

# Rolvenden & Newenden *Parish Magazine*

2026  
APRIL  
ONLINE





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*Cover Image: Standing Guard\_Beth Jones*

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## ***Minister's letter this month comes from Rev'd Lindsay Hammond***

Hello everyone.

At the time of writing, the missiles have been leaving their vapour trails across the Middle Eastern sky for just a few days. I hope that, by the time you read this, it will all be over, and that people will be able to return to the streets once again or fly home. But, for now, everybody has been told to remain indoors. It's too dangerous, to go out.

On the evening of the first Easter Day, the disciples also remained indoors. It was too dangerous to go out. And so, they slammed the door and locked it firmly.

The rolling away of the 'door of the tomb' opened the future to the disciples. New hope and a new future out of defeat. Initially, the disciples locked themselves out of their future? What was it that kept them locked in – kept them from taking that first step into a new life, into a new way of being, into a new way of engaging with life, into a new way of seeing the world, others, themselves?

And, for that matter, is there anything that locks us out of our future? Fear, old habits and routines, tiredness, a lack of imagination, the uncertainty of the present and the future, a reticence to take responsibility for ourselves and our lives, sticking with the life we have, even if it's not the one we want?



Open door ready and waiting



We often talk about what Easter, the resurrection of Christ, the empty tomb, has given us. But what if Easter is also asking something of us? If Easter declares anything, it is that God believes we are worth the effort. Do we believe that we are worth the effort? And how about others? Are they worth a little effort from us?

Is our church? Is our community?

It's Easter. What effort can we make today?

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*Lindsay*





## St Peter and St Mary Flower Rotas April 2026

Sunday	St Mary	St Peter
Apr 05	EASTER SUNDAY	FLOWER ARRANGERS
Apr 05	Sylvia K	FLOWER ARRANGERS
Apr 05	Sylvia K	Rosie Edmonds
Apr 05	Elizabeth M	Rosie Edmonds
<b>Contact:</b>	Sylvia Kellet 01580 240463 Sylviakellett@eplusmail.com	Rosie Edmonds 01797 252196 rosie.edmonds@hotmail.com
	Brass Cleaning at St Mary: Richard Coleman	

Easter flower arranging on Sat April 4th please.

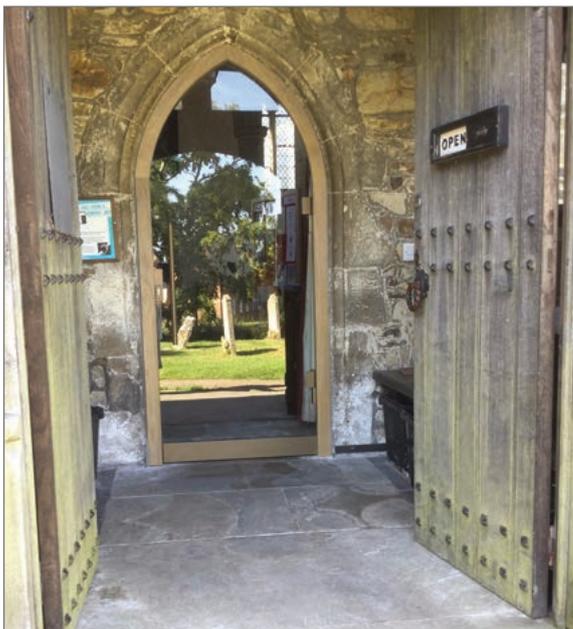
St. Peter's Church: Normally open between 10.00 and 5.00pm. If you need access outside of these times, please contact Frances Jones or Rosie Edmonds. Should arrangers be unable to do any slots please swap with someone else and let Rosie know.

### ❖ From the Registers ❖

#### Funeral

**24th February** Anthony Leschallas at Charing followed by Memorial Service at St Mary's  
**Interment of Ashes**

**14th March** Pauline Gower in St Mary's Preceded by Memorial Service



#### Open Door

So did anything strike you as odd about that picture on page 3?

Did it speak to you?

It speaks to me of the community being at the heart of the Church just as the church is in the heart of the community.

And what about the word OPEN? We say we are open for everyone.

But do you believe us? What would make you come through it?

*Judy V*



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# The Church of England

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

### Wednesday 1st April Wednesday of Holy Week

7pm St Mildred's Tenterden Celtic Lent: A Reflective Service

### Thursday 2nd April Maundy Thursday 7:00pm St Mildred's Tenterden

The Liturgy of the Last Supper and Vigil

### FRIDAY 3RD APRIL GOOD FRIDAY 2:00PM ST PETER'S NEWENDEN

The last hour of the Cross

### Saturday 4th April Holy Saturday

9:00am St Mildred's Tenterden  
Celtic Lent - a reflective service

7:00pm St Mary's Rolvenden  
A Service of Waiting and Expectation

### Sunday 5th April Easter Sunday

6:00am Venue St John's Smallhythe Dawn Service followed by optional breakfast

9:15am St Peter's Newenden

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden

Lighting of Easter Fire and Eucharist

Easter Eucharist

### Sunday 12th April Second Sunday of Easter

9:30am St Peter's Newenden  
Eucharist

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden  
Eucharist

### Sunday 19th April Third Sunday of Easter

9:30 am St Peter's Newenden  
Eucharist

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden  
Matins

6:00pm St Michael's Benefice Choral Evensong

### Sunday 26th April Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:30am St Peter's Newenden  
Morning Praise

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden  
Eucharist

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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 in  
St Michael's Church every Wednesday

The service will last about twenty-five minutes.

Thursday morning Holy Communion services  
at Tenterden Church have been suspended  
during the work to install lighting in the  
church.

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](http://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.*

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# Quiz Night



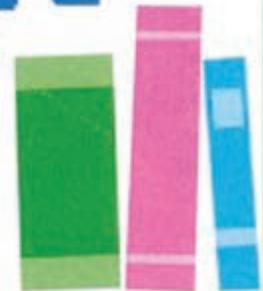
**Quiz Master: Peter Garrott**

**Saturday 25 April 2026**

**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 8 people per table.

**Please let us know in advance if you wish to join us.  
Tickets can be paid for in cash or by card on the night.**

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 - 07851 478356**

**Lin Lodge - 07800 504104**

**Glen Andrews - 07841 527500**

**aralyn Button - 07851 787424**

In aid of

**NSPCC** We will be holding a raffle



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## Rolvenden Gardening Society Spring Show

This was held on Saturday, 14th. March in Rolvenden Village Hall. The day dawned sunny and bright but a little chilly after what had been a mixed week of weather, culminating in an extremely windy and wet night on the Thursday. The other downside was the amount of slug damage, particularly to the daffodils. Who knew what the show would produce? However, members came up trumps and there were 133 entries from 20 members.

As you entered the hall, you were greeted by the beautiful sight of several vases of daffodils and the intoxicating aroma of wonderful hyacinths which filled the hall. Because our usual judge had fallen ill, Sue Clout our Show Secretary,





had found a professional husband and wife team who were willing to come and judge the floral exhibits and the vegetables.

The daffodils were beautiful and all deserved a certificate but there were some outstanding exhibits. Richard Coleman, amongst his entries, received a certificate of merit for his 3 amazing double daffodils; Tony Abraham's exhibits received several firsts; Jan Gambier came first out of seven in the multi headed narcissi class and Patience Hallifax received a first in the miniature daffodil class. Well done to all of those members!

Other floral exhibits were 8 grape hyacinths, 5 hyacinths and several camellia in a range of colours, most notable here being the very pretty ones entered by Tina Tompsett which received a first, and 4 bowls of hellebore, with Jan Gambier again taking first place. There were several entries for the foliage and flowering shrub class, but actual flower arrangements were down. However, congratulations to Margaret Hewitt who received a first for her arrangement in a basket.

Amongst the vegetables were 3 magnificent leeks grown by Ashley Bradshaw which received a first place, with Richard Coleman second. Richard also entered prize winning celeriac. The photography class was won by Pam Smith. Cookery entries were down a bit, but the judge did comment on the 3 pates saying that she was very impressed by them. Richard Coleman again did well here, winning the men's cookery class with his entry of a sticky ginger cake.

Thanks must also go to the Preschool for their delightful daffodil pictures and to Daisy May Tompsett for her charming daffodil picture.

Several members and friends enjoyed a cup of tea and a chat after looking at the exhibits. Tony Abrahams announced the prize winners and John Walters called the raffle. Thanks to Jean and Ian Clifton for running it: £154 was made for our society funds. Thanks also to Gill Pooley and her husband for doing the teas and to everyone else who helped to get the hall ready and put the equipment away.

Thank you to everyone who supported the show and to all those who put in entries. It wouldn't have been a show without you!



**PRIZEWINNERS:**

**First:** Tony Abrahams- 6 Firsts, 2 Seconds, 3 Thirds.

**Second:** Jan Gambier- 5 Firsts, 2 Seconds, 5 Thirds.

**Third:** Richard Coleman- 3 Firsts, 5 Seconds, 2 Thirds.

**PRESCHOOL:**

1st. Cooper, 2nd. Evie, 3rd. Honey.

**OLDER AGE GROUP:**

well done to Daisy May Tompsett who came first.



*Maralyn Button*



**Rolvenden**  
Small School - BIG DIFFERENCE

**Enjoyment**

## Rolvenden School Report

Dipping into the School's newsletter for parents, the reader can see that the children at Rolvenden Primary have a busy and engaging range of opportunities with various topics covered, extension activities offered, and each child is supported on their learning journey.

At the end of last term, I was privileged to see Willow Class in action as they made a class artwork on the theme of Dark Skies. The session was planned and led by Anna Saunders, a local artist, and the children learnt more about dark skies and the importance of them whilst engaging in art. Each child was eagerly engaged and Ms Whitlock and her team were there to offer extra support, advice and encouragement. You can see the end result in the picture they produced.

The Young Voices Choir is a national event which is part of the annual showcase of the world's largest school choir concert series held at the O2 Arena in London. Eight thousand children participated in this event, a triumph of inclusivity. The children thanked Mrs Vincer for being their choir leader and orchestrating their visit. They benefitted enormously from their engagement and were very excited to share their enthusiasm for the event and their reflections upon it.

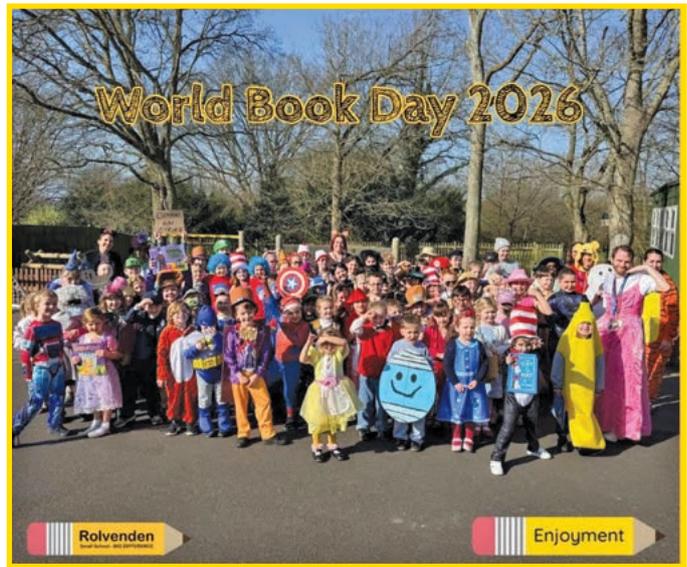
This is the National Year of Reading and the School has set up the Scholastic Book Club to facilitate the reading habit. Profits earned from the club will be invested in the School's library.



World Book Day was packed full with events for the children. A great deal of emphasis was placed on reading for pleasure. There was also Task Master, a themed reading exercise where the children were given a short amount of time to complete a reading related task. The Masked Reader involved the children being given a list of books and they had to choose which book they wanted to listen to from that selection. One of the characters from that book, a staff member in costume, then read the extract.

A very exciting term of learning lies ahead for the pupils. Hazel Class's theme map indicates that the pupils will be exploring the natural world and building their vocabulary, learning to classify trees and animals. In maths they will be comparing length, weight and capacity and focusing on developing resilience and perseverance in the face of challenges. (This is just a snippet of what is planned.) One of Oak Class' study areas is geographical skills. They will be expanding their geographical vocabulary and learning to use non-fiction books, stories, maps and photos as sources of information. Willow Class, amongst many other areas focused upon, has the theme of Marvellous Madagascar. The pupils in Holly Class are being encouraged to become more independent in their study habits and raise their own relevant questions about the world around them.

*Sue Hatt*



## **Dingleden on Display**

**Three Gardens Open in Dingleden on Saturday 9th Sunday 10th May**

Entrance £5 per adult. Refreshments will be served

This is in aid of St George's Appeal, Benenden  
and the Charity Sign Health

More information next month





## Weather and Nature Notes

A new month and quite different weather, March has “come in like a lamb” with some blue skies and big fluffy clouds.

February provided 136mm of rain, the going was somewhat soggy in the fields; yet after only a few days respite from rain and a bit of sun, the ground was noticeably drying. Since the weather became milder in February signs of spring have been apparent and by the end of that month it felt as though the year was more advanced than it was.

With the early March warmth and sunshine, this feeling accelerated as in the garden the multitude of flowers were attracting insect life: a lovely yellow brimstone butterfly flitted from one daffodil to another, peacocks and commas basked in the sun rising occasionally to chase off intruders into their personal space, as did territorial patrolling male hairy-footed flower bees. A different moth caught my eye as it stopped at some daffodils, an orange underwing. I don't recall seeing one before, and this was quite a brief meeting. They are a day flying moth whose food plant is birch of which there are quite a few nearby. (Birch is not only an attractive tree all year but it supports an enormous amount of wildlife.) Ladybirds, various bumble bees and honeybees were all busy, (I was pleased to see honeybees back in a hollow tree I know.) Imperial fritillaries that were just piercing the soil had put on about eight inches growth in a week,



magnolias' tight furry buds burst to reveal their pink blooms, and even some bearded iris are in bloom. My apple tree flower buds are just breaking and horse chestnut sticky buds are beginning to burst.

Only the odd aeroplane noise disturbs the quiet and lovely sound of spring birdsong, blackbirds are probably the most noticeable and a chiffchaff. Across the country these little birds appear to be arriving about a couple of weeks early. Frogs had deposited some large lumps of spawn in one pond, and all this by the second day of March.

The weather then cooled down, there were a few frosty early mornings and some gusty and gale force winds did their best to flatten the lovely bright daffodil displays, but they pick themselves up and still look like prize winners. Nestled low to the ground many spring flowers are best placed to brush off any bad weather, cheery primroses, celandines, violets and red dead nettle amongst others, and the occasional barren strawberry plant which unfortunately doesn't bare the tasty diminutive strawberries of its lookalike the wild strawberry which flowers a little later.



By mid-March crocus blooms that delighted us earlier are faded and it is the turn of other seasonal flowers to perform. Blackthorn blossom brightens up the otherwise bare hedgerows, and I see the first few bluebell flowers, soon to be joined by such a mass that it becomes a blue haze across the woodland floor. It is a shame that all the loveliness that

nature offers is often spoilt in many ways, and the litter that is tossed into verges is appalling. I joined members of the community in the litter pick, and it is satisfying to see it look pristine – for now.

A guaranteed sight on a walk is bags of dog poo slung in bushes, verges and ponds etc. They come in assorted colours and show a lack of respect for wildlife and countryside. The perpetrators are not too lazy to walk the dogs', or to bag the poo, yet with the hard bit done are too vain or too tired to carry this light package to a bin; as Olive's great post box topper says "bag it, bin it."

Hazel Beaney



# Rolvenden Pre-school Report



Thanks to some lovely responses to my previous request for donations of items that the children can repurpose, we now have a good stock of materials to put to good use. We are still looking for donations of scrap paper for the copious amounts of mark making we enjoy.

Our daffodil pictures went into the Gardening Society Spring show, we have made some lovely Spring chicks and the children have decorated their own Easter bonnets (thanks to another kind donation).

We have sown peas into our raised bed and are enjoying watching the perennial strawberries and lemon balm coming back to life. Staff are working hard to make improvements to our outdoor learning areas so that the children can get maximum benefit from the space over the summer term.

Aga completed her apprenticeship and is now a fully qualified level 3 practitioner, well done on all your hard work Aga. *Helen*

*We still have some spaces available for the coming year and would welcome any interested families getting in touch with us and coming for a visit. You can email us at [rolvendenps@gmail.com](mailto:rolvendenps@gmail.com) or call us on 07729718181.*



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Sleeping Beauty  
The Ballet  
19 April



Voces8  
24 April



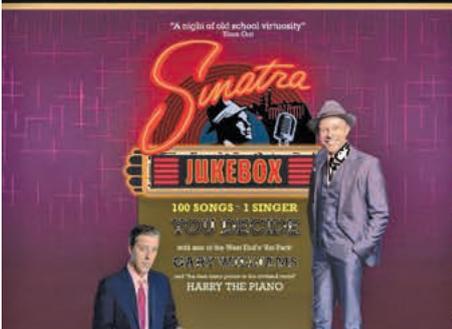
NT Live:  
The Audience  
26 April



The Bull at Benenden Music Club  
2 May



Alex McAleer  
Mind Reader  
9 May



The Sinatra Jukebox  
30 May



An Evening with  
Joe Swift  
6 June



LP Swing Orchestra  
19 June

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## Rolvenden's Spring Litter Pick

Fifty residents turned out to take part in Rolvenden's annual litter pick on Saturday, 7 March, and in a fantastic community effort covered every public road in the parish, collecting an enormous amount of refuse. The enthusiasm extended to some who were not able to make the actual day but undertook a solo litter pick along their own road. The popularity of the event increases every year, demonstrating the pride that Rolvenden residents have for their countryside and how much they care which contrasts with the disappointing habits of so many drivers, one or more of whom appears to drink a great deal of bottled cider - by far the most common item retrieved from the roadside hedges of the A28.

Particular thanks go to the staff of Hole Park Estate for assisting in the set up, and on the day and sorting the rubbish; to Groundscare and General Services Ltd for specialist equipment and staff on the day; to the Georgetti and Tompsett families for supplying tractors and trailers and to Rolvenden Parish Council for covering the costs of the event. And to the management and staff of The Star for providing well-earned bacon rolls with coffee for all who wanted them after the conclusion of the event.

*Next year's event is scheduled for Saturday, 6 March 2027.*

*Edward Barham*





# FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!

## Lamb



Lamb has a long, rich history as a dietary staple and cultural symbol. The domestication of sheep is believed to have begun around ten thousand years ago in the Middle East. Because sheep were relatively easy to raise and could graze on land unsuitable for crops, they became a reliable source of food for many ancient communities and their fleece was valuable. From there lamb became an important source of food around the world for thousands of years, maintaining its significance from ancient to modern cooking due to its availability, nutritional value and symbolic meaning.

In Ancient Greece lamb was often roasted over open fires during festivals and religious ceremonies. The Romans valued lamb and used various cooking methods including roasting and stewing with herbs and spices. As trade and migration spread across Europe, Asia and Africa, lamb became part of many regional cuisines. Today, lamb is particularly popular in Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, Asian, New Zealand and Indian cooking.

The names for sheep meat are based on the age of the animal, indicating differences in the taste, texture and cooking methods used:

- Lamb refers to sheep that is typically less than one year old. It is tender and has a mild flavour, making it a popular type of sheep meat in many countries.
- Hogget is the meat of a sheep that is usually between one and two years old. It has a slightly stronger flavour and tougher texture than lamb but is still relatively tender.
- Mutton refers to meat from a sheep that is over two years old. It has a much stronger flavour and a tougher texture. It is best slow cooked to soften the meat and develop the rich flavour and is used in stews and



curries.

In some regions there are other distinctions, such as spring lamb which refers to lambs born in winter and slaughtered in spring which are especially tender. Lamb can also be identified by the cut of meat, leg, shoulder, loin or rack.

Lamb is extremely versatile in cooking. It can be roasted, grilled, braised or slow-cooked depending on the cut. For a special occasion, a roasted rack of lamb is delicious, if you cook two racks together, it's called a guard of honour; bending two or more racks into a circle is a crown, the centre is usually filled with a stuffing including minced meat, herbs and breadcrumbs.

in Middle Eastern cooking lamb is used for kebabs, slow cooked stews and shawarma. South Asian cooking frequently uses lamb or mutton in curries, biryanis and kebabs. In Central Asia it is often cooked over open flames or included in dumplings and rice dishes.

Lamb goes well with strong herbs and spices like cumin, mint, garlic, coriander.

it is a nutrient rich meat that provides several important vitamins and minerals. It is an excellent source of high-quality protein, essential for muscle growth, tissue repair and overall body function.

A typical serving of lamb provides significant amounts of iron, which helps transport oxygen in the blood and prevent iron-deficiency anaemia, and zinc to support immune system function and wound healing. In addition, it provides several B vitamins particularly vitamin B12, niacin and riboflavin, vitamin B12 being especially important for nerve function and the production of red blood cells. It contains healthy fats including some omega-3 fatty acids particularly when the sheep are grass fed. However, it can contain saturated fats so moderation is often recommended as part of a balanced diet.

Lamb holds deep symbolic meaning in several major religions and cultural traditions, in Judaism it is associated with the festival of Passover; in Christianity Jesus Christ is often referred to as the Lamb of God representing sacrifice, innocence and redemption. Lamb imagery appears frequently in Christian art and theology especially in connection with Easter.

In Islam a lamb or sheep is commonly sacrificed during Eid al-Adha, the Festival of Sacrifice. This tradition commemorates the willingness of the Prophet Ibrahim to sacrifice his son in an act of obedience to God. As well as religious contexts lamb has long been associated with celebration, weddings, holidays and significant occasions.

*Lavinia*





## The Wonderdome and Some Difficult Decisions

The School Newsletter for 9th February includes a report on the visit made the previous Friday by most of the children to the portable planetarium, the Wonderdome, erected in the Village Hall.

Thanks to some careful planning and preparation, plus some generous funding, the children in Oak, Willow and Holly Class visited the Wonderdome as part of the High Weald Landscape Partnership's Wild About Dark Skies Festival.

The posters designed by Willow Class to advertise the event formed a colourful and informative background for the introductory talk given by Samantha Nicholas (High Weald Landscape Partnership Team Support Officer, JAC Clerk, and Co-ordinator of the Festival) about why dark skies are so important, particularly for migrating birds and nocturnal animals, and what we can all do as responsible citizens of Earth to help preserve them. This was a lively and interactive session with the children showing a good understanding of how a Dark Skies' Policy benefits people as well as the environment, and what actions individuals and the community can take. They then headed into the Wonderdome for an experience where they travelled into space! Inside the 3600 dome, the children travelled on a rollercoaster rocket where they saw planets, stars and even the moon landing!

The children were then invited to produce a poster promoting the Dark Skies initiative. This was the work on display with all the other information about the NDP. And this is where the hard decisions had to be made by Denise Curtain and Judy Vinson charged with finding a winner and a runner-up for each class.

"We were looking at each entry as a poster rather than a picture. Did it tell us something about the issues? Did it promote an action that would advance the Dark Skies project? Did it have impact, something to remember? Was there a balance between the visual and words?"



There were some delightful touches: night creatures sporting sunglasses to counteract the glare had us smiling. There were several punchy strap lines showing a high degree of skill with words, there was a lot of impact. Finally, the judges managed to narrow the field down to six posters.

The individual poster shown at the top of this article fulfilled all our expectations for an effective poster. It is informative, persuasive and optimistic with a strong strapline: 'Dark Skies – Bright Future!'"

- In Holly Class the winner was Darcy and the runner-up, Lily.
- In Willow Class the winner was Penelope and the runner-up, Martha.
- In Oak Class the winner was Henry and the runner-up, Bodhie.

Many thanks are due to Miss Whitlock for co-ordinating the event, and Samantha Nicholas for arranging the Planetarium visit as part of the Wild About Dark Skies Festival. Thanks are also due to Sue Hatt.

*Denise Curtain and Judy Vinson*

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## The Star comes of age

The Star is a place people go to hold a celebration. But on March 8th people went to celebrate the Star and an amazing 18 years being an institution at the heart of the community

Yve and Lyn summed it up:

*Apparently when we first took on this little pub, we were given six months to make it work...Well... 18 years later we are still here... What a journey it's been! From village fetes and music festivals...real food, real ale and a real heart. To unforgettable parties, heartfelt funerals, and everything in between. From Bloody Covid (and the Care Bears initiative!) Proper sports on the TV and support of the Tigers. To some truly fantastic nights that we'll never forget. The buzz in this place still gives us goosebumps.*

*And the truth is - it's not just us. It's*

- *Our staff past and present.*
- *Our old friends.*
- *Our regulars.*
- *Our families.*

*Together you are the ones who made this pub a safe place, a meeting place, a shoulder, a dance floor, a family friendly community.*

A great celebration was had and more than one glass was raised, legally! now Yve, Lyn and the Star Bar Team had reached 18!





**Rolvenden History Group**

Friday, 10 April 2026

## **Richborough – the Secret Port**

This talk by Dr Martin Watts tells the story of Richborough, its secrets, successes and the controversy it aroused within Government and the British Army. In 1917, as the U-boat threat reached its peak and it became necessary to increase shipping capacity to France with the arrival of the US army, a secret port was built at Richborough.



Dr. Martin Watts' first career was in the Merchant Navy, both afloat and ashore, and it was this early exposure to the people and places of the world that kindled his interest in history .

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/>



## ROLVENDEN HISTORY GROUP

### **Annual General Meeting 7:00pm Friday May 1st in St Mary's Church**

One of the items the committee will be keen to bring forward is a request for more members for the committee. We need some new minds to think through putting together the programme of talks, the other things RHG might do – visits, exhibitions of historic material on the village, research/recording of places and stories of the history of the village. There is potential there but a committee of four is just not going to have the time and energy to explore those possible routes.

A second is to find some volunteers who can help with the practicalities around a meeting, both setting up/clearing up and helping with the serving of tea and coffee after the talks.

Once we have finished the serious business of the evening, members will be able to sit back and enjoy some individual offerings from Jackie King, Sue Hatt and Judy Vinson under the heading 'A Village Through Time'. We are donning our thinking caps!

As ever non-members will be welcome to attend. Better still new members will be very welcome. The annual membership is £15 whilst visitors pay £4. If you come as a visitor and decide at the end of the evening you want to join, we refund the £4.

To whet your appetite here is the the programme for the rest of 2026.

June 5 Sue Flipping: The Walls Have Ears

July 3 David Dennis: Birth, Life and Destruction of Old Winchelsea

Aug 7 Graham Macpherson: 'Casualty Care During the Great War'

Sept 4 Andrew Mayfield: 'Mote House, Hidden Histories'

Oct 2 David Allen: Black Teeth & Dirty Fingernails:

The Great Unwashed of Victorian England

Nov 6 Ed Adams: 'Pluckley: the Making and Faking of a Ghost Story'

Dec 4 Show and Tell by members of the History Group

5th March, Guy Bartlett: '120 Years and Counting' – Flying Past –

The History of Aviation in Kent'



# Rolvenden Parish Council Report

**The Annual Parish Meeting  
for Rolvenden Parish Council will be held at  
Rolvenden Village Hall, Maytham Road, Rolvenden  
on Thursday 16 April 2026 at 7.30pm**

Please do come and hear what your Parish Council and all the local organisations have been doing over the last year. The Kent Association of Local Councils Community Award will also be presented.

Wine and nibbles will be served at the end of the meeting and you will be able to chat to your local Parish Councillors.

*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](mailto:clerk@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
or call 07900 693572.*

A	O	C
H	E	O
L	T	C

### 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.



# Newenden Wildflower Meadow

## March Meeting



The meeting of Newenden Meadow held in St. Peter's church included a fascinating and highly informative talk from Nature Conservationist Brian Banks, on Nature Recovery in Northiam. Brian concentrated on explaining the regime they are working on to control grass and invasive plants such as docks and thistles and giving space for wild

flowers to grow. He showed the progress of flowers in the field through simple colour graphs over the last four years, and showed similar graphs for butterflies which are growing in number as their food plants become established.

Brian also told us about the creation of two new ponds in the field that will increase the biodiversity once they become established and become home for newts, frogs and insects.

We had 21 people attend the meeting and reports back are that everyone enjoyed the evening and time to chat that followed. They were thrilled to discover more about nature renewal in our area. We had a small raffle and cake stall which made £120 towards a possible battery run moth trap for our field in Newenden.

And in the Selmes field the meadow is slowly waking up. Scott has mown the path for the first time this year, so it is now a pleasure to walk along to the bench in comfort. A small patch of native daffodils have come into flower by the bench. These are the Lent Lily and are regarded as our true native daffodil.

*Jillian Eldridge*

*Our Newenden Meadow Community meeting will be on Friday 17th April at 7.30pm in St Peter's. Do come and join us for another enjoyable evening.*





# The Mildred Trust - Good News for our villages



You may have noticed the name Mildred Trust buried in notices about a food bank and similar arrangements for food and essentials, but the words are now appearing on posts in Facebook and posters on display about the place, publicising three holiday activities for children for free in Rolvenden Village Hall. Heads up Newenden and Rolvenden, these are for your children!

Following this exciting development, it seems like the right moment to see where the Mildred Trust fits and how it got here. It is Tenterden based. Inevitably some of the activities are located in Tenterden, but the focus is wider. Hence the strap line: Rural Community Compassion in Action.

The story starts in 2003 when The Mildred Trust was established as The Vicar of Tenterden's Trust, founded on a bequest made to St Mildred's Church and generous donations from the congregation.

2016 saw the creation of a Benefice of nine Churches bringing together the communities of Appledore, Ebony, Newenden, Rolvenden, Smallhythe, St Michaels, Stone, Tenterden and Wittersham, all of whom now fell within the gamut of the Mildred Trust.



Fast forward to 2020 and the Covid 19 pandemic and the nation's rapid and innovative response to "need" in every sense of the word. Suddenly there was an explosion of on-line classrooms, cottage industries making laundry bags and masks, market gardening, bread-making, and many more. For every difficulty, someone found a way of addressing that need.

In Tenterden and the surrounding rural communities, one of the biggest problems was getting food to families with children, especially those children who had been having free school meals. Supermarkets were rationing basic grocery items making it really hard for families.

What happened next was a heartwarming example of communities coming together and combining all their skills and generosity to create a really valuable resource so that children and their families did not go to bed hungry. Thus, The Old Schoolhouse Larder was born.

From this small kernel, The Old Schoolhouse Larder combined forces with The Vicar of Tenterden's Trust and in 2023 became The Mildred Trust. The charity is now expanding in its aspirations to work together with local communities to make a difference, especially with people living with food insecurity.

**The Trust now has four areas of work:**

- food (reducing food insecurity),
- community Activities (creativity and innovation),
- sustainability (people working together to live more sustainable lives),
- working with children and young people (creating equality of opportunity).

Keep an eye out for more initiatives coming our way,

*Judy V*

## From the Editor's Inbox

An email recently dropped into my inbox signed The Rolvenden Rumour Reporter. He hinted at a plan for something in Rolvenden Churchyard this summer involving bears of the cuddly, stuffed variety. My thoughts ran immediately to a picnic in a woodier part of the churchyard with everyone going in disguise, anticipating a big surprise. But the last line in the email said this was going to be a case of a Zip a Dee Do Dah wonderful day. I asked for more details and gave him the deadline for the April issue but nothing more has come in. I have two chaps, Mr Green Bear and NT Garden Bear, who are taking an inordinate interest in my inbox. *JV Editor*





## Letter from MP Katie Lam



We're very fortunate to live in such a safe and beautiful rural area, but in the crime survey I ran last year, hundreds of you shared concerns about issues that chip away at that sense of security – including fly-tipping, speeding and dangerous driving, antisocial behaviour, shoplifting and unauthorised encampments.

One of the most common things I heard was that people rarely see police officers locally, and that reporting crime can sometimes feel pointless if nothing seems to happen afterwards. I completely understand that frustration, but we must continue to speak up when these problems occur. Reporting incidents helps ensure the police know where issues are happening and where their attention is needed.

That's why over the past month I've been bringing local people and businesses together with the police to discuss these

concerns directly and make sure officers hear first-hand how people in our area are feeling.

I hosted two meetings on crime and policing through my clubs – one focused on rural crime with the police rural taskforce and people from our farming community, and another looking at shoplifting and antisocial behaviour on our high streets, with the Police and Crime Commissioner and local shop owners in attendance.

Alongside this, I've been highlighting to Kent's senior police leadership and local beat officers the areas where people have told me they want to see more visible policing and better follow-up when crimes are reported.

Particularly across a large rural area like ours, it's naturally difficult for the police to be everywhere at once. But many of the problems people are worried about are already illegal – the real challenge is enforcement. That's why it's so vital that the police know where problems are happening so they can respond effectively and I'll continue to highlight to police areas in the Weald that need better support.

So please do continue to report incidents, even when it feels frustrating. And as always, if you're experiencing an ongoing issue and need help, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me at [katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk).

*Katie*



# Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch

April 2026

**Our focus this month is on:**

**feedback from Ashford and District Neighbourhood Watch, securing vehicles and keeping sheep safe – are you a responsible dog owner?**

## **Summary & recent incidents**

Watch for crime: catapulting, vandalism, riding of e-scooters on roads/pavements, break-in attempts and theft from properties, shops and cars. Take photos/videos and report evidence to the police.

## **Feedback from Ashford and District Neighbourhood Watch meeting 13 March 2026**

The meeting was held at Ashford Police Station and it was attended by: Inspector Simon Johnson from the CSU (Community Safety Unit) and Sergeant Dan Edge (who has attended Rolvenden Parish Council meetings), representative council members and My Community Voice (Neighbourhood alert).

In a joint approach between Neighbourhood Watch/the police, co-ordinators for their area shared feedback on the issues in their community: anti-social behaviour, catapulting, theft, drugs and e-scooters.

Inspector Johnson wants to build a positive community with experienced officers/talented sergeants working together to combat crime. His go-to phrase was 'hyper-local', meaning strong Neighbourhood Watch groups working with the local Beat Officers is the best way to prevent and tackle crime.

## **Vehicle Crime**

- There have been a number of incidents of theft from vehicles. Always remember to lock your vehicle even if you will only be a few minutes/check windows are not open.
- Keep your keys safe out of view at home/away from the front door.
- Be aware of car jackers: drive with the doors locked and when queueing, leave sufficient space in front of your vehicle to enable you to get out of a tight spot. If your vehicle is bumped from behind, wait to pull over – somewhere safe and preferably where there are people. You don't know the person who has collided with you; they could well be carjackers. If you're suspicious, call the police.
- If someone threatens you, it's better to hand over the keys to the vehicle than become a victim of assault. Then call 999 as soon as possible and ask for the police.
- If your car is stolen, some modern vehicle alarm/tracker systems have the facility to isolate or shut down fuel systems, bringing the vehicle to a halt.
- Park responsibly: avoid parking in dark and secluded areas.
- Watch for illegal tow trucks; thieves often attempt to lift vehicles from the street.
- Fit good in-car security locks.



- Double check electronic locking. Electronic devices can be used to jam the electronic signal from your key fob to lock your vehicle. Always manually check your vehicle has locked before walking away.
- Before owning, check for cloning. Changing the identity of a vehicle (vehicle cloning), can be as simple as adding stolen number plates. When buying a vehicle, always check the DVLA V5 document and make sure the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on the vehicle is the same as on the document.
- Don't leave anything in vehicles, tools, valuables etc. Even empty bags and coats attract thieves.

More details: <https://www.kent.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/keeping-vehicles-safe/preventing-car-vehicle-theft/>

<https://www.gov.uk/checks-when-buying-a-used-car>

<https://soldsecure.com/>The UK's premier testing and certification house for security products

**Keeping sheep safe – Are you a responsible dog owner?** Dog owners should be reminded their dogs can be shot if they worry sheep. Keep your dog on the lead and close gates. 'Worrying' livestock is a crime under the Dogs Act (Protection of Livestock) 1953. If you are on agricultural land, and a dog you own or are in charge of **attacks** or **chases** livestock in a way that may cause injury, suffering or loss, you could be **prosecuted, fined or ordered to pay compensation**. If you see a dog worrying livestock, call 999.

**If you have been a victim of scams** contact your Bank immediately by calling 159 For further information about Fraud, visit:

<https://www.kent.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/>

You will also find valuable information from the Home Office at Stop! Think Fraud - How to stay safe from scams: <https://stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk/>

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### **If you have been a victim of scams**

Contact your Bank immediately by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at **www.actionfraud.police.uk** or call 0300 123 2040. For further information

about Fraud, visit: <https://www.kent.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/>. You will also find valuable information from the Home Office at: Stop! Think Fraud - How to stay safe from scams:

<https://stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk/>

### **Reporting crime to the police**

■ Serious crimes in progress dial 999, other incidents via 101 (phone) 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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*Sîan Reeves Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch*



# Parish Magazine Essential Information:

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



**THE DEADLINE FOR THE MAY ISSUE IS  
5:00PM TUESDAY 14TH APRIL.**

**Note for distributors: ☆ Rolvenden Magazines available for collection on Saturday 28th April. ☆ Newenden Magazines available for collection on Saturday 28th April.**

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



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## **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

## **Community Fridge**

Open in the entrance hall at the Leisure Centre seven days a week during centre opening hours. Community facility everyone welcome to donate surplus perishable food or to collect some. This reduces food waste and food insecurity. Details of acceptable donations are on the fridge: fresh perishable goods that are within the use-by date only. No fresh meat, butchery or fish.

## **Community Shop**

Leisure Centre every Monday, 1.45-2.45pm. Freely available to ANYONE finding it hard to make ends meet. No eligibility criteria. Select groceries to the value of £20 and only pay £6. Cash only.

## **Old Schoolhouse Larder**

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. Tuesdays at Tenterden Leisure Centre from 5.15-6.15pm and The Family Hub, Recreation Ground Road on Fridays from 9.30-10.30am.

## **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 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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**THINK FRAUD**



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TRUST**

**LESS  
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STANDARDS**

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The Samaritans: 0845 79 09 090

Childline: 0800 1111

Mankind: 01823 334 244

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

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

**VS** VICTIM  
SUPPORT

SAMARITANS

ChildLine  
0800 1111

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## Refuse Collection

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

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

You can also download a calendar.

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

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

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

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

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

Telephone ABC on Tel 01233 330646

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

Our MP is Katie Lam

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

Office tel: 01580 388 344

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

### NEWENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

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

Parish Clerk: Mrs Lauren Dobson.

C/o Carpens, Hobbs lane,

Beckley. East Sussex, TN31 6TT

Telephone: 01797 260364

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

*Parish Council will meet at 7:00pm*

*12th May '26 in St Peter's church.*

### ROLVENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

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

Parish Clerk: Mrs Louise Goldsmith,

5 Artisan Road, Headcorn, TN27 9AZ

Telephone: 07900 693572

email:

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

*Annual Parish Meeting will be*

*at 7.30pm 16 April '26*

*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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