



ELHAM NEWSLETTER

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JULY 2026



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Charity No 1024757

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Welcome to the Elham Newsletter - July 2026

The picture on the front cover shows Roger Newman with some Elham Valley bees. He has worked tirelessly this past month collecting many local swarming bees and relocating them, to ensure the production of Elham Valley Honey and keep the bees (and us!) alive and safe. Thank you Roger!

Next month there is no Newsletter as this is the month all the invoices go out to our advertisers whose payments contribute to the cost of Elham Newsletters, so this edition includes items that may be of interest to you in August. Have a look!

If you are inspired by a view, take a picture and send it to elhamnewsletter@gmail.com for inclusion on the front cover. If you know of an event or activity in September 2026 please send details before August 13 to me at elhamnewsletter@gmail.com.

During the summer weeks, enjoy the outdoors and the sunshine, take a few risks but make sure you stay safe, and maybe give a thought to the team who produce, proofread, sort and deliver this Newsletter free of charge to your door. Elham Village Hall Trustees are extremely grateful to all of the volunteers who ensure that you receive it each month... thank you to all of you - you know who you are. Have a well-earned break!

Renee Bull Editor

What's On, In and Around ELHAM

Date	Event	Time	Location	Contact	Page
Wednesday 1 July	Social Snacks and Cinema	19.00 for 19.30	Peggy Pike Room Elham Village Hall	Jan Stanyon 01303 840820	4
Sunday 5 July	Elham Valley Walkers	10.00	CT4 6XY Check QR code	Website	29
Saturday 11 July	Cantores Lyminge Prom	16.00	Lyminge Village Hall	See Poster	16
Thursday 16 July	Elham Friendship Lunch Club	12.30	St Mary's Church Hall	01303 470637	27
Thursday 16 July	Elham Gardening Society talk	19.30	Peggy Pike Room EVH	See website	19
Saturday 18 July	EVHA Volunteer's ' Day	10.00—13.00	Elham Village Hall	See poster	5
Sunday 19 July	Rhodes Minnis Charity Open Day	11.00 - 16.00	Rhodes Minnis CT4 6XU	See poster and website	16
Saturday 25 July	Elham Gardening Society Summer Show	14.00	Elham Village Hall	See Poster	19/20 /21
August 1	Acrise Festival	10.0 - 17.00	St Martin's ChirchCT18 8JZ	See Church Note	18
Sat 3/Sun 4 Oct	7 Artists Exhibition	tbc	St Mary's Church	See Poster	22
Friday 16 October	EVHA Quiz Night	19.00	Elham Village Hall	tba	n/a
Saturday 14 November	Toccata and Treats Friends of St Mary's	Contents	St Mary's Church	See advert	16

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ELHAM VILLAGE HALL

THE PERFECT VENUE FOR EVERY OCCASION

Situated in the beautiful Elham Valley, our modern village hall offers convenient and flexible facilities. Ideal for small or large occasions, happy or sad, from business meetings to christenings, wakes, birthday parties and weddings.



Approved by Kent County Council as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and the formation of civil partnerships.



BUSINESS MEETINGS



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Visit our website www.elhamvillagehall.co.uk



Contact **Olha Bychuk**
Mob: 0774 6790 618
booking@elhamvillagehall.co.uk

Social, Snacks and Cinema

Elham Village Hall
7.30pm
On the first Wednesday of the month

EVH
£5.00
for everyone

Doors Open 7.00pm
Pay bar available from 7.00pm

Join us for a relaxed evening

SOCIAL, SNACKS AND CINEMA

Wednesday 1st July

Come along To tHe cosy PEggy Pike Room at Elham Village Hall and enjoy an evening of soCial frivolity. We Have a wONderful showing foR you this month. The bAr will be open from 7pm so there is pLenty of time to get a drink and a snack and chat to friends.

Entry is just £5 on the door. See you there Jan Stanyon



Opening?

I couldn't resist taking a picture of the hard-working guys, fitting out the new shop in Elham.

Perhaps it is already open now, but at the time of this picture it was nothing but industry!

Editor

EVHA
ELHAM VILLAGE HALL ASSOCIATION

130 Club

★ ★ MONTHLY WINNERS ★ ★

1 st Prize (£32)	122 Janice Turner
2 nd Prize (£20)	23 Carol Stevens
3 rd Prize (£13)	77 Miranda Weller

Please contact Martin Turner

☎ 01303 840804 | ✉ jgt867@aol.com

★ 12 monthly draws ★ £12 pa for each number ★ Three prizes each month
The 130 club is run by Elham Village Hall Association (est. Reg Charity No. 1024757)

Application Form

(Applicants must be over 16 years old)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Quantity of numbers required _____ at £1 per month - minimum period of 12 months which equals £12 per number.

Total Payment enclosed: £ _____

I have made an online payment Yes/No

Signed: _____



* Please ensure you fill in all your details above or we cannot allocate you a number in the Elham Village Hall 130 Club.

* By signing this form, you are declaring that you have received and accepted the rules of The Elham Village Hall 130 Club

* Please make your cheque payable to: Elham Village Hall Association 100 CLUB

* Please find below account details if you would prefer to make an online payment:

Account Name: Elham Village Hall Association 100 Club

Sort Code: 30-93-34

Account Number: 52257560

Please use your NAME as a reference

* Please return this form, with your payment, to Martin Turner, Little Ginny, Exted Hill, Elham, Canterbury, Kent CT4 6UD. You can also leave the form in the Village Stores (box attached to the door leading into the shop)

Please inform us of any changes to your details.

MANY HANDS MAKE ELHAM VILLAGE HALL WORK BETTER.....

On you are invited to the *Volunteers' Day* at the Village Hall on

SATURDAY 18 JULY 10.00 – 13.00.

Many different jobs need to be done in order that your village hall stays the attractive facility that it is. Please join us for all or part of the day.

Coffee, cake and lunch is provided. Whatever your skills, your contribution of time will be most welcome.

Just turn up at the hall... dress strictly 'working gear'.

Elham Village Hall Committee



If getting to the library is difficult...

We'll bring the books to you!



Our Home Library Service is free, friendly and available to anyone who needs it.

To apply, and to check if you are eligible, visit our website or call us on 03000 41 31 31 kent.gov.uk/homelibraryservice



It Was Fun!

A sociable evening, new friendships created and new board games learnt!



Kent Libraries' Home Library Service – bringing the books to you

Kent Libraries' Home Library Service brings the library to you. It's a free service that delivers books and audiobooks straight to people's homes, making it easier to enjoy reading and stay connected to library services.

The service is available to anyone who finds it difficult to visit a library, whether that's because of mobility issues, long-term health conditions, sensory needs, mental health challenges, or caring responsibilities. People of all ages can use the service.

Each delivery is personalised, with books and audiobooks chosen to match individual interests. Items are delivered by friendly volunteers, who provide a regular and reliable service and a familiar face.

The Home Library Service helps people continue enjoying reading, learning and routine, even when getting out and about is difficult. It supports independence and keeps people connected to their local library in a way that works for them.

Kent Libraries is also looking for volunteers to support the Home Library Service. It's a flexible role that fits around your availability, with most volunteers giving just a few hours a month. You don't need library experience, just a friendly manner, reliability, and a willingness to help others enjoy reading. For many volunteers, the role is a rewarding way to give something back, meet people in their community, and make a simple but meaningful difference to someone's day.

To find out more, to use the service, or to volunteer, visit

kent.gov.uk/homelibraryservice



Are creaky painful joints getting you down?

With a comprehensive initial assessment and treatment plan, our Osteopaths can help you with that.

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Our Clinic is open 6 days a week and with additional access to our online diary there is no need to wait. You can book a time and day that suits you.

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At AK Healthcare we treat and manage a wide array of musculoskeletal conditions, using hands on treatment and guided exercise.

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to live a life free from
the limitations of pain.

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www.AKHealthcare.org.uk

07904311554

Or scan the QR code:



AK Healthcare
4 Station Rd, Lyminge

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOUR

Of all the folk I asked this month to be the subject of 'Know Your Neighbour', NOBODY I asked wanted the honour, so as the editor of the Elham Newsletter I am the neighbour that you can get to know a bit about this month.



I have written in every edition since July 2019 asking for contributions from YOU the readers. Some have responded by sending their photos, views and suggestions, notably Alfie Gay, Jim Clements, Monica Holland, Nigel Thomas, 'John', Pauline Gladstone Barrett and Chrissie Upson, Anne Leva and of course the local societies and clubs. 'Village Forum' was created for individual contributions, to give a voice to a variety of folk, and organisations without charge.

In the past I sought ideas from others and a variety of features have been tried:

- Be busy in your garden Sept 2019
- Know Your Neighbour
- Reasons to be Cheerful 1-2-3
- Love Your Landscape
- Believe It Or Not
- Wordsearch
- Elham Observations
- Other Idioms
- A Good Read

If you enjoyed reading any of these items, perhaps you would like to take up the baton and make a contribution to your Elham Newsletter .

But really the issue is about Know Your Neighbour!

These are the generous folk who have bared their soul and been interviewed with the same searching questions, and I thank them for it:

- | | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Liz Rutland | Phil Capon | Peter Morgan | Ian Dodd |
| Barbara Gosbee | Lian Baker | Kelli Haynes | Patrick Wheeler |
| Bryan Badham | Pam Flight | Chris Baillie Marsh | Peter Corkhill |
| Nigel Thomas | Trevor Gasson | Mark Berry | Pippa Hope |
| Steve Barrett | Chantal Wood | Mark Greenaway | Nigel Woodley |
| Gerry Newman | Eric Gaskell | Kathryn Haylett | Jane Brennan |
| Sue Winter | Ed Dunne | Rachel Boulden | Tricia Nelson |
| Pauline Barrett | Fiona Turney | Lorna Astbury | Roger Smith |
| Chrissie Upson | Barbara Athow | Eddie Nelson | Paul Wilkin |
| Jan Stanyon | Ann Laker | Sharon Jacob | Claire Hamilton |
| Gabriel Facchini | Janene Moat | Robert Bagley | Avril Sawyer |
| Shelley May | Amanda Wales | Vince Hill | Stephen Cupit |
| Barry Flanagan | Iona | Lucy Kidd | Ian Sladden |
| Melissa Shearman | Chris Baillie Marsh | Chris Bates | Fiona Stephens |
| Richard Hinds | Mark Berry | Keith Mortimer | |
| Mick Matcham | Mark Greenaway | Roger Newman | |
| Fiona Johnson | Kathryn Haylett | Max Laker | |
| Jade Hawkes | Rachel Boulden | Anni Gallon | |
| Reg Hoare | Debbie Francis | Robey Hilliard | |

So, if you would like Know Your Neighbour to continue, please send suggested names of people that could be interviewed. Or maybe YOU would like to be the subject of Know Your Neighbour... either case, please email your suggestions to elhamnewsletter@gmail.com.

Thank you .

Renee Bull, editor.

Full minutes can be seen on the Parish Council website and on the notice board by the Rose and Crown bus stop. Editor



ELHAM PARISH COUNCIL

clerk@elhampc.co.uk

Your Parish Council



Kevin Lamb
Chair of PC
01303 840215



Christeen Chapman
Deputy Chair of PC,
Planning lead
07973765056



Geoff Clements
Tree warden
01303 840255



Brian Swan
Member of PC
01303 840006



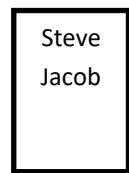
Kevin Allen
Member of PC
Highways lead
01303 862087



Chris Francis
Member of PC
01303
840502



Jeremy
Osbourne
Member of PC



Steve
Jacob
Member of PC

Combined Minutes of both the Annual Meeting of the Parish & the Annual Meeting Of the Parish Council held on Monday 11th May 2026

Those Present: Councillors: K Lamb (Chair), C Chapman (Vice Chair) B Swan, G Clements, C Francis, J Osbourne and fifteen members of the public.

Apologies: K Allen

Chair Report –

For those of you who are unaware our clerk has moved on to pastures new. Currently we are sharing the workload, with Christeen doing a fabulous job in ensuring that the key tasks are completed. Christeen, Brian, and I are sharing the admin tasks and temporarily covering the role of RFO. So, apologies if things take a bit longer but normal business will be resumed as soon as we appoint a new Clerk and RFO. I would like to run through some of the things the parish council does as people's perceptions of what the PC is for and what we actually do in reality are often quite far removed. This is not an exhaustive list

Precept: One of the key things we do is guarding the public purse. We are responsible for setting the precept each year. This is the money that we ask the District Council to take out of your pockets for Parish expenditure each year. This year it was about £ 88,000. This works out at about £58 per household per year. Just over a pound a week. 15 pence a day, so you get all of what the pc does for very little.

Parish councillors get nothing. We do not get paid at all. We get no allowance. You get all of our time and effort for free.

I am just going to run through where that astonishing £1.10 goes. This not in any particular order of priority or importance:

Administration and governance : We organise the precept and we try to make sure the council is run in a sensible fashion. We employ a clerk for that, and the clerk is also our responsible financial officer.

Burial ground administration: This is a key legal responsibility for us and is very time consuming. Brian has very kindly agreed to take on this role for the moment. This involves dealing with people trying to buy plots, liaising with funeral directors when people are being interred, and agreeing memorials and headstones. Then there are people looking for graves etc where people were buried a long time ago. The records need to be kept up to date.

Grounds maintenance: We maintain, Via a contractor, various grounds, verges, and open spaces around the village including the Gore, and the King George the Fifth play park. It can be contentious sometimes striking a balance between what the public want. Some people would like to see unkept wild spaces while others like to see neatly manicured lawns. PFE currently runs the KGV playpark for us. PFE was set up as a charity a long time ago for that purpose, to provide a playpark for youngsters that was sadly lacking in the village. This has been very successful.

The gore has had numerous uses over its life : it has been a cricket pitch, football pitches, a scout hut sheep grazing. At the moment we are working very hard to raise funds to finance new facilities. We have a very successful Elham Valley Football team, and we would like to see their success expanding into creating opportunities for juniors, girls, and veterans .

Allotments: The PC provide allotments adjacent to the burial ground. I believe there are one or two spares at the moment. The allotments are currently run by the Elham Allotment partnership.

War Memorial: We are responsible for maintaining the War Memorial. There are currently some on-going maintenance issues which the pc are hoping to resolve in time for this year's remembrance service which the pc also organise in conjunction with the RBL and the church

... cont/



Highways: We deal with KCC’s highways representatives. We have a very good relationship with them. We have asked them to please prioritise certain issues and they have been very helpful when funding constraints allow. We had a very productive meeting during the flooding issues with Chris Hespe our KCC councillor and his team and they were very helpful in explaining the way forward and the actions they were taking on our behalf.

Churchyard. The parish council, according to available records, is responsible for maintaining the closed Churchyard. This is distinct from the burial ground. That means that we are responsible for most things in it, apart from the church, including the wall around it and the gates etc. Owing to a catastrophe that befell the wall its cost about £ 50,000 to put right. In the last couple of years, the precept has had to be hiked up to cover that. It is an awfully large amount of money, and we are doing our best to make sure that this does not happen again. We are currently looking at a maintenance operation where we have a budget set aside for an ongoing running maintenance for the churchyard walls.

Twinning: Councillors put a lot of effort into organising a twinning with Ambleteuse, over several years. We have now handed this to the Elham Twinning Association who hopefully are going to carry this forward.

Community orchard: This is a long-term project that was kindly funded by a grant from KCC and is currently making good progress.

Environment group: This was set up by the Parish Council several years ago and thanks to the efforts of the very small band of original members they are now going from strength to strength, again, funded by the Parish Council.

Planning applications: This takes up a considerable amount of time. This is Christeen’s role and she puts a huge amount of effort into this. It is a key part of local democracy. It is local people voicing an opinion and trying to persuade the district that we want a say in what happens here.

Correspondence: We do not get a huge amount, but it is time consuming. There are very good, legitimate grounds for asking the parish council what we do and for having an interest in what is happening locally. We try very hard as a Parish Council to be open and visible in what we do. All our meetings are open to the public, information is published in the notice board, on the Parish council website and in the newsletter. All the information is available for all to see. Every year there is a thing called the “exercise of public rights,” and that means for several weeks people can pore through the financial records. By arrangement, you can come and see income and expenses, all the bank statements, receipts etc. However, this has to be supervised, to ensure the safety of the records and for GDPR, so there is a cost to that for us all. This is not a new facility.

Moving forward I would like to outline some of our key plans for this year.

Organising contractors for long term regular maintenance of the churchyard wall. Ensuring that King George V play park has a viable long-term strategy. The playground equipment is getting older and that has got to be replaced at some stage. Ensuring that the Gore is retained as a long-term valuable asset for the village by refurbishing the facilities and ensuring varied sporting and leisure opportunities.

Parish woodland. George Palmer left a piece of woodland to the Parish Council as a gift to provide an income and a facility for the Parish. We are currently working through the legal process and hope to shortly begin organising the large amount of work required in managing this new asset.

Kent Council Councillors Report, District Councillors Reports and reports from the following Village Organisations, can all be viewed on The Parish Council website, www.elhampc.co.uk (Minutes)

- Elham Newsletter
- The Community Shed
- Elham Environment Group
- Elham Farmers Market
- Elham Valley Cricket Club.
- Elham Historical Society
- Elham Twinning Association
- Elham Primary School
- Elham Valley Football Club
- Friends of St Marys
- Play for Elham Charity
- Elham Gardening Society
- Elham Neighbourhood Watch
- Royal British Legion
- Elham and Acrise Samaritans
- Elham Allotment Partnership TEAP
- Elham Sports Club
- Elham Village Hall
- Elham Valley Walkers
- Elham Pétanque Club
- Elham Methodist Church.
- Elham Friendship Lunch Group

**Public Session**
 Bequeathed Woodland

Chris Burrows enquired about the woodland which has been bequeathed to the Parish Council by George Palmer. The Chair advised that the Council were in the process of instructing solicitors. However, until legal ownership has been formally transferred, the Council is unable to **insure** the land or take any further substantive action.

 Management Plan and Funding

Stephen Scoffham asked whether a Management Plan was in place. It was confirmed that this will be developed at the right time. He also suggested exploring a Folkestone & Hythe District Council (FHDC) grant to help offset associated costs. It was noted that essential works will be required to ensure the land is safe, and these are likely to incur significant expense.

 Long-Term Strategy

Jim Clements asked about the Parish Council's longer-term strategy. The Chair explained that the bequest from George Palmer includes specific conditions. The woodland, which is approximately 7 acres in size, currently generates a modest income and is expected to become a valuable community asset for the village.

 Clerk Recruitment

Renee Bull asked for an update regarding the appointment of a new Clerk. It was reiterated that the Council remains in a transitional phase. This had been covered in the Chairman's report.

 Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)

Anne Leva enquired about the RFO role. This was covered in the Chairman's report, but members were again advised that this function is currently being covered by the Vice Chair, with support from another councillor.

Annual Meeting of the Parish closed 7.48pm, which was followed by The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, where 6 members of the public remained.

Election of Chair - Nominations were requested for Chair for the coming year; Cllr Lamb was proposed by Cllr Chapman and seconded by Cllr Swan. There being no further nominations it was resolved that Cllr Lamb was duly elected. The Acceptance of Office form was duly signed.

Election of Vice-Chair – Nominations were requested for Vice-Chair for the coming year. Cllr Chapman was proposed by Cllr Lamb and seconded by Cllr Swan. There being no further nominations it was resolved that Cllr Chapman was duly elected. The Acceptance of Office was duly signed.

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI), Other significant interests (OSI's) or a voluntary interest relating to items on the agenda.

None were declared.

Minutes- The Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 13th April 2026 were approved and were signed as a true record by the Chair of meeting.

Co-option

1) It was agreed that Steve Jacob would be co-opted to fill the casual vacancy.

2) It was noted that Steve Jacob signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed in the presence of the Members of Office.

Committees and Outside Bodies – it was agreed that these appointments would be deferred to the Parish Council Meeting on 1st June 2026.

Standing Orders & Financial Regulations

Following the Auditor's advice at the Internal Audit on 28 April 2026, it was confirmed that an annual review of the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations is not required unless specific amendments are introduced. In line with this guidance, the Council agreed to adopt a 3–5-year review cycle, with the most recent review having taken place in August 2025.

Finance

1. The Council reviewed the 2025-2026 Internal Auditor Report and agreed no actions.

2. The Council reviewed and approved the unaudited accounts for 2025-2026.

3. The Council reviewed and approved the effectiveness of the system of internal control; this was signed by the Chair and Vice Chair at the time of the meeting and witnessed by all present.

4. The Council approved the Annual Governance Statement for 2025-26, Section 1 of the AGAR for the year ending 31st March 2026, signed prior to the meeting by the Vice Chair and signed by the Chair at the meeting and witnessed by all those present.

5. The Council approved the Accounting Statements for 2025-26, Section 2 of the Agar for year ending 31st March 2026. Signed prior to the meeting by the acting RFO/ Vice Chair and signed by the Chair at the time of the meeting and witnessed by all those present.

6. The Council approved the supporting Bank Reconciliation as of 31st March 2026, this was signed by the Chair and Vice Chair at the time of the meeting and witnessed by all those present.

The Council approved the explanation of the significant variations from 2024-25 to this year 2025-26, this was signed by the Chair and Vice Chair at the time of the meeting and witnessed by all those present.

To approve the dates set for the period for the exercise of public rights (3rd June 2026 – 14th July 2026) were agreed.

The Accounts from April 2026 were a true record and were signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

The Bank Reconciliation from April 2026 was a true record as true record and was signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

The April 2026 invoices were agreed, and payments were approved.



Planning

The following applications were considered and comments agreed:

26/0523/FH – The Croft, Canterbury Road, Elham CT4 6UG – Single storey front extension including front porch.

Agreed views and comments of the Parish Council: **NO OBJECTION.**

26/0534/FH9(LBC) – Monks Cottage, 3 Culling Hill, Elham, CT4 6TE -Listed buildings consent for the installation of EV charging point. Agreed views and comments of the Parish Council: **NO OBJECTION.**

26/0575/FH & 26/0577/FH(LBC) – 1 Old Water Farm House, Duck Street, Elham CT4 6TW - Listed building consent & planning for replacement door and windows to front and side elevation. Agreed views and comments of the Parish Council: **NO OBJECTION.**

26/0647/FH – 1 Lime Villas, High Street, Elham CT4 6TA – Installation of 2 no. rooflights following the removal of existing rooflight to rear elevation. Agreed views and comments of the Parish Council: **NO OBJECTION.**

The following application was received since the agenda was issued, comments agreed: None received.

To note any decisions made by Folkestone and Hythe District Council

26/0331/FH/TCA – Windmill House, Cullens Hill, Elham CT4 6UJ – Works to tree in a conservation area comprising of T1 Leyland Cypress to ground level. FHDC Decision – **NO OBJECTIONS.**

26/0183/FH – Springwood, Boyke Lane, Rhodes Minnis, CT4 6XN – Hipped to gable roof extension with three front dormers and three rear dormers. FHDC Decision – **APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS.**

26/0476/FH/TCA – The Old Vicarage, Vicarage Lane, Elham CT4 6TT – Works to trees in conservation area – T3 Norway Maple pollard to eight metres, T7 Ash reduction by approx. four metres & T14 Cherry fell to ground. FHDC Decision – **NO OBJECTIONS.**

Burial Ground- The memorial application for RPG373 was received and agreed.

Highway – The Chair is still awaiting a meeting with the Road Safety Department to discuss parking issues within the Square and looking at ways to alleviate the current problems. To schedule an initial Zoom meeting followed by an onsite visit. The Kings Arms are keen to work alongside the Parish Council on this issue.

Defibrillator - The current defibrillator is approaching the end of its operational lifespan and will require replacement within the next 12 months. In the meantime, we are awaiting quotations to increase the number of units and improve coverage across the parish. An update will be provided at the next Parish Council meeting.

War Memorial - Cllr Osbourne is in the process of arranging a site visit with the contractor to discuss proposed repair plans – to report back at next Parish Council Meeting.

Insurance - The insurance policy is due for renewal on 1 June 2026. It was agreed that the Chair and Cllr Francis will continue negotiations with Zurich and Gallagher, both of whom specialise in Parish Council insurance. The primary factor contributing to the increased renewal cost is the Church Wall, which remains a significant liability.

Community Orchard- deferred to 1st June 2026

Woodland - It was agreed that the Parish Council would proceed with instructing the solicitors to undertake the necessary next steps to formalise the transfer of the land bequeathed to Elham Parish Council by the late George Palmer.

King George V Playpark - It was agreed that Cllr Clements would get quotes to cut back the roadside trees which are currently overhanging the play park equipment.

The Gore - The Chair will meet with the contractor to discuss the necessary repairs to the pavilion roof shingles to prevent any further water ingress. Following recent vandalism by two youths from the village, a number of urgent repairs were required to make the area safe. The Kings Arms and the Elham Valley Football Team have jointly raised £3,000, which will contribute towards the planned refurbishment of the containers. This work will support compliance with the Football Association's requirements for continued participation in the 2026/27 season.

Correspondence -The receipt of correspondence was noted, and any required actions agreed. Please see the website for full minutes.

Date of next meeting and Close - The next meeting will be the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council on Monday 1st June 2026 at 7.30pm. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Note: Dates for period for the Exercise of Public Rights are 3.06.2026 to 14.07.2026

Elham Environment Group

Help the wildlife in your garden this July.

Our July gardens can provide vital food, water and shelter for wildlife during the height of the breeding season.

For insects, let some areas of grass grow longer and allow wildflowers to bloom. Avoid using pesticides, which can harm pollinators and other beneficial insects. Plant nectar-rich flowers such as lavender and verbena, leave a small patch of bare

... cont *Elham Environment Group*

soil for ground-nesting bees, and provide a shallow dish of water with pebbles for insects to land on safely.



For frogs and newts, keep ponds topped up during dry spells and leave damp, shady areas with logs, stones or dense vegetation for shelter. Create wildlife corridors by leaving gaps under fences so amphibians can move between gardens, and avoid using slug pellets and other harmful chemicals.

For birds, provide fresh water for drinking and bathing, leave seed heads on flowers where possible, and avoid cutting hedges until nesting birds have finished breeding. Shrubs and climbers can also provide valuable cover and protection, especially for the fledglings.

Even small changes can make a big difference. A garden with flowers, water and a few undisturbed corners can support a surprising variety of wildlife throughout the summer.

PGB

***Kent County Councillor Report 11 June 2026*****New Library for Folkestone**

KCC has opened its first new library in Kent for 14 years, at 14 Shorncliffe Road, Folkestone. This replaces the old library at Grace Hill which has been sold for £1 to Folkestone Town Council for it to explore and develop future community use. The new library is a hub for wider services including adult learning and local archives.

Local Government Reorganisation

The government has stressed that it wishes to keep to its timetable for new Unitary authorities to take the place of the district and County Council to come into being in April 2028. If there is an expected announcement from government on 16 July 2026, it would mean there would be elections for the 'shadow authorities' in Kent held in May 2027.

Consultation on Solar Farm Development for New Romney

The second phase of public consultation has commenced on South Brooks Solar Farm near Lydd. This is one of a number of major proposals for a solar farm and battery storage facility facing Romney Marsh. The scheme is backed by EDF Power Solutions UK and PS Renewables. Public views are welcomed and details can be found on the scheme website.

Solar Farm Development Policy Statement

KCC supports a mixed economy of energy provision in Kent. A policy statement has been produced which supports the development of nuclear, Hydrogen and renewables such as solar. However, the Council states that it does not want to see top grade agricultural land or highly valued landscapes covered by solar farms and battery storage facilities, nor does it favour excessively large solar developments. Rather, it will encourage developments to be sited on industrial land, brown field sites and existing buildings.

Member Community Grants

Small grants in the region of £250 to £500 are available for constituted non-profit making groups in Elham Valley for events and activities. Please contact Christopher Hespe by email at Christopher.hespe@kent.gov.uk in the first instance if you want a project to be considered for a grant.

Household Waste Sites

A new, speedier and simplified method for booking visits to household waste centres in Kent is being introduced from 17 June 2026. Please visit the pages on the KCC website for details.

Otterpool Consultation

Otterpool Park LLP, the master developer of Otterpool Park, is preparing to submit updated information to the local planning authority (Folkestone and Hythe District Council) on progress with the 8,500 homes development. It has organised a public exhibition to update on the Otterpool Park 'next steps'. This will be held at Sellindge Village Hall on Wednesday 24 June from 2.30pm to 8.00pm. Information from the exhibition will be available on the Otterpool website from Thursday 25 June for anyone unable to attend in person.

Chris Hespe

Kent County Councillor for Elham Valley, and Cabinet Member for Local Government Efficiency and Reorganisation

District Council Report - Stephen Scoffham



Local government reorganisation

At the time of writing, we still don't know the boundaries of the new unitary authorities in Kent and Medway. However, the Minister is due to make a decision imminently so we wait with bated breath. This will be the biggest re-organisation of local government in a generation, bringing together services which are currently split between KCC and the districts. Folkestone-Hythe District Council will be abolished and elections for the new unitary authority will be held in May next year, heralding a big shake up with lots of new opportunities. The North Downs Forum promises to be a useful voice for our area as the new systems are put into place and formally established on 1st April 2028

North Downs Forum

The North Downs Forum is an informal gathering of councillors and residents from across the district where we can exchange views and discuss ideas about local issues. It was established several years ago and meets every few months in different village halls. You may remember that councillor James Butcher, the brains behind the scheme, talked about the Forum in the June newsletter. Since then, we have had another very successful event when around 30 of us learnt about the excellent work that Kent Coast Volunteering does to support lonely old people across the East Kent area. We also discussed (1) community energy schemes (2) the care and management of the Nailbourne (3) food production and (4) local walks and trails. The next meeting will be on 24th September at Knowler Farm, Stelling Minnis where we will cover a range of topics including, of course, the work that is being done at the farm itself. If you would like to know more contact James Butcher james.butcher@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

People's Emergency Briefing

The People's Emergency Briefing is a film that features footage from a briefing for MPs in Westminster Hall last autumn which brought together leading UK experts in climate science, health, economics, national security and nature. The purpose of the briefing, which is explicitly non-partisan, is to support informed discussion about the scale and emergency of the current environment crisis and to consider what might be a proportionate response. Together with Councillor Abena Akuffo Kelly and Folkestone Town Councillors, I organised a public screening of the briefing at the Silver Screen in Folkestone on 13th May. This was attended by 150 people and led to a wide-ranging and encouraging discussion. The next screening, which Councillor Anita Jones and myself are helping to arrange, will be on hosted by Hythe Cinema Club on 27th July at the Tin Tabernacle in Hythe.

Tree planting

The Folkestone Forest is an emerging campaign to plant trees across all parts of the Folkestone-Hythe District over the coming year. Environmental groups, council officers and interested parties attended an inaugural meeting on 16th June to consider setting up a Steering Committee to co-ordinate activities led by George Kirby (Kent Men of the Trees). One of the main aims is to support local initiatives which have community support. This will be crucial as maintaining trees once they have been planted is a key issue. As the relevant portfolio holder, this is a campaign which I am keen to promote and it has a direct bearing on climate change and biodiversity.

Green grants scheme

A review of the green grants scheme was conducted at the end of May to monitor the success of the programme. Since the first round of applications were approved some eight months ago, eight projects have been completed, fourteen are underway and two are nearing completion. To take a few examples, Postling and Dymchurch Parish Councils have both completed solar and battery installations as has Lyminge Nursery, whilst ten infra-red heating units have been installed at Chichester Hall in Sandgate. Meanwhile, Go Folkestone has recycled or repurposed more than nine tonnes of electrical waste, three schools have moved forward with climate education projects, and work has started on restoring heritage ponds at Acrise. A recent highlight was the opening of an energy saving project involving Kent Community Energy and the Romney Hythe and Dymchurch railway. A ceremonial journey of the 'Solar Express' marked the occasion.

Big Green Fair

The Big Green Fair, held in Enbrook Park on 7th June was designed to celebrate the work that is going on in the district around sustainability, climate change and biodiversity. Organised by Sandgate Environment Group and tirelessly led by Gemma Adams, the fair attracted over 50 stall holders and around 1,000 visitors. It also marked the launch of a project to make Sandgate a community nature reserve by encouraging people to create mini habitats in their gardens, balconies and window sills. The fair was one of the other initiatives supported by the 'Green Grants' scheme.

**PRESS RELEASE – ASHFORD MP WELCOMES NEW UNDER-16s SOCIAL MEDIA BAN –
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Today, the MP for Ashford, Hawkinge, and the Villages, Sojan Joseph, has welcomed the new government ban on social media for under-16s (including sites such as Instagram, YouTube, Twitter/X, TikTok, and Facebook).

Mr Joseph, a former mental health nurse of over 22 years, has been campaigning for further safeguards and protections for young people online to protect their mental health, and has been pressing for a full ban for under-16s on social media. Sojan Joseph has been working closely with schools and community organisations across his constituency and Kent to raise awareness and advocate for further safeguarding, such as John Wallis C of E Primary School in Ashford, which has created smartphone-free zones, and Whitstable Unplugged, whom Mr Joseph hosted in Parliament's Jubilee Room for a performance of Generation FOMO (a verbatim play which raises awareness of the dangers of social media for young people's mental health).

Mr Joseph fully recognises that this could not have been achieved without the tireless work of all other campaigners across all sectors, including charities, schools, volunteer groups, parents, and young people themselves.

Sojan Joseph MP said:

"I truly welcome the Government's announcement today. When I worked in the NHS, I saw how much damage social media could do to young people's mental health. "I saw teenagers with anxiety and depression that were undoubtedly linked to their reliance on social media.

"I know from speaking to young people in my constituency that the vast majority were supportive, and I'm pleased the Government listened to their voices through the consultation.

"This is a huge win for the tireless campaigners, teachers, and parents who have been advocating for this for a long time—but most importantly, the children and young people it will protect online."

MP's Visit to Elham

On Saturday 6 June at 9.30 I joined a group of 27 other interested folk to meet Mr Sojan Joseph, our M.P, at Elham Village Hall. He had advertised his plan to meet with constituents and had requested those who were interested to apply. His senior caseworker, Tania Gauder, explained that they usually planned for 20 people at these meetings but as there were more responses from Elham, more were attending.

The meeting began with Sojan explaining that he had become our MP simply by the changes in the constituency boundaries and that it was his intention to be available to all his constituents and hear their concerns. We were each invited to introduce ourselves and briefly describe any particular issue that affected us in Elham.

There were a number of residents of Duck Street and other adjacent areas who were unhappy about the situation with the tankers pumping water from the Nailbourne, with the state of the roads after their many visits and the performance of Affinity Water and Southern water including the issue of sewage overflow in the sea. Sojan was very aware of the situation and agreed that he would go and look at the metal plates in Duck Street, and tried to reassure those in the meeting that the government was making changes, tightening legislation but that these changes would take time. The Kent MPs are working together to hold the water companies to account. (Stephen Scoffham wrote in June's Elham Newsletter that Southern Water had increased their planned investment from £11 million to £42 million, with £7.5 million allocated to 'upper Nailbourne villages').

The discussion about the water problems included the ongoing widespread national issue of potholes and the declining standard of the roads. KCC has been given £274 million over a multi-year funding allocation and improvements are underway. There is a big backlog of road repairs to be done.

Several participants in the meeting were concerned about transport, both the local lack and unreliability of buses and the closure of Ashford International Station. Sojan described how there are 16 different railway companies in Britain and 10 are already in public ownership. Eurostar has had the monopoly for over 30 years and in 2025 Virgin, Gemini Rail and Italian state-owned railway operator, F S Trenitalia made bids to operate on the high-speed line, which included the international stations. Virgin had been successful and new trains are already on order, with start of operations to continental Europe expected in 2029 with the condition that if the infrastructure is in place they will reinstate services at Ashford. Sojan stated that 'Local buses' had been raised at PMQ and that KCC has been given £78.2 million to improve bus services across the country—including in rural communities.

The NHS and GP appointments was also broached. Sojan explained that Same Day Emergency Care was improving and, since his background was originally in nursing, he was particularly aware of the national issues; care in corridors, lack of GP appointments, use of A and E services etc. He described the NHS 10-year plans which included the creation of neighbourhood health centres, one planned for Folkestone.

Other topics that were raised included energy bills, farming, fly tipping and the assisted dying bill. Some of these topics were touched on briefly but since the meeting was meant to be an hour long, Sojan wound up at 11.00 promising that he would repeat the opportunity.

He was applauded and thanked for his availability and engaging manner and he reassured his constituents that this meeting was not a one-off.

It was good to have a chance to meet Sojan and 'thank you' to him and his team who facilitated the meeting.

Renee Bull , (Information fact checked by MPs Press Office.)

LOCAL NEWS



We have finally received a Faculty from the Church of England to undertake the restoration of the Southern entrance to the Churchyard including new lighting. Hopefully by the time you read this the work will be well underway, and the gateway will shortly not only be returned to its former pristine condition, but also it will be much safer for everybody to use.

Meanwhile preparations are progressing for our main 2026 Fundraiser to enable us to carry out more projects. Here is a taster:

Toccata and Treats – A Candlelit Soiree

St Mary’s Church, Elham

Saturday 14 November 7.00pm

Inspirational organ music in a magical setting

Welcome drink / Canapes / Bar

Supported by the Kings Arms

Make sure the date is in your diary! Full details will be in the September Newsletter and tickets at £15 each will be on sale from 1 September. TG

RHODES MINNIS CAT SANCTUARY
CHARITY OPEN DAY
 A PAWSOME DAY OUT FOR EVERYONE!
 Come along and support our sanctuary and the cats that call it home.
SUNDAY 19TH JULY 11AM UNTIL 4PM
 We can't wait to see you there!
 FIND US AT: Seathwaite, Green Lane, Rhodes Minnis, Near Canterbury CT4 6XU
 CALL US: 01303 862243
 VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.rhodesminniscatsanctuary.com
 Registered Charity Number: 262245

Cantores
 Conductor: Malcolm Munro
 Accompanist: John Mitchell
LYMINGE PROM
 Including all your prom favourites
 Come and Sing Your Heart Out!
Saturday 11 July at 4pm
Lyminge Village Hall
 TICKETS £10 | CHILDREN NO CHARGE
 CASH ON THE DOOR

Please visit our website for information about our churches,
services & events www.elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk



NOTICES for July

Every Tuesday at St. Mary's... Traditional Morning Prayer at 8.30am in the Jesus Chapel. Download the free Church of England app or use the red book. A good way to begin the day. <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.aimermedia.dailyprayer&pli=1>



Every Monday at the Methodist Hall ...

Coffee and cake, a warm welcome and friendship, 10.30am – 12pm

Churches Together in Elham Valley in July

Please contact -: Ruth Collie (01303 840773) for information

5th July – 5th Sunday after Trinity

08.00 Said Holy Communion; **0930** – Morning Service

Lectionary readings:

Genesis 24.34-38,42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45.10-17 *or Canticle*: Song of Solomon 2.8-13; Romans 7.15-25a; Matthew 11.16-19,25-30

15.00-16.00 Baptism Preparation (School Yr 5 & 6)

12th July – 6th Sunday after Trinity

08.45 Morning Service

Lectionary readings:

Genesis 25.19-34; Psalm 119.105-112; Romans 8.1-11; Matthew 13.1-9,18-23

15.00-16.00 Baptism Preparation (School Yr 5 & 6)

19th July – 7th Sunday after Trinity

09.30 Eucharist

Lectionary readings:

Genesis 28.10-19a; Psalm 139.1-11,23,24*; Romans 8.12-25; Matthew 13.24-30,36-43

26th July – 8th Sunday after Trinity

09.30 Morning Service

Lectionary readings:

Genesis 29.15-28; Psalm 105.1-11,45b* *or* Psalm 128; Romans 8.26-39; Matthew 13.31-33,44-52

Elham Methodist Church

(all at 9.30am unless otherwise stated)

Services for July

5th Local arrangement

12th Valley United Service at Rhodes Minnis 10.15am

19th Dwight Harris

26th Richard Blackwell



NOTICES for August



Every Tuesday at St. Mary's... Traditional Morning Prayer at 8.30am in the Jesus Chapel. Download the free Church of England app or use the red book. A good way to begin the day. <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.aimermedia.dailyprayer&pli=1>

Every Monday at the Methodist Hall ...

Coffee and cake, a warm welcome and friendship, 10.30am –

12pm

2nd August – 9th Sunday after Trinity

0800 Said Holy Communion; 0930 – Morning Service

Lectionary readings:

Genesis 32.22-31; Psalm 17.1-7,16*; Romans 9.1-5; Matthew 14.13-21

9th August – 10th Sunday after Trinity

9.30am – Morning Service

Lectionary readings:

Genesis 37.1-4,12-28; Psalm 105.1-6,16-22,45b*; Romans 10.5-15; Matthew 14.22-33

16th August – 11th Sunday after Trinity

09.30 Eucharist

Lectionary readings:

Genesis 45.1-15; Psalm 133; Romans 11.1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15.[10-20]21-28

23rd August – 12th Sunday after Trinity

09:30 Morning Service

Lectionary readings:

Exodus 1.8 - 2.10; Psalm 124; Romans 12.1-8; Matthew 16.13-20

30th August – 13th Sunday after Trinity

10am Benefice Eucharist at St Mary Magdalene, Denton

Exodus 3.1-15; Psalm 105.1-6,23-26,45b*; Romans 12.9-21; Matthew 16.21-28

Elham Methodist Church

(all at 9.30am unless otherwise stated)

Services for August

2nd Valley United Service at Lyminge 10.15am

9th Dwight Harris – Valley United Service 10.15am

16th Valley United Service at Rhodes Minnis 10.15am

23rd Valley United Service at Lyminge 10.15am

30th United Service at St Andrew's

Events for the September Notice sheet Please send to Margaret Keeble by 5th of each preceding month.

m.keeble@outlook.com

Donations

We would greatly appreciate your help to continue our work for God in the village of Elham and surrounding areas. If you can, please consider making a donation. This is our QR code for St Mary's Elham. To donate using this code, open up the camera on a mobile phone - point the camera at the QR code – follow the instructions.

The offertory plate will go round in the service, during one of the hymns. There is also the opportunity to donate by card using the PAYAZ machine by the North door.



CHURCH and LOCAL NEWS

Safeguarding / 'A Safe Church':

If you ever have any concerns, contact our Parish Safeguarding Officer:

Susannah Pallot : susannahpallot@gmail.com

Paper Copies of Notices

Some copies are available on back table in church. Please take a copy to give to those unable to access the internet.



ACRISE FESTIVAL

Saturday 1st August – 10am to 5pm

Flowers, music, stalls, raffle & tombola, refreshments including Ploughmen's lunches, games and pony rides. Free parking and entry. Disability access. Please bring cash.

St Martin's Church, Acrise – CT18 8JZ



'Unusual weather for the time of year' used to be an amusing comment but it was absolutely perfect for the last two to three week - we have had baking hot days followed by cold winds, rain and even hail! No wonder we're a tough race.

The speaker at the meeting on 21st May was Gavin Wales who gave an excellent talk on Propagation - covering all aspects of sowing, growing, planting and cutting. A very full attendance really enjoyed the evening - we look forward to his next one.

The village gardeners have been extremely busy perfecting their entries for the Open Gardens weekend - the weather was no help at all and there was considerable worry as to whether the weekend might be a washout but we were extremely lucky - the sun shone, the temperature rose and all was well. Visitors came in vast numbers and many appreciative comments regarding the beauty of the gardens were heard. Needless to say, teas at the Old Vicarage were very popular and much appreciated. The running of such a weekend is due entirely to the organisational work of members of the Committee and we do thank them. - Well done. A cracking weekend.

The next big event will be the Annual Show at the end of July. There will be many varied classes available as well as flowers and veg. so do think about joining in and entering something that interests you and, of course, do come to the Show. There will be a sensational raffle and what better way to round off the afternoon than a glass of something good on the terrace?

The speakers at the meeting on 16th July will be a team from the Farthing Common Nursery who will tell us how the Horticultural industry works. Should be most interesting - don't miss it. Frances Horton

The Good Old Days?

It was found in an old Teachers' Manual from a folder belonging to Margaret Keeble, who gave me permission to send it to the Newsletter. Val Swain

1915 Rules for Teachers

1. You will not marry during the term of your contract.
2. You are not to keep company with men.
3. You must be home between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. unless attending a school function.
4. You may not loiter downtown in ice cream stores.
5. You may not travel beyond the city limits unless you have the permission of the chairman of the board.
6. You may not ride in a carriage or automobile with any man unless he is your father or brother.
7. You may not smoke cigarettes.
8. You may not dress in bright colors.
9. You may under no circumstances dye your hair.
10. You must wear at least two petticoats.
11. Your dresses must not be any shorter than two inches above the ankle.
12. To keep the school room neat and clean, you must: sweep the floor at least once daily, scrub the floor at least once a week with hot, soapy water, clean the blackboards at least once a day, and start the fire at 7 a.m. so the room with be warm by 8 a.m.

These are the classes from the Gardening Society Schedule that you may find helpful if you plan on being CREATIVE!



Elham Gardening Society Summer Show 2026

Handicraft, Photography and Art categories

All exhibits in the following classes must have been created in the past two years. Entries will be judged on 'creativity and demonstration of skills' for the item displayed. Please let the show secretary know if you have a large item to display in the Handicraft section, so that suitable space may be arranged. Telephone Pam Tebbs on: 01303 840693

Handicraft category

Class 76: Elham Gardening Show. People exhibit their fruit & vegetables, flowers & foliage, as well as domestic produce and art. Create a piece that you feel reflects the garden show, using soft or hard materials. It could be a planter, a trug, or an apron for example.

Class 77: 2026 is the Chinese Year of the Horse. This year the horse represents optimism, & opportunity. It is a symbol of strength, grace and forward momentum. Create an item based on this theme, using soft or hard materials of your choice. *Any 3D items to measure no larger than 3 ft square (92 cm) for display purposes.*

Class 78: For the Love of Pets. Create a textile piece made specifically for your pet, or with pets in mind. A collar, coat, lead, toy, bedding or cushion for example.

Class 79: Kinetic creation. Create a structure that involves movement for its effect. Using any suitable materials such as paper/card, balsa wood, ceramics, glass, metal or fabric. Your piece should be no wider/deeper than 45 cm and if hung as a mobile, it should have clearance when suspended from a 60 cm (2 ft) high rail. It could be a mobile over a child's bed for example.

Photographic category

Class 80: Agriculture. Produce a colour photograph on this theme. A farmland scene, pastoral or wild animals, farmyard vehicles & machinery for example? *Maximum size up to A4.*

Class 81: Our coast. Produce a colour photograph echoing the sea and it's elements. It could be the sea or surrounding coast line; a harbour with fishing vessels or the rocks & fossils along a shoreline for example. *Maximum size up to A4.*

Class 82: Bridges in Kent. Produce a colour photograph of a bridge in the county. There are many bridges in Elham and Folkestone for example. From a railway viaduct to a small crossing over a stream, make a picture to echo this theme. *Maximum size up to A4.*

Class 83: Plants of the countryside. Produce a black & white or a colour image of plants that grow wild in our countryside. From grasses & flowers, to trees and hedgerow shrubs, make it a picture that reflects such beauty. *Maximum size up to A4.*

Art category

Class 84: An Historic Place or Face of Elham. Create a picture which features a building, a person, an object or a landscape relevant to Elham. It could be taken from real life or from a photograph. *Use any medium, see note below.*

Class 85: 1, 2 or 3. Create a picture of one, two or three figures (people or animals), using only one, two or three colours in your palette, rendered on a background colour of your choosing. *Use any medium, see note below.*

Class 86: A Garden Show. Create a picture of any object(s) that you may see as an exhibit at a gardening show event. *Use any medium, see note below.*

Class 87: A Free Choice of subject which *must* fit within a total frame size of 10 x 12 ins. (254 x 305 mm)*. Use a medium of your choice, which can include embroidery and paper/fabric collage.

* *If entered with a frame or a card mount neither is to exceed 10" x 12". Framed pictures are to have a cord or similar means of hanging. Ready made frames can be purchased from local suppliers such as Dunelm or the Range. Entries to be rendered in Oils, Acrylics, Water colour, Colour Pencils, Inks or Pastels, Charcoal - unless stated otherwise. For each of the individual classes, entries are to be **no larger than 60 x 60 cm inclusive of frame or mount - unless stated otherwise.** Framed pictures are to have a cord or similar means of hanging.*

These are the classes from the Gardening Society Schedule for the children to enter.
Entries for C and D are done in school.
Children can enter A and B , making and baking at home. The Entry form is at the bottom. Get busy!

Elham Gardening Society Children's Classes



Summer Show, Saturday 25th July 2026 in the Village Hall.

The Hall is open from 8 am and entries must be in place by 9.45 am on show day.
The entries are free for children and must be their own work with the minimum of supervision. Please sign to verify this by a parent or guardian on the entry form and mark your name on your entry.

To be judged in school year age groups.

A. BAKE: three decorated buns. Use a sponge mixture and decorate each bun as you like.

B. MAKE: a container for your toy or gadget. It could be a bed for your doll or teddybear, or a case for your gaming machine or laptop? Using materials such as fabric, cardboard, felt or wool. Decorate or label this special item as yours.

C. GROW: a potato in a builder's bucket. Ages up to 12 years. A potato will be provided by the Garden Society. Please cut off tops when you bring your bucket to the hall before 9.30 am on 25th July. Judging at 2.30 pm.

D. CREATE: for the Anna Clayton Trophy. Ages up to 12 years. Make a picture of an animal that you like with four or more legs. It could be your own pet, copied from a photograph, or taken from a picture in a book or magazine. It should be no bigger than A4 in size (210 x 297 mm).

The Palmer Challenge Cup: Awarded to the best exhibit in classes A-B.

The Thomas Trophy: Awarded to the child with most points in classes A-B

Please complete the entry form below and place in the box provided by the Garden Society at Elham Village Shop before 5 pm on Wednesday 22nd July.
Keep a note of the classes entered. For each class entered please circle the relevant box below.

Any queries contact Pam Tebbs 01303 840 693 or Doug Martin 01303 840 276.



A	B	C	D
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Child's Name.....

Please state whether Pre-school or School year group.....

Address.....

Tel:

I have read and accept the Show rules and I confirm that the entry/entries are the work of the above child with the minimum of supervision.

..... (signed parent/guardian)

Elham Community Shed

The last few months have been busy at the Elham Community Shed.

Sessions have been well attended, we have recruited a few new members, projects have been completed, some are still ongoing.

We have received a request to make a new bench for the Gore, to replace the one which is there but sadly broken.

We are also investigating whether there would be a demand in the village for an apple press, to be used in the autumn when many of us have a glut of fruit. We could borrow a press initially, and depending on demand, investigate acquiring one for the village. Please let us know whether you'd be interested in using it. Send us an email or come to visit.

In the meantime, we invite villagers to remember their departed pets with a little wooden plaque in the pet memorial garden in front of the Village Hall. We will help you inscribe your wooden plaque. A few are already there, please go and have a look.



The Shed at Elham Food & Craft Festival

We were pleased that people from the local area and outside were keen to find out more about Elham Community Shed at the Community Hub stall at the market on June 13th. We sold some of the artefacts that have been made in ECS sessions this year.



Nothing specific is planned for July except the completion of the bench, so this is an ideal time if you have a project in mind. Come and talk to us and we can see how we could help you.



As many people are away in August or busy with families and school holidays, the Shed will not be open during August. This will give us time to start planning new activities for September. As always, all suggestions are welcome. Just contact us on elhamshed@gmail.co.uk.



You are invited to an exhibition of work by 7 Elham Artists on Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th October at St Mary's Church, Elham.

The church will be transformed into an art gallery for the weekend where you will discover a wide variety of work from local artists - you're bound to find something you love!

Look out for more details in the September newsletter, and we look forward to welcoming you in October!

-- Chris Burrows, Phil Capon, Sarah Drake, Teresa Gallagher, Pauline Gladstone, Clare Hamilton, and Pip Hope.

'The Man's Book' by Thomas Fink, a book that advises men on appropriate behaviour, published in 2006

'Dressing is the persistent self-positioning of a man's jewels to the same side of his trousers. A man is said to 'dress to the left' or 'dress to the right' if he predominantly falls to the left or right trouser leg. The best time to tell which side you're on is when sitting down. When making a suit some tailors assemble the crotch of the trousers asymmetrically to account for this bias. There are a number of theories to account for dressing, none of which have been substantiated : the direction of dress corresponds with left-/right-handedness; it is the side of the lowest testicle; it is a by product of wearing trousers twisted at the waist.' Editor

LOCAL NEWS



Elham Open Gardens 13 & 14 June 2026

What a success!



Thank you Elham! (and all our visitors from near and far.)

Nine gardens, an army of volunteers, sunshine... Elham has done it again!

By buying tickets and visiting our glorious Open Gardens you have contributed to the National Garden Scheme's medical and social care charities that they support. By enjoying teas and delicious home-made cakes in the beautiful Old Vicarage garden, you have ensured that Elham Gardening Society has sufficient funds to continue into the future and we will also be able to give support to local charities.

None of this would have been possible without the sterling efforts of our gardeners, as seen in their nine spectacular gardens. A huge Thank You to them. So many contributed to make the weekend a success – not least the perfect weather. The Elham Food & Craft Festival held on the Sunday morning of our Open Gardens weekend enabled visitors to truly have a great day out. A spot of shopping and a stroll around the show gardens was rounded off with the spectacular Old Vicarage garden, a calm place to reflect on a perfect day out. Here teas offered welcome refreshment and the plant stall an opportunity to start planning on improving our own gardens!



Our visitors were asked to vote for the garden they enjoyed the most – so The People's Choice NGS Silver Trowel went to Pam and Mark Flight in Fairfield. Many congratulations.



Huge thanks go to the Barrois family for not only opening their beautifully-restored garden, but also for allowing the tea and plant stall teams to take up residence and for visitors to relax.

Our helpers were many and varied. We thank you all. From all the back-room jobs of advertising and posting on social media, sign posting, cake baking and plant growing, to setting everything up, and on the two days selling tickets, acting as parking marshals, serving teas and washing up, while gardeners tweaked their already lovely gardens, there was much to do. We are grateful to Elham School and The Triangle for allowing parking on their land.

We appreciate all the support we received from visitors both local and from far and wide, and The National Garden Scheme endorses this.

Carole Kincaid
Elham Open Gardens Secretary





Volunteers Wanted

Help keep our village store thriving



We are looking for additional volunteers to help on an occasional basis.



Full training will be provided.



If you are interested, please contact **Martin Turner**.

GET IN TOUCH

 Phone: 01303 840804
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Elham Gardening Society



SUMMER SHOW

SATURDAY 25TH JULY 2026

FROM
2:00 - 4:30 PM

ADMISSION £3.00
(INCLUDES TEA & COFFEE)

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ELHAM SUMMER FOOD & CRAFT FESTIVAL



What a fantastic market



Sunshine, great crowds, food, drink and a wonderful community atmosphere all made for a brilliant day

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the market. And, as always, a special thank you to all our amazing volunteers – from the raffle team, church pew movers (and shakers!) and the parking marshals. We very much appreciate the help and cooperation of The Square residents during this event and Roger for the use of his field for parking. Thank you to Will and the Kings Arms team for use of their WiFi and thank you to Elham Primary School for the use of their playing field. Many hands make light

work - we literally could not do it without you!!

A special thank you to Pam Ferris who once again did us proud by opening the market with another of her wonderful witty ditties. Pam is so generous with her time and is a great supporter to the market.

The raffle raised £674.50, the 'Tower Tours' kindly donated £62 and we have rounded that up to £1000, which will be donated to our chosen charity this year, The Children and Young Peoples Cancer Association. This was undoubtedly helped by generous donations to the raffle which included Contemporary Inns, The Gatekeeper at Etchinghill, Port Lympne and Simpsons Vineyard.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to the Shepway and Canterbury Advertiser, The Bridge and Village Community Ad Magazine and Elham Newsletter for helping to promote this event and also to Colebrook Sturrock for the support with printing.



Last, but not least thank you to St Marys Church for the use of such a beautiful building and to the bell ringers whose change ringing added so much to the atmosphere of the day.

We are already looking forward to the next market on Sunday 13th December 2026



VILLAGE FORUM

My first safari - and wine tasting too!

Kathryn Haylett, who lived in Elham until a month ago, is the founder of Your Safari, a company she started more than 25 years ago, after watching Born Free as a child and falling in love with Africa, more specifically with Namibia. She is also an expert guide and photographer, knows the country inside out and regularly advertises her bespoke safaris in this newsletter.



When she announced that her next safari would also be a wine tasting tour with the BBC's Saturday Kitchen Live wine expert Helen McGuinn, the opportunity seemed too good to miss, and I signed up for the 11 day adventure, my first experience of deepest Africa! Our small band of six, five women including Kathryn and Helen, and one lone man who survived to tell the tale, met in the country's capital, Windhoek. We all hit it off straight away and did not stop laughing all the way, and not just because of the wines we were tasting every night!



It's difficult to imagine a desert country like Namibia, lying just north of South Africa and bordered by the Atlantic Ocean, being able to grow vines and produce wine. But one vineyard exists, producing a good red, white and rose wine, and praying that climate change and increasing dry weather will not scupper their young enterprise. Helen taught us how to taste wine the expert way, and chose wines every night, mainly from South Africa, to educate our palates and show us that there is more to wine than Pinot Grigio and Sauvignon Blanc.



But of course the stars of the trip were the animals, from the tiny Shovel Snouted Lizard to imposing rhinos, and including giraffes, elephants, zebras, all size of antelopes from the large oryx and wildebeest to the very cute Damara Dik Dik and steenbok. Namibia is also a bird watchers' paradise. Guinea Fowls are everywhere, and just as silly as our pheasants here, ig-

noring the dangers of birds of prey until one swoops down and catches one.

I can't praise Kathryn enough for her organising skills, choice of superb lodge accommodation, carefully crafted itinerary, transport in her trusted adapted safari vehicle Denis, named after her father who always wore beige, and knack, or knowledge, to find the animals just as you are giving up. For me, the stars of the show were



the leopards in the Etosha National Park. It was an amazing trip, full of too many highlights, with memories to last a lifetime. Thank you to Kathryn and my fellow travellers. Namibia is safe, beautiful, locals are welcoming, and Kathryn is the best and kindest guide with whom you could ever wish to explore this enchanting country.

PS: They also make gin in Namibia... but that's a story

for another day!

Anne Leva

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CHRISTOPHER TUTTON

It is with much sadness to announce his death on 15th June following a long spell in hospital. He will be greatly missed.

Elham Gardening Society

SATURDAY 25TH JULY

SUMMER SHOW

2 - 4:30pm at Elham Village Hall

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News from Elham Church of England Primary School

The home stretch

July is upon us and with it, the approaching end of the academic year. The Summer term is always a busy one, with Sports Day, Key Stage 2 performances, End of Year reports and much more. Preparations for the new academic year in September have begun, with exciting welcoming events for our new starters already scheduled. We hope that our Teddy Bear’s picnic and a Stay and Play Day will help our youngest new pupils begin to feel a part of our school community.

The school summer fair took place on Friday June 26th. The money raised will be invested back into the school. To those who attended, thank you for your support. We have recently invested funds into new outdoor play equipment for EYFS, increased den building materials for the playground and updated our wet playtime resources. We have more plans for expanding our playground equipment and investing in our sports teams.

I mentioned in our previous newsletter article that Year 1 would soon be sitting their Phonics Screening Check. This is a statutory test which all Year 1 pupils sit across the country. The test grades the children’s ability to read words. We are delighted to share that 100% of our Year 1 pupils passed the Phonics Screening Check this year. A stunning achievement, and further evidence of the outstanding teaching on offer to pupils at our school. Well done to all of our Year 1 pupils, and a huge thank you to Mrs Grady, Ms Knight and Mrs Ferguson, who led the charge on phonics teaching this year.



Finally, our two Key Stage 2 classes both recently attended school trips to local venues. Year 3 and 4 went to visit The Fifth Trust. This was an invaluable opportunity for the children to learn about their broader community, and the people in it who may be different from themselves. Thank you to Zarah and her team for hosting us. Year 5 and 6 visited Sandwich Discovery Park for a science jamboree, alongside several other schools. Their knowledge, curiosity and behaviour were a credit to our school and we had a fantastic time.

With warm wishes **Mr Magliocco, Headteacher**, Elham Church of England Primary School



The dos and don’ts of recycling

We all know that recycling is good for the planet, but there is such a multitude of packaging that knowing what can and can’t be recycled, and in which category, is a minefield.

That is why the Elham Friendship Lunch Club invited a specialist to clarify this conundrum. Dan Welsh, Folkestone and Hythe District Council Waste Operations Team Leader, was the man with all the answers, who spoke at our May lunch.

Members were asked to bring one or more packaging of which they were unsure, and Dan’s responses did caused some surprises! For instance, how soft or rigid plastic is will determine where it’s for the rubbish or the recycled bin.



Before going into the detail, Dan explained that our council’s recycling target is 45% of waste. To increase this percentage would require huge investments and changing methods, and is not feasible at the moment.

Food waste is the worst source of contamination and although many people use their food waste caddies, quite a lot is still found in refuse. A move to collections every three weeks would be a huge improvement but is not being considered at the moment because of public reticence.

The good news is that our council sends less than 2% of waste to landfill. If in doubt, the advice to all is to err on the side of caution. Putting something in the wrong bin is very costly in time and money, when a recyclable load goes to its final destination

miles away, only to be turned down and returned to the council for landfill.

Here is a sample of what can’t be recycled:

No: Plastic film, soft plastic bags, paper towels (too absorbent), Tupperware-type containers, broken glass (drinking glasses, broken bottles, windows), tablet packs, bubble wrap, plastic folders, plastic baskets, laminated paper, hard pot plants.

And all the following can be recycled:

Yes: Plastic trays, Tetra Pak, rinsed out jars with lids, bottles, aerosol cans, fully emptied gas canisters, paper without glitter, foil from chocolate bars, etc., pizza boxes with no food residues.

The Friendship Lunch Club meets at 12.30 on the third Thursday of every month in St Mary’s Church Hall. AL

News from Elham Valley Cricket Club

2026 Season

The new season started in late April and will run to the end of September.

This year we have one Saturday team in the Kent Regional feeder league. On Sundays we play a mixture of friendly and Sunday league cricket. All matches are played over 40 overs.

We are a small but friendly village team with excellent facilities, and always keen to attract local players from Elham / Barham and the surrounds.

NEW PLAYERS ARE VERY WELCOME – ANY age or standard.

Practice night is on Wednesday / Friday Evenings 6.00 – 8.00, using the nets at the ground.

We also welcome any spectators; there is ample parking available at the ground.

Junior coaching and teams

Junior coaching sessions (ages 5 – 16) at the club on Friday evenings 5.30 – 7.30pm throughout the summer from end of April until August.

We are also planning to run various age group teams depending upon numbers.

Open days / coffee mornings / quiz nights

Saturday mornings in May the ground will be open for visitors – everybody is invited to come down and chat cricket, view the ground, facilities and even have a go at some groundwork!

We are also hoping to resume our regular quiz nights at Elham Village Hall so look out for forthcoming events!

For more information contacts are:

Chris Laker – secretary 01303 230035

Kav Risby – junior coaching / Saturday – evccjuniors@gmail.com

Andy Sellars – treasurer / Sunday vice-captain – 07387 410006.



Elham Valley Cricket Club

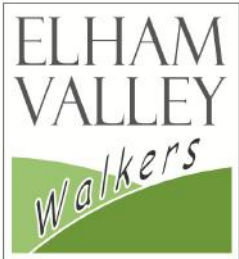
Calling all aspiring players, no matter your age or ability!

EVCC are looking to recruit players for the forecoming 2026 season.

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Please contact us on evccjuniors@gmail.com or Sam Goss on 07961 666492



Elham Valley Walkers are a group of local volunteers dedicated to promoting walking in the Elham Valley in the Kent Downs National Landscape.

We organise a walk on the first Sunday of each month, usually in the Valley, but occasionally further afield.

The group has also created 21 walks in the local area. Catering for both the casual and the seasoned walker, the routes pass through a variety of landscapes, villages and points of interest. The maps can be found on signboards in the local villages as well as online.

Please visit our website for downloadable files of the walk maps, direction sheets for each route and details of our upcoming Sunday walks.



ELHAMVALLEYWALKERS.CO.UK

ANY ADULTS OR YOUNGSTERS?
FOR **TABLE TENNIS?**

The table tennis sessions on Monday evenings in the Anna Clayton room have been going well – long may they continue.

CHILDREN 6.35 to 7.15 p.m. for children in school Year 5, 6, 7 or 8 (adult accompanied) in the Anna Clayton room. Please contact me if you intend to come at 6.35.

ADULTS from 7.15 p.m. on Monday nights at Elham Village Hall, upstairs as usual.

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(Tue) (Thu) **Roy Harris** 07769 187676 / roy.harris07@btinternet.com

Pickleball – Indoor (spaces limited) & Outdoor sessions if weather allows

Mondays	3:30 pm and 6 pm
Wednesdays	3:30 pm
Fridays	9:30 am Open Club session

Contact: **Abby Bourn** 07754 085866 / abby.bourn@hotmail.co.uk

Badminton – Indoor

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Contact: **Clive Stanyon** 01303 840820 / stanyonc@aol.com

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For more details please contact:
Age UK Hythe, Lyminge & Ashford
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www.ageuk.org.uk/hythelymingeashford/

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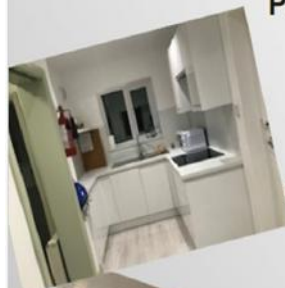
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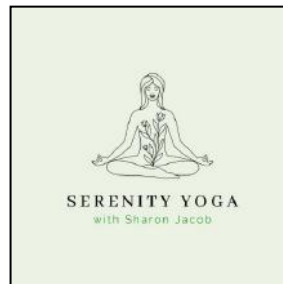
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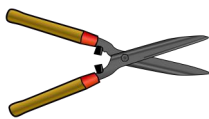
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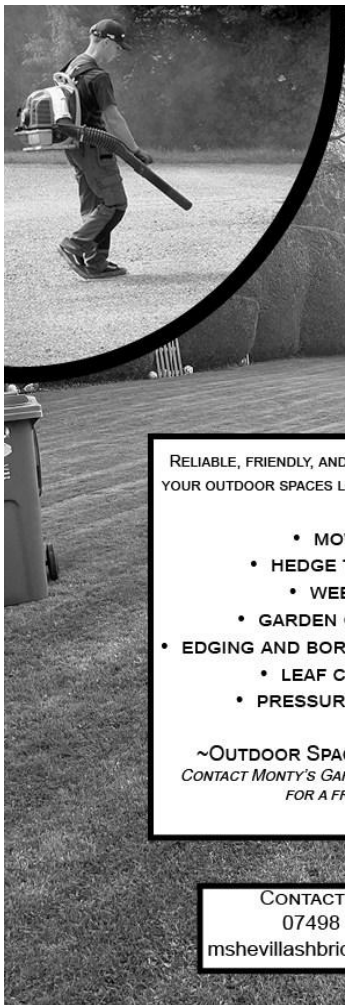
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