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Magazine  
July 2018

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# Editorial



I don't know where to start! I seem to be juggling about three vital and pressing tasks, plus the everyday ones: shopping, dog walking, petrol for the car, eating meals ... you know the sort of thing. It seems to be the case that in the early part of this new high-tech century that we rush from pillar to post much more than our parents did. I don't remember my mother doing anything very much when I was a school-age child (I'm sure she'd disagree!), and yet my father thought she was so tired at the end of the week he would take us off with him on Saturday morning to change his library book so my mother could have a lie-in! There was, at least from my angle, a serenity and order to their lives which I seem to be lacking.

Was it because they simply did less or because communications were much slower so things happened more sedately? You had to wait for letters to arrive and then post back your response - days would pass. Now we are alerted by emails or texts, respond immediately and feel we have to do something at once. In the midst of typing this my son texted could I photograph the new chicks so he could identify whether they were cockerels or hens, so, of course, I rushed straight out. Prioritise I hear you say, and you may well be right, but the sheer volume of information that comes at us via our mobile phones or computers is constantly challenging us to be butterflies rather than concentrate on the matter in hand.

Perhaps I should take a leaf out of Benenden School's book and have a phone fast - rather than just inadvertently losing my mobile for a day (under the seat in the car) - and practice a spot of mindfulness? Oh, there goes my mobile, it might be a vital message ...

Minnie Garnier, Co-Editor

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# Village Calendar

## July

Sunday 1	Richard Pillner, Organ Recital, St George's Church, 6pm	p.29
Friday 6	Woodland Wide Games, Iden Green Congregational Church, 7pm	
Saturday 7	Celebrity what's in the box, St George's Club, 8.15pm	
Saturday 14	Skittles, St George's Club, 8.15pm	
Monday 16	Parish Council Meeting, Iden Green Pavilion, 7pm	
Tuesday 17	Iden Green and Benenden WI, Making Jewellery, Memorial Hall, 2pm	p.31
Wed 18-Sun 22	Benenden Tennis Tournament, Benenden School	p.9
Saturday 21	Bingo, St George's Club, 8.15pm	
Sunday 22	Messy Church BBQ, The Rectory, 4-6pm	p.21
Tuesday 24	Merry and Bright, Garden Party, Memorial Hall, 3pm	
Saturday 28	Jazz & Blues at the Pavilion, Iden Green, 6pm	p.11
Sunday 29	Family BBQ, St George's Club, 1pm	

## August

Tues 7-Wed 8	Youth Drama Workshop, Benenden Village Hall, 10-4.30pm	p.9
Tuesday 21	Village Lunch, Benenden Village Hall, 12.30pm	p.29
Tuesday 21	Iden Green and Benenden WI, Lord Nelson, Iden Green Pavilion, 2pm	p.31
Friday 31	Mitchell Wines of Australia tasting and BBQ, Benenden School Café, 7pm	p.33

## Benenden Youth Club/Streetcruizer, age 11+

Tuesdays at Benenden Village Hall, 6.30-8.30pm

## Coffee Shop

Wednesdays in the Memorial Hall, 10-12noon

## Benenden Bowls Club

Thursdays on the recreation field, practice night, 6.30pm

## Cakes & Chaos: Cafe and Toddler Group

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

## Refuse Lorry Collections

Saturday 14 July for Garden/Compostable Waste

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

Saturday 28 July for Domestic Waste

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

# Parish Council



Let me introduce myself to you. My name is Graham Beveridge and I have recently been granted the honour of joining Benenden Parish Council. I have lived in Benenden's East End for the last 19 years and so enjoyed not only the beautiful countryside that we are privileged to live in but also the friendliness of people in our community.

As soon as my family and I moved to Benenden, my children became involved in the annual pantomime and to my dismay I was told, during a taxi ride to the station, that, unfortunately, the show was going to be cancelled because the pianist was going to a wedding in Scotland over the period of the show performances. I offered my services as an amateur pianist, was accepted and have been involved ever since, later becoming the musical director. Despite heavy work commitments in London, I have managed to continue to support the Benenden Players in this way and also form a jazz group which plays two charity concerts each summer, one on the green in Iden Green and one in a beautiful timber-framed barn in Iden.

Due to my busy London life, I had not been able to take a more active role in the village but I retired about a year ago and so have had more time to become involved; hence my decision to join the Parish Council. I am passionate about our beautiful surroundings and with the advent of the imposition by the Government of more housing all over the country, I felt that, with my knowledge of the construction industry, I could make a useful contribution to not only the Parish Council but also the Neighbourhood Development Plan, in which I am also involved.

Graham Beveridge, Parish Councillor

Caroline Levett, Benenden Parish Council Clerk

01580 240371 [clerk@benendenparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@benendenparishcouncil.org)

For more information see our website [www.benendenparishcouncil.org](http://www.benendenparishcouncil.org) or find us on facebook

## Parish Council Meeting

Monday 16 July 2018,

Iden Green Pavilion, 7pm



# Church Calendar

## St George's Church

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

Churchwarden: Tracy Claridge 240454 [maisonsicheluk@tlclaridge.co.uk](mailto:maisonsicheluk@tlclaridge.co.uk)

Churchwarden: Julia Collard 241944 [Julia.collard@btinternet.com](mailto:Julia.collard@btinternet.com)

[www.benendenchurch.org](http://www.benendenchurch.org) 850849 [benendenchurch@gmail.com](mailto:benendenchurch@gmail.com)

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

Sunday 1 July	8am Communion	10am All-age Communion and Sunday School	5pm Choral Evensong 6pm Organ Recital
Sunday 8 July	8am 1662 Communion	10am Morning Worship	5pm Evening Prayer at Mission Church
Sunday 15 July	8am Communion	10am Sung Eucharist	
Sunday 22 July	8am Communion	10am Morning Worship	4pm Messy Church BBQ The Rectory
Sunday 29 July	8am Benefice Communion	10am All-age Communion at St Nicholas, Sandhurst	

## Mission Church, Sandhurst

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

Every Tuesday 10am Communion

## Iden Green Congregational Church

Elder: Tobin Bird 240027 [www.idengreen.org.uk](http://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](http://www.sttheodore-cranbrook.org)

Masses 9am Sundays 7.30pm Holy Days

## From the Parish Registers

Wedding 22 June Amanda Childs and Julian Denis

Funerals 31 May Joan Worthington Funeral and burial

25 June Luise Potter Interment

# Rector's Letter



## Tweets not the way to world peace

Last month I wrote about us all appreciating more the things we have in our lives, and at the same time thinking about some of the concerns in our world right now - giving examples of the opening of the US Embassy in Jerusalem and the violence it has triggered in Gaza, and the talks between the US and North Korea seeming to be in jeopardy.

Hard though it may be to believe, we have just witnessed a direct meeting between President Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un, the President of the United States of America and the leader of North Korea, in Singapore. There was sabre-rattling on both sides in the build-up to this; there was name-calling of the sort associated with a school playground; Trump vowing to release “fire and fury” if Pyongyang persisted; Kim calling Trump “mentally deranged” and a “dotard” (definition, for those who might be interested: an old person, especially one who has become weak or senile). A year ago you would have got very long odds on such a face-to-face meeting taking place!

More recently, President Trump managed to upset all the other members of the G7 in a quite spectacular outburst following the summit in Quebec. The message, and the delivery, again being worthy of a school playground spat, but using current technology - a social-media outburst that can never be taken back. A Tweet of 140, or even 280, characters is no way to conduct international communication and diplomacy; if only it wasn't all so serious, it would be laughable.

However, credit has to be given that the meeting between the leaders of the USA and North Korea did take place. That must be good - communication is not only good, it is essential. Good communication, though, is not about sound-bites or point-scoring or photo opportunities.

Good communication is about speaking and listening; really hearing what the other person is saying, thinking and feeling. With Trump and Kim, we can normally expect a lot of talking but not much real listening, but maybe this time that wasn't the case. If this meeting had broken down amid playground point scoring, it would have been an incredible opportunity missed. French President Emmanuel Macron said, following the G7 Summit, that international co-operation could not be “dictated by fits of anger and throwaway remarks. Let's be serious and worthy of our people.”

I hope that by the time you read this we will be discussing something very positive coming out of this historic meeting in Singapore, and not lamenting a wasted opportunity; that this will be remembered as a step forward in the goal of world peace and eventual denuclearisation, and not remembered for more cheap point-scoring. It's far too serious for that.

Revd David Commander, Rector

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# Just a Thought



## It's good to talk, and to listen

I have just bought a new filing cabinet - one whose drawers move smoothly and where the files don't keep dropping off the rails. During the inevitable sorting out I found the following note I made many years ago after a chat with my daughter, who was about six at the time. Small ones can have profound thoughts.

"We had just finished our night-time bible story. B was looking thoughtful.

B - 'Why do bad things happen to people like illness, and disasters, and attacks and things that don't seem to be fair? Why does God let it happen?'

I muddled through an answer that I thought was at her level. I didn't feel very satisfied with it and neither did she. She pondered some more.

B - 'They are like words really aren't they - all the things that happen to people.'

Me - 'What do you mean?'

B - 'Well words can be long or big or short or small and they often don't make sense at all on their own, but if you put them all together then they do make sense, like a sentence or a book.' With that ticklish problem solved she dropped off peacefully to sleep."

We find ourselves talking to children quite a lot but do we spend much time talking with them? I was lucky. The family often used to have long chats whilst driving for miles through the African bush. On one memorable journey, when my boys were about 12 and 13, we found ourselves exploring the possibility of the existence of a fifth dimension! My daughter, aged three, was more concerned that her beloved seal's eye was loose. People do not need to go that far or to such extremes to chat, but, there is a problem.

During a recent radio programme children were asked what they hated most. One seven-year-old girl answered: "My mum's mobile phone." I am assuming that she was not jealous of the model or its bundle of latest apps but that the phone had replaced her in her mother's attention. How sad both for mother and child. There were no mobile phones, iPads or any such thing when my children were small, but nowadays the pace of life is truly hectic and the temptation of instant connectivity is considerable. Just look around in a café - the adult engrossed in a phone and a bored child sitting dangling their feet and fiddling with the sugar or staring into space. It is not just being there but having face-to-face interaction that matters. Obviously not every chat with a child is stimulating and precious but surely opportunities should be made.

Just recently, whilst sitting on the sofa, a two-and-a-half-year-old confided in her mother: "I love my brother, mummy, because he's beautiful, because he cuddles me," - pause - "and I cuddle ... so I am beautiful too."

Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings ... We need to talk and to listen - just in case.

Sue Fisher

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THE BENENDEN PLAYERS'

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**A huge thanks** to the wonderful Benenden  
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# News and Events

## Benenden Players' Summer School: from Matilda to Macbeth

Tuesday 7-Wednesday 8 August,  
Benenden Village Hall, 10am-4.30pm

The Benenden Players have invited an experienced drama workshop company to run a two-day summer school for nine-14 year olds, which is free to village youngsters. The children will explore and create two very different performances, Roald Dahl's Matilda and Shakespeare's Macbeth, and parents will have a chance to see what they have created at the end of each day.

**Magical Matilda:** Matilda is a smart little girl who loves to read and lives with her parents, but they don't realise her genius potential. At school she meets a lovely teacher, but also a pretty scary headteacher. Matilda is about to find out that she has a special power. What will it be?

**Macbeth:** An introduction to the world of Shakespeare, exploring the fascinating plots, dilemmas and magical characters. We've all heard of 'Double, double, toil and trouble; Fire burn, and cauldron bubble', now it's time to find out what it all means.

This dynamic and theatrical workshop is run by a trained professional and includes creative topic discussion, imagination building, character exploration, storytelling, improvisation, and role play and, let's not forget, bags of fun.

**Booking:** 35 spaces will be allocated on a first-come basis and are free to those living in the Parish or £5 to those from further afield.

To book please email [ruth@splashpr.co.uk](mailto:ruth@splashpr.co.uk) with your child's name and age and your address and mobile number, or call Ruth Clark on 07767 261883.

Huge thanks to the wonderful Benenden Bonfire Society who donated £800 towards making this workshop possible.



Juniors 18, 19 and 20 July 2018

Adults 21 and 22 July 2018

at Benenden School

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## Benenden Tennis Tournament

Wednesday 18-Sunday 22 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 2018 dates are:

Wednesday 18-Friday 20 July

Junior tournament

Saturday 21-Sunday 22 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 over £8,000 was raised, which went to lots of local charities: 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](http://benendentennistournament.com).



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## Fete accompli

Those of you who made the trip to the Green for the latest Benenden village fete (in support of St George's Church) would confirm, no doubt, that it was the best yet - and you would have official backing. The holders of the purse strings report that the event raised a record amount exceeding £10,000, which thoroughly vindicated Rev David Commander's decision to dress as a super hero for the day! Every picture tells a story, and you will see from the accompanying photographs what a wonderful day was had by all. Thank you to everyone who came along, and a huge thank you to the fete committee and all the volunteer helpers who gave up their time to make this such a memorable occasion. Tracy Claridge, retiring Benenden Fete Chairman





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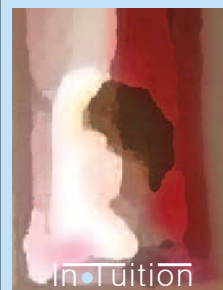
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## Village Hall highlights

### Changes for the better

Exciting alterations are being made to our small hall at the moment. It is being cladded and insulated, along with new dimmable wall lighting and a new heating system, so please bear with us whilst these changes are taking place as we are fitting the works in around a very busy schedule.

The project will turn the hall from its current cold, rather unattractive state to a cosy, warm and inviting space, which will be the perfect setting for yoga, meetings and clubs, a chill-out room in addition to hiring the main hall, or anything in between. A big thanks to the very talented Richard Scriven, aka The Aussie Carpenter, for his efforts.

Now that it looks as though summer is finally here, it may be time to treat yourself to some new outdoor tables and chairs. J H Trading (UK) Ltd are holding a garden furniture sale in the main hall on Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 July from 10am-4pm.

You may have spotted a noticeboard outside of the hall near the bus stop, which belongs to the hall and shows all our drop-in classes for the week. No need to book or call in advance, just come along and join in, be it dance and exercise for seniors, zumba, yoga, ballroom dancing and flamenco dancing.

To find out more about the hall and upcoming events, or to check availability, go to: [www.benendenvillagehall.org](http://www.benendenvillagehall.org)  
Lorraine Jones 243123  
[enquiries@benendenvillagehall.org](mailto:enquiries@benendenvillagehall.org)

## Benenden Cricket Club

Our home fixtures for July on The Green are:  
Thursday 5 July v Tunbridge Wells Royals at 6pm

Saturday 7 July v Bilsington at 2pm

Friday 20 July v Marcus Pearce XI at 6pm

Sunday 22 July v Bodiam at 2pm

Richard Brunt, Club Captain

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

07834 572838 or email [bruntyhk@hotmail.com](mailto:bruntyhk@hotmail.com)



## Talking Shop

### Happy birthday to us!

It's hard to believe, but on Friday 15 June, Benenden's reached its third year in existence. In some ways it still feels quite new but in others it has become such an intrinsic part of the community that it's impossible to imagine the village without it.

We held our annual general meeting last month at the village hall and everyone was invited, encouraged by a warm welcome, a glass of wine (or two) and some interesting information on how the shop is faring, as well as presenting opportunities for those who haven't yet done so, to become members.

On another note, the changes in the café are nearing completion and we are very grateful to Ken Anderson and his helpers for all their hard work in getting it done with minimum disruption. We also give grateful thanks to our landlords, Benenden School, who continue to support the shop and café, and without whom it would not have been possible. We send Lorraine our very best wishes as she recovers from a painful leg injury and thank Kate Clark very much for stepping into the breach to help us with the café during Lorraine's absence. As always, many grateful thanks also go to our admirable volunteers, without whom we could not exist.

Bev Beveridge

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# Neighbourhood Development Plan

It takes a Neighbourhood Plan Team ...

There are a fantastic bunch of people on the NDP team and they are all working very hard on behalf of the entire Parish. As work intensifies, I thought I'd give you a pen picture of what we've been up to.

Our five Working Groups (WGs) are busy assessing the character of our buildings, the landscape in which they are set and the sites that have been offered to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) for development. On top of this we have teams looking at infrastructure capacity now and future demand, and how to ensure Benenden is a thriving place to do business. These assessments are almost complete, and we can start turning thoughts into policies.

We recently held a workshop on Policy Writing. Whisper it quietly in front of planners, but this is a very dry subject! Despite the risk of boredom, 22 people from across each WG turned up, listened to our expert consultants and then set about sorting out the detail of what we are trying to achieve. We need joined-up thinking between the WGs.

Local business owners met with our Business & Economy WG on 14 June. They were briefed on the outcome of two surveys, one on the needs of local business and the other on the needs of local workers. They also heard about the concept of Live to Work units, a home/workshop concept.

The Housing Supply WG have been meeting those landowners or agents who offered TWBC land under the Call for Sites process. These talks have been useful to them as they complete individual site assessments. They will be working hand-in-glove with the Design WG, who have produced a character assessment of the homes and buildings within the Parish. We

want new homes that work in our village setting. You'll also see an article in this magazine from the Green/Landscape WG, showcasing some candidate views and green Spaces we want to protect.

Another workshop was set up between Benenden NDP Team and the TWBC Planners. We worked hard in preparation for this crucial session. You will remember that TWBC have assessed how many houses we can take based on the amount of land offered, and Benenden landowners offered significantly more land than other parishes.

TWBC's initial proposal was over 200 new dwellings for Benenden. We have used the detailed local knowledge built up by following the NDP process to challenge this initial assessment. It is still early days and we have a great deal of work to do, but TWBC are keen to get their decisions right and use our input to do so, as long as it is objective and fair. You will hear more about this in future editions, and on our new website:

[www.benendenneighbourhoodplan.org](http://www.benendenneighbourhoodplan.org)

The people who are working alongside me on this important task are doing a great job. I take my hat off to them all and you can learn more about them on the website.

I will be out of circulation for a few months as I am away on business a fair bit through the summer. Tom Dawlings will be chairing the NDP in my absence.

Paul Tolhurst, Chair, NDP Chair  
[paul.tolhurst@btinternet.com](mailto:paul.tolhurst@btinternet.com)



**Benenden needs You!**

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and help shape  
our future**





## Thinking of view

All the attention has so far been on the planning aspects of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). However, it has other important sides to it, not the least of which is the impact of any development on the environment. The residents of Benenden have clearly stated, several times, that one of their top priorities is to preserve the rural nature of the Parish. To that end the Environmental Group have been carrying out an environmental audit.

One of the more enjoyable tasks allotted to the NDP's Environmental Group has been to walk the many footpaths and note the ancient woodland, mature trees, hedges, ponds and pits which articulate the landscape around Benenden.

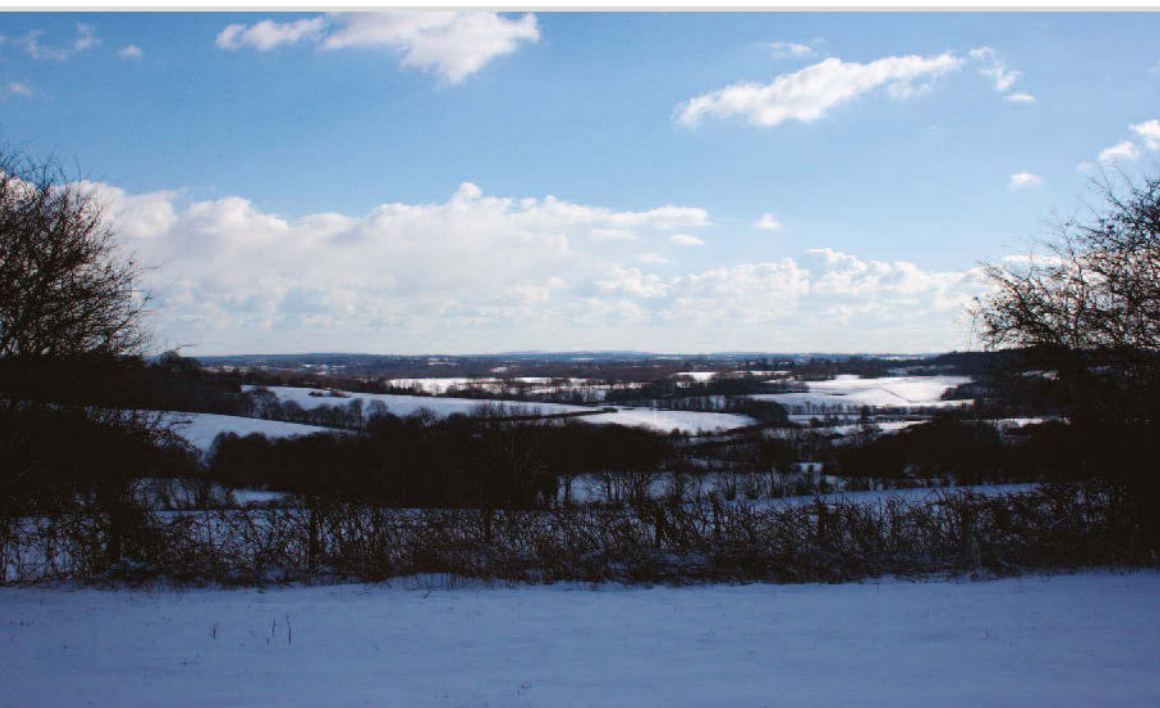
It is said we have more than 26 miles of footpaths in the Parish, an offshoot of which

has been the requirement of the Plan to note any views of importance. It turns out that we have more than our fair share and I'm sure everyone has their own favourite (see below).

Almost everywhere you go, you turn a corner and spread before you will be vistas of the Weald, with steep-sided wooded gills, undulating fields and trees and ancient farmsteads nestled within a medieval fieldscape; or looking south the countryside falls away towards Romney Marsh.

Due to our location, draped over a series of ridges, the views are often much more than just a glimpse of a well-known landmark, like the Sandhurst windmill or the clock tower of Saint Ronan's, in the distance. From the footpath north of Hinxden Dairy, you can look north, south and west, a sweeping

panorama towards Cranbrook, Hawkhurst, Northiam and beyond; on the edge of Parsonage Wood you can take in fields dotted with sheep and the rise and fall of the countryside beyond; and







from the road to Dingledean a tree-filled landscape that looks as if it hasn't changed since Saxon times.

Views are important to the identity of the Parish and luckily they are valued in the NDP. The question is which ones to choose? A number of views have been already mapped and registered and will be included as being of special significance and therefore to be given protection; developments will be restricted or refused if they interfere with them.

The Environmental Group would welcome suggestions from readers of the village magazine about which views they feel should



be included. Please send a photo, together with a description of the view and where the photo was taken, to the Editor (contact details p.1).

The best will be featured on the NDP website, where you'll find more about the work of the NDP Environmental Group: [www.benendenneighbourhoodplan.org](http://www.benendenneighbourhoodplan.org)







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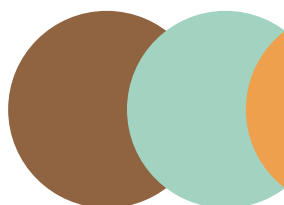
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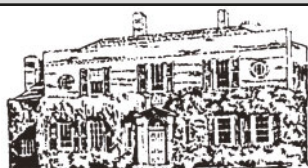
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## News from Benenden School

We very much enjoyed hosting the village wine tasting in late May, just before our half-term. Fifty people attended an event which was great fun and very convivial, and we look forward to hosting another - Australian wines from Mitchell's of Clare Valley - at the end of August.

Since returning from half-term, school life has been busy and eventful. First and foremost we are in the thick of the public exam season; girls in Year 11 and Year 13 continue to work hard and are coping very well with what is inevitably a very demanding period in their lives.

Meanwhile the Year 7 spent a week out of regular lessons in what we call an Enquiry Week, exploring the theme of How to Change the World, and our Year 10 pupils had an Activities Week.

Looking ahead, we are very excited about this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe, where a group of Benenden girls will be performing under the company name The Centaurs of Attention.

We are also pleased to have found a new date for launching the microlight which was built by the girls. This will be held on Sunday 1 July, the day after our annual Grandparents' Day and Sports Day. The poor weather forecast that caused the original postponement may have inadvertently been a blessing because a Battle of Britain Air Show is being held at Headcorn Aerodrome on this date, so the girls' microlight will be in prestigious company.

We once again look forward to hosting the Benenden Tennis Tournament, this year being held from 18-22 July.

It is hard to believe but at the time of writing the end of the school year is now less than a month away. Needless to say, we are all keeping our fingers crossed for good weather for the final two weekends of term.

Samantha Price, Headmistress



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## Hospice in the Weald event

Open Garden Safari in Sandhurst

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Jenny Stevens, Hospice in the Weald Friends  
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Green hops being unloaded  
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## Local History

# Oast houses

Oast houses, with their pointed, usually conical, roofs and white cowls, are a familiar, if not ubiquitous, feature of the landscape around Benenden. Every farm would have had an oast or two to process the hops grown in abundance in Kent and Sussex and needed for the brewing industry. Famously, pickers would arrive from the East End of London for their annual hop-picking holiday. Sadly, there are few hop gardens left in Kent and the majority of oasts are no longer working but have been converted into houses.

The original oasts were simply converted wooden barns and followed on from the introduction of hops in the mid 16th century. To start with, oasts were therefore square but they soon gained height and their distinctive pointed roofs to improve the flow of air.

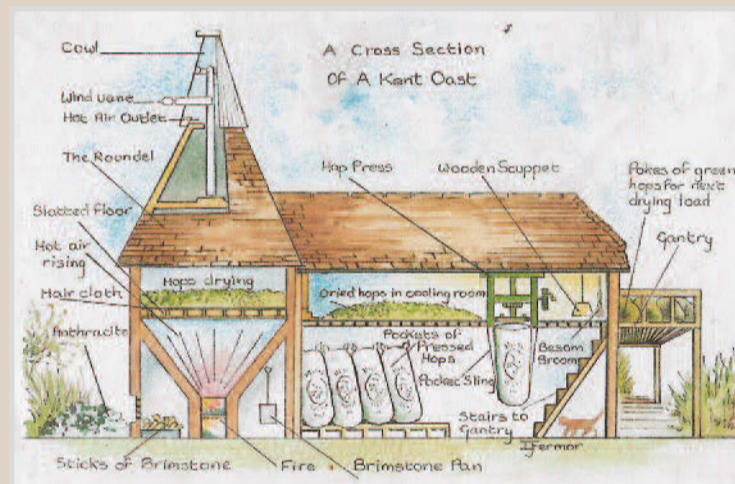
By the early 1800s, round oasts were being built in the belief that they were more efficient. The earliest surviving oast is at Golford and dates from the 17th century. In the majority of Kentish oasts the roundels are built of brick, though occasionally ragstone, often associated with weatherboarding for the cooling area.

Most of us know oasts were used for drying hops - when picked they have 80% humidity which has to be reduced to about 6% - but have only the vaguest notion about how it was done. In fact, this was almost an industrial process carried out on a vast scale. The green hops were bagged and taken up to a gantry from where they could be brought in to the upper level of the oast and spread out over a floor in the

roundel consisting of batons covered with a horsehair cloth to allow the heat from a brick kiln below to rise through.

The coal-fired brick-built kilns could be internal or external. You may have noticed the external kilns when visiting the gardens at Sissinghurst. The hops were raked out into a layer about 12 inches deep and dried before being raked again onto a separate floor to cool, then bagged in large jute sacks, known as pockets, for sale or distribution.

Minnie Garnier





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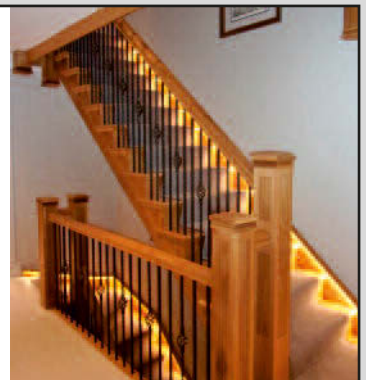
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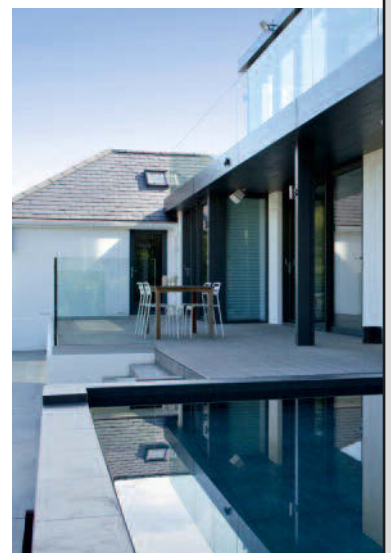
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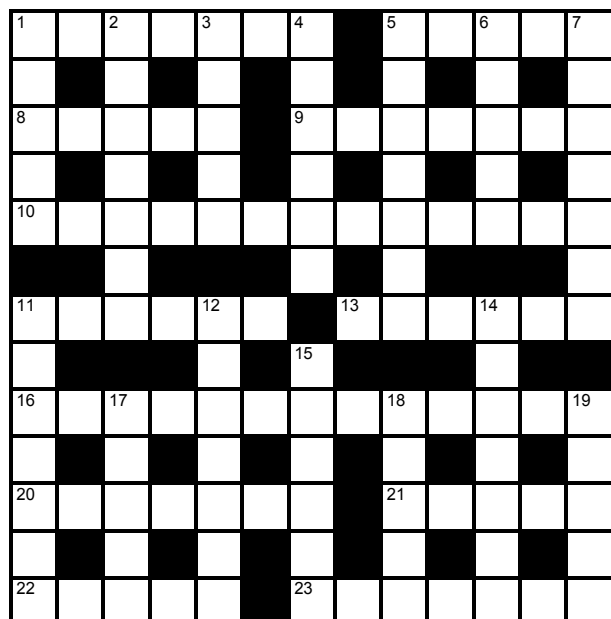
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# MINDBENENDERS By ASCII

## CROSSWORD No6 (Moderate)



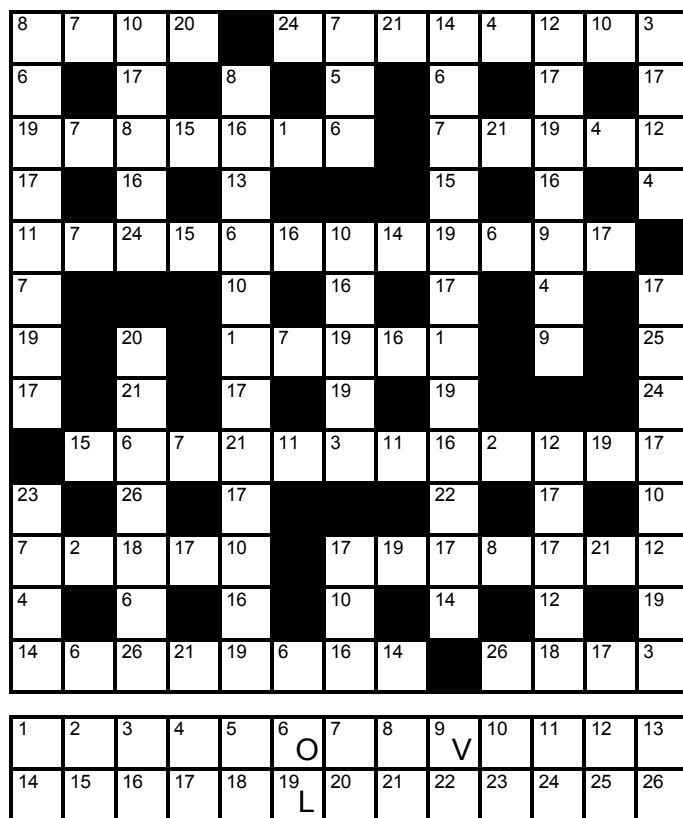
### Across

- 1 Road builder stood down (4,3)
- 5 Young soldier, Ade, put in scanner (5)
- 8 Agitated magma produces deadly rays (5)
- 9 Who me? So reassemble by any means! (7)
- 10 Sounds like country without monarch needs inspecting (5,8)
- 11 Upset when PM is criticised? (6)
- 13 Me struggling with mess of eels (6)
- 16 Given total for appalling candidate left to undecided (8,5)
- 20 Not so dirty who gets it that way (7)
- 21 Not something in the City (5)
- 22 Breakfast may be some time (5)
- 23 Selling on beers, perhaps? (7)

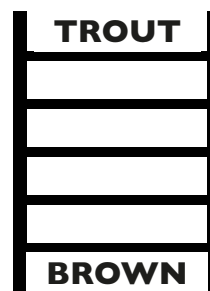
### Down

- 1 Three wise men about? Amazing! (5)
- 2 Soggy end put on enthusiast (7)
- 3 Vengeful wraith when I leave (5)
- 4 Creeps positively not women (3-3)
- 5 Editor leaves behind cute moped as it breaks down? Count on it! (7)
- 6 Pilchard without car upset academic (1,4)
- 7 Willow on leather, presently (7)
- 11 Of 5 Across upset, in fact (2,5)
- 12 Waits not at beginnings (7)
- 14 Even dissolute nth earl can hold sway (7)
- 15 Unkempt naval officer rose having kept comrades awake? (6)
- 17 Obvious messy store of riches (5)
- 18 Vicarious Italian takes leave to catch something? (5)
- 19 Governs in a measured way (5)

## CODEWORD No6 (Moderate)

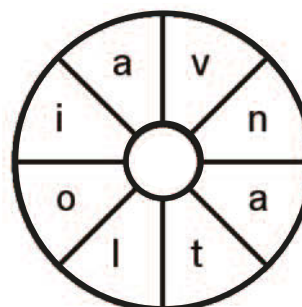


## STEP CHANGE



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: Save the best still last!

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



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Appointing a trusted friend or family member to make such decisions for you via a Lasting Power of Attorney arrangement can be done without much difficulty. Should you become unwell or suffer from something like Alzheimers, it means that sound financial decisions, decided by you in advance, can be made on your behalf by one or more up authorised representative(s) appointed by you while you are still well. You can activate these powers should you feel that you are no longer able to deal effectively with matters.

So what are Lasting Powers of Attorney and why might you need them? The Property and Financial Affairs Power of Attorney allows those whom you appoint to make financial decisions on your behalf (to be your representative or 'Attorney'). This means that all of your assets, investments and savings can be managed through your bank and other accounts by your 'Attorney' as if they were you. This is invaluable should you find yourself unable to deal with these things yourself, through incapacity, illness or disability. Your bills can be paid and unexpected costs can be challenged in a timely manner.

The Health and Welfare Lasting Power of Attorney allows someone, appointed by you, to make decisions regarding your diet, how you want to dress and where you live. You also have the option to give your Attorney(s) the right to consent or refuse life-sustaining treatment. This is a significant power and if you have strong feelings about this then this Lasting Power of Attorney is the best way to ensure that the right people make the most important decisions for you.

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Graham on [graham\\_walden@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:graham_walden@yahoo.co.uk)

Look forward to meeting new dads!

So Lasting Powers of Attorney can be an invaluable provision to put in place to safeguard your future, especially if your assets are solely in your name. You'll be secure in the knowledge that those you trust can manage things on your behalf. However, you can only put this arrangement in place whilst you still have mental capacity. Without a Lasting Power of Attorney, if your family needed access to your funds to, for example, pay for your care they would need to apply to the Court of Protection for a Deputy to be appointed for you. You wouldn't be able to choose your Deputy and the process is expensive and payable from your funds. Annual supervision fees are also payable to the Court. The application generally takes between six months to a year which can cause a delay for your family as well as added stress and cost. Putting a Lasting Power of Attorney in place will avoid this cost and difficulty.

How many Attorneys can you choose to act on your behalf? You can appoint up to four Attorneys - you can decide whether they have to make all of the decisions together or whether they can do so individually. You can even mix and match to specify those decisions which can be made independently and others which must be made collectively. It may not be a happy thought but it will give you peace of mind.

Emma Wrigley



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## Primary School News

### A 10-year-old's view of sports day

Last month, Benenden Primary School held its sports day. This exciting event held every year on the Glebe Field is where all the school houses come together to see who will claim victory and take home the winning cup.

Before the races began, we did activities where the houses were split into teams. We all cheered our house as they did the activities. Will said after cheering so much, he could barely talk! The activities included hurdles, ladders, dribbling a football, sprints, throwing a bean bag into a hoop and moving balls from one cone to another.

Everyone took part in at least one race, two each from Guildford, Rochester and York, so there were usually six people in each race. Before the race, I was so nervous - everyone's hearts were beating fast - waiting for Mrs Kerr to blow her whistle, then everyone ran.

After all the races were finished, Years 5 and 6 took part in a relay. We each ran a lap of the circular track and it was really tiring.

When the results finally came in, everyone was excited and full of hope that their house had won, but of course, there could only be one winning team.

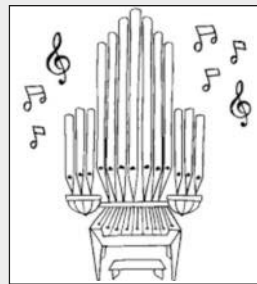
"The results are in and they're very close this year," said Mrs Knox, "so in third place with 285 points is York, in second place with 290 points is Rochester and that means that Guildford won!" Everyone in Guildford stood up and cheered, including me.

And that's how our sports day ended. Not everyone was happy, but everyone had fun.

Estella Hamilton, Year 5

## 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 21 August. If you know of anyone who normally comes but doesn't get this magazine, please let them know.



*Richard Pillner*

### ORGAN RECITAL

*Sunday 1 July 2018*

*St George's Church, Benenden*

*6pm*

*following Choral Evensong at 5pm*

## Village Fun Day

You may remember that for the last few years we have held a Fun Day on the Green to bring families together after the long summer holidays, and simply to have fun together. The event was due to be on Saturday 1 September but unfortunately, we have decided that we cannot go ahead with it this year - it has been a struggle for the organising committee to get it off the ground. If you are interested in making it happen next year, or possibly even taking on something for this year, please get in touch. Sorry for any disappointment caused.

Revd David Commander

## Classical for charity

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

**Saturday 28 July, 3pm** Oliver Davies (pf) and Adrian Bradbury (cello) will be performing at this year's garden party event. The interesting programme will consist of Cui, Glazunov, Piatti and others. Tickets by donation (minimum £17).

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

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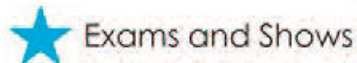
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## Iden Green and Benenden WIs

Once again we thank Marilyn and Dick Hill for their kind hospitality on a warm sunny evening for our annual Garden Party. We were joined by friends from Frittenden and Staplehurst WIs. There was a fancy summer hat competition with everyone looking very smart.

Dates to remember:

Tuesday 17 July, Mrs Nash Making Jewellery, Memorial Hall, 2-4pm

Tuesday 21 August, Mrs Boyd Lord Nelson, Iden Green Pavilion, 2-4pm

For further enquiries:

Shirley Fidler, President 752232

## Calling all variety talent

As part of the celebrations to mark the centenary of the end of World War I, Benenden Players are hosting a variety show in the village hall on the evening of Saturday 10 November. We are looking for acts which reflect the pre-war music hall variety scene.

Can you sing, dance, perform a sketch or do you have some other talent to showcase? We will help you with costumes, music and staging. If you are interested please talk to, or email:

Nancy Tolhurst 07711 139218

nancy.tolhurst@btinternet.com

Peter Ellis 240540 peteralanellis@aol.com

## Benenden Pre-School News

As we are fast approaching the summer holidays, the staff at Benenden Pre-School have been helping the older children prepare for their next big step of starting school. The children have been very excited to meet the reception teachers from their future primary schools and have been hearing all about the exciting activities they will be getting up to at big school.

The Pre-School has also had another visit from Jitterbugz, which is a fun-filled class that gives the little ones the chance to get lots of exercise and take part in exciting imaginative adventures. We are lucky enough to attract children's companies such as Jitterbugz because of all the fundraising that our committee does.

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

## Letters from the front

On the evening of the Sunday 11 November there will be a commemorative event in St George's Church. As part of the evening we are looking for people to read poetry, diary entries etc. from the period, which might include letters home from soldiers or other people involved in the fighting (from any side of the conflict). We are especially keen to hear from people who have a family connection to World War I and can perhaps relate a story or read a letter from the front.

As part of the commemorations we will be joining in the national tributes with the playing of the last post at 6.55pm, the lighting of the beacon (on the ridge) at 7pm and the ringing of the church bells at 7.05pm. If you can help with any part of this please contact:

Revd David Commander 240658

revdavidcommander@gmail.com

Peter Ellis 240540 peteralanellis@aol.com

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CODEWORD No6

MINDBENENDERS

Answers

CROSSWORD No6

Across: 1 Made way, 5 Cadet, 8 Gamma, 9 Somehow, 10 Czech Republic, 11 Dismay, 13 Melees, 16 Floating voter, 20 Cleaner, 21 Rural, 22 Oates, 23 Resales

Down: 1 Magic, 2 Dampers, 3 Wrath, 4 Yes-men, 5 Compute, 6 D Phil, 7 Thwacks, 11 De facto, 12 Attends, 14 Entral, 15 Snorer, 17 Over, 18 Virus, 19 Rules



## Food & Drink

### No nostalgia for the dark days of Kent cuisine

There was a time, not so long ago, when good food and good drink were devilishly hard to come by, in Kent as in the rest of the country. Devotees of decent beer will remember the late 1970s as an era when proper ale came close to extinction; wine in our shops was limited to sickly German nonsense; and the closest we came to exotic comestibles was a Fray Bentos meat pie.

A few decades down the line, it's hard to recall the era, post rationing, when the cheese industry was all but defunct in this country and Elizabeth David's world cookbooks read like an encyclopaedia of the unattainable. In fact, take a teenager to the supermarket these days and you run the risk of sounding like your grandmother, as you reel off the list of foodstuffs that you "just didn't get back then".

In 2018, you can hardly turn round without bumping into an eco-friendly cheesemaker or a craft brewer with edgy facial hair, and at Biddenden vineyards recently they were out in force for the 12th annual Food and Drink Day, where we were promised we might "taste the best of Produced in Kent", which itself is a



"non-profit organisation working in partnership with Kent County Council and Hadlow College" to promote the best our county has to offer ([producedinkent.co.uk](http://producedinkent.co.uk)).

So much for the blurb. This was a chance to go deep into the subsoil of Kent's revived agricultural and artisanal tradition, at a 'domaine' that has long been at the forefront of the movement, with fine domestic wine and cider, not to mention non-alcoholic stuff. "It's the same apple, the same juice, it's just not been fermented," was the first sales pitch I heard from the man on the Biddenden stall, which sent me scurrying for a sip of the 8.4% Strong Kentish for reassurance.

Had I not been designated driver for the day, I could have done some serious damage on the booze front, but my designated taster assured me that the wickedly fruity Anno sloe gin from Marden was the pick of the day, while I contented myself with unsweetened cherry juice from trees grown in Sandhurst and Northiam by Dallaways. Apparently it's good for "recovery after vigorous exercise", although I didn't risk it.

It's tempting to stick to what you know, and it was reassuring to see Benenden's own Dee Manford in attendance with the best of Hinxden Dairy, along with KC Charcuterie from Cranbrook, but the point of these fairs is that you get to see just how big and multifarious

the Garden County is and how much exploring there is to do.

Rochester Organic Root Ginger, from the badlands of north Kent, is a feisty cordial that belies its non-alcoholic status with a substantial kick; Goody Ales from the Bleangate Brewery in faraway Herne were so in demand that they were sold out by the time I arrived, but come with a fine reputation; last but not foremost, the unpasteurised Ashmore Farmhouse from Cheesemakers of Canterbury epitomised the rude health of the artisan British cheese industry.

There was even turkey, in wraps, rolls and pies, from Tony Fleck's free-range Kelly Bronzes at Woolpack Corner Farm, a stone's throw from the vineyards. Now, turkey in summer, that's something you never used to see when I was a lad.

\*If you're reading read this magazine before Saturday 30 June or Sunday 1 July, you're in time to visit the Kent Chilli Festival at Hole Park in Rolvenden, for everything hot and spicy, from food to music. Open 10am to 5pm.

## Argentine wine touched by the 'Hand of God'

Argentina may bring to mind many associations, both famous and infamous: football, the 'Hand of God', corned beef, rugged gauchos, parlous economics, the Falklands (not Malvinas) and of course wine.

Riding like a cowboy on the back of the imperious Mendoza Malbec revolution, the Argentinian wine scene has burst fruit-throttled into our supermarkets and wine glasses. Amongst the good, the bold and occasionally ugly, are some fantastic wines that break the mould and offer finesse as well as power, and at an affordable price. In this hope, 50 of us gathered to be regaled by visiting winemaker and silver fox Patricio Gouguenheim (as part of a world tour that also took him to Selfridge's), who showcased eight fabulous wines for us to enjoy.

We began in France with a welcoming rosé from Domaine de Pellehaut which was as sunny



as the occasion and as refreshing as an ice lolly; well worth £7.85 from Benenden's and ideal as a pre-barbecue tipple. Patricio, with his winning charm, then introduced us to his own fabulous wines. The sparkling Malbec rosé was quite a revelation and will be available soon at Benenden's.

The remaining seven offerings, from six different varieties, revealed the breadth and depth of Argentine wine. My highlights included the honeyed and stone fruit intensity of his Torrontes at £9.60 - if you enjoy rich whites with body then you'll be sure to like this discovery. The Malbec Reserve (£13.40) is closer to what one might expect of Argentina, with its delicious blueberry sweetness and wonderful mouthfeel, making it a perfect accompaniment to steak. The showstopper, for a bargain of £13.95, was Gouguenheim's five-year-old Cabernet Reserve, which balanced cassis flavours with gentle tannins for an altogether hedonistic experience. All the wines are available at the village shop.

Where else can you try a total of nine wines, meet a winemaker, enjoy breads, cheeses and fabulous beef, and then buy discounted wines, all for only £15 a ticket? The next village tasting, including a barbecue, will be with Australia's Mitchell Wines on Friday 31 August. For a fabulous, vinous evening, pop to Benenden's and get a ticket.





# Bird Notes

## Two interesting visitors

Nearly every autumn there is an unusual occurrence of birds visiting our islands. Some of these are quite regular such as the irruptions of Waxwings landing in high numbers about every three years. Three years ago we had a visit from a Siberian Accentor (a close relative of our own Dunnock); although it only involved nine birds, widely distributed, it was a first for the UK. Last year it was the turn of the Yellow-browed Warbler, which, although a regular autumn visitor again from Siberia, has never occurred in such large numbers. Last autumn the prize goes to the Hawfinch, which descended on our shores in unprecedented numbers. There were reports from the northern isles to Cornwall, with some flocks in Surrey achieving over 200 birds.

There has never been anything like it before. Our own breeding population of 500 to 1,000 pairs only move locally into winter roosting sites such as the well-known one in Bedgebury Forest. In recent years only a few birds have been seen there, as the UK population is in fast decline for reasons unknown. There are only a handful of ringing records from northern Europe and our



understanding of their migration habits is therefore very sketchy. However it is well known that the Russian population deserts its breeding areas to winter in warmer climes stretching from Spain to Taiwan. Was the invasion last autumn due to lack of food in southern Europe and birds moving to our shores in search of food, or a massive navigational error?

Some Hawfinches were seen locally, with a few in Hemsted Forest, and I saw a few in a local orchard. Fortunately one male bird perched on top of a tree long enough for me to train a telescope on it. Its massive beak was very prominent and in winter was pearl in colour. Its rusty brown head, black bib and very broad white wing bar made it look very handsome and as it turned, its prominent

white-tipped tail was very evident. The beak can exert enormous pressure to crack both cherry and plum stones and has been estimated to bring to bear about 40kg force. This is a bird that likes a wide range of berries and kernels, hence its name, but I have mostly seen it consume the keys of hornbeam trees.

Hawfinches are difficult birds to locate as they are not very vocal and spend a lot of time in the canopy of trees. When they do vocalise, their call has been likened by some bird guides to jabbing a spike onto a piece of granite. They often make this call in flight, which, with a trained ear can be picked up, and once seen the profile is very obvious, with large beak, short tail and stocky appearance. I hope that some will choose to stay here rather than go back to their northern breeding grounds.

I love to pick up a field guide and casually peruse the images, so there are a few species I look at with great envy and think it would be brilliant to see one day. Well one of those dreams came true very recently. I had read one of these birds was seen in Denge Gully near Dungeness and I thought it had got to be worth a go. It was a very cold but bright day and I walked along the road parallel to the gully, which was partly filled with water and the banks well covered in gorse bushes.

There were quite a few other bird watchers doing likewise, and more pairs of eyes are always a help, so it was not long before the bird was spotted on the opposite bank in a little clearing. What a stunning sight and even more brilliantly coloured than the field guide itself. It is not often I have had so much pleasure bird watching as I did observing this Robin-sized bird with a magnificent blue throat and breast that just knocks you over! Lower down the breast, the blue is bordered by black, white and red, which just adds to the overall magnificence of the creature. Not surprisingly this little gem is called a Bluethroat.



The Bluethroat is a summer visitor wintering mainly in the African Sahel region and breeds in northern Europe and Asia in soggy birch forest. There are a few pairs breeding just over the Channel and two pairs bred successfully in Scotland in 1985 and 1995. There are two sub-species, White-spotted and Red-spotted, which refers to the spot in the middle of its blue throat. The Denge bird probably blown here by the 'Beast from the East' was the White-spotted variety, which only revealed its white spot when it lifted its head. It is a regular spring and autumn migrant, with a bird ringed in Slapton, Devon being recaptured two years later, demonstrating that the UK is a regular migration route and not just a blown-off-course one.

I mentioned at the beginning of this article unusual autumn occurrences; the Bluethroat's year was 1965, when over 100 were seen in early September, but this pales into insignificance beside 1985, when over 480 were seen in May in Scotland. This was the Red-spotted sub species - which migrates later, as its breeding range is further north - one pair of which stayed and bred.

Charles Trollope 240821 cetetal@btinternet.com

Illustrations: Stephen Message [www.message-wildlife-art.co.uk](http://www.message-wildlife-art.co.uk)



## Local Enterprise ... Enterprising Locals

REBECCA MANFORD  
BSC HONS MSST OF  
R.M. SPORTS THERAPY  
A NEW BREED OF  
ENTREPRENEUR

Rebecca Manford (BSc Hons MSST of R.M. Sports Therapy) is from one of Benenden's famous farming families and grew up at Hinxden Farm Dairy. She joined the Romney Marsh Pony Club aged three and by the age of eight had started competing in tetrathlon - the discipline requiring an athlete to ride, run cross-country and shoot as well as swim. She went to Angley School and was swiftly streamed not only as a Gifted and Talented student but as an elite athlete.



Later Rebecca added dressage to her riding skills, successfully representing the British Dressage Regional Squad, Romney Marsh Pony Club, Rother Valley Riding Club and her school at national level. The native ponies she rode up to the age of about 16, mostly Connemara and New Forest, were trained by herself, then she was gifted her first proper dressage horse and continues to compete.

Rebecca worked as a 'gappy' at Saint Ronan's and Marlborough House before her gap year travelling round New Zealand - a year which was to prove formative as, early on, she cut her hand very badly and had to undergo extensive rehabilitation. This so inspired her that she decided to make it her career.

The next step was a BSc in Sports Therapy at Coventry University - thanks in part to the support of grants from Benenden's Gibbon & Buckland Trust - where



she was also part of the university riding team.

When asked how she differs from a physio, Rebecca replies that the training and treatment is similar, but physios are generally hospital-trained whereas sport therapists are trained in the university injury clinic and in the field - literally in her case, as for sports therapy university placements she was

attached to the rugby league team and to the Birmingham City Ladies Football Academy, the latter with players from age 7-17, thus gaining experience of almost every type of sports injury, assessing and treating everyone from large hairy men to petite little girls.

She graduated with a first in the summer of 2016 and by October had started practising from home as a sports therapist. She has ambitions to build a treatment room in the garden, but hasn't abandoned her farming roots, marketing and promoting Hinxden Farm Dairy products in Kent, East Sussex and into London, as well as helping to feed the calves, tractor driving and manning the Dairy's stand at the village fete and other food fairs.

Rebecca works from home but she also travels to people's houses for almost 50% of her business and is extremely busy due to social media, word of mouth - and thanks in part to her regular ad in this magazine - with clients ranging in age from 9-90. And, yes, I asked what sport had caused injury to the 90-year-old: bowls, of course, I always thought it was a dangerous game!

Treatments vary from massage, taping weak joints and providing muscle-strengthening



exercises to improving flexibility and balance. Rebecca can also help people who have long-term aches and pains, poor posture or repetitive strain injury with sports massage.

Minnie Garnier

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Above: The Benenden Church Fete - something for everyone to enjoy

Front cover: Local children making a splash at the fete. All fete photographs: Beth Ansell