

Rolvenden & Newenden *Parish Magazine*

2026
AUGUST
ONLINE





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Minister's Letter for August

Writing this letter is preceded by a time of increased activity of a mental antenna picking up snatches of material that just might suggest a topic, a theme. I was tackling the ironing pile with Radio 4 for company when my antennae started to twitch with the latest Desert Island Discs castaway, Paul Farmer. His career has been in the charity sector with a strong emphasis on making a difference. He worked for sixteen years with Mind, campaigning on mental health issues to which he has now added Age UK, where his concerns are for later life and the challenges faced by older people.



It was his use of the term 'belief makers' that got the first twitch followed soon after by 'changing the conversation'. Ironing finished and thanks to the pause and replay functions on BBC Sounds, I was able to unpack what lay behind those labels.

Paul calls Charity sector staff 'belief makers' when they demonstrate they can make things better, change people's lives and give people hope and optimism about their futures. And changing the conversation is something that has to happen across society, and importantly in individual minds, including the older ones. The conversation becomes about doing things differently, about changing the way we talk and think about aging and later the way we experience it.

Here are some changes in the conversation about aging: keep talking about the contribution older people make in society and drop the idea that retirement is the time for people to sit mute in the corner; keep the idea of exploring and celebrating the making of connections and drop the idea that loneliness and isolation is inevitable.

I picked up on the hint that changing conversations was an aspiration for everyone, including the elderly. We all need to plan our future, work through the practicalities of how we get to what we want that future to be, not just the practicalities of finance and the size of the house, but paying attention to our physical and mental well-being, taking time to hone old skills and acquire new ones, making connections in different and unlikely places.

It strikes me that all of this thinking is relevant to village life with its structures and institutions, including a church at its heart. The belief makers are the ones who roll up their sleeves and tackle the task of building communities, those spaces where individuals can find their own strengths and connections can be made.

If you are still reading this letter, thank you for persevering. May I suggest you listen to that edition of Desert Island Discs – released on 12 th July 2026.





It might raise some questions for you, such as: what sort of community do I want to live in, what can I contribute, where can I make a connection? If you want somewhere quiet and cool to sit and mull over the questions, the church is open. And one final suggestion, if you want to have a go at making connections, come join us for worship on Sunday. That is where we come together to share our connection with one another and God, and to know our belief making to be firmly rooted in his love.

May we all have an interesting and blessed August

Judy



St Peter and St Mary Flower Rotas August 2026

Sunday	St Mary	St Peter
Aug 02	tba	Janet Broadbent Kempton
Aug 09	tba	Caroline Anderson Jones
Aug 16	Wedding: Hazel, Sue, Sylvia	Caroline Anderson Jones
Aug 23	Sylvia K	Rhoda Smith
Aug 30	Flower Festival Arrangers	Rhoda Smith
Contact:	Sylvia Kellett 01580 240463 Sylviakellett@eplusmail.com	Rosie Edmonds 01797 252196 rosie.edmonds@hotmail.com

Brass Cleaning at St Mary: Sylvia Kellett

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

If you need access outside of these times, please contact Frances Jones or Rosie Edmonds. Should arrangers be unable to do any slots please swap with someone else and let Rosie know.

Reminder for the Rolvenden Arrangers

Flower Arrangers: Meeting in church on Sat. Aug. 1st 10 am re any queries about the Flower Festival arrangements....and a request, please see if there is any suitable oasis in the porch to use, otherwise take blocks for soaking in advance. Please arrange for Flowers to be watered over the festival or alert me to cover.

Thank you, Sylvia

❖ From the Registers ❖

Baptism

28th June - Lyra Branden at St Mary's





The Church of England

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

Sunday 2nd August Lamma

8:00am St Mary's Rolvenden
Holy Communion

9:30am St Peter's Newenden
Eucharist

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden
Lammas Eucharist

Sunday 9th August Tenth Sunday after Trinity

9:30am St Peter's Newenden
Eucharist

8:00am St Mary's Rolvenden
Eucharist

Sunday 16th August Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9:30am St Peter's Newenden
Eucharist

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden
Patronal Eucharist

Sunday 23rd August Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

9:30am St Peter's Newenden
Morning Praise

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden
Eucharist

Saturday 29th August – Rolvenden Flower Festival

9:30am St Mary's Rolvenden, Service of Dedication for the Flower Festival

Sunday 30th August Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

9:30am St Peter's Newenden
Morning Praise

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden
Flower Festival Songs of Praise

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 Flower Festival Bank Holiday Weekend

As ever we look forward to welcoming visitors to the Flower Festival & Village Hall Stalls and Refreshments. Please consider helping by signing up for a session as detailed on the sheets in church, or by contributing as listed below.

We value your help in making this a successful community event.

Contact Sue Dyer 01580 240925

to help with all aspects of providing refreshments: Helpers are needed Saturday, Sunday & Monday. We are hoping that the cake makers of the village will support us again, this year, by making delicious cakes to sell over the flower Festival Weekend.

Any cake is good to sell from buns to gateaux. All will raise money for St Mary's Church, which is greatly appreciated.

Contact Sylvia Kellett 01580 240463

if you would like to welcome visitors in church over the weekend, or could distribute posters and leaflets on your travels beforehand.

Please bring saleable hardback and softback books to church during July and first week of August so they may be sorted by the team in preparation for the Bookstall. Thank you.

Sylvia and the Festival Team

Rolvenden Pre School Report



By the time you read this, we shall all be on holiday. In the last week of term we had to stay as cool as we could in the heatwave. One of the places the children found really helpful was their sandpit. This was one of the highlights of our week, those sandy toes enjoying life in the sand pit and a mega construction by a group of children working together.

*We shall be back in September
Meanwhile we wish you a very
Happy Holiday time.*

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ROLVENDEN

BOOT SALE

SAFARI



Monday 31 August
9am-12pm

Bring the boot sale to your home!

Contact Rose or Ellen from 5 Sparkeswood Avenue, on
ellenparton@hotmail.com/ 0771 934 5942 to add your house to the
village map of stalls.

Pre-booking required, £10 before July 31st or £12 after.

All proceeds from sale of pitches will go towards Rose's volunteering trip
to Africa in 2027, assisting in the development of a school in Ghana



Rolvenden and District Gardening Society

Outing to Borde Hill Gardens, 23rd June 2026

Well, we were warned by the weathermen that it would be a very hot day as we prepared for our visit to Borde Hill Gardens near Haywards Heath and so the forty members who boarded the Scotland and Bates coach had dressed accordingly, including an array of sun hats. However, we had not allowed for the heavy rain and thunderstorms of the previous night, with the rain continuing throughout our journey. Would we need the umbrellas for rain now instead of shade? It was a little cloudy as we arrived and prepared to start our visit and it was not long before we had some beautiful sunshine, a little warm but not unbearable. After an introductory talk, we were able to explore the gardens. We had chosen that date because their Rose Festival was on during June. Sadly, some of the roses were now a little jaded because of the weather but the beautiful lavender in the rose garden helped to lift the colour as it formed the edging of the paths. There were thirteen garden areas to explore and a very nice café for refreshments. Some of us opted for a prebooked sandwich platter or afternoon tea served in their marquee by a very helpful young man called James. Soon it was time for a last look around and a visit to the shop before boarding the air-conditioned coach for the homeward journey, which was pleasantly cool. We all agreed that it had been an enjoyable visit with lots to delight us. Thanks to Graham for his organisational skills, although, perhaps, further outings would be better not planned for June or July when heatwaves threaten



Maralyn Button



Newenden Meadow Summer Event 2026



Our Summer Event in the meadow was just great! Morgan and Peter shared the special nature of bumblebees and their importance to our pollinated plants. They showed keen visitors how to catch and identify bumblebees.

Jane and I moth trapped moths in my garden and brought them safely to the meadow where visitors were thrilled to see the variety flying around our gardens at night! Jane was brilliant at sharing her huge knowledge and enthusiasm for moths, and I learnt a lot. More about this in a later post.

The cake stall and raffle went down with great enthusiasm from visitors. Thanks to Bournes Amenity, Lime Wharf Cafe, The George Hotel in Rye, and Great Dixter, and the many other people for the lovely raffle prizes. With great thanks to Hazel Mahoney-Masters on raffle, Caroline Anderson, Mike Jones and Marianne Angeloni-van Niekerken on the cakes. The plants went well too, many of them from Jacky Lamb and Caroline Anderson.

My slight disappointment was that only one small child was present to draw a colourful butterfly for a prize and of course she received a lovely book for her efforts. It would be so good if we could encourage more families to come along with their children .

Well done EVERYONE it was a fabulous day! Thanks to Jacky Lamb, Marianne Angeloni-van Niekerken and Mike Jones for all the help in bringing this event together! Look out for Talks too, during the year ahead.

Jillian Eldridge





Rolvenden Gardening Society Coffee Morning

On Saturday, 11th July we received a lovely welcome from Antony and Suzi Hinge for our coffee morning in their beautiful garden which is tucked away behind the house in the High Street. Approx forty members and friends attended including several new faces. New members are always welcome.

It was very warm in the continuing heat wave and everyone enjoyed coffee, tea and cake followed by a slow wander round the large garden. It is generously planted with many different herbaceous plants shrubs and trees.

The raffle was manned as usual by Jean and Ian Clifton and made a total of £155. After a relaxing morning, we departed around 12.00 noon.

A big thank you to Antony and Suzi for sharing their delightful garden with us. NB..... members next newsletter will contain details of our Autumn Show and also a talk which will be in October.

Jan Gambier





Weather and Nature Notes

Long standing temperature records were broken in June. The effect of the humidity levels exacerbated the heat so 35 degrees felt more like 40 degrees for example. Also 76mm of rain fell over the month which is the wettest June I have recorded since 2021, however, only three days managed useful rain of double figures, the majority of showers were only what I call dust dampeners. The plants at Maytham are prepared for periods of dry weather, the borders are not watered so their roots have dug down deep which normally gets the majority of plants through times like this.

After a week of high humidity and heat, a storm lit up the night sky and rumbled through. A low-pressure system brought more bearable weather but took the needed rain north and once more the heat returned. A repeating pattern of heatwave and relief sees us at the time of writing in the third heatwave of summer. July is yet to produce any rain so the ground is again parched, some leaves on trees are being shed to lessen their burden with the strong winds whisking them away. The dry weather and heat at least suited those making hay, the long grass and seed heads that swayed in breezes and looked picturesque in low evening sunlight are cut and baled. Now the sound of a combine rumbles in the distance harvesting crops, I wonder if the dry weather has had an impact on yields?



As the swifts will be off by the end July or early August, it would be nice to know how many came to Rolvenden church this year. I have made frequent attempts to count how many I see zooming around, but it can be like watching a high speed uncoordinated red arrows display. I may see six, then from nowhere three or so may whizz past from one direction, muddle in and split, then others speed past and I lose track, have I counted them already? Helpfully on one occasion ten flew past screaming in a countable formation, although Sylvia tells me she has seen twelve or so, and that when the swift nest monitoring man came there were two nests, let's hope they were successful in raising young.

The photo shows a southern hawker dragonfly, a large species that has emerged from its larval case that is still attached to the stem. Its wings are fully expanded and it is nearly ready for its maiden flight. A day later I watched one expertly quarter over a flowery area of lawn trying to flush out insects, swooping to catch them mid-air. It may have been the one in the photo or one of another four that have left evidence of their previous underwater stage on stems. The little pond they have lived in is tiny, only about 2ft x 3ft, yet it is home to many invertebrates and also newts.

The hot weather is fading flowers fast in gardens and meadows alike, which is bad news for insects relying on the buffet of blooms. Butterflies have found my buddleias, but some already need dead heading. Amongst other visiting beauties I saw a lovely fresh looking small tortoiseshell, once one of the commonest species and now hardly seen. I have noticed even the butterflies and bees seem to have a bit of a siesta during the hottest part of the day. Bumblebees have a furry coat to enable them to forage in lower temperatures, but in hot weather they can overheat and prolonged heatwaves are a serious problem for them. Temperatures over 28 degrees sees them seek shadier areas, and over 32 degrees they will stop foraging until it cools down, - I think we can all relate to that.

Hazel Beaney





The Great Annual Newenden Duck Race

It's seriously silly and great fun!



This is the long-established fundraising event by the Friends of Saint Peter's Church, the charity that plays a major part in raising funds for the fabric of the St Peter's church so keeping it in exceptionally good condition. And that is no mean feat when you are talking about an ancient building with mediaeval roots and an impressive cat-slide roof.

The Newenden Duck Race can have up to six hundred contestants, those plucky little yellow plastic ducks, each bearing its unique number that you are invited to sponsor. Between now and the race our duck sellers will be out and about with a set of duck numbers available for sponsorship at £2 per duck.

On Sunday, 23rd August at 3 pm all the ducks that have been sponsored will be

tipped into the Rother and will drift, I use the word advisedly, towards the rope winning line. This is normally downstream of the tipping point, but I seem to recall a day when a strong prevailing wind was in the opposite direction and the winning line had to be moved upstream of the flock. Or maybe that was a particularly vivid organiser's nightmare.

'So, what's in it for me?' I hear you say.

Top answer is £100 prize money if your duck is first under the rope. The other answer is that everyone can feel a glow of satisfaction at having contributed to the upkeep of such a prominent village feature. And that can apply, even if you only appreciate the sight of church as you drive through, maybe taking note of the time. There are two residents who take great pride in making sure the clock is accurate.

And if you come to the race, you will experience the collective joy of a real live "slow" event which has a uniquely Newenden charm of its own!

If having read this, you cannot wait to part with your contributions, here are the people you need to look out for:

- Alan Seal - alanseal@gmail.com - 07970 134611
- Christine and Derek Wright - 07751 459685
- Frances Jones - 07799 265119
- Judy Vinson - 01580 241504, judyannvinson@gmail.com

Whether you prefer the stop-me-and-buy-one approach or would like to get in touch, we will be very pleased to hear from you.

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A Christmas Carol
4 December

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Gardenscape





A vibrant, hand-drawn style poster for a summer charity event. The background is a bright blue sky with fluffy white clouds and a warm orange glow at the bottom. At the top, a string of colorful triangular bunting flags (yellow, red, green, blue) hangs across the frame. A large, smiling sun is on the left. The main title 'Summer Charity Event' is in a large, red, rounded font, with 'at The Fat Ox' in a white, blocky font on a brown wooden plank. Below this, 'Funds Raised For' is in a smaller blue font, followed by 'The BigWrap' in a large, red, bubbly font with yellow stars. The event features are listed with icons: a guitar for 'Live Music!', a pot of food for 'BBQ & Food!', balloons for 'Family Fun!', and a ticket for 'Tombola!'. 'Glitter Tattoos!' is also listed with stars. The date 'Saturday 22nd August' is on a red banner, with 'From 2PM Onwards!' below it. At the bottom, 'Music From Mullacaboo & Rock Phoenix' is written in a bold, yellow font, flanked by stars. The bottom of the poster shows silhouettes of a crowd cheering with their arms raised, and green grass at the very bottom.

Summer Charity Event
at The Fat Ox
— Funds Raised For —
The BigWrap
Live Music!
BBQ & Food!
Family Fun!
Tombola!
Glitter Tattoos!
Saturday 22nd August
From 2PM Onwards!
Music From
Mullacaboo & Rock Phoenix



FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!

Crabapples



I have a John Downie crab apple tree in my garden, primarily for the beautiful blossom in spring. Although closely related to eating apples, crab apples are generally smaller than dessert apples and are not really good to eat raw as they are tart and bitter.

Crab apples are among the oldest members of the apple family, and have played an important part in human history, traditional cookery, wildlife conservation and horticulture for thousands of years. Wild species have grown naturally across Europe, Asia and North America for millions of years. The European crab apple, *Malus sylvestris*, is the only apple species native to Britain and much of Europe; the Siberian crab apple is native to Asia, and the prairie to North America.

Long before cultivated apples became readily available, wild crab apples were gathered as a valuable seasonal food. There is archaeological evidence that shows crab apples were eaten during the Neolithic period, over five thousand years ago. Although the fruit was often too sour to eat raw, they were cooked and preserved, making them an important source of nutrition during the autumn and winter months.

Modern cultivated apples originated primarily from the Central Asian wild apple (*Malus sieversii*) but European crab apples contributed through natural cross-breeding over centuries. Their genetic diversity has helped produce many of today's apple varieties by contributing disease resistance, hardiness and adaptability.



During the Middle Ages, crab apple trees were commonly found in hedgerows, woodlands and monastery gardens. Their fruit was valued for making preserves, cider and medicinal preparations, the blossom was welcomed as a sign of spring.

Today, ornamental crab apple trees are planted worldwide for their beautiful blossom, colourful fruits and attractive autumn foliage. Many varieties have been bred specifically for gardens, producing white, pink or deep crimson blossoms followed by brilliant yellow, orange or red fruits.

Crab apples are naturally high in pectin which makes them ideal in preserving. One of their best known uses is crab apple jelly, which comes out a beautiful clear ruby-red which is traditionally served with roast meats, game and cheeses. Of course it is equally delicious on toast! They are also used to make fruit butters, chutneys, sauces, syrups, cordials, wines, cider and vinegar. Because of their high acidity they are often cooked with sweeter fruits such as pears, plums or dessert apples in pies and crumbles.

In spite of their size they are surprisingly nutritious, like cultivated apples they are low in calories and provide valuable vitamins and plant compounds. They are a good source of vitamin C and also contain



modest amounts of potassium, calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, vitamins E, K and A (in some varieties).

The brightly coloured skins contain numerous antioxidant compounds that help neutralise harmful free radicals. They contain both soluble and insoluble fibre helping support the digestive system.

Crab apple trees are among the most valuable native trees for wildlife, especially in Britain. Their spring blossom provides nectar and pollen for bees, hoverflies and many other pollinating insects. Many butterfly and moth species use the leaves as food for their caterpillars. The fruits often remain on the branches into winter, providing a good food source for birds.

Crab apples are also widely planted in commercial orchards as their abundant blossom acts as an excellent pollinator for nearby apple trees. The name 'crab apple' probably derives from an old word meaning rough or bitter, referring to the fruit's sharp taste.

Lavinia



Journeys

Part 1 on the joys of journeying on Canals

Leisure Canal Boating from 1960s to 2020s



My first trips were in the late 1950s early 1960s when leisure boating was in its infancy. There were no luxuries such as heating or running water. The facilities were a 'bucket and chuck it' system. Washing was basic and usually with cold water. We did have a shower - but it was from a reservoir (cold water) - fine in an African desert, not so fine in the Midlands in late spring. Cooking was on a basic gas ring. The canals were not looked after well - many were closed - working boats still plied the canals and leisure boaters were warned to stay out of their way - no quarter was given and it was up to you to move.

Moving on into the 80s, leisure boating had moved forward and working boats had almost disappeared supplanted by trains, our hire boat now had central heating, running water and gas cooking. The facilities were by then much more acceptable although somewhat smelly by the end of the week. Sometimes even there was occasionally a watchable snowy picture on the black and white TV.

Into the 90s and boats were semi-luxurious. Seating was now much more comfortable sofas/arm chairs and better beds. Systems generally were more reliable. Macerating toilets flushed with clean water with large tanks were more widespread so facilities were now almost like home. TV signals were better and snowy screens were almost a thing of the past. Shared ownership became common where you paid a fee and shared the boat with other interested parties having two, four, or even eight weeks holiday allocated to you often in two week parcels depending on how many shares you took on.

By the noughties, narrowboats were definitely a home from home. There was a boom in private narrowboat owners and the boat building industry had its



heyday. There were many builders to choose from and bespoke builds were common. It was now that preferences changed from the traditional layout to reverse layout. Traditional boats had sleeping quarters in the stern and living quarters (if any) in the bow. Reverse layout has sleeping quarters in the bow and kitchen in the stern with living area centrally. This was more convenient for continuous cruisers particularly if you were a single hander.

Then after 2008, in the 2010s, suddenly there were fewer people able to afford to buy their own boat. Many boat builders went into administration. The smaller builders relied on the deposit from future orders to complete the previous boat and as orders dropped off or were cancelled, their businesses were unable to take the hit. Instead, the hire boat industry took off keeping some of the builders afloat by expanding their fleets. Smaller hire companies were taken over by one or two large ones. At this time digital TV and WiFi made their mark on boating. Digital TV enabled a much better reception and hire companies started giving customers Wi-Fi on their holiday boats.

In the 2020s, solar panels and electric boats are beginning to make their mark. Although many diesel-powered boats now have added solar to lessen their reliance on fossil fuels, fully electric boats are few and far between and are currently very expensive. Technology for fully electric boats is still developing. Now Starlink and 4/5G receivers have revolutionised boating with living and working on board now being feasible for many. There has recently been a boom in swapping houses for narrowboats after social media and TV programmes have advertised the benefits of life on the cut.

Sally Sawyer

Editor's Appeal – call for articles on Journeys and Walks

The Journeys features has been going for a while now. Articles have been about holidays involving travel but they don't have to be. It could be a tale of a significant commute, or a memory of your first solo journey to school, or....

Following requests from the recent Reader survey, we have the first Walking feature, see page 28. Is there a favourite footpath you could share, one within our parish boundaries or a long distance one you have tackled.

Contributions eagerly awaited. If you want to have a chat first, please get in touch.

U	T	N
M	O	M
I	C	Y

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.



Rolvenden History Group

Friday, 7 August 2026

Casualty Care During the Great War



Join Graeme MacPherson, a serving army officer and an accredited battlefield guide, as he explores the system developed to care for the casualties of the First World War. This talk will explore how casualty care developed during the War and how many of the lessons learned during that conflict over one hundred and ten years ago remain valid and important in healthcare today.

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/>



ST MARY'S ROLVENDEN

Flower Festival

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Sat 29th, (10am - 5pm)

Sun 30th, (10am - 5pm)

Mon 31st, (10am - 4pm)

Theme

'Women of the Bible'

Daily Organ & Instrumental Performances in Church

SONGS OF PRAISE

Sun 30th 11.00am

(please come and join us for this service)

In the Village Hall

Morning Coffee - Afternoon Tea

Arts & Crafts - Bookstall - Raffle

Festival Lunches available at The Star Inn

In aid of Church Funds: Enquiries 01580 240463



Monypenny Update

Hello and Welcome to Summer!



Trips undertaken

On 3 July, one hundred residents from all Independent Living Schemes within ABC shared a wonderful day at Luckley House Wye when ABC staff hosted a barbecue for everyone. Residents from Monypenny, minibus transport kindly provided by WEALDEN WHEELS LTD, Pluckley, arrived at the venue and were seated comfortably in the spacious garden for the live entertainment which was very enjoyable. A sumptuous barbecue was enjoyed by all. Then, an ice-cream van arrived and provided us with a free dessert which was a surprise. Thanks go to Toni, our Independent Living Officer, and Housekeeper, Julie, for their help.

On 6 July, we had a day trip to Eastbourne, partly funded from Monypenny Social Fund and ten of us enjoyed a very warm day exploring the pier, shops and sea front. It was lovely to have with us five extra seats filled by Rolvenden residents who are always welcome to join us.

Forthcoming events

A recent event Introduced residents to the wonderful singer "Jade" who sings a mixed variety of songs from all eras. We have booked her to visit again in December 2026, this time for an ABBA Tribute. It will be open to the whole village, fancy dress is optional and food will be provided. It promises to be a great evening. Put the date in your diaries once we supply details next month.

Our Monypenny Annual Macmillan Coffee Morning is on Friday, 25 September from 10am to 1pm. Please come and support this annual fund raiser for cancer research. Last year you made a difference and we raised over £750! Let's try to beat this. Full details will be in next month's magazine.



Some Residents are having a Boot Fair Stall in the grounds of Monypenny by joining 'The Boot Fair Safari' on 31st August, so come and have a look if you are passing by.

We are also having a minibus trip to a Christmas Market in November or December. Date to be announced. Not forgetting another Quiz Evening Soon.

Regular Events

- A monthly Monday dinner
- Once monthly our Thursday Big Breakfast, other Thursdays we have Bacon/Sausage baps
- A Monthly Thursday Film Night free and open to all, from September it will be every Thursday.
- Thursday's New Age Kurling followed by fish 'n' chips. Starts at 3pm, Visitors are very welcome to join in or just come and watch the fun.

News

Redevelopment of Monypenny: ABC Are not supplying further details at present. Hopefully we won't be the last to hear when it does. Rest assured our campaign will continue to monitor any new developments that arise.

Sadly, an amount of money has been stolen from a locked cupboard in the main building and police have been made aware.

The results of Our Ashford In Bloom Garden Competition were announced and two Monypenny residents were awarded a ceramic plaque designed by children, and a certificate. Resident Susan Jenner was the overall winner of the Independent Living Scheme Section and Graham and Julie Tiltman won first prize for the Individual Gardens' Section. Both will also receive £75.

We started our Giant Sunflower Competition and they are surviving in spite of the heat, lovingly cared for by Sue, thank you. We have planted our hanging baskets with bedding plants ready for our usual colourful display, prepared and lovingly cared for by participating Monypenny residents. They look fantastic!



*We hope to see you all very soon.
Graham, on behalf of Monypenny*



Katie Lam MP Vote in the Weald of Kent Awards 2026



One of the great privileges of representing the Weald is seeing, up close, just how many remarkable people and places there are in this corner of Kent – people working hard, often against a difficult backdrop, to do the things they love and to take care of their neighbours.

That's what the Weald of Kent Awards are all about. This year you sent in so many wonderful nominations that it was incredibly difficult to whittle them down to a shortlist, but we finally managed to pick just four in each category. You will find the finalists listed on this website: <https://www.katieforkent.com/weald-of-kent-awards>.

This is a reminder of the categories:

- Farmer, Grower or Producer of the Year
- Independent Shop of the Year
- Local Business of the Year
- Local Hero of the Year

Every one of the finalists helps makes the Weald what it is. Voting is open now and closes at the end of August – so learn more about our finalists and have your say.

Katie



Rolvenden Parish Council Report



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

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, 17th September 2026 at 7.30pm in the village hall. There is no meeting in August.

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

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



Appledore Flower Festival



Appledore Church August Bank Holiday Weekend



Sat 29th August -- 10am -- 5.30pm
Sun 30th August -- 12.30pm -- 5.30pm
Mon 31st August -- 10am -- 5.30pm



Home-made refreshments, live music & stalls
Art Exhibition in the village hall
Children's Quiz -- Free entry & parking
For more info: Donna 01233 758256



Looking towards Rolvenden from the Holt



An Amble Around Newenden

Short walk approx. 30 mins, long walk approx. 1 hour

Start from Nibbles café, cross Lossenham Lane, take the path bordering the cricket pitch towards the new Riverside Pavilion. Pass in front of the Pavilion and climb up the gentle incline onto the bank of the River Rother.

On the opposite bank you will see the extensive area used by John Bourne's for aggregates and composts. Beyond that is a camp site, Lime Wharf Café and the Bodiam Boating Station - source of kayaks, canoes and paddleboards. You are looking across part of the Rother Levels stretching from Robertsbridge to Rye, thousands of acres along the flat Rother Valley, formerly rough summer grazing, now drained for serious farming. You may glimpse a train running along the far edge of the level. This is the Kent and East Sussex Railway, running between Tenterden and Bodiam and, shortly, to link with the mainline service at Robertsbridge.

You are now walking along a public bridleway, created originally for the use of the Vicar of Newenden and Smallhythe who rode his horse from one parish to the other for Sunday services.

The Selmes Trust, owners of the field, rent moorings for the summer months. Fishing rights are held by the Rother Valley Fishing Association from whom a licence must be obtained if you wish to fish.

Look out for herons, swans, ducks and coots on the river, and if you're very lucky, a kingfisher. Barn owls live in owl boxes upstream and it is a common



sight at dusk to see one patrolling the river, hunting shrews and mice. As you walk, notice the houses to your left. There are fine examples of modern architecture sitting alongside ancient weatherboarding or medieval brickwork. At first, you walk through rough grass, serving as a car park during summer weekends. There is a marked change as you come to the Newenden Wildflower Meadow, where the flood plain has been set aside to encourage all forms of insect and invertebrate life, as well as wild flora and fauna. At the end of this stretch is a waterworks, listed in the earliest Ordnance Survey map as a chalybeate spring.

Turn left to rejoin Lossenham Lane. (You can double back to Nibbles by turning left, or turn right and follow the lane, taking a sharp left and climbing.) At the top of the hill, turn left onto another public bridleway.

You have joined a pre-historic track, and you are heading back towards Newenden. Across the valley, to your right, is the magnificent country house, Great Maytham Hall, designed in 1908 by the eminent Edwardian architect, Sir Edwin Lutyens. This vast house now divided into elegant flats, occupies the site of an earlier house destroyed by fire. The walled garden was the inspiration for Frances Hodgson Burnett's *The Secret Garden*.



The Newenden Wildflower Meadow

There are several ponds on either side of the track, and these were probably dug as clay pits. The Wealden clay is prized for brickmaking and Frogs Hill, where you're walking, was so called, reputedly, because French prisoners from the Napoleonic Wars were employed to dig out the clay.

Pass Frogs Hill Farm and at The Holt, take the public footpath to your left through the field. As you walk downhill towards the village, you will see the Sussex hills in front of you.

The path descends to the single track Beech Road. Turn left following the churchyard wall and then turn right into the churchyard. Step into St Peter's with its magnificent Norman font, older than the building you now see.

On leaving the church, take the path and steps to the main road. You can return to Nibbles or cross the road, to the much-loved White Hart, the choice is yours, the drink will be well-earned!

Anthony Dawson



Bees and Bears

Back in December 2025 Rolvenden Parochial Church Council decided it was time to widen our financial thinking by adopting an annual charity we would support with some fundraising activities. The charity selected for 2026 was Bees for Development with two fund raising events suggested, a Zip Ride for Bears and a concert.

The zip wire mastermind was John Bailey who had done such things before in another church. He undertook engineering and installation with assistance from the Hole Park team and a very long ladder. The location was an oak tree in the southwest corner of the churchyard and everything was set up and the weather was perfect, hot but with a slight breeze. This was the first time we had done an open air event quite like this so we kept it simple. Tables and chairs for simple refreshments – thanks are due to Tesco and Hole Park here – and a few puzzles for visitors: name a bear, find Pooh's lost jar of honey and Paddington's marmalade.

The main event was giving all those furry friends a whooshing experience. Twenty-six furry friends whooshed, not all of them bears. We had bears, and we also had bunnies and bats, a cat, a fox, a dinosaur and a very colourful owl. All animals and owners had to be registered before take-off. The keeper of the Owl did not have a name for his feathered friend but he decided on Hooty. But then he discovered why owls are considered wise, because there, on owl's foot, was his name, just in case he should ever forget it. So, it was Oscar the Owl and everyone was happy.

John placed each flyer in the basket with great care, reassuring the frightened ones that this was safe and the view would be wonderful. He had to encourage the bats to stay seated in the basket. You never can tell with bats. They just might decide to take to the air and swoop about a bit. But we need



not have worried. It was mid-morning, and even stuffed bats know they do not fly until dusk.

Everyone was awarded an official Certificate of Whooshing; nineteen brave furries, for the younger participants, and seven veterans for the more mature furries and owners.

For everyone who was there it was fun, a lovely way to meet new people, a gentle way of raising £142.02 for Bees for Development. The PCC will no doubt record in the minutes that the zip wire was an excellent event, small scale enough to be encouraging and relaxed, with potential to be built upon for engaging more families informally in the future. In other words, we shall be doing it again!

Then there is the other fundraiser for our adopted charity, a concert given by the Tenterden Singers in St Mary's on Saturday, 26th September. The church will be decorated for the annual Harvest Thanksgiving service the next day. Combining Harvest and Bees is giving the choir plenty of scope for the songs. More details in the September Magazine but do please reserve the date.

Judy V



Bees for Development helps transform people's lives through beekeeping.

The charity helps to alleviate poverty, provide access to good nutrition and medicine, helps to address social inclusion and encourage people around the world to preserve their local biodiversity.

It does this in various ways:

- **Training new beekeepers** in nature-based beekeeping
- **Supporting marginalised groups** including women, people living with disability and displaced communities
- **Providing beekeeping education** to young people around the world
- **Preserving biodiversity** by cutting pesticide use and planting trees – this all benefits our bees!
- **Trading beekeepers' honey** ensuring transparency, accountability, and fair pricing
- **Sharing their knowledge** and empowering beekeepers and beekeeper trainers, giving people the tools and confidence to strengthen sustainable livelihoods worldwide



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SATURDAY - MONDAY**

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EVERY DAY 1-4PM
REFRESHMENTS**



Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch

July 2026

Our focus this month is on:

1. Report from Ashford NHW Meeting
2. Sign up to MCV (My Community Voice)
3. Crime Prevention Alert – Rural Burglaries

Summary & recent incidents

Watch for crime: anti-social behaviour including break-ins (the local shop on 5 July 2026); other break-in attempts; theft from properties, shops and cars; buying of vapes underage; vandalism (trees in the village, St. Mary's Green); riding of e-scooters on roads/pavements; and non-local vehicles parked suspiciously; catapults being carried and potentially used, and ball-bearings from catapults. Take photos/videos and report evidence to the police.

Report from Ashford NHW Meeting:

On 19 June 2026, I attended the Ashford Neighbourhood Watch meeting with attendees from other Kent NHW groups, a school, Inspector Simon Johnson, Sergeant Dan Edge (who supervises the beat officers) and reps from My Community Voice. We were shown a presentation about catapults and knife crime which showed the steps taken by police in dealing with such crimes and a video about catapulting. There have been transition talks with schools (primary/secondary) and a meeting with the Ashford MP, Mr Joseph. Inspector Johnson stressed 'hyper local', the need for NHW co-ordinators, communities and the police to work together with MCV (My Community Voice).

It's really important to report crime. By all means let the NHW Scheme Co-ordinator know but if it is not reported, it will not be acted on by police. It is planned to have future meetings between the NHW Co-ordinators and the Beat Officers, citing 'community intelligence.'

Sign up to MCV (My Community Voice):



Nb: when you sign up to 'Our Watch', you have the option to sign up to My Community Voice. My Community Voice (MVC) helps keep you updated with local policing news, crime prevention advice, appeals and community events – straight from your neighbourhood officers. Ask your family, neighbours and friends

to sign up. The more people who join, the more effectively we can share important information and listen to local concerns.

Anyone living or working in Kent can join for free and choose exactly what updates to receive. Your details are kept secure and never shared with commercial organisations.

Sign up here: <https://www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk/> Remember, MCV isn't for reporting crime. See bottom of this article for reporting a crime



Crime Prevention Alert – Rural Burglaries:

Kent Police have received reports of burglaries, where sheds and outbuildings have been targeted and garden machinery stolen.

Residents are urged to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity. If you have seen anything unusual, or have information that has not yet been reported, please contact Kent Police. See below for details.

- Ensure sheds and outbuildings are securely locked
- Consider installing security lighting or CCTV
- Mark valuable equipment and keep a record of serial numbers
- Avoid leaving tools or machinery in plain view

Reporting crime to the police

You can report information via: 999 if a crime is in progress; 101 for non-emergencies. The online reporting system or live chat on Kent Police website <https://www.kent.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/>

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.

How to make a silent 999 call

If you're in danger, call 999 and try to speak to the operator if you can, even by whispering. You may also be asked to cough or tap the keys on your phone to answer questions.

Call 999 from a mobile. If you don't speak or answer questions, press 55 or tap when prompted and your call will be transferred to the police. The police will usually be able to find your location. If you don't press 55 or respond, your call could be ended.

Call 999 from a landline. If you don't speak or answer questions and the operator can only hear background noise, they'll transfer your call to the police. If you replace the handset, the landline may remain connected for 45 seconds in case you pick it up again. (Calling 999 from a landline automatically gives the police information about your location.)

*Siân Reeves Rolvenden
Neighbourhood Watch*



Dogs and other pets in hot weather

Keen to keep not just we humans safe, Sian has found a very useful article on how to look after dogs and other pets when it gets really hot.

Go to the BBC News Home page and check out the article:

What are the signs of heatstroke in dogs?

Here is the link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce839egxynwo>



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 SEPTEMBER 2026 ISSUE IS
5:00PM TUESDAY 11TH AUGUST.**

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

The online version will be available from 1st September 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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Hole Park Estate, Rolvenden, Kent

Help with Food and Household Items

Food boxes are available for people suddenly in difficulty due to late credit payments, unexpected bills, loss of job, etc from the Mildred trust, info at the MildredTrust contact details: info@mildredtrust, phone 07745 694748 or call the Social Prescribing Team at Ivy Court surgery if you are registered as a patient there.

The Larder

Here we provide free non-perishable groceries, household and hygiene goods for families with children under the age of 18. Fresh bread, milk and vouchers for fruit and vegetables are often available.

Tenterden Leisure Centre: Tuesdays Fortnightly 5.15-6.15pm;
11th and 25th August

Rural Restock

Open to all, you pay £6 for £20 worth of items, please bring cash and shopping bags. We are upstairs in the Tenterden leisure Centre, Tuesdays monthly 5:15 to 6:15pm, 4th August

Community fridge and freezer.

These are open to anyone to share or take food, including surplus food from supermarkets, local businesses, producers, households and gardens. Located intended and Centre entrance Hall, available seven days a week during centre opening hours.

Regular Events

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

- Memory Café and Friends every Friday
Meets every Friday 2 – 4pm at St Andrews Church Hall,
Ashford Road, Tenterden
- Musical Memories meets every Tuesday 10:45am - 12 noon
Highbury Hall, Highbury Lane, Tenterden,
a singing for health group.
- Monthly Lunch Club meets 4th Wednesday, 12:30 for 1pm
The Little Silver Hotel, St Michaels
For all 3: Contact Jan Bridger
Tel: 01580 762932 Mob: 07445971791

Tenterden Parkinsons Café Please note that the monthly Parkinson's Support Group meeting is now scheduled in the afternoon between 2:30 - 4pm every third Monday of the month. We are still meeting at the EC30 cafe at Tenterden Recreation Ground Road (next to Ivy Court Surgery).

Help with Food and Household Items

Food boxes are available for people suddenly in difficulty due to late credit payments, unexpected bills, loss of job, etc from the Mildred trust, info at the Mildredtrust.org , phone 07745 694748, or for emergencies only 07805 840493. Or call the Social Prescribing Team at Ivy Court surgery if you are registered as a patient

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



There is NO excuse for domestic abuse

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

Victim Support: 0808 16 89 111

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

The Samaritans: 116 123

Childline: 0800 1111

Mankind: 0808 800 1170

domesticabuseservices.org.uk

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

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SUPPORT

SAMARITANS

ChildLine
0800 1111

ManKind
Initiative



More than books to borrow



Library activities

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

Other Services

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

Telephone: 03000 41 31 31

E-mail: tenterdenlibrary@kent.gov.uk

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

Refuse Collection

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

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

You can also download a calendar.

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

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

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

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

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

Telephone ABC on Tel 01233 330646

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

Our MP is Katie Lam

Email: katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk

Office tel: 01580 388 344

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

NEWENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

www.newenden-pc.gov.uk/

Parish Clerk: Mrs Lauren Dobson.

C/o Carpens, Hobbs lane,

Beckley. East Sussex, TN31 6TT

Telephone: 01797 260364

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

Parish Council meeting,

September 15th 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

September 17th 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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George Devey – Benenden's Architect

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