

## Rotas for St Margaret's

### Sidesmen/-women and Readers

- 2 Feb *Sides:* C Honnywill & L Notley  
*Reader:* Kit Thornton
- 9 Feb  
8:00 *Side:* A Rucker  
*Readers:* Ruth Hawker
- 11:15 *Sides:* J Hurrion & J Fair  
*Readers:* Andrew Martin
- 16 Feb *Sides:* T Pierce & P Payne  
*Reader:* Sunday Club Reader
- 23 Feb *Sides:* C Thornton & G Clark  
*Reader:* John Clements
- 2 Mar *Sides:* TBA  
*Reader:* TBA

### Church Flowers

- 2 Feb *Jill Scott*
- 9 Feb *Judy Hurrion*
- 16 Feb *Brenda Leaf*
- 23 Feb *Sian McFadyen*
- 2 Mar *Fiona Brooks*

### Church Brass Cleaning

- 15 Feb Tim Pierce & Tim Tawney
- 15 Mar Graham Clark & Arthur Rucker

### Church Cleaning

- 1 Feb R Hawker & A Martin
- 8 Feb J Hurrion & H Medlam
- 15 Feb J Fair & B Tong
- 22 Feb B Leaf & L Notley
- 1 Mar J Horner & S Owen

### Newsheet subscription:

£7.00, or £13.00 for postal subscribers (who should send cheques – payable to St Margaret's Church, Underriver – to Neil Fair, Westover, Underriver, TN15 0SE )

## Useful Names and Addresses

### Church Warden

Andrea Pierce, 1 Grenadier Cottages, Riding Lane, Hildenborough, TN11 9QH; 832408.

### Underriver Village Association

Secretary: Robert Talbot, Weald Heights, Fawke Common, Underriver, TN15 0SP; 761546. uvasecretary@hotmail.co.uk

**Village Hall Reservations** Helen Watson, 07973 215892 . helen@underriver.com

**www.underriver-village.org.uk** Robert Talbot via the website.

### Thursday Underriver Group

Secretary: Pat Hope, 01732 833933.

**Horticultural Society** Secretary: Mary Owlett, Absaloms Farm; 838716.

**Underriver Youth Group** Charles Honnywill, Underriver Farm; 838036.

**Cricket Club** Michael Tong, Hollandhurst; 832069.

**Scotts Project** Secretary: Jill Scott, 833498.

**Neighbourhood Watch** Co-ordinator: Lorna Talbot Underriver.nw@hotmail.co.uk

**Kent County Council** Nick Chard, 42 High Street, Sevenoaks, TN13 1JG; 07855 787511. nick.chard@kent.gov.uk

### Sevenoaks District Council Ward Representatives

Roderick Hogarth, 01732 760325  
cllr.hogarth@sevenoaks.gov.uk  
Julia Thornton, 07831 234449  
cllr.thornton@sevenoaks.gov.uk

### Seal Parish Council [www.sealparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.sealparishcouncil.org.uk)

Robin Watson, The Old Vicarage, Underriver; 833930. robin@underriver.com  
Clerk - Lorna Talbot; 01732 763488.  
sealparishc@btconnect.com  
Sam Kirkaldy; 760702.  
skirkaldy@live.co.uk

**Parish Administrative Assistant** Tim Pierce  
admin@stlawrencecealchart.com

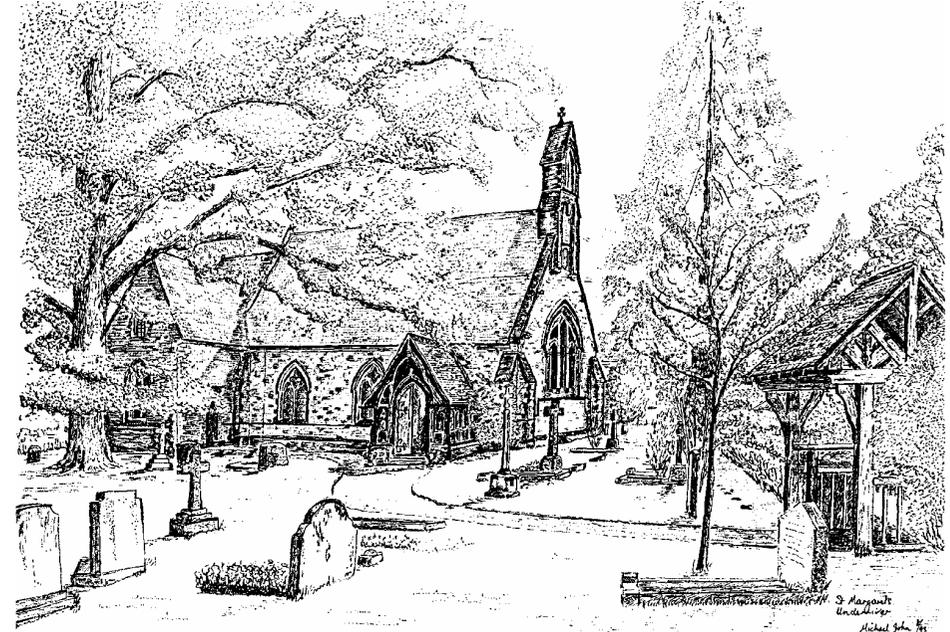
### Newsheet Editor

Tim Pierce, 1 Grenadier Cottages, Riding Lane, Hildenborough TN11 9QH  
01732 832408 [underrivernews@gmail.com](mailto:underrivernews@gmail.com)

All contributions should be submitted to the editor by 15th of the preceding month.

# Underriver Newsheet

February 2014



## THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH...

- \* Support the Village WWI Memorial - page 7
- \* Tootle a recorder - page 9
- \* Visit the website - page 4



## The Church of St Margaret, Underriver

**Vicar: The Reverend Carol Kitchener**

St Lawrence Vicarage, Stone Street, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0LQ  
 Telephone: 01732 761766 Email: carol@stlawrencechurch.org.uk

### Church Calendar

#### FEBRUARY

2	<b>Candlemas</b>	White
	11:15 <b>All-age Service</b>	Reading: Luke 2:22-40
6	08:30 <b>Morning Prayer (CW)</b>	
9	<b>4th Sunday before Lent</b>	Green
	08:00 <b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b>	Readings: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 & Matthew 5:13-20
	11:15 <b>Matins (BCP)</b>	Readings: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 & Matthew 5:13-20
13	08:30 <b>Morning Prayer (CW)</b>	
16	<b>3rd Sunday before Lent</b>	Green
	10:00 <b>Sunday Club</b> in the Village Hall	
	11:15 <b>All-Age Family Service</b>	Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-16,19-end
19	08:30 <b>Morning Prayer (CW)</b>	
23	<b>2nd Sunday before Lent</b>	Green
	11:15 <b>Parish Communion (CW)</b>	Readings: Romans 8:18-25 & Matthew 6:25-end
27	08:30 <b>Morning Prayer (CW)</b>	

#### MARCH

2	<b>Sunday next before Lent</b>	Green
	11:15 <b>All-age Family Service</b>	
5	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	Purple
	10:00 <b>Holy Communion</b> (with the imposition of ashes)	Readings: Joel 2:1-2,12-17 & Matthew 6:1-6,16-21
6	08:30 <b>Morning Prayer (CW)</b>	

Key: BCP = Book of Common Prayer - a service using traditional (17th C) language and form;  
 CW = Common Worship - a service using contemporary (21st C) language and form

**Spem in Alium**  
 featuring His Majestys Sagbutts & Cornetts

A musical journey through Renaissance Europe including music by Gabrieli, Gesualdo, Handl, Sweelinck, Weelkes and Tallis

Conductor: Robin Walker

www.cantate-choir.info

Saturday 22 March at 7.30pm  
 St Nicholas Church, Sevenoaks

**The Cantate Choir**

Tickets, priced £15 with refreshments, are available from Sevenoaks Bookshop, 147 High Street and the Cantate Box Office on 01732 770570

### Services at St Lawrence, Seal Chart



#### FEBRUARY

2	Candlemas	8:00	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9:45	All-age Family Service
4	Tuesday	8:30	Morning Prayer (CW)
9	4 before Lent	9:45	Family Communion (CW)
11	Tuesday	8:30	Morning Prayer (CW)
16	3 before Lent	9:45	Family Communion (CW)
18	Tuesday	8:30	Morning Prayer (CW)
23	2 before Lent	9:45	Matins (BCP)
26	Tuesday	8:30	Morning Prayer (CW)

production of **Uncle Vanya** (01732 363849), where it will be showing from *Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February to Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March*. This play is an undoubted masterpiece. Serebryakov (an elderly professor) and Yelena (his beautiful and much younger second wife) visit the rural estate that supports their urban lifestyle. Uncle Vanya and Dr Astrov both fall under Yelena's spell; while the less beautiful Sonya has unrequited feelings for Astrov. The play develops dramatically and poignantly, with an attempted murder and a beautiful ending. *Uncle Vanya* requires very good acting, but the Oast should be up to it.

Quite a month!

Arthur Rucker.



## THE HARRISON SISTERS' PLAYERS

*present a concert at*  
**UNDERRIVER HOUSE**  
by kind permission of Mr and Mrs S Kildahl

### SATURDAY, 15th March, 2014, at 7.30pm



**NICK PRITCHARD**  
Tenor



**ALEXANDER EDMUNDSON**  
Horn



**LEANNE SINGH-LEVETT**  
Piano

Canticle 3 'Still Falls the Rain'	Britten
Winter Words	Britten
Liederkreis, Op.24	Schumann
Auf dem Strom (tenor, horn & piano)	Schubert
Horn Sonata in F major, Op. 17	Beethoven
Villanelle for Horn and Piano,	Dukas

**Support will be given to the Charity  
the Kent Sussex and Surrey Air Ambulance Trust**

**Requested Donation: - £18 (Wine is included in the interval)**

Cheques payable to:- D R Candlin,  
MeadowBROOK, Vines Corner, Hildenborough, TN11 9LT

Enquiries: David and Sally Candlin - Tel: 01732-832203

## FROM THE VICAR

February is the shortest month of the year and sometimes feels as if it is the longest. The days are dark and the weather is cold and unwelcoming and springtime still seems to be a long way off. There are though signs of new life if we look carefully, early bulbs are beginning to show colour and leaf buds are getting fatter.

It is a good season to look at our faith and see what signs of life there are.

- What kind of a relationship do we have with God? Is it remote, or close; like a child and parent; filled with awe at a Holy God...?
- Has that relationship changed in the last twelve months – is it deeper now, or is it now less deep?
- How often are we praying, is it with a deep desire to pray, or is it with a sense of duty?
- Are we honest are we about how we feel, or do we only say what we think God would like to hear?

These are questions which we should all ask ourselves from time to time. Even if we think that our relationship is good, we should take time to look at it critically and we should not be afraid to be honest with ourselves.

God wants to have a relationship with us, he showed such great love for his creation that he gave Jesus to the world to draw people back (once more) into a relationship with him. In

our bibles we can read the story of the relationship between God and humankind, we can read about the highpoints and the low points in that relationship. We hear about God reaching out again and again, sometimes using his prophets and finally by sending Jesus into the world.

At the end of February and during March two small groups, one for adults and the other for teenagers, will be meeting to enable people to discover whether God is drawing them into a deeper commitment of faith through Confirmation. The groups will be an opportunity for exploration and hopefully for growth and no-one will be asked to decide at the beginning whether they want to be confirmed or not, they will have time to decide. If you have not been Confirmed, or even if you have and would like to explore faith anew, you could come and join one of these groups. There are also two other joint church groups meeting in the parishes, one in the evening and one in the daytime.

If you would like to know more call either Carol (761766) or Gretel (761534)

*Yours in the love of Christ*

Carol



## CHURCH NEWS

### Looking back:

Our Christmas services were very well attended and really good celebrations of Jesus' birth. Thanks are due to the choirs and organists who played for us; to the many readers from church and community at the Carol Service; to the people who took time to decorate our churches and who lit the way from gate to church on a cold dark night. Sadly I was rather hoarse and squeaky at that point so a big thank you to Rev Chris Kitchener and to Rev Ellen Wake-man who worked hard and led services, sometimes with very little notice!

### Looking Ahead:

Ash Wednesday: 5th March at 10 am Holy Communion at St Margaret's Church, Underriver (joint service)

### Prayer Times

Please come to our prayer group:

- \* 6th February 10 am at 50 The Crescent, Sevenoaks
- \* 17th February 10 am at the White House, Bitchet Green
- \* 4th March 10 am at the Vicarage

### THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

I have had a lovely letter from the Children's Society thanking us for our donation of £392.60. This is the BEST EVER and with the Gift Aid added it will be well over £400. Thank you SO SO much to each of you. I have put a letter on the board in the porch of St. Margaret's.

The Society raises over £2 million from box holders and it all goes to help vulnerable children and young people across the country.

Please, if you feel you would like to help, let me know. I have several brand new boxes that need a good home!

Jennifer Fair

### St Margaret's Church Website

St Margaret's now has its own website. To keep up to date about services and events please see

[www.stmargaretsunderriver.org.uk](http://www.stmargaretsunderriver.org.uk)

## LOCAL THEATRE IN DECEMBER & JANUARY



I hope all Underriver theatre-lovers saw Marcus Veneziani as a Babe in the Stag's Christmas panto *Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood*. The show was excellent (if rather deafening at times – does that show my age?). Aussie Alan Fletcher made a splendidly villainous Sheriff of Nottingham, Robert Pearce and Ant Payne were genuinely funny as Nurse Nellie and Silly Billy (if sometimes a little too risqué). And there were fine performances from Robin and Maid Marion and also of course from the Babes themselves. With good costumes, scenery and lighting, with some great songs and with brilliant dancing, this made a terrific evening. Special congratulations to Marcus, who displayed a real stage presence and who will surely go far.

I am not sure this is really theatre, but on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February the **Sevenoaks Stag Theatre** (01732 450175) will have two **Murder Mystery – Lottery of Death** evenings. £15 buys an evening of sleuthing fun, accompanied by a two-course meal. Just watch out for any sparkling cyanide!

The **Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells** (01892 530613/532072) has two notable productions in February.

On Thursday 6 February (one night only) the Russian State Ballet and Opera House will perform Bizet's **Carmen**. With a terrific story and some of the most attractive music in the repertoire, this show should be a sure-fire hit. Much depends on the stars playing Carmen, Don Jose and the Toreador, but this company has a good reputation.

From Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February to Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March, the Assembly Hall will mark the hundredth anniversary of the First World War with Rachel Wagstaff's stage adaptation of Sebastian Faulks' **Birdsong**. Englishman Stephen has a dangerous and passionate pre-war affair with Isabelle (a beautiful young French girl). When war breaks out, Stephen has to lead his men through the carnage of the Somme and the sprawling underground tunnels. As his world explodes around him, h clings to Isabelle's memory.

There are two shows to mention at **Tunbridge Wells' Trinity Theatre** (01892 678678).

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February there will be a screened performance of Noel Coward's **Private Lives**, recorded at London's Gielgud Theatre. Elyot (Toby Stephens) and Amanda (Anna Chancellor) are glamorous, rich, reckless and divorced. Five years later, their love is rekindled when they take adjoining suites of a French hotel while honeymooning with new partners.

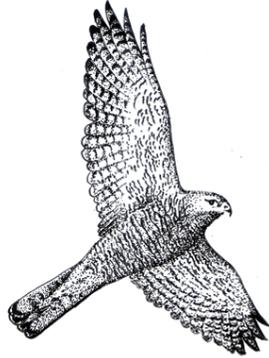
From Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February to Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March, the Trinity Theatre Club will present an amateur production of **Table Manners** (part of *The Norman Conquests* trilogy). Assistant librarian Norman desperately wants to bring happiness to the three women in his life, but he only succeeds in wreaking havoc. This amateur company are normally very good.

Finally, Chekhov lovers should book up for **Tonbridge's Oast Theatre's** amateur

## COUNTRY NOTES

Many of us are feeding the birds at this time of year and enjoy seeing the many smaller birds close up to the house. I have just witnessed a sparrow hawk sitting on our bird table – glad to say, with nothing in its mouth, but that of course is why it occasionally visits us – to grab a small bird and fly off. It was a rare chance to see this beautiful delicate bird close-up and it really brings home just how hard it has to work to feed itself.

There are people who believe that sparrow hawks are one of a number of predators that are causing the decline in our songbirds. However, in the case of sparrow hawks all the evidence is that this is not true: A small bird such as a blue tit will raise between as many as ten and fifteen young and out of this only a very few will survive due to starvation and natural disease. This is the same whether there are sparrow hawks present or not; the sparrow hawks will tend to get the weaker birds and their presence suggests a healthy population of small birds as they themselves



would not otherwise survive. So seeing a sparrow hawk is indicative of having a good habitat for all birds.

Sparrow hawks themselves are a very vulnerable species. They rarely live to three years with most deaths being caused by collision or starvation in the later parts of the winter. Over two thirds of fledged youngsters don't live to one year and only half of sparrow hawk nests produce young. Starvation is the biggest cause of death in both these cases.

So, it seems to me that the real issue is one of habitat and feed for all birds. If we want to continue to enjoy our songbirds and sparrow hawks we need to continue to provide essential winter feed to the small birds and habitat that will enable them to raise as many young as possible. Bird boxes all help as do large, thick hedges, uncut in the summer months, which give the songbirds protection from some of their other predators.

*Felicity Weston*

### Large trampoline for sale

We have a large trampoline for sale (in pieces) in good condition - great fun for children and adults! We would like £50 for it for Hospice in the Weald and you would need to collect it.

Please contact Jane Kildahl if you are interested on 832123.

## Church Charity for the year

This year St Margaret's PCC has decided to support Hand in Hand for Syria (Charity no. 1145862). This is further afield than usual but the need in Syria is enormous, even when compared to our local needs. The PCC unanimously agreed that it could be both right and appropriate to direct our giving towards relief work in this area.

I know that many people worry about where the money will go and whether it will actually get there. However I have met some of the doctors in London and have heard them speak and trust them to make the best use of our money. Also our son's partner Louise is involved with this charity and she too vouches for their honesty and efficiency.

Louise will be speaking at the **PCC AGM on 10th April**.

She wrote, "Hand in Hand for Syria has been at the forefront of international humanitarian assistance inside Syria from the very start of the conflict two years ago. Set-up and run by NHS consultants, registrars and pharmacists of Syrian descent working in the NHS in England, the charity supports medical staff and volunteers on the ground to deliver food, clothes, shelter, ambulances, educational resources, and, crucially, medical treatment to thousands of people across Syria".

Many people all over England are supporters, of all faiths and none. You can read more on Google. or

[www.handinhandforsyria.org.uk](http://www.handinhandforsyria.org.uk)

See also an article by Louise Tickle on St Margaret's website:

[www.stmargaretsunderriver.org.uk](http://www.stmargaretsunderriver.org.uk)

**Keep 17 May free**

**for a great evening in the village hall to kick off our fund raising.**

**Come to the AGM on 10th April**

**in the Village Hall**

**to hear Louise Tickle speak about "Hand in Hand for Syria"**

*Jennifer Fair*



## Underriver Village

### Village Association Chairman: Helen Watson

The Old Vicarage, Underriver, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0SB

Telephone: 01732 833930

Underriver Village Association membership £10 per household per annum.

#### Pilates Classes

Mondays 7:30 pm and 8:30 pm  
Tuesday 9:30 am

Contact: Zoe George 07950 494 335

#### Zumba Fitness

Thursdays 8:00 pm £5 a time.  
The Latin-inspired-easy-to follow-calorie-burning, dance-fitness party, feel the music and let loose!

Contact: Hattie Kildahl 07795 514772

#### Underriver Under Fives

Mondays Wednesdays & Fridays 9:00-3:00 pm  
Breakfast Club 8:20-9:00 am

Contact: Tracy 01892 533471 : 0774662610  
alantracw@aol.com

#### BOOT CAMP

Fast paced circuit based workout  
Every Tuesday 7.30pm

Contact: Charles on 07759479179 or find us  
on [www.facebook.com/CharlesCrouchBootcamp](http://www.facebook.com/CharlesCrouchBootcamp)

#### The Underriver Children's Christmas Party - Sunday 8th December

Thanks once again to the thoughtful generosity of our Underriver Village Association, local children were able to enjoy a magical afternoon of fun and games at the village Christmas party. Children aged between four and ten joined in the games organised brilliantly as ever by the very talented Sue Sinclair.

We were again joined very generously by Sue Woods with two 'real' reindeer whom all the children were able to stroke.

Afterwards, there followed a very exciting visit from Father Christmas and his colourful helper with much joyous unwrapping of presents, stories and songs.

A huge thank you to all our helpers on the day!

With grateful thanks and best wishes,

*Stephanie Barton*

#### Christmas Market in Aid of Hospice in the Weald 7th December 2013

A huge thank you to everyone who turned out on a chilly day and spent lots of money, to all those dear people who helped us and to all who gave donations of money and gifts. We had a record turnout and a record day raising nearly £2300 which was amazing. Thank you so much.

*Jane and Simon Kildahl*

(Continued from page 10)

lost! Denny Campbell had the ball mounted and presented to Peter.

He studied at Birkbeck and then with his love of language especially latin, he joined the staff of a prep school in Hampton on Thames as classics and sports master. He was musical and had a fine bass voice and then discovered that he had a talent for the French Horn and joined the Wandsworth Symphony Orchestra. This led him to acquire the skill to mend French horns, trombones and trumpets and he became knowledgeable about ancient instruments.

When Griselda's mother (Mary Hume ) died they moved to Thurland

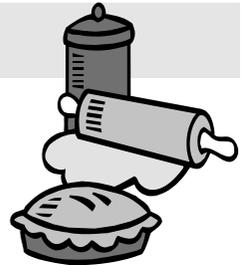
where Peter continued to make and mend in his new workshop. His great commission was restoring a William Bull silver trumpet for the Ashmolean Museum and his friend Crispin Steele-Perkins blew the first notes in Peter's workshop. He had a fine reputation for his work.

In later years Peter watched test matches, made models of old sailing ships, read all the Patrick O'Brian sea stories (in the right order!), listened to Radio 3, painted in oils, umpired the occasional cricket match, enjoyed red wine and entertained friends with unrepeatable stories. We miss him.

*Jennifer Fair*

## UNDERRIVER RECIPES

In my last student year, I shared a flat with Fritha, a postgraduate theologian. I went on to marry and join former Customs & Excise. My former flatmate went on to marry her long term boyfriend, have three children, and eventually become a priest working as a chaplain at a maximum security prison. But we have always kept in touch. For many years Fritha and husband Peter ran an Anglican diocesan retreat house. She is an accomplished cook and the retreat house became as noted for its food as for its spiritual nourishment. The following is one of her recipes slightly adapted. It is very simple and surprisingly good, even if you don't like oriental food!



#### Cambodian Beef & Ginger

Best steak  
1oz root ginger or piece of stem ginger in syrup  
Flour  
brown sugar  
Soy sauce

Cut steak and ginger into thin slivers. Stir fry in olive oil, stirring continuously. Add other ingredients to taste. You can use dry ginger-ale or syrup from the jar of stem ginger instead of sugar and so keep it moist. Serve with rice.

*Andrea Pierce*

## TAYLORS IN UNDERRIVER

The sad passing of Sheila Taylor quietly in Rockdale House on 5 January, aged 97, brings to an end 50 years since the Taylors arrived in Underriver in 1963. Lt Col Ronnie Taylor had a distinguished service in the Army during and after the war, including receiving the M.C. for action at Monte Cassino and most recently overseeing the independence of Malaysia. Sheila, then in the Foreign Office, met Ronnie in Athens and after a whirlwind romance they were married there in 1947.

On retirement in 1963 Ronnie and a partner set up a business in lighting for medical establishments. Sheila had a great Aunt in Shoreham and this pointed them to this part of the world to buy Springfield, now Kettleshill Cottage, at the bottom of Carter's Hill and get stuck into village life. Four or five years later, they moved to the Coach House and stables next to St. Julians. Both were traditional and regular churchgoers.

Down the track lived June and Hugh Gamon, another wartime M.C., at Black Charles, pillars of St Margaret's and

these two couples, supported by Neil Fair as Treasurer held the P.C.C. together with Ronnie becoming church warden in 1974. A distinguished soldier gentleman impeccably turned out and Sheila was the perfect gentle woman, who used to dispense nibbles and sherry to us new comers after church. They were proud of their two daughters Anthea and Vikky. Strong views held and expressed never allowed either of them to be unkind to anyone.

Time passed and they left in The Coach House 1992 for the shelter of a flat within the Rockdale complex. Some time after Ronnie's death on Guy Fawkes in 2000, Sheila moved into Rockdale House as it was then and finally, when it opened, into what some described as the best room in the new Rockdale House in 2013. Many visits by friends from Underriver kept her in touch and Underriver has been fortunate to have such a steadfast couple serving its community with energy and integrity for so long. May they both rest in peace.

*Christopher Thornton*

## PETER BARTON 1929-2013

Peter was a very special man: special to Griselda and special to his wide circle of friends.

After school he did National Service, where he played cricket for his regiment and became a demon fast bowler. This was the beginning of his great love and interest in cricket. Then he became a

librarian, where he met Griselda and they married in 1955. Many of us remember their Golden Wedding party at Underriver House. He played cricket occasionally for Underriver and once he took five wickets in six balls and even so Underiver

*(Continued on page 11)*

## 1914-19 War Commemoration

I think that everyone will be aware that this year marks the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War "the War to end all Wars". Underriver suffered greatly in this conflict. Every year on Remembrance Sunday we read out in St Margaret's the list of those who fell. What still has the capacity to shock is not just the number –horrifyingly large for such a small community – but their age. They were most of them so young, boys really.

The **Village Memorial** to those who gave their lives in the 1st World War is the lych gate. Their names are carved on the coffin rest.

As part of the commemoration of the start of that dreadful conflict the PCC has agreed to a scheme to refurbish and restore the lych gate. This will include re-cutting the names of those who died and the inscription above the entrance as you pass through. We hope that the work will be completed by the end of July in time for a service on the evening of August 4th when "the lights went out all over Europe".

The cost is estimated at £1,100 plus an allowance for any contingency. If there happened to be a surplus it would be donated to Help for Heroes.

Funds may be available from the UVA and the Seal PC but we felt that this is a project to which many parishioners might wish to contribute. This is after all the Village's memorial, not "ours". John Clemence has most kindly offered the services of the Clemence Charity to accept donations and claim gift aid tax recovery.

The PCC and I hope that many will want to support this project as a token of gratitude and respect for those men from our parish, who gave their lives for this country.

*Andrea Pierce*

### **Underriver What's On Events Calendar**



Looking to find out what is on in Underriver?

Click on [www.SevenoaksEvents.com/Underriver](http://www.SevenoaksEvents.com/Underriver) or Google 'Underriver Events' and you can view the list of events taking place in and around Underriver.

Are you having an event or do you run a class / group that you would like to promote to the village? Click on the 'Add Your Own Event' link to publicise it. Repeating events can simply be added once rather than have to be entered each time.

Any questions about the calendar, please contact John Hubbard 01732 808 330 or [info@Otford.net](mailto:info@Otford.net).

## THURSDAY UNDERRIVER GROUP

Thursday 9th January was a beautiful sunny day, a welcome respite in the midst of the storms, and the village hall looked lovely as we met for lunch followed by our AGM. We were slightly disappointed that only about half our members were able to be there but nevertheless we had a very enjoyable afternoon.

Jenny picked out a few highlights from the previous twelve months and said she felt certain the new programme would be equally entertaining. It is especially good that over recent years we have had several 'in house' speakers. She pointed out that this year is TUG's 10th anniversary and we shall be celebrating the occasion at our September meeting. We were delighted to be able to present a cheque for £1500 to Mary Owlett to forward to our chosen charity CRY - Cardiac Risk in the Young. We thank you all for your generosity. We have such a

good time at TUG meetings and it is a real pleasure to be able to support a charity each year.

Liz Bird our treasurer is standing down from the committee and we thank her so much for all her hard work over the years. She will still be coming to TUG but committee meetings won't be nearly so jolly without her. Thank you Liz - and Tony too who has been a real help to us in setting up the tables. Enjoy your holidays! We are very pleased that Wendy Fairweather has joined the committee.

We look forward to our next lunch on 6th February when John Ray will be speaking on the changing role of women since 17th century. Please do come along and enjoy a relaxing and entertaining couple of hours in good company and with good food.

*Jenny Thomas*

### Underriver Produce Markets 2014 Support Hospice in the Weald

The Underriver Produce Markets will again be held in aid of Hospice in the Weald. These are an ideal opportunity to meet new friends catch up with old ones over coffee, see the garden, be amused by the alpacas, raise money for a great cause and buy organic fruit ,veg, as well as ,jams preserves bread, cakes and plants.

The markets are from 9.30 to 10.30 at Underriver House on the following Saturdays

- \* **7 and 21 June**
- \* **5 and 19 July**
- \* **2 and 16 August**

Christmas Market 6th December 9.30 to 11 at Underriver House

## UNDERRIVER BOOK CLUB

The book for December was a little light reading, Major Pettigrew's Last Stand, by Helen Simonson. She was born in England and spent her teenage years living near Rye. She graduated from the LSE, moved to America, and now lives in Washington, but she still retains a great love for the English way of life.

Essentially this is a love story with a twist. It combines rural England with racial, religious and cultural battles. The widowed Major Ernest Pettigrew lives a quiet life in a sleepy country village, occasionally interrupted by his obnoxious and overbearing son, Roger, and his loud and glamorous American girlfriend, but when his beloved brother dies the Major finds his companionship deepening with the village shopkeeper, the stylish and attractive Mrs Ali.

Drawn together by a love of books, particularly Kipling, and the loss of their partners, they are forced to contend with disapproving and irate relatives and

gossiping villagers. Their shared sense of humour and sensitivity is very sympathetically portrayed, and the supreme efforts they have to make to overcome their mostly unpleasant relatives is very heart-warming.

Some of the village characters were rather stereotyped, and an interesting idea was put forward that possibly the author had been on a creative writing course and was trying rather too hard to be different and innovative with some of her more farcical descriptions. It will be interesting to read her next book to see if she has refined her writing skills. We had a lively discussion and with one or two exceptions it was agreed that it was a thoroughly enjoyable book which made you think, laugh and ultimately cheer on the redoubtable Major and Mrs Ali.

*Sue Owen*



### The Underriver Recorder Group welcomes new players!



The Underriver Recorder Group would love to have some more members so if you play the recorder please do get in touch. We try to meet once a month for about an hour to play together and more often if we need to polish something up for a performance.

We are ably organised by Lesley Martin so please contact her either by email – [lesleymartin@waitrose.com](mailto:lesleymartin@waitrose.com) or tel 01732 833076.