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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

EDITORIAL February 2026

A belated Happy New Year to all! Every year I begin with plans to do more of this and less of that, rarely does everything work as hoped but I expect that's the same for everyone. As Harold Macmillan once replied, when asked what was the greatest challenge to his administration "Events, dear boy, events".



The plants have been ahead of themselves over the mild and wet winter and my snowdrops are a little early but not too much; they are the most welcome flowers of all, I think.

By the way, if you notice the jump in Issue numbers, it's to correct an error earlier in 2025!

With a tragedy in Nightingale View the village community pulled together and showed how much they care. Plans for more houses, this time at Mountain Farm, show that Hamstreet is still growing and all the more important to show how we can work and live alongside each other, old and new. New events in Ruckinge, too, as the church re-opens after many improvements and plans are laid for some regular social drop-in days, giving the opportunity to meet & chat and enjoy each other's company. Nothing better!

Janet Homewood 1936 – 2025

Janet and her husband Michael moved to Hamstreet after Michael retired from his life as an Anglican priest and his ministry in North Devon. They first retired to Wareham, Dorset where they spent many happy years before coming to Kent, near where Michael had grown up in Woodchurch and closer to his extended family.

Janet and Michael married when she was only 19 and began life in Daventry in a converted bus in a farmyard, travelling around on an old Norton motorcycle. They bought a dilapidated cottage for £250, with a mortgage of £6.84 per month – this was in 1956 – renovating it themselves. After moving to Dover with Michael's Air Ministry job they worked for many years for Barnado's, then still named Dr Barnado's, moving to Lewes and then to Exeter as house parents for many children. The Christian faith was important to them both and Michael began training for ordination in 1965.

Janet had a deep and very meaningful faith and worshipped at St Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge where her thoughts and advice were valuable to the church community. She read avidly, taking a particular delight in poetry and could always find the perfect poem or book extract to add to the worship and discussions at church, something that we grew to rely on. Janet's interests lay in her garden, natural history and reading although she was no stranger to practical skills. In earlier days she could turn her hand to most domestic skills, as befitted someone caring for children. Janet was much loved and respected. After Michael died the church community meant a lot to Janet although after such a long marriage she missed him very much. and it gives her family and friends much comfort to know that they are now together once more.

Janet died peacefully in her sleep just forty-eight hours after her son Stephen had arrived for a pre-Christmas visit from his home in Florida. We pray that she may now rest in peace with Michael and all those who have loved the Lord Jesus, awaiting HIS return, the Trumpet call and the great Resurrection when all things will be made new. Last December Janet was 89 years of age. May you rest in peace dear Sister and rise in glory. Amen *Canon John Saunders*



Village Halls - Weekly Timetables & events

Warehorne Village Hall



MONDAY
JUMP KIDS
(Yrs R -1)
3.45pm - 4.45pm

TUESDAY
YOGA WITH LIZZIE
6pm - 7pm

WEDNESDAY
YOGA WITH EDITH
9am - 10.15am
6.30pm - 7.45pm

THURSDAY
JUMP SINGERS
(Community Choir)
7.45pm - 9pm

FRIDAY
ART CLASS
Third Friday of the Month

SATURDAY
JUMP KENT
Jumpers (Yrs 2 & 3)
9.30am - 11am
Jump Juniors (Yrs 4 - 6)
11.10am - 12.40pm
Jump Tweens (Yrs 7 - 10)
12.45pm - 2.15pm




Items for Sale

proceeds to Friends of Canterbury Oast Trust, supporting adults with learning disabilities

Roam table lamp : 3 settings,
battery operated re-chargeable,

as new Retail £99.99 For sale at £35
ono

Pedal exerciser : excellent
condition For sale at £8

Workmate : good condition For
sale at £20 ono

Contact 07748 006249

WEEKLY CALENDAR HAMSTREET VICTORY HALL

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
pilates 9-10	Pilates 9-10	Parent & toddler 9-11	Tai Chi 9.30-11.30	Coffee Morning 9.30-11.30
	Beginner Pilates 10.10-11.10			
WI 7.30-9.30 2nd Mon of Month	Bowls 7.30-10pm	Yoga 1 - 2.15	Dog Training 5.30-7.30 (Times vary)	Bowls 7.30-10pm

BOOTFAIR
1ST SUNDAY OF MONTH

April - Oct



St. Mary Magdalene Church, Ruckinge



We are back home! After being homeless for a year we are now able, after much hard work by the builders and others to use the Church again. There is still a bit more to do, the floor has got to be finished and we have got to put everything back in its rightful place and get rid of the rubbish we have collected over many years. All before the Bishop comes on SUNDAY MARCH 1ST. We are very grateful to everyone who has supported us in this project.

We are making plans for the future. Apart from normal Services every Sunday we are having an Open Afternoon on Sunday February 22nd from 3 to 5pm. Please come and have a look and have a cup of tea and a piece of cake with us. The following Sunday March 1st Bishop Rose will be with us at 10.30am to lead us in a Service of thanksgiving and celebration. Again everyone is welcome. There will be refreshments afterwards.

Then back to normal activities .

Saturday 14th March 10 am to 1pm Tabletop Sale. Sunday 15th March 10am Mothering Sunday Food for Thought. starting at 10 am with bacon butties, followed by a short Service and then our annual planting of Sunflower seeds for us to nurture.

Saturday 21st March Spring Coffee Morning 10am to 11.30am.

There will be more! But we hope to see many of you at these events so we can say our thanks in person.

Mary Sillibourne Churchwarden 01233 732615

CHURCH OPEN AFTERNOON

Sunday 22nd February
3 – 5pm

*Come and see
the new facilities
in the Parish Church

Thank you to everyone
for supporting this work*



Indoor TABLE TOP SALE

Bargains galore !

Saturday 14th March
10am – 1pm

St Mary Magdalene Church

Ruckinge TN26 2NU

Tables available £8 inc. hot drinks

Refreshments



Fundraising for Church
improvements

07748 006249

St Matthews Church Warehorne

It was lovely to welcome so many adults and children to both our Carol Service on 21 st December and the Christmas morning Family Service with Communion. We are so grateful to all those who contributed towards making these such enjoyable services. The flower arrangers and church decorators, those who read the lessons with such understanding, Philippa Jones for somehow managing to play the organ without the use of an F sharp, a key note in the chords used for most Carols. The Jump Singers having regained their voices following two hours of singing Christmas carols and songs in the Woolpack earlier in the week, sounded beautiful singing "All My Love". They also accompanied the children's tableau which looked lovely, several of the children having made wonderful lit stars at a recent craft making event in Warehorne Village Hall. A special thank you and praise for their beautiful singing, must go to Caspar who sang solo the first verse of "Once in Royal David's City" and to Matilda who sang solo the first verse of "Away In A Manger." After the Carol Service so many enjoyed fellowship over mulled wine and Susan Shoebridge's delicious mince pies. Thanks also to Graham Epps for arranging for the bells ringing before the Carol Service.

Our first Sunday in the month service of Holy Communion has moved to the later time of 10am which may suit those who enjoy a more leisurely start to Sunday mornings. **Meriel Bailes**



St Peter & St Paul's Church,
Bilsington

Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Charlotte Kerr

at St Peter & St Paul's church on Sunday 22nd
March at 3pm. All are welcome.



There is a book of memories on the table at the back of
the church for you to write your memories any time

If anyone would like to contribute their memories during
the service, please get in touch with Rev Geoff Abasolo-
Munnery on 07743 598896 or Linda King on 01233
720554

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Royal British Legion

Very many thanks to the entire community for supporting the Royal British Legion throughout 2025 - at the Hamstreet Community Day, our Annual Coffee Morning, as well as the Remembrance Service, where we all came together in support of the Armed Forces to remember those who died to protect our freedom and way of life.

The Poppy Appeal raised valuable funds to support service personnel and their families who have suffered due to military conflicts.

Thank you all once again for your generous support and contributions made in so many ways.



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.**

Notable commemoration dates for 2026 are:

Monday 13th April - 82nd Anniversary of Johnson's Corner, to honour the memory of Lt William Johnson USAAF, on site.

Sunday 13th September - 86th Battle of Britain service (location TBA)

Saturday 31st October - our Annual Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning in the Victory Hall

Sunday 8th November - Remembrance Service in Ruckinge Church

Wednesday 12th November - Armistice Day service at the Hamstreet War Memorial

"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.

Thank you

MAY WE WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY & HEALTHY NEW YEAR

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.

Piers.griffin@naturalengland.org.uk

You can also follow us on our Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/wyehamstreetnr>

HAMSTREET VICTORY HALL ...

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)



Travels with Adam

February 2026

After considerable delay I've finally managed to release my new book 'Hamstreet, Kent – A Compendium.' Copies can be found in the Duke's Head, the Woolpack and the Cosy Kettle as well as on a website named after a very big river in South America.

The delay in the book's release was partly due to a consignment of books going missing. The Amazon website showed an indiscriminate squiggle as the signature of somebody receiving the books, with no further info given. I would guess that they were delivered to the wrong address and that somebody took their chance with the contents and signed in a way that couldn't be identified. In hindsight, it's actually quite funny to think of somebody excitedly opening the box, expecting valuable jewellery, the latest smartphone or some other high-value gadget only to find a load of books about Hamstreet. Good luck selling those on the black market!

So, what else has been going on?

I had my traditional sojourn to Bournemouth after Christmas and this time I visited Dorchester and Swanage. Dorchester is of course known as Casterbridge in the novels of Thomas Hardy, but less well-known is the author, Sylvia Townsend Warner, of whom there is a statue in the town. She lived with a female partner at a time when this would have been considered very controversial. Thankfully, we live in more tolerant times now. Let's not go backwards, folks. The trajectory of opinion seems seriously worrying to me at this time, with invasions now considered normal by the world's egotistical leaders and tech giants manipulating people into ever more divisive opinions. This kind of thing was tried before and it didn't end well, but you don't need me to tell you that!

Back to Dorchester: There is only a very small part of the Roman wall remaining but there is a tree-lined walk that marks its former course. The route of this follows the River Frome for a short section,

and the site of a Roman villa can also be viewed, with the mosaic floor still very much intact.

The Swanage day was also interesting, particularly as a standard £3 single bus ticket from Bournemouth included a ferry trip across the mouth of Poole Harbour. After exploring the town where I believe Basil Fawlty was supposed to have been born, I walked to the lighthouse at Anvil Point. This was nostalgic for me as it was one of 153 lighthouses that I visited with my father between 1998 and 2002 as part of my first book project, which my dad published and contributed to.

I finished my trip with another visit to the churchyard where Mary Shelley, the author of *Frankenstein*; is buried, and another walk to Christchurch. It seems that the best trips are a blend of

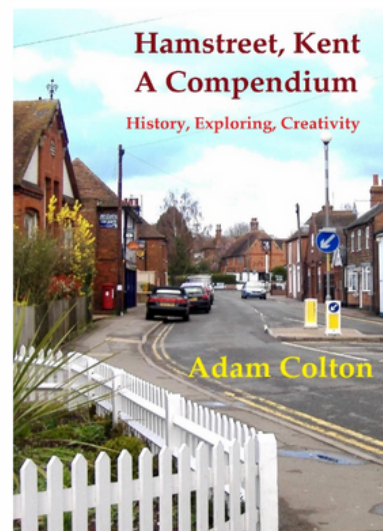
something old, something new – a balance of nostalgia and adventure.

This year, it will be twenty years since I did the Hamstreet to Ham Street walk with a certain Tom Body, the subject of book number two. In spite of moving a couple of times and having a go at marriage it seems remarkable how little life has changed in those two decades. TV celebrities talk of bold

transformations and life-changing events but I wonder if the normal experience for the majority is simply

doing what they have always done. For me this means bike rides, walks, pub visits and banging out a book every now and again. And Hamstreet seems like the Greenwich Meridian from which all things return. Maybe I was destined to write this latest book all along!

- Adam Colton
- hamcopublishing@AOL.com



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(10am on Sundays)

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- homemade cakes
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For enquiries or to book a table contact us on
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jacqui@cosykettle.com

Facebook



Craft at Cosy

Looking for inspiration /company /help
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Join us on **Wednesday evenings 7pm to 9pm**

Bring your own sewing / craft project or start something new!

(Small selection of materials to buy and equipment to use)



We are excited to welcome guest crafters

on the first Wednesday of each month

These will be charged, bookable events



Cosy Kettle menu /refreshments available to purchase.

Contact us on 01233 733030 or via Facebook



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LOCATED IN THE HEART OF THE KENT COUNTRYIDE



KENT WINE



TOURS



TASTINGS

PRODUCING QUALITY STILL WINE IN KENT



www.warehornevineyard.co.uk



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 WI Sixty years young and counting!

Members of Orlestone WI were proud to celebrate their 60th Anniversary at the January meeting and marked the occasion with a party, joined by guests from five of the WIs in the Hamstreet and Romney Marsh Group.

We began with a PowerPoint quiz to discover what we knew about the Sixties – we didn't ask 'what do you remember about the Sixties' as many of our members would have been far too young or not even born then to remember anything. Not many recognised Dr Beeching of the infamous Report which closed so many rural railway lines but everyone knew the Black Forest Gateau, now making a come-back. After singing Jerusalem, we enjoyed a buffet supplied by the Committee. The magnificent cake was cut by Mary Bingham who is a founder member of Orlestone WI.



A game of Pass the Parcel with 'Do this' instructions in every layer made us all laugh and we ended the evening with a free raffle, the prizes being delivered through a Left, Right Story.

We plan to mark our 60th anniversary year in a number of ways. We're already setting aside money to buy a locally made oak seat for the village green and we plan to embroider our names on a new tablecloth. In addition we'll be supporting six good causes, focussing on those for women and children and we'll start by filling dental hygiene bags, to be distributed by HomeStart. Our Gardeners' Group will hold the annual lunch at The Walnut Tree on 30th January and a group will visit The Rye Bakery on 18th February; our monthly meeting will take place on Monday 9th February. 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 per month, 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 a local, county or national level – the opportunities are there for you !



Contact Margaret Hanlon 07748 006249 or hanlon1@btinternet.com

1ST Ruckinge & Hamstreet Cub Pack

CUBS

As leaders, we frequently ask Cubs what they'd like to do, sometimes as an open question but sometimes in the context of a specific badge or activity. This gives us an idea of what Cubs enjoy but we've never asked directly what they like about Cubs. This is what they said...

Here are some of the actual statements they wrote:

"I really like when we go out on hikes and rockclimbing because its really fun"

"I like Cubs because we do fun activities and long walks"

"I like Cubs because you get to meet new friends and have fun"

"What do I like about Cubs

gams [games]

hiks [hikes]

ciyacing [kayaking]

woods

and crasnynes [craziness]

"I like that we all work as a team and I like the games"

"I like fun and games. I also like the creativity and teamwork"

"I like making things. I like playing a game. I like dodgeball"

I wonder whether camping, backwoods cooking and campfires weren't mentioned as the summer seems so long ago or whether these have fallen out of favour, I'll have to ask.

Fancy joining in with the fun, games, hikes, teamwork, creativity etc? Please get in touch! Maybe you have a child aged 8-10;06 years who'd like to join in, drop me a line.

Akela

Susan Hanlon

susanhanlon@live.co.uk



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

**CHURCH OF THE GOOD
SHEPHERD** Annual Toy Appeal

THANK YOU

Two car loads of 480 gifts for children and teenagers were delivered to The 'Willow Centre' in Ashford.



Annual Toy Appeal 2025

We have pasted below a letter we received from Kent Family Hubs (KCC), 'The Willow Centre' Brookfield Road Ashford, thanking everyone for their generosity just before Christmas. It was a thrill and privilege to be able to deliver the gifts and receive such an overwhelming welcome of thanks from the staff at the centre. They were overjoyed!

'Ashford Family Hubs would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who were so generous with the Christmas donations. The families really appreciated your generous gifts and it meant so much to the parents and carers who were able to give their children gifts they would otherwise not be able to but also for small treats for some of them too.

We shared these with other professionals who work with families too and they all said how valuable this was and meant we were able to bring smiles to faces over what can be a very tough time of year and they were also so grateful there was a lovely range for all ages.

One parent shared that it would help him to make a good Christmas for his child, another said that the arts and craft things will help keep the children busy when not at school and something they can do together.

There were also tears of joy from other families who were so worried about how they were going to manage to create the Christmas magic this year. We managed to help over 50 families this year so thank you so much from us all and we would like to wish you all a Happy New year.'

Gill & David Smith, Church of The Good Shepherd Hamstreet.

*Ham Street Woods National Nature
Reserve December 2025 to February 2026*

Update.



What's has been going on? The Forestry Contractors have been working in block; they have felled all the chestnut and are getting through the tidy up of stacking the timber and clearing / stacking the brash. There is so much brash that we will likely need to burn at least half of it.

The Ride Mowing has started was finished in December with all the glades cut as well.

December the 11 th we were joined by the Natural England Ashford office staff. They helped us coppice the edge area around Maylams Glade (in the northern part of the woods), we also made a dead hedge around the area to protect it from trampling.

December the 16 th – The volunteers were treated to a thank you day out. We had a guided walk of Samphire hoe and then went to Little Farthingloe Farm Café for lunch.

In January the excessive rain has caused some blockages in the culverts and streams near the main entrance. So, me and a volunteer donned our wellies and removed the numerous blockages. While

we

were doing this, we found one of the main culverts has a lot of wood jammed inside, so this is exacerbating the flooding around this area. We will have to wait until some dryer weather before we crawl in and clear it out. The irony of this is that we have been trying to build some “leaky dams” in the woods further up the valleys, and it turns out that nature is much better at this than we are.

February - What is going on this month? The Foresters will have finished the clear up and be working on thinning the oaks in the coppice block, this will allow for more light to get to the forest floor and encourage strong regrowth. Please follow all their signage and track closures for your own safety.

We Will be back in the woods regularly coppicing a block up near the Gill Farm Lane entrance. This is some young coppice, that would benefit from another cut to give us some more nightingale and dormouse habitat. We are going to be helped by the Romney Marsh Countryside Partnership and Kent Wildlife Trust.



Would you like to help us?



We are looking for new volunteers to join our practical group. We work on the 1 st and 3 rd Tuesday and the 2 nd and 4 th 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.

Piers.griffin@naturalengland.org.uk

You can also follow us on our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/wyehamstreetnnr>

It is rather a long time ago since I last wrote. A whole winter has nearly passed with the farm fully involved in the Governments Sustainable Farming Initiative (SFI). Seeds, to create what is called a 'cover' crop were sown into the stubble across the farm when the combine had finished its work. However, lack of moisture and only a couple of varieties of the chosen plants have played any part in the scheme. There will have to be a different mix this year. Mustard, turnip and phacelia survived in varying amounts due to soil type and whether the straw had been baled leaving the ground bare, or where the straw had spread badly behind the combine on windy days, leaving strips of thicker straw down the field. The drill had a difficult job going through the straw.

These plants grew slowly at first, but then once the roots got established parts of the fields looked quite good. Mark had to take photos regularly from the same spot in each field to prove that we were abiding to the rules of the scheme before we received payment from the Rural Payments Agency.

In November a neighbour's ewes and hoggets (lambs born in March and April 25 destined for slaughter when fat) were turned into the mustard which was so tall you could not see the animals. The lambs were kept in the crop by two strands of electric fencing held by insulated posts around the outside of the fields. The outside 4 metres (wide) were growing 'flowers' under another part of this RPA scheme and could not be grazed!

When Ashley came to do his daily looking, providing it was not too windy or wet, he got a very small drone out of his vehicle and launched it into the sky. I had never seen anything like it. Within seconds he had it so high up that he could identify where they were grazing or resting within a twenty acre field. If there was a lone animal, he could drop the drone down close to where it was and make it move. In my younger days that would have taken a long time and exhausted the dogs searching for them.

Technology!

Unfortunately, it seems to have rained a lot since the grazing started that so much of the crop has been spoilt (trodden under foot). The animals have been taken away since Xmas. The stalks and whatever is left growing will be sprayed off in a few weeks' time and the ground will be planted with something pretty!!

I am pleased to say we are still going to grow some wheat. During the last week of September Mark drilled the land we look after in Woodchurch. In October he started drilling some of the stubble fields along the canal at Hamstreet.

One morning I received a phone call from a dog walker to say a car was on fire, along the canal track, in the back corner of a field right on the ditchbank. It had been 'stolen' from Brenzett. It was gutted and you could not tell its make. Mark had it loaded onto a metal trailer and took it to Ivychurch, securely guarded by Alsations. Within minutes a car drew up on the road with a young man saying 'that's my car'!. It was not released until the insurance company took responsibility for any oil contamination in the ditch. The water only had to flow about half a mile to be pumped into the canal.

More land was planted with wheat at Ivychurch, all of which has grown well. The stubble crop was sprayed off with roundup, after drilling but before the wheat germinated. Mark has been busy with hedge cutting, ditching, machinery repair and is already working on the combine. So, he does expect a harvest!!! Much of last years wheat has been loaded out of our store thus giving space for machinery to be worked on in the dry. The wheat has gone with prices at their lowest for years. There is plenty in the world everywhere at the moment.

One daffodil out in bloom!
Peter Sillibourne

Over 60s Meet

We hope all our members enjoyed their Christmas festivities with lots of food, good company and a drink (or two - who's counting?). Hopefully 2026 will be a healthy, peaceful year for us all.

The Over 60s started the new year with the appearance of singer, Scott, cheering up a very wet and windy day. Singer, John will be entertaining us on 23rd January and we are all looking forward to seeing him.

The February programme follows on 6th with Fiona and her pottery class, always a happy, creative time. On 20 February singer Steve is back.

We look forward to seeing our members and new members are always welcome. Why not give it a try and come along on the above dates to Cotton Hill House and enjoy the entertainment, friendly company, a cuppa and biscuits, commencing at 2pm.

For further information ring June McKay on 07799984110 who will be only too happy to help.



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

Urgent Update!



Are you still using Windows 10 on your computer?
It's about to end and you will be at risk!

You must upgrade to Windows 11 to keep receiving updates and be safe online.

Has your computer told you it can't be updated to Windows 11? **Well it can be!** Scan the QR code or visit the website below to find out more, don't stress let us sort it out.

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**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
Treasurer/Bookings: Mrs Vivienne Hudson 07887 850075
Secretary/Bookings: Mrs Amanda Riley 07720 386874
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 groups

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

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

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



**Hamstreet Youth
Football Club**



MARSHCATS



Players Needed

For the under 11s & under 13s League Team Squads

**Under 11s & Under 13s
Kent Girls & Ladies League**

girls_football@hamstreetfc.co.uk

Urgent Update!



Are you still using Windows 10 on your computer?
It's about to end and you will be at risk!

You must upgrade to Windows 11 to keep receiving updates and be safe online.

Has your computer told you it can't be updated to Windows 11? **Well it can be!** Scan the QR code or visit the website below to find out more, don't stress let us sort it out.

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Ashford Sport

All the latest sports news for Ashford

Welcome back to the **Ashford Sport** column in this month's **Orlestone Parish Magazine**, and Happy New Year to you all! Below is a roundup of some fantastic sporting achievements across the district from the start of 2026.

It was a record breaking Christmas morning in Ashford as runners came out in force at **Ashford parkrun**. Not only was the previous Christmas Day attendance smashed, but the overall attendance was beaten too! 474 of you showed up in festive spirit, beating the previous 25th December attendance by 100 (from 2024), and also beating the previous overall number of 450. But since then, on 17th January 2026, it was beaten again when 507 participants showed up in the rain to smash the record again. 2026 is going to be a huge year for running in the district.

Ashford Athletic Club's Jacqueline Snare was recently awarded the Kent County Athletics Association Coach of the Year award. Anyone who knows Jackie will also know how much of an impact

she has on the local athletics community, whether it's on the adults or youth programmes, so we think she definitely earned this recognition. **Appledore Sports** **Kingsnorth's Rick Walton** completed the **Winter Tenterden Sports Bursary** is a first scheme which provides funding for talented young sports people to currently to take this as a first step. With their chosen sports, thanks to Tenterden Town Council. To be finished this event in 5 hours 26 minutes, finishing in the top 10 overall despite feeling sickness. This time he finished 5th overall with a PB of 36 minutes faster than previous, and broke the sub 5hr goal he had set himself, with a brilliant time of 4 hours 50 minutes and 34 seconds.

A massive congratulations to **Hamstreet** young resident **Leona** for winning gold in the Under 12s Singles at the Kent Badminton Ltd Junior Futures tournament in January. She trains with Blaze Junior Badminton, which launched back in September and runs classes at both The Norton Knatchbull School and Mersham Village Hall.

Nicole Wythe, who started her rugby journey at **Ashford Rugby Club** in 2015, now playing for Harlequins Women, has been called up to the first 47-player England Rugby training camp of 2026, in preparation for the upcoming Six Nations. Wrestling was a huge sport in Ashford back in the 1980s, well it returns to the town next month as **Rumble Wrestling** head to **The Stour Centre** on Saturday 7th February at 4pm. For more information or to get your tickets, visit www.rumblewrestling.com. **Robert Playford**, born and raised Ashfordian, has been called up to the England Hockey Masters 2026 Men's Over 45 squad. They'll be going for gold at the Indoor World Cup in Nottingham this year. 4-11 year olds in the local area will benefit from **Technique Soccer School's** upcoming half term football camp this February, at **Hamstreet Sports Pavilion**. This takes place on 16th & 17th February between 10am-3pm. For more information or to book, visit their website on

www.technique-soccer-school.class4kids.co.uk.

eligible, applicants must be under 18 and live in Tenterden or surrounding villages (including **Appledore, Hamstreet and Orlestone**), or go to school in those areas. For more information, visit the Tenterden Town Council website.

As always, please visit our Facebook page for more local sport news across Ashford and surrounding areas. Thank you for reading.

Alex Perseval
Founder of Ashford Sport CIC



**Ashford
Sport**



www.ashfordsport.co.uk



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@AshfordSport

FEBRUARY PUZZLE PAGE

Can you find the famous couples in this months double word search.

Each Wordsearch will contain one of the power couples names.

F K L Y C Y J W W W Y I U U T M S W B D
E T A K C E O A X I X T W J A H T O L U
B W Q X M K V N C O Q U U D D A H H C Y
N L N P I C S J P W B Z A X T O V L O C
P U A V Z I D Z T J E V H D P L B L L R
L H J K C M M K A X Y H T H S I U B M Y
D P S L E M B O V W O X E F K T U T T K
P M R P S Y D Q K W N I J N J U H J S G
F W W A F L W S L Q C W M V R W A U R S
P D A N A I D F K Z E A F P U Y Z L X N
L U Z S Y S E A E C R Z V O H T H I G E
D H K H H N K I Q I A O Y L F C A U M C
L K W I F V X U E P Z R O O Y Q E S S M
R J G H P P D X C P O E A O E I C Q O V
J U N E P U K N P K E T K B N M S Z M U
B L V V I B L V L J F O W N M Y O H B Y
X V F F O J D A E I O X O A Z G Q R S O
Z A Y A I K Z T T J O B T M N F I Z S E
M O K H Z A U Q W C Y K K C Y V S M D M
L Z D K F T Y L F Y T W Q K A D A V I D

ADAM AND EVE

DAVID AND VICTORIA

(Beckham)

BLAKE AND RYAN

(Lively and Reynolds)

BEYONCE AND JAYZ

YOKO AND JOHN

(Ono and Lennon)

WILLIAM AND KATE

(Prince and Princess)

ROMEO AND JULIET

MICKEY AND MINNIE

(Mouse)

BONNIE AND CLYDE

JOHNNY AND JUNE

(Cash)

ANNE AND HENRY

(Boleyn and VIII)

CLEOPATRA AND JULIUS

(Caesar)

PIERRE AND MARIE

(Curie)

DIANA AND CHARLES

(Princess and Prince)

BARACK AND MICHELLE

(Obama)

Z K Y I M Q C S X T Q B M E I A A R M E
H J E Y L J U I K W A A A M R U X N L K
Z J E J M Y D C R S W B I G Z R Q L O J
D K M D V O Y Y O H T X L Y G H E N L Z
C Q T A R T A P O E L C L U B H A I A Q
Y L S F R N J J Z Y A J I U C N R S P K
C D Y W Q F O W E W F H W I N K B N W O
W T B D I M H S M M E X M E A C V J G N
G H Q O E T N E M G N K K A V E I U G B
G K Z N E P N L J H C R A U Z Q C G R R
Q P O I T B Y R R C T G Q A C T T O O F
A T L C Q Y A A R V G O N S C D O C B M
B U E O P Q O H V C Q I T Z N X R S L I
J R G V N E B C L D U X U I G J I J I N
G G U A E E F Y S I E Y T O H K A S W R
L V Y U N Y R R I X Q Q N X E R P E L J
Q W L D L B N W E N W N Z H I C M J L Y
Q B M Z D Z F P F B J D R Z O Q L N M K
M I N N I E T T B U D P H T F J Z X C G
H L B V G T O I H B S B Q V C U R C G R



SCRAP METAL please!



In support of
Ruckinge and Hamstreet Scouts and Guides

SCRAP METAL WANTED

Brass
Copper
Electric cable
Aluminium

NON-FERROUS METALS ONLY

Please leave any non-ferrous metals in/near the porch at
28 Willow Drive, Hamstreet, TN26 2HZ
or speak to George or Margaret Hanlon!

hanlon1@btinternet.com 01233 732684

REGISTERED CHARITY
308134

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 reached **£944.84** and **we've banked £40.14 in January** - 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.

Villagers' 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 and have been pretty stable over the last couple of months. I got 53.25ppl on 2 nd January and 54.50ppl for those who were on the mid-month spreadsheet, 15 th January.

Interestingly, a new company to the list I get quotes from won mid-month. If I see a tanker of a company I don't recognise out and about, I call them. Bell Fuels won this time but the other 'new' company, Compass, were well off the mark.

I've noticed a company is advertising lower prices than I'm achieving. A customer recently chose to investigate this and found the great low price become much less attractive when the fees behind the headline price were added. I can never promise to be the cheapest out there but I do always get a good price and you don't have to put in the time consuming effort of calling round. Please note that I can't get quotes from some companies that act like me but to a commercial degree, notably Boiler Juice. Also be aware that there are online buying groups that get good prices and order weekly, e.g. The Oil Club

The number of orders through me are continuing to be low, at the moment. Possible factors could be 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:

2 nd February

16 th February

2 nd March

16 th March

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 on-going 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. I have had some landline problems recently)

07810436191 - usually voicemail (absolute last resort, please)



A Message from Katie Lam, MP for the Weald of Kent

February can be a challenging month for many people across the Weald of Kent. Colder weather and short days can make it difficult to stay connected, and it's often tempting to stay indoors. Loneliness isn't always obvious, and for some older people or those who live alone, getting out at this time of year can be difficult, making the winter months feel particularly isolating. A short phone call, a visit to say hello to a neighbour, or even a letter through the door can make a real difference. It's sad that letter writing is something of a lost art, but I find that taking the time to write a few lines by hand, even a short note, can mean a great deal to many people, showing them they're cared for, while also offering a welcome break from screens!



Charities like Age UK also run telephone friendship services, matching volunteers with older people for a regular weekly chat. Just half an hour a week can provide companionship and friendship to those who might otherwise go days without speaking to anyone. Many of our local churches and charities run face-to-face befriending schemes. And many community groups across the Weald (like The Dementia Experience) are glad to welcome new volunteers. Rural areas like ours have such a strong sense of community, and it's something I'm immensely proud of.

So, this February, I encourage everyone to write a letter to someone who'd appreciate it, volunteer, or if you know anyone that's struggling or you need help yourself, please don't hesitate to write me at
Katie.Lam.MP@parliament.uk.



Pancake Party

**Tuesday 17th February
10.30 -12 noon
St Mary Magdalene Church
Ruckinge**

**PLEASE CHECK BEFORE
ARRIVING -this depends
on the church being
completed!**

BENEFICE WORSHIP CALENDARS

FOR FEBRUARY

SAXON SHORELINE BENEFICE WORSHIP CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2026

1st Sunday: 1st February Epiphany 4 Septuagesima (White/Green)	9.00am Holy Communion 9.45 am for 10 am Start Family Fun Service 10.00am Holy Communion 10.30am Parish Communion 10.30am Methodist Communion	St. Rumwold, Bonnington Village Hall, Aldington St. Matthew, Warehorne St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet
2nd Sunday: 8th February 2nd before Lent Proper 1 Sexagesima (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
3rd Sunday: 15th February Next Before Lent Proper 2 Quinquagesima (Green)	9.00am Holy Communion 9.00 am Holy Communion 10.30am Holy Communion CofE 10.30am Prayer, Praise and Coffee 10.45am Worship Service	St. Rumwold, Bonnington St. Mary, Orlestone Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge St. Martin, Aldington
Wednesday 18th February Ash Wednesday (Purple/Lenten Array)	12.00 noon Benefice CW Holy Communion with Ashing 7.30pm Deanery Service with Ashing	St. Mary, Orlestone Church of the Good shepherd, Hamstreet
4th Sunday: 22nd February Lent I (Purple/LA)	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
Thursday 26th February	6.00 pm Taize Prayer 7.00 pm Lent course	St. Rumwold, Bonnington St. Rumwold, Bonnington

Benefice Holy Communion 12 noon commencing 18th February and thereafter each Wednesday at St. Mary, Orlestone all welcome.

Key Events: Sunday 22nd February Open Church at St Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge Come and see the new facilities.
Sunday 1st March The Bishop of Dover will lead a service of thanksgiving and dedication of the building works 10.30am St Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge

Local Contacts

Hamstreet Surgery	Mon-Fri 8.00 – 18.30		01233 730190
Aldington & Bonnington Parish Council	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. (Field & MUGA bookings)	Mark Taylor		07786 712939
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
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Scouts :	Melvyn Beeching	(as above)	
Cubs:	Susan Hanlon	csl@rhsandg.org.uk	
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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
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Community Warden	Kathy Carter		07813 711940
Kent Police & Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator	Peter New	peternew1@aol	07768 437422
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