



Benenden Magazine July 2019



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Editorial



Wasn't the village fete a wonderful illustration of the power of volunteering? The success of the day was down to the army of tireless volunteers who got involved leading up to, and on, the day and the result was a record-breaking fund raiser. I always get the same reaction from out-of-village friends when I tell them about the success of our bonfire, fete, panto, shop and concerts; the hard work of the parish council, village trust, NDP teams, bell ringers, churchyard workers, litter pickers, church clock custodians, speed watchers and a whole bunch of other community activities; all supported by volunteers: "What an amazing village you live in."

We are lucky because we have a fantastic cohort of willing workers of all ages happy to give a little or a lot of their time to enhance village life. Many are retired, many are not, but their contribution, however big or small, gives Benenden an energy that is very special.

Winston Churchill once said "You make a living by what you get, you make a life by what you give", and that's what I have certainly found since I started volunteering in various village initiatives. It's not just the impact on the community, volunteering is a two-way street: it can benefit you and your family. By measuring hormones and brain activity, researchers have discovered that being helpful to others delivers immense pleasure. Human beings are hard-wired to give to others. The more we give, the happier we feel. Research has suggested that people may enjoy distinctly better physical and mental health when they volunteer, including experiencing a 'helper's high'. After the fete I felt the 'high' but must admit my body ached for a couple of days - I suppose that was the physical benefit!

Ruth Clark, 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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Village Calendar

June

Saturday 29 The James Taylor Quartet with Lime Ave Jazz Band and Benenden Choir, Benenden School, 7pm p.9

July

Friday 5 Woodland Wide Games, Iden Green Congregational Church, 7pm
Saturday 6 Summer Barbecue, St George's Club, 8.15pm
Sunday 7 Stuart Whatton, Organ Recital, St George's Church, 6pm p.24
Tuesday 9 Summer Musical Party, Benenden School, 6.30pm p.9
Saturday 13 Quiz Night, St George's Club, 8.15pm
Monday 15 Parish Council Meeting, Memorial Hall, 7pm
Tuesday 16 Iden Green and Benenden WI, Jolly Hockey Sticks talk, Memorial Hall, 2pm p.17
Wed 17-Sun 21 Benenden Tennis Tournament, Benenden School p.13
Saturday 20 Jazz and Blues at the Pavilion, Iden Green, 2pm p.11
Saturday 20 Cornhole Tossing, St George's Club, 8.15pm
Sunday 21 Harmsworth Court Service, Community Room, 4.30pm
Tuesday 23 Merry and Bright, Garden Party at a member's house, 3pm
Saturday 27 Churchyard Working Party, St George's, Benenden, 9.30-12noon
Saturday 27 Bingo, St George's Club, 8.15pm

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, April-September, on the recreation field, practice night, 6.30pm

Cakes & Chaos: Cafe and Toddler Group

Fridays during term time in St George's Church, 9-11.15am

Refuse Lorry Collections

Saturday 13 July for Garden/Compostable Waste

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

Saturday 27 July for Domestic Waste

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

Parish Council



I joined the Parish Council in March this year and was hoping that the requirement for a piece from me would have come later. I have barely had time to settle in!

I've lived in Standen Street in Iden Green for 15 years and enjoy the rural surroundings, the ancient woodlands and orchard footpaths with my dog.

The Benenden Neighbourhood Development Plan process started in September 2017 and I joined the Design and Built Environment Group. It's been a pleasure working with Graham Beveridge, but we are all wondering when it will all be over as a considerable amount of time has been spent by all the participants just to reach the rough draft launch. And there's more to come.

Aside from the NDP and now the Parish Council, I'm a volunteer working for the Weald of Kent Protection Society (WKPS). A very considerable amount of my time is spent looking at planning applications and objecting to or attempting to mitigate housing development schemes. As the housing targets become higher and higher, successful objections become harder and harder. Combine the housing targets with national and local planning policy and the result is that the rural areas are simply not being protected as they might be. The local planning authority (LPA) also runs the risk of refusing an application for all the right reasons only to find that the Planning Inspectorate grants consent on appeal, and the appeal process is an expense that the LPA could well do without. Planning policy these days is geared towards building houses everywhere and it doesn't appear to matter very much if we ruin the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) by doing so.

Part of the work of the Parish Council is to respond to planning applications in the parish as a statutory consultee. This is, of course, of particular interest to me and just occasionally we get to see the most stunning and interesting historic houses in the parish. A very pleasant bonus.

Peta Grant, Parish Councillor

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 15 July,

Memorial Hall, 7pm

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: David 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.

Saturday 6 July	10.15am Benenden Girls' School Speech Day Service		
Sunday 7 July	8am Communion	10am All-age Communion and Sunday School	5pm Choral Evensong 6pm Organ Recital
Sunday 14 July	8am 1662 Communion	10am Morning Worship	5pm Evening Prayer at Mission Church
Sunday 21 July	8am Communion	10am Sung Eucharist	
Sunday 28 July	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 TN17 4EL

Fr Barry Grant 713364 www.sttheodore-cranbrook.org

Masses 9am Sundays 7.30pm Holy Days

From the Parish Registers

Weddings	7 June	Michelle Hinkley and Neil Levett
	8 June	Harriet Gough and Cameron Johnstone-Brown
	22 June	Ellen Fletcher and Jordan Bingham
	29 June	Amberley Mason and Jack Marshall

Rector's Letter



Could you help some people in the community? (Please)

I hope that you managed to set aside a little bit of time appreciating all the good things in your life, and all the people who make your life fruitful and worthwhile. Perhaps you managed to also think about how you use your time; whether that is all about work, or whether other things and other people get a look-in on your most precious gift - your time? If you did spend a bit of time thinking, mid-year, about a resolution, then could I ask you to have a think about helping some other people in the community please?

In Sandhurst, on 10 September, the St Nicholas Church family is launching 'Blend', an after-school café/club aimed at children in school years 7-10. It is going to be held in the Mission Church, every Tuesday from 4-6pm in term time: the start time to coincide with the drop-off time of the school buses in the village. The aim is to provide a safe space where teens can come to meet their friends once a week, and take part in games and activities (pool, table tennis, board games, crafts), and enjoy milkshakes, cakes and healthier snacks. Our hope is that Blend will create strong relationships with the young people and their families. This project has been running successfully at St Mary's Church in Goudhurst for over a year. We have met with the leaders there and they have kindly shared the model that they have evolved.

With the mental health and wellbeing of young people a primary concern in our communities, Blend offers not only an opportunity to build friendships between the church and the young people, but also a place for them to be able to talk to mature and caring adults in a safe environment, in confidence, and without judgement.

Benenden does have the Street Cruiser bus in the village once a week, but this is mobile and doesn't get here until 6pm. I don't wish to compete with this. I believe that both can coincide and support our children. The church building can offer space for larger games (eg pool and table tennis) and the timing means that youngsters can come straight from the school bus and meet with friends who have gone to other secondary schools. If this touches a chord with you, and you feel this is something you could make happen, would you contact me please? The church has the venue to make this happen; we can probably raise some helpers/leaders; and we can probably sort out some finances to bring this about. What I need are people to come forward who have a passion to bring this about and help the youngsters of the village with another support system. Can you please help us help them? Please contact me if you think Benenden should run a Blend café/club. Thank you.

Revd David Commander, Rector

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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Just a Thought



The trouble with assumptions

I have a pet rant which I deliver to the radio whenever I hear a bunch of countries being referred to as Bolivia, Finland, Thailand and Africa. Africa one country? Once I also fell into the trap ...

A few years ago my husband and I visited our son who had been posted to Cameroon. When on safari to the coast and the south-west, I asked myself (familiar with East Africa) 'But where are all the cows?'

We had begun in Yaounde where fine houses, shacks, government buildings and markets squeeze into the valleys and sprawl up the hillsides fed by narrow potholed roads. All thoroughfares are crowded with people, roadside stalls, hawkers, instant motor mechanics and traffic. There are cars, 4x4s, lorries, tankers, pick-up trucks, swarms of motorbikes and up-country buses. There are also taxis which weave maniacally in and out like demented yellow beetles. There were no cows here.

On the journey towards the coast the road swung easily along valleys and over hills which were covered in thick forest made up of a multitude of different trees with trailing, rope-like lianas. Tall trunks with their great buttress roots towered above lesser species. Every now and then a narrow track indicated a human presence and occasionally a small compound showed evidence of cassava, bananas, and sorghum struggling to hold their own. But - no cows.

Miles of palm oil plantations lined our route to the coast itself then the majestic volcano, Mount Ndem, loomed out of the haze. The steepest mountainsides were covered once again in dense forest whilst the gentler slopes with their rich soils were cleared for yet more oil palm. All that is except a magnificent swathe of raw rock - the probing foot of the ten-year-old lava flow which had finally halted across the coast road. We stopped to climb up and enjoy the impressive view but no large herbivores could be identified.

Our next destination was in the beautiful Mount Manengouba region in the south-west and included an expedition to the crater lakes. The taxing dirt road, which obviously doubled as a riverbed in the wet season, wound through thick bush all the while climbing higher and higher to the caldera's edge. Finally the rim was reached and the land fell away into an enormous basin, presenting us with a magnificent view of grassy plains, hills and the distant crater rim. I suddenly spotted a herd of animals. On closer inspection these proved to be cattle tended by herdsmen on sturdy ponies. So they did have cows!

Thinking about it I realised two things. Firstly I had seen only a tiny part of this large country (most cows are in the north) and secondly I had fallen into the very trap for which I castigate others - that of throwing the 54 countries of Africa together. There are common features, but each country has its own distinct identity and must be approached afresh without assumptions as to its people, environment, cultural heritage and the presence or otherwise of cows!

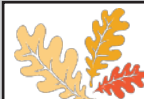
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News and Events

Summer Musical Party

Tuesday 9 July, Benenden School, 6.30pm

This event is for the benefit of ABF The Soldiers' Charity Kent Branch. Following the success of Beating Retreat by the Gurkhas two years ago, this year we have an octet from The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, The Cranbrook Town Band, a Samba band and two pipers.

Drinks and food will be served. There are other stalls and an huge marquee in case it rains.

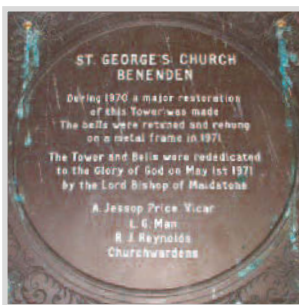
Tickets £25, children U14 £5 with free ice cream.

ABF is the source of funding for a lot of what SSAFA and Help for Heroes do, and the need to support ex-soldiers and their families is as great as ever.

Tickets available on 01474 853014 or at abftskentevents@gmail.com.

For further information and advice:

Chris Parkinson 388402
cfcgparkinson@tiscali.co.uk



Can you help?

The Parochial Church Council is discussing with the archdeacon the possibility of having the plaque pictured moved to the north wall of the

bellringing chamber of St George's Church from the west end, as it concerns the rehanging of the bells in 1971. In order to do this we have been asked to contact any known descendants of the vicar and churchwarden as shown on the plaque. We know about Robert Reynolds' family, but does anyone in the village know of any family of Lionel Mann and Rev Jessop Price? If anyone has any information please do get in touch.

Julia Collard 241944



**The James Taylor Quartet
with Lime Ave Jazz Band
and Benenden Choir**

**Saturday 29 June
7-9.30pm**

Main Marquee at Benenden School
(right-hand side near top of drive)

Tickets £20 to include wine and canapés
available from
Benenden's Community Shop

Cash bar will be available

For further queries, please contact:
Sue Ince SPI@benenden.school

News from Benenden School

In a week when the world marked the 75th anniversary of D-Day, our Year 9 girls were in the French and Belgian battlefields of the First World War. It was a poignant visit which helps to ensure that the lessons of both World Wars are passed on to the next generation.

Meanwhile, the term so far has been dominated by impressive pupil-led activities. A group of girls have completed the Caterham Seven 270 racing car they started building in September as part of an evening engineering project, and six of our Cadets in the Combined Cadet Force performed solo parachute jumps for charity.

Shortly before half term our sixth formers laid out 3,336 cookies in an attempt to set a new official Guinness World Record for the longest continuous line of cookies. We are now waiting to hear whether their efforts have been ratified and the world record is theirs.

As you read this, we are putting the finishing touches to this year's Arts Festival. It promises to be a memorable weekend and we would be delighted if members of the village joined us for a very special concert on Saturday 29 June. See above for more details.
Samantha Price, Headmistress



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Village Hall highlights

A fond farewell and a cheery welcome

Benenden Primary School wrap up their school year at the hall with a play mid-month, and then we say farewell to the teachers and students who are, of course, moving into their new fantastic new school in September. We will no longer see the children trooping from the school to the hall, which has become a nostalgic piece of Benenden tradition, each Wednesday.

However, July also heralds the beginning of the much anticipated Benenden Farmers' Market. The grand opening is at 9am on Tuesday 16 July, and everybody at the hall is excited to be starting a new Benenden tradition.

There will be a wide variety of stalls, from fresh local fruit and vegetables, locally caught fresh fish, home-baked bread, hand-reared meat and deli to hand crafted gifts, homemade preserves and hand made confectionary and much more. So do come along for a browse around the stalls, a cup of tea and a chat, or a freshly cooked breakfast roll. With 15 stall holders already in place it promises to be a huge success. The market will be held from 9-11am on the first three Tuesdays of every month (the Arts Society High Weald will continue to run their lectures on the fourth Tuesday).

Millie Friday's Zumba class is taking a break in July, but will be returning. Contact Millie at milliefriday@hotmail.co.uk to be kept up to date on when classes start.

Charlotte Hudson School of Dance will be holding various children's dance workshops over the Summer break. To see what's on offer visit www.charlottehudsonschoolofdance.com, but don't hang about because Charlotte's workshops sell out extremely quickly. She has already had to add an extra date to keep up with demand.

For further information on events and classes check out either our Facebook page @benendenvillagehall or go to: www.benendenvillagehall.org
Lorraine Jones 243123
enquiries@benendenvillagehall.org



Juniors 17, 18 and 19 July 2019

Adults 20 and 21 July 2019

at Benenden School

Come and play at this year's
Benenden Tennis Tournament
All levels welcome

Homemade teas ~ Raffle ~ Bring a picnic lunch
100% of our proceeds go to charity

Contact us via our website
www.benendentennistournament.com



Benenden Tennis Tournament

Wednesday 17-Sunday 21 July

Benenden School

Do come and support us in this local, annual, five-day charity tennis tournament in the beautifully maintained grounds and parkland of Benenden Girls' School. This traditional English setting makes an ideal venue for morning coffee or afternoon tea with delicious homemade cakes whilst watching tennis; a great place to take friends and visitors.

The 2019 dates are:

Wednesday 17-Friday 19 July

Junior tournament

Saturday 20-Sunday 21 July

Adult tournament

Many thanks must go to local organisations, shops and individuals who have generously given prizes for the raffle, and for sponsoring all aspects to enable us to run this event.

Last year about £8,000 was raised which got distributed to local charities including Maidstone Mencap, Merry and Bright, Riding for the Disabled, Crisis Winter Churches, Hospice in the Weald, to name just a few.

All levels of players are welcome. More at: benendentennistournament.com

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Talking Shop

Now summer is well and truly with us we are happy to announce that the café is responding to the warm weather with some menu changes. Soup has been replaced by quiches and salad which are also available to take away. You can also have avocado with prawns and just think how well this would go with a cheeky glass of white wine! For those who prefer hot food, we have lasagne, curry, macaroni cheese and baked potatoes with a variety of fillings.

There may have been some confusion about the use of the shop toilet. It was originally installed for the use of staff only and there is no obligation on us to provide a toilet for customers. However, we felt it only fair to allow café customers to use the facility if they needed to. Regarding general use for shop customers it is not feasible to allow everyone to use it due its maintenance and cleaning, which is done by staff and volunteers. However, if a desperate child, an elderly or unwell person was in need, it can be used at the discretion of the manager in charge and we would always endeavour to be fair. We would appeal for your understanding as we only have one toilet for all.

Finally, as always, we are very keen to welcome new volunteers to our shop. Maybe there are a few of you who are unsure whether to come forward and sign up. Please do. Many of our volunteers have said what a positive influence it has had on their lives and how many new friends they have made. It truly is an incredibly friendly environment in which to work. There's really nothing to lose in giving it a go.

Bev Beveridge

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East End - Benenden - Iden Green - Tenterden			
Mondays to Fridays			
Tenterden, The Vine	1145	Tenterden, The Vine	1515
Castletons Oak	1152	Castletons Oak	1522
East End, opp. Benenden Hospital	1155	East End, opp. Benenden Hospital	1525
Goddards Green, opp. Farm	1158	Goddards Green, opp. Farm	1528
Benenden, The Green, adj	1202	Benenden, The Green, adj	1532
Iden Green, adj Church	1208	Iden Green, adj Church	1538
Benenden, The Green, opp	1213	Benenden, The Green, opp	1543
Goddards Green, opp. Farm	1217	Goddards Green, opp. Farm	1547
East End, opp. Benenden Hospital	1220	East End, opp. Benenden Hospital	1550
Castletons Oak	1223	Castletons Oak	1553
Tenterden, The Vine	1230	Tenterden, The Vine	1600

Daily bus service launched

On 17 June a daily return bus service to Tenterden was launched. The Tenterden Hopper is funded by Kent County Council and works like a normal bus service that serves stops in Iden Green, Benenden, Goddards Green, East End and Castletons Oak from Monday to Friday (except bank holidays). This is a year-long pilot scheme operated in partnership with the Tenterden Social Hub and, if popular, will be continued as part of a county-wide rural transport initiative.

For any length of journey, the single, cash-only, fare for a child is £1 and £2 for adults. Bus passes are accepted, but KCC are encouraging bus pass users to pay a £1 voluntary contribution to help with the sustainability of the pilot project.

Village lunch

Unfortunately so many of the cooks are away in July that there won't be a lunch this month but normal service will be resumed on Tuesday 20 August. If you know of anyone who normally comes but doesn't get this magazine, please let them know.

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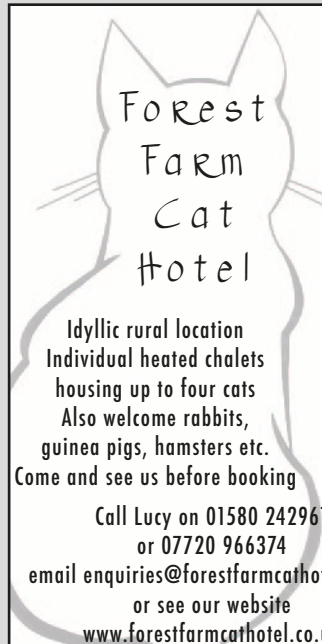
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Benenden Village Trust news

After a very well attended AGM on 3 June, the Trust began its second year in good heart. Members elected seven trustees, including two new volunteers, Sally Ann Marks and Richard Stubbings. As reported, the Trust is in a healthy financial situation and has an investment portfolio worth more than £600,000. However, we have begun a review (the first since 2014) of hire charges for the Village Hall with the aim of gradually getting to a point at which the income covers not only the normal running costs but also the cost of maintenance and enhancements. We have also initiated a survey of the St George's Club building which is likely to indicate that significant expenditure will be needed there.

Achievements in our first year have included gathering a new team for caretaking the Village Hall and for property management; improvements to the small hall at the Village Hall; and working with Play Benenden on the new playground. Fundraising for the Iden Green playground is already under way, with a generous individual donation received at the AGM to add to some existing funds - all very encouraging.

David Harmsworth, Chair

www.benendenvillagetrust.org

Benenden Pre-School news

We have some very exciting news - Benenden Pre-School was recently visited by Ofsted and were awarded an Outstanding in all areas. This is a fantastic result for the pre-school and a huge thank you to all the staff, committee members and parents who continuously work hard to ensure the pre-school provides the best setting for the children.

In other events, there have also been two very successful Grandparents Days where the children's grandparents have been invited to get involved in activities at pre-school for the day.

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

Cakes & Chaos

Drop-in Cafe
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St George's Church, Benenden
Every Friday during term time, 9-11.15am

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or helenjcommander@gmail.com



Iden Green and Benenden WI

A bevy of ladies gathered in a member's beautiful house and garden to enjoy convivial company, appetising food and scintillating conversation at our annual Garden Party on 18 June. We were impressed by the manicured garden, and admired the variety of colourful plants, bushes and trees. The raffle was called and we relaxed, together with guests from other WIs, sipping a glass of wine and sharing a delicious meal.

On Friday 28 June we are looking forward to socialising with members and friends in the Memorial Hall at 2pm. We hope that people will again bring items of interest and that some may feel able to embroider their names on our WI tablecloth. We shall also have a poetry reading.

On 16 July, we are looking forward to welcoming Mrs Aston who will be giving a talk entitled 'Jolly Hockey Sticks'. If any ladies would like to join us, then please get in touch or come along to one of our meetings.

Jackie Liffen 752232 WI@daisystar.co.uk



Bob Maher, Kier Construction

New primary school on target

To the average DIY practitioner, accustomed to taking six months to assemble an IKEA shelving unit, the notion of constructing a new school from scratch in 36 weeks may seem far-fetched. So, when suggestions were made that the long-awaited Benenden Church of England Primary build, begun last November, would be completed in time for the start of the new school year, they were greeted with what we might politely call a degree of scepticism.

Bob Maher, contracts manager overseeing the project for Kier Construction, was left in no doubt what the Eeyores thought from a very early stage, but his belief never wavered, despite the best efforts of the British elements.

“We got involved in the Christmas fair and I took quite a bit of stick there from residents who didn’t think we had a hope of getting finished in time,” says Bob, “but even though this design is a little bit out of the ordinary, 34-40 weeks would be a typical build for us. “We need the weather on our side, of course, and Storm Gareth coincided with the crane lift and the steel frame going up, so we lost about seven critical working days, but we’ve re-sequenced the work and we’re very much on target.”

The doubters may have been encouraged by news that Kier had applied for permission to work seven days a week on the site, but Bob can reassure them that this is less of a headlong panic, more of a brisk trot designed to make up for lost time. “It’s fairly routine,” he says. “We do it at the end of a project because it’s less intrusive for the residents. If we’re doing flooring, painting and the like, there are no heavy lorries coming and going over the weekend.”

Passers-by will have seen rapid strides made in recent weeks.

Today the roofers are taking advantage of the sunshine to complete the tiling of the ‘barn’ end of the horseshoe design and the smell of fresh paint signals the onset of the final stages of the project.

“Our time on site is 36 weeks and two days and our completion date is Thursday 8 August,” Bob explains. “After that the school will take the building and we’ll give them safe access for three weeks to do what they have to do before the start of term. We’ve offered to help with putting up notice boards and the like, but to all intents and purposes the build will be done.”

With fears of major disruption having proved unfounded, Kier will be able to leave Benenden with the sense of a job well done. They were reportedly a major help with the groundworks for the village’s new playground and won the gratitude of former head teacher Gill Knox for their work with the ‘committee’ of children who reported back to their fellow pupils after a site visit each week.

“It’s been very rewarding,” concludes Bob. “We knew there were some people to win over but we’ve tried to break down a few of the barriers and leave a good legacy, rather than just being the people who brought loads of big lorries into Benenden. And I’m confident we’ll have the job done on time.”

Peter Thomas



A fabulous fete

Our traditional church fete on Saturday 15 June was a superb village occasion which raised over £10,000. The lovely weather played its part, but its success was down to the hard work of Tracy Claridge and his fete committee and the amazing troupe of volunteers who worked hard to sort, sell and entertain on the day. The build-up and break-down gang worked tirelessly leaving a pristine village Green. Everything relies too on donations of quality books, bric-a-brac, clothes, toys, tools, promises, prizes and produce - and of course lots and lots of visitors.



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Felix Barker (left) performing with the Balmorals

Benenden History

A rather different D-Day

Many of the troops involved in the Normandy landings arrived after D-Day. Among them was Sergeant Felix Barker of the Balmorals, an entertainment troupe of the 51st Highland Division. His parents in Benenden anxiously awaited news of his progress. These are extracts from his diary.

6 June 1944 D-Day. On a troop train

This long-awaited D-Day coincides with our move to the marshalling areas. Reveille was at four and we left at 07.15 by truck from Long Melford station. Mummies and military, we all wear packs. I foresee days of inactivity so am lugging along my portable typewriter which fits neatly into my big pack.

We in the Balmorals have been fantastically fortunate. The initial assault people have been impounded for weeks but only last night, on the eve of the invasion, Bunny and I were able to go over to Bury for an excellent dinner and see a film.

7 June Concentration area, Tilbury

Greatest luck to have brought along the

Normandy guide. Its date is 1911 and it is full of father's pencilled annotations. Definite attempts to make life as tolerable as possible in the camp. Food quite good, and two cinemas - double marquees named the Savoy and the Ritz.

10 June In the Channel

The sun is setting, and the sky is red over the dim outline of the Isle of Wight. The ships of the convoy are idling into position ready for the after-dark dash of 80 miles to the Normandy coast. Since this morning we have come down from the north of the Thames, keeping close to the shore. Hythe, Dymchurch, Lydd all had the same deserted look.

11 June Off the Normandy coast

I am sitting and looking at one of the most remarkable sights I have ever seen. It is half past two in the afternoon and we are anchored about two miles off the French coast. We are just one of a mighty concourse of ships. I can count 96, quite casually. That's the merest fraction of all that are lying here. Every sort of ship from the Rodney to the smallest tug is represented. But the most striking thing about this scene is the peace of it all. Five days after D-Day I sit comfortably on the deck, my feet on the rail and enjoying the hot sunshine as if I were on a cruise. A moment ago, somebody remarked: "After tea I think we should go ashore and have a look at the town".

13 June Coleville-sur-Orne

Last night just before ten we landed. Exactly a week to the day after the invasion we were in France. I shared a tin of self-heating soup (Heinz in co-operation with ICI!) with Bunny. Contributed a nip of whisky and then retired to the front of the truck surrounded by pictures of Carole Landis.

Bulldozers had cut through the dunes from the beach to a stony made-up road where burnt out tanks were remnants of heavy fighting a week ago. The first village we got to - just west of Arromanches - showed more scars. Made contact with reality by bending down and half ironically picking up a piece of soil and crumbling it in my fingers. Even a France with villages pitted by war casts its old indefinable spell. It is thrilling to be back again.



Felix Barker on stage



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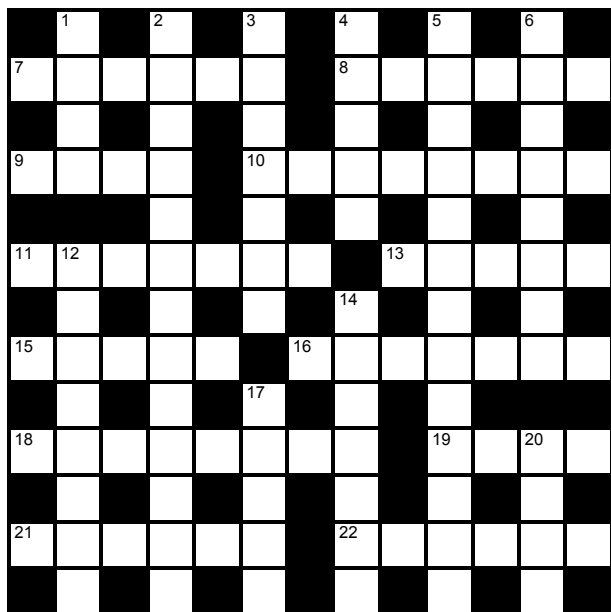
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CROSSWORD No13 (Easy)



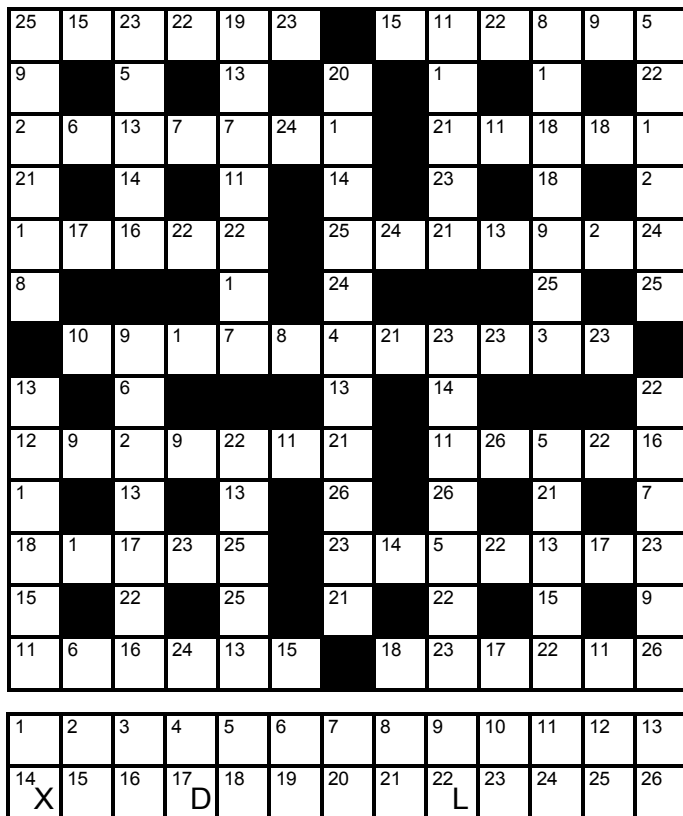
Across

- 7 Love flower power? Rose seed pod and pastry (6)
 8 Bent rod tip into stagnant water (6)
 9 Around flat, object can, in back, slip painfully (4)
 10 Bid for carpentry tool? (5,3)
 11 Outline metalworking tool not for amateur (7)
 13 Crass, unpleasant signs of injury (5)
 15 Chimney? Sounds more like it could be a pylon (5)
 16 Excellent hairpiece, I'm told. Looks exactly as you'd expect (7)
 18 Sort out virus with honour (8)
 19 Period word or words (4)
 21 Distant regarding spot of dust (6)
 22 Arrange place for sick Joey? (6)

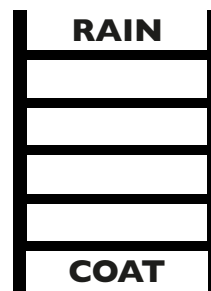
Down

- 1 Musical about French horses? It features at least one chevalier! (4)
 2 Melted icecaps? Not if I plan with precision (13)
 3 Cowboy hat fabric? (7)
 4 Make good sound (5)
 5 Cartons I print in fair copy (13)
 6 Air dry as otherwise, it looks a mess (8)
 12 Sells replacement bottoms (8)
 14 Sounds like ice or something spoiling the view (7)
 17 Meditate on box of eggs? (5)
 20 Reverse deer in riverbank (4)

CODEWORD No13 (Moderate)

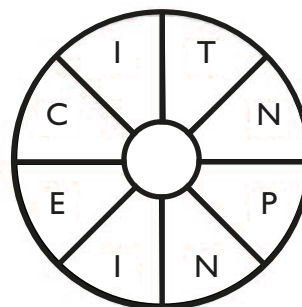


STEP CHANGE



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 answer's waiting to be found!

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

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

We offer sociable and competitive cricket. New players and supporters of all ages, abilities and both sexes are made very welcome.

For more information please visit:
www.benendencricketclub.com

If interested in playing, please contact our Club Captain,
Richard Brunt on:
07834 572838 or email bruntyhk@hotmail.com



Benenden Cricket Club

Our fixtures for July are:

Saturday 6 v Bilsington A at 2pm

Wednesday 10 Midweek 20/20 Cranbrook H
at 5.45pm

Saturday 13 v Smallhythe H at 2pm

Thursday 18 Midweek 20/20 Little Chart H
at 5.45pm

Saturday 20 FENICS T20 H at 2pm

Thursday 25 Midweek 20/20 TW Royals A
at 5.45pm

Saturday 27 v Castle Hill H at 2pm

Richard Brunt, Club Captain

A class act

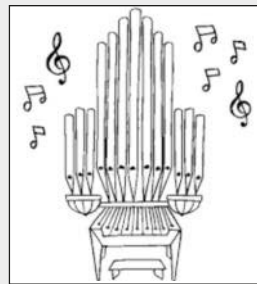
Bric-a-brac at the fete was transformed this year into a hypermarket with £1,340 in takings, and rising, achieved.

The ingredients to such success were:

- a beautiful new, large marquee
- extremely generous donations
- enticing displays of interest
- a dedicated team who pulled out all the stops.

With my thanks.

Maggy Hoyt



Stuart Whatton

ORGAN RECITAL

Sunday 7 July 2019

St George's Church, Benenden

6pm

following Choral Evensong at 5pm

Benenden Bowls Club

Benenden Bowls Club is a friendly group that practice every Thursday night (6.30-8pm) and new members are always very welcome. Find us behind the Village Hall (to the left of the bottle bank). Alternatively, come along and watch a game.

Our home fixtures for July are:

Friday 5 July BODS night at 6.45pm

Sunday 7 July George Best Trophy at 2.30pm

Sunday 21 July v Hawkhurst at 2.30pm

John and Glenda Marshall 243089

www.benendenbc.leaguerepublic.com

Classical for charity

Saturday 27 July, 3pm

The 11th annual Richard Beattie Davis piano recital and garden party takes place in Sandhurst in aid of Hospice in the Weald.

Daniel Grimwood will be performing music by Dvorak, Brahms, Henselt and a Kent premiere of a special piece where the piano resembles a sitar, composed by Daniel's mentor, Peter Feuchtwanger. Tickets by donation (minimum £17) Reservations in advance only from:

Gillian Davis 850384



Beautiful Benenden blooms perform at the Royal Opera House

In June, two local flower growers - Sheila Hume at Blue Hen Flowers and Hannah Miles-Watson of Hannah's Garden - celebrated British Flower Week by collaborating with celebrity florist Simon Lycett to create a display at the Royal Opera House (ROH). They were two of the 17 'Flowers from the Farm' growers who transformed the ROH's Piazza entrance into a spectacular, fragrant meadow of summer flowers with a pop-up shop where you could buy bouquets, buttonholes and corsages.

Thousands of British blooms grown within 60 miles of London featured in the display including cornflowers, lupins, foxgloves, nigella, alchemilla mollis, poppies, sweet peas, larkspur, honesty and snapdragons.

"Sometimes an opportunity comes along, and you just have to close your eyes and jump," said Sheila. "Logistically it was a big ask for us at our busiest time of the year, but it all came together, and our flowers went to lots of lovely people including Bryn Terfel and Darcy Bussell."

There are over 620 independent flower farmers in Britain today. Why should we support them? You'll have heard about food-miles; and the drive to eat seasonally in

response to challenges posed by climate change. It's been estimated that 90 per cent of the flowers sold through UK florists, supermarkets and wholesalers are imported, not just from Holland, but flown from as far afield as Ecuador, Colombia, Kenya and even Ethiopia. Choosing locally grown flowers means they will be in season, freshly picked and locally delivered, saving thousands of travel miles and fuel. Research from 2017 by University of Lancaster into the cultivation, transport and distribution of flowers suggests that an imported mixed bouquet produces 10x greater carbon equivalent emissions than a British-grown mixed bouquet.

There is a huge range of British-grown lovelies in season right now in July; from flying saucer-like achilleas, and deep purple/blues of aconitum to deliciously clove-scented sweet williams and verbenas bonariensis, much-loved by bees. So, as you read this in July, I hope you're convinced, and are now seeking out some seasonal blooms. Just pop into the village shop and see the table displays or bouquets on display outside for the evidence.

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Nancy Tolhurst



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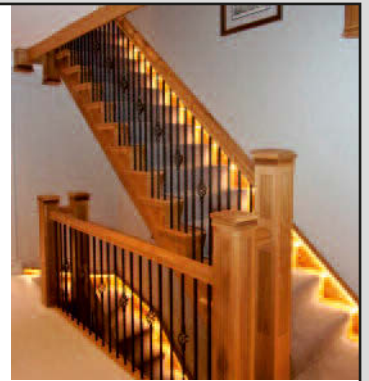
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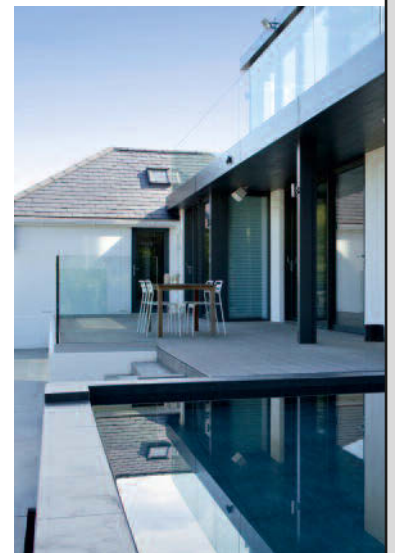
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JUNIOR TENNIS COACHING

Iden Green Tennis Club is now offering tennis coaching for Junior Members on Fridays during Term Time.

 Who: Club Members of 6-18 years

 Where: Iden Green Tennis Club

 When: Friday Term Time groups from 5pm onwards

 How much: £6 per session

 **Contact for further details:**
eleonor.cochrane@btinternet.com

Iden Green Tennis Club junior membership is £20 per year.

**THE FRIENDS OF KENT CHURCHES
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Saturday 14 September, 10am-6pm**

By cycling or walking around Kent churches you can raise money to be divided equally between the Friends of Kent Churches and the church or chapel or your choice.

- Why not plan a route with your friends and family?
- Visit your church to pick up a sponsorship form and list of participating churches.
- Find some sponsors to pledge money for this important local cause.

You can sign in at your first church from 10am onwards and visit as many churches as you like.

Safety on the roads is paramount. We recommend high visibility vests.

For more information contact Alison Prall
240417 alisonprall40@gmail.com

Grants for students and school-leavers

The Gibbon and Buckland Charity, which started in 1602 with the gift of the School House at the foot of the Green, still gives some support to the Primary School, but uses most of its income to give student grants. These are available for any young person under the age of 25 who is resident in, and has been resident in, the Parish of Benenden for not less than three years and either in Further Education or in other ways getting prepared for working life.

Trustees will also consider applications for grants for GAP year projects of educational worth.

Latest date for applications 30 September. If you could benefit, or know someone who could, please ask for an application form at Benenden's Community Shop, or from the Clerk to the Charity:

David Harmsworth, Clerk 240683
gibbonandbuckland@gmail.com

It's showtime: call for acts

Benenden Players are hosting another of our infamous village revues on 28 September in Benenden Village Hall. We need a variety of acts (aged 16+) to make this a memorable night e.g. singers, dancers, comics, magicians, sketches etc. We can assist with music, props and costumes if required. So, if you fancy treading the boards and have an idea for an act or need inspiration, then please join the Benenden Players Facebook group or contact us.

Nancy Tolhurst

nancy.tolhurst@btinternet.com

Ruth Clark ruth@splashpr.co.uk

CODEWORD No 13

1	X	14	W	15	Y	16	D	17	B	18	V	19	S	20	R	21	L	22	E	23	H	24	T	25	M	26
2	I	3	G	4	Z	5	F	6	N	7	C	8	K	9	U	10	Q	11	A	12	J	13	O			

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CROSSWORD No 13

Across: 7 Hippie, 8 Torpid, 9 Disc, 10 Tenon saw, 11 Profile, 13 Scars, 15 Stack, 16 WYSIWYG, 18 Virtuous, 19 Term, 21 Remote, 22 Roomed

Down: 1 Gigi, 2 Specification, 3 Textile, 4 Atoner, 5 Transcription, 6 Disarray, 12 Retailer, 14 Eyesore, 17 Dozen, 20 Reed

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Letter to the Editor

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

The Neighbourhood Development Plan names four sites for development. In fact, there are only three as the two at the hospital form one huge site on either side of Goddards Green Road.

At this site, the draft plan expects the East End to absorb 87 new houses, about two thirds of the total allotted to the parish. The two other sites are Walkhurst Road (25) and a small site for 20 houses on New Pond Road, (possibly too costly to develop at all). We believe this distribution plan is massively disproportionate.

The East End is the most sparsely populated area in the village. Why should it carry most of the new homes? Could it be the referendum? Fewer inhabitants mean fewer opponents.

To justify this distribution, Steering Committee members argue that East End inhabitants will keep out of the village by driving to Staplehurst or Headcorn to catch trains to work, and to Cranbrook and Tenterden for the weekly shop. Not so. The new parishioners will want to be part of the village. 87 new homes two miles from the village heart could mean 261 more cars popping into the village centre. Benenden Street will enjoy the gridlock currently seen in Hawkhurst. The fate of Walkhurst Road, connecting the East End site with the village, is scarcely imaginable.

On the other hand, if the burden of distribution were shared more fairly, village businesses would benefit from customers able to walk to their premises. Children could walk to school. Less pollution, less traffic. The NDP then would win support from all the village and not just from those who imagine that houses out of sight at the parish boundary will mean clear streets in the village centre.

Sam and Chrissy Andrews, Bernard Philips,
Andrew and Catriona Prynne, Charles Raw,
Hazel Strouts

Dear Editor

Thanks for the chance to correct the figures in the letter. The NDP has allocated 50 houses on 'brownfield' land at the two hospital sites. The allocation for new houses in Benenden village is 45. This reflects the balance the NDP seeks to achieve across the parish, avoiding building on 'greenfield' sites within the AONB where possible. There are existing permissions for 24 houses at East End and for 12 houses in Benenden village, these are in addition to the NDP allocation.

I do not recognise '261 new cars' for East End. The 2011 Census data gives an average of 1.8 cars per household: the total is likely to be nearer 130 than 261.

We know East End needs investment to become a sustainable community. If the NDP is approved we will require developer-funded improvements to amenities, such as a children's play area, community hall, bus route (such as the recently launched KCC scheme) and a path linking it with Benenden centre (a feasibility study is underway).

The NDP proposals have not been created to win a referendum, but to balance development across four sites, three of which are brownfield, two outside the AONB, with our one greenfield inside the AONB for the Benenden Almshouse Charities.

Paul Tolhurst, Chair, NDP Committee
paul.tolhurst@btinternet.com

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Tessa, Stacey and Lacey Noble

The toy treasure trove in Iden Green

There's a 'Toy Box' sign as you leave Iden Green heading towards Sandhurst that's intriguing. Turn into Eaglesden Farm and there you'll find a barn containing a treasure trove of new and pre-loved toys for children from six months to early teens. This new rural business is the brainchild of Stacey Noble, who many will know from the Benenden village shop, which she ran with her mother Tessa for many years.

Stacey became interested in buying and selling toys when she was pregnant with Poppy, now two and a half. Initially she by started scouring boot fairs and eBay for bargains and, after cleaning and repairing them, reselling them online. Discovering a strong market for Sylvanian families, Stacey has become quite an expert. "As well as being a very popular children's toy, they are collected by people of all ages and I now ship them all over the world," she says.

While Sylvanians are her best seller, Stacey

has accumulated thousands of other toys: from dolls, dragons, and castles, to doll's houses, dinosaurs, tractors and trucks and much, much more. Which is why she opened her Toy Box barn in October last year. "Instead of storing them all in a container, it made sense to display them for people who live locally and prefer to come and browse in person," she explains.

It's a sign of the times that while large retail chains are closing some outlets, new rural enterprises like The Toy Box are opening. To fit out her new retail space, Stacey, who is still helped by Tessa, snapped up shelves and baskets from Toys R Us when it closed in Maidstone, and new

toys from Mothercare when it closed in Ashford. "We have been nicely busy since we opened," she says. "We have even had people travel to us from an hour way."

As I chat to Stacey, I hear a 'kerching' sound coming from her pocket and she smiles. "That's the sound of a toy selling online." Her business is a good example of a rural business that combines online with 'on land' sales channels. Online sales travel around the world, even as far as Australia, and take place 24 hours a day, while on-land sales from a barn in Iden Green three days a week cater for those closer to home.

The Toy Box, Eaglesden Farm, Mill Street, Iden Green, TN17 4HJ is open every Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 10am-4pm. Find them on Facebook too or call 07528 145099.





Frame Farm: restored and rejuvenated

It's in the slowly shifting nature of the countryside that ways of life seemingly destined to last forever will, in good time, fade away and be covered by the soft blanket of history. It's not a bad thing - after all, if it didn't happen, we'd be a village of Jutes or Saxons, still herding swine or smelting iron - but we're reliant upon the guardians of the present to ensure our past isn't simply cast aside and forgotten.



Photograph: Emily Brown

At Frame Farm in Iden Green, the task has thankfully fallen to a couple whose belief is that the building of a thriving rural business can and should go hand in hand with respect for what has gone before. Thus, while it may come as a jolt for some of our older residents to see brides and grooms exchange vows where, in living memory, children played in the rafters above the heads of cart horses, it's nothing more than the necessary reinvention of country life, certainly nothing that hasn't happened before.

In 1607, when a weaver's house was built at

Frame Farm, the village was thriving thanks to the success of the local cloth industry, but by the time Tim and Deana Maw took ownership of it in 2015, that line of prosperity was long gone. The whole farm was in need of a new lease of life, but there were planning regulations

to be satisfied, Listed status to be complied with, and it was over three years before The Oak Barn could begin to emerge as a wedding and events venue par excellence and take its place in the contemporary economy.

"It's been an amazing experience but of course it's taken a lot longer than we thought," says Tim, raised in Brenchley and now ensconced in our parish with his

Hong Kong-born, Glasgow University-educated wife. "Luckily the planners wanted us to do what we were doing. They were happy we were restoring the barn as a barn when there had been permission to turn it into a house, but there were noise levels, lighting levels and all manner of other conditions to be satisfied."

It was not an easy project. Having gained a degree in land management at Cirencester and worked for a small practice of land agents in Stow-on-the-Wold, Tim decided he wasn't going to be "wearing tweed and talking about farming



Photographs: Matilda Delves





grants for the next 50 years” and made successive careers in the demanding worlds of overland expeditions across Africa and location management for the film industry; but even a man who has crossed the Sahara by motorbike and a woman who has raced yachts all over the world are prepared to admit to having found Frame Farm a “a challenge”.

“In summer we came up against dry clay so hard that it had to be dug by hand,” he recalls with a wince. “The barn was starting to fall down, the walls had moved out by 18 inches and everything had to be cranked back into shape, explaining some of the strange angles and the quirkiness, but the end result is worth all the effort.”

Couples now tie the knot in an old building as good as new. Brides beautify themselves in the Weaver’s Cottages, secure in the knowledge that their big day is being powered by a biomass boiler, with low-level lighting and solar panels to add to the low-carbon credentials.

Deana - who grew up in the Hong Kong countryside before making a career in hotel marketing and growing her considerable reputation as a sculptor and ceramicist - has added exquisite decorative touches to the interiors, with much of the wood for the bar, benches and tables originating from a massive dead oak felled on the farm. Trees are being

planted in their hundreds and the entirety is now restored to a condition that even the prosperous weavers would have envied.

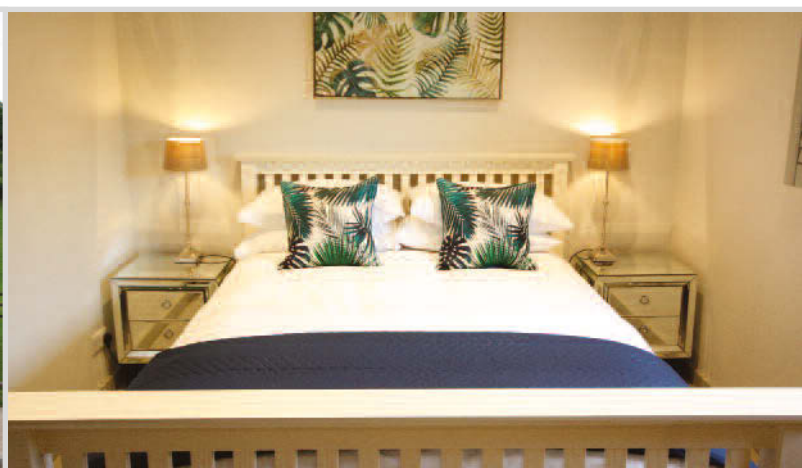
Proudest among Tim and Deana’s achievements, however, is that all this has been done within a community that has come to appreciate such a bold and ambitious venture. Midweek events, from christenings to funeral wakes by way of business meetings and yoga retreats, are part of the ongoing ambition to keep the old outbuildings working for a living, and part of the dream is that the area’s traders can reap some of the rewards.

“We’re doing this as a lifestyle for us as well as a business and we don’t want to be here knowing there are people who aren’t happy with what we’re doing,” explains Deana. “Most of our couples are from Kent or have parents who are still in Kent, and they tend to know local people for food, flowers and most other things they need, which means the ‘spend’ stays with local people and ‘road miles’ are kept to a minimum for the sake of the environment.

“I find it rather painful when I hear a supplier is travelling from Surrey or Essex. We’ve been approached by quite a few from out of the area, but why bring in a hog roast from Norwich when you can find one in Sissinghurst?”

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Peter Thomas



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Take a walk on the vine side

Although we are surrounded by vineyards, I have never ventured further than sampling the wines made by Chapel Down and Biddenden.

Considering that this area is becoming known as the 'Napa Valley of the UK', I decided that I really had to expand my horizons and tickle my taste buds. So, I visited two local vineyards: Hush Heath in Staplehurst and Oxney Organic Estate in Beckley, both of which produce award-winning bottles.

Vineyards have been scattered across the county for hundreds of years, but it's only recently that global warming has meant that temperatures here almost match those of the French Champagne region 50 years ago. Combine this with our chalky soil and a variety of suitable grapes and you have the perfect ingredients to produce award-winning sparkling wines. Not surprising then that many of England's 500 vineyards are in Kent and Sussex.

Hush Heath, owned by the Balfour family, has been producing wines since 2004. We joined a guided walk around the estate, where an enthusiastic Polly took us through its history,

tracking its evolution from growing hops to vines. This is a big and expanding operation and you can either book a tour and tasting in its new and modern visitor centre, or they are happy if you just wish to turn up (dogs welcome) and take a self-guided tour through the vineyards, orchards and a most beautiful oak wood. The walk was nicely rounded off by tasting a selection of sparkling and still white and rosé wines ranging in price from £17-£90, and they even produce a red Pinot Noir.

Oxney Organic Estate is a picturesque herbicide and pesticide-free estate owned and run by Kristin Syltevik and Paul Dobson. What I liked particularly is that sustainable and natural processes underpin the whole operation, from generating its own heat from coppiced wood chip through to a natural approach to disease control using wild herbs and plants. In fact, Oxney has just become the largest organic vineyard in the UK, with 14 hectares of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Pinot Meunier and Seyval Blanc vines used to make organic sparkling white and rosé wines, a still rosé and, in the autumn, its first still white. The tour and tasting for £20 is excellent value.

Ruth Clark



Oxney Organic Estate



Forget-me-nots

In Your Garden

Weed it, or Leave it

Also known as the art of self-seeding, or as I prefer to call it, plants for free!

There is a large garden, not too far away in this county of Kent, which I manage solely (apart from a local hero who mows the lawns and trims the hedges - not perfectly, but it will do) and I rely heavily on self-seeding plants to fill up far too many gaps in the borders.

These can be what most people might call weeds (rosebay willowherb, cow parsley, linaria, feverfew) and also a multitude of annuals and perennials that fling their weight around and park in places I could never have dreamt of myself: buddleja, foxgloves, fennel, lychnis, brunnera, lupins - it goes on and on. It is then down to me as to who stays, or who goes. Well, that's the theory. The reality is that these tough self-seeders keep on emerging until, frankly, it all gets a bit out of control, but even so, sometimes the effect is almost perfection.

I do make a rod for my own back, however. Clearing away and cutting back in the autumn inevitably leaves copious amounts of seed in the soil, which of course finds its way onto the compost heap. Fast forward six months to one year, when the well-rotted stuff goes back out onto the beds, and so do the seeds! However, I really would not have it any other way, in any garden, if I could help it.

Letting nature almost take over, so you are teetering on the brink of chaos, gives a garden a huge amount of depth, but I do know it is not to everyone's taste. To me,



Foxgloves and ferns

cool, contemporary designers mapping out seamless lines of evergreen shapes and blocks of just one ornamental grass, although stunning to look at, is not very liveable. These gardens are, despite their air of simplicity, actually very high maintenance - which is great if you like hedge clipping or daily gravel raking, but I prefer my own idea of high maintenance at the other end of the scale.

So right now, I am off to dig up some foxglove seedlings and move them to a small group I am cultivating below an old post-and-rail fence. Enjoy your seedlings and your garden in this, the height of summer.

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Above: The Benenden Church Fete - prize-winning community spirit on show; Ray Cheeseman presents the Pop Horton Cup to Sally Cheeseman

Front cover: Spectators at the fete arena. All fete photographs: Beth Ansell