



Benenden Magazine

January 2018

Benenden's

SHOP POST OFFICE CAFÉ

B's

... it's the word on The Street!

We wish all of our
Customers, Shareholders
and Supporters

A Very Happy 2018!

Free Wifi

info@benendens.co.uk

Tel: 01580 279808



The Bull at Benenden wishes you a
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

Please see our website for Christmas opening hours.



Winter walks.



Roaring
fires await.



Festive favourites.



Cheers!

01580 240 054 . enquiries@thebullatbenenden.co.uk . www.thebullatbenenden.co.uk

Editorial



2018! How can it be? I still haven't got to grips with 2017 and, as David Commander reminds us on page 5, half my last-year resolutions are just that and are still waiting to be 'actioned'. New resolution - must be more proactive. What else? Go to some of the classes at the Village Hall outlined by Lorraine on page 23 perhaps? Did you know they did Scottish country dancing and dog training there? Not at the same time obviously ... but might be funny if they did.

If there is a theme to this month's magazine it is that of change. Change of the year, changing of ways, the new school begun at last, a neighbourhood plan getting underway to decide the parish's future planning needs and what 'shape' the residents see the parish having by 2025. Paul Tolhurst updates progress on the plan on page 21. Maybe make it your New Year resolution to get involved with this opportunity for the community to work together and come up with something new, exciting and viable.

Of course, where there is change there is also loss; the field that has disappeared into a sea of mud but which will in due course become the new school, local characters who we won't see again - Pat Thoburn, Douglas Moloney and Mervyn Carey to mention but a few - but we have also welcomed new residents to the village and there is an energy and optimism in planning for the future.

Let us know what your resolutions are for this year especially if they are something out of the ordinary. Losing weight doesn't count as we all want to do that! But tell us of your plans to visit a place you've long wanted to see, to climb Kilimanjaro or swim the Hellespont, design a new house or buy a dog (see above) and we will get back to you at the end of the year and you can tell us how you got on.

Happy New Year!

Minnie Garnier, Co-Editor

The Benenden Magazine is published monthly as a joint venture by Benenden Parish Council and St George's Parochial Church Council. It is distributed free to all residents of the parish. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the publishers. Responsibility for accuracy of information rests with contributors and advertisers. Neither the publishers nor the editors shall be held responsible for or endorse any opinions, products or services printed in the magazine or directory.

Editors: Kent Barker, Minnie Garnier, Peter Thomas

Editorial Board: PCC Rep: Tracy Claridge, PC Rep: Kent Barker, Treasurer: Charles Trollope,

Acting Advertising Manager: Paul Leek, Advertising Assistant: Iain Fraser,

Distribution: Marilyn and Dick Hill, Layout Editor: Camilla Macdonald

Contributions to: benendenparishmagazine@gmail.com by the 15th of the preceding month.

Advertising orders or queries to: advertising.benendenmag@gmail.com.

Distribution queries to: dd.rhill@btinternet.com.

Postal address: c/o Community Office, Benenden Village Hall, Benenden, TN17 4DY 01580 240371

Village Calendar

January

Sunday 7	Alex Palotai, Organ Recital, St George's Church, 6pm	p.9
Saturday 13	Darts Knockout, St George's Club, 8.15pm	
Monday 15	Planning Committee and Transportation Meeting, Memorial Hall, 7pm	
Monday 15	Parish Council Meeting, Memorial Hall, 7.30pm	
Tuesday 16	Village Lunch, Benenden Village Hall, 12.30pm	p.15
Tuesday 16	Iden Green and Benenden WI, Open Meeting, Memorial Hall, 2pm	p.29
Saturday 20	Quiz Night with cheese, wine and port, St George's Club, 8.15pm	
Sunday 21	Messy Church, St George's Church, 4-6pm	p.15
Tuesday 23	Merry and Bright, Annual General Meeting, Memorial Hall, 3pm	

February

Thursday 1	Raiders of the Lost Monarch, Benenden Players Panto First Night, Benenden Village Hall, 7.30pm	p.11
Friday 2	Woodland Wide Games, Iden Green Congregational Church, 7pm	

Benenden Youth Club/Streetcruizer, age 11+

Tuesdays at Benenden Village Hall, 6.30-8.30pm

Coffee Shop

Wednesdays in the Memorial Hall, 10-12noon

Cakes & Chaos: Cafe and Toddler Group

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

Refuse Lorry Collections

Saturday 13 January for Domestic Waste

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

Saturday 27 January for Garden/Compostable Waste

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

Parish Council



Another year gone and what have we done? Sounds a bit like John Lennon! Well, we have accomplished quite a lot in 2017. We got through the complex process of setting up our Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) to ensure that it will be a legal document against which future planning applications must be tested. We have had three successful village meetings and we have a fourth covering Landscape and the Green Environment in January. This is scheduled to be in the village hall in the afternoon of Saturday 13 January. Please do come if you can - this is an important topic for us in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

We have set up a Steering Committee to oversee all this and five groups of local volunteers to work through the issues raised at our meetings so far. If you can find the time, it's not too late to join this process. We would particularly like to lower the average age of the groups, after all it is your future. While most attention, both nationally and locally, is focused on the need for more housing, ours will be an integrated plan bringing together not only local policies on housing and design but also on traffic, roads, communications, local businesses, local facilities and, of course, the environment. Can I take this opportunity to put out a call out for Benenden businesses to make themselves known to the Neighbourhood Plan - Business and Local Economy Group so that they can get their anonymised input into the plan. Please email benenden.n.p@btinternet.com.

Progress has at last been made on the new local primary school (BCEPS) and work has now actually started. Not the best time of year or weather to start such a project, but there we are! At long last we will be able to replace a school designed for the 19th century, or even earlier, with a modern school fit for the 21st century. Future generations will thank us for this.

There still remains much to be done in the coming year, but we are lucky to have a team of keen volunteers to progress things. Talking of keen volunteers, your Parish Council is up for election in May. This has nine members and we would welcome potential candidates to serve on the council. Perhaps you could think about this. Elections are good for democracy at all levels. Application forms will be available from the Parish Office and from me nearer the time.

Together we can make 2018 a year to remember for Benenden!

Peter Davies, BPC Chairman
01580 240723 chairbenendenpc@gmail.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 January 2018,
Memorial Hall, 7.30pm

Planning and Transportation
Committee Meeting
Monday 15 January 2018,
Memorial Hall, 7pm

Church Calendar

St George's Church

Rector: Revd David Commander 240658 david@dc-uk.co.uk (day off: Thursday)

Churchwarden: Tracy Claridge 240454 TLClaridge@TLClaridge.co.uk

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

www.benendenchurch.org 850849 benendenchurch@gmail.com

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

Sunday 7 January	8am Communion	10am All-age Communion and Sunday School	5pm Choral Evensong 6pm Organ Recital
Sunday 14 January	8am 1662 Communion	10am Morning Worship	5pm Evening Prayer at Mission Church
Sunday 21 January	8am Communion	10am Sung Eucharist	4pm Messy Church
Sunday 28 January	8am Communion	10am Morning Worship	5pm Praise Service at Mission Church

Mission Church, Sandhurst

Rector: Revd David Commander 240658 david@dc-uk.co.uk (day off: Thursday)

Every Tuesday 10am Communion

Iden Green Congregational Church

Elder: Tobin Bird 240027 www.idengreen.org.uk

Sunday Services 10am Morning Worship 5.30pm Evening Worship

The Roman Catholic Chapel

Fr Barry Grant 713364 www.sttheodore-cranbrook.org

Masses 9am Sundays 7.30pm Holy Days

From the Parish Registers

Wedding 16 December Rosanna (Rosie) Crawford and Oliver (Oli) Davies

Marriage Blessing 17 December William and Sangeeta Davies

Funerals
7 December Mary Harmer Interment
8 December Douglas Moloney Funeral and burial
8 December Marcie Rutherford Funeral and burial
18 December Joan Crunden Funeral Kent and Sussex Crematorium

Rector's Letter



Here we go again - another New Year

At this time of year, we always seem to be looking forward to what the new year will bring us; often hoping for something better than the last one. There will be happy events to look forward to: nationally, there is a royal wedding in the diary; locally, we have the pantomime to enjoy together; and we can also watch, expectantly, the work on the building of the new Primary School - which is very exciting.

There will also be happy family events, I trust, to look forward to; we have a family wedding in Scotland to enjoy as our eldest daughter gets married. There will also be poignant events, like the marking of the 100th anniversary of the ending of the Great War in November. There will be events, currently unknown to us, that may affect us: how will the Brexit negotiations develop? What will Donald Trump get up to?

Like most years, 2018 will no doubt bring some happy occasions, some concerning events, and some difficult and testing experiences. If we look back on 2017 that probably sounds quite familiar; most years are made up of things like that. What have we learnt from 2017 that will help us through the things that we will experience in the coming year? Or are we just going to muddle through again, and simply react to the things that affect us? In my January letter last year, I put out the challenge that your faith is important; how are you going to get to know God better this year? Did you? Did you do anything to try and get to know God better: reading scriptures, or talking to other Christians or people of other faiths, or praying more regularly? Whether you did or didn't do anything, the challenge is still the same this year: get to know God better.

Perhaps when you look back on 2017, you have some regrets; most people do in one way or another. So how is this coming year going to be different? Or do you just feel it is going to be 'more of the same' - 'here we go again'. Is there something you promised yourself you would do last year, but then let it slide and you haven't done it? Now is the time to do it! Especially if it is a regret; in particular if it has to do with a friend, or a neighbour, or a family member. Do not get to the end of 2018 with the same feeling of regret; do something about it now. Do not let 2018 waste away.

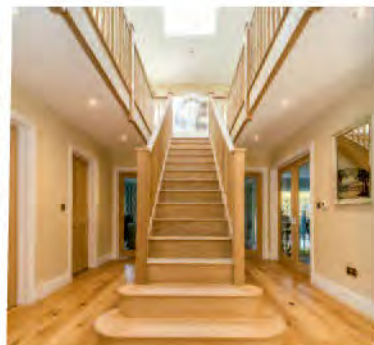
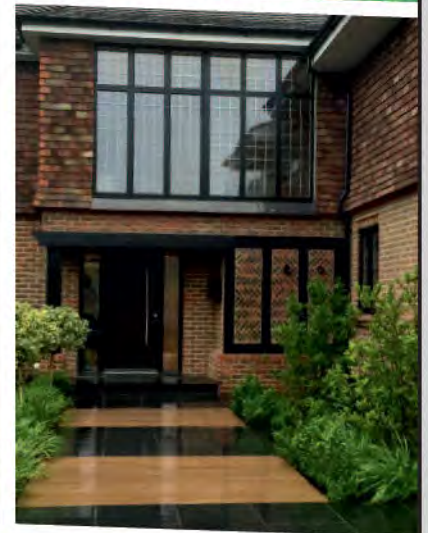
Do not let 2018 be another year of 'here we go again'. Be positive about it; do something different; turn any regrets from 2017 into positives for 2018. May it be a year of thinking, 'here we go, I am going to do this.' And may it be a good new year for you. God bless.

Revd David Commander, Rector



offset
architects

paul.hagell@offsetarchitects.co.uk
01732 753333 07739 085487
www.offsetarchitects.co.uk



EVERYTHING OUTSIDE

Every job is treated with a professional,
friendly and reliable service.

- FENCING
- MOWING
- HEDGE TRIMMING
- DRAINAGE
- CLEARANCE
- LANDSCAPING
- GARDENING
- DIGGER WORK
- CONCRETING
- TREE SURGERY

Free no obligation quotation / Fully Insured

William Smith

T: 07795 465 861 / 01580 766232

E: smith_25@hotmail.co.uk

www.everything-outside.co.uk



Help is on hand
from your local Mind

www.westkentmind.org.uk
01732 744950

Information given,
volunteers welcome
and donations needed.

We're here to make sure
anyone with a mental health
problem has somewhere
to turn for advice and support.

Just a Thought



Trails in the sky

High up and creating a bold line across the bright blue sky, was the clear trail of a plane. The random geometry of previous trails was still discernable despite having softened over time. Who was travelling in these aerial pencils? Were they at the beginning or at the end of their journeys, or were they making connections? ...

The somewhat harassed mother glanced at her watch and then the information screen as the two children squabbled tiredly over the last of the contents in the airline 'goodie' bag. Not long now and they would be down. Soon, passport queues permitting, they would be heading home. Visiting distant family was lovely but it would be good to be back in their familiar surroundings.

The middle-aged man sat flicking through his papers once more. He wanted to be thoroughly prepared for the interview. It had been a bold step to branch out at this stage in life and a major move for the family. His wife supported him, even if his children remained to be persuaded, but he was sure he could make a go of it given the chance.

The half dozen members of a stag party, feeling rather the worse for wear, endeavoured to remain cheerful as they chatted and exchanged anecdotes. However, as the end of the journey approached, one or two were beginning to wonder how they were going to reassure the bride-to-be that her 'intended' was bound to be released in time for the wedding - once the misunderstanding had been sorted out.

The medical student, returning to university, sat quietly reviewing the visit. She certainly wouldn't normally be travelling by plane but her grandfather had paid for the flight. 'I wanted to see you one more time. You have your life before you. My life is done - on the whole it has been a good one. Make sure you make the most of yours.' She was very fond of him and she wanted him to be proud of her as she followed in his footsteps.

She had managed all the formalities with passport, baggage and boarding card remarkably well but going on holiday without him was just not the same. Now, far too late, the widow was wondering whether it was all a big mistake. She sat staring out of the window resolving to keep herself under control and look forward as he would have wanted her to do. Easier said than done, but this was the beginning of her new life.

... My granddaughter came home from Reception class recently, clutching a little clear pot that she had decorated. The teacher had told the class the pot was for catching the sun's rays, but my granddaughter declared that it was for 'catching the trails in the sky'.

How many trails and travellers will there be this coming year?

Sue Fisher



**Forest
Farm
Cat
Hotel**

Idyllic rural location
Individual heated chalets
housing up to four cats
Also welcome rabbits,
guinea pigs, hamsters etc.
Come and see us before booking

Call Lucy on 01580 242961
or 07720 966374
email enquiries@forestfarmcathotel.co.uk
or see our website
www.forestfarmcathotel.co.uk

The Holt Bed and Breakfast
Quietly situated within walking distance of Benenden village

Warm friendly welcome. Full English breakfast
with homemade breads and preserves
Charming ensuite rooms, two double and one twin
Set in three acres of woodland gardens
Afternoon tea and homemade cake on arrival



Kate Rundell * 01580 240414 * kate@theholt.org * www.theholt.org

T.W. FUGGLE & SON
FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Private Chapels of Rest 24-HOUR SERVICE

All arrangements undertaken with personal attention

Pre-paid funeral plans arranged through Golden Charter

20 Ashford Road, Tenterden – 01580 763340 – www.twfuggle.co.uk



**Outdoor
workout
classes
in
Benenden**

Want to get fit, build strength,
burn fat and have fun?
Short of time and
want great results?
Then join my circuit-style class

When? Mondays and Fridays
8.45am

Where? The Glebe Field, next to
Benenden Village Hall

Who? Me? From beginner to
ultra-fit, my mixed-ability sessions
are designed so that everyone
gets a workout at their own level

1:1 personal training also available

 **Caroline Kennedy**
PERSONAL TRAINER

For further details contact
Caroline Kennedy
☎ 07971 295442
✉ pt@carolinekennedy.co.uk
f Caroline Kennedy Personal Trainer

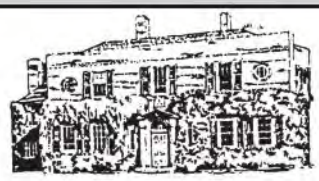
Trial class just £5

**INTERVIEW PRACTICE
and CV WRITING**

Retired City insurance company
Chief Executive
For university entrance
or job interviews

Call Charles Hume on
01580 240838
charles.hume@btinternet.com

DBS certificated



OFFERING LONG-TERM RESIDENCE,
CONVALESCENCE & RESPIRE CARE
FOR INDIVIDUALS AND COUPLES
WHO VALUE PRIVACY, LUXURY
AND HAPPINESS

PEASMARSH PLACE For Brochure & Details
Church Lane, Peasmarsh, Rye, East Sussex TN31 6XE Tel: 01797 230555

**All Under One Roof at
Slaney Place Farm, Headcorn Road, Staplehurst TN12 0DT**

Mister Theobald's Furniture Showroom
www.theobaldsfurniture.co.uk

Quality British-made Sofas & Chairs at DISCOUNT PRICES
Free delivery

Lift and Rise Recliners - home visits can be arranged
Armchairs * Footstools * Sofas/Sofabeds * Choice of fabrics/leather
Cushion interior replacement service in leather, sprung, fibre, FR. Foam etc.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH **Theobald Upholstery** OF STAPLEHURST, est. 1975
Telephone: 01580-890055

MOST TYPES OF FURNITURE RE-UPHOLSTERED AND REPAIRED
BY EXPERT CRAFTS PEOPLE - HUNDREDS OF FABRICS TO CHOOSE FROM

News and Events

Benenden Players: Time to think Panto!

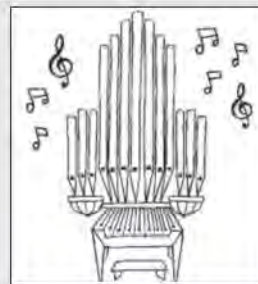
Bev Beveridge has crafted another brand new panto: Raiders of the Lost Monarch. Don't worry: at no point will a giant stone ball come racing down the hall through the audience; we simply can't afford the insurance, let alone the damage to the lovely plush new red curtains!

Rehearsals have been underway since early October; so I can promise you lots of great songs and dancing thanks to our resident choreographer (and an Argentine tango for Strictly fans). It's been great to see new children and grown-ups getting involved with real enthusiasm: this year we have several new cast members, backstage crew, and new faces in the band. The show features all usual silliness of a traditional panto, with the Benenden Players twist. Lots of cheesy jokes and local references, and we've had enormous fun pulling together the costumes (the dame is always a favourite, but dressing a cactus, an anteater and a gecko has been a stretch).

Over Christmas we'll be in the hall painting sets and giving the cast a break from rehearsals to be with family, and to learn all their lines before final rehearsals and then showtime 1-4 February.

I do hope you've bought your tickets; some still available online or in the community shop. Thanks as ever to all those that come along, help, perform, or simply give their family members time out to join us!

Nancy Tolhurst 07711 139218
nancy.tolhurst@btinternet.com



Alex Palotai

ORGAN RECITAL

*Sunday 7 January 2018
St George's Church, Benenden
6pm*

following Choral Evensong at 5pm

Youth Liaison

Benenden Parish Council is looking for a Youth Liaison volunteer to work with the council. The role would be to help involve young people in village activities, and to find out what provision they would like to see. The first task would be to assess how popular the weekly Streetcruizer bus is proving and to ask if and how the service could be improved. Please contact the clerk or Parish Council chairman if you would be able to help.

Christmas village lunch

A big thank you to all who attended and served the Christmas village lunch at the Village Hall on Friday 8 December (see photos on the back cover) and especially to those who have volunteered to do the cooking and serving during the year namely: Sheila and Charlie Hume, Genevieve and Robert Greenwood, Kay Martin, Hazel Matthews, Heather and Phil Robins, Minnie Garnier, Jan Dunkley, Zena Bawden and Kathleen and Anthony Brewis. Some of the money from the Christmas lunch is going towards supporting the Christmas Day lunch. The volunteers would like to thank everyone for the generous Christmas presents of bottles of wine - much appreciated.



Bishopsdale Oast

B&B NOW OPEN

6 bedrooms

HOUSE CLEARANCE
Lots to sell incl. 9kg Hotpoint washing machine,
travel cot, TVs and lots more
on secluded acres

CONTACT THE OWNERS DIRECT

Bishopsdale Oast

Biddenden, Kent TN27 8DR

01580 291027

drysdale@bishopsdaleoast.co.uk

www.charlottehudsonschoolofdance.com

Dance classes held at Benenden
and Rolvenden Village Hall.

Classes from 2 and a half years to
adult!



Ballet



Street Jazz



Acro



Modern



Tap



Exams and Shows

Contact us now to book your 3 week
trial for only £10!

07875525518

charlotte@charlottehudsonschoolofdance.com



SAINT RONAN'S SCHOOL

Hawkhurst, Kent • Founded 1883 • www.saintronans.co.uk

Boys & Girls from 3-13 • Day & Boarding • Forest School



Discover the magic! Email emmatv@saintronans.co.uk

or call 01580 752271 to book an appointment.

Reg'd Charity 1066420



THE BENENDEN PLAYERS PANTO

RAIDERS

of the
LOST MONARCH



A Right
Royal
PANTO!

WRITER & DIRECTOR

Beverley Beveridge

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Graham Beveridge

1st-4th FEBRUARY 2018

BENENDEN VILLAGE HALL

Eve: 1st-3rd February 2018 (doors open 6.45pm, curtain up 7.30pm)

Matinee: 3rd & 4th February 2018 (doors open 1.45pm, curtain up 2.30pm)

Adults: £9 and £10 16 and under: £6 and £7 Flat and raised seating

BOX OFFICE: Benenden's Community Shop

BOOK ONLINE: www.benendenplayers.co.uk



RAFAËL DUPRÉ
- counselling -

www.a-therapy.com



Get life back
on track and feel
better in 2017

Professional, confidential
non-judgemental counselling for
both adults and young people.

Call 01580 445 005 or email
rafael@a-therapy.com

1:1

Tuition

In Benenden

Are you considering personal tuition
for your child?

Clare Leek has spaces available

clare.intuition@btinternet.com

07748 462792



Primary Subjects
Singapore Maths
French

MEET YOUR MP Helen Grant

Helen Grant, MP for Maidstone and the Weald, holds regular surgeries around the constituency. If you would like to arrange an appointment to discuss an issue of concern to you, please e-mail Helen at helen.grant.mp@parliament.uk or telephone **020 7219 7107**.

www.helengrant.org

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





New Primary School: work starts on site

On the first day of December 2017, contractors moved onto site to begin work on the new primary school in Benenden. The initial signs of movement were unremarkable, consisting largely of fencing, signage and a single portable toilet, but they represented a significant first step down the road to the completion of this long-awaited and much-needed project.

Within a week, contractors had removed a substantial area of turf from what will eventually be the car park, and the 'pasture site' became recognisably a new school in the making.

Bill Martin, who has been closely associated with the design and development of the new school for an astonishing 17 years, said: "I am of

course delighted that, at long last, work has started on site. I am particularly pleased for headteacher Gill Knox and her long-suffering staff, who have experienced so many delays and disappointments but have always maintained such patient optimism. I am pleased too

for the very many people (including past headteachers and staff) who have worked on or supported this project and whose efforts will now be rewarded as they see the new school emerge and the dream become a reality.

"The approved design retains many of the features of the popular Concept Plans prepared in 2006 by architects Roderick James/Nichols Brown Webber. These Concept Plans have been refined through the planning process and taken on to construction stage by a design team led by architects Clague.

"Although Benenden will be one of the last villages in the area to enjoy a primary school built to modern standards, I firmly believe that our long wait will ultimately be seen to have been worthwhile and that our new school will be widely recognised as being, let's just say, more than 'a bit special'. Our children will finally have a school fit for purpose."

The enabling works contract, currently underway, comprises temporary diversion of public rights of way, the erection of reptile fencing, highway works for the new access road, some drainage, preparation of main contractor's compound and the earthworks needed to create the new school car park.

Peter Thomas



Whatever you want to store...
 ...house sale & purchase not coinciding, travelling,
 house building work, paperwork overload or just
 "de-cluttering" to sell your house more quickly
 - we offer a friendly and flexible
 service in Cranbrook. With secure
 storage, competitive rates, all on
 one level and hassle free
 24/7 access, contact us now!

01580 713231
www.barn-store.co.uk

BARN STORE
 SELF-STORAGE WITH CONFIDENCE
 24/7 SECURITY STORAGE

K Jones Electrical 01580 848118
 Domestic, Commercial, Industrial
 Electricians
 All work insured and guaranteed
 Trusted locally for 40 years

APPROVED INSTALLER


kevin.kjoneselectrical@gmail.com

WS

Wordsworth Surveyors

Chartered Surveyors providing residential
 survey and valuation services in Kent,
 Sussex and Central London

01580 240626
 07734 386115

info@wordsworthsurveyors.co.uk
 www.wordsworthsurveyors.co.uk

 **RICS**


 let the Bike take the strain...

UK Electric Bike Centre Ltd
BIDDENDEN AND BODIAM
www.ukelectricbike.co.uk
www.ukelectricbiketours.co.uk

ebike hire
ebike tours
ebike sales
ebike repairs

Telephone: 07484 744200
 info@ukelectricbike.co.uk

**Look closer.
 Go further.**

We are excited by the future
 and equip our children with
 the skills they need for today
 and tomorrow.

Come and see the difference.
 dulwichprepcranbrook.org
 01580 712179



**Dulwich Prep
 Cranbrook**



A cry for help: Voluntary Hospital Car Service

Following a notice in recent issues of Benenden Magazine, the Waltons have received no expressions of interest in running (or co-ordinating) the local village-based Voluntary Hospital Car Service. If no-one comes forward it will cease after Christmas because the Waltons will by then have done the job for five years and, with other voluntary activities are really rather stretched. If there is no car service, a number of mostly elderly people who may not be able to afford the high cost of taxis, and for whom buses are not suitable, will be stranded in the village. The scheme needs one person (or persons) who normally spend some time at home and have a telephone which they are prepared to use for the scheme. No money is involved in the sense that we do not charge for phone calls nor for trips to surgery or hospital (the understanding being that someone who has been helped makes a small donation to their driver and invariably they do). We have at least six willing drivers: the problem lies simply with co-ordinating a request with a willing driver - and this is almost never a problem. The Waltons also drive and will continue to do so.

Please ring Peter or Gilly Walton on 01580 242855 for a chat without obligation. This service is pretty much vital for those few who use it and we have no wish to make life more difficult for them. Please ring now and, if you feel you can, volunteer later. There isn't a huge demand for the service but it is vital for those who need it.
Peter or Gilly Walton 242855

Village Lunch

Tuesday 16 January, Benenden Village Hall,
12.30pm

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



In Benenden
and Sandhurst

A different way
of being church
of doing church

Come along on Sunday 21 January
This month at St George's Church, Benenden, 4-6pm

Aimed at all the family ... whatever your age.
Have fun being church together, doing crafts together,
worshipping together, and eating together.
The first hour is the craft stuff.
Then we have a short time of informal worship.
Finally we'll sit down and eat a meal together.

Please come and join us. You do not have to get messy,
just have fun!

Revd David Commander, Rector
01580 240658 david@dc-uk.co.uk

Benenden Pre-School News

We wish you all a Happy New Year!

All the children and staff at Benenden Pre-school are currently enjoying their festive break but it won't be long before they are back and full of energy to start another term! Even though we are in the thick of the winter the pre-school always encourages the children to enjoy the outdoors no matter what the weather and January will be no different. They are lucky to have a range of activities available outside including sandpits, climbing frames, mud kitchens and balance beams.

The pre-school is also fortunate to have people come in and teach the children some extra skills. Next term the children will have the opportunity to take part in sporty tots, music classes and yoga sessions. All of which help to develop important skills.

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



FRANKLIN MEDIATION
01892 300320

Divorce Mediation
The legal alternative to Court

Offices in Benenden, Tunbridge Wells, Maidstone and London
(evening and weekend availability in Benenden)

www.franklinmediation.co.uk



Pengelly & Rylands
Solicitors

- Family
- Residential Conveyancing
- Wills
- Probate
- Trusts
- Commercial Property
- Court of Protection
- Powers of Attorney
- Business Services

- Charities
- Civil Liberties
- Complete Legal Care
- Debt Recovery
- Employment
- Personal Injury
- Professional Negligence
- Licensing
- Mediation

Call: 01580 762248 Email: info@pengelly-rylands.co.uk
www.pengelly-rylands.co.uk
Visit: 39/41 High Street, Tenterden, Kent, TN30 6BJ

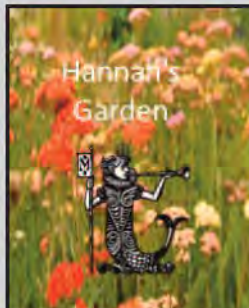


**Harris Forestry Services
& Tree Care**

land clearance
grubbing out
stump removal
logs
chestnut fencing

NPTC Qualified & Insured

01580 389396
07808 738097



**Hannah's Garden can now
post nationwide!**

Please contact Hannah for fantastic repeat business local rates
Hannah's garden has a stunning variety of English scented country
flowers straight from the growers garden in Benenden, Kent.
www.hannahsgarden.net



hannah@hannahsgarden.net
07958081915



**A Wood Fired Oven can provide
fantastic, fresh and fast food for you
and your guests.**

We are local to Benenden and can cater
for private parties, wedding receptions
and events of all kinds.

Most people only think of pizza, but
there are lots of alternatives.

Give me a call to discuss on:
01580 279000 or 07788 279000
info@wowcooking.co.uk

or visit our website
www.wowcooking.co.uk



EVANS
CONSERVATION LTD

**HISTORIC BUILDING
SPECIALISTS**

07718920249
www.evansconservation.uk

Benenden Bonfire Society

The fire and fireworks on Saturday 4 November once again provided a fabulous evening and enjoyable community event.

The Benenden Bonfire Society aims to distribute profits to promote or assist in projects or to generate new opportunities for the youth of the parish. The recipients of funding can be a group or an individual creating benefit for a group in the parish. The committee favours opportunities for young people aged 14-25 years but this is not exclusive and other age groups are welcome to bid for the funds available.

Initial application forms will be available from Benenden's Community Shop on 1 January 2018. Dependent on the number of applicants we may request more detail on the project/opportunity and how current funding is used.

The completed bids must be returned no later than 1 March 2018. It is our intention to allocate funds no later than the end of March and successful applicants will be published in the May 2018 magazine and earlier on the Society website.

This year the profit from the event was just over £8,000 (final figures to be published in the May 2018 magazine together with beneficiaries as set out above.)

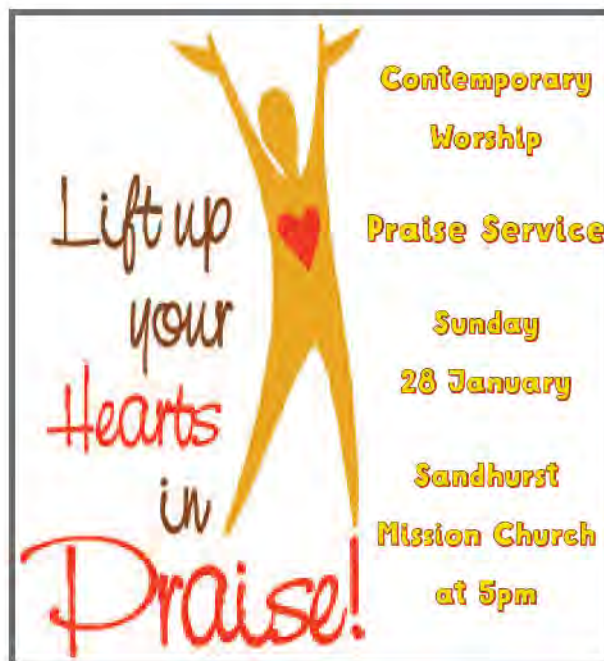
With a surplus from last year the Committee are now in a position to hold sufficient funds to pay for the 2018 event and still distribute a significant sum as per our aims.

Therefore this year a sum of £7,000.00 will be available for distribution and we look forward to receiving applications from those eligible.

Grant Matthews

Benenden Bonfire Society Committee

www.benendenfireworks.co.uk



Your magazine - our thanks

The staff of the Benenden Magazine would like to say Happy New Year to all our readers and advertisers and a big thank you for supporting us. Without you all it simply wouldn't happen.

Specifically, many thanks to the Mark and Lucy at the Bull for hosting our Christmas drinks. And to Maison Sichel for the wine.

We especially want to say a big thank you to all our stalwart distributors who voluntarily trudge or drive round every house in the parish to deliver your copy of the magazine. And special thanks also to Marilyn and Dick Hill who oversee the entire distribution operation. If for some reason you are not getting your copy, or if it is delayed beyond the first of the month, please get in touch with them.

More suggestions for coverage and contributions are always welcome. As ever we'd welcome more photographs of the village or village activities. Possible cover shots should be in 'portrait' and as high a resolution as you can manage.

KB



Pat Thoburn 1926-2017

Extracts from the eulogies given at her funeral
on 13 November 2017

By Stephen Stansfeld

Patricia Ann Thoburn, was born on the 26 November 1926 in Beckenham, Kent. Pat had an older sister Mary, to whom she was very close. On 14 May 1936, the family took ownership of Pypne Manor.

It became clear that Pat had considerable artistic talent and after school she got a place at the Slade School of Art in London. She sculpted a full size horse for the Festival of Britain using steel rods which was exhibited in Glasgow. Afterwards, with a friend she went on an ambitious trip across Europe visiting Athens, Alexandria and Cyprus.

Her beloved mother developed cancer and died in 1953. Losing her mother changed the course of her life, as it drew her back to Pypne where she spent the rest of her life. She took on the garden at Pypne from her father and developed it using her artist's eye influenced by her great friend the plant collector Collingwood Ingram (from The Grange, Benenden). He named a Cistus 'Pat' after her.

She had several successful submissions to the Royal Academy in the 1960s. Later she very much enjoyed creating pottery.

Pat's Christian faith was an important influence in her life and was imbued with poetry and a love of natural things, which led to the series of delightful books on plants, trees and the seasons she published in recent years. Pat was a very loving person whose humour, wholehearted interest in people, kindness and generosity greatly enriched the lives of her family and friends.

She played a very active part in the village supporting the cubs and scouts, doing the church flowers for about 60 years and entertained huge numbers every summer at Pypne eager to see the garden. She had enormous energy and into her 80s was still mowing the Rhodie Glen by hand.

In the last few years she had polymyalgia but remained fiercely independent until the last week of her recent illness, which was mercifully brief. She died quickly and peacefully a month before her 91st birthday.

Pictures from a Life

By Christopher Neve

Here is Pat aged 19. She has locked herself out of her London flat, as sometimes happened, and borrowed a neighbour's clothes. She arrives for dinner in Holland Park looking so peculiar that her friends at first don't recognise her.

Now here is Pat painting Grey, her friend, who for years did the cooking at Pypne in her parents' time. It is the painting's sixth week. Grey sits resignedly with a small dog on her lap for the umpteenth time. Pat abandoned this picture and showed it, unfinished, at the Royal Academy. She thought one bit of Grey's collar was 'alright'.

The first picture Pat showed in the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition was a still life of onions. It was hung upside-down.

She took her Academy pictures to London by train. In this way she benefited from the art criticism of Mr. Lambert, the porter at Staplehurst.

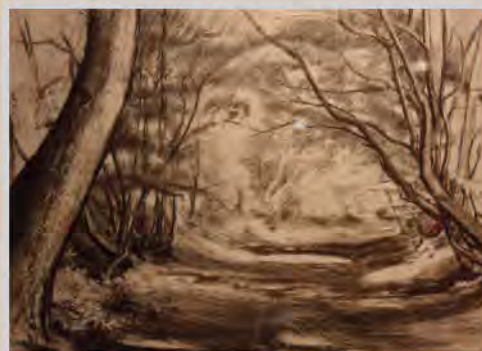
Sometimes her friend Captain Ingram was on the train, taking a plant to the RHS. He talked to everyone in the carriage and asked Pat to have lunch with him at his club. Finding it was her 21st birthday, he tried to make her eat oysters and bought her a hat.

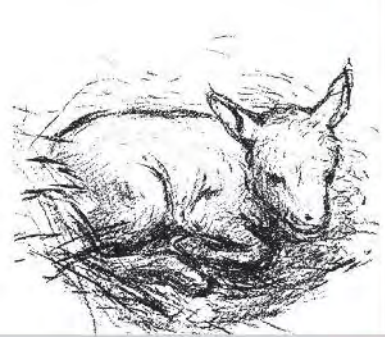
Pat coming into this church for the first time when she was ten. Now, up a rickety ladder in the 1950s, she is doing the church flowers, having taken the job over from her mother. 'Better late than never,' Lady Alma said as Pat hurried in, a bit behindhand, carrying flowers from Pypne garden. Harmonious and painterly, Pat's style as a flower arranger is like no one else's. She was to decorate the church for 60 years and did it wonderfully.

Now here she is painting the rhododendron picture that hangs in the dining room at Pypne. At first the blooms are shadowed. Then, right at the end, with a good-sized brush she sets down a delicious, creamy patch of white, first on one petal and then on the one next to it, which lights up the whole arrangement. No one is better than her at this free and apparently simple burst of instinctive painting.

She left the sticker with a number on it in the bottom corner in memory of its journey to Burlington House.

That great procession that came down the drive more or less without a break includes: the Playgroup, who would come to see the lambs; the Primary School, with whom Pat would draw in the garden, and they would sing to her; the Cubs, whom she helped to run for years with Certhia Harden, and who camped at Pypne; the Merry and Bright,





and countless clubs and groups of all kinds, many bringing their drawing things. Patients and staff at the Chest Hospital had an open invitation.

Then there were the set pieces, like the annual occasions that raised enormous sums for Hospice in the Weald. And the exhibition of paintings and sculpture, with pictures in the stoep and hessian on benches on which to display sculpture and pottery in the studio. Pat always encouraged local artists but it was uphill work getting her to exhibit even the smallest thing of her own.

In Pypmne's kitchen: no measuring, weight and quantities guessed without hesitation from long experience. Pat's strong hands - sculptor's hands, gardener's hands - for rapidly mixing or stirring, improvising brilliant results. In the background, the little, exhausted corner cupboard, like a wayside shrine, somehow always full on every shelf with cakes, as if by magic.

And odd individuals over

the years. Like the west-country monk Pat liked, who, when the spring sunshine came into his cell, began to dream of country lanes and who spent the summers wandering as a gentleman of the road, invariably ending up unannounced at Pypmne.

And here is Pat with all her tenants and employees, over the years. She would do literally anything for them, and they for her. They were among her greatest friends. Her kindness and generosity were absolutely without limits.

She liked being the same age as the Queen. To celebrate the Queen's 80th birthday, Pat gave all her tenants a month rent free.

Pat digging holes for new trees at Pypmne after the cruel cartwheeling wind of 1987 had altered the landscape of Southern England almost out of recognition. But she was optimistic. 'There is nothing better in the world than planting a tree,' she wrote. 'They are our spiritual companions. The tree can tell us more, saying nothing, than we could ever tell the tree.'

This puts me in mind of her most beautiful oil painting of all - her painting of the oak tree in the field opposite Pypmne. The painting is fresh and direct, some of it done swiftly with a palette knife. Other areas left as bare canvas. By any standards, this is terrific painting. A picture that is a clear, perfect summing-up. In a sense, it is a self-portrait.

In pottery there are calamities that can overtake glazes when they are being fired. Here is Pat finding that a batch of her pottery has come out

in the most virulent rash. Christened 'Measleware', it becomes a great success.

The drawings into glazes in her un-measled pottery are beautiful too. In her books you can easily see her love of the modest flowers - violet, daisy, bramble. These she drew on pottery. Round ground-ivy leaves on a shallow brownish bowl.

Pat in her chair by the fire, a bottle of ink on a drawing-board balanced across her knees, writing letters - of thanks, congratulations or condolence in her inimitable style, the style in which you can still distinctly hear her voice and her idiosyncratic delivery.

I am thinking of the bunches of flowers she left, without a note, on people's doorsteps if they were sad or ill. Or the path for wheelchairs round the lychgate-steps. It was Pat who designed this and paid for it anonymously. And here she is, week after week, planting a great carpet of snowdrops in the churchyard.

Now here is Pat taking you round the garden, loading you with cut flowers of all descriptions. She knows the Latin for each. Armfuls of colour. Down into the glen, by 'the high road' or 'low road' round to the pond. Up through the tunnel of red camellias and then a pause on the seat below the cobbled path with its tulips and forget-me-nots where she and her father always sat in the summer for their evening drink.

This is Pat having dinner with her family and friends on the lawn by the pond on a hot summer night - sitting in a cave of candlelight, with a full moon above the old roof, and the little owl flying softly up to perch on the chimney.

The lights are on in the house and you can see into the rooms where so much has been said and so much has happened.

Then, Pat sitting curled up on her feet like a schoolgirl on the sofa in front of an enormous fire, laughing so much that the comb falls out of her hair.

Pat's painting, writing and gardening were all parts of her persistent scrutiny of the natural world, a scrutiny which drew everything together into a generous and radiant over-arching understanding. Her version of the Sublime.

Not long ago, Pat wrote: 'All Saints Day is the best day of the year. May they, in the end, be turned into a rainbow. And may we be changed into COLOURS beyond our wildest hopes.'



Holistic & Sports Massage Therapy

Everybody can benefit from massage.

On a physiological level there is no better way of releasing tension from muscles than through massage.

It is estimated that 75% of disease is caused through stress.

Massage can be used for rehabilitation, relaxation and stimulation; it promotes suppleness of the muscles, improves circulation and reduces stress.

To find out more contact:

Jan Nightingale

07887 906663

jan@nightingaleholistics.co.uk

Benenden based for over 20 years

GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE

KATE JOYNER INTERIORS



Image courtesy of Marnie Curran

Hand-Finished Curtains & Blinds

Fabrics & Poles

Upholstery & Loose Covers

Wallpaper & Paint

Lighting & Carpets

The Paper Mill Oast, Hinksden Road,
Benenden, Kent TN17 4BA

01580 240708 ~ 07734 958129

kate@katejoyner.co.uk ~ lucy@katejoyner.co.uk ~ www.katejoyner.co.uk



Residential Sales • Management and Lettings

01580 242700

wealdproperty.net



Recently SOLD BENENDEN £775,000

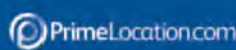
**LEADERS IN
LOCAL PROPERTY
SINCE 1985**

Weald Property has been successfully handling exceptional local Property whilst supporting the villages of Benenden and Rolvenden since 1985. Offering a complete, professional and personal service in Residential Sales, Lettings and Property Management Agency, our successful and unique approach is not to be found on the High Street. Located at our inviting offices at Windmill Farm, Benenden Road, Rolvenden, we offer cost effective solutions for selling, letting and managing your Property.

To benefit from our 30 years experience leading the way in Wealden Property, please call Alex Hill on 01580 242700 for a complimentary market appraisal.



Recently LET ROLVENDEN LAYNE £3,250 PCM



2 Windmill Oast, Windmill Farm,
Rolvenden, Kent TN17 4PF

24 Hour/365 Days Emergency Service

**Providing diagnostic
and surgical
services
throughout
Kent and
East Sussex**



Mobile and
Clinic based Services



**MILBOURN
EQUINE VETS**

www.milbournequine.co.uk

Hawkhurst
01580 752301
Ashford
01233 500505

Also at Rye and Canterbury

**Caring for your pet's health
every step of the way**

24 Hour/365 Days
Emergency Service

Surgeries also at
Rye, Ashford,
Lydd and Wye



Dedicated to your pet's well being
CINQUE PORTS VETS

Hawkhurst Veterinary Surgery 01580 752187
Tenterden Veterinary Surgery 01580 763309

www.cinqueportsvets.co.uk

News from Benenden School

At the time of writing, the Christmas trees are up (in fact, they were up at the end of November!) and the girls are in great spirits, with festive songs frequently ringing out from the boarding houses and dining hall.

The final few weeks of the autumn term are always particularly enjoyable, with a host of events and activities in which we celebrate the season. We are in the midst of a series of carol concerts, with three separate concerts for parents of different age groups and two further Advent services for our seniors. These are always delightful occasions that bring the whole school community together.

We are also looking forward to the traditional staff v student lacrosse and netball matches (at which I am always in awe of the girls' competitiveness!) and perhaps the noisiest evening of the year: the Water Knockout contest in which teams compete in madcap games in the pool, cheered on very enthusiastically by the rest of their house.

This all comes hot on the heels of the excitement of the School's production of *The Sound of Music*, which was a truly spectacular show that wouldn't have been out of place in the West End. Over four performances, the girls were incredibly impressive and I was proud with the quality they demonstrated.

Aside from the festivities, there is plenty of learning still being achieved! In the final week of term our 10th Model United Nations conference will involve hundreds of pupils from schools across the South East joining us for a day of stimulating debate and diplomacy, and many of our girls are having interviews for highly competitive courses at Oxbridge, in the States or on medical or veterinary courses.

There are also two trips going out at the end of term: a cross-curricular excursion to Vienna and a two-week expedition to Nepal, in which girls will raise money for charity and trek in the Himalayas.

We wish everybody in Benenden a happy and relaxing Christmas and new year.

Samantha Price, Headmistress

Neighbourhood Plan

Things are progressing with the 18-month Neighbourhood Development Plan. Our community can have a meaningful say in how Benenden, Iden Green and East End develop over the next 20 years. The plan could be defensive and negative - a NIMBY's charter. But input received at our workshops has shown people want to embrace the process and be progressive, while also being careful to protect all that we love about our rural lifestyle.

We have held three workshops, open to all residents of the parish. Each takes a specific aspect of the plan and starts the conversation with residents on what they want for Benenden over the next 20 years. Our Vision Statement was published in last month's magazine, we are working on the views and suggestions we have received from our Future Housing, Transport, Infrastructure and Local Business workshops. The plan must be evidence based and must be a voice for our community. This process is a conversation and we will be asking all of you to be involved.

Some 25 people have agreed to offer their time to help us gather evidence and opinion which will form the bedrock of our plan. There are five working groups each looking at different issues and you will hear more about these over coming months. Many hands make light work, and I would like us to find another 10 or 15 people who are willing and able to help. I am keen to see the younger element within the village getting involved; after all it is their future we are planning!

In response please email your views to:
paul.tolhurst@btinternet.com



J. PERIGOE & SON FUNERAL DIRECTORS

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1852

Your local, family owned Funeral Directors offering the highest standard of care and facilities to every family we serve.

THE Independent Way in association with
Golden Charter
Funeral Plans

By choosing 'The Independent Way' funeral plan, we are able to provide you with not only all the benefits of a pre-arranged funeral but it also gives you the opportunity to meet with us and be given the same 1 to 1 dedicated support and attention we provide to all our families.

The key benefits of the funeral plan include:

- Paying today's prices for a service you may not require for many years.
- Helps ease the worry of funeral payments at the time of need.
- Your wishes are fulfilled by a proven partnership. By entrusting us with your wishes, you can rest assured that you are in good hands and that your wishes will be carried out to the letter.
- Peace of mind. Knowing that you have saved your loved ones this responsibility during sad and difficult times.

We are always able to visit you at home to gently guide you towards making the right choice of funeral arrangements. To find out more about this opportunity and receive your brochure free of charge, please feel free to contact us.

'Bardens,' Bank Street,
Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3EF.
01580 713636
(Prop. West & Coe Ltd.)



Dixter Road, Northiam,
East Sussex TN31 6LB.
01797260316

Email – enquiries@jperigoeandson.com Website – www.jperigoeandson.com





01580 714954
info@coccolicious.co.uk
15 Chalky Lane Cranbrook
Kent TN17 3EF

Cake!
For any occasion.
Call or pop in
to enquire.

Benenden Village Hall

"Let your imagination run wild – the hall can be anything you want"!



Call Lorraine on
01580 243123 for details

www.benendenvillagehall.org

P.F. WARD & SONS FAMILY BUTCHERS

FRESH LOCAL
PRODUCE

VARIETY of HOME
MADE SAUSAGES
& BURGERS

Phone: 01580 240612

BALDWIN'S TRAVEL GROUP



Specialists in
Tailor-made
Itineraries and
Cruising

Flights,
Hotels, Car Hire
Tours &
Packages



Travel
Insurance
Foreign
Currency



Independent,
Family
and
Group Travel

Baldwins Travel - Cranbrook
01580 714411
Baldwins Travel - Maidstone
01622 762141
Travelux - Tenterden
01580 764344
Baldwins Travel - Tunbridge Wells
01892 511999
Baldwins Travel - Tonbridge
01732 351223
Baldwins Travel - Uckfield
01825 760488
Sevenoaks Travel
01732 458255
Baldwins Travel - Lewes
01273 472466
BBTM - Business Travel
01892 515900



www.baldwinstravel.co.uk
#HolidayInspirations



Village Hall highlights

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

It's that time of year when a lot of folk are making a resolution that 2018 is going to be the year to start exercising. If this is you, the hall is the perfect place to get started on the road to fitness.

So, while you are at home sitting cosily in front of the fire, chomping on a mince pie, and/or having a glass or three of wine, why not have a look at the hall's timetable of fitness classes? You can pick up a copy of the timetable at Benenden's community shop, or at the village hall. You can also download a copy from the comfort of your armchair at www.benendenvillagehall.org/whats-on/.

We have a great mix of classes to suit everybody, and for all ages. These include, yoga, zumba, tap-dancing, ballet, pilates, kettlercise, judo, ballroom dancing, and dance and exercise for seniors. We also have various dance classes, yoga and judo for children, and not forgetting our four-legged friends, we even have dog training!

Excitement is well and truly building at the hall with the panto rehearsals now in full swing. I'm wondering if Bev Beveridge had insider knowledge of a certain royal wedding when she wrote the script for this year's production of Raiders of the Lost Monarch! Don't forget to buy your tickets quickly as they sell fast.

I am taking a break to enjoy Christmas and New Year so if your query can't wait over the festive period please email me at enquiries@benendenvillagehall.org, and I will reply as soon as possible.

Happy New Year to one and all!

Lorraine Jones 243123
enquiries@benendenvillagehall.org

Personal announcement

On 16 November, after 30 years together, Maggy and Tony Cardwell were married in a civil ceremony in Maidstone.

Maggy Hoyt

Talking Shop

SERVING UP QUIZ GLORY (ALMOST)

The staff at Benenden's are known for their professionalism and personability, but never let it be said they aren't a highly intelligent bunch into the bargain. Last month the community shop sent a team to the village hall at Northiam for their Bonfire Society quiz night, and we were rewarded with a performance out of the top drawer.

Captain Sue Butcher led fellow shop employee Lorraine Hodges into the fray in the badlands of East Sussex, with a side comprising volunteers Heather and Phil Robbins, Janet Illman (and her husband Clive) and Nicola Thomas (and her husband Peter).

Everybody chipped in manfully, with Clive proving adept at recognising obscure and long-dead authors, Phil showing a useful familiarity with Australian FI circuits and Lorraine coming into her own when able to recall the location of the village of Nether Wallop, where she lived for several years as a young woman.

They finished third, a mere six points adrift of the winners, and might have done even better had Peter, co-editor of this organ, not exhibited a shameful lack of knowledge of south coast geography, US politics and nuthatches. Greater glories surely await in 2018.

In other news, supporters of the shop who wish to support it even further may wish to consider playing the Tunbridge Wells Lotto, a weekly online lottery supported by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council as a way to raise money for local activities. It's easy to access by visiting www.twlotto.co.uk, where players can select 'Support Specific Cause' and nominate Benenden's.

You can play by investing as little as £1 per week. The draw takes place on a Saturday night at 8pm and winners are informed by email. Of each pound that is spent, 50% goes to your chosen cause (hopefully Benenden's) and 10% to other good causes via Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Grants Fund, which supported us last year with the cash for new fridges.

Bev Beveridge

CHEESEMANS GARAGE

B. J. NASH



BENENDEN, KENT

TELEPHONE
CRANBROOK 240583

JEFF TWORT

HOME IMPROVEMENTS
&
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

01580 243174 / 07702137743

Bargain Carpets & Floors

Carpet, Vinyl, Laminate and Wood supplied and fitted at reduced rates

- Same choice as any shop but up to half the price
- We can move your furniture for you and take away your old flooring



For free home sample viewing
and estimates please call Stuart

01424 855882 / 07734 659834

www.bargainfloors.co.uk

Webb's

45 & 51 High Street
Tenterden

Hardware, Garden and Cookware Specialists
Webb's Ironmongery Stores (Tenterden) Limited

HARDWARE and DIY

Specialists in power, hand and garden tools, plumbing, decorating sundries,
lawnmower repairs - brand new showroom

KITCHENWARE

Cookware specialists, garden furniture and barbecues
Gifts with a difference. Free gift wrapping

HOME and LINEN

Beautiful bed linen, towels, table furnishings,
babyware department and quality toys

**We guarantee you will not leave
Webb's empty handed!**

Tel: 01580 762132 email: mail@webbsoftenterden.com Website: www.webbsoftenterden.com

PUT THE Volunteer INTO YOUR CV.

Use your skills and
learn new ones...

BENENDEN CUBS & BEAVERS

- Need leadership teams
- Do you have like-minded friends who'd help you to run the Cub Pack or Beaver Colony
- Organising activities, outings and visitors, running games and setting challenges
- CUBS are 8-10 years old
- BEAVERS are 6-8 years old

Scouting offers fun, challenge and everyday adventure to 400,00 girls and boys across the UK. But it's about fun and friendship for adults too, and with 30,000 young people still on our waiting lists there's no better time to get involved. You can give as much or as little time as you like and you can fit volunteering around your work and family commitments.

CONTACT

- Jan Ashley
- janashley@hotmail.co.uk
- 01580 714988



Copyright 2007 The Scout Association. All Rights Reserved.

TN17 DOG walking

- Professional • Friendly Service
- Fully Insured • One-Off or Regular

www.tn17dogwalking.co.uk
07719 070864

est. DECORATING FOREMANS 1970 SERVICES LTD

Providing the complete Decorating Service

Mobile: 07836 254047



WE ARE PLEASED TO OFFER

**SKILLED GARDEN
MAINTENANCE,
PLANTING & PRUNING**

BORDER DESIGN & ADVICE
SUPPLY OF OWN GROWN
TREES - SHRUBS -
CLIMBERS

WISTERIA A SPECIALITY

The Laurels Nursery, Dingledean, Benenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4JU
Phone 01580 240463
www.thelaurelsnursery.co.uk



Triumph of Benenden First Pealer

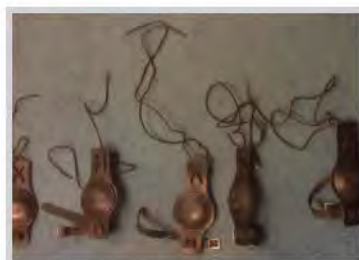
For the first time in well over 50 years a bell-ringer trained from the start at Benenden has rung a full peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples - John Holt's complex and challenging 'Original' composition of 1751, the very first true peal in this long-established 'method'. Corinne Orde rang the treble at a Great War memorial peal at Biddenden last month, taking three hours and three minutes.

For a ringer at their first peal, to ring both half-muffled, and with such consistent accuracy is a rare achievement, but Corinne did it with aplomb. Her expertise is largely due to her extensive use of the simulator in St George's tower which enabled her to practise for long periods of solid concentration, ringing several quarter-peals on the device.

Corinne is a retired professional singer and contacted Benenden's ringing master three years ago asking to be trained as a ringer. Bringing to the craft the discipline and commitment of a musician, she made remarkable progress.

The peal was organised by Biddenden ringing master Chris Cooper, to mark the centenary of a peal rung in 1917 as a memorial to two parishioners who lost their lives in the Great War.

Holt's classic composition is always a challenge for any conductor to call, as it has no repeating pattern to it at all, and the exact position of each of the 148 'bobs' and



top: Benenden bells

above: Corinne practising with the simulator

below: Bell muffers and in place on a bell clapper

A **simulator** is a computer programme whose display shows 'virtual ringers'. The student rings a real bell with its clapper silenced, but with a sensor sounding at the correct position. They can practice ringing for as long as they want with the 'virtual band' performing faultlessly and not tiring or wanting to go to the pub!



Topsoils | Composts | Barks | Grass Seed | Aggregates | Decorative Stones
Small Bags, Bulk Bags or Loose Loads
Delivered or Collected

gardenscape

Unit 10 The Mill Lane, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4AX
 Tel: 01797 253666 Freephone: 0800 954663 sales@gardenscapedirect.co.uk www.gardenscapedirect.co.uk

Hemsted cars
 professional private hire

Providing private hire and taxi service from Benenden.

We offer a reliable, professional service including airport and station transfers, courier service and informative tours for visitors to the area across Kent and Sussex.

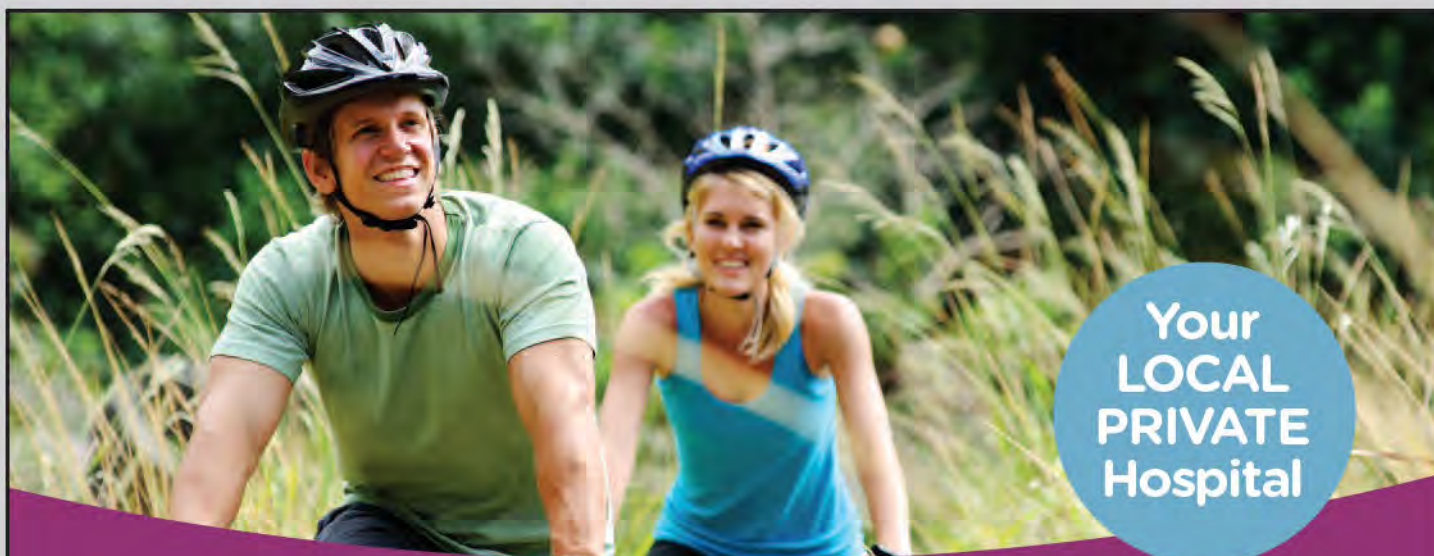
Fully insured, licensed and DBS checked.

Contact us to discuss availability and tariffs on:

01580 242898 or 07707 242898

or visit our website for further information

www.hemstedcars.co.uk



Why put your life on hold while you wait for treatment?

Choosing Benenden Hospital as a private patient means that you can rapidly access safe treatment by our specialist consultants and enjoy our state-of-the-art comfortable facilities, allowing you to get back to your active life as quickly as possible.

Benenden Hospital offers a wide range of treatments, including:

-  **General surgery**
-  **Gynaecology**
-  **Respiratory**
-  **Urology**
-  **Orthopaedic**
-  **Gastroenterology**



benendenhospital
 trust

Call us now on 01580 242 521
www.benendenhospital.org.uk

The Benenden Hospital Trust is a company limited by guarantee. Registered in England, number 3454120. Registered charity number 1065995. Registered office, The Benenden Hospital Trust, Goddard's Green Road, Benenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4AX



The Biddenden pealers, Corinne front right

the two 'singles' right at the end, has to be learned by heart and called faultlessly throughout the peal. Those who can call it truly are recognised as elite among ringers. The conductor of this peal, Paul Smith, travelled from Gloucestershire to call it.

Peals are highly dependent upon the consistent accuracy of the treble bell, which Corinne rang accurately throughout; the more remarkable also, as this was on the heavy and lumpy old eight at Biddenden which are a challenge in themselves. Benenden bells were very similar prior to 1971, when we got them rehung and tuned into their present excellence of tone and easy handling.

The Benenden band is keen to build on Corinne's example, and is always seeking new ringers for this fascinating musical craft. St George's bells are unique among Kent parish churches, with a full ring of 12 bells, usually only found in cathedrals and great minsters. We teach people aged from about ten to over 70; no great strength required - it's all acquired skill but does require a commitment to practice as with any other musical instrument. It costs almost nothing; indeed, we get £20 each for ringing for any wedding.

Look at www.benendenbells.co.uk, call us on 240083, or simply come and see what it's about on any Sunday morning or Wednesday evening. You don't have to ring a peal; the majority of ringers are content with the more modest quarter-peal of about 50 minutes duration, which we typically ring about one a month. Religious belief is not a requirement and we enjoy the variety of meetings and practices at various towers in the district.

Rod Lebon, Ringing Master

Change ringing our unique national music, evolved from the 17th century following the invention, around Shakespeare's time of a system of accurately controlling a large church bell swinging through a full circle and striking mouth upwards. This permits the order in which the bells strike, to be altered, according to pre-learned patterns ('methods') at every stroke.

Peal is a performance of over 5000 'true' (all different) changes typically involving over three hours of intense concentration. As with all change ringing, it involves a complex pattern, or 'method' repeated with variations - 'bobs' and 'singles', called by the conductor, who must have memorised exactly where to call them. A quarter peal is similar but has only 1250 changes, taking around 50 minutes. Nearly 200 peals have been rung on Benenden bells since 1801 - we usually ring one or two peals and half a dozen quarters a year.

Grandsire is among the oldest and simplest 'methods' in change ringing. It's one of the first to be learned by the aspiring change ringer, containing most of the skills that will carry the ringer to greater complexity and musical performance. Not difficult to learn in its basic form, it takes rather longer to master the 'bobs' and 'singles'.

Half-muffled Muffles are leather pads fitted to a bell's clapper to reduce the volume. By only muffling the clapper on one side - half-muffled - you get an 'echo' effect as blows are alternately loud and soft. Half-muffled ringing is more difficult to strike accurately, as it's harder to hear the muffled stroke while ringing. It is usually rung as a mark of respect for the departed.

Corinne Orde started learning to ring in 2014, as a 60th birthday challenge. Her background is in music and the creative arts. For several decades she was a professional singer as a soloist and in small choral ensembles. She was also a freelance editor and book designer. Missing the camaraderie and discipline of music-making after retirement she found ringing filled that void. She can be found most nights of the week at one of our Wealden bell towers, practising her technique.



Empathic therapeutic service,
dedicated to facilitating you
in your counselling, as you
explore and embrace your possibilities.

CONCENTRIC COUNSELLING | **Vicky Bellman MBACP** 07419 190930

RECLAIM YOUR STRENGTHS RESTORE YOUR RESILIENCE



BACP registered



Counselling children, teenagers
and adults



Short and long term work



Daytime, evening and weekend
sessions available

The Walled Nursery
HAWKHURST

The Old Fire Station
GOUDHURST

INCLUSIVE ● DYNAMIC ● AFFIRMATIVE

hello@concentriccounselling.com

Benenden Pre-School

50th Anniversary Tea Towel



To mark this very special occasion
local artist, Harriet Evans, has
designed a commemorative tea towel.
Available for £5. To purchase one
please contact Laura 01580 241969.

APPLE PIE FARM STORAGE

Short and long term storage
requirements solved!



*Storing furniture ? Re-decorating ? Uncluttering ? Renting your house
out ? Ideal for storing garden machinery, sports equipment etc.*

Talk to us about our storage, delivery and collection of your accounting data.

Speak to us on **01580 388754** or visit our
website: **www.apfcontainerstorage.co.uk**

UNIT 14 APPLE PIE FARM, CRANBROOK ROAD, BENENDEN, TN17 4EU
Telephone: **01580 388754** • Mobile: **07515 649688**



Cakes & Chaos

Drop-in Cafe
& Toddler Group




St George's Church, Benenden
Every Friday during term time, 9-11.30am



Please come and enjoy lovely cakes,
real coffee and a selection of teas.
If you've got little ones, let them play
in the church.
Only £1 per family.

For more information please call
Rev'd David or Helen Commander 01580 240658
or email david@dc-uk.co.uk
or helenjcommander@gmail.com



BODS

(Benenden Ordinary Dads Society)

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

All dads are welcome!

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

Look forward to meeting new dads!

Iden Green and Benenden WI

The members had a very happy winter party at the end of November, with sumptuous homemade food; how the WI love good food! During the party, between courses, five members read poems about Christmas, which ranged from thought provoking to witty.

The winter coffee morning was well attended and an enjoyable social occasion.

Now, we look forward to January when we meet again, and trust that 2018 will be a peaceful year for us all.

Dates to remember:

Tuesday 16 January, Open Meeting, 2-4pm

Tuesday 20 February, A Talk on Antiques, 2-4pm

Shirley Fidler, Chair 752232

Save the Date

Saturday 16 June, 12noon-4pm

Please note the annual village fete in support of St George's Church, Benenden will take place a week earlier than usual. Please contact me if you would like to help in any way.

Tracy Claridge 240454

tlclaridge@tlclaridge.co.uk

Prize new year bird puzzle

Below are nine cryptic clues for the names of common British birds.

Solve the clues and then write your answers one under the other in the same order as the clues. By moving the answers to the left or right a tenth bird will be revealed in a vertical column. Please email your answers to me with all ten bird names by the 15 January. I will put all the correct answers in a hat and draw the winner who will be awarded a bottle of Grouse.

- 1 Princess on behalf of The Queen
- 2 Brazil for example, concoct
- 3 Begin again about 500
- 4 Picnic
- 5 Shout and thrash about tailless owl
- 6 Allow The Woodcock for example inside
- 7 Deserters returning to Heather
- 8 Display about race
- 9 A large venue and hospital inside a mustelid

Charles Trollope 240821

cetetal@btinternet.com

ANITA MEEKINS PRIVATE HIRE

FIRST CLASS SERVICE

Ordinary & Executive Vehicles
& 8 seater minibus with seat belts

All drivers & vehicles
licensed & tested

Long & short journeys
& courier service available

Business accounts welcome

Tel: 01580 240713

Mobile: 07774 672 043

anitameekinsph@btconnect.com

ELECTRICIAN

Do you want a safe, reliable,
reasonable priced Electrician?

- Smart Controls •LED Lighting •Extra Sockets
 - Rewires •New Consumer units •Fault finding
 - Outside Lighting & Power •New Builds & Extensions
- Qualified electrician Fully Insured 6 year Guarantee

I assure you of a quick response.

Call Nick on 01580 279907

Email: nick@njhelectrical.co.uk

www.njhelectricalservices.co.uk



BENENDEN PRE-SCHOOL

www.benendenpreschool.co.uk

Every Weekday in St George's Hall, by Benenden Cross-roads

Small and friendly pre-school - Awarded 'Outstanding' by Ofsted
Large secure gardens with slide, sandpit, playhouse and more!

All weather suits provided, for daily outdoor play in all seasons

Experienced, qualified staff including Graduate Leader

Weekly 'Sporty Tots' session with qualified instructor

Regular trips throughout the year - Close parental partnership

Children may start from age 2 - Childcare vouchers accepted

Full/half days/lunch clubs to suit your child's needs

Tel: 01580 241137 email: supervisor@benendenpreschool.co.uk

A non-profit making pre-school run by a committee of parents

Established 1967 a Registered Charity No: 1027577

Greenacre Landscapes
Creating Beautiful Gardens
since 1963

Specialists in Private Garden
Design & Construction

Patios - Brickwork - Decking

Stonework - Ponds/Lakes

Water Features - Planting Schemes
Groundworks

Detailed Plans - Portfolio Available
Free Consultation

www.greenacrelandscapes.co.uk

01580 240085

01892 722412

Furnace Lane Nursery, Furnace Lane,
Brenchley, Kent TN12 7BX

Thinking of selling or letting your property in or close to Benenden?

*For straightforward sale or letting advice
regarding the value of your house please
contact us.*

Specialist Rural and Village
Agent. Full Professional Estate
Agency service.

01580 766766

www.hobbsparker.co.uk



HOBBS • PARKER
The Villages

Wine column

There's no excuse for narrow horizons

Familiarity is a comfort and an insurance. How comforting to return again and again to the familiar, whether authors, holiday destinations or recipes. Perhaps we are like this with wine? Grapes, regions, even specific bottles can be confidently plucked from the shelves of the supermarket and opened in the knowledge of imminent satisfaction.

However, within the world of wine I would argue that now, more than ever, we have reason to break free and embrace new vinous experiences with ever greater rewards for the experimenter compared to the more conservative devotees of Bacchus. Forty years ago the big three, France, Spain and Italy, dominated the wine scene, with perhaps an emergent brash California clinging to the coat tails of the old guard. There was every reason not to diversify for the simple reason it was not worth the risk! Bad wines abounded with rustic and poorly made examples lying in wait.

The world of wine has now changed beyond recognition. Today the ubiquity of technology, the huge investments made and the great leaps in oenological and vinicultural branches of science mean any country with the right climate can make great wines. In fact, one could argue it is simply not possible to make a bad wine. Technology guides the grower and winemaker in every aspect of the process from soil studies, to clonal selections, to picking times and then of course processes in the winery such as temperature-controlled fermentation and micro-oxygenation. The wizardry now available to even relatively small producers has raised the standard of the world's wine output to heady heights of quality and consistency. Great wines are now less at the mercy of the vintage; with technology at hand, even poor conditions can be circumvented to allow for amazing wines.

Technology aside there are other reasons to diversify. New countries and regions are making sumptuous wines to rival even the very best of

the Old World grandees. Try Oregon Pinot Noir as an alternative to Burgundy; Tasmanian and English sparkling Chardonnay can give Champagne a run for its money; New Zealand's Sauvignon Blanc and Argentina's Malbec are well known alternatives for the Loire and Cahors respectively. These regions work best when they don't try to ape the motherland, or dive into the pit of overly extracted and overly oaked blockbusters. They shine brightest when they offer their own regional expression that allows both grape and place to take centre stage.

One area of especial interest is the 'New Old World'. Countries with an ancient tradition of viticulture have in recent years embraced modern practices and palates to produce something entirely new. Georgia, Lebanon, Israel and Turkey have revitalised wine industries well worth exploring, with some unusual grapes to try. Enjoy a dry Tokaji from Hungary; a region most famous for its unctuous yet vivacious dessert wines now gives us some piercing and affordable dry whites worth every penny.

This leads to my final point. In the nineties, homogeneity was king and many local varieties were grubbed up and replaced with the best-selling international grapes. Old and New World producers were planting Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon, regardless of the region's suitability for the varietal. In came sickly Chardonnays drowned in wood, and jammy Merlots as flabby as they were indeterminate of place or character. No more. This last decade has seen a welcome revival of regional grapes made in their traditional homeland with the benefit of modern interventions and practices. Cue an explosion of characterful wines with a real sense of provenance and individuality. Trajadura from northern Portugal, Georgia's Rkatsiteli or the unpronounceable Croatian 'Grk', are three white grape varieties native to their homeland and growing in reputation.

So look out for wines from Eastern Europe or unfamiliar regions and grapes from the Iberian Peninsula. You will find bargains and surprises, you might even find new favourites to return to again and again.

Alfred Nicol

Local Enterprise ... Enterprising Locals

IAIN THOMSON, renowned fly fisherman, talks to Peter Thomas about life in Benenden, Bewl and the rest of the world

He's prospected for diamonds in Ghana, been attacked by cattle in the Outback and landed salmon the size of a small horse in Alaska, but there's one souvenir that takes pride of place in Iain Thomson's living room. Not a colourful memento of exotic lands, or even a stuffed fish in a glass case, but a cricket ball.

Not just any old cricket ball, of course. It's a ball marked by the hard knocks of local cricket, mounted on a carved wooden plinth that bears the scars of the intervening decades, and the inscription tells us a lot about both the man and the timeless nature of village life: "Colin Cowdrey Evening League, 13th June 1974, for Benenden v Cranbrook. Hat Trick by I A G Thomson, all clean bowled."

Quite frankly, you can find as many precious stones as there are in the entirety of west Africa; stand in as many freezing torrents as your waders will allow; but a hat-trick against arch sporting rivals on your home ground will always be the moment you come back to.

Not that Iain was a Benenden man at the time. For 15 years he made the trip from his home village of Newenden - where his parents ran the old post office - to open the bowling from the Memorial Hall end. He had learned his game at Cranbrook School, "at a time when if you were good at sport then they rather overlooked your scholastic shortcomings", and under the captaincy of Ray Harding formed a potent strike force with Cranbrook barber Mick Chambers.



Unsurprisingly, Iain - now 84 and almost retired - edged steadily closer to our village and now, from the comfort of an armchair in his home on The Green, is happy to revisit the well-travelled life that saw him become, among other things, one of the best-respected fly fishermen in the country and long-serving resident instructor for the Southern Water Authority at Bewl. Equally unsurprisingly, the story begins many

miles from Kent on the Scottish hill farm to which our man was evacuated in 1939, at the age of six, when his Scottish mother "got very worried that Adolf Hitler was about to invade".

"I was very lucky," he recalls. "Some evacuees had an horrendous time but my mother knew a farming family and I spent five really nice years with them, learning to cast and fly fish by watching their boys. I went back every year for donkey's years in the summer holidays."

His trajectory only briefly interrupted by National Service, Iain's wanderlust carried him next to Australia, where he worked on sheep and cattle stations for three years.

"If you were prepared to roll your sleeves up and get stuck in, the Aussies were marvellous to you," he recalls. "I'd be taken beach fishing for sharks and stingrays, had one or two run-ins with tiger snakes and an alarming encounter with an angry steer - I did a true matador's pirouette and the horn just grazed my chest but took my shirt clean off. The steer ran off and headbutted something, the horse I was riding screamed and ran away and I had a ten-mile walk home. It was a bit of a 'brown-trouser moment'."



At home in Benenden: at 84 Iain hasn't hung up his rod yet

At the end of this anecdote, in walks Anne, back from a visit to the village shop, to restore some sense of decorum to the conversation. Anne is Iain's wife, a professional bridge teacher and plainly a great lover of all things Benenden. "Yes, the village has changed since we moved here, but very much for the better," she says. "I'd say it's the best it's ever been." With which she leaves coffee and chocolate biscuits on the coffee table of the house they found on the front of the Wealden Advertiser 15 years ago, and leaves Iain to fill in the details of their first meeting, on a blind date in the Vauxhall Inn in Tonbridge, their marriage in 1960 and the family's next big adventure, with an alluvial diamond mining company in Ghana.

"It was a very good life for seven years," he begins again. "It was called the White Man's Grave, because of all the bugs and tropical diseases, and my job in the prospecting division meant hacking through forests, watching out for nasty snakes and spiders and looking for diamonds, but it was a wonderful country.

"The Ghanaians were lovely people but sadly the economy had collapsed, you couldn't get your money out and our daughters were growing up, so we came home."

And so began the British leg of the Thomsons' journey, with Iain taking an HND in business at Regent Street Polytechnic in London and working for a Tonbridge-based construction company for the next 17 years. Of course he needed another project, which came in the form of the two small trout lakes he built at their new home just outside Rolvenden, with the future in mind.

"There was a water shortage at the time and the Government got the water authorities to build Bewl Water, Graffham and

Rutland," he recalls of his latest

scheme. "The authorities were mandated to make water leisure activities open to everyone and the nationwide interest in trout fishing really took off. I set up the South-East England School of Fly Fishing, which went well, and although I was pretty much retired by then, I was approached by Southern Water and became the resident instructor at Bewl.

"You had to reprogramme yourself to teach professionally and I had to sit some fairly stiff exams, but I got all the qualifications and stayed in the job for 20 years."

It's not hard to imagine Iain as an inspirational teacher, with his angler's boundless patience and agreeable good humour, which is no doubt why he still actively supports the admirable Fishing For Heroes charity, continues to offer private tuition and fishes occasionally for pleasure.

"These days I'm less interested in catching trophy fish and more interested in the countryside and the wildlife," he muses, "although sometimes I hanker after a trip to British Columbia or Scotland or taking a float plane out to the wilds of Alaska to catch salmon.

"Fly fishing will take you to wonderful places, but isn't it funny how you can spend your life travelling the world and end up very happy a few miles from where you first started?"

Peter Thomas



Catching salmon in British Columbia: the fish here was returned to the river unharmed, a catch-and-release practice most fly fishermen adhere to, 'unless they take one for the pot'



Iain (right) and angling writer John Glynn celebrate a catch at Bewl in 1998

Private Care Service



**Domestic
Care**
£9.77
per hour

Our Private Care Service offers tailored packages of personal care that can help people stay in their own home for as long as possible, rather than going into a care home before it's really needed. We assist those who need help due to frailty, disability or illness to live as independently as possible, with comfort & dignity, in their own home.

For a free assessment
of your care needs or to
receive your brochure
Call us on 01580 762244



Town & Country Homecare Limited
102a High Street, Tenterden, Kent TN30 6HT

www.townandcountryhomecare.co.uk

namaste kids
& teens

free trial
class

Yoga Classes for
pre-schoolers, kids & teens

benenden Village hall
& sutton valence prep school

for more info please contact
hayley on 01580 240982
info@namastekids.co.uk

www.namastekids.co.uk

R.M. Sports Therapy

*A professional mobile service
provided by fully insured
Graduate Sports Therapist offering
Injury and posture assessment,
treatment and exercise rehabilitation.*

Your aches and pains from overuse
or sport participation can be eased
through massage, mobilisations,
stretching, taping and
exercise rehabilitation.

★ £10 off your initial consultation ★
on production of this advert

Rebecca Manford (BSc Hons MSST)
07923 965601

Free to learn



tel: 240642
mnns@idengreen.org.uk
mrnoahs.org

Elba Private Hire - Personal Carriage

"We go that extra mile"
Lady & Gentlemen Drivers

- Town and Country Travel in Style
- Business and Social Pleasure

**Allows you to Drink Like a Lord
Leave like a Lady!**

Text: to Book 07785 11 20 21
Call now 01580 441 302

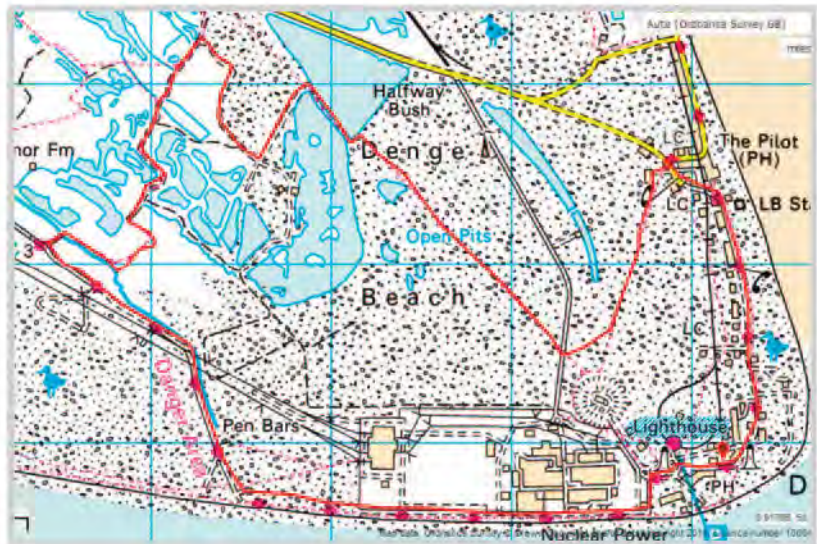
Email: book@elbaprivatehire.com
www.elbaprivatehire.com



Foot Notes

Hyde's Hikes: Dungeness Shingle
Distance: 8.7 miles, 182ft ascent

A bracing January walk for all the family taking in the nuclear power station, the old lighthouse, the RSPB visitor centre and finishing up at The Pilot Inn (or the Britannia Inn) famous for its fish and chips.



This is a flat but tough walk

across the shingle, the vast open landscapes have an other-worldly quality and a certain beauty when you are facing away from the power station. Navigation is not always easy but it is difficult to get totally lost in the open spaces. Choose a calm day as when the wind blows across the area it can feel really cold.

Park between the old and new lighthouses in one of the roadside parking spaces.

1) Follow the road back where you drove in, past the RNLI station, crossing the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch railway line. Just before the road junction turn left along a driveway towards a large white house, turn left at the telegraph pole near the house. The path is faint but aim at the gap between the power station and low grey building behind it. The path goes through an area of bushes to reach a line of large posts marking the perimeter of the power station. Turn right and follow the line of the posts until a road sign appears with a gate beside it. There is a large road sign near the gate which helps navigation from a distance.

2) Cross the road and go through the gate on the opposite side of the road. The path runs diagonally right across the shingle. Your mark is about 20 degrees to the right of the water tower you see in the distance. There are marker posts across the shingle which are easy to follow once you pick up the first one. In dry weather, you can see the route of the path is slightly lighter in colour than the surrounding area. The path arrives at two lakes with a spit of land between the them, which you follow the path across.

3) At the far side of the lakes the path becomes a track which bends to the left meeting a hard track. Turn left here if you want to visit the RSPB Visitor Centre, or turn right to continue the walk. Follow the track for ½ mile to meet another farm track and turn left.

4) Follow the track as it winds through a series of ponds, ignoring paths going left and right to meet Denge Sewer. Turn right and follow the watercourse to cross a stone bridge and walk straight to the road.

5) Turn left and follow the road down to the beach, there are some paths to the right which are often closed due to firing on the army range. Turn left at the beach and walk along the shingle bank to the seaward side of the power station. At the end of the fence turn left onto the road, through the gates with the railway station in front of you where there is a café. Take the next right to return to the start.

Jim Hyde, Parish Footpath Co-ordinator

Christmas Quiz 2017 Answers

1 Keep the Faith

- A) WHERE WOULD YOU FIND
- i La Sagrada Familia Barcelona
 - ii The Church of Santa Croce Florence
 - iii San Marco Venice
 - iv St Chad's Cathedral Birmingham
 - v Paddy's Wigwam Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King
- B) WHO OR WHAT IS OR WAS
- i The five parts of the Pentateuch first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy
 - ii Five of the Deadly Sins any five from gluttony, greed, lust, avarice, sloth, envy or pride
 - iii The Five Pillars of Islam fasting, pilgrimage, tything, prayer and reciting
 - iv The last Pope (2005-2013) Benedict XVI
 - v Last Archbishop of Canterbury (2002-2012) Archbishop Rowan Williams

2 Listen to the Music

- A) WHERE WOULD YOU FIND
- i The Garnier Opera House, Paris
 - ii The Scala Milan
 - iii Drottningholm Palace Theatre Stockholm, Sweden
 - iv Snape Maltings Concert Hall Suffolk, home of Aldeburgh Festival
 - v Bayreuth Festival Theatre Bayreuth, Germany
- B) JAZZ UP YOUR (POPULAR) MUSIC
- i What's the biggest ever selling Jazz Album Miles Davis' Kind of Blue (1959)
 - ii Biggest ever selling Pop album (47.3 million copies) Michael Jackson's Thriller
 - iii Biggest ever selling British single Elton John's Candle in the Wind (4.9 million copies)
 - iv Which Beatles single spent longest at number 1 in the UK charts either From Me To You or Hello Goodbye; both spent 7 weeks at number 1
 - v What was the day the music died 3 February 1959: Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and 'The Big Bopper' died in a plane crash. (One mark also if you answered Don McLean or American Pie)

3 Keep it Local

- i When was the great fire of St George's Church (nearest decade) 1672 - so 1660s, 70s or 80s
- ii Name of the house which is now Benenden Girls' School Hemsted
- iii What did Capt Jean Maridor DFC do shot down a doodlebug from close range in his spitfire saving Hemsted

- iv For what was Capt Collingwood Ingram of The Grange particularly renowned for researching, hybridising and collecting plants particularly cherries and rhododendrons
- v For what 17th Century act is Edmund Gibbon still remembered in Benenden founding the Primary School

4 Nearly 50

- A) IN MAY 1955
- i Who Eden
 - ii Defeated whom Attlee
 - iii At what in the General Election
 - iv By how many (10 either way) by 58 seats (so a point for 48-68)
 - v When was the next one next election was 1959
- B) IN JANUARY 1959
- i Where was the revolution Cuba
 - ii Who won it Castro's communists
 - iii Who lost it Batista's government
 - iv What iconic medical student helped Che Guevara
 - v Where did he die Bolivia
- C) IN WHAT YEAR DID
- i Rationing end 14 years of food rationing in Britain ended at midnight on 4 July 1954
 - ii National Service end last intake of National Servicemen was in 1960
 - iii A dog ride in space Laika, the first animal in space, orbited in Sputnik II on the 3 November 1957
 - iv Buddy Holly die early hours of 3 February 1959, small aircraft carrying Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and 'The Big Bopper' crashed near Clear Lake, Iowa
 - v ITV start 22 September 1955

5 On Your Bookshelf

- A) NAME
- i The Lone Pine Five author Malcolm Saville
 - ii Five Find Outers and Dog author Enid Blyton
 - iii Harry Potter author JK Rowling
 - iv Who were the Famous Five Julian, Dick, Anne, George and Timmy
 - v Who was the leader of Billy Bunter's Famous Five Harry Whorton
- B) WHO OR WHAT ...
- i Who wrote A Song of Ice and Fire George RR Martin
 - ii What TV series did it become Game of Thrones
 - iii Who wrote A Homage to Catalonia George Orwell
 - iv Who wrote the 2012 Booker Prize winner Bring Up the Bodies Hilary Mantel
 - v Who wrote the science fiction novel Brave New World Aldous Huxley

6 Brush Up Your Shakespeare

IN WHICH PLAYS ARE THESE THE FIFTH LINE

- i Now are our brows bound with victorious wreaths **Richard III**
- ii That will be ere the set of sun **Macbeth**
- iii From forth the fatal loins of these two foes **Romeo and Juliet**
- iv Then would the warlike Harry like himself **Henry V**
- v O, it came o'er my ear like the sweet sound **Twelfth Night**

7 Broadcasting

A) IN WHAT YEAR DID WE

- i Lose 405 1985, last 405 line transmission
- ii Gain 625 1964, BBC2 on 625 lines started
- iii Gain Five Live 1994, Radio 5 Live
- iv Gain '5' 1997, Channel 5 launched
- v Lose our Home and our big 'L' but gain Four and One 1997, Radio London closed, Radios 1 and 4 started

B) REALITY CHECK

- i Who won Bake Off 2017 **Sophie Faldo**
- ii Who won Strictly Come Dancing 2016 **Ore Oduba or Joanne Clifton**
- iii What Benenden resident is associated with Four Rooms, Antiques Road Trip or Posh Pawn **Raj Bisram**
- iv What is or was Scarlett Moffatt famous for **Gogglebox or winning I'm a Celebrity ... 2016**
- v What show is Deborah Meaden associated with **Dragons' Den**

8 Sports

A) CRYPTIC OR JUST OBSCURE?

- i What is "up" in Fives **the Ball**
- ii What diminished game might 12 reds leave you **12 red cards in a football match could leave you playing five-a-side**
- iii In what five are two forwards, two guards, and a centre **Basketball has these positions**
- iv In what are one or two laid face down and the rest face up, one at a time **in Five Card Stud Poker**
- v In what would the addition of a (male) member make four five **in Rowing or Crew - a coxed four**

B) WHO WON

- i Football Premier league 2016 **Leicester**
- ii Football FA Cup 2016/17 **Arsenal**
- iii Rugby World Cup 2015 **England**
- iv Cricket. Ashes 2015 **England**
- v Wimbledon 2017 **Roger Federer or Garbiñe Muguruza**

9 Silver Screen

A) NAME THE BRITISH FILM STUDIOS WHICH MADE

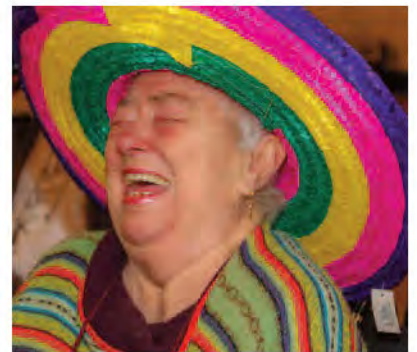
- i Carry on Up the Khyber **Pinewood**
- ii Passport to Pimlico **Ealing**
- iii Blue Murder at St Trinian's **Shepperton**
- iv Dam Busters **Elstree**
- v A Hard Day's Night **Twickenham**
(one point for the 5 studio names 2nd point to match film to studio)

B) GONGS

- i What won the Best Film Oscar 2017 **Moonlight**
- ii What Outstanding British Film won a BAFTA in 2017 **Daniel Blake**
- iii Name one of the only three films ever to win 11 Oscars **Ben-Hur 1959, Titanic 1997 or Lord of Rings Return of King 2003**
- iv How many times has Brad Pitt won best actor Oscar **none**
- v Which Katherine has won the most ever best actress awards **Katherine Hepburn**

10 Who in 2017

- i ... privately accepted their 2016 Nobel Prize **Bob Dylan in Stockholm**
- ii ... got all the money by replacing Kevin Spacey **Christopher Plummer in All the Money in the World**
- iii ... wouldn't have the Freedom of Dublin if Bob Geldof got his way **Aung San Suu Kyi**
- iv ... May have lost 13 in June making them 8 short **Theresa May's Conservatives lost 13 seats in the June election leaving them 8 short of a majority**
- v ... as Prime Minister joyfully unseated a President **Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy removed Catalan President Carles Puigdemont. So Spain or Catalonia**
- vi ... ensured the Pen was not mightier in the May **French Presidential election Macron beat Le Pen**
- vii ... never called whom 'short and fat?' **Trump tweeted: "Why would Kim Jong-un insult me by calling me 'old', when I would NEVER call him 'short and fat'? So Trump and Jong-un**
- viii ... after increasing 30, eats more vegan food **Jeremy Corbyn oversaw Labour's 30 seat election increase and recently said he was thinking of becoming vegan**
- ix ... confused a prisoner's holiday with a training exercise **Boris Johnson erroneously said Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe had been training journalists while on holiday in Iran**
- x ... lost a job after meeting a prime minister on holiday **Priti Patel was sacked after an unauthorised meeting on holiday with Israeli Prime Minister**



Above: Valuing fun and friendship: members of Benenden Engineering Society visiting the Steam Giants at Brede water works; the Christmas village lunch; Pantomime rehearsals in full swing. Photographs: Hayley Daley
Front cover: A curious dawn visitor on Walkurst Road. Photograph: Charlie Evans