

# Rolvenden & Newenden *Parish Magazine*

2025  
APRIL  
ONLINE





# Parishes of Rolvenden and Newenden

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*Cover Image: Beth Jones*



*This month's letter comes from Father Behr of St Andrew's Catholic Church in Tenterden.*

## **Pilgrims of Hope**

In December of 2024 Pope Francis opened the Jubilee door to symbolically mark the start of a Jubilee Year of Grace. The biblical roots of the jubilee come from the book of Leviticus (Lev 25:8-13) with the encouragement to take stock, rest in God's mercy and forgive debts. Every 25 years we have a Holy Year to renew our faith and trust in Jesus and reflect on our journey of faith.



In John's Gospel, Jesus says "I am the door; if anyone enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture." (Jn 10:9 RSV) Walking through the door requires a step in faith.

The theme for this Jubilee year is 'Pilgrims of Hope'. We live in times that present both great challenges and new opportunities to share the good news about Jesus. Every time someone we care about turns to us to express their frustration or sorrow with the crosses of life, we have an opportunity to invite them to walk through the door of faith; to find hope in Christ's promise of eternal life in him.

We don't know what the future will hold. Since the pandemic in 2020 there has been a spirit of fear and anxiety which has led to many people struggling with mental health and wellbeing. The uncertainty of life in both global geo-politics and our own lives in England can make some people retreat into their own world. So this theme of 'Pilgrims of Hope' has particular poignancy for our times and is very much needed.

As Archbishop John Wilson reminded us at the beginning of the Jubilee Year, Christian hope is the 'desire for the kingdom of heaven and eternal life'. It means relying on Christ's promises and the help of the Holy Spirit.

We are invited to live this trust in Christ's promises every day of our lives, in carrying out the simple duties of our state in life with love and concern for all those in our community. God has prepared something wonderful for all those who love him and we do not place our hopes in politics or the economy, as necessary as these are, but in the promise of Christ who has proved himself to be trustworthy and true.

This July our parish deacon Jolyon Vickers will retire from active ministry. He has been a tremendous source of comfort and Christian hope to the bereaved and sick. The faithful have enjoyed his sermons and his passion for ecumenism has reminded of the urgent task of working toward real unity with all Christians. Jolyon's tireless work as Chair of Churches Together in Tenterden has brought all the local Christian communities closer together in prayer and mutual respect.

This Jubilee year of 2025 is a special time of grace for all Christians and all people of good will. With Jesus, the door is always open and he will not turn anyone away who comes to him. We commend all those who are sick or in need to the merciful heart of Jesus.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. (Rom 15:13 ESV)

**Fr. Behr**





## St Peter and St Mary Flower Rotas for April 2025

Sunday	St Mary	St Peter
Apr 06	LENT	NO FLOWERS IN CHURCH
Apr 13	LENT	NO FLOWERS IN CHURCH
Apr 20	EASTER	FLOWER ARRANGERS
Apr 27	Sylvia K	Easter Flowers
Contact:	Sylvia Kellett 01580 240463 Sylviakellett@eplusmail.com	Rosie Edmonds 01797 252196 rosie.edmonds@hotmail.com

Brass Cleaning at St Mary: Peggy Speed

St. Peter's Church: normally open between 10.00 and 4.00pm. If you need access outside of these times, please contact Frances Jones or Rosie Edmonds. Should arrangers be unable to do any slots please swap with someone else and let Rosie know.

## News about the Mag

You may have noticed, this month you have more pages. That is the outcome of some very good news: Sue Hatt asked if she could help in some way and suddenly, I had an editorial colleague. I am delighted to be working with Sue who I know will bring new ideas and the precious gift of time to work on articles. As a start she has taken responsibility for covering the monthly report from Rolvenden School and is working on the material we received from Keith Barron on bio-diversity along the KESR line that runs right through both our parishes.

We have also been bouncing some ideas around about articles on journeys people have made. The idea came out of the article from Denise Curtain you will find on page 26. That was a very real trip abroad that has had a profound effect. But a journey can be many things: a simple walk along your favourite path, a road you drive daily or a once in a lifetime trip by road, train, camel or on foot. And as you travel there will be thoughts, memories and new discoveries, even a funny tale to share. We would welcome contributions to go under the blanket heading 'Journeys'.

*Judy and Sue*



# The Church of England

## IN TENTERDEN, ROTHER AND OXNEY SERVICES IN CHURCH AND ONLINE DURING APRIL

### Sunday 6th April: The Fifth Sunday of Lent and Passion Sunday

9.30am St Peter's Newenden  
The Eucharist

8am St Mary's Rolvenden  
Holy Communion  
11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden  
Celtic Morning Prayer  
*2pm Forest Church St Mary's Churchyard*

### Sunday 13th April: Palm Sunday

9:30am St Peter's Newenden  
The Eucharist

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden  
The Eucharist

### Monday 14th, Tuesday 15th, Wednesday 16th, On 3 days in Holy Week

7pm Cross Purpose: A Reflective Service for Holy Week (*Appledore Church*)

### Thursday 17th April: Maundy Thursday

7pm Eucharist of the Last Supper and Vigil (*Rolvenden Church*)

### Friday 18th April: Good Friday

2pm *The Last Hour of the Cross (Newenden Church)*

7pm Cross Purpose: A Reflective Service for Holy Week (*Tenterden Church Hall*)

### Saturday 19th April: Holy Saturday

7pm A Service of Waiting and Expectation (*Rolvenden Church*)

### Sunday 20th April: Easter Sunday

6am Churches Together Dawn Service (*Glebe Field, Tenterden*)

9.15am St Peter's Newenden

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden

Lighting of the Easter Fire and Eucharist

The Eucharist

6pm Benefice Evensong (*Rolvenden Church*)

### Sunday 27th April: The Second Sunday of Easter

9.15am St Peter's Newenden

11am St Mary's Rolvenden

Celtic Morning Prayer

The Eucharist

6pm Churches Together Service (*Zion Baptist Church, Tenterden*)

### And during the week:

#### Beginning the Day with God

A ten-minute reflective service,  
**online only** from Monday to Saturday.

#### Ending the Day with God

A ten-minute reflective service, will be online  
only from Monday to Saturday.

*Tenterden Church will be closed for  
refurbishment until the end of July 2025.*

*Services that would normally take place in  
St Mildred's will be held in Tenterden Church  
Hall opposite the church.*

*Holy Communion will be celebrated in  
St Michael's Church every Wednesday*

*and in Tenterden Church Hall every  
Thursday\*, both at 10am.*

*Both celebrations will last about  
twenty-five minutes.*

*\*in Holy Week this communion will be  
celebrated on Wednesday 16th*

#### To access our daily online worship

**visit YouTube: St Mildred's, Tenterden**

**Online services:** can also be accessed  
through the daily bulletin, *Connect Up!*

#### Subscribe to Connect Up!

at [www.tenroxchurches.co.uk](http://www.tenroxchurches.co.uk)



## 13th April - 20th April

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday and ends on Easter Day and tells the story of the last week of Jesus' life on earth.

Holy Week is crucially important. So important, that about one-third of the gospel story focuses on this week.

We often think of Holy Week as the commemoration, one at a time, of a series of events in the life of Jesus. But Holy Week is really a single observance with an integral unity of purpose and proclamation. Holy Week is like a procession, which begins with palms and branches on Palm Sunday, and continues throughout the week as we follow Jesus to the cross and to the glory and wonder of his resurrection.

Will you follow Jesus faithfully in the whole procession of Holy Week? If you do, it will be your privilege to share in some of the richest rites and ceremonies of the Christian Church and so be fed and nourished spiritually by drawing closer to Jesus, our Messiah and Lord. Elsewhere in this issue of the magazine, you will find the services for Holy Week.

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## Another Topper in support of British Agriculture - Sheep

Once again we can only marvel at Olive Austen's skill with her needles and her eye for detail. We have sheep farming for real, quad bike and trailer of feed included. Thank you Olive!





## PRIVATE CARE TAILORED TO SUIT AN INDIVIDUAL'S EXACT NEEDS



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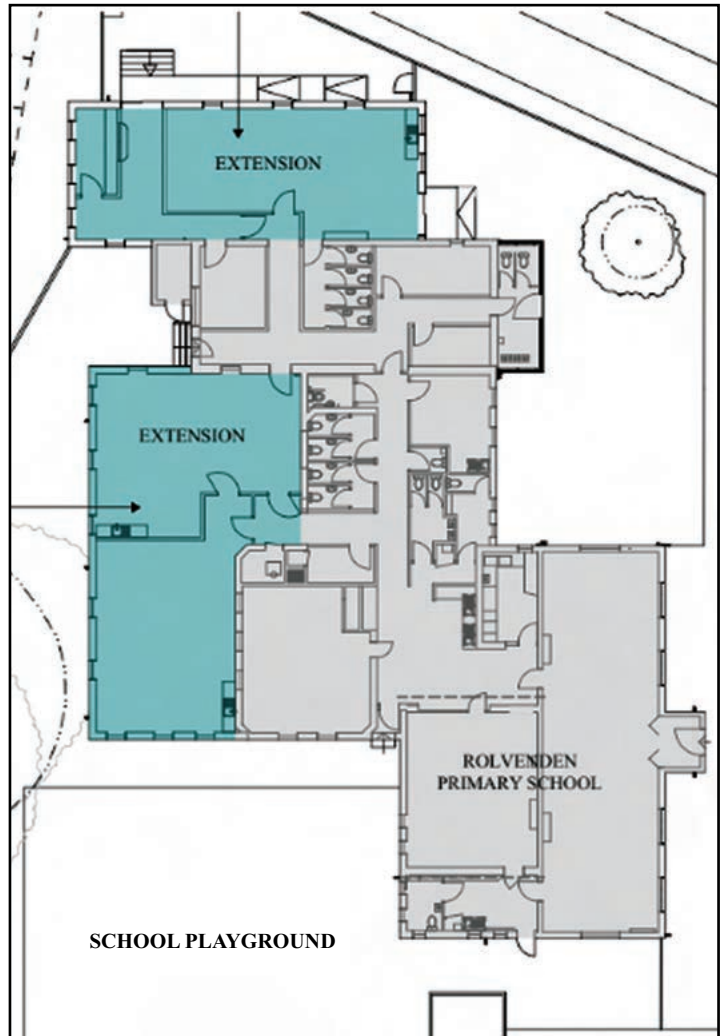
# Rolvenden Extension - Progress Report

As Headteacher of Rolvenden Primary School, I am pleased to update you on the progress of our school extension plans. The consultation period for planning permission has now closed and we are currently awaiting the decision from Ashford Borough Council. We are very grateful to all who contributed their comments as part of this process.

The school has been extensively involved in the design process and we remain confident that the extension will provide much-needed, permanent and modern replacement classrooms, all while preserving the charm and character of our small village school.

The design has evolved significantly from the version submitted four years ago with a greater emphasis on protecting the surrounding green areas and ensuring the school benefits from much-needed

administrative spaces in addition to modern, spacious classrooms.



## Key elements of the design:

- Three new, permanent classrooms extending the main footprint of the school.
- The existing Hazel Classroom will be repurposed into a central 'hub' for the school, featuring offices, a meeting room, staff facilities and toilets.
- A brand-new office and entrance area on the northern side of the building.
- New toilet facilities adjacent to the two new classrooms.

We appreciate the engagement and feedback from the community during the consultation period. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to make an appointment to speak with me at the school - I will do my best to address any queries and reassure you of the benefits of this development.

Providing all goes well with the planning decision, construction is hoped to begin during the Easter half-term, with an estimated completion date of February 2026.

*Thank you for your continued support.*

*Ben Vincer*

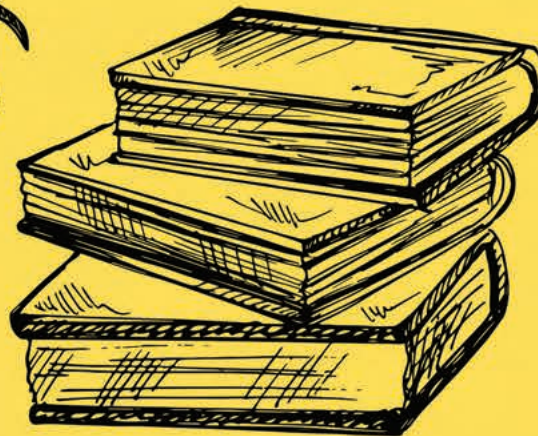




**TENTERDEN SINGERS PROUDLY PRESENTS**

# **“CAPTURING THE JOY OF SCHOOL DAYS”**

**SINGALONG  
WITH THE  
CHOIR**



**17th May**

**at St Mary the Virgin, Rolvenden**

**6.30pm for 7pm start**

**£10 per ticket**

**IN AID OF ROLVENDEN PRIMARY SCHOOL'S  
COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING PROJECT**





## Letter from our MP

Hello! I'm Katie, and I'm now the Member of Parliament here in the Weald of Kent. I represent our area in the House of Commons, acting and advocating on behalf of all my constituents. I'll be writing in here every now and then to keep everyone in Rolvenden and Newenden up to date with what I'm working on.

Right now, I'm very focused on transport. As you'll know, getting around our beautiful rural home isn't always easy. All too often our roads and pavements are closed for works, or there are big lorries on inappropriate country lanes, or there's no longer a bus route where we need it. We rely on the roads to get to work, school, the shops, GP appointments, to see friends and family — everything! The state of our roads and our bus services is fundamental to how well we can live our lives.

But the problems we have seem to be sidelined in Westminster. This is a very urban Government and urban Cabinet, and when I see taxes on farmers and millions of pounds being given to big city councils, I worry that the countryside just isn't that important to them. We deserve better.

That's why I've joined the Transport Select Committee — a cross-party group of MPs in Parliament who work to scrutinise the Department for Transport and all sorts of other relevant bodies and organisations. I successfully pushed for the Committee's first enquiries to be on bus services in rural areas, and "street works" (when utilities companies dig up the roads) and the disruption they cause.





I want to know exactly how people find the roads and buses — and anything else transport-related — around here to inform my work in these inquiries and beyond. So I'm sending out a survey to every home, asking your thoughts on local transport. You can fill it out and post it back to me when it arrives through your door, or complete it online using the QR code below (or by going to [www.katieforkent.com/transportsurvey2025](http://www.katieforkent.com/transportsurvey2025)). It only takes 5 minutes!

I'm looking forward to hearing from you and reading your survey responses. If there's anything else you'd like to speak with me about, don't hesitate to get in touch.

*You can email me at [katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk), or speak to me on 01580 388344*

*Katie Lamb*



## Community Speedwatch

CSW is a road safety initiative that's coordinated by Kent Police and run by local communities. Trained volunteers monitor the speeds of vehicles using approved 'speed indication devices' (SIDs).

**The aim of the initiative is to:**

- reduce death and injury on the roads
- improve the quality of life for local communities
- reduce the speed of vehicles to the speed limit
- increase public awareness of inappropriate speed



Fatalities from road accidents are four times higher in rural areas than urban communities and police resources do not stretch to frequent monitoring of rural roads – this is where a local CSW can help to improve road safety.

Rolvenden CSW is looking for volunteers to join the team and give an hour or two a

week to help. The days and hours can be varied according to your availability, so can easily fit in with your other commitments.

*If you are interested in helping to keep the village safe, please scan the QR code for more information, stop for a chat when you see us at the roadside or contact area co-ordinators Denise Curtain [duckscrossing33@gmail.com](mailto:duckscrossing33@gmail.com) or Neil Cackett [neil1980@sky.com](mailto:neil1980@sky.com)*





# Quiz Night

**Quiz Master: Peter Garrott**

**Saturday 5 April 2025  
7:00pm for 7:30pm start**



**at**

**Rolvenden Village Hall, Maytham Road  
Rolvenden TN17 4ND**

**£10.00 Entrance**

The Rolvenden NSPCC Committee are  
holding a Quiz Night.

You are invited to form teams of a maximum  
of up to eight people per table.

Tickets need to be purchased in advance payable  
in cash or cheque made out to the NSPCC.

Nibbles will be provided but please bring  
your own drink and glasses.

Please join us for what should be a fun evening,  
at the same time raising funds  
for this worthwhile charity.

Tickets available from:

**Jenny Field - 01580 241736**

**Lin Lodge - 01580 240957**

**Glen Andrews - 07841 527500**

**Maralyn Button - 01580 241525**

In aid of

**NSPCC**

**We will be holding a raffle**



Registered charity England and Wales 216401. Jersey 384. Scotland SC037717.



# Rolvenden Gardening Society



Melvin Smith from Wittersham gave members and friends an informative talk on "Hops and Hop Picking" on Thursday, 27th. February in the village hall. It was illustrated with pictures of hop picking in a bygone era and some of the characters associated with it on the farm at Peasmarsh where his father had been oast house manager.

He began by talking about the history of the hop, a native plant to Britain and common at the time of the Romans. Melvin then described the process of hop picking before it became mechanised, when it was done "by hand". Many people were involved including locals, Londoners and travellers. Hops were picked into bins and these were measured out into

bushel baskets and the number recorded by a book keeper who was often a local school teacher. The baskets were tipped into "pokes" which were then taken to the oast to be dried. After this process, they were pressed into hop pockets which were in turn, taken off to be turned into beer.

Melvin talked about the varieties of hops including Fuggles and Goldings, many of which were grown around the Cranbrook area where both the soil and climate were ideal. Many farms produced their own chestnut poles for use in the hop gardens and made their own charcoal from hornbeam for using in the oast houses. Melvin also showed us how the cowls on oast houses were made originally from wood and now from fibre glass. He used to be a part of this production and explained that cowls are actually bigger than you think they might be to look at them!

Melvin concluded by showing us some of the tools which were used in the hop picking process. Many used to be made by the local blacksmith. He had some very interesting and unusual examples!

For many of us it had been a trip down memory lane as several of our members used to be involved in hop picking both by hand and machine. Although there are still one or two hop gardens around here, mainly serving micro breweries, it is a shame that the old ways are now relegated to history.

*Maralyn Button*





## Weather and Nature Notes

February was rather dull like the Winter in general and produced 77mm of rain, but meteorological Spring started appropriately bright and cheery. March has "come in like a lamb," encouraging blooms to open. The trade-off for the sunny warm days were a few cold nights with crunchy white frost to greet you in the mornings. As the sun rose it gave a subtle pinkish glow and revealed the frosty scene, soon it melted away replaced by a mist which gradually evaporated when the sun's warming rays gained their strength. Fog and mist are not good for travelling in but I do like a misty scene.

It brings to my mind the programme Vision On with Tony Hart that I watched as a child, and a drawing he did of an urban misty scene. It was very simple and effective, and clearly left a mark on me if I can still recall it decades later. He drew with a black marker pen a simple city skyline on tracing paper, then put another layer on top and did the same, and a time or two more building the depth to the scene with the tracing paper layers acting like fog blurring the distance. I immediately wanted to have a go, however Mum's greaseproof paper disappointingly didn't give the same effect.

With the spell of sunny dry weather and breeze the sodden ground is drying, our clay soil here always has a short window of being at it's workable best, too wet and it is sticky, clinging to boots and tools, and too far the other way it becomes like concrete, but it grows plants well enough. In the fields the soft ground aids, gulls, rooks and jackdaws searching for food. Flocks of gulls seem to effortlessly slide through the sky at times with barely a wing beat, then wheel around and drop into a field. You will find sheep dung turned over and scattered where corvids search for insects and worms, gulls will also paddle the





ground to bring up worms to the surface. The Common Gull in the picture, is not as common inland as its name suggests. In the Autumn an influx of continental birds boost our breeding population where they can be found on fields and wetland in the Winter period. The Black-headed Gull is for example more common, that confusingly actually has a dark brown head in Summer and a white head with a spot on the ear in Winter.

It is a cross over period for migrant birds, with Winter visitors like fieldfares still flying over, their calling evocative of Winter, and Spring migrants are starting to arrive. I heard my first Chiffchaff on March 7th, a real sound of Spring. Dawn chorus sounds lovely and stars plenty of blackbirds. However, I read a worrying article where their numbers are declining, this is believed to be linked to the mosquito born Usutu virus that was first detected in 2020 in the London area, and has spread out into the south-east.

First identified in South Africa, it has been present in mainland Europe for 30 years and climate change is thought to be enabling it's spread. In one article it did say not to worry about natural water bodies like ponds which have enough life in them feeding on mosquito larvae, but advised to keep lids on water butts and not let unnecessary water collect in pots etc in the garden, and to regularly clean out bird baths and refill with clean tap water. Bird bath and bird table hygiene has always been important though to help prevent the spread of various bird diseases that have affected other species such as greenfinches and chaffinches for example, which saw their numbers plummet. Thankfully they are showing some recovery.

Also feeding good quality food that is not mouldy is important. I don't want to tempt fate, but the blackbird numbers I see seem stable so far, in fact recently five cock birds were having a territorial battle, chasing each other through my garden, and this morning a female was collecting nesting material by my hedge, so fingers crossed for them. **Hazel Beaney**





## St Peter's has a new door!

On Sunday 9th March we dedicated a magnificent new chancel door at St Peter's, which had been installed just a few days before to replace one that had very definitely seen better days. The door was beautifully made by local John Sharman (shown on the right in the photo above). When it came to fitting the door, John was assisted by Glenn Slater (shown on the left). The door was very kindly and generously paid for by our own Friends of St Peter's and the Friends of Kent Churches. We thank both very much indeed.

At the end of our Eucharist service, we came out into the churchyard and dedicated the door with these words:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation. Through your goodness, through the craftsmanship of John and Glenn, who fashioned and fitted it, and through the generosity of the Friends of St Peter's and the Friends of Kent Churches, we have this new chancel door to thank you for today.

In the faith of Christ, and for the benefit of his holy church, we dedicate this chancel door to the glory of God; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Lindsay Hammond*



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3 May



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The Importance of Being Earnest  
11 May



Dad's Army:  
The Radio Show  
29 May



Romeo & Juliet  
31 August

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## Rolvenden Pre-School Report

With Spring in the air, the children made collage butterflies for March's Gardening Society Spring show.

They have also been finding flowers springing up in the garden and around the village. They are patiently waiting to see if the apple seeds we planted will sprout and grow too.

In the garden we have a new woodland den, built using some leftover branches from our Christmas grotto. We have made our own papier mâché birds' nest for our display board, complete with eggs tucked cosily inside it.

March also saw the annual World Book Day - we hope you all enjoyed using your vouchers to get a special book. Books offer us a great opportunity to spend quality time with children, often sparking conversations and introducing new ideas.

Easter is fast approaching, we wish you all a lovely break to spend time with family.

*To see the activities the children enjoy take a look at our website:  
<https://rolvendenpreschool.yolasite.com>  
our facebook@rolvendenpreschool  
Contact us on rolvendenps@gmail.com with any questions or to arrange a visit.*



E	U	L
L	A	F
C	R	Y

### Get those little grey cells working

See how many words you can make out of these 9 letters.

**Two rules:** Only use each letter once in a word and you must use the middle one.





# FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!

## Cheesecake



Much to my surprise cheesecake goes back over 4,000 years, the earliest known version being found in Ancient Greece. It was served as an energy snack to athletes during the Olympic Games around 776 BCE. At that stage it was a mixture of fresh cheese, flour and honey baked into a cake, a far cry from the dessert we know today. The Romans took the idea and added eggs and baked it under a hot brick, the result resembling a baked cheesecake of today. As with so many foods this was spread around Europe via the Roman Empire.

Over the centuries cheesecake recipes evolved using different ingredients and methods. In the Middle Ages bakers in Europe tried out using other cheeses, the soft fresh ones in particular. As sugar became more available the cakes became sweeter and more refined. During the Renaissance cheesecake became a dessert for the elite and were flavoured with cinnamon and nutmeg which were seen as being exotic at the time. As always recipes varied between regions and countries making their own versions.

In 1872, an American dairyman named William Lawrence from New York was trying to replicate a French soft cheese, it didn't turn out as he expected, but the result of his mistake led to the smooth and dense texture cheese that defines New York cheesecake to this day. During the 1920s and 1930s New York had become the cheesecake capital of the world, largely thanks to iconic bakeries such as Lindy's and Junior's. The classic recipe is made with cream cheese, eggs, sugar and a crust made from graham crackers, ( similar to a digestive biscuit.)

Although American cheesecake is possibly the most famous, nearly all countries have their own versions. Here are a few.





The Italians make it with mascarpone or ricotta, flavoured with lemon zest and may have a sponge or pastry base instead of a biscuit base. It has a lighter and fluffier texture to it.

The German Kasekuchen is a very light cake made with quark which gives a tangy flavour, it has a thin shortbread type base.



Cotton Cheesecake is a very popular Japanese version, it is made with cream cheese, eggs and cornstarch, contains less sugar than European ones and has a light, fluffy, soufflé like texture.

The first cheesecake I tasted was Polish which was absolutely delicious, it is traditionally made with Twarog, a kind of curd cheese not unlike quark, it is usually baked sometimes with sultanas mixed in.

In Spain during the past ten years, Burnt Basque cheesecake has become a sensation. Most cheesecakes are cooked at a low temperature but the Basque is baked at a high temperature so that the top is caramelised and looks slightly burnt. It is very simple without a base, it's just a creamy custard with a caramel top.



The possible variations for cheesecakes are endless. From the textures, flavours, toppings and method of cooking. When baked they tend to be denser and richer than the unbaked which contain gelatine. The common denominator being they all contain eggs, cheese and sugar. Lemon is a common flavouring but orange or lime can be used in the same way. I was thinking of making a white chocolate and hazelnuts one for Easter but am now tempted by a Nutella one!

Depending on your cake, a little cinnamon, ginger or cocoa added to the biscuit base gives a little twist to it.

There are also savoury cheesecakes, I've only made avocado which was good but I have read about herb, using goats cheese or smoked salmon which I've not tried as they really don't appeal to me.

Cheesecakes are enjoyed around the world but perhaps the most in America where they celebrate National Cheesecake Day on 30th July, it's really simple, all you need to do is enjoy eating cheesecake preferably sharing with friends and family.

*Lavinia*



## Rolvenden School Report

When driving into Tenterden in term time, I often see young families hurrying toward the school, a veritable treasure house of learning.

And Rolvenden has had a centre for teaching for hundreds of years, there is a record of a teacher in the parish register in the late sixteenth century, and many wills of that period stress the importance of providing education for children; some good things do not change.

My primary schooling ended in the 1960s, a long time ago, and I am seriously out of date as to how children are taught today and what they learn, but I am curious about the process and would like to know more about how these citizens of the future are being educated.

Creativity, resilience, engagement, aspirations, teamwork and enjoyment are the core values of Rolvenden Primary School. The initials of the values form the word 'create'. Each week one of the values is celebrated and an award, a book, is given to the winners.

World Book Day occurred on March 6 nationally but because of the Year 6 Bikeability training, which some of you may well have witnessed on Thursday, the World Book Day celebrations occurred on Friday, March 7. There was





great excitement about who to dress up as, apparently, information from my source, there were a large number of characters from Alice in Wonderland. The joy of the occasion and the range of the books read can best be illustrated by the group photograph reproduced here. Books are still central to the curriculum, and encouragement is given to read widely and to remember what has been read.

One of the other mottoes of the School is small school, big difference. Just looking at the newsletter reveals the amazing opportunities offered – fencing, wow; the Kidenza music trip; a Minions disco; a visit to Homewood to share in an author visit; chess club and competitions as well as the Bikeability – so important to do that. Amazing personal development is occurring.

The theme maps on the website are enlightening. Take Holly class for example. This term they are focusing upon geography with raging rivers as the theme. Around this theme are other lessons such as computing, religious education, French, design and technology, science, PSHE and PE. Maths and English are always present, and my sources tell me how they do in tests and what they have learnt in the course of the week.

I note that one of the tasks set in term one was to research the following: Stephen Hawking, Libbie Hyman, Marie Maynard, Alexander Fleming, Mary Leakey, Daniel Hale Williams. As I know very little about these, I am drawing this article to a close so that I can ask my sources for enlightenment and perhaps do a little research myself.

**Sue Hatt**

*Note: The photographs with this article have been supplied by Rolvenden School*





**Rolvenden History Group**

Friday, 4 April 2025

## ‘The Wealden Iron Industry from the Iron Age to the Middle Ages’



Jeremy Hodgkinson will be returning to talk to the society about the Wealden iron industry. Julius Caesar noted that iron was being made in the coastal part of south east Britain. The talk explores this early activity and how the Romans exploited this natural resource, making the Weald the most productive region in the province. After a hiatus during the Saxon period, ironmaking in the Weald grew to regional importance in the Middle Ages. The photograph above is the Little Furnace Wood Bloomery.

**Venue: St Mary's Church, Rolvenden**

**Coffee and biscuits**

**7.15pm for 7.30pm start for lecture**

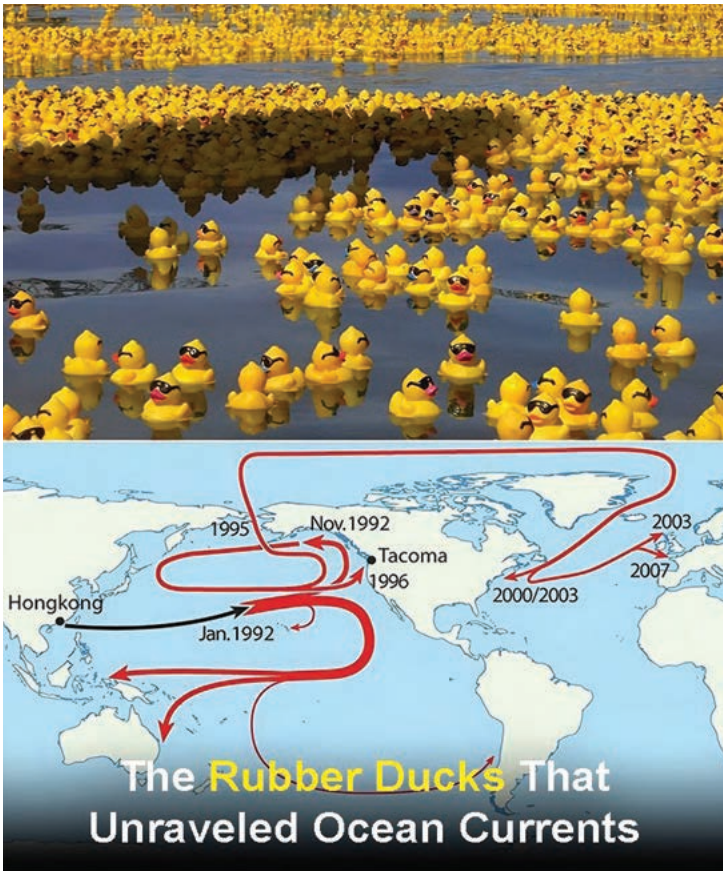
**Everyone welcome - Non-members: £4**

<https://therolvendenhistorygroup.wordpress.com/>





# The Annual Duck Race



The Friends of St Peter's have decided to move the date for this key fund raiser from the August Bank Holiday to Sunday July 27th to run in parallel with much jollity and feasting on the Sports Field, which will be raising funds for the Village Hall.

Meanwhile, I have been doing some research into the origin of the Newenden Flock. The traditional story the little chaps tell one another as they sit in the dark is about a great box of ducks falling from a boat into deep water. Our 600 somehow found themselves in a group and were swept along for many, many, many days and nights, driven by some invisible force.

Those who study Duck Culture

tend to label such tales as pure myth. But every now and then historical facts come to light that might just possibly tie a myth into a real event.

And there was just such an event. A container ship, the Ever Laurel, lost a container carrying 28,800 plastic bath toys, including rubber ducks, in the North Pacific Ocean in January 1992. The ducks, released by the impact from their big box began to drift.

Taking advantage of an amazing research tool, Oceanographer Curtis Ebbesmeyer, based in Seattle, tracked the movements of these "Friendly Floatees" as they drifted across the Pacific, using them as floating markers to study ocean currents.

The rubber ducks travelled across the Pacific, reaching Alaska by 1995, Hawaii and the Pacific Northwest by 1996, and eventually reaching the Atlantic Ocean and even some European shores.

The Newenden Flock is reticent about the final stage of their epic journey from the open ocean to the banks of the Rother in Newenden. But they do believe firmly that they have come to rest here for a very important purpose which climaxes every year with the float down the river. Each Duck joyfully recaptures the pulls of the hidden force, albeit a gentler one. Gone the great sweep of the ocean. This is more of a watery amble, yet somehow it fills each yellow body with a feeling of peace and purpose.

*Special Duck Correspondent*



## Meeting Chum Mey

We have recently returned from a tour of Cambodia followed by a cruise visiting various parts of South-East Asia. The trip was exhausting but fascinating.

One visit in particular, had a profound effect on us, leaving me sobbing as we walked around on the day and reducing me to tears if I attempt to tell the story to anyone since our return. Whilst in Phnom Penh, we visited The Genocide Museum on the site of the former Tuol Sleng prison, known as S-21. This prison was a microcosm of the terror and brutality that took place across Cambodia under the reign of Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge regime in the mid 1970's.

The regime embarked on a campaign of "social cleansing", an attempt to rid the country of its urban and educated classes, leaving the country as a poor peasant society, easier for a dictator to control. Prisoners were brought in to be interrogated, tortured and executed at S-21 – numbers vary but some experts estimate approximately 20,000 died there.

Numbers of survivors have received less scrutiny but the number generally accepted by Western media is 7. We were honoured during our visit to meet one of the only two remaining survivors, Chum Mey, now aged 93.

Chum Mey lost his wife and four children to the Khmer Rouge and he himself was tortured, electrocuted and beaten repeatedly as they tried to force a confession from him that he was working for the CIA. His skills as a mechanic





saved his life as the authorities in the prison realised they could use him to their advantage – the volume of “confessions” being typed up meant that typewriters were constantly needing repair.

Now he spends most of his days at the Museum talking to visitors about his experiences and selling copies of his book to help raise funds for an association he co-founded. Part of the work of this association is to unearth and preserve bones of victims of the “killing fields” and, using DNA techniques to reveal filiations with relatives, enable living relatives to identify the remains of their loved ones and organise ceremonies in their memory.

As we toured the museum, we saw the tiny cells in which prisoners were held, still with the shackles that tethered their feet to the floor and blood stains etched into the tiles. On the lower floors of the building, row after row of pictures displayed, the “booking in” photographs taken of prisoners on arrival, not just adults but a huge number of children, some as young as 2 or 3. We heard horrific details of how prisoners were executed, and we paid tribute to victims at the memorial on site.

As we sat on a bench near the memorial, I commented on how astounding Mans capacity for evil against his fellow man is. I found it difficult to comprehend how Chum Mey could bear to spend time at the museum and re-live his experiences day after day.

Many of the guards at the prison were teenage boys, indoctrinated and following orders to stay alive themselves. Chum Mey does not condemn them, instead asking whether he would have behaved any differently – would he have had the strength to refuse to kill if the penalty was his own death ? This remarkable man explained how he had forgiven his torturers and now considers them victims just like him.

And, although it hurts him to walk among the photos of the thousands that were killed, he must continue to do it and tell their stories for as long as he can.

*Denise Curtain*



## **Tennis Coaching at Rolvenden**

**Open to players of all abilities**

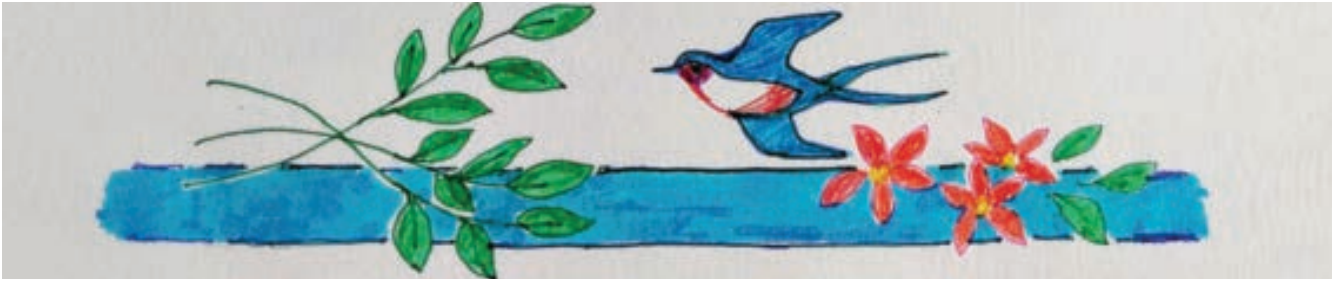
**I am a level 1 qualified tennis coach with 10+ years experience, coaching tennis players of all ages and abilities!**

**Sessions available at Rolvenden tennis club.**

**For more information, please Email me at:**

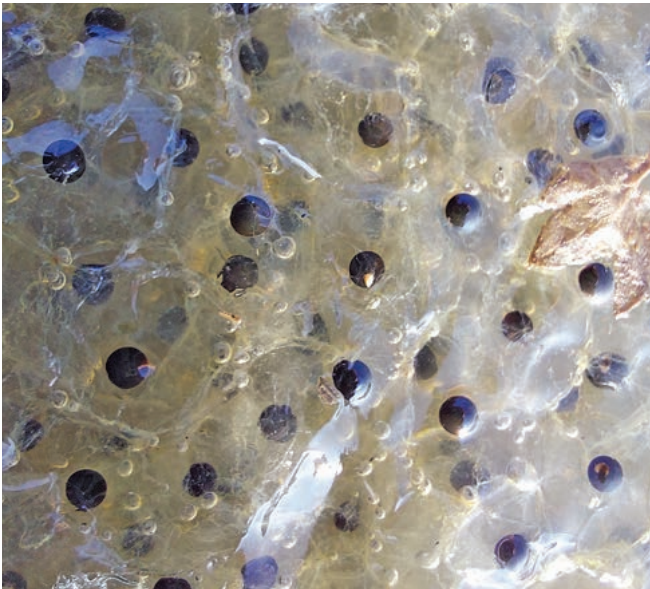
***francescalowe22@outlook.com***

***or call/text me on 07741276212***



## Newenden Wildflower Meadow

I am writing this in the middle of March, and the weather has been wonderfully warm and sunny, which although extremely pleasant is not the temperature I used to experience this early in spring in my youth, and it's a bit disconcerting. However, it is the time for our native common frog to come out of hibernation and head for ponds and scrapes to find a mate and produce this year's young beginning in the form of frogspawn.



I have been out looking for frogspawn in the shallow waters alongside the scrape in our wildflower meadow for a couple of weeks, and last week found two masses, each in an area about a meter square, full of varying size jellylike clumps in which you can see the round forms of hundreds of small black eggs. The frogspawn is in the water but visible on the surface. Frogs prefer to lay their spawn in shallow water, so it's easily visible. The female frog lays thousands of eggs, but only about one in fifty will survive.

Within a few days the black egg has begun to change and started to take the shape of the recognisable tadpole with lengthening body and tail shape, and breathing through external gills behind the head. Still tiny but changing rapidly it will become the tadpole we all recognise in a matter of days. In about two months it will have formed back legs, then front legs, and its tail will be absorbed into its body, and it will be ready, as a miniature frog, to leave the scrape by around early summer.





Our Common Frog is still common, though numbers have dropped in some areas of Britain due to disappearance of habitat through intensive farming and filling in of ponds during house building. It's good to find that our wildflower meadow is a spawning site for the Common Frog.

*The Friends of Newenden Meadow have their first AGM on Friday 16th May at 7pm, in St. Peter's Church, Newenden. Do come and see what has been happening in the meadow this last year. The meeting is open to Friends and non-members. Come along and join us for a very enjoyable evening.*

*Jillian Eldridge*

## Rolvenden Parish Council - April



The Parish Council met and considered a number of planning applications which were mainly alterations or extensions or adaptations to existing structures and approved them.

We have forwarded a number of pothole issues around the roads of the parish to KCC and hope that this will lead to necessary repairs.

The Allotments have received their fruit trees which have now been planted as part of the Kings project. The AGM for the allotments will be held on Saturday 15 March and council representatives will be present.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan is continuing to make steady progress. Alison Eardley, our planning consultant, has made a number of recommendations as part of the roadmap. This was backed up by talks held at the Village Hall on Saturday 8 March in which she was able to talk through the process in a clear and simple manner. About 40 members of the Parish attended and some have offered to join the steering committee to give much needed assistance. We will be holding further presentations as we make progress.

We continue to make improvements to the management of the Thoburn Trust, with bank accounts coming under appropriate financial control. We continue to work towards our obligations as Trustees, with regard to Charity Commission registration of the gifted lands.

***The Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 24 April 2025 at 7.30pm in the village hall.***

***Please do get in touch if you have any questions or suggestions for the Parish Council.***

***Louise Goldsmith, Parish Clerk, E: [clerk@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
T: 07900 693572***



# Keeping Biodiversity on the Right Track

Extracts from Keith Barron's article



Newenden has its Meadow Project, Rolvenden has the Thoburn Fields, yet we are part of something altogether bigger: the urgent preservation imperative to restore nature. The Kent and East Sussex Railway (K&ESR) runs through both Rolvenden and Newenden and is also actively involved in nature conservation. Keith Barron's eloquent article in *The Tenterden Terrier* provides information about the activities of the K&ESR. He has taken the lead in developing a biodiversity strategy and liaising with local nature-based groups.

Since the 1970s when the railway preservation movement began, there has been massive biodiversity loss. Heritage railways can play a part in increasing biodiversity because they are green corridors linking habitats. As an educational charity, it makes sense to inform and educate passengers about the history of the K&ESR, the local history and landscape and about the natural wealth that lies just outside the carriage windows.

Like a rural byway, the line winds and unfolds between banks of flowers and successive blooms of blackthorn, hawthorn, elder and dog rose. In winter it is relatively undisturbed and even in summer there are quiet days. Almost undisturbed birds perch and call, while clusters of blooming flowers attract swarms of butterflies and damsel flies.

Last year the K&ESR commissioned Kent Wildlife Trust Consultancy Services to undertake a breeding birds and a bumblebee survey of the line. The results were remarkable, confirming that our scrub and tree-lined route running through remote Kent and Sussex countryside is rich in biodiversity. There are





over seventy species of wildflowers growing on embankments and in ditches; dense scrub supports around thirty-eight of the eighty-nine bird species which were identified (seventeen of which are red-listed and twenty-two amber listed). In its 10.5 miles the line supports an extraordinary sixty yellow hammer territories – a red-listed bird in serious decline nationally. Even more importantly high conservation status species

such as nightingales and turtle doves are being supported by lineside vegetation. Fifteen different bumblebees were identified, including two rare ruderal species. The railway is effectively supporting a linear nature reserve!

The surveys were commissioned for a number of reasons. There was already support for nature among many of the railway's groups. Station gardens were being tended with bee-friendly flowers. Bird boxes and bee hotels had been erected. More importantly, the gang responsible for managing lineside vegetation and maintaining a safe railway had designated itself as 'Forestry and Conservation' and had planted thousands of whips provided by Ashford Borough Council around the perimeters of stations and sidings.

Biodiversity surveys would put this on a scientific basis. As the railway is an educational charity, it makes sense to inform and educate passengers about the natural wealth just outside the train window.

The K&ESR is planning to develop a sort of I-Spy booklet for passengers. The PR jargon would be all about 'enhancing the visitor experience', but our motivation is not so utilitarian. We want to protect nature for its own sake and set an example for other heritage railways. It is heartening to discover how many of the railway's members (most of whom are volunteers) are excited by the surveys' revelations.



*Thanks are due to Keith Barron for allowing us to use his article. Next month further extracts from Keith's article will show more of what is being done to encourage biodiversity and restore natural habitats.*



# Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch

April 2025

Our focus this month continues with fraud prevention.

Kent Fraud Alert System



## 1. Distraction theft:



What is distraction theft? As thoughtful members of our community, we like stepping in to help and tend to trust people. These days we need to be careful when visiting our bank or withdrawing cash from cash machines. Victims in Kent, aged 49 – 82, were engaged in conversation by people they did not know before their cash was reportedly stolen. Investigators have tracked down and charged multiple suspects in Kent. Remain vigilant when withdrawing cash

from banks and cash machines. You can always ask your bank to take you into an office out of public sight to receive your money

## 2. Job application scam

If you receive a text message inviting you to apply for a job paying a considerable daily rate and to click on a link, it's likely to be a scam. Clicking on the link will take you to a realistic looking website where fraudsters steal personal and financial data. Always be suspicious of too good to be true offers. For further information and advice about recruitment scams, visit Action Fraud <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/a-z-of-fraud/recruitment-scams>

## 3. Courier fraud: fictional law enforcement officers



■ If you have been asked to withdraw money from a cash machine by somebody saying they are a police officer, this is a scam.

**The police or your bank will never:**

- ask for bank details such as PIN numbers
- ask you to transfer or withdraw sums of money
- send a courier to collect your bank cards, cash or PIN

**If you are unsure about a call or visitor you have received:**

- don't give out any personal or financial information
- hang up or close your front door to check the caller's identity





- if they phoned you, wait 10 minutes (before you use the phone again or use a different phone) in case they stay on the line
- contact their company yourself or dial 101 for the police – do not call a number they have provided
- report suspicious activity straightaway

If you think that you may have been a victim of these or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

For further information about Fraud, visit our website at Advice about fraud Kent: <https://www.kent.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/>

You will also find valuable information from the Home Office at <https://stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk/>

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## **Remember our scam awareness message of ABC**

**Never Assume**

**Never Believe a call is genuine**

**Always Confirm.**

If you get a call from a company, always ring them back via a trusted number and confirm that the offer is genuine.

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## **Reporting crime to the police**

Serious crimes in progress dial 999, other incidents via 101 (phone) or online using Live chat: <https://www.kent.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/>

Hearing or speech impairments. If you are deaf or have a speech impairment and you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service, you can use the textphone service: 18000 or text 999.

*Siân Reeves*

*Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch*

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## **Before we lose it completely – The truth about the Hot Cross Bun**



Hot cross buns are a traditional Easter treat, particularly enjoyed on Good Friday, with their origins rooted in both religious and cultural traditions, marked by the cross symbolizing the crucifixion of Jesus and the spices representing the spices used to anoint his body. So says the AI on Google.

I would add that they are traditionally eaten at the breaking of the Good Friday Fast, some time after 3pm the time when Jesus was said to have died.



Scan the code to be taken to the Kent  
Domestic Abuse support website



# There is NO excuse for domestic abuse

If you or someone you know is being physically,  
sexually, economically or emotionally abused by  
another person, this is domestic abuse.

If you are in immediate danger,  
or suspect someone else is,  
call 999

**Victim Support: 0808 16 89 111**

**The Samaritans: 0845 79 09 090**

**Childline: 0800 1111**

**Mankind: 01823 334 244**

**[domesticabuseservices.org.uk](http://domesticabuseservices.org.uk)**

Please act NOW and call any of these numbers if  
you feel unsafe or suspect someone you know may  
be at risk of domestic abuse or bullying.





## Organisations here to help

EC30, a coffee shop and so much more! For more information  
email: [info@ec30.co.uk](mailto:info@ec30.co.uk), also see [www.ec30.co.uk](http://www.ec30.co.uk). EC30,  
Recreation Ground Rd, Tenterden.

Open: Mon- Fri 9am – 4pm; Sat 10am to noon.

The Tenterden Family Foodbank EC30 times as above.

Food boxes for people suddenly in difficulty due to  
late credit payments, unexpected bills, loss of job etc.  
[info@themildredtrust.org](mailto:info@themildredtrust.org) or [info@ec30.co.uk](mailto:info@ec30.co.uk), phone 07745 694748  
Emergencies only please call: 07805 840493

**For further available help with the weekly  
shop, please see the next two pages**



**Kent Savers for affordable loans [www.kentsavers.co.uk](http://www.kentsavers.co.uk)**

## Regular Events

KCC Mobile Library Service visits Rolvenden every  
2 weeks on Tuesday:

- High Street between 11:30am and Noon
  - Monypenny between 12:10 and 12:55pm
- To join phone: 03000 41 31 31

For those living with short-term memory loss and their supporters

- Memory Café and Friends every Friday  
Meets every Friday 2 – 4pm at St Andrews Church Hall,  
Ashford Road, Tenterden
- Musical Memories meets every Tuesday 10:45am – 12 noon  
Highbury Hall, Highbury Lane, Tenterden,  
a singing for health group.
- Monthly Lunch Club Meets 4th Wednesday 1:15 for 1:30pm  
Groves Restaurant, Tenterden Garden Centre Reading St.  
For all 3: Contact Jan Bridger  
Tel: 01580 762932 Mob: 07445971791

**Tenterden Parkinsons Café** Please note that the monthly Parkinson's  
Support Group meeting is now scheduled in the afternoon between  
2:30-4pm every third Monday of the month.

We are still meeting at the EC30 cafe at Tenterden Recreation Ground  
Road (next to Ivy Court Surgery).

CARM Rolvenden Meeting Point, every second Wednesday 10:00am  
to noon in Monypenny Lounge, drop in and meet friends old and new.  
<https://carmromneymarsh.org.uk/>



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**TUESDAYS: 5.15-6.15PM**  
EC30, Recreation Ground Road,  
Tenterden, TN30 6HT

**FRIDAYS: 9.30AM-10.30AM**  
Tenterden Family Hub, TN30 6RA  
(From 24th January)

Families are welcome to attend one session per week

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Affordable food, cleaning and hygiene products  
(You pay a minimum of £1.50 for every  
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**MONDAYS 1.45PM-2.45 PM**  
Tenterden Leisure Centre  
(From 20th January)



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JANUARY 2025**

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SESSIONS, SORTING STOCK, COLLECTING DONATIONS,  
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**WE ARE ALWAYS IN NEED OF FOOD DONATIONS TOO...  
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## Refuse Collection

Waste food bins, small black with orange lid, are emptied weekly. All other bins, grey, green and brown are emptied fortnightly. To see which of your bins are emptied when type 'Ashford BC Find my bin' into your web browser. You have 2 search tools:

- Grey (household) or Green (recycling)
- Brown (Garden refuse)

You can also download a calendar.

Collection dates do not vary through the year except across the Christmas New Year Holiday season.

Please keep an eye out for neighbours who may not be connected to the web. If neighbours are not getting the bins right have a friendly word and tell them which bins to put out when.

For new arrangements on such things as clothes, shoe and electrical items please see the Ashford BC – How do I dispose of?

- Yellow sacks, where supplied, will be collected weekly
- For all queries about recycling or waste disposal:

On-line, see ABC website: [www.ashford.gov.uk/waste](http://www.ashford.gov.uk/waste)

Telephone ABC on Tel 01233 330646

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Our parishes lie in the Parliamentary constituency of the Weald of Kent

Our MP is Katie Lam

Email: [katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk)

Office tel: 01580 388 344

Website: <https://www.katieforkent.com/>

### NEWENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

[www.newenden-pc.gov.uk/](http://www.newenden-pc.gov.uk/)

Parish Clerk: Mrs Lauren Dobson.

C/o Carpens, Hobbs lane,

Beckley. East Sussex, TN31 6TT

Telephone: 01797 260364

e-mail: [enquiries@newenden-pc.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@newenden-pc.gov.uk)

*Annual Parish Meeting and Annual*

*Village Meeting will be on Tuesday*

*6th May in St Peter's. Times tba.*

### ROLVENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

[www.rolvendenparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.rolvendenparishcouncil.org.uk)

Parish Clerk: Mrs Louise Goldsmith,

5 Artisan Road, Headcorn, TN27 9AZ

Telephone: 07900 693572

email:

[clerk@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk)

*Annual Parish Meeting will be at*

*7.30pm, Thursday 24 April in*

*Rolvenden Village Hall.*

*Members of the public have a statutory right to attend  
as observers. At the discretion of the Parish Council  
Chair people may be invited to speak.*





# Parish Magazine Essential Information:

Articles and supporting photographs: email to judyannvinson@gmail.com. Photos for the cover should be emailed as a jpeg in colour or monochrome to Trevor Lodge on stmaryrolv@aol.com. To keep the cover photos in tune with the month, Trevor likes to keep seasonal photos on hold waiting for the season to come round the following year. Any keen photographers who want to contribute, please send your photos to Trevor.

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE MAY ISSUE IS 5:00pm TUESDAY 15TH APRIL**

**Note for distributors: ★ Rolvenden Magazines available for collection on Saturday 26th April. ★ Newenden Magazines available for collection on Sunday 27th April.**

The online version will be available from 1st May accessed via the Parish Council websites for Newenden and Rolvenden Parish Councils, for which arrangement we are most grateful. *Judy V*



## Justine Oliver Foot Care Practitioner



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**email: justineoliver.fhp@gmail.com**

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[info@greatbarnweddings.com](mailto:info@greatbarnweddings.com)

Hole Park Estate, Rolvenden, Kent

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**Tel: 01797 252166 [www.thewhitehartnewenden.co.uk](http://www.thewhitehartnewenden.co.uk)**

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