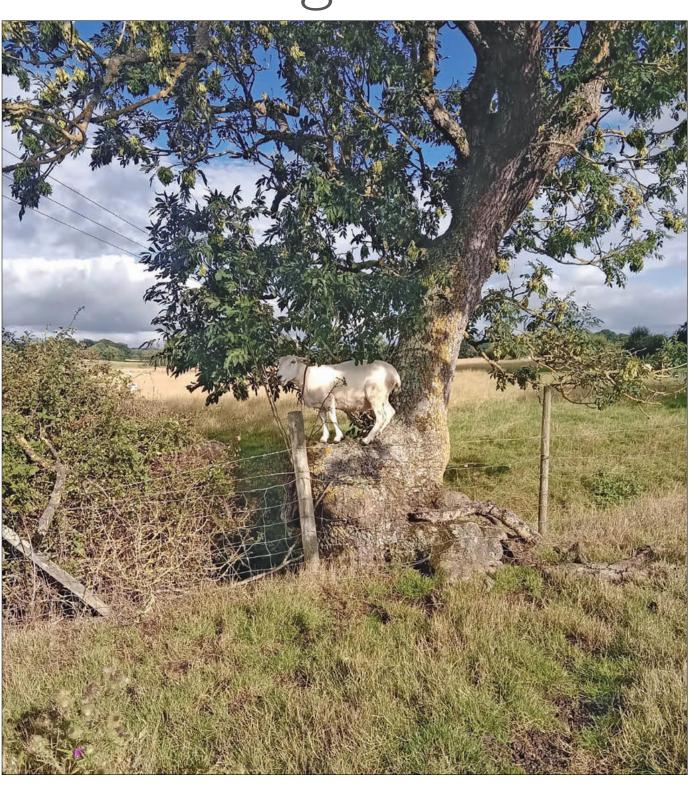
Rolvenden APRIL ONLINE & Newdenden Parish Magazine





Parishes of Rolvenden and Newenden

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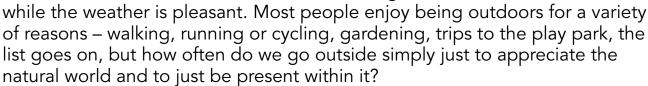


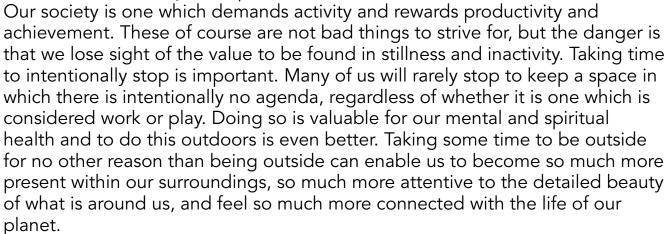


Minister's Letter for April From Rev'd Andrew Tapsell

At the time of writing, we have experienced sustained wet weather for what is beginning to feel like eternity. I have no doubt that, in a few short weeks, perhaps even by the publication of this magazine, we may well find ourselves complaining instead of unseasonal heat and looming hosepipe bans. In any case, the current downpours and saturated ground aren't things which exactly encourage many people to get outside.

However, longer and warmer days tend to tempt many out of their winter shells as we make the most of the great outdoors





Some might be familiar with Forest School, an initiative which can be run independently but which has also been adopted by many schools and preschools with the aim of providing children with the benefits of learning outdoors. Similarly, Forest Church gatherings are held up and down the country, also with a focus upon all the benefits of spending time outside, but also with the intention of being curious about the connectivity we can find with wider creation and to seek spiritual enrichment through that.

Last year, there were several monthly Forest Church gatherings held locally, and March saw the first of this year's gatherings take place amid the beauty of Rolvenden churchyard and the vast landscape of the fields beyond it. Each gathering starts with some time of mindful attentiveness before a theme is offered and individuals are invited to explore the natural world around us,







simply being present within it. Those attending then gather back together for a time of sharing if they wish and an activity for all ages. If this sounds like something you or someone you know might like to be a part of, the dates and times of future planned gatherings can be found on page 16.

I pray that you find a sense of belonging and connection in the great outdoors this spring and in any time you choose to spend outside. Just remember that, even if it is just on the odd occasion, it is good to spend that time without an agenda and instead to simply be!

Andrew



St Peter and St Mary Flower Rotas April 2024

SundaySt MarySt PeterApr 07Sylvia KRosie EdmondsApr 14Sylvia KRosie EdmondsApr 21Tricia DSally MunfordApr 28Tricia DSally Munford

Contact: Sylvia Kellett Rosie Edmonds 01580 240463 01797 252196

Sylviakellett@eplusmail.com rosie.edmonds@hotmail.com

Brass Cleaning at St Mary: Richard Coleman

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.

From the Registers

Funeral

15th February – Clive Woodcraft at St Mary's followed by cremation at Charing

Internment of Ashes

29th February – Peter Hardes at St Peter's

baptism

17th March – Leila Ghaffar at St Mary's



Rolvenden

Clock 200

2023

ROLVENDEN CLOCK 200

'JUST A MINUTE' ALMOST THE FINAL UPDATE

At the time of writing, there are nine more minutes eager for sponsors.

The appeal for the restoration of the clock has raised sufficient money for the work to be carried out and there is some left over which is forming a maintenance fund for the future. That will enable us to keep the clock in good working order.

If we can find nine more people prepared to sponsor a minute, that repair fund will benefit from an additional £540.

Most of the sponsorship has been in memory of people who have died, but not all are being remembered by relatives. There are the following which very much celebrate the person being remembered for something specific and relevant to the village:

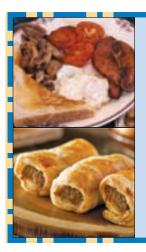
- Mr Gearing who used to wind the clock in 1950s
- In Memory of Robert Cushman baptised in Rolvenden 9 Feb 1577/78
- In memory of Pat Thoburn,1926 to 2017, delightful and generous benefactor to Rolvenden

Other entries celebrate something of life in Rolvenden.

They could celebrate a wedding or the birth of a child. Why not the launch of a new business or retirement. It could be anything that is marked by the ticking of the clock and the striking of the hours which will be sounding out again across the village before too long.

If you have an idea for a minute, please contact one of us and we can talk through the ways to do it.

But please note that we are closing the appeal on April 31st. Sylvia and Judy SK: 01580 240463 JV: 01580 241504



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



The Church of England

IN TENTERDEN, ROTHER AND OXNEY SERVICES IN CHURCH AND ONLINE DURING APRIL Sunday 7th April: Second Sunday of Easter

8am St Mary's Rolvenden

Holy Communion

9.30am St Peter's Newenden 11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden

The Eucharist Celtic Morning Prayer

6pm Choral Evensong Tenterden: Live streamed and online thereafter

Sunday 14th April: Third Sunday of Easter

9:30am St Peter's Newenden 11am St Mary's Rolvenden

The Eucharist The Eucharist

6pm Sung Evensong (Tenterden): Live streamed and online thereafter

Sunday 21st April: Shepherd Sunday

9.30am St Peter's Newenden 11:00am St Mary's Rolvenden

The Eucharist Matins

6pm Choral Evensong (Tenterden): Live streamed and online thereafter

Sunday 28th April: Fifth Sunday of Easter

9.30am St Peter's Newenden 11am St Mary's Rolvenden

Celtic Morning Prayer The Eucharist

6pm Ecumenical Evening Service (St Andrew's Tenterden)

And services during the week

Morning Prayer will be said Monday to Friday at 9am except on Wednesday, when it is said at 8am, all 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 will not 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!.

This service will not appear online.

To receive Connect Up!

please visit our website: wwwtentroxchurches.co.uk

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

These are two other important dates coming up this month for members of the Parochial Church Electoral Roll

Both are on Monday 15th April

Rolvenden in church – 6:00pm Newenden in church – 7:00pm



The Friends of St Peter's Church, Newenden

Invite you to a talk by

Dr Andrew Richardson FSA

Thursday 18th April – 7:30pm

Three Thousand Years at Lossenham'.

The talk will present the latest archaeological results from the Lossenham Project, and will focus on the story of Lossenham from the Bronze Age to the end of the Middle Ages



Free entry - wine or fruit juice will be served.

The Friends will welcome donations.

Please note the White Hart car park is for patrons of the pub – you can come to the talk and then patronise the pub, but to avoid a fine, please do remember to drop into the bar and register your vehicle before you come across the road to the church.





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We welcome Service Users who are privately funding their care as well as Service users who receive a Direct Payment or use the Kent Card.









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Rolvenden Gardening Society

Talk on 'The beauty of Orchids'



The Orchid genus being one of the largest plant families in the world is obviously a huge topic, but John Walters who is a life member of the S.E Orchid Society managed to squeeze in plenty of interesting information and answer lots of questions in a limited time with his talk on these fascinating plants.

An article written by Alan Titchmarsh on Orchid growing first sparked his interest and before long he needed to build a greenhouse to house his growing collection, he now has around 180 different orchids and exhibits at shows.

Exotic orchids were the "must have" of wealthy collectors in the Victorian era and plant hunters risked their lives to collect

them, often over stripping areas and filling the decks with collected plants most of which were doomed to die on the long boat journey as they didn't understand the plants' needs. This contrasts with the modern-day propagation techniques. John explained how the Floriculture Nursery in Holland grows plants in the most sterile laboratory conditions. They are so successful they can produce a plant in approximately 28 weeks that would otherwise take nearer 5 years, and they produce an astonishing 80 million a year.

Most were familiar with the popular Phalaenopsis orchid that are commonly sold in supermarkets, John had some examples and explained how to get them back in to flower, repotting and their general requirements. He also had brought along a selection of other species to illustrate how diverse the plant family is. He explained how it is important to know what growing conditions the plant would receive in its natural habitat, for example no rain all Winter or hot humid Summers etc, and whether it grows in the ground (terrestrial) or grows on trees (epiphytic.) He had brought along one orchid that on learning it's correct watering needs was in full flower for the first time in many years. It was an enjoyable evening for all, I am sure he will have given many the confidence to feel they will have a bit more success with growing orchids, so no doubt they were off to the shops the next day.

Hazel Beaney





Save the Date:

2024 Ewe and lamb Stoolball Tournament Monday 27th May Play on the Layne Field Beer and Barbeque at the Ewe and Lamb





Rolvenden Pre-School Report



Spring has sprung and the preschool children have been enjoying more time outside in the garden and walking around the village. They made some lovely Mother's Day cards and some of them made entries for the Gardening Society Spring Show. We have started making a scarecrow for the garden by using papier mâché to make a head shape. Some of the children relish getting their hands dirty with mud, gloop, paint and glue whilst others prefer to stay clean. We like to make sure that we have activities available to suit all their preferences. Our garden has

areas for digging and exploring as well as areas for growing and caring for plants. Do you have a spare bit of garden where your child is allowed to dig, make mud pies, and explore nature in their own way? We have also recently put up some new bird feeders but as yet the birds have not come to eat in our garden.

By the time you are reading this it will be Easter time - we hope you all enjoy the season.

facebook@rolvendenpreschool or email us on rolvendenps@gmail.com.

Drop in any time for some sing-along fun enjoy delicious cakes, tea, coffee and a raffle too!

Communi-Tea

2 – 5pm – 27th April St Mildred's Tenterden with different choirs leading the singing Free Entry - Donations to Dementia UK





Rolvenden School Report

At Rolvenden School, we do not just teach children to read, we make opportunities for children to discover the joy of reading for pleasure. Research shows that children who read for fun in their spare time are more likely to lead happy, fulfilled lives.

Last year, we installed a book swap shed which is being well-used and we are always happy to receive donations of good quality children's books.

Throughout February, many of the children participated in a Readathon, with family and friends sponsoring the reading of books for fun. The school raised over £400 in sponsorship money which went towards the purchase of brandnew books for children in hospital, part of the work of the charity Read for Good.

Most recently, on March 7th the whole school (children and staff!), participated in the 2024 World Book Day. World Book Day was created by UNESCO on 23rd April 1995 as a worldwide celebration of books and reading. It is marked in over 100 countries around the globe. On this day, the children took part in a live lesson with the current Children's Laureate, Joseph Coelho, and chose a book to be read during DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) time at the end of the day.



Music in Sandhurst

Just an early notice regarding the 16th. annual Hospice Musical events in Sandhurst. Since Daniel Grimwood will be playing at Vinehall on Sunday afternoon December 8th, we will be introducing a friend of his, the well-known pianist, Mark Viner to



friend of his, the well-known pianist, Mark Viner to play at the garden party recital on Saturday July 27th. at 3pm. He will be performing some Beethoven, something by Alkan (he is the Chairman of that the Alkan Society) Liszt: Hungarian Rhapsody, some Blumenfeld and, of course, Henselt.

In September I have been fortunate enough to book the piano duo of Emma Abate and Julian Perkins once again. They will visit us on Wednesday September 11th at 3pm. I do not yet have a definite programme but I know that Richard's piano certainly suits their gorgeous touch. *Booking details will come later. Gillian Davis*



A wonderful day for anyone who loves to sing. Guest Conductor and Voice Coach, Michael Bascom. Andrew Lloyd Webber Songs from the Shows.

20th April 2pm-5.30pm, St Dunstan's Church, Cranbrook.

Tickets must be pre-booked £12.00,
to include music and a cuppa. (Under 18s Free).

For payment details please see our website, http://www.cranbrookchoral.org.uk

The Garden Studio Newenden Caroline Anderson

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Weather and Nature Notes

This Winter in the south it has been wetter, duller and milder than average. "February fill dyke" has lived up to its name. I measured 176mm of rain, about 7," it has been mild too. In conversation with people, we all appear to have the same opinion that when it stops raining we are bound to get a long dry spell and be praying for it to rain again. The 27th of February saw some sunshine and I heard my first chiffchaff of the year, a sure sign of Spring, although I haven't heard one since. On the 1st of March the rain continued and with hail, but also some sunshine and rainbows. Queen bumblebees have been out looking for food and a nesting place, I have seen 4 species so far, one queen of the smaller variety, the early bumblebee, has her pollen baskets full from my pulmonarias so a new colony is underway somewhere in the locality of my garden. The Spring gardening show is near and this year I have some Narcissi that will be out in time for it, normally this variety would be flowering in April. There is no doubt the phenology is changing with signs of Spring appearing earlier, the danger is when events get out of sync. Nature is much like a machine when one of the components is out of time or removed, problems occur.

Autumn or Spring are the best times for planting or moving plants whilst the soil is damp and warm. I took advantage of the early mild conditions and wet weather recently to replant an area of garden at work. There was certainly plenty of moisture in the soil and at times it became a hard muddy task



removing some clumps of plants. It took a few days and I was glad when the job was finished. In theory by the time the moisture levels in the soil are depleted they will be established enough to survive on their own, their roots will search down deeper into the soil where it stays damper for longer. I came across some interesting slightly sinister looking brain shaped fungus under a Juniper tree. I am always very cautious where they are concerned until I am sure they are safe, and even then, I won't eat wild mushrooms. An internet search quickly found it, its common names are brain fungus or false morel. It is widely considered deadly and not to be eaten although its toxicity levels can be variable, yet crazily is considered a delicacy in some parts of Europe after some time-consuming drying and boiling. It reads as if it's the luck of the draw whether you get a more toxic batch or not, and some people do die!. It's "normal" shop bought mushrooms only for me thank you.

With a bright, dry day forecast I decided to take advantage and go off to the farm where my partner works for the day, to see the new calves, and have a good long walk. First, I gave my favourite cow a good brush down to remove some moulting hair which she always likes, others watch on interested but can't summon the courage to try it themselves. Some little calves were snuggled



down in the straw sleepy after a belly full of milk, whilst others had a run around. I then set off on my walk, a chilly east wind had whisked up a few clouds into wispy formations in the blue sky and the sun reflected off flooded areas of low-lying fields. From afar the networks of ditches stand out in the very green landscape with their weather-beaten old beige stems of phragmites reeds. Also clearly showing dotted about in the distance were singles and pairs of white mute swans. A couple of

skylarks where in almost continual song for the duration of my walk which was good to hear. Flower buds of blackthorn wait on a few more days of sunshine to open them in hedgerows and the dropped water level along the channel had revealed a clump of mauve milk maids in flower at the water's edge. One of the fields a little later on is always a glowing carpet of dandelions, but at the moment just the first few provide little golden landing pads full of food for early insects like tiny solitary bee species. I was hoping to get some close-up video of shoveler ducks that I saw last time I visited, but with acres of land in the surrounding areas flooded to choose from they were elsewhere.

Hazel Beaney





Forest Church

2024 Gatherings

Sunday 24th March - 2.30pm

Sunday 21st April - 2pm

Sunday 19th May - 2pm

Sunday 16th June - 2pm

Sunday 28th July - 2pm

Sunday 18th August - 2pm

Sunday 15th September - 2pm

Sunday 20th October - 2pm

Gather at Rolvenden Churchyard

Dress appropriately for the weather.

Bring something to sit on, and something to eat and drink if you wish.

An activity for all ages is provided at each gathering. All welcome!

An outdoor gathering in which we seek to explore our spirituality within and through the natural world. Come along to enjoy a time of reflection and sharing, family-friendly activities and fellowship.

Contact revandrewtapsell@gmail.com for more information, or visit www.tentroxchurches.co.uk

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/tentroxchurches





The Mystery of Duck 261 still unsolved

Having had a month to ponder how one of the Newenden Flock could turn up in late winter well the Bodiam side of the bridge, I confess the mystery remains. The plea for information in last month's mag went unanswered.

Given the rigorous care paid to the collection and checking of the ducks after the Annual Event, it seems strange that 261 was not immediately missed and a hue and cry announced. The Big Release for the Annual Event was at 3:00pm



Was this the moment when 261 went missing?

on Monday 28th August. The river would have been busy for some days after that with boats, paddle boarders and walkers on the banks. If 261 had been overlooked, surely someone would have spotted him and alerted the Keeper. Let us suppose the unlikely did occur: 261 was adrift and not seen. The flow of the river would

occur: 261 was adrift and not seen. The flow of the river would have taken him downstream, under the Black Bridge and on towards the sea. But that didn't happen. He was found upstream of Newenden Bridge.

I have one possible

explanation involving a water loving canine with a disposition to retrieve, being exercised on the bank during the race, possibly by a visitor to Newenden who was unaware of the deep affection in which the flock is held by the community. 261 was lagging behind the main flock and before the retrieval team could get to him, the dog, in all probability a labrador or a spaniel, pounced. Maybe the human was distracted by the crowds and did not notice the dog was carrying a small yellow object until it was dropped on the floor of the motor vehicle prior to the homeward journey. On subsequent trips to Newenden, the duck was used as a retrieving object, tossed by the human into the river with the cry 'Go fetch!'. And just, maybe, this human sometimes went downstream and sometimes up, variety being the spice of life. We could hypothesise that the last time 261 was thrown into the water, the dog was distracted by a rabbit, a heron or a hot air balloon. The human was in a hurry to get home. 261 was forgotten, left to drift into the reeds and found a little later by a stalwart Newenden resident who instinctively knew where 261 should go.

Once again, I must appeal for help. Does anyone have CCTV footage of a dog walker throwing a yellow object into the river?

Special Duck Correspondent





This month Jane and Anthony Dawson sat down with Alan Seal



We have known Alan for well over a decade through our involvement with the Friends of St Peter's Church, Newenden, of which Alan is Chairman. It was especially interesting to chat with him and learn what makes him tick.

Alan was born in Bromley. His father was a Civil Servant and his mother, who had trained as a tailor, became a schoolteacher, passing on practical skills to her pupils. Alan has a younger sister, Alison, who lives in Maidstone. Father was a very intelligent man who expected much from his children. He failed to understand why Alan appeared to be floundering at school and, although Alan was clever and could always work things out, his teachers despaired of him. It wasn't until Alan's own son was diagnosed with dyslexia that all became clear to him.

Alan was always an active child and he started work aged 10, washing cars. At 12 he became a delivery boy for the local chemist, taking prescriptions to the elderly in Bromley, and worked on Friday nights and Saturdays at Sainsbury's. He left school aged 17 with one O' Level and enrolled as a management trainee for Brown Brothers. He hated this and left after 2 weeks and returned to Sainsbury's where he worked in the bacon, cheese and butchery department. From there he went on to work as a general assistant at a petrol service station at Alan Pond Garages, before landing a job in Lindair, a hi-fi shop in the Tottenham Court Road.



Alan had now got on track because his skill set was perfectly suited to the job of hi-fi sales and installation. It was a time of hi-fi madness when Pioneer, Garrard and Sansui systems were being sold with Celestion and JBL speakers. Some high end systems could easily cost £7,000 but most cost around £200. He had a stroke of luck when the General Manager of the company, who also lived in Bromley, lost his driving licence. He arranged for Alan to have a company car on the understanding that Alan would drive him back and forth to work. Six months later the general manager moved to Phillips Audio and took Alan with him. Alan found himself managing sales for Phillips in the area of Kingston-upon-Hull to Berwick-upon-Tweed. He subsequently moved into video and was the company's representative for the whole of SE England, selling video recorders to schools, local authorities, and equipping training centres for fire brigades and the police.

Technology was changing rapidly and Alan always had to be one step ahead. He worked with video recorders, Laservision (forerunner of DVDs), and vinyl records, soon to be overtaken by CDs, which he remembers were originally double sided and analogue, not digital.

In 1977 Alan was married and set up home in Tunbridge Wells. His wife knew that she'd married a workaholic and Alan's career continued to flourish, although there was one false start when he decided to leave Philips and go in for building small mainframe computers. In 1984 he joined Ferguson as sales representative for TVs, video recorders and audio systems, in London and the South East. In due course Ferguson was taken over by Thomson Consumer Electronics and by the mid-90s, Alan was installing satellite dishes and plasma screens TVs in pubs and clubs, and training others in maintenance of these products.

As the technology revolution progressed Alan was never short of work but in 2004 the rug was pulled from under his feet when Thomson relocated to Paris and Alan was made redundant. Nonetheless he set up on his own, importing glass TV stands and installing and repairing TV systems. His father's words resonated in his head: "You can have anything you want in life - you just have to work for it!"

Alan takes great pleasure in talking about his three remarkable sons. Daniel lives in Kuala Lumpur where he is Doctor of Clinical Psychology and has twin boys. Jonathan lives in Pembury and is Managing Director of a computer services company, and has two daughters. Joshua lives in San Jose and worked until recently for Google. He has now established his own robotics company, and he also has two daughters.

Now Alan is involved in the completion of the village hall. He hopes that once it's up and running it will help increase the sense of community in Newenden and will be a multi-functional space, used by all the villagers for weddings, family parties, village events, indoor recreation and entertainment.

Anthony Dawson



FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD! Recipes

For me, the plethora of cookbooks and foodie articles that I see at every turn saddens me, don't get me wrong I love cookbooks, I have a huge collection which I enjoy reading, but I feel they restrict and intimidate as much as they inform.

Each year there are thousands of cookery books published in the UK, telling you what to do, taking away so much creativity. I know many people feel that they have to follow a recipe to the letter but with a few exceptions I disagree. The chances are you will not have all the ingredients listed or you dislike some, don't be put off, substitute with something you do have and like, the finished dish will not be a disaster it will be different and might even be better, how do you think these recipes arrive, some of the best were discovered by mistake! If you go back through the ages "recipes" or receipts as they were known were written as a narrative. There was no list of ingredients, quantities or method, it was down to the individual and what was available. For many families, written notes on food were a rarity, it was often just passed down through the generations, no doubt each one tweaking to their own taste.



Of course there are records of early written recipes that can be traced back to clay tablets dating from 1700BC in Mesopotamia which are now in the Babylonian Collection at Yale University in the USA. Our picture is for Babylonian Lamb Stew.

Archaeology allows for the reconstruction of recipes from a time before written records. The ingredients can be deduced from such items as pollen grains, plant remains and bones, the method from the tools and pots. One of the earliest, dated to 6000 BC, is for Nettle pudding which is very nutritious, the suggested

ingredients include nettles, suet, breadcrumbs, onions and herbs and spices and was served with bread and meat.

The term receipts was often used in the 16th century especially when referring to medicinal formulas as well as food preparation, many books of the time included medicinal recipes along with food. Both terms





were used until 1900's when recipe became the more popular term, although my grandmother was still using the earlier form in the 1950s! One of the oldest records found here is from 1390 AD and called The Forme of Curry. It contains traditional Mediaeval recipes and is more a series of manuscripts. It was written by the cooks of King Richard II. Among the 196 recipes there are ways to cook herons and whales using nutmeg, cloves, mace and pepper.

Whilst the kitchens of the nobility had chefs, some of the earliest recipes books published here

were written by women who have gone on to influence our cookery writers of today.

Many ladies in Elizabethan times wrote a journal which recorded recipes, menus, medical remedies and household tips. Lady Elinor Fettiplace's journal was dated 1604 but probably covered several years. This manuscript was passed down through the family starting with her niece. It finally came to light and was published in 1986.

In the 18th Century Hannah Glasse wrote "The Art of Cookery Made Plain and Easy', which contained the first Indian recipe recorded here. Elizabeth Marshall ran a cookery school and patisserie in Newcastle in 1770's. She wrote "The Young Ladies' guide in the Art Of Cookery"

, her book is interesting in that it included recipes requiring truffles, pineapples, lemons and other ingredients that were expensive to import. Her recipe for The Power of Lemons, a concentrated essence requires 100 lemons, it suggests she understood the connection in preventing scurvy. Eliza Acton was originally a poet who had become impoverished and when her publisher turned down any more poems but said he'd publish a recipe book, that's what she did. "Modern Cookery for Private Families" was one of the first cook books aimed at the domestic reader. She



introduced listing the ingredients and a method including cooking times. It included the first recipes in English for Brussels sprouts and spaghetti, also for Christmas pudding as opposed to plum pudding. She was followed on by Isabella Beeton who unashamedly plagiarised her recipes and became a household name that still stands today. And as they say the rest is history. *Lavinia*





Only On A Sunday...?! Month Two-Monday

Being a member of the clergy team is a role that embraces a variety of different facets. Many people think they have a good idea as to what we do – many people too have ideas about what it is we should do! But what exactly does priestly ministry entail? How do we pass our ministerial time? Last month we took a look at Sunday. Here is Monday showing something of how a rich tapestry of worship, mission, ministry and yes, paperwork, weave together to help keep the word and work of God alive and well in our benefice of nine parishes.

If you are in the vicinity of St. Michael and All Angels, St. Mildred, Tenterden or St. John the Baptist, Wittersham on a Monday morning, you could find yourself caught up in Collective Worship (what used to be called 'assembly'). On a Monday these three churches burst with the exuberance of the school children as they come in and make themselves very much at home and have the opportunity to participate in an act of worship tailored especially for them. If anyone ever says to you, we never have children in our churches – they are very wrong and Monday morning shows this!

For us the day starts around 7:30am when we gather to make ready our resources and scripts, find candles, props, a cross and music. It is a feat of military organisation with one of us leaving early for Wittersham, another heading off to St. Michael's and the third member of the team setting up Tenterden ready for a little later on. Then, the third member of the clergy team, when time allows, heads over to Tenterden Church Hall to read a story at the Parent and Toddler Group, Little Sparrows, which is also on at the same time. The latter part of the morning is reserved for 'Supervision'. Curacy is about ongoing formation. As a curate, Andy meets with us regularly to talk through



his ministry. We can plan ahead new projects, review progress and iron out any issues that may have arisen in ministry.

Once a month on a Monday is also 'Pie and Pint' day. This pastoral social event is for men who have been bereaved and is organised by Lindsay and attended by him and Andrew.

Monday afternoons are popular times for funerals, but if we don't have one then, after the weekend, this is a useful opportunity to pick up on some of the emails that may have arrived over the weekend. Typically, 30 - 50 emails may arrive in any one day so there is a significant amount to stay on top of and sometimes finding the opportunity to do this is difficult. One email may generate a whole range of needs or responses and careful diary planning is essential!

Monday evening is often one for meetings. Once a month on a Monday evening the editorial team meet for the Tenterden, Smallhythe and St. Michael's magazine meeting and Lindsay and Jeanette are a part of this; four of our nine PCCs have their meetings on a Monday evening, so invariably there is one of these; and also, Tenterden Town Council meet on a Monday evening, and we are sometimes invited to start their meeting with a prayer.

All in all, Mondays have a heavy focus on the wider community and it is a good opportunity to get out and about around the churches and the communities they serve.

Jeanette

The Blue Pages are changing

It was clear from the Readers' survey completed in January that some changes were needed on the blue pages. The only item most people agreed was relevant and useful was the Bin Collection table.

Finally, I have made a start on making changes which will hopefully meet the readers' expectations. This month's offering is a work in progress. The changes to the bin collections have just come as an extra challenge. We will all have to find out how the new arrangements work.

The plan is that the front page will have a different article each week on something that is relevant to the life of the community but may be somewhat hidden. The contact information on organisations and regular events appears on Page 2. Page 3 may well change. It needs more work. Page 4 is still bins and the Parish Council contact details.

Comments welcome! Judy V judyannvinson@gmail.com



Newenden Meadow Restoration Field





Here we are in our meadow restoration (Selmes) field in early spring. There are plants appearing: meadow vetchling, birdsfoot trefoil, red clover, white dead nettle, knapweed, oxeye daisy and more. Red dead nettle, primrose, snowdrop, dandelion, lesser celandine, and snakes head fritillary are already flowering. Last year we planted field scabious, devil's bit scabious, musk mallow, meadow cranesbill, snakes head fritillary and wild daffodil, all native plants that are suited to damp meadows, so we are waiting with baited breath to see if they will appear this year. There has been such a lot of flooding in the field this winter, starting at the beginning of November and regularly right through to the beginning of March, but we hope that most flowering plants will be unaffected.

Our main aim when we started the meadow restoration was to create a field of native plants suitable for sustaining bumblebees, butterflies, moths and other pollinating insects. A field like ours can act as part of a corridor between larger insect friendly areas, allowing the gene pool to remain healthy. If you have a patch of land, which you think would be suitable to restore with wildflowers, please let us know and we can help by providing advice and information

to get things going. Even a small area can be helpful and become part of a series of 'islands' that insects can use to reach larger meadows.

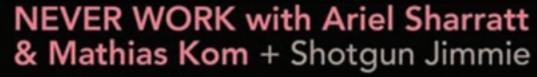
We are looking forward to the path being mown and the seat drying out so that more people can walk through and spend time enjoying the field, and on June 11th we are holding a bumblebee identification day there, with bumblebee experts Morgan and Peter Greenhalf, starting at 10.30am. If you would like them to identify bumblebees and solitary bees in your garden, we will be able to organise that nearer the day. We experienced a big rise in bumblebee numbers in the field in 2023, as well as many other insects including a solitary bee, rare in this part of the country, the long horned bee, which was seen frequently on the clumps of meadow vetchling along the flood bank.

We are looking for volunteers to join our small group who help in the field, and this year are starting a monthly gathering of helpers on the 3rd Thursday of every month, at 10.30am for an hour, weeding, building the log pile, putting down tarpaulins to prepare areas for seeds or plants and that kind of thing. It is great to spend time with an enjoyable, likeminded group. In March we held our first monthly get together to cut back brambles encroaching into the field



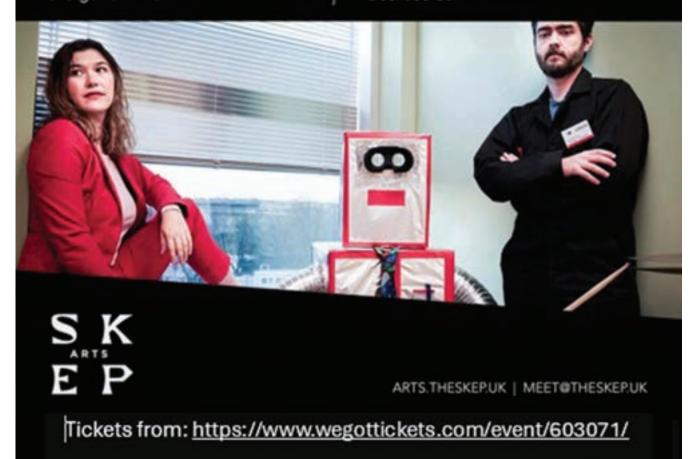
from the hedge. If you would like to get involved on our 3rd Thursday mornings, text or ring me on 07984169314, or message me on Instagram, Newenden Meadow Restoration, or Facebook, Newenden Meadow Restoration Field. Put the 3rd Thursday of the month on your calendar, and come along and see what we are up to.

The Friends of Newenden Restoration Field will soon be ready to launch and we will publish more information about a Friends' meeting soon. It has taken longer than we anticipated, but we are keen to get things going as soon as possible. *Jillian Eldridge*



An evening of inventive music, razor-sharp lyrics and a robot drummer. Ariel and Mathias will be bringing multidisciplinary show 'Never Work' to the theatre in collaboration with visual artist and indie rock legend Shotgun Jimmie.

Friday 19th April
Doors 7:00pm for 7:30pm
Tickets £11
Venue The Ellen Terry Theatre
Smallhythe Pl, Smallhythe Rd
Tenterden TN30 7NG
Licensed bar







'Smuggling on Romney Marsh'



Sue Duckworth has been a professional Blue Badge Guide for the South East of England and is in great demand for her talks. She has a wealth of experience in delivering lectures and talks and is a very popular speaker.

The Smuggling Gangs of Romney Marsh are legendary, with many books having been written about their exploits. Discover the characters involved and the locations where booty was hidden as well as some of the local poetry and stories.

Venue: St Mary's Church, Rolvenden
Coffee and biscuits
7.15pm for 7.30pm start for lecture
Everyone welcome - Non-members: £4
https://therolvendenhistorygroup.wordpress.com/)



Protecting livestock – know the law

'Worrying' livestock is a crime under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953.

If you are on agricultural land and a dog you own or are in charge of **attacks** or **chases** livestock in a way that may cause **injury**, **suffering** or **loss**, you could be **prosecuted**, **fined** and **ordered to pay compensation**.

Under the Animals Act 1971, a person acting to **protect livestock** may be able to **kill** or **injure a dog**, without incurring any criminal or civil liability, if he or she believes it is worrying livestock.



Please keep your dog on a lead.

If you see a dog worrying livestock, please call the police on **999**.



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Rolvenden Neighbourhood Watch April

Our focus this month continues the theme of getting out and about, this time with the emphasis on driving. Recognising that our weather can be difficult, we are thinking about travelling by car when it's raining





Rain can affect your ability to see ahead or be seen by others. It can also affect your vehicle's performance and responsiveness. Even light or moderate rain can have an impact on visibility and vehicle performance, so it's important to adjust your driving behaviour and take extra care.

- If it's time for your wipers, it's time to slow down.
- Use dipped headlights, especially if visibility is seriously reduced.
- The roads will be more slippery than usual, so give yourself more time to react
- increase the gap between you and the vehicle in front to at least four seconds.
- Look out for standing water adjust your driving before and after encountering any
- Keep your eyes on the road at all times spray from other vehicles can suddenly reduce your visibility.
- Visibility affects others too, so anticipate their actions and be prepared.
- During thunderstorms, sudden gusty winds can unsettle vehicles. Keep your speed down and give other road users more room.

Highway code's advice on weather driving can be found here: https://www.highwaycodeuk.co.uk/wet-weather.html

Here are a few other sources of information you might find useful, particularly when you are planning a trip away form home What if I break down?

If your vehicle has a problem, or you get into trouble on a motorway, stay calm and try to exit at the next junction or motorway service area.



Find more advice on what to do if you break down: https://nationalhighways.co.uk/road-safety/breakdowns/

Even before you set out, it's important to plan journeys in advance, particularly if you're travelling on routes you're not familiar with.

- Plan your route
- Check the availability of service areas along your route
- Make sure you know how to operate your headlights and fog lights
- Check your vehicle: more information can be found here: https://nationalhighways.co.uk/road-safety/how-to-check-your-vehicle/
- Pack a seasonal kit
- Check the weather forecast here: https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/
- If heavy downpours are expected, consider delaying your journey until it clears.
- During periods of extreme weather, adjust when you travel to avoid the worst days and times of day if possible
- Check traffic conditions here: https://nationalhighways.co.uk/travel-updates/ And whether you are going far or staying local there may be times when you might use:
- Weather warnings from the Met Office: https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/uk-warnings#?date=2024-02-10
- And flood warnings: www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings 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

R	I	G
L	E	N
E	V	Α

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.



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 MAY ISSUE IS 5:00pm TUESDAY 16TH APRIL

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

The online version will be available from 1st May 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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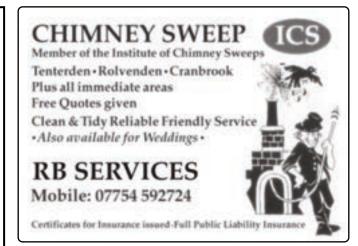
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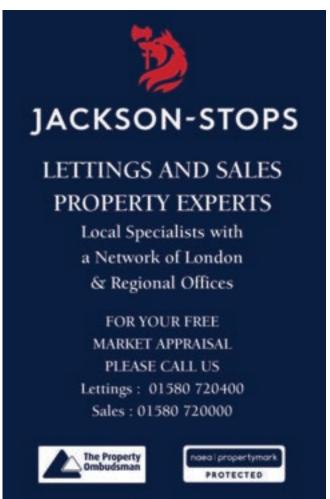
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Making our communities tick - this month

The Mildred Trust

The Mildred Trust started life as the Vicar of Tenterden's Charity. It is a thriving charity, making an impact upon Tenterden and the surrounding rural communities.

The Mildred Trust embraces the Old Schoolhouse Larder, a foodbank for families with infant to primary school-age children. Open weekly, the Larder offers a supply of basic grocery items, fresh fruit and vegetables, milk, bread and butchery items. Families can also collect basic personal and household hygiene items and signposting to other services they may need.

A recent expansion of the reach of the foodbank has been the investment in a rural mobile foodbank, operated by another local charity, which goes out to the surrounding villages. Other activities include a Men Only series of exercise classes to try and reduce the incidents of falls and accidents that occur because of stiffness and poor balance. There have also been seated exercise groups for older, less able, people, which have improved confidence, mobility and social contact. Children have been supported by the provision of music lessons and school educational trips, and the Mildred Trust has also been able to help families from Ukraine to settle in Tenterden. This has been particularly rewarding because they are now working and contributing to the local community and economy.

The Mildred Trust is currently seeking a treasurer, because of the retirement of the present post holder. The accounts are up to date and in good order. If you are able to help the Mildred Trust support our local communities, then please contact Emma Isworth (e.isworth57@gmail.com).

Contact Details for organisations you might find you need:

EC30

A coffee shop and so much more! For more information email: info@ec30.co.u , also see www.ec30.co.uk.EC30, Recreation Ground Rd, Tenterden. Open: Mon- Fri 9am - 4pm; Sat 9am - 3pm.

The Tenterden Family Foodbank EC30

Monday to Friday 9-4, Saturday 9-3/ food boxes for people who suddenly find themselves in difficulty due to late credit payments, unexpected bills, loss of job etc. info@ec30.co.uk / 07919 381827

Emergencies only please call: 07919 381827 / 07805 840493.

The Old Schoolhouse Larder

Supporting vulnerable families with children who are finding it difficult to provide meals every day. Open Friday 9 to 11am. 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 also available.



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

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

To join phone: 03000 41 31 31

Regular Events

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

- Memory Café and Friends meets every Friday 2 4pm at St Andrews Church Hall, Ashford Road, Tenterden
- Musical Memories meets every Tuesday 10:45am 12 noon Highbury Hall, Highbury Lane, Tenterden, a singing for health group.
- Monthly Lunch Club Meets 4th Wednesday 12:30 for 1:00pm Little Silver Hotel, St Michaels Tenterden.

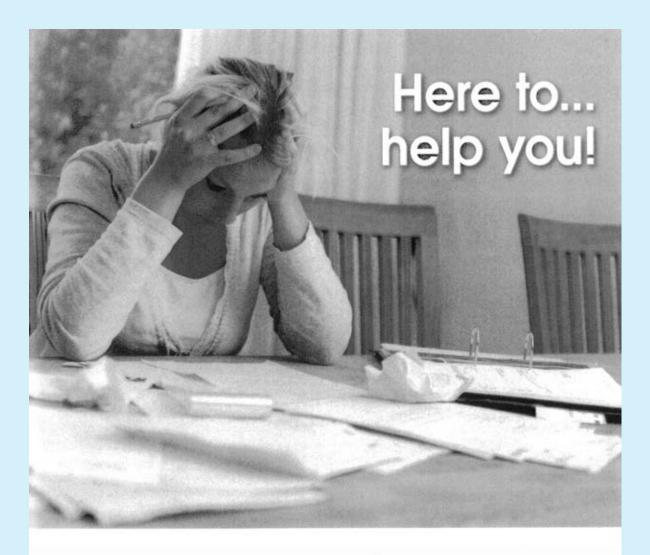
For all 3 Contact: Jan Bridger Tel: 01580 762932 Mob: 07445971791

Parkinsons Café

Mutual support for people affected by Parkinson's including family, friends, partners and carers. Meets every third Monday 10:30 to noon at the EC30 Tenterden Contact: Christine Endersby 01580 764046

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/



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 CouncilTax debt advice
- Help to claim Council Tax Support or Housing Benefit
- Help to claim Discretionary Housing Payments or Council Tax Exceptional Circumstances Payments

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

- 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



Refuse Collection Dates for April

Under the new refuse contract, collection days across the Parishes of Newenden and Rolvenden are mainly:

Newenden Tuesdays

Streyte ward Rolvenden – Tuesdays

Rolvenden Layne - Mondays

But there are anomalies. You can find the day for your address with Find my bin day' on the ABC website: https://secure.ashford.gov.uk/waste/collectiondaylookup/

Here is the weekly pattern for Household Refuse for April Week Commencing

Apr 1	Food waste + green bin
Apr 8	Food Waste + grey bin
Apr 15	Food waste + green bin
Apr 22	Food waste + grey bin
Apr 29	Food waste + green bin

- Garden Waste collection may be on a different day to your main bins. Please use 'Find my bin day' to check
- Yellow sacks, where supplied, will be collected weekly
- For all queries about recycling or waste disposal: On-line, see ABC website: www.ashford.gov.uk/waste Telephone ABC on Tel 01233 330646

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 a meeting on

9th April 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 For the time being, check website for forthcoming meeting details.

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.