

Rolvenden & Newenden *Parish Magazine*

2026
JULY
ONLINE





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Minister's Letter for July comes from Reverend Henry Setright

On 3 July we celebrate the Feast of St Thomas the Apostle. Yes, "Doubting Thomas" who, when his friends said they had seen Jesus risen from the dead, told them he would need physical proof before he believed it (John 20: 24-29). And when the resurrected Jesus finally appeared before him, Thomas did something unique. At Christ's invitation, he dared physically to touch the sites of his wounds (John 20: 27).



Jesus commented that while Thomas had seen, and then believed, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed". But Thomas' new, evidence-based belief was now very strong – it allowed him immediately to acclaim Jesus not just as 'Lamb of God', 'King of Israel', 'Holy One of God', 'Anointed', or 'Saviour' - all descriptions used by the other disciples – but simply and rightly as 'My Lord and my God'. And after that, it was Thomas' faith that drove him to be one of the boldest and most effective spreaders of the Gospel – by tradition travelling as far east as India, preaching the Word – before submitting to a martyr's death.

Thomas was not alone in doubting. Peter – 'the rock upon whom I will build my Church' – fled the scene of the crucifixion, denying he even knew Jesus – and only after Christ rose again did he return, faith restored, to fulfil his destiny. Yet Peter is not called 'Denying Peter' but 'the Rock'. Poor 'Doubting Thomas' is stuck with that name – but his story ends with 'Believing Thomas' – with his enduring faith confirmed, and a legacy of witness not just of the physical proof of the resurrection, but of a life lived in faith. Arguably, like Peter's denial, Thomas' need to find proof for belief was ordained by God as necessary to serve His purpose - not just to embolden Thomas for his works in the years to come, but to create evidence that would inform and affirm the belief of future generations of Christians down the millennia.

So, in 2026, we who "have not seen and have believed" should be very grateful to Thomas for his doubt, and for being bold enough to test the evidence of the resurrection – not just for himself, but for all of us too. Thomas is one of the foremost in the "great cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12: 1) whose testimony allows us, who have not ourselves seen, to throw off doubt, and to embrace a faith that is corroborated and strengthened. On the Feast of St Thomas the Apostle, we can surely give thanks for that.

Yours in Christ
Henry





St Peter and St Mary Flower Rotas July 2026

Sunday	St Mary	St Peter
July 05	Elizabeth M	Rosie Edmonds
July 12	Elizabeth M	Rhoda Smith
July 19	Sylvia K	Rhoda Smith
July 26	Sylvia K	Rhoda Smith
Contact:	Sylvia Kellet 01580 240463 Sylviakellett@eplusmail.com	Rosie Edmonds 01797 252196 rosie.edmonds@hotmail.com

Brass Cleaning at St Mary: Lin Lodge

St. Peter's Church: Normally open between 10.00 and 5.00pm.
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.

❖ From the Registers ❖

Interment of Ashes

12th May Lady Peggy Voss Speed at St Mary's

5th June Christopher Spencer-Philips at Charing Crematorium
Followed by a Memorial Service at St Mary's

Baptism

31st May Wren Garman at St Peter's



Magazine Subscriptions and Donations

Thank you to everyone who has paid their subscription or, as an online reader, has made a donation. If you still owe a sub here's how to pay:

- **Payments by cash, or cheque** payable to PCC of St Mary the Virgin Rolvenden, this payment should be placed in an envelope with your name and Magazine sub 26 written on it.
- In **Newenden**, please post through the door of: Janet Broadbent-Kempton, 3 Church Cottages, Beech Road, Newenden.
- In **Rolvenden**, please take to St Mary's and post through the door on the far side of the church when you come through the glass door
- **Payment by BACS**, the details are: 'PCC of St Mary the Virgin Rolvenden' CAF Bank, Sort Code: 405240 Ac Number: 00030089 Please include as the reference: your surname + Mag 26

Judy V 01580 241504 – judyannvinson@gmail.com



The Church of England

IN TENTERDEN, ROTHER AND OXNEY SERVICES IN CHURCH AND ONLINE DURING JULY

Sunday 5th July Fifth Sunday after Trinity

9:30am St Peter's Newenden Eucharist	No 8:00am St Mary's Rolvenden 11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden Eucharist, see page 6
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Sunday 12th July Sixth Sunday after Trinity

9:30am St Peter's Newenden Eucharist	11am St Mary's Rolvenden Eucharist
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Sunday 19th July Seventh Sunday after Trinity

9:30 am St Peter's Newenden Eucharist 6:00pm <i>Benefice Choral Evenson at Stone</i>	11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden Matins
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Sunday 26th July Eighth Sunday after Trinity

9:30 am St Peter's Newenden Morning Praise	11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden Eucharist with Baptist
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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.

Holy Communion will be celebrated at 10am in
St Michael's Church every Wednesday and in

*St Mildred's every Thursday. The service will
last about twenty-five minutes.*

*St Mildred's, Tenterden Online services,
will be found at YouTube and also can be
accessed through our free daily bulletin,
Connect Up!*

*To receive **Connect Up!** please visit our
website: www.tentroxchurches.co.uk,
and subscribe.*

***And remember, our churches are open every day – a haven of peace and quiet
where you can sit and think, read, pray and light a candle if you so wish.***





What's so special about... *that first Sunday Service in St Mary's*

The pattern of services is pretty regular in Newenden and Rolvenden. If you know about the pattern, the entry on the calendar for 5th July for St Mary's will look doubly odd. The 8:00am Prayer Book Holy Communion is missing and the 11:00am Celtic Morning Prayer has become a Eucharist.

But this is a Eucharist of considerable significance. Henry Setright will celebrate the Eucharist for the first time, having been ordained Priest in Canterbury Cathedral the day before. We shall also be welcoming Alan Gostelow and Kharin Setright, both having been ordained deacons in the Cathedral.

All three have the status of Curate, meaning they are still learning the priestly ministry ropes. But Henry has now reached the point where he can do all the things we associate with being a vicar, including celebrating communion and conducting weddings and baptisms.

It is a blessing to the benefice that we will have an additional priest with two more in the wings. In strictly person power terms, the Ministry Team will benefit from the increased capability this provides in covering services across the nine churches.

For Henry, Alan and Kharin the whole weekend will be the passing of a deeply significant milestone in their individual faith journeys. It will be a joy and a privilege to worship with them in St Mary's ...and to celebrate afterwards. *Judy V*

St. Mary's Flower Festival

The Festival will soon be here, please join in, we would welcome help with the following:

- Contact Sue Dyer 01580 240925 to help with providing Refreshments: by making delicious cakes, from buns and tray bakes to gateaux for sale over the weekend. Also by offering to help in the kitchen and clearing tables for a session on Saturday, Sunday or Monday. Consider making some extra Jam or donate surplus Fruit and Veg for the Produce stall.
- Contact Jan Gambier 01580 243086 if you would like to have a table of Arts, Crafts or Cards over the weekend, or for a day.
- Bring saleable hard and soft back books to church during July until the second week of August so they may be sorted in preparation for the bookstall.

Contact Sylvia Kellett on 01580 240463 if you would like to welcome our visitors to church during the Festival, or distribute posters and leaflets far and wide in your travels beforehand.

Sign-up sheets for all sessions over the Festival will be available in church from July. *Thank you, Sylvia*

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Rolvenden Primary School

Casting an eye over this week's newsletter, I can see how busy the school is and what careful co-ordination is needed to ensure a balanced curriculum with enrichment activities occurring so that the final term of this academic year can be joyfully concluded.

Finding Nemo Jr's performance schedule is included and one can imagine the amount of commitment being given by students and staff to ensure that this is a memorable and engaging activity that culminates in an enjoyable performance in July.

Hazel Class' knowledge organiser shows that they will be finding out about:

- Henry Moore's sculptures, a very topical subject owing to the Kew Gardens' Exhibition - Henry Moore: Monumental Nature;
- dragons and storytelling,
- as well as key vocabulary and concepts relating to evolution, which include references to adaptive traits and inherited traits.

Oak class have as a theme 'Extreme Living' which includes researching the impact of climate and location as well as observing the world around them. Being able to ask the right questions and reflect upon observations are such key life skills, as is taking responsibility for actions. It is so heartening to see the breadth and depth of the curriculum, that emotional intelligence and life skills are addressed as well as the traditional academic disciplines.



Willow Class visited Dover Castle and were able to experience the backdrop to the Norman and Tudor history that they have studied, as well as reflect upon the Roman lighthouse. Elsewhere in their programme, they have been considering the formulation of scientific questions and studying the impact of Marie Curie on science.

The end of the school year is rapidly approaching and year six have gone on a residential week in Norfolk and various transition days are noted as preparation is made for the children who will be moving on to their new secondary schools, and for children who will be entering Rolvenden Primary. New journeys are starting and the children have their staff to guide, encourage and support them. *Sue Hatt*



Rolvenden Pre-School News

The summer term is well underway and the children have been watching their garden come into bloom. The highlight is the strawberries, which have been used to make some strawberry milk and also eaten fresh for a snack. We have used some of the other flowers and leaves in our mud kitchen and craft activities. We entered a swarm of buzzy bees into the Gardening Society Summer Show children's section. The photo here shows another artwork session, this time ladybirds and fish.

With the rain this month the children have been able to explore the difference between wet sand and dry sand, using it to build sandcastles and making tracks through it with their trucks. We had a visit to the local allotments to see all the fantastic growing going on there.

The children have been focussing on numeracy skills, improving their counting with songs, rhymes, craft and games. We have six children moving on to Primary School this year with a few spaces still available for new children to join us in September.

We also have a new website launching soon - watch this space for details!
You can contact us by email at rolvendenps@gmail.com or call 07729718181



Rolvenden PCC supporting Bees for Development

Fun for Bears and their Humans of all ages



Rolvenden Churchyard

Saturday 18th July 10:00am to 12 Noon

**Give your Bear a dare-devil thrill on the Rolvenden Zip
Wire Extraordinaire**

Certificates issued to all whooshing Bears

- **Brave Bears – ages of Ted + Human = less than 50**
- **Veteran Bears – ages of Ted + Human = 50 or more**

Name the Bear*Find the Honey*Find the Marmalade

Cold drinks and Cookies Stall

or Bring your own Teddy Bear's Picnic

**Every pound we raise for Bees for Development
will go to supporting people, protecting bees, and
preserving biodiversity around the world.**



Friends of St Peter's - A Final Reminder

Sunday 26th July: Friends of St Peter's very short AGM in church at 5:00pm. Then at 5:30pm it's all aboard the Dannie Lee, with Captain Seal at the helm and the Annual River Cruise sets off downstream from the Lime Wharf.

Essentials:

- book your passage early with Alan Seal by phoning 0797034611,
- bring a picnic with a bottle or equivalent, glasses and corkscrew if needed,
- extra warm layer for when the sun sets,
- a cushion, optional but the seats are pretty solid.

And hot off the press: The Annual Duck Race will be on Sunday, 23rd August, 3:00pm. Watch out for duck sellers ready to swap your cash for a duck or three. Seriously though, £2 stake for a £100 win = you have to have a go!

Alan Seal



Weather and Nature Notes

The weather has been rather changeable; for those that like the heat we had record breaking May temperatures for a week, and with it came water supply problems. A Texan lady visiting the garden told me whilst hiding under an umbrella for shade, that it was hotter here than it was where she lived. Then came cooler temperatures with much needed rain, accompanied by some gusty winds at times and the odd hail shower. May only managed to produce 20.5mm, but June has made a good start in refreshing vegetation after such a dry spring, although as I write more heat is on the way.

Meadow brown butterflies are the most numerous butterflies near any grassy area at this time of year, on a breezy day a section of bramble hedge in flower that was sheltered from the wind had quite a collection of them feeding along with bumblebees. In my hedge at home sparrows frequently visit, inspecting under the leaves and new shoot tips for aphids or other insects, also they sometimes fly up to the window frames to pick off spiders as do blue and great tits. With aphids in short supply for young birds, I always leave them on plants for the birds, ladybirds, hoverflies and all the other insects that feed on them.



Young blackbirds are benefitting from the damp ground; on my lawn they are getting a good start to their independent lives now they no longer look to their parents for food. They frequently visit turning leaves or grass to find slugs etc, or stop and listen then pull at a worm. At work I have a very tame robin that keeps an eye on me to see what I may disturb. It knows when I am going for my tea break and often 'races' me to the door, or soon appears. It waits on the doormat for a few little crumbs, or sometimes bounces in and looks about, then fills its beak, flies off and quickly returns as it is feeding young at the moment. Recently a little short-tailed vole has also sniffed out this food source too, with cautious jerky movements it appears and nibbles at the crumbs, however, robin is not happy sharing and shoos it off. Looking to the skies, I have only counted five swifts at the church so far this year, I believe they were a little later than average, but I have seen them entering the bell tower so they are hopefully nesting.

When cleaning out the pond filtration system at work, I quite often find a few horse leeches hidden amongst the filter media. They are quite big about 3" long and can expand up to about 6". Although they are large, these ones are harmless to humans and all mammals, as their jaws can't penetrate skin. They



eat worms and other small aquatic larvae which they swallow whole, also carrion, like dead fish. There are several species native to the UK most do not feed on blood, of the few that do only the medicinal leeches will take human blood and you are very unlikely to encounter them. Due to over collection historically when they were often used, and modern environmental

reasons, they are now rare and very localised. In the 1930s my maternal grandmother, who suffered several strokes, refused treatment with them which would have probably saved her young life. Doctors knew the leech uses an anti-coagulant to keep the blood flowing so it can drink, and aspirin wasn't available then. Leeches are an indicator species and very sensitive to any pollution, they may lack the cute factor but are part of a healthy ecosystem.

Hazel Beaney



Newenden Meadow Summer Event 2026

On July 11th We are holding our third Meadow Event from 1- 4pm
The Selmes Field, Lossenham Lane, Newenden.



Do come and see us and bring your children to find out how things are doing in Newenden Wildflower Meadow.

This year we have a great range of things to do.

We are delighted that Peter and Morgan Greenhalf will be joining us. They will be bringing their nets and demonstrating how to catch bumblebees and identify

them, before letting them go unharmed. We hope there will be lots of bumblebees around and that Peter might find the rare Brown Banded Bumblebee as he did last year.

We will also have Jane Hand visiting, who is an expert at identifying moths, and she will be opening up the moth trap to reveal the moths caught the previous night in a nearby garden. We hope there will be many colourful moths to see. They will then be released unharmed later in the day when there are fewer birds around looking out for a tasty snack.

I will be leading a walk around the field pointing out the wildflowers that we

now have in the field and explaining their importance both as a food plant for certain caterpillars and beetles, and how their flowers provide food for pollinating insects. We can also look for lizards, grass snakes, slow worms and voles when we take up the tarpaulin which was put down earlier in the spring to keep the grass down so that we can sow wild flower seed later in the year.

Some of the flowers in the field this month are, Meadow Vetchling, Birds Foot Trefoil, Knapweed, Red and White Clover, Dyers Greenweed, Meadow Cranesbill, Musk Mallow, Hedge Bedstraw, Yellow Rattle and Oxeye Daisy. Hopefully the Purple Loosestrife and Marsh Mallow will be flowering in July too. There will be cold refreshments with cake and biscuits throughout the afternoon, a cake stall, a bookstall, a raffle, and a children's corner which includes a drawing competition and various games.

The important thing is that everyone has a great time and feels they can come and walk through the meadow anytime along our lovely mown path, sit on the seat and listen to the birds and watch the butterflies.

Don't forget to put the 11th July on your calendar. We look forward to seeing you there.

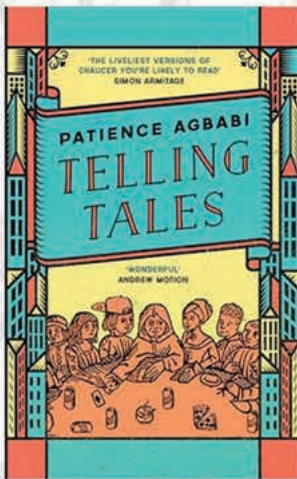
Jillian Eldridge and the Newenden Meadow Team



Tenterden Literary Society

Monday, 13th July 2026

Charles Humphery on Chaucer's
The Wife of Bath



Zadie
Smith
the Wife
of
Willeston



Charles will consider one of his foremost literary heroines and explore, 650 years after her creation, why she remains such an important character today.

Venue: The Saddlery at The White Lion, Tenterden

6.50pm for the lecture which starts at 7pm

Members have free entry, visitors £4 each

tenterdenliterarysociety.wordpress.com

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Gardenscape



The Big Sound Collective

Kent's powerhouse 18–20-piece band delivering Big Band, Jazz, Pop, Soul, Latin and Funk with the punch and polish of classic 1950s–80s studio ensembles.

Saturday 11th July 2026
7:30 (doors open at 6:30)
St Mildred's Church, Tenterden



Tickets: £18 online*, at Webbs,
or on the door
Bar available
www.myfosm.org

*online tickets
are subject to
a booking fee





FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!

Blackberries

I have very happy memories of blackberry picking, first with my father who took it very seriously setting off kitted out in suitable clothing and armed with a long hooked stick to pull down brambles, the biggest and



best always being the most inaccessible, and then with my children and grandchildren, who I think ate more than they put in the basket.

Blackberries belong to the genus *Rubus*, which is part of the Rosacea family, which also includes raspberries and dewberries. Unlike many cultivated fruits that originated from a single seed, blackberries are made up of many closely related species and hybrids that grow naturally across Europe, North America, part of South America and Asia.

There is evidence that suggests that blackberries have been consumed by humans since prehistoric times. Their

widespread availability in hedgerows and woodlands made them an accessible food source for early communities.

In ancient times blackberries were valued not only as a food but for their medicinal properties. Greek physicians, including Hippocrates, recorded the use of blackberry plants in traditional remedies. The fruit, leaves, bark and roots were all used in remedies for a variety of ailments, including digestive problems and infections.

During the Middle Ages, blackberry plants were often grown in monastery gardens. In European folklore the blackberry bush also had symbolic meanings. In some traditions it was believed that blackberries should not be picked after a certain date in autumn because they had become unsuitable for consumption due to supernatural influences.



There is no scientific basis to these beliefs but it does reflect the fruits strong place in cultural traditions.

During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries the commercial cultivation of the blackberry really expanded. Plant breeders developed thornless varieties, better disease resistance, larger fruit with more flavour. Today they are grown worldwide and are an important part of the berry industry. Although to me the most delicious will always be the ones I pick while out walking my dog.

Blackberries are full of nutrients and low in calories. They are particularly rich in dietary fibre, soluble and insoluble. They are an excellent source of vitamin C. They also provide vitamins K and E, potassium, folate, magnesium and calcium, and have a high concentration of antioxidants. Blackberries are very versatile in the kitchen. Eat them fresh on their own or add to fruit salad, great for breakfast added to porridge, oats, yoghurt, pancakes or in smoothies. In baking they are popular added to muffins, cakes, tarts and crumbles, on a chilly autumn day I'm not sure you can beat a good blackberry and apple crumble.

If you've picked loads, blackberry jelly is very delicious on toast or scones. The jelly can be served with game dishes or cheese.

Blackberry bushes also provide ecological benefits. The flowers supply nectar and pollen for bees and pollinating insects, while the dense thorny growth provides shelter and nesting sites for birds and small mammals, and the berries a food.

Lavinia



The page on the Bramble in the Juliana Anicia Codex, an early 6th Century book of herbal remedies from Constantinople detailing the therapeutic value of the fruit, ripe and unripe, flowers and leaves.

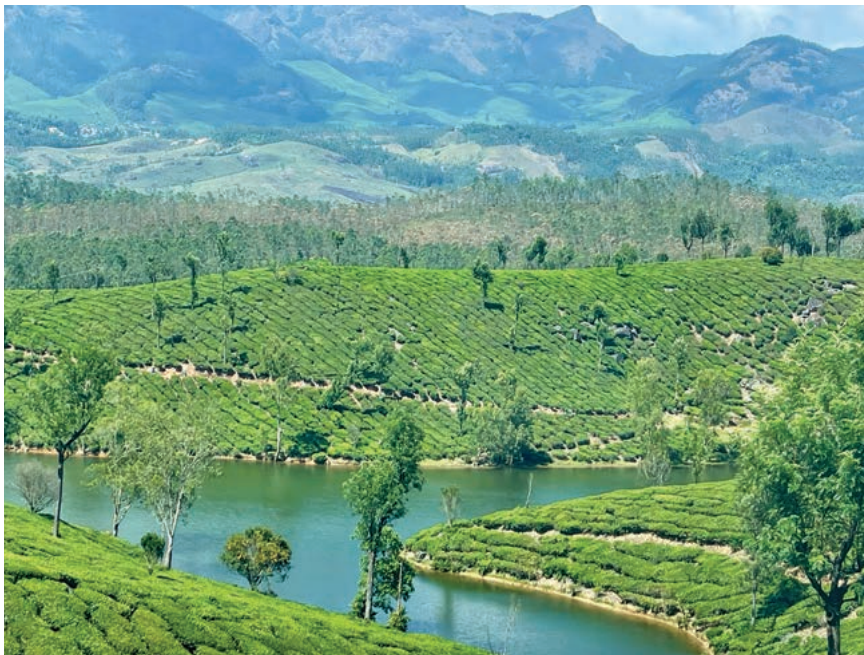


Journeys

A Journey through Southern India part 2

As we moved out of the cities, we experienced a visit to a tiny silk factory in a remote village, again a total lack of health and safety, but it worked. Every form of transport was employed, internal flights (Air India did lose our luggage), main line trains, narrow gauge railways, buses, tuk-tuks, rickshaws and boats. We had lunch cooked for us by a local family in their home, tea plantation visits, ornate temples and palaces. A visit to the stunning Maharaja's Palace in Mysore required much security checking to even gain access to the gardens, bag searches and body scanners – not so though for the two random cows that just wandered in without a second glance.

We made an ad hoc visit to a primary school (no safeguarding regulations) where the children were delighted to see us, saluting us and very keen to



practise their English. The scenery along the route of the "Toy Train" from the hill station of Ooty to Coonoor was spectacular, tea plantations clothing the mountainsides like a rich green velvet carpet, and the cooler climate was a welcome relief for a few days.

As we travelled through the Eravikulam National Park, we saw wild elephants, spotted deer, various antelope, a sloth

bear and there were monkeys everywhere. Upon check in at our hotel in the park we were warned to always keep the door locked to our room as the monkeys have learned how to open the doors and, even if you are in the room, will just let themselves in and help themselves to your belongings.

In Cochin we attended a Kathakali dance performance. All the parts are played by men, with elaborate costumes and very complex face paint, and the story (a tale of seduction, assault and murder) is told by small hand and rapid eye movements, not that easy to follow!



At the start of the show, we noticed a very slim young man with beautiful facial bone structure, and we all assumed he would be playing the female role. We were more than a bit surprised when the “princess” appeared on stage – a huge, stocky and very sour faced middle-aged man.

Towards the end of the tour, we had a couple of relaxing days on a houseboat (a converted former rice barge) cruising the backwaters of Kerala, where we could just sit back and watch life along the rivers and canals. On the same short stretch of the river, you would see a man gutting and washing fish, children washing their hair and cleaning their teeth in the water and a woman doing the clothes washing or cleaning her pots and pans, all surrounded by beautiful flowering water plants and abundant birdlife.



Food was sometimes a challenge on the trip – few hotels catered for the western palate and why should they? The further south we went, the spicier the food became and curries for breakfast, lunch and dinner took its toll on every one of the group at various times. One day the guide announced that the bus would be stopping as someone had asked to pop into a pharmacy. When the bus pulled up, the guide asked if anybody else needed anything and the everybody got off the bus!

Although we found India is changing rapidly, we loved it just as much this time as we did after our first visit. We did see some poverty and less favourable living conditions in more remote areas but nothing like the extent that we saw six years ago – even smaller towns now have coffee shops, mobile phone outlets and gyms, medical facilities, good roads and good Wi-Fi. The people are gracious, helpful and welcoming and keen to get to you know you and we will be making a third visit. A river cruise along the Brahmaputra, a more leisurely trip than this one, could be next.

Denise Curtain

S	A	N
M	O	S
E	C	P

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.



Rolvenden History Group

Friday, 3 July 2026

The Destruction of Old Winchelsea

David Dennis' presentation describes the formation of the town, its incredible history of seaborne heroism, privateering and piracy, and its final destruction in a storm of massive proportions. The loss of this bustling town with its 700 homes, 50 Inns, prisons, churches, saltpans, tide mills, royal apartments, and shipyards, is a salutary lesson for us today. What is the point of studying history if we don't learn from it?



David E. P Dennis is an Associate Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and member of the Rye Harbour History Group.

Venue: St Mary's Church, Rolvenden

Coffee and biscuits

7.15 pm for the lecture which starts at 7.30pm

Everyone welcome - Non-members: £4

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



Interview with Big Yellow



Readers may remember that a couple of months ago there was a chance I might get an interview with Big Yellow, Chief Duck (Europe) of Duck International, who had flown over to Newenden Duck Headquarters to sort out the threat of a mass Pike attack hitting the 2026 Duck Race. He was hoping for a helicopter ride back to Paris from the local heliport and if that didn't work out, I would be in with my tape recorder and a lot of questions.

Well, we all know how quacky these ducks can be. The Newenden flock was more or less out of the annual withdrawn time and chief chatterbox 360 managed to get an audience with Big Yellow to tell him about the Red Beaked Duck 261 who had drifted down river from the Staplecross Firework Flock some time ago. Big Yellow declared this a grave welfare issue. He was visibly distressed that a duck should be subjected to such trauma. He immediately got himself upstream to check that all was well with the flock, that RN261 had not suffered any permanent damage and that the Staplecross Flock Keepers had upgraded their post-race enfolding procedures to avoid a repeat occurrence.

Last Tuesday I got to hear that he was back, (Not saying how, but I find it's the not so quacky ones who are the most useful informers). On Thursday, I managed to get entrance to Duck HQ again and my luck was in. My timing could not have been better.

Big Yellow had just finished a meeting with the Newenden Flock Keepers, evidence - the almost empty plate and the array of chocolate biscuit wrappers strewn over the table. Rother Anglers had confirmed late August would see the Mass Pike Migration to Bodiam. A reliable astronomical app had been consulted to check the moon. The new moon will appear 14th, the six nights before the first quarter would give enough hours of darker skies for the migration. The Pike revels will reach their climax on 28th with the full moon. There was the time of a Pike-free Rother! The Flock Keepers had fixed 3pm on Sunday, 23rd August as Race Day. And I was going to be the first to reveal this vital information to the waiting public!

As we took tea and the last of the chocolate biscuits, there was some talk about Big Yellow leading the drift. I pointed out that the UK Duck Racing regulations state that all ducks must bear a unique number just forward of the under-tail region. Big Yellow was adamant that he was appropriately numbered but he could not remember what the number was. He was becoming flustered and rather defensive about the matter.

I decided a strategic withdrawal was called for and left as the Under Flock Keeper was gingerly preparing to make a tentative examination.

Special Duck Correspondent



Monypenny Update

Monypenny is a sociable place. Christmas came and went with our Christmas Lunch at The Bull, Rolvenden in the days preceding Christmas. Many residents spent the Christmas break with families and loved ones. Those who stayed had visitors or spent a quiet time relaxing at home. We had a well-attended Christmas Film Night. We have had a Music and General Quiz Night enjoyed by all. We had a trip to Eastbourne on June 6th

A recent event introduced residents to the wonderful Singer “Jade” who sings a mixed variety of songs from all eras. It was a great afternoon attended by forty-five people and included a sumptuous buffet laid on by staff and residents. We have booked her to visit again in December 2026, this time for an ABBA Tribute. It will be open to the whole village, fancy dress optional, and food will be provided. It should prove to be a great evening, so put the date in your diaries once we supply details next month.

We started our Giant Sunflower Competition on 2 June. Eight residents have grown and planted the seeds outside. A Prize will be given for the tallest by September.

Early June brings us together to prepare, and plant our hanging baskets with bedding plants ready for our usual colourful display, prepared and lovingly cared for by participating Monypenny residents. ABC are again holding a Garden Photo Completion, all Independent Living Schemes are invited to provide photo entries of their personal garden or indoor plant displays and of communal buildings, successful entries will be shortlisted and ABC selected Judges will visit and declare the winners.

On 3 July residents from all Independent Living Schemes have been invited by ABC to a free barbeque at Luckley House, Wye. Transport is being provided for all and one hundred and fifty people are expected to attend.





Look out for the Moneypenny Annual Macmillan Coffee Morning on 25th September. Further details to follow but please come and support this annual fund raiser for Cancer Research.

Raffle prizes are very much appreciated for either the Luckley House Barbeque or the Macmillan Coffee Morning.

Our weekly Events Continue with:

- A monthly Monday dinner,
- Once monthly our Thursday Big Breakfast, other Thursdays, Bacon/Sausage, baps,
- A monthly Thursday Film Night free and open to all, plus every Thursday, New Age Kurling followed by Fish 'n' Chips, starting from 3pm, Visitors very welcome to join in or just come and watch the fun.

Redevelopment of Monypenny??

We have not been updated at all by ABC since our Campaign resulted in our success in getting them to agree not to decant residents elsewhere as originally planned, but to instead find a suitable land mass within the Village on which to build a new Development.

We have heard that two possible sites have been put forward for consideration but nothing concrete (excuse pun) to date has come forward. Hopefully we won't be the last to hear when it does. Rest assured our Campaign will continue to monitor any new developments that arise.

Graham Tiltman

Rolvenden Parish Council Report



Antony Hinge was re-elected as the Chair of the Parish Council at the meeting held on the 21 May 2026. Antony is also the Chair of the Village Hall Committee.

Jacob Green has resigned from the Parish Council and the Notice regarding the vacancy has been posted on the website and noticeboards.

The Parish Council is delighted that the Village Hall Committee have taken over the running of the Farmers'

Market to ensure that this vital community service remains open.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, 16 July 2026 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

As always please do get in touch if you have any questions or suggestions for the Parish Council.

Louise Goldsmith, Parish Clerk, email clerk@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk or call 07900 693572.



Katie Lam MP on Wine and Awards



One of my favourite things to do in the summer is to visit many of our fantastic local vineyards here in the Weald.

Kent has a long history of growing vines, stretching back centuries, but in recent years our corner of the county has become home to some of the finest vineyards and wineries in the country. From family-run producers to internationally recognised names, they're helping put the Weald on the map while supporting local jobs, tourism, and our rural economy.

But just like many of our farms, pubs and independent shops, our vineyards are being squeezed by red tape, high taxes

and rising production costs. All of this pushes up prices, making it harder for our producers to compete and harder for people to support them.

I recently went to a friend's wedding in France. Driving around Provence the following day, I popped in to a little vineyard with a tasting room – not unlike one of our own small family producers here (though of course, none could truly compare with those we have here at home!).

I bought a nice bottle of white for €18, roughly what you might spend on, say, a bottle of Biddenden Ortega (£15.95, about €18.50). But these two vineyards are not competing on even playing fields.

Because whilst the French wine producer and the Kentish one are both paying sales tax (VAT in the UK) of 20%, in England, our vineyards are also paying another 18% – nearly £3 on a £16 bottle – in alcohol duty. The equivalent tax in France? Just three euro cents, €0.03. That means the Kentish producer is paying nearly twice as much tax per bottle as the French, and that means the vineyard needs to charge its customers almost a third more per bottle to make the same amount of money.

And that's before business rates, corporation tax, national insurance or packaging duty, and before you factor in the huge subsidies the French government pays to their winemakers!

Over the last few months, I've written to every vineyard across the Weald and taken their concerns directly to HM Treasury. The new duty system is far too complicated, and it's often smaller vineyards that are hit hardest. The



Government must do more to help English wine producers grow and succeed. It can't be right that English vineyards face higher costs and tighter margins, imposed upon them by the Government, than many of their French competitors.

But the future of English wine remains incredibly bright. The quality of British sparkling wine is now recognised around the world, and many local producers are telling me that this season's grapes are looking particularly promising.

So, if you're looking for something to do this summer, why not spend an afternoon exploring one of our local vineyards? Enjoy the countryside, learn about the winemaking process, and perhaps treat yourself to a bottle of British wine and support a local business.



On a related note, nominations are now open for my Weald of Kent Awards 2026. If there's a local hero, independent shop, business, farmer, grower, producer (including of wine!), pub, café or restaurant that deserves recognition, I'd love to hear from you. You can find out more and submit a nomination by visiting: www.katieforkent.com/weald-of-kent-awards.

Katie Lam

Annual Hospice in the Weald Musical Events in Sandhurst

Once again, I am pleased to report a fantastic result from the RBD Hospital recital. It was an extra event in June because the greatest Liszt pianist honoured us with a visit. The Steinway sounded like two pianos when Leslie Howard laid his hands on the keys. In addition to this, Florian Verweij joined Leslie in two beautiful Henselt duets. The result of all this, seemingly effortless, hard work resulted in wonderful music as we relaxed in the house and garden. Oh yes, and we raised £655 for Hospice in the Weald, breaking the £21,000 mark in nineteen years of concerts.

I thank everyone for their generosity.

Daniel Grimwood will be playing for the Garden Party at 3pm on Saturday July 25th. Half the tickets are already sold, so if you are interested, please call me on 01580-850-384. (Final recital with Florian plus Leslie Howard September 9th.) Thank you, Gillian Davis





Rolvenden Gardening Society Summer Show 2026

This was held in Rolvenden Village Hall on Saturday, 13th June. Once again, the weather had been unpredictable. Earlier in the week we had experienced heavy rain, hail and strong winds which had probably destroyed many members' prize blooms, but as usual, members rallied round to produce ninety-one entries from just seventeen members.

Vegetable and fruit entries were down but there were some outstanding entries from Ashley Bradshaw and Bill Burvill. These included three varieties of lettuce from Ashley and some amazing artichokes, onions and strawberries from Bill. Floral exhibits showed the impact the weather had made with numbers down, especially in the rose classes where yellow seemed to be the dominant colour. Congratulations here to Tina Tompsett for her yellow floribunda.





Richard Coleman exhibited the only delphinium and Mandy Tompsett showed a magnificent example of Syringa. Congratulations to Rosie Hallifax for her first place rose buttonhole.

There seemed to be more floral arrangements than usual e.g. in the cool and green category which was won with an interesting arrangement by Jean Clifton. Jan Gambier took first place with her arrangement of wildflowers and Mandy Tompsett with her "Ascot Races" display in pink and white. The great display of pot plants saw Tina Tompsett win another first.

In the cookery classes, congratulations must go to Tina, Mandy and Maz Tompsett and Cynthia Crowley for their cookery entries which all looked very appetising. Well done also to Richard Coleman for his winning cheese straws in the men's cookery class. There was a touch of nostalgia with the photograph entries entitled "A Day at the Seaside". Sue Clout was the winner here.

Special congratulations must go to the various members of the Tompsett family with their many winning entries. It was an exceptional effort!

Thanks must go to the Preschool for their bee entries which were delightful!

Well done to: Otilie - 1st. Henry. - 2nd. Freddy. - 3rd.

The winners in the four years and over group were:

1st. – Evie 2nd. - Meika. 3rd. - Cooper.

Several visitors came to view the show and have a cup of tea and chat with friends. Thanks to Jean and Ian Clifton for running the raffle which made £176 for the funds, and to John Walters for calling out the winning numbers.

Tony Abrahams read out the names of the winners and commented that it was good to see new members taking part. He also thanked the Committee and tea ladies, Fiona and Jess, for their help and finished by thanking everyone for coming.

The prize winners were:-

First: Mandy Tompsett with 6 Firsts, 4 Seconds, 1 Third.

Second: Bill Burvill - 8 Firsts, 1 Third.

Third: Tina Tompsett. - 3 Firsts, 6 Seconds.

NEXT EVENT:- Saturday, 11th July, a Coffee Morning at the Firs in Rolvenden High Street, by kind permission of Antony and Suzi Hinge.

Maralyn Button

The Magazine Survey 2026

Thank you to everyone who took time to complete the survey. We had forty-two responses, which is around 20% of sales. It appears that somewhere between 10% and 30% is considered a good return. So, we are bang in the middle which my AI companion tells me is 'a highly respectable result.

Thank you for the vote of confidence.

Judy and Sue



Calling all Bears and their Owners

Rolvenden PCC is raising funds for Bees for Development



Bring your bear(s) to St Mary's churchyard and give them the thrill of their lives. Small bears, big bears, much loved bears, dressed or naked, all can have a go. On Saturday, 18th July we are building the biggest bear ride in the village, a zip wire from one of the largest oak trees. Teddies love the whoosh and you will get a certificate to take away as a reminder of the moment. Come along between 10:00am and 12 noon for some fun.

When it comes to the certificates, there are two categories:

- Brave Bears – the younger ones, where combined age of bear and owner is less than 50
- Veteran Bears – the more senior, where the combined age of bear and owner is more than 50

There are some other activities:

- You can give a name to New Bear who has arrived with his name sealed in an envelope. The nearest name gets the bear.
- You can help Pooh find his jar of honey and Paddington find his jar of marmalade.

Cold drinks and cookies will be available. If you like, you will be very welcome to bring a picnic, a blanket and watch the bears go through their paces. All we ask is you bring some cash because this event is raising money for the charity Bees for Development. That's all about teaching people in countries in poorer parts of the world how to keep bees, harvest the honey and earn money from selling the honey and the beeswax. In some parts of Africa, people earn their living by cutting down the trees to make charcoal, an important fuel for cooking. They end up with no trees, bare soil that turns to dust, difficult land for growing food – they have created an ecological disaster. Bees for Development helps people grow and plant trees for the bees, teaches them how to make hives and catch bee swarms. Then the bees pollinate trees and crops, and make honey for people to sell. People, bees and the environment are all winners. Every pound we raise will go to supporting people, protecting bees, and preserving biodiversity around the world. Take a look at the charity's website for more good news stories about bees and their keepers.

<https://www.beesfordevelopment.org>.

See you on 18th July

*Want to know more or volunteer help? Please call Sylvia: 01580 240463
or Judy: 01580 241504*



Fundraising Update from Rolvenden's two schools

Dear Parents, Families and Members of the Community,

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved in supporting the Tractor Run in December, organised by the fantastic Rosie and Eddy Tompsett. Thanks to their tireless efforts, alongside the incredible support from the villagers and local businesses, an amazing amount was raised for both Rolvenden Pre-School and the Rolvenden Primary School Community Project - totalling a fantastic £2159.73.

At Rolvenden Pre-School, the donations have already made a wonderful impact to the children's outdoor environment. The pre-school now has a brand new sandpit, a fantastic new mud kitchen kindly donated through the Tractor Run fundraising, and improvements to the woodland area thanks to donated play bark and groundwork support from Steve Bryant - Founder of Groundscare & General Services. Hole Park also generously assisted with rubbish removal, while Danny Holding from DH Roofing & Property Maintenance fitted new fascia to the playhouse roof and donated paint so it could be freshened up and brightened up for the children to enjoy.

At Rolvenden Primary School, the funds raised have gone directly into the community project fund as preparations continue for the exciting school development currently underway. The build is progressing brilliantly well and the children are absolutely fascinated watching the diggers and machinery at work each day. We are all very much looking forward to seeing the project continue to take shape over the coming months.

It is thanks to the kindness, generosity and community spirit of so many fantastic people within the village that these projects and events continue to be so well supported. We are incredibly grateful and absolutely thrilled by the support shown to both the school and pre-school communities. They say it takes a village and in this case it certainly does!

With sincere thanks,

Fran Clifford

For Rolvenden Pre-School and Rolvenden Primary School Community Project



ST MARY'S ROLVENDEN

Flower Festival

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Sat 29th, (10am - 5pm)

Sun 30th, (10am - 5pm)

Mon 31st, (10am - 4pm)

Theme

'Women of the Bible'

Daily Organ & Instrumental Performances in Church

SONGS OF PRAISE

Sun 30th 11.00am

(please come and join us for this service)

In the Village Hall

Morning Coffee - Afternoon Tea

Arts & Crafts - Bookstall - Raffle

Festival Lunches available at The Star Inn

In aid of Church Funds: Enquiries 01580 240463



Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch

July 2026

Our focus this month is on:

- Fraud alert: a) Impersonation Scam and b) Unexpected Mobile Phone Delivery Scam
- Local Police surgeries to discuss your top concerns for the area
- Catapults, Drug-dealing & Road safety issues
- Crime and Policing Bill receives Royal Assent



Summary & recent incidents

Watch for crime: anti-social behaviour including catapulting, ball-bearings from catapults and catapults being carried and used; vandalism; riding of e-scooters on roads/pavements; break-in attempts; theft from properties, shops and cars; buying of vapes underage and non-local vehicles parked that are parked for a considerable time.

Take photos/videos and report evidence to the police.

Fraud alert

Impersonation scam: Kent county council are warning that Kent residents are being targeted by scam calls claiming to be citizens' advice. The calls come from withheld numbers and the criminals claim the recipients have outstanding debts that must be dealt with urgently. If you get a call like this:

- do not share personal or financial information,
- do not engage with the caller - hang up.

Citizens Advice will never call you out of the blue about debts.

Unexpected Mobile Phone Delivery Scam.



Criminals are targeting people across Kent by ordering expensive mobile phones in their name, having them delivered to their home address then tricking them into handing the phone back. How the scam works:

- Fraudsters use stolen personal details to take out a mobile phone contract in someone else's name.
- A new phone is delivered to the victim's

home address, even though they did not order it.

- Shortly after delivery, someone turns up claiming to be a courier, saying the phone was delivered in error and needs to be collected.
- Once the phone is handed over, the criminal keeps it — but the victim is left liable for the contract, bills and possible credit damage.



Warning signs:

- You receive a mobile phone or parcel you did not order.
- Someone arrives unexpectedly asking to collect it.
- They pressure you to act quickly or say it is an admin or scanning mistake.
- They refuse to let you verify the request with the retailer.

Protect yourself:

- Do not hand over parcels to anyone who turns up at your door unannounced.
- Legitimate retailers and couriers will not ask for goods back at the doorstep.
- Contact the mobile provider or retailer directly using official contact details.
- Keep the parcel until the retailer confirms safe return arrangements.
- Regularly check your credit report for unknown accounts.

If you have been a victim of any type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and reporting to Report Fraud at: (paste into your browser) <https://www.reportfraud.police.uk/reporting-a-fraud/> or call 0300 123 2040.

Local Police surgeries to discuss your top concerns for the area – Catapults – Drug-dealing – Road safety issues

Local Beat Police Officer Darren Laker will be holding surgeries in the locations below. This is your opportunity to raise any concerns you have and to find out what he is doing to tackle the issues that matter to you.

Everyone is welcome. Please share this message with anyone you would feel would benefit from attendance.

Thursday, 9 July 2026 10am at Wittersham

Wittersham Village Hall, 32-2 The Street

Tenterden

TN30 7ED

///[thinnest.lively.fuel](https://www.thinnest.lively.fuel)

Monday, 13 July 2026 6pm at Tenterden

Calvero Lounge, 3 High Street

Tenterden

TN30 6AH

///[otter.trap.smirks](https://www.otter.trap.smirks)

Reporting crime to the police

Serious crimes in progress dial 999, other incidents via 101 (phone) or online using Live chat: (paste into your browser)

<https://www.kent.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/>

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

*Sîan Reeves Rolvenden
Neighbourhood Watch*



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 AUGUST 2026 ISSUE IS
5:00PM TUESDAY 17TH JULY.**

Note for distributors: ☆ Rolvenden Magazines available for collection on Saturday 25th July. ☆ Newenden Magazines available for collection on Sunday 26th July.

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



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info@greatbarnweddings.com

Hole Park Estate, Rolvenden, Kent

Help with Food and Household Items

Food boxes are available for people suddenly in difficulty due to late credit payments, unexpected bills, loss of job, etc from the Mildred trust, info at the MildredTrust contact details: info@mildredtrust, phone 07745 694748 or call the Social Prescribing Team at Ivy Court surgery if you are registered as a patient there.

The Larder

Here we provide free non-perishable groceries, household and hygiene goods for families with children under the age of 18. Fresh bread, milk and vouchers for fruit and vegetables are often available.

Tenterden Leisure Centre: Tuesdays Fortnightly 5.15-6.15pm;
14th and 28th July Tenterden Family Hub: Friday 24th July 9 -10am

Rural Restock

Open to all, you pay £6 for £20 worth of items, please bring cash and shopping bags. We are upstairs in the Tenterden leisure Centre, Tuesdays monthly 5:15 to 6:15 pm, 7th July

Community fridge and freezer.

These are open to anyone to share or take food, including surplus food from supermarkets, local businesses, producers, households and gardens. Located intended and Centre entrance Hall, available seven days a week during centre opening hours.

Regular Events

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, 12:30 for 1pm
The Little Silver Hotel, St Michaels

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).

Help with Food and Household Items

Food boxes are available for people suddenly in difficulty due to late credit payments, unexpected bills, loss of job, etc from the Mildred trust, info at the Mildredtrust.org , phone 07745 694748, or for emergencies only 07805 840493. Or call the Social Prescribing Team at Ivy Court surgery if you are registered as a patient

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.

Victim Support: 0808 16 89 111

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

The Samaritans: 116 123

Childline: 0800 1111

Mankind: 0808 800 1170

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.

VS VICTIM
SUPPORT

SAMARITANS

ChildLine
0800 1111

ManKind
Initiative



More than books to borrow



Library activities

- Baby Rhyme Time and Storytime on Tues 10am - 10:30am (term time)
- Creative Writing Group on Tues. 2pm – 4pm (term time)
- History Detectives Local History Group on Wednesday 2pm - 4pm (booking essential)
- Tea & Chat on Thursday 10:30am - 11:30am
- Reading Group meets monthly second Saturday, first meeting 10:30am – 11:30am and then 11:45am - 12:45pm
- IT Buddy help is available; please book with library
- Support for those setting up a Reading Groups

Other Services

- Free bookable public computers and Wi-Fi for your own device
- A4 B&W and colour printer
- A3 & A4 B&W and colour photocopier
- We accept completed ENTCS bus pass applications
- Meeting room for hire, please email library
- UK Online Centre ID 5110 access to the internet and help using it
- Registration Service – births and deaths. Call ~03000 41 51 51 to book appointment
- Santander Bank Thursday 9:30am – 1pm walk-in, 2pm – 5pm appointments

Telephone: 03000 41 31 31

E-mail: tenterdenlibrary@kent.gov.uk

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries>

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

Telephone ABC on Tel 01233 330646

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

Our MP is Katie Lam

Email: katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk

Office tel: 01580 388 344

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

NEWENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

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

Parish Council meeting,

July 7th at 7:00pm in St Peter's

ROLVENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

www.rolvendenparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Clerk: Mrs Louise Goldsmith,

5 Artisan Road, Headcorn, TN27 9AZ

Telephone: 07900 693572

email:

clerk@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Council meeting July 16th

at 7.30pm in the 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.

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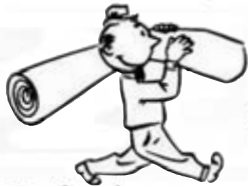
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