

Doddington, Newnham & Wychling Newsletter

MARCH 2026



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CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE MARCH 2026

1st March	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB
<i>Lent 2</i>	10.30am	Morning Worship	Teynham
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Norton
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Doddington
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Eastling
8th March	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB
<i>Lent 3</i>	10.30am	All Together Now	Lynsted
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Newnham
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Oare
	10.30am	Morning Prayer	Throwley
15th March	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB
<i>Mothering Sunday</i>	9.00am	Breakfast Church	Oare
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Teynham
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Norton
	10.30am	Warm Hearts Gathering	Doddington Village Hall
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Eastling
22nd March	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB
<i>Lent 5</i>	10.30am	Family Holy Communion	Lynsted
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Newnham
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Oare
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Throwley
	4.00pm	Evensong	Teynham
29th March	10.30am	Benefice Holy Communion	Eastling
<i>Palm Sunday</i>			
30th March	7.00pm	Reflection	Oare
31st March	7.00pm	Reflection	Newnham
1st April	7.00pm	Reflection	Throwley
2nd April	7.00pm	Reflection	Norton
3rd April	10.30am	Stations of the Cross	Doddington
<i>Good Friday</i>			
4th April	7.00pm	Reflection	Lynsted
5th April	6.30am	Sunrise	Wychling
<i>Easter Day</i>	9.00am	Holy Communion	Oare
	9.00am	Holy Communion	Eastling
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Teynham
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Norton
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Doddington
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Stalisfield

Together in Boots – Friday 27th March 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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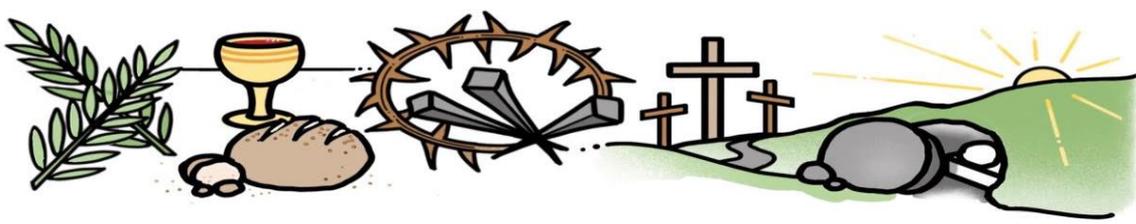
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What does the season of Lent mean for you?

As a child growing up, I had heard about Lent but my family were not church-goers and very few of the Christians that I knew, sincere as they were, took Lent very seriously.

Nevertheless, we enjoyed (very much!) the pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, Hot Cross buns and the anticipation of Easter Eggs, and all that went with it. Lent, much like religion, was not something we paused to consider or indeed had any real importance to us as a family. However, throughout adulthood, a Christian faith has become an embedded part of my life and hope. During this time of Lent I've begun to appreciate the importance of pausing and thinking about the seasons in my life and walk with Jesus.

The word Lent comes from an Old English word "Lenctern" which actually means Spring. Of course, Spring in nature is very much a season of hope. It's a season of new beginnings, fresh new life and the hope of summer with its warmer days ahead. For Christians, perhaps especially in these times of the uncertainty, social and geo-political turmoil, approaching Lent as a season of contemplation and hope, seems vital.

Lent is a forty-day period that begins with Ash Wednesday. Many Christians attend a church service during which the sign of the cross with ashes is traced on each of the worshippers' foreheads as the minister speaks the words, "From dust you came and to dust you will return. Repent and believe the good news."

These words are a call to live for Christ, the only one in whom true hope can be found. The cross we wear or bear becomes the outward sign of the inner change and joy Jesus has brought into our lives, certainly mine, and an affirmation that his Holy Spirit now resides within us, empowering us to live both for and in him with a deeper love and a greater holiness - and it is worth it.

So Lent, like Spring, is definitely a season of Hope beyond our wildest dreams. The final week begins with Palm Sunday and then through the horror of Good Friday, to the joy of Easter Sunday. It's a season in which we are reminded of God the Father who loves us, the Grace of Jesus the Son who has redeemed us, and the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit who is with us everywhere and at all times. All this is possible because at Easter the stone was rolled away and Jesus rose to conquer sin, death and bring us to eternal life.

As we journey through Lent may I encourage you to make it a season of deep and lasting hope. May we carry this hope of the Gospel to all we meet in our daily lives, sharing the knowledge of sins forgiven and peace with God; the joy that he will never leave us or forsake us, and the peace that comes from knowing that in the end nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus - and the best is yet to come.

May God bless you this Lent and of course through Easter too!

Mark Harlow



The Benefice of Kingsdown & Creekside
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Warm Hearts Gathering

Sunday 15th March 10.30am
Doddington Village Hall

Refreshments, time for chat, craft
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All Welcome

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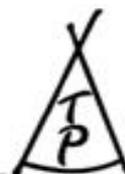
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Doddington Village Hall (unless otherwise stated)

Weekly

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

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

Doddington Ukulele Movement: Thursday evenings 8pm.

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

Yoga: every Tuesday 10am and Sundays. Bookings and contact details via <https://bookwhen.com/https-chrisstookesyoga-co-uk>

Monthly

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

Historical Research Group: 4th Monday 7.30pm. Exploring local history and archaeology in the three parishes. Now back meeting regularly. Contact: Karen Potts 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; Mob: 07985 001782.

Newnham Village Hall (unless otherwise stated)

Weekly

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

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

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

Monthly

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

Nearby towns and villages

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

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

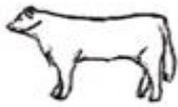
Helen Whately: MP for Faversham and Mid Kent - email: helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk
Address: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. Tel: 020 7219 6472

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 9 February 2026

ROAD CLOSURES

Cllr Coates, along with representatives from other Councils in Swale and Maidstone, had attended a meeting with Helen Whately MP at which the issues with local road closures was raised. Together with the respective Chairs of Newnham and Lenham Parish Councils and a representative from Wychling, he also attended a meeting with Kent County Councillors and KCC Highways to express concerns about the number and manner of road closures. Both meetings centred on: the inappropriate use of emergency powers to close roads; road closed signs being left in place after the work had finished; the need for works signs to have "road closed at....." added; badly planned diversions; and diversions along inappropriate roads.

Both meetings were very useful and we hope that measures will be put in place to improve the situation. One aspect of note was that we were informed that South East Water were studying the feasibility of a major infrastructure upgrade in our local area, but would consult with Parish Councils regarding closures once the plan had been agreed.

DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

The Council will hold a defibrillator and CPR training session in the Village Hall on Saturday 14 March, details can be found in this newsletter, the Parish Council website, WhatsApp and the village Facebook page.

Please note- you do not need training to use the defibrillator as instructions are given when used.

POLICE REPORT

PC Gary Morris attended the meeting and reported that since December there had been no crimes reported in Doddington. Hare coursing and poaching are still an issue in the local area, vehicle registration numbers and number of occupants, if safe to note, should be reported to the Police quoting Operation Galileo.

PC Morris has met the Doddington Speed Watch Team and will come out to support them.

PLANNING MATTERS

PROPOSED HIGHSTED PARK

Ref: 21/503914/EIOUT Location: Land South And East Of Sittingbourne Kent

Ref: 21/503906/EIOUT Location: Land To The West Of Teynham London Road Teynham

The 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

Permitted - 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.

Refused - 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

Date of next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 9 March 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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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 8th January 2026 Full minutes can be found at www.newnham-pc.gov.uk

It was noted that 'mud on the road' signs were now in place and there was an improvement to the road, but it was agreed it was likely to be a continuing problem. It was also felt that Foxenden Road needed to be deep cleaned. Cllr Turner noted that flytipping and a van had now been removed from Wineycock and that the other van did not belong to anyone living in the village. PC Morris will contact the DVLA.

It was announced that Mr John Davies, who was a past parish councillor and chair, had passed away. The council noted its condolences to the family.

It was confirmed that the parish council had spare football nets and it was agreed to replace the tattered net at Wineycock.

PC Gary Morris confirmed that no crimes had been recorded. Nuisance motorbikes were noted and had also been an issue in Doddington, unfortunately no number plates had been visible on any of the bikes.

Community Resilience

Cllr Cockrill confirmed he had put more information on the council website and he had a number of booklets that he would leave in the church and pub for residents. It was agreed that he would start drafting the template community resilience plan.

It was agreed to progress the work on purchasing a generator for use at the village hall, subject to confirmation about storage, access and WIF to the hall.

Items for Report

Cllr Cockrill confirmed he had attended four training sessions including on HMO and cyber security.

Cllr Turner attended a meeting with KCC Streetworks and Chairs from Doddington, Wychling and Lenham to discuss the number of road closures. She reported that the meeting was very productive, there were concerns about the diversions given – that they were putting traffic through single track roads. Southeast Water are intending on renewing the pipework through Faversham Road, due to the number of burst pipes. There will also be new white signage introduced with red writing confirming exactly where the road is shut.

Annual Parish Meeting to be on the next agenda to consider a guest speaker. The meeting date will be 7th May 2026.



New Community Warden for East Downs

Claire Jones is the Kent County Council Community Warden for East Downs, also covering Eastchurch, Leysdown, and Warden on the Isle of Sheppey.

KCC Community Wardens aim to improve residents' quality of life, improve community resilience, and support communities to thrive. They want residents to feel safe, to support the elderly and vulnerable, and work with communities to foster a sense of cohesion and wellbeing. They can also assist residents to navigate community services.

If you would like to speak to Claire, do say hello when if you see her out and about in East Downs. Or you can contact her on 07779 876993, or via email on claire.jones4@kent.gov.uk,

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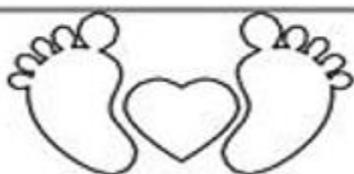
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MOBILE LIBRARY

Sunnyside, Doddington.

Wednesday mornings

9.45am to 10.15am (fortnightly excluding bank holidays) 4th March, 18th March 1st April



WHAT HAVE WE BEEN READING?

WHICH BOOK? Several titles in the British Library Crime Classics series.

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? The British Library has been republishing classic crime novels and anthologies from the archives, all from a period between around 1890 to 1960, with many from the so-called 'Golden Age' between 1920 and 1939. I've picked up several, all from authors I'd never previously read, and all have been really entertaining, as well as offering a glimpse of early- to mid-20th century history (though, as a publisher's note in the front of each reminds us, they can contain attitudes and language that would not be acceptable today). I've become a particular fan of John Dickson Carr (who also wrote as Carter Dickson), who is a master of atmosphere and the 'impossible' mystery.

WAS IT ON THE MOBILE LIBRARY? Several titles were on the mobile, and others I've ordered via the Kent Libraries website. John Dickson Carr was an American who lived for some years in England. Most of his mysteries were set in England, though there are others set in Paris, such as "The Corpse in the Waxworks".



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.



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 GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK



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 07790 287878

Following on from my coffee morning in February

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

Cantiana Choir

Advance notice of Cantiana Choir's Summer Concert, to be held in Doddington Church on Saturday 11th 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

will be on

Sunday 14th June

12.00pm to 5.00pm

Look out for more details nearer the date!





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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.

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Update from your local MP Helen Whately

South East Water's response to the water outages after Christmas was abysmal. Thousands of people were without water for days, forced to buy water from supermarkets or drive all the way to Headcorn. Many elderly or vulnerable people - who should get bottled water deliveries to their doors - were forgotten or ignored by South East Water. Others were given the wrong information about supplies. Businesses were left in the lurch, schools had to close and the emergency water supply for livestock was grossly negligent, yet again.

Last July, South East Water left people in East Kent without water for up to 8 days and I went through the long list of failures in the company's emergency response then. The Chief Executive committed to my face that he would fix their failures. What a lie. If anything, it was worse this time.

So, I got together with local MPs to write to the Chairman of South East Water to tell him the Chief Executive has to go. And then I went and met him to tell him so in person. I didn't do that lightly. But the fact is, he is in charge of South East Water's crisis response. It failed in the summer and his promises to fix the problems amounted to nothing. Now there is no public confidence in him or South East Water. To add insult to injury, he gets paid around £500,000 a year including a £100,000 long service bonus. His time is up.

I know this problem is bigger than South East Water. We need a secure water supply. So, I will also keep pressing the Government and Ofwat to do more to prevent outages and ensure there is a much better response if there is another emergency.

These water outages raise another issue too. The basic problem is that we don't have enough water for our population in Kent. What's going to happen when we have 20,000 more houses in Faversham and Mid Kent? There's a new reservoir on the way but that won't be operational until the 2030s. It doesn't stack up. There's another letter on the way to the Housing Secretary making exactly this point. The Government needs to think again.

To keep up-to-date with my progress please follow me on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/HelenWhatelyMP/>

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

Doddington Village Hall Charity

Annual General Meeting

**Wednesday 25th March
7.30pm**

All residents of Doddington are welcome to attend, to hear our review of the past year and our plans for the future.

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

Nature Notes

The mild weather in early February meant that we saw **Common Frog** spawn in our garden pond some ten days earlier than in previous years. The subsequent frosts meant that ice formed on the pond surface, and it seems likely it may kill the spawn at the top of the clump. However, info on the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust website suggests that spawn lower in the clump still has a good chance of survival. **Smooth Newts** in our pond have been active for some weeks, but lay their eggs later and deeper underwater – as do **Common Toads** – so are less vulnerable to frosts.

Winter is not such a good time to look for insects, but some can still be found – here are a couple I've noticed this winter:

- **Juniper Shieldbug** (pictured) is an attractive insect that was previously limited to Juniper woodlands (though Juniper is very scarce as a wild plant in Kent), but which has recently started to spread to use the often-planted Lawson's Cypress and probably other related trees. I have found several in various conifers over this winter by tapping branches over a tray or sheet.
- Cockroaches don't get a good press, but this is mainly down to some of the non-native species, such as the American Cockroach, which live indoors. There are three native species, plus a number of other recently arrived species, which only live outdoors and so never become pests. In fact some are rather scarce, including the **Tawny Cockroach**, which is largely restricted to south-east England but is widespread across the North Downs. Over the winter I have found two young Tawny Cockroaches – one in Ivy on the churchyard wall in Doddington, and the other in the ornamental gorse planted in traffic calming beds outside The Chequers. In fact, this planted area is excellent for insects, and I have (in the summer) found the very attractive **Adonis Ladybird** here, as well as the extremely rare **Four-banded Weevil Wasp**.



Richard Moyses

News from WDN History Group



FRONT ROW: Marangi, Whiri, Tamihana, Eadie, Morgan, Julian Warerini, Pat Warbrick, Capt. Rangī Royal, Capt. Whetu Veronia, S/Sgt James Wallace, Sgt. Ruri Pene, Sgt. Mirose Wikimahi, Cpl. Anarama Amohau, Peter Hunt.
MIDDLE ROW: Riri Winita, Dick Watkena, Komene Maika, Tu Ruka Jack Marsh, Peter Rangioawhe, Kapua Hara, Apirama Waaka, Vagala Heretini.
BACK ROW: Mōriy, Houtaki, Papat, Buney, Jacobs, Pahau Rapani, Neil Wivianene, Sonny Warerini, Wiremu Heretaunga, John Pene.

The 28th Māori Battalion New Zealand Army in Doddington 1940

The Māori Battalion were enroute to the Middle East in May 1940 when they were diverted to Britain. In July they were deployed to southern England to help defend against a possible German invasion. The 28th Māori Battalion debussed at Doddington on the 5th September 1940. The weather, which had been perfect, broke after a few weeks, and early in October the men moved from their muddy tents to billets—C Company to Wichling, B Company to Doddington, D Company into the hospital and A Company to Eastling.

After six months in Britain, they sailed for their original destination, Egypt, where they arrived in early March 1941. The battalion fought through the Greek, North African and Italian campaigns during which it earned a formidable reputation as a fighting force which has subsequently been acknowledged by both Allied and German commanders. Field Marshal Rommel is reported to have said "Give me the Māori Battalion and I will conquer the world". The 28th was the most decorated New Zealand battalion during the war. Following the end of hostilities, the battalion contributed a contingent of personnel to serve in Japan as part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force, before being disbanded in January 1946.



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

This month's focus is on hedgehogs.

One thing to do now:

Make a hole (13x13 cm, or 5x5") at the bottom of your back garden fence to allow hedgehogs to roam across multiple gardens. It's probably best to chat to your neighbours about this first! You can cut a hole in a panel fence, or just scoop out a depression under it. If you want to go the whole hog you can buy signs saying "Hedgehog Highway" to attach next to each hole. While hedgehogs are notoriously illiterate, the signs serve as useful reminders to human occupants of the garden to leave the gap open.

Why bother?

Hedgehog numbers have declined by as much as 75% in the last couple of decades. They're on the IUCN Red List (GB), meaning they're vulnerable to extinction. Are you prepared to tell future generations that you wouldn't help Mrs Tiggywinkle?

Hedgehogs are known to roam a mile or more each night, so if they can get into your garden and out to the next you'll have made a significant difference to their chances of survival.

Things to plan for:

Make your garden more attractive to hedgehogs by ensuring that there are safe places for them to forage and find shelter, and that there's safe access to clean water. If you want to put out food for them, check that it's suitable. (Bread and milk is NOT suitable as they can't digest it.) Densely planted borders are good places for hogs to find natural food, as are open compost heaps, leaf piles, and log stacks; undisturbed areas provide sites for hedgehogs to rest and hibernate.

Keep hedgehogs in mind whenever you're in the garden, for example:

- Make sure any nets are taut and securely fixed, and check daily to release anything that's become trapped;
- Check long grass before strimming;
- Take care when plunging a fork into a compost heap;
- Avoid using pesticides and slug pellets;
- If you have a bonfire pile, move it before you set it alight.

Loads more info online, e.g. here: <https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/the-basic-facts-2/>

Let's get continuous hedgehog routes through Newnham!

I know that gardens 1a, 3, 5, 7 and 9 are all linked – please tell us about your own sections of Hog Highway here: Facebook group Wild About Newnham, What's App group : 07504-954-544, or contact Mary, Hens Tooth 1a The Street. And also log your gaps and sightings <https://bighedgehogmap.org/>

**NEWNHAM VILLAGE HALL
LOTTERY**

The winning numbers in the
February draw were

1 st	97
2 nd	46
3 rd	90

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

**Newnham Village
Horse Racing Night**



at Newnham Village Hall - Friday 24th April

£5 per person, 7:30pm start,
bring your own food and drink.

To book your place please contact
Claire Farley-Hills on 07799 713412.

No Post Office at The Chequers Pub



Currently, there is no weekly Post Office at The Chequers.

It is understood that there will be a mobile Post Office van outside The Chequers starting in late March / early April 2026.

Valley Players Present:

MURDER ON THE WARD



Tickets £10

To Book Email:

christhommo@btinternet.com

Tickets from:

Doddington Service Station

Café Style Seating
Bring own drinks & nibbles

17th & 18th April 7.30pm Doddington Village Hall



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.

Village "Traffic Calming" Island Tidy.



Can you help the village tidy the little road calming island outside the Retreat

We need to clear the dead plants, remove weeds and make the entrance to the village neater

Please bring own gloves, tools and green sacks.

Saturday 7th of March: 10 till Noon

Contact Lesley

lesleyboast@live.com

Many hands make light

work

The **Queens Regimental Association** invite all in Doddington, Newnham & Wychling to the **monthly veterans' breakfast** held at the Jon Wright Memorial Field (formerly Kennels Field).

Free breakfasts provided 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**
29th Mar, 24th May, 31st June,
30th Aug, 27 Sept, 18th Oct.

DIARY OF EVENTS - 2026

4 th March 9.45-10.15am	Mobile Library	Sunnyside, Doddington
4 th March 1.00-3.00pm	Games Afternoon (see page 13)	Doddington Village Hall
9 th March 7.30pm	Doddington Parish Council	Doddington Village Hall
15 th March 10.30 am	Warm Hearts Gathering (see page 5)	Doddington Village Hall
18 th March 9.45-10.15am	Mobile Library	Sunnyside, Doddington
25 th March 7.30pm	AGM Charity Meeting (see page 16)	Doddington Village Hall
27 th March 2pm	Together in Boots mindful walk (see page 5)	Doddington Church
27 th March 7.30pm	Quiz Night (see page 14)	Doddington Village Hall
29 th March 10.00am	QRRRA Monthly Veterans' Breakfast (see page 19)	Jon Wright Memorial Field
17 th April 7.30pm	Valley Players Present ...	Doddington Village Hall
18 th April 7.30pm	'Murder On The Ward' (see page 19)	
24 th April 7.30pm	Newnham Village Horse Racing Night (see page 18)	Newnham Village Hall
15 th May 7.30pm	Talk: 'Tales of Tudor Espionage' (see page 16)	Doddington Village Hall
6 th -14 th June	Great Big Green Week (see page 14)	
14 th June	Doddington Open Gardens	
11 th July 7.30pm	Cantiana Choir's Summer Concert (see page 14)	Doddington Church
12 th September	Doddington & District Village Show	Doddington Village Hall

and see page 7 for regular events and activities

KEEP KENT SAFE LATEST ALERTS



A police scam has been targeting residents this week in Romney Marsh, Ashford, Maidstone, Dymchurch, Sittingbourne, Dartford and Sheerness. Residents are receiving phone calls falsely claiming their bank account has been compromised, their card needs replacing, a

family member has been arrested, they must buy gold, or a courier will come to collect their card, cash or gold. These are scams. The police will never ask for your financial details over the phone or send someone to collect your card, cash, or valuables.

If this happens to you, call your bank immediately using 159 or [report to Kent Police](#).



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

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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