

# Doddington, Newnham & Wychling Newsletter

MAY 2026



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## CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE MAY 2026

3 <sup>rd</sup> May Easter 5	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Teynham
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Norton
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Doddington
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Eastling
7 <sup>th</sup> May	11.00am	Holy Communion	Wychling
10 <sup>th</sup> May Easter 6	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB
	10.30am	All Together Now	Lynsted
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Newnham
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Oare
	10.30am	Morning Prayer	Throwley
14 <sup>th</sup> May Ascension	7.30pm	Holy Communion	Doddington
17 <sup>th</sup> May Ascension 1	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB
	9.00am	Breakfast Church	Oare
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Teynham
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Norton
	10.30am	Warm Hearts Gathering	Doddington Church
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Eastling
25 <sup>th</sup> May Pentecost	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB
	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
31 <sup>st</sup> May Ascension	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion	Doddington

Together in Boots – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 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](http://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



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**MAY** - What a glorious month this is! The potential for lovely weather, the signs of new life and growth everywhere (including the garden weeds). The amazing chorus of bird song from early morning until dusk, and the lighter evenings to enjoy.

In a 'previous life' I would welcome in the dawn on May Day accompanied by Morris Dancing and sometimes the Jack-in-the-Green, which was a man dressed from head to foot in fresh spring foliage. Despite its so called 'pagan' connotations it was all a celebration of new beginnings and the breath of new life.

In the month of May, the church also has some important celebrations. Rogation, Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity. They don't always all fall in the same month, but this year they do. The last three are all a fixtures in our church calendar, but Rogation is often overlooked.

Rogation was traditionally marked by the Beating-the-Bounds, which was an ancient custom of marking and remembering the boundaries of our villages; those boundaries often defined by significant trees or boundary stones. This took the form of a procession around the Parish boundary, usually led by the Vicar armed with sticks with which to beat the boundary markers.

The Christian element of this, other than the vicar in attendance, was the blessing of the land and praying for the protection of the crops. The name 'Rogation' comes from the Latin 'rogare', to ask or to plead. Beating-the-bounds of the ten parishes might be a bit much for me and the Benefice team, however on the 10<sup>th</sup> May I will be travelling to each church to pray a blessing on the land.

Pray with me that new life will come into land and that Jesus will come into our lives afresh. Amen

God Bless

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 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 10am and Sundays. Bookings and contact details via <https://bookwhen.com/https-christstookesyoga-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](mailto:karenpotts@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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:leigh.fitness@btinternet.com), or [www.milesdanceandfitness.com](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:TerryThompson@swale.gov.uk). Phone.07968810638.

**Rich Lehmann** - County Councillor for Swale East. Tel: 03000 415013 email- [Rich.Lehmann@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Rich.Lehmann@kent.gov.uk)

**Angela Dye** is your Neighbourhood Watch contact for Newnham. email: [angeladye@gmail.com](mailto:angeladye@gmail.com)





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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](mailto:doddingtonpc@gmail.com)  
This is a brief summary of the meeting held on 13 April 2026

## DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

A very successful session defibrillator/CPR familiarisation and training session was held last month in the Village Hall with excellent support from the Community Lifesavers volunteer group.  
Please note- you do not need training to use the defibrillator as instructions are given when used.

## HIGHWAYS

The regular six-month inspection of the drains in Old Lenham Road has been requested and a date is yet to be received.

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>

## POLICE

The next Police surgery will be held on Tuesday 5 May 2026 at Painters Forstal Community Centre.

## CITIZENS ADVICE

Villagers may be aware that Citizens Advice Swale has merged with the offices in Canterbury and Thanet to form Citizens Advice North East Kent, from April 2026. All existing local offices and outreaches will continue to operate.

These include drop-in sessions (no appointment necessary) at:

- Swale House, Sittingbourne on Mondays 10am -12pm
- Murston Family Hub on Tuesdays 11.30am to 1.30pm
- 43 Stone Street, Faversham on Wednesdays and Fridays 10am - 12pm
- West Faversham Community Centre on Thursdays 10am -12pm.

Alternatively, telephone advice is available on freephone 0808 278 7979 from Monday to Friday 10am - 3.30 pm.

The Parish Council was pleased to make a £100 donation towards this valuable service

**Date of next Parish Council Meeting:** Monday 11 May 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.

[www.hugofox.com/community/doddington-parish-council-13785/home/](http://www.hugofox.com/community/doddington-parish-council-13785/home/)

Don't forget to sign up for email alerts.

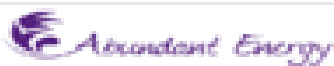
## Date for your Diary

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 11 May at 7pm.

The KALC Community Award will be presented to a worthy villager at the meeting, please come along and support them.

Light refreshments will be served

All welcome



### TAI CHI CLASS

7.00-8.00pm Doddington Village Hall  
1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month

For further information and to check  
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# NEWNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Emma Turner 07879 225544, Councillors: Sue Gunner 890627, Pippa Pawlik 07976 301443, Matthew Fray 07756 257521, Angela Dye, Don Cockrill and Jane Crampton. Clerk: Louise Bareham: [clerk@newnham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@newnham-pc.gov.uk)

No meeting was held in April, the next meeting will be the

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON 7<sup>TH</sup> May at 7pm**  
**Newnham Village Hall**

Residents of Newnham are warmly invited to attend.

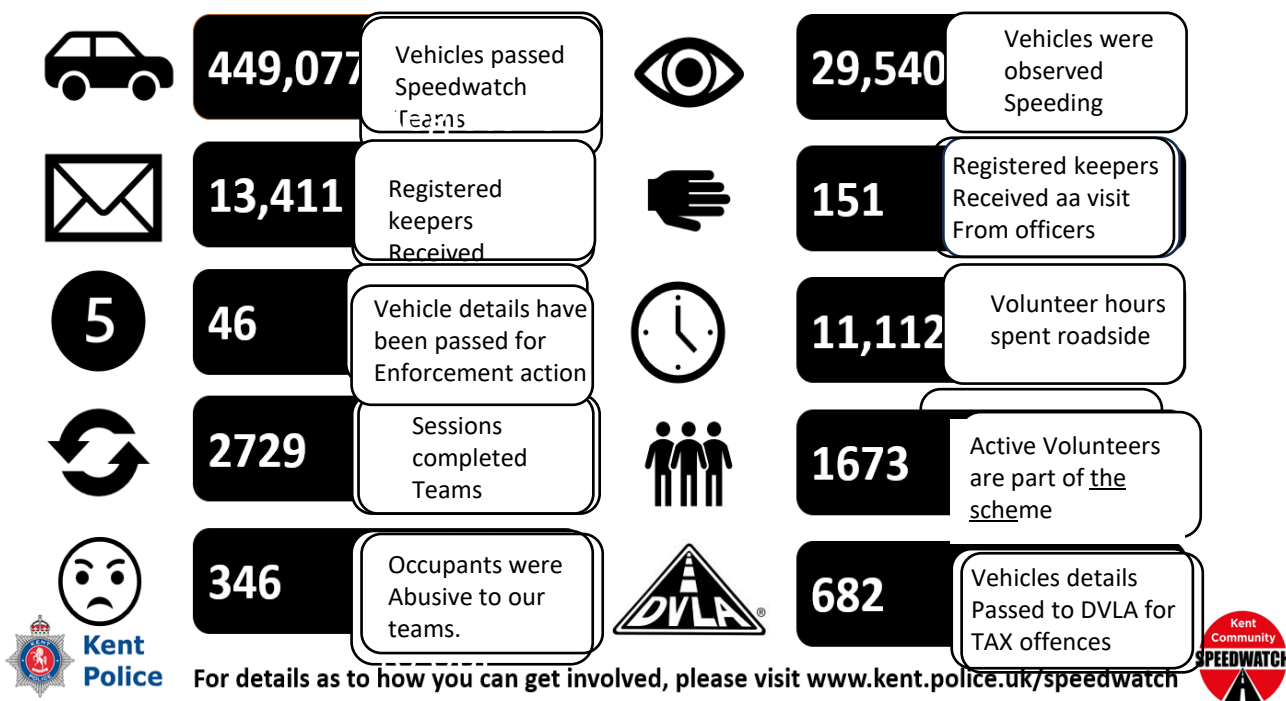
The meeting includes a presentation of bats by  
 Amanda Brookman of the Kent Bat Group.

Light refreshments will be served.

## Speedwatch (CSW) News from Doddington PC

Kent Police has published countywide CSW performance figures for 2025 in the table below. Speedwatch is an educational tool which is much misunderstood. The Doddington Speedwatch group, which consists of councillors and residents, is looking to boost its numbers with fresh volunteers. Please contact Councillor Fraser if you would like to volunteer or be provided with more information about CSW.

### Kent Community Speedwatch Statistics for 2025



**Police Comment:** “Interestingly we have noticed that we are experiencing sessions where there are limited numbers of speeders being detected and, we have seen that we have had a 10% reduction of speeds where Speedwatch has been operating countywide. So, all our efforts are paying off.”

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[www.sandhurstfarmforge.co.uk](http://www.sandhurstfarmforge.co.uk)



Nothing is more irritating when driving along a country lane than spotting a load of junk fly-tipped by the side of the road. Every time I see a familiar unsightly mound of old mattresses, broken furniture, bin bags or building waste, I feel a surge of anger at whoever thought it okay to dump this stuff. And I know I'm not alone. I get lots of emails about fly-tipping and litter.



Clearing up fly-tipping on public land and highways costs taxpayers millions of pounds a year. If it's on farmland, it usually falls to hard-pressed farmers to remove it.

Despite the increasing use of CCTV to catch fly-tippers, the problem is getting worse. I'm investigating why. Is it because few fly-tippers are caught, or because those who are get trivial penalties - or both?

Councils can issue Fixed Penalty Notices of up to £1,000 for fly-tipping and seize vehicles. For the most serious cases, the law allows prison sentences for up to 5 years. Yet in practice most of the penalties imposed for fly tipping are low-level fines, and clearly many fly-tippers are never caught at all.

According to the House of Commons Library, in the year to September 2025, there were 25 people sentenced for fly tipping offences in Kent. That was 18 fewer than the previous year. The custody rate was 4.0% and the average fine (excluding companies) was £466.

There are around 20,000 fly-tipping incidents reported in Kent each year, so these figures show the majority of offenders are getting away with it. This ties in with what I hear from residents who report fly-tipping, who tell me even when there's something in the waste to identify its origin, little action is taken.

I want to get to the bottom of why fly-tipping is getting worse and get action taken to fix that. I'm investigating what's causing the increase (Tip closures? Higher waste charges?), why fly-tippers aren't being identified even if there's evidence to do so, and why the sentences for those who are caught seem so lenient.

The good news is that I'm not alone in working to tackle this. In March the Government announced that drivers could get penalty points on their licences for fly-tipping and pushed councils to seize more vehicles. I'll be keeping a close eye on whether these proposals get put into practice.

Please contact me if you have ideas or a way you can help.

Best wishes, Helen

[helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk) / 0207 219 6472



**TRADING STANDARDS**

Dear Kent Residents,

Doorstep criminals have been active recently in Maidstone, Ashford, Faversham and Sheerness, knocking on doors and claiming there are issues with roofs, such as loose or damaged tiles.

In several cases, residents have been reassured into agreeing to work, given invoices with little or no trader details, or made to feel intimidated.

Please be alert and warn your vulnerable friends and family to never respond to cold callers as you will pay a high cost for unnecessary and poor-quality work.

If you need work done on your home or garden use a safe, local trader from Trading Standards Checked. Report cold callers anonymously to the charity CrimeStoppers on 0800 555 111

For further advice call Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133.

# MOBILE LIBRARY



Sunnyside, Doddington.

Wednesday mornings

9.45am to 10.15am

(fortnightly excluding bank holidays)

13<sup>th</sup> May

27<sup>th</sup> May

10<sup>th</sup> June

## WHAT HAVE WE BEEN READING?

WHICH BOOK? –

YOU ARE HERE by David Nicholls

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? – This is the story of a 200 mile walk from St Bees to Robin Hood Bay and a romance which gradually unfolds between two of the walkers during the trek. Alfred Wainwright's famous Coast to Coast walk is the backdrop to the story and the writer skilfully weaves the two strands of the story together. It is beautifully written with descriptions of the burgeoning relationship between the two main protagonists, the weather they encounter (terrible at times) and some of the places they stayed in.

Included in each stage of the walk, are maps of the route drawn in Wainwright's unique and beautiful style. If you want to experience the walk without the hardship of actually doing it, this is the book for you!

Alfred Wainwright loved the Lake District fells and walking gave him the release from a life that he found unfulfilling. We are fortunate that he left a legacy of wonderful books which have given many people the inspiration to take up walking and experience the fells.

WAS IT ON THE MOBILE LIBRARY? – Yes, it was on the Mobile Library.

You can check which library, including the mobile library, has a copy of a book by searching the catalogue on the Kent Libraries website – [www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries](http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries)

# Doddington & District Village Show

The 2026 show will be held on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September in Doddington Village Hall**

Please remember that the show is open to residents of Doddington, Newnham or Wychling, or anyone who is a member of a group that meets in these villages.

**Please find below details of Craft & Photography Classes for the 2026 show. This gives you plenty of time to get cracking on your exhibits! And for 2026 we are adding a child's class!**

## ART & CRAFT CLASSES for 2026

- A Christmas table runner
- A Cushion Cover
- A piece of embroidery or cross stitch – any item (if a picture, to be framed glazed or unglazed.)
- A knitted or crocheted article.
- A hand crafted Greetings card with envelope – any medium.
- An Upcycled item – see definition below \*
- Any other craft item – hard materials.
- Any other craft item – soft materials.
- A pencil drawing, graphite only – any subject up to A5 size, unframed.
- Photography – no larger than 152mm x 102mm
- - 'Winter Wonderland'
- - 'Bug Life'
- Own interpretation!

## Children's Class

- Painted Pebble – ages 3-6 years
- Painted Pebble – ages 7 – 11 years

\* Upcycled = create a new product from waste or other materials.

**The full schedule will be available in May** and will have extra pages to give extra hints and tips for showing and staging your entries.





Kingsdown & Creekside Churches

As part of our Ecochurch initiative, we will be hosting events during the Climate Coalition's Great Big Green Week from 6th to 14th June. The Great Big Green is a UK-wide celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature.

See more at:

<https://www.greatbiggreenweek.com/>

Our events will include:

- ❖ a coffee morning at Newnham Village Hall on Saturday 6th June with information about Eco products
- ❖ a pet service at Doddington Church on Sunday 7th June
- ❖ Doddington Open Gardens on Sunday 14th June

If you would like to get involved and organise an event however big or small during this time, please get in touch with Lissie Bayford

[lissie1710@gmail.com](mailto:lissie1710@gmail.com) 07790 287878

**AND AT NEWNHAM CHURCH**

*Great Big Green Week is the UK's biggest celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature.*

To mark the week this year, which runs from 6<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> June, Newnham Church would like to host some exhibits and displays concerning the environment, ecology and nature for which we are seeking contributors from the local community. Potential subjects for contributions include:

- A local organisation whose activities you would like to publicise, or perhaps those of a relevant charity
- Information you have about our local environment that you would like to share with others -
- How to live an eco-friendlier lifestyle
- Your own photos, drawings, paintings or sculptures on the theme of nature.

This event can only succeed with your help. If you would like to participate, please get in touch with [bruce.leckie@live.co.uk](mailto:bruce.leckie@live.co.uk)

### New timetable from April 2026.

Runs Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

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

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

Full route and timetable details on the Faversham Town Council website

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

WDN History Group presents

### *Tales of Tudor Espionage – Elizabeth I's Spymaster & a Kentish Connection*

A talk by Dr Hannah Coates

**Friday 15th May 7.30pm**

**Doddington Village Hall**

All welcome – entrance £5

## NEWNHAM VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

The winning numbers in the  
February draw were

1<sup>st</sup> 6

2<sup>nd</sup> 72

3<sup>rd</sup> 28

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](mailto:julied103@hotmail.com) for more information

## Cantiana Choir

Advance notice of Cantiana Choirs Summer Concert, to be  
held in Doddington Church on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm.  
An evening of varied songs with guests.

Please put the date in your diary, we look forward to seeing  
some of you there. Tickets £10 will be available soon from  
Doddington Service Station.

Further details in future newsletters.

## Doddington Village Open Gardens

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June

12.00noon to 5.00pm

Tickets from Doddington Village Hall  
£5 per person – children free

Light lunches, drinks & cake at the  
Village Hall

A chance to view private gardens  
Approximately 10 gardens  
open on the day

Further information:  
[barbara7roberts@gmail.com](mailto:barbara7roberts@gmail.com)



### The Queens Regimental Association

wish all in Doddington, Newnham  
& Wychling a very Happy New Year,  
together with 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**  
24<sup>th</sup> May, 31<sup>st</sup> June, 30<sup>th</sup> Aug, 27  
Sept, 18<sup>th</sup> Oct.

## The Benefice of Kingsdown & Creekside with High Downs Warm Hearts Gathering

Sun 17<sup>th</sup> May 10.30am -11.30am in Doddington Village Hall

Refreshments, time for chat, craft & fellowship - All Welcome



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## 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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## Nature Notes

This spring seems to be exceptional locally for the number of Firecrests about. Firecrests are tiny birds, of similar size to Goldcrests at just 5.4 grams in weight (a Wren, for comparison, weighs almost twice this), and similar in appearance – the most obvious distinguishing feature is not the colour of the crest, but the clearly defined white ‘eyebrow’ on the Firecrest. At the time of writing, a male has been singing from conifers in the centre of Doddington, I’ve heard one at Doddington allotments, and I recently heard two different singing males near the road on the western outskirts of Newnham – I know they’ve also been heard in gardens in Newnham as well. Firecrests were once considered scarce visitors to the UK, mainly being seen in autumn. They were not known as a British breeding species till 1962, and the first Kent breeding records were in the 1970s. They have since increased hugely – according to the British Trust for Ornithology, the breeding population increased by nearly 3000% between 1995 and 2023! This increase seems to be related to climate change, as Firecrests have a more southerly distribution compared to Goldcrests; and Goldcrests may be undergoing a climate-driven decline in numbers across Europe as a whole.

*Richard Moyse*

## News from WDN History Group –

Notes from WDN History Group – the ‘Doddington Flyer’

Here is a photo of Thomas Pilcher, the ‘Doddington Flyer’, who once lived at Court Lodge Farm in Doddington. Thomas gained this title for his prowess at the sport of ‘Goal Running’. Have you heard of it? It’s a Kentish sport which was very popular throughout the latter half of the nineteenth century and still played up to the 1950s locally.

Here are some snippets about the game collected from the ‘Doddington Flyer’ himself (via his granddaughter, and group member Tracy Cheesman) and from local resident Bill Wigg (whose reminiscences were collected by Graham Cuthbert and shared with our group).

Goal Running or ‘Stroke Running’ was a glorified game of tag where to score you had to touch or stroke your opponent. Teams were made up of 20 to 30 per side. Competitors often ran in bare feet to give better grip on grass for dodging and swerving, which was necessary in addition to fast running. Matches lasted 45 minutes with a 5-minute interval at half time. Here’s a basic description of the game from Bill Wigg – “There was a ‘home line’ with the two teams’ flags planted on this line about 30 yards apart. The players were sent out around the flag alternately - first from one side and then from the other. On the field of play a man was fair play for any opponent who came out behind him until he regained the home line. About 20 yards out they would circle around and return to the home line to start again”. There were much more complicated tactics of course.

Originally this was a friendly game played between village teams on a Saturday evening after work, and ended with a visit to the local pub. From about 1900 it became a competitive sport with leagues and competitions. Local league teams were Faversham and Teynham (which both Bill Wigg and Thomas Pilcher joined). Teynham and Faversham matches were held at the former velodrome and running track at Bowes Park, Bell Road, Sittingbourne and could attract around 4,000 spectators.

There’s a short film clip showing a Faversham Goal Running match from 1951 here.  
<https://www.britishpathe.com/asset/79078/>





Helping wildlife thrive in Newnham by growing together; sharing ideas and creating nature-friendly gardens and village spaces.

### **No Mow May - Maybe Not?**

Ah, 'No Mow May' - a trend that has gained great traction over recent years that encourages garden-owners to resist mowing their lawns for the entirety of the month of May. Rewards include seeing the wildflowers, diverse plants and colours that a lawn can display once left to its own devices.

Those who take part often report seeing the array of insects their un-mown lawn encourages, and thus bringing birds and other wildlife as a result.

Come 1st June, however, many are keen to have their gardens back to normal, so the family can enjoy the lawn freely over summer.

For wildlife, this means a sudden and catastrophic day - the new home these little creatures have been encouraged to enjoy is obliterated in a single mow, likely taking many of them with it.

**An alternative, more harmonious idea could be to dedicate a small patch of your lawn to 'no mowing'.**



This can be done tastefully and beautifully:

Leave a circle of unmown grass around the base of a tree

Allow one section of your lawn's border to do as it pleases

Leaving a tuft around a pond or corner of a decked or paved area

Mow a path through your garden, leaving the rest (or a section of it) to become more like a wildflower meadow

Can you dedicate a small patch of your garden to natural colour and life?

What secret, lovely things might be waiting in your lawn?

Test your curiosity and see what your garden has to offer.

**Tip:** Avoid judging - the nettle, dandelion or other "weed" could invite a whole new beauty to your outdoor space, if only given time to invite more nature with it.

Photo from RHS website

Share your own ideas and projects:

**Facebook group Wild About Newnham, What's App group : 07504-954-544, Mary, Hens Tooth 1a The Street**

# DIARY OF EVENTS - 2026

1 <sup>ST</sup> May 7.30pm	Hungrytown <b>Cancelled due to illness</b>	Doddington Village Hall
7 <sup>th</sup> May 6..00pm	Newnham Annual Parish Meeting	Newnham Village Hall
11 <sup>th</sup> May 7pm	Doddington Annual Parish Meeting	Doddington Village Hall
15 <sup>th</sup> May 17.30pm	Talk: Tales of Tudor Espionage	Doddington Village Hall
17 <sup>th</sup> May 10.30-11.30am	Warm Hearts Gathering (see page 16)	Doddington Village Hall
22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2pm	Together in Boots (see page 5)	Doddington Church
24 <sup>th</sup> May 10am (see page 19)	QRRA Monthly Veterans` Breakfast	Jon Wright Memorial Field
6 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> June	The Great Big Green Week (see below)	Doddington & Newnham
14 <sup>th</sup> June 12-5pm	Doddington Open Gardens	Doddington
11 <sup>th</sup> July 7.30pm	Cantiana Choirs (see page 16)	Doddington Church
8 <sup>th</sup> August 12.20-17.00pm	Doddington Ukulele Festival	Chequers Inn
12 <sup>th</sup> September	Doddington District Village Show	Doddington Village Hall

and see page 7 for regular events and activities

## Loss of Post Office at the Chequers Pub



It is understood that the Post Office will be using a mobile van in future, But no confirmation yet of a starting date or placement.



Climate Coalition's Great Big Green Week **from 6th - 14th June.** The Great Big Green week is a UK-wide celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. See Page 14 for more information.



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

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

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