *"It does help."* **Brian Williams**

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THE ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL 100 CLUB - To raise funds for the redevelopment of the village hall, I would like to start a '100 Club'. A 100 club is simply a small, repeating lottery which has a limited number of members (in our case 100), the purpose of which is to raise money for a particular goal i.e the upgrade and redevelopment of village hall facilities so that it becomes a venue that people really want to use. The draw would take place monthly in the Marquis of Granby on the same night as the quiz. To become a member of the club each member pays £10.00 per month (approximately £2.31) per week and by doing so that person becomes eligible to be part of the draw (I suggest that the minimum period to sign up would be six months). The money would be payable on the first of the month by standing order. In real terms this equates to less than a cup of coffee or a half pint of beer each week. Each member of the 'club' will be allocated a number from 1-100 and that will become their draw number. To provide full transparency, the draw would take place in a public setting, by a randomly selected individual and would be done using a set of lottery balls bought for the purpose. This is to ensure that the numbers drawn would be truly down to the luck of the draw; something that is not possible using a computer. If we manage to attract 100 members, then out of £1000 collected each month, £250 would be given in prize money. Four prizes would be offered; First prize: £100. Second prize: £75. Third prize £50 and a fourth prize of £25.00. If we have to trim our sails and have fewer members then the prize values will be reduced accordingly. All profits from the lottery would be given to the village hall, and the village hall committee will be accountable to '100 Club' members and the wider community for how the funds raised are spent. The lottery will be licensed by Dover District Council under current lottery regulations. As the licence runs from 1st January to 31st December each year, I am proposing that the inaugural draw will take place in January 2025. If you would like to become a member of the Alkham Village Hall 100 Club, please contact me at graham.bissett@talk21.com or 07789 690786. Closing dates for expressions of interest is 30th November 2024 in order to given me time to apply for the licence.

TEMPLE EWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL - Is your child starting in Reception in September 2025? If so join us for one of our Open Mornings on Wednesday the 13th of November 2024 from 9.15am or 10.45am To book your place, please call our school office - 01304 822665. **Nicola Church**

POPPY APPEAL - This year The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal starts on 24 October, so we will be out collecting from that date. As in previous years I know the Alkham villagers will be giving generously to such a good cause. Remembrance Sunday is 10 November when there will be a service in Alkham Church on the 10th of November at 10.00am followed by 2 minutes silence by the memorial in the churchyard. **Rachel Fountain**

MORNING TEA in aid of Village Hall refurbishment SATURDAY 26th October 10am - 12pm

The Village Hall Committee is striving to improve your village hall and therefore fund raising is a necessary part of our plans. So far the entrance hall and toilets have been renovated. Outside new pathways have been constructed with raised beds to be installed. All this work has been achieved by wonderful volunteers, with materials being the only expenditure. Plans are now underway to paint both the hall ceiling and the kitchen. So come along and support this fundraising event to improve your village hall! At the Morning Tea there will also be a Raffle with good prizes donated by local businesses, a 'Bring & Buy' table, and a Cake stall. Please help by baking cakes and donating items for the table. Tickets for the raffle will be delivered to your letterbox or are available from Irene Barnard (07789412432) or Sue Koo (07454021992)

KENT POLICE has launched a CCTV registry which is a simple database of private CCTV (including doorbell) cameras so that they can contact the owner if their footage may be of use. To register go to cctvregistrykentandessex.co.uk/camera-registry.

FILM NIGHT

Alkham Village Hall 7.30pm
26th of November
A Very British Scandal
29th of October – The Family
Free entry but £4 donation appreciated

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19th of October
will be outside the village hall 5-6.30pm
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Also cater for weddings, kid's parties, christenings, charity events, fish supper parties and boot fairs

MIKE ROSS – Mike died at the end of September aged 74 having suffered from Parkinson's Disease for some time. Mike moved into the village in 2004 and at the time he worked for the local authority in the licensing department where he gained further qualifications. He was very much involved in village activities and every year together with his wife Sue organised a coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support which was always a great success. Mike was a tall man latterly with light hair and he could be seen most days walking his dog round the village. He was a kind and gentle person and will be missed.

JAMES D'ALTON BELLAS – Jimmy, who lived in the centre of Alkham with his wife Nina, also died at the end of September aged 78. Jimmy had studied guitar under a renowned teacher and did local recitals but due to a hand injury became a tutor. A lot of his past and present students and renowned guitar players and singers used to come annually to a guitar concert at St Anthony's church which was always full with a lot of proud parents attending but unfortunately, due to Jimmy's ill health the concerts couldn't continue. He is being buried in St Anthony's cemetery on the 31st of October and the service will be at 12.30pm when the renowned guitar player Grant Dowse will be playing Bach and other music and Emily Renshaw will be singing Ave Maria.

MARK LOVEDAY – In last month's newsletter there was a tribute to Mark who died in September for his generosity and other activities in relation to Alkham. The full obituary was in the Times and mainly covered his financial work in the city but there was no mention of Alkham. You can comment on articles and I wrote something similar to what was in the newsletter and it was pleasing to see that it got at least twenty likes. **editor**

HURRAH! we can see the buses arriving! What a difference the raising of the canopy of the horse chestnut has made (*on the bend by the green*). It is understood that a dead ash was taken down and other trees were attended to. No mean feat and after considerable juggling of what is left of the Parish Council cash! Thankyou Parish Council. **Jo Walker**

FOOTPATH – In the July newsletter there was an article regarding a footpath which runs through Evergreen on Slip Lane being officially acknowledged. A number of residents backed the proposal and it's pleasing to report that the footpath had been registered but will be 5 years before/if it is accepted.

NEWSLETTER – The newsletter broke even again for the financial year September 2023 to August 2024. The cost of the toner, paper and mailing came to £360 and coincidently the revenue from paid adverts was also £360. There will also be wear and tear on top of that but the two Brother printers keep churning away.

ALKHAM W.I. - Our October meeting was all about the Queen's Service by Dean Caston and it was very interesting. Our next meeting will be Tuesday 12th of November and it will be our pamper/Christmas shopping evening, £5 entry fee or pay on the door which includes glass of prosecco or fruit juice. Doors open at 7pm to 9.30pm. We have tropics reflexology arts and crafts jewellery sweets nails and much more. Look forward to seeing you. **Debbie Griggs**

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HARVEST BARN DANCE - Thanks to all who came along and supported the Barn Dance on the 5th of October. In the end 71 people came along to dance to the music of our live band, and from what I could see had a thoroughly enjoyable time. There were lots of smiling faces on the dancers, and those who were watching. I had a super email from a very experienced member of the band who said, ***'In terms of enjoyment it was the response your villagers demonstrated and indeed supported a lot more than say 8 dances, whi***ch ***was full on and way above the norm. Their enthusiasm made for a super evening.'*** So, well done everybody. Can I thank the many people who helped me out on the Saturday with food prep, serving food, clearing up and in sundry other ways. I hope that I have thanked you all personally. I would like to start a Folk Dance Club, meeting perhaps bi-weekly in the village hall, probably on a Thursday evening. This would not be a barn dance as such, more like an evening class where we would meet to learn new dances, exercise gently and chat and be sociable. If you would be interested in something like this, please email me at graham.bissett@talk21.com or text on 07789690786, leaving contact details so that I can get back to you. **Graham Bissett**

PÉTANQUE SOCIAL TASTER - It looks like Saturday 12th of October qualifies as a success! Well done to everyone who turned out or sent messages of support, it seems we want a Pétanque Terrain and we're ready to move forward. I hope that the proposal is a little clearer now and that all points of view have been heard. We are now openly fundraising and we are asking for Pledges at this stage. If everything gets agreed and approved we expect to start collecting the pledge money in January 2025 with a view to building the terrain for a Grand Opening at Easter 2025. There is some agreement in principle from the Parish Council and it has been suggested that first they will need to discuss the matter with both our local church and the District Council. The Parish Council will then be able to vote on granting permission. Please take every opportunity to make your own views known to the Parish Councillors. For anyone not in attendance we wish to make clear that the funding will come from donations by the public and while we need the approval of the Parish Council we will not require any financial support from their already minimal and stretched budget. Thank you to all who have pledged money and those who have already donated. Just send me a text or e-mail if you would like to contribute or missed the opportunity on the day. We are so close already and a final push will do it! Finally, there was lots of fun on the day, plenty of novices, a few 'professionals', lots of luck and I can safely say we were all winners! Please get in touch and pledge if you can.
Kev e: kev.rolfe@yahoo.com m: 07857 305044

PARISH COUNCIL - At the Parish Council Open Day there were two noticeboard presentations from council working groups: the Village Green Plan by Green Spaces, and the Alkham Valley Road Actions Plan from Highways. If you missed the Open Day these documents are now on the Parish Council web site alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk. We are waiting for a full report from Affinity Water to tell us what has been found after their survey and assessment of the sewerage system leaks and they have been told that if the remedial work is not done by the winter then use of tankers will not be acceptable. The tree pruning has been completed on the village green.



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To Folkestone 9.09,10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09,18.09 Sat 10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09
Assumed correct but check on www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables and 91 bus

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Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday	Keep Fit 10.00 am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall

Tuesday	12	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
Saturday	26	Coffee morning – see page 1

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3rd	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Saturday 9th	*Activities and stories at Messy Church* 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 10th Remembrance Sunday	**10.15 am**	**10.15 am**	**10.15 am**
Sunday 17th	Worship 9.30 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 24th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00 am

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HALL BOOKING Catie Webber 07976649726 or catiewebber@me.com
W.I. SECRETARY Janet Barrow 829585 **VICAR** Brian Williams 01303 243784
AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641 alkhamvs.org
MP Mike Tapp: **KCC** David Beaney 07818 024487
DDC cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk 07796444860.
LOCAL SITES alkham.org alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

FROM THE VICARAGE - *Beneath those rugged elms, that yew-tree's shade, Where heaves the turf in many a mould'ring heap, Each in his narrow cell for ever laid,The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep.* Churchyards can be magical places, inspiring great poetry such as Thomas Gray's *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard* of 1751 – but maintaining them today can be a headache. A while ago I wrote about how the comedian Spike Milligan's request for an amusing but flippant epitaph on his headstone was met by allowing it, but in Gaelic. **The Churchyard Regulations have the force of law.** Briefly, you need written permission for permanent fixtures like benches and memorials. Cut flowers may be left in memorial gardens, but nothing else. Border plants are allowed on individual graves, but not shrubs, rose bushes or trees. Silk flowers are allowed for a limited time, but not plastic flowers, trinkets or other objects. Kerbs, low fences and stone chippings are forbidden on health and safety grounds. **To those who visit our churchyards and tend graves and stick to the rules, our sincere thanks**. That hasn't stopped the Archdeacon receiving a complaint about the state of one of our churchyards, in particular about things left on graves that shouldn't be there. He has instructed the Parochial Church Council to ensure that the law is obeyed. They have therefore passed a resolution to ensure that the Regulations are enforced. **They would therefore be grateful if all trinkets, solar lights, beer bottles, garden gnomes, etc. could be removed by January, along with the fences** – Alkham Garden Centre can supply plants that don't appeal to rabbits. Please be aware that after January, graves and memorial gardens will have to be cleared monthly. **Sorry for any distress or disappointment** – we hope that you will understand. **Brian Williams**

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
and magazine

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE
Telephone 01304 824969
brianwimsett@hotmail.com

No. 370 December 2024

Non-profit & delivered free to the Parish

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CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS - So it's that time again, village Christmas lights will be on Saturday 7th December, please come along for a sing song and chat with Santa. We are going to then follow this with a party in the village hall. So, get your glad rags on and come along for some fun, music and dancing. We are looking to do sharing platters again and everyone bring their own drinks. Finally, there will be a raffle, this will pay for the hire of the hall and any remaining monies will go to support village hall improvements. Hopefully, you can help with donating raffle prizes. One last thing if you could contact me, just ideas of numbers and what you might like to bring along for sharing on the night. Looking forward to seeing you all. Further updates next month. **Graham West graham.west28@hotmail.com**.

Please do contact Graham as there was a limited response to the October article ...

For those new to the village the Christmas tree is at the top of the village green adjacent to the Valley Road and the bus shelter and this is where people congregate to see the lights turned on at 5.30pm and see Santa coming down Slip Lane to hand out festive goodies. It is a Christmas tradition which has been held every December for times immemorial.

BURNS NIGHT - I am organising a Burns Night supper at the village hall on the 25th of January 2025. Tickets are £15.00 which will include a three-course traditional Burns Supper and a dram. Vegetarians will be catered for i.e. vegetarian haggis. Menu as follows: Starter smoked fish pots with fresh bread; Main haggis, neeps and tatties with a whisky sauce; Dessert cranachan and a dram of whisky. There will not be a bar so guests can bring their own drinks. I am hoping that there will be a piper and some Scottish Country Dancing to finish the evening. Anyone interested should contact me on 07789 690786 or at graham.bissett@talk21.com

POPPY APPEAL - I'd like to thank everyone in Alkham and Ewell Minnis, and their visitors, who donated a record breaking £870.51 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. You have been very generous. The money will go to service men, women and veterans and their families when they need support. My thanks again go to my collectors, Shirley, Larry, Helen, Beverley and George and Debbie. Also thanks go to the Marquis of Granby, Alkham Garden Centre and Tea Rooms and Southern Equestrian for having collecting tins. **Rachel Fountain**

JOB ADVERT: Site Manager at Capel-le-Ferne Primary School - We are looking for a Site Manager to join our village school due to our current site manager moving to a new role closer to his home. We are ideally looking for someone who lives locally and is looking for a position that could offer flexibility to fit in around other commitments. The role will involve some grounds work, day to day maintenance and school improvements work such as painting. If you think this could be a role you are interested in, please call the school for further information. The school phone number is 01303 251353.



BILLY HOLLIS BEM

Congratulations to Billy Hollis on being awarded one of only four British Empire Medals awarded in Kent this year. Billy has lived in Alkham for over thirty years and has a long list of volunteering and community care. He was Chaplain at Canterbury Cathedral and Dover Port Authority; had long service with English Heritage at Dover and Walmer Castles; five years as Assistant Launch Leader with RNLI; Chaplain to several Kent prisons and young offender's institutions. For several years he completed the London to Brighton Cycle run for the British Heart Foundation and the Annual Church Ride for Orchid the Male Cancer Fund and much more! Billy, shown here with wife Mary, was presented with the medal earlier this month.



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will be outside the village hall 5-6.30pm
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FILM NIGHT
Alkham Village Hall 7.30pm
28th January
The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry
Jim Broadbent Penelope Wilton
No film in December
Free entry but £4 donation appreciated



ST NICHOLAS AND SINTERKLAAS - Long before the symbol of Father Christmas emerged in England, the separate legend of Sinterklaas was gaining ground in Europe. The origins of Sinterklaas can be found in the stories of St Nicholas, a 4th-century Greek bishop from Myra, now in modern-day Turkey. St Nicholas was credited with a wide variety of miracles. One was when he met a poor man who was on the brink of selling his own daughters into slavery. Under the cover of darkness, the saint anonymously threw three bags of gold down the chimney to provide dowries for the girls. The gold landed in their stockings, which were drying by the fire. St Nicholas's fame spread throughout medieval Europe after his relics were 'rescued' from Myra and taken to Italy in 1087. Over time, tales of his gold-giving exploits gave rise to a tradition of leaving gifts for children on the night before 6 December - which was St Nicholas's Day. In the Netherlands, special markets sprang up to sell toys and treats for the occasion, and St Nicholas, or 'Sinterklaas' impersonators dressed in red bishops' costumes to delight the crowds. Tradition had it that, in his quest to deliver presents, St Nicholas would enter houses by passing through locked doors or descending down chimneys to leave gifts in shoes and stockings. Much like the English Father Christmas, Sinterklaas came under attack during and after the Reformation, with Protestants keen to move away from veneration of the saints. The baby Jesus was promoted as a more appropriate giver of gifts – known in Germany as *das Christkindl*, later Anglicised as 'Kris Kringle'. St Nicholas markets were banned - as were biscuits baked in the shape of the bishop. But it's clear that popular traditions survived. **English Heritage (edit)**

WASTE – A local Alkham resident sent an interesting article in the 'i' about using human waste as fertiliser which is called Bisolid in which liquids are separated from solids during wastewater treatment, and the solids are treated chemically and physically. About 3.5 million tonnes are processed and spread each year (170,000 truckloads) and with the wind in the wrong direction can cause quite a stink. However, there is concern that it is polluting the land and the crops but the Environment Agency say they are committed to the safe use of sludge and work with Defra to improve the regulatory framework, but Defra say they there is a lack of ministerial steer. In 2020 the Environment Agency (EA) committed to regulating and testing sewage sludge from water treatment plants and septic tanks by 2023. This would have included testing for microplastics and forever chemicals before water companies sold sludge to farmers as fertilizer. However, in 2023 the EA had not published an update and had abandoned the commitment to meet the 2023 deadline. **editor**

ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL - The green spaces working group put together a work party to tidy the village green, including trimming low branches and building a dead hedge. Southern Water have started work on the repairs to the sewage system along the Alkham Valley Road. They've informed us that when this section is done there will be further work which will be completed by the end of December and that there should be no need for tankers over the winter. The highways working group have had positive discussions with relevant parties about the next attempts to control the speed of traffic on the valley road.

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THE DOVER FASTRACK may have an effect on Alkham by diverting traffic to the A2. Fastrack is a new electric bus service from Whitfield to Dover which is scheduled to open to buses on the 17th of November but has been opened to pedestrians and cyclists in October. We have cycled along the route and it is an impressive single lane road from Guston to Whitfield, through the business park to the Tesco roundabout and then crossing the A2 with a new bridge. It was built to connect the large housing developments at Whitfield to Dover Priory station with several bus stops along the way. There is a link from the Fastrack to a new roundabout on the A256 and this could be good news for Alkham as drivers might find it more convenient to access the M20 via the A2 by going down Jubilee Way and up the A20 dual carriageway rather than face the congestion at the Whitfield roundabout and link to the Alkham Valley road at River. Photo shows path/cycle track and road. **Editor**



A PICTURE has hung in the old shop on Slip Lane for at least 20 years. It was painted in 1962 by M Cooper and gives a view over the (Old) Post Office from the churchyard. It is quite naïve and inaccurate in parts and about 500mm x 450mm and if anyone would like it for free, please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com.

VILLAGE HALL FUNDRAISING - A very successful morning tea & raffle was recently held to raise money to spend on improvements to the Alkham Village Hall. The hall is a charity and whilst general maintenance & running costs are covered by rental income & half the proceeds of the village fete, the management committee receives no other funding so must generate money via fundraising efforts in order to carry out improvements. The morning tea was well attended &, together with the raffle, raised £1,360.50. This will pay for the changes to the hall entrance which are well under way. A very big thank you to those local businesses that donated raffle prizes - The Marquis of Granby, Chunnel Group (John & Anne Huggins), The Alkham Garden Centre & a food hamper provided by the committee. Their very generous support allowed us to raise £700 in the raffle alone. The raffle was drawn on the morning by committee chairman Phil Clements and the lucky winners were all village residents: £100 Marquis voucher Abby Smalley (Chalksole Cottage); Lunch for 2 at Garden Centre Margaret Danstead; Chunnel Group wine pack Georgina & John Nicol; Hamper John & Pauline Philby. We were very appreciative of all those who gave donations, made cakes for the morning tea and/or worked hard on the day running stalls & serving cuppas. And finally thank you to the residents of Alkham for supporting this drive so generously. **Sue Koo & Irene Barnard**



ALKHAM W.I. - Thank you to everyone who came to the pamper evening, it was so nice to see you all. Our next meeting will be on the 10th of December which will be our Christmas dinner at the Marquis. From all of us at Alkham W.I. we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. There will be late night shopping on the 5th of December at Southern Equestrian Supplies with mulled wine mince pies. **Debbie Griggs**

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Regular events in the village hall

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Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall

Tuesday	10	W.I. meeting 7.30pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1st	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 8th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	Carol choice 11.00 am
Saturday 14th	*Messy Church, followed by tea* 3.00 – 5.00 pm Capel		
Sunday 15th	Worship 11.00 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Friday 20th	Capel's *Carols by Candlelight followed by pies and wine* 7.00p.m.		
Sunday 22nd	9 Less/Carols 6.30pm		Eucharist 10.00 am
Tuesday 24th	Crib service 4.30 pm Eucharist 9.00 pm	Crib service 3.00 pm Eucharist 10.30 pm	
CHRISTMAS DAY			Eucharist 9.30 am
Sunday 29th	United Parish Eucharist Capel 10.00 am		

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FROM THE VICARAGE - It's the time of year when Christmas cards from friends and family you haven't seen all year start to arrive - something that means 'We're still around – and thinking of you…' Perhaps for some going to Midnight Mass is a bit like that – we might not be at church often, but something's missing from Christmas without it. Before I was ever a priest, I was an altar server. Across the road from the church was a pub, with another within easy staggering distance. By 11.00 on Christmas Eve the church would be full. The choir led carol singing until 11.30, when Midnight Mass began. Some would leave as the carol singing finished, but one year people were still standing in the aisles as Midnight Mass began. Problem: would there be enough bread and wine for everyone who wanted Communion? The Vicar's solution: take one large antique jug full of wine, and consecrate the lot. The problem then was that anything left over at the end had to be consumed. I was roped in to help, which left me over the drink-drive limit, and needing a lift home! We had a different problem last year. No doubt the bells rang as Merrily On High as ever, but here below an outbreak of Covid kept people at home; consequently there were plenty of vacant pews at Midnight Mass. Our solution? Inspired by the example of some other parishes, we are going to try something different this year. The ever-popular Crib Services will happen as usual, but 'Midnight Mass' at Alkham will start at 9.00, probably ending just after 10.00 (in time for Last Orders!) with 'Midnight Mass' at Capel following at 10.30 (so home by midnight!) Why not come and make it part of your Christmas…? **Brian Williams**

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CHRISTMAS LIGHTS - What a fabulous turnout for the switch on of the Christmas lights considering it was such awful weather. Thank you so much to Father Christmas, aka Kevin Rolfe on making it to the lighting all the way from Lapland. This was all followed by a great party in the village hall, with an extremely massive and gorgeous array of sharing foods. Thank you so much to all for helping by providing your culinary delights. Irene Barnard worked her magic with the raffle and made a handsome £220 for our village hall, thank you Irene. Finally, a huge thank you to Geoff Bartlett who provided the sounds, got us all up and singing with some even made it to sing from the stage. Just the greatest of fun. May we wish you all a very happy Christmas.



Debbie and Graham West

BURNS NIGHT - Only nine places left for an evening which will include a three-course traditional Burns Supper and a dram. Please contact graham.bissett@talk21.com if you'd like to join us.

ALKHAM 100 CLUB - Unfortunately there has not been sufficient interest to make the 100 club viable. Thank you to the thirty or so souls who did show an interest in supporting the maintenance and development of the village hall. **Graham Bissett**



ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL The Parish Clerk has been successful in securing a grant for a debrillator for village use. The £750 grant was dependent on us raising an equal amount which the Marquis of Granby have generously donated from the proceeds of their charity matches with Alkham Cricket Club and their charity auctions. It has now been set up on the front of the Village Hall and has been registered on the national database. To use it simply dial 999 and follow the given instructions. No experience is required but for more information there will be an update on the Parish Council web site and Alkham Village Residents FB page.



VIOLET NEWLYN - I received an email asking if I knew of anyone who had a photo of Violet Newlyn who was married to Vic Newlyn who had the farm on Hogbrook Lane whose name was taken for Newlyns Meadow as it stands on one of his fields. I have Sue Lee's copious records but there are no pictures of Violet Newlyn, also known as Violet Voss, so if anyone has a photo or any information of her time in the village, please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com and I will pass the details on.

SLIDE - At last we have found a welder/fabricator to refurbish the playground slide.



Our thanks go to Nathan Tester for doing an excellent job and when we have completed a final clear up of overhanging branches etc it will be ready for use. Nathan himself remembers playing on the slide over twenty years ago. **APC**

FILM NIGHT

Alkham Village Hall 7.30pm
28th January
The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry
No film in December
Free entry but a donation of £4 is appreciated

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NEWS FROM SOUTHERN WATER - In Alkham, we've completed our pre-winter season sewer cleaning and CCTV survey to check the condition of our network. We then completed the electro scanning of the sewer, and this work has helped us target the worst affected areas. We've now started relining 1.2km of the sewer, which we hope to complete in January. We also have a dedicated Kent Customer Team email address, where residents can email if they have any queries or concerns – Kent.Customer@southernwater.co.uk We will proactive updates throughout the winter, advising you of the latest position we are in together with weekly calls with the Environment Agency. Please be assured we will be working as hard as possible to reduce the risk of customer impact, and we will keep you updated over the coming weeks and months. Version 7 of the 'Alkham Infiltration Reduction Plans – Southern Water' has now been uploaded to our website. **Alkham Parish Council (APC)**

BT have at last cleared their equipment from the Ewell Minnis telephone box so we will now need to confirm what we will use it for. Please let any Parish Councillors have your ideas. **(APC)**

MONDEGREEN – As it passes a Sunday and generally most of the week, I do the Listener crossword and the word Mondegreen appeared and originates from a poem by Percy and Lady Mondegreen. I'd never heard of it but looking it up Lady Mondegreen became 'laid him on the green'. Chambers dictionary has it as a phrase, often humorous or nonsensical, that results from mishearing the lyric of a song and it was coined in 1954 by Sylvia Wright after she had mistaken the Mondegreen phrase. Other examples are 'Gladly the cross I bear' became 'Gladly the cross-eyed bear' and 'The girl with kaleidoscope eyes' became 'The girl with colitis goes by' from the Beatles song Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds. *I deleted the article in the December edition because I didn't think it would be of interest, but I had sent a draft copy to a friend and he responded so it's in this month's.* **editor**

A FEW FACTS ABOUT JANUARY - The Anglo Saxons called January 'Wulfmonath' as it was the month hungry wolves came scavenging at village doors. The Romans named it January after 'Janus', the God of Gateways. Janus had two heads so he could look in both directions - back to the old year and forwards towards the new year. According to the International Standard Organisation, ISO 8601, week 1 of any year is the week that includes the first Thursday. Daytime temperatures in January make it the coldest month of the year in the UK. February nights are colder in England, but not in Scotland. The only Shakespeare plays that mention January are Much Ado About Nothing and Winters Tale. The birthstone for January is the garnet and the flower is the carnation. The first recorded January sale in the UK was in 1865. There is a variety of cold-tolerant winter cabbage known as January King. More couples separate or divorce in January than in any other month. **Jackie Grebby**

ARTICLES – I am very grateful to Jackie for sending the above article and I would be pleased to receive other articles which can either be emailed to me at brianwimsett@hotmail.com or dropped off in the Local Mail Box which is to the left at the top of the drive to the Old Post Office about 100 metres up Slip Lane. **editor**

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ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL
The hall was built in 1931 and the vicar on the left said it would become the centre of social life and add to the brightness and social life of the community, which it has. At the time the sanitary arrangements were very rudimentary and remained so until the 1990's when the 'buy a brick' campaign helped to build the extension with up-to-date facilities and replaced the above entrance to the hall. Several improvements have been carried out since then including a stage but with the new village hall committee there has been a renaissance with a lot of manual work carried out for free by some of the members of the committee and others for which we are grateful. The large wooden planters outside the hall are being filled and when planted it will give a sense of social space to the outside of the hall together with a large teak bench which will be installed soon and further details of this and other improvements will be given in a later newsletter. **editor**

ALKHAM BOREHOLE – It is encouraging to see that the water level in the borehole is about 37m which is well below the 45.75 that it reached last year and caused flooding. As previously mentioned in recent years the green flooded in 1974, 1987, 2001 and 2014 which is roughly a 13-year cycle so hopefully last year's was our recurrent flood. **Editor**

PLANNING APPLICATION – In the June 2024 newsletter mention was made of a planning application to install a drainage treatment works adjacent to Great Everden Manor for the two currently empty barns. For those not familiar with Great Everden it is on the narrow road which runs across the top from Alkham to Hawkinge and adjacent to the manor are the two barns. Dover District Council has granted permission for the works and says there will be no impact on the residential amenity of the occupants of the adjacent properties and it is therefore considered that the proposal has no impact on the living conditions of neighbours and accords with the aims and objectives of the NPPF and the development is considered to preserve the character and appearance of the area, with no harm to residential amenity. **Editor**





ALKHAM W.I. - Our Christmas meal on the 10th of December was at the Marquis of Granby and what a lovely evening we all had. The food was amazing and the staff were so friendly and helpful. Our next meeting is on January the 14th, which will be the Dover Smart Project. Hostesses are Jane Aslett and Marian Lebaert, raffle Eileen West and V.O.T Helen Price. All new members welcome. **Debbie Griggs**



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To Folkestone 9.09,10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09,18.09 Sat 10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09
Assumed correct but check on www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables and 91 bus

ALKHAM HISTORY BOOK
If you are interested in the history of Alkham an A4 51-page book is available with many old photos and is free for people associated with Alkham. Please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com

ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL – Excellent facilities, reasonable rates
Please ring Catie on 07976649726 or catiewebber@me.com

Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday	Keep Fit 10.00 am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall

Tuesday	14	W.I. meeting 7.30pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 5th	Prayer 5.00 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	**Eucharist 11.00 am**
Saturday 11th	Fun, fellowship and food – children accompanied **3.00 – 5.00 pm**		
Sunday 12th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	Worship 11.00 am
Sunday 19th	Worship 11.00 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 26th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00 am

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HALL BOOKING Catie Webber 07976649726 or catiewebber@me.com
W.I. SECRETARY Janet Barrow 829585 **VICAR** Brian Williams 01303 243784
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DDC cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk 07796444860.
LOCAL SITES alkham.org alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

FROM THE VICARAGE - You wouldn't think that a Christmas Tree would be so controversial. But it seems that when St Anthony's was being decorated for Christmas a visitor took exception to the fact that there was a Christmas Tree in church, arguing from a series of Bible passages that this was pandering to paganism. Had I been there, I would have reminded our friend that the tradition around Christmas Trees can be traced back not to paganism but to a Christian missionary. It's said that having entered a monastery as a young man Winfred, or Boniface as he became known, travelled as a Christian missionary to what is now Germany. There he came across a tree, the 'Thunder Oak' where each year the locals would sacrifice a child to the pagan god Thor. Boniface and his companions arrived as the sacrifice was imminent, carried out a risk assessment and decided to fell the oak anyway. It was expected that Thor would strike him dead – but Boniface survived unscathed. The job done, a small fir tree was found growing nearby. Its evergreen needles, Boniface pointed out, spoke of eternal life; its branches pointed towards heaven; henceforth it would be called the tree of the Christ-child. Having made his case, many of those who were there were baptised. The practice of having a small evergreen tree in the house at Christmas spread across Germany; those who eventually settled in America took the tradition with them. With both George III's German wife Queen Charlotte and Prince Albert having Christmas trees in their homes, the custom quickly spread in this country, too. Sadly, most of our trees are last seen in January, waiting for the dustcart – but still with their needles speaking of eternal life, and their branches pointing towards heaven…. **Brian Williams**

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
and magazine
No. 371 March 2025

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE
Telephone 01304 824969
brianwimsett@hotmail.com

Non-profit & delivered free to the Parish

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

BARN DANCE - Back due to popular demand. I am organising a Spring Barn Dance/Ceilidh which will take place on 5th of April in the Village Hall, beginning at 19.30. Live music and caller and a ploughman's supper included. Tickets: £10.00 Only 70 tickets available. Please contact me on 07789690786 or Graham.bissett@talk21.com if you would like tickets. **Graham Bissett**

ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL - The Annual Meeting will take place on Thursday 10th of April at 7.00pm in the village hall. This is your chance to elect the Committee responsible for running the Hall, and to hear what has been done and future plans. All welcome to attend and join us for refreshments and more details next month. **Janet Adamson**.

JUMBLE SALE - We are holding a jumble sale at Capel church St. Radigund's on the 22nd of March to help boost church funds. Could I ask if you have anything to donate, we don't mind whatever it is to please contact me Carol on 07946106742 and I will gladly come and get it. I hope you will support us on the day bringing lots of pennies. **Carol Mannall**

BURNS NIGHT - Thanks to all those who came together in the village hall to celebrate Burns Night on the evening of the 25th of January. Your willingness to participate and join in made for a very memorable evening. It was lovely to celebrate with old faces and new. The tartan accessories looked fab!! Thank you too, to the those who have sent messages by various means saying how much they enjoyed the evening. I do hope that we can arrange something similar next year to cheer up dreary January. Special thanks go to Geoff Bartlett, co-chef and co-shopper, Ken Spencer and Andrew Koo who worked brilliantly on the kitchen team, Catie Webber for the table arrangements and to all those who helped us in myriad other ways and got busy at the washing up sinks. I'm not naming names in case I offend by omission, but you know who you are and I thank you all. Apologies to those who wanted to join us but were put on a waiting list because of the limit on numbers made necessary by the severe limitations of the village hall kitchen. Forty hot meals from a domestic cooker was, and remains, a real challenge! (Note to the village hall committee - please can we think about installing a commercial style kitchen that would cope with larger events.) Finally, could I ask that anyone who took cutlery, tableware or tea towels to wash at home return them to me at. home, and I will ensure that they are all returned to the village hall. **Graham Bissett**

SOUTHERN EQUESTRIAN SUPPLIES will be hosting our Annual Cake Sale Day in aid of Marie Curie on Saturday 15th March 2025. Also, all you budding Cake Makers - any Cake Donations would be greatly appreciated for this worthy cause. Thank you, **Debbie Griggs**

THANKS go to Graham for organising such an inspired event as Burns Night and well done to Debbie for the quiz and donating money to the village hall which is greatly appreciated.

BOXING DAY - The usual Alkham Valley society walk which normally takes place annually on the 27th of December was missing this year, so Bryony took it upon herself to organise one on Boxing Day. Several intrepid humans and 3 dogs, a Labrador, a Jack Russell and a French bulldog, placed themselves in her hands for a walk around the village. Other than the usual obstacles of quantities of mud, two fallen trees to scramble over and a badger sett to watch we didn't put our feet down and everyone survived until the end. Thanks to Bryony for organising it. **Anita James**

THE NEWSLETTER – I have been publishing the monthly newsletter for 27 years and this year's February edition was the first time it was not printed because, apart from one article (above), there was nothing else to include. Articles are always appreciated so please send them to me, contact details are in the banner at the top of this page. **Brian Wimsett**

ANYONE interested in helping with Church flowers and decorations please get in touch with me at catie@thewebbers.org.

THANKS go to Shirley Prince who has retired from cleaning the village hall. She carried out this work for many years and always did a good job and the committee wish her all the best in her retirement. **AVH**

FILM NIGHT

Alkham Village Hall 7.30pm
25th February
The Thief His Wife & the Canoe
25th March
The Last Rifleman - Pierce Brosnan
Free entry but a donation of £4 is appreciated

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PETANQUE - Hello everyone, after feeling quite rotten with a cold last week I'm afraid that I missed the last Parish Council Meeting as I did not want to pass anything on to any other attendee. Fortunately for us all the Parish Council Chairperson, Den Barnard, has continued to champion our request and the Parish Council will now be submitting a formal planning permission request to Dover District Council and, all things being equal, we will get our Terrain. This now means I'll be looking to try and collect the pledges during February with a view to commencing work in March to have a grand opening perhaps on Easter Monday or possibly the May Day Bank Holiday. First, I'll be contacting everyone individually to remind them of their pledge amount, second I'm looking for volunteers who are willing to do a little manual labour, cutting the area out and a little digging over a period of time. Many hands make light work! It's important to say that No work will commence unless we have enough funds to complete the project to a suitably high standard. I'll be asking Geoff Bartlett to post this on the Alkham Facebook Page and Brian Wimsett to put this in the Alkham News. We'll need some more funding, no doubt, with any remaining money being used to start up a 'Petanque Alkham' club and a donation to the Village Hall funds so that we can use the facilities there for organised events. I will also look further into a possible suggestion from Alkham Cricket Club to discuss some type of arrangement with them as a combined or affiliated club. With regard to the money, Andrew Koo and Ken Spencer, have agreed to help with the collection and management, this also ensures that all the funds are being used correctly rather than just me on my own being responsible. I've already had a few requests about arranging some more games either in the village or at other local venues and there are already plans for some useful game arranging tech for anyone with a smart phone, and "yes" there's lots of support on how to use this and set things up. The project is happening and I look forward to playing a game or two with all of you at some point over the coming months! Any questions please let me know. Thanks Everyone, you are all brilliant! **Kev** (Kevin Rolfe)

SNIFF – It can be irritating that your dog sniffs a lot when you take it for a walk but evidently it is good for the dog. The smells send a signal to their brain which releases feel-good hormones like endorphins and serotonin which help reduce stress and help overall well-being and whilst waiting for the dog if you sneeze it has a similar effect. **editor**

YOGA WITH JANET – A yoga class for beginners has started on Friday evenings in Alkham village hall from 7.30pm to 8.30pm and costs £8 and includes gentle stretching, meditation and breath work. Please bring a yoga mat if you have one, a blanket and any yoga blocks/bricks you may have. To book a space please call 07812678124 or email janet28@protonmail.com.

THANK YOU to everyone who came to the quiz at Alkham village hall on the 12th of February and also thanks to Tony Holman for hosting it. Thanks to everyone that helped putting the tables away, much appreciated. We made a total of £535 minus £55 for expenses which was divided down the middle with £240 each to Alkham W.I. and Alkham village hall. **Debbie Griggs**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our next meeting is on March 11th which is our AGM followed by our speaker Imogen Corrigan talking about Joan of Arc. Hostesses Eileen West and Margaret Batcheldor, Raffle Debbie Griggs, VOT Janet Adamson. Our next meeting is on March 11th new members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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NOSTALGIA – My father drove down to Kent to see relatives in the 1960's and when we crossed the county border the burgundy and cream buses soon appeared and in some ways it was comforting. John Vince painted the adjacent card for this Christmas and it's a memory of a school trip to Reculver in 1957 and on the back of the card he gives details about the buses. He has painted a number of cards featuring these buses and if you'd like more details please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com and I will contact him. I live in the Old Post Office in Alkham and John and I worked together for a number of years and it was amusing to hear that when he was cub they were camping nearby and got washed out by the rain and spent the night in one of the outbuildings which has since been demolished. A lot has changed since then and it would be great to see the burgundy and cream buses again rather than the bland Stagecoach colours.



MARCH TRIVIA - The word 'March' comes from the Roman 'Martius'. This was originally the first month of the Roman calendar and was named after Mars, the god of war. For centuries, March was the beginning of our calendar year. We changed to the 'New Style' or 'Gregorian calendar in 1752, and it is only since then that the year began on 1st January. The last three days of March were said to be borrowed from April. The Anglo-Saxons called the month Hlyd monath which means Stormy month, or Hraed monath which means Rugged month. The latest date Ash Wednesday can occur is 10 March (when Easter Sunday falls on 25 April) which occurred in 1666, 1734, 1886 and 1943 and will next occur in 2038. All through Lent the traditional games played are marbles and skipping. The games were stopped on the stroke of twelve noon on Good Friday, which in some places was called Marble Day or Long Rope Day. The game of marbles has been played for hundreds of years and some historians say that it might have been started by rolling eggs. In the past, round stones, hazelnuts, round balls of baked clay and even cherry stones have been used. **Jackie Grebby**

NEW YEAR, NEW HOBBY, NEW FRIENDS? - Join Dover Flower Club where we are enthusiastic about all things flowery. We run a full programme of activities throughout the year including flower arranging, demonstrations, workshops, talks and outings. Our meetings take place on the fourth Monday of the month at 7.15pm at Whitfield Village Hall, Manley Close, CT16 3LY. New members and visitors are always enthusiastically welcomed and free refreshments are available. Our Spring meetings are as follows: Monday 24th February, a flower arranging demonstration by Elaine Boobier entitled 'My Life in Flowers'; Monday 24th March, a workshop led by Mig Kimpton entitled 'Branches, Bulbs and Buds'. Monday 28th April a demonstration by Sue Flight entitled 'Spring is in the Air'. For more details call Mig Kimpton: 07831838851



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To Folkestone 9.09,10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09,18.09 Sat 10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09
Assumed correct but check on www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables and 91 bus

ALKHAM HISTORY BOOK
If you are interested in the history of Alkham an A4 51-page book is available with many old photos and is free for people associated with Alkham. Please email brianwimsett@hotmail.com

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Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday	Keep Fit 10.00 am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall

Tea n Chat 27th February and 27th March 2.30pm to 4.00pm

Monday	3	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm
Tuesday	11	W.I. meeting 7.30pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 2nd March		Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Wednesday 5th		Eucharist 7.00 pm	
Saturday 8th	Fun, fellowship and food – (St Radigund's) 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 9th	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11.00 am	Worship 11.00 am
Sunday 16th	Worship 11.00 am	Eucharist 9.30 am	Eucharist 11.00 am
Sunday 23rd	Eucharist 9.30 am	Evensong 6.00 pm	Eucharist 11.00 am

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HALL BOOKING Catie Webber 07976649726 or catiewebber@me.com
W.I. SECRETARY Janet Barrow 829585 **VICAR** Brian Williams 01303 243784
AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641 alkhamvs.org
MP Mike Tapp: **KCC** David Beaney 07818 024487
DDC cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk 07796444860.
LOCAL SITES alkham.org alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

FROM THE VICARAGE - One of the joys of retirement, according to 80's pop star turned radio presenter, writer, Strictly contestant and now retired parish priest the Reverend Richard Coles, is being able to stand back from the church's debates. *"When one erupts,"* he wrote not long ago, *"it's like walking past a pub you used to drink in and seeing someone throw a chair through the window: startling, but not your problem."* I wouldn't know - I'm not there yet. I think I know what he means - but these debates aren't trivial, which probably explains why the Church of England's troubles seem to keep making headlines. But more about retirement. I've had the seminar: *Move away from your last parish when you retire, so that the new priest gets a fair chance to make a go of things… If you're asked to help in a church somewhere, remember - you're NOT the vicar … Don't hoover up all the funerals at the local crematorium and expect to be popular* – the list goes on. And now I've spoken with my boss, completed the paperwork, and received an email asking me to get on with telling everyone when it's happening. And so here it is: I shall retire as Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of Alkham with Capel le Ferne and Hougham in the autumn, when I reach age 70. My last Sunday will be 28th September - the 23rd anniversary of my Ordination as a priest. *"The Fruit of the Spirit*," St Paul wrote, "*is Love, Joy and Peace."* Debates aside, there really are churches near you where Christians are trying to live that out through prayer, caring for others, running lunch clubs, supporting food banks and so on. Sadly, things like that don't usually make headlines… **Brian Williams**

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
and magazine
No. 372 April 2025

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE
Telephone 01304 824969
brianwimsett@hotmail.com

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ARENACROSS WORLD TOUR 2025 - John & Anne Huggins are very proud to share the news that their grandson Raife Broadley has become the 2025 Arenacross world tour amateur champion. The series started in Birmingham then went to London Wembley, Belfast, Aberdeen then the final stop in Manchester. Raife has worked so hard on and off the bike to get to where he is and in 2026 he will be advancing into the Pro class to try make an even bigger name for himself. **Anne Huggins**

FETE BRIC-A-BRAC STALL JULY 19th - Most of you will know that I have run this stall for many years and hope that someone else will consider taking this over. This stall is very popular - after all everyone likes a bargain - and it can be as big or as small as you prefer. It could even be called something else i.e. Granny's attic or White elephant? Locals donate nearer the time and I usually approach those who are moving or enjoying a Spring clear out for, decent saleable items. (items you find mostly in charity shops or carboots are unwanted as do not sell). Hopefully I will receive a good response to this request and then be able to assist more on my husband's hamburger stall. Afterall, I wouldn't like to sit around all afternoon doing nothing, would I? **Irene 07789 412432**

THE WI has been a part of Alkham life for a long time but, like a lot of organisations, is struggling to keep membership to a sustainable level. We are now seriously discussing the possibility of closing the Alkham branch. The WI has a rich and interesting history and was introduced to the UK in 1915. The WI embraces a woman only policy and this includes anyone living as a woman. If you would like to come along and join us you will be very welcome. We have an interesting program of events planned for the year, some of which are social evenings, others have a speaker and in December we go out for dinner to a venue of our choice. If you would like further details, contact Lucy Mckenzie mob: 07850385971 or come along on the second Tuesday of the month at 730pm in the Village Hall.

THE PLANNING APPLICATIONS for effectively a ribbon development along the valley road at Drellingore Terrace, by Upton Cottages and Lockeringe Lane have been withdrawn. The company name on the applications was Affinity Water.

FILM NIGHT is on the last Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the village hall with seating round tables so you can bring your own drinks and snacks if you like. A licence is paid to show the films.

SARAH CHAMBERS – Sarah died in February aged 75. She was a gentle person and nice to know and lived in Martinvale in the centre of Alkham and was unconcerned about the valley traffic that passed very closely to her house. Sarah was a travel correspondent in the early days for the Guardian, Mail on Sunday, and the Today newspaper and became travel editor on both the Daily Mirror and Sunday Mirror. She left the Sunday Mirror when her husband Peter had a stroke in 2003 and needed constant care and without hesitation she gave up to look after him although she did do freelance work from home until 2017 for the Sunday Mirror. The funeral is at Barham Crematorium on the 26th of March at 1pm and if you would like to attend please email cwking@btinternet.com.

VILLAGE HALL - If you want to hear about all the great work being done by local volunteers and the Management Committee of your Village Hall, then come to our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 10th April. We meet at 7.00p.m. and welcome anyone who is interested in how the Hall is run, future plans and electing a new Committee to carry the work forward. Coffee and cake to tempt you. **Janet Adamson**

FILM NIGHT

Alkham Village Hall 7.30pm
29th of April
TOP GUN: MAVERICK Tom Cruise
25th of March
Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore
Free entry but a donation of £4 is appreciated

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A REQUEST FROM ALKHAM'S OTHER Pub…

As many will remember, Alkham used to have a second pub called the **Carpenter's Arms**, which saw service for more than one hundred years before closing in 1969 and passing into private ownership. As its current owners, my wife and I are researching the history of both the building and people who used it. A lot of information has already been gathered from the internet, but we're sure many villagers who used the pub back in the day will have stories and photographs of it that cannot be found online. I'd therefore be very interested in any information, anecdotes and especially **old photographs** of the Carpenters Arms in its heyday that readers of this newsletter would be willing to share. Should you have anything, please consider forwarding it to us at **afournier@btinternet.com** - I'd be very grateful! **Andy Fournier**

ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL - The Parish Council is now meeting monthly as the agendas are getting longer. Kent Highways have cleared the Nailbourne from the Village Hall through to the end of the village green, clearance has now been requested for the drain in Hogbrook Hill running from the Alkham Valley Road. The Speedwatch Camera has been repaired it is still unclear how the damage was done. We are still waiting for confirmation that our Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) has been accepted. We are looking to obtain a defibrillator for our telephone box in Ewell Minnis. The Environment Working Team have planted five fruit trees on the village green and once again we will leave part of the green unmowed for May as we did last year but this time there will be a pathway alongside the Nailbourne. We have been offered a free first aid and defibrillator training course by our defibrillator supplier for 12 people on Saturday 26th April in the Village hall 10-12, if you are interested please contact Den Barnard (07488 357140) it will be first come first served but if there is enough interest we will organise further dates. The planning application for the Petanque (Boules) pitch has been submitted. **Alkham Parish Council**

ALKHAM BOOK CLUB - The club, set up about twenty years ago, is still alive and thriving. Over recent years we have not advertised our meetings as membership is at maximum capacity for home hosting. For those villagers who enjoy a good read, we can thoroughly recommend creating—or joining—a group. There's no reason why Alkham shouldn't have more than one! Reading groups provide opportunity to explore titles and authors that the solo reader has not considered, thus extending one's literary experience. Our selected book for February was "The Echo Chamber" by John Boyne. It was a witty and entertaining tale of a privileged family succumbing to various temptations of modern life with no thought of consequences. The story was uproariously funny with tongue in cheek satire. In March we are tackling a more serious read—"Mornings in Jenin" by Susan Abulhawa. Although written as a novel this book appears to give us an insight into the unimaginable horrors endured by the Palestinian victims of the conflict in the Middle East. **Margaret Danstead**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our March meeting was all about Joan of Arc and the speaker was Imogen Corrigen. Our next meeting is on the 8th of April and the talk will be from the cats protection so that will be one to look forward to. Hostesses Sue Ross, Marian Libaert, raffle Helen Price VOT Helen Price. New members always welcome. **Debbie Griggs**

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MARQUIS OF GRANBY - The new Breakfast Menu is now available from 7.00 to 10am, weekends 8 to 10 am, locals welcome. There is a new Spring Menu and a Happy hour from Monday to Thursday with 20% off drinks from 4pm to 6pm. On Fridays there is Roll the Dice & get a free Drink between 4 pm until 6 pm. Sunday Lunch is 12 pm until 6.30pm – Booking Recommended. Contact number, 01304 873 410. info@marquisofgranby.co.uk www.marquisofgranby.co.uk

A ROMP through the Fool's Alphabet. It's a sort of ersatz UK Cockney slang—I mostly get it, but you may need to be a sailor to understand Z for wind! A for Horses; B for Mutton?; C for Miles (or C for Yourself); D for Dumb (or D fer Ential); E for Brick; F for Lump (or F fer Vescence); G for Police; H for Consent; I for Novello (or I for the Engine); J for Oranges; K for Restaurant; L for Leather; M for Sis; N for Lope; O for the Rainbow; P for Relief; Q for the Loos (or Q for the Pictures); R for Mo; S for Rantzen; T for Gums (or T for Two); U for Me (or U for Mism); V for Espana; W for a Quid; X for Breakfast; Y for Mistress; Z for Wind. **Jackie Grebby**

TAXI - I recently travelled in a London taxi and chatted to the driver. He told me that the number of taxi drivers had dropped by about 7000 since before Covid. Generally, costs have risen; previous short cuts have been blocked, 20 mph limits are widespread. All this means journeys take longer and the passenger must therefore pay more. In the past a cabbie might take 30 jobs in a day,18 is now typical. Some food delivery bikes tend to be reckless nowadays; so greater alertness than ever is needed. The advent of compulsory card machines in the cabs discouraged retired drivers from doing a day or two a week, due to the costs of the card machine and the end of cash payments. To become a London taxi driver, it is necessary to do the "knowledge". This involves an intimate on the ground familiarity with the street geography of London. The fastest this has been done is over 2 years and 3 months. My driver had earlier hired the TR1 and TR2 type taxis but was so impressed with latest TR4(diesel) that that he bought it. Whether one has a diesel or electric taxi, the maximum service allowed for a vehicle is 15 years. You might be wondering about the cost of my journey. Suffice it to say the trip from Kensington to King's Cross cost more than my return train trip from Folkestone. **Tom Marcus 2025**

SIGNS OF SPRING - In spite of current unpredictable weather patterns there are wonderful signs of Spring sprouting up in gardens, woodlands and fields all around us. Let Dover Flower Club inspire you to take some nature indoors by joining our club to learn about all things flowery. We meet on the fourth Monday of the month at Whitfield Village Hall, Manley Close, Whitfield, CT16 3LY. Meetings start at 7.15pm and are open to members and visitors who share our love of flowers. Free refreshments are available. We have demonstrations of flower arranging, by well-known enthusiasts in the field, on the dates shown below. Members free, visitors £8.00. Monday 28th of April a demonstration by Sue Flight entitled "Spring is in the Air.' Sue is a member of NAFAS and demonstrates her skills nationally. Monday 23rd of June a demonstration by Helen Hare entitled 'Inspired by Summer.' For more information call Mig Kimpton 07831 838851

SUNFLOWERS - There won't be a sunflower competition this year for personal reasons, but Vernon and Anita say that it will return next year.

YOGA – In last month's newsletter the times for the yoga class on a Friday in the village hall were wrong it should have said 6.30pm to 7.30pm.



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Sat: 9.48,11.18,13.18,15.28
To Folkestone 9.04,10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09,18.09
Sat 10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09
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Regular events in the village hall

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Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall

Tea n Chat 24th April 2.30pm to 4.00pm

Saturday	5	Barn Dance 7.30pm
Monday	7	Parish Council meeting 7.30pm
Tuesday	8	W.I. meeting 7.30pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6th April		**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Eucharist 11.00 am**
Saturday 12th	*Fun, fellowship and food* **3.00 – 5.00 pm Capel**		
Sunday 13th	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Service 11.00 am**	
Thursday 17th		**Eucharist 7.00 pm**	
Friday 18th		**Service 10.00 am**	
Saturday 19th	*Building the Easter Garden* **3.30 – 5.00 pm Capel**		
Sunday 20th	**Eucharist 11.00 am**	**Eucharist 7.00 am**	**Eucharist 9.30 am**
Sunday 27th	Sung Eucharist at St Radigund's Capel @10.00		

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FROM THE VICARAGE - Perhaps Lord Alan Sugar's TV programme *The Apprentice* is like Marmite – you either love it or loathe it. You might know the drill: each week, two teams engage in tasks that test business acumen. Many find following the fortunes of the budding entrepreneurs who compete against each other week by week compelling viewing, building to a climax as each member of the losing team tries to avoid being fired by Lord Sugar at someone else's expense. My ears pricked up when a recent episode came on that saw the teams designing and marketing Easter eggs. Some say that Easter eggs originated with early Christians in Mesopotamia dyeing eggs to represent different aspects of the Easter story, a custom which eventually spread across Europe where, during the 1800s, the first chocolate eggs appeared. What would the teams come up with? The winning team produced an exotic chocolate log rather than an egg. The others, remembering that Santa Claus (originally a 4th-century Christian bishop) rewards good children with presents, decided on a space theme for their egg with an idea for an astronaut character who would reward good children with chocolate! As I watched, I began to despair. The task had been to design and market an Easter egg. Hadn't anyone heard of Jesus? The empty tomb? Resurrection? In the boardroom, Lord Sugar questioned the idea of the astronaut. Surely, he said, everyone associated the Easter Bunny with Easter eggs! By now my misery was complete – I just wanted to fire everybody! At each of our churches on Easter morning we shall tell the Easter story - about the empty tomb, and Jesus rising from the dead and appearing to his disciples. There may well be Easter eggs to follow - but sorry, no bunnies or astronauts…! **Brian Williams**

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
and magazine

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brianwimsett@hotmail.com

No. 373 May 2025

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ALKHAM VE DAY 80
Celebration Bank Holiday
Monday 5th May at 1.00pm
Come and enjoy a Picnic on The Village Green to which you, your family and friends are all invited.
Bring your own food and drink and we'll provide the tables and chairs, plates and napkins. There will music from that era so, if you're in the mood, you can get up and jitterbug. You may like to dress up in outfits that reflect the 1940s. We will also be having some activities and games for the children. And, if the weather lets us down, it'll be A Picnic In The Village Hall. We look forward to welcoming you all. **Rachel and Mike Fountain** … see page 3 for the Alkham Heroes.



NEW SEATING outside the Village Hall - A team of volunteers have been busy for the last 6 months refurbishing the entrance area to the village hall to create both clean access & a pleasant social area. This work has now been completed and planting in the raised beds is underway to create a Summer burst of colour. The notice board has been relocated to this area & is awaiting refurbishment. You may have already seen the lovely long bench which has finally been installed. This bench was purchased with funds provided by an auction held by The Marquis of Granby prior to Covid. The proceeds of this auction were earmarked for a village improvement and resulted in the purchase of both this bench & the defibrillator. The Village Hall Committee is very grateful to both Will Thompson & Will Sheldon from The Marquis for arranging this donation. The committee is also much indebted to the many volunteers who have given their time & muscle over to past 6 months working on this project. They have brought their many varied skills, perseverance and good humour to the project in a desire to improve this public area, and their efforts are much appreciated. **Sue Koo** … the notice board and the village board have also been repainted.

FETE - I am running the Bric-a-brac stall this year and hope you will support me by donating, decent, saleable items such as, china, glass ware, ornaments, prints and home furnishings. Unused boxed lady's gift sets also sell very well as do most other goods. Please be kind and don't give anything you would normally give to a car boot, or worse still to throw away. If you have anything to donate please call for the address to drop off, which is located at the bottom of Short Lane. Thank you so much. **Debbie West** - Jane 07340749788. Pat 07887531722.

SARAH CHAMBERS - I would like to thank everyone in the village who has helped Sarah throughout the years, especially when she was going through challenging times near the end with her health. Peter, her late husband first came to live in the village and purchased the house back in 1971. So over 50 years they have seen many changes in Alkham during that time. I remember she would often invite many of her friends from far and wide to join her in the Alkham village fete every July which she really enjoyed and looked forward to. Finally, I would also like to give a special mention to Sue Burrows in the village who without any doubt in Sarah last years did so much for Sarah by taking her out in the car for meals etc and generally visiting her regularly and being a good friend to Sarah, really appreciated that. **Charles Whitfield King**, (Sarah Chambers' brother)

FILM NIGHT – Film Night has been showing films each month from 2014 and for Philomena the hall was full and for Green Book there was thunderous applause but over the last few years the audience numbers have declined. Times have changed and the cost of the licence to show the films has risen and the types of suitable films has diminished. Several people look forward to the night out and will miss it, but I've decided it's the time to stop. **Brian Wimsett**

UNION FLAG - Thanks to the Parish Council for once again purchasing this. The last one got rather battered over three winters, and therefore the ongoing plan is to only raise it at suitable events. **Irene Barnard**

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ALKHAM PARISH COUNCIL - We have managed to obtain a defibrillator for the Ewell Minnis Phone box! 'Defibs for Dover' will supply the unit and we have to match the funding which amounts to £830. We are exremely grateful to villager Kevin Rolfe who has raised the money through his business club 'The Elecric Twelve Club' so the defibrillator and installation will cost us nothing! We still have places available on our Free First Aid Course provided by our defibrillator supplier whiich will be in the Village Hall on 24th May from 10am to mid-day, If you are interested let Den Barnard know (07488 357140). The Annual Village Statutory Meeting will take place on 7th May at 7:00 pm followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting where we will review our progress over the past year. Please Come.

ALKHAM BOOK CLUB - At our March meeting we discussed Susan Abulhawa's "Mornings in Jenin", a harrowing tale of family life, loves, friendships and loss, set in an environment of ongoing war and appalling living conditions. We received criticism from a reader of the Monthly Newsletter over our choice of book, though we had no political agenda in choosing it and certainly intended no offence. Naturally this fictional tale was biased, begging attention to suffering on one side of the Middle Eastern conflict. This has not blinded us to the fact that in true-life situations of conflict there are innocent victims on both sides. We went on to discuss other World-wide problems in the news and the human tragedies of war. Our book for April is "The Story Collector" by Evie Woods, a tale with a dual timeline and some Irish folklore—sounds intriguing! **ABC**

THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE, affectionately known as the WI, began in Canada in 1897. It was first formed in Wales in 1915 and was started in England shortly after. It had two aims: to revitalise rural communities and encourage women to become more involved in producing food during the First World War. Hence why we are associated with 'Jam' & 'Jerusalem.' The WI has been a part of Alkham life for a long time but, like a lot of organisations, is struggling to keep membership at a sustainable level. We are now seriously discussing the possibility of having to close the Alkham branch. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month in the Village Hall. We have an interesting program of events planned for the year, some of which are social evenings, others have a speaker and in December we go out for dinner to a venue of our choice. Members are encouraged to make suggestions for speakers and entertainment. **Alkham W.I.**

THE OWLS - It has been said that in the UK the shipping forecast is the nation's lullaby, it occurs to me that perhaps in the village the same could be said for the Tawny owls often , at night I can hear the familiar sound of a pair of tawny owls calling to each other their twit ter woooo a haunting somewhat sad , almost ghostly sound resonating the nighttime silence in the village. I find myself waiting for them to call only to discover that one of my neighbours does exactly the same as she too is waiting for them; we often swap messages about them the next day, we are in separate houses but it's almost as if we are listening to the same piece of music and it made us wonder who else listens out for them it is just us or like the shipping forecast are we all tuning in waiting for them to begin. **Anita James**

ALKHAM W.I. - Our April meeting was a lovely evening where we had Johnathan from cats protection. Our next meeting will be 13th May which is our resolution meeting followed by a quiz. Hostesses are Debbie Saunders, Janet Adamson Raffle Lucy McKenzie. **Debbie Griggs**

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ALKHAM HEROES 1939-1945 - On the 5th of May it will be the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. At some moment during our village green party our thoughts will be for the seven lads who lost their lives during that conflict. Below is a short reminder of those heroes. For their full story have a look at Brian's Alkham website (alkham.org) which was researched and documented by Mark Robson and also includes the two village tours he organised to the graves and memorials of our Alkham Heroes. **Den Barnard**



Ernest (Dudley) Richards was an Ordinary Seaman on HMS Gloucester. Ernie was the son of Fred and Elizabeth Gertrude Richards (nee Toulson) and they lived in one of the cottages that now makes up Upton Cottage. Ernie was 'lost with his ship' on Thursday 22nd May 1941, aged 18, and is commemorated on the Chatham Naval Memorial.



Henry Keeler was the son of Charles Keeler and was a Farm Labourer and the family lived at Pimlico. Henry died on Saturday 24th of October 1942 (the start of the Second Battle of El Alamein) aged 22 years and is commemorated on the Alamein Memorial, Egypt.



Louis David Fagg. On the 22nd of October the Royal East Kent Regiment (The Buffs) embarked on the Destroyers HMS Eclipse and HMS Petard. Just after midnight on 23rd/24th of October HMS Eclipse struck a mine and sank in 3 minutes along with Louis and 134 other Buffs. Louis' death is recorded as being on Saturday 23rd of October 1943. As well as the memorial at Alkham, Louis is remembered on the Buffs Roll of Honour and the Athens Memorial.

William Henry Hinds was in the 5th Battalion The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) and was 'killed in action', aged 22, on Wednesday 17th of November 1943. William is buried at Sangro River War Cemetery, Italy. The site of this cemetery was selected by the 5th Corps and into it were brought the graves of men who had died in the fierce fighting on the Adriatic sector of the front in November-December 1943. Presumably this is when William was killed.

Ronald Couchman was in the 5th Battalion Grenadier Guards and was 'killed in action' in Italy on Tuesday, 25th July 1944. The Grenadiers' website reveals that the 5th Battalion was involved in the invasion of North Africa and then Italy at Anzio before fighting their way to Florence. Presumably it was in the heavy fighting around Florence that Ronald was killed. Ronald was 27 years old when he died and is buried in the Florence War Cemetery, he is also remembered on his parents' gravestone in St Anthony's churchyard.



Alan Gavin was a Rifleman in the 2nd Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps. He died on Thursday 19th of October 1944 aged 23 years and had lived in Megget Lane. The 2nd Battalion took part in the Normandy landings and then fought through France, Belgium and Holland into Germany. Presumably Alan was killed as part of this movement. Alan is buried in the Leopoldsburg War Cemetery, Limburg, Belgium and was the last of the Alkham Heroes to be killed in war.

Leonard Saunders was the son of John and Charlotte Saunders who lived at Drellingore on the Alkham Valley Road. He was in the 17 Field Regiment of the Royal Artillery and he died on the 19th of January 1943 at the age of 35. He is remembered with honour at Medjez-El-Bab War Cemetery in Tunisia. His name is not on the St Anthonys churchyard memorial.

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Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday	Keep Fit 10.00 am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am

Other events in the village hall

Tea n Chat May 29th 2.30pm to 4.00pm

Tuesday	13	W.I. meeting 7.30pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 4th		**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Eucharist 11.00 am**
Saturday 10th	**Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm**		
Sunday 11th	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Worship 11.00 am**	**Worship 11.00 am**
Sunday 18th		**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Eucharist 11.00 am**
Sunday 25th	**Eucharist 9.30 am**	**Evensong 6.00 pm**	**Eucharist 11.00 am**
Thursday 29th			Eucharist 7.30am

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FROM THE VICARAGE - With 8 May 2025 marking the 80th anniversary of VE Day, and events and activities planned up and down the country to commemorate the end of World War II in Europe, I've been reminded of a story that I heard during my student days. Our tutor told us of how at his church one Remembrance Sunday, a young curate had stood up to preach. Beginning his sermon by inviting the congregation to picture a scene from the Battle of the Somme, he was soon interrupted as an elderly man leapt to his feet. "Young puppy!" he snarled as he stormed out. "I was there!" A cautionary tale that I've always remembered when writing my own Remembrance Sunday sermons – for preachers, anything that involves relating what others might remember has to be done with special care. I've heard one preacher begin by describing how, during the war, he had been shot at by a German aircraft – he had been in his pram at the time. But the most memorable was from an old priest who had studied in Germany before the war. He began by quoting from the Old Testament: "Do not forget the LORD, and his righteousness." Describing his own memories of life in 1930s Germany, he spoke of how some friends had invited him to go to a meeting one evening – one at which Hitler himself would speak. From the pulpit, he described what he remembered of what he had heard. His conclusion: the world had gone on to pay a terrible price for forgetting the LORD and his righteousness. Perhaps understandably, the main theme of the 80th anniversary of VE Day events will be one of celebration. But let's also remember those who work for peace and reconciliation in today's world. **Brian Williams**

MARQUIS OF GRANBY - New Breakfast Menu now available 7.00 am – 10 am Weekend 8 am - 10 am. Locals Welcome; New Spring Menu; Happy hour Monday to Thursday 20% off drinks 4pm to 6pm; Fridays, Roll the Dice & get a free Drink, 4 pm until 6 pm. Sunday Lunch 12 pm until 6.30 pm – Booking Recommended. Contact number 01304 873410 info@marquisofgranby.co.uk www.marquisofgranby.co.uk

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
and magazine

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
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Telephone 01304 824969
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ALKHAM VE DAY CELEBRATIONS

I hope all those who attended the Alkham Picnic on the Green enjoyed the VE Day 80 celebration. The weather was a bit dodgy - but we were lucky that the rain held off for a couple of hours. Only sorry that we didn't manage to get many games in before the heavens opened. I should like to thank those who helped me with the organising and the volunteers who put out the tables, bunting etc. As they say "many hands make light work". And apart from having a fun afternoon, with music, singing, bellringing, flag-raising and a Long Live the King, we also managed to raise £236.48 for badges, which has gone to the British Legion. Thank you to all of you. **Rachel Fountain**



FETE - This year's plant stall at the fete is being run by Trevor and Alison Johns with Anita and Vernon helping. Therefore to all villagers please could you have a look about and if you have any unwanted plants, please let us know big or small we don't mind. We all remember the giant house plant we had last year. Either contact Trevor or Alison Johns or myself on anitajames163@gmail.com. **Anita James**

ADDERS – An Alkham resident has sent a photo of an adder which was in the field behind the church in Alkham and also a leaflet giving advice if your dog is bitten by one. An adder bite can be fatal for a dog so you should immediately take them to the nearest vet. The first aid you can carry out is to carry the dog to reduce the spread of the venom and leave the bite alone, don't bandage or apply a tourniquet. Keep the dog reasonably warm and quiet whilst you take them to the vet.



FLINTS - Do any locals know of good sources of surplus local flint? Planning permission for the conversion of Drellingore Barns was granted in February - many thanks to our neighbours who supported the application. We'll need to repair some flint walls, and it'd be great to use local material. It'd be even better if there are any free sources from gardens or ploughed fields! Any suggestions sent to family@drellingorebarns.com would be gratefully received.



MANY THANKS go to Neil Burrows who has stepped down from Alkham Parish Council after 32 years during which time he was Chairman for 20 years and Vice Chairman for 7. The photo shows Neil accepting an award from Den Barnard on behalf of the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) for all the work he has done for the community and Alkham owes him a debt of gratitude as well. There has been a smooth transition with Den Barnard taking over as Chairman.

KCC ELECTIONS – Paul King from the Reform Party won the election and is now the councillor for our area.

WAR MEMORIAL – Further to the article in the newsletter about Alkham Heroes an email was received from Peter Reed about Leonard Saunders' name not being on the memorial and an offer to contribute to the cost of doing so. Enquiries are currently being made to find out if this can be done.

MARQUIS OF GRANBY – Friday 27th of June Drew Cameron stand-up comedian & impressionist with a set menu £60 per person. Thursday 17th July Mediterranean Night live music by Thomas Abraham.

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EVERDEN is at the top of the hill behind Alkham where Great Everden Farm was located. It is now called Great Everden Manor and adjacent are two empty barns for which a planning application has been made to convert the smaller barn into a hotel. The proposed profile is similar to the barn and further details can be seen on the DDC web site under planning. Great Everden contacted me and I agreed to put an article by them in the newsletter which is shown below.

GREAT EVERDEN MANOR is a holiday let estate at the top of the Alkham Valley surrounded by acres of harvest fields and wildlife. During the last four years, the proprietors have invested in the planting of hundreds of specimen trees and plants to bring more wildlife into the area. This has turned the estate into a popular holiday let option. Adjoining the estate are two massive barns that were used for huge farming machinery. The Government's advice for permitted development allows for these barns to be turned into offices, schools, hotels etc. The proprietors feel that the use of a boutique 9 room hotel with a spa on site would be beneficial to the locals and is the optimum option to the area and its environment. Barns this size that start dilapidating become an eyesore and a Health and safety hazard to the area and the community. The new facility will provide the potential great short break to revitalise in tranquillity in the beautiful countryside. **Great Everden Manor …**

NEIGHBOURS' VIEWPOINT – Some emails have been received from people who live in the area. Concerns are over the proposed "agricultural Barn to Hotel" at Great Everden Manor. Particularly dangers caused by 50-seater coaches not knowing the very narrow country roads and the effect on other drivers. If Hotel use is approved, there will be a further increase in traffic, affecting walkers, cyclists and horse riders. In addition, regular noisy events at the Manor are a real nuisance to those living nearby and further afield. They also consider there's a great danger of Alkham being turned from a small rural area into something much larger and wonder if the number of houses for sale in the area is being caused by these developments.

RIVER GARDENERS - Our next event will be our **Summer Show: Saturday 5th July** at River Village Hall. Show opens at 2pm (free entry) and there will be Prize giving, auction, raffle and cake! Bring seeds, seedlings or a plant for the sales table! Why not join us and show your flowers, veg and crafts? We encourage everyone to give Showing a go – it's a fun, social and rewarding event. You needn't be an expert either, most of our long-time competition goers and members are amateurs. **Race Night: 19th July** at River Village Hall, 7.30pm-10pm. Tickets here: rivergardeners.com/event/race-night-2025/. **Autumn Show: Saturday 13th September** [as for Summer Show] **Coffee Morning & AGM: Saturday 1st November**

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SLIP LANE – Before 1978 Slip Lane used to be called The Street which in olden times generally meant there were some houses on it. Nearby is Swingfield and that too had houses built on the road going through it and hence Swingfield Street. The majority of householders on the Street in Alkham wanted the road to be called Slip Lane and records don't show why but perhaps a slip leads down to water and the road generally flooded. The photo shows The Street in 1920 with children standing by the Wesleyan Chapel. **Ed**

SAVE THE DATE- I'm holding a charity bingo night on the Saturday 26th of July at 7pm at Alkham village hall. Money raised on this night will be split between Pilgrims Hospice and Dementia. If you would like to come along for the evening and would like to book a table, please contact me on 07796360473. Bring your own refreshments there will be raffle prizes on the night. **Debbie Griggs**

THE VILLAGE HALL AGM was held in April the outcome of which are several changes to the committee of managing trustees. More to follow on that but the first job is to thank not just those who have stood down but indeed to thank all who have for many years contributed to the running of the village hall. The humility shown by those standing down means I'll not name them but I think you all know who they are and they are to be recognised with our thanks. The honesty, integrity and community spirit of everyone involved is an example for the future. The new committee have now to follow in those footsteps and deal with short term tasks, make arrangements for the coming months and plan a future. Alkham Village Hall is a registered charity and in July 2031, just six short years away, the Charity is 100 years old. Our custodians over the past 94 years have ensured that the village hall remains at the heart of our rural community. Your new committee invites you to join us and rally around one key objective which is providing a new village hall for the next 100 years! How will we do this? I honestly don't know, but I do know that it cannot be done by the committee alone it has to be with the support, involvement and willingness of the whole village. After reading the sad news about the end of the film club and how the WI are seriously considering their future it's time to step up and get involved, with whatever you feel able, to make our village hall, and the clubs and services that call it home, the centre of our community for another 100 years. Please keep an eye on the Alkham.org website for further news and I promise that your managing trustees will do all we can, so let's do that together. **Kev Rolfe**

FOR SALE - Ti Reynolds 531 C Bike 58 cm, 18 speed, high-quality steel frame road bike, classic drop handlebar and stored in a garage for some years, £75. Please phone Nina on 07749133413.

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Regular events in the village hall

Tuesday	Keep Fit 10.00 am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am
Friday	6.30pm to 7.30pm Yoga with Janet

Other events in the village hall

Tea n Chat June 26th 2.30pm to 4.00pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 1st June		Eucharist 10.00 am	
Saturday 7th	Messy Church Capel 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 8th	Eucharist 9.30 am		Praise 11.00 am
Sunday 15th		Eucharist 10.00 am	
Sunday 22nd		Evensong 6.00 p.m.	Eucharist 10.00 am
Sunday 29th	**Sung Eucharist at St Mary's Capel le Ferne 10.00 am**		

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HALL BOOKING Catie Webber 07976649726 or catiewebber@me.com
W.I. SECRETARY Janet Barrow 829585 **VICAR** Brian Williams 01303 243784
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LOCAL SITES alkham.org alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

BUS TIMES To Dover 7.50,8.18,9.48,11.23,13.23,14.53,17.28
Sat: 9.48,11.18,13.18,15.28
To Folkestone 9.04,10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09,18.09 Sat 10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09
Assumed correct but check on www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables and 91 bus

FROM THE VICARAGE - As we marked the 80th anniversary of VE Day recently, we celebrated a generation who are passing into history. Not only did they go through the War; they learned Bible stories at Grandmother's knee and went to Sunday School. In the Forces they attended Church Parade. When the war ended, some trained as clergy; one, Robert Runcie, having served as a tank commander in Normandy and been decorated for bravery, went on to be Archbishop of Canterbury. In the 1950s, they flocked to Wembley to hear the evangelist Billy Graham preach. But then came the 1960's, and massive social changes. Following generations didn't catch the same churchgoing habit, and now, as a generation passes on and pews empty, some wonder how much longer the dear old C of E will last. And yet… I'm reading Lamorna Ash's book *Don't Forget We're Here Forever.* The shocking news that a comedy double-act from her university days had not just found faith but planned to be ordained as Anglican priests led her not only to interview them in preparation for her book, but to set out on a journey that took in Christian retreats and church visits across the country. On the way she encountered a range of Christian traditions and met others of her own generation who had also found faith. As she explored what it was that had stirred within them, she found something stirring within herself. Recently, I heard of a local church that I'm told is lively, exciting and full of young people. A recent report by The Bible Society suggests that churchgoing may actually be increasing among the 18-34 age group. This Revival hasn't quite reached us yet – we're having to trim some of our services from this month - but there's hope, nevertheless... **Brian Williams**

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
and magazine

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE
Telephone 01304 824969
brianwimsett@hotmail.com

No. 375 July 2025

Non-profit & delivered free to the Parish

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ALKHAM FETE - We are having a Fete Committee meeting on **Tuesday 24th June at 8 pm** in the Village Hall to finalise details - all are welcome. Check out the Fete WhatsApp group for further information (some of its even fete-related!). This year's Fete will be held on **Saturday 19th July 2025 from 2 pm**; please spread the word. As always any and all help putting the tents up and preparing the Meadow (from 9 am) and clearing up afterwards would be gratefully received. You will find 2 books of Raffle Tickets with the newsletter - please return any ticket stubs (and payment) or unsold tickets to me - ideally in advance to 1-2 Upton Cottage, or on the day. The Fete raises funds for the Church and Village Hall and it's always a great family day and opportunity to meet and catch up with friends, family and villagers past and present. We'll be having all the usual events and silliness, so please come along and support the event. **Paul Tapsell 01303 892082 or 07947 016697.**

FETE - This year's plant stall at the fete is being run by Trevor and Alison Johns with Anita and Vernon helping. Therefore, to all villagers please could you have a look about and if you have any unwanted plants, please let us know big or small we don't mind. Either contact Trevor or Alison Johns or myself on anitajames163@gmail.com. **Anita James**

CHANGING TIMES – The W.I. have always been the backbone of Alkham and if anything needed to be done they were first port of call, and this may continue, but the Alkham W.I. is going to amalgamate with Capel W.I. because of falling numbers. For years they had a choir at the Christmas lights and also had Christmas Bazaars, jumble sales and several other events plus helping when necessary. St. Anthony's church used to have a good attendance plus a choir but like the W.I. the numbers attending has dropped and when Brian Williams retires later this year it is probable that there will be no one to replace him. Additionally, is the Alkham Monthly Newsletter relevant today in the age of social media? Maybe not but with the help of the marvellous 13 volunteers who deliver 275 paper copies each month it does reach most of the properties in the parish and can be used for other purposes such as delivering the raffle tickets and other parish business. **Brian Wimsett**

ALKHAM WI would like donations of cakes please for the refreshments stall in the village hall. Anyone wishing to bake a cake and drop of on the day of the Fete would be much appreciated.

MARQUIS OF GRANBY - New Summer Menu available now. **Mediterranean night** - Join us for a Mediterranean Night on ***Thursday 17th July,*** indulge in sun-soaked flavours and live music in a truly relaxed atmosphere! ***Silva's Service BBQ*** **-** Silva invites you to his very own BBQ on our terrace, on ***Monday 25 August***, where you will experience the flavours of Portugal and the Silva service we all love. There will be live music and a cocktail bar

DEFIBRILLATOR



The Ewell Minnis telephone box defibrillator has been installed. It has been supplied by the charity 'Defibs for Dover' and our contribution has been covered by ' The Electric Twelve Club', the business charity organised by villager Kev Rolfe. Defibs for Dover have offered us a free Life Support and Defibrillator Training Course for twelve people. We don't have a date for it yet but if anyone is interested particularly from Ewell Minnis please let Den Barnard know or any of the Parish Councillors.

BRIC-A-BRAC - The stall is very popular at the fete, which is on the 19th of July, and we are looking for decent saleable items but not the ones you might find in charity shops or boot fairs thanks as they don't sell. Please have a rummage around and if you have anything which you think might sell, please ring Jane on 07340 749788 for details and donation.

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ALKHAM CRICKET CLUB - I'm hoping to arrange an Alkham CC v Alkham Residents cricket match on (probably) the afternoon of the August Bank Holiday Sunday (24th Aug); if you are interested in playing, for either side, please text me on 07947 016697 and I'll set up a WhatsApp group to sort out the details. It's likely to be a T20 game (Alkham CC rarely lasted more than 20 overs when batting in any format) and will probably involve some beers and maybe a barbecue, and there may be an opportunity to have a game or two of Petanque after the cricket! As you can tell, plans are at a fairly early stage! **Paul Tapsell**

BEE SWARMING Season and Asian Hornet Threat - Bee hives are in full swing now and as the population of a colony increases it becomes necessary to move out. The queen bee will take off with many of the bees to look for a new home leaving a proportion of the colony to 'make' a new queen to revive that hive. In the middle of July last year a swarm descended on our house and made a sterling effort to get into our roof. We fought them off but gave in and with the help of local beekeepers made a home for them out of part of a beehive, a wheelbarrow and a few plywood offcuts. We then spent several hundred pounds on a hive and apparel and became beekeepers. Unfortunately, as can happen in 1 in 4 cases, the colony did not survive the winter but they did leave a hive full of honey. In our case it was not the Asian Hornet who decimated our bees, there are plenty of other threats such as varroa mite, cold, mice or death of the queen to list a few. Alkham featured on a recent channel 5 TV programme, "The Secret Lives of Bees" when they explained the problem of the Asian Hornet. The programme presenter walks up Slip Lane and into the garden of a local beekeeper before showing the Hornet's nest high in a tree. The Hornets are exterminated in the nest and the nest retrieved for analysis. The battle continues this year and Hornet traps have been placed and are being monitored. Keep your eyes open for these large wasp-like creatures and report any sitings to alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk. We were waiting for another swarm to drop in and supply us with more honey but have now placed an order for a new colony of bees with the local bee keeping association. That new home needs a new family. **Alan Latham**



HOW THE BEE GOT ITS STING - If you know your Greek mythology you'll easily picture the wedding banquet of Zeus and Hera. Not a small affair as even the animal kingdom was invited and summoned by Zeus to offer their best dishes for this momentous occasion. As a prize for the best entry Zeus proposed to grant the winner a wish. Thus, on the day of tasting, Zeus came to a very small amphora filled with a sweet scented amber-coloured concoction. Its maker was asked her name which was Malissa and she was very surprised to be told her offering was by far the best thing the gods had ever tasted and she was declared the winner and Zeus asked what she wished for. Melissa's reply was that the scorpion had been given a sting, the snake had fangs, bulls had horns whilst she, the bee had nothing to defend herself with and could Zeus give her a suitable weapon. After deliberation with Hera, Zeus ruled that the bee would be given a stinger but if she used it, she would lose her life. And indeed, bees when they sting lose that part of their body and die. Beware what you wish, all the way from Greek antiquity. **Isabelle Smith**

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FETE – Further to the article on page 1 the fete has changed as well. The photo shows the headmaster of Alkham school opening the fete in 1910 which was held at the Vicararage and was very formal with all the ladies wearing hats although they probably had the usual attractions such as a coconut shy. The other photo shows a headmaster in 1930 outside the Marquis and cars have changed as well and the Triumph Roadster had a dickey seat where the boot is. **editor**



DOGS – The majority of dog owners know how they should be looked after and have them microchipped, put a collar on them with a tag that gives their details and clear up the mess when they go to the toilet including by gardens or hedges. Barking can be a problem for neighbours and dogs can be shot if they chase livestock. Keep it on the lead if you meet another dog on a lead or on the road, especially when meeting cyclists or horses. Keep them under control when in public places and leash them if they don't respond to command. The Highway Code says and backed by the law that they must be restrained in vehicles. Don't assume that everyone likes dogs and saying he's friendly may not help particularly with children. Dogs are lovely animals especially when they follow this advice. **A parishioner**

ALKHAM BOOK CLUB - We continue to enjoy a wide variety of books that lend themselves to discussion, not always on serious or controversial subjects. Our April choice, "The Story Collector", by Elvie Woods, transported us back to a forgotten age of rural charm where strange coincidences and luck were innocently accepted as the influence of 'fairy folk'. Set in a peaceful Irish idyll, the peace of the community is shaken up by two unlikely American visitors. The tale built up to moments of tension and mystery and was generally regarded as a pleasurable and relaxed read. In May we turned from frivolous more to a more serious topic of post-war trauma. The book we read, J.L.Carr's "A Month in the Country", was a gentle and sensitive glance into a short period of time experienced by a nerve-shattered man, as he found peace. His road to recovery began with his 'month in the country' amongst the kindly rural folk. **Margaret Danstead**

THE NATIONAL TRUST are not showing themselves in a good light in regard to Studley Royal Water Garden, Yorkshire, re pheasant shooting. The land is in private ownership and shooting is legal but NT are responsible for the gardens and opening the grounds to the public. During shooting season, the grounds are closed Friday, for shooting pheasants, which commands a high price to shoot there. The shoot at Studley takes place near water. Thus, many birds are not killed outright but wounded and full of lead shot. They then fall into the water. These wounded birds struggle to survive in the water, without being humanely killed or having any remorse shown to them by the shooters. No doubt shooting scenarios are played out in numerous, privately owned, estates yet administered by the National Trust and open to the public. It does call into question the value of NT Membership if you find this kind of cruelty abhorrent. **A parishioner**

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Other events in the village hall

Tea n Chat July 31st 2.30pm to 4.00pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 6th July		Eucharist 10 am	
Saturday 12th	Messy Church 3.00 – 5.00 pm please confirm		
Sunday 13th	Eucharist 9.30 am		Worship 11am
Sunday 20th		Eucharist 10am	
Sunday 27th		Evensong 6p.m.	Eucharist 11am

Usually a Eucharist at St Radigund's, Capel at 11.00am on Thursday

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Assumed correct but check on www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables and 91 bus

FROM THE VICARAGE - Our son, who works as a school science technician, arrived home with a flowerpot containing a lemon tree grown from a pip. Having started life in a corner of one of the science labs it now needed a "forever home." We found it a spot on the kitchen windowsill, and it has been there ever since. It was just a couple of inches high with a few glossy green leaves when it arrived. But despite our best efforts, it didn't grow. The leaves lost their shine and shrivelled away. Just a stalk remained – and so it has been ever since. It looks dead, but the stalk remains green. It isn't growing, but it refuses to die. Believe it or not, there are gardening tips in the Bible! For example, Jesus once told a story about a landowner who, having planted a fig tree and not had any fruit from it for three years, told his gardener to cut it down. But the gardener persuaded his boss to wait – he would dig around the tree and put manure on it. If it still didn't bear fruit, then it could be cut down. Jesus' stories always have a double meaning. Jesus knew about plants – and people. His point was that we can all be like fruitless trees - going through life being foolish and selfish, and messing things up. But at the same time we can always make new beginnings and turn our lives around so that we "bear fruit", as Jesus would put it.Most people would have thrown that lemon tree out by now. But whenever I look at it, I think of Jesus' story about the fig tree, and about second chances. So I'll dig around that little tree, feed it, and see what happens… **Brian Williams**

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ALKHAM FETE – Despite the ominous weather forecast the fete on the 19th of July was sunny and a good crowd of people turned up on the village green. The fete was opened by Neil Burrows who was chairman of the Parish Council for 20 years and placed around the green were numerous tents and side shows including sheep from Wolverton Farm plus the Astronomical Society; there was also displays of the defibrillator and Tai Chi and later there were children's games and a tug of war. The photo shows the dog parade and this year it was decided not to have a winner but each dog got a treat and Dexter the German Shepherd got two so was effectively the winner. There will be more details about the fete in next month's newsletter and thanks go to Paul Tapsell and his team for organising it plus Den Barnard and all the people who helped on the day.



VOLUNTEERING - The unofficial volunteer group continues to grow in Alkham and we're always wanting more people to join. There is no one leading this group and we keep in touch via a What's App group and word of mouth. We are just a bunch of local residents who care enough to help each other out with difficult or larger jobs in and around our homes, often for the greater good of the village. We'll also help out with requests from the Village Hall and the Parish Council to maintain and upkeep the public areas they are responsible for. We're looking for more volunteers to join us, be that with a particular skill, like fixing benches and noticeboards, heavier labour like building the village hall planters, easier labour like litter picking or simply turning up to make some drinks or refreshments and a chat. Saturday the 28th of June a heavier work party took place clearing up the Burn on Vicarage Meadow and alongside Newlyns Meadow, moving compost, post fixing and hedge trimming followed by July the 12th which saw litter picking Vicarage Meadow ahead of the fete, no doubt we'll need another group to help right after the fete. It's important to know that not everyone is available every time but if you'd like to join, even if only occasionally, get in touch. **Kev Rolfe M: 07857 305044**

CRICKET MATCH - Plans are moving ahead for a Alkham Cricket Club v Alkham Residents cricket match on the Vicarage Meadow Sunday 24th August starting at 2 pm; we're aiming to have a T20 (twenty over) game followed by a barbecue, some beers, probably a raffle (all in aid of Club funds), and some Petanque (and, possibly, Croquet); if you're interested in playing please let me know (or sign up on the sheet by the Pavilion at the Fete on 19th July). Players of all (or no) abilities, ages and/or sexes are all welcome - we're just determined to prove that the Alkham Cricket Club (established 1839*) is still alive! **Paul Tapsell 07947 016697**. (*the year, not the time!).

NEWSLETTER – Last month's article 'Changing Times' might have given the impression that the newsletter was not continuing because of social media. I received a couple of nice emails to say that some of the on-line platforms have people giving their own strong views and that the newsletter is always impartial and a hugely preferential source of information. As long as there is news to report and people send me articles, which are always welcome, I will continue to publish the newsletter.

Brian Wimsett

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VILLAGE HALL - Many of you will know that Alkham Village Hall has recently been given a slight facelift with much of the work being done for free by residents. The Managing Committee of Trustees would like to thank everyone for their support and we'd like to invite everyone to an open meeting of the village hall committee on Saturday August the 9th 10am-11am. We'll do our very best to provide some refreshments but the intention is for members of the parish to meet up and discuss what they'd like from a Village Hall in the coming years and how it might be achieved. We have stated already that as the Village Hall approaches 100 years old we believe it's time to fundraise and apply for grants to replace it with a new Village Hall for the next 100 years. If you think you could help in any way please come along and have a chat. Village Hall Committee. **Kevin Rolfe**

CYCLE PATH



The new Fastrack from Whitfield to Guston is a lovely stretch of road which cost about 34 million pounds with a new bridge over the A2 and links the housing development at Whitfield to the centre of Dover. One of our bike rides was to Dover and up Castle Hill to Guston and then on to East Langdon and the busy entrance on the A2 roundabout at Whitfield. The new road bypasses the latter and from Guston it's straight to Whitfield and the Alkham turn at the roundabout on the A2 which makes for a pleasant ride. However, we are generally the only people on the new road at that time which is restricted to buses. **Brian Wimsett**

FIRE AND RESCUE - People across Kent and Medway are being invited to have their say on Kent Fire and Rescue Service's (KFRS) forward plans to protect rural residents and businesses from the risk of fire or other emergencies and with around 85% of the county classed as rural, it's important to give your views. The plan outlines how KFRS already supports people who live and work in the countryside, and how the service intends to enhance its response to risks associated with rural living. The proposal also considers the relocation of a water rescue vehicle. Please go to eu.surveymonkey.com/r/ kfrspublicconsultation2025 or if you know of someone who doesn't have access to the internet, please pop by and help them to give their views.

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ON THE THEME of changing times, 25 years ago the W.I. staged a pantomime in the village hall when Helen Scopes brought her donkey into the hall accompanied by Devina Bartlett as Mary much to the surprise of the audience. The donkey behaved itself and the panto was well received. In the year 2000 a Millennium Cross was placed on the top of St. Anthony's tower by Cal Scopes on a cold and blustery day with a good crowd watching on and the vicar Gill Calver was there who later went on to be a chaplain to the Queen. It would be a great pity if either were to close and Brian Williams the parish vicar has written an article which is shown below. **Brian Wimsett**



I WAS REMINDED by Brian's comments about the changing fortunes of the WI and St Anthony's in last month's *Newsletter* of a conversation I once had with someone whose local village church had recently closed. The strongest objections to its closure, he said, had come from people who hardly ever went to church! When I retire, responsibility for the Parish will pass to the Area Dean and the churchwardens to begin with - what will happen in the longer term remains to be seen. When I arrived the average weekly attendance at St Anthony's was 16. People prayed and cared for not just each other, but for the whole village. But that changed with Covid - like many churches, St Anthony's struggled to recover after the pandemic. St Anthony's remains popular for christenings, weddings and funerals. Easter Day and Remembrance Sunday were well supported last year, as were our Christmas services – but regular Sunday services are a different matter. We have bellringers, and a willing team who decorate the church for Christmas and Harvest. But to stay alive, a church needs a congregation. To remain sustainable, we have had to reduce our Sunday services to just one a month– on the 2nd Sunday at 9.30**.** ***So, please could you give just <u>one hour a month</u> to keep St Anthony's going?*** Do you like singing? Come and sing the hymns – you could try singing the harmonies; Come and pray for yourself, for others and whatever is on your mind**.** If words won't come, light a candle; Think about what you hear. You don't have to agree with all of it. Parish churches aren't funded by the taxpayer**.** Please could you consider joining the Parish Giving Scheme and giving a little towards St Anthony's running costs? ***Please support St Anthony's – don't lose it. Brian Williams***



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Tuesday	Keep Fit 10.00 am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am
Friday	6.30pm to 7.30pm Yoga with Janet

Other events in the village hall

Tea n Chat August 28th 2.30pm to 4.00pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 3rd Aug		**Eucharist 10.00am**	
Saturday 9th	**Messy Church 3.00 – 5.00 pm Capel 01303 243784 to confirm**		
Sunday 10th St L	**Eucharist 9.30 am**		**Worship 11.00 am**
Sunday 17th		**Eucharist 10.00 am**	
Sunday 24th		**Evensong 6.00pm**	**Eucharist 11.00 am**
Sunday 31st	**Eucharist at St Mary's Capel le Ferne 10.00 am**		

Usually a Eucharist at St Radigund's, Capel at 11.00am on Thursday

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AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641 alkhamvs.org
MP Mike Tapp: **KCC** email Paul.King@kent.gov.uk
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Sat: 9.48,11.18,13.18,15.28
To Folkestone 9.04,10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09,18.09 Sat 10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09
Assumed correct but check on www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables and 91 bus

MARQUIS OF GRANBY - ***From the 21st of July until the 29th of August 2025 CHILDREN EAT FOR £1***; Children enjoy a main course for just £1 from the. children menu with every adult main / large plate from our A La Carte Menu /Summer Menu. Note (one Child Main to one Adult Main available from Monday to Friday 12pm - 3pm and 5.30pm - 6.30pm excluding Bank Holiday Monday. **UPCOMING *EVENTS - Thursday 21st August 2025 - ENTRECOTE NIGHT.*** Only £25 per person for a three-course set menu, with the option of bottomless Red & Rose wine poured from magnum throughout your meal. (reservation recommended). ***Monday 25th August 2025 (***Bank Holiday***) - SILVAS SERVICE BBQ + Cocktails & Live Music from THE DIAL.*** For more information please visit our website.

DINOSAUR DAY in Pencester Gardens, Dover on Wednesday 6 August when Dover's very own 'Jurassic Park' comes to life with opportunities to train "friendly" dinosaurs, to join a walkabout with a giant T-Rex, and to meet and greet some smaller dinosaurs too, all overseen by a team of experienced dinosaur wranglers! The event is FREE so just turn up throughout the day from 10am to 3pm. Children of all ages will be enthralled by the 'Dinosaur Safari' shows at 11am, 1pm and 2.30pm, together with a dinosaur walkabout at either end of Pencester Gardens at 12pm. There are other themed activities such as walking with the dinos, meeting reptiles, dinosaur crafts and many more activities.

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
and magazine

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE
Telephone 01304 824969
brianwimsett@hotmail.com

No. 377 September 2025

Non-profit & delivered free to the Parish

Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council

ALKHAM FETE AND MEETING - A huge "Thank You" to everyone who helped and/or attended the Fete on the 19th of July- despite the awful weather forecast, someone upstairs was smiling on us and it stayed dry. We raised about £3,300 which will be shared (mostly) between the Church and Village Hall which was an excellent result. I won't single individuals out for their help; you were all brilliant! We' will be having the post-fete meeting on **Tuesday 30th September at 8 pm** in the village hall to discuss the event, agree the donations and plan for next year; please come along. Thanks again. **Paul Tapsell 07947 016697**

PLANT STALL -Thank you to everyone who donated the huge collection of plants we had for sale on the plant stall at the fete, the final figure for our stall is not in yet but we raised over £600 pounds this year. We intend to be back bigger and better next year so put your cuttings in please. **Anita, Alison, Vernon and Trevor** … They are to be congratulated for growing and obtaining so many plants, a terrific achievement.



THE ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL were very kindly presented a Garden Gift Voucher by the Alkham WI in commemoration of the 110 years of the WI in the UK. I'm sure the Alkham WI will confirm all their future plans themselves but we at the Village Hall will miss them and we thank them for the gift. With the ongoing planting works to the frontage and car park we know the gift will be used in a suitable way to recognise the donation. Thank You. **Kev Rolfe**

CRICKET MATCH – The Alkham Cricket Club v Alkham Residents cricket match on the Vicarage Meadow will be on Sunday 24th August starting at 2 pm; we're aiming to have a T20 (twenty over) game followed by a barbecue, some beers, probably a raffle (all in aid of Club funds), and some Petanque (and, possibly, Croquet). New players are always welcome regardless of ability so please contact me. **Paul Tapsell 07947 016697**

QUIZ NIGHT on the 26th of September at 7 pm at St. Radigunds church Capel with Tony the quiz master; bring your own drink and nibbles, £5.00 per person. To book ring Audrey on 07869 574577. **Carol Mannall**

DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING COURSE - We have four people who have expressed interest in the second Defibrillator Course but we need a minimum of twelve to book it. It is not essential to have training to use either of our two village defibrillators but the training will give you confidence if you find yourself in an emergency. The course is free and is only a couple of hours and could make all the difference between life and death. Please contact Den Barnard (07488 357140) or any Parish Councillor if you are interested. Remember that to use the defibrillators dial 999 and you will be given the code to access the machine and the operator will guide you through its use. **Alkham Parish Council**

THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING for September has had to be postponed until Monday the 8th of September. **Den Barnard**

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THINGS IN THE NIGHT - An email was received from a lady in Short Lane regarding her husband who likes to practice his golf chipping on their lawn. On five consecutive nights the golf balls disappeared so they installed a camera to catch the thief. The culprit was caught on camera and it was a fox who removed the balls one by one and then disappeared through the hedge. Evidently the fox thought they were eggs which they store in their dens for the winter so the poor fox and family will be disappointed when the winter comes. If anybody discovers 20 golf balls, you will know where they came from and if you email the newsletter I will ensure they are returned.



FOX HUNTING
An email was received about fox hunting which was made illegal, but trail hunting is allowed, which the writer says is a smokescreen for it to continue. If you have an opinion on this, you can join the campaign to stop this by going to protectthewild.org.uk/our-campaigns/proper-ban-on-hunting/proper-ban-hunting-petition/ or The League Against Cruel Sports or your MP. The photo shows the hunt leaving the Marquis in 1990. **Brian Wimsett**

BOOK CLUB - As Jane Austen and her novels were being featured on TV in the Spring, we chose "Persuasion" as our June book of the month. After a brief discussion at our meeting of the book's style and content, much of our time was spent on talking about the life of the author and the possibility of a visit to the Austen residence/museum. Our book choice for July, "Cross Stitch", was also suggested through interest in a TV series—namely "Outlander"—a far cry from the classic choices of the previous two months! The book, by Diana Gabaldon, is an attempt to give the reader a semi-historic experience of life in Jacobite Scotland, with all its dangers, violence and superstition. The main character is introduced at the start of the novel as a returning wartime nurse, in 1945 looking forward to peace and happiness with her husband. By 'novelist licence' she is thrown out of one life back two centuries! The response to this book were varied with some members eager to read another in the series whilst others disliking it. We normally choose a 'feel-good' novel for August as many read it on holiday. We shall find out at the end of the month whether "Fortune's Rocks' by Anita Shreve meets that criteria. **Margaret Danstead**

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ST. ANTHONY'S - As a previous Alkham resident and churchwarden, St Anthony's holds a special place in my heart. I was saddened to see from Revd. Brian's report that the church is going to be on what I interpret as "life support" after his retirement next month. Founded by the monks at St Radigunds Abbey, has it come, that after 800 years of continuous use, and with a higher, and more prosperous village population than ever, this beautiful Grade 1 listed building is potentially to become, like at Swingfield, a heritage curiosity open once a year? Has individual wealth come at the cost of collective poverty? I don't have the answers, but I do have some observations. As the worshipping congregation reduces and ages, the administrative and financial burden on those remaining becomes, at a point, unsustainable. Community will and action, aided by the Friends of St Anthony's working with the church family, is the only way to ensure its future viability. At least have a public debate about what you want for the future of the building. Reimagining the use beyond Sunday worship is needed. That's why we put the kitchenette and toilet in some years ago. As a demonstration of support, could the Parish Council meeting be held in the church from time to time? Basically, it's about breathing new life into St Anthony's and bringing her out of intensive care. After all, Alkham Fete was rumoured to be dead some years ago, but had a resurrection thanks to Community willpower and a lot of hard work. With God's help, miracles can and do happen. **Linda Gaskill**



IN THE 1930'S the church used to be full and had a choir. The Preston boys are seen in the photo standing in the school playground in front of what is now the Old Post Office looking very saintly. Gordon is in the middle and was a great character but as he'd admit was unlikely to be canonized although Charlie on the left might have qualified. **Brian Wimsett**

BINGO NIGHT - I would like to thank everyone who came to the bingo charity night which was held on the 26th of July at the village hall where we raised £1565 which will be split between The Pilgrims Hospice and Dementia. I would also like to thank the Marquis of Granby, Alkham Valley Garden Centre, The Fox and The Royal oak at Capel for all your raffle prizes that you donated which I really appreciated. It was lovely to see everyone thank you once again. **Debbie Griggs**

THANK YOU for the recent kindness that people have shown us and the kindness received after the recent passing of Vernon's Dad. **Vernon and Anita James**



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Tuesday	Keep Fit 10.00 am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am
Friday	6.30pm Yoga :07812678124 janet28@protonmail.com

Other events in the village hall - see alkham.org

Tea n Chat September 25th 2.30pm to 4.00pm

CHURCH SERVICES

Date	Alkham	Capel	Hougham
Sunday 7th			**Eucharist 11.00 am**
Saturday 13th	Messy Church 3 -5pm– contact Pam 01303 489006 if coming		
Sunday 14th	**Eucharist 9.30 am**		**Worship 11.00 am**
Sunday 21st		**Eucharist 10.00 am**	
Sunday 28th		**Eucharist 10.00 am**	

Usually a Eucharist at St Radigund's, Capel at 11.00am on Thursday

POLICE 999 or 101 **NEWSLETTER** brianwimsett@hotmail.com
PARISH CLERK AND COUNCILLORS clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk
HALL BOOKING Catie Webber 07976649726 or catiewebber@me.com
W.I. SECRETARY Janet Barrow 829585 **VICAR** Brian Williams 01303 243784
AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641 alkhamvs.org
MP Mike Tapp: **KCC** email Paul.King@kent.gov.uk
DDC cllr-martin.hibbert@dover.gov.uk 07796444860
LOCAL SITES alkham.org alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk

BUS TIMES To Dover 7.50,8.18,9.48,11.23,13.23,14.53,17.28
Sat: 9.48,11.18,13.18,15.28
To Folkestone 9.04,10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09,18.09 Sat 10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09
Assumed correct but check on www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables and 91 bus

FROM THE VICARAGE - The Book of Genesis makes it all sound so simple; when Abraham left home he took his wife, his brother's son, their possessions and their dependants, set off for Canaan, and that was it. But looking around my office and thinking of all that I've got to do before I take my wife, our son, our possessions and our dependants (cats, cockatiels and tropical fish) and set off for retirement, it doesn't look as simple as all that - there's still so much to do. It still feels early to be saying our goodbyes, but our time here – nearly thirteen years - is nevertheless drawing to a close, with my final service in the parish at the end of September. Many years ago, long before I was ordained, I was a server at the church that I used to attend. When the vicar left, he gave a long farewell speech, thanking everyone who had supported him in his ministry by name – except me! Someone noticed, and asked me how I felt about being left out. I answered – truthfully – that I hadn't needed him to say anything. He had never failed to show his appreciation for anything I had done. I have been privileged to be the Parish Priest here. Our years here have been happy years, and I'm grateful for the love, prayers and support that I've enjoyed from so many, both within our church families and also among the wider community. Whatever help anyone has given, I've appreciated it all - and I hope that I've shown it. Last word to St Paul: *Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell… The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.* **Brian Williams**

ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
and magazine

Produced by Brian Wimsett
The Old Post Office
Slip Lane, Alkham CT15 7DE
Telephone 01304 824969
brianwimsett@hotmail.com

No. 378 October 2025

Non-profit & delivered free to the Parish

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LET'S MAKE ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD SAFER – TOGETHER

Over the past year, the Parish Council has been working with Kent Highways and our County Councillor to press for urgent safety improvements on Alkham Valley Road. This work feeds into the *Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)*, the document that sets out our parish's priorities for road and traffic changes.

What we asked for: Traffic-calming build-outs at both ends of the village**;** Lower speed limits along the valley**;** A 7.5-ton weight limit to keep heavy lorries out (except for access)**.**

Where things stand: Speed limits: Kent Highways has agreed to reduce speeds east of the village towards Dover. To the west, recorded speeds are too high for any reduction to be approved.

Traffic-calming build-outs: Initially considered but rejected because Kent Highways no longer provides the type of lighting required since moving away from overhead power poles.

HGV restrictions: No progress has been made on a weight limit, despite the risks to safety and damage to the road.

Why it matters - speeding is not just inconvenient – it is dangerous. Speedwatch volunteers have recorded thousands of vehicles exceeding the limit in both 30mph and 40mph zones. In the past year alone, police have issued more than 5,000 warning letters to drivers. Without effective traffic-calming, speeding will continue to put residents, walkers, horse riders, and all road users at risk.

What you can you do? This is where the community makes a difference. Change will only happen if Kent Highways and decision-makers see how strongly residents feel. You can help by:

Speaking up: Write to Kent Highways, our MP, and our County Councillor to call for action.

Joining Speedwatch: More volunteers mean more monitoring and stronger evidence for change.

Showing up: Come to the next Parish Council meeting and make your voice heard. The more people who attend, the harder it is to ignore us. Highways are the responsibility of Kent County Council. Dover District Council does not have a role in preparing or changing the HIP. If you have concerns or suggestions about road safety in Alkham, please bring them to the Parish Council so they can be raised in discussions with Kent County Council. Together, as a community, we can keep up the pressure and work towards making Alkham Valley Road safer for everyone. **Alkham Parish Council**

GREAT EVERDEN MANOR which is on the high ground behind Alkham, has been granted prior planning approval for the conversion of a disused agricultural barn of what was Great Everden Farm to a 9-bedroom hotel. Prior approval means that certain things must be done before work can commence and these appear to be matters to do with construction. There were numerous objections to the application, which were mainly regarding noise, accessing the hotel and the rural environment but the application was primarily approved as it is in accordance with permitted development.

THANKS go to Brian Williams (Revd) for all the good work he has done in the three parishes over the last 12 years and we wish him well in his retirement. **Alkham …** it is encouraging that the bell ringing continues which is a lovely village tradition and the Harvest Supper.

THE HARVEST SUPPER is on the 13th of October in the village hall at 19.00. It will be £7.00 a ticket and could I ask for volunteers to prepare a casserole in a slow cook or a dessert please. There will be the usual auction after supper so any produce you have to give like vegetables. fruit, jam or chutney you can drop at the church for the Harvest Service, or I can collect. Please ring Carol on 07946106742. **Carol Mannall**

NEWSLETTER – With vicar retiring and the Alkham W.I. closing it will be more difficult to fill the newsletter so if you fancy writing something I'd be pleased to receive it. **Brian Wimsett**

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VILLAGE HALL MATTERS - In August the Managing Committee opened their doors to one of their monthly meetings and without expectation there was quite a reasonable turnout. Although due to unexpected circumstances only two committee members were in attendance rather than cancel, the meeting went ahead and there was a very open discussion about the future of the village hall which very much dominated the conversation. The future has to still be for a new hall however bookings are down and with the changes to regular bookers such as the WI there will need to be some fund-raising action to change things. I'm pleased to report there were no specific complaints at the current time and any concerns raised, related to worries about timings and noise although our very closest neighbours took a very pragmatic position that was reciprocated. The improvements to the Car Park area continue with the co-operation and support of our neighbours and a gang of dedicated volunteers. Planting will start over the coming months although the budget is the highest priority as it is with all things. There are to be more social events and some villagers are already making plans to arrange fundraising events with more news to follow. The take away message is that you do not have to be part of the Managing Committee to help out at the Village Hall, you can participate in or organise an event with our full support, then step back until the next time. We all have such busy lives that not everyone can commit the same amount of time but we can all play our part. **Kev Rolfe**

THE VILLAGE HALL VOLUNTEERS have done a great job in resolving the rotting palisade fence problem adjacent to the car park by battering earth to retain the fence and gardens.

FOX HUNTING – In last month's newsletter there was an article based on an email received from a parishioner that said that trail hunting was a smoke screen and that fox hunting was continuing. Following that an email has been received from a parishioner who firmly disagreed with this and said: There is only one hunt left in Kent and that huntsman provides an excellent service driving miles around the whole of Kent for horse owners and livestock farmers, collecting and even shooting animals that have to be disposed of. A tradition that has gone on before the word 'recycle' was invented- as it goes to feed the hounds. The hunt genuinely lays trails and are constantly watched and filmed by protesters, who are trespassing on land and ruining the trails. The hunt would be crazy if they suddenly went after real foxes. However sometimes the foxhounds cross the scent of a real fox and it is hard to call them off this scent as they have been bred to be the best at scenting foxes over hundreds of years but the huntsman always tries to correct this. I think if you add an article asking if people would like to sign a petition to ban trail hunting, you need to balance it with an option to try and save foxhounds being able to work and the huntsman providing a genuinely excellent service collecting deadstock.

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tw.gardens@outlook.com.



CYCLISTS – 0n Wednesday the 4th of July 1894 the Dover Cycle Club Annual Ride stopped for a photo on what is now the Alkham Village Green and on the right in the background is the Vicarage with the green then owned by the church remaining much the same. It must have been an evening ride with hats and moustaches being the order of the day and the Alkham Valley Road would have been pretty rough but perhaps they went to the public bar (or some to the saloon) for refreshment and a smoke at the Marquis of Granby with almost all then going to church on a Sunday. The times again have changed as after WWI there was a welcome home with a 'Meat Tea and Smoking Concert'. **Brian Wimsett**

MARQUIS OF GRANBY - Our New Autumn Menu Has Arrived! Join us to enjoy seasonal favourites with a delicious twist.

Set Lunch Menu – Available Monday to Friday, 12pm–3pm; Two courses £21, Three courses £25**.**

Christmas Day is Filling Fast! Reserve your table now by calling 01303 840 242. **Will Thompson** 01304 873 410

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NEWSLETTER -With new adverts and allowing for non-payments the newsletter made a profit in the financial year September 2024 to August 2025. All monies go into the NatWest Club account and the overall revenue was £576 which covered the cost of printing about £300 and posting copies £83 but a new printer was required at a cost of £140. The cost of adverts for this financial year will be reduced accordingly as it's not the intention to make a profit and also allow for any months where there is not enough material to fill the newsletter.

WHERE TO CATCH YOUR BUS Stagecoach has made some changes and the graphic shows the Alkham 91 stops. There should be a larger graphic in the bus shelter by the village green or Stagecoach site.





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ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL

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E: bookings@villagehall.alkham.org W: villagehall.alkham.org

REGULAR EVENTS IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday	Keep Fit 10.00 am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am
Friday	6.30pm to 7.30pm Yoga with Janet

OTHER EVENTS IN THE VILLAGE HALL

6th 7pm	Parish Council
7th 7.30pm	White Cliffs Metal Detectors
13th 6pm	Harvest Supper
30th 2pm	Tea and a chat

CONTACT DETAILS

POLICE 999 or 101
NEWSLETTER brianwimsett@hotmail.com
PARISH CLERK AND COUNCILLORS
clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk
HALL BOOKING – See top of box above
W.I. SECRETARY Janet Barrow 829585
AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641 alkhamvs.org
MP Mike Tapp
KCC email Paul.King@kent.gov.uk
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91 BUS TIMES

To Dover 7.50,8.18,9.48,11.23,13.23,14.53,17.28
Sat: 9.48,11.18,13.18,15.28
To Folkestone 9.04,10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09,18.09 Sat 10.39,12.09,14.09,16.09
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Friday, 11.00 AM - 12.00 PM
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ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
and magazine

Produced by Brian Wimsett
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brianwimsett@hotmail.com

No. 379 November 2025

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TRAFFIC - An email was received regarding the Parish Council article in last month's newsletter and the writer has written to them about it. Apart from important items such as speeding, volume of traffic, HGV's, blind bends and dangerous egress from properties he said that the Highway Authority self-righteously state they continue to work and co-ordinate on the Highway Improvement Plan but he says there have been no noticeable significant improvements; other residents agree and say that they will never do anything (see comment at the end). KCC Highways have now decided to reject the build-outs because the type of lighting required cannot be provided by KCC since moving away from overhead cabling and he questions whether solar panels have been considered as they are used elsewhere in such situations and that clarification should be requested on this issue. He is appalled that none of the responsible authorities have accepted any of the road safety and traffic concerns raised by Alkham Residents and Parish Council and that they haven't taken any effective action regarding the continued road safety issues which they have a statutory obligation to address. **Parishioner** … **in May 1998** the first stage of the traffic calming was installed in Alkham and the Parish Council chairman said he would push for stage 2, which he did, and it included gateways and a footpath in the narrow section by the Marquis of Granby. **Brian Wimsett**

2025 POPPY APPEAL - The Royal British Legion is launching the appeal on 24 October 2025. This means that the **Alkham Poppy Sellers** will be out and about selling poppies and badges over the following couple of weeks. We know that Alkham villagers and their friends are very generous from previous years and have high hopes that 2025 will be better than ever - a Bumper Poppy Collection. On Remembrance Sunday - 9 November - there will be a service in St Anthony's Church to remember those in the Armed Forces who gave their lives in the two World Wars. This will be followed by laying a wreath at the war memorial in the Churchyard, and two minutes silence. **Rachel Fountain**

THE 91 BUS times have changed and the bus now goes to Buckland Hospital and the new timetable is on back page.

MARQUIS OF GRANBY - Entrecote night returns on the 13th of November; Dinner Festive set menu - perfect for Xmas parties, see details on mog website; Festive a la carte - see details on mog website. Xmas Day booking fast - Don't miss out.

AUTUMN BARN DANCE -- The Barn Dance is back! The date? Saturday November the 22nd. The time? 19.30 to 23.30. The venue? Alkham Village Hall. The Band? The same as before, but now we have a name - Jiggy With It! The caller - you know who! The cost £12.50 per head - profits to the Village Hall Re-development Fund. Tickets will include a ploughman's supper as before but bring you own drinks. Please call Graham on 07789690786 or email him on graham.bissett@talk21.com to reserve your places. No physical tickets will be sold. There are only 70 places available so book early to avoid disappointment. Over 30 tickets already gone. **Graham Bissett**

SAVE THE DATE - We are holding a quiz night on the 15th of November and Tony Holman will be our quiz master for the evening. It will be held at Alkham Village Hall 7 to 7.30pm start. Please bring cash on the night also bring refreshments and nibbles; 6 people to a table £5 per person there will also be a raffle and we have few tables left as some of you have already booked. Contact Debbie Griggs on 07796360473 if you would like to book a table. **Debbie Griggs**

SATURDAY October the 25th, Family Games Night and American supper plus raffle 7.30pm Alkham Village Hall. The cost is £5 per adult and £2 for children to raise money for Kent Air Ambulance. To book please phone Debbie Saunders on 07810890637.

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PETANQUE at the Village Hall
We had a small social gathering to play some Pétanque at the end of the summer. Despite a very good attempt to wash us away the clouds broke and the sun came out in time for us to play some games, chat, catch up with friends and make new ones. We're not quite at competition level but let's just say we have more than one with a good arm and a good eye. Unfortunately, Dover District Council have still not responded within the timescale that they themselves set but our Parish Council continue to act on our behalf so that we can have the new terrain put in over the winter months. There are many more social activities planned during the darker months, please join us and support your Village Hall. **Kev Rolfe**

LEES CLIFF CAR RIAGES Work has begun on the restoration of the funicular railway in Folkestone which was built as an extension of the South Eastern Railway in 1843. The cost was met by a £6.7m fundraising target together with a £4.8m grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Each carriage weighs 1.5 tons and since its opening it has carried 36 million people and is one of only four water-balanced lifts in the United Kingdom.



BOOK CLUB - We found Anita Shreve's 'Fortune's Rock' a bit of a shocker for its pre-permissive society timeframe. It concerned a scandalous love affair between a married doctor and a determined and privileged teenage girl. In spite of consequences and lives affected, the unlikely passionate relationship continued to flourish through good and bad times. Our book choice for September 'At Risk' , was the debut novel from Stella Rimington, former head of MI5. She has drawn on her own experiences to produce this fast-moving action-packed thriller. The tensions, dangers and convincing detail keep the reader alert and page-turning. **Margaret Danstead**

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FRIENDS OF ST. ANTHONY is a secular body formed in 2009 to look after the fabric of the church and in 2011 there was £23000 in the bank and since then we have paid about £30,000 for works to the building. It is not clear what is going to happen to St. Anthony's Church, but it will remain in one form or another and further money will be required. There was a committee but because of people leaving Alkham or dying there are only two people remaining although 6 people continue with regular payments. If you would like to get involved or donate, please contact Den Barnard (denbarnard@yahoo.com 01304 824854) or myself, details in the banner on the front page. The picture on the left shows the church in medieval times as a tower with buttresses which eventually became the magnificent Grade 1 listed building we have today. **Brian Wimsett**



CHURCH SERVICES – As you are probably aware Brian Williams retired as the vicar for Alkham, Capel and Hougham and currently there is no one to replace him. However, some services have been arranged and if you would like to attend, they are as follows:

19th of October Hougham 11.00am
26th of October Capel 10.00
2nd of November Capel 10.00am
9th of November Remembrance service Alkham 10.30am
16th of November Alkham 09.30am
23rd of November Hougham 11.00am
30th of November Capel 10.00am

SCAMMERS 159 – With regard to money if you believe that you have been contacted by scammers you can call 159 which has had a million calls since its launch. When calling 159 you'll be asked to provide the name of the bank you want to be connected to either by saying it out loud or using your keypad and you will then be directed through to your bank's customer service department. Calling the service costs the same as making a national rate call and Stop Scams UK, the industry body behind the scheme, is working towards making 159 a universal number offered by all telephone providers, similar to 101, 111 or 999. (Extract from a Martin Lewis article)



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REGULAR EVENTS IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Tuesday	Keep Fit 10.00 am to 11.30am
Wednesday	Valley Voices 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Friday	Pilates 10am to 11am
Friday	6.30pm to 7.30pm Yoga with Janet

OTHER EVENTS IN THE VILLAGE HALL

2	Parish Council meeting 7pm
13	SEKAS 7pm
15	Quiz – see page 1
22	Barn Dance – see page 1
25	Games Night – see page 1
27	Tea & Chat 2.30 to 4 pm

CONTACT DETAILS

POLICE 999 or 101
NEWSLETTER brianwimsett@hotmail.com
PARISH CLERK AND COUNCILLORS
clerk@alkhamparishcouncil.org.uk
HALL BOOKING – See top of box above
W.I. SECRETARY Janet Barrow 829585
AVS joannawalker777@gmail.com 821641 alkhamvs.org
MP Mike Tapp
KCC email Paul.King@kent.gov.uk
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Wootton Village Hall
Friday, 11.00 AM - 12.00 PM
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ALKHAM MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
and magazine

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THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS on the fir tree at the top of the village green will be switched on at 5.30pm on Saturday the 6th of December. There will be mince pies and mulled wine around the tree and if we are lucky enough Santa will be there for the children, and if we are all in the Christmas mood there is a concert in the church starting at 7.30pm with the Snowdown Male Voice Choir, and the Valley Voices. There will be a charge for the concert as it is for the charity's fund-raising event. **Graham West**

A MUSICAL EVENING IN ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH on Saturday the 6th of December at 7.30pm – Join us for an evening with the 'Snowdon Male Voice Choir' and special guests the Alkham Community Choir 'Valley Voices'. There will be an interval to enjoy wine or soft drinks and a raffle; we look forward to seeing you all. Tickets will be on sale from the 8th of November at £10 each from Harlan Webber (07976444707) and Ken Spencer (07534144617). **Ken Spencer**

THE CHRISTMAS WALK 2025 will take place on Saturday the 27th of December starting at the Alkham Village Hall at 10.30am and taking footpaths here and there in good company with offspring from and happy dogs in attendance, ending about 12.30pm more or less. Footwear at your discretion. **Jo Walker**

CHRISTMAS SERVICES – On the 21st of December there is a Carol Service at St. Anthony's Alkham at 6pm and on the 24th there will be a Crib Service at 4.30pm. There is also a Carol Service at Capel on the 19th of December at 7pm and the usual services at Alkham on the 14th at 9.30am, Capel on the 7th at 10am and the 28th at 10.00am and on the 25th at Hougham at 9.30am. I would also like to thank everyone who helped me with the harvest supper; we raised £247.50 not as much as previous years I am afraid but every little helps. We are also having a jumble sale 29th November at 10.00-12.00 St Radigund's to try and raise some money if you are able do come along. If you have any queries with the church do get in touch with me. **Carol Mannall, Church Warden 07946106742**



NEWSLETTER
I would like to sincerely thank Anthony Barrier and Anne Saunders for delivering the newsletters to the rural areas for so many years but for very good reasons they can no longer continue. Angela Miller will be taking over from Anthony and Ben will deliver to the Standen area. As I have more adverts and don't wish to make a profit, the price of a large box is now £2 a month and £1 for a small box. **Brian Wimsett**

ON BEHALF of St. Anthony`s may I, as local organiser of Ride and Stride for Friends of Kent Churches, thank Margaret Dansted for her stamina and dedication on a wet and wild day, in raising £245 for that organisation, half of which comes back to our parish. May I also thank her many sponsors. **Richard Tapsell**

ALKHAM BOREHOLE – It is good to see that the water level in the borehole at Wolverton is at 33.73m which compares with the close to flooding level of 46.76m as it was in February 2024 and hopefully it will stay low for some time.



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TIGER MOTHS – In the Second World War there were a number of emergency landing strips where badly damaged aircraft could land as a safe haven and not block the runway on the major airfields. There were two near Alkham one of which was at Chalksole and the other and more important one was at Swingfield which is about two miles from Alkham towards the A260. John Huggins sent a picture of three Tiger Moths which made an emergency landing on his airfield at Chalksole recently because of poor visibility over the coast on their way back from Switzerland. The Tiger Moth was used in WW2 mainly for training and maritime surveillance but also did light bombing missions so perhaps some landed near Alkham over 80 years ago.

TRAFFIC – The person who sent the email about traffic problems that featured on the front page of the November newsletter has said there has been no reply from KCC. He says what KCC do not seem to understand is that explanations of the reason for their breach of responsibilities does not justify their inactivity or absolve them from their duty of care to the public from known safety risks.



ATTENTION ALL DOG OWNERS - It is an offence under the Clean Neighbourhood and Environmental Act 2005 to allow your dog to foul in public areas this includes pavements, footpaths, verges, play areas, roads, playing fields and green spaces. This act requires all dog owners and walkers, including children to clear up after their dog and place the bag in a bin. It is also an offence to leave the full bag hanging on trees or gates. This is a particular problem in Short Lane and is getting worse. It is very unpleasant for people with pushchairs, young children, gardeners and road users. One resident recently had their hedges cut on and the poor hedge man had to deal with a lot of dog mess which is pretty nasty for him and for us as we try to improve the hedges. Offenders can be fined up to £1000 by the local authority. **Please pick up after your dog! The Short Lane Residents**

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MALMAINS MANOR is one of the historic houses in Alkham and is situated near the centre of the village on Slip Lane. It has recently had a lot of work carried out on it which includes the house itself and the flint wall around it to which a pair of magnificent gates and brick faced uprights have been added which shows off the beauty of the house. In the 18th century it was a simple timber framed house called Coombe Hole but was gradually enlarged and given the regency look in the 19th century. In 1900 the famous music hall Lupino family lived there with two sisters living in the adjacent Rose Cottage and the Lupino daughters and family often gave performances in the village. Alkham Villa as it was called at that time had a generator installed and in 1911 displayed electric illuminations across the gateway to celebrate the coronation of George V much to the delight of the local children. In 1955 it was owned by the socialite Princess of Sayn-Wittgenstein-Sayn of German and Austrian nobility who entertained famous guests in Germany until 2010 and died in May this year aged 105 and perhaps she entertained guests in Alkham. **Brian Wimsett** *thanks to Sue Lees who did the original research.*

CRICKET – In letters to the papers someone agreed that a golfing professional shouldn't be allowed to smoke at the Olympics as it was not sport. There was a response to this saying that he had obviously not taken part in a village cricket match where someone is smoking a roll up in the field and some bowlers run in with smoke behind resembling an express train and it was not uncommon to see containers of beer and this included the umpire. It's unlikely that this happens at Alkham but in the past they used to play on Newlyn's Meadow on a Saturday and retire to the Marquis at lunch time and then continue more boisterously in the afternoon. Perhaps they were the good old days. **Brian Wimsett**

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OTHER VILLAGE EVENTS

There isn't a Tea & Chat in December

CONTACT DETAILS

POLICE 999 or 101
NEWSLETTER brianwimsett@hotmail.com
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