

E L H A M NEWSLETTER



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NOVEMBER 2025





Published by the Elham Village Hall Association,

> Charity No 1024757

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News available
to read on
Facebook,
Elham Village
Hall,
and on
www.visitelham.co



.uk.

This picture was taken by Paul Weller on a walk through Elham. Thank you Paul

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.



elham.co.uk

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Please email any newsletter copy to the editor by 9am on the <u>13th of the month</u> 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 volunteer who produces the Newsletter, errors can occur. No responsibility is accepted for any errors or omissions 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** 07714 415651

DOCTORS

01303 840213 The Elham Surgery, Old Road 01303 232300 The Hawkinge Health Centre 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 12 M20) 0345 6779273

SCHOOL

Elham C of E Primary School 01303 840325

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Sojan Joseph (Lab)

sojan.joseph.mp@parliament.uk

KENT COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Christopher Hespe (Reform) Christopher.Hespe@kent.gov.uk

FOLKESTONE and HYTHE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

James Butcher (Green)

james.butcher@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

David Godfrey 07584 304301 (Con)

Stephen Scoffham (Green)

stephen.scoffham@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Chair – Kevin Lamb	01303 840215
Vice Chair –	01303 840224
Christeen Chapman	
Brian Swan	01303 840006
Kevin Allen	01303 862087
Stuart Peall	07956110887
Geoff Clements	01303 840255
Chris Francis	01303 840502
Clerk - 07702268475 -	

cgreenwood@elhampc.co.uk

ELHAM PARISH COUNCIL VETERINARY

Lord Whisky Low-Income

Veterinary Clinic 01303 862622 Bourne Vets. Bekesbourne 01227 832322 Manor Vets, Folkestone 01303 273203 01303 764190 Hawkinge Vets, Hawkinge

ELHAM CHURCHES

www.elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk

St Mary The Virgin, Church of England

Rector: Rev. Carol Bates 0777 239 4855

Wardens tba

Methodist Church, High Street

Minister: Rev. Gill Songer 01303 240228 SAMARITANS (freefone) 116 123 or email jo@samaritans.org

LIBRARY

Mobile Library is fortnightly in Elham outside the Rose and Crown - Fridays at 12.35 -13.05.

HOW TO MAKE BACS PAYMENTS to **ELHAM VILLAGE HALL?**

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

Elham Village Hall Association website: www.elhamvillagehall.co.uk

What's On, In and Around ELHAM

Date	Event	Time	Location	Contact	Page
Saturday 1 Nov	Elham Primary School Open Day	10.00-12.00	Elham Primary School	Sally Lewis Secretary	18
Tuesday 4 Nov	Elham Valley Walkers	10.00	CT3 1PE	Ros Humphries 07760485382	24
Tuesday 4/11/18/25 Nov	Elham Community Shed Coffee Morning	10.00 - 12.00	The Shed, Elham Village Hall	elhamshed@gmail.com	22
Wednesday 5 Nov	Social Snacks and Cinema	19.00 for 19.30	Peggy Pike Room Elham Village Hall	Jan Stanyon 01303 840820	4
Thursday 6/13/20/27 Nov	Elham Community Shed	10.00 - 16.00	The Shed, Elham Village Hall	elhamshed@gmail.com	22
Friday 7 Nov	Age Uk Wine Tasting	19.00	Stade Street Hythe	01303 269602	40
Saturday 8 Nov	Elham Community Shed Candle making	10.00 - 12.00	The Shed, Elham Village Hall	elhamshed@gmail.com	22
Sunday 9 Nov	Remembrance Sunday	11.00	Elham War Memorial	n/a	12
Saturday 15 Nov	EVHA Volunteers' Day	10.00-15.00	Elham Village Hall	See Poster	4
Sat 15 and Sun16 Sat 22 and Sun23	Elham Valley Line Trust Festive Craft Fayre	10.00-16.00	See Poster	See Poster	23
Thursday 20 Nov	Elham Gardening Society Talk	19.30	Peggy Pike Room EVH	See website	18
Thursday 20 Nov	Last date to order Christmas trees for outside your house.	n/a	Collect Trees on Saturday 22	Back Cover	40
Saturday 22 Nov	Elham Community Shed Wreath Making	10.00-12.00	Elham Community Shed	Elhamshed@gmail.c om	22
Saturday 22 Nov	The Big Sound Collective	19.30 for 20.00	Elham Village Hall	See poster	19
Sunday 23 Nov	Elham Valley Walkers	10.00	CT21 6AE	Andy Cornford 07761034407	24
Thursday 27 Nov	Friendship Christmas Lunch— booking essential	12.30	King's Arms	Sylvia Scott	n/a
Saturday 29 Nov	Acrise Church Christmas Fayre	10.00-14.00	Elham Village Hall	01303 892364	23
Saturday 29 Nov	Age Uk Christmas Fair	10.00-14.00	Stade Street CT21 6BD	See Poster	21
Saturday 29 Nov	Rhodes Minnis Christmas Fair	10.00-13.00	Hawkinge Community Centre	See Poster	21
Sunday 7 December	The Big Switch On	17.00	The Triangle	xmastrees@elhamvi Ilagehall.co.uk	40
Sunday 14 December	Elham Christmas Food and Craft Festival	11.00 - 14.00	The Square, Elham	See Poster	20

Welcome to the Elham Newsletter - November 2025

The dark evenings have returned and we are all busy putting Christmas dates in the diary! If you want to secure a Christmas tree for your household, turn to page 6, or send an email to xmastrees@elhamvillagehall.co.uk with your address.

Do take a look at 'What's On, In and Around Elham', there are many activities during the month in which you could participate - get involved and be PART of your community.

If you know of an event or activity in December please send details before November 13 to me at elhamnewsletter@gmail.com.

Renee Bull Editor

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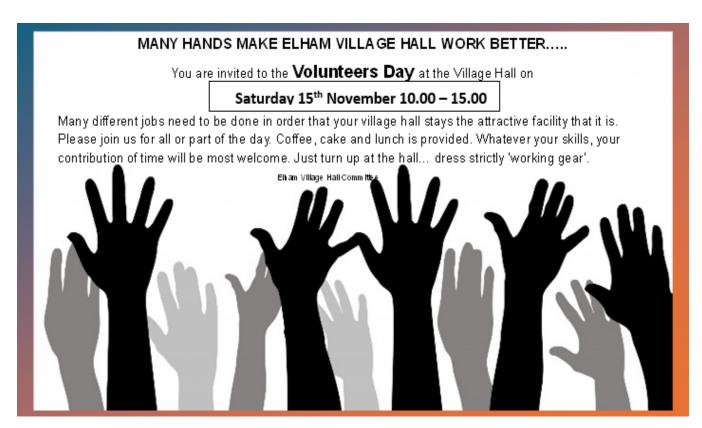
SOCIAL, SNACKS and CINEMA

Wednesday 5 November
7 for 7.30 in the Peggy Pike room at Elham Village Hall



This month we have something of a tribute film offering. Come along to our cosy Peggy Pike Room and meet Friends and have a natter. We are also promised a view of local actor Steve's audition plece, featuring Some of us Elham folk and (if possible) a sneak viewing of the finished advert. All in all, it should be a Fab evening. We hope to see you there.

Jan Stanyon Chair



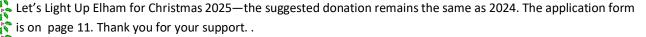
Light Up Elham Christmas 2025

You may have driven through the village in December and wondered where all the Christmas trees and lights that appear on people's houses and buildings in the village come from. Or you may well be new to the village and wondered why you may have 3 hooks on the front of your house. Well, they are all the work of a team of dedicated individuals that are called the 'Light Up Elham Team'.

The Elham Village Hall Association plan and organise a team of people that every year decorate the large Christmas tree on the Triangle and put up Christmas trees throughout the village. We ask householders in the village if they would like to donate to buy a Christmas tree that is attached to their house. If you can't manage to put the tree up yourself, we have a band of willing volunteers who will help. We supply the fairy lights on loan and ask you to plug them in and switch them on from Sunday 7 December until the New Year. Please see details on page 11 in this Newsletter if you want to participate.

We always welcome new volunteers to The Light Up Elham Team so if you have a few hours to spare in the last week of November and wish to help, or are interested in finding out more about hosting a tree please contact:

Jon Vince on 07973181785 or email xmastrees@elhamvillagehall.co.uk



The Light Up Elham Team



TESCO STRONGER STARTS AWARD

We are delighted to announce that Elham Community Shed has been awarded £500.00 from the Tesco 'Stronger Starts' scheme. Thank you to everyone who popped the blue discs into the cases at Tesco, Cheriton. The money will help ensure that this valuable community resource will continue to flourish.

Jan Stanyon, chair. EVHA







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.

Take a look at our website: www.elhamvillagehall.co.uk

Contact Maggie Tappenden tel 01303 862467 mob 0774 6790 618 for further information.

bookingsecretary.evh@gmail.com

All hiring at competitive rates

ELHAM VILLAGE HALL NEWS

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

ELHAM VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Application Form for 130 Club

(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 whic
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

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

Hall 130 Club

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 at Elham Village Stores (there is a box at the front of the shop). Please inform us of any changes to your details.



130 CLUB Winners October DRAW

1st Prize (£32) Number 94 Liz Cox 2nd Prize (£20) Number 39 Valerie Jay 3rd Prize (£13) Number 137 Carol Eldred

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

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



ELHAM PARISH COUNCIL cgreenwood@elhampc.co.uk



Your Parish Council and their areas of responsibility



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

Stuart Peall

Member of PC 07956110887

Unratified Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council 6th October 2025

Those Present: Councillors: K Lamb (Chair), C Chapman (Vice Chair) B Swan, G Clements, C Francis, the Clerk, and 7 members of the public. Apologies: K Allen and S Peall – apologies received and accepted.

To declare any disclosable pecuniary interests (DPI), other significant Interests (SI's) or a voluntary interest (VI) relating to items on the agenda. No Interests were declared.

Public Contribution

MOP - Advised the meeting that they had sent correspondence to the Doctor's Surgery requesting that the trees and boundary hedge be cut back. While the lower level has been trimmed, the height and overhanging branches remain untouched. There are concerns that the overhead cables are becoming entangled within the trees. It was agreed that the Clerk will send a letter to the Doctor's Surgery outlining the action to address the remaining overgrowth, particularly in relation to the potential hazard to overhead cables.

MOP- A trustee of Elham Village Hall asked if the Parish Council would consider continuing its financial support for the Christmas tree lights, as provided in the previous year. The Council confirmed its support in principle and agreed that the Clerk would send a grant application form to the trustee. The application will be considered at the November Ordinary Meeting.

MOP – A representative from the Elham Newsletter enquired about the progress of the Parish map. The Clerk advised that a map has been received; however, further work is required, as the current format renders the information illegible.

Minutes of meeting.

- 1)The minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting of the Parish Council held on 1st September 2025 were approved and were signed as a true record by the Chair of meeting.
- 2)The minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 1st September 2025 were approved and were signed as a true record by the Chair of the meeting.
- 3)The minutes of the C&A Committee meeting held on Monday 8th September 2025 were approved and were signed as a true record by the Chair of meeting.

Chairmans Report – A resident living near the footpath to Fairfield has raised concerns about not receiving deliveries due to a lack of visible signage. Cllr Swan advised that there is a sign listing the relevant properties; he will inspect the visibility of the sign in due course and report back to the council.

Finance

- 1)The Accounts from September 2025 were agreed as true record and were signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

 2)The Bank Reconciliation from September 2025 was agreed as true record and was signed by the Chairman of the meeting.
- 3)The External Auditors Report and Certificate for 2024/25 were reviewed, and it was agreed that no action is required.
- 4)The September 25 invoices were agreed, and payments were approved.

.../cont

...cont/ Unratified Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council 6th October 2025



Planning

Applications received were noted and comments agreed:

Planning Applica- tion	Address	Description	Comments / Views
25/1325/FH	Mayfield, Cherry	Works to trees the subject of TPO No. 16 of	No Objection
	Gardens, Elham,	1994 1 Sycamore pollard to previous point	-
	CT4 6SZ	approx 6 metres from ground level.	

Application 25/1815/FH – 2 Fairfield, Elham, Canterbury, Kent CT4 6UT - Variation of Condition 2 of planning permission 22/1324/FH to allow for the alignment of new retaining wall to be modified to increase patio area is received on 6th October, the Clerk has requested an extension for comments to be received by FHDC.

21/1933/FH - Elham Valley Holiday Park, Wingmore, Canterbury Road CT4 6LP - Lawful development certificate (proposed) for the stationing of touring caravans (as permitted by Lawful Development Certificate ref: Y07/0039/SH) for unrestricted human habitation - District Cllr Godfrey gave an update: The new owners of the caravan park have submitted an application for a caravan site licence. The Licensing Team has reviewed the application and recommended that the owners apply for a mixed-use site licence to cover both touring and residential caravans.

It was noted that it will not be possible to impose restrictions on the length of stay for caravans, as the land has been issued with a Lawful Development Certificate permitting unrestricted human habitation.

The following decisions were received from Folkestone and Hythe District Council:

Planning Applica- tion	Address	Description	Decision Received
25/0924/FH	Annexe, The Old Vicarage, Vicar- age Lane, Elham, CT4 6TT	Listed Building Consent for the insertion of 2no windows	Approved with conditions.
25/1276/FH	Rigdens, The Square, Elham CT4 6TJ	Retrospective application for the erection of an inter- nal garden all timber feather edge fence with small gate to rear.	Approved with conditions.
25/1507/FH/TCA	Rose & Crown, High Street, El- ham CT4 6TD	Works to a tree in a Conservation Area comprising of T1 Sycamore crown reduction 3.5-4 metres from the branch tips and radial spread reduce by 2 metres and height by 4 metres.	No objections.

The Environment Group - It was agreed that the Environment Group may expend up to £150.00 for their bird and bat box initiative stall at the Christmas Farmers' Market - with money raised coming back into the Parish Council Environment budget provision. It was noted that Cllr Lamb offered that he may have surplus materials available which could be used for this project.

A funding request for the purchase of canes and guards for the upcoming Woodland Trust donation of whips was not approved. It was suggested instead that redundant canes and guards from previous planting projects be collected and reused.

It was discussed that a joint working party will be formed to cut back the sumac in the North end of the King George V. The Environment Group will liaise with the Parish Council to arrange potential dates.

Burial Ground - Memorial application for RPG 378 was considered and approved.

The Gore – It was agreed to defer this agenda item until a future Ordinary meeting.

Defibrillator- Possible locations for defibrillators were discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk would identify any key hotspots within the village and report back to Council.

The Clerk will also prepare a list of suggested dates and times for defibrillator training to present to Council. Training is included within the package provided under our governance arrangements.

Churchwall – The Clerk has followed up with FHDC Planning Department regarding the release of planning conditions. The latest decision date provided is 11th November 2025. Once the decisions have been received, a start date can be confirmed. The Clerk will arrange pre-start meetings accordingly.

...cont/ Unratified Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council 6th October 2025

COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING DAY

Elham Environment Group Sunday 30th November 10.00am



We're holding our annual whip planting day at the end of November - this year we'll be creating hedges along the fence line of the cricket pitch. Numbers permitting, we also plan to clear some shrubbery at the north end of the King George V playing field. If you're able to come along for a couple of hours to help, please let us know by e-mailing burrows.chris@btinternet.com



Wellbeing – An update was given on the Southeast Mind fundraiser scheduled for February 2026. The payment for the hire of the hall, totalling £126, was agreed.

Remembrance Sunday – The road application has been submitted. So far we have one volunteer apart from Cllrs to assist with the road closure. The Village Hall have confirmed that their PA system may be used for both the school service on the Friday before and the Remembrance Sunday service. A call for volunteers will again be put in the November newsletter.

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

Date of next meeting and Close -The next meeting will be the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council on Monday 20th October 2025 at 7.30pm. There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

NOVEMBER WORDSEARCH

Autumn is the season for mushrooms and toadstools. They are abundant this year. Can you find these fungi in the wordsearch?

Beefsteak fungus Bracket fungus Button mushroom

Champignon Death Cap

Dead mans fingers Fairies Bonnets

Field Mushroom Fly Agaric Honey fungus Ink Cap

Jews Ear

Oyster Mushroom

Penny Bun

Puffball Shitake Sickener Stinkhorn Straw Mushroom Truffle

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Christmas Tree Ordering Information.

If you would like to host a Christmas Tree for the outside of your house to be seen from the street, please email your name and address to **xmastrees@elhamvillagehall.co.uk** or message me on **07973 181785** by the 20 November.

Trees will be available to collect from the village hall from 10am to 12pm on Saturday the

November along with the loan of a set of fairy lights.

If you need someone to help install your tree we have a band of willing volunteers, so please contact Jon on the above email or number.

We are asking for a minimum donation of £20 for each tree. This is a non-profit venture. The price is the cost of each tree.

The Big Switch on for Light Up Elham is Sunday December 7th at 17:00 on the Triangle opposite the school.

LIGHT UP ELHAM 2025

CHRISTMAS TREE REQUEST FORM

If you would like to host a Christmas tree in Elham this Christmas please: **email xmastrees@elhamvillagehall.co.uk** or detach this form, fill it in with your details and leave in the newsletter bag in the village shop.

CONTACT DETAILS (block capitals)

Name/s	House name
Street	Postcode CT
Email:	
I have made an online <u>E</u>	3 A C S payment of £20 / £25 / £30 Other (Please circle an amount)
Account Name:	Elham Village Hall Association Limited
Sort code: <i>09-01-52</i>	date
Account Number: 136	98706 (Please use TREE(NAME) as a reference)
OR	
I have enclosed <u>a chec</u>	ue with this form for £ payable to Elham Village Hall Assoc. Ltd.

We would like to contact you by email from time to time to let you know about forthcoming events and activities. By giving your email address above, you are agreeing that you are happy for us to do this. We will never share your details with other organisations. For full details of how we hold and use personal data please contact elhamnewsletter@gmail.com

Julie Woodgate

Elham Farmers' Market Committee were greatly saddened to learn of the recent death of Julie, our former Market Manager, from Motor Neurone Disease.

Julie became Market Manager in the days when the Market was twice monthly in the courtyard of the Rose and Crown. When we decided to change to the twice-yearly Food and Craft Festivals in the Square and the Church she remained as Manager and was a kingpin to their success over many years. Julie was forced to

resign several years ago due to her ill health.

The Motor Neurone Disease Association was the beneficiary of our raffle at this year's Summer Festival, and MNDA will again benefit from our Christmas raffle, even more poignantly.

All of us connected with the Elham Festivals will remember Julie fondly.

TG





Return of the E-LAMB Sheep Trail

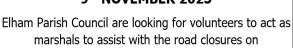
If you have a window or box that can be clearly seen from the road and you are willing to display one of the small, knitted lambs, sheep, ewes and rams (about 3 inches high) between December 21st and January 4th - please contact -

Elhamowl@gmail.com / 07776 496889 by 10th November.

Characters include Ramsgate, <u>Baaart</u> Simpson and <u>Lambinate</u>. Details of how to take part will be in <u>December's Newsletter</u>



REMEMBRANCE DAY 9th NOVEMBER 2025



If you are available from 10.00am until 11.45am on Sunday 9th November to be a road closure marshal, please contact the Clerk at cgreenwood@elhampc.co.uk or telephone 07702268475.

Remembrance Sunday.



Cost £150

£30 Deposit to secure your place, remainder spread over the 6 weeks

Limited spaces

Visit www.cottageartanddesign.com/artclasses or call

Claire on 07738580813 to book

Hill View Cottage Studio, CT4 6YG

Number Crunching

4.7% Average annual hike in council tax by Tory controlled councils, prompting Reform UK to huff in March: 'The Conservatives claim they are the party of low taxes, but the evidence says otherwise'.

5% Hike in council tax Reform UK controlled Kent County Council and others look set to make.

(National Press Oct 2020)

DISTRICT COUNCIL UPDATE from Cllr David Godfrey



Local government reorganisation

Readers will have seen in various publications and press releases that we are preparing for the biggest change in Local Government organisation for 50 years. The Labour government is imposing these changes which propose the dissolution of Kent County Council and all District/Borough Councils and replace them by a number of new unitary authorities within an overarching Mayoral unitary of Kenty in Kent.

The Reform-led KCC and District/borough Councils have different views as to how the new Local Government bodies should be structured. KCC are working up their own proposals on a single Unitary separately from the District/Borough Councils which are considering the following options.

- (a) Three unitary councils consisting of Folkestone and Hythe, Ashford, Canterbury, Thanet and Dover in the east; Dartford, Gravesham, Medway and Swale in the north and Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Malling, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells in the west.
- (b) Four unitary councils consisting of Folkestone and Hythe, Ashford and Swale in the middle of Kent; Dartford, Gravesham and Medway in the north; Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Malling, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells in the west and Canterbury, Thanet and Dover in the east.

Business plans for unitary proposals have to be submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government by 28 November and FHDC will be deciding on its preference at the full council meeting on 19 November. It is expected the government will indicate its preferred option in early 2026, followed by a public consultation. The final decision will be made by the government during summer 2026 and the new Kent authorities become operational in April 2028. There is very little information on how Parish and Town Councils might fit into the new bodies.

My personal opinion, and I stress personal opinion, is that this very costly exercise will take longer to resolve than the governments target time frame of forming initial shadow unitaries in spring 2027 and I am by no means convinced of the proposed benefits it may bring.

Glimmer of hope?

On a more positive note, perhaps having one large body in charge of everything will avoid the frustrating left and right hand issue of replacing the defective street lamp at Ottinge. The street lamp was first reported as being defective in October 2022!! Since then, Folkestone and Hythe DC, KCC have been dithering first on deciding who was responsible and eventually getting a work order to UK Power Networks. As at the time of writing and 3 years later the light Is not fixed despite a promise of this happening imminently. In my 18 years as a councillor, I have found the service we receive from officers to be very good, but this one issue has been a thorn in my side, needless to say have I expressed my feelings to those in command on several occasions. Rant over.

Solar Panels

At the District council meeting on 1st October a Petition was presented to Council objecting to the numerous applications received to cover the Marsh and other areas in a sea of Solar Panel Farms and large battery storage sites. I am pleased to say that the Council unanimously agreed that solar panels certainly should form part of our electricity supply but there are better solutions than carpeting over swathes of farmland. Let us hope that the local and National Planning authorities take heed and restrict such wanton destruction of our countryside in the zealous pursuit of net zero and profit.

Whilst on the subject of energy I have been disappointed that the current administration at FHDC has continuously resisted lobbying for nuclear power in the form of small modular reactors to be in the mix.

In the spirit of openness my fellow ward councillors who are both Green Party Members agreed to take it in turns to contribute to the Newsletter so as my next report will be in 2026, I wish everyone a Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Cllr David Godfrey (Conservative)

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOUR

Tricia Nelson is known as the 'eejit' who, with her husband, took on refurbishing 'The Old Hospital' in Elham. She agreed to feature as the neighbour we can get to know this month.



How long have you been part of the Elham Com- munity?	I have lived in Belfast all my life. A few years ago we decided to sell the family home with a view to downsize, but stay in Belfast. However, Eddie thought it would be a good idea to relocate to Kent to be nearer our grandchildren, I agreed so we moved temporarily to France while we looked for a house. We bought The
What do you consider your greatest achievement to date?	I was always frightened of water and I learned to swim when I was 28. When I retired, I learned to swim properly and took up beekeeping which had been a long -held ambition. I did get my qualification for beekeeping, but all my bees died in the first year.
When were you happiest?	Probably now. I am retired from work, not rigidly scheduled and can see our grandchildren and family. Our family is, for the first time in over 20 years, all living in mainland UK which means we don't have to get on a plane to see each other.
What did you want to be when you were grow- ing up?	I wanted to be a vet because I like the outdoors, like the country and was very keen on horses.
What keeps you awake at night?	A weak bladder.
What is the most important lesson life has taught you?	To be resilient and also to have the courage of your convictions and to effect change when you see change needs to happen.
Which village event do you most look forward to?	I really enjoy the quiz and the Farmers' Market. I just enjoy the village.
Tell us three ac- tivities that keep you busy?	House Garden Grandchildren We have three grandsons, 7,5 and 2.
What one change in the village would im- prove your life?	None.
Cat, dog or gold- fish?	Dogs always had them. They get Eddie out of the house.
What is the worst job you have ever done?	In the early 70s I had a summer job in Manchester as a relief bookies clerk. The maths was a challenge; the punters were a challenge and taking a bet on a dog race that had already started didn't help.
Tell us a joke.	There is a legend that St Patrick banished the snakes from Ireland. The joke is: What did St Patrick say when he was driving the snakes out of Ireland?'
What would the people of Elham not know about you?	I've no idea. I don't know what they DO know about me!
Last thoughts, final word.	Appreciate what you have and make the best of it. Keep challenge in your life.

Editor



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 jgt867@aol.com) if you would be interested

have any questions.

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MARY'S SEAT?

This picture of Mary's Seat was sent by John. He writes 'As far as I know this was very well used about five years ago but seems to have been totally abandoned now. I also noticed that the footpath down at the corner is beginning to be covered by weeds. I think it was created as a memory of a local schoolteacher.'

I asked Maggie Newington if she knew about the seat. She wrote 'Mary's Seat was made/given in memory of Mary Elgar around the time of the first Elham map. Mary was the mother of Steven Elgar (the school caretaker) who was a lead in the production of the village map under the direction of Graham Clarke. She was Bill Watson's daughter, a well-known Elhamite who did a lot of work with the youngsters involving nature and I believe she made some sort of museum of natural history up in the room above the stage at the village hall. She wasn't a teacher. I can't remember who made the seat and when it was presented.

Fizz Martin added 'Bill was on the EVHA council, as was Mary, hence the Mary Elgar room, originally used for her children's environmental group every Saturday morning. Both are pictured in the Elham Past and Present book, as are Peggy Pike, Anna Clayton and John Neumark.



Bill was also known for his excellent fruit cakes, which made lots of money for the VH in raffles!'

<u>Lyminge Community Hub Update – November 2025</u>

As advised in the October issue of The Lyminge Newsletter, we held a Public Meeting on 10th September at the Methodist Church. We were really pleased that 48 people kindly came along on what turned out to be a very wet and windy evening. Following a PowerPoint presentation highlighting our efforts to date to secure the use of the Jubilee Building at Everist Court, our plans for using the ground floor only of the building were shared with those present. As noted in our October update, the attraction of the Jubilee Building is the commercial kitchen, which will enable us to provide a café offering lunches and other refreshments. In addition, we would be able to have a thrift shop, a space for village and other groups to meet and, hopefully, a monthly repair café. Members of our committee then answered a wide range of questions from those present at the meeting.

The support we receive from Shaun Pottage, Chairman of Lyminge Parish Council, and Sue Baldwin, Vice Chairman of Lyminge Parish Council, is very much appreciated. They kindly attend our committee meetings whenever they can, sharing advice and guidance on the best way forward to achieve our goals and they also attended our meeting on 10th September. After our meeting on 10th September, we requested a further meeting with Councillor Jim Martin, Leader of Folkestone & Hythe District Council and his officers, following advice that the proposals for reconverting the building into flats should be available by October. We are hoping that he and his councillors will be willing to compromise and allow us to develop the ground floor into our proposed community hub, which we are confident will be welcomed by the residents of Lyminge and the surrounding villages.

We are pleased to be able to report that we have now received a number of possible dates for our meeting with Councillor Martin. In the meantime, we would be most grateful to receive statements of support for our proposed community hub from the residents of Elham, which can be sent via e-mail to the following address: yd.freeman@mypostoffice.co.uk Thank you for your interest and support.

CHURCH PAGES

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

NOTICES for November



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 November

1st November Prayer Breakfast at 8am Methodist Church.

6th November Prayer meeting at 7.30pm Methodist church

Contact: David Whitethread (07961 053335)

1st November – All Saints Day

15:00 Benefice Service at Stanford

Lectionary readings:

Daniel 7.1-3,15-18; Psalm 149; Ephesians 1.11-23; Luke 6.20-31

2nd November – All Souls Day



Isaiah 1.10-18; Psalm 32.1-8; 2 Thessalonians 1.1-12; Luke 19.1-1

9th November – Remembrance Sunday 3rd before Advent

09:30 Eucharist.; 10.50am Remembrance Service at War Memorial

Lectionary readings:

Job 19.23-27a; Psalm 17.1-9*; 2 Thessalonians 2.1-5,13-17; Luke 20.27-38

16th November 2nd Sunday before Advent

09:30. Sung Eucharist & Baptism

Lectionary readings:

Malachi 4.1-2a; Psalm 98; 2 Thessalonians 3.6-13; Luke 21.5-19

23rd November Christ the King - Sunday next before Advent

09:30. All Age Eucharist

Lectionary readings:

Jeremiah 23.1-6; Psalm 46; Colossians 1.11-20; Luke 23.33-43

30th November Advent Sunday

10:00 Benefice Eucharist - St Peter, Swingfield

Lectionary readings:

Isaiah 2.1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13.11-14; Matthew 24.36-44

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

m.keeble@outlook.com

Donations

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

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

Safeguarding / 'A Safe Church':

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

Susannah Pallot: susannahpallot@gmail.com

NOTICES for November

Elham Methodist Church

(all at 9.30am unless otherwise stated)

Services for NOVEMBER

2nd **10.15am** Valley United Service at Rhodes Minnis

9th **10.50am** United Remembrance Service at war me-

morial

16th Christine Slater

23rd **10.15am** Valley United Service at Lyminge

30th Local arrangement video available





The Rector's wonderings...

I wonder if you've ever passed a quick judgement on someone without knowing the whole story?

We can sometimes unfairly judge others who we know very little about, based on gossip.

Proverbs is a book of wisdom in the Bible and says, "The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to a man's inmost parts." (Proverbs 18:8). When we listen to gossip, it goes to our "inmost parts." Gossip sinks its teeth into our hearts, souls, and minds and corrupts us like a fast spreading cancer. Gossip is always trouble. Gossip obscures the truth. Gossip drives us from God. Gossip ruins reputations. Gossip destroys relationships. Gossip divides churches. Gossip is incredibly destructive.

Rather than tearing people down, we should build them up! How do we do that? Well, one of the ways we do that is through encouragement.

Proverbs 12:25 says:

"Anxiety in a person's heart weighs it down, but a good word cheers it up."

Don't weigh down someone's heart by giving them something to be anxious about through your gossiping. Instead, cheer up someone's heart by giving them a good word.

Challenge yourself this month in this one way:

Make a pledge to encourage rather than gossip.

Can you imagine how wonderful it would be if all the gossip in our community turned into encouragement?

Ask yourself these questions (attributed to Socrates):

Is it true? Is it necessary? Is it kind?

Let that be your guide. Here's another tip: If in doubt, don't say it.

Dear Lord, Set a guard over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips. Help me to be an encourager by speaking a good word." Amen (Psalm 141:3)



Gazebo Wanted

The Elham Environment Group are looking for a small gazebo for use on their stall at the Christmas Farmers' Market on 14th December.

Please could anyone willing to lend us a suitable gazebo for the day get in touch with Chris Jelly on

07518 163183

or chrisjelly71@gmail.com



If it wasn't for the colder nights and the glorious colours in the trees, one could believe it was still very late August or September - lovely mild sunny days to be treasured!

The speaker at the meeting in September was one of our most popular - Steve Edney. His main subject was Dahlias - quite a passion for him and this was fascinating and informative with good pictures of

many different varieties of this lovely flower but it was, as always, a fairly wide-ranging talk encompassing gardens in general and all aspects of this love that we all have. A really enjoyable evening.

The next event was the Bulb Sale and Coffee Morning. Appalling weather on the Friday lowered spirits and expectations in a big way BUT Saturday turned out to be dry and sunny - just right. There was a varied selection of bulbs for sale and they went fairly quickly. Farthing Common Nursery brought a good selection of plants and there was a plant/seed swapped table which did a good trade and to match all this a good turnout of members and friends who enjoyed their coffee and lots of chat. A successful and enjoyable morning.

The main event to come in early December will be the A.G.M. - reports on the events of the year and details of what is to come in 2026 -all followed by the Christmas party. Don't miss it.

The Speaker in November will be Katherine, the Tea break Gardener who will tell us what we can grow in the greenhouse that is NOT a tomato. This will be shown in the Peggy Pike room as well as at home via Zoom.

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

Frances Horton. - 840550.

ELHAM CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



A Strong Start

Hello everyone,

Thank you for the warm welcome which has been extended to myself from all of you within the Elham village community. Whilst it is still early, I am working hard to make Elham Church of England Primary School a larger part of village life. To this end, I will be attending the Remembrance Day events on November 9th in my role as headteacher.

The first half-term has flown-by, and we will shortly be breaking up for a week of rest. It has been a busy time, with new starters in our Reception class, our Harvest celebrations at St. Mary's, the Kent Test for our Year 6 pupils, and lots more. If you would like to see more of what we have been doing, follow us on Facebook at Elham Primary School https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057603542560 The page is a brilliant way to stay current on what has been happening and can also be shared to raise the profile of our school. We continue to have **space in most year groups** and the best way to support us is to share with others what a fantastic school we have here in Elham.

On this topic, we have our **Open Day coming up on Saturday November 1st 2025 from 10am till 12pm**. All are welcome and we would love to show off our school to you. We would also **encourage you to book a 1 on 1 tour with Mr Magliocco during school hours**.

This can be done via Mrs Lewis in the office by email or phone: secretary@elham.kent.sch.uk 01303.840325

Finally, a thank you to the volunteers we have had for the role of school librarian. If you would like to help at the school, I know that the PTA are also looking for volunteers to support with the running of their events - such as the upcoming Christmas Fair. As always, if you may be interested, please get in touch. We are looking for more ways in which we can become a greater part of the village.

Please get in touch if you have suggestions or requests.

With warm wishes,

Mr Magliocco Headteacher Elham Church of England Primary School







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ELHAM VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Candles, Christmas Wreaths and a Party! Shed Update



Wood turning is proving popular with Shed members, who turned up to learn how to use our new lathe and hopefully progress to create their own artifacts. Great care is required to handle this powerful machine, members of the Garden of England Woodturners based in Dunkirk, were on hand to show members the rudiments of this new craft.

ELAN ON MUNITARED .

Further sessions are being planned, so check your emails for updates and dates.

In October other sessions included loom making with Pip Hope.

The programme for November includes:

Saturday 8 November at 10am - **Candle making** with Roger Newman, using wax from his bees kept around Elham.

Saturday 22 November at 10am - Leading up to Christmas, Jim and Renee will lead a **wreath-making workshop**. The idea is only to use organic materials, but if you want glitter, ribbon and baubles you will need to bring your own.



Quite a few members have already signed up for these two sessions, but please send us an email if you would like to join, to elhamshed@gmail.com.



A few members have already expressed an interest in the Caldecott Project, to make garden structures to be used by the youngsters with special educational needs who attend this centre for therapeutic care and education. Do let us know if you would like to help in any way. This will start in the New Year.

And talking of 2026, we will be celebrating our first anniversary in January and are planning a **Social and Renewal Evening on Saturday 10 January** in the Peggy Pike room at the Village Hall, starting at 7pm. This is your chance to spend some time with the Shed Team and members, share ideas, enjoy a drink and renew your membership, or

become a new member. The Shed is for all to enjoy, so your input in what goes on there is very valuable. There will be a pay-

*

ing bar and musical entertainment with Off Grid, Elham's jamming group who entertained revellers at a recent Village Hall party.

Team members will be attending the Elham Food and Craft Festival on Sunday 14 December in the community gazebo in the Square. Do come and say hello, find out more, and see a photo display of what we've been up to in our first year.

ECS Team

On the 8th November we are going to make some candles! Now I know that may not turn everyone on but when the power goes off you will be very pleased that you attended and have a pure beeswax candle to illuminate your room! You will leave with 4 tea lights, one candle in a jar and an 8 inch dipped candle plus the knowledge of how to make them ready for Christmas!

£5 for residents of Elham, what a bargain, normally £75!





Valley Methodist

Churches Lyminge

are holding concerts and other fund raising events to help to fix the hole in the Tayne Centre. Please support us.

20 December Haywardians Christmas Concert

in the Methodist Church 3.00 pm retiring collection

23 December Carol Service

at 6.00 pm

St Mary's Church Elham

<u>Treasurer</u>

Our beautiful church is looking for a new treasurer to take charge of the finances assisted by the deputy treasurer. Familiarity with Excel/Google Sheets will be needed. This role is voluntary.

Treasurer's tasks

Making payments, recording receipts, and agreeing bank statements.

Liaising with the deputy treasurer who handles cash and banking.

Managing the account signatories and regulatory compliance.

Recording fees for weddings and funerals and reporting to the diocese.

Recording gift aid on donations.

Attending about five Parochial Church Council meetings and presenting a cash flow report.

Prepare annual financial statements for approval of the PCC and submission to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, ensuring they comply with current Charity Commission requirements.

The annual financial statements need to be independently examined each year and sent to the diocese.

If you can help please contact. Anthony on 07742 142106

Elham Valley Walkers Autumn Programme

Please check https://elhamvalleywalkers.co.uk/our-next-walk/ prior to joining a walk, for any last minute changes, or phone the walk leader if you are unable to access the internet.

Tuesday 4 November. This walk is flat, over large arable lands under wide open skies. It heads towards Wingham and Staple, visiting the church which is quite a find. As the walk is easy we will be walking between 2.5-3mph, keeping in a group, so it is rated as moderate plus. Meet at Goodnestone House, outside the Old Dairy Café at 10am. What3words: signs.twinkled.exhales. CT3 1PE. Leader Ros Humphreys 07760 485382.



Sunday 23 November. An easy, flat and mud free walk of 4.5 miles next to the watery and historic parts of Hythe. Meet on the sea wall promenade opposite the Imperial Hotel (CT21 6AE) at 10am. Walking initially along the promenade, then following the course of the Military canal westwards before circling back to the coastline. Andy Cornford leads. Tel: 07761 034407.

ELHAM SPORTS CLUB

ESC offers Tennis, Pickleball and Badminton - new members always welcome – tennis and pickleball members can either book and play or join the friendly club sessions





Mondays - 7 pm

Contact: Clive Stanyon - 01303 840820 or stanyonc@aol.com

Tuesdays and Thursdays - 10 am

Fridays - 6 pm

Contact: Maureen Alexander - 07714 415651 or

maureentalexander@gmail.com



Pickleball - Indoor (spaces limited) and Outdoor Sessions -

Mondays - 3.30 pm and 6 pm (Indoor/Outdoor if weather allows)

Wednesdays - 3.30 pm (Indoor/Outdoor if weather allows)

Fridays - 9.30 am - Open Club Session (Outdoor if weather allows)

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



Badminton - Indoor **Wednesdays** - 6.30 pm

Contact: Clive Stanyon - 01303 840820 or stanyonc@aol.com

For more information visit our website: https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/ElhamSportsClub



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

Anyone for Cribbage ????

We have now been offered 2 venues to play cribbage (thank you to those that offered.) Accordingly we are hoping to start a group again, mid to end of September, on Sunday afternoons

or early evenings for a couple of hours.

We are a friendly group of about 8 members who are regular players but if you are interested in joining us as beginners, novices or long term players please email me and I will keep you posted about our next meeting.

Roger Newman Email rogdnew@yahoo.co.uk





ELHAM VALLEY FOOTBALL CLUB

Elham Valley have started the new 2025/26 season in fantastic form. This was going to be our toughest season to date with many new teams from the Kent League entering our league, but this is an exciting challenge.

We have recorded a maximum of 12 points from our first four games with four wins. The biggest win was an emphatic display away to New Romney and Elham was victorious 10-1. Elham Valley Football club are looking to continue our early form into the season and fight on all fronts with a potential four trophies up for grabs.

A big thank you to all of the local supporters who give up their time to come and watch us on a Saturday.

From Claire Greenwood

Any adults or youngsters for Table Tennis?

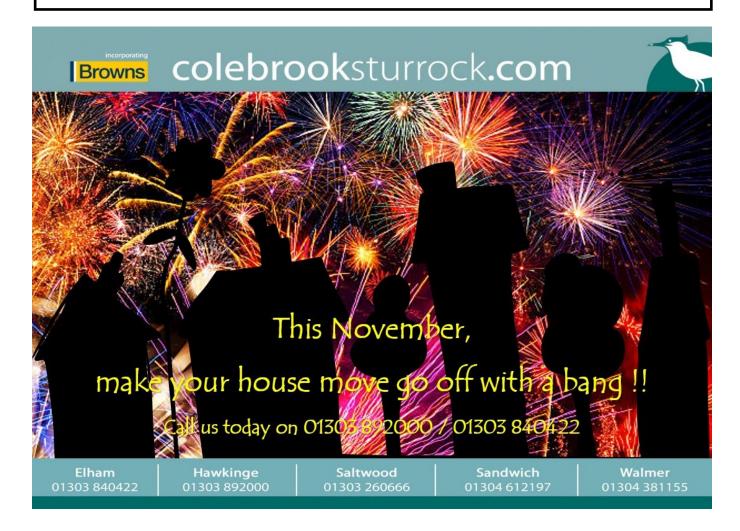
The table tennis sessions on Monday evenings in the Anna Clayton room have been going well - long may they continue.

There is a session from 6:15 to 7:15 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 6.15. The adult session continues on Monday nights at 7.15 Elham Village Hall, upstairs as usual. Equipment provided; we just need your enthusiasm.

We are delighted at the progress made by our youngest member. He started in Elham as a novice and here he is in the picture taking part in a tournament and competing for the Canterbury Table Tennis club at a recent inter —club tournament. It is a step up from playing with us!



If you would like further details please contact Jim Clements 01303 840295 or ajcjim1904@gmail.com.





COCKPIT COTTAGE

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🌞 New Autumn Menu

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Test your knowledge, enjoy a friendly atmosphere, and compete for prizes!

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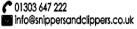
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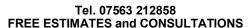


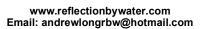


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