



Benenden Magazine

January 2017

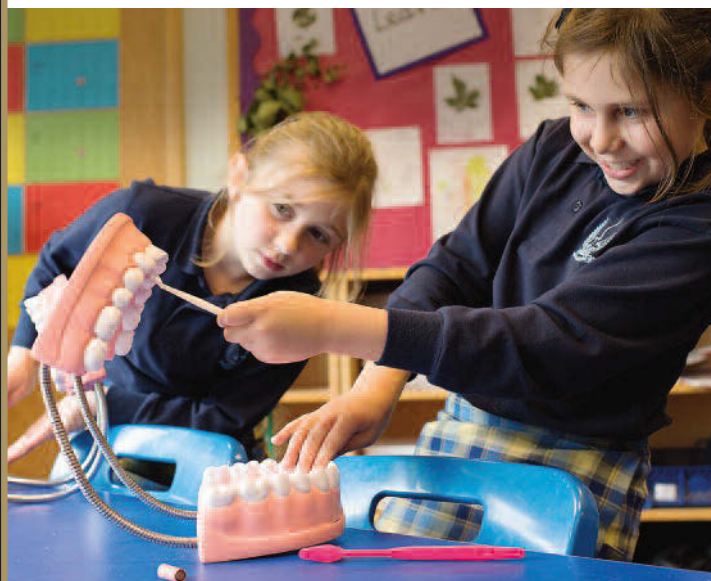
Happy New Year *from your village pub!*



The Bull at Benenden . 01580 240 054 . enquiries@thebullatbenenden.co.uk

Vinehall

ROBERTSBRIDGE, EAST SUSSEX



INDEPENDENT PREP SCHOOL FOR GIRLS AND BOYS AGED 2-13.
DAY, FULL & WEEKLY BOARDING

- OUTSTANDING ISI Inspection
- Academic, Music, Drama, Sport & Art scholarship programme
- Extensive mini bus service both to and from school throughout Kent and East Sussex
- Flexible boarding options from Year 3
- Amazing facilities including golf course, theatre and indoor pool set within 47 acres of stunning countryside
- Nursery from 2 years

For further information and a prospectus please contact Karen Cooper
on **01580 883090** or at admissions@vinehallschool.com.

www.vinehallschool.com

Editorial



The turn of the year may be a time to reflect that nothing stays still for long - either in the wider world or locally. For some, no doubt, the end of 2016 couldn't come soon enough. For others it presages a new year with the prospect of exciting opportunities - albeit stepping into the unknown. And no, I'm not just talking about Trump or Brexit, but also about the smaller stage which we inhabit in our day-to-day lives.

In the half-century or more that I've known Benenden there have been significant changes - our garage, our newsagent, our dedicated post office and one of our pubs has gone. New homes and a new village hall have sprung up and the Street has filled with ever larger and faster vehicles. But walk from the cross-roads to the Bull on a quiet dark night and you could be in 1967, or 1917 or, at a pinch, in 1817. And it's this sense of continuity that many residents revere. But as I say nothing stays still for long, and nationally, regionally and at borough council level there's huge pressure for more homes. As you will see from the feature on pages 26-27 TWBC has launched a 'call for sites' where owners of land can propose that new houses or, indeed, new housing estates are built.

For those who cherish the village as it is, the very idea of such change will be an anathema. Others will recognise a real need for affordable and starter homes to enable young people to stay in the village. The debate is just beginning, and the sincere hope is that it will be conducted with tolerance and consideration for the views and perspectives of others.

Kent Barker, 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.

Editors: Kent Barker, Peter Thomas, Minnie Garnier

Editorial Board: PCC Rep: Tracy Claridge, PC Rep: Kent Barker, Treasurer: Charles Trollope,

Acting Advertising Manager: Paul Leek, Advertising Assistant: Iain Fraser,

Distribution: Marilyn and Dick Hill, Layout Editor: Camilla Macdonald

Contributions to: benendenparishmagazine@gmail.com by the 15th 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 01580 240371

Village Calendar

January

Thursday 5	Planning Committee Meeting, Benenden Village Hall, 8.30am	
Thursday 12	Benenden Women's Club, Iden Green Pavilion, 7.30pm	p.13
Saturday 14	Quiz Night, St George's Club, 8.15pm	
Sunday 15	Messy Church, St George's Church, 4-6pm	p.25
Monday 16	Parish Council Meeting, Memorial Hall, 7.30pm	
Tuesday 17	Village Lunch, Benenden Village Hall, 12.30pm	p.25
Tuesday 17	Iden Green and Benenden WI, Members' Meeting, Memorial Hall, 2pm	p.25
Wednesday 18	Benenden Engineering Society meeting, The Bull, 8pm	
Tuesday 24	Merry and Bright, Memorial Hall, 3pm	
Saturday 28	Corn Tossing, St George's Club, 8.15pm	

February

Thursday 2	Pinocchio, Benenden Players Panto First Night, Benenden Village Hall	p.11
Friday 3	Woodland Wide Games, Iden Green Congregational Church, 7pm	

Benenden Youth Club/Streetcruizer, age 11+

Mondays at Benenden Village Hall, 7-9pm

Coffee Shop

Wednesdays in the Memorial Hall, 10-12noon

Cakes & Chaos: Cafe and Toddler Group

Fridays during term time in St George's Church, 9-11.30am

Refuse Lorry Collections

Saturday 14 January, Domestic Waste, Iden Green, crossroads, 8-11am

Saturday 28 January, Garden Waste/Compostable Waste, Iden Green, crossroads, 8-11am

Parish Council



At this time of year we look to the future to see what the coming twelve months may bring for us. We hope and expect to see some real action at last on our new school. We will also have to accept that there will be some new housing development in our village. Provided that any new development is in sympathy with existing buildings and of a high quality, this is no bad thing, and will benefit our shops, school, churches and pubs. We may even get a better bus service!

However, at this time we also look back and reflect on the events of the past year. In particular we remember the commemoration of the terrible events of a hundred years ago on the Somme. It was very heartening to see so many young people at the Remembrance Day service and afterwards at the War Memorial.

We are all products of our past and should never forget our history. To this end I have been in discussion with other members of the community with a view to setting up an accessible archive for the parish. There is a lot of material around. Much of it was collated in the work to celebrate the millennium. However there remain significant gaps. So if you have any interesting documents or photos, anecdotes or other local information that you would be prepared to share, please let me know. With modern technology we would not need to keep valued original documents. We can copy digitally and then return to you. It can then be looked at by future generations. It may be that some of our very computer literate young students would like to help by searching the internet for interesting information to help with this. In addition, we want to maintain a good record, not only of the past, but of the present. Tomorrow this will also be our past!

Meanwhile, it looks like being another busy year for the Parish Council. I am, however, pleased to report that we are up to full strength again as we have now been joined by Julie Lewis, of Iden Green.

With very best wishes to all from your Parish Council

Peter Davies, BPC Chairman
01580 240723 chairbenendenpc@gmail.com

Caroline Levett, Benenden Parish Council Clerk
01580 240371 clerk@benendenparishcouncil.org

For more information see our website www.benendenparishcouncil.org or find us on facebook

Parish Council Meeting
Monday 16 January 2016, Memorial Hall,
7.30pm

Planning Committee Meeting
Thursday 5 January 2016, Benenden Village Hall,
8.30am



BENENDEN PRE-SCHOOL

www.benendenpreschool.co.uk

Every Weekday in St George's Hall, by Benenden Cross-roads

Small and friendly pre-school - Awarded 'Outstanding' by Ofsted
Large secure gardens with slide, sandpit, playhouse and more!

All weather suits provided, for daily outdoor play in all seasons

Experienced, qualified staff including Graduate Leader

Weekly 'Sporty Tots' session with qualified instructor

Regular trips throughout the year - Close parental partnership

Children may start from age 2 - Childcare vouchers accepted

Full/half days/lunch clubs to suit your child's needs

Tel: 01580 241137 email: supervisor@benendenpreschool.co.uk

A non-profit making pre-school run by a committee of parents

Established 1967 a Registered Charity No: 1027577

CHEESEMANS GARAGE

B. J. NASH



BENENDEN, KENT

TELEPHONE
CRANBROOK 240583

JEFF TWORT

HOME IMPROVEMENTS
&
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

01580 243174 / 07702137743

R.M. Sports Therapy

*A professional mobile service
provided by fully insured
Graduate Sports Therapist offering
Injury and posture assessment,
treatment and exercise rehabilitation.*

Your aches and pains from overuse
or sport participation can be eased
through massage, mobilisations,
stretching, taping and
exercise rehabilitation.

★ £10 off your initial consultation ★
on production of this advert

Rebecca Manford (BSc Hons MSST)
07923 965601

gardenscape

**Garden, Landscaping
and Building Products**
Small Bags, Bulk Bags, Loose Loads
Delivered, or Collect from our yard

Topsoils | Composts | Manure | Barks
Aggregate | Railway Sleepers | Membrane
Decorative Stone | Slate | Pathway Materials
Grass Seed | Turf | Lawn Dressings | Fertiliser

Visit our website
www.gardenscapedirect.co.uk
or call freephone 0800 854663

Or visit us at:
The Wharf, Rye Road,
Newenden, Kent TN18 5QG

BODY CONTROL PILATES

HEALTHY BACKS CLASSES
STARTING JANUARY 2017

BENENDEN Monday 1pm
TENTERDEN Wednesday 9am

No experience necessary

For more information or
to reserve your place
07512 932415

Lisa.pilates@yahoo.co.uk
www.healthyworld.uk.com

BODY CONTROL
PILATES
CERTIFIED TEACHER

TN17 DOG walking

• Professional • Friendly Service
• Fully Insured • One-Off or Regular

www.tn17dogwalking.co.uk
07719 070864

est. DECORATING FOREMANS SERVICES LTD 1970

Providing the complete Decorating Service

Mobile: 07836 254047

**Q. Did you know
that Benenden
Hospital is a
Centre of
Excellence?**

● We are the largest independent
single site provider of Hip and
Knee replacements in Kent

● We are the largest single site
provider of Endovenous Laser
Treatment for Varicose Veins in
the UK

● We are a large provider of Cataract treatment and
all of our Consultants are specialist Ophthalmologists

We provide a wide range of elective treatments and services
for members of Benenden, Private Self-paying and
Insured patients as well as NHS choice patients.

Just ask your GP to refer you
www.benendenhospital.org.uk
or call 01580 240 333


benendenhospital
trust

Just a Thought!



A possible resolution

I had a bright idea for my daughter's Christmas present - 'She needs a new bag,' I said to myself, 'But she'll never buy one for herself.' I went off to the shops but found that I didn't know where to start. Help! I thought - I need assistance. I'll contact her friend Helen: she loves shopping and is good at it, my daughter says. So I sent Helen an e-mail explaining the problem and that I needed help and asked if she would be willing. She was terrific and said that she would see what she could do.

Meanwhile my husband and I went to France to top up our liquid supplies and there, in one of the shops, was a grey bag. I thought that might be THE one so bought it although it didn't fit all the rules. When I got home I had an e-mail from Helen who had spent a Sunday afternoon in town (which she said she had actually enjoyed) and had identified three bags that mostly fulfilled the strict criteria we had laid out: black, with pockets, roomy, zips for safety, shoulder strap if not rucksack handles, and definitely not really a handbag!

She gave me all the reference numbers so I went on the Net and found them all. Unfortunately no.1 was lovely but had bad reviews about the clasp, I didn't really like no.2 so followed up no.3. Then the fun started. Off to Tunbridge Wells I went, to have a look at the bag. I couldn't find it anywhere - there is no Oasis shop in Tunbridge Wells. Then I went on the Net again and where it used to be it wasn't anymore! Panic! This led to more chasing around to see if I could find the size as I was suddenly worried, on a second shopping foray, to find some bags were absolutely huge. This one was 'unsized' - had they lost their ruler? I wondered what to do next. Should I just give her the grey one - but what about Helen? Keep the grey one and search for Helen's? Buy a 'Day Pack' from Millets and explain to Helen?

I decided to have another go to find a supplier on the Net, and this was surprisingly successful. Then I would trust Helen on size and everything else. Oh, and I thought I'd give my daughter the grey bag as well in case she likes it and can cope with actually having two bags not to be called handbags.

It is just as well not every present caused such a drama or I would still be working through my present list now. On the other hand maybe my New Year's resolution should be to start present buying immediately.

Sue Fisher

Church Calendar

St George's Church

Rector: Revd David Commander 240658 david@dc-uk.co.uk (day off: Thursday)

Churchwarden: Tracy Claridge 240454 TLClaridge@TLClaridge.co.uk

Churchwarden: Julia Collard 241944 Julia.collard@btinternet.com

www.benendenchurch.org 850849 benendenchurch@gmail.com

Please inform the Rector or Churchwardens if you, or anyone else, is ill or would like a visit or home communion.

Sunday 1 January	8am Communion	10am All-age Eucharist	5pm Choral Evensong
------------------	---------------	------------------------	---------------------

Sunday 8 January	8am 1662 Communion	10am Morning Worship	5pm Evening Prayer at Mission Church
------------------	--------------------	----------------------	---

Sunday 15 January	8am Communion	10am Sung Eucharist	4pm Messy Church
-------------------	---------------	---------------------	------------------

Sunday 22 January	8am Communion	10am Morning Worship	5pm Praise Service at Mission Church
-------------------	---------------	----------------------	---

Sunday 29 January	8am Benefice Communion at St Nicholas Church, Sandhurst	10am Benefice All-age Communion at St George's Church
-------------------	--	--

Mission Church, Sandhurst

Rector: Revd David Commander 240658 david@dc-uk.co.uk (day off: Thursday)

Every Tuesday 10am Communion

Iden Green Congregational Church

Pastor: Rev Peter Michell 240642 www.idengreen.org.uk

Sunday Services 10am Morning Worship 5.30pm Evening Worship

The Roman Catholic Chapel

Fr Barry Grant 713364 www.sttheodore-cranbrook.org

Masses 9am Sundays 7.30pm Holy Days

From the Parish Registers

Baptism 4 December Otto North

Funeral 16 December John Wilson Funeral

Rector's Letter



2017. Happy New Year!

So, you've got to the end of another year. Christmas is done. And my guess is you're feeling pretty tired from everything that has happened this last year and from all the excesses of Christmas. (Why do we do that to ourselves?) And for those of you who work, you find yourself returning more tired than when you finished before Christmas. And now we're expected to make New Year's Resolutions!

Did you make a resolution last year and, if so, do you remember what it was? Was it something like: to lose weight; or to get fitter; to quit smoking; or to drink less? How long did you manage to keep it: for a month, a week, or less? Whilst thinking about something to write on this month, I came across this wonderful daily resolution from Bishop John Vincent, published in 1909. And it struck me that if we made this a resolution for a day, we might stand a chance of keeping it - what do you think?

"I will this day try to live a simple, sincere and serene life, repelling promptly every thought of discontent, anxiety, discouragement, impurity and self-seeking, cultivating cheerfulness, magnanimity, charity and the habit of holy silence, exercising economy in expenditure, carefulness in conversation, diligence in appointed service, fidelity to every trust and a child-like trust in God."

Could we try and live life with this in mind for just one day? Just one day - surely I can manage that, can't I? And then tomorrow when I wake up I'll make another resolution; it will be the same words, but it will be my new resolution that I just need to keep for today. And then I'll do it again the next day; I think life might be better. If you like the idea and the words, enter "bishop john h vincent calendar" into your search engine, print off the resolution, and stick it by your bathroom mirror, and read it every morning!

For those of you who don't know God and therefore don't like the last line, then as a mature, enquiring adult, I would challenge you to make this the year when you will promise to find out for yourself if God is real for you or not? Don't dismiss it as religion, therefore it's rubbish. Don't write off Church as a waste of energy/time/money and in doing so dismiss God. This is about your faith; that deserves some thought and exploration as a mature adult, not scorning.

For those of you who profess to having a relationship with God, then this year I would challenge you to get to know God better. Spend more time in reading, in prayer, and in worship together. Make 2017 the year that you get to the end of and think, "My life is better because I know God better".

Revd David Commander, Rector

INTERVIEW PRACTICE and CV WRITING

Retired City insurance company
Chief Executive
For university entrance
or job interviews

Call Charles Hume on
01580 240838
charles.hume@btinternet.com

DBS certificated

The Holt Bed and Breakfast

Quietly situated within walking distance of Benenden village

*Warm friendly welcome. Full English breakfast
with homemade breads and preserves
Charming ensuite rooms, two double and one twin
Set in three acres of woodland gardens
Afternoon tea and homemade cake on arrival*

Kate Rundell * 01580 240414 * kate@theholt.org * www.theholt.org

T.W. FUGGLE & SON

FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Private Chapels of Rest

24-HOUR SERVICE

All arrangements undertaken with personal attention

Pre-paid funeral plans arranged through Golden Charter

20 Ashford Road, Tenterden – 01580 763340 – www.twfuggle.co.uk



Marshall Heating

- *Installation
- *Servicing
- *Repair
- *Free Quotations

- *Gas
- *Lpg
- *Oil

- *Boiler Replacements
- *Full Central Heating Systems
- *Hot Water Cylinders
- *Unvented Hot Water Cylinders
- *Powerflushing
- *Radiators
- *New Builds
- *Underfloor Heating
- *Central Heating Wiring



Office: 01580 243037

Mobile: 07545 621121

Email: a.marshall.heating@outlook.com



SOUND WIZARD WANTED!

The 'World Famous' Benenden Players are looking for someone to help their busy Sound Supremo. If you're interested in a career in sound, or want to understand more about the backstage magic that makes the shows sparkle; then this is a great chance to learn.

You should be: • 15+ and interested in music/electronics/ music production. • Keen to get some experience on how sound is used in entertainment. • Available some Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons at Benenden Village Hall from early Dec for rehearsals, and for the performance week (30 Jan-5 Feb)

Contact: enquiry@benendenplayers.co.uk or
Nancy Tolhurst 07711 139218

Mervyn Carey

Valuer and Auctioneer
of over 40 years experience

Professionally prepared valuations
carried out in a personal and
considerate manner for
Insurance, Probate and Family
Division of single items to complete
household contents

ADVICE ON SALES BY
AUCTION GIVEN

Twysden Cottage, Benenden,
Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4LD
Telephone : (01580) 240283



OFFERING LONG-TERM RESIDENCE,
CONVALESCENCE & RESPITE CARE
FOR INDIVIDUALS AND COUPLES
WHO VALUE PRIVACY, LUXURY
AND HAPPINESS

PEASMARSH PLACE For Brochure & Details

Church Lane, Peasmarsh, Rye, East Sussex TN31 6XE Tel: 01797 230555

All Under One Roof at
Slaney Place Farm, Headcorn Road, Staplehurst TN12 0DT
Mister Theobald's Furniture Showroom

www.theobaldsfurniture.co.uk

Quality British-made Sofas & Chairs at DISCOUNT PRICES
Free delivery

Lift and Rise Recliners - home visits can be arranged
Armchairs * Footstools * Sofas/Sofabeds * Choice of fabrics/leather
Cushion interior replacement service in leather, sprung, fibre, FR. Foam etc.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH **Theobald Upholstery** OF STAPLEHURST, est. 1975

Telephone: 01580-890055

MOST TYPES OF FURNITURE RE-UPHOLSTERED AND REPAIRED
BY EXPERT CRAFTS PEOPLE - HUNDREDS OF FABRICS TO CHOOSE FROM

News and Events

Benenden Players: Pinocchio with a twist - latest news

With political shocks, surprises and upheavals across the world in 2016, the Players couldn't resist wondering how our great leaders would cope if thrown into the world of panto? So here we are, rehearsing another original show by Bev Beveridge. This year she's crafted Pinocchio's true story, explaining how he came to be a real boy, featuring Geppetto, puppets, wood-boring insects, a panto fairy, a number of well-known politicians, and at least one ogre with unbelievable hair.

Auditions started in September, and now we're well into regular rehearsals at the Village Hall which continue until Christmas. In the final December rehearsals we'll start to involve our technical team to plan out the sound and lighting effects needed to bring the show to life. Backstage activities ramp up in December: sourcing and making costumes, launching ticket sales, and designing, building and painting the sets. After Christmas it is the final push to get all the elements together for our big opening night.

The cast this year includes many familiar friends, alongside some new faces, and we have more places for the talented children. We're stretching them this year; with bigger roles that are more critical to the show. We have our house band to support the show, and we're delighted to welcome a new choreographer. Dancing and singing and remembering lines is a bit of a stretch for some, but dedicated choreography is making a huge difference to the feel of the show.

Tickets are on sale at the Shop, or on-line: Saturday night is always a favourite and is already sold out. Do come along to see all the usual panto silliness and support your friends and neighbours. And remember: Panto means Panto! Nancy Tolhurst 07711 139218
nancy.tolhurst@btinternet.com



Evening Services

From January there will be an evening service in the Benefice of Benenden and Sandhurst every Sunday (except the 5th Sunday of the month). The style of each service will be different, please do come along and try them.

1st Sunday of the month

5pm St George's Choral Evensong

2nd Sunday of the month

5pm Mission Church Evening Prayer

3rd Sunday of the month

4-6pm St George's Messy Church

4th Sunday of the month

5pm Mission Church Praise Service

The latter is a new monthly service, starting on Sunday 22 January. If you are interested in a more contemporary style of worship, praise and prayer and a more informal service please do come along to this.

Revd David Commander 240658
david@dc-uk.co.uk

Benefice services

Sunday 29 January is a "5th Sunday", and we therefore have our benefice services where both church families worship together. The 8am service is at St Nicholas Sandhurst, the 10am service is at St George's, Benenden.

Cinque Ports Vets and Milbourn Equine provide a 24 Hour/365 Days Emergency Service



Dedicated to your pet's well being
CINQUE PORTS VETS



**A caring, fully equipped
modern veterinary practice
for all your pets' needs**

**Hawkhurst Veterinary Surgery
01580 752187**

**Tenterden Veterinary Surgery
01580 763309**

Also branches at Rye, Ashford, Lydd and Wye



**MILBOURN
EQUINE VETS**



**An Equine Veterinary Clinic
providing diagnostic and
surgical services throughout
Kent and East Sussex**

Mobile and clinic based services

**Hawkhurst
01580 752301**

**Ashford
01233 500505**

Also at Rye and Canterbury



www.cinqueportsvets.co.uk



www.milbournequine.co.uk



**offset
architects**

paul.hagell@offsetarchitects.co.uk

01732 753333 07739 085487

www.offsetarchitects.co.uk



B E N E N D E N P L A Y E R S P R E S E N T



WRITER & DIRECTOR
Beverley Beveridge

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
Graham Beveridge

Pinocchio *with a twist!*

2-5 FEBRUARY 2017

B E N E N D E N V I L L A G E H A L L

Eve: 2nd-4th February 2017 (doors open 6.45pm, curtain up 7.30pm)
Matinee: 4th & 5th February 2017 (doors open 1.45pm, curtain up 2.30pm)

BOX OFFICE: Benenden's Community Shop
BOOK ONLINE: www.benendenplayers.co.uk





RAFAËL DUPRÉ
- counselling -

www.a-therapy.com

**Get life back
on track and feel
better in 2017**

Professional, confidential
non-judgemental counselling for
both adults and young people.

Call 01580 445 005 or email
rafael@a-therapy.com

**from
£35
per hour**

BENENDEN - WEALD PRACTICE ROOM

Benenden's

SHOP POST OFFICE CAFÉ

B's

... it's the word on The Street!

We wish all of our Customers, Shareholders and Supporters
A Very Happy 2017!

Free Wifi

info@benendens.co.uk

Tel: 01580 279808

Benenden Bonfire Society

As outlined last month, a fabulous evening of fire and fireworks was witnessed in Benenden on Saturday 5 November. We hope you came along and enjoyed this community family event. We know that the parking causes some concern but we also know the overwhelming feedback is 'not to worry, it's only for a couple of hours'.

The Benenden Bonfire Society is in the process of applying to be registered as a Charitable unincorporated association. This year rather than all profit only going to the Scouts it is intended there should be a broader distribution as set out below. This change was endorsed by the Weald District Scout Executive Committee and they have continued to support the new arrangement. In this first year the 1st Benenden Scouts will receive at least 40% of the profit but are eligible to apply for more - see below.

This year the profit from the event was approx. £10,000 (final figures to be reconciled and published in February)

This will be split as follows:

- 20% i.e £2,000 retained by Benenden Bonfire Society for Capital funding and costs associated with the 2017 event.
- 40% i.e £4,000 direct to 1st Benenden Scouts as agreed.
- 40% i.e £4,000 available to be distributed as set out below.

The aim is for the Benenden Bonfire Society to distribute profits to promote or assist in projects or to generate new opportunities for the youth of the Parish. The recipients of funding can be a group or an individual creating benefit for a group in the parish. The committee favours opportunities for young people aged 14-25 years but this is not exclusive and other age groups are welcome to bid for the funds available.

Initial application forms will be available from Benenden's Community Shop on 1st January 2017. Successful applicants will be

invited to submit a more detailed bid outlining the project/opportunity and how it will benefit the group/Parish. There will also be a requirement to set out costs and funds already held by the group/individual and why, if applicable, additional funds are necessary. The completed bids must be returned by no later than 1st March 2017. It is our intention to allocate funds no later than the end of March and successful applicants will be published in the May 2017 magazine.

Grant Matthews

Benenden Bonfire Society Committee

Benenden Women's Club

On Thursday 8 December we started our Christmas celebrations with another terrific evening at the Bull, enjoying a traditional Christmas meal. Our hosts had decorated the dining room beautifully and our two waitresses gamely joined in the fun.

We pulled crackers, sang carols, played old-fashioned games and received small presents. Last year our carol singing raised the roof. This year it was laughter at our artistic efforts in a game of picture consequences.

Our next meeting will be in the New Year on Thursday 12 January at the Iden Green Pavilion. This will be a 'getting to know you evening' when we shall enjoy mulled wine and agree on next year's programme.

Ours is a very friendly Club and, we have a mix of active or more sedentary evenings. We have covered gardening, cookery, wine, jewellery, rag rugs, the Queen's 90th; and all with lots of companionship and fun. The Club meets on the second Thursday of the month, usually in the Iden Green Pavilion and is open to all ages.

Why not come and meet us on 12 January? You will be assured of a warm welcome and good company. We very much look forward to seeing you.

Janet Beattie



From an uncertain future to the pride of the village

It wasn't very long ago that the village shop was in the interminable process of being sold and very much under threat of closure. It was one year ago this month that the new Community Shop opened its doors to the public at its permanent site in the village.

Those of you who haven't enjoyed coffee and a cake there, perused the wine section or simply picked up your morning paper, are missing out. It has become a true social centre and focal point, an embodiment of all that can be achieved through listening to the wishes of the community and harnessing the goodwill of the natives.

Here, those closest to the project recount the tale of the shop, its achievements to date and the plans for its future.

Peter Thomas

A volunteer's view

Now frequently dubbed 'the hub of the village', Benenden's Community Shop has quickly established itself as a very popular venue - so much so that it's hard to recall a time when its future looked less than rosy.

A couple of years ago, however, the owners of the 'old shop' and post office were ready to sell but couldn't find a buyer, and there was no telling what might become of a business that served as a convenience for many and a lifeline for some.

In the meantime, the Parish Plan revealed a requirement for more staff

accommodation at Benenden Girls' School, which led some bright minds to think that this coincidence of needs might present an opportunity.

In November and December 2014, Martin Pexton and Steve Simmonds began initial discussions with the School, who, under the headship of Sam Price, were happy to collaborate. In February 2015, Robin Dalton Holmes, Grant Matthews, Paul Leek, Paul and Nancy Tolhurst, Alan Pickett, Deborah Jenkins, Tracy Claridge, John Burbage and Sheila Hume joined the team.

The venerable Alan Pickett introduced them to The Plunkett Foundation, whose support for this venture has been invaluable. A roller coaster ride followed, as the School team, with great support from Jonathan Strong (Chairman of the Property Committee), negotiated the purchase of the building while the Start-up Committee wrestled with the jaw-dropping complexity of the venture.

One thing was clear: the new shop would need investment. It soon became apparent that grants would not be enough and a sale of £10 shares raised around £70,000.

By June 2015, Benenden School had become the new owners of the premises and the old shop closed. The team was left considering the siting of a container from which to sell basic supplies while the new premises were fitted out, until they received a very generous offer of the use of The Kitty Fisher from Mark and Lucy Barron-Reid.

Benenden's first community shop was launched with a generous helping of promotion, including an ITV news item which saw several helpers make their television debuts, but works turned out to be complicated and expensive and the process dragged on.

A second share issue raised £15,000 and finally, in mid-January 2016, building works were completed. With enthusiastic help from many volunteers from the village, the stock was carted back along the road and arranged on the newly painted shelves in the welcoming new premises, beautifully fitted out by Steve.

Finance raised from shares, grants and loans allowed not only the fit out but also the acquisition of infrastructure such as the Electronic Point of Sale system, telephones and broadband, while also providing the working capital to allow maintenance of the stock, payment of the salaries of the managers and so on.

The rest, as they say, is history; but it is present and future too.

THE HIGHS AND LOWS

One low

point was when the solicitors acting on the sale and purchase seemed unable to reach a sensible conclusion on vacant possession. The deal was in jeopardy because of the delay, and at one point the "Sale Agreed" sign was taken down. We faced the prospect of having to move all the fittings and stock onto the pavement, then move them back in again!

A high point was definitely the village meeting in April 2015 at which we received strong support for the whole idea and the share issue. The Start-up Committee had to work hard and fast to bring it together, and there was still a long way to go, but the energy and commitment were inspirational.

Martin Pexton, Committee chairman



A bright start needs building on

The monthly average turnover in the shop is about £32,000 and daily sales almost always exceed £1,000, except for Sundays. The shop and café account for 80% and 20% of the sales respectively, but the margin of profit made in the café makes it vitally important in making the store work as a business, which it needs to do to survive.

Complacency is not an option. The Committee will continue to look at ways to develop what the shop can offer in order to increase the number of customers and transactions. Ways of managing costs, including unforeseen ones, need to be developed without compromising quality.

In order to achieve this, links have been

forged with other successful village shops, community or otherwise, such as Barham, Horsmonden and Ide Hill, to see how they do it and learn from their experience. This year, Benenden's, under the management of Mel Harris, with a team supported by an indispensable army of volunteers, has been highly commended in the Kent Rural Retailers awards.

The shop and café have provided a welcoming, friendly environment for people to meet and maintained the post office facility invaluable to the community. It is up to us all to support it and to enjoy it. Bev Beveridge, Committee member and volunteer

Benenden Village Hall

The Perfect Party and Wedding Venue

Main hall seats up to 150 to eat or 200 theatre-style; adjacent small hall makes the perfect bar or quiet area.

Fully equipped kitchen.
Large stage with sound & lighting.
Showers & changing facilities.
Disabled access. Car park.
Hire charges from £10ph.

www.benendenvillagehall.org
Lorraine Jones 01580 243123

APPLE PIE FARM STORAGE

Short and long term storage requirements solved!

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**



MEET YOUR MP Helen Grant

Helen Grant, MP for Maidstone and the Weald, holds regular surgeries around the constituency. If you would like to arrange an appointment to discuss an issue of concern to you, please e-mail Helen at helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk or telephone **020 7219 7107**.

www.helengrant.org

Produced by Helen Grant MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA



jan nightingale
holistic therapy



Holistic & Sports Massage Therapy

Everybody can benefit from massage.

On a physiological level there is no better way of releasing tension from muscles than through massage.

It is estimated that 75% of disease is caused through stress.

Massage can be used for rehabilitation, relaxation and stimulation; it promotes suppleness of the muscles, improves circulation and reduces stress.

To find out more contact:

Jan Nightingale

07887 906663

jan@nightingaleholistics.co.uk

Benenden based for over 20 years

GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE

K Jones Electrical 01580 848118

Domestic, Commercial, Industrial Electricians

All work insured and guaranteed
Trusted locally for 40 years

kevin.kjoneselectrical@gmail.com

APPROVED INSTALLER



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 24/7 access, contact us now!



01580 713231

www.barn-store.co.uk

Elba Private Hire - Personal Carriage

"We go that extra mile"

Lady & Gentlemen Drivers

- Town and Country Travel in Style
- Business and Social Pleasure

**Allows you to Drink Like a Lord
Leave like a Lady!**

Text: to Book 07785 11 20 21

Call now 01580 441 302

Email: book@elbaprivatehire.com

www.elbaprivatehire.com





New Year's Resolution - improve the village pathways - collect the Dog poo!

Children say Enough is Enough

Since the start of the Autumn Term, there has been an increasing problem of dog poo being left on path that runs alongside the football pitch between Leybourne Dell and the Bull pub. This route is used by many school children on their way to Benenden Primary, as well as by mothers with buggies. Children in school regularly sit on the floors and having dog poo on their shoes is not only smelly but unhygienic.

Some local children have decided 'enough was enough' and have made and designed their own "Pick up your Poop" signs which are currently being displayed on the side of the path to try and improve the situation.

Please, dog owners - pick up that poo!

Susie Smith

Benenden Pre-School News

After all the Christmas parties, gifts and Santa's grottoes (thanks to Wordsworth Surveyors for sponsoring our own magical grotto on 18 December), Pre-School begins 2017 with some changes in staff - best of luck to Charlotte, who is going on maternity leave, and welcome back to Jo, who previously worked at the pre-school. We also have a change to our admin: we are trialling Tapestry, a nicely modern way of monitoring the children's development online, within private accounts accessible by parents and staff only. We hope this will be a success for all. Fundraising events include a delightful pampering spa night at the Kalmora spa in Goudhurst - arguably the best way to begin the new year though perhaps more for parents than the children!

www.benendenpreschool.co.uk

Streetcruizer future under review

For the past two years or so the Parish Council has funded the Streetcruizer youth club service for 11 to 24 year olds, which takes place in a specially converted double-decker bus parked in the Village Hall car park every Monday evening between 6pm and 9pm.

However there has been a significant drop-off in use in recent months, and unless people do use and support it, the Parish Council will have to review whether future expenditure is justified.

So if you want the bus to stay around, you'd better use it!

Christmas Village lunch

A big thank you to all who attended and served the Christmas Village lunch in the Village Hall on Tuesday 6 December (see photographs on back cover), but especially to those who have volunteered for some time to do the cooking and serving, namely:

Sheila Hume, Genevieve Greenwood, Kay Martin, Hazel Mathews, Heather Robins Jan Dunkley, Minnie Garnier and Zena Bawden.

There was incidentally no charge for the lunch this time as, they said, there was enough left in the kitty from previous lunches to settle the matter.

ST GEORGE'S SOCIAL CLUB BENENDEN

WE WELCOME ALL OVER THE AGE OF 14

SNOOKER TABLE (FULL SIZE) DARTS BOARDS GAMING MACHINES
CRIB BILLIARDS SNOOKER SKITTLES CORN TOSSING
BARBECUES THEMED EVENINGS QUIZ NIGHTS GAMES EVENINGS

All of the above and cheaper drinks!

Annual Membership £5.00

Under 18's & O.A.P.'s £1.00

Contact Glenda Marshall (Club Secretary)

01580 243089

P.F. WARD & SONS

FAMILY BUTCHERS

FRESH LOCAL
PRODUCE

VARIETY of HOME
MADE SAUSAGES
& BURGERS

Phone: 01580 240612

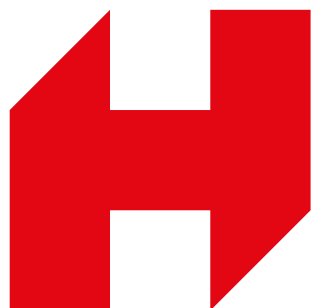
SHEEP PROOF YOUR DOG

Concerned that your dog could chase sheep?

Why not come to a working sheep farm in Iden Green and in one session learn how to control your dog amongst sheep.

Contact Tobin Bird on 07771 710134 or read some testimonials on Facebook.

www.sheepproofyourdog.co.uk



Hurstway
construction & renovation

01580 712266

www.hurstway.co.uk



Private Care Service



**Domestic
Care
£9.77
per hour**

Our Private Care Service offers tailored packages of personal care that can help people stay in their own home for as long as possible, rather than going into a care home before it's really needed. We assist those who need help due to frailty, disability or illness to live as independently as possible, with comfort & dignity, in their own home.

www.townandcountryhomecare.co.uk

For a free assessment
of your care needs or to
receive your brochure
Call us on 01580 762244



Town & Country Homecare Limited
102a High Street, Tenterden, Kent TN30 6HT

Farming Forum - Winter Workings at Woodside Farm

During the Autumn the rams were busy with the ewes. Our rams go in with the ewes for “tupping” at the end of October, and come out at the beginning of December. It is always an unknown factor as to how successful they have been. The rams wear a raddle with crayons on them to mark the ewes that are tupped, so in theory I know which should be in lamb and roughly when they will lamb, but it is only when the scanner arrives in January that we actually find out the true result of the rams autumnal

activities. Each ewe is run through a race up to the scanner, who runs the scanning device over the ewes’ bellies, struggling past wool and mud. The little screen displays small blobs which the scanner can identify as lambs, eventually giving me the total number expected. The ewes are marked as to how many lambs they are carrying, and then separated into

groups of singles, twins and triplets (with the odd quad!), to be fed appropriately.

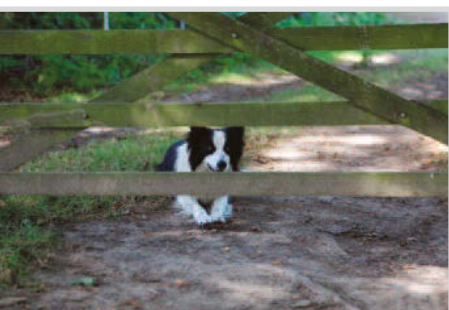
I always get a few barren ewes, who could have lost their lambs for a number of reasons; infection, poor condition, or even stress. Now stress can be brought about by one of my big bug bears - sheep worrying. The lamb foetus is quite

unstable in early pregnancy, and a dog chasing uncontrollably after a ewe, will obviously cause huge stress and can cause a ewe to abort her lamb. So please be especially vigilant when walking your dogs in autumn

and early winter. It is always best to keep dogs on leads if sheep might be about. I have had a few occasions where dogs have slipped under fences to attack my sheep, and I have many people who come to the farm to get their dogs trained not to chase sheep tell me the same story. Many also tell me that they didn’t realise that there were sheep in the field, as they were hidden round the corner, and the first thing they knew about their presence was their dog careering after them.

We do a variety of things at Woodside Farm, from school visits, to something more unusual. People walking on the footpath past our farm yard often wonder what happens in the containers sitting there. Inside these we process our lamb, and turn the legs of lamb into a type of “Parma” lamb. They are cured in salt, red wine, honey and herbs, and then hung up to dry and smoked over oak and silver birch. The process takes up to 3 months, after which the rich tasting lamb is shipped off to wholesalers. Autumn and winter tends to be our busiest time, as we like to take advantage of the cooler weather to save on electricity, but demand is now pushing us to do more curing in spring and summer, so no rest for us!

Tobin Bird





A Wood Fired Oven can provide fantastic, fresh and fast food for you and your guests.

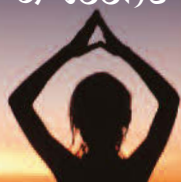
We are local to Benenden and can cater for private parties, wedding receptions and events of all kinds.

Most people only think of pizza, but there are lots of alternatives.

Give me a call to discuss on:
01580 279000 or 07788 279000
info@wowcooking.co.uk

or visit our website
www.wowcooking.co.uk

namaste kids
& teens



free trial
class

Yoga Classes for
pre-schoolers, kids & teens

benenden Village hall
& kilndown Village hall

for more info please contact
hayley on 01580 240982
info@namastekids.co.uk
www.namastekids.co.uk

EST 1900
**Lambert
& Foster**
PART OF THE LOCAL LANDSCAPE

Letting properties for over 100 years in the Weald of Kent

COUNTRY ▪ TOWN ▪ VILLAGE

With our extensive experience in residential lettings it places us in the perfect position to find a suitable tenant quickly and effectively. We offer a full professional service for **landlords and tenants** helping you find the best package to suit your needs.

Call us today
01580 712234

www.lambertandfoster.co.uk



Letting offices at Cranbrook & Paddock Wood
Open Monday - Saturday, 9.00 - 5.30pm



Hannah's
Garden



Hannah's Garden can now post nationwide!

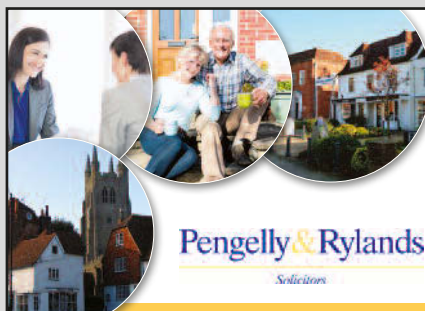
Please contact Hannah for fantastic repeat business local rates
Hannah's garden has a stunning variety of English scented country
flowers straight from the growers garden in Benenden, Kent.
www.hannahsgarden.net
hannah@hannahsgarden.net
07958081915



Bishopsdale Oast Award Winning Bed & Breakfast



Bishopsdale Oast
Biddenden, Kent TN27 8DR
Telephone 01580 291027
email drysdale@bishopsdaleoast.co.uk



Pengelly & Rylands
Solicitors

- Family
- Residential Conveyancing
- Wills
- Probate
- Trusts
- Commercial Property
- Court of Protection
- Powers of Attorney
- Business Services
- Charities
- Civil Liberties
- Complete Legal Care
- Debt Recovery
- Employment
- Personal Injury
- Professional Negligence
- Licensing
- Mediation

Call: 01580 762248 Email: info@pengelly-rylands.co.uk
www.pengelly-rylands.co.uk
Visit: 39/41 High Street, Tenterden, Kent, TN30 6BJ



News from Benenden School

The School is now on its Christmas break, providing an opportunity to look back on the final few weeks of the Autumn Term.

A particular highlight was the weekend of Carol Services, at which the depth of musical and choral talent at Benenden was clear for all to see and set the tone for the festive season. Many weeks of hard work goes into these beautiful services and they were very special occasions. It was also good to see the girls looking smart in their new jackets, commented on by many.

On the final week of term we hosted our annual Model United Nations Conference with 28 schools attending and replicating the process of the real United Nations, debating motions and trying to achieve collaboration in committees and General Assembly. The calibre was impressive indeed from the 400 delegates of all ages, from as young as 12 up to 18.

The stunning new All-Weather Pitch and Pavilion, which was only opened in September, is proving to be a wonderful facility. Girls, staff and supporters at matches are thoroughly enjoying using it and the atmosphere during our Lacrosse matches against Guildford High on the final weekend of term was electric.

Of course, the end of term does not bring everything to a standstill: at the time of writing a group of nearly 30 girls are enjoying skiing in Colorado and our Model United Nations contingent are in action again, this time on a four-day trip to Athens.

When we return in January our older students will start the season of Mock exams and we can look forward to welcoming girls from Miss Porter's School in Connecticut, with whom we have set up a blossoming exchange partnership.

I wish you all a peaceful 2017.

Samantha Price, Headmistress

Youth Orchestra Achievement

Benenden School pupil Freddie Flintoff has won a place with one of Britain's most prestigious institutions, the National Youth Orchestra.

The 15 year old who has been playing the violin for 9 years was one of 164 teenagers, chosen from among 764 applicants.

During the year NYO Musicians participate in three residencies with inspirational music directors, give eight major concerts, play live on BBC Radio 3, appear on Classic FM, and will celebrate the release of a new recording of The Planets by the orchestra. According to the NYO, all their musicians play their instruments at the very highest level, at Grade VIII equivalent and above, and gaining a place is a huge achievement.

"I'm really excited to be part of the NYO because I can play fantastic music with other people like me who love music, says Freddie.

Freddie is quick to correct any idea that she was named after the famous England cricketer. "He changed his name from Andrew when I was three, so if anything he was named after me!"



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

An interim amount of £4,582 has been raised by the Benenden Branch for the Poppy Appeal in November.

We are immensely grateful to all those who worked so hard to achieve this wonderful result, and who were so generous in giving their time and support.

Jane Dalton Holmes, Poppy Appeal Organiser

Thinking of selling in Benenden this Autumn?

For helpful, straightforward advice contact:

Tenterden:

01580 766766

The specialist Village agent

HOBBS • PARKER

The Villages



01580 714954
info@coccolicious.co.uk
facebook.com/coccolicious
instagram.com/coccoliciousou
Stone Street, Cranbrook, Kent, TN17 3HF
www.coccolicious.co.uk

Cake!
For any occasion.
Call or pop in
to enquire.



Volunteers Needed
For Shop Service
& Café Service

01580 279808
info@benendens.co.uk

Dine at *The Oast*
Monday – Saturday evenings
Created by a Chef, all local produce,
4 courses £32 per person. Bring your own wine!



Reservations 01580 291027
http://bishopsdaleoast.co.uk/ • drysdale@bishopsdaleoast.co.uk

Booking essential

J. PERIGOE & SON FUNERAL DIRECTORS

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1852

Your local, family owned Funeral Directors offering the highest standard of care and facilities to every family we serve.

THE Independent Way in association with
Golden Charter
Funeral Plans

By choosing 'The Independent Way' funeral plan, we are able to provide you with not only all the benefits of a pre-arranged funeral but it also gives you the opportunity to meet with us and be given the same 1 to 1 dedicated support and attention we provide to all our families.

The key benefits of the funeral plan include:

- Paying today's prices for a service you may not require for many years.
- Helps ease the worry of funeral payments at the time of need.
- Your wishes are fulfilled by a proven partnership. By entrusting us with your wishes, you can rest assured that you are in good hands and that your wishes will be carried out to the letter.
- Peace of mind. Knowing that you have saved your loved ones this responsibility during sad and difficult times.

We are always able to visit you at home to gently guide you towards making the right choice of funeral arrangements. To find out more about this opportunity and receive your brochure free of charge, please feel free to contact us.

'Bardens,' Bank Street,
Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3EF.
01580 713636
(Prop. West & Coe Ltd.)



Dixter Road, Northiam,
East Sussex TN31 6LB.
01797260316

Email – enquiries@jperigoeandson.com

Website – www.jperigoeandson.com



Benenden History

Benenden's forced emigration policy

Last month we saw how, in the middle of the 19th century, parishes like Benenden were unable to support their poor and unemployed and so bought them assisted passages, effectively forcing them to emigrate to Australia. Between 1831 and 1841 ten per cent of Benenden's population left for the Antipodes.

Following new government initiatives in 1834, Parishes would equip the emigrants and transport them to the ports. The government paid for the passage out, using money from Australian land sales.

In the 19th century local government was divided into 'Unions' (the basis of subsequent Rural District Councils). According to the New South Wales Legislative Council in 1846, one-eighth of the population of the Rye Union emigrated.

The largest sailings from Gravesend were in 1839 on the 'Cornwall', the 'Neptune', the 'Florist' and the 'James Pattison'. Forty-six Kent parishes offloaded 'surplus' people in the decade after 1836.

At that time the Work House was bursting with young families. Agriculture was in recession. Tenant farmers reduced their demand for labour. The parish poor consisted of artisans and agricultural labourers who were unable to find jobs or to find housing which was not tied to reduced employment.

It fell to local Benenden MP and emigration advocate Thomas Law Hodges as the principal landlord at Hemsted, to assist the village in solving the crisis. Hodges, originally from Dorset, had a relative at Cranbourne Chase near Salisbury. This area, like Benenden, had been a centre of trouble due to abject poverty pressures in 1830-2. The Riot Act had to be read in Benenden and the volunteer Yeomanry Regiment was called up to settle unrest outside The Bull.

In October 1838 the 'John McLellan' arrived in

New South Wales carrying seven English families from Cranborne Chase. The following March the 'Royal George' brought 13 families and 3 single men, partly from around Benenden.

In one year Camden, next to Bickley Vale in New South Wales, received 171 settlers from Rolvenden, a similar number from Sandhurst, and 83 from Benenden.

About one third of migrants who went to Australia between 1830 and 1850 paid their own way or accepted assisted passages. Whether convicts or settlers, they found conditions very good in comparison to Europe and with hard work and determination they could prosper. They encouraged relatives in England to travel to Australia and enjoy successful living. Women migrants were also assisted to curb a gender imbalance, to work as domestic servants and to foster marriages and childbirth. These migration schemes resulted in 58,000 people going to Australia between 1815 and 1840.

Hodges was a benevolent landlord and spoke frequently in Parliament in support of the rural poor. In 1857 the family sold the estate for £127,000 to Gathorne Hardy, MP. The new owner demolished the old house, built a new Hemsted House, rebuilt the church and provided good staff housing. He also revived the boys' school and built a new village school for girls. His fortune came from a profitable family iron business in Yorkshire and investment in the railways. But



agriculture remained in decline throughout the century and in 1908 the proceeds of the sale of the estate were barely a third of the original cost in 1847.

The decision to make new lives in Australia proved successful for many from our parish without the taint of being descended from convicts.

Robin Dalton Holmes

above left: Leaving Britain for the Antipodes

above: En route to Australia, mid 19th century

www.charlottehudsonschoolofdance.com

Dance classes held at Benenden and Rolvenden Village Hall.
Classes from 2 and a half years to adult!

- ★ Ballet
- ★ Street Jazz
- ★ Acro
- ★ Modern
- ★ Tap
- ★ Exams and Shows

Contact us now to book your 3 week trial for only £10!

07875525518
charlotte@charlottehudsonschoolofdance.com



Cycling Challenge

Take part in the 2016 KAB virtual cycle ride

Sign up to take part in our 24 hour virtual cycle ride. You can ride at any time or as a team. Set your own route and take part whenever you want, even in the gym! When you've done the distance, let us know and we'll send you a finished medal.

www.kentassociationfortheblind.org.uk/sport.asp

Supporting sight impaired people to live independent lives

Kent Association for the Blind





WEALD PROPERTY

Residential Sales • Management and Lettings

01580 242700
wealdproperty.net



Recently SOLD BENENDEN £775,000

LEADERS IN LOCAL PROPERTY SINCE 1985

Weald Property has been successfully handling exceptional local Property whilst supporting the villages of Benenden and Rolvenden since 1985. Offering a complete, professional and personal service in Residential Sales, Lettings and Property Management Agency, our successful and unique approach is not to be found on the High Street. Located at our inviting offices at Windmill Farm, Benenden Road, Rolvenden, we offer cost effective solutions for selling, letting and managing your Property.

To benefit from our 30 years experience leading the way in Wealden Property, please call Alex Hill on 01580 242700 for a complimentary market appraisal.



Recently LET ROLVENDEN LAYNE £3,250 PCM







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

London Marathon 2017

Step out for sight loss and make a difference to the lives of visually impaired people in your local area.

Benenden is part of 2016 KAB stills sign up to the 2017 London Marathon 2017. Complete an exciting 26.2 mile run for sight loss and make a difference to the lives of visually impaired people in your local area.

www.kentassociationfortheblind.org.uk

Supporting sight impaired people to live independent lives

Kent Association for the Blind



KATE JOYNER INTERIORS

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

The Paper Mill Oast, Hinksden Road, Benenden, Kent TN17 4BA

01580 240708 – 07734 958129

kate@katejoyner.co.uk – lucy@katejoyner.co.uk – www.katejoyner.co.uk





In Benenden
and Sandhurst

A different way
of being church
of doing church

Come along on Sunday 15 January
This month at St George's Church, Benenden, 4-6pm

Aimed at all the family ... whatever your age.
Have fun being church together, doing crafts together,
worshipping together, and eating together.
The first hour is the craft stuff.
Then we have a short time of informal worship.
Finally we'll sit down and eat a meal together.

Please come and join us. You do not have to get messy,
just have fun!

Rev'd David Commander, Rector
01580 240658 david@dc-uk.co.uk

Cakes & Chaos



Drop-in Cafe
& Toddler Group



St George's Church, Benenden
Every Friday during term time, 9-11.30am



Please come and enjoy lovely cakes,
real coffee and a selection of teas.
If you've got little ones, let them play
in the church.
Only £1 per family.

For more information please call
Rev'd David or Helen Commander 01580 240658
or email david@dc-uk.co.uk
or helenjcommander@gmail.com



The Magazine thanks

Many thanks to the Mark and Lucy at the Bull for hosting the Benenden Magazine Christmas party. We especially wanted to say a big thank you to all our stalwart distributors who trudge or drive round every house in the parish to deliver your copy of the magazine. And they do it for absolutely nothing. Without them we would never have been able to make the re-launch work. And special thanks also to Marilyn and Dick Hill who oversee the entire operation. If for some reason you are not getting your copy, or if it is delayed beyond the first of the month, please get in touch with them and they will do their best to rectify the situation. The magazine would also like to thank everyone who contributes to it and to all who advertise with us. Without you all it simply wouldn't happen.

Kent Barker

Village Lunch

Tuesday 17 January, Benenden Village Hall,
12.30pm

All welcome - £4 a head. If you need a lift please let us know and we can arrange it. Please contact Jan Dunkley on 01580 242936 if you haven't put your name down but would like to come. We look forward to seeing you.

Jane's Kitchen

LAMB TERRAPIN

Serves 5-6

500g cooked lamb-cut in small slices or diced
1tbsp butter
1tbsp plain flour
½tsp dried English mustard
½pint condensed beef consommé OR
¼pint consommé and ¼pint red wine
¼pint double cream
1tbsp Worcestershire sauce
2 hard boiled eggs, chopped
100g sliced mushrooms, lightly sautéed
50g buttered crumbs
1tsp chopped parsley

METHOD

- Melt the butter in a medium casserole, stir in flour and mustard and blend in the consommé gradually, stirring constantly.
- Cook 2-3min and then stir in the cream, eggs, Worcestershire sauce, mushrooms and meat.
- Top with buttered crumbs and parsley, mixed.
- Bake the casserole 20-25min in a moderate oven 350F/180C-165Fan/Gas mark 4, uncovered until it is bubbly and golden.
- Serve with buttered noodles, buttered Brussels sprouts and sliced ripe tomatoes topped with chopped chives and French dressing.

Jane Drysdale 291027
drysdale@bishopsdaleoast.co.uk

The Village Debates

How should we answer the Call for Sites?

In 2016, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council began work on a new Local Plan, “to guide future development in the borough up to 2033”. At the heart of that plan lies a commitment, underpinned by National Planning Policy, to meet the future housing needs of the Borough.

A Call for Sites, carried out between 9 February and 16 September, was made to encourage the identification of land that might ultimately be considered ripe for development. A process known as Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) will determine which of those sites is suitable, at which point the debates will no doubt begin.

Most of us concede that Benenden, in common with all rural areas, will have to accept its share of the development burden, but there any real consensus ends.

The word ‘suitable’, is a subjective one, meaning different things to a council executive, a developer and a near neighbour of a plot of land due to be invaded by a mini-estate of new-build homes, with their accompanying people, cars and demands for utilities and facilities: just ask our counterparts in Hawkhurst and Sissinghurst, still reeling from having major schemes visited upon them, or those living close by the proposed development in Walkhurst Road.

While acceptance by SHELAA is no guarantee that a site will be allocated for development, it may well exacerbate tensions between those who identified it and may seek to profit from it, and those who live next door or simply see it as the wrong spot.

Some believe that Benenden can’t remain outside the commercial loop and that the kind of low-profit, small-scale affordable housing seen as desirable by many will inevitably be accompanied by bigger, more lucrative family

homes, the like of which are the main attraction for potential developers and in heavy demand from well-heeled buyers.

Others seek the beau ideal of sites offered at knockdown rates by philanthropic landowners that can be developed for the local good without the need to bow to the demands of professional developers.

And that’s before we even get onto architectural styles, the Wealden vernacular and neo-Classical pillars.

One thing is for sure: there will be new housing in the Parish. The question is, how much, where and for whom? Here are a selection of views, official and otherwise, on the great building debate.

The locations of all of the sites submitted can be found on TWBC’s interactive map at the Planning Policy section of <http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk>.

Peter Thomas

A personal outlook from Parish Councillor Kent Barker

Last year our Parish Plan identified a pressing need for additional local housing and particularly smaller, affordable homes, but on the Parish Council Planning Committee we tend mainly to receive applications for large four and five bedroom detached houses and, as with the proposed Walkhurst Road development, high density mini-estates.

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council’s ‘call for sites’ seems to exacerbate this trend. There is still a presumption against building outside the very narrowly defined village ‘envelope’ or Limits to Built Development - and they say they are unlikely to favour developments of fewer than six or more units.

I think this is the wrong approach. What they should be encouraging is much less intrusive developments of one or two ‘cottage-style’ starter or affordable homes dotted around the whole of the parish. It would mean that our smaller outlying settlements such as Goddards Green or East End, or near me in Mill Street, might be able to find a number of infill or



brownfield sites often tucked away from view. I'm not suggesting 1930s style 'ribbon' development, but greater flexibility from the borough planners over where, in the 21st century, it would be sensible and environmentally sustainable to build the new homes we urgently need.

The view from the Weald of Kent Protection Society

Benenden is fortunate enough to be situated in an area of unspoilt and beautiful countryside (AONB) dotted with Wealden farmhouses and small villages, many of them ancient in origin.

We recognise that all Wealden villages need to accept some level of development in order to accommodate both necessary 'new blood' and also the families of those who want to stay in the countryside.

The problem today is the threat of inappropriate developments, such as those recently and disgracefully dumped on Hawkhurst and Sissinghurst, with far too many houses on one site, or houses that bear little relation to the needs of local residents.

The Weald of Kent Protection Society scrutinises all planning applications and, where relevant, voices objections in planning terms to the local authorities - Tunbridge Wells in the case of Benenden.

You can support this organisation in their mission to protect your village and countryside by joining the Weald of Kent Protection Society. Membership details from Fay Merrick secretary@wkps.org.uk. We need your support to carry on with this valuable work.

A wish list from Parish Councillor Gordon Reynolds

In seeking to build new houses in a progressive Wealden village, we must try to achieve the following aims:

- Homes must be environmentally and ecologically sustainable.
- They should be built to blend with the existing landscape.
- Our goal should be mixed, family-size clusters of houses that occupants are proud to live in.
- The houses need to be built with locally sourced materials, using a mixture of traditional methods together with modern technology.
- All new houses should have renewable energy and be equipped for heat recovery and the recycling of water.
- Self-build plots must be made available.
- Quality of life for residents should be paramount in selecting locations!

Dulwich Preparatory School

CRANBROOK

Independent day and flexible boarding school for boys and girls aged 3 to 13



Scholarship and Bursary Programme Years 3, 5 & 7.
Call our Registrar, Sally Ahlers to discuss your options

registrar@dcpskent.org • 01580 712179 • dcpskent.org



Wordsworth Surveyors

Chartered Surveyors providing residential
survey and valuation services in Kent,
Sussex and Central London

01580 240626
07734 386115

info@wordsworthsurveyors.co.uk

www.wordsworthsurveyors.co.uk



EVANS

CONSERVATION LTD

HISTORIC BUILDING
SPECIALISTS

07718920249
www.evansconservation.uk



Vines in the Hills

Wine Column

Tractor Hazards in the Vines

Myrtle and I had ventured up this dirt road which climbed steeply away from the valley floor. Traffic is extremely rare on these tracks that criss-cross the hills around the village, making walking on them with the dog a delight. However small the roads around Benenden, there's always the likelihood of traffic. In the hilly country of the Herault in southern France the chances of seeing a vehicle is remote. And if you do it's likely to be a wine grower on the way to tend some sloping vineyard that somehow clings precariously to the side of the mountain.

But as we turned the corner a white van rattled down the road towards us, raising clouds of dust into the hot morning air. And no sooner had it passed than a pair of pick-ups in convoy came up from behind, forcing us to step into the woodland on the side of the road. The men driving looked preoccupied and five hundred metres further on we discovered why. They had stopped, blocking the track, and were gathered in a huddle peering at the underside of a vehicle a little way down the slope. It took a minute to realise this wasn't some abandoned rusting relic, but a relatively new tractor - on its side in the vineyard. These special vehicles have extremely narrow wheelbases in order pass between the vines, and it must have overbalanced as it turned at the end of the row that it had been spraying.

It didn't look as if anyone was hurt - except perhaps the pride of the driver - so we walked on, but it did make me realise just how tough it is growing grapes up in the hills around

St Chinian - at least compared to the flat plains down towards Beziers and the sea. There they have room to maneuver those huge great mechanical pickers up and down the rows of vines which are grown along a wire. Up round the village where I stay, just about everything has to be picked by hand.

At first glance it seems amazing that vines grow in this terrain at all. There's no earth to speak of, just a covering of flinty rocks known as schist. But actually grapes positively thrive on hard terrain (much of Bordeaux wine is grown on sand, gravel and round, flat pebbles) forcing the plant to search for moisture and nourishment.

The problem is that in an age of mechanisation, it's much more expensive to do everything by hand. A century ago the horse or mule provided the muscle power in the vineyards of the Languedoc and these animals were equally stable whether they were on the flat or on a hill.

As we saw, a tractor pulling a sprayer - or a plough or mower - is a different matter. And mechanical picking is vastly cheaper than doing it by hand. Added to which there's an increasing labour



Webb's

45 & 51 High Street
Tenterden

Hardware, Garden and Cookware Specialists
Webb's Ironmongery Stores (Tenterden) Limited

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.webbsoftenterden.com

Greenacre Landscapes Creating Beautiful Gardens since 1963

Specialists in Private Garden
Design & Construction

Patios - Brickwork - Decking

Stonework - Ponds/Lakes

Water Features - Planting Schemes
Groundworks

Detailed Plans - Portfolio Available
Free Consultation

www.greenacrelandscapes.co.uk
01580 240085 01892 722412
Furnace Lane Nursery, Furnace Lane,
Brenchley, Kent TN12 7BX

Forest Farm Cat Hotel

Idyllic rural location
Individual heated chalets
housing up to four cats
Also welcome rabbits,
guinea pigs, hamsters etc.
Come and see us before booking

Call Lucy on 01580 242961
or 07720 966374
email enquiries@forestfarmcathotel.co.uk
or see our website
www.forestfarmcathotel.co.uk

Bargain Carpets & Floors

Carpet, Vinyl, Laminate and Wood 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

01424 855882 / 07734 659834

www.bargainfloors.co.uk



WE ARE PLEASED TO OFFER

SKILLED GARDEN
MAINTENANCE,
PLANTING & PRUNING

BORDER DESIGN & ADVICE
SUPPLY OF OWN GROWN
TREES - SHRUBS -
CLIMBERS

WISTERIA A SPECIALITY

The Laurels Nursery, Dingledean, Benenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4JU
Phone 01580 240463
www.thelaurelsnursery.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



Berlou village

forbids single varietal wines. But not all the independents are thriving. One in the village closed its doors last year - though the two brothers who owned it have yet to remove the faded 'ouvert' or open sign from the front. We heard there'd been a rather public fraternal bust-up



Closed for Business

shortage in villages like Berlou - one of the twenty that make up the St Chinian Appellation D'origine Controlee (AOC). There's little to keep young people here and it's a hard life being a vigneron so, with EU offering grants to cut overproduction a few years back, a surprisingly large number of

with one wanting to keep going while the other was already grubbing up the vines on their joint parcel of land immediately in front of the village church.

It's hard to assess the quality of two other independents in Berlou, their Caves never seemed to be open for tasting. But the third is definitely impressive. Decanter magazine described Domaine La Grange Léon as one 'to keep an eye on' with its emphasis on the 'purity and expression of fruit'. Unfortunately few St Chinian wines are really cheap - most sell locally for between 6 and 10 euros a bottle. The irony is you can often find the same wines in the big supermarkets in northern France for half that.

Kent Barker

vineyards were grubbed up. For a while it even looked as if the village wine co-operative might go out of business altogether.

Fortunately there's been a revival of interest in Languedoc wines generally, and the more specialist St Chinian ones in particular. Quality has been improved and new independent domaines have started up. The advantage for these independents is that they often produce secondary 'vin de pays', preferring not to be bound by the rigid AOC system that determines exactly which blend of grapes must be used, and almost always



one

nursery - pre-school - childcare

Kent
County
Council
kent.gov.uk



funded places available
for 2, 3 and 4 year olds



PERFECT FOR YOUR LITTLE ONE

Why not come and take a look around? Email Hannah Osborne - hannah@oneTN17.co.uk or call 01580 445 455.

We're open **MONDAY TO FRIDAY** from
7:30am to 6:30pm all year round.



Local Enterprise ... Enterprising Locals

SALLY HARRINGTON

Benenden Sauce, perhaps the village's most famous product, is produced by Sally Harrington in her purpose-built commercial kitchen in an old dairy behind her house. So how did she come to be the queen of condiments?

Sally came from a large, non-cooking family - meals were often 'yogurt with round things' - she didn't cook at school, but found that when she went to work in London that she was interested in cooking (then) unusual dishes such as lasagna when everyone else was making prawn cocktail and steak. She didn't go to university but started working for Brook Street Bureau. Life was fairly hard to mouth so she decided to start her own business, asking herself what she could do and - much to the surprise of her family! - she decided to cook. Sally began by doing 'drug lunches' for doctors and pharmaceutical companies and then progressed to weddings and other celebrations. Originally working in both London and Kent, the business became increasingly Kent-based. In 1983 she got married and started a family, for a while managing to run the business and two children with help.



She was then head-hunted to do product development two days a week for a well-known food company, and this gradually became full time, travelling all over Europe and America, and then looking solely after the Marks & Spencers account. The work was interesting but she began to hanker for her own business again. The existing commercial kitchen fitted out for her original catering business was beckoning to her ... and then she was head hunted to advise a venture capital firm on Indian and Asian ready meals. The 140mile round-trip commute proved too much and Sally returned to Mummy duties, becoming a governor of Benenden Primary School, helping to raise much needed funds for new classrooms with 'The Benenden Children's Challenge', and as Chair of Iden Green Tennis Club she oversaw the building of a new pavilion.

In the meantime, people began to ask frequently for the recipe for her delicious salad dressing and suggested she should bottle and sell it as a business. Sally made a small batch and took 6 bottles to Wards the Butchers. They sold in an hour. Having initially invested in 70 glass bottles and designed home made labels, Sally took her sauce to Perfect Partners in Cranbrook and to the Village Shop, then to the farmers market in Tunbridge Wells, the Food & Drink Show at Olympia and a Covent Garden Food Fair where her sauce was selling to the public in such quantities that it was 'spotted' by Waitrose. She also sells to smaller shops via a wholesaler. Now Sally is making a couple of batches of 600 bottles each week. She added a new sauce, Quiddity, a sweet French dressing, to her list about 7 years ago and though it is popular, it doesn't have the star quality of Benenden Sauce.

Sally has lived in Benenden for over 30 years and was in the midst of doing major work to her house when the crash came and she found herself needing to make the house pay for itself and so added doing bed and breakfast to her already busy life (www.ramsdenfarmhouse.co.uk). You really could call her a serial entrepreneur!

Minnie Garnier

Bird Notes

In the middle of November I took a gamble and spent a few days on Islay, the home of peaty whisky! We arrived by ferry from Kennacraig a two hour crossing to Port Askaig. Standing on deck in bright sun and an icy wind I was able to spot a few unidentified divers and a small white and black bird skipping across the water. I was confused at first and then realised it was a Black Guillemot in winter plumage. As we arrived in Port Askaig we were welcomed by two White-tailed eagles who have made Port Askaig their home. These new recruits are probably from the very successful introduction programme on Mull.



top: Long-tailed Duck, *Clangula hyemalis*; above: White-fronted Goose (Greenland race), *Anser albifrons flavirostris*

The first morning we woke up to the most marvellous weather, the Paps of Jura were magnificent with their snowy tops gleaming in the low morning light. We spent the best part of an hour on the harbour wall at Bowmore where we were staying. The first two birds spotted were two Long-tailed Duck who swam almost into the harbour itself and so close that we could admire their intricate plumage. Further out there were two Whooper Swans enjoying the good weather. Both Red-breasted Merganser and Goosanders were also present. We moved to Loch Gruinart which is where the famous RSPB reserve is situated, the main attraction being the beautiful black and white Barnacle Geese. The reserve has been a winter haven for these geese whose numbers have tripled over the last twenty years. It has been so successful that it has caused considerable problems for local farmers and I gather a very small amount of culling now takes place. These birds breed in Eastern Greenland and Islay hosts the vast majority of the estimated 40,000 wintering population. The other wintering goose species to winter here is the White-fronted Goose who also breed in Greenland. This goose looks a little like our Greylag Goose but is smaller and shorter with black barring across its lower breast. Whilst we were there a noise like jumbo jet came rolling towards us but no aircraft was in sight and then up from the ground arose an enormous cloud of geese stretching hundreds of yards across the valley floor. The noise was extraordinary as some 20,000 geese took off. If for arguments

sake a goose weighs three kilos then 40,000 wings lifting 60 tonnes of goose is going to sound pretty dramatic!! The cause of this lift was a large bird of prey which had been seen drifting towards the flock. I am sure it was a Golden Eagle which we had seen perched on top of an old barn on Ardnave Point a little earlier. Ardnave Point guards the Western side of Loch Gruinart and provides good viewing for birdwatchers as well as eagles! The point is made of sand dunes and close cropped grass and is a perfect habitat for Chough, an elegant member of the Corvid family, black all over with red feet and beak.

When dusk arrives the geese leave the fields around Loch Gruinart and head for the safety of the foreshore of Loch Indaal. We situated ourselves close to a small copse of trees that the birds have



top: Barnacle Geese, *Branta leucopsis*; above: Twite, *Linaria flavirostris*

to fly over at the head of the loch and there we witnessed one of the marvels of nature. The geese arrive in long rows of arrow head formations about 400 yds in length. Wave after wave after wave came across rather like those Battle of Britain films. In about three minutes approximately 5,000 geese came through to settle on the safe shores of the loch. The spilling of the air through their wings (known as “whiffling”) as they make their descent is another fantastic sight.

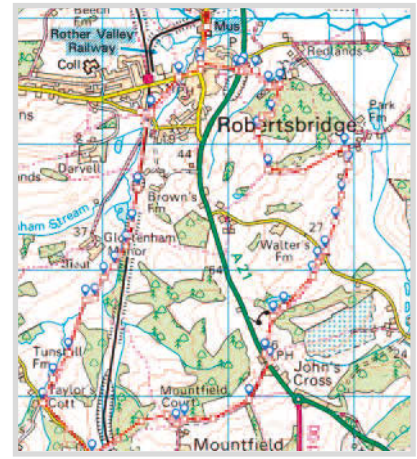
The next day we visited the very south of the island, The Oa peninsula, which is a very different habitat with high steep cliffs where two pairs of Golden Eagles are known to breed, sadly they were not on display for our visit. However there was

plenty of ornithological interest. As we approached a rather damp boggy place a bird flew up out of the rushes and then dived back in again some twenty yards further on. Although views were brief this little wader with a longish beak was like a small snipe. A Common Snipe when disturbed leaves with a strident alarm call and flies up high and disappears. The fact that this little snipe when disturbed was silent and soon went to cover is typical of a Jack Snipe which is exactly what this was. The Jack Snipe breeds in Northern Europe and winters in a more moderate climate such as that on Isaly. The Oa is a remote place where the terrain supports cattle and sheep but as we walked passed one field which had some sort of brassica crop that had gone to seed we noticed a huge number of small birds feeding or perched on the surrounding wire fence. The birds were quite tame and I was delighted to see they were Twite a mountain type finch bird. The Twite has become an increasingly rare bird so it was brilliant to see this huge flock of some 500 to 800 birds. Twite breed in coastal and montane areas of these islands and have been fairly regularly recorded in very small numbers along the North coast of Kent in the winter.

Charles Trollope 240821 cetetal@btinternet.com

Foot Notes

Robertsbridge - St John - Robertsbridge. Distance: 6¼miles



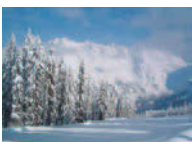
- 1) Park at the recreation ground as you enter Robertsbridge from the A21. Turn right and walk into the village. Turn left into Fair Lane at The Seven Stars pub.
- 2) At the end of the lane cross the footbridge over the A21, turn right at the end of the bridge and follow the path as it goes down and left to emerge in a field. Ignoring the noisy dogs, turn right as you enter the field and go downhill through a hedge and past the water treatment works on the left, cross the track in front of the gates to the works and carry on into the woods.
- 3) At a crossroads with waymarks in all directions, turn right and follow a broad path going uphill. Cross a track marked Private Woodland until you reach the edge of a field. Cross the field with the hedge on your right and pass over 2 stiles to meet a bridleway. Turn left and follow the path downhill to Stone Cottage.
- 4) Turn right on the track, following it until it turns right, with a Morris Minor planter on the right, and follow the path down then uphill to reach Poppinghole Lane.
- 5) Turn right onto the lane then a left onto the path a few metres beyond the cottage, follow the ridge to the trees across the field. Cross the stile and turn right, keeping the hedge on your right cross to the end of the field, then turn left to just below the pond where the path goes over a stile.
- 6) Cross the next field and at the next stile the path goes diagonally left uphill to the corner of the field and through a kissing gate to reach the A21 at John's Cross. Turn left and walk down to the pub, cross the road here and take the private road to Mountfield Court. Follow the track in front of the house and turn right at the T junction and then take the path immediately on your left.
- 7) The path leads diagonally right downhill to a gate and stile, crossing the stile turn left on a woodland path downhill, crossing over a bridge above the railway line uphill to Castle Farm. Turn right on the lane and follow it downhill to Taylors Cottage.
- 8) Continue straight ahead through two fields, the stream on your left, leaving the second field the path goes diagonally left to the bridge over the stream. Ignoring the markers on the bridge turn right as you come off it and follow the path through a gap in the hedge, the stream on your right.
- 9) Passing below Glottenham Manor ignore the path over the next bridge continue ahead over the broken stile. The railway comes in from the right and the path runs between the stream and the railway.
- 10) When the stream bends off left continue ahead following the railway to Robertsbridge, where the path crosses a stile onto a lane carry straight ahead on the footpath ignoring the road tunnel.
- 11) The path emerges in a playground area, cross to the gate and turn right onto Browns Lane. Go under the railway and turn immediately left onto a footpath which goes diagonally right to meet Station Rd. Turn right and follow the road to the High St junction. Turn left to the car park.

Jim Hyde, Parish Footpath Co-ordinator

BALDWIN'S TRAVEL GROUP



Specialists in
Tailor-made
Itineraries and
Cruising



Flights,
Hotels, Car Hire
Tours &
Packages



Independent,
Family
and
Group Travel

Travel
Insurance
Foreign
Currency



www.baldwinstravel.co.uk
#HolidayInspirations



Baldwins Travel -
Cranbrook
01580 714411
Baldwins Travel -
Maidstone
01622 762141
Travelux -Tenterden
01580 764344

Baldwins Travel -
Tunbridge Wells
01892 511999

Baldwins Travel -
Tonbridge
01732 351223

Baldwins Travel -
Uckfield
01825 760488

Sevenoaks Travel
01732 458255

Baldwins Travel -
Lewes
01273 472466

BBTM -
Business Travel
01892 515900

Free to learn



MR NOAH'S NURSERY SCHOOL

tel: 240642
mnns@idengreen.org.uk
mrnoahs.org

SAINT RONAN'S SCHOOL

Hawkhurst, Kent • Founded 1883 • www.saintronans.co.uk

Boys & Girls from 3-13 • Day & Boarding • Forest School

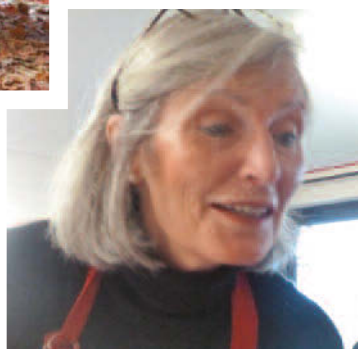


Discover the magic! Email emmatv@saintronans.co.uk

or call 01580 752271 to book an appointment.

Reg'd Charity 1066420





Above: Feasting and merriment - Iden Green Tennis Club Monday Morning Players lunch; Christmas village lunch; Benenden Pre-School's Christmas Grotto; the village pantomime, Pinocchio, in rehearsal
Front cover: Sun sets on 2016. Photograph: Kent Barker