

Doddington, Newnham & Wychling Newsletter

June 2025



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CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE JUNE 2025

Please note that the normal services at Doddington & Newnham have swapped for June and will return to normal in July

1st June <i>Easter 7</i>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Teynham
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Norton
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Newnham
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Eastling
8th June <i>Pentecost</i>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB
	10.30am	All Together Now	Lynsted
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Doddington
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Oare
	10.30am	Morning Prayer	Throwley
15th June <i>Trinity</i>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Teynham
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Norton
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Newnham
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Eastling
21st June	11.00am	Holy Communion	Wychling
22nd June <i>Easter 6</i>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB
	10.30am	Family Holy Communion	Lynsted
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Doddington
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Oare
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Throwley
	4.00pm	Evensong	Teynham
29th June	11.00am	Holy Communion	Wychling

Together in Boots – Friday 27th June from Doddington Church 2.00pm

Mindful walk – return to church for tea and cake

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
Doddington: Les Roberts (01795) 886332
Wychling: Robbie Jardine (01795) 886165

Dave Buckett (01795) 890240
Matthew Jevons (01795) 886341



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As I sit and write this, we are in the grip of a very nice warm spell of weather. I think a bit of blue sky, hearing the birds in the hedgerows and feeling a bit of warmth on our skin, makes us feel much better. We feel uplifted and ready to get into action after the darkness and chilly weather of winter and spring. Summer is here (for a while at least). Yet the ground is exceptionally dry. We have to manually water our plants and our farmers are desperately in need of a bit of rain to bring on the crops, and pasture for the livestock.

We too can find that we need 'watering'. Spiritually we can feel dry and thirsty, but it is at this time of year that we remember and celebrate Pentecost, which saw the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Jesus.

Some of us may know this time of year as Whitsun, likely a derivation of 'White Sunday', the day that the Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit descended upon the gathered disciples. We now tend to call it Pentecost from the Greek for 'fiftieth' being 50 days from Easter (including both Easter and Pentecost). The Holy Spirit was not only poured out upon the disciples, but it continues to be poured out among us, it is the 'active' part of God, if you like. This active Spirit dwells within us, and if we allow it to, we can be moved to do God's work; to help those in need, to pray for and with people, to seek to build relationships with our communities and to grow our own faith.

So, like a plant that is freshly watered, let us all regain our strength and purpose in God's created world. Let us flourish, let us put on new growth and nurture those new shoots to ultimately produce the fruits of the Holy Spirit as defined in Galatians 5, which are Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control.

May you all have a blessed time of renewal.

Rev Paula



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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 01795 886332

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

Doddington Ukulele Movement: Thursday evenings 8pm.

Guitar Group: The Chequers, Wednesdays 7.30-9.30 pm. All levels welcome. bobbiallen@btinternet.com

Yoga: every Tuesday 10am and Sundays. Bookings and contact details via <https://bookwhen.com/https-chrisstookesyoga-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 karennpotts@gmail.com

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 8pm



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 See last page for dates.

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
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 www.newnhamparishcouncil.org

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

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



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DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Steve Coates 886378, Vice Chairman: Colin Jones 886857,
Kevin Attwood 886395, Kirsty Clark 886109, Graham Cuthbert 886365,
Kevin Fraser 886623 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 12 May 2025

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Cllr Steve Coates was elected Chairman and Cllr Colin Jones was elected as Vice Chairman for the municipal year. The Chairman's annual report can be found on the Parish Council's website:

<https://www.hugofox.com/community/doddington-parish-council-13785/chairmans-annual-report/>

PROPOSED HIGHSTED PARK UPDATE

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 public inquiry is continuing and the proceedings are being streamed live on Swale Borough Council's YouTube channel. Recordings are also available to view shortly after each session has finished.

There is still time to donate to the "fighting fund" or to find out more go to <https://teynham-highsted.org/> The site also has regular updates.

LOOK OUT for details of local meetings to find out how the campaign is proceeding.

HIGHWAYS

The road markings at West End have been refreshed.

The Old Lenham Road sweep requested on 9 January still has not been carried out, KCCllr Lehman is chasing this.

SPEED WATCH

Speed Watch sessions continue to have a positive effect on reducing speeding within the village.

The Council is grateful to the Speed Watch Team which is helping to make the village a safer place. The team needs new volunteers, anyone able to help should contact Cllr Fraser. Full training is available.

FINANCE

The first instalment of the precept, £4695, has been received.

The Council considered two grant requests and agreed a grant of £100 to Citizens Advice Swale as residents receive help from the organisation. Councillors were unable to make a grant to Swale Pride as the application did not fulfil the Council's grant criteria.

**Date of next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 9 June 2025 at 7.30pm
at 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.

www.hugofox.com/community/doddington-parish-council-13785/home/

Don't forget to sign up for email alerts.

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7.00-8.00pm Doddington Village Hall
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NEWNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Emma Turner 07879 225544 Vice Chair: Matt Fray

Councillors Sue Gunner 890627, Sally Wickenden, Pippa Pawlik 07976 301443,

Matthew Fray 07756 257521, Angela Dye, Clerk: clerk@newnham-pc.gov.uk

This is a brief summary of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 8th May 2025

Full minutes can be found at www.newnham-pc.gov.uk

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

It was proposed by Cllr Wickenden, seconded by Cllr Fray and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that Cllr Turner be elected Chair for the Civic Year 2025-2026**. It was proposed by Cllr Turner, seconded by Cllr Wickenden and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED that Cllr Fray be elected Vice Chair for the Civic Year 2025-2026**.

Resignation

The resignation of Paul Woolston was noted and it was proposed by Cllr Wickenden, seconded by Cllr Fray and on being put to the meeting it was **RESOLVED to thank Paul for his services to the council**.

Open Session

It was agreed to note a vote of thanks for Tony Gostling for his work in decorating the telephone box. It was noted that there had been no follow up from Cllr Thompson regarding the stables and he would be contacted. Residents had been invited to the official opening of the Queen's Regiment building in Faversham Road.

Representatives

It was agreed that the following councillors would be representatives:

Cllr Turner – KALC SAC - Cllr Wickenden – Newnham Village Hall

South East Water

It was agreed to make a formal complaint to South East Water regarding the delay in repairing the water leak outside 1A The Street, which has meant that the new road surface could not be laid. It was further agreed to write to KCC to note the parish council's disappointment that the road has not been fully resurfaced and to ask when it would be completed.

Date of Next Meeting Thursday 12th June

NOTICE OF VACANCY in NEWNHAM

NOTICE is hereby given that a vacancy has occurred in the membership of the above Parish Council, due to the resignation of Mr Paul Woolston. Under the Local Government Act 1972, ten electors can petition for an election by writing to the Proper Officer at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, ME10 3HT within 14 working days of the date of this Notice, ie. by Monday 9th June 2025. The electors signing the petition must be from within Newnham Parish. If no petition is received within that time period, the Parish Council will fill the vacancy by co-opting a person onto the Council.

Persons wishing to be considered for this appointment, in the event of no election being called, should apply in writing to the Clerk to the Parish Council as soon as possible but no later than:-

Monday 9th June 2025.

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Parish Clerk, Newnham Parish Council, clerk@newnham-pc.gov.uk



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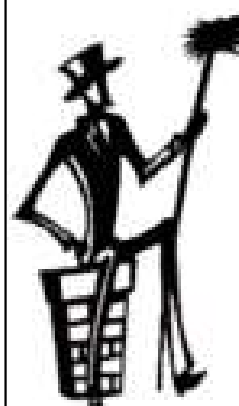
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Redecoration of Doddington Village Hall

Dear Hall User

As part of the ongoing refurbishment of Doddington Village Hall, we intend to have the main hall redecorated in August. Work will commence from Monday 3 August and will take 2 to 3 weeks; the exact duration is uncertain until the decorators commence the work.

During this period the main hall will not be available to any users at any time. The floor will be fully covered to protect it from paint spills and there will be tower scaffolding erected to access the ceiling and top of the walls.

We are sorry for any inconvenience that this closure might cause your group, but it is important to maintain the structure of the hall.

I hope that by advising you of the closure at this early stage, you can find alternative accommodation for your activities for the two or three weeks that the work will be taking place. It may be possible for arrangements to be made to have access to the parish church which might accommodate some groups.

If you have any questions, or wish to discuss your booking options, don't hesitate to contact Liz Grant on 07396 493283 or at lizziegrant29@gmail.com; or Chris Thompson on 07527 400045 or at christhommobtinternet.com.

Doddington Village Hall Committee

Doddington Village Fete

Doddington Village Fete will take place on Sunday 24th August between 1pm and 4pm at the Village Playing Field.

The fete committee are organising the event so that we can all enjoy a wonderful afternoon out with plenty of varied stalls and activities. We want to encourage local families, visitors to the area and friends to come along to enjoy the afternoon.

We have had some ideas for new stalls and entertainment for this year's fete, especially for the children. To be successful, we need more volunteers to oversee these on the day. We are fortunate to have a keen group of volunteers to set up and take down the marquees, gazebos and equipment that is required for the event; but we only have a small number of volunteers who are willing to run stalls during the event itself.

If you can give an hour, or 90 minutes during the afternoon, that will be an enormous help towards ensuring another successful Doddington Fete.

Please contact Chris Thompson: 07527 400045, or speak to Chris, Steve Coates, Karen Potts or Ramsay Cowan to discuss your potential help.

Thank You.

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See back page for contact details

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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.

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NEWNHAM OPEN GARDENS

Sundays 8th & 22nd June
1 pm to 6 pm



Come and enjoy an afternoon at one of
Kent's favourite Open Gardens days

Afternoon teas from 2 pm

Ploughman's lunches at Tawnyhill Kennels‡

12 noon to 2 pm 8 June only

- Plant stall •
- Flower display in the church •
- Open Studios at Sandhurst Farm Forge† •
- Pimm's and local beers •

 **Live music on the village green** 

8 June **THE CASSIS COLLECTIVE** from 3 pm

22 June **LOWERING THE TONE** at 2.30 pm

‡ 2017 Gardeners World best wild life garden runner up and NGS opener
Homestall Road ME9 0HF • Parking available • www.tawnyhillboardingkennels.co.uk

† Textiles • Leatherwork • Ceramics • Wood turning • Blacksmithing • Stone sculpture
Seed Road ME9 0NE • Parking & refreshments • www.seos-art.org

Entrance by programme, obtainable at any of the open gardens
Adults £5, accompanied children free

Limited parking at Sharsted Playing Field ME9 0LQ

Proceeds to Newnham Church

Registered Charity No. 1162554

bruce.leckie@live.co.uk for more information

Sandhurst Farm Forge

is open for

"South East Open Studios"

for weekends June 6th-8th, 13th-15th & 20th-22nd.

We are also taking part in **"Newnham Open Gardens"**

on June 8th and 22nd,
growing flax and woad alongside natural dyeing sessions.

6 local Artists will be exhibiting and demonstrating:
Stone Sculptor, Blacksmith, Harness Maker/Leather worker,
Potter, Textile Spinning, and Wood-turned items.



Please Note our New Time!

Together in Boots

Join us for a monthly mindful walk
through woodland

**Leaving Doddington Church at 2pm
and returning for tea & cake at 2.45pm**

Humans and well-behaved dogs all welcome



On Fridays 23rd May; 27th June;
25th July; 29th August

Enquiries to Lissie on 07790 287878
lissie1710@gmail.com

Lou of S&D Sewage Services would like to thank everyone who sponsored Dan and herself for the Bluebell Walk 2025. Together, they raised **£1,152** for Heart of Kent Hospice, in memory of Shaun.



DODDINGTON and DISTRICT VILLAGE SHOW

Saturday 6th September 2025

The Schedule for this year's village Show has been completed and will be available in early May.

There will be hard copies in the following places:

Doughtys Butchers

Doddington Service Sation

Doddington and Newnham Village Halls

The Chequers Inn Doddington

Newnham Church Porch

If you require a PDF copy to be emailed to you, please contact Barbara Roberts

barbara7roberts@gmail.com

If you have a question, please contact a Committee



MOBILE LIBRARY

Sunnyside, Doddington.

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

WHICH BOOK? – THE VINTAGE SHOP written by Libby Page (published 2023)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? – As described on the back of the book, "One dress. Three women. A lifetime of secrets". It's an easy, comfortable read that brings three women together who all go through some kind of loss. An enjoyable read and I will certainly read some more of her books.

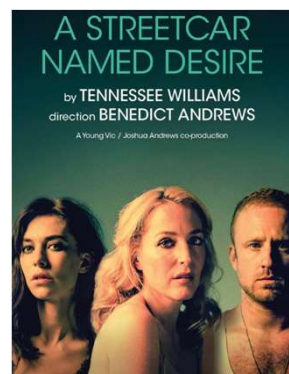
WAS IT ON THE MOBILE LIBRARY? – Yes

Libby Page has written six novels to date with the next 'This Book Made Me Think of You' due to be published in early 2026. Her writing deals with love, friendship and community but also grief, loneliness and mental health struggles. She describes her books as giving readers a sense of hope.

4th June
11th June
18th June
25th June

Doddington Film Club

Friday 27th June
7.30 pm



Gillian Anderson gets 5-star reviews for her portrayal of Blanche Dubois in A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE.

Doddington Village Hall
Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Please be aware that the performance lasts for 3 hours.

And next month

the Bob Dylan biopic
"A Complete Unknown"

7:30 pm £5 entry

bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Doddington Village Hall
Friday 25th of July

NEWNHAM VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

The winning numbers of the May draw were –

1st Prize No 49

2nd Prize No 104

3rd Prize No. 61

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 01795 890205
or julied103@hotmail.com for more information

SATURDAY 14TH JUNE 12PM-3PM



JOIN US FOR THE NEWNHAM VILLAGE FETE

DOG SHOW / BGT'S JUGGLEITALL

ENTERTAINMENT | BOUNCY CASTLE
BBQ | QRRR DRUMS | TUG OF WAR

**MORE INFORMATION ON FACEBOOK:
NEWNHAM VILLAGE FETE AND NEWNHAM VILLAGE
IN THE GARDEN OF THE GEORGE INN**



Incidents of note from your local Police Officer Jez Chittim

Swale wide there has been a sharp increase in fraud incidents. Swale residents have been reporting that they have received phone calls from someone claiming to be a police officer. They give a fake police officer name and force number and state they are part of the Economical Crime Team at Sittingbourne Police Station (There isn't such a department in Sittingbourne). They claim there have been some irregularities spotted within the bank account of the person they are calling before requesting the person hangs up and calls the police. The criminal pretending to be a police officer will keep the line open their end and when the poor victim calls 999, they will pretend to be a police call-taker where they then ask for the victim's bank details. Thankfully, those that have reported these incidents to the police have not given out their bank details and become a victim of this crime. However, historically this type of crime is under reported through embarrassment and shame. There is nothing to be embarrassed or ashamed of; these crimes are highly sophisticated and unfortunately very good at what they do.

If you or someone you know has been a victim of this type of crime, please advise they call their bank first and then call the police on 101 and report it. The sooner it is reported, the more likely it is we can prevent the loss of your money.

FREE
ENTRY



NEWNHAM VILLAGE FETE PRESENTS :

FUN DOG SHOW

June 14th - @ The George Inn, Newnham
Main Fete 12pm to 3pm - Family Fun For All Ages
Dog Show - 2pm approx.

REGISTER NOW - farleyhillsclaure@gmail.com

CATEGORIES :

MOST GORGEOUS GIRL | MOST HANDSOME DUDE
BEST FANCY DRESS | BEST CHILD HANDLER
BEST TRICK

Judging courtesy of The Kg Counsellor



Need a reliable, local bus service to get you where you need to go? The Faversham Hopper is here to help!

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Your Local Community Bus Service

Join our amazing group of volunteer drivers!

Do you have some time on your hands? Could you spare a few hours every now and then to be part of a team that is delivering an important service connecting people and fighting the battle against isolation and loneliness?

To volunteer all you will need is:
To be enthusiastic about supporting your local community
Be aged over 30 and have Category D1 on your licence

Full training will be given, including support to complete the nationally recognised MIDAS Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme certification.

Why not come along and give us a try?



Telephone 01795 503286
or email : hopper@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk
for more information



Nature Notes

There are now lots of smartphone apps that aim to help you to identify plants and animals. But how good are they? A recent article in the newsletter of the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland tested a range of different free apps to see which worked best. Of the apps tested, Flora Incognita and PlantNet were the author's favourites, both for their accuracy and the fact that they offered a figure for their confidence in the identification (for example, I just tried Flora Incognita on a photo I took recently, and it gave an identification to species with '98%' confidence). There are other specialist (and free) apps – for example, Merlin, which identifies bird songs and calls – as well as apps which can identify (or try to identify) almost anything. These more general apps include ObsIdentify and iNaturalist, and you can give these photos of plants, insects, birds or almost anything else, and they will attempt an identification.

So what are the downsides? Not all of them work on every phone. My phone is about nine years old, and neither Merlin nor ObsIdentify will work on it, though it will happily accommodate iNaturalist and Flora Incognita. Also, no apps are 100% accurate, and they work best with good photos of more common and widespread species, since this gives them more material to learn from. I also find iNaturalist annoying because it is a US-based app, so it uses common names for species that differ from the names we use in the UK. But the biggest issue is that no apps can tell you *why* they've made a particular identification, so to be certain, it is always best to check in a book or with other online sources of information.

Personally, I like these apps. I don't rely on them, and will always check other sources of information, but they are generally very good, even with some difficult groups. If nothing else, they will point you in the right direction, or help confirm what you already think. Why not give them a go?

Several orchid species are flowering at the time of writing. In Sharsted Woods, a small number of Bird's-nest Orchids are in bloom (being entirely brown, the stems and flowers are hard to find), and Common Twayblade orchids (which have green flowers and so are also hard to spot!) are also flowering in local woodland and in Doddington Churchyard. In Jackson's Wood, there is also a small patch of the unusual Adder's-tongue fern (pictured), which hardly resembles a fern at all.

A very rare sighting was a Spanish Fly beetle seen in Doddington recently. These large, metallic green beetles are very rare in the UK, with Kent having one or two established populations, as well as occasional arrivals from mainland Europe

Richard Moyse



Join us on Friday 13th June at Doddington Churchyard, where we will be finding and recording plants, birds, insects and other wildlife as part of the nationwide ***Churches Count on Nature*** project in Love Your Burial Ground Week. Why not drop in and see what you can find? We'll be there between 10am and 3pm. Tea and biscuits available!

DIARY OF EVENTS - 2025

1 st June 12 noon	Grand Opening of the Queens Regimental Riders Clubhouse	
8 th June 1 – 6 pm	Newnham Open Gardens 	
14 th June 12-3pm	Newnham Fete	The George, Newnham
22 nd June 1 – 6pm	Newnham Open Gardens 	
27 th June 7.30pm-10.30pm	Doddington Village Hall Film Club “A Streetcar Named Desire” Bring your own drinks & nibbles and next month –	Doddington Village Hall
25 th July 7.30pm	“A Complete Unknown” a Bob Dylan Biopic	Doddington Village Hall
2 nd August 12.30-5.30pm	Ukulele Festival – free entry	The Chequers Inn
24 th August 1 – 4pm	Doddington Fete see page 13 for more information	Village Playing Field
6 th September	Doddington and District Village Shiw (See page 17 for more information)	Doddington Village Hall

See page 16 for “Together in Boots” dates

See page 7 for details of other regular activities



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

Spring Cleaning?

Items no longer required but too good to throw away?

*Make use of this newsletter's **Free advertising**
- only available to residents in our 3 villages.*

Contact information below

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
(15th for new adverts or changes to regular adverts)

Copy preferred in email or as an attachment to: gunnersue564@gmail.com
or to

Farthing Cottage, 50 The Street, Newnham, Sittingbourne, Kent. ME9 0LL
Tel: 01795 890627