

Editor-in-Chief

Margaret Hanlon
editorparmag@gmail.com

This month's guest editor

Michelle Gardner
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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/>



NIPPY NOVEMBER

Apologies for the long delay in getting the October magazine out to you all, there was a problem with the website. I kept putting a link on Facebook but I know not everyone reads that, so we've repeated some of the articles which are still of relevance in November. There's a thought of getting our own website instead of relying on the Orlestone Parish Council's although any website can have a hissy fit so there's never a guarantee.

Weather report – wild, wet and windy! Not that I mind the rain, what a relief to know that we're getting some although we're still in an official drought and the future looks pretty dry; new garden plans need consideration. Put that on your list along with power packs, candles and a grab bag, oh my word who would have thought it? Add to that the news that many charity shops are closing – my world is crumbling around me, I've practically forgotten how to buy clothes in any other way, I've been a charity shop shopper for 56 years. I began visiting them when my son was in a push chair, in the days when they were untidy and a bit smelly, and prior to that I was a jumble sale fan. One particular jumble bargain was a large, nearly new dress, the skirt of which cut down to make a long sleeved warm dress for my 4 year old daughter and another for her doll.

Now for something completely different – hold the front page ...

I plan to step down from my role as Editor-in-Chief. Such a grand title and I do very little of the work, as you know there's a wonderful team of Guest Editors who create what you see, they are the important ones. However, I would be very sorry if this magazine were to fold. It is certainly read and enjoyed by a lot of people and it offers a way to find out what's going on locally and discover local businesses. Of course, so many wish it were a printed magazine and I know a few people print and share it, well done, and if it were easy and affordable I'd have done that – maybe someone else will take that forward.

PLEASE ... IS THERE ANYONE WHO WILL TAKE UP THIS JOB?

The way that I do it means it only takes a few hours a few days each month, there could be other ways that would suit you better.

I take no payment for the work, the Guest Editors receive a small £30 honorarium and from time to time I need to call on APL Computer Support for help which incurs a cost. Income comes from Advertising and we were given a donation in the early days.

I'm very bad at pushing for advertising revenue – there's more to be done!

I would like the December/January issue to be my last – PLEASE STEP FORWARD

With best wishes and hope in my heart

Margaret Hanlon 07748 006249 01233 732684
hanlon1@btinternet.com





**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
sandrageoodingtraining@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 (2 ND 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



A Space for Classes, Clubs & Workshops

Whether you're looking to run a regular class, workshop, club or community group, Warehorne Village Hall offers a welcoming and versatile space to suit a wide range of activities.



Facility Information

The Hall offers everything you need for a comfortable and successful event. Our practical facilities make the hall suitable for everything from celebrations and meetings to regular classes and community activities.

- On-site toilets
- Kitchenette
- Parking
- Tables & chairs included
- Flexible layout



Get In Touch

- Church Road, Warehorne Kent, TN26 2LH
- info@jumpkent.com
- [@WarehorneVillageHall](https://www.facebook.com/WarehorneVillageHall)
- [@WarehorneVillageHall](https://www.instagram.com/WarehorneVillageHall)



Warehorne Village Hall

Church Rd, Warehorne TN26 2LH

Warehorne Village Hall
Christmas Wreath Workshop
 4th December 2026 from 19:00
 Price : £.45
 All materials are included, with demonstration and guidance provided throughout the workshop.
 To reserve a space contact: pavlaculum@hotmail.co.uk

QUIZ NIGHT
21 NOVEMBER
 Where: Warehorne Village Hall
 Time: 19:30
 Team: Max of 6 People
 Price: £5 per player
 BYOB & Nibbles
 To reserve a table contact: info@jumpkent.com

Time-table

JUMP
Mondays
 3.45-4.45pm (4-5 year olds)
Thursdays
 7.30 - 9pm Jump Singers
Saturdays
 9.30am-10.55am (6-8 yr olds)
 11.10am-12.40pm (9-11 year olds)
 12.45-2.15pm (12-15 year olds)
Yoga with Lizzie
Tuesday
 6pm - 7pm
Yoga with Edith
Wednesday
 6.30pm - 7.45pm
 In a playful & friendly environment, come explore Hatha Yoga - a blend of somatics, mobility and strength with breath at its centre. No experience necessary.
Contact: edithankus@gmail.com

More Information
JUMP
 Inclusive, interactive classes for young people. We sing, We dance, We play.
Contact: Kelly O'Leary info@jumpkent.com
Have your party here
 Warehorne Village Hall is available to hire for private parties, celebrations, meetings, and classes.
 With excellent facilities and a welcoming atmosphere, it's the perfect venue for both one-off events and regular activities.

Time For Tea

A friendly and relaxed gathering. Whether you'd like to catch up with friends, meet new people, or simply enjoy a cuppa and a slice of cake, everyone is welcome. It's a wonderful opportunity to spend time together in a warm and welcoming atmosphere, with plenty of conversation, laughter, and community spirit.

Contact Kim: kim.hamilton58@btinternet.com

Future dates: 3rd September, 1st October, 29th October, 19th November, 17th December.

Other Events

Monthly Social Dance

Once a month with Linda. Mixture of Ballroom & Latin American Dancing, Social Sequence Dances, Latin Line Dancing and Party Dances

Contact Linda: 07859304900

Quiz Night

21st November 2026

Wreath Making

4th December 2026

Contact Pav: pavlaculum@hotmail.co.uk

Community Brunch

Our Community Brunch takes place several times throughout the year and is a great opportunity to bring people together. Whether you're new to the area or have lived here for years, it's a chance to enjoy good food, good company and a relaxed morning catching up with neighbours and making new friends. Everyone is welcome.



WAREHORNE VILLAGE HALL AGM

Monday 2nd November
6:00pm
Warehorne Village Hall

Local residents are all welcome to attend

ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH, WAREHORNE

PET SERVICE

Rev. Anne Loat led a lovely Pet Service on 4th October which was also the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi who had a deep love for nature and animals. During the service people's pets were blessed and those who had lost pets remembered them with gratitude whilst lighting a candle. A collection of £58 was donated to the Retreat Animal Sanctuary, High Halden.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Thank you to everyone who came to St Matthew's Harvest Festival Service of Thanksgiving on Sunday 18th October despite the torrential rain. The service was led by Revd Geoff Abasolo-Munnery. The church looked wonderful thanks to all who decorated it so beautifully with flowers, corn, fruit and vegetables.

Our grateful thanks to the Jump Singers led by Kelly O'Leary-White, for their excellent singing of the very appropriate song "Crowded Table". Very generous donations of tinned and packet food have been given to the Ashford Food Bank and a wonderful collection of £298.07 has been sent to Mary's Meals charity which ensures each year £3 million children across 16 countries receive a daily meal at school, thus encouraging them to attend school, giving energy to learn so they may be enabled to make their way out of poverty. Many stayed afterwards for fellowship over soup and the flapjacks and brownies disappeared in no time.

Thank you to everyone who helped prepare and serve. It was a joyful evening.



Jump Singers

Foodbank donations covering the alter



Flowers and harvest produce around the font

A full church for the Harvest Festival Service



Vegetable Display

Warehorne organ restoration report, September 2026

The organ was made, according to the plaque on the casework above the keys, by Theodore Bates of 6 Ludgate Hill. It is not dated either on the plaque nor anywhere else in the organ – but see below. There is a list of organs made by Bates and his son, drawn up about 1855, but although it seems possible that it was made for a location in London (see below), it has not yet been possible to determine where that might have been. The list suggests a number of possibilities, but as it has no indication of the size of organs mentioned in it, it would be very difficult to discover if this organ is on that list.

I first saw the organ about 1973-4, when I was asked to tune it. It was then in the Methodist church of Minster in Thanet. I was told that the organ had come from London, and seem to remember being told that the firm of Noterman (of Shepherd's Bush) did this work. If so, they replaced the original keyboard with a 'modern' one with rounded sharps and longer front naturals that the original one would have had – I know this from restoring another organ by Bates at Stathern in Leicestershire in the 1980s which retains its original keyboard. They (Noterman ?) also raised the keyboard to give more knee-room above the (original) pedalboard ; this suggests that the originally the organ may have been on a substantial plinth or on a gallery with the pedalboard set into the floor to keep the keys-to-pedals distance comfortable for the player. Although the organ is quite small (with six ranks of pipes), it is fully-scaled and voiced and it could have been a gallery organ in a fairly large church, its sound being amplified and dispersed by being close to a flat ceiling, perhaps.

When moved to Minster-in-Thamet (or before), the original twelfth rank of pipes was altered into a sort of 'Gamba' at unison pitch by moving the pipes and cutting.....

TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE CLICK [HERE](#)



ORGAN PIPES



Organ restorer Martin Renshaw at work on the pipes

**Sunday
BRUNCH**
15th Nov
10am - 12pm
Hamstreet Victory Hall
£7.50
With unlimited
Tea / coffee / toast



Pilgrims Hospices
Christmas Fair
Sponsored by  ultima

Entry £3 • Children free
Father Christmas visit £5 per child
Stalls & games • Food • Grand prize draw
Children's crafts • Music

New for 2026
Visit our Frozen Princess £3



**Saturday 21st
November 2026
11am – 4pm**

PGL Beyond, Grosvenor Hall, Kennington, TN25 4AJ

 Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR
Pilgrims Hospices in east Kent is a company limited by guarantee.
Registered charity number: 293968.
Registered company number: 2000560.
Registered office: 56 London Road, Canterbury, Kent CT2 8JA



COMMUNITY
CAROL CONCERT
CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
SATURDAY 19th DEC
2-30 pm



TRADITIONAL & MODERN MUSIC
REFRESHMENTS

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

SUNDAY SERVICE 29th. NOV. AT 10.30 AM

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR TOY APPEAL?
Buy a gift for a child or young person up to the age of 19. Toys; games; books; puzzles or toiletries. Please NO soft toys or food/drinks. Drop off unwrapped gifts to the church between 10am-12pm on Saturday 28th. Nov or after Sunday Service between 11.30am-12.30pm on Sunday 29th. Nov. Additional drop off between Sat - Mon during daylight hours, please leave gift in the porch at 2 Romney Road.

Thank you so much.



ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH, RUCKINGE

Our biggest activity since the last magazine has been our Flower Festival, which this year added Folk to its title and to the programme. We had a church full of flowers with arrangements that took folk songs and folk traditions as their inspiration all created by local people and supporters of the church. Orlestone WI added to their display depicting the tradition of 'Wassailing' by lining the church path and the tree beside the gate with paper and fabric apples; an exuberance of colour took us into the Romany world and the Appleby Horse Fair, while the scent of herbs came from the pulpit, transformed into Scarborough Fair.



It was particularly pleasing that so many children took part this year, especially most of the Ruckinge & Hamstreet Scouts and Guides Group. From the youngest group, the Squirrels, through the Rainbows, Beavers, Brownies, Cubs and Guides, they supplied displays on Pancake Day, Egg Rolling, Christmas Stockings and a magnificent St George and the Dragon. The latter was created with the expert guidance of Casey-Mae, local artist and creative genius. In addition, children who are part of the church family chose their favourite stories and rhymes to make a display with flowers and pictures.

Flower Festivals are important fundraisers but also a happy community event, so thank you to everyone who supported us in any way, including coming for coffee, cake or lunch.

The weekend was full of music, all with a local connection, beginning with Ashford Folk who opened our Festival on Friday evening with foot tapping music. Saturday brought music from popular duo Adam and Theresa Colton and some of their CDs are on sale in the church with the proceeds going to church funds. On Sunday we welcomed Cantwara with songs and harp accompaniment, then an evening with Lydia Laughing, a folk group who mixed styles and sources to create new folk music.

Other church news is that our bells have been repaired so all we need now are some ringers.

Coffee Mornings have ceased but there will be one occasion each month throughout the winter to get together and enjoy that home baking. The first Winter Coffee Morning will be **SATURDAY 21st NOVEMBER, 10am - 11.30pm**. That's for your diary! And although Tuesday Together didn't serve as a successful meeting point, we'll offer some Soup and a roll midweek lunches instead, beginning in the new year. And don't forget **WARM UP on Saturday 5th December!** Gifts, cards, cakes as well as a home made soup lunch **11.00- 2pm**.

St Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge Warm Up For Christmas

Gift Market

Cards, Gifts,
Accessories,
Bric-a-brac,
Hamper Raffle

Home Cooking

Soups,
Puddings,
Cakes,
Savouries

Saturday 5th December
11am - 2pm
in the church.
All are welcome!



**FOLK
FLOWER
FESTIVAL
PHOTOS**

SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER
2.00-4.00PM

RUCKINGE CHURCH, HAMSTREET ROAD
£40 PER PERSON
BOOKING ESSENTIAL
Contact Margaret Hanlon
hanlon1@btinternet.com

Christmas Wreath Workshop

Christmas Wreath Workshop!

Come and learn some wreath
making skills to make your
home shine this Christmas.

All proceeds split between
Ashford School Association
&
Ruckinge Church

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Box Co-ordinator required

The current Co-ordinator is stepping down and someone is needed to do this once-a-year job. There are a small number of people in Hamstreet, Ruckinge, Warehorne and Woodchurch who have a charity box and who fill it with their loose change. Once per year, and the time can be varied to suit you, the boxes are emptied and the money paid into the Society. Lots of guidance is provided for you. Although fewer people use cash now and therefore less change our local boxes still raise over £200 for the work of the Children's Society, enabling them to change the lives of children and young people facing abuse, homelessness and often considering suicide.

It's a small job for you which brings great rewards for others.

Please help

Contact the Editor 07748 006249 01233 732684



St Peter & St Paul's Church, Bilsington

There will be a Remembrance Sunday Service at St Peter & St Paul's Church on Sunday November 8th at 9am.



There will be a service of Holy Communion incorporating an act of remembrance and laying of wreaths on the war memorial.

Tea, coffee and biscuits provided after the service.

All are welcome.

All Souls Service "Always Remembered"

at St Peter & St Paul's Church, Bilsington
on Sunday 1st November at 4pm.



Everyone is welcome to join us for this special service where we bring to mind those whom we have loved but are no longer with us.

There will be an opportunity to share the names of your loved ones and light a candle to remember them.

A Saxon Shoreline Benefice Service



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](https://www.facebook.com/TheCosyKettle)



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

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 Poppy Appeal. 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 Forces 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 that the Remembrance Service this year is to be held in St Mary Magdalene Church, Ruckinge on Sunday 8th November at 10.30am and our Armistice Day service is at the Hamstreet War Memorial on Wednesday 11th November, at 11am. We remember those in our three parishes, Orlestone, Ruckinge and Warehorne, who died for their country during the two World Wars, 1914-1918 and 1939-1945, but are not aware of any of our parishioners who have perished in any subsequent conflicts, such as the Falklands, Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq or Kosovo. If you know of a family member or relative who you would wish to be remembered at the Remembrance Service, please inform us by contacting our Chairman, Mr Dennis Seton on 07880761806.

The Hamstreet branch welcomed new members, who may or may not have any armed service links, but share the aim 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.

Peter Gostling 07713104488



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.



The Hamstreet & District Branch of the Royal British Legion
**ANNUAL COFFEE MORNING
IN AID OF THE POPPY APPEAL**

Saturday 31st October 2026

Hamstreet Victory Hall

Tea/Coffee Cakes Raffle Poppies

Any donations of Raffle prizes/cakes would be most welcome

Looking forward to seeing you

VILLAGES' BARGAIN OIL NETWORK

Prices are just not falling. The conflicts and instability in the world continue to impact the international oil market and what we have to pay to heat our homes. 102.95ppl (+5% vat) was what we achieved a month ago. A big price but cheap in the current context. During the colder months, I order twice a month on the 2nd and 15th (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.
So, the next orders will be on:

**2nd November,
16th November,
2nd December,
15th December.**

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



1ST RUCKINGE & HAMSTREET CUBS

Cubs have a lot of fun as well as learning skills for life. You could be part of the fun and experience the reward of supporting our local kids, building our community. Please have a think and get in touch.

This term, Cubs got creative. With the support of Casey Mae, local artist, art teacher and creative, Cubs made a dragon to bring drama to the 'St George and the Dragon' display at the Ruckinge Flower Festival. Guides fashioned a stunning shield and sword and Margaret Hanlon arranged red roses to represent George himself. The timing of events demanded Cubs moved straight on to further creativity, pulling together their scarecrow display. Again, Lesley Perk, a longstanding Beaver leader, came to support Cubs as did several parents.



Cubs had come up with lots of activities they enjoy to share with the community what's great about scouting through their scarecrow display. They voted and agreed on kayaking. Maybe you saw their effort on Victory Hall Green on 11 th October? It's worth saying, we only have one kayaking instructor for the whole Group, Jane Munro. She has to call on others to support all our young people getting on the water and sometimes this just isn't possible.

You can be a Scouter who only trains for and carries out this role. Training provided.

Cubs needed a breath of fresh air after all that indoor business so set off on a hike. Romulus Pack from Willesborough joined them. Tim Brisley, Explorer Leader, lead Cubs in a loop from Victory Hall, through the woods and back to Victory Hall. Along the way, Tim shared knowledge of the woods and local history and Cubs helped tidy up the fallen conkers littering the grass in Carter's Wood.



I'M NOT AVAILABLE to be at meetings, at the moment, having had surgery recently. I hope to be back during this coming term. We're down to just one leader with some support from leaders from other sections as well as our parents.

Maybe this is a time you can step forward and have a taste of Scouting with Cubs?

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)



SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER
2.00-4.00PM

RUCKINGE CHURCH, HAMSTREET ROAD
£40 PER PERSON
BOOKING ESSENTIAL
Contact Margaret Hanlon
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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

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The total raised in 2026 has reached **£973.03**- very good but could still 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. At 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.

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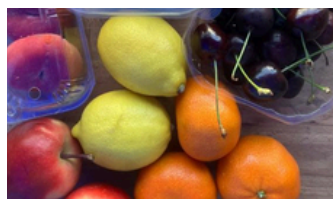
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AS I SEE IT ON THE LAND NOVEMBER 2026



I could have written 'ditto' for last month's magazine. Acres had been planted with a green cover crop, but there was insufficient rain to get good germination. Depending on the soil type some areas were very sparse of plants. In the last week of September there was a steady rain which did a beautiful job of just breaking up the dry surface soil making ideal conditions for drilling. Mark

immediately got the modern drill out and set about planting winter wheat seed into the rubbishy fields that had been growing for the wild life throughout the summer. It was amazing how the drill coped with all the debris. All was planted in less than a week and is now greening up, starting the cycle of growth for harvest 2027. We have watched the small ditches dry up, followed by the main sewer in places. The Romney Marsh Drainage Board has had a dredger at work cleaning the main sewer. They have allowed water to flow out of the canal back into the ditches which now hold about 9 inches of water. The ponds north of the village dried out for the first time in my lifetime. All the insects and water life have died, including the fish in the road side pond at Horton Green. Last weekend we had a contractor come in with a large digger and excavate six ponds.

It was astonishing how much spoil there was to dig out and how large they all looked when finished. They would have been originally dug for the clay to make bricks in the kiln at The Pines.

Defra opened for applications for the 2026 SFI money on the morning of September 22nd.

Mark was immediately on the case because everyone thought there was not sufficient funds being made available by the government. Mark had a query on one of the proposals and rang Defra to get an answer. The phone rang. Eventually he was told to leave his number and they would ring back. Nothing happened. The scheme was closed just six hours after it was started because all the money had been allocated. Tough luck on the thousands who had not finished their application. We are still hoping we might get considered since it was Defra's fault in not replying.

Mark is looking at alternative cropping for next year. I am sure to have more to report.

In the garden it has been a very strange year. The runner beans were reluctant to grow in the heatwave. At first, they did not set properly and only produced short beans where they did. Then suddenly, when it was perhaps not quite so hot they had a second life and we picked beans galore to fill the deep freeze. We picked right through to the beginning of October. Never done that before. Some of the sweetcorn developed and grew normally whilst many cobs were only partly covered with edible kernels and some had none. All had been treated the same way with plenty of water. The courgettes grew wildly producing some good and some disfigured courgettes. Then mould set in and the leaves had to be removed to let air in to the plant.

I could do with Monty Don advising now he has retired, or have a few tonnes of his easy working soil dropped all over the veg patch. Another new experience. I started getting mice droppings in my chicken's food hopper in large quantities. It was contaminating the food badly. Time for mouse traps to be set, but they are difficult to place in a shed with birds in. The chicken enjoy cheese as much as the mice! I place the traps in long tubes that the birds cannot reach. I caught 25 in one week using five traps. Where were the mice coming from? Most of them were babies. They must have been coming in from the adjacent field. We

had been finding the occasional mouse drowned in a bucket of water. However, we found a large rat together with a smaller one drowned in a water butt in the garden. How did it climb up the smooth plastic container? I have just read an article that said rats and mice have come into farmsteads in search of water.

Of course, why didn't I think of it. No grass or crops growing in the heat; no dew in the morning for them to quench their thirst.

You never see the rat droppings in the same way as mice. We have a serious problem with rats. We observe them at night with our CCTV. We are reluctant to have bait laid because of our owls. A shot gun and metal cages may be the only answer! We have had a bounteous harvest of walnuts that 11 squirrels (tree rats) have enjoyed competing for. At night the garden must be alive with wildlife. The ground is cleared of fallen walnuts in the morning. There is a mouse hole some 50 yards away from the nearest tree with about 44 walnuts on the ground at the entrance (photo taken). It doesn't seem to matter where you travel around the buildings or garden there are walnut shells. There might be a lot of young walnut trees in the future.

Peter Sillibourne



There were quite a few people to thank at the October meeting.

First of all were members who responded to the request for toiletries which will be given to Homestart as part of our 60th Anniversary Year 'good causes' programme.

The November meeting will see us bringing bottles of all kinds, from bath oil to vinegar, and those will be donated to the Pilgrims Hospices Christmas Fair. The generosity of WI members is humbling.

Next in line for thanks were the for members who, with a little probably-illegal help from two non-members, represented Orlestone at the Federation Top Team Quiz and who came an honourable 7th. The three ladies who created a display on behalf of the WI at the Ruckinge Church Flower Folk Festival were congratulated; their display featured the folk tradition of Wassailing and as well as flower arrangements they created a tree with colourful paper apples and also lined the church path with more paper and fabric apples. Apart from the WI display four other members created arrangements at the Festival, taking the themes of Molly Malone, Mothering Sunday, Scarborough Fair, Christmas stockings and St George.



Congratulations were given to Joyce Smith on her milestone birthday.

The October speaker was, in fact, a group of 10 performers who brought to life the fight of the Suffragettes with moving true life stories of the horrors of forced feeding and other privations.



Future plans include Christmas Dinner at Lydd Golf Club and a Carol service at Newchurch, with an appeal for Stewards for the Federation Annual Meeting in April and Delegates for the National Annual Meeting in Hull in June.

The speaker on Monday 9th November will be Celia Heritage, a noted expert in genealogy, who will tell us about 'Reframing Roots'.

The competition is for a Bee.

Why not come along and see what we do? Come as a guest for just £1 before you decide to join. We meet on the second Monday monthly (not August) in Victory Hall, Hamstreet, starting at 7.30pm. All women are welcome.

Margaret Hanlon, President

07748 006249

01233 732684

orlestone.wi@outlook.com



November Puzzle Page



Armistice

Fallen

Hero

Medal

Remembrance

Service

Veteran

Cenotaph

Flanders

Honor

Peace

Respect

Soldier

Wreath

Courage

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Sunday

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OVER 60S CLUB

The Over 60s Club started October with singer Michelle giving her excellent rendition of ABBA's hits and who cannot resist singing and dancing along to ABBA?

At the following meeting Fiona came along armed with lots of clay and instructed us on how to make a robin. I think we all enjoyed ourselves.

I know there was lots of laughter. Fiona took our efforts away to be fired and will bring them back in November so that we can paint our masterpieces (some may even be available to sell on eBay!?).

Also this month a group of the Over 60s attended the Dukes Head in Hamstreet for lunch. We had cottage pie followed by cheesecake. As usual the food was delicious and plentiful with welcoming, good service.

Forthcoming attractions:

30 October - John from Acropolis

13 November - Pottery

19 November - Pub lunch at the Dukes Head

27 November - The Singing Miches

Please come along to the Over 60s meetings at Cotton Hill House commencing at 2pm

For further information contact June McKay on 07999841140.



Singer Michelle performing ABBA



Getting hands on with pottery



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KATIE LAM MP

In September, I was thrilled to take on the Housing, Communities and Local Government brief in the Shadow Cabinet. That means I'm now responsible for scrutinising everything from the homes people rent and buy, to local government issues and defending our democracy. It's a big job, and so much of it directly affects the Weald of Kent. Housing is probably the most obvious example. We all know Britain has a serious housing problem. Too many hard-working young people are struggling to get on the housing ladder. But at the moment, instead of building enough homes in London, where so many people want and need to live, the capital's housing crisis is being pushed out into the South East. Nobody wins here.



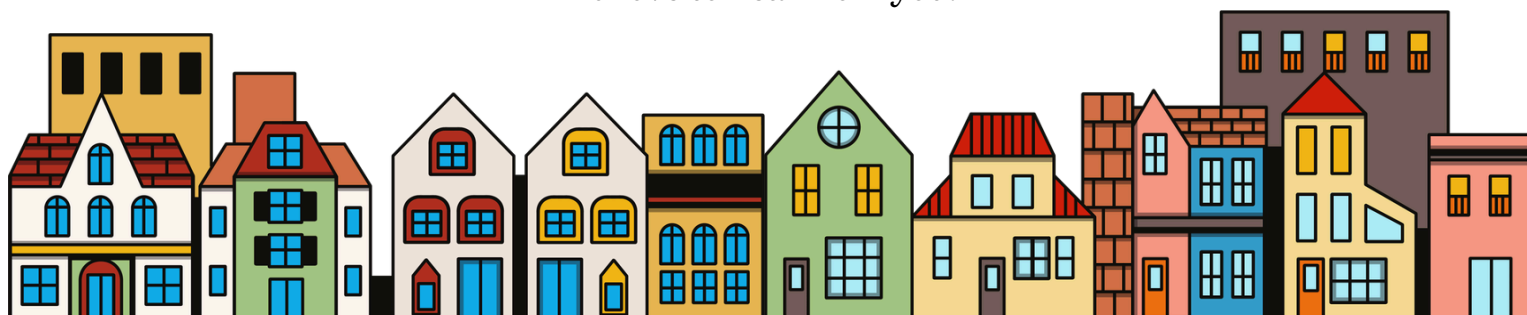
Our beautiful villages face huge developments which permanently change their character. More pressure is piled onto roads and water systems which struggle to cope. Meanwhile, young people who want to live and work in London still can't afford to, and spend hours commuting. It makes no sense. We have to build the homes our country needs, but in the right places, with the infrastructure to support them.

We've seen why that matters with repeated water outages across Kent, caused by ageing infrastructure and serious failings at South East Water. The trouble is, even when we know what needs to be built, getting it done is incredibly difficult. We haven't built a new reservoir in this country since 1992. We struggle to maintain the roads we already have, while desperately needed infrastructure can take years to get off the ground. Too often, endless rules, regulations and legal challenges make getting anything done painfully difficult.

I'm also now responsible for scrutinising plans for local government. Councils make decisions about everything from social care and transport to planning and bin collections. And almost everybody pays council tax, so we all have an interest in making sure councils are well run and accountable. That's why the uncertainty surrounding local government reorganisation has been so frustrating, with cancelled elections, changes of direction and taxpayers left picking up the bill. And protecting our democracy nationally matters just as much. We need to tackle the biggest threats to our democracy today - including candidates campaigning in foreign languages and the rise of sectarian family voting.

Across all these issues, there's plenty to do, and so much of it matters enormously for the Weald. So I'm looking forward to getting stuck in.

If you have thoughts, particularly about how these issues affect you locally, please get in touch. I'd love to hear from you.



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SAXON SHORELINE BENEFICE WORSHIP CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2026		
1st Sunday: 1st November ALL SAINTS DAY (white/gold)	9.00am CW Holy Communion 10.00 am Holy Communion (BCP) 9.45 for 10.00am Family Fun Service 10.30am Parish Holy Communion 10.30am Holy Communion 4.00 pm All Souls Service "Always Remembered" Benefice Service.	St. Rumwold, Bonnington St. Matthew, Warehorne Village Hall, Aldington St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge Ch. of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet St. Peter and St. Paul, Bilsington
2nd Sunday: 8th November REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY (Red/Green)	9.00am BCP Holy Communion - including Act of Remembrance 10.45 am Royal British Legion Remembrance Service 10.45 am Service of Remembrance	SS Peter & Paul, Bilsington St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge Aldington War Memorial
3rd Sunday: 15th November 2 Before Advent (Red/Green)	9.00am CW Holy Communion 9.00 am Morning Worship 9.30am Family Service 10.00am Morning Worship 10.30am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship Service	St. Rumwold, Bonnington St. Mary, Orlestone St. Mary, Kenardington St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge Ch. of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet St. Martin, Aldington
4th Sunday: 22nd November CHRIST THE KING Next before Advent Stir up Sunday (Red/Green/White)	9.00 am BCP Holy Communion 10.30am BCP Holy Communion 10.30am Morning Worship 10.30am Holy Communion 6.30pm Evensong	SS Peter & Paul, Bilsington St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge Ch. of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet St. Martin, Aldington St. Matthew, Warehorne
5th Sunday: 29th November Advent I (Purple)	10.30am Annual Advent Toy Service 10.30am Benefice Holy communion	Ch. of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet St. Matthew, Warehorne
Wednesday every week	12 noon Benefice Holy Communion	St. Mary, Orlestone

Key Events:

Friday 6th November 10am-12 noon Coffee Morning in aid Dementia Experience at St Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge

Saturday 28th November 10am Christmas Coffee Morning in aid of St Rumwold's and Crisis at The Nook, Bonnington

Sunday 29th November 2pm-4pm Wreath Making at 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 Parish Council	Emily Arnold	clerk@aldingtonandbonnington-pc.gov.uk	07928 453208
Bilsington Parish Council	Peter Settlefield	Bilsingtonclerk@gmail.com	
Kenardington Parish Council	Annette Beach	clerk@kenardington-pc.gov.uk	07905 658117
Orlestone Parish Council Clerk	Sue Stiffell	stiffells@btinternet.com	01233 628481
Ruckinge Parish Council	Emily Arnold	clerk@ruckinge-pc.gov.uk	07714 000986
Warehorne Parish Council	Annette Beach	clerk@warehorne-pc.gov.uk	07905 658117
Bilsington Village Hall bookings	Vivienne Hudson		01233 721731
Bromley Green Hall bookings	Mark Nash		01233 733613
Hamstreet Church Hall bookings	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
Bargain Oil Network	Susan Hanlon	ordermeoil@hotmail.co.uk	01233 730884
SSAFA Forces Help Kent		Kent.branch@ssafo.org.uk	0208 8956716
PARISH MAGAZINE DEADLINE 21 st monthly, ISSUED 28 th monthly	Margaret Hanlon	editorparmag@gmail.com	07748 006249