OPM

ISSUE 14 DECEMBER 2025

ORLESTONE PARISH MAGAZINE



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Additional Support

APL Computer Support

About Us

Orlestone Parish Magazine (OPM), covering Orlestone and surrounding Parishes, is run on a not-for-profit basis, with all proceeds to be forwarded to a charity or charities to be decided by our Editor-in-Chief in consultation with the Parish Council and, if possible, our readers!

https://www.orlestoneparish.co.uk/latest/



Photo By Lucy Baldwin ORLESTONE PARISH MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2025

Some really good news, I have received a generous donation which will ensure that the Orlestone Parish Magazine can continue for another year. The costs are small but very few local businesses are currently advertising (why not?) so we were running low on funds.

A sincere **Thank You** to our donors.

Because this is an online magazine it's hard to judge how many read it so I'm always delighted to receive comments. Last month I had several compliments on the list of those who died for their country in the two World Wars - thanks are due to **Sid Gittens**, who researched all that information.

I also had a comment on the photo of the railway bridge, apparently there's an out-of order line of bricks that can be seen which shows where repairs were made following bomb damage. I apologise that I can't locate the original full message. I'd love more local memories and especially

MORE PHOTOS!



My wish to Father Christmas is for another Guest Editor to join our brilliant team. One of the editors is a Secondary school student - there must be more like him around. Good for a future CV and a small payment in your pocket.

Hamstreet Christmas Childrens Party 1959

Meanwhile, we all wish you a joyous Christmas and a very Happy New Year. May your days be merry and bright, even though your Christmas in Hamstreet is unlikely to be white.



Contribute your updates and photos at editorparmag@gmail.com by the 21st of the month

VILLAGE HALLS - WEEKLY JIMETABLES & EVENTS





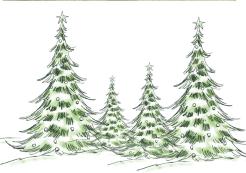




St. Mary Magdalene Church, Ruckinge

Ruckinge Village Hall was full for our Harvest Festival at the end of October. The Rector led our Service and we had some very good singing. His message was very thought provoking and it was pleasing that our response was reflected in the collection for Ripple Effect (still called Send a Cow by some of us) and we have received a certificate from Ripple Effect thanking us for £210.27 this year. We have now given £8,300 over the past 26 years we have been supporting them. Initially the money was used to buy cows but now it is used for a wide range of things to help people to produce their own food and share it with others, hence 'Ripple Effect'. We also had a good collection of food which was taken to the Food Bank in Ashford. The service was followed by afternoon tea, during which David Hanbury got our brain cells working with a quiz produced by Ripple Effect and it just showed how ignorant some of us are!





Back in 1992 we held our 1st season of Coffee Mornings, it was an experiment to try to get people together to talk. Little did we think that 34 years later we would still be doing it (apart from the Covid years). We had one more in November and once more the Village Hall was full and you had a job to hear each other because of the talking. In the early years all the water had to be carried to the Church and the washing up was done in a bowl and to cut down on washing up we used plastic throw away cups. Next year we will have running hot and cold water but we will need more help with the cooking and serving as we have all got older and less able. I think it would be a good quiz question to ask how many cakes have been cooked over the years. I don't know the answer but I guess it goes into the thousands.

Our next fund raising event is our annual WARM UP FOR CHRISTMAS. This is on Saturday 6th December from 11a.m. to 2p.m. We will be serving hot homemade soup, Cheesecake and Bread and Butter pudding. There will also be a gift stall and craft stall. Because we are still unable to use the Church we will be using the Scout and Guide H.Q. the driveway directly opposite Marsh Road behind what was the Village Shop. Our grateful thanks to them for helping us out. Please only park on the driveway if you have mobility difficulties and keep the turning space free for that purpose.

On Thursday 11th December we are going to have A COME AND SING afternoon when we will sing Advent Hymns and Carols that don't normally get sung at traditional Carol Services. Again we will be in the Village Hall starting at 3pm. Refreshments will be served afterwards. Please come and join us, no charge.

Finally, we hope (and so do the builders) that we will be back in Church for Christmas Eve when we will have PRAMS and GRANS at 3pm and our CRIB SERVICE at 6pm.

WE WISH EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

Enquiries to Mary Sillibourne, Churchwarden 01233 732615

ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH

CHRISTMAS & VENTS



St Mary Magdalene Church, Ruckinge

Carols and Advent songsold and new

Thursday 11th December at 3pm Ruckinge Village Hall

followed by light refreshments





St Mary Magdalene Church Ruckinge you are invited to the

"Prams and Grans"

Carol Service

Mums, Dads and Grandads also admitted!

Babies, toddlers, prams, pushchairs and noise - no problem!

All the children will get a chance to take part in the 30 minute carol service

Christmas Eve 3.00pm



St Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge

Warm Up for Christmas

Gift Market

Crafts, gifts, decorations, accessories, bric-a-brac

Home cooking

Soups,
Puddings,
Cakes,
Savouries

Saturday 6th December 11.00 am – 2pm

in Ruckinge Scout Hut TN262NX

PLEASE leave the parking on the Hut driveway for those with mobility difficulties



All are welcome!





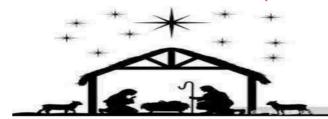


St Mary Magdalene
Church
Ruckinge
you are invited to the

Candlelight Crib Service

A family celebration of the joy of Christmas with the message of the angels

Christmas Eve 6.00pm



ST MATTHEWS CHURCH WAREHORNE

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

St Matthew's Church, Warehorne, was full for the benefice Service of Remembrance led by Revd. Geoff Abasolo-Munnery. Members of the Royal British Legion, Scout Association and Girlguiding UK, paraded from the Leacon to the church, whilst the Tower Captain, Graham Epps, tolled a muffled bell.

Before the observation of the two minute Silence the names of those from the villages of Orlestone, Ruckinge and Warehorne who gave their lives in the First and Second World Wars, were read out. After Reveille sounded, Richard Henderson, Deputy Lord Lieutenant, laid a wreath on behalf of the Lord Lieutenant, followed by wreaths from the Royal British Legion, local Parish Councillors, Churchwardens and children from the uniformed groups, the youngest members of which had coloured pennants during the service, depicting stained glass illustrating various aspects of remembrance. These were then hung along the footpath handrail.

Following the service, the uniformed groups paraded back to the Leacon whilst the church bells rang out. Our grateful thanks to Philippa Jones, organist and the bell ringers.





ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH WAREHORNE

CAROL SERVICE 21st DECEMBER, 6PM

CRIB BLESSING, CHILDREN'S TABLEAU and THE JUMP SINGERS

Followed by mulled wine and mince pies



CHRISTMAS MORNING

10.30am for one hour FAMILY SERVICE WITH COMMUNION

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU.

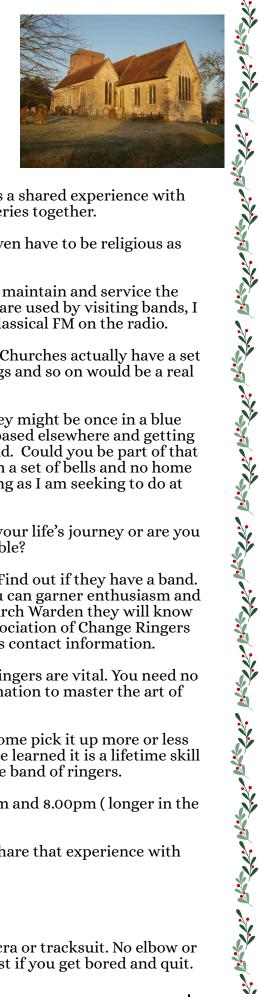


ST MATTHEWS WAREHORNE BELL RINGERS CIRCLE

New Band - New Ringers

Do you want to be a part of a new beginning for our band? Ever thought how come there even is ringing in this day and age when everyone lives their lives glued to TV, Mobile Phone or Tablet?

Ringing has taken place in our Churches for over four hundred years and if it is to continue into the years ahead new ringers are needed - NOW.



Come along please. Learn to ring, learn to master a bell, learn to ring as a shared experience with others. Share your learning curve with them. Make discoveries together.

No musical talents, no genius Einstein brains are needed. You do not even have to be religious as ringing is open to all faiths and none.

As well as ringing, should you be a DIY buff you can even learn to help maintain and service the church Bells. As well as oiling once a month, more frequently if the bells are used by visiting bands, I give the bells at Saint Matthew two going-overs a year, listening to Classical FM on the radio.

the village of Warehorne is lucky we have a Church with six bells. Not all Churches actually have a set if bells so getting ours in regular usage for the Sunday services, weddings and so on would be a real benefit to the local village.

Not all the Churches that have a set of bells see them actually used. They might be once in a blue moon for a local wedding. This entails reaching out and finding ringers based elsewhere and getting them to come along on the day. It is so much better to have a "home" band. Could you be part of that home band either here or elsewhere? The elsewhere being a Church with a set of bells and no home band of ringers. Could you get a band off the ground and up and running as I am seeking to do at Saint Matthews Warehorne.

We are moving into a New Year. Could ringing be a part of the process of your life's journey or are you content to drift on and accept life's rut is inevitable?

flow about shaking your tree? Get in touch with your own local Church. Find out if they have a band. If so go along, join in. If not ring around your family and friends see if you can garner enthusiasm and start up a new band. There is plenty of help out there. Just contact a Church Warden they will know where to direct you. You can always have a look on the Kent County Association of Change Ringers Web Site. It list all Churches with active ringing bands and provides contact information.

If ringing is to move forwards and to survive into the next century new ringers are vital. You need no special abilities but reasonable health is a pre requisite as is a determination to master the art of ringing.

To ring proficiently will take a different amount of time for everyone. Some pick it up more or less traight away. For most, however, the average is about three months. Once learned it is a lifetime skill and then it will enable you to ring at any Church with an active band of ringers.

Practice evenings at Saint Matthews are each Wednesday between 6.00pm and 8.00pm (longer in the Summer months usually until 8.30pm).

Start your New Year with a new challenge. Join a band. Learn to ring. Share that experience with others.

My contact details are;-Graham Epps Home 0123373346 Mobile 07759 235365

Thanks for reading. Please come along. No kit or caboodle needed. No Lycra or tracksuit. No elbow or shin or knee pads. No subscription, like health and fitness clubs, to be lost if you get bored and quit.



St Peter & St Paul's Church, Bilsington

There will be a Christmas Eve Blessing the Crib Service at St Peter & St Paul's church on Wednesday December 24th at 4pm. All are welcome.



This service with carols is the start of Christmas for all the family.

Children may come dressed as nativity scene characters if they wish. e.g. shepherds, kings, angels, animals, etc.









Royal British Legion

Our Annual Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning on 1st November - THANK YOU, THANK YOU

- * To those who so kindly donated delicious cakes & raffle prizes (especially Grovewell for our star prize)
- * To Angela & her helpers who set up & decorated the tables, served the refreshments, collected relevant books to sell & set up a plant table
- * But most importantly YOU the general public who gave so generously raising the grand sum of £533, an all time record.

Next year's coffee morning is booked for Saturday 31st October 2026.





THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION HAMSTREET & DISTRICT BRANCH

The aim of the Royal British Legion is to support ex-service personnel, but you do not need to be ex-military to belong.



Annual Poppy Appeal coffee morning

The Hamstreet branch welcomes new members, who may or may not have any armed service links, but share the aims of the Royal British Legion to provide welfare & support to service personnel & their families. If you feel you could support such aims, please contact our Chairman, Dennis Seton: 0788076806.

In particular we are in need of a branch secretary to mainly, liaise with the branch chairman, meet in the Hamstreet Sports Pavilion (up to ten times a year), take, write and circulate the minutes.

Thank you. Peter Gostling 07713104488

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Hamstreet Woods National Nature Reserve

Would you like to help us?

We are looking for new volunteers to join our practical group. We work on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday and the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. No experience necessary, we provide all the PPE and biscuits for tea break. Our group works on 3 sites around the Ashford area. The tasks include coppicing, dead hedging, scrub control, fence and gate repairs, step construction, and much more.

How to keep in touch.

If you have any questions about the woods or would like us to cover anything specific in this newsletter then please get in touch with me.

<u>Piers.griffin@naturalengland.org.uk</u> You can also follow us on our Facebook page <u>https://www.facebook.com/wyehamstreetnnr</u>



Can you please help us?

We are now looking at replenishing our items to sell and raise funds to make further improvements to the Victory Hall and purchase more new chairs.

Please remember us when you are Spring Cleaning and throwing out any unwanted items, we are looking for any of the following items:



Copper and brass China and glass
Small furniture Side tables & chairs
Rugs & pictures Old clocks & watches
Weathervanes Walking sticks
Pelham Puppets Toys & board games
Old postcards Stamps & Coins
Candlesticks Table lamps
Military items Badges/buttons/caps/hats
Clothes/shoes Handbags & scarves



Please contact lucy.bromfield@btinternet.com or phone
Angela 01233 732833 for collection or leave at my house
Marsh View, Cock Lane, opposite the Victory Hall, Hamstreet.
We thank you for your continued support, it is much appreciated
Lucy Bromfield (Chairman, Victory Hall Committee)

ST MARTIN'S CHURCH, ALDINGTON

St. Martin's Church Christmas Tree Festival is back!

This three-day festival will take place from Friday 12th December to Sunday 14th December. It is an opportunity for members of the community to sponsor a tree and promote their organisation or business, and for the community to come together and enjoy the spectacle! This year's theme for decorating your tree is Christmas Songs.



If you would like to decorate and display a tree to promote your organisation or business, please contact christina.harry@icloud.com for further information. Trees will need to be decorated on **Thursday 11th December** in preparation for the festival.

There will be **Family Fun on Saturday 13th December** in the church, all activities are free, and free refreshments will be available

We will join together at the end of the festival to celebrate Christmas with a **Christingle**service at 4pm on Sunday 14th December.

Come and enjoy this magical service which finishes in candlelight.









Musings with Adam



Like it or loathe it, it seems that Halloween has taken over from Guy Fawkes Night as the festival of the lessening daylight hours in Hamstreet. It seems that onerous regulations have left us with a stark choice - one can either choose to be a sardine in Rye (but with no trains stopping there) or let off ones own fireworks. The efforts of those who ran the Hamstreet display for around twenty years are of course commended as I think it was a particularly impressive display when compared to that of the average village.

When I was a child the local bonfire always took place in Ruckinge. Times were different and you could actually stand around a huge bonfire built of branches and the like, with no restrictions. If you got too close it was your own silly fault! I also remember it being absolutely freezing.

Is this evidence of global warming? I would say yes; Donald Trump would say no.

It seems to me that the climate change denier and the new-age patriot go very much hand in hand.

Much as we have laughed at the Americans for voting Trump in twice, it seems as though Britain has become susceptible to similar divide and rule rhetoric. I only wish that I had bought shares in a flagmaking company before the current fervour had been whipped up! And wouldn't it be ironic if the flags we see hanging from myriad lampposts and motorway bridges were actually made overseas? Speaking of which, I wonder how many of these flag-waving patriots choose to holiday in the UK to support the British economy. Enough said.

With the economy in perpetual meltdown (except for the ultra-rich) and non-stop horror on the news, the post-Christmas period of rumination and looking back on the past year can be something of a mental challenge. I generally disappear to Bournemouth for a few days before New Year. It seems to be a good area for mild weather in late December, there are plenty of nice walks and the train fare is not much over £20 with a Network Card (providing you don't mind going via Brighton).

Looking back at 2025, Hamstreet began the year with three empty shop units and it finished the year with two (arguably 1½ relatively speaking!). The village has a new hairdresser and the beauty shop has changed hands, with its former incarnation moving to a unit near Orlestone.

So what about New Year plans?

Well, I hope to have my latest book, Hamstreet, Kent - A Compendium out soon. It has been a voyage of discovery, ploughing through electoral registers dating back to the 1880s to find the names of various publicans and shopkeepers in the local area. Listing the former uses of the units in Warehorne Road has been a particular challenge as I only have peoples memories to go on.

Some years ago I wrote 'requiem' pieces in the parish magazine for the Chocolate Box, the Blue Anchor, the World's Wonder and the Woolpack. Thankfully the Woolpack bounced back, but this year I discovered that I had missed out a lot of landlords in my 'brief histories.' Also, in my piece 'Memories of Hamstreet School,' I was under the impression that the former headmaster, Jack Crossley, had died in the summer before I began school in 1980. He had actually passed on in November the year before, with Mrs Wellard acting as head for a few months before Barry Tomkins was installed as headmaster. Mr Wallby and John Evans were the last headmasters I had experience of. Paul Dawson was acting head until Marie Neale, who was followed by Jane Macey and now Helen Glancy, which brings us right up to date. It's a learning curve (pun intended). Peculiarly, the electoral registers post-2003 are still not available to view (Ashford Borough Council have ghosted me in the way that dodgy dates apparently do on match-making sites), so

of local people and my own diaries.

If anyone has an accurate list of landlords for the Blue Anchor and Woolpack Inn for this period it would be much appreciated. Many thanks to those who have already helped me with anecdotes and info from the past. You know who you are! Those interested may wish to check on the Amazon website in case I get the book out in time for Christmas, where you'll also find all back titles by my mum and myself.

my post-millennial info is a lot sketchier than that from a century before, again relying on the memories

Hopefully the book won't end up like Brian Wilson's long lost Smile album (originally a Beach Boys project aimed at rivalling Sgt. Pepper) which took him 34 years to produce and sent him temporarily over the edge of reason!

So for now, that's 2025 done and dusted. Let's hope 2026 is a good one.

- Adam Colton (hamcopublishing@aol.com)





Seasons Greetings from Cosy Kettle

As we celebrate the end of our first year at the Cosy Kettle, Jacqui and the team would like to thank our lovely customers for your support over the past year and wish you all the best for the Festive Season.





Festive afternoon tea - Bookings are being taken for our festive afternoon teas which will be available up to and including 31st December (24 hours minimum notice required please)

Festive Cupcake, Cookie Cuppa – Monday 22nd and Monday 29th December – sessions 9:30am and 10:30am - booking advised. Christmas opening hours: We will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day



For enquiries or to book a table contact us on 01233 733030 jacqui@cosykettle.com or via facebook



We're a family-run vineyard situated along Warehorne Road, just half a mile outside of Hamstreet. Harvest time is on the horizon! The grapes are almost ready to pick. We run volunteer harvest days where everyone is welcome. It's a fun-filled day and it's a great way to meet new people and learn more about the winemaking process. If you'd like to get involved this year then email harvest@warehornevineyard.co.uk to sign up or ask us further questions.

Our Cellar Door is open at weekends 10am to 5pm so come visit us to pick up your favourite award winning wine or stop off for a glass.

Our tour and tasting experience can be booked online on our website.

ORLESTONE WJ

November saw us looking forward to Christmas by creating a bauble for our own tree. They all looked very festive and we enjoyed the laughter and natter that accompanied the creativity. Some of us explored the narrow lanes of Ripple and challenged the non-existent signs to reach Solley's Ice Cream Parlour. We had a really fascinating tour of the ice cream making business, including just over five minutes inside the Big Freezer - it had to be done. Best of all, we enjoyed a generous scoop of the rich and delicious Solley's Ice Cream, made with milk from a Kent herd of Channel Island cattle, which is well worth eating, even in the winter months. We've also arranged lunch at Merriments and a trip to Scotney Castle before the end of November.







In **December** we look forward to a relaxing meeting when we'll be playing silly games followed by a buffet tea and there's also our annual Christmas dinner to look forward to, when we'll be singing along to Christmas carols.

In **January** we celebrate **60 years of Orlestone WI**, a very special anniversary, and we will welcome guests from other WIs to help mark the day. Our tradition in January is to run a free raffle which makes everyone a winner while we enjoy refreshments and fun activities together with a special birthday cake.



Christmas Party 2024



Drumming up some fun

The WI is open to all women, we meet on the second Monday monthly (no meeting in August) in Victory Hall, Hamstreet starting at 7.30pm. Come as a guest for 2 meetings, paying just £1.00 before becoming a member. The WI is a national organisation, existing to improve the lives of women and the things that matter to them. You can become involved at local, county or national level – the opportunities are there for you!

Contact Margaret Hanlon 07748 006249 or hanlon1@btinternet.com orlestone.wi@outlook.com

1ST Ruckinge & Hamstreet Cub Pack



Cubs have been working on creating bunting for the couple of weeks we've been back this term. We made dye using turmeric, blueberries and raspberries and immersed fabric twisted with bands to create a tie-dye effect. Cubs ironed their fabric and were pleased with the patterns they'd created. Less impressive was the colour left by the raspberry dye, basically grey. So, Cubs got on with cutting out, pinning in place and beginning to sew the triangles onto tape leaving room for an attempt to make a stronger coloured variation too. As we speak, grated beetroot is cooling in the water it's been bubbled up in ready for more fabric to be immersed in a few weeks' time.

Remembrance Sunday was tweaked a little this year having listened to the thoughts of our young people and on the back of our work with Geoff to make the St George's Day service more enjoyable and inclusive. Flagbearers returned to sit with their peers rather than being sat separately in the chancel, sections who'd made wreaths were able to lay them and a British Legion approved rhyming story explaining the meaning of poppies was read by youngsters who'd volunteered to read. All had the option to help their listening by colouring in paper bunting and the younger sections sat around tables rather than in pews. It was great to have time to display the bunting outside St Mathew's, Warehorne, for the children and the congregation to see on leaving. It was kind of Meriel Bailes, Church Warden, to bring to into the church and hang it for others to enjoy too. Cubs did leaders, parents and their community proud parading with the flag and behaving well in church on this special year, the so th anniversary of VE Day.

I can't be at Cubs next week (as I write). Many of you will already know that I'm having treatment for cancer so there are weeks I'm not available. Thankfully, Richard, our new Shere Khan, is settling in beautifully! Another leader to join Kaa (Anna Moon) and me at last, exhale with a smile. With the support of leaders, parents, Tim Brisley, our Young Leaders and Baloo (David Guy), Cubs are continuing to have a full programme. They're off to the woods this coming week, as I write, to think about changes since their last visit and to notice the difference between trees in terms of branch structure and bark. There's climbing in Dover the following week before we're back at the Hut, thinking about the Countryside Code, how to prepare for a hike and getting on with our bunting. Hike thinking necessitates a hike before the end of term, of course, a favourite activity.

Despite Richard's volunteering, we are still very much in need of additional leaders. There may now be three of us but we can't all make it each week so need a supportive team. Cubs getting the most out of activities demands adult attention to be on hand quickly and for there to be enough adults to spot Cubs needing support before they feel bad about the experience. The Cub programme is hugely varied. There are traditional activities like hiking, cooking over fire, camping, playing team games, but there are other aspects such as thinking about serving the community, protecting the environment, finding out about other faiths, learning about being healthy, team building and reflecting on ourselves and our lives.

Do you have a skill or interest you'd like to share with Cubs? You can take a look at the main badges online to see if you can fit your skills into our programme, search online at www.scouts.org.uk then Cub Awards. We concentrate on earning the Challenge Awards but would be happy to work with you on an Activity Badge.

Susan Hanlon Akela

susanhanlon@live.co.uk preferred contact route 01233 730884 (usually answer phone)





The Begging Bowl is still in action ...

Many will have seen my regular appeals on the local Facebook pages for all sorts of things for all sorts of good causes.

No apology but a reminder of what I'm happy to receive and pass on:

Used stamps please leave at least 5mm around them for the Pilgrims Hospice.

Old foreign and British coins & bank notes. I'm continuing to collect these and the next collection will raise funds for the Ruckinge and Hamstreet Scouts & Guides group, helping to build a useful, thoughtful and caring new generation.

Medical supplies & mobility equipment to send to the hospitals and care organisations in Ukraine.

Scrap metal - brass, copper, aluminium, electric cable for Ruckinge & Hamstreet Scouts & Guides.

Not sure? Ask us!

George & Margaret Hanlon 01233 732684 07748 006249 Leave in or near the porch at 28 Willow Drive, Hamstreet TN26 2HZ



Fresh fruit and vegetable stall: seasonal produce sourced locally, competitively priced.

Near Bournewood bus stop, Hamstreet, every Saturday 8am - 12pm

www.facebook.com/NashPotatoes.veg/ 01233 733613 / 07484 380634 nashpotatoesveg@gmail.com

SSEMK Winter Season

All events at the Church of St Mary Kenardington TN26 2NQ

Saturday 8th November 2025 7pm

Sounds Baroque
Julian Perkins director
The Redoubtable Reverend Richard Mudge
6 Concertos in 7 parts

Sunday 30th November 2025 3pm Please note change of date and time!

Kieran White haut-contre
David Wright harpsichord & organ
The English Orpheus
Henry Purcell & His Contemporaries

Sunday 7th December 2025 1230pm & 3pm

Fundraising Luncheon & Fortepiano Recital Charlotte Tang

Franz Schubert ~ Robert & Clara Schumann

Sunday 14th December 2025 3pm

The Lacock Scholars

Greg Skidmore director Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina born 18th December 1525 Orlando Gibbons, died 5th June 1625

A Great Mystery: Palestrina & Gibbons at Christmastime

Full details & Box Office www.ssemk.org

Over 60s Meet

The Over 60s enjoyed a very artistic afternoon at the end of October painting the pottery Christmas wreaths we made at the previous meeting under the watchful eye of Fiona. The finished articles were very professional looking and we all had a great time.

On 14 November Nick entertained us with his singing and amazing guitar playing. To round off November Geoff will be performing and the club will round off the year with Christmas dinner accompanied by singer, Riki on 5

December.

The club will restart again on 8 January 2026 (where did 2025 go?) at 2pm at Cotton Hill House. Looking forward to seeing old and new members then. Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to everyone.

For further information contact June McKay on 07799984110



Christmas wreath making

Nick Singer and Guitar Virtuoso





After school child cover required

We are a friendly family of four looking for 1-2 days a week help with after school childcare. Ideally this would be on a Monday & Thursday although there is some flexibility with this. Our children both attend Aldington primary school, where they need to be collected and brought back to our home just outside Hamstreet and minded until 6-7.30pm in the evening, this is flexible and can be discussed in further detail. Contact: 07817 165515





Are you ageing without support from adult children?

Next Ashford Mtg

Thursday 4th December 2025

10:30am-12:30pm at Kingsnorth Sports Pavilion, Church Hill TN23 3EF

Share thoughts and experiences with others in similar situations

Hear about support in East Kent

Speak up together so we can age well

Supported by

Contact ashford@awoceastkent.org.uk Quarterly meetings



Plumbing & Heating

Need a plumber who actually shows up and brightens your day?

Call Ashley - the only local plumber who can fix your leaks and your mood!

Top-notch workmanship, charming banter, and pipes that

Book now and experience plumbing with personality!

Call or WhatsApp Ashley on: 07717 496 602

Services Offered



⊘ Oil Boilers

Professional breakdown repair, servicing, and installation to keep your heating running smoothly.

Showers & Bathrooms

From refreshing upgrades to complete installations, we'll make your space functional and luxurious

⊘ Hot Water Cylinders

Ensure consistent hot water with expert servicing, repairs, and new installations.

⊘ Radiator Installation & Repairs

Stay warm and cozy with efficient heating solutions tailored to your

⊘ Pipework Maintenance & Repairs

Prevent leaks and ensure smooth water flow with reliable pipe services.

Covers Orlestone, Tenterden and surrounding Weald of Kent Villages



Bilsington Village hall-Your local venue Bilsington, Ashford, Kent, TN25 7JU Registered charity 302685

Enquiries through committee members or by email Chairperson: Mr Mark Bilham 07776 218383 seasurer/Bookings: Mrs Vivienne Hudson 07887 850075 secretary/Bookings: Mrs Amanda Riley 07720 366874 bilsingtonvillagehall@gmail.com

Hall Hire

Hall available to hire for conferences, meetings, craft workshops, exercise classes, dog training, theatre, music events, private parties etc

Bright & airy hall in a lovely rural location, holds up to 100 people (80 seated), PA system, fully equipped kitchen, stage, Easy access & disabled toilet

We have a selection of tables & chairs for hire

Prices
Local community (not for profit) groups £8.50 ph
Local classes £9.50 ph Private parties & events £15.00 ph (£100 refundable deposit) For weddings please email

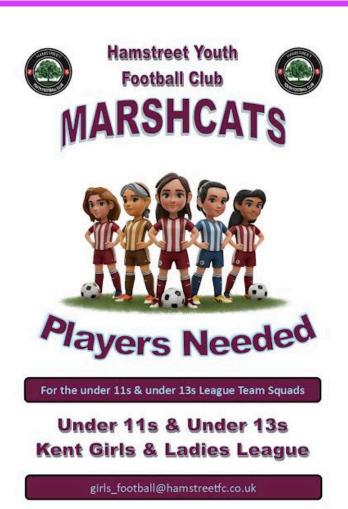
Find us on facebook & Instagram

Bilsington village hall regular groups please get in touch to join our regular group

Yoga with Isabel-Tuesdays 10:00-11:15 isabel carballal 07757 858642 yogaisabelkent@gmail.com

Low impact circuit class with Sandra-Fridays 10:00-11:00 sandra gooding 07525 857419 sandragoodingtraining@gmail.com

For information on any of our events or to join the email distribution list contact us on bilsingtonvillagehall@gmail.com







Welcome back to the **Ashford Sport** column in this month's **Orlestone Parish Magazine** for November. Last month had some incredible highlights across the district, catch up below to read about some stand outs for us.

We recently had the pleasure of being media partners at **The Givaudan Ashford 10k** which took place on 12th October starting at **The Julie Rose Stadium.** Over 1,000 runners participated and made themselves proud and everyone was in high spirits. It's always such a great event and we already can't wait for next year!

At the start of October, a record number of children attended **Ashford junior parkrun** at **Victoria Park**. The attendance of 220 smashed the previous record of 160 as we witnessed a brilliant atmosphere in the morning sunshine for this free weekly event.

Ashford's newest **pool club** has opened in the town centre. The Break Room officially opened their doors on Friday 14th November with a launch event and you will find them at 36 High Street, opposite the old Mecca Bingo Hall. Go give them your support, it's a fantastic new and modern venue.

Ashford resident **Paralympian, Millie Knight,** was recently crowned as the WUMF **Taekwondo** World Champion (Poomsae) in her class. That's now her 5th world championships across 3 different sports!

Three Ashfordians were part of the British Powerlifting team who travelled to Malta to compete in the European Classic & Equipped Bench Press Championships 2025. Craig Coggle, Rebecca Coggle and Amber Hinchelwood all contributed towards the 27 medals earned by the Brits, massive well done to you all!

Wegahta Zerom of **Ashford Athletic Club**, who won the Givaudan Ashford 10k, also won the Folkestone Half Marathon with a time of 1:11:22, what a time! **Sophie West** of **Ashford Tri Club**, and radiology consultant at East Kent NHS Trust became a double British champion after winning the Women's **PTS5 Paraduathlon** Championships at Oulton Park.

Ashford's very own **Henry Urand** has defended his title and remains the World Champion! The British **Triathlon** athlete and **The Norton Knatchbull School** alumni claimed victory in the PTS3 during the 2025 World Triathlon Championship Series in Wollongong, Australia.

Kent Gliding Centre, in Challock, recently supported 14 year old Abihnav Sujith in becoming India's youngest ever solo glider pilot. The Kent based youngster represents the next generation of aviation excellence and used the Ashford based club to accomplish this amazing achievement.

Congratulations to **Ashford parkrun** who were recognised for all of their hard work and commitment by being awarded the 'Active Community Award' and the 2025 Ashford Borough Council Community Awards. This is awarded to those who have used physical activities as a way of improving the lives of others in their community.

We're looking for local businesses who may be interested in potential sponsorship which will see Ashford Sport grow to help support the sporting community further. If you or someone you know might be interested, please get in touch!

There is so much more to talk about, we'll soon be launching our website but for now please visit our social media pages for more local sport news across the district of Ashford.

Thank you for reading.

Alex Perseval

Founder of Ashford Sport CIC









FESTIVE PUZZLE PAGE

PREATED BY MICHELLE GARDNER



SUDOKU DIFFICULTY HARD

			6	4	7	9	3	8
	8		1	5				6
					3	5		1
5				8	4	1		9
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		8		1		6		
1	5		4	3	1			2
8	2	9			1	3		4
6		3						5

STOCKING FILLER WORD SEARCH

Find these traditional stocking fillers in the grid BOOK CALENDAR CANDLES CHOCOLATE COAL DIARY **GLOVES** MINI PUZZLES MONEY **ORANGE SMELLIES** SOCKS

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М	U	Т	U	J	F	V	Υ	G	L	F	м	Υ	5	C
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5	E	R	F	F	R	V	М	E	Т	A	R	C	Y	В

WORD SADDER

Changing only one letter at a time, solving the clues, work your way down the ladder.

(letters can be moved)





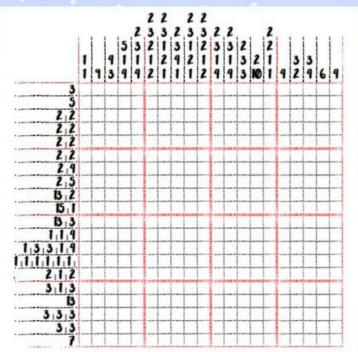
WORD BLOCK PUZZLE

How many 4 or more letter words can you create from the 9 letters given to you in the block.

> **Guidelines:** 15 = GOOD 30 = EXPERT 60 = MASTER



Colour the squares on the grid, based on the numbers given as a clue, to complete the picture.



DECEMBER 2025

SORAP METAL, PLEASE?





Brass, Copper, Electric cable, Aluminium,

If unsure, just ask us: George & Margaret 01233 732684 / hanlon1@btinternet.com

MORE CASH IN THAT PIGGY BANK!

SO FAR SO GOOD!

The total raised in 2025 has now reached £916.40 - all due to the kind hearts and good memories of local people. Thank you very much and keep it coming! This cash helps the hard-working leaders and helpers of Ruckinge and Hamstreet Scouts & Guides to continue to offer a wide range of activities for the youngsters who attend weekly.

Those same youngsters will grow up and become doctors, dentists, engineers, scientists and other vital and useful members of society.

What better way to begin than in the Scouting and Guiding movements.

VILLAGES' BARGAIN OIL NETWORK

Prices have risen by about 10ppl over the past 6 months but are still lower than we've known at around 50-60ppl. I got 54.54ppl for those who were on the early November spreadsheet. The number of orders through me are low, at the moment. This could be due to the mild weather we've been experiencing, possibly the move to online of this magazine or maybe more people are finding online groups to order through. Is this service slowly becoming irrelevant?

During the colder months I order twice a month on the 2 nd and 15 th (in both cases on the next working day if these dates are at the weekend). So, the next order dates are as below:

2nd December 15th December 2nd January 15th January

Please get your orders to me by the early evening of the day before. I always try to add latecomers but it's an unwelcome extra job for me and the winning company could say no to orders over and above those they've quoted on the basis of.

Any queries or to order, please e-mail me, where possible. I always acknowledge messages no matter how I receive them so please chase me if you don't hear from me. I'd rather people don't contact me via other routes, e.g. messenger, text.

Any household within a 5 mile radius of Hamstreet can access this service. You're welcome to pass on my details. I know that means some people who are in Aldington Parish fall outside the area but there's really nothing I can do about it, it's not my rule. Please be reassured, there's no additional cost or ongoing commitment to ordering your oil through me. I am just a member of the community and this is a voluntary, not-for-profit service that I slot in around my work, family and other activities.

Contact me for more information.

Susan Hanlon - ordermeoil@hotmail.co.uk (preferred contact route) 01233 730884 - often answer-phone (I can take several days to pick up) 07810436191 – usually voicemail (absolute last resort, please)



It's hard to believe how quickly this year has flown by, and that Christmas is nearly upon us.

Over the past year, I've been out and about across the Weald, visiting schools and small businesses, hosting events with my clubs, and helping peopled who've got in touch with me. There's such a special feeling around the Weald at this time of year, and I love seeing our towns and villages lit up with Christmas trees and festive decorations.



One of my favourite parts of Christmas is joining the carol concerts across the Weald – and, if I'm honest, eating far too many mince pies while doing so! Last year's Light Up the Weald tractor parade was a real highlight for me, and this Christmas, I'm hoping to catch up with our local Royal Mail delivery team in Tenterden to see how on earth they manage to get everything out on time. It's a heroic feat!

But I also know that winter can be a difficult time for many. Cold homes, poor road conditions, and worries about crime all add pressure when families should be able to relax and celebrate together. That's why this month I've written to every household in the Weald of Kent to share the results of my transport survey, and to ask for your views on crime and policing.

Many people have told me they feel less safe than they used to – whether that's on our roads, in our towns, or at home. Please do take a few minutes to fill in the survey when it arrives, online or by post; your answers will help me raise the right questions in Parliament and work with Kent Police to make our communities safer.

As well as all of this, I've been running events through my Farmers, Growers, and Producers Club, Business Club, and I've unveiled my new Young People's Politics Club! You don't have to come from any particular political party it's simply a chance for young people to learn more about politics, how decisions are made, and how they can get more involved.

To celebrate the launch, I'm running an essay competition, so if you know anyone aged 16 to 22 who might be interested, please do encourage them to sign up and enter! All my clubs are free to join, and I'd love to see you at an event - you can sign up at this link: https://www.katieforkent.com/clubs

Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! And as always, if you ever need any help, would like me to visit your business, or just have a question, you can always write to me at <u>Katie.lam.mp@parliament.uk.</u>



SAXON SHORE REPORT



I am sure, like myself you were delighted to see the Hallam's Appeal for development at Cotton Hill dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate. The result means that the Ashford Planning Committee refusal stands and shows that, even when a local Planning Authority cannot demonstrate 5 Year Housing Land Supply (5YHLS), really poor schemes can be resisted at Appeal.

Our Local Plan is vital to retaining control of development in our borough and the emerging Ashford Local Plan 2042 is crucial to getting our 5YHLS back on track. That it has been reduced is the result of many factors. The hurdles to housing delivery are well reported and, in our case, as well as economic pressures, the most sustainable areas of Ashford borough are impacted by nutrient neutrality mitigation required by Natural England. As a result, the local planning authority cannot permit development until such mitigation is approved. This has an inevitable impact on government measures of planning performance, such as 5YHLS, for which Ashford was given no reprieve.

The council has actively searched for solutions and, together with Canterbury City Council we have recently launched Stour Environmental Credits (SEC), a joint venture, not-for-profit company to address the issues faced by both the councils and developers in Kent. SEC supports programmes to create and sell nutrient neutrality credits, which are essential for unlocking housing and other developments while safeguarding water quality in the River Stour. SEC Ltd was established with start- up funding of £450,000 secured from the Local Nutrient Mitigation Fund that is administered by Kent County Council on behalf of Ministry for Housing, Community and Local Government. A further application for £4m was made in August 2025 and is supporting the first round of mitigation works. One of the projects involves replacing old cesspools with cleaner, more modern wastewater treatment plants for homes on private drainage systems that are within the Stour catchment area. To find out more about this and see if you might qualify visit; https://nationalriversconsortium.com



BENEFICE WORSHIP CALENDARS FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY



SAXON SHORELINE BENEFICE WORSHIP CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2025						
Thursday 4th December	7.00 pm Taize Prayer	St. Rumwold, Bonnington				
1 st Sunday: 7th December Advent 2 (Purple)	9.00 am Holy Communion 9.00 am Holy Communion 10.00am Family Fun Service 10.30am Parish Communion 10.30am Holy Communion	St. Rumwold, Bonnington St. Matthew, Warehorne St. Martin, Aldington St. Mary, Orlestone (inc Ruckinge) Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet				
Thursday 11th December	3.00 pm Come and Sing	Ruckinge Village Hall				
Saturday 13th December	3.00pm Community Carols & Christingle	Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet				
2 nd Sunday: 14 th December Advent 3 (Purple/Rose)	9.00am BCP Holy Communion 10.30am Morning Worship 10.30am Morning Worship 10.45am Carol Service 4.00pm Christingle Service	SS Peter & Paul, Bilsington Ruckinge Village Hall Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet St. Martin, Aldington St. Martin, Aldington				
Thursday 18th December	7.00pm Traditional Carol Service	Quarry House, Aldington				
3 rd Sunday: 21st December Advent 4 Winter Solstice (Purple)	9.00am Holy Communion 10.30am Prayer, Praise & Coffee 10.30am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship Service 4.00 pm Nativity Service 4.00 pm Carols By Candlelight 6.00 pm Carols & Children Tableau with Jump Singers	St. Mary, Orlestone Ruckinge Village Hall Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet St. Martin, Aldington St. Martin, Aldington St. Rumwolds, Bonnington St. Matthew, Warehorne				
Christmas Eve 24th Dec (Purple	3.00 pm Prams & Grans 4.00 pm Blessing the Crib 6.00 pm Crib Service 8.00 pm Carol Service 11.30 pm Midnight Communion	St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge St. Peter and St. Paul, Bilsington St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge St. Mary, Kenardington St. Martin, Aldington				
Christmas Day 25th Dec (White/Gold)	9.00 am Holy Communion 10.00 am Family Service 10.30 am Family Service with Holy Communion	St. Rumwold, Bonnington Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet St. Matthew, Warehorne				
4 th Sunday: 28th December Advent 5	10.00 am Benefice Holy Communion with Carols	St. Peter ජී St. Paul, Bilsington				

Benefice BCP Communion on the following Wednesdays @ 12 noon, St. Mary, Orlestone: 3rd, 10th, 17th, December. All Welcome. NB no service Christmas Eve

KEY EVENTS

Saturday 6Th December 11.00 am - 2.00 pm "Warm Up for Christmas", Scout Hut, Ruckinge

12th & 13th December 10.00am - 4.00 pm and 14th December 12 noon- 4.00 pm Christmas Tree Festival, St. Martin, Aldington

SAXON SHORELINE BENEFICE WORSHIP CALENDAR FOR January 2026						
1 st Sunday: 4th January Christmas 2 (White)	9.00 am Holy Communion 9.00 am Holy Communion 10.00am Family Fun 10.30am Parish Communion	St. Matthew, Warehorne St. Rumwold, Bonnington Village Hall, Aldington St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge				
2 nd Sunday: 11 th January Epiphany 1 The Baptism of Christ Plough Sunday (White/Gold/Green)	9.00am BCP Holy Communion 10.30am Morning Worship 10.30am Morning Worship 10.45am Holy Communion	SS Peter & Paul, Bilsington St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet St. Martin, Aldington				
3 rd Sunday: 18 th January Epiphany 2 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Begins (White/Green)	9.00am Holy Communion 10.30am Prayer, Praise & Coffee 10.30am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship Service	St. Rumwold, Bonnington St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet St. Martin, Aldington				
4 th Sunday: 25th January Epiphany 3 The Conversion of St. Paul Burns Night (White)	9.00am BCP Holy Communion 10.30am BCP Communion 10.30am Morning Worship 10.45am Holy Communion 6.30pm Evensong	SS Peter & Paul, Bilsington St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet St. Martin, Aldington St Matthew, Warehorne				

KEY EVENTS

Parish Contacts

Church of England	Rector: Rev Geoff Abasolo-Munnery	07743598896
Saxon Shoreline Benefice	revgeoff.saxonshorelinebenefice@gmail.com	
	Canon John Saunders	07732682472
	(retired Anglican Priest)	
	Pauline Williams	07907676829
	(Benefice Safeguarding Officer)	
Methodist Minister	Rev. Adrian Roux	07721006800
	revadrianroux@wesleys.uk	
Roman Catholic Priest	Father Hans, St Simon's Church	01233 622399
Church of the Good Shepherd &	Mrs Doreen Dawson (Churchwarden)	07788 776941
St Mary, Orlestone	Mrs Janet Carter (Steward)	01233 732403
(C of E and Methodist Local	David Smith (Steward)	01233 732368
Ecumenical Partnership)		
St Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge	Mrs Mary Sillibourne (Churchwarden)	01233 732615
St Peter & St Paul, Bilsington	Mrs Linda KIng (Churchwarden)	01233 720554
St Matthew, Warehorne	Mrs Meriel Bailes (Churchwarden)	01233 731211
St Mary, Kenardington	Dr Stephen Coles	01233 721242
St Rumwold, Bonnington	Dr Norman Corfield (Churchwarden)	01233 720241
St Martin, Aldington	Tim Loat (Churchwarden)	07718052114

Local Contacts

Hamstreet Surgery	Mon-Fri 8.00 – 18.30		01233 730190
Aldington & Bonnington ParishCouncil	Emily Arnold	clerk@aldingtonandbonnington-pc.gov.uk	07928 453208
Bilsington Parish Council	Peter Settlefield	Bilsingtonclerk@gmail.com	
Kenardington Parish Council	Annette Beach	clerk@kenardington-pc.gov.uk	07905 658117
Orlestone Parish Council Clerk	Sue Stiffell	stiffells@btinternet.com	01233 628481
Ruckinge Parish Council	Emily Arnold	clerk@ruckinge-pc.gov.uk	07714 000986
Warehorne Parish Council	Annette Beach	clerk@warehorne-pc.gov.uk	07905 658117
Bilsington Village Hall bookings	Vivienne Hudson		01233 721731
Bromley Green Hall bookings	Mark Nash		01233 733613
Hamstreet Church Hall bookings	Mrs Val Showell		01233 733502
Hamstreet Pavilion bookings	Mags Wellsted-Boorman		07886 515573
Hamstreet Sports & Leisure Assoc.	Mark Taylor		07786 712939
(Field & MUGA bookings)			
Kenardington Village Hall booking	Mrs Brenda Headley		01233 733085
Ruckinge Village Hall bookings	Emily Arnold	clerk@ruckinge-pc.gov.uk	07714 300986
Victory Hall bookings	Mrs Rita Ward	weyward@hotmail.co.uk	07535 349910
Warehorne Village Hall bookings	Kelly O'Leary-White		01233 733980
Orlestone WI	Margaret Hanlon	orlestonewi@outlook.com	07748 006249
Over 60s Club	Mrs June McKay		01233 732879
Hamstreet Bowling Club	Adam Smidmore		07947 007686
Hamstreet Short Mat Bowls Club	Paula Scales		01233 334958
The Shed Men	Sid Gittens	slgittens@btinternet.com	01233 732553
Table Tennis Club	David Smith		01233 732368
Ruckinge & Hamstreet			
Scouts and Guides Group			
Group Scout contact:	Melvyn Beeching	gsl@rhsandg.org.uk	01303 271807
Explorers:	Dave Lukehurst	smugglersrhexplorers@gmail.com	07986 036320
Scouts:	Melvyn Beeching	(as above)	
Cubs:	Susan Hanlon	csl@rhsandg.org.uk	
Beavers:	Zoe Munro	Ruckingebeavers1@outlook.com	
Squirrels:	Jess Roberts	gsl@rhsandg.org.uk	01233 730884
Group Guide Contact:	Mrs Gill Andrews	gill.andrews79@gmail.com	07779 442463
Ist Ruckinge Guides:	Gill Andrews	(as above)	
"" Brownies:	Jane Munro	janemunro44@yahoo.co.uk	07884 486706
" " Rainbows :	Gill Andrews	(as above)	
Supporters Group:		gsl@rhsandg.org.uk	
Royal British Legion	Dennis Seton		07880 761806
Therouanne Twinning Rep.	Mags Wellsted-Boorman		07886 515573
Children's Society	Margaret Hanlon	hanlon1@btinternet.com	07748 006249
Community Warden	Kathy Carter	-	07813 711940
Kent Police & Neighbourhood	Peter New	peternew1@aol	07768 437422
Watch Co-ordinator			
Bargain Oil Network	Susan Hanlon	ordermeoil@hotmail.co.uk	01233 730884
SSAFA Forces Help Kent		Kent.branch@ssafa.org.uk	0208 8956716
PARISH MAGAZINE	Margaret Hanlon	editorparmag@gmail.com	07748 006249
DEADLINE 21 st monthly,			
ISSUED 28 th monthly			