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Winter 2022



Competition winner from our autumn issue:
Gaynor Tracey, Birchington

CONSERVATION NEWS

conservationnews.co.uk

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Welcome to the winter edition of Conservation News. So far this winter is shaping up to be a pretty wet one. That may mean fewer days out, but at least there will be plenty of time for you to browse our magazine!

...And what a magazine we've got for you this time: we've got amazing features on home décor, including how to create a focal point that really wows.

We've got a fascinating feature on antiques and collectables to inspire your winter shopping, and we've got our much loved section on gardening to help guide your greenery through the colder season (once the rain lets up!).

Add to that a collection of the finest local businesses and advice from industry experts, and your period home is most definitely in good hands.

So curl up with Conservation News and make the most of the season – just because the weather's damp doesn't mean your spirits should be!

Dawn



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Printed in the UK by Pensord



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Winter 2022
Contents



8 Winter gardening
What to do in the garden now

13 The winter garden
Using your fire pit in winter

19 An expert's eye on lighting
Claudia Baillie shares
her knowledge

23 Wilkinson's Chandeliers
One of the largest restorers of
chandeliers in the world

29 Creating a focal point
Tips and advice

37 Choosing a bath tub
for your period home

43 Mad about the Boys
Another visit to Boys Hall

51 Turning back time
Learn more about antiques
from local experts

90 Recipes – win the book!
Two great recipes
from Stagioni

94 Cocktail hour
Two recipes and win a
copy of the Cocktail Edit

96 Cosy nights on tap
Tap 17 micro bar

37



43



29



8



90



94



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KEEP THE VEG PLOT GOING

Crops to harvest in winter include parsnips (which taste better after a frost), kale, Brussels sprouts, leeks, winter cabbages and winter salad. If you didn't get around to planting winter veg and salad earlier in the year, you can grow pulses indoors, as well as microgreens, ready in just a few days. You can also plant for future feasts – garlic, fruit bushes and raspberries and rhubarb can all be planted in winter.

Fine pines

If you want your Christmas tree to stay in tip top condition over the festive season, there are three simple rules to follow. First, buy a healthy tree from a local nursery; second, choose a spot for your tree that's well away from any heat sources; and finally keep your tree properly hydrated. A medium-sized tree can easily get through two litres of water a day.



Garden NOTES

Winter can feel like a gloomy time in the garden. The flowers of high summer are a distant memory, the rain is here to stay and the change of the clocks has put paid to any hope of working in the evenings. However, there is still much to be done.



Super snowdrops

There's no need to buy expensive rarities to create a cracking display of snowdrops. *Galanthus nivalis* is the snowdrop you'll see growing wild in woods; it's vigorous and quick to establish and usually flowers in February. They do best in moist, well-drained soil in partial shade. Plant them deep; the top of the bulb should be about 8cm below the surface. Water well and don't remove spent foliage until it is completely withered. Nourish them in autumn and winter with a fertiliser. It will take several years before they settle in and develop into decent clumps. Propagate by lifting and dividing once the leaves have turned yellow.



OFF WITH THEIR HEADS!

As you prepare and prune your garden area for winter, sedums can be left unattended to. Sedums are hardy, tolerating frost and below freezing temperatures. Upright sedums will die back to the ground, but the remaining stalks with spent flowers will offer colour and food for the birds. They also add shape and interest to the borders, and look especially striking when frosted or dusted with snow. This is also a good time to cut back bush, shrub and climbing roses.

SOW SOON...

The short, dull days after Christmas are when most gardeners peruse plant lists and seed catalogues and order for the coming year. It's also a good time to start sowing flower seeds in a conservatory or heated greenhouse. If you leave sowing until March or April you're missing the opportunity to get a head start. Flowers that can be sown in January or February include dianthus, antirrhinums, lobelia, begonia, geraniums, sweet peas and petunias. Once they have germinated move them to a cooler place so they grow more slowly and plant out when it's milder.



What to do now

- Dead-head autumn-flowering plants and prune summer-flowering shrubs.
- Keep off the grass - walking on it damage it.
- Protect plants from the cold by adding cloches to winter salads and wrapping half-hardy plants in fleece. Bring tender plants indoors.
- Dig garden beds. Digging now allows the frost to break up the soil, improving the structure.
- Put out feeders for garden birds.
- Create a compost heap.
- Plant bulbs.
- Plant garlic and fruit bushes.
- Winter prune apple trees.
- Divide snowdrops in January.

Don't forget the birds!

To keep your little visitors warm this winter, put out plenty of fat balls, seeds and nuts. They will give the birds the necessary energy to keep warm. Plus, they need water – so, keep the bath topped up. If you're pruning shrubs this winter, don't be too thorough and tidy as these can be used as shelter.



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USING YOUR FIRE PIT *in winter*

THE WINTER IS A TIME TO RETREAT TO THE WARMTH AND COSINESS OF THE HOUSE. BUT WHAT IF WE OPEN THOSE DOORS AND VENTURE OUTSIDE INTO THE MOONLIGHT...

The garden is often another room during the summer months, with the doors open we spend as much time in the garden as the house, sometimes more. But as the nights draw in we find we've closed the curtains and shut the garden outside by late afternoon. The patio that served us so many serene morning coffees and lively family bbqs in the warmer months can double up as a cosy spot for restful stargazing, hot-toddlies and quality time with the kids when you install or build a fire pit.

For around 200,000 years, humans have had the ability to control fire. It's little wonder that, to this day, we're still captivated by a fire's flames and it's easy to incorporate an open fire into the garden, with many options from tiny table top bio-fuel bowls to built-in fireplaces and cooking stoves. They can burn timber or run on electricity, gas or Bioethanol. They bring multi-functionality to a space but all have advantages and disadvantages.

Whether you have lots of space or just a small garden the location of a fire pit is worth

considering. A wood-burning fire will generate a lot of heat and smoke, so place it further away from your home and other structures. Gas or electric fire pits can be located closer to your home or even placed under a roof for more protection. Plan your seating to give your fire pit area a more comfortable feel, maybe you want to sink the seating or raise it. The area directly above the fire needs to be clear of hanging plants, trees and flammable items like shade sails.

A portable fire pit is a good option if you really want to utilise the space. There are lots of small fire pits, from lanterns to bowls that can be moved around the garden for maximum benefit. There are even fire pit tables where the tabletop is removed to reveal the fire pit beneath. This is a great idea where space maybe lacking as the patio can be used for dining before lighting the fire. You may wish to consider a closed fire or one with a spark screen

or guard if you have young children, pets or you are using the fire in a small space.

With the climate crisis being our priority at the moment consideration to the environment is of particular concern so we need to think about what fuel we will burn and how to choose sustainable, clean fuel.

Electric fires are great if you already have an electricity supply in the garden or would consider having an electrician put one in. Available in traditional and contemporary styles they have all the perks of a wood fire but without the smoke or mess. They can even be controlled by a remote. They emit plenty of heat but no toxic pollutants. You may feel they lack the atmosphere of a wood fire though.

Bioethanol fires are fairly new to the market but are growing in popularity. Bio ethanol is a totally renewable liquid fuel produced from agricultural by-products that burn clean, meaning you have no smoke and no sparks. It

Planting around your fire pit



Considering the planting around your fire pit is really important so that the area feels part of the garden but also using plants that will withstand the heat the fire may give off. Grasses are a great option, they are soft and offer a beautiful movement in the garden, they also exquisitely catch the light at sun rise and sunset. They are tough and able to stand high temperatures as are many mediterranean plants like Lavender, Sage and Yukka, which will actually benefit from the high temperatures. Herbs are a lovely plant to have close to seating as you brush against them to release their scent or pluck off to use in the cooking. Plants should always be a minimum of one metre away from the pit.

is a natural, renewable and green energy source made by fermenting plant by-products and yeast. There are many attractive Bioethanol fires for the garden from small, inexpensive table top fires to large focal-point pieces.

Most garden fire pits are designed to burn logs. Wood is a renewable source of energy as long as we continue to plant trees and let them grow. However, if we are cutting down more wood than we allow to grow, it may be renewable but it is not necessarily sustainable. While burning wood is not quite carbon neutral, it does emit less carbon than fossil fuels and when it comes from a sustainably managed source it also acts as a sink for carbon. When buying logs, look out for BSL certified wood, Sustainable, Kiln Dried / Seasoned Firewood to show that it comes from a sustainably managed source and that it is dry so will burn cleaner, creating less smoke and air pollution. Be responsible when using outdoor fires - Never burn wet wood, unseasoned wood or wood that has been painted or treated and check your neighbours windows are closed and washing is inside before lighting up. Always store logs in a dry place, away from moisture.

Nothing beats the warmth and atmosphere of a real fire and cooking on them is fun too, if you've never tried a S'more before here is your chance, check out our recipe. Traditionally a North American campfire snack they were recently propelled to the heights of The Great British Bake off after Paul Hollywood set the bakers the task of recreating them in the tent.

*To talk about building an area for a fire pit in your garden just get in touch
sarah@thegardencreative.com,
www.thegardencreative.com
Tel: 07725055701*

S'MORES RECIPE



- * Light your fire pit and wait till it's burning even and hot.
- * Take a digestive biscuit and Top with a piece of chocolate. Keep another biscuit handy.
- * Skewer a marshmallow on a long stick or skewer and hold over the heat of the fire. Toast, turning occasionally, until the marshmallow puffs and turns golden brown.
- * Place the marshmallow on top of the biscuit containing the chocolate piece and, using the remaining biscuit, squish the marshmallow down and pull off the skewer.
- * Hold the sandwich together between your fingers for a few seconds and let the heat of the roasted marshmallow melt the chocolate.
- * Eat while it is warm and gooey and perfect.

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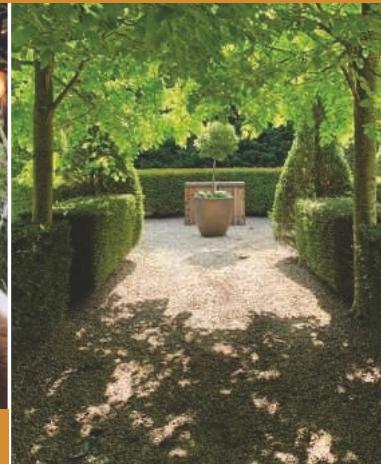
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AN EXPERT'S EYE ON LIGHTING

A FAVOURITE SUBJECT AMONGST INTERIOR DESIGNERS AND WRITERS ALIKE, THERE'S A LOT TO SAY (AND A LOT THAT YOU CAN READ) WHEN IT COMES TO LIGHTING YOUR HOME.

To help you wade through all the advice, we asked interiors and lifestyle journalist, Claudia Baillie to bring together all the knowledge she's garnered over the years into one, whole-home guide.

I've been writing about design and interiors for a long time now, and one of the most rewarding aspects of the job is interviewing experts about what has turned out to be a huge range of varied and fascinating topics. Some of the most interesting conversations have been about lighting, and below you'll find the most useful tips I've learnt over the years.

THROUGHOUT YOUR HOME

The overarching advice is that it's a good idea to install dimmers in almost every room of the house; this creates flexibility and allows you to change the mood in an instant. Try to install lights on more than one circuit too, as this gives more control.

LIVING AND DINING ROOMS

Combining feature pendants with table and floor lamps as well as wall sconces creates layers of light. This

makes a space feel much cosier and will ensure there are no gloomy corners.

One pendant looks good, but several grouped together creates real impact, especially in a larger room or over a dining table. Choose the same or similar designs and hang at different heights to form a decorative cluster.

Not all light sources need to be seen; discreet, low-level lighting that washes up walls is a great way to enhance atmosphere, and illuminating shelving or under wall cabinets using concealed LEDs provides additional lighting that adds depth to a space.

HALLWAYS

A statement light creates an incredible first impression and, in an area where you don't spend lots of time, you can afford to be bold with your design choice. If the ceiling is low though, avoid pendant lights as this can make a space feel smaller – instead, use a table, floor or wall lamp to make your statement.

In a long space, install switches at both ends so you're never left in the dark. Illuminate the first section of a corridor, then leave a shadow, then place another light beyond that. This will draw you



wall-mounted angled lamps or even a desk lamp on your work surface can work as well as any fancy scheme.

Pendants will come into their own in zoning your kitchen: hang a row above a table or kitchen island to define an eating area. Choosing rattan or fabric shades or a more curvaceous shape will introduce a softer element to an angular kitchen too.

BATHROOMS

Task lighting is essential; backlight a mirror or use wall-mounted lights either side to highlight your face.

LED lighting can be used to illuminate shelves, steps,



through the space and make it feel more inviting.

And know that layering light works well in the hallway as well; highlight artwork and decorative architraves with directional lights, and use table lamps to create a gentle glow.

KITCHENS

Ceiling and spotlights are certainly necessary, but they can cast shadows over your preparation area and they don't always create a particularly cosy atmosphere either, so don't rely on them as your only light source. Try incorporating low-level LEDs under wall units or even behind glass splashbacks which will give an even wash of light.

Directional light is a good option too, and



recesses or other design features, and a strip under a mirror cabinet can give the illusion that it's floating. The key is to conceal the light so it casts a low-level glow.

Highlight a wall of textured tiles to create an interesting focal point or use spotlights installed into the floor to up-light behind the bath if yours is freestanding, which will add to the feeling of space.

The most important thing when lighting a bathroom is that fittings must have the correct IP (ingress protection) rating so they're safe in wet areas – like Neptune's Hanover wall lights.

BEDROOMS

Most bedrooms have a ceiling light, which is great for general tasks, but it may also flatten the ambience. A combination of task, mood and general lighting will create a softer feel and greater flexibility.

Bold bedside lamps with sculptural bases and decorative shades can add real character to a room, or hang a pair of interesting pendants either side of a bed in place of a central pendant. Angled task lamps are great for bedtime reading and can be directed at the wall for a more diffused light.

Lighting can look amazing integrated into fitted joinery; use LED strips above and below a wardrobe. Up-lighters can be used as well to illuminate architectural features or the texture of interesting fabrics, adding richness and depth.

OUTSIDE AND IN THE GARDEN

Place outdoor lights strategically so they illuminate a tree or a sculptural plant, and think about leaving some dark areas as shadows add atmosphere. Try to conceal the fittings so all you see is the radiant light. Discreet rope lights under the lip of benches or decking define edges and give a gentle glow.

If you have large glass doors, illuminate the far wall or fence with an up-lighter. This means you'll see the light rather than a reflection in the glass, avoiding a 'black hole' effect.

Windproof hurricane lamps can add as much atmosphere as complicated lighting systems. Hang different sized lanterns and remove single bricks from walls to create nooks for tea lights.

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RESTORATION

Wilkinson have grown to become one of the largest restorers of chandeliers in the world, with their skilled craftsmen producing work of the highest standard. Having their repair, glass cutting, metalwork departments under one roof and their own glasshouse just a few miles away, allows them to restore a vast range of chandeliers, from the earliest Georgian examples to the latest continental pieces.

Their extensive collection of old patterns, moulds and large stock of pieces, allows them to replace or recreate any item that is missing or broken. Wilkinson use a variety of techniques from sandblasting to stripping and re-lacquering to restore items following deterioration or damage, always ensuring that we use faithful methods in order to retain authenticity.

Popular restoration works include:

- General upkeep and updating or damage repair.
- Fitting new lampholders, deep cleaning, minor repairs and repinning broken and fragile metal pins.

In addition they can perform more in-depth restoration works if your lighting has been affected by fire, smoke or water damage or restoration following damage due to moving or poor storage.

- Rewiring - from the rewiring of an entire chandelier to conform with UK electrical regulations or the rewiring or adaptation of a table lamp, they undertake all types of rewiring and have a vast range of flexes and lampholders to choose from
- Supply of missing or damaged crystal dressings or chandelier pieces. Wilkinsons stock of hundreds of thousands of crystal chandelier drops and have a basement full of spare chandelier parts alternatively their



glassblower can hand blow a replacement part. This includes replacement flat or bent glass panes for lanterns.

- Metalwork restoration – supply and fitting of replacements for missing metal castings, repairs to damaged lantern doors and internal pendants, refinishing of metalwork due to tarnishing or discolouration.
- Adaptation – conversion of fittings from gas/oil or wax candles to electricity, fitting additional lighting in to existing fittings to increase light output, conversion of wiring from UK to European or US regulations or vice-versa.

CHANDELIER CLEANING

Wilkinson offer chandelier cleaning primarily in London and the south-east but have cleaned and installed chandeliers throughout the UK and Europe and as far afield as the Middle East. Their cleaning service is not limited to chandeliers, as they



also clean lanterns, wall lights and crystal candelabras.

They charge an hourly rate based on the size and style of your light fittings so contact them with images of your lighting and your location for an individual quotation.

They take chandeliers apart and clean them by hand, they do not spray them with solvents that can cause untold damage and leave a film to attract dust. Chandelier cleaning can be

carried out on site and they supply all materials needed for a discreet service as well as a range of access equipment which allows us to reach some of the most difficult to reach locations – all their staff are PASMA trained.

If a more thorough clean is required or if repair and restoration is needed they can remove your lighting from the premises for work to be undertaken at their workshops and install again upon completion.





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CREATING A FOCAL POINT

CREATING A FOCAL POINT IN A ROOM CAN BE A FANTASTIC WAY OF TYING TOGETHER YOUR DÉCOR AND REALLY PUTTING YOUR STAMP ON YOUR PROPERTY.



Georgian cast iron mantel, The English Chimneypiece, english-chimneypiece.co.uk

Your chosen focal point should be the first thing you see when entering the room, and should be eye catching and unique. Of course your focal point doesn't have to be an addition to the room: a focal point can be an architectural feature, such as a fireplace, bay window, or even the view outside the window.

FINDING YOUR FOCAL POINT

Take a look around your room to determine its most outstanding area. This will be where you create your focal point. As mentioned above, it may be an architectural feature, or it may be the biggest wall in the room, the lightest (or darkest) corner, or even simply the first area that hits your eye on entering.

You can of course have more than one focal point in a room, in order to lead the eye in a specific pattern. However, you should keep these minimal as too many will negate the whole concept.

WALL HANGINGS

How you choose to adorn your walls says a lot about you and your style. A statement art piece or relief sculpture can really capture your personality. Do you love the period aesthetic of your home? Then consider hanging a painting in a style contemporary to its construction. You could hunt down a piece that illustrates the local countryside or a famous event that took place nearby (house built in Suffolk in the early 1800s? – the Hay Wain it is.)

If you can't find anything that's quite right however, why not make your own? Many people explored their creative side during lockdown and there are videos galore online that demonstrate how to make beautiful art with absolutely no experience! One good idea is to create an abstract painting using a tester pot of the paint on your walls, along with a couple of complementary colours. This way you get a unique artwork that goes perfectly with your décor.



Another excellent choice of wall hanging is a mirror. Feature mirrors should be as big as possible as, even in a small room, they will work beautifully because they will reflect the light and keep it from looking cluttered. Perhaps a driftwood frame for a seaside home, or an ornate Moroccan design for an exotic feel?

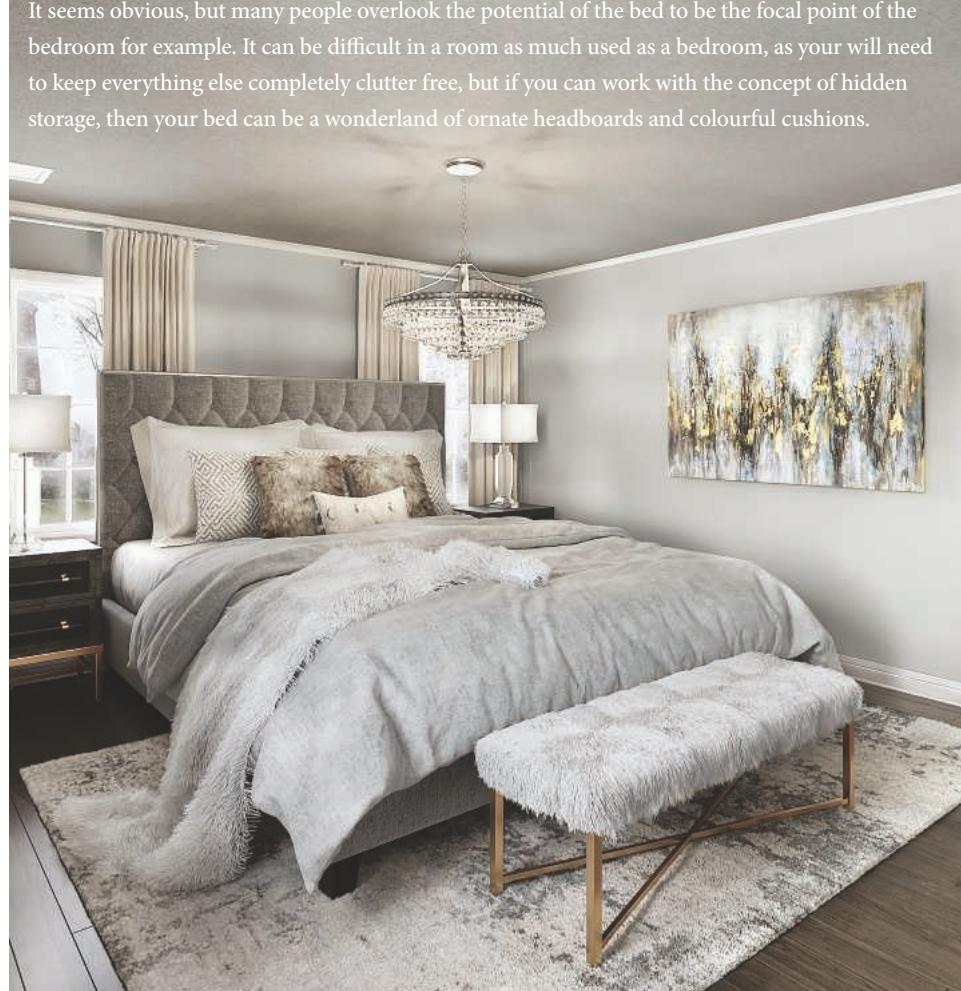
Even the wall itself can be the focal point, with a strong accent colour that stands out from the rest of the room.

FURNITURE AND DÉCOR

Of course you could choose to allow your walls to sink into the background and instead focus your attention on standing décor. Furniture can not only be a wonderful focal point, but also an extremely practical addition to a room.

In a living room you might choose to focus attention on a piece of statement lighting such as a chandelier, a cabinet or even TV stand, keeping mementos to a minimum. Or perhaps

It seems obvious, but many people overlook the potential of the bed to be the focal point of the bedroom for example. It can be difficult in a room as much used as a bedroom, as you will need to keep everything else completely clutter free, but if you can work with the concept of hidden storage, then your bed can be a wonderland of ornate headboards and colourful cushions.





Rug, weavergreen.com

FLOORING

Your focal point doesn't even have to be at eye level. Eye-catching flooring or a bold rug can be just as effective as art or furniture. The wonderful thing about a focal rug is that you could choose to have two or three and swap them out depending on the season, to create a whole new feel in your room.

your mementos are your focal point? And an illuminated glass cabinet is what you need to really show them off.

As well as art on your wall you can choose to place art on your floor. A larger than life sculpture or artwork may seem farfetched, but there's no better talking point. This is particularly true if your art has an interesting providence.

KITCHENS

Opt for a statement extractor, piece of lighting or bright cabinetry in a contrasting or dramatic colour to create a focal point in your kitchen.

When it comes to focal points, the opportunities are truly endless, so browse art galleries, antiques markets, homeware shops and even your friend's houses for inspiration – and let your imagination run wild.



Schmidt Kitchens, home-design.schmidt

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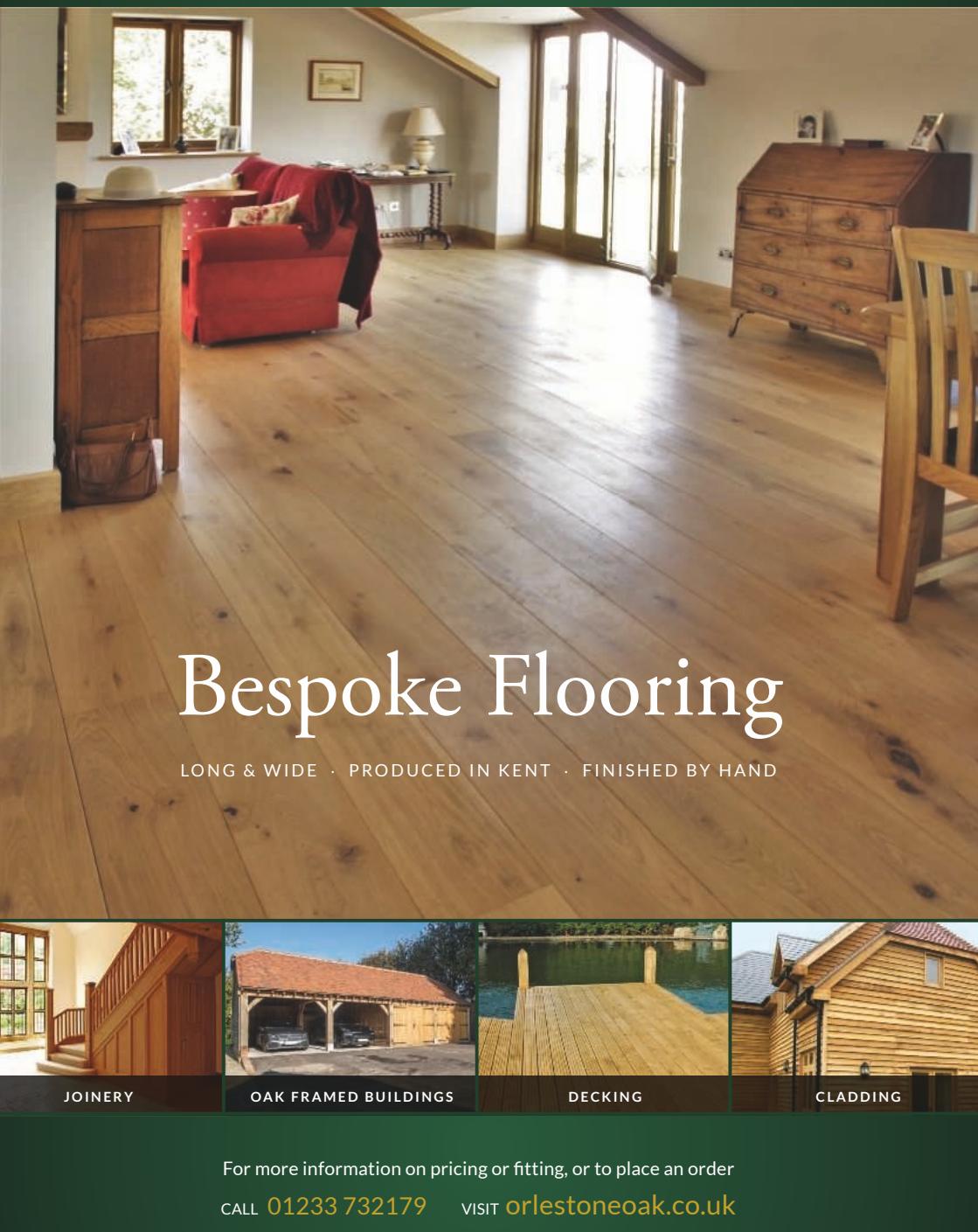


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CHOOSING A TUB for your period home

WHEN IT COMES TO FUNCTION, IT CAN BE SAID THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT ROOM IN THE HOUSE, AFTER THE KITCHEN, IS THE BATHROOM.



Mayfair freestanding roll top slipper bath, bathroommountain.co.uk

Unlike the living room and bedroom, for example, the bathroom cannot be entirely focused on décor, as it's vital that plumbing, heating and general usability are top-notch. This can of course be particularly important in period homes, where it's not enough to simply recreate the feel of the original – you also have to make room for all mod cons, including your tub!

In fact, depending on the age of your home, it may be that it never even had a bathroom to begin with, and so you find yourself trying to fit something into a room for which it was not originally intended.

VICTORIANA

Bathrooms were only introduced in the late 1800s and, even then, would only have been in large houses and not in Victorian terraces



Rimini cast iron bath, jwcpr.com

or older properties, which many period home owners now call their own.

Victorian bathrooms, when first introduced, tended to be fairly plain, with a pedestal sink, and a toilet with high level cistern. In terms of baths, your choices tended to consist of roll top, or panelled models.

The Victorians also favoured encasing exposed piping and fittings in wooden cladding, making the room less utilitarian and giving a more upmarket feel.

If you would like your bathroom to adhere to the Victorian aesthetic, then you will want to choose a bath that tends towards the minimal. A plain white roll top bath with ornate claw feet makes an incredible statement in an

otherwise minimalist bathroom and creates an incomparable sense of luxury.

However, that doesn't mean that you need to forego mod cons altogether. Even the latest Jacuzzi or spa tub can be made to fit your chosen aesthetic with some wooden panelling and, done right, will easily fool the casual observer into thinking that you've gone 'full period-style' in the smallest room.

COTTAGECORE

If you do want to keep the historical feel in your home, then the simpler the better, but who says the bathroom needs to stick to the rules?

For many people, the juxtaposition of period architecture with contemporary design can



Nickel bath, The Bathroom Shop, Tenterden, www.the-bathroomshop.com

be truly stunning. After all, if the Elizabethan builders of your home didn't have a bathroom, then who's to say how you should decorate your new addition.

In this case minimalism is still the byword for many modern styles, albeit with the introduction of stainless steel features and mood lighting.

However, perhaps your home lends itself more to cottagecore? Big news in the world of

interior design in recent years, cottagecore takes an aesthetic born of country living and uses it to create a rural idyll within your property.

Think Darling Buds of May, or a pared down Cath Kidston, and add floral motifs around an oversized bath to create a cosy feel.

Again, these tubs can feature all the jets, lights and even speakers you want without looking out of place, as the 'gubbins' tend to be fairly well-hidden.



www.redwoodstone.com

OUTDOOR LUXURY

Of course, your ideal bath might not be situated in the bathroom! Our ancestors certainly didn't have hot tubs or spas, but that doesn't mean that you can't. A well-designed hot tub from a reputable company can blend seamlessly into your garden or patio; you simply have to take care when designing it.

Surrounding your hot tub with stonework could make it look like an 18th century folly, or even a Roman spa! (OK, so your house isn't that old, but considering the Victorians' love of Antiquity, it's still entirely relevant).

Remember that hot tubs aren't just for entertaining: they can be extremely good for

conditions such as arthritis and muscular injuries, as well as myriad other health problems. However, you should speak to your supplier first as some people (pregnant women, for example) should avoid them. You should also be sure to purchase a good maintenance programme from the company you choose, as a poorly maintained hot tub can become a breeding ground for bacteria.

In modern tubs of course, risks are minimal, and the benefits are many. A hot tub in a period home can add value when it comes to sell and be a source of relaxation and luxury until that time.



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Mad about the Boys

WE LAST VISITED BOYS HALL IN THE SUMMER WHEN WE COVERED THE FIRST PART OF OUR STORY DOCUMENTING THE INITIAL STAGES OF THE DAUNTING TASK UNDERTAKEN BY THE NEW OWNERS, BRAD AND KRISTIE LOMAS AND KRISTIE'S PARENTS RICHARD AND RITA.

The journey to rebuild and renovate the run down 17th Century Jacobean Manor House on the outskirts of Ashford was a fascinating tale of discoveries, determination, hard graft and triumph, that are testament to the family's unwavering vision of creating an outstanding venue for fine dining with accommodation, that will restore this Grade II listed property to a useful role within the community, and that will put it on the map as a dining destination for locals and visitors from further afield.

When we left in the late summer, Boys

Hall was poised for the first part of a phased opening, starting with the new restaurant, which happened in the first week of September. What was previously the swimming pool area, was demolished and rebuilt to create the kitchen, bar and a light, airy and expansive dining area. The restaurant delivers a definite 'Wow' with a capital W. It has a vaulted ceiling with beams and skylights. Full height glazed walls and doors give delightful views of the gardens and terraces, providing the much sought after 'inside-outside' experience for diners to relax in and soak up the atmosphere.



There is such attention to detail, all the timber is sourced from local woodlands and has been milled and shaped on site by the carpenters and tradespeople who have worked on the project. It's well worth glancing up at the huge, beautifully crafted beams that have been authentically pegged together. Wherever you look it is sublime, the tasteful furniture that sits so well in the space, the giant handmade willow globe light shades suspended in the vaulted roof space, down to the lightest of touches, the living herbs in terracotta pots as centre-pieces on the dining tables. The overall feeling is a comfortable blend of luxurious modernity that tips its hat to the history of this beautiful old Wealden hall house.

At present they are open from Wednesdays to Sundays from 12 noon onwards and demand has been high. The team has had to hit the ground running under the expert guidance of Head Chef Robbie Lorraine, who joined the team in July. He has a great culinary reputation, having run his own restaurant in Brixton and has even appeared

on Master Chef the Professionals and the Great British Menu.

Robbie has designed an imaginative and inspiring menu of fresh local, seasonal produce, with ingenious dishes to delight the taste buds, like potted Langland farm duck, cider braised belly of pork, Kingcott blue cauliflower cheese and lobster doughnuts. The wine cellar is replete with a comprehensive list of Kentish and international wines to complement the superb cuisine on offer, so it comes as no surprise the restaurant has been busy from the word go, with many diners returning again and again. There are also two private dining rooms in the main part of the house that can be booked for parties and events, including special monthly six course tasting menus served up by Chef Robbie, with paired wines chosen by James MaClean, Master of Wine from local wine producers Chapledown. Some of the other events being held at Boys Hall, include floristry workshops and seasonal wreath making, with other events being added



throughout the coming year.

With the restaurant in full swing, Kristie and Brad are dividing their time between their demanding roles 'front of house' and the continuing refurbishment of the interior. The mammoth task of creating welcoming reception rooms on the ground floor is complete, and is a total transformation from when we last visited. Kristie who undoubtedly has a special flair for design has ingeniously sought out items from auctions that add a certain *je ne sais quoi* to bring the drawing room, bar, dining rooms and lounges to life. She has combined rich deep colours and luxurious textures to create a quirky décor, that she says matches the house and the owners' personalities. She has been aided by Kagu Interiors of Tenterden and also James and George Furniture, the results are magnificent;



rich reds evoke warmth and soothing cosiness, soft reassuring greens echo the relaxing gardens framed by the window views. It's a perfect blend of old and new, with plenty of nooks and crannies to snuggle up in to unwind with a snack or drink.

Talking of drink, the owners have opened a pub so anyone can pop in for a pint. It's another



inspired idea encouraging a casual and relaxed welcome for any ad hoc visitors that may fancy a chance to sit and enjoy the beautiful and historic setting. It's a charming space, full of characterful beams and re-purposed tables, high stools and even a rescued pew from nearby Brabourne church, it's a great way to introduce the new incarnation of Boys Hall to locals, who are now becoming regulars.

With the ground floor now looking spectacular the next phase of the opening is to finish the bedrooms on the upper floors for guests to stay in. Seven of the rooms will be available in mid January, bookings for these are opening soon, with a further three bedrooms ready for action in the spring. They range in size from intimate and cosy to large and spacious suites, all featuring drench showers, Hypnos beds, fine English linen and fluffy towels, along with all those luxurious additions to make you feel at home. like pampering toiletries, Roberts Radios and Wi-Fi, complimentary local beverages and delicious home-made treats from the kitchen.

Each room has its own style and unique character, with a blend of modern and classic furnishing, and delightfully they each have imaginative names linking them to the history of the place and locality instead of just room numbers. Favourites are difficult to choose, as they all sound fantastic. Here are just a few: Bishop's Quarter, De Bois, Sovereign and Knatchbull. There will be full descriptions of the rooms and explanations detailing the origins of the names on the website, so be sure to have a look at them if you're looking to book a stay.

In the spring Boys Hall will be opening its doors seven days a week once the final three bedrooms are finished. We wish Kristie and Brad, Rita and Richard and the whole team at beautiful Boys Hall every success in all their future endeavors, we can't imagine it being anything other than a glittering triumph.

Kristie had promised that her vision of Boys Hall reborn would be spectacular and she definitely hasn't disappointed.

To find out more visit boys-hall.com

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marksandspencer.com



Footstool, £495, loaf.com



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ellajames.co.uk



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lights4fun.co.uk

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therange.co.uk



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sassandbelle.co.uk



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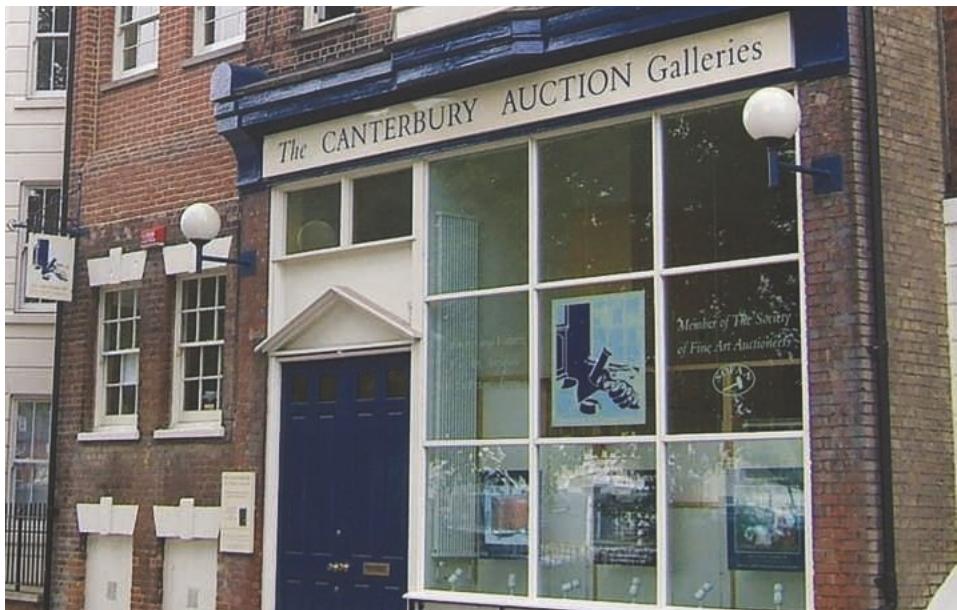
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The art of fossicking*

We all love hunting in brocante markets and antique shops. And just as much fun nowadays is scrolling through treasure on online auction websites. Here's why...



It's one of the pleasures of a trip away: discovering a little antique shop or market full of fascinating items and finding a perfect gift, wonderful curio (in my case, a quirky old ship in a bottle) or even a large investment piece of furniture or jewellery.

But why wait for a holiday to feel the pleasure of browsing through beautiful things and feeling the thrill of spotting the very vase, necklace, artwork, lamp – whatever! – that you know would be just perfect for you?

A whole world of treasure awaits online in the form of online antique auctions, bringing all the joy of hunting through brocante shops to

your computer screen. Just the thing to brighten up a dark winter's night.

Most of us know about eBay and how its auctions work but are put off by the sheer amount of scams, fakes and other pitfalls of dealing with individual sellers that you simply don't know.

In which case, online antiques auctions will be a relief. Because you're buying from auction houses for whom reputation and expertise is everything, these auctions are a lot more trustworthy. The items for sale will have been vetted by a specialist so you can bid with confidence.

* 1. To search for gold, especially in abandoned mines. 2. To rummage, especially for possible profit.



There are 'platforms' that host upcoming catalogues and live auctions from hundreds of auction houses around the UK: thesaleroom.com and easyliveauctions.com are two of the best known. Many auctioneers – usually the larger ones at the higher end of the market – have developed their own software for browsing and bidding on their dedicated websites.

Either way, many of us are aware that antiques auctions exist online but somehow feel they are for Lovejoy-like experts only, or for international clients to bid a few casual million for the latest Banksy.

Not so. Everything that you'd find in the real world – from a bric-a-brac market to a posh antique emporium – will be there, in all price ranges. Best of all, there are huge bargains to be had and you'll be bidding on a level playing field with dealers.

The real surge in online auctioneering came during Covid lockdowns, when fairs and traditional auctions had to shut down. The growth in interest carried on from there as more people became familiar with the easy process and now it's a global market, with buyers and sellers from anywhere in the world right there on your screen.

How does it work?

If you're me, you just while away a dreamy hour or two simply scrolling through fascinating catalogues, rich with gorgeous and unusual things! Put, say, 'baguette diamond' into the search field and away you go...

Items will come with an estimated value, but that IS only a guide – the price can go up or way down, unless there's a reserve on it. Auction houses will have viewing days where you can

go and see your lot in person (unless there's another Covid lockdown). But if that's not possible for you, auctioneers are happy to email you a more detailed condition report, such as measurements or more photos.

As soon as you find something you want to bid on, register in good time before the sale either with the auctioneer or on the platform.

There will be instructions on the easy process, or just give them a ring – you'll need to register a bank card. Decide whether you want to place a bid on the item (often called an 'autobid') as a starting point, but often it's worth waiting to see where bidding starts. Who knows, you could be the only person interested in that particular lot?

On sale day, gather your courage and log in to your account (reading the Ts & Cs carefully before you tick the box).

When the auction starts, a pop-up window



La danse aux boules – painted metal on a marble base by Maurice and Marcel Denis (Early 20th Century).

10 inches high. Sold for £600.

will show each lot as it comes up, live, and you'll be able to hear the auctioneer too. When your lot comes up, you'll be able to see bids coming in so be ready to bid quickly as the sale progresses. Your heart will be racing – the excitement is all part of the fun!

How much does it cost?

As we mentioned, read all the terms and conditions carefully as each auction house will differ. There are always fees that apply to the hammer price, such as 'commission' or 'buyer's premium' charges (as they would in a normal auction) or charges from the aggregator site if you're using one. Expect to pay anything between 10% and 30% in fees and VAT per successful bid.

Buying at an online antiques auction is fun, exciting and great for the bargain hunter, so start scrolling and see if you can track down some gold in them thar catalogues!



'My Face is My Fortune' was the title of this Cecil Aldin (1870-1935) Etching.

Treasure hunt

From investment jewellery to interior pieces and gifts, all these items were sold online recently by Canterbury Auction Galleries in Kent. See www.thecanterburyauctiongalleries.com for the next sale and bid live at thesaleroom.com or <http://thegalleries.live>.

Oranges and lemons alert! A gorgeous, yellow-flecked glass vase, 12ins high by Bertil Vallien (1938-2018) and a glass orange-flecked bowl for Swedish design shop, Kosta Boda. Sold for £100.



Honolulu, a delightful little daffodil jug by the always-adored Clarice Cliff, 3ins high. Sold for £160.



Plus... a 14 inch Carlton Ware 'Guinness' table lamp in the shape of a seal balancing a ball on its nose was full of quirky charm. Sold for £180.

Just gorgeous: An incredibly detailed and colourful Silver and Enamel Box from Stockwell & Co. London. Made in 1913, it measured just under 5ins in diameter. Sold for £1,900.



For fans of The Crown. A contemporary gold cluster ring set with delicious rubies and a centre solitaire diamond. Sold for £820.



Also... Both collectable and fabulous. A ladies' 18ct gold Rolex Oyster 'Datejust' wristwatch, with diamonds for numbers and sparkles round the bezel. Sold for £4,300.

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At Bagham Barn we love to hear what customers want to do with their purchases. One lady recently bought a lawyers bookcase to display her large collection of sunglasses: and a very smart little 1920's typewriter has taken pride of place on a staircase windowsil. A new restaurant now has a fabulous display of antique copper pans and culinary utensils completing their interesting décor. Antique mirrors sit

very well in modern interiors and the bigger the better for maximum impact, opening up small spaces and shedding light where needed. You just have to be sure that what you see in the mirror is an interesting reflection.

Make the most of what you already have by adding another shape or colour and experiment with moving furniture around. More lamps create ambience, throwing a soft glow on to a newly acquired picture, and a comfortable chair can make all the difference to an unused space. Most of us are creatures of habit, we like our comfort, we like to feel we have options, and the 20 traders at Bagham Barn are more than happy to help with choosing new pieces for your home or as gifts.



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With marketing that advertises antiques, retro, weird stuff and cool junk, you know that this is the place for one of a kind gifts that will be truly appreciated.

As well as homeware and furniture, the store offers myriad items for the garden, plus records,

books, military memorabilia and much, much more. It's open seven days a week with High Street parking and car parks within easy walking distance.

There are many plans going forward into 2023, one of which includes adding a tearoom.

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Marchand Antiques

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Husband and Wife team Mark and Jackie Lock set up Marchand Antiques in 1994, they started the business very small by 'running' antiques from the back of an old Volvo Estate, selling to established dealers with retail premises in London, Sussex and Kent. They soon developed a reputation for finding high quality, on trend antiques and the business began to expand very quickly.

With a growing demand, they decided to take a small space in Alfie's Antique Market in London's Church Street, NW8. Renowned as an antiques hub for local and international trade buyers, private clients and international interior designers. The business grew at such a pace, Mark and Jackie decided to take the plunge and open their own shop on Church Street where they continued to grow their brand and reputation, working with private clients, interior designers, hoteliers and a vast list of celebrity clientele including Musicians, A-list Hollywood stars, directors and producers to name a few.

In recent years Mark and Jackie noticed that their most regular clients were visiting the shop less and buying from their website: www.marchandantiques.co.uk and Instagram account: *marchand_antiques* and after trading on Church Street for 25 years, they decided to move the operation online, working from home in St Mary's Platt near Sevenoaks where they have lived for 15 years. Keeping it in the family, their daughter



Francesca joined the team looking after their website, social media and photography.

As well as selling online, Marchand Antiques organise private sales and viewings from their home in St Mary's Platt and for clients further afield they have large display spaces in Lorfords Antiques in Tetbury, Gloucestershire and Blanchard Collective in Marlborough, Wiltshire.

They have seen the Antiques market change considerably over the years with the earlier days involving endless travelling trips to buy stock from France, Belgium, Italy, Sweden and Spain but with the internet growing and confidence



with online buying, their trips became more infrequent, and they began to purchase more online from their trusted dealers across Europe with whom they had built a long-term trading relationship. This allowed them more time to focus on restorations and build relationships with dealers in the UK who have now become the main source of their stock.

Over the three decades they have been

trading, Mark and Jackie have noticed a considerable change in Antique trends and tastes. In the early days, the fashion was quite fixed with the traditional country house look of Brown wood furniture, pottery and artworks along with French style Louis XV and Louis XVI furniture being the driving trends. This was followed by the French 1940's and mid-century designs and then fashion took a turn to the industrial style furniture which was very much suited to the Loft apartment style. In recent years style swiftly turned to the 1970s designs which led to vintage offerings from the later decades of the 20th century.

Things are now changing once again and no particular style seems to be dominating the Antiques trade, interior designers for both private homes and commercial hotels, restaurants and showrooms are going more for a mixed environment using quality pieces from all of the styles and periods giving a more evolved look rather than one genre.

Marchand are happy to source pieces personally for clients and consider buying items they may no longer require.

**For more information contact Mark
07889 540789; marchandantiques@gmail.com**



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- Fix brush seal strips to sides. For draughty sash windows measure the bottom of the lower sash and mark the measurement on brush strip. Saw to size with a fine-toothed hacksaw. Smooth the cut end, apply wood glue and pin into place. Secure each end. If the beading on the frame is too narrow to accept the strips, pin them to the sash instead. To provide clearance for the bottom sash to move freely past the top sash, you may need to chisel out a section from the top bar of the bottom sash.
- Knocking in small pins can be fiddly – try holding them in the teeth of a comb. To avoid splitting the wood when attaching to beading, blunt the pin end. Hold each pin upside on a solid surface and tap the point with a hammer.
- Apply a coat of primer before painting with at least two coats.
- Gaps between the walls and frames of windows can let in draughts as well as allow rain to penetrate and harbour mould. On a dry day, fill the gap with flexible decorator's caulk. Wait until partially set and smooth with the end of a pencil dipped in water.



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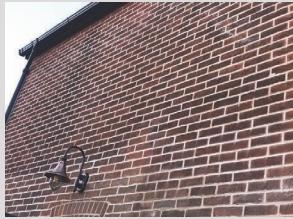
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ABOUT US

Prestige Brickwork is a Canterbury based restoration company that specialises in the conservation of period properties throughout Kent. We offer all types of expert brickwork repairs and repointing. We are specialists in working with lime mortar.

All of our staff members are fully committed to providing you with a stress free service. Our tradesmen are professional and are experts in bringing the beauty of your home back to life.



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ROLLING BACK *the years...*

PRESTIGE BRICKWORKS' REMARKABLE RESTORATIONS

We meet a Kent based building conservation company, whose work is breathing new life into tired old properties, but they don't just repair, renovate and make them structurally sound again, with a lot of meticulous care and attention, they turn back the clock and make your house smile again.

Nowadays we have come to recognise the importance of re-using, recycling and restoring the things around us, and in recent years we've highlighted many businesses that have found their niche by thinking outside the box and grasping the opportunity to restore products and reintroduce them to the market place, and by doing so they have developed a useful and lucrative business. Just a couple of examples are the Antique Flooring Company, they salvage flooring from period properties that are due to be demolished, so this can live on in other development projects. Or the Old Door Restorer, who rescues discarded doors from skips and waste tips and who lovingly reconditions them so they can be used again.

The theme of restoring items to lengthen their lifecycle fits in well with the company we want to tell you about here. Prestige Brickwork may sound like many other building companies, it's a family business, run by Sam Webster, based in Canterbury. With nearly two decades

experience in the building trade, Sam started his own company Prestige Brickwork four years ago. They specialise in the conservation of period properties and have worked on heritage sites and historic buildings throughout the South East. These include architectural styles from Tudor, Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian, right through to the very latest, more modern lime built buildings of the 20th and now the 21st Century.



Sam and his talented team offer all types of brickwork repairs and repointing, brick and stone replacement, structural crack repairs, general property maintenance and they are specialists in working with lime, which as we all know these days is an absolute must if you are in the business of building conservation. The benefits of using lime are that it is better for the environment, as it is less polluting than other materials like concrete, and most importantly lime is the traditional material used for centuries which allows the building to breathe, aids drainage, so it stops damp building up and damaging the structure. Sam describes it as 'natural damp-proofing'.

This beautiful old property in Bridge near Canterbury, is a superb example of how lime repointing brings period brickwork back to life.

Top marks to Sam and his team, however what is also impressive are the amazing transformations that Prestige Brickworks achieve on the buildings they work on. They carry out restorations by repointing and replacing bricks or stone when required. This careful remedial work is accompanied by the clever and ingenious use of steam cleaning, which delivers some outstanding results.

Here are some of their recent projects with before and after photos that show the terrific transformations the Prestige Brickwork Team have achieved, with Sam's descriptions of the work undertaken.



Chimneybreast and fireplace

Unfortunately when we got to this fireplace and chimneybreast it had seen better days. Some repairs had been attempted using a red render and it didn't look great. We started by rectifying and replacing the necessary brickwork. Then properly raked out the mortar beds to a better depth before giving the bricks a gentle but thorough clean. Finally a traditional lime mortar was used for pointing.



Rag Stone house

This dressed rag stone building in Sandgate was definitely in need of repairs. Unfortunately, as is very common, there had been some unsympathetic cement repairs and pointing works previously attempted. We removed all the pointing and washed the building down. A soft breathable lime was then put back in. We added some crushed seashells to the mortar

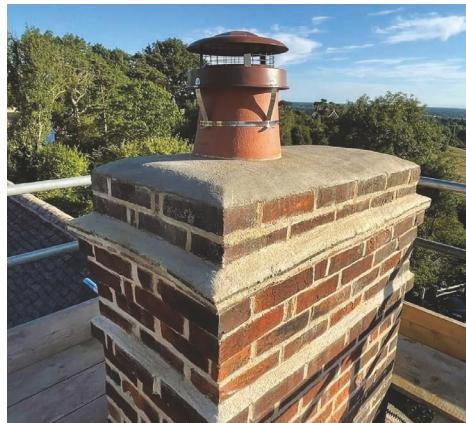
mix. As well as looking great and being in the original mortar, the seashells further prevents cracking as the mortar dries. We replaced any damaged stones, which were sourced locally and a perfect match. A mason recommended by us came in afterwards and repaired the stonework around the windows. The finished property looks great and maintained like this will now be good for many years to come. (See next page for photos)



Chimney, Pluckley

This chimney in Pluckley was open to the elements, had loose brickwork in several places and was in need of some repointing. The top few courses of brickwork were taken down and re-laid with a lime mortar. Mortar was raked out to a good 20/25mm before excess dust was washed away and repointed in lime. The

unused chimney was capped off with slate to keep the weather out - luckily an air brick was already present for ventilation. A new terracotta pot was added to the used chimney. A durable cement cap was added with a curve for water to run away. Finally a bird cowl was added – suitable for solid fuel as there is an open fire below.



Property in Ashford



This property in Ashford has been steam cleaned to remove years of plant matter and grime. Then once cleaned we removed all of the mortar and repointed. This property was built using lime mortar so we have put a traditional lime mortar back in to allow it all to breathe.



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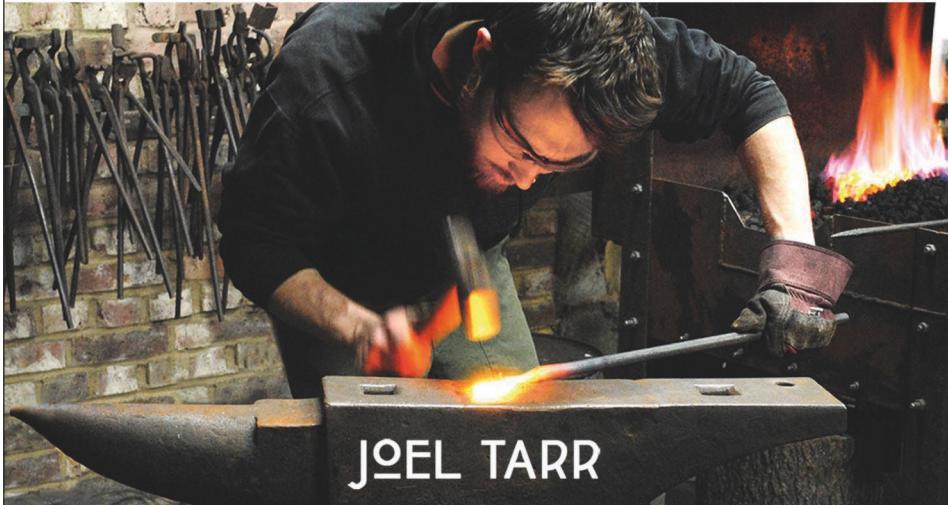
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Wilkinson's Barn, Pluckley

Located in a tucked away, tranquil position in the heart of the Kent countryside, this beautiful unlisted 4-bedroom thatched barn is everything you could wish for in a truly rural retreat, and yet is within easy reach of the sought-after village of Pluckley and just a walk to the mainline station.

Originally a cart barn, this stunning and most unique building has undergone an incredibly sympathetic refurbishment by the

current owners, which has resulted in a very special home where there is a wonderful blend of period charm and modern living and a “wow” round every corner.

In addition, this property boasts: beautiful gardens that surround the house which are totally in keeping with the feel of the property; a newly built cart style double garage with electric roller doors; a driveway providing off-street parking, and access to some of the



most picturesque countryside the Weald has to offer. The towns of Tenterden and Ashford are 8 miles distant.

High speed link to St Pancras from Ashford
A gated access leads onto a gravel driveway where there is a good amounts of off-street

parking. The oak framed cart style double garage is situated at the start of the drive and has power and light connected, remote controlled electric roller doors and a part-boarded storage area to the roof. NB: There is an electric charging point for all Type 2 cars.



The barn itself is surrounded by beautiful gardens which are completely in keeping with the character of the property. A south facing decked patio at the back of the house is a sunny place to sit and relax. Mature beech hedges make this already tranquil spot incredibly private and being at the end of a no-through lane, there are few passers-by to disturb the peace.

Wilkinson's Barn is situated in a very quiet, secluded setting towards the end of a no-through country lane on the edge of the historic village of Pluckley. The village itself offers local amenities including the well-known Black Horse public house, a butcher's shop, general store, post office, ancient church, primary school, village hall and recreation ground.

Pluckley mainline station is only a short walk away, as is the Dering Arms public house. The Cinque Port town of Tenterden and market town of Ashford are close by, both offering a comprehensive range of shopping, health and

leisure facilities. There is a wide selection of schools in the area in both the state and private sector, and the property comes within the catchment for the local Grammar schools.

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The details

Stunning detached unlisted period thatched property | Deceptively spacious 4 bedroom / 3 bathroom accommodation | Fully refurbished to exacting standards throughout | Beautiful gardens surrounding the house with countryside views | Cart style double garage with driveway parking | Short walk to Pluckley main line station and local pub

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PANETTONE TRIFLES

Recipe by Rachel Phipps for Macknade

Preparation time: 15 minutes, plus 4-hour chilling time

Pairing cherries steeped in kirsch with a tangy, slightly sweetened whipped cream and pillow-y slices of Macknade's signature panettone, this dessert is perfect to make ahead for the festive season... or to use up any leftovers in the new year.

You can use any preserved fruit (there are no steadfast rules!), but the panettone is essential to adding the extra flavours from the candied peel and dried fruit that take these trifles to the next level. We've dispensed with exact measurements as every glass or serving dish is different, but use the 'per serving' measurements as a general guide.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 jar of Wooden Spoon preserved cherries in kirsch
- 1 500g Macknade panettone
- 100ml double cream, per serving
- $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp icing sugar, per serving
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tbsp natural yogurt, per serving (we used our Ottie's yoghurt dispenser!)
- A handful of chopped pistachios, per serving

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Spoon about 6 cherries per serving in the bottom of your serving dishes.
- Slice the panettone, and tear pieces to cover the cherries, making sure to keep the crusts away from the edges for best visual effect.
- Spoon enough of the kirsch from the cherry jar over the trifle to just soak the panettone layer, and top with another 6 or so cherries. Cover and chill for at least 4 hours, but preferably overnight.
- Add the icing sugar to the double cream and whip until the cream is just a little looser than you'd want to top the trifle. Add the yogurt and carefully fold it into the cream with a metal spoon or spatula. Be careful not to over mix it, because the yogurt will thicken the cream.
- Spoon the cream over the top of the trifles and finish each with a scattering of chopped pistachios.

You can order your panettone at macknade.com or pick up all your ingredients from Macknade's Flagship Food Hall in Faversham.

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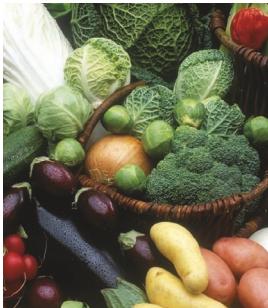
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My favourite way to eat these is with dollops of salsa verde on top or stirred through. Like this I'll happily eat a bowl of them on their own or as a side to roast chicken or fish. Otherwise, try piling them onto toast, adding to chunky soups with veggies and/or pasta, mashing them with more oil to top crostini.

STAGIONI

Contemporary Italian cooking to celebrate the seasons

Stagioni, meaning ‘seasons’ in Italian, will take you on a journey through the culinary year with recipes for every craving and occasion. Chef and food writer Olivia Cavalli brings together traditional recipes and contemporary creations with an enthusiastic aim to put the best produce of each moment centre stage.

**SERVES
4-6**

YOU WILL NEED

2 fat garlic cloves
240ml/8fl oz extra virgin olive oil, plus more for serving
2-3 large tomatoes
Handful of sage leaves, 2 sprigs of rosemary or both
1kg/2lb 4oz fresh borlotti beans in their pods (approx. 500-550g/1½lb raw podded beans) or approx. 300g/10½oz dried beans (soaked overnight)
Fine salt
Salsa Verde
20g/¾oz parsley, large handful of rocket, basil or mint leaves
3 anchovies in oil
1-2 tsp capers (optional)
about 4 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
1½ tbsp red wine vinegar
Fine salt (optional)

BRAISED BORLOTTI WITH SALSA VERDE

METHOD

Bash the garlic cloves with the side of a knife and peel off the skin. Keeping them whole, put in a medium pan with the oil and heat on a medium flame for 5-8 minutes until very lightly golden and fragrant. Dice the tomatoes up roughly and add to the pan. Tear the sage leaves roughly and add them too, then stir and cook for a further 5 minutes.

Add the borlotti beans, then pour enough water in to just cover them. Bring to the boil then immediately reduce to a medium simmer and leave to cook, uncovered, for 75-90 minutes, topping up with water whenever needed so the beans are always just covered. The time varies depending on the freshness of the beans (dried tend to need longer) so just keep tasting them. They should be lovely and soft but retaining their shape with a few bursting from their skins, on the edge of mushy.

At the end of cooking time, the water and oil should have thickened and become saucy. Season with around 1 tsp of salt, or to taste, and stir through a glug of extra virgin olive oil before serving with salsa verde.

SALSA VERDE

Remove any coarse stalks from the parsley. Place the parsley, rocket or herbs on a chopping board and use a sharp knife to chop very finely. Put the anchovies on top and chop until well-blended, then repeat with the capers, if using. Transfer to a bowl and whisk in the oil and vinegar. Taste, adding a touch of salt or a little more vinegar, if desired. It should be a thick-ish but drizzle-able sauce.

SERVES
4-6

MUSHROOM FRITTATA

YOU WILL NEED

Approx. 300g/10½oz mixed mushrooms (cleaned, trimmed and cut into 3mm slices)

2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil

1 small garlic clove, grated or minced very finely

1 tbsp finely chopped parsley

6 eggs

Approx. 70g/2½oz Parmesan, finely grated

2 heaped tbsp butter

Fine salt

METHOD

Use a large frying pan that's suitable for using under the grill and set it over a high heat. Make sure the pan is big enough so that the mushrooms can lie in one layer or spread them across two pans.

Throw the mushrooms in when the pan is hot, add a good pinch of salt and leave to cook for around 3-4 minutes without touching – this helps them to colour and release their juices. When you see them turning golden, reduce the heat to medium and continue cooking for another 3-4 minutes, stirring continuously, until the pan looks quite dry.

Add the oil, garlic and parsley and cook for another minute, stirring continuously until the garlic is fragrant, being careful not to let it burn. Remove from the heat and set aside.

Preheat your grill to medium. Whisk the eggs thoroughly in a bowl and season well with salt. Add the prepared mushrooms and Parmesan and whisk to combine.

Melt the butter in a pan over a medium-low heat. When it begins to foam, tip the eggs in, swirling the pan gently. Turn the heat down to low and cook for around 5 minutes, until the bottom has set. Put the pan under the grill for 2-3 minutes until the top has just set. Remove from the heat, slide onto a plate and serve.



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Closing date: Friday 24th February

Extracted from: Stagioni: Contemporary Italian Cooking to Celebrate the Seasons by Olivia Cavalli (Pavilion, HarperCollins Publishers). Image credit - by Sophie Davidson



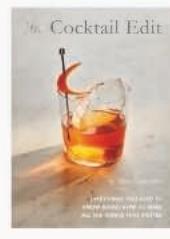
Frying mushrooms in a dry pan might sound odd but it's a reliable way to avoid that slimy texture that often puts people off. Mixing a few varieties of mushrooms will give the best flavour and if you can find fresh porcini and don't mind paying a bit more, you'll thank yourself later.

COCKTAIL HOUR

There are thousands, if not millions, of cocktails in the world, with all sorts of flavours and names. But most of them are really, in essence, just twists on a handful of classic drinks.

The Cocktail Edit is built around the 12 classics I make the most, the Martini, the Negroni, the Manhattan and so on – the drinks you'll most certainly know. Each chapter encompasses one of these, as well as six variations on the theme; some of them are related classics, some are contemporary, a few are recipes by me.

Alice Lascelles



WIN A COPY OF THE COCKTAIL EDIT

For your chance to win a copy of *The Cocktail Edit*, please email your name, address and telephone number to:
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Extracted from: *The Cocktail Edit* by Alice Lascelles (Quadrille).

Photography: Laura Edwards

WHITE NEGRONI

If you like the taste of Campari, the French gentian liqueur Suze will almost certainly be up your street. It has less of the smoky-sweet/rhubarb notes, and more parched herbs and citrus peel. But its texture and bittersweetness are of the same intensity. A fun substitute for Campari, not just for the taste, but for the golden colour, too.

25ml gin

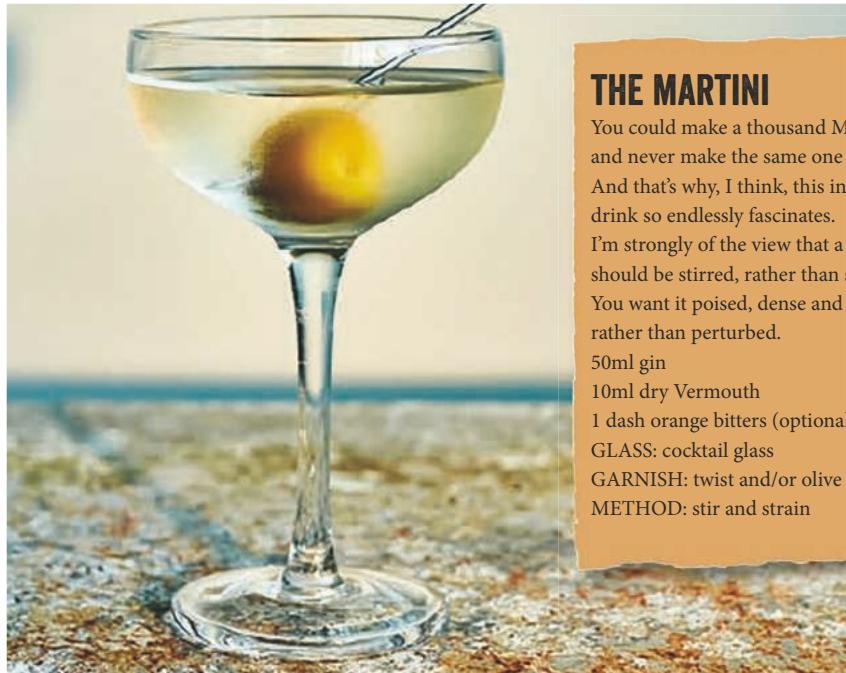
25ml Suze

25ml Cocchi Americano

GLASS: rocks

GARNISH: grapefruit twist

METHOD: stir on ice



THE MARTINI

You could make a thousand Martinis and never make the same one twice.

And that's why, I think, this incremental drink so endlessly fascinates.

I'm strongly of the view that a Martini should be stirred, rather than shaken.

You want it poised, dense and silky, rather than perturbed.

50ml gin

10ml dry Vermouth

1 dash orange bitters (optional)

GLASS: cocktail glass

GARNISH: twist and/or olive

METHOD: stir and strain



Cosy nights ON TAP

TUCKED AWAY IN BUSTLING HEADCORN HIGH STREET IS THE INCREDIBLE TAP 17 MICRO BAR OWNED BY KELLI AND PAUL AND TWO OTHER LOCALS.

It hasn't been there long – it opened its doors for the first time in May 2021 and, quite honestly, it's never looked back. It went from strength to strength with locals flocking in as well as people from further afield to enjoy the lively, but cosy atmosphere.

This isn't just another bar, it's not even just another pub, or just a place where you can relax with a drink or two and listen to a wide range of music – it's much more than that.

The size of the place is tiny – minute in fact – seating downstairs is probably limited to about 15 people, but this makes the cosiness and

incredibly friendly atmosphere more appealing. When you enter, it seems as if everyone knows everyone and it's like being with one big group – so if you go alone or with others you are sure to leave with more friends than when you started!

There are seats in the garden, which in the warm weather was lovely, but for the now cooler days and evenings there is an upstairs seating area decorated in a rustic, homely style so you can almost feel you are in your own home.

Paul's dream to open a bar that sold craft beer was at the heart of the venture and in 2021 that opportunity came when the premises at 17 High Street became available. They sell a wide range of craft beers of various strengths, with styles ranging from pale to dark and flavours such as Rhubarb Streisand and Five Dollar

Shake – a music theme being very much part of the underlying ethos of this place – and also six different draught beers.

But they sell some excellent wines as well: supporting our English wine heritage they stock a selection of Chapel Down including the excellent Bacchus, but also the increasingly popular Picpoul from the Languedoc region of France, as well as an Australian Chardonnay which is lovely – not too oaked but lots of flavour as well as a Sauvignon Blanc – and a New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc. On the reds they currently sell a Tempranillo from Spain, an Argentinian Malbec, a Shiraz and that ever-popular Portuguese favourite Porta 6. You'll be pleased to know that the prices are reasonable too – with something for everyone!

If you are feeling a little peckish, Tap 17 offers a range of cold tapas, but there is also an arrangement with local pop-up food wagons – one of which called Bun Buddy sells gourmet burgers – and they hope to develop connections with more local pop-up suppliers. This is different – enjoy a drink or two – pop



outside for a burger, bring it inside, and continue to enjoy your evening with friends. Wednesday nights and Saturday afternoons are the times for live music. There is not really any single style – Kelli calls it eclectic, from jazz to folk to favourite pop and rock songs – again something for everyone. As well as regular music they are putting on a range of events such as Monday quiz nights, cocktail nights, cheese and wine tastings, general wine tastings and there will be a Christmas market and carols with mulled wine and mince pies – never a dull moment! It's definitely worth a visit before the end of the year.

Opening times:

Monday to Thursday 12 noon – 10pm

Friday and Saturday 12 noon – 11pm

Sunday 12 noon – 7pm

For the latest events or to book a table please call Tap 17 on 01622 891429, see their Facebook page, or email info@tap17.co.uk

Rowena Hawtin (DIPWSET) has been involved in wine for over 30 years and runs regular wine tastings in Kent both face-to-face and online.

Please see this website for the latest events: www.discoverthevine.co.uk



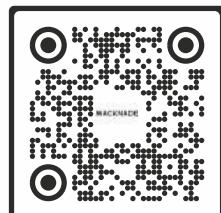
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OPENING HOURS

Open Daily 10am to 4pm
Closed all day Tuesday.

- We serve breakfast and lunch.
- Seasonal specials are available alongside our full set menu.
- We are fully licensed with an extensive wine list.
- We also serve delicious Afternoon Tea (pre-booking essential)
- Our new Sky room is open and available to dine in with your furry friends.
- Doggy bar available.
- Quiz nights return from February.

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