



# ELHAM NEWSLETTER

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## MAY 2026



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Also available on the EVHA website, [www.elhamvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.elhamvillagehall.co.uk).

Events and News available to read on Facebook, Elham Village Hall,  
and on [www.visitelham.co.uk](http://www.visitelham.co.uk).



### ***What's On, In and Around ELHAM***

Date	Event	Time	Location	Contact	Page
Sunday 3 May	Elham Valley Walkers	10.00	Check QR code	Website	31
Wednesday 6 May	Social Snacks and Cinema	19.00 for 19.30	Peggy Pike Room Elham Village Hall	Jan Stanyon 01303 840820	4
Friday 8 May	Elham Historical Society	19.00 for 19.30	Elham Village Hall	See poster	12



## Welcome to the Elham Newsletter - May 2026

Is it really already May? For me personally it is the beginning of the Folk Clog Dancing season and my husband and I will be busy entertaining others at many of the May festivals and further into the summer months. If you have never been to a dancing festival why not take a look this summer, or try a new interest... have a go at a new sport. Come on, the weather tempts you out, doesn't it?

The picture on the front cover was taken recently in the sunshine. If you are inspired by a view, take a picture and send it to [elhamnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:elhamnewsletter@gmail.com) for inclusion on the front cover or if you know of an event or activity in June 2026 please send details before May 13 to me at [elhamnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:elhamnewsletter@gmail.com).

Renee Bull Editor

## What's On, In and Around ELHAM

Date	Event	Time	Location	Contact	Page
Tuesday 5/12/19/28 May	Elham Community Shed Coffee Morning	10.30 - 12.00	The Shed, Elham Village Hall	<a href="mailto:elhamshed@gmail.com">elhamshed@gmail.com</a>	26
Thursday 2/9/16/26	Elham Community Shed	10.00 - 16.00	The Shed, Elham Village Hall	<a href="mailto:elhamshed@gmail.com">elhamshed@gmail.com</a>	26
Saturday 2/9/16/23/30	Elham Community Shed	10.00 - 12.00	The Shed, Elham Village Hall	<a href="mailto:elhamshed@gmail.com">elhamshed@gmail.com</a>	26
Thursday 21 May	Elham Friendship Lunch Club	12.30	St Mary's Church Hall	01303 470637	23
Thursday 21 May	Elham Gardening Society talk	19.30	Peggy Pike Room EVH	See website	15
Saturday 16 May	EVHA Volunteers Day	10.00—14.00	Elham Village Hall	See poster	3
Friday 22 May	EVHA - NOT BORED GAMES NIGHT	19.00	Elham Village Hall	See poster	4
Saturday 30 May	Age Uk Open Day	10.00—13.00	Stade Street Hythe	See poster	13
Saturday 13 June Sunday 14 June	Elham Open Gardens	12.00—16.30	In the village	See Poster	21
Sunday 14 June	Elham Summer Food & Craft Festival	11.00	The Square and St Mary's Church	See poster	28

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## REMINDER - ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING POINTS

If you have visitors with an electric car, remember there are charging points available in the Elham Village Hall car park.



## ELHAM VALLEY STORES

We are looking for more volunteers to work, on an occasional basis, in the Village Store. Full training will be given. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Martin Turner (01303 840804 or [jgt867@aol.com](mailto:jgt867@aol.com))

**SOCIAL, SNACKS AND CINEMA**

Elham Village Hall

Peggy Pike Room

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 7 for 7.30pm**

Now that the eveningS are a bit lighter  
**W**hy not take a stroll through the vlllage  
 to the village hall and join us for night of  
 light entertain**M**ent. This **M**onth's offer-  
**I**Ng is a **G**entle, light hearted film **W**ill  
 make you smlle! En**T**ry is just £5 on t**H**e  
 door. We always **M**ake time for a br**E**ak  
 for s**N**acks and ice creams. Bar opens at  
 7pm.

See you there!

Jan Stanyon

**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

**FREE EVENT**

**NOT BORED**  
*Games Night*

Friday 22 May | 7.00 'til 10.00

Come on, turn off the TV and join us at **ELHAM VILLAGE HALL** to socialise, participate in board and other games and chat!

**FREE EVENT**

**PLATINUM PAY BAR**  
Opens at 7.00pm

GOOD COMPANY • GREAT GAMES • GREAT NIGHT

SOCIALISE | BOARD GAMES | FUN & LAUGHTER | GOOD CONVERSATION

— See you there! —

**MANY HANDS MAKE  
ELHAM VILLAGE HALL  
WORK BETTER!**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO THE**

**VOLUNTEERS'  
DAY**

**SATURDAY  
16<sup>TH</sup>  
MAY** | **10:00 - 14:00**

**AT ELHAM VILLAGE HALL**

- MANY DIFFERENT JOBS**  
from gardening and repairs to cleaning and painting.
- REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED**  
Coffee, cake and lunch for all volunteers.
- EVERY SKILL COUNTS**  
Whatever your skills, your contribution of time will be most welcome.
- MAKE A DIFFERENCE**  
Help keep our village hall clean, safe and a place we can all be proud of.
- PLEASE WEAR WORKING GEAR**  
*Dress for the job!*

**LEND A HAND - WE NEED YOU!**

Elham Village Hall Committee



## Introducing Elham Travel

My name is Steve, and I'm pleased to introduce Elham Travel, a local independent travel business based right here in the village. Formerly Explorer Travel Holidays (established in 2018), I now operate as part of the Hays Travel family, meaning all holidays are fully bonded and protected for peace of mind.

I arrange all types of holidays, from family breaks and cruises to bespoke trips including rail tours, long-haul adventures and special short breaks. Every holiday is personally tailored to suit individual needs, with friendly, no-pressure advice throughout.

If you'd like to chat about a future trip, you're very welcome to contact me for a no-obligation conversation:

Email: [steve@elhamtravel.co.uk](mailto:steve@elhamtravel.co.uk) | Phone: 01303 656789

Or we can have a chat in the King's Arms or Elham Tea House – it is Elham Travel after all.



This is me with Dame Irene Hays, owner of Hays Travel, at a recent trade conference in Greece.

## Elham Village Hall 130 Club An invitation to join Elham Village Hall 130 Club



The Elham Village Hall Association raises valuable funds every year for the running of Elham Village Hall. Money raised is used to maintain and improve the hall for the benefit of all users.

During the past year we have distributed £780 in prizes and raised a similar amount for the hall.

By joining the 130 Club you can help ensure Elham Village Hall remains open as a resource for all the residents in our community; as well as having a chance to win cash prizes every month!

The Elham Village Hall 130 Club is a private lottery and is open to all residents from Elham and the surrounding area, their family and friends. As a private lottery you have to be invited to join, you will be allocated a number and your numbers are not transferable. **You have to be 16 or over to join.** Each month there is a draw for 50% of the income. This amount is divided between 3 lucky winners on the following basis:

For example, if we have 130 numbers the income for that month will be £130.

50% will be used as the prize fund e.g., £65 split into three prizes assuming that there are 130 numbers.

- The 1st prize will be £32
- The 2nd prize will be £20
- The third prize will be £13

You may buy more than one number per month. If at any time there is less than 130 numbers sold then the prize fund will be proportionally reduced. If there are more than 130 numbers sold then the prize fund will be proportionally increased.

We would ask that you pay for 12 months in advance (£12 per number). The more people who buy a subscription – the higher the prize money!

Interested? If so, please read the attached rules and complete the form with your details. You will then be allocated a membership number for every £1 subscribed.

### Elham Village Hall 130 Club Rules

1. The object of the Club is to raise funds for Elham Village Hall.
2. The Club will commence on a date to be advised by the Elham Village Hall Association (once sufficient numbers have been issued)
3. The Club will be run by the Elham Village Hall Association. A member of the Management Committee will administer the Club and allocate numbers
4. The Club is open to all residents of Elham and the surrounding area, their family and friends.
5. Members must be 16 or over.
6. Members must fill in an application form (attached).
7. The entry fee is £1 per month per number. At least 12 months' entry fees are to be paid in advance. Payments should be paid by cheque made payable to **Elham Village Hall Association 100 Club**. You can also **transfer the money on-line** (account details on application form)
8. Members may have more than one number.
9. The draw will take place each month by the Chair of the Elham Village Management Committee.
10. Prize money will be sent to the winners and names will be posted in the Elham Newsletter. If the winnings are not claimed for 6 months, they will be placed into the Elham Village Hall Association funds.
11. The regular monthly prize fund will be 50% of the monthly income.  
The first prize will always be equal to 25% of the total funds raised for that month; the second prize will be 15% and the third prize 10%.  
50% of all money raised, from the Elham Village Hall 130 Club, will go towards the running costs of Elham Village Hall.
12. A register will be kept recording the name and address of each member, the number(s) allocated to them and the subscriptions received.
13. Unless otherwise advised, a member will be deemed to have left the Club if his or her renewal of subscription remains unpaid for a period of one month

## Application Form

(Applicants must be over 16 years old)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

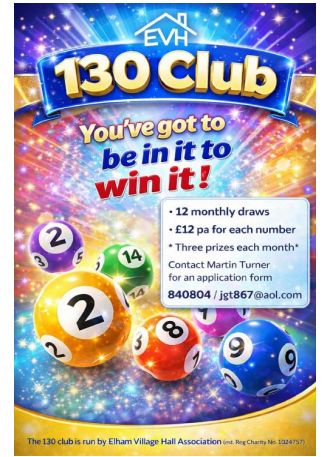
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

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**  
cgreenwood@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

No Parish Council Minutes were available for the April meeting, but I was able to obtain a copy of the minutes from the March 26 meeting. See below. Editor

**Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Elham Parish Council on 2nd March 2026**

**Those Present: Councillors: K Lamb (Chair), C Chapman (Vice Chair) B Swan, G Clements, K Allen, C Francis, the Clerk, and 6 members of the public. After agenda item 36.26 Cllr Osbourne joined the meeting as the newly co-opted Councillor.**

**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 2nd February 2026 were approved and were signed as a true record by the Chair of meeting.

**Chairman's Report -** After attending the KALC Chairmanship Conference, it was interesting to learn that a time-line for the Local Government reorganisation is already in place. This will have many implications for all Parish Councils. A public consultation is currently open, and I would strongly encourage everyone to read the proposals, consider the potential effects, and submit a response.

**The Mulberry Tree, planted in the King George V, needs to be monitored. It has been braced but may need further bracing.**

**The metal fencing to the boundary line of the Burial Ground with the Old Vicarage needs removing.**

**Co-option**

- 1) It was agreed that Jeremy Osbourne would be co-opted to fill the casual vacancy.
- 2) It was noted that Jeremy Osbourne signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, witnessed in the presence of the Members of Office and the Clerk.

**Finance**

1. The Accounts from February 2026 were agreed as true record and were signed by the Chairman of the meeting.
2. The Bank Reconciliation from February 2026 was agreed as true record and was signed by the Chairman of the meeting.
3. It was discussed that further information was required before a contribution of £50.00 to the Little Stour and Nailbourne River Group was discussed and agreed.
4. The following virements were considered and agreed:  
 £18000 from ringfenced Churchyard to Churchyard  
 £143.00 from Training to Office Expenses  
 £200.00 from Training to Office Expenses

/cont...

... cont/

**£1700.00 General Reserves to Clerks Salary**

**Transfer of £25,000 from Natwest Reserve Account Natwest Current Account.**

**5.The Grant Award policy for 2026/27 was reviewed and re-adoption agreed.**

**6.The Asset Register was reviewed and re-adoption agreed.**

**7.The February 2026 invoices were agreed, and payments were approved.**



#### **Policies**

**1.The Freedom of Information and Publication scheme was reviewed and re-adoption agreed.**

**2.The Risk Management Register was reviewed and re-adoption agreed.**

**3.The Tree Management Procedure was reviewed and re-adoption agreed.**

**4.The Complaints Procedure was reviewed and re-adoption agreed.**

**5.The Abusive, Persistent or Vexatious Complaints Policy was reviewed and adoption agreed.**

**6.The Privacy Notice was received by all and agreed.**

**7.The Accessibility Statement was received by all and agreed.**

**8.The Document Retention and Disposal Policy was reviewed and re-adoption agreed.**

#### **Planning**

**1.The following applications were considered and comments agreed:**

**25/2316/FH – 2 The Orchards, Elham CT4 6TR – Single storey rear extension.**

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

**2.The following application was received since the agenda was issued, comments agreed:**

**26/0183/FH - Springwood, Boyke Lane, Rhodes Minnis, Canterbury, CT4 6XN- Hipped to gable with 3 front dormers and a rear flat roof dormer. Agreed views and comments of the Parish Council: NO OBJECTION**

**3.To note any decisions made by Folkestone and Hythe District Council**

**25/1752/FH – Farm Yard rear Meadow Barn, North Elham Hill, Elham - Erection of a single storey agricultural occupancy dwelling, together with associated landscaping – FHDC Decision - Refused.**

**25/2188/FH - Annex, The Old Vicarage, Vicarage Lane, Elham, CT4 6TT - Listed Building Consent for installation of railings to flat roof area – FHDC Decision - Approved with conditions.**

**25/2291/FH and 25/2296/FH (Listed Building Control) – River Cottage, Straight Hill, Wingmore, Elham CT4 6LT - Proposed brick chimney and hearth addition to the existing garden room –FHDC Decision - Approved with conditions.**

**25/2298/FH – Longland Farm, Exted Hill, Elham CT4 6UD – Erection of rural workers dwelling with associated works – FHDC Decision – Application withdrawn.**

#### **Consultation**

**1.The Proposals of Local Government reorganisation in Kent and Medway was discussed; it was agreed that the Councillors would respond as individuals.**

**2.The Public Rights of Way Statement of Priorities was discussed, it was agreed that the Councillors would respond as individuals.**

**Churchwall – The works to the section of churchwall should be completed within the next week. It needs to be agreed where to store the excess flint, which could be used in the works required in the rolling maintenance of the wall. The working group will meet to discuss the rolling maintenance and report back to full Council.**

**Correspondence received from FoSM was discussed. It was agreed that the Tree Warden would continue discussions with FoSM regarding a replacement tree to the Churchyard. It is to be noted that a faculty will be required for the replacement tree should the Parish Council agree its replacement.**

**Wellbeing - Music for Mind was very well received — it was a fantastic evening, and a huge thank you goes to the Wellbeing Committee, the volunteers, and the brilliant bands for all their hard work. A total of £2,304.00 has been generously donated to South Kent Mind.**

**Highway – There are several outstanding and ongoing issues scheduled for discussion at the forthcoming meeting with KCC Highways and KCC Cllr Hespe. An update on these matters will be provided at the next Parish Council meeting.**

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

**Resolved: to exclude the public and press under section 12 of Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the sensitivity of the items to be discussed.**

**Staffing Matters- Following a discussion regarding the employment of the Clerk, it was agreed that Staffing Committee will report back to Council.**

**Date of next meeting and Close - The next meeting will be the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council on Monday 13th April 2026 at 7.30pm. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25pm.**

# Elham Newsletter



Following on from my coffee morning in Lyminge, constituents invited me to come and see their concerns regarding Southern Water tankers on Shuttlesfield Lane in Ottinge. I saw firsthand the damage caused by the ongoing issues linked to Southern Water. It is clear from what I witnessed, and from the conversations I had with constituents affected, that the situation has had a serious impact on our local environment and on the lives of people in our community.

I am very aware of the concerns being raised across Elham about water quality, infrastructure failures, and the wider consequences of these incidents. The scale of the problem in Ottinge highlights the need for accountability, transparency and urgent action.

Please be assured that I am actively engaging with Southern Water and relevant authorities to ensure that these concerns are properly addressed. It is essential that lessons are learned and that meaningful steps are taken to prevent further damage.

As part of this work, I am liaising with representatives to organise a dedicated community event in the Elham village. This will provide residents with an opportunity to raise their concerns directly, hear updates and ensure that your voices are central to the response going forward.

I will share further details about this event shortly. In the meantime, I remain committed to pressing for answers, supporting affected residents and working to ensure that our local environment is properly protected.

If you have been impacted or would like to share your experience, please do not hesitate to get in touch. You can email me at [sojan.joseph.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:sojan.joseph.mp@parliament.uk) or call my office on 01233 515107.

**Sojan Joseph**

**Member of parliament for Ashford, Hawkinge and the Villages.**

## ***District Council Update, April 2026, from Cllr James Butcher***



### **North Downs Forum**

The North Downs Forum is a good way to find out about initiatives across the North Downs area, and to share ideas and expertise. We meet every couple of months, with a different focus each time. Meetings are informal, and anyone is welcome to come along – you can email me if you'd like more details.

At our April meeting we had an update on the South Kent Food Partnership, which focuses on emergency food distribution, avoiding food going to waste, and encouraging health eating & sustainable growing. And linked to that, we heard about the work of the Thoughtful Food group in Lyminge. We also looked at the potential in our area for community energy projects, which allow communities to own and benefit from locally generated energy.

Back in March a sub-group met with the consultants who are helping F&HDC with a project to assess the economic challenges and opportunities around the district, to lead to recommendations for what the council can do in response, recognising how different our three main geographical areas are - Folkestone & Hythe, Romney Marsh, and North Downs. The report should be out later this month.

### **Tourism**

We now have a tourism map for the North Downs area, to complete the series of maps that cover the rest of the district – the map was produced with the help of the North Downs Forum, and comes as a pad of tear-off sheets. It's being distributed to cafes, shops, and other outlets across the area – let me know if you have somewhere that could stock the map.

/cont...

**Funding available**

The Rural England Prosperity Fund provides capital grant funding for both businesses and community projects in rural areas. There are still some funds remaining, although we're processing a lot of expressions of interest – if you're looking for funding for a project, you can find details at

[www.folkestone.works](http://www.folkestone.works)



The first year of the district council's Green Grant scheme provided funding to almost 40 organisations, with grants ranging from a few hundred pounds to £20,000. The projects that were funded include electrical recycling, tree planting, developing sensory gardens, restoring ponds, growing mushrooms on spent coffee grounds, and installing solar panels. The scheme is being extended for a second year, and will be relaunched at the Sustainable Futures Forum on 21 April. The Sustainable Futures Forum is a network that brings together community groups and businesses with an active interest in sustainability, and is an opportunity to make connections and learn from each other's experience.

And finally it looks like the new financial year will see an increase in the ward grant budget that each district councillor has to allocate, which will allow us to support more community projects. The scheme will open next month, with details on the F&HDC website. Do get in touch with any of us individually if you have a project you think we could help with.

**Town of Culture**

F&HDC has now submitted an "expression of interest" to the government to be considered for the UK Town of Culture 2028, which brings with it a £3m investment pot. Back in February we held an engagement event at the Leas Cliff Hall with over 90 individuals and organisations participating and helping to shape the ideas in the bid. We should hear in the next few weeks whether we're through to the next round.

The proposed Town of Culture programme inevitably focuses on Folkestone itself, but many of the cultural organisations in the town are keen to extend their reach across the district. For example, I've previously used some of my ward grant budget to support a series of songwriting workshops in Elham, run by Folkestone Music Town. If you have ideas about ways to support the creative life of the community, do get in touch.

**Kent Community Volunteers – "Connecting Communities"**

Plenty of older people have worries about getting themselves to medical appointments, or to visit friends and family, or doing the weekly shop – and can't rely on bus services, or find the journey too much. Kent Community Volunteers have a network of drivers who can get older people to where they need to go – for an annual membership fee of £25, you can then book a lift, paying the driver for mileage. And more drivers are needed in the North Downs area! If you're interested in the service, either as a member or as a volunteer driver, you can contact Kent Community Volunteers on 01304 380513 or via their website [www.kcv.org.uk](http://www.kcv.org.uk)

[james.butcher@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:james.butcher@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)

***Kent County Councillor Annual Report for Parish and Town Councils***



With many Parish Councils in Elham Valley (there are 16!) holding their annual meetings around this time, it may be opportune to reflect on my first year as a County Councillor.

My role is to ensure good quality services are provided at County and local level, whilst representing the 20,000 residents of Elham Valley. I have been welcomed in so many places, and I would like to thank you for that. The County Council is the largest in England, is hugely complex and has a net spend of approximately £1.6 billion. I will write a future newsletter outlining the breadth and reach of KCC, but for the time being you may be interested to hear what the first year of the new administration at County Hall has achieved:

**Money**

We inherited a dreadful financial position from the previous administration, but in the year we have reduced debt by £114 million and debt interest paid by £3,362 per day. We managed to set a Council Tax increase lower than 86% of County, Metropolitan and Unitary Councils in England. Across the year, we made £115 million savings and re-prioritised future spend of £39.5 million.

A budget for 2026/27 has been set with no extra borrowings, a net increase in reserves, and increased spending for Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Environment, Highways and Transport.

**Putting Kent First**

For Local Government Reorganisation, we devised an option for local government to save Kent taxpayers £450 million over 10 years.

We produced 'Reforming Kent'; a plan setting out Kent's priorities.

**Kent County Councillor Annual Report** continued...

The Council scrapped the 'Climate Emergency Declaration' and subsequent need to spend and achieve Net Zero by 2030. We declared an 'Illegal Migration Emergency' in Kent to highlight cost and safety; and we campaigned for new Nuclear provision at Dungeness; International rail services to reopen at Ashford and Ebbsfleet; and began exploration of establishing an Environment Tax for foreign lorries.

**Saving Services**

We overturned proposals to close 34 Libraries, close Country Parks, lose 35 Community Wardens, discontinue with School Crossing Staff and close four Household Waste Centres, which had all been threatened by the previous administration.

**Education Services**

We struggled with the increasing cost of special educational needs, and reducing costs of home to school transport proved to be an ongoing problem. But overall, 98% of Early Years settings were deemed 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, and 96% of pupils obtained a place at one of their preferred schools.

**Businesses**

We were keen to support Kent businesses, so we produced Kent's first Commercial Strategy, provided enhanced support for 500 Kent supplier companies, and awarded £55 million more value of contracts to Kent companies. More than 1,100 businesses were assisted via the Kent and Medway Growth Hub.

**Roads**

Like all areas in the UK, our roads suffered during the 'freeze/thaw' of winter. The surfaces were patched on a temporary basis, but we can usually only provide a good repair in dryer weather. We spent a record amount on pothole repairs (£67 million) and filled in the region of 50,000 potholes, which is a significant increase on previous years. We re-tendered for a new contractor, and Ringway will commence in May 2026. The heavy rainfall posed drainage problems, particularly in Elham and Ottinge, although we did manage to clear more than 85,000 gullies across the County. Significant road improvements were made during the year, including Spitfire Way in Hawkinge, the High Street in Etchinghill and the B2086 (Stone Street) near Petham and Stanford.

**Other Services**

We carried out nearly 7,000 weddings and civil ceremonies, welcomed 2.7 million visitors to libraries and 1.2 million to country parks. Some 99.6% of municipal waste was diverted from landfill and the Council dealt with well over 650,000 tonnes of waste.

**Member Community Grants**

Grants were issued to a number of organisations in Elham Valley, including MCA Dance for Special Needs; Hawkinge Community Events for Summer, Halloween and Christmas events; Elham Valley Cricket Club; Sellindge and District Bowls Club and Shepway Wanderers FC Disability.

**The Next Year**

I am committed to protecting valued services and ensuring your money is spent wisely. We will have tighter contracts and greater value for money, and I will seek to ensure that Elham Valley residents' needs are addressed by KCC.

Chris Hespe

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



Elham  
Historical  
Society

**Presents****"Archaeology in the The Elham Valley"**

We are delighted to welcome Dr Andrew Richardson to give us an illustrated in depth talk about archaeology in the Elham Valley from the Stone Age to the Dark Ages.



Refreshments available as usual from our pay bar.

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**7.00 for 7.30p.m.**

**Entry for EHS Members £3 Non Members £5**

**Elham Village Hall**

[elhamhistorical@outlook.com](mailto:elhamhistorical@outlook.com)

[elhamhistorical.org](http://elhamhistorical.org)



**MAY WORD SEARCH**

As the weather warms up . we are needing to consider our

summer wardrobe. Styles come and go, fashions repeat..

Can you find the ‘fashion’ words that we do not hear so often now? Did you / do you own any of these items?

- morning coat      chemise      windcheater
- Frockcoat      gown      hotpants      legwarmers
- Loincloth      matinee coat      muffler      neckerchief
- sheath dress      shell suit      sloppy joe      swing coat
- Bellbottoms      bloomers      bootlace tie      doublet
- braces



**130 CLUB Winners  
April DRAW**

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize (£32) Number 29 Maggie Tappenden**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize (£20) Number 22 Julia Newman**  
**3rd Prize (£13) Number 71 Robert Bagley**

please contact Martin Turner  
 01303 840804 /jgt867@aol.com

**ELHAM ENVIRONMENT GROUP APRIL DIARY**

Spring is a busy time for Elham Environment Group.

We have been building dead hedges in the grounds of Elham Village Hall. ‘Dead’ hedge is somewhat of a misnomer as these will provide a perfect habitat for local wildlife.

We have also been making bird boxes for a range of feathered friends, and bat boxes. These can be pre-ordered for collection at the Elham Farmer’s market in June.

**Advance Notice.**

If you see some of us sitting on the bench in front of the King’s Arms during May, don’t jump to the wrong conclusion. This is not a leisure activity, but rather a comprehensive survey of swift activity focused on the northern eaves of St Mary’s Church.

If you would like to know more about what Elham Environment Group gets up to, please contact Chris Jelly: [chrisjelly71@gmail.com](mailto:chrisjelly71@gmail.com)



## LOCAL NEWS



What a change in the weather this month - gone are the days of non-stop rain. - springlike sunshine and warmth - wonderful!

The speaker at the meeting on 19th March was Kevin Tooher who talked about pruning. It was a most informative and entertaining evening-he talked about tools, reasons for pruning and various methods. We thought we

knew how to prune - now we do!

The big event at the end of the month was the Spring Show - a lovely day which brought record numbers of people to study the many entries, buy from the Bring and Swap stall and drink coffee. Entries in the competitions were up this year -in spite of the rain - and produced a fine show.

Maggie Newington won the 'Best in Show' prize - the Buckhurst Vase- for her miniature daffodils and also a prize for a tulip which was judged Best Single Bloom. The award for the Best Pot went to David Kincaid. Altogether, a very successful and enjoyable show.

The next big event looming on the horizon is the Open Gardens Weekend on 13th and 14th June. We have 9 gardens open from 12pm to 4.30pm on both days. The gardens are all very different, showing the taste and interests of the owners but all are spectacular in their own way. Visitors will receive a map showing exactly where they are and how to approach the various gardens. The Old Vicarage - the busiest garden not just for its beauty and variety but for the fact that teas and delicious home-made cakes will be available - and eagerly awaited by visitors from previous years. DO put these dates in your diaries - and fingers crossed for good weather!

On the subject of teas, we do need an enormous number of cakes for the week-end. The refreshment team would be so grateful if as many bakers as possible could supply a cake to be cut and shared. (Tea and cakes are for many the highlight of the weekend). If you can help for this occasion, please let our organiser know as soon as possible on 840720 or [bathow50@btinternet.com](mailto:bathow50@btinternet.com).

The speaker at the meeting on 21st May will be our own Gavin Wales who will talk about propagation - don't miss it.

Meetings are held in the Peggy Pike room of the Village Hall on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30pm.

Frances Horton. - 840550.

### **REMINDER - GARDEN COMPETITIONS**

Entries for the Garden Competitions to be telephoned to the Show Secretary, Pam Tebbs on: 01303 840693 by 5 pm on Friday 5th June.

The Gardens will be judged on Friday 12th June. Please circle these entries on your entry form. Please consider entering both classes.

#### ***The Harrowing Challenge Bowl***

*Given by Lt. Col. W.W. Harrowing for the garden in the Parish of Elham with the most pleasing combination of design, colour and content.*

#### ***The Harrowing Challenge Cup***

*Given by Lt. Col. W.W. Harrowing for the best home garden or allotment in the Parish of Elham.*

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 rug, 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.*

**ELHAM OPEN GARDENS – 13<sup>TH</sup> & 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026**



Last month's message from me was a disaster – no contact information – so now I am all behind like a donkey's hind leg (as my mother would have said). However, with 6 weeks in hand, and with you all behind me, all will be well.



**CAKES, CAKES CAKES**

**CAKES, CAKES, CAKES**

60 are needed to feed the multitude, and to date we have the offer of 26, so PLEASE, all of you lovely people who have baked before, and especially newcomers to the Village, consider baking your favourite cake for the fast-becoming legendary **OPEN GARDEN TEAS** at **THE OLD VICARAGE**. Contact me NOW on [bathow50@btinternet.com](mailto:bathow50@btinternet.com)

For anyone who would like to experience the OPEN GARDENS TEAS from the engine room, I have space for several others to help out in the kitchen or in the garden. Again, tell me NOW at [bathow50@btinternet.com](mailto:bathow50@btinternet.com)

Yours, eternally grateful, and ever optimistic,  
Barbara Athow, Elham Gardening Society, Open Gardens Teas.

**Elham Summer Food and Craft Festival 14th June**



We are delighted to have over 40 stalls for our next market on Sunday 14th June. This will open at 11am to the chimes of the church bells, followed by the official opening by the fantastic Pam Ferris.

We have all your usual favourites at the market including Gilda Bakery, Sussex Wildfood, Rotherwood Butchers, Cured and Smoked, The Copper Kettle, Cheesemakers of Canterbury, plus some very exciting new additions including olives, deli, nougat and brownies. In the church there is a wide range of craft stalls and the Chancel Cafe which will be serving refreshments. The Kings Arms will be running a bbq and an outside bar. Our Raffle proceeds will be going to our chosen charity for this year, The Children and Young People's Cancer Association

Many thanks to the *Shepway and Canterbury Advertiser* and Bridge & Villages magazine for helping us to advertise this event.  
Debbie Francis

**SNIPPERS & CLIPPERS**

UNISEX HAIR SALON



A TRIBUTE TO HELEN



**CELEBRATING 65 YEARS OF HAIRDRESSING**



This lovely lady has finally hung up her scissors after an incredible 65 years of hairdressing.

Helen has been such a huge part of the story here at Snippers & Clippers, and without her, I truly wouldn't be where I am today.

She would also like to say a heartfelt thank you to all of her loyal clients over the years for their support and custom - it has meant the world. From all of us at Snippers & Clippers, we wish you a very well-earned rest, Helen. It simply won't be the same without you.

4 Station Rd, Lyminge, Kent, CT18 8HP  
01303 647222



**KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOUR**

*Would you like to be the neighbour we can get  
to know?*

*Or do you have someone in mind that YOU  
would like to get to know?*

*Suggestions for NEIGHBOURS please to*

*elhamnewsletter@gmail.com*

Editor

Please visit our website for information about our churches, services & events [www.elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk](http://www.elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk)



## NOTICES for May



**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 May

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

### 3<sup>rd</sup> May – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

**0800** Said Holy Communion; **0930** – Morning Service

**Lectionary readings:**

Acts 7:55-end; Psalm 31:1-5; 1 Peter 2:2-10; or Genesis 8:1-19; John 14:1-14

### 10<sup>th</sup> May – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter - Rogation Sunday

**0845** Morning Prayer to begin walk to Denton

**Lectionary readings:**

Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:7 – end; 1 Peter 3:13-end; or Genesis 8:20-9:17; John 14:15-21

**1100** Prayers at Denton; **1300** Final Prayers at Wootton (approx. times)

### 17<sup>th</sup> May – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

**09.30** Eucharist

**Lectionary readings:**

Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10; 1 Peter 4:12-14,5:6-11 or Ezekiel 36:24-28; John 17:1-11

### 24<sup>th</sup> May – Pentecost – Whit Sunday

**09:30** Morning Service

**Lectionary readings:**

Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:26-end; 1 Corinth 12:3b-13 or Numbers 11:24-30 ; John 20:19-23

### 31<sup>st</sup> May – Trinity Sunday

**1000** All Age Benefice Service at St Peter's, Swingfield

**Lectionary readings:**

Isaiah 40:12-17,27-end; Psalm 8; 2 Corinth 13:11-end; Matthew 28:16-end

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

[m.keeble@outlook.com](mailto:m.keeble@outlook.com)

### Elham Methodist Church

(all at 9.30am unless otherwise stated)

Services for May

3<sup>rd</sup> Local arrangement

10<sup>th</sup> United Service at Rhodes Minnis

17<sup>th</sup> Local arrangement (video available)

24<sup>th</sup> United Service at St Andrew's

31<sup>st</sup> United Service at Lyminge 10.15



## CHURCH and LOCAL NEWS

### 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.

### Safeguarding / 'A Safe Church':

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

Susannah Pallot : [susannahpallot@gmail.com](mailto: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.



### Interested in local Elham History?

Then come and join us at the

### Elham Historical Society

for:

- Interesting local historical talks
- Trips & outings
- Social events

Contact us via email: [elhamhistorical@outlook.com](mailto:elhamhistorical@outlook.com)

Visit our website: <http://www.elhamhistorical.org>

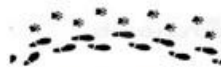
## ROGATION WALK

Blessing the fields, crops and livestock of our Parish



Starting at St Mary's, Elham  
at 8.45am on  
Sunday, May 10th

Via Rakeshole Farm to  
St. Mary Magdalene Church  
Denton at 11am



Finishing at St. Martin's  
Church, Wootton at  
Approx 1 pm

## Information & Advice: Drop In Sessions

Every Second Monday of  
the month

Drop In Sessions are  
open from 10AM - 1PM

Lyminge Library, 7-9 Station Rd,  
Lyminge, Folkestone CT18 8HS

Need support with benefits, available services or other issues affecting later life? Our Information & Advice Drop-In offers free, confidential guidance on a range of topics, including:

- Benefit checks to see what you may be entitled to
- Blue Badge applications
- Local community resources
- Health & wellbeing services

No appointment needed—just drop in and  
speak with our friendly team!

Call **01303 269602** for more information



Registered charity number 1125274.  
Company number 6589817.  
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# Elham Open Gardens

## 2026

in aid of

### National Garden Scheme



Saturday 13 June 12 noon - 4.30pm  
& Sunday 14 June 12 noon - 4.30pm

Combined admission for 9 gardens

Adults £10    Children free

\* Homemade teas 2pm - 4.30pm in the beautiful  
Old Vicarage Garden with a selection of plants for sale

\* Elham Food & Craft Festival Sunday 14 June  
11am - 2pm in The Square & St Mary's Church





**Are creaky painful joints getting you down?**

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

**Are you waiting to be seen for help with your pain?**

*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.*

**Do you have osteoarthritis/wear and tear/rheumatism and feel that more can be done to improve your quality of life?**

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

Minimise Pain  
Optimise Mobility  
Enhance Your Health

At AK Healthcare we believe in treating the whole person, helping you feel like you again.

We believe that everyone deserves to live a life free from the limitations of pain.

**Book online:**

**[www.AKHealthcare.org.uk](http://www.AKHealthcare.org.uk)**

**07904311554**

**Or scan the QR code:**



AK Healthcare  
4 Station Rd, Lyminge



**How to Run a Primary School**

This was the subject of the very interesting talk given by the recently-appointed Elham School Headteacher Joe Magliocco in March.

His talk on running a small village school prompted many questions from members of the monthly Elham Friendship Lunch Club.

Joe explained the financial challenges, where money available is dependent on the number of pupils. Yet numbers are declining due to the falling birth rate, and all the local primary schools are chasing the same few pupils.

But his upbeat attitude was that much can be achieved with available resources. Joe explained the guiding principles of the



school, the opportunities offered with music and sport tuition, whether or not to give homework, the importance of discipline and kindness, and never to forget that children only get one chance at education, so it has to be the best.

**The Miracle of the Monthly Newsletter**

In April “the neighbour you wish to know” was Renee Bull, the enthusiastic and untiring editor of this newsletter.

She jogged the memory of some long-standing Elhamites by running through the developments of the newsletter from its early beginnings as a small black and white newsheet, to its development and improvements over the years, under the editorship of a number of dedicated volunteers.

What you receive today every month is in no small part due to Renee’s vision and passion for a newsletter which is informative, entertaining, well organised, and able to give a voice to so many of our village organisations and events.

Renee was quick to praise the many people involved in its production, from the contributors to proofreaders, advertisers, and the army of distributors. But her entertaining talk made it abundantly clear that without Renee, we would not have such a good read every month!

**Recycling** will be the topic of our speaker in May: a representative from Folkestone and Hythe District Council will come to clarify what for many of us is a daily puzzle: **what to recycle where**. Hopefully he will also explain why recycling properly is



so important to achieving our environmental aims.

Please bring along an item of rubbish which puzzles you; is it tin, plastic, bin, compost? We hope to have it all explained.

Anne Leva

## ELHAM MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION – 11 APRIL 2026

The Elham Valley Model Railway Club (EVMRC), in conjunction with the East Kent Model Railway Society (EKMRS), was proud to put on the first model railway exhibition in the valley for 10 years in the Village Hall on 11 April. It's great that two model railway clubs can work together to provide such a successful event.

EVMRC were able to show the completed model of Elham Station which we had just begun at the time of the previous event. Also displayed was 'Shepley', which was produced by the late Bev Sheppard, a founder member of the club, for his grandson. Our latest project, a Victorian steam tram layout was shown in its formative stages, together with a display of models of passenger trains representing those which would have run through Elham



We are very grateful for the support of the 451 people who attended the event – a number at least on par with what is achieved in the larger towns where EKMRS put on similar events. Not bad for a small village such as ours!! We hope you all had an interesting and enjoyable time. We were delighted to meet TV's Paul Merton who visited us during the latter part of the afternoon and kindly joined us for group photos.



EVMRC would like to thank Nick Evans, president of EKMRS, who was the lead co-ordinator of the event. Also to the members of his society who did the stewarding, and the exhibitors of the 11 other model layouts, the 7 trade stands, and to Canterbury & District Model Engineering Society for providing the miniature train rides outside for the children. This proved very popular and dozens of adults as well as children enjoyed a ride up and down the village hall garden.

The Parish Council permitted us to use the overflow car-park on the Gore, and with the help of a specialised car parking team, we hope we minimised any potential traffic disruption in the village.

Excellent light refreshments were provided by The Pilgrims Hospice who also ran a tombola. Invaluable funds from this were kept by them to support their charitable work.

Funds raised from the admission charges, after costs, will be used by EKMRS to develop their junior section and hence to keep the hobby in East Kent alive.

Finally, we would like to thank the person who put 'CANCELLED' labels over our advertising posters in the village during the previous Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning. This prompted us to replace them with 'THIS SATURDAY' labels and thus generate further footfall for the event.

We will endeavour to repeat the event in the future – hopefully with less than a 10 year wait this time!

S. Cupit





**DON'TS FOR WIVES**

For several years I have published suggested ways of behaving for wives from a self-help book written by Blanche Ebbutt in 1913.

I hope you have been amused... but now that source is exhausted.

Moving on, I have a book 'The Man's Book' by Thomas Fink which similarly advises men on appropriate behaviour, except this one was published in 2006 and therefore more relevant.

**'Buttonholes**

*Like most details of the men's suit, the buttonhole on the left lapel is not fanciful. It descends from a true button hole. An artefact of the high fastening lapels of the 18th century—buttoning descended but the buttonholes did not. Putting a buttonhole to unintended use is not new: in the early 18th century the ends of the lace cravats popular at the time were pulled through it, a style known as the Steinkerk.*

*Today the buttonhole is used to hold a flower, though a sprig of ivy will not be out of place. Well tailored suits have a loop inside the lapel to hold the stem. It is incorrect to pin a flower to a lapel without a buttonhole. The buttonhole flower itself should look as though it came from the neighbour's garden, not arranged by a florist. Carnations and thistles are smart, as are paper poppies in November. Orchids are camp. A rose is worn on St Georges Day. ' Did you wear a rose on St George's day?*

Editor

**Cantores**  
 Conductor: Malcolm Munro  
 Accompanist: John Mitchell  
 Soprano: Emily Steventon  
 Tenor: Joe Yarrow  
 Bass: Steve Yarrow

A Viennese themed concert

**SCHUBERT:  
 Mass in G**

Including...

**MOZART:  
 Ave Verum**

**HAYDN:  
 Insanae et Vanae Curae**

Saturday  
 16 May 2026 at 6.00 pm  
 St Mary & St Ethelburga Church  
 Lymington

Tickets £15  
 Cash on the door - children free of charge

**FOLKESTONE  
 GARDEN CENTRE**

FOLKESTONE GARDEN CENTRE, SWINGFIELD YOUR LOCAL GARDEN CENTRE

**WHY VISIT US?**

- OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
- KNOWLEDGEABLE, FRIENDLY STAFF
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- LARGE FREE CAR PARK
- GARDEN FURNITURE SHOWROOM
- REGULAR, AFFORDABLE FAMILY FUN EVENTS

**BUY ONE GET ONE FREE REGULAR HOT DRINK**

16th JULY - 31st JULY 2026  
 Voucher valid only for Groves Restaurant, Folkestone Garden Centre. Offer excludes Bank Holidays. Voucher must be presented at time of full transaction and will be retained by our team. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer or vouchers. One voucher redeemable per transaction, per day only. Not valid for purchases with gift vouchers. Subject to availability. Offer valid for the regular hot drinks menu only. Offer excludes cold drinks, iced coffees and refreshments. For multiple drink purchases, the cheapest drink free.

5563114785

YOU CAN FIND FOLKESTONE GARDEN CENTRE 5 MILES OUTSIDE THE CENTRE OF FOLKESTONE ON THE CANTERBURY ROAD (A260), WEST OF SWINGFIELD. BUS ROUTE 16

ALSO AT, CANTERBURY GARDEN CENTRE, TENTERDEN GARDEN CENTRE & HAMPTREET GARDEN CENTRE

**DOWNLOAD OUR GROVEWELL APP:**  
 Scan the QR code to download or search Grovewell Garden Centres in the App Store or Google Play

***New Monday evening session***



Due to popular demand, the Elham Community Shed has started a new Monday evening woodturning session, running from 18.30 to 21.00. This session is specifically for those who wish to learn the art of wood turning, and for members who can't attend daytime sessions.



Space is limited to just three learners at any one time, so booking is essential, by email to [elhamshed@gmail.com](mailto:elhamshed@gmail.com) Please contact us with your preferred day and time. We look forward to seeing all your creations.

**Cycle maintenance**

One of our members has offered to run a basic cycle maintenance course on a Saturday morning in May. The date is being finalised, so watch out for it soon.

**Whittling**

Whittling a spoon is very relaxing, so says Jim! Many members turn up to have a go, usually on a Thursday.

**Palette booths for the Caldecott Foundation**

Work is progressing apace on this project, to offer sheltered seating for students at this establishment in Smeeth. This also takes place on Thursdays, and we are grateful to all those who are helping with this project.

**Volunteers needed in June**

In the spirit of cooperation with other village organisations, we are asking if any of our members would be willing to help manage car parking on the school playing field and the Triangle on the Open Gardens weekend, Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 June, from 13.30 to 16.30 both days (starting at 13.00 on the school field on Sunday). Market volunteers will manage parking on Sunday morning, during the Elham Food & Craft Festival.

The idea would be to limit duties to one hour per person so no-one feels over-burdened. We would require four volunteers per hour. If you are willing and able to give up a little of your time, please reply to [elhamshed@gmail.com](mailto:elhamshed@gmail.com) stating your preferred day, time (and whether you can do a longer shift). The Gardening Society and us thank you in advance. Well managed parking will make everyone happy on both days!

**Tool Sharpening Day**

The Community Shed Tool Sharpening Day was busy favourite secateurs and treasured tools for a clean-up

Saturday morning was sunny and cheerful with a friendly convivial atmosphere and all enjoyed a cup of coffee with biscuits also on offer. Thanks must go to not only our customers for their support, but also to the Community



with villagers bringing their and sharpen.



Shed Team who fulfilled various roles and raised £257 for their mornings labour.



**LOCAL NEWS**



**Local balloon artist,  
creating beautiful balloons  
for all occasions**

**Balloons make every event even more beautiful**

- Birthday Balloon Number Stacks • Balloon Arches
- Balloon Bunches • Balloon Flowers • Balloon Trees
- Gender Reveal • Baby Showers
- Seasonal arrangements (Christmas Elf, Halloween, Easter Bunnies)

*All can be personalised with local delivery or collection*

Call or WhatsApp Sonia **07949 193178**



poppopgoestheballoon



Pop Goestheballoon



**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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& WAKES**



**BIRTHDAY  
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Contact **Olha Bychuk**  
Mob: 0774 6790 618  
[booking@elhamvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:booking@elhamvillagehall.co.uk)

Elham

40+ STALLS

# Summer food & craft festival

Sunday 14 June 11am - 2pm

VILLAGE SQUARE & CHURCH



King's Arms BBQ & outside bar



Next market  
13 Dec '26

Strawberries



Chancel Café



in the church



Raffle

SUPERB PRIZES  
in aid of  
The Children &  
Young People's  
Cancer Association



Handmade Crafts





Church Bells

LOCAL PRODUCE  
CHEESE · BREAD  
FRESH MEAT · FISH  
SEA SALT · PLANTS  
FUDGE · NOUGAT  
CHOCOLATE · OLIVES  
BROWNIES  
& MORE...

Supported by



colebrooksturrock.com

For more information: Debbie Francis, Elham Farmers' Market manager,  
[elhamfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:elhamfarmersmarket@gmail.com)   [KFMA.org.uk/elham](http://KFMA.org.uk/elham)   [facebook.com/elhamfarmersmarket](https://facebook.com/elhamfarmersmarket)

incorporating  
**Browns** colebrooksturrock.com

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

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**Wednesdays** | 6:45 pm

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## LOCAL NEWS

### 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.



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# Elham Valley Cricket Club Junior Coaching



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**Any adults or youngsters?**  
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The table tennis sessions on Monday evenings in the Anna Clayton room have been going well – long may they continue.

**EVH**

**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. Elham Village Hall, upstairs as usual.

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If you would like further details please contact  
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or [ajcjim1904@gmail.com](mailto:ajcjim1904@gmail.com)

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](http://ELHAMVALLEYWALKERS.CO.UK)



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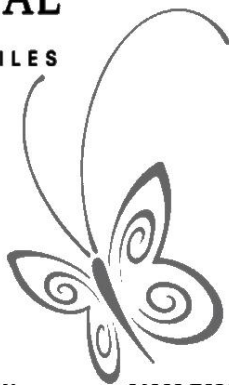
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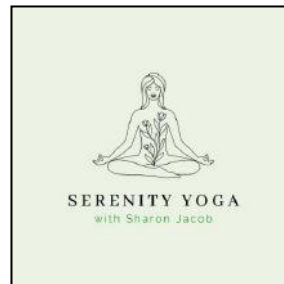
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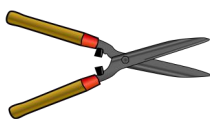
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