

# Rolvenden & Newenden *Parish Magazine*

2025  
AUGUST  
ONLINE





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*Cover Image Photographer: Sheena Bettina-Nelson*

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# Minister's Letter

My introduction to village life was time spent every summer with my Granny in Five Ashes. That would have been in the early fifties. And that is where I get all my reference points for what constitutes a village fête. One of the essential ingredients was bowling for the pig. It was a serious business. A pig was worth winning.



It was obvious to me that Newenden Fun Day should have bowling for a pig as one of the attractions, even though the prize would be appropriately pig-themed rather than a genuine squealer. Then I found myself explaining the concept to a bemused planning team. Really? A live pig you took home? What did you do with it? Why would anyone want that? Pig bowling was replaced with splat the rat.

These days I measure the passing of time by the number of, for me, commonplace things I have to explain: a seventy-eight, pressing button B, asking the operator, early closing day, the list could go on. The answer is that I happen to be living through a time when continuous rapid change has become the norm. This is a time when the human ability to communicate and cooperate across the world has enabled us to develop the means of exploring our tiny bit of the vastness of space.

Let's take just one very recent discovery reported in the press on July 3rd: according to Nasa, the largest inter stellar visitor ever detected was first spotted on 1 July by a telescope in Chile. It has been named 3I/ATLAS. It originated from outside the Milky Way, is estimated to be towards twice as old as our solar system and is just passing through.

We humans have always been fascinated by the heavens. The vastness, the activity, sometimes random, like the appearance of 3I/ATLAS, but more often regular and observed, leading to all those stone circles aligned to the summer and winter solstices. More remarkable are the hidden alignments, like the Newgrange tomb in County Meath, a passage tomb within a circular mound so designed that a beam of sunlight from the winter solstice sunrise enters through an opening above the entrance and illuminates the chamber for about 17 minutes each year\*.

The fascination can take on a significance, can become an awareness of a presence that remains forever a mystery, a presence that can be classified as divine, a presence we call God.

I give you some lines from one of those really old songs we call the Psalms, where the poet is addressing God:

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars that you have established;  
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
mortals that you care for them?  
(Psalm 8: verses 3,4)



Trying to date an individual psalm is never easy but we can safely say these words come from somewhere between 1750 and 400 BCE.

However long ago those words were first sung, today, as we ponder the fleeting visit of 3I/ATLAS, that question is still there. Put colloquially we could ask: Why do you bother with us? Why take a second look our way? And with some reflection we might get to asking: What part are we to play in your amazing creation?

If your August includes taking time out, maybe you can take some time to gaze up at the night sky and ponder those questions.

*God bless  
Judy V*

*Want to know more about Newgrange?*

*\* [https://www.newgrange.com/winter\\_solstice.htm](https://www.newgrange.com/winter_solstice.htm)*

## St Peter and St Mary Flower Rotas for August 2025

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>St Mary</b>	<b>St Peter</b>
<b>Aug 03</b>	Sylvia K	Sally Manford
<b>Aug 10</b>	tba	Rosie Edmonds
<b>Aug 17</b>	tba	Rosie Edmonds
<b>Aug 24</b>	Flower Festival	Rhoda Smith
<b>Aug 31</b>	Sylvia K	Rhoda Smith
<b>Contact:</b>	Sylvia Kellett 01580 240463 Sylviakellett@eplusmail.com	Rosie Edmonds 01797 252196 rosie.edmonds@hotmail.com

**Brass Cleaning at St Mary: Louisa Anderson**

**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.

### **FLOWER FESTIVAL BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND**

**Flower Arrangers:** Meeting in church on Sat. Aug. 2nd 9.30am re queries about 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 ❖

**Funeral 14th July Sarah Cole at St Peter's followed by cremation at Charing  
Interment of Ashes 11th July Yvonne Chandler at St Mary's**





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# The Church of England

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

### Sunday 3rd August: Seventh Sunday after Trinity

***NB The 8am Holy Communion  
is cancelled***

9.30am St Peter's Newenden  
The Eucharist

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden  
Celtic Morning Prayer

### Sunday 10th August: Eighth Sunday after Trinity

9:30am St Peter's Newenden  
Lammas Eucharist

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden  
The Eucharist

### Sunday 17th August: Ninth Sunday after Trinity

9:30am St Peter's Newenden  
The Eucharist

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden  
Matins

*6pm Summer Celebration (Stone)*

### Saturday 23rd August: Rolvenden Flower Festival

9:00am St Mary's, Launch Service for the Flower Festival

### Sunday 24th August: Newenden St Bartholemew, Rolvenden Flower Festival

9.30am St Peter's Newenden  
Celtic Morning Prayer

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

### Sunday 31st August: Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

9.30am St Peter's Newenden  
Celtic Morning Prayer

8am St Mary's Rolvenden  
Holy Communion BCP

11.00am St Mary's Rolvenden  
Celtic Morning Prayer

***Forest Church is taking a two-month break. It will be back in September***

#### **And during the week:**

##### ***Beginning the Day with God***

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

##### ***Ending the Day with God***

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

*Tenterden Church will be closed for  
refurbishment until mid-August 2025. Until  
then, services that would normally take place  
in St Mildred's will be held in Tenterden  
Church Hall opposite the church. Please check  
Connect Up for precise details of services  
and venues.*

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

*Both celebrations will last about  
twenty-five minutes. These services  
won't appear online.*

*St Mildred's, Tenterden Online services,  
will be found at YouTube and also can  
be accessed through our free daily  
bulletin, **Connect Up!** To receive  
**Connect Up!** please visit our website,  
[www.tentroxchurches.co.uk](http://www.tentroxchurches.co.uk), and  
subscribe.*



## **Friends of St Peter's**

**Sunday 3rd Aug, AGM in church 5:00pm,  
Annual Boat Trip from Lime Wharf at 6:00pm**

Say Friends of St Peter's and most people will immediately think duck racing on the River Rother. Quite right, it is the major annual fund raiser for the Friends, whose sole purpose is to raise funds to help pay for the upkeep and maintenance of the fabric of Newenden's ancient church.

But that is not the only link between the Friends and the river. We have an AGM, of course, and then those who wish to do so, make their way to the Lime Wharf landing stage, board the Dannie Lee, and set out down river. At some point bottles and picnic packs are opened. There is sharing, chat and enjoyment of the peace and wildlife of the river. The return journey is made into the setting sun.

The Friends have realised it is very selfish to keep this magical evening to themselves. They have decided to share it with the residents of Newenden. Places are restricted, the Dannie Lee can only take so many, but if you would like to join us, please call Alan Seal about places. His number is 07970134611. If you do come, remember picnic, bottle, some reckon a cushion is a good idea, and a jumper or jacket as it can get quite cool on the water as the sun goes down.

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**ST MARY'S ROLVENDEN**

# **Flower Festival**

**AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND**

**Sat 23rd, (10am - 5pm)**

**Sun 24th, (11am - 5pm)**

**Mon 25th, (10am - 4pm)**

*Daily Organ & Instrumental Performances in Church*

**SONGS OF PRAISE**

**Sun 24th 11.00am**

*(please come and join us for this service)*

**Theme - Follow Alice....**

**In the Village Hall**

**ART EXHIBITION**

**Sale of Paintings, Crafts & Cards**

**Morning Coffee - Afternoon Tea**

**Bookstall - Raffle**

**Festival Lunches available at The Star Inn**

*In aid of Church Funds: Enquiries 01580 240463*



## **Rolvenden Primary School**

### **Ending the Term**

The last two weeks at school are always very busy and this year has been no exception. At the time of writing this report, Rolvenden Primary is just beginning the final week of term. Last week saw an action-packed week that included Sports Day which was enjoyed enormously by the participants and the watching parents. There were sprint races, distance races and obstacle races – a great test of resilience for the children.

Beauty and the Beast has had its premiere and the final performances are on Monday and Tuesday of the last week of term. The first two performances were enormously successful. The stage sets and costumes were well designed and the children gave of their best – every child and member of staff was part of team Rolvenden Primary working together to create a spectacular performance.

Curriculum activities have been innovative and 'The Theft of the Rolvenden Pencil' produced a plethora of inventive responses involving role playing detectives and journalists, learning about interviewing skills by conducting interviews, and desktop publishing their findings.

Willow Class have had as their theme 'Violent Volcanoes' and learnt about tectonic plates, the 'Ring of Fire', geothermal energy, minerals and engaged in much geographical study. They have been learning how to use maps, and read aerial photographs - vital skills for later life. The science skills look intriguing with a focus being on: plant hunters, fossil finders, a journey to the centre of the earth. They have also learnt about Marie Curie and George Washington Carver – an agricultural scientist and inventor - who encouraged the growth of other crops as alternatives to cotton as well as developing methods to improve the quality of soil. Willow Class have also played a full role in preparing for their part in Beauty and the Beast.

When you read this, the leavers will have said their goodbyes after completing an action-packed term and the cycle will begin again in September with new challenges and exciting topics to learn. Another year of wonder and awe will begin.



## Rolvenden Flower Festival Bank Holiday Weekend

As ever we look forward to welcoming visitors to the Flower Festival and Art Exhibition; 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.

**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.

**Contact Jan Gambier (01580 243086)** to exhibit your works of art and to volunteer as a steward.

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 Gardening Society



## Summer Show



This was held on Saturday, 14th June in Rolvenden Village Hall. It followed a hot and sunny Friday and then a night of thunderstorms and rain, albeit not as heavy as forecast. There were 116 entries from 21 members, 6 entries up from last summer.

The judges' comments were favourable, particularly from the cookery judge, who was very impressed by the exhibits, but especially by Cynthia Crowley's strawberry sponge and Richard Coleman's cheese scones.

There were some gaps in the entries most notably currants, gooseberries, raspberries, bunches of herbs, cabbages and there was no jam.

However, there were several roses exhibited and a good display of sweet peas which smelt delightful. Congratulations to John Walters for achieving first place with his sweet peas. Most entries were in the flowering shrubs and garden flower selection classes. Other notable entries were Richard Coleman's beautiful delphinium, an interesting selection of grasses from Marilyn Gower and Cathy Stern's floral interpretation on the theme "The Darling Buds of May". Most commendable was the fact that everyone who entered in the adult classes received a prize sticker.



Well done also to the Preschool who displayed some delightful pictures which were made out of shells. First prize here went to Otterlie: 2nd prize to Evie: 3rd prize to Herbie. Congratulations to you all!

John Walters announced the raffle prize numbers, aided by Rita. Thanks go to Jean and Ian Clifton for running the raffle which made £159 for the funds. Sue Clout gave the vote of thanks to the helpers and judges. Special thanks also to the committee, the ladies who make the tea and Ashley Bradshaw who



puts the notice boards around the village. We must finally thank Sue Clout for her hard work as Show Secretary: a job well done!

Sue announced the forthcoming Garden Safari on 5th July when the Society will be fund raising jointly with the Preschool.

**In conclusion, Sue announced the adult results which were as follows:**



■ **First- Richard Coleman** with 7 Firsts, 1 Second, 1 Third.

■ **Second- Cathy Stern** with 6 Firsts, 1 Second.

■ **Third- Ashley Bradshaw** with 6 Firsts and 1 Third.

Thank you to everyone who entered the various classes or came along to look at the exhibits, have a cup of tea and chat with friends.

**Next Events:**

■ **1.** The Autumn Show on Saturday, 6th September.

■ **2.** A trip to Kew Gardens on Tuesday, 16th September. At the time of writing there are still some seats available at a cost of £40 which includes coach travel and entrance to the Gardens. If you are interested, please contact Graham Button on 07754763567.

*Maralyn Button.*



## **Positive Feedback always welcome...**

Last month Flik Dennison, new resident of Rolvenden Layne, wrote about an enjoyable bus ride on the 297 to Tunbridge Wells. The driver Manuel played a leading role. Today one of the Mag team reported that another reader had given Manuel a copy of the article. He was delighted and touched that he and his bus had got a mention. He is taking the Mag home to share with his family and neighbours. Home is an island off Portugal. That makes the seventh international reader we have to my knowledge!





## Weather and Nature Notes

The longest day is now past, yet it felt like July long before it actually arrived. A forecast June storm with lots of lightning and only 7mm of rain rumbled through. The total rainfall I measured for June was only 32mm. I was away on the day we did get a downpour in early July, apparently the skies blackened and a tropical-like storm produced huge raindrops. Hot weather seems to be with us for now with recurring heatwaves interspersed with a few days breezy respite before another bout of heat and humidity along with a plea from the water companies to be sensible with water and a hose pipe ban.

Mowing machinery sounded in the distance and the smell of drying grass was on the evening air as I walked past some earlier cut fields. With only the margins still long, meadow brown butterflies had evacuated to a hedgerow bathed in the late sun. My eyes, though, were drawn up to the tops of oak trees to look for purple hairstreak butterflies, and yes, in twos and more, they spiralled, whizzed and chased around. Rarely flying down to lower levels these



small butterflies feed on aphid honeydew up in the canopy. This was a slightly neck aching exercise but with pleasing results - quite a few of the oak trees had them present.

It is also great weather for cacti, you may joke. I have a small collection I keep in the greenhouse. They grow well enough indoors, but overall benefit from being in the greenhouse as they like a cool dry winter to initiate flowering better, and also get better light levels and ventilation. Contrary to popular thought, they do need watering from about March to the end of October. I was admiring the flowers on one when in through the open door flew a leafcutter bee, between her legs she was carrying a piece of leaf she had cut and she proceeded to land on a cactus pot rim and then disappear into the soil down a little hole she had burrowed out. She had decided to make a nest chamber in there. Leaf cutter bees cut small sections of leaf to line a hole making lots of individual cells and laying an egg in each with some pollen for the larva to feed on, she then seals the end off with another piece of leaf. The next generation will appear next year. I then noticed after a day or two of hard work with her to-ing and fro-ing from my cactus, she (or another one) was going into the underside of a flowerpot that was on a mesh stand that had some drainage holes exposed. It



seems so clever how they go straight to the exact plant pot amongst many and the exact hole, a lesson there not to underestimate their eyesight and navigational skills.

As I went to the kitchen sink, a little fellow was sitting on the windowsill by the open window, his very long antennae waving in my direction as he observed me looking at

him. It had the markings of a Roesel's bush-cricket, yet it had very long wings which looked odd, normally they have very small wings and are flightless. I am no expert on grasshoppers, crickets and similar members of that family, but that is an easier one to identify. A quick bit of research found that yes it was a male Roesel's, but a long-winged form that apparently accounts for about 1% of the population. It seems it is a dispersal strategy, triggered by over population, lack of food, or warm weather which we have had this spring, which could obviously then cause a lack of food and too high a density if they don't spread out. He jumped on to my arm so I returned him outside to the cover of a hedge, where he could spread those long wings if he desired or make himself at home in my garden.

*Hazel Beaney*



# AUTUMN/WINTER 2025

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Red Priest  
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Timothy Rundle  
Oboe Recital  
19 September



Wine tasting  
20 September



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Orchestra  
27 September



Harry The Piano  
8 October



Sherlock Holmes:  
The Hunt For Moriarty  
10 & 11 October



The Real  
Manhunter  
17 October



Spot's  
Birthday Party  
23 & 24 October



London Concertante  
Four Seasons  
30 October



Blazin' Fiddles  
9 November



The BBC  
Big Band  
22 November



Jess Gillam  
11 December



Lost in Music  
12 December



The Nutcracker  
13 December



Faulty Towers  
Dining Experience  
13 & 14 December



The Philharmonia  
Brass at Christmas  
19 December



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# FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!

## Lettuce



Lettuce is one of the most widely eaten leafy vegetables around the world. Lettuce is usually used in salads, sandwiches and wraps but can be braised or used in soups.

It has a long history going back four thousand years. First cultivated by the Egyptians around 2700 BCE, mainly for its oil rich seeds rather than the leaves, the Egyptians gradually began to value the leaves as well and it became a symbol of fertility and renewal. Lettuce was used in ancient Egyptian art and religious ceremonies.

Of course, the cultivation of lettuce spread to Greece and Rome. The Romans used the white milky sap from the base to calm nerves and promote sleep. Modern lettuce contains less but some people still find it soporific. In Anglo Saxon times it was called sleepwort.

The Romans developed several types of lettuces and they believed eating them regularly helped digestion.

By the Middle Ages, lettuce was an important crop in Europe and in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries European colonists took it to America which, along with China, is one of the leading producers today.

There are many varieties of lettuce, some sources say over a hundred. These are generally categorised into four main types: Cos (Romaine), Butterhead, Crisphead(Iceberg) and Loose Leaf.



Crisphead, as it was known, was cultivated in California around 1890. It has tightly packed crunchy leaves with a mild flavour, and is lower in nutrients than other varieties but its crunchiness and long shelf life makes it very popular. It got its name from the way it was shipped packed with ice on top during the early twentieth century. It is the most popular variety worldwide and China is the largest producer.

Personally, I prefer Cos with its long sturdy leaves which has a good flavour and holds up well once dressed. It is traditionally used in Caesar salad. It is thought to have originated on the Island of Kos, the Romans increased its popularity and called it Romaine, the choice is yours!

Butterhead, more commonly referred to as a round lettuce, is sweet and mild and is generally higher in folate, iron and potassium. Unlike the other varieties Loose Leaf, such as red and green leaf, grow loosely from the stem and do not form heads. It is excellent in salads and has the added benefit of the coloured leaves looking attractive.

Lettuce has a high water content but in spite of this they contain many nutritional benefits, especially the darker varieties.

They are low in calories and high in nutrients, providing fibre, vitamins and minerals. Romaine and looseleaf lettuces are especially rich in vitamin A, K, folate and antioxidants.

Romaine lettuce has been grown on the International Space Station as part of experiments to understand growing plants in microgravity, also to give astronauts fresh food. Studies show it's as nutritious as earth grown lettuce.

If you have a glut of lettuce and can't face another salad, try making some soup which can be eaten either hot or cold. Make it using onion, potato - to give some body to it - and either peas and mint, or with spinach; add cream or crème fraiche if you want to. I like braising lettuce with petit pois and serving with chicken or fish.

*Lavinia*





# Appledore Flower Festival

**'Never a Dull Moment'**



## Appledore Church

### August Bank Holiday Weekend

**Sat 23rd August - 10am - 5.30pm**

**Sun 24<sup>th</sup> August - 12.30pm - 5.30pm**

**Mon 25<sup>th</sup> August - 10am - 5.30pm**

**Home-made refreshments, live music & stalls**

**Art Exhibition & Children's Quiz**

**Free entry & parking**

**For more info: Donna 01233 758256**





## Remembering Geoff Blain on Victory Over Japan (VJ) Day

Many of us remember Geoffrey Blain who lived in Alma Cottages, Rolvenden for much of his long life with his wife, Joan. In 1939 Geoff enlisted in the Royal Artillery adding two years to his age. He was stationed in India and later Malaya but taken prisoner of war by the Japanese when Singapore fell in February 1942. He was twenty years old. His time as a Far East Prisoner of War (FEPOW) was spent in various camps; first in Singapore and Changi, then Formosa (Taiwan as it is now).

It was eighteen months before his parents knew where he was. For more than three years Geoff experienced soul destroying situations, extreme brutality, starvation, disease and forced labour including time within the Kinkaseki copper mines. When he was liberated by the Americans on the 5th September 1945, a few weeks after the end of the war, Geoffrey weighed six and a half stone.

A few weeks later the reception at Southampton docks was underwhelming. No band, no reception committee - just a cup of tea, a blanket and a train pass. The euphoria of VE Day seemed to have passed.

Geoff got back to Sandhurst to find his Mum alone. When he walked in, she, thinking it was his sister arriving home said, "You're back early." "No," he said, "I've been a long time, Mum."

The bells at St Nicholas' Church, Sandhurst will ring for VJ Day and Geoff's memory on 15th August 2025 at 7.30 p.m.

*Jackie King*

*with acknowledgement to Geoff's sister, Gwen and niece, Marion.*



## Fleshing out the Neighbour Plan

Rolvenden is living space for a collection of individuals, some living alone, some living with partners, some as families, separate households, all held within a parish boundary. Inside that boundary are the basic essentials for life today: water, power, communications networks, drains. There are essential institutions, close by for our convenience, preschool, school, shop and post office. Humans are sociable individuals, which is why there are places to socialise, pubs, the hall, the church, open spaces and areas for sport. And we humans are just one species living on a fragile blue marble, and how our little corner is cared for has consequences for how we live.

We cannot and do not exist solely inside our parish boundary. We've to go elsewhere for the essentials we lack. So, our living space is linked by paths, roads and transport systems to other places with more basic essentials for



health, safety and security, education, a range of shops to meet many needs and venues for social and leisure activities.

That's quite a list. It could be a list of the good ingredients making up the environment in which we all live, the basic ingredients for our Community.

### Let's take a quick backward glance:

- remember this event on the Layne Field in 1985? Looks like a healthy community to us.
- remember Covid and how we came through as a community?
- were you in the Village Hall for the July Parish Council meeting? There was some robust and considered community engagement around some important issues. **We have a healthy community!**

What we are thinking about with the Neighbourhood Plan is how we maintain that healthy community – and a healthy community starts with a beneficial environment in which to function.

The neighbourhood plan is our opportunity to assemble a list of priorities around the nature and quality of the ingredients that make up our environment. The list becomes a set of guidelines that are to be taken into account when changes are being considered. Predominantly, but not exclusively, this will be when consideration is given to housing. It is about maintaining our physical and



social environment in a good state which will contribute to a thriving, engaged, successful community.

**The first thing the Steering Committee is doing on behalf of the community is recording:**

- the elements of our present environment that make positive contributions, the good bits of Rolvenden, the things that bring us alive and make us strong
- the elements that could be improved or are downright detrimental

We can build on the work that was done when the first Neighbourhood Plan was produced. But importantly, we need to reflect the thinking and needs of the community as it is now. That is why we are asking you to have your say, and complete the survey. This process is an important contribution to our future community life.

**It's a holiday month. You may have some downtime.**

**If you have not already completed the survey, here's how:**

- Online using the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Rolvenden1>
- Or pick up a paper copy from the information point in St Mary's

*Denise Curtain and Judy Vinson. For the RNDP steering committee*



## **Rolvenden PreSchool Report**

As we draw this pre-school year to a close, we say farewell to 11 children who are off to Primary school. They have given us lots of fun and friendship and we hope we have given them a solid foundation to build on as they progress to school. Being a small setting, we feel very close to each and every member of our group and we cherish them all individually. All of the leavers have made visits to their respective primary schools. Those who are going to Rolvenden had the fun of joining in a performance of the 'Sleepy Bumblebee'.

However, we cannot dwell too long on those moving on as we still have several children continuing with us for another year or two.

We also have space available for more new starters to join us. If you would like to find out what makes Rolvenden Pre-School a great place for your child to begin their early education, then please do get in touch.

*You can follow us on Facebook@rolvendenpreschool or give us a call on 07729718181 (during term time only) or email us at*

*rolvendenps@gmail.com (emails will be monitored through the holidays).*

*We would love to hear from you and to welcome you into our Pre-School family.*



## Rolvenden Parish Council Report



The Parish Council has agreed to apply for S106 funding to support both the football and tennis clubs. The football club has incurred a hefty legal bill in arranging a new lease and the tennis club would like to carry out a number of improvements.

Representatives from Cantium Homes attended the meeting held on the 17 July 2025 to present their draft proposals for the Cornex Garage site. They will be distributing an information leaflet on the scheme to residents in the area. In the meantime, we await further updates on the Local Plan and information on the sites that Ashford Borough Council are considering. We will share this with you when we receive them.

Officers from ABC have recently met individually with the Monypenny residents to listen to their concerns. The Officers attended the Parish Council meeting held on the 17 July 2025 to discuss the proposals. The Parish Council arranged this meeting as part of a commitment to supporting the residents and achieving the best outcome. The Parish Council has also sought the support of MP Katie Lam.

The new gateways at Rolvenden Layne should be installed by the time you read this article and we hope that they will encourage motorists to slow down and drive carefully through the village.

The Village Hall continues to struggle with insufficient trustees. Please do contact the Clerk who is the acting Secretary if you could spare some time to get involved.

Finally, MP Katie Lam will be attending the Parish Council meeting due to be held on Thursday 21 August 2025 to listen to any concerns you may have.

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](mailto:clerk@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
Tel: 07900 693572*

What's the most difficult thing you've done today?  
Find the words to fill the gap at the bottom of this  
page. What's the best thing you've done?

Shared the problem with others.

Did that work out?

I dunno. Still waiting for an answer.....



## Rolvenden History Group

Friday, 1 August 2025

'Browsing through scrapbooks of newspaper cuttings (Rolvenden and area): 1960s to 2000.'

Jackie King



We are delighted that Jackie King will be speaking to us on Rolvenden in our August meeting. Jackie is going to make a powerpoint presentation based on highlights from her mother's precious scrapbooks and her own collection, which she started in 1975. The scrapbooks will be on display so that you can view this unique record of local history.

Venue: St Mary's Church, Rolvenden

Coffee and biscuits

7.15 pm for start at 7.30pm

Everyone welcome - Non-members: £4

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



## Monypenny News:

Residents continue to oppose new development proposals. They are seeking parishioners' support for the campaign with a petition that is heading towards 650 signatures. ([change.org](https://www.change.org))

ABC officials will attend the PC Meeting on 17 July after interviewing individual Monypenny Residents on the same day.

Please Understand that our Campaign is not to oppose a redevelopment of

Monypenny and adjoining vicarage site. It is to get ABC to rethink the proposals and ensure residents can remain in the present Monypenny building whilst the new building is constructed, and not be decanted to other areas of ABC borough against their wishes.

This request is in the interest of humanity and responsible care from ABC. You can support our Campaign by signing our petition see link here at [www.savemonypenny.com](http://www.savemonypenny.com)

### Activities

**Giant Sunflower Competition** - Eight residents entered the competition for the tallest sunflower. At present the tallest sunflower is around 2.2 metre and growing! Judging will take place next month.

**Hanging Basket Preparation** - On 9 June, residents and staff gathered to prepare 10 hanging baskets with bedding plants. They are now in full bloom and look great in spite of the hot weather. Thanks to Sue, Pam, and Joy for keeping them watered.

**Ashford Borough Council** are again holding a Garden Competition this year and several residents will enter. The exact date is to be advised.

**On Saturday, 5 July** Monypenny hosted the Garden Safari which was organised jointly by Rolvenden Preschool and Rolvenden Gardening Society. The weather held out and Monypenny Lounge catered for the steady flow of visitors all day managing refreshments, the raffle and the plant stall. The event raised a





fantastic £715.

**Spanish Tapas Lunch - 30 June.**

Julie (housekeeper) and Toni (ILO) hosted a fantastic Spanish Tapas Lunch outside which eight residents attended. The presentation and food were amazing. On the menu were: chicken, prawn olives, bread, salads, wine, and amazing Tapas specialities, followed by strawberries, meringues and fresh cream, coffee and tea. Thank you both, you did us proud.

**Future Events**

■ **Our next planned meal for Monday, 14 July** is an American themed lunch with burgers etc to celebrate (a bit late) American Independence Day.

■ We are at present rethinking future summer trip venues and will

update them next month.

■ **Our Annual Macmillan Cancer Coffee Morning will be held in the Monypenny Lounge on Friday 26 September.** Let's see if we can equal or beat our last year's figure raised of £700. Thanks for your continued support for this worthy cause which affects us all in some way or at some stage in our lives. Look out for updates here.

**Weekly Events**

■ Wednesday 2-4pm, afternoon tea with sumptuous cakes in Monypenny Lounge. Residents £2, non-residents £3 per person. Come and have a natter with us all!!

■ Thursday Breakfast at 9am. Residents Only.

*Graham Tiltman*

E	B	E
R	E	A
L	T	C

**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 Garden Safari**

### **Gardening Society and Pre-school**

As usual, we start with the weather ... what else ?

Well, it was changeable, but then, being British, we are used to that. In spite of that, the day was a great success with nine gardens on show plus the allotments. They all looked fabulous and it was good to see the allotments thriving with so many in use. It is early days for the community orchard, but it is starting to look established. Huge thanks to the gardeners who worked their socks off to keep their gardens looking lovely for the day.

Richard Coleman, Janet Bridger, Jane Hitchin, John Walters, Ellen Austin, Tony Abrahams, Ken & Judith Linklater, Jackie & Dave King and Graham Tiltman, your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Excellent ticket sales were made by Chris from the Motor Museum and Shaun and Mark from the framers, so thank you so much. Thanks also to our Committee and Pre-school staff who all worked hard to put the show on the road. Well done, everyone. Helen from pre-school doggedly manned the Monypenny kitchen all day serving drinks and delicious cakes and selling raffle



tickets, so thanks also to Monypenny for allowing us to use their communal areas (for a small fee).

Total profits for the day were £715 which will be divided between Pre-school and the Gardening Society.

*All in all, a good day ! Jan Gambier*



## Make the most of your day with our Summer Explorer

Make the most of your day in **Bodiam**. Arrive at 9.35am by train from Tenterden (dep 8.45am) or Northiam (dep 9.20am).

Or enjoy an all-day visit to the beautiful market town of **Tenterden**. Arrive at 10.40am by train from Bodiam (dep 9.50am) or Northiam (dep 10.05am)

*Your Freedom Ticket is valid to return by any of the trains that day, so hop on board with us!*

**JULY**





23rd, 30th

**AUGUST**

2nd, 6th, 9th, 13th, 16th, 20th, 23rd, 27th, 30th

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  [www.kesr.org.uk](http://www.kesr.org.uk) • 01580 765155  





## NSPCC Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who came to support our Coffee Morning on Saturday, 28th June in Jean and Ian Clifton's wonderful garden in Thornden Lane, Rolvenden Layne. We were blessed with a lovely, sunny morning which enabled us to enjoy their beautiful, colourful garden and admire the hard work they have put into creating it.

Thank you also for any donations kindly given. Our final total is £515-40 which is an excellent result.

The biggest "thank you" must go to Jean and Ian who generously allowed us to use their amazing garden to raise this substantial amount for the NSPCC.

*Maralyn Button*





# **WORDS**

**SAT 23<sup>RD</sup> S K AUG  
THE E P 2025**

# **MUSIC**

**Words and Music is back this summer!  
Book now to enjoy another choice selection of  
international poets and artists  
in the delightful surroundings of Frensham Manor,  
Rolvenden Layne.**

**A whole day of poetry and music, with local food,  
beer and cider.**

**You will see some of today's most interesting poets,  
and some of the most beguiling contemporary  
musicians,  
performing across two stages.**

**This is a family-friendly event - there is plenty of space in the  
garden for kids to play,  
and there will be a free workshop for kids (5 upwards) run by  
youth arts group Caper.**

**(Accompanied kids under 12 do not need tickets.)**

**Check out Facebook [@skeparts](#) and our website [arts.theskep.uk](#)  
for updates.**

**Tickets available now from: <https://wegottickets.com/event/661705>**



# Words and Music at the Skep

**Saturday, August 23 at 2pm The Background to  
'Words and Music - a Day of Poetry and Music'**

Twelve years ago Rob and Amelia moved to Rolvenden Layne with their two young daughters and their mothers, one of whom had Parkinsons. This meant that it was difficult to go out to gigs and poetry readings. After a while, they got to know their new neighbours and realised that there would be an appetite for events like this locally. 'Skep Arts' was born, with Hannah Welch and Darren Pilcher joining to help organise things. Rob and Amelia's children have grown up now, and Amelia's mother, Jean, sadly passed away, so they are travelling a lot more to play their own music. But 'Skep Arts' is still very much alive.

## **The Aim**

"The aim of Skep Arts was to bring interesting new modern music and poetry to people who, by virtue of living here, are quite a long way away from towns and cities that have arts centres. A secondary ambition was to share the joy of seeing culture performed in unusual and informal contexts - there are some beautiful underused buildings in this area that can be turned to use, if permission is granted.

The barn at Frensham was the first of the 'de-centred arts venues' that Darren Pilcher and I made usable. (We knew we had to be careful because some neighbours were understandably anxious about how this would impact upon them, but numbers attending the events are limited and parking is all in the grounds of Frensham Manor.) Fairfield Church and the Unitarian Chapel, two other beautiful local buildings that many people haven't had the chance to visit, have also hosted events. We have a list of regular attendees now – I think we've earned the trust of people who feel confident we'll be sharing interesting material, even if the artists are new to them."

## **Past Highlights**

"'Winter Song' at Fairfield Church is always exciting because the weather is unpredictable. The first time it was really icy and we were



concerned that visitors might slip over, but people around here are quite tough, they know the terrain. It was pretty magical.

Twice, in the Skep barn, we've had silent films with live music to accompany the screening. The first, 'Nosferatu', was accompanied by Matthew King, who is an amazing pianist. The second was a screening of 'The Cabinet of Doctor Caligari', which is a fantastic early, perhaps the first, horror film made in 1919. A group called Non Blank, who play on electronic instruments, performed live. That was quite special, very atmospheric."

### **This Year at 'Words and Music'**

"It's hard to pick highlights, but here are two... Brian Bilston is an extraordinary poet who started off sharing his work on Twitter and Facebook – and he's now got half a million followers online. He's witty, he's popular, utterly unpretentious but capable of being very funny and at times very moving.

Fay Hallam used to live in Rolvenden. She's an incredible musician, a brilliant keyboard player and singer. It will be great to see her work close up. To be honest, I could talk about all the artists in a similar vein. It is going to be a quite special day"

## **Hospice Concert**

The second 2025 RBD Hospice Recital is earlier than usual, on Wednesday, August 27th at 3pm because Florian Verweij is coming from Holland to make his UK debut at St. Nicholas cottage. His `driver` is none other than the international Liszt specialist, Leslie Howard, who has agreed to play a Glazunov encore duet with

Florian, so please book early! Florian will be playing Schubert, Prokofiev, Brahms and, of course, Henselt.

Tickets are available from me on 01580-850-384, minimum donation £24. We hope to reach the £20,000 mark for Hospice in the Weald, since my Richard died. Quite an accomplishment, I would say! *Gillian Davis*

*And an apology from the editor – previous announcements from Gillian have included an incorrect phone number*





# Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch

August 2025

Our focus this month continues on being proactive with wildlife crime, catapulting, fraud/scams awareness and Rolvenden NHW communication



## Wildlife crime: catapulting



On 21 July there were reports of catapulting in Rolvenden. This followed incidents at the end of May when I was alerted to a report of a boy catapulting birds in the Tenterden area. I have escalated this issue to my contacts within the police, Neighbourhood Watch and the community. If you see this crime happening and in

progress, call 999. Try to get evidence without putting yourself in danger including the date, day, time, location, description of those involved and what was happening including photos/video footage.

Please sign these new petitions by clicking on the links or typing into a search engine then share them with friends and family. **Ban the use of catapults to protect wildlife:** <https://chn.g.it/hGgWNX584c> and <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/end-catapult-cruelty>

## Ongoing scams/fraud to be aware of:

**Rogue traders/sellers and charity reps knocking on doors.** You do not have to open your door if you are not expecting a call. If there are doorstep sellers including charity, don't feel obliged to open the door and sign up to regular donations. It is very important to check the company by phoning them before giving any bank details in case of bogus callers.

- **Buying tickets safely** - don't buy from strangers (buy from the venue or box office, promoter/agent and do not do a bank transfer)
- **Romance scams** - do not be taken in by sob stories or flattery
- **Blue Badge** - they offer to speed up your application
- **Court Impersonation** scam saying you owe money
- **Courier Fraud** - posing as police officers, saying they have arrested someone in possession of your bank card then asking for financial information or for you to withdraw cash
- **Police impersonation scam** - claim there is an issue with your bank
- **Mobile phone scam** - impersonate your telecommunications company with special offers as a loyal customer and offer a new phone upgrade
- **M&S Tea for 2 fake email**



- **Fake DWP (Department for Work and Pensions) text message** stating you are eligible for fuel allowance and to click on a link
- **Bogus Penalty Charge Text** - If you receive a text message like the picture below, it is a SCAM. You will notice the message does not provide any vehicle details, location, time or date when the alleged offence was supposed to have occurred. If you click on the link, you will be taken to a realistic looking website under the control of the criminals, where they will steal your financial data. You can report this by forwarding to 7726.

If you think that you may have been a victim of this or any other type of scam, contact your bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at

[www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

For further information about Fraud, visit the website at:

<https://www.kent.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/>

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

<https://stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk/>

### **Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch communication**

Peter New (Ashford Community Neighbourhood Watch volunteer) posts the latest frauds and crime information on the Rolvenden Community page. You can also get news updates and view fraud/scam information on the Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch site if you are a member and I also send updates to members who have signed up online. If the police and Peter New are available, I will try to organise a surgery at the market on Thursday, August 25 otherwise in the autumn (October).

### **How to join/contact Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch (reminder).**

**Click on this link or type it into a search engine:**

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/scheme/177397/rolvenden-neighbourhood-watch>

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### **Reporting crime to the police**

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

---

*Siân Reeves Rolvenden  
Neighbourhood Watch*

## **Organisations here to help**

EC30, a coffee shop and so much more! For more information email: [info@ec30.co.uk](mailto:info@ec30.co.uk), also see [www.ec30.co.uk](http://www.ec30.co.uk). EC30, Recreation Ground Rd, Tenterden.

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

The Tenterden Family Foodbank EC30 times as above.

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

[info@themildredtrust.org](mailto:info@themildredtrust.org) or [info@ec30.co.uk](mailto:info@ec30.co.uk), phone 07745 694748

Emergencies only please call: 07805 840493

## **Community Fridge**

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

## **Community Shop**

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

## **Old Schoolhouse Larder**

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

## **Regular Events**

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

- Memory Café and Friends every Friday  
Meets every Friday 2 – 4pm at St Andrews Church Hall,  
Ashford Road, Tenterden
- Musical Memories meets every Tuesday 10:45am – 12 noon  
Highbury Hall, Highbury Lane, Tenterden,  
a singing for health group.
- Monthly Lunch Club Meets 4th Wednesday 1:15 for 1:30pm  
Groves Restaurant, Tenterden Garden Centre Reading St.  
For all 3: Contact Jan Bridger  
Tel: 01580 762932 Mob: 07445971791

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

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

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

**NSPCC**



## **Talk to the NSPCC**

For advice and support about a child,  
or to report a concern, talk to us.  
It's free and you don't have to say who you are.

**0808 800 5000**

[help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk) [nspcc.org.uk/helpline](https://nspcc.org.uk/helpline)

**EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR**

© NSPCC. Photography by Tom Cook. The child pictured is a model. Registered charity England and Wales 234763 and Scotland SC238737. 0808 81134

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



# There is NO excuse for domestic abuse

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

**Victim Support: 0808 16 89 111**

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

**The Samaritans: 0845 79 09 090**

**Childline: 0800 1111**

**Mankind: 01823 334 244**

**[domesticabuseservices.org.uk](http://domesticabuseservices.org.uk)**

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



**SAMARITANS**

**ChildLine**  
0800 1111

**ManKind**  
Initiative



## Refuse Collection

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

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

You can also download a calendar.

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

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

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

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

On-line, see ABC website: [www.ashford.gov.uk/waste](http://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](mailto:katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk)

Office tel: 01580 388 344

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

### NEWENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

[www.newenden-pc.gov.uk/](http://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](mailto:enquiries@newenden-pc.gov.uk)

*Parish Council will meet at 7:00pm*

*16th September in St Peter's church.*

### ROLVENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

[www.rolvendenparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.rolvendenparishcouncil.org.uk)

Parish Clerk: Mrs Louise Goldsmith,

5 Artisan Road, Headcorn, TN27 9AZ

Telephone: 07900 693572

email:

[clerk@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@rolvendenparishcouncil.gov.uk)

*Parish Council will meet at 7:30pm*

*21st August in Rolvenden Village Hall.*

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



# 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 AUGUST ISSUE IS 5:00pm TUESDAY 12TH AUGUST**

**Note for distributors: ☆ Rolvenden Magazines available for collection on aturday 23rd August. ☆ Newenden Magazines available for collection on Sunday 24th 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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[info@greatbarnweddings.com](mailto:info@greatbarnweddings.com)

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Email: [reservations@thewhitehartnewenden.co.uk](mailto:reservations@thewhitehartnewenden.co.uk)

**Tel: 01797 252166 [www.thewhitehartnewenden.co.uk](http://www.thewhitehartnewenden.co.uk)**

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