OPM
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OCTOBER 2026

ORLESTONE PARISH MAGAZINE

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Additional Support
APL Computer Support

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

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



Ornate October

A hot summer and then some welcome rain and how quickly the grass turned green again and the trees looked refreshed, although many had begun to drop their leaves, a self-defence action I believe.
The planter troughs in Hamstreet are very pleasant to look at, such an imaginative project that continues to bring pleasure to so many people. Small actions can have a big effect. Although most people keep their front gardens looking good I feel sad when one disappears under a hard surface. Of course there's a good reason and of course it's good to park off the road, residential areas can be so busy, but I always hope that porous pavers might be considered because they prevent runoff and preserve natural ground absorption. Grass pavers are honeycomb grids filled with living grass and allow rainwater to filter into the soil. Hard surfaces cause runoff which leads to localised flooding and overload of local drainage systems – something we saw last winter – as well as allowing oils and chemicals to wash directly into local waterways. Just a thought.

I wonder if anyone enjoys driving just as much nowadays as they did, let's say 10 years ago? To start with there are potholes, many helpfully indicated with white edges. Then there are roads which may not have real potholes but are rough enough to shift the fillings in your teeth, I'm thinking of a stretch between the Rare Breeds Centre and the T -junction at Woodchurch but you'll have your own favourites. Best of all, there are those gaily painted notice boards to be found all around the place : red for Road Closed - but where? and how far ahead? and is it *really* closed - the fun we have gambling on the answer to that question ! Not forgetting the yellow Diversion signs, which are careful not to direct large lorries down country lanes meaning that if you don't know the area and are forced to follow those arrows you can find yourself doing a huge 4 mile tour to arrive back very close to where you left the first sign. I speak with bitter experience when attempting to reach Benenden Hospital recently. I'd taken a friend, so could sit and count the wild-eyed patients panting up to the reception desk.

To those who saw my note about the Bowel Cancer UK fundraising Afternoon Tea – it raised £430; thank you.
And regarding the Summer Raffle for Canterbury Oast Trust – we raised nearly £6,000 to support our work with adults with learning disabilities and autism.

Margaret

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

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 carballal 07757 858642
yogaisabelkent@gmail.com

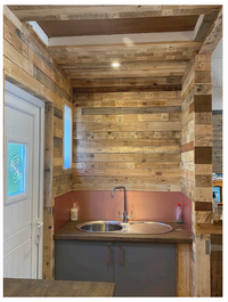
Low impact circuit class with Sandra-Fridays 10:00-11:00
sandra gooding 07525 857419
sandragoodingtraining@gmail.com

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

Kenardington Village Hall

For just £10 per hour you can hire this small, cosy and characterful space. Kitchen and bar area, fast wifi, TV, chairs and tables plus little ones for children too. Refurbished four years ago, the hall is great for meetings, drop in working space, children's parties, and village fund raising events.





To book or enquiries contact Brenda on 0776 6755 322



WEEKLY CALENDAR
HAMSTREET VICTORY HALL

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
PILATES 9 -10	PILATES 9 - 10	PARENT & TODDLER 9 - 11	TAI CHI BEGINNERS 9:30 - 10:30	COFFEE MORNING 9:30 - 10:30	YOGA 9:30 - 10:30
YOGA 5:30 - 6:30	BEGINNER PILATES 10:10 - 11:10	YOGA 1 - 2:15	TAI CHI ADVANCED 10:30 - 11:30	BOWLS 7:30 - 10PM	
WI 7:30 - 9:30 (2ND MON OF MONTH)	BEGINNERS TAI CHII 6 - 6:45		DOG TRAINING 5:30 - 7:30 (TIMES VARY)		
	BOWLS 7:30 - 10PM				

BOOTFAIR
1ST SUNDAY OF MONTH
APRIL - OCT: 8AM - 12PM











ST RUMWOLD'S

Monday Coffee Stop

It's been so good to see such lovely collection of new and old friends each Monday - thank you to all who have helped run our coffee mornings. Our last session this year will be on 28th September- but we'll be opening up again in the Spring 2027 See you then!

Tina



ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH, WAREHORNE

Pedal power for local heritage!

Cyclists pause outside St Matthew's Church, Warehorne, during the annual Kent Ride and Stride on Saturday 12th September. Participants from across the county took to their bikes and boots to explore Kent's historic places of worship while raising vital funds. Half of all sponsorship money raised by riders goes directly back to support their church, with the other half helping the Friends of Kent Churches preserve historic church buildings for future generations. A huge thank you to everyone who took part, sponsored the participants, or welcomed visitors on the day!



PET SERVICE



4TH OCTOBER, 10am.

St Matthew's Church, Warehorne, TN26 2LJ

Join us for a joyful, family celebration to give thanks for the wonderful animal companions who bring us so much love, comfort, and joy to our lives.

Whether they are furry, scaly, or large and small – all well-behaved pets are welcome.

If your pet is a donkey, horse or of similar size, please meet outside the church by 10am for a blessing before the service starts.

An individual blessing for each pet attending.

We want our animal friends and you, to both feel and be, safe! You, with your pets, will be in the box pews. Please ensure all pets are safely on a leash, in a carrier, in a bowl, or well controlled, and remember to bring clean up supplies just in case.

If your pet is too shy, or nervous, or recently passed away, you are warmly invited to **bring a photograph of your pet or a soft toy** instead.

There will be time to remember and to thank God for pets we have loved and lost.

All are welcome – with or without a pet! We look forward to celebrating God's creation with you.

A special collection will be taken up for **The Retreat Animal Rescue and Farm Sanctuary, High Halden.**

HARVEST FESTIVAL

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING



SUNDAY, 18 OCTOBER

ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH, WAREHORNE

6PM

With the Jump Singers.

Followed by refreshments.

ALL WELCOME

The Collection and donations of packet and tinned goods will go to charities.

ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH, RUCKINGE

The first Saturday in September saw the last of our weekly Summer Coffee mornings. We would like to thank everyone who has supported them this year and those who have cooked and helped. You will be pleased to hear that the money raised has helped to pay the bill for the making safe of our Bells. This was done last week so all we need now is a team of ringers.







The second Saturday of September is always the Friend of Kent Churches Ride and Stride Day. This year we welcomed 34 cyclists from around the Diocese as well as providing lunches and teas. We have a star in the making in little Ronnie who, at the age of 4 cycled with his mother from Lydd on Sea, about 12 miles, to Ruckinge church, arriving in time for a very late lunch. He was well sponsored and half will go to FKC and the other half will come back to our church. One other person cycled for us as well and we are very grateful to both of them.

The next day we had a Family Party in the afternoon which was great fun and very noisy and this week the Church was used for another tea party in aid of Bowel Cancer UK, a disease affecting one of our church congregation, which raised £430, a goodly amount.



Our next big event will be our Flower Folk Festival see separate posters. We'll serve coffees, cakes, ploughman's lunches and teas throughout the weekend. The only thing not mentioned on the poster is our HARVEST FESTIVAL which is at 10 am on the Sunday. As usual our collection will go to the Charity called Ripple Effect, or as we have always known it, Send a Cow. Donations of tins and dried food will be gratefully accepted for FareShare, the Ashford food bank.

Mary Sillibourne
Churchwarden
01233 732615



The Cosy Kettle

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.com/TheCosyKettle

The Cosy Kettle

Craft at Cosy

Looking for inspiration /company /help with a new or existing craft project?



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

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

We held our Service of Thanksgiving and Commemoration on the Anniversary of the Battle of Britain on Sunday 13th September in the Church of the Good Shepherd. Sadly there was a lack of attendance/interest.

This year the Poppy Appeal launches on 22nd October. Every November, the nation unites to recognise the contribution of all who have served and sacrificed, from those in Britain and across the commonwealth who fought in the World Wars, to the men and women who keep us safe today.

The Royal British Legion leads the way in honouring our armed Forces family, holding commemorative events that bring the community together and raising vital funds via the annual PoppyAppeal. Since it was first worn as an Act of Remembrance, also to raise funds for the British Legion more than 100 years ago, the Poppy has become an enduring symbol of support for our Armed Forces community (past and present).
Worn widely across Britain and the Commonwealth, the Poppy represents:

- The service of and sacrifices made by the British & Commonwealth Armed Forces in the defence of democracy and freedom, it also acknowledges the wider impact of conflict.
- The contribution of civilian services and uniformed emergency services that contribute to national security in times of war, conflict or terror and acknowledges innocent civilians who have lost their lives at such times.
- Remembrance and hope for a peaceful future, also uniting us in remembering all those from the British & the Commonwealth Armed Forced who have served and sacrificed.

Poppies are for sale in all Supermarkets, the local village shops and businesses.

Our local Poppy coordinator is Cherrie Harris nr.ceh4@yahoo.com, 07877845247. Please feel free to contact her with any Poppy Appeal related queries.

Our **ANNUAL COFFEE MORNING IN AID OF THE POPPY APPEAL** will be held this year on **SATURDAY 31st October** between 10am and noon at **HAMSTREET VICTORY HALL**. As usual there will be Tea/Coffee, Cakes, a Raffle, RBL promotional items & of course POPPIES. Please come along to support this noble cause and enjoy the company of like minded people. Any donations of raffle prizes/ cakes would be most welcome.
THANK YOU.

Don't forget the Remembrance Service in St Magdalene Church, Ruckinge on Sunday 8th November at 10.30am, also our Armistice Day service at the Hamstreet War Memorial on Wednesday 11th November at 11am.

The Hamstreet branch welcomed new members, who may or may not have any armed service links, but share the aimed of the Royal British Legion to provide. Welfare and support to service personnel and their families. If you feel you could support such aimed, please contact our Chairman, Dennis Seton on 0788076806 or the undersigned.
Better still why not come along to our Annual General Meeting at Hamstreet Sports Pavilion on Thursday 15th October at 8.00pm.

Peter Gostling 07713104488

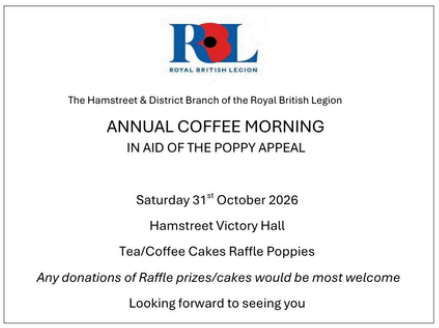
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

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.







Villages' Bargain Oil Network

Would you believe, it's been 14 years of ordering and 220 orders this month! Despite the growing presence of online buying options, this little, local community service continues to flourish and get market-beating prices for us. Prices had dropped a little further again for July's order, 63.50ppl (+5% vat) being what we got. Given the renewed conflict in Iran and a jump in prices at the pumps, what will we be quoted this month? I daren't speculate.

I'm next ordering on 2nd November

PLEASE NOTE, I WILL NOT BE ORDERING IN OCTOBER.

I'll aim to put a bounce back message on my email, taking it down when I'm in a position to receive orders again. I expect this will be in time for the order on 2nd November.

During the colder months from October, 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). April sees the return of once a month ordering till October, 2nd or next working day. I have major surgery coming up and I might have to skip a month or 2, but I'll be sure to put a bounce back message on my e-mail if that's the case. I hope to be able to fit everything in.

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)
07810436191 – usually voicemail (absolute last resort, please)

LOCAL BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

ANGELA HIRST
chartered surveyors

Angela Hirst Chartered Surveyors were established in 1989 and opened our Hamstreet office over 25 years ago. We are a friendly, independent practice of surveyors, estate agents, letting agents, commercial and land agents. We remain a family business with the invaluable benefit of local knowledge and extensive experience working in Hamstreet and the surrounding villages.

Our Hirst Commercial department specialises in the sale and letting of offices, retail premises and industrial properties in both town and rural locations. The professional surveying team offer formal Red Book valuation reports on residential, commercial, equestrian, and agricultural property.

As expert property and land agents we offer a wide range of services to suit your needs and objectives. Please drop into the office, call 01233 731177 or email hirstash@angela-hirst.com to find out more.

Kind regards

Ben Hirst
for Angela Hirst Chartered Surveyors / Hirst Commercial

The Estate Office, Warehorne Road, Hamstreet, Ashford, Kent. TN26 2JW ph. 01233 731177
Registered Office, Palm Tree Farm, Upper Hardres, Canterbury, Kent. CT4 6EJ
Web. www.angelahirst.com

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Working throughout Kent and East Sussex since 1989





Flower Folk Festival

Celebrating the Traditions of the British Isles

St Mary Magdalene Church

Ruckinge

***Saturday 3rd October* 10 – 4**

***Sunday 4th* 11 - 4**

Coffees, lunches, teas

Friday 2nd 7pm
An evening with
ASHFORD FOLK
byo drinks, snacks available

Sunday 4th 5pm
Classic/Folk mix with
'LYDIA LAUGHING'
inc. harp music
and songs by **CANTWARA**
Wine & nibbles



All events pay by donation Contact 07748 006249

Flower Folk Festival

At St Mary Magdalene Church, Ruckinge



Ashford Folk on Friday 2nd October, 7pm
Folk evening with local group
BYO drinks | Snacks available to purchase

Adam & Teresa Colton on Saturday 3rd October, 11am



Entry by donation to all events



Cantwara on Sunday 2pm – 3pm



Lydia Laughing on Sunday 4th October, 6pm
Alternative Folk Band including harp music | Wine & nibbles

Fundraising to repair the church bells

TRAVELS WITH ADAM / FKC 'RIDE AND STRIDE' 2026



As a prelude to this year's Friends of Kent Churches 'Ride and Stride' write-up I'm going to tell you about a trip I did the weekend before.

I decided to go for a cycling weekend in deepest Sussex so I caught the train to Eastbourne. As the ongoing service towards Brighton was delayed indefinitely I decided to begin my ride by pedalling up the former A22 to Polegate.

I decided on a quick lunch in McDonald's and used an 'air charger' for the first time ever. This handy device charges your phone without any wires and it's always nice to get something for free, of course! In my mind I filed this under 'good inventions.' A 'bad invention' would be something that has been created without any thought for how it will affect society. I feel this way about automation. The fairest thing would be to let the tech do the donkey work and employ people for fewer hours while being paid the same wages. After all, the profits will remain the same. Of course, what happens is that jobs get made obsolete and the bosses keep all the money but simultaneously protest about having to pay more tax to fund benefits for the unemployed. I am similarly sceptical about AI. In the eighties we were told that in the future machines would do all the mundane work while we would have loads of leisure time to be creative and enjoy our lives. Yet, AI is being used to create music and entertainment purely for profit to cut down on the 'inconvenience' of having to pay a human for their work!

Anyway, I digress. Beside the A27, mostly behind a hedge, is a cycle route of around ten miles towards Lewes. Apart from the roar of the traffic, this is very pleasant with some nice views of the South Downs. If only they'd do something similar with the short section of the A2070 that can't be avoided on a bike from Johnson's Corner to Snave. Technically it's the same road now, being part of the South Coast Trunk Route.

The picture above is probably twenty years old but I thought I'd include it for its autumnal qualities.

I popped into the John Harvey Taproom (a 'must do' in Lewes as far as I'm concerned) and an elderly lady said that she'd just had her first-ever half of beer and that she was converted, having been a white wine drinker all her life. I continued to Brighton after this. The cycle path runs as a wide pavement by the busy A27 here, with a long, slow climb to Falmer, where I tried not to ride into the hoardes of people who had just exited the Seagulls' stadium.

Once at the city centre, I headed for a sushi restaurant, and as dusk fell I made my way out of Brighton on another cycle route, this time beside the A23, eventually climbing up onto the South Downs to find a suitable spot to camp in. So far so good. The next day came with a shock! Having packed up my tent I headed northward on a bridleway only to find that my tyre had gone flat. It was time for 'walkies.'

It was roughly five miles back into Brighton and having stopped for a sausage and onion baguette and a much-needed coffee at a tea wagon, I was amazed to see an acquaintance from Rye walking towards me. You wouldn't really expect that on a back-street three miles from the centre of Brighton after all.

So with this preamble, I was unsure if I would be able to actually cycle for this year's 'bike ride day.' True to form, I fixed a puncture, only to find my tyre flat again within a few hours. Thankfully, a second round with the glue and patches seemed to solve this. Like buses they seem to come in twos (or more).

On the day of the ride I began around lunchtime at the Church of the Good Shepherd and headed first to Warehorne, then Snargate, Brookland and Brenzett. It was in St Eanswyth's Church that I was directed to an impressive marble memorial to John Fagge and his son which had inspired a ghost story written by E. Nesbit. Few people know that as well as being the author of children's books such as The Railway Children, the Romney Marsh author also wrote horror novels. It is believed that this darker side of her creativity was an outlet for some difficult emotions brought about by the fact that her husband had an affair which resulted in a child and then threatened to leave his loyal wife if she didn't bring up the child. An informative display at Brenzett Church provided this info and I was also satiated with a piece of their legendary bread pudding.

Next came Ivychurch, and a winding ride up Melon Lane to Newchurch. Here, I encountered another display, this time concerning the lives of various parishioners over the centuries. Silhouettes of people were placed in the pews with the info in front of them. There was also a display on general history.

Then it was onto St Rumwold's at Bonnington, where the man signing the sponsor forms was seated on the verge of the lane due to a wedding taking place in the church.

Bilsington was a self-signing affair and at Ruckinge I saw many familiar faces and chatted about the scourge of potholes and twisted road signs. I regularly report faults with signs on KCC's fault reporting website. It seems that twisted signs in the Ashford area are untwisted pretty promptly but once you venture into Shepway, it seems like a Herculean task for somebody to come out in a van, use a ladder to untwist the sign, tighten a few screws and drive away. I also regularly report incorrect signs, although I have been told these will now be left incorrect unless there has been a recent accident at the site. For this reason, Brenzett is signed in two opposite directions as you leave Park Farm and many local mileage signs are several miles out. Many years ago I remember 'Woodchurch 10' being signed at Sugarloaf (just north of Hamstreet). I guess such a glaring error would remain in situ for decades these days. And that's progress!

I then headed up Ash Hill and along Bromley Green Road, deciding to ride the byway across to Church Lane, Shadoxhurst. This was a nice gravel route, perfect for cycling, but sadly it's been given the '4X4' treatment and now resembles a muddy quagmire. I doubt that KCC have got a spare million quid to sort it out again. I had a nice long chat at St Peter and St Paul's Church in Shadoxhurst, where you also get signed in for the chapel across the road. From here, it was an easy ride back through Orlestone Forest to Orlestone Church, and an even easier downhill freewheel to Hamstreet to finish.

Many thanks as always to my sponsors and it was another nice day, with lots of friendly people to welcome the riders and striders. And, as I often say, with 'bike ride day' done and dusted it is now officially autumn, season of the scarecrow trail, Halloween, imaginary fireworks and Remembrance!

- Adam Colton

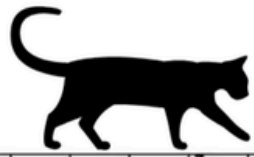
OCTOBER PURRZZLE PAGE

It's National Black Cat Day on October 27th.

The black cat has had a hard time over the centuries being linked to witchcraft and superstition, making these cats harder to rehome, so the Cats Protection Charity created this national day to celebrate these beautiful creatures.
As a black cat owner myself I thought what a great opportunuty to support this cause and create more awareness of this great day by creating a crossword honoring these beautiful and mischievous moggies.





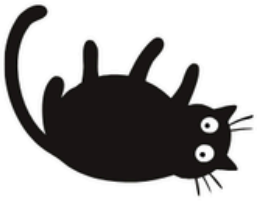






ACROSS

2. What colour eyes would you LEAST expect to find on a beautiful black cat? (4)
4. In Scottish folklore, a black cat appearing at your doorstep is a symbol of what? (4,4)
5. In which mythology is there a goddess, named Bastet, that is commonly depicted as a black cat? (8)
6. Which movie features a black cat named Binx who helps save the day? (5,5)
9. In which animated movie does the black cat Mittens help a dog? (4)
10. Black cats may genetically have some protection from what feline disease? Initialism (3)
11. What are black cats affectionately referred to as on the internet? (4)
12. If you own a beautiful black tomcat, both of his parents must have been solid black? (5)



DOWN

1. What was the name of the cat in Edgar Allen Poe's novel "The Black Cat"? (5)
3. What is the term used to describe a black cat with a small patch of white fur on its chest? (6)
6. Black cats are popularly associated with which day? (9)
7. Which superhero has a recurring love interest and ally named Black Cat? (9)
8. What is the name of the black cat associated with Sabrina the Teenage Witch? (5)

ORLESTONE WI

It's been a busy month in September, when we could reflect on a very successful Afternoon Tea, held in August to raise funds for Breast Cancer Now. We raised £673 which should rise to £722 once the Gift Aid is reclaimed. Thank you to all of those who came along and supported our efforts – and got a lovely tea!

One important date in September is WI Day and this year is the 111th Anniversary. We wore lavender, one of the colours of the WI, and took photos of 1+1+1 Amazing Women. Hope you like them!





There were several events that occurred between writing this and the publication of the magazine. These were: WI Top Team Quiz on 21st September (we had a reduced team of 5 and came 7th out of 19 teams, not too dusty), the Group Meeting on 24th September, which is when 9 local WIs get together, and visiting a garden in Whitstable on 25th. *Edit : the garden's owner got Covid so no outing after all*

During our month without a meeting, when several members did their 'homework' and made paper apples for our display at the Ruckinge Flower Folk Festival, we returned to a fascinating talk from Fancy Tat. This is a small family upcycling enterprise that aims to turn unwanted articles into something new and useful. They explained that this was the definition of upcycling, not the same as recycling which recreates discarded articles into more of the same – plastic milk bottles into more bottles, newspaper into more paper. They showed us a table laden with products made from other objects, such as clocks from LPs, tealight holders from CDs, desktop boxes from DVD cases, paperchains from sheet music, flowers from plastic bottles and lots more. A demonstration of cutting a glass bottle showed how you could achieve a drinking tumbler, an egg cup, a candlestick or even a ringing bell, very pretty on the Christmas tree.

Our 60th anniversary Good Cause in September and October is Homestart and we're collecting toiletries to hand over for their work with families who need support. If anyone else reading this magazine would like to donate any toiletries I'd gratefully accept them - call or message me.

At the start of October we have a display at the Ruckinge Flower Folk Festival which is all about British traditions; we've chosen Wassailing. Hence the apples mentioned above. Our October speaker will tell us of the world of the Suffragettes and we're planning to visit Lakeside to enjoy a bit of pre-Christmas shopping.
Why not come along and see for yourself just how much there is to enjoy in the WI!
We meet on the 2nd Monday each month (not August) at 7.30pm in Victory Hall, Hamstreet.
Come as a Guest and pay just £1.00.

Margaret Hanlon, President
Landline: 01233 732684
Mobile: 07748 006249
Email: hanlon1@btinternet.com



SCRAP METAL PLEASE!

Brass, Copper, Electric cable, Aluminium,
If unsure, just ask us: George & Margaret
01233 732684 / hanlon1@btinternet.com

MORE CASH IN THAT PIGGY BANK!

SO FAR SO GOOD!

The total raised in 2026 has reached **£953.95** - not bad but could be better - 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. A the moment some cash is being allocated towards art materials for the Group's united church Flower Festival display.
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.

fab feet
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SCARECROW TRAIL

Ruckinge & Hamstreet Scout & Guide Group

Registered Charity No 308134

SUNDAY
11 October 2026
10.00–16.00

Hamstreet Village



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OVER 60S CLUB







A group of the Over 60s enjoyed a boat trip on the River Medway aboard the Kentish Lady. We enjoyed a delicious fish and chip lunch onboard. We were lucky with the weather too. Fortunately (or not depending on your view of the English weather) the excessive heatwave had subsided into a warm, sunny day. The return of our regular meetings in September saw John and Keith, a singing duo entertain us with a good selection of popular songs some of which they had put they own witty words to. These two kind men gave they time freely only asking for a donation to be given to the Pilgrims Hospice. Needless to say all the members were very generous with their donations.
Unfortunately the trained first aider who due to come along to our next meeting to show us some more helpful first aid skills was unable to attend due to work commitments at the last minute. However, all was not lost - quizzes and cakes were provided!

Forthcoming events:

2 October - ABBA tribute
16 October - Pottery with Fiona
30 October - John from Acropolis

Please come along to Cotton Hill House on the above dates commencing at 2pm.

For further information contact June McKay on 07999841140.

Parkinson's UK

Join us at

Parkinson's Cafe, Hamstreet

Monthly on the last Monday
12 - 1pm
The Dukes Head, The Street, Hamstreet TN26 2HE

Launching Monday 27 April
Join a small and friendly social group for conversation, friendship and mutual support. Friends and family welcome.

Contact Elisa...
ebienz@parkinsons.org.uk
07955 269507



Parkinson's UK is the operating name of the Parkinson's Disease Society of the United Kingdom. A registered charity in England and Wales (258197) and in Scotland (SC039884).

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KATIE LAM MP

Celebrating the Very Best of the Weald



In early September, I hosted the second annual Weald of Kent Awards at The George in Bethersden, (who also happen to be one of last year's winners)!
We were also very lucky to have previous finalist Bun Buddies catering the event with their delicious burgers. It was a wonderful evening celebrating some of the brilliant people, businesses and community groups that make the local area so special.
This year, we had nearly 200 nominations for just 20 finalist places, and almost 2,000 of you voted. That's a remarkable amount of effort just to say thank you to somebody else, and I think it says a great deal about the generous and warm community we're so lucky to have here in the Weald.

Our finalists for Farmer, Grower or Producer of the Year were Sissinghurst Cherries at Aragon Farm, Wayfarer Wines at Woodchurch, Lovejoy Farm in Wittersham and Kingcott Dairy in Staplehurst. The winner was Kingcott Dairy, where Steve and Karen Reynolds make a Kentish Blue that Cambridgeshire's Stilton has nothing on.

For Independent Shop of the Year, our finalists were Frank's Bakery in Headcorn, TN17 Food & Wine in Sissinghurst, Loddington Farm Shop and Webb's of Tenterden. The winner was Webb's, where you can walk in, describe the thing you need without the first idea what it is called, and somebody will find it.

For Local Business of the Year, our finalists were Rockits Sensory in Tenterden, Cranbrook Vets, Olive Tree Vets in Charing and The Hawkhurst Bread Shed, who took home the award. Julian and Lauren's sandwiches and salads now seem to be in every café for miles around.

Our Local Hero finalists were The Mildred Trust, Matthew Knoesen, the Staplehurst Emergency Help Team and the Wealden Community First Responders (who won the award). They're all volunteers who step away from their own jobs and give up their evenings to help people at some of the very hardest moments in their lives.

And for Pub, Café or Restaurant of the Year, our finalists were The Queens Head at Sutton Valence, Willows End Tearooms near Marden, The Flying Horse at Smarden and The Bell and Jorrocks at Frittenden. The winner was The Bell and Jorrocks, where Sean and Rosie Croucher have been behind the bar for twenty years, and where it feels as though almost everything in the village is organised.

All of these people represent the very best of the Weald: people who work hard, look out for others and make our communities better every day. Many thanks to Alex and the whole team at The George for letting us take over their pub garden, and to Bun Buddies for the food, and to David Catt and Ragstone Ridge Wine for the bottles our winners took home. Most of all, thank you to everyone who came. It was great to see you all in person, and after an afternoon like that I'm already looking forward to next year.

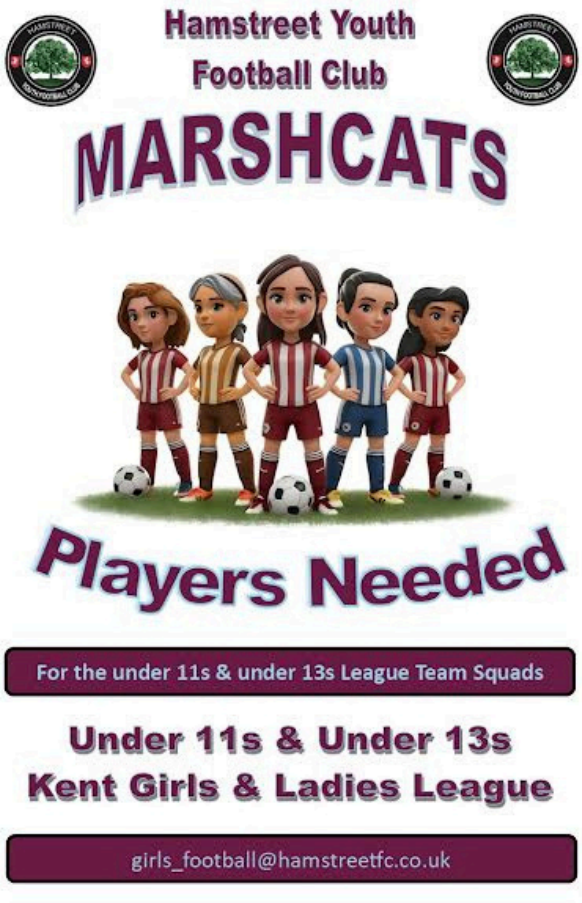


Do you live in Warehorne?

Are you curious?
Do you have questions?
Are you unsure?
Are you sceptical?
Are you dubious?
Are you quiet?
Are you intrigued?
Are you loud?
Are you open minded?
Are you interested?

Whatever you are, you are welcome to Mountfield Farm, Warehorne, for a series of relaxed, Tuesday evenings from 7pm with fun and laughter, as you unpack the basics of the Christian faith together. No pressure, no judgement, just open conversation over good food. That's it. Last year over 2 million people worldwide did exactly this. Register your interest to come along to the first evening on 22nd September to see what you think. Its free, everyone (18 and over) and whatever you are, is invited.

https://teapotrecords.co.uk/alpha-warehorne/





SAXON SHORELINE BENEFICE WORSHIP CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 2026

1st Sunday: 4th October Trinity 18 Proper 22 Dedication Sunday *(Green/white/gold)*	9.00am CW Holy Communion 10.00 am Pet Service 9.45 for10.00am Family Fun Service 10.00am Harvest Festival with HC 10.30am Parish Communion	St. Rumwold, Bonnington St. Matthew, Warehorne VillageHall, Aldington St.Mary Magdalene,Ruckinge Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet
2nd Sunday: 11th October Proper 23 Trinity 19 (Green)	9.00am BCP Holy Communion 10.30am Matins 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: 18th October Trinity 20 Proper 24 Luke the Evangelist (Red/Green)	9.00am CW Holy Communion 9.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Holy Communion 10.00am Family Service 10.30am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship Service 6.00 pm Harvest Festival	St. Rumwold, Bonnington St. Mary, Orlestone St. Mary, Kenardington St.Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet St.Martin,Aldington St. Matthew,Warehorne
4th Sunday: 25th October Last after Trinity Proper25 BibleSunday (Green)	10.30am BCP Holy Communion 10.30am Morning Worship 10.30am Benefice Holy Communion 6.30pm Evensong	St.Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet St. Martin, Aldington St. Matthew, Warehorne

Midweek Benefice Holy Communion Service at 12 noon on Wednesdays at St.Mary Orlestone ALL WELCOME

Key Events: St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge Flower Folk Festival Sat 3rd October 10am - 4pm & Sun 4th October 11am - 4pm. Refreshments available on both days.

Friday 2nd 7pm an evening with 'Ashford Folk' ; Sunday 4th 2pm songs by 'Cantwara' and 6pm alternative folk music with 'Lydia Laughing' inc. harp, cello, guitar, voice

St. Rumwold, Bonnington Monday mornings 10am – 12 midday, Dog Walkers, cyclists, Ramblers, coffee stop.

Tuesdays Together October 13th and 27th 10am – 11.30am St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge

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)	07743 598896 07732 682472 07907 676829
Methodist Minister	Rev.Adrian Roux revadrianroux@wesleys.uk	07721 006800
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)	07718 052114

Local Contacts

Hamstreet Surgery	Mon-Fri 8.00 – 18.30		01233 730190
Aldington & Bonnington ParishCouncil	Emily Arnold	clerk@aldingtonandbonnington-pc.gov.uk	07928 453208
Bilsington Parish Council	Peter Settlefield	Bilsingtonclerk@gmail.com	
Kenardington Parish Council	Annette Beach	clerk@kenardington-pc.gov.uk	07905 658117
Orlestone Parish Council Clerk	Sue Stiffell	stiffells@btinternet.com	01233 628481
Ruckinge Parish Council	Emily Arnold	clerk@ruckinge-pc.gov.uk	07714 000986
Warehorne Parish Council	Annette Beach	clerk@warehorne-pc.gov.uk	07905 658117
Bilsington Village Hall bookings	Vivienne Hudson		01233 721731
Bromley Green Hall bookings	Mark Nash		01233 733613
Hamstreet Church Hall bookings	Doreen Dawson		07788 776941
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 Lead Volunteer :	Dave Lukehurst	(as below)	07986 036320
Explorers :	Dave Lukehurst	smugglersrhexplorers@gmail.com	07986 036320
Scouts :	Lucas Cull	sl@rhsandg.org.uk	
Cubs:	Susan Hanlon	csl@rhsandg.org.uk	
Beavers :	Zoe Munro	Ruckingebeavers1@outlook.com	
Squirrels :	Jess Roberts	sql@rhsandg.org.uk	
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	gill.andrews79@gmail.com	07779 442463
Royal British Legion	Dennis Seton		07880 761806
Therouanne Twinning Rep.	Mags Wellsted-Boorman		07886 515573
Children's Society	Margaret Hanlon	hanlon1@btinternet.com	07748 006249
Community Warden	Kathy Carter		07813 711940
Kent Police & Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator	Peter New	peternew1@aol	07768 437422
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