

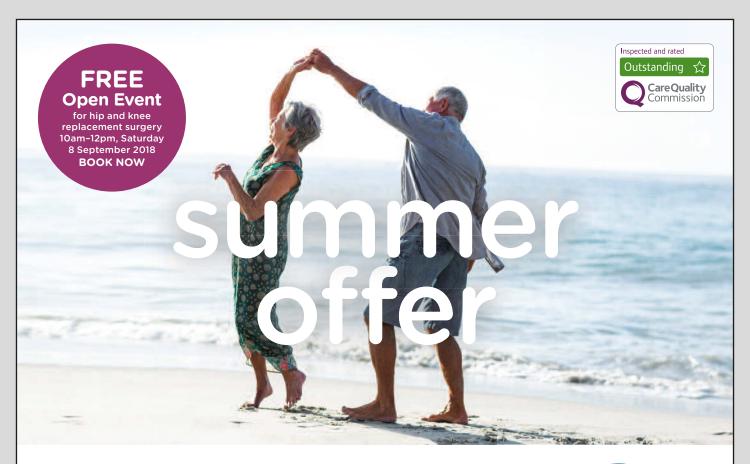
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Editorial



Is it just me, or is everything pretty good, really? I mean, I know the rest of the world's going to hell in a handcart, multifarious lunatics who shouldn't even be trusted with metal cutlery have got their fingers on nuclear buttons, and England turned out to be not as good as we thought in the World Cup, but here in Benenden we seem to be bucking the trend.

Putting together this month's magazine, I discovered that the new primary school project - complete with freshly announced 20mph speed limit - is alive and well and only slightly frustrating in the time it's taking to start looking something like a new primary school. It also seems that despite the Saharan conditions across the High Weald, we're not going to have a hosepipe ban slapped upon us by South East Water, and our new gardening correspondent Annabel Lear is confident that with a little good advice - and hopefully a little more rain - our gardens will survive the drought in bright and colourful fashion.

Bill 'Birdseye' Lewis, chairman of the Iden Green Pavilion, is hoping the deluge will hold off until after 28 July to allow his glorious yet weather-prone Jazz and Blues night to pass off without umbrellas or the need to decamp to the village hall. Tracy Claridge, our resident wine guru, has another tasting for our delectation at the end of August - Australia this time, and promising to be utterly bonzer. And our good reverend, David Commander, has announced that the hard graft, generosity and enthusiasm of the village raised a glorious ten grand at the village fete in aid of St George's Church.

All that and a barbecue summer to boot. Really, what's not to like about being in Benenden?

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.

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Church Calendar

St George's Church

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

Churchwarden: Tracy Claridge 240454 maisonsicheluk@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 5 August 8am Communion 10am All-age Communion 5pm Choral Evensong

and Sunday School

Sunday 12 August 8am 1662 Communion 10am Morning Worship 5pm Evening Prayer

at Mission Church

Sunday 19 August 8am Communion 10am Sung Eucharist

Sunday 26 August 8am Communion 10am Morning Worship

Mission Church, Sandhurst

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

Every Tuesday 10am Communion

Iden Green Congregational Church

Elder: Tobin Bird 240027 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

Baptisms 1 July Olivia and James Hayworth

22 July Annabelle Sherrington

Wedding 14 July Georgina Brooks and Derry Pickford

Rector's Letter



Money well spent on a fabulous day

Cast your mind back to the afternoon of Saturday 16 June; what were you up to? Many of you came along to the fete on The Green. And what a fabulous time we all had. The weather was kind to us this year; not too hot; not too windy - and no rain, or hail, this year! The Green looked amazing, with the church as the backdrop, a colourful array of stalls, fun activities, classic cars, music, and refreshments.

From the feedback I have had, many people had a really good time, coming together as a village community for an enjoyable afternoon with something for everyone. It has been said before, but thank you to everyone who worked hard through the year (the fete committee); those who worked tirelessly before and afterwards; and, on the day itself, to those who manned the stalls - and those who came and had fun, put hand to pocket and contributed to the most successful fete we have had. There are still some expenses to come in, but so far we have made a few pounds over £10,000 - our largest total. What a tremendous result!

Amongst the positive feedback, I have also been asked: "What happens to the money that has been raised?" Here, very briefly and as simply as I can make it, is the answer: the money goes into the general fund of St George's Church account (ie unrestricted on what the money can be used for) and pays for the costs of running the church and towards its upkeep.

Our budget for 2018 is £83,000; in round figures, just over £6,900 per month (down on last year due to some good housekeeping.) As the contribution from our major fund raiser goes into the unrestricted funds, what it actually pays for is not possible to specify; but here are the sort of things we have to pay for in the running and upkeep of the village parish church:

- Diocesan Quota (to cover things like the incumbent's stipend (salary) and pension contributions, training costs of current and future priests and lay people, Diocesan running costs and staff costs, safeguarding etc); this works out at £4,039 per month.
- Our day-to-day running costs (ie Rector's and office expenses, and assistance from other clergy); this totals £9,250 pa.
- The costs associated with our worship (organ, piano, vestments, choir etc) are £9,350 pa.
- The running costs of the 'fabric' of the church (insurance, churchyard maintenance, lighting/heating/water and minor repairs) totals £10,950 pa.
- Last year we gave away £5,300 to the work of other charities, locally, nationally and overseas.

People's attitude to what the money should be spent on will differ, of course. Please see your contribution as supporting the cause that you feel is most worthy. As we have been so fortunate with the funds raised at the fete this year, I will be asking the PCC, at their next meeting, if they will consider supporting the work of more local charities.

Thank you again for supporting the fete, and for enjoying yourselves!

Village Calendar

July		
Saturday 28	Jazz & Blues at the Pavilion, Iden Green, 6pm	p. 1 1
August		
Tues 7-Wed 8	Youth Drama Workshop, Benenden Village Hall, 10-4.30pm	p. 13
Wednesday 15	St George's Church Coffee Shop Special Event, Memorial Hall, 10-11.45am	p. 13
Sunday 19	Thank You Garden Party, The Rectory Garden, 3-5pm	p. 13
Tuesday 21	Village Lunch, Benenden Village Hall, 12.30pm	p.2 l
Tuesday 21	Iden Green and Benenden WI, Lord Nelson, Iden Green Pavilion, 2pm	p.9
Friday 31	Mitchell Wines of Australia tasting and BBQ, Benenden School Café, 7pm	p.35
September		
Sunday 2	Village Panto Auditions, Benenden Village Hall, 2pm	p.9
Friday 7	Woodland Wide Games, Iden Green Congregational Church, 7pm	
Saturday 8	Friends of Kent Churches, Ride + Stride	p. 17
Saturday 8	Charity Concert, The Paper Mill, Benenden, 7pm	p.3 l
Monday 17	Parish Council Meeting, Memorial Hall, 7pm	
Tuesday 18	Iden Green and Benenden WI, Mr Gurr Handbell Ringing,	
	Iden Green Pavilion, 2pm	p.9

Benenden Youth Club/Streetcruizer, age 11+

Tuesdays at Benenden Village Hall, 6.30-8.30pm

Coffee Shop

Wednesdays in the Memorial Hall, 10-12noon

Benenden Bowls Club

Thursdays on the recreation field, practice night, 6.30pm

Cakes & Chaos: Cafe and Toddler Group

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

Refuse Lorry Collections

Saturday 11 August for Garden/Compostable Waste

Benenden, Village Hall layby, 8-9.20am and Iden Green, crossroads, 9.40-11am

Saturday 25 August for Domestic Waste

Benenden, Village Hall layby, 8-9.20am and Iden Green, crossroads, 9.40-11am

Parish Council



You will see in the update on page 9 from the Benenden Village Trust that the life of our playground outside the village hall has now sadly come to an end. We had hoped that it would last the distance until the funding was in place for the new scheme, but it was not to be.

We are lucky, however, that the plans for the new play area are well underway, with substantial funding of the project already committed by the BVT to go towards reaching the target of between £90k to £100k required to give the villagers a facility we can be proud of, providing a creative and imaginative space for our children. I am also very pleased to confirm that the Parish Council has agreed to fund a total of £20k towards the project, spread over the next 12 months.

There will be a more details about the new play area in this magazine next month - with plenty of pictures of the proposed scheme to give you a good idea of what to expect - together with possibilities of further income sources, including grant funding and local community donations.

With our Neighbourhood Development Plan coming on apace now, you may be interested to know that a parish with an NDP in place is entitled to 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) raised from new development. TWBC is considering developing a CIL Charging Schedule alongside its new Local Plan, and this would be good news for Benenden, giving an additional funding stream for community projects - next stop Iden Green play area!

There will be no Parish Council meeting in August, so the next one will be held on Monday 17 September 7pm at the Memorial Hall. As ever, all welcome.

Have a great summer everyone.

Nicola Thomas, BPC Chair 01580 240364 nic.jthomas@btinternet.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 No meeting in August

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Just a Thought



Visiting the past

We are camping again, in south-west France but, just for once, with no plans to visit castles, country houses, fortifications or palaces of any kind. However there will be many thousands who will be doing just that over this holiday season and travelling all over the world to see them. Such destinations might include Caernarfon Castle, Hampton Court, Versailles, the Vatican, Topkapi in Istanbul, the Ugandan Kabaka's Olubiri, the Japanese Imperial Palace or the Forbidden City of Beijing - even a chief's longhouse in Sarawak.

The focus of each of the visitors will vary, some staring in wonder and appreciation of the architecture and construction, others at the lavish and extravagant decor, complicated mosaics, massive wall hangings, intricate wood carving or impressive stonework. Yet others will find the accumulation of precious possessions staggering and almost beyond comprehension.

Among these people there will be some who acknowledge many of these aspects but whose real interest is in the life and times of those who inhabited (and occasionally still do inhabit) such establishments. There will be romantics who love to wander through the rooms, along the corridors, and sweep down magnificent staircases while indulging in imagining times past. Others might also ponder the roles of mistresses or concubines, or spare a thought for the servants who worked below stairs, or were captives or slaves, and inhabited the less salubrious quarters of such places. They might have viewed their surroundings in a less favourable light.

That an understanding of what is being visited is made easier if the visitor is armed with some knowledge of the customs and culture associated with the establishment, goes without saying. But ultimately the stories, wherever they are based, will have involved the universal human qualities and frailties of love, loss, jealousy, pride, power or the lust for it, intrigues, selflessness, or at a different level the struggle for survival.

Salons and drawing rooms buzz with gossip. Gentlemen discuss and manipulate affairs of state while the women discuss affairs. Fashion is dissected in minute detail and matchmaking mothers have eyes and ears everywhere. Were some women, and perhaps men, who did not relish the ordered path set out for them, pondering escape? Were the bedrooms any less full of the complicated machinations of human nature than the grand ballrooms?

A campsite full of tents and occupants from all corners of Europe during the football World Cup, probably displays few of these traits but may not be entirely free of them!

Sue Fisher

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News and Events

Benenden Village Trust

Playground plans gathering pace

The Benenden playground, well used and enjoyed for about 30 years, has at last gone beyond possibility of repair. We had hoped that the new playground, which will be differently situated, beyond the Glebe Field access, would be in place before the old one was decommissioned, but The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, in the annual inspection, identified serious deterioration in the existing one and we have had no option but to close it straight away.

Plans for a bigger, better replacement were drawn up some time ago, and delayed only by uncertainties about plans for access to the new primary school. Three years ago, a group of parents created a planning committee, Play Benenden, and consulted widely on what equipment would be ideal. A scheme was drawn up by Outdoorsy Living Ltd, now rebranded as Playspaces, and exhibited at the Fete in 2016.

One of our first actions as the Village Trust was to move ahead with this project as soon as possible. Beth Astridge has joined us as a trustee and we have discussed the original plans and the modifications that Play Benenden would like to make to improve it still further.

Playspaces have been working on updating the plans and costing them and at the time of writing we are expecting their answers any minute.

Play Benenden has a Facebook page (playbenenden) where you can track the progress. They set a fundraising target at £100,000, which is ambitious, but we believe it is an important and very worthwhile investment; the Trust and the Parish Council have already agreed to commit substantial funding, but additional fundraising will be needed. If any reader has ideas or contacts to help with that, please contact bethastridge@googlemail.com.



We are continuing to make progress on several other fronts. Improvements to the small hall of the village hall have been completed. We have appointed Steve Hockney as estate manager on a flexible brief to cope with a range of minor maintenance issues. On a wider front, we are reassessing all the Trust's holdings: the St George's Club building, the Recreation Grounds at Benenden and Iden Green, and Benenden Village Hall.

For any issues regarding your Village Trust, please contact: the clerk, Caroline Levett, at bytclerk@gmail.com, or any of the Trustees.

David Harmsworth benvilltrust@gmail.com

Iden Green and Benenden WI

At our well-attended and enjoyable July meeting, Mrs Nash explained how and why she makes silver jewellery; we admired her talent.

Some members are gathering in August to have lunch at the Red Lion in Brede.

The August meeting will be held in the Iden Green Pavilion.

Dates to remember:

Tuesday 21 August, Mrs Boyd Lord Nelson and Lady Hamilton, Iden Green Pavilion, 2-4pm Tuesday 18 September, Mr Gurr handbell ringing

Shirley Fidler, President 752232

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To book: Email child's name, age, address and mobile number to: ruth@splashpr.co.uk or call Ruth Clark on 07767 261883.

A huge thanks to the Benenden Bonfire Society who donated £800 towards making this workshop possible!



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Benenden Players

Dramatic last call for kids

There are just a few places left at the Benenden Players' two-day summer drama workshop for children from nine-14 years old, so sign up now if you want your child to participate. Thanks to support from the Benenden Bonfire Society, this is free for youngsters from Benenden and Iden Green and we are happy to say that we have 26 children signed up already across the full age range.

Over the two days at the village hall - Tuesday 7 August to Wednesday 8, between 10am and 4.30pm - they will explore and create Roald Dahl's Matilda and Shakespeare's Macbeth, and parents will have a chance to see what they have created at the end of each day. The workshop is run by a trained professional and includes creative topic discussion, imagination building, character exploration, storytelling, improvisation, role play, and lots and lots of fun.

If you would like to take one of the last few places please email ruth@splashpr.co.uk with your child's name and age and your address and mobile number, or call Ruth Clark on 07767 261883.

St George's Church coffee shop special event

Wednesday 15 August, Memorial Hall, 10-11.45am

Donations for this event of raffle prizes and contributions of cakes or scones would be gratefully received on the day.

Benenden Cricket Club

Our home fixtures for August on The Green are: Wednesday I August Benenden Bulls v Tunbridge Wells Royals at 5.30pm Saturday I I August v Rolvenden at 2pm Saturday 25 August v The Stoats at 2pm Richard Brunt, Club Captain



Christian Aid week 2018

The amount raised for this year's Christian Aid week was £3,580. Although down on last year's record, this is still a sizeable and welcome contribution to the charity's important work. Thanks must go to all the collectors and, of course, to everyone who contributed.

Lesley Attwood has done the lion's share of the backroom stuff, thank you Lesley, your help has been invaluable.

Collectors we would love to see you at the Garden Party on Sunday 19 August (see below for details)

Tracy Claridge 24045 Christianaid@tlclaridge.co.uk

Thank You garden party

Sunday 19 August, The Rectory Garden, 3-5pm

There will be a garden party to thank all the Christian Aid collectors and also the helpers of the Benenden Village Fete in support of St George's Church. I would appreciate it if you could let me know as soon as possible if you are able to come along:

Tracy Claridge 240454
TLClaridge@TLClaridge.co.uk
maisonsicheluk@tlclaridge.co.uk



activity and thus encourage growth in the local economy. Ideally we would like to see more organic growth of businesses within the village which, in turn, will sustain village institutions like the shop and the pub and create more local jobs.

The Business and sent out a survey to

Local Economy Group 85 local businesses,

Growing local business for local people

As part of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), the Business and Local Economy Group have been looking at the way local businesses are evolving in our parish. In recent times there has been a large decline in the number of local jobs, especially in the farming sector and we have been looking at what opportunities we have to encourage and support growth to enable businesses to employ more local residents.

One of the desired outcomes of the NDP is both to contribute to the success of existing local businesses and, if possible, attract new enterprises, so that more local jobs become available. This can be achieved by increasing local job opportunities in both existing and new businesses in Benenden, and perhaps by encouraging some new businesses to start up with the help of small enterprise grants, home-starts, and maybe even attracting new residents into work-live units.

We have been canvassing local businesses, to try and understand what the advantages and disadvantages are of having a business in the parish. One of our aims was to maintain and improve the current level of business

asking questions about issues important to them. Unsurprisingly, over 50% said they were experiencing problems with broadband connections and mobile phone signals. There was a strong desire for more information on recycling, and renewable energy was of interest to many of the businesses. However, one of the surprising points made was by businesses that wanted to expand; they had concerns about the lack of available larger premises in the parish.

This lack of new, well-designed business/office and small industrial premises is of concern, especially for those successful home-starts that have established themselves here in Benenden and who want to expand into a local purposebuilt small business unit. We recognise this as being a potential challenge for the village and that we should look for opportunities to repurpose unused existing farm buildings and brownfield sites and convert them into workshops and business premises - as has happened at Apple Pie Farm and Turks Yard. These types of development are now encouraged in rural areas to keep local





residents working near to where they live.

To better understand the needs in the village we carried out another survey, this time requesting information from employees working in local businesses. It was carried out by those businesses employing more than seven people and identified 979 people working in the parish, of whom an unbelievable 878, or 90%, commute in from outside the parish - mostly driving alone in their car. We want to encourage businesses to reduce this number by employing more local people to work within existing businesses and therefore reducing the number of cars driving through the village.

Another opportunity we have explored is work-live units, which have been successful in many small and large communities. These allow residents who have a business need for something like a workshop or studio, to live under the same roof as their business and be part of a small community of like-minded business people, thus providing possible support and interaction. There are examples up and down the country where landowners have allocated land for these well designed small schemes (maybe six to ten units of varying size and configuration), to be built outside village centres but close to access roads with good provision for car parking and deliveries.

Living and working at home in the countryside can be what dreams are made of, but lack of collaboration and the feeling

of isolation can be a challenge. To support freelancers, sole traders and individuals working from home, business hubs have been successful in locations similar to Benenden. These support business owners with good wi-fi communications, telephone answering services, basic book-keeping, social media, copywriting and meeting rooms. To establish if there is a demand for such a hub, we would need to know how many individuals in the parish are likely to be active users. Please email us at info@benendenneighbourhoodplan.org with Business Hub as your subject if you think that you would be likely to regularly use a Benenden business hub.

We want to support those of you that have chosen to make Benenden your home, by giving residents the opportunity to work within this lovely parish and keep the commuting to the minimum.

With the employers we already have (including those who are working from home), we have many opportunities to stop the daily commute and to encourage new business people into the parish without increasing local traffic problems. If some of our ideas are adopted we may find our roads have less commuting traffic, as we would hope to encourage local people to work for local companies and a support a good, vibrant, local economy. Chair, Business and Local Economy Group www.benendenneighbourhoodplan.org



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Friends of Kent Churches annual bike ride: Ride + Stride

Saturday 8 September

A cycle ride, walk or even a drive for the less hardy around Kent churches; a chance to see inside them all, fight the flab and help raise money for your local church by obtaining some sponsorship. It's a win, win, win and it's happening on Saturday 8 September.

Every little helps - your sponsorship money is split equally between a church or chapel of your choice and the charity itself, Friends of Kent Churches, helping to save churches in Kent. As walkers, cyclists or sponsors, you can help to make this a successful community event. Last year alone we raised over £135,000, but we can beat that.

Interested? Please contact either:

Carolyn Millen, Event co-ordinator 01622 843383 carolyn.millen@virginmedia.com www.friendsofkentchurches.co.uk Alison Prall, Parish Event organiser 240417

Students and School-Leavers

Grants are available from the Gibbon and Buckland Charity. The charity started in 1602 with the gift of the School House at the foot of the Green; it still gives some support to the Primary School, but also uses its income to give worthwhile grants to young persons under the age of 25 who are resident in, and have been resident in, the Parish of Benenden for not less than three years, to support them in Further Education or in getting started in working life.

Trustees will also give consideration to applications for grants for GAP year projects of educational worth.

Latest date for applications 30 September.

Application forms available from Benenden's

Community Shop, or from the Clerk to the

Charity:

David Harmsworth, Clerk 240683 gibbonandbuckland@gmail.com

World War I centenary celebrations

Friday 9 November

Richard Attenborough's 1969 comedy musical Oh! What a Lovely War: will be shown on Friday 9 November in the evening, so please save the date for this free-to-view village event.

Saturday 10 November

As part of the celebrations to mark the centenary of the end of World War I,
Benenden Players are hosting a variety show in the village hall on the evening of Saturday IO November. We are looking for acts which reflect the pre-war music hall variety scene (1900-1920 or thereabouts). Can you sing, dance or perform a sketch? We will help you with costumes, music and staging. If you are interested please talk to, or email:

Nancy Tolhurst 07711 139218
nancy.tolhurst@btinternet.com
Ruth Clark ruth@splashpr.co.uk
Peter Ellis 240540 peteralanellis@aol.com

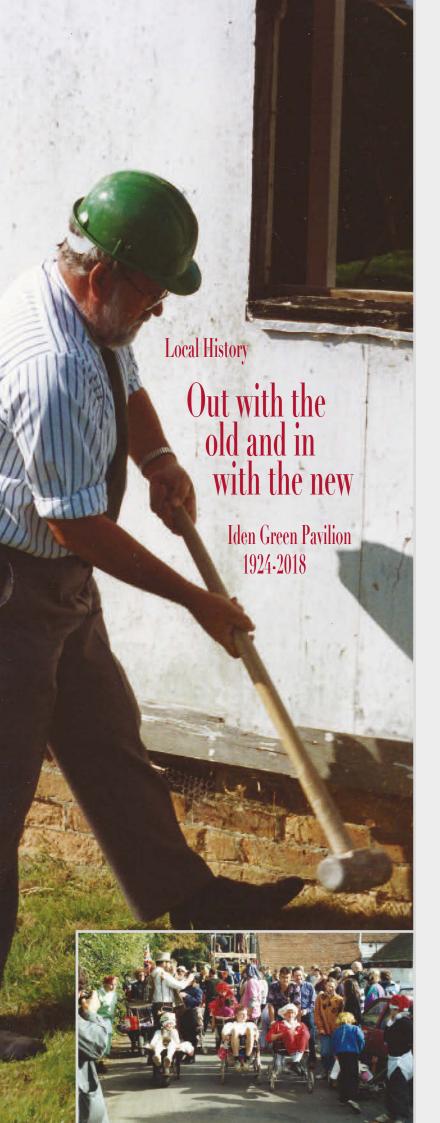
Sunday 11 November

On the evening of Sunday II November there will be a commemorative event in St George's Church including poetry and the reading of war diary entries. As part of the commemorations we will be joining in the national tributes with the playing of the last post at 6.55pm, the lighting of the beacon (on the ridge) at 7pm and the ringing of the church bells at 7.05pm. This is a once-in-a-lifetime event, so please put it on your calendar.

Save the Date

Saturday 3 November, The Glebe, Benenden The Benenden Bonfire Society are pleased to announce the date for this year's Bonfire and Fireworks event.

Benenden Bonfire Society Committee





Some 94 years ago on 11 July 1924, the Rt Hon Harold Sidney Viscount Rothermere of Hemsted and representatives of Benenden Parish Council signed an indenture placing a piece of land in Iden Green to be held in trust by the parish council as a "Recreation and Games Ground for the benefit of the inhabitants of the hamlet of Iden Green as a perpetual commemoration and memorial of the Peace at the conclusion of the Great War 1914-18 and of the memory of his second son The Hon Vere Sidney Tudor Harmsworth, a Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Division who was killed in action at Beaucourt, Belgium on 13th November 1916". The Vere Sidney Harmsworth Recreation Ground, everyone in the parish would know, is at the heart of Iden Green.

There was a building on the piece of land and the indenture went on to obligate the parish council "to either adapt or convert it to be conveyed into a shelter or pavilion suitable for the purposes of a recreation and games ground or contract or erect a new structure or building". From what I can gather, the original building was made suitable, given the name Iden Green Pavilion and served as a meeting hall and recreation centre for the next 70 years.

Of course, life in Iden Green during most of that time would have been quite different to that of today: there were two pubs, a post office, and numerous shops within the hamlet to which the villagers would walk in safety, untroubled by fast-moving traffic, and it is probable that a fair number rarely felt the need to journey far beyond the parish boundaries.

It's hardly surprising that the sad state to which the old building had been allowed to deteriorate sparked a clamour of concern from the residents, who all felt strongly that the old should make way for the new. A local

committee of very capable residents was formed and the work was started to obtain the funds and permissions necessary to see the project through.

The response of the residents was enthusiastic and had the effect of uniting the community in a common aim such as has not been seen since. One event, a pram race from The Woodcock to The Royal Oak raised £200 towards the £2,000 cost of furniture and kitchen equipment and also raised a laugh from the onlookers as various contraptions with the most unlikely babies were pushed through the village.

The total building cost was raised through funding by Kent County Council (50%), Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (25%) and Harmsworth Trust (25%). The funds having been raised, work started on the construction in August of 1993 and was completed some four months later, the new pavilion being formally opened on 18 December 1993.

Management of the pavilion passed to the committee that had brought about its completion, and so it was that the committee obtained charitable status in 1994, became the Iden Green Pavilion Trust and signed a lease of 32 years with the Harmsworth Trust (now Benenden Village Trust). We shall be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the opening in December this year and will hope to be joined by most of those committee members.

Since then, some of the faces have changed but the fun has continued, with the Iden Green Fayre from 1996 and the Queen's Golden Jubilee Fayre in 2002. A rounders tournament and village barbecue was held occasionally up until recently but depended heavily on the participation of teams from the pubs and clubs, which have sadly declined in numbers. For the last six years, the pavilion has run the annual summertime open-air Jazz and Blues and an offbeat quiz night in the autumn.

The purpose of these events has been to bring the community together and have some fun. However, the main work of the trustees is to enable a full programme of groups and classes through the week. Weekends are also popular for family gatherings and parties. Please let me know if you are interested in hiring this great facility or becoming a trustee or volunteer.

My own involvement with the pavilion started not long after moving to Oak Cottage in 1998. The house is just next door to the pavilion and, whilst nothing is written into the deeds, it seems that becoming involved with it is something that goes with the occupancy.

Hope you make it to Jazz and Blues on 28 July. Fingers crossed it won't rain, but if it does, you'll find it all happening at Benenden Village Hall, just like last year.

Bill Lewis Chairman, Iden Green Pavilion Trust



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Talking Shop

Financial future is bright

The Benenden's community shop annual general meeting in the village hall was attended by approximately 40 people who were treated to a full report on the shop's progress by our treasurer, Martin Pexton, who painted a very reassuring picture.

In the year up to March 2018, Benenden's has managed to make a net profit of over £23,000, compared to just over £2,000 last year. There are many reasons for this but it largely comes down to the commitment and hard work of the staff, excellently managed by Mel, and the staunch volunteers, without whom it would not survive. Many thanks also go to the many customers who visit and enjoy all that the shop has to offer.

Turnover is variable and very much dictated by seasonal factors, with June and July being our best months and January our worst.

Although shop sales provide most of our turnover, it is the café which yields the higher profit and this helps us to keep the shop prices down. We have invested significantly in new fridges and freezers and in making the café servery much more hygienic and easier to work in. We have also increased the range of food we sell.

The profit for the year means that we have now recovered our start-up losses and the balance sheet is healthy. In the coming year we will be able to pay off the loan made to us by Kent Community Foundation and will have sufficient cash for working capital and to fund new equipment where needed.

The meeting ended with a warm welcome to two new members, Sally-Ann Marks and Peter Ellis, who have come forward to offer their services on the committee. Martin is stepping down as chairman but will retain his role as treasurer. We offer him our very grateful thanks for all he has done, and continues to do, for Benenden's.

Bev Beveridge

Village Hall highlights

Already ready for winter

Our small hall is starting to look very cosy, with beautiful wood cladding, wall uplighters and two brand new electric fan heaters (yes, we're winter ready!). There is still some decorating to do, but cross fingers all will be completed by the end of the summer holidays.

August is traditionally a time when the hall slows down, as a lot of our hirers who teach classes take a well-deserved break, but some of our drop-in classes will still be operating throughout the summer, so why not take this opportunity to try them out? Monday mornings we have power yoga, dance and exercise for seniors and zumba. Tuesday evenings there is ballroom dancing, and Thursday evenings there is flamenco dancing.

We have a number of workshops going on throughout the summer including Ali & Bi Printmaking, drama with Benenden Players and various dance workshops with Charlotte Hudson School of Dance. As an aside, the staff and trustees of the hall would like to congratulate Charlotte Hudson, who is shortlisted for the finals of Dance School of the Year.

To find out more about the hall and upcoming events, or to check availability, go to: www.benendenvillagehall.org
Lorraine Jones 243123
enquiries@benendenvillagehall.org

Village Lunch

Tuesday 21 August, Benenden Village Hall, 12.30pm

All are welcome. It's just £5 a head. If you need a lift please let us know and we can arrange it. Please call Sheila on 01580 240838, preferably by Friday 17 August, if you haven't already put your name down but would like to come.



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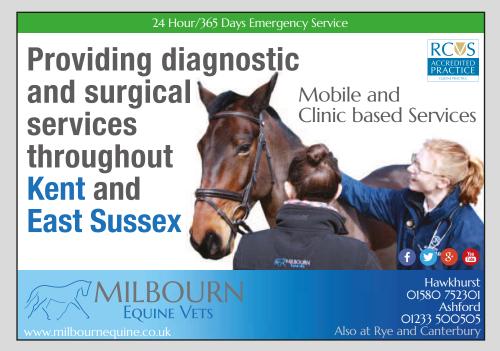
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Hospital salutes high achievers

A team of Benenden Hospital staff have successfully completed an adventure of a lifetime by climbing Mount Kilimanjaro and raising £5,000 for a medical centre. Simon Brooks, Marcus Dallamore, Rebecca Fellowes, Debkumar Pandit, Su Pothuraju, and Alex Trimmings scaled the highest mountain in Africa in six days, but it took them just two days to get back down from the 19,340ft peak in Tanzania with the help of 21 porters, two cooks and two guides.

They raised the funds to buy anaesthesia equipment for the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre in Moshi and spent the first three days of the trip teaching medics how to use it.

CONGRATULATIONS'
BON YOYAGE

Simon said: "It was a massive feeling of elation when we got to the top and it felt like we were literally on top of the world. Some of us had a few slips and falls but luckily none of us suffered too badly from altitude sickness and we all made it up and back down again."

In April, Simon, Becky, Su and Debkumar climbed Mount Snowdon and Cadair Idris as part of their training for the Kilimanjaro climb. Marcus and Simon also completed the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge. Anaesthetic practitioners Simon, Becky and Marcus each received funding from Benenden Hospital's Lord Plant Travelling Fellowship to help pay for the three-week trip last month. The fellowship was set up in memory of one of Benenden's



most well-known and respected members and former chairman, Lord Cyril Plant of Benenden. The grant first became available in 1988 and has since been awarded to staff throughout the hospital every year. Staff have previously travelled to The Gambia to help set up a health centre, to Japan to study fibre-optic technology and to Romania to help abandoned children. The group were also supported by Marden-based charity Safe Anaesthesia Worldwide whose mission is to provide life-saving anaesthesia to those in need in poor areas of the world. There are only around 17 practising anaesthetists in Tanzania, with a population of 56 million people, and very few doctors trained in anaesthesia.



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Cycling as an adult is just as much fun and as a low-impact exercise can be taken up at pretty much any age. The health benefits are indisputable - cyclists have stronger leg muscles, better cardiovascular fitness, burn about 400-1000 calories an hour while cycling, sleep better and have higher levels of mental well-being. And you don't have to wear Lycra or spend loads if you don't want to.

What about traffic? Isn't it really dangerous? Knowing how to ride on the road safely is important, and really builds confidence. Kent County Council's Bikeability course is cycling proficiency for adults. It's at three levels, starting with teaching you how to ride a bike, moving on to road positioning and basic junctions, and ending with complex junctions, roundabouts and traffic lights. Levels I and 2 are free of charge, and Level 3 is £20 for two and a half hours' tuition. It's a fantastic course with patient, experienced tutors and very small groups. The nearest locations are Ashford, Maidstone or Tunbridge Wells.

Haven't got a bike and don't want to spend too much to start with? Bluey Williams in Staplehurst refurbishes and sells donated bikes and gives the sale proceeds to Maidstone Hospital. His number is 07711 760677.

Don't want to ride alone? Have a look at the Let's Ride website, run by the British Cycling Federation, or, go out for a test ride with TN30 cycle club in Tenterden. It's a friendly social club, which means that no-one is ever left behind and

they go at the pace of the slowest rider. There's a beginners' ride on Wednesday mornings and a moderate (about 10mph) on Sunday mornings. Rides include a café stop for drinks and cake. There's also a fast ride for experienced cyclists.

Women can join the Breeze rides for women only, which are really friendly sociable affairs, starting from Weald of Kent golf club in Headcorn. The lanes are flat and beautiful, and again, the rides tend to be slower paced.

Worried about bike maintenance? We have our own bike repair workshop in Benenden, run by Giles Clark (240202 or 07968 181921): Giles is also planning a basic bike maintenance session covering punctures, gear and chain problems etc. Look out for details soon.

Really, really, want a new bike? RM Cycles is an excellent shop in Tenterden, who will ensure that your bike fits you perfectly.

Don't know where to ride? There are lots of route-planning apps (Cyclestreets and Bikemap are examples) and Sustrans route 18 goes through the parish. There are fun mountain bike tracks at Bedgebury Forest (bike hire available) or you can have a day cycling around Bewl Water (bike hire available).

We live in a beautiful area, the flowers are out, the cafés and pubs are open, and the summer is here. What's stopping you?

- KCC Bikeability www.kent.gov.uk search Cycle Training (there's an online booking system)
- TN30 cycle www.tenterdencycleclub.com
- Breeze rides for women www.letsride.co.uk search for Breeze (next ride is from Weald of Kent golf club on Saturday 4 August, 9.30am)
- Sustrans www.Sustrans.org.uk
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MINDBENENDERS By ASCII

CROSSWORD No7 (Moderate)

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Across

- 7 Horrid rictus occasionally provoked by tasting (6)
- **8** Crowds stream over natural fibre matting (6)
- **9** Expert holy man (4)
- 10 Off load problem onto United Nations (8)
- 11 Desert twisted Dr Ebony? (4-3)
- 13 Gasp as muscle tightens uncontrollably (5)
- **15** Apply unorthodox stint at hairdressers? (5)
- **16** A very loud song soprano undertook with several partners (7)
- 18 Smokers might have need of hardwood drinks carriers (8)
- 19 Being in Honolulu still quickens the blood (4)
- 21 Carry out opposition to Europe victory, yes? (6)
- 22 Special task force bogged down by minutiae (6)

Down

- 1 With tenant, acting for (4)
- 2 Mature vintage turns out to be most disagreeable (13)
- **3** Hop from shambolic house party and end up all at sea! (7)
- 4 Loutish Marx Brother, maybe? (5)
- **5** Artistic movement confused re their appeal (3-10)
- 6 Inspects Ross Sea's poor state (8)
- 12 Censored mantra on Space Station bound to charged particle? (8)
- **14** Why a footballer may shy away from the driving seat? (7)
- 17 Sounds roughly as though a woodland god may be seated close by (5)
- **20** Good in bed or really foul? (4)

CODEWORD No7 (Moderate)

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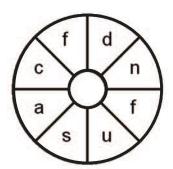
Each number represents a letter. Break the code and complete the grid. Three letters have been given to help you.

STEP CHANGE



Change the word at the foot of the ladder into the word at the top by altering only one letter at a time.

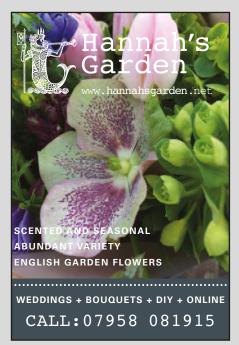
NINE FROM EIGHT



Find the missing letter at the centre of the wheel to create a nine-letter word.

CLUE: Slap on the wrist for some breach of the peace?







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News from Benenden School

We broke up for the summer after a wonderful final week of term which was even more diverse than usual, thanks to the unusual additions of flying in the girls' microlight and then, two days later, pulling pints with the Sixth Formers!

These events - the first the culmination of 18 months' hard work by a team of 28 Sixth Formers past and present, and the second as part of Life Skills courses - reminded me of the breadth of professional experiences that we are pleased to be able to offer our pupils.

I was immensely proud of the girls' achievements in the microlight project and thrilled that I was given the opportunity to fly in it at our launch day at Headcorn Aerodrome. In fact, pride was a recurring theme in the week, which also included Year 7 performing The Tempest in the Rose Garden, the Year 8 girls completing their two-year Benenden Diploma and parents and grandparents joining Year 10 girls in class to experience how modern lessons are taught.

Sports Day, on the penultimate weekend, was another success, as was Speech Day on 7 July, when the weather was glorious and, after some 11th-hour adjustments to the day's schedule, we were even able to accommodate England's World Cup quarter-final!

Benenden's pupils may now be on their summer break but the school is far from empty: at the time of writing we have 250 children from Italy, France and Turkey here enjoying a summer school, while Kent Music School have also taken up their usual residency.

In fact, the Music School are making the most of our school hall for the final time before we begin construction work in early 2019 for our new school hall and music school - a project for which we have now been granted planning permission by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. This is an incredibly exciting development and we are very busy planning events to say a proper farewell to the hall, which has served Benenden extremely well for 80 years.

Samantha Price, Headmistress

New primary school

20mph speed limits on the way

The new school site is gradually changing shape as the summer moves along and, although progress could hardly be described as meteoric, it is at least progress. Asked for an official update on the 'Benenden Primary School Build', Kent Council have provided news that confirms the slow but sure nature of proceedings.

It advises: "Kent County Council is working with the Education and Skills Funding Agency, Canterbury Diocese and the School to deliver the proposed new school building. The enabling works which have been undertaken by Walkers Construction will complete in August 2018. New traffic calming measures are scheduled to be installed in July 2019 to reduce the speed limit to 20mph at the new school site. KCC and ESFA are currently finalising the agreements in relation to the next phase of construction works."

The key talking point will be the speed restrictions planned for this stretch of the B2086. In the past, traffic-calming measures have been treated with skepticism in some quarters, but the current parish council views the school project as a means of delivering a long-overdue deterrent to reckless drivers and perhaps the first step in a wider-reaching reconsideration of speed limits in the village.

With our MP Helen Grant still reportedly supporting the cause at central government level, it seems as though we may be keeping to the schedule she mentioned at a visit to the existing building in the spring: "I want to commend the staff at the school and the wider Benenden community; who have all done sterling work to get to this point. I have assured Gill [Knox, headteacher] that I will be continuing to monitor the progress of the building project closely to ensure that the whole community can enjoy the benefits of the new building from September 2019." Fingers still crossed.

Peter Thomas

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



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Classical for charity

The latest event in the tenth annual Richard Beattie Davis Sandhurst Musical series for Hospice in the Weald:

Wednesday 12 September, 3pm Alexander Karpeyev will be the first Russian to guest at the series. He will be playing Medtner, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov and other repertoire from his homeland. Tickets by donation (minimum £15).

The event takes place in a private home in Sandhurst with a fine Steinway grand piano.

Reservations in advance only from:

Gillian Davis 850384

Hospice in the Weald event

Thank you so much to all those who came to our Open Gardens in Sandhurst. On a gloriously sunny day, we had over 100 visitors and made over £1,100 for Hospice in the Weald. Thanks especially to Jill Oliphant-Robertson, who organised the garden safari.

On Saturday 8 September there will be a concert at The Paper Mill in Benenden at 7pm, with a piano and wind recital by the Wealden Ensemble - both of whom are professional musicians - and a champagne reception, including delicious canapés, in the interval. The cost of the tickets is £30 each, in aid of the Hospice and the Brain Tumour Charity. This is an enjoyable and always extremely popular evening, so early booking is advisable.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please contact:

Sarah Andrew 240492 sarahandrew6@googlemail.com

BODS

(Benenden Ordinary Pads Society)

Local school dads meet in THE BULL on the first FRIDAY of every month from 8pm to catch up and have a few beers

All dads are welcome!

To be included on the email list, contact Graham on graham_walden@yahoo.co.uk

Look forward to meeting new dads!

Benenden Pre-School News

As always, the school year feels like it has flown by and now once again we wave goodbye to another group of children who will soon be taking their next step to big school. In true end-of-year tradition it has been a busy last few weeks, with the mini Olympics taking place on the last Wednesday morning of term luckily the hot weather didn't impact on everyone's enthusiasm.

We also held the leavers' celebration, which is always an emotional and exciting time but we wish them the best of luck for the future. The Pre-School open day was a success. Thank you to everyone who donated toys, cakes, helped out and came along to enjoy the fun.

Have a fantastic summer break and see you in September.

To find out more about Benenden Pre-School, please email:

supervisor@benendenpre-school.co.uk

HANDCUFFS

NINE FROM EIGHT

STEP CHANGE STOTH, SLOTS, SEARS, BEARS

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Down: I Lieu, 2 Argumentative, 3 Estuary, 4 Yobbo, 5 Pre-Raphaelite, 6 Assessor, 12 Omission, 14 Offside, 17 Satyr, 20 Soil

Across: 7 Citrus, 8 Onrush, 9 Guru, 10 Unburden, 11 Bone-dry, 13 Spasm, 15 Tints, 16 Affairs, 18 Ashtrays, 19 Lust, 21 Convey, 22 Detail

CROSSWORD No7

Food & Drink

Banishing burnt bangers and pink chicken

Australians will tell you their country is the home of the barbecue and we'll be celebrating the antipodean way with our Aussie-style barbie and wine-tasting at the end of the month. In the meantime, it's a British barbecue summer.

I'm a late convert to barbecuing, after many years of eating sausages cremated by friends and served with fundamentally raw chicken drumsticks. I've taken good advice since then and have come up with some simple rules:

- Don't listen to anybody who tells you that the only way to cook is over ecologically sustainable lumpwood charcoal produced by gnarled artisans from trees coppiced by forest nymphs. It lights easily and gets hot likewise, but it burns very quickly and is really only the answer for short cooking, like bangers or burgers. Briquettes may be less romantic and take a while to heat up, but they stay hotter far longer and are the answer if you're planning to cook, say, a leg of lamb or a whole chicken.
- Have part of the barbie piled high with hot coals, part of it less loaded, so you can sear over the really hot bit and cook more evenly and slowly over the other bit, to avoid the kind of charring that tempts you to remove the meat before it's done inside.

 As per the instructions on my briquette bagapparently for the 'hard of thinking' - "never burn charcoal inside homes, vehicles or tents". Just in case you were planning to cook in the back of your Nissan Qashqai.

My favourite barbecue items are whole roast chicken and home-made burgers, which go thus: Parish Council Chair's chicken Pat dry the skin then smear the whole bird with a mix of zest of one lemon, I tbsp dried oregano, pinch of salt, black pepper. Put chicken in roasting tin with a third of a bottle of white wine. Heat coals and arrange in two piles, one either side of barbie, place roasting tin between the two piles (indirect heat is the key to long roasting) and put the lid on the barbie. Cook for about 90mins, topping up wine if necessary. Serve with Gouguenheim Chardonnay from the community shop.

Editor's burgers I use an unholy union of Jamie Oliver and John Torode. Take I kg fatty beef mince (not lean), 2 finely chopped red onions, 2 egg yolks, I tbsp crushed coriander seeds, I pinch crushed cumin seeds, I tsp Dijon mustard, 2 tbsp oyster sauce, black pepper but no salt. Mix it all up by hand, shape it about an inch thick, refrigerate for an hour, then sear over very hot coals for 2mins either side before cooking on lower heat for about ten minutes. Serve with gherkins, salad, Gouguenheim Malbec Reserve or Old Dairy Red Top ale.

Peter Thomas





Aussie wine: how Down Under made it big in Blighty

G'day. Aussie wine has been one of the major success stories of the last 25 years. Gone are the days of Ben Ean, Kanga Rouge and Wallaby White, which invited the full weight of Monty Python's satire. Australia is the biggest selling country of origin in the retail sector and the UK remains its number one export market.

The volume is very much supermarket led, with just 15% coming in via the independent sector. Can Australia deliver on that front? The answer is certainly yes. It is a country with 65 distinct wine regions and over 100 grape varieties, and while many still define Aussie wine as the sunshine-in-a-glass Chardonnay and mouth-filling Shiraz, which burst onto the wine scene in the 1990s, there has been a noticeable trend towards fresher, more balanced wines with good natural acidity and genuine regional credentials.

Cool-climate Aussie Chardonnay is described by many commentators as a genuine rival to white Burgundy. Without restrictive laws dictating what they can or cannot plant, an energetic new breed of Aussie winemakers has been experimenting with new varieties and less familiar wine styles, challenging conventions and changing perceptions of what Australian wine can be.

James Halliday, Australia's top wine writer, reckons "Australian wine is in a good place right now". Domestic sales are growing and international sales burgeoning, especially to mainland China and Hong Kong. The excess supply that has dogged the market for well

over a decade has been mopped up and the market is now nicely poised. Exports of red wine to China currently far exceed exports of white wines and, given the nature of Chinese cuisine, this is being seen as an opportunity - recently, Penfold's big China push was focussed on whites.

Bill Shrapnel, owner of Colmar Estate in Orange, New South Wales and a personal friend of nearly 30 years, has this to say: "On the domestic front, some well established wine styles are being refined and polished. For example, makers of Barossa Shiraz are pulling back the ripeness levels, which previously went over the top thanks to the influence of Robert Parker. In many of the better wines, American oak, which was ubiquitous 15 years ago, has been replaced by French oak. The wines are still big reds but they have nice 'shape' and are not hot or coarse.

"Margaret River has confirmed its place as the premier region for Cabernet Sauvignon and Bordeaux-style blends, with its mild, maritime climate. As the seasons warm, Cabernet



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Sauvignon in the lower Yarra Valley is also performing particularly well; Coonawarra on the other hand is just plodding along.

"Vignerons in the Hunter Valley are divided as to their future. In one corner are the traditionalists with their focus on wines from the traditional Hunter Valley varieties - Shiraz and early-picked Semillon, taken off early before the inevitable downpours in February; in the other are wine producers who simply want to make better wine and are happy to source fruit from New South Wales and even further afield.

"The cool regions of New South Wales are now starting to come into their own. The Orange Region, 600-1000 metres above sea level, is producing fine Riesling, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir from the cooler sites and medium-bodied Shiraz from the lower altitudes. Tempranillo, Nebbiolo and Malbec are also showing promise.

"The warmer Hilltops region near the town of Young excels with red varieties, notably Shiraz and Nebbiolo. The Canberra region produces first class Riesling and Australia's best examples of Shiraz-Viognier. In the foothills of the Snowy Mountains, the vineyards around the town of Tumbarumba are producing fine sparkling wines and still Chardonnay, while Tasmania is now recognised for its premium quality sparkling wines based on Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. It has become Australia's Pinot Noir (red wine) capital, against hot competition from the Yarra Valley and the Mornington Peninsula.

"As usual, Australian winemakers are experimenting with many different varieties. In the Orange Cool Stores this morning I saw cartons labelled Picpoul Blanc!"

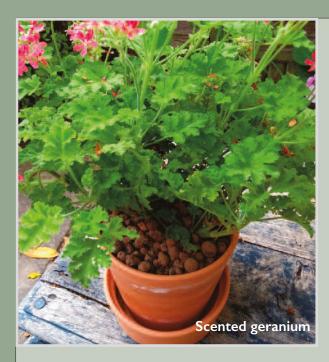
Australian wine tasting and barbecue: Mitchell Wines, Clare Valley, South Australia

This month we look forward to the visit of Hilary Mitchell, from a family widely recognised as one of Australia's great Riesling producers. Mitchell is a small family-owned winery in the Clare Valley, South Australia and from their mature, dry-grown vineyards, they produce, along with the Riesling and Semillon, intensely flavoured, well-structured, long-living red from Shiraz, Cabernet and Grenache. Three of their wines are already available in the community shop and this is a chance to sample the range while enjoying a traditional Aussie-style barbecue.

Please bring your own meat (anything that won't take too long to cook). Salads, sauces, plates and cutlery will be provided.

Tracy Claridge 240454 TLClaridge@TLClaridge.co.uk





In Your Garden

Professional tips for a hot, hot summer

In the middle of this long, hot summer, I find myself returning to by far the best piece of advice I have ever been given to conserve moisture, which is to mulch your plants, as it prevents water evaporation from the soil surface. The optimum time to do this is in the spring, but if you are planting in the ground this summer, point the hose right at the base of the plant and really drench it until a puddle forms, then mulch straight away spread it around the base of the plant up to a few inches thick if possible.

I prefer to use a tidy-looking mulch such as mushroom compost - rotted bracken is brilliant but pricey, shredded bark is okay but does not add any nutrients to the soil, although it's better than nothing. Go back to it in a week's time to check the soil underneath - it will probably still be damp. Water it again then you can most likely leave it.

If your plant is in a pot, I advocate topdressing with hydroleca or any pretty stone chippings, although you can equally use an organic one. It also makes the pot look neat and tidy. Place a large saucer underneath to catch any excess water - the terracotta ones look lovely but reusable plastic is more effective at holding water for longer. We are very lucky now to have such a broad palette of plants available to us in the nurseries, which can help us to extend the growing season, particularly when it comes to filling in gaps left by earlier-flowering plants. I have had great success underplanting roses using hardy or frost-hardy salvias. These are colourful, bushy plants which not only help to hide the bare legs of roses but as an added bonus have the ability to control fungal infections like black spot.

The hardy varieties such as x sylvestris and nemorosa will flower from July through to September if you keep taking out the finished spikes - Rose Queen and Dear Anja are some pretty varieties to try, or Caradonna and Mainacht. The frost-hardy varieties are very pretty and flower from about June well into October - Salmon Dance and Blue Note are delicate shades of peach and pale blue, beautiful under roses, and should make it through our winters in the south east. They hate wet feet most of all, so it is a gamble but they take so easily from cuttings it is worth the small effort for the flower-power they give in return.

If you follow these simple tips you will be able to plant throughout the summer months and keep the show going.

Annabel Lear Gardens: Planting, design and consultancy annabellear49@gmail.com



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Above: The Primary School making a tremendous Splash! Front cover: Counting the days of summer. Photograph: Amelia Thomas