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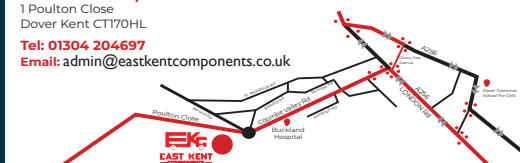


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EDITOR'S WELCOME

JAY SMALLEY

Welcome, reader!

What a couple of months it has been since the last issue. Spring is now well and truly in the swing of things, Percy the cat was lost and found (more on that later in the issue!), and the Maison Dieu reopened its doors for the first time in so many years, showcasing the amazing work that so many people have put into restoring this invaluable landmark.

As we edge closer and closer to summer, The Rivall events calendar burgeons considerably. So do take an in-depth look as there is plenty on to enjoy in the sun over the next few months. From charity choir concerts to the much anticipated Village Fete, there is certainly something to be found for everyone.

I am extremely keen to get as many people involved in The Rivall as possible. If you would like to contribute to The Rivall, our next edition will be the October Edition and the deadline for submission will be the 1st September. Please submit all articles as a word document via email to editor.rivall@gmail.com. I look forward to reading all articles from contributors old and new.

I hope you enjoy this edition of The Rivall and if you have any thoughts on or questions about the publication you can reach me via my email at editor.rivall@gmail.com.

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A THANK YOU FROM HELEN AND DOUG

HELEN AND DOUG DEAR

Helen & Doug, of River Street, would like to say a big thank you to the wonderful, caring people of River when our cat Percy went missing for twelve days in March, and to the Co-op and Katie for displaying his photo.

Percy had become trapped under the Village Hall. Many thanks to John, who first heard his cry, and the ladies from the Monday Tai Chi Class, for their concern. To our neighbour and family for encouraging Percy to keep coming to the edge for food and clearing an opening for him on the other side of the Hall, where he eventually found his way out.

Thankfully, Percy was none the worse for his 'adventure' although I can't say the same for us after searching for him during those 12 days!

RIVER VOICES

LIVING LIVELY COMMUNITY CHOIR FOR THE OVER 50S

Singing and fun for the over fifties has started up again at the Methodist Church on Thursdays at 14:00. Join in with singing of all kinds: spirituals, pop, show-tunes, traditional songs. It's all here – no reading of music, no auditions, no solos – just enjoying singing together.

For more information contact Matthew:
07951572920 or matthew@livinglively.org.uk

RIVER VILLAGE FETE

CHRISTIANE ATKINS

Saturday 13th July is shaping up to be the highlight of the season here in River! From 11:00 to 16:00, our beautiful River Recreation ground will be buzzing with laughter, games, delicious food, and community spirit. Whether you're a long-time local or just visiting, there's something for everyone: raffle prizes you won't want to miss, traditional and quirky games for all ages, mouth-watering food and drink, and exciting events throughout the day.

This year's headline sponsor is Snap Fitness, along with the generous support of many other local businesses and community partners - thank you all for making this event possible!

Bring the whole family, invite your friends, and come be part of a wonderful day filled with summer sunshine, community cheer, and good old-fashioned fun.



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MEMORY CAFÉ

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This is open to anyone on the first Tuesday of the month 10am til midday at River Methodist Church on Lewisham Road. It is a friendly, informal meet up with time for drinks and chat as well as activity. For those who like to be busy there are jigsaws, games, word searches and table top activities, accessible for all.

Our next two meetings will be:

3rd June 10:00 - 12:00

Seated Exercise

8th July 10:00 - 12:00

Accessible Quiz

The Memory Café is supported by Sarah from the Riverside Centre who can provide help and advice on a wide range of issues including benefits, bill support, general assistance, passports, dementia support, and referrals.

DOVER FLOWER CLUB - INSPIRED BY SUMMER

SUE VICK

Dover Flower Club welcomes anyone who is interested in flowers to their meeting in June, when the inspirational floral artist Helen Hare will be giving a demonstration of flower arranging entitled 'Inspired by Summer'.

The meeting will take place on Monday 23rd June at 7.15pm. at Whitfield Village Hall and free refreshments will be available. Tickets are £8.00 and visitors are more than welcome.

For more details call Mig on 07831 838851



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RIVER DOUR UPDATE

MICHAEL INNES

River Parish Council commissioned The Wild Trout Trust in April to make an advisory visit to the Dour in order to assess the watercourse and recommend practical and affordable actions to improve the habitat and eco-system.

You may be aware that Dour is a very sensitive water environment and is subject to low flows at times. Over the last four years we have lost all of the valuable aquatic plant *Ranunculus* or "Water Crowfoot". This plant is very important to for the wildlife of the river; it acts as an oxygenator to the water and important habitat for insects, invertebrates and our resident Brown Trout, as well as helping hold up water levels during low flow periods.

As well as being ecologically important, Water Crowfoot produces beautiful white and yellow flowers which breach the water during the summer and really add to the character to the river. As you read this update a summary of the W.T.T report has already been posted on the RiverParish website and should after reading this you would like a copy of the full document please apply as directed below.

If you wish to take an active interest in the conservation and restoration of our river Dour please let us know. River Parish Council with support from the White Cliffs Country Side Partnership will be creating a citizen project which you may like to volunteer for. We believe that the Dour deserves wider recognition among the local community and wish to help village residents to engage in its preservation.

Please contact Andrew Denyer via e-mail at office@riverparishcouncil.org.uk

NEWS FROM RIVER WI

MAGGIE WAITE

Well, we've learnt a lot already this year! Our February meeting led by River WI member, artist Beverley Williams, resulted in us being able to make attractive corn dollies (all in 45 minutes). Our April meeting was about the designs and life of Clarice Cliff whose work often appears for high prices on Antiques Road Show. Also we had an insight into working and living conditions in the Potteries at the beginning of the C20. Quite a racy lady was our Clarice!

Some of us went to Hawkinge WI to listen to the Kellet Gut Shantymen singing and raising money for the local lifeboat, others went to Whitfield WI to learn about the history of the Drury Lane Theatre and more went to Temple Ewell WI to be introduced to film of very strange sea creatures and to listen to Dr Gloria Barnett talking about the damage that is being done to marine life via pollution and global warming. All these events also involve tea and cake and scones and other lovely things that are no good for the waistline!

Two of us attended the East Kent Federation AGM at Kent College and were treated to presentations by the former director of the band of the Coldstream Guards (brilliant!) and a fascinating presentation by a food historian about Winston Churchill's cook and the working conditions for servants. Our team with two supporting husbands won the Whitfield WI's Wit and Wisdom quiz and we will be fielding a team to compete for the WI Group Quiz to try to retain the trophy for another year.

Our annual meeting left members puzzling over pictures of famous Scots (Robert the Bruce fooled most of them! Well, the spider WAS very small!). This was after the election of our President for the coming year. Pat Boughton was re-elected unopposed again. We very much value the work that she puts in on behalf of River WI and its members.

Our Vice President Jean Thomas (right) has received a well-deserved Community Award for her work with the Village Hall and the River Events Committee.

As usual we supported President Pat's Meningitis Coffee Morning at the Methodist Church.

The resolution that has been decided on to put to the national conference for WI campaigning this year is "Bystanders can be Lifesavers", this was discussed at our May meeting including a presentation by one of our members who is a former nurse.



St. John's Ambulance is coming to teach us about defibrillators and CPR later in the summer. We have had discussions about problems with getting Power of Attorney and also the problems for people on limited incomes with the rise in utility bills.

We also have a quiz night on 7 June and a summer cream tea on 19 June. Bee-keeping, history of pantomime and trekking in Nepal are upcoming events along with a guided tour of the newly refurbished Maison Dieu ... and another cream tea!

Do come and meet us...you will be made very welcome. Phone Pat on 822777 or me on 07541 697505 or margarita45@gmail.com ..or just turn up – our dates are on the Village Hall page.

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MENINGITIS NOW COFFEE MORNING FUNDRAISER

PAT BOUGHTON

Very many thanks to everyone who helped and supported the Meningitis Now Coffee Morning held at River Methodist Church on 5th April. I am please to announce that £144 was raised and has now been sent to the charity.

HOW TO WATER WISELY

JENNI CRESWELL

Summer in this part of the world can, as we know all too well, be frustratingly unpredictable. However, even if this year doesn't end up a blazing summer, this is the time when the garden and allotment is most likely to need some help with watering.

Watering might seem like a very simple task, but there are optimum ways to water, and save a LOT of effort. The first rule for watering - a bit like the first rule of Fight Club - is: don't water. Easy to say until you see the drooping plants and bone dry soil. But all may not be what it seems, read on for more.

Caring for your soil is pretty much the answer to all the woes of gardening - including watering - and an organic, no dig, approach is a good starting point. Chemical additives might seem like a quick solution, but over time your soil will suffer. Soil health depends entirely on supporting the living organisms which go into making and maintaining it. The most basic rule for improving soil is that the more organic matter you can cram into it, the better. And the best thing about that rule is that you don't need to know what type of soil you have; all soil will be improved by adding organic matter.

The more moisture-retentive a soil is, the less watering is needed, so the next step is to lock in moisture. Applying a mulch (a layer of organic matter such as compost, manure, cardboard, grass clippings - anything which was once a living thing) to the surface of the soil will help slow evaporation and keep that water where your plants need it – by their roots. Plants are well adapted to their environment; they have complex root systems that are the last word in retrieving water from soil. Even though to us a soil may seem dry, a plant is able to extract moisture through microscopic root hairs, which allow the plant to draw water from the soil by a process called osmosis. Think of sucking up a cool drink of water with a straw. Keep your plants well weeded as well – this means less competition for the water available to the plants you want to thrive.

Don't forget, the surface of the soil or mulch may well be completely dry – but before you get out the watering can, check what the soil is like beneath the surface. A couple of inches down, a happy soil will still be moist. In this case, resist the urge to water and conserve it for when the plants truly need it. Another benefit of this approach is that you will only need to water periodically, not daily. In fact, plants will benefit from a weekly long soak far more than a scattered spray daily. With periodic soaking, water has a chance to reach the deeper parts of the soil encouraging the plants to push their roots further down to find water, rather than producing roots nearer the soil surface where they risk becoming dependent on artificial watering and drying out quickly.

Sometimes plants like to 'play possum'. Check out a winter squash at the height of the day's heat and it will be drooping like it's dying of thirst. Don't be fooled. The plant's huge leaves are losing water through evaporation quicker than it can draw it up; come the cool of the evening, it will have perked up – no watering necessary. Just because you feel hot and thirsty, doesn't mean your plants do. Overwatering can actually be harmful, allowing essential plant nutrients to be washed out of the soil and creating potentially anaerobic (oxygen-free) soil conditions which roots can't tolerate.

If you must water (and you might not!) then try and use a watering can without its rose to get water to the roots of the plants.

Only use a rose when watering seeds and seedlings so you don't disturb their nascent roots. Water during the cooler parts of the day so water is absorbed by the soil, rather than evaporating with the sun's heat. Make sure there is a ridge of soil around plants to allow water to soak in rather than run off all over your feet. For plants grown undercover (and therefore in drier and hotter conditions) try filling an old wine bottle with water then plunge it in the soil firmly up to the bottle neck, near the roots of each plant. This allows water to seep out over a day or so – also useful if you're away.

Watering using a hose encourages us to waft the spray into the air, only damping down the top layer of soil rather than giving plants a good soaking. This surface moisture then simply evaporates away, providing little benefit to the plants at their roots.

And while we're on the subject of water being a precious resource, it's worth thinking about where you're getting your water. Are you simply turning on a tap? Mains water is a really essential service to have when gardening, but the cost of supplying that can be meteoric, especially if you're gardening at home on a water meter, or on an allotment where taps and pipes are leaky.

It's really worth considering putting in water collection systems if you haven't already got them. Wherever you have a structure with a roof, siphon off the collected rain fall into butts or other containers linked together. Avoid open containers which can become smelly with a build-up of organic matter. If that's the only option, provide a stick for wildlife to escape if they do fall in.

If you're currently relying on a tap, then consider switching to a water butt system to collect and store rainwater. Failing that, only use a tap and hose to fill up water butts which you can then take water from with a can. Failing that only water using a hose on a non-spray setting at the base of the plants that need it once a week. Failing that, just don't use a drip hose or leave the tap running unattended for hours.

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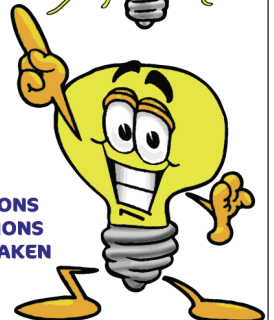
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Lisa Pentecost BMus Hons ABRSM Dip
lisakirsty@yahoo.com
 075844126966



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- Thu, 6-7PM Capel le Ferne Village Hall
- Fri, 11AM-12PM Hawkinge Community Centre

For details of these and other classes contact

Anna: 01304 205 405 or visit www.pfstaiichi.com

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SPRING SHOW SPARKLES WITH TALENT AND TRIUMPHS

REECE JACONELLI

The 29th of March blossomed into a day of celebration and creativity as we hosted our spectacular Spring Show! Amidst a dazzling display of daffodils, the event showcased an array of talents and passions, featuring categories such as Vegetables, Cookery, Craft, Floral Art, and Photography. Adding a special touch to the day were vibrant and imaginative artworks from Year 1 & 2 Children of River Primary School, Abbey Preschool, and captivating photos contributed by Astor Secondary School.

But what's a show without a bit of friendly competition? Here's a look at this year's champions:

AWARD	WINNER
Kate Terry Cup (Most points in Show) Jackson Cup (Most points in Craft)	Jean W.
Charles Hedgecock Trophy (Most points in Vegetables) Mrs C.E. Hedgecock Memorial Cup (Most points in Flowers) Daffodil Society Bronze Medal & Certificate Frank Betts Memorial Trophy (Best Cactus/ Succulent)	Mary W.
South East Daffodil Society Certificate	Ray B.
Pansy Cup	Elaine D.
E. Moore Cup (Best Exhibit of Cut Flowers)	Trevor B.
Chairperson's Challenge Cup (3 Society Bulbs)	Jean T.

AWARD

WINNER

Dobby Cup (Most points in Floral Art)

Maria S.

Point's Cup (Most points in Cookery)

Jackie B.

Rosette (Best Exhibit in Children's Section)

William S.

A huge round of applause for all our winners and participants who made the event truly unforgettable!

Save the date:

05.07 RGA Summer Show @ River Village Hall

19.07 Race Night @ River Village Hall

13.09 RGA Autumn Show @ River Village Hall

CHANGE

REVD CATHERINE WAGSTAFF

I'm not good with change. If I want to pick up a few things from the supermarket and find that everything has been moved around I'm liable to get into a major grump! 'Why can't they just leave it alone' is the cry from within, 'I knew where everything was before!' In our wonderful local Co-op some while back we had something of a revamp – 'the old was gone, the new had come'(!) - and I felt like stamping my foot and saying, 'I don't like it!', although of course inevitably I quickly got used to it and love our Co-op now just as much as I did before! Change of course is happening all the time – it can be very exciting for those who have sought or planned it - but generally human nature tends to resist it or even try to pretend it's not happening.

Summer for many is a time of change – particularly for our young people, many of whom are coming to the end of their time in one school year and looking to move on to the next. Those in their final year at Primary School will be taking their SATs and moving on to new schools in September – and of course there

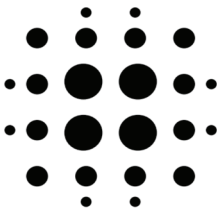
are those in their final year at secondary school who, as I write, are in the midst of exams and looking to move on to the next stage of their lives, either in further education or planning their move into the world of work. To all those taking their exams just now and planning for their next steps in life we do hope and pray that all goes well for you in your future.

Summer is also the time that ministers in the Methodist church often face the change of moving on to new churches in a different part of the country. I will be saying, 'Goodbye' to River in the Summer and retiring over to the West Country so there is change for me and for our Methodist Church here in River. I have loved being here; River is a beautiful place to be, with such lovely people - I will feel very sad to leave it behind. Thank you, River, for being such a welcoming, and happy place to be – I shall never forget you!

So change can be a bit frightening and challenging, and at the same time it can be exciting and invigorating. In our churches we have recently celebrated Easter and by the time you read this we will be celebrating Pentecost, the 'birthday' of the Church. This is the time when Jesus' followers were filled with God's Holy Spirit and changed from being a frightened group of people uncertain of what they should do next, into a group of people prepared to speak about their faith to those around them. They spoke about the change that knowing Jesus' love made in their lives and of the hope they had found in knowing God was always with them, come what may. Change is all around us – but the Christian faith shows us that we have no need to fear, for God will be with us in whatever changes and challenges come our way.

Every blessing, Revd Catherine

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USEFUL INFORMATION

VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

Bookings for the River Village Hall can be made with Jean on 01304 823803.
More information on the Village Hall can be found at www.rivervillagehall.co.uk

VILLAGE HALL TRUSTEES

Village Hall Representatives: Alison Dale & Jean Thomas

REPRESENTATIVES OF VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

WI	Elaine Grayling
RGA	Pat Hicks

RIVALL

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RIVER VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS

07.06	19:30-22:00	WI Quiz Night (Booking Essential)
19.06		WI Cream Tea (Booking Essential)
05.07	14:00	RGA Summer Show
17.07	13:30	WI Trekking in Nepal
19.07	19:30-22:00	RGA Race Night
21.08	13:30	WI Members' afternoon
13.09	14:00	RGA Autumn Show
18.09		St John's Ambulance @ The WI

OTHER EVENTS

03.06	10:00-12:00	Memory Cafe	River Methodist
		Seated Exercise	Chapel
17.06	10:00-12:00	Gardening for	River Methodist
		Wellbeing	Chapel
21.06	19:00	Just Men Singing	St Peter and St
			Paul's
23.06	19:15	Dover Flower Club	Whitfield Village
			Hall
08.07	10:00-12:00	Memory Cafe	River Methodist
		Accessible Quiz	Chapel
13.07	11:00-16:00	River Village Fete	River Recreation
			Ground
15.07	10:00-12:00	Gardening for	River Methodist
		Wellbeing	Chapel
19.08	10:00-12:00	Gardening for	River Methodist
		Wellbeing	Chapel

RIVER VILLAGE HALL ACTIVITIES

Please note that some of the following classes and activities only take place during term time. Please contact the corresponding telephone numbers for more information.

MON (Except Bank Holidays)	YOGA	10:30 – 11:30	07882 410895
	TAI-CHI	12:00 – 13:00	07882 410895
	YOGA	13:15 – 14:15	07882 410895
	KUNG FU	17:30 – 18:30	07841 353109
	KARATE	19:00 – 20:30	07786 814998
TUES	TAI-CHI	09:30 – 11:00	07411 224467
	AGE 55	11:30 – 14:30	07772 165320
	PILATES	18:00 – 19:00	07968 089159
	KUNG FU	19:00 – 20:30	07590 845212
WED	PILATES	17:30 – 21:00	07834 839801
THURS	BALLET	15:30 – 18:30	07585 652694
	KUNG FU	19:00 – 20:30	07841 353109
FRI	KEEP FIT	13:30 – 14:30	03000 412222
	BALLET	15:30 – 18:30	07585 652694
	KARATE	19:00 – 20:30	07786 814998
SAT	BALLET	09:00 – 12:00	07585 652694
SUN	CHRIST CHURCH	09:00 – 13:00	07521 089482

PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman - Nick Dixon

07815 691638

Parish Clerk - Andrew Denyer

07518 414792

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HOSPITALS

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William Harvey Hospital

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Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Hospital

01843 225544

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NHS On call

111

River Pharmacy

01304 820573

Lydden Surgery

01304 832160

Dover Health Centre

01304 865500

Buckland Minor Injuries Unit

01304 222611

Citizens Advice, Dover

01304 202442

Library, Dover

01304 204241

Dover District Council

01304 821199

The Samaritans

116 123