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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

Our Anniversary edition!

Do you read this magazine?
Could you drop me a message
to say that you do – it's hard
to judge and I hear a lot of
comments that it's too hard to
access so I'd love to know
whether it's just me and a
couple of others!



We should celebrate the successful harvests which provide for food and drink because they benefit us all. You may like to join one of the many local church Harvest Festivals. Whatever you feel about God and religion these are joyous community occasions and they feel much more realistic to countryside dwellers. You'll be welcomed at the churches and not judged. If you cannot or aren't inclined to go to a service maybe you might make an extra donation to the FareShare food bank collections at the supermarkets. Just a thought.



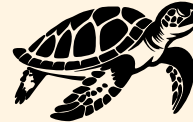
Welcome to Autumn!

With some less than sunny weather and with the recent wind and rain, the water authorities tell us that supplies are still dropping so we need to use less and be thoughtful about turning on the tap. However, they also tell us that we're about to pay more, news that was expected but still unwelcome.



From the Rectory

During the summer, our family travelled to the Philippines, the home country of my wife. We were there principally as a family to intern the ashes of my late mother-in-law. It was important for her to come home, to be buried and to be reconnected to the soil of her own country. After the family funeral, we were able to explore the natural beauty of the islands of Camiguin and Mindanao, which included snorkelling and seeing in their natural habitat, beautiful sea turtles, to drive on dirt tracks into the stunning mountain scenery of Bukidnon, and to try out white-water rafting, which was exhilarating and great fun. We experienced first-hand, in a different part of our stunning planet, the beauty and diversity of God's creation.



I also got to learn about the indigenous culture and peoples of Bukidnon. I was given a brass bracelet (gulang ha bukalâ) - a symbol of the lumad - the native tribes - given as an expression of their spirituality of a close link to their land; as an expression of trust and friendship; a symbol of their struggle for recognition. As I write this article I wear it on my wrist with pride and gratitude - a visible connection with these often exploited and neglected people.

Throughout our world, indigenous peoples (now often referred to as 'First Nation' people) are calling for justice and for protection of our planet. For example in Brazil, the Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil is dedicated to a journey that merges faith with a profound respect for the earth and its people. In listening to the voices of indigenous groups who have lived in harmony with creation for centuries, the Church is reminded - and challenged - to a deeper, spiritual connection between land, people and God.



Whether it's the sound of crashing waves or tweeting birds, creation speaks. The beauty of creation teaches us of God's creation, presence in the land, the waters, and the skies. In this simplicity, it draws us to listen to God - not just with our ears, but with our spirits. We need reminding of our inter-connectness, something that the modern world seems quick to replace with a drive for independence.

Winston Tarere of Fiji urges us to: 'Reconnect with the sacred rhythms of the earth, ocean, and skies, as kin and family.' Referring to the earth as family might be new to us, but it's indigenous wisdom. It reminds us that, similar to our family and friends, we need the earth, and it provides for us in return.

Therefore the fight for land, for environmental justice, for recognition of the rural, is more than a political battle - it is a spiritual one, a fight for identity, for survival, for the sacred bond between people and place. A happy and blessed Harvest Festival/Creationtide to you all.

Revd Geoff

SCARECROW TRAIL



Ruckinge & Hamstreet Scouts & Guides Group

Registered Charity No 308134



SUNDAY
12 October
2025
10.00-16.00

**Hamstreet
Victory
Hall**

Sponsored by



£5 Per map on the day
BBQ, Stalls and Refreshments
CASH & CARD

To enter a Scarecrow please get a form from the Cosy Kettle
OR complete an online form - <https://form.jotform.com/252512012369045>

Village Halls - Weekly Timetables

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

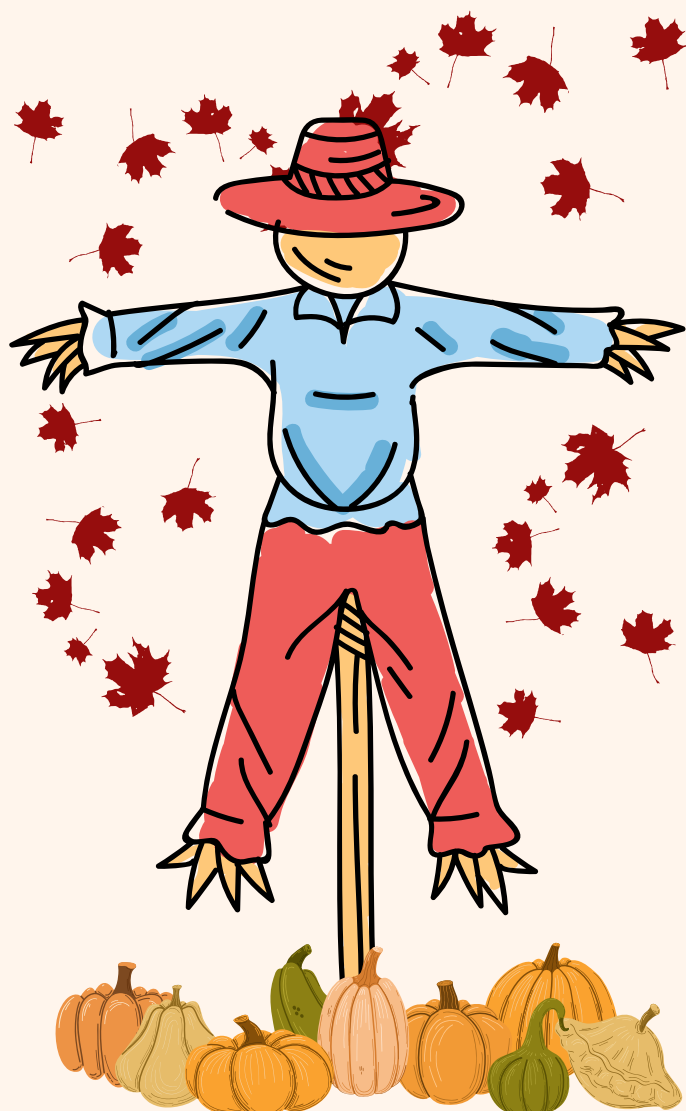
THURSDAY
JUMP SINGERS
(Community Choir)
7.45pm - 9pm

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




Warehorne Village Hall AGM
11th November 7.00pm.



**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 2 nd Mon of Month	Bowls 7.30-10pm	Yoga 1 - 2.15	Dog Training 5.30-7.30 (Times vary)	Bowls 7.30-10pm

BOOTFAIR April - Oct
1ST SUNDAY OF MONTH



St. Mary Magdalene Church, Ruckinge

We are progressing slowly towards being back home in our church. EDF have still failed to connect us to an electricity supply, how can such firms be so unreliable and inefficient. It is beyond me. We have had a good year of Coffee Mornings including some lovely sunny ones in the Hanbury's garden. Like in Oliver Twist we have been asked for more! So we have fixed to have one on October 4th and November 8th.



Our **Harvest Festival** will be held in Ruckinge Village Hall on Sunday **October 19th** at 3pm and this will be followed by afternoon tea. We will be collecting goods for the food bank, please bring tins and dried food, and our collection will go to **The Ripple Effect**, the charity formerly known as Send a Cow.



Despite the awful weather on 13th September it was good to welcome lots of people on the annual **Friends of Kent Churches Ride and Stride** day. 25 cyclists checked in at the church - we were able to use the porch for that - and many of them, as well as many other people, came to the village hall for coffee, cakes and Ploughman's Lunch. Sponsorship was raised by 4 people from the church. This is split and we'll receive half the sum raised while the other half goes to Friends of Kent Churches. Our church has been helped with grants from this charity so it's vital that they also raise money.



On Wednesday **15th October** from 10am to 12.30 at the Old Rectory, Ash Hill, Marion will be running a Plant Sale with coffee in aid of the Pilgrims Hospice and Ruckinge Church, there's a poster with all the details in this magazine. We still need to fundraise for the Church to pay for the heating which is the final part of our project. We are very grateful to everyone who has supported us over the years to help us get to where we are now. And thank you to everyone who has helped us to run all our events. One final push is needed.

THANK YOU

Mary Sillibourne, Churchwarden

Enquiries to Mary Sillibourne, Churchwarden 01233 732615

St Martin's Church, Aldington

St. Martin's went to the Big Church Festival!

Several people from St. Martin's Church attended the festival this year, as part of a festival of contemporary Christian music and community worship. There were 5 different music stages and a range of Christian organisations and resources. It was attended by 35,000 people, with at least 30% of the attendees aged between 16-26. It was a great worship experience. We had four young people in our group, and they really enjoyed the range of Christian music and the youth programme. There was also a programme for families. A resources exhibition refreshed our knowledge of books, organisations and possibilities for Christian service along with Christian based cards and gifts.



Poppy Cascade

St. Martin's Church is working with the local community to make a Poppy Cascade which will be permanently displayed in Aldington Church as a memorial to those who have given their lives in service to the country, both during the world wars and in other conflicts.

The plan is that it will be ready for Sunday 2nd November and we will be having a Service of dedication for the Cascade at 4pm on the 2nd November in St. Martin's Church to which we invite the local community, all relevant local organisations such as the British Legion, and representatives from the local council.

We would love you to attend, and if you have any relevant contacts that we should be inviting please let us know.

If weather permits the Poppy Cascade will be available for the Remembrance Sunday service on the 9th November at the War Memorial.

Please contact Geoff or Chrisy if you need any further information.



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.



Why do Church Bells ring?

Church Bells can be heard frequently in our country. Most commonly they are rung to call people to worship, and you will hear them for roughly thirty minutes preceding Sunday morning worship. Most believe the Rector wakes up puts on their robes, slips into their shoes, dashes into the Church and presses a button and off the bells go. Magic, all down to electricity and motors and levers. One minute to go and the switch for the bells is turned to the off position.

Not so. As the congregation stand and sing the first hymn a small band of dishevelled people leave as quietly as possible. This band are the bell ringers. They arrived an hour or so earlier. They discussed what to ring, raised the bells and set upon their task of ringing for thirty maybe forty minutes. They lower the bells in peal or if they have a practice meeting the next day may well leave them up in readiness for their next use. No electricity, no mechanism, no levers, just manual labour and dexterity.

Church bells have traditionally been rung by local people living and working in the village or town where the Church is to be found. This local aspect has in recent years faded into history and most bands are drawn from a much wider area. For ringing at Saint Matthews there is only one local ringer – me. The rest come from Lydd, New Romney, Tenterden and sometimes Battle. They ring for the sheer pleasure it brings them and others and to ensure the tradition of ringing continues.

Church bells are not just used for Sunday Services but for funerals, State occasions, D Day, Armistice Day and for other celebrations such as Easter, Christmas and New Year. It has been this way for over four hundred years. For funerals and Remembrance Day bells are rung half muffled which gives a very sombre mournful sound.

Bells were introduced to Christian Churches from 400AD but these were very unlike the church bells we know today. They were hung on a spindle and chimed by the clergy pulling on a rope. If you ever watch a Western movie the baddie inevitably shoots at such a single bell. This will give you the idea. The goodie, if there is one, often tolls the bell as a warning the baddie is coming.

From the late 16th Century bell hanging technology changed dramatically as each bell was mounted on a wheel which gave more control to the ringer. The addition of a stay and slider made things much easier allowing the ringer to rotate the bell a full 360 degrees and stop and start the ringing as required.

The same type of system is in use today. The bell is now controllable to a very precise degree and can be held up and thus the bells can be rung in continually changing patterns. This is known as change ringing. Kent has its own society – the Kent County Association of Change Ringers (KCA CR). They have their own website which tells you everything you need to know about which towers are operational and when they hold their practices and when ringing competitions are to be held. The site contains a lot more and is well worth a look. Next month I'll write about ringing church bells.

Graham Epps Warehorne Ringers 01233 733460

Church of The Good Shepherd Hamstreet

We would like to invite you to our next
informal: 'Café  Church' on:

Sunday 26th. October at 10.30.

We will be exploring the exciting work of


Mission Aviation Fellowship
and making-



HARVEST FESTIVAL

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

SUNDAY, 12 OCTOBER

ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH, WAREHORNE

6PM

With the Jump Singers.

Followed by refreshments.

ALL WELCOME

Donations of packet & tinned goods gratefully
received for a food charity.



A warm welcome awaits you at The Cosy Kettle!

Open 7 days a week for a selection of hot and cold drinks - homemade cakes - light lunches – cream teas - ice cream desserts including sundaes and waffles – afternoon teas (24 hours notice required please)

Stonebaked pizzas are available for eat in or takeaway on Friday evenings from 5pm to 8pm.

We also provide outside catering for small or large events.

For enquiries or to book a table contact us on

01233 733030

jacqui@cosykettle.com

facebook

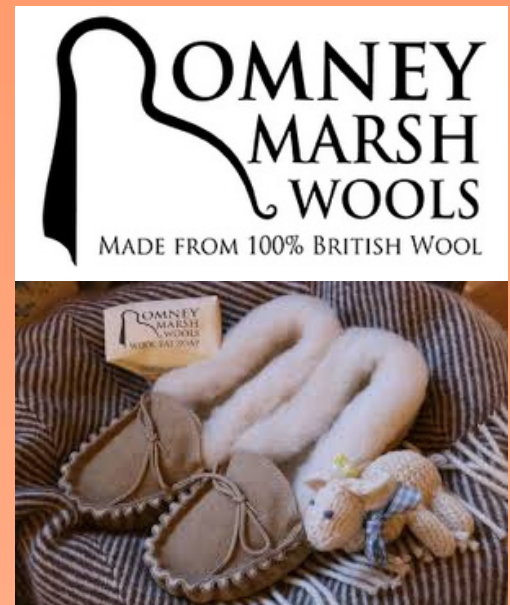
Orlestone WI

Our September meeting, the first after our August holiday (not September, as mistakenly stated in the last magazine) began in style with a fascinating talk by Kristina Boulden of **Romney Marsh Wools**.

What a powerhouse of ideas and commitment she is! Not content with helping to keep 1350 sheep plus other animals, raising a family - and thus adding another generation to the farming story - and offering shepherd hut holidays, but Kristina is dedicated to ensuring that the wonderful Romney sheep will remain an important part of the local economy.

Inspirational as well as local and lovely.

The Romney Marsh Wool business offers toiletries, blankets - woven in the UK - baby's booties, knitting wool, woolly gifts and more.



We've begun to plan ways to mark our **60th Anniversary** year in 2026, looking out as well as in. We also joined with other WI's around East Kent to mark an even bigger Anniversary because the WI movement is now **110** years young.

We're not just a social club but a campaigning organisation that has a voice which is heard by all levels of authority including His Majesty's Government.

The 2025 Resolution - our annual plan for action and change - is

'Bystanders can be Lifesavers'.

This asks all members to encourage everyone to learn how to give CPR, the first step to saving the life of someone who has had a cardiac arrest (not a heart attack but when the heart has stopped and the person is, in fact, dead), and how to find and use a defibrillator.

Orlestone WI has not only helped our members to learn this but we've opened our training sessions to members of the local villages. Doing our bit!



Our October meeting is on Monday 13 th and we'll be hearing about the work of the Cats Protection.

The monthly competition is for something **BLACK**. Last month it was something Blue, which was won by a model that was either a dog (as claimed by the owner) or a kangaroo (as most others thought). The owner is considering the matter!

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!

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

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

Royal British Legion

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

BATTLE OF BRITAIN

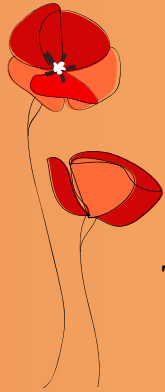
The service of thanksgiving & commemoration on the 85th anniversary of the Battle of Britain was held on 14th September in the Church of the Good Shepherd. Revd Geoff gave a very interesting sermon noting that the battle, a turning point in the history of WW2, between the RAF & the Luftwaffe, took place mainly in the skies over Kent.

ALDINGTON CHURCH

We will be supporting Aldington Church in dedicating a home made Poppy Cascade at 4pm on Sunday 2nd November.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

This year's Remembrance service will be held at 10.45am on Sunday 9th September in Warehorne Church.



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION HAMSTREET & DISTRICT BRANCH

ANNUAL COFFEE MORNING

Our popular Annual coffee morning in support of the Poppy Appeal will be at 10am on Saturday 1st November in the Victory Hall, Hamstreet. We look forward to seeing you.



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 or our Secretary, Caitie Gould, 07388553512.

Thank you.

Peter Gostling 07713104488

St Peter & St Paul's Church, Bislington

A SHOUT OUT TO ANY FLOWER ARRANGERS!



If you would be interested in arranging flowers in the church for the Sunday service, or joining in with others for a special occasion like Harvest or Christmas, we would be interested in hearing from you.

If you have done the flowers before, you can put your name on the flower rota in the church. If you would like more information or to provide your contact details, phone Linda King on 01233 720554.



PLANT

Sale

WEDNESDAY 15TH
OCTOBER
from 10 to 12.30

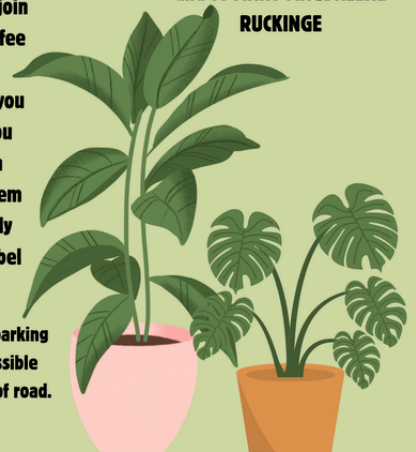
BRING & BUY PLANT SALE & COFFEE MORNING
THE OLD RECTORY, ASH HILL,
RUCKINGE TN26 2PE

in aid of THE PILGRIMS
HOSPICE
and ST MARY MAGDALENE
RUCKINGE

Do come along and join
us for cakes and coffee
etc.

If you have a plant you
don't want, one you
have divided or a
cutting, do bring them
along. All gratefully
received. Please label
clearly.

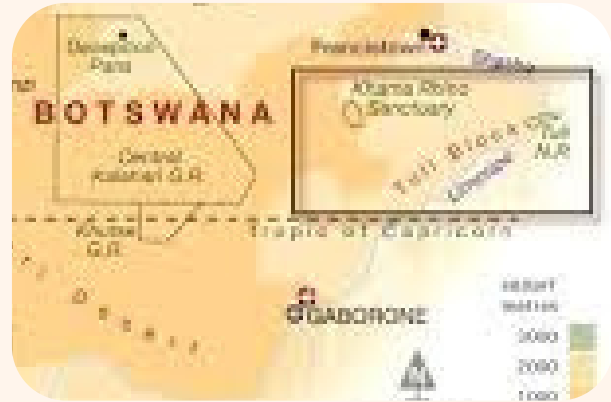
There is very limited parking
in the drive, so if possible
please park on verge of road.



Marion 01233 732328 marionhanbury@hotmail.com

KENT SCOUTS GLOBAL PROJECTS, BOTSWANA AUGUST 2025

So many of you were kind enough to support me in going to Botswana for 16 days this August with Kent Scouts. 35 of us headed out to the Tuli Reserve; I was one of the leadership team who supported 24 young people aged 16-24 to engage in the conservation we undertook. Together we also had wonderful experiences. I thought you might like to hear a little about the trip.



The journey

It took about a day and a half to travel to and from Botswana. We flew from Gatwick into Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, then on to South Africa. Outwards, we flew on from Johannesburg to Polokwane before travelling by coach, an arrangement that allowed us to get to the border crossing point before it shut at 6pm. A longer bus journey with an overnight stop avoided the third flight on the way home. Apart from being close to large towns, the Botswanan roads were unfinished. Our coach was modern and comfortable but could travel at only 30km/hr, less than 20 mph, on these roads and the hour's travel to the reserve itself needed a safari vehicle being more dirt tracks than anything else.



Something of interest from the coach was an insight into how dry the area is. Not only were vehicles followed by a personal dust cloud, but also the planting in fields was circular, matching the diameter of the sprinkler system.

We spotted our first wildlife, a troop of baboons. We settled into Tuli which offered accommodation in big tents with protection from thatched shades like a gazebo.

There were beds on frames and shelves to organise clothes onto. The photo shows an outdoor relaxation area in the foreground with a campfire area to the side and the dining area and kitchen beyond. The food was simple, good, plentiful and quite familiar, e.g. porridge, bread and jam for breakfast, stews with meat and tomatoes, breaded chicken, salad available with every meal. The water was from a borehole and was potable.





The conservation projects undertaken were varied: walking areas scanning for poachers' snares; cleaning and repairing water holes; cleaning solar panels and clearing surrounding vegetation, and building dams to stop soil washing away in the rainy season.

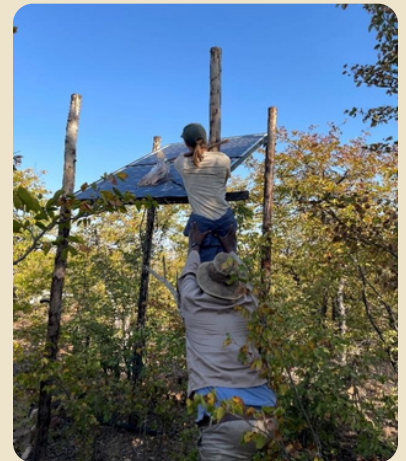
We walked slowly in an attentive line looking for loops of wire mounted in bushes to thwart poachers. Sad to say, we did find a few snares and heard a couple of gunshots but were reassured that repeated efforts of the guides and visitors like us are reducing such activity.

Water holes are essential for wildlife in Botswana. It rains during their summer but the rains are coming later and later and lasting for less long. We were there at the end of winter so there had been no rain for many months. The water comes from deep wells and is pumped up to fill the holes using wind or, increasingly, solar power.

Elephants finding an empty waterhole will listen for water in pipes and try to get to them, tearing up and ruining the infrastructure as they go.

We worked on three water holes:

One needed the solar panels cleaning and the surrounding vegetation chopping back



With another, the empty hole needed cleaning, the pump reconnecting and putting back in place, and then being hidden behind thorn bush branches and gathered rocks



The other needed solar panels, new pipes and a pump installing and all to be hidden behind a hedge of thorn bushes and rocks.



There was a huge amount of work with spade and machete skills being developed quickly. Suffice it to say, we achieved our aims.

Leisure involved participants chatting and playing games together and going on safari drives. There was no internet available except if the owners allowed you a visit to their homes. Therefore, this was limited to those needing to log on the collect A level and, a week later, GCSE results (only one was in tears after this).



When the rains come, the sandy soil can be washed away, killing the mopane trees elephants eat and the thorn bushes favoured by giraffes. In addition to wielding spades and machetes, pick axes were used in the process to create barriers to slow the flow of water and catch the soil. This was really hard work!



We also had an excursion to the "great, green, greasy Limpopo", as Rudyard Kipling put it.

There we saw a single hippo and crocodiles were resting.



Twice we had the chance to engage with the local community: Kindly, local dignitaries brought skilled women who weave using lala palm to our camp. They showed us how to create their most basic knots and supported us to make small mats.



We were not only entertained by local dancers, the zebra dancers, but we got to join in with them!



We had the chance to spot wildlife throughout our visit.

Hyenas would 'whoop' through the night and greeted two people, luckily leaders, on evening strolls to the loo! One person reversed into the building they'd just stepped out of, the other froze, as did the hyena, with the impasse being broken by the violent snore of a fellow leader ringing out.

We saw tracks (spoor) of very many animals to include lion and leopard but, unsurprisingly, encountered no big cats.

We saw many other creatures such as zebra, impala, giraffe, elephants, kudu, wildebeest, eland, bush pig, mongoose.

Did you know a group of zebra is known as a dazzle?

There were interesting birds too with hornbills and weaver birds being particularly common.



Sleepouts were a special part of the trip. We slept out in the open at a water hole and on a rocky outcrop the likes of which are called kopies. The sky was amazing with the Milky Way clearly visible and it was worth being awake for sunset and sunrise. You can ask me privately about toilet arrangements, if you'd like.



Thank you all once again for your support. I hope you can see that all of us who went worked hard and had our understanding of the world expanded.



Susan Hanlon

Here's a link to a short informational film on YouTube about our trip:
[Botswana25 - Mini Documentary](#)

1ST Ruckinge & Hamstreet Cub Pack

Here we go again! We have 22 Cubs, 2 Young Leaders, 2 Leaders and a set of helpful parents to help the Pack enjoy the activities planned for this term.

We're facing 3 main challenges before the next school holiday: beginning our Naturalist badge; creating a scarecrow; finishing the Backwoods Cooking badge we started last term.

We've begun by genning up on trees. Cubs played various card games to ease them into tree identification. A hike through the woods and round part of Hamstreet allowed that knowledge to be applied by Cubs matching labelled leaves to trees they spotted. We'll revisit the route over future months to observe change. Right now, ID through leaves was the focus but, as Autumn kicks in and Winter approaches, we'll focus on bark and shape.

The Scarecrow Trail will take place on 12th October. Come along and get your map from Victory Hall from 10am-4pm (£5). There'll be refreshments, a raffle and stalls to enjoy. Cubs will spend 2 weeks on this activity. It demands teamwork as well as creativity so fits really well into our programme.

Cooking using a fire allows for a range of methods to be practised. We used frying pans and sticks last term but now need to think about billys and embers. One Cub has asked to cook mussels so, for the first time ever, let's give it a go! No white wine, of course, but we should be able to manage a simple cream sauce with some shallots and herbs. The perennial favourite of chocolate bananas will feature and we might whip out a frying pan to roast chestnuts tying themes from our 2 feature badges together.

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. We are still very much in need of additional leaders. 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.

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)

1st Ruckinge Guides

Rosemary Titchener

We are very sad to report that Rosemary passed away on 12th September. She had been a Guide Leader with 1st Ruckinge Guides for many years. Her leadership was outstanding and many girls will have benefited from her enthusiasm and sense of fun. She treated all girls with love, care and discipline. Her love of craft was varied and extensive and no girl was allowed to be idle at camp as Rosemary would find something for them to do from her craft boxes. She loved campfires and was very enthusiastic in her participation. She continued to help out after she officially retired. The other leaders appreciated her sense of fun and her humour often lifted us when things weren't going quite to plan.

Rosemary had health problems over recent years, but that never stopped her from 'Being Prepared' to fulfil her duty as a leader. We all admired the way she looked after her husband Andrew in the later years of his life. You will always be in in our hearts Rosemary.

Mary Sillibourne and Gill Andrews

 **Girlguiding**
1st Ruckinge Guides

EVENTS AT COSY KETTLE THIS OCTOBER

FOLLOWING ON FROM OUR POPULAR SUMMER CUPCAKE, COOKIE, CUPPA WHY NOT JOIN US FOR A SPOOKY SESSION THIS OCTOBER HALF TERM

£5 INCLUDES:

A CUPCAKE AND SPOOKY BISCUIT READY TO DECORATE FOR 1 CHILD AND A REGULAR DRINK* FOR ONE ACCOMPANYING ADULT (*NOT INCLUDING SYRUPS OR THICK SHAKES)

£2 PER ADDITIONAL CHILD

MONDAY 20TH OCTOBER: 9AM - 10AM, 10.30AM - 11.30AM AND 3.30PM - 4.30PM

BOOKING ESSENTIAL 01233 733030 OR ON COSY KETTLE FACEBOOK

GIVE YOURSELVES A "BOOOOOO"ST WHILE TRICK AND TREATING!

'GRAB AND GO' HOT AND COLD SPOOOOOOY SNACKS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE FROM

COSY KETTLE ON FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER BETWEEN 4PM AND 7PM

SPOOKY FINGERS (HOT DOG IN A ROLL)

WITCHES HATS (PIZZA SLICES)

EYEBALL CUPCAKES

COBWEB COOKIES

HOCUS POCUS HOT CHOCOLATE

TRICK OR TREAT SWEETS FOR EVERY CHILD VISITOR

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 for Friends of Canterbury Oast Trust to fund outings and holidays for adults with learning disabilities. COT runs the Rare Breeds Centre at Woodchurch.



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

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Over 60s Meet

Although the club shut down during August we did have a trip out for lunch at Ripleys which was good as always. The club return on 5th September saw Scott serenading us and on 19th Steve entertained us with his great voice and dance moves.

Forthcoming attractions for October:

3rd singer - Jenny

17th and 31st - Pottery with Fiona - always an enjoyable creative time with lots of laughter.

Also just to mention Cotton Hill House is hosting a coffee morning on **Friday 26th September** from 10 - 12 in aid of Macmillian Cancer Support.

Please come along and support this very worthy cause - with stalls, a raffle and of course cake.

We always welcome new members so please come along, it starts at 2pm.

For further info contact June McKay on 07799984110



Sunday 5th oct

8-12 noon

Tea / coffee
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hot dogs

Turn up on the day for a stall



£5 per stall

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ANNUAL COFFEE MORNING IN AID OF THE POPPY APPEAL

Saturday 1st November 2025

10am - Noon

Hamstreet Victory Hall

Tea/Coffee. Cakes. Raffle. Poppies.

Any donations of Raffle prizes/Cakes would be most welcome

Looking forward to seeing you



Cycling with Adam (and fact-hunting) October 2025

Firstly, many thanks to those who sponsored me for the annual Friends of Kent Churches 'Ride and Stride.' £110 has been raised at the time of writing.

This year was the wettest FKC ride I have ever experienced. An ominous clap of thunder at about 10.15am set the tone for the next three hours of weather, with me darting up to Warehorne and then to Orlestone between showers before promptly diving into the Duke's Head for lunch. It seems that summer changed into autumn almost overnight this year. In spite of this, the annual murmurings about an 'Indian summer' were still cropping up in forecasts.

By the time I'd finished my lunch, the rain was beginning to subside so I pedalled off over 'housing project hill' to the churches in Ruckinge (where some shelter in the porch was necessary for about ten minutes), Bilsington and Bonnington. At the latter a violinist and a cellist were practising for a wedding. I then dropped down onto Romney Marsh to visit Newchurch, Ivychurch and Brookland. A stiff breeze was against me throughout, and a look inside Brookland's ground-level belfry revealed that it was going to be used as a bar that evening. And very cosy it looked too.

I then headed up to Snargate, where I was shown the faded image of a warship on the wall which is said to be a very accurate rendering of a 'great ship.' I was pleased to be able to pick up a piece of bread pudding at Brenzett (as is the tradition), and my twelfth and final church was St Augustine's at Snave, before the death-defying sprint up the A2070 back to Hamstreet, speaking of which I've been working on a new book project along the lines of 'everything you wanted to know about Hamstreet but were afraid to ask.' Upon hearing of this project two people separately joked 'Will it be a pamphlet?' As they came from Warehorne and Kenardington respectively, I'll put this down to inter-village rivalry.

I've consulted a lot of long-established locals for this project (many thanks to all) but I still have a few gaps in my info which I hope that somebody can fill, so please view what follows as a bit of a quiz. Please contact me at hamcopublishing@aol.com or leave a message on 07402 122021 if you have any info.

1. I'm trying to establish a continuous line of landlords / managers for the four pubs that were within two miles of Hamstreet. Beginning with the Duke's Head, I am missing a name for a representative for a seed company was the landlord between the Couchmans (late 1940s) and Geoff and Betty Day (1951-1961). I am also missing the surname of Ron and Joan who ran the Duke's Head in the 1980s.
2. Similarly for the former Blue Anchor I am missing the surname of Steve and Jan who ran the pub from 2007-2008, as well as the surname of Steve and Julie who ran it from 2011-2013. (I remember Julie wrote a book all about her incarceration in France.) Also, I do not have the names of the two men who briefly ran the pub sometime during this period too (mid-2008?).
3. When was Alan Knowler, electrician, based at the unit in Warehorne Road that is now the estate agency? (I understand that it was Checksfield's grocers, Knight's greengrocers and Mr Sait's greengrocers in its days before Horticulture and Angela Hirst.)
4. What did Jane née Sherwood sell in the former Tippen's shop in The Street? What was her married name when she ran the shop? And was this prior to its use as the Black Cat Cafe?
5. Back to landlords again, I am missing surnames for the following people who ran the Woolpack Inn: Mike and Gwyneth (who ran it in partnership with Lee and Rhona Traynor) in the 1970s, Maurice and Sheila who ran it in the 1980s, Warren and Sam who managed it from 2009-2010 and Nick and Wendy who managed it from 2010-2011? (these were Australian ex-pats who always greeted you with a free sausage roll upon arrival.)
6. Does a list of former chairmen of Orlestone Parish Council with dates exist anywhere?
7. Does a list of former head teachers of Hamstreet School (formerly Orlestone School) with dates exist anywhere?

I hope to have my book out by the end of the year. In the meantime, my mum (**Teresa Colton**) has a new novel out called '**Spectre in the Storm**.' This is a supernatural mystery, which should particularly appeal to those who enjoyed her earlier book '**Running with Vampires**.' You know where to find it. And you'll have it just in time for Halloween!

- Adam Colton



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Treasurer/Bookings: Mrs Vivienne Hudson 07887 850075
Secretary/Bookings: Mrs Amanda Riley 07720 386874
bilstonvillagehall@gmail.com

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Find us on facebook & Instagram

Bilston village hall regular groups
please get in touch to join our regular groups

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
bilstonvillagehall@gmail.com

As I see it on the land

(This article was intended for the September magazine so is a bit out of date)

Harvest started on 21 st July, really early as a result of the hot sunny weather rapidly ripening the ears. The combine spent just over a day harvesting our early variety of wheat grown mostly in fields to the north of the canal. It went into the grain store dry but hot, and need cooling by blowing colder air through it at night.

Problem!

The nights were too hot initially so the fans could not be used immediately until the nighttime temperature dropped. I was not informed of the yield for several days. I had anticipated much lower yields than my partner, who had tried to show optimism throughout the summer, despite the exceptional weather of the year. Eventually I was told the yield was around a tonne an acre less this year.

My fears confirmed!

Samples were taken out of the pile of wheat by our merchant, and sent off to the laboratory for testing for its breadmaking quality. The results were a disaster. The protein, which we often struggle to achieve, was high, but the Hagberg which is not normally a problem, was so low it has been rejected for bread making and relegated to animal feed. We had spent a lot of time and money trying to make it reach the bread making target. This is a tremendous financial blow. The combine went off to do the neighbours crops, returning to finish our remaining wheats. Samples have been done again with varied results. Some might be good enough. Further testing has got to be done. Once the combining was finished Mark put our old tyned drill on a tractor and started drilling what is called a stubble cover crop into all of the fields. Our pest control friend drove a tractor behind the drill pulling a roll, to try to get some cover over the seed. This wonderful scheme which we will receive Government (yours) money for is to keep the ground covered with greenery to benefit the soil, drainage, carbon capture (and anything else you are clever enough to add to the list) until sown with the next crop or legume fallow. The sown seeds will only grow when they receive some water.

The Bank Holiday is here and it is still dry!!!

Steve, the driver, had just endured/survived a four-day training session on how to driver a loader tractor (Matbro) to perfection. He must have felt happy sitting on a tractor with sat nav, with little to worry about. He is now fully qualified to help push grain into the grain store with a loader. It probably means I may have to pay him!! A neighbour baled acres of our straw for their cattle which were already getting tight for grazing. It took many trips from field to farmyard to clear the bales. This week a contractor has been applying dried chicken poo to the fields ready for next year's cropping. Several hares have been seen during the course of harvest, but unfortunately our coursing friends have already made two night time visits chasing around the fields.

In the garden!

We were picking raspberries almost daily and then suddenly they were being demolished and eaten by wasps and flies. I put out jam jars as traps but could not keep up with the numbers coming in to eat the fruit. When I had better eyesight I was quite good at finding nests. But now I find it difficult to see the flight path as to where they are coming from, or going to laden with fruit. Much argument ensued between us as Clare said she could see some flying towards the west end of the bungalow whilst I could see some flying across the field. I had checked all round the eaves of the bungalow since we have nests in the roof most years. Nothing.

However, whilst talking to someone at the front door I noticed wasp activity at ground level. Just six feet from the door in the rockery, which had been in full bloom with lots of bee activity, was a wasp nest about a foot above the path. They were not worried about our presence; they just flew in and out with their spoil. I destroyed the nest after dark. It lowered the numbers feeding and we are back picking a few raspberries, but having to share them with wildlife. We have seen a larger variety of butterflies this year. Our primroses appear to be dying. Will they bounce back when the rain comes? The walnut trees are bowing under the weight of the nuts with some branches breaking. Hazel nuts are in abundance and plenty of blackberries in the hedgerows.

Is it a sign of good weatherpast or preparation for a lean time ahead?

Peter Sillibourne

Ashford Sport

All the latest sports news for Ashford

It's a delight to be given the opportunity to feature in the **Orlestone Parish Magazine**. Ashford is full of incredible sporting talent, and there's a lot of events that regularly take place within our borough. I hope that readers of this column will take note of anything of interest; whether it's partaking in a new sport, supporting a local club or even improving your lifestyle through various activities.

Wrestling returns to Ashford this October! **The Stour Leisure Centre** will be hosting this Tables, Ladders & Chairs match at 4pm on Saturday 11th October, early booking is advised. Visit the **Rumble Wrestling Promotions** website to book www.rumblewrestling.com.

Ashford Golf Club's junior academy classes, for age 16 and under and for all abilities take place on Saturday mornings. For more information, please contact your local PGA Professional, Tom Muchmore via email on tommuchmore@live.com.

Last month's first FREE **skateboarding** sessions at **Ashford skate park** was a great success with a mixture of young kids trying for the first time, and some looking to improve their skills. Contact **Scorcha Skate School** to register interest for your kids. www.sorchaskateschool.co.uk/booking

Walking Netball is back at **Courtside, Stanhope** every Wednesday evening! The first session FREE and then £4 per session more local sport news across the district after. It's perfect for anyone wanting to try of Ashford. netball with reduced intensity, returning from injury or a period of time away, or simply those who still want to take part in sport but at a slower pace. This is for ages 18+ or kids aged 12-17 who can attend with a paying adult. To register interest, contact Sue Ellis on 07590 041522.

There are regular poker nights now taking place in Ashford. Monday nights at the **Rose Inn Kennington**, and at **The Locomotive** on Tuesday evenings, both start times at 7.30pm. If you'd like more info you can find more details on our Facebook page, or just drop us a message!

Did you know you can just turn up to **Kingsnorth Golf Club** and use their driving range 10am-8pm, no booking required.

Both **Ashford United Football Club** and **Kennington Football Club** had success in national competitions in September, with Ashford beating Deal Town away to progress to the Third Round Qualifying of the **FA Trophy**, with Kennington winning at home versus FC Elmstead to find themselves in the First Round Proper of the **FA Vase**. Perhaps we'll see one of these at Wembley at the end of the season?

There's still time to sign up for this year's **Givaudan 10k** on 12th October, one of Kent's biggest 'closed road' runs and it starts at **The Julie Rose Stadium**. Visit the **Sporting Events UK** website for details and to book www.sportingeventsuk.com.

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



**Ashford
Sport**



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OCTOBER PUZZLE PAGE



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DECODE THE MESSAGE. EACH LETTER IN THE PHRASE HAS BEEN REPLACED WITH A RANDOM LETTER OR NUMBER.

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MEDIUM DIFFICULTY SUDOKU PUZZLE

FILL THE 9X9 GRID WITH NUMBERS 1-9 SUCH THAT EACH ROW, EACH COLUMN, AND EACH OF THE NINE 3X3 BOXES CONTAINS EACH NUMBER FROM 1 TO 9 EXACTLY ONCE





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MORE CASH IN THAT PIGGY BANK!

SO FAR SO GOOD!



The total raised in 2025 has now reached **£760.90** - 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.



Hamstreet Woods National Nature Reserve

August-October 2025 Update



What has been going on this August and September?

The Chestnut Coppicing – The contractors fished the tidy up, stacked all the brash into large habitat piles, and stacked the timber at the entrance track ready for extraction.

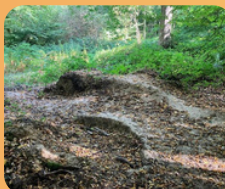


Volunteers – The volunteers have been moving the cut timber from the ride edges to the main storage areas. This is so it can be sold and moved during the wet winter times. They have also been repairing some of the signposts and the broken gate at the Gill Lane entrance.



Local Mountain Bike Group

Over the summer a group of enthusiastic young mountain bikers have been building some jumps and berms in the woods. Some of these were built using the medieval banks. These banks are protected archaeological structures, so we needed to reinstate them. The volunteers helped with some of this, but thank you to the mountain bike group who helped with the rest of the work, they are a really positive bunch. After the evening of digging, we went to an area in the woods which can be used by them with little impact.



October - What is going on this month?

The Foresters will have started to fell the Chestnut coppice coups. They will also be doing some Oak Thinning in these compartments. Thinning is a forestry term - to reduce the number of canopy trees and let more light to the woodland floor, this allows for stronger coppice regrowth. You will see the trees marked with large white numbers.



The volunteers will be at our other site for October, so you won't see them around. However, the staff will be doing the annual glade and ride mowing with the tractor. Please be careful when walking or approaching as the machinery can be dangerous.

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 our 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/wyehamstreetnrr>



Track Surfacing – The contractors have been surfacing some more of the tracks in the more heavily used part of the woods and re-surfacing some areas that were getting a bit tired. This is the last of the surfacing works for a while. The plan was to make a couple of circular routes that can be used in all weathers and protect the ride edges from trampling.



The Medieval Features – What are they?

When you are next walking around the woods look out for the strange hummocks, ditches and banks. There are several reasons why they are there, most are not natural features but were dug mainly during the medieval period (500 to 1500 AD). The Ditch and Banks systems can be found weaving through the woods and generally have pollarded hornbeam growing on them. These banks marked out the coppice coups or ownership of the coup. It is a fun wander to follow them and see how they are connected. Some of the humps would have been part of the channels used to flush water through the woods, this was how timber was moved out to the flatlands around Hamstreet village. This was the least labour-intensive way available at the time. The water would have come from some of the ponds you see today (some other ponds were caused by bombs in the second world war). The most impressive earth works is the medieval staggered dam. This can be found in the Northwestern side of the woods, near the Railway Glade. The structure is a series of earth banks up the Bourne stream, some quite substantial. Again, it is worth wandering and following the banks to see the full extent.

All these special archaeological structures are protected by law and so we ask that everyone doesn't interfere with them.



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Benefice Worship Calendar

SAXON SHORELINE BENEFICE WORSHIP CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 2025

1st Sunday: 5th October Trinity 16 Dedication Sunday Animal Welfare Sunday (Green/White/Gold)	9.00am Holy Communion 9.45 for 10am Family Fun Service 10.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Morning Worship 4.00 pm Harvest Evensong followed by: 5.00 pm Drinks and Canapes, launch of Friends of St. Rumwolds	St. Matthew, Warehorne Aldington Village Hall St. Mary Orlestone (inc Ruckinge) Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet St. Rumwold, Bonnington
2nd Sunday: 12th October Trinity 17 Prisons Sunday (Green)	9.00am BCP H Communion 10.30am Morning Worship 10.30am Morning Worship 10.45am Holy Communion 6.00 pm Harvest Festival with the Jump Singers. Donations of tinned and packet food welcomed	SS Peter & Paul, Bilsington Ruckinge Village Hall Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet St. Martin, Aldington St. Matthew, Warehorne
3rd Sunday: 19th October Trinity 18 Healthcare Sunday (Green)	9.00am Morning Worship 9.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Morning Prayer 9.30am Family Service 10.30am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship Service 3.00 pm Harvest Festival (please bring cans & packets of food for the foodbank) Afternoon tea will follow the service.	St. Mary, Orlestone St. Rumwold, Bonnington St. Matthew, Warehorne St. Mary, Kenardington Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet St. Martin, Aldington Ruckinge Village Hall
4th Sunday: 26th October Trinity 19 Last after Trinity Bible Sunday (Green/Red)	9.00am Morning Prayer 10.30am BCP Communion (TBC) 10.30am Café Church 10.45am Holy Communion 6.30pm BCP Evensong	SS Peter & Paul, Bilsington St. Mary Orlestone (inc Ruckinge) Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet St. Martin, Aldington St. Matthew, Warehorne
Key Events	4th October Coffee Morning 10.00 to 11.30am Ruckinge Village Hall	

Benefice BCP Communion Wednesdays @ 12noon, St. Mary, Orlestone on the following dates:- 1st, 15th, 22nd, 29th October (NB no service on Wednesday 8th Oct.)

Parish Contacts

Church of England Saxon Shoreline Benefice	Rector: Rev Geoff Abasolo-Munnery revgeoff.saxonshorelinebenefice@gmail.com Canon John Saunders (retired Anglican Priest) Pauline Williams (Benefice Safeguarding Officer)	07743598896 07732682472 07907676829
Methodist Minister	Rev. Adrian Roux revadrianroux@wesleys.uk	07721006800
Roman Catholic Priest	Father Hans, St Simon's Church	01233 622399
Church of the Good Shepherd & St Mary, Orlestone (C of E and Methodist Local Ecumenical Partnership)	Mrs Doreen Dawson (Churchwarden) Mrs Janet Carter (Steward) David Smith (Steward)	07788 776941 01233 732403 01233 732368
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

All STD codes 01233 unless otherwise shown

Hamstreet Surgery	Mon-Fri 8.00 – 18.30	01233 730190
Aldington & Bonnington Parish Council	Clerk: Peter Settlefield clerk@abpc.org.uk	07928 453208
Bilsington Parish Council	Clerk: Peter Settlefield Bilsingtonclerk@gmail.com	
Kenardington Parish Council	Clerk: Annette Beach	07905 658117
Orlestone Parish Council	Clerk: Sue Stiffell stiffells@btinternet.com	01233 628481
Ruckinge Parish Council	Clerk: Peter Settlefield www.ruckinge-pc.gov.uk	07714 000986
Warehorne Parish Council	Clerk: Annette Beach warehornepc@gmail.com	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 Association	Mark Taylor (Field & MUGA bookings)	07786 712939
Kenardington Village Hall bookings	Mrs. Brenda Headley	01233 733085
Ruckinge Village Hall bookings	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
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Community Warden	Kathy Carter	07813 711940
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