ST. PETER’S CHURCH, FORDCOMBE
fordcombechurch.org

Rector of Penshurst & Fordcombe  The Revd. Tom Holme, MA.  
The Rectory, Penshurst  870316
Honorary Assistant Priest  The Revd Canon Brian Simmons

CHURCHWARDENS
Mike Gilbert  Rockydene, Chafford Lane, Fordcombe TN3 0SH
Email  mikegilbert371@gmail.com  740371
Peter Waghorn  Woodpeckers, The Green, Fordcombe, TN3 0RY
Email  pnwaghorn@btinternet.com  740645

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St. Peter's Fellowship  Peter Waghorn  740645

Sunday Club Leader  Mrs Hayley Collins  01892544458

Church Flowers  Mrs. June Gilbert  740371
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NEWSLETTER - PLEASE NOTE THE COPY DATE IS 16th OF EACH MONTH
Newsletter copy by e-mail please to: fordcombenewsletter@gmail.com
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ALL PHONE NUMBERS ARE PREFIXED 01892- .. UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE
FROM THE RECTOR

I'm not sure of the legal position here. If I own up in print to trespassing on the Midland Railway half a century ago - could I be in trouble now? I might also throw in another crime from those times in that part of Westmorland. But this second one is difficult - I'm not sure whether I perpetrated it or not.

One evening at the Moorcock Inn. I fell in to conversation with the landlord's wife and learnt at very great length about the prolonged illness that was causing her husband's absence at the Moorcock. I hope I was attentive and sympathetic. Months later on a long day's walk with still miles to go, I called in at the inn, hoping to make a phone call which would result in rescue by car. The landlord now returned could not have been more unpleasant and unhelpful. This seemed rather unfair - particularly after showing concern on that previous occasion for his wellbeing. I never set foot in the place again, but soon after this upsetting encounter the Moorcock Inn one night - together with the landlord and his wife - went up in flames.

Birkett tunnel is a few miles up the line from the Moorcock. It's five hundred yards long and of course on more than one occasion I could not resist the temptation to walk through it. One Sunday afternoon I even persuaded my sister to join me, but after not one but two trains had thundered past us in the darkness, we decided quickly to return to the light. On my own however it was a different matter. I had not then read the short story by Charles Dickens The Signalman, which includes a vision of a spectre standing and gesticulating at the tunnel's entrance, so I was not contending with hauntings and the supernatural on top of choking steam and deep wet darkness. I'm glad after these decades still to think of these trespassing journeys as symbolic of the journey we must all take through any kind of darkness - with the light ahead fixed and certain and inextinguishable and thank goodness - getting closer.

Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

Tom Holme

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<th>Registers December</th>
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<td><strong>Baptisms</strong></td>
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Let light perpetual shine upon them
CHURCH COFFEE MORNING
We are invited to meet again for coffee and a chat on Wednesday February 14th 2018 10-30 - 12 noon by Juliette & Peter Waghorn at Woodpeckers, The Green. All welcome do come along!

Please ring Christabel on 740345 if transport is required

Christabel Sworder

FORDCOMBE LUNCHEON CLUB

Fordcombe Luncheon club usually meets on the second Thursday of each month at 12-30pm. We have space for new members to come and join us for food and pleasant conversation with old and new friends.

The next meeting is 8th February 2018

For more information please contact Mrs Kate Hargrave Tel 861047

CHURCHYARD TIDYING

We collected up loads of twigs and small branches blown down in the wind, some path sweeping and a bit of pruning in January, followed by a very convivial farewell to Helen and Paul in the pub!
We wish them good luck and happiness but will sorely miss their help!! We're meeting again on Saturday 10th February, usual time 10am to 12md and would be delighted to see anyone who has a couple of hours to spare!

Helen Morrison 740211

FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS PEW

Services
All the services for February follow the normal monthly pattern with 9-am Communion first Sunday, Sung Eucharist and Sunday School on the second, no service at Fordcombe on the third and Family service on the fourth Sunday.

St. Peter’s Fellowship.
Our next meeting takes place at 8pm on Wednesday 28th February 2018 at Woodpeckers where our discussion topic will be based around the season of Lent. Please do come along, everyone will be most welcome.

Meal and a Pint
The next meal and a pint is on Tuesday 20th February (see the advert on page 19)

Higham Choral Group Concert
We are very pleased indeed to have the Higham Choral Group coming to give a concert on Saturday 24th March (see page 14). As two years ago, when they
last gave a concert, our school choir will be joining in for some items. Do put the date in your diary I am sure it will be a memorable evening.

Best Wishes
Mike Gilbert 740371 mikegilbert371@gmail.com

14th February—ASH WEDNESDAY – mourning our sins

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6)

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The collect for today goes back to the Prayer Book, and stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us.

The Bible readings for today are often Joel 2:1-2, 12 – 18, Matthew 6: 1-6,16 – 21 and Paul's moving catalogue of suffering, "as having nothing and yet possessing everything." (2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10)

The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one’s forehead is optional. Certainly the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..." (Genesis 3:19)

The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today.

The Collect for Ash Wednesday is:
Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Parish Pump
Fordcombe WI
Hello Everyone
Well I don't belieeeeeeve it!  Already we are in February and January is just history.  Not only are the days and weeks hurrying by but now the months are as well.  At the January meeting our Treasurer, June Roff, enrolled 17 members and, although unable to be there in person, we were pleased to welcome back Audrey Dover, a past President.
A couple of things discussed were the speakers for the year 2018/2019 (May to June) and several suggestions were made, hopefully with something for everyone in mind. Watch this space for any speakers booked.
Also discussed was the sending of groceries/toiletries etc to ‘Nourish Food Bank’ but make sure there is at least a three month shelf life on any product donated.
With June busy with the business side of things most of us were happy to spend a while catching up on the ‘goss’ over a cup of tea and a piece of cake.
The speaker at our February meeting is Chris Stewart who will be talking to us about New Zealand – Its History and Natural Wonders.  Now that’s somewhere I’ve always wanted to go.
The Hostesses are:  Fay and Tam
The next Committee meeting is on:  Monday 12 February at 10.30am at Fay Blanchard’s house.
Jenny

Tonbridge Half Marathon
The Tonbridge Half Marathon will be passing through Fordcombe on Sunday 18th February this year and the organisers are asking if anyone would be able to volunteer to help as Marshalls in return for a donation toward the new Village Hall Fund.
They’ve been in contact via Karlene Crabb who’s daughter belongs to Tonbridge Athletics Club but unfortunately she will be out of the country on the day so I’ve offered to liaise with them instead this year.
At my son’s previous school in Tonbridge some of the PTA were volunteer Marshalls for the race and the Half Marathon made a very generous donation to the school in return (apparently they do the same for Penshurst) so this could be a really good opportunity to boost the Village Hall fundraising!
I helped out with Marshalling a couple of years ago and it entails giving up your Sunday Morning from approx 9am to midday for a little bit of traffic control at junctions or like for me it was crowd control in Fordcombe Village!!
It’s a really good atmosphere and good fun. Some Motorists can get a little stroppy but there are officials from the Half Marathon or paid Stewards at the major junctions for this reason.
I understand Karlene has managed to recruit around 3 or 4 people so far (I'm not sure who you are so sorry if I’m repeating this!) but ideally we need 6 to 8 to secure a donation. If you would be willing or know anyone else who might be that would be fantastic so please let me know!!!

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HIGHAM CHORAL GROUP

Following hugely successful concerts in 2012 and 2015, Higham Choral Group are returning for a fundraising concert for Fordcombe School and St Peters Church

Saturday 24 March 6.30pm
St Peter’s Church – Fordcombe

A fun concert with something for everyone, including songs from popular shows & films, the church and pop classics from the 60s, 70s & 80s.

Conducted by Richard Shackleton

Tickets – Adults: £7, Children: free
Available on the door or in advance from Mags Shackleton 01892 740256
NEW COMMUNITY HALL

At the time of going to press the Action Group were about to meet with the Village Hall Committee to update actions and plan further.

Full details will be in the next Parish Mag including a date in March for the Village Hall AGM to which everyone is invited as we will need your views.

Elaine Barnett  elainepbarnett@gmail.com  01892 740512 (Ansafone if not in)

The Village Hall is available for hire at very reasonable rates.

Hire of the hall includes the kitchen and the smaller back room. It is ideal for children’s parties and there is plenty of space outside on the field for activities. There is also a children’s play area. We have availability for regular users too.

<table>
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<th>Clubs and Non Profit Making Organisations</th>
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Please contact
Janice Byrne on 01892 740393 bookingsclerk@gmail.com
Fordcombe Primary School

At the time of writing pupils and staff have only just returned to school after a well earned Christmas break.

Elm class was visited by Jeremy from the Tunbridge Wells Museum as an introduction to their term’s learning on the Romans. With artefacts from local excavations, the pupils were wowed by the discussion on how these artefacts survived, where they were found and gained a real insight into the lives of local Romans that lived almost 2000 years ago. A great topic for all; lots more interesting activities to come.

This term Oak class is learning about caring for our planet. Pupils will be investigating the issues of climate change, pollution and sustainability. From this point they will then become “Green Ambassadors” for the school and be planning and carrying out initiatives to improve the environment and make our school more “eco-friendly”. For the stunning start they dressed in Green for the day and explored what “being green” means to us.

We currently have a gymnastics specialist working with pupils in years 3 – 6 starting the process of building skills with the ultimate aim of entering a team in the Key Skills gymnastics competition later in the term. Funded as part of the government’s post-Olympic legacy strategy, it is great to see the pupils benefitting from receiving ‘expert’ gymnastics coaching. We hope to send a team to the Key Steps Gymnastics Festival for the second year running this year.

The choir went over to the luncheon club and had a lovely time entertaining the diners with a selection of their favourite songs from last term. They finished with a rousing chorus of “Happy Birthday” to Winnie and Christabel.

We have tried to develop a culture of leadership across the school by giving pupils opportunities to lead groups of other children particularly as they move up the school: this is one way we aim to develop children’s ‘character’ at Fordcombe as they develop into young people. From organising and leading church services, talent shows, awards ceremonies and music recitals, to being a House Captain or Sports Leader, we aim to give pupils the chance to grow and develop as people. One of the questions a teacher posed in a recent training session was, are we teaching pupils about ‘character’ (defined as the ability to understand, care about and act upon a set of core ethical values) implicitly, or should we be teaching children explicitly how to make ‘wise’ decisions. Over the next term we will be trialling lessons that aim to support the development of children’s ‘character’ by asking pupils to think critically about moral and ethical questions and giving them opportunities to practice moral and ethical behaviour. Exciting developments: watch this space for updates…

Mags Shackleton
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UNITED BENEFICE OF PENSHURST AND FORDCOMBE
CALENDAR OF SERVICE FEBRUARY 2018

4th       Sexagesima
9am       Holy Communion Fordcombe
10am      Sung Eucharist Penshurst

11th      Quinquagesim
8am       Holy Communion Penshurst
10am      Sung Eucharist with Sunday school Fordcombe

18th      First Sunday in Lent
10am      Sung Eucharist Penshurst

Friday 6-30pm — Evensong. Sevenoaks School Choir
Everyone most welcome

25th      Second Sunday in Lent
9am       Holy Communion Poundsbridge
10am      Family Service Fordcombe

Wednesday 28th  St Peter’s Fellowship

March

4th       Third Sunday in Lent
9am       Holy Communion Fordcombe
10am      Sung Eucharist Penshurst
DIARY
February 2017

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3rd Blackham Market  page 23
8th Luncheon Club  page 4
10th Churchyard Tidying  page 4
14th Church Coffee Morning  page 4
16th Newsletter copy deadline date  page 4
20th WI Meeting  page 6
20th Meal and a pint  See below
21st Village Quilters meeting (2-4pm)
28th St Peter’s Fellowship  page 18 & 5

Foot Clinic

Please note Over 69s Foot Clinic will be the fourth Friday if February not the third Friday the date is now FRIDAY 23rd February

June Roff

A MEAL AND A PINT
(or equivalent drink)

A SOCIAL EVENING at
THE CHAFFORD ARMS

Tuesday 20th February 7-00pm for 7-30pm

The menu is Lasagne and vegetarian option
To help with catering, Please contact Mike Gilbert or Paul and Jackie at the Chafford if you would like to attend.
District Councillor's report for January

Dear Residents,
Now with a few months of helping residents with their problems under my belt, a recurring query seems to be ‘who does what in local government?’, so I thought it might be useful if I tried to explain. There is a three-tier structure (Parish/ District/County) each with its’ own Council. In practice councillors at each level speak to each other regularly about local issues, and of course to our MP Tom Tugendhat, but formally each tier of local government has distinct responsibilities.

The District Council (Sevenoaks, on which I sit as your councillor) is responsible for environmental services (including refuse collection, recycling and tackling fly-tipping), deciding on planning applications and building control, housing (in partnership with West Kent Housing Association) and homelessness, licencing for pubs and events, parking, running elections (including the electoral register), community safety and wellbeing, leisure, economic development and collecting Council Tax.

Kent County Council  Peter Lake is our local County Councillor and his contact details are Peter.Lake@kent.gov.uk, Peter is also the District Councillor for Leigh & Chiddingstone Causeway.

Following my notification last month that the Department of Transport is to conduct a consultation about road safety issues related to cycling, some residents raised with me their concerns about incidents of drivers endangering cyclists. Fair point. Many of the roads in our parishes are narrow and winding, which makes it even more important that all road users act, as the Highway Code requires, with consideration to each other. Any changes to current legislation will have to be made nationally so I urge everyone with strong views on this subject to respond to the consultation. For the record, I am neither for nor against cycling but I do think there is an issue here worthy of public debate and I am passionate about the need for courtesy towards each other!

Sue Coleman, District Councillor (colemansoldrectory@hotmail.co.uk)
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**Foot Clinic**

Please could non members of Fordcombe Over 60s Club who wish to take advantage of the foot clinic held at The Village Hall on the 3rd Friday of each month either phone June Roff on 01892860559 or E mail jroff@sky.com during the week prior to the clinic to check availability as places are limited.
LINE DANCING

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PENSHURST PARISH COUNCIL

There was no Parish Council meeting in January

Next Meeting  Fordcombe Village Hall  Monday 5th February 7-30pm.

Neighbourhood Watch February 2018

No Crimes have been reported in either Penshurst or Fordcombe in the eight Police Reports received between 19th December and 12th January 2018.

Below is a table indicating crimes which have taken place in the areas managed by Sevenoaks Council during this period which may be of interest,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crime</th>
<th>19th December – 12th January</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theft of Vehicles</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft from Vehicles</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Damage</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary from Dwellings</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Interference</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft of Bicycle</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>257</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Telephone calls received from Residents during the above period

1, A farmer phoned to say that items had been stolen from a shed in the yard.

2, A male resident reported that his elderly mother had received a call supposedly from her bank stating that money had been taken from her account and would she provide them with her debit card details!

4, A lady reported that a car had been parked/abandoned outside a gate into her property. I suggested she called 101 for advice.

5, I was informed that a small lorry had been parked by the bridge over the River Eden along the Coach Road. A person had seen a large fire at about 11pm and contacted the Fire Brigade who put it out. I was worried that the Fire Engine would be too heavy for the bridge. On inspection no additional movement had taken place.

Peter Johnson
Abandoned Vehicles

The Council as enforcing authority has powers to deal with abandoned vehicles as set out in various pieces of legislation which I will summarise below.

The Council has responsibility for investigating any reported abandoned vehicles within its area even those on private land. However, in certain circumstances we may not be able to remove them. When we receive reports, the first thing we do is check with the DVLA to see if the vehicle is taxed or declared SORN (Statutory off road notice). We also check with the police to see if they have any interest in the vehicle. An officer from Sevenoaks District Council may then inspect the vehicle to see if in his opinion it appears abandoned. He will take various things into consideration when reaching his decision which will include if the vehicle is taxed or declared SORN, it’s condition for example are the tyres flat, has it been vandalised, it’s location and whether it appears to have been in the same position for any length of time.

If the vehicle is not taxed, is on the Highway and he considers it appears to have been abandoned, he will affix a notice to it giving the keeper 7 days to tax or remove it. If there is no contact from the keeper and it’s still there after 7 days and has not been taxed, the Council can have the vehicle removed. However, if a keeper comes forward and states that the vehicle is not abandoned, then the Council has no legal powers to remove it. This then becomes an enforcement issue for the DVLA to deal with.

If the vehicle is not taxed and has not been declared SORN and is on private land without the landowner’s permission and the officer considers it may have been abandoned, he will affix a notice giving the keeper 15 days to remove the vehicle. If there is no contact from the keeper and it is still there after 15 days the Council can have the vehicle removed providing the landowner agrees to this. However, if the keeper comes forward and states the vehicle has not been abandoned, then the Council has no legal powers to remove it. This would then become a private matter for the owner of the land to deal with.

If the vehicle is taxed on the Highway or on private land in addition to putting a notice on the vehicle, the Council will formally write to the keeper on record.

If the vehicle has been declared SORN and is on private land, then the Council has no legal powers to remove it as abandoned.

Sevenoaks District Council
How to improve your memory
Don’t forget to eat your greens – or you could be forgetting a lot of other things as well. It seems that a portion of green leafy vegetables each day can go a long way towards safeguarding the memory of older people. In a recent study, it was found that people who eat greens regularly can have a memory capacity equivalent to the memory of a person 11 years younger.

A recent study at Rush University Medical Centre in Chicago found that people in their 80s who ate just half a cup a day of certain green leafy vegetables (lettuce, spinach, kale and collard greens; all rich in vitamin K) had significantly better memory than those older people who did not.

Cut your calories to 1800 a day
Forget 2000 calories a day if you are a woman, and 2500 if you are a man: the latest health guidelines from Public Health England (PHE) are expected to recommend a 400 – 600 – 600 rule. That means restricting your calories to 400 for breakfast, 600 for lunch, and 600 for dinner. An additional two healthy snacks a day, of 100 calories each, are also permitted.

The government now believes that we are all consuming on average 200 – 300 MORE calories a day than we need. The new lower guideline is also thought to compensate for the fact that most people tend to underestimate the number of calories that they eat.

Love is…
What do children know about love? When questioned, some four to eight year olds came up with the following:

- When you're born and see your mummy for the first time. That's love.
- Love is what makes you smile when you're tired.
- If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who hates you.
- Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day.
- I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.
- You have to fall in love before you get married. Then when you're married, you just sit around and read books together.
- I let my big sister pick on me because my Mum says she only picks on me because she loves me.
- Love goes on even when you stop breathing, and you pick up where you left off when you reach Heaven.
- Love cards like Valentine's cards say stuff on them that we'd like to say ourselves, but we wouldn't be caught dead saying it.
- When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you

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Tickets ONLY £10pp from usual outlets OR through Bookitbee https://event.bookitbee.com/e/vtq2k

Please spread the word !!

To come….

Friday 27th April – The Oxley Meier Project (Jazz Quartet)
Friday 25th May – The Rob Luft (Tonbridge Jazz star!) Quintet
Friday 29th June – BLUES Artist TBC

For further details please e-mail livemusic@causewayhall.co.uk
Or call Tim on 07730 254604
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Penshurst Farmers' Market

MARKET FRESH

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FORDCOMBE ORGANISATIONS AND CONTACTS

FORDCOMBE Cof E Primary School Office 740224
PARENTS GUILD (Fordcombe School) Helen Jenner fordcombepg@gmail.com
CRICKET CLUB Ashley Worcester 740641

FORDCOMBE FETE COMMITTEE Tara Davies 740847
FORDCOMBE PRE-SCHOOL GROUP Doris Punnett 740616
Monday 9am to 2pm, Wednesday 9am to 3pm
Friday 9am to 1pm

THE FORDCOMBE SOCIETY Mike Arnold 740283

HEDGE BARTON RESIDENTS’ ASSOC’N Graham Parsons 740776

LUNCHEON CLUB (Pre-booking necessary) Kate Hargrave 861047
Monthly, 2nd Thursday, 12.30 pm

OVER SIXTIES CLUB Christabel Sworder 740345
Monthly 3rd Friday : 2 – 4 pm

PENSIONERS’ FOOT CLINIC June Roff 860559
Monthly, 3rd Friday at 2 pm

ST. PETERS’ MUSICAL TODDLERS Rebecca Reeves 740731
Weekly, Wed. 2.0–3.15 pm in the Church

R.S.P.C.A. Sheila Oliver 740270
Local Representative

STOOLBALL CLUB Sue Ailles 740751

TABLE TENNIS CLUB, Every Monday 7:45pm -9:45pm pm from October to March
contact via Email alfie@barnett1234.plus.com Elaine Barnett 740512
ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Meetings on last Wed.
in March & October or as required Richard Fry 740431

VILLAGE HALL Bookings: Janice Byrne bookingsclerk@gmail.com 740393
Sec. Vacancy

VILLAGE QUILTERS Sally Hill 740365
Monthly, 3rd Wednesday, 2-4 pm (ring for venue)

WOMEN’S INSTITUTE Fay Blanchard 536405
Monthly, 3rd Tuesday, 7.45 pm

FORDCOMBE PARISH COUNCILLORS Andrew Campbell 871500
Parish Council web site John Cass 740423
www.penshurstpc.kentparishes.gov.uk Jonathon Horsford 740032
Bruce Townsend 740451

LINE DANCING Most Wednesday evenings Pauline 740575

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH Mike Arnold 740283

ALL PHONE NUMBERS ARE PREFIXED 01892- .. UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE
VILLAGE WEB SITE http://www.fordcombevillage.co.uk twitter — @fordcombeinfo
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