

Benenden Magazine

June 2019





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Editorial



In my past life as a cub reporter on the Kent and Sussex Courier (East Grinstead office), I covered many key local stories, ranging from 'headless torso' murders to the decreasing frequency of bin collections. I was routinely threatened in magistrates' court, politely abused in parish councils, interviewed Richard Branson and modelled gentlemen's wedding wear, but through it all, the biggest event of the year for our readers in the surrounding rural communities was invariably the village fete.

Often it was little more than a tombola stall in the garden of the vicarage - offering the chance to win an ancient bottle of Cinzano worth 8p for the price of a ticket costing 10p - but the vicar would praise it unreservedly and hope for a small boost to the fund for repairs to the church roof.

Luckily our very own David Commander has no need to burnish the truth when speaking of village fetes, because in Benenden we are treated to possibly the best in the business, and one that raises funds aplenty. Thanks to a (more or less) uncomplaining band of volunteers, visitors are guaranteed satisfaction, be they fans of real ale, classic cars, dogs with hyperactive tails or games of chance based on a cow's bowel movements (no, really). This year it'll be held on The Green on Saturday 15 June from noon and will, if past experience is anything to go by, be great. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Other signs of onrushing spring and impending summer abound. The cricket season is underway, Cuckoos are carrying out their mischievous, nest-robbing deeds, our gardens are glorious but in need of constant supervision and the asparagus season is in full swing. They are all dealt with in this issue, along with some fascinating snapshots of Iden Green history and the first in a series that shines the spotlight on some wonderful local characters. Read and enjoy.

Peter Thomas, Co-Editor

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

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Church Calendar

St George's Church

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

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

Churchwarden: David Collard 241944 julia.collard@btinternet.com

www.benendenchurch.org 850849 benendenchurch@gmail.com

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

Sunday 2 June	8am Communion	10am All-age Communion and Sunday School	5pm Choral Evensong
Pentecost Sunday 9 June	8am 1662 Communion	10am Sung Eucharist	5pm Evening Prayer at Mission Church
Sunday 16 June	8am Communion	10am Sung Eucharist	4pm Messy Church at The Rectory
Sunday 23 June	8am Communion	10am Morning Worship	
Sunday 30 June	8am Benefice Communion at St Nicholas, Sandhurst	10am All-age Communion	

Mission Church, Sandhurst

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

Every Tuesday 10am Communion

Iden Green Congregational Church

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

Sunday Services 10am Morning Worship 5.30pm Evening Worship

The Roman Catholic Chapel TN17 4EL

Fr Barry Grant 713364 www.sttheodore-cranbrook.org

Masses 9am Sundays 7.30pm Holy Days

From the Parish Registers

Weddings	4 May Janine Powell and James Norris
	11 May Daisy Casement and Edward Page
	24 May Sarah Jones and Craig Huxley
	25 May Rebecca Benton and Jacob Cooper
	26 May Kathryn Lewis and Robert Hardman

Funerals	1 May Marian Bligh Funeral and burial
	5 May Cyril and Phyllis Cooling Interment
	10 May Patricia Katis Funeral Kent and Sussex Crematorium
	17 May Peter Hadaway Funeral St George's, committal Kent and Sussex Crematorium

Rector's Letter



A resolution in June!

Oh my, how quickly is this year racing by? We're now at the beginning of June; in another few weeks we will be at the longest day and, at the end of the month, we'll have lived through half of 2019. Time really does seem to go by faster the older you get.

One reason for that could be to do with what I wrote about last month: "Thou knowest how busy I must be this day." We all seem to try and cram so much into every day; always doing; always another appointment or meeting; always the next thing to prepare for or go to. We look at the clock and the last hour seems to have disappeared in only 30 minutes. I suggested we try and step back from the busyness for a short while.

Looking back to this time last year, I wrote a letter about appreciating what we have; taking stock of the good things we have in life; taking time to embrace family and friends. Well, life certainly doesn't seem to have slowed down at all since last year, so maybe I'm not doing enough to appreciate what I have. Perhaps we all need to work at that.

One thing that my work as a priest shows me, again and again and again, is just how fragile and precious life really is. My work also shows me how wonderful life can be, and how painful it can be - I see this all the time in celebrating the birth of a child at baptism, in weddings and marriage preparation with couples, in helping families when a loved one is ill or has died - and that most of us, most of the time (when things are going smoothly) take life so much for granted.

The beginning of June might seem a strange time to be making a resolution, but I can't wait until the first day of January! I want to find time, every month, to consciously appreciate what I have. Just setting aside a few hours in all the busyness to see the beauty around me; to appreciate the family and friends that I have; to realise how fortunate I am; and to value life, now.

So here is a small gift for you in all your busyness: the space below to appreciate your life. (Make the time to do it now.)

And say a "thank you" for the good things in your life.

Revd David Commander, Rector



Village Calendar

June

Saturday 1	Churchyard Working Party, St George's, Benenden, 9.30-12noon	
Sat 1-Sun 2	Art in a Topiary Garden, Balmoral Cottage, Benenden, 11-5pm	p.9
Saturday 1	What's in John's Box and BBQ, St George's Club, 8pm	
Monday 3	Benenden Village Trust, AGM, Iden Green Pavilion, 7.30pm	p.13
Friday 7	Woodland Wide Games, Iden Green Congregational Church, 7pm	
Sat 8-Sun 9	Art in a Topiary Garden, Balmoral Cottage, Benenden, 11-5pm	p.9
Saturday 8	Quoits, St George's Club, 8.15pm	
Friday 14	Art in a Topiary Garden, Balmoral Cottage, Benenden, 11-5pm	p.9
Saturday 15	Benenden Church Fete, The Green, 12noon-4pm	p.19
Saturday 15	Fish and Chip Supper, St George's Club, 8pm	
Sunday 16	Art in a Topiary Garden, Balmoral Cottage, Benenden, 11-5pm	p.9
Sunday 16	Messy Church, The Rectory, 4-6pm	p.17
Monday 17	Parish Council Meeting, Benenden Hospital Quinlan Centre, 7pm	
Tuesday 18	Village Lunch, Benenden Village Hall, 12.30pm	p.9
Tuesday 18	Iden Green and Benenden WI, Garden Party at a Member's home, 5pm	p.21
Sat 22-Sun 23	Art in a Topiary Garden, Balmoral Cottage, Benenden, 11-5pm	p.9
Saturday 22	Skittles, St George's Club, 8.15pm	
Tuesday 25	Merry and Bright, Benenden Girls' School, 3pm	
Thursday 27	Benenden's Community Shop, AGM, Memorial Hall, 7pm	
Friday 28	Iden Green and Benenden WI, Social Gathering, Memorial Hall, 2pm	p.21
Sat 29-Sun 30	Art in a Topiary Garden, Balmoral Cottage, Benenden, 11-5pm	p.9
Saturday 29	Darts Knockout, St George's Club, 8pm	

Benenden Youth Club/Streetcruizer, age 11+

Tuesdays at Benenden Village Hall, 6.30-8.30pm

Coffee Shop

Wednesdays in the Memorial Hall, 10-12noon

Benenden Bowls Club

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

Cakes & Chaos: Cafe and Toddler Group

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

Refuse Lorry Collections

Saturday 1 June for Domestic Waste

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

Saturday 15 June for Garden/Compostable Waste

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

Saturday 29 June for Domestic Waste

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

Parish Council



Our popular spring clean was carried out on 27 April, and despite it being a cold and blustery morning, we had enough hardy volunteers to cover most areas of the village. Thank you to all who braved the elements for the sake of our beautiful parish, and I hope you enjoyed your complimentary treat at the village shop. Happily, it was the general opinion that there was less rubbish to collect this time, and we believe that the introduction of an autumn clean in addition to our spring clean, has contributed to this.

Many of you may be aware of the current hybrid planning application 19/00822 for 12 almshouses and 13 market houses at the Feoffee site in Walkhurst Road. We held our planning meeting to consider this and other current applications on 17 May, and this was attended by residents from Walkhurst Road with concerns about the development. The Parish Council's comments on this application can now be viewed on the TWBC website. The target TWBC determination decision date is 18 July 2019, and I would urge you to post your comments, either positive or negative, on the TWBC website well in advance of this date.

We have had three applicants for our current vacancy on the Parish Council (for which the closing date for applicants was 18 May) and hopefully we will be making our decision on the successful candidate in June.

And a reminder that the opt-in garden waste service collection begins from 30 September - sign up with TWBC to ensure your garden waste collections continue. If you sign up before Friday 2 August you will receive a £10 discount on the £52 annual charge.

<https://beta.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/refuse-and-recycling/garden-waste>

I believe Benenden becomes an even more beautiful place during these months of increased verdancy. Enjoy the warmer weather and longer daylight hours while you can.

Nicola Thomas, BPC Chair

01580 240364 nic.jthomas@btinternet.com

Caroline Levett, Benenden Parish Council Clerk

01580 240371 clerk@benendenparishcouncil.org

For more information see our website www.benendenparishcouncil.org or find us on facebook

Parish Council Meeting

Monday 17 June,

Benenden Hospital Quinlan Centre, 7pm

MEET YOUR MP Helen Grant

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

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Just a Thought



Stepping up to the shoe challenge

I have my mother's feet - that is, quite large and too wide - and buying shoes was always a trial. Until recently, when manufacturers finally woke up to the genuine need and the financial possibilities of the enhanced foot, the choice was what fitted, not what looked good. When I was a child there were school shoes, plimsolls for PE, sandals for the summer, and wellies of course (but at least they fitted). That was all.

When the subject of shoes comes up, most men sigh and don't see the problem. Black or brown, smart or casual, a pair of trainers and a pair of boots - done. However most women would agree that shoes finish off an outfit - but at what cost. On a visit to my son in Japan a few years ago, my daughter and I had the chance to get toggged up in kimonos with obi, white face-paint and a fancy wig. This was completed with an amazing pair of high, wooden-ridged clogs called 'geta'. These are worn to raise the wearer out of the mud and protect the kimono. It is no wonder that the ladies so dressed totter with the smallest of steps - anything else would lead them to fall flat on their faces.

Back to the present. Recently I needed to find a pair of shoes to go with a special dress. Armed with a photo for colour matching I wandered round the shops of Canterbury. I thought I had found just the pair. They were even immediately comfortable. But, when matched with the dress at home, the colour just didn't work. More searching of shops, but to no avail. So I turned to the internet. Now, out there is a world of almost infinite choice, but are the colours true? What is the texture like? How do you know they will fit? I ordered some but the colour was not right and they weren't that comfortable.

Such was my introduction to the world of online shopping for shoes and clothes. It is not like shopping for electrical goods or stationery or household equipment or books or grandchildren's toys - this is personal. I think that I have a lot to learn and am already beginning to understand why the Post Office in Benenden's seems to have to deal with a large number of 'return parcels'. I finally found my shoes in a small shop in Tenterden.

Nowadays how many pairs must one travel with? Shoes are heavy and you can only wear one pair at once. On a trip home from St Helena we were planning to go via the Sydney Opera House, a beach in Tahiti, the mountains in the south of South America and arrive in an English winter - and I had only 20kg baggage allowance. Would trainers be acceptable at the opera?

Maybe the youth of today have the right idea, with a pair of trainers or clunky boots deemed suitable for every occasion. At least they fit all shapes of feet.

Sue Fisher



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News and Events

Canterbury Cathedral Choristers at St George's

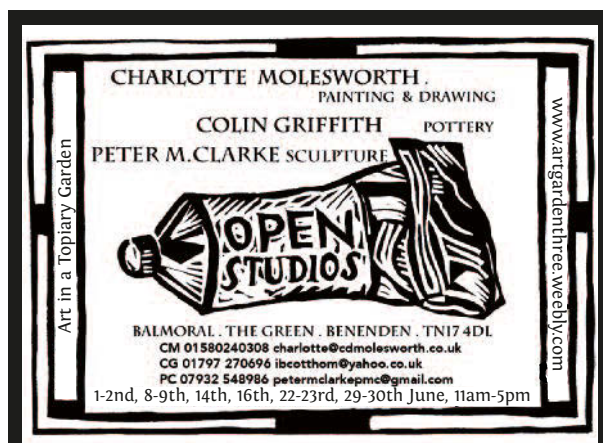
We were privileged to host the Canterbury Cathedral Choristers at St George's on 18 May. This was jointly sponsored by the Friends of St George's and Hospice in the Weald. We were treated to some wonderful singing by the boys, conducted by Dr David Flood, organist and Master of Choristers at Canterbury Cathedral since 1988; including two fantastic organ pieces played beautifully by Jamie Rogers.

The music was a mixture of well-known choral pieces, such as 'Lift thine eyes' by Mendelssohn and 'Panis Angelicus' by Cesar Franck as well as less well-known pieces such as 'Maria Matrem' by Michael McGlynn with a solo by Frederick, who was a finalist in the young chorister of the year. These were followed by songs such as 'America' by Leonard Bernstein where the boys certainly 'got the feeling' and 'The girl from Ipanema' by Carlos Jobim, which was great fun. The rapport between David Flood and the choristers was so strong and very moving. There was heartfelt applause for such an amazing evening of music, with a standing ovation - so well deserved. Those of you who didn't attend missed a delightful evening out, so make sure you come next time.

Following the concert, whilst the boys made their way back to Canterbury, there was an opportunity for people to catch up with friends over a glass of wine/fruit punch and savour some delicious nibbles kindly provided by Friends of St George's.

Thanks go to all those who worked hard to make the concert such a great success, especially Marion Stevenson-Rouse and Clive Turner. The event raised £1,782 for two very worthwhile causes: the Friends and the Hospice in the Weald.

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



Every year in June, artists and craftspeople across South East England open their doors to the public.

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Wine competition winner

The competition to find a name for Benenden's first ever village wine has been won by Bill Martin, whose Dingledden Delight was chosen by vineyard owner Graham Latter as the pick of the bunch. Bill wins 12 bottles of this exciting new tippie, and although the winning name won't appear on the label for the 2019 vintage - pressures of time meant the wine had to be bottled and labelled, as Benenden Bacchus, in time for the village fete on 15 June - it may well appear on the first commercial run in 2020.

Graham is hoping his fellow villagers will quickly get the taste for his pioneering wine and is very happy with its potential new title, saying: "I think Dingledden Delight trips off the tongue well, describes where the wine is from and how it tastes, all in two words."

Village lunch

Tuesday 18 June, Benenden Village Hall,
12.30pm

Our village lunch costs £5, is open to all ages and everybody is welcome. If you would like to come along, or if you enjoy cooking and would like to join the band of volunteers, we would love to hear from you. Please call Sheila on 240838.

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Friends of St George's

If you asked someone locally to picture Benenden in their mind, the chances are that one of their first images would be of St George's Church at the head of the village green. Benenden would not feel the same without it.

A little over 20 years ago the Friends of St George's was established as a registered charity to help ensure that the church building and its churchyard continue for many years to come. One of the principal aims was that people who are not churchgoers, but who value the building and its setting, could help to maintain the fabric. The building is expensive to maintain, like most ancient buildings, and there is no regular support from central government or Church of England funds - its future lies in our hands.

Since being founded, the Friends have raised over £90,000 towards maintaining the fabric. The biggest single contribution was in 2015, when £20,000 was given towards the repair of the roof of the church tower, which was in a poor state, with rainwater coming through into the bell chamber below, and serious deterioration in the stonework. As with many Grade 2* listed buildings, there always seems to be something to repair! In addition to work which is immediately apparent, like the tower roof, every five years the building is inspected by the appointed architect and this gives rise to a shopping list of repairs, the cost of which is usually substantial.

Each year the Friends raise around £5,000, of which about half comes from putting on events and half from subscriptions. At our annual general meetings we have some interesting talks by local speakers on very diverse topics - from local birdlife to the life of a prisoner of war on the Burma Railway.

If you are not a member of the Friends and would like to help preserve the church for tomorrow, please do join us. The suggested subscription is at least £10 per person per year, though we encourage people to give more if they can. Please contact our Membership Secretary, Clive Turner, on 01580 240649 or clive_turner@btinternet.com. Thank you.
Martin Pexton, Chairman

Hospice in the Weald

We were delighted that many people attended the Cranbrook Choral Society concert in St George's church when we raised £756 for Hospice in the Weald. The proceeds were divided between the hospice and Friends of St George's. Everyone enjoyed the wide range of music and it is certainly something we'd love to do again after the next tour. Very grateful thanks to everyone who provided such delicious canapés and helped on the night.

Many thanks to those of you who supported the wine tasting hosted by Tracy Claridge on Saturday 30 March at St Mildred's church hall Tenterden. We were sad that there were only 36 people present, instead of 48 as in previous years, but we were delighted to raise £778 for Hospice in the Weald. Tracy gave an interesting and entertaining presentation on eight different wines and everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed it. Many thanks to the committee for cooking and serving some delicious food and to Tracy for his time and generosity in supplying wines at extremely reasonable costs.

Canterbury Cathedral Choristers at St George's church on 18 May, reviewed on page 9.

Future events:

Open Studios, Balmoral Cottage, Benenden
1-2 June and 8-9 June, 11-5pm each day
Visit Charlotte Molesworth's delightful gardens and studios also displaying Peter M. Clarke's sculpture and Colin Griffith's pottery.

Open Gardens and Jazz, Biddenden
Friday 16 August, 6-8pm

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388831 jenny.tenterden@gmail.com.

Christmas card sale and coffee morning,
St George's church, Benenden
Saturday 2 November, 10-12noon

Please do contact me for further details:
Jenny Stevens, Hospice in the Weald Friends
Co-ordinator for Benenden and Sandhurst
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Let the games begin

Benenden Village Trust (BVT) and the Play Benenden committee are delighted to have successfully raised the necessary funds to install a new play area in Benenden. We are thrilled with the support shown for the fundraising campaign by both individuals and organisations from within and outside our village. To name but a few, Benenden Parish Council (£20,000), Benenden Village Shop (£5,000), Benenden Bonfire Society (£3,200), Benenden Hospital (£1,000) and Kier Construction (estimated equivalent of £10,000 through manpower and materials).

Our online campaign raised a further fantastic £3,756.25 - particular thanks here go to the children who donated their pocket money, The Oak Barn (£500) and to John and Lyn Potter (£500) for their generosity to the appeal.

Finally, it has been made possible to draw the fundraising effort to a close in a single step because of a very substantial donation of £11,000 from Sarah and William Macpherson, local residents who have recently bought Pympe Manor. Sarah and William are delighted to be contributing to such an important project, believing, as we do, that a good play area is a vital part of village life.

To honour their wonderful donation, at the proposal of William and Sarah, we will be naming the play area after Pat Thoburn, the former owner of Pympe Manor, who died in 2017. Pat lived all her life in Benenden and was such an active member of our community. BVT are delighted that we will be able to remember Pat in this way.

Thank you all for this gift to our children. We are delighted to confirm a June installation for the area.

Play Benenden Committee, Benenden Village Trust playbenenden@gmail.com

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& Toddler Group

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or email revdavidcommander@gmail.com
or helenjcommander@gmail.com



Benenden Village Trust news

Two significant BVT events are scheduled for Monday 3 June: the start of work to install the new playground in Benenden, and the Trust's first annual general meeting of members.

Play Benenden has done a great job of planning and fund-raising for the playground and we are delighted that the considerable costs have been met, thanks to a combination of individual generosity and grants from community organisations. Looking ahead, the Trust also has responsibility for the Iden Green recreation field, where the play equipment is going to need renewal before too long.

The AGM will be held in the Iden Green Pavilion, at 7.30pm and will be followed by refreshments. Until the meeting starts, it will not be too late to sign up for membership, and not too late to offer to stand as a trustee - please do encourage one another to engage with this community charity.

David Harmsworth, Chair

www.benendenvillagetrust.org

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Neighbourhood Development Plan

First phase of consultation now closed

On 23 February we launched the Rough Draft Plan at a meeting attended by over 130 people. Copies of the plan were handed out; we placed a stock in the Parish Office for collection and copies in the community shop for people to browse over their coffee or tea. The plan was also posted on our website alongside copies of the presentation delivered at the launch meeting.

By the time the six-week consultation period closed on 6 April we had gathered over 30 pages of comment and suggestions from residents. We have also held meetings with some landowners (perhaps notably Benenden Hospital and Benenden Almshouse Trust) and some developers who wished to discuss aspects of the plan in more detail.

The Rough Draft Plan has been sent to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC), neighbouring Parish Councils, Natural England, Historic England, and the High Weald AONB for their comment. A Strategic Environmental Audit of the plan is underway by Government-funded environmental consultants called AECOM. A meeting has been arranged for 31 May with the Head of Planning at TWBC to discuss the draft plan in some detail.

This rough draft is just the start of a long consultation process. The NDP Steering Group will review the feedback from residents, landowners, developers and the statutory bodies. The feedback and advice from TWBC will obviously be of particular importance as TWBC are about to publish a new Local Plan for delivery of housing throughout the Borough. Once we have digested the key points, we will decide what changes we should make to both the content and proposals within the plan. We will also be reformatting the plan to reduce duplication and hopefully make it easier to

read and understand. This will become the 'Regulation 14' draft plan. It will be subject to a further six-week consultation period, where all stakeholders can seek further change or clarification.

The Regulation 14 draft will be amended following the stakeholder input and republished as the 'Regulation 15' draft. A further phase of consultation follows, giving stakeholders an opportunity to make representations direct to an independent examiner who will rule on issues and may insist on final changes to the draft plan. This consultation will also be six weeks long - a timetable will be provided for each step on our website and through the pages of this magazine.

With both the Regulation 14 and 15 consultations it is important to note that feedback should focus on whether the plan complies with planning regulations and guidelines. The NDP team have to act within the rules and guidelines set out in Borough and National Planning guidelines.

Once our revised, revised, revised plan passes examination it will be subject to a referendum. All residents of voting age at the time can then decide whether to support or reject the plan. My hope is that by the time we publish our final plan around January 2020 all of you will understand the proposals, protections and pitfalls and no one will be able to say, "I didn't know what I was voting for ...".

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



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Village Hall highlights

Swinging start to the summer

June really highlights the versatility of our wonderful village hall. We are so lucky to have such a great facility on our doorstep and we are literally starting the month in full swing, with a summer swing dance hosted by Tenterden Swing on Saturday 1 June. Music is from the fabulous Retro Revell and it promises to be a fun evening. Tickets are available on the door and cost £8 per person. Bring your own drinks and nibbles, free tea and coffee provided.

We have a charity fundraiser event taking place on Friday 7 June, for World Challenge, which builds the life skills young people need to live a life of courage, kindness and adventure. Chloe, a student from Homewood School, Tenterden, is taking part in the adventure and is holding an evening of entertainment with students from the theatre. Tickets are £10 each and all profits of the show will be going to the charity. To reserve your tickets contact Chloe on 07962 157065.

On the Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 June you may see a few sweaty runners popping in and out of the hall's changing rooms. The runners are all involved in a Tri Spirit Events run which is taking place at Hole Park over that weekend in aid of Royal British Legion Industries. They are using our shower facilities, so do give them a big cheer if you spot them as they are all raising money to support Britain's bravest.

There is also a wedding reception being held over that same weekend, so the hall is going to be busy, busy, busy. Keep your fingers crossed for beautiful weather for that weekend, I know I will be.

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



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

Revd David Commander, Rector
01580 240658 revdavidcommander@gmail.com

Call for fete cakes

Saturday 15 June, The Green, 12noon-4pm

Please support the cake stall at the Benenden village fete on Saturday 15 June this year by baking, baking, baking. All your efforts are greatly appreciated, including jams, chutneys, biscuits and cakes. Please drop them off to me on the evening of Friday 14 June or bring them to my stall on the village green on the morning of the fete. Thank you very much indeed.

Helen Jewsbury 07938 004262

Bric-a-brac stall

Saturday 15 June, The Green, 12noon-4pm

Have you cleared your unwanted items from the back of those cupboards yet? We are still collecting bric-a-brac for the stall, deadline 5pm on Friday 14 June, collection point at Rectory Garden gazebo, a short way down the drive. Thank you very much in advance for any contributions - see you at the fete.

Maggy Hoyt 240700

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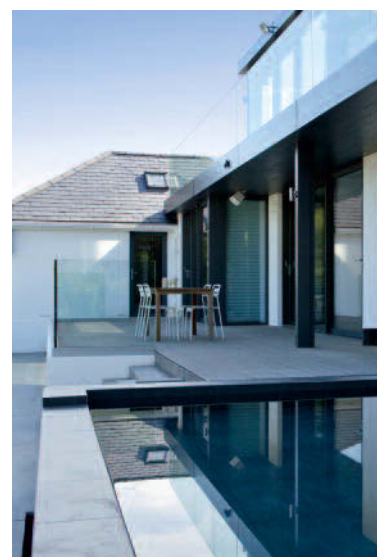
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BENENDEN FETE 2019

PULL-OUT GUIDE



Cakes Dog Fancy Dress & Talent Show **Bric-a-Brac**
Tools-R-Us **BBQ & Beer** Cream Teas **Kids Corner**
Music **Auction of Promises** Raffle **Book Stall**
Classic Cars **Chic Boutique** Pony Rides
Coconut Shy Plants **Cow Pat Bingo** Show Arena
Strawberries & Cream

BENENDEN FETE '19



12:00	Fete opens: Bells, BBQ & Children's Fancy Dress Parade
12:30 – 1:00	Charlotte Hudson Dance School Show (Arena)
1:00 – 1:30	The Ukulele Band
1:30 – 2:45	Dog events: Fancy Dress, Talent, Waggiest Tail and Best Sits (Arena)
2:45 – 3:15	The Ukulele Band & Children's Fancy Dress
3:00	Raffle draw & Cow Pat Bingo
3:45	Auction of Promises
4:00	Close

FIND US ON FACEBOOK: BENENDEN VILLAGE FETE

A traditional treat for the whole family

Everything kicks off at midday with a peal of bells and the BBQ and Hop Inn will be serving lunch and drinks while the Ukulele Band serenades you. Here's a taste of what's in store!

Treasure troves

You never know what treasure you will discover at our very special stalls: a huge selection of books in the 'Rare Reads' tent; Wellbeing advice, quality clothes and jewellery at 'Chic Boutique'; Kiddy toys, books & clothes in the Kid's Cave; a fabulous range of tools and DIY supplies at 'Tools-R-Us' and choice items on the 'Bric-a-Brac' stall.

DOG SHOW

Enter your pooch in our fun dog show. Three categories: Waggiest Tail; Doggie Sits; Disney Fancy Dress. £2 per category or £5 for all three. Prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd & treats for runners up. Many thanks to Roosters of Cranbrook Pet Supplies for the prizes.

Benenden 'Dogs got Talent'

New this year we are looking for dogs with an unusual talent or trick. Maybe they can dance, balance a ball, jump through hoops, or simply look cute and beg.

Please email anna.taylor@live.com (with video or photo if possible) as we will only have time for a talented few. Prize of a pooch pamper day with FurGet Me Knots Dog Grooming.

Our local MP Helen Grant is coming specially to judge the winners alongside David Commander (who may well dress up again this year!).



Water on tap

There will be water taps around the Fete so you can bring your water bottles and top up when you need too.

Delicious food

Food and produce are always a highlight and you will be able to buy delicious cakes and local honey, savour ice cream, strawberries, cream teas in the church and local sausages and burgers from the BBQ. All washed down at the Hop Inn with beer and wine from Graham Latter's Benenden vineyard.



Kiddy fun

Your little (and not so little) ones won't be able to resist a Pony Ride, Welly's Impossible to Ride bike challenge, the Coconut Shy, flinging wet sponges at valiant volunteers, getting your face painted and bouncing around on the Bouncy Castle/Assault course.

Children's fancy dress: Disney theme

The Fete opens with a Disney-themed Children's Fancy-Dress Parade from the church to the Arena. Please arrive at 11:45am at the church to start at midday. There will be judging later and prizes for the best costumes. If you can't make the parade, join the judging later.

Cow pats & balloons

The Cow Pat Bingo is a star attraction: buy a grid square and hope that our cow chooses it to deliver a perfect cow pat and make you a winner. New for this year is Emma Cunningham's 'Morris Minor Balloon Challenge'. Guess the number of balloons squeezed into Emma's car to win. Not as easy as you think!

Raffle

A huge thank you to all those who have donated promises and prizes to the Fete. You can buy your £1 raffle tickets in the Village Shop now or at the Fete. In addition to the chance to win £200, £100 and £50 there are lots of other great prizes to win.

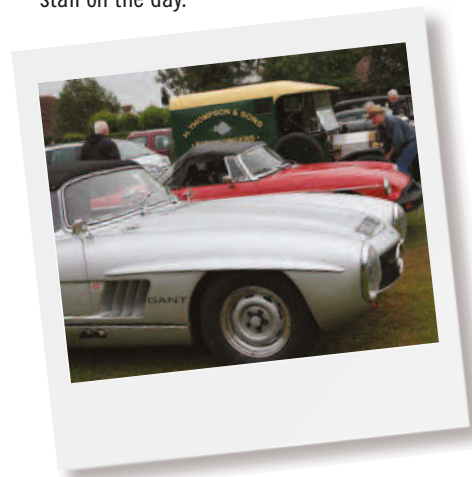
Auction of promises

Our fabulous auction is now open for bidding with great 'promises' generously donated by members of the local community. These include: a day's skilled labour mending your gates and/or fences; an hour's professional life coaching; an introduction to pole-zinging for 1-2 people; a session with The Graduate Coach; a professional

wine tasting of 8 different wines for up to 8 people; a half-day's bird watching; language tutoring; and much more. Email your bids now to Paul Hewitt at: phewitt1203@gmail.com or bid on the day during the Fete.

Win a private flight!

Win a very special personal flight for two around Kent from Headcorn with Paul Tolhurst. Tickets available at the Auction of Promises stall on the day.



Vintage cars

Take a walk around a display of vintage cars lovingly cared for by proud local owners. **If you have one tucked up in the garage, then please bring it along before midday.**

In the church

Not to be missed – the church tower will be open to take in the wonderful views across the village or you could try your hand at bell ringing under the guidance of St. George's very own Ringing Master. Browse the Primary School art show and listen to the organ played by four local organists from 1-3:30pm.

Please donate!

It's your donations that help make the Fete so successful. The drop-off marquees in the Rectory Garden are ready to receive the following items in good condition: Bric-a-Brac, tools, clothes, jewellery, kids' clothes and toys. Please leave books and tombola prizes inside the Church porch and bring cakes and labelled plants to the stalls on the morning of the Fete, or contact Helen Jewsbury on: 07938 004262.



Many thanks to our sponsors and all those who have donated cakes, promises and raffle prizes.



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Auction of promises: Tracy Claridge, Corrine Corbett-Thompson, Chris Davies, Sheila Hume, Clive Illman, Helen Jewsbury, Chris Parkinson, Mary Parkinson, Charles Trollope, Hilary Wilce.

Raffle prizes: Baldwins Travel, Jess Bawden, Bowles Lodge, Benenden Players, Biddenden Cider, The Bull, Benenden, Chimera Climbing, DPS, Eike & Steve Honey, Grierson Galleries, Helen Jewsbury, Hemstead Equestrian Centre, Kino, Maison Manicure, Pashley Manor Gardens, P. Ward & Sons the Butchers, Sandhurst Farm Shop, Tenterden Swing Lindyhop, Tesco Hawkhurst, Weald of Kent, Woodcock Inn.

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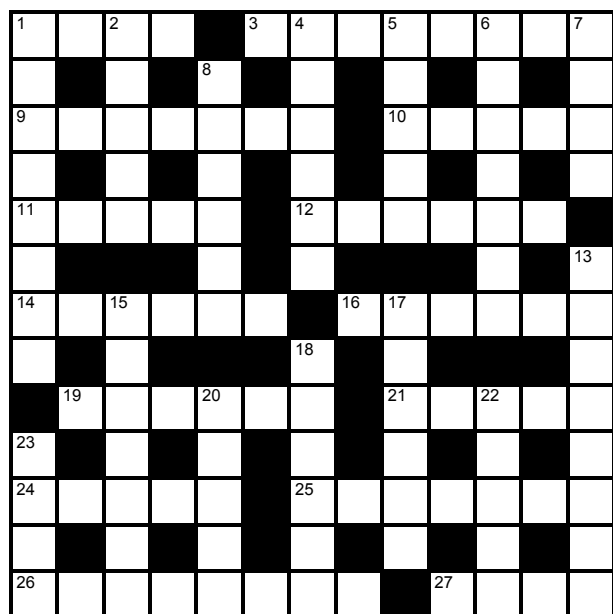
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MINDBENENDERS By ASCII

CROSSWORD No12 (Tricky)



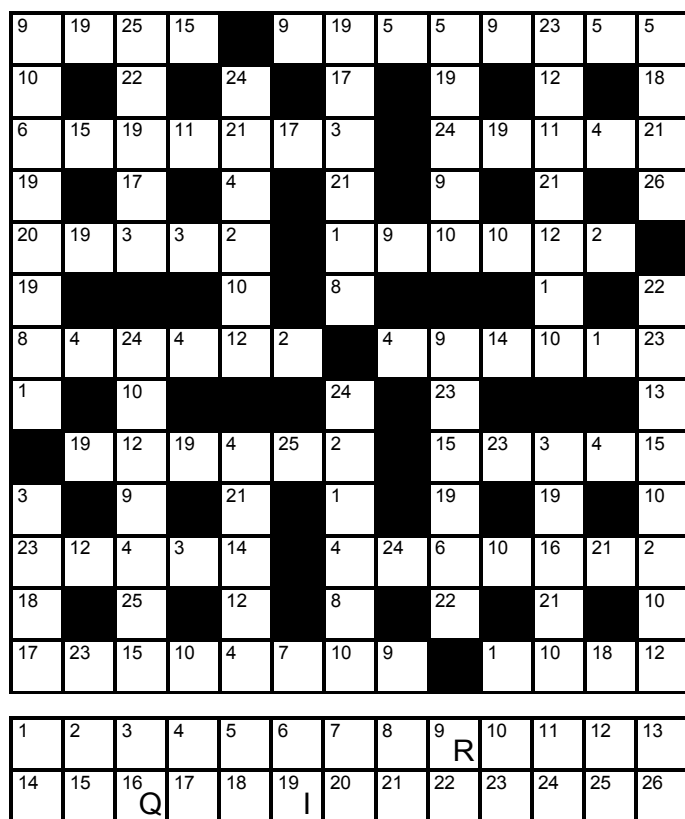
Across

- 5 Three-way quiz? (6)
 7 Tory, UKIP, Republican. OK? (3,5)
 9 Clears off outside? (8)
 10 Skill of famous style guru turned to motor sport (2-4)
 11 Puma phone-ins go one better (3-9)
 13 One who is meagre, in other words (6)
 15 Tall trees in London borough (6)
 18 Delivery firm's holidays? (7,5)
 21 Small, quiet politician outside Royal Institution (6)
 22 I, celeb. I'm not too bright (8)
 23 Contains uncle's I.D. (8)
 24 Euphemistically fires but wants to leave, too! (4,2)

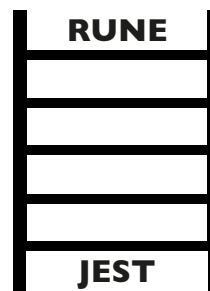
Down

- 1 Upend clear vase (8)
 2 Kidnapper moved quickly on demand, I hear (6)
 3 I'm told banners are cool aboard lead vessel (8)
 4 Retrieve dropped plectrum (4,2)
 6 Gave in about editor preparing for Easter (8)
 7 Quantity of horse? (6)
 8 Seasoned queen amid pencil grading (4)
 12 Fresh album drag to secure firm hold (8)
 14 Lack of Computerised Tomography sends bewildered Space Cadet on adventure (8)
 16 Labour Deputy PM before Sir Walter? (8)
 17 Females pass away beyond the City of Angels (6)
 18 Properly ply rim about (6)
 19 Bond's superior soothes whilst preparing for burial (6)
 20 Bit of a leg up? (4)

CODEWORD No12 (Moderate)

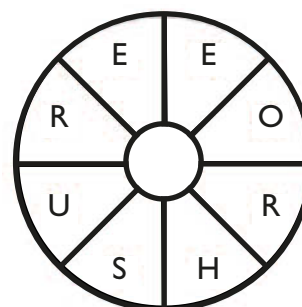


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Change the word at the foot of the ladder into the word at the top by altering only one letter at a time.

NINE FROM EIGHT



Find the missing letter at the centre of the wheel to create a nine-letter word.
CLUE: Da Capo? Marvellous!

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Benenden Pre-School news

The Pre-School children have been learning all about nursery rhymes recently and their play has been based around the themes of the songs. First up was 'Miss Polly had a Dolly' and the children had a go at playing with all the doctor's equipment and giving first aid to the cuddly toys. They have been singing the 'Old MacDonald had a Farm' nursery rhyme, which led on to printing animal pictures with paint, creating farmyards and even a visit from a real tractor. They have also learnt about what farmers grow and how we can use it to eat healthily. We hope everyone has enjoyed their half-term break and we look forward to starting the summer term.

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

Village sends flowers to the Royal Opera House

Hannah from Hannah's Garden and Sheila from Blue Hen Flowers will be collaborating with the Royal Opera House, Flowers From the Farm and Simon Lycett (man of the moment London florist) during British Flowers Week, 10-15 June.

It's an ambitious project featuring a meadow-inspired installation draped over the main entrance, a pop-up British flowers shop, a flowery trail through the newly-refurbished building culminating on the new roof top terrace café, where there will be a British flowers inspired menu and one of our lovely southeast growers making buttonholes and flower crowns to add to your flowery experience.

There is a strong historical link between flowers and the world of ballet and opera, and they are encouraging people to use the new open spaces within the building which is open to the public from 10am every day.

Sheila and Hannah would love to see you there. Keep an eye on the ROH website for more details: www.roh.org.uk

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

A carpet of brilliant tulips greeted us at Pashley Manor, when 20 of our members visited the impressive gardens. We saw a vast array of classical tulips mixed with a variety of other plants and overlooked by fragrant wisteria. Many new species were on display and some of us became quite knowledgeable.

On 15 May members visited the Ewe and Lamb where they enjoyed a meal in congenial surroundings. Then on 21 May at our AGM, our president, Shirley Fidler, was re-elected. We also had a successful produce and plant stall.

Instead of our regular meeting in June, on the 18th we shall be attending our annual garden party at a member's home. This is our chance to dress-up and wear those redundant wedding outfits and summer dresses. The food is always delicious as each person brings a different dish to the table.

A social gathering is planned for Friday 28 June at 2pm in the Memorial Hall. This is an Open Meeting and everyone is invited to propose topics of conversation. We would also be pleased to welcome any ladies who feel they might like to join our WI.

Jackie Liffen WI@daisystar.co.uk

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Mrs Leggett's class of 1955, Benenden Primary School

Conkers, gobstoppers and the Frankfurt opera

Former Iden Green resident Paul O'Donovan shares a second helping of memories

On my first day at Benenden village school, Dad, already headmaster and who would teach me at various intervals up to the 11-plus, was out in the yard at the back playing conkers with some of the top class lads - what a likeable headteacher did in those days. Unfortunately, I was standing too near to one of father's swings that missed his opponent's 'cheesey' completely and hit me in the eye, producing a wonderful black one and tears to boot. We still had a chuckle over that until his passing at age 94 in October 2012.

Apart from the gang at Oakfields that also attended the school, there are other names that might spark readers' imagination. The gatehouse to Benenden Girls' School was inhabited by the Bridgelands; Cherryfields was home to Graham Moore and also to his pal by the name of Freeman, who I remember as always having a runny nose. Moving down towards the 'Bull-and-beyond' end, we had the Burtons (Barbara was my absolute fave at age six), Julia Backhaus, Jillian Stannard, Deidre Hadaway before the move to Iden Green, and the Potters down Walkhurst Lane. Mrs Leggett also lived just off the main drag.

Grown ups? There was Albert Stannard, who staggered past the school every morning with a yoke on his back and two pails of milk in the balance, Fuggle of bus fame, Rawling the butcher and Cherry Orchard, who kept horses on the farm on the top of Hilly Fields. Nowadays the 'corral' is home to sheep.

Lady Ledgard lived in the large house and grounds between the school and the cricket pavilion (Memorial Hall) together with her major-domo Danny Sullivan who, being one of Benenden's few Catholics, was a great friend of our family and most important for us kids as a source of Clarnico Mints. Mrs Pett had the sweet-cum-newspaper shop where we could buy gobstoppers, sherbet fountains or mint humbugs for a threepenny bit. The post office was manned by a Mr Ledger, I believe, and the barber, sporting a pole, rampant, from the shop front, was Mr Baldwin.

I have been living in Germany now for the last 40 years and, amazing as it may seem, have met two very special, now elderly, female friends of my Californian wife who were both, in the years between 1947 and 1952, in and around Benenden.

Anna Reynolds, a mezzo-soprano who in her day wooed the Metropolitan Opera in New York, had been a pupil at Benenden Girls' School, subsequently returning there to teach. She married Jean Cox, the great Wagner Heldentenor of Bayreuth fame, and became my wife's vocal trainer during her ten-year stint at the Frankfurt Opera.

Ingrid Schleep, from Kärnten in Austria, spent the years 1947-49 as maid to Brigadier General Yorke at Summerhill House on the Smallhythe Road out of Tenterden. Today at 85 her English is still excellent and she is an avid reader of the Maisie Dobbs detective series written by the Hartley born-and-bred Jacqueline Winspear, who admits to having had a pint in the King William when home from California.

I'm sure I've forgotten more than a few folks by name who were influential to school and village life during this era, but if readers could fill in a few gaps, then feel free.

Paul O'Donovan, son of Jerome and Joyce O'Donovan, brother of Celia and Clare, grandson of Daniel and Isabell O'Donovan, nephew of Patrick O'Donovan

Visit of Queen Elizabeth, mother of the present Queen, to Benenden in 1950 with Primary School children out in force



JUNIOR TENNIS COACHING

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



Who: Club Members of 6-18 years



Where: Iden Green Tennis Club



When: Friday Term Time groups from 5pm onwards



How much: £6 per session



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

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

Soldiers' charity musical event

Tuesday 9 July, Benenden School, 6.30pm

Many will remember The Reception and Beating Retreat by the Band of the Royal Gurkha Rifles at Benenden School two years ago.

The Kent Committee of ABF (formerly the Army Benevolent Fund) are keen to do something similar this year on Tuesday 9 July, but, due to the reduction in military bands, we are unable to get one.

Instead we have booked a quintet from The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, The Cranbrook Town Band, The Old School Samba Band and possibly other musical attractions. Drinks and food will be served, and a marquee will accommodate everyone in case it rains, thanks to the generosity of the school. Tickets cost £25, children under 14 £5 with free ice cream.

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

Please come along and make this event a great success.

For more details and an application contact:
Chris Parkinson cjpgparkinson@tiscali.co.uk

Classical for charity

Saturday 27 July, 3pm

The 11th annual Richard Beattie Davis piano recital and garden party takes place in Sandhurst in aid of Hospice in the Weald. Daniel Grimwood will be performing music by Dvorak, Brahms, Henselt and a Kent premiere of a special piece where the piano resembles a sitar, composed by Daniel's mentor, Peter Feuchtwanger. Tickets by donation (minimum £17) Reservations in advance only from:
Gillian Davis 850384

Open-air Jazz and Blues at the Pavilion

Saturday 20 July, Pavilion, Iden Green, 2-7pm

Dust off your picnic blanket and mark the date in your diary: the wonderful annual open-air Jazz and Blues concert returns to the Iden Green Pavilion grounds on Saturday 20 July. Titillating your ears will be Benenden Jazz and Birdseye Blues with special guests Dave McKean and Entertaining Mr Stone. There will be a barbecue and beer and Pimm's tent.

Tickets are £7 from Benenden's community shop, or £8 on the gate. Children under 12 go free.

It's showtime: call for acts

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

Nancy Tolhurst nancy.tolhurst@btinternet.com
Ruth Clark ruth@splashpr.co.uk

News from Benenden School

At the start of the Easter holidays I had the great pleasure of joining our Chapel Choir for the French leg of their tour to Brussels and Paris. Their stunning performance in Notre-Dame will live long in the memory and has taken on greater poignancy in the context of the fire that devastated the cathedral just a few days later.

There was certainly no rest at Benenden during the Easter holidays: the music school and school hall have been demolished and the team have now commenced digging ahead of construction work beginning on the new buildings. In mid-May we had the honour of HRH The Princess Royal hosting a dinner at Lambeth Palace to thank the major donors who have made this wonderful new development possible.

Meanwhile of course, Benenden life continues as normal. As well as the choir tour, since returning from Easter we have enjoyed hearing about the other Easter trips, including the history trip to Auschwitz, the CCF expedition in Wales, the Spanish trip to Cádiz and the art history trip to Rome.

The summer term is always a busy and invigorating one. Of course, exams take precedence for the next few months but, away from the revision rooms and the exam halls, there are numerous events we are looking forward to, including sports day and speech day.

This year's Arts Festival will be bigger and better than ever before, and we would love to be joined by our friends from Benenden village for this wonderful weekend in which we celebrate all facets of the arts. A full programme will be available soon but, in the meantime, please save the dates. It is being held later than in previous years: on Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 June. It promises to be a superb weekend and we look forward to seeing you.

Samantha Price, Headmistress

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- continues throughout the day

11.30am Dog Show

- entries from 11am
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3.30pm Best in Show

- for all class winners

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or Sandhurst Farm Shop

Refreshments and Churchyard trail

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Woodchurch Carriage Driving for the Disabled

Talking Shop

Great news. If you haven't already noticed, Benenden's has fresh asparagus in store. Asparagus is a spring vegetable that's packed with nutrition especially if it's eaten straight away. It's packed with fibre, vitamins A, C, E and K, and chromium, a trace mineral which enhances the ability of insulin to transport glucose from the bloodstream into cells; good news for anyone watching their blood sugar. Asparagus is one of the top-ranked vegetables for its ability to neutralise cell-damaging free radicals which in turn may help the anti-aging process and reduce inflammation. There is also evidence to suggest that asparagus helps to fight cognitive decline, so I'll certainly be buying some!

Apart from all this, it is, quite simply, delicious and it goes without saying that Benenden's asparagus is freshly sourced from Lower Ladysden Farm in Goudhurst, one of the best farms in The Weald. (see page 33)

And in other news, we're now taking on the might of the advertising world by making our shop screen available for local events or companies to advertise. It'll cost from just £10 per month (£2.50 per week). We would prefer it if customers can give us their own artwork, but we can help if necessary. Ask one of the Shop/Café managers for more information.

Bev Beveridge

Speedwatch

The dangers of tailgaters

In a recent article, the village's Speedwatch chief Gregg Stapley asked us all to consider our own speed, and referred to the 'follow my leader' mentality, whereby drivers blindly follow the car in front, whether it is breaking the speed limit or not. You will no doubt find that if you drive within the speed limit you will find yourself the victim of the driver behind tailgating you. It is worth mentioning that tailgating is in itself an offence and could lead to points on the driver's licence, a fine, or in severe cases even a ban.

If you find the driver behind is tailgating you, what is the best way to deal with it? Firstly, stay calm. The driver is clearly trying to make you go faster, but you should of course resist the urge to do so. Remember he or she will not take the points on your licence or pay your fine for you if you are caught. Do not allow yourself to be forced into driving dangerously.

If you are in a line of traffic and are not the front driver, you should gently drop back from the car in front, allowing a four-second gap instead of the recommended 'two-second rule'. This gives you more time to react to changing road conditions and do so more safely, as the driver behind clearly has left no space for thinking and reacting.

Many drivers now are opting for in-car cameras, with a sticker in the back announcing that 'You are on CCTV'. Even without actually having a camera this sticker can be a good deterrent. Tempting as it may be to brake and 'teach them a lesson' this could in itself be dangerous and inflame the situation. You may also feel tempted to pull over and 'let them pass'. This does get them off your bumper, but also rewards their bad driving.

Taking the next turning is a good way of getting rid of them - after all they didn't know that you weren't going that way anyhow. You can then proceed more safely with the mild inconvenience of having to get back on course.

Stay safe, and happy motoring.

Denise Riches

Cricket comes in from the cold

Benenden Cricket Club has started the season well with three games played, one win, one narrow loss and a tie. All the games have been played in a great spirit and we have notched up three 50s and a rare five-wicket haul.

The season started with our customary away fixture against Staplehurst CC. The weather is rarely warm for this opener and again this was the case again as we dodged heavy rain showers throughout the afternoon. We were invited to bat first by our illustrious hosts and set them a challenging target of 220 to win. Top scorers were Stephen Message (84 not out) and Richard Brunt (54). Staplehurst's reply was well measured and won the match with an over to spare, despite Eric Thwaite and Barry Bassett claiming two wickets each. Man of the match went to young William Brunt who bowled well and took two outstanding diving catches.

Our first home game was played against Detling CC in truly wintry conditions and resulted in a comprehensive victory for Benenden. Batting first, Detling were restricted to 61 as they were dismissed well short of their allotted overs. The standout performance with the ball, earning a deserved man of the match, was Chris Sevenoaks, who achieved his first five-wicket haul since his schooldays. Benenden completed victory, although not without the odd hiccup, with Copter Brunt top scoring with 24.

Our final match of the month was a tied game with our friends at Egerton CC. Both sides scored 160-9 in their 40 overs in a real ding-dong affair, with some of Egerton's youngsters showing real batting talent down the order. Wickets were shared evenly amongst the Benenden bowlers, with Richard Brunt claiming three, and Robbie Willetts and Barry Bassett two each. In response Benenden lost wickets at regular intervals, with many of the top order reaching double figures before falling as they looked to accelerate. Richard Brunt top scored with 58 not out, but requiring one run from the last delivery, Benenden came up just short.

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

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

For more information please visit:
www.benendencc.play-cricket.com

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



Benenden Cricket Club

Our home fixtures for June on The Green are:

Saturday 1 June v Mountfield CC at 2pm

Saturday 8 June v Hastings and Bexhill Barbarians
at 2pm

Thursday 13 June v TW Royals at 6pm

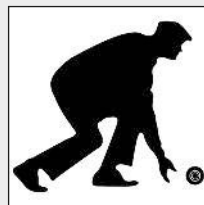
Thursday 20 June v Goudhurst Gentleman
at 6pm

Saturday 22 June v East Sutton CC at 2pm

Friday 28 June v Weald Reunited at 6pm

Saturday 29 June v Benenden Pre and Primary
Schools Fundraising T20 at 3pm

Richard Brunt, Club Captain



Benenden Bowls Club

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Practice Night Thursday 6.30pm

Please contact John or Glenda
01580 243089

www.benendenbc.leaguerepublic.com



Benenden Bowls Club

Benenden Bowls Club is a friendly group that practice every Thursday night (6.30-8pm) and new members are always very welcome. Find us behind the Village Hall (to the left of the bottle bank). Alternatively, come along and watch a game - they all start at 2.30pm.

Our home fixtures for June are:

Saturday 1 June v Hunton at 2.30pm

Sunday 2 June Fred Reid Pairs at 2.30pm

Sunday 9 June v Pop Horton Cup at 2.30pm

Sunday 23 June v Cranbrook at 2.30pm

John and Glenda Marshall 243089

www.benendenbc.leaguerepublic.com

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11 One-upmanship, 13 Meanie, 15 Poplar, 18 Package deals,

21 Shrimp, 22 Imbecile, 23 Includes, 24 Lets go

Down: 1 Overtun, 2 Ransom, 3 Flagship, 4 Pick up,

6 Relented, 7 Amount, 8 Herb, 12 Rawplugh, 14 Escapade,

16 Prescott, 17 Ladies, 18 Primly, 19 Embalm, 20 Shin

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Maison Manicure: nailing a new village business

When Billie Edmonds-Bell drove through Benenden in early 2017,

everything fell into place and she started the process of setting up Maison Manicure, Benenden's first manicure, pedicure and brow bar. "I spotted the perfect premises for sale on The Street, right next to the existing vibrant village shop. For me, it was a case of right size, right place, right time," she says. Full of energy and ideas, Billie wanted a change of direction after a successful career in employment law. She had long wanted to start a natural beauty business that specialised in vegan and organic products and so Maison Manicure was born, and after a stylish refit, the business opened in July that year.

Charlotte Dryland joined Billie in December 2017 and took on the day-to-day running of the salon from January 2019, enabling Billie to currently take a step back and explore new, complementary, opportunities. "In Charlotte I found someone who understood the growing demand and benefits of natural plant-based products and high levels of customer service, together with a willingness to learn and progress at pace. I felt confident enabling her to take the lead and am proud and delighted at how successfully she has stepped up, allowing my role to change to that of sounding board and mentor."

Charlotte trained in a variety of beauty techniques at Ashford College and joined Billie after a couple of years working in a bigger salon in Ashford. "I am surrounded by family and friends that run their own businesses and my

ambition was to eventually manage my own - I just didn't think that the opportunity would come so quickly," says Charlotte, who turns 21 in June. "It's been a fast learning curve, getting to grips with the financials, stock control, marketing and keeping up to date with colour trends, but I love it."

The salon offers manicures, pedicures, eyebrows and facial waxing starting at £12 a treatment. The Gel Bottle manicure, a vegan product, free from the top ten harmful chemicals, is particularly popular, together with the luxury level pedicure treatments.

Charlotte has quickly become attuned to the ebb and flow of the village and adapted her Monday-Friday opening times to suit. The school run can be busy with ladies coming in before pick-up or popping in to book a 'Mummy and Me' session and plans are afoot to offer

early morning and late evening appointments on certain days.

It's nice to see Benenden through Charlotte's eyes: "This is a special community. It is much smaller than the village that I live in, but there are many more

events and activities for all ages, and everyone seems to get involved. It doesn't matter where you come from, you can fit right in, and that includes me."

"From the start the local community have supported our business and this fantastic support, together with Charlotte's energy and enthusiasm, will help the business to continue to grow," says Billie.

Charlotte is very happy if you want to pop in whenever she is free to say hello and learn more about her treatments.

Details and online booking: 338190

www.maisonmanicure.co.uk



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Catharina with her mother
and aunts just before the war

Spotlight on: Catharina Moes

In the first of a new series in the magazine, we shine the spotlight on a well-loved village character

For 84-year old Catharina Moes, the streets of Benenden are a lot less frightening and a great deal quieter than the streets in Amsterdam where she grew up. She had just turned five when WWII started and ten when it ended and during that time she went through life-changing experiences that have forged the woman she is today: strong, feisty and funny.

Catharina's parents ran a tobacco shop during the war and her father would often go away for days and weeks at a time to work with the resistance movement. "I don't remember being afraid particularly, we just got on with it," she recalls. She didn't know it then, but Catharina also played her own small part in the resistance. On his return from the countryside, her father would put fake ID papers in her satchel to take to her school's headmaster. "The soldiers didn't expect a child to be doing this and my friends all thought that I had been naughty because the headmaster would call me in to see him. I never told them the truth; it would have been far too dangerous."

Betrays were an everyday occurrence in Amsterdam during the war. "You never knew

what was coming next and we lived like that from day to day. Neighbours informed on neighbours and I would see people being dragged from their houses and shot on the street in front of me or sent to concentration camps. It's something you never forget."

Although extremely dangerous, the family took pride in other small acts of defiance. "My father would hide the best tobacco and cigars he kept for our friends and neighbours around the shop and in the bottom of my wooden pram. Although we were regularly searched by the German soldiers, they never found it," smiles Catharina.

The search for food and fuel was a constant for the family. "My mother and I would go out to the country by train to trade jewellery for potatoes, but often the German soldiers would confiscate them when we got back to the city," she remembers. "We then got used to eating tulip bulbs: poached, fried and mashed."

After the war, 12-year-old Catharina and her friend visited England to stay with a pen pal and that's when her love affair with this country began. "I remember clearly saying 'when I grow up, I want to live in England' and I never wavered'." After training as a nurse in Utrecht, she joined the staff at Benenden Hospital in her 20s and has been here ever since. The only dramas she encounters now are the Benenden Players' shows which she has been involved in every year since they began in the 1970s. "It's a long way from Amsterdam, but it's my home and I love it," she says. "I'm glad to say that I only grow tulips now, not eat them."

Ruth Clark

If you would like to spotlight a Benenden personality, then please let us by email at: benendenparishmagazine@gmail.com



Sister Catharina, 1983



At the panto, 2019



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Gentle thoughts of asparagus

Inspired by the author Charles Lamb's view in the early 1800s that 'Asparagus inspires gentle thoughts' I made my way to Lower Ladysden Farm to wander through their asparagus fields and select some choice stalks. Run by the Kember family for the last 55 years, the farm is just outside Goudhurst with beautiful views over the local hills, and supplies to restaurants and shops (including Benenden's) nationwide.

Today brothers Steve and Chris Kember and Chris's niece Suzie run the farm and this year most of its 35 acres are turned towards producing asparagus, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, new potatoes, courgettes, summer squash, spring onions, carrots, garlic, and 20 different types of pumpkins and gourds.

The farm is open seven days a week to the public to 'pick-your-own' (PYO), which is popular with locals, who visit from April to October (see the website for details on what's growing when). Not only can you gather exactly what you need, it's also a lovely spot to take the family and picnic. If you don't have the time, then you can buy freshly picked produce. A new, large and very stylish farm shop opens on 8 June,

stocking their wide range of home-grown produce.

On the day I visit, Suzie is busy washing and trimming

asparagus. "Over the last few years we have definitely seen an increase in demand for quality produce that is local and grown hand-in-hand with nature," she says. "We try and cater for everyone, from PYO, to shops, restaurants, Covent Garden and bespoke orders for events."

Meanwhile, even when the Kember family aren't providing us with good things from their country larder, they don't let the grass grow under their feet - they grow maize instead and cut a wonderful, large-scale Maize Maze every year to raise money for charity. It opens in mid-July and finishes in September and this year the pattern will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Moon landing.

Returning from Lower Ladysden with an armful of the precious green spears, I recalled hearing that a 16th century Arabian love manual carried an asparagus recipe for its aphrodisiac properties. Unfortunately, I couldn't find the recipe, despite extensive Googling, so why not try one for asparagus mac 'n' cheese with bacon crumble from Lower Ladysden's Facebook page that I expect has much the same effect.

Ruth Clark
Photograph:
Amelia Thomas

For opening times and events please visit the Lower Ladysden Farm website or Facebook page www.lowerladysden.co.uk

Meadow Pipit's nest with one Cuckoo egg.
Can you spot which one? It is the one on
the left which is very slightly larger.
The cuckoo chick will normally hatch first
and evict the host's own three eggs.



Bird Notes

How the mystery of the Cuckoo's eggs was solved by Chance

Nearly 100 years ago, in 1921, a 12-minute film stunned the world and filled cinemas on both sides of the Atlantic. A Cuckoo had been filmed laying an egg in a host bird's nest, putting to bed a long debate in the ornithological world. There had been plenty of sightings of a Cuckoo with an egg in its mouth and one theory was that it laid its egg elsewhere and deposited the egg in the nest. The opposing theory was that the Cuckoo laid its egg in the nest and then took a host egg away so that the host bird wouldn't notice. The former theory was backed up by the fact that a Wren, whose domed nest would make it very difficult for a Cuckoo to lay an egg, was sometimes the host. How this film was made, and the hundreds of hours of dedicated fieldcraft involved, makes a fascinating story.

It all started at Pound Green Common in the Wyre Forest in the West Midlands, where Edgar Chance ran a family chemicals business and was an obsessive egg collector who became fascinated with Cuckoos and their host species' nests. In the summer of 1918, he and several colleagues found 14 parasitised nests and at the same time established that there were two female Cuckoos holding territories.

Because there were slight differences in background shade and markings between the two females, he was able to determine that ten eggs were laid by Cuckoo A and four by Cuckoo B. The host species was Meadow Pipit in all 14 nests, despite Skylark, Tree Pipit, Linnet and Yellowhammer also breeding on the common. Finding ground-nesting birds is extremely difficult as the nests are usually well hidden under tufts of vegetation. I have frequently flushed pipits and larks from their nests sites when walking through suitable habitat in the breeding season, without being able to find the nest, despite some determined searching; so I admire the fieldwork skill of Chance and his colleagues.

Cuckoo with
a stolen egg



Chance collected all these nests and, by examining the embryos, he was able to determine that Cuckoo egg and host eggs were at the same stage of development and therefore the Cuckoo must be watching the nest to assess hatching times. With a Meadow Pipit laying on average four eggs (one a day) the Cuckoo has only a short window of opportunity to carry out its dastardly deed.

By checking nests every day, Chance found out a Cuckoo egg takes 12 days of incubation to hatch compared to a Meadow Pipit's 13.

The following season Cuckoo A returned, much to Chance's delight, and he found 18 parasitised nests that summer, again all Meadow Pipits. By monitoring these nests he was able to establish that Cuckoo A laid on every other day. Despite all this time in the field he didn't witness an egg being laid. He assumed it must be very early in the morning, similar to when the pipits lay.

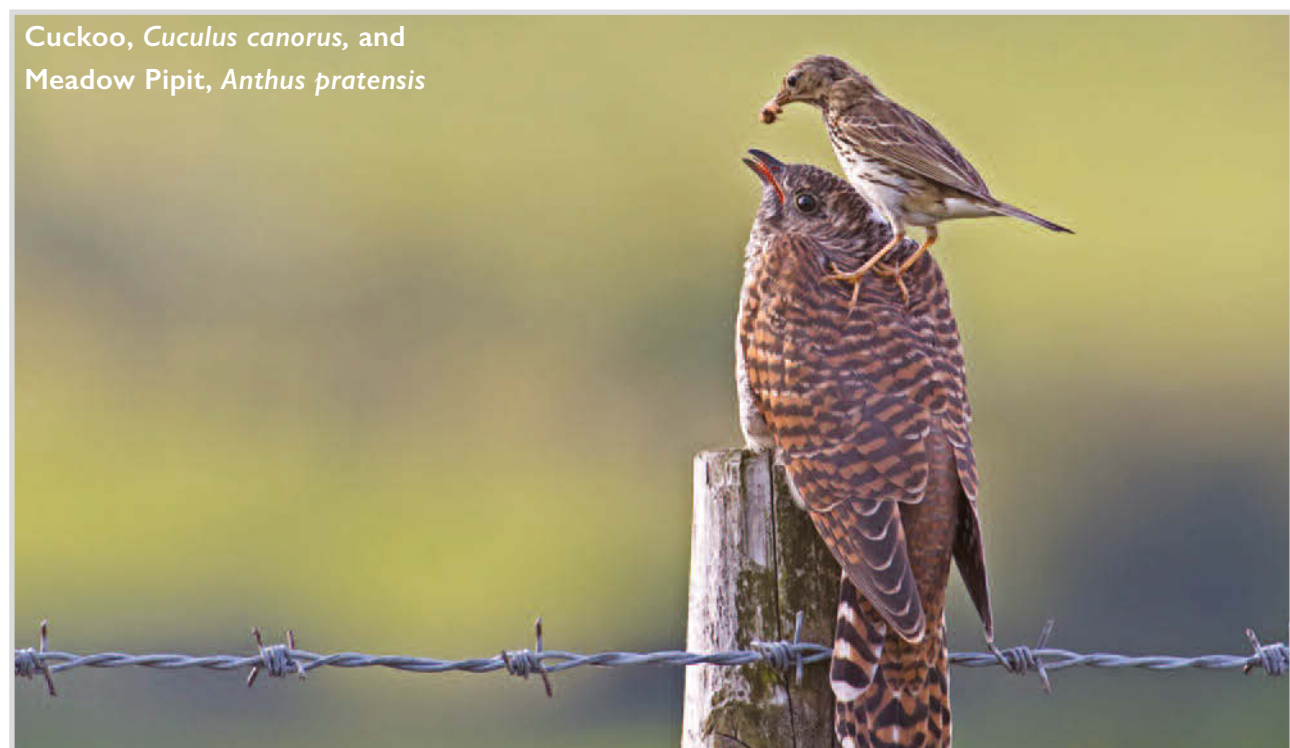
On checking as early as 3.45am, he found the Cuckoo egg already in the nest. Therefore, the Cuckoo must have been laying in the afternoon/evening and he and his colleagues concentrated on watching the female Cuckoo, who would be hidden in a tree, sometimes up to three hours at a time, maybe 100 yards away from the target nest. Most of her laying took place between 3pm and 6pm. She would glide down to the nest, remove an egg with her beak and lay her egg in the nest. The whole exercise took about ten seconds, after which she would fly back to her perch and consume the stolen egg.

Chance now had everything in place for possible filming. The next season, and to his great relief, Cuckoo A returned once again, and by using two hides and two cameramen he was able to film seven layings during the season. These were the main focus of the film which gripped the world in 1921. Cuckoo A laid her eggs on the following dates, aided by Chance 'restarting' some of the breeding attempts of the poor Meadow Pipits. (May 11, 13, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, June 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27 and 29). How the Cuckoo could keep track of so many nests to lay at the right time and how Chance managed to keep up with her deserves admiration on both counts.

All these nests and their contents were kept by Chance, with all the dates accurately recorded. Modern research has shown that Cuckoos will do their own restarting by consuming a clutch of eggs and then watch the host pair rebuild nearby. The record number of eggs laid by a Cuckoo without man's help stands at 25.

It should be noted that Chance's fieldwork methods would be breaking present-day laws. In fact his obsession for egg collecting never left him and he collected clutches of some very rare birds and was eventually thrown out of the Ornithological Union.

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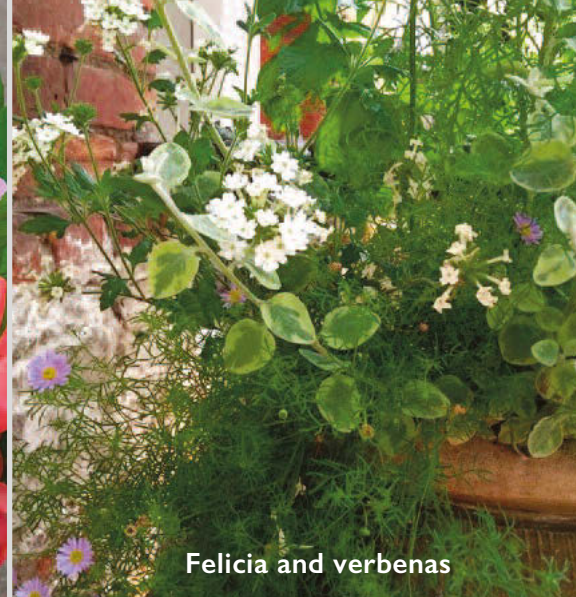




Heliotrope 'Midnight Sky'



Geranium 'Frank Hedley'



Felicia and verbenas



Euphorbia 'Diamond Frost'

In Your Garden

Summer pots and early staking

I have got into the habit of buying my summer bedding slightly earlier in recent years - and have found it a very worthwhile task. If I leave it too late the best ones have been snapped up by savvy gardeners (which, if I am organised, is myself if I may say so). However, the drawback with early purchases is where to keep the plants until they are hardened off and ready to go outside, so unless you are lucky enough to have covered outside space, this can be tricky. This is where a roll of fleece can be handy, but I would recommend using a double layer - it makes all the difference if a frost is forecast (works on vegetables too).

To vary the display each year I try to buy (or grow) at least one plant in my summer arrangements that I haven't used before. This year it is a heliotrope. I have usually passed them over as their foliage is quite heavy looking and it has a rather solid habit, completely different to the froth we expect from summer bedding. But it has combined very well with my other selections (see illustration above) and I am very happy with it.

I include a herb, usually mint, too - this can go back out into the garden afterwards plus you can harvest a handful of leaves on passing

for an excellent and refreshing cup of mint tea. I bought 'Moroccan' mint this year - I'll see what the flavour is like as I normally buy the very ordinary (and very invasive) garden mint, which is delicious in tea and has a lovely fresh green colour to the foliage. Thyme is another herb that mixes well in summer pots.

Onto the subject of staking. This is another task that seems a bit pointless when nothing is flopping in the borders - but if you can get the stakes in now whilst the plants are halfway, then by the time they are really needed they are almost covered by foliage. I try my best to use the same material for all my supports, or at least the same type of metal for bought items and then twiggy hazels for the rest. Years ago, I made the mistake of cutting hazel branches in the spring thinking 'they would be perfect'. After I'd pushed them into the ground, most of them had rooted by the end of June! If you are going to coppice your hazel (or anything similar), I suggest you get this done in the winter months and leave them in a bundle somewhere dry. If you cannot find your own garden source, then try a local woodsman, who's bound to have an endless supply at a very reasonable price.

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Above: Ray Cheeseman, Bowls Club Chairman, congratulates Rex Bourne winner of the Bambridge Trophy competition; Andy Irving and Peter Ellis at the end of the Hospice in the Weald bike event; Miles Jenner plays music hall star Billy Merson; Spring celebration barn dance; Benenden's eight-year-old beekeeper; natural beauty comes in different forms
Front cover: A broad-bodied chaser dragonfly in curious mood in the village. Photograph: Amelia Thomas