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# Welcome WINTER 2017

Welcome to our winter magazine. The magical festivities of Christmas are just around the corner, and I'm sure you all have lots of shopping still to do, I haven't even started yet!

With the winter months in mind, we have some lovely inspirational kitchen ideas, including local options for buying a range cooker. Staying indoors and keeping cosy is one of the best things about the winter months, so check out our tips.

I'd like to finish by thanking all of our advertisers, who make it possible to bring you Conservation News for free. Do please support them by shopping locally.

We'll be back next spring, but meanwhile here's wishing you all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

## Dawn

*Congratulations to Mrs Anne Musk of Chestfield who won the signed copy of The Sportsman book in our Autumn competition.*





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# What's inside

WINTER 2017

14	<b>Christmas dinner for the birds</b> What will they be eating?	86	<b>Hearts of Oak</b> The natural choice for timber-framed buildings
22	<b>Magic circle</b> How to fashion a fantastic festive wreath	100	<b>Hot dog</b> The Dog at Wingham has been given a new lease of life
28	<b>The original fruit</b> Now is the time to plant your apple trees	122	<b>That's the spirit</b> We visit the Anno Gin distillery
50	<b>Inspirational kitchen design</b> Advice on fitting a new kitchen	104	<b>Pairing principles</b> Cheese with wine or cheese with beer? The answer is both
74	<b>Bring in the light</b> How to upgrade windows in a period home		



# WINTER GARDENING

Winter gardens are in fashion. No longer the (misguided) intention of putting the garden to bed for winter. Colour, form and movement, the same qualities as a summer garden but potentially more valuable in the short winter days. Winter seed-heads, frosted Cavalo Nero, coloured dogwoods. Both practically and aesthetically, gardening is a year round project!



## PARTRIDGE OPTIONAL

Winter is the perfect time to plant a pear tree, so do your research now and you can look forward to a crop of succulent fruit every autumn. Pear trees can be grown direct in the ground or in containers - visit Grow at Brogdale for advice on which varieties will suit your needs. [brogdaleonline.co.uk](http://brogdaleonline.co.uk)

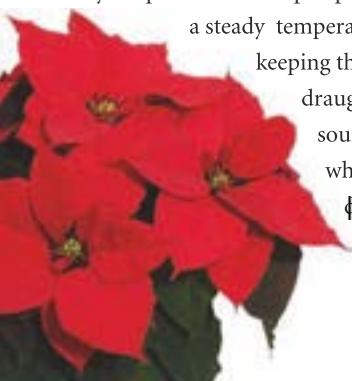


## FIR REAL

What kind of tree will you choose this Christmas? Norway Spruce is a traditional and economical option, but if you're not keen on having to spend the New Year vacuuming up dropped needles, try the lush Nordman Fir or the citrus-scented, blue-tinged Fraser Fir.

Meadow Grange Nursery at Blean, nr Whitstable has an excellent selection of premium grade trees and these include potted trees that you can grow in your garden once the Twelve Days of Christmas are over. They also stock a wide range of wreaths and poinsettias.

[meadowgrangenursery.co.uk](http://meadowgrangenursery.co.uk)





## SUPER SNOWDROPS

The first snowdrops are always a welcome sight, a sign that winter's grip is loosening and spring is around the corner. There's no need to buy expensive rarities to create a cracking display. *Galanthus nivalis* is the snowdrop you'll find growing wild in woods and along rivers' banks; it's vigorous, quick to establish and usually flowers in February. Snowdrops do best in moist, well-drained soil in partial shade. Plant them deep; the top of the bulb should be about 8cm below the soil surface.

## PLANT IT NOW

With their long-lasting nodding blooms and glossy evergreen foliage, hellebores add a dash of style and elegance to the winter garden. They come in a huge variety of different flower forms and make a gorgeous festive table centrepiece if you float them in a bowl of water. Hellebores can be planted at any time of the year. For some it's most convenient to plant in late winter to early spring because that is when the majority are offered for sale. Why not visit Broadview Gardens in Hadlow, home to the National Collection of Hellebores.

[broadviewgardens.co.uk](http://broadviewgardens.co.uk)



## Seasonal gardening tips

- Make mental notes of possible garden improvements, additions, or deletions as you walk around the garden.
- After wet snow or high wind, check for broken branches.
- Do not walk on garden soil when soggy, and avoid walking on water-saturated lawns.
- Make sure seed in bird feeders is always fresh and dry. Keep feeders under shelter.
- Prune perennials that will blacken, turn to mush, or fall on frequented paths.
- Remove excess debris such as fallen leaves and fallen deadheads.

## WINTER FEEDING

Make sure your the birds have a steady source of food and water so they'll stay year-round to help with pest control and balancing your garden's ecosystem. Make bird food by melting some white fat, mix with seeds and berries, pour into cup cake cases and put in a piece of string for hanging.



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# CHRISTMAS DINNER for the birds

AS YOU SIT DOWN TO YOUR MEAL, PLATE PILED HIGH WITH  
FESTIVE GOODIES, HAVE A THOUGHT FOR THE WILD BIRDS AROUND YOU.  
WHAT WILL THEY BE EATING FOR THEIR CHRISTMAS DINNER?





Winter is a difficult time of year for birds, the days are short and the nights are cold, so they must eat a lot of food in a short amount of time to have the energy to survive until the morning.

In addition, food is harder to come by in winter. Insects are hibernating, grubs are buried deep in the ground and snow and ice make it harder to find food.

Each bird has developed its own ways to make sure it finds enough to eat in the cold months.

Robins mainly feed on small invertebrates, which they find in the soil. They will hunt through the leaf litter and under bushes, where the ground is sheltered from frosts. Robins have proportionally very large eyes, which allows them to see well in these dark places.

It gives them another advantage, too – they can see in the half-light of dawn and dusk, so can start to hunt earlier and feed until later than other birds. In towns, robins will feed after dark in the artificial light.

Goldcrests, the UK's smallest birds, need to

feed constantly throughout the day to build up their energy stores for the night. They have learnt a sure-fire way of making sure they never have to look too far to find food.

They feed on tiny insects and spiders that live on pine trees and spend most of their time in coniferous woodlands where they can easily flit from tree to tree, finding their ready-made lunches on the way.

#### PICKY EATERS?

Whilst goldcrests survive by having one main source of food, other birds will eat a huge range of foods, increasing their likelihood of finding enough to eat every day. Blackbirds will eat worms, spiders, fruit and seeds. Herring gulls aren't fussy either and will even pick through our dustbins to find a bite to eat.

The master of restraint and forward planning is the mistle thrush. This is the UK's largest thrush and in early autumn birds gather in large flocks to feed together. But as soon as holly berries appear, they will split off on their own or



into pairs and get defensive. Each bird or pair will find itself a holly tree or bush teeming with berries and will set up a territory.

The berries on that tree won't be eaten, but will be guarded with such care that no other birds can take them either. Mistle thrushes are so good at protecting their trees, just in case, that by spring many will still have their full crop of berries untouched, long after any unprotected holly has had its fruit stripped.

#### THE GOLDEN RULES

- Don't put out salty foods. Birds can't digest salt and it will damage their nervous systems.
- Only leave enough that can be eaten in one day – otherwise you may attract unwanted visitors, such as mice and rats.
- Always follow sensible hygiene measures, including washing hands thoroughly after filling and washing feeders.

For more information visit [rspb.org.uk](http://rspb.org.uk)



## SHARING YOUR DINNER

Many of your kitchen scraps and leftovers make ideal snacks for birds. Here's a quick guide to what you can put out:

**FAT** - fat from cuts of meat (as long as it comes from only unsalted varieties) can be put out in large pieces, from which birds such as tits can remove morsels. Make sure that these are well anchored to prevent large birds flying away with the whole piece.

**ROAST POTATOES** - cold and opened up, these will be eaten by most garden birds.

**VEGETABLES** - cold Brussels, parsnips or carrots will be eaten by starlings and other birds, but remember not to put out more than will be eaten in one day, otherwise you run the risk of attracting rats.

**FRUIT** - excess or bruised apples, pears and other fruit are very popular with all thrushes, tits and starlings. Cut them up and leave them on the bird table or on the ground.

**PASTRY** - cooked or uncooked is excellent, especially if it has been made with real fats.

**CHEESE** - Hard bits of cheese are a favourite with robins, dunnocks, blackbirds and song thrushes. It will also help wrens if placed under hedgerows and other areas in your garden where you have noticed them feeding. Avoid very strong or blue cheeses.

**DRIED FRUITS** - raisins, sultanas and currants are particularly enjoyed by blackbirds, song thrushes and robins.

**BISCUITS AND CAKE** - Stale cake and broken pieces of biscuits from the bottom of the tin are high in fat and ideal for birds in the winter.

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Wooden apple bird feeder, £9.95  
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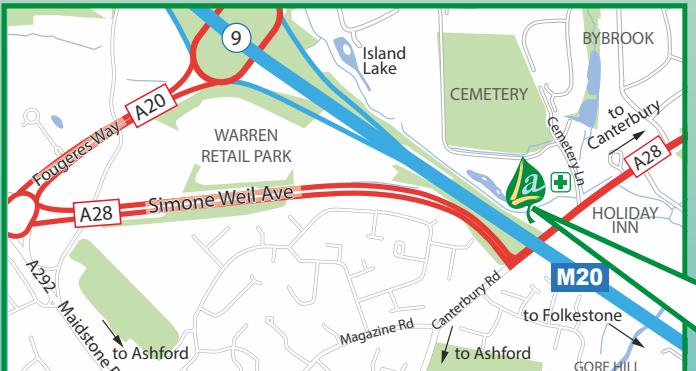
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# New look for Bybrook

Longacres has been busy making improvements to its latest Garden Centre acquisition at Bybrook Barn in Ashford, Kent. The family-run business took over the site at the end of July 2016 and has invested over £1m on renovations.

The shop floor has been completely refurbished indoors and out, with new flooring and a new and improved till area. The Garden Centre has also more than doubled the number of staff it employs.

The indoor and outdoor plant areas have been redesigned and resurfaced, and are now full of healthy plants at very competitive prices!

There is a brand new restaurant serving meals, snacks and drinks, complete with indoor and outdoor children's play areas, as well as a food hall and picnic area.

Longacres is renowned for its floristry services. Bybrook Garden Centre has a new Cut Flower Department complete with full time florists who can create bespoke arrangements to order, and they also offer services for corporate flowers, weddings and funerals.

Creative types are sure to be drawn to the well-stocked aisles of craft supplies with everything from art materials and beads, to wools and

yarns; whilst animal lovers will appreciate the pet supplies, wild bird care, aquatics and reptile departments.

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# MAGIC CIRCLE

NIGEL SLATER ON HOW TO FASHION A FANTASTIC FESTIVE WREATH

**T**he wreath is a symbol of welcome. America and Scandinavia have a long tradition of tying a ring of evergreens to the door, but the habit has only recently become popular here. Indeed, I walk down streets in London where there is barely a front door unadorned. Wreaths of holly and red ribbons; wreaths of mistletoe, wreaths of Douglas fir and rosemary. Some are clearly the handiwork of professionals, others rely on the charm of amateurism. I spot one finished with beech leaves and copper and green pheasant feathers in a way that lets everyone know the owners have a second home.

I am uncomfortable with the idea of buying a ready-made wreath, but have been less than happy with my own attempts. Even bending that wire coat hanger, the sort that comes with the dry cleaning, into a perfect circle was beyond me. I have come to a deal with myself. I buy a simple ring of holly, Douglas fir or fir cones, then put my own signature on it. A cop-out, but the sort I can live with. The ring stays solid on its woven willow base, and it is a delight, rather than a chore, to personalise it.

My base came from the greengrocer. A

plain ring of Nordham fir. I pick browning hydrangea heads from the garden (leaving plenty in place for the birds, who like swinging on them) and tuck them into the thicket of woven willow. Then in go bay leaves and sprigs of rosemary, dried beech leaves and some lichen-covered twigs and florist's moss. My fir cones came attached to their own twiggy branches, but had they not, I might have resorted to a spot of garden wire to secure them. I'm not sure I would trust myself let loose with a glue gun. Black berries - rather than blackberries - the sort you find on laurel bushes and viburnums, usually work well here, but I can't always find them. We can get extravagant. Dried oranges spiked with cloves; cinnamon sticks and curls of cassia bark. Sprigs of dried holly and poppy heads look splendidly archaic. The garland could include rosehips, deep-red hawthorn berries and white snowberries. Avoid shiny laurels.

The most charming wreath, the one that I was happiest with, was the one I bought from Fern Verrow, when they had their now much-missed Bermondsey market stall. It gave the impression of having been

made by elves. Jane Scotter's tangle of twigs, honesty, old man's beard, moss and berries was everything I wanted my wreath to be. It was admired by many. Others, whose taste probably ran to purple baubles, seemed less than impressed by its elfin magic.

I have a simpler version on the kitchen door. A circle of woven hazel twigs, with cobnuts in their shell. I insist it has pagan charm.

The early examples of wreaths were for the most part made up of evergreens, ivy and laurel but often wheat too. They were worn by Etruscan rulers as a symbol of strength, the green leaves surviving through the bitter cold of winter. They symbolise the harvest, and winners are often seen to wear them, but they are best known as a sign of welcome to Christmas visitors. Traditionalists will nail their wreath to the door on the first Sunday in Advent. Most of us would declare that too early. They might look a bit moth-eaten by Christmas Eve.

In domestic terms, we can thank the Lutheran church for the Advent wreath, from its first appearance in Germany, in the sixteenth century.

True Advent wreaths contain four candles, with another, the Christ Candle, at the centre. This last one being lit on Christmas Day. The Christian meaning is to celebrate the coming of Christ, and the idea of using evergreens is to represent everlasting life.

My personal rule is to imagine the wreath as a hat. If it would look fine on the head of a Morris dancer, a mummer or a Druid, then I'm happy. More suited to the head of a racegoer at Ascot or a reveller at an office party, it's a definite no.

## FAVOURITE INGREDIENTS OF MINE FOR A WREATH INCLUDE:

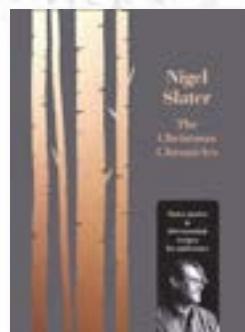
**For the base:** Nordmann or Douglas fir, moss, holly, lichen and heather.

**To decorate:** fir cones, beech leaves, bay leaves, honesty, rosemary, feathers.

**To finish:** cassia bark, dried poppy heads, stars of anise, birch, bark, moss, old man's beard, white or blue-black berries, hawthorn berries, crab apples, holly berries. The occasional slice of dried orange can look good, as can whole dried fruits, but they do bring a rather commercial look to the occasion. One of the most charming ideas of recent years was that of Petersham Nurseries, who used tiny red apples against a ring of glaucous leaves.

By the way, I am not sure what sort of person nicks a Christmas wreath from someone's door, but in my experience they do. I like to leave a very sharp piece of wire well hidden, so at least I have the comfort of knowing there is a chance of the thief drawing blood as they yank my handmade treasure from its hook. This is not, of course, a recommendation.

*The Christmas Chronicles by Nigel Slater is published by 4th Estate, £26.*



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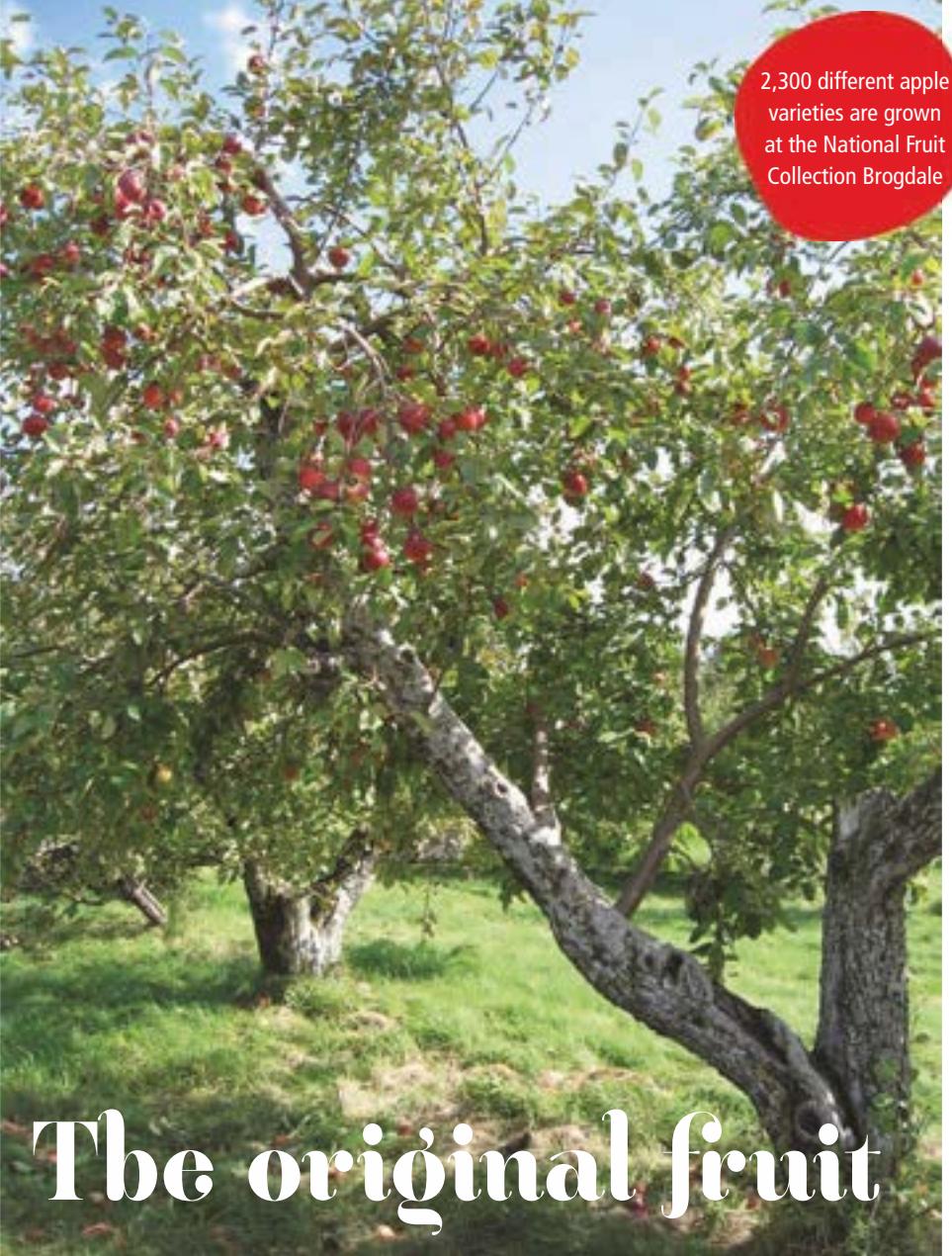
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# The original fruit

SOMETIMES THE WINTER SEEMS LIKE A BLEAK TIME, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE, OF COURSE, THINGS THAT MAKE IT WORTHWHILE: HOT CHOCOLATE, WARM FIRES, AND PLANTING APPLE TREES.

*DNA research shows that apples originated in Kazakhstan. Spreading across Europe, there is evidence to prove that we had wild apples in Britain until the Romans brought varieties for our sweeter taste buds.*

### WHEN TO PLANT

Fruit trees may not look particularly attractive during the winter months but this is actually the best time to plant bare root trees (as long as the ground is not frozen). Potted trees can be planted year round. During the 'bare root season' fruit trees are dormant and as such they experience less shock during transplanting. The roots will grow throughout the winter months leading to good growth during the tree's first season.

### SELECTING A SITE

When selecting a planting site for your fruit trees, sun and soil are the most important considerations. Fruit trees need sun – about six hours a day – in order to remain healthy and produce fruit. Fruit trees also need well-drained soil. When planting the soil should not be frozen and it should not be waterlogged. The majority of apples will require a pollinating partner but there are a number of varieties, which are self-fertile.

### GROW

Your tree will need to be staked and secured with a suitable tree tie, which can be adjusted as the tree grows. Depending on the rootstock of the tree and its location staking is required for the smaller rootstock for life, and for the more Semi-vigorous rootstock for the first five years.



### CARE

It is a good idea to feed the tree during Autumn or spring with a suitable feed. Whilst you may not want to remove apples, it can be a good idea to thin them out, to achieve better quality and tastier fruit. Protect from Codling Moth in Spring by hanging a codling moth trap close to the trees. This will prevent "maggoty" fruit.



## WHY HERITAGE?

*By planting heritage trees we can preserve them for future generations, so the beauty and wonderful flavour can be enjoyed by all.*

## HEALTH-GIVING PROPERTIES

A recent survey revealed that many older varieties of apple are far more healthy than modern supermarket equivalents. A group of researchers tested 66 apple cultivars from the National Fruit Collection at Brogdale, Faversham and found out that many of the heritage varieties had far higher levels of nutrients than newer cultivated apples. It seems that many health-giving properties have been gradually bred out of modern cultivars, as producers focus on appearance and storage.

Older varieties contain higher levels of phloridzin, a chemical that helps regulate blood sugar and can reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes.

## THE NATIONAL FRUIT COLLECTION

Brogdale currently conserves over 2,300 varieties of apples alone and the team at **GROW AT BROGDALE** (the on-site fruit tree nursery) graft several thousand trees every year, with a real focus on promoting rare and heritage varieties. With the grafting material being supplied from the National Fruit Collection each tree is in essence, a little piece of history! **For more information or to place an order for fruit trees visit [www.brogdaleonline.co.uk](http://www.brogdaleonline.co.uk) (01795 531888)**



**Why not consider making your tree a decorative feature? Fans, espaliers and step-overs all look beautiful.**

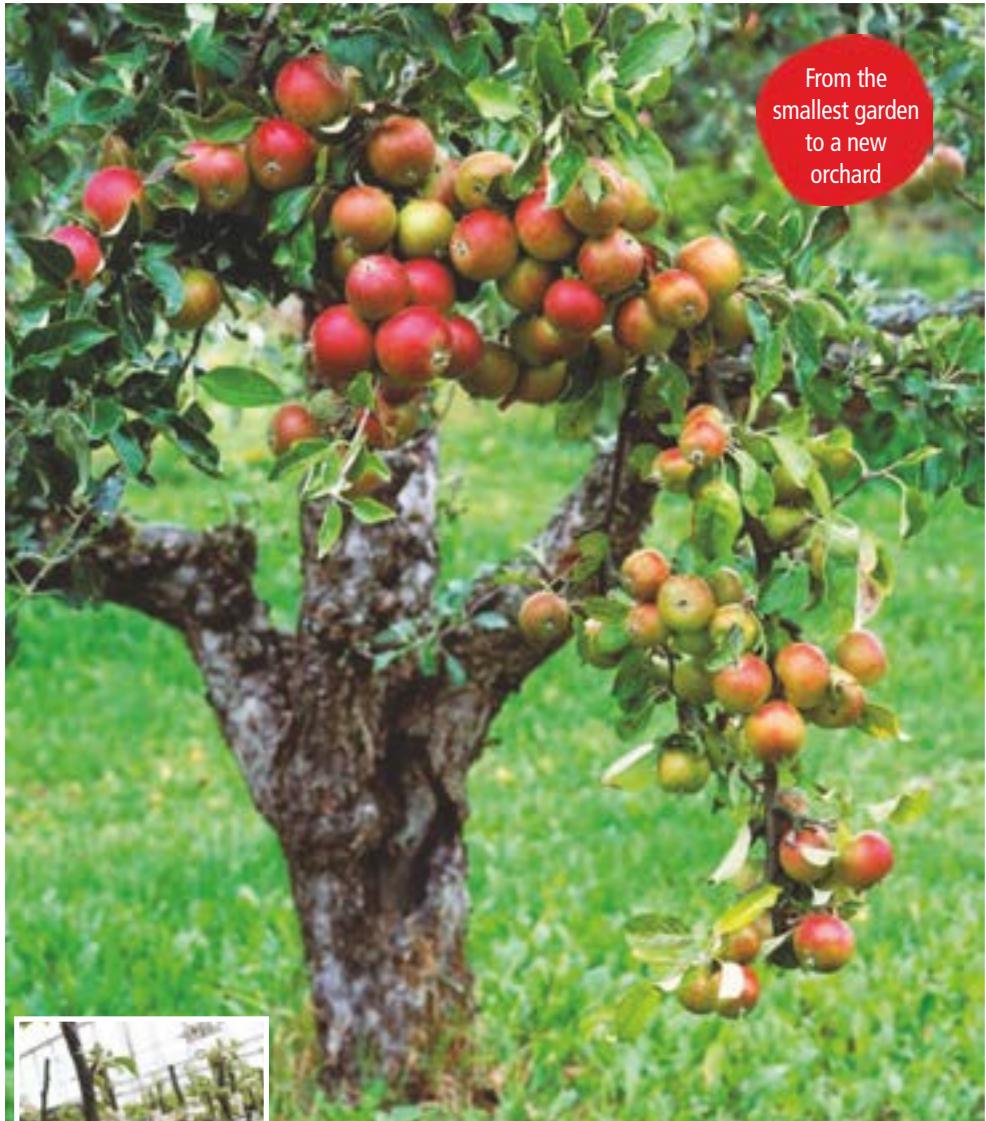
## CHOOSING THE TREE FOR YOU

Whether you have a large or small garden, there's an apple tree for you, and understanding the different rootstocks is the key to choosing the right specimen. A rootstock determines the trees' suitability for training or growing, so you'll need to bear this in mind if you're thinking of growing your tree in a particular way.

## WHICH ROOTSTOCK?

Here are the most common rootstock options:

- **M27 Very dwarfing:** Ideal for step-overs, vertical cordons, patio trees
- **M9 Dwarfing:** For oblique cordons, step-overs, large potted trees
- **M26 Semi-dwarfing:** For bushes, half standards (best suited to lighter, richer soils)
- **MM106 Semi-vigorous:** for double cordons, trained trees, bushes, half standards
- **M25 Very vigorous:** Full Standards.



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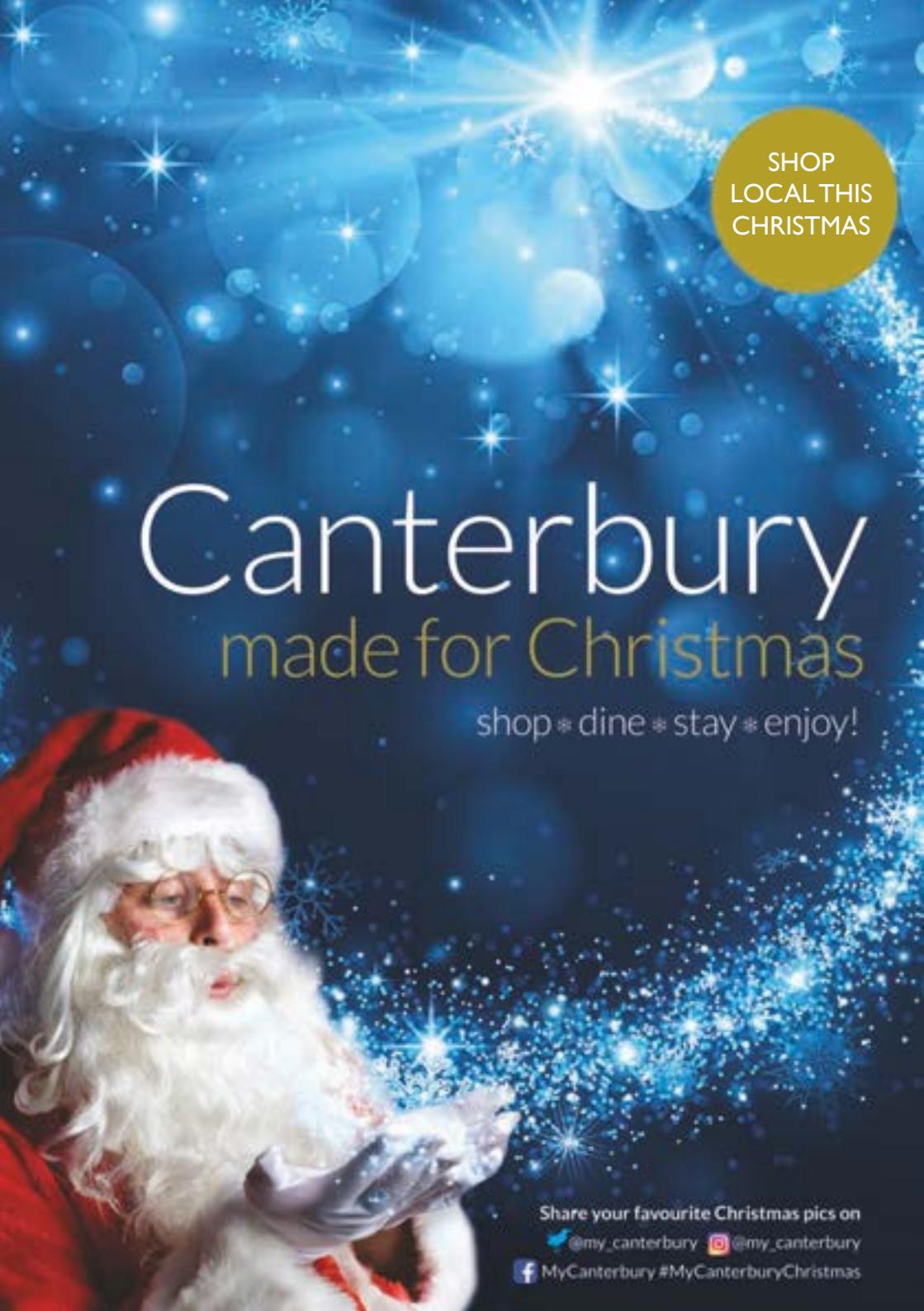
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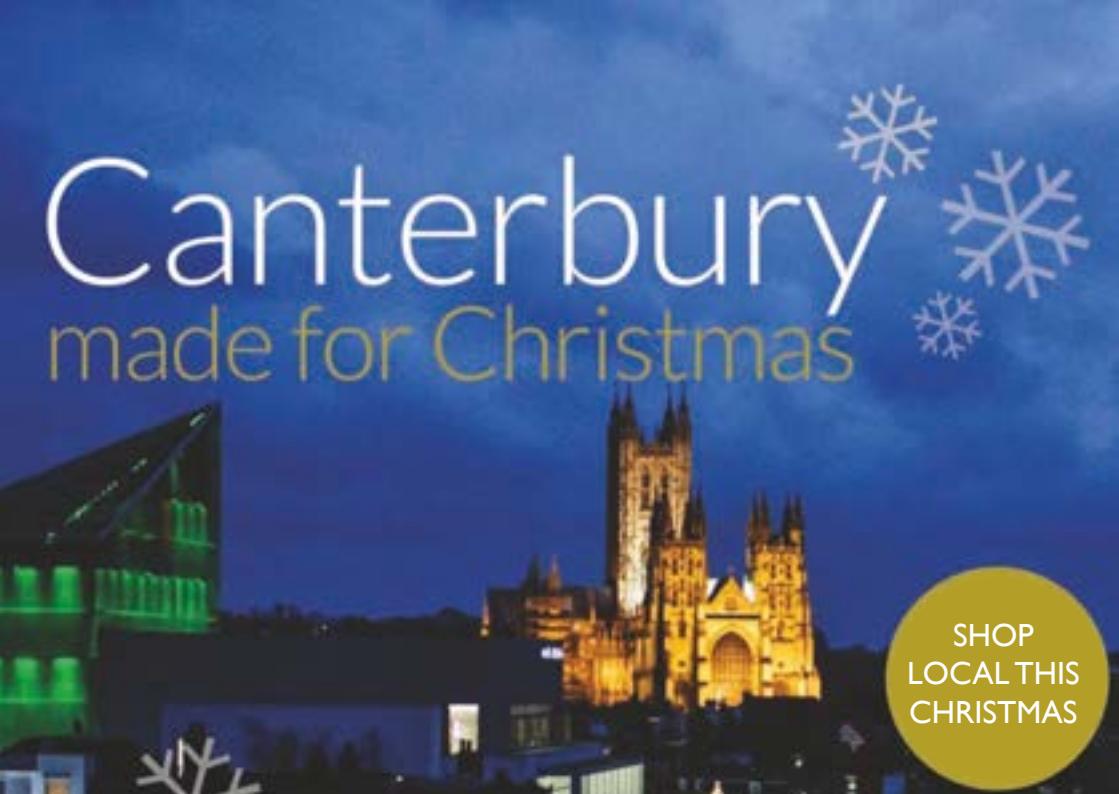


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MyCanterbury #MyCanterburyChristmas

# Canterbury made for Christmas



SHOP  
LOCAL THIS  
CHRISTMAS

shop \* dine \* stay \* enjoy!

Canterbury is at its best at Christmas. With narrow medieval streets clustering around the iconic Cathedral and with beautiful Christmas lights draped across the streets and businesses, it has a festive feel all of its own. The city has everything you need for an amazing Christmas experience; whether it is world class brands or unique independents, for those hard to find special gifts, or lovely coffee shops and independent restaurants for a restoring break from the frenzy: it's all here.



## Food, food, food!

With delightful eateries and places along the medieval cobbled streets of the city you'll be sure to find something you love. Take your pick from a whole range of different cuisines – perfect for sampling and trying.



## Christmas Lights 'switch on'

Prepare to be amazed and wowed! Canterbury light up and sparkle on Thursday 26 November, 9-7pm on the George's St, James and George from Heart FM and the cast of *The Man from the Moon* will switch on the lights in style, plus live music before hand – not to be missed!



## Shopping

From the Whiteladies shopping centre to delightful independent stores across the city, you'll find top brands, and hand-made treasures in Canterbury. See the Events section for details about Christmas markets.



### Christmas windows

Take the season for walking through the streets of Canterbury admiring the lights and beautifully decorated windows, stopping in a cafe for hot chocolate or mulled wine, and finishing off your Christmas shopping. Look out for the Christmas Windows Competition in early December.



### Handmade in Canterbury

There is nothing more special than something genuinely hand-made and infused with the maker's love, enthusiasm and skill. Canterbury has a surprising number of craftspeople doing just that from chocolate to jewellery and pottery to glass - it's all here! See more about Handmade in Canterbury on [mycanterbury.co.uk](http://mycanterbury.co.uk).



### Time for tea?

What could be better than this sweet English of ways to take a break from the hustle and bustle of shopping? Try Try's Tearoom in St Margaret's Street, The Mous' Tearoom in Burghgate, Playmorn English Restaurant on the Friars, The Falcon Hotel in St Edmunds, and The Alladin Hotel in the High Street all offer delightful and delicious Afternoon Tea. Book in avoid disappointment!



Brought to you by Canterbury Connected Business Improvement District. For more details about what's on this Christmas, see [mycanterbury.co.uk](http://mycanterbury.co.uk) #MyCanterburyChristmas

Canterbury

Connected



### Santa in the City

Meet the man himself at the Wykemann Santa's Grotto (9-14 Dec) and at The Canterbury Tales Medieval Christmas (16-17 Dec), where he will be greeting all the good boys and girls. You could even bump into him on the Santa Stroll around the streets of Canterbury organized by the Rotary Club of Canterbury (Sun 16).

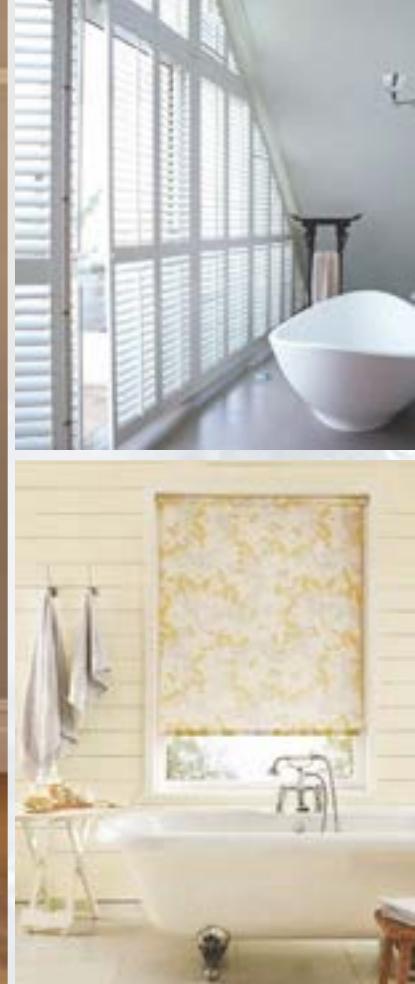


### It's behind you!

A firm festive favourite in Canterbury tradition, the pantomime returns to The Marlowe with Peter Pan. Experience the fairy-tale performed by familiar celebrity faces; with audience participation and spectacular special effects you'll be guaranteed to have a fantastic time - if you've seen it, you will! Tickets: [marlowetheatre.co.uk](http://marlowetheatre.co.uk) 01227 787787



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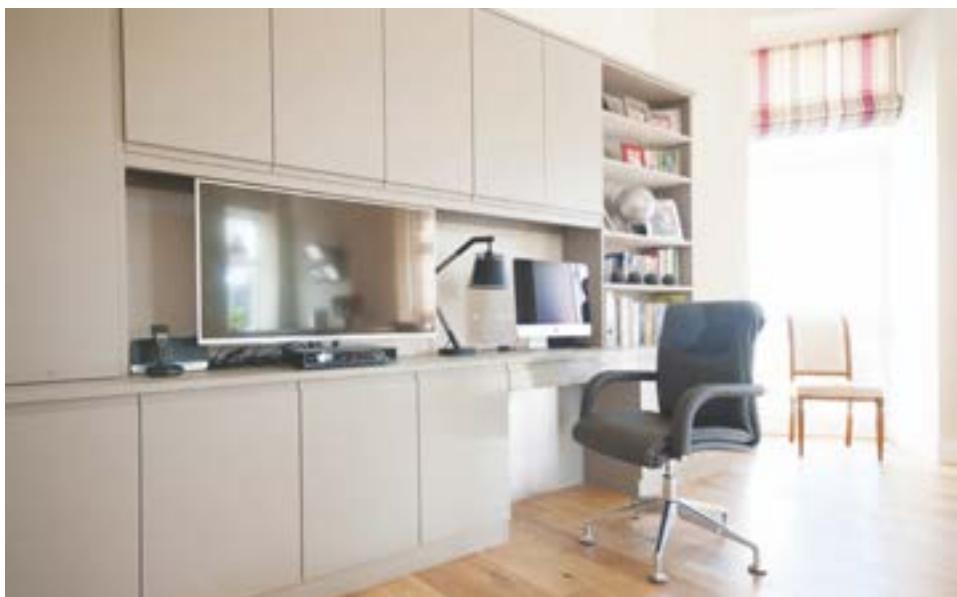
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Our showroom, in the bustling area of St Dunstan's, Canterbury is on the first floor of one of the leading furniture retailers in the South East. Lenleys Furniture Store showcases the latest trends in furniture, carpets, flooring, curtains and wallpapers by the leading names from across the UK and Europe. Hillside Interiors have a large studio with fitted wardrobes, sliding door wardrobes and home office layouts on display.

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# CLASSIC AND CONTEMPORARY

## *a seamless combination*

DON'T BE AFRAID TO MIX STYLES. IT IS THE BEST WAY TO MAKE YOUR HOUSE FEEL LIKE A HOME THAT SHOWS OFF YOUR PERSONAL DESIGN STYLE AND TASTES

Much of today's interior design is motivated by old, glamorous epochs and the combination of "old fashioned" stylistic elements, but with a modern edge – resulting in a piece that has all the beauty and luxury of older designs, but which is also relevant to today's environment and our design society. This dual-motivation offers an aesthetically pleasing conflict – the tendency towards the intricate, almost fussy and delicate designs of the past, amalgamated with the contemporary clean-cut functionalism of the more modern design styles.

The influence of the past is most definitely noticeable; however the modernisation is clear as well – colours are subdued and organic, and more modern materials are used to tame the sometimes over-elaborate pieces. The statement of luxury is never lost, however the overly gaudy design statements have been trimmed to reveal a highly stylised and contemporary sense of glamour and comfort.

Modern interior design is not just being influenced by the past – actual pieces from eras gone by are consistently finding their way into modern homes as well. Blending antique

---

### MODERN PIECES FOR PERIOD HOMES



Chiva coffee table from £779; Satellite table lamp from £399; Imola chair from £2029; Ottawa sofa from £3424 all from Bo Concept, Canterbury



*All furniture from Bo Concept, Canterbury, [www.boconcept.com](http://www.boconcept.com)*

with modern and custom-designed pieces is an emerging design trend that is a passport to timeless, sophisticated and avant-garde interiors. If blended in a professional manner, modern and antique pieces can complement one another and bring out each other's best qualities. However, like many other things in design, it is essential that this is not done randomly – there are a few

ground rules that need to be considered to create a unified and fashionable look.

#### UNIFY THE LOOK

Tie all the pieces together by creating a unifying idea – this can be done by upholstering all the furniture in one fabric or using a particular colour scheme. Old pieces can be given a modern



*The contemporary interior transformation of this Grade 1 listed building is timeless and elegant*

lift by using alternative, textured or brightly coloured modern fabric. Contemporary pieces, on the other hand, can be given a tongue-in-cheek old fashioned flavour by being covered in antique-inspired material.

#### TONE IT DOWN

For overly decorated antique pieces, items that are clean-cut and contemporary partner – they serve to tone down the old piece down a little, and the plain contemporary pieces highlight the

intricacy and detail of the older piece without creating an interior that is overly busy. For example, if you have an intricately hand-carved antique dining room table, modern such as a Louis Ghost chairs would make for stunning complementary pieces.

#### TOUCHY AND FEELY

Texture is an essential element to a successful interior. The trick is to combine various textures that complement each other, and create an



*This antique table and Louis Ghost chairs make for stunning complementary pieces*

interesting aesthetic or physical effect. Material that is regarded as old fashioned, such as wood and velvet, can be strikingly contrasted with more modern materials, such as stainless steel and Perspex.

#### AN EVEN BALANCE

When mixing various styles, it is essential that they are evenly dispersed throughout the interior composition. Don't group all the modern items together and all the old items together – rather

intersperse them amongst each other.

The combination of old and new is an accomplished way of creating a successful and interesting interior. However, it must be noted that whichever old and modern style you opt for, be sure to pick special pieces that speak to you – your character, your sense of style and your history. Mixing old and new styles is a manner not only of speaking of society's past and future, but one that speaks of yours as well.



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# INSPIRATIONAL

## *kitchen design*

FITTING A NEW KITCHEN IN A PERIOD HOME REQUIRES PROPER PLANNING, PLENTY OF RESEARCH AND SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION.





2

If you are renovating a period home, it is most fitting to choose a kitchen that matches the architectural style of the home. Take inspiration from the history books to create your own dream kitchen brimming with authentic period details. However, a kitchen can be modern but incorporate heritage colours and finishes to help create a link to the era of the home. For a fresh looking kitchen, consider two-tone cabinetry. For example, painting the lower cabinets in a darker colour such as navy, dusty blue, sage or a federation green looks

stunning when teamed with brass, bronze or leather cabinetry handles or knobs. Painting the overhead cupboards in an off-white such as parchment will create a contrast that will make the kitchen feel light, open and airy while still providing the opportunity to include colour.

For an authentic period-style kitchen consider opting for a range cooker and butler sink, both of which will bring a touch of class. They have been around for hundreds of years and today continue to be popular choices for period homes or farmhouse kitchens.



## GEORGIAN KITCHENS

The Georgian period (1714-1830) covers the reign of four King Georges, including the Regency period of George IV as Prince of Wales. Since it encompasses more than a century, it would be impossible to define a single design style for furniture of the era but today's interpretation within kitchens is easily recognisable, not to mention incredibly popular. Pitched somewhere between the austere simplicity of a flat-framed Shaker-style door, and the more ornately decorated Victorian style, Georgian kitchens are characterised by having a very strong classic look that can be made grander with impressive panelled mantels and imposing full-height larders, or kept simpler for a cottage or farmhouse kitchen.

## GEORGIAN KITCHEN DETAILS

- Raised and fielded panel doors, often with bolection (projecting) moulding
- Drawers edged with cock beading or pencil moulding for delicate detail
- Painted finishes – often greys and blues
- Grand mantelpieces with raised and fielded panels and solid corbels
- Granite or marble worktops
- Butler's sinks and French farmhouse taps
- Bronze drop handles, cup handles and knobs



## VICTORIAN KITCHENS

There are two approaches to the Victorian kitchen, and they couldn't be further apart. On the one hand, there's a utilitarian interpretation based on the butler's pantry or scullery that was the true working kitchen in Victorian homes. The focus is on a range cooker with free-standing furniture, open dressers and a

large, well-worn table centre stage. More often, the kitchen cabinet design we associate with the Victorian era today is styled on the upstairs parlour or dining rooms, although you will often see elements of the 'below stairs' kitchen incorporated – for example, a butler's sink, glass dresser or solid range cooker.

On the other hand, you will find Victorian kitchens where flourishes are deemed as important as functionality. Again, the Victorian period embraced many furniture styles during the Queen's long reign (1837-1901) but, generally, Victoria-inspired kitchens have higher levels of decoration than Georgian-style kitchens, with elaborate scrolls and corbels, dentil moulding and carved pilasters all frequent features.

Traditionally, kitchens with cathedral arch doors and barley twist pilasters (influenced by the Gothic revival) came under Victorian classification but they have been toned down somewhat in recent years, while wicker baskets and open wine racks remain strong.

#### VICTORIAN KITCHEN DETAILS

.....\*

- A large cook's table or island unit
- Freestanding furniture such as a glassware/crockery dresser
- Ornate cornicing, twisted pilasters and cathedral arch doors
- Pulley clothes dryer above a range cooker
- Scullery-style wet area with butler's sink
- Copper accessories
- Cream or white painted cabinetry mixed with oak or teak worktops
- Moulding and intricately carved corbels





6

## SLEEK AND CHIC

Looking equally at home in a modern apartment or a period home, the latest high-gloss laminate, lacquer and solid-surface cabinets are a fuss-free, contemporary option. Great for those who want a streamlined look, they are packed with innovations to keep your space hard-working and clutter-free. If high-gloss isn't for you, choose matt-finish units but keep them flat-fronted with minimal handles for that contemporary touch.

If it's a linear look you're after, opt for handleless cabinetry. Most have pull recesses or push-open mechanisms, or choose electric fittings that open doors with the merest touch.

High-gloss finishes are popular but look out for softly textured matt doors. If you're on a budget, laminates are inexpensive and hard-wearing, but if money is no object, then durable

lacquer or a solid surface such as Corian looks sophisticated.

## STOCKISTS

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### 3. Appleby Grange

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### 4. The Main Company

[www.maincompany.com](http://www.maincompany.com)

### 5. Harvey Jones Kitchens

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# Stoneham announces new partnership with Designed Interiors of Canterbury

British luxury kitchen manufacturer and Royal Warrant holder Stoneham Kitchens has strengthened its presence in Kent with kitchen specialist, Designed Interiors. After 25 years of retailing in Deal, Designed Interiors has added its stunning new flagship store, turning to Stoneham Kitchens to offer British made bespoke furniture; all thanks to the backing and vision of a new shareholder.

Just a stone's throw from the high street in Canterbury's world famous Cathedral City, Designed Interiors is in a prime spot for attracting local residents as well visitors from surrounding towns and villages. The large showroom is fitted out with a wide selection of Stoneham's traditional and contemporary collections including; Knole, Marlborough, Igham, Strata, Mode, Flow, Edwardian, Holwood and Stoneham's newest range, Diffuse.

"With the support of our new shareholder, we wanted to create an elegant showroom with the London wow factor," states Dean Wilson, Showroom Manager at Designed Interiors. "Stoneham Kitchens has allowed us to do just that with craftsmanship that can be truly appreciated by customers when they visit the showroom. The environment is relaxed and welcoming so customers can feel comfortable and discuss their needs without feeling any pressure."

Explaining the company's reasons for choosing Stoneham, Wilson highlights the



brand's heritage, quality and design possibilities as deciding factors. "We wanted to offer clients bespoke, furniture that is built to last with quality aftercare to match. Many brands are not made in the UK and do not have the long heritage that Stoneham are known for. It's a great time to offer bespoke, British furniture and with Stoneham the possibilities are endless."

"Designed Interiors mainly attract customers through recommendation, which is a credit to their overall approach and success," says Howard Stoneham, Sales Director at Stoneham. "We are delighted to be part of their new venture and expanding enterprise and look forward to a long lasting relationship with the team."

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Photo: Everhot

# *Plan and shop for* **RANGE COOKERS**

WITH KITCHENS BEING AT THE HEART OF MOST HOMES, MAKING THE DECISION TO INSTALL A RANGE COOKER IS ONE OF THE BEST HOME IMPROVEMENT DECISIONS YOU WILL EVER MAKE

**A**n iconic element of a country kitchen, and now increasingly used in contemporary settings, a range cooker maintains its warmth constantly, which is particularly beneficial during winter as it gives out a good deal of ambient heat if it is an 'on all the time' version.

The current market place has a multitude of

choice available with a colour, size and design to fit every kitchen. A range cooker will provide your kitchen with an ideal focal point and unique cooking system that locks in moisture and preserves natural flavours. Range cooking aficionados swear that the selection of this traditional method of cooking is a life-changing decision.

Unlike a conventional cooker, which is simply turned on when required to cook, and uses a direct flame or element during the cooking process, a range cooker uses an indirect heat source so the oven radiates heat all round giving a unique culinary experience.

Typical ranges measure anything from 90 to 180cm side, but with demand for smaller 60 to 80cm models growing. Just remember to do your research and invest in a range tailored to your particular needs, lifestyle, functions and fuel options.

### TOP TIPS

- Your range cooker will last a lifetime so investigate all the option
- Prioritise your needs such as how often you cook, what you cook and the size of your household
- Match the style and colour of the cooker with your home and available space
- Factor in installation costs

### CHOOSING A SUPPLIER

As with all purchases whether new or reconditioned, it is of paramount importance to choose a company who have been in business for a substantial period of time and have a good reputation in the marketplace. A qualified fitter must always install a range cooker and the site needs to be properly surveyed and prepared prior to installation. Typical preparation can include lining of the chimney or provision of the flue, fabrication of a plinth for the cooker to stand on and arranging for your chosen fuel supply to be routed to within one metre of the appliance.

### WHICH FUEL & RUNNING COSTS

Fuels available are oil, gas, coal, electricity, log wood and wood pellets. All cookers use about the same amount of energy per hour, so the running cost will depend on your fuel costs to a very large degree.

Approximate cost of fuel per Kw/hr. In the UK is, gas 4p, oil 4.5p, pellets 5p, coal 7p, log wood depends on how much you do yourself, and electricity 14p. So an electric cooker will cost over 3 times a gas cooker to run.

The second factor in running costs is how much the cooker is on and how much ambient heat you want from it. Some makes are on at maximum 24/7 and can cost around £20/week (£1,000/annum) to run, but others run from a time clock and thermostat, so only burn fuel when you want heat to the room or to cook.

This type can cost from as little as £1/per week to run.

Wood burning models are judged on the ability to convert fuel into heat is expressed as a %, the closer to 100 the more efficient it is, and you will burn less fuel.



# WHICH MODEL TO CHOOSE

## AGA

Owning an Aga to suit your lifestyle has never been easier and with today's frenetic pace and well insulated homes, the current range of models means that an Aga can fit perfectly into your kitchen, offering great AGA-cooked food and a cosy home, but with added flexibility and vastly reduced running costs.

It used to be the case that an Aga cooker was on all the time. Not so now, with the introduction of the AGA Total Control. AGA Total Control cookers are electric – each oven and hotplate can be individually turned on and off at the touch of a button and with fast heat-up times.



## THE PERFECT MATCH

As part of its 95th birthday celebrations, Aga is launching a bespoke colour-matching service for its range cookers. Sadly, not every shade will be available – but there will be such an array of colours there's sure to be one for everyone.



The AGA 60 means that everyone – wherever they live and whatever kitchen space they have, will be able to find an Aga that fits perfectly. There are two ovens, offering roasting, baking and simmering functions and a hotplate, which enables you to boil and simmer. Alternatively, the AGA 60 is available with a gas hob with 4 burners. Plus, with programmability on the roasting / baking oven there's no need to wait for the cooker to heat up.

The AGA Dual Control - just like the traditional model has cast-iron ovens that are always available for use, creating that indefinable Aga warmth. However, the big difference is that the two hotplates can be turned on and off independently reducing energy consumption.

You can see all three models at Heat Design, Canterbury's only authorised AGA showroom together with a range of Aga Cookware and textiles. Call in for friendly advice and the latest brochure and price list.

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## ESSE

Freedom. That's the inspiration driving Esse's latest invention. A robust, cast iron range cooker that can be fitted wherever there's a 13Amp electric source. Two large ovens; one wide radiant grill; a cast iron hotplate; an induction zone; warm plate unit and it's made by ESSE of Barnoldswick: over 150 years of domestic technology wherever you'd like it. From rural homesteads to River Cottage and even royalty, ESSE range cookers bring classic styling and performance to modern living.

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*Declan Walsh, Managing Director Morsø UK*

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## TOP TIPS

1. First of all, ensure your wood burning stove is installed by a registered professional. It is important that the stove is fitted properly for it to work the way it was intended to.
2. Install a quality stove with a good efficiency rating. Look for labels such as 'Eco Design Ready'. All our stoves are efficient and clean burning so you don't have to worry.
3. Burn dry logs, which have less than 18% moisture, such as the Scandinavian kiln dried logs that we sell in store, or any dry well seasoned logs. Use a wood moisture tester if you are unsure.
4. Use the stove as per manufacturers manual. Stoves like to be worked hard or not at all.

Here at Wingham Woodburning Stoves we can organise every aspect of your installation, from start to finish from the installation of wood-burning and multi-fuel appliances to chimney lining and fireplace restoration. We have a strong working relationship with a local family-run stonemason, who offers a superb range of stone hearths. We also work closely with a company based on the Isle of Wight who hand-produce enamel heat shields and hearths. Not only are they a beautiful, bespoke touch to your home; they come in a range of colours to complement your decor. We also work with a number of suppliers of wooden beams, surrounds and trims all which can be ordered to your exact requirements.

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# COSY AT HOME

ROARING FIRE - CHECK; SCENTED CANDLES - CHECK; SUPER SOFT THROWS - CHECK. NOW YOU'RE TRULY READY FOR WINTER.

**Y**es, the light summer evenings were fun while we had them, but you can't beat the sweet satisfaction of being tucked up safe and warm indoors when it's cold outside. Any space can be transformed into a cosier, more inviting version of itself with a few small tweaks.

## 1 RUG UP

The fashionistas' winter watchword is 'layering' and this goes for your home, too. Stone or wood floors that looked (and felt) über cool in summer will benefit from a soft rug or two being thrown over them in winter. Try a sheepskin rug by your bed, a dhurrie-style rug over wooden boards, and spice up your lounge with a large, fluffy number.

## 2 BUMP UP THE CUSHIONS

For maximum snuggle, you need lots of cushions in a variety of tones, textures and sizes. Go for a combo of velvet, faux fur and chunky knits – gorgeous, tactile fabrics that really come in to their own in winter.

## 3 THROW ON A THROW

Throws are the winter homemaker's BFF. They're warm, cosy and, from a style perspective, a speedy way to transform a room when draped over sofas, chairs and beds. The colour? Whites and greys; keep it Scandi-stylish, while earth tones of olive green and rich terracotta are also bang on trend for this season. We love the warmth and texture of fur throws.

## 4 ADD SOME WINTER FRAGRANCE

Wood fires evoke an instant sense of winter, but if you don't have a fireplace, there are lots of smoky scented candles that work their aromatherapy. Other classic winter-scented candles include pine, sandalwood and clove, and candles are a quick way to add the cosy to your winter home style

## 5 REARRANGE THE FURNITURE

Increase the cosy factor in your living room by having a seasonal switch-around and re-arranging the furniture. Move sofas and chairs away from the walls – try grouping

### BRING THE COSY HOME



Mohair throw, £120; set of 3 tealight holders £42, both Neptune, Canterbury

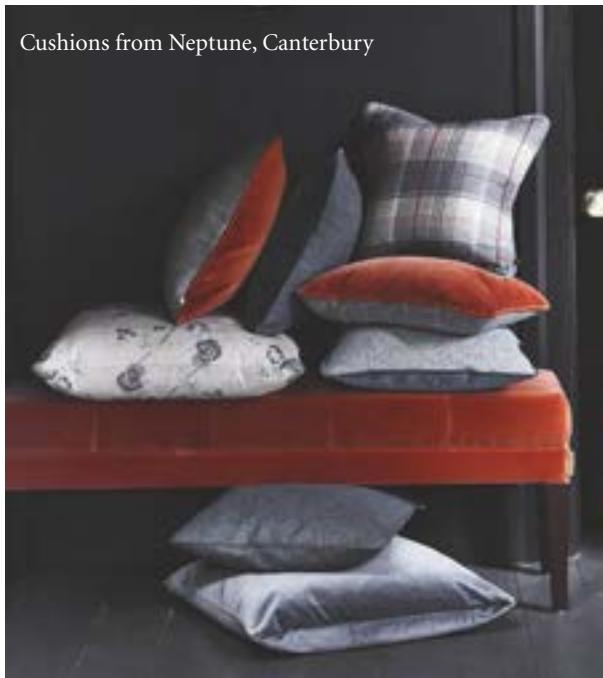


Mirror, £225; Eden snuggler chair from £1199, both Lenleys



Leather chair, £1,095, Furniture Village

## Cushions from Neptune, Canterbury



them around a central rug, maybe, or turn them to face the fireplace (if you have one). Immediately the room will feel snugger, warmer and more nest-like.

## 6 LIGHTING

When it's dark outside, getting the right interior lighting is mega-important. Ditch the central ceiling fixture (too harsh) and plump for pools of warmer light instead – uplighters in dim corners, floor lamps placed behind sofas and chairs to cast an ambient glow, table lamps strategically situated for reading or working, and bundles of fairy lights in unused fireplaces or in vases to add twinkle where it's needed. This will all make your rooms feel cosy and comforting.

## 7 MIRROR IMAGE

Make the most of what natural light there is in winter by reflecting it around the

room with a large mirror. It'll brighten up any space and make the room look bigger.

## 8 CREATE A SNUG SEATING AREA

Style your room with textured accessories such as woollen scatter cushions, chunky knitted throws and a luxurious fake fur rug. Stay seasonal and on trend by choosing subtle alpine-themed items, such as a reindeer wall-mount, and offset warm red and brown tones with a contemporary charcoal grey backdrop on the walls or flooring.

## 9 SET THE MOOD

Don't overlook the layout. It's so easy to get caught up in the soft furnishings and accessories in a room and overlook the most obvious thing - its shape. If you're working with a more confined space then take advantage of this and make the most of it. Don't feel that you can't dress a small room in a darker shade. Yes, there's the age-old trick of keeping smaller spaces light and bright, but darker shades can also work wonders.

## 10 CURTAINS OR BLINDS?

There are those who wouldn't be without curtains for their warmth factor and ability to dress a room, and there are those who prefer to keep out peering eyes with sleeker styles such as shutters or blinds. When you're focusing on creating a cosier feel to a room we'd be inclined to side with those in favour of curtains. The bulk of the fabric creates a cosy feel and visually pads out a space.

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# Bring in the LIGHT

OFTEN REFERRED TO AS THE EYES OF A HOUSE, WINDOWS PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN DEFINING THE CHARACTER OF A PERIOD PROPERTY

Original windows were made using traditional techniques that are hard to imitate today due to modern building regulations. So this means it's vital that every effort is made to preserve and maintain original windows wherever possible. However, if they are too rotten to repair, inappropriate modern designs are present, or you are extending, you need to source authentic-looking replacements.

## UPGRADING EXISTING WINDOWS

Old windows inevitably face threats such as warping, rotting, sticking, chipping and corrosion. But before automatically replacing, look at either repairing or upgrading.

The first question to ask is whether your windows need restoring. For period homes this is often the case, but it can be tricky to restore original windows without damaging the character of the home. Fortunately there are companies which specialise in working with older windows - a job most definitely best left to the experts.

If wood windows are in a reasonable condition, they can be draught-proofed and repaired. This improves functionality, security and efficiency at a fraction of the cost of replacement.

## STYLES OF WINDOW

The most familiar window types in period homes are side-hung casements – wood or metal – which swing open like a door, and vertical sliding timber sash windows, which consist of two frames or ‘sashes’, each with pane of glass held together by wooden glazing bars, which slide vertically in grooves and are held open by weights and pulleys concealed in a timber box frame.

## CASEMENT WINDOWS

The casement was the earliest form of fixed window and refers to the framed section that holds the glass in place, so can also apply to a bow, bay, dormer or oriel. The verticals supporting the casements, which may be stone or wood, are called mullions. Casements are unsuitable for large areas of glass, hence the popularity of the sash window.

## SASH WINDOWS

The invention of the sash window in around 1670 was one of the most radical changes to be made to the exterior of the British house, sometimes even replacing old windows on existing houses. It was the perfect match for the symmetry of Classical architecture, as window voids could be filled evenly with modular



square and rectangular panes. As a general rule mid-Georgian sash windows had six-over-six, or eight-over-eight panes and Regency windows were usually four-over-four. Improved glass manufacture reduced panes to two-over-two, and finally just one large pane over another.

#### HOW TO GET THE DESIGN RIGHT

With period properties, like for like is always best. If you are looking to rectify inappropriate windows, study nearby properties from the same era to ensure the style of window matches the rest of the building. Proportion, glazing bars and the glass itself all contribute to the character and overall appearance of a window, so all components must be addressed when thinking about replacements.

All aesthetic aspects should be considered, including selecting the right timbers, colours and decorative options, while also taking into account neighbouring properties so your home is in keeping with its surroundings. If in doubt, ask your local conservation officer for advice.

#### DO I NEED PLANNING PERMISSION TO CHANGE MY WINDOWS?

Usually, replacing period windows with like-for-like replicas will not require permission, but it may be needed where permitted development rights are restricted. If you live in a Conservation Area, planners can be very particular about the new replacements being as close to the original as possible, and if there is an Article 4 directive, you will need to apply for permission.

Listed building consent is always required to replace windows in listed properties. To gain permission to replace any listed windows or doors, homeowners need to prove that the existing ones are beyond repair or that they are losing too much heat.

Take advice from a reputable company that has experience in window design and construction, and remember that planning officers can also advise on what is and is not acceptable.

For complete new windows, the company making and installing them must be registered with FENSA. Once the work has been carried out you should receive a FENSA certificate through the post, which you will need if you sell the property in the future.

New sashes or casements fitted into existing frames are classed as refurbishment, and so this work does not require certification.

#### WHAT ABOUT SECURITY?

All new windows should be fitted with appropriate locks. Ground floor window locks should be key operated, whereas windows on the first floor should have egress locks. Ensure any surface locks are secured to the frame rather than the window, and sashes are fitted with stops and bolts. Alternatively, an integral locking system located within the frame can offer greater security. Toughened safety or laminated glass is also an option.

---

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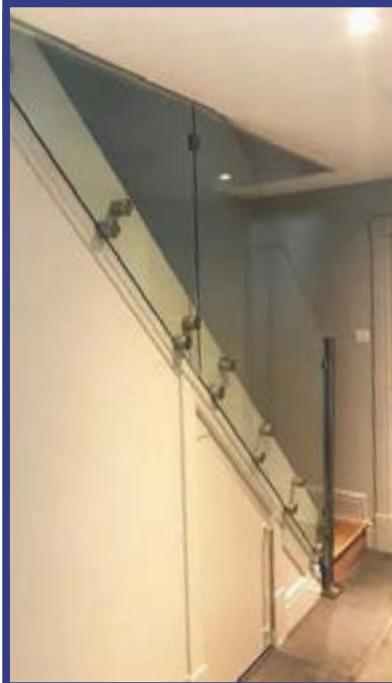
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# FORGING AHEAD

CONSERVATION NEWS MEETS ARTISAN BLACKSMITH RHYS HARLIN, WHO PRODUCES STUNNING ARTISTIC PIECES USING TRADITIONAL TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT FROM HIS FORGE IN EYNFSORD.

**D**arenth Valley Forge, an artisan blacksmith's with deep roots in Kent, has been at its current location in Eynsford since 1997, using traditional tools and equipment to provide stunning, artistic pieces for both private and commercial clients.

Rhys Harlin took over the forge from its original owner in late October 2012, bringing with him a passion for working with metal as well as artistic flair.

The company specialises in hand-forged bespoke ironwork – including sculptures and public art, ornate iron gates, balconies and ironwork restoration. Rhys says: "My passion has always been with metal and the artistry it allows. Forging heavy bars under the power hammer, scroll forming and organic forms are just a few of the things I love about my job and Kent is a beautiful place to practise it".

Rhys admits his personal artistic style and flair is influenced by many smiths past and present and, despite his modern training, he still uses many ancient blacksmithing techniques (such as mortise and tenon joints, rivets, collars and fire welding) to create beautiful, unique pieces of Ironwork for any purpose.

The ancient methods used in traditional

ironwork are the foundations of the blacksmith's craft, but the addition of modern methods allows Rhys to create new and exciting designs and styles the old techniques wouldn't allow.

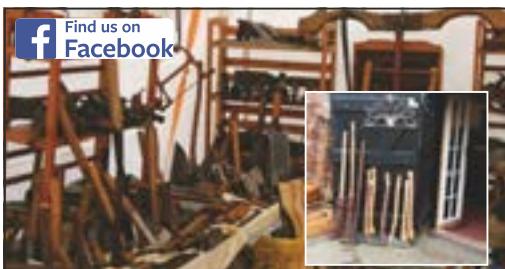
Although many iron-made products, like railings and balustrades, have to meet certain building regulations, Darenth Valley Forge draws on a wide range of techniques to ensure that doesn't have to mean they all look the same.

Rhys strives to design and develop a variety of styles, to ensure each client's individual requirements are met. He works closely with architects, designers, private clients and heritage groups in Kent, London, Surrey and Sussex.

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# HEARTS OF OAK

WITH ITS IMPRESSIVE GREEN CREDENTIALS, AS WELL AS ITS LONGEVITY AND VERSATILITY, OAK IS THE NATURAL CHOICE FOR MANY HOMEOWNERS

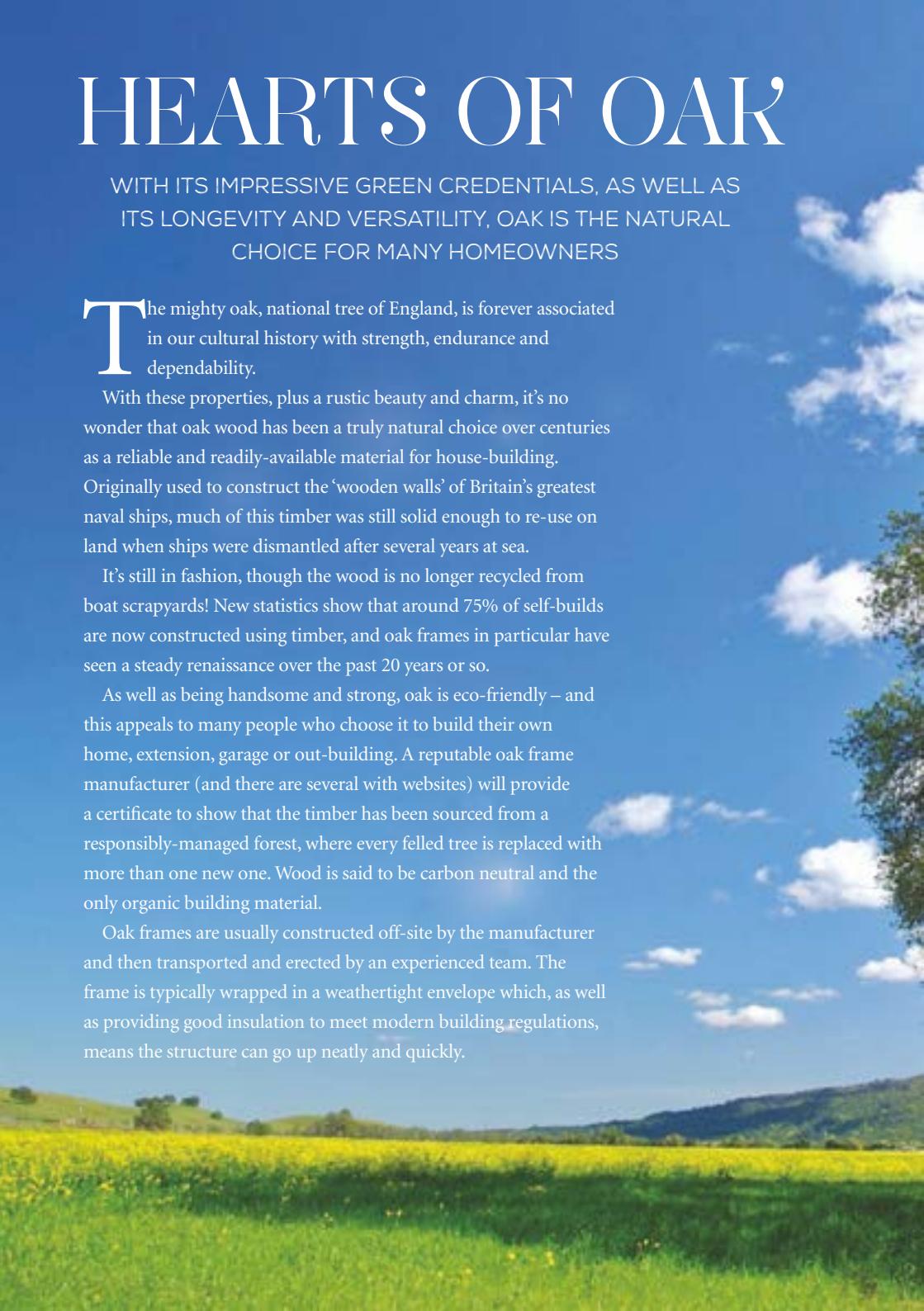
**T**he mighty oak, national tree of England, is forever associated in our cultural history with strength, endurance and dependability.

With these properties, plus a rustic beauty and charm, it's no wonder that oak wood has been a truly natural choice over centuries as a reliable and readily-available material for house-building. Originally used to construct the 'wooden walls' of Britain's greatest naval ships, much of this timber was still solid enough to re-use on land when ships were dismantled after several years at sea.

It's still in fashion, though the wood is no longer recycled from boat scrapyards! New statistics show that around 75% of self-builds are now constructed using timber, and oak frames in particular have seen a steady renaissance over the past 20 years or so.

As well as being handsome and strong, oak is eco-friendly – and this appeals to many people who choose it to build their own home, extension, garage or out-building. A reputable oak frame manufacturer (and there are several with websites) will provide a certificate to show that the timber has been sourced from a responsibly-managed forest, where every felled tree is replaced with more than one new one. Wood is said to be carbon neutral and the only organic building material.

Oak frames are usually constructed off-site by the manufacturer and then transported and erected by an experienced team. The frame is typically wrapped in a weathertight envelope which, as well as providing good insulation to meet modern building regulations, means the structure can go up neatly and quickly.





Through the wrapping, some timbers can be exposed for aesthetic reasons – simply to look good - without compromising the thermal properties. Manufacturers have worked out ingenious ways of achieving this, including using half-width secondary timbers.

It's really important for your designer/architect to work closely with a specialist supplier who understands the way oak behaves. Green oak (unseasoned timber) is preferred by

*Below: AT Palmer, [www.atpalmer.co.uk](http://www.atpalmer.co.uk)*



manufacturers as easier for cutting and shaping, but it will shrink after the building is complete as it continues to dry out, and this must be accommodated. Eventually the wood will be harder and stronger after the natural process. If heat is applied to speed this up, it will shock the timber into unsightly splitting. Patience will be rewarded.

Part of the appeal of oak is that it does not need finishing. Externally it will weather naturally to an attractive silver grey. Internally,

in a room where the wood is likely to be splashed with water, it may be a good idea to protect it with a suitable oil.

Oak frames are generally more expensive than standard softwood frames, but you can mitigate this by mixing and matching – for example, using mainly oak in some key public areas, then echoing the theme throughout the home by using it for all lintels. You can even combine oak with steel, either seen or discreetly hidden, the metal being used simply for bolts and plates, or in large sections to help span a particularly wide space, avoiding the need for a massive piece of timber. This traditional building material, along with contemporary engineering techniques, can combine the very best of ancient and modern to bring hearts of oak into the heart of home.

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# PERIOD PIECES

GRANVILLE HOUSE ANTIQUES SHOWCASE SOME SPECIAL PIECES  
FROM THEIR CURRENT COLLECTIONS

**G**ranville House Antiques Centre offers tastefully presented and (some) very rare pieces at the top of The Mall in Faversham. You will find guaranteed antique paintings, etchings, jewellery, glass, porcelain, silver, Chinese and Oriental art and artefacts and much more. You can be sure of a warm welcome and a pressure free browse through eight rooms of real antiques at realistic prices. Owned and managed by M&G Antiques, we have operated in Faversham for the past 10 years, establishing a reputation for honesty and fairness in all of our dealings, whether buying or selling.

Our stock comes almost exclusively from private acquisitions providing impeccable provenance for all the important pieces we offer. Additionally, we regularly enter items that require a specific audience into auction on our client's behalf allowing them to benefit from the commission arrangements we have concluded with leading auction houses.

Our 'raison d'être' is 'caring for the past' and we are aided and abetted in this by the finest craftsmen in their fields. We have chosen two pieces currently in stock to showcase their skills.

The first is C1810/20 a William IV button back parlour chair from a home

in Littlebourne. The frame has been restructured and the legs heightened prior to our upholsterer restoring the stuffing and recovering the piece in a period contemporary fabric. It is available at £750.

*Our 'raison d'être' is  
'caring for the  
past' and we  
are aided and  
abetted in this by  
the finest craftsmen  
in their fields.*

Another example brought back to life is a C1910 Sheraton style automatic cylinder bureau acquired from an elderly gentleman's apartments in Putney. Having spent almost 15 years in a dry and very warm environment it was in a dull and sad state. In the secret compartment we found an uncashed cheque and a burr

maple jewellery box. The bureau (including the contents of the secret compartment) is available for £2,360.

During the last few weeks we have been cataloguing and packing artefacts from a home in Faversham badly damaged by fire. We valued the antiques and artefacts damaged in the fire for the owner's insurance claim. To date our client's have averaged a settlement of 94% of the value they have submitted under our formal insurance valuations. We regularly conduct Insurance and Probate Valuations and less formally we hold free walk-in valuations on Friday & Saturday mornings. Whether you are looking to buy antiques or needing to conserve loved pieces Granville House should be your first stop.

A Limoge "Porcelain Art" patch box from the 1970s. £30



1910 Arts & Crafts hand embroidered fire screen, £220



Parlour chair, £750



Late 19th century  
Gu vase, £540



A Sevre lidded milk cup and saucer c.1790, £800



Silver bookmark, £58



Bureau, £2,360

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The farmhouse is a beautiful looking period property, with accommodation arranged over three floors and incorporating many fine period features, including fireplaces and exposed timbers. It is presented in excellent decorative order and whilst retaining its period charm, enjoys stylish and contemporary fittings throughout the house. Off the hall, a triple aspect drawing room is centred around

a feature fireplace with wood burner. The adjacent dining room also has a super fireplace with Bressummer beam and wood burner, whilst the study is a cozy, double aspect room. The kitchen/breakfast room is modern and eyecatching, with full height glazed windows overlooking the garden and pond and a shaped polished wood worktop, carefully positioned to provide a lovely view out to the garden. Completing the ground floor, there is a utility room and wet room / cloakroom, together with a doorway to the oak and glazed link to the swimming pool complex.

## PROPERTY DETAILS

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# The Mount, Faversham



**A**n elegant two bedroom second floor apartment forming part of a substantial Grade II listed former Manor House boasting elevated far reaching views over surrounding countryside, located within one mile of Faversham town centre and railway station.

This handsome property was converted many years ago to create a number of individual apartments over three floors. Number 5 occupies the entire top floor of the south side of the property enjoying far reaching views over orchards to the south and glimpses of the King George V Recreation Ground to the east.

The accommodation comprises a grand communal entrance hall with stairs up to

the second floor with an individual landing for number 5, an entrance hallway leads to a large open-plan reception room / fitted kitchen with three windows providing views over the orchards to the south, two double bedrooms and a bathroom with shower bath.

Outside, the property enjoys private communal gardens with an extensive lawned area and bike storage and secure gated parking with allocated spaces.

Notable benefits include gas fired central heating and a number of interesting period features such as exposed heavy timbers, an old exposed staircase and a set of stairs leading to a small door which opens onto a small private area of roof space.





## LOCALITY

The property is located next to the A2 London Road, at Faversham, bordered by orchards to the south and the recreation ground to the east providing a real sense of the countryside, with the convenience of the town and railway station less than a mile away. Faversham is a well-known historic town providing an extensive range of shopping and leisure facilities along with a main line railway station providing access to London and the Kent coast. A wider range of shopping, leisure and schooling facilities are available in the Cathedral city of Canterbury, just 10 miles to the east.

Road networks are conveniently accessible with access to the A2 trunk road and M2

motorway giving fast access to London, the M25 and the Kent coast. Main line railway services are available at Faversham, providing access to London Victoria and the high speed Javelin service to London St Pancras.

## PROPERTY DETAILS



Address: Faversham, Kent

Price: £195,000

For more information contact: Saddlers Reed House, 1-3 Old Ashford Road, Charing TN27 0JG Tel: 01233 713127 [property@saddlersresidential.co.uk](mailto:property@saddlersresidential.co.uk)

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All this makes Kent an outstanding place to eat out. From contemporary Michelin-starred restaurants to characterful eateries graced by log fires or stunning sea views. Kent offers everything from fine dining and gourmet Asian cuisine, to great grub in rural pubs.

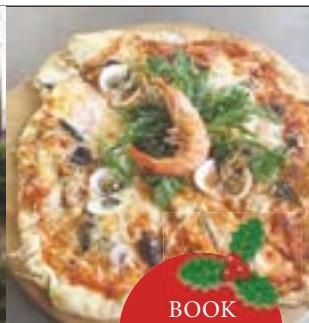
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# SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED...

THE OLD POST OFFICE, MARGATE HAS HAD A FIRST CLASS RENOVATION

**W**hat was previously the HQ for the Post Office in Margate's Cecil Square has been empty for nearly a decade. The beautiful old building was in danger of becoming just one more derelict and unloved has-been. But not anymore, it has been imaginatively restored and has a new lease of life, with the opening of a chic new restaurant, bar and delicatessen.

The renovation is stylish and the décor highly unusual, unlike any other establishment in Margate, as Manager Sarah Barrett told us, "We have worked closely with local suppliers who specialise in restoring feature pieces, like the gorgeous hand-carved Nero marble on the bar and fireplace. Pasco of Wareham's in Whitstable sourced this from an oligarch's chateau in France and he has supplied other features like the bronze tableau and ornate relief decoration panels."

The overall effect is superb, high gloss polished surfaces reflect the ample light flooding in through huge windows. The pallet is warm whites,

soft blacks and a rich honey coloured, real wood floor, reclaimed from a girls' school in Dulwich.

Sarah continued, "The recent regeneration of Margate is partly due to the opening of the Turner Contemporary Gallery which has attracted more visitors, investment to the area, and interest from people keen to move here from London.

This all makes it possible to have an establishment like the Old Post Office here in the heart of the town. The locals have let us know how pleased they are that we are reviving such a key local building. We are also offering a valuable service to the community in the shape of the delicatessen take-away, not only handy for local residents, but for office workers in the area.

We're delighted to have attracted chef, Tristan Fitt to head up our kitchen team. He's a talented young star of the culinary world, only 28 years old and previously was at the Westbury Hotel in London, where he earned an excellent reputation."

Tristan is no stranger to Kent having been born in Whitstable. "My team is devoted to bringing the best local ingredients together to offer inspiring seasonal dishes, we regularly forage for seaweed, plants and herbs including local specialty samphire, to create bold and exciting dishes to delight our diners."

**\* The Old Post Office**  
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## *The Dog at Wingham*

- SPOTLIGHT -

# *Hot Dog!*



CONSERVATION NEWS WAS INVITED TO SEE HOW THIS UNIQUE 13TH CENTURY INN HAS BEEN GIVEN A NEW LEASE OF LIFE

**I**n times past the picturesque village of Wingham that nestles in the Kent countryside on the A257 between Canterbury and Sandwich boasted three hostelries of varying appeal. The Dog Inn may well have been the last one a visitor to the village may have chosen to spend some time in. Now however, if the numbers of visitors that are

beating a path to its door are anything to go by, times have well and truly changed. Due to a tasteful and sympathetic refurbishment carried out by General Manager, Marc Bridgen and his incredibly talented Interior Designer mother, Marilyn, the once down at heel inn has been transformed into a stylish restaurant and bar with rooms, that offers a superb selection of drinks

# The Dog at Wingham

- SPOTLIGHT -



*The tasteful transformation of this stunning village pub is a triumph. The family-run business has been open for just over a year and has been voted County Winner at the 2017 National Pub and Bar Awards.*

including real ales, over 40 gins, fine dining and en-suite accommodation, in sumptuous surroundings.

The Dog at Wingham's slogan is understated and beautifully simple: Drink. Eat. Sleep. And there is a classy simplicity that is inherent in the décor. The soft greys and heritage colours, exposed brickwork and timbers, with just the right amount of warm red accents and quirky



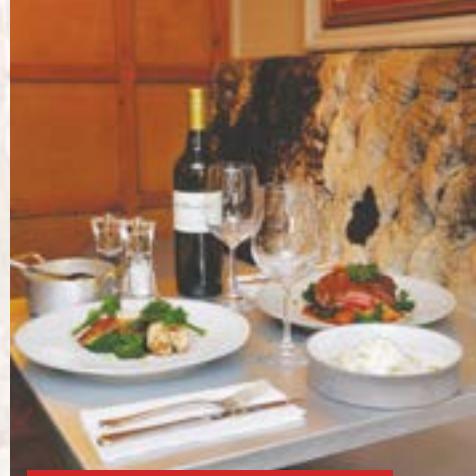
canine references work wonderfully amongst the oak beams and cosy fireplaces. The effect is instantly welcoming, relaxing and luxurious.

The dining experience offers everything one could hope for too. Head Chef, Tom Dawson and





team create culinary masterpieces from the finest quality produce sourced from local suppliers, with menus that are regularly refreshed to reflect seasonal variations, making the most of the abundance of fresh fish, meat and vegetables available from the Garden of England. The luxurious theme continues upstairs with eight en-suite, individually styled guest-rooms that combine romantic, old world charm with all the modern facilities you could want for your overnight stay, including Hypnos mattresses. The piece de resistance is the stunning four-poster bed suite, which has to be the realisation of everyone's dreamy escape from reality, with vaulted beam ceiling, gorgeous gilt mirrors and of course, the magnificent four poster bed to die for.



## READER OFFER

Conservation News have teamed up with The Dog at Wingham to bring you two very special offers.

### OFFER 1:

Two night stay for £149 per person, to include:

- Two nights in the fabulous four-poster bed suite
- À la carte breakfast each morning
- Three course à la carte meal in the acclaimed restaurant
- Drink on arrival
- Day passes to Canterbury Cathedral

### OFFER 2:

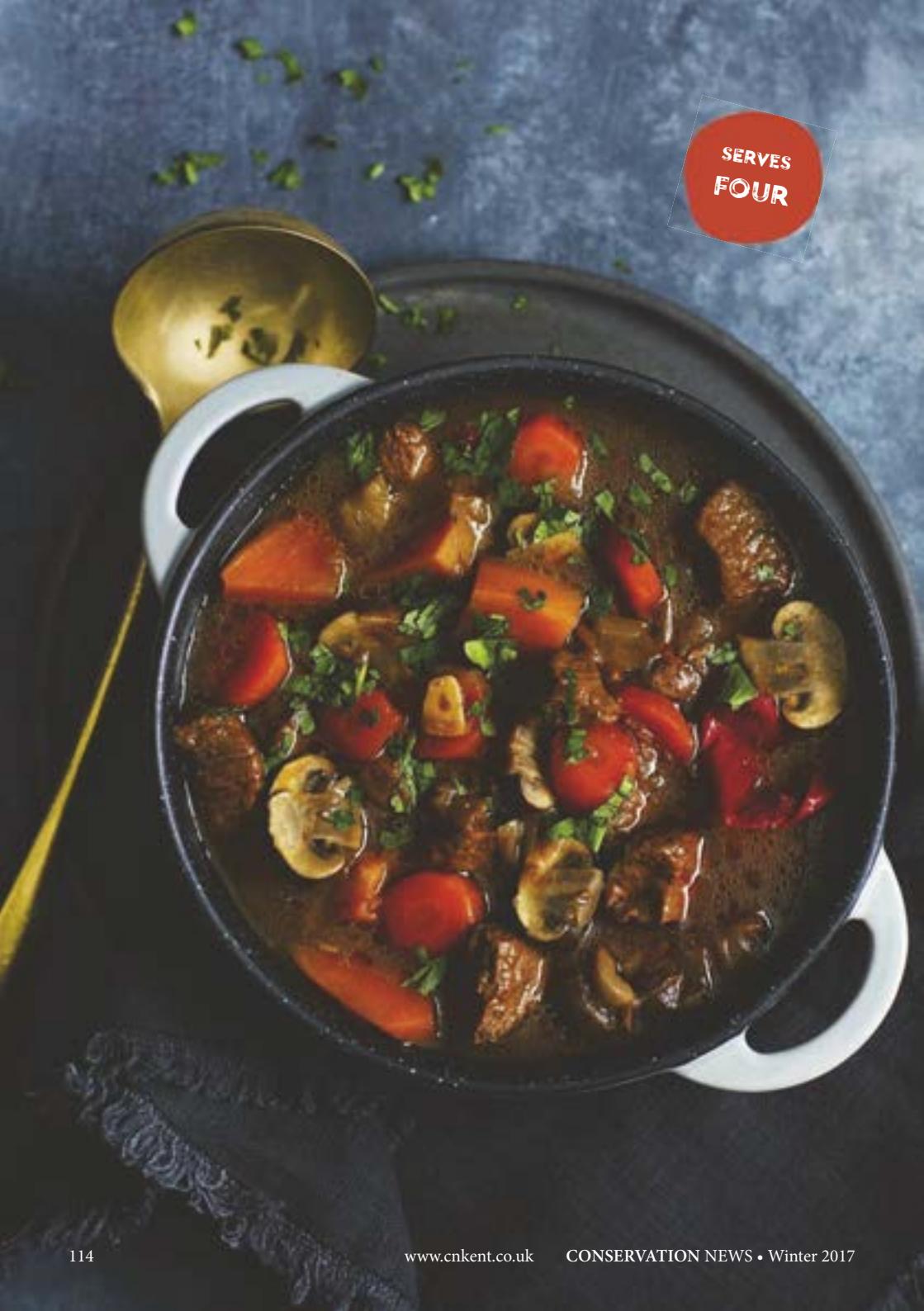
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Terms and conditions:

The offers must be booked before 28/02/2018 for stays up to 29/06/2018. Valid Sunday to Friday. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. Subject to availability.



SERVES  
**FOUR**

# WINTER warmers

Winter is our favourite time to be in the kitchen - the servings are generous, the cooking slow and sure, the kitchen cosy. At this time of year comfort food reigns supreme, so keep cosy this season with our delicious warming recipes.

## TAMARIND BEEF & MUSHROOM CASSEROLE

### YOU WILL NEED

2 tbsp sunflower oil  
400g diced braising steak  
550g pack casserole  
Vegetables  
4 cloves garlic, thinly sliced  
2 red chillies, halved  
lengthways  
1 tbsp grated fresh ginger  
100g tamarind paste  
1 tbsp soy sauce  
1 tbsp light brown  
muscovado sugar  
400ml beef stock, hot  
250g chestnut mushrooms,  
halved  
Coriander leaves and  
cooked rice, to serve

### METHOD

Preheat the oven to 200°C, gas mark 6. Heat the oil in a large flame and ovenproof casserole dish. Cook the steak for 5 minutes until nicely browned then, with a slotted spoon, transfer to a plate. Add the vegetables to the hot pan and cook for 5 minutes then add the garlic, chilli and ginger, and cook for a further 1 minute.

Return the meat to the pan with any resting juices and stir in the tamarind paste, soy sauce, sugar and stock. Bring to a simmer, cover then transfer to the oven and cook for 1½ hours.

Stir in the mushrooms and return to the oven for a further 20 minutes until the beef and vegetables are very tender. Serve with the rice and a sprinkling of coriander leaves.

### COOK'S TIP

For a lightly spiced flavour, add a couple of star anise or a teaspoon of Chinese five spice in with the stock.

Preparation time:15 minutes

Cooking time:2 hours

Total time:2 hours 15 minutes

# COTTAGE PIE WITH CAULIFLOWER CHEESE TOPPING

## YOU WILL NEED

- 1 onion, roughly chopped
- 1 large carrot, roughly chopped
- 2 tsp rosemary leaves
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 400g mince beef
- 150g red split lentils
- 2 tbsp tomato purée
- 1 Oxo rich beef with onion & rosemary stock pot
- 600ml boiling water
- 500g floury potatoes, such as Maris Piper or King Edward, peeled and cut into large chunks
- 1 medium cauliflower, cut into florets
- 100ml crème fraîche
- 100g mature Cheddar cheese, grated

## METHOD

Preheat the oven to 200°C, gas mark 6. Place the onion, carrot and rosemary in a food processor and pulse until finely chopped. Heat the olive oil in a large saucepan and add the mixture and gently cook for 6 minutes, until softened but not coloured.

Add the mince beef and mix with the vegetables, cooking for 2 minutes until browned and breaking up with a wooden spoon. Add the red lentils and tomato purée and cook for 1 minute. Mix together the stockpot and water and stir into the pan. Cook gently for 20 minutes without a lid, until the lentils are tender.

Meanwhile, place the potatoes in a large saucepan and cover with water. Bring to the boil and cook for 10 minutes then add the cauliflower and cook for a further 7 minutes until the potatoes and cauliflower are very soft when pierced with a knife. Drain well and return to the pan with the crème fraîche, cheese and a pinch of salt and mash together until you have a creamy yet coarse mash.

Spoon the beef and lentil mix into a 35x25cm ovenproof dish then spoon the mash on top leaving it quite rough for a crispy crust. Bake for 25-30 minutes until golden, crusty and bubbling.

## COOK'S TIP

As an alternative, try using creamy cannellini beans or even haricot beans to make the mash.

Preparation time: 15 minutes

Cooking time: 1 hours

Total time: 1 hour 15 minutes

*Recipes: Waitrose*

SERVES  
4-6



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# THE ESSENTIAL *foodie gift*

Macknade Fine Foods, the South East's leading food hall, has launched a new range of hampers, available in-store and online.

Each hamper has been carefully curated by the Macknade team to represent the home and heritage of the renowned food hall, which this year celebrates its 170th birthday. Every product in the hampers has been hand-selected for its quality and provenance... and most importantly, how it tastes.

As well as being the perfect present for friends & family, the hampers would make a great choice for businesses wishing to gift

their clients or employees at Christmas, and discounts are being offered on large volume orders.

If you are looking for something unique, Macknade are also offering a bespoke service creating hampers specifically designed with you and your recipient in mind.

Please visit [www.macknade.com/shop](http://www.macknade.com/shop) or pop in-store to explore the range.

**For further information on corporate gifting, please contact Rosie Collins, Marketing Manager, on 01795 534497 or email [marketing@macknade.com](mailto:marketing@macknade.com)**



*Anno Distillers*

- ARTISAN PRODUCER -

# THAT'S THE SPIRIT

INSPIRED BY THEIR LOVE OF CRAFT SPIRITS, LIFELONG SCIENTISTS ANDY AND NORMAN DECIDED TO USE THEIR EXPERTISE AND PASSION TO FOUND ANNO IN 2011, BRINGING A PROUD TRADITION OF GIN MAKING BACK TO THEIR HOME COUNTY OF KENT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER 200 YEARS

**D**erided in the past as Mothers Ruin, then later favoured by the upper classes (the Queen Mother was a notable fan), gin is currently the hippest tipple of choice.

The analyst Mintel reckons gin sales will be worth £1.31 billion by 2020. To meet this huge demand, specialist gin joints are springing up and every wise publican offers a gin menu. You can buy gin and tonic lip balm, candles, even ice lollies... Distilleries are proliferating, with the number doubling since 2010, according to the Wine and Spirit Trade Association.

The catalyst for this 'ginaissance' was a recent relaxation in the minimum legal size for a still, meaning that smaller producers can now make the spirit that was formerly only the prerogative of big companies.

Add to that some imaginative new recipes, good marketing and an insatiable consumer demand for something new, and you have a product that was bound to succeed.

In Kent, one of the new players is award-winning Anno Distillers based in Marden whose first bottle of Kent Dry Gin was sold in

2013, two years after research scientists Dr Andy Reason and Dr Norman Lewis took early retirement from their day jobs. Their initial idea was to distil their own whisky – but whisky takes at least three years to mature and they needed something that would give a faster financial return.

They chose gin as their next favourite drink, and the timing could not have been better. Anno's sales have so far grown 45% year on year and they are now looking to push the brand into the far corners of Britain and beyond.



'Ginthusiasts' can invest in this expansion through a crowdfunding campaign which will give them an equity share as well as perks like annual tours and tastings - for more information visit [www.annodistillers.co.uk](http://www.annodistillers.co.uk).

Natural flavourings, called 'botanicals', are key ingredients in the gin revival, inspiring a huge range of products for drinkers to search out and try - hence the gin 'menus' offered in many pubs and bars. Anno has focused on local flavours, using Kentish hops, samphire and elderflower to add to the traditional juniper and citrus notes.

Anno's success might seem almost overnight, but it's not been all plain sailing. The two founders, along with sales and marketing manager Kim Reason, were bursting with enthusiasm and keen to get started in the early days but had to

wait 18 months for a licence before they could put their 300 litre copper-pot still to work. That's why they named this beautiful piece of kit 'Patience'...!

"Starting up a new business is always tough, especially for two families with limited budgets for marketing and staffing, but we have been astounded by the local interest and support we have gained over the years, and receiving so many awards and accolades for our products has given us a real pride in what we do," says Kim.



## WIN a tour & tasting

Tantalise your taste buds and discover your inner gin connoisseur as you sample five different gins (including Anno) in a number of ways to really awaken your senses and attune palates to fully appreciate the joys of artisan gin.

This tasting intends to be informative as well as fun, to include everyone from those new to gin to avid gin drinkers.

For your chance to win two tour and tasting tickets worth £50. Just send your name, address and telephone number to: [dawn@cnkent.co.uk](mailto:dawn@cnkent.co.uk)

*Closing date for entries:*

*Friday 23rd February 2018. Good luck!*

- FESTIVE COCKTAILS -

# GIN-SPIRATIONAL

MOVE OVER MULLED WINE! FROM FESTIVE FLAVOURS TO INVENTIVE CONCOCTIONS, HERE'S WHAT SHOULD BE IN YOUR GLASS DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON ACCORDING TO KIM AT ANNO DISTILLERS



## CHRISTMAS CRANBERRY MARTINI

### INGREDIENTS

Anno Cranberry & Gin (75ml)  
Dry Vermouth (dash)

### INSTRUCTIONS

Shake ingredients together with ice. Strain. Serve in a chilled martini glass. Garnish with an orange slice and a candy cane (ideally orange/fruit flavoured or spiced).



## TOM COLLINS

### INGREDIENTS

Anno Kent Dry Gin (50ml)  
Fresh Lemon Juice (Dash)  
Sugar Syrup (Dash)  
Club Soda (100ml)

### INSTRUCTIONS

Shake gin, lemon juice, sugar syrup together. Stir in club soda. Strain. Serve over ice and garnish with a wedge of lemon and a maraschino cherry.



## CRANBERRY G&T

### INGREDIENTS

Anno Cranberry & Gin  
Fever Tree Tonic Water (120ml or to taste)

### INSTRUCTIONS

Build in a glass over ice. Stir. Serve in a chilled gin balloon with lots of ice Garnish with an orange twist.



# CHEESEMAKERS *of* CANTERBURY

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## 1. KIT'S COTY BLANC DE BLANC (2013) 12%

ABV CHAPEL DOWN, TENTERDEN £40

Made from 100% Chardonnay, this delicious sparkling wine is well balanced with acidity and fruit and truly reflects the terroir of the Kent countryside. A special treat for Christmas with some smoked salmon canapés, shellfish or as an aperitif.



## 2. ASTROLABE PROVINCE PINTO GRIS (2015)

13.5% ABV- WAITROSE £17.99

I've had this wine many times and it never disappoints – aromatic and crisp with flavours of pear and vanilla, the climate of Marlborough in New Zealand gives it that zesty edge. This wine would be the perfect partner for a lovely Thai coconut curry.



# DRINK UP

ROWENA'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FESTIVE DRINKING



## 3. SCALA DEI PRIORAT (2014) 15% ABV WAITROSE £19.99

This is a superb, big, deep, rich, full bodied red wine made from Garnacha and a little Carignan. Made in a fruity style, the concentration of black fruit and fine tannins and a year of barrel ageing add structure and balance to this fabulous Priorat. Try slow roasted lamb, Venison or braised Oxtail as a lovely winter warmer.

## 4. YALUMBA ORGANIC VIOGNIER (2016) 14.5% ABV WAITROSE £9.99

A ripe, juicy Australian Viognier bursting with fresh peach and apricot which would match effortlessly with Christmas turkey as an alternative to red. An aromatic grape made in a fresh unoaked style will go equally well with starters that have strong flavours, rich sauces as well as mild spices. Excellent value at £9.99.

# Pairing principles

CHEESE WITH WINE... OR CHEESE WITH BEER? YOU WON'T BE SURPRISED TO KNOW THE ANSWER IS "YES" TO BOTH



If you're entertaining this holiday season and unsure of what drinks to pair with cheese, cover all bases by offering both wine and beer (plus a couple of non-alcoholic options).

## MATCH INTENSITIES

Pair delicate fresh cheeses with light-bodied, youthful wines such as a Sauvignon Blanc, or with a low-alcohol beer. With bigger, bolder cheeses choose more powerful wines, like Syrah or Cabernet Sauvignon, and strong beers.

## PRACTICE THE PRINCIPLES

*With young rindless cheeses, such as Mozzarella, Burrata or fresh Chevre...*

**Wine fans:** Try a dry rosé, Sauvignon Blanc, Vermentino or Pinot Grigio – all light-bodied wines that won't overwhelm, the cheese.

**Beer fans:** Try a pilsner, blonde ale or wheat beer. All are thirst-quenching styles that work well with fresh cheeses.

*With rind cheese, such as Camembert and Brie...*

**Wine fans:** Pour Chardonnay to echo the buttery notes, or a Pinot Noir.

**Beer fans:** Go for Euro-lagers, pilsners, pale ales, porters or fruit ales.

*With blue cheeses, such as Stilton...*

**Wine fans:** Don't even think about a dry wine. Blue cheese needs a sweet companion, such as a sparkling wine, late harvest Semillon or Sauternes.

**Beer fans:** Porters and stouts have enough heft for blue cheese and their roasted-coffee aroma complements buttery blue cheese.

*With Cheddar...*

**Wine fans:** Red wine is a must. A Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon or Chianti Classico will have the power needed to balance Cheddar's mouth-filling flavour.

**Beer fans:** Tangy, sharp Cheddar pairs well with hop-forward styles such as IPA and pale ale; with a mellow Cheddar consider a glass of bitter.

## CHEESE PLATTER TIPS

If you're throwing an impromptu get-together and have no time to cook, why not present a stunning cheese platter as the centrepiece to your party? Variety is the key. Select a range of styles from young to aged, soft to firm, and mild to pungent. Diversity of shapes and colours will add visual appeal. Choose wedges, round discs, pyramids; contrast chalk-white goat cheese with butter-coloured Fontina. And be sure to cover all milk types: cow, goat and sheep and don't overlook buffalo Mozzarella.

Condiments aren't essential, but they dress up the platter and make it more substantial. For a before-dinner cheese tray, stick with savoury accompaniments such as roasted nuts, olives, breadsticks, pickles and cured meats. If you're serving the cheese at the end of the meal, think sweet: fresh and dried fruit, honey and chutney.



# Looking to promote your business?



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We are editorial led with well written features and case studies, covering period homes, gardens, renovations, interiors and Kentish food and produce to promote a variety of Kent businesses.

If you would like to market and grow your business in this niche publication then please contact us on 07725 732535 or send an e-mail to [dawn@cnkent.co.uk](mailto:dawn@cnkent.co.uk).

Copies are available on request and can be picked up in selected hotels, coffee shops, garden centres and public buildings.

The cover of the Winter 2017 issue of Conservation News Kent. The title 'CONSERVATION NEWS' is at the top, with 'Kent' underneath. Below the title is the subtitle 'Inspirational KITCHENS' and a sub-subtitle 'Plan and shop for RANGE COOKERS'. The central image shows a kitchen interior with a large range cooker, a hanging pot, and a small dog. At the bottom of the cover, the text 'PERIOD HOMES • RENOVATION • INTERIORS • GARDENS • FOOD' is listed.

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