

Rolvenden & Newenden *Parish Magazine*

2025
DEC/JAN
ONLINE





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Cover Image: St Mary's in winter Photographer: Polly Bennett



From the Minister's Desk

Hello everyone!

Well, not long to go now before it's Christmas! Through our Christmas services, we will 'enter' the stable and gaze upon the Holy Child, and we will glimpse how God works, how God is. God has given himself away so completely that we meet him in poverty and weakness, in the frail beauty of a newborn baby, entirely dependent on others for survival.

There is something shocking about this: the Creator of the Universe, of all that is - often referred to in prayer as 'Almighty God' - giving away all strength and power as these are usually understood.



But here God is revealed through the kind of love found in a helpless child in a cradle, and then, in later life, through death on a cross. In a turbulent world we human beings are all too often focussed on our own safety, our own success, on being in control as much as we can. We are used to power being used coercively or corruptly.

But Christmas tells us what Good Friday and Easter also tell us, that God freely chooses to give himself away in love. At Christmas God reaches out to us, ready to be hurt and even to die, so that new love may be born in us, our ordinary habits knocked sideways, as we learn to return that love by allowing it to shape our lives and actions.

God has given us something of his own life, inviting us to be so caught up in the self-giving life of Jesus that we want to live this way ourselves and our society to better reflect what we have seen in him. This means – by what we do, think and say – treating all people with their God-given dignity.

In the manger in Bethlehem, in the frailty of the Christ-child, we see how God is and how God works. It is a wonder, and it is worrying. It is consoling, and it is challenging. Here is the life of all things, full of grace and truth, the life of the everlasting Word of God. This Christmas and subsequently, we are all invited to share in this life, and to kindle on earth, in our local circumstances, in our nation and the wider world, the flame of this incredible, vulnerable, self-giving love.

I wish you a love-filled and peace-filled Christmas.

Lindsay





St Peter and St Mary Flower Rotas December 2025

Sunday	St Mary	St Peter
Dec 07	ADVENT no flowers	no flowers
Dec 14	ADVENT no flowers	CAROL SERVICE: All Arrangers
Dec 21	CAROL SERVICE: Christmas Arrangers.	All Arrangers
Dec 28	CHRISTMAS FLOWERS maintained in both churches	

January 2026

Jan 04	Christmas Flowers	Christmas Flowers
Jan 11	Sylvia Kellett	Rhoda Smith
Jan 18	Sylvia Kellett	Rhoda Smith
Jan 25	Ina Hemsley	Caroline Anderson-Jones
Contact:	Sylvia Kellett 01580 240463 Sylviakellett@eplusmail.com	Rosie Edmonds 01797 252196 rosie.edmonds@hotmail.com
Brass Cleaning at St Mary: December - Sylvia Kellett January - Louisa Anderson		

St. Peter's Church: Normally open between 10.00 and 4.00pm. 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.

*Christmas Flower arrangers for St. Mary's please arrange Friday 19th or Saturday 20th for the Carol Service on Sun. 21st.
Thank you.*

❖ From the Registers ❖

Funerals

12th December, Ivy Olga Brunger at St Mary's



The Mag Team wish all our readers
a joyful Christmas and a hope filled New Year
Glyn, Trevor, Sue and Judy





The Church of England

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

Saturday 6th December - 9am at St Mildred's Tenterden

Peace, a reflective service for Advent, followed by an optional breakfast

Sunday 7th December Second Sunday of Advent

8:00am St Mary's Rolvenden

Holy Communion

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden

Celtic Morning Prayer

9.30am St Peter's Newenden

Eucharist

Saturday 13th December - 9am at St Mildred's Tenterden

Joy, a reflective service for Advent, followed by an optional breakfast

Sunday 14th December: Third Sunday of Advent

No 9.30am St Peter's Newenden

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden

Eucharist

4.00pm St Peter's Newenden

Carol Service

Saturday 20th December - 9am at St Mildred's Tenterden

Love, a reflective service for Advent, followed by an optional breakfast

Sunday 21st December: Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.30am St Peter's Newenden

No 11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden

Eucharist

6.00pm St Mary's Newenden

Carol Service

Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve

4:00pm St Mary's Rolvenden

Christingle Service

11pm St Mildred's Tenterden: The Eucharist of Christmas Night Live streamed

Thursday 25th December Christmas Day

9.30am St Peter's Newenden

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden

Eucharist of Christmas Morning

Eucharist of Christmas Morning

Sunday 28th December Holy Innocents

No services in Newenden or Rolvenden today

10am at St Mildred's Tenterden – Benefice Eucharist Live streamed

Wednesday 31st December New Year's Eve

6pm St Mildred's Tenterden: Service for New Year's Eve

From Christmas Day to Sunday 4th January,
Beginning the Day with God and Ending the Day with God
will be replaced by a single daily act of online worship

There will not be a midweek Holy Communion in St Michael's Church
on 24th December



The Church of England

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

Thursday 1st January 10am St Mildred's Tenterden

A New Year's Day Service

Sunday 4th January Epiphany of our Lord

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 11th January The Baptism of Christ

9:30am St Peter's Newenden
Eucharist

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden
Eucharist

Sunday 18th January: Plough Sunday

9.30am St Peter's Newenden
Plough Sunday Service

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden
Plough Sunday Service

6pm Benefice Choral Evensong (Wittersham)

Sunday 25th January The Conversion of St Paul

9.30am St Peter's Newenden
Morning Praise

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden
Eucharist

6pm Ecumenical Evensong Church on the Weald Tenterden

**And during the week
restarting from Monday 5th:**

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

and in St Mildred's Church every

Thursday, both at 10am. Both celebrations

will last about twenty-five minutes.

These services won't appear online.

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

To access our daily online worship, visit:

YouTube

St Mildred's, Tenterden

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBAbfTcsSiiq4HALM0GRdWg>

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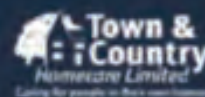
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Rolvenden Primary School

Glancing at the School's newsletter, it is amazing how much is accomplished every week. This past week involved the student leadership team representing the School at the Remembrance Service, an important occasion for families in the village and across the country.

When I visited Miss Whitlock this week, there were clubs being held in every room. There is such engagement with learning. I was told that geography was the focus for this term and that Holly Class have been studying extreme weather, earthquakes and volcanoes, encountering information about tectonic plates, tsunamis and typhoons; Willow Class has been learning about the water cycle, focusing on lakes, rivers and reservoirs – the key vocabulary is interesting, aptly demonstrating how important vocabulary is in widening knowledge and enabling discussion; Oak Class has been studying Australia, amongst other things, and there is on display some fabulous examples of art made in response to Aboriginal art with all its intricate patterning and narrative. Hazel Class has been engaging with space and finding out about the International Space Station.

As well as all this integrated learning within the carefully plotted curriculum, there are the play rehearsals which will culminate in performances at the end of term. It is all very exciting, but a lot of hard work and enterprise is involved in putting on these productions. It is a huge team effort.

Although this event will have occurred by the time you read this newsletter, it is important to foreground it. The School has arranged a Scholastic Book Fair on the 14 of November which will provide an opportunity for children to immerse themselves in literature, both fiction and non-fiction. There will be workshops and readings. There is also going to be a Zoom meeting with Michael Rosen when he will share some of his poetry through readings, and encourage the children to write their own poetry. There will be further news on this event in the next issue of the magazine with some photographs and reflections.

Sue Hatt



A guide to some of the things coming up in and around church

Traditional Carol Services in Newenden (14th Dec, 4pm)

and Rolvenden (21st Dec, 6pm)

Sometimes called Nine Lessons and Carols – we hear passages from the Bible that cover the long build up to the main event of the season, the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem and we have the stories so familiar on our Christmas Cards, with the shepherds and the wisemen coming to find the baby. Both services will be followed by some festive hospitality.

The Christingle Rolvenden (24th Dec, 4pm)

A service for families with the children taking an active part. We learn what we mean when we say Jesus is the Light of the World, using oranges, sweets on cocktail sticks and candles. Children may get sticky, adults worry that children may set fire to each other and it is a great way to mark the end of the long countdown to Christmas and feel it has really begun. The other thing that the children will do is put all those lovely plaster figures in the crib.

Other chances to sing carols

Some with words to remind us of the Christmas Story and others of the Christmas Spirit

And this year not all the singing will be in church.

- See page 25 for details of The Christmas Tractor Run (5pm Saturday, 20th) making a festive link between the Ewe and Lamb and the Star. The singing will be outside the Star in the High Street.
- Newenden is going to have an open-air Carol Sing on the Sports Ground, (6pm Thursday, 18th). An opportunity to sing the ones we all know. There is something very special singing about those shepherds keeping watch by night as you stand under the stars.
- Rolvenden is going to open the doors on Christmas Eve and invite people to gather around the piano in St Mary's to sing some of the well-loved carols (7pm Wednesday, 24th)

Watch out for further information on community Facebook pages on all of those.

And for the New Year - calling all gardeners - Plough Sunday - 18th January (Newenden at 9:30am and Rolvenden at 11am)

This service recalls a very old farming tradition when there was one community plough used by everyone who had a strip of land to farm. Ploughing started once Christmas was done but first the plough had to be blessed. It was probably already in church as that big stone building was a good place to store it through the year. But these days we bless hand tools, and seeds as well. So if you are a gardener, or you have an allotment do come with a garden implement, a packet of seeds, larger item of machinery will have to be left outside, and they will all be blessed.

Judy V



Borough Councillor's Column



It would be fair to say that the work of a Borough Councillor isn't all larks. I am enjoying my time so far, but some of the meetings can be a bit dry and some of the jargon is impenetrable. There is one group, however, that I am positively excited to join.

The Joint Advisory Committee for the High Weald National Landscape oversees what used to be called the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It's an area that defies civic boundaries and stretches from Horsham in the west to Tenterden in the east, and from Tonbridge in the north to Hastings to the south. An area defined by small, irregular fields bordered by plentiful small

woodlands, and sunken lanes joining farmsteads and villages. We'll all recognise this landscape because it's the place we call home.

The Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) consists of a representative from each of the civic areas that the High Weald covers as well as people from the farming community, environmental charities and other interest groups. The aim is to preserve and improve the landscape of the High Weald by producing guidelines for development, encouraging environmentally beneficial farming practices and focusing attention on this unique landscape. It also encourages us all to explore the landscape and learn about the internationally important place in which we live.

And it's not just the physical landscapes that we're interested in. Right now, in Rolvenden and Newenden, there is a focus on our Dark Skies. Sue Hatt is co-ordinating the initiative with the High Weald for Rolvenden and the results will feed into our Neighbourhood Plan. At a meeting on 6th November we learned how to measure light levels in the night sky and that information will then be mapped and added to the High Weald's Dark Sky map. If you see strange goings on at night, please don't reach for the shotgun immediately, it could be your neighbour with a light meter!

Dark skies are really important for the natural world because almost every living thing is adversely affected by light pollution so we all need to do our best to avoid unnecessary lights. From a planning perspective, this might mean limiting the size of windows that pour light into pristine darkness, but on a personal level it might simply mean putting your Christmas lights on a timer, or adding a motion sensor to your security lights.

To find out more, please visit www.highweald.org/get-involved/dark-skies/ or see Sue's piece on page 20.

Guy Pullen
Borough Councillor
guy.pullen@ashford.gov.uk



Rolvenden Gardening Society

Annual Meal

Thirty-nine members and friends of Rolvenden Gardening Society attended our Annual Autumn Meal at the Bull, Rolvenden on the evening of Saturday, 25th October. It provided the chance to meet up with friends old and new and was a relaxed and enjoyable occasion. The food was delicious and the service excellent. We held a chocolates and wine raffle which made £105 for our funds.

Thank you to the Bull staff for looking after us so well. The room looked wonderful and everyone seemed to be having a good time!

Finally, Rolvenden Gardening Society would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and good gardening for 2026. If you would like to join us next year, you would be very welcome!

Maralyn Button





Weather and Nature Notes

October weather was changeable and delivered 134mm of much needed rain. Plants continued flowering with renewed vigour, and some appeared to have no intention of stopping like some salvias that are still blooming into their third season of the year. Autumn leaves and glowing berries add to the vibrancy. A couple of lovely late October days where the lowering sun shone brightly and real warmth could be felt from it made it seem almost summery, especially when a visiting clouded yellow butterfly basked in the sun, and a hummingbird hawk moth hovered at flowers, also the ladybirds came out again, and even some lavender plants still flower.

The next day storm Benjamin blew through depositing almost 2" of rain (47mm), and the wind turned colder, a reality check that it is autumn, and we are now back to GMT and longer hours of darkness.

Mild weather returned with the start of November helping the colour to linger and areas of grass and under trees to become a sprawling magical land of fairy toadstools in all shapes and sizes. A misty morning walk, whilst the sun was rising, revealed the movements of a spider population on some vegetation. Their innumerable gossamer threads sparkled in the low sun, and the effect was mesmerising, better than any artificial Christmas fairy light display. I imagine there were literally miles of spider silk strung over the area that would soon become invisible again as the dew disappeared.

The distinct calls of winter migrant Fieldfares alerted me to them. They started to arrive on the 12th of October when I noticed small flocks flying over. (Redwing's calls are a much quieter "seep" and easier missed, but I have heard and seen those too.) When I see these thrushes, it is a signal to start getting the greenhouse ready to accommodate any less hardy plants that may need a little help to get through the colder months. (I like to keep them out as long as



possible but when harsher weather is forecast it is then ready for them to go in.) Another member of the thrush family, the resident Mistle thrush, I have seen this year in the best numbers ever, as nine gathered in a tree around Mounts lane. A few are claiming their favoured holly trees at Maytham to guard the berries from any other birds that may have their eye on them. A bird I have not seen or heard for a few years (I have lost track of how many, so the photo is not a recent one) is the Little Owl, I was pleased to hear the “whill” call of one on my wanderings recently. I used to know of a few regular spots to look and guarantee seeing one (most not in Rolvenden.) I have a bit of a soft spot for them, their grumpy expression puts a smile on my face. Being small their diet mainly consists of beetles, grasshoppers, worms and moths etc. also small rodents, but they will take small birds mostly at breeding time. They usually hunt from a perch and fly down to it rather than hunting from the air like a barn owl.



I briefly bumped in to Val, our local bat expert, and enquired had bats had a better year as the insect numbers were up? She said the smaller species have done better due to plenty of midges apparently, but the Long-eared bats have not done

so well as they feed on bigger insects like moths. This is an example of how diverse the food web needs to be from the bottom up to cater for all. I still have pipistrelle bats patrolling in my garden in the current warmer conditions, they will hibernate when it becomes colder.

I usually only write about observations from within the village boundaries to keep it relevant to the magazine; however, whilst travelling through Iden after dark recently, making its way along the path and then entering someone’s garden was a polecat – or more likely a polecat type ferret. I was taken by surprise and only had a quick look in the car headlights. It would be nice to know if it was a true polecat, but without a close look I cannot be sure. I read that they can be difficult to distinguish, sometimes needing DNA testing to be sure as they can hybridise with ferrets. My search of the internet says they are increasing in numbers in some areas after their decline due to previous persecution as they are now protected. DNA tests on a roadkill specimen in 2004 confirmed a true polecat found in Sussex. I have spoken to people who are sure they have seen one, but I feel, as there have always been people keen on rabbiting with ferrets that sometimes get lost or escape, that the odds of it being a scarce native polecat over an escapee ferret with polecat markings is



slim – but let's hope. I read the main problem with ferrets escaping into the wild is not that they would have a negative impact on wildlife like mink do, as they are in effect filling a natural void that the persecuted polecats left; the problem is, as with domesticated cats interbreeding with true wild cats, the genetic purity is lost. During their mostly nocturnal hunting, polecats unsurprisingly like to eat rabbits, but rats are also a big part of their diet.

The next issue will be out in February, beginning my sixth year of writing, how time flies. Before then there is plenty to occupy me in the garden and hopefully some interesting observations along the way.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Hazel Beaney

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS 1



Sharing the Good Cheer

By the time you read this, all the careful shopping and frantic wrapping under the Big Wrap umbrella will be over and the presents will be waiting to be distributed to families facing an uncertain time this Christmas. The Christmas Cheer Appeal, which finances Tesco vouchers for hard-pressed local families, will have closed.

It just remains to get everything delivered to the families identified by the schools across the Benefice. The organisers sorting out the deliveries know how many people live in each household, which will determine the value of the Tesco voucher. They also know the ages and sex of the children in the house up to the age of fifteen which will ensure each child's present is appropriate. That is all they know. It is the Family Liaison Officers for each school who will do the physical delivery.

Rev Lindsay has written: 'We are very proud to be working in partnership with The Big Wrap to shine a little light into gloomy Christmases. In the past, we have received some very moving letters of gratitude, and so we know that we will make a real difference to people's lives this Christmas.'

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Never Have I Ever...Been to Church



Okay, I have been to church, but not under my own volition. So, on 17th August, I decided to give it a go.

I moved to Newenden in April this year from a much larger village in Surrey. I have met many neighbours on my dog walks, and I'm really enjoying the monthly Link Up at the White Hart Inn. Our church is St Peter's, which I had a peep inside on one of my walks. It really is a beautiful place to visit, so inviting and cosy. I felt very comfortable being in there, which as a non-church person is a big compliment.

I was not raised in a religious family, so my knowledge of what a Sunday service involves was limited. I was curious though, and I had read that church attendance was having a revival, particularly amongst Gen Z. Although, I can lay no claim to that, being firmly in the Gen X cohort. I thought, why not give it a go? The worst that could happen is that I would lose fifty minutes from one of my Sundays.

I put on my Sunday best (I definitely over thought that one) and walked along the meadow towards the church. Opening the wooden door, I was met with smiles and felt welcomed. It was so easy being there. There is an order of service, which helped me, being a complete novice. Then after the service, if you fancy it, there is coffee and biscuits.

I have now been going regularly. I just like it. I like the people, and it is the hub of our community. With the weather now changing, St Peter's is also a warm welcome after my chilly morning dog walk.

The surprising thing for me, is how restful I feel when I walk back to my house after church, as I am, for the majority of my week, the complete opposite of restful.

I am so pleased I gave church a go.

Jo Gaywood

Church Newbie

T	E	T
M	I	O
E	S	L

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.



FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!

Chestnuts



One of the winter traditions I love is roasting chestnuts, the smell of them is irresistible and very warming.

Chestnuts were a vital staple across Asia and Europe, they have been an important food source as well as being part of celebrations. Though they are less common in our diets today than rice or potatoes they have a fascinating history, and important nutritional role.

Chestnut trees belong to the beech family and have provided nourishment for thousands of years. There is archaeological evidence that suggests they were consumed in prehistoric times, especially around the temperate forests of southern Europe, the Middle East and East Asia. The tree could adapt to mountainous and marginal soils which made it invaluable to early agriculture.

In the Mediterranean, the ancient Greeks and Romans respected chestnuts as both food source and medicine. The Romans cultivated chestnut orchards across their empire, often grinding the nuts into flour for porridge and bread. Before the widespread cultivation of wheat, in some regions chestnut flour was the primary source of carbohydrate for rural populations.

During the Middle Ages, chestnuts became known as the "bread of the poor". In mountainous parts of France, Spain and Italy, where it



was hard to grow cereal grains, the communities relied on their chestnut groves. In Corsica, villagers used chestnut flour to make soups, cakes and polenta type dishes. These groves, which were often tended like orchards, were vital local economic and cultural assets.

In Asia chestnuts were equally prized. Ancient Chinese texts describe them as one of the “five sacred foods” along with rice, millet, barley and soybeans. Japan also adopted the chestnut incorporating it into Shinto rituals and autumn harvest festivals.

Chestnuts were also found in North America and was once one of the dominant trees in eastern forests. The huge trees provided both timber and food for humans and wildlife. Unfortunately, in the early twentieth century a fungal blight, which was introduced accidentally from imported Asian trees, decimated them. Today there are efforts being made to revive the species.

Chestnuts differ from other nuts in their nutritional makeup. Most nuts are high in fats and calories, chestnuts are uniquely low in fat and high in carbohydrates, more like a grain or tuber. They are a good source of vitamin C which is unusual in nuts. They also contain vitamin B, particularly B6, thiamine and folate, which supports our metabolism and nervous system function. They have potassium, magnesium and copper all essential for maintaining heart and bone health.

Because they are gluten free they are very popular with people with gluten sensitivity or coeliac disease. Chestnut flour is a nutritious alternative to wheat flour in baking; it gives a subtle sweetness and rich smell. The combination of slow-release carbohydrates and fibre gives a low glycaemic index making them suitable for anyone managing blood sugar levels.

Their nutritional values vary slightly depending on the way they are prepared. Roasting, the most common method, reduces their vitamin C level; whereas boiling preserves more vitamins and gives a softer texture. Dried and often ground into flour, they are dense in calories and nutrients but ideal for long term storage.

Chestnuts are used in both savoury and sweet cooking. They pair well with game, poultry and root vegetables and are used in stir fries and stews, they are excellent for stuffings and ideal in vegetarian dishes, I use them in my nut roast.

They are also widely used in cakes, desserts and patisseries, often incorporating dark chocolate which balances the sweetness of the best nuts perfectly.

Lavinia



The Quality of Starlight

On Thursday, November 6, Sam Nicholas from the High Weald National Landscape came to talk to us about why dark skies are so important and how we can help preserve and improve our cultural heritage. We need light, but we need the right type of light.

‘Despite the growth and brightening of the region, the skies of the High Weald are of sufficient quality that much of the rural landscape still lies under dark skies where the Milky Way can clearly be seen. This means that we must protect and strive to enhance them for the benefit of wildlife and people alike. We’re working with communities and local authorities to protect the High Weald’s dark skies. From celebratory events and educational activities to data gathering to support new planning policies, you can get involved.’ (High Weald Natural Landscape)



The first step is to take readings so that we have a baseline to work from. We will be using Sky Quality Meters (SQM) to do this. These readings have to be taken in astronomical darkness when there is little or no cloud cover, away from artificial light, and when the moon is in the right phase – not a full moon or super moon. It takes about twenty minutes for our eyesight to acclimatise to the darkness and we have been advised to work under red torchlight as this light is less intrusive and does not disturb wildlife or dazzle other people. Where the readings are taken is plotted on the map. The more readings we take within the parish, the better the quality of the data. The best time to do these readings is between now and March, when the clocks go forward. Next year, in the same time period, the exercise will be repeated in the same places so that the readings have ground truthing and we hope, as people become more aware of the importance of dark skies, the readings will be better.

Dark skies are important for a number of reasons. It is known that blue light disturbs sleep patterns and impacts on human health, as it impedes the production of melatonin. When we drive at night, the glare from headlights makes it difficult to focus. Animals caught in the glare tend to freeze as the eye cannot adjust quickly enough and this results in fatalities. Plants, animals and



human are adversely affected by the loss of dark skies as normal patterns of behaviour are affected by intrusive lighting.

'There are some simple actions you can take to help reduce light pollution in your corner of the High Weald:

- Light just the area you need
- Shield and point lights down
- Choose less bright bulbs
- Use timers and sensors
- Use warm-white bulbs

An easy way to remember is: Turn it down, Tilt it down, Turn it off!

Sue Hatt

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS 2



The Santa Special

"We love Christmas at the Kent and East Sussex Railway and we have been welcoming families to meet Santa on our trains since 1974! There's nothing quite like the pleasure of a steam train ride knowing your child will meet Santa and receive a named gift, all without moving from the comfort of your allocated seats. Sit back, relax and enjoy the journey!"

So KESR announced on its website a while ago. The Santa Specials start on Saturday, 24th November. 5 trains a day, and the trains run on the weekends leading up to Christmas and also on 23rd and 24th December. Early bookings have taken most of the seats. To see what is still available, take a look on our website : <https://kesr.org.uk/santa-specials-2025/>

For most of us, it will be a matter of hearing the trains and maybe seeing them as we wait at a level crossing.

If you are at the front of the queue, do give the passengers a wave!



Update on the Rolvenden Neighbourhood Development Plan



Work has been continuing on the review of the Rolvenden Neighbourhood Plan. This is being led by a Steering Group comprising local councillors and residents. As a reminder, the Neighbourhood Plan is a document that sets out planning policies which will guide how land is used in the Parish and also help to determine the outcome of any planning applications that come in.

Our original neighbourhood plan was adopted by Ashford Borough Council in 2019. Whilst it covers the period up to 2030, there have been substantial changes to national policy in the meantime. In addition, a new Local Plan for Ashford Borough is being prepared. We are reviewing our neighbourhood plan to make sure that it remains up-to-date and can carry full weight in planning matters. We are making good progress with the Review. In particular, as a result of feedback from the community survey, we are:

- gathering evidence to protect additional green spaces that are special to the community – we've identified a further ten extra spaces to be safeguarded across Rolvenden and Rolvenden Layne;
- working to protect our landscape - we already have eleven important viewpoints identified but the community has suggested some additional ones that we are reviewing;
- including a policy to protect against unnecessary light pollution, recognising the importance of our dark skies;
- identifying heritage assets that are important to us locally and building up a record for each;
- looking at ways to protect and enhance our wildlife in line with the Kent and Medway Nature Recovery Strategy.

In our current neighbourhood plan, we allocated three sites for development. Only one of these has been delivered. We do not yet know how many homes Ashford Borough Council might expect our Parish to accommodate as part of the new Local Plan as that detail has yet to be published. What we do know is that our Neighbourhood Plan Review can help guard against speculative development in the future if it includes sites identified by the community as having potential for acceptable development. Therefore, we are looking to carry forward our undelivered sites and are also in discussion with the Borough Council about their plans for land in our Parish that we could also be directly commenting on. Clearly the future of the Moneypenny site will be part of those discussions and we are pleased that residents here are able to remain in their homes.

We will be hosting a community meeting in the new year to talk through our progress. Further information will be provided in due course.

Alison Eardley

For the New Rolvenden Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee



And some opportunities for you to have your say:

- We are still accepting responses to our Community Survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Rolvenden1>
- And we welcome comments and suggestions –
email us on: rnpresponses@gmail.com
- There are also opportunities to join the Steering Group if you would like to get more involved. Please contact the Parish Council at:
clerk@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk
or call **07900 693572**.

TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS 3



The Crib

It's one of those oddities of church life that the Nativity scene is known as the crib. Mary, Joseph and babe, shepherds and wise men, sheep, ox and camels are included in that one item which, as the carol assures us, was not actually there. We will sing, 'Away in a manger no crib for his bed'.

If you come to the Carol Service, you may well find the crib fully assembled. But that is to ignore the traditional timing. The baby Jesus should be placed reverently into the scene when the Crib is blessed at the 'Midnight' or Christmas Morning Service. And the wise men with camels do not arrive until Twelfth Night. They can be found moving about the church getting a little closer to the stable each day.

In St Mary's after the Carol Service, we will dismantle the crib so that it can be recreated with the help of the children as part of the Christmas Eve Christingle service. Why is it always the smallest child who ends up carrying the camel, quite the largest of the figures?

Amazingly when you come to church on Christmas morning you will find that the wise men and the camel have withdrawn from the stable and will be found inching their way along the front of the choir stalls.



Friends of St Peter's Church Newenden

First Thursday Talk

12 Noon Thursday 5th February 26

in St Peter's Church, Newenden



Adam – The Torso in the Thames

Ray Fysh

Ray was a forensic scientist for over 40 years, the last fifteen as a Specialist Adviser (Major Crime). This role meant he was an integral part of the police investigation team from day one of an enquiry right through to the trial.

The talk this year will discuss the investigation into the 1997 murder of Hastings teenager, Billie-Jo Jenkins.

Ray lives locally and his book 'Shallow Graves – My life as a forensic scientist on Britain's biggest cases' is a best seller and is available from all major suppliers – he will willingly sign your book if you so wish.

Ray was shortlisted for the True Crime Awards 2023 as best new true crime author.

The First Thursday talks last for about 45 minutes. Entrance is free but the Friends welcome donations.

And after the talk you might like to have lunch at the White Hart Inn or at Nibbles.

Watch out for further talks coming up as 26 unfolds



Christmas Tractor Run

in aid of Rolvenden Primary School & Rolvenden Pre School

RUN BY EDDY & ROSIE TOMPSETT



DECEMBER

20TH

FROM 5.00 PM

MEETING AT 5.00PM AT THE EWE AND LAMB
FOR A FESTIVE DRINK THEN MAKING A SLOW
WALK UP TO THE VILLAGE AROUND 5.45PM,
THROUGH THE VILLAGE. COMING BACK TO THE
STAR FOR AROUND 6.30PM FOR A FESTIVE
BBQ, DRINKS & FUN!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
ROSIE
07826 364356





Flight from Newenden

Recently Peter Comport paid a return visit to the village of his childhood. In St Peter's he found himself talking to the churchwarden who, of course, asked him who he was. Here is the first part of the answer:



Peter, his sister and his parent's formed a lasting bond with Newenden. There are links in the Parish records showing the activities of Peter's Mother and Father in the day-to-day business of the Selmes Trust and Parish Council, acting as trustee and PC secretary. And there are Peter's memories formed by village life in the years before his flight from Newenden to the bright lights and hustle of one of the world's largest airports.

Newenden sits under one of the busiest national routes for air travel. The same skies were the scene-set for one of the greatest events in aviation history, the "Battle of Britain. It's no coincidence that these two facts served as an early catalyst in setting Peter on a lifetime immersed in the world of international aviation.

Many hours gazing skywards, watching contrails from the last of BOAC's four engined propeller giant's flying home from Africa and Asia into Heathrow. A Newenden battle of Britain story told by a piece of the famous Merlin engine dug from the Rother's marsh land given to Peter. A stupendous display of the UK's "Cold War deterrent" "Lightning" fighter Jet roaring down the Rother Valley before climbing vertically until out of sight. And memories of a chance to fly from Mr John Cysters grass airstrip across the valley to Lydd for the Lydd Air Show. All these fired a passion for a world surrounded by aircraft.



At 16 years and 2 months, a car journey from the village to digs in Greater London started an adventure almost as bold as the many swallows seen coursing the cricket pitch. Peter recalls the prospect of a career no less daunting to a fresh-faced teenager from a small village.

BOAC, the predecessor to "British Airways", was a huge organisation taking around 150 aeronautical apprentices from many parts of the UK and Commonwealth. Once inducted into the Air Corporations Apprentice School, four years of intense practical and theory, with lots of exams, followed.

Opportunity blossomed in those apprentice years. Peter sat in the flight Deck of BOAC's very own Apprentice Comet aircraft learning how to start/run Jet engines, test autopilots and watch new pilots learn how to take off and land in big Jets. He recalls in his final year learning how to maintain and fly the full



flight simulators used by trainee pilots before they were let loose on the real thing. And training on the new Boeing Jumbo 747, learning how to test aircraft safety systems including the famous "Black Box "recorders.

All this opportunity came on a starting wage of 7 guineas. 5 guineas for board and lodging left just £2 2 shillings for food, and the treat of a train ticket home via Etchingham station. By the time he finished his apprenticeship his wages had doubled to £15 (decimalisation got rid of the shilling!)

Peter recalls how apprentices were overseen rigorously by highly qualified engineers. Obtaining indentures is but the first step towards a professional qualification. He learnt aviation follows highly regulated disciplines and rules with both pilots and aircraft engineers licenced by the country's Civil Aviation Authority. Engineers are expected to demonstrate a minimum experience level / time before they are deemed acceptable to apply for the examination which will lead to being able to certify the safety of any aircraft.

Generally, it's accepted that seven years' experience is needed before you can apply to be examined. In that time you must demonstrate in a written record that you are indeed experienced enough to be examined.

Peter explained that studying for this Licence was demanding, especially for the "workhorse" of BOAC's intercontinental fleet, the Boeing 707 jet. The exams were rigorous with multiple written exams on each of the disciplines, be they Instrument / navigation systems, autopilots. Pass-marks were high. If you passed, the next stage was a minimum 3-hour oral examination by a Civil Aviation Authority Examiner. Success meant your recognition by the country's Aviation Authority as a Professional Aeronautical Engineer with full authority to certify airworthiness of your chosen aircraft type.

The photo hints at just how high Peter found himself flying.

In the second part of his story we hear how he came to work with the Concord fleet. But for now, here is a photograph of a time when they were all together. It comes with a small detail of the less likely things that can happen when you are responsible for something that stupendous. The caption given reads: The 6 Concordes image was taken on Boxing Day 1989, I got into a bit of bother - behind those aircraft is the A30 which came to halt as cars stopped to see this one- off spectacle. The police rang me via BA security to politely ask if I would put them back in the hangar!





Rolvenden Pre-school Report



Recently at pre-school the children have enjoyed a wide variety of craft activities. They made lots of Hallowe'en themed crafts to decorate our walls for our Pumpkin Picking Fundraiser at the end of October. The event was a success with our families having a lovely time together and raising £202 for improvements to the garden.

After the half term break, we made fireworks pictures and decorated poppies for Remembrance Sunday. We have also begun to set to work making Christmas crafts to send home at the end of this term.

The children show a lot of pride and satisfaction in the things they make to take home. We also try to capture photos of all the amazing play and learning that takes place around pre-school, such as sensory exploration, role play,

construction, active physical play, sharing stories, singing and dancing, learning to count and communicate with their friends. These activities do not produce items to take home, and they can be hard to show in a photo, but the learning is carried home with the children and the pride in their achievements is just as important.

With Christmas on the horizon, we are looking forward to working with Judy Vinson to take care of Mary and Joseph on their journey to St Mary's throughout advent. We are also going to be visiting Monypenny to spread some festive cheer to the residents there with a Christmas singalong. What a busy month ahead!

As always, you can stay up to date with our activities on our Facebook page @rolvendenpreschool.

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



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**



Spotted, an intriguing photo of the Queen in the latest BookTrust newsletter

Her Majesty The Queen, BookTrust's Patron, unveils the new book that will be given to babies across the country through our Bookstart Baby programme.

Kent Libraries kindly filled in the details.

Bookstart: Helping young children discover the joy of reading

Reading with your child from an early age can make a big difference. It's not just about books, it's about bonding, learning, and growing together.

Bookstart is a national programme that encourages families to share stories, books and rhymes with children under five. It's free, simple to join, and available to all families in Kent.

Why reading early matters

Sharing books with babies and toddlers helps:

- build a lifelong love of reading
- strengthen your connection with your child
- support speech and communication
- boost brain development
- improve wellbeing for the whole family

Kent Libraries offer free Bookstart packs to help you get started.

- Baby Pack (0 to 12 months)

Given at birth registration in Kent, or available from your local library if you've moved here.

Each pack includes:

a book chosen by librarians and early years experts, a colourful finger puppet, a leaflet with tips on sharing stories and rhymes, Special Educational Needs Pack.

- Bookstart offers tailored packs to make sure every child can enjoy books:
Bookshine for children who are deaf or hard of hearing
Booktouch for children who are blind or partially sighted

- To request a pack, email bookstart@kent.gov.uk with your name, the pack you need, and your local library for collection.

Join your local library

Children of all ages can join Kent Libraries for free. You can borrow up to 30 books at a time. There are no reservation charges or late fees (for those up to 17-years-old).

If you or someone you care for has a disability or mental health condition, we offer a free concession library card.

For more information: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries> and go to section Borrow Library Items





A Christmas Message from Katie Lam, MP for the Weald of Kent



It's hard to believe how quickly this year has flown by, and that Christmas is nearly upon us. Over the past year, I've been out and about across the Weald, visiting schools and small businesses, hosting events with my clubs, and helping people who've got in touch with me. There's such a special feeling around the Weald at this time of year, and I love seeing our towns and villages lit up with Christmas trees and festive decorations.

One of my favourite parts of Christmas is joining the carol concerts across the Weald – and, if I'm honest, eating far too many mince pies while doing so! Last year's Light Up the Weald tractor parade was a real highlight for me, and this Christmas, I'm hoping to catch up with our local Royal Mail delivery team in

Tenterden to see how on earth they manage to get everything out on time. It's a heroic feat!

But I also know that winter can be a difficult time for many. Cold homes, poor road conditions, and worries about crime all add pressure when families should be able to relax and celebrate together. That's why this month I've written to every household in the Weald of Kent to share the results of my transport survey, and to ask for your views on crime and policing.

Many people have told me they feel less safe than they used to – whether that's on our roads, in our towns, or at home. Please do take a few minutes to fill in the survey when it arrives, online or by post; your answers will help me raise the right questions in Parliament and work with Kent Police to make our communities safer.

As well as all of this, I've been running events through my Farmers, Growers, and Producers Club, Business Club, and I've unveiled my new Young People's Politics Club! You don't have to come from any particular political party - it's simply a chance for young people to learn more about politics, how decisions are made, and how they can get more involved.

To celebrate the launch, I'm running an essay competition, so if you know anyone aged 16 to 22 who might be interested, please do encourage them to sign up and enter! All my clubs are free to join, and I'd love to see you at an event - you can sign up at this link: <https://www.katieforkent.com/clubs>

***Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
And as always, if you ever need any help, would like me to visit your business,
or just have a question, you can always write to me at
Katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk.***



Rolvenden Parish Council Report



Mark Bawden, Housing Strategy and Partnerships Manager at ABC, has advised the Parish Council that ABC is pausing their plans for the redevelopment of Monypenny while they seek alternative land. ABC now intend to build a replacement for Monypenny elsewhere within the village so that residents can stay in Rolvenden. ABC will then move residents over before they redevelop the Monypenny site. ABC are not sure how long this process will take but have advised that they will continue to

maintain Monypenny, which they believe they can do for some years, which will hopefully give them time to find the land they will need. We are delighted that the residents have received this positive news.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group continue to work hard on updating the Neighbourhood Plan for Rolvenden and hope to have a draft document ready for the spring. It is not too late for you to have an input and you can give your views by completing the online survey using the link below.

Rolvenden Neighbourhood Plan Review – Community Survey

The KALC Community Awards Scheme is designed to provide recognition and acknowledgement to an individual or group who have made a significant contribution to their local community. A significant contribution to the local community may include:

- long and sustained service to the community;
- inspiring achievements or actions benefitting the local community;
- activities that have brought benefit, recognition, or credit to the area and its people.

The winner will be presented with a Certificate at the Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish Council which will be signed by the Kent County Chairman/Mayor of Medway, the High Sheriff of Kent and the KALC Chairman.

The High Sheriff of Kent has also agreed to host an evening of celebration on Wednesday, 8 April 2026. This will be held at the Shepherd Neame Brewery, i in Faversham. Your Parish Council is seeking nominations for this award for an individual or group in Rolvenden.

If you would like to put someone or a group forward, please complete this survey.

<https://form.jotform.com/252823977254366>

The Parish Council now has a draft management plan in place for the Thoburn Land. The main aim is to improve the fences and hedges and create different spaces. Funding is required and we will be actively seeking grant funding and



The Parish Council would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year.



Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch

December 2025/January 2026

Our focus this month is on burglary prevention and online shopping scams



Summary & recent incidents

Continue to watch for Wildlife Crime: catapulting, riding of e-scooters on roads/pavements, break-in attempts and rural theft. Take photos/videos and report evidence to the police. I spoke at the 16 October 2025 Rolvenden Parish Council meeting regarding a BBC documentary on Catapulting, only twenty-six minutes long, where you can see the scale of the problem. Watch here, make sure you have a TV license:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m002k6mz/on-the-front-line-catapult-crime-killing-for-fun>

1. Burglary prevention



Most thefts are committed by opportunists who are looking for any weakness they can exploit. Prevention is key. With a few simple measures, you can reduce the chances of your home being targeted.

Do stay vigilant: Be cautious of unexpected cold callers at your door to avoid distraction burglaries. Don't let strangers inside your home, even if they appear to be from a reputable company.

Security systems: Consider investing in a home security system. Visible alarm boxes, security cameras and video doorbells can

deter thieves and alert you and your neighbours to suspicious activity.

Lock up: Before you leave the house, check that all doors and windows are closed and locked securely, even if you are only going to be out for a short while. Use additional locks and security devices where possible.

Don't advertise your belongings: Packaging from expensive purchases should be disposed of sensibly. Leaving packaging outside your home or purchased within view could advertise desirable items at your property.

Lighting: Install outdoor lighting to increase visibility around your property. Timer switches on internal lights and radios give the appearance that someone is at home.

Plan ahead: Make arrangements for your home to appear occupied when you are away. Cancel regular deliveries and ask a neighbour to check your letterbox remains clear. Consider letting a neighbour park on your driveway or outside your house.



2. Online shopping scams



As we get closer to Christmas, criminals will be active with these types of scams. To protect yourself, here are some tips:

Verify the legitimacy of the retailer: research online shops to check they are legitimate especially if it is a store you haven't used before.

Use a credit card for payments: Credit card payments offer more protection than debit card payments.

Secure your email account: use a strong password to protect against phishing attacks.

Be cautious with links in emails and texts: Avoid clicking on links in suspicious emails or texts

Use strong passwords: Create unique passwords for each online account to protect against breaches.

By following these tips, you can significantly reduce your vulnerability to online shopping scams and enjoy a safer online shopping experience.

If you have been a victim of any type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do 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 our website at <https://www.kent.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/>

You will also find valuable information from the Home Office at 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.

Siân Reeves Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch

S	R	L
C	E	O
L	R	A

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 FEBRUARY ISSUE IS
5:00pm TUESDAY 20TH JANUARY.**

Note for distributors: ★ Rolvenden Magazines available for collection on Friday 30th January. ★ Newenden Magazines available for collection on Friday 30th January.

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



Justine Oliver Foot Care Practitioner



Home visits, nail trimming, corns, calluses, hard skin, thickened nails, and more

Justine Oliver - Telephone: 07760 340119

email: justineoliver.fhp@gmail.com

Fully insured ~ Registered ~ DBS checked



The Great Barn Halden Place, Rolvenden



This magnificent 18th century barn is full of character and rustic charm. Located to the East of the Hole Park Estate amid rolling farmland and orchards, the Great Barn provides the ideal blank canvas in which to create your bespoke wedding.

Registered with KCC for Civil Ceremonies.

www.greatbarnweddings.com

info@greatbarnweddings.com

Hole Park Estate, Rolvenden, Kent

Organisations here to help

EC30, a coffee shop and so much more! For more information email: info@ec30.co.uk, also see www.ec30.co.uk. EC30, Recreation Ground Rd, Tenterden.

Open: Mon- Fri 9am – 4pm; Sat 10am to noon.

The Tenterden Family Foodbank EC30 times as above.

Food boxes for people suddenly in difficulty due to late credit payments, unexpected bills, loss of job etc.

info@themildredtrust.org or info@ec30.co.uk, phone 07745 694748

Emergencies only please call: 07805 840493

Community Fridge

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

Community Shop

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

Old Schoolhouse Larder

Free non-perishable groceries, household and hygiene goods for families with children under the age of 18. Fresh bread, milk and vouchers for fruit and vegetables are often available. Tuesdays at Tenterden Leisure Centre from 5.15-6.15pm and The Family Hub, Recreation Ground Road on Fridays from 9.30-10.30am.

Regular Events

For those living with short-term memory loss and their supporters

- Memory Café and Friends every Friday
Meets every Friday 2 – 4pm at St Andrews Church Hall,
Ashford Road, Tenterden
- Musical Memories meets every Tuesday 10:45am – 12 noon
Highbury Hall, Highbury Lane, Tenterden,
a singing for health group.
- Monthly Lunch Club Meets 4th Wednesday 1:15 for 1:30pm
Groves Restaurant, Tenterden Garden Centre Reading St.

For all 3: Contact Jan Bridger

Tel: 01580 762932 Mob: 07445971791

Tenterden Parkinsons Café Please note that the monthly Parkinson's Support Group meeting is now scheduled in the afternoon between 2:30-4pm every third Monday of the month.

We are still meeting at the EC30 cafe at Tenterden Recreation Ground Road (next to Ivy Court Surgery).

CARM Rolvenden Meeting Point, every second Wednesday 10:00am to noon in Monypenny Lounge, drop in and meet friends old and new.
<https://carmromneymarsh.org.uk/>

Wave Community Bank

We turn borrowers into savers

WAVE

We want to help you plan for your future and to save for what you want in life so we have introduced our Savings Goals account.

It helps you set up savings goals and manage your money so you can achieve your dreams.

SAVE

Opening Hours

Our phones are open
Mon to Fri 9.30am-1.00pm
and we continue to monitor
emails 9.30am - 4.00pm.

Contact Us

Phone: 0300 303 3188

Email:

info@wavecb.org.uk

**Wave Community Bank, 39-48
Marsham Street, Maidstone,
Kent, ME14 1HH**

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



There is NO excuse for domestic abuse

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

Victim Support: 0808 16 89 111

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

The Samaritans: 0845 79 09 090

Childline: 0800 1111

Mankind: 01823 334 244

domesticabuseservices.org.uk

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



SAMARITANS



ManKind
Initiative



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

13th January '26 in St Peter's church.

ROLVENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

www.rolvendenparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Clerk: Mrs Louise Goldsmith,

5 Artisan Road, Headcorn, TN27 9AZ

Telephone: 07900 693572

email:

clerk@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Council will meet at -7:30pm

*11th December '25 & 15th January '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.*

The White Hart, Newenden



A family run business for the past 25 years

A fantastic place to eat, drink & stay

Homemade food

Steak dry aged on the premises

Traditional Sunday roast dinners

Cask ales & quality wines

Ensuite B&B rooms

The perfect venue for all occasions

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