

Doddington, Newnham & Wychling Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2026



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CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE FEBRUARY 2026

1st February	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB
Candlemass	10.30am	Morning Worship	Teynham
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Norton
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Doddington
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Eastling
8th February	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB2b4
Lent	10.30am	Holy Communion	Newnham
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Oare
15th February	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB1 b4
Lent	9.00am	Book of Common Prayer	Oare
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Teynham
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Norton
	10.30am	Warm Hearts	Doddington Village Hall
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Eastling
18th February	7.30pm	Holy Communion	Doddington
Ash Wednesday			
22nd February	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB
Lent 1	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

Together in Boots – Friday 27th February 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 Dave Buckett (01795) 890240

Doddington: Les Roberts 07944 284173 Matthew Jevons (01795) 886341

Wychling: Robbie Jardine (01795) 886165



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January has been and gone, we are now into February, I'm not sure how many of you send a card (or two) or give flowers on Valentine's Day but do you know anything about this Saint?

Well Saint Valentine was believed to have lived in the 3rd century AD when Emperor Claudius II governed the Roman Empire. Christianity was still relatively new and was incompatible with Roman Law. Claudius II was himself a pagan and he created strict legislation against Christianity including laws against marriage vows. (Claudius II thought unmarried men made better soldiers). During Claudius II's reign Christians were persecuted and Valentine ministered to them.

Over the years the story of Valentine was enhanced, and it was said that he defied the law and married many soldiers in secret Christian ceremonies, which is how it is thought he gained the reputation as the saint of lovers. What few people realise is that he is also the saint of epilepsy and beekeepers.

The story goes that he was arrested and imprisoned because he conducted these clandestine marriages. Whilst in prison he continued his ministry, caring for the other prisoners and he is said to have healed the jailer's blind daughter. His last act before he was executed around the year 269AD was to send a note to the jailer's daughter signed "from your Valentine". He was buried in Via Flaminia in Rome.

Geoffrey Chaucer wrote in 1382 in his poem the Parliament of Fowls that Valentine's day was when birds chose their mates. The earliest association with February 14 as an annual celebration of love appears in the Charter of Love thought to be issued by Charles VI of France in 1440. The Roman Catholic church removed Valentine's name from the General Roman Calendar in 1969, but he is still recognised as a saint and celebrated on February 14th .

The feast day then evolved into a day for expressing love and affection where people give cards and gifts to their loves. 1 Corinthians 13 tells us "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

It is estimated that approximately 6 million people get engaged each year on Valentine's day making it the most popular day for marriage proposals. The number of weddings that occur on Valentine's day is difficult to state however in Las Vegas over 1000 people get married this day compared to the normal 300. So we can estimate that weddings increase by 20-30% worldwide on Valentine's day.

Some people have the view that it has become too commercialised over the years, Valentine cards and gifts started appearing in the shops on Boxing day! Whether you love it or hate it Valentine's day holds special meaning for many.

Marriage is viewed as a sacred covenant between a man and a woman, it is a lifelong commitment to love, cherish and honour each other. Ephesians 5 verse 33 tells us "each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband." Over 42 million weddings occur worldwide every year with 243,000 happening in the UK. Approximately 83% of marriages occur in a registry office. Whether people marry in a church or in a registry office, the ceremony still involves the making of vows to each other promising to be together in front of witnesses. Ephesians tells us that "Marriage should be honoured by all,"

I married my fiancé, David, in a quiet ceremony at the end of last month with just us and witnesses, making our vows to each other and I know that God was also there blessing our marriage. Corinthians 13 verse 13 states "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

I would like to wish that you all experience love this month and remember that God loves you because "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3 verse 16

Caroline Ramshaw



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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

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-chrisstookeyoga-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 7.30pm



Nearby towns and villages

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

Contact: Catherine Norwood, email: c1norwood@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 <https://www.newnham-pc.gov.uk/>

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

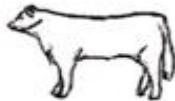
Helen Whately: MP for Faversham and Mid Kent - email: helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk

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

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



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DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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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 January 2026

FAVERSHAM SHOPPER BUS

The Council received an update on the Shopper Bus which started in April 2024, aided by a grant from Kent County Council to cover the vehicle lease. Passenger numbers are increasing and Faversham Town Council will be developing a funding plan for beyond 2027 when the existing vehicle lease ends. As part of their 3-year commitment to support the Shopper Bus, Councillors agreed to make another contribution of £500.

DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

The Council will hold a defibrillator and CPR training session in the Village Hall on Saturday 14 March, please check the website and village Facebook page for further details will follow. **Please note - you do not need training to use the defibrillator as instructions are given when used.**

HIGHWAYS

The new "Unsuitable for HGV" road signs for the Old Lenham Road were installed before Christmas. The road sweep of the Old Lenham Road continues to be chased and the matter has been referred to Ward Councillor Terry Thompson. There are flooding issues on the Ringlestone Road as the soakaway needs to be replaced but no date has been given for this yet. A request for drain clearance has been submitted. The white lines on the Faversham Road have been reported for refresh.

PLANNING MATTERS

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 has now concluded and parties await the Inspector's report

Ref: 25/504226/FULL Address: The Paddock Green Seed Road Newnham Kent ME9 0NN

Proposal: Change of use from former stables to Pet Cremations, including installation of an incinerator and flue.

Creation of 2no. additional parking spaces. *Amended plans and change of description*

Councillors considered the application and noted that the Council had not been consulted about a previous, linked, application. No objections were raised.

Ref: 25/504158/LBC Address: Homestall Farm Homestall Road Doddington Kent ME9 0HF.

Listed Building Consent for internal alterations and alterations to well head/capping. (Works Started)

Application permitted 5 January.

Ref: 25/504747/FULL Address: Hillcott The Street Doddington Kent ME9 0BY

Proposal: Erection of a part two storey rear extension and part single storey side extension. Awaiting decision

Ref: 25/503851/PNQCLA Address: Orchard Barn Chequers Hill Doddington Kent ME9 0JW

Prior notification for the change of use of a building and any land within its curtilage from agricultural to 1no. residential dwellinghouse and associated operational development. For its prior approval to: - Transport and Highways impacts of the development. - Noise impacts of the development. - Contamination risks on the site. - Flooding risks on the site. - Whether the location or siting of the building makes it otherwise impractical or undesirable for the use of the building to change from agricultural use to C3 (dwellinghouses). - Design and external appearance impacts on the building. - Provision of adequate natural light in all habitable rooms of the dwellinghouses. Awaiting decision

FINANCE 2026-27

Councillors have set a budget of £11,877 and a precept of £9,681.

KALC COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME 2026

Councillors were pleased to identify a worthy recipient for this award which will be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting on 11 May.

Date of next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 9 February 2026 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.

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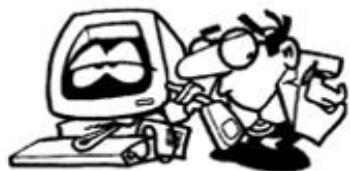
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NEWNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Pippa Pawlik 07976 301443, Matthew Fray 07756 257521, Angela

Dye, Don Cockrill and Jane Crampton. Clerk: clerk@newnham-pc.gov.uk

This is a brief summary of the Parish Council Meeting held 8th January 2026 Full minutes can be found at www.newnham-pc.gov.uk

Open Session

Cllr Crampton advised on the excessive amount of mud on the Faversham Road on the stretch of road between Abbots Hill and the S bend by farming vehicles [Cllr Thompson noted and was going to look into]

Cllrs advised of the excessive amount of mud on Foxenden Road, which hasn't been scrapped for a couple of years, that is slowly making its way down Wineycock, onto Seed Road and what is not being collected by drains is making its way onto the street. [Cllr Thompson noted and was going to look into]

Cllr Cockrill had attended the Rural Police workshop in Painters Forstal, had a discussion with Local Police Office on the white van parked off the road by the Gym. This was going to be looked into.

The generator quotation was discussed.

Community Resilience

Cllr Cockrill advised that links had been added to Parish Council website for all village residents to access.

Bank Account

Cllr Crampton was logged on and can access

Cllr Cockrill had not received paperwork

Cllr Dye had received paperwork but not logged on yet

Wilding Gardens

Cllr Dye provided an update, A Facebook page has been set up "Wild About Newnham" it currently has about 15 members, sharing ideas and resources. Have made contact with KCC Nature Recovery Officer, using mapping tools. A piece will be going in next newsletter.

Next meeting – 12th February 2026

Bereavement

We are sad to announce the death of John Davies who served as Headmaster of Eastling School for 25 years and was Chairman of Newnham Parish Council for many years. He was a well-liked and respected figure in the community, remembered for his dedication to education and public service. He will be missed by former pupils, colleagues, and residents alike. Funeral details including livestreaming to follow. No flowers, but donations to Sightsavers charity gratefully received.*

The above message has been received from John's family

**Check Village Hall notice board.*

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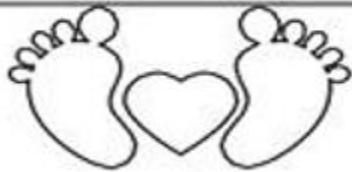
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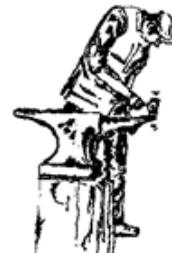
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MOBILE LIBRARY

Sunnyside, Doddington.

Wednesday mornings

9.45am to 10.15am

(fortnightly excluding bank holidays).

4th Feb - 18th Feb - 4th March



WHAT HAVE WE BEEN READING?

WHICH BOOK? – DAUGHTERS OF CHIVALRY by

Kelcey Wilson-Lee (2019)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? – a non-fiction history book about 'the forgotten children of Edward I'. It's about the lives of five spirited Plantagenet women (Eleanor, Joanna, Margaret, Mary and Elizabeth) who were all highly educated, well-travelled, managed huge households, were involved in diplomacy and able to defy their royal father. Not the usual image of medieval noblewomen. The author reconstructed the princesses lives from account books and contemporary documents, which sounds dry and dull, but the writing is anything but and romps along so that it's difficult to put down.

WAS IT ON THE MOBILE LIBRARY? – Yes.

Edward I and his queen Eleanor of Castille had sixteen children. Edward II who succeeded his father Edward I was the fourth son. His three elder brothers and seven other siblings died before they were 12 years of age.



Games Afternoon!



The chance to meet with others and play different board or card games.

Tea & coffee available

All levels welcome and the chance to learn something new!

The first Wednesday of each month from 1-3pm in Doddington Village Hall.

Please email Lesley if interested.

Thank you - Lesleyboast@live.co.uk

Doddington & District Village Show

The 2026 show will be held on **Saturday 12th 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're 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
- Painting – any medium. Up to A5 size, unframed
- Photography – no larger than 152mm x 102mm
 - 'Winter Wonderland'
 - 'Bug Life'
 - Own interpretation!

Children's Class

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

*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.



NEWNHAM VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

The winning numbers in the January draw were

1st 20
2nd 100
3rd 30

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

Anna Chaplaincy

Anna Chaplains are named after the biblical figure Anna, who dedicated her life to worship and prayer and was in the temple when Jesus was presented soon after his birth.

The main purposes of an Anna Chaplain is offering spiritual support to older people who are living in care homes, their own home or sheltered housing complexes, and their relatives and staff who look after them.

If you know someone who is elderly or unable to attend church, someone who requires prayer, or a listening ear, or would like to receive communion, please contact Caroline McIntyre ramshawcaroline@gmail.com or 07799 538809.



Doddington Village Open Gardens

will be on

Sunday 14th June

12.00pm to 5.00pm

Look out for more details nearer the date!



THE WARM HEARTS

GATHERING

Doddington Village Hall

An informal family friendly winter gathering

Sunday 15th February

Bringing Warmth in the month of Love

10.30am

Children's
Craft Corner

Time for a chat

With warming
refreshments

Short act of worship



A relaxed way to connect with faith and community in the cold winter months



*The benefit of
Kingsdown & Creekside
With
High Downs*

Coffee Morning



In Doddington Village Hall on Saturday 21st February between 10.30am and 1pm in aid of Porchlight, who support the homeless in Kent. Come along and enjoy tea, coffee and cakes. Homemade soup will also be available.

I (Alli) am also completing a sponsored Firewalk (walking over hot coals) on 5th March to raise money for Porchlight. Please support me by making a donation on my JustGiving page <https://www.justgiving.com/page/allison-thompson-3>

Or maybe you would like to keep me company and join me on the Firewalk . . . contact me for more details on 07929 699177

WDN History Group presents ...

"Tales of Tudor Espionage – Elizabeth I's Spymaster and a Kentish Connection"

Friday 15th May 7.30pm – more details next month!



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KEEP KENT SAFE LATEST ALERTS



Looking for a new job? Don't get your identity stolen in the process.

Personal information is extremely valuable to criminals. They use your details to impersonate you and apply for products and services such as bank accounts, loans, and credit cards. They may also target you asking for upfront fees.

Providing too much personal information (e.g. driving license number, passport number, full address) in your CV could leave you vulnerable to scams.

Spot the signs: Unrealistic salary, job offer without interview, poor written advert, being asked for money or personal details. Always do your research on a company and make sure they are who they say they are.

For advice and to report, contact Citizens Advice consumer helpline 080822331133

Romance scams have been targeting residents in the lead up to Valentine's Day.

More than £99.4 million was lost to romance fraud in 2024 across the UK? Romance fraud remains a high-risk fraud, impacting those targeted financially, emotionally, and psychologically.

- Verify photos: Use a reverse image search to ensure the photos are real.
- Be suspicious: If they start asking for money, especially if you have not met in person. Talk to others: Speak to your friends or family - do not keep them a secret.
- Report to: KENT POLICE 080822331133
Get advice from [Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline](#)

A message from Pam Cowan

As many of you on Social Media will already know I was taken ill mid-December, in pain and unable to walk. Following Christmas and New Year in the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford I am now in the neurological ward at the Canterbury & East Kent Hospital.

After having just about every scan/test you can think of, neurological consultants have identified the cause as Guillain Barre Syndrome which is causing my own immune system to work against me. This is being treated by infusions of human immunoglobulin.

I am told the success rate for this is high - I've also been told that regaining my strength and mobility is likely to take months. I am really encouraged by this as I was getting to the point of thinking we wouldn't get to the bottom of what was wrong.

I just want to thank you for all your support and positive messages - it all means so much to me. Hopefully I'll get to see you all soon.

Pam X

Film Club – National Theatre Live

Filmed performances of recent productions at the National Theatre.

February 27th, Doddington Village Hall, 7.30pm. £5 entry.

The Audience

by Peter Morgan, directed by Stephen Daldry

Helen Mirren plays Queen Elizabeth II in the Olivier and Tony Award®-winning hit production.

For 60 years, Queen Elizabeth II met with each of her 12 prime ministers in a private weekly meeting. This meeting is known as The Audience. From Winston Churchill to Margaret Thatcher and David Cameron, the Queen advised her prime ministers on matters both public and personal. Through these private audiences, we see glimpses of the woman behind the crown and witness the moments that shaped a monarch.

Please bring your own drinks and nibbles.
Ice creams will be available during the interval.

Nature Notes

Dave in The Chequers mentioned the other day that the local **Robin** is so tame that it actually came into the pub, through an open door, hoping to be fed. We have a very strong relationship with Robins in Britain, more so than in mainland Europe, where they are considered to be shy, woodland birds (this may be because small birds are still hunted regularly on the continent, and so are more inclined to see humans as a threat). So I thought it would be interesting to have a few Robin facts.

- The Robin belongs to the family of birds known as the Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae), which also includes birds such as Wheatear, Stonechat, and Nightingale. Previously, these birds were believed to belong in the Thrush family, but are now known to be related to birds like the Spotted Flycatcher.
- A Robin which reaches breeding age has a typical lifespan of 2 years, but fewer than half will survive their first year. However, the oldest known wild Robin got to nearly 8½ years old!
- Both male and female Robins sing and hold territories. This includes defending their winter feeding territories, each held by a single male or female bird. Robins are famously aggressive and have been known to fight to the death.
- The UK Robin population increases in winter, due to migration of birds from the continent. This includes some birds from Scandinavia and the Low Countries, and a few from Central and Eastern Europe. At the same time, some British birds head south to France, Portugal and Spain.
- In the Nineteenth Century, Robins were more commonly known as Redbreasts. Robin is actually a nickname (a diminutive of Robert), so they were Robin Redbreasts, just as Wrens were Jenny Wrens, and the 'Mag' in Magpie comes from Maggie or Margeret.
- The name 'Robin' for a red-breasted bird has been carried around the world. Which is why the 'Robin' on Mary Poppins' finger in the Disney film looks so unfamiliar – it's a model of the American robin, a species of red-breasted thrush.

Richard Moyse

Notes from WDN History Group

A Dutch medieval silver coin from Doddington.

While trying to trace the course of the Roman road in the field near the Retreat, a silver coin was excavated at a depth of about 45 cm. After careful cleaning, we thought it could be a medieval "long-cross" penny. This style of coin was first minted in the reign of Henry II (1154) and were issued by all the Plantagenet kings until the reign of the ill-fated Richard III (1485). They are characterised by a cross on the reverse side of the coin, the arms of which extend to the margin.

Unfortunately, the corrosion of the obverse of this coin makes it very difficult to discern the details of both the king's head and the marginal inscription which might have allowed it to be dated. We therefore sent photos of the coin to Andy Ward, Kent Archaeological Society Curator in Maidstone, with a request for help. The coin expert at the Portable Antiquities Scheme identified it as a Dutch "sterling" of Floris V, ruler of Holland (1254-1296). It differs from English long-cross pennies in being thinner and somewhat smaller in diameter.

The amount of verdigris (copper carbonate), particularly on the obverse side with the king's head, suggests that either it could be a counterfeit in which the proportion of silver was deliberately reduced or that it was in contact with a copper object in the soil.

How did a 13th century Dutch coin end up in a Kent downland village? Apparently, these coins were used as legal tender in England but were worth only half their face value (one penny). It provides clear evidence of trade with nearby Holland in the second half of the 13th century.





Whatever the size of your garden, whatever your style of gardening, join Wild About Newnham and help make the village a haven for wildlife.

Share ideas, suggestions and practical measures – together we can start to reverse the decline in biodiversity, at least in our patch.

Even if you don't live in Newnham, you are still welcome – we love all wildlife!

Here is a quiz to try. How many of these are you already doing, or can you commit to introducing?

One point for each wildlife-friendly idea ...

- Put out clean water for birds and mammals to drink.
- Make small gaps under fences so that hedgehogs and frogs can move around the neighbourhood.
- Grow flowers, and aim to have something in flower right through the year.
- Put out feed for birds and mammals, and make sure feeders are cleaned and moved every week.
- Limit the use of outside lights – use downward facing lamps (non-polluting) and install PIRs.
- Make an insect hotel.
- Ditch the chemicals (pesticides, weedkillers etc), and use organic methods of growing.
- Go "No Dig" wherever possible.
- Leave the leaves (if they're not causing a slip hazard).
- Learn to relax around a bit of untidiness; - e.g. leave flower stems standing over winter.
- Grow some wildflowers - even the ones that are not pretty (e.g. stinging nettles) but are a valuable food source for caterpillars.
- Put up bird and bat boxes.
- Keep some grass short but also allow some to grow long, and cut some parts of the lawn only once a month.
- Plant climbers and hedges along boundaries.
- Plant trees and shrubs that have berries.
- Make a compost heap.
- Create a log pile.
- Collect rainwater.
- Install a pond, or if you have safety concerns for young children, make a bog garden.
- Make a dead hedge.
- Keep an eye out for the wildlife visiting your patch, and take part in wildlife surveys.

Check your score:

15+ You are already a wildlife hero.

10 - 15 Good start, keep going.

5 - 10 Lots of scope for new projects.

<5 Really? Come on, give a little love to the birds and bees!

Join Wild About Newnham and share your own ideas and projects - Join our Facebook group Wild About Newnham, and our What's App group : 07504-954-544



CALLING ALL FILM BUFFS!

Doddington Village Hall Committee would like to know if there is any interest in an afternoon film club once a month, either on a week-day afternoon or at a weekend.

It would be separate from the current evening film club.

Please contact Lesley Boast lesleyboast@live.co.uk if interested.

Valley Players Present:

MURDER ON THE WARD

Tickets £10

To reserve, email:

barbara7roberts@gmail.com

Bring own drinks & nibbles



17th & 18th April 7.30pm, Doddington Village Hall

Have some fun and enjoy a challenge at the

Quiz Night

Doddington Village Hall

7.30pm Friday 27th March



Bring your own drinks and nibbles
to share with friends.



Teams of 6-8
£5 per person



To book your table please message
(What's App/text preferred) Elaine on 07884 355423

Raising money to maintain Doddington Village Hall

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**

25th Jan, 22nd Feb, 29th Mar, 24th May,
31st June, 30th Aug, 27 Sept, 18th Oct.



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 February 1pm-3pm	Games Afternoon	Doddington Village Hall
15 th February 10.30am	Warm Hearts Gathering (see page 14 for details)	Doddington Village Hall
21 st February 10.30am-1pm	Coffee Morning in aid of Porchlight (see page 14 for details)	Doddington Village Hall
27 th February 2pm	Together in Boots mindful walk (see page 3 for details)	Doddington Church
27 th February 7.30pm	Film Club - 'The Audience' (National Theatre Live) (see page 16 for more details)	Doddington Village Hall
27 th March 2pm	Together in Boots mindful walk (see page 3 for details)	Doddington Church
27 th March 7.30pm	Quiz Night (see page 19 for more details)	Doddington Village Hall
17 th April 7.30pm	Valley Players Present ...	Doddington Village Hall
18 th April 7.30pm	'Murder On The Ward' (see page 19 for details)	Doddington Village Hall
15 th May 17.30pm	Talk: 'Tales of Tudor Espionage'	Doddington Village Hall
14 th June	Doddington Open Gardens	

... and see page 7 for regular events and activities

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

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

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or to Farthing Cottage, 50 The Street, Newnham, Sittingbourne, Kent. ME9 0LL

Tel: 01795 890627 email: gunnersue564@gmail.com

Newsletter Subscriptions for 2026 are now due - to receive the newsletter in 2026, please complete the tear-off slip below and return with your subscription of £5 (cash or cheque) to **Farthing Cottage, 50 The Street, Newnham, or Gladden, The Street, Doddington or Doddington Service Station**.

To pay by bank transfer: Account name: **Doddington Newsletter** Sort code: **60-19-25** Account number: **28528689**. Please reference your payment with '2026' and your name.

It would be appreciated if all subscriptions could be paid by the end of February 2026.

To switch to an email copy please email dnwnewsletter@outlook.com

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