

# Alkham Monthly Newsletter

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**No. 302 March 2019**

**Funded by adverts and independent of the Parish Council**

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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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 PARISH PLAN**

Two £25 prizes for 12 to 18-year old's that complete the questionnaire



It's coming...  
**The Questionnaire**  
is on its way and  
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**£50**

**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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 Newlyn's 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 Newlyn's Meadow.

## **FILM NIGHT**

<b>February 26</b>	<b>Monsoon Wedding</b>
<b>March 26</b>	<b>Overboard</b> 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](http://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](http://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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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)**

## 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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**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](http://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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**ALKHAM VILLAGE HALL – Excellent facilities, reasonable rates**  
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<b>Tuesday</b>	Art Workshop in village hall from 10am – 1pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Keep Fit 9.30/10.30am – Tai Chi 6pm to 7pm
<b>Friday</b>	Pilates 9.30 to 10.30am

**Other Events in the village hall**

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>12</b>	W.I. meeting 7.30pm
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>16</b>	SEK astronomical 7pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>26</b>	Film Night 7.30pm – see page 1
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>30</b>	Beekeepers in the afternoon

**CHURCH SERVICES**

DATE	ALKHAM	CAPEL	HOUGHAM
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Evensong 4.30 pm	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Benefice Eucharist Alkham 7.00 pm		
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Messy Church St Radigund's 3.00 – 5.00 pm		
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Eucharist 9.30 am	Worship 11am	
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Worship 11am	Evensong 6.00pm	Eucharist 9:30 am
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Benefice Eucharist Hougham 10.00 am		
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	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**

**POLICE 999 or 101**  
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