



# ELHAM NEWSLETTER

Published by the Elham Village Hall Association, Charity No 1024757

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).

## MARCH 2024



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

Date	Event	Time	Location	Contact	Page
Saturday 2nd March	Acrise Community Open Day	11.00 - 16.00	St Martins' Church, Acrise	n/a	21
Saturday 2nd March	Wines of the Unexpected	19.00	Elham Village Hall	Jan Stanyon 01303 840820	23
Monday 5th March	Parish Council Meeting	19.30	Elham Primary School	n/a	14
Tuesday 5th March	Elham Valley Walkers	10.00	Chilham	Andy Cornford 07761 034407	28



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ELECSA



## Welcome to the Elham Newsletter March 2024

The picture on the front cover is the sunrise in February and was taken by Jane Brennan who swims all year round, early in the morning, at Hythe. Thank you Jane!



If you are glad to receive your Newsletter, have a thought for the distribution team. Some of these village folk have been delivering for years. Can you help? If you have an hour or so to spare each month to deliver 20/30 Elham Newsletters, please contact Janet Pain our Distribution Organiser on 07710595891- she will be pleased to hear from you - we need more people in order to keep the rounds an acceptable size.

Take a look at 'What's On, In and Around Elham', there may be something that you could take part in this month. If you have any special activities that have happened or are planned for April 2024, do send details and pictures before March 13th to [elhamnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:elhamnewsletter@gmail.com). Editor, Renee Bull

## What's On, In and Around ELHAM

Date	Event	Time	Location	Contact	Page
Wednesday 6th March	Social Snacks and Cinema	19.00 for 19.30	Peggy Pike Room Elham Village Hall	Jan Stanyon 01303 840820	5
Sunday 17th March	Elham Valley Walkers	10.00	East Cliff Pavilion Folkestone	Andy Comford 07761 034407	28
Thursday March 21st	Elham Gardening Society Laura Brady talking about vegetables. Jim Buttress unfortunately is unwell	19.30	Peggy Pike Room Elham Village Hall	Gerry Newman	12
Friday 22nd March	EVHA March Quiz	19.00 for 19.30	Elham Village Hall	Jim Clements 01303 840295	24
Saturday April 6th	Elham Gardening Society Spring Show	tba	Elham Village Hall	EGS website	12
Saturday 9th June	Elham Farmers' Market	11.00	The Square	Debbie Francis <a href="mailto:elhamfarmersmarket@gmail.com">elhamfarmersmarket@gmail.com</a>	22

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## **WHO'S WHO and WHAT'S WHERE**

### **ELHAM VILLAGE HALL PERSONNEL** (all are volunteers)

**President:** Jan Stanyon  
**Vice President:** Liz Cox  
**Treasurer:** Sue Weller  
**Secretary:** Miranda Weller

Other Committee members:

Maureen Alexander      Trevor Bateman  
 Renee Bull                Jim Clements  
 John Tebbs                Jon Vince

Registered Office: Elham  
 Village Hall, High Street,  
 Elham, CT4 6SX

**www.elhamvillagehall**  
**.co.uk.**



### **Editor and advertising;**

**elhamnewsletter@gmail.com**  
 Renee Bull                      01303 840295

**Distribution organiser:**  
 Janet Pain                      07710595891

**Please email any newsletter copy to the editor by 9am on the 13<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publishing or by hand into the Elham Village Hall bag at Elham Valley Stores.**

Whilst every care is taken in gathering and presenting the information by the volunteers who produce the Newsletter, errors can occur. No responsibility is accepted for any errors or omissions nor consequential loss or liability. Opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Elham Village Hall Association. We do our best to produce an interesting, accurate and informative read.

**ELHAM VILLAGE HALL**                      01303 840128

**ELHAM SPORTS CLUB**                      01303 840485

### **DOCTORS**

The Elham Surgery, Old Road      01303 840213  
 The Hawkinge Health Centre      01303 232300  
 74 Canterbury Road, Hawkinge

### **HOSPITALS**

William Harvey, Ashford              01233 633331  
 Kent and Canterbury, Canterbury      01227 766877  
 Royal Victoria Hospital (walk-in)      01303 850202

### **PHARMACY**

21 Station Road, Lyminge              01303 862425  
 Tesco Pharmacy (Junct 10a M20)      0345 6779273

### **SCHOOL**

Elham C of E Primary School              01303 840325

### **MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**

Damian Collins                      01303 253524

### **KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Susan Carey                      01303 670561

### **FOLKESTONE and HYTHE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

James Butcher              james.butcher@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk  
 David Godfrey              07584 304301  
 Stephen Scoffham              stephen.scoffham@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

### **ELHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Chairman - Kevin Lamb	01303 840215
Vice Chair - Christeen Chapman	01303 840224
Brian Swan	01303 840006
Geoff Clements	01303 840255
Kevin Allen	01303 862087
Steve Jones	07712 893362

### **VETERINARY**

Lord Whisky Low-Income  
 Veterinary Clinic                      01303 862622  
 Bourne Vets, Bekesbourne              01227 832322  
 Manor Vets, Folkestone              01303 273203  
 Hawkinge Vets, Hawkinge              01303 764190

### **ELHAM CHURCHES** [www.elhamchurches.com](http://www.elhamchurches.com)

#### **St Mary The Virgin, Church of England**

Wardens: Peter Swain and              01303 840408  
 Graham Ernest-Jones              01303 840645

#### **Methodist Church, High Street**

Minister: Rev Gill Songer              01303 240228

### **COUNCIL COMMUNITY WARDEN**

Gary Harrison                      07977 982185

**SAMARITANS (freefone)**              116 123

### **LIBRARY**

Mobile Library is fortnightly in Elham outside the Rose and Crown - Fridays at 12.35 -13.05. A selection of used books is available for a donation in St Mary The Virgin Church, The Square.

### **BACS PAYMENT DETAILS FOR EVHA:**

**Elham Village Hall Association Ltd**  
**Sort Code: 09- 01- 52**  
**Account No. 13698706**

**Elham Village Hall Association website:**  
**[www.elhamvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.elhamvillagehall.co.uk)**



## **Social, Snacks and Cinema**

**Elham Village Hall 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month.**

Entry on the door. £5.00 for EVHA friends. Others £6.00  
Pay Bar available from 7.00pm



### ***SOCIAL, SNACKS AND CINEMA***

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March**

After a packed event last month, the pressure is on to come up with another seat-filling film. We think we may have found it! Licensing restrictions mean that we cannot publish the name of the film but there is a clue or two in this text.

Do come along to the cosy Peggy Pike Room at Elham Village Hall and meet friends and enjoy a relaxed evening. The Platinum bar will be open for social chatter and there will be a break halfway through the film for ice creams - so a proper cinema experience.

Entry is just £5.00 on the door.

***The perfect venue for every occasion***  
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*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.*

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Take a look at our website: [www.elhamvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.elhamvillagehall.co.uk)

Contact **Maggie Tappenden** telephone 01303 862467 mobile 0774 6790 618 for further information.

**bookingsecretary.evha@gmail.com**  
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## ***Elham Village Hall Association News***



The trustees of Elham Village Hall sent a letter to all hirers regarding hiring charges. They always strive to provide the best facility and manage the hall for the benefit of the community. In this last year the facility has been improved in several areas, including refurbishing the ladies' toilets and the disabled toilet, installing a safe table storage facility and there are plans to do more to enhance the hall in the coming months.

The hire charges for the coming year have been reviewed and the basic rate of hire for most hirers **will not be increased**. The next review will take place in August 2024 and be applicable in September 2024 to coincide with the hall's financial year end.

### **HIRING CHARGES FROM 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023**

#### **PER SESSION CHARGES**

Main hall (including use of main kitchen and stage)	Peggy Pike Room	Anna Clayton Room (upstairs)	Use of alcohol licence	Professional kitchen supplement	Mary Elgar Room (upstairs)
£70	£40	£25	£5	£55	£10.00

#### **Notes:**

*Session times are as follows: Morning: 8 am to 1 pm; Afternoon: 1 pm to 6 pm; Evening: 6 pm to 11.45 pm. We also offer half sessions (2.5 hours), subject to availability. The main kitchen can be booked with the Peggy Pike Room if not already booked by a main hall hirer at a cost of £10. Please request when booking. For professional catering, an additional fee of £55 is payable for the kitchen. If selling alcohol (subject to the permission of our Designated Premises Supervisor), a £5 fee is payable towards the alcohol licence for both one-off and regular hirers. PA system and microphone, if personnel are available, for your use at no extra charge. Please request when booking.*

#### **BOOKING DEPOSITS & SECURITY DEPOSITS**

*A deposit of 30% is required on booking. This is non-refundable except in exceptional circumstances. You will be invoiced for the balance of the hire fee 6 weeks before the hire. A security deposit of £200 is payable on all one-off bookings. This will be repaid in full provided there is no damage to the hall during the hire.*

#### **DISCOUNTS**

**Residents of Elham Parish:** 10% discount on one-off bookings.

**Regular hirers:** discount depends on usage, as follows:

	Very low (<10)	Low (10+)	Medium (40+)	High (60+)
% discount (highest only applies)	10	20	40	50

**Please note that these discount rates are conditional on the hirer committing to using the hall for at least the number of uses for the band of discount received. Other rates may be applied at the discretion of the Management Committee.**

#### **WEDDING PACKAGE**

*This includes the main hall, Peggy Pike room, kitchen and bar from 15:30 on Friday to 13.00 on Sunday.*

	Reception	Ceremony	Reception plus ceremony
<b>2023 -2024</b>	£1,300	£150	£1,450

*We ask for a £150 non-refundable deposit to secure the booking.*

**Please note that we will guarantee these wedding charges for bookings up to two years ahead. For bookings more than two years ahead, charges will be subject to review and may increase.**

#### **CANCELLATION POLICY FOR ALL HIRERS**

*We apply a sliding scale of fees in the event of cancellation. These apply to the balance of the hiring fee or your hire charge in the case of regular hirers.*

*Within one month of your hire - 25% of the hiring fee.*

*Within two weeks of your hire - 50% of the hiring fee.*

*Less than a week - no refund will be given.*

**Please note that if you do not show up for your hire but do not tell us you are still liable for payment and you will be invoiced accordingly.**

# Here is your 'starter' for a fun evening!

Questions:

1. Can you book the date?
2. What is happening?
3. Where is this event?
4. What time does it start?
5. Can you get together with friends and make a team?
6. How many quizzers per table?
7. What do you need to bring?
8. How do you book your team in?
9. Is there a raffle?
10. Will you enjoy yourselves?



THE ANSWERS ARE ALL HERE IN YOUR NEWSLETTER!

DO JOIN US!



## THE MARCH QUIZ

FRIDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 7.00 FOR 7.30PM

Get those brain cells working and the memories active again. Enjoy a sociable evening at Elham Village hall, book a table for your team of 6 ( maximum 7) and organise your supper for half time.

Raffle ticket included in your quiz ticket! Everyone welcome!

TICKETS £10.00 each

Contact Jim Clements 01303 840295/[ajcjim1904@gmail.com](mailto:ajcjim1904@gmail.com)

You can pay by BACS but be sure to send email confirming your booking.

### ***ELHAM VILLAGE HALL 130 CLUB Winners JANUARY DRAW***

1<sup>st</sup> Prize (£32) Number 107 Clive Stanyon

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize (£20) Number 4 Roger Newman

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize (£13) Number 20 Linda May

If you would like to take part,  
please contact Martin Turner  
01303 840804 / [jgt867@aol.com](mailto:jgt867@aol.com)

### ***Elham Observations***

Where is this in  
Elham?

Answer on page 27



## ***Membership And Elham Village Hall.***

You may recall that, in the past, we have asked residents to support our hall by becoming members and making a financial donation towards the upkeep. As a benefit our members have been entitled to a 10% discount when booking the hall.



In the current climate we are aware that many folks are experiencing financial hardship, so we are no longer asking you to become a member but have instead extended the 10% discount to everyone who lives in the parish of Elham.

Whilst your donation to the Hall is always welcome, we think it very important that the Village Hall is viewed as inclusive for everyone, not just those able to pay membership. The Sports Club, in this vein, has also opened court number two for free use at the weekends so the facility can be enjoyed by everyone.

If you visit the Hall, you will see evidence of a lot going on - the Community Shed site has made progress (see article elsewhere in this Newsletter) whilst inside, the foyer is half painted and is beginning to look very smart. The main hall also has a fresh coat of paint, and the gardens are trimmed and ready for the Spring growth. We have plans for further improvements in the coming months so watch this space.

You can support the Village Hall by attending one (or all) of our events. On March 2<sup>nd</sup> we have a wine tasting evening, 'Wines of the Unexpected' and the popular March Quiz is on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Why not come along to one of our volunteer days which are always fun, and we provide lunch!

**Should you wish to make a financial donation our bank details are as follows:**

**Elham Village Hall Association Ltd. : Sort Code 09-01-52**

**Account number 13698706.**

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## ***Gift Aid***

**If you are a UK taxpayer, we can reclaim tax on your donation without any cost to yourself. With Gift Aid, every pound is worth £1.25p. Please allow us to claim Gift Aid by completing the declaration below.**

I confirm that in every year I have made or will make a donation and I have paid or will pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax for each year 6 April to 5 April that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs to which I donate will receive on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that such taxes as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify.

Signed.....

Date.....Email .....

Please return this completed, signed form to Sue Weller (EVHA Treasurer) at Hollytree Cottage, Stowting Common, Ashford, Kent TN25 6BG or put it into the EVHA bag in Elham Stores.

Jan Stanyon Chair



### District Council News

District councils can seem rather remote, inaccessible bodies, so I thought I'd highlight some of the ways we can bridge the gap.

Firstly, our newly-established North Downs Forum - last month we had our third meeting, this time in Hawkinge. We set up the forum to bring together district, town, and parish councillors, community groups, local businesses, and interested residents, to give a stronger voice for the area. Our theme this time was supporting the local economy: we were joined by Cllr Rich Holgate, who's the cabinet member at the District Council with responsibility for heritage, tourism, and the local economy, and we heard from local shopkeepers and small business owners about the challenges of running a rural business in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Our next meeting will focus on biodiversity and land management. Anyone is welcome to join us for as many (or few) meetings as they choose – we want the Forum to be an informal, friendly space for making new connections and discussing shared concerns. Drop me a line if you'd like to be added to the mailing list.

Meanwhile Folkestone Community Forum is up and running, and a Cheriton Community Forum is at the planning stage. These groups are likely to be different in how they operate and what they focus on, but they all have the aim of connecting communities together, while creating an easier way for the District Council to understand and respond to local concerns.

It's not everyone's cup of tea, but it is possible to watch council meetings online, or indeed in person. Once the webcast is uploaded after a meeting, it's set up so that you can go to any agenda item that's relevant to you, rather than having to trawl through the whole thing.

If there's a particular issue that concerns you, you can submit a question in advance of a council meeting for the Leader of the Council or one of the other members of the Cabinet. You'll read out your question at the meeting, get an answer, and then have the chance to ask a supplementary question in response to what you've heard. It's one way to highlight an issue, and to get a commitment to action on the record.

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee (which I sit on) reviews and challenges the Council's policies and performance, and can take a focused look at particular aspects of the Council's business, or at issues that affect residents across the district. For example, back in February last year the committee looked at the traffic disruption caused by Operation Brock, something we might need to return to, given the introduction of much-delayed biometric checks as part of the EU "Entry/Exit System" expected in October. A call has just gone out for suggestions for topics for the committee to focus on in 2024/25, and you can submit your ideas here: <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/democracy/council-scrutiny>

You may have seen reports in the media of local authorities declaring themselves "effectively bankrupt", and it is a very tough economic environment for councils, as it is for many individuals and businesses. We've had to make some difficult decisions (including redundancies) to address a forecast deficit of some £4.5m, but as a result we'll have a balanced budget to vote on this month – that means a budget that doesn't require dipping into the reserves to balance the books.

With that out of the way, we'll be turning to the District Council's Corporate Plan, to review and update it (the current version can be found at <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/policies-plans-documents/creating-tomorrow-together-corporate-plan-2021-2030>). The plan sets out what the Council will (and by implication, won't) focus its resources on, so it's a significant document in shaping Council activity. We'll want to make sure that everyone who wants to can have their say, so watch this space.

\*

Do get in touch if you think I can help in any way, or if you want to find out more about what the District Council does and how it works - you can drop me a line via email, or follow me on Twitter or Facebook.

James Butcher james.butcher@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk Twitter: @jameswbutter



### Railway Museum THE ELHAM VALLEY LINE TRUST Countryside & Craft Centre

Our **New Season** starts on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March**, so come and meet us again this year from 10am to enjoy your favourite craft items, 'T' room delights and Railway Museum experiences.

#### EASTER BUNNY HUNT – 29<sup>th</sup> March to 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Come and find the picture clues around the site to complete the hidden phrase to win an Easter Surprise.

Open every weekend and Bank Holiday from 10m to 4pm from 16<sup>th</sup> March to end of November. Events throughout the year. Please visit [www.elhamvalleylinetrust.org](http://www.elhamvalleylinetrust.org) and/or [www.facebook.com/ElhamValleyLineTrust.Official](https://www.facebook.com/ElhamValleyLineTrust.Official) for more details.

## LOCAL NEWS



### County Councillor's report Elham March 2024



Some good news. The Government has responded to the campaign by the councils responsible for social care with £500m of extra funding. Our share of this in Kent is £12.8m which is very welcome. However, our expected expenditure still exceeds income by over £100m so we still need to make significant savings at our budget meeting on 19 February. Our most significant problems continue to be the cost of care for the elderly and the number of children with Special Educational Needs and associated school transport costs. The proposal is for the KCC share of council tax to rise by 5% from 01 April 2024.

Whilst the budget sets the overall strategy many of the proposals within it need individual consultation and you'll find these at [letstalk.kent.gov.uk](http://letstalk.kent.gov.uk) Two such changes are about charging for adult social care and these proposals are currently open for comment until 07 April 2024.

A reminder that there are a multitude of schemes to help people including financial help, household goods, IT equipment and training and support with mental health. A good place to find out about these is the KCC website [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk) where there is a link on the homepage to 'Kent Together – cost of living support'.

KCC libraries have partnered with the Institute of Accountants and Bookkeepers to provide a one hour 'managing your finances course' which covers setting a household budget, understanding your payslip, how to reduce your living costs. Understand loan repayments and access financial support.' The course is available on the free public computers in the libraries or via a QR code to a smartphone.

Last November, KCC launched a recycling scheme for IT equipment. I'm pleased to report that I've had some very positive feedback from those using it. It covers equipment such as PCs, laptops, printers and mobile phones and either refurbishes and reuses them or ensures they are recycled. A specialist process is used to ensure 100% data wiping to the strictest UK legislative standards. You can book a home collection at [www.kent.gov.uk/DeviceRecyclingScheme](http://www.kent.gov.uk/DeviceRecyclingScheme) I attended the Parish Council meeting on 05 February and reported on KCC's efforts to get the Government to do more to help preparations for the proposed introduction of the new EU Entry Exit System (EES) from 06 October 2024. EES will replace stamping passports with an electronic system to register the dates of entry and exit by non-EU travellers and is similar to systems already in operation in the USA, Canada and Australia. On 31 January Roger Gough, KCC's leader, told Parliament's EU Scrutiny Committee that traffic modelling showed a worst-case scenario of delays of up to 14 hours at the ports and Eurotunnel once EES is in place. Roger called for funding for measures to cope with the change. He pointed out that delays in Kent also impacted on the whole UK economy and urged the Government to look at technological and legal changes to enable remote registration.

Susan Carey, Member for Elham Valley, Kent County Council

### ***Jamming Sessions***

#### **Acoustic Music Collective!**



Do you enjoy making and playing music with other people? There are no expectations of virtuosity, just an appetite for playing a musical instrument with others. Why not join in with whatever instruments you play with a suggestion of tunes that you can share?

We meet on Tuesday evenings in the Anna Clayton Room upstairs in the Village Hall, from 7.30pm. For more information and confirmation of your joining us please ring me on 01303 840295 or 07850072108. Jim Clements

## LOCAL NEWS

### ***The 2024 battle against the Asian Hornet has begun.....***

Thank you to everyone who kept an eye out for Asian Hornets and their nests last summer and autumn. Locally we were very successful and of the 70 nests destroyed in England 35 of them were in and around Dover.

Any Asian Hornet queens that have survived will be emerging shortly from hibernation before other insects such as wasps, bumble bees and European Hornets. By the time you read this some Hornets will have undoubtedly started flying – they emerge after three or four consecutive days with temperatures above 12 degrees C.

Once emerged they will look for some food and then disperse up to 60km to build their nests. This is why they spread so quickly and why in February your local beekeepers have been putting out traps for them in over 300 square kilometres, at 1000m intervals across the District.

Members of the public can help too. In particular the Asian Hornets will feed on something sweet and so they are likely to visit azaleas, camellias and other early flowering plants. Please keep an eye out for them and if you see one and can get a picture you can report it on the Asian Hornet Watch app or by going online to [www.nonnativespecies.org/asianhornet](http://www.nonnativespecies.org/asianhornet).

There are some pictures below to remind you what they look like. They are the size of a 2 pence piece, bigger than a wasp, mostly black with 2 or 3 thin orange bands on the abdomen, one of which is broad. The face is orange and the legs are yellow. We are hopeful that our efforts last year will mean that we will not see these pests around which will cause honey bee colonies to collapse.

Thank you for your continuing interest and support.

Roger Newman (email [valleybees@yahoo.com](mailto:valleybees@yahoo.com))

Member:- Dover & District Beekeepers Association.



## ***MARCH WORDSEARCH***

***We all know the  
grocer's  
apostrophe. Find  
the punctuation  
marks in this  
wordsearch.***

accent bracket exclamation  
mark, obelus quotation mark  
backslash square bracket  
colon apostrophe parenthesis,  
asterisk comma ellipsis full  
stop rule hyphen semicolon  
stroke inverted comma,  
question mark

N E T M Y A M M O C D E T R E V N I O B  
E X Z E B W I D N O H N O B B G D M J B  
H C B L K N H M G P V L K W Q M C K H U  
P L B T T C B V O P A R E N T H E S I S  
Y A A Q I M A R S E M I C O L O N N A Z  
H M C P X C T R J X J P I G A K B G U L  
K A K D P S B N B S X D F G F B P P U C  
R T S E O Y G M B E E O B C Y Y K Z O O  
A I L P Z A U D G Z R E Q S Z L F B N M  
M O A P O T S L L U F A H R Y B E T O M  
N N S Y Q W V T T Q W F U E P L U W L A  
O M H C F S R I E T S H L Q U L E G O E  
I A L F D R J W Y R W L M S S L E H C P  
T R I B K R A M N O I T A T O U Q L N B  
S K I D R I H U D P M S H E Q B K C U X  
E T X Q M A D F S O N W K T V R Q U O R  
U J R F U V C I P K B A C C E N T S F V  
Q H R O I F S K G E J U L E H Y C D W B  
N F U G K I I R E G L G Z E H Y N C B Y  
H X S U D E W Q S T S J E O N E H P S F

## LOCAL NEWS

The New Year started with a very cold spell - the countryside looked beautiful and the residents shivered but since then we have been blessed with mild days and a good deal of rain.

The first meeting of the year was held on a very cold, frosty evening - enough to discourage members one might think. On the contrary, we had one of the largest attendances for years to hear Philp Oostenbrink talking about the gardens of Walmer Castle. It was an excellent talk- entertaining, informative and humorous with lovely pictures from a very popular speaker. A most enjoyable evening. The meeting on 21st March will welcome Laura Brady talking about vegetables. Jim Buttress unfortunately is unwell Don't miss it!



If any members/friends lost pond fish in the frosty spell in January, Janice Cooper is planning to do work on her pond and will have a considerable number of small pond fish in need of new homes. Contact Janice on 840907 - she will be delighted to hear from you.

It is not too early to be thinking about and planning for the Spring Show on April 6th - as well as entries there will be a Seed/Plant Swap.

### 2024 Programme Elham Gardening Society Evening Meetings 7.30 pm Peggy Pike Room or Zoom

Special Events	2024 Programme Elham Gardening Society	
	Evening Meetings 7.30 pm <u>Peggy Pike Room or Zoom</u>	
<b>April 6</b> Spring Show, Seed/Plant Swap	<b>Jan 18</b> <u>Philip Oostenbrink</u> Walmer Castle Gardens	<b>July 18</b> <u>Clive Nuttman</u> Kent Chalk Grasslands – Our Rainforest
<b>June 8/9</b> Open Gardens	<b>Feb 15</b> <u>Chris Lane</u> The National Witch Hazel Collection	<b>Aug 15</b> <u>Jane Scotchmer</u> "How Artists & Garden Designers lead us up the Garden Path"
<b>July 27</b> Summer Show	<b>Mar 21</b> Laura Brady talking about vegetables. Jim Buttress unfortunately is unwell	<b>Sept 19</b> <u>Jacqueline Aviolet</u> Asters ( <u>Symphotrichums</u> )
<b>Sept</b> Annual Tour Departing 8 Sept	<b>Apr 18</b> <u>Steve Edney</u> Salvias	<b>Oct 17</b> <u>Ed Flint</u> Autumn Sown Annuals
<b>Oct 5</b> Bulb Sale & Coffee Morning	<b>May 16</b> <u>Linda Stewart's Garden</u> Visit 5pm, including Coffee & Cake	<b>Nov 21</b> <u>Doug Stewart</u> The New Way to Garden Zoom Meeting
<b>Nov 8</b> Annual Dinner	<b>June 20</b> <u>Kevin Tooher</u> Growing in a Changing Climate	<b>Dec 13</b> <u>AGM &amp; Christmas Party</u> (Note – Friday)



**ELHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**cgreenwood@elhampc.co.uk**



Abbreviated draft minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council on  
5<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

**Those Present:** - Councillors: G Clements, B Swan, K Allen, 2 members of the public and Clerk.

**Apologies:** Cllr K Lamb, C Chapman, S Peall received and accepted.

**Public Contribution** -A representative from the Environment Working Group attended the meeting to give an update on the group.

**Minutes of meeting.**

**1.Resolved:** The minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council of 8th January 2024 were approved and were signed as a true record by the Chairman of meeting.

**2.Resolved:** The minutes of the Communities and Amenities Committee meeting of 16th January 2024 were approved and were signed as a true record by the Chairman of meeting.

**3.Resolved:** The minutes of the Wellbeing Committee meeting of 18th January 2024 were approved and were signed as a true record by the Chairman of meeting.

in the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair.

.../cont



## ELHAM PARISH COUNCIL



...cont / Abbreviated draft minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the  
Parish Council on 5th February 2024.



### Finance

- 1.The Accounts from December 2023 were a true record and were signed by the Chairman of the meeting.
- 2.The Bank Reconciliation from December 2023 was a true record and was signed by the Chairman of the meeting.
- 3.It was noted that all Councillors received the Accounts for January 2024.
- 4.It was noted that all Councillors received the Bank Reconciliation for January 2024.
- 5.The January invoices were agreed, and payments were approved.

### Planning

- 1.To note the receipt of applications and agreed comments:

24/0010/FH - Manor Lodge, Canterbury Road, Elham, Canterbury, CT4 6UG - Demolition of detached garage and erection of detached outbuilding. Resolved: TO OBJECT, concerns of the Council are: The change of use into a business along with the lack of facilities to accommodate this. Loss of privacy to the neighbouring properties with proposed additional windows to the ground floor side elevations, the installation of the Juliet balcony to the front elevation and folding glazed windows in replacement of the garage door to the front elevation. The access / sight lines onto the Canterbury Road. Should the Planning Officer be minded to approve this application Elham Parish Council request that it be called in to committee.

24/0066/FH - Longacre, Canterbury Road, Elham, Canterbury, CT4 6UE - Alterations and part replacement of the existing rear extension with bi-fold doors and skylight windows. Resolved: No Objection.

23/1872/FH -17 Hog Green, Elham, Canterbury, CT4 6TU - Single storey rear and side extension. Resolved: No Objection in principle however the Council have concerns that this is over development of the plot.

- 2.There were now applications received since the agenda was published.

- 3.Decisions made by Folkestone and Hythe District Council were received and noted:

23/1830/FH - Bankside, High Street, Elham, Canterbury, CT4 6SY - Proposed Timber Cabin for Ancillary Use.- Approved with conditions.

23/1639/FH - Little Gate Farm, Park Gate Hill, Elham, Canterbury, CT4 6NE -Single Storey side extension to existing dwelling – Approved with conditions.

23/1150/FH/HH - Abbots Cottage, Cullings Hill, Elham, Canterbury, CT4 6TE - High Hedges complaint –Remedial Action Notice given.

23/1961/FH/TCA - The Vicarage, Vicarage lane, Elham, Canterbury, CT4 6TT - Works to trees in a Conservation area comprising of G01 Holly x 6 & Sycamore x 11 prune away from utility lines 1.5-2.0m clearance, trim back low growth from roadside, strip main stems of ivy to 2.5m above ground level, G02 Plum x 2 crown lift to 5.2m, G03 Elder x 2 & Sycamore x 20 lift trees to clear fence line, T02 Silver Birch lift tree by 2m, T03 Sumac coppice, T07 Yew prune back tree to fence line to give 1m clearance of utility line, T08 Western Red Cedar lift canopy to clear fence, T09 Ash remove deadwood greater than 25mm, sever/strip ivy from to approx 2.5m above ground level, T10 Sycamore prune away from neighbouring property to give 3m clearance, T12 Holly & T13 Ash - strip trees of ivy & T14 Lime remove central stem – No objections.

23/1944/FH -20 Fairfield, Elham, Canterbury, CT4 6UT- Proposal: First floor front extension – Approved with conditions.

4. Y19/1378/FH -Methodist Church, High Street, Elham - Installation of external platform lift to side elevation along with installation of new access ramp to front of the building - it was agreed that a site visit would be arranged once the District Councillors had received an update on this application.



## ELHAM PARISH COUNCIL



...cont/ Abbreviated draft minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council on 5th February 2024.

**Twinning-**On 25th January 2024, the Mayor of Ambleteuse and his representatives returned to Elham for the signing of the commitment document “The Jumelage”, where they received a very warm welcome in the Rose and Crown from various members of village organisations. The Parish Council would like to thank The Rose and Crown, the Kings Arms and Elham Primary School for making our visitors feel extremely welcome.

### Correspondence

The receipt of correspondence was noted, and any required actions agreed.

**Date of next meeting and Close** -The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 4th March 2024 at 7.30pm. There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

### Elham and Ambleteuse Twinning

Back in August 2021, the Clerk of Ambleteuse approached Elham Parish Council to discuss the opportunity of twinning with Elham. Ambleteuse in Northern France is located 9km from Boulogne-Sur-Mer on the protected site of “Deux Caps” and the Caps et Marais d’Opale Natural Park. It has unique charm and architecture and is in proximity of some of the most beautiful sites in the regions. Its demographics are like those of our own village.

Fast forward to the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024, the Mairie of Ambleteuse and his representatives returned to Elham for the signing of the commitment document “The Jumelage”, where they received a very warm welcome in the Rose and Crown from various members of village organisations. The Parish Council would like to thank The Rose and Crown, the Kings Arms and Elham Primary School for making our visitors feel extremely welcome.

If you, or your organisation or business would like to be part of the growing relationship with Ambleteuse please contact the Clerk at [cgreenwood@elhampc.co.uk](mailto:cgreenwood@elhampc.co.uk)





## ELHAM PARISH COUNCIL



No minutes from January meeting were printed last month - here they are:

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### MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024 IN THE HALL, ELHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL.

**01.24 Those Present:**

Councillors: K Lamb, C Chapman, G Clements, B Swan, S Peall, 2 members of the public and Clerk.

**Apologies:** Cllr K Allen received and accepted.

**02.24 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.

**03.24 Public Contribution**

Members of the public present raised their concerns regarding Goldpark Leisure caravan park in Wingmore, it was suggested that they contacted District Cllr Scoffham.

**04.24 Minutes of meeting.**

1. **Resolved:** The minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council of 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were **approved** and were **signed as a true record** by the Chairman of meeting.

**05.24 Chairmans Report**

Members of Ambleteuse will be visiting on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January to sign the twinning documentation.

The Clerk is to meet with the Environment Group to discuss the areas of the King George V that would like the Parish Council to take responsibility of the maintenance for.

**06.24 Finance**

1. The Accounts from November 2023 were a **true record** and were **signed** by the Chairman of the meeting.
2. The Bank Reconciliation from November 2023 was a **true record** and was **signed** by the Chairman of the meeting.
3. It was **noted** that all Councillors received the Accounts for December 2023.
4. It was **noted** that all Councillors received the Bank Reconciliation for December 2023.
5. The virement of £3700 from General Reserves to Clerks Salary was considered and **agreed**.

6. The December invoices were **agreed**, and payments were **approved**. *Please see appendix 1.*

**07.24 Planning**

1. To **note** the receipt of applications and **agreed** comments:  
**23/1830/FH** - Bankside, High Street, Elham, Canterbury, CT4 6SY - Proposed Timber Cabin for Ancillary Use. **Resolved: No Objection.**  
**23/1961/FH/TCA** - The Vicarage, Vicarage lane, Elham, Canterbury, CT4 6TT -





...cont/ Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council on  
4th January 2024.

Works to trees in a Conservation area comprising of G01 Holly x 6 & Sycamore x 11 prune away from utility lines 1.5-2.0m clearance, trim back low growth from roadside, strip main stems of ivy to 2.5m above ground level, G02 Plum x 2 crown lift to 5.2m, G03 Elder x 2 & Sycamore x 20 lift trees to clear fence line, T02 Silver Birch lift tree by 2m, T03 Sumac coppice, T07 Yew prune back tree to fence line to give 1m clearance of utility line, T08 Western Red Cedar lift canopy to clear fence, T09 Ash remove deadwood greater than 25mm, sever/strip ivy from to approx 2.5m above ground level, T10 Sycamore prune away from neighbouring property to give 3m clearance, T12 Holly & T13 Ash - strip trees of ivy & T14 Lime remove central stem. **Resolved: No Objection.**

2. The following application was received since the agenda was issued.  
**23/1944/FH** -20 Fairfield, Elham, Canterbury, CT4 6UT- Proposal: First floor front extension. **Resolved: No Objection.**
3. Decisions made by Folkestone and Hythe District Council were received **and noted:**  
**23/1765/FH** - Wise Follies, The Square, Elham, Canterbury, CT4 6TJ- Listed building Consent for the demolition of non-original extensions and a proposed single storey rear extension – **withdrawn by applicant.**  
**23/1783/FH** - Elham Village Hall, High Street, Elham, CT4 6SX - Erection of a community timber shed – **approved with conditions.**

**08.24 Community & Amenities**

- 1) **The Gore** – Nothing to report since the last meeting.
- 2) **The Gore Working Party** - The Terms of Reference were considered and **agreed.**
- 3) **Churchyard** - Council was informed that we haven't received further correspondence / advice from the Diocese of Canterbury since April 2023, nor had we heard anything from the DAC Consultant Engineer following the site meeting with DAC Secretary and DAC Archaeological Consultant present. Since the site meeting and lack of communications the Council instructed a Survey by a Civil and Structural Engineer. The Clerk is to write the Diocese of Canterbury raising concerns that the lack of guidance since the site meeting is a contributing factor to the further deteriorating on the wall.

Cllr Peall suggested that a valuation of the church wall be carried out.

**09.24 Kent County Councillor Susan Carey - Report for Elham Parish Council meeting 08.01.24**

This is an edited version of a recent review of 2023 by KCC Leader Roger Gough which I thought would make a better report than anything I could produce.

"There are significant challenges we as an authority, like many others across the country, are facing. We are not a council that has been reckless with its finances, far from it, and our sound decisions have given us the best possible chance to stave off what has been coming down the track at us. However, we are not immune to the impacts.

Increased costs and demands on our services have meant we have had to face some very hard budgetary decisions. In Kent we have specific issues, such as travel disruption at our ports, and the response to migration and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. Despite what we shoulder, central government funding has fallen far short. There is no doubt that times are exceedingly tough.





...cont/ Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council on  
4th January 2024.

We cannot focus only on survival but on continuing to change and innovate, while delivering good services to the people of Kent. Looking back on 2023, there have been some notable moments, some of which have seen us rising to support our residents through shock after shock, not least the cost-of-living crisis and helping people in the most difficult circumstances.

Our solid collaboration with the NHS has seen some excellent work on seasonal campaigns and the development of the Integrated Care Strategy. Our task in 2024 will be to start turning this into practical delivery across our county and our communities.

RAAC (reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete) entered the common vernacular in 2023. Our swift action following the change of national rules, helped in no small part by the rapid flexibility of our school community, kept disruption to a minimum.

We are a key partner in the Kent Resilience Forum, responding to the pressures on our extensive and much-travelled road network with Kent Police, National Highways and others. Our highways and other staff respond to emergencies on our own road network in all weathers.

We have an exceptional record in responding to the diverse issues of asylum, migration and resettlement, including responding (across many parts of our organisation) to the referral of more than 2,000 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children into our service in the last year, and working with district and borough colleagues in response to the requirement to empty the Afghan bridging hotels in the late summer.

We are committed to the environment, balancing everything we consider with nature's voice and its unrivalled positive impact on health and wellbeing, and preserving the enduring appeal of the Garden of England. I look forward to taking forward our initiatives, such as Making Space for Nature, in 2024.

These could be viewed as the 'big ticket items' and are only a small selection of the services that KCC provides. I am incredibly proud that some of the greatest effects of our work can be felt in the quiet, often unseen, interactions full of kindness, compassion and thoughtfulness from across all of our teams.  
Roger Gough, Leader, Kent County Council"

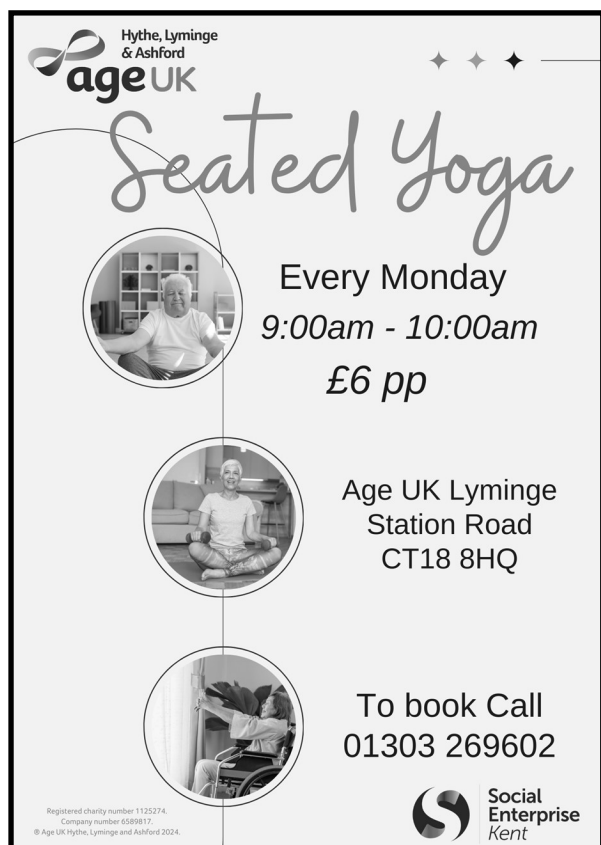
I send my best wishes to you and the parish for the year ahead.

Susan Carey, Member for Elham Valley

***DON'TS FOR WIVES was a self-help book written by Blanche Ebbutt in 1913***

Don't permit yourself to forget for a single instant that nothing is more annoying to a tired man than the sight of half finished laundry work. The remotest hint in your house of a 'washing day' is like a red rag to a bull.'

Editor



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**Social Enterprise Kent**



## Age UK Hythe, Lyminge and Ashford

We are an independent charity operating across three areas, Hythe, Lyminge and Ashford and the surrounding areas providing support to those age 55 and over to live full and happy lives.

We offer a range of activities and services to suit everyone, from theatre trips, bowling, lunches in local restaurants, film nights and even short breaks, or regular in-house activities such as Pilates, yoga, new age curling, art, flower arranging, singing, walking football and much more.

For those who wish to spend a day with us and are unable to make their own way, they can take advantage of our fleet of vehicles (some of which are adapted for wheelchair users) to transport them to our centres.

Whilst at one of our centres you have the opportunity to use our community cafés for hot and cold drinks and light refreshments, or you can book in for a nutritional two-course lunch that is freshly made on our premises.

If you're not able to get out of the house or prefer to stay at home, don't worry we have something for everyone:

**Two-course hot meal delivery service:** Nutritious and freshly prepared meals delivered to you at home, hot and ready to eat, also providing a welfare check.

**Independent living service:** Assistance to carry out general housework that may have become more difficult, for example, light housework, preparing a light lunch or support getting shopping.

**Laundry Service:** We collect laundry take it away, wash, iron and return it back the following week.

## LOCAL NEWS - AGE UK

There are team of expert Information and Advice Officers on hand that can help people navigate through life changes and ensure they receive adequate support.

The team can help with:

**Maximising income:** Completing benefit checks to ensure that you are receiving all you could be entitled to.

**Help with form filling:** We know those forms are tough! Our team are here to support you. Whether with Blue Badge applications, Attendance Allowance or any other form you need support with, we are just a call away.

**Care and support advice:** A change in health can be a challenge and often needs adapting to. Find out what support is out there and where to access it.

**Bespoke Dementia support (Lyminge) – We have a dedicated team** who will work with and support those living with Dementia and direct them to services in the community to live well and independently. We are there to help from pre-diagnosis, to support people to get a diagnosis, to access support services and provide the guidance they need to live as independently as possible within their communities. We also provide tailored activities for those living with Dementia regardless of where they are on their journey; we have something for everyone.

We hold **Hypertension Heroes** sessions, which is an initiative funded by the NHS to help you to get your blood pressure checked without having to make an appointment with your GP. You can come to us for simple **hearing aid batteries and tubing replacements**, or to get your **ears checked**. Specsavers also attend to do **glasses checks** and we also offer **chiropody** and **hairstyling** services at very competitive prices.

People don't realise how much support we have available to offer here at Age UK Hythe, Lyminge and Ashford, and often think our services are for those who are generally older and frail. We are here for the whole community regardless of age and abilities.

We regularly hold community events for all to join in with, from Christmas fairs, boot fairs, Bingo, jumble sales and evening events, such as our recent, sold out, Country music night with supper. Our cafés and charity are open to the public so feel free to pop in, join us for an activity, lunch or even just for a nose.

For more information, please call **01303 269602** or email [admin@ageukhla.org.uk](mailto:admin@ageukhla.org.uk)

### Weekly Events at AUKL

MONDAY	Maintenance Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (MCST)	10:30am - 12:00pm
	Lyminge Knitters	1:00pm - 2:30pm
TUESDAY	Seated Yoga	9:00am - 10:00am
	Painting and Drawing	10:00am - 12:00pm
	Dementia Daybreak	10:00am - 2:30pm
WEDNESDAY	All day Breakfast	9:00am - 2:00pm
	Singing For All (Term time only)	11:00am - 12:00pm
THURSDAY	Boxfit (non-contact)	10:00am - 11:00am
	Streetz to Streetz (Fish & Chip Van)	11:45am - 12:45pm
FRIDAY	Pilates with Katherine	9:00am - 10:00am
	Maintenance Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (MCST)	10:30am - 12:00pm

### **Monthly Events at AUKL**

Digital Support (05.03.23)	10:00am - 2:00pm
Dementia Café (21.03.24)	12:30pm - 2:30pm
Free Blood Pressure Check (21.03.24)	12:00pm – 1:30pm



## CHURCH PAGES

Dear Friends,

This month we celebrate Mothering Sunday on the 10th, as always, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent. Years ago it was also called Midlenting Sunday or Refreshment Sunday. At that time rigorous Lenten fasting and self-denial were the norm, thus it was considered good to have a break, a bit of a feast, or celebration, in mid-Lent. That grew into a custom where people, particularly those in domestic service, or working away in towns, were given the day off to go home and visit their mothers, and maybe indulge in some hearty eating whilst there.

This event today is more often called Mother's Day, and looking at the traditional title it occurred to me that "mothering" is an interesting word. We hardly ever use it except for this occasion, and of course it derives from the verb "to mother".

The corresponding verb "to father", or fathering as the male equivalent, tends to mean something a bit different. Fathering children generally refers to the biological process of procreation. To the majority of people it doesn't convey the same nurturing, ongoing participation in child rearing as the feminine word, mothering. Even though we all know fathers may well be equally as involved in childcare. Yet to mother children conjures up images, not of someone being pregnant, or giving birth, but of a woman with her arms wrapped round her baby with protective love. That's what we usually understand mothering to be. The gender references can be confusing, and they have a lot to do with historical stereotypes. Yet anyone can fulfil a mothering role. Regardless of gender. Regardless of biological connection. And regardless of age difference. Some children are mothered by family members other than their parents, and some children provide mothering care for their disabled parents. Many of us adults have been called to care for our parents in their old age, in very similar ways to how they looked after us when we were tiny, and many provide care for their partners.

At the foot of the cross the disciple John, and Jesus' mother Mary, were commended to the care of one another. Jesus told Mary, to now regard His much loved disciple John as her son. That gave her someone to love and cherish as her own once he had gone. But He also told John to now accept Mary as his own mother, so in turn he now had a mothering role in looking after her. What a wonderful example of God's understanding of our human needs. The recognition of the gap they both needed to fill once He had left their earthly lives.

It is right that we celebrate mothers in all their wonderful, wise, generous, and let's be honest, sometimes madly infuriating manifestations. But let's not forget, too, that anyone who offers mothering to someone else, in any way, is precious to God for their sacrifice of love for others. So perhaps it's time to return to the traditional notion of Mothering Sunday, but with the modern twist of using it to celebrate anyone, regardless of gender, family relationship, age, or formal status, who bestows nurturing care on one whom they love.

Amen.

**Please visit our website for information about our churches, services & events**

[www.elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk](http://www.elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk)

**St. Mary's:** *(the church remains open daily from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm for private prayer and meditation)*

**MARCH 2024**

**St Mary's:**

**3<sup>rd</sup> 8am – Holy Communion or Service of the Word**

**10<sup>th</sup> 9.30am – Joint Mothering Sunday Service at Methodist church**

**17<sup>th</sup> 9.30am – Service of the Word**

**24<sup>th</sup> 8am – Holy Communion; 3pm\* Palm Sunday Procession & Passion Narrative**

**31<sup>st</sup> 9.30am – Easter Sung Eucharist**

**\*time is subject to change – please check with churchwarden**

**Methodist Church: (at 9.30am unless otherwise stated)**

**3<sup>rd</sup> 10.15am United Service at Rhodes Minnis**

**10<sup>th</sup> United Mothering Sunday Service Revd Gill Songer**

**17<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion\_Rev'd Malcolm Peach**

**24<sup>th</sup> Local arrangement**

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



## CHURCH PAGES



### Acrise Community Open Day

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024 – 11 am – 4pm

Lent lunches of **soup and bread** will be served. In addition, **hot drinks, savouries and cakes** will be available all day.



**Stalls** will include: books and puzzles, church merchandise and crafts, good quality second-hand items.

**Displays** will feature Arthur Bailey's Collection of Acrise Photos, as well as Church records.

St Martin's, Church, Acrise, CT18 8JZ

### Churches Together in Elham

**Prayer meeting** in the **Methodist Hall**, open to all persons of any denomination or none. Bi-monthly, on a **Saturday morning, at 8 am**, half an hour of prayer followed by breakfast at **8.30** (please let David Whitethread know if you are coming – 840650 or 07961053335).

The next Prayer Breakfast is **6<sup>th</sup> April**. All welcome, come and join us.

**Coffee & Cake morning – Mondays, 1030 to 1200.**

Next **Prayer Meeting – 7<sup>th</sup> March**, then every first **Thursday** of each



### Deanery Confirmation Service

This will be held on **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024** at **All Soul's, Cheriton**

A preparatory course will be taking place later in the year – do let me know if anyone is interested in being confirmed. Rev Sharon – 07873316492



The speaker at the last Friendship Lunch Club on Thursday was Tammie, from Bluebird Care, a private Health Care provider. She was very dynamic and supported by Gemma, her associate. Bluebird Care provides tailor-made care in your own home, according to the needs of the family, as opposed to care in a Nursing Home. The subject was dear to all our hearts! The Friendship Lunch Club meets every third Thursday of the month and we had a full house to listen to Tammie.





### Elham Food & Craft Festival



#### Scarecrows are back in June

Hot on the success of our Christmas Food & Craft Festival, the Elham Farmers' Market committee are busy planning our summer festival on

**Sunday 9 June, from 11am to 2pm.**

Our traders are already signing up for stalls to make sure they get a place in Elham Square or church, a really positive start!

Back by popular demand, we are once again organising a scarecrow competition: we are inviting all villagers to make a scarecrow and display their creation in their front garden for all to admire.

We will produce a map so that visitors can follow the trail through the village, and we will award a prize to the best adult and children's scarecrow on 9 June. The theme this year is WEATHER. So get your thinking caps on and let your creativity run wild... you are free to interpret the theme in whatever way you feel. We will publish more details of how and when to take part in future newsletters.

So 9 June will be a day of celebrations: a bustling market in the square and church, dancing from the Pennyroyal Clog Dancers, church bells ringing, scarecrows to admire in the village, plus gardens to view, as the weekend is also Elham Open Gardens!

**Make sure to put the date in your diaries.**

For further information or to book a stall, please contact Market Manager Debbie Francis on [elhamfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:elhamfarmersmarket@gmail.com)  
Anne Leva

#### A Round for Ringers

The Elham Bellringers had their post-Christmas social on the 25th January at The Rose and Crown. After a short bit of housekeeping we had a lovely evening chatting over drinks and chips that were very kindly donated by the pub. As well as our usual ringing we are hoping to arrange a day out visiting a few local churches for some ringing later in the year. Do listen out for us at the Summer Market in June!

Practice night is now 7.30pm on Thursdays for the foreseeable future - visitors are always welcome but please check to avoid a wasted journey.

Fiona Turney - Tower Captain  
([feturney@btinternet.com](mailto:feturney@btinternet.com))





## ELHAM VILLAGE HALL NEWS



### ***Our monthly 'Volunteers Day' was SO BUSY!***

The Volunteers Days are becoming ever better attended —there were 21 volunteers who turned up on a cold Saturday January morning to repair, tidy, trim, saw, dig, lop, drill, paint, fix, plan - whatever was needed to help keep our village hall an attractive facility for all to use.



The main hall has been repainted as well as the entrance hall. Plumbing was repaired, the stage was cleared and cleaned, the shrubberies have been trimmed and shaped to allow full use of the paths around the hall, the trench for the Elham Community Shed was begun.



A big 'thank you' to all residents of the parish who took part. We look forward to seeing you and maybe more folk on Saturday 20th April. Coffee, cake and lunch is provided for all participants, even those who only come for an hour or two.



### **Wines of the Unexpected Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 7 for 7.30**

**At Elham Village Hall**

There are still a few tickets available for this event. The evening consists of a welcoming glass of fizz, eight wines with commentary and small plate food. All for just £20.00.

To reserve your seat please contact Jan Stanyon  
01303 840820/07771 922120/

[stanyonjan@aol.com](mailto:stanyonjan@aol.com).

See you there.

## WINES OF THE UNEXPECTED

*A wine tasting experience!*

**SATURDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH**

at Elham Village Hall 7.00 for 7.30pm

Tickets £20 from Jan Stanyon

[stanyonjan@aol.com](mailto:stanyonjan@aol.com)/ 01303 840820

Early booking advised!

Ticket includes a welcoming glass of fizz, six wines with food samples. Wine commentary from Paul Boyle  
This event is organized by Elham Village Hall Association Ltd. Reg. Charity No:1024757



## ***Elham Community Shed News***



Since we received the green light from the Planning Department in December, it has certainly been a case of “full steam ahead” for the Elham Community Shed!

Work to clear the plot and prepare for the arrival of the shed has been the number one priority for the Community Shed volunteers and a great deal has already been achieved. Much of the work on electrical connection between the village hall and the site of the Shed has now been completed (trench dug, protective corrugated wired tube installed, trench filled, car park surface reinstated). The excavation for the base of the Shed has been completed and, after much hard work, filled with aggregates and left over chalk spoil from the electrical trench. (with many thanks to Martin Gosbee for use of his manpower and machinery) The steel mesh to reinforce the concrete has also been installed. We now await the poured concrete and the erection of the Shed – both of which should be completed before the end of this month.

The “Ground Force Team” including Jim Clements, John

Tebbs, Clive Rutland, Roger Newman, Paul Watson, Brian Cox and Trev Bateman and other volunteers have given up a lot of time to make this all happen. If you would like to be involved in the creation of our Shed, please get in touch.

In the meantime, work continues making Elham Community Shed a fit and proper organisation. In other words.... much paperwork is being undertaken to ensure that, when we formally open our doors later this year, everyone can look forward to using a place that is fit for purpose and a pleasure to be in!

We also continue to further investigate funding options and the appointment of personnel to key roles within the operational team. Currently we have vacancies for a Communications Manager and a Sales and Marketing Manager. If you are interested in these roles or in taking any active part in this project, no matter how small, please contact us.

Kevin Scott Head of Shed. [kevinscott19@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kevinscott19@hotmail.co.uk)





## KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOUR

**RACHEL BOULDEN** says she is part of the furniture. You may know her as an estate agent, working in the Elham Valley. She has agreed to be the neighbour you get to know this month.



1. How long have you been part of the Elham Community?	I was born in Elham in 1972 and grew up in Park Lane. My parents built a property in the 60s and another during the 80s in Park Lane in which I grew up. I was the youngest of eight and there are still many of us living locally.
2. What do you consider your greatest achievement to date?	I don't have 'a greatest achievement' just many personal achievements that mean a lot to me. My husband and I brought up three children and consider that a huge achievement.
3. When were you happiest?	I am a happy person; I consider myself to be very happy now. I don't sweat the small stuff anymore, nor take anything for granted.
4. What did you want to be when you were growing up?	In this order – a poet, a vet, a hairdresser. None of which I have achieved.
5. What keeps you awake at night?	Nothing, unless it is deadly serious. If any problems come into my head, I immediately dismiss them and think they can wait until the morning.
6. What is the most important lesson life has taught you?	I had cancer in 2016 and that changes your perspective on life. I am totally content with what I have and grateful for every single day.
7. Which village event do you most look forward to?	The Remembrance Service in November, I reflect on my father's time during WW II and I had great uncles who have their names engraved on the war memorial who lost their lives in WWI, so I find the ceremony particularly poignant. I also LOVED the Saturday morning street discos during Covid.
8. Tell us three activities that keep you busy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Every morning, I go to Mermaid beach at Folkestone for a swim with my sister and niece. I leave at 5.00am and swim with my head torch during the winter months. Watching the mornings get lighter, the odd shooting star and sunrises is good for your soul and it is an amazing way to start the day.</li> <li>- I am 'Head of Sales' at Laing Bennett estate agents in Lyminge and am very proud to be part of such a great team.</li> <li>- My family, they are all grown up but we are still very close and my grandchildren are certainly high on the list of things that keep me happily busy.</li> </ul>
9. What one change in the village would improve your life?	Well, it would not improve MY life, but affordable housing would benefit the next generation....sadly I can't see it happening any time soon!
10. Cat, dog or goldfish?	A poodle called Gloria. We have a cat called Treacle but one day I WILL have a poodle called Gloria. ...
11. What is the worst job you have ever done?	I have thought about this one and I just feel I have learned so much and acquired new skills from each job I have done. There isn't a worst job but I've learnt that a great team makes all the difference.
12. Tell us a joke.	<p>I've got a few...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I was addicted to the Hokey Kokey but then I turned myself around.</li> <li>2. If attacked by a group of clowns, go for the juggler.</li> <li>3. A book fell on my head the other day, I only have my shelf to blame.</li> </ol>
13. What would the people of Elham not know about you?	I am an open book really. I had my five minutes of fame when I was on 'Homes Under the Hammer', I was one of those agents that walks around looking 'extremely' interested in the property that was going up for auction and then giving my opinion on value. The bungalow sold and six months later I went back and it was amazing, it had been refurbished beautifully.
14. Last thoughts, final word.	Marilyn Monroe said 'imperfection is beauty, madness is genius and it is better to be absolutely ridiculous than absolutely boring'. That sums it up really.

## VILLAGE FORUM



No competition, but these snowdrops were in Debbie Rees -Davies' garden in early February!

### ELHAM VALLEY STORES

We are looking for more volunteers to work, on an occasional basis, in the Village Store.

Full training will be given.

Please contact Martin Turner (01303 840804 or [igt867@aol.com](mailto:igt867@aol.com))

if you would be interested or have any questions.



### ***Church visitor swoops in.***

Did you see the hawk flying around St Mary's church on Friday 16th February?



### Cantores Diary

The choir Cantores have been based in Lyminge for over 20 years, and we are looking forward to a busy programme ahead for 2024, led by our musical director Jon Williams. The following dates may be useful for your diaries.

After Easter there is to be a major collaboration concert together with Dover Choral, the Deal and Walmer Handelians, Pharos and the Thanet Chamber choir to perform the acclaimed and dramatic work "The Dream of Gerontius" by Edward Elgar. Our chorus of 120 or more singers will be supported by a 30 piece orchestra, and three soloists under the baton of David Flood, former director of music at Canterbury Cathedral. The performance is to be held on the evening of 13 April in the modern surroundings of The Nye Hall at the Duke of York's school, Dover. You are encouraged to come to what promises to be an exciting evening – full details with ticketing arrangements will be circulated next month. A concert on this scale in East Kent with easy access, and free parking is a rare event.

On Saturday 22nd June we have been invited to sing evensong at Rochester Cathedral, where our previous director Adrian Bawtree now holds the post of musical director – although our attendance will give him a well earned day off in June.

Our Summer Concert will be in Lyminge Village hall as usual at 4pm on the afternoon of Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July, where we will present a varied programme of music, both classical and lighter material.

In November our popular coffee concert is planned for 11:00 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> in the lovely acoustic of the Lyminge Methodist Chapel, preceded by the customary coffee and cakes. After the deluge for Captain Noah's flood last year, we are hoping for calmer weather.

And our Christmas Concert will be in Lyminge Village Hall at 16:00 on 14<sup>th</sup> December, where we plan to be joined again by the Hythe Town Concert Band to present a full, programme of seasonal music, with wine and mince pies to get you in the mood.

Singers are always welcome to join us – rehearsals are at 7:30pm on Wednesday evenings in the village hall, no auditions needed, so come and give us a try – contact through any members you may know or to [john.vincett@gmail.com](mailto:john.vincett@gmail.com).

**MAKE  
A WILL  
MONTH**

**APRIL  
2024**



Solicitor firms across east Kent are donating their time to write Wills during April, in exchange for a donation to the hospice.

To arrange your appointment please call the firms directly, from 1 March.

All donations received go directly to Pilgrims Hospices.

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Pilgrims Hospices in East Kent is a company limited by guarantee. Registered charity number: 293968. Registered company number: 2000560. Registered office: 56 London Road, Canterbury, Kent CT2 8JA.

From 1 March, those who wish to utilise the scheme can contact one of the solicitor firms, taking part in the appeal, to book their appointment directly.

### ***Are your Monday evenings a bit dull?***

Why don't you join a group of us having fun learning "Bollywood" dances?

The Elham classes started at the beginning of September and I joined a few weeks later but it wasn't a problem as Minal, our teacher, is very patient. She revises the steps each week and we learn a new dance every term.

To paraphrase Eric Morecombe, I was soon doing the right steps but not necessarily in the right order!

It's great exercise to lively "feel good" music. So, bring some Indian sunshine in to the week and join us in Elham Village Hall at 7.00pm on a Monday.

For more information contact Minal on  
07816899570 or [minal@bollywood-blast.co.uk](mailto:minal@bollywood-blast.co.uk)

or check out her website [www.bollywood-blast.co.uk](http://www.bollywood-blast.co.uk)



### ***Elham Observations***

Where is this in Elham? This is the gable of North Cottage in Old Road.





## Elham Valley Walkers Winter Programme



### Goodbye Winter

The usual author of our entertaining walking 'tips' article is Peter Corkill. As I write, Peter is undergoing treatment in hospital and I am sure you will join with me in wishing Peter a swift and successful recovery.

Dog walking on a rather damp Sunday February morning today, amongst a rather soggy hedgerow, I spotted my first primrose in bloom, an uplifting sign that spring is truly on its way!

So, looking forward, I want to remind you about the wonderful range of walking available to us all not just locally but across wider Kent.

Few people seem to be aware of KCC's excellent Explore Kent website, [explorekent.org](http://explorekent.org). The site is a mine of information covering Activities to enjoy, Places to visit, Experiences to share, including Kentish Events, (great for out of school term things to do). The activities section is great for helping find a self-guided walk or cycle ride which is right for YOU. From winter walks, coastal walks, parkland walks, short/long distance walks, style free walks, (some suitable for wheelchairs), walking itineraries and even a junior walking challenge, there is something for everyone. Make sure you take a look before you plan your next outing outdoors. Chris Jelly.


*Outside the Ice House at Goodnestone Park*



Date	Start	Route	Leader
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Chilham Castle Gates, Chilham Square, CT4 8DB, 10am	Leaving the square heading to Godmersham Park, where we cross the Stour, then back along the valley to Pickleden Road, where the path loops back nearly adjacent to the Stour, which we recross, to return to Chilham. The route is relatively flat, on good paths, unlikely to be muddy. Easy. Approx 6.5 miles, 3.5 hours	Andy Cornford. 07761 034407
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	East Cliff Pavilion, Folkestone. CT19 6BL 10am	From the car park, along the foreshore, then taking the magical wooded path snaking up to the cliff top. Hopefully a leg rest at the cafe of the Battle of Britain Memorial, before returning to the start. Moderate, 5 miles. 3.5 hours	Andy Cornford 07761 034407
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Elham Square, CT4 6TJ, 10am	To Acrise and back, walk 5 of our website selection. Maybe some spring lambs en-route? 4.3 miles, 2.5 hours, Easy.	Chris Jelly 07518 163183
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Smeeth Playing Fields Car Park, Church Road. TN25 6RX, 10am. (nearly opposite the Woolpack Inn, on road parking should the car park be in the process of being resurfaced)	An easy walk of approximately 4.3 miles in the countryside surrounding the villages of Brabourne Lees and Smeeth, nestled at the foot of The Downs. The walk incorporates fields, small woodland, country lanes and passes through an old quarry site, an area protected for ground breeding birds. There are a couple of high, but sturdy stiles, regrettably with no dog gates. Hopefully, bluebells will be out and it will not be muddy, although we pass through the fields of Bog Farm! Come and support one of our new walk leaders Nikki Allen.	Nikki Allen 07708 099149





## LOCAL NEWS



Hythe, Lyminge  
& Ashford


# BOXFIT

**Age UK Hythe, Stade St, Hythe, Kent CT21 6BD**  
**Wednesdays - 4.45pm to 5.45pm**  
**£6 per class    01303 269602**


**Age UK Lyminge, 63 Station Rd, Lyminge, Kent CT18 8HQ**  
**Thursdays - 10am to 11am**

Non-contact boxing class for people age 55+.  
 No experience required. Everyone is welcome, so come along and join us.



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 or email [dementialead@ageukhla.org.uk](mailto:dementialead@ageukhla.org.uk)



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**Mondays 18.00**    Clive; [stanyonc@aol.com](mailto:stanyonc@aol.com)  
**Tuesday and Thursday 9.30 (10.00 winter)**  
 Maureen Alexander 01303 862938  
[maurentalexander@gmail.com](mailto:maurentalexander@gmail.com)  
**Fridays 17.30 -19.30 BEGINNERS and RETURNERS**  
**FUN SESSION** Steve Uttley 07984 763156  
[Steveuttley@gmail.com](mailto:Steveuttley@gmail.com)

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**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Chairman**    Mike Ridley 01303 840485  
[m.ridley736@btinternet.com](mailto:m.ridley736@btinternet.com)

**Membership**    Brett Clitheroe

**Treasurer**    Clive Stanyon 01303 840820  
[stanyonc@aol.com](mailto:stanyonc@aol.com)

**Badminton:** Clive Stanyon 01303840820  
[stanyonc@aol.com](mailto:stanyonc@aol.com)

**Casual Bookings** Clive Stanyon 01303 40820  
[stanyonc@aol.com](mailto:stanyonc@aol.com)

## Anyone for Table Tennis?



If you would like to re-discover the joys of playing table tennis or would like to give it a go, contact Jim Clements 840295 or email [ajcjm1904@gmail.com](mailto:ajcjm1904@gmail.com).

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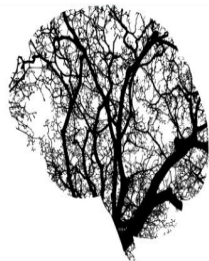
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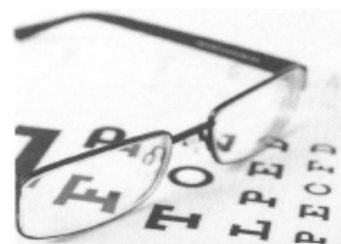


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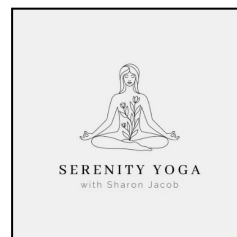
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