

Benenden Magazine

April 2018



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Editorial



What a rollercoaster of a month it's been. At the beginning of March we were wandering about in a jumper saying how early spring was this year and then, God having a sense of humour, we were inundated in six inches of snow and a period of such intense cold that most of us didn't take our coats off, inside or out, for about ten days. As I write this it we are enjoying a second helping of cold and snow.

But nature is incredibly resilient and the daffodils that looked completely flattened, the leaves lying limply on the ground, perked up immediately the snow melted and are now in bloom. Time will tell whether other plants in the garden have survived the cold as well. The birds, who spent the cold weather clustered round the bird feeder, are now hardly to be seen so busy are they rushing to build nests and start laying.

Time rushes on, oblivious to calls to please slow down, and those involved in the Neighbourhood Plan have been hard at work examining sites, assessing the environmental impact, looking at building styles and types, gathering opinions and collating data. The different groups will be presenting some of their initial findings at the Village Hall on 7 April for the Parish to look at and comment on. Do go along to see what they've been doing and have your say. It is very important that the ideas which the Neighbourhood Plan puts forward to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council for approval have your support, not least because at the end of the process you will be asked to vote on it. We should also pay tribute to Peter Davies who instigated the process and whose hard work got the Neighbourhood Plan going. Fittingly, his memorial service at St George's is on the afternoon of 7 April, the public consultation day.

Minnie Garnier, Co-Editor

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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 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.

Easter Sunday 1 April	6.15am Sunrise Service, at St Nicholas Church, Sandhurst followed by breakfast		
	8am Communion	10am Sung Eucharist and Sunday School	5pm Choral Evensong
Sunday 8 April	8am 1662 Communion	10am Morning Worship 3pm High Sheriff of Kent Declaration Ceremony	5pm Evening Prayer at Mission Church
Sunday 15 April	8am Communion	10am Sung Eucharist	4pm Messy Church
Sunday 22 April	8am Communion	10am Morning Worship	5pm Praise Service at Mission Church
Sunday 29 April	8am Benefice Communion	10am All-age Communion at St Nicholas, Sandhurst	

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

Funerals 10 March Jeanne Mothersole Interment
23 March Keith Hammond Interment Golford Cemetery

Rector's Letter



What is Easter all about?

What are we doing at Easter? Gathering at sunrise - because of something that happened 2,000 years ago! Then having breakfast together; before gathering and worshipping another four times on Easter Sunday across the two parishes. Why? Because of something quite incredible that happened all those years ago.

And remember when the angels said, "O Mary, God sends you the good news of a Command of His: His name shall be Messiah, Jesus son of Mary. He will be highly honoured in this world and in the Next World and He will be among those favoured by God. He will speak to the people alike when in the cradle and when grown up, and He will be among the righteous." Hearing this, Mary said, "How, O Lord, shall I have a son, when no man has ever touched me?" "Thus shall it be," was the answer.

Not words from the Bible about Jesus' incarnation, but from the Quran (3:43).

About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call Him a man. For He was one who performed surprising deeds and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. He was the Messiah. And when, upon the accusation of the principal men among us, Pilate had condemned Him to a cross, those who had first come to love Him did not cease. He appeared to them spending a third day restored to life, for the prophets of God had foretold these things and a thousand other marvels about Him. And the tribe of the Christians, so called after Him, has still to this day not disappeared.

Again, not words of scripture from the Bible, but an historical account written by a Jewish historian living in Rome, Josephus, about the Jews of Judaea while being governed by the Roman procurator Pontius Pilate (i.e. the period when Jesus was alive).

Christians, who have still "not disappeared", believe this man to be the Son of God. And we come together on Easter Sunday to praise and worship God because of what He did for us in the birth, life, death and then resurrection of his son, Jesus. And God did it - Jesus did it - because He loves us. We will gather to worship this God who still loves us; we will gather to thank Him for what He did in resurrecting (bringing back to life) His son. He did this so that, somehow, we can have an eternal relationship with God. When we die from this physical life, we have been promised this is not the end. As a Christian, that is what I believe; I try to live my life knowing that; and that is why I'll be getting up at 5am on Easter Sunday: to praise and worship God at sunrise. Happy Easter.

Revd David Commander, Rector

Village Calendar

April

Saturday 7	Churchyard Working Party, St George's, Benenden, 9.30-12noon	p.31
Saturday 7	Neighbourhood Development Plan Exhibition, Benenden Village Hall, 10-3pm	p.9
Saturday 7	Cornhole Tossing, St George's Club, 8.15pm	
Tuesday 10	Benenden Engineering Society visit to JCB factory, Uttoxeter	
Saturday 14	Village Spring Clean, Benenden's Shop and Iden Green Pavilion, 9am	p.27
Saturday 14	Benenden Bowls Club, Coffee Morning, Memorial Hall, 10am	
Saturday 14	Grierson Galleries Art Show, Benenden Village Hall, 10-5pm	p.29
Saturday 14	Chinese Night, St George's Club, 8pm	
Sunday 15	Grierson Galleries Art Show, Benenden Village Hall, 10-4pm	p.29
Sunday 15	Messy Church, St George's Church, 4-6pm	p.13
Monday 16	Planning and Transportation Committee, Memorial Hall, 7pm	
Monday 16	Parish Council Meeting, Memorial Hall, 7.30pm	
Tuesday 17	Village Lunch, Benenden Village Hall, 12.30pm	p.21
Tuesday 17	Iden Green and Benenden WI, Super Natural Reports, Memorial Hall, 2pm	p.21
Thursday 19	Red Priest: An Evening of Baroque Brilliance, Benenden School Hall, 7pm	p.15
Saturday 21	Benenden School Arts Festival, Benenden School	p.17
Saturday 21	Quoits, St George's Club, 8.15pm	
Sunday 22	Benenden School Arts Festival, Benenden School	p.17
Monday 23	Friends of St George's Church, AGM and guest talk, St George's Church, 7pm	p.25
Tuesday 24	Merry and Bright, Memorial Hall, 3pm	
Saturday 28	Sew with Mary and Mel, Iden Green Pavilion, 10am	p.27
Saturday 28	Spring Celebration Barn Dance, Benenden Village Hall, 7pm	p.9
Saturday 28	Skittles, St George's Club, 8.15pm	
Monday 30	Annual Parish and Parochial Church Meetings, Memorial Hall, 7.30pm	p.25

Benenden Youth Club/Streetcruizer, age 11+

Tuesdays at Benenden Village Hall, 6.30-8.30pm

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 7 April for Domestic Waste

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

Saturday 21 April for Garden/Compostable Waste

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

Parish Council



Sometimes village politics needs to take a back seat to real life, and I feel that we are at such a time in Benenden right now. I know I speak for all the Parish Councillors when I say we are saddened and shocked by the sudden loss of Peter Davies, our fellow Councillor and Chair of the Parish Council. Our thoughts are with Jane and the family in their sorrow.

Our Clerk, Caroline, has been receiving numerous messages and tributes to Peter from the many people who knew him through his years given to public service. This began in 1998 when he became a Borough Councillor, progressing to Deputy Leader of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council in 2005-6. All these messages conveyed the same sentiments that I feel about Peter, that he was an unfailingly courteous, honest, likeable, intelligent and dignified man, deeply committed to improving the lives of those he chose to serve. To this end, I believe this magazine will be giving a longer, more detailed, appreciation of Peter's life in the next issue.

We were extremely lucky when Gordon Reynolds persuaded him to join our Parish Council three years ago. Peter was able to add his immense experience and expertise to negotiating our local issues, and one of his lasting legacies will be the forging ahead of our Neighbourhood Development Plan. This, as well as the numerous other voluntary positions he has held within our village, trustee of charities, school governor at the Primary School, and last but not least, staunch supporter of and volunteer at our community shop, all add up, in my book, to a man who was strongly committed to his parish and community.

He was, quite simply, one of our good guys and Benenden will truly miss him.

A service of thanksgiving for Peter will take place at St George's Church at 2.30pm on Saturday 7 April.

Nicola Thomas, BPC Vice 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
Monday 16 April 2018,
Memorial Hall, 7.30pm

Planning and Transportation
Committee
Monday 16 April 2018,
Memorial Hall, 7pm

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Just a Thought



Sounds in the cold

The recent 'beast from the east' and its clash with storm Emma resulted in very cold temperatures and a deep blanket of snow but they also brought their own special sounds. Sounds such as the delicious crunch as one walks through the deep fresh snow; the eerie silence of the wood cloaked in a thick blanket occasionally disturbed by the soft patter of falling snow as branches give up their weight; the loud crack of a shotgun in a distant field as rabbits lose their camouflage. Then there are the squeals of delight tinged with a touch of fear, as children hurtle down the sledging slopes instead of sitting in school. In the confusion of the crowds on the slopes a young child stands crying, lost and cold, looking for his mother. Elsewhere laughing children emerge from a roughly formed igloo showing bright, excited faces.

The sound of a tractor can be heard somewhere down a lane as the farmer endeavours to clear drifted snow. The church door to the playgroup opens to admit two toddlers and a half frozen mother who sighs with relief as she wraps her hands round a cup of hot coffee and marvels that her children just don't seem to feel the cold. A mobile phone rings, 'I've slipped halfway off the road and am behind a line of stationary trucks so I don't think I shall be going anywhere soon.'

'Important announcement! All trains through this station have been cancelled due to ice on the line. A reduced service will be introduced when conditions allow. We apologise for the inconvenience.'

The temperatures were also unusually low in a place far away where there was also no school. But the sounds here are very different. They are of military planes constantly flying overhead. Then comes the crunch as the barrel bombs land, followed by an eerie silence in an underground cellar where fifty or more are waiting, shivering, tense and in fear before they hear the soft whistle of the chlorine canisters falling. Now everyone is fighting for breath, coughing and wheezing and the sounds are of crying children and a desperate scramble to get out into the air above ground.

Elsewhere a loud crack of sniper fire bursts into action picking off those emerging from dark entrances, despite the cold, looking for food and water. The grinding engine of a battered pick-up truck is heard struggling through the debris looking for those it might take to the makeshift hospital which offers at least some warmth and a little sustenance. A mobile phone rings. 'I am with the UN Aid trucks, but we are stuck at the checkpoint and I don't think we will be going anywhere soon.'

'Important announcement! - Until the warring factions and their international allies are prepared to get together to talk genuinely of cease-fires and peace - all real help is impossible. A reduced service will be introduced when conditions allow. We apologise for the inconvenience.'

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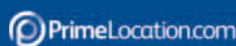
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News and Events

Neighbourhood Plan

Making the community's voice heard

On 7 April we will hold an exhibition of where we are with the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) in the Village Hall. Please do plan to come to this exhibition.

It may be helpful if I clarify the position of the 14 sites identified in response to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's 'Call for Sites' in 2016 and 2017. Landowners have identified sites they are willing and able to offer for development - but this does not mean these sites are in any way suitable for development. We live in a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and there are many other reasons (views, history, agriculture, woodland, wildlife, ecology, etc) why the countryside in Benenden should be protected.

As part of the NDP process we are seeking to objectively assess the suitability of each site for development. TWBC, as the local planning authority, will also be making their assessment. Some of the sites will be assessed as wholly unsuitable. Others may be assessed as having some development potential and for those we are considering the design, density and type of housing that is both appropriate and needed in our village.

Our Housing Supply Working Group has determined criteria to assess the suitability of the sites - and the members of the group have received training from the planning authority. We are considering too the needs of local businesses (the Business and Local Economy Group will publish their survey findings at the 7 April exhibition) and the problems of transport and infrastructure. Most interesting to me at a recent Steering Group meeting was the mapping of facts and features by the Landscaping Group.

We are also looking at Community Land Trusts as a vehicle to own or administer or develop the properly affordable housing that is assessed to be needed in Benenden.



Benenden needs You!

Neighbourhood Development
Plan Exhibition

Benenden Village Hall
Saturday 7 April
10-3pm

The five Working Groups formed to create a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the Parish of Benenden, will show what they have been working on.

The groups cover Housing Supply, Design, Needs of Business & the Local Economy, Transport & Infrastructure and Landscape.

Get involved and help shape our future



The seemingly relentless pressure to build more houses is today's big issue. So, if you are able to spare some time to help in the formulation of the NDP, then please consider getting involved. We all have personal views on the sites submitted in the 'Call for Sites' and the developments we support or oppose. The NDP is our opportunity to evidence the needs of the community and how we collectively consider it should be developed between now and 2033.

Tom Dawlings, Steering Committee
Vice-Chair

1:1

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As a Parish Councillor your only obligation is to attend monthly meetings - 11 a year, almost invariably on a Monday evening.

But there would also be opportunities to be involved with one of the sub-committees including those that consider planning applications or allocation of the annual budget of more than £30,000.

Parish Councillors have power to make decisions for the benefit of the village and to influence decisions made by our Borough and County councils.

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To find out more please visit the Parish Council website www.benendenparishcouncil.org or contact the Clerk on 01580 240371 or email at clerk@benendenparishcouncil.org.

But hurry. **Nomination papers have to be in by 6 April.**

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just have fun!

Rev'd David Commander, Rector
01580 240658 revdavidcommander@gmail.com



Peter Davies

Peter Davies sadly passed away after a rapid health decline on 4 March. He had been Borough Councillor for Benenden and later Benenden and Cranbrook Wards from 1998 until 2010 when as Deputy Mayor he was in line to become the Mayor. He was defeated in the 2010 election.

A service of thanksgiving will take place at St George's Church at 2.30pm on Saturday 7 April.

We intend publishing a more extended appreciation of Peter's service to the Borough and Parish Councils, the Primary School and the life of Benenden in the May edition.

Very sincere condolences are offered to Richard, William and Sarah, who all live abroad, and to Jane, who ensured that with her care Peter was able to stay at home for most of his illness.

Hospice in the Weald

We have some different events this year. By the time you read this we will have catered for the quiz evening organised by Cranbrook and Hawkhurst Rotary in aid of Hospice in the Weald. This was particularly appropriate as Peter Davies asked us to help. The event raised more than £2,000 for which we are very grateful.

Future Events

- Sunday 8 April, 10am - Service in St George's Benenden where Claire Milloy, the Relationship Fundraising Manager for the hospice will be talking about the work of the hospice.
- Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 June and Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 June - Open Studios at Charlotte Molesworth's, Benenden.
- Saturday 30 June, 2-5.30pm - Garden Safari in Sandhurst. More details to follow.
- Early September, date to be confirmed, a concert at The Paper Mill, Benenden.

We look forward to seeing you at some of these events and will keep you informed of any further details.

Jenny Stevens, Hospice in the Weald Friends
Co-ordinator for Benenden and Sandhurst
07720 006244 jenny.tenterden@gmail.com



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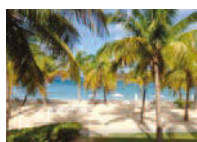
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News from Benenden School

We are now entering the particularly crucial part of the academic year and I am pleased to see that the girls who have public exams in the coming months are really knuckling down and working hard towards their individual goals.

Girls in the lower end of the School are also putting in extraordinary effort as they continue to work towards their Benenden Diploma, with the Upper Fourth completing their projects and planning for their presentations at their 'graduation' ceremony next term.

I am also pleased to see how well the Sixth Form are engaging with the Professional Skills Programme - the Six One girls have developed some incredibly exciting businesses and are busy building revenue from these, while the Six Two have been learning practical life skills, which have proved useful and entertaining in equal measure (I must admit it's been a while since I changed a car tyre myself!).

At the time of writing we are seeing the last of the snow melting. The wintry conditions brought a mixture of excitement (for the girls) and challenge (for the adults)! I was delighted by how the staff pulled together to keep the School operating with minimal disruption: many of our workforce were unable to get into Benenden during the worst of the weather but thanks to everybody's sterling efforts lessons went ahead as planned (much to the girls' disappointment!) and the pupils were fed and well looked after. Of course, the School site looked absolutely stunning and the girls had tremendous fun in the sub-zero temperatures, showing plenty of imagination, particularly in their choices of items to use as impromptu sleds!

We have a range of exciting events to look forward to in the coming weeks, including the Lacrosse Nationals - where we are defending champions, so no pressure! - as well as a concert in Cambridge and we would be delighted to be joined by villagers for our Arts Festival on the weekend of the 21-22 April, which promises to be our biggest and best festival yet.

Samantha Price, Headmistress

Benenden School presents

Red Priest

An evening of Baroque brilliance with a modern twist



The world famous Baroque Quartet, led by recorder virtuoso Piers Adams, perform a colourful carnival of music from the 17th and 18th centuries in their own inimitable, high-octane style!

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Benenden School Hall

Register for free tickets: music@benenden.kent.sch.uk

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The course is taught by Darren Lerigo, a professional blogger, award winning playwright and creative writing teacher. He has been blogging for almost as long web publishing tools have been available and with his wide, professional experience is ideally placed to help you discover what will work for you.

THURSDAY 19 APRIL FROM 9.30-1PM

at Blue Hen Flowers, Benenden

£60.00 including coffee and cake

To register contact us at info@executivesc.com

Local Bridge Players

Would you like to join us? A knowledge of basic Acol is necessary, improvers welcome, both clubs are friendly and provide tea and biscuits.

Rubber Bridge is held on Thursdays, 2-5pm, in Memorial Hall, Benenden.

For more information please contact:

Lesley Attwood 243318

Anne Tylden-Wright 850281

Chicago is held on Mondays, 2-5pm, in Mission Church, Back Road, Sandhurst.

For more information please contact:

Eve Willard 01797 253431

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Benenden Arts Festival

Benenden School would be delighted to welcome members of the community to join us for our annual Arts Festival.



Saturday 21 April

Art Workshop: Professional Photographer

12noon (90mins approx)

Photographer David Purdie will talk about his career as a photographer, how he is creating his current landscape images and discussing the best way to use your camera.

Dance: Modern Dance Show

1pm (40mins approx)

Fourteen pieces of Modern Dance in a variety of styles. Highlights include self choreographed pieces of work by the students, a performance from The John Wallis Academy and the debut performance of our very own Modern Dance Company - The I.D. Collective.

The Art of Food! Food Fair

1pm (120mins approx)

Come and enjoy the produce of local suppliers of bread, cheese, cider and apple juice. In addition, our very own Combined Cadet Force will be selling delicious cakes.

Benenden School Tour

3.30pm (60mins approx)

Tour the School site with the Head to look at recent and future School developments.

Art: Reading a Picture Workshop

3.30pm (60mins approx)

A lecture by Steve Mansfield, Head of History of Art, on how to interpret artwork.

Poetry: Performance Poetry

4pm (60mins approx)

Live performance poetry from Francesca Beard and Amina Jama. Francesca has been writer-in-residence for the Tower of London, Hampton Court Palace and the Metropolitan Police, run workshops for the British Library, National Theatre and Natural History Museum and had work showcased at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and Royal Court Theatre. Amina is a British-Somali poet based in London, who is part of several London collectives performing across the city and co-runs Boxedin, London's premier spoken word open mic night.

Drama: Promenade Theatre, Romeo and Juliet

4.30pm (90mins approx)

A classical retelling of Romeo and Juliet with musical accompaniment, taking place around the Benenden grounds.

Sunday 22 April

Music: Gala Concert - Benenden Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Choir

12noon (75mins approx)

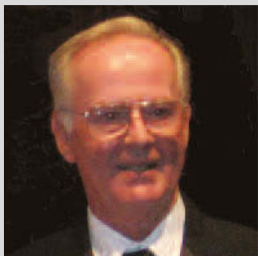
As ever, the Arts Festival ends in style with our choirs and major instrumental groups performing. The second half of the concert showcases the Benenden Symphony Orchestra, which is open to all the young musicians at Grade 6 or above in the Weald of Kent area. The Orchestra returns to Benenden following a hugely successful concert at the Drapers' Hall with acclaimed violinist Tasmin Little. They will perform a programme of film music and other classical pops.

For further information and booking contact Dawn Bradford on 01580 240592 or dbr@benenden.kent.sch.uk

Local History

Mayflower Pilgrims - the Benenden Connection

American genealogist Robert Cushman, a descendant of the Mayflower Pilgrims, traces his roots back to our village in the 17th century



As you walk through your churchyard, passing gravestones covered in lichen and inscriptions that are all but illegible, do you ever wonder about the lives of the people buried there?

Well, one is an ancestor of mine - 12 generations back. According to David Harmsworth

who has recorded all the graves at St George's, Robert Cushman and his brother Rychard are most likely buried immediately to the south of the church on the high ground.

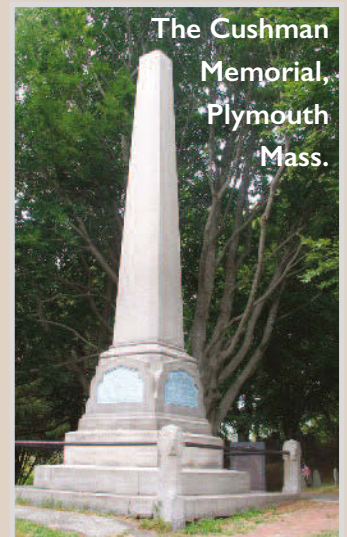
So what was special about the Couchmans? Well, Robert was a leading member of the Pilgrims who sailed to America aboard the Mayflower in 1620. Although he didn't accompany them on the maiden voyage, he did later visit the nascent colony in Plymouth, New England, and was apparently set to emigrate permanently before death intervened.

For a number of years I have been trying to trace my ancestors. Currently I co-administrate the Cushman genealogy project in the United States which has traced 11,185 descendants of Robert Cushman in the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

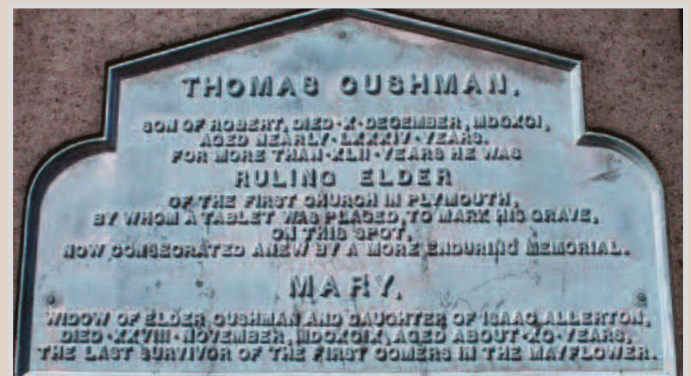
Robert was born in 1577 in Rolvenden. He later wrote that he 'never learned to speake either Latine or English in any Schoole whatsoever'. At 18 he was apprenticed to a Canterbury grocer, George Masters, who had been granted a monopoly on making tallow candles by the city authorities.

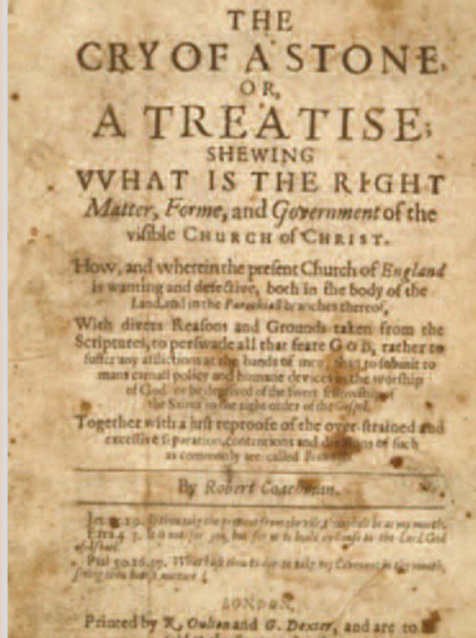
Cushman made the candles at Masters' premises in the Parish of St George the Martyr.

Robert Cushman (or Cushman - the name was interchangeable) soon became involved with religious dissenters in the city - known as the Puritans. He later wrote that "the Church of England is wanting and defective" and that he would "rather not worship humane devises." He got into trouble with the



The Cushman Memorial,
Plymouth Mass.





Pilgrim's First Sermon Ashore 1621
by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris

authorities in 1603 for the illegal 'spreading of libels' - dissenting notes pinned to church doors. He was prosecuted for non-attendance at his parish church and was, in 1604, excommunicated (though the sentence was lifted eight months later).

In 1606 Robert married Sara Reader - daughter of another family of dissenters - and he was known to associate with other Puritans some of whom, like Gilbert Gore, were imprisoned for their beliefs. The last record of Cushman in Canterbury was at the baptism of his son Thomas in February 1607. After that the family moved to the Netherlands - a country known for greater religious tolerance - and ended up in Leiden where other Puritan separatists had congregated in order to avoid the English authorities.

Eventually the group decided to try to make a new life in America and Robert was sent to England with another elder of the Leiden congregation, John Carver, to secure a land patent (permission to form a settlement). This they eventually did in 1619 and two ships were obtained, the Speedwell and the Mayflower. The following year, pilgrims from Leiden and England met in Southampton ready to set off for the New World. Unfortunately Cushman's ship, the Speedwell, turned out to be unseaworthy and had to be abandoned. So only around 102 of the original passengers finally left the Devon port of Plymouth on the Mayflower. Cushman was not among them, having been taken ill.

The following year, however, he and his son Thomas did travel to Plymouth Colony aboard the Fortune. He only stayed a few weeks and left his boy, then just 13, behind in the care of the Governor. Thomas later became Ruling Elder of the Plymouth Church, remaining for 42 years until his death in 1691. It is from Thomas that I and many of the American Cushmans or Cushmans are descended.

For the next four years back in London Robert Cushman worked as an agent for the colony successfully promoting and publicising it. However by 1625 he was ready to join his son in New England emigrating permanently. Before he left he decided to visit his family in Kent. There, in 1625 he died and was buried on 6 May in Benenden. The register of St George's recorded his burial as "Roberte Cushman a stranger".

Probably the best expression of Robert's religious principles, and those of other Mayflower Pilgrims, appears in his booklet *The Cry of A Stone*, an account of their religious beliefs, written in 1619 and published after Cushman's death, in 1642.

You won't find his grave as you explore the churchyard today. It's unmarked. But there he lies. Ironical, perhaps, that one who so comprehensively rejected the Church of England and worked so hard to set up a dissenting religious congregation in the New World, should have ended up interred in an Anglican cemetery.



Cushman's final resting place,
Benenden churchyard

Additional reporting by Kent Barker and
Michael R. Paulick, paulickmike@gmail.com
For more information see:
www.cushmansite.com or email
Cushmandna@aol.com

opposite, top: *The Mayflower* ('A Prosperous Wind')
by Mike Haywood www.mikehaywoodart.co.uk

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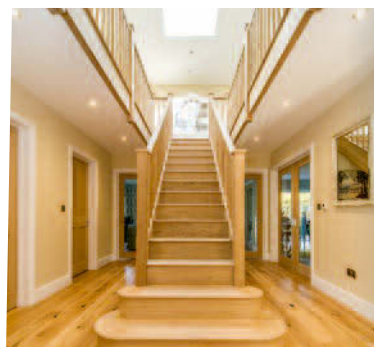
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Benenden Pre-School News

This term has flown by and it has felt like we have experienced all four seasons in one term! One minute the children were jumping in muddy puddles or enjoying a chilly spring day outside, next they were throwing snowballs!

The children have been spotting the first signs of spring in the garden and watching some of the bulbs we planted last autumn appear. We also had a great time on our Easter walk around the village, which ended with an Easter egg hunt on Glebe field.

Enjoy your Easter break!

To find out more about Benenden Pre-School, please email:
supervisor@benendenpre-school.co.uk

Iden Green and Benenden WI

At our March meeting Mr Bowman, a retired school teacher, talked on Meteorological Matters helping us understand our weather. His approach to his subject was exciting and fun; we wish he had taught us all years ago!

Our outings programme is looking good and we will keep you posted on future events.

Dates to remember:

Saturday 24 March, Coffee Morning, 10-12noon
Tuesday 17 April, Super Natural Reports, 2-4pm
Tuesday 15 May, AGM, 2-4pm (All welcome)
Tuesday 19 June, Garden Party, 5pm

All meetings and Coffee Morning are in the Memorial Hall. For further enquiries:
Shirley Fidler, Chair 752232

Village Lunch

Tuesday 17 April, 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 Hume on 01580 240838 if you haven't already put your name down but would like to come. We look forward to seeing you.

Talking Shop

A WELL-DESERVED FIVE STARS

The last month has been a busy time for Benenden's as we have managed to keep operating very successfully despite the challenging weather conditions. In fact the snowy week brought about some pleasing increases in trade as our customers popped in to buy their provisions locally and then warm up with a hot beverage. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to those volunteers who made it in (sometimes having trudged across the snow-laden fields) and helped to keep the shop and café going. We really couldn't have done it without you!

Whilst on the subject of volunteers, many of them also attended our volunteers' evening on 22 February in the Memorial Hall where we were able to show them how Benenden's was faring, give them a taste of some possible new delicious products to sell in the shop (cheese bombs and ginger wine), amuse them with a rather tongue in cheek quiz and finish off with an explanation of our proposed future changes to the café. All this was accompanied by wine and nibbles, making for a very congenial evening.

During the snowy week, Benenden's was scheduled to have an inspection by the Food Standards Agency to assess our protocol in food storage and preparation in the shop and café. Due to the weather this actually happened on 6 March instead and it was a very thorough inspection. However, we are delighted to announce that we were awarded five stars, which is the highest that can be given, so everyone is justifiably delighted. Again we thank our hardworking staff and volunteers for keeping up the high standards.

On a rather more sombre note, we would all like to offer our sincere condolences to the family of Peter Davies, who passed away recently. He kindly gave his time to help in the shop despite being a very busy man and he will be remembered with great affection.

Bev Beveridge



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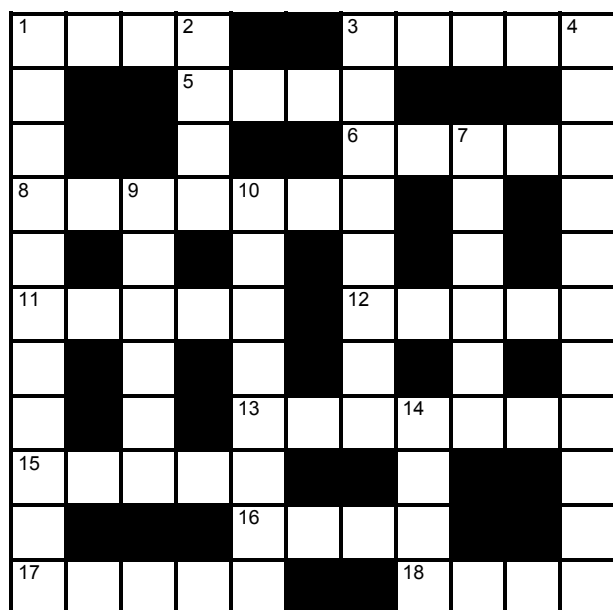
www.helengrant.org

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



MINDBENENDERS By ASCII

CROSSWORD No3 (Easy)



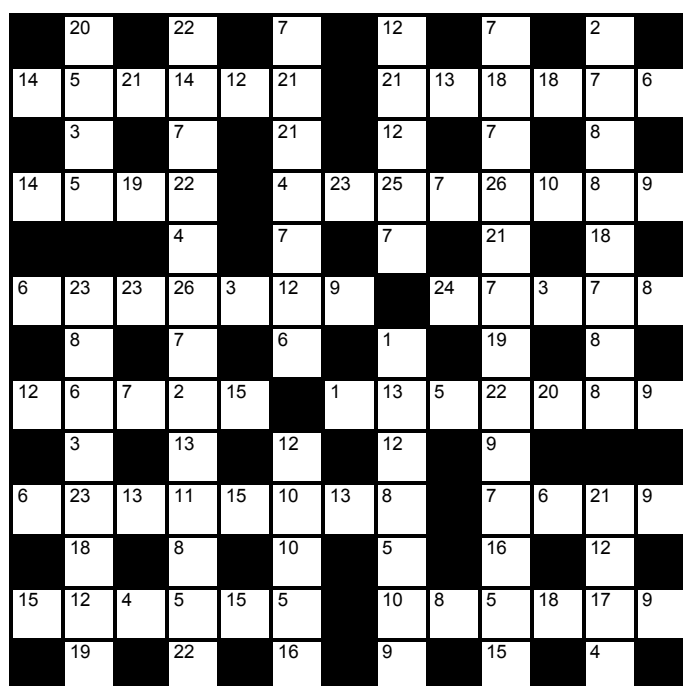
Across

- 1 Noisy, confused, family game (4)
- 3 Cry, laugh, victory, zero one hundred and let slip the dogs of war! (5)
- 5 Long live the old Vauxhall! (4)
- 6 Desperate for annual pay (5)
- 8 Remove shoes for assignation? (4,3)
- 11 German writer born to be wild, perhaps? (5)
- 12 German dance from London museum to seat of learning (5)
- 13 Takes to task for being not quite good enough? (7)
- 15 Bewildered duo to engage in one-upmanship (5)
- 16 Tolkien villain a killer whale (4)
- 17 Plot has weight to it but little support on its own (5)
- 18 Texted enquiry as to whereabouts almost destroyed (4)

Down

- 1 Polo? Top-Hole! Over the top, maybe? (4,3,4)
- 2 Six completed at Lords or The Oval? (4)
- 3 Confused heavy ref snuffles through cowardly play (3,5)
- 4 Songs Carmen ruined for U.S. politician (11)
- 7 I.D.S. without awful simulated charm (6)
- 9 I scent horrid creepy crawly (6)
- 10 Sell too many tickets for Reading train? (8)
- 14 Classic Indian tune turned gelatinous (4)

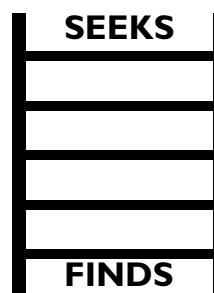
CODEWORD No3 (Moderately Difficult)



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

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: The start of something big



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The Friends of St George's Church: AGM and guest talk

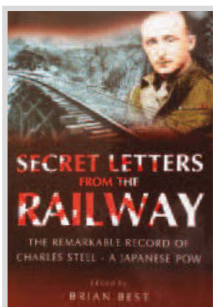
Monday 23 April, St George's Church, 7pm

7pm AGM

- Reports on activities and funds raised
- Election of Officers
- Any Other Business (your thoughts and ideas will be most welcome)

7.15pm Refreshments

7.45pm Guest Speaker: Margaret Sargent -
The Remarkable Story of Charles Steel:
Japanese Prisoner of War



Charles Steel took part in two military disasters: the Fall of France and the Dunkirk evacuation; and the Fall of Singapore. Shortly before the latter, Charles married Louise and within days of being captured by the Japanese he

began writing a weekly letter to his new bride as a means of keeping in touch with her in his mind - secret letters because the Japanese forbade all writing of letters and diaries.

By the time he was liberated three and a half years later, he had written and hidden some 180 letters. Part love-letter, part diary these unique letters, intended for Louise's eyes only, describe the horror of working as a slave on the Burma to Siam Railway and, in particular, on the construction of the famous Bridge over the River Kwai.

The uplifting account of how this man could rise above adversity and even secretly get back at his captors by means of 'creative accounting' is described in this illustrated presentation by his daughter Margaret, a Sandhurst resident.

These secret letters have been published by Pen and Sword and were included in an exhibition at Imperial War Museum North. Photocopies of the original letters will be shown.

Share with us the appalling, yet inspiring, experiences of this remarkable man.

The speaker's fee and donations to West Kent Mind.

Everyone Welcome.

Benenden Cricket Club strive to maintain the tradition of idyllic village cricket, which has been enjoyed on our glorious village green since 1798.

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www.benendencecc.play-cricket.com

If interested in playing, please contact our Club Captain, Richard Brunt on:

07834 572838 or email bruntyhk@hotmail.com



Church clock - can you help?

Nick Eastwood has been looking after and maintaining the church clock single handedly for some time and we are looking for a volunteer to learn the job and act as a back up.

Most of the time the clock runs itself but occasionally it needs adjusting. If you feel you could assist, then to get an idea of what's involved please contact Nick on either eastwood.n@gmail.com or 01622 850330.

Charles Trollope, Chairman Fabric & Finance Committee St George's PCC

Annual Parish and Parochial Church Meetings

Monday 30 April, Memorial Hall, 7.30pm

The Annual Parish Meeting (at which the Churchwardens are elected) is on Monday 30 April at 7.30pm, in the Memorial Hall. This is followed immediately by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), when we look back at the things that have been achieved in the last 12 months, and look forward to the coming year. There are also elections for other positions in the church. Please join us.



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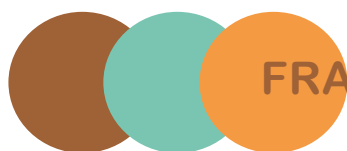
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but please bring along your own packed lunch.
To book please call:
Mary 01435 882980 or Mel 01435 882021
or email: sewwithmaryandmel@btinternet.com

Saturday 28th April 2018
10am – 4pm
Iden Green Pavilion, Iden Green, Benenden

Letter to the Editor

Please write to the Editor,
c/o Community Office, Benenden Village
Hall, Benenden TN17 4DY or email
benendenparishmagazine@gmail.com

I was lucky enough to have Sunday lunch at
The Bull recently with my wife and I picked
up a copy of the local Benenden Magazine.

I'm not a resident of Benenden (I live in
Tunbridge Wells) but I'm always interested in
what goes on in the area.

I was quite surprised by an article that
we both read, about the recent pantomime.
Whoever wrote this appears to be very
critical of (what I presume was) a fun, event.

What particularly grabbed my attention
was the reference to children fluffing their
lines. The entire article reminded me of so
much news these days that seems to pick on
whatever negative angle it can. I presume this
makes the writer feel good.

I know I'm not a 'local-local', so you may
chose to ignore this. However, perhaps
someone can think about the impact this kind
of writing may have on the volunteers of such
a fun activity and maybe instead, in the future
try to highlight the more positive aspects of
village life, of living in the great county of
Kent, and also the fantastic UK. We must stop
knocking people down for doing good things.

Rob, a passing diner

Village spring clean

Saturday 14 April, meet at Benenden's
Community Shop or Iden Green Pavilion, 9am

This is organised on behalf of the Parish
Council every spring and autumn, and in recent
years was led with gusto by Peter Davies, who
was ever hopeful that people would turn up to
help with this important community activity.
On the last occasion, however, I am sad to say
there were only three of us in Iden Green.

I shall be in the Pavilion car park from
9-9.30am and Nicola Thomas will be outside
the village shop to distribute high-vis vests,
rubbish bags and litter-pickers, but do bring
your own gloves. Please come if you can: many
hands make light work and an hour or so litter
picking makes all the difference.

As an added incentive, all volunteers will
receive a voucher for a drink and cake to be
used at Benenden's café.

Julie Lewis

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Exhibition for April and May

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Entrance free, donations welcomed

The Museum is on Carriers Road.
Opposite Jockey Lane car park.

THE HOP PICKERS LINE HERITAGE GROUP



Village Hall highlights

April at the hall is a real cornucopia of delights to satisfy everybody

We start with a printmaking workshop on Wednesday 11 April being run by Ali and Bi Printmaking for children aged eight and above. Ali and Bi exhibit their prints locally and in London. The workshop starts at 10am, and it will be introducing children to the different forms of printmaking, including mono-printing, collagraph and drypoint. Places are limited but there will be more workshops organised during the summer holidays. To register your interest contact Ali at alisonstump@aol.com or telephone 07971 166869.

On Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 April Grierson Galleries are going to be holding their first Art Show outside of their Sevenoaks studio, and we are privileged that they chose the hall to highlight their artists. There will be over 30 stands of eclectic works from genres ranging from portraiture to acrylics, wildlife, landscapes and ceramics. Entry is free and refreshments are available, so why not come along, meet the artists, and have a browse at the wonderful artwork on display? For further information go to www.griersongalleries.com.

Sunday 22 April from 10am there is a yoga workshop with Weald Power Yoga. Themed as

'Yoga for Spring: A Seasonal Space Creating Workshop' the practice will be focussed on slow-flowing vinyasa yoga to create length and reawaken our bodies after the hibernation of winter. There will also be a relaxing meditation to help to ground the busy mind. Contact www.ruth@wealdpower yoga.com.

Last, but certainly not least, there is a Spring Celebration Barn Dance organised by the HeyHo Band in aid of Mr Noah's Nursery School on Saturday 28 April. Featuring a live band Tight Squeeze, along with the Caller, Charlotte. The Caller's job is to ensure that even complete beginners and those of us who have two left feet can join in with the merriment! This is a family and community-oriented event and promises to be a lot of fun. Tickets are £8 - children go free with a paying adult - and can be bought at the Community Shop, also online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/461885 or £10 on the door. There is also a supper option of either fish and chips, sausage and chips or veggie burger and chips for an additional £6, which needs to be ordered in advance. Contact www.hayhoband@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Lorraine Jones 243123

enquiries@benendenvillagehall.org

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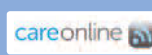


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Church Fete news: Call for volunteers

Saturday 16 June, The Green, 12noon-4pm

As you will see from the advertisement in this edition the Benenden Church Fete is once again packed with stalls, activities and fun for everyone. We have some new activities planned for this year, and we are very happy to confirm that Glitter the Cow has found space in her busy schedule for the Cow Pat Bingo.

The success of this event is due to the many volunteers who help in the run up to the day and on the day itself - we couldn't do it without you. BUT we do need more help on the day itself please. Whether it's setting up in the morning, taking a turn on a stall, shaking donation bins on the entrance, selling raffle tickets, or clearing up at the end of the fete. If you could spare an hour, or two, or three, we would be very grateful. Just add your name to the volunteer sheet on the noticeboard in the village shop and we will be in touch to confirm details.

If you prefer to contact us directly then please contact:

Tracy Claridge 240454

tlclaridge@tlclaridge.co.uk

Benenden Fete Committee

St George's churchyard working party

Saturday 7 April, St George's, 9.30am

We would be so grateful to have your help.



Christian Aid Week 2018

Sunday 13 May to Sunday 20 May

This year's Christian Aid Week will take place from Sunday 13 May to Sunday 20 May.

The charity has been supporting refugees since 1945 when it was launched and the refugee crisis is every bit as challenging today.

Our collectors, wearing their official badges, will be posting appeal envelopes through letterboxes from 13 May onwards. It is hoped Benenden and Iden Green residents will give as generously as in the past - a record £4,250 was raised in 2017 - so that Christian Aid can continue its vital work of helping those struggling to survive and feed their families. Thank you in advance for your support.

Tracy Claridge and Lesley Attwood, local Christian Aid Organisers. Tracy is taking over from Lesley this year and can be contacted on: Tracy Claridge 240454
Christianaid@tlclaridge.co.uk.

CODEWORD No3

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NINE FROM EIGHT
DETONATOR

MINDBENDERS Answers

CROSSWORD No3

Across: 1 Ludo, 3 Havoc, 5 Viva, 6 Yearn, 8 Pair off, 11 Hesse, 12 Valse, 13 Berates, 15 Outdo, 16 Orca, 17 Plank, 18 Ruin

Down: 1 Loop the loop, 2 Over, 3 Hay fever, 4 Congressman, 7 Amulet, 9 Insect, 10 Overbook, 14 Agar

Food & Drink

Chile putting heat into UK wine market

Peter Richards MW, one of the UK's foremost authorities on Chilean wines, puts it thus: "It is important to keep an open mind about Chile. It is a country where the wine scene is evolving so rapidly that you have to keep in constant touch to be really up to date."

The pioneering spirit that had characterised Chilean viticulture for nearly 200 years is as prevalent as ever and boundaries continue to be pushed. Exciting new projects are popping up in ever more extreme locations. Established regions such as Maipo, Casablanca, Leyda and Colchagua continue to produce and over-deliver on quality; cooler-climate areas like Limari and Bio Bio are winning international acclaim; meanwhile Elqui, on the fringes of the Atacama desert, is delivering an impressive amount of world-class wines; Maule, Itata and Malleca have become the 'buzz' names of the south, and are producing excellent old-vine Carignan, Cinsault, Muscat and Pais with remarkable freshness and elegance; Osorno, close to the lakes of Patagonia, and Hesco in the dry, arid Atacama, are now home to up-and-coming cooler-climate vineyards.

Having one of the longest coastlines of any country has given Chile the unique opportunity

to explore and cherry-pick the best coastal sites. Since 2003 the area of land under vine has increased from 112,000ha to 142,000ha as investment pours into established regions and also the northern and southern extremities.

Consumers like Chilean wines. At a time when many countries are struggling to achieve growth in the UK market, Chile's off-trade sales are up by about five per cent year on year and the country has forged a reputation for excellent value at everyday price points. Now consumers are looking to step up the quality ladder, and you will not be disappointed.

Carmenere is the forgotten grape variety of Bordeaux. It has however found its home in Chile after phylloxera devastated Bordeaux in the late 19th century and now represents eight per cent of the Chilean vineyard with 10,861 ha, with a 59 per cent growth between 2005 and 2015. Retail sales are 5.7m litres, up 7.5 per cent on 2015. Maule and Maipo are the two stand-out regions for Carmenere, providing wines with ripe fruit, elegance, freshness and complexity.

The Concha y Toro technical director Marcelo Papa says that Chile needs to focus on promoting its wine regions, rather than by grape variety, which is a very important point, not just for Chile. "If Chile does not work on the Appellations then in the future we are in trouble," said Papa during a recent tasting and discussion in Santiago, pointing out that the country needs to premiumise its wine offering in the face of rising costs. "We need to remove the grape and push the region, so that people will ask for a glass of Maipo the same way they ask for a glass of Barolo."

I personally feel we are a long way off from that. So, do people buy by grape variety or region? I am going to ask Alfred Nicol, a fellow magazine contributor, to elaborate on this in a future column.

Who to look out for in Chile? Cousino-Macul, Caliterra, Morandé, Errazuriz, Montes, William Fevre Chile, Ventisquero, Montgras, Concha y Toro.

Chin chin.

Tracy Claridge 240454

tlclaridge@tlclaridge.co.uk

Patricio Gougenheim, owner and winemaker, at Benenden School Café

Friday 25 May
7 for 7.30pm

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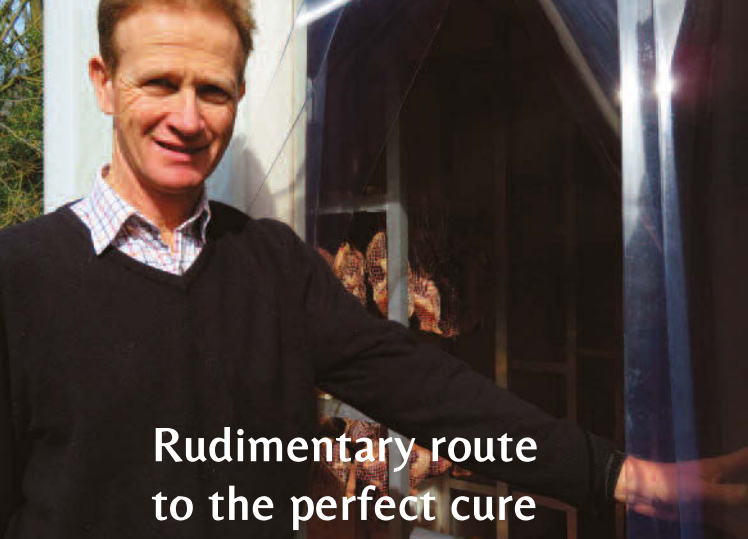
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Rudimentary route to the perfect cure

If William Heath Robinson, that noted creator of ingenious ‘string-driven’ contraptions, had ever turned his hand to the charcuterie business, he would no doubt have come up with something closely related to the system Tobin Bird has devised at Woodside Farm.

In true artisan tradition, far removed from the romantic ideal, Tobin has fashioned from humble beginnings a method for oak-smoking and air-drying lamb which exemplifies the belief that necessity is the mother of invention. At his home in Iden Green - farmed for many years by the family of his wife Jo (nee Holmes) - he gives a guided tour of the tiny ‘plant’ and the highly aromatic process.

“This is where it starts,” he says, taking off his shoes for Health and Safety purposes and stepping into a rudimentary metal box. “It’s an old refrigerated shipping container I had converted. I went round buying bits of second-hand kit for it and it’s ideal.

“We trim the legs, weigh them to get the right amount of salt for curing, marinate them with herbs and honey and red wine, then they’re smoked in the smoker.”

Unsurprisingly, the smoker isn’t a purpose-built palace of stainless steel. “I looked at buying a proper one,” says Tobin, “but it cost so much that I got a second-hand fridge for free, got a box where the oak shavings are burnt and put a hole in the side to feed the smoke in through a tube.”



And then into the drying chamber. “Yes, that’s a bit Heath Robinson as well. A purpose-built unit would have cost thousands of pounds but instead I got an old lorry body, had it customised, put in a dehumidifier and some racks.”

Handsome is as handsome does, so they say, and what this pragmatic collection of hardware does is produce delicious charcuterie with a flavour far removed from the familiar hams of Parma or Iberia. It’s dark red, rich, tender and very, very local. The lambs come from Tobin and Jo’s fields and even the oak shavings for the fire come from the Deacon and Sandys joinery on Apple Pie Farm.

The rest of each lamb is sold at the farm gate, but pride of place on the Birds’ lunch table goes

to the magnificent cured leg. It’s a labour-intensive prime cut and £4.80 for 80g (sliced) or £20.40 for a half leg isn’t cheap, but it’s a Great Taste award winner and versatile with it.

“You can eat it as it is,” says Jo, “with Parmesan cheese and balsamic vinegar, rocket, olives and sun-dried tomatoes. With cheese on toast or sprinkled on top of cauliflower cheese. With figs, wrapped around chicken, in a risotto or with asparagus.”

Wine pairing: try it with

Chateau Trillol, a blend of Grenache, Syrah and Carignan from the Corbieres region: a little bit of oak and plenty of red fruit, pepper and herbs to match the deep flavours of the lamb. Available at Benenden’s Community Shop for £12.85.

Premium quality Kentish oak smoked air-dried lamb available from Woodside Farm, Benenden.

Peter Thomas





Local Enterprise ... Enterprising Locals


WELDING A LATE CAREER IN ART

Kent Barker talks to Mike Unsworth, an accomplished artist who moved to Benenden four years ago

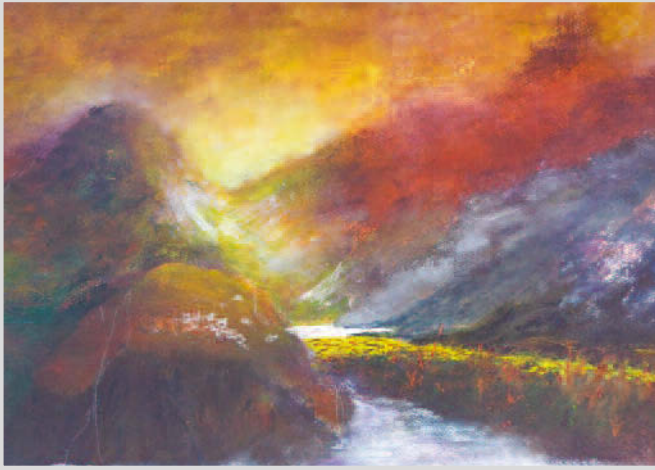
One wonders if Mike Unsworth, aged 15 and studying welding at a technical school in Wigan, could have had any idea how useful the skill might turn out to be? Not, it is true, for another 40 years. And only after he had avoided the blue collar jobs for which he seemed destined. He managed to collect enough A'levels to get him into Nottingham University and out again with a degree in Education And Mathematics. That proved more immediately helpful and started him on a career as a maths teacher in various schools in Shropshire. Why Shropshire? "Well it was the only place we could afford a house at the time," he says, smiling at his wife Margaret whom he married in 1970.

So the lad, trained in engineering, who at school hadn't studied English let alone Art, is now retired, living in Benenden, and using his rather rusty knowledge of welding as a dizzyingly successful sculptor and 2D artist. His first local exhibition will be at the Village Hall as part of Grierson Galleries Art Show over the weekend of 14 and 15 April.

Mike is no stranger to exhibiting though. For many years he had a solo annual show at a gallery in Dulwich at which his paintings regularly sold out. In Shropshire he won the Harrison and Walker prize for the painting judged to best capture the essence of the county.



And this is for someone who didn't pick up a brush until well into middle age, and only then because his mother gave him a watercolour set one Christmas. To his own surprise, he sold the first pictures he produced with it. "Watercolour is supposed to be the most difficult medium to master," he says. "Now I'm about to try



oils which I'm told is the easiest. In between I've been using mixed media based on acrylics."

Mike's work is incredibly varied. There are subtle landscapes in the Piper or Turner mould. There are vibrant - almost garish - seascapes and harbours. There are portraits and animals and still life. And there are the sculptures. It's almost as if, having waited so long to start as an artist, he feels he now needs to master each one of the different genres.



The labourer's son who became mathematician and who rose to head a comprehensive school managed to carve out enough time during his career to do a two year diploma in art and design at the Shropshire College of Art. It was here

he had to brush up on his welding skills as well as trying new techniques - such as completing an eight-foot portrait just using ink on a stick.

Today, working in his self-designed garden studio, he says he's more interested in local landscapes. But following a snowy holiday on Dartmoor this winter, don't be surprised if the odd Tor or granite landscape starts to flow from his easel. The one thing that's certain about Mike Unsworth is that you just can't be certain what he'll do next.

For more information www.mikeunsworth.net.



No Time to Waste

Last month we heard about our hidden contribution to plastic pollution, but our unsustainable production of waste is not always out of sight. HETTY GARNIER expands on how we can act to tackle the problem.

The South East of England is beginning to visibly struggle with its waste - it has some of the least capacity available for landfill, and Kent is due to run out of landfill space by 2021. So with less demand for our waste abroad, how can we reduce the waste we produce to protect our natural environment, and where will our unavoidable waste go?

When we cannot avoid creating waste, we can enhance the value of recycling in the UK. We all want to recycle as much as possible but lots of materials are only designed for one use. In many cases it is actually better to recycle less for the sake of higher quality, and ensure they are as clean and uncontaminated as possible. Just one piece of plastic sorted into the wrong bin could mean entire batches of material are rejected. There is a different recycling regime for almost every council according to local needs, so be sure to check the Tunbridge Wells 'What Goes into Your Bins' page.

We can take many small actions to move away from wasteful behaviours, many of which simply apply common sense to avoid waste. All too often, products are bought or used for a short time and then disposed of for convenience. We could all do with fewer plastic carrier bags, so hold on to a bag-for-life and save the 13,000 you might otherwise buy over a lifetime! Buy milk in glass bottles - easy in Benenden with Hinxden Dairy delivering them to your door, while supermarkets also start to supply them to meet new demand for reusable or recyclable packaging.

At least six coffee shop chains are now offering discounts for using reusable cups, so take advantage and save money as well as disposable plastic. If you want to go as far as being 'zero waste' then be prepared with your own reusables. Add to your bag-for-life with foldable cutlery, a set of Tupperware, and a travel water bottle to be prepared on the go.

As consumers, we are constantly making demands of retailers, so we can reduce pollution by making responsible choices when we shop. Many supermarkets are aiming to make own-brand products plastic-free soon, so look out for products with the highest recycled content. Even better, buy items in glass or aluminium as they can be recycled indefinitely, making their way back onto the shelves in about six weeks.

Meanwhile, there are plenty of 'closed loop' products specifically designed to cycle used materials back into the economy and extend their life. Disposable coffee cups can be collected and turned into reusable keep cups, and backpacks can be made from plastic bottles.

This represents a more meaningful way of recycling as it brings materials full-cycle, avoiding the use of new high-impact resources such as crude oil.

Making a start on minimising waste involves some very simple steps. Thankfully, it is increasingly the case that the more sustainable option is also the cheaper one long-term. So whether you are motivated by the environment or by the chance to save, cutting waste is the way to go.



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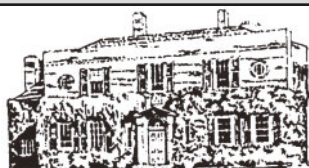
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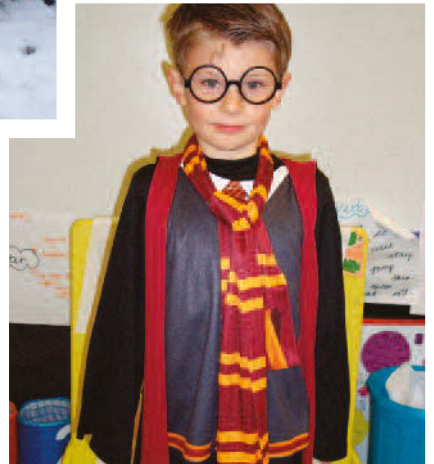
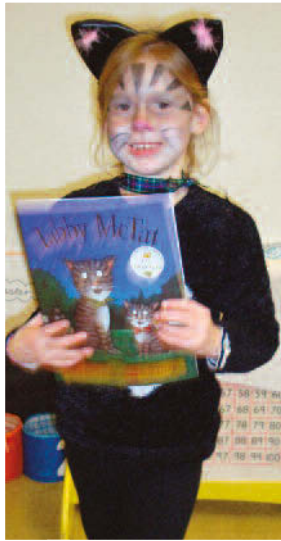
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Above: Remarkable snowfall and freezing temperatures brought out Benenden's resilience to keep going undeterred: lacrosse players at Benenden School and Caroline Kennedy's hardy circuit-style class on The Glebe; Primary School children in character for World Book Day

Front cover: Spring feasting. Photograph: Minnie Garnier