

# Rolvenden & Newenden *Parish Magazine*

2025  
JUNE  
ONLINE





# Parishes of Rolvenden and Newenden

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*Cover Image: Margaret Hewett*





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

*Dear Friends,*

On Sunday, 8th June, we will celebrate Pentecost and hear again the story of those early disciples who, after the extraordinary days running from the crucifixion to the ascension - at which point Luke records Jesus' promise to his followers that they would receive the Holy Spirit – finally experience the fruit of that promise. And, lo, the Christian Church is born.



I think over the years we have perhaps not given enough attention to the Holy Spirit, this final part of the puzzle of the Trinity. But, with eyes open, we may well see signs of the Spirit everywhere: at baptisms, weddings, funerals; at every Eucharist and in every blessing; in the kindness towards the dispossessed and homeless; in the doggedness of Christians throughout the world who, through thick and thin, continue to live the gospel; in the lives of Christians in their daily life and work; even in the darkest places of the world, where all hope appears to be lost, caught so poignantly in the inscription on the walls of a Nazi concentration camp in the 1940s:

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.

I believe in love even when I cannot feel it.

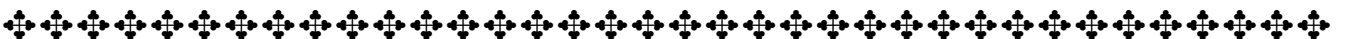
I believe in God, even when he is silent.

In the final analysis the Holy Spirit is, as Jesus promised, the one who helps us, fortifies us, empowers us to continue our Christian journey. The Spirit is our Advocate, our Counsellor, our Comforter, our teacher, the one who sets us apart to act as witnesses to God's unending love and care for the world he has created. The Spirit is perhaps the greatest gift of God to his church, indeed a foundation stone of that church to which it gave birth.

So, we should embrace the Holy Spirit, give thanks for it, and allow it to fill our lives with optimism and hope.

*With every good wish,*

*Lindsay*





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

Sunday	St Mary	St Peter
June 01	Sue C	Hazel Mahoney Masters
June 08	Sue C	Hazel Mahoney Masters
June 15	Jenny F	Rhoda Smith
June 22	Jenny F	Rhoda Smith
June 29	Wedding 28th	Janet Broadbent Kempton
<b>Contact:</b>	Sylvia Kellett 01580 240463 Sylviakellett@eplusmail.com	Rosie Edmonds 01797 252196 rosie.edmonds@hotmail.com

Brass Cleaning at St Mary: Richard Coleman

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. *Sylvia*

### ❖ From the Registers ❖

**2nd May** Susan Margaret Thorbeck at St Mary's  
**16th May** Peter James Bourne at St Nicholas Sandhurst



## If you read the printed magazine...

and your magazine is delivered to you, now is the season for the collection of subscriptions. You will have found an envelope stapled to the front of your mag with all you need to know.

*However you choose to pay, thank you from the Mag Team*

## Polite request to our Online Readers

We do not have the sophisticated programming to add a paywall and we like the idea of free access to the online version anywhere in the world, but we make an annual request to the online readership. Please show your appreciation with a donation towards the work of this church.

### Here's how:

- Account: PCC of St Mary the Virgin Rolvenden
- Sort Code: 40 52 40
- Account number: 00030089
- and please include the reference: onlinemag25

*Thank you from Rolvenden PCC*



# The Church of England

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

## Sunday 1st June: The Seventh Sunday of Easter

**NB The 8am Holy Communion  
is cancelled**

9.30am St Peter's Newenden  
The Eucharist

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

## Sunday 8th June: Pentecost Sunday

9:30am St Peter's Newenden  
The Eucharist

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden  
The Eucharist

## Sunday 15th June: Trinity Sunday

9.30am St Peter's Newenden  
The Eucharist  
6pm *Benefice Evensong (St Michael's)*

11am St Mary's Rolvenden  
Matins

## Sunday 22nd June: Feast of John the Baptist

9.30am St Peter's Newenden  
Celtic Morning Prayer

11am St Mary's Rolvenden  
The Eucharist

## Sunday 29th June: Feast of St Peter and St Paul

9:30am St Peter Newenden  
Patronal Eucharist

8am St Mary's Rolvenden  
Holy Communion  
11am St Mary's Rolvenden  
Celtic Morning Prayer

6pm *Ecumenical Evensong (Church on the Weald)*

## 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.

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  
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[www.tentroxchurches.co.uk](http://www.tentroxchurches.co.uk), and  
subscribe.



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Picture by M M Stoneham

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## Rolvenden Neighbourhood Development Plan

We've had one of those since 2019 and it is valid until 2030. Work started on producing the plan started in 2013. These are documents which come out of a lot of research and asking what people want. Done carefully, that takes time, which is why a group of 12 people have volunteered to form the steering group that will do the heavy lifting of plan production.

'Why' you ask? Because neighbourhood planning gives us an opportunity to shape how our parish develops in the future. Since our current plan was adopted, there have been changes to planning policy at a national level. Also, Ashford Borough Council are starting to review their Local Plan. We can review our Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that our policies are up-to-date and to influence change in the parish. For example, we can set out planning policies on topics including the location of any new housing that Ashford Borough Council requires us to deliver, the type of housing, green spaces we wish to safeguard, community facility priorities and improvements to the promote walking, cycling and riding.

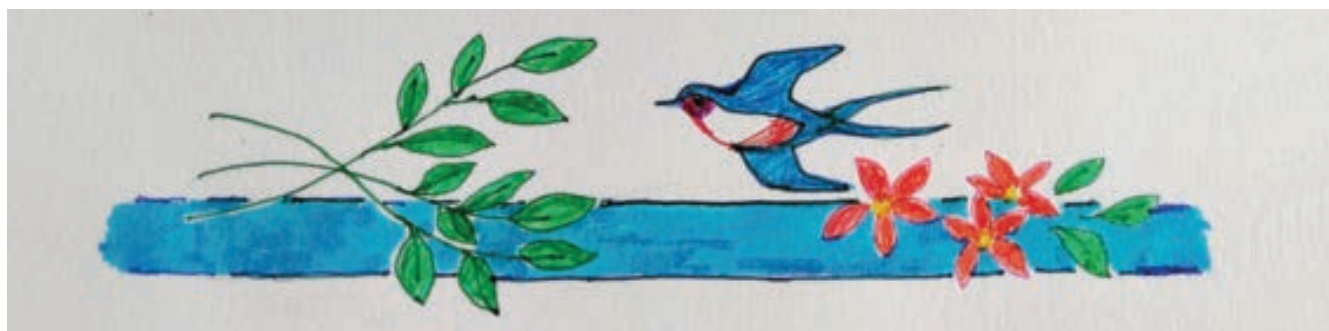
What will be in the plan? The Neighbourhood Plan contains planning policies that are used to help determine planning applications for development within our Parish. It sits alongside the Local Plan for Ashford Borough Council, carrying equal weight in planning decisions.

As we get to work, one of the first things we need is information from as many people as possible covering what is valued about Rolvenden and what is wanted for its future.

Here is the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Rolvenden1> to a short online survey, (If you require a paper copy please call Louise Goldsmith, Parish Clerk, Tel: 07900 693572.

*Do please have your say!*  
*Alison Eardley*





## Revised date for Friends of Newenden Meadow Meeting

Our apologies for having to change the date of our annual Friends meeting at short notice last month.

We have rescheduled the meeting for Friday 20th June in St. Peter's Church, Newenden at 7.30pm. We will be showing imagend celebrating the last year's events, and talking about our plans for the meadow this year. Refreshments will also be available.

We look forward to seeing you there for an enjoyable evening.

*Jillian Eldridge*



## Rolvenden Gardening Society Summer Show Saturday, 13 June in the Village Hall

Everyone is welcome from 2.30pm to come along and see some of the delightful flowers and vegetables grown by your neighbours.

Raffle tickets will be on sale and there are always many good prizes. So come and enjoy a cup of tea and chat with your friends amidst the beautiful scent of sweet peas and other flowers.

*Jan Gambier*



# Rolvenden Primary School



'Vikings and Anglo-Saxons' has been the focus theme for this term in Holly Class. This week the children have been writing recount letters from the perspective of either a Viking or an Anglo-Saxon monk after the battle at Lindisfarne. It is amazing how sophisticated the responses are, the empathy displayed and how the children have made their chosen character come to life. Detail is so well handled.

The children have also been engaged with Standard Attainment Tests. They have worked hard, shown resilience and a very positive attitude throughout the process. The staff are very pleased with the children's responses to the demands made upon them.

Hazel Class have been out and about looking for natural and found objects, focusing upon mini-beasts. They have discussed their observations and worked at developing their understanding about the life cycle of mini-beasts as well as the pattern of growth and then decay. Patterns have also been part of their programme of activities in mathematics. It is interesting to see how the themes are integrated with the subject areas to create a rich learning experience.

'Travel and transport' has been the focus of Oak class and they have been studying significant individuals who have contributed to national and international achievements. They have also been discussing change.

Willow's theme is 'Cavemen, Cults and Celts (Stone Age to Iron Age)'. This theme has enabled them to study persuasion and internet safety, encouraging the children to understand that the internet's content is made of opinion, fact and fiction where people endeavour to influence or shape behaviour. There is a great deal of emphasis upon asking the right sort of questions when selecting and organising historical information. These are invaluable life skills.



The school is an incredibly busy place with so many opportunities available for the pupils. As I write this month's review of activities, the school is preparing for the showcase of pupils' skills, a much looked forward to event by the pupils. An announcement has also been made that the end of term play is to be Beauty and the Beast.



# Easter Caper

The sun shone during the Easter school break and we were able to enjoy a wonderful garden production of William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* performed by a group of (mostly) local children who attended our CAPER.

We had sixteen children sign up for the 3-day musical workshop this time and it was their first taste of Shakespeare. We decided to use some of the original language and include the best known quotations so Hermia (Daisy Tompsett) did call Helena (Lily Georgetti) a 'painted maypole' and Lysander (Buddy Coggins) did tell his former-love Hermia to 'get you gone, you dwarf!' Demetrius (Seth Gregory) crushed Helena by telling her 'I love thee not, therefore pursue me not' and Puck (Hazel Pilcher) ended the play reassuring everyone that they 'had but slumbered here, while these visions did appear'.

The children adapted brilliantly to the unfamiliar turns of phrase and quickly understood the humour in the play. As well as the dialogue, we also decided to interject modern pop and rock songs throughout the show to add to the enjoyment. Bottom the Weaver (Betty Thomas) gave a wonderful rendition of 'All by Myself' when he became part-donkey and his friends first deserted him and Titania (Zara Tompsett) sang Lady Gaga's 'Bad Romance' to Oberon following their argument!

It was a delightful mash-up of old and new and a gentle, fun introduction to The Bard. The children's next experience of Shakespeare might be a bit more serious but we hope we have shown them that there is a lot of fun to be discovered just under the surface of his plays.

*Esme Thomas*



W	D	N
L	E	B
I	M	O

## 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.





# Folk music for a Summer evening with Duynvolck

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 7 pm  
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## Garden Safari

### Rolvenden Pre-School with Rolvenden Garden Society

The Garden Safari is being held on Saturday, 5th of July. Tickets are £5.00 and will be on sale from early June at Falstaff Antiques, The Framer's Shop and Moneypenny.

A selection of gardens from around the village will be open for you and your friends to browse around and enjoy. They will be open from 10.30am and will close promptly at 4.00pm.

Refreshments, a raffle and a plant stall will be available all day in Moneypenny lounge starting at 10.30am.

This is a fund-raising event for Pre-School and the Gardening Society so please come and enjoy a variety of gardens and support your village.

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## NSPCC Coffee Morning

Rolvenden NSPCC Committee is holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday, 28th June, 2025, from 10.30am until noon at 9, Thornden Lane, Rolvenden Layne, by kind permission of Jean and Ian Clifton. Admission will be £5 which will include a tea or coffee and biscuits. Children under ten will be free.

There will be various stalls including raffle, cake and plant stalls. Any donation to these on the day will be gratefully received. Also, there will be a chance to win a prize on our "Bunnies and Bears" game. Have a go: you never know!

Jean and Ian's garden is beautiful and well worth a visit. Come and wander amongst the roses and enjoy the colours and scents of this amazing garden. We are very grateful to Jean and Ian for allowing us to use their garden for such a worthwhile cause. Do come and join us!

**We hope to see you there!**

*Maralyn Button*

## Greetings from Sandhurst RBD

### 17th Memorial Recital

The performance is Saturday, July 26th at 3pm when the well-known pianist, Daniel Grimwood, will be playing at the garden party recital. He will be performing Rachmaninov, Widor and, of course, Henselt.

Minimum donation £22. Tickets are available from me: 01580 50384.

Advanced bookings only. Cheques should be made out to Gillian Davis plus s.a.e. Thank you.







## Weather and Nature Notes

It feels April flew by in the blink of an eye, partly as suddenly plants I associate with May started blooming earlier. April was the sunniest on record so it is no surprise it was dry with only 36mm of rainfall, the consolation being that on the couple of occasions it did rain it was in amounts that would be beneficial. May started very warm for the time of year, but the Bank Holiday weekend saw a change in the weather with a chilly northern wind and 2mm of rain. The warmer weather then returned, and as I write, no much needed rain is forecast.

The early warm weather seems to have helped the summer visiting birds and butterflies; a painted lady butterfly was enjoying the sun on the 17th April, I heard my first cuckoo on the 18th, and first nightingale on the 26th although I heard a report of one a few days earlier. Around that time Sylvia informed me the house martins were back in Tenterden on the old library. I saw my first swift of the year flying out from the eaves of the Church on the 2nd of May; the next day I heard the screaming calls of two, and the most I have seen so far is five, hopefully with more to follow.

Last year Ashley started to make a record of when he heard a cuckoo calling, the first was the 26th of April and last on the 13th of June. From the 1st of May he heard them in the distance, mostly early in the morning, nearly every day until the 8th of June. Mid May seemed the time when they called more often at other times of day as well. It is only the male that calls 'cuckoo'. The female's call was described in my old books as 'like water going down a plughole', which having searched for recordings and listened to them is not a good description.





A bubbling chatter seems the modern description and far more accurate. That is what I will listen out for.

I was listening to reed warblers, as I walked along some ditches. Usually I only see fleeting glimpses as they sing and move through the reed stalks, but one moved up into a bush and revealed itself and carried on singing (as photo.) They are known to mimic, and here and there in its warbling, I could definitely pick out short bursts of blue tit, blackbird and house sparrow and a possible 'mew' of a buzzard. It is thought in the bird world the more complicated a male's song, the more appealing he is to a potential mate, so this one should soon have the females flocking.

The nightingale I heard was a nice surprise. In the same area was a little wren who are known for their big voices, also a dunnock and chiffchaff all singing, it was like a sing-off of song birds, very nice to hear. Returning a week later the nightingale had gone, just passing through I suppose, but the other little songsters were still to be heard maintaining their territories.

Hawthorn is ubiquitous, a native hardy plant that is low maintenance and wildlife friendly and makes a feature in spring and autumn. Because of its familiarity it is probably overlooked as garden worthy. May sees it in blossom, and its fragrant white flowers are good for pollinators. I have seen some



beautiful bushes so covered in flowers this year that they look like a generously iced cake, with barely a speck of foliage to be seen, if the pollinators do a good job there should be a good crop of haws in the autumn.

We are rather used to mostly seeing it flailed every year into a neat squared off hedge around the fields and roads, but they make a nice small tree for a garden if allowed to grow. They are also available in pretty pink and reddish pink, single and

double flowered varieties. A species from Mexico, *Crataegus Mexicana*, has crab apple sized yellow showy haws and has been cross pollinated in the past to make other large-fruited varieties which are very decorative, and I would hope also valuable to wildlife. Along a footpath near the Church is a short hedgerow consisting of white hawthorn and pink and white rugosa roses, a combination which looks pretty at the moment and smells nice, later in the year its hips and haws will make a lovely show too.

*Hazel Beaney*



# Newenden Fun Day

pop the date in your diary: Sunday July 27th  
from 12:00 Noon to 4:00pm



To you this may look like a picture of an almost empty playing field. But to the Fun Day Planning Team it is our empty canvas. We are assembling the ingredients to fill the space with traditional things you would expect to find at a Village Summer Do, and there may be some surprising things as well.

- We know the Duck Race will take place at 3:00.
- We have booked the ice cream van, the bouncy castle and the Raven Drummers.
- We have located a tug of war rope; all we need now are the teams.
- Someone is making hobby horses for the Hobby Horse Dressage. You'll find some hints online with a Finnish expert who can help you with walking, free walking, trotting and maybe a piaffe.
- There's talk of 'bowling not for a pig'. Gone are the days when we all kept a pig in our back garden.
- And of course, all the usual eating and drinking will be covered, and there'll be stalls, and a raffle and a tombola and...FUN!

The proceeds are for the Village Hall, apart from Ducks - for the Friends of St Peter's, and Tombola and Rhoda's handiwork - for St Peter's.



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## Rolvenden PreSchool Report

### Growing together at preschool

This year we planted apple seeds from the apples we had for snacks and they have sprouted and grown into lovely tiny trees. The children have enjoyed watching them grow and learning about the cycle of life. We have also just planted some sunflower seeds and peas, hopefully these will sprout and grow with visible results before the children leave for the summer.

In conjunction with the Rolvenden Gardening Society, we are holding an open garden fundraising event. On Saturday, 5th July there will be several gardens open in the village and we will be serving refreshments in Monypenny during the day. There will also be a raffle on the day. Tickets for the gardens will be available to purchase in advance or on the day – please see page 13 for details. We hope to see lots of members of the community coming out to support this joint fundraiser and to enjoy a day of plants, cakes and friendship.

We continue to enjoy the process of growing children at preschool - sometimes their growth is rapid and sometimes slower but always incredible and a privilege to be a part of. We are now filling our spaces for September 2025 - please contact the pre-school if you would like to find out more about getting a place for your child.

**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.**





# FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!

## The Broad Bean



For me one of the most delicious summer vegetables is the broad bean, which I think is often overlooked which is a great shame. They are a very ancient vegetable which has been cultivated for around a staggering eight thousand years. They probably originated in the Middle East and spread across Europe, North Africa and Asia. Like so many foods they would have been introduced here by the Romans. In Ancient Rome they were used to vote in the Senate, white beans meant yes and black no.

It is a staple food in many countries and can be grown in most soils and climates. Although they are called beans, they are in fact a member of the same plant family as peas. They are often planted as cover crops and green manures as they add nitrogen to the soil and are also grown for animal fodder.

Broad beans are an excellent source of carbohydrates and protein, a cup of cooked beans provides about 13 grams of protein, so good news for vegetarians, vegans and anyone wanting to eat less meat. They are full of fibre which we are all encouraged to eat more of. They are a good source of iron, folate, magnesium, also potassium, zinc and vitamin B1, so lots to help support our heart health by reducing blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

If you grow your own and pick them small, you can just top and tail the pod and then they can be boiled whole and eaten with melted butter. Usually by the time they are for sale they are too large and need to be shelled.





Deciding how many beans to buy is always tricky as you don't really know how well filled the pods are, I usually allow about 2kg for six people depending on what else I'm serving. I've often been told that they are too much work to prepare, I disagree and think they are well worth the effort. If you don't want your fingers blackened from the juice in the pods when you are shelling them, wear rubber gloves. If the pods are in good condition, take the best bits and cook to make a soup or purée.

### To Cook

- boil briefly in a minimum of water,
- drain and run under cold water,
- then slip off their pale outer skins leaving the bright green beans.
- Toss in olive oil, lemon juice, crumble some feta, sprinkle with chopped mint or parsley and you have a simple salad.

It's easy to make a dip, like hummus but with broad beans, served in the same way, makes a good alternative.

I use them a lot either in a risotto or mixed in a pasta dish, bacon, pancetta, mushrooms all go well, add mint or basil if you like.

It used to be mashed avocado on toast, now it's broad beans, top with a poached egg and you have a quick healthy lunch.

I wanted to make the classic salad of tomatoes, avocado and burrito but the avocado I had wasn't up to it, so I substituted broad beans and added lots of mint, it was a variation which was much enjoyed.

Broad bean salads can be made with rice, pasta, orzo, couscous as a base and there's not much you can't match it with. The herbs I use are basil, mint, dill and chives.

The season is relatively short in which to enjoy them, but I think the frozen ones are good especially if you take the trouble to skin them as they tend to be rather tough.

*Lavinia*





**Friends of Saint Peter's Church Newenden**

**Arty Crafty Garden Cream Teas  
in a peaceful garden**

**Sunday 20th July - 2 to 5 pm  
craft stalls, art sales, exhibitions, raffle**



**Priory Stones, Lossenham Lane  
Newenden TN18 5QQ**

**With artist Caroline Anderson's studio  
to visit as well  
A delightful afternoon awaits!**





# Rolvenden Community Orchard

Thousands of trees have been planted across the United Kingdom to mark the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III with a new government fund launched to celebrate His Majesty's passion for the environment.

The fund will enable local authorities to create green spaces and connect communities with nature as a permanent reminder of the Coronation, whilst helping to meet the Government's targets to treble tree planting rates and ensure that 16.5% of land area is under tree cover by 2050. The projects will create new community orchards and micro woodlands in urban areas.

This tree planting initiative aligns with His Majesty's interest in nature, having held a number of patronages for wildlife and conservation charities during his time serving as the Prince of Wales.

The Rolvenden Community Orchard is a Rolvenden Parish Council initiative on behalf of Ashford Borough Council. A plot of unused land was identified at Rolvenden Allotment Gardens and this was deemed to be perfect for use as a Community Orchard.

Local people were asked if they wished to adopt a tree, plant it and to then be responsible for their tree and the ground surrounding it. Ten fruit trees: apples, pears and cherries were planted by their adopters in February. It was cold, wet and very muddy but all ten trees were successfully planted. All trees are thriving and have produced blossom.

*Jan Bridge, Rolvenden Allotment Gardens*



*Alison and Graham with their tree*



# Forest Church

**Spring / Summer 2025 Gatherings**  
Meet in Rolvenden Churchyard

Sunday 6th April - 2pm

Sunday 4th May - 2pm

Sunday 1st June - 2pm

**Dress appropriately for the weather.**

**Bring something to sit on, and something to eat and drink if you wish.**

**An activity for all ages is provided at each gathering. All welcome!**

*An outdoor gathering in which we seek to explore our spirituality within and through the natural world. Come along to enjoy a time of reflection and sharing, family-friendly activities and fellowship.*

**Contact [curate@tentrox.org](mailto:curate@tentrox.org) for more information, or visit**

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

**Follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/tentroxchurches](https://www.facebook.com/tentroxchurches)**







# Rolvenden Parish Council Report



Rolvenden Parish Council held the Annual Parish Meeting on the evening of the 24 April 2025. This was a great opportunity for the village organisations and clubs to give a report on their activities and plans. The meeting was well attended with around fifty people present. Judy Vinson was presented with her KALC award for outstanding services to the community.

Mike Hill gave his last report to the Parish as he was

standing down after a long career representing Tenterden and villages at KCC. We thanked him for his support over the years.

Summarised reports were read out from Kate Walder as Ward Member, and Sian Reeves, as our Neighbourhood representative.

Reports were received from the sports clubs, tennis and football.

The football club continues to thrive and expand, and the tennis club is extending the use of the

courts to include pickleball, which has grown to be a very popular sport. Reports were also received from the Gardening Club and Historical Society which are very active organising a number of events through the year.

Drinks with some nibbles were offered after the meeting and to give attendees the opportunity to informally chat. We thank The Star for providing the food.

All these reports can be read in detail on the Parish Council website.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 19 June 2025 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

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

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

*Antony Hinge*  
*Chairman of the Parish Council*





## Celebration and Competition at the Tennis Club

**Saturday 17th May saw a double event being held at Rolvenden Lawn Tennis Club.**

Firstly the annual spring tournament and barbeque took place. The tennis is a "mildly" competitive mixed doubles, round robin contest with games that last 15 minutes with changing of partners after each game. The Great British weather favoured us with a cool cloudy morning, and, on cue, the sunshine came out for the barbeque. Turnout was good and all those who attended had a thoroughly good time.

Secondly and more importantly, it was an opportunity for members to celebrate the upcoming 90th birthday of Honorary Club President Doreen Moore. Doreen has been a long time member of the Rolvenden Village community and an active member of the tennis club since moving to Rolvenden from Headcorn aged 17. During her amazing 73 years of playing tennis, she only recently stopped playing 2 or 3 times a week and she has contributed to the running of the club in many ways. Often she could be seen weeding the court or cutting grass surrounding the courts. At one time she even used to push her own lawn mower from home to the courts. She served as a committee member for many years doing the sort of tasks that are generally unseen but essential. She is a shining example of community service, never expecting reward or recognition for her efforts. Doreen continues her association with the club by remaining as Honorary Club President.

*Glyn Richards*





**Rolvenden History Group**

Friday, 6 June 2025

## **'Kent and Turkish Piracy in the Seventeenth Century'**

**Professor Jackie Eales**

(Professor Emerita at Canterbury Christ Church University and  
President of the British Association for Local History. )



In the early 17th century one of the most successful and feared of the Mediterranean pirate captains was Capt Wardiyaa, who was none other than plain Jack Ward, a fisherman from Faversham, but he died in his marble mansion in Tunis. This talk will explore how people in Kent came into contact with the corsairs and why they became increasingly afraid of the threat from so-called 'Turkish' pirates'.

Venue: St Mary's Church, Rolvenden

Coffee and biscuits

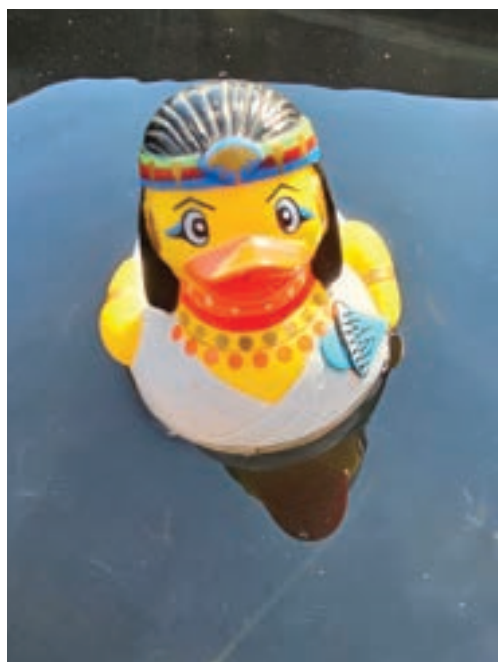
7.00pm for AGM, lecture starts at 7.30pm

Everyone welcome - Non-members: £4

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



# Friends of St Peter's - Mainly about the Ducks



At our last committee meeting, the Friends received a cryptic note from the Special Duck Correspondent urging our Duck Keeper to be vigilant around the Newenden flock. He seems to think we are under threat of penetration by a malign solo duck. He has even managed to obtain a photo. The Duck Keeper assured the committee that, given the distinct colouration of the beak and plumage, the intruder will be very obvious and swiftly ejected. The committee was concerned that expulsion should not mean the duck would be cast adrift on the Rother to fend for itself. Accordingly, the Hon Sec has written to the National Association for the Rehoming of Wayward Ducks.

The NARWD replied: 'The Association recommends that, in the case of a solo duck, the simplest and quickest solution is to advertise locally for a duck-lover with an enclosed bathroom, fitted with a suitable shelf or bath rack for perching, and a minimum bathing regime, with or without luffa, of one deep soak a week. We find older duck-lovers provide the more stable forever homes.

We strongly advise against accepting any would-be applicants who are offering the duck a forever home with the benefit of a garden hot tub.'

Meanwhile: the Friends are gearing up to invite advanced sponsorship of the loyal and eager members of our flock - numbers 1 to 600. As ever it is £2 a duck and the winning duck will earn £100 for his sponsor.

## **How to sponsor a duck:**

- In Newenden call Alan Seal 07970 134611 or Christine Wright 07751 459685
- In Rolvenden call Judy Vinson 01580 241504
- Alternatively, the Lime Wharf Café or the Star Rolvenden will take your money.

This year the race will be part of Newenden Fun Day, Sunday, 27th July, which will be in full swing on Newenden Sports Field from 12 noon to 4:00pm. The race is at 3:00pm and you will be able to sponsor ducks until 2:30 by visiting the Friends' stand.

## **Other events coming up:**

- Members of the Friends please note the AGM followed by the Annual River Cruise and Picnic is planned for Sunday July 13th, AGM 5:00pm, cruise 6:00pm. Places are limited. Please reserve your place by calling Alan Seal
- And thanks to the generous offer of Caroline Anderson-Jones, there will be Cream Teas at Priory Stones on Sunday July 20th -

*See page 22 for further details*





## Monypenny celebrates

Word went out, Thursday 8th May from 2 - 5 pm, "Monypenny will be holding a VE Day Celebration Event. All are welcome. We have a singer booked, and food and drink aplenty. Feel free to join us if you can." And it all happened just as they had thought it would!...

Our Independent Living Officer, Toni, and our Houskeeper, Julie Williams, used their expertise in the morning to decorate the lounge and entrance in true VE Day style with bunting and Union Jack Flags and then prepared a sumptuous buffet for the arrival of our guests at 2pm!

Over 30 people attended, and we had a very enjoyable afternoon together.

Our Singer got the afternoon off to a perfect start with ( of course) The National Anthem, followed by a selection of appropriate VE Day memorable classics. His pleasant banter soon had us all singing along!

The Themed Buffet was served at 3pm with sandwiches, cakes, savouries and drinks for all ,a perfect opportunity to chat, reminisce and relive old wartime memories.

The singer resumed with a medley of 60s and traditional wartime sing-along songs and stories. Residents, staff and guests all danced enthusiastically. Our eldest resident, Joy Fenwick, delighted all present with her dancing skills, dressed as a 1940s Land Army Girl!

Our Thanks to all who joined us with a special thanks to all who contributed cakes and gave their time to make this a memorable event.

**Graham Tiltman**

*The Mag will have details of events happening in Monypenny through the coming months. We want to encourage villagers to join us for:*

■ **Film Nights** ■ **Day Trips** ■ **Quiz Nights** ■ **Wednesday Afternoon Tea**





# From Farmers Line to Community Railway?



The Rother Valley Railway had its origins in 1900 when the line ran from Robertsbridge to Rolvenden station and in 1903 on to Tenterden Town. In 1904, the Rother Valley Railway changed its name to the Kent & East Sussex Light Railway. The line from Tenterden to Headcorn opened for business in 1905. The driving force to build a railway along the Rother Valley came from landowners, farmers and businesses in the Northiam and Bodiam area in the late 1890s. They were keen to get their products (mainly agricultural items such as hops and wheat) to markets elsewhere in the country and found road transport unsatisfactory.

Railway revenue did not come solely from transporting goods; 105,000 passengers were carried in 1913, a figure which today's heritage railway achieved again just before Covid lockdown.

However, as roads and vehicles improved, the railway began to lose business and passenger numbers declined. By 1953 a typical week saw only 118 passengers on the ninety trains that ran, some trains ran completely empty. The line closed to passengers in 1954.

Enthusiasts worked to reinstate the line as a heritage railway. The first trains ran between Tenterden and Rolvenden in 1974. The line was restored and extended in stages, reaching Bodiam in 2000. We hope to have the line restored to Robertsbridge by 2027.

Last year, we celebrated fifty years as a heritage railway. In April this year, we celebrated 25 years since the Bodiam reopening. The heritage era contrasts



with the early days of the railway. Before total closure, the railway served local communities by transporting goods to makers markets, and people to work.

The heritage era has seen the railway operate as a tourist business bringing passengers into local communities thus generating increased business revenues and employment at the principal destinations of Bodiam and Tenterden. It is expected that this multiplier effect on local economies will increase when the extension to Robertsbridge is completed and additional business is generated from rail links with London, Hastings and Brighton.

Modern transport thinking is to develop where possible a "Community Railway", a partnership with locally based organisations or volunteer groups. Local communities along the line do their best to support KESR, and many local people volunteer on the railway.

In recent years, KESR has run "Early Bird" trains once a week in August to offer campers and other tourists the opportunity for a day out in Tenterden without the difficulties of parking a car. Many folk see the advantages of taking the train, and numbers have gradually grown.

In 2025, KESR has decided to extend "The Early Bird" service to a two-day service every Wednesday and Saturday in both July and August. It is hoped that communities in Newenden, Northiam, Bodiam, Ewhurst Green and Staplecross might benefit from this extended service. Indeed, we would encourage local residents as well as tourists to see how they can best make use of this service. Northiam Station boasts a large car park for those who live at the other end of this long village and don't fancy a walking option. While Bodiam Station, which has no car parking facility, is blessed with a neighbour opposite, the Hideaway Nursery, which just happens to have a car park that is available for rail passengers.

*Full details and times of the "Early Bird" service will be published shortly.*

*Bryan Atkins*



## **Tennis Coaching at Rolvenden**

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**Sessions available at Rolvenden tennis club.**

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

***francescalowe22@outlook.com***

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





**Tenterden Singers**

**Present**

# **MIDSUMMER MELODIES**

Join us in the serene surroundings of this historic church for a celebration of harmony and nature. Let our voices carry you through a programme of captivating melodies and midsummer joy.

Proceeds from the event will go to the Friends of St. Mary's Church

**Saturday  
28<sup>th</sup> June  
2025**

**7.30pm**

**St. Mary's Church  
Stone in Oxney**

**TN30 7JR**

**Licensed Bar**

**Free parking**

**TICKETS £12.00**

**U16s free**

Pay on the door or book  
in advance by email to:  
[carolzbailey@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:carolzbailey@yahoo.co.uk)





# Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch

June 2025

Our focuses this month: being proactive and fraud prevention.



## 1. Bank Branch Closure Scam

A potential victim of a bank scam was recently contacted by criminals impersonating their bank. The criminals informed them that they needed to withdraw all their money from their account and transfer it to a new account that had been opened for them, as their old local branch was closing in the next couple of months. Fortunately, the intended victim was prevented from losing their money by

their bank branch staff. Your bank will never request that you transfer your money to a new account that they have set up for you.

if you get an expected call from someone claiming to be from your bank, take their details and end the call. Next, call back using a different phone if available. If another phone is not available, wait five minutes and ring a family member or friend to ensure the line has been disconnected and then ring 159.

Remember our scam awareness message of ABC: Never Assume or never Believe a call is genuine, always Confirm. If you get a call from a company, ring them back via a trusted number and confirm that the offer is genuine.



## 2. Fake Telephone call impersonating DVLA

Residents have received letters impersonating the DVLA telling them that they need to renew their over 70s driving license. The letter provides a link to go to an online website where it asks for personal information and requests a payment of £78 to renew the license.

Fortunately, the intended victims contacted the DVLA who confirmed that it was a SCAM.

Please be on the lookout for any letters, emails, text messages or calls of this nature. For further information about other DVLA type scams go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/dvla-releases-latest-scam-images-to-help-keep-motorists-safe-online>

## 3. WhatsApp Scam – They want your account

The scam begins when a criminal gets access to another WhatsApp account which has you listed as a contact. The criminal, posing as your friend or someone that is a member of your WhatsApp group, will then send you a seemingly normal messages to try and start a conversation with you. However, around the same time you will receive a text message from WhatsApp with a six-digit code. This is because the criminal has been trying to log-in to



WhatsApp using your mobile number. The criminal will claim that they sent you their code by accident and ask you to help them by sending it to them. Once the criminal has this code, they can log-in to your WhatsApp account and lock you out. The criminal will then use the same tactic with your WhatsApp contacts to steal more accounts and use them to perpetrate fraud.

### **What you need to do**

- Set up two-step verification to give an extra layer of protection to your account: Tap Settings > Account > Two-step verification > Enable.
- THINK. CALL. If a family member or friend makes an unusual request on WhatsApp, always call the person to confirm their identity.
- Never share your account's activation code (that is the six digit code you receive via SMS)
- You can report spam messages or block a sender within WhatsApp. Press and hold on the message bubble, select 'Report' and then follow the instructions.

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, contact your Bank immediately 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:  
<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/>

For more about the 159 number see page 3 of the blue pages.

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

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

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

*Siân Reeves*

*Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch*

### **St Mary's fundraising Concert - Result**

There was a highly enjoyable concert in St Mary's on Sat 17th. The Tenterden Singers sang their hearts out, joined for one number by some of the pupils from Rolvenden School. Everyone had fun and £733 was raised for Rolvenden School's Community Fund Raising Project. Big thank you to all who made it happen and all who came.





### **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/>

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



# There is NO excuse for domestic abuse

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

**Victim Support: 0808 16 89 111**

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

**The Samaritans: 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.







wave community bank

Kent office: Maidstone Community Support Centre, 39-48 Marsham St, Maidstone ME14 1HH  
Tel: 0300 303 3188 • [info@wavecb.org.uk](mailto:info@wavecb.org.uk) • [www.wavecb.org.uk](http://www.wavecb.org.uk)

# What is 159?

The **159** number enables people to connect with their bank safely and securely when they receive an unexpected, suspicious or fraudulent call.

If you think that you may have been a victim of fraud, then contact your bank immediately, which you can do by calling **159**.



## Stop, Hang Up,

Ensure that your phone is available for dialing, or alternatively, use another phone. call your bank on **159**.

## Call **159** if you experience the following:

- Someone contacts you claiming to be from your bank – even if they do not seem suspicious.
- You are contacted by someone claiming to be an authority figure such as the police or HMRC and told to transfer money – even if the request seems genuine.
- You receive a call about a financial matter and it appears suspicious.

## Reporting a scam

If you think you or someone you know has been a victim of a scam report it immediately to Action Fraud online [actionfraud.police.uk](http://actionfraud.police.uk) or over the phone **0300 123 2040**.

For more information and advice visit [kent.police.uk/fraud](http://kent.police.uk/fraud) or email [KFAS@ecis.police.uk](mailto:KFAS@ecis.police.uk)



Together, let's stop scammers



## Remember, ABC:



never Assume



never Believe



always Confirm

## 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

---

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)

*The date of the next Parish Council*

*Meeting is to be advised.*

### 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*

*19th June in Rolvenden Village Hall.*

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





# Parish Magazine Essential Information:

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

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE JULY ISSUE IS 5:00pm**

**TUESDAY 10TH JUNE**

**Note for distributors: ★ Rolvenden Magazines available for collection on Saturday 21st June. ★ Newenden Magazines available for collection on Sunday 22nd June.**

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



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

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

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07816449623**



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Phone 07787 524836 [jasonhollands@outlook.com](mailto:jasonhollands@outlook.com)

Phone: 01580 241369

# THE STAR

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