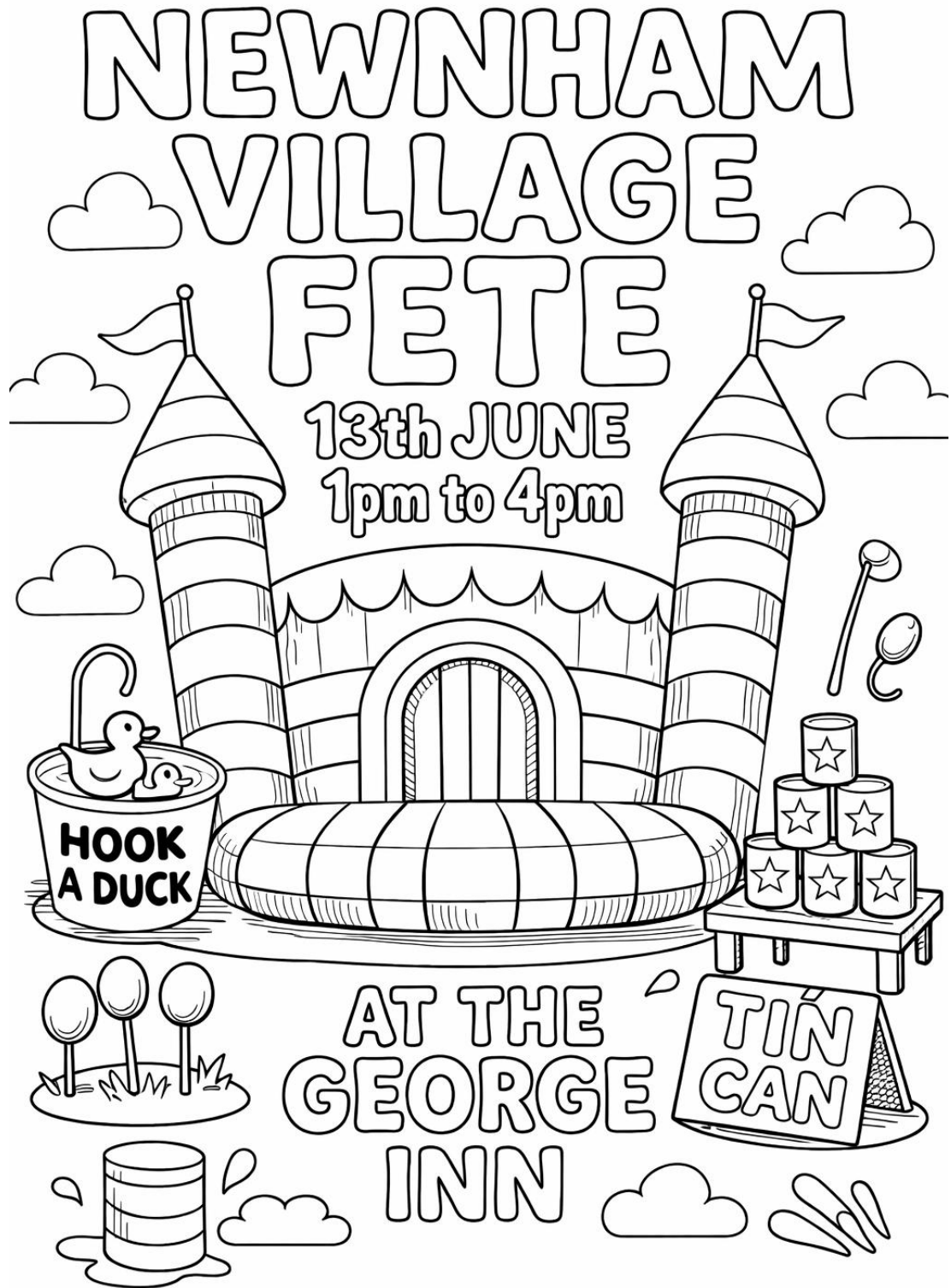


Doddington, Newnham & Wychling Newsletter

JUNE 2026



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CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE JUNE 2026

4th June	11.00am	Holy Communion	Wychling
7th June	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB
<i>Trinity 1</i>	10.30am	Morning Worship	Teynham
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Norton
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Doddington
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Eastling
	3.00pm	Pet Service	Doddington
14th June	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB
<i>Trinity 2</i>	10.30am	All Together Now	Lynsted
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Newnham
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Oare
	10.30am	Morning Prayer	Throwley
21st June	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB
<i>Trinity 3</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
28th June	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB
<i>Trinity 4</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

Together in Boots – Friday 26th June from Doddington Church 2.00pm

Mindful walk – return to church for tea and cake

Please check church notices and online for any potential change in services to those published above.

www.kingsdownandcreekside.co.uk

Rector: Paula Jardine-Rose Parish Office: 01795 521831

Church Wardens Contact Details:

Newnham: Bruce Leckie (01795) 890550

Dave Buckett (01795) 890240

Doddington: Les Roberts (01795) 886332

Matthew Jevons (01795) 886341

Wychling: Robbie Jardine (01795) 886165

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Whenever I see this image of the Earth setting, with the surface of the moon in the foreground, taken by the Artemis II crew from the window of their spacecraft during their lunar flyby in April this year, it never fails to amaze me. If it has this effect from a photograph, how must it have been for the crew experiencing this from space.

In his recent article in the Church Times *Time and Space to contemplate*, Andrew Davison quotes one of the astronauts, Victor Glover, who when asked how he had felt said that he “wanted to thank God in public” for what he had just experienced.

The image inspired me to return to the first chapter of Genesis and read again the creation story.

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth” (Genesis1:1,16-17).

It is easy to lose sight of how extraordinary earth is, especially when our days are filled with what is happening around the world, the conflicts, the devastation, the suffering, poverty, homelessness, the damage to our planet and much more.

In this part of Kent, at this time of year, it is a privilege to witness the glories of creation, the vibrant colours of nature, something new appearing in the garden each day, in the hedgerows, the intense bird song from early in the morning, the new growth in the fields. Everywhere there is the abundance of nature, each day is a gift.

And for me this picture, *Earthset*, is a reminder of the beauty of our earth. We are stewards of this fragile planet, and it needs our care.

In the words of Sam Wells, the Vicar of St Martin in the Fields: “Why should Christians care about the fate of the Earth? Because cherishing creation is the way we show God our gratitude”.

Pim Baxter

Reader



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Doddington Village Hall (unless otherwise stated)

Weekly

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

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

Guitar Group: The Chequers, Wednesdays 7.30-9.30 pm. All levels welcome.

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

Monthly

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

Historical Research Group: 4th Monday 7.30pm. Exploring local history and archaeology in the three parishes. Now back meeting regularly. Contact: Karen Potts karenpotts@gmail.com

Games Afternoon: First Wednesday of each month, 1-3pm. Tea/coffee. Email Lesley Lesleyboast@live.co.uk

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

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

Claire Jones, KCC Community Warden – 07779 876993 claire.jones4@kent.gov.uk

PC Gary Morris, Swale Beat Officer for East Downs – gary.morris@kent.police.uk



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DODDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Chairman: Steve Coates 07960 110551, Vice Chairman: Colin Jones 886857,
Kevin Attwood 886395, Kirsty Clark 886109, Graham Cuthbert 886365,
Kevin Fraser 07581 884529 and Linda Lumsden 886376
Clerk: Wendy Licence 01622 739324
To email the Council please use: doddingtonpc@gmail.com**

This is a brief summary of the meeting held on 11 May 2026

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Karen Potts was presented with this year's Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) Award for her outstanding contribution to village life by Councillor Neville Hudson, Chair of KALC.

The Chairman's annual report can be found on the Parish Council's website:

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

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Cllr Steve Coates has been elected Chairman and Cllr Colin Jones elected as Vice Chairman for the municipal year.

HIGHWAYS

We continue to press Swale Borough Council for road sweep to be conducted and have asked our Ward Councillor to assist with this matter.

KCC Highways changed contractors on 1 May and they are unable to confirm a date for the inspection of the drains in the Old Lenham Road.

Anyone can report an issue with a road, potholes etc, by logging faults on the KCC portal:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-or-track-a-problem-on-the-road-or-pavement>

POLICE

A motor vehicle was stolen from a property in the Street on 23/04/26.

The next Police surgery will be held on Tuesday 2 June 2026 from 1pm-3pm at Painters Forstal Community Centre.

SPEED WATCH

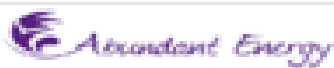
Speed Watch sessions continue in the village with encouraging results. Data from the sessions is sent to the Police who report an overall fall in the number of speeding drivers within Kent. The Speed Watch team is well supported by the Police who hold their own enforcement sessions within Doddington and Newnham.

Date of next Parish Council Meeting: Monday_8 June at 7.30pm in Doddington Village Hall

You are welcome to attend the meetings which include a public participation section where residents can, at the Chairman's discretion, address the Council for up to three minutes on any topic of concern.

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

Don't forget to sign up for email alerts.



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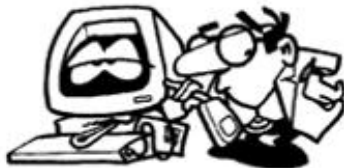
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NEWNHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr Emma Turner 07879 225544, Councillors Sue Gunner 890627,
Matthew Fray, Angela Dye, Don Cockrill and Jane Crampton.
Clerk: clerk@newnham-pc.gov.uk

This is a brief summary of the Parish Council Meeting held 7th May 2026 Full minutes can be found at www.newnham-pc.gov.uk

Election of the Chair - Cllr Cockrill proposed, seconded by Cllr Gunner and on being put to the meeting it was RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Turner as Chair.

Election of the Vice Chair - Cllr Turner proposed, seconded by Cllr Gunner and on being put to the meeting it was RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Cockrill as Vice Chair. The resignation of Pippa Pawlik was noted and a vote of thanks were given.

Matters Arising - Cllr Turner confirmed that the VAT had been refunded for the Highsted fund. Cllr Cockrill was still investigating a generator for the village hall and was looking at a battery option. There will be a fire risk assessment undertaken in due course.

Open Session - Cllr Cockrill noted that he was taking over the maintenance of the phone box. Thanks were given to Tony Gostling for his works to date.

Standing Orders - There being no amendments to the Standing Orders, Cllr Cockrill proposed, seconded by Cllr Gunner and it was RESOLVED to accept the Standing Orders.

Financial Regulations - There being no amendments to the Financial Regulations, Cllr Cockrill proposed, seconded by Cllr Gunner and it was RESOLVED to accept the Standing Orders.

Insurance - Cllr Turner proposed, seconded by Cllr Cockrill and on being put to the meeting it was RESOLVED to accept the quotation for insurance from Zurich.

Payments - The following invoices were presented and proposed by Cllr Turner, seconded by Cllr Cockrill and RESOLVED to make the payments:

Kent Association of Local Councils Membership £248 – TBC, Zurich
insurance £579.69, SLCC £550.00, Councillor expenses – tbc

Representatives

The following representatives were approved:

KALC SAC – Cllr Cockrill and Newnham Village Hall – Cllr Turner
Signage Cllr Cockrill had reported an old sign in Seed Road to KCC, but was advised that it did not belong to them. It was agreed that Cllr Cockrill would carry out maintenance works to it.

Matters for Report It was agreed to put Speedwatch on the next agenda. It was also noted that there had been reports of antisocial behaviour from motorbikes and any issues should be reported to the police.

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Update from Helen Whately MP

"I used to walk my children to our village school but had to stop this after someone nearly hit my child's pram...and I've always hacked horses along lanes, but in the last 5 years I've had countless near misses due to drivers speeding."

Those are the words of someone who took part in my road safety survey which was prompted by a constituent who suffered a hit and run while out riding her horse. Thankfully, in this case both horse and rider were OK.

Nearly 500 people took part and over 80% told me they feel "quite unsafe" or "so unsafe that they no longer walk, cycle or horse ride on our country lanes".

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to share their experiences with me which I am using in my work to make our country lanes safer. I will keep supporting the British Horse Society's Dead Slow campaign and press for driving safely on rural lanes to be included in Speed Awareness Courses to target drivers who have been speeding. I also want to see better promotion of the Government's THINK! Campaign for safer driving as more than half of the people who completed my survey had not heard of it.

It's not just horse riders who feel unsafe on our roads, another person said:

"I worry walking my dogs as I've had a few near misses in the past. I've also had four car accidents on this lane over the years due to the speed of other motorists".

As our lanes become more dangerous, people who live in villages and in the countryside are bearing the brunt – whether that's literally being in accidents, or because the danger means missing out on the pleasures and health benefits of getting out and about by foot, on bicycle or horseback.

I'm no fan of traffic calming measures; what I want to see is better, more careful driving in the countryside. If you are interested in my work on this, please follow me on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/HelenWhatelyMP/> to see my latest updates.

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

Best wishes



Helen

KEEP KENT SAFE
LATEST ALERTS



Alerts from Kent Trading Standards

Criminals have been calling residents in Canterbury, Sevenoaks, Chatham and Maidstone impersonating police officers.

Residents are being called and told:

- Their bank account has been compromised
- Their card needs replacing
- A family member has been arrested
- They must buy gold
- A courier will 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, and report to Kent Police <https://www.kent.police.uk/ro/report>.

Kent residents are being targeted by scam calls claiming to be Citizens Advice.

The calls are coming from withheld numbers and the scammers on the line are claiming that the recipients have outstanding debts that must be dealt with urgently. How to protect yourself:

- Do not share personal or financial information
- Hang up and don't engage with the caller
- Remember that Citizens Advice will never call people out of the blue about debts
- Report: <https://www.reportfraud.police.uk/>

Advice: Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline: 0808 223 1133

MOBILE LIBRARY



Sunnyside, Doddington.
Wednesday mornings
9.45am to 10.15am
(fortnightly excluding bank holidays).
10th June
24th June

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN READING?

WHICH BOOK? *MUDLARKING* by Lara Maiklem (2019)

WHAT'S IT ABOUT? – Mudlarking! The name was given to those making a subsistence living in the 18th and 19th century, scavenging items to sell from the riverbanks. The book follows Lara's fifteen years scouring the banks of the Thames from its tidal limit to the point where it meets the sea. Everything from neolithic flints to Victorian toys can be collected. There's a fabulous story about 'Doves Type'. 500,000 tiny pieces of a book printer's lead type were deliberately thrown into the river at Hammersmith in the early 20th century. Now finding the scarcer letters is the mudlarking equivalent of a metal detectorist finding gold.

WAS IT ON THE MOBILE LIBRARY? – No, ordered from the online catalogue. There is a second book 'A Mudlarking Year: Finding Treasure in Every Season' from 2024 available too.

'Mudlarking' is not just an account of Lara's finds, it's packed with the history of Thames and describes the contemplative nature of her search for urban solitude. Lara now lives in Kent and sometimes appears at Faversham Literary Festival.

Games Afternoon!

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

Tea & coffee available
Weds 3rd June, 1-3pm
Doddington Village Hall.

Thank you - Lesleyboast@live.co.uk

Doddington & District Village Show

Saturday 12th September
Doddington Village Hall

Show Schedules now available
from:

- Doddington Service Station
- Doughty's Butchers
- Newnham Church Porch
- Doddington Village Hall

Or email:

barbara7roberts@gmail.com



FAVERSHAM HOPPER COMMUNITY BUS

Runs Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.
KCC Bus passes are accepted,
otherwise, £3 per single journey.

Newnham, George Inn	0930.....1205.....1435
Doddington, Chequers	0934.....1208.....1438
Lynsted Church	0940.....1214.....1444
Teynham Railway Station	0949.....1220.....1450
Oare, Three Mariners	1000.....1230.....1500
Davington, Broomfield Rd	1007.....1237.....1507
Faversham Court St	1009.....12391509
Faversham Court St	1144.....1414.....1544
Faversham Station	1146.....1416.....1546
Bysing Wood Sainsburys	1151.....1421.....Drop-off
Newnham, George Inn	1205.....1435.....Drop-off
Doddington, Chequers	1208.....1438.....Drop-off

Full route and timetable details on the Faversham
Town Council website

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

THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

SHOW

Newnham Church

6th - 14th June
10am - 4pm

Come and see a collection of green-themed displays

- Information from local organisations •
- Seasonal flowers •
- Artworks inspired by nature •

Free entry
All welcome

THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK



The Churches of Doddington & Newnham are organising events as part of the Climate Coalition's Great Big Green Week starting with

Free Coffee Morning

Saturday 6th June
from 10am – 12noon at
Newnham Village Hall

We will have information and displays of products and ways to help care better for our environment

Come along to enjoy free Fairtrade tea, coffee & cake and to chat about ways to live a greener lifestyle!

Enquiries to Lissie Bayford:
lissie1710@gmail.com
07790 287878

Benefice of Kingsdown & Creekside
with High Downs

Pet Service

A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
FOR OUR ANIMAL FRIENDS

Doddington Church

Sunday 7th June
at 3.00pm

Short service of celebration and blessing for small caged animals and dogs on leads.
Sorry we cannot accommodate ponies or horses.

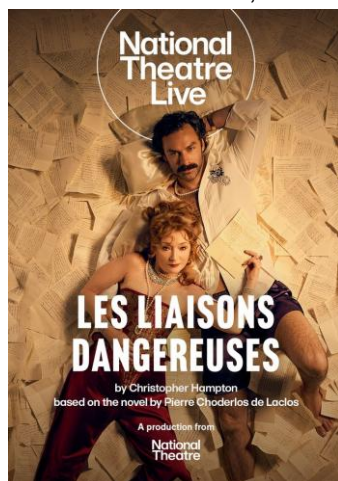
Followed by refreshments

National Theatre Live - the best of British theatre.

Filmed live productions on screen at
Doddington Village Hall.
Friday 26th June 7.30pm
£5. Bring your own drinks and nibbles.
Ice creams available.

Les Liaisons Dangereuses

by Christopher Hampton, based on the novel by Pierre Choderlos de Laclos, directed by Marianne Elliott



BAFTA Award-winner Lesley Manville (*Phantom Thread*) joins Aidan Turner (*Rivals*) in a striking new staging. Among the glittering salons of the super-rich, one misstep can mean ruin. Filmed live on stage at the National Theatre, Marianne Elliott (*Angels in America*) directs this thrilling game of love, lies, and social warfare.

NEWNHAM VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

The winning numbers in the
May Draws are as follows

1st 66

2nd 57

3rd 29

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

Cantiana Choir

Advance notice of Cantiana Choirs 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

Sunday 14th June

12.00noon to 5.00pm

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

Light lunches, drinks & cake at the
Village Hall

A chance to view private gardens
Ten gardens open on the day!

Further information:
barbara7roberts@gmail.com



The Queens Regimental Association

... would like to issue 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**
31st June, 30th Aug, 27 Sept, 18th Oct.

The Benefice of Kingsdown & Creekside with High Downs

Warm Hearts Gathering

Sun 21st June 10.30am -11.30am in Doddington Village Hall

Refreshments, time for chat, craft & fellowship
All Welcome



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t. 07966 968503 e. nt_interiors2025@outlook.com

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Ella



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Gel Manicure
Gel Re-Polish
BiabNails
G with tips
Biab no tips
feet Re-Polish
Pedicure
Soak Off only

Lashes & Brows

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Lash Lift no Tint
Lash Tint
Brow Tint
Lash & Brow Tint
Semi Permanent Brows

Lash Extensions

New Set
Infill
Lash Removal

Dermaplaning

Micro needling

To book an appointment, or for further information: Phone: 07494 293397
Email: ellakbeautytherapy@gmail.com



Experience Luxurious Sustainability at The Old Cherry Barn.

Discover eco-conscious elegance in our newly built (2021) luxury retreat, nestled in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

The open-plan living area is perfect for relaxing and dining with loved ones.

Cozy up by the log burner in winter, or open the bifold doors in summer to enjoy alfresco dining on the large private patio and garden.

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Nature Notes

I try and avoid Latin names in these Nature Notes, but pick up an identification guide or other wildlife book and you'll usually find them. They are worth getting to grips with, and are less scary (and more useful) than you think. Two-part, scientific names have been given to all described species since Carl Linnaeus invented the system in the 18th Century. Before that, species were named in Latin (since that was the written language used by scholars at the time), but names could be very long indeed as they were little more than brief descriptions of the species. The two-part name, or 'binomial' consists of the genus – that is, the group of plants to which the species is most closely related – followed by the species. So Creeping Buttercup is *Ranunculus repens*, Meadow Buttercup is *Ranunculus acris* and Bulbous Buttercup is *Ranunculus bulbosus*. Knowing the Latin name helps in understanding how plants are related: the white-flowered Water-crowfoots that grow in rivers and ponds are also in the genus *Ranunculus*, even though they look very dissimilar to other buttercups.

There are rules about how Latin names are applied which ensures a good deal of stability and consistency. Latin grammar is followed, though the words themselves do not need to be of Latin origin – all sorts of languages can be used, as well as proper nouns. So a recently described species of hawkweed was named *Hieracium attenboroughianum* after David Attenborough. Note that *attenboroughianum* (which just Latin for 'of Attenborough') is all lower case – this is because Latin names are always written with the name of the genus with a capital letter and the species name without (TV and papers almost always get this wrong). Putting the name in italics is also a convention, as it indicates the name is in a foreign language.

Don't worry about pronouncing these long Latin words, though. Virtually no-one follows classical Latin pronunciation, and most people simply read the words as if they were in English (in the example above, most botanists would say 'higher-racy-um' for *Hieracium*). So don't be frightened of using Latin names: they carry useful information, they help with communication, and they can actually be fun. Because one rule concerning Latin names is that a name sticks if it is the first to be correctly applied to a newly discovered species. So a genus of fossil snake found in Australia has been named *Montypythonoides*, while someone has named an American species of fly *Pieza kake* (try saying it, remembering to pronounce it as if it was in English) – and no-one in the scientific establishment can do anything about it.

Richard Moyse

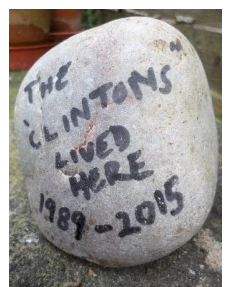
Notes from WDN History Group – 'Eyes Peeled'



It's always fun when you are entertained by something unexpected especially when you realise that someone set it up for you, hundreds of years ago. See if you can find these flint 'eyes' at Doddington Church (east wall) and Newnham Church (south wall). They are fun and make you think, 'how many times have I walked past and never noticed these', or 'were the 'eyes' just put there by chance or for fun', or 'did they mean something that we don't understand now'. Whatever the answer it's nice to engage with a medieval craftsman, who you can imagine monotonously splitting hundreds of flints in a day, finding the special 'eye' flint, and deciding to place them carefully in the wall, for their own and our enjoyment. We have heard these eyes referred to as the 'Spirit of the Flint' by a flint specialist but can't yet find out whether this is just the name that they gave to them, or whether they might have been something more significant in medieval culture. Either way keep you 'eyes peeled' because you'll probably spot them now wherever flint is the building material of choice.



And keep you 'eyes to the ground' as well for more fun finds. Here's some local modern-day creations that have been left to entertain now and into the future. A cheery smiley face (emoji perhaps) left in a repaired pothole by Wychling Pumping Station (perhaps just made as a bit of relief for a boring job). Finally, a message left to the future when a family moved from their home in West End Cottages, Doddington (not sure that the marker pen will last for hundreds of years!).





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

Eco friendly gardening tips for Great Big Green Week 2026, 6th – 14th June. Take a look at the display in Newnham Church for more ideas and suggestions, and to add your own.

Here are just a few ways to reuse household items in the garden. They're both practical and creative—you save money, reduce waste, and often end up with something more interesting than store-bought alternatives.

Containers & planters

Old items that can hold soil become instant planters. Think teapots, mugs, buckets, or even worn-out boots. Wooden drawers or crates make great herb boxes, and tin cans (with drainage holes punched in) work well for small plants. Just make sure anything you use can drain water properly—otherwise roots will rot.

Plastic bottles → mini greenhouses or watering tools or cane toppers

Cut the bottom off a plastic bottle and place it over seedlings to protect them from wind and cold—basically a DIY cloche. You can also poke small holes in the cap, fill the bottle with water, and stick it upside down in soil for slow irrigation. Plastic bottles also make good cane toppers where aesthetics are not a priority.

Egg cartons for seed starting

Cardboard egg cartons are perfect for germinating seeds. They're biodegradable, so you can plant the whole section directly into the soil once seedlings are ready.

Kitchen scraps → compost or regrow food

Vegetable peels, teabags, coffee grounds, and eggshells can go into a compost bin to enrich your soil.

Some foods—like spring onions, lettuce bases, or celery—can even regrow in water before being replanted.

Old colanders or baskets → hanging planters

They already have drainage holes, so they're ideal for hanging flowers. Line them with moss, coconut fibre, or even scrap fabric to hold soil in place.

Broken ceramics → drainage or decoration

Instead of throwing away cracked pots or plates, break them into pieces and use them at the bottom of planters to improve drainage—or as decorative edging in beds.

Toilet paper rolls → biodegradable plant starters

Fill them with soil and seeds, then plant the whole thing later. They break down naturally in the soil. They can also be cut/ripped up to add to compost.

Glass jars → propagation stations

Use old jars to grow plant cuttings in water. It's a simple way to multiply plants like herbs or houseplants before moving them outside.

Old furniture → raised beds or garden features

An old dresser with drawers removed can become a tiered planter. Even bed frames or pallets can be repurposed into vertical gardens.

Newspaper or cardboard → weed control

Lay sheets under mulch to block weeds while still letting water through. It's surprisingly effective and fully biodegradable.

Prunings → plant supports

Use shortly after cutting, when the prunings are more pliable and can be shaped and woven. Otherwise, soak for a few hours in water first.

Share your own ideas and projects:

- Facebook group: **Wild About Newnham**, - What's App group : **07504-954-544**,

- Mary, Hens Tooth 1a The Street

DIARY OF EVENTS - 2026

3 rd June 1-3pm	Games Afternoon (see page 14)	Doddington Village Hall
6 th June 10am-12 noon	Coffee Morning (see page 15)	Newnham Village Hall
6 th - 14 th June	The Great Big Green Week (see page 15)	Doddington & Newnham
7 th June 3pm	Pet Service (see page 15)	Doddington Church
8 th June 7.30pm	Doddington Parish Council	Doddington Village Hall
11 th June 7.30pm	Newnham Parish Council	Newnham Village Hall
13 th June 1-4pm	Newnham Fete	George Inn
14 th June 12-5pm	Doddington Open Gardens	Doddington
21 st June 10.30am	Warm Hearts Gathering (see page 16)	Doddington Village Hall
26 th June 2pm	Together in Boots (see page 3)	Doddington Church
26 th June 7.30pm	National Theatre Live (see page 15)	Doddington Village Hall
31 st June 10am	QRRRA Monthly Veterans' Breakfast (see page 16)	Jon Wright Memorial Field
11 th July 7.30pm	Cantiana Choir Concert (see page 16)	Doddington Church
8 th August 12.20-17.00pm	Doddington Ukulele Festival	Chequers Inn
12 th September	Doddington & District Village Show	Doddington Village Hall

and 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 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)

Copy preferred in email or as an attachment to: dnwnewsletter@outlook.com
or to Farthing Cottage, 50 The Street, Newnham, Sittingbourne, Kent. ME9 0LL

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