

Rolvenden & Newenden *Parish Magazine*

2026
OCTOBER
ONLINE





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This Month's Letter Comes from **Rev'd Lindsay Hammond**

Dear Reader

This month I have chosen to write a church magazine letter about politics.

A church magazine is a very appropriate place for a letter about politics. That's because the most basic concern of politics is the ordering of relationships. Politics is about the way we live together and how we get along. Politics is about people.

And those concerns are central to the practice of Christianity. We believe that God has something to say about how we live and the way we relate to one another. We open ourselves to God's ordering of our lives and relationships. In that regard, the incarnation, the embodiment of God in humanity, is a deeply profound political statement. The life of Christ is a political statement, one that reorders our relationships with God and each other. It teaches and shows a way of being.

This isn't a letter about your politics or my politics. It's not a letter about the politics of the left, centre or right. But it is a letter about the politics of Jesus. The politics of Jesus has implications for our lives. The politics of Jesus is different from the kind of politics most of us see, experience, and probably even practise. The politics of Jesus are driven, led, anointed, and filled by the Spirit, the life of God.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

So says Jesus in Luke's Gospel.

At the heart of Jesus' politics is an unspoken and yet ever-present question: 'Where does it hurt?' That's the question that drives and directs Jesus' life and ministry. 'Where does it hurt?'

When we look at the world, read the news, and reflect on our lives, it's not hard to see how much we need a new politics, a Jesus kind of politics.

What if we began our political thinking and conversations by asking, 'Where does it hurt?' What if we entered those difficult and divisive situations with that question? What if we let that question establish our priorities and guide our decisions?

Presence with and compassion for another human being would replace resolving issues, fixing problems, and winning votes. We would listen more than we speak. Power would look like cooperation and collaboration. We would have to have the courage and will to stand with other people in their pain, and the vulnerability to risk letting another stand with us in our pain. We





would open, rather than close, places, people, and ourselves to the love of God.

Individually, we could choose the politics of Jesus – and try and live by his politics as best we can. But collectively, and globally, at least for the moment, we are stuck with the politics we have.

Lindsay



Ordinary things at extraordinary times, that others may live

A parallel thought prompted by Battalion Chief Joseph Pfeifer of the New York Fire Department, the first senior officer to arrive at the twin towers on 9/11, who watched fire fighters respond by going up the stairs against the flow of people coming down.

“Always remember the heroes, who did ordinary things, at extraordinary times, so others may live.”



St Peter and St Mary Flower Rotas October 2026

Sunday	St Mary	St Peter
Sept 06	Sylvia K	Sally Manford
Sept 13	Jennie Field	Sally Manford
Sept 20	Jennie Field	Hazel Mahoney Masters
Sept 27	Harvest Arrangers	Hazel Mahoney Masters
Contact:	Sylvia Kellet 01580 240463 Sylviakellett@eplusmail.com	Rosie Edmonds 01797 252196 rosie.edmonds@hotmail.com

Brass Cleaning at St Mary: Jennie Field

St. Peter's Church: Normally open between 10.00 and 5.00pm.

If you need access outside of these times, please contact Rosie Edmonds.

Should arrangers be unable to do any slots please swap with someone else and let Rosie know.

❖ From the Registers ❖

Weddings

15th August Thomas Mackinnon and Jennifer Antrum at St Mary's

19th August John Hunt and Kseniia Fiialko at St Mary's

Burial of Ashes

15th September Hilary Jean Todd at St Mary's



The Church of England

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

Thursday 1st October

10:25am Rolvenden School Harvest Thanksgiving in St Mary's

Sunday 4th October Harvest Thanksgiving/ Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

9:30am St Peter's Newenden
Harvest Eucharist

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

Sunday 11th October Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

9:30am St Peter's Newenden
Eucharist

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden
Eucharist

Sunday 18th October St Luke

9:30am St Peter's Newenden
Eucharist

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden
Matins

6:00pm *Benefice Choral Evensong (Rolvenden)*

Sunday 25th October Bible Sunday

9:30am St Peter's Newenden
Morning Praise

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden
Eucharist

And during the week

Beginning the Day with God

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

Ending the Day with God

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

*Holy Communion will be celebrated at 10am in
St Michael's Church every Wednesday and in*

*St Mildred's every Thursday. The service will
last about twenty-five minutes.*

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

To receive Connect Up! please visit our
website: 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.***





Rolvenden and District Gardening Society Autumn Show

It is the fate of gardeners everywhere to forever complain about the poor condition of their show entries on account of the weather. It seems more so this year with record breaking temperatures of over 35 degrees C. and long spells of no rain during the heat waves.

There were 109 entries from fifteen stalwart members making it another good year in spite of adverse conditions. September is always known as the dahlia show and also when we expect most vegetables to be entered. Some excellent varieties were exhibited, including potatoes, beetroot, and onions and small tomatoes. Runner Beans sadly had felt the heat as well as the usual beautiful variety of Dahlias. Bill entered some intriguing Bishops' Crown Chilli Peppers and Ashley showed some amazing cabbages and beautiful grapes.

Six shrub roses were entered, and Jean entered a very impressive 'Love Lies Bleeding' which came first in its class. Tony entered a stunning winner with his yellow begonia in a pot. There were several picturesque floral art entries which helped to swell the number of entries. The ones representing Hallowe'en were particularly good. Well done, Mandy Tompsett.

The Battle of the Bakers between Cyndy, Cynthia and Mandy was lovely to see with all of them winning one entry but true to form the champion was Cynthia Crowley.

We missed the usual men's cookery entry from Richard Coleman and indeed all of the usual many entries of flowers and veg from him. He, sadly for us, has now moved to Sissinghurst and is unable to bring entries so far. His cheerful, prolific and enthusiastic entries will be greatly missed.

1st: Jean Clifton, eight firsts, five seconds, six thirds

2nd: Bill Burvill, seven firsts, four seconds, one third

3rd: Tina Tompsett, six firsts, three seconds

Children over 5: 1st: Zara Tompsett

Pre-school under 5: 1st - Teddy, 2nd Winnie, 3rd Thea

Many thanks to all helpers, Jean and Ian Clifton raised £165 on the raffle, the numbers were called by John Walters and Tony Abrahams.

Jan Gambier

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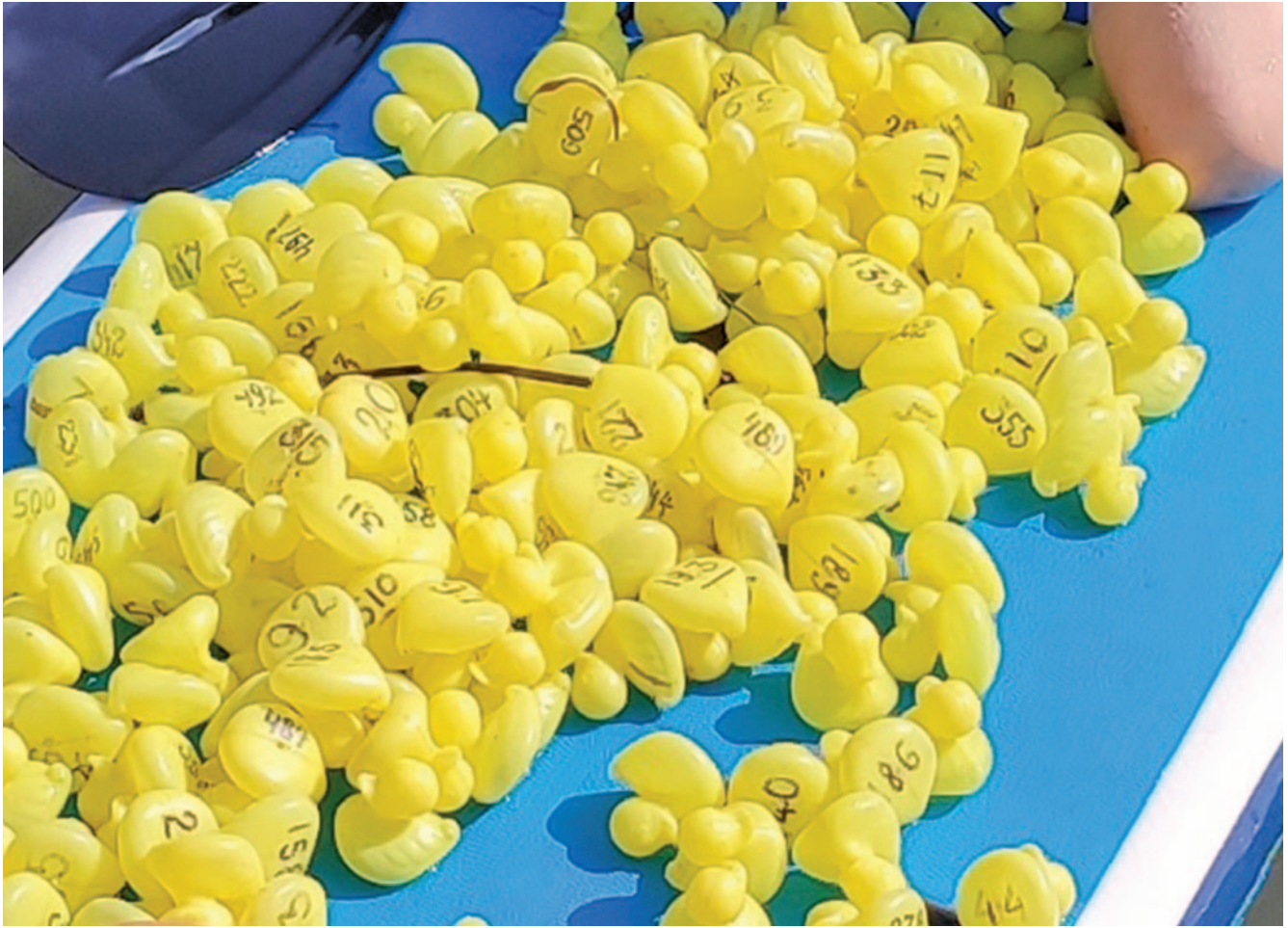
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The Duck Race is the Friends' main fund raiser and we approached this year with some trepidation. In previous years, we have been able to tuck the race into a bigger village event, giving us the opportunity of last-minute sales of ducks to visitors. There was no event this year. Some new ideas were called for. We thought about the current trend for going cashless, and introduced QR codes to avoid losing a sale. We went for two codes, one covering the sale of two ducks and one a sale of ten. That turned out to be 88 ducks we would not have sold, representing 25% of the income.

We were joined on the field by Rhoda, undertaking fundraising for St Peter's Church with a smile for everyone and a well-stocked tombola. It was another something for people to do and proved very popular. And the weather co-operated with sunshine and a bit of breeze. Expectations were surpassed. We had such a queue of people wanting to buy ducks that the start of the race was delayed.



Anthony Dawson produced a short report on the race:

'The race was another nail biter. Early leaders failed and the eventual winner came from the back of the pack. I've seen other occasions when the race was conducted upstream but this one was the best. There were only a few moments when the ducks realised that they were fighting against the stream and turned back but the competitive urge overcame their natural instincts!'

Anthony also produced an intriguing photo of some ducks deciding to play 'ring a ring a roses.'

For various reasons the regular river-based helpers were not around and Alan had to do some careful manoeuvring with the Dannie Lee. After the race three youngsters did a valiant job in collecting ducks on their paddle board. Not knowing their names or having parental permission, we can only share with you their hoard. They were just one more bit of serendipity spread across the event.

It really was a great afternoon with Newenden feeling a little en fête and much admired by visitors. The flock is now all safely gathered in and resting up in readiness for Newenden Duck Race 2027. The £100 prize went to a Rolvenden family and the Friends have a useful £694 in the bank account.

By way of a postscript, I shared that intriguing photo with the Special Duck Correspondent who

is away at the Heart of the North Building in Manchester, attending the first National Duck Conference. He confessed he is finding it interesting but not terribly relevant to his specialist field. He had not appreciated it was the D.U.C.K conference, short for Diatribe on Unaligned Community Know-how.

What he did do in a break between yet another symposium and the nightly pre-dinner cocktail hour was to contact Big Yellow about the circle of Ducks. Big Yellow explained. He had been present at Friends' committee meetings and knew we were concerned about the lack of entertainment on offer for visitors now we had lost the Dog Show and coconut shy. Big Yellow and the flock had decided that they would provide the entertainment. A spectacular synchronised float would be incorporated into the race, the former winners giving the display whilst the rest of the flock drifted valiantly towards the winning rope.

We are indeed blessed with a delightfully resourceful flock!

Judy Vinson





The Sound of Bells

Sadly, the sound of church bells ringing in villages, towns and cities in England is not as frequent as it used to be. It is a heritage skill that has been practised for three hundred years. Some people say it is a dying art, but it can be resurrected.

And in Rolvenden that resurrection is something we really hope will happen. Most church bells are rung using the 'English' method rather than chiming only. This is a skill that requires being taught by competent and patient tutors over a period of time.

Most young people tend to learn bell-ringing quite quickly but it can be brought back to life again if people of all ages will give it a try. Ringers may need to be able to climb some steps to reach the ringing chamber but some towers ring the bells from the ground floor providing access for all.

Each skill is taught at a pace that suits the learner, with one-to-one help in order to achieve the physical and mental challenges required to ring successfully.

There are eight bells at Rolvenden tower ranging from 4cwt to 15cwt. This offers a good weight of bells upon which to learn bell-ringing. The bells were rehung in 1989 to 1990. They are arranged as a clockwise ring. Ringing takes place in a first-floor chamber accessed by steps.

Ringers are generally a sociable and friendly group of people from all walks of life. If you became a ringer, you would be contributing to your local community and continuing to keep an English tradition alive and 'ringing!'

If you would like to know more, then do get in touch.

*Linda Smith
01580 241783*



This was an overgrown plot that was taken over by Melissa, Stacey and Melissa's daughter, Bonnie, early this summer. They have successfully made their own raised beds and have had a brilliant growing year.

Rolvenden Allotment Gardens

Despite the difficult weather conditions, excessive heat for a prolonged period of time coupled with a lack of rain and water shortages, plot holders managed to produce amazing crops of fruit and vegetables, many of which usually do not do well in our normal summer climate.

Outdoor tomatoes, peppers, chillies, aubergines, and sweetcorn have thrived, and pumpkins and squashes have been exceptional.

Runner beans which in previous years have produced pounds of delicious beans have been a disaster! This year the beans have been stunted in growth and were tough. Plot holders who planted potatoes and similar vegetables struggled to dig them out of the ground.

The community orchard is looking good, and the trees have grown well throughout the year.

Currently, we have two vacant half size plots.

Jan Bridger

rolvendenallotmentgardens@gmail.com 07445 971791



Jane's spectacular pumpkins.



Weather and Nature Notes

The latter half of August at last provided us with 49mm of rain, enough to soften the baked cracked soil allowing some moisture to all those needy roots. September started with comfortable temperatures and some refreshing rain. On the 8th, it fell for about twelve hours which totalled 29mm in my garden. I last measured that sort of quantity in January. We are still in drought and plenty more is needed but within a couple of weeks the difference was visible as grass areas became greener again, plants look revived, and I think spirits are lifted. Weather experts are predicting we are in for more of the same next year so it will be wise to take stock of the successes and failures and adapt accordingly. Roses seem to have coped well, and there are a good number of blackberries, their aroma is appetising.

The hot weather suits some plants and wildlife, for example everyone must have seen a hummingbird hawk moth this summer, also good numbers of unmistakeable clouded yellows have visited us from the Continent. I have seen more this year, I think, than if I added together all previous sightings over the years. About 10% of the females can be of the form *helice* which have pale



upper wings rather than yellow. I have been lucky enough to see a couple of this form which I have not seen before, although photographing the fidgety things is not easy, apologies for the photo.

I know it is not local, but I had to mention I was on a walk in Hamstreet where a footpath took me along the headland of a large field of mixed planting including phacelia, vetches, birds foot trefoil, mallow, and some poppies, sunflower, etc. It was like sweet shop for insects and a joy to walk by as bees and many clouded yellows flew about alongside large and small whites and plenty of common blues, amongst others. A sedge warbler appeared out of the plants with a large green caterpillar to feed a calling youngster. With so much to observe it took me longer to walk the width of this field than the rest of the two mile walk, and if I had the time, I would have stayed longer. I hope it remains as a cover crop over winter so the birds get the benefit of all the seed, and wouldn't it be good if more landowners could make space for such a wonderful mix.

Walking nearer home at Potman's Heath, I saw three little egrets across a field with the cattle, a regularly seen bird there now. After I used my long zoom on the camera and looked properly, I saw they were actually rarer cattle egrets that I had not seen there before. I felt silly I had said they were little egrets to someone in conversation there without looking properly, as I even thought they were acting like cattle egrets. I admit my



misidentification. They are called cattle egrets but they will follow other livestock, for example I have seen them with a goat herd in Portugal. They have only spread north from southern Europe to the UK in about the last twenty years, a few bred in the SW in this last decade and recently their range is spreading in the south, with numbers boosted in the winter. It is believed their expansion north can be attributed to a warming climate. It is interesting to watch them walk around the animals' legs picking at the insects they disturb, and as they lay down to chew the cud, the birds inspect their bodies and heads for nuisance flies, the animals happily let them even sit on them to pick them off, a relationship of real mutual benefit.

Hazel Beaney



Hospice in the weald recitals in Sandhurst, Kent



Florian Verweij, Leslie Howard and Gillian Davis

What a fantastic way to end the 2026 recitals in memory of Richard Beattie Davis. We were entertained by a return visit from the talented Dutch pianist, Florian Verweij. We also had an extra delight from the world-famous Liszt player, Leslie Howard. The two of them performed a phenomenal duet arrangement of Rimsky-Korsakov's 'Capriccio Espagnol'.

I thank everyone for their financial and moral support. Who would have thought this could be accomplished from my small suggestion to the pianist Daniel Grimwood in 2008, that we try to pay back the Hospice in the Weald for all that they did for my late husband (and myself).

On September 9th, thanks to the generosity of our audience, we managed to raise £624, after expenses. That means that the three recitals this year alone raised an incredible record breaking £2,039. Two extra donations put us well over the top to raise £22,671 since I started the RBD memorial recitals in 2008. *In addition, what wonderful performers and music we have enjoyed! The weather even co-operated for refreshments in the garden. I look forward to 2027! Gillian Davis*

Service of Light – Sunday, November 22nd: 3:00pm St Mary's Rolvenden

The Service of Light is a time for remembering people, family or friends, who have died. During the service their names are read out, and candles are lit. It is a simple but meaning-filled occasion. The names we will already have come with a connection to either Newenden or Rolvenden Parishes.

Full details next month, but if you would like to remember someone you have lost, no matter how long ago, please put the date in your diary, but if you have any questions please call me.

Judy Vinson – 01580 241504.



All Classical Music Explained
17 October



Locomotive for Murder
6 November



The Hanover Band
8 November



125 Years of Jazz Piano
20 November



GIANT – screening
29 November



A Christmas Carol
4 December



Step Into Christmas
12 December



The Nutcracker
19 December



Cinderella – The Ballet
13 February

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Gardenscape





This poem is written with admiration and thanks to the ladies who decorated the church at the August Flower Festival in the village.

WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

Woman created stands up in the Garden, faceless and innocent, flowers at her feet.
Her image arrests us, and all who come after. These are the biblical women we meet:
The daughter of Pharaoh finding a baby down in the reeds, is in cool gold and white,
Lot's wife, looking back from a fire in her city, has dahlias and honesty shaping her
flight. Delilah is poignant in grief at her wickedness, dressed in the colour of shame,
a blood-red,

Crushed by her action of senseless betrayal, Samson made blind, she is hanging
her head. Salome is clever; she dances for Herod; fearful regrets set his future apart,
Ruth tells Naomi she surely will follow wherever she's taken, obeying her heart.
Judith in purple beheads Holofernes, firm in her purpose, avenging and stern,
So every tableau reveals more of woman, each one displaying her mind in her turn.
Here at the well is a lowly Samaritan, near to the water, in cascading blue,
And Sarah, whose faith that a child of her own would be born to her one day,
comes finally true.

Lydia, Elizabeth, Martha and Mary, are each wise and steadfast in floral array,
Praising the powers of the God of creation, painting the colours of each living day.
In flowers of earth they display their own stories, in scarlet and gold, and
purple and white,
Like the garden where Magdalen found her Redeemer, and all of them bathed in
the blessing of light.

Gillian Southgate



FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!

Teabread



The history of teabread is closely connected to the development of fruit cakes and the growing popularity of tea in Britain. Dried fruits have been used in British baking for centuries. Before refrigeration and fresh fruit became available all year round, drying was an important way to preserve fruits for long periods, particularly valuable during the winter months. Spiced fruit cakes gradually became part of British baking traditions particularly for special occasions. These rich cakes could be expensive to make, the teabread is a much simpler version for everyday eating, but excellent in its own right.

Tea became increasingly popular during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. It was initially an expensive luxury but by the nineteenth century, drinking tea had become firmly established across British society. As tea became part of everyday life, so did the tradition of having something sweet to eat with it. To me there is something very comforting about a traditional teabread cut in a thick slice, buttered and enjoyed with a cup of tea.

A teabread doesn't have a clearly defined birthplace nor one single recipe. The word describes many traditional bakes, and the recipes vary enormously from one region to another. They reflect local ingredients, family customs and above all the importance of hospitality. What they do have in common is their simplicity and their comforting, homely character. They are also very practical as well as delicious. They can be made in



advance and they keep for several days, they travel well so they are great for picnics or packed lunches.

One of the best known teabreads is the Welsh bara brith, the name comes from 'bara' meaning bread and 'brith' meaning speckled or mottled—referring to the fruit throughout the loaf. It became an important part of Welsh baking and is still closely associated with Welsh identity and hospitality. It is traditionally served sliced and buttered. The Irish version is very similar and called barm brack.

There are endless variations to make. In the West Country they soak the fruit in a dry or medium cider instead of tea, add some grated apples and mixed spice. A good autumnal one would be orange and apple, or raisins and cranberries.

British teabreads may not have the glamour of the elaborate celebration cakes, but that is precisely what makes them so appealing. They belong to an older style of cooking where ingredients were modest, recipes were adaptable and affordable to make.

Gingerbread is technically not a teabread but closely related. Again, there are many recipes from different regions. Perhaps the most famous is the Grasmere gingerbread from Cumberland. It is dense and spicy and



the texture is somewhere between a cake and biscuit. It was created in the nineteenth century and became associated with the village of Grasmere.

Parkin is another well-known northern treat, traditionally from Yorkshire and Lancashire where it is especially associated with Bonfire Night.

Many families have recipes that have been passed down through the generations, I always find the variations interesting.

Gingerbread can be very dark and sticky, have chopped stem ginger mixed in or a lighter version which has some Greek yoghurt in. There is a very good orange one which is delicious but very sweet and not one to be buttered!

Lavinia



Newenden Wildflower meadow



At last the meadow is green again. The hay was baled in August after leaving it as long as possible for the wildflower seeds to ripen. We have collected some of them to sow in the areas that we strimmed in June for the Summer Event gazebos. As we chose spaces where virtually no wild flowers could be found, they are now ideal for sowing yellow rattle and the seeds we saved including meadow vetchling, wild carrot,

birds-foot-trefoil, field scabious, tufted vetch and musk mallow. This year we had a Red-tailed bumblebee nest in the field and it was a sight to see these beautiful insects mainly on the common knapweed, but on other plants too including in our gardens locally. The number of bumblebees generally has been down this year. Despite seeing Buff-tailed queen bumblebees in early spring, I saw very few Buff-tailed workers during the summer and Common carder bumblebees appeared later than I expected though a few are still around in the garden. There were some Early bumblebees and Garden bumblebees too in the spring, but after they had disappeared, not much was seen and my Bee Walk records are looking rather bare in places. We do hope for cooler weather and more bumblebees next year.

There are a few flowering plants still in the field. There is the lovely water mint which is a late flowerer and some purple loosestrife and in parts of the field the birds-foot-trefoil and tufted vetch growing back, providing much needed food for remaining pollinators.

Along the river bank are two plants that I have never seen before. First is gypsywort which has appeared near the eastern gate. This is a plant of many upright square stems 80cms – 1 metre high with delicate small white flowers in rosettes just above every set of two serrated leaves. It is related to the mint family but is not aromatic. The second plant is yellow loosestrife, though apparently not related to purple loosestrife which we already have in the field, but part of the primrose family. This plant has stems around a metre in height with smooth edged leaves and clusters of bright yellow flowers towards the top of the stem. Both of these plants are attractive to bumblebees and other pollinators so very welcome along the riverbank.

A plant that is not so welcome is the Himalayan balsam which is continuing its march along the River Rother banks. In the Selmes Field we check throughout the summer months and manage to keep it at bay so far, though it is persistent at the far western end where it becomes difficult on the river's edge and among the stinging nettles to get it all before it seeds, but at least we have none in the area of our wildflower meadow. The problem with Himalayan balsam is that it out competes our native flowering plants, thus limiting the habitat for our native insects, and eventually denying us the pleasure of the native flowers along the river. We will be continuing to fight the Himalayan balsam fight next year!

Jillian Eldridge



Rolvenden Parish Council Report

Proposal to remove the artwork from the BT Box in the High Street: The Parish Council is carrying out a survey on the BT Box in the High Street to find out if residents would like to retain the current artwork or for the BT Box to be used for another purpose. The BT Box is a Listed Building so we are not proposing to remove it. We would be very grateful if you could spare a few

minutes completing this survey by copying and pasting the link below. Hard copies can be obtained by contacting the Clerk.

<https://form.jotform.com/262602503102339>

Vacancy on the Parish Council: There is a vacancy on the Parish Council for the Streyte ward. If you are interested in the role and would like to find out more please do contact the Clerk.

Local Government Reorganisation Update: The Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), Angela Rayner, has announced a pause to the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) programme in Kent and Medway while ministers undertake a review of the decisions made in July.

Kent and Medway Councils have been advised that the review will consider all aspects of the proposals currently under consideration. At this stage, MHCLG has not provided any indication of how long the review will take or what impact it may have on the overall programme timetable. As a result, the geographies of any future unitary authorities in Kent and Medway will not be confirmed until the Government's review has concluded.

What Does This Mean for Ashford? The Government's announcement does not affect the Council's day-to-day operations or the services provided to residents, businesses and communities across the borough. The pause in the process provides an opportunity for Ashford Borough Council to undertake further consideration of its proposed interim warding arrangements. Therefore, the warding arrangements have been withdrawn.

Further consideration of the Council's approach will take place once additional information is received from Government regarding the next steps in the Local Government Reorganisation process.

Local Elections. The Government has confirmed that local elections scheduled for May 2027 will proceed using existing council boundaries.

Change of dates of meetings: The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 22 October 2026 at 7.30pm in the village hall and the November meeting will now be held on Thursday 26 November 2026.

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

Louise Goldsmith, Parish Clerk,

email: clerk@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk



Rolvenden History Group

Friday, 2 October 2026

Black Teeth & Dirty Fingernails: The Great Unwashed of Victorian England



While the wealthy privileged few were contemplating which bonnet to wear that day, thousands of ordinary people were living in cramped, vermin-ridden slums and workhouses, where crime, hunger, and vice were the norm.

Using eyewitness accounts and wonderful photographs, David Allen provides a fascinating insight into the lives of the Victorian underclass, in their desperate struggle to survive.

Venue: St Mary's Church, Rolvenden

Coffee and biscuits

7.15 pm for the lecture which starts at 7.30pm

Everyone welcome - Non-members: £4

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



Flower Festival Review



THANK YOU to all who come together and play their part in making a successful Flower Festival for all to enjoy.

We are indeed blessed with many talented flower arrangers who over the years generously give their time, talent and imagination to provide thoughtful individual arrangements which depict their chosen subject. Arranging is both rewarding and sometimes a bit challenging, especially this year when the drought caused foliage and flowers to shrivel in our gardens and we suffered the loss of a major supplier of our flowers. However, the church looked lovely as we welcomed numerous visitors to enjoy their walk around, often to the accompaniment of live music from our various guest musicians.

Rolvenden Primary School usually contribute to the floral displays with a themed art work. This year their 'stained glass' depiction of 'Women of the Bible' was outstanding, and we are grateful that the staff are able to make time for this contribution to the Festival. It always seems fitting to be able to hold our Sunday Service Festival Songs of Praise in the midst of all the arrangements, which augment our praise and worship.

Meanwhile in the Village Hall, there was a change to the overall look as we replaced the stands of exhibited art for sale with art and craft tables behind which the artists and crafters in attendance could greet and chat to their customers.

The Café style prettily laid up tables, with fresh flower decorations, looked welcoming and there was a satisfactory hum of activity around people enjoying the excellent home-made refreshments, perusing the book stall, buying a raffle ticket and browsing the art and craft tables.

St. Mary's PCC is very grateful to everyone who helps... at the planning stage; lead figures who encourage participation; the families and friends who hang bunting, put out signage, distribute leaflets, ask for prizes; those who generously give prizes, cakes and bake; and those who make music, serve at table, steward in church, give books and sort them, keep on track of the finances and ensure everything looks attractive and welcoming for all our visitors. As ever, we are very grateful to The Star Pub for generously supporting the Festival with their special Lunches.

All in all, a lovely Festival.

Thank you, Sylvia



Monypenny Report



Monypenny's best dressed

On 17 August, Toni, our independent living organiser, and Julie, our housekeeper, provided a Barbecue Lunch which was attended by twelve residents. The food was delicious as usual, a full barbecue followed by fruit salad and ice cream, tea and coffee.

On Sunday, 23 August, a group of us went to an Abba Tribute in Fancy Dress (see photo) at the Jean Mealham Centre in Woodchurch. It was a fantastic evening and was enjoyed by us all. We have reason to believe that our group of eight was the best dressed group on the night, but you will have to take our word for that as there was no judging!

Finally, our Sunflower Competition was Judged by Toni and the winners were:

- **First:** resident, Julie Tiltman
- **Second:** our lovely housekeeper, Julie
- **Third:** resident, Sue Jenner, who tenderly nursed the plants through the recent heat.

Well done all!

With Summer coming to an end, Monypenny is preparing its Winter Schedule. Did you know that most of our social activities are open to everyone? Our I.L.O Toni Burke, and residents of Monypenny would love you to join us!



■ Afternoon tea and chat is every Wednesday at 2pm in our spacious lounge. All are welcome. Tea, coffee and a selection of tempting, sumptuous fresh cream cakes and savouries are plentiful. The cost is £3. It is here where we discuss any future social events and forthcoming trips and how they will be financed.

■ Every Thursday afternoon from 3pm you can join us for New Age Kurling, a sport growing in popularity. CARM now hosts Kurling at several venues in the district. Our version is fun and very casual, suitable for all as it is simple to play, and not strenuous to take part.

At 5pm we have an optional fish and chip supper for those who wish to stay, followed by an ice cream and a chat. There is a fully priced fish and chip menu to suit every budget. Food is collected by a resident.

■ Our monthly film night is on the fourth Thursday of the month at 6-30pm. Entry is free, so why not join us for the film and tea or coffee and biscuits and banter afterwards.

Our October film will be Billy Elliot on 29th October at 6-30pm.

Next month we will update you with details of our activities up to Christmas. This includes our very special own Abba Tribute on 17th December from 1pm, featuring the talented Jade! Put the date in your diary, not to be missed!

Graham Tiltman

On behalf of Monypenny residents and staff.

Macmillan Coffee Morning – it's not too late

A successful Macmillan Coffee Morning was held in Monypenny Lounge on 25 September. Full details in the November issue.

We are still accepting donations. So if you were unable to attend, please consider donating to our Macmillan Just Giving Page by Scanning the QR code. *Thank you.*



G	R	N
A	E	N
D	I	K

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.



Letter from Katie Lam MP



In early September, I hosted the second annual Weald of Kent Awards at The George in Bethersden, (who were one of last year's winners)! We were also very lucky to have previous finalist, Bun Buddies, catering the event with their delicious burgers. It was a wonderful evening celebrating some of the brilliant people, businesses and community groups that make the local area so special.

This year, we had nearly two hundred nominations for just twenty finalist places, and almost two thousand of you voted. That's a remarkable amount of effort just to say thank you to somebody else, and I think it says a great deal about the generous and warm community we're so lucky to have here in the Weald.

- Our winner for Farmer, Grower or Producer of the Year was Kingcott Dairy, where Steve and Karen Reynolds make a Kentish Blue that Cambridgeshire's Stilton has nothing on.
- For Independent Shop of the Year the winner was Webbs, here you can walk in, describe the thing you need without the first idea what it is called, and somebody will find it.
- For Local Business of the Year, The Hawkhurst Bread Shed took home the award. Julian and Lauren's sandwiches and salads now seem to be in every café for miles around.
- Our Local Heroes the Wealden Community First Responders won the award. They're all volunteers who step away from their own jobs and give up their evenings to help people at some of the very hardest moments in their lives.
- And for Pub, Café or Restaurant of the Year, the winner was The Bell and Jorrocks at Frittenden, where Sean and Rosie Croucher have been behind the bar for twenty years, and where it feels as though almost everything in the village is organised.

All of these people represent the very best of the Weald: people who work hard, look out for others and make our communities better every day.

Katie Lam



Advance Notice - Remembrance Day Services 2026

A reminder that services on Remembrance Sunday
come at a different time from normal;

St Peter's Newenden, the service will start at 10:50am

St Mary's Rolvenden, the service will start at 10:45am with the Royal
British Legion walking from the Bull to church. Anyone is welcome
to join the walk. Please be at the Bull by 10:20am.

There will be a rehearsal in St Mary's for wreath layers on Friday 6th at 6pm



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**NOEL COWARD, FLANDERS AND SWANN,
RICHARD STILGOE, PETER SKELLERN**

**SATURDAY
3 OCTOBER
7PM**

**ST MILDRED'S
CHURCH
TENTERDEN**

**TICKETS £15
PAY ON THE DOOR
BAR AVAILABLE**



Stoolball Summer 2026

And what a summer it has been!

When we took over the running of the junior stoolball sessions for the last two summers, our main goal was simple: to get the children outside, playing together, making friends and, most importantly, having fun. Looking back now, we couldn't be happier with how the summer has gone.

Each week, we welcomed around twenty children to our sessions, and it has been fantastic to watch them grow in confidence from the first week to the last. For some, picking up a bat or bowling a ball was completely new, while others already had experience of the game. Whatever their ability, everyone was encouraged to have a go, learn something new, support one another.

It has been particularly rewarding to see how much the children's batting and bowling improved over the course of the summer. With a little help, plenty of encouragement and lots of practice, we saw some real progress. Balls that might have been missed at the beginning were being hit confidently by the end, and bowlers began to find their rhythm and accuracy. But while improving their skills was important, it was never more important than enjoying themselves.

There were, of course, a few bumps and bruises along the way! A summer of running around, batting, bowling and chasing the ball was always likely to produce the odd injury. Thankfully, even after a few tears and a quick bit of first aid, there was always a smile at the end. That resilience and willingness to get back involved was brilliant to see.

Perhaps one of the nicest parts of the summer has been watching friendships develop. Children who may not have known each other at the start were soon chatting, laughing, encouraging each other and working together as a team. Stoolball has given them a chance to spend time together away from screens, enjoy the outdoors and be part of something where everyone has a role to play.

We have also been incredibly proud of the sportsmanship shown throughout the summer. Cheering each other on, congratulating good shots, helping someone who was struggling and remembering that it's about enjoying the game rather than simply winning. Those are the moments that matter, and they are exactly what we hoped the sessions would encourage.

Taking over from the absolute legend that is Ken Linklater, who had been running stoolball for more than twenty years, was never going to be an easy act



End of season, two happy mums with tributes from grateful parents



to follow. Ken has given so much of his time, energy and enthusiasm to the game and to generations of local children, and we feel very privileged to have taken on the baton.

We hope we have continued that spirit this summer - keeping stoolball fun, welcoming and accessible for everyone.

For both of us, it has been an absolute pleasure. Seeing the children arrive each week with smiles on their faces, watching their confidence grow and seeing friendships form has made all the time and effort more than worthwhile.

So, to every child who came along, had a go, encouraged a teammate, picked themselves up after a knock, celebrated a good hit or simply enjoyed running around with their friends - thank you.

And to all the parents and families for your support, encouragement and for bringing the children along each week, thank you too.

Cheers to a brilliant summer of stoolball, lots of happy memories, new friendships and plenty more balls flying through the air. Stoolball Summer 2026 - mission accomplished: children playing together, having fun and making memories.

We can't wait to see what next summer brings!

Love Charlotte & Rosi

The People's Emergency Briefing

When I was ten years old, I drew a poster about 'The Greenhouse Effect' for a primary school project. That was 1989.

Roll back one year, to Sept 1988 and you might have heard Margaret Thatcher's speech to the Royal Society in which she expertly described the threats of man-made climate change. I am not normally one to sing the praises of the Iron Lady, but that speech shows two things: firstly, politicians used to make deeply researched, incredibly impressive speeches and secondly Climate Change has been on our political radar for at least thirty-five years.

A few years ago, it felt like the science had finally been accepted. No-one was seriously doubting Climate Change, even if they weren't falling over themselves to find solutions. Recently, however, the voices of the doubters have been given credence, and solutions can seem further away than ever. A film has been made that highlights the science and psychology of the problem and attempts to find some solutions and bring some hope.

Screenings of the National Emergency Briefing are made for everyone and are intended to prompt discussion and foster community. You are invited to join a broad spectrum of the community for a screening in Rolvenden in January 2027 – date TBC.

Guy Pullen, Councillor Rolvenden and Tenterden West



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SAT 24 OCT 2026
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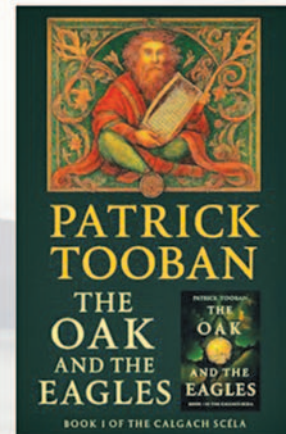
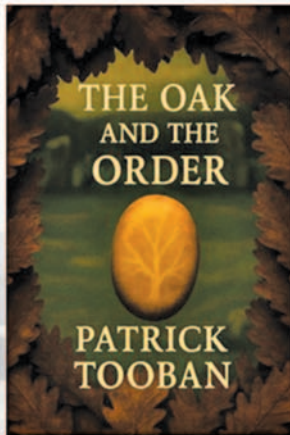
Tenterden Literary Society

Monday, 12 October 2026

The Oak and the Eagles

Longlisted for the CAP Award 2026

(The Carousel Aware Prize for Independently Published Authors)



Patrick Tooban is an acclaimed author of historical fiction whose work is rooted in the Atlantic fringe - the landscapes, communities and pressures that shaped life on the edge of empire. He will be talking about his latest novel, introducing us to the characters and their place in this, the first volume of his Calgach Scéla cycle of Iron Age stories set across Ireland, Britain and the Roman Empire.

Patrick was raised in Derry and now moves between England and Portugal. His writing draws on lived experience of place, history and movement and focuses on character and consequence and the long reach of power across land and sea.

Venue: Highbury Hall, Tenterden

6.50pm for the lecture which starts at 7pm

Members have free entry, visitors £4 each

tenterdenliterarysociety.wordpress.com



Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch

October 2026



Summary & recent incidents

Watch for crime: anti-social behaviour including catapulting, vandalism, riding of e-scooters on roads/pavements, break-in attempts, theft from properties, shops and cars, buying of vapes underage. Non-local vehicles parked, ball-bearings from catapults and catapults being carried and used. Take photos/videos and report evidence to the police.

Our focus this month is on Coercive control:



Coercive control is "an intentional pattern of behaviour which takes place over time, in order for one individual to exert power, control or coercion over another" (Home Office, 2023).

Domestic abuse is not always physical. Coercive control can create an invisible prison of fear, isolation and dependency affecting every aspect of a person's life. It restricts freedom, undermines confidence and can make it extremely difficult to leave.

Families affected by domestic abuse often live with it for a long time before getting help. On average, people assessed as high-risk experience it for two and a half years before receiving support. It is vital to understand why leaving or speaking out can be so difficult, to support vulnerable people more effectively. Learn more about coercive control by listening to a special podcast (under 45 minutes) with Ruth Dodson OBE. (Her Coercive control podcast is at: <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/supporting-communities/neighbourhood-watch-podcast/episodes/episode-3-coercive-control-ruth> If you have hearing loss, you can get a transcript of the podcast by scrolling down.)

To many people, *Ruth Dodsworth* appeared to have it all: a successful television career, a loving family and a long-term relationship. But behind the scenes, she was living a "double life". It took years for Ruth to recognise the abuse she was experiencing and to find a way out. In 2019, her former husband was jailed for coercive and controlling behaviour and stalking. Since then, Ruth has become a powerful advocate for victims and survivors of domestic abuse, receiving an OBE in 2025 for her services to the cause.

Need help or support?

Don't wait until a situation becomes an emergency to seek help. If you're experiencing domestic abuse, tell someone you trust, such as your GP, a friend, family member or support organisation. **If you are in immediate danger, call 999.** You can find information about domestic abuse and available support services on domestic abuse how to get help <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-abuse-how-to-get-help>



Other sources of support

- **Women:** The National Domestic Abuse Helpline (run by Refuge) is available 24 hours a day on **0808 2000 247**.
- **Women:** Email: helpline@womensaid.org.uk for confidential support.
- **Men:** Contact the Men's Advice Line on **0808 8010 327** or access its online webchat service.
- **Men:** Call ManKind on **01823 334244**.
- **LGBT+ people:** Contact Galop on **0800 999 5428** or email help@galop.org.uk.
- **Forced marriage or so-called honour-based abuse:** Contact Karma Nirvana on **0800 5999 247** or the Forced Marriage Unit on **020 7008 0151**.

The Survivor's Handbook from the charity Women's Aid:

<https://womensaid.org.uk/information-support/the-survivors-handbook/> is free and provides information for women on housing, money, helping your children and your legal rights.

Worried someone will know you saw the Women's Aid website?:

<https://womensaid.org.uk/information-support/what-is-domestic-abuse/cover-your-tracks-online/> tells you how to cover your tracks online.

Some pharmacies and banks provide safe spaces in their consultation rooms for people experiencing domestic abuse. Find out about Safe Space locations near you: <https://uksaysnomore.org/safespaces/>

If you're worried you are behaving abusively in your relationship, call the free Respect phonenumber on 0808 8014040 or go to <https://respectphonenumber.org.uk/>

Reporting crime to the police

Serious crimes in progress dial 999, other incidents via 101 (phone) or online using Live chat: (paste into your browser)

<https://www.kent.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/>

Hearing or speech impairments.

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

Siân Reeves Rolvenden, Neighbourhood Watch

A Brief Update on the Cornex Garage Site

Planning permission was obtained this spring for seven dwellings, with the current buildings being demolished.

The site is currently under offer to a reputable local builder who intends to work according to the agreed planning permission. Whilst complex legal and funding matters are addressed, the purchaser has applied to Ashford BC for approval to clear the site. Hopefully, approval will be granted very soon. Then, it is anticipated, exchange and completion will take place. The demolition and construction will start very soon thereafter.

However, given the delicate state of the economy and the property market, nothing is certain yet. *Edward Barham, Hole Park Estate*



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 NOVEMBER 2026 ISSUE IS
5:00PM TUESDAY 13TH OCTOBER.**

Note for distributors: ★ Rolvenden Magazines available for collection on Saturday 24th October. ★ Newenden Magazines available for collection on Sunday 25th October.

The online version will be available from 1st November 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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The Mildred Trust

<https://www.themildredtrust.org> › about

Rural Restock: Tenterden Leisure Centre (upstairs)

**Monthly Tuesday evenings:
5.15 - 6.15pm**

13th October & 10th November

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

**Please bring cash & a couple of shopping bags
We look forward to meeting you there!**

The Larder: The Family Hub, Tenterden

**Fortnightly Friday mornings:
9 - 10am**

**16th & 30th October & 13th & 27th November
Tenterden Leisure Centre (upstairs)**

**Fortnightly Tuesday evenings:
5.15 - 6.15pm**

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

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

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

Community Fridge and Freezer

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

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

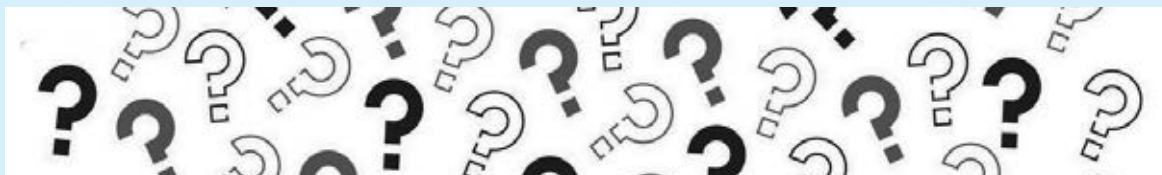
Non-meat and fish items, and foods
that are all unopened and in date may be donated,
as well as fruit and vegetables.

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

Answers in the Readers' Survey concerning the Inset/blue pages told us we had to do something about the information we were including about some organisations.

The detail may not be of interest to many, but for some people, these are important sources of help and opportunities to socialise for others.

As a compromise we are trying a basic contacts list, focusing on phone numbers where we can. We know how frustrating the online links are to those without internet access.



COMMUNITY CONTACTS

CARM (Caring Altogether on Romney Marsh)

Tel: 01233 758122

CARM Rolvenden Meeting Point Graham Taylor 01580 242834

EC30 – Community Coffee Shop and Health and Wellbeing Centre

Tel: 01580 765877

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

Memory Café

Jan Bridger Tel: 01580 762932 Mob: 07445971791

Musical Memories

Jan as above

Memory Monthly Lunch Club

Jan as above

Monypenny Toni (Independent Living Officer)

Tel: 01580 241526

Tenterden Men's Shed Jack Dale

Email: TenterdenMensShed@gmail.com

Tenterden Parkinson's Café Christine Endersby

Tel: 01580 764046

Tenterden Social Hub and Dementia Centre

Tel: 01580 762882

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

More than books to borrow



Library activities

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

Other Services

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

Telephone: 03000 41 31 31

E-mail: tenterdenlibrary@kent.gov.uk

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

Refuse Collection

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

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

You can also download a calendar.

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

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

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

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

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

Telephone ABC on Tel 01233 330646

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

Our MP is Katie Lam

Email: katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk

Office tel: 01580 388 344

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

NEWENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

www.newenden-pc.gov.uk/

Parish Clerk: Mrs Lauren Dobson.

C/o Carpens, Hobbs lane,

Beckley. East Sussex, TN31 6TT

Telephone: 01797 260364

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

Parish Council meeting,

November 17th at 7:00pm in St Peter's

ROLVENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

www.rolvendenparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Clerk: Mrs Louise Goldsmith,

5 Artisan Road, Headcorn, TN27 9AZ

Telephone: 07900 693572

email:

clerk@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Council meeting

October 22nd at 7.30pm

in the Village Hall

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

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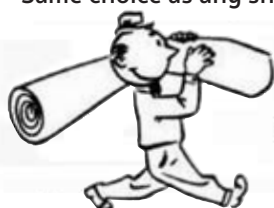
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