# Rolvenden & Newenden

## *Parish Magazine*

2026
NOVEMBER
ONLINE



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*Cover Image: Autumn changes  Photographer: Margaret Hewett*

*This Month's Letter Comes from*

# Reverend Henry Setright



Only one twentieth century Archbishop of Canterbury is commemorated by the Church of England in its calendar - William Temple. When he died on 6 November 1944, after just two years in office, exhausted by work at the early age of 63, there was an extraordinary public outpouring of shock and sorrow. It was shared by national and Church leaders, but most notably by ordinary people whose lives he touched. On hearing of his death, President Roosevelt wrote to the King on behalf of the American people, observing that Temple "exerted a profound influence throughout the world".

What was it, then, that William Temple achieved to earn this kind of recognition and affection? Unlike most archbishops of the last one hundred years, William Temple was effective, leading at the active centre of national life, spiritually and politically, translating the teachings of Christ into forms which shaped the lives of many.

Temple embodied a change from what the public thought an archbishop was. Although an exceptional academic theologian, with a formidable outpouring of writing, nothing about him was remote or austere – unlike his predecessor and successor at Canterbury. A contemporary looking – and sounding – figure, he took to radio, the press, and the newsreels, as well as hosting countless public meetings, connecting with the ordinary people of Britain, whether they were Churchgoers or not.

In the darkest days of the War, he inspired with faith and hope, negotiating a path between pacifism - "I am not a pacifist – indeed, I am an anti-pacifist"- and glorification of conflict, acknowledging war as itself bad – but presently necessary to subdue a greater evil. Taking Christ's teaching into the public arena, he argued, first in theological writings, and then in public meetings with Church and national political figures, that all people deserved fundamental hope and improvement in their lives – free or affordable healthcare, regular employment, proper housing, and high-quality education. His arguments captured the imagination of many – and helped form national policy – including the 1944 Education Act, introducing free and universal secondary schools, and the Beveridge Report and its adoption – leading to the establishment of the modern welfare state. In the name of Christ, he brought real, lasting change to millions.

He worked for Christian unity and global Christian fellowship, establishing the British Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches. Early in his

career, his 'Life and Liberty' movement led to the creation of the Synodical system that gives participation in Church government to the laity. In the 1930s he opposed Church involvement in the 'United Christian Front' – which sought to elide 'Christian values' with political support for Franco in Spain, and later for Nazi Germany. And in 1942, seeking to combat anti-Semitism, he founded, with the Chief Rabbi, the Council of Christians and Jews.

Today his reputation in the Church remains high, and his legacy is all around us. There is no shortage of written material about him. But to fully understand him, you need to see him – and you can. Go to YouTube, and there he is in a newsreel clip – surprisingly youthful looking – with a smile on his face – climbing onto the deck of a Royal Navy battleship, then squeezing – with difficulty but good humour – though a narrow deck hatch, and ministering to the crew. "The People's Archbishop" as the press called him, in action.

*Yours in Christ*
*Henry*

## St Peter and St Mary Flower Rotas November 2026

| **Sunday** | **St Mary** | **St Peter** |
|---|---|---|
| Nov 01 | Elizabeth M | Sally Manford |
| Nov 08 | Rosemary I | Rosie Edmonds |
| Nov 15 | Sylvia K | Rosie Edmonds |
| Nov 22 | Sylvia K | Rosie Edmonds |
| Nov 29 | Sylvia K | Rosie Edmonds |
| **Contact:** | Sylvia Kellet<br>01580 240463 | Rosie Edmonds<br>01797 252196 |
| | Sylviakellett@eplusmail.com | rosie.edmonds@hotmail.com |

Brass Cleaning at St Mary: Patrick Izod

**St. Peter's Church:** Normally open between 10.00 and 4.00pm.
If you need access outside of these times, please contact Rosie Edmonds.
Should arrangers be unable to do any slots please swap with someone else and let Rosie know.

## From the Registers

**Interment of Ashes**
**21st September** Hilary Jean Todd at St Mary's

# The Church of England

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

### Sunday 1st November All Saints

9:30am St Peter's Newenden
Eucharist

8:00am HC in St Mary's
11:15am St Mary's Rolvenden
Celtic Morning Prayer

### Thursday 5th November

10:50am Rolvenden School Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial

### Sunday 8th November Remembrance Sunday

10:50am St Peter's Newenden
Service of Remembrance

10:50am St Mary's Rolvenden
Service of Remembrance

***6:00pm** St Peter's Newenden Taizé Service*

### Sunday 15th November Second Sunday before Advent

9:30 am St Peter's Newenden
Eucharist

11:15am St Mary's Rolvenden
Matins

***6:00pm** Evensong for St Cecilia (Tenterden)*

### Sunday 22nd November Christ the King

9:30am St Peter's Newenden
Morning Praise

11:15am St Mary's Rolvenden
Eucharist

***6:00pm** St Mary's Rolvenden – Service of Light*

### Sunday 29th November Advent Sunday

9:30am St Peter's Newenden
Morning Praise

11:15am St Mary's Rolvenden
Celtic Morning Prayer

*Please note change of service time from 11:00am to 11:15am for St Mary's Rolvenden. See page 7 for further comment.*

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**And during the week**

*Beginning the Day with God*
*A ten-minute reflective service, will be online only from Monday to Saturday.*

*Ending the Day with God*
*A ten-minute reflective service, will be online only from Monday to Saturday.*

*Holy Communion will be celebrated at 10am in St Mildred's every Thursday. The service will last about twenty-five minutes.*

*St Mildred's, Tenterden Online services, will be found at YouTube and also can be accessed through our free daily bulletin, Connect Up!*
*To receive Connect Up! please visit our website: wwwtentroxchurches.co.uk, and subscribe.*

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

# Harvest – A Season for Sharing



**And this year St Mary's was a channel for much sharing.**
On Saturday, 26th September the Tenterden Singers gave of their time and talents to an audience who gave of their time and their cash. Harvest Buzz Concert raised funds for Rolvenden PCC's charity for 2026, Bees for Development. £550 went to the charity where it will be used in communities across the developing world making life better with bees. The projects are varied as you will see if you take a look at the charity's website: **www.beesfordevelopment.org/what-we-do/**

On Sunday, 27th September was the Harvest Thanksgiving Service with offerings brought to the altar by farming families. The symbols of the harvest were: wool for livestock, apples for crops of the field, a trug of fruit and veg as produce of the garden, seed for sowing for next year and soil as the common foundation for all these gifts. It was a joy-filled service with a time for much chat afterwards where Kent brewed beer and cider replaced the weekly offering of coffee. The practical sharing came with the collection which was split



between two farming charities:

The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution and the Farming Community Network. Each received £100.

There was one other symbol brought to the altar by the head boy and girl from Rolvenden School; this was an empty bowl signifying the hungry of the world. It was a symbol understood by the two youngsters.

On Thursday, 2nd October, the School came over the road to St Mary's with each child carrying items for the Mildred Charity, the local Food Bank. The laden table of groceries was proof of the generosity of the school families.

So a big thank you to Tenterden Singers, all who came to the concert, the farmers and their families and all who came to the Sunday service, and the School and all the parents who provided the food and came to the School Service. Thank you for all that sharing, for taking part, turning up and thank you for your generosity.

*JV*

# St Mary's Rolvenden - Change to Service Times

From Sunday, 1st November the main service of the day will be at 11:15am with coffee and the opportunity for fellowship coming before the service. Coffee available from 10:40am.

Apart from the first Sunday of the month, Geoffrey Davison, our organist, plays for the 9:30am service in St Mildred's. As regular worshippers will be aware, Geoffrey has been finding it more and more difficult to arrive by 11:00am. It is anticipated that the change will remove the uncertainty and resulting stress for both Geoffrey and the Minister taking the service.

Please note, the Remembrance Sunday service is not affected by this change. The party walking from the Bull will arrive at 10:50am. Their arrival will mark the start of the service.

*Sylvia Kellett and Edward Barham*
*Churchwardens*



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(to include a glass of wine)
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Pages Newsagent, Cranbrook or our Website
www.chalkdownstaplehurst-rda.co.uk
Charity No: 1174554

# Guy Pullen

## *Borough Councillor with good news: Changes to Tenterden Parking and the Town Hall*



On Thursday, 15th October the proposed changes to parking charges in Ashford Borough were voted down.

There was initially a proposal to add a £2 overnight charge to ABC carparks, but this was voted down by Cabinet (the leadership group of ABC made up of Green Party and Ashford Independent councillors) in a meeting on 8th October. You may have seen and signed a petition to ensure that this proposal was nixed and Tenterden Town Council have now officially adopted this stance.

The vote at Full Council means that the other change that would effect Tenterden visitors and residents also fell. That would have seen parking charges rise from £1.30 to £1.40 per hour. The rate will now remain at £1.30 until at least 2028.

The one change that has been adopted by the council is a new Free After Three scheme that will apply to Bridewell Lane car park. As the name suggests, parking your car in Bridewell Lane will be free between 3pm and 8am. This change will apply from February 2027. Other ABC car parks remain free from 6pm – 8 am.

On street parking in Tenterden remains free for one hour.

Parking charges always provoke a lot of debate, but it should be noted that parking is never really free. If we don't pay for it by the hour at a meter, we'll pay for it in our taxes or in the loss of services that the revenue would support.

I recently had the pleasure of attending a meeting in the new Tenterden Town Hall. I think it is fantastic.

The Town Hall had fallen into a sad and dilapidated state with damp eating at the structure of the building and the facilities no longer fit for use in the twenty-first century.

As is so common when renovating old buildings, the problems that are foreseen are dwarfed by the problems that are uncovered. Damp problems became problems of pooling water and it was discovered that the structure of the building was held up on a wing and a prayer.

We have a new space to use and enjoy. Downstairs is a versatile modern gallery space, with offices and toilets. This part of the hall is unrecognisable. Upstairs should be more familiar, with the larger hall and stage replicating the original.

You can join a free tour of the new Town Hall on Thursday, 5th November and there are lots of events already booked in.

*Guy Pullen, Borough Councillor – Rolvenden and Tenterden West*

Tenterden Literary Society

**Monday, 9 November 2026**

# Vita and Harold in Their Own Words




In a set of readings in four sections, Sue Lowen will explore Harold Nicholson and Vita Sackville-West's lives and writings. She will focus on the land, the garden, animals and travel, and Sissinghurst.

Venue: Highbury Hall, Tenterden
6.50pm for the lecture which starts at 7pm
Members have free entry, visitors £4 each

tenterdenliterarysociety.wordpress.com



# Weather and Nature Notes

Autumn is here. The sun has crossed the equator and its intensity has gone, sunny days feel more pleasant. Interestingly the 7th of October was the end of a 117 day run of daytime temperatures reaching 20 degrees Celsius or more somewhere in the UK. By the 11th of September 41mm of longed for rain had fallen, a good start which revived suffering plants and lawns, the rest of the month, however, only saw a few light showers bringing the overall total to 56mm. Quite quickly the countryside turned green, giving the impression we are "out of the woods", however, the reservoirs are still desperately low and the ground cracked, and in some areas stricter hose pipe bans have been introduced. As I write October has so far seen little rainfall to help remedy that.

For now, the outside beckons me to wander and immerse myself in this season whilst it is still kind before storms and colder temperatures arrive. Mornings are often dewy, it appears the early squirrel gets the nut; industriously they forage and with damp noses and whiskers sniff out the ideal spot to bury their prize conker or acorn, patting down the soil with wet paws.

Peeping from under the leaf litter Bolete fungi are emerging with their thick sponge like caps. "Penny bun" is a descriptive common name of an edible variety of this fungus, but there are quite a few similar poisonous members of the family too.

The distinctive sound of the flail is already heard as it cuts hedgerows, robins sing from their perches, and the last of the summer warblers search the undersides of leaves for insects to fuel their long journeys. A flock of Jackdaws noisily rise into flight and circle high into a blue sky with only a few bubbles of cloud at altitude. They call to each other then start acrobatic swooping, and dive bombing each other; it seems like they are having fun, but there is probably a more serious meaning for them.

With harvests taken from the fields the light brown soil is ready for a new crop, a pattern of drill lines covers the fine crumb. At the ploughing match, I enjoyed watching the skill of how it was done by a pair of beautiful heavy horses pulling a plough with only the "chink" of their harness and encouragement from the ploughman to be heard above the sounds of nature. Picturesque, but hard work, they wouldn't have struggled to achieve a modern-day exercise ideal of 10,000 steps. Nowadays the constant low roar of a many horse powered tractor is to be heard as it makes short precise work of the job. After such a hot dry summer, yields are down on many crops for human consumption and also for the creatures, for them every berry, nut and seed counts to get them through what is predicted to be a hard winter.

Against a warm wall figs are ripening and smelling appetising, a zippy hummingbird hawk moth takes a moment to rest and settles on the warm brick work, then I see a declining butterfly, I only see the odd one at this time of year. It lands and angles itself towards the sun, it is appropriately named the wall brown, so called because they like to bask on walls or stony ground. Knowing any day now that the weather will break and feel less inviting, a likely autumn storm will whisk away colouring leaves, then frosty mornings will see most insects hide away for the winter or die; this makes each lovely day more special.

*Hazel Beaney*



The Big Wrap

www.thebigwrap.co.uk

# HOW YOU CAN HELP

amazon

## Gifts for children

Brand new for ages from baby to 11. For ages 12 upwards toiletry and cosmestic gifts or Amazon Gift Cards value of £15.

## Amazon Wishlist

The above QR code takes you to our Wishlist which should be helpful for gift ideas.

## Big Wrap Day 28th November 2026 in St Mildred's church

Gift and other donations welcome from 9am and wrapping from 1pm to 3pm

Supporting local families at Christmas



**The Hygiene Bank Tenterden & Cranbrook**

THE MILDRED TRUST
RURAL COMMUNITY COMPASSION IN ACTION

## Other Items

We also appreciate any items to support families for everyday living essentials.

Because you never know what troubles the person next door is going through....

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# AUTUMN/WINTER 2026

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8 November




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20 November




GIANT – screening
29 November




A Christmas Carol
4 & 5 December




Step Into Christmas
12 December




The Nutcracker
19 December




Cinderella – The Ballet
13 February

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# Revision of the Rolvenden Neighbourhood Development Plan

Twelve of us volunteered to be the Steering Group undertaking the revision of the current Rolvenden Neighbourhood Development Plan with the guidance of Alison, our specialist consultant. We have been working hard on the review of the document since September 2024. The review is needed because national policy has changed and local Ashford policy is changing and we need to keep our plan as up to date as possible.

The plan contains a series of policies that must be complied with by anyone contemplating development of any kind within the parish. They cover a wide scope from the nature of building materials that would be used, to such concepts as long-distance views that should not be changed. Taken together the Plan offers protection for the character of our community until 2043. We are planning an exhibition in church of photographs which illustrate details around the policies we have included.



We've reached a major milestone in the process, a period of public consultation on our Draft Plan. By the time you read this we are confident the draft will have been signed off by the Parish Council. The document will now be available for comment over the next six weeks leading up to Christmas. We are planning a public presentation in church, date still to be fixed. We welcome your views on the content, whether you are a Rolvenden resident or have a connection with the parish. Following this consultation period, the Steering Group will carefully consider all of the comments so that the final plan can be prepared and submitted to Ashford Borough Council to take to the next stage. There are other milestones ahead.

Looking realistically around the meeting table, I have to acknowledge that most of those who have been doing this work will not live to see its full fruition. What keeps us going? Simply, we have loved, cared and appreciated what this village has given us and we want to make sure that the next generation has the same wonderful benefit.

Looking ahead, during the final part of this exercise everyone will have an opportunity to vote on the adoption of the plan. It will become a powerful tool for the community, not to resist any change, but to ensure change is in keeping with what we already have.

We offer our work to the next generation. We can only say please do not throw it away.

*Denise Curtain*
*on behalf of Rolvenden Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee*

# FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!

## Food for Bonfire Night



Remember remember the fifth of November, gunpowder, treason and plot. I hope children today still say these first lines from this folk verse. November 5th is known as Guy Fawkes Night or today perhaps better known as Bonfire Night.

Why we celebrate goes back to 1605, during the reign of James 1, when a group of Catholics plotted to blow up the Houses of Parliament during the State Opening of Parliament, to kill the King and other leaders. The conspirators had stored barrels of gunpowder beneath the House of Lords, but on the night of 4th November, Guy Fawkes was discovered with the explosives and arrested and so the Gunpowder Plot failed.

News of the king's survival gave way to celebrations including the lighting of bonfires. In 1606 an official day of thanksgiving was established for November 5th.

Over time, the anniversary became a popular public celebration, with bonfires, fireworks and the burning of effigies traditionally called guys. Food became part of these outdoor celebrations, as people needed refreshments, and November's cold and often damp weather made warming and substantial food very welcome.

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries there was no special national menu, foods would have varied considerably between wealthy households, towns and rural communities. Bread, cheese, potatoes and meat, if it was available, would be taken to the gathering. Cooking over

an open fire outdoors was an established practice, potatoes would be roasted among the embers, they were ideal as they were filling but required very little preparation. Baked potatoes eventually became one of the most enduring foods for a traditional Bonfire Night. Sweet foods were not affordable for everyone but sugar was becoming more available.



Parkin is probably the most distinctive regional food associated with 5th November. It is a dark, sticky, ginger flavoured cake and is traditional in Yorkshire and Lancashire where the 5th is also known as Parkin Night and by the nineteenth century Parkin had become firmly linked with Bonfire Night. It is made with oatmeal, flour, ginger, fat and either treacle or syrup.

Bonfire toffee was a homemade treat which was also a regular feature, it was made by boiling sugar, black treacle and fat until the mixture reached a hard brittle stage. It has a distinctive dark colour and a flavour that is both sweet and slightly bitter. Of course, toffee is now readily available to buy.



During the twentieth century, organised firework displays and community celebrations became popular and hot food stalls popped up selling sausages in rolls, hot soup and hot chocolate, which were not traditional but very popular especially on a cold night. Today there is street food on sale from every culture. Bonfire Night and food has evolved over more than four centuries, and these foods connect generations, we are taking part in a tradition shaped by history, family memories and the pleasures of autumn.

Bonfire Night may commemorate a dramatic event in our history, but the food traditions celebrate the simple pleasure of being together, sharing food and enjoying a November evening.

*Lavinia*





# Flower arrangements going greener in St Mary's

That spectacular harvest arrangement with growth sprouting in all directions works because of the firm foundation. Each stem has been pressed deep into a water-logged foam block which holds everything in place. The blocks are Oasis, a water retaining solid foam made of petroleum-based microplastics, formaldehyde, and phenol that do not fully biodegrade. Those wonderful creations ultimately are not good for the planet. We reuse the blocks until finally they have too many holes and no longer hold the stems, and then they go to land fill.

That is changing. St Mary's is switching to Oasis Bio Blocks which do degrade slowly in landfill conditions. This will be used for seasonal festivals, Christmas, Easter, Harvest and the Flower Festival.

There is a further change to the regular weekly arrangement at the front of the nave. Something different is being trialled—a glass container with a gridded lid, on the principle of a frog vase. The new method certainly takes some getting used to. It limits the size of stems of foliage and flowers and dictates a more upright and possibly less spectacular arrangement. The arrangement is still a focal point to wonder at nature's beauty.

There is another option… to go back to the way we used to do it, with a tangle of scrunched up chicken wire wedged into a vase. Interesting how 'fashions' come around again.

*Sylvia Kellett*

## Going greener with Dark Skies

Now the clocks have gone back and the nights are getting really long, maybe it's time for all of us to try going greener about dark skies. You can find the original article of the work done in School in the April Magazine but here is a reminder of the key points captured in the winning poster.

And for more information on Dark Skies and how you can help, check out the High Weald website: https://highweald.org/get-involved/dark-skies/



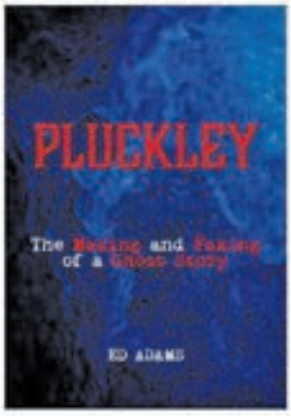
## Rolvenden History Group

Friday, 6 November 2026

### *Pluckley: The Making and Faking of a Ghost Story*

Pluckley has been known as the Most Haunted Village in England for as long as anyone today can remember. But what are the historical roots of its many legends? How did the village gain its reputation? And is it truly deserved?






Ed Adams investigates the origins of the stories and traces their development through Pluckley's colourful past and recent history.

*Pluckley: the Making and Faking of a Ghost Story* has all the twists, intrigues and horrors of any good ghostly tale. Except this one is all true.

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/)


HEMSTED PARK
Frost at BENENDEN
EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF THE Holiday Season
This December, lace up your skates and take to the ice beneath the winter lights.
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# Parkinson's Disease and Exercise



Autumn is on our doorstep with winter and Christmas just round the corner. This instalment of the twice-yearly series of articles on Parkinson's health is on exercise. When the weather gets colder and the daylight time is shortened, we don't feel like exercising. As Parkinson's is a condition of the nervous system, marked by slow movement, balance problems, stiffness and tremor, we might find exercise difficult. Additionally, changes in cognition and mood also affect our motivation. However, research has shown that:
"Exercise is an evidence-based treatment that suppresses symptoms, just like a drug, but it's also good for the so-called non-motor symptoms." ***(Professor Bastain Bloom, 2025)*** **i**
"Exercise releases endorphins and dopamine, they work together to improve your mood." ***(Cleveland Clinic, 2022)*** **ii**
Parkinson's Foundation and the American College of Sports ***Medicine in 2021*** **iii** (updated 2026) recommend 150 minutes (2.5 hours) of moderate to vigorous exercise per week across four domains:

**1.** Aerobic activity – this includes rhythmic activities such as fast-walking, running, cycling, swimming or aerobic classes. There are safety concerns due to freezing gait or low blood pressure; therefore, supervision is necessary. In Kent and East Sussex, there are in-person aerobic exercise classes, specially designed for people with Parkinson's:
- Walking Football Clubs in Aylesford, Bexhill, Gillingham, Herne Bay, Paddock Wood, Sheerness, Tonbridge, Tenterden etc.
- Free gym membership at one hundred and ninety Everyone Active sites nationwide, such as Edenbridge, Sevenoaks, Deal, Rayleigh
- Freedom Leisure such as the Weald Sports Centre in Cranbrook offers tailored health referral schemes and specialised community classes to support individuals living with Parkinson's disease.

**2.** Strength Training – this should include ten to fifteen repetitions, focusing on major muscle groups, resistance, speed and power. Using weight machines, resistance bands, handheld weights or bodyweight to exercise the upper and lower extremities is suggested. There are fifty-three videos on the 'Exercise and Parkinson's' YouTube website designed for people with Parkinson's by Parkinson's UK charity.
**https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL1ixQpbHed3ZS0iZKIb4RKmtM2JjMadtv**

**3.** Balance, Agility and Multitasking – the guidelines recommend two to three days per week of multi-directional stepping, weight-shifting, balance activities,

large movements and activities such as yoga, tai chi, dance or boxing. Supervision may be required when practising these exercises due to safety related to memory, information processing and balance problems. There are seated exercises offered by specially trained Wobble teachers in Tenterden and Sandhurst; contact the teachers below for more information:
*mariawilliams on 07810 203501*
*kimwheelerpft@gmail.com*
or join online classes by contacting https://wobbleclasses.com/ for more information

**4.** Stretching – this includes two to three days per week of sustained stretching accompanied by deep breathing exercises. Stretching as a warm-up before exercising is important to increase blood flow and loosen your joints. NHS Flexibility Exercises online provide instructions and pictures of gentle stretches for seniors https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/exercise/flexibility-exercises/

**5.** Box Breathing is a technique to ease muscle tension and stress, therefore promoting better sleep and recovery from your daily exercise routine.
*https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5y5jqly153o*

I hope you find this article useful as exercise is important not just for those with neuro-degenerative conditions but all of us pursuing a healthy and happy life.

*Carroll Sui*

**i** Bloom, b. (2026) https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/exercise-disease-modifying-therapy-parkinsons-disease-2026a10003uw?form=fpf

**ii** Cleveland Clinic (2022) https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/body/23040-endorphins

**iii** Parkinson's Foundation and ACSM (2026) https://acsm.org/parkinsons-disease-exercise-recommendations-updated-2026/

# Rolvenden Parish Council Report

**Vacancies on the Parish Council**
There are two vacancies on the Parish Council for the Streyte ward. The Parish Council needs a full complement of Councillors to fully function. If you are interested in the role and would like to find out more, please do contact the Clerk.

**Change of dates of meetings:**
The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, 26 November 2026.

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*

# Lineside news

*from The Kent and East Sussex Railway*



Due to a long hot summer the steam railway could not run its steam trains for fear of setting fire to the countryside. To make up for this The Kent and East Sussex Railway has organised a gala weekend, 7thto 8th November, a time when the railway is traditionally closed.

Entitled "Southern Through the Ages", this gala intends to present a range of motive power and vehicles which one might have expected to find on railways in the south of England in times gone by. Tickets are now available to be purchased through the KESR website. Will we see you there? This will be the last event of the season before the start of the Santa Specials.

Climb aboard for a magical Christmas experience starting 29th November. Since 1974 the award-winning Kent & East Sussex Railway Santa Specials have been delighting generations of families and helping create treasured Christmas memories.

As well as the steam train journey though the Kent and East Sussex countryside, every family will receive a personal visit from Santa, who delivers individually named, age-appropriate gifts to children at their seats, assisted by his team of elves. Families also enjoy a souvenir group photograph, festive refreshments, entry to the Winter Wonderland marquee and unlimited rides on the traditional Gallopers at Tenterden Town Station.

Santa and his team of elves are aboard each train, to meet everyone personally and hand out gifts to the children as they make their festive journey to the North Pole.

There are three special travel packages to choose from, each offering additional festive treats and exclusive experiences:

• Bronze Standard Class – Includes a complimentary refreshment pack with mince pies for adults, chocolate treats for children and soft drinks for all passengers. An on-board magician keeps younger travellers entertained before Santa arrives.

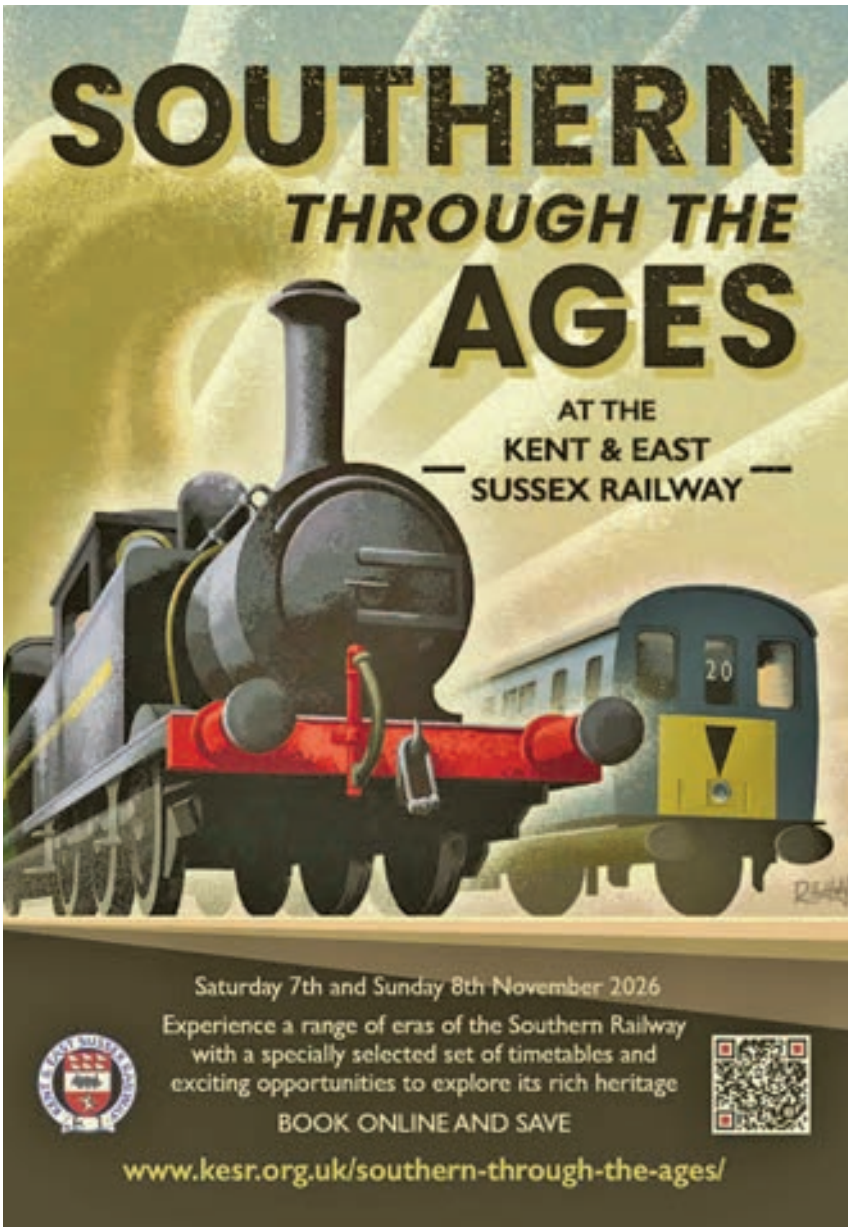
• Silver First Class – Includes a deluxe refreshment pack, chocolates for older children and a complimentary trolley service for adults, with a choice of alcoholic or non-alcoholic drink included. Passengers also meet Santa's Head Elves, Jingle and Sparkle, and receive an Elf-ship diploma.

• Gold Premium Class – Offers the ultimate festive experience, with unlimited prosecco, beer or non-alcoholic beverages for adults, festive cakes and luxury mince pies, together with character chocolates and fruit drinks for children, all served at your seats.

For families and groups requiring a calmer atmosphere, a dedicated Quiet Service will once again operate on Sunday, 29th November. Christmas music is not played at the station, but the key features of the Santa Special experience remain unchanged.

The 2026 Santa Special trains will run every weekend in December, with additional services on Tuesday, 22nd December; Wednesday, 23rd December and Christmas Eve, Thursday, 24th December. at www.kesr.org.uk

*Local Railway Correspondent*



# Letter from Katie Lam MP



In September, I was thrilled to take on the Housing, Communities and Local Government brief in the Shadow Cabinet. That means I'm now responsible for scrutinising everything from the homes people rent and buy, to local government issues and defending our democracy. It's a big job, and so much of it directly affects the Weald of Kent. Housing is probably the most obvious example.

We all know Britain has a serious housing problem. Too many hard-working young people are struggling to get on the housing ladder. But at the moment, instead of building enough homes in London, where so many people want and need to live, the capital's housing crisis is being pushed out into the South East. Nobody wins here.

Our beautiful villages face huge developments which permanently change their character. More pressure is piled onto roads and water systems which struggle to cope. Meanwhile, young people who want to live and work in London still can't afford to, and spend hours commuting. It makes no sense.

We have to build the homes our country needs, but in the right places, with the infrastructure to support them. We've seen why that matters with repeated water outages across Kent, caused by ageing infrastructure and serious failings at South East Water. The trouble is, even when we know what needs to be built, getting it done is incredibly difficult. We haven't built a new reservoir in this country since 1992. We struggle to maintain the roads we already have, while desperately needed infrastructure can take years to get off the ground. Too often, endless rules, regulations and legal challenges make getting anything done painfully difficult.

I'm now also responsible for scrutinising plans for local government. Councils make decisions about everything from social care and transport to planning and bin collections. And almost everybody pays council tax, so we all have an interest in making sure councils are well run and accountable. That's why the uncertainty surrounding local government reorganisation has been so frustrating, with cancelled elections, changes of direction and taxpayers left picking up the bill.

Across all these issues, there's plenty to do, and so much of it matters enormously for the Weald. So I'm looking forward to getting stuck in.

If you have thoughts, particularly about how these issues affect you locally, please get in touch. I'd love to hear from you.

*Katie Lam*
***Email:*** *katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk*
***Office tel:*** *01580 388 344*

# Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch
## November 2026

### Summary & recent incidents
Watch for crime: milk and parcel delivery theft, anti-social behaviour including catapulting, vandalism, riding of e-scooters on roads/pavements, nuisance motorbike riding, break-in attempts, theft from properties, shops and cars, buying of vapes underage and non-local vehicles parked, ball-bearings from catapults (found in the tunnel walk parallel to Great Maytham Hall/Glebe Field) and catapults being carried and used. **Action:** take photos/videos and report evidence to the police.

### Stolen motorbike recovered from nuisance motorbike riding:
Following a report of a nuisance motorbike being ridden by youths in Rolvenden and a further call about an abandoned bike, PC Laker attended the area and located a motorbike in a secluded garage area in Sparkeswood Avenue. Enquires were carried out on the 'vin' number as the index plate had been removed and there was damage to the ignition barrel. The bike was confirmed stolen from Maidstone. The motorbike was recovered and the owner informed that the bike was found and recovered so he could be reunited with his pride and joy.
Please report nuisance vehicles as there is a good chance that the vehicle could be stolen, unregistered or not be road legal in regards to insurance.




### Speed checks:
In response raised by residents about vehicle speeds, officers have been out conducting traffic enforcement and speed checks across the local area.
Results included:
- High visibility patrols in Tenterden, with officers speaking to residents and local business owners.
- Speed enforcement in Golden Square, Tenterden, where no offences were detected.
- Speed checks on Woodchurch Road, Tenterden, resulting in two Traffic Offence Reports being issued for speeding. Two additional motorists were stopped and given advice regarding their driving.

**This proactive work was positively received by the local community** and further operations are planned. Locations suggested by residents will continue to be considered for future enforcement activity.




### Fraud warning after phone scammers pose as police|:
A police force has warned that criminals are posing as officers to attempt to obtain personal information over the phone. Kent Police said "several members of the public reported receiving phone calls" from people impersonating their staff. "Victims were asked for information, from what falsely appeared to be a Kent

Police number, that in the wrong hands could be used in an attempt to commit financial fraud," a spokesperson said.
Officers' advice is to never give personal information in response to an incoming call, particularly any personal bank information.

Follow this link for full details on the BBC website:
**https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cq804jveymj5o**

## Are you signed up to My Community Voice?




Please share this post with your family, friends and neighbours so they can stay informed about what is happening in their area and receive local policing updates, crime prevention advice and community alerts directly from their neighbourhood officers.

The police also want to hear about the issues that matter most to you and your community. By signing up to My Community Voice, you can help them better understand local concerns, shape our policing priorities and work together to keep our communities safe.
**Sign up today:** https://www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk/

## Reporting crime to the police

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

## Hearing or speech impairments.

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

*Siân Reeves Rolvenden, Neighbourhood Watch*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| K | R | R |
| F | O | S |
| W | I | E |

## 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.

# 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 DEC 26/JAN 27 ISSUE IS 5:00PM TUESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER**

**Note for distributors: ✪ Rolvenden Magazines available for collection on Saturday 28th November. ✪ Newenden Magazines available for collection on Sunday 29th November.**

The online version will be available from 1st December 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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# Rural Restock:

## Tenterden Leisure Centre (upstairs)

**Monthly Tuesday evenings:**

**5.15 - 6.15pm**

**13th October & 10th November**

**Open to all: At the Rural Restock you can choose up to £20 worth of items & only have to pay up to £6 (that's just £1.50 per £5 worth of items!) plus free hygiene items.**

**Please bring cash & a couple of shopping bags**

**We look forward to meeting you there!**

## The Larder:

**The Family Hub, Tenterden**

**Fortnightly Friday mornings:**

**9 - 10am**

**16th & 30th October & 13th & 27th November**

**Tenterden Leisure Centre (upstairs)**

**Fortnightly Tuesday evenings:**

**5.15 - 6.15pm**

**6th & 20th October & 3rd & 17th November**

**The Larder: emergency food support for people with children under 18 when needed:**

**Choose 1 bag of free food, toiletries & cleaning products suitable for your family.**

## Community Fridge and Freezer

The fridge and freezer are open to anyone to share or take food, including surplus food from supermarkets, local businesses, producers, households and gardens.

They are located in the Tenterden Leisure Centre Entrance Hall, available seven days a week during Centre opening hours.

Non-meat and fish items, and foods that are all unopened and in date may be donated, as well as fruit and vegetables.

## Trying a different way of covering organisations who serve the community:

Answers in the Readers' Survey concerning the Inset/blue pages told us we had to do something about the information we were including about some organisations.
The detail may not be of interest to many, but for some people, these are important sources of help and opportunities to socialise for others.
As a compromise we are trying a basic contacts list, focusing on phone numbers where we can. We know how frustrating the online links are to those without internet access.



## COMMUNITY CONTACTS

CARM (Caring Altogether on Romney Marsh)

**Tel: 01233 758122**

CARM Rolvenden Meeting Point Graham Taylor 01580 242834

EC30 – Community Coffee Shop and Health and Wellbeing Centre

**Tel: 01580 765877**

Kent Savers (for affordable loans) **www.kentsavers.co.uk**

Memory Café

**Jan Bridger Tel: 01580 762932 Mob: 07445971791**

Musical Memories

**Jan as above**

Memory Monthly Lunch Club

**Jan as above**

Monypenny Toni (Independent Living Officer)

**Tel: 01580 241526**

Tenterden Men's Shed Jack Dale

**Email: TenterdenMensShed@gmail.com**

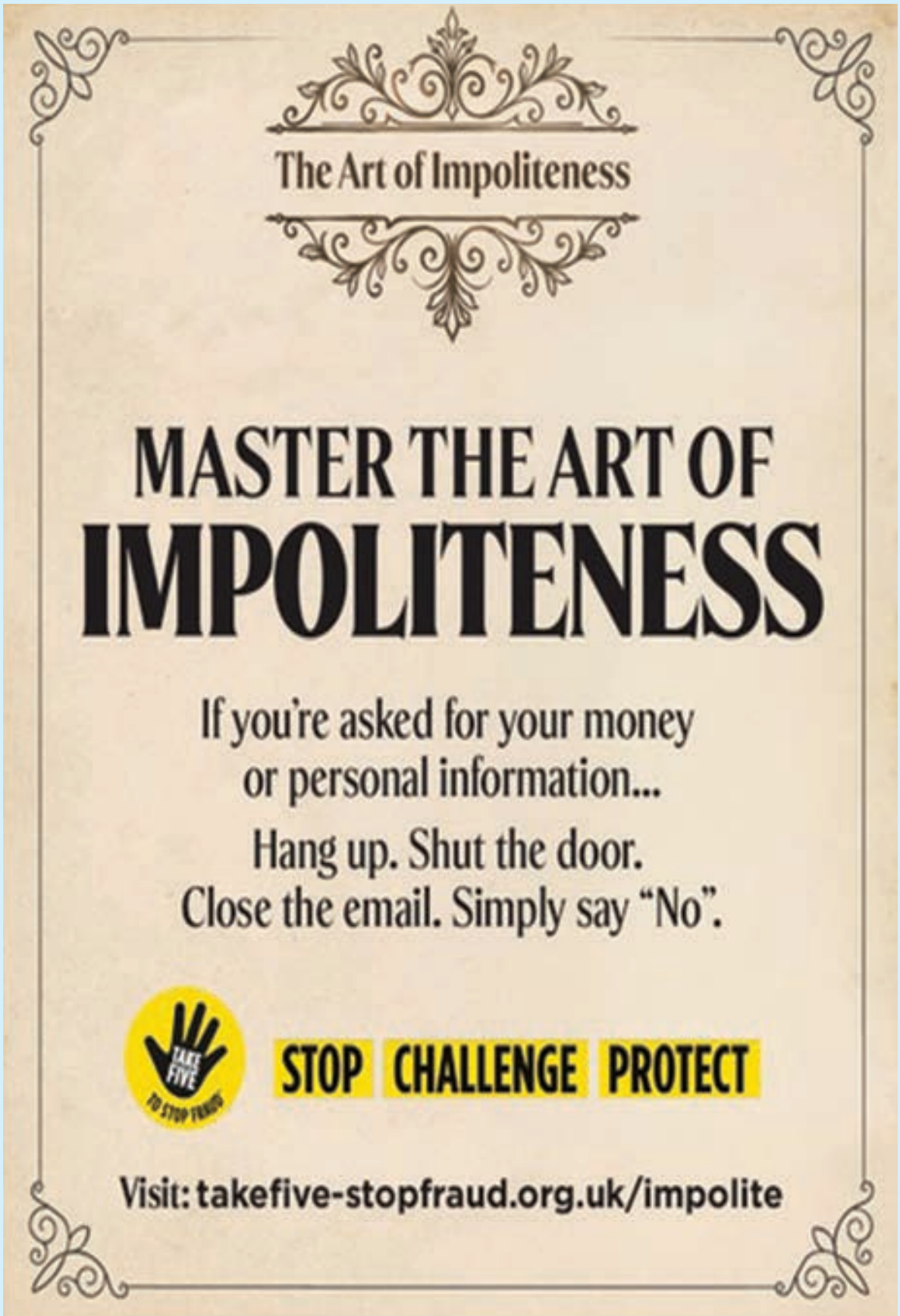
Tenterden Parkinson's Café Christine Endersby

**Tel: 01580 764046**

Tenterden Social Hub and Dementia Centre

**Tel: 01580 762882**

If you know of an organisation or regular event that should be on this list – please send Judy V the details -judyannvinson@gmail.com


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## Refuse Collection

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

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

You can also download a calendar.
Collection dates do not vary through the year except across the Christmas New Year Holiday season.
Please keep an eye out for neighbours who may not be connected to the web. If neighbours are not getting the bins right have a friendly word and tell them which bins to put out when.
For new arrangements on such things as clothes, shoe and electrical items please see the Ashford BC – How do I dispose of?

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

On-line, see ABC website: www.ashford.gov.uk/waste
Telephone ABC on Tel 01233 330646

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Our parishes lie in the Parliamentary constituency of the Weald of Kent
Our MP is Katie Lam
**Email:** katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk
**Office tel:** 01580 388 344
**Website:** https://www.katieforkent.com/

**NEWENDEN PARISH COUNCIL**
www.newenden-pc.gov.uk/
Parish Clerk: Mrs Lauren Dobson.
C/o Carpens, Hobbs lane,
Beckley. East Sussex, TN31 6TT
Telephone: 01797 260364
e-mail: enquiries@newenden-pc.gov.uk
*Parish Council meeting,*
*November 17th at 7:00pm in St Peter's*

**ROLVENDEN PARISH COUNCIL**
www.rolvendenparishcouncil.org.uk
Parish Clerk: Mrs Louise Goldsmith,
5 Artisan Road, Headcorn, TN27 9AZ
Telephone: 07900 693572
email:
clerk@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk
*Parish Council meeting*
*November 26th at 7.30pm*
*in the Village Hall*

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

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