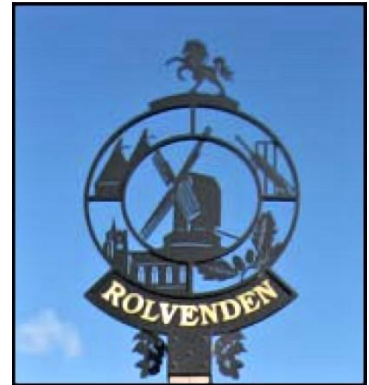


# Rolvenden

## *Update 2022*



**Welcome to the Annual Rolvenden  
Parish Council Newsletter.**



Photo by Charlotte Walters



## Contents

*Note: Click on contents below to hyperlink to that section and use the 'Back to Contents' link at the top of each main section page to return to this page.*

1	Introduction .....	2
2	Planning .....	3
3	Highways.....	5
4	Community Speedwatch .....	6
5	St Mary The Virgin. ....	7
6	Defibrillators .....	9
7	Rolvenden and District Gardening Society .....	10
8	Stolen Funds .....	11
9	Bequest from Miss Pat Thoburn .....	11
10	The Rolvenden History Group.....	12
11	Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch .....	14
12	Rolvenden School .....	17
13	Rolvenden War Memorial Trust 2021/22 .....	19
14	The Basil Russell Trust .....	20
15	The Rolvenden Branch, Royal British Legion .....	20
16	Phone Box Restoration Project .....	21
17	Village Hall .....	22
18	Pollen Bar Project .....	24
19	The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations for Rolvenden .....	25
20	Allotments.....	26
21	The Parish Council .....	27
	The Streyte .....	27
	The Layne .....	28
	Clerk and other contacts.....	28
	Parish Council Meetings .....	29



[Back to Contents](#)

## 1 Introduction

Welcome to the Annual Parish Newsletter for 2022.

A hard copy of the document can be arranged by contacting [rolvendenclerk@gmail.com](mailto:rolvendenclerk@gmail.com) or any one of your parish Councillors.

Our first in person Annual Parish Meeting since 2019 will take place on April 28th in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

All are welcome to attend - the formal part of the meeting will be followed by annual reports from various village organisations and a presentation by the Bumble Bee Conservation Trust. Whilst refreshments are served there will be an opportunity to speak to your Councillors or representatives from village clubs and social groups.



[Back to Contents](#)

## 2 Planning

### PLANNING – A PERFECT STORM

Headlines might lead one to hope that with the appointment of a new Minister responsible for the planning system, Michael Gove, rural communities could be optimistic that some of the threats that the Government's house building targets posed had retreated. I am sorry to report that there are new threats are on the horizon and Gove's reputation as a 'fixer' may be overblown.

Housebuilding targets remain inflexible and failure to meet them by the Borough Council brings truly punitive consequences. There has been no recognition of the impact of Covid, labour shortages and the dire shortage of experienced planning officers across the South-East. And absolutely no change in the 'Build, build, build' mantra that fails to recognise that these new homes are simply unaffordable to local residents. A five-bedroom 'executive' home solves nothing in a rural community. Campaign groups such as the Community Planning Alliance have exposed that these houses are being advertised as investment properties in the Hong Kong and Chinese press.

Ashford Borough Council has been severely impacted by the impact of Natural England's rulings relating to pollution in the River Stour catchment area. Large parts of the Borough are facing a complete ban on planning applications, the Council cannot show it can meet Government-imposed housing delivery targets and, consequently, other protections built into the planning system have fallen away, leaving those areas not within the Stour catchment area extremely vulnerable to speculative development proposals. Rolvenden is shielded to a very large extent from the worst consequences of these threats because of the Rolvenden Neighbourhood Plan and as your Borough Councillor and a member of Ashford's Planning Committee, I cannot emphasise how critical this has been to protecting the unique character and beauty of the Parish. It is essential that the Rolvenden Neighbourhood Plan is updated beyond 2030 and that we retain this essential extra level of planning protection.

Rolvenden Update 2022  
Annual Rolvenden Parish Council Newsletter



Planning. Continued

Ashford Borough Council are acutely aware of the issues of unaffordability in the villages and have recently announced their purchase of the Vicarage site in the centre of Rolvenden. The site should deliver approximately 9 secure, rented units, to be made available in the first instance to residents who can show local need or a local connection. The preparations for delivering these homes include a Housing Needs Survey which will be distributed to all residents – please do complete this when it is delivered and include as much information as you can, about your own immediate housing needs, and those of your wider family, both now and in the future. This will ensure Rolvenden residents get the housing that they actually need.

Do contact me if you wish to discuss any of these issues in more detail – I can be reached on my email – [Kate.Walder@ashford.gov.uk](mailto:Kate.Walder@ashford.gov.uk) or on my mobile 07389110611.



[Back to Contents](#)

### 3 Highways

As a result of the Rolvenden Highways Improvement Plan, produced by the parish council after consultation with residents, KCC Highways have agreed to fund three sets of 30mph warning roundels to be placed on the road surface between Chapel Cottage and the junction with Regent Street, to help address the issue of speeding vehicles on this approach to the High Street.



There will also be a “school” warning sign painted on the road on the approach to the school and an additional traffic survey is to be undertaken outside the school to see if the area is suitable for a permanent 20mph limit.

To improve visibility at the junction of Regent Street and the High Street, hatching will be painted to deter vehicles from parking right on the junction.

The recent works to replace the gas main adjacent to Tanyard Flats sadly resulted in considerable damage to verges in Sparkeswood Ave, Pix’s Lane and Mount Lane, as vehicles used these routes as unauthorised diversions. Thanks to our KCC Member, Cllr Mike Hill, we have an assurance that remedial work will be undertaken where necessary when the areas are dry enough.

You can report non-urgent Highways issues online [www.kent.gov/roads-and-travel](http://www.kent.gov/roads-and-travel)

- Potholes
- Drainage
- Overgrown vegetation
- Missing/faulty signage

If a problem on the highway could result in an accident please report it to the emergency line 03000 418181 Mon – Fri 9am to 5pm

Or 03000 419191 outside of normal working hours





[Back to Contents](#)

## 4 Community Speedwatch

Speedwatch sessions have been continued this year in the village. The aim of Speedwatch is to educate drivers of the speed limits in the village. This appears to have been taken on board by many, although not all. All recorded incidents are reported to Kent Police. We are supported by police officers and some of you may have seen police officers working with us at the roadside on some of our sessions in the village and the Layne.

Over the last year we have completed 155 sessions in Rolvenden, during which time we have recorded 1182 incidents of speeding with the fastest recorded speed of **51mph in a 30mph limit** and **59mph in a 40mph limit**. 872 of those recorded have not been recorded again exceeding the speed limit within the last year. This clearly shows speedwatch is a valuable resource to have in the village. We will continue to educate drivers over the next year.



- If someone is hit by a car at 40 mph they are 90% likely to be killed.
- If someone is hit by a car at 30 mph they are 50% likely to be killed.
- If someone is hit by a car at 20 mph they are 10% likely to be killed.

It's easy to register as a volunteer with us, register at [www.communityspeedwatch.org](http://www.communityspeedwatch.org) or contact the area coordinator Denise Curtain [duckscrossing33@gmail.com](mailto:duckscrossing33@gmail.com) for more information – attendance is flexible so can fit around your other commitments.



[Back to Contents](#)

## 5 St Mary The Virgin.

'United we stand, divided we fall', wrote Aesop, urging strength in unity. Together, a community or a group of people can tackle anything; alone, it will crumble.

St Mary, Rolvenden, is part of a community of nine churches that have no intention of crumbling! But it is part of a community of nine churches that have every intention of growing and flourishing. And we can do that because we are on God's side.

After a tumultuous two years, we are slowly getting back to normal. Part of that normality is the new-look ministry team: Lindsay Hammond (Team Rector) and Jeanette Kennett (Team Vicar) and a wonderful gang of retired priests, readers (of whom Judy Vinson is one) and members of congregations, who lead worship and do much else besides.

Couples are now returning to St Mary's for baptisms and weddings, and we are delighted to be able to keep the church open each day so that people can come in to find peace and a quiet moment, light a candle and pray.

It is a great privilege to welcome visitors from all over the world. For some it's almost a coming home, a return to the place where relatives once lived, either recently or many years ago. Our church records go back to the mid-1500s, and our beautiful church some 800 years, so there is a lot of history to discover!

It's all go in the churchyard. Unlike those in many villages, our churchyard is still 'open', which means we still have space for burials. We now have smooth paths and, as the summer unfolds, the wildflower planting along the latest paths will bear fruit. Like the parish council and the school, we are doing our bit to encourage bumblebees, butterflies, and birds.

We cherish our active link with Rolvenden School. We lead collective worship in the school each week, and once a month the children come to the church to engage with 'Open the Book'. 'Open the Book' gives us an opportunity to flex our acting muscles through the presentation of a Bible story, which draws out a great deal of participation from our young audience.



Rolvenden Update 2022  
Annual Rolvenden Parish Council Newsletter



St Mary The Virgin. Continued.

We are busy planning our contribution to the village's Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. There will be a Jubilee Concert on Wednesday 1st June and special flowers of course. Our great flower arrangers will be in action again in readiness for the annual Flower Festival and Art Exhibition in the Village Hall over the August Bank Holiday weekend. So there is lots to look forward to!

The church council continues to publish the parish magazine which covers many aspects of community life, includes details of church services for the month and tells you which bin to put out on Monday.

And as always, we are at your service!

Lindsay Hammond

Team Rector



[Back to Contents](#)

## 6 Defibrillators

There are 3 defibrillators in the village- 2 in the Streyte and 1 in the Layne.

They are located as follows:

One outside the village hall to the right of the entrance



One behind the Bull on the left-hand end of Bull Lodges.



In the Layne it is on the Ewe and Lamb on the left-hand side of the pub.



When you need to use them go to the cabinet and remove the unit and take it to the patient. Ensure that **first of all** you have called an ambulance so that help is on its way.

When you open the unit beside the patient it will switch on automatically and give you verbal instructions of what to do and where to place the electrode pads. There are also diagrams in the unit. It is designed to be usable even if you have no knowledge of First Aid.

If you have needed to use a defibrillator, please let Cllr Fiona May [fiona@fmay.uk](mailto:fiona@fmay.uk) know so that the electrode pads can be replaced as they are single use only.



[Back to Contents](#)

## 7 Rolvenden and District Gardening Society

After a long time of not being able to get together we started 2022 with a bumper Spring Show in March. It is always a great way to begin the year as the daffodils are the stars and give the Village Hall a grand splash of yellow. The other Spring flowers we show include tulips, camellias and, of course, the wonderful perfume of hyacinths.

Also, in our shows we have sections for fruit and vegetables, flower arranging and cookery. We also welcome the children to take part and are very well supported by Rolvenden Pre-School and Rolvenden Primary School.

We have 131 members some of whom will be going to Wisley on 26th April. Our coffee morning this year will be at the end of May, our Autumn meal is on 22nd October, a talk in September and our AGM on 24th November, all of which are in Rolvenden Village Hall.



Our project for this year is the planting of 3 trees in the village as our contribution to the Queen's Green Canopy

As you can see, we are a very active and friendly Society all having a keen interest in gardening. If anyone would like to join (annual subscription is £5 per person) then please email Trevor Lodge at [tlodge@aol.com](mailto:tlodge@aol.com) We would love to meet you.



[Back to Contents](#)

## 8 Stolen Funds

The parish council continues to explore all avenues for recompense regarding the funds stolen by the former clerk.

A complaint was lodged with the Financial Conduct Authority against the council's insurers Came & Co (now part of the Gallagher Insurance group) for mis-selling of the policy. The council were offered only one policy which was heralded as "the gold standard" for parish councils and endorsed by Kent Association for Local Councils but which turned out to be unsuitable for a small rural council whose clerk works from home, since not all the clauses could be proven to be met by smaller councils.

The FCA ruled against us saying that they could see no evidence of mis-selling.

Our solicitor has repeatedly written to Lloyds Bank on our behalf but to date no response has been received. The solicitor now plans to make direct contact with their legal department.

## 9 Bequest from Miss Pat Thorburn

The complexities of the transfer of the Church Fields and the allotments into the ownership of the village are now nearing an end.

The executors advise that the transfer documents are being drawn up and we look forward to this matter being settled so we can improve the allotment facilities and ensure that the fields behind the church can continue to be enjoyed by residents.



[Back to Contents](#)

## 10 The Rolvenden History Group

We are delighted to be resuming meetings in person on April 29th, 2022. During the pandemic we endeavoured to keep in touch with members through newsletters and staged an exhibition, *Everything Changes*, in St Mary's Church based upon the poem *Wealden* by Nancy Gaffield.

We are a local history society that meets regularly for lectures, organises the occasional outing and plans a project for exploring an aspect or period of local history each year. Members are welcome to share their enthusiasm for particular topics and give ideas about which topics they would like to investigate/hear about.

This year our project is focusing on the long nineteenth century, 1784-1914. Many enquiries are made about emigration from Rolvenden in the nineteenth century. At the moment, investigations have started into the ways in which weather affected agriculture and life and the impact upon weather of volcanic eruptions, what the pastimes of this period were, how local government worked, what insights nineteenth century tithes can give us into society and how wills help to capture social concerns and interests of the time.

New members are welcome.

Our website address is: <https://therolvendehistorygroup.wordpress.com/>

### **Lecture Programme to date:**

- April 29<sup>th</sup>: AGM and lecture - Naomi Dickins, 'How the Long Nineteenth Century Re-Invented Britain'.
- May 27<sup>th</sup>: Norman Hopkins, 'The Huguenots 1530 - 1730 with particular reference to those of Kent'
- June 24<sup>th</sup>: Ed Adams, 'Rolvenden at War'
- July 29<sup>th</sup>: Åke Nielson, 'The Lossenham Project'
- August 26<sup>th</sup>: tbc
- September 30<sup>th</sup>: William Barham, 'Forty Years a Potter'
- November 25<sup>th</sup>: Douglas Lindsay, 'The Kent and East Sussex Railway'



The Rolvenden History Group (continued)

The visits planned are: [?](#)

- Lamb House and guided walk around Rye.
- Visit to Dickens Festival in Broadstairs. This trip would be in June. Dates of the festival are 17-19th.
- Candlelit tour of Tenterden Museum. Evening tour with guide and followed with canapes and sparkling wine. Cost £25. Minimum number of people: ten.
- Visit to the Historic Dockyards, Chatham: Ticket price £23 if over age of 65, otherwise £25.50. This would be a day's outing. There would need to be a contribution to petrol costs. September.
- Romney Marsh churches, there would need to be at least thirty people committed to going to make this a viable outing.



[Back to Contents](#)

## 11 Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch

### Rolvenden NHW report April 2022

#### Summary

As we come out of the Covid 19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown which reduced reported crime in this area there will inevitably be a rise in crime. Despite this, Rolvenden NHW continues to provide key information to members of the scheme to keep the village updated, proactive and alert. Jenny sends relevant updates to scheme members, Pam also gives vital local information and Siân represents Rolvenden NHW at NHW committee meetings albeit online where different Neighbourhood watches meet to share information and get updates on recently developments. We also have close connections with Biddenden and other watches and representatives from Kent Police have been in attendance along with PCSOs and NHW co-ordinators from across Kent.



The nature of local crimes has mostly involved stealing from sheds and other outer buildings and dog theft has become a major concern. The PCSO updates from Kate Richards each month are very useful. The major crimes across the country have involved fraud and extortion and many/most of these have been publicised in NHW emails, on Facebook and in the parish magazine. These are repeatedly publicised on the radio and TV; hopefully, people do take note of these as more and more are reported. Unfortunately, some people do not seem to learn from the experience of others. There have been and continue to be many scams. Members should be very cautious about phone-calls, emails and texts out of the blue saying their personal accounts have been compromised then asked to click on links or download software which then gives the scanner access to personal details. Never, ever give out personal information even if the email, phone-call or text seems genuine.

#### Campaigns and Crime:

##### NHW car campaign

- **LOCKED:** 44% of cars broken into via an unlocked door
- **LIT:** 80% of car crime occurs after dark so park in lit areas
- **EMPTY:** personal belongings removed or hidden from view



Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch. Continued

### **Dog theft**

This is not specifically a Kent-based crime but a cross-border one involving the rest of the UK and Europe. There has been a significant increase of dog theft from breeders as well as places of residence. Many are puppies with the most popular breeds Springers, Cockers and fashionable French Pug styles.

Thefts are from people walking their dogs, from gardens or while being left unattended. Often such thefts are highlighted on social media before reporting to the police. Guidance includes:

- Owners remaining vigilant at all times
- Being routine-free
- Securing the lead by double-wrapping around the hand
- Keeping the dog to the off-side
- Reporting any suspicious behaviour

**Catapaults** misuse (mostly Ashford area)

**Anti-social behaviour** in Tenterden

### **Catalytic Converters**

It is important to park safely although thieves have become even more brazen, there have been some successful arrests.

**Wheelie bin theft** – This has increased. If anyone would like NHW stickers, NHW Wheelie bin stickers or purse bells, please get in touch with Siân: [sian\\_reeves@hotmail.com](mailto:sian_reeves@hotmail.com) (small charge for these). Do not place wheelie bins where thieves can gain easy access over walls etc.

Jenny continues to send out relevant information to members via email and we all keep an eye out and ask members to be the eyes and ears.

### **How to contact Kent police:**

**Call** 101 for non-emergency enquiries and website: <https://www.kent.police.uk/> Click on the 'Report' tab.

The online Chatroom facility for reporting crime produces a more immediate response. Access is via Kent Police Report Online Website where there is the facility to engage in Live Chat (a small blue box at the online page). Live Chat provides the opportunity to talk to an operative and this has proven to be a much quicker and more rewarding experience than 101 for many members. A transcript of the 'conversation' is also made available which can be a useful record. Members are reminded that crime or suspicious activity may also be reported using 101 but 999 for emergencies or when a crime is in operation.



Rolvenden Update 2022  
Annual Rolvenden Parish Council Newsletter



Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch. Continued

**Joining Rolvenden NHW**

If any new resident would like to join, details can be passed onto Siân Reeves or Jenny Wynter:  
sian\_reeves@hotmail.com and jenny@vening.net

If you would like to be a member/co-ordinator, you can also contact Andrew Judd:  
andrew.judd@kent.police.uk (Volunteer & Neighbourhood Watch Liaison Officer South East Kent  
Police)

There is a data protection form that needs to be filled in.

Thank you to the Rolvenden community. Stay vigilant and stay safe.

Jenny, Pam and Siân (NHW Team Rolvenden)



[Back to Contents](#)

## 12 Rolvenden School

It has been another busy year at Rolvenden Primary School. Despite lockdowns of the previous two years and a wave of Covid infections passing through the school in January 2022, the staff have continued to work hard and deliver a wide and engaging curriculum for our resilient and hard-working children. The themes covered have included everything from Space in Hazel Class, through to the 'Great Fire of London' in Oak Class. Willow Class learnt about The Romans and the oldest children, Holly Class, have learnt about WW2 and designed their own 'New Towns' which were part of the post-war rebuilding programme.



In sporting events, the school have returned to entering teams into football, tag rugby and netball competitions. Mr Leggat's netball team are currently unbeaten with wins over Godinton and St. Michaels under their belt. They head to the Ashford and District competition in May high in confidence. The tag rugby team, coached by Mr Leader, had their first game against Lamberhurst and were only narrowly pipped to the win by a margin of one point!



Rolvenden School. Continued

Despite having audiences limited for the past two years, Rolvenden have continued putting together large scale productions. In July 2021, the school came together to produce a filmed performance of 'Wow! What a Year!' which recounted the highlights of the pandemic in a humorous way and in December 2021, three sold-out performances of 'The Apprentice' welcomed parents back on site in spectacular fashion.

Raising money for charity and awareness of the world around the school has always been important here at RPS and this year has been no different. The school enjoyed a visit from Homewood School's Dance dash at the end of 2021 and raised over £100 for Children in Need. They repeated this through the purchase of red noses for Comic Relief and most recently raised in excess of £250 for the DEC's Ukraine humanitarian appeal. This money could pay for blankets for twenty five families; emergency food for two families for three months or provide essential hygiene supplies for a family for 9 months.

As we head towards the summer, we have lots more to look forward to. Year Six children are heading out on their residential trip to Dorset; the whole school will be participating in a live end of year production and the Woodland Day events will be making a return after two years out. If you don't already, do subscribe to our Facebook page where we publicise all events and share photographs and updates from all which is going on in our lovely village school.



[Back to Contents](#)

## 13 Annual report Rolvenden War Memorial Trust 2021/22

The War Memorial Trust has continued with its programme of maintenance and improvement of the community recreational areas, the Streyte playing Field (Cricket Pitch) and the Layne playing field, along with the War Memorial. The Trust has also continued with its aim to secure its long-term financial position where its obligations and commitments are adequately met from reserves. The Trust has accessed wherever possible government and Borough grants to assist in this programme.

The Trust has been able to provide a set of goal posts for use on the Layne field in this way.

The Trust has provided financial assistance to Rolvenden Tennis Club to assist in the building of a new pavilion/clubhouse through a combination of grant and loan.

In conjunction with local stakeholders, the Trust, with the parish council, continues to explore with Ashford Borough Council the means to access the Halden Field Section 106 monies for key infrastructure and utilities improvements. Unfortunately, the pandemic has hindered meetings which have proved difficult to arrange. We look forward to making more positive progress through 2022.





[Back to Contents](#)

## 14 The Basil Russell Trust

2022 report to APM

The Trust was established in 1990 by the late Basil Russell, lifelong gardener at Hole Park and international table tennis referee, to benefit the youth of Rolvenden and surrounding parishes.

The Investment portfolio was valued at £311440 as at 31 December 2021. The capital value has increased from £291,073 in 2020.

During the year management of the fund has been transferred to Cazenove Capital Management and distribution units purchased in their Charity Fund Distributions, lower than in previous years at £5350, have been made to three individuals who requested funding, as well as the Tennis Club and a substantial commitment, not included in that figure nor yet called, for the Village Hall boiler.

Trustees are keen to receive applications from any individual, or group of young people, or by adults on their behalf who seek assistance with their studies, tuition fees, travel costs or to fund personal development

Edward Barham, Chairman

March 2022

## 15 The Rolvenden Branch, Royal British Legion

The Rolvenden Branch of RBL has struggled to reform after two years of limited activity. With a declining membership and increasing age of those stalwarts remaining, the Committee unanimously decided to apply to become a County Supported Branch, whereby we are administered directly by Kent HQ and much of the administrative burden is removed from us, including our bank accounts with funds held centrally for us. This process is currently underway. It is hoped that by this means we can continue to operate in a low-key manner, with Remembrance Day being the key activity of the year.



Edward Barham, Chairman



[Back to Contents](#)

## 16 Phone Box Restoration Project



If you've walked along Winser Road or Maytham Road lately, you'll have noticed that the old phone box on the corner is looking shiny and new. And where the words 'TELEPHONE' used to be, there are now two words: 'SOUND MUSEUM'. We are pretty sure this is the first museum of its kind in the country. It's free to visit and it's always open. Step inside, wind the hand-crank and you will hear the voices of older village residents, describing life in the Layne in the 1930s and 40s. There's more information on the website: [www.soundmuseum.co.uk](http://www.soundmuseum.co.uk).

The Sound Museum was designed by Skep Arts, in conjunction with local artists, craftsmen and historians. To keep in touch with upcoming Skep Arts projects please visit [arts.theskep.uk](http://arts.theskep.uk), or join Facebook group @skeparts. There will be film screenings, concerts and art, open to everyone.

Meanwhile, keep an eye on Rolvenden's other phone box! Local artist Rebecca Morse is working on an installation there, and soon the Streyte box will be as attractive as the one in the Layne. All this restoration work could not have happened without the assistance of Ashford Borough Council, Rolvenden Parish Council and Kent County Council; we are grateful for their support.

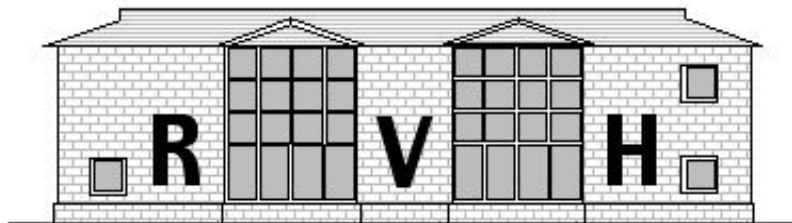
Rob Pursey

Skep Arts



[Back to Contents](#)

## 17 Village Hall



Rolvenden Village Hall . Maytham Road . Rolvenden  
Cranbrook . Kent . TN17 4ND . Tel . 01580 241 211

From the Trustees of Rolvenden Village Hall

The hall was designed in the 90s and finished in 2000 in an era when village life and the world was a different place. 22 years later life has changed dramatically for us all and the hall.

Pre covid we were heavily booked and covered our costs. However, post covid some hirers have not returned and will not do so as covid has taken its toll. Others are returning but on a limited basis while they get back on track.

Therefore, we must look at how the village hall is used going forward.

Our costs have risen considerably and because of that we have revised our hire charges upwards as well as looking at cost cutting. If we do not, we will not survive. Even with that increase it looks like we will make a loss on our booking's income.

New opportunities for hiring the hall are being explored from outside the village as all options to keep the hall must be considered.

We have sports equipment that can be used (Table tennis, Short mat bowls and Kurling) at the hall ready for you to use...just ask.



Village Hall. Continued

Grants are our present lifeline, some of these are ring fenced specifically for a new boiler, electronic/social networking, automated booking system, and LED lighting, all of which is estimated to save up to 30% on the relevant outgoing costs. We are planning this work for later in the year.

We are looking for more trustees and people who can help with fundraising events. So, if you have any ideas or would like to join us (we have one new member already) then please contact us.

We have a clear action plan moving forward to steer us through the turbulent waters to ensure the longevity of this vital village facility.

Mob: 07874 214916

Email: [info@rolvendenvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:info@rolvendenvillagehall.co.uk)

[www.rolvendenvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.rolvendenvillagehall.co.uk)

**If you want a village hall**

**Please**

**Book it, Help it, Use it**



**Charity Number 1109314**







[Back to Contents](#)

## 18 Bumble Bee Trust

Creating a Buzz in Rolvenden Many of our bumblebees – of which we have 24 species in the UK – have suffered serious long-term declines. This is largely due to the loss of 97% of wildflower rich habitat; resulting in a huge loss of suitable forage and nesting habitat. Kent is the most important county in the UK for bumblebee diversity. In close proximity to Rolvenden four of the UK BAP (Biodiversity Action Plan) species have been recorded: Ruderal bumblebee (*Bombus ruderatus*), Brown-banded carder bee (*Bombus humilis*), Moss carder bee (*Bombus muscorum*) and Red-shanked carder bee (*Bombus ruderarius*).

The Bumblebee Conservation Trust has been working with the village of Rolvenden to provide habitat for these important pollinators. Several areas within the village have been enhanced, starting with the War Memorial where native spring bulbs were planted last autumn. These included native daffodils, tulips, muscari and snake's head fritillary – all of which are great food sources for pollinators at a time where this is often lacking. Native primroses and cowslips are another great early food source and will be planted in the Churchyard and around Tanyard Flats this spring. In these areas, cornfield annuals will also be sown. In other parts of the village perennial wildflower areas are being established. By reducing the mowing regime of road verges (starting with the strip on from the church to the vicarage) it will allow existing wildflowers to flower. This area was also sown with yellow rattle last autumn, which will suppress the grass and open up the sward, allowing the wildflowers to thrive. An area of the playing field in Rolvenden Layne is also being left to grow and was sown with yellow rattle and a perennial wildflower mix last autumn. These areas will not only produce beautiful displays, but will also provide vital sources of pollen and nectar throughout the summer months.



Ruderal Bumble Bee. Photo: Nikki Gammans



[Back to Contents](#)

## 19 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations for Rolvenden



### **Wed June 1st**

Wealden Consort will be giving a concert in St Mary's Rolvenden

### **Thursday June 2nd**

Lighting of the Rolvenden Beacon from 6.30pm at Windmill park, Benenden Rd, Rolvenden

For details and to register for free tickets visit [www.holepark.com](http://www.holepark.com)

### **Friday June 3rd**

Monypenny Garden Party

### **Sunday June 5th**

Rolvenden Jubilee Fete with Floats and Dog Show

For further details contact Lynn Walker at The Star  
01580 241369

As part of the Queen's Green Canopy some tree planting has already been undertaken in the village. Maggie Macauley kindly donated ten apple trees which have been planted on both playing fields, at the school and on one of the greens in Sparkeswood Ave.



Other village organisations will be planting their own trees in the autumn.



[Back to Contents](#)

## 20 Allotments

Whilst waiting for the legal process to be completed regarding the change of ownership of Rolvenden Allotment Gardens to Rolvenden Parish Council, plot holders have carried on tending to their plots with some amazing results.

We have had new younger plot holders join us which is brilliant. What they lack in experience they certainly make up for with their enthusiasm and energy! There is a noticeable comradeship exhibited between plot holders, sharing experience, knowledge and helping each other with difficult tasks.

We have split some of the bigger plots into two, they are a manageable size which is perfect for novice plot holders.

At this time all plots have been allocated but hopefully in the not too distant future we can start to allocate more.

For more information please contact Jan Bridger 07445 971791





[Back to Contents](#)

## 21 The Parish Council

Parish Councillors are all volunteers and receive no payment for their services.

The current councillors are:

### The Streyte

Cllr. Mr Antony Johnstone.

48 Sparkeswood Avenue, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4LZ.

Telephone: 01580 241806

Email: [johnstonecelia@gmail.com](mailto:johnstonecelia@gmail.com)

Cllr. Mr Edward Barham

Hole Park, Rolvenden, Kent TN17 4JB

Telephone: 01580 241344

Email: [edwardbarham@holepark.com](mailto:edwardbarham@holepark.com)

Cllr. Mrs Lynn Walker

30 High Street, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4LN

Telephone: 01580 241369

Email: [linda19walker@btconnect.com](mailto:linda19walker@btconnect.com)

Cllr. Mrs Irene Newman

10 Gybbons Road, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4LL

Telephone 01580 241813

Email: [dnewman@btinternet.com](mailto:dnewman@btinternet.com)

Cllr. Mr Steve Bryant

11 Sparkeswood Avenue, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent. TN17 4LU

Email: [stevebryant123@outlook.com](mailto:stevebryant123@outlook.com)



## The Layne

Chairperson

Cllr. Mrs Denise Curtain

33 Maytham Road, Rolvenden Layne, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4NS

Telephone: 01580 241095

Email: [duckscrossing33@gmail.com](mailto:duckscrossing33@gmail.com)

Cllr. Mrs Fiona May

3 Thornden Court, Thornden Lane Rolvenden Layne, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4PS

Email: [Fiona@fmay.uk](mailto:Fiona@fmay.uk)

Cllr. Ms Tessa Turner

Email: [Tessalivesley@yahoo.com](mailto:Tessalivesley@yahoo.com)

Telephone:

## Clerk and other contacts

Clerk to the Council

Mr Peter Setterfield PSLCC Wealden House, Grand Parade, Littlestone, Kent, TN28 8NQ

Email: [rolvendenclerk@gmail.com](mailto:rolvendenclerk@gmail.com)

Ashford Borough Councillor for Rolvenden. Kate Walder

Potts Farm, Chennel Park Road Tenterden, Kent TN30 6XA.

Telephone: 07839 110611

Email: [kate.walder@ashford.gov.uk](mailto:kate.walder@ashford.gov.uk)

Kent County Council Cabinet Member. Mr Michael Hill OBE

Rolvenden Update 2022  
Annual Rolvenden Parish Council Newsletter



Members' Suite, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ

Tel: 03000 416240

Email: [michael.hill@kent.gov.uk](mailto:michael.hill@kent.gov.uk)

### Parish Council Meetings

Parish council meetings are held at 7.30pm in the Village Hall on the 3rd Thursday of every month, except December.