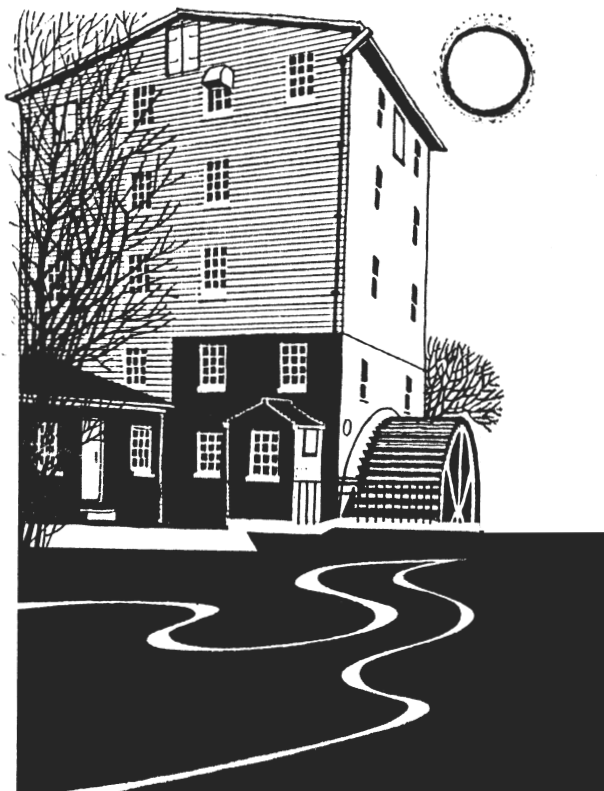
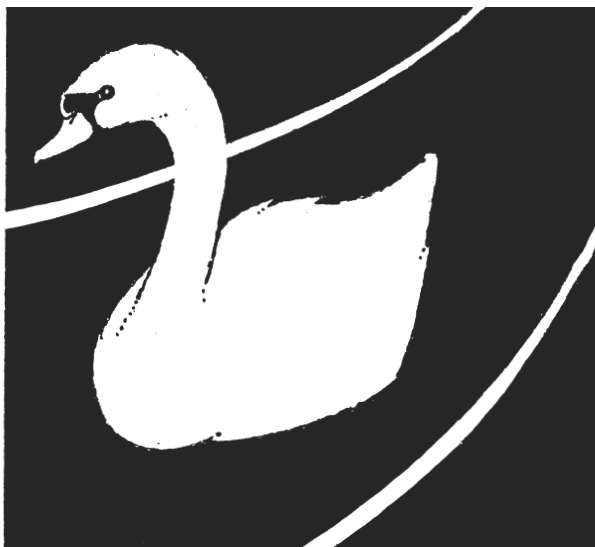


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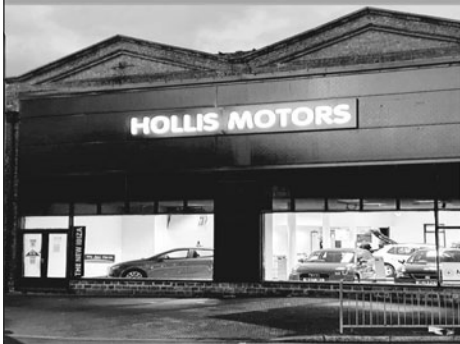
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Editor's Welcome



Welcome to the autumn issue of Rivall.

Two village events were among the highlights of my summer. The first, back at the end of May, was the Beer Festival at Crabble Mill. I try to get along every year, but sometimes the small obstacles of life get in the way; family holidays, work commitments, a 'surprise' list of DIY chores that I'd promised to do (apparently!).

However, this year I managed to get along, but only for the last few hours on the Sunday.

This, as any regular festival-goer knows, is a risky strategy. Most of the popular beers have been consumed and what's left is, either, something like a 'salted caramel flavoured cider' with 8% alcohol. Or a 'dark and woody stout' at 9%. I made the mistake of going for the latter. I thoroughly enjoyed the food, the folk bands, the raucous singing and the meeting up with village locals. But not so much the banging headache on Monday morning!.

The other pleasure was the River Village Fete in July. This is always a joy – and more so this year as it wasn't raining or blowing a gale as usual. From local honey to handmade jewellery, Dover dance troupes to reluctant dogs being 'persuaded' into the show ring, the day was a happy carnival under the glorious Kent sunshine.

I'm always amazed by the array of entertainment and enjoyment our small village can generate. It's testament to the hard work of the organisers and volunteers dedicated to both these events, and the many others across our postcode, that they are so abundantly and enthusiastically attended. Without these selfless, and often unacknowledged 'River Heroes', our village life would be a lot less fun.

Thank you to everyone who puts in the hours and the effort to make all of our village events, communities, societies and classes such life-affirming affairs. Without you, our village wouldn't be the unique environment it is. (And next year, can someone save me a few pints of IPA?).

All the Best

Rick

River Parish Council

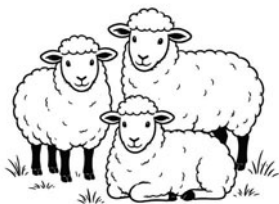
CLLR. CHRISTIANE ATKINS, VICE-CHAIR
RIVER PARISH COUNCIL



A huge *thank you* to everyone who helped make this year's Village Fête such a fantastic success! We were delighted to welcome **over 2,000 visitors** for a wonderful day full of fun, entertainment and community spirit.

The arena was alive with spectacular performances from **Taylor Dance Academy** whose Moana-themed show delighted the crowd, as well as an impressive display of Kung Fu skills from **Lau Fu Dragons**. **The Fuddlers** kept everyone entertained, while **Rose & Vi** provided wonderful live music throughout the day.

Visitors also enjoyed a fantastic selection of delicious food and refreshments, as well as over 50 stalls for arts and crafts.



For the very first time, we were thrilled to welcome the friendly **sheep from Wolverton Farm**, who proved to be a big hit with visitors of all ages.

A heartfelt thank you goes to all of our volunteers, performers, stallholders, sponsors and everyone who came along to support the event. We can't wait to do it all again next year!

If you are interested to learn more about our work at the River Parish Council, please sign up to our new newsletter.

Simply scan the barcode to register.

Our next Parish council meetings are on:
8th September, 13th October and 10th November -
all at 7pm at the Methodist Church in River.



A View from the Vicarage

THE REVD DR ANDY BAWTREE, VICAR OF RIVER

What have I been seeing out of my window? Plenty. Life never stops even in our quiet village through which the river flows. Earlier in the year I mentioned that I have been serving here in River for over 19 years. I have been blessed in our community as my children have grown up and to see the church continue to offer the Good News of Jesus in word and deed, alongside occasional offices such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals (all still available to anyone who lives here).

These rites of passage still matter, even if they are not all marked in the same way. As human beings, we are creatures of mind and memory, not mere instinct. How we mourn, how we celebrate new life, how we mark the public transition from being single to being married, all matter to our identity and wellbeing. Let's not forget, and so...

...this autumn at Michaelmas (29th September) rather than attend the Goose Fair in Nottingham and shoot a few arrows, I'll be celebrating 30 years since I was first ordained and became, "The Reverend" on the site of the first English martyr, Alban.

It's always good to celebrate which is why we have a calendar of Holidays / Holy Days for feasting and fasting, for example: Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Good Friday, Easter, Harvest, and Christmas. These events don't depend on us, and most have been part of English life for almost 2000 years since Christianity first came here with the Romans via Dover.

Then in October, I'm heading south across the equator to the world's fourth largest island and one of the poorest countries on Earth. I'll be visiting Madagascar at the invitation of the Archbishop Gilbert Ratelosoan Rakotondravelo, and an old friend who has stayed here in the village a few times. I will be taking school supplies as I often do when I go, and maybe a few deflated rugby balls and footballs as well, and on the 25th in the cathedral I will be consecrated as assistant Bishop.

I will spend a couple of months there each year, but continue to be based here in River, since they cannot afford to pay me. My English stipend and any donations will support my ministry there.

[cont]

I hope DV (Deus Vult) to support and encourage the clergy and people of the Diocese of Fianarantsoa; to provide capacity for the Archbishop as he serves across the whole Province of the Indian Ocean and teaches those preparing for ordination in their Bible College.

Whilst I'm away, I leave the parish in the capable hands of our two Churchwardens Gill and Sid, alongside our Assistant Curate Revd Margaret Bowers, with Lynne and Steve our Licenced Readers, and of course you the parishioners of whom I am the Curate (I share the Cure of Souls with the Bishop of Dover). Even if you don't come to church, it's yours by dint of history.

I will certainly have time to pray for you all on the long flights to and from the island each year, and I ask for your prayers too in this big adventure. Sometimes you never know what the Lord God has in store but it's always worth taking a step of faith.

The Revd Dr Andy Bawtree – Vicar of River

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River Bowling Club

ALISON DALE

As I write, the bowls season is now in full swing and we have been lucky with our weather this year. (*Perhaps a bit too hot!*)



The club has welcomed many new members to the bowls club. We had several people who came along to try out bowls at the fete.

Our outdoor season ends on 19th September, but we then play indoors. We also have social events, such as a quiz night.

If you would like to learn a new skill, you are welcome to join us at the clubhouse on Friday and Monday evenings from 5:00pm, when a member will give you an introduction on how to play bowls. There are different sizes of bowls, so you can try them out and find one that suits you.

Living Lively - River Voices



Community Choir for the over 50s

This group recently sang in Garlinge with several other groups from East Kent. It was a very hot day, but very enjoyable.

This group of men and women continues to meet at River Methodist Church at 2:00pm on Thursdays in term-time to enjoy singing together and to have fun, tea and biscuits.

We are a very friendly group. Come along and have a free taster session - just turn up, or for more information call **Matthew on 07951 572920** or email: matthew@livinglively.org.uk

Lunch Club at St Peter & St Paul's Church, Minnis Lane, River.

We look forward to welcoming you for a set 2-course meal with tea or coffee for £6 at 12:30pm every Tuesday, beginning again on 8th September.

To book your place or ask any questions, please call **Sarah on 07513 053322** or **Jan on 07809 467757**.

River Gardeners' Association

REECE JACONELLI

Summer Cup winners shine in a fantastic village show!



This year's Summer Flower Show brought out the very best of our village talent — from blooming gardens to brilliant bakes, creative crafts to show stopping vegetables. The sunshine held, the crowds turned out, and the standard of entries was higher than ever.

After a lively morning of judging, we're delighted to congratulate this year's Summer Cup winners:



Summer Show Cups - Sat 4th July 2026

CARDER CUP:

Most points in show, excluding Photography & Cookery - P. Wright

JOHNSON CUP: *Best Exhibit in Show (Horticultural)*

B. Jaconelli - Specimen Gladioli

JENKINS & PAIN CUP:

Best Exhibit in Show (Non-Horticultural) - M. Staveley – Sea Scape F.Art

VEGETABLE SHIELD: *Most points in Vegetable Section - R. Burvill*

FRUIT MEDAL: *Most points in Fruit Section - D. Horobin*

FLOWER SHIELD: *Most points in Flower Section - P. Wright*

GRAVES TROPHY: *Best Exhibit of Sweet Pea Classes - P. Wright*

COMMITTEE CUP: *Most points in Sweet Pea Classes - P. Wright*

ELSIE MARSH ROSE BOWL: *Winner of Class 39 - P. Wright*

RIVER O.A.P. ROSE SHOW CUP: *Most points in Rose Classes - P. Wright*

[cont]

H. MILLER TROPHY: *Best pot plant (Floral)* - D. Horobin

GEORGE PLATER CUP: *Best pot plant (Foliage)* - K. Warren

H.E. RUSSELL CUP: *Best pot plant (Flowering Begonia)* - P. Knight

VERE LANGLEY MEMORIAL TROPHY: *Best Pot Plant (Fuchsia)* - P. Knight

RUSSELL CUP: *Most points in Floral Art Classes* - P. Knight

BEGINNERS FLORAL ART CUP - S. Keningale

VINCENT CUP: *Most points in Cookery Section* - H. Fyfe

ROSETTE: *Best Exhibit in Children's Section* - W. Spiers

HELEN OSBORN CHILDREN'S CUP:
Most points in Children's Section - W. Spiers

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT: KENT FEDERATION -
P. Hicks - *Shortbread Round*

A huge thank you to everyone who entered, volunteered, or simply came along to enjoy the day. Events like this thrive because of the community behind them - and this village never disappoints.

Autumn Show – Saturday 5th September

Next on the calendar is our much loved Autumn Show, taking place on Saturday 5th September at the Village Hall. Expect vibrant seasonal displays, impressive produce, and plenty of friendly competition. Whether you're entering or cheering from the sidelines, it's always a highlight of the year.

Staging runs from 9:00 - 10:45am, judging begins at 11:00am, and doors open to the public at 2:00pm.

Coffee Morning & AGM – Saturday 31st October, 10am

Join us for a relaxed Coffee Morning & AGM on Saturday 31st October at 10am. It's a great chance to catch up with neighbours and hear updates on the year's activities. Everyone is welcome — whether you're a long time member or simply curious about getting involved.

[cont]

The Family Silent Disco – 21st November

Mark your calendars, because the fun doesn't stop with summer.

On **21st November**, the village hall transforms into a glowing, headphone powered dance floor for our **Family Silent Disco**. Three music channels, colourful lights, and absolutely no noise complaints — it's the perfect way to shake off the autumn chill.



Whether you're a toe-tapper, a full on dance floor hero, or someone who just enjoys watching the kids out-dance the adults, this night is guaranteed to be a hit.

Headphones on. Lights up. Let's make November unforgettable!

Vibe: American Supper Style!

Bring along the family's favourite snacks, a picnic, and your own drinks/booze to keep everyone fuelled for the dance floor. Or order a takeaway for delivery to the hall.

Pricing (Fun for Every Budget)

We've kept ticket prices as low as possible, so the whole crew can come along:

Adults: £10

Under 18s: £5 (Must be accompanied by a paying adult)

Family Ticket for 2 Adults and 2 Children (under 18): £25

Important Ticket Info – Pre-Booking Essential!

To make sure we have enough headphones for all sizes, tickets must be pre-purchased. There will be no ticket sales on the door.

Ticket Deadline: Midnight on Tuesday 21st October 2026

Status: TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

<https://rivergardeners.com/event/the-family-silent-disco>

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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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Fitness 4 Life

BY CAROL JENKINS

What do those three words mean to you? According to Al it's this:

'adopting a healthy, active lifestyle that you can maintain forever, rather than following a short-term diet or quick-fix workout.'

I have the great pleasure of working with people over 55 in both River and Temple Ewell and am passionate about us keeping ourselves as fit as possible, so we can lead an active healthy life well into retirement.

In River alone there over 1100 people over 65 (exact statistics for those over 55 are not readily available) - that's 25% of all residents!

And we have many opportunities to maintain our fitness with many classes at River Village Hall including Pilates, Ballet, Tap, Ta Chi, and Yoga. Plus we have the Kearsney Parks to walk in with so much nature to see. However, often when I say the word 'exercise' it has a mixed response, some people look horrified, I've had others tell me they are too old, while others are very keen to maintain or improve their fitness.

The government guidelines are to do the following:

1. AEROBIC ACTIVITY (Cardio):

Moderate Intensity for 150mins each week. This means moving fast enough to raise your heart rate and breathe faster, but also allowing you to still talk.

Examples include: brisk walking, water aerobics, cycling, dancing - and I'm sure you can think of many more.

2. STRENGTH AND RESISTANCE:

To protect your bone density and keep your joints strong, you should do strength exercises on at least 2 days a week.

These exercises should target all the major muscle groups: legs, hips, back, abdomen, chest, shoulders, arms.

Examples include: lifting weights, using resistance bands, heavy gardening, or carrying heavy shopping bags.



"I started going to classes to get fit before surgery. My recovery has been so successful"

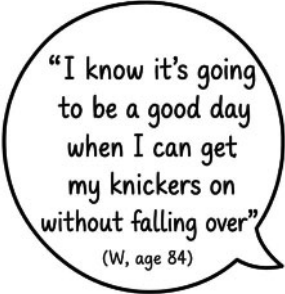
(S, age 61)

[cont]

3. BALANCE AND FLEXIBILITY (Crucial as we age)

If you are closer to 65, or if you feel unsteady on your feet, the NHS emphasises adding balance training on at least 2 days a week, to reduce the risk of trips and falls which account for many hospital admissions.

Activities like: Tai Chi, yoga, bowls, ballet, line dancing and pilates are all highly recommended to maintain coordination and physical function.



"I know it's going to be a good day when I can get my knickers on without falling over"
(W, age 84)

We should also never underestimate the value of seated exercise especially when our mobility is limited. Above all, it should be fun and something you look forward to and where you can feel the results.

Want some ideas to work with? Why not try these exercises:

1. How many times can you sit and stand up from a chair without using your hands. Maybe time yourself over a minute and see if you can improve it by the end of the month.
2. How long can you balance on one leg? If you are wobbly, be sure to start by holding something secure to help. The aim is for those of us who are age 60-70 = 30 seconds, age 70-80 = 20 secs, age 80-90 = 8 secs.
3. When out and about, use the stairs rather than the lift or escalators.

If you feel restricted with these activities, try doing marching while sitting on a chair, building up from a few seconds to 30 seconds or a minute.

Do some stand and sit using the arms of a chair but gradually reducing how much you depend on your arms.

If you would like to learn more simple exercises to aid your fitness, strength and balance, why not pop along to a 'Fitness 4 Life' class? Our new block starts **Wednesday 9th September 11:30am at Temple Ewell Village Hall.**

If you prefer the idea of dancing your way to fitness, my ballet and tap classes for the over 55s will restart at **River Village Hall** on Tuesdays from September.

Please feel free to email me at cjsover55@gmail.com or ring on 07967 707074

Miller's Musings

Our spring Beer Festival was a great success this year helped, in part, by the first of three bouts of rather warm and dry weather. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those that sponsored the event as well as those in the village who came along to sample the varied selection of beer and cider.

The River Garage Safari at the beginning of July went reasonably well. I'm not so sure we did as well as when Carol Bennet managed it in the past but we learned a bit more about how to run this event. The main concern was potential participants leaving it to the last minute to book. As a result there were a couple of locations that were omitted from the map. As with the Beer Festival this event was helped by fine weather.

Doesn't time fly - it's nearly Christmas already! Look forward to...



Tuesday 8th December at 7:00pm. Community Carols hosted by the Revd. Dr. Andy Bawtree. Admission is free and we'll finish the evening with some mulled wine and mince pies.

Sunday 13th December & Sunday 20th December

Breakfast with Santa with sittings at either 9:00am or 10:30am and priced at £12.50 for adults and just £5.00 for children*. Bring the young ones along for a good English breakfast while Santa and his helpers pop in for a chat and you have the opportunity to take some pictures.

Santa's Grotto will be accepting visitors from 1:00pm with last admissions at 4:00pm. and priced at just £10.00 per child*. While we appreciate that this is a family event, it would help if the number of adults attending with children be kept to a minimum to avoid overcrowding the grotto. Thank you.

Booking: Please don't leave it too late to book to avoid disappointment. We need the time to ensure that we have the right amount of food to feed everyone while trying to avoid unnecessary waste. We also need time to get gift orders into Santa's workshop according to the age and gender of the individual children! To that end, bookings will close at midday on the Monday prior to each event. Tickets will be available to buy online: www.ccmt.org.uk

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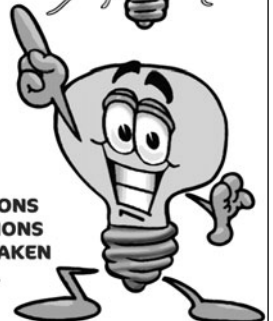
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News from River WI



MAGGIE WAITE, SECRETARY

Everyone at River WI has been shocked and distressed by the sudden death of our lovely assistant treasurer, Sue Webster. Sue could always be relied on and was happy to tackle loads of boring jobs. She must have washed up thousands of cups and saucers during her long service on the WI Committee! Sue was always quiet and unassuming but leaves a big gap behind her.

Our Summer Cream Tea went well – what's not to like about home-made scones and fresh strawberry jellies? The plant, cake and book sale was fairly well attended even though the day was so hot. The Quiz Night was its usual cheery evening and a closely fought fight. **Our next quiz will be on 14th November.**

Our Resolutions meeting voted for supporting national WI campaigns on the provision of more accessible toilets and also on women's homelessness. Cllr Lynne Wright attended our meeting, supported the campaigns and talked about the Dover Pantry.

On 16th July Sheila Caulfield gave an enjoyable presentation to members about using colour to enhance body shape. Two of our members were invited to Whitfield WI for a session on interesting ways to tie scarves.

Our team came third in the Group Quiz and a team helped by two supportive husbands won the Whitfield Wit and Wisdom Quiz in July. Pat and Maggie, our President and Secretary, attended an evening at Dover WI when prospective speakers auditioned in front of WI representatives for inclusion in the area Speakers' Directory.

Megan Palmer will be with us on **17th September** to enlighten us about British Sign Language and on **15th October** we will be doing a gentle exercise class with Jane Samson.

We always try to have a varied programme to represent differing tastes. Visitors are very welcome - please just turn up or ring **Pat on 01304 822777** or **Maggie on 07541 697505** for information. Our next meeting dates:

17th SEPTEMBER	MEGAN PALMER - BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE
15th OCTOBER	JANE SAMSOM - GENTLE EXERCISE
9th NOVEMBER	FRANCES SMITH - JAPAN

Chit Chat Cafe

A welcoming space for all members of our community

Come along to River Methodist Church, River on Mondays and Fridays from 8:30am until 2:00pm for breakfast, hot & cold drinks, panini, toasties, homemade cakes - and a freshly cooked meal of the day.

Breakfast is served until 11:15am

and lunch until 12:45pm.

All-day breakfast is served on the last Friday of each month!



Come and meet our volunteers and have a chat with friends - old and new. You are welcome to bring your knitting or crochet along with you too!

A 'Thank You' FROM PAT BOUGHTON

Very many thanks to everyone who helped and supported the Meningitis Now Coffee Morning held at River Methodist Church on Saturday 11th April 2026. I am very pleased to announce that £201.00 was raised and has been sent to Meningitis Now. An acknowledgement has been received, a copy of which will be at the Methodist Church for your information.



Local Events

River Gardeners' Coffee Morning & AGM: 31 Oct (Village Hall)

WI Quiz: 14 Nov (Village Hall)

Silent Disco: 21 Nov (Village Hall)

Breakfast with Santa (+Grotto): 13 & 20 Dec (Crabble Corn Mill)

Community Carols: 18 Dec (Crabble Corn Mill)

Parish Council Meetings: 8 Sept, 13 Oct & 10 Nov (Methodist Church)

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

RIVALL

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

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

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ADVERTS - Sarah Davis: davisanddavis@btinternet.com

DISTRIBUTION - Mary Eyre-Jackson: 01304 823132

Deadline for submissions for the next issue of RIVALL is 1st November 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 - 21:00	07786 814998

Tuesday

TAI CHI	09:30 - 11:00	07411 224467
AGE 55+ DANCE	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

KEEP FIT	13:30 - 14:30	03000 412222
BALLET	15:30 - 18:30	07585 652694
KARATE	19:00 - 21:00	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 - Daniel Styles-Martin	07792 291769
Parish Clerk - Andrew Denyer	07518 414792

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Water Board	0800 7311933

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HOSPITALS

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Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Hospital	01843 225544

OTHER MEDICAL

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Lydden Surgery	01304 832160
Dover Health Centre	01304 865500
Buckland Minor Injuries Unit	01304 222611

OTHER MISC

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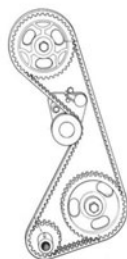
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