

*August 2020*



# *River Newsletter*

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# River Parish Council

Dear Local Residents,

May I first of all welcome you all to this Parish Council newsletter the purpose of which is twofold. Firstly due to some difficulties that have prevented issue of the Spring edition of Rivall and secondly to endeavour to bring you all up to date with recent development in the community.

It is trusted that you have managed to get by during the challenging times that we have all had to endure over the past few months. The recent relaxation of restrictions may hopefully mean that we can all look forward to what remains of summer and some degree of normality that should be possible provided that everybody follows government guidelines. The Recreation Ground is now fully open except for the small playground at the Crabble end. Food vendors have returned including, for the first time, ice cream!

As many of you have noticed that it has become necessary for us to hold `virtual` Parish Council Meetings on-line. This has proved to be very popular with several hundred local residents now joining us as regular followers. In view of this it is my hope that some of you may be interested in joining us as there are currently three vacancies on River Parish Council. If you would like to contribute a little time to help ensure that the future of our local community continues to prosper then please get in touch with us.

With my kindest regards to you all.

Clive Taylor

Chairman, River Parish Council

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# A View from the Vicarage

The view hasn't changed much over the last few years that I have been sharing my thoughts and views. We live in a beautiful valley, in a well-established community, that I have the honour of serving as vicar. It is my view of the community I would like to share in this first digital newsletter.

River has seen down through the centuries plague, famine, war, both civil and international, but this is the first time the parish church has had to close, by order of the Archbishop (if you exclude 1208 when the Pope got mad with King John and closed it). Like many other organisations we have had to move online and adapt as best we can.



The village community during lockdown has been a real source of encouragement to me. Simon and the staff at the Coop; Katie doing her utmost to supply everyone's need for fresh fruit and veg; the staff at the Pharmacy, and the teachers at River School and Abbey preschool, looking after the children of parents who had to carry on. The unsung (but at least clapped for) staff at Applecroft, Riverlea and Woodside. There have been many villagers who have stepped in to help their neighbours, deliver shopping, medicine, parcels. Some have discovered and shared new talents or old ones rediscovered; the art of conversation, joke telling (thank you #99), painting and creating slabs (thank you Vicky), walking the lanes and paths; Zoom, Teams and assorted online meetings (well done RPC).

Yes there have been those who have lost loved ones friends or family members, (funerals have been different) but others have fallen in love, a few babies have been born, the pattern

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and rhythm of life continues. God promised seedtime and harvest, and that he would be with us through the valley of the shadow of death – no by-pass – I strongly believe God will continue to be with us as things unfold, nature has taken a breather, so have we, life has been slower more measured.

I have great hope for the future. Life and death will continue, I hope we focus on life and may we grasp the opportunity to love our neighbours as ourselves and to know and love God, perhaps for the first time.



There are a number of prayers in the Church of England's Book of Common Prayer, including one for help when there is plague and pestilence, there is also one of thanksgiving for when the plague has gone or passed over. I can't pray that prayer just yet, but have no doubt that I will in due course.

I intend to trust in the Lord and to keep going, I encourage you to do what you have been doing, don't give up there is light at the end of the tunnel.

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# Crabble Corn Mill

It certainly has been a difficult time for many and this includes Crabble Corn Mill, unfortunately our biggest fundraiser of the year – the Beer Festival was cancelled, alongside Easter egg hunt, Folk Nights, Quiz nights and Tours. These events help us be as self-sufficient as much as we possibly can with utilities and insurances, therefore we can use local grants for improvements and repairs, as you can imagine the upkeep of an historic wooden building doesn't come cheap!

Our local Co-op, RPC including the events committee, Dover District Council and KCC have provided us monies in the past for improvements and of course we need to mention our wonderful family supporters/sponsors, volunteers and friends of the mill, without these the mill may be telling a different story today.

We are now preparing how we can start to move forward again, our 'pop up' flour sales on the first Sunday of each month have been popular, our Millers Alan and Phil have been busy behind the scenes grinding so we can supply Stoneground wholemeal flour to our local community safely. The 'pop-up' shop is held in main yard, feel free to drive in, Flour is £2.50 per bag, please cash only for this.

Delivery can be arranged to River residents by prior arrangement.

We are also risk assessing the opening for tours, limiting times slots and ensuring distancing measures are in place as well as sanitising for visitors use. We are able to use the Tea Rooms under new government guidelines so please do speak to us on number above if you have any requests for venue hire for small groups where we can arrange tables to suit. For tours the Tea Rooms will be able to provide hot/cold drinks and Crisps only.



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Unfortunately, we do not have any dates for a later beer/cider festival until restrictions are lifted further, but we do have this year's glasses that we purchased previously so watch this space for Christmas presents!!

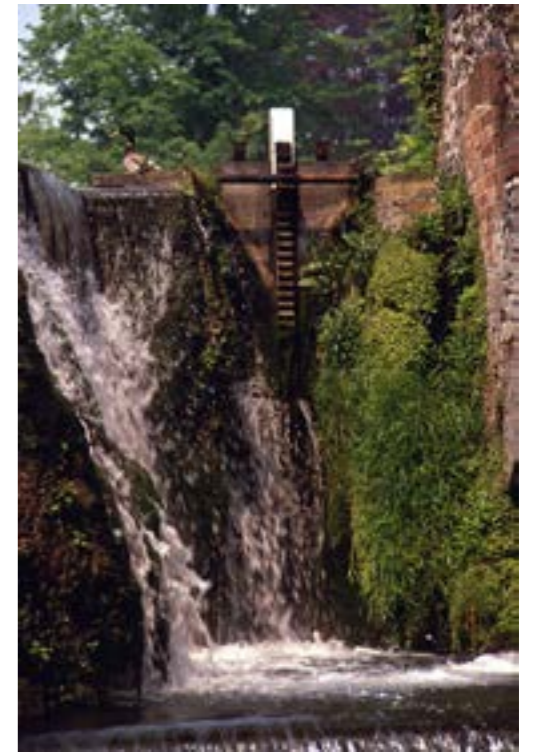
Folk evenings and quiz nights are also being looked into.

If there is anyone who would like to arrange/organise an online fundraiser for the Mill we would be extremely grateful

A fundraiser that has now reached its third year is the Dover Lotto, for every £1 spent on a ticket 50% goes direct to your chosen charity, the Corn Mill hopes you will choose us, this is a fantastic initiative set up by Dover District Council to support local Charities, the remainder monies are shared to local winners. We have seen that we have had some worthy winners who support us up to the tune of £300.00. This month there is also the chance of winning B & Q vouchers for £100.00

To join Dover Lotto either click on Lotto Link on our Facebook page or go to [www.doverlotto.com](http://www.doverlotto.com) and choose Crabble Corn Mill.

Another new venture that Crabble Corn Mill has participated in is 'The Wheels of Time' Encouraging younger members of the community to visit local museums and immerse themselves in their history. The Wheels of time museums provide each child over the age of 5 a badge for each museum visited, and a lanyard to attach them. This covers all Kent and there are museums that you probably haven't heard of, this is an excellent learning opportunity, but also an excellent fundraiser for these heritage charities. For more information please visit 'Roamin Rex' on [wheelsoftime.uk](http://wheelsoftime.uk) or on their [facebook page](#) '[Wheels of Time](#)' or pop in have a tour and collect a leaflet.



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## Crabble Corn Mill

Dates for your Diary:-

Pop up Flour Sales : 1st Sunday of every month 10am – 12noon – cash only

Tours self guided/ Guided Monday – Thursday 10- 2pm please phone for approx. time slot to suit.

Onsite volunteers now available Monday – Thursday 10am – 2pm.

For any enquiries please phone 01304 823292

Alternatively email:- [enquiries@crabblecornmill.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@crabblecornmill.org.uk)  
or message via Facebook page

All at Crabble Corn Mill wish you good Health and Stay Safe.

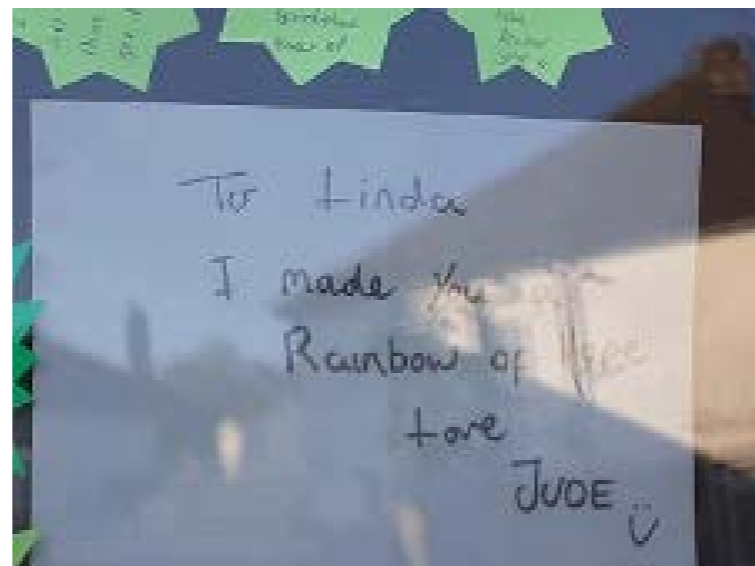


# River Methodist Church

Our doors may have been closed following the Government guidelines, but we Methodists have still been rather busy. Reverend Miriam Moul and members of our congregation have put together worship resources to use at home. These have been sent out via email with helpful links to listen to the music online or for those who do not have access to the internet printed copies with readings and all the words of the hymns have been posted out each week. In addition to this members from the Canterbury and East Kent Circuit have been hosting youtube services online. If you would like to join us then click on the link <https://www.facebook.com/cantstpeters> . The feed begins at 10:30am each Sunday morning. We continue to hold the whole of our community in our prayers.

I have struggled without my usual interaction with groups such as Monday Crafternoons, knitting and crochet group and so each week we have Facetime where we gather as usual eat cake and drink tea and coffee and generally catch up and support each other. We have all enjoyed the sessions but can't wait to get back to seeing each other in the flesh.

Our young people have unfortunately had to miss out on Tuesday Club and Inspire Youth Group but we have managed to keep in contact with them.



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If you have passed my home on Chilton Way you will have seen a collection of shapes in the window. Each one is a prayer request and every evening I sit on the bench in front of the window and pray over each one. I have met some lovely people during lockdown, some just stop and chat, others have left requests and I am pleased to say I have met the wonderful Jude Magdalena who made me a beautiful Rainbow of hope. Thank you Jude, it has been wonderful to watch your amazing recovery following your surgery.

Our church was also blessed with one of Vicky Thomas' paintings and it takes pride of place outside our gates.

What have I learned from being in lockdown. I don't stop and listen enough, especially without the aeroplanes and traffic you get to hear the sounds of Creation. I stop and take time to reflect and pray each day, and I realise that the first thing I'm going to do as soon as I can is not to rush to McDonalds or KFC but to rush and hug my family and friends.

Keep safe River, Linda Beverton (on behalf of River Methodist Church)

### *River Methodist Church Monday Crafternoons*

*We hold a Facebook/Messenger video meet from 1-2pm each Monday. If anyone would care to join us for a chat or to meet new friends please contact us on the Church Facebook page and I will add you to our dial in.*

*Our normal meeting times whenever we get back to it are Monday afternoons, 1-2:30pm in the church coffee bar. We meet for fellowship, crotchet and knitting tips, lots of cake and tea and coffee. If you just want to pop in for a chat and a cuppa you will be warmly welcomed.*



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# River Gardeners

River Gardener's Association brings Summer Colour with a fun "Virtual" Summer Show - live online now!

Due to the CoronaVirus outbreak, holding "Virtual" Shows has become a necessity over the past few months with public gatherings and community events currently not-possible amid risks of spreading the virus in enclosed indoor spaces. The forward thinking committee didn't let COVID-19 stop proceedings though, and the idea of a completely online show was born. River Gardener's Association Show Secretary said: "I had thought that we wouldn't have a Summer Show this year due to COVID-19 but we had over 100 entries in the Virtual Show. I would like to thank everyone that took part and now if you are sitting comfortably, I invite you to sit back and enjoy the Virtual Show."

The Online Summer Show is now available online for anyone to access and enjoy for free, visit: [rivergardeners.com/virtual-summer-show-2020](http://rivergardeners.com/virtual-summer-show-2020) or search: "River Gardeners Virtual Show"

We are hoping that Autumn Show can go ahead as planned, pending further Government advise and we will confirm this nearer the time. if you are interested in getting involved with our next show, please contact us at: [info@rivergardeners.com](mailto:info@rivergardeners.com)

The ever popular Quiz we had planned in May was unfortunately postponed due to the pandemic, however we will be looking to hold this later in the year.

We hope you are all staying safe and well and we all look forward to getting back to normal as soon as possible.

The River Gardeners Team!

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## River W.I.

Obviously we have had to cancel all meetings, outings and fund-raising events. We've been trying to keep in touch with each other by phone and via a Federation newsletter for those who are online. Members have been supporting each other by helping with shopping etc. Many of our ladies are very much missing the social side of our group and we hope to be up and running as soon as it's safe to do so. We still have be our Autumn fair pencilled in on October 17, a fashion show on November 14 and a quick night on November 21. Hopefully these will be able to take place also our special centenary birthday party on 10 December.

Don't know if you want to know about the Living Lively singing group....ever since lockdown, Matthew (our leader in River) and other talented musicians from groups across the county have been posting online tutorials, sometimes daily, to give us songs to practice (My dog thinks that the warm up exercises are hilarious!). Our annual singing day in July had to be cancelled - such a shame as it was to celebrate 10 years of singing in the county.

# River Co-op Virtual Fun Run



You can also donate online at  
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/River-Co-Op-RNLI-Virtual-Run>



**Simon Taylor and the Co-op staff have been so busy looking after us that this year's sponsored run will be a virtual run for the RNLI**

**(I can't see anything wrong with that!)**

***Anyone can join in and make a difference  
Further details from the River Co-op or  
Katie's***

***So please sponsor in aid of the RNLI  
their annual run on 4<sup>th</sup> September***

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# Kent Wildlife Trust

Few things conjure up a perfect image of the countryside quite like a bee buzzing from flower to flower. A butterfly fluttering across a meadow. A beetle making its way through tall grass. They paint a wonderful picture, don't they? The reality, however, is less than idyllic. Modern living has seen insect numbers drop at an alarming rate. We risk losing many of them forever.

## **Life systems depend on insects.**

Insects make up the majority of our wildlife and are truly remarkable in the roles they play. Pollinators such as wild bees, hoverflies and moths are vital for passing on pollen to help our flowers reproduce and approximately three quarters of the crop types grown by humans rely on pollination by insects.

Insects break down and decompose organic materials. They turn dead matter and waste into usable forms, like fertile soil for healthy crops. And let's not forget that insects are food for many other animals including birds, bats, reptiles, amphibians and fish that we love so much as well as being essential to help feed our growing human population.

## **Can you help?**

The Wildlife Trusts need communities and individuals to help them stop insects from dying out. Two new action guides are packed full of information to help us all take practical action in our local neighbourhood and at home. Just taking a few simple actions can have a big impact if we all act. Together we can reverse insect loss and help the wildlife that depends on insects to thrive once more. Want to know more? Sign up for your free guide here <https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/action-insects>. You will also find our report, 'Reversing the Decline of Insects', highlighting case studies of individuals, farmers, communities, landowners and councils that have taken positive action to help insects.



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## The Royal Oak

The Royal Oak has undergone a full renovation of the pub to make it even more welcoming to our customers. We are now open again and our 5 new B&B rooms should be complete for mid-August and we will be able to welcome guests all year round for a stay. We have carried out a full risk assessment according to Government guidelines to ensure we are fully compliant. We look forward to seeing you shortly to enjoy our new look and to celebrate our new found freedoms!

With regards

John Barton

Owner, Cantia Public Houses Ltd.

## Kearsney Parks

Summer activities may be on hold but there are new resources available for children created by local author, Fiona Beddow.

You can find them at <https://www.kearsneyparks.co.uk/Resources/Children.aspx>



## Keep in touch with your Parish Council

[Website and blog](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

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