

Rolvenden & Newenden *Parish Magazine*

2026
MAY
ONLINE





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Published by Rolvenden P.C.C.

Cover Image: Hole Park Wysreris Photographer: Jane Marie



Minister's letter this month comes from

Father Behr

priest of St Andrew's Roman Catholic Church Tenterden

Since the nineteenth century the month of May has been associated in a particular way with devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

With May processions and hymns, celebrations and other acts of devotion, Christians have honoured the woman the Bible describes as 'Blessed among all women'.

(See Luke 1:42)

Truly the words of The Magnificat echo through all of Christian history. 'All generations will call me blessed'.

(See Luke 1:48)

So many aspects of our Christian culture reflect this confidence in the unique role of the Blessed Virgin Mary in salvation history. From beautiful paintings to sacred music, to breathtaking architecture—it is as if the best in all of human artistry and creativity wants to cry out and say, 'Look, here is the woman chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus, the Word made flesh'. (See John 1).

As many keen gardeners know another dimension of Marian devotion is that of the association of Mary with many and varied flowers. For example, two among so many that we enjoy are Marigold, or 'Mary's Gold' and the summer-flowering Assumption Lily which blooms around 15 August.

As we admire the beauty in art and nature inspired by devotion and gratitude to Mary, we are reminded that God is faithful to his word and that salvation is near to those who call on the name of the Lord Jesus.

The Christian faithful know that she who bore Jesus, the Saviour of the world in her blessed womb and who became the mother of all Christians at the foot of the cross (see John 19), will draw us ever closer to the person of Jesus Christ, true God and truly human. Mary, the handmaid of the Lord and the first and greatest disciple, teaches us that union with Christ and faithfulness to God's will is the indispensable condition of the grace without which we cannot hope to enter the Father's house. (See John 14).

Fr Behr





St Peter and St Mary Flower Rotas May 2026

Sunday	St Mary	St Peter
May 03	Elizabeth M	Sally Manford
May 10	Sue C	Sally Manford
May 17	Sue C	Janet Broadbent Kempton
May 24	Sue C	Janet Broadbent Kempton
May 31	Jan G	Caroline Anderson Jones
Contact:	Sylvia Kellet 01580 240463 Sylviakellett@epusmail.com	Rosie Edmonds 01797 252196 rosie.edmonds@hotmail.com

Brass Cleaning at St Mary: Sylvia K

Easter Flowers: Thank you to all who decorated our churches for Easter, the flowers looked beautiful

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

❖ From the Registers ❖



Interment of Ashes

27th March Rosemary Craig at St Mary's

Mag Reader Survey

It was nearly three years ago that we asked you to complete a reader survey. Your answers gave us ideas for changes we have made, nothing drastic, more a shift of emphasis in the subjects we cover. Your answers this time will tell us if that shift is meeting with your approval and will give us guidance for the future. It will also give us a snapshot of our readers and where we are in the business of print versus online readership.

There are two ways to complete the survey:

- The print Mag has a copy of the survey with it. Completed forms should be returned to the Survey boxes in St Mary's and St Peter's.
- There is a link here for completing the survey online which can be used by all readers, including anyone who prefers a paper magazine but is happy going online. Your contact details are not automatically retrieved in this exercise. You can choose to tell us who you are where you want to explore something specific. It will take ten minutes maximum. The link is at the bottom of the article. Please complete the survey by Monday 1st June 2026.

Thank you, Judy and Sue,

Link: <https://forms.gle/ZqrtKALjC4dWfnxF9>



The Church of England

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

Sunday 3rd May Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:30am St Peter's Newenden
Eucharist

8:00am St Mary's Rolvenden
Holy Communion
11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden
Celtic Morning Prayer

Sunday 10th May Sixth Sunday of Easter

9:30am St Peter's Newenden
Eucharist

11am St Mary's Rolvenden
Eucharist

Thursday 14th May – Ascension Day Tenterden

7:00pm Eucharist for Ascension Tenterden

Sunday 17th May Seventh Sunday of Easter

9:30 am St Peter's Newenden
Eucharist
6:00pm Benefice Choral Evensong - Ebony

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden
Matins

Sunday 24th May Pentecost

9:30am St Peter's Newenden
Morning Praise

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden
Matins

Sunday 31st May Trinity Sunday

9:30am St Peter's Newenden
Morning Praise

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden
Celtic Morning Prayer

And during the week

Beginning the Day with God

A ten-minute reflective service,
online only from Monday to Saturday.

Ending the Day with God

A ten-minute reflective service, will be online
only from Monday to Saturday.

*Holy Communion will be celebrated in
St Michael's Church every Wednesday*

The service will last about twenty-five minutes.

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

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



Friends of St Peter's

Invitation to Newenden Residents



Sunday, 26th June, 5:30pm, Annual Boat Trip from the Lime Wharf landing stage

If you live in Newenden, the river is going to feature somewhere in your life. It is a prime contributor to the uniqueness of the community. The river may be a favourite route for your daily walk. You may support our annual Duck Race and join the crowd watching from the bank. You may recognise its special beauty in the wonderfully atmospheric photographs posted by Elizabeth Norris on the Residents' Facebook page, but have you ever experienced that peace and beauty first-hand?

The Friends of St Peter's offer you the opportunity to rectify that and invite you to join them on the 'Dannie Lee' for the Annual Boat Trip from the Lime Wharf Landing Stage. All aboard at 5:30pm and off we set down river. At some point bottles and picnic packs are opened. There is sharing, chat and enjoyment of the peace and wildlife of the river. The return journey is made into the setting sun.

Places are restricted, the 'Dannie Lee' can only take so many, but if you would like to join us, please call Alan Seal about booking a place. Alan can be contacted on 07970134611 or by email: alanseal@gmail.com

You will need to remember your picnic - some reckon a cushion is a good idea; and a jumper or jacket, as it can get quite cool on the water as the sun goes down.

Members of the Friends will be receiving details of the AGM in St Peter's preceding the boat trip. It will be the traditional short meeting at 5:00pm.

Alan Seal

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Experiencing Easter

In St Mary's we value the link we have with Rolvenden School with the opportunity to supplement RE teaching. One of the resources we use is a series of workshops under the blanket title of 'Experiencing...' designed specifically for local churches to share aspects of the Christian faith with primary schools. In Rolvenden it is Holly class, years 5 and 6, who participate in these sessions, there are usually two a year.

The titles include 'Experiencing Advent, Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest'. The format is always the same. We have volunteers from the Open the Book team, additional church members and a vicar from the benefice ministry team. There are five stations scattered around the church, each covering something specific to the day where one of the team will lead a small group of children through the topic. Finally, everyone comes together for the sixth station led by the vicar. There is time at each station for children to just look, ponder, followed by a short Bible reading and a simple activity. There is a timekeeper armed with a very large cow bell and a timer. A strong clanging is the signal for the groups to move on to the next station.



Holly class came across the road on Monday, 30th March for 'Experiencing Easter' an opportunity to explore the Easter story through a series of interactive activities and reflect on what these mean for their own lives. Twenty-seven children split into four groups worked their way around the church, quietly, thoughtfully, engaged and enthusiastic. They covered the key events from the biblical account of the seven days that end with the joy of Easter morning:

We started with Jewish pilgrims coming to Jerusalem for the national feast of Passover with Jesus' arrival generating much excitement and waving of palm branches. We moved to the start of the festival, Maundy Thursday and the last supper with the disciples. Here were two stations, the meal itself which would become the Christian communion service still celebrated today, and Jesus washing his disciples' feet. The fourth station took the children into the garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus is abandoned by his close companions as he is arrested. The cross and crucifixion followed. Finally, the groups united to hear the story of Easter Morning and the discovery of the empty tomb.

That was not quite the end. Squash, chocolate biscuits and a very small Easter egg were consumed, sustenance for the journey back to school. There were smiling faces and many thank yous.

Hopefully memories have been planted about the roots of Easter, why the Friday before is important and therefore made a public holiday, and that Easter morning is not just about fancy hats, fluffy chicks, chocolate eggs and bunnies.

Judy V

Flower Festival and Art Exhibition 2026

August 29th to 31st

Invitation from Sylvia to Flower Arrangers

Come along to church on Saturday June 6th 10 am to discover what our theme is for this year!

And the search is on:

The Art Exhibition in the Hall alongside the Flowers and Refreshments is one of the mainstays and attractions of the Festival Weekend.

Jan Gambier has skilfully overseen the Art Exhibition for a good many years, but now feels it is time to hand over the reins to one or two new volunteers...

could this be you?

You would not need to start from scratch, the systems for informing artists, logging entries, producing a catalogue, managing fees/payments, setting up the exhibition and stewarding over the weekend, are all in place, and work. Please contact Jan, 01580 243086, if you are interested and would like to discuss what is involved.

Thank you Jan for all the pleasure and interest the Art has given to our visitors over the many festivals you have been involved with.

Sylvia



Pre-School news

There is a lot happening at Rolvenden Pre-School at the moment.

The staff have been busy making improvements to the outdoor learning area and we are looking forward to seeing the children enjoying their new sandpit and making use of the spruced up woodland area.

We are also seeking to recruit a new manager as Helen will be leaving us this summer. Please spread the word and encourage anybody who may be interested in this exciting position to contact the pre-school directly. See below for



further details. As we head into the summer term, we have some two year olds joining us to begin their pre-school journey and we will have six four year olds leaving us this summer to begin Primary School. This cycle of new beginnings is never ending and each day is an important opportunity to make the most of all the possibilities available for learning, growth and having fun together. As adults we sometimes forget to enjoy the everyday experiences but young children remind us to stay full of wonder and to find new ways to explore this amazing world we live in.

This term we will be enjoying plenty of water play, gardening, large scale construction, craft, music, stories and number games. Look out for regular updates on Facebook@rolvendenpreschool.



We are looking for a new Pre-School Manager

Rolvenden Pre-School has a vacancy for a manager to take over the running of the setting and lead the existing staff team from September 2026.

Candidates must be qualified, experienced and flexible – hours are negotiable for the right person.

Please contact the pre-school by emailing rolvendenps@gmail.com for more information about applying for this exciting opportunity.

Rolvenden Pre-School is a registered charity (number 1026434). Find us on facebook @rolvendenpreschool or visit our website www.rolvendenpreschool.co.uk



Dingleden on Display

**Saturday 9th Sunday 10th May
10am to 4pm**

Three Gardens Open:

- **Judy William's Barnhill Cottage,
Special garden and vegetable patch.**
- **Steve and Angie Lambert's No.3 New Buildings
a Secret Spring garden.**
- **Peter and Sylvia Kellett's Laurels Nursery
nursery & garden, collection of standard Wisteria in flower.**



Gardens and parking will be signposted.

Refreshments will be served

Entrance £5 per adult. Tickets available at all venues.

**In aid of St George's Benenden Restore, Renew, Rejoice Project,
and the Charity Sign Health**



Weather and Nature Notes

March was drier than average with only 28.5mm of rain. The previous years with a drier March (2022 with 39.5mm and 2025 with 18mm) both went on to have drought summers. I hope this will not become a pattern and is just coincidence and that we can have a good balance of sun and rain this year. Whilst this dry weather is convenient to get the washing out on a line and drying, we do need some decent rain to get the newly sown crops growing as well as grass for the animals.

The temperatures have fluctuated; some days having winds from cold directions and chilly nights and other days being lovely and spring like. Easter was mild and the warmth increased, within a few days thermometers were peaking into the mid-20s before returning to more normal April temperatures with some frost. Until the weather is on a more even keel, I am in no rush to get tender plants out in the garden where growth is now rapid and changes can be seen weekly.

On the 29th of March I saw my first swallow back and started hearing blackcaps, they were not greeted with particularly pleasant weather on that day but hopefully they, along with all the other returning summer migrants, are finding enough insects to build themselves up again after their gruelling

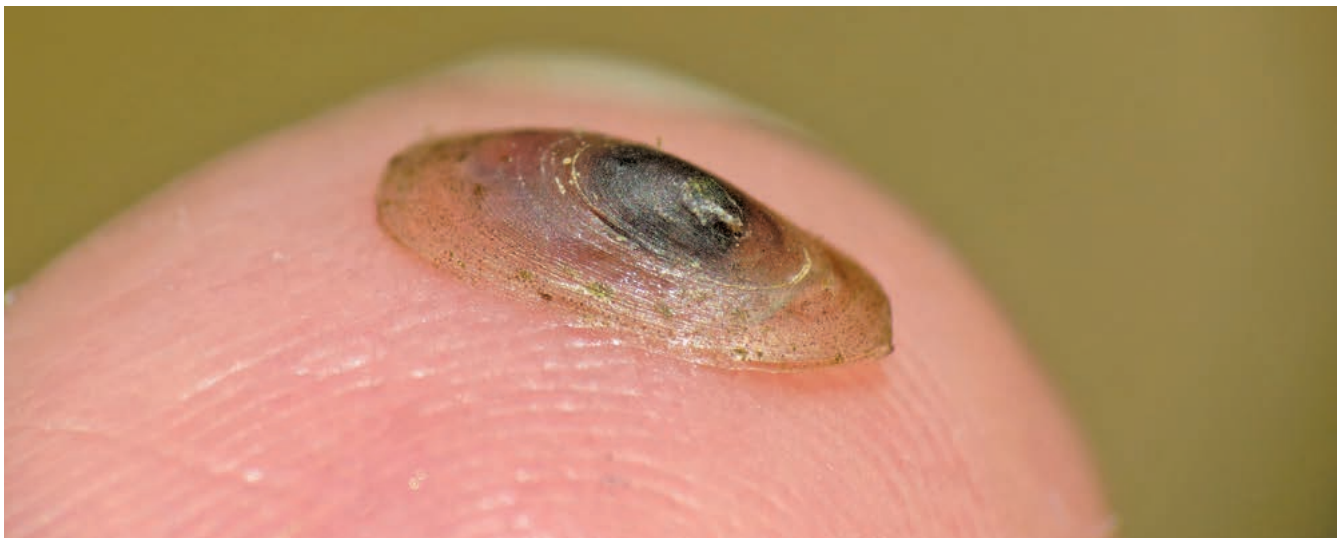


journeys. My ears are always “tuned in”. At the moment I am particularly listening out for returning cuckoos, swifts, nightingales and turtle doves—the latter two I always hope to hear locally but have low expectations. In the case of turtle doves, for instance, I recall walking along in my youth, sometimes feeling fatigued on a hot summer’s day regularly hearing their soft soporific purring, then trying to spot them in the tree or bush; they always eluded me but it didn’t matter, better luck next time. Now those chances are much reduced, who would have thought their numbers would crash by well over 90%.

Queen bumblebees are quartering the ground inspecting any orifice—old vole burrows are often a favourite to make a nest in. Quite a few species of solitary bees dig their own tiny narrow tunnels in soil. The “long barrow” as I call it, which is the beetle/bee bank formed from the spoil from the churchyard, has started to get a few solitary bees occupying it where the soil is bare. If you look closely, there are very small entrance holes where they have been excavating.

Pond plants are growing rapidly now providing interest, but on closer inspection into the water I found something I did not know existed. Everyone has seen or heard of limpets, clinging tightly to rocks at the seaside, well I discovered there are freshwater limpets. These are very tiny and not actually related to the coastal limpets but ramshorn snails and they feed on algae. Apparently, they are widespread and fairly common, but just go unnoticed, probably because the one I photographed only grows to about 7mm. It appears I have the variety that prefers slower moving water the freshwater lake limpet; the other being the river limpet that needs more oxygen from faster moving water, both are indicators of good water quality and sensitive to pollution. I am guessing that they may have arrived amongst some plants I only meant to temporarily house - some pond plants in a big tub - but it has provided interest for a few years now, and unlike my other small ponds which have access for newts etc, this is more likely to provide a safer habitat for interesting tiny and microscopic creatures.

Hazel Beaney





Rolvenden History Group

Friday, 1 May 2026

‘Rolvenden: A Village Through Time’



Jackie King will talk about the history of our house names and village plaques, Judy Vinson will talk about the dwellings in the Layne and what they tell us about the last two hundred years, and Sue Hatt will focus upon the traces of lives that remain of people who lived in Rolvenden in the sixteenth century.

Venue: St Mary's Church, Rolvenden

Coffee and biscuits

AGM at 7.00pm and the talk will begin at 7.30pm

Everyone welcome - Non-members: £4

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

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The Audience
26 April



The Bull at Benenden Music Club
2 May



Alex McAleer
Mind Reader
9 May



The Sinatra Jukebox
30 May



An Evening with
Joe Swift
6 June



LP Swing Orchestra
19 June

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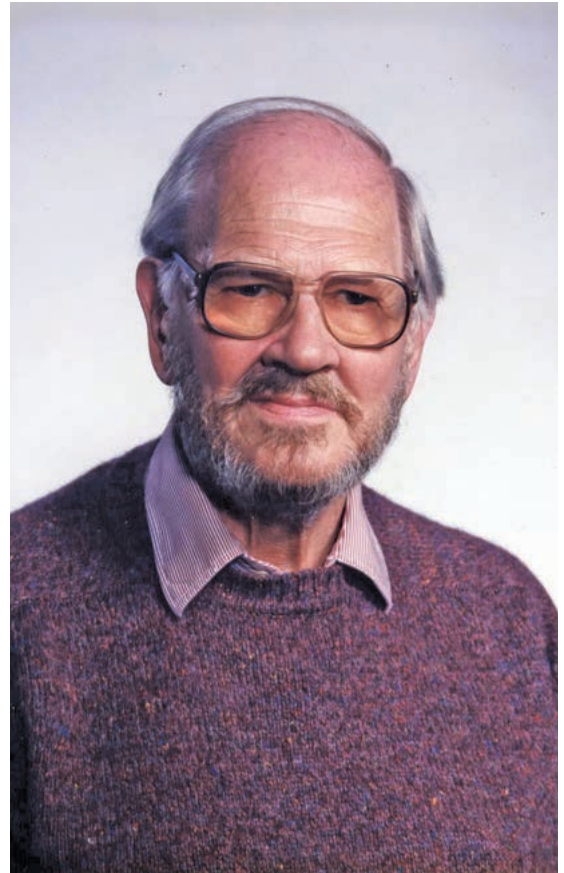
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Gardenscape





Below are details of another season of music making in Sandhurst organized by Gillian Davis in memory of her husband Richard Beattie Davis. Gillian sent the information to us in good time so as to leave space in her diary to celebrate her 90th. Happy Birthday, you amazing lady!



Announcing the Eighteenth Season of Hospice in the Weald Musical Events in Sandhurst

The first recital is a special Liszt programme by the world-famous specialist, Leslie Howard. There will also be a Henselt duet performed with Florian Verweij. This is an extra recital on Wednesday, June 17th at 3pm, so please book early by calling 01580 850384 or dropping envelopes with cash or cheque through my letterbox. Minimum donation for this first extra recital is £30. This is a special gift from Leslie Howard to raise even more for Hospice in the Weald.

There are two more to come.

- Daniel Grimwood will be playing for the Garden Party recital on Saturday, July 25th at 3pm. Details to follow.
- Florian Verweij will return from Holland for his recital on Wednesday, September 9th at 3pm. This will feature an extra duet with Leslie Howard.

Gillian Davis

Remember Gillian's words last September: I started these classical music recitals 17 years ago to raise money for the Hospice in the Weald, where Richard was cared for so wonderfully. I am thrilled to announce that we ended this season with £20,632



FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!

Watercress



Watercress has been valued for centuries as a food and a medicinal plant. It has a delicate appearance and a peppery flavour and is packed with nutrients.

It is one of the oldest leaf vegetables eaten by humans. Its origins can be traced back to ancient Persia, where it was believed to have strengthening properties. It then spread across Europe and Asia. By the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, watercress was widely cultivated in England, especially in counties with clean flowing chalk streams like Hampshire and Dorset. It became a staple among working-class communities because it was inexpensive, easy to grow and highly nutritious.

In 1865 the Mid-Hants Railway was opened, it was also known as the Watercress Line and this allowed growers to transport their crops quickly to the London markets.

In Victorian London, "Watercress Girls" were often to be seen selling bunches of it on the streets, where it was a popular street food.

Watercress is often described as a superfood for good reasons. It is very low in calories but rich in essential nutrients. A single serving provides high levels of vitamins A, C and K and lesser amounts of vitamin E and several vitamin B. The high vitamin K content is crucial for blood clotting and bone health. As well as the vitamins it contains the minerals calcium, potassium, zinc, folate, iron and magnesium. It also contains plant compounds called glucosinolates which have potential cancer protective properties. It is these compounds that give



watercress is slightly spicy mustardy taste. Another benefit is its high antioxidant content which helps neutralise harmful free radicals in the body. Interestingly, calcium from watercress can be absorbed almost as well as from milk.

Thankfully, watercress is now appreciated as a valuable and versatile ingredient not just as a garnish.

It can be eaten raw or lightly cooked, too much heat will reduce the nutritional value and the taste.

I like adding watercress to salads, mixed with oranges and beetroot, it also goes well with a blue cheese, apple and walnuts.

Alresford is a market town in Hampshire and is probably best known as the watercress capital of England. At the height of its popularity



there were more than one thousand acres of watercress farms in England, sadly only about 150 acres remain, due to the availability of exotic salad leaves. To promote the use of watercress for the last twenty-one years, Alresford has held a Watercress

Festival on the third weekend in May. It is quite an event which attracts thousands of visitors and raises money for local charities. There is a procession with a horse and cart laden with watercress, two children are crowned king and queen for the day, chefs demonstrating recipes, stalls selling food, drinks, gifts, plants etc. A competition for the most original watercress product, which has, in the past, included gin, cough medicine, macarons and a face mask. There is a brass band, Morris dancers, Kidzone, steam train and more, even a Watercress Eating Championship!

This all goes to show that there is so much more to watercress than just being a garnish. If anyone produces an original watercress-based product, please let me know!

Lavinia



Journeys

Bucket List Trip to Hiroshima

Hiroshima had always been on Ian's bucket list so a few weeks ago we finally found ourselves at Fukuoka station, sitting in plush reversible chairs on the Shinkansen bullet train from Fukuoka, about to do 153 miles in just over an hour. A group of school uniformed teenagers on the platform spotted us and waved enthusiastically. That was a bit of a surprise but we were the only Westerners we'd seen for a while and certainly we were not heading to the most touristy part of Japan.

It wasn't our only surprise: petrol was 78p a litre. All televisions, hairdryers, electrical equipment and cars in Japan are 'made' in Japan and no one honks their horn. Everyone walks on the left along lush, wide, clean boulevards. Zebra crossings appear even wider and woe betide you if you cross before the green man flashes. Uniformed taxi drivers in gloves ask if the temperature in the car is satisfactory and bow and wave their hats to bid you a polite farewell. Tips are disrespectful - as are tattoos. Magnificent carp swim around the city's lakes and streams and can cost between £20k - £30k dependent on the colouring. Food is always fresh. 7-Eleven stores sell rows of comic books and whiskies with no tags. Japanese knife shops serve without restrictions. Toilet seats are always warm and hide a host of surprises themselves (depending which button you press). Babies are entered into competitions where the one that cries first is the winner. Girls walk home alone and businessmen in suits still get poured into taxis by polite hostesses.



All of that though is nothing compared to the surprise we got at the end of visiting the Peace Memorial Park dedicated to the victims of 06.08.1945 when 70-80,000 souls were obliterated in a temperature hotter than the sun in just a few short minutes. This horrific number is estimated but is nothing compared to



those affected by radiation during the great 'mobilisation' in the months and years that followed - when even small children as young as two were needed to help in the clear up.

Our guide was a good storyteller and one notable tale involved a successful young architect responsible for designing several prominent structures throughout Japan. After one of his buildings collapsed during an earthquake killing a large number of mothers and children, he sadly committed suicide. Ironically, a few years later the only building left standing for miles following the devastation was one of his, the Industrial Promotion Hall. And it was very close to the point of detonation. The shell of the Hall remains as it was in 1945, is known as the Atomic Bomb Dome and is now an iconic landmark. The Peace Memorial Park it overlooks is full of statues and structures commemorating the lost souls: stark reminders of the utter devastation. School children visit as part of their curriculum. An eternal flame burns all the while nuclear bombs exist in the world.

It's very moving. I cried.

But the biggest surprise of all was at the end of the day when we realised that no one talks of blame, only Peace.

Lynn Curtis-Woodcock

Bird Song Tours

on The Kent and East Sussex Railway - Spring 2026

29th April and 6th, 9th and 13th May - 7:30am departure

Step aboard a heritage observation train at Tenterden Station and experience the magic of spring in the beautiful Wealden countryside. Join expert ornithologist David Campbell for a relaxing morning of birdsong and wildlife spotting. Listen out for nightingales, turtle doves and cuckoos as we make special stops along the line to pause, watch and learn.

Your ticket includes:

- Return travel from Tenterden
 - At least three bird-watching stops
 - Expert guided commentary throughout
 - A cooked breakfast with tea or coffee at the Station Refreshment Rooms on your return
 - Travel the full line to Bodiam by steam or diesel on operating days
- Spaces are limited and these tours are always popular

Book early to avoid missing out!

<https://kesr.org.uk/bird-song/>





Rolvenden Parish Council Report



Rolvenden Parish Council held the Annual Parish Meeting on the evening of the 16 April 2026. This was a great opportunity for the village organisations and clubs to give a report on their activities and plans. The meeting was well attended with around 50 people present. Syliva Kellett was presented with her KALC award for outstanding services to the community.

Your County Councillor Wayne Chapman and Ward Member Guy Pullen gave reports. Reports were also received from village organisations including the sports clubs, tennis and football. The football club continues to thrive and expand, and the tennis club is extending the use of the courts to include pickleball, which has grown to be a very popular sport. All these reports can be read in detail on the Parish Council website. Drinks with some nibbles were



offered after the meeting and to give attendees the opportunity to informally chat. We thank The Star for providing the food.

We are pleased to note that ABC are finally repairing all the low-level railings around Sparkeswood.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 18 June 2026 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

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

Louise Goldsmith, Parish Clerk, email clerk@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk or call 07900 693572.

D	A	N
W	A	R
E	T	R

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.



News from the Rolvenden Allotment Gardens

Rolvenden Allotment Gardens is a thriving community group. We cater for all ages, we have several young people who attend with their parents and enjoy activities in the fresh air with the opportunity to understand and take part in growing fruit, vegetables and flowers. Nothing beats the taste of your own freshly dug and picked fruit and vegetables. Some of our plot holders successfully grow vegetables throughout the winter and spring months taking them into summer with fresh vegetables all year round.

For the more mature plot holders we can engage in gentle exercise at our own speed, with plenty of time taken to engage in tea drinking and chatting with other plot holders.

This year we have had new plot holders join us, they are very welcome and they know that there will always be other plot holders willing to help and advise.

We have fourteen full size plots and twelve half size plots and at this time we have two vacant half size plots.

The community orchard is located at the allotment and all the fruit trees are looking extremely healthy and are now in blossom.

Please contact me if you are interested in becoming part of our community.

Jan Bridger 07445 971791

rolvendenallotmentgardens@gmail.com





Forthcoming Safeguarding Training

What follows is essential reading for anyone who is already a serving member of a Parochial Church Council, PCC, or is intending to stand for office at one of the forthcoming APCMs.

Lindsay and Jeanette have laid out the significance of safeguarding training in Connect Up saying:

'We thought it would be a good idea to make clear the safeguarding requirements that everyone who will be serving on our parochial church councils will have to adhere to.'

Some who will be elected to our parochial church councils will be in possession of valid safeguarding certificates. Those who aren't, will need either to complete the relevant training - or have made firm arrangements to do so - by the end of July. If this isn't done, then the non-negotiable position is that people will have to stand down. Safeguarding training is not about 'checking up' on people but taking common-sense steps to acquire the knowledge and information we all need to keep our churches as safe as we can.'

The requirements are:

- All members of a PCC must complete the basic and foundation modules
- Churchwardens must, in addition, complete the leadership module
- Churchwardens and parish safeguarding officers must also do the domestic abuse awareness module.

To complete all these modules online you start at the Diocesan website:
<https://www.canterburydiocese.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-training/>

- Basic and Foundation online modules can be accessed from there.
 - For Leadership that is where you start the process by booking your course, which consists of two zoom sessions with a fortnight gap between.
 - The Domestic Abuse Awareness module is accessed from there
- However, there is an alternative option. So far there are three face-to-face training sessions arranged for this year:

- Basic Awareness Module

Thursday 21st May 6.30pm-8pm

- Foundation Module

Wednesday 10th June 6.30pm-8pm

- Leadership Module

Wednesday 8th July 5.30pm-9pm St Mildred's Church Hall (note the material is covered in one session but there is still course work for you to complete before and after the live session.

- For Domestic Abuse Awareness face-to-face, the date is to be confirmed
- Light refreshments will be provided.

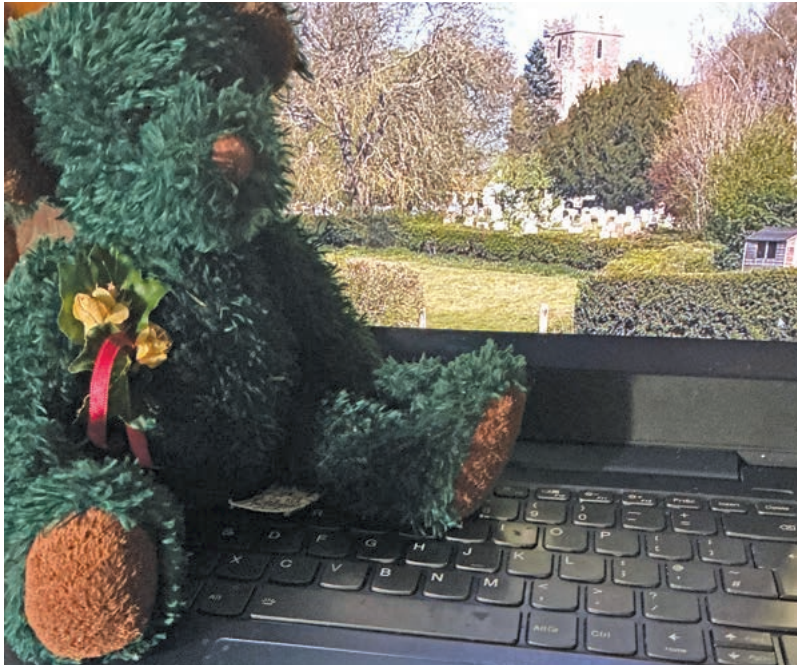
If you would like to book a place at any of the face-to-face training sessions, please contact Katy Harper (kharper@diocant.org), Diocesan Safeguarding



Trainer, no later than one week prior to the training taking place. The leadership module requires preliminary work; therefore greater notice would be preferable. if you require further information, contact either Katy or Judy who is your parish safeguarding officer and for this role she has a different email: rolvendensafeguarding@gmail.com.

Judy V

Bear Alert in Rolvenden Churchyard



I am definitely receiving more messages from the Rolvenden Rumour Reporter about something going down in Rolvenden Churchyard. He has seen correspondence between two of the movers and shakers in church affairs about high level co-operation. He has seen technical details of equipment and Saturday, July 18th has been designated B Day.

Green Bear has been keeping a beady eye on my inbox and managed to

download a photograph from RRR, who has been conducting surveillance sorties around the south side of the churchyard. You get a good view from the footpath across the Thoburn Field.

Older readers may be familiar with the canine communication system of Twilight Barking. Some may remember what an important part it played in the retrieval of rather a lot of spotted puppies. But you may not know that teddy bears have a similar communication system, only used well after their children are safely in the land of nod. Green Bear calls it the Midnight Growl and he tells me he has already sent out a growl urging his fellow bears to be ready for some sort of a competition involving climbing up high with care and coming down quicker. There will also be cake, and the need for preparing marmalade sandwiches is under discussion.

If you know of a much-cuddled bear, I strongly suggest that you make sure bear and owner have Saturday, July 18th marked Bears' Day on the family calendar. Watch out for more information, posters most likely. And you might just catch the teddy in your house doing a few stretches and bends in readiness for whatever is to come.

Judy V



Another Duck Exclusive!

Newenden Flock under grave threat



A few days ago, I received a phone call from Duck Head Quarters, which is tucked away behind high security gates and even higher hedges. Would I care to attend the opening planning session of the Duck Race 26 Committee? They were expecting a VIP visitor and wanted independent media coverage of the event.

I cleared my diary and went over my notes from last year. Followers of the Newenden Flock may remember that after last year's Duck Race, winning Duck 206 was inadvertently taken to Paris by the Under-Duck Keeper. The highlight of the trip had been the discovery of the Le Paris Duck Store. The - UDK had told me how:

"296, gazed through the window of the amazing shop for quite a time, and has come home with many ideas about how the flock might spruce itself up for next year's race."

Having met the VIP, I can now reveal that the U-DK missed a crucial part of 296's activity in Paris and exactly what his concerns were for next year's race. He somehow managed to make contact with Duck International and issued a desperate plea for assistance with the preparation for the next race under the terms of the Global Duck Agreement. 296 had put forward a strong case based on a grave threat to the flock, about which the Duck Race Committee were totally ignorant.

Duck International had responded and sent the forceful Chief Duck (Europe), known throughout the European flocks as Big Yellow. He addressed the meeting in calm, matter-of-fact tones about the deadly threat of a pike strike on the day of the race and the precautions the flock and the committee should take. With the right training and precautions, there would be no reason why the



race should not go ahead. The date would be critical. The aim would be for the race to coincide with a mass pike migration to Bodiam moat with the promise of much revelry and more in the deeper waters around the castle walls. Average night temperatures and a full moon could be critical factors in the timing.

I am not at liberty to reveal any of the details. But I had picked up information last year from other contacts in the village that there were indeed pike in the river and the slow bend to the south of the bridge was a favourite haunt of this deadly foe.

It was not clear how long Big Yellow would be in Newenden. I gathered it rather depended on when he could arrange a ride out with the local helicopter service, flying being his preferred mode of travel. But he did hint that, if time allowed, he might give me an interview. It was left that his people would talk to my people.

Special Duck Correspondent



Open Gardens 2026

We're delighted to invite you to discover some of Kent and Sussex's best-kept secret gardens, opening their gates to raise vital funds for our Hospice. This unique programme offers the chance to explore a wonderful selection of private gardens across our community, each with its own distinctive charm. Many also serve delicious refreshments, making your visit even more enjoyable.

Take time to soak up the sights, sounds and scents of these beautiful spaces, and perhaps pick up a little gardening inspiration along the way.

Open Gardens runs from April to September, giving you plenty of opportunities to fill your summer weekends with memorable days out. Thanks to your incredible support, last year's programme raised over £30,000, a truly fantastic achievement. Check out the website to see details of all the gardens, some coming as a package of several in a village.

<https://www.hospiceintheweald.org.uk/events/> and select *Open Garden 2026*

Here are the briefest of details for those that are nearest, in date order.

- Great Dixter, Northiam - Friday 5th June 6pm - 8pm
- Beale Farmhouse, Frittenden - Sunday 14th June 2pm - 5pm
- Pound House, Brenchley - Saturday 11th July 10:30am - 5pm
- Little Walkhurst, Benenden - Sundays 19th July, 26th July, 2nd August 12:30pm - 4:30pm



Volunteers wanted



Can you help your community and spare a few hours to reduce speeding vehicles in your area?

Rolvenden Speedwatch Scheme are looking for volunteers to support them in reducing speed and improving the safety on their roads with the support of the police.

Speedwatch is a community-based scheme where volunteers record speed of passing vehicles in the area where they live. Around **94%** of vehicles observed once by Speedwatch volunteers are not seen speeding again in the next 12 months within Kent.

CONTACT US

If you would like to join a group and help, please go to **www.communityspeedwatch.org** to register.

For more information, visit the Kent Police website **www.kent.police.uk/speedwatch**

Call **01622 653781**
or email Speedwatch@kent.police.uk



**Kent
Police**



Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch

May 2026



Our focus this month is on:

- 'Meet the Police' Tenterden event, Monday, 18 May 2026 from 6 - 7pm,
- Fraud alert - Fake Mobile Provider
- Your voice matters! My Community Voice Kent Survey and register for alert messages

Summary & recent incidents

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

Meet the Police Tenterden event, Mon. 18 May 2026: 6 - 7pm.

If you missed the last Rolvenden Police surgery, this is a further opportunity to raise any concerns you may have and speak to the local Police Beat Officer and what he is doing to tackle issues at Tenterden Fire Station:

Kent Fire & Rescue Service, Tenterden TN30 6BT

<https://what3words.com/ridiculed.notch.liquid>

Fraud alert: Fake Mobile Provider "Rewards Programme" Scam



You receive a text claiming your mobile provider has a Rewards programme and you have earned almost 13,000 points. The scheme is unfamiliar but appears believable because many networks run reward plans. The text contains a link leading to a website branded with your provider's logo. The site offers expensive items (e.g., massage chairs, high-end

vacuum cleaners) in exchange for your "points". To claim the reward, you are asked to pay for postage.

What's Really Happening: the text message, website, rewards scheme and promised appliances are all part of a scam. The goal is to steal your bank details, which criminals can then exploit. EE customers reported the site looked genuine; it requested bank details to "post" items. After entering their details, the site refreshed to a blank page with a spinning icon, indicating data capture. The scam creates false urgency, and suggesting the offer expires in a few days is a common tactic to encourage rushed decisions.

Impact on Mobile Networks: EE has received 265,000 reports of the fake texts since the scam surfaced two months ago. EE confirms it does not offer any points-for-rewards scheme. Messages are sent via RCS, meaning EE cannot block them, unlike standard SMS. EE is working with Apple and Google on the issue.



Some messages also spoof Vodafone, referring to a fake "Vodafone Rewards Club." Vodafone notes its genuine scheme is called VeryMe Rewards and most Vodafone customers are not receiving the fake texts because RCS is not enabled on iPhones.

People on other networks are receiving the fraudulent messages.

What To Do:

- Do not click on any links in unexpected reward or prize messages.
- EE advises reporting the scam by using your phone's "report spam" option.
- You can also forward the text to 7726 (free of charge) to report it.

Your voice matters! My Community Voice Kent survey.

Please click on the following link to feed back regarding your concerns in your area: <https://survey.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk/Survey/REGISTRATION/E1A0636903292A183B206552394A2699> You can either log-in or quick register for a free, private and alert messaging service or fill in the survey without creating an account.

If you have been a victim of scams

Contact your Bank immediately by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040. For further information about Fraud, visit: <https://www.kent.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/>. You will also find valuable information from the Home Office at: Stop! Think Fraud - How to stay safe from scams: <https://stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk/>

Reporting crime to the police

- Serious crimes in progress dial 999, other incidents via 101 (phone) online using Live chat: <https://www.kent.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/>
- Hearing or speech impairments. If you are deaf or have a speech impairment and you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service, you can use the textphone service: 18000 or text 999.

Sian Reeves Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch

M	E	N
E	A	M
S	T	U

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 JUNE ISSUE IS
5:00PM TUESDAY 12TH MAY.**

Note for distributors: ☆ Rolvenden Magazines available for collection on Saturday 23th May. ☆ Newenden Magazines available for collection on Saturday 24th May.

The online version will be available from 1st June 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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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

The fridge and freezer are open to anyone to share or take food, including surplus food from supermarkets, local businesses, producers, households and gardens. Located in Tenterden Leisure Centre entrance hall, available 7 days a week during Centre opening hours

Community Shop

Open to all. You can choose up to £20 worth of items and only have to pay £6, please bring cash and a couple of shopping bags.

Old Schoolhouse Larder

For people with children under 18. Choose free food, toiletries and cleaning products suitable for your family when you need them.

Visit one session a week, whichever is most convenient for you.

See next page for dates and venues for Shop and Larder

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, 12:30 for 1pm The Little Silver Hotel, St Michaels

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/>

Mildred Trust

Weekly Larder:

at The Family Hub, Tenterden

Friday mornings: 9am- 10am

Fortnightly Larder:

Upstairs at Tenterden Leisure Centre

Tuesday 21st April, 5th May, 19th May,

2nd June, 16th June: 5.15pm-6.15pm

The Old School House Larder: for people with children under 18:
Choose free food, toiletries & cleaning products suitable for your
family when you need them.

Visit one session a week- whichever is most convenient for you.

Pop-Up Community Shops:

Tenterden Leisure Centre (upstairs)

Monthly Tuesdays: 14th April, 12th May, 9th June:
5.15pm-6.15pm

St Michael's Village Hall

Monthly Wednesdays: 29th April, 27th May, 24th June:
9am-10am

Appledore Pavilion

Twice monthly Wednesdays: 15th April, 6th May, 20th
May, 3rd June, 17th June: 10.45am-11.45am

More than books to borrow



Library activities

- Baby Rhyme Time and Storytime on Tues 10am - 10:30am (term time)
- Creative Writing Group on Tues. 2pm – 4pm (term time)
- History Detectives Local History Group on Wednesday 2pm - 4pm (booking essential)
- Tea & Chat on Thursday 10:30am - 11:30am
- Reading Group meets monthly second Saturday, first meeting 10:30am – 11:30am and then 11:45am - 12:45pm
- IT Buddy help is available; please book with library
- Support for those setting up a Reading Groups

Other Services

- Free bookable public computers and Wi-Fi for your own device
- A4 B&W and colour printer
- A3 & A4 B&W and colour photocopier
- We accept completed ENTCS bus pass applications
- Meeting room for hire, please email library
- UK Online Centre ID 5110 access to the internet and help using it
- Registration Service – births and deaths. Call ~03000 41 51 51 to book appointment
- Santander Bank Thursday 9:30am – 1pm walk-in, 2pm – 5pm appointments

Telephone: 03000 41 31 31

E-mail: tenterdenlibrary@kent.gov.uk

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries>

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

12th May in St Peter's Church

8:00pm Annual Village Meeting

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

21st May '26 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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