

Doddington, Newnham & Wychling Newsletter

APRIL 2026



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CHURCH SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE APRIL 2026

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
12th April	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB
<i>Easter 2</i>	10.30am	All Together Now	Lynsted
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Newnham
	10.30am	Holy Communion	Oare
	10.30am	Morning Prayer	Throwley
19th April	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB
<i>Easter 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
26th April	9.00am	Morning Prayer	via website & FB
<i>St George's</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 24th April 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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Dear friends

By the time you read this, the Church of England will have witnessed the enthronement of the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Sarah Mullally, the first ever female Archbishop. And in another historic first for modern times, she will have walked in pilgrimage from St Paul's Cathedral to Canterbury Cathedral passing through our villages and indeed visiting some of the churches here. When the new archbishop was a little girl contemplating her grown-up choices there was no such thing as the ordination of women within the Church of England, let alone consecration as a bishop or Archbishop. It has long been a controversial issue and if little Sarah articulated any such ambitions, they must have seemed completely unrealistic and beyond imagining.

So many things that we now consider commonplace must once have seemed beyond imagining.... putting dirty clothes into a machine that washes and dries them; communicating through cameras with family on the other side of the world; putting a human on the moon; the list is endless. But someone imagined these things.....things that seemed impossible, ideas that were probably laughed at.

However, for a new thing to come about there must be a death of the old thing. Some of these deaths are easily assimilated and welcomed – the death of unnecessary time and labour for example when a new machine is invented. But some deaths are painful and protracted. The acceptance of women's ordination necessitated the death of limiting ideas about women's place in the church (and the world).

If we look at history or the natural world, we see that death, resurrection and renewal are the pattern of everything, the pattern of life. And this can offer us a hopeful perspective when the world is looking dark. Nature shows us this at every moment if we care to see. By looking at a tiny seed, who could imagine the plant it might become? Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just one grain. But if it dies, it produces much grain and yields a harvest. (John 12:24) This is what the story of Easter teaches us: that Jesus passed through life into death and his resurrection into the ongoing Christ is the pattern for the whole of creation – us included! Our lives can contain many deaths and therefore many possibilities for renewal that may well be beyond our current imagining.

This Springtime spend a few minutes gazing at a flowering plant that catches your eye, contemplating its journey from seed or bulb buried in the winter soil to its beautiful incarnation. What is it that needs to die in your life so that Christ can bring about a vibrant new creation?

With love & light and the blessings of Christ

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



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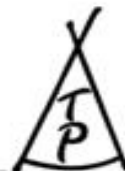
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Doddington Village Hall (unless otherwise stated)

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

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

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

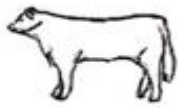
Helen Whately: MP for Faversham and Mid Kent - email: helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk

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 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 9 March 2026

HIGHWAYS

Following a request to refresh the white lines along the Faversham Road, KCC Highways have assessed the road and have reported that no action is necessary. The Council will continue to monitor this. The pot holes along this road have also been reported. Anyone can report an issue with a road by logging faults on the KCC portal:

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

A road sweep of Old Lenham Road was requested on 5 November 2025 but was not carried out despite numerous follow-ups and the Council has now raised a formal complaint.

The flooding issue by the water works at the west end of the village caused by a broken soakaway is being followed up. The regular six-month inspection of the drains in the Old Lenham Road has been requested.

PARKING ON PAVEMENTS

This continues to be an issue in the village and creates a hazard for pedestrians especially those with mobility problems and parents/ carers with push chairs. The Parish Council would like to remind residents to park considerately and, if you have visitors/tradespeople, please ask them not to park on the pavement.

Thank you for helping to keep pedestrians safe.

PLAYING FIELD

A tree inspection will be carried out and any necessary works completed. Household rubbish is being left in and, next to, the litter bins at the Playing Field. Please dispose of your rubbish by placing it in the appropriate household bin.

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: 26/500744/FULL Address: Gloucester House Dully Hill Doddington Kent ME9 0BY

Proposal: Alterations to existing fenestration, including insertion of new French doors to south elevation, relocation of door, installation of canopy portico, and insertion of new window to east elevation.

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

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

Awaiting decision

Date of next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 13 April 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.

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

Don't forget to sign up for email alerts

Date for your Diary

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

The KALC Community Award will be presented at the meeting.

Light refreshments will be served. All welcome



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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 12th March 2026 Full minutes can be found at www.newnham-pc.gov.uk

Public Session

The untaxed van at Wineycock had been removed, along with fly-tipping and emptying of the bin. The mud on the road was a continuing problem.

Cllr Turner confirmed that the unspent money for the Highsted development had been ringfenced and a decision was expected in June. The monthly police report, which showed no crime for the last month, was noted.

Community Resilience

Concern had been raised about the storage of a fuel powered generator. It was therefore agreed that Cllr Cockrill would continue to look into a battery powered generator , which could be stored in the village hall.

Wilding Gardens

Cllr Dye reported on the Newnham wilding group, noting that hedgehogs were this month's focus with mapping of corridors. An article would be in the newsletter. Local churches had asked the group to do something for Great Big Green Week. A bat walk was also discussed.

Annual Parish Meeting

A suggestion was made for a talk at the annual meeting, which the Clerk will look into. It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would start at 7pm on 7th May.

Absent councillors would be contacted to see if a 6pm start for the Annual Parish Council Meeting would be acceptable.

Items for Report

Cllr Cockrill attended the Eastern Area Committee, flood and cyber training as part of the community resilience. Cllr Turner attended the KALC Chairmen Conference and the KALC Swale Area Committee.

The April parish council meeting planned for 9th April is cancelled. The Annual Parish Meeting will now be on 7th May 2026.

NEWNHAM VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY

The winning numbers in the
February draw were

1st 37

2nd 3

3rd 92

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

Volunteer needed

Could you help deliver the village newsletter in Newnham?

There is a round of thirteen houses along The Street in the village (between The George and Sharsted Sports Club).

Please let us know if you if you could take on this delivery route. Contact

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Thank you!

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Forge & Gallery Open:

Tues -Fri 9am-5pm.

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2hr Forge "taster sessions"

Please contact us for more info.

Email: hammer.tongs@btinternet.com

rooms.forge@btinternet.com

Book "The Stableblock" Online at:

www.sandhurstfarmforge.co.uk



MOBILE LIBRARY

Sunnyside, Doddington.

Wednesday mornings

9.45am to 10.15am (fortnightly excluding bank holidays) **1st April, 15th April, 29th April**

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN READING?

The Puffin Keeper by Michael Morpurgo

WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

A lighthouse keeper, his friendship with a boy he saves and their friendship together with a lost and lonely puffin. Beautiful illustrations by Benji Davies in a delightful book. I like his books because although they are primarily written for children, they are wonderful and written in such a way that although sometimes sad, they always have a thought-provoking theme about different situations in the world or attitudes and often written through the eyes of a child or animal.

I recently saw Michael at the Faversham Literary Festival, and he captured the audiences' attention for an hour talking and even singing at the end. He talked about his new books - one that I bought and recommend **Funny Thing Getting Older**; **Black Beauty** that he has retold; and **More Tales from Shakespeare**. He described his life and many tales of how he created the books mostly from lived experiences. He also talked about his many years as a teacher and serving as a soldier. He set up a charity with his wife "Farms for City Children" which brings children from towns and cities all over the country to experience living and working together on a farm. He talked about his book "War Horse" that is probably very familiar to you. It was originally short listed for the Whitbread prize and didn't win. Roald Dahl made the comment "Good book, but children don't like history". How wrong could he have been... it went on to become a play originally at the National theatre and then the West End. Seven million people worldwide have now seen the play! In the words of Michael, "Listen to the children. It's their world as much as it's ours. More, really. They'll be here longer".



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 an 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.





Kingsdown & Creekside Churches

Great Big Green Week, from 6th to 14th June, is the UK's biggest celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. See more at: <https://www.greatbiggreenweek.com/> As part of our Ecochurch initiative, we will be hosting events during the Week. 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
- Exhibits and displays at Newnham Church

Potential subjects for exhibits and displays at Newnham Church include:

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

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.

If you would like to provide a display for Newnham Church, please get in touch with
bruce.leckie@live.co.uk, 01795 890550.

Doddington Village Open Gardens

will be on

Sunday 14th June

12.00pm to 5.00pm

Look out for more details nearer the date!

New timetable from April 2026. 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>.

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

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

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.

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.



Hungrytown

Live band – all the way from America!

Doddington Village Hall

Friday 1st May 7.30pm

Café Style Seating

Tickets: £10, from Chris Thompson

christhommo@btinternet.com

Hungrytown are a Vermont-based folk duo featuring songwriter Rebecca Hall and multi-instrumentalist Ken Anderson. With over fifteen years of international touring, their live shows offer an intimate, attentive listening experience.

**National Theatre Live - the best of British theatre.
Filmed live productions on screen at Doddington
Village Hall.**

Friday 24 April, 7.30pm

£5. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Ice creams available.

Bryan Cranston (*Breaking Bad*) and Marianne Jean-Baptiste (*Hard Truths*), feature in a five star, triumphantly acclaimed new production of Arthur Miller's classic play. When wartime delivers profits for Joe, it comes at a price when his partner is charged with criminal manufacturing deals, and his eldest son goes missing in action. Will peacetime bring peace of mind, or will he be confronted by the consequence of his actions?





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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.

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Nature Notes

Bee activity has increased in recent weeks, with the queens of several species of bumblebees now out of hibernation and starting to found new colonies. Those I have seen include the black-and-yellow striped **Buff-tailed** and **Garden Bumblebees**; the **Early Bumblebee** (black-and-yellow with an orange tail-end); the **Red-tailed Bumblebee** (all black other than the red tail); and the ginger **Common Carder Bee**.

Mining bees are also busy. On the bare, compacted mud of footpaths, you may spot little mounds of freshly dug soil which show where a mining bee is digging a new nest burrow – sometimes there may be clusters of dozens or even hundreds of these burrows within a small area. The **Sharp-collared Furrow Bee** is a small, black bee which is often responsible for large aggregations of nest-burrows of this type. In lawns at this time of year, little ‘volcanoes’ of soil are often produced by **Tawny Mining Bees**, the females of which have a dense coat of bright orange-brown hairs; the slimmer males are not as furry, but have a distinctive white moustache of hairs on the face. Tawny Mining Bees are good pollinators of fruit, having a fondness for currant flowers, so are very welcome on the allotments and in the garden.

It turns out that wild bees may actually be more important for crop pollination than honeybees. A 2016 scientific study of apple pollination in New York State found that there was better seed set where wild bee populations were more diverse and abundant, but that seed set was not affected by increased abundances of honeybees. Meanwhile, a study in the UK in 2011 found that managed honeybees could account for a third of farmland crop pollination: though this is a pretty large amount for a single species, it does strongly suggest that the majority of crop pollination is from wild pollinating insects.

NB The Field Studies Council produces an excellent guide to 28 species of bees found in gardens. Just £4! Get it here <https://www.field-studies-council.org/shop/publications/bees-identification-guide/>.

Richard Moyse

News from WDN History Group – Bartmann Goes Global

You’re probably familiar with Bartmann jugs from visiting museums or antique shops, or perhaps you own one. This photo from the Museum of London collection shows the distinctive design with a bearded face, a medallion and a bulbous shape. They have other names including 'Pope Jugs', D'Alva jugs', 'Bellarmine', 'Cologne pots' and 'Flemish pots'. From 1500 to 1750 vast numbers of these stoneware jugs were produced in the Rhineland, Germany, and were mainly exported to England, the Netherlands and northern Europe. Initially they were luxury items used to serve wine at the dining table, later becoming more generally used for storage and export of goods. In the 17th century they were sometimes used as ‘witches’ bottles’. The time frame for production coincided with expanding colonisation by European countries, so Bartmann jugs moved around the globe. They turn up in archaeological digs, from shipwrecks and in early settlements such as Jamestown, Virginia, the first English settlement in America. The distinctive design inspired pottery designs in other countries as far afield as Japan.



Currently there is an Anglo-German research project called ‘Bartmann Goes Global’ looking at these globe-trotting jugs. You can see more about the project here <https://www.mola.org.uk/discoveries/news/introducing-bartmann-goes-global>

One of the aspects of this project is to record Bartmann jug distribution and so Doddington is now on the map. With permission from Edward Oldfield as landowner, WDN History Group has made a small contribution to a global project! Not a complete handsome jug as seen in the photo, but a few small fragments of the very distinctive stoneware found in a field close to Doddington Village Hall. See <https://www.bartmanngoesglobal.org/> for our dot on the map.



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

This month:

Golf Courses, Butterflies & Brain Health - What Do They Have in Common?

Golf courses - neat and carefully managed; butterflies - delicate indicators of a healthy ecosystem; dementia - one of the most significant health challenges facing families today. At first glance, they have nothing in common, but all are connected by how we manage the landscapes around us. Research is increasingly exploring how routine use of herbicides and pesticides affects not only insects and wildflowers, but also human health.

What happens when we prioritise “weed-free”?

Research suggests it goes further than the lonely caterpillar, unable to continue its life cycle. Did you know - a caterpillar exposed to weed-killer either dies or is unable to transform into a butterfly? A caterpillar can take as little as 3 weeks to reach pupation. In that time, a single application of herbicide can mean there is no butterfly at all. If you view caterpillars as pests, that may feel like success. Over time, as those summers of herbicides and pesticide stack up, you may simply notice there are fewer butterflies than there were when you were a child.

However, the visible losses in our gardens may be only part of the story.

Research into pesticide exposure and brain health has largely focused on agricultural workers, where long-term contact with certain chemicals has been linked to increased risk of neurological diseases. More recently, researchers are examining other intensively managed green spaces. A 2024 study* found higher rates of dementia in people living within around a mile of golf courses, highlighting proximity to pesticide-treated land as a possible factor worthy of further investigation. Chemicals applied on fairways (and your gardens) can wash into ponds and ditches, reaching areas where people and wildlife live.

The evidence is still developing, but raises questions about how routinely we use chemical weed control. From golf courses to garden paths, the way we manage our green spaces shapes more than appearances - it shapes ecosystems, and potentially long-term health.

What We Can Do: Change begins with realising the impact of even a single spray, and committing to ditch the chemicals.

Hand-pulling weeds from between paving stones, using a hoe instead of a spray, letting a patch of lawn grow long enough for clover and dandelions to flower and choosing to see a “weed” as a wild plant serving bees and butterflies make huge headway towards change, or allowing the wonderful cycle of nature to manage our “weeds” for us as they consume it as a food source.

Perfectly tidy is not the same as healthy. A slightly wilder verge, a few dandelions in bloom, or a moss-softened path may be signs of something far more valuable - a landscape that supports life.

The choices we make in managing our green spaces ripple outward. What we remove, what we allow, and what we value, all shape the world we pass on.

*Study published in JAMA Network Open

Thank you

To those who supported the Coffee Morning, we raised £180 for Porchlight.

I then completed the **Firewalk** on 5th March by walking over hot wood embers at an average temperature of 1200 degrees C. I also took part in a mind over matter exercise by breaking an arrow with my neck!!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to my fund raising. Altogether the 40 of us who completed the Firewalk raised in excess of £14,000.00 to help those who are vulnerable in Kent,

Alli

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**
24th May, 31st June, 30th Aug, 27
Sept, 18th Oct.

HEART OF KENT HOSPICE BLUEBELL WALK 2026 – 3rd May 2026

As you know Shaun the big boss of S&D Sewage Services passed away on 20th December 2020. He spent his final days in the hospice and for the past 4 years we have taken part in the walk to raise much needed funds to say thank you in which many of you have sponsored myself, Dan and the Shaun's Gang.

Last year with your help we raised an amazing £1,222.00 which Dan and I thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

They are a fabulous organisation and have taken care of not only Shaun but my brother and other family members. Anything you can give would be very much appreciated.

If you would like to sponsor us, please follow this link: <https://hokh.enthuse.com/pf/ella-oliver-07809>

We thank you for taking the time to read this
Lou & Dan
S&D Sewage Services Ltd.

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



DIARY OF EVENTS - 2026

1 st April 9.45-10.15am	Mobile Library (see page 13)	Sunnyside, Doddington
1 st April 1.00-3.00pm	Games Afternoon (see page 19)	Doddington Village Hall
13 th April 7.30pm	Doddington Parish Council	Doddington Village Hall
15 th April 9.45-10.15am	Mobile Library (see page 13)	Sunnyside, Doddington
17 th April 7.30pm	Valley Players Present ...	Doddington Village Hall
18 th April 7.30pm	'Murder On The Ward' (see page 15)	
19 th April 10.30am	Warm Hearts Gathering (see page 5)	Doddington Village Hall
24 th April 2.00pm	Together in Boots (see page 5)	Doddington Church
24 th April 7.30pm	Newnham Village Horse Racing Night (see page 15)	Newnham Village Hall
24 th April 7.30pm	All My Sons by Arthur Miller National Theatre Live screening (see page 15)	Doddington Village Hall
29 th April 9.45-10.15am	Mobile Library (see page 13)	Sunnyside, Doddington
1 st May 7.30pm	Hungrytown - live music (see page 15)	Doddington Village Hall
7 th May 7.00pm	Newnham Annual Parish Meeting	Newnham Village Hall
11 th May 7.00pm	Doddington Annual Parish Meeting	Doddington Village Hall
15 th May 7.30pm	Talk: 'Tales of Tudor Espionage' (see page 14)	Doddington Village Hall
22 nd May 2.00pm	Together in Boots (see page 5)	Doddington Church
24 th May 10.00am	QRRRA Monthly Veterans' Breakfast (see page 19)	Jon Wright Memorial Field
6 th - 14 th June	The Great Big Green Week (see page 14)	Doddington & Newnham
14 th June 12.00-5.00pm	Doddington Open Gardens	Doddington
26 th June 2.00pm	Together in Boots (see page 5)	Doddington Church
11 th July 7.30pm	Cantiana Choir (see page 15)	Doddington Church
8 th August 12.20-5.00pm	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 for the May newsletter must be received by 6pm on the 20th of April.

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

Copy preferred in email or as an attachment to: dnwnewsletter@outlook.com

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