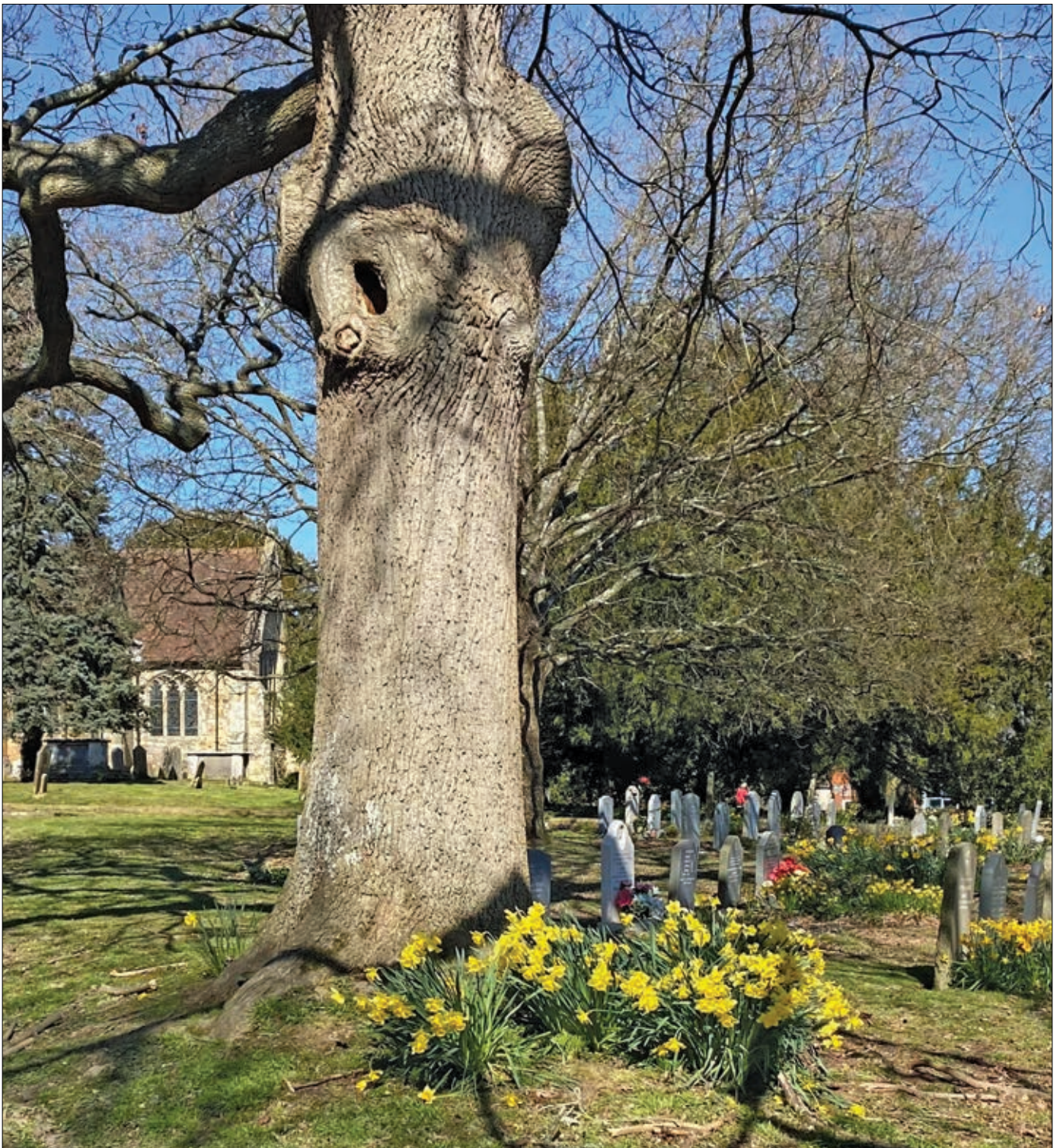


# Rolvenden & Newenden *Parish Magazine*

2025  
MARCH  
ONLINE





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# Parishes of Rolvenden and Newenden

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<b>Hon. Secretary</b>	VACANT	
<b>Hon. Treasurer</b>	William Barham	01580 240852
<b>Sacristan</b>	Elizabeth Marshall	01580 241529
<b>Organist</b>	Geoffrey Davison	01580 241685
<b>Bellringers'</b>		
<b>Assoc. Captain</b>	Linda Smith	01580 241783

## St Peter, Newenden

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	Hugh Edmonds hfedmonds@outlook.com	01797 252196
<b>Hon Secretary</b>	Vacant	
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Published by Rolvenden P.C.C.

*Cover Image: Daffodils in the Churchyard - Photographer Toni Huxley*

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*This month the minister's letter comes from*  
**Rev Margaret Roylance**

As I write this letter, at the beginning of February, the sun is shining and the grass is very frosty. We've just finished the wonderful time of Advent and Christmas, so we now step forward in our journey to Easter.

Lent is a solemn time, but also very full of opportunities. Some years ago, I decided to do away with giving up something tasty and concentrate on doing something positive for others. This can involve including a long-lost friend in my communications or sitting with someone I know is lonely, who I know I have rather neglected. You surely have other suggestions for your own positive contributions. In all this we must focus on our relationship with our Lord. Life often becomes so busy that we forget to pray to our God and praise him who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Prayer is the means by which we bolster our journeys of faith.

People sometimes tell me that they don't believe their prayers are being answered. We must have faith that God is in charge, and He may well answer our petitions in a way that, in retrospect, is wise and fruitful. Lent is a time when we can think deeply about our trust in God...and be very thankful. After all, we will soon experience again the sacrifice of God as we view the crucifixion and then sing our hymns of Easter as we celebrate Christ's resurrection. May we all experience God's wonderful love in our lives and give thanks.

*Margaret*

Lent will start with Ash Wednesday - so named from the tradition of burning last year's palm crosses to make a black paste used to draw a cross on your forehead. The mark is a symbol of mortality and also a symbol that we have arrived at the start of Lent, penitent, prepared to start again. Poet Priest Malcolm Guite's adds a modern twist to these ideas in his poem Ash Wednesday

Receive this cross of ash upon your brow,  
Brought from the burning of Palm Sunday's cross.  
The forests of the world are burning now  
And you make late repentance for the loss.  
But all the trees of God would clap their hands  
The very stones themselves would shout and sing  
If you could covenant to love these lands  
And recognise in Christ their Lord and king.  
He sees the slow destruction of those trees,  
He weeps to see the ancient places burn,  
And still you make what purchases you please,  
And still to dust and ashes you return.  
But Hope could rise from ashes even now  
Beginning with this sign upon your brow.





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

Sunday	St Mary	St Peter
Mar 02	Sylvia K	Rhoda Smith
Mar 09	LENT	NO FLOWERS IN CHURCH
Mar 16	LENT	NO FLOWERS IN CHURCH
Mar 23	LENT	NO FLOWERS IN CHURCH
Mar 30	LENT	NO FLOWERS IN CHURCH
<b>Contact:</b>	Sylvia Kellett 01580 240463 Sylviakellett@eplusmail.com	Rosie Edmonds 01797 252196 rosie.edmonds@hotmail.com

Brass Cleaning at St Mary: David Macaulay

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.

### ❖ From the Registers ❖



#### Funeral

17th January – Christopher Hemsley – at St Mary's

## Little things that brighten the day



Last month the Layne had a 4-way set of traffic lights because of a longish bit of temporary single track at the top of Frensham Road. On a wet Sunday afternoon I was greeted by a black light instead of the inevitable red one.

I turned cautiously into Frensham Road. Given the day and the weather, of course there was no-one around. But there was this O33 number painted large in several places.

'This'll be an answerphone and they'll want a grid reference for the spot' I thought as the number rang.

Wrong! It was a real human who was very happy to receive news of a broken set of lights. 'Where? Rolvenden Layne? All out or just one? Thank you. I'll get someone out to fix it'.



# The Church of England

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

## Sunday 2nd March: Sunday next before Lent

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

*6pm Celebration of Spring (Stone)*

## Wednesday 5th March: Ash Wednesday

*7pm Holy Communion with Ashing (Wittersham)*

## Sunday 9th March: First Sunday of Lent

9:30am St Peter's Newenden  
The Eucharist

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden  
The Eucharist

## Sunday 16th March: Second Sunday of Lent

9.30am St Peter's Newenden  
The Eucharist

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden  
Matins

*6pm Benefice Choral Evensong (Ebony):*

## Sunday 23rd March: Third Sunday of Lent

9.30am St Peter's Newenden  
Celtic Morning Prayer

11am St Mary's Rolvenden  
The Eucharist

## Sunday 30th March: Mothering Sunday

9.30am St Peter's Newenden  
A celebration of Mothering Sunday

8am St Mary's Rolvenden  
Holy Communion  
11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden  
A celebration of Mothering Sunday

*6pm Ecumenical Evensong at St Andrew's 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.

These services won't appear online.

### To access our daily online worship visit YouTube:

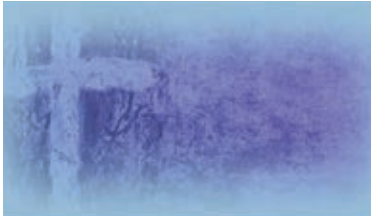
St Mildred's, Tenterden

#### Online services:

can also be accessed through the daily bulletin, **Connect Up!**.

### To receive Connect Up!:

please visit our website, [www.tentroxchurches.co.uk](http://www.tentroxchurches.co.uk), and subscribe.



## LENT 2025

For some, the Season of Lent is very much about preparing oneself to greet Jesus anew within the Holy Week and Easter celebrations, and about trying to establish that closeness and relationship that Jesus ever calls us to.

Or maybe you are just curious about fitting something spiritual into your life and it could be that you are ready to learn about Jesus and the amazing Easter story. Whichever of those two descriptions best fits, here is your guide to Lent 2025 across the Tenterden group of churches.

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 5th March is the start of Lent** - as explained on page 3 7pm in Wittersham Church The Ash Wednesday service will be a Eucharist with the Optional Imposition of Ashes

As well as the regular Sunday services listed on page 5 you might find some of the following would be of interest. All three offerings continue throughout Lent.

**BEGINNING THE DAY WITH GOD and ENDING THE DAY WITH GOD** - Daily Online Worship

These are daily ten-minute acts of worship, which incorporate music, a Bible reading, reflection, and prayers. Both services are online only. During Lent and Holy Week,

- Beginning the Day with God will follow a Celtic Lent. The reflections will present perspectives on the cross of Jesus and help us to see our own life journeys with a new and transforming vision.
- Ending the Day with God will approach the cross of Jesus through the eyes of Julian of Norwich. The meditations will linger on the wonder of the cross and each service will end with a thought or verse to carry into daily life.

Access Beginning the Day with God and Ending the Day with God through our free daily digital bulletin, Connect Up! or via the St Mildred, Tenterden, YouTube channel

**TIME TO TALK** - take a gentle look at Lent in a place where it's OK to ask questions

- Friday 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th, 2 to 3:15pm in the chapel St Mary's Church Rolvenden
- If you would like to know more, please talk to Judy (01580 241504)

**CROSS PURPOSE** - Reflective Services for Lent and Holy Week

On Saturday mornings during the Season of Lent, and during the days of Holy Week, we will hold a series of reflective services, entitled Cross Purposes. Through these thirty-minute acts of worship, we will accompany Jesus on his passion journey and discover that his journey winds its way through our communities and our own lives. Everyone walks this journey.

The Cross Purpose meditations evoke both the horror and the humanity of the journey. Each meditation is linked to the heart-rending sufferings of today's world.

- Sat 8th March 9am Tenterden Church Hall - 1st Reflection: Jesus is Condemned to Death
- Sat 15th March 9am Stone Church - 2nd Reflection: Jesus Accepts the Cross
- Sat 22nd March 9am St Andrews Catholic Church - 3rd Reflection: Jesus Falls
- Sat 29th March 9am Tenterden Church Hall - 4th Reflection: Jesus Meets his Mother



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**TOWN & COUNTRY HOMECARE LTD**

102a High Street, Tenterden, Kent TN30 6HT

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# Rolvenden Primary School Report



School is so much more than times tables and spelling. There is much in school life which teaches children all-important life skills and allows each child to explore and develop their own talents.

Take the football playing reported from the beginning of February under our school coach Shane Sims.

4th Feb: We are into the next round of the cup and every single player played the game of their lives. The determination on show was unreal! We were 3-1 down with 10 minutes remaining and everyone showed great resilience to come back and win 4-3. I could not be prouder of the team and all 8 squad members should be called out for their performance! They never gave up and battled so hard for the full game!

Well done to our goal scorers: Arlo 2, Jack 1 and Grayson 1

6th Feb: Well done to our girls' football team who travelled to Dulwich







Cranbrook for their girls' football event yesterday. The event began with a training session before the girls were split into teams with the other schools in attendance and played a friendly tournament. Head Girl, Daisy, said that she particularly enjoyed the matches in the afternoon as it was great to get to know other footballers and work together to improve their skills. 7th Feb: Came the unveiling of our new football kit! Designed by Paddy, our vibrant yellow kit proudly reflects our Rolvenden identity. The design is brilliantly completed with hooped sleeves, symbolising the colours of our values. It is sure to make our football team stand out in future matches! A huge thank you and well done to Paddy, whose design is the basis for our new kit!



**TENTERDEN SINGERS PROUDLY PRESENTS**  
**“CAPTURING THE JOY OF SCHOOL DAYS”**

**SINGALONG WITH THE CHOIR**

**Saturday 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**





## New Dementia Choir starting in Rolvenden

I have been leading The Rhythm of Life Choir for nearly 15 years, and with two successful groups in both Tenterden and Benenden, I can safely say that bringing singing to the community is an absolute passion of mine.

I have watched over the years how singing not only brings joy and life but also creates friendships and brings communities together. It heals and lifts the mood. It makes the brain do things only music has the power to do!

I first met Carla Hebblethwaite at my Benenden choir when she came along one Thursday morning with her mum who has Dementia. It was so moving to see how her mum reacted to the music and ever since then myself and Clara have shared a magical connection.

Carla H runs her own Dementia Experience company which aims to guide and support all those who live with or work alongside those who have dementia. Based in Kent, her mission is to generate joyful moments and connection for those that need it the most. With our two backgrounds so closely entwined we felt a cosmic urge to create this new wonderful Choir.

Each week will sing a mix of songs from across the years, chosen specifically to bring energy and feel-good vibes. The choir is totally new and so the twists and turns it takes will be endless. The possibility of movement, instruments and small performances....one day...could be in the future of the Phoenix Choir. But all positive choices that bring joy and Dementia awareness to the wider community. The session will start with a warm up followed by 30 mins singing and then an all-important natter with a cup of tea and a biscuit!

*Carla Smith*

*All are welcome.*

*Please do come along for your free trial. 🗨️😊🙏*

*For more information on The Rhythm of Life Choir  
or The Dementia Experience please visit our websites:*

*[www.therhythmoflifechoir.co.uk](http://www.therhythmoflifechoir.co.uk)*

*[www.dementia-experience.com](http://www.dementia-experience.com)*



# The Rhythm

Of Life

# PHOENIX

## Dementia choir

**An inspirational & uplifting choir to bring joy & wellbeing to all those with Dementia and their loved ones.**

**Starts Tuesday 11th March  
Rolvenden Village Hall  
10-11:15am**



**For more info visit [www.therhythmoflifechoir.co.uk](http://www.therhythmoflifechoir.co.uk)  
[www.dementia-experience.com](http://www.dementia-experience.com)**

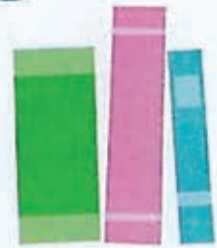


# Quiz Night



**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**





**Friends of St Peter's Church Newenden**  
**First Thursday Talk**  
**12 Noon Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March**  
**in St Peter's Church, Newenden**



**Tales from Local  
History  
given by  
Ed Adams**

Ed Adams specialises in local interest books, both as an author and a publisher. He has researched and written school histories and his AT WAR series covers towns and villages very much in our corner of Kent.



Undertaking the necessary detailed research in county and newspaper archives, pouring over old maps, talking to people who remember, who have old shoe boxes of photos - all this Ed finds endlessly fascinating - and there are some surprises too.

**The First Thursday talks last for about 45 minutes. Entrance is free but the Friends welcome donations.**

**And after the talk you might like to have lunch at the White Hart Inn or at Nibbles.**



## Weather and Nature Notes

A couple of storms blew through during January and fortunately for us they didn't have the impact here that was seen in Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Not that many days were rainy, but when it fell it was in decent amounts. I measured 130mm the snow melt is included in that total. There have been some hard frosts, some slightly tender plants look a little sorry for themselves, but I am confident most will recover to perform again in Summer. As I write we are experiencing another cold spell, but a sense of optimism is in the air as buds are swelling, catkins catch the breeze, the evenings are getting lighter and sprinkles of early crocus in the grass look cheerful. Whether you have spent Winter browsing seed catalogues or the garden centre's shelves looking for something different to try, now is the time to start many of them off. I am constantly looking for long flowering plants that are drought tolerant, or better still enjoy dry conditions. I feel it is a responsible thing to do when hose pipe bans are always a threat here in this overpopulated part of Britain, and who wants to be a slave to plants that are needy where water is concerned.

Whilst the branches of trees are bare it is easier to notice lichen if it is growing on them. For something that is easily overlooked and simple looking, they are a complex subject as I found when I tried to identify the example in the photo. With well over a thousand species in Britain and Ireland they are difficult to identify accurately and definitely for the dedicated, apparently involving microscopes, spore analysis and chemical tests. They is a symbiotic relationship between a fungus and an algae and lichen are diverse in form and colour. The more you look the more you will notice on trees, rocks and brickwork for



example, each species favouring certain habitats. They don't have a root system and are very drought tolerant, but they are very sensitive to pollution, particularly nitrogen and sulphur dioxide, so industrial areas are often devoid of lichen. Their presence can be an indicator of a good environment of benefit to innumerable creatures. Apparently the "hairy" types tend to need good air quality. Lichen are slow growing but importantly make a home for tiny invertebrates, birds' nesting material, and food for some moth caterpillars. There are also moths camouflaged to look like some. The old brickwork of the garden wall has a generous covering, and like mosses they add a softer appearance to hard surfaces and a lovely sense of age that only time can bring. Those high garden walls and wooden rose arbours make an excellent high rise route around the garden for squirrels. Scampering along the wall with a long wisteria seed pod or similar between their teeth, I watch them navigate the garden and back into a tree without getting on the ground, unless it is their wish to dig up some of the many acorns, conkers and chestnuts they have buried over the Autumn.

It has been nice to see a song thrush now and again in my garden recently. Another member of the thrush family, the blackbird, seems happy enough to live alongside humans sharing their gardens and is still quite numerous. However, the shyer speckled thrush trotting across the lawn, or searching under the garden hedgerow for food, like snails, slugs and worms, has for some time been in real decline. At breeding time one would often nest in the garden hedge, these days I seem restricted to mostly just hearing a few singing high in trees which brightens the day, and the few sightings are usually in or near grassy fields rather than gardens. They may be described as "garden birds" as they will visit them, but It seems that this is not their preferred habitat, Maybe the ones seen in gardens previously when their numbers were higher had to occupy that territory due to competition, or maybe modern gardens are just not so appealing?



A bird that is plentiful is the magpie. Whatever your feelings about these birds, they are undeniably attractive. I heard a bit of a commotion going on in a tree with agitated magpies and jackdaws. As they flew off I counted the magpies out of some deep rooted habit attached to the bird counting rhyme, and was surprised to see sixteen. The rhyme only goes up to "seven, for a secret never to be told," so does that sixteen make two secrets and two remaining for joy? Or can I divide it up into two lots of six for gold and two lots of two for joy? - or forget the maths exercise as it's just silly superstition?

*Hazel Beaney*



ROLVENDEN  
COMMUNITY

# ANNUAL LITTER PICK

**Seeking Volunteers** to divide into teams and attempt to cover every road in the Parish.

Please bring gloves and a tabard or Hi-Viz jacket and a litter picker if you have one.

Some jackets and litter pickers are available to lend.



**SATURDAY**  
**8TH MARCH**  
From 09.30 - 11.00  
MEET AT THE BULL  
9:30am

Free coffee and  
bacon rolls  
kindly offered for  
volunteers at The  
Star from 11am.

Or pre-arrange to work direct from your home on a section of verge near your home. Unfortunately the Litter Pick is unsuitable for pets or children.

---

**Sign up or learn more from Edward Barham**  
edwardbarham@holepark.com 07976 241794





## **Craft Club - an Invitation to have a go**

At an early age, my grandmother and aunt taught me to knit, crochet and sew and I loved it. I wasn't much good at school due to issues at home, so I'd found something to express myself with, something I could wallow in and stayed exciting, as the projects were always different and with varying materials. Then at school we were shown how to spin and weave during a week away in the countryside when I was 12. These things leave such a positive mark on a child's life. It stayed with me forever.

Being creative helps me unwind, gives me time to reflect upon things, gives me distance so I make better decisions. For 20 years, I was chronically stressed due to work pressures. You get used to it and learn to live with it, but it was crafting that made me notice how stressed I was and how much I needed that balance, that yin and yang to be whole again.

"Creativity is intelligence having fun" is a phrase attributed to Einstein. I too have come in contact with those who told me that arts or crafts won't lead to anything and that it's all about science, maths and the like; subjects I was very bad at for years and abused for. Some people still feel blocked by those comments stopping them from doing what they used to love doing and exploring what they're capable of.

Perhaps I should warn you, as creativity leads to more creativity, curiosity, because, as one thing leads to another, you start experimenting with other crafts too and so this led me to being a basketmaker. Through creativity we can slip into flow, where we get unconscious of our surroundings, our focus is optimal and as we challenge ourselves, we can achieve the most amazing results.

So let me invite you to come and join us for a relaxed, low brow crafting session, once a week on Tuesday afternoons in The Star in Rolvenden from 14:00 till 16:00. Why not pick up those needles again, get those crayons out or whatever you feel you'd love to do again. Or are you new to it all and just want to find out what it's all about? The Club has only just been set up, so help shape it into what you think it could be and have some fun and time for yourself. Have a laugh and a chat with like-minded people from all sorts of backgrounds and bounce off ideas you have and see what'll stick. We're non-judgmental and only there to have a great time, making.

*Get in touch by contacting me on 07775 944499. Marianne van Niekerken*



## Rolvenden Parish Council - March



We were very sad to learn of the death of Maureen Brooks. Many of you will know that Maureen contributed so much to the parish and the Parish Council would like to honour her memory and will be discussing this with her family.

The Parish Clerk and all Councillors have new generic email addresses and can be contacted as follows:

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

Antony Hinge: [antonyhinge@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:antonyhinge@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Charles Balch: [charlesbalch@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:charlesbalch@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Mike Geerts: [mikegeerts@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:mikegeerts@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Edward Barham: [edwardbarham@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:edwardbarham@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Hayley Toni-Back: [hayleytoniback@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:hayleytoniback@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Jacob Green: [jacobgreen@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:jacobgreen@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Linda Walker: [lindawalker@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:lindawalker@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Mark Gilchrist: [markgilchrist@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:markgilchrist@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Work has begun on updating the Neighbourhood Plan for Rolvenden and the Steering Group, as reported last month, has been successful in obtaining a Locality Grant from the Government to start the process off.

A consultation exercise is due to take place on Saturday 1 March 2025 from 10am to 2pm in the village hall.

At the last meeting a proposal to nominate Judy Vinson for a Kent Association of Local Councils Community Award was unanimously approved. Judy will be presented with her award at the Annual Parish Council meeting due to be held on the 15 May 2025.

Gateways are to be installed at both entrances to Rolvenden Layne and the Parish Council is delighted that KCC has agreed to fund these. The design have been approved and we hope that they will be installed soon.

The trees for the community orchard have been received from Ashford Borough Council and plans are underway to plant them.

***The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 20 March 2025 at 7pm in the village hall.***

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

***Tel: 07900 693572***



# News from Rolvenden Pre-School

Sadly, our longstanding staff member Rosie is leaving us in March. Rosie has worked at the pre-school for more than 13 years and will be greatly missed by our staff, children and families alike. We wish her well for the future and hope she will keep in touch.

The remaining staff will be picking up the slack but we are also looking for a qualified person to join our team part time. Working with our children and families is a privilege that requires hard work, dedication and bags of energy.

This month we have planted our apple seeds, created some lovely art work, explored the local area to spot newly emerging spring flowers and enjoyed a variety of group activities, learning and building skills together.

Now would also be a great time for anybody who would like to volunteer some time with the children at pre-school to join us. Please contact the pre-school if you are interested in joining our team.

Telephone 07729718181 or email [rolvendenps@gmail.com](mailto:rolvendenps@gmail.com).

*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](mailto:rolvendenps@gmail.com) with any questions or to arrange a visit.*



N	E	T
L	E	P
S	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!

## Sausages



Sausages are one of the oldest forms of preserved food, and have been a staple of human diets for thousands of years.

Early civilizations mixed meat with spices and salt and stuffed the mixture into animal intestines, this was an efficient use of meat and extended their shelf life. The Romans refined their sausage making and made a wide variety which they introduced throughout Europe. Regions developed their own styles based on the availability of local ingredients and using different preserving methods. They were eaten fresh, smoked or dried.

Sausages are eaten around the world and each country, and indeed many regions, have their own special recipes that can be accredited with protected status.

Germany and Poland are the largest producers, Germany regards itself as the sausage capital of the world. As it has over 1,500 varieties, it may have a point, with France, Poland and Italy respectively in second, third and fourth place.

The UK eats around 175,000 tonnes of sausages per annum which is a staggering amount.

Over the last thirty years the variety of sausages produced here has grown enormously and we now have more than 400 kinds, although the majority are made with pork some from rare breeds, others from wild boar, venison or game. We are spoilt for choice and we all have our favourites.

There are several classic British sausages, the most famous is probably the Cumberland which has been a local specialty in the County for over 500 years. The meat is chopped rather than minced which gives it its



meaty texture and distinctive taste. It is traditionally made in a spiral and cut to order rather than linked and has Protected Geographical Indication status which helps to protect its heritage and authenticity.

The Lincolnshire sausage is made with coarsely ground meat and flavoured with sage, it has a European Protected designation of origin meaning they can only be made in a specified area to a specific quality and recipe in the traditional way.

Some other excellent but less well-known ones worth looking out for are:

- the Manchester, seasoned with nutmeg, mace, cloves and ginger, sometimes also garlic.
- the Oxford, a mixture of pork and veal and flavoured with lemon.
- the West Country, with added apple and a little cider in the mixture which produces a moist sausage
- the Glamorgan is a vegetarian version made with leeks, Caerphilly and breadcrumbs.

Bangers and mash is a national favourite and a pub classic. During World War 1 when there was a shortage of meat, sausages were padded out with other ingredients including water, if cooked over too high a heat they exploded, hence the name bangers.

The origins of the name Toad in the hole is uncertain but the dish started out as a way of making meat go further. It is suggested that the name came from the resemblance to toads' heads poking out of their burrows waiting for prey.

When in Scotland Pigs in blankets used to be called kilted sausages, sadly I think that is no longer the case.

The first Scotch Egg to be made is claimed by Fortnum and Mason in 1738, it made an excellent food to take when travelling or for a picnic. I make a vegetarian version which I call Welsh Eggs which is excellent.



I think sausages are a real comfort food which can be eaten at any meal. Is it the association of family meals, cosy pub lunch by the fire, hot dogs with mustard and ketchup that make them such a favourite?

Whichever way you like them cooked, enjoy them.

*Lavinia*



## Behind the camera - Elizabeth Norris

I think I have always enjoyed photography – the taking, not being taken! I grew up in Co. Kerry surrounded by fields of Friesian cows, quiet country lanes & wild hedgerows; impossible not to develop a love of nature. Whenever possible, I would be outside. Most weekends playing with my friends, exploring the “fairy fort”, going for long bike rides – I was lucky.

When we moved to Newenden, we discovered the Rother, the steam train & the peace in the surrounding countryside. I enjoy walking along the Rother,





generally in the mornings pre work with my dogs. I never tire of the view; it changes daily & it is that what makes me take a photo – I try to capture that moment of calm.

It was during Covid that I started posting my photos on Facebook & getting very positive reaction which I still find surprising. I was delighted to participate in the recent Art Exhibition – it was not easy to choose just twenty photos to display (some are still available to purchase).

Here are some of my favourite places.





**Rolvenden History Group**

Friday, 7 March 2025

## 'A Church through Time: from its Origins to 2025'



Rolvenden Church stands at the centre of the village and it has a long history. This talk is going to feature snapshots of its history from its earliest mentions in records to the present day. Archaeological discoveries, the role of benefactors, the commemoration of Lawrence Peters, and how St Mary's has featured in the lives of multiple generations of people will be explored.

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/>





**Sutton Valence Choral Society  
with the Beresford Sinfonia**

**Conductor Bryan Gipps**

**HANDEL**

# **MESSIAH**

**Saturday 5th April  
7.00pm**

**Sinden Theatre, Tenterden, TN30 6LT**

**Tickets £20 under 18s free**

**Available from:**

**Sinden Theatre Box Office: Tel. 01580 763 826  
or <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/sindentheatre>  
or Webbs Ironmongers, Tenterden, or on the door.**





## Curtain up on Hemsted Park

Hemsted Park set within the grounds of Benenden School, has established itself as a vibrant cultural hub in the Southeast of England. Hosting a diverse range of events—from music and comedy to drama and dance—the venue offers an exceptional experience for performers and audiences alike.

At the heart of Hemsted Park are two state-of-the-art performance spaces:

- **Centenary Hall** – Designed by award-winning Guy Hollaway Architects, this multi-purpose venue features cutting-edge acoustics for a wide variety of events.
- **The Benenden Theatre** – A 300-seat auditorium is perfect for musical productions. Its advanced sound and lighting systems create an immersive and dynamic performance space.

This season promises an exciting lineup, including family favourites like Puss in Boots ballet, the electrifying Thank You for the Music ABBA tribute, and an inspiring evening with Davina McCall. Audiences can also look forward to our annual Rose Garden performance, featuring Romeo and Juliet in a breathtaking outdoor setting. As always, we also have multiple, free, performances from our Music Department. Our full season programme can be found at – [www.hemstedpark.com](http://www.hemstedpark.com)

In addition to hosting world-class performances, Hemsted Park proudly serves the community by supporting a range of local projects. We work closely with initiatives such as The Wealden Hub Music Scholars, which includes Rolvenden Primary School, and we regularly share our spaces with the school for their Primary Showcase and Sports Day. We have also welcomed students to special cultural experiences, including our recent Chinese New Year concert,



and last year's ENO workshop and performance, where primary school pupils had the opportunity to take part in a professional production.

Our versatile spaces are also available for hire, welcoming external groups for concerts, productions, conferences, and special events. Whether you're hosting a large-scale performance or an intimate gathering, Hemsted Park offers a stunning setting with outstanding facilities.

*We look forward to welcoming you to another spectacular season at Hemsted Park. [boxoffice@hemstedpark.com](mailto:boxoffice@hemstedpark.com) 01580236699 @hemsted\_park*



## Trip down memory lane

Did last month's photo of Lew Wood clearing snow spark memories?... It certainly did for John Kitchell, one of our remoter readers. He emailed to say: I really enjoyed the winter stories. Here in Indiana we're supposed to get up to 63F today, but then we have another big snowstorm in the forecast. It should be back down into the 30's by Wednesday and 45 percent chance of snow by the middle of next week. We get these big swings of weather like that in the winter. We're far enough south so that we can get some of the warming trend off of the Gulf of Mexico, but we're far enough north so that the really cold weather can occasionally come in off of Lake Michigan.

Barbara and I used to live up at K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base in northern Michigan when we were a lot younger...I was a B-52 navigator. We were very close to Lake Superior. I used to use the power plant and the ore docks as radar fix points. I recall having to stay up all night with my airplane because we were trying to get our missile launcher to work properly. The maintenance folks needed the weapons officer from the crew there to test the systems.

The problem was the temperatures were somewhere around 40-50 degrees Fahrenheit below 0. We were bundled up in our arctic gear. The wind out on the flight line made things really cold. The Air Force had ambulances prepositioned on the flight line treating airmen for frostbite as it happened. The mission required us to keep going, so we did. I had 4 layers on my hands...my flight gloves, wool glove inserts, my leather gauntlets over that, and my arctic mittens over everything. It was cold, but then I was about 35 years younger too. So Indiana isn't so bad!! *JK*



# Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch

March 2025

Our focus this month continues with fraud prevention.

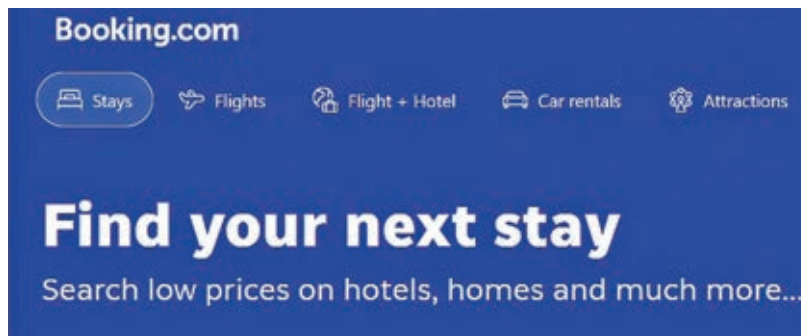


## 1. Mobile phone scam:

A member of the Public (MOP) receives a call from a criminal impersonating their telecommunications company. They are told they are eligible for a special offer as they are classed as a loyal customer. They offer them a new sim for a low cost or even a new phone upgrade. Once they have agreed, details are taken to set up the new contract and direct debit. The criminal uses these details to enter into a contract with a phone provider for a new phone. This phone will be different to the one agreed to. This new device is delivered to the MOP address. The MOP goes back to the contact to say the phone is the wrong one. The offender, still posing as a member of staff from the phone company, apologises for the mistake and advises them they will order the correct device and send it out now but the victim has to return the device they have. The offender arranges for a courier to collect the package. This package is then delivered to the criminals and no new phone is ever ordered for the victim.

*Remember our scam awareness message of ABC and Never Assume or Never Believe a call is genuine and 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.*

*If you are asked to return a device to a private address, then it is likely to be a scam.*



## 2. Action Fraud Alert Booking.Com

Those using the platform Booking.com to book their holidays or accommodation are being warned they could be targeted with emails or messages requesting payments from hotels who have had their account taken over by fraudsters. Between June 2023 and September 2024, Action Fraud received 532 reports from individuals, with a total of £370,000 lost. Insight from Action Fraud reports suggests the individuals were defrauded after receiving unexpected messages and emails from a Booking.com account belonging to a hotel they had a reservation with, which had been taken over by a criminal. Using this account, the criminals send in-app messages, emails, and WhatsApp



messages to customers, deceiving them into making payment and/or requesting credit card details.

*The specific account takeovers are likely to be the result of a targeted phishing attack against the hotel or accommodation provider, rather than Booking.com.*

**Booking.com and Action Fraud are providing the following advice on how to spot signs of fraud and protect your Booking.com account:**

- No legitimate Booking.com transaction will ever require a customer to provide their credit card details by phone, email, or text message (including WhatsApp).
- Sometimes a hotel provider will manage their own payment and may reach out to request payment information, like credit card details – before providing any information, always verify the authenticity of communication between yourself and the hotel’s account.
- If you receive any urgent payment requests that require immediate attention, like a booking cancellation, immediately reach out to the Booking.com Customer Service team via the details on the official Booking.com website and/or app to confirm.
- Any payment requests that do not match the information in the original booking confirmation should also be double checked and confirmed with Booking.com Customer Service before proceeding
- Any messages purporting to be from Booking.com that contain instructions to follow links and/or open/download files should be treated with caution.
- If you have any doubts about a message, contact Booking.com directly. Do not use the numbers or address in the suspicious message and use the details from their official website.

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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/>

**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.

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*Siân 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 APRIL ISSUE IS 5:00pm  
TUESDAY 11TH MARCH**

**Note for distributors: ☆ Rolvenden Magazines available for collection on Saturday 22nd March. ☆ Newenden Magazines available for collection on Sunday 23rd March.**

The online version will be available from 1st April 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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Hole Park Estate, Rolvenden, Kent

## 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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- 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

---

### **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)

*Parish Council will meet at*

*7:30pm March 4th in St Peter's*

### **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)

*Parish Council will meet at*

*7:30pm March 20th*

*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.*

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