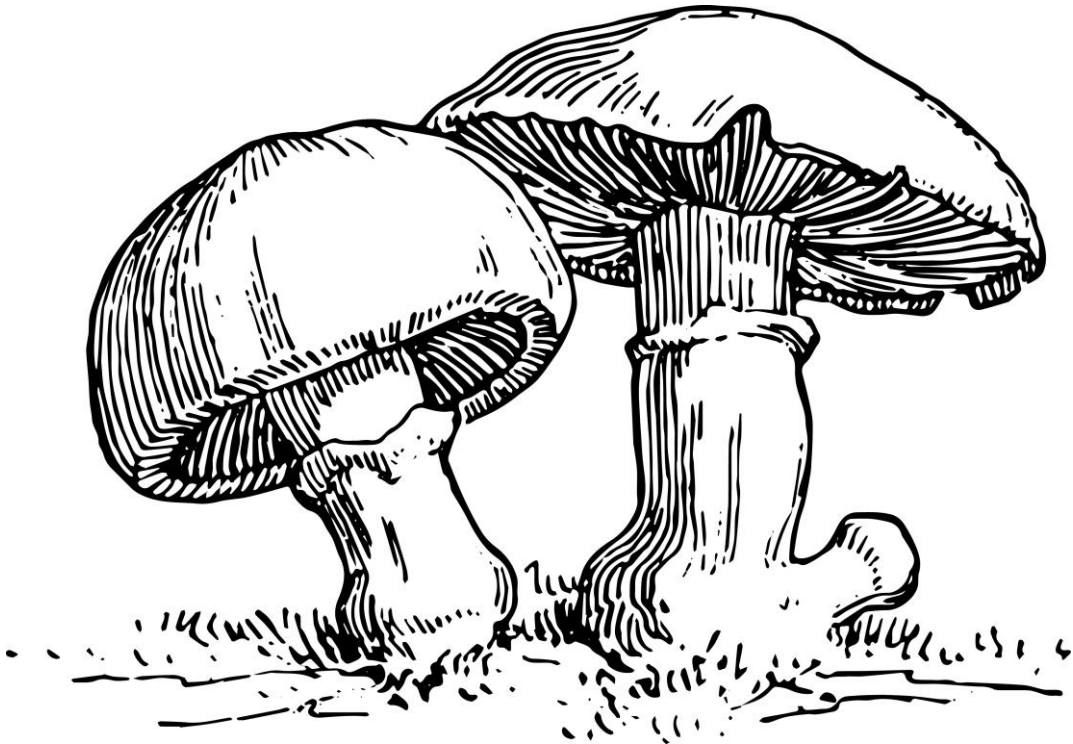


Doddington, Newnham &
Wychling Newsletter

OCTOBER 2026



*Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.*

John Keats, *To Autumn*

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Sunday 12 noon to 8pm

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Kitchen closed on Thursday

Sunday 12 noon- 4pm

Closing times may vary due to custom and weather

Takeaways available during kitchen hours

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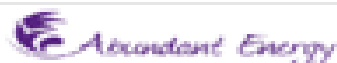
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CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE OCTOBER 2026

1st October	11.00am	Holy Communion	Wychling
4th October	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB
<i>Trinity 18</i>	10.30am	Morning Worship	Teynham
	10.30am	Morning Worship Harvest	Norton
	10.30am	Holy Communion Harvest	Doddington
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Eastling
11th October	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB
<i>Trinity 19</i>	10.30am	All Together Now	Lynsted
	10.30am	Holy Communion Harvest	Newnham
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Oare
	10.30am	Morning Prayer	Throwley
	10.30am	Harvest	Stalisfield
18th October	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB
<i>Trinity 20</i>	9.00am	Breakfast Church	Oare
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Teynham
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Norton
	10.30am	Warm Hearts Gathering	Doddington Village Hall
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Eastling
25th October	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB
<i>Trinity 17</i>	10.30am	Family Holy Communion	Lynsted
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Newnham
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Oare
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Throwley
	4.00pm	Evensong	Teynham

Please check church notices and online for any potential change in services to those published above.

www.kingsdownandcreekside.co.uk

Rector: Paula Jardine-Rose Parish Office: 01795 521831

Church Wardens Contact Details:

Newnham:	Bruce Leckie (01795) 890550	Dave Buckett (01795) 890240
Doddington:	Les Roberts 07944 284173	Matthew Jevons (01795) 886341
Wychling:	Robbie Jardine (01795) 886165	

The Benefice of Kingsdown & Creekside with High Downs

Warm Hearts Gathering

Sunday 18th October 10.30am -11.30am

Doddington Village Hall

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FAITH FEATURE - TOO HOT TO HANDLE

Many of you will know that as a choir leader I run singing workshops. This summer our chosen theme was Songs from 1976. Those of us of a certain age had a super time reminding ourselves of 'Dancing Queen', 'You Make Me Feel Like Dancing', 'Don't Go Breaking my Heart' and who could forget the Eurovision winner that year 'Save your Kisses for Me'?! The other thing that we reminisced about, given the extraordinary weather, was the heatwave and drought of 1976 – how the combination of extreme heat and lack of water made the desirability of nylon shirts look distinctly questionable!

In fact, UK heatwaves have more than doubled in average length over the past 60 years, and the number of days exceeding 30°C has more than trebled. Reaching 35°C, once considered virtually impossible, has become relatively common. As we head into autumn we now face the most severe effects ever of El Nino including insufficient rainfall in some parts of the world, and significantly stormier, wetter weather in the UK. Our climate is reacting ever more strongly to the effects of human consumption. How do you feel? Maybe helpless, or anxious, or frustrated, or depressed or ashamed? Perhaps you can relate to this quote from Chris Packham:

That's our home, it's the only one we've got. It's where all of our species has lived and died, everyone, every single human. It's where we breathe, it's where we eat, we laugh, we cry, we love, we hate and as far as we know, together with all the other wonderful life on Earth we are the only known life forms in the universe and we've got nowhere else to go."

Christians believe that God loves his creation passionately and promises to restore it.

'For in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.' Colossians 1:16-17

When it comes to climate change, if we have no hope that things can be better, then we have no reason to try. But we *can* hope because this our Creator's world and Jesus the Redeemer came to restore this environment with the Sustaining Spirit to work *with* and *through* us to restore it too.

However, if hope does not show itself in action then hope is useless. But we also cannot have life-changing, problem-solving, redeeming action if we do not first have hope that our efforts are not in vain. So our task is to identify what we *can* do – it might seem tiny, a drop in the ocean but every fraction of a degree really matters, and the more we are able to reduce our carbon emissions, the fewer people will be affected. That gives us tangible hope.

If you are interested to hear more about all this, our Benefice of Churches is supporting the screening of the National Emergency Briefing – a 50 minute film featuring 10 experts who set out the implications of climate and nature breakdown for health, food systems, national security and the economy. The film, followed by a hosted discussion, will be screened on Friday 30th October at Doddington Village Hall at 7.30pm. To book your place please email adamsbayford@gmail.com Further information can be found at <https://www.nebriefing.org/>

With love, light & the blessings of Christ

Lissie Bayford



The Benefice of Kingsdown & Creekside with High Downs

Harvest Morning Worship

Sunday 4th October 10.30am

Doddington Church

All Welcome

LOCK FIT

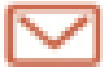
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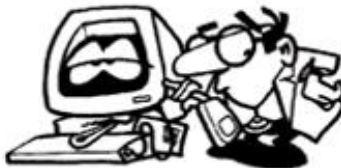


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Doddington Village Hall (unless otherwise stated)

Weekly

Valley Players: Tuesday evenings, September to December from 7.30pm. If you are interested in helping or taking part in future productions pop in and leave your name and contact details. Backstage help particularly welcome. Contacts Les Roberts 07944284173

Buddies Parent and Toddler Group: Friday morning (term-time) 9 to 10.30am. All children aged 0-4 and their carers are most welcome. New **Contact**: Amy – email: amykemp788@gmail.com

Guitar Group: The Chequers, Wednesdays 7.30-9.30 pm. All levels welcome.

Yoga: every Tuesday 9.30am. Bookings and contact details: Anita Keith 07789 200628 www.createcalm.co.uk

Monthly

Doddington Parish Council: 2nd Monday 7.30 pm. Local residents welcome to observe, and there is a section for questions and comments from the public.

Historical Research Group: 4th Monday 7.30pm. Exploring local history and archaeology in the three parishes. Now back meeting regularly. Contact: Karen Potts karenpotts@gmail.com

Games Afternoon: First Wednesday of each month, 1-3pm. Tea/coffee. Email Lesley Lesleyboast@live.co.uk

What's On Tai Chi with Rhonda: selected Mondays @ 7pm for an hour: For more information and bookings please email: bex.taichi@yahoo.co.uk; Mob: 07985 001782.

Newnham Village Hall (unless otherwise stated)

Weekly

U3A Art Group: Every Monday afternoon 1-4pm. Contact: Sue 01795 890627.

Newnham Brownies: 5.30pm - 7.00pm every Tuesday (term-time only). To join & find out more about Brownies, please go to www.girlguiding.org.uk to register your child's interest on the GO Membership system. You will be contacted within a few days about local packs and contacts.

Outdoor Gym Club- Start time changed from 11.15 am to 9.30 am every Wednesday

Monthly

Newnham Parish Council Meeting: 2nd Thursday each month at 7.30pm

Nearby towns and villages

Stalisfield Youth Club: Meet twice monthly in Stalisfield Village Hall 7-8.30pm .

Contact: Catherine Norwood, email: clnorwood@doctors.org.uk



Zumba: Day and evening classes in Teynham, Faversham and Eastling. Contact Leigh Miles 01795 890149, 07873431952, leigh.fitness@btinternet.com, or www.milesdanceandfitness.com

Useful contacts

Doddington Neighbourhood Watch: To be kept informed of local incidents and general notifications issued by the Kent NHW police, please email: neighbourhoodwatch.doddington@yahoo.com

Angela Dye is your Neighbourhood Watch contact for Newnham. email: angeladye@gmail.com

Suspicious happenings should be reported by phone on 101, or 999 in an emergency.

Scams – for help and advice with online scams contact Citizens Advice scams action on 080250 5050

Doddington and Newnham online: www.doddingtonkent.uk <https://www.newnham-pc.gov.uk/>

Facebook: Doddington Village and Newnham Village each have their own Facebook sites

Helen Whately: MP for Faversham and Mid Kent - email: helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk

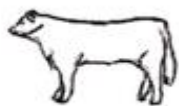
Address: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. Tel: 020 7219 6472

Terry Thompson: Ward Member for East Downs: TerryThompson@swale.gov.uk. Phone.07968810638.

Rich Lehmann - County Councillor for Swale East. Tel: 03000 415013 email- Rich.Lehmann@kent.gov.uk

Claire Jones, KCC Community Warden – 07779 876993 claire.jones4@kent.gov.uk

PC Gary Morris, Swale Beat Officer for East Downs – gary.morris@kent.police.uk



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DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Chairman: Steve Coates 07960 110551, Vice Chairman: Colin Jones 886857,
Kevin Attwood 886395, Kirsty Clark 886109, Graham Cuthbert 886365,
Kevin Fraser 07581 884529 and Linda Lumsden 886376
Clerk: Wendy Licence 01622 739324
To email the Council please use: doddingtonpc@gmail.com**

This is a brief summary of the meeting held on 14 September 2026

PARKING ON PAVEMENTS

This continues to be an issue in the village and creates a hazard for pedestrians especially those in wheel chairs or pushing buggies. It has also caused damage to the drain cover on the footway opposite the Old Lenham Road.

The Parish Council would like to remind residents to park considerately and if you have visitors or business customers, please ask them not to park on the pavement. Thank you for helping to keep pedestrians safe.

POLICE

The police report can be found on the Parish Council website. Poaching and hare coursing remain a big problem and a police priority. If residents witness an incident call 999 if the offenders are currently on land, there is an immediate threat to people, wildlife or property, or vehicles are actively involved.

Please do not approach suspected poachers. Instead, make a note of descriptions of offenders, vehicle registrations, locations and times, and report the information to police as soon as possible.

If the incident is not an emergency please report the matter via the Kent Police website
<https://www.kent.police.uk/> or phone 101.

Information can also be provided anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

PLANNING MATTERS

Proposed Highsted Park Ref: 21/503914/EIOUT Location: Land South And East Of Sittingbourne Kent Ref: 21/503906/EIOUT Location: Land To The West Of Teynham London Road Teynham The final decision is now expected by 12 November.

Ref: 26/503198/FULL Address: Hill Cottage Dully Hill Doddington Sittingbourne Kent ME9 0BY

Proposal: Erection of part single storey, part two storey side and rear extensions.

Only comment to date is DWN History Group would like to visit the site when foundations are dug to record any evidence for the Roman road foundations.

Councillors considered the proposal and had no comment to make.

Ref: 26/503322/FULL Address: Woodstock The Street Doddington Kent ME9 0BH

Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension.

Councillors considered the proposal and had no comment to make.

WAR MEMORIAL

Maintenance to the steps and railing has been completed. The Council is grateful to David Swain and his team for their sterling work and also to Swale Borough Councillor Terry Thompson for the provision of the timbers.

PLAYING FIELD

The Parish Council would like to thank the Fete Committee and other volunteers for tidying the Playing Field so well after the Fete.

HIGHWAYS

The Council continues to press KCC to reinstate the regular Old Lenham Road drain cleansing.

Anyone can report an issue with a road by logging faults on the KCC portal:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-or-track-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement>

Date of next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 12 October at 7.30pm in Doddington Village Hall

You are welcome to attend the meetings which include a public participation section where residents can, at the Chairman's discretion, address the Council for up to three minutes on any topic of concern.

<https://doddingtonkentparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

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NEWNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Emma Turner 07879 225544, Councillors Sue Gunner 890627, Matthew Fray, Angela Dye, Don Cockrill and Jane Crampton.

Clerk: clerk@newnham-pc.gov.uk

Date of next Parish Council Meeting: Thursday 8 October at 7.30pm in Newnham Village Hall

Newnham Village Hall – upgrading our community facility

We are all aware of our vulnerability to power cuts and more recently variations in our water supply. In January 2027 almost all of us will see the end of the traditional analogue telephone system when it is replaced by the digital system. The advertised default back up for this (when the power fails) is the mobile phone which (a) assumes everyone has one and (b) there is a reliable signal. Newnham is as we know in a virtual mobile phone signal black hole and so many of us use “wifi calling” via the internet to overcome this. The obvious problem is that in the event of a power cut – unless one has a back-up power supply - internet connection is lost.

That has obvious implications to many aspects of essential communications including the ability to call the emergency services etc..

With this in mind our (Newnham) Parish Council, in partnership with the village hall committee, has decided to commission the installation of a back-up power supply and a permanent internet /wi-fi connection. This will provide a community resilience facility creating a warm space refuge in the event of power cuts, available to all that need it with its working kitchen, heating and communications. These will also be assets which will hopefully attract more use of the hall by the community and those further afield.

Investigations commenced earlier this year but for various safety reasons a fuel powered generator option has been ruled out. Investigations are now in progress to identify the most suitable bespoke battery-based system. Meanwhile, procurement of the internet facility is in hand. Further updates in due course.

Don Cockrill

15-9-2026

NEWNHAM VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

The winning numbers in the August Draws are as follows

1st – 17

2nd – 86

3rd – 88

The Hall Committee would like to thank all our members for their continued support.

New members are welcome – numbers cost £2 per month. Contact Julie on 01795890205 or julied103@hotmail.com for more information

Please send all copy
for this newsletter to:

dnwnewsletter@outlook.com

Thanks!



FAVERSHAM HOPPER COMMUNITY BUS

Runs Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays.

KCC Bus passes are accepted,
otherwise, £3 per single journey.

Newnham, George Inn	0930.....1205.....1435
Doddington, Chequers	0934.....1208.....1438
Lynsted Church	0940.....1214.....1444
Teynham Railway Station	0949.....1220.....1450
Oare, Three Mariners	1000.....1230.....1500
Davington, Broomfield Rd	1007.....1237.....1507
Faversham Court St	1009.....1239 1509
Faversham Court St	1144.....1414.....1544
Faversham Station	1146.....1416.....1546
Bysing Wood Sainsburys	1151.....1421.....Drop-off
Newnham, George Inn	1205.....1435.....Drop-off
Doddington, Chequers	1208.....1438.....Drop-off

Full route and timetable details on the Faversham Town Council website

<https://favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk>.



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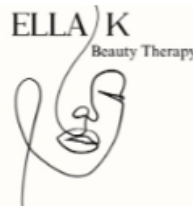
Beauty Therapist

" I am a qualified Beauty Therapist with 4 years experience and am committed to providing the highest quality of beauty treatments.

I am passionate about helping others to feel good about themselves, and tailor each treatment to clients' specific needs and concerns.

I use the highest quality products, and promise to deliver a relaxing, professional experience, in my Doddington "Beauty Room"

Ella



Nails

Gel Manicure
Gel Re-Polish
BiabNails
G with tips
Biab no tips
feet Re-Polish
Pedicure
Soak Off only

Lashes & Brows

Lash Lift & Tint
Lash Lift no Tint
Lash Tint
Brow Tint
Lash & Brow Tint
Semi Permanent Brows

Lash Extensions

New Set
Infill
Lash Removal

Dermaplaning

Micro needling

To book an appointment, or for further information: Phone: 07494 293397
Email: ellakbeautytherapy@gmail.com



Experience Luxurious Sustainability at The Old Cherry Barn.

Discover eco-conscious elegance in our newly built (2021) luxury retreat, nestled in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

The open-plan living area is perfect for relaxing and dining with loved ones.

Cozy up by the log burner in winter, or open the bifold doors in summer to enjoy alfresco dining on the large private patio and garden.

Book your stay at The Old Cherry Barn for the perfect blend of luxury, comfort, and nature!



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DODDINGTON & DISTRICT VILLAGE SHOW – SEPTEMBER 2026

A big thank you to everyone who supported the Show this year; to our local businesses and villagers for donating raffle prizes and to any of you who helped by baking cakes for the refreshments and helping in the kitchen, setting up and clearing away, putting an entry in the Show or coming to look round in the afternoon. It was a fabulous community event, enjoyed by many. It was encouraging to see new people entering the show and some of those being

Special thanks go to the organising committee; a gift was present to Shirley Cozens who retired from the committee this year. We are pleased to welcome Isobel Cheeseman to the committee.

In November we'll start organising next year's Show with the setting of the Craft Classes.

These will be published in the December and January newsletter for those of you would like to make an early start!!! Many of us still leave it till the week before the show!

This year's Award Winners are:

BIRTLES CUP	Lady gaining most points in the Show	Jean Price
CUTHBERT CUP	Gentleman gaining most points in the Show	Keith Jarrett
VILLAGE SHOW CUP	Fruit & Vegetables	Jean Price & Chris Thompson
BILL JARVIS AWARD	For the best tray of vegetables	Chris Thompson
IRENE GAZE MEMORIAL CUP	Flowers	Jean Price & Keith Jarrett
BEST IN SHOW AWARDS	Fruit and Vegetables Flowers	Jan West for her tomatoes Chris Thompson for his orchid
HAYLEY JENNINGS MEMORIAL CUP	Judge's choice in the flower arrangement classes (an arrangement to depict a craft or hobby)	Ali Parsons
MARY CHASTNEY MEMORIAL CUP	Most points in Classes 32 and 33 Flower arranging	Ali Parsons
JOAN GRIFFITHS MEMORIAL CUP	Judge's choice in the Craft Classes	Jean Price for her Christmas Table Runner
MARY CHARLTON MEMORIAL CUP	Preserves	Jean Price
TINY CUP	Men's Cookery (cheese scones)	Wayne Hickmott
MAY CUP	Cookery	Jean Price
FILKINS CUP	Gentleman gaining most points in Craft, Cookery & Photography	David Shaw
SAVILL CUP	Most points gained in Craft & Photography	Jean Price
IAN WOODHOUSE FRONT GARDEN AWARD		Elaine & Alan Johns

MOBILE LIBRARY

Sunnyside, Doddington. Wednesday mornings 9.45am to 10.15am (fortnightly excluding bank holidays).

Next dates: 14th Oct, 28th Oct, 11th Nov

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN READING?

WHICH BOOK? – *ONE SINHA LIFETIME: A BENGALI BOY'S SEARCH FOR THE MEANING OF LIFE* by Paul Sinha, published 2024.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT? – Paul Sinha's memoir. A light, easy read, full of Sinha's usual wit and self-deprecation, covering his early life, his studies and struggles to become a doctor, and his subsequent move into stand-up comedy. Quizzing seems to have become a real passion in his childhood, and the book covers his progress from pub quiz machines to becoming British Quiz Champion in 2019, when he just managed to beat the Eggheads' Kevin Ashman.

WAS IT ON THE MOBILE LIBRARY? – Yes

Paul Sinha still quizzes for pleasure in the Quiz League of London, where one of his teammates is fellow Chaser, Sean Wallace.



Did you know Kent is widely known as England's oldest county with roots going back to the fifth century when it became an early Anglo Saxon Kingdom?

But our proud history and identity is now under threat by the Government's plans to abolish Kent County Council, Medway Council and all the Borough and District Councils including Maidstone and Swale to create just four councils in their place. The Government cares nothing for our heritage or identity – it's an abomination.

Kent as a county has real clout with the Government. With over 1.6 million residents behind it Kent County Council is guaranteed to have the ear of Government. That matters when it comes to opposing Operation Brock and standing up to the Mayor of London when they want to increase our rail fares for example. But it looks like the Government is so scared of Kent they have decided to destroy it.

The reorganisation plans say nothing about a Mayor for Kent or strategic authority for the county. We are just to be broken up into four parts with no single voice to represent the two million residents of Kent and Medway. Four small councils just won't cut it in the same way, and we will suffer as a result.

Meanwhile, other counties and regions are getting Mayors with extra powers, and extra money. Kent risks being overlooked and left behind.

Even if we do get a mayor someday, it's going to be too late - after Kent County Council has been disbanded and split into the four new councils. This is madness. Any savings made from the reorganisation will quickly disappear.

Despite questioning the Government and raising this in Parliament, I still don't have an answer about their long-term plans for Kent. So, I have taken this up directly with Andy Burnham. Follow me on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/HelenWhatelyMP/> for more updates and let me know your views on the future of Kent.

As ever contact me if there is anything I can do to help you.

Best wishes



Editors' note: the above article was received in August for publication in this month's newsletter. Our understanding is that on 7 September 2026, the government announced that the Local Government Reorganisation programme has been paused and will be reviewed following updated legal advice. The government has confirmed that proposals affecting a number of areas across the country will be reviewed while it considers the next steps for local government structures.

The Queens Regimental Association

... would like to issue an invitation to the **monthly veterans' breakfast** held at the Jon Wright Memorial Field (formerly Kennels Field).

Their Secretary, Alisdair Goulden, advises that they provide free breakfasts for any veteran; and welcome attendance by any of their local friends who want to come and hear about the work that we are doing at the Rehabilitation Centre and have breakfast with us (a donation is welcome!)



Join us for good food & good company – **Event dates for 2026**
10am on 18th Oct.

People's Emergency Briefing

On the climate and nature crisis

Doddington Village Hall
Friday 30th October, 7.30 – 9.30

A new film bringing together leading UK experts to explain, as clearly as possible, what the latest science says about the climate and nature crisis, how it is already affecting our lives, and what can still be done. Rather than headlines or politics, the film offers a concise, evidence-based overview from experts across areas including climate, food, health, economics, national security and extreme weather.

Adults over 16 welcome.

There is no charge but please book your place via adamsbayford@gmail.com
07790 287878

KINGSDOWN & CREEKSIDE AND HIGH DOWNS

QUORA
acappella quartet

in Concert

Friday 9th October 7.30pm
Newnham Church

Come and enjoy a light, engaging and
entertaining evening of music and harmony

Drinks and Canapés



All proceeds to Newnham Church

Tickets: £10
bruce.leckie@live.co.uk davidjbuckett@gmail.com Cash only on the door
ME9 0LL

Have some fun and enjoy a challenge at the

Quiz Night

Doddington Village Hall

7.30pm Friday 16th October

Bring your own drinks and nibbles
to share with friends.



Teams of 6-8
£5 per person



To book your place call or message
Elaine on 07884 355423

Raising money to maintain Doddington Village Hall

Doddington
Derby

RACE NIGHT

At Doddington Village Hall
Friday 13th November

Book a table of 6 or 8
£5 per person

Don't Lose your shirt chum,
it's only £1 per Race !!

Doors open 7pm, First Race 7:30pm

To book a table contact: CHRIS THOMPSON
christthommo@btinternet.com or on 07527400045

In aid of Doddington
Village Hall and
Newnham Church

Doddington Village Hall

The Valley Players present

Peter Pan



Friday 4th December - 7.30pm
Saturday 5th - 2.00pm and 7.30pm
Sunday 6th - 2.00pm and 7.30pm

Tickets: Adults £10 Under 16 £3

Available from Doddington Service Station, Chequers Inn
and Doughty's butchers, or ring 07944 284173

Notes from WDN History Group – A Voice from the Past



If you are relatively new to the villages, you might not have seen the excellent audio-visual presentation put together by Trevor and Karen Potts of 'Miss Norrington's memoirs of Doddington'. But fear not, you can catch it on You Tube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8tPT0GkcJ3M> where you will hear Paulina Norrington's voice as she reads out her memoirs (recorded in 1965). In the Doddington Church Choir photo shown here Miss Norrington is second from the left in the back row. It is amazing to have a first-hand record of village life between 1878 and 1970 although the very diplomatic note also shown here questions the accuracy of some of those memories! Miss Norrington lived in Newnham up until the age of 17 and also wrote down her early recollections. Here's two snippets – *"The blacksmith's forge was run by Mr Stephen Foster ; whilst working he always wore a*

Cyril Smith - present occupier of Gloucester House is of the opinion that her recollections of Gloucester House Academy may not be absolutely accurate.

square paper hat. His son, Walter designed and made the large entrance gates to Sharsted Court which bear his name and the fence surrounding the Faunce de Laune's grave in Doddington Churchyard. One will notice that the alternate fancy spikes have each a different pattern, no two alike" - "In a cottage at the top of The Street lived two brothers named Carrier who were rather peculiar. One was a watchsmith, the other a basket maker. There was a large clock in the workshop window (now bricked up), useful to people in the village as it kept good time. The basket maker was very eccentric; he once made for me a small basket very open work design which he said would hold gooseberries; He also made me a very small wickerwork doll's pram with tiny wooden wheels. I was pleased with it, no children had any better, in fact none at all in those days". Not many of us record our everyday stories; we may not think they are important, but they will always be of interest and enjoyed in the future.

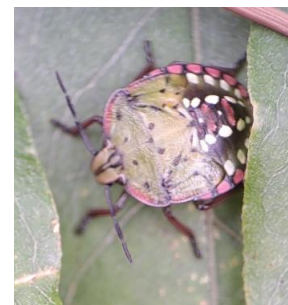
Nature Notes

A couple of new bugs that you may have spotted in the garden are the Firebug and the Southern Green Shieldbug. Firebugs are up to a centimetre in length, and are bright red with smart black markings. They are common on the near-continent, but in Britain were always rare and restricted to a few places on the south coast. In the last few years, they have increased hugely in numbers, with hundreds being spotted recently by Rob Brookman on a tree stump in Doddington Place. They have also, in the last couple of years, started turning up in gardens, where they seem fond of feeding on Hollyhocks.

Southern Green Shieldbug is larger, being roughly shield-shaped and up to 15mm long, is originally from Africa and Southern Europe, but since 2003 has been found regularly in the wild in Britain. This is the first year I've noticed it in our local area: it's on Doddington Allotments and has turned up in gardens. Adult Southern Shieldbugs are tricky to distinguish from Common Green Shieldbugs, but younger stages are very distinctive, being variously patterned with red and/or pale spots, depending on age. Southern Green Shieldbug feeds on a range of plant species, but appears to be very fond of runner-beans.

Look out for both.

Richard Moyse



Pictures:

Top – Firebug adult

Middle – Southern Green Shieldbug adult

Bottom – Southern Green Shieldbug young



Do Less for Wildlife this Month!

As autumn arrives and the leaves begin to fall, it's tempting to reach for the rake, cut everything back and get the garden looking neat and tidy before winter. But before we clear everything away, it's worth remembering that what looks like garden debris to us can be valuable habitat for wildlife.

A gardener friend I once worked with, had the ethos 'nothing leaves the garden', emphasising how everything in the garden has a purpose, even when it may appear to be of no use, or beauty to us any longer.

Fallen leaves provide food and shelter for all sorts of small creatures, including worms, spiders and insects. These invertebrates are an important part of the food chain, providing food for birds, amphibians and mammals. There's no need to let leaves cover the lawn or paths, but consider brushing some into piles beneath trees, shrubs and hedges. These provide shelter for hedgehogs, frogs, toads and other small creatures. As they break down, they also return nutrients to the soil. Just remember to *please* check any piles before starting bonfires!



Dead, hollow stems and seedheads can also be surprisingly useful, and beautiful!

In fact, my gardener friend, along with his partner, was awarded a gold medal at Chelsea for a display of dead seedheads. Their idea behind the display was to show that seedheads can give architectural beauty to a garden, as well as be of vital importance to wildlife.

I have watched my particular favourite, teasels, feed Goldfinches all over winter as well as the stems providing homes for insects and their eggs throughout the cold months.

'Chop and drop' is a simple way to make autumn clearing more wildlife-friendly — and save yourself time too. Instead of removing plant debris and then bringing in mulch, chop stems and foliage into smaller pieces and leave them on the soil. As they break down, they provide nutrients to the ground while providing shelter for insects and other small creatures. Less clearing, less carrying and less mulching — leaving more time to enjoy the garden while giving nature a helping hand.

If you do have branches, twigs and woody material to clear, a dead hedge is a great way of putting that material to good use. This can be created by adding 2 lines of upright posts, with space in between to layer in your garden waste. As the garden waste gradually settles and breaks down, it provides shelter and nesting opportunities for insects, birds and small mammals. It can also create a useful boundary or screen in the garden. The Physic Garden in Faversham has a beautiful example of a dead hedge and how stunning they can look.

Our long dry summer is likely to have put trees under a lot of stress. If you find that you need to remove some larger branches, unless you need to dispose of them due to disease, you could consider creating log piles or a stumpery. Damp spaces beneath peeling bark provide shelter for woodlice, spiders and beetles, while fungi thrive on the decaying wood. Together, they create a rich food source for hedgehogs, frogs and shrews, with drier crevices offering winter refuge for butterflies and ladybirds.

Being wildlife-friendly doesn't mean abandoning the garden. Paths can still be swept, lawns maintained and genuinely invasive or diseased plants removed. The trick is to tidy selectively rather than tidying everything.

There's no need to choose between a tidy garden and a wildlife-friendly one — with a few simple changes, you can enjoy both.

Clare Woolston.

How to get involved! Whatsapp Group: 07504-954-544

**Wild About Newnham
Facebook Group**

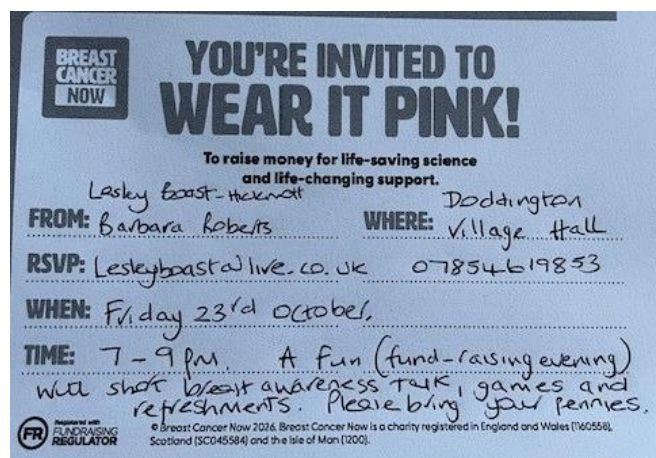


Did you know Newnham has a village WhatsApp group, where we share news, advice and information or ask for help when needed? All villagers are welcome to join.
Contact Steve on 07540898617

DIARY OF EVENTS - 2026

4 th October 10.30am	Harvest Morning Worship (see page 5)	Doddington Church
7 th October 1.00-3.00pm	Games Afternoon	Doddington Village Hall
8 th October 7.30pm	Newnham Parish Council	Newnham Village Hall
9 th October 7.30pm	Quora in Concert (see page 15)	Newnham Church
12 th October 7.30pm	Doddington Parish Council	Doddington Village Hall
14 th Oct. 9.45-10.15am	Mobile Library (see page 13)	Sunnyside, Doddington
16 th October 7.30pm	Quiz Night (see page 15)	Doddington Village Hall
18 th October 10.30am	Warm Hearts Gathering (see page 3)	Doddington Village Hall
18 th October 10.00am	QRRR Veterans' Breakfast (see page 14)	John Wright Memorial Field
23 rd October 7.00-9.00pm	Wear It Pink fund-raising evening (see below)	Doddington Village Hall
28 th Oct. 9.45-10.15am	Mobile Library (see page 13)	Sunnyside, Doddington
30 th October 7.30pm	People's Emergency Briefing (see page 14)	Doddington Village Hall
13 th November 7.00pm	Doddington Derby Race Night (see page 15)	Doddington Village Hall
4 th December 7.30pm	The Valley Players - Peter Pan	Doddington Village Hall
5 th December 2pm & 7.30pm	(see page 15 for details)	
6 th December 2pm & 7.30pm		

and see page 7 for regular events and activities



Mobile Post Office

The Post Office van calls at The Chequers car park, Doddington

Every Monday between 11.20 and 11.50am
(except Bank Holidays)

NEWSLETTER - AVAILABLE IN EITHER PAPER COPY DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR OR VIA EMAIL

All copy must be received by 6pm on the 20th of the preceding month

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Please send text in email or as MS Word document or similar.
Images as jpeg or png.