

Rolvenden & Newenden *Parish Magazine*

2025
SEPTEMBER
ONLINE





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Minister's Letter from Rev Sharon Frances

Dear Friends,

We have had four grandchildren staying with us this term as they awaited completion on the purchase of their new home. Due to the lovely spell of dry sunny weather we have enjoyed countless dinners al fresco after school. It also means I don't have to sweep the floor after every meal! But with eating out of doors comes the wasp problem and so I rather reluctantly fished out my eco mixture (harmless to bees) to put in my glass wasp catcher jar. It did the trick, but today I noticed the mixture had dried up and some wasps were frantically trying to get out. Before I took the cork plug out of the top of the jar, I double-checked to see if they are pollinators – and wasps are!



What a paradox – I have nesting boxes for birds, log piles for beetles and bug hotels for masonry bees, plus a large circular patch of long grass to encourage insects, and wildflowers which need pollinating, yet in the other corner of the garden I have erected a death trap for them. So, that has come down, and today the sky is a little cloudier so perhaps we will not be bothered this evening.

On 1st September we enter the Season of Creation. This is an ecumenical church season from 1st September to 4th October – which is the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi. St Francis wrote a Canticle to the Sun:

Praised be You, my Lord, with all your creatures;
especially Brother Sun, who is the day, and through whom You give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour,
and bears a likeness to You, Most High One.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars;
in heaven You formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Had I less Sharon Francis and more Saint Francis about me, I would not have needed to check whether wasps were pollinators or not. We are all God's creatures and live intricately interconnected lives in this glorious, wonderful and complex world. I have no right to go about snuffing out the life of even one of these creatures, which is simply going about its waspish business.

Despite my confession above, I am someone who has felt particularly close to nature for as long as I can remember. When I was about five years old, I was terribly excited to be collecting shiny brown conkers with my father. But he told me to stop a while, and run my fingers inside the green, spiky, abandoned conker shell (or burr). It was silky smooth, having been pressed back into a hard shell to accommodate the growing chestnut. Now, when I see fallen conkers, it



is the discarded shells that draw my eye and cause me to wonder.

Let us enjoy this Season of Creation as a time to re-set our minds to love God, and love – not just our neighbour – but ‘love every species as yourself’.*

*Every blessing,
Sharon*

**A quote from *The Great Search* by John Philip Newell*

St Peter and St Mary Flower Rotas for September 2025

Sunday	St Mary	St Peter
Sept 07	Sylvia K	Hazel Mahoney Masters
Sept 14	Elizabeth M	Hazel Mahoney Masters
Sept 21	Elizabeth M	Caroline Anderson Jones
Sept 28	HARVEST arrangers	Caroline Anderson Jones
Contact:	Sylvia Kellett 01580 240463 Sylviakellett@eplusmail.com	Rosie Edmonds 01797 252196 rosie.edmonds@hotmail.com

Brass Cleaning at St Mary: Jenny Field

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.

Magazine Subscriptions for 25/26

If you are one of the 10% of households who have the Mag delivered and have not yet paid your 25/26 subscription of £10, you might think you're in good company. But £250 missing from the Mag's budget is too much. Please treat this as your second polite reminder to pay.

Online payments should be made to:

PCC of St Mary the Virgin Rolvenden

Sort code: 405240 Account number: 00030089

If you need to pay by cheque or cash, please call me to arrange how we can do this.

Thank you.

Judy V

01580 241504



The Church of England

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

Sunday 7th September: Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8am Holy Communion

St Mary Rolvenden

9.30am St Peter's Newenden

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden

The Eucharist

Celtic Morning Prayer

2:00pm Rolvenden Churchyard – Forest Church

Forest Church is back – dress for the weather, sensible shoes and bring something to sit on.

Sunday 14th September: Creation Sunday

9:30am St Peter's Newenden

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden

The Eucharist

The Eucharist

Sunday 21st September: St Matthew

9:30am St Peter's Newenden

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden

The Eucharist

Matins

6:00pm Benefice Choral Evensong, St Mildred's Tenterden

Sunday 28th September: Newenden St Michael and All Angels, Rolvenden Harvest

9:30am St Mildred's Tenterden – Service of Celebration with Bishop Rose

9.30am St Peter's Newenden

11am St Mary's Rolvenden

Celtic Morning Prayer

Harvest Eucharist

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 – is once more fully
functioning after major works and on the
fourth Sunday we welcome Bishop Rose
coming to celebrate what has been done!

Holy Communion will be celebrated in
St Michael's Church every Wednesday
and in Tenterden Church every
Thursdays, 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
Connect Up! please visit our website,
www.tentroxchurches.co.uk, and
subscribe.



Rolvenden Gardening Society

Visit to RHS Wisley



Forty-eight members and friends of Rolvenden Gardening Society boarded a coach on Tuesday, 22nd July bound for RHS Wisley. The visit had been delayed because of ongoing roadworks around Junction 10 of the M25 which had caused major traffic problems when accessing the Gardens.

On arrival at 10.30am, there were five hours in which to wander around the extensive gardens. Although there was much to see, we had to dodge frequent showers of rain but most people had come prepared for this situation! The large glasshouse was quite spectacular with its display of interesting cacti and, outside of it, is the newly recreated garden with grasses and plants which thrive in warmer conditions, useful for our climate.

After a look around the shop and nursery, it was time to board the coach for the return journey after what had been an enjoyable visit.

Maralyn Button

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ROLVENDEN & DISTRICT GARDENING SOCIETY

Autumn Show

6th September 2025

ROLVENDEN VILLAGE HALL

OPEN 2.30PM

PRIZE GIVING 4.00PM

Showing home grown vegetables and flowers.
Also a section for cookery, flower arranging
and a children's section

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

Raffle | Tea/Coffee | Plant Sale



The Friends of St Peter's Church, Newenden have had a busy summer

First came Caroline Anderson-Jones' very generous offer to host an afternoon of Arty-Crafty Garden Cream Teas on a Sunday in late June in her garden at Priory Stones. It was reported as Caroline's brilliant tea party. The scones the jam and cream, the cakes were all delicious. The arts and crafts were delightful, the demonstration of wood turning by Richard Dengate was different and fascinating. Anthony and Jane Dawson, with full family support, sang Anthony's Newenden themed folksongs. There was a raffle with prizes generously donated and Alan had Ducks for sale.

Thank you very much to Caroline, her Crafty Artists and helpers and to all who came to support. Together you raised a useful £431 for the Friends' funds. One week later came the Big Event of Newenden's calendar: the Annual Duck Race. The sale of ducks this year was a little disappointing, despite the efforts of many. Interestingly a lot of support came from Rolvenden and some even from Australia. The result was a smaller field than we had hoped, but by dint of moving the race from the traditional August Bank Holiday weekend and tucking it into the Newenden Fun Day, we sold more last-minute ducks and had a good crowd on the bank to witness the race.



Unfortunately, the wind was somewhat unusual. The race started well with an easterly wind. All was going swimmingly until the wind changed direction and blew from the west. The entire flock of ducks started to go the other way, away from the finishing line. Eventually we had a winner, the duck sponsored by Jillian Eldridge.

Hopefully, next year we will have all the ducks sold and a full swim of 600 will make their way down, or up, the river. Meanwhile, to the relief of the dedicated Duck Keepers, the flock is now safely embarked on its dark rest time, quietly satisfied at having put some £624 into the Friend's coffers.

Finally came the AGM and Annual River Cruise. The annual Friends of St Peter's AGM took place in the church at 5.00pm on Sunday, 3rd August and this was followed by the traditional cruise down the river. The weather was not perfect but after a while we were blessed with sunshine and the cruise back to Newenden with the sun low in the sky was spectacular. It was a very pleasant and jovial evening which will be repeated next year when all villagers will be welcome to join us.



Many thanks to Alex and Vanessa from The Bodiam Boating Station for the loan of the Dannie Lee.

Alan Seal





St Mary the Virgin Rolvenden Weddings 2025

Three times this summer, the bells have rung, the sun has shone, (mostly), and a new husband and wife team has stepped out of the west door.



Saturday 28th June

Charlie Antrum and Nick Field – Wassall Farm being the village link.

When asked for a photo and some words, Charlie said: 'Nick and I would like to thank everyone for helping to make our wedding day such a happy and memorable occasion. We're especially grateful to Rev. Lindsay, Rev. Jeanette, Judy, and the amazing flower arrangers - Sylvia, Hazel and Sue. You truly made the day special.' And I can vouch for the fact that several weeks later, and very much back into the farming routine, Charlie was still smiling



Saturday 5th July

Helena Barham and Piergiuseppe Coppola – Hole Park being the village link. Helena's photo came with 'sincere thanks to all at St Mary's for accommodating us on such a special day'. And the service had something rather special when it came to the Bible readings, two passages on love from letters of St Paul, one read by the bride's sister, Emily Bigley, in English and one by the groom's cousin, Letizia Nigro, in Italian.



Thursday 31st July

Paula Bagley and Flynn Dennison – Winsor Farm being the village link
Flynn's mum wrote: 'As a family we would like to thank wholeheartedly St Mary the Virgin Church, Rolvenden and the wider community for the effort and support given to us. Not only in welcoming us, as new arrivals, but conducting the beautiful wedding ceremony of Flynn and, now, Paula Dennison. Special thanks to the Rev'd Canon Lindsay Hammond, the Rev'd Henry Setright, the Rev'd Jeanette Kennett, Richard Colman, Geoffrey Davison and Judy Vinson.'

And a church wedding is more than one
special day in an amazing building:
It starts when the Banns are read
and this prayer is said:
Lord of love,
we thank you for Paula and Flynn;
Be with them in all their preparations
and on their wedding day.
Give them your love in their hearts
throughout their married life together,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

A relationship has begun.
Judy V



Weather and Nature Notes

The cracked ground has for some time been crying out for rain in some quantity. With the added heat, grass areas had turned brown, plants were looking tired and their blooms fading faster, and crops in fields were affected. Welcome refreshment arrived on the 18th. I woke to find nigh on an inch of rain (24mm) in my rain gauge. Water butts that had been mostly emptied were at last partly replenished and with more showers over the following days were soon brimming. In total I measured 93 mm of much needed rain in July which quickly turned the browning grass a lush emerald green - for now. We are just entering our fourth heatwave of the year and August is yet to produce any rain, the dry weather is at least helpful to farmers' with any baling or crop gathering. Already we have waved off the swifts for another year. The last date I spotted any was August 6th. The most I saw at once was nine, although Sylvia had spotted ten, hopefully they managed to raise some young successfully. We get to enjoy the graceful fly-catching aerial displays and twittering calls of swallows for longer; the adults and young will be feeding up in preparation for their perilous journey south in autumn.



All that sun has suited butterflies, I continue to see a good assortment. I was pleased to see a few Marbled White butterflies in the wild grass/flower area again at Maytham, I believe we must have a small colony established now, also plenty of browns, whites, Common Blues, some Skippers and Six-spot Burnet moths join them, with Peacocks, Red Admirals, Comma and occasional Silver-washed Fritillary visiting the buddleias mostly. Notable for its absence was the Small Tortoiseshell, a previously common butterfly that has in recent years become uncommon here, with only odd ones sighted. I recently spent a week in Somerset by the levels where I saw more Small Tortoiseshell butterflies, also song thrushes seemed more abundant there compared to here too. In my own garden I was delighted to see a White Admiral drop in and try some of my fading marjoram, they are a woodland butterfly whose caterpillar food plant is honeysuckle. I purposely grow honeysuckle plants in hope of attracting these and other Lepidoptera that feed on them, but they rarely stray that far into my garden. Day flying Hummingbird Hawkmoth numbers are increasing too, with salvias, verbena and phlox seeming most popular with them.

The overcast weather was not looking conducive to butterfly and bee watching, but I went along to the Newenden Meadow Restoration open afternoon where I was pleased to meet Jillian, who has worked so hard with helpers to create this wonderful habitat that is reaping rewards. The Bumblebee Conservation Trust were there to talk to the visitors about bees. The writer of the book 'Bumblebees an Introduction' was most excited when a Brown-banded carder bee was netted, a scarce bee that was a new record for the meadow, I believe. The sun then began to shine and the insects became more active. There were some spare nets and pots and I didn't need asking twice to have a go, and soon got up close to an attractive male Brown-banded carder bee myself, I also spotted a Brown Argus butterfly. It was a pleasant afternoon where I met some nice people, won a raffle prize, and got a delicious coffee and walnut sponge.

Hazel Beaney





Red Priest
12 September



Timothy Rundle
Oboe Recital
19 September



Wine tasting
20 September



Pasadena Roof
Orchestra
27 September



Harry The Piano
8 October



Sherlock Holmes:
The Hunt For Moriarty
10 & 11 October



The Real
Manhunter
17 October



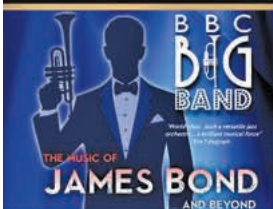
Spot's
Birthday Party
23 & 24 October



London Concertante
Four Seasons
30 October



Blazin' Fiddles
9 November



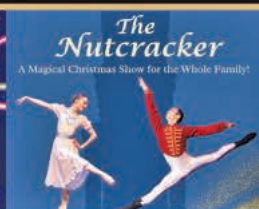
The BBC
Big Band
22 November



Jess Gillam
11 December



Lost in Music
12 December



The Nutcracker
13 December



Faulty Towers
Dining Experience
13 & 14 December



The Philharmonia
Brass at Christmas
19 December



NT Live
Hamlet
25 January



The Nat King Cole
Story
13 February



Ben Fogle
23 February



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FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!

Chutney



Chutney is a very popular accompaniment to many dishes across the world. Evolving with each culture, it is unique in that it has a balance of sweet, sour, spicy and savoury flavours all in a spoonful!

The word chutney is derived from the Hindi word 'chatni' which means to eat with relish. Chutneys have been made in the Indian subcontinent for over two thousand years, it was originally eaten as a fresh accompaniment to meals.

The early chutneys were made by using stone grinding tools to crush herbs, spices and other ingredients into a paste or a coarse sauce.



Many of the spices used: ginger, tamarind, garlic and mint were included as much for their health benefits as their taste.

The spread of chutney was largely down to British colonialism. During the British Raj in India, 1858-1947, British officers and settlers



developed a taste for the wide variety of chutneys available. But, of course, these fresh chutneys were hard to preserve during the long sea journeys and so were adapted making them fruit based and with the additions of sugar and vinegar leading to the western chutney as we know it today.

The British style chutneys, such as apple or mango were sweeter and less spicy than their Indian counterparts. They became very popular in the UK and in parts of the Commonwealth to accompany cheeses, meats or curries in Anglo-Indian cuisine.

Our chutneys can be a wonderful way to use up a glut from the garden. There are no rules as to what to use but there are a few ingredients that are very common: apples, plums, marrows, tomatoes, onion, garlic, mustard seeds, ginger, cumin, turmeric, chilli and cloves - added for flavour - and sugar and vinegar to preserve. Any that I make are usually apple based and I add sultanas and ginger.

In India, their fresh chutneys are an essential part of daily meals, they are served as a contrast to bland or starchy foods, rice, dosa or bread. They also play a crucial part during festivals, weddings and family gatherings where a variety of chutneys are served with the main dishes.

In the Caribbean, chutneys are often influenced by the Indian indentured labourers who brought the tradition with them. Trinidadian mango chutney, for example, is fiery and tangy, a combination of Indian and Creole tastes.

In the UK, we serve it with cold meats, cheeses and of course it is an essential part of the classic Ploughman's Lunch. I think chutney is the easiest of our preserves to make as you don't have the problem of will it set as in jam and jellies. Having said that, it is important not to overcook as that will lead to drying out during storage and the formation of mould.

The evolution of chutney from a herb and spice paste to the relish we know today is interesting as it is still being reinvented in modern cookery worldwide. I find mango chutney very useful for marinades and glazes.

The following is very good to use either as a marinade or a glaze for duck breast, sausages etc:

- 2 tbs mango chutney
- 2 tbs soya sauce
- 1 tbs grated fresh ginger

Just put all the ingredients in a jar and shake until well mixed.

Lavinia Probyn



Report of the Newenden Fun Weekend

Someone spotted that there was a weekend in July when NCC were playing away leaving the sports field available – and an idea took root. This could be an opportunity to resurrect the Village Summer Event that seemed to have died. From the outset this would be a fundraising event for the Village Hall. And wouldn't it make sense to ask the Friends of St Peter's if they would like to move their Duck Race from the August Bank Holiday to this earlier date where they would be guaranteed a crowd to cheer the ducks on? That idea came with volunteers and the offer of a large table amply supplied with chocolate biscuits around which to hold meetings.

More volunteers were needed for a steering committee. Eventually with minimal twisting of arms a team of eight was created. The plotting and planning could start. Between us we had skills, contacts, and resources that all came into play. We soon realised we had a weekend of opportunity and decided on a Boot Fair on Saturday and a Fun Day on Sunday.

Once we had an outline plan, we could see what other support we needed. A letter went to every house in the village. Some individuals with a proven history of being good at these things, were asked face to face. The three local businesses were approached; Dave, Ivan and Jonathan all came up trumps. We applied to the Parish Council who had just launched a Village Grant Scheme and we were delighted to receive £500 which was a significant help with upfront expenses.

Gradually people came forward or were found. Even though we located a rope, we had to admit a tug of war was not going to happen. The Dog Show looked very much a non-starter until suddenly we had three volunteers keen to



make it happen. The teams to serve teas and run the bar had never been in doubt but finding the team for the BBQ went right to the wire.

Beautiful posters announced Saturday's boot fair. The weather cooperated by staying mainly dry, leaving the outfield rock solid and indestructible by traffic. The number of boots was modest, possibly influenced by the phantom threat of the closure of the A28, but we proved we could do it.

The Fun Day itself took a lot of hard work from the steering group and a whole posse of volunteers, family members roped in, friends and neighbours fronting up. People came with their dogs, children came for the bouncy castle and then found the coconut shy and splat the rat. There was a steady stream of eaters and drinkers. People were introduced to the precise disciplines of hobby horse dressage and the field emptied briefly for the Duck Race. But the wonderful atmosphere across the field was created by people, young and old, meeting, greeting, and having fun!

Fundraising happened. The weekend produced an estimated net profit for the Village Hall Fund of £1150. But equally importantly Newenden Village united in a community activity. A big thank you to everyone who got involved, who donated prizes, baking and plants or who turned up to support the event. A special thank you to NCC for letting us use the pavilion facilities and Dave and Lindsey for the marquee and their advice.

September means Harvest Thanksgivings are coming up...



And the churches will look wonderful. But, and this is the important bit, this is when St Mary's and St Peter's invite both villages to help swell the food items going to the Food Bank:

- cans: vegetables, fruit, soup, meat and fish
- pasta and curry sauces
- pasta, rice, cereals, biscuits tea, coffee
- hygiene and cleaning items

Please drop a contribution into church any time, the two provisos being, all items are in date and unopened. Correction, there is one item where opened packets are acceptable and that is disposable nappies.

And do please consider coming to join our special harvest services:

- St Mary's at 11:00am on Sunday, 28th September
- St Peter's at 9:30am on Sunday, 5th October
- Rolvenden School Harvest Service in St Mary's at 10:20am on Thursday, 2nd October (To be confirmed when school goes back) *Judy V*



The revision of the Rolvenden Neighbourhood Development Plan relating to the Environment and Wildlife



You may find the words Rolvenden Neighbourhood Development Plan an instant turn-off, but just this once, read on and you may be happily surprised. It is a brief description of the process we are going through, pulling together the material covering our natural environment and arriving at some suggestions for the community to review. Have we captured what Rolvenden wants to say to the Planning Authorities about these matters? And you will find a bit of a twist at the end.

So, what have we got to work with?

We have your answers to the two questions in the Community Survey:

The natural environment – We have an opportunity to protect valued green spaces locally. Which areas of green space in the parish are important to you and what makes them special?

Wildlife and habitats – Are there areas of the parish that you think could be improved for wildlife (animals / plants)?

We are grateful to everyone who has already completed the survey and would encourage anyone who hasn't to do so. The online link is

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Rolvenden1>

or you can pick up a paper copy from St Mary's

We know we have sites in the parish of some environmental significance:

- Thoburn Fields - with the detailed Tenterden Wildlife Survey produced in 2023
- KESR Railway line - which serves as an important link, enhancing any environmental work being undertaken by neighbouring landowners
- The very new Community Orchard - which is allowing individuals to participate in practical conservation

Landowners and farmers across the parish participate in a wide range of environmental schemes, usually funded through Rural Payments Agency schemes, but with increasing interest from Biodiversity Net Gain offset and carbon capture, as the market for these services matures. An essential bit of our research will be checking the extent of stewardship schemes in the village using detailed KCC maps.

And then there are your observations and initiatives. If you have something to contribute, please send us an email - we have a dedicated address: rnpresponses@gmail.com

The recommendations that go into the revised plan have to be expressed in a very precise way. Getting the words right is down to the Steering Group and our Consultant Advisor.

However, it could be that this time of examining, sharing and reviewing our local spaces and wildlife, might lead to actions within the community which are



not directly related to the NDP.

Specialists, such as the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, stress the importance of creating corridors for different species to move from one suitable habitat to another: for bees, this could be lines of food plants along hedgerows and the edges of lanes; for hedgehogs, it could be providing small gaps in garden fences giving them a large enough area in which to search for food, shelter or a mate. There are other environmental groups who stress the benefits of restoring ponds and the amazing increase in all forms of wildlife which that can bring. As we go forward, who knows what championing of causes and rolling up of sleeves might result.

Denise Curtain and Judy Vinson

For the RNDP steering committee



TENTERDEN & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

Are you a professional/business man or woman, or one who has retired?
Do you enjoy talking with like-minded people over an enjoyable meal?
Do you enjoy listening to various speakers talking on a wide range of subjects?

If the answer to these questions is 'Yes', then you will enjoy being a member of the Tenterden & District Proboscis Club.

We usually meet on the first Thursday of every month and our next three speakers are:

4th September: Jane Mills talking on 'Tenterden, a Cinque History'.

9th October: Jo Livingstone speaking on 'A Century of the Volunteer Fire Brigade'

6th November: Guy Bartlett speaking on 'British Women Aviation Pioneers'

4th December: Our Christmas Lunch, no speaker and partners are invited.

If you feel this would be of interest to you and you would like to come along and see for yourself, please contact the Secretary on:

probustenterden@yahoo.com



Rolvenden Parish Council Report



We await a further update from the Officers at ABC regarding their proposals for Monypenny since they attended the Parish Council meeting held on the 17 July 2025. The Parish Council arranged this meeting as part of a commitment to supporting the residents and achieving the best outcome. The Parish Council has also sought the support of MP Katie Lam who will be attending the meeting due to be held on the 21 August '25. We were sad to learn that Kate Walder has made a difficult

decision to not continue as our Ward Member and we would like to express our gratitude for all that she has done for the parish. A by-election is due to be held on Thursday, 25 September 2025.

ABC has begun consulting on the draft Ashford Local Plan 2042. This is sometimes referred to as a Regulation 18 consultation and is the first formal consultation of the Local Plan process. ABC held a 'Call for Sites' in autumn 2023 asking landowners, developers and the local community to submit sites for consideration in the new Local Plan. All the sites that were submitted are available to view at haveyoursay.ashford.gov.uk/call-for-sites.

ABC also held a series of community engagement events throughout the summer of 2024 to provide local residents with the opportunity to find out more about process to prepare the Ashford Local Plan.

ABC is now consulting on the draft Local Plan (known as a Regulation 18 consultation).

The consultation is open for eight weeks until 13 October 2025. ABC are inviting local communities to have their say on the council's proposed direction of travel for a number of key planning issues. Have your say at: <https://haveyoursay.ashford.gov.uk/draft-lp42-consultation>.

On the next page are details of in-person 'drop-in' events that ABC will be holding in September. Copies of the Local Plan and all the supporting documents are available to view online on the portal for ABC and also in person at the following locations:

- Ashford Borough Council (International House),
- Ashford Gateway,
- Charing Library,
- Tenterden Gateway, and
- Wye Library

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
Tel: 07900 693572



Have your say on the draft Ashford Local Plan 2042

Ashford Borough Council is now consulting on the draft Local Plan (known as Regulation 18) which sets the council's proposed approach and direction of travel for a number of planning matters for development up to 2042.

Consultation runs until 5pm on Monday 13th October 2025.

View our draft Local Plan in person

We are holding a series of events where you can come and view the draft Local Plan. Simply 'drop in' to any of the following events. If you can't attend 'in person' we are also holding one virtual event:



Venue	Date	Time
Ashford Cinema, Elwick Road, Ashford, TN23 1AE	Thursday 11 September 2025	3 - 7pm
Tenterden Leisure Centre, Recreation Ground Road, Tenterden, TN30 6RA	Tuesday 16 September 2025	3 - 7pm
Kingsnorth Village Hall, Church Hill, Kingsnorth, TN23 3EF	Friday 19 September 2025	4 - 8pm
Sandyacres Sports & Social Club, Sandyhurst Lane, Ashford, TN25 4NT	Tuesday 23 September 2025	3 - 7pm
Mersham Village Hall, Church Road, Mersham, TN25 6NU	Thursday 25 September 2025	3 - 7pm
Wye Village Hall, Bridge Street, Wye, TN25 5EA	Monday 29 September 2025	3 - 7pm
Virtual Event via Microsoft Teams	Thursday 2 October 2025	5 - 6.15pm

Things that might have been in this issue under the heading: Get out and about this month:

- The Friend of Kent Churches Annual Ride and Stride Saturday 13th September, a trip around some carefully chosen churches, preferably with some sponsorship money riding with you. To see more: <https://www.kentrideandstride.co.uk/>
- All the good things folded into the High Weald Walking Festival – a whole eight day's worth from 13th to 21st September. The photographs on the website are guaranteed to get you reaching for your walking boots. <https://www.highwealdwalks.org/>



Rolvenden History Group

Friday, 5 September 2025

'A Barber and a Surgeon: Medicine in Victorian Times'

Dr Richard Marks



"Step into the shadowy corridors of 19th-century hospitals, where leeches were lifesavers and chloroform was cutting-edge. In this illuminating talk, discover how Victorian medicine straddled the line between superstition and science, laying the groundwork for modern healthcare"

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 Pre-school Report



Rolvenden pre-school is looking forward to the start of a new school year. By the time you read this, we will already be back from our summer break. September brings new children as well as those returning to us, and this year we also have a new member of staff joining the team.

This time of year is perfect for us to review our practice and ensure that we move forward mindfully, keeping the best interests of the children central to all that we do. Our curriculum encompasses all areas of children's learning and development through play by providing varied opportunities for

children to explore and follow their own interests. We learn from each other, taking a flexible approach to planning that allows us to be spontaneous and ever ready to kindle sparks of interest into flames of learning.

We also follow a daily rhythm of meaningful routines that help children to feel secure and settled in their 'home from home'. Staff care for children's physical, emotional and mental needs by getting to know each individual, working in partnership with families and using their knowledge and experience to provide holistic support. We take great pride in helping children to flourish and feel privileged to be part of their young lives.

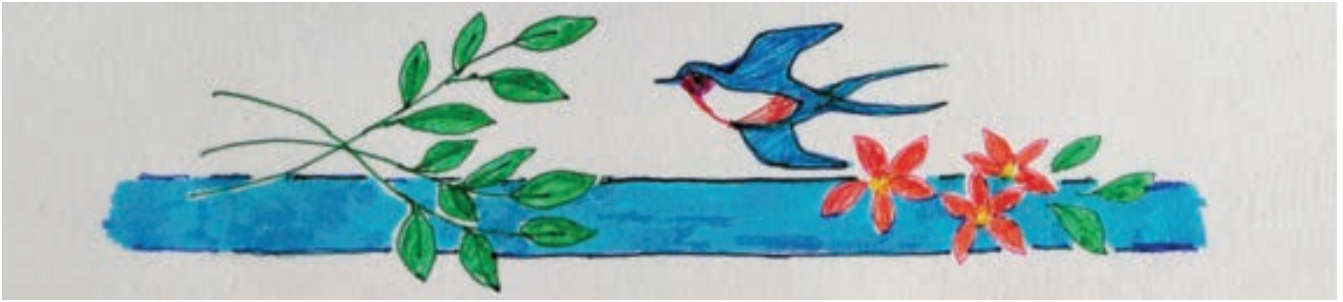
We still have some spaces available for the coming year and would welcome any interested families getting in touch with us and coming for a visit. You can email us at rolvendenps@gmail.com or call us on 07729718181. Follow us on Facebook @rolvendenpreschool to see more of what we get up to each week.

N	E	G
R	I	A
N	R	G

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.



Friends of Newenden Meadow September 2025



We started our Wildflower Meadow Event on Saturday, 19th July as the last few drops of rain fell. About thirty people attended during the afternoon and everyone enjoyed a good time. The Bumblebees came out, feeding on the flowers and Peter and Morgan Greenhalf helped some enthusiastic visitors in the art of catching bees and identifying them before setting them free. I'm delighted to say that Peter caught five of the rare Brown Banded Bumblebee. It's great to think they are finding forage in our field. I will continue to look for them when I do my next bee walk in a few days' time. Bumblebees had such a hard time last year, it's good to see they are more numerous this summer.

We sold cakes and plants and raffle tickets to our very generous visitors and made the grand total of £307.61! Thanks go to them all and to the very kind people who gave such lovely raffle prizes.

Several people signed up to become Friends of Newenden Meadow and if you would like to do so, it's not too late. Message me and I will send you a form to fill in and return.



Thank you everyone for your support in helping us continue to improve the flowers in the meadow and in so doing, enhance habitat and forage for numerous pollinators and other rare insects. This year the flowers have been particularly abundant and we hope we can spread them over other areas of the field going forward.

Since July the wild plants have continued to flower and are visited daily by a lot of bumblebees, solitary bees and other insects including various hover flies and beetles. Grasshoppers and crickets are also in



abundance this last month.



Don cut the field for hay last week and will be removing the bales soon. We decided to leave areas of Knapweed, Bird's Foot Trefoil and Meadow Vetchling as they are constantly visited by bumblebees, particularly Red Tails which were rarely seen here last year, so very good to see so many of them on the Knapweed, and also lots of Common Carders too. I am constantly looking out for the Brown Banded

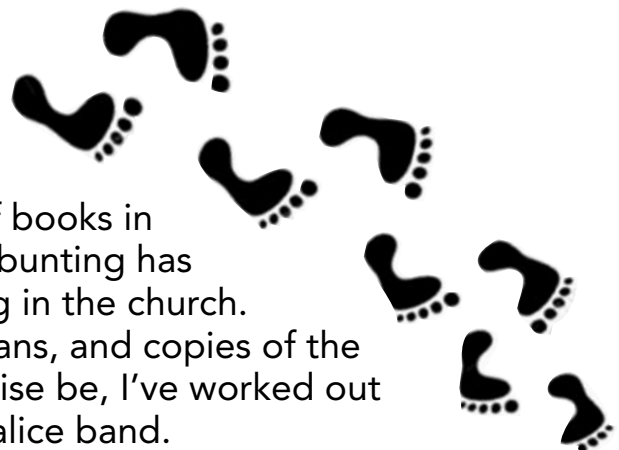
bumblebees first seen in July. When the flowering has stopped, we will either top the plants with the tractor or scythe them and spread the seed over the rest of the field.

We are also planning to strengthen the gates at the cricket pitch end of the field so that, when the car park closes in September we can, hopefully get the sheep in once again to keep the grass down before winter.

Jillian Eldridge

Foot Note

Rolvenden Flower Festival will take place too late for this issue of the Mag. I can report the volunteer sign-up sheets are mostly filled. There is a magnificent pile of books in church waiting to go over to the hall. The bunting has been located. Flower stands are appearing in the church. There is a list of arrangers, a list of musicians, and copies of the art catalogue have been printed. And, praise be, I've worked out how to do Alice's hair, complete with red alice band.





Single Minded?

As you will probably know, over the past eighteen months we have been exploring the possibility of becoming a single ecclesiastical parish. (This would be a change for Church – it makes no changes to the civil parishes of Rolvenden and Newenden and the Parish Councils that administer your villages).

We have held discussions at meetings of all our Parochial Church Councils (PCCs), worked with a smaller group of PCC representatives to develop ideas, and opened everything up to our wider communities through public meetings.

In November, the members of each of our PCCs will decide if they want to support the further progression of the single parish proposal by going forward to formal public consultation.

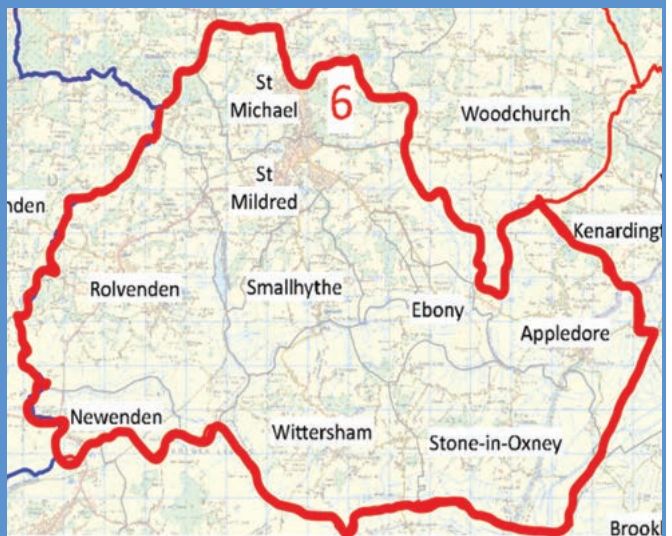
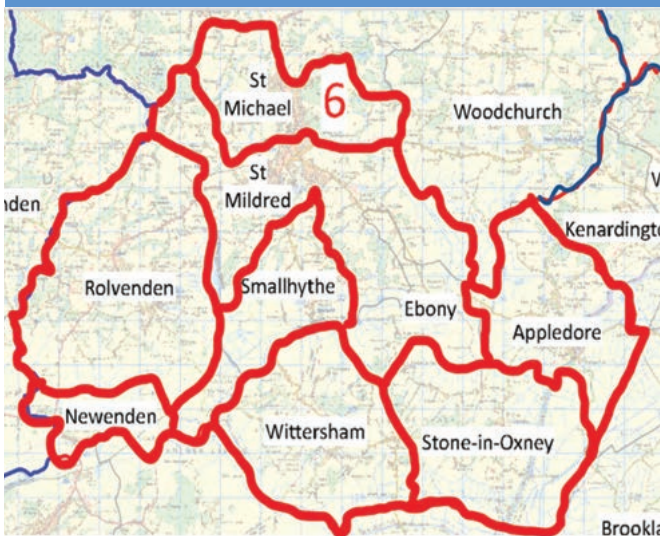
Before this, there will be one more round of PCC meetings and three further public presentations.

These will be held on:

- Thursday, 11th September at 7pm in Wittersham Church;
- Sunday, 14th September at 4pm in Tenterden Church;
- Tuesday, 16th September at 2pm in Rolvenden Church.

The content at each meeting will be identical and so please do come to the one which is most convenient for you.

Jeanette and Lindsay





Direct Cremation

Not a topic you expect to find in the Parish Mag? Maybe. But judging by the leaflet that dropped on my doormat recently, there is an industry out there that is keen to get you signed up.

The first words make the pitch clear: 'Funerals in Britain today often have one thing in common: they are expensive'.

So, this is an offer that is going to save you money that you would otherwise have spent on a funeral. And the secret ingredient that will save you thousands is a direct cremation.

'What is a direct cremation? It is a funeral without a ceremony at the crematorium or church.... In every other way, it's like a traditional funeral. It can be thousands of pounds cheaper than a traditional funeral, but with the same high quality of care and the same cremation. Direct cremations are also sometimes called 'unattended cremations' or 'unattended funerals'... This means family do not attend a ceremony at the crematorium. With a direct cremation, family and loved ones can have any kind of funeral service, send-off, memorial or celebration of life they wish, whenever and wherever they want.'

Before I go further, let me be clear, what follows is not a pitch for funerals to be conducted in church, or at the crematorium with a Christian Minister at the front. There are, as they say, other arrangements available. But, based on personal experience of conducting funerals, a direct cremation removes one vital component of the long process gone through when someone dies, and the emotional journey that those who are left must travel. You may save money but there may be other costs that cannot be measured in pounds and pence.

When you remove the physical presence of your loved one completely from the funeral you have also removed a key moment from the ceremony.

Traditionally the reality of parting is acknowledged and played out in the ritual, with the lowering of a coffin into the grave or closing of the curtains at the crematorium. Alright, I know today more families opt to leave the curtains open, thus avoiding the pain of that significant moment, but there is still the physical separation as people walk out of the door. And words are said to acknowledge what is being played out.

I believe there is an immediate consequence for the rest of the proceedings. One of the functions of a funeral is to provide support for those for whom mourning is especially keen. It is the task fulfilled by the friends, neighbours and colleagues who have elected to attend. (You don't routinely get an RSVP invite to a funeral). The real strength of that supporting role comes into its own when everyone gathers after the service. This is the moment when memories are shared, thanks expressed and, in some cases, rifts are healed. The shared experience of the formal ceremony, the words said and sung, the words heard in tributes, reading and poems, as well as the symbolism of parting will have prepared the collective mood for the encounters that follow in the Hall, the pub



or your own home.

I admit there is a place for something that looks very much like direct cremation, but has one significant difference. We have all had the dismal experience as principal mourners at a funeral service in church followed immediately by a cremation when, returning to the wake, we have found everyone gone, having thoughtfully left some of the food. The significant difference, if the family does not accompany the coffin to the crematorium, is that the all-important act of separation can still be played out. The coffin is carried to the church door, and there paused for words of farewell, before the coffin leaves and the door is closed. The reality of what is happening can be underscored with words for those who now have the responsibility for the ongoing care of the body, before everyone moves to the second gathering of the day and that all-important time of sharing memories.

To be strictly fair to the company who produced the mail shot: I am certain their services are conducted to the highest standard with care and respect being at the heart of their operations. My point is about the process of direct cremation itself, no matter who is organising it, and the unconsidered emotional consequences for the bereaved.

Judy Vinson

**Contemplative Church
@ St Mildred's**



**Saturday,
13 September @ 9 am**

**This is a new venture for St Mildred's and for me,
and I hope it may be for you, as well!**

From time to time, we all need to stop our busy-ness and, like the dove in the logo, take time to drink from the living waters. So, what can you expect if you come along to see what Contemplative Church might look like? The service will last about 50 minutes and will be Iona-style worship. It will include some simple Taizé chants and Iona songs. And yes, there will be some silence – two periods of ten minutes each which you will be gently led into. There will not be a sermon (!) but a short reflection or reading before each silence.

As with all our church services - this is open to everyone. And if you think you are too busy to come along – then it's probably just what you need!

Sharon
revsharon.francis@outlook.com
07527 396403



Hospice Concert



On July 26th, we held the first of our two RBD memorial recitals in aid of Hospice in the Weald. For our seventeenth season we had a sold out audience and there were only a few drops of rain. The sun re-appeared in time for the buffet tea. Once again Daniel Grimwood was the chosen performer as he was for the first memorial recital in 2008. His selection of music was extraordinary as he is preparing for his second appearance at the 'Rare Repertoire

Event' in Husum, Germany. He did squeeze in some Rachmaninov and the mandatory Henselt. The Steinway sounded better than ever, despite the nearby pipe burst. Our thanks go to our regular piano tuner, Geoff Sapswood, and Academy Flooring who replaced the entire area, just in time.

We managed to raise £1,091 for Hospice in the Weald, after expenses, and we heard some wonderful music! The next event is Wednesday, August 27th when Florian Verweij will come from Holland, and a special extra guest, Leslie Howard, to play a duet.

Tickets in advance only from Gillian Davis: 01580-850384.

Gillian Davis





Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch

August 2025

Our focus this month is: wildlife crime, catapulting/anti-social behaviour, e-scooters, rural theft, and fraud awareness



Summary & recent incidents

Continue to watch for Wildlife Crime: catapulting, riding of e-scooters on roads/pavements and rural theft - stolen farm equipment. Take photos/videos and report evidence to the police. Farm equipment (a tractor and its rake) were stolen from Halden Lane overnight 2nd/3rd August 25.

Please sign these petitions click on the links/type them into a search engine then share with friends/family:

- **Ban the use of catapults to protect wildlife:** <https://chnng.it/hGgWNX584c>
- <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/end-catapult-cruelty>

1. Ongoing fraud: Sim Swapping is becoming more common, but what is it?

Sim swap fraud happens when criminals transfer your phone number to their SIM card giving them control of this so they can receive your calls and texts. Fraudsters then use 2FA (*two-factor authentication) to change your passwords and access your emails/accounts.

Follow these tips to stay safe:

- Protect your personal information: never share bank account details or passwords. Ignore unexpected requests for your details
- Set up a pin or password: ask your phone provider to set up a unique PIN or password on your account
- Use social media wisely. Avoid sharing details: phone number/date of birth/answers to common security questions.
- Monitor your accounts: regularly check your bank accounts/credit reports for strange transactions/activities. Set up alerts for significant changes to your accounts (ask a family member/friend to help you with this without giving them any personal details).
- Check with your bank about setting up *biometrics which adds an extra level of security to your account.

Terminology (*):

Two-factor authentication: Using two different types of proof of who you are when you do something online, e.g. paying for something: one password you make up yourself and another password/code you get from somewhere else (a text message). It's recommended all mobile banking transactions are validated through a two-factor authentication system.

Biometrics: automated recognition of individuals by unique physical characteristics for security purposes: patterns of eye colour/fingerprints to prove who you are.

How to spot SIM swapping

Contact your mobile phone provider/bank if you spot the signs below:



- Sudden loss of service (you cannot make/receive calls/texts which could mean a criminal has moved your number to another SIM card)
- Notifications of suspicious activity (log-in or SIM notifications which weren't made by you could be a sign criminals are trying to move your number to a new SIM)
- Loss of access to your accounts: if you cannot access your email, bank or social media accounts, it could be a sign a criminal has taken control of it
- Unauthorised transactions: if you spot payments on your account you do not remember making, it could be a sign a criminal has accessed your account.

2. Emergency Alert UK date set



The Test Emergency Alert: 3pm Sunday, 7 September 2025. These alerts sent to all mobile phones are used by countries as an effective way to warn people when there's a danger to life (extreme weather conditions). Before this happens, the Cabinet Office will run a public information campaign to inform people about the test. **However, this may**

provide an opportunity for criminals, so remember: nobody will contact you to request personal data/account details or send texts/emails asking you to click on links.

If you think you've been a victim of this/any other scam, contact your Bank immediately, call 159/report it to Action Fraud: www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

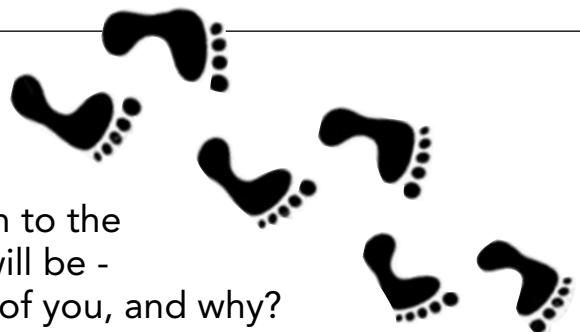
Reporting crime to the police

- 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.

*Siân Reeves Rolvenden
Neighbourhood Watch*

Foot Note

Something for a moment of reflection:
what aspect of you would you like to be remembered? What will be your contribution to the footnotes to history? - What aspect - What will be -
And then add: What is your favourite photo of you, and why?





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 OCTOBER ISSUE IS 5:00pm TUESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER.

Note for distributors: ★ Rolvenden Magazines available for collection on Saturday 27TH September. ★ Newenden Magazines available for collection on Sunday 28th September.

The online version will be available from 1st October 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, also see 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 or 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/>

NSPCC



Talk to the NSPCC

For advice and support about a child,
or to report a concern, talk to us.
It's free and you don't have to say who you are.

0808 800 5000

help@nspcc.org.uk **nspcc.org.uk/helpline**

EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

©2020 NSPCC. Photography by Tom HOB. The child pictured is a model. Registered charity England and Wales 219903 and Scotland SC037727. 00188119

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Monypenny

Friday 26th September

10:30 to 13:30

You will be very welcome!

If you cannot come on the day, please would you consider making a donation through our giving page using this link:

<https://cm25.macmillan.org.uk/fundraising/CM25005611>

Or the QR Code



**Raffle and Tombola Prizes would be welcome
Thank you!**

Refuse Collection

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

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

You can also download a calendar.

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

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

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

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

On-line, see ABC website: www.ashford.gov.uk/waste

Telephone ABC on Tel 01233 330646

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

Our MP is Katie Lam

Email: katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk

Office tel: 01580 388 344

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

NEWENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

www.newenden-pc.gov.uk/

Parish Clerk: Mrs Lauren Dobson.

C/o Carpens, Hobbs lane,

Beckley. East Sussex, TN31 6TT

Telephone: 01797 260364

e-mail: enquiries@newenden-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council will meet at 7:00pm

16th September in St Peter's church.

ROLVENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

www.rolvendenparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Clerk: Mrs Louise Goldsmith,

5 Artisan Road, Headcorn, TN27 9AZ

Telephone: 07900 693572

email:

clerk@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Council will meet at

*7:30pm 18th September
in Rolvenden Village Hall.*

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

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