OPM

ISSUE 22
AUGUST 2026

ORLESTONE PARISH MAGAZINE

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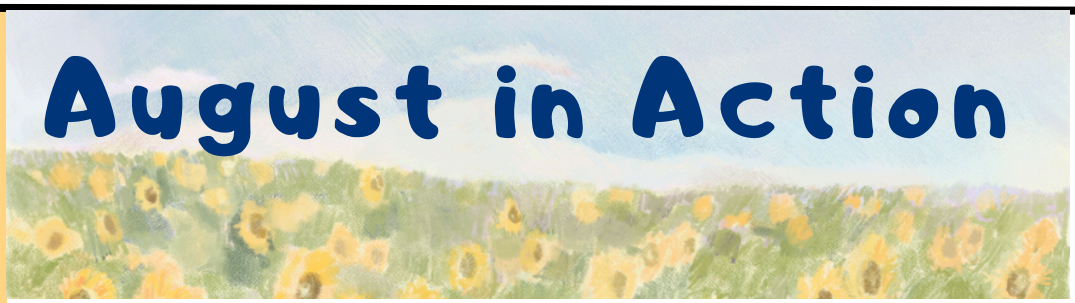
Additional Support
APL Computer Support

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/





Some hopeful news from Nightingale Way, which means that some tidying-up work has taken place and the promise of a better service from now on. A pleasant environment means so much to everyone in Hamstreet. The whole village is looking pretty dry and brown now, let's hope for some rain very soon, but the plant troughs are bringing colour so thank you to all who care for them, including my husband. Several houses have lovely flower displays and I'm going to thank the owner of the cottage on the right in Warehorne Road, just behind the old bakery (that won't help everyone!) for a splendid mass of baskets and planters. Well done, you bring joy to my heart and I won't be alone in saying that.

Get out your calendars for lots of forthcoming events, including Afternoon Tea for Breast Cancer Now, organised by Orlestone WI. Please give your support where you can.

A word from this month's guest editor...

Hello all! You may remember my name from the very beginning of the launch of the digital magazine and the October 2024 Issue! Life then got very busy for me, having my little boy in November 2024 and various other life events that followed. Supporting Margaret with the creation of this magazine is such a rewarding thing to do and is a great escape from life's every day ongoings, so I really do encourage you (if you are interested of course!) to contact Margaret and get involved!



I'm currently writing this with a cuppa in one hand and this little fella curled up on my lap (who you may very well have seen walking around the village - our little Loki bear!)

Village Halls - Weekly Timetables

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



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

Warehorne Village Hall

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

TUESDAY
YOGA WITH LIZZIE
6pm - 7pm

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

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



FRIDAY
ART CLASS
Third Friday of the Month

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

BVH

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

St Matthew's Church, Warehorne

APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT CURATE FOR THE SAXON SHORELINE BENEFICE

Bishop Rose ordained Anne Elisabeth Loat as Deacon on the 4th July 2026 in Canterbury Cathedral. Part of the service is a declaration of assent. This was then repeated in the first service in the Benefice by Revd. Geoff Ababsolo-Munnery and witnessed by the Churchwardens on behalf of the Benefice. It was a joy to do this at St. Matthew's Church, Warehorne on Sunday 5th July with Meriel Bailes as Churchwarden for St. Matthew's Church, Warehorne and Tim Loat as Churchwarden for St. Martin's Church, Aldington. Anne has now been officially appointed as the Assistant Curate for the Saxon Shoreline Benefice.

Anne did some nursing training before starting a family. She was brought up in Buckinghamshire and lived in Scotland and Birmingham before moving to Kent over 40 years ago. She trained in Early Years Education, working as a childminder and a foster parent. She moved on to work in the local school, supporting children on the autistic spectrum in reception class and starting an after school club. This developed and she ran the breakfast club, after school club and holiday play scheme for ten years. Anne then worked for Kent County Council, having a County remit, firstly as an Early Years business adviser, and then as an Out of School Adviser, before spending the last five years prior to her retirement in 2025 working on the Holiday, Activities and Food Programme (HAF), which supported families on benefits tested free school meals to access free food and activities for children during the school holidays. She has five children and ten grandchildren, ranging in age from 2 weeks old to 18 years.

Anne has worshipped in a range of churches over the years, from high Anglican to Evangelical churches. She is looking forward to working with the churches in the Saxon Shoreline Benefice. She can be contacted on 07745 918629, or by email at anne.loat@outlook.com.



St Mary Magdalene Church, Ruckinge

We made a couple of small changes to services and service times in July which will be carried forward in the future – on the third Sunday of every month there will be an informal Family service at 10am which will include things for children to become involved.

More plans for children, too, this time in place just in August to offer Mums and Grandmas somewhere to take the children for a bit of activity time. August GoKids will be held on Tuesdays 11th, 18th and 25th August between 10am – 11.30am. It's NOT a full play session and adults must stay with their children. A mixture of 'making'- 'looking & finding' – 'listening' – 'singing' – a bit of 'noisy moving' plus a cold drink and biscuit. Not to mention a cup of coffee for the grown ups. No charge but donations are always welcome, we're saving to get our bells repaired. Let me know if you're thinking of coming along.

In July we had a birthday party when Chris Woolley was 96 years old. There was a splendid birthday cake with candles (not 96) and he blew out all but one. The church was filled with friends and colleagues, all the farmers from the area came along as well as lots of friends. Chris was very pleased and really enjoyed the occasion, what an achievement for this special member of the Ruckinge community, part of the village history.



Next month sees the annual Friends of Kent Churches Ride and Stride, taking place on Saturday 12 th September. If you would like to cycle or walk and get sponsored to raise funds for St Mary Magdalene Church we and our bells would be very grateful. Ask me for the Entry and Sponsorship forms.

Then it won't be long before our Flower Folk Festival 2 nd – 4 th October, take a look at the poster, it will be a splendid weekend.

Mary SiIllibourne Churchwarden 01233 732615







Monthly Local Business Feature

Bumble and Hector

With a grandmother who smocked dresses and a mother that could look at a design in a magazine and recreate it I think dressmaking was in my genes.

I have always loved to sew and create things, turning one-dimensional pieces of fabric into a garment that can fit the body has always excited me. I worked hard at school and went to London College of Fashion for an HND in clothing technology then on to The American College in London for a degree in fashion merchandising.

I left college and started working for a curtain maker and broadened my skill set even further.

Around 35 years ago friends started getting married and asked me to make outfits for their bridesmaids and pageboys. Then I started making going away outfits as well and my business suddenly took off totally by word of mouth. For just under 10 years, I sewed within the wedding sector and even had bridesmaids outfits featuring in Hello magazine!!!!

When I moved to Orlestone I had to rethink my sewing journey and luckily had friends that needed curtains and blinds and could fit this in around a family with a young son at the time.

I have been very lucky with word-of-mouth recommendations and now I mainly do alterations especially around prom and the summer wedding season and still love making curtains, blinds and any home furnishings.

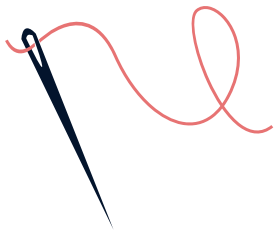


My latest commission is to alter a much-loved childs'dress worn by the mother into a christening gown for her daughter.



Something I really enjoy is helping people gain confidence with a sewing machine, patterns and sewing projects. When someone leaves with a bag or a cushion after their first session the seed is set and anything is possible.

I still enjoy sewing for myself and am loving the trend to buy second hand and use the fabric in a different way, helping garments from ending up in landfill.



If you would like any more information or a chat about an outfit do not hesitate to contact Georgie on 07766508874

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

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

Notable commemoration dates for 2026 are:

Sunday 13th September - 86th Battle of Britain service-12:30 at The Church of the Good Shepperd

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

Sunday 8th November - Remembrance Service in Ruckinge Church

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

THE 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.



Please be aware that Revd Geoff, our Padre, is The Branch Community Support worker & is available on the phone or face to face to support the Armed Forces Community, especially those who feel socially isolated or are in need. The BCS is contacted by RBL referrals and assigned a Beneficency to support through a kind of buddying/befriending service. If further professional support is needed, the BCS can refer back to RBL for a caseworker to be assigned or partner organisations to offer specialist support. The BCS is the first line of support for those in our Armed Services Community in need.

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

Thank you.

Peter Gostling 07713104488

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 3rd August.

PLEASE NOTE, I WILL NOT BE ORDERING IN SEPTEMBER.

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 October.

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, 2 nd 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)



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

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

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

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 no 214869 Wales (264192) and in Scotland (SC038552).





1st Ruckinge & Hamstreet Cub Pack

Did you see Cubs hiking round Hamstreet on 17th June? We started at Victory Hall, went down the alley beside 1 Rectory Close, crossed to go down to Parker Close and round the alley out to Warehorne Road. We walked back to the crossroads, up the hill to the station, over the bridge, on to the woods, out at Carter's Wood and back to Victory Hall. We had features to spot along the way to keep our observation skills honed and to help us take a look around ourselves, noticing details we might miss in our everyday wanderings. All went home with an answer sheet so maybe they and their family might like to repeat the experience.

Term 6 proved too hot to cook over fire so a meeting was swapped to going to the woods, pruning trifid-like brambles from popular pathways and thinking about what community service does for others, for us and what else we can do in our lives to help others.

Cubs practised hitches and lashings to help build rafts to float on the canal. They supported the building of about ¾ of one raft in the meeting which was finished and another built by leaders the following weekend. The hot sun expanded the barrels over the next few days pushing the lashings very close to the ends of the poles. At Cub age, we want to teach that it's possible to build a raft, float it and enjoy the experience, getting wet if you fall off. So, we put cable ties over the key lashings. A few weeks earlier, Explorers had enjoyed an evening where they build rafts and floated them.



Their learning point was that you have to do the job right to have fun; many got wet with rafts disintegrating under them within a few meters of the bank.







After rafting, we've moved straight on to kayaking. Given the size of the Cub Pack (24 youngsters now, 26 come September) we needed to spread this over two weeks with a bankside programme being run in parallel for those not on the water. We made short pieces of ropes using rafia seeing how different forces come together to transform a material we could break initially to something we could have a min tug-of-war with. A quick review of a couple of knots let us be dramatic and role play a rescue mission.

You might have noticed a kayak and a paddleboard in the rafting photos. Rafting and kayaking can only happen with people taking on the training and responsibility of being permit holders and they and others supporting the activities on the water. Kindly, both support from parents, specialists within Group (not least Jane and Linda Munro) and help from the busy County team all put in extra hours to support our Cubs.

1st Ruckinge & Hamstreet Cub Pack

Bank side support is also vital to transport and care for all the kit as well as helping soggy, tired Cubs organise and care for themselves. The other element of support without which these activities cannot happen is access to the canal. This year, the weeds at Ruckinge grew too thickly to kayak there, necessitating a move to Bonnington so both Pip Collick and Paul Boulden gave consent for us to access the canal from their land. Thank you to everyone who helped Cubs have these experiences!



Having sufficient funding in Group to maintain and replace specialist equipment is an ever-present need, just one of many reasons fundraising so necessary. Please don't forget to take any scrap cabling and non-ferrous metal to 28 Willow Drive (Margaret Hanlon, 01233 730884) and come to the Scarecrow Trail on 11th October.

Cubs are having a lot of fun as well as learning skills for life. It's great to be popular and to have so many coming along but it really does mean there's lots for the 2 leaders to organise each week and we have to beg for support from parents each week to run. 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. I'M NOT AVAILABLE through term 1 (September till the end of October). We'll be down to just one leader with support I'm chivvying for 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?

The Cub programme is hugely varied. There are traditional activities like hiking, cooking over fire, camping, playing team games, but there are other aspects such as thinking about serving the community, protecting the environment, finding out about other faiths, learning about being healthy, team building and reflecting on ourselves and our lives.

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

Susan Hanlon

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

August Puzzle Page

Hello Summer!

Too hot outside?

Take some time to cool off in the shade with this months puzzles.

CRYPTOGRAM:

Each letter in the phrase has been replace with another. Try to decode the summer themed quote.

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

H T H H T

E A D O Q Q F G U A E T K J U F G I J O A E V F

T L T

T J Q E H F O D D O Y Y F G E C N L P H F P T

MEDIUM DIFFICULTY

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

HARD DIFFICULTY

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

Orlestone WI



July saw us all sitting around a table being very crafty as we made some fabric rosebuds and turned them into bookmarks or decorations. Really very simple to create apart from some escaping hot glue and Lisa and Hayley were very clear with their instructions and guidance. We all enjoy the meetings when we're 'making' something even if we're not very good at it because it's such a sociable time.

We collected lots of bags of clothes at our meeting which was given to The Wardrobe, a charity shop in North Street, Ashford which provides such great community help. It is run by the Pneuma Church and we chose it as one of our 60 th Anniversary Year 'good causes' because of the work it undertakes for those in need. On 22 nd August we're holding another Afternoon Tea to raise funds for Breast Cancer Now. Last year we raised around £500 for this important charity so we hope lots of you will support us again this year.

Once again we've had to change our monthly outing plans, this time we didn't make it to Horsmonden but visited Merriments Gardens at Hurst Green instead, very enjoyable and a good lunch. We don't have a meeting in August but instead choose something we can do together, even allowing husbands and partners along! The cost of coach hire has proved a stumbling block to the type of summer outings that we once enjoyed but a lunch at Stubbs in Ashford looks as if it will be very popular instead.



When we meet again in September we'll be visited by Creative Tat, who will tell us all about upcycling and making new from old. Our monthly competition will be a CAT – no live animals permitted. We'll also be thinking about making decorative apples to go on our Wassailing display at the Ruckinge Flower Folk Festival on 3 & 4 October. Why not come along to see what Orlestone WI is all about? Come as a Guest for a couple of meetings, paying just £1. We meet in Victory Hall, Hamstreet on the second Monday of each month (no meeting in August) and all women are welcome to join.

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

YOU'RE INVITED TO AN AFTERNOON TEA

This August we're baking to change the future.
So everyone with breast cancer will live and live well.

Saturday 22nd August

3–5pm

Victory Hall, Hamstreet

Home baked
cakes & savouries

Guess the weight
of the cake

Puzzle time!

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Together we'll beat breast cancer!

ORLESTONE WI
Pay by *generous* DONATION



breastcancernow.org/afternoontea

In aid of

BREAST CANCER NOW

The Begging Bowl is still in action …

Many will have seen my regular appeals on the local Facebook pages for all sorts of things for all sorts of good causes.
No apology but a reminder of what I'm happy to receive and pass on :

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

Old foreign and British coins & bank notes: I'm continuing to collect these and the next collection will raise funds for Canterbury Oast Trust, supporting adults with kearnng disabilities and autism.

Medical supplies & mobility equipment: these will be sent to the hospitals and care organisations in Ukraine.

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

Not sure? Ask us!

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



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GARDENING SERVICES

- Complete lawn care: strimming, mowing, aeration, grass seeding, scarification
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- Cladding cleaning
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- Residential window cleaning
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- Gutters, fascias and soffit cleaning



ticehurstgg@gmail.com
@ticehurstgg

Get in touch with Andy for a free, no obligation quote.

Price List

LASH AND BROW TREATMENTS

Eyebrow Wax/Shaping	£10	Classic Full Set	£40
Eyebrow Wax/Shaping/Tint	£12	Classic Infills	£30
Upper Lip	£10	Hybrid Full Set	£45
Chin	£10	Hybrid Infills	£35
Lip and Chin Combo	£18	Russian Full Set	£55
Full Face Lip, Chin and Cheeks	£22	Russian Infills	£45
		Lash removals	£12
		Lash lift and Tint	£40
		Tint only	£10

_lashes_to_a_t_
Lashes ToAt
Lashes.to.a.t@hotmail.com
07459025844
www.lashestoat.co.uk

Lashes To A T

Glow Up
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Please contact us on 01580 762244 / mail@townandcountryhomecare.co.uk
Website: www.townandcountryhomecare.co.uk

As I See It On The Land



Another record broken. Last month I said the harvest would probably start before the next magazine. It's finished before I've even written!

Mark started combining our wheat on Friday 10 th July and finished on Saturday 18th July. We don't normally start until well into August. However, with no dew on the straw and the sun beating down on the crop, the combine has started earlier in the morning. At the end of the day the sun has gone over the horizon and the combine could still operate with lights. The result of these extended days means the combinehas worked for fewer days but for much longer hours. Both man, and the machine pushed to their limits.

All the grain has gone into store dry but too hot. Cool nights are needed to get the temperature down to avoid self-combustion and to prevent infestation of insects who adore warm grain. Augers, that move around the heap of grain, blow air to try to reduce the problem.

Yields per acre have set another record, the lowest for decades. According to the weigher on the combine the best variety of wheat along the canal on the marsh managed to get to 9 tonnes a hectare, whilst at Woodchurch, where there was a dire lack of moisture, the soil had dried out and the land averaged 7.7 tonnes a hectare. Overall, Mark thinks the farm will average about 8.6 tonnes a hectare. In recent normal years (if there is such a thing) we would expect to be into double figures.

It will be interesting to see how the world harvest varies. There seems to be no worry about there being enough grain to feed everyone. Time will tell!

We found a dead owl beneath the owl box. It had been there some time because maggots had devoured it. Now, we wondered whether it had fallen off the platform; been pushed; or the adults been unable to get enough food and thrown it out to enable others to survive.

Two owlets had been briefly seen at the entrance of the box, and then one evening four owls were seen flying out of the shed. Two adults with two very white clean youngsters. We were so pleased to see them all and hope they can learn to hunt and avoid nighttime traffic.

Gardening continues to be a nightmare. The runner beans eventually got going and climbed up the supporting frame but the blossom didn't set despite daily watering. When some flowers did set the bean was short and ugly.

Unable to water every shrub and plant in need I am seeing death all around. We went to Wisley RHG in Surrey and they were in a similar position. Some plants have either died or given up and gone into winter mode. Will they come back to life next year? Miracles needed.

Peter Sillibourne

Over 60s Club

Unfortunately due to the very hot weather at the end of June, Norman, the singer that was due to attend cancelled at the last moment so a quiz was hastily arrangedwhich went down well. However, things went very well at the next meeting when Cliff Cleaves, a local Elvis impersonator entertained us with a variety of the King's hits.

16 July saw members attending the Dukes Head in Hamstreet for a delicious roast dinner followed by cheesecake. I still think their roast potatoes are to die for!

The last meeting on 24 July before the August close down will see a regular favourite, Rikki, serenading us.
It is anticipated that there will be a few day trips during August.

Upon the Clubs return on 4 September we have John & Friend, two guitarists and on 18 September Martin will return and give a very useful first aid demonstration
New members are always welcome at Cotton Hill House.



For further information contact June McKay on 07999841140.







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Travels with Adam



As I predicted in last month's piece I have completed the 'Hamstreet to Ham Street' route for a third time now. I hiked it with my friend Tom in 2006, cycled it in 2019 (first half) and 2022 (second half), and I've completed it again on foot in 2026. Sort of.

The two 'cheats' were that I skipped the section where one has to hike on roads between Haslemere and Four Marks this time, and I stopped at Castle Cary in Somerset, a few miles short of the other 'Ham Street,' as will be explained.

So, having completed the Greensand Way again, my first trip of the second half of the route began at the village of Four Marks, a few miles southwest of Alton in Hampshire. I was following a path called the St Swithun's Way [sic], which runs from Farnham to Winchester, where the remains of St Swithun (or 'Swithin' if you prefer) were initially buried outside the abbey so that the rain could fall on him. They were later moved inside by monks. Hence we have the saying that if it rains on St Swithun's Day (July 15th) it will rain for forty days and forty nights.

The path was very pretty, and after some refreshment in a cool barn-like annexe of a pub in Bishop's Sutton I pounded the tarmac around the south side of New Alresford (pronounced 'Orlsford'). Here, a new housing development has blocked the path and I had to battle the weeds up a bank to get around the high metal fences.

Signage for the path was also poor beyond this and I made the same navigational mistake that I made with Tom in 2006. This time I was able to contact Hampshire's rights of way team via their website on my phone and report both issues.

Having rejoined the official route I continued to Winchester and camped behind some nettles. The next day I followed Nuns Walk into the city and passed the remains of Hyde Abbey which comprise of just the arched entrance to a gatehouse.

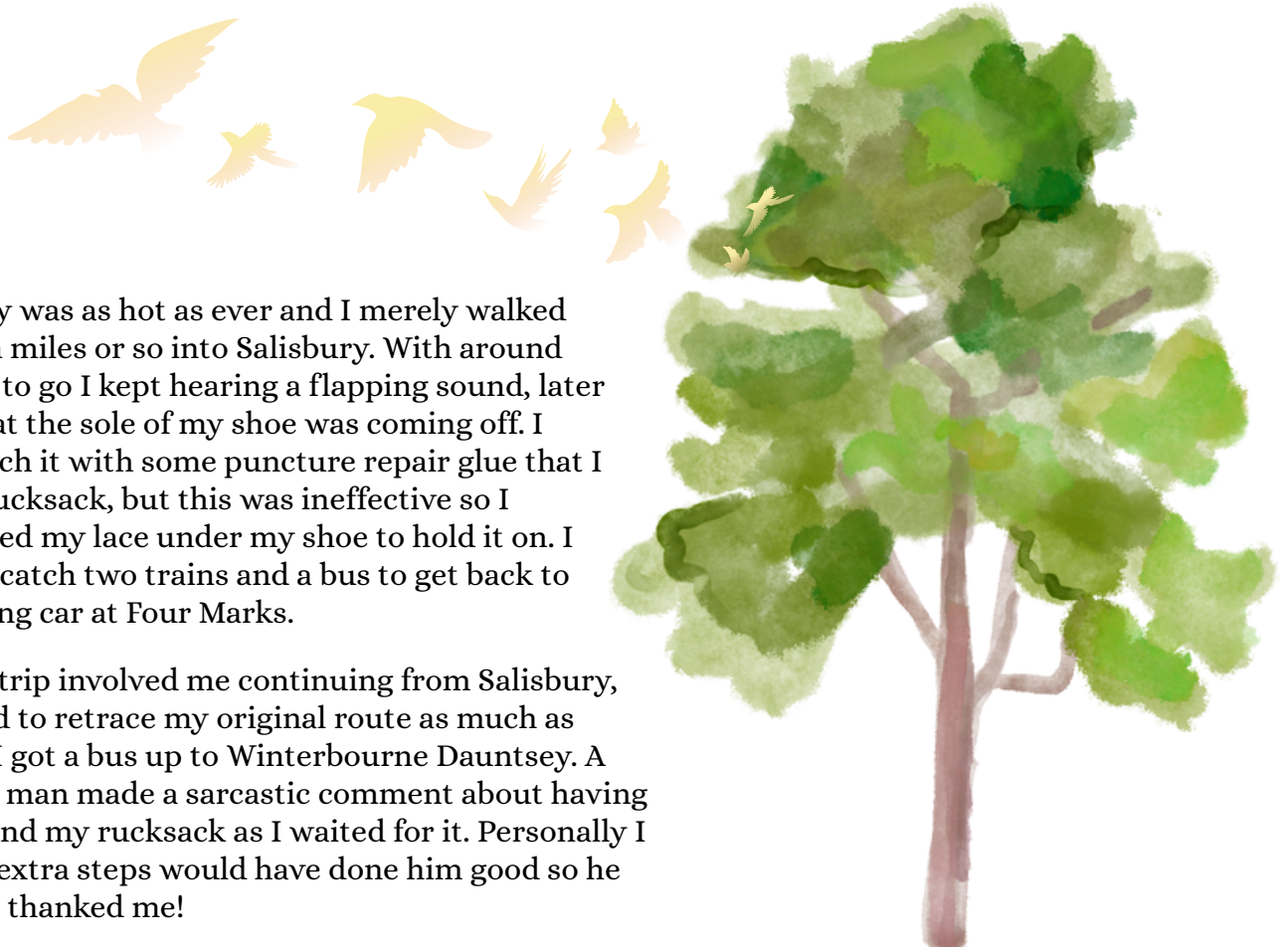
My path back out of Winchester was different to last time as the next footpath, the Clarendon Way, has since been diverted to commence by heading southward along the river, before curving west and crossing the Roman road, which was its original course. This adds some distance onto the route but is more pleasant than pounding the tarmac.



The Clarendon Way is named after a ruined palace just outside Salisbury, for it links the two cathedral cities. When I reached Kings Somborne, which was often used a location in the children's programme 'Worzel Gummidge,' I had a rest and a bottle of Coke outside the village shop. A man passing by exclaimed 'You wanna foind a pub and get some coider' which was exactly the kind of thing I wanted to hear in the West Country.

Travels with Adam

It was searing hot as I continued via Houghton (pronounced 'How-tun') and Broughton (pronounced as one would expect). Rain began to spatter as I rejoined the Roman road so I dived into the woodland at the side and got my tent up quick.



The next day was as hot as ever and I merely walked the final ten miles or so into Salisbury. With around seven miles to go I kept hearing a flapping sound, later realising that the sole of my shoe was coming off. I tried to attach it with some puncture repair glue that I had in my rucksack, but this was ineffective so I merely looped my lace under my shoe to hold it on. I then had to catch two trains and a bus to get back to my sweltering car at Four Marks.

The second trip involved me continuing from Salisbury, but I wanted to retrace my original route as much as possible so I got a bus up to Winterbourne Dauntsey. A grouchy old man made a sarcastic comment about having to step around my rucksack as I waited for it. Personally I think a few extra steps would have done him good so he should have thanked me!

I backtracked about a mile to Figsbury Ring, a circular Iron Age hill-fort, and I walked an anticlockwise circumnavigation. The views were great.

I then descended back to Winterbourne Dauntsey to pick up the Monarch's Way. This footpath roughly follows the route of King Charles II following his defeat at the Battle of Worcester to his escape to France from Shoreham-by-Sea

It was very hot yet again as I crossed Salisbury Plain, stopping for refreshment at the pub in Great Wishford and camping in the woods after a significant climb to Cranborne Chase.

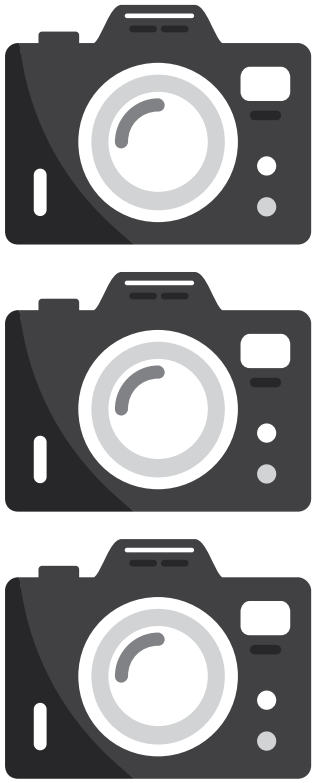
The next day my route differed from that of 2006 as I chose to follow the Monarch's Way properly rather than to take a short cut along the Roman road through the woods.

Fonthill Bishop had a nice little café where a pot of tea went down like a snake's foot (as a friend of mine often says). At the Grosvenor Arms in Hindon the barman treated me to a free bowl of roast potatoes, and after quite a gruelling trek to Mere I merely used the shop to stock up on supplies and headed off up towards Zeals Knoll for another night's camping.

This time, my inappropriate footwear was wearing on my feet rather than the soles of my shoes and the next day was hard work, with blisters and discomfort at the back of my legs from walking funny! It was also searing hot.

Travels with Adam

Passing by a woman walking a donkey (very biblical) and the National Trust attraction of Stourhead (pictured), I picked up the Macmillan Way (named after the cancer care charity for whom it was devised) and headed for the little town of Bruton, diving into the Sun Inn to cool off this time. The pub still retains a separate public bar and saloon bar, which is a bit of throwback to the 1970s. I had a chicken kebab from the separate cooking area at the back of the pub and then continued towards Castle Cary.





However, the heat got to too much, and heeding the advice of the gambling adverts on TV, when the fun stopped, I stopped! I dived into the woodland and got some of my camping gear out, proceeding to snooze for a few hours. As it grew dusky I decided to add a tent into the equation!

The following day involved a short two-mile trek to Castle Cary station, with a fine glimpse of Glastonbury Tor in the distance as I descended from Ansford. I decided not to continue to the other 'Ham Street' for the simple fact that there's nothing there! Essentially, I felt that I had completed the walk and I began my five-train journey home.

My conclusion to this 20-year anniversary jaunt is that very little has changed. Even the development on the south side of Ashford has had relatively little impact on the rural feel of the footpath route, and the only other areas of new development I encountered were on the south side of New Alresford and on the north side of Salisbury. What has changed is some of the text in my book of the initial walk, 'Mud, Sweat and Beers.' I've added some additional info about the places that I've gleaned on my two subsequent re-visits so if you wish to buy the book a third time the latest version (still called the '2022 Reload' edition) can be ordered on that website named after a South American river!

Will I walk it again for the 'ruby anniversary' in the 45-degree heat of 2046? Who knows!

Katie Lam MP

One of the great privileges of representing the Weald is seeing, up close, just how many remarkable people and places there are in this corner of Kent – people working hard, often against a difficult backdrop, to do the things they love and to take care of their neighbours.
That's what the Weald of Kent Awards are all about. This year you sent in so many wonderful nominations that it was incredibly difficult to whittle them down to a shortlist, but we finally managed to pick just four in each category. Here, ready for your vote, are your finalists:

Farmer, Grower or Producer of the Year

Aragon Farm, Sissinghurst – some of the very finest cherries and cherry juice in Kent.

Wayfarer Wines, Woodchurch – championing Wealden wines from their prize Bacchus to a new Ortega.

Kingcott Dairy, Staplehurst – the Reynolds family's grass-fed herd produces gorgeous raw milk and cheese.

Lovejoy Farm, Wittersham – top-quality local meat sold through their own shop and across the Weald.

Local Business of the Year

Cranbrook Vets – an independent vets known for offering wonderfully personal care.

Olive Tree Vets, Charing – they go above and beyond with home visits for less mobile owners.

Rockits Sensory, Tenterden – a safe and happy space for children and young adults.

The Hawkhurst Bread Shed, Marden – a thriving local business with a very loyal following



Katie

Every one of them helps makes the Weald what it is. Voting is open now and closes at the end of August – so learn more about our finalists and have your say here

Independent Shop of the Year

Frank's Bakery, Headcorn – Lovingly revitalised by its new owners.

Loddington Farm Shop, Linton – a hub of local food and wine alongside a lovely café.

TN17 Food & Wine, Sissinghurst – exceptionally well-stocked shop and post office.

Webb's of Tenterden – cookware, gifts, children's shop and an incredible ironmongers.

Local Hero of the Year

Matthew Knoesen, Biddenden – Just 13 years old, Matthew is already a French Open wheelchair tennis champion.

Mildred's Trust – a food bank and anti food waste project for local families facing hardship.

Staplehurst Emergency Help Team – tireless volunteers, particularly in recent water outages.

Wealden Community First Responders – volunteers helping save lives across the Weald.

Pub, Café or Restaurant of the Year

The Queens Head, Sutton Valence – one of the finest beer gardens and views in Kent.

Willows End Tearooms, near Marden – homemade food in a warm and friendly setting.

The Bell & Jorrocks, Frittenden – much-loved pub at the heart of village life for the past 20 years.

The Flying Horse, Smarden – A family-run pub which has raised extraordinary sums for good causes.

https://www.katieforkent.com/weald-of-kent-awards

SAXON SHORELINE BENEFICE WORSHIP CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 2026		
1st Sunday: 2nd August Trinity 9 Proper 13 *(Green)*	9.00am CW Holy Communion 10.00 am Holy Communion BCP 9.45 for10.00am Family Fun Service 10.30am Parish Communion 10.30am Holy Communion	St. Rumwold, Bonnington St. Matthew, Warehorne Village Hall, Aldington St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet
2nd Sunday: 9th August Trinity 10 Proper 14 *(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: 16th August Trinity 11 Proper 15 *(Green)*	9.00am CW Holy Communion 9.00 am Holy Communion 9.30am Worship Service 10.30am Holy Communion 10.00am Family service 10.45am Worship Service	St. Rumwold, Bonnington St. Mary, Orlestone St. Mary, Kenardington Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge St. Martin, Aldington
4th Sunday: 23rd August Trinity 12 Proper 16 *(Green)*	10.30am BCP Holy Communion 10.30am Morning Worship 10.30am Holy Communion 6.30pm Evensong	St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge Church of the Good Shepherd, Hamstreet St. Martin, Aldington St. Matthew, Warehorne
5th Sunday: 30th August Trinity 13 Proper 17 *(Green)*	10.30am Benefice Holy Communion	St. Martin, Aldington

Key Events: Coffee mornings at St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge everySaturday from 10am to 11.30 am all welcome

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

Tuesdays Together August 11th, 18th and 25th 10.00am – 11.30 am St. Mary Magdalene, Ruckinge with Childern's fun activities

Midweek Benefice Holy Communion Service at 12 noon on Wednesday 5 th and 12 th August only at St. Mary Orlestone ALL WELCOME

Parish Contacts

Church of England Saxon Shoreline Benefice	Rector: Rev Geoff Abasolo-Munnery revgeoff.saxonshorelinebenefice@gmail.com Canon John Saunders (retired Anglican Priest) Pauline Williams (Benefice Safeguarding Officer)	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
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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 Luckhurst	(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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SSAFA Forces Help Kent		Kent.branch@ssafa.org.uk	0208 8956716
PARISH MAGAZINE DEADLINE 21 st monthly, ISSUED 28 th monthly	Margaret Hanlon	editorparmag@gmail.com	07748 006249