



building with cottage garden

Children's History Detective Trail

'Wheels of Time'

CRANBROOK MUSEUM

AND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY C.I.O.

Open April to October. Tuesday to Saturday 2pm - 4.30pm also every Sunday in August

Donations welcome

EXHIBITIONS 2025

APRIL and MAY

The history of Cranbrook's Union Mill

JUNE, JULY and AUGUST

A look back at Cranbrook's Majorettes

SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER

Youthful Perspectives - Local history projects from Cranbrook School

Carriers Road, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3JX www.cranbrookmuseum.org Facebook@cranbrookmuseum

PRIVATE CLIENT WEALTH MANAGEMENT & INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISERS

FINANCIAL PLANNING | INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT ESTATE PLANNING

With in-person presence in Sissinghurst, CPN provide independent financial advice and financial & wealth planning services to a variety of personal and corporate clients across Kent, Surrey, the South East and beyond.

Please contact us if you are interested in finding out more about the services we provide, across Pensions & ISAs, Insurance, IHT planning, other investments and more financial products. We offer a fee free initial discussion & consultation.



CHRIS PAGE (DipPFS) Tel: 0208 668 8885 chrisp@cpngroup.co.uk

d is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FcA) No. 731205, registered / head offices at All Saints Church, West Pallant, Chichester, PO19 1TD.

The Bull at Benenden

Three floors of exhibits in 15th Century

Est. 1608.

A warm welcome awaits!





Customer Notice

Please be advised that our Sunday Carvery will be taking a break during the warmer summer months, returning in the autumn.

In the meantime, on Sundays, we will open as usual at 12pm for drinks, nibbles and a dusting of music.

Thank you.

01580 240 054 . 07729 353 541 . TN17 4DE . @bullbenenden enquiries@thebullatbenenden.co.uk

INTERIOR DESIGN





Professional interior design services to transform your home

Website: www.amyseymourinteriors.co.uk Instagram: @amyseymourinteriors Email: amy@amyseymourinteriors.co.uk





Workshop 5, Slaney Place Farm Headcorn Road, Staplehurst, Kent TN12 ODT

www.theobaldsfurniture.co.uk Tel: 01580 890055

Professional and traditional upholsterers

Most types of furniture re-upholstered and repaired. Cushion interior replacement service, antique restoration, stockists for DIY enthusiasts, extensive range of fabrics.



FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

PRIVATE CHAPELS OF REST 24-HOUR SERVICE ALL ARRANGEMENTS UNDERTAKEN WITH PERSONAL ATTENTION

CRISPIN & SIMON FUGGLE 4TH GENERATION FUNERAL DIRECTORS

20 ASHFORD ROAD, TENTERDEN, KENT, TN30 6QU | T: 01580 763340 | www.twfuggle.co.uk



Editorial



It's very much an English fete thing. You turn up with trouser pockets full of loose change (at least in the days before you could buy a pint from the beer tent with a debit card), you have a go at the tombola and win a bottle of bitter lemon that you'll never drink, endure public humiliation at the coconut shy, then you buy a raffle ticket and forget all about it.

This may well have been Beth Ansell's state of mind at last year's Benenden village fete. For Beth, however, the end result was that her ticket was drawn for first prize, which she may have been surprised to find was not so much a basket of fruit or a jolly picnic hamper, but a wing walk on a biplane.

To be clear, for the price of raffle ticket, she found herself either backing down in abject humiliation or being strapped to an aircraft that would actually fly, up in the air, at a significant altitude, like a magnificent man (or woman) in a flying machine, going "up tiddley up, up" and hopefully not "down tiddley down, down".

To Beth's eternal credit, as you'll see from our front cover picture, from her personal account on page 27, and from the video that will be showing in the church on the big day, she stood her ground, allowed herself to be tied to the infernal machine and went up smiling and waving, rather than collapsing in a gibbering heap. She said it was great. Fair play, Beth.

And if you were beginning to fret about being asked to buy a ticket for this year's raffle, at Benenden's big event on 14 June, you may be delighted to hear that this year's first prize is not an afternoon of fighting wild beasts in a Roman amphitheatre but a Michelin Star meal and overnight stay for two at the wonderful Gravetye Manor in East Sussex. I shall be buying substantial numbers. What a prize! What a fete! Enjoy the day.

Peter Thomas, Co-Editor

The Benenden Magazine is published monthly as a joint venture by Benenden Parish Council and St George's Parochial Church Council. It is distributed free to all residents of the parish. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the publishers. Responsibility for accuracy of information rests with contributors and advertisers. Neither the publishers nor the editors shall be held responsible for or endorse any opinions, products or services printed in the magazine or directory.

Editors: Ruth Clark, Peter Thomas

Editorial Board: PCC Rep: Cathy Presgrave, PC Rep: Nicola Thomas, Treasurer: Charles Trollope,

Business and Advertising Manager: Paul Leek, Advertising Assistant: vacant Distribution: Marilyn and Dick Hill, Layout Editor: Camilla Macdonald

Contributions to: benendenparishmagazine@gmail.com by the 10th of the preceding month.

Advertising orders or queries to: advertising.benendenmag@gmail.com.

Distribution queries to: dd.rhill@btinternet.com.

Postal address: c/o Community Office, Benenden Village Hall, Benenden, TN17 4DY 07593 226462

Church Calendar

St George's Church

Rector: Revd David Commander 240658 revdavidcommander@gmail.com (day off: Thursday)

Associate Priest: Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie 01233 820100 rev.ylva@gmail.com

Churchwarden: David Collard 241944 d.collard49@btinternet.com

Churchwarden: Sue Fisher 241907 sue@undaunted.co.uk

www.benendenchurch.org 850849 benendenchurch@gmail.com

Please inform the Rector, Associate Priest or Churchwardens if you, or anyone else, is ill.

Sunday I June 8am Communion I 0am All-age 5pm Choral Evensong

Communion

Pentecost 8 June 8am BCP Communion 10am Communion
Sunday 15 June 8am Communion 10am Sung Eucharist
Sunday 22 June 8am Communion 10am Morning Worship

Saturday 28 June 4pm Connect Four

at Mission Church, Sandhurst

Sunday 29 June 8am Benefice BCP 10am Benefice Communion

Communion at St Nicholas, Sandhurst

Morning Prayer 8am Mondays and Fridays (not on Bank Holiday Mondays)

Mission Church, Sandhurst

Rector: Revd David Commander 240658 revdavidcommander@gmail.com (day off: Thursday)

Morning Prayer 8am Tuesdays and Wednesdays (not Tuesday 24 or Wednesday 25 June)

Mid-week Communion I 0am Tuesdays

Iden Green Congregational Church

Pastor: Tobin Bird 240027 www.idengreen.org.uk

Sunday Services 10am Morning Worship 5.30pm Evening Worship

The I0am Morning Worship is broadcast on our YouTube channel: search 'Iden Green Congregational Church'.

The Roman Catholic Chapel of Our Lady and St Joseph TN17 4EL

Fr Barry Grant 713364 www.sttheodore-cranbrook.org

Masses 9am Sundays 7.30pm Holy Days

From the Parish Registers

Wedding 24 May Eleanor Gilbert and Edward Houchin

Funerals 4 May Angela Adams Interment

6 May Laura Pavier Funeral

2 18 May Charles Lenox-Conyngham Interment

Church Letter



It's midsummer and there's never a dull moment

We're halfway through the year this month - how the year marches on, the church year also. We celebrated a lovely Holy Week and Easter together; even the clouds cooperated on Easter Sunday and we watched a glorious sunrise from the east end of the churchyard at St Nicholas in Sandhurst just before 6am. We followed that with bacon sandwiches, croissants and coffee. What a great way to start the day and the celebrations of the risen Jesus. If you were there through Holy Week or the Easter services, thank you.

We have also had our annual church meetings: the annual parish meeting, where you can elect your churchwardens for the coming year; followed by the annual parochial church meeting, where the business of the church is reported upon, other elections take place, and the opportunities for the coming year are discussed. Some 24 people attended, with 12 apologies - from a new electoral roll membership of 106. If you were there, thank you for sharing your time.

This year we also had, for the first time in many, many years, a Patronal Service at St George's Church, remembering and celebrating our patron saint, St George. Attendance was 72 people, which was wonderful. Again, thank you. This was followed by a social time and a presentation on the progress of the church project.

This coming month, apart from the regular services, we have 'Teas in the Churchyard' on Sunday I June at St Nicholas (12-5pm). We have the special services of Pentecost (on 8 June) and Trinity Sunday the following week (15 June). In June and July, Russell Anderson joins us for a time. Russell is training to be a lay reader in the CoE. During his time with us, he will get experience of preaching and leading worship in different church settings to his home church of Headcorn. So we welcome Russell and his partner, Teresa.

On 14 June the Benenden Fete in support of St George's is on The Green from 12-4pm. Come along, have a great time at a traditional village fete while supporting the work of your parish church.

Following that, there are two opportunities for us to worship and celebrate together in our cathedral. On Tuesday 17 June at 5.30pm there is a 'visitation service' within the daily choral evensong service. The cathedral choirs are wonderful, so please come and experience that, but the visitation service is where your churchwardens are sworn into office and others who serve our churches are prayed for. Please come along and support your churchwardens.

Then on Saturday 28 June, at 2.30pm, Vicki Young - who was ordained as a deacon last June - is being ordained as a priest. She will then be able to conduct the sacramental ministry of baptisms and the Eucharist. Our churches have been an important part of Vicki's journey for the past seven years; please come and show her your support and your love as she takes this amazing step on her faith journey.

As you can see, your church is here, alive and active. Please come and join us.

Village Calendar

June		
Tuesday 3	Mobile Library, bus stop outside Benenden Village Hall, 10-10.30am	
Tuesday 3	Mobile Library, Benenden Hospital, 10.40-11.10am	
Thursday 5	Hug in a Mug, Benenden's Community Shop, 10am	p. I 5
Saturday 7	Churchyard Working Party, St George's, Benenden, 9.30-12noon	
Saturday 7	Hemsted Park, Chapel Down Wine Tasting Experience:	
	A Taste of England's Best, Benenden School Terrace, 6pm	p. l l
Saturday 7	Axe Throwing, St George's Social Club, 8.15pm	
Sunday 8	Cranbrook Symphony Orchestra, Summer Concert, Hemsted Park,	
	Benenden School Centenary Hall, 3pm	p. I 3
Tuesday 10	Village Lunch, Benenden Village Hall, 12.30pm	p.21
Saturday 14	Benenden Fete, in aid of St George's Church, The Green, 12noon-4pm	pull-out
Saturday 14	Fish and Chip Supper, St George's Social Club, 8.15pm	
Monday 16	Parish Council Meeting, Iden Green Pavilion, 7pm	
Tuesday 17	Mobile Library, bus stop outside Benenden Village Hall, 10-10.30am	
Tuesday 17	Mobile Library, Benenden Hospital, 10.40-11.10am	
Tuesday 17	Iden Green and Benenden WI, Garden Party at a Member's home, 5pm	p. 15
Saturday 21	Quiz Night, St George's Social Club, 8.15pm	
Tuesday 24	Merry and Bright, Garden Party, Scullsgate House, Benenden, 2pm	p.15
Tuesday 26	Iden Green and Benenden WI, Visit to King John's Nursery and Gardens,	
	Etchingham, 12.30pm	p.15
Saturday 28	Skittles, St George's Social Club, 8.15pm	
Sunday 29	The Angry Whelk Fresh Fish Stall, Benenden Village Hall, 12-2pm	

Iden Green Toddler Group

Tuesdays during term time in Iden Green Congregational Church, 9-11.30am

Wednesday Coffee Mornings

Wednesdays in the Memorial Hall, 10-11.30am

Benenden Bowls Club

Thursdays, April-September, on the recreation field, practice night, 6pm

Cakes & Chaos: Café and Toddler Group

Fridays during term time in St George's Church, 9-1 lam

Parish Council



In the past year the parish council has experienced interesting and significant results in planning applications. Aside from the more usual householder extensions and adaptation proposals, there have been some challenging cases which have tested the efficacy of our Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Benenden NDP sets out the policies and conditions for the four allocated residential development sites, which the developers must comply with to achieve planning consent from Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. There have been occasions where the PC has challenged both the developer and the TWBC planning officers.

Some of the highlights:

- Preventing the installation of five-metre-high street lighting lantern columns on the southern hospital site and replacing them with low-level motion sensor bollards to protect our dark skies, or certainly limit light pollution in the hospital area.
- In another application, the developer claimed that the site was not viable to include affordable housing, having started out with a design including a building accommodating both affordable and private units. The developer was proposing to make an off-site contribution of £80k for affordable housing. Despite the proposal being contrary to the provisions and policies of our NDP, the planning officers recommended approval to the planning committee. We were, of course, appalled. Nicola Thomas, our chair, spoke at the committee hearing, expressing our objection to the proposal and stating that it wasn't negotiable because of our affordable housing needs. Fortunately, the committee went against the recommendation and refused the application. We wait to see whether a redesign will come forward or whether the developer will lodge an appeal.
- We objected to the proposed 20m high mast at the telephone exchange in Benenden, which
 would have towered over the listed buildings in The Street and impact the conservation area.
 Even though there are many residents who would have benefited from a potentially improved
 mobile phone reception, the mast was not something they wanted to see. TWBC refused the
 application, which was then appealed. The planning inspectorate agreed and dismissed the appeal.

Without the NDP and the allocated sites for development, the parish would have ended up with disastrous housing estates unbefitting our rural environment and landscape. Our NDP is all about protecting our rural location and I'm pleased to report that it has worked for us very well.

Peta Grant, BPC Vice Chair

Caroline Levett, Benenden Parish Council Clerk
07593 226462 clerk@benendenparishcouncil.org
For more information see our website www.benendenparishcouncil.org or find us on Facebook

Parish Council Meeting Monday 16 June, Iden Green Pavilion, 7pm







'earson

Fencing

We offer all aspects of fencing whether it's to enhance your home and garden, for the safety & security of your business or agricultural fencing including equine, deer and livestock.

Residential • Commercial • Agricultural

- **Q** 07748 801426
- info@pearsonfencing.co.uk
- www.pearsonfencing.co.uk

For a complimentary, no obligation quote, please feel free to contact us.

Career, Family or Relationship Worries? Stuck in a Rut? Feeling Lost? Not sure who you are, or what you really want?



PEAR TREE

I'm Sara

An ICF ACC qualified coach and counsellor. I can help you Relight your spark.

Find your confidence. Discover your direction. Be the authentic you!

For a friendly, confidential, free initial chat, contact:

Sara@Peartreeconfidencecoaching.com www.PearTreeConfidenceCoaching.com





Hand-Finished Curtains & Blinds Fabrics & Poles Upholstery & Loose Covers Wallpaper & Paint Lighting & Carpets

www.lucyandrew.co.uk alucyandrewinteriors ~ lucy@lucyandrew.co.uk ~ 07930 507047

Cat Sitting Service



- Accredited in pet First Aid and CPR
- Accredited Feline behaviourist
- Over 10 years experience
- Your local Cat Specialist
- WhatsApp, text, call 07485 660 781 www.furrycatface.com

Talking Point



The slow erosion of common courtesy

'Courage, courtesy and compassion' are the core values of the school my son attended - the three Cs they instil in their students. It's a noble aim, but from personal experience, those values don't seem to filter through into real life beyond the school gates. Take my son. He's applied for over 40 graduate training schemes and other roles since last year. To date, only a handful of responses - the majority haven't even replied to tell him they're not progressing his application.

This isn't just disheartening for young people, indeed for any job seeker. It knocks your confidence. When you send out application after application and hear nothing back, it doesn't just make you feel overlooked, it makes you question your worth and your abilities. It's actively damaging.

I've been there myself. Over the years I've applied for countless jobs. In the 'old' days - when applications were handwritten letters and real people read them - you'd always get a reply. It might've taken a few weeks, but someone had the basic human decency to acknowledge you. I once gave someone a huge opportunity - enough to save their business - so much so they called me their 'guardian angel'. Try to get in touch now? Silence. As if I don't exist. They call it 'ghosting'. I call it plain bloody rude.

It's everywhere, this slow erosion of common courtesy: walking three abreast down a busy high street, face glued to a phone, bumping into oncoming pedestrians; headphones blasting out on packed trains; loud phone calls at the checkout in Tesco about your partner's bunions (true story). And don't get me started on the simple act of using your car's indicators - they all have them, so use them! Running late? Send a quick message. Maybe even - brace yourself - apologise.

We seem to live in bubbles of self-isolation now, unaware of our behaviour or its impact on others. I thought Covid might have changed things for the better - those moments of kindness, the neighbourly check-ins, the Thursday night applause - but somehow we've gone backwards. Even our supposed world leaders model discourtesy, bullying, lying and humiliating their peers in front of a global audience. Contrast that with Zelensky's grace, dignity, and calm. That's courage. That's courtesy. That's how it's done.

The truth is, it's not hard. We don't need to perform acts of heroism. Just reply to people. Say thank you. Be honest. Be present. Be kind. A little courage, courtesy and compassion - just a little - could genuinely change the way we live and relate to one another.

And honestly? It would mean the world to someone like my son, who's still out there waiting for someone in HR just to say: "Thanks for your time."

Sara Tidy www.peartreeconfidencecoaching.com



Step away and rest a while!

Transform your skin health with well researched technologies and nutrients to feed your skin from within. Discover advanced massage, well-being packages and beauty treatments to unwind and revitalise with. Experienced and compassionate therapists you can trust.

Gift Vouchers Available

azaratherapies.co.uk info@azaratherapies.co.uk T: 07711 483038





Peasmarsh Place Country Care has been an independent provider of elderly care since 1984, started by the current Viscount Devonport



Peasmarsh Place Care Home is a stunning residential home set in 5 acres on a country estate in Peasmarsh, East Sussex.

The residents of the home are supported and cared for by the trained team who provide care 24 hours a day. All our rooms are en suite and offer luxurious accommodation.

As the home caters for up to twenty elderly residents, staff can assess and fully understand each resident's needs.

We offer residential, convalescence and respite stays.

Why not contact the home, arrange a visit, and see what we have to offer?

Peasmarsh Place, Peasmarsh, Rye, TN31 6XE | *Tel*: 01797 230555 www.peasmarshplace.co.uk | *Email*: manager@peasmarshplace.co.uk

News and Events

Talking shop

It has been ten years since our community shop, Benenden's, was launched. Residents in the village and surrounding areas consider the shop, café and important post office to be a great asset and vital to village life. Over 350 shareholders have invested in the enterprise, providing essential funds to fit out the shop and café and to give us the cash flow for the first few months of trading. Shareholders are members of the Community Benefit Society who can vote and stand for election to a management committee, and at the annual general meeting we present our reports and accounts and update members on news and plans.

We have had some profitable years, allowing us to contribute to village projects including the playground, and we also managed to offer back all or part of any shareholder's investment if required. However, during and after Covid we endured many challenges that reduced our profitability, including increased staff costs and maintenance of old equipment. We had allowed for replacing essential equipment, but because spare money has not been available, replacing other items such as the awning, which is important to our kerbside appeal, had to be put on hold.

New families to the village have never had the opportunity to invest in the shop so the committee has decided to offer everyone (including existing shareholders) a new opportunity to take a stake. Your investment will ensure Benenden's future and allow us to improve the facilities we offer you. After all the hard work that has been invested into our shop over the years, we must ensure its survival. It's a social hub and brings joy to many. Details of the share offer and application form are in this magazine.

We hope we will be supported by the village to secure the future of Benenden's and look forward to seeing you at a future AGM and perhaps as a volunteer in the shop.

Jacky Ceeney info@benendens.co.uk

www.benendens.co.uk

JEN FETE 2025

DONATION TIMES & INFORMATION

WHAT Good condition bric-a-brac, tools, clothes, jewellery, books & toys

WHEN into our cars from 8.30-9.30am on:

- Saturday 24 & 31 May, 7 June
- Wednesday 28 May, 4 & 11 June Please DON'T leave donations outside these times

WHERE Car park area outside the public toilets, adjacent to The Bull

WHO If you can't make these dates call: Maggy Hoyt 07485 051265 (bric-a-brac)

Amanda Garratt 07766 000064 (bric-a-brac & tools)

Mary Parkinson 388402 (chic boutique) Ruth Clark 07767 261883 (books)

Ally Lambert 07515 495388 (toys)

Calling classic car owners

It's nearly time to give your car a final polish before bringing it along to show it off at the Benenden fete on Saturday 14 June. Whether you have a 'classic' or one that would be just 'interesting' to others, you are very welcome. Parking up at the top of the Green from 11.30am. Enter on the left-hand side road for the fully supervised parking area. See you there. Richard Stubbings 854992

Benenden Pre-School

We are looking forward to the village fete on 14 June, where, as usual, pre-school will be running the face-painting stall, thanks to some of our generous mums who have taught themselves how to turn a child's face into anything from a flower to a wild animal. Children become fully engaged in the fun and magic of the process, they are required to practise focus and patience while the colours and features are applied, and then, ta dah!, they have a new persona, a second skin to inspire creativity and confidence as well as a shared experience as they meet their beautifully decorated friends at the fete. See you at the face painting stall. Lucy Oakley, Supervisor

supervisor@benendenpreschool.co.uk

JSH

Construction Services & Surveying

Justin Hunt 07710 039 190 justin@jshsurveying.co.uk Kitchen Fitting
Floor & Wall Tiling
Bathroom & Shower
Installation Flooring
Painting & Decorating
Drylining & Partition Walls
Suspended Ceilings
Decking & Patios
Cladding & Roofing
Garden Landscaping



Get your aches & pains eased by a professional, fully insured Graduate Sports Therapist in Benenden.

Injury assessment, massage, stretching, cupping, taping & exercise rehabilitation.

Reduce pain, improve your flexibility, strength & posture with Rebecca Manford (BSc Hons MSST) **07923 965601**





Webb's

45 & 51 High Street

Hardware, Garden and Coolowere Specialists

HARDWARE and DIY

Specialists in power, hand and garden tools, plumbing, decorating sundries, lawnmower repairs - brand new showroom

KITCHENWARE

Cookware specialists, garden furniture and barbecues Gifts with a difference. Free gift wrapping

HOME and LINEN

Beautiful bed linen, towels, table furnishings, babyware department and quality toys

We guarantee you will not leave Webb's empty handed!

Tel: 01580 762132

email: mail@webbsoftenterden.com

Website: www.websoftenterden.com



SPRING/SUMMER 2025

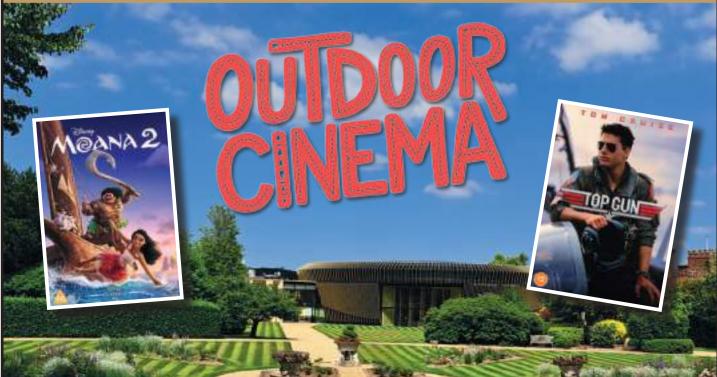
Book now at hemstedpark.com



Chapel Down Wine Tasting Experience:

A Taste of England's Best 7 June





Summer Screenings at Hemsted Park ⁶ July

In partnership with







Connect with us



Savills Cranbrook +44 (0) 1580 720 161 cranbrook@savills.com





Fast access to treatment for everyone

Our calm and welcoming hospital has high patient satisfaction rates, with access to over 250 self-pay treatments and services. As the only CQC rated Outstanding hospital in Kent, you can be confident in choosing Benenden Hospital for your diagnosis and treatment. Set in tranquil countryside, with specialist award-winning facilities, Benenden Hospital will ensure you receive first-class care from our dedicated clinical teams.

Over 100 years of excellent patient care.

Payment plans available

Choose Benenden Hospital for

- Fast access to diagnosis and treatment
- Leading and highly respected Consultants
- Compassionate and experienced teams
- Clear and easy to understand pricing

To book an appointment, call now



01580 362 880



benendenhospital.org.uk





Film night success

A screening of The Italian Job, the classic 1960s film starring Michael Caine, was a huge hit at Benenden Village Hall, as was the delicious meal served to the sellout audience at the intermission. It was the second film night organised by Benenden Village Trust, which owns the village hall, to raise funds for hall modernisation. The first, last November, was a showing of Casablanca, the 1940s classic. A large number of village volunteers made the evening such a success.

Particular thanks to Grant Matthews of WoW Cooking, who contributed (at cost) a superb Italian-themed meal of lasagne (with veggie options) and tiramisu for some 80 guests. BVT is grateful to Grant for his large involvement in both this and the first film night.

The planning and organisation of both nights was masterminded by BVT trustee Paul Tolhurst, with help from Benenden Players (Bev and Graham Beveridge, Peter Ellis and Nancy Tolhurst) who helped trustees prepare the hall and tidy up at the end of the evening, and also set up a much-improved sound system.

Clare Jacques and John Betts, the hall manager, created some great lighting effects, themed on the colours of the Italian flag.

Thanks, too, to all the guests, who contributed a great atmosphere and lots of bar and raffle purchases. In all, the evening made a net profit of £1,620.06 to go towards hall improvements.

BVT hopes that the event will now become a regular part of the village calendar. Watch out for details of the next showing in the autumn.

Martin Dickson, Chairman, Benenden Village Trust www.benendenvillagetrust.org



Friends of Benenden Primary School

April has been a quiet month for the Friends with two weeks away from school for the Easter holidays. We have enjoyed some lovely time in the sunshine with our families but now being back to school we have our sights set on one of the biggest events of the year: the Benenden Fete. We have two events to help collect sweetie jars and bottles for the tombola, so we look forward to seeing our children with 'own clothes' and 'silly socks' in exchange for bringing in the above items.

Meanwhile, we have spent a lot of time tackling the second-hand uniform and organising it all to help parents gather what they need for their children in exchange for a donation. Everything has been sorted and neatly organised and a huge thank you goes to Jane for taking the lead on this. We all agree it looks so neat and tidy and lots of parents have managed to pick up pre-loved uniform for their children.

Evie Banfield and Jane Mason, Friends of Benenden CE Primary friends@benenden-cep.kent.sch.uk www.benenden-cep.kent.sch.uk/PTFA/







Qualified & experienced 🗸 Insured & risk assessed 🗸 Waste carriers licence 🚵 Waste recycled

Office: 01580 713495 • Mobile: 07838 229482 • www.kentgardening.com

fixing leaking taps to complete kitchens ह Pipes & Nails • Home • Garden • **Property Maintenance Plumbing & Handyman Service** Local & Trusted ~ We'll take care of your home ~ Fast, local emergency help. No job too small. No call-out charge.

Chris Leach 07919 143755

leachfamilly@gmail.com

www.pipesandnails.com s swimming pools ~ doors & locks ~ general

ELECTRICIAN

Do you want a safe, reliable, reasonable priced Electrician?

LED Lighting - Fault finding - Extra Sockets Outside Lights - Smoke Detectors - No Job Too Big or Small

NEW FUSE BOARDS

Fully insured qualified electrician. 6 year Guarantee



I assure you of a quick response

Call Nick now 07776 254458

email: nick@njhelectrical.co.uk www.njhelectricalservices.co.uk





PILATES CLASSES for all abilities

'Kat is such a great highly recommend her classes.



GROUP MAT CLASSES

Monday 8.30pm Benenden Village Hall

Benenden Village Hall

Thursday 9am Bloomsburys, Biddenden

Thursday 7.45pm St Andrew's Church Hall, Tenterden

GROUP REFORMER CLASSES PRIVATE ONE TO ONE & DUETS

Monday-Thursday 9am-4pm in new Pilates Studio, Benenden





Weald Table Tennis Club

Weald Table Tennis Club continues to thrive, welcoming new and returning players each week. The club meets at the village hall on Thursdays from 7-9pm and Sundays from 6.30-8.30pm, offering a friendly and inclusive atmosphere for all abilities. Whether you're a complete beginner or a seasoned player, everyone is encouraged to come along and join in. The first session is completely free, with all equipment and basic coaching provided. There's nothing to lose by giving it a try.

It's a great way to stay active, improve your reflexes, and meet others from the local community. The sessions are informal, fun, and cater to a mix of social and competitive play. So why not pop down and see what it's all about? For more information, just come along to a session. You'll be made very welcome. Barry Bassett

Merry and Bright

First, we would like to thank Nick Rendall for our very interesting afternoon at Benenden School talking about Hemsted, and for the lovely cream tea afterwards. Some of the Year 7 girls came along and gave a talk on the project they have done (collecting sounds around the school). Later they served tea to us all and chatted with us. A very enjoyable afternoon.

We are all looking forward to hearing Sheila Hume talking about the British Flower Movement and growing for cutting on Tuesday 27 May. We hope the weather will be nice so we are able to see her beautiful garden.

Our 24 June meeting will be our Garden Party at Scullsgate House by kind invitation of Alastair and Ruth Pringle. Details will be shared with our existing members but if any prospective members would like to come along please contact us. Lifts can be arranged. Laraine Penny 241763 Julia Collard 241944



Iden Green and Benenden WI

Our recent visit to the Peacock Inn, Goudhurst was delightful. The food was tasty and proportional so that we all had sufficient without being overfull. We had a good time.

We had a successful AGM and enjoyed the additional pleasure of exchanging plants and produce. The raffle, as always, was fun. On 17 June at 5pm we shall have our annual garden party at a member's home. Although there is no dress code, it is a grand opportunity to bring out those special outfits to wear whilst enjoying convivial company and tête-à-tête on the lawn.

Thanks go to Mary, who is arranging a visit to King John's Nursery and Gardens, Burwash, on Thursday 26 June. This has been highly recommended and we are looking forward to it. Please get in touch for details.

Jackie Liffen 752232 WI@daisystar.co.uk





WEDDINGS & PARTIES

with elegance & rustic charm

From the magnificent, vaulted roof of The Oak Barn to the tranquillity of The Byre with its stunning views, Frame Farm is perfect for your celebration.

LUXURIOUS & AWARD WINNING ECO-VENUE

01580 441571 www.the-oak-barn.co.uk @theoakbarnff



how to apply for food. Nourish does cover the Benenden area, meaning deliveries can be made to your home.

For information call 01892 548892 www.nourishcommunityfoodbank.org.uk

Private Tuition

Remote Sessions Now Available

Boosting Confidence & Developing Potential With Clare Leek

clare.intuition@btinternet.com 07711 619536



Primary Subjects Singapore Maths French

hobbs

Uncomplicated, trustworthy and confidential advice if you are selling or letting

> Ashford: 01233 506260 Tenterden: 01580 766766 www.**hobbsparker**.co.uk

Beating Retreat

Hole Park is delighted to be hosting the ABF Kent Branch Annual Beating Retreat ceremony on 8 July. This historic ceremony would have been a frequent event in the military of old. It is now a special event and we are delighted to welcome the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas, joining the Cranbrook Town Band, who will play during the reception. The salute will be taken by the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, the Lady Colgrain.

Wine and canapés will be served during a reception at 6.30pm followed by Beating Retreat and the Last Post flag-lowering ceremony ending the event at 8.45pm. Tickets (adult £25/child £10) are available now at www.holepark.com/events/beating-retreat. Prebooking is essential.

Benenden Players

Thanks to the many of you who came to our fabulous VE80 celebration in the village hall. We had over 90 attendees who enjoyed readings from those who celebrated VE Day in 1945 and songs from the era. It was a good opportunity to raise funds for the Army Benevolent Fund as well, thanks to the generosity of those who came along and bought raffle tickets. The players will now start planning for Panto 2026 - yes, village panto is back with a bang! We have worked hard over the past year to improve both sound and stage lighting, and thanks in particular go to John Betts (village hall manager) and CJ for their work on lighting, and the Bonfire Society for their grant towards new LED lights. Watch out for audition news in August if you fancy taking part in our next show or to help out. **Nancy Tolhurst**



Benenden Primary School

Last term, we celebrated Federation Day at Goudhurst and Kilndown Primary School. The children arrived at Goudhurst to spend the day with their matching year group class. They played together, went to a church service and took part in team activities before returning to Benenden. Thank you to the staff and children at Goudhurst who made us all feel so welcome.

We returned from the Easter break feeling fully refreshed and excited about the term ahead; trips galore, Morris Dancing, VE Day celebrations, SATs, bubble football, a battle re-enactment, and Walk to School Week to name but a few.

Some children took part in the London Mini Marathon. What a wonderful experience they all had running 2.6km around some of the most beautiful parts of London. Thank you so much to Robin O'Conner and Sarah Brown for organising the event and to Mrs Mileham for joining the children on the day. Well done to Alocoque, Lockie, Oscar, Caoillainn, Poppy, Molly, Phoebe, Issy, Violet, George G, Jake and Zachariah.

We then held had our very own mini marathon. Many thanks to Miss Maynard and Miss Sanchez for organising the event, and a huge thank you to all the parent volunteers who made it happen. Well done to George, who crossed the finish line in first place.

Lindsay Roberts, Executive Headteacher 240565 office@benenden-cep.kent.sch.uk www.benenden-cep.kent.sch.uk



Help is on hand from your local Mind

www.westkentmind.org.uk 01732 744950

Information given, volunteers welcome and donations needed.

We're here to make sure anyone with a mental health problem has somewhere to turn for advice and support.

TOMPSETT LANDSCAPING

GARDEN LANDSCAPE AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACTORS

Tompsett Landscaping is a family run business which takes pride in offering a quality, professional, friendly and reliable service at competitive rates for all aspects of garden maintenance and landscaping.



Nick Tompsett 07746 672946 Rob Tompsett 07961 637275

E: info@tompsettlandscaping.co.uk W: www.tompsettlandscaping.co.uk

PLEASE CONTACT US TODAY FOR YOUR FREE NO OBLIGATIONS QUOTATION

TERRY THE MOLE MAN

EX-GAMEKEEPER Controlling Moles using traditional methods

07746 937 373 | 01580 241759 terrybaldwin73@icloud.com POGLE'S GARDEN MAINTENANCE

Mowing Strimming Hedge Cutting and more



Please call Sue and Andy 01580 241792 07887 997551

www.lambertandfoster.co.uk



Looking to sell or let your property?

Book your appraisal online, by email or by phone

Call 01580 712 888 Email cranbrook@lambertandfoster.co.uk Office 39 High Street, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3DN

PROPERTY PROFESSIONALS FOR OVER 120 YEARS





RICS arla | propertymark







Carpet and Vinyl supplied and fitted at reduced rates

- Same choice as any shop but up to half the price
- We can move your furniture for you and take away your old flooring



For free home sample viewing and estimates please call Stuart or Lisa

01580 239770 / 01424 855882 / 07734 659834 bargainfloors@hotmail.co.uk www.bargainfloors.co.uk







VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Chalkdown Riding for the Disabled, Staplehurst, are currently looking for volunteers to help with their therapeutic riding sessions on Wednesday and Thursday mornings in term time. If you have equine experience, enjoy being part of a team and would like to help our riders discover the healing powers of horses then please get in touch.

All volunteers will need to provide two references and will be DBS checked.

Email staplehurstrda@gmail.com for more information Or download an application form from chalkdownstaplehurst-rda.co.uk

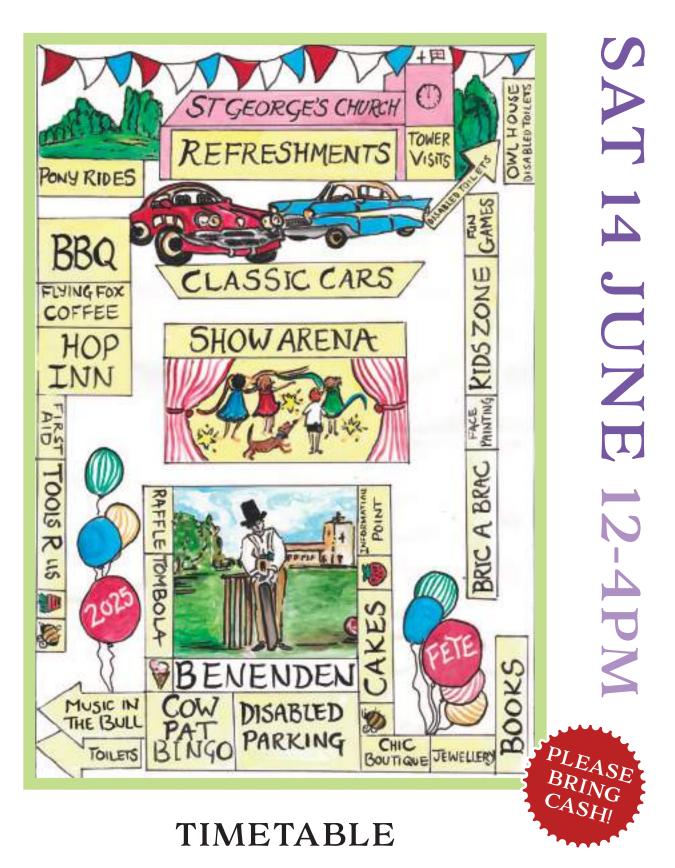
BENENDEN FETE

2025 PULL-OUT GUIDE



Cakes | Fun Dog Show | Bric-a-Brac | Tools-R-Us | BBQ | Hop Inn | Cream Teas | Coffee Milkshakes & Ice Cream | Kids Zone | Raffle | Books | Classic Cars | Pony Rides | Chic Boutique | Jewellery | Coconut Shy | Plants | Tombola | Cow Pat Bingo | Live Music

Dancing | Strawberries & Cream



12.00 Fete opens & BBQ ready Reg E Mental: Children's magic for fun & giggles Arena

- **12.10 Benenden Strings:** Wonderful melodies performed by talented youngsters *Church*
- 1.00 Rhythm of Life Choir: The Benenden
- **1.40** & Tenterden choirs join to fill the church with glorious song *Church*
- 1.15 Fun Dog Show: Bring along your talented
- 2.00 pooch to take part in Waggiest Tail, Most
 Doggie Sits & Fun Agility categories Arena
- 1:30 Music in The Bull: Benenden Jazz & Echo 155
- 4.00
- 2.00 Jane Whiteley plays the organ Church
- 2.30 Ami Piper Dance School Show: Enjoy
- 3.00 a lovely programme of dances Arena

- 3.15 Children's fun races: Calling all children who
- 4.00 fancy their chances in the Spud & Spoon Race,
 Sack Race, Three-legged Race & Sprints.
 Just turn up to take part Arena
- **3.15 Cow Pat Bingo:** Watch Hinxden Dairy's Gwendoline deliver her winning cow pat
- 3.40 Raffle winners announced
- 4.00 Close

BENENDEN VILLAGE FETE

In aid of St George's Church

Wonderful Stalls

Discover fabulous finds and bargains on our stalls including books, pre-loved clothes & jewellery, toys, tools & machinery, plants galore, books, a treasure trove of bric-a-brac items and vintage textiles.

Scrumptious Food & Drink

Buy scrumptious cakes and jams; sit down to cream tea in the church; savour Flying Fox fresh coffee; treat yourself to strawberries and cream, Hinxden Dairy milkshakes, and ice cream; snap up burgers and sausages from the BBQ and wash them all down with real ale, cider, wine and fizz from the Hop Inn.

Recyclable Cups

Pay £1 deposit for your drink's cup and when you return it you will get £1 back. It's that simple! Enjoy – Return – Reuse.

Kids Zone

Head for the kid's area for lots of fun and games. Plus, who can resist Face Painting, Tombola, Soggy Sponges, and showing off your skills at the Coconut Shy, Hook-a-Duck, Cricket and Splat the Rat. At the top of The Green enjoy a pony ride run by Hemsted Forest Equestrian Centre, then send your teddy down the zip wire from the church roof.

Cow Pat Bingo & Morris Minor Balloons

A star attraction and nail biting! Buy a grid square and hope our very special Hinxden Dairy cow chooses it to deliver her first pat to win you a night for two at The George in Rye. Then try and guess how many balloons have been packed into the Morris Minor – not as easy as you think.



Benenden Village Fete



@benenden_fete

ARENA FUN & GAMES

12.00 Reg.E.Mental Magician:

Children's magic for fun & giggles

1.15 FUN DOG SHOW:

Bring along your talented pooch to take part in Waggiest Tail, Most Doggie Sits & Fun Agility. Hosted by cranbrookdogwalking.com.

2.30 Ami Piper Dancers:

Enjoy a lovely programme of dances.

3.15

Fun Races:

Calling all children who fancy their chances in the Spud & Spoon Race, Sack Race, Three-legged Race and Sprints. Turn up to enter. Medals are up for grabs.

Classic Cars

At the top of The Green take a walk around a display of classic cars lovingly cared for by local owners.



In the Church

Climb up the St George's Church tower to appreciate the stunning views over the village and surrounding countryside. This is a not-to-be-missed experience. Afterwards relax with a delicious cream tea and browse bargain artwork.

Music, Music, Music

After the bells ring out to start the fete you can enjoy beautiful music played by the young Benenden Strings, Jane Whiteley on the organ and joyful singing by the Rhythm of Life Choir. Meanwhile, in The Bull you will be entertained by the talented Benenden Jazz and Echo 155.

Fabulous Raffle Prizes

Don't forget to snap up a raffle ticket with a chance to win great prizes, including three cash prizes as well as an amazing Michelin star dinner and stay for two at Gravetye Manor. Buy them in advance at the village shop and The Bull or on the day at the raffle stall. Other prizes donated by: Appleacre Art Studio, Azara Therapies, Banjara, Benenden Bacchus, Benenden's, Benenden Panto, Biddenden Cider, Carriage Hair Studio, Great Dixter, Hannah's Garden, Helen Jewsbury, Hemsted Equestrian Centre, Hemsted Park, Kino, Majestic, National Trust, Pashley Manor, Pympne Manor, Tesco, The Bull, Wealden Smokery,

Wanor, lesco, the Bull, Wealden Smokery, Westfield Farm honey. Just a note: We sold out of tickets last year so be sure to grab your tickets early!

Parking & Toilets

Please don't park on the road. Lots of parking is available on the field by the village hall. There are allocated parking spots available at the bottom of The Green. The public toilet is by the village hall and disabled toilets at the top of The Green.



A HUGE THANK YOU TO:

...all the volunteers who help to bring this wonderful traditional fete to fruition. It wouldn't be the marvellous occasion it is without your hard work and support. And thank you to our sponsors and all those who have donated prizes and items for the stalls.

Special thanks to:







The George for the Cow Pat Bingo prize, Lambert & Foster for sponsoring the generators, Mudwall for wine, Arthur Reynolds for the hay bales; and all our advertisers.

LOCAL BUSINESSES



Fast access to treatment for everyone



01580 362 880



benendenhospital.org.uk



A WARM WELCOME AWAITS YOU IN OUR COMMUNITY SHOP

Local wines, beers & ciders, Artisan bread, Fresh local-grown flowers, cafe for cream teas & more

Benenden's Community Shop - Café - Post Office



Having energetic fun at the fete? Come relax at Hole Park

16 acres of renowned gardens & a tea room awaiting you Open daily until 30 June; July - Oct: Wed & Thurs; & Sundays in Oct.

www.holepark.com.



Your Local Property Experts valeandmarsh.com 01580 242700





PROUDLY SPONSORING THE POWER



WEDDINGS & PARTIES with elegance & rustic charm

01580 441571 www.the-oak-barn.co.uk @theoakbarnff



Lambert & Foster and Bloomfields are proud to support the village fete

www.lambertandfoster.co.uk www.bloomfieldsltd.co.uk



Benenden Hospital

For many, this is the time of year when we enjoy the most time in our gardens or exploring bigger outdoor spaces. National Growing for Wellbeing Week celebrates the magic that growing your own produce can do for your wellbeing, both physically and mentally.

The Royal Horticultural Society has released research that revealed those who garden every day have wellbeing scores 6.6% higher and stress levels 4.2% lower than people who don't garden at all. It also showed a significant association between gardening more frequently and improvements in wellbeing, perceived stress and physical activity. Even if you don't have a garden, Kent has so many beautiful gardens, countryside walks and opportunities to start an allotment. These spaces can also work to combat social isolation, helping to reduce loneliness and therefore improve your health.

On another note, 19 June marks National Clean Air Day, and I'd like to take the opportunity to celebrate our fantastic partnership with SageTech as part of our sustainability programme. Their innovative technology to capture volatile anaesthetic gas at source is groundbreaking. We are the first private independent hospital to implement their solution to reduce pollution from anaesthetic gases in our operating theatres. Keep an eye out for videos about this on our YouTube channel @benendenhospital.

I wish you all a wonderful month filled with gardening, wellbeing and clean, fresh air and, if we're very lucky, even some beautiful sunshine. Claire Harley, Hospital Director



Benenden School

We are proud to be the custodians of a rich and evolving history - one that belongs not only to our school but to the wider village community that has supported it for generations. With this in mind, our archives department has recently launched an inspiring new initiative: the creation of a sound museum.

This growing collection will complement our already well-established archive of photographs and artefacts by capturing the sounds and voices of Benenden - creating a unique auditory snapshot of our school and its surrounding community. To share our work so far, we were delighted to welcome members of the village's Merry and Bright club, many of whom have strong personal or family ties to the school. Our students introduced the sound museum project, and the afternoon was rounded off with a cream tea and the sharing of many fond memories.

We look forward to welcoming back some of the guests in June who have agreed to contribute recorded interviews to the museum, offering personal reflections on life at Benenden stretching back to the 1960s. These stories will not only be preserved for future generations of students and researchers but will serve as a meaningful tribute to the close and enduring relationship between the school and our local community.

Rachel Bailey, Headmistress



K JONES ELECTRICAL

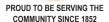
Electrical and Solar Contractors Accredited, qualified and trusted local family business for over 40 years Free Estimates

01580 848118

kevin.kjoneselectrical@gmail.com









Your fully independent, family owned, Funeral Directors serving the local community with compassion and the highest standards of service and professionalism.

> With our 24-hour emergency service, we are only a telephone call away.

At the earliest stage possible, you will speak directly with one of our experienced Funeral Directors, who will be there to help, support and guide you through the whole of the funeral process.

GOLDEN CHARTER



Bank Street, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3EF 01580 713636

Dixter Road, Northiam, East Sussex TN31 6LB 01797 260316

> enquiries@jperigoeandson.com www.jperigoeandson.com

J. Perigoe and Son is a Trading Division of West & Coe Limited, 602 Rainham Road South, Dagenham, Essex RM10 8YP



Volunteer Transport Group

Do you live in the parish and need a lift to a medical appointment?

Just give us a call or email and our volunteer drivers will do their best to help

01580 240755 m.moore131156@gmail.com **Mick Moore**



TRANSFORM YOUR OUTDOOR SPACES

With over 20 years of industry experience, Buebelts Groundwerks is you ideal partner for any project or consultation needs. Specialising in all aspects of groundwarks and hard tendscaping, we deliver reliable and expert solutions. Trust us to bring your vision to life with precision and dedication.

Enjoy peace of mind knowing your landscaping features are constructed with high-quality materials and techniques to withstand the test of time.

info@bluebellsgroundworks.co.uk bluebellsgroundworks.co.uk

PROPERTY FEATURE

- CONCRETE SLABS
- FOUNDATIONS
- ▶ DRAINAGE
- > PATIOS
- ▶ PATHS & DRIVEWAYS
- F RETAINING WALLS
- HARD LANDSCAPING
- > EXCAVATION
- ➤ DEMOLITION & MORE

Summer teas in St George's

Once again we are planning to offer tea and coffee with cake in St George's Church every Sunday throughout July and August between 2-4pm. You are invited to pop in and enjoy some refreshments and spend time in our village church. There's no charge, but any donations will go towards the upkeep of this beautiful building.

Helen Commander

Hospice Run

The annual Hospice Run takes place on Sunday 21 September. Now in its 19th year, the run has something for everyone and raises muchneeded funds for Hospice in the Weald.

You can sign up for the following routes:

- Family Fun Run: suitable for all ages and abilities. Children are encouraged to dress up as their favourite hero.
- 5k: for runners starting off on their fitness journey.
- 10k: for regular runners who like a challenge, taking in Tunbridge Wells landmarks.
- Half marathon: our ultimate challenge and suitable for experienced athletes or those wanting to practise their first half marathon distance.

Sign up now to avoid missing out on one of the most hotly anticipated closed-road routes in the South East. Visit the events section of our website for more information and to register: www.hospiceintheweald.org.uk/events/hospicerun-2025/. Or call Hospice in the Weald on 01892 820533.

Richard.Moxham@hospiceintheweald.org.uk

VINEHALL INTERNATIONAL CLASSICAL CONCERT SERIES 36th Season 2024-25

LONDON BRANDENBURG ENSEMBLE **Director and Violin: JANE GORDON** Sunday 8 June 2025 at 7pm

Programme
Purcell Dance Suite from Fairy Queen
Telemann Viola Concerto in G major TWV 51:G9
J.S. Bach Concerto for 2 Violins in D minor, BWV 1043
J.S. Bach Concerto for Violin and Oboe in C minor Mendelssohn Capriccioso Op.81 No.3 Mendelssohn String Symphony No.12 in G minor

For full details, free mailing, tickets call 01580 883092 or write to A.G. Whitehead, Vinehall School, Robertsbridge, East Sussex TN32 5JL geoffreywhitehead@vinehallschool.com

Village lunch

All Benenden villagers are invited to join us for lunch in the village hall at 12.30pm on Tuesday 10 June. If you would like to come and haven't written your name down already, then please ring me by Thursday 5 June if possible. It costs just £5 and lifts can be arranged. We look forward to seeing you.

Genevieve Greenwood 240526

Planning Matters

For full details of the Parish Council's comment please see minutes of meetings.

- 25/01026/FULL Pine Tree Lodge, The Street. Replacement of garden room; replacement of window in dining room with bifold doors.
- 25/01003/FULL Land Opposite Little Bishopsden, Biddenden. Removal of Condition 3 of Planning Permission 08/02043/FULL - (restriction of the use of building).
- 25/01062/FULL Backtilt, Stepneyford Lane. Conversion of car barn into ground floor bedroom & ensuite as an extension to the existing annex. Erection of car barn, garden store & greenhouse.

More planning matters at: benendenparishcouncil.org



Everything Outside

Complete Garden & Fencing Solutions

Fencing • Mowing • Hedge Trimming • Turfing
Clearance • Landscaping • Gardening • Digger Work
Concreting • Tree Surgery • Pressure Washing
Patios • Decking • Pergolas • Driveways

01580 766 232 07795 465 861



www.everythingoutside.co.uk



ANITA MEEKINS PRIVATE HIRE

FIRST CLASS SERVICE

Ordinary & Executive Vehicles & 8 seater minibus with seat belts

All drivers & vehicles licensed & tested

Long & short journeys & courier service available

Business accounts welcome

Tel: 01580 240713 Mobile: 07774 672 043

anitameekinsph@btconnect.com



Looking to store equipment

Benenden Cricket Club continue to enjoy great cooperation from Stuart and Olivia Collier for our equipment storage, but we need to look for a new home near The Green by September.

If you have any ideas, or know anyone who might be able to help, please contact:

Peter Newman pcslnewman@yahoo.co.uk

Benenden Cricket Club

Cricket returned to the village on 3 May as Benenden edged Sandhurst by 22 runs in a tightly contested match. Sandhurst won the toss and chose to bowl, a smart move given the slow outfield. Openers Peter Newman (44 retired) and Andrew (Morrow) Morrison (5) were tested early. Steve Message (28) and Peter accelerated before Copter Brunt (50) and Gareth Thompson (4) added crucial runs. Tarquin Dessoutter (14 retired) impressed until injury struck mid-run - we wish him a speedy recovery. Les Aldous (10*) and Wilf Maidment (6*) closed the innings, the latter smashing a final-ball six to lift Benenden to 188.

Sandhurst started their chase well, but tight bowling from Ben Maidment (3-26) and James Glean (1-39) stemmed momentum. Wilf (0-20) bowled a fiery spell and was unlucky not to take any wickets. This set the stage for Barry Bassett (4-21), who took four vital wickets in seven overs, including the troublesome opener. Morrow and Copter maintained pressure, while fielding, which is often our weakness, and excelled. Catches from Les, Copter, Andrew, and Steve's boundary blinder sealed the result.

No single man of the match this week, since the win came from partnerships and disciplined bowling. In summary, a great team effort.

Our next home games will be: Saturday 31 May vs Richard Gairdner XI at 1.30pm

Saturday 21 June vs TBA at 1.30pm

Do buy yourself a beer from the Bull and come along to show your support.

Barry Bassett



Hospice in the Weald musical dates

The 17th annual concert events in Sandhurst will begin with Daniel Grimwood playing Rachmaninov, Widor and Henselt on Saturday 26 July at 3pm. The second recital is earlier than usual, on Wednesday 27 August, when Florian Verweij will be coming from Holland to make his Kent debut playing Schubert, Prokofiev, Henselt and Brahms.

Tickets, minimum donation £22, are available from me. Advance bookings only.

Gillian Davis 850384

Summer concert

Sutton Valence Choral Society under conductor Bryan Gipps, together with young musicians supported by the Kent and Medway Young Musicians Trust, will be performing popular choral favourites at Sutton Valence School, ME17 3HL, on Saturday 5 July 2025 at 7pm. Don't miss a summer's evening of enjoyable and entertaining music for all the family.

Tickets £15 (including a glass of wine).
Accompanied children free. Tickets will be available on the door or from:
Pamela Hipkins 01622 861313

Pamela Hipkins 01622 861313 pamela.hipkins@btinternet.com





Bespoke structures designed and made in Great Britain

www.ttvc.co.uk 01580 854891

Clubs, Sports and Recreation



Be the best of Benenden's flowers, fruit and vegetables

All are welcome to enter our first summer Flower and Produce Show whether you are a member of the Benenden Gardening Club or not. There are 15 categories to enter with something for everyone and children too!

Please deliver your entries before I I am on the day and the doors will be open at I pm for public viewing. Prizes will be awarded at 3pm.

Tea and cakes will be served.

Please email Sally-Ann Marks on sallymarks 100@hotmail.com or call



The CLASSES to enter are: FLOWERS

- Single rose
- Display of roses
- Display of sweet peas
- Any other single bloom
- Display of garden flowers
- Arrangement of flowers in a standard teacup
- Any succulent or cacti display in a pot

VEGETABLES

- Four onions (as near same size)
- Four potatoes (as near same size)
- Display of vegetables (at least four types for artistic effect)

FRUIT

- Six strawberries (as near same size)
- Six raspberries (as near same size)
- Display of any other soft fruit for artistic effect (could be mixed)

CHILDREN'S CLASS (12 years and under)

An exotic animal or bird (imaginary or not) made from fruit and/or vegetables

MISCELLANEOUS

The ugliest/funniest vegetable

BEST IN SHOW AWARD

Awarded by the judge for the best overall entry





MOVING? NEED AN EXTRA PAIR OF HANDS?

THE HOUSE MOVERS FRIEND are a small team of kind and sympathetic ladies who can help with all aspects of house moving including:

- · Sensitive help with de-cluttering
- · Staging rooms ready for sale
- Arranging for small remedial repairs prior to marketing
- · Packing and creation of inventories
- · Sourcing of quotations for removal firms and other related services
- · Change of address correspondence
- · Curtain alterations

Plus, so much more... no project is too large or too small.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL THE TEAM ON 07766 000064

All Guttering Maintenance

Cleaning, Repairs or Replacement Fully insured

Phone Mark on 01580 292343 07762 461381

Whatever you want to store...

...house sale & purchase not coinciding, travelling house building work, paperwork overload or just "de-cluttering" to sell your house more quickly – we offer a friendly and flexible service in Cranbrook. With secure storage, competitive rates, all on one level and hassle free

01580 713231 MOISSECURITY STORA WWW.barn-store.co.u

24/7 access, contact us now!

High Weald House Clearance

We are your reliable & affordable solution to all your clearance needs.

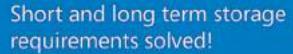
All general house, flat, office, garage, garden part or full clearances.

Mattresses, white goods
& scrap metal taken.

Call us for a free quote 07835 223099 or email info@highwealdhouseclearance.com

www.highwealdhouseclearance.com Cranbrook, Kent TN17 COVERING KENT & SUSSEX

APPLE PIE FARM STORAGE





Storing furniture? Re-decorating? Uncluttering? Renting your house out? Ideal for storing garden machinery, sports equipment etc.

Talk to us about our storage, delivery and collection of your accounting data.

Speak to us on 01580 388754 or visit our website: www.apfcontainerstorage.co.uk

UNIT 14 APPLE PIE FARM, CRANBROOK ROAD, BENENDEN, TN17 4EU Telephone: 01580 388754 - Mobile: 07515 649688



Your local Independent Estate Agency.

As a licensed Propertymark Agent, at Vale & Marsh we possess extensive knowledge and experience in every aspect of residential property. Based in Rolvenden on the Hole Park Estate, our friendly and committed team are incredibly passionate and conscientious, serving our clients impeccably, offering sound and expert advice on buying, selling, letting and property management. We are highly motivated, dedicated and driven, working with energy, conviction and passion. We ensure all transactions are handled with the utmost professionalism and skill, believing outstanding

Serving the local community.

customer care matters!

Get In Touch.

To benefit from our unparalleled advice, call Alex Norwood Hill on

01580 242700

www.valeandmarsh.com

2 Windmill Oast, Windmill Farm Rolvenden, Kent TN17 4PF



Benenden Village Fete



Intrepid wing walker

I never imagined that buying a raffle ticket at last year's village fete would result in me being strapped to a biplane feeling somewhere between Mary Poppins and a starfish in a hurricane but, life is full of surprises!

Thankfully, the sun broke through early morning mist on Easter Monday to reveal a spring day ideal for flinging oneself skyward. After the highly reassuring safety briefing and videos of grinning participants (I took it to be grinning rather than grimacing), I was ready.

My pilot, Michael, asked if I'd like maximum adrenaline or a more gentle ride ... well, in for

a penny, in for a pound, so I went with adrenaline. After clambering up onto the rig, I was secured with shoulder and waist straps to the little perch in the centre of the top wing. It wasn't long before we were trundling along the bumpy approach to the runway and then we were off. I'd imagined a more turbulent ride but I barely noticed the wheels leave the ground.

As we climbed, I had my arms outstretched (as instructed - if I was enjoying it) and a huge grin. It was exhilarating. We began some manoeuvres: 'wingovers'

and 'humptybumps'. The wingovers were lovely - one wing dipped towards the ground as we swung around in a graceful arc with gorgeous views. The humptybumps were a little more extreme - think a sequence of humpback bridges, each a hundred feet in height. My stomach caught up eventually. Before I knew it, though, we were heading back to solid ground and sanity.

Would I do it again? Well, it was bonkers, brilliant and just the right amount of barking mad, so yes, absolutely. After a strong cup of tea and a quick sit down.

Beth Ansell



Spotlight



Cyril Northcote Parkinson: historian, author and creator of Parkinson's Law

Chris Parkinson tells us about his father, a naval historian and author of some 60 books, the most famous of which was his best-seller Parkinson's Law (1957), in which he advanced the eponymous law stating that "work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion".

Cyril was born in Barnard Castle in 1909, the son of a schoolmaster and artist, William Edward Parkinson. The family moved to York, where William became the head of art at St Peter's

School, which Cyril then attended. His portrait now hangs in their dining hall next to another famous old boy, Guy Fawkes. This is the one school that does not celebrate 5 November, as it is against burning its old boys!

He went on to read history at Cambridge and gain a PhD. His chief interest was in naval history, and he would have liked to head up a naval history department somewhere, but, despite teaching as a research fellow at Cambridge, King's College London and Liverpool, he could not get a university to accede.

He went on to teach at Blundells in Devon and then at the Royal Naval college at Dartmouth, where he taught John Harvey-Jones, the future 'trouble-shooter'. He wrote several naval history works and is still considered a noted historian. He had served in the Territorial Army before the war in the Queen's Royal

Regiment (Surrey), and served throughout in various capacities, including helping to train the officers of the newly-formed RAF Regiment on the Isle of Man.

By the end of the war he was settled in Elham Manor in East Kent, with his first wife, who had been a nurse at the Middlesex Hospital. However, by about 1947 he and my mother



divorced and he accepted the Raffles Professorship of History in Singapore. He discovered that they had no written history, so sat down to write it. His second wife, Ann, was engaged by the Straits Times to write an agony column. The local

people would not write in with their problems but loved reading the column. Ann was therefore obliged to write to herself with problems and then answer them. He formed friendships with Lee Kuan Yew and General Templer.

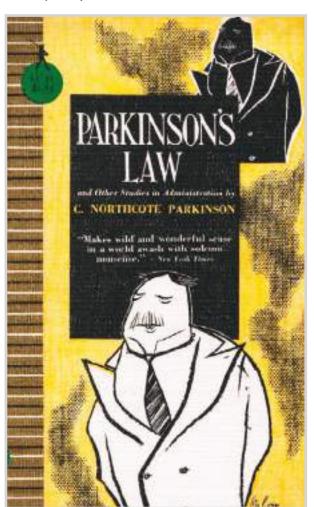
After a while, Cyril noticed he was on 32 different committees and began to wonder where all this bureaucracy was leading. He eventually wrote an article in the Economist, which proved very popular, and expanded it to a book, 'Parkinson's Law', poking fun at bureaucracy and finding very amusing examples, as in the reduction of our colonies by 22, accompanied by a vast expansion of the Colonial Office; and a navy of fast-reducing ships, sailors and dockyard workers, accompanied by vast increases in dockyard office staff and civil servants working for the navy.

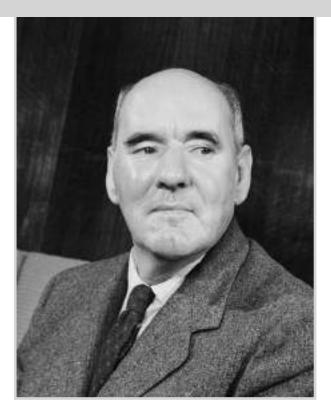
He predicted that we would soon have more admirals than warships, and the UK triumphantly

achieved that aim a few years ago. His first law states that "Work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion". Such was interest in the topic that he resigned from Singapore and went on to write and to lecture all over the world, settling for several years in the USA, teaching at Harvard, Illinois and Berkeley. He wrote three more books in the same vein.

He then moved to Guernsey and wrote a series of historical novels about a character called Delancey, a Guernseyman. These were terrific stories and, of course, impeccable naval history, but he never got the knack of creating real characters and good dialogue, so the reputations of C S Forrester and Alexander Kent remain safe. He did write a 'Life' of Hornblower, in which he said he was buried in Nettlestead, causing embarrassment to people who came to see his grave, not knowing that he was fictional.

After he had raised his second family, largely in Guernsey, Ann sadly died of cancer. He subsequently married a third time, Iris Waters.





They moved to the Isle of Man, the site of another novel, and then, when reductions in tax and the proximity of the NHS prompted him, to Canterbury, where he died in 1993, aged 84, not bad for a man who scorned any food that was not roasted or fried and was quite fat. He was buried at St Dunstan's in Canterbury, where his grave can still be found.

At about the time he was writing, Small is Beautiful (E F Schumacher), Your Disobedient Servant (Leslie Chapman), The Peter Principle (Laurence Peter) and Up the Organisation (Bob Townsend) were all published; Milton Friedman, the Chicago school and Margaret Thatcher flourished and perestroika and the collapse of the communist world all happened. My father met many of the great personalities of the time, including Indira Gandhi, Richard Nixon and Enoch Powell. However, although he recorded meeting them all, he did not comment on them. He wrote a children's story and other books, making 60 in all. He had begun life as a Liberal and member of the Reform Club but later went on to be somewhat to the right of Genghis Khan.

Meanwhile bureaucracy flourishes more than ever, so I have to conclude that father would have been disappointed at his longterm influence.

Spotlight

Home ground: how Benenden shaped my life and work

Growing up in Benenden,
I was immersed in a
world where nature and
imagination intertwine.
This backdrop of rural
life, with its sprawling wilds
and a community rooted
in tradition, would later
profoundly influence my
debut novel, Human, Animal.

I went to Sutton Valence Primary School followed by the Judd School in Tonbridge, and spent my evenings taking piano lessons in Rolvenden, singing in the Benenden church choir, and making my own fun with my brother and sister.

My early years were a tapestry of creative exploration. From reenacting childhood stories to crafting my own fantastical tales, I was always drawn to the power of narrative, writing songs and novels for pleasure as a teenager. This fascination with storytelling, nurtured by the slow pace of village life, laid the foundation for my literary career. The village itself, with its ancient lanes and ever-changing seasons, became a living storybook, sparking my imagination and

fuelling my desire to create worlds of my own.

After toying with a future as a lawyer, I decided to read English at Oxford, graduating with a First in 2011. I then worked at a London advertising agency as an account man for a couple of years, before moving north with my partner to pursue my creative aspirations.

The idea for Human, Animal began to take shape as I reflected on the changing landscape of rural England.



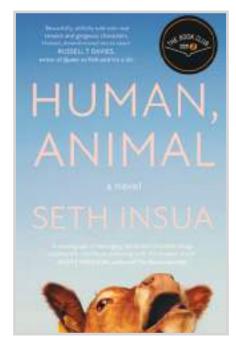
I wanted to capture the essence of village life, its timeless rhythms, and the challenges it faces in a rapidly evolving world. The novel explores the friction between tradition and progress, examining how these forces shape the lives of those who call the countryside home. It's a story about the tension between the old ways and the new, a theme that feels particularly resonant in a

place like Benenden, where history and modernity coexist.

The novel is set on a family dairy farm, which meant I had to do a lot of research. I spent countless hours immersing myself in the daily struggles and triumphs of dairy farmers. I also explored the complex dynamics of animal rights activism, seeking to understand the perspectives of those advocating for change. This research illuminated the intricate balance between human needs and environmental concerns, themes that are central to the novel. The process of understanding these different viewpoints was both enlightening and humbling, and it shaped the portrayal of these issues in the book, hopefully giving them some nuance.

The novel's historical exploration of wartime

dairy farming was inspired by an interest in the evolving role of agriculture. I wanted to capture the spirit of a time when farming was integral to the nation's identity. I was also influenced by my grandmother's memoirs, which I was typing up at the same time I was writing the novel, and the wartime letters she exchanged with her brother, who was a spy trying to liberate northern Italy from the Nazis. He was murdered a few months before the end of the war, and thinking of his months of



isolation and the relationships he must have forged in a foreign land helped inspire one of my characters.

Alongside my writing, my artistic endeavours have also played a significant role in my creative life. In 2017, I began sharing my pencil drawings on Instagram @sethinsua, which led to commissions and print sales. This visual work has provided another avenue for storytelling, allowing me to bring some of my favourite tales to life through my 'Edifiction Collection', a series of buildings from classic literature. I have since produced illustrations of Human, Animal to promote the book in social media.

After completing the manuscript, the process of finding an agent and navigating the publishing

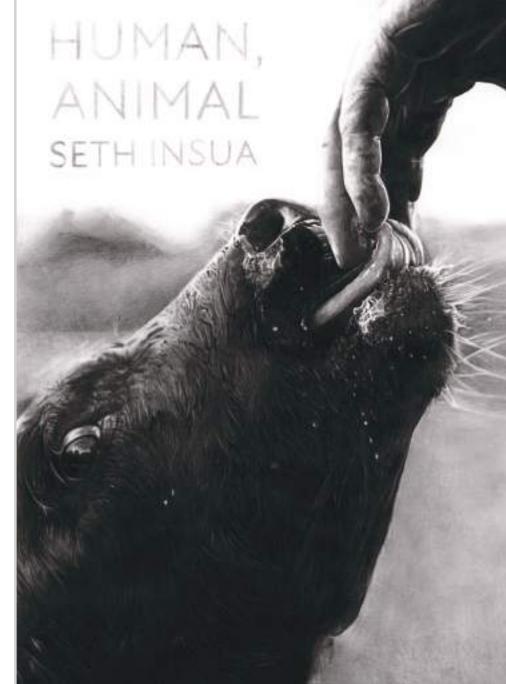
world began. After a couple of false starts with two different literary agencies, working with the fantastic Julie Fergusson at The North proved to be a turning point. Her guidance and support were invaluable in preparing the novel for submission to publishers.

The journey since the book's release has been deeply fulfilling. Travelling to bookshops and meeting booksellers, engaging with readers at events who have responded so enthusiastically to the story and its characters, and connecting with fellow authors both online and in person has been an extraordinary experience. To witness a story that once existed solely within the confines of my imagination come to life in the minds of others is a real privilege. The moment the novel was picked up by the BBC Radio 2 Book Club with DI Sara Cox, chosen by an enormous network of librarians and readers all over the UK, and finalised by a panel at the BBC, was nothing short of surreal.

Human, Animal has now found its place in the literary landscape, and I'm delighted that it has become my debut novel. A literary exploration of tolerance and understanding in a world that's often divided, it's a book that feels deeply rooted in my own experiences: an ode to the natural world, a reflection on what we stand to lose, and a call for finding common ground. Above all, it's a celebration of the enduring connection between humanity and the natural world, and a reflection of the village that shaped me.

Seth Insua

Human, Animal is available now in paperback, eBook and audiobook from all good bookshops. www.seth.insua.com Instagram @sethinsua www.vervebooks.co.uk/human-animal









YOUR LOCAL SUPPLIER OF

or Loose Loads

Delivered throughout the South East













www.gardenscapedirect.co.uk

sales@gardenscapedirect.co.uk

The Wharf, Rye Road, Newenden, TN18 5QG

The Cranbrook and District Probus Club

PROBUS is a local, national, and international association of retired people who come together in non-political, non-sectarian, non-profit, autonomous clubs which provide regular opportunities for members to meet others in similar circumstances, with similar levels of interest, make new friends, and maintain and expand their interests.

We have recommenced our regular monthly lunchtime meetings at The Bull, Benenden.

Currently there are vacancies for new members. If you are retired and would welcome friendly, relaxed company at a lunch, with interesting speakers, then please contact the Hon. Secretary on 01580 441201 for more information.











B

Volunteers Needed

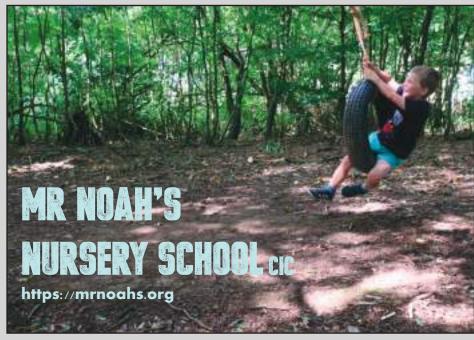
Shop Service

Café Service

Learn how to make that perfect coffee and serve it!

01580 279808

www.benendens.co.uk/volunteers info@benendens.co.uk







Spotlight

Claire Hughes: **Bach Flower** Remedy Practitioner

My journey into discovering the benefits of emotional healing is one that encompasses many aspects of my life and drives my passion to support people in turmoil.

It is now widely accepted that our emotions have a direct effect on our physical wellbeing, but back in the 1930s it was an alien concept. Dr Edward Bach

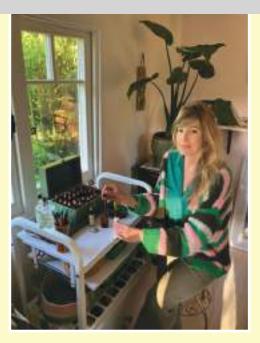
(pronounced 'batch') was a London surgeon, bacteriologist and homeopath who observed that the recovery of individuals with similar complaints could vary greatly due to their mental and emotional predisposition.

Led by his strong belief in the healing power of nature, Bach controversially left his Harley Street practice to seek a natural approach. The system he developed consists of 38 wildflower remedies which cover all emotional states. These are recognised worldwide today, often by the iconic, yellow-labelled 'Rescue Remedy' bottle.

For 13 years I ran an holistic spa. I specialised in supporting clients with skin conditions and sport-related muscle tension through facials, massages and spa treatments like flotation. Regular clients would often say "I feel so much better after my appointment with you Claire".

Over the years I furthered my learning in health and wellbeing. I went on to gain a City and Guilds qualification to teach students anatomy and physiology and I took on a second treatment facility in London. Not surprisingly, my own stress levels began to rise rapidly! I had to split my time between my loyal clients and the practicality of running two sites, until the pressure of two businesses led me to make a radical decision and I terminated my leases.

Stress reduced, my husband and I discovered I was expecting our first child. However, following the extremely traumatic birth of my daughter, my mental health suffered. All those years of holding it together in business came crashing down.



Postnatal depression is not how you envisage beginning motherhood, but I was lucky because I had a fantastic health visitor who put me in touch with a local Bach practitioner. My sessions became something just for me - she listened, discussed emotions she could hear I was experiencing, explained possible remedies and then mixed a bottle for me to take four drops, four times

a day over the next three weeks. I could take the drops in any drink, there were no side effects or contraindications - simple. I felt completely empowered. I had that 'lightbulb' moment, seeing a new path to help others.

I embarked on my Bach level I in 2014. Just ahead of moving to Benenden in 2018, I completed my level 3 practitioner qualification and went on to achieve registered status. I feel truly honoured to share Dr Bach's work and it's a way of life for



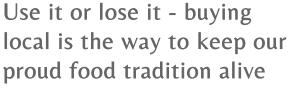
myself and family. I carry out consultations for all issues, but have particular experience in grief, post-natal depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder and low self-esteem.

My sessions last about an hour, and you receive a remedy bottle at the end. I can see you at my garden studio in Benenden or I can come to you. To discover more about Bach flower remedies visit: bachcentre.com/en/remedies/ or please contact me if you have any questions. Claire Hughes 07919 342518

claire.hughes-bachenquiries@hotmail.com 33

Food and Drink





Peter Thomas talks to the men behind the area's new butcher's shop and two of its best restaurants

The first challenge is to find the place. They've got a sign up by the roadside, but half a mile down the Spratsbourne Estate driveway you'll find yourself wondering if you've been sent on a wild goose chase. Once you get there, you'll find that wild goose is about the only thing you can't get at Block.

Block is a new butcher's shop ten minutes from the village on the road between the Peacock and Wilsley Pound roundabout - but it's cut from a different cloth. At the bottom of the drive, you'll find livestock barns in bucolic surroundings, part of the vision of Mel Streek, successful bathroom distributor, now the owner of many acres of small



farms in the area, the fount of award-winning fruit, juice, cider, lamb, hogget and beef. Tucked away amid the acreage is the shop - open only on Friday and Saturday at this stage - that itself embodies the bucking of an alarming rural trend.

It will not have escaped your attention that butcher's businesses are disappearing. Wards went at the beginning of the year, leaving a sausage-shaped hole in Benenden's

food chain, and the problem was brought into sharp focus for villagers who valued what we had long taken for granted.

Mel and his business partner Will Devlin noticed the downward spiral and set about stopping the rot. They haven't yet prised the recipe for Ward's sausages out of the brothers, but have the old block and sausage machine and are working on it.

Will had long been an advocate of the home-grown ethic at his green Michelin Star restaurant the Small Holding in Kilndown. Now the place has three full-time gardeners, producing 200 varieties of fruit and veg at what is widely known as the best restaurant in the county.

The partnership with Mel has fitted together neatly. Both men are from this corner of Kent (Goudhurst rather than Benenden, but we'll let that pass)



and both their brothers are heavily involved in the business as well, so the choice of venue, like the rest of the business, has grown organically.

"Would we go and open a high street butcher's out of the blue? Probably not," says Mel, "but this fits with our plan, with the restaurant and the farm. It's here because it makes sense."

When he says 'restaurant', he doesn't just mean the Small Holding. Birchwood, Will's other restaurant, formerly at Flimwell, is being strategically relocated to Mel's property at Taywell, with the idea being for the same expertly delivered menus as before, but with breakout areas and comfy sofas, event space, outdoor dining, pop-ups, evening opening if demand suggests it, a private game shoot, more produce - bigger pumpkins.

Bucking the trend, as I say. Growing not shrinking.

When a master chef like Will Devlin presents us with a blueprint for great food across the spectrum, we'd do well to listen. Starting out as a reluctant mechanic, all the while cooking "normal food" with his family, he managed an NVQ in professional cookery at West Kent College in Tonbridge, started out washing pots at local gastropubs, working his way up the restaurant ladder until he became a junior chef in the Gordon Ramsay empire at Petrus in Knightsbridge.

It was precious experience with one of the greats, but Will, mellow and good-humoured, remains one of the least Ramsay-like men you could wish to meet.

"It was a tough kitchen even when he wasn't

there, with a focus on excellence," he recalls. "I'm not a shouter, though. I think the minute you shout it shows your weakness, and also there isn't time."

What troubled him most about city life was the disconnect between the food and its provenance: "It was good quality stuff, a lot of it from this part of the world, but it was all delivered by overnight courier. I didn't understand how vegetables grew or what made the lamb taste good."

He came back home, worked at

Thackeray's in Tunbridge Wells, learned how to run a business, source his raw materials locally in a manner that "made sense". He set up his own pub, the Windmill at Hollingbourne, along with a pop-up business, which was where he met Mel, and the dream was born. Ten Jacob's ewes set the ball rolling, Will's new venture, the Small Holding was on the up, and now he has a full-on chef's larder of great ingredients.

The challenge for Block is how to take on the big boys."As a nation we're hooked on supermarkets because they have everything under one roof and it looks cheap," explains Will, "but when you look at it, there's a lot of misinformation



going on with regard to price and the quality often suffers as well.

"We won't compromise. We're all free-range, grass-fed and British, and while we sell a chicken and the supermarkets sell a chicken, the reality is that they're worlds apart in flavour."

The problem is a complex one, faced by every local food supplier, restaurant and shop - even our own community shop and its wine room - trying to do things the right way in a world that values cheapness over value, and Will believes the solution lies in the hands of us, the consumer.

"If you can buy from your local shop, your local butcher, even if it's just one thing once a month, that makes a huge difference to that business," he says. "If, once a month, everyone bought their Sunday roast from a local producer rather than a supermarket, it would mean so much."

Use it or lose it, is the message. Block and the new Birchwood, like all our valuable local businesses, are here on our doorsteps. Whether they thrive and survive is up to us.



<u>In Your Garden</u>

The shady gardener shines in a green sea of ferns

The first garden I ever owned was in London, and although very small at approximately five metres square, it existed almost entirely in the shade. With a small square of lawn in the middle with narrow borders around the edges, I remained innocently undaunted and before long had, if I say so myself, seemingly mastered the art of mixing foliage and texture with a broad palette of green.

It was 1996 and the designer
Dan Pearson had just exploded onto
the scene with a TV show about his
own garden in Peckham, but his space
had day-long sunshine and was an
exposed windy roof terrace. While

our two plots were considerably different,

however, he ignited an interest in horticulture from that moment on, as I was captivated at how you could use a different set of plants for completely opposing garden spaces.

Fast forward almost 30 years and I am without doubt a 'shady' gardener. My palette of plants is now broader, my additional influences include

Beth Chatto, Tom Stuart-Smith, Andy Sturgeon and Carol Klein, every garden I visit I make a beeline for the shady sections and if I am lucky enough to visit Chelsea Flower Show am most impressed with all of the woodland gardens.

For me a sea of ferns, foxgloves and cow parsley underneath a canopy of trees is a thing of joy and I particularly like the restrained colour palette of anything in flower: pale pinks and peaches, soft primrose yellows and of course plenty of white. Quite a number of



clients are nervous of white but I have to be restrained from choosing too much of it - frothy clouds of gillenia trifoliata, handfuls of pincushion astrantia, astilbe, goatsbeard and phlox all find a space amongst evergreen ferns, woodland euphorbias, brunneras and tellimas.



White is a brilliant foil for foliage and is particularly good at floating high above ground cover and other grassy plants. For example, large swathes of the Japanese forest grass, hakonechloa macra, look a picture when dotted with white anthriscus sylvestris and random domes of evergreen box.

Dryopteris wallichiana is one of my favourite ferns, tall and upright and looks lovely partnered with the large leaves of rodgersia and the white tiers of a viburnum plicatum 'Mariesii' nearby. The lady fern, athyrium filixfemina is also well-behaved in large groups, growing to about 60cm in height and partners well with ribbons of white libertia grandiflora.

The combinations I have listed so far will all work in semi-shady parts of the garden and on the whole would prefer some moisture in the soil to give of their best. A thin layer of organic matter, in particular leaf mould however scant a layer, will be much appreciated.

To venture into woodland layers of early spring would be another article entirely, with Beth Chatto's very useful book 'The Shade Garden' acting as very absorbing inspiration. With the hotter, drier summers now becoming more frequent, the thought of creating a shady haven, somewhere cool to sit in the heat of the summer now seems ever more important.

Annabel Lear GARDENS
Planting . Design . Consultancy
07759 440922 annabellear@btinternet.com



All our services are available on a short-term or ad-hoc basis, with no contract, including:

- Night Cover
- Accessing the Community
- Sit-in Services
- · Medication Management

Contact our Manager, Vicky, for more information

01580 762202 www.carecompany.biz care@carecompany.care

CHEESEMANS GARAGE

B. J. NASH



BENENDEN, KENT

TELEPHONE CRANBROOK 240583





We are excited to announce that Amora Care's new office servicing Cranbrook and surrounding areas is **NOW OPEN!**

Book a free assessment today:

01580 231701 amorgage co. uk



















Above: Out and about: St George's Social Club VE Day celebrations; the village beacon lit on VE80 Day; Merry and Bright enjoy an afternoon at Benenden School; SageTech in partnership with Benenden Hospital; primary school pupils on VE Day, and with Joe Wicks at the London Mini Marathon; Sissinghurst Scout group marks St George's Day, and outdoor activities Front cover: A flight of faith: Beth Ansell relishing her wing walk fete prize. Photograph: Olly Ansell