

# CONSERVATION NEWS

West Kent & The Weald

Autumn 2024 • Complimentary

**ADD VALUE**  
to your period home

**GORGEIOUS  
GEORGIAN**

# Ashford & Cranbrook Roofing<sup>TM</sup>

— *Experts in heritage roofing* —



[www.cranbrookroofing.co.uk](http://www.cranbrookroofing.co.uk)



**Tel: 01580 242925**



# WELCOME

AUTUMN 2024



wayfair.com



light4fun.co.uk

Owning a period home is its own reward: a beautiful space that feels uniquely your own, but also ties you into the rich and varied history of this amazing part of the world. I don't know about you, but I think autumn is when period homes really come into their own: with full of rich, autumnal colours, and vintage fireplaces creating a cosy retreat, there really is no better time to make the most of your surroundings.

In this edition of Conservation News, we've got lots of articles to help you get the best out of your home, from making that cosy fireplace really shine, and nailing your aesthetic with antiques, to adding value to the property that will maximise your investment should the time come for you to move on.

All this plus our usual array of gardening tips, local news and the very best of Kent's business community, and we've got you well and truly sorted as we see out the year!

## *Dawn and Nadene*

*Competition winners from our summer issue:*

*Wine Tour – Nigel Clift from Faversham & Jenny Ryder, Bearstead.*

*Book – Michelle Diedo, Tenterden*



## CONSERVATION NEWS

conservationnews.co.uk

*Publisher*  
Conservation News

*Contributors*  
Susan Hubbard  
Liz Norton  
Louise Tomlin  
Rowena Hawtin

Cover:  
lights4fun.co.uk

*Design*  
Lynn @ Dandelion Design

*Editor*  
Dawn Long  
*Sales Manager*  
Nadene Weed  
Tel: 07515 157795  
nadene@conservationnews.co.uk



© Conservation News 2024

If you receive your copy of Conservation News by Royal Mail and wish to opt out, please send an email to  
dawn@conservationnews.co.uk

All rights reserved.  
Reproduction of any part of this magazine is not permitted without written permission of the publisher.  
The publisher accepts no responsibility of any loss or damage in respect of any product or service that may be advertised.



# FAIRFAX GALLERY



David Atkins 'Towards Evening, Camber' Oil on Canvas 80 x 110cm £7250



Paul Smith 'Bluebells' Oil on Canvas 114 x 79cm £6800

Over 100 original contemporary paintings and sculpture by established, award-winning and emerging artists.

23 The Pantiles, (Lower Walk), Royal Tunbridge Wells  
[www.fairfaxgallery.com](http://www.fairfaxgallery.com) (Est. 1995) Tel: 01892 525 525





# AUTUMN 2024 Contents



- 8 **Autumn gardening**  
What to do in the garden now
- 14 **Ornamental grasses**  
A brilliant alternative to shrubs
- 23 **Timeless harmony**  
How to mix antiques with contemporary pieces
- 30 **A brief history of...**  
The butler sink
- 35 **The history of...**  
the not so humble hallway
- 43 **Add value to your period property**  
The key areas worth investing in
- 52 **Displaying autumn rust!**  
Bringing the outside in
- 60 **The role of fireplaces in the period home**  
A focal point with functional value
- 71 **Glorious Georgian**  
A look at Georgian architecture and interiors
- 82 **Autumn recipes**  
Two recipes from The Good Farm Cookbook
- 88 **Farmers' markets**  
Shop fresh & local this autumn
- 93 **Rowena's wine column**  
Chardonnay: one of the most versatile grapes



# THE PATIO WAREHOUSE



UNIT 3, ASHMILL BUSINESS PARK, ASHFORD RD, LENHAM, ME17 2GQ. TEL: 01622 231399  
 W. [WWW.THEPATIOWAREHOUSE.CO.UK](http://WWW.THEPATIOWAREHOUSE.CO.UK) E. [INFO@THEPATIOWAREHOUSE.CO.UK](mailto:INFO@THEPATIOWAREHOUSE.CO.UK) F. [INTHEPATIOWAREHOUSE](https://www.thepatiowarehouse.co.uk)  
**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND TRADE 7 DAYS A WEEK**

## OUTDOOR LIVING LENHAM

OPEN 7 DAYS



### PERGOLA **SALE** UP TO £1000 OFF PERGOLAS

Pergolas, Gazebos, Garden Buildings | Garden Furniture to include Dining Sets,  
 Lounge Sets, Benches, Bistro Sets, Garden Kitchens, BBQ's, Fire Pits,  
 Outdoor Mirrors, Ornaments, Pots and so much more!

Unit 2, Ashmill Business Park, Ashford Road, Lenham ME17 2GQ [info@outdoorlivinglenham.co.uk](mailto:info@outdoorlivinglenham.co.uk)  
[www.outdoorlivinglenham.co.uk](http://www.outdoorlivinglenham.co.uk) 01622 231399





**We provide top quality landscaping and gardening services in Kent, with our customers always returning due to our friendly, reliable and professional approach**



Garden & landscape design • Full maintenance service • All fencing (supply & install) • Decking & Pergolas  
Hedge trimming & pruning • Garden & lawn care • Driveways, patios & retaining walls  
Garden, scrub & woodland clearance • Pond & lake construction • Bespoke garden structures  
24 hour reactive service for downed fences & trees

01622 232550 • [info@pearsonslandscapes.co.uk](mailto:info@pearsonslandscapes.co.uk) • [pearsonslandscapes.co.uk](http://pearsonslandscapes.co.uk)



Beautiful, bespoke-designed, fully finished rooms with the highest quality features, including underfloor heating for year round use.  
Superb value, expertise and friendly service ensure complete satisfaction.

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

07966 680812

[garry@curvegardenrooms.com](mailto:garry@curvegardenrooms.com)



## Grill power

Hosting a barbeque is a great excuse to chill out on a golden autumn afternoon. And if you want to take your alfresco cooking to the next level, you'll be hard pushed to find a better way to do it than with a Kamado Joe, Classic Joe. Crafted to bring ease and sophistication to charcoal grilling. With innovative features made to create a seamless culinary experience, Kamado Joe Classic is ready for any cook.

**Visit [northbarbeque.co.uk](http://northbarbeque.co.uk) for more information. Prices start from £899.**



## FRESHLY MINTED

If you enjoy fresh mint why not pot some up to grow indoors over autumn/winter. Simply lift and divide a clump and plant the resulting sections in pots, trimming the stems down to a height of 10-15cm. Set your pots on a sunny windowsill, and instead of going dormant your mint plants will carry on producing leaves for several months.

# GARDEN NOTES

The days may be shorter, but autumn is still full of colour. Look out for bright stems, glossy berries and colourful foliage. Now is the time to keep busy with jobs that remind us of the spring to come, such as planting tulip bulbs or bare-root shrubs and trees. It's also a good time to tidy up and put the garden to bed for winter.



## AUTUMN SUNDAYS

Hole Park Gardens are renowned for their beauty all year round including spectacular autumn colour. Throughout October visitors can enjoy the gardens on Sundays in addition to normal opening days which are Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The magnificent mature trees and Japanese Maples provide striking autumn colour around the 16 acre gardens and 10 acre woodland. Visitors can take the pretty circular walk past a delightful carved wooden sculpture of a family of bears climbing a tree to reach a honey pot and also the renovated 'Ice House' which was built in around 1740 to store ice long before the days of refrigeration. When the ice was cut and stacked it would last for up to three years in this cool environment!

**For more information visit:**  
**[holepark.com](http://holepark.com)**



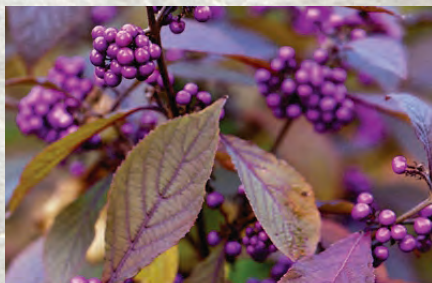


## What to plant now

Sow a row of broad beans for an early harvest next year. Choose one of the autumn varieties, which can withstand low winter temperatures. They'll germinate in a few weeks and the pods will be ready for picking a good two to three weeks earlier than the February-sown varieties next summer. Put in supporting canes and string as the crop emerges. Water immediately after sowing, but after that, only water if it's very dry. Get your broad bean recipes ready for the first pickings in May.

## Four star plants for autumn

1. **Smoke bush** – at this time of year *Cotinus coggygia* sets borders alight with striking autumn colour.
2. **Beauty berry** – *Callicarpa* is the perfect autumn shrub, with bright berries and foliage.
3. ***Miscanthus nepalensis*** – this architectural grass keeps its flowerheads well into autumn.
4. **Guernsey lily** – plant *Nerine sariensis* in spring for bright autumn flowers.



## What to do in the garden now

- Repair worn out lawn patches.
- Remove dead plant material from ponds to keep the water fresh.
- Trim hedges to get them ready for next spring's growth.
- Plant perennials now so they can establish their roots before winter.
- Remove diseased leaves from roses.
- Keep watering autumn pots.
- Cut back lavender.
- Deadhead dahlias.
- Tidy up evergreen ferns by removing old fronds to improve the winter display.

## Collect and store pumpkins

Cut pumpkins and bring them indoors before the frosts. Keep a long stalk or part of the stem on the top of each fruit. Pick them up from underneath to avoid damaging the stalk, where rot can start from. The skins should have hardened by now, but keep them for a few days in a windowsill or greenhouse bench. They'll store for months in a cool, unheated room with good ventilation and no humidity.



# ETHICAL, RELIABLE AND HUMANE

Established in 2013, Sabre Kent Ltd is a small, family-run pest control company based in Maidstone, with more than 60 years of combined experience in the industry.



What makes Sabre Kent Ltd unique is that they offer a superior level of service with their own eradication guarantee for any of the following infestations:

- Rodent control (including rats and mice).
- Bird control (such as pigeons and seagulls).
- Insect control (wasps, ants and fleas).
- Fox control (for town and country properties).

The Sabre team provides domestic and commercial clients in the Kent and London areas with working solutions for all common pest issues. Methods range from humanely dispatching animals as part of their rodent control and fox pest control services, to ridding home of bed bugs and cockroaches or fitting roofs with state-of-the-art bio-acoustic systems through their insect control and bird control services.

SABRE KENT LTD UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF DELIVERING SUCCESSFUL SOLUTIONS THAT ELIMINATE INFESTATIONS AND STOP THE SPREAD OF DISEASE.







### Company services

- They offer same-day services to domestic and commercial clients (subject to availability of a designated officer).
- No-obligation estimates for rodent control, bird control, insect control and fox pest control at competitive prices.
- Fully insured.
- Adheres to Industry Codes of Best Practice.

Sabre Kent Ltd understand the importance of delivering successful solutions that eliminate infestations and stop the spread of disease. This includes protecting homeowners, commercial clients and the public, and restaurants and schools in their wide trading area.

They work as humanely as possible when removing pests from properties by adhering to current BCPA (British Pest Control Association) regulations. The focus being on the safety of their clients. Their expert team also provides advice on good wildlife management for customers gardens. Not only do they successfully eradicate unwanted pests, they can also help clients in the Maidstone area to create safe havens for native wildlife.

**Call 01622 470077 or 07919 262797 for more information, or visit [www.sabrekent.co.uk](http://www.sabrekent.co.uk).**



**GREEN  
CANVAS  
&  
CO**

TELEPHONE NUMBER  
**07515 663 407**

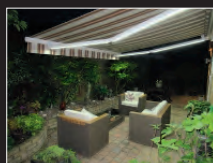
EMAIL ADDRESS  
**lovegreencanvas@gmail.com**

**25 years of experience in:**  
Groundwork . Garden Design . Landscaping  
All works undertaken and free estimates given

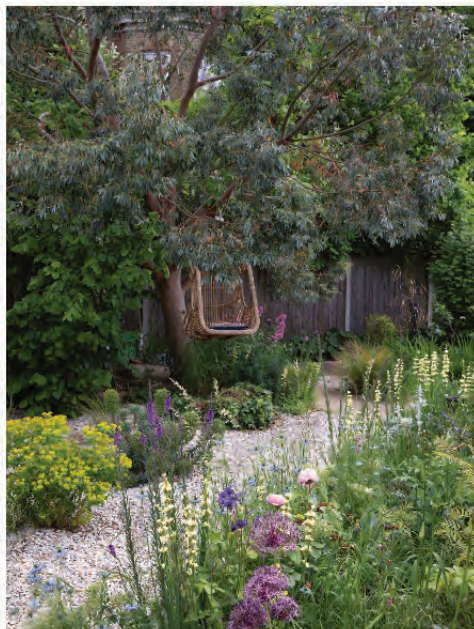
*Enhance your outdoor living space*



Verandas • Glass Rooms • Awnings • Pergolas  
Carports • Solar Garage Doors & Shutters



SBI Ltd 0800 0742 721 sbiproducts.co.uk



**THE GARDEN  
CREATIVE**

GARDENS FOR PEOPLE & WILDLIFE by Sarah  
thegardencreative.com @thegardencreate



07725055701





Outdoor Kitchens | Premium BBQs  
Charcoal & Wood-fired Ovens | Outdoor Stoves  
| Open Fire Grills | BBQ Accessories



Unit 5 & 11, Brook House, New Hythe Lane,  
Aylesford ME20 6GN

Wed-Sat 10am - 4pm, or by appointment  
sales @northbarbeque.co.uk

01622 824079 [www.NorthBarbeque.co.uk](http://www.NorthBarbeque.co.uk)



**SABRE KENT LTD**

PEST CONTROL & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

## Pest Control and Wildlife Management

Established in 2013, we are a small family-run business based in Kent with over 60 years combined experience in the industry.

Our team provides domestic and commercial clients in the South East and includes fox control in the London areas.

- Rodent control
- Insect control
- Bird control
- Fox pest control

24hrs | 01622 470077  
Mobile | 07919 262797  
Email | [rob.long@sabrekent.co.uk](mailto:rob.long@sabrekent.co.uk)  
Website | [www.sabrekent.co.uk](http://www.sabrekent.co.uk)





# ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

Ornamental grasses are a brilliant alternative to shrubs, many are drought-tolerant, tall enough to use as screening and extend the season in the garden right through the autumn into the winter months.

**A**utumn is the season to plant many ornamental grasses and the time when they are at their most beautiful. Having stood all summer as part of the border they start to take on autumn hues, standing resplendent as other plants in the garden begin their decline.

Setting seed is the dramatic final performance of many ornamental grasses and as days shorten and sunsets lower these dramatic seed heads shine throughout the garden bringing a beautiful drama to tiring borders.

Unlike many shrubs, ornamental grasses love the wind and even in a soft breeze they bring movement and texture to the garden. They come in many heights and sizes so can be used throughout the borders from the front to the back. When planted with perennials and shrubs or under planted around trees they are brilliant space fillers and very low maintenance.

Ornamental grasses are not just visually appealing; they also offer ecological benefits. They provide habitat and food for wildlife, including birds and beneficial insects. Once



“ORNAMENTAL GRASSES BLEND SEAMLESSLY WITH OTHER PLANTS, MAKING THEM IDEAL FOR MIXED BORDERS.

established, they require minimal watering, no fertilisation, and only occasional trimming to remove dead foliage. Most ornamental grasses are also resistant to pests and diseases. Incorporating them into your garden landscape is the perfect way to enhance its beauty, texture, and ecological value whilst extending the season right through to spring.

They are suitable for traditional borders mixed with herbaceous plants but also happy as a feature plant in gravel gardens, as screens, in full sun and even in shade, it's all about choosing the right grass for the area you need.

#### Choosing the right grass:

Use low-growing grasses like *Festuca glauca* (full sun) or *Carex* (shade/part shade) to create soft, flowing borders that define garden beds and pathways, or for dotting between pavers in the gravel garden. Their fine texture contrasts beautifully with broad-leaved plants, adding a sense of refinement and order to the garden.

Tall, dramatic grasses such as *Miscanthus sinensis* (full sun) or *Panicum virgatum* can be used as focal points in the landscape. Plant them in groups or as single specimens to draw the eye and create a sense of height and movement. Their towering plumes catch the light beautifully and sway gracefully in the wind, adding dynamic energy to the garden. For a tall vertical screen in sun or part shade try *Calamagrostis Karl Foerster*, it's a cool-season



grass so earlier to emerge in the spring and turns a golden barley colour in the autumn (just cut back to 20cm at the beginning of March each year). Plant with tall perennials such as *Verbena bonariensis*.

Ornamental grasses blend seamlessly with other plants, making them ideal for mixed borders. Pair them with late flowering perennials like *Rudbeckia*, *Salvia Amistad* or *Echinacea* for a vibrant, colourful display through autumn into the winter. Leave the seedheads of the plants on the stems until the end of February; they create habitats for insects in the coldest months and look beautiful in the low sunlight of the shortest days. For a more naturalistic approach, consider creating a prairie-style garden with a mix of ornamental grasses and wildflowers. Grasses





like *Deschampsia cespitosa* (part shade) and *Schizachyrium scoparium* (full sun) are ideal for this purpose, creating a tapestry of colour and texture that changes with the seasons. This style of gardening is particularly well-suited to larger landscapes or borders and is a great way to attract wildlife to your garden.

Many ornamental grasses can also be grown in containers. Smaller varieties like *Hakonechloa macra* and *Pennisetum setaceum* thrive in pots and can be used to add height and interest to patios, balconies, or small gardens. Containers allow you to experiment with different grasses and easily move them around to suit your design needs.

#### **Caring for your ornamental grasses:**

Although most grasses are very drought tolerant, newly planted grasses need regular watering until they are established.

In late winter or early spring, cut back the previous season's growth to allow new shoots to emerge. This is particularly important for deciduous grasses, which die back in winter. Evergreen grasses may only need a light trim to remove dead or damaged foliage.

Over time, some grasses can become crowded or outgrow their space. Dividing the clumps every few years helps to rejuvenate the plants and encourages healthy growth. This is best done in spring before new growth begins.

Apply a layer of organic mulch around the base of the grasses to help conserve moisture, suppress weeds, and improve soil health. Avoid piling mulch directly against the stems, as this can lead to rot. Mulch the



borders in early spring after cutting back last season's growth. Mulch can be straw or gravel, compost, well-rotted manure or leafmould.

#### **My favourite gardens to see ornamental grasses this autumn:**

Beth Chatto Gardens, Clacton Road, Elmstead Market, Colchester CO7 7DB;  
RHS Garden Hyde Hall, Creepthedge Lane, Rettendon, Chelmsford, Essex;  
Knoll Gardens Ltd, Stapehill Road, Hampreston, Wimborne BH21 7ND;  
Hauser & Wirth Somerset Durslade Farm, Dropping Ln, Bruton BA10 0NL.

If you would like to discuss a garden or border design for your garden please get in touch. I would love to work with you.

**email:** [sarah@thegardencreative.com](mailto:sarah@thegardencreative.com)  
**www:** [thegardencreative.com](http://thegardencreative.com),  
**@thegardencreate**, Tel: 07725 055701.

## KENT LEISURE BUILDINGS



We have a new range of composite garden rooms



Show site open 7 days | 01959 534242  
London Rd, Halstead, Kent TN14 7DY  
[www.kentleisurebuildings.co.uk](http://www.kentleisurebuildings.co.uk)

**THE LAWN TRANSFORMERS**

*Would you love a great lawn?*

Lawn renovations & new lawns  
Weed, moss & nutrient treatments  
Aeration, scarifying, over-seeding  
Wildflower & clover enriched lawns

*Your local, non-franchise lawn experts -  
request your FREE online estimate now*

[www.thelawntransformers.co.uk](http://www.thelawntransformers.co.uk)  
01622 535767 07894 107876



## Constructed and resurfaced in Kent, Sussex and Surrey

Please call  
Martin for free  
advice and  
quotations

Tel: 01424  
892265  
07831 643835

[www.martingurr.co.uk](http://www.martingurr.co.uk)





# HOW TO... MAINTAIN TIMBER BEAMS



Few historic features can infuse a property with quite as much wow factor as timber beams. You'll find exposed ceiling joists in a host of properties, from medieval barn conversions to cottages built in the 1900s. Exposing the unique character of the timber may involve removing paint and finishes that have been slapped on top, or even carrying out more involved repairs.

## CHECKLIST:

- Look for signs of beetle infestation
- Note timbers that have been cut or altered
- Tackle rot and decay
- Check timber is not taking up moisture
- Deal with damp problems at source

Look out for evidence of woodworm, which can be treated using insecticide. If the beam plays a structural role and has been significantly damaged by infestation, you'll need to call in a structural engineer to evaluate the extent of the damage and advise on what repairs will be needed.

To reinstate a rustic look, strip back and remove paint or glossy finishes from the timber. Whichever product you are using as a paint stripper, be sure to test it on a small area of wood to make sure it works effectively

and doesn't damage the grain. Sanding is also effective, but this can be time-consuming and messy. Once the beams have been stripped back, they can be finished with a wood stain, varnish or oil.

Regular cleaning is an essential preventive measure to keep your wood beams in great condition. By removing dirt and dust regularly, you prevent them from settling and potentially causing damage over time.

When cleaning wood beams, it is important to use the right tools and techniques to avoid causing any harm. Soft brushes or microfibre cloths are ideal for gently removing dirt and dust without scratching the surface of the wood. Avoid using harsh chemicals or abrasive cleaners, as they can strip the protective finish and damage the wood.

# FULLY IN THE FRAME

An unusually close collaboration between artist and framer has resulted in a collection of paintings with a unique twist.

Cathy McClymont has been working for over ten years as a professional artist, producing landscapes, floral and fauna paintings in oil and mixed media, while Anthony Saward has been selecting the frames for the pictures. So far, so fairly normal...

But in this collaboration, the frame is selected before the painting is even started. Cathy works with the frame and paints her florals to suit it. Colours and composition work together. If it's a woodland scene, for example, a strong simple vertical frame is chosen and often painted to suit the colours within the picture. Likewise, in a very ornate frame with detailing and a vintage feel, the painting will echo the classic nature of the frame.

"More often than not, one can see a wonderful painting that has been framed with no consideration or connection with the colour or composition or subject matter," says Cathy. "Here with us, that does not apply."

The partnership is an absolute success. "We would like to reach out to readers to come and take a look at the Anthony Saward Gallery in Medway Street, Maidstone," says Cathy. "We are sure you will like what you see." Commissions are very welcome, and Cathy is only too happy







to discuss what you would like to suit your interior. For Anthony, no framing job is too small or too big and he is pleased to work with clients to get the best results. His business has been running for over 20 years and is one of the few family-run businesses left in Maidstone.

The Anthony Saward Gallery and Picture Framers is a family business established in the early 80s by Anthony Saward and is now run by his son in law Anthony Bishop. He offer a wide range in framing for your traditional landscapes, family portraits , certificates to memorabilia , football shirts , boxing gloves etc. with a large selection of mouldings to choose from.

The Anthony Saward Gallery are pleased to exhibit Cathy's amazing oil painting after a long working relationship together.

Visit [sawardgallery.co.uk](http://sawardgallery.co.uk) for more information.

# Graham Clarke



*Cows Come Home*

## Studio Open Days

27th 28th 29th September

18th 19th 20th October

8th 9th 10th November

10am to 1pm each day

Etchings, watercolours, posters, books, cards and more...

Up The Garden Studio  
White Cottage, Green Lane, Boughton Monchelsea,  
Kent, ME17 4LF

We are open by appointment throughout the year,  
hello@grahamclarke.co.uk 07801 922081

[www.grahamclarke.co.uk](http://www.grahamclarke.co.uk)

## RACHEL WITT ACK

PAINTINGS CONSERVATOR AND RESTORER BASED IN HASTINGS

BEFORE



AFTER



### FROM MEDIEVAL TO CONTEMPORARY

I have restored paintings of all ages, some by well known artists but many by unknown painters that have enormous sentimental value to their owners. Whatever artwork you may have, I am happy to help with any questions or enquiries.

*"A huge thank you Rachel, for all the time, care, skill and utter brilliance you brought to the wonderful and beautiful restoration of my painting. It looks so gorgeous on the wall. It will never again look like it did when I brought it to you. I had no idea it would be so stunningly restored."*

07511 073551 | [rwconservation.com](http://rwconservation.com)  
[rachel@rwconservation.com](mailto:rachel@rwconservation.com)



# the Anthony Saward Gallery

Original artwork  
available by local Kent  
artist Cathy McClymont



- Bespoke framing ● Wide choice of Mouldings & Swept Frames
- Over 30 years experience ● Friendly reliable service

4 Medway Street, Maidstone ME14 1JS 01622 676926

[www.sawardgallery.co.uk](http://www.sawardgallery.co.uk)



# TIMELESS HARMONY

Mixing antiques with contemporary pieces for a unique aesthetic

When decorating a period home, the allure of history is undeniable. Antique pieces tell stories, exuding charm and character that modern replicas often lack. However, exclusively furnishing with antiques can sometimes feel overwhelming or outdated.



**T**he key to creating a visually appealing and harmonious space lies in blending the old with the new. By mixing antiques with contemporary pieces, you can craft a unique aesthetic that pays homage to the past while embracing the present.

## The beauty of contrast

One of the primary benefits of combining antiques with modern furniture is the striking contrast it creates. This juxtaposition can highlight the beauty of both styles, allowing each piece to stand out, while contributing to a cohesive look. For instance, placing a sleek,

MIXING ANTIQUES WITH MODERN PIECES ALLOWS FOR A HIGH DEGREE OF PERSONAL EXPRESSION. THIS ECLECTIC APPROACH GIVES YOU THE FREEDOM TO SHOWCASE YOUR UNIQUE TASTE AND PERSONALITY.

minimalist sofa next to a Victorian-era side table can emphasise the ornate details of the antique piece while providing a fresh, clean canvas for the eye.

Contrast can also be achieved through colour and texture. An antique wooden armoire with rich, dark tones can serve as a stunning focal point against a backdrop of light, neutral walls and contemporary decor. Similarly, the smooth,



*The Canterbury Auction Galleries*



*thehoneycomhome.com*





polished surfaces of modern furnishings can beautifully offset the patina and intricate carvings of antiques.

### Creating balance

To successfully mix antiques with modern pieces, balance is crucial. One effective approach is the 80/20 rule: dedicate 80% of your decor to one style and 20% to the other. For example, if your primary aesthetic is contemporary, introduce antiques as accent pieces. A single antique mirror, a set of vintage chairs, or a classical chandelier can add depth and interest to a predominantly modern room. Conversely, if your home is filled with period details and antique furniture, infuse it with a few contemporary touches. Modern art, sleek lighting fixtures, or a chic coffee table can provide a refreshing contrast and prevent the space from feeling overly traditional.

### Harmonising styles

While contrast is important, creating a sense of harmony between the old and new is equally essential. This can be achieved by finding common elements that tie the pieces together. Look for complementary colours, materials, and shapes that can bridge the gap between different styles.

For instance, if you have an antique mahogany dining table, consider pairing it with modern chairs that have wooden accents or similar finishes. This creates a visual link that unites the disparate elements. Similarly, a contemporary sofa with clean lines can be adorned with vintage-inspired cushions or throws to create cohesion.

Layering is another effective technique for harmonising styles. Combine antique rugs with modern furniture, or mix vintage and



*warehams.com*

contemporary artwork on the same wall. These layers add depth and richness to the space, creating a well-rounded and visually appealing environment.

#### **Highlighting unique pieces**

Lighting plays a crucial role in highlighting your antiques. Use strategically placed lamps or spotlights to accentuate the details of a cherished antique piece. This not only adds drama and focus, but also helps integrate the antique into the overall design scheme.

#### **Functional integration**

While aesthetics are important, functionality should not be overlooked.



*baghambarnantiques.com*





Integrating antiques into your daily life can be both practical and stylish. Repurpose antique furniture for modern uses – an old wooden chest can serve as a coffee table with ample storage, while a vintage dresser can be transformed into a chic bathroom vanity.

When selecting antiques, consider how they can enhance your lifestyle. Antique cabinets and sideboards offer excellent storage solutions, while vintage armchairs can provide comfortable seating with a touch of elegance. By ensuring that your antiques are not just decorative but also functional, you create a space that is both beautiful and liveable.

#### **Personal expression**

Mixing antiques with modern pieces allows for a high degree of personal expression. This

eclectic approach gives you the freedom to showcase your unique taste and personality. Your home becomes a reflection of your journey, blending inherited heirlooms with contemporary finds to tell your story.

Take your time in curating your collection. Visit antique shops and markets to discover pieces that resonate with you. Pair these treasures with modern items that complement your lifestyle and aesthetic. The result will be a home that feels authentic, inviting, and uniquely yours.

By thoughtfully blending old and new, you can create a home that is timeless yet contemporary, full of character yet functional. Embrace the beauty of both worlds, and let your space tell a story that spans generations.

# The Antique Oak Flooring Company

SPECIALISTS IN ANTIQUE AND RECLAIMED FLOORING



VIEWING BY APPOINTMENT

Willow Court Farm, Bilsington Road, Ruckinge, Ashford, Kent TN26 2PB

T: 01233 659508 M: 07733 263540 [www.antiqueoakflooring.com](http://www.antiqueoakflooring.com)



# Clarks Furniture

Clarks Furniture is a family-run business that specialise in up-cycling and handmade furniture. We have a shop in Petts Wood and trade from Greenwich Market on Sundays.



We can also paint your furniture.  
Commissions available on request

Clarks Furniture  
115 Queensway, Petts Wood BR5 1DG  
Telephone: 077400 30125  
Email: [clarksfurniturepettswood@gmail.com](mailto:clarksfurniturepettswood@gmail.com)



Clarks Furniture



Clarks Furniture

A brief history of...

# THE BUTLER SINK



*Image: Hogwood House*

In Victorian times, Butler sinks were also known as London sinks due to the locality in which they were commonly found. They are different from Belfast sinks as they do not come fitted with a Weir overflow. London didn't have an abundant supply of water available like Belfast did. This was because London was further inland along the Thames and had higher costs in obtaining fresh water for its large population than Belfast. To allow for the same provision of water in a bowl, a wider design was developed, which in reality had more practical uses. This was when the Butler sink was born.

As the years went on by, water supply became less of an issue and kitchens got bigger. Some modern butler sinks are now as deep as Belfast sinks, where Belfast sinks have evolved to be wider with the typical double bowl. The sink

is as wide as a Butler and almost as deep as a Belfast with a ceramic partition in the middle.

Butler sinks can be chosen in a variety of sizes depending on the space and the needs of the homeowner, for example a small sink may just be to rinse items or wash hands. Or for larger homes it provides a place to wash down small dogs, pre-soak clothes or anything else you can think of.

Butler sinks aren't just perfect for boot and utility rooms though, they are also ideal for scullery rooms, prep kitchens and more traditional kitchens that reside in older properties. A butler sink in a scullery or prep kitchen for example will help when clearing away after large gatherings or dinner parties as the dishes can be tucked in the sink out of sight or rinsed then loaded straight into an dishwasher for maximum convenience.





Whether your hosting people for dinner or working from home on a chilly day visit Ruby and Jo



Please call 01892 548000 for more details



55 London Road, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells TN4 0PB

Tel: 01892 548000 Tue - Fri 9am - 5pm | Sat 10am - 4pm



[www.rubyandjo.co.uk](http://www.rubyandjo.co.uk)



## CURTAINS & SHUTTERS | DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL



**Medway Blinds**

**FREE QUOTES**

**01634 68 68 68**

Unit 6, The Oaks, Business Park  
Revenge Road, Chatham ME5 8LF

[www.medwayblinds.co.uk](http://www.medwayblinds.co.uk)



—THE—  
**LONDON ROAD**  
FURNITURE COMPANY

*5000 sq ft of beautiful furniture and gifts over 3 floors*

[WWW.LONDONROADFURNITURE.CO.UK](http://WWW.LONDONROADFURNITURE.CO.UK)



TEL 01959 533433

LONDON ROAD, HALSTEAD,  
SEVENOAKS, KENT, TN14 7AA

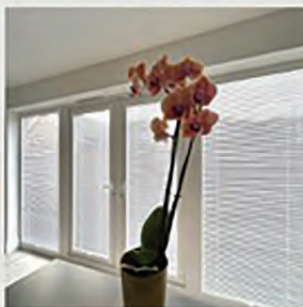
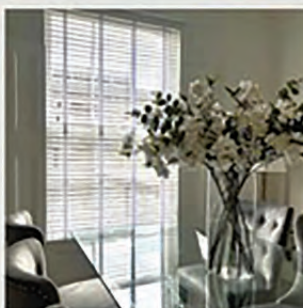
OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK (CLOSED WEDNESDAYS)

[WWW.LONDONROADFURNITURE.CO.UK](http://WWW.LONDONROADFURNITURE.CO.UK)





# Blinds Shutters & Awnings



Contact us for your **FREE**  
home survey  
or Visit our showroom in  
Rochester kent

1 Cuxton Rd, 2 Cuxton House  
Rochester, ME22BT



01634943153 - 07564021643

Info@thevipshutterco.co.uk

www.thevipshutterco.co.uk

THE  
**VIP**  
SHUTTER CO





# THE HUMBLE HALLWAY

Hallway decor may not seem exciting, but there's no reason to  
relegate this utilitarian area to a boring pass-through space.

- LOUISE TOMLIN -



I wonder if many people actually know the origins of the name hall or hallway, after all it's one of those parts of your house that can easily be dismissed as a bit boring, or an after-thought, when considering redecorating your home, and getting excited about the latest new colour schemes. However, when you take a moment to realise that it's usually the first glimpse that visitors get of your home as they cross your threshold, it's possibly deserving of more thought and attention than it may be getting, and not just a place to store coats, brollies and hats...

So let's take a look at the history of where the term hall comes from, and also, bring things up to the present day by exploring a few ideas for giving halls a bit of boost up the pecking order of important rooms in our homes. The name hall or hallway derives from the medieval 'hall house', we've often referred to these in our articles, when covering properties from this period that are being renovated. The hall house could easily be mistaken on first sight for a large barn, usually timber framed with wattle and daub, later stone was also used, with a thatched roof.

The interior was an open plan area that housed all the residents from the family to their servants. All of the necessary day-to-day goings-on took place in this space, although it was most probably zoned. It is thought the important folk would have a separate table at the 'high end' whilst at the other end of the building – the 'low end' would be where the retainers carried out the tasks of servicing the household, and housed important storage areas. Screening would have been introduced to allow for more privacy and to help keep draughts away, this would be made from cloth, tapestries and eventually made more permanent by the use of wood. By partitioning

off this long narrow area between the hall's two doorways, a passageway was created, or a hallway.

The hallway naturally changed throughout the subsequent centuries, dependent on the architectural changes and the fashions of the day, however it was always there. One of the most notable evolutions came when it arrived at the front and centre of the house, leading from the front door directly through to the back, with principal rooms off the each side, and in the case of the most prestigious homes, to a staircase to the upper floor, when the fashion for entertaining visitors moved the principal rooms up a floor.

It must said that the importance and relevance for the majority of our readers comes with later developments, not many of us are lucky enough to have medieval mansion, or vast country house, so a quick dip in to the following eras through the 18th century to present day, is more appropriate.

The Georgian era saw the introduction of terraced housing for many classes, apart for the wealthiest. Lack of space meant the usual layout was to have the staircase at the rear of the hallway, which was most probably a fairly narrow passageway leading to the dining room and parlour. The introduction of the fanlight above the front door helped to bring a bit more light and offered a touch of elegance. In grander properties the introduction of wooden paneling, decorative mouldings, fretwork and other extravagant embellishments were highly fashionable and in line with the neo-classical architectural style, this included black and white geometric ceramic floor tiles.

In the Victorian era, the hall grew in importance. It normally ran down the centre of







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

the house connecting all the other rooms, which were separate from each other. This was a time of industrialisation, economic boom and mass production, which allowed the middle-classes to indulge in decorating their homes, aping the styles of the upper classes, by ordering from pattern books and catalogues.

There was a tendency towards more somber colours and also a leaning towards rather

over-doing it with ornaments, bric-a-brac and, sad to say, clutter! Technological advances saw the introduction of mass produced colourful encaustic tiles, which were widely used as flooring in the Victorian hallway, sometimes even on the pathway leading up to front door, many have been restored these days and have become a ubiquitous and stylish element in many a Victorian refurbished modern home.

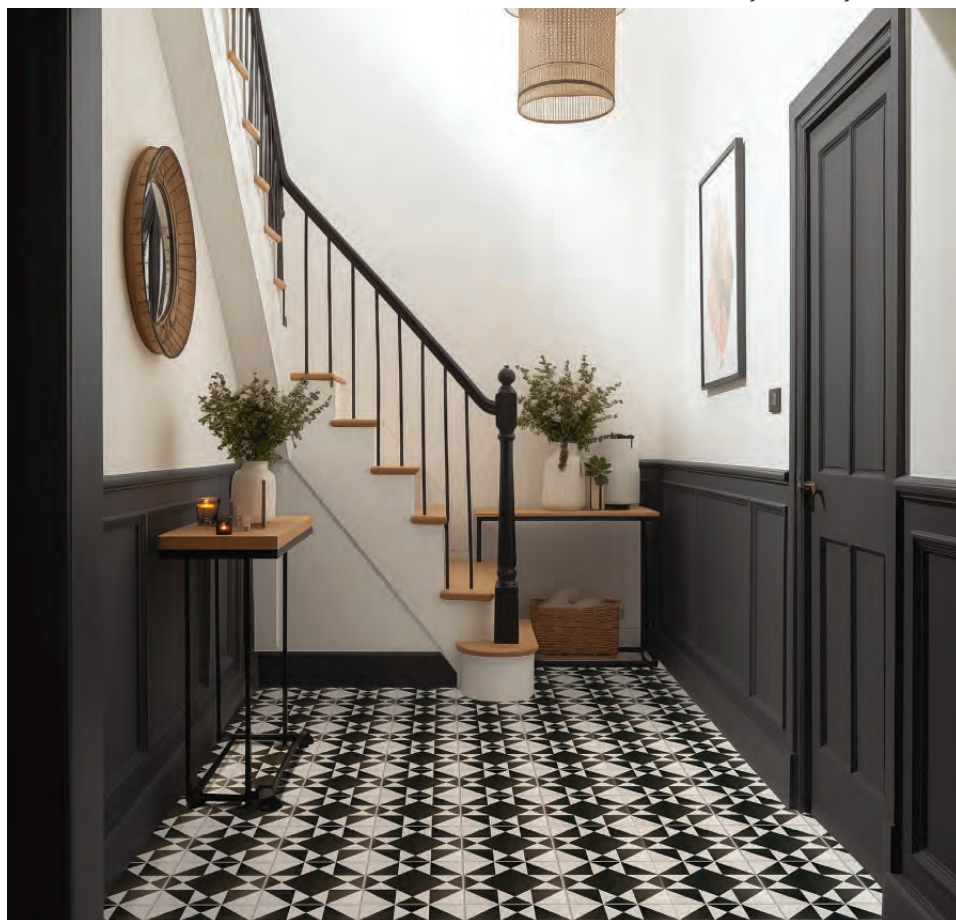


It can be quite difficult at times to see a distinction between late Victorian and early Edwardian hallways, and the evolution is somewhat blurred, however what eventually emerged was the hallway being seen as having its own identity. It wasn't always just a place to impress visitors whilst they passed through to the principal rooms, it became a room in its own right. The living hall became a space to entertain guests, do hobbies or read. Out went the clutter of the previous era, cleanliness and simplicity ruled. Health, hygiene and sunlight became hugely important, a definite uplifting

change from the previous rather dingy Victorian forerunner of the hallway.

Throughout the 20th century and now into the 21st century, modern housing has evolved with more generous dimensions and many more design and architectural trends than we can cover here. For those of you with a more modern home, you can set your imagination free, and go for whatever style you fancy, it's a chance to reveal your character and give your visitors a glimpse of your personal style as they cross your threshold, go for it and create your Heavenly Hallway.

*porcelainsuperstore.co.uk*





ORLESTONE OAK

KENT · ENGLAND

# Bespoke Flooring

LONG & WIDE · PRODUCED IN KENT · FINISHED BY HAND



JOINERY



OAK FRAMED BUILDINGS



DECKING



CLADDING

For more information on pricing or fitting, or to place an order

CALL 01233 732179 VISIT [orlestoneoak.co.uk](http://orlestoneoak.co.uk)





## M SHIRLEY

*For beautiful bathrooms*

*Expert in fitting, tiling  
and renovations*

Specialising in bathroom  
renovation, including tiling,  
plumbing and decorating.

Also home maintenance  
and renovation undertaken  
within the mid-Kent area.

Free quotations available  
All work fully insured

**07565 843931**

email: [martin10.shirley@gmail.com](mailto:martin10.shirley@gmail.com)



DEWITT RESIDENTIAL FLOORING LIMITED

PLEASE CONTACT US TO DISCUSS YOUR FLOORING REQUIREMENTS: 01622 858940

9 HIGH STREET, LENHAM, KENT. ME17 2QD | [WWW.DEWITTFLOORS.CO.UK](http://WWW.DEWITTFLOORS.CO.UK)



# ADD VALUE

## to your period property

Whether or not you plan to sell in the near future, it always pays to make good choices when it comes to improving your period property. We look at the key areas worth investing in.



**P**eriod homes hold a unique charm, characterised by their timeless beauty and historical significance. Owning a period home is like being the custodian of a piece of history. However, maintaining and enhancing these properties requires thoughtful care and a keen eye for detail. Whether you're planning to sell or simply want to enrich your living environment, adding value to your period home can be achieved through various strategic approaches...

### RESTORING ORIGINAL FEATURES

Restoring original features is one of the most effective ways to add value to your period home. These elements not only enhance the aesthetic appeal but also preserve the historical integrity of the property.

**Fireplace:** The fireplace often serves as the focal point in period homes. Restoring it to its former glory can enhance the character of your living space. Take a look at our article starting on page 60 for more detail.

**Front door:** The front door offers people their first impression of your home. Restoring an original door can dramatically enhance curb appeal. Strip away layers of old paint to reveal the wood beneath, then sand and refinish it to showcase its natural beauty. Adding period-appropriate hardware, such as brass knockers and handles, can further enhance its charm.

**Using paint to create an authentic feel:**

Paint is a powerful tool in creating an authentic

period feel in your home. Choosing the right colours and finish can evoke the style of the era in which your home was built.

**Colour schemes:** Research the typical colour palettes of your home's period. Georgian homes, for instance, often featured soft, muted tones like sage green, dusky blue and warm neutrals. Victorian homes favoured richer, deeper colours such as burgundy, forest green, and mustard yellow. By using historically



**Flooring:** Original flooring, whether hardwood, stone, or tile, can significantly increase the value of your home. If your floors are covered with modern materials, consider uncovering and restoring the original flooring underneath. Sanding and refinishing wooden floors can bring back their natural beauty. For stone or tile, professional cleaning and sealing can rejuvenate their appearance. (photo: [reclaimedflooring.co.uk](http://reclaimedflooring.co.uk))





*Photo: Gary Miller Decorations*

accurate colours, you can create a cohesive and authentic look.

**Finishes:** The type of paint finish is equally important. Matte and eggshell finishes were commonly used in period homes, offering a more subdued and authentic appearance compared to modern high-gloss finishes. Additionally, consider using traditional paint types, such as lime wash or distemper, which were popular in earlier centuries.

**Details:** Pay attention to the details, such as mouldings, trims, and ceilings. Painting these elements in contrasting or complementary colours can highlight architectural features and add depth to your rooms.

#### **TIDYING THE GARDEN**

A well-maintained garden not only enhances the beauty of your home but also adds significant value. The garden should reflect the style and period of your property, creating a seamless transition from the exterior to the interior.



*Photo: thegardencreative.com*

**Heating systems:** Upgrade your heating system to a more efficient model. Consider installing a modern boiler or underfloor heating, which can be more energy-efficient and discreet. Retain original radiators if possible, as they can often be refurbished and re-integrated into a modern heating system.



**Cast iron radiators:** The Victorian House is your go-to source for bespoke items that add a touch of Victorian elegance to your property. The stunning Low to the Ground Victorian Radiators, are a perfect blend of classic design and modern functionality. Their products are handcrafted with care and precision, ensuring that each one is a unique piece of art that will add timeless elegance to your home. *(Photo: [thevictorianhouse.co.uk](http://thevictorianhouse.co.uk))*



“ADDING VALUE TO YOUR PERIOD HOME INVOLVES A THOUGHTFUL BLEND OF RESTORATION, MODERNISATION, AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH.

### **Making the property energy-efficient**

While preserving historical authenticity is crucial, modern homeowners also value energy efficiency. Upgrading your period home to be more energy efficient can add value and improve comfort without compromising its character. It's essential to consult an expert when improving your home's energy efficiency: especially if your property is a listed building.

**Insulation:** Proper insulation is essential for maintaining a comfortable indoor temperature and reducing energy costs. Consider adding insulation to the attic, walls, and floors. Use materials that are sympathetic to the building's fabric, such as sheep's wool or cellulose, which are breathable and less likely to cause issues.

**Windows:** Original windows are highly prized features that beautiful, and where they are intact you should make every effort to preserve them. Even if they are in a poor state of repair, you will be surprised at the difference a professional restoration can make. Refurbish existing windows by repairing any damaged frames, replacing broken panes, and adding weather stripping. If replacement is necessary, choose a company with expertise in heritage and listed buildings that embrace sustainable timber sourcing.

### **Research the era it was built in**

Understanding the historical context of your period home is essential for making informed



*Photo: dolmenjoinery.co.uk*

restoration and decoration choices. Researching the era in which your home was built can provide valuable insights and inspiration.

**Architectural style:** Identify the architectural style of your home and its defining characteristics. This knowledge can guide your restoration efforts and help you make authentic design decisions. Resources such as architectural history books, online databases, and local heritage organisations can be invaluable.

**Historical records:** Explore historical records, such as old maps, photographs, and building plans, to uncover details about your home's original features and layout. Local archives, libraries, and historical societies often hold these records and can offer fascinating insights into your home's past.



**Extend your space:** Though the most expensive way to add value, extending will yield the biggest return on your investment. It can also make a huge difference to your life at home, as even just adding a very modest extension can transform the usability of a space. The best options for increasing value are enlarging the kitchen to create a family-friendly room with access to the garden.

Adding value to your period home involves a thoughtful blend of restoration, modernisation, and historical research. By restoring original features, you can enhance both the aesthetic and monetary value of your home. Embrace the journey of preserving and enhancing your period property, and enjoy the unique charm and character that it brings to your life.



# Scandinaviantouch

We are an independent interior design showroom selling Scandinavian furniture and homewares with a strong local connection to the Kent seaside town of Whitstable. We have lots of NEW furniture, bags, storage ideas, planters and lighting to complement your space.

## Opening times:

Monday - Friday & Sunday 11am to 4pm  
Saturday 10am to 5pm



Sofa  
www.yggoglyng.com

66 Oxford Street, Whitstable CT5 1DG

scandinaviantouch.co.uk | shop@scandinaviantouch.co.uk

## THE BATHROOM SHOP

*Independent bespoke  
bathroom specialists*

- \* Bathroom installation
- \* Sanitaryware, modern and traditional
- \* Taps and showers, modern and traditional
- \* Shower enclosures and bath screens
- \* Fitted and free-standing furniture
- \* Radiators, modern and traditional
- \* Bathroom tiles supplied and fitted
- \* Accessories and toiletries
- \* Robes, towels, bathmats etc...

11 East Cross, Tenterden, Kent, TN30 6AD \* Telephone: 01580 763207

[www.the-bathroomshop.co.uk](http://www.the-bathroomshop.co.uk)



THE SASH  
WINDOW  
WORKSHOP

## Beautiful Traditional Timber Windows and Doors

*Energy efficient timber windows and external doors,  
designed to complement your home.*

- Bespoke, high quality craftsmanship, made in the UK.
- 50 year anti-rot guarantee.
- Sustainably sourced timber.
- Conservation Area specialists.



01344 868 668

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



# HWM

s o l u t i o n s

*The complete building and maintenance company*

## ALL BUILDING AND PROPERTY MAINTENANCE WORKS COVERED

- ROOFING WORKS
- DECORATION WORKS -  
INTERNAL/EXTERNAL
- PLUMBING
- GAS/BOILER WORKS
- ELECTRICAL WORKS
- KITCHEN/BATHROOM  
REFURBISHMENTS
- PLASTERING WORKS
- CARPENTRY WORK
- BRICKWORK
- HANDYMAN
- RUBBISH REMOVALS
- 24 HOURS EMERGENCY SERVICES
- FULL REFURBISHMENTS

ALL WORKS FULLY INSURED



**10% DISCOUNT**  
**for OAP's**

PLEASE CALL FOR A *free* QUOTATION

Tel: 01689 861007

Email: [info@hwmsolutions.com](mailto:info@hwmsolutions.com)

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







Kentish  
**WARM**ROOF

01634 789025

Kentish Warm Roof, Greenway Court Road, Hollingbourne ME17 1QD



# DISPLAYING AUTUMN RUST!

Autumn is probably the season that seems to pass by most quickly in the garden. It's a slide towards the first serious frosts that kill off most of the perennials and certainly all of the annuals.

**I**n a good year (depending on how you define 'good'), this can be as late as the start of winter but can equally strike very early in the season – such is the unpredictability of gardening. What is certain is that along the way, as the temperature cools and the threat of frost looms closer, the garden undergoes a beautiful paint job: deep

reds, silky browns and the richest orange-rust are autumn's gift.

Early autumn light has a purity and a sort of mellowness that's lost at the height of summer. In those first few weeks of the season, planting glows, as though softly illuminated by a flickering bonfire, and clear skies bring a cool clarity to the intense colour happening all over the garden.





This is a time when many of the most fiery annuals and perennials are having their moment: heleniums, crocosmias, dahlias and sunflowers (*Helianthus*) create blazing displays as the days slowly start to shorten, and, all across the garden, there's a sense that it's giving one last performance before its annual retreat.

Later in the season, we are sometimes tempted to cut back perennials as soon as the temperature starts to drop and plants begin to look a bit subdued, but the colour, texture and structural value of some faded perennials in the autumn and winter garden should not be underestimated. In autumn, if left in the ground, the nutmeg-coloured seedheads of Turkish sage (*Phlomis russeliana*) look extremely decorative and provide welcome interest. Rudbeckias and heleniums have much the same effect, leaving behind cones of beautiful, chocolate-coloured seedheads that look particularly effective rising through ornamental grasses. Inside, these seedheads are an excellent material for autumn display. This is the time of year when we adjust our expectations of what we can display inside. We leave the blousy bounty of spring and summer behind and look towards a more sober, but still very beautiful, palette of cut flowers.



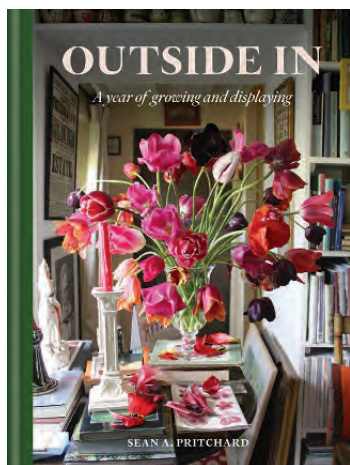
“

THIS IS A TIME WHEN  
MANY OF THE MOST FIERY  
ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS  
ARE HAVING THEIR  
MOMENT.





All around me in Somerset, some of my favourite outdoor autumn displays come not from flower-packed gardens, but from fruiting orchards. Like walled gardens, there's something about the feeling of enclosure within an orchard that I find alluring; a comforting sense of being enveloped by nature. Ancient cider apple trees are decorated with endless baubles – apples that range from scarlet red to the crispest green – and, as they fall, a multicoloured carpet is created that glitters in the delicate autumn light. There's also the smell: an intense earthy sweetness that permeates the air as apples both ripen and rot; an aroma that's so evocative to me and so rooted in my mind as specific to the area in which I live. These productive orchards represent the conclusion of another growing year. As the sun grows weaker and the light more scarce, they bring a satisfying sense of closure to months of hard work in the garden.



*This is an excerpt from Outside In: A year of growing and displaying by Sean A. Pritchard. Published by Mitchell Beazley. Photography: Sean A. Pritchard*





Lenny swivel chair, £1,290,  
londonroadfurniture.co.uk



Pendant light,  
£118.80,  
darlighting.co.uk

Picnic blanket, £89,  
tartanblanket.co.com



Bowl, £36,  
micucci.store



Wreath, £36.99,  
giselagraham.co.uk



Log basket, £150,  
sophieallport.com



# Autumn style

## GET THE LOOK

Mug, £6,  
marksandspencer.com



Candle, £15,  
dunelm.com



Lampshade, £90,  
juliabrendel.com



Armchair, £995,  
neptune.com



Goblets, £60, oka.com



Trunk, £495, oka.com

Cushion, £34.50,  
clickstyle.co.uk



Lamp, £70,  
clickstyle.co.uk



Candle trio, £26.99,  
lights4fun.co.uk



Floor vase, £195,  
scandinaviantouch.co.uk



Electric oven, £1,530  
rubyandjo.co.uk



Egg tidy, £35,  
intagieces.co.uk



Bedside cabinet, £385,  
paintedfurniture.co.uk



Fabric, £54,  
clarissahulse.com

Chair, £575,  
peppermilinteriors.com

Hooks, £10,  
funky-chunky-furniture.co.uk

Footstool, £530,  
neptune.com

Candle holder, £17,  
talkingtables.co.uk

Mirror, £130,  
johnlewis.com

Lamp, £250,  
oka.com

Coffee cup, £9,  
scandinaviantouch.co.uk

Mug, £22,  
janeabbott.com

Candle, £9.99,  
ivylinegb.co.uk

Hurricane vase, £85,  
neptune.com

Paper napkins, £3.49,  
giselagraham.co.uk

Candle, £36,  
fearlessluminosity.co.uk

Decoration, £22.99,  
lights4fun.co.uk

Pair of framed prints, £195, oka.com

Above: Teapot, from £10;  
below: dish £21,  
Copperfields of Whitstable

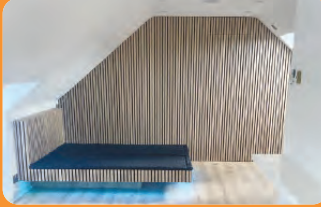
Wine cooler, £18,  
Copperfields of Whitstable

Door mat, £16.95, rexlondon.com

Bouquet boots cushion, £34.99  
claire-Louise.co.uk

# BESPOKE TOP TO BOTTOM BUILDING SERVICES

## LOFTS



## BUILDING AND RENOVATIONS



## BASEMENTS



- KITCHEN RENOVATION
- BATHROOM RENOVATION
- BESPOKE BATHROOMS
- HOME EXTENSIONS
- UNDER PINNING
- OUTDOOR RENOVATIONS
- PATIOS
- BESPOKE LIGHTING
- TANKING

- PATHS
- DRIVEWAYS
- ROOFING
- FLAT ROOFS
- FLOATING BEDS
- FABRICATION
- DOORS
- WINDOWS
- SO MUCH MORE!



**CALL FOR ADVICE  
OR A FREE QUOTE**

**0808 1310 999**

Monday - Saturday 9am to 5pm

[info@a-r-d.co.uk](mailto:info@a-r-d.co.uk)

find us on Instagram @ardlocal





# TP | Resin

Driveways Ltd

[www.tpresindriveways.co.uk](http://www.tpresindriveways.co.uk)

- Driveways • Car parks • Patios • hot bitumen & gravel
- Block paving • Tarmac surfacing • Resin restoration

E: [info@tpresindriveways.co.uk](mailto:info@tpresindriveways.co.uk)

O: 01892 327833 M: 07817 807893



## ALLINGTON ROOFING

### New Roofs & Repair Specialists

A family-run business established in 1979

#### FREE ESTIMATES

- Fascias, soffits & guttering
- Moss removal
- Small repairs stripe & re-tile
- Chimney stacks
- Lead work & valleys
- Repointing
- Felt Roofing
- Kent Peg

Find us on  
**Checkatrade.com**

Tel: 07889 255813 or 01622 861564

[info@allingtonroofing.co.uk](mailto:info@allingtonroofing.co.uk)  
[www.allingtonroofing.co.uk](http://www.allingtonroofing.co.uk)



**GEORGIAN  
BRICKWORK**

[www.georgianbrickwork.co.uk](http://www.georgianbrickwork.co.uk)

*conserving your heritage brickwork for the future*

All aspects of heritage brickwork undertaken, including lime mortar pointing, tuck pointing, gauged arches, and carved brickwork. Clients include homeowners and also contractors requiring a specialist service.

Professional Development Sessions  
available to experienced heritage bricklayers

For more information please contact  
Charles Reilly  
e: [info@georgianbrickwork.co.uk](mailto:info@georgianbrickwork.co.uk)  
m: 07732 975 349  
w: [www.georgianbrickwork.co.uk](http://www.georgianbrickwork.co.uk)



## HOOD'S TREE SERVICES LTD TREE SURGERY SPECIALISTS

#### SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Tree reductions and felling
- Stump grinding
- Hedge cutting and removal

NPTC qualified and fully insured  
Free quotes and advice provided

[info@hoodstrees.co.uk](mailto:info@hoodstrees.co.uk) - [www.hoodstrees.co.uk](http://www.hoodstrees.co.uk)  
01622 744149 - 07590 461382

## WAREHAMS

Antique Garden Ornament Gustavian Furniture

68 Oxford Street - Whitstable CT5 1DG  
Mobile : 07831 210139  
[www.warehams.com](http://www.warehams.com)

# THE ROLE OF THE FIREPLACE IN PERIOD HOMES

Historically the fireplace was the heart of the home, providing essential heat and a place for cooking. Today, it continues to serve as a focal point, offering both aesthetic charm and functional value.





Whether you are selecting a new fireplace, refurbishing an original, or simply decorating for the holidays, understanding the role of the fireplace in period homes is the key to maintaining the character and enhancing the ambience of your living space.

### Choosing the right fireplace for your home

When choosing a fireplace for your period home, it's important to consider the architectural style and historical context of your property. Each period has distinct fireplace designs that complement their unique aesthetic. For example, Georgian fireplaces often feature symmetrical designs with elegant mouldings and marble surrounds, reflecting the era's classical influence. Victorian fireplaces, on the other hand, are known for their ornate cast iron inserts and intricate tilework. Edwardian fireplaces may blend both Victorian and Arts and Crafts elements, showcasing simpler lines with decorative accents.

To select the right fireplace, start by researching the architectural style of your home and identifying which period elements resonate with you. Local antique shops, salvage yards and architectural showrooms can provide inspiration and insight into the types of fireplaces available. Additionally, consulting with a restoration specialist can help ensure that your chosen fireplace not only matches the period style, but also meets modern safety standards.

### Materials for fireplaces

The choice of materials plays a crucial role in defining the character and authenticity of a period fireplace. Traditional materials include

TO SELECT THE RIGHT FIREPLACE, START BY RESEARCHING THE ARCHITECTURAL STYLE OF YOUR HOME AND IDENTIFYING WHICH PERIOD ELEMENTS RESONATE WITH YOU.

stone, marble, brick and cast iron, each bringing its own texture, colour and feel to the room.

**Stone:** Stone fireplaces, particularly those made from limestone or sandstone, offer a rustic and timeless appeal. These materials are often associated with Tudor and country-style homes. Their natural textures and tones provide a sturdy, grounded presence in any room.

**Marble:** Marble was a popular choice in Georgian and Regency periods, valued for its elegant and refined appearance. Marble fireplaces can range from pristine white to richly veined varieties, adding a touch of luxury and sophistication.

**Brick:** Brick fireplaces, common in Victorian and industrial-era homes, bring a sense of warmth and tradition. The natural red and brown hues of brick can create a cosy, inviting atmosphere.

**Cast Iron:** Cast iron became widely used during the Victorian era because of its durability and the craftsmen's ability to produce intricate designs in the material. Cast iron fireplaces often feature decorative motifs, tiles and elaborate grates, making them a focal point of any room.

When choosing materials, consider both the historical context of your home and the practical aspects of installation, such as maintenance and heat efficiency. Combining different materials, such as a marble surround



with a cast iron insert, can also create a unique and personalised look.

### Refurbishing original fireplaces

Restoring an original fireplace can be a rewarding project, preserving the historical integrity of your home while enhancing its charm and value. The process typically involves

several steps, including cleaning, repairing and sometimes replacing damaged parts.

**Cleaning:** Begin by thoroughly cleaning the fireplace to remove soot, grime and rust.

For stone and brick, gentle scrubbing with a mixture of water and mild detergent can work, while metal surfaces may require specialised





*whitstablestoveshop.co.uk*

cleaners. Avoid harsh chemicals that could damage the materials.

**Repairing:** Inspect the fireplace for any structural issues or damage. Cracks in stone or brick can often be repaired with appropriate fillers, while damaged tiles may need to be carefully replaced. For cast iron fireplaces, minor rust can be removed with steel wool, but more significant damage might require welding or professional restoration.

**Replacing parts:** In some cases, missing or

irreparable parts such as grates, tiles or mantels may need to be sourced and replaced. Look for salvage yards or antique dealers who specialise in period pieces. Custom fabrication is also an option if original parts are unavailable. Consulting with a professional restorer can ensure that the refurbishment process respects the historical accuracy and integrity of the fireplace, maintaining its role as a central feature of your home.

## Decorating for Christmas

With the festive season approaching, the fireplace takes on even more significance so here are the top 5 tips for maximising that yuletide glow:



- **Mantel decor:** Start with the mantel, using garlands, candles and seasonal ornaments. For a traditional look, evergreen garlands mixed with berries, pinecones and fairy lights create a classic festive feel. Add candles in varying heights and styles, from vintage holders to modern LED options, for a warm glow.
- **Stockings:** Hanging stockings is a timeless tradition. Choose stockings that complement the style of your period home, whether knitted, velvet, or hand-embroidered. Ensure they are securely fastened to avoid accidents!



- **Fireplace Surround:** Decorate the fireplace surround with wreaths, ribbons and seasonal floral arrangements. A large wreath above the mantel can serve as a striking focal point, while smaller accents around the hearth can add balance and charm.
- **Hearth Display:** The hearth itself can be adorned with festive elements such as lanterns, baskets of firewood or a decorative log display. If you have a non-working

fireplace, consider filling it with candles or fairy lights to create a warm, flickering effect.

- **Personal Touches:** Incorporate personal touches like family heirlooms, vintage ornaments, or handmade crafts to make your holiday decor unique and meaningful.

By thoughtfully decorating your period fireplace, you can create a festive focal point that enhances the warmth and charm of your home during the holiday season.



*dunelm.com*



# Stanbridge Surfacing Ltd

## Driveway Specialists



- Resin bound & bonded
- Hot bitumen & gravel
- Groundworks
- Tarmacadam
- Dropped kerbs & crossovers
- Block paving

Tel: 01892 652700 Mobile: 07506 968221  
[stanbridgesurfacing.co.uk](http://stanbridgesurfacing.co.uk) | [info@stanbridgesurfacing.co.uk](mailto:info@stanbridgesurfacing.co.uk)

Find us on  
**Checkatrade.com**



# Window Fix Direct Kent

*The Caring Company Working For Quality*



## The WFD Group

Window Fix Direct Kent - Kentish Warm Roofs - Warmer Roofs Direct - Window Fit Direct

**Double glazing repairs and installations**

**Window and door locks**

**Glass unit**

**Window and door handles**

**Window and door hinges**

**Gaskets**

**Cat/dog flaps**

**Letterboxes**

**Security upgrades**

**Conservatory roof repairs/replacements**

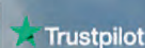
**Conservatory Warm tiled roofs**

**For Free Quotes & Advice Please Call**

# 01634 789025

Email: [paul@windowfixdirectkent.co.uk](mailto:paul@windowfixdirectkent.co.uk) Web: [www.windowfixdirect.co.uk](http://www.windowfixdirect.co.uk)

Address: The Granary, Greenway Court Road, Hollingbourne, ME17 1QD





## HR HAMPSON ROOFING LIMITED

### WE CARE ABOUT YOUR ROOF

Roofing contractors specialising in traditional roofing.

From small repairs to new roofs and lead work.

FREE no obligation estimates

and advice given. Please call for any enquiry.



Phone: 01622 862894 Mobile: 07734 060723

Email: [hampsonroofing@gmail.com](mailto:hampsonroofing@gmail.com)

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



Tel: 01227 770149 • Mobile: 07488 354005  
[info@upandoutplatforms.co.uk](mailto:info@upandoutplatforms.co.uk)  
[upandoutplatforms.co.uk](http://upandoutplatforms.co.uk)



- IPAF Operated & self hire
- Flexible hire starting from half-day operated
- Tracked platforms with low ground pressure
- Narrow access through standard garden gates (795mm wide)
- Scaffold free approach
- 5 star Google reviews





# STONE • BRICK • STUCCO • MASONRY

## CLEANING AND RESTORATION

Prelude Stone is a family-owned local company of skilled craftsmen with over 35 years of experience working with stone, brick, stucco, and lime mortars. We specialise in all types of buildings, especially residential properties ranging from terraces to townhouses, country cottages to listed buildings.



We offer a free of charge estimating service and would welcome the opportunity to discuss any enquiry you may have at [info@preludestone.co.uk](mailto:info@preludestone.co.uk)



Unit 2, Westerham Trade Centre,  
Flyers Way,  
Westerham TN16 1DE  
[www.preludestone.co.uk](http://www.preludestone.co.uk)  
Tel: 01959 580360

# MICHAEL HARRIS

ASSOCIATES

## Architecture • Historic building surveying • Heritage consultancy

**MICHAEL HARRIS ASSOCIATES** have extensive experience in historical building evaluations; condition surveys, design and management of repair and conversion projects; design and planning for extensions and new build properties within the curtilage of listed and historic buildings, National Parks, Green Belt conservation and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

In association with Alan Dickinson MRICS we offer:

- Building surveys
- Condition reviews
- Method statements
- Heritage statements
- Assessments of Significance
- Archaeological interpretative reports
- Historical research



The Granary, Halden Place, Halden Lane, Rolvenden TN17 4JG  
T: 01580 241278 E: [info@michaelharrisassociates.com](mailto:info@michaelharrisassociates.com)  
[www.michaelharrisassociates.com](http://www.michaelharrisassociates.com)



# BRICK BY BRICK

Is it possible to make substantial repairs to the brickwork of a listed property in a conservation area without compromising the historical integrity of the building?

Charles Reilly of Georgian Brickwork, based near Canterbury, explains...



**D**olphin Cottage sits proudly at the top of Alfred Square in Deal, and has three street-facing elevations. The property is Grade II listed, and is just over 4 metres wide and 6 metres tall. It was built mainly in yellow stocks, with gauged red rubbers over the windows and front door. The side wall beyond the garden gate was built with red bricks. Originally built in the late 18th century using a lime-based ash mortar, it was repointed with cement during the 20th

century, but when we first visited in 2023 both the brickwork and the mortar were showing signs of decay. Georgian Brickwork supported conversations between the homeowner and the local Conservation Officer to ensure that a sympathetic programme of repairs could take place.

At our initial visit to Dolphin Cottage in July 2023, we found evidence of brick decay across all elevations. Some of the decline was due to natural deterioration over time; however,



“THE SUCCESSFUL RESTORATION OF DOLPHIN COTTAGE IS THE RESULT OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE HOMEOWNER, THE CONSERVATION OFFICER AND GEORGIAN BRICKWORK.





there were also signs of the cement mortar joints exacerbating the problem. The three first floor gauged arches had been rendered and painted. The two ground floor gauged arches were unrendered and both needed repair. In addition, there was evidence of movement on both the side elevations, towards the front of the building.

Following our visit, we recommended a programme of brick repairs and sympathetic repointing to address the deterioration and damage, plus work to stabilise and repair cracks, and repairs to the ground floor gauged arches.

The homeowner led the application for Listed Building Consent (LBC), with Georgian Brickwork providing method statements and annotated photographs showing the areas to be repaired, and attending meetings with the local Conservation Officer. As is common, there was a large amount of paperwork involved in seeking and gaining LBC. There was also a slight Catch

22 element, with some decisions being unable to be confirmed by the Conservation Officer until the scaffold was erected, and the homeowner being understandably reluctant to put up the scaffold until he had secured LBC. Nevertheless, a combination of patience and professionalism from all parties resulted in an acceptable way forward and LBC was granted in December 2023.

The consent was subject to the discharge of specific conditions that necessitated a site visit from the Conservation Officer once the scaffold was up (and shortly before work began) to assess and approve the repointing areas. Additionally, Georgian Brickwork was asked to create a sample panel showing the type of mortar and finish that would be used. In this instance, the local Conservation Officer was exceedingly helpful in not only scheduling a site visit very quickly, but also signing off on the application for the Discharge of Conditions in record time.

Finally, in early May 2024, we were ready to begin the painstaking process of removing the cement mortar from the approved areas. In the hands of an inexperienced contractor the poor use of tools can result in damage to the bricks, but the Georgian Brickwork team uses a specific methodology that reduces the risk of damage.

Once the mortar joints were raked out and cleaned, we moved on to brick repairs. Minor repairs can be done in situ, but where the face of an individual brick was beyond repair it was turned or replaced. The next task was to correct the vertical cracks running through the brickwork on each corner. To address this issue, we installed Helifix bars: these lengths of stainless steel provide a hidden structural repair. They are a good solution on a listed property to strengthen and stabilise cracked brickwork.

Having carried out all the preparation and remedial work, we were finally ready to repoint, using the ash mortar mix that had been approved as part of the LBC process. The Conservation Officer had also noted that the original lime mortar joint had a ruled line, so we recreated this finish on our repointed areas to help them blend in.

Finally, the parapet brickwork was toned down and all elevations were soot-washed to create a more consistent aesthetic across the building. Once the scaffold had been removed, the gauged arches above the front door and ground floor window were repaired and the courtyard garden wall was also repaired.

The successful restoration of Dolphin Cottage is the result of collaboration between the homeowner, the Conservation Officer and Georgian Brickwork. Each party had a slightly different perspective: the Conservation wanting minimum intervention; the homeowner wanting to do whatever was deemed necessary to resolve the current problems, create a pleasing visual finish and secure the future of the building; and Georgian Brickwork wanting a similar outcome plus the professional challenge of sympathetically restoring the brickwork so that the repairs were barely noticeable. Although the process was protracted, the determination, persistence and professionalism of all involved has resulted in a sensitive restoration of a prominent listed building in a much-loved part of town.

**If you have a historic home in need of sensitive repairs and restoration, contact Georgian Brickwork [georgianbrickwork.co.uk](http://georgianbrickwork.co.uk), [info@georgianbrickwork.co.uk](mailto:info@georgianbrickwork.co.uk) or call Charlie on 07732 975 349.**

## DID YOU KNOW?

When the joints between bricks are filled with impermeable cement, the rainwater being absorbed by the bricks cannot escape. If the bricks become sodden in cold wet weather, the water within them will freeze and expand, causing the affected bricks to crack.

By contrast, a lime-based mortar is softer and more permeable, allowing moisture to naturally evaporate out of the bricks and the mortar joints.

Are you thinking of carrying out brick repairs to your listed property? Are you aware that some repairs may need Listed Building Consent (LBC)?

### Here are Georgian Brickwork's tips

- Plan ahead, as getting consent takes time and reputable contractors carrying out specialist restoration work tend to be booked up months in advance.
- Understand that there is a difference between minor 'like-for-like' repairs where LBC may not be needed, and more extensive 'like-for-like' repair projects such as repointing a whole elevation, where the Conservation Officer is much more likely to want to be involved.
- Remember, the cheapest quote may be good for your bank account but may not give you the best outcome for your historic home. Seek quotes from several contractors and ask to see examples of their work, or ask them to create a sample panel so that you can see the finish they can achieve.



- Once you have appointed a contractor, seek their support in securing LBC, for example method statements, mortar mix, sample panels, preliminary meetings with the Conservation Officer.
- Be prepared to compromise. Even though you may feel it would make sense to repoint the whole property whilst the scaffold is up, most Conservation Officers start with the principle of 'minimum intervention', so if an area of cement pointing is not damaging the bricks, they may not consent to it being removed purely for practicalities or aesthetics.



GEORGIAN  
BRICKWORK

## Examples of other projects Georgian Brickwork has been involved in.





## Making Architecture Exceptional

At Jane Elizabeth Architects, we work throughout the South East on existing and listed buildings to design the best approach for you. As a RIBA Chartered Practice, we are experienced and thoughtful in developing high quality architecture.

janeelizabetharchitects@gmail.com  
janeelizabetharchitects.co.uk  
01622 884373



Specialists in  
traditional lime mortars,  
gauged brickwork,  
stonemasonry and all  
associated crafts

Visit our website for full listings and current projects  
01622 859794 | [www.kcrltd.com](http://www.kcrltd.com) | 07831 236228  
email: [info@kcrltd.uk](mailto:info@kcrltd.uk)



**Kent Conservation & Restoration Ltd**  
Historic Building Craftsmen



**We are the UK's leading  
restorer and repairer of  
traditional, distinctive  
oast cowl & kiln roofs.**

New cowl construction, Painting  
& cleaning. Repair & maintenance.  
Also specialising in Kent peg tile  
roof repairs and kiln tile repairs.

Trusted over four family  
generations by royalty, businesses  
& homeowners alike.



Book a no-obligation visit  
01622 725 898 / 07973 332 790  
[www.dudeandarnette.co.uk](http://www.dudeandarnette.co.uk)



**DUDE & ARNETTE**  
OAST COWL CONSTRUCTION



# Oast owners



# A.T. PALMER LTD

RESTORATION SPECIALISTS EST.1949

OVER 70 YEARS IN BUSINESS



| EMPLOYED SKILLED WORKFORCE  
| RENOVATIONS & EXTENSIONS  
| CONVERSIONS & ALTERATIONS  
| DESIGN & BUILD

T: 01233 770077

SMARDEN BUSINESS ESTATE, TN27 8QL

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

- Lime mortar pointing
- Brick and stone replacement
- Structural crack repairs & remedial wall ties
- Natural damp proofing
- Professional brick and stone cleaning
- Render removal to allow masonry to breathe

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



## RESTORATION & CONSERVATION

**Tel: 01227 908563 or 07954 409840**

[www.prestigebrickwork.co.uk](http://www.prestigebrickwork.co.uk)

email: [prestigebrickworkkent@gmail.com](mailto:prestigebrickworkkent@gmail.com)

# ASH

SCAFFOLDING LTD

## Conservation Scaffolding Specialists



Smarden Business Estate, Smarden, Ashford TN27 8QL  
 Tel: 01233 770373 email: [info@ashscaffoldingltd.co.uk](mailto:info@ashscaffoldingltd.co.uk)  
[www.ashscaffoldingltd.co.uk](http://www.ashscaffoldingltd.co.uk)



# NEW FUEL SHOP OPENS IN AYLESFORD

As well as our Countywide Tanker deliveries we now have open our Fuel Shop in Aylesford

A variety of products are available including barrels of fuel should you have run out !



Unit 2D, Quarry Wood Industrial Estate,  
AYLESFORD, ME20 7NA

## EMERGENCY 250 LITRE DELIVERIES OF HEATING OIL AVAILABLE

Our quick response rural  
delivery van can deliver from  
250 to 900 litres at short notice  
should you have run out of  
Heating Oil.



**CALL**  
**01622-962599**



[www.dicefuels.co.uk](http://www.dicefuels.co.uk)

Super prices with  
litres of customer  
service !

## REGULAR TANKER DELIVERIES OF :-

HEATING OIL  
RED DIESEL\*  
ROAD DIESEL DERV

Order ONLINE by scanning the  
QR CODE



\* Red Diesel only supplied by TANKER & to Agricultural users only

A reputation built on quality  
craftsmanship and service

*Karl  
Terry*

Roofing Contractors



Kent Peg Tiling & Listed Building Specialists.  
Conservation and renovation specialists.  
High quality work by experienced craftsman.  
National Award Winning Company.

01797 270 268 | [kentpegs.com](http://kentpegs.com)







# eat, drink, buy local

*support Kent  
businesses*



*The best of Kent's food and drink experiences including restaurants, bars, cafés, pubs, farm shops, delis, butchers and markets, as well as recipes and local produce.*

*(Photos: macknade.com; whitstableharbourgin.co.uk; alkhancourt.co.uk; duckandblade.co.uk)*



*It's slightly intimidating cooking for your father-in-law, but Bryan is a no-fuss kind of bloke – so it's not surprising this is his favourite meal. You can use the steak of your choice, but my favourites are scotch or rump due to their fat content, as this is where the flavour is. Grass-finished beef tends to have less marbling and fat coverage and has a yellow tinge to it.*



# THE GOOD FARM COOKBOOK

SERVES  
2

## YOU WILL NEED

400 g (14 oz) floury potatoes, such as russet, peeled, rinsed and cut into 1.5 cm (5/8 inch) batons

100 ml (31/2 fl oz) extra-virgin olive oil, plus 1 teaspoon extra for cooking the steak

1 teaspoon dried rosemary

2 steaks (eye fillet, scotch fillet, T-bone and rump are excellent choices)

2 tablespoons Black Olive Butter

### *Black olive butter*

150 g (51/2 oz) salted butter

2 garlic cloves, peeled

50 g (13/4 oz) black olives, pitted

2 anchovy fillets

1/4 bunch fresh parsley

## BRYAN'S STEAK & CHIPS WITH BLACK OLIVE BUTTER

### METHOD

Bring a saucepan of salted water to the boil and drop in the potatoes. Return to the boil before reducing the heat to a steady simmer for 12 minutes. Drain, and lightly toss them in the colander to 'rough up' the surface of the potato. Place in a container (uncovered) and freeze for 1–2 hours.

Once the potatoes have chilled, preheat the oven to 220°C (425°F). Place the olive oil in a baking dish with the dried rosemary and put in the oven for 5 minutes before adding the potatoes.

Return the dish to the oven and bake for 30–40 minutes, or until golden, turning a few times to ensure the chips are evenly crisp. Remove the steaks from the fridge and set aside.

With about 10 minutes left on the chips, place a heavy-based frying pan over high heat. Season both sides of the steaks. Add the extra olive oil to the pan and, once hot, add the steaks. If your steak is about 2 cm (3/4 in) thick, cook them for around 3 minutes on each side for medium rare (adjust the cooking time depending on the thickness of the steak and how you like it cooked). Don't move the steaks for the first 3 minutes – this will create a lovely caramelised crust. Once this has developed, turn them over.

With 1 minute remaining on the steaks, add 1 tablespoon of the butter to the pan and baste the steaks with it.

Once cooked to your liking, remove the steaks from the pan and rest for 2–3 minutes. Remove the chips from the oven and season. Place the steak on a serving plate and top with the remaining butter. Serve with the chips and a green salad, if you like.

### For the butter

Combine all the ingredients in a food processor or blender and blitz for 20 seconds or until smooth. Taste and adjust the seasoning, then transfer to an airtight container and store in the fridge for up to 1 month.

**SERVES**  
**10-12**

## APPLE CRUMBLE WITH STAR ANISE & HEMP

### YOU WILL NEED

#### *Apples*

1.25 kg (2 lb 12 oz) apples,  
cored and cut into 3 cm (1¼  
inch) wedges  
2 tablespoons ground  
cinnamon  
1 teaspoon ground star anise  
1 teaspoon ground  
cardamon  
½ teaspoon ground nutmeg  
2 tablespoons coconut sugar

#### *Topping*

2–3 tablespoons coconut  
sugar, or sugar of your choice  
2 cups (130 g) shredded  
coconut  
1 cup (170 g) hemp seeds  
1 cup (125 g) slivered  
almonds  
1 tablespoon ground  
cinnamon  
½ cup (125 g) salted butter,  
roughly chopped

### METHOD

Place the apple in a large mixing bowl and sprinkle the spices and coconut sugar over the top.

Toss to ensure the apples are evenly coated. Transfer to a saucepan with 300 ml (10 ½ fl oz) water, cover with a lid and place over low heat. Leave the apples to stew gently for about 45 minutes, mixing every 10 minutes or so with a wooden spoon.

Meanwhile, make the topping by combining the sugar, coconut, hemp seeds, almonds and cinnamon and tossing together.

Add the butter and use your hands to rub it into the topping ingredients to form a crumb.

Preheat the oven to 150°C (300°F). Once the apples have softened, remove the pan from the heat and transfer the apple mixture to a baking dish.

Sprinkle the topping over the apples and place in the oven for 15 minutes, or until the topping has browned.

Remove from the oven and enjoy with some home-made ice cream.

### WIN A COPY OF THE GOOD FARM COOKBOOK

For your chance to win a copy of The Good Farm Cookbook, please email your name, address and telephone number to:

**dawn@conservationnews.co.uk**

Closing date: Friday 15th November 2024

*This is an extract from The Good Farm Cookbook by Scott Gooding and Matilda Brown (Murdoch Books, £20).  
Photography by Cath Muscat.*







*This delicious, warming apple crumble is a far cry from the English apple crumbles I was raised on in the UK. This version has been spiced up and the topping healthified with hemp seeds, which are rich in fatty acids, omega 3 and 6, and high in protein fibre. Plus, the coconut is rich in medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs) and antioxidants. Does it even qualify as a dessert?!*

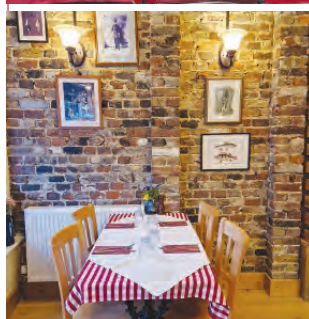


**OPENING TIMES**  
Lunch: Tue - Sun 12 noon - 2.30pm  
Evenings: Tue - Mon 6pm - 9.30pm

**Now taking Christmas bookings**



**COME AND DINE WITH  
US AT OUR NEWLY  
EXTENDED BAR AND  
RESTAURANT**



Birdies is one of Whitstable's oldest family run restaurants, serving brilliant locally caught fresh fish features alongside great French classics.

41 Harbour Street, Whitstable CT5 1AH Tel: 01227 265337  
[www.birdiesrestaurant.co.uk](http://www.birdiesrestaurant.co.uk)



# THE PEPPERBOX INN

*Country pub and restaurant, in the heart of Kent*



Windmill Hill, Harrietsham, Kent ME17 1LP  
[www.thepepperboxinn.co.uk](http://www.thepepperboxinn.co.uk) | Tel: 01622 842558



## Bull green farm

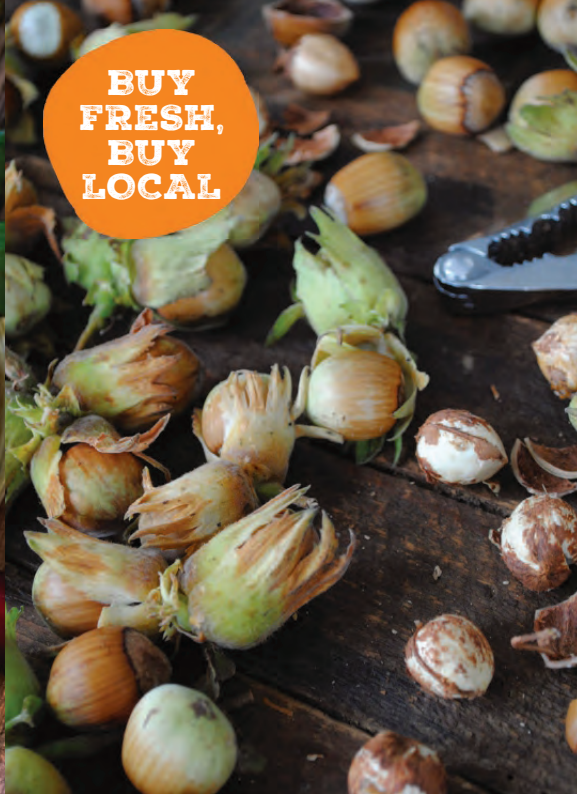
QUALITY FARM PRODUCE

We are a family-run farm rearing Dexter cows, sheep and chickens. We believe animals should be able to roam free in the fields and enjoy fresh air and green grass.

We have a nicely stocked shop with fresh eggs daily, home grown veg, and a variety of local products such as Kentish honey, jams, and occasionally freshly baked cakes. We also have a freezer packed with locally made pies and tasty treats.







**BUY  
FRESH,  
BUY  
LOCAL**





# Support your local farmers' market

For more information and to find out what's in season visit [www.kfma.org.uk](http://www.kfma.org.uk)

## SEPTEMBER

### SUNDAY: 1st

Bearsted; Tunbridge Wells

### TUESDAY: 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th

Capel-le-Ferne; Hildenborough

### WEDNESDAY: 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th Rye

### THURSDAY: 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th

Hastings; Rolvenden; Shipbourne

### SATURDAY: 7th

Chatham; Deal; Gravesend;  
Hastings; Hawkhurst; Penshurst  
& Wye

### SUNDAY: 8th

Lenham; Tonbridge

### SATURDAY: 14th

Bridge; Deal; Gravesend; Hastings;  
Hawkhurst; Hythe; Tunbridge  
Wells

### SUNDAY: 15th

Aylesford; Rochester; Staplehurst;  
Tunbridge Wells; Watlingtonbury

### SATURDAY: 21st

Deal; Dover; Gravesend; Hastings;  
Hawkhurst; Tunbridge Wells Food  
& Drink Festival; Wadhurst; Wye

### SUNDAY: 22nd

Tunbridge Wells Food & Drink  
Festival; New Ash Green

### SATURDAY: 28th

Bridge; Deal; Gravesend; Hastings;  
Hawkhurst; Hythe; Whitstable

## OCTOBER

### TUESDAY: 1st; 8th; 15th; 22nd & 29th

Capel-le-Ferne; Hildenborough

### WEDNESDAY: 2nd; 9th; 16th; 23rd & 30th Rye

### THURSDAY: 3rd; 10th; 17th, 24th & 31st

Hastings; Rolvenden; Shipbourne

### SATURDAY: 5th

Chatham; Deal; Gravesend;  
Hastings; Hawkhurst; Penshurst;  
Tunbridge Wells; Wye

### SUNDAY: 6th

Bearsted; Tunbridge Wells

### SATURDAY: 12th

Bridge; Deal; Gravesend; Hastings;  
Hawkhurst; Hythe

### SUNDAY: 13th

Lenham; Tonbridge;  
New Ash Green

### SATURDAY: 19th

Deal; Dover; Gravesend; Hastings;  
Hawkhurst; Tunbridge Wells;  
Wadhurst; Wye

### SUNDAY: 20th

Aylesford; Rochester; Staplehurst;  
Tunbridge Wells; Watlingtonbury;  
New Ash Green

### SATURDAY: 26th

Bridge; Deal; Gravesend; Hastings;  
Hawkhurst; Hythe; Knockholt;  
Whitstable

### SUNDAY: 27th

Cliftonville

## NOVEMBER

### SATURDAY: 2nd

Chatham; Deal; Gravesend;  
Hastings; Hawkhurst;  
Penshurst; Tunbridge Wells;  
Wye

### SUNDAY: 3rd

Bearsted; Tunbridge Wells

### TUESDAY: 5th; 12th; 19th & 26th

Capel-le-Ferne; Hildenborough

### THURSDAY: 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th

Hastings; Rolvenden; Shipbourne

### SATURDAY: 9th

Bridge; Deal; Gravesend;  
Hastings; Hawkhurst; Hythe

### SUNDAY: 10th

Lenham; Tonbridge

### SATURDAY: 16th

Deal; Dover; Gravesend;  
Hastings; Hawkhurst;  
Wadhurst; Wye

### SUNDAY: 17th

Aylesford; Rochester; Staplehurst;  
Watlingtonbury; New Ash Green

### SATURDAY: 23rd

Bridge; Deal; Gravesend; Hastings;  
Hawkhurst; Hythe; Knockholt;  
Whitstable

### SUNDAY: 24th

Cliftonville

### SATURDAY: 30th

Deal; Gravesend; Hastings;  
Hawkhurst



NOW OPERATING SELF  
DRIVE BOAT HIRE



## KENTISH LADY HIRE CRUISES

Scenic River Medway boat trips to Allington and Teston

Take in the sights and splendour of the Maidstone stretch of the River Medway from the comfort of the Kentish Lady River Boat. One hour trips or three hour cruises (with lunch/supper) available plus the opportunity to visit Allington castle possibly Kent's best kept secret, with its beautiful gardens, courtyards and Great Hall.

The Kentish Lady is also available for functions, including wedding receptions, birthdays or Champagne gatherings.



Tel: 01622 753740 | Email: [boattrips@kentishlady.co.uk](mailto:boattrips@kentishlady.co.uk) | [www.kentishlady.co.uk](http://www.kentishlady.co.uk)

## THE OLD NEPTUNE

Marine Terrace, Whitstable CT5 1EJ  
01227 272262 • [www.thepubonthebeach.co.uk](http://www.thepubonthebeach.co.uk)



### OPENING HOURS

Mon - Wed: 11.30 - 9.30pm Thurs - Sat: 11.30 - 11pm  
Sun: 12 noon - 9pm

Food served all day Saturday & Sunday from 12-4pm



Mon - Fri 12 noon - 4pm & 5pm - 8.15pm



## LIVE MUSIC

Sat Sept 14th - Deep River Blues  
Sun Sept 15th - Bill Saxby & The Dan  
Sun Sept 22nd - Autumn Stone  
Sun Sept 29th - Ozzie and The Ugliers  
Sun Oct 6th - Brand New Bag  
Sun Oct 13th - Night Watch  
Sat Oct 19th - Secret Gig Band  
Sun 20th Oct - Brad Pittance  
Sun 27th Oct - Altones  
Sun 3rd Nov - Blue Devils  
Sun 10th Nov - Miles Cookman  
Sun 17th Nov - Bill Saxby and The Dan  
Sun 24th Nov - Dylan Band  
Sun 1st Dec - Barracuda  
Sun 8th Dec - The Heads  
Sun 15th Dec - Ivan All Stars  
Sun 22nd Dec - Gumboots

*Please refer the website as bands  
are subject to change.*  
[www.thepubonthebeach.co.uk](http://www.thepubonthebeach.co.uk)





**Lazy Lobster**  
**WHITSTABLE**



Whitstable's brand new bar and restaurant, nestled in a 19th century pub with inspired small and large plate dining. We specialise in seasonal fish, seafood, meat dishes and fine wines. All served in the brilliant town of Whitstable. We look forward to welcoming you soon.

[reservations@lazylobsterwhitstable.com](mailto:reservations@lazylobsterwhitstable.com) | [lazylobsterwhitstable.com](http://lazylobsterwhitstable.com)  
Sea Street, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1FG | 01227 668502



Land + Sea has cemented itself in Tankerton's high street over the past three years as a foodie's heaven. With strong focus on the freshest seafood and indulgent vegetarian dishes, Land + Sea's food is a must try. With a daily changing menu, you are always guaranteed quality but with a difference each time.




139D Tankerton Rd, Tankerton,  
Whitstable CT5 2AW | 01227 668098  
[landandseatankerton@outlook.com](mailto:landandseatankerton@outlook.com)  
[landandseatankerton.com](http://landandseatankerton.com)

# Are you still an ABC?

Chardonnay is one of those grape varieties that seemed to earn itself a reputation, in this case ABC (anything but Chardonnay), and although this was about 30-odd years ago, it seems to have stuck, and many people still associate it with those over-oaked wines of the 80s/90s and can't seem to get past it.

**C**hardonnay is in fact one of the most versatile grapes on the planet and the most planted (except for Airen in Spain) and I hope this article will encourage you to look at it again, to try a glass or even a bottle. Don't leave it too long, as I promise you there is something for everyone with this grape variety – pricewise, as well as every style of wine imaginable!

## Styles of wine

As already mentioned, Chardonnay is extremely versatile and grows anywhere where vines can flourish – warm, moderate or cool climates – and as such, many new wineries and wine growing regions regard it as an 'easy entry' into the wine world. Chardonnay is essentially a neutral grape, but it has an uncanny ability to express the place where it has been grown as well as taking on the techniques from the winery, which means it can make a very wide range of styles.





In the Old World, Chardonnay can be crisp with fresh citrus and fruity aromas in the cooler areas, but in slightly warmer regions of Europe the flavours take on a more stone fruit character. In the New World, Chardonnay has a more tropical fruit profile with a fuller body, because generally the climate is much warmer. I have heard people say many times that they don't like Chardonnay, but they like Chablis! Chablis is Chardonnay – but the style is crisp and fresh with aromas of green apples and a minerally, steely character and usually unoaked. It's not the grape they don't like, but the style of Chardonnay they tasted.

## CHARDONNAY AROUND THE WORLD

### Burgundy

Burgundy in France is the homeland of Chardonnay and, according to some, has some of the finest examples – but also some of the most expensive! As mentioned above, Chablis

“CHARDONNAY IS ESSENTIALLY A NEUTRAL GRAPE, BUT IT HAS AN UNCANNY ABILITY TO EXPRESS THE PLACE WHERE IT HAS BEEN GROWN...

is a cool region just north of Dijon – hence the characteristic crisp style of wine, but go further south to the Cote d'Or, Cote Chalonnaise and Maconnais and, as it's warmer, the wines are riper and richer. If well-made they are truly delicious. Here they have notes of stone fruit such as peach and apricot and they often have floral aromas such as honeysuckle.

Burgundy has provided a template for winemaking techniques known as 'the Burgundian style' which is often copied around the world to emulate these great wines.

These techniques include MLF (malolactic





fermentation) where the wine undergoes a second fermentation to lower the acidity which, in cooler climates, is common practice and gives the wine a rounder mouthfeel. Secondly, lees stirring (stirring the dead yeast cells after fermentation) which adds creaminess, richness and texture to the wine. Then there is barrel fermentation (as opposed to a steel container) and oak ageing, with various amounts of new and old oak, depending on the style required as well as the price point. Chardonnay has a great affinity for oak which can add subtle vanilla, toast, spice and liquorice notes. Furthermore, top wines can age for decades which can develop flavours of spice, nuts, pear, honey, hay and wax – these wines tend to be very complex and use most of the techniques above to give them the ability to age and develop.

Many of the appellations in the Cote d'Or can be quite expensive, but the wines from further south, such as Maconnais and Cote

Chalonnaise, are less costly but still with many of the characteristics of wines from the Cote d'Or. Why not try a Pouilly Fuisse from Maconnais? It has aromas of minerals, almonds and citrus fruits (lemon and grapefruit) and a touch of pineapple, as it's quite warm here. Slightly less expensive but from the same region are Saint Veran and Vire Clesse with similar characteristics but less intensity.

#### **New Zealand, Australia and Tasmania**

New Zealand, for at least two decades, has been known for producing excellent Sauvignon Blanc but it also produces elegant, finely-balanced Chardonnay too. It's crisper than the wines of Australia but with some lovely melon flavours and light tropical fruit such as guava. These wines can be oaked but many are without oak, so the pure, fresh fruit flavours can be enjoyed to the full.

The over-oaked wines of Australia are long gone – those which prompted the backlash



of ABC (Anything but Chardonnay, remember!) Today they are more elegant – less alcoholic and much more restrained on the oak front. Unless a wine has a good deal of age, it should be a pale yellow. A sign of too much oak is if the wine is very yellow when it is very young: this would suggest that it is not a great wine and has been oaked too much to give it some kind of taste. If properly grown and vinified, oak should enhance what is there, not swamp the wine. Some of the best examples come from Western Australia especially Margaret River, where proximity to the Pacific Ocean produces a cooling effect to prevent the grapes from losing acidity and helping them to preserve fruit complexity, rather than overripe fruit and high alcohol.

Tasmania, cooler than Australia, produces some excellent examples of Chardonnay – leaner than the mainland, with stone fruit flavours as opposed to tropical, and excellent value for money as well!

### **United States of America**

Chardonnay is produced in Washington, Oregon, and the New York finger lakes, but it is best known in California, from the cool Carneros region where it's lighter in body with notes of apple and pear, to the warmer vineyards of northern California such as the Napa and Sonoma valleys.

Many of these Chardonnays have a full body due to the warm climate, but the cooling influence of the Pacific Ocean keeps the wines in balance. Many are made using the Burgundian techniques described earlier, such as barrel fermentation, lees stirring and oak ageing. Prices range from very affordable

(around £12 a bottle) to very expensive (over £100).

### **Chile and Argentina**

The Limari valley in the north of the country is arguably the best region in Chile for Chardonnay. The high altitude and pure air give wines that are vibrant, citrusy and bursting with mineral aromas – well worth a try and not expensive either!

Argentina is also well-known for producing excellent quality Chardonnay and the vineyards high up in the Andes can produce grapes that make wines of complexity and longevity. Catena is one of the most well-known producers in the country and offers a range of wines set at various price points.

### **England**

Last, but by no means least, almost every English winery will have an example of Chardonnay, whether it be still or sparkling, and not forgetting that it is an essential component of Champagne and many English sparkling wines in the Champagne style. Just have a look at some of the wineries in Kent such as Simpsons, Chapel Down, Balfour, and Gusbourne to name a few.

Of course, this review has not been exhaustive of the many different styles of Chardonnay available today, but I hope it has demonstrated that this grape comes in many different incarnations and there is a wine to suit most of you – your pockets and your tastes – I encourage you to try a bottle this weekend. Cheers!

**Rowena Hawtin DipWset**

# HAMPERS & GIFT BOXES

by **MACKNADE**

Visit our award-winning Food Hall, or discover us online at [macknade.com](http://macknade.com) to explore our selection of Hampers & Gift Boxes filled with treats from Kent's finest food and drink producers, as well as artisans from further afield.



MACKNADE | SELLING ROAD | FAVERSHAM | KENT | ME13 8XF

[WWW.MACKNADE.COM](http://WWW.MACKNADE.COM)







# SAM'S

## FREE RANGE TURKEYS



Our turkeys are reared to the highest welfare standards, and are free to range the meadow and grassland which makes up nearly four acres of land.

Traditionally prepared by hand, having hung for a minimum of 14 days, your turkey is guaranteed to be of the highest quality and oven-ready for your special day. Our birds are available either whole or as a crown.

### ORDER NOW

Tel: 07742 667491

Wey Street Farm

Faversham ME 13 9JB

email: [info@samsturkeys.co.uk](mailto:info@samsturkeys.co.uk)

[www.samsturkeys.co.uk](http://www.samsturkeys.co.uk)





# CONSERVATION NEWS



Photo: Instagram: tale\_victoria

## Make your message count

We have over 50,000 readers per issue

Our magazine is delivered directly through letterboxes in carefully targeted areas. Conservation News is also available for collection at selected supermarkets, garden centres, pubs, coffee shops, farm shops and independent retailers throughout Kent.

**Find out how advertising with us can boost your business**

**email: [dawn@conservationnews.co.uk](mailto:dawn@conservationnews.co.uk)**



SMALL BATCH LONDON DRY

# WHITSTABLE HARBOUR GIN

WHERE THE WORLD IS YOUR OYSTER



Come and see us at our  
Whitstable Harbour Gin Store  
- Unit 2 South Quay Shed -  
Whitstable CT5 1AB

OUR PREMIER BATCH DISTILLED JUNE 21ST

ONLINE SHOP:  
[WHITSTABLEHARBOURGIN.CO.UK](http://WHITSTABLEHARBOURGIN.CO.UK)





# Supporting communities in Kent since 1781.

With offices across Kent and London,  
we provide specialist legal services for  
individuals and businesses in the Southeast.

- + Contracts & Transactions
- + Conveyancing
- + Employment
- + Family
- + Licensing
- + Probate
- + Property
- + Tax & Estate Planning
- + Wills

To find out how we can help,  
call us on **01622 698000**  
or email [enquiries@wmlaw.uk](mailto:enquiries@wmlaw.uk)

[whitehead-monckton.co.uk](http://whitehead-monckton.co.uk)



**WM** Whitehead  
Monckton

Whitehead Monckton Limited (no. 08366029), registered in England & Wales.  
Registered office 5 Eclipse Park, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 3EN. Authorised  
and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority under no. 608279.