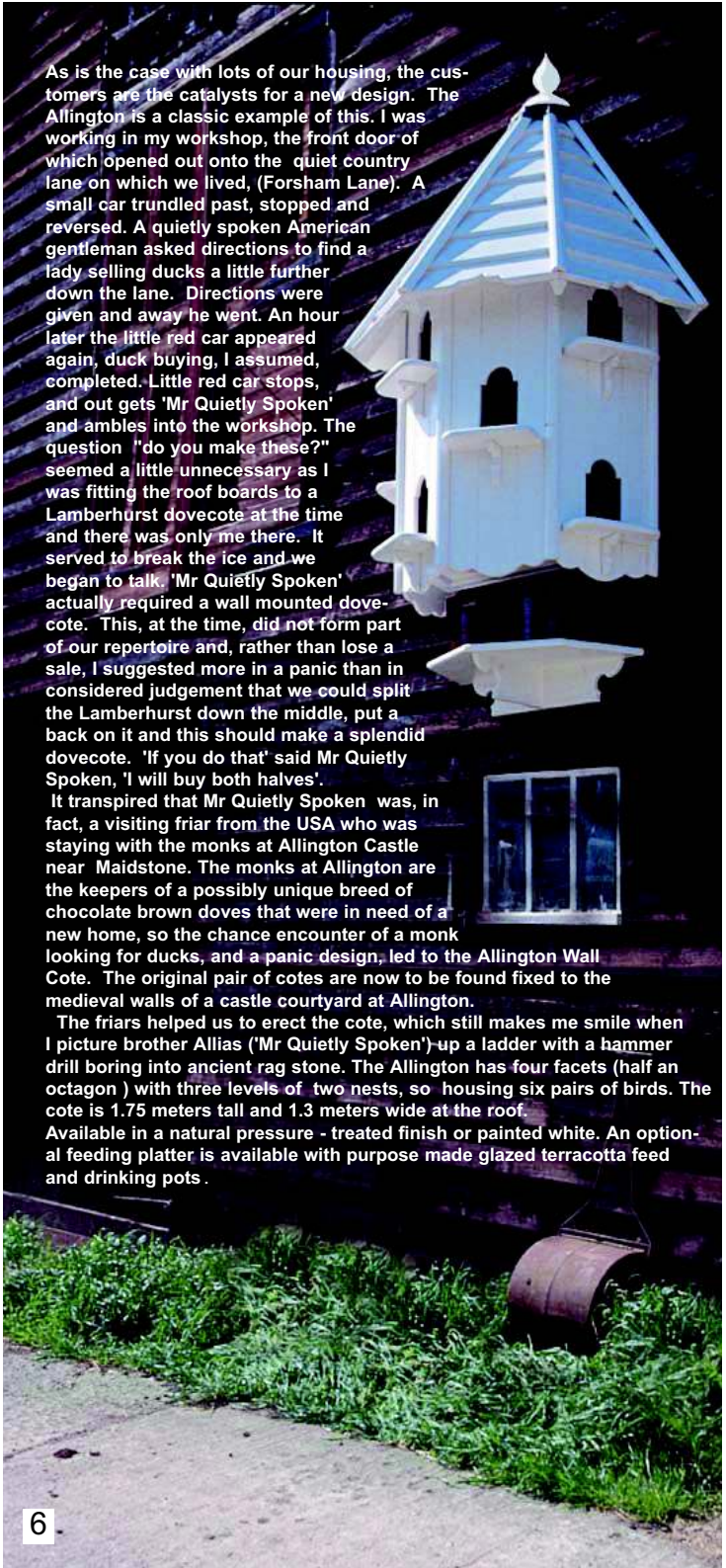
The Tenterden dove cote is the result of me having a desire to see how big I could build a cote and still get it on a post. I have a hankering to go bigger but can't get it sanctioned by the management (AKA wife). We called this giant the Tenterden because it is a decahedron (ten sided, I looked it up) and as Tenterden is our home town it seemed fitting. Colin the carpenter, who was given the first one to build, thought of the name and it pays to humour him.The Tenterden has four floors, with five nest bays on each, so will house twenty pairs of doves. It stands 4.7 meters tall and measures 1.6 meters at its widest point. Available in a natural pressure-treated finish or painted white. An optional feeding platter is available with four glazed terracotta feed and drinking pots.

The Lamberhurst was the first cote we made and kept (the very first was so ugly I took an axe to it). It stood in our own garden and was simply for our own pleasure but, as people saw it, the requests started for us to build them one.The cote is eight sided, consisting of three floors with four nest bays on each, housing twelve pairs of birds. It stands 3.75 meters tall and is 1.3 meters at its widest point. Available in a natural or painted finish.

Optional Platter & Feed Pots

The Smarden is the bungalow version of our Rochester dovecote. It has the same roof and six sided body but shorter walls. The Smarden has a single floor of three bays housing three pairs of birds. Available in a natural or painted finish.

The Rochester dove cote was orginally a commission for Mr Waldron. I can still recall his name after 25 years because the only access to Waldrons garden was through the house, so he wanted a cote to fit through the front door. The site for the dove cote was a cobbled court yard in the ancient part of Rochester. Having chosen the site Cindy and I spent hours excavating the 3ft deep hole through 800 years of compacted rubble. We finally up ended the cote and started to back fill the hole. A tap on the window from inside the house signalled us to stop. It now became apparent that the cote barred the Waldrons' view of the Cathedral. Apologetic they were but adamant that we had to move it. The only merit in having a bad day is that you learn by the experience. Now, when erecting a cote, we bring a silhouette which is held aloft so the customer can view the cote from every aspect before we dig one hole, let alone two! The Rochester is a six sided cote with two floors of three bays. Available in a natural or painted finish.



As is the case with lots of our housing, the customers are the catalysts for a new design. The Allington is a classic example of this. I was working in my workshop, the front door of which opened out onto the quiet country lane on which we lived, (Forsham Lane). A small car trundled past, stopped and reversed. A quietly spoken American gentleman asked directions to find a lady selling ducks a little further down the lane. Directions were given and away he went. An hour later the little red car appeared again, duck buying, I assumed, completed. Little red car stops, and out gets 'Mr Quietly Spoken' and ambles into the workshop. The question "do you make these?" seemed a little unnecessary as I was fitting the roof boards to a Lamberhurst dovecote at the time and there was only me there. It served to break the ice and we began to talk. 'Mr Quietly Spoken' actually required a wall mounted dovecote. This, at the time, did not form part of our repertoire and, rather than lose a sale, I suggested more in a panic than in considered judgement that we could split the Lamberhurst down the middle, put a back on it and this should make a splendid dovecote. 'If you do that' said Mr Quietly Spoken, 'I will buy both halves'.

It transpired that Mr Quietly Spoken was, in fact, a visiting friar from the USA who was staying with the monks at Allington Castle near Maidstone. The monks at Allington are the keepers of a possibly unique breed of chocolate brown doves that were in need of a new home, so the chance encounter of a monk looking for ducks, and a panic design, led to the Allington Wall Cote. The original pair of cotes are now to be found fixed to the medieval walls of a castle courtyard at Allington.

The friars helped us to erect the cote, which still makes me smile when I picture brother Allias ('Mr Quietly Spoken') up a ladder with a hammer drill boring into ancient rag stone. The Allington has four facets (half an octagon) with three levels of two nests, so housing six pairs of birds. The cote is 1.75 meters tall and 1.3 meters wide at the roof.

Available in a natural pressure - treated finish or painted white. An optional feeding platter is available with purpose made glazed terracotta feed and drinking pots .

The Cranbrook is our Rochester dove cote given the 'brother Allias' treatment. (see the Allington) The half Rochester becomes the Cranbrook wall cote. It has two floors and nesting for three pairs of doves. The Cranbrook is 1.3 meters tall and 1.05 meters wide at the roof. Available in a natural pressure treated or painted finish.

Willow Dove Cote

The inspiration for the Willow comes from the story of the willow pattern. The blue and white Chinese design depicts the saga of two lovers who were barred from seeing each other because the girl's father felt the boy, a humble clerk, unsuitable to marry into his noble family. The father had the suitor banished from the land, but the boy came back under the cover of darkness and persuaded the girl to elope. They were not to be found despite the angry father's intensive search. Some years later the father discovered the hiding place of the couple on a small island , he quickly dispatched armed men to secure the return of his daughter. When the soldiers crossed the bridge onto the island the boy tried to defend his wife but was killed. The girl was so distraught she set fire to their house and perished in the flames. Their souls, now beyond the reach of their pursuers, turned into doves destined to fly in the garden of eternal peace for ever more. We felt the lovers required a home.

The Willow design is not particularly based on any authentic style it is just a cote that, having decided to build in an oriental mode, seemed to design itself. It is hexagonal, housing six pairs of

Siam DuckCotes

The Siam duckcotes were inspired by the Willow Dovecote. I first drew the design for the Siams whilst keeping my head down in the back when being driven home from the Hampton Court Show by my "just passed her driving test" daughter as she flexed her new skills on the M25 during the rush hour at 70mph plus. Proof positive that I can work under pressure. The Siam is available in single nest (red) and three nest (blue) models. They all have back access into the individual nesting areas. Both are supplied with a pressure treated post and the requisite number of ramps .