

Rolvenden & Newenden *Parish Magazine*

23/24
DEC/JAN
ONLINE





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*With this Robin, the Magazine Team wish all our readers
a Christmas of joyful surprises and goodwill*



The letter to take us through December and January From Revd Andrew Tapsell



We are currently in a season of light and dark, a season of much celebration thanks to Christmas and New Year, but also a season of cold, long, dark nights. This is a season which many struggle with for many reasons, perhaps because of a sense of expectation to be happy at times of celebration, or perhaps because of the oppressive nature of the aforementioned long, dark nights and inclement weather. It is also a season when we stop and take stock, to look back at the year that has passed and ahead for the year to come, but with a multitude of global crises making for an increasingly dark world, it can be difficult to maintain a sense of gratitude for all that has been, a sense of joy for all that is and a sense of excitement for all that will be. Our light in dark times can seem to grow dim and leave us feeling disorientated and helpless.

While we may find some comfort in the consistency and continuity of familiar traditions at Christmas and New Year such as family meals, present-giving and fireworks, there is a greater encouragement to be found at this time of year. Despite our increasingly individualistic society, community remains an enormously valuable part of our lives, but only if it is fostered and invested in. Each of us is a part of our shared community and at this time of year, there are plenty of opportunities to come together and there is therefore plenty of opportunity for us to support our shared life together. It is in communal living, in the encouragement and building-up of one another, that we find divisions are bridged and barriers are torn down. The darkness that causes such divisions in the first place retreats when we, as individual lights in the world, gather to form a communal light and we are able to see each other more clearly.

The twelve-day festival of Christmas tells us a familiar story, one which we have likely heard many times before, but we love to hear a good story again and again, because stories are at the heart of communities and this particular story has community at its heart. Christmas tells of how God came to be in communion with creation in the person of Christ who is the light of the word: 'the light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it' (John 1:5). Two thousand years ago, a community of people came together under a starry sky to catch a glimpse of a child who would change the world. The same light that was offered to that community all that time ago is still offered to us as a community today, and it is the passion of the local church to provide time and space in which we can come together in that light, to feel afresh the love that it radiates into our hearts and to see each other more clearly in our shared life together. You are therefore warmly invited to your church's many services and events this Christmas season and beyond which include carol services, christingles, crib services, midnight mass, and much more, including the feast of Epiphany.



Christmas ends with the twelfth night on 6th January when Epiphany is celebrated to remember the arrival of the Magi at Bethlehem after their long journey following the star. 'Epiphany' means 'to reveal that which is hidden', and it is light that reveals to us that which is hidden by darkness. The light offered to us by Christ never grows dim and so I pray that, in the midst of this season of darkness, God's blessing is poured out on our communal life and that our hearts are illuminated to reveal a renewed sense of thankfulness, awe and hope in all that we hold dear. A very Merry Christmas and Happy New year to you all.

Revd Andrew

St Peter and St Mary Flower Rotas Dec '23/Jan '24

Sunday	St Mary	St Peter
Dec 03	ADVENT.....	NO FLOWERS
Dec 10	ADVENT.....	NO FLOWERS
Dec 17	Carol Service: CHRISTMAS FLOWER ARRANGERS	
Dec 24	CHRISTMAS FLOWERS	
Dec 31	CHRISTMAS FLOWERS	
Jan 07	Sylvia K	Sally Manford
Jan 14	Sylvia K	Sally Manford
Jan 21	Ina H	Janet Broadbent Kempton
Jan 28	Ina H	Janet Broadbent Kempton
Contact:	Sylvia Kellett 01580 240463 Sylviakellett@eplusmail.com	Rosie Edmonds 01797 252196 rosie.edmonds@hotmail.com
Brass Cleaning at St Mary: Patrick Izod in December Sylvia Kellett in January		

St. Peter's Church: Normally open between 10.00 and 4.00pm. If you need access outside of these times, please contact Frances Jones or Rosie Edmonds.

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

Sylvia

St Mary's Winter Lunch Dates for your Diary in 2024

There will be a series of Winter Lunches in Rolvenden Village Hall at 12.15 pm following the Sunday Services in St. Mary's on the following Sundays: January 21st, February 25th, and March 17th...all are most welcome. Please look out for the sign up sheets in both St Mary's and St Peter's nearer the time, or phone Sylvia 01580 240463.



John Leeves

Newenden Parish Clerk - Retired

On Tuesday 7th November John Leeves, Clerk to Newenden Parish Council, took his seat beside the Parish Council Chirman for the last time.

Rosie Edmonds recalls that John was appointed by Tony Cloote, after three applicants were interviewed. As he had recently retired from the Cabinet Office, he had plenty of relevant and useful experience, and has been efficient



at carrying out the administrative, financial and legal duties of a Parish Clerk, as well as a safe pair of hands to support and assist the seven Parish Chairman he has 'served' under.

Dennis Rose, a former Chair, offers a few words in tribute to John as he moves quietly towards his "pipe" and slippers.

'John has the patience of a Saint, an unappreciated ability ,helping when needed most, And a friend of the Parish for many years.

He has never appeared negative in his support and reflects a quiet efficiency.

No doubt John has reflections on the many differing attitudes and decisions of varied "chairs" under whom he has served whilst we wonder who would want to take on his job.

He has moved seamlessly between the different groups in an independent and professional manner .He will be a difficult act to follow ,hard to replace avoiding conflicts. We acknowledge his attributes being sincere and brief and always at our side. Bon voyage John and enjoy a well-earned rest.'

Tavia Gethin, on behalf of the present Council, writes that John has been an invaluable clerk to Newenden Parish Council for over 17 years. Having undertaken this role for so many years, he has been the fountain of knowledge on anything Newenden related to all the current, past and new councillors. We will miss his incredible memory, his attention to detail and hard-working ethic. We wish him a very happy retirement'.

John left the Parish with positive, if realistic, words for future Parish meetings: " Parish Council meetings are now much better attended than they were prior to 2012 when there were sometimes no residents present at all. The interest of residents in their community is welcome even if this leads to controversy over some issues."



The Church of England

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

Saturday 2nd December at Stone

9am An Advent Pilgrimage: Hoping
followed by an optional breakfast in the church at 9.30am

Sunday 3rd December First Sunday of Advent

9.30am St Peter's Newenden
Eucharist

4pm Advent Carol Service (Tenterden) *Live streamed and online thereafter*

8am St Mary's Rolvenden
Holy Communion

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

Saturday 9th December - 9am at Smallhythe An Advent Pilgrimage: Waiting

followed by an optional breakfast in the church at 9.30am

Sunday 10th December: Second Sunday of Advent

9:30am St Peter's Newenden
Eucharist

4pm Evensong (Tenterden): *Live streamed and online thereafter*

11am St Mary's Rolvenden
Eucharist

Saturday 16th December - 9am at Rolvenden An Advent Pilgrimage: Fearing

followed by an optional breakfast in The Star Inn at 9.30am
(which must be booked in advance)

Sunday 17th December: Third Sunday of Advent

No morning Services in either church

There is a Eucharist at Tenterden at 9:30am and at Wittersham at 11am

4pm St Peter's Newenden

Christmas Carol Service

4pm St Mary's Rolvenden

Christmas Carol Service

Saturday 23rd December - 9am at Tenterden An Advent Pilgrimage: Preparing

followed by an optional breakfast in the church at 9.30am

Sunday 24th December: Christmas Eve

No morning Services in either church

There is a Eucharist at Ebony at 10am and at Smallhythe at 11:15am

11pm St Peter's Newenden

The Eucharist of Christmas Night

4:30pm St Mary's Rolvenden

Chrstingle and Crib Service

11pm St Mary's Rolvenden

The Eucharist of Christmas Night

Monday 25th December Christmas Day

9:30am St Peter's Newenden

Eucharist of Christmas Morning

11am St Mary's Rolvenden

Eucharist of Christmas Morning

Sunday 31st December The First Sunday of Christmas & New Year's Eve

9:30am St Peter's Newenden
Eucharist

6pm at Tenterden – A service for New Year's Eve

8am St Mary's Rolvenden

Holy Communion

11am St Mary's Rolvenden

Celtic Morning Prayer



The Church of England

SERVICES IN CHURCH AND ONLINE
DURING JANUARY

Sunday 7th January Epiphany of our Lord

9.30am St Peter's Newenden
Eucharist

4pm Sung Evensong (Tenterden) Live streamed and online thereafter

8am St Mary's Rolvenden
Holy Communion
11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden
Celtic Morning Prayer

Sunday 14th January Second Sunday of Epiphany

9:30am St Peter's Newenden
Eucharist for Plough Sunday

4pm Sung Evensong (Tenterden): Live streamed and online thereafter

11am St Mary's Rolvenden
Eucharist for Plough Sunday

Sunday 21st January: Third Sunday of Epiphany

9:30am St Peter's Newenden
Eucharist

4pm Sung Evensong (Tenterden): Live streamed and online thereafter

11am St Mary's Rolvenden
Matins

Sunday 28th January The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

9.30am St Peter's Newenden
Celtic Morning Prayer

4pm Ecumenical Service St Andrews RC Church Tenterden

11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden
Eucharist

And during the week

Morning Prayer Will be said Monday to Friday at 9am in Tenterden Church.
This service will not appear online.

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,
online only from Monday to Saturday.

Holy Communion

Will be celebrated at St Michael's every Wednesday, and at Tenterden every Thursday. Both celebrations will begin at 10am, and last about twenty-five minutes
These services won't appear online.

To access our daily online worship, visit:

YouTube

St Mildred's, Tenterden

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBAbfTcsSiiq4HALM0GRdWg>

Online services, can also be accessed through the daily bulletin, **Connect Up!**

To receive Connect Up!

please visit our website: www.tentroxchurches.co.uk



CHRISTMAS CHEER

Through our 2023 Christmas Cheer Appeal, we will try and bring a little seasonal joy into the lives of families in our communities who are finding life tough.

**You can help by making a financial donation.
All donations will be turned into Tesco Gift Cards.**

Here's how to give:



* Online into
Lloyds Bank
Sort Code 30 90 28
Account No 01663306
Account Name PCC St Mildred's



- * Hand it to one of our ministers to pass on.
- * Put it through the letterbox in the vestry door in St Mary's Church Rolvenden
- * Hand it to one of the Churchwardens in Newenden.
- * Post it to The Vicarage, Church Road, Tenterden, Kent TN30 6AT.

If you give online, please identify your payment by using the phrase, Christmas Cheer Appeal. If you give by cash or cheque, please put your gift into an envelope marked Christmas Cheer Appeal. Cheques should be made payable to PCC St Mildred's.

Donations can be large, small, or somewhere in between. Please give if you can. It would help us if your donation could be received by Wednesday 6th December. Thank you!

In the past, we have received some very moving letters of gratitude, and so we know that we will make a real difference to people's lives this Christmas.

Lindsay, Jeanette and Andrew

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Still going strong

The Memory Café and Musical Memories continues to thrive, we have had quite a few new people join us over the past few months and they are of course very welcome. Many visitors attend both groups and our monthly lunch at The



Little Silver Country Hotel is always very popular, excellent food and kind, efficient staff.

Our September trip to Eastbourne was as usual a great success and it didn't rain! We had an outstanding lunch at the Langham Hotel whose

staff always look after us so well. Some of our group then had a walk along the sea front whilst others were happy to stay in the hotel and observe the beach and sea from the lounge. We are already booked in for lunch next April.

We recently spent a fun Friday afternoon making decorations for our Christmas Tree that is to be entered in the Zion Baptist Church Christmas Tree Festival.

We will have our Christmas Lunch on the 20th December at The Little Silver Country Hotel with musical entertainment provided by Steve Valentine, one of our newer but very popular entertainers.

On Friday the 22nd of December at 2pm we will be holding "Carols, Candles and Cake" a short but very meaningful Carol Service lead by Reverend Sharon Francis and Father Beur. We sing a good selection of the old favourite Christmas Carols but keep readings and any sermons to a minimum which suits our visitors.

Its lovely to see visitors who have quite advanced dementia singing along to the carols without needing to look at the screen for the words. This service is held in the Parish Centre at St Andrews Catholic Church. The service is then followed by tea and cake.

There will not be a café on the 29th of December. Musical Memories will hold its Christmas Party on the 19th of December at Highbury Hall. There will no Musical Memories on the 26th of December or the 2nd of January.

On behalf of all visitors and volunteers I would like to send a big thank you to all who have supported us in so many ways over the past year.

Wishing you all a peaceful and happy Christmas and New Year.

Jan Bridger.





Rolvenden Pre-School

Since I last wrote, the children had a fantastic Halloween themed day at pre-school, with music, games, messy play, dressing up, craft and stories. It was lovely to do something different for the day and the children really enjoyed it.

In November Rolvenden Pre-School committee held their AGM, at which two new parents joined as Trustees. We are very grateful for the committee's time and commitment to helping ensure the continued success of the pre-school.

At the moment we are busy preparing for Christmas with plenty of craft and Christmas themed activities. We share with you one of the amazing decorations the children have made so far. We will also be learning some songs to sing at the Rolvenden Primary School Reception class

Christmas play. This term we also have dance lessons with Sarah from Tesselation Dance, who comes to us with amazing energy, resources and fun that the children all respond really well to.

Wishing everybody a joyful season from all at Rolvenden Pre-School.

We are open, at the moment Monday to Thursday.

Call: 07729718181 or see Facebook page @rolvendenpreschool



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Art Classes Adult & Children



Rolvenden Primary School Review of 2023



It has been yet another busy year here at RPS! We've had huge success in the academic, sporting and performing arts fields and in this article we will share the highlights from each month.

January saw our Young Voices group travel to the O2 with Miss Jones and Mr Vincer for the annual collaborative choir event. There were over 10,000 children in attendance at the event!

In February, we welcomed the new adventure playground facility which was designed by our student council. They collaborated with their friends and finally Rolvenden School had some monkey bars which are still being enjoyed today. In March, we welcomed Granville to RPS who taught RE through the use of Bible stories and got the children of Holly Class up and acting! The families of RPS also raised an amazing £200 for Mrs Crowe through participating in her afternoon of sporting fun.

April saw our Community Champions group, spearheaded by Mrs Thomas and Mrs Gregory, head out and litter pick around the village – even in the heaviest of rainfall! Our children also took part in a nature themed project with the Tenterden Museum which culminated in the launch of 'The Great Escape' project over the Easter Weekend.

May saw Holly Class visit Homewood School to meet author of the 'Rules for Vampires' series of books, Alex Foulkes. We also launched the brand-new Showcase at Small Hythe Place which was well received by all in the community.



In June, our Year Six children headed off on an exciting trip to the Isle of Wight for the annual residential and we also launched our brand new Sports Afternoon which saw gold, silver and bronze medals awarded across the school.

Our annual results were announced in July and we were delighted to receive results which were above national averages and our highest 'Greater Depth' percentages for many years. We were also surprised to be inundated with ogres as part of our summer performance of 'Shrek'!

The new school year came around quickly in August and September and we were excited to launch new curriculum topics such as Toys: Past and Present, Stone Age to Iron Age and The Shang Dynasty.

October saw the return of our Halloween Disco, which is always well received by the children and participation in a series of events across the sporting spectrum – handball, cricket and athletics to name just a few!

We were represented by Mollie and Freddie, our Head Boy and Girl at the annual village remembrance events in November and the man in red

visited Rolvenden as part of our annual Santa Express experience.

As I write this, we are looking forward to a busy December with multiple Christmas events happening – performances, dinners and the Friends of Rolvenden School gift wrapping event to name but a few.

It has certainly been a very busy year here at Rolvenden and the children and staff have certainly lived up to our motto – small school, BIG DIFFERENCE!

Ben Vincer Head Teacher



ROLVENDEN VILLAGE MARKET

Thursdays 9 till 11am in the Village Hall

Selection of fresh and home produced goods including fresh fish, homemade cakes, meat, sausages and cheeses, honey and bee products, wild bird and pet foods. Also knitware and assorted crafts.

Refreshments include speciality fresh cooked breakfast or home made cakes and sausage rolls.

Stallholders welcome, for details contact Market Manager

Lindy Alton on 07594 660950



Weather and Nature Notes

From around the 12th October we have had measurable amounts of rain most days, often half an inch at a time and on a few occasions over an inch, the ground reached its saturation point leaving low lying fields under water. I measured 194mm (7.5 inches) in October and by the 5th November already 89mm (3.5 inches.) A journey on some undulating roads felt like a ride at a water park with a stream of continual running water and deep puddles at the bottom of hills. Low pressure systems have been whisked our way across the Atlantic one after another. For the naming of storms, the season starts in September and runs through to August the next year, already there have been four with Storm Debi the latest, although we have been lucky enough to avoid the worst of the weather that has caused awful flooding and wind damage in some areas. Spare a thought for the birds trying to migrate across the often stormy North Sea to seek a warmer Winter, how the likes of our tiniest bird the Goldcrest manages it is a miracle. It has not been all bad, there has been some respite, and when the sun shines it has been very pleasant and insect life is quick to take advantage, ladybirds emerge from their hibernating, and red admirals have been stirred into action. I haven't seen many painted lady butterflies this year, but a bedraggled looking one was trying to bask and absorb as much warmth as possible whilst feeding on my Verbena. Bumblebees also still forage on my trough of Salvias that have flowered since May. Sunflowers finished blooming a



while ago, but the seeds housed within the drooping heads have been attracting members of the tit family, they have gradually stripped them bare. I often find randomly placed seedlings of them, especially on a mossy piece of flat roof where Coal tits and Nuthatches in particular cache them in preparation for a hungry gap. Meanwhile berry of choice for blackbirds in my garden currently is *Leycesteria*, or Pheasant berry, an undemanding attractive plant with drooping bunches of dark berries after white tubular flowers that bees love.

They have also started to pick off a few *Pyracantha*, for now a spectacular crop of Holly berries remains, but probably not for long as a Mistle thrush amongst other members of the thrush family are often sitting in a nearby tree keeping a keen eye on them.

As Autumn and Winter flowering *Cyclamen*'s little flowers slowly start to appear "from nowhere" you know it's downhill to colder weather and bulkier layers and feel a little reluctant to acknowledge their appearance at first. Time goes by and more blooms appear, then the foliage emerges too; with other plants going over, suddenly you appreciate these little pops of colour appearing. There is great variety in the leaves with silvery marbling. Are the attractive leaves complimenting the pretty flowers held above, or are they trying to steal the limelight? Whichever, the whole effect is charming and reminds me of some artisan pink and white iced fancies presented on a delicate doily.

Evergreens look good all year, yet probably aren't appreciated fully until Winter when they stand out amongst all those bare deciduous branches, or are used in traditional Christmas decorations. Since pre-Christian times the fact that they didn't lose their leaves was considered special and many beliefs and superstitions grew around them. Holly and Ivy could ward off evil and bad luck, witches, lightning strikes and keep livestock well for example and also had associations with fertility. Through the ages some beliefs have been lost but some farmers still hang Holly in their cattle sheds and it is considered bad luck to cut down a Holly tree (but don't worry you won't be struck down by lightning for trimming your hedge or cutting a few twigs for your decorations.)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Hazel Beaney





The

1823
*Rolvenden
Clock 200*
2023

*Promises
galore!*

*A few
beers!*

AUCTION OF PROMISES

Saturday 2nd December, 7.30 p.m–11 p.m
Rolvenden Village Hall

Come and Join Us for an Evening of Auction Fun!

In Aid of the St Mary's Clock Restoration Project

Auctioneer Steve Bryant returns with the best promises money can buy!

Get that special Christmas present sorted or splash out on something you never knew you wanted!

The Rolvenden Team are very grateful for your continued support.

 Rolvenden Clock 200

Please contact Steve Bryant 07747 827901 or Tim Cole 07967 438401 timjamescole@hotmail.com with any offers of promises



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The Story of a Tavern Clock

During Covid my brother David was alone in Spain. He had moved house, bought an expensive Motor Home and planned new adventures. Little did he know! He was house bound for months due to the tight restrictions in Spain so I used to think of tasks he could do.

One suggestion to pass the time was to send an application off to The Repair Shop.

We have a family clock that has been with us forever. It is dated 1891 and was in desperate need of attention. The Tavern clock was bought for 20 shillings by our Great Grandfather from The Greyhound Inn in Dulwich.

When William Pitt bought in an act of Parliament in 1797 taxing clocks, a lot of them disappeared (probably hidden in the attic)

If you needed to know the time you'd go to the Tavern who could afford the 5 shillings tax, the extra pints of beer made sure of that.

It eventually came to our Mother and was always the first item out of the removal lorry when we moved house. It was home to a lost hamster, fell off a



wall crashing down the stairs with little damage. When it was stored in the dry cellar for safe keeping while the Mill House was being decorated the cellar flooded and it was found floating on its back. It has been part of the family history and hopefully will be passed down to the next generation. But by 2020 it really was in desperate need of attention.

In November 2022 the production company contacted David and after a few zoom calls and emails he was invited to take part in the show.

He travelled up from his home near Barcelona to The Open Air Museum in Chichester and recorded the first part of the show.

It took all afternoon but what is actually broadcast is only minutes.

After staying in Rolvenden Layne for a fortnight he was called back for the Great Reveal. The program was shown on August 25th so the whole family crowded around their televisions in excitement. I think in my brother's case fear and trepidation. It was wonderful to watch and see everything come together. I thought my brother was a star.

Dom and Steve helped wrap the precious clock and load it back into the van.

David set off back to Spain to hang the heirloom in its rightful place in the heart of the home.

I won't say too much as you may want to see the program (the family photograph is hilarious)

...And now as you enter my brothers home a delightful ticking can be heard.

Gill Pooley

Is your Christmas going to be hard this year?

The Christmas season is a hard time for some people. If it is so for you, please remember that you are not alone. On Tuesday 19th December, we are keeping Tenterden Church open and free of all other activities so that people who are finding this time of the year particularly tough - especially because of bereavement - can pop in. You are welcome to come and spend some quiet time with God. Prayer resources will be available. There will be led prayers at 9am, noon, 3pm and 6pm, following which tea and coffee, and a listening ear, will be available.

T	U	T
H	E	S
S	C	N

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.



FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!

Christmas Pudding



*In half a minute Mrs. Cratchit entered — flushed, but smiling proudly - with the pudding... Bedight with Christmas holly stuck into the top.
(A Christmas Carol - Drawing by Arthur Rackham 1915)*

Serving a special pudding as part of a Christmas meal or during Advent goes back centuries. In the 14th century a dish with a consistency of a thick soup called frumenty was served at the start of a meal, it was made with wheat or barley cooked in milk spiced with cinnamon and was similar to porridge and at the time associated with the meatless days of Lent and Advent. Over time beef or mutton was added, then in the 16th century sugar, spices and fruits were added and as the fruits became more readily available the pudding moved from being savoury to sweet.

In the 1600 hundreds it was the customary pudding to serve at Christmas, but in around 1664 the Puritans attempted to ban it on the grounds of it being

“Sinfully rich and unfit for God fearing people”, along with discouragement of celebrating Christmas. But according to Pepys it was largely ignored. Unfettered Christmas celebrations returned as did the



traditional pudding in 1714 thanks to George 1. It was during the 17th century the pudding was thickened with breadcrumbs and eggs, dried fruit, spices and beer or a spirit was added. The pudding as we know it today hails from the Victorians times. Why it has been called plum pudding I'm not sure, I can't find any real evidence that plums were ever included, in spite of the Victorians being very fond of the. I think it may have been more of a generic term for dried fruits.

Since Victorian times Christmas pudding has been traditionally made on "stir up Sunday" which is the last Sunday before Advent. This is when the whole family gathers together to all take a stir of the pudding into which a silver sixpence had been added, stirring from East to West to honour the journey of the Magi, and to make a wish for the coming year. Apparently, any unmarried member of the family who fails to take their turn at stirring will not find a partner in the coming year. For whoever found the sixpence in their pudding on Christmas Day it would signify good luck and wealth in the coming year. Charms or coins can be inserted in the pudding, when I was a child, part of the magic of the Christmas pudding, which at the time I didn't really like, was the excitement of finding a silver charm or coin on my plate. The tiny silver charms were a horseshoe and wishbone for luck, a button for a lasting bachelor, an anchor for safe harbour, a bell for a wedding and a thimble for thrift or spinsterhood. In spite of not really eating the pudding, somehow a coin would appear on my plate like magic.

There should be 13 ingredients in the making of a Christmas pudding, representing Jesus and his 12 disciples.

Every family has their own traditional recipe for the pudding, but the essentials are, raisins, sultanas, currants, brown sugar, suet, orange and lemon zest, flour, eggs, mixed spices, breadcrumbs, additions being chopped apples and almonds, stout, brandy or rum. Traditionally served with rum, brandy butter, rum sauce or custard.

Our pudding is always served with a sprig of holly on the top representing the crown of thorns and flamed with brandy to represent the Passion of Christ. *Lavinia*

SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS CONCERT

WITH THE CRANBROOK TOWN BAND

St Dunstan's, Church, Cranbrook

See website for prices and full details,

Tickets available on the door.

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Winter warmer in Newenden

Nibbles cafe Newenden will be offering a highly discounted lunch for parishioners and their friends on Mondays in December, January and February. One week we will be offering soup with bread a piece of cake and a standard coffee or tea all for £7 inclusive. On alternate weeks we will offer jacket potato with cheese and beans, cake and tea or coffee.

The first Monday will be Monday, the 27th of November all reservations must be made by the Saturday before for residents, and if there is any space left, it will be opened to the surrounding areas. We have warm inside newly decorated seating for 30 people. Our first event will be jacket potatoes and coinciding with our Christmas decorations switch on we will have sticky toffee Christmas pudding with ice cream. If you have any dietary requirements, we will try our very hardest to accommodate you. Please give us plenty of notice.

We think this will be a great way for everyone to get together in the community and look forward to seeing you all.



Rolvenden Warm Hub

This winter the Star is again available as a Warm Hub for the village.

Available from 11am Tuesday to Friday, you are welcome to spend time in cosy surroundings with no obligation to make a purchase.

A daily newspaper, board games and cards are available and hot coffee and tea will be provided free of charge (funded by our borough Cllr Kate Walder's member's grant)





Christmas in Burgundy



After a few hours of motorway driving, we get to smaller roads winding our way through many deserted French villages with stone houses and barns and immensely beautiful churches. We are warned of lots of pedestrian crossings but there are no pedestrians! We search the stone houses for the first Father Christmas perilously perched on a wall about to climb into a window. Christmas trees

decorated with bows and parcels tied with shiny ribbon abound. One larger town has installed an ice rink in the town square for the Christmas season. We admire one house in a tiny village which is always seasonally decorated: pumpkins and witches at Halloween, eggs and daffodils and bunnies at Easter but surrounded by tinsel and trees and decorations for Christmas.

Approaching our little stone French maison never fails to bring a frisson of excitement, to be back again. It is usually a few degrees colder in winter than in Rolvenden Layne, so our first priority is to get the wood burners alight. The house has got stone walls over half a metre thick so it takes a while to warm it up. But once the stones absorb the heat then the house begins to glow! The beautiful scenery of a Burgundian valley spreads out in front of our cottage, leading down to the Burgundy canal, where the trees are full of mistletoe. We drive in the truck to collect armfuls of it to decorate the house. The children delight in watching the grown-ups climb ladders to cut it – somehow the best bunches are always just out of reach!- and then we hang it all over the house. If it snows it is spectacular. We search for the sledges and head for the slopes amongst much excitement! Strangely, we are alone in the snow swept valley! The French don't seem to come outside much apart from the farmers and the hunters who hope to shoot a sanglier (wild boar) or a deer. In the cold snow, however pretty, the locals definitely don't venture out for the fun of it! Sliding and squealing down the slippery slopes, we are the only sign of life! Oh Les Anglais!! We are a weird race to our neighbours!

Christmas in France is far less hyped up than in England. Christmas Eve is the main time to celebrate. One Christmas Eve the children with us were convinced



that a flashing red light in the distance was Father Christmas approaching in his sleigh! It was, in fact, a temporary telephone mast sited across the valley (shhh) but it fuelled their imagination amid much excitement!

For the French, Christmas Eve means a large family gathering with oysters, shellfish and smoked salmon or trout which we have been fortunate to be able to participate in. However, we usually stick to our English traditions and cook a turkey with all the trimmings on Christmas Day. The French don't have Christmas cake or pudding or mince pies and Christmas crackers are a real novelty!

Once the winter sun goes down, we love to wander round the medieval town of Flavigny with its cobbled streets and stone turrets following the treasure map of over a hundred amazingly creative nativity scenes lit up in windows, doors and pavements including in the Benedictine abbey where novice monks are trained. Flavigny has been voted one of the prettiest villages in France and it is also renowned for being the setting for the film *Chocolat*! We finish our visit with a hot chocolate in the cafe of the world-famous aniseed sweet factory. Un très bon bonbon!

Another Christmas in Burgundy with walks along the canal, bike rides to acquaint ourselves with the local farmer and his Charolais cows (one memorable Christmas our grandson recalls watching a calf being born on Christmas Day) lots of conviviality in our little stone maison, which has been full of the festive spirit.

Bill and Judy Burvill



Elsie, George and the Team Welcome you to the Ewe & Lamb

Festive Menu available from 1st to 23rd December
Mondays to Saturdays. This has to be preordered.
You will find full details at
<https://theeweandlamb.co.uk/christmas/>



Christmas	Bar	Kitchen
25th December	12:00 – 14:00	Closed
26th December	12:00 – 18:00	Normal Hours
27th-30th December	Normal Hours	Normal Hours
31st December**	12:00 – Late (ticketed)	12:00 – 15:00 (lunch menu)
1st January	Closed	Closed
2nd January	Normal Hours	Normal Hours

**New Years Eve – Dinner from 7pm, Live Music from 9:30pm.

Please ask staff for details

The Ewe and Lamb, Rolvenden Layne TN17 4NP Tel: 01580 241429





NSPCC Quiz Night

The NSPCC Quiz Night held in Rolvenden Village Hall on Saturday, 28th. October proved to be another successful evening. We had 13 teams and 80 people who enjoyed answering the challenging questions set by Peter and Tina Garrott. £1,000 was raised, which included some generous donations and a profit of £281 on the raffle.

Thank you to those who supported the evening or made donations. Very special thanks to Peter and Tina who once again did an outstanding job and made the evening run smoothly.

We are a small committee who only meet a few times a year. Our main aim is to raise funds for this worthwhile cause and so if you have any fund raising ideas and would like to join us, please contact Jenny Field on 01580241736 who would love to hear from you!

Thank you again! Your continued support of our charity is very much appreciated.

Maralyn Button

Friends of St Peter's Church

Derek Wright got the First Thursday talks off to a cracking start, telling us about growing up in Liverpool not long after the Second World War.

We heard and saw photographs of the docks when they were working docks, and the amazing overhead railway. Derek was also close to the music scene and we heard about bands performing in the Cavern and John, Paul, George, and Ringo before they were the Beatles.

The next talk is by Ray Fysh, a forensic scientist who worked on the Sarah Payne murder.

Put the date in your diary!

Thursday December 7th 12 noon. Entry free .

We have a large bill coming up for work on the Church Roof so donations will make out treasurer very happy.

Important Notice:

The last posting day for letters to Santa is 9th December

Not sure what to do with those letters to Santa? The answer is that special letter box in My Village Store. The address is below.

And please remember to put a stamp on it.

The address is:

Santa Claus / Father Christmas, Santa's Grotto, Reindeerland XM4 5HQ

Please bring it to us at my village store Rolvenden by 9th December.





Rolvenden and Newenden Parish Magazine Reader Survey 2023

It is 5 years since we undertook a Reader Survey. The overall conclusion back then was the Mag was a useful source of information and it was case of steady as we go. The year was 2018 – pre Covid and all the changes that brought about. For the Mag the most significant changes were going digital and then introducing colour to the print version.

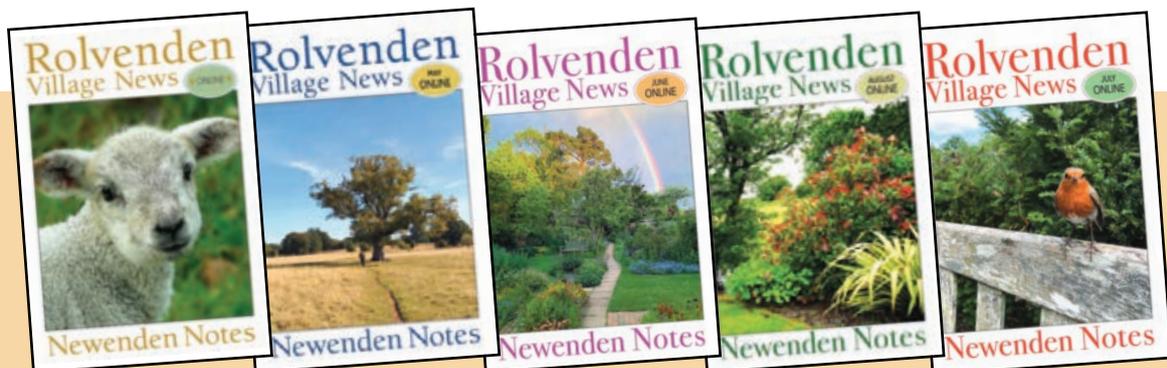
It is time to do another survey and this time it is not only content that we need to study, but where and how people read the mag. We have to see what effect the rise and rise of the role of social media and advances in communication devices are having. The smart phone has become the pocket companion of 95% plus of the UK population under 54. At 54 the ownership of a smartphone starts to drop. At age 65 plus the figure is 69%***. What does that mean for the long-term future of the Mag? The Reader Survey is part of a good hard look at the future of the Mag, driven to some extent by the advancing years of the production team and the difficulty we share with so many community-based endeavours, the apparent impossibility of attracting volunteers.

Who reads what, where, when and why are questions we have to ask before we start working out what the future of the Mag might be. What will the Mag look like in, say, 2025? In what form, with what content can we attract a new generation of readers? How can we expand the team who month by month pull another rabbit out of the hat?

Alongside the Reader Survey we want to establish a working party to look at all those questions. If you would like to be part of that group and have relevant experience to bring, do please talk to me. If you have some ideas or insights to share, do please talk to me.

If you are reading a paper copy, you will find a loose survey form slipped into the centre of the Mag with the blue insert. If you are reading this online, you will find a survey form waiting for you at: <https://forms.gle/4oTHcJotoXqNBhEM8>
Please complete and return the survey by Monday 8th January. Thank you!
Judy V

*** Figures taken from the Finder survey on Mobile Phones and Internet Usage 2023





Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch



Our focus this month is on scams

1. Delivery scams



We have received reports of Kent residents receiving packages addressed to them but found that they contained items that they had not ordered. A short while after the packages were delivered, a courier is reported to have reattended their address to collect the packages, claiming they had been delivered in error and that they will take them back for them. However, it is a scam as the criminals have ordered the goods and then

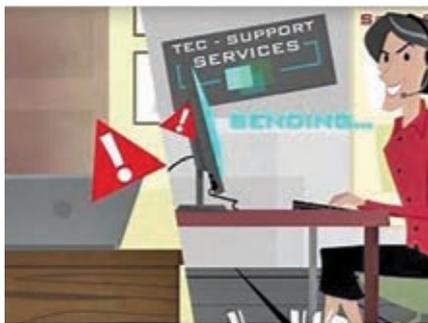
arranged delivery to the victim, in the victim's name and to the victim's home address, with the criminals then collecting the goods, stating that they were delivered by mistake.

The first time the victim knows that there is a problem is when they are contacted for payment of the goods. Often, the items ordered are of high value Mobile phones and Laptops.

If goods are delivered that you have not ordered and are marked with your address, then you should inform the company that sent them and wait for the company to send a courier. Always check with them which courier company is making the collection and when they will arrive.

If someone knocks on the door claiming to have come to pick it up, after it was delivered by mistake, then do not hand the items over.

2. Had a call from Microsoft or your internet provider recently?



They are called remote access scams. They will often start with a phone call from the criminals stating that there is a problem with your internet and they want to fix it. They will explain that for them to do this, you need to download a piece of software or App so that they can access your computer. It is a SCAM and what they are aiming to do is take over your system and empty your bank accounts.

Companies such as Microsoft, telecommunications providers, banks or other service providers will never contact you out of the blue requesting remote access to your device.

Be wary of downloading software from third-party sites, as some of them might have been modified with malware and other threats.

3. Mobile phone upgrade scam

Criminals are cold calling people, claiming to be telephone service providers and offering mobile phone upgrades for cheap monthly contracts.

These monthly contracts do not exist but criminals are convincing victims to



make a purchase and then asking for their personal and financial details. Once they have this information, the scammers are then using it to contact a genuine phone provider and order a new mobile phone handset using the details

given but a different phone to that which was requested by the victim. Once the phone has been delivered to the victim's address, the criminals will then contact the victim and state that the wrong phone has been delivered and will then arrange to collect and take it back. However, it is all a Scam. Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, then it is. Never give out your personal information to a third party if you are called unexpectedly. Do not respond to offers from unsolicited calls and carry out your own research and only contact legitimate phone providers for upgrades.

Preventing fraud

Together, let's stop scammers. 

Remember, ABC:

-  never Assume
-  never Believe
-  always Confirm

Get the latest scam advice:  @KentPoliceECU

4. Friend impersonation scams

We have been receiving reports of people in Kent receiving emails impersonating friends or family and asking them to assist them with sending gift cards to a family member on their behalf, as they are either short of money at that time or out of the country or having problems with their online banking. It is a SCAM.

If you get an email like this and are not sure, then contact the person using a phone number that you know and check the request is genuine.

Remember our fraud message:

Never assume, Never believe and Always CONFIRM
If you think that you may have been a victim of this, or any other type of scam, then contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at: www.actionfraud.police.uk/ or call 0300 123 2040

*Siân Reeves,
Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch*

Reporting crime to the police

Serious crimes in progress dial 999, other incidents via 101 (phone) or online using Live Chat:

<https://www.kent.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/> If deaf or speech impaired, text 'police' and your message to: 60066



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 FEBRUARY ISSUE

IS 5:00pm TUESDAY 16TH JANUARY

Note for distributors: ☆ Rolvenden Magazines available for collection on Saturday 27th January. ☆ Newenden Magazines available in St Peter's on Sunday 28th January.

The online version will be available from 1st December accessed via the Parish Council websites for Newenden and Rolvenden Parish Councils, for which arrangement we are most grateful. *Judy V*



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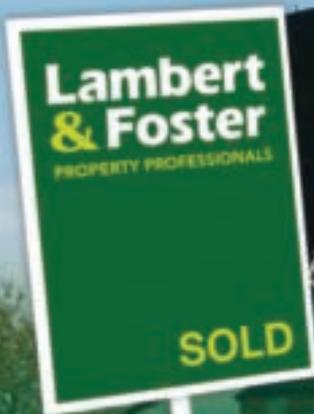
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A vibrant place to meet with friends, or to quietly relax inside, or outside on the terrace. Enjoy good quality

locally roasted coffee, hot and cold drinks, cakes and sandwiches.

EC30 is part of a registered charity, encompassing the coffee shop, run by Sharon and a team of volunteers, plus a range of community services and a popular charity shop.

Rooms on the premises are available to hire too

For more information email: info@ec30.co.uk , also see www.ec30.co.uk.

EC30, Recreation Ground Rd, Tenterden.

Open: Mon- Fri 9am – 4pm; Sat 9am – 3pm



The Tenterden Family Foodbank

makes available foodboxes for people who suddenly find themselves in difficulty due to late credit payments, unexpected bills, loss of

job etc. Each foodbox contains balanced mix of foods to constitute 40 meals and are readily available at Tenterden Social Hub, (01580 762882), EC30 (Monday to Friday 9-4, Saturday 9-3) or by calling 07805 840493) Most needed items are always cereals, pasta, tins of meat and fish, long-life milk, pasta sauces, coffee and tea and all tinned soups and vegetables.

Please support this any time you are shopping... just buy an extra tin or two and pop them in the donations boxes in the supermarkets in Tenterden. Every tin and packet makes a real difference. Or you can leave a financial contribution when you shop in My Village Store Rolvenden or drop items into the collection box in St Mary's.

The Old Schoolhouse Larder

The Old Schoolhouse Larder is a Tenterden based registered charity supporting vulnerable families with children who are finding it difficult to provide meals every day. Open weekly, families are able to choose a top-up selection of nonperishable groceries and household & hygiene products. Vouchers allowing families to select fruit & vegetables from the Tenterden Friday Market and from the Market Square Farm Butcher are also available.



Remember to check out Kent Savers for affordable loans
www.kentsavers.co.uk



CARM Meeting Point

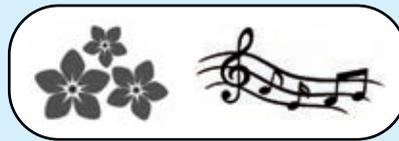
Wednesday 13th December and 10th January
Meetings from 10:00am to noon in Monypenny Lounge
Usual cup of tea and a chat

KCC Mobile Library Service...

Visits Rolvenden every 2 weeks on a Tuesday:

- High Street between 11:30am and Noon
 - Monypenny between 12:10 and 12:55pm
- 12th December, 9th and 23rd January

To join phone: 03000 41 31 31



Below are the regular weekly days/times. Please see page 10 in the December Magazine for the Christmas arrangements.

Memory Café and Friends every Friday

St Andrews Church Hall, Ashford Road, Tenterden every Friday 2 – 4pm. An informal setting for people with short term memory loss or dementia, their family, friends and carers to meet in an informal setting for tea and cake.

Musical Memories – every Tuesday

Highbury Hall, Highbury Lane, Tenterden every Tuesday 10:45am – 12 noon. A singing for health group. Not only will it be good fun, but singing is scientifically proven to promote good health and a feel-good factor. Refreshments will be provided.

Monthly Lunch Club 4th Wednesday

Little Silver Hotel, St Michaels Tenterden 12:30 for 1:00pm.
A mixed group made up of Memory Café visitors, Musical Memories participants and assorted friends of those living with dementia or short term memory loss.

Occasionally we have tea rather than lunch, please enquire.

Jan Bridger

Tel: 01580 762932 Mob: 07445971791

Christmas Last Posting Dates 2023

UK Addresses

Royal Mail 2nd Class

& 2nd Class Signed For

Tuesday 19th December

Royal Mail 1st Class

& 1st Class Signed For

Friday 22nd December

Royal Mail Special Delivery

Guaranteed

Thursday 21st December

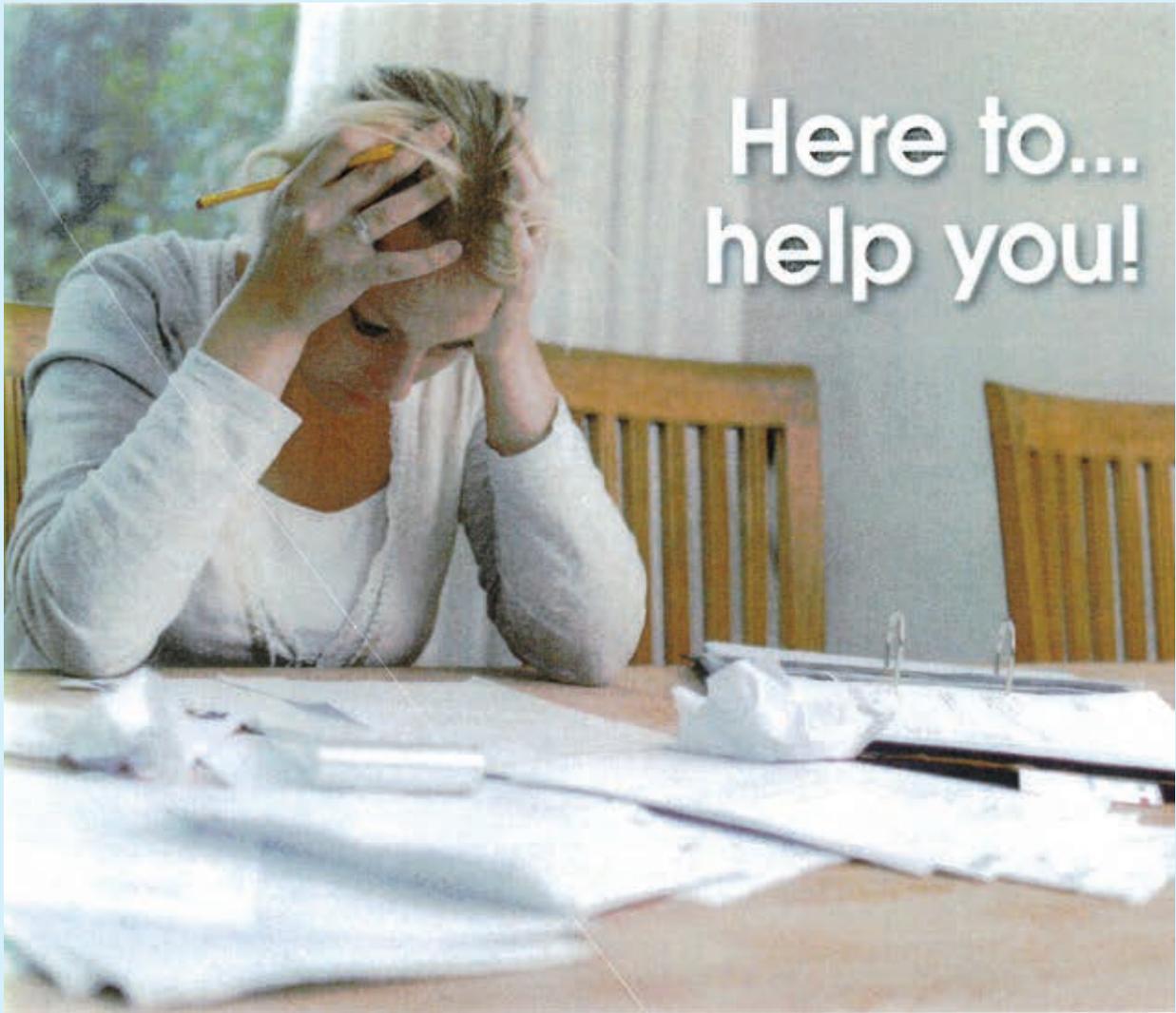
For international post please obtain a listing from My Village Store Post Office and check which service is right for you. Check soon as the last posting dates for some options are in November.

Parkinsons Café Tenterden

We meet every 3rd Monday
of the month. Next meetings will be
18th December and 15th January
10.30am - 12.00pm

EC30 Café - Recreation Ground Road,
Tenterden TN30 6RA

Join us for a friendly social gathering for
people affected by Parkinsons,
Partners, family and friends welcome



Here to...
help you!

Our Welfare Intervention Officers will now be running a drop in session at Tenterden Town hall

Every Tuesday - 10am to 12 noon

Need advice from a Welfare Intervention Officer – pop along to one of their drop in sessions at [Tenterden Town Hall, 24 High St, Tenterden TN30 6AN](#)

- Council Tax advice, including Council Tax debt advice
- Help to claim Council Tax Support or Housing Benefit
- Help to claim Discretionary Housing Payments or Council Tax Exceptional Circumstances Payments
- General housing advice, including advice regarding rent arrears
- Referrals for homelessness advice
- General advice around all welfare reform such as the benefit cap, Universal Credit and other benefit changes

For help please contact us today:
welfareinterventionteam@ashford.gov.uk

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

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.

**VS VICTIM
SUPPORT**

SAMARITANS

ChildLine
0800 1111

ManKind
Initiative



Neighbourhood Watch – Special Advice as we come to Christmas

1. Don't leave presents under your Christmas tree if they are visible from doors or windows
2. When you're out shopping - stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you, especially in busy shops and crowded streets where thieves and pickpockets may well be operating
3. Be careful where you park your car, especially if you will be returning after dark. In a multi-storey car park, choose a well-lit space as close to the exit as possible and away from pillars. Reverse into position.
4. Never leave your bag unattended on your shopping trolley. Don't leave it in your vehicle when returning your trolley.
5. Don't get loaded down with too many bags. Try to keep one hand free.
6. DON'T leave any valuables in the glove compartment of your vehicle. Take bank cards, mobile phones and satellite navigation systems with you. These items are on a car thieves' Christmas shopping list. Whilst shopping, if you need to put presents in the car, make sure they are out of view in the boot, the car is locked, and keep the receipts with you.
7. Keep car doors locked whilst driving in built-up areas, especially if you've got bags or presents in the car.
8. If you leave your home, make your house look occupied, use a timer switch to operate lamps as it starts to get dark, leave a radio on.
9. Social media does make it easier for criminals to know when a house is empty. If you're going away this Christmas, don't advertise it on social media and make sure you keep your accounts locked to the public. Make sure only trustworthy neighbours know and cancel all deliveries while away so that it doesn't look like no one is home.
10. Do not leave spare keys outside.
11. Drink safely over Christmas - More people are likely to be drinking at home this year – where each drink is likely to have a far bigger measure than you'd get in a bar. The number of drinks you've had may not be the same as the number of units you have had – and it may take longer than you think to get out of your system.
Remember you could still be over the limit the morning after
12. Don't display your new household items by putting the boxes out for rubbish collection. Take the boxes to the tip OR break them up and place in your recycling bin.
13. Fire Safety
 - Check your Christmas tree lights conform to the British Standard.
 - Never place candles near your Christmas tree or furnishings and don't leave them burning unattended.
 - Make a fire escape plan – just in case you have an emergency during the festive period.

My Village Store – Opening times over the Christmas Holiday

	Shop	Post Office
Saturday 23rd	7am – 6pm	9am - noon
Sunday 24th	8am -1pm	Closed
Monday 25th	Closed	Closed
Tuesday 26th	8am - 4pm	Closed
Wednesday 27th to Saturday 30th	8am – 5pm	
	Wednesday 27th	9am – noon
	Thursday 28th to Friday 29th	9am – 5pm
	Saturday 30th	9am - noon
Sunday 31st	8am – 1pm	Closed
Monday 1st	8am – 5pm	Closed

From Tuesday 2nd we are back to normal hours:

Shop: Monday to Friday 6:30am to 6pm, Saturdays 7am to 6pm,
Sundays 7am to 1pm

Post Office: Monday, to Friday 9am to 5pm, except Wednesday 9am to noon,
Saturdays 9am to noon

NEWENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

www.newenden-pc.gov.uk/

Parish Clerk: Mrs Lauren Dobson.

C/o Carpens, Hobbs lane,
Beckley. East Sussex, TN31 6TT

Telephone: 01797 260364

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

*There will be meetings on 5th December
and 6th February, 7:30pm in St Peter's.*

ROLVENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

www.rolvendenparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Clerk: Mr Peter Settlefield

Wealden House, Grand Parade,
Littlestone TN28 3NQ

email: rolvendenclerk@gmail.com

*There will be meetings on
4th December and 18th January
at 7.30pm in the main hall,
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.*

Waste Collection Dates for December and January

Monday	Food Waste	Household Refuse grey bin (or black sack)	Recycling green bin (or clear sack)	Garden Recycling brown bin (or white sack)
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04 Dec	yes	no	yes	no
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11 Dec	yes	yes	no	yes
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18 Dec	yes	no	yes	no
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<u>23 Dec</u>	yes	yes	no	<u>no</u>
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<u>02 Jan</u>	yes	no	yes	no
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08 Jan	yes	yes	no	<u>no</u>
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15 Jan	yes	no	yes	no
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22 Jan	yes	yes	no	yes
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29 Jan	yes	no	yes	no
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05 Feb	yes	yes	no	yes
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■ Deviations from the regular services are in bold and underlined

■ We are losing an additional Garden bin collection. The start date of the 24/25 contract will be adjusted by one week to compensate for the loss.

■ Real Christmas Tree Recycling

Please note the Pilgrims Hospice offer a doorstep collection for real Christmas trees for a small donation to their charity. The collections will take place Saturday 13th January 2024 – Monday 15th January 2024. You can register your real Christmas tree collection on the Pilgrims Hospice website. www.pilgrimshospices.org

■ For all queries about recycling or waste disposal:
On-line, see ABC website: www.ashford.gov.uk/waste
By telephoning ABC on Tel 01233 330646