

Doddington, Newnham & Wychling Newsletter

JANUARY 2026



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CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE JANUARY 2026

<u>4th Jan</u>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB
Epiphany	10.30am	Morning Worship	Teynham
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Norton
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Doddington
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Eastling
<u>11th Jan</u>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB
Epiphany 1	10.30am	Holy Communion	Newnham
Plough	10.30am	Holy Communion	Oare
Sunday	10.30am	Morning Worship	Throwley
<u>18th Jan</u>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB
Epiphany 2	9.00am	Breakfast Club	Oare
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Teynham
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Norton
	10.30am	Warm Hearts Café Gathering	Doddington Village Hall
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Eastling
<u>25th Jan</u>	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB
Epiphany 3	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 23rd January 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 (01795) 886332 Matthew Jevons (01795) 886341

Wychling: Contact Paula Jardine Rose-at Parish Office



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We live in a warring world. We see this in the local, national and international news. We may also encounter aggression in our everyday lives. As we drive, on the train, in the shops, or even within ourselves.

There was once a king who offered a prize to the artist who could paint the best picture of peace. Many artists tried. The king looked at all the pictures, but there were only two that he really liked, and he had to choose between them.

One picture was of a calm lake. The lake was a perfect mirror for the peaceful towering mountains all around it. Overhead was a blue sky with fluffy white clouds. All who saw this picture thought that it was a perfect picture of peace.

The second picture had mountains, too. But these were rugged and bare. Above was an angry sky from which rain fell, and in which lightening played. Down the side of the mountain tumbled a foaming waterfall. This did not look peaceful at all. But when the king looked, he saw behind the waterfall a tiny bush growing in a crack in the rock. In the bush a mother bird had built her nest.... a perfect picture of peace.

Which of the pictures won the prize? The king chose the second picture.

Do you know why? "Because" explained the king, "peace does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. Peace means to be in the midst of all those things and still be calm in your heart. That is the real meaning of peace."

Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." (John 14:27)

We can know the peace of Jesus. This is more than an absence of hostilities but a deep knowledge that God loves us unconditionally and has accepted us through what Jesus has done for us. This enables us to be at peace with God, people and nature. We just need to ask him.

I pray that you will know more of the peace of Christ in our tumultuous world.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

Rev'd Jim Pye



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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

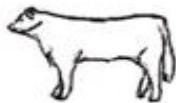
Helen Whately: MP for Faversham and Mid Kent - email: helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk

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

**Chairman: Steve Coates 07960 110551, 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 8 December 2025

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 which should be published in 2026.

HIGHWAYS

County Councillor Rich Lehmann is looking into concerns regarding local road closures with misleading signage.

A road sweep of the Old Lenham Road has been requested. Kent Highways is still looking at the Ringlestone Road flooding by the pumping station, and the blocked soakaway. The Council continues to chase Kent Highways to resolve the issues.

PLANNING MATTERS

Heathlands Garden Settlement Draft Supplementary Planning Document Consultation

Maidstone Borough Council had invited the Parish Council to comment on the document. Cllr John Britt, Chairman of Lenham Parish Council, spoke to the meeting regarding the issues. Councillors were concerned about the impact of the development on Doddington and agreed to support Lenham Parish Council and submit comments to Maidstone Borough Council.

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.

Councillors considered the application and had no objections to the proposal.

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.

**Date of next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 12 January 2026 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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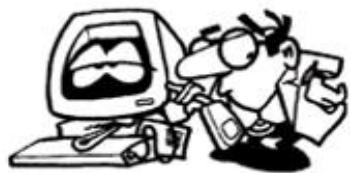
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NEWNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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: clerk@newnham-pc.gov.uk

This is a brief summary of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th December 2025 Full minutes can be found at www.newnham-pc.gov.uk

Open Session

Cllr Cockrill gave an update on the meeting with Southern Water regarding the running water at the top of Wineycock and confirmed it was being investigated. Theft of items from Newnham church were noted, also that the bell would begin chiming again. Cllr Cockrill confirmed that he had met, together with other residents, a local news reporter in relation to the excessive number of road closures.

Budget 2026-2027

It was proposed by Cllr Cockrill, seconded by Cllr Gunner and on being put to the meeting it was agreed to set the budget for 2026-2027 as follows:

Precept £4,763

Band D £30.00

Community Resilience

Cllr Cockrill confirmed he had added Community Resilience to the website. He and the clerk had attended an online session from the Kent Resilience team. Cllr Cockrill further noted that Faversham Road was not listed to be gritted.

Bank Account and Outstanding Payments

The clerk advised that Unity Trust had a backlog but had confirmed all necessary paperwork had been received.

Wilding Gardens

As Cllr Dye was not present, this item was deferred, although it was noted that a residents' meeting was being set up.

Items for Report

Cllr Turner noted she had attended the KALC AGM and KALC SAC meetings. Cllr Cockrill had attended community resilience webinars

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 8th January 2026.

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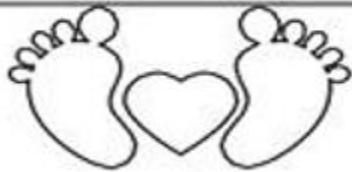
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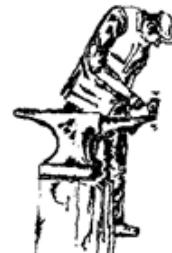
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7th Jan 21st Jan 4th Feb

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN READING?

WHICH BOOK? – *A YEAR AT THE CHATEAU* by Dick and Angel Strawbridge (2020)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? – Dick and Angel Strawbridge bought an unloved, dilapidated old chateau in rural France when they had two very young children. What an undertaking! They wrote the book after several years of hindsight and very clear memories – basic plumbing and no power. Neither of them spoke fluent French. A mountain to climb. A very entertaining journey to follow.

WAS IT ON THE MOBILE LIBRARY? – Yes. The picture of the family on the front cover caught my eye.

Their story was made into a TV series – the proceeds helped the transformation of the chateau.

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

NEWNHAM VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

The winning numbers of the December Draw were

1st 30
2nd 24
3rd 110

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

Kathy, Richard & Sue wish all our readers a happy and interesting New Year

THE WARM HEARTS

GATHERING

Doddington Village Hall

An informal family friendly winter gathering

Sunday 18th January

Bringing Light to Wintry January

Sunday 15th February

Bringing Warmth in the month of Love

10.30am

Children's Craft Corner

Time for a chat

With warming refreshments



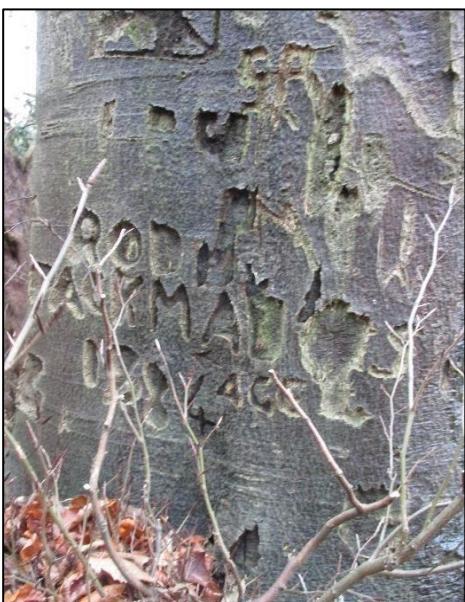
Short act of worship

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

Wychling, Doddington, Newnham History Group

Wander along the footpath through Lady's Wood, between Newnham and Eastling and you'll find an amazing beech tree covered in over a hundred years' worth of arboglyphs. That's just a fancy word for carvings in the bark! As has been traditional since ancient times, they've mainly been made as a symbol of the permanence of a couple's love. Beech seems to be the tree of choice in our parishes for graffiti, with another good example in Decoy Wood, Doddington.

A citizen science project in Hampshire set out to record all the arboglyphs in the New Forest. Trees falling or dying pose a threat to these historical markings, as well as the carvings fading or being damaged by animals or people. In addition to names, dates and initials, the project found concentric circles or "witches' marks" warding off evil spirits and broad arrowheads known as the "King's Mark" used to identify trees reserved for building Royal Navy ships. So, historical eyes peeled as you wander through our local woods, you never know what you might see!





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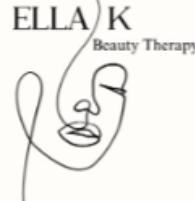
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Answers to December's Christmas Book Quiz – Q1 Four, don't forget Jacob Marley's ghost as well as the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, & Yet to come. **Q2** Roddy Doyle. One of his children's books. He's better known for books and films for grown-ups! **Q3** How The Grinch Stole Christmas by Theodor Geisel aka Dr. Seuss. **Q4** Rudolph, first mentioned in Robert L. May's 1939 storybook, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. 'The Night Before Christmas' is really titled "A Visit from St. Nicholas" published 1823. **Q5** Little Women by Louisa May Alcott, a classic Christmas story for young children. **Q6** The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle – first published in The Strand Magazine in January 1892.



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25 YEARS EXPERIENCE - FREE HONEST ESTIMATES

Update from your local MP Helen Whately

I hope you all had a good Christmas break and have a very Happy New Year.

As I reflect back on 2025 the thing that hits me most is the amount of development planned for my constituency. If it all goes ahead it will mean an extra 20,000 plus houses which is double the size of Faversham Town.

The big developments in the pipeline include:

- * Lenham Heath – 5,000 houses
- * Winterbourne Fields – houses
- Highsted Park – 8,400 houses
- * Lidsing Garden Village – houses
- * Duchy development, Faversham – 2,500 houses

And these developments do not include the two huge solar farms: Graveney and Bistock near Rodmersham, nor the many smaller developments of 50 plus houses popping up all over the place.

Together, they will not only change this part of Kent for ever, but the extra cars will bring our roads to a standstill. That's why I am pressing for the lion's share of new housing to go in towns and cities where there is the infrastructure, public transport and jobs to support it.

I have made my views clear to Maidstone Borough Council, Swale Borough Council and the Government that high quality agricultural land should be used for farming and that this amount of development is too much for this part of Kent.

Over the summer I signed a letter to the Prime Minister calling for a clear ban on large solar developments on our most productive farmland and for the Government to prioritize solar panels on buildings and brownfield sites instead.

This year I plan to do even more. I will start 2026 with a 'New year no more new houses' petition to present to the Government making clear the strength of feeling against these developments.

If you are interested in supporting my campaign sign up to my newsletter <https://www.helenwhately.org.uk/sign-my-newsletter-here> or Google 'Helen Whately MP newsletters' to find out more.

And together we can make sure the Government can no longer ignore us.

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

Best wishes

Helen

helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk / 0207 219 6472

NEWNHAM CHURCH CLOCK UPDATE

The long-awaited church clock restoration is now nearing completion. An engineer from the Cumbria Clock Company visited site on Friday 12th December to fit the escapement mechanism for which a replacement component had to be manufactured from scratch. It was this component that introduced the long delay and much of the work was completed in March. Cumbria Clock had to outsource the manufacture to a precision engineering company and had no control over the scheduling of the work unfortunately.

At long last the clock is running again and chiming the hour with the new feature of night silencing. Silent hours can be adjusted if necessary. Once the clock has had a few weeks running to settle in, Cumbria Clock will be back on site to fit the regulator, a device that ensures the clock keeps accurate time. Feedback has been positive with villagers pleased to have the clock working again. A few people have remarked that the chimes are not as loud as they used to be. A new linkage had been installed between the clock and the hammer. The engineer will be asked to adjust this to increase the back stroke when he next visits.

Residents are being targeted by email scams in the run up to Christmas.

KEEP KENT SAFE
LATEST ALERTS



Here are two examples that area making the rounds - 1. Offerings of "free rewards" if you complete a survey or click a link. 2. Claims you'll lose your cloud storage unless you update your details. If an email contains a link, its highly likely to be a scam. Don't click it. We are all vulnerable to scams, be wary and warn others.

Report to: Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline or Kent Police.

Phone scam: A caller claimed the resident had been entered into the Euromillions and asked for personal details.

Email scam: A message claimed the recipient had won a prize in the postcode lottery. They paid a small postage fee, then discovered a much larger amount had been taken from their account.

Never share personal or financial details with unexpected callers or emails.

If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Report to: [Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline](#) [Kent Police](#)

SWALE BOUROUGH COUNCIL

Strengthening Preparedness Together in Swale – pilot project update

The Kent and Medway Resilience Forum (KMRF) is making good progress with its collaborative project partnering with training partner Communities Prepared to support communities in Swale. Stakeholder engagement work continues and first round of topic-based public webinars, Introduction to Resilience, were well received, generating lot of interest from key stakeholders, including Swale BC councillors and key local community support organisations.

Focussed work with Swale parishes is also going well, with Minster-on-Sea's parish community resilience plan already fully completed and Faversham Town Council among several with plans in progress. Preliminary discussions about parish cluster planning are in progress.

The first in-person community training event in Swale, supported by various partners is scheduled in the New Year. To become involved or find out more email krt@kent.fire-uk.org

A new bespoke webinar series is planned for January to March will be widely promoted in Swale to residents, with daytime and evening options available. Here are the January details which parishes and councillors are encouraged to promote within their communities.

☒ Download a flyer to share with Swale residents [here](#)

☒ Places on the sessions can be booked [here](#) -

Tuesday 13 January 2026 Swale Community Emergency Planning 5-7pm

Wednesday 14 January 2026 Swale Flood Volunteer 1-3pm

Monday 19 January 2026 Swale Flood Volunteer 5-7pm

Thursday 22 January 2026 Swale Winter Prepared 1-3pm

Monday 26 January 2026 Swale Storms 5-6.30pm

Tuesday 27 January 2026 Swale Community Emergency Planning 5-7pm

Wednesday 28 January 2026 Swale Flood Volunteer 1-3pm

Thursday 29 January 2026 Swale Utilities Outage 1-3pm

Details of more training webinars by Community Prepared open to all residents can be found [Courses and workshops | Kent Prepared](#)

Nature Notes

So far, it's been a fairly quiet late autumn in terms of birds. There are small numbers of **Redwings**, **Fieldfares** and **Siskins** around, but it feels as if the winter hasn't really started yet. But there have been a few surprises. First a **Little Egret** which very briefly visited our garden pond: these mid-sized, white herons are more normally associated with marshland, but very occasionally turn up locally (I've probably seen two or three around the village over the last decade or so). Little Egrets used to be very rare visitors to the UK but increased in numbers in the second half of the 20th Century; they first bred in Kent in 2000. Perhaps even more surprising was a **Water Rail** in Amanda and Rob Brookman's garden pond in late November. Water Rails are relatives of moorhens, grey and brown in colour and with long, red bills. They are famously secretive, and though they are resident in Kent, they mainly spend their time in dense reed beds and only very rarely come into the open. Usually the only way you know they are there is when they call – unmistakable, as they sound like a pig squealing!

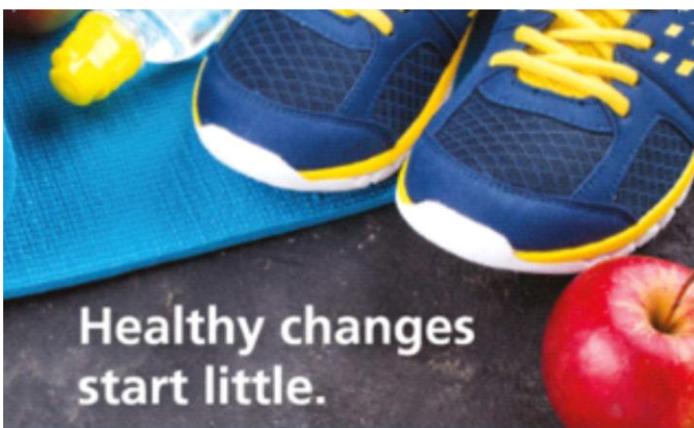
November saw the publication of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Kent and Medway, called 'Making Space for Nature'. Local Nature Recovery Strategies cover all of England, and are a government-driven initiative intended to set out local priorities for restoring habitats, ecosystems, and populations of wild species. Part of the strategy process was to create a list of the rare, threatened or otherwise notable species which occur in Kent and Medway – this came to well over a thousand species – and then whittle this down to a list of priority species which urgently require action to protect and restore their populations. The final priority list includes 146 species, of which, it turns out around 10% (at least) can be found in our parishes: these include **Four-banded Weevil Wasp**; **Oak Mining Bee**; **Wall Butterfly**; **Common Toad**; **House Martin**; **Linnet**; **Marsh Tit**; **Yellowhammer**; **Brown Hare**; **Brown Long-eared Bat**; **Serotine Bat**; **Dormouse**; and **Hedgehog**.

Of course, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy will only be any good if can be delivered, and it is not clear whether there will be any funding directed towards this. However, there is an increasing number of initiatives in the county that are led by farmers and landowners which may prove to have a really important contribution. In our area, the new Chalk to Coast project aims to link up habitats across a vast area of North Kent from Wrotham and Dartford in the west and Chilham and Whitstable in the east. The project includes a number of 'core corridor routes' for reconnecting habitats, one of which runs right down our valley, taking in Wychling, Doddington and Newnham. So it could be a Happy new year for nature!

You can find the Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy here:
<https://www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk/>.

The Chalk to Coast project is here <https://www.chalktocoast.co.uk/>, and they are especially looking for more local land managers and land-owners to become involved and join local farms and holdings including Woodsell Farm, the Torry Hill Estate and Syndale Farm in coming together and working to restore nature.

Richard Moyse



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Wednesdays 9am – 3pm



www.kentcht.nhs.uk/OneYou

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Join us for a monthly mindful walk through woodland

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



Humans and well-behaved dogs all welcome.

On Fridays 23rd January, 27th February, 27th March

Enquiries to Lissie on 07790 287878
lissie1710@gmail.com

S&D Sewage Services

Lou, Dan & Alex (Sash) of S&D Sewage Services Ltd would like to wish all customers old and new a very Happy Christmas & New Year, and remember Shaun "The Big Boss" on 20/12/25 on the 5th anniversary of his passing.

We are open between Christmas and New Year so please give us a call or email.

SEE AD ON PAGE 12

HALF DAY 24/12/25 - CLOSED UNTIL 29/12/25

HALF DAY 31/12/25 - CLOSED UNTIL 02/01/26

DIARY OF EVENTS - 2026

18 th January 10.30am	Warm Hearts Gathering	Doddington Village Hall (see page 14 for details)
23rd January 2pm	Together in Boots mindful walk	Doddington Church (See page 19 for details)
15 th February 10.30pm	Warm Hearts Gathering	Doddington Village Hall (see page 14 for details)
27 th March 7.30pm	Quiz Night	Doddington Village Hall (see page 13 for details)

see page 7 for regular events and 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 07540 898617

NEWSLETTER - AVAILABLE AS A PAPER COPY DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR OR VIA EMAIL

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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.**

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

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