

Benenden

A Pictorial History

Over 120 pages of pictures and history of Benenden - the digital version is an almost true representation of the printed book created in the year 2000 and sadly all sold out, that is suitable for viewing on screen using Adobe Acrobat or similar software.

www.benendenvillage.org.uk/benendenbook

The Village Green



The village celebrating Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee on the green in 1887.

Copy of Deed Benenden Village Green

This conveyance made the fourteenth day of June one thousand nine hundred and twenty eight.

Between The Right Honourable John David Earl of Cranbrook (hereinafter called "the Donor") of the one part and the Parish Council of the Parish of Benenden in the County of Kent (hereinafter called the council) of the other part. Whereas the Donor is desirous of conveying by way of Gift to the Council the hereditaments hereinafter described and intended to be hereby assured in trust for the perpetual use thereof by the Public for exercise and recreation pursuant to the provisions of the Open Spaces Act 1906, or some or one of them.

And the Council have agreed to accept such gift upon the trust and for the purposes aforesaid and subject to the conditions specified in the Schedule hereunder written. Now this deed Witnesseth that in pursuance of the said desire and agreement the Donor as Settlor doth hereby grant and convey unto the Council All that piece of land containing three decimal nought nought one acres more or less situate at Benenden aforesaid and known as The Green and Numbered 971 on the Ordnance Survey Map (1906 Edition) for the Parish of Benenden. To hold the same unto the Council in fee simple. And the Council hereby declare that they will hold the said hereditaments upon trust for the perpetual use thereof by the Parish of Benenden for the purposes of exercise and recreation pursuant to the Open Spaces Act 1906 and subject to the conditions specified in the Schedule hereunder written.

In witness whereof the Donor and the Chairman and two other members of the Council have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.



Queen Victoria's Jubilee 1887. Photo taken from the top of the Church Tower.

Hasted refers to a "large green, called the Playstool, formerly used as a bowling green by the neighbouring gentry, who within memory used frequently to resort to it and at whose expense it is kept in order".

Dearn states that "this pastime has long been discontinued, but much to the credit of the place (the green) is not neglected".

Hazelwood (1889) says "The Fair was held annually on May 15 and cricket matches are still played on this open spot". He goes on to say "the beauty of the Green and Church were enhanced in 1808 by the removal of an alehouse and some cottages, which formally existed close to the Church" (opposite page, bottom right).