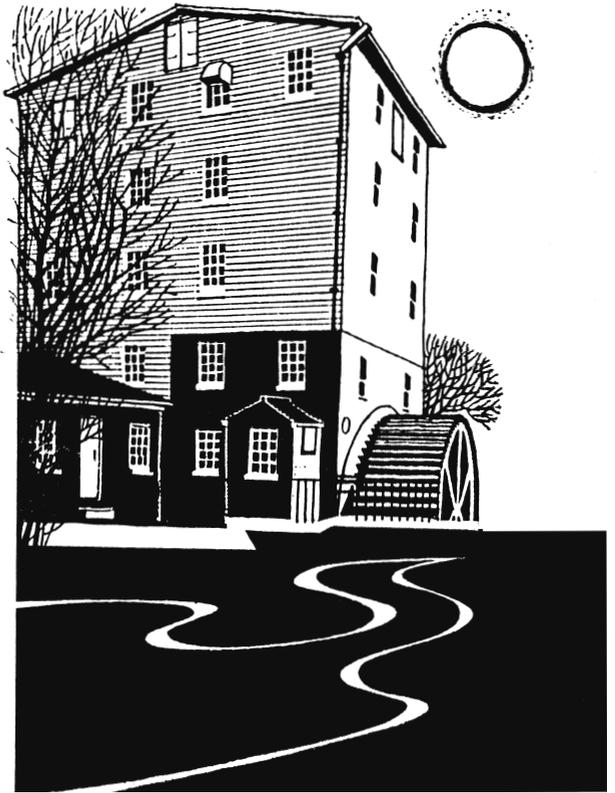


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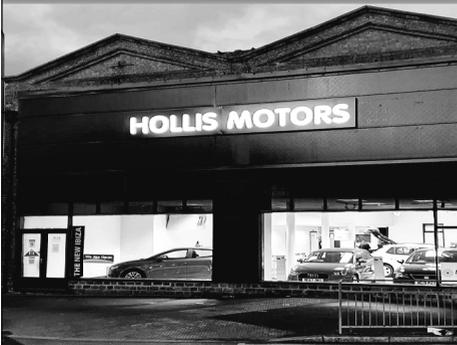
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EDITOR'S WELCOME



Welcome to the first Rivall of 2026

I hope you have had a restful Christmas and are settling nicely into the new year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in putting on the vast array of amazing festive events and happenings that we were treated to in the village over the Yuletide period, the Pharos Chamber Choir putting on yet another masterful advent performance at the Methodist Church to mention to which I had the pleasure in attending.

As you will have read in the December issue of the Rivall our previous Editor has moved away, and I would like to thank him for his hard work with editing the magazine.

The Chairman and committee are still looking for someone to take on the responsibility of editing the Rivall. We are also looking for someone to look after the advertising.

The magazine has been going for many years when it started off as a single sheet of paper.

I know that villagers enjoy reading the magazine and find it a useful tool for finding businesses if work is needed by individuals.

If no one comes forward December would be the last edition.

You can also find a copy on rivervillagehall.co.uk

If you would be interested in these roles, please contact the Chairman Miss Alison Dale.

The email address is alisonthedalehouse@gmail.com

The deadline for the next edition is 1st March 2026
It would be nice to see some more contributions.

The Village Hall committee is also looking for someone to assist the Treasurer and Trustees to join the village hall team.

If you are interested, please contact the chairman alisonthedalehouse@gmail.com

All of our village organisations are looking for volunteers/members, if you have some spare time please come and support them. Volunteers are a great asset to any organisation and it is a great way to make new friends

How the Village has changed

How the village has changed since I first came to what was in 1971 a small village.

My eldest son had already started school in Essex which had a playground backed onto the county jail located in Chelmsford.

The boundary wall backed onto the school playground.

So, my husband's job meant we all had to move to Dover. We fell in love with River and I have remained here for the past 55 years. I have seen many changes, there has been a lot of infill with people building homes in their gardens.

The school has doubled in size, many of the shops have gone.

Who recalls Stokers in Lower Road where you could smell the paraffin, the Two Penny Shop on the corner of Common Lane opposite the school? Hairdressers have gone, the little wool shop in Minnis Lane where my mother loved to browse at the display of wool. The old dairy where River Court now stands. These are just some of the shops which have gone.

We were a community; we had our own carnival. Dover Carnival used to line up their floats in Lower Road, it somehow brought us all together.

The parish hall was taken down to be replaced by Abbey Falls.

There is more traffic on the roads in and out of River.

Who recalls the double deckers with a conductor? Freddie Mack with his weekly delivery of green grocery, a fishmonger who came once a week. There came Tesco and Morrisons to name but a few.

River recreation ground has changed, River Meadow was built, also Dourside, so the list goes on.

After my husband died, I turned my attention to politics with a small party.

I enjoyed many years on the Parish Council became one of 10 councillors. I waited until 1984 before standing for election I came third. I stood again in 1987 when I was elected, serving River for 27 Years. I took one year out before changing my politics. I was fortunate that I held many positions of responsibility becoming chairman of committees. I was chairman of the district council for 4 years.

By Sue Nicholas

A view from the Vicarage

Nineteen years ago, I was licensed as the Priest in Charge of St Peter & St Paul's Church here in River. It has been a wonderful experience thus far, my children have grown up in the village, I have a daughter in law, a son in law and two grandchildren, I am incredibly blessed to serve the Lord Jesus in this corner of the Garden of England. As the de-facto Vicar of River I sit in a long line of clergy going back over 800 years in this place, we have seen, war, plague, famine, regicide and restoration. We even have an old plasterwork Royal Crest over the door in church set up when Charles II returned to England, having escaped Cromwell's clutches following the Battle of Worcester – but don't know why.

(Incidentally according to Paul Hardcastle nineteen was the average age of an American soldier fighting in the Vietnam War.)

Life is always changing and we haven't had so much change since the Normans invaded in 1066, but the Word of the Lord remains the same in this generation as it has done in previous generations. The Christian faith which underpins much of our identity as a nation hasn't gone away even if it has been forgotten by many. It's not just a loss of knowledge about what Christians believe, but also how that belief impacts upon practice and the workings of our society. Care for the sick, education for the young, defence of the weak and vulnerable, honesty and hard work in business and trade, a love of God and one's neighbour, as Jesus commanded. The fact is that every generation needs to pass on to the next one what it believes and what gives it the identity that it does. It cannot be schools, who only have children for six hours a day for five days of the week, so the old adage of a village raising a child comes into play and our village here in this chalk scoured valley is made up of families, some who have been here since the last millennium. The focal points of Kearsney Abbey, the Rec, the Cricketers or the Royal Oak, the Crabble rugby & football pitches, the bus stops and shops (that we still have), the village hall and the Churches, are places where human interactions take place. Talking to one another, often in an intergenerational way that doesn't happen much online nor with the various social media platforms that all tend to have their own age demographic. I'm all for engaging with each other virtually, but it can't be a substitute for physical encounter, not if we don't want to lose more of our shared identity and perhaps even humanity.

So, let's hold our noses when the fields locally have muck spread on them, let's say, "Good morning or Hello" to those we meet in the village, may these small things help to bind us together as villagers, building on them, seeing these points of contact as part of our local identity, taking the risk of learning something new or something rediscovered about those we live alongside. That neighbour whose name you don't know, or the person who is always waiting for the 9.25 bus into town; the pub quiz member who reminds you of somebody

or the man who always walks his dog at 5.30 past the Golden River Chinese, who are these people? (actually they are all fictional, but any resemblance is intentional)

We can connect with each other, because theologically and sociologically we are not made to be alone and reflect the trinitarian nature of God Almighty, Father, Son & Holy Spirit. Let's encourage and support one another in this our home, and I hope that I can continue to be part of the solution not part of the problem, as I follow Jesus day by day.

The Revd Dr A J Bawtree



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River Gardeners – News from the Compost Heap!

New Year, New Growing Season: A Fresh Start for Our Community

A new year always brings a sense of renewal, but for our gardening community, it marks something even more exciting — the beginning of a brand-new growing season. As the days slowly stretch and the first signs of spring whisper their way into the hedgerows, our members are already preparing soil, sorting seeds, and planning the displays that will brighten the months ahead.

This season isn't just about plants; it's about people. Our community thrives because of the generosity, creativity, and enthusiasm of those who support and take part in our events.

A Heartfelt Thank You to the Co-op in River

Our continued gratitude goes to the River Co-op for once again supporting us with raffle prizes. Their ongoing commitment helps us raise vital funds and keeps our events vibrant and accessible. Their support strengthens the roots of our community year after year.

Celebrating Local Creativity

A special thank you goes to Abbey Pre-school, River Primary School, and Astor Secondary School. Their wonderful artwork and photographs have added colour, imagination, and joy to our displays. It's always inspiring to see the world through the eyes of our young people, and we're proud to showcase their contributions for everyone to enjoy.

Looking Ahead: Spring Show – 28th March

Our next big event is the Spring Show on 28th March, a highlight of the local calendar. Expect beautiful blooms, home-grown produce, creative crafts, and a warm community atmosphere. Whether you're entering, visiting, or cheering from the side-lines, it's a day that brings everyone together.

Race Night – Saturday 16th May

Mark your diaries for Race Night on Saturday 16th May at 7pm. Tickets are £4, and under-16s go free, making it a fun and affordable evening for families and friends. It's always a lively night full of laughter, friendly competition, and community spirit. Tickets available on our website <https://rivergardeners.com> or phone Paul 07942 345527 or at our Spring Show.

Milling About

Easter Egg hunt at the Mill will take place on Sunday 5th March and Monday 6th March. Times and prices to be advised in due course.

Mother's Day is on Sunday 15th March and Crabble Corn Mill will probably be hosting a special Cream Tea event to mark the occasion. Check the mill website for any further information or keep an eye on social media (www.crabblecornmill.org.uk).

Although in the early planning stages, our annual Beer Festival will be taking place over the weekend of 22nd to 24th May 2026.

Take advantage of our Earlybird booking options to receive a 20% discount on admission. Please note that CAMRA members will not be able to claim an additional discount on this Early bird offer.

Friday 22nd May - 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Early bird bookings only £8.00 - Available **online ONLY** from 2nd February to 31st March.

Standard bookings £10.00 - Available **online ONLY** from 1st April. CAMRA members can claim a £1.00 discount on entry on presentation of their membership card.

Saturday 23rd May - 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Early bird bookings only £4.00 - Available **online ONLY** from 2nd February to 31st March

Standard bookings £5.00 - Available online from 1st April, from the site office or on the gate on the day. CAMRA members can claim a £1.00 discount on entry on presentation of their membership card.

Sunday 24th May - 12:00 Noon to 7:00 p.m.

Admission

FREE

Bring along the family and have a picnic in the cottage gardens.

Prices

All beer and cider will be sold at £4.00 per pint by purchase of 1/2 pint tokens. Starter packs, at £10.00, will consist of a festival glass and 3 tokens. Any remaining tokens can be refunded before you leave the site. There will be no refund for returned festival glasses.

While we have stated that bookings can only be made online, if you're desperate to get tickets then we can assist you if you call into the site office between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Monday to Thursday.

And don't forget our monthly Acoustic Music evenings on the last Friday of each month.



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NEWS FROM RIVER WI Maggie Waite

A group of our members attended the funeral of our friend June Bailey who died suddenly in November – she was always very supportive and great fun. We have been plagued by a trio of broken arms recently and hope that the rule of three applies with no more injuries!

Our November quiz night was fully booked (next one 6 June – book early if you want a table!) and we were joined at our Birthday Meeting by representatives from the other WIs in our Group; the two Whitfields, Hawkinge, Acrise and Paddlesworth, Capel with Alkham, Dover and Temple Ewell. We were entertained by actor Peter Allen who talked about the history of pantomime with interesting illustrations and personal reminiscences... followed as usual by loads of sandwiches, quiches, cakes, sausage rolls etc!

Fifteen of us went to the National Trust Cafe on Langdon Cliffs for lunch on a beautiful November day and we attended a WI Group carol service at Capel in thickest fog. Our Christmas meeting featured old friend Dr Clive Nuttman who provided a fascinating presentation about how animals are identified internationally by their Latin names (much more interesting than it sounds!). More food to follow!

At our meeting in January, we had the opportunity to meet with Sophie Jeffrey from SGN who talked to the members about the dangers of Carbon Monoxide poisoning, “the silent killer”, and handed out detectors to those who had not got them in every room where there was a gas appliance. After the serious business, we tried to match up childhood photos of members– good fun but not at all easy. This was followed by a general knowledge quiz and the last mince pies of Christmas.

Our Annual Meeting is in March and in April we will welcome Judi Knight who will be talking about eking out the rations in WW2. Our plant sale is in May and we are beavering away sowing and propagating.

We try to mix educational topics with entertainment hopefully something for everyone: Fun, Education and Friendship. Visitors are always welcome – please just turn up or ring Pat on 822777 or Maggie on 07541 697505 for information. Meeting dates are on the Village Hall page.

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Chit Chat is open as usual on a Monday and a Friday 8.30am to 2pm at River Methodist Church on Lewisham Road, come and enjoy our barista coffee, wonderful homemade cakes, or come for lunch and enjoy one of our homemade lunches.

Breakfast is served until 11:15 am or you could have an all day breakfast on the last Friday of the month.

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On the last Friday of the month all day breakfast is served until 1:00 pm.

RIVER BOWLING CLUB

I have now been with the club for just under a year and it has been very enjoyable.

Some of our members went to the pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk' at the Tower Theatre in Folkestone, which was great fun.

The club however is looking for new members. Come along on a Friday evening from the end of May until the end of September to have a go at outdoor bowls from 5:00 pm until 7.30 pm. All you need is some flat shoes. There are many different sizes of bowls for you to try out.

You can come along to our coffee mornings with homemade cakes for sale, this takes place in our club house. You will be made very welcome.

The next coffee morning is Saturday 7th March 2026 from 10.00 until 12 noon.

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Tea and biscuits are served during the break.

Come along and have a free taster session – just turn up or for more information contact Matthew 07951 572920 or matthew@livinglively.org.uk

RESIDENT AT RIVERLEA

Hello lovely River,

I am a river lady myself, all my life bringing my children up and now live in Riverlea. Such a lovely village.

We have had a lovely Christmas, great company, lovely food (plentiful) and some marvellous entertainment. We have enjoyed the brownies, children from a local school coming weekly to play board games and share stories, our families came for a Christmas dinner with us which was lovely, the River parish choir, a ukelele band, and several singers. We have a tennis session weekly now and children from a local school come and play tennis with us too.

We are going through a period of renovation, watch this space!

I am pleased to say we have a knitting group, anyone is welcome to join us. Every Wednesday afternoon. We knit for charity and have a good chat.

We have a lot planned through the spring out in the garden as well as a trip to Wingham wildlife park in the pipeline.

I will write again soon

Betty

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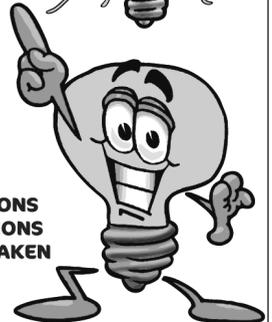
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USEFUL INFORMATION

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 Representatives – Alison Dale and Jean Thomas

REPRESENTATIVES OF VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

WI – Elaine Grayling

River Gardeners' - Pat Hicks and Mary Wright

RIVALL

RIVALL is published by the Village Hall Trust, a registered charity.

Views expressed in RIVALL are not necessarily the views of the Trust.

EDITOR - Alison Dale (Temporary) alisonthedalehouse@gmail.com

ADVERTS – Alison Dale (Temporary) alisonthedalehouse@gmail.com

DISTRIBUTION – Mary Eyre-Jackson 01304 823132

RIVER VILLAGE HALL ORGANISATIONS

River WI – 19th March – Annual General Meeting at 1.30. (Please check time nearer the date as lunch may be organised before the meeting.)

River Gardeners' – 28th March - 2PM – Spring Show

River – WI – 16th April – Judi Knight 'Eking out the ration' (history of food rationing in WW2).

River Gardeners' – 16th May – race night 7:00 pm (tickets 4), under 16s free.

River WI – 21st May – Resolutions meeting

30th May – Coffee Morning and Plant Sale – 10.00

6 June - River WI Quiz 7.30pm

Other Events

Mothering Sunday – 15th March (special cream tea) Please check the website for further information www.crabblecornmill.org.uk

Easter Egg Hunt – 5th and 6th April - times and prices to be advised in due course.

Beer Festival – 22nd – 24 May 2026

River Village Hall Activities

Monday (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

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

BALLET	16:00 – 17:00	07585 652694
PILATES	17:30 - 21:00	07834 839801

Thursday

BALLET	15:30 - 18:30	07585 652694
KUNG FU	19:00 - 20:30	07841 353109

Friday

YOGA	10:00 – 11:00	07513129950
KEEP FIT	13:30 - 14:30	03000 412222
BALLET	15:30 - 18:30	07585 652694
KARATE	19:00 - 20:30	07786 814998

Saturday

BALLET	09:00 - 12:00	07585 652694
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Sunday

CHRIST CHURCH	09:00 - 13:00	07521 089482
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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Chairman – Nick Dixon	07815 691638
Parish Clerk - Andrew Denyer	07518 414792

UTILITIES (EMERGENCY ONLY)

Gas	0800 111999
UK Power Networks	0800 7838866
Water Board	0800 7311933

POLICE

Control Room	01622 690690
In an Emergency	999
Non-emergencies	101
Kent Crimestoppers	0800 555 1111

HOSPITALS

Canterbury Hospital	01227 766877
William Harvey Hospital	01233 633331
Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Hospital	01843 225544

OTHER

NHS on call	101
River Pharmacy	01304 820573
Lydden Surgery	01304 832160
Dover Health Centre	01304 865500
Buckland Minor Injuries Unit	01304 222611

Citizens Advice, Dover	01304 820573
Library	01304 204241
Dover District Council	01304 821199

The Samaritans	116 123
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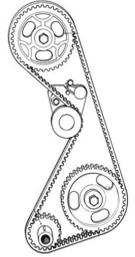
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