

Benenden Magazine

October 2018





Two friendly and interesting courses
this autumn in Tenterden.

Day School: **Jane Austen and the Search
for Home** with Sally Ann Wardroper
Friday 12 October, 10-3pm
at Trinity Baptist Church, Tenterden
Fee £30 includes lunch

Half Day School: **The Four Romanov
Grand Duchesses** with Anne Stott
Friday 16 November, 10.30-1pm
at Trinity Baptist Church, Tenterden
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Editorial



Having gone away on holiday in August and come back in September, the season had definitely changed from summer to autumn and now people are even starting to think about ... Christmas! Noooo, too soon. Some of the charity shops even have their Christmas cards out. Mrs Ward tells me that the turkey book is already starting to fill up and that certain competitive people - you know who you are - were vying to be no.1 on the list. It gives a whole new meaning to the phrase 'it's got your name on it'. Frankly, I'm beginning to feel sorry for the turkeys, who've still got three months to go but they're doomed, doomed. You can tell I've been to Scotland for my holiday.

Lingering sunny days are a bonus but we know that the year is starting to think about wrapping up. The corn is harvested and many fields ploughed, the plums are over, apples largely picked and the harvest moon and therefore harvest festival fell at the end of September. In the garden a brave dahlia and the odd chrysanth still provide colour but nature is also winding down, with the trees, already stressed by the long hot summer, starting to turn.

The Neighbourhood Plan, too, is entering the final furlongs after many months of hard work, investigation, discussion and negotiation and is starting to take shape before being independently assessed and presented to the Parish to vote on in the required referendum in the early part of next year.

Minnie Garnier, Co-Editor

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Church Calendar

St George's Church

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

Churchwarden: Tracy Claridge 240454 maisonsicheluk@tlclaridge.co.uk

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

www.benendenchurch.org 850849 benendenchurch@gmail.com

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

Sunday 7 October	8am Communion	11am Harvest Service followed by Harvest Lunch, Village Hall	5pm Evening Prayer
Sunday 14 October	8am 1662 Communion	10am Morning Worship	5pm Evening Prayer at Mission Church
Sunday 21 October	8am Communion	10am Sung Eucharist	4pm Messy Church
Sunday 28 October	8am Communion	10am Morning Worship	5pm Praise Service at Mission Church

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

Baptism 23 September Emily Earland

Wedding 15 September Anna Cruse and Jonathan Marsh

Funerals
4 September John Busby Funeral and burial
6 September Cynthia Gee Memorial Service
26 September Martin Oldaker Funeral and burial

Rector's Letter



Respect

One definition of respect is: to have due regard for the feelings, wishes or rights of others.

Looking at things reported on the news recently it seems to be sadly lacking in our world at present. We have seen stories of: physical attacks on the elderly or the vulnerable; an increase in knife attacks in London; 'sex-for-rent' adverts exploiting young female students; people trafficking sometimes for sex, always for profit; our politicians verbally attacking and undermining each other over Brexit; the Novichok attack where an innocent woman died; the outburst on the tennis court by someone who has long been held up as a role model; not to mention the comments of some football managers towards one another. Where is the care, concern and consideration for the feelings of others in all of that? And as for some of the comments from the current President of the United States ... we won't even go there.

Is it something that is getting worse, or are we just becoming more aware of it? Whichever it is, it is something that I think we should be concerned about for our society and community. Respect for others needs to be re-established and built up again. There is a very small book, a letter, in the New Testament part of the Bible which says, "... [be] ready to do whatever is good, to slander no-one, to be peaceable and considerate, to show true humility towards all men." Whatever your thoughts about the Bible, or wherever you stand regarding your belief (or otherwise) in God, these simple words are what it means to have respect for another person.

Respect is about having consideration for the ideas and life of another human being. It is about being thoughtful and attentive to their needs rather than always thinking about our own. It is about being courteous and polite, even when - or especially when - we might disagree. It is simply about being kind to another human being; it is about feeling for someone else rather than focussing on ourselves all the time.

It is no good, though, pointing the finger at others that we see on the News and that we perceive to be disrespecting society or other people, without first looking at our own personal behaviour and attitudes. We live in a world where there is so much variety, but rather than celebrating that we are so often quick to focus on the differences between ourselves and others and to see those differences negatively. What we all have in common though is that we are all human beings, living this physical life once. That life would be so much better if we each showed more respect - care, concern, and consideration - for others. Respect begins within each of us.

Revd David Commander, Rector

Village Calendar

September

Saturday 29 Neighbourhood Development Plan Public Exhibition, Iden Green Pavilion, 10am p.17

October

Friday 5 Woodland Wide Games, Iden Green Congregational Church, 7pm
Saturday 6 Churchyard Working Party, St George's, Benenden, 9.30-12noon p.9
Saturday 6 What's in the Box, St George's Club, 8.15pm
Sunday 7 St George's Harvest Lunch, Benenden Village Hall, 12.30pm p.9
Friday 12 The Music Scholars of Benenden School, St George's Church, 7.30pm p.13
Monday 15 Parish Council Meeting, Iden Green Pavilion, 7pm
Tuesday 16 Village Lunch, Benenden Village Hall, 12.30pm p.27
Tuesday 16 Iden Green and Benenden WI, Photographs of the BBC, Memorial Hall, 2pm p.27
Thursday 18 Dahlia Workshop, Blue Hen Flowers, Benenden, 10.30am p.23
Saturday 20 Bingo, St George's Club, 8.15pm
Sunday 21 Messy Church, St George's Church, 4-6pm p.29
Tuesday 23 Merry and Bright, Memorial Hall, 3pm
Friday 26 Sweet Pea Workshop, Blue Hen Flowers, Benenden, 10.30am p.13
Saturday 27 Stephen Message, Art Exhibition, Memorial Hall, 10-5pm p.35
Saturday 27 Quiz Night, St George's Club, 8.15pm
Sunday 28 Stephen Message, Art Exhibition, Memorial Hall, 10-4pm p.35

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 6 October for Garden/Compostable Waste

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

Saturday 20 October for Domestic Waste

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

Parish Council



It is with great pleasure that we welcome two new members to the Parish Council this month, Dee Manford and Peter Driver, bringing us up to our full complement of nine councillors.

I'm sure many of you already know Dee from Hinxden Farm Dairy, proud producers of dairy products for the local community and beyond. Dee has lived in the parish for over 20 years now, with her family growing up here. Like many of us, she is keen that her children can remain living in the parish, and affordable housing schemes are therefore high on her priority list, along with safer and better-maintained roads.

Peter and his wife moved to Iden Green about six years ago. He threw himself into volunteering, helping to pull together our Parish Plan, and is currently on one of the working groups of our Neighbourhood Development Plan. He has taken an interest in planning, and Theresa and Peter are both extremely knowledgeable about music - I have happy memories of them helping our team to a memorable victory at the Iden Green quiz night a couple of years ago.

Both Dee and Peter are to be commended for putting their heads above the parapet, and I thoroughly look forward to working with them. They will be doing their own introductions over the coming months in this magazine, so watch this space.

Finally, we've set a date for the autumn village clean. It will be on Saturday 10 November, with the usual meet at the community shop or Iden Green Pavilion between 9-9.30am. Our spring clean broke all records this year, with around 35 volunteers working hard to clean up our parish, and it would be great if we could see that number again - or more.

Nicola Thomas, BPC Chair
01580 240364 nic.jthomas@btinternet.com

Caroline Levett, Benenden Parish Council Clerk
01580 240371 clerk@benendenparishcouncil.org
For more information see our website www.benendenparishcouncil.org or find us on facebook

Parish Council Meeting
Monday 15 October 2018,
Iden Green Pavilion, 7pm



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Just a Thought



Two sides to the sun

Here we are again at the beginning of autumn bemoaning the grey days and wistfully looking for sunny ones. Yet, not so long ago, we were beginning to wonder if the heatwave was ever going to end. Officially it seems that a sun god is a sky deity who represents the sun, or an aspect of it, usually because of its perceived power and strength. Solar deities and sun worship can be found throughout most of recorded history in various forms.

I think that there are definitely two sides to the sun. Sunlight can sparkle on lakes and the sea, and filter through the trees in woods creating beautiful pools of light and shade. But it also cruelly shows up blemishes on surfaces, highlights dust on windows and scratches on anything.

I remember the sun rising on a fresh, clear holiday morning in the mountains and being able to look out of the tent and see for miles. However, looking out from his tent in the desert in the middle of the day, the nomad can be deceived by the harsh sun showing mirages and false horizons. Others on holiday bask in the sun's rays and turn, stretch and reorientate themselves to achieve the perfect tan. But the sun has its own agenda and, unless defended, the skin will be under remorseless attack. The modern-day sun-worshipper.

I noticed, when living in southern Africa, that there, people remain steadfastly in the shade during the hot season, only to seek any patch of sun in the cold one. In the far northern hemisphere the sun gives its warmth and light for half the year but gradually withdraws them for the other half and the people again must work and live to the sun's rules.

With the warmth of the sun, flowers blossom and crops and fruits ripen. The population is fed and the surroundings enhanced. Even then, the situation cannot be taken for granted. Just as we have been reminded locally, unless other factors come into play, drought hits the land, crops fail, animals have no pasture and the sun becomes an enemy instead of a friend. Again, elsewhere in the world terrible heat beats down on people who have no refuge, no land, no crops, no fruit.

Perhaps we can say that in cities and sprawling conurbations the domination of the sun is challenged. There are buildings for shade, air-conditioning for temperature control, refrigeration for preservation and solar panels to capture some of the sun's power. However, even in cities there are very many who do not benefit from these advances in science and so are left to the mercy of the orb in the sky.

In mitigation, the two sides of the sun fuse at the beginning and ending of each day. Be they misty, vibrant, gentle or violent, the magnificence and wonder of the rising and setting of our sun are there for us all to enjoy.

Sue Fisher

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News and Events

Churchyard working party

Saturday 6 October, St George's, 9.30-12noon

Autumn heralds the end of yet another season of maintaining Benenden's churchyard, which mainly entails grass cutting but also clearing the brambles and saplings, which seem to sprout up everywhere.

We do have a paid contractor for some of the work, but it is carried out largely by volunteers at regular working parties, usually on the first Saturday of the month. I must say a big thank you to all of you who have turned up on these mornings, especially those who are not regular members of the congregation. Let's face it, most of us have a vested interest in ensuring that the churchyard remains a respectful, cared-for site, not least because not a few of us will end up there in one form or another.

Over the last year we have tackled the very sensitive issue of compliance with the Diocesan regulations on what may or may not appear in a churchyard, about which David Commander wrote in the November 2017 issue of this magazine. We appreciate the generally positive reaction that there has been to this move and hope you will agree that we now have an attractive rural churchyard.

This year we shall be making a special effort to identify and make readily accessible our World War I graves, in time for the 100th anniversary celebrations on 11 November.

A significant proportion of the churchyard is deliberately set aside as a wild area, which provides a habitat for wildlife as well as attractive flowers and grasses according to the time of year. Once the flowers have had a chance to set and scatter their seed, this whole area, as with all maintained wildflower meadows, has to be cut and the grasses/flowers cleared away. This is a major task and it will form a large element of what we shall do at our next working party, on Saturday 6 October, 9.30am to 12noon. You are very welcome.

Dick Hill

St George's Church Harvest Lunch

Sunday 7 October, Benenden Village Hall,
12.30-3pm

The Harvest Lunch will follow the Harvest Festival Service which will start at 11am. The menu includes smoked salmon terrine, chicken & gammon salad with new potatoes (vegetarian option available), lemon tart with fresh berries & cream. Tea, coffee & mints. Soft drinks are included. Wine & beer will be available to buy.

Always a popular occasion, so buy your tickets early (adults £7, under 12s £3.50) from:

Benenden's Community Shop, in Church or from
Lesley Attwood 243318 lesley.attwood@sky.com

Everyone Welcome



We are having a stall selling lovely candle decorations for Christmas.

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Harvest Festival donations

Sunday 7 October, St George's Church, 11am

Donations of either perishable or non-perishable goods brought to the Harvest Festival service will be taken to the following charities Catching Lives and Nourish.

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VILLAGE HALL CLEANER (part-time)

The Trust is also looking for someone to take on regular cleaning duties, for 7 hours per week, including some weekends.

The Trust is happy to receive applications for either role or a combined role and will consider applications for a job share position.

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Benenden Village Trust

We have been having further discussions with Play Benenden and the Parish Council over the play area on the Benenden recreation field, which is currently closed for safety reasons.

The land is owned by the BVT and will continue to be made available for a new expanded play area which is likely to be run by the Parish Council. Both BVT and the Council will make substantial contributions to the cost of the new facilities, which is likely to be around £100,000. Play Benenden plans to raise the remainder through grants, donations and fund-raising activities. The old equipment will be removed in the near future.

The play area in Iden Green is undergoing continuing maintenance. Weeds will be dealt with and new bark put down. We plan to replace the bench that has disintegrated. We recognise that the equipment here is relatively old, and once Benenden's new play area is completed we will turn our attention to Iden Green's.

The village hall continues to be heavily booked and the BVT is looking for a caretaker to help with light maintenance and to see 'one-off' hirers in and out. We are also planning to appoint our own cleaner to replace the contractors who are unable to continue. Please see opposite for further details.

David Harmsworth

Arnold Cole Trust

The Arnold Cole Trust would like to invite applications for its annual disbursements from those clubs and societies within the parish of Benenden in need of funds. Dr Arnold Cole was GP in Benenden from 1930 until his death in 1960. His daughter, Joan Weston, set up the Trust in 1968. The aim of the Trust is to apply its income for the "general benefit for the parish of Benenden, with special consideration being given to the elderly and young."

All applications in writing please to:
The Secretary, Arnold Cole Trust,
Scribbins, Benenden, Kent TN17 4DT.

Please note applications must be received no later than 30 November 2018.

Steve Robinson, Secretary, ACT

All Souls' Day service

Friday 2 November, St George's Church,
7.30pm

If you would like the name of a loved one read out in this reflective service please let Revd David know. Refreshments will be available for a time of fellowship from 7pm.

Revd David Commander, Rector 240658
revdavidcommander@gmail.com



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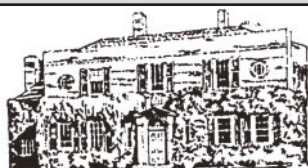
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Neighbourhood Development Plan

Getting back in the swing

Having spent the best part of four months away from Benenden on business, I assumed my duties as chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee on 11 September. At our meeting we reviewed the progress of each working group, agreed how best to present an update on progress to residents of the Parish and confirmed outstanding work and timescales.

I was delighted to hear that a great deal of progress has been made. The Housing Design WG has completed all of its actions, including drafting proposed policies and plan chapters. This is a great effort and thanks should go particularly to Graham Beveridge and Peta Grant.

Housing Supply, Business & Economy and the Environment & Green Spaces WGs are also 'in the home straight'. Each group has a little more work to do, including continuing to discuss implications of the Tunbridge Wells Policy Framework with planners at the Town Hall, but we hope they will conclude their work over the next few months.

Our Infrastructure WG is focused mainly on road safety, green transport options and mobile phone reception. It is difficult to get real engagement with Transport and Highways or utility companies, but we are drawing up our list of requirements to meet future needs.

Once we have a draft plan there are a number of check points in the process, each of which will take some time to negotiate.

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council have to check our work and ensure it complies with their policies, while an independent examiner also checks the draft to ensure it complies with National Policies and NDP Guidelines. Of course there is also extensive local consultation culminating in a referendum of residents of the Parish. So even though much of our information gathering is complete, I think it will be early summer before we have a plan and maybe even longer before it is signed off and incorporated into the TWBC Local Plan.

We have an Public Exhibition on Saturday 29 September at Iden Green Pavilion. Doors open at 10am and NDP Working Group members will be on hand to discuss progress so far until 12noon. Please drop in if you can, as we want to update you and hear your feedback.

Last month's magazine article on the work of the Business and Local Economy WG included an incorrect email address. We would like to get your views on the ideas outlined by the Business WG, so please use this email address: benenden.n.p@btinternet.com

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

Refuse collection contract

TWBC plan to charge for the collection of garden waste

The refuse collection service is TWBC's largest contract and planning the retendering of this contract from March 2019 has been going on for some time. I think the present kerbside collection service is very good - Monday is currently our bin collection day and the lorry arrives on that day almost without fail, even on bank holidays. The bottle banks at the village hall have been less successful - they are unpopular with those living within earshot and at times have overflowed, with bags and boxes of bottles left lying around (not all, I suggest, deposited by local households). The weekend dustbin lorry service (the so-called Civic →





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→ Amenity Vehicle) is an essential service as we are so far from the KCC re-cycling area at North Farm - however, it not a recycling service and, until arrangements to collect garden waste separately were introduced two years ago, none of the waste collected by the CAV was recycled.

In my opinion, the need is not only to provide an efficient refuse collection service but also to encourage residents to recycle as much as possible, partly by making it simple and convenient and partly by providing better advice on what should be recycled. At present, TWBC recycle about 50% of all refuse collected. I know that recycling would be significantly easier for Benenden residents if there was a local recycling centre, but that is a Kent County Council (not a TWBC) responsibility.

The refuse collection format which local authorities are now encouraged to follow is to have a kerbside collection of recyclables (cans, plastics, paper and cardboard, glass, garden waste and food waste) and residual household waste. When retendering, almost all local authorities are now following this format. They are also now permitted to impose an annual charge for the collection of garden waste and are doing so.

TWBC have decided to adopt this format. We will hear more on the detail over the next few months but I am told that households will have a wheelie bin for all glass, cans and plastic recyclables, and it is hoped this will encourage more recycling, especially of glass, because currently a great deal of glass is put in the residual waste bin (this will mean there will be no further need for the bottle banks at the village hall). There will be a second wheelie bin for residual waste and a third for garden waste. There will be a separate container for food waste, and it is hoped to change households' buying habits if they see how much food is wasted. As at present, a box will be provided for paper and cardboard. The collection of garden waste will be an opt-in

service - you will not pay for the service if you do not need or want it - at a proposed cost of £52 a year (£1 a week). The garden waste collection service could be shared with neighbours dividing up the annual fee. For comparison purposes, the charges set by other authorities range from about £40 to over £70.

I work closely with the officers and cabinet members at TWBC and my view that local recycling centres are needed to encourage more recycling is well known. I have been assured that TWBC (with neighbouring Maidstone BC and Ashford BC) will pressure KCC to provide a local recycling centre for this area. Equally well known is my opposition to a garden waste charge, because I think this will discourage recycling and the planned £52 annual fee is being set at a level which will discourage take-up. More concerning is that when the opt-in garden waste collection service is introduced, garden waste will no longer be collected by the CAV, which is a further unwelcome diminution of the CAV service.

At TWBC, my views regarding garden waste (reflecting the views of many ward residents) are fully understood but unfortunately are not widely enough supported for two main reasons. First, there are many households in the Borough who either do not have gardens or have sufficient space to compost their garden waste so have no need for a garden waste collection service - there is wide support for the principle of only the user paying. Second, we should not be surprised that in the present difficult economic climate, TWBC is not going to be the only borough that does not introduce a charge when permitted to do so. In principle, however, I remain opposed to this charge and will continue to encourage the setting up of a local recycling area. I shall keep you posted on developments.

Tom Dawlings

Borough Councillor for Benenden & Cranbrook

Ways and means: infrastructure improvements

Benenden is fortunate in having had recreation grounds and allotments in Benenden and Iden Green settled on the village by Viscount Rothermere and the St George's Building and the village green by the Earl of Cranbrook. At last Kent County Council are providing Benenden with a new primary school so the school will no longer be using the 17th century building at the north end of the Green donated by Edmund Gibbon and the 19th century building on the west side of the green donated by the Earl of Cranbrook. The allotments in Benenden were developed in the 1970s and are now Rothermere Close and Harmsworth Court, with the proceeds used to build the village hall. Feoffee, the old Victorian workhouse was also given to the village by the Earl of Cranbrook, and is the major asset of the Benenden Almshouse Trust. More recent community developments in Benenden are the community shop (the result of working in co-operation with Benenden School and a well-supported community share issue), the formation of the Benenden Village Trust (to manage the village assets previously belonging to the Harmsworth Memorial Trust) and, of course, this magazine.

None of this changes the essential fact that Benenden is one of the remotest parts of the Tunbridge Wells Borough. Our local roads are narrow and often not well maintained. There

are already significant traffic bottlenecks in Hawkhurst, Sissinghurst and Goudhurst on journeys to the A21 and to the station at Staplehurst. There is evident danger at the crossroads in Iden Green, Benenden and at Castleton's Oak where, to alert motorists to the danger, the road surface has been changed, coloured and cobblestones introduced. Something similar is needed for the crossroads in Benenden and Iden Green. Traffic drives through the village dangerously fast (see letter below) and traffic-calming schemes are being considered with plans in hand to restrict the speed limit to 20 mph in the centre of the village and by the new primary school.

There is a well-used footpath connecting Iden Green to the centre of Benenden. The Infrastructure Group would like to see this replicated elsewhere in the Parish, especially between the centre of Benenden and the community at East End. The busy road through Goddards Green is far from ideal for pedestrians and cyclists and a cycle path connecting Benenden and East End is something we are investigating. The Group would welcome your suggestions as to how this could be done.

The new primary school will provide for some 35 additional school places and raises the need for additional provision for the young. For the Plan Exhibition in April the children put forward interesting ideas about the facilities they wanted the village to provide in the future. The Benenden Village Trust and



the Parish Council are actively planning a replacement play area on the Benenden recreation ground. The play area on the green in Iden Green is also close to the end of its safe working life and needs upgrading.

Benenden residents may make use of Benenden Hospital health insurance and we have investigated whether a GP service could be provided in the village, perhaps from the hospital, but Benenden does not really have the number of residents to make this a possibility - and, in any case, our current residents are already signed on with other GPs. Benenden is a widespread community and establishing a central surgery which people would be able to walk to is not at the moment possible. However, if a designated space could be provided then it might be possible to provide regular nurse, podiatry or physio sessions.

Broadband speeds are still not good enough, especially in the more far-flung dens, holding back business opportunities, and we need to identify what needs to be done to improve this (perhaps some way of boosting it, as has been suggested). Even more concerning is the very limited mobile phone coverage in the Parish. Phone masts have been planned ... but at the moment we lack concrete offers of sites for additional masts to improve the coverage provided by our sole mast at Hole Park.

The move towards electric cars also needs to be catered for and rapid car-charging points provided. The village hall car park and the Pavilion car park at Iden Green might be possible sites but other locations are also being considered.

Where funds are needed to improve the infrastructure in Benenden, we would hope these could be provided by developers by means of the Community Infrastructure Levy or Section 106 contributions. If you have any suggestions regarding infrastructure improvements please let us know at: benenden.n.p@btinternet.com
Infrastructure Working Group
Neighbourhood Development Plan
www.benendenneighbourhoodplan.org



A SAD CASE IN POINT

Dear Parishioners,

For those of you who are animal lovers I am sure you will understand the sheer heartache of losing a pet. This week our children returned to school and the term time routine resumed. Up early, find the rugby kit, finish the homework, brush teeth and hopefully catch the bus on time! This Friday morning was different. When I went downstairs to make a cup of tea and open the back door I was greeted with such a painful cry. I followed the heart-jumping noise only to find our 11 month-old cat splayed out looking and sounding very distressed. Daffy had been hit by a car in the early hours, we can only presume. At around 3am I had heard a car stop, the door open and then shut and screech off again, I can only imagine the driver hit Daffy and sped off.

The point of my letter is to highlight the incredible speed that some people drive through our little village at. I am a light sleeper and I am often awoken with a start when a car zooms past. These drivers do not worry if it is day or night, sometimes they have almost whipped me off my feet when I am walking to work. As a family we are absolutely heartbroken that our lovely cat has been killed. As a mother I am extremely concerned that if drivers do not pay heed to speed limits the next death may be a dog or a human!

Yours faithfully,
Lucy Barron-Reid, Benenden

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Talking Shop

October heralds darker evenings, chillier weather and turning back the clocks on 28 October, but we're not downhearted because at Benenden's it also signals the very welcome return of some favourites to the café menu: lasagne and garlic bread, delicious soups, chilli con carne, chicken curry, macaroni cheese and, for the first time, sausages and mash served in a large Yorkshire pudding. The usual tempting array of cakes will cheer you up as the evenings draw in.

We are extending a very warm welcome back to Lorraine in the café. Heartfelt thanks go to all the volunteers who stepped in to do extra shifts during the summer. The team spirit at Benenden's is really quite remarkable and our sincere gratitude particularly goes to Penny and Kate for their efforts to keep the café running so smoothly and successfully.

Tickets are on sale for the St George's Harvest Lunch on Sunday 7 October at 12.30pm. Tickets for the ever popular Benenden Bonfire and Fireworks on Saturday 3 November will also be on sale from early October.

Bev Beveridge

Benenden Pre-School News

We would like to offer a warm welcome back to the new and old faces at Benenden Pre-School! It has been great to see everyone so excited to get back after a long summer break and our new children have been settling in well. This term the children have the theme of 'All about me' and they can bring in photos of their family and pets to show their friends all about their life outside pre-school. They have also been making the most of the seasonal fruit and cooking some very yummy apple and blackberry crumbles!

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

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Our small hall refurbishment is now nearing completion. All that's left to do are a few finishing touches and it'll be all finished. We'd love to know what you think, so please feel free to drop me a line or go to the Benenden Village Hall Chat Room on our Facebook page.

There is a Wedding and Craft Fair on at the Hall on Sunday 28 October 10.30-3pm organised by Heather Trumble from Lily & Rose with lovely stalls displaying ideas for your big day, as well as tea and cake by Cocolicious of Cranbrook and live music at intervals from The CoverUp Function Band. Do pop in, if only to listen to the music and have tea and cake! There are still a couple of stalls available at £50 each, contact Heather at heather.trumble@hotmail.co.uk.

To find out more about the hall and upcoming events, or to check availability, go to:

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25th anniversary SLOPS

What on earth is SLOPS? Well, it's the Scullsgate Local Odd Pod Show, held every August bank holiday Sunday since records began. Nurtured from the seed of an initial cross-fence veggie patch rivalry between John Burbage and Charlie Hume, it has flourished over the years to embrace the whole community of Scullsgate and surrounding lanes.

Proud as some gardeners are of their produce, though, it is strictly amateur, just a bit of fun to mark the end of the summer holiday, competing for the Hungry Caterpillar Trophy, a



wonderful bronze cabbage sculpted by Jim Milborrow and mounted on a wooden base with the names of past winners engraved. Several appear more than once and some do undoubtedly grow better veggies than others. One competitor's huge onions quickly justified their own trophy, Stuart's

Onion Trophy.

Judging was originally by Martin Molony (whose own professional veggies disqualified him from competing), and by Freda Reynolds. As the years went by the classes expanded to include flowers, jams, pickles, craft exhibits and

two annually chosen cooked delicacies, wisely separated into male and female classes.

In these days of transparent democracy, judging is now done on a voting slip by all who attend, though this has not discouraged some from still attempting to nobble their fellow judges. There are individual prizes for each class, some also with their own trophies in memory of SLOPS stalwarts who have died: the Freda and Robert Reynolds Trug for best root vegetables, the Joyce Wynne-Roberts Trowel for best herb display, the Martin Molony Trowel for best squash or cucumber, the Margaret Greenwood Ladies Fork for best flower display, and the Ann Andrew Rose Bowl for best single bloom. This year we also remembered Mervyn Carey, who died suddenly a day after last year's event.

Winning the Hungry Caterpillar Trophy carries the undoubted privilege of hosting the next year's SLOPS. Multiple past winners Robert and Genevieve Greenwood hosted this year, but sadly the gods did not look down kindly: it rained, it blew, the exhibits looked decidedly bedraggled, the voting slips were reduced to pulp. Undaunted, the SLOPS diehards ate, drank and made merry, saluted Bill Martin's mastery in winning best potatoes for the umpteenth year in succession, and applauded Harry Andrew for winning Best in Show with his wonderfully worked driftwood candle holder. Roll on SLOPS at the Paper Mill next year.

Charlie Hume



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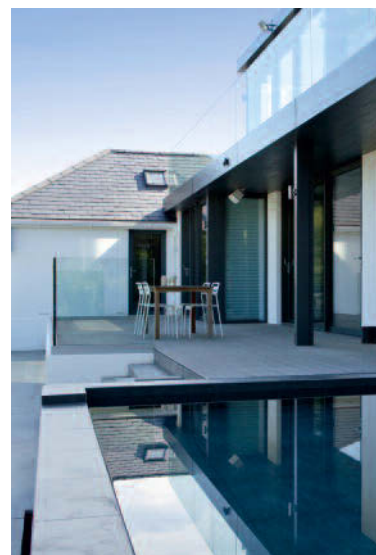
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Iden Green and Benenden WI

In September handbell ringers from Bexhill performed with impressive skill to produce wonderful clear sound. Our members sang along to some of the tunes. Our September outing was to Hawkhurst Fish Farm with a dozen members attending. Our October outing is to Great Dixter for the autumn colours.

Dates to remember:

Tuesday 16 October, Mr Coomes, Photographs of the BBC, Memorial Hall, 2-4pm

Tuesday 20 November, Christmas Party, Memorial Hall, 2-4 pm

Saturday 24 November, Coffee Morning, Memorial Hall, 10-12noon

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Classical for charity

The final 2018 programme in the tenth annual Richard Beattie Davis Sandhurst Musical series for Hospice in the Weald:

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Riding for charity

After the London to Brighton bike ride on the hottest day of June 2017 - raising £1,750 for the British Heart Foundation - BHF asked me to join their team in the Prudential Ride London-Surrey 46 miler as a 'Heart Rider'. It was on Sunday 29 July, and I journeyed to the Olympic park for the start, where the baking hot weather changed and left us cold and soaked queuing for the start. The ride was pleasant enough, completed in 3 hours 44 minutes finishing on The Mall. Thanks to all who sponsored me.

John Marshall

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Tuesday 16 October, Benenden Village Hall,
12.30pm

All are welcome. It's just £5 a head. If you need a lift please let us know and we can arrange it. Please call Genevieve Greenwood on 01580 240526, preferably by Friday 12 October, if you haven't already put your name down but would like to come. We would be very grateful if anyone coming to the lunch is able to pick up anyone who needs collecting.

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**.

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



1:1

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News from Benenden School

It's good to be up and running again after the summer. We are delighted that we have begun this year with more pupils than ever before, having welcomed 115 new girls to our community at the start of September. They immediately set about putting together their House Dram performances, a fun competition which is always a great way for the girls to bond - and to make as much noise as they can!

It is of course important for the girls to get into a routine as soon as possible and lessons swiftly got underway. I pitied the Six Twos, our eldest pupils, who had to turn their attentions straight away to completing their UCAS applications.

As outlined in my previous column, there has been plenty of activity here during the summer, whilst our pupils were busy on a variety of co-curricular trips. Of course, among the highlights were our exam results. We were incredibly proud of the girls' achievements, especially in another year of significant Government reform. The overall results were even better than last year's - with 62 per cent A*/A at A Level and 80 per cent at GCSE - but we were not just impressed with the highest performers: every girl worked tremendously hard to reach her personal best and we were delighted with these individual successes.

At the time of writing we are gearing up for our annual Two Generation Sports event, when parent-daughter teams take part in croquet, rounders, tennis and badminton. In addition, this year we have introduced a horse show, which certainly seemed a good idea at the time - I will update you in the next issue as to whether or not this turns out to be the case!

Samantha Price, Headmistress



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Revd David Commander, Rector
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28 October**

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at 5pm**

Pavilion Jazz & Blues

The sun shone, the real ale was tapped, the barbecues lit and the bands played from 6pm to 10.30pm to an appreciative audience of around 300 people of all ages. The seventh very successful evening of music at the Pavilion raised £2,400 for charities including the Alzheimer's Society, the Emil Faurie Foundation, the Pilgrims' Hospices and Iden Green Pavilion Trust.

Grateful thanks to our sponsors, all the musicians and volunteers. Anyone willing to help next year, please contact me on 243093. Next year's event is planned for earlier in the summer and with an earlier starting time.

Bill Lewis



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Opening of the new green, 1959



Benenden Bowls Club

The season is drawing to a close and the Benenden Bowls Club will soon hang up its bowling shoes for the winter. The club is perhaps one of Benenden's best kept secrets. The green and clubhouse are tucked away behind the village hall and it is the venue for one of the quintessentially English sports: lawn bowls.

The 'new' green behind the village hall was opened in 1959 - previously matches had played in the vicarage garden. In 1967 the club achieved significant success when the 'Benenden Babes', as they were called, won the Kentish Express Trophy Cup in the Weald Bowls Tournament. We no longer have the title Benenden Babes and no longer play in high-powered tournaments, but concentrate

on being a small, friendly and sociable club playing friendlies with neighbouring villages. New members, men or women, are always welcome, and although bowls has, perhaps, the reputation of being a 'mature' person's sport, that is far from true and many younger people are joining clubs nationally.

Club night is Thursday evening from 6.30pm, and we play friendly matches with a number of the surrounding villages, or internal competitions, on Saturday or

Sunday afternoons. We currently have about 25 members of varying skill levels.

Presentation of the Kenward Trophy
by Lisa Kenward to Glenda Marshall,
August 2018



Lifting the Kentish Express Trophy, 1967



So if you are looking for a summer sport that's not too energetic, but involves a little easily learnt skill and gets you out in the open air, why not try lawn bowls? Come and have a try and, perhaps, a bit of free tuition. All that you would need in the first instance would be a pair of flat, rubber-soled shoes or trainers - everything else we can provide.

For further information contact either John Marshall, Club Captain on 243089 or Ray Cheeseman, Club Chairman on 01233 850737.
Richard Stubbings



Fathered by Cortes, fed by the Andes

Tracy Claridge charts the history
of the Chilean wine industry

Winegrowing began in Chile in the early part of the 16th century. History tells us that Cortes gave the order that Spanish colonists should plant 1,000 vines for every 100 dead 'Indians'. In 1578 the pirate Drake captured a Spanish ship carrying 1,800 wine skins from Chile bound for Lima in Peru. The old vine growing was based on the Pais grape (Criolla in Argentina and Mission in California), which some are trying to revive.

Modern winegrowing began in the mid-1800s, after Chile won independence from Spain, with the importation of French vigneron and vinestocks by the mainly Basque landowners around Santiago. Chile is now the fifth largest exporter of wines and the seventh largest producer. The most common red grapes are Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Carmenere, and Sauvignon Blanc for the white. Chile has remained phylloxera free, which means that the vines do not need to be grafted on to American phylloxera-free root stocks.

Political uncertainty in the 20th century, combined with bureaucracy and high taxes, tempered the growth of the industry. Before the 1980s, Chilean wine was considered of poor quality and mostly consumed locally, but awareness of Chile's favourable growing conditions became apparent and attracted foreign investors. Many technical advances

were also made, and Chile quickly earned a reputation for reasonably priced, premium quality wines.

Chile is a long, narrow country, geographically and climatically dominated by the Andes to the east and the Pacific ocean to the west. The vineyards are to be found along an 800-mile stretch of land from the Atacama region in the north to the Bio-Bio region in the south. The climate is varied, with the northern regions being very hot and dry, compared to the cooler, wetter regions in the south. Most of the premium wine regions depend on irrigation to sustain the vineyards, the necessary water coming from the melting snow caps of the Andes.

Chile's vineyard regions lie between the 32nd and 38th latitudes, which would be more akin to southern Spain and North Africa in the Northern Hemisphere. The climate however is much more temperate than those regions, and compares more closely to Bordeaux and California. Overall it is classified as a Mediterranean climate with average summer temperatures of 15-18C and highs of 30C.

The main wine regions are as follows: Atacama, Coquimbo, Aconcagua including the Casablanca valley, Central Valley, Alto, Central and Pacific Maipo, Cachapoal Valley, Colchagua valley including the Curico and

Maule valleys, and finally Southern Chile and the Bio-Bio region.

“Chile has steady climatic conditions, meaning that there is no rush to harvest and you can let the grapes hang as you like - hence, in the past, vintages tended to look similar,” according to Francisco Baettig, winemaker and technical director at leading producer Errazuriz, “but in recent years, we have been looking for elegant wines with less alcohol and more acidity, meaning today the different climatic conditions have a more acute impact.” Peter Edwards MW says: “In short, the shift in Chile is towards fine wine levels of elegance and complexity, which has also meant searching out more marginal terroirs and playing on the limits of maturation - and this has resulted in vintage variation coming more into play.”

Who to look out for in Chile? Luis Felipe Edwards, Errazuriz, Concha y Toro, Montes, Veramonte, Cousino Macul, Santa Rita, Santa Carolina, Carmen, Lapostolle and many, many more.

Is Carmenere to Chile as Malbec is to Argentina? Originally the Carmenere cuttings which arrived from Bordeaux were confused with Merlot, as the leaves are very similar. It was not until 1994 that French ampelographer Jean-Michel Boursiquot identified Carmenere in a vineyard belonging

to Vina Carmen. “We have to consider that we only have 24 years real experience with Carmenere, which is nothing in wine-growing terms,” says Sebastian Labbe, winemaker for the premium wines of Santa Rita. “The vineyards are now better planted, better managed and we are getting much better results. Yet a lot more time is needed.”

*Please come to the Luis Felipe Edwards tasting on Friday 23 November to find out more about, and drink, some very fine Chilean wines. I have known Peter Greet for many years. He is very knowledgeable and a great speaker.

Peter Greet at Benenden School Café

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Bird Notes

For some years a pair of Tawny Owls have bred near the crossroads in Iden Green. From July onwards the young emerge and settle on a prominent position, very often my neighbours' TV aerial, where they beg vocally to be fed. It is wonderful to know that they are breeding locally but they are very persistent in letting their parents know that they are hungry and I lie in bed hoping the parents find some food as soon as possible!

I know we have an abundant mouse and vole population, as I keep catching them investigating my bird feed in our garage. I wonder if all this noise that the young create may be a warning to the local rodent population that a predator is about and makes life much harder for the parent birds to find food. I am often asked about the current breeding population status of all species of owl, but most of our owls are nocturnal and most breeding surveys and monitoring schemes do not cover nocturnal birds at all well. The following information is based on Kent records in the latest national breeding atlas (2007-2011).



Tawny Owl In Kent the distribution map shows population gains in northeast and southwest parts of the county compared to a previous survey 20 years earlier, with Benenden showing no change. Overall the population in Kent is estimated to be 800-1,200 pairs, compared to 600-1,000 pairs in the previous survey. Certainly I have heard a good many Tawny Owls during my occasional soirees at dusk to both Hemsted and Bedgebury Forests to listen for Woodcock and Nightjars. Tawny Owls like wooded habitat, of which there is plenty around Benenden, and we are lucky to enjoy their "Tweet Twoo" courtship calls in springtime. Areas like Sheppey and Romney Marsh are almost devoid of breeding pairs.

Barn Owl This iconic, ghostly species is one of the wonderful beauties of nature as it drifts around the ditches and field margins. Their plumage reminds me of those tasty bread rolls coated with poppy seed. Although it is mainly nocturnal it is also crepuscular and it is possible to see it in all its glory early or late in the day.

There has been an upsurge in numbers in Kent since the 1995-97 survey, with the Kent population doubling from 50-100 pairs to 100-200 pairs. The provision of boxes, particularly along the Rother, has increased the numbers on Romney Marsh, but it is some time since I have seen them there and as they are vulnerable to cold winters I am concerned that this last one may have reduced numbers significantly.

The pair at Forest Farm have not bred for a couple of years, although an adult is occasionally seen. A parishioner in Sandhurst who lives just over the parish border proudly told me that her box was used successfully this year, having been erected nine years ago! At least it stayed within the benefice!

Little Owl The Little Owl was introduced to the UK in the late 1880s and has successfully established itself across England and the Welsh border area. Its preferred habitat is mixed farmland. I most often see them in tree-lined field edges, roosting in mature trees, usually oak, although they tend to see me first and fly off with their characteristic bounding flight. Where there are few trees they will roost on telegraph poles and buildings. They mainly hunt on the ground; beetles and worms form a major part of their diet.





The population in the western part of its range has been reduced significantly and breeding surveys across the UK show a decline of 50% since 1995. In 2010 I found a recently fledged family of Little Owls in Scullsgate but I have not recorded them since. The Kent population is estimated by the Kent Ornithological Society to be 2,000-4,000 pairs, which is 50% of the national figure. As Kent is estimated to hold 5% of the UK population, one of these estimates is wildly inaccurate. Surveying nocturnal birds and making assumptions is clearly no easy task.

Short-eared Owl The Short-eared Owl is mainly a winter visitor to this area, where I have seen them a few times in the early evening along the Rother at Newenden. Occasionally they breed up in the marshes on Sheppey. Breeding population in Kent, 0-5 pairs.

Long-eared Owl The Long-eared Owl is also mainly a winter visitor and a nocturnal hunter, and I have yet to see one in flight. They are unlikely to be seen locally and the ones I have glimpsed have been roosted up in dense thickets near the coast. One has been roosting in the scrub behind the dipping pond at RSPB Dungeness and is a challenge to spot as it so well camouflaged. A few pairs breed in the north of the county, in isolated conifer woodlands and copses surrounded by open country, which is their ideal habitat. Breeding population in Kent, 5-10 pairs.

Charles Trollope 240821 cetetal@btinternet.com

from far left: Tawny Owl, *Strix aluco*; Barn Owl, *Tyto alba*; Little Owl, *Athene noctua*

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hyacinths are brilliant, too, and tiny iris reticulata. My other tip would be to really pack the bulbs in cheek by jowl - they don't mind at all and the display is worth it.

If you are planting bulbs into pots without drainage holes (for indoors),

In Your Garden

Spring bulbs in pots

Deciding on which bulbs to plant each autumn is one of my most enjoyable parts of the gardening calendar. Over the years, through trial and error, I have smoothed the process,



making it a task I look forward to, rather than the frazzled approach I used to take, almost always at the last minute,

with whatever was left behind in the shops.

I have definitely discovered that planting one variety of bulb in its own pot works extremely well. Not only is it easier to label, but later on in the spring when everything is in full fettle, you can group them together depending on what display you are after. For example, a favourite combination of mine is blue hyacinths, some 'Tete à Tete' miniature daffodils and anything white (anemones or snowdrops dug up from the garden). It makes a very pretty spring display which I often pair with a bowl of primroses. 'Paperwhites' flower in weeks and fill a room with scent, grape

you can fill the pot with bulb fibre which contains charcoal. This absorbs any odours caused by over-watering and the bulbs starting to decompose. Otherwise, use any container with drainage holes and put a saucer underneath.

To top-dress displays, I cover the soil with alpine grit or fine gravel. Alternatively I find moss taken from the garden looks attractive and fresh, especially bun moss if you can find some. Be generous with any top-dressings to cover the soil fully. Finally, and to get some height into the display, I break off hazel twigs - some will have catkins - or use coloured dogwoods, and push them into the soil around the bulbs. Again be quite generous and you will find they also act as a useful plant support once the flowers arrive.

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Above: Music and colour: Iden Green Pavilion Jazz and Blues and visiting Molly Dancers
 Front cover: Autumnal riches. Photograph: David Harmsworth