ELHAM NEWSLETTER

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SEPTEMBER 2026



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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

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www.elhamvillagehall.co.uk.

elham.co.uk

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

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 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 07714 415651

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 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
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james.butcher@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk
David Godfrey (Con) 07584 304301
Stephen Scoffham (Green)
stephen.scoffham@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

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Vice Chair – Christeen Chapman	01303 840224
Brian Swan	01303 840006
Kevin Allen	07359370087
Geoff Clements	01303 840255
Chris Francis	01303 840502
Jeremy Osbourne	07790643391
Steve Jacob	07565807884
Clerk - clerk@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
Hawkinge Vets, Hawkinge 01303 764190

ELHAM CHURCHES
www.elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk

St Mary The Virgin, Church of England
Rector: tba
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

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Welcome to the Elham Newsletter - September 2026

Thank you to Linda Palmer for her picture on the front cover— a recent picture of parched Elham!

This is the beginning of the new financial year for Elham Village Hall Association. Thanks go to our hirers, wedding bookers, donors, bar management and advertisers so that, together with the skill of our treasurer, Sue Weller, we are able to continue upgrading and refurbishing the hall as necessary. We hope that you will come to the events organised for 2026/27 and see for yourselves : Quiz Night / Halloween / Dessert Island Discs / Volunteers Day.

If you know of an event or activity in October 2026 please send details before September 13 to me at elhamnewsletter@gmail.com. This is YOUR community's newsletter. Or take a picture of your favourite view and send it to elhamnewsletter@gmail.com for inclusion on the front cover.

Renee Bull Editor

What's On, In and Around ELHAM

Date	Event	Time	Location	Contact	Page
Tuesday 1 September	Royal British Legion	14.00	Lyminge Parish Church	Susan 07734 383691	23
Wednesday 2 September	Social Snacks and Cinema	19.00 for 19.30	Peggy Pike Room Elham Village Hall	Jan Stanyon 01303 840820	4
Sunday 6 September	Elham Valley Walkers	10.00	See website	Website	30
Thursday 10 September	Elham Community Shed Bench making	10.00 - 16.00	ECS at Elham Village Hall	elhamshed@gmail.com	27
Saturday 12 September	Play for Elham Family Fun Day	14.30 - 16.30	King George V Playing Field	See Poster	26
Sunday 13 September	Elham Duo	15.00	St Mary's Church	See Poster	23
Wednesday 16 September	Friends of St Mary's AGM	18.30	St Mary's Church	See Poster	23
Thursday 17 September	Elham Friendship Lunch Club	12.30	St Mary's Church Hall	01303 470637	n/a
Thursday 17 September	Elham Gardening Society talk. Climbers and Wall Shrubs	19.30	Peggy Pike Room EVH	See website	25
Friday 18 September	Elham Historical Society	19.30	Elham Village Hall	See Poster	23
Saturday 26 September	Macmillan Coffee Morning	10.00 - 12.00	St Mary's Church	See Notice	8
Saturday 26 September	EVHA Volunteer's Day	10.00 -13.00	Elham Village Hall	See Poster	5
Saturday October 3	Elham Gardening Society Bulb Sale and Coffee Morning	10.00	Village Hall	See website	25
Saturday 3 October Sunday 4 October	7 Elham Artists	10.30 - 17.30	St Mary's Church	See Poster	8
Tuesday 13 October	Macmillan Coffee at the Lyminge Library	10.00 - 13.00	Lyminge Library	See Poster	8
Tuesday 13 October	Lyminge Friendship Group	10.30 - 12.30	Coach and Horses Lyminge	See Poster	18
Friday 16 October	EVHA Quiz Night	19.00 for 19.30	Elham Village Hall	See Poster	5

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Social, Snacks and Cinema
Wednesday 2nd September. 7. For 7.30pm
In the Peggy Pike Room
FREE ENTRY

We're back after The summer break and ready to welcome you to tHe cosy PEggy Pike Room at the village hall for one of our Many conviviAl eveninGs of friendshIp.
Due to the restriCtions On our licence, we are unable to publish the name oF the film But hopEfulLy you'LI be ablE to work It out.
The doorS and bar open at 7 and we Look forwArd to seeiNg you there on the Day.

First aid in the workplace (general first aid).



Our trainer is coming to **Elham Village Hall** on **Wednesday 28th October 9-3.30pm** to train a group of up to 12 to be First aiders, complete with a certificate that is valid for 3 years

This may be helpful if you want a first aider in your organisations, committee or club in the village or just because you would like to learn these skills. We still have some places left at £60 per person.

To book your place, please email: miranda1232@hotmail.com

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A volunteer is sought to organise the Poppy Appeal in the Elham Valley, with immediate effect.



As a result of a change in personal circumstances, I am sadly resigning from the role of Poppy Appeal Organiser, something which has proven to be very rewarding and satisfying. This is a year-round role but is especially busy during October and November.

The basic duties are to distribute poppies, remembrance products and collecting tins throughout the area (Postling, Etchinghill, Rhodes Minnis, Lyminge, Elham and Hawkinge) to businesses, schools and volunteers who carry out house-to-house collections, and take responsibility for the counting and banking of cash. The area usually collects around £18,000 and if no volunteer is found, the Poppy Appeal will lose out on this significant sum.

If you feel you might be able to help and would like to know more about the duties within the role please get in touch.
Susan Foster
07734 383691 or email
to susanfoster61@btinternet.com

Elham Village Hall Association



Friday OCTOBER 16

7.00 FOR 7.30pm

Get those brain cells working and the memories active.

You can enjoy a sociable, fun evening at Elham Village Hall by booking a table for your team of 6 (maximum 7) and organise your drinks and supper for half time.

Raffle ticket included in your quiz ticket.
Everyone welcome!
TICKETS £10.00 per person

Contact Jim Clements 07850072108
ajcjim1904@gmail.com

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

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Application Form

(Applicants must be over 16 years old)

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

_____

Post Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

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

Total Payment enclosed: £ _____

I have made an online payment Yes/No

Signed: _____

- **Please ensure you fill in all your details above or we cannot allocate you a number in the Elham Village Hall 130 Club.**
- **By signing this form, you are declaring that you have received and accepted the rules of The Elham Village Hall 130 Club**
- **Please make your cheque payable to: Elham Village Hall Association 100 CLUB**
- **Please find below account details if you would prefer to make an online payment:**

  Account Name: Elham Village Hall Association 100 Club

  Sort Code: 30-93-34

  Account Number: 52257560

  Please use your NAME as a reference

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

Please inform us of any changes to your details.

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DESSERT ISLAND DISCS
featuring
Gabriel Facchini
as the castaway.

Wednesday November 18th
7.00 for 7.30pm
in the
Peggy Pike Room
at Elham Village Hall.

Join us for an evening of chat and music.
Bar opens at 7.00. Dessert to follow.
Everyone welcome.
Entry: £5.00 on the door

HALLOWEEN HULLABALLOON!
Friday 30th October

5.00 - 6.30pm
at Elham Village Hall
Free Event!

This is for accompanied primary aged children and carers.
Ghosts, ghouls, skeletons, fairies and pumpkins particularly welcomed whatever their age!

Snacks and pay bar available.

'The Man's Book' by Thomas Fink ,

a book that advises men on appropriate behaviour, published in 2006

UMBRELLAS

Two types of umbrellas are carried by men: short collapsible umbrella and a long (36 inch) one with a curved handle. Both are black. A short umbrella is stored away in a pocket or briefcase when not in use, whereas a long umbrella is swung.

The chief umbrella rhythm repeats every four steps. With the umbrella carried in the right hand, it touches the ground with the first left step, rises just before the right step, stays high on the second left and begins to fall just after the second right. (A step is the instant when the foot is fully planted on the ground). The curved handle slides through the hand on the way down. Ideal for getting around town.

Less known is the umbrella rhythm which repeats with twice the frequency of the earlier rhythm. With the umbrella in the right hand, it follows the same motions of the left leg but with a small delay. It is appropriate for slower strolls and walking on uneven ground, where the umbrella doubles as a walking stick.

Editor



If you wish to advertise in this newsletter, the cost is £55 per annum.

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ST MARY'S WELCOMES

elham ARTISTS

St Mary's Church
The Square, Elham

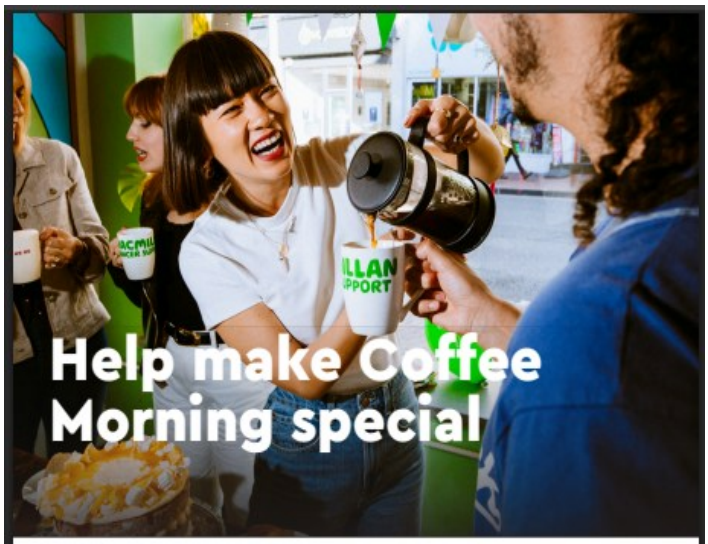
Sat 3rd & Sun 4th October
10:30am—5:30pm

We look forward to welcoming you to our exhibition. We're transforming the church into an art gallery for the weekend, where you'll discover a wide variety of work from 7 Elham Artists.

You're bound to find something you love!

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





You're invited!

Join us for the cause, the chatter or the tasty treats.

Your generosity will help raise vital funds so that Macmillan can continue to support people with cancer, whoever and wherever they are.

When: Tuesday 13th October 2026 10AM - 1PM

Where: Lyminge Library, Station Road, CT18 8HS

FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

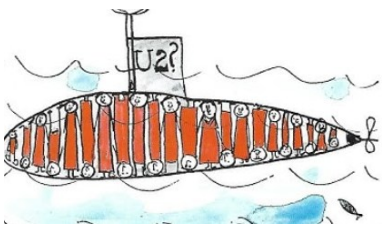
Margaret's
Macmillan Coffee Morning
St Mary's Church
on
Saturday 26 September
from 10 - 12.

Sardines

A baby sardine
Saw her first submarine
She was scared and watched through a peephole

Oh come, come, come
Said the sardine's mum
Its only a tin full of
people

Spike Milligan



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

ELHAM PARISH COUNCIL

clerk@elhampc.co.uk

Your Parish Council


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Chair of PC
01303 840215


Christeen Chapman
Deputy Chair of PC,
Planning lead
07973765056


Geoff Clements
Tree warden
01303 840255


Brian Swan
Member of PC
01303 840006


Kevin Allen
Member of PC
Highways lead
01303 862087


Chris Francis
Member of PC
01303
840502


Jeremy
Osbourne
Member of PC


Steve Jacob
Member of PC

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Elham Parish Council on 1st June 2026

Those Present: Councillors: K Lamb (Chair), C Chapman (Vice Chair) B Swan, G Clements, K Allen, C Francis, J Osbourne, and 4 members of the public.
Apologies: S Jacob

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI), Other significant interests (OSI's) or a voluntary interest relating to items on the agenda.
Cllr Osbourne declared a voluntary interest in relation to planning applications 26/0622/FH & 26/0706/FH

Public Contribution

Refurbishment of the Pavilion and Containers It was previously proposed that the containers be timber-clad to align visually with the pavilion; however, this option has proven financially unviable. Consequently, it has been agreed that the containers will instead be repainted, with works scheduled to commence in June/July.
The containers remain classified as "temporary" structures while funding is sought to deliver the scheme outlined in the planning permission granted approximately two years ago. The Parish Council intends to re-engage with the Football Association regarding potential funding, noting that the estimated project cost is in the region of £160,000. Current facilities fall below FA standards, hence the need for interim refurbishment. Securing FA funding requires a viable team to be in place. Football provision remains central to the lease and long-term sustainability of The Gore, and maintaining an active team on site is therefore essential. It was also confirmed that details of the approved planning scheme are available on the Folkestone & Hythe District Council website and are displayed within the pavilion.
The Well Noticeboard It was clarified that this is not a Parish Council initiative but is being led by the Elham Historical Society, who wish to install interpretative material providing historical context to The Well. Councillor Francis will follow up on this matter.
Strimming at The Gore the Community Payback Team, having previously undertaken work at the Village Hall, are now working in partnership with the Parish Council to support initial site preparation works. The area behind the containers had become a health and safety concern due to abandoned items, including bicycles; these have now been cleared, along with addressing previous issues of vandalism, improving visibility across the site.
The team comprises a supervisor and typically 4–6 individuals undertaking work at no cost, representing a significant saving. While clear instructions have been provided, an instance of unnecessary hedge trimming occurred; this has since been raised and addressed with the supervisor.
Recruitment of Clerk/RFO The Parish Council is currently reviewing the Clerk/RFO role and exploring a range of options, including the potential appointment of a bookkeeper supported by a cloud-based accounting platform, alongside the recruitment of a Clerk to undertake administrative duties. Councillor Jacob is leading this review and will present a proposal in due course.
A training budget is available and may be utilised to support a prospective candidate. The Parish Council will also consider opportunities to streamline administrative processes, including the use of AI tools for recording and transcribing minutes. It was noted that there had been a misunderstanding regarding the previous Clerk's salary, which the Chair clarified as being inaccurate.

Minutes- 1. The Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th May 2026 at 6.30pm were approved and signed as a true record by the Chair of meeting.

…cont/

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ELHAM PARISH COUNCIL

clerk@elhampc.co.uk

/cont… Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Elham Parish Council on 1st June 2026

2. The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 11th May 2026 at 7.30pm were approved and signed as a true record by the Chair of the Meeting.

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

Finance
1. The Accounts from May 2026 were agreed as true record and were signed by the Chairman of the meeting.
2. The Bank Reconciliation from May 2026 was agreed as true record and was signed by the Chairman of the meeting.
3. The May 2026 invoices were agreed, and payments were approved. Please see appendix 1.

Committees
1. The following councillors were appointed to the below committees.
a) Staffing Committee – Cllr Lamb, Cllr Chapman & Cllr Swan
b) C&A Committee – Cllr Lamb, Cllr Swan, Cllr Clements & Cllr Osbourne
c) Wellbeing Advisory Committee – Cllr Chapman & Cllr Jacob
2. It was agreed that Cllr Allen & Cllr Francis would be the Highway representatives.
3. It was agreed that Cllr Francis would be the representative for the Environmental Woking Group
4. It was agreed that Cllr Clements would continue as the Tree Warden
Outside Bodies
The following Councillors were appointed as representatives on outside bodies.
a) KALC Shepway Area Committee – Cllr Lamb & Cllr Clements
b) Folkestone & Hythe District Planning User Group – Cllr Chapman & Cllr Swan
c) Elham Community Trust – Cllr Jacob
d) Elham & Acrise Samaritan Fund – Cllr Clements
e) Elham Village Hall – Cllr Francis
f) Play for Elham – Cllr Jacob
g) Assistant Flood Warden – Cllr Francis
h) Little Stour and Nailbourne River Group – Cllr Swan & Cllr Allen
i) Twinning – Cllr Chapman
j) Sir John Williams Trust – Cllr Lamb

Planning
1. The following applications were considered and comments agreed:
***26/0622/FH* – 2 Railway Cottages, Duck Street, Elham CT4 6TP – Lawful development certificate(proposed) for garage conversion to habitable room, alterations to fenestration & demolish of porch and relocation of front door – No Objection**
2. The following application was received since the agenda was issued, comments agreed:
***26/0804/FH* – Weavers, Exted Hill, Elham CT4 6YG – Single Storey detached outbuilding – resubmission – No Objection**
***26/0706/FH* – 2 Railway Cottages, Duck Street, Elham CT4 6TP – addition of a pitched roof to replace current flat roof – No Objection**
***26/0371/FH* – 3 New Inn Cottages, High Street, Elham, CT4 6TD – Retrospective application for a replacement garden building – resubmission - Objection**
3. To note any decisions made by Folkestone and Hythe District Council
***26/0296/FH* – Weavers, Exted Hill, Elham CT4 6YG – Single Storey detached outbuilding. FHDC Decision – Refused**
***26/0332/FH* – The Laynes, Lickpot Hill, Elham CT4 6TY – Two storey side extension including Juliet balconies, single storey front extension with balcony above, two front dormer windows. FHDC Decision – Refused.**

Highways - correspondence has been received in relation to parking in The Square. A meeting has been organised on 2nd June 2026 between KCC Safety Highways Officer and Cllrs Kamb, Francis, and Allen to discuss this issue. Also, for discussion will be a KCC Highways Improvement Plan which will start the process for a general survey along with highway requirement within the village. **...cont/**

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clerk@elhampc.co.uk

/cont… Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Elham Parish Council on 1st June 2026

Defibrillator - Elham Primary School has approached the Parish Council to enquire whether it would consider assuming responsibility for the defibrillator located at the school entrance. As the equipment was originally funded through a grant, Councillor Swan will write to the Headteacher to clarify the implications of any transfer of ownership or responsibility and will report back at the next meeting.
In addition, a survey will be requested from the Council's current supplier, Hopkins, to assess potential opportunities for expanding defibrillator coverage within the village.

War Memorial - Councillors Lamb and Osbourne have met with a local contractor to discuss the necessary repairs to the area surrounding the memorial. The condition of the current surface presents a health and safety concern, and excavation will be required to determine the extent of remedial work needed. The kerbstones will also require repair; these works will be undertaken by Kent County Council.

Insurance - Councillors Lamb and Francis continue discussions with both Zurich and Gallagher regarding insurance premiums. A detailed conversation took place concerning the insurance of the church wall and whether the Parish Council holds responsibility for its cover. Councillor Francis has contacted the Diocese and the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and is awaiting their response.

Community Orchard - – it had been previously decided to have individual labelling for the trees. We need to approach the Community Shed again regarding costs of supplying tree identification labels.
The current stakes on individual trees need replacing and it was agreed to purchased 30 new stakes

Woodland - It was discussed and agreed that the Parish Council will proceed with the engagement of Boys and Maughan Solicitors to undertake the legal transfer of the land bequeathed to the Parish Council. The estimated cost for this work is £3,756 + VAT. The land in question is currently in need of tree works and other maintenance. Councillor Scoffham advised that funding may be available through the Green Grants programme, which supports biodiversity enhancement projects with awards of up to £10,000. Applications must be submitted by 17 July 2026.

KGV – tree quote deferred to next meeting for comparable quotes

The Gore - Community Payback Team will continue the works at the Pavillon/ Containers. The Kings Arms and the football team raised £3k from a charity football match and this will cover the cost of replacement doors and additional works. The roof on the pavilion (shingles) needs repairing, we are awaiting quotes for some minor repairs from local contractors.

Environmental Group (C&A) – discussed was the PC's strategy/plan for hedge trimming within the village. The current contractors follow cutting instructions issued by the PC, at the appropriate time. The next hedge cutting will be at the end of the season. The Environment group will report back to the PC on a "Management Plan" for hedges/ trees. Budget is available for the Environment group.

Exercise of Public Rights – The Chair outlined the statutory process for the Exercise of Public Rights, during which parishioners are entitled to inspect the Council's accounting records. In accordance with the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Council has published the required 30-working-day inspection period, running from 3 June 2026 to 14 July 2026.
Following completion of the Internal Audit, the accounting statements for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 have been made available on the Parish Council website and displayed on the parish noticeboard.
A formal request has been received from three parishioners to inspect the accounts. To facilitate this, the Council will be required to hire an appropriate venue and engage a locum auditor to oversee the session and ensure compliance with GDPR requirements. The estimated cost to the Council for these arrangements is approximately £200.
To ensure that we can provide the documentation as swiftly as possible to view, the parishioner in question will email the Chair with what he wishes to get out of the visit.

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

Date of next meeting and Close - The next meeting will be the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council on Monday 6th July 2026 at 7.30pm. There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.12pm.

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clerk@elhampc.co.uk

Your Parish Council



Kevin Lamb
Chair of PC
01303 840215



Christeen Chapman
Deputy Chair of PC,
Planning lead
07973765056



Geoff Clements
Tree warden
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Brian Swan
Member of PC
01303 840006



Kevin Allen
Member of PC
Highways lead
01303 862087



Chris Francis
Member of PC
01303
840502



Jeremy
Osbourne
Member of PC



Steve Jacob
Member of PC

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Elham Parish Council on 6th July 2026

Those Present: Councillors: K Lamb (Chair), C Chapman (Vice Chair) B Swan, G Clements, S Jacob, C Francis, J Osbourne, and 4 members of the public.
Apologies: K Allen

To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI), Other significant interests (OSI's) or a voluntary interest relating to items on the agenda.
None declared

Public Contribution
A Member of the Public (MOP), speaking on behalf of the Elham Environment Group, outlined the group's aspirations to enhance biodiversity and create a more wildlife-friendly environment within the parish, in line with Folkestone & Hythe District Council's environmental objectives. The discussion included hedge management and the need to consider nesting birds and the provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The Group also expressed an interest in planting a mixed hedge and additional trees within The Gore and advised that it is engaging with Elham Cricket Club on similar environmental initiatives.
The Chair noted that these matters had been considered previously by the Council and explained that, given the ongoing development and plans for The Gore, it may not currently be the most suitable location for further tree planting. The Chair also reminded the Group that the Council was still awaiting the management plan previously requested. In response, the Group agreed to provide further information, including drawings, a detailed management plan and a mission statement, to support future discussions.
MOP – thanked Cllrs Chapman and Jacob for attending the Public Exercise of Rights meeting held on 3 July 2026, during which two residents exercised their right to inspect the Parish Council's financial records for the 2025/26 financial year. It was noted that this matter will be included as an agenda item for consideration at the August Council meeting.
MOP – asked whether the Parish Council would support the Community Shed Team in replacing the damaged bench on The Gore. Councillors agreed to the proposal and warmly welcomed the offer.
The MOP also suggested that, once a new Clerk is appointed, the Parish Council may wish to consider holding a regular resident surgery, on either a fortnightly or monthly basis, to provide an informal opportunity for parishioners to raise and discuss matters of local interest.

Minutes-
1. The Ordinary Meeting of the Parsh Meeting held on 1st June 2026 were approved and signed as a true record by the Chair of meeting.
2. The C&A Committee meeting held on 18th June 2026 were approved and signed as a true record by the Chair of the Meeting.

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

Committees –
1. The Terms of Reference were agreed and approved for the following committees:
· Staffing Committee

„„cont/

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

ELHAM PARISH COUNCIL

clerk@elhampc.co.uk

...cont/ **Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Elham Parish Council on 6th July 2026**

· Wellbeing Advisory Committee

· C&A Committee – was deferred to Parish Council on 3rd August 2026

Finance

1. The Accounts from June 2026 were agreed as true record and were signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

2. The Bank Reconciliation from June 2026 was agreed as true record and was signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

3. The June 2026 invoices were agreed, and payments were approved.

Planning

1. The following applications were considered and comments agreed:

***26/0802/FH* –Little Droveway, Droveway, Stelling Minnis, CT4 6AJ - Change of use of part existing equestrian barn to an equine veterinary office with mezzanine floor level (ClassE(e)), together with ramp and balustrade to SW elevation and the retention of external doors – No Objection**

***26/0757/FH* - Elham Church of England Primary School, Vicarage Lane, Elham CT4 6TT - Works to trees subject to TPO No 01 of 1955 Elham RDC comprising of T2, T3 & T6 Beech crown lift by 5 metres removing 5 lower branches approx. 9 metres laterally and 3.5 metres vertically – No Objection**

***26/0924/FH* - Ottinge Court Farm, Canterbury Road, Ottinge CT4 6XH - Erection of a replacement farm building for cattle following demolition of the existing structure. No Objection**

***26/0950/FH* - Rigdens, The Square, Elham, CT4 6TJ - Listed Buildings Consent for removal of internal wall and access to existing chimney for wood burner – No Objection**

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

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

***26/0622/FH* – 2 Railway Cottages, Duck Street, Elham CT4 6TP - Lawful development certificate (proposed) for garage conversion to habitable room, alterations to fenestration & demolish of porch and relocation of front door. FHDC Decision – Lawful**

***26/0523/FH* – The Croft, Canterbury Road, Elham, CT4 6UG- Single storey front extension including front porch. FHDC Decision – Approved with Conditions**

***26/0534/FH (LBC)* - Monks Cottage, 3 Cullings Hill, Elham, CT4 6TE - Listed Building Consent for the installation of EV charging point – FHDC Decision – Approved with Conditions**

***26/0575/FH & 26/0577/FH (LBC)*- 1 Old Water Farm House, Duck Street, Elham, CT46TW - Listed Building Consent & Planning for replacement window and door to front and side elevation. FHDC Decision – Refused**

***26/0647/FH* - 1 Lime Villas, High Street, Elham CT4 6TA - Installation of 2 no. rooflights following the removal of existing rooflight to rear elevation- FHDC Decision – Approved with Conditions**

Highways the Chair stated that he was meeting the KCC Highways officer on 7th July 2026 to discuss the following issues:

- **War Memorial – possibility of raising the kerb and adding railing for H&S purposes.**
- **The Square – The Chair reported on a recent meeting with a Kent County Council highways and safety officer to discuss ongoing parking concerns within The Square. One potential solution suggested was the installation of a "KEEP CLEAR" road marking outside the Kings Arms to discourage obstructive parking and improve access for emergency vehicles. It was noted that this measure would be relatively low-cost, have minimal environmental impact, and has been shown to be a simple yet effective solution in other locations.**
- **Kent County Council's Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) provides an opportunity for the Parish Council to identify and submit local highway concerns and improvement proposals. It was agreed that residents would be invited to submit their highway improvement suggestions and priorities, which will be reviewed and incorporated, where appropriate, into Elham's HIP submission. The initiative will be promoted via the Parish Council noticeboards, Facebook page and website, with a deadline of 31 July 2026 for the submission of suggestions.**

Defibrillator - Elham Primary School approached the Parish Council to enquire whether it would be willing to

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ELHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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...cont/ **Minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Elham Parish Council on 6th July 2026**

assume responsibility for the defibrillator located at the school entrance. The device was originally funded through a grant, and the school has confirmed that ownership can be legally transferred to the Parish Council. Members agreed in principle to take responsibility for the unit, including meeting the associated electricity costs (approximately £25 per annum) and ongoing maintenance expenses.

The Council's current provider, Hopkins, have undertaken a survey to identify potential opportunities for expanding defibrillator coverage within the village. It was agreed a second quotation will also be obtained to inform future decision-making. In addition, Cllr Swan agreed to investigate potential grant funding opportunities to support any future expansion of the scheme.

Community Orchard - It was agreed that Cllr Clements would approach the Community Shed regarding the production of identification tags for the orchard. A further key issue discussed was the provision of water for the Community Orchard. Various options were considered, including seeking permission from a nearby resident to access a water supply or transporting water to the site using a bowser. Various options to be investigated.

Church wall – Still awaiting additional quotations for the rolling Maintenance Plan. The Chair will follow up with a few contractors, as securing a maintenance programme remains a priority to ensure the wall is preserved and maintained in good condition.

The Gore – The Community Payback Team continues to make good progress at The Gore, carrying out general tidying works and preparing the containers for both internal and external painting. The committee also agreed to obtain a further quotation for repairs to the pavilion roof, as the contractor who had previously provided a quote is no longer contactable.
Rental income from The Gore is currently suspended while the refurbishment works are underway. Once the container facilities have been upgraded and brought back into use, they will again provide a valuable source of revenue.
It was reaffirmed that Play for Elham will continue to raise funds for improvements and equipment at the King George V Playfield, ensuring that such enhancements do not become a financial burden on residents through the parish precept.
Fundraising will remain a key priority for both The Gore and the KGV play area, supporting their ongoing development and long-term sustainability.

King George V – quote reviewed and agreed to proceed with works on roadside trees.

Grounds Maintenance – awaiting a Management / strategy plan from the Environment Group – to be deferred to August Parish Council meeting

Staffing – Following a meeting of the Staffing Committee, it was agreed that the vacancy for a new Parish Clerk would be advertised through the NALC website. The Committee also discussed the potential for separating certain responsibilities, with the possibility of appointing a dedicated bookkeeper to undertake data entry and financial reporting functions. In addition, Cllr Jacob has been reviewing a range of parish council-specific accounting software packages designed to provide more detailed and relevant financial information, helping to improve reporting and overall financial management.
We also will be looking at more time effective processes. It was agreed that a starting point would be 8 hours per week, with view to increasing if required.

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

Date of next meeting and Close - The next meeting will be the Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council on Monday 3rd August 2026 at 7.30pm. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.59pm.

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Family Fun Day

Saturday 12th September
2.30–4.30pm
at the King George V Play Park
Elham

Play For Elham Charitable Trust is fundraising for new equipment for the park so teenagers and adults can get active alongside the kids' playground too! Join us for cake, refreshments, fun fitness activities for all ages, and a cracking raffle!

Raffle tickets are now available to buy from the Elham Londis, Janene Moat @Essential Beauty and Jane Brennan-Jameson Fitness



TWINNED WITH
AMBLETEUSE
FRANCE

Bastille Day in Elham



Bastille Day, 14 July, is the French national day, much celebrated in France, not least in our twin village of Ambleteuse.

To mark the occasion, Elham Twinning Association held its own mini Bastille Day with a bbq in a village garden, and with sparklers to replace the impressive fireworks displays across the Channel!



The evening was an opportunity for some 30 twinning association members to meet up, get to know each other better, share our interest in all things French and start planning future twinning activities.



Some Ambleteusois have been invited to attend our Remembrance Sunday ceremony on 8 November and Elham members may plan a day trip in the autumn, just to get better acquainted with our new friends.

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KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOUR



Steve Jacob *is known as the guitar-playing accountant from The Dissentanglers and The Undecided, who generally has scaffolding around his house . He has agreed to be the neighbour we can get to know this month.*

How long have you been part of the Elham Community?	We (my first wife Melissa and our son Max) moved into the Master's House in 2002 from near Reading because Melissa's family were close by. Our son Ollie arrived in 2003 and we all moved out to Rhodes Minnis for a brief period, I moved back to Elham in 2006. Sharon and I moved into Manor Lodge in 2019 and set about refurbishing it.
What do you consider your greatest achievement to date?	My greatest achievement was having the courage to knock on my neighbour Sharon's door in 2007 to ask her out for dinner.
When were you happiest?	When she agreed to marry me a few years later in 2011. We kept it all in the village – we got married in the village church and had our wedding reception in a marquee in the King's Arms garden.
What did you want to be when you were growing up?	I wanted to be a rock star. Unfortunately, I was stymied by a lack of focus and talent, but as always, I blame the drummer.
What keeps you awake at night?	If there is a busy work day tomorrow then that can keep me awake. I seem to be the one that gets up if the dogs need to go out. Sharon pretends not to hear (she says she was asleep).
What is the most important lesson life has taught you?	If you are going through bad times, there are always good times ahead.
Which village event do you most look forward to?	The markets in the summer and at Christmas because everyone is out, you bump into people you haven't seen for a while and it feels like a community.
Tell us three activities that keep you busy?	Work (when I can fit it in around our regular trips down to Cornwall!) The music; I am currently in a band with friends from Lyminge called The Undecided and we perform in the local pubs and village hall events frequently I have just joined the Parish Council – I felt it was my turn to take responsibility having been here for 24 years – and I seem to get far more emails from fellow councillors than I expected
What one change in the village would improve your life?	I do hope that one or other of the pubs reopens. Not that we don't enjoy the King's Arms, but it was nice to have a choice. When I moved to the village there were four pubs with The New Inn right opposite our house, and you could do a pub crawl.
Cat, dog or goldfish?	I was always a cat person but I am allergic to them so we could never have a cat. Sharon wanted to get a dog, and the other rescue dogs followed because I am a sucker for a hard luck story. I grudgingly love them now, so guess I would say that I am a dog person so long as they are cat-sized.
What is the worst job you have ever done?	I have had all sorts of jobs from age 14 onwards; paper rounds, a lawn mowing round, pot washing. I worked in the photo developing lab in Boots for 2 years on Saturdays and holidays (it is an education what some people took photos of even though they knew the developer is going to see them). The worst job was one summer I did cleaning and shelf stacking in the local pub which was a challenge going back at 8 in the morning having left it at midnight the night before.
Tell us a joke.	A friend of mine who is cognitively challenged, went into his local library and said 'Can I have two cod and chips and a pickled egg, please.' The librarian looked at him indignantly and said 'Sir this is a library' so he apologised, leaned forward and whispered 'Can I have two cod and chips and a pickled egg please.'
What would the people of Elham not know about you?	I once played golf with a Miss World. I let her win.
Last thoughts, final word.	We are so lucky to live in this beautiful valley. We have to take care of it, and use our local amenities and support the businesses here. Editor

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LOCAL NEWS

Kent County Councillor
Update Report for Parishes, 13 July 2026

Local Government Reorganisation

The government has pledged to announce the future for local government in Kent by mid-July 2026. It is possible that devolution through the establishment of regional strategic authorities will return to the government's agenda. Five options for local government reorganisation were submitted from the County, however there was no consensus on the best option amongst the local authorities. KCC has prepared extensively (including submitting a detailed proposal and assessing 165 of its services for disaggregation), although matters of resilience of services is a great concern for elected Members.

KCC Budget Consultation

KCCs consultation on its budget for 2027/28 is open to 7 September 2026. The public's views are being sought on which services matter most to them, where savings should be made and Council Tax. In 2025/26, the Council made £100 million of savings, reduced long-term debt by 20%, set a balanced budget with no additional borrowings and a net increase to reserves, and increased spend in Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Growth, Environment and Transport. KCC set a percentage Council Tax rise lower than 89% of County, Unitary and Metropolitan Authorities in England. Your views are welcome at www.kent.gov.uk/budget

Fly-Tipping

KCC, through the Leader Linden Kemkaran, organised Kent's first-ever conference on Fly-Tipping on 10 July 2026, bringing together local authorities, enforcement agencies, central government representatives and landowners to explore ways that these agencies could work better together to address this blight on our towns, villages and countryside.

A plan of action is being prepared following the conference.

Solar Generation

KCC has produced a position statement outlining its view on solar farm developments in the County. There are numerous proposals under consideration currently and in the position statement KCC states its objection to excessively large proposals, developments on our best countryside, and concerns with battery storage developments. KCC believes that solar development can be positioned best on rooftops and old industrial sites.

Water Resilience Partnership

In the past 12 months, Kent has experienced significant and disruptive water supply issues. KCC believes that this situation is not acceptable and has pledged to establish a Water Resilience Partnership for Kent. In order to do this, KCC is calling all major players (government, local authorities, water providers, developers, farming and businesses, water management, and campaign and interest groups) to gather for the inaugural meeting and workshop on 8 October 2026. KCCs view is that a framework for collaborative action is required, and that will be the outcome from this inaugural meeting.

Summer Reading Challenge

The theme for this year's Summer Reading Challenge for 4 – 11 year olds is 'Read to the Beat' and will involve music, rhythm and storytelling. There will be free events and workshops held at libraries. Signing up for the challenge can be done at libraries or online. Last year, 18,000 children took part in Kent. See www.kent.gov.uk/summerreadingchallenge

Member Community Grants

Small grants in the region of £250 to £500 are available for community events and activities. Applicant organisations must have a bank account and be non-profit-making. To get the ball rolling, please send short details of your project to Christopher.Hespe@kent.gov.uk

Short Film on First Year

If you would like to watch a short film on the first year of the Reform UK administration at KCC, please search the following on Youtube: Reform UK Kent: 1 year in Control of KCC/What We've Achieved for Kent.

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

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LOCAL NEWS

District Council Update from Cllr James Butcher

North Downs Forum

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

At our last meeting we decided to get some collaborative projects underway, including an initiative to protect and promote the Nailbourne, a project to encourage food growing, and a community energy initiative. Our next meeting is 7pm, 24th September, at Knowler Farm, Stelling Minnis, when our focus will be on food growing.

Top rating for council's housing standards

Folkestone & Hythe District Council has been recognised as one of the country's best performing council housing landlords after gaining the highest possible consumer standards judgement.

Following a detailed four-month long inspection by the Regulator of Social Housing, the council has been awarded the highest consumer standards rating, C1, becoming the first council in Kent to achieve the distinction and one of just 13% of councils nationwide to hold the top grade.

The inspection highlighted a number of strengths across the council's housing service including a clear commitment to involving tenants in decision-making, a strong, current understanding of its housing stock and high levels of compliance with health and safety requirements.

Lower Leas Coastal Park Play Area

After extensive work in Folkestone's Coastal Park, the new and improved play area has been officially opened, and it was great to see a busy crowd of families exploring the brand-new play equipment.

The £750,000 refurbishment of the South East's largest free adventure playground has been funded by the council, including with the use of developer levies (CIL and s106) paid to support community infrastructure.

Many of us will have memories – or more recent experiences – of taking children and grandchildren there over many years, so it's good to know that this much-loved facility has a whole new lease of life ahead of it.

Decision on Local Government Reorganisation

Government ministers have decided Kent and Medway will be served by four new unitary councils from April 2028. Folkestone & Hythe will join Swale and Ashford in a new Mid Kent Council.

Council leader Cllr Jim Martin has said that although this option was not the one preferred by our district, he would work together with neighbouring councils to make a success of the new set-up, to keep residents informed of the progress, and to support council staff as they carry out the work necessary for reorganisation.

Funding

This year's Green Grant scheme, which will allocate £250,000 across a wide range of community organisations to fund sustainability projects, has now closed, with decisions on applications expected in early September. If any funding remains unallocated, a second round will be launched. We're hopeful that we'll see a third year of the Green Grant scheme next year.

Meanwhile each of your district councillors has an annual ward grant budget - do get in touch with any of us individually if you have a project you think we could help with.

James Butcher
james.butcher@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

With very grateful thanks to Darren, the new landlord of the Coach and Horses in Lyminge,

a new Friendship Group

for anyone living with dementia and their carers is starting on the second Tuesday of each month,

10.30-12 noon at the Coach and Horses, Lyminge.

This will offer an opportunity for those living with dementia to participate In gentle activities, and for carers to meet with one another, share experiences and learn new coping mechanisms.
If there is enough participation, these meetings will be expanded to Become more frequent. If you require free transport, this can also be available upon request.The dates booked so far are:

Tuesday 13 October
Tuesday 10 November
Tuesday 8 December

There will be no charge for these meetings, but it is hoped that attendees will support the pub by purchasing a hot drink and biscuits for around £2.20. Lunch can be available afterwards as well.
If you'd like to come along or for more information, please phone **Susan on 07734 383691**

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Sojan Joseph, the Member of Parliament for Ashford, Hawkinge, and the Villages, has warmly welcomed the Prime Minister's latest announcement on fixing the broken social care system. Andy Burnham is making the choice to find common ground across party lines to tackle the big issues.

The Labour Government is drawing a line under decades of decline and a refusal to tackle these problems head on, calling on all political parties to focus on solving problems and find solutions together.

The Prime Minister has reiterated the need for a new kind of politics that puts differences aside in order to come together and face up to challenges that Westminster has left unaddressed for too long.

Delivering on that pledge, Andy Burnham has met with the two main parties, the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats, to kickstart this work and discuss how to drive urgent reform on social care.

Sojan Joseph MP said:

"As Chair of the APPG on Adult Social Care, I know what a huge issue this is. We cannot solve the long-term problems facing our NHS, such as corridor care and long waiting times, without fixing our social care system.

"I welcome the Prime Minister's determination to drive social care reform faster, including bringing Baroness Casey's review forward by a year and recognising the challenges faced by the workforce.

"The National Care Service, which will offer a free, NHS-style, standardised social care service, will be crucial, and I look forward to supporting this Labour Government in delivering it."

It will be open to everyone through a new online platform, starting off the conversation by asking people about the values and principles we should all expect from a social care system.

• The Big Conversation on Care will be delivered by Baroness Louise Casey as part of the Independent Commission on Adult Social Care.

• The public can take part through a new online platform from today caseycommission.co.uk/bigconversation

Contact
Oliver Aston



Art commissions undertaken
in all media

Pip Hope - artist
enquiries
hairyfairyland@gmail.com

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LOCAL NEWS

There are only approximately 200 pure chalk streams in the entire world and the Nailbourne is one of them…

With increasing awareness of the importance of rivers and streams to us all, and the particular fragility of pure chalk stream habitats, the Friends of the Nailbourne is a recently established initiative by, and for, the communities through which the Nailbourne flows. It aims to protect, raise awareness and celebrate this globally rare ecosystem, from its source in Lyminge to where the stream joins the Little Stour near Littlebourne.

In order to monitor water quality, we are joining the Our Stour citizen science initiative run by the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership. To assess the health of watercourses such as the Stour and its tributaries including the Nailbourne, the presence or absence of freshwater invertebrates is an excellent indicator. The Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership are therefore kindly providing riverfly survey training for us this November. This will mean we can have trained and equipped riverfly monitor volunteers regularly collecting water quality data along the Nailbourne.

Alongside this, to increase awareness and to celebrate our globally rare chalk stream we would like to gather images and information on the history and folklore of the Nailbourne – as a winterbourne it also has a rich series of legends associated with it. Such information will help to shape events and exhibition material in the coming year.

If you live in any of the communities along the Nailbourne and are interested in joining the Group, in becoming a volunteer riverfly monitor, or have knowledge of the history and local legends associated with the Nailbourne, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us at friendsofthenailbourne@gmail.com for further information.

Tickets are now on sale at Elham Londis for our major 2026 Fundraiser **Toccata and Treats – A Candlelit Soiree** which will be held in St Mary's church on **Saturday 14 November at 7.00pm.**

Full details are in the poster which is included in this Newsletter.

Work on the restoration of the southern entrance to the churchyard is continuing and should be completed very soon when the new lighting is installed.

We have now ordered fitted cushions for the pews in church which will make them far more comfortable and warmer whenever they are used. All being well, they will be in place for our Candlelit Soiree in November.

Finally, it is time for us to have our AGM. This will take place on **Wednesday 16th September at 6.30pm in St Mary's Church**. Do come and join us and hear what further projects we have in mind and, most importantly, tell us what you would like us to do in the future. Wine and canapes will be served. TG

September Wordsearch

Drought conditions cannot be ignored this summer, so here's your challenge, to find drought related words in this month's search!

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

anabiosis
aquifer
climate change
desert
drought tolerant
dry
global warming
hosepipe ban
rain
reservoir
scarce
shortage
wild fires
parched
baked
run off
drought
surface water
dustbowl

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CHURCH PAGES

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



NOTICES for September

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



6th September – 14th Sunday after Trinity
1000 - Revd Carol's last Eucharist Service in Elham Valley
Lectionary readings:
Ezekiel 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-end; Matthew 18:15-20

13th September – 15th Sunday after Trinity
0930 Morning Service
Lectionary readings:
Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:1-13; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

20th September – 16th Sunday after Trinity
0930 Eucharist
Lectionary readings:
Jonah 3:10-end of 4; Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-end; Matthew 20:1-16

27th September – 17th Sunday after Trinity
0930 Joint Harvest Festival with St Mary's
Lectionary readings:
Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-end; Psalm 25:1-8; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

Elham Methodist Church
(all at 9.30am unless otherwise stated)
Services for September
6th Valley United Service 1015 Rev Gill Songer
13th Richard Blackwell
20th Valley United Service 1015 Rhodes Minnis
27th Joint Harvest Festival with St Mary's Rev Gill Songer

Events for the October 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

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

Paper Copies of Notices

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



Message from Carol

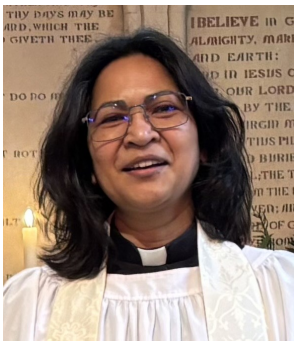
'I will be joining the Church Wigan Team in the autumn to serve as Team Vicar and Hub Leader of the parish of Wigan North West, subject to the usual checks.'

https://churchwigan.org/

'I am so grateful for all the prayers, kindness and support I received from many during my time here, especially during my illness. It has been a privilege serving here as your Rector and I will carry many fond memories of our time together."

Revd Carol's final Sunday service will be at St Mary the Virgin Elham on 6th September at 10.00am.

The Rector's wonderings…



I wonder what image of God you hold…..?
All of us have our own particular image of God, and that image will have been affected by so many things - our parents, our church, authority figures in our lives, our coming to faith, our experiences.

Sometimes, that image can be deep down, and be very different from our expressed beliefs. So, for example, we can believe and even preach that God is loving, is in fact Love itself, and offers unconditional love, and yet we can still feel that we need to do things to earn God's love.

We think there are the right prayers, right actions, right thoughts that will earn us God's love. Somewhere in the recesses of our minds and hearts, there is a battle between our images of God – a God who is all loving but is also a taskmaster we have to please.

Jesus demonstrated with everything in him, the deep love of God. A love that reaches out - accepts and draws in, rather than excluding. Everything he did and said reflects the heart of God - a God who is always searching for the lost and confused.

Julian of Norwich recognised this in her visions: *"I saw to us he is everything that is good. He is our clothing. In his love he wraps us and holds us. He enfolds us for love and will never let us go.…* everything owes its existence to the love of God"

I invite you to reflect first of all on your own image of God.
And then, to measure it up against the words of Jesus - "*if you have seen me you have seen the Father."*

Blessing
May the peace of God reign in this place, and the love of God forever hold you. May the Spirit of God flow through your life, and the joy of God uphold you. **Amen**

Revd Carol Bates
Rector

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ST MARY'S CHURCH ELHAM

present

THE ELHAM DUO

Kokila Gillett-Khan - *violin*

Helen Crayford - *piano*

Sunday 13th September 2026

3pm



A beautiful early autumn programme featuring Debussy, Lili Boulanger and Ravel alongside George Gershwin

Tickets £15 on the door. Under 16's free

Refreshments will be available

Supported by Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

Elham Historical Society

"The Sheepe Hath Payed For All'

A fascinating talk by Elham's Anne Beecham

Discover how, throughout the ages, sheep have had an influence on almost every aspect of life and had an impact on all levels of society.



Refreshments available at the pay bar

Friday 18th September 2026

7.00 for 7.30 p.m.

Elham Village Hall

Tickets EHS Members £3 Non-Members £5

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elhamhistorical.org

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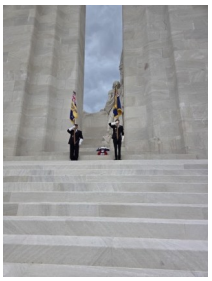
Wednesday 16 September at 6.30pm

St Mary's Church

Wine and canapes

If you are interested in the preservation and enhancement of our historic Parish Church for the benefit of all the community, please do join us!

The Battle of the Somme in 1916 took place from 1 July to 18 November 1916.



The Standard of the Elham Valley Branch of the Royal British Legion was paraded at the Vimy Ridge Memorial on the Somme by our Standard Bearer, Mr Bill Milner, to mark the 110th anniversary of the start of the Battle of the Somme in 1916. The ceremony was attended by HRH The Princess Royal and many French dignitaries.

Derek Smith



It lasted for 141 days on the Western Front in France, where British, French, and German forces fought a massive and costly campaign. 1 July saw 57,000 British casualties, making it the bloodiest day in British military history. There was no major tactical breakthrough for the Allies, with over one million total casualties on both sides. You can read more historical archives and statistics on the Imperial War Museums page.

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Nothing defeats Elham gardeners



Rain, drought, heat, cold… will nothing defeat our village gardeners? Whatever weather is thrown at them, they still manage to produce superb vegetables, flowers and plants for the annual Elham Gardening Society Summer Show in July.

Elham Village Hall was buzzing with eager participants wanting to check what prize, if any, our eagle-eyed judges had awarded them, and with curious visitors enjoying the colourful displays.



The show in figures: 349 entries from 48 adult entrants; Elham Primary School had 69 entries for the Anna Clayton Trophy, co-judged by John Clayton and Pauline Gladstone; 10 independent children's entries.

Doug Martin, Chairman of Elham Gardening Society, thanked everyone who contributed to the great success of the show and added: "The feedback I've received is very positive. It's clear that visitors and entrants alike enjoyed the day. Our judges say the quality of the show was excellent."

More thanks came from the hard-working Summer Show Secretary, Pam Tebbs. "I would like to thank all the many helpers; without them we wouldn't have such a successful show. Special thanks to Trevor and John for serving the ice cold Pimm's. The show was successful, vibrant and well attended, with colourful displays of flowers, fruit and vegetables, beautiful art and tasty-looking bakes and jams. The displays were abundant and the judges commented on the standard of entries being very high."



So, what makes a successful show? A few things include a beautiful sunny day; the excitement of the potato in a bucket competition; excellent cakes, teas and coffees; Pimm's in the garden; the friendly rivalry of the competitors; a superb raffle, many thanks for the generous prize donors (wine tasting at Simpson's in Barham, a £30 voucher against a trip with Real Socialising, a voucher from the King's Arms, £40 worth of vouchers from Folkestone Grovewell Garden Centres).
Sadly, the colourful display for the Pilgrim's Hospice, this year's EGS charity, fell foul of the hot weather with all the balloons popping!

Congratulations to Elham Primary School for the wonderful display of animal pictures.



The main trophy winners were:
Mike Donnelly: Best in Show, the Colonel's Trophy.
Jenny Gasson: Most points in show, the Chris Grenshaw Trophy.

Flynn from Elham School: art in children's section, pencil drawing of an animal's eye.

Freddie Francis: The Thomas Trophy for most points in children's section and Palmer Cup for best exhibit in children's section.

Jenny Gasson: Potato-in-a-bucket adult winner, Silver Spade Trophy – 4lb 12oz (2.16kg)
Holly Kincaid: Children's potato entry winner – 6 lbs 6 oz (2.9kg.)

Full results, including winners in the domestic classes, photography, handicrafts, art, flower displays, plants and vegetables can be found on the Elham Gardening Society website.



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Elham Gardening Society

Forget the mixed weather, cold winds and rain - we are now officially suffering from drought - what next?



After the excitement and success of the Open Gardens week - end, we plunged into the Annual Show which was held on the last Saturday of July. Entries in general were down on previous year which is understandable due to the very hot weather but, according to the judges, it was an outstandingly good show.

Mike Donnelly did especially well by winning the Best in Show award for his onions and he was closely followed by David Kincaid who did very well with a variety of entries. The hall looked beautiful and those new visitors obviously enjoyed the afternoon. Pimm's was also very popular on the terrace on a very hot day.

The next event will be the Bulb Sale and Coffee morning on 3rd October. - always a very happy morning. Don't miss it!
Even further along will be the Annual Dinner on 6th November - more information next month.

The speaker at the meeting on September 17th will be Ed Flint who will talk about Climbers and Wall shrubs - do come along and hear what he has to suggest,

Monthly meetings are held in the Peggy Pike room of the Village Hall on the third Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. Visitors and new members are always welcome.
Frances Horton. - 840550.

Winners at Elham Gardening Society Show 2026



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Busy autumn planned at the Shed

After a planned closure in August to give our session leaders a well-earned break, the Shed is re-opening this September with new projects and ideas.

But first a little recap on what has been achieved in the first six months of this year.

We are delighted that the Shed is growing in popularity and attendance is increasing, so we must be doing something right!

- We have made shelves for Elham School library, which will be fitted this term.
- We have made a new bench for the Gore. Members like it so much that they will be making another one to be kept outside the Shed.
- There is also a request from Malik at our new Londis shop to have one made to put by the side of his shop, to be enjoyed by his customers.
- Caldicott School in Smeeth was delighted with the outdoor shelters we made for their pupils. They have now requested we make a train out of pallets for the younger children at the school. We'll probably start working on this in the new year. Anyone interested in helping out with this one is more than welcome!
- A memorial bench in the Village Hall garden is being spruced up, and a member is being helped with re-storing an old window frame. Another member needs to be shown how to repair a broken chair.
- The Elham Environment Group have been busy making bird and bat boxes to be fitted around the village.

Future session ideas:

Graham and Peter have been turning small vases, key fobs, light pulls, etc., which were sold at the summer farm-ers' market. We could carry on making some to sell at the Christmas Farmers' Market. Why not learn about wood turning and help them?
Or make some to offer as Christmas gifts to your family and friends?

If there are any apples left, everything having fruited so early this year, would anyone be interested in pressing your apples to make your own apple juice or cider? Please let us know ASAP if you're interested, so we can ex-plore hiring or borrowing a press.

More ideas for the coming months: this is a programme in the making with nothing finalised. All your sugges-tions and ideas are welcome.

- **September 10th and 12th:** bench making
- **October 10th:** Introduction to knitting with Renee.
- **November:** Candle making with Roger. This was very popular last year.
- **December**: Wreath making with Renee and Jim. Another popular session repeated from last year.

Is anyone interested in a sewing/basic skills workshop?

Roger has all the equipment needed to offer a carpet/upholstery cleaning workshop. Please let us know if you'd be interested.

This is your Shed – let us know if any of the above is of interest to you and contribute your own ideas.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

The ECS Team
elhamshed@gmail.com
Find us on Facebook

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News from Elham Church of England Primary School

We reached the end of another academic year in July, looking forward to a well-earned period of rest over the summer. It had been a busy year, but one that we can look back on with real pride.

While there is still much to do, we took some very encouraging first steps in our journey of school improvement. 2026 has seen record-breaking phonics results, a significant increase in our Reception intake, and positive feedback from the many agencies and specialists who have worked alongside us.

There is still plenty of room to grow, and we remain determined to keep improving as we strive to become the very best school we can be, but the summer break was a chance to rest and recharge which would do us all a world of good.
A special goodbye went to our Year 6 leavers. Congratulations to each and every one of them on a wonderful primary school journey. We wished them every success and happiness as they moved on to their secondary schools. It is always a time of mixed emotions when our Year 6 children leave us: immense pride in the thoughtful, kind and capable young people they have become, alongside sadness that their journey with us has come to an end. We know they are ready for the next step, and we cannot wait to see all that they go on to achieve.

Thank you to all of our families for the trust and support you continue to place in our school. We are genuinely humbled and privileged to play such an important role in your children's lives. Thank you also to our dedicated staff, who work tirelessly throughout the year to ensure that the school runs smoothly and that every child is able to learn, flourish and make progress. Most importantly, thank you to our children. You make me proud to be part of your school journey every single day.

Finally, on a personal note, I would like to thank the whole community for the kindness and support you have shown me during my first year as Headteacher of Elham Church of England Primary School. A village school is a truly special thing, and we are proud of the role we play within the wider community. With your support and encouragement, we have begun our journey towards excellence in the most positive way. Thank you for believing in our school and in what we are building together. Your support means a great deal to me personally and to everyone at the school.

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

Sir John Williams Trust, Elham – Further Education Grants

At this time of year some young people of the parish are looking to continue studying and embark on a course of further education at college or university. Funds can be stretched with the cost of books and equipment to ensure a smoother learning experience. A grant, however small, can help.

The Sir John Williams Trust may be able to help. You can apply for a grant as follows:

Please supply a curriculum vitae and full details of the course of studies to be followed, degree or qualification being sought and the establishment being attended, plus any other information that may be useful to the Trust in dealing with your application. The application must be endorsed by a parent or guardian verifying the information given.

For a repeat grant application, i.e. a further year of study where a previous grant has been given, you must provide a detailed report of the previous year's studies with achievements and exam results, and how these will satisfy the overall course objective. A CV will also be needed where one has not been provided before. A parent or guardian should endorse the application and verify its accuracy.

An application may be returned for completion if any of the above requirements are missing.

The Trust is also prepared to help students embarking on an apprenticeship who have costs in setting themselves up with tools, etc. The applicant should detail the apprenticeship being undertaken and the items required, supplying a CV, and the application should be endorsed by a parent or guardian, verifying its accuracy.

The Trust will be meeting in October to consider applications. This is the main grant meeting of the year when the Trust decides most of its grants within its available budget. Applications received after this meeting, apart from having to wait until the Trust next meets, will also be dependent upon the Trust's remaining available funds.

The Trust is not bound to make a grant, and cannot if it is not satisfied that the application or applicant is within its remit and the trust scheme.

Applications should be sent to the Clerk to the trustees, Andrew Collie, at clerk.TSJWT@outlook.com by 30 September. An appropriate format would be for the applicant to write a letter, that being e-mailed by a parent or guardian including their endorsement that the information is accurate.

If you have any queries not covered above, please phone Andrew on 01303 840773 evenings or weekends. Do not leave it to the last minute!

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

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ELHAM VALLEY Walkers

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

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

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

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

ELHAMVALLEYWALKERS.CO.UK

EVH

ELHAM VILLAGE HALL

ANY ADULTS OR YOUNGSTERS ? FOR TABLE TENNIS?

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

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

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

EQUIPMENT PROVIDED; WE JUST NEED YOUR ENTHUSIASM.

If you would like further details please contact
Jim Clements 07850072108
or **ajcjim1904@gmail.com**

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Elham SPORTS CLUB

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

Tennis – Outdoor

Mondays	7 pm
Tuesdays and Thursdays	10 am
Fridays	6 pm

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

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

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

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

Badminton – Indoor

Wednesdays | 6:45 pm

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

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

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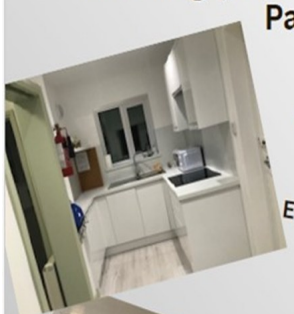
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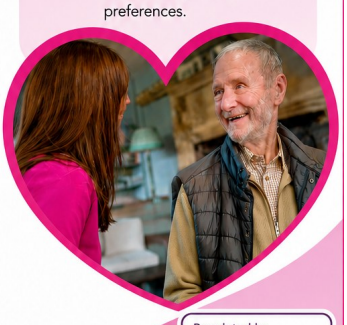
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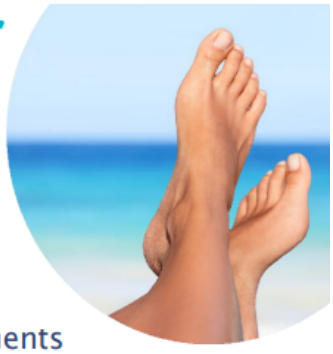
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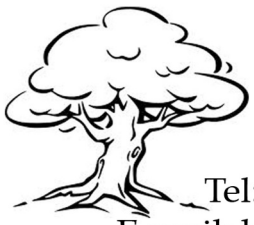
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