



# ELHAM NEWSLETTER

## JUNE 2026

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

Date	Event	Time	Location	Contact	Page
Wednesday 3 June	Social Snacks and Cinema	19.00 for 19.30	Peggy Pike Room Elham Village Hall	Jan Stanyon 01303 840820	4
Friday 5 June	Elham Historical Society	19.00 for 19.30	Elham Village Hall	See poster	12
Saturday 6 June	M P's Coffee Morning Meet Sojan Joseph	9.30—10.30	Elham Village Hall	01233 515107	10



## Welcome to the Elham Newsletter - June 2026

For gardeners it is a busy month and for all the volunteers in the village who contribute to the Farmers' Market and Open Gardens it is a VERY busy month. Seize the opportunity to take part! This is your community!

Our front cover picture was sent by Aleks Budimir, taken at Jumping Downs last June.

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 July 2026 please send details before June 13 to me at [elhamnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:elhamnewsletter@gmail.com).

Remember, there is NO AUGUST NEWSLETTER so if you have an event taking place in September it needs to be sent to me by June 13.

Renee Bull Editor

## What's On, In and Around ELHAM

Date	Event	Time	Location	Contact	Page
Sunday 7 June	Elham Valley Walkers	10.00	Check QR code	Website	29
Sunday 7 June	Orsay Trio Recital	15.00	St Mary's Church	See Poster	25
Saturday 13 June Sunday 14 June	Elham Open Gardens	12.00—16.30	In the village	See Poster	17
Sunday 14 June	Elham Summer Food & Craft Festival	11.00	The Square and St Mary's Church	See poster	26
Saturday 13 June	Walk with Alfie Gay	10.30 -12.00 and 13.00 -14.30	Jumping Downs	<a href="mailto:alfgkg@hotmail.com">alfgkg@hotmail.com</a> 07725 466003.	12
Thursday 18 June	Elham Friendship Lunch Club	12.30	St Mary's Church Hall	01303 470637	n/a
Thursday 18 June	Elham Gardening Society talk	19.30	Peggy Pike Room EVH	See website	15
Saturday 11 July	Cantores Lyminge Prom	16.00	Lyminge Village Hall	See Poster	25
Saturday 18 July	EVHA Volunteers ' Day	10.00—13.00	Elham Village Hall	See poster	4
Saturday 25 July	Elham Gardening Society Summer Show	14.00	Elham Village Hall	See Poster	18

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**130 Club**

MONTHLY WINNERS  
May Draw

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize (£32)	<b>138</b>	Carol Eldred
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize (£20)	<b>133</b>	Penny Carson
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize (£13)	<b>93</b>	Liz Cox

Please contact Martin Turner

01303 840804 | [jgt867@aol.com](mailto: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)



## 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 | Email: [igt867@aol.com](mailto:igt867@aol.com)

**SOCIAL, SNACKS AND CINEMA**

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

**7 for 7.30pm in the Peggy Pike Room.**

Come along to Elham Village Hall for a social evening in the cosy Peggy Pike Room. As usual, we have an interesting film for you to see and discuss. We have a pay bar and an interval planned. During the break you can purchase ices creams and/or crisps. So what's not to like!

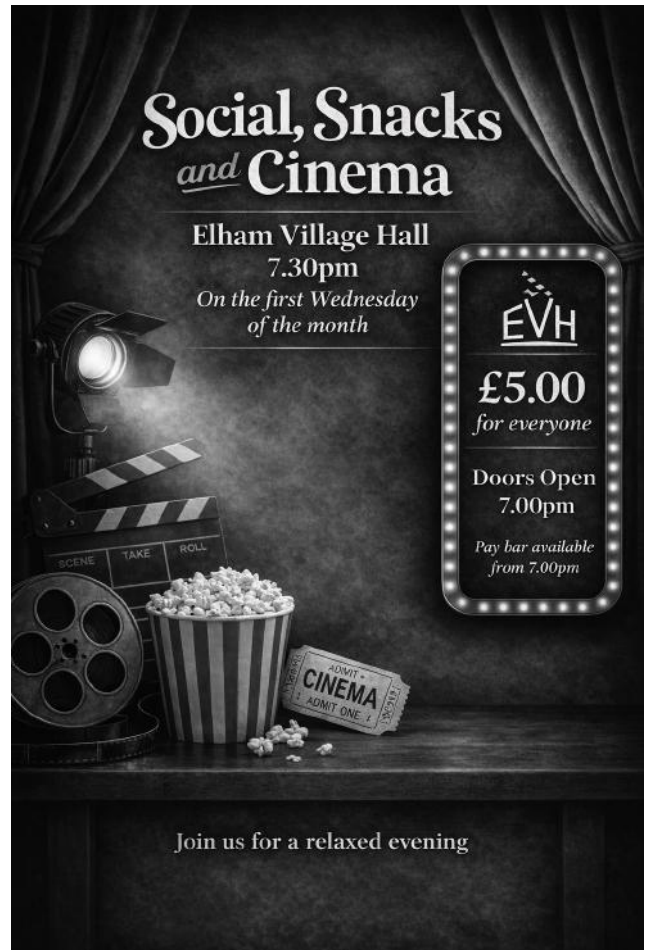
Entry is just £5.00 on the door.

See you there. Jan Stanyon

**Volunteers' Day May 16**

**Thank You!**

We are always grateful to the many people who give their time, expertise and experience on Volunteers' Day at the Village Hall. See our hardworking team last month.



**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*



Dear people of Elham

Three years ago, our family very happily embarked on the great adventure of purchasing The Old Vicarage. We have been welcomed with so much kindness by the Elham community, and for which we are immensely thankful, now really feeling a part of the village.

With a full heart, and enough energy, we plunged ourselves into an extensive restoration of both the house and the garden. Our aim has always been to follow the spirit instilled by The Rev. Alard de Bourbel, and those of FC Eden, his architect, when they thoroughly refurbished the house in 1900.

Thanks to Derek Boughton and the Elham Historical Society, as well as Rachel Williams, many fascinating photographs have guided our choices and direction.

On the final stretch of this journey, we have now begun to restore and redecorate the Old Vicarage gateway.



A postcard written by de Bourbel himself revealed the source of his inspiration: he had copied a Norman porch. Our research suggests such a design goes back to the Middle Ages, with examples in Norman France, The Netherlands and Bavaria.

In keeping with our wish to respect de Bourbel's ideas, we hope to follow in his footsteps by preserving his original choice of design and pattern.

See below a photograph taken at the funeral of Henry William Selby Lowndes, Master of the East Kent foxhounds in 1930.

This decoration may seem rather exotic to some, as it might have been to the villagers of last century, but we hope most will enjoy it.

Please do come through the gates and say hello, and maybe share stories of the history of this beautiful house which we are so fortunate to call our home.

You will always be most welcome.

Virginie et les garçons



## 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.

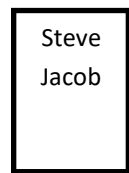
Full minutes can be seen on the Parish Council website and on the notice board by the Rose and Crown bus stop. Editor



## ELHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

## Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Elham Parish Council on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026

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

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 March 2026 were approved and were signed as a true record by the Chair of meeting.

Chairman's Report – No report, as all topics covered within Agenda items.

### Finance

- 1.The Accounts from March 2026 were agreed as true record and were signed by the Chair of the meeting.
- 2.The Bank Reconciliation from March 2026 was agreed as true record and was signed by the Chair of the meeting.
3. A contribution of £50.00 to the Little Stour and Nailbourne River Group was discussed and agreed.
- 4.The March 2026 invoices were agreed, and payments were approved.

### Planning

1.The following applications were considered and comments agreed:

**26/0296/FH** - Weavers, Exted Hill, CT4 6YG – Single storey detached outbuilding. Agreed views and comments of the Parish Council: **NO OBJECTION**

**26/0331/FH/TCA** - Windmill House, Cullens Hill, Elham CT4 6UJ – works to trees in conservation area. Agreed views and comments of the Parish Council: **NO OBJECTION**

**26/0332/FH**- The Laynes, Lickpott Hill, Elham CT4 6TY – Two storey extension including two Juliet balconies, single storey extension with balcony above, two front dormer windows. Agreed views and comments of the Parish Council: **NO OBJECTION**

**26/0071/FH** - 3 New Inn Cottages, High Street, Elham CT4 6TD – Retrospective planning for a garden building. Agreed views and comments of the Parish Council: **OBJECTION** – recommended planning officer to consider Local planning policies HB1 & HB8

**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 four metres & T14 Cherry fell to the ground - Agreed views and comments of the Parish Council: **NO OBJECTION**

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

**26/0526/FH** - Hill House Farm, Bladbean CT4 6LU- Listed Buildings Consent for the conversion of the Cow shed/ Dairy to form a holiday let together with the erection of an extension. Agreed views and comments of the Parish Council: **NO OBJECTION** but provided the reason the building was initially Grade 11 listed is preserved.

... cont/



**3. To note any decisions made by Folkestone and Hythe District Council**  
**25/2316/FH – 2 The Orchards, Elham CT4 6TR – Single storey rear extension. FHDC Decision – Approved with conditions.**

**Highway – The Chair, Cllr Allen and Cllr Francis met with Kent County Councillor, Chris Hespe, and representatives from KCC Highways, along with residents, to highlight and discuss the following ongoing issues:**

**General damage to roads and infrastructure caused by SWA tankering operations. This was discussed at length. Councillor Hespe assured everyone that KCC intend to make sure SWA accept liability for damage caused to the roads, kerbs, and verges and would collaborate with all stakeholders to ensure timely reinstatement.**

**Damage to layby surface and verge at Worlds Wonder, which had recently been made good by KCC.**

**Duck Street – long standing problems with continued flooding. Ottinge & Shuttlesfield suffering from same issues.**

**Drainage problems at North Elham – blocked gulleys by the main road causing flooding issues into houses near the village pond which has been a recurring problem for five years plus.**

**Various potholes throughout the village – though these are slowly being repaired.**

**Vicarage Lane – degraded verges and passing places which is a safety issue for pedestrians accessing the area on foot.**

**Parking issues in the Square. We have contacted the Road Safety Department to discuss solutions. A representative of the senior management of the Kings Arms attended the meeting to explain that they were monitoring the parking situation in the square during busy periods and are keen to work with the parish council to explore potential options. They are sending emails/ texts to all diners to please park respectfully and considerately.**

**Twinning - The Chair of Elham Twinning Association outlined plans for a visit by ten members of the Ambletuse Twinning Association and requested that funding of around £700 be made by the Parish Council. A contribution of £10 per Elham participant was also proposed by the twinning chair to further support catering and annual membership. It was noted that the Parish Council's twinning representative had not been included in recent planning meetings and discussions. Apparently, this was an oversight. Councillors expressed some concern that catering arrangements consisted of sourcing food including a takeaway from outside the valley, feeling this may miss an opportunity to support local businesses. In response, the Chair of the Twinning Association indicated that they would prefer to cancel the event rather than amend the current plans. The Council is **very supportive** of the twinning efforts and would have much preferred to have been able to grant a more significant sum had the planning been more adventurous and inclusive of local suppliers and businesses. However, the council subsequently agreed to provide funding up to £500, in addition to covering the cost of the Village Hall hire (£90). Looking ahead, it was advised that, for continued Parish funding, the Parish Council's representative should be included in all future meetings and communications, and that greater consideration be given to engaging with local businesses and reflecting the interests of the Elham community.**

**Defibrillator – it was agreed that we would get quotes to increase the number of defibrillators throughout the village covering from Ottinge through to North Elham. To report back at the next Parish Council meeting.**

**Burial Ground – to be deferred to the next PC meeting following a request to plant a memorial tree.**

**War Memorial – to receive additional quotes for repairs to the unsafe concrete to the base of the Memorial and to review at the next PC meeting. Currently have two quotes for cleaning and repointing. (£1374 & £2000)**

**Allotments – no actions required at this moment.**

**Insurance – it was agreed that we would get additional quotes to compare with the renewal quote received from Zurich. Renewal date 1.6.2026.**

**Staffing – staffing committee to meet to review procedure and recruitment of new Clerk. In the meantime, the workload will be distributed amongst the councillors.**

**Village Hall – Parish Council meeting will be held in the Peggy Pike room going forward.**

**Annual Meeting of the Parish / Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council – these meeting to be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 6.30pm with the various organisations in the village presenting their annual report.**

**Environment Group – a request was received for wood chip for the herb garden & seeds for the wildflower meadow in the churchyard. This was agreed but KL will discuss the option of combining plugs now and seeds in the Autumn to help initial establishment and longevity.**

**Community Orchard – to agree a maintenance plan for the orchard. Reporting back at next PC meeting.**

**C&A meetings – in response to a question from a parishioner about the timetable for planned C&A meetings, the Chair advised that these meetings are for when businesses are delegated to the committee. If all the points are covered in an Ordinary Parish meeting, there is no need for a committee or subcommittee meeting.**

## LOCAL NEWS

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 Annual Meeting of the Parish on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 6.30pm followed by the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30pm. There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00pm.

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

Editor's note: The report from the Environment Group is on page 12 and from the Elham Twinning Association, page 23 .

### ***Invitation to Your MP's Coffee Morning at the Village Hall***

I am pleased to be holding a Coffee Morning at Elham Village Hall on 6 June  
9:30am to 10:30am.

I hold coffee mornings regularly across the constituency to enable conversations on local and national issues that matter most to you and your community.  
This is a great opportunity to meet with me directly and raise your concerns.



If you would like to attend, please email me at [sojan.joseph.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:sojan.joseph.mp@parliament.uk)  
or contact my office on 01233 515107.

I look forward to meeting you on 6 June

**Sojan Joseph MP"**

### ***District Council Report - Stephen Scoffham***

#### **Drainage system improvements**

Problems to do with bathing water and the drainage system are on-going issues which impact on us all. As we all know, Southern Water now resort to tankering operations on a regular basis whenever there is a wet winter. This has caused misery for local residents and damaged local roads. Pollution levels on our beaches, especially around Romney Marsh are another concern with huge implications.

Although it has no direct powers, the Council has been doing its best to hold Southern Water to account. We have also taken the view that we need to engage constructively and work together to achieve results. The Folkestone MP, Tony Vaughan, has taken a lead supporting this campaign. Together, we appear to have achieved results.

The latest news is that Southern Water have massively increased their planned investment in our area from around £11 million to £42 million. They have allocated £7.5 million to the 'upper Nailbourne villages'. This will be spent sealing sewers to reduce the impact of high groundwater levels on the drainage network, specifically to reduce the risk of pollution in Elham, Lyminge, Peane and other settlements. The work is scheduled for 2026-30. Let's hope it achieves the desired results. This has to be good news, even if it causes disruption.



### ***District Council Report - James Butcher***

#### **North Downs Forum**

We set up the North Downs Forum to bring together community groups, local councillors, small businesses, and interested individuals, to share ideas and expertise, and get a stronger voice for our town and village communities at the District Council. Previous meetings have focused on the local economy, encouraging more tourism in the area, local food production and biodiversity, social isolation & local health services, and community energy projects.



**Our next meeting is 11 June, 19.00 - 20.30, Elham Village Hall.** We'll be hearing from Kent Coast Volunteering about the community transport and befriending services they offer. Both services are available across North Downs, but aren't as widely known about as they should be - and more local volunteers are needed.

We also want to get some community projects off the ground, for example encouraging sustainable tourism (linked to the bid for UNESCO Geopark status for the chalk landscape that connects us to France) or projects to encourage more local food production, or work to protect and celebrate the Nailbourne.

Our upcoming meetings are: 11 June 2026 - Elham Village Hall  
 24 September 2026 - Knowler Farm, Stelling Minnis  
 12 November 2026 - Hawkinge Community Centre  
 11 February 2027 - venue TBC  
 08 April 2027 - venue TBC

Anyone is welcome to come along, so if you think you might be interested, do get in touch. [james.butcher@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:james.butcher@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)

## ***District Council Report - David Godfrey***



Firstly, my congratulations to Kevin Lamb and Christeen Chapman for continuing as Chair and Vice chair respectively of Elham Parish Council and to their fellow Councillors who will collectively represent the Parish for the next year. There will be Elections for Town and Parish Councils throughout Folkestone and Hythe District in May 2027.

My opinion is that those elections will be particularly important to maintain a local voice in local government as we enter the as yet uncharted waters of Local Government Re-organisation which will see the dissolution of the District Council and formation of a new much larger Unitary Council. At this time, we are still awaiting the government's decision on the formation of the new Unitary which may or may not reflect FHDC preference to join with, Dover, Thanet, Canterbury, and Ashford. It remains to be seen whether the current turmoil at Westminster will delay this decision.

### **OtterPool Park**

I was delighted to learn that a crucial part of the Otterpool Park development has been approved taking the project a step closer to delivery. Plans for wastewater treatment works, associated wetlands, and a primary substation at Otterpool Park – submitted by Otterpool Park LLP – have been approved by Kent County Council.

The positive decision on the application follows news of a renewed collaboration agreement between Folkestone & Hythe District Council and Homes England - the government's housing and regeneration agency. The collaboration gives the council access to the additional skills and expertise necessary to successfully progress the high-quality scheme and attract the level of investment required to deliver at this scale.

I have always supported the OtterPool development which will bring homes, employment and new schools with it and am proud to have been a Cabinet Member under the Conservative Administration which had the vision and courage to seek and win Garden town status for Otterpool Park and in playing a part in developing the Otterpool Park Charter which will help protect the environment. The Charter can be seen at [https://www.otterpoolpark.org/app/uploads/2023/03/A\\_Charter\\_for\\_Otterpool\\_Park-1.pdf](https://www.otterpoolpark.org/app/uploads/2023/03/A_Charter_for_Otterpool_Park-1.pdf)

### **Energy efficiency for Council properties**

Folkestone & Hythe District Council has begun its first dedicated solar installation programme for council-owned homes. The two-year contract is expected to deliver roof-mounted solar panels to 250 properties and is part of the council's campaign to reduce the carbon footprint of its housing stock. Properties have been selected based on current energy performance and suitability in supporting the council to meet Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) and helping to reduce tenants' energy bills.

463 council homes have already benefitted from energy efficiency improvements following the completion of the [multi million-pound Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund \(SHDF\) project](#).

Here again I am proud to have been the Cabinet Member for Housing when the previous Administration took back control of its Housing stock and began the long journey to improving energy efficiency and am pleased that the current Administration have continued with this excellent progress.

### **Summer coastal visitor Litter disposal.**

The District Council will be tackling litter this summer with new high-capacity compactor bins, additional crews, and the return of e bike collections at key coastal hotspots.

The initiatives form part of the #LoveYourBeach campaign, delivered in partnership with Dover District Council and waste contractor, Veolia, and aim to keep the district's coastline clean and welcoming for residents, visitors and wildlife.

Building on the success of five solar-powered compactor bins installed last summer, a further five bins each with the ability to hold up to 570 litres of waste will be introduced in 2026, doubling capacity at busy areas along the district's coastline.

An additional 23 purple bulk bins, each holding up to 1,100 litres, will also be in place during peak periods to make it as easy as possible for visitors to dispose of their rubbish. Crews will also operate an increased collection schedule, emptying these bins multiple times a day when required.

Two zero-emission e-bike collection bikes will return during the summer months, allowing crews to access hard-to-reach areas that larger vehicles cannot.

This time I can take no credit for this initiative and congratulate the teams carrying this out.

Wishing everybody a pleasant Summer

Cllr David Godfrey

North Downs East Ward, FHDC

## Elham Environment Group June Diary

We connect with local environment-focused groups as part of a global movement to care for our one and only planet.


For example, we are interested in restoring an ancient heritage pond in our area as part of **The Kent Downs' Natural Landscape Project** to map the ancient heritage ponds which were once a common feature but have since disappeared from view. This will help to support wildlife in our changing climate. For more information please visit [KentDowns.org.uk](http://KentDowns.org.uk).

**World Bee Day**, celebrated on 20 May, raised awareness of the vital role bees and other pollinators play in ecosystems and food production. Nearly 90% of wild flowering plants and over 75% of global crops rely on pollination. The day also highlighted growing threats such as habitat loss, pesticides, and climate change. People are encouraged to plant bee-friendly flowers, support local beekeepers, reduce pesticide use, and spread awareness.

And here is an achievable initiative that we can all get behind:


**Let It Bloom June** builds on No Mow May by encouraging gardeners to leave areas uncut, allowing wildflowers to thrive. This creates habitats for pollinators, supports biodiversity, and keeps gardens colourful and resilient, even during dry summer conditions.

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)



**Dementia Services**

We run free social events to support people living with dementia, helping them stay confident and independent. Everyone is welcome to join us for a cuppa, a chat, and friendly company. We also provide free information and advice, as well as charged cognitive sessions and day care. To talk to us about dementia support, please contact our Dementia Services Team Leader on 01303 269602 or email [dementialead@ageukhla.org.uk](mailto:dementialead@ageukhla.org.uk)



<b>MONDAY</b>	Memory Café	Brickfields, Cherry Garden Lane, Folkestone, CT19 4AP	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June, 10.00am – 12.00pm
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Social Evening* (with a meal)	The Royal Norfolk Hotel, 7 Sandgate High Street, Sandgate, CT20 3BD	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June, 5:30-7:30pm
	Memory Café	Stade Court Hotel, Stade Street, West Parade, Hythe, CT21 6DT	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June, 1:30pm - 3:30pm
	Social Evening* (with a meal)	The New Chimneys, Loudon Way, Ashford, TN23 3JJ	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June, 5:30pm - 7:30pm
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Wonkies*	Skuba Bar Old Bistro, 2 Langhorne Gardens, Folkestone, CT20 2EA	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June, 10:30am - 12:00pm
	Dementia Chorus	Hythe Cricket and Squash Club, Ladies Walk, Hythe, CT21 6AX	Weekly, 2:00pm – 3:30pm
	Dementia Chorus	Age UK Ashford, Farrow Court, Stanhope Road, Ashford, TN23 5RF	Weekly, 10:30am – 12:00pm
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Carer's Support Circle	Age UK Ashford, Farrow Court, Stanhope Road, Ashford, TN23 5RF	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June, 10:30am – 12:00pm
	Memory Café	Etchinghill Golf Club, Canterbury Road, Etchinghill, Folkestone, CT18 8FA	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> June, 1:30pm - 3:30pm
	Hythe Walking Group	Age UK Hythe, Sanford House, Stade Street, Hythe, CT21 6BD	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June, 10:00am - 11:00am
	*Young at Heart group*	Ashford Library, Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, TN23 1AS <small>*Note location &amp; date change*</small>	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> June, 10:30am – 12:30pm
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Drop-In Clinic	Hamstreet Surgery, Ruckinge Road, Hamstreet, Ashford TN26 2NJ	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June, 12:00pm - 2:00pm
	Ashford Walking Group	Harper's Café, Victoria Park, Jenmett Road, Ashford, TN23 4AD	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June, 10:00am - 11:00am
	Memory Café	Age UK Ashford, Farrow Court, Stanhope Road, Ashford, TN23 5RF	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> June, 1:30pm - 3:30pm

\*For those diagnosed with Dementia at an early age

To find out about any of the above activities or events please contact Lauren Povey on: 07379 646426, alternatively email: [demo@ageukhla.org.uk](mailto:demo@ageukhla.org.uk)

Registered charity number 1125274. Company number 6588617. © Age UK Hythe, Lyminge and Ashford 2026

### Summer Wildlife at Jumping Downs


**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June, 10.30am to 12.00pm**  
(1st walk)  
**and 1.00 pm to 2.30pm**  
(2nd walk).

Meet at the entrance to Jumping Downs on South Barham Hill (the gate will be open to allow parking in the field).

**Join naturalist Alfie Gay for a walk across Jumping Downs to learn about some of the wildlife that occurs on this wonderful piece of Kent countryside.**

Cost: Free (donations welcome). Any donations will go the upkeep of Jumping Downs.

There will be a morning walk and an afternoon walk. If you would like more information please contact Alfie via email [alfgkg@hotmail.com](mailto:alfgkg@hotmail.com) or phone (07725 466003).







**Elham Historical Society**

## NEWCOMERS, NATIVES AND NEIGHBOURS:

### A NATURAL HISTORY OF EAST KENT

AN ILLUSTRATED TALK BY PHIL CHANTLER



-  Discover how people and wildlife have shaped East Kent's landscape from prehistory to today.
-  From Romans and early settlers to peregrines and dotterels.
-  A story of arrival, adaptation and renewal.

**FRIDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026**  
**7.00 – 7.30PM**

**ELHAM VILLAGE HALL**

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE AT THE PAY BAR

TICKETS  
EHS MEMBERS £3  
NON-MEMBERS £5

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

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

**JUNE WORD SEARCH**

**Oh You!**

English is such a difficult language to learn ... letters pronounced differently in different words!

Can you find all these words that have 'ou' in them?

Read them out loud and see how many DIFFERENT ways 'OU' is pronounced!

- Bought Dough Gout Sought
- Mountain Proudly Vermouth
- Brought Flounce Council
- Fought House Loud Ought
- Noun Rough Roundabout
- Trough Thorough Wounded
- Youthful



**House For Sale in Elham**  
**Three Bedrooms Two Bathrooms**  
**Immaculate Condition**  
**Stunning Views**  
**Offers around £420,000**  
**For open day information**  
**or sole viewing, please email:**  
[elhamhousesale@mail.com](mailto:elhamhousesale@mail.com)

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.*

## LOCAL NEWS



A few weeks of beautiful weather - spring sunshine and daytime warmth but, oh dear, we do need rain. After the February drenching, it's hard to believe we are so desperate now.

The speaker at the meeting on 16th April was Jo Arnell whose talk covered most aspects of the work of the average gardener, which we all knew, but appreciated her view of the tasks involved. Her talk was entertaining with a lot of useful tips cunningly disguised. A very good evening.

June, with Open Gardens is looming close - the gardeners will be working very, very, hard and longing for rain but also afraid that it may not stop!

Barbara is delighted that a number of people have offered to help with the refreshments and will welcome more. Can I give a gentle reminder that we do still need the promise of more cakes of any variety or size? It's always so satisfying to see the joy on the visitors' faces when they see real homemade cakes. If you can help, please email Barbara Athow on bathow50@btinternet.com.

After Open Gardens, we can then turn our thoughts to the Annual Show at the end of July. Lots of different classes to suit all interests. So do pick up a schedule and, even if you have never competed before, have a go!

The speakers at the meeting on 18th June will be Jeff and Sylvia Wagner who will talk about Alan Bloom and the legacy of Bressingham. 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 - all welcome. 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.*

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

Final preparations for the **Summer Food and Craft Festival on Sunday 14 June** are in hand and with more than 35 stalls – some old favourites and some first timers - it should be another great market.

Once again Elham Bellringers will provide a lovely overture leading up to the Opening of the Market at 11.00 by our very own Pam Ferris.

Of course, the Market is the same weekend as the **Open Gardens**, so it promises to be part of a busy and very special Elham Weekend.

Come and do some shopping and enjoy a range of refreshments before you set off around the gardens! We look forward to seeing you.

If you have any last-minute market queries please contact our Market Manager, Debbie Francis [[elhamfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:elhamfarmersmarket@gmail.com)].

TG



***Elham Gardening Society - OPEN GARDENS – TEAS*****SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE/SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2026**

Hoorah! It's June at last when the labour of months of organising comes to fruition on 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>.



“Team 26” is a formidable army of 34 helpers PLUS a further 20 bakers who between them have promised over 40 cakes. **ELHAM** – you are amazing. I cannot thank you enough for your sterling support. All we need now is to be blessed with a sunny weekend.

Should there still be anyone who wants to join in I can certainly fit you in, also a few more cakes would ensure a fine choice the entire weekend.

Let me know on [bathow50@btinternet.com](mailto:bathow50@btinternet.com)

Here's hoping many of you will visit the beautiful gardens our members are opening and then enjoy tea and delicious cake at The Old Vicarage.

**Barbara Athow.**

**Open Gardens Teas Team.**

***Why does Elham support The National Garden Scheme******Open Gardens?***

For many years members of Elham Gardening Society have opened their gardens for charity. Why?

As gardeners we work hard for our gardens to look their best and accept we are always up against a battle with the unreliable weather, ever hungry garden bugs and weeds we would be happy to see elsewhere.

June is a good time for gardens with roses and perennial shrubs flowering together, and annual plants gracing borders and pots.

We know other people enjoy gardens too. For many years, members of Elham Gardening Society have shared our gardens with you as village neighbours and with many members of the general public. In so doing we have raised thousands of pounds for charity.

We are not alone in this as we partner with The National Garden Scheme. With gardens in England, Wales and The Channel Islands, they raise funds to support medical, social care and community organisations, reaching across services familiar to many of us such as Macmillan and Marie Curie Cancer Support, Hospice Care, Parkinson's UK, Carers Trust as well as supporting hospital and community gardens.

Please come along for a chance to explore our gardens while helping to raise vital funds through the tickets you buy and the simple pleasures of garden visits, tea and cake. (See our poster on page 17).

Carole Kincaid  
Elham Open Gardens Secretary





# 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





# Elham Gardening Society



# SUMMER SHOW

**SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2026**

FROM  
**2:00 - 4:30 PM**

ADMISSION **£3.00**  
(INCLUDES TEA & COFFEE)

ELHAM VILLAGE HALL

CHILDREN FREE

**CAKES AND PIMM'S FOR SALE AND A PRIZE RAFFLE**

ENJOY WONDERFUL DISPLAYS OF



FLORAL ART



FRUIT & VEGETABLES



ART & HANDICRAFT



PHOTOGRAPHY



CHILDREN'S CLASSES



Entry forms available at Elham Village Store or online at [elhamgardeningociety.org.uk](http://elhamgardeningociety.org.uk)



Follow us on Facebook  
Elham Gardening Society



**KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOUR**

**Fiona Stephens** is not known by many people but they will know Olga who started living with her in 2022 when Olga's family left Ukraine to escape the war. Fiona agreed to feature as the neighbour we can get to know this month.



How long have you been part of the Elham Community?	I moved here in October 2021 from Hawkinge because I wanted more green space for my dogs and my well-being, post Covid. My garden felt very small during Covid. I moved down from Scotland in 1987 to take up a job at Folkestone Harbour working as a Customs Officer. I lived in Folkestone from then until 2004, when I moved to Hawkinge. I was only coming down for three years!
What do you consider your greatest achievement to date?	My greatest achievement is being part of a friendship group that has stuck together since primary school, through thick and thin, ups and downs and we still all like each other and laugh a lot. I am adding my brother and sister to this group – don't know what I would do without them.
When were you happiest?	I'm pretty happy now and I'm doing OK. I loved it when my son was a baby, I was very, very happy then, but you don't want to think that nothing can compare to that, you are responsible for your own happiness.
What did you want to be when you were growing up?	I wanted to be a vet and then I wanted to be a journalist. I learned that you needed better qualifications to be a vet than a doctor, so that one went out the window. At school I sat next to Iain King and we planned to go to Napier College in Edinburgh to do journalism. He did. He became sports editor for the Scottish Sun for years, wrote books and is now a soccer coach in Canada. I went to Aberdeen University
What keeps you awake at night?	Very little. My dogs sometimes because they snore. But I am not a worrier.
What is the most important lesson life has taught you?	You are stronger and can cope with much more than you can ever imagine. I nursed my terminally ill husband at home for 9 months supported by Pilgrims Hospice at Home and survived and now I thrive.
Which village event do you most look forward to?	I enjoy the Christmas Tree Light Up Elham because it is the start of Christmas proper. And it is when the owls are the most vocal. I put lights along the top of my garage and all over my house, it's not tasteful but I LOVE it!
Tell us three activities that keep you busy?	-Travelling to Scotland to visit my family every couple of months -Hanging out with my dogs in my field. I love the fact that I have a field. It's NUTS! -I am an HR director for a charity which keeps me VERY busy.
What one change in the village would improve your life?	A village bistro – cheap would be good.
Cat, dog or goldfish?	Dog. When I was growing up I had all three, the cat was Whisky, the dog was Lassie and the fish was called fish. My grannie used to tell us off for not cleaning the goldfish bowl... sometimes you couldn't see 'fish'.
What is the worst job you have ever done?	I have been quite fortunate; I've not had any bad jobs as such. I used to work at Olympus Sport in the trainer department, I was about 16. Other peoples' feet are not nice.
Tell us a joke.	How do you make anti-freeze? Steal her nightie.
What would the people of Elham not know about you?	<b>See introductory line!</b> My husband was very particular about the spelling of our surname, he would say 'Stephens with a P H' and I used to 'tease' him about it but now I am even worse and do exactly the same. I have to spell the P H after a delay, otherwise they spell Fiona with a PH.  I had my photograph taken with Martin Shaw (The Professionals - 1970s TV show fame) when a new housing development in East Kilbride was opened. It was freezing and he didn't want to be there any more than we did.
Last thoughts, final word.	Make sure the people around you know that you love them. People not things,

Editor

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



## NOTICES for June

**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 June

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

#### 7<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Trinity

0800 Said Holy Communion; 0930 – Morning Service

**Lectionary readings:**

Genesis 12.1-9; Psalm 33.1-12 ; Romans 4.13-25; Matthew 9.9-13,18-26

#### 14<sup>th</sup> June – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Trinity

0845 Morning Prayer to begin walk to Denton

#### Lectionary readings:

Genesis 18.1-15 [21.1-7]; Psalm 116.1,10-17; Romans 5.1-8; Matthew 9.35 - 10.8 [9-23]

#### 21<sup>st</sup> June – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Trinity

09.30 Eucharist

**Lectionary readings:**

Genesis 21.8-21; Psalm 86.1-10,16-17\*; Romans 6.1b-11; Matthew 10.24-39

#### 28<sup>th</sup> June – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

09:30 Morning Service

**Lectionary readings:**

Genesis 22.1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6.12-23; Matthew 10.40-42

### Elham Methodist Church

(all at 9.30am unless otherwise stated)

Services for June

7<sup>th</sup> Video Service

14<sup>th</sup> Rev Gill Songer – Holy Communion, United Service (10.15am)

21<sup>st</sup> Tom Lewis

28<sup>th</sup> United service at Rhodes Minnis

ST MARY THE VIRGIN ELHAM

**URGENTLY NEEDED!**

**TOWER CAPTAIN**

ESSENTIAL

- Must be competent and experienced Bell Ringer, confident in teaching others to ring church bells.

contact: [iandodd8888@outlook.com](mailto:iandodd8888@outlook.com)

## 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.

## ***The Rector's wonderings...***

*I wonder if you ever have trouble sleeping...?*

*One Gospel passage tells us that 'Early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up to pray...*

It would not surprise me at all if difficulty sleeping led Jesus to get up and pray.

He had much to be concerned about - powerful people in the community and places of worship were plotting and scheming to be rid of him; trying to balance his time amongst the many who wanted his attention and presence; thinking about how best to maintain his favour with people yet knowing there were systems and attitudes which needed to be challenged to bring about God's righteous and just ways of love and kindness, mercy and truth.

Spending time in prayer is what enabled Jesus to be consoled or reassured. Comforted another word we could use. There's something about praying to God which opens up a new way of seeing things. We are able to view things through a different, more life giving lens.

There was an old song called *Count Your Blessings* which sums up what prayer can do - recalling the many instances which reassure or comfort us.

For example most recently during one early morning prayer time ( yep, I couldn't sleep!).

I took great consolation from being warmly invited to a 90th birthday party and a wedding reception, being asked to conduct a loved one's funeral, being given the gift of a painting with an affirming letter of appreciation.

Thankfulness, friendship and hope for the future are all common features which console and encourage us. When we are consoled, this can help us get a good night's sleep!

I wonder if next time you pray you could ask God to direct your thoughts by his Holy Spirit ....then notice what happens next.

**Prayer :** *Loving God, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – help me to think about such things (Philippians 4:8). Amen*

**Revd Carol Bates**

**Elham Historical Society**

# Discover Elham's Local History

Join the Elham Historical Society

- Local history talks
- Guided trips & outings
- Social gatherings

*New members welcome*

Contact us via email:  
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Visit our website:  
[www.elhamhistorical.org](http://www.elhamhistorical.org)





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helping you feel like you again.

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to live a life free from  
the limitations of pain.

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**07904311554**

**Or scan the QR code:**



AK Healthcare  
4 Station Rd, Lyminge

**ELHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

A group of 10 members from our twin village of Ambleteuse joined a group of more than 20 enthusiastic Twinning Association members under brilliant sunshine on St George's Day for a first exchange visit. The Parish Council had agreed in 2025 to ringfence £1000 p.a. for The Twinning Association which was funding this visit. In addition, members were asked to pay an annual £10 membership fee. This visit marked the culmination of the work to set up this new association, carried out over the past few years by council officials on both sides of the Channel. No parish councillors attended but we were joined by a district councillor.



A working group in Elham, representing many organisations and interests in the village, only had six weeks to organise an interesting programme for our French visitors, showcasing the best of Elham, offering traditional English food and Kent hospitality.

In spite of careful planning, our visitors arrived an hour early! But the team who had volunteered to cater for the day sprang into action: bacon butties were prepared in the Village Hall kitchen and tea and coffee was brewed in the Peggy Pike Room, our headquarters for the day.

The rest of the day followed the well-planned timetable. This included firstly an historical tour of Elham (borrowed from Elham Historical Society website) conducted by me in French and in English by Ian Sladden. The English who joined this tour were surprised at what they did not know about their own village! We were delighted to have three representatives of the Royal British Legion join us for a short ceremony at one of our Commonwealth War Graves in the burial ground.



Meanwhile a group of Elham artists had prepared an exhibition of their art for all to enjoy on return to the

Village Hall and the catering team had set the tables for lunch. Piping hot fish and chips

and mushy peas were collected from the excellent Seafarers shop in Cheriton and was served traditionally (in the cartons - not newspaper!) with salt, vinegar and H P sauce. It went down a storm with the visitors. The option of going to the King's Arms for fish and chips had been discussed but the Twinning Team felt that the cost would be excessive for the 30+ people attending.



Following a short visit to the Elham Community Shed (see page 25), to explain



the history of the Shed movement and its aims, two French guests visited the primary school, led by Jenny and Trevor Gasson. Ian organised a game of pétanque with our Elham team, and others joined me in a walk to Collards Wood where the owners, Karen White and Sylvia Scott, very kindly gave us a tour and talk on managing an ancient woodland. And the bluebells were still out!



## LOCAL NEWS

### ELHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION

#### Continued



Afternoon tea was a traditional cream tea with scones from our very own Elham Tea House and cakes made by Barbara Athow. I explained the Cornish / Devonian dilemma of how to eat scones with jam and cream or cream and jam (made from Elham Village Hall damsons and donations from other village jam makers).



We exchanged gifts: all our French visitors received a framed cartoon of Elham, beautiful keyring fobs made in our Community Shed and a bag of typical English jelly babies. We received a decorative glass plaque which is displayed at the Village Hall and a hamper of Ambleteuse goods, which will be raffled at a later date.



This amazing day was made possible not only because of the Parish Council funding but importantly by willing volunteers from our village taking on the various roles of guides, caterers, baristas, hall decorators, balloon pumpers, poster makers, take-away collection person, and genial bi-lingual hosts, making our French visitors as welcome as we possibly could.

Moving on, we are already planning summer events in Elham, possibly small visits to Ambleteuse, and a return weekend group visit next year. We want to keep our members engaged and recruit more, so come and meet us and find out more in the Community Hub Gazebo at the Elham Food & Craft Festival in the Square on Sunday 14 June.



#### PS

Since the visit the Ambleteuse headteacher, accompanied by a member who is a former English teacher, visited Elham School on 14 May.

School governor and twinning member, Trevor Gasson, who accompanied them, said: "Today's visit was very successful. Jean - Noel, the Ambleteuse headteacher, and our headteacher, Joe, got on very well and a programme for links between the two schools has been happily agreed. We think that the relationship will be maintained and Serge and we are very pleased to have facilitated this. We hope to arrange a return visit in the autumn. Predictably Serge and Jean-Noel arrived early - at 07.15! - but in light of experience we were ready for them!"

Anne Leva, chair, Elham Ambleteuse Twinning Association



# 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.

Visit our website  
[www.elhamvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.elhamvillagehall.co.uk)





**BUSINESS MEETINGS**



**CHRISTENINGS & WAKES**



**BIRTHDAY PARTIES**



**AND MORE**

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

***This Month in Elham Community Shed***



We were grateful for the recent dry weather which enabled us to complete a 'Safe Space Booth' requested via the UK Men's Shed Association for the Caldecott Foundation School in Smeeth. This was constructed using only donated recycled timber pallets. The booth was completed, delivered and erected in mid-May, as you can see from the attached pictures.



The French guests from Ambleteuse (see page xxx) were welcomed to Elham Community Shed on their twinning visit on 23rd April. They showed considerable interest in the ethos and practical work and all went home with a fine Shed-made Elham / Ambleteuse key fob memento created by Graham Holdstock, one of our session leaders, and Peter Morgan, from old donated oak gateposts.



Underpinning our activities is the ethos of spending time together and sharing experiences and expertise. Chatting is good! We have a regular number of members who just call in for coffee. Encouraging more of our members to become actively involved participants is still an aim for the Shed Team. There were 50 members attending sessions last month.

Elham Community Shed is open on Tuesday for coffee and conversation, Thursday all day and Saturday mornings. Some of the members come to work on particular projects, some come to work on their own tasks, others to learn new skills.

Come and meet us, see samples of the things that have been made and find out more in the Community Hub Gazebo at the Elham Food & Craft Festival on Sunday 14 June in The Square.

Jim Clements, ECS [elhamshed@gmail.com](mailto:elhamshed@gmail.com) and on Facebook

**Orsay Trio Recital**

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Trio Op. 11

**MELANIE BONIS**  
Matin & Soir pour piano, violin et violoncelle

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**Sunday 7th June 2026 3pm**

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Piano	Helen Crayford
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Sunday 14 June 11am - 2pm

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**Elham Church of England Primary School**

*Summer has arrived at Elham Church of England Primary School*



The month of May means the beginning of the assessment cycle in primary schools, and Elham Church of England Primary School is no different. Our Year 6 pupils have recently completed their SATs, statutory tests which 11-year-olds across the country take part in. These results are then published and help inform parents and inspectors of the progress which children who attend our school achieve. We are incredibly proud of all of our Year 6 pupils, who enjoyed SATs breakfast each morning and attacked the tests with gusto and positivity. We await the results which will be with schools in early July. There are further tests taking place in school this month, including KS1 SATs, the Phonics Screening Check and the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check.

We have now received our prospective numbers for the new starters in Reception in September 2026. Whilst it is still early days, and much can change, the numbers are looking encouraging and are up on recent years. There are still spaces available in all year groups. If you know of children or families who are looking for a school or are considering a move, please put them in touch with our office, we would be happy to meet with them and share our amazing school.

On Thursday May 14th, we were visited by the headteacher of Ambleteuse School. This is in relation to the ongoing twinning activities taking place between Elham and Ambleteuse. Mr Magliocco and Mr Totain discussed how the schools could work together and forge closer links which support the learning and understanding of children on both sides of the Channel. This included the proposal of a petanque game in the village, the potential for an exchange and virtual pen-pals. Watch this space for more information in the future.

With warm wishes,

**Mr Magliocco**

**Headteacher**

Elham Church of England Primary School

***‘The Mans Book’ by Thomas Fink*** , a book that advises men on appropriate behaviour, published in 2006

‘The average man will shave his beard approximately 15000 times in his lifetime. Spending a total of 80 days. So it is worth considering how essential this ritual is.

On average facial hair grows as long as it is wide every three hours.

It grows about .4 inches a month. Different lengths of facial hair have different names.

name	days	Notes
Shadow	<1	Change of shade, whiskers not noticeable
umbra	1-2	Worn with impunity ‘I have been very busy’.
stubble	3-4	Ambiguous. Did he forget to shave?
Designer stubble	5-8	Stubble with intent, no longer negligence.
bristle	9-16	Most awkward stage of growing a beard
beard	17 +	Will continue to grow at 5 inches a year

There are two myths about beards that should be dispelled. The first is that the speed of growth diminishes with the length of the hair. This is not possible as the hair follicle cannot tell how long the hair is, only how old it is and after a fixed period the old hair is expelled and new hair emerges. The second myth is that shaved hair grows back thicker. This is only partly true in that the first growth of hair is the finest part and further growth is normal thickness. Cutting off the fine tip makes the end thicker but cutting it again has no effect.’

Editor

## 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.



The poster features a teal background with yellow and white text. It includes a QR code with a 'SCAN ME' button, a list of benefits for players, and contact information. There are four photographs: a cricket match on a green field, a cricket pitch with a building in the background, a player in white kit holding a bat, and two men standing on a field.

## Elham Valley Cricket Club

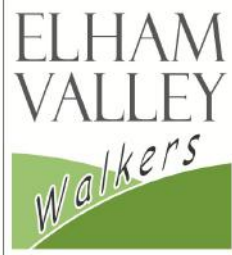
Calling all aspiring players, no matter your age or ability!

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

What we can offer you:

- Preseason nets starting April
- A mixture of friendly and league games on Saturdays and Sundays
- Stunning home ground
- Family friendly atmosphere
- Junior Coaching (5 years +)
- Bar and social space
- Open age cricket- 13 to 80+!

Please contact us on [evccjuniors@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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.

**EQUIPMENT PROVIDED; WE JUST NEED YOUR ENTHUSIASM.**

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 or [ajcjm1904@gmail.com](mailto:ajcjm1904@gmail.com)

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## Community Meals

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## Dementia Day Care Services

Our Dementia Day Care service provides a warm, supportive environment where people living with dementia can enjoy stimulating activities, companionship, and care tailored to their needs. From music, art, and gentle physical activities to reminiscence sessions and sensory experiences, our programmes are designed to help maintain skills, build confidence, and create moments of joy. Families can feel reassured knowing their loved one is supported by our experienced team.



For more details please contact:  
Age UK Hythe, Lyminge & Ashford  
**01303 269602**

[www.ageuk.org.uk/hythelymingeashford/](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/hythelymingeashford/)

Age UK Hythe: The Community Support Hub, Sanford House, Stade Street, Hythe, CT21 6BD.  
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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**

Wednesdays | 6:45 pm

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

For more information visit our website:  
[clubspark.lta.org.uk/ElhamSportsClub](http://clubspark.lta.org.uk/ElhamSportsClub)

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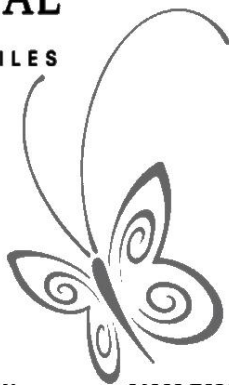
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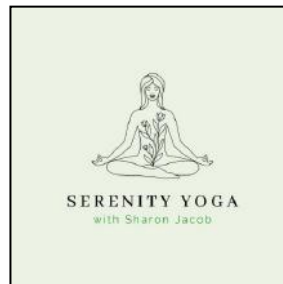
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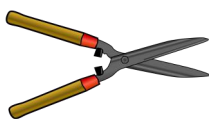
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The 130 club is run by Elham Village Hall Association (est. Reg Charity No. 1024757)



## Elham SPORTS CLUB

ESC offers **Tennis, Pickleball and Badminton** –  
– **new members** are welcome  
Tennis and Pickleball members can either book and play  
or join the friendly club sessions

**Tennis – Outdoor**

<b>Mondays</b>	<b>7 pm</b>
<b>Tuesdays and Thursdays</b>	<b>10 am</b>
<b>Fridays</b>	<b>6 pm</b>

Contact (Mon) (Fri) **Brett Clitheroe** 07857 797747 / brett.c@brettclitheroe.co.uk  
(Tue) (Thu) **Roy Harris** 07769 187676 / roy.harris07@btinternet.com

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

<b>Mondays</b>	<b>3:30 pm and 6 pm</b>
<b>Wednesdays</b>	<b>3:30 pm</b>
<b>Fridays</b>	<b>9:30 am Open Club session</b>

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

**Badminton – Indoor**

**Wednesdays | 6:45 pm**

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

For more information visit our website:  
[clubspark.lta.org.uk/ElhamSportsClub](http://clubspark.lta.org.uk/ElhamSportsClub)



## Elham Community Shed

# JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Build **skills**. Share **ideas**. Strengthen our **community**.

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES:**



**TUESDAY COFFEE MORNING**  
10.30 – 12.00



**THURSDAY PROJECTS**  
10.00 – 16.00



**SATURDAY PROJECTS AND SKILLS SESSIONS**  
10.00 – 12.00

*Get involved!*

All skill levels **welcome**. Join our **community!**



**MEET NEW PEOPLE**  
Make new friends and build connections.



**LEARN & SHARE SKILLS**  
Learn something new and share your skills.



**SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY**  
Work together to create a stronger, happier community.