Rolvenden EBRUARY ONLINE & New enden Parish Magazine





Parishes of Rolvenden and Newenden

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Published by Rolvenden P.C.C.

Cover Image: Lewis Wood in action, January '87 - Photographer Michael Hook



This month's letter comes from Andrew Tapsall, our Curate. As we always knew he would, sometime this year he will be moving to a new parish as 'the Vicar', his years of training completed

Minister's Letter

Did you make a New Year's resolution for 2025 and if so, I wonder how it's going now that we are a few weeks into the year? You might be pleased with how things are going so far? Perhaps you fell at the first hurdle? Maybe it's been a bumpy start to the year? Or you might be someone who doesn't set New Year's resolutions, potentially because, like me, you've experienced so many falls by the wayside in years gone by.

Whether you've got one on the go or not, New Year's resolutions are all about self-reflection, looking back to take stock of what has been, and looking forward to the potential of the future. This is something we all do. For me, 2025 will mark three years since I was ordained as a member of the clergy and took up my role in the Church of England in Tenterden, Rother and Oxney ministry team. During that time I have learned a huge amount, gained much experience and have been on a journey of growth, both professionally and personally.

It has been an encouraging and affirming time from which I will take a great deal, this much being particularly true when I think about the moments of huge privilege which ordained ministry involves. Chief among them are those occasions when I am invited to be with people at the most important, exciting and difficult times of their lives, especially at baptisms, weddings and funerals.

The past few years have also brought their challenges which, at times, have been painful. However, difficult circumstances and mistakes are the fertile grounds of learning and growth, and so they too play an important role in our life journeys and in how we look to the future. For me, the year ahead is set to bring about a good deal of change, but whatever it might hold for you, looking to the future always fosters thoughts about our hopes and fears, and feelings of excitement or trepidation.

The danger of doing too much self-reflection by looking at the past and peering ahead into the future is that we can easily forget to live in the present. Living in the here and now is to be present to oneself, to other people, and to God. Without grounding ourselves in the moment, it is incredibly difficult to listen to the voices of guidance which matter most: the voice of one's heart, the voices of one's family and friends, and the voice of God. So, as we continue to journey into 2025, leaving behind the old and entering the new, I invite you to join me in resolving to be more present, in the present, and in being more open to the directions to which God might be calling us, knowing that God is continuously making all things new.

Andrew Tapsall



St Peter and St Mary Flower Rotas for February 2025

Sunday St Mary St Peter

Feb 02Sylvia KCaroline Anderson JonesFeb 09Sylvia KJanet Broadbent KemptonFeb 16Elizabeth MJanet Broadbent Kempton

Feb 23 Elizabeth M Rhoda Smith

Contact: Sylvia Kellett Rosie Edmonds

01580 240463 01797 252196

Sylviakellett@eplusmail.com rosie.edmonds@hotmail.com

Brass Cleaning at St Mary: Peter Kellett

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.

Thank you to all our Christmas Arrangers; your seasonal decorations in church were lovely.

***** From the Registers *****

Funeral

17th January – Christopher Hemsley – at St Mary's

Church Electoral Roll

If your name is on a Church Electoral Roll, allowing you to vote at an Annual Parochial Church Meeting, be aware that in accordance with C of E Representation Rules we are coming to the end of the 6-year period for the current roll. You will be receiving a personal reminder from the Church Electoral Roll Officer detailing the process. The important point is that you will need to complete an application form if you wish to continue to be on the roll.

If you are not on the roll and would like to know more and receive an application form, please do get in touch with your electoral roll officer.

The Electoral Roll Officers for Newenden and Rolvenden are:

- St Peter's Newenden Hugh Edmonds, Electoral Roll Officer completed forms must be received by 13th April Tel: 07764535533 email: hfedmonds@outlook.com
- St Mary the Virgin Rolvenden –Judy Vinson, Electoral Roll Officer completed forms must be received by 30th March Tel: 01580 241504 Email: judyannvinson@gmail.com



The Church of England

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

Saturday Morning Reflective Services Women of the Nativity

9am 1st February Wittersham – Anna's Story – followed by an optional breakfast

Sunday 2nd February: Candlemas

9.30am St Peter's Newenden

The Eucharist

8am St Mary's Rolvenden

Holy Communion

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden

Celtic Morning Prayer

Sunday 9th February: Fourth Sunday before Lent

9:30am St Peter's Newenden 11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden

The Eucharist The Eucharist

Sunday 16th February: Third Sunday before Lent

9.30am St Peter's Newenden 11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden

The Eucharist Matins

6pm Benefice Choral Evensong (Wittersham):

Sunday 23rd February: Second Sunday before Lent

9.30am St Peter's Newenden 11am St Mary's Rolvenden

Celtic Morning Prayer The Eucharist

6pm Ecumenical Evensong at St Michaels

And during the week:

Beginning the Day with God

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

Ending the Day with God

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

Tenterden Church will be closed for refurbishment until the end of July 2025. Services that would normally take place in St Mildred's will be held

in Tenterden Church Hall opposite the church.

Holy Communion will be celebrated in St Michael's Church every Wednesday and in Tenterden Church Hall every Thursday, both at 10am.

Both celebrations will last about twenty-five minutes.

These services won't appear online.

To access our daily online worship visit: YouTube

St Mildred's, Tenterden

Online services:

can also be accessed through the daily bulletin, Connect Up!.

To receive Connect Up!:

please visit our website, www.tentroxchurches.co.uk, and subscribe.



About that Cover Photo...



Rumours of an amazing photo of Lewis Wood clearing snow on the Benenden Road with his JCB had been coming my way for some time. Finally Terry Moore produced a print of the photo taken by Michael Hook in January 1987.

Michael remembers that Hole Park used to erect snow fencing in the park to stop the snow drifting into the Benenden Road, but the practice had been stopped. And the conditions were just right for a big drift. Kent Messenger archive talks of 20 to 30cms falling across Kent and the sea freezing at Herne Bay. Rolvenden's school log records:

1987 - Monday 12th Jan. Heavy snowfall at the weekend. School closed from Monday 12th Jan to Monday 19th Jan, re-opening on Tuesday 20th Jan. This was due to failure of the heating system and freezing of water pipes in the outside toilet. Temperatures were low for first three days of school closure (-3 during daytime) and high winds (NE) drifted snow. Many schools in Kent closed and in three areas, North West, West and North Kent all schools were closed for four days.

Two female pupils remembered that when school was reopened, as a concession to the weather, girls were allowed to wear leg warmers and boots but skirts could not be swapped for trousers. But whilst school was shut there had been tobogganing in the field behind the church, and foolhardy walking across the frozen Sparkeswood pond.

Reports of the oldest ice core have just been in the news but Maralyn Button possibly anticipated the research value of ice. She recalls this was the only time icicles hung from the house gutters. One was collected and stores in her deepfreeze. Where it went eventually, she could not say.

Then there was the horrific murder of a snowman spotted by Jackie King, under a tree, on the Layne field. Forget carrots and coal. Tomato ketchup had been used to simulate mortal wounding. Lynn Curtis-Woodcock confessed: 'We built a snowman



lying down around a tree with red berries, so it looked like the tree had gone through him'. But the only picture she could supply was one of a snowbound St Mary's. Lewis Wood will need an introduction to newer and younger residents. He had a hedge cutter and a JCB and he ranged over much of Kent and Sussex cutting hedges and digging out drainage ditches. He had an amazing knowledge of farms, their boundaries, the tricky bits and the wildlife that was to be found.

That knowledge came in useful when Sue Saggers formed her summer evening walking group. Sue's style was relentless, fast and her routes lengthy. I was not the only one who was grateful for Lewis in the role of tail-end-Charlie. He would stay at the back and when he judged that the flaggers had only enough energy left to get home from where we were, he would muster us slow coaches and lead us, gently, by the shortest route back to the starting point. *Judy V*





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Christmas Tractor Run 2024

Wow what a night, Ed & I were totally blown away with the level of support to make the night the huge success it was. We were so overwhelmed with all the comments and love shown to us throughout the whole evening.

All 10 tractors & a ride on lawn mower met at The Farm and were decorated beautifully, from flashing reindeer, tinsel & even a hand painted sleigh! We then went onto The Ewe & Lamb where a wonderful reception was held by Elsie & her fabulous team. Flashing accessories sold, a glass of fizz in hand and smiling faces everywhere all waiting in anticipation. The tractors took a slow loop around the Layne twice and the cheers could be heard from afar we were told. A MASSIVE THANK YOU to the Ewe & Lamb for creating a great hub to start our evening and providing all the festive fun!

We then made our way up the hill towards the village with a crowd in tow. The cars were flashing & beeping with excitement, "What an absolute treat" a family stopped to say! We then went into the heart of the village, with a sea of people that came out just to see the magic... let's be honest the weather wasn't exactly on our side, but this didn't stop you all coming out in the masses, lining the streets with your change for the buckets! We drove through the village and turned at Halden Lane to finish our parade back at The Star.

Korkers & Cornex were so generous to allow all our tractors to park safely at their premises, without them the event couldn't have happened, and we are truly grateful to you all. Our final destination was the Star where Lyn, Yvonne & their incredible team went above and beyond to help raise as much money as possible for our Primary School. We all know how much they do for our



community, but they rallied around making hotdogs, provided a cold drinks and even organised a raffle that raised over £350. A big thanks to Jan from Tesco Tenterden who was kind enough to donate all the prizes for the beauty basket. The pub was absolutely rammed with people from locals to families coming from around the area just to see our little Christmas tractor run.

Our Christmas grotto was also a huge success. Father Christmas (known to some as Mick to others, just Father Christmas) was in great spirits! Lyn, Yvonne & Mick donated everything they made from the food & the raffle to add to our final total. We really can't thank you all enough for everything you did for our school and continue to do.

From the bottom of our hearts THANK YOU.

This event was never about having 100's of tractors, going through lots of villages. It was about bringing families & the community together to help raise as much as possible for our children and their school.

There was a cash price for the best dressed tractor of £50, I asked lots of you who should win... and the vote was unanimous: the tractor and sleigh! Sue

Morgan Chair of Governors at Rolvenden Primary, awarded their prize to them, a huge well done! Half of which was then donated straight back into the pot! How kind.

There were so many families, from our school and further afield, so many people showing support in the pubs, so many of you taking the walk from the Ewe & Lamb



up through the village to The Star. We cannot get over the level of support. I was really moved by just how many people want to support our children. SO... I know you are all eager to know how much we raised, Drum roll please...The Tompsett Christmas tractor run raised over a whopping £1,500. Thank you all so much for your kind generosity.

To everyone that helped us make this night happen, we are truly grateful. We have been asked so many times if we will do this again next year, and of course we said yes!

See you next year Rosie & Ed





School Fund Raisinga look back to November/December 24

Following the amazing Auction of Promises hosted by the wonderfully kind and generous Steve Bryant, we are thrilled to share that we raised well over £6,750! A heartfelt THANK YOU to Steve, Sue, Miranda, and Kerry for their efforts in making the evening such a resounding success. What an incredible achievement.

The evening was filled with fun, laughter, and overwhelming generosity from all the bidders. To everyone who donated promises – thank you so much. We originally hoped for 30 lots, but thanks to your outstanding support, we had an unbelievable 70. What a remarkable show of community spirit. An Incredible Auction of Promises – Thank You

Rolvenden never ceases to amaze us with its exceptional sense of togetherness. We feel so lucky to have attended both the Auction hosted by Steve Bryant and the Tractor Run organised by Rosie and Ed Tompsett. Rosie & Ed worked tirelessly organising the grotto gifts, selling light up toys, organising the tractors AND even decorating their own! It was a major success which you have all asked to return this year.

A huge thank you goes to The Star, whose generosity at the Tractor Run was extraordinary. They donated all the proceeds from the food, ran a wonderful raffle, and even hosted the grotto. Your contributions made the event even more special.

The dedication and support from this community for its school is truly inspiring. Thank you once again to everyone who contributed – whether by bidding, donating, organising, or simply showing up. Your efforts and generosity are deeply appreciated and will make a lasting difference.

With much gratitude, Sue Morgan & Frances Clifford Chair of Governors and Vice Chair



ROLVENDEN GARDENING SOCIETY

HOPS & HOP PICKING by Melvin Smith



We Invite you to join us on

Thursday 27th February Rolvenden Village Hall 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Members free. Non Members £3

Melvin has been talking about all aspects of country life and photographing our native wildlife for many years.

There will be a complimentary glass of wine and a lucky ticket to win a garden voucher.

Wildlife prints and cards will be available to purchase



Rolvenden Gardening Society

AGM







The AGM of Rolvenden Gardening Society was held on Thursday, 21st. November in the village hall, for the first time, in the afternoon which seemed to go down well with members as over 40 attended.

Tony Abrahams, our retiring chairman, welcomed everyone and the events of the past year were discussed. Graham Button pointed out that the 2 outings we had, ran at a loss because of some lack of support and also the high cost of coach hire. We plan on visiting RHS Wisley this year and hope that the ongoing roadworks there will not be quite so horrendous as in 2024. It was agreed that our Coffee Morning at Cherry Gardens Nursery had been a joyous affair in lovely sunshine. Tony also commented on the success of the 3 shows and he thanked all of the Committee for their help, Jean and Ian Clifton for running the raffle each time and various other members for their help and support, especially the tea ladies under the supervision of Gill Pooley. Tony gave a plea for more members to join the committee as 3 were standing down, leaving only 4. This situation is still ongoing.

After the Treasurer, Trevor Lodge, gave his report, it was the turn of our Show Secretary, Sue Clout. She reported on a successful year for the shows, despite some adverse weather. She added her thanks to those of Tony for the additional help received to make the shows run smoothly. Sue also said that we do not advertise our Coffee Mornings but members can bring friends and family if they so desire.

The position of Chairman is now vacant after Tony Abrahams resigned, with no takers at the meeting. Hazel Beaney has also resigned as Secretary, again



with no offers of taking on the job. There are now 5 people on the committee after Graham Tiltman was welcomed on to it. In gratitude to the retiring officers, Tony was presented with a mug and garden voucher and Hazel with a garden voucher. Elizabeth Marshall after 20 years on the committee and as Chairman, also retired and was presented with a shrub. They will all be missed and we thank them for their invaluable help over the years.

The cups and trophies were then presented to the winning members namely:-

Jean Clifton Tina Tompsett Cynthia Crowley Bill Burvill Richard Coleman John Walters Michael Clout Maureen Brooks Tony Abrahams.

Congratulations to all those who won a trophy during 2024 but final congratulations go to our junior winners of the Judy Baldock trophy, viz Daisy Tompsett and from Preschool, Arthur. A thank you must also go to the Preschool for their continued support of our shows.

Then tea and cakes were served and enjoyed by those present. During these refreshments, the photos of the year's events were shown by Graham Tiltman whom we thank for the excellent record of events they illustrated.

Finally, a happy and healthy New Year to you all! Perhaps 2025 might see some new members to our Gardening Society. We would love to see you! Meanwhile

CARRY ON GARDENING!

Maralyn Button

Forthcoming Events:

■ Show dates for the year are:

Spring - 15th March; Summer - 14th June; Autumn - 6th September.

- AGM Thursday, 20th November at 2pm.in the village hall.
- Thursday, 27th February 7 for 7.30pm. a talk in the village hall by Melvin Smith on hops and hop picking. This will be open to all, both members and non-members.

Maralyn Button



N	F	U
G	L	N
U	R	I

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.





Weather and Nature Notes

2024 had the highest rainfall since I have been recording with 1146mm (about 45") a couple of inches more than 2023. October being by far the wettest month with 210mm and June the driest with only 16.5mm. November started mild and most trees were still in leaf, Winter then felt like it had arrived early as a high pressure system dragged in a biting wind and overnight frosts. Snow that had reached many parts of the country briefly arrived here on the 21st but didn't settle. This was then followed by storm Bert which soon stripped the last of the leaves from the trees. The rainfall for November was 76mm. Sadly storm Darragh severely damaged the arbutus I had recently praised, the majority of the mature top growth was lost hopefully what remains will re-grow, but it will take decades to reach it's recent glory. New Year came in with gales and plenty of rain, then hard frosts followed with snow on the 8th, it fell thick and fast. Children wasted no time in snowman production, and they lasted well due to hard overnight frosts and a low weak sun, eventually their surrounding snow receded and left them looking marooned on green grass lawns until they too melted away.

I am not a fan of nets over ponds they may serve the purpose of keeping the majority of leaves out and the visiting heron, but given the choice I would rather skim leaves off the surface manually and see it look more natural. Imagine my horror when by chance I saw a male kingfisher desperately trying to get out from under the pond net at work, I have never seen one visit before. He could get his head through but not the body, I don't know how he got under there,



but he was getting quite exhausted. I got some wire to lift one side up and walked round the other side to encourage him towards the opening, he escaped unharmed, and I hoped he had learnt to now avoid this, returning after the weekend I then found his lifeless little body floating on the water's surface, a horrible start to the week.

On a cheerier note, around late Spring last year I couldn't resist a droopy little New Guinea Busy Lizzie that was reduced to 14p in Tesco, when did you last see anything priced that cheap? I wouldn't normally buy them as they have no interest to wildlife, but I felt sorry for it, it just needed a drink and some care and would make a nice pot plant. Throughout the following months it grew and bloomed non-stop. As the colder weather neared, I took it indoors and it has continued to get even more magnificent, a most vivid red, a tropical touch to a Wintertime windowsill. I will take cuttings soon, and make more - what a bargain!

I meant to mention last time I am pleased to see the soil has been removed from around the tree next to the Churchyard at last. Most of a trees large root system lie within the top twelve inches of the ground where most oxygen can reach along with important microbial and worm activity, they also grow out beyond the spread of its canopy. Compacting the soil has a very negative impact, and piling it up against the bark will eventually rot it and let in disease. I know the lambs in the coming Spring will see the moved soil mound as a playground, as is their nature given anything raised up, they will jump around and play on it and it will also make habitat for other creatures. A tree that probably started its life as part of a hedgerow a few hundred years ago, it is now starting to exhibit the behaviour of some older trees in lowering limbs to act as supports and stabilise itself, rather like walking sticks for a person, nature's way of ensuring it can survive potentially an extra 600 years or more.

Hazel Beaney







Newenden Wildlife Meadow in Winter



Happy New Year! Here we are at the beginning of 2025, and winter weather has arrived on cue, with hard frosts and driving rain.

The frost is welcome in the field because it is necessary for the germination of some wild flowers, particularly yellow rattle. Yellow rattle is such a helpful plant when creating a wildflower meadow because of its hemi-parasitic nature of attaching to grass roots, resulting in weakening the grass which tends otherwise to swamp wildflowers before they have a chance to get going.

The rain is what makes ours a flood meadow, and therefore supports plants and animals which prefer very damp ground. Water runs off the hill to the north of the meadow, under and over the lane and into the field. On days like today, when the river is in flood, water also comes in through the drainage pipe, and river water fills the field too. If it wasn't for the flood bank, a lot more water would fill the field when the water can't escape downstream quickly enough.

If the river gets too high, it will pour out onto the Wittersham Levels, further downstream in an impressive waterfall, filling those fields which are left without



crops or animals in the winter, for just this eventuality. Further downstream, at Iden Lock, the environment Agency will be opening the lock gates as soon as the tide turns, and the river runs out at Rye Harbour.

At the beginning of this month, I went out to photograph the flood, and was very pleasantly surprised to find a great white egret under the willow tree alongside the flooding river. We see little egrets quite often now in the meadow wading in the scrape area obviously finding plenty of food there, but it's unusual to see a great white egret here. This is the second time it has been



spotted along this stretch of river, and they are seen at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. It is a beautiful, big, pure white bird, about the same size as a grey heron, which is a bird often seen along the river.

I'd be delighted if anyone spotting birds along near the meadow at Newenden could let me know through our Facebook page, Newenden Meadow Restoration Field, or Inastgram, 'Newenden Meadow Restoration', and a photograph, though not necessary, would be a great plus. I'm hoping we can start making regular records of all wildlife in the meadow, so any information of that kind would be very gratefully received! *Jillian Eldridge*

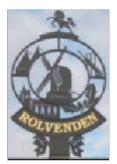


Now appearing in Rolvenden Layne - Highland Cow!!

The first in a series of post box toppers celebrating British farming by Olive Austen Olive is well qualified to champion British farming. Readers will remember Peter Austen's monthly reports from 2012 to 2020, 'Weather in the Layne' revealing Peter's life rooted in the countryside and farming. At Peter's funeral last October we learnt just how much farming he and Olive did working together over many years; cattle, sheep, chickens and beans come to mind. And they championed local producers in their Headcorn shop for 27 years. Thank you, Olive, for your wonderful creations and for bringing a smile to so many faces.



Rolvenden Parish Council - February



As you are no doubt aware Ashford Borough Council (ABC) is preparing a new Local Plan. We will provide updates as and when we receive them. The Parish Council has commenced the process of reviewing your Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). Given the uncertainty of the Government Locality Grant Funding continuing after the end of the financial year and that the Parish Council does not have sufficient funds to cover the

cost of a review of the NDP it was agreed that it would be better to commence the review now and apply for the grant funding while it still exists. The Parish Council has subsequently been granted funding to commence the process and the Steering Group has now met. Alison Eardley, Planning Consultant, has been appointed to assist the Steering Group. The Steering Group is due to meet with Planning Policy Officers at ABC to understand their plans for Rolvenden and a public consultation exercise is planned for February. If you would like to join the Steering Group please do contact the Clerk.

You may be aware that all Parish Councillors are Trustees of the Thoburn Land Trust. This is a separate body to the Parish Council. We will aim to give updates on the project at our meetings and the Trustees are looking to set up a page on our website to provide updates. The Trustees approached three land management companies to provide a proposal for the preparation of a management plan to include providing advice on the availability of appropriate grant funding, the future management of the land and a public consultation exercise. The Trustees are keen to increase the current income as the Trust is not currently registered with the Charity Commission because it does not meet their minimum annual income threshold of £5,000.00. The Trustees have appointed CLM to out the baseline surveys and public consultation and to prepare a management plan at a cost of approximately £8,500.00 which ABC has agreed can be funded from a S106 allocation. The Trustees intend to consult with the residents in the very near future.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 20 February 2025 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

Please do contact the clerk if you have any questions or suggestions for the Parish Council.Louise Goldsmith, Parish Clerk, email: rolvendenclerk@gmail.com Tel: 07900 693572



Rolvenden Pre-School Report

We have started the new year with two new children and still have space for a couple more if anybody knows of somebody looking for a pre-school place.

This term we are focusing on small group activities that encourage communication and working together to achieve shared goals. This is something that families can practice at home too - simple activities like building towers together, role play games and real life activities like cooking and shopping.

You can keep up to date with what the children are doing at pre-school on our Facebook page. We are also



working on the skills needed for children to be more independent in taking care of their own needs, such as opening their own lunch packets and getting themselves dressed and undressed.

The children still enjoy time in the garden, wrapped up against the cold, investigating the changing seasons and running around together playing their favourite games.

We have been thinking about love and decorating hearts for Valentine's Day, each one as unique as the children making them.

To see the activities the children enjoy take a look at our website: https://rolvendenpreschool.yolasite.com our facebook@rolvendenpreschool
Contact us on rolvendenps@gmail.com with any questions or



to arrange a visit.

Friends of St Peter's

Details of the February First Thursday Talk are still to be finalised - watch out for notices and posters in all the usual places.

And we have received a cryptic communication from the Special Duck Correspondent that he is on to a serious threat of infiltration to the flock. Anas Ductilis may invade the March issue.



FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!

Bananas



To think of a banana just as a quick healthy snack is to do it a great injustice, they are a remarkable fruit and have changed a great deal to become the fruit as we know it today. Bananas were native to Southeast Asia and were first cultivated thousands of years ago in what is now the Philippines, Malaysia & Indonesia. These bananas were small, starchy and contained hard seeds. Although their appearance was not very appetising their potential as a nutritious food source was recognised. They made their way to India where there is a mention of them in early Hindu texts which suggest they played an important part in their diet and culture.

It is said that when Alexander the Great invaded India about 327 BC, he first came across bananas and his armies helped introduce them across the Mediterranean and Middle East.

During the 7th century they were carried across to Africa by Arabic traders. It is believed the word "banana" comes from the Arabic word banan which means "finger" which is a what a single one is called and a bunch is called a hand. In the 15th and 16th centuries they were taken across the Atlantic by Portuguese traders and explorers to North and South America.

There are hundreds of varieties grown around the world. In the UK we eat around 5 billion a year, the variety available here is most likely to be the Cavendish which became very popular in the 19th century. In tropical countries bananas play a much larger part, varieties like plantains are an integral part of a meal, the leaves have many uses from wrapping food to being used in building shelters.

Bananas are incredibly good for you, they are full of nutrients. Their potassium content is high, it helps regulate blood pressure and



maintain good and proper nerve function, all important for a healthy heart. A medium sized banana provides about 9% of your daily needs, which makes them a popular snack with athletes and fitness enthusiasts.

They provide a natural energy boost as they have the perfect balance of fibre and glucose, fructose and sucrose, the natural sugars, the combination provides a quick energy boost without causing an energy crash.

The high fibre content helps support the digestive system.

If you're feeling a little bit down try eating a banana, they contain the amino acid tryptophan which the body converts into serotonin, the "feel good" hormone.

They also contain vitamins C & B and magnesium which all help boost immunity and improve brain function.

Apart from being nutritious they are very versatile. They can be used in sweet or savoury cooking. Flavours that go particularly well with

them are, ginger, cinnamon, orange, walnuts, and coffee, to name a few. If you have a glut, and it doesn't matter if they are past their best, pop them in the freezer to make banana bread or muffins with. If they are over ripe, they will be higher in sugar so I reduce the amount of sugar used.

I chop up the skins and put round plants, as a natural fertiliser. I've not tried it, but I've been told that the skin rubbed over leather shoes and then rubbed off with a cloth as you would shoe polish leaves your shoes shining, this is due to the natural oils and potassium.



Growing bananas has its own challenges, they are prone to Panama disease which is a fungal infection. Most bananas are genetically identical, cloned from the Cavendish which leaves them vulnerable to outbreaks. Scientists are working to develop disease resistant varieties.

It is good news that they are becoming a symbol of sustainability, with their leaves being used as eco-friendly alternatives to plastic plates and packaging.

Lavinia





Newenden Art Exhibition revisited

In 2024 three local artists were commissioned by Lossenham Farm to celebrate the arts in Newenden.

Jillian Eldridge was commissioned to paint local scenes; Elizabeth Norris was commissioned to photograph the village and its surroundings and I was invited to write some new folk songs to celebrate the rich history of the village. In an exhibition organised by Nicola Holland, the photographs and paintings were displayed in The White Hart, from 4th December. Cards and calendars were also on sale and the beautiful calendars quickly sold out. Proceeds from the exhibition, coming to nearly £500, were donated to the Village Hall appeal.

The Dawson family performed the four new folk songs and some appropriate Christmas music at the opening of the exhibition.

Researching the folksongs was fun. Fire at the Friary for instance was based on a disastrous fire in St Mary's, Lossenham Friary in 1275. It destroyed the newly constructed wooden parts of the church before work was completely finished. The fight between the two friars may have been the result of one accusing the other of setting the fire.

It was later claimed that the arson was instigated by the Vicar of Warehorne, concerned that his congregation would be drawn to worship in the new church of St Mary.

The evening was a brilliant initiative and grateful thanks go to Lossenham Farm and Nicola Holland for organising it all.

Anthony Dawson



Fire at the Friary

O Lossenham, what is going on?

O Lossenham, what will happen next?

O Lossenham, what is going on, What will happen next?

Fire at the priory, flames high in the sky, Fire at the priory, we're all asking why. Run, fetch some water, help put out the fire. O Lossenham.

The church is destroyed, there's no saving it The church is destroyed, it's a burnt-out pit, O Lossenham.

O Lossenham, what is going on?

O Lossenham, what will happen next?

O Lossenham, what is going on,

What will happen next.

Murder in the cloisters, blood is everywhere. Murder in the cloisters, death is in the air. O Lossenham.

Friar Thomas is dead, stabbed by

Friar Richard

Friar Thomas is dead, the cloisters have been barred.

Friar Thomas is dead, there's no saving him. O Lossenham.

O Lossenham, what is going on?

O Lossenham, what will happen next?

O Lossenham, what is going on,

What will happen next?

Friar Richard has fled, cast his robes and run. Friar Richard has fled, chose the woods for home.

Friar Richard has fled, an outlaw he's become

O Lossenham.

First a fire, then a murderous fight. Where is the light? It's all darkest night.

(Words © Anthony Dawson)

Still available...

Following on from the Newenden Art Exhibition held in December we still have notecards and prints for sale!

- There are a variety of Giclee A6 notecards available. They are £2.50 each or 5 for £10
- The original artworks are on display in The White Hart breakfast room. Prints of the works are available to purchase from £30 each.

Anyone interested in purchasing anything can email me at nicola@dapplegrey.org.uk and I can arrange!

Nicola Holland









With sincere thanks to the community of Rolvenden and surrounding areas for supporting Big Wrap 2024 - you are amazing!

Following a wonderful year of well supported fundraising events and generous donations we are proud to announce that together with Christmas Cheer donations we were able to share the amount of £17,860 between 94 families in the local area.

On our Big Wrap Day on 30th November held in St Mildred's, volunteers wrapped donated gifts for the 231 children of the families. All gifts were put in family Christmas sacks, and we prepared Christmas crackers and festive chocolates and biscuits for all.

Thank you again for your ongoing support and if you wish to add to your diary, Big Wrap Day 2025 will be held on Saturday 29th November in St Mildred's.

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

www.thebigwrap.co.uk



The Magazine Cover - call for photos

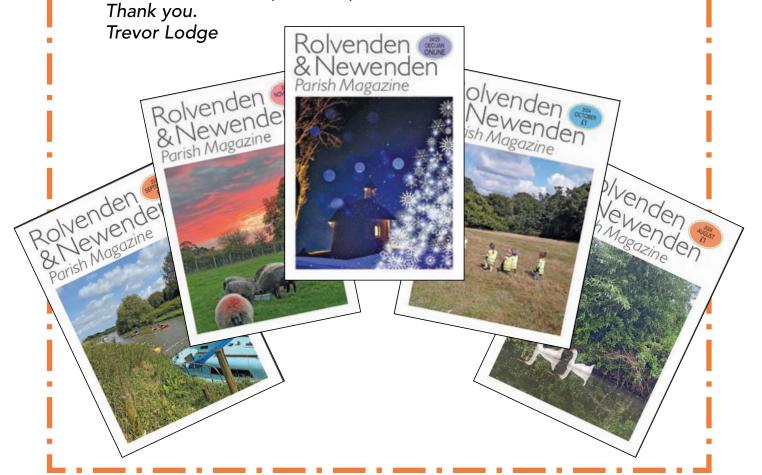
First impressions are important and the first impression you have of the magazine is the cover!

Here is a reminder of the photos we used in the latter part of 24. Where did those photos come from? My collection of photos sent in by readers.

I like to have a photo that fits with the season, but to meet the print deadline I need to select the cover some 2 to 3 weeks before the beginning of the month. For instance, I may want primroses for March, or strong autumn colours for October and therefore I am likely to be looking at photographs that were taken the previous spring or autumn. That is where my collection comes in and right now the collection is looking pretty small.

So, if you take photos – and have taken a photo you think would make a cover photo, please, please do email me a copy. It should be a jpeg file, colour or monochrome, and preferably a reasonable file size – somewhere around 1000kb. If any of that sounds too technical and you have a good photo, send it over anyway.

The email address for photographs is stmaryrolv@aol.com





Newenden Village Hall

After a Spring and Summer of very little activity you may be forgiven for thinking that the project had come to a halt again! The fact is that it has taken some time to secure new funding to enable us to continue the mission to see a fully completed and usable Village Hall.

The great news is that over the last 10 months we have secured funding from the National Lottery, along with a Community Amenity Grant from Ashford Borough Council and a donation from the local Basil Russell Foundation. Receipt of these funds, in addition to generous private donations, has enabled us to get back underway again, as you may have noticed! Work is going on inside to complete the plaster boarding and install the new heating system, the construction of the commercial kitchen and new toilet facilities is underway and the outer wall has finally had its cladding replaced, in compliance with updated Building Regulations.

Going forward we are now in the process of applying for a sum from the KCC Village Hall fund. There are more grants out there, it is just a case of finding the ones whose criteria we meet, and committing the time it takes to make the applications, stating our case and hopefully securing the funds. Putting on our own community fund raising events is also important, and the recent art exhibition held in The White Hart, showcasing the work of talented local artists, was well supported by the local community and raised £500 for the Village Hall.

We are very grateful to those who have contributed in terms of both labour and financial donations, local people have been very generous! Also to those who are working hard now, and who have volunteered their help in the future. We will be calling on you just as soon as we are ready. In the meantime, we are still looking for donations to enable the work to be completed, anything that you may be able to donate in terms of time or financial resources would be much appreciated!

Our ambitious aim is to have the new Village Hall up and running by this Summer – and we are so nearly there! This timescale is of course conditional on getting the extra funding required soon, but we are working hard on this and the New Year has brought some promising new leads.

Most importantly, as we near completion of the build, we need to recruit local people to run the new Village Hall. It will be a spectacular facility so if you can help, please contact Richard Gould, email: frogshill@aol.com. Thank you again to everyone who has helped and supported the project we hope to provide more exciting updates soon!

The Newenden Village Hall Action Group





National Sheep Association

Livestock worrying is a criminal offence.

Any dog has the ability to worry livestock, no matter how well trained.

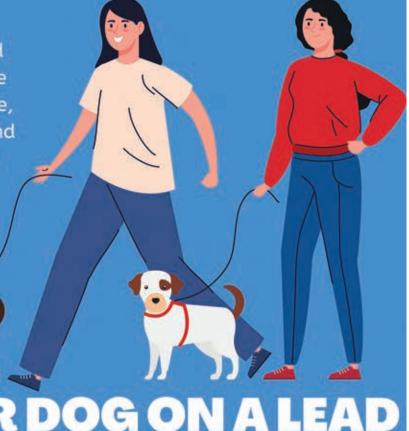
As the owner you may be liable to prosecution and subject to a fine.

Under the Animals Act, a dog may be shot if caught in the act of worrying livestock by a landowner.

Sheep are frequently killed by dogs. Chasing can cause extreme stress, miscarriage, mismothering of lambs, and horrific injuries resulting in euthanasia.

Stop& Think

Each year large numbers of sheep are attacked and killed by loose dogs #LeadOn



Let go of the lead if chased by cattle



Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch February 2025

Kent Police ASB survey (Anti-social behaviour survey)
Thank you to those who filled this in online or using the paper forms.



Our focus this month is on fraud prevention. Fraud is suspicious activity on your account that you didn't know about and didn't authorise.

And a scam...

involves you making or authorising the payment yourself. You're persuaded to buy a fake item, hand over your security code or transfer a sum of money, not realising you're being conned by a criminal.

Scams can be very convincing and anyone can get caught out. Examples of scams include:

- instructions to transfer money to another account (e.g. a 'safe account')
- fake investment opportunities
- requests for money from a scammer who has befriended you or struck up a romance online
- 'too good to be true' deals that must be paid for by bank transfer

Courier Fraud Alert system:



We have received several reports across the county including Cranbrook. On four occasions, the criminals stated that they were Sergeant Wiggins from Waterloo Police saying they had someone in custody with the intended victim bank card. They are asking the intended victim not to disconnect the call but to ring 999 whilst remaining on the line, to confirm they are genuine. These were all scams. If you get a call like this and are unsure, then disconnect the call and ring

101 using another phone. If another phone is not available, then wait 5 minutes and ring a family member or friends to ensure the line has been disconnected before ringing 101.

Bank and Credit Card Fraud

Card fraud is when a criminal steals personal information from your credit or debit card or steals the card itself.

What to look out for:

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

For further available help with the weekly shop, please see the next two pages



Kent Savers for affordable loans www.kentsavers.co.uk

Regular Events

KCC Mobile Library Service visits Rolvenden every 2 weeks on Tuesday:

- High Street between 11:30am and Noon
- Monypenny between 12:10 and 12:55pm
 To join phone: 03000 41 31 31

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 1:00pm Little Silver Hotel, St Michaels Tenterden.

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/





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

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 7:30pm March 4th in St Peter's

ROLVENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

www.rolvendenparishcouncil.org.uk Parish Clerk: Mrs Louise Goldsmith, 5 Artisan Road, Headcorn, TN27 9AZ

Telephone: 07900 693572

email: rolvendenclerk@gmail.com

Parish Council will meet at 7:30pm February 20th 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.





- Always look after your cards and card details. Don't let your card out of sight when making a transaction.
- Check receipts against statements carefully. Contact your card company immediately if you find an unfamiliar transaction.
- Store your bank statements, receipts and financial documents safely and destroy them, preferably using a shredder, when you dispose of them.
- Sign any new cards as soon as they arrive.
- Cut expired cards through the magnetic strip and chip when replacement cards arrive.

Winter heating subsidy scam:

Criminals are actively using both text messages and emails to try to steal bank details by playing on older people's concerns about the Winter Fuel Payment. The emails and texts will ask you to click on a link, however, the link does not redirect you to the UK government website or anything to do with Winter Fuel Payments but instead, takes you to a realistic website under the control of criminals who will steal your personal and financial data.

If you receive a text message you can report it by forwarding it to 7726 or if it is an email, by forwarding it to: report@phishing.gov.uk

Most eligible recipients will get the Winter Fuel Payment automatically. You should have received a letter between October and November stating how much you will receive. If you think you are eligible, but have not heard anything, then check this government page website to find out more:

https://www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment/eligibility

If you think that you may have been a victim of these or any other 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 Advice about fraud Kent: https://www.kent.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/

Reporting crime to the police

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

Siân Reeves Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch



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 MARCH ISSUE IS

5.00PM TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY

Note for distributors: © Rolvenden Magazines available for collection on Saturday 22nd February. © Newenden Magazines available for collection on Sunday 23rd February.

The online version will be available from 1st March 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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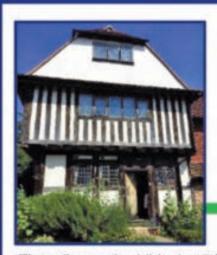
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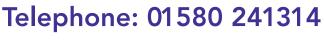
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