

Benenden Magazine

February 2021



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Editorial



If you see me queuing up outside the shop in the near future, then keep your mask on and stay two metres away by all means, but there's no need to cross the road or fumigate yourself when you get home, because I'm officially a Covid-free zone, and I've got the text message to prove it.

It wasn't difficult. I read that there was a new 'non-symptomatic' testing centre opening up in Vestry Hall in Cranbrook, so I was down there in a flash.

Actually, you have to book an appointment online (www.kcc.healthit.org.uk/covbook/home) and find some kind of photo ID to make sure you're not taking the test on behalf of somebody else, but after that, you can get down there in a flash.

Actually, you may have to stand in a queue in the freezing cold for 15 minutes and pass the time by reading the gravestones in the churchyard, then have your details taken by a man in combat gear who looks like he may have stormed the Capitol building a while back, but after that you're in. Then you poke a stick in your mouth and up your nose - it's best to think this through first carefully and make sure you do it in the right order - and then you just wait.

About 40 minutes later, you'll get a text and you'll either be positive (in which case you'll have to isolate for a fortnight and probably expire with boredom) or you'll be negative (in which case you'll still expire with boredom but feel a lot better doing it).

That's that. I can heartily recommend it as both a pre-vaccination pandemic-reduction measure and practically the only afternoon out that hasn't been banned by the Government. Meanwhile, please read this magazine and find out what the good people of Benenden are doing while the virus clings on to spite us all.

Peter Thomas, Co-Editor

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Church Calendar

St George's Church

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

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.

Although public worship is suspended in the church building, the church is very much alive and remains open for individual private prayer seven days a week.

Online Sunday services

Assuming these restrictions are still in place throughout February, there will be a service available online every Sunday morning. The video of the service and a service sheet can be found on the Home Page of the church website. (www.benendenchurch.org) Please 'join' the rest of the church family, online, at 10am each Sunday. The service will be accessible until the following Saturday.

Ash Wednesday will be commemorated online on 17 February.

Mission Church, Sandhurst

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

Iden Green Congregational Church

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

Sunday Services 10am Morning Worship 5.30pm Evening Worship on Zoom

The Roman Catholic Chapel of Our Lady and St Joseph TN17 4EL

Fr Barry Grant 713364 www.sttheodore-cranbrook.org

Masses 9am Sundays 7.30pm Holy Days

From the Parish Registers

Funeral correction 2 December Sheila Clarke Funeral St George's and
committal Kent and Sussex Crematorium

Rector's Letter



Your church remains open, but ...

Yes, your church remains open, but for individual private prayer only, and, with a heavy heart, communal worship has been moved online once again. At the beginning of January, the Prime Minister made an announcement regarding England going into lockdown again, but surprisingly places of worship could stay open for public worship. I was then in discussion with the churchwardens of both parishes about this, as we had significant reservations about remaining open for public worship with the presence of the new, virulent strain of the Covid virus:

- The majority of our congregations are in a vulnerable category, either through age or because of other underlying health conditions.
- We are close to receiving the vaccine (probably over the course of the next two to three months)
- We have a duty of care for our congregations, for those 'on duty' at services, for our parishioners and for our families, as well as for ourselves.
- The Ministry Leadership Team had reservations, for personal reasons, about their availability to lead/preach at live services; we therefore have a much-depleted team to call upon for services.

For all these reasons, we came to the conclusion that it would be more sensible to reduce the risks for everyone by having online services rather than continue with live public worship. The standing committees of the Parochial Church Councils agreed with this.

I wrote to the Bishop asking her permission to suspend public worship at our churches during the national lockdown, and this was granted immediately. With effect from 5 January, we suspended public worship, and have permission to do so until 28 March. We will review this mid-February and recommence public worship when it feels right to do so.

We are recording a service and this is available, online, every Sunday morning (plus a time of fellowship, with coffee, on Zoom after the service).

St George's remains open for individual private prayer seven days a week and will be heated for two one-hour periods every day (10-11am and 2-3pm) so that the church is more comfortable. Revd Ylva and I will diary some of our time to be at St George's if you wish to meet and talk (see the church website for details).

I know this will be of considerable disappointment to some, and we are not taking this action lightly. If you hold the view that 'the church should never be shut', then please remember that there will also be others who hold passionately to the view that 'it's about time public worship stopped'.

The virus is serious, and the country is in lockdown to try and break its spread. We need, as the local church, to be part of helping with that break so that, with help from the vaccine, we can all get back to a more normal life sooner rather than later. Whatever your thoughts about this, whatever your neighbour's thoughts, please, please, please remember to care for your neighbour. That is faith in action. God bless.

Revd David Commander, Rector

Village Calendar

February

Monday 15

Parish Council Meeting, on Zoom, 7pm

The Village Calendar may look a little light for the foreseeable future. Coronavirus and the Prime Minister's lockdown of the entire country have rather put a crimp in our social lives and dates have been cancelled left, right and centre. Even the civic amenity vehicle won't be around for a while.

These will be trying weeks for us all as we negotiate a new landscape of self-isolation and social distancing. To that end, David Commander has come up with a list of guiding principles to steer us all through the confusion. We hope they may be a help until normal service is resumed.

Guiding principles

Our approach to making decisions about specific events, services or issues can be guided by these principles:

Be calm and trust the advice given by relevant authorities.

Protect the vulnerable. It's not just your health, but the health of others who may be more vulnerable.

Continue to love our neighbour. Respect their needs and concerns as much as your own - but safely. If you have a neighbour living alone and isolated they would appreciate a call.

Be transparent and open with one another, sharing accurate and up to date information.

Be creative when making decisions - "how can we do this differently in these circumstances".

Parish Council



As we welcome 2021 and banish 2020 from our thoughts, perhaps now is the time to remember how fortunate we are to live in this beautiful parish. I think sometimes we can take it for granted and neglect what we have on our doorstep.

I know it is terribly hard to feel joyous in this our third lockdown, but on a crisp winter's day there are not many better ways to spend a morning than walking on our vast network of footpaths and byways, saying a much-needed hello or enjoying a brief catch-up with neighbours as we take our daily exercise. It is also lovely to see different generations out with each other; I know a year ago my daughter would have been surprised to hear that before too long she would actually be asking me if I fancied some fresh air. There are many things to forget over the last year or so but I hope we will cling onto the good aspects that we may have rediscovered.

Another great achievement in our parish has been the way everyone involved with the Benenden Action Team has pulled together to help those who need help in these difficult times, especially Guy Hagan, who continues to coordinate the volunteers. This is still ongoing, so if anybody has any concerns either for themselves or a neighbour, do not hesitate to get in contact. Don't forget, with the vaccine program now in full swing, some members of our parish may need help attending their allotted surgery or clinic for their jab.

Stephen Cochrane, Parish Councillor

Caroline Levett, Benenden Parish Council Clerk

01580 240371 clerk@benendenparishcouncil.org

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

Parish Council Meeting

Monday 15 February 2021,

on Zoom, 7pm

Please email the Clerk for access to the meeting

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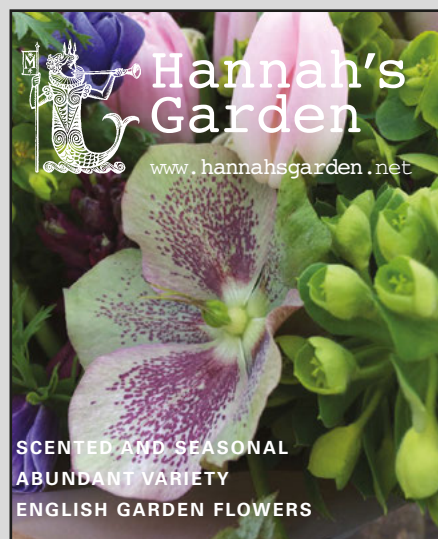
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Just a Thought



The Red Gloves

There is a pair of forlorn, red gloves hanging on the fence near the bottom of the Hilly Fields path. They have been there for a while. Either they haven't been missed or the owner doesn't know where to find them. Another symbol to end a generally pretty grim year. On the whole I don't really go for gloves, but I received a beautiful pair for Christmas made of colourful felt and with a snug fit. I shall enjoy wearing them on special occasions.

For everyday situations in cold weather, I'm a mitten person. I think my hands feel much warmer, though somewhat clumsier, in mittens. It must be a hangover from childhood when a mitten dangled on each end of a piece of elastic that threaded through my coat from one arm to the other. Mittens also work very well for snowballs! However, driving needs gripping gloves, preferably leather. I tried out the aforementioned felt ones for a scary minute and the steering wheel just slipped through them.

The glove-making industry covers an enormous range of materials, styles and purposes. I gave up counting those listed on Wikipedia after type 29. I have a very small number in my house. The ubiquitous yellow rubber gloves are useful for long-time submergence and glove use is commanded by ominous instructions on the oven-cleaning can, obviously containing fearsome chemicals (probably necessary in the case of my oven). Then there are the finer textured gloves suggested in medical situations. Seems a shame they have to be discarded after such a short use. Let's not mention Covid!

For outside, why is it so difficult to get the right fit for garden gloves? I find 'ladies' gloves invariably too small and 'men's' gloves rather cumbersome. Then there is a plethora of ones for special purposes. Perhaps there is a point as one probably can't plant seedlings with the same gloves required to battle safely an overgrown patch of invading brambles. I'm not too keen on gardening at the best of times, let alone worrying about which gloves to use.

I quite understand why she does so, but I wonder if the Queen gets fed up with wearing gloves all the time, both indoors and out. The only choice she has is what colour goes with her outfit and whether to wear the delicate ones or a reinforced style that stops her fingers being crushed by a stream of enthusiastic well-wishers. On the other hand, she must have the chance to wear some very beautiful gloves with fine embroidery and intricate patterns should she wish to do so.

Truly exquisite pairs are on display in some historic houses and costume museums. The materials, workmanship and designs are breath-taking, showing the importance attached to such articles in the past. In fact, there was a whole language of flirtation associated with the precise handling of gloves in the 19th century. I wonder what message the lady whose soggy red gloves hang on Hilly Fields was sending?

Sue Fisher



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Census 2021

The census which happens every ten years, is a national survey that provides a snapshot of our society, our population, where we all live, what we all do and how things have changed in the last decade. The next one will take place on Sunday 21 March.

“A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed,” explains Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics.

“This could mean things like doctors’ surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That’s why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help available, and paper questionnaires for those that need them.”

In this census, questions will be asked about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. For the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Your personal data is safe, protected by law and locked away for 100 years. No individual, organisation or even government department can gain access whatever the circumstances. Initial summaries of ‘stripped’ data from the census are expected to be available within 12 months.

For more information, please visit:

www.census.gov.uk or contact:

Linda Neusten, Census Engagement Manager,
Tunbridge Wells & Maidstone

Linda.neusten50@field.census.gov.uk
07452 942307

Woodcock virtual cookery

Many pubs are being very creative during lockdown and the Woodcock is no exception. From the first week of February their chefs will be holding a weekly Zoom cookery class guiding you through recreating a variety of dishes, step-by-step, from the comfort of your own kitchen. The recipe and ingredients needed will be posted on their website and Facebook page the night before so you can be ready to go when you log on to the live session.

Please check their website and social media for details on how to get involved in the classes, alongside information about their takeaway menu, available Tuesday-Sunday. For details please contact:

240009 www.thewoodcock.co.uk

Online Lent course

The course is entitled ‘Meditations in the Julian Tradition.’ Why Julian? Julian of Norwich was an English mystic and spiritual writer in the 1400s. She wrote the first book in English written by a woman, ‘Revelations of Divine Love’, an account of a series of visions of Christ. Her unique insights into Jesus and his love for us resonate with our own time and our yearning for hope and love and friendship with God.

In this course, presented via Zoom, we shall explore a little of her vision. There will also be a printed version for those of you who prefer to join us in spirit, either at the same time, or at a more convenient time during the week. We will listen to a reading, pray in silence together and share our thoughts afterwards, if we want to. The whole session will last around 45 minutes.

Please contact me, rev.ylva@gmail.com or 07766 711957, for the Zoom details, or let me have an email or postal address to send you the material for each week, if you prefer.

Revd Ylva Blid-Mackenzie



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Benenden Pre-School news

Benenden Pre-School, along with early years settings up and down the country, has been required to remain open during this third lockdown and about a third of our children are currently attending.

Pre-School life, like all our lives in these strange times, is essentially the same but at the same time significantly different. On the one hand, young children are always full of the joys of life and nothing will stop their play. They engage in imaginative role play and creative activities, love listening to stories and enjoy meeting the challenges of jigsaw puzzles and Lego construction. On the other hand, we have rigorously risk assessed our practice and, sadly, one result is that we are no longer able to welcome parents onto the premises which, together with the wearing of masks, curtails face-to face communication and does not offer the same experience of parent participation that we have always enjoyed.

We all look forward to a brighter time when young children can once again mix freely with their grandparents and their wider family and friends. Meanwhile our pre-school community is a happy and resourceful one. We even manage to face the seemingly endless rain and mud in the garden with a smile.

Lucy Oakley, Supervisor
supervisor@benendenpreschool.co.uk

Parish Council news

Benenden Parish Council is looking for someone to maintain the war memorial garden. This will involve working approximately four hours per month, normally between April and November, and the tasks will include mowing, edging, weeding, planting and watering. If you are interested or would like further information please email:

Caroline Levett, Benenden Parish Council Clerk
clerk@benendenparishcouncil.org

Talking Shop

Although these are testing times for us, it has been gratifying to receive so many encouraging expressions of gratitude from our customers. Our staff and volunteers are doing their best to maintain the friendly, reliable service at Benenden's, which everyone has come to expect, and your kind comments go a long way to keeping morale high.

On another positive note, the Christmas hamper raffle raised just under £200 which we have decided to donate towards the children's playground in Iden Green. Thank you to all who took part.

To all those who are self-isolating, please do remember that we are able to make deliveries to your home. Often, demand at supermarkets means you cannot get a slot for a home delivery, but if you can phone Benenden's, make your order and pay by card, we will get the delivery to you as soon as possible. We have some excellent frozen meals, which are usually sold in the café but are easy to heat at home with the minimum of preparation; just the thing for those of you who have tired of cooking.

Unlike during last year's lockdown, we are keeping the café open from 9am to 2pm, Monday to Saturday, for takeaway drinks and snacks (hot and cold). Barista coffee, a variety of teas and yummy hot chocolate are still there for those who need a bit of luxurious warming-up. It's a great way to make a walk into a treat.

Covid has disrupted a good deal of normal life but for those of you who still feel a smidge of romance, Valentine's Day has not been cancelled and Benenden's will be stocking cards, chocolates and fizz with which to celebrate.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that, after a surprise on-the-spot assessment by the Government's Health and Safety Executive, our Covid safety procedures have been given a green 'fully compliant' rating.

Bev Beveridge info@benendens.co.uk
www.benendens.co.uk

Primary School news

All schools across the country have now been directed to close until February half term, so remote learning is being accessed across our existing platforms, Tapestry Journal and Google Classroom, for all those children staying at home, while our mixed year group bubbles for vulnerable children and those of critical workers continue to operate in school every day from 8.45am until 3.15pm. We are also delighted that Benenden Girls' School continues to provide a hot lunch for all the children and staff in school who require one.

I would like to congratulate everyone for adapting so quickly back to remote learning. Within the first few days we had over 90% of children and parents actively engaging with the programme.

It is important to note that this time round, the provision offered online has increased considerably, with a wide range of media available to support lessons and alternative ways for children to share their learning with their teacher and teaching assistants. We look forward to activating small live catch-up groups and will be inviting children to join these sessions if they need extra support.

In our critical worker bubbles, our teaching assistants are utilising our recently arrived Chromebooks to access the same learning as their classmates. We have also taken receipt of six new additional Chromebooks, thanks to the Department for Education's Get Help with Tech scheme, and all are in use already. For many families, technology has been challenging and we have reached out to many of them already and offered laptops to those that need it.

Meanwhile, Kent County Council has launched a symptom-free testing scheme for key workers and their families across the county. To book a test, please follow this link: <https://kcc.healthit.org.uk/covbook/home>

Lindsay Roberts, Headteacher 240565
office@benenden-cep.kent.sch.uk

Parent, Teachers, and Friends Association news

We want to say a big 'thank you' to everyone for their ongoing support for our primary school Parent, Teachers, and Friends Association (PTFA). We are very happy to announce that we made a profit of over £2,000 from our festive activities, despite all the restrictions we faced towards the end of the year. A fantastic effort.

We hope you agree that the new clothing bin in the school car park is a great asset for the community, as so many of the charity shops are closed or overwhelmed with donations. The school receives money by weight for acceptable items donated, with 100% of the funds raised going back into school projects. Your continued use of this facility makes a big difference. If the bin is full, please place your bags behind it, ensuring they are tied up so that your donations do not get wet.

While we wait for the Covid restrictions to be eased so that our in-person activities can resume, there are still 'always-on' and virtual initiatives you can support. Please keep an eye out for updates on the 'Events & Activities' page on our website.

Looking to the future, we are currently seeking ideas for grants to help fund an outdoor reflection area, which will enrich our children's learning and support their wellbeing. We would love to hear about any funding schemes that we could explore.

To find out more or learn how to support our efforts, please visit the school website www.benenden-cep.kent.sch.uk and go to the 'PTFA' section.

Astrid Miller, Benenden CEP, PTFA Chair

Fete needs a leader

Sadly, last year the Benenden village fete, in support of St George's Church, had to be cancelled. Although a provisional date in June has been set for this year's event, it looks like this may still be too early, so it may be moved to 18 September instead. We will provide more details in a future issue.

Joy Rowlands took over as fete chairwoman in 2019 and she did a magnificent job. However, Joy is a front-line NHS worker and due to her workload is, quite understandably, unable to continue.

Which means that the fete committee now needs a new leader. Are you that person? We need someone who can organise and oversee this very traditional village event which takes place on the Green. We hold just four meetings in the run up to the day and the chair has the experienced support of the committee team: Tracy Claridge, Revd David Commander, Helen Jewsbury, Pippa Sarton, Tim Maw, David Wellman, Sam Caddick and Ruth Clark (new members always welcome).

Please contact:

Tracy Claridge
maisonsicheluk@tlclaridge.co.uk

Village Hall news

We are sorry that Benenden village hall has had to close again, in accordance with the government's latest regulations to combat Covid. We appreciate how disruptive the ever-changing regulations are for our regular hirers. We want to open the hall as soon as it is safe to do so but cannot predict when that might be. At time of writing, the anti-Covid regulations permitted the Benenden playground to remain open, though users are reminded to keep to safe social distancing and regular use of hand-sanitiser.

Martin Dickson, Benenden Village Trust

Iden Green and Benenden WI

We hope many of our members have had the opportunity of opting for a Covid vaccination and would like to start planning for the resumption of our meetings. We have booked several interesting speakers during 2021 and are also looking forward to our Friday afternoon social gatherings, when visitors are usually welcome to join us for afternoon tea.

One of our members has suggested that it might be enjoyable to see some of the hats that have been made during lockdown. We may invite others to make a hat (out of anything to hand) so that we could have a mini parade (with a small prize) at our next social event.

Our resolutions have been submitted by our secretary and we chose (a) to help stop women dying from heart disease, and (b) to help stop the destruction of peat bogs, in order to tackle climate change. We also applaud her celebration of Candlemas, which is on 2 February 2021.

Our AGM is generally held in May and we would love to have our usual plant and produce exchange stall. Also, we hope to resume our regular raffles, which add a wee bit of excitement to the proceedings. Obviously, all our ideas and proposals are provisional and subject to government guidelines.

The West Kent News can now be downloaded via the West Kent Federation WI website.

Jackie Liffen 752232 WI@daisystar.co.uk

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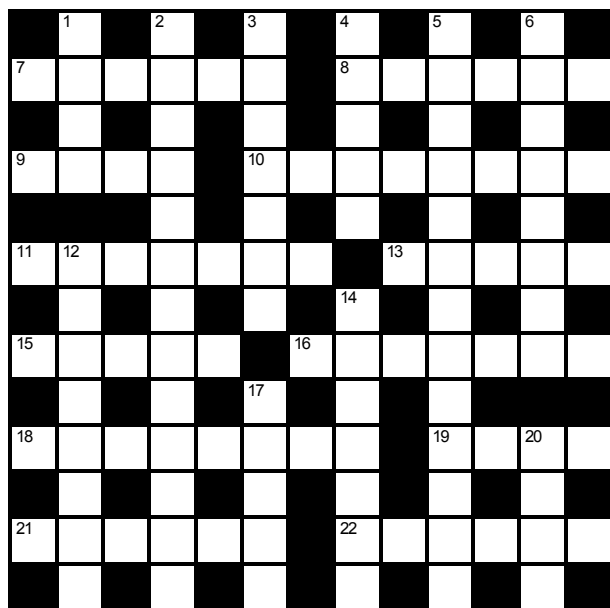
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MINDBENENDERS By ASCII

CROSSWORD No24 (Tricky)



Across

- 7 Amusingly unexpected nine hundred after golf club (6)
- 8 How the watchman is paid? (6)
- 9 The meat and cheese section has lain idle, unfortunately (4)
- 10 Chessmen jump to where they may borrow money on security? (8)
- 11 Cassava lightly knock brief International Olympic Committee article (7)
- 13 Noisy Scottish parrot? (5)
- 15 Heroine, Poppy, expends energy on constituent (5)
- 16 Confused after he weighs practically nothing (7)
- 18 Clio fell badly into a small, oil-filled sac (8)
- 19 Door's open but can be hard to get the lid off one (4)
- 21 Juliet has a strop in the balcony scene? (4,2)
- 22 Bad pub let folk drive off safely and quietly (4,2)

Down

- 1 Strange sounding lake with Buffalo on it (4)
- 2 Henry VIII's dual mind cruelly desiring to be different? (13)
- 3 Huskies used to take down a swelling? (3,4)
- 4 Wookiee takes some eating! (5)
- 5 Badly bully Satanist, to a large extent (13)
- 6 Capone to find the cell he's given? (8)
- 12 Nasty bug downloaded with application? Come on! (8)
- 14 About doing words over and over and over again (7)
- 17 Handle well from south range (5)
- 20 Former Chemistry student, perhaps? (4)

CODEWORD No24 (Tricky)

24	20	23	2		6	10	17	17	6	24	17	17
13		11		24		13		10		5		1
9	23	1	24	22	10	22		19	10	18	3	7
10		24		10		10		6		7		2
19	24	9	23	5		22	10	23	13	13	24	
3				1		3				11		23
5	24	11	9	14	1		6	16	14	9	16	26
14		24				26		14				19
	20	1	24	4	7	23		15	20	3	3	1
21		14		7		15		15		6		24
24	1	20	16	24		15	16	3	8	19	10	12
6		15		25		7		20		10		3
19	3	3	12	23	7	20	15		15	9	7	13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

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

SUDOKU

				6				
9			8			7		
							2	
2		7					3	5
					1			2
1		3	2			9		
		2		4	7		6	9
				1		5		
	6		5					

Each column, row and block **must** contain numbers 1 to 9 in any order. Each number can be used only **once** in each column, row or block.

FOURWORD

1	2	3	4
2			
3			
4			

In the grid, place all of these letters to make the same four words across and down. Four clues are given to help you.

AAAAEHHHLLMMSSSU

- 1 Quiet before morning? Bogus
- 2 Hawaiian hoop
- 3 Calls taxi for beer?
- 4 Mum's quiet spuds beaten?

Charity giving

Thank you to everyone who has either donated food directly to the Nourish Community Food Bank, by leaving it at the Big Yellow Storage facility on the North Farm Estate in Tunbridge Wells, or left it in the porch of St George's Church. This food finds its way either to local people in need, to Nourish or to the Catching Lives charity in Canterbury.

Please look at the website

www.nourishcommunityfoodbank.org.uk or call 01892 548892 for details on how to apply for food. Nourish delivers to Benenden, but applications cannot be made directly, only by referrals. Please see the advert in this magazine if you wish to apply or wish to support Nourish. If you would like to donate to Catching Lives or become a volunteer, please go to their website www.catchinglives.org.

The Benenden Action Team (BAT) can also supply food vouchers for those in emergency need of provisions, to be used at the community shop or Ward's the butchers. Please see benendenaction.co.uk for details of this and many other very useful pieces of information for local people in need.

Thank you for your support on all fronts - the community spirit I have witnessed this year has been truly amazing. Stay safe, help as and when you can, and remain positive.

Tracy Claridge 240454

tlclaridge@tlclaridge.co.uk

Frame Farm fact finding

Tim and Deana Maw are researching the history of Frame Farm with the aim of creating a complete timeline of ownership for at least the last 100 years. There are big gaps in their knowledge so any information on past owners, their dates of ownership, farming practices and other activity at the farm would be gratefully received. Old photographs would also be wonderful. Please do send any stories, anecdotal or otherwise and any memory, however small to: framefarm2020@gmail.com

Benenden School news

While this has not been the start to 2021 that we were hoping for, we are optimistic that we will be able to welcome the pupils back on site after half-term. In the meantime, our remote learning provision is in full swing once more. We shifted the term dates by three days to (hopefully) maximise the amount of face-to-face teaching we can offer later in the term and the girls made the most of the later start to the spring term by engaging with revision and the dedicated learning expectations that our academic team distributed.

The girls in exam years are, naturally, anxious about the next few months but they remain focused on preparing for mock exams. At the same time, we appreciate that another portion of the term away from school will also be a source of anxiety for Year 10 and Year 12, who are working towards their exams next year.

We are reassuring these students that amidst the focus on managing the changes to this year's GCSEs and A Levels, they will not be forgotten and once we are back on site, we will be working hard to enable them to catch up with any practicals as well as providing the experience of sitting exams in exam conditions.

I met online with the head girls before the start of term and they came up with some wonderful suggestions for how to maintain the 'Benenden Bounce' - a phrase coined recently by the girls to describe the upbeat atmosphere around school - albeit remotely this term! They will be sharing these ideas with the school and we really hope everybody will engage with some of these activities. The sense of community remained incredibly strong during lockdown last year and we are very keen to ensure this is the case again this time.

During the national lockdown when we don't have pupils on site, if villagers would like to walk in the school grounds (avoiding the buildings please) then you are more than welcome to do so.

Samantha Price, Headmistress

Iden Green playground news

The fund-raising campaign for a new playground at Iden Green has got off to a very strong start, with some £37,000 pledged or donated towards the target total of £44,000. The campaign is being organised by the Friends of Iden Green Playground, a group of village volunteers, working in conjunction with Benenden Village Trust (BVT), which is responsible for the play areas in both Benenden and Iden Green.

Julie Lewis, who heads the Friends, said: "We've been overwhelmed by the generosity of donors - both institutions and private individuals - and we're excited that our target is visible on the horizon. But we need a big push over the coming two months if we are to reach the goal. All donations, large and small, will help us get there."

The Friends and BVT have set the ambitious target of reaching £44,000 by the end of March, a timeframe which might allow construction work to start as early as the summer. At time of writing there remained a shortfall of roughly £7,000. Among large donors, Benenden's Community Shop has given £10,000 and recently topped that up with a second gift: the proceeds of its Christmas raffle fund totalling nearly £200. Benenden Parish Council has pledged £12,000 towards the playground and BVT £10,000. The Henhurst Charitable Trust has given £2,000. Some Iden Green and Benenden residents who have been approached have already made generous pledges of support.

The old playground had to be closed last year because of the potentially dangerous state of its equipment. Under plans drawn up by the Friends, the play area's current dogleg footprint would be squared off and enlarged, and one or two multi-functional wooden climbing frames installed, along with slides, swings and safe surfacing. BVT will make public the full plans for the site when these are finalised.

If you have ideas for fund-raising, please email Julie Lewis (julielewis@live.co.uk). If you wish to make a contribution please contact Caroline Levett, BVT manager (bvttrust@gmail.com).
Martin Dickson, Benenden Village Trust

Planning Matters

For full details of the Parish Council's comment please see minutes of meetings.

18 January 2021

- 20 03492 FULL and 20 03493 LBC Woodcock Inn, Woodcock Lane. Single storey rear extension and alterations to public house.
- 20 03693 FULL The Old Barn, Nineveh Lane. Installation of automatic wooden gate on driveway.
- 20 03727 FULL and 20 03728 LBC Mill Street House, Mill Street, Iden Green. Timber orangery.
- 20 03741 FULL Green Briars, Cranbrook Road. First floor extension over existing garage.
- 20 03267 FULL Cleveland Farm, Green Lane. Conversion of The Granary to form two residential units; Demolition of all other buildings on site and the erection of four new residential dwellings with associated landscaping.

Letter to the Editor

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

LIGHT FROM A HEIGHT

Living in one of the satellite homes surrounding Benenden the Church Christmas Star is always eagerly awaited and welcomed. Its 'light from a height' is such a delightful experience, especially for anybody locked down, alone and perhaps not enjoying the Christmas period. This year it has been so much more comforting when, at dusk, I can look out of the window, connect with the star, and know that I am similarly connected to the village. Thank you Revd David.
Maggy Hoyt

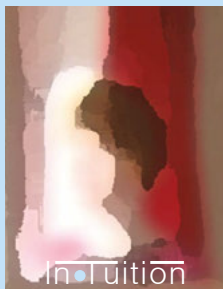
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Neighbourhood Development Plan

How the NDP got off the ground

I hope that you managed to feed back on the Benenden NDP before consultation closed mid-December. This final phase of public consultation (known as Regulation 16) followed public consultations in autumn 2019 (Regulation 14), and on our rough draft in spring that year.

An independent examiner will study our plan, our supporting documents, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's Local Plan(s) and your feedback, alongside input from businesses, statutory bodies and landowners. The examiner will recommend to TWBC any changes required to ensure our plan complies with the complex network of planning regulations and guidelines. We await their report with pen at the ready.

I thought I should remind readers about the journey so far. It started in May 2017 when the late Peter Davies organised a meeting to kick-start the NDP. At that time, I could see no reason why we couldn't be finished in 18 months, but by the time our plan either clears or falls at the final hurdle we will have been working on this for four years.

We received an early wake-up call. Our consultants told us that one absolute requirement for planning was availability of suitable land. Landowners had to be prepared to sell land to developers for residential building to happen. TWBC had opened a 'call for sites' across the borough. Goudhurst parish had four potential sites, with only two deemed suitable, so development would be modest. Bidborough had no sites offered, so they would have no development. Benenden had many landowners keen to help, and the call attracted 18 potential sites. By the time our final draft was submitted to TWBC this had risen to 22.

With so many sites offered, TWBC saw Benenden as ripe for expansion. We already had permissions for two sites (Benenden

Hospital and Walkhurst Road) which would increase housing stock by 34 dwellings.

TWBC's opening proposal was a further 200 dwellings: 187 from new sites plus around 10% further 'windfall development' over the plan period.

We started work in earnest. We had to ensure we had the right level of development for the village. We worked hard with residents, businesses, and the Parish Council to understand the local need, and our specific constraints.

Our next meeting with TWBC was critical. We met them in June 2018. It was a 'robust' meeting about what could be achieved by way of housing development. We demonstrated that growth of some 230-240 dwellings in Benenden, with our poor transport links and lack of infrastructure, was unacceptable. We proposed that we could deliver around 90 dwellings in addition to the existing planning permissions.

After some deliberation and more meetings, it was agreed that our plan should offer 'around 100' new dwellings in addition to existing permissions. This aligned with the Parish Plan approach of around eight new dwellings per year. Next month I will remind readers about how we developed our local priorities, policies, and green spaces.

Paul Tolhurst

Chair, Benenden NDP Steering Committee
www.benendenneighbourhoodplan.org

Arnold Cole Trust

The president and trustees would like to say a big 'thank you' to Philip Message who is standing down as chairman after 36 years of invaluable, dedicated service. We would also like to thank his wife Miriam for both her time as treasurer and her continued support throughout. We send them both our sincere best wishes and gratitude for all their hard work.



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Benenden Hospital news

Like so many other organisations, here at Benenden Hospital we've had to ramp up our use of technology during the pandemic to ensure we get our message out to the public. Our increased use of digital technology has enabled our consultants to talk to people in the comfort of their own homes about many of the treatments we provide and it's happening via a series of webinars that we launched last autumn.

The free webinars were launched with the aim of educating the public on a variety of procedures from knee replacement to women's health, hip replacement to weight loss surgery, and answering related questions and concerns that people considering such treatments might have. Now, because of the initial success, a further package has been announced. Each will be led by one of Benenden Hospital's team of leading consultants, who will talk about the treatments within their area of expertise, concluding with a live question and answer session.

We'll be keeping the public informed of what's coming up, including webinars on varicose veins and cataracts, on the hospital's website and anyone wishing to book onto one can do so at www.benendenhospital.org.uk/webinar-booking

More than 300 people have signed up to view them since the series began.

Jane Abbott, Hospital Director and Chief Nurse

Topical health news

What to expect from the vaccine

It is quite natural to be a little apprehensive about having a vaccination. Understanding what to expect will help you be prepared for it.

Once you get your call to have the vaccine, you will need to remember, do not go if you have symptoms of Covid - they will not vaccinate you and you could be putting others at risk. Don't forget to take a mask to your appointment. The Covid vaccination is usually administered into the upper arm and you can expect to be asked to take a seat for ten or 15 minutes afterwards to ensure you don't have a rare, allergic reaction.

The NHS advises some people can experience side-effects from the vaccine including a sore arm, tiredness, a headache and feeling achy or sick. These side-effects are common to many vaccines and for most people they are transient. If you experience these side-effects you should take paracetamol and rest. If you develop a fever, or become otherwise unwell, you should consider the possibility you might have another infection or are Covid positive.

The vaccine is not a magic cure - it confers partial immunity only after two to three weeks and you should return for the second dose after three to 12 weeks. Regardless of whether or not you have had the vaccine, you could catch and/or spread Covid, so continue to follow the simple rules: cover your face, wash your hands, and maintain social distancing.

Peter Ellis

1 SHAM, 2 HULA, 3 ALES, 4 MASH
FOURWORD

7	2	8	1	6	5	3	9	4
9	3	6	8	2	4	7	5	1
4	5	1	9	7	3	6	2	8
2	8	7	4	9	6	1	3	5
6	9	5	7	3	1	4	8	2
1	4	3	2	5	8	9	7	6
5	1	2	3	4	7	8	6	9
8	7	9	6	1	2	5	4	3
3	6	4	5	8	9	2	1	7

SUDUKO

1	L	X	O	Q	D	R	U	W	T	I	C	Z	N
14	Y	S	H	F	J	B	P	G	V	E	A	K	M

CROSSWORD No24

Across: 7 Ironie, 8 Hourly, 9 Deli, 10 Pawnshop, 11 Tapioca, 13 Macaw, 15 Opium, 16 Feather, 18 Follie, 19 Ajar, 21 Acts up, 22 Belt up
Down: 1 Erie, 2 Individualism, 3 Ice pack, 4 Chevy, 5 Substantially, 6 Allocate, 12 Approach, 14 Reverbs, 17 Scope, 20 Alum

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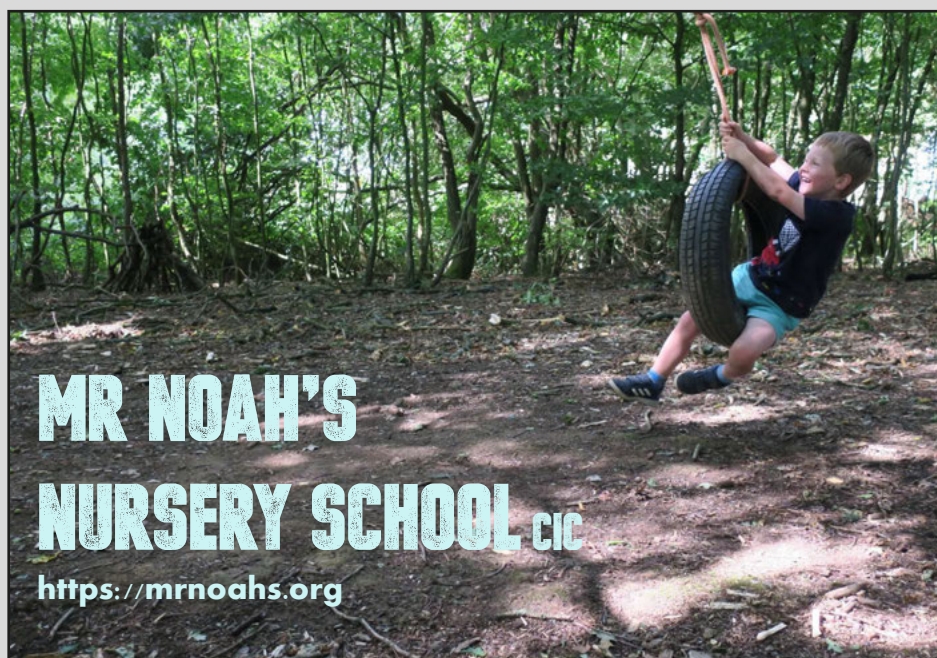
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New loo and trees for Benenden

Plans for improvements around the village hall and recreation ground are proceeding. They include fresh thinking about the relocation of the public toilets and a scheme to plant additional trees around the recreation ground to soften its landscaping. Benenden Village Trust (BVT) is responsible for both areas and in the November issue we outlined an initial plan to move the public toilets inside the hall and to convert the toilet building into a new community office for the Parish Council clerk and BVT manager.

The original idea was for two toilet cubicles, one for the disabled, inside at the north-west corner of the hall, immediately opposite the existing public toilets, which would have meant relocating the rear stairs from the stage in the hall. Following representations from the Benenden Players, BVT has agreed that a better scheme would be to convert the existing community office into the public toilets - again with two cubicles: one standard and one for disabled users.

The old converted toilet block will house the community office and village archive and have room for small committee meetings. The Parish Council has endorsed this scheme, so planning permission will be sought for the conversion and estimates obtained for all the work on this. However, the partial and complete closure of the village hall over the year has had a severe impact on BVT income, and there may well be a delay before funding is available for the project.

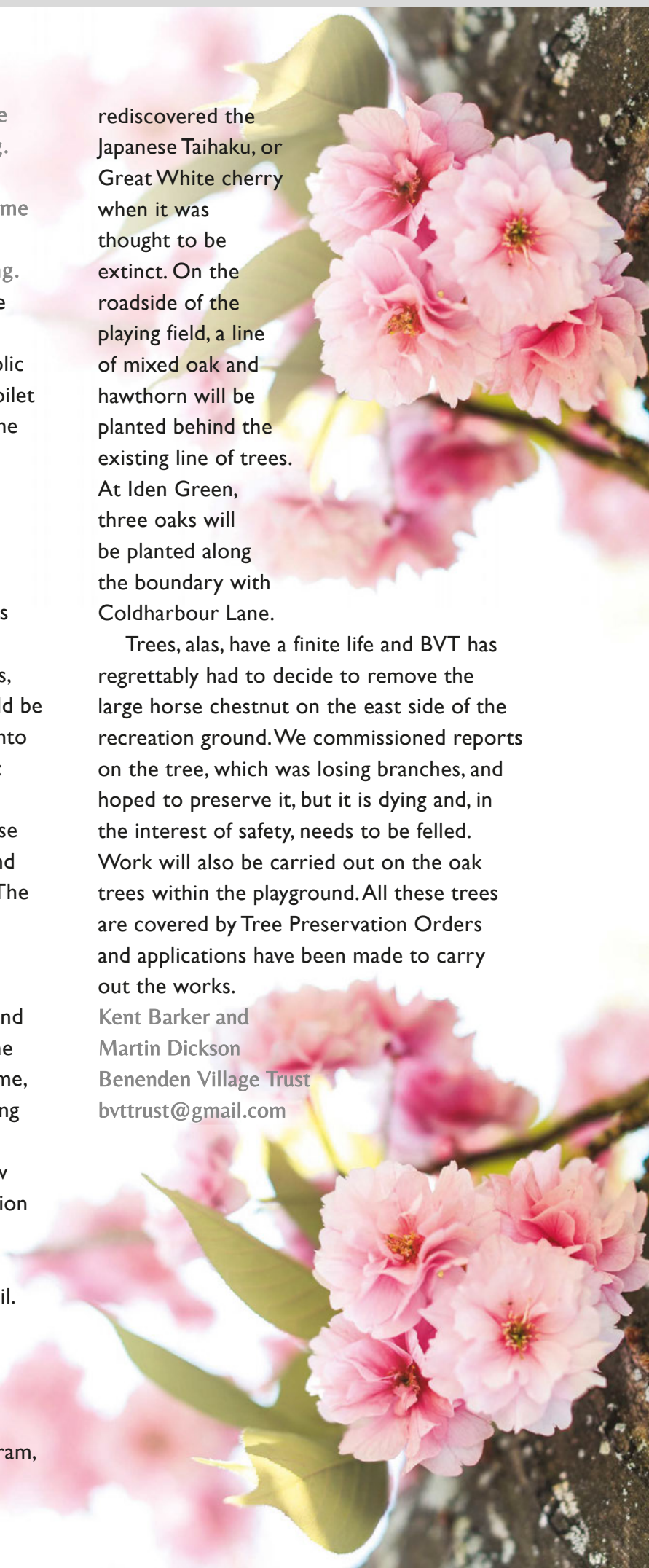
Meanwhile, BVT is planning to plant new trees at Benenden and Iden Green recreation grounds. Working with the Parish Council, the trust will be using a grant specifically for tree planting from Kent County Council. Huge thanks to Cllr Seán Holden for this.

In Benenden, the plan includes a line of flowering cherries on the north side of the playground, which will be a tribute to Benenden's own Collingwood 'Cherry' Ingram, the authority on ornamental cherries who

rediscovered the Japanese Taihaku, or Great White cherry when it was thought to be extinct. On the roadside of the playing field, a line of mixed oak and hawthorn will be planted behind the existing line of trees. At Iden Green, three oaks will be planted along the boundary with Coldharbour Lane.

Trees, alas, have a finite life and BVT has regrettably had to decide to remove the large horse chestnut on the east side of the recreation ground. We commissioned reports on the tree, which was losing branches, and hoped to preserve it, but it is dying and, in the interest of safety, needs to be felled. Work will also be carried out on the oak trees within the playground. All these trees are covered by Tree Preservation Orders and applications have been made to carry out the works.

Kent Barker and
Martin Dickson
Benenden Village Trust
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Church makes a change



The story of Our Lady and St Joseph

Benenden's Roman Catholic Chapel has a 90-year history and a new name

The white weather-boarded Roman Catholic Chapel in New Pond Road was built in 1931 by Mrs Ella Scrymsour-Nichol. It is a Colt building, designed by Messrs Colt of Bethersden, and is in the early English style, examples of which can also be seen in Gloucestershire. The cost was approximately £450 and local labour was employed for its construction.

Before 1926, the nearest Catholic Mass centre to Benenden was Goudhurst and Mrs Scrymsour-Nichol was told that moving to Benenden would 'cut her off from the Church'. She took the risk and moved into what was then known as Our Lady's Dowry, now The Holt.

For the next few years she arranged with Father Mendham of Goudhurst to come over and say the occasional Mass in her garage. In 1931, with help from friends, Mrs Scrymsour-Nichol purchased the land from the neighbouring farmers, Henleys, and had built the main body of the building you see today. The sacristy, at the far end, was added at a later stage. It was built 'for the Catholics of Benenden' and was in memory of her husband. The chapel stands in an acre of ground, which

was intended for a school and a priest's house that never materialised. The chapel remained in the Parish of Goudhurst until 1963, when St Theodore's was built in Cranbrook and it became, and still is, in St Theodore's Parish.

During the war, Mr Blakemore, who was born in the house next door to the chapel and still lives there, remembers the British troops using the field for manoeuvres, and in the 1970s his daughter remembers sitting on their garage roof to watch the filming of 'Anne of Grey Gables'.

The chapel is only small but there have been several weddings in its history. The first was in 1950: Joanne Scrymsour-Nichol, Ella's daughter; Charlotte and Tim Luck in 2013 as well as Oscar and Julie Mason in the same year; and Nicholas and Hermione Greenwood in 2018.

Mass is said at the chapel every Sunday at 9am and every Holy Day at 7.30pm. The congregation is 20-24 on average, with Catholics not only from Benenden but other surrounding villages. There are Catholic girls at Benenden School and in 'normal times' they join us on most term time Sundays, which gives an interesting international flavour to our congregation, as they come from all around the world.

The pews are Victorian, as is the altar, and the chapel seats 100 people. We always have coffee after Mass (around 9.45am) every first Sunday of the month, held outside in the summer months and around the pews in the winter, to which you are all most welcome (when normal life resumes).

The chapel has never had a name, but we are very excited to say that finally it has been granted permission and the parishioners have chosen Our Lady and St Joseph, hence the new blue sign outside on New Pond Road.

Genevieve Greenwood




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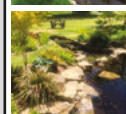
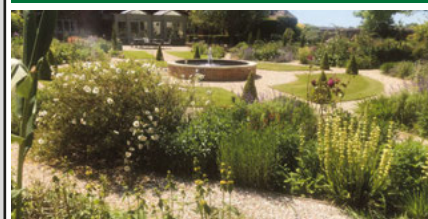
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Last Word



Vernon Roy Chapman (CEng, MIEE)

16 April 1929 -

15 February 2020

In the various stages of the current crisis, many of those who have died have been denied a proper farewell from the village. Here we remember one man whose efforts on our behalf deserve not to be forgotten.

Roy's wife Jean writes: "Roy died on 15 February 2020 and his funeral was the last service in St George's Church before the first Covid lockdown. I very much appreciated all the letters of sympathy and I would like to share one of the tributes that was given during the service,

from former Benenden vicar Chris Smith:

"It's nearly 40 years since I visited Benenden one evening in April 1981, having been invited to meet with some members of St George's Parochial Church Council. The occasion was hosted by Roy, who was then one of the churchwardens. Robert Reynolds chaired the meeting and there was quite a line-up, with Michael Knapp Fisher (later to become a churchwarden alongside Roy), Christopher Neve, editor of the parish magazine, Bob Bailey headmaster of the primary school, and John Man and Laurie Strong, who together looked after St George's finances. They came together to see whether I, a bearded 35-year-old, was deemed to be the right person to succeed Nevil Phair who was soon to retire as the vicar.

During all the time that my wife Helen and I lived as a part of the Benenden community, Roy was always a part of our lives in one way or another, and his friendship continued after we left. He was a gentle, good humoured, civilised person, quietly spoken, firm in his faith (rarely missing from the 8am services), and modest and unassuming about all that he did for the church and the village community. Much



Roy in Egypt

of this went by unseen and unnoticed.

During my tenure of office, he was variously churchwarden, deputy warden, church treasurer, and always a member

of the PCC. With Robert, he negotiated with Brian Holmes for an extension of the churchyard, something much valued by residents. With Michael Knapp Fisher and John Wilmot, he helped raise money for the upgrading and refurbishment of the Memorial Hall. But beyond all the above, Roy was always willing to do the hidden things such as changing a light bulb in the church or ordering more oil for the boiler.

For a long time, he wound the church clock and made sure it kept good time. With Jean, he was always at the church fete, helping to get ready, and counting the money in my study (John providing the bottle of something to help the process along). Almost without fail he would be among the working party taking care of the churchyard, and so much else.

Roy's friendship remained constant throughout the years. How fortunate I was to have people like him around me when I was the vicar, and it was because of people like Roy that Benenden became not just a place of work, but a home to be valued and enjoyed."

Revd Christopher Smith



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Benenden History



Fig.1

Childhood treasures of a bygone age

Peter Stennett's pond continues to reveal treasures thrown away by our ancestors.

His collection of child-related finds from Victorian times show that little has changed since then.

Victoria's England was a child-dominated society. Throughout her 64-year reign, one of every three of her subjects was under the age of 15. Although many lived in poverty, it was an era of increasing wealth and some manufacturers of china started to produce cups, plates and bowls designed specifically for the children of those that could afford them.



Fig.2

Many featured well-known nursery rhymes or provided parents with an opportunity to teach the alphabet to their children (Fig.1). Unfortunately, I discovered only a few broken pieces in my pond, but I was still pleased to



Fig.3

have found them. The first has the letters A and B printed on it with related objects alongside (Fig.2 and Fig.3). The next shard I unearthed had a picture of a cat with the letters of the alphabet around the edge in relief (Fig.4).

Since then, I have added part of a dish with 'Baby's Plate' written in relief around the edge with a picture of a boy in a hat (Fig.5), and a lovely section of a mug carrying part of the poem The House That Jack Built (Fig.6).

As well as these pieces of china, I dug up an intriguing glass bottle from the pond: Mellin's Formula, an early type of mass-produced dried baby formula, which was developed by Gustav Mellin, an English food scientist, in 1866. Prepared baby food like this was a boon for working mothers who left their nursing children with grandparents during the day.

It wasn't a total nutritional supplement; the powder was diluted with cow's milk and water and was called a 'milk modifier'. It was a 'soluble, dry extract of wheat, malted barley and bicarbonate of potassium'. The formula was advertised with the slogan: "Mellin's Food for Infants and Invalids: The only perfect substitute for Mother's Milk". Somehow I doubt that this would be so popular today!



Fig.4



Fig.5

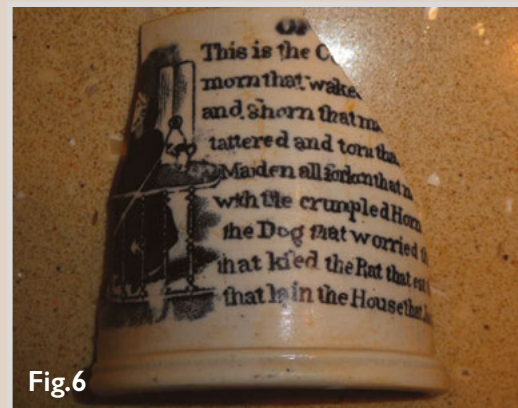


Fig.6



Mellin's Formula

Food and Drink

Plenty of good food in the local larder

Peter Thomas finds a feast on offer in his own postcode

If there's one thing this sorry mess of a virus has taught me, it's just how lucky I am to live where I do at a time when good food and drink are two of the few remaining pleasures in life. Leaving aside the fact that I can no longer access Bakewell tart from the community shop on a Saturday morning, there are far worse places than Benenden in which to wait out a pandemic.

The holiday season brought this home with a sigh of contentment, as I discovered that it was possible to live like a king without straying more than a stone's throw beyond the TN17 postcode. Which meant I not only had the moral high ground - barely even bending the lockdown rules - but was also supporting the local economy and eating healthily in line with all those silly middle-class lifestyle articles that appear in the Sunday supplements every January.

Not that there was a lot of quinoa-munching going on at Thomas Towers. We opted for a traditional festive season, starting with a splendid

Christmas Eve turbot (caught in local waters, I believe, and supplied by the excellent Cranbrook Fishmongers at Hartley Dyke), and while the 8kg Christmas Day turkey from Ward's the Butcher's turned out to be a little larger than was necessary - by about 7kg, in fact - the ensuing fortnight of cold cuts, curry and tagine tasted all the better for knowing that it came from Appledore rather than Afghanistan.

Admittedly there was a little French wine to wash it down - Domaine de Trillol to be precise - but at least it was bought in the village, and we soothed our consciences by giving the in-laws a couple of bottles of Benenden Bacchus from the Dingledden vineyards. Satsumas for the Christmas stockings are a little harder to source locally, but there's not much else the Garden County can't provide, so the sprouts from the ever-reliable Cranbrook Farm Shop were surely saving an iceberg or two and the Kentish poached pears may even have carried the Greta Thunberg seal of approval.

As a regular food and drink correspondent for this magazine, it's been my pleasure to unearth some wonderful producers from the neighbourhood, and I've quickly grown very attached to Ali and Thomas Otway's 'garden shed' venison operation in Sandhurst, which provided the loin fillet for New Year's Eve's venison

Wellington (although I'm rather burying my head in the sand about





Ali and Thomas Otway

Jus-Rol puff pastry) and, in a new and exciting departure, also the wild rabbit for the following weekend's quintessentially British lapin à la moutarde with Dijon mustard.

While that was cooking, I sneaked a slice or two of pork and fennel saucisson from recently featured Moons Green Charcuterie. My daughter has taken to gnawing on their spicy Hellfire beer sticks (made from highly contented local pigs) - while enjoying an underage Old Dairy Red Top from Tenterden (although we've had to warn her off the Anno gin from Marden) - which reminds me that I must reacquaint myself with sheep farmer Tobin Bird's very fine air-dried lamb, oak-smoked in a converted fridge in Iden Green.

We seem to live in a gigantic village larder, and remember that local produce isn't just for Christmas, it's for life. Soon we'll have new season's lamb and Harvey's Sussex bitter back at the Bull, and all will be rosy in the garden again, but in the meantime, there are no food shortages in these parts.



Ian Jones and John Doig
Moons Green Charcuterie



An industry in turmoil

The hospitality and leisure sector has been hit hard by Covid, with many businesses, not least those in our own village, having had to draw stumps for much of 2020 - often with precious little notice. The pandemic has reportedly led to the loss of about 660,000 jobs in the UK's hospitality industry - the third largest employer in the country - while data from the Centre for Retail Research suggests the retail sector shed 176,000 jobs last year, with the forecast of another 200,000 potential losses in 2021 as the economy battles to recover from the pounding it has suffered.

The whole industry remains in turmoil. Some famous restaurants, such as the Ledbury and the Bleeding Heart in London, have closed permanently. Many people continue to work from home, so City bars, cafés and pubs suffer from lack of custom, if they are allowed to open at all.

I have worked from home in the wine business for the last 20 years, but miss the face-to-face interaction with clients, especially when tasting wine. It is not the same on Zoom! I miss the travelling, but I can understand commuters who say they much prefer working from home. Some say they get more done, their family life has improved, and it is better for the planet. However, some people thrive on physical interaction in the office workplace.

The lockdown earlier in 2020 was wonderful for many living in the country. The weather was glorious, the skies quieter, the birdsong louder, far less traffic and pollution, one had more time for leisure and the health of many improved. However, it did not suit everyone.

Covid has brought together many local communities, communication has improved, more people are prepared to go the extra yard and we must all try and work together for the common good. Unemployment will definitely rise, and with it homelessness. The gap between the haves and have-nots will widen. This concerns me greatly. Please support your local shops and businesses, and please look after your neighbours.

Tracy Claridge

In Your Garden

Planting a new tree

A single factor prompted my choice for this month's article: I had a bit of a wake-up call. It was in the form of an email from my local 'Oil Club'. I had just put in an order and attached to the confirmation email were some notes on how I could offset my carbon footprint. It stated that "every 500l of heating oil used creates 1.27 tonnes of carbon emissions". Seeing it in print like this is quite a revelation, particularly as my annual usage means I contribute around four tonnes to the already bursting-at-the-seams carbon dioxide levels in our atmosphere, not to mention the other contributions I will be making by driving a car, having a log fire and (dare I admit) buying fruit and vegetables out of season.

One way to help is to offset your carbon footprint by planting a tree. Fortunately for me I plant for a living, but we're never too old (or too wise) for a bit of a refresh on best practice notes, which in turn will help us all mitigate the damage we are doing to our environment.

As little as ten years ago, when I was a horticultural student, we were being advised to dig a square hole when planting a container-grown tree. The theory behind this is more understandable if we look at the pros and cons of traditional planting in a circular pit. If we assume a best-case scenario, where the tree is not root-bound in its pot, that we do not pile in and backfill with nutrient-rich compost, that we fork over the bottom of the pit to loosen



Choosing a new tree

the soil, then I see no need to dig a square hole. The tree roots will find their way into new surroundings and all will be well.

However, research has discovered that this is not always the case, despite our best intentions. The critical message is that new roots will not carry on growing in a never-ending spiral if they meet a straight edge. They will put on the brakes and seek out new space in the surrounding soil, which in turn will encourage the tree to grow a healthy root system and avoid the inevitable stunting that

occurs with circular root growth - and possible death to the tree.

Dig a square pit to a reasonable width for the size of your tree, although the crucial point here is depth: only dig as deep as the rootball, as trees will die if they are planted any deeper; fork over the soil at the base to make new root growth easier; backfill with the soil you dug out of the pit and gently heel in; apply a full watering can of water and a stake and tie if required. Finish with at least 10cm of mulch to conserve moisture and deter weed growth and your tree is good to go. All of this advice (and more) is available from reputable sources online but my 'go-to' is Tony Kirkham of Kew - any article of his is worth a read and James Wong's articles in The Guardian are accurately written with a nod to the scientific.

Happy planting!

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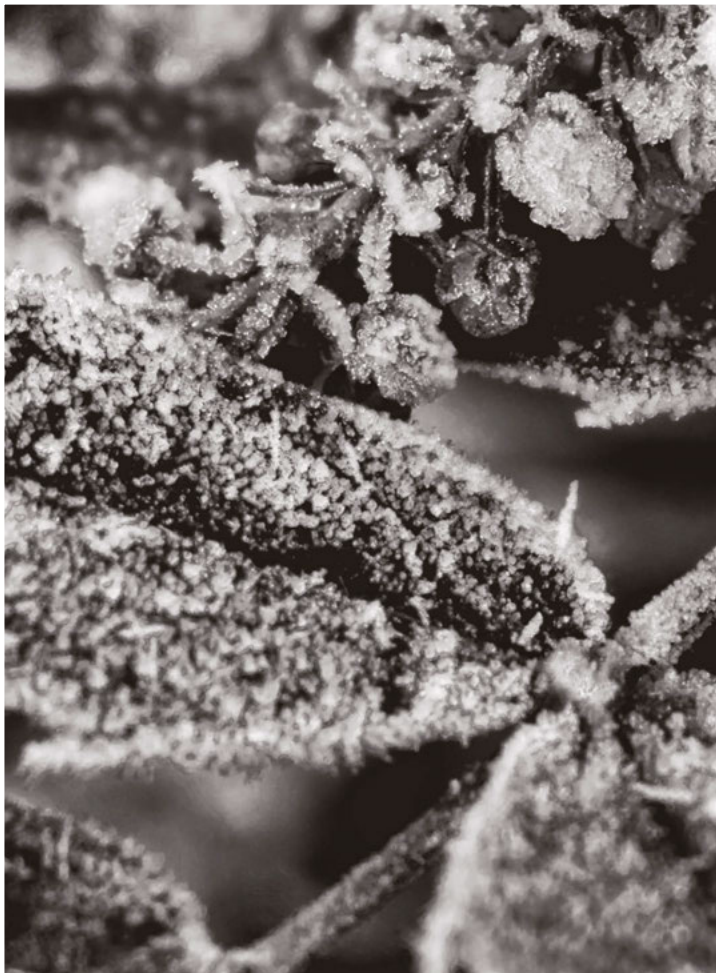
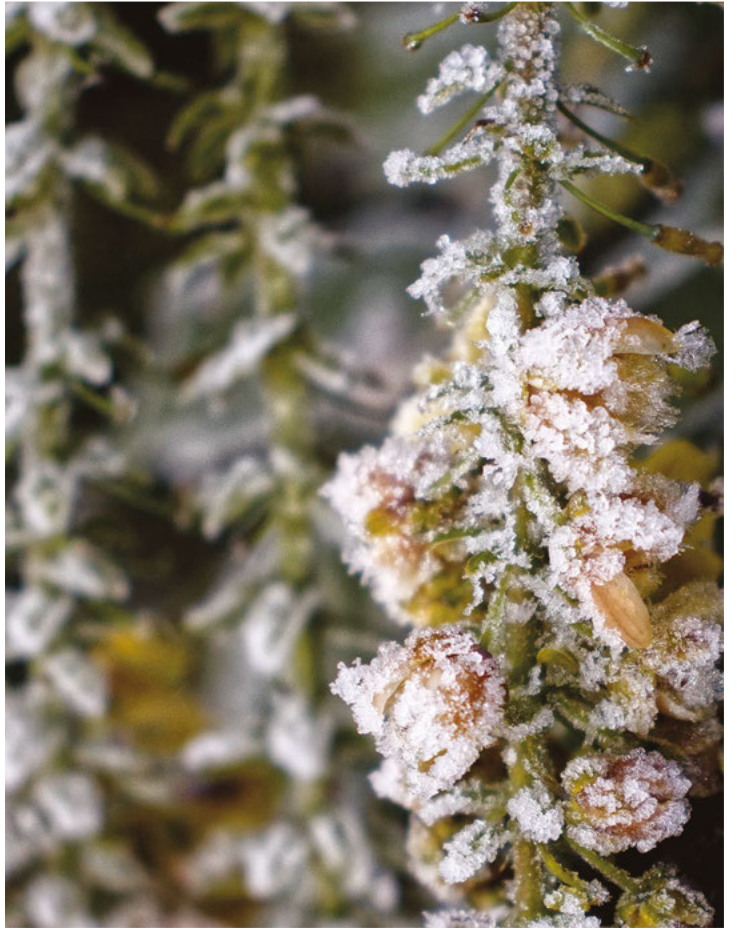
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Above: With time in lockdown to observe.

Front cover: Frosty brilliance. All photographs: Amelia Thomas