

## Rotas for St Margaret's

### Sidesmen/-women and Readers

- 6 Apr Side: S Owlett  
Reader: Christophe Patricot
- 13 Apr  
8:00 Side: C Honnywill  
Reader: Gladys Brooke
- 11:15 Sides: J Clemence & J Rucker  
Reader: Richard Shirtcliff
- 17 Apr Sides: A Rucker
- 20 Apr Sides: G Clark & R Wells  
Reader: Charles Honnywill
- 27 Apr Sides: T Pierce  
Reader: Phillip Payne
- 4 May Sides: L Notley & C Thonton  
Reader: Jennifer Fair

### Church Flowers

- 6 Apr Lent
- 13 Apr Lent/Palm Sunday
- 20 Apr Easter
- 27 Apr Jane Martineau
- 4 May Jennifer Horner

### Church Brass Cleaning

- 19 Apr Elizabeth & Richard Shirtcliff
- 17 May Kit Thornton & Neil Fair

### Church Cleaning

- 6 Apr S Honnywill & J Rucker
- 12 Apr M Clark & S Tawney
- 19 Apr F Brooks & E Shirtcliff
- 26 Apr R Hawker & A Martin
- 3 May J Hurrion & H Medlam

### 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

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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  
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admin@stlawrencesealchart.com

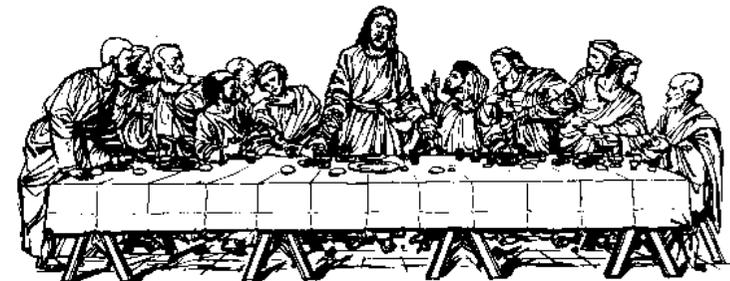
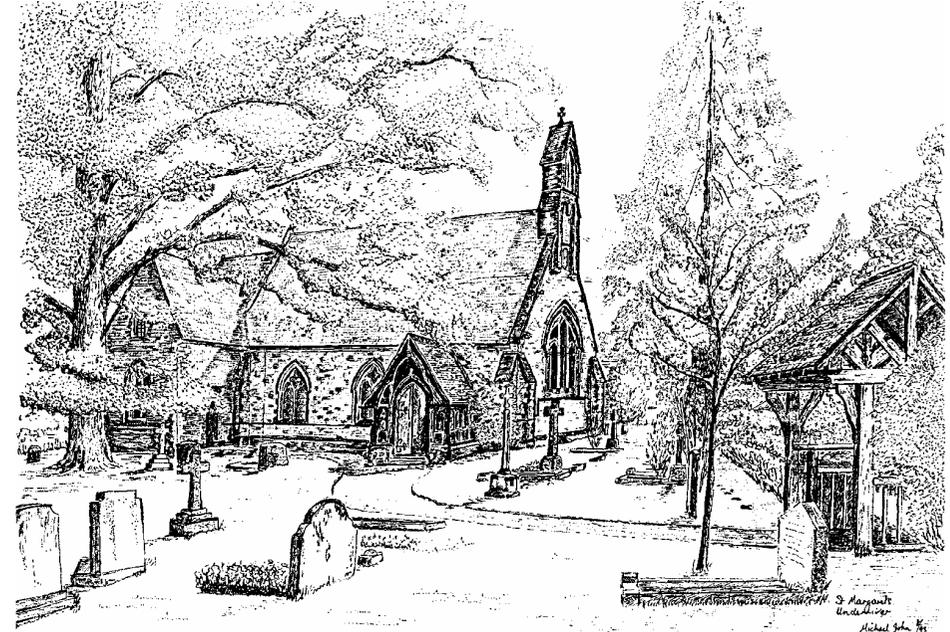
### Newsheet Editor

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

APRIL 2014



A Very Happy Easter to you all



## 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

#### APRIL

6	<b>Lent 5 (Passiontide begins)</b>	<i>Purple</i>
	11:15 <b>All-age Service</b>	
		<i>Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14</i>
10	08:30 <b>Morning Prayer (CW)</b>	
13	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<i>Purple</i>
	08:00 <b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b>	
		<i>Readings: Phil 2:5-11 &amp; Matthew 21:1-11</i>
	11:15 <b>Palm Sunday Service</b> —(with Procession)	
		<i>Readings: Phil 2:5-11 &amp; Matthew 21:1-11</i>
17	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<i>White</i>
	08:30 <b>Morning Prayer (CW)</b>	
	18:00 <b>Maundy Thursday Holy Communion</b>	
		<i>Readings: 1 Cor 11:23-26 &amp; John 13:1-17,31b-35</i>
18	<b>Good Friday</b>	
20	<b>EASTER DAY</b>	<i>White</i>
	11:15 <b>Family Celebration Holy Communion (CW)</b>	
		<i>Readings: Acts 10:34-43 &amp; John 20:1-18</i>
24	08:30 <b>Morning Prayer (CW)</b>	
27	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	<i>White</i>
	11:15 <b>Parish Communion (CW)</b>	
<b>MAY</b>		
1	08:30 <b>Morning Prayer (CW)</b>	
4	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	<i>White</i>
	11:15 <b>Volunteers Service</b>	
		<i>Reading: Exodus 35:20-26, 30-35</i>

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

#### 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)**

cut a shallow cross into the top of each bun. Cover with a clean tea towel and leave to rise again for approx 45 mins or until well risen.

- Preheat the oven to 220°C/425°F/Gas 7
- Mix egg yolk and 2 tablespoons of water. Brush onto dough balls.
- Make the crosses by rubbing the butter into the flour, add a little cold water to make a thick dough. Roll the dough into a ball, cut in half, then each half into 6. Place in the fridge for at least 30 minutes.
- Roll each into a long thin strip, cut in half and firmly press each into the cross of the buns without knocking the air out.

Bake for 15 - 20 minutes or until well risen and golden brown. Place onto a wire rack and leave to cool.

*Editor*

#### 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.

#### Services at St Lawrence, Seal Chart



#### APRIL

6	Lent 5	8:00	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9:45	All-age Family Service
8	Tuesday	8:30	Morning Prayer (CW)
13	Palm Sunday	9:45	Palm Sunday Service (with Procession)
15	Tuesday	8:30	Morning Prayer (CW)
18	Good Friday	11:15	Good Friday Service
20	Easter Day	9:45	Family Celebration Communion (CW)
22	Tuesday	8:30	Morning Prayer (CW)
27	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter	9:45	Matins (BCP)
29	Tuesday	8:30	Morning Prayer (CW)

## UNDERRIVER RECIPES

A **Hot Cross Bun** is always in any list of Easter recipes as it is customary to eat the buns on Good Friday.

Originally eaten by the Saxons to honor their goddess Eostre the buns are marked with a cross as it is believed the bun represented the moon and the cross the moon's quarters. To Christians, the cross symbolizes the crucifixion.



### Ingredients:

#### For the Buns

500g strong, white bread flour  
55g Muscovado sugar  
1 tsp salt  
1 tsp ground cinnamon  
55g cold butter cut into small pieces  
100g dried currants  
7g dried yeast  
300 ml /½ pint warm (not hot) milk

#### For the Crosses

75g all purpose plain flour  
35g cold butter, cut into small pieces

#### Glaze

Egg yolk  
2 tablespoons water

### Preparation:

- Mix together the flour, sugar, salt and spices. Rub in the butter. Then, add the currants.
- Sprinkle the yeast over the mixture and pour in the warm milk. Mix until a soft sticky dough is formed.
- Knead for no less than 10 minutes on a lightly floured surface until a silky smooth dough is formed. Place in a large, lightly oiled bowl. Cover and leave to rise in a warm (not hot) place until doubled in size, (about 2 hours).
- Tip the dough onto a lightly floured surface, knock out the air and knead again for 2 mins. Divide into 12 and roll into a bun shapes. Then place the buns on a lightly oiled baking sheet. With a sharp knife

## FROM THE VICAR

Geoffrey Chaucer set his “Canterbury Tales” in the month of April. Once spring had arrived and the rough roads of Medieval England had opened after the mud and floods of winter, the pilgrims could gather at an inn in Southwark and set out on a pilgrimage to Canterbury to visit the shrine of Thomas a Becket in the cathedral. The pilgrims set out on their journey with light hearts, regarding that journey as both a holiday and a religious pilgrimage – on the way they enjoyed the soft April showers and the sight of budding trees and spring flowers.

How do we feel now that April has begun? In our gardens we can see leaf buds opening, spring flowers blooming, birds nesting and the days are lengthening. It does not take much imagination to think of the summer days ahead when we will be able enjoy being outside and maybe going on holiday. Perhaps we, like the Canterbury pilgrims, also feel ready for a spiritual journey this April?

This month, in our churches, we will be travelling with Christ as we live again the last full week of his life on earth. Starting with the celebrations of Palm Sunday (13th April) when we too will process, as Jesus’ friends and supporters did, when Jesus arrived that last time in Jerusalem. Then, we will travel on through the events of Holy Week with its ups and downs.

We will stop to remember the last time Jesus and his disciples ate

together, the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday (17th April). We will think of the way they at dinner committed themselves to always follow him, yet after his arrest later that evening they all melted away, too frightened to be associated with him.

Then, we will enter into the sadness of Good Friday (18th April) when we will think about Jesus’ crucifixion. How Jesus, God’s Son, innocent of all that he had been accused of, was crucified between two common thieves. We will imagine the sadness of his mother and the beloved disciple at the foot of the cross and the boldness of Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus who later claimed his body for burial before the Sabbath.

We will wait through the quietness of the following day until Easter Day (20th April) dawns and we can celebrate Jesus’ resurrection. With Christians across the world we will rejoice in the knowledge that Jesus rose from the dead and was able to speak with his startled followers on that first Easter Day.

If you are able to join us at our services from Palm Sunday to Easter Day please do so. The week can be something of a roller-coaster, but it can also be a deeply spiritual



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experience as well. If you look at the services in the magazine you will see where they will be held. Palm Sunday and Easter Day services will take place in each of the churches and Maundy Thursday and Good Friday will be joint services, one in each of the churches.

If you are not able to be in church, you could follow the story of Jesus' last week by reading the story in the bible, it can be found in Luke chapters 22 – 24. If you do not have a modern version of the bible to read this from then you could borrow one from either of the churches!

*Yours in the love of Christ  
Carol*

## CHURCH NEWS

### Church News:

If you read this magazine you will be aware that there was an appeal for the refurbishment of our church lych gate, which is also our World War I memorial. Due to the generosity of the people of Underriver donations have flooded in making this possible. The Diocese of Rochester has also granted us permission for the work to be done and plan is to do this during the school Easter holidays.

### Looking Ahead:

Palm Sunday (with procession down the hill at 11.05 am)

13th April 11.15 am: Palm Sunday Service

Maundy Thursday (joint service at St Margaret's)

17th April 8 pm: Holy Communion

Good Friday

18th April 9 am (approx.): walk from St Margaret's to St Lawrence's Church

11.00 am: come and join us for hot cross buns and coffee

11.15 am: Good Friday Service (joint service at St Lawrence's)

Easter Day

20th April 11.15 am: Celebration Family Holy Communion

Annual Volunteer's Service

4th May at 11.15 am: as we say 'thank you' to the many people who give their time to our church - with refreshment to follow the service!

## The March concert at Underriver House

The fine young pianist, Leanne Singh-Levett, paid a return visit to Underriver on March 15<sup>th</sup> with two fellow students from the Royal College of Music, Nick Pritchard, tenor, and Alex Edmundson, French horn. Their interesting and ambitious programme included substantial works by Schubert, Schumann and Benjamin Britten, and had the added interest that it was the first time the French horn had figured in a Harrison Sisters Players concert.



Alex and Leanne opened with a delightful Sonata by Luigi Cherubini, to be followed by the great contrast of Benjamin Britten's song cycle "Winter Words (poems by Thomas Hardy).

This is Britten at his most austere, but Nick and Leanne rose marvellously to its complexity and challenges. Then, in order to lighten the mood, Leanne gave us a brilliant "sorbet" in the form of Percy Grainger's paraphrase of Tchaikovsky's "Waltz of the Flowers". The first part of the evening ended with all three artistes coming together for a superb performance of Franz Schubert's "Auf dem Strom".

The trio opened the second half of the concert with a beautifully balanced account of Britten's Canticle "Still falls

the rain" (poem by Edith Sitwell). Alex coped flawlessly with the considerable demands of the horn part, originally written to challenge the legendary Dennis Brain. Nick Pritchard followed (accompanied by Leanne) with an accomplished and lyrical performance of Robert Schumann's song cycle "Liederkreis".

The concert ended with another Dennis Brain favourite, "Villanelle" by Paul Dukas. David Candlin (bless him) spoke to dedicate this to my late husband, and I can only say that

Peter would have been as moved and thrilled as I was by Alex Edmundson's lovely performance (so well accompanied, again, by Leanne).

The Kildahl family's legendary hospitality was, yet again, deeply appreciated by us all – as also the hard work behind the scenes of David and Sally Candlin, and the contribution of Harriet's efficient team of young helpers. A substantial sum was raised by the evening for Kent, Sussex and Surrey Air Ambulance Trust.

*Griselda Barton*

(Continued from page 11)

If you want seats for either of these productions, you may need to book pretty soon.

There are several shows worth considering at **Tunbridge Wells' Trinity Arts Theatre** (01892 678678) – all for one night only.

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April the Sell A Door Theatre Company (yes, honestly!) will perform an imaginative retelling of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic adventure story **Kidnapped**. Set in the 1750s Highlands of Scotland, this tale is said to be perfect for young and old audiences alike.

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April the Pantaloons Theatre Company will give a four-man performance of **Sherlock Holmes** – presumably based on Conan Doyle's classic detective stories, but featuring live music and audience interaction. The show is described as hilarious and suitable for all ages.

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April **Formby** is described as a funny, touching and thoughtful play about an essentially ordinary man with an extraordinary talent. The play shows George Formby rising from awkward stable boy to become one of Britain's biggest stars – with all-time hits such as *Blackpool Rock*, *Leaning On A Lamp-post*, *When I'm Cleaning Windows* and *TT Races*.

In a completely different vein, on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April George Dillon will present what is said to be an unforgettable vision of Jesus in his highly intense, very human and occasionally humorous solo staging of **The Gospel of St Matthew By Candlelight**. Well worth considering. However, going to the Maundy Thursday service at St Margaret's would be an alternative option – well, this is a church as well as a village magazine and I used to be a church-warden!

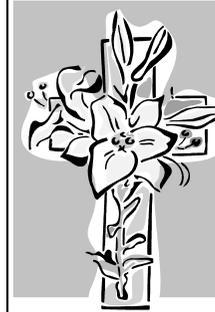
Finally, from Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April to Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May **Tonbridge's Oast Theatre** will give an amateur performance of Joe Orton's **Loot**, which is part black comedy, part moral satire and part police drama spoof. Two men are planning to make their fortunes by committing a robbery, but their problem is hiding the money. Fortunately one of the pair works at an undertaker's, so burying the cash in a coffin seems a good plan. However, a promiscuous nurse and an eccentric police inspector seem to have other ideas ... I have never seen this play, but it has become something of a classic.

Arthur Rucker.

## Prayer Times

Please come to our prayer group:

- \* 1st April 10 am 50 at The Crescent
- \* 14th April 2.00pm at Shepherd's Cottage



## EASTER LILIES

If anyone would like to make a donation towards the purchase of Easter Lilies in memory of someone (if you would like to name them, a list will go in church of all who are being remembered), please could you let me know as soon as possible so that I may place an order.

Jane Martineau 01732 833141 or martineaujane@yahoo.co.uk

## SPRING

### A Celebration in Music and Words

In Aid of 'Hand in Hand for Syria'

Saturday 17 May at Underriver Village Hall at 6:45 pm for 7:00 pm

Tickets £20 from Jenny Fair 832292

### Palm Sunday Procession

On Palm Sunday we remember Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem at the start of Holy Week. At St Margaret's it is our custom to mark this with a short procession down Carter's Hill to the church. One of the children from our Sunday Club rides a pony, representing Jesus. The rest of us –choir, children, mums and dads- wave branches and sing. It's great fun!

Please join us on the 13<sup>th</sup> if you can.



## 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)

### UNDERRIVER VILLAGE HALL – HIRE OPPORTUNITY

After a long association with Underriver Village Hall the Underriver Under 5's Nursery will be closing it's doors for the last time on July 18<sup>th</sup>.

This provides an opportunity for new clubs & businesses to hire the hall as daytimes on a Monday, Wednesday & Friday will become available.

If you would like to discuss this further please contact Robert Talbot on 01732 833930 or email [uvasecretary@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:uvasecretary@hotmail.co.uk)

## THE ANNUAL UNDERRIVER QUIZ NIGHT

The village hall was packed with over 70 people for "The Underriver Quiz Night" on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March, with the "Under Achievers" team coming in eventual winners.

A big thanks to Lucy & Rob Hatley for running this very enjoyable village event which raised over £800 towards our annual costs maintaining the Village Hall & recreation ground.

## LOCAL THEATRE



April's main event at **Sevenoaks' Stag Theatre** (01732 450175) will be the Sevenoaks Players' amateur production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's **South Pacific**. Set on a Pacific island paradise in World War II, this musical tells the story of American sailors and naval nurses who were stationed there. The plot centres on a nurse who falls in love with a middle-aged French plantation owner but struggles to accept his mixed race children. Terrific songs include *Bali Hai*, *Nothing Like a Dame*, *I'm Going to Wash that Man Right out of my Hair* and *In Love with a Wonderful Guy*. The show is on from Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April, with a Saturday matinée. This is an ambitious show to put on, but the Sevenoaks Players will be up to it. Don't miss what promises to be a truly enchanted evening!

Also at **the Stag**, at 6 pm on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April, students of Dare 2 Dance Academy will present their annual dance show **The Forbidden Library of Books**, where they will meet the likes of Harry Potter, Alice in Wonderland and The Great Gatsby. This sounds fun.

April really is a bumper month for musicals. From Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April (with matinees – but check the dates of these) at **Tunbridge Wells' Assembly Hall Theatre** (0845 269 1889 / 01892 530613) the Tunbridge Wells Operatic and Dramatic Society will be giving an amateur performance of Lionel Bart's **Oliver**. Great songs include *Consider Yourself One Of Us*, *You've Got to Pick A Pocket Or Two* and *So Long As He Needs Me*. TWODS have a great reputation; and, if *Fagin is good*, this brilliant adaptation of Dickens' *Oliver Twist* cannot fail to delight.

I should also mention two shows at **the Assembly Hall Theatre** right at the beginning of May:

On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May the Chisinau National Opera and Philharmonic Orchestra will present Puccini's much-loved tear-jerker **La Bohème** (*Your Tiny Hand is Frozen*, *They Call Me Mimi* and *Muzetta's Waltz*). The opera will be sung in Italian with English surtitles.

On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May - at various times, check with the theatre - English National Ballet and the English National Ballet School will perform **My First Ballet: Coppélia**. ENB's *My First Ballet* series features graduating dancers of outstanding potential. In their version of the well-known fairy tale about an eccentric toymaker and his mechanical doll, Delibes' great score will be interspersed with narration to ensure that everyone (including young children) can enjoy the show.

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## UNDERRIVER BOOK CLUB

Members of the Book Club met together on Friday 7th March, to discuss J.K. Rowlings first adult book entitled "A Casual Vacancy". It had received a mixed response from the Press, and the Underriver critics were rather less than enthusiastic. There is a rather interesting interview with the author on Google, for those who might be interested, when she explains her reason for writing it. It is about hate and prejudice against people who live in poverty, something she has experienced first hand. Her next book is entitled "The Cuckoo's Calling" which she wrote under the name of Robert Galbraith, has been received with much more enthusiasm by the critics.

Our next meeting is on April 4th, when we will be discussing "Old Filth" by Jane Gardam.



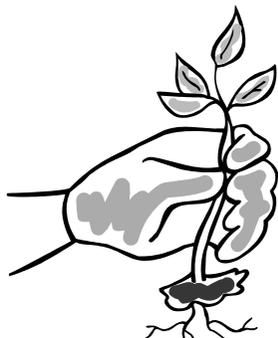
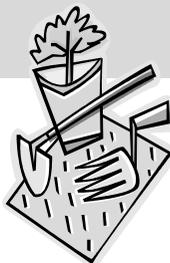
*Fionna Brooks*

## UNDERRIVER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The next event in the programme is the

**Plant Sale at Absaloms on  
Saturday May 10th**

The charity this year is Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group.



Please put the date in your diaries and to make sure we have plenty of plants to sell sow a few extra seeds now with the sale in mind.

Anything is welcome but vegetable plants are always popular.

*Angela Ridge*

# UNDERRIVER GOLF DAY SATURDAY 24<sup>th</sup> MAY



INCLUDES:

9 HOLE COMPETITION AT HEVER GOLF CLUB FOLLOWED  
BY AFTERNOON TEAS

7.30pm PIMMS RECEPTION AT UNDERRIVER VILLAGE HALL  
FOLLOWED BY DINNER & PRIZE GIVING

(Bring Your Own Wine/Refreshments)

YOUNG PLAYERS WELCOMED PROVIDING THEY ARE PROFI-  
CIENT GOLFERS & ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

TICKETS: £35 (DINNER ONLY: £15)

TO RESERVE A PLACE PLEASE CONTACT

MILES HAYWARD 01732 834847 Email: [miles hayward@btinternet.com](mailto:miles hayward@btinternet.com)

CLOSING DATE FOR GOLF ENTRIES - 10<sup>th</sup> May

## THURSDAY UNDERRIVER GROUP

The members of T.U.G. and several guests met in the Village Hall on Thursday 6th March, in anticipation of hearing Julia Quenzler, the B.B.C. court artist talk to us about her career, sadly it was not to be, as work, kept her away, however the committee rose to the occasion and found a very able substitute in Paul Weakley, a former member of the D'oily Cart Opera company who entertained us splendidly after supper, to a selection of songs old and new, peppered with amusing asides, and the teasing of the only poor Scot in the room !

Our next meeting, is at lunch time on April 3rd, when Margaret Watson will play her Harp for us, I am told she is a delight to listen to.

*Fionna Brooks*

**Juliet Simpson's sculptures** will be in the Orangery in Knole

from Tuesday May 13th to Sunday June 15th.

Entry to the Orangery is free but it costs £4 to park a car if you are not a member of the National Trust.

See [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/knole/](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/knole/) for opening times.

### 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 26 July**

\* **2 and 16 August**

Christmas Market 6th December 9.30 to 11 at Underriver House

## COUNTRY NOTES

At this time of year the hedges are just bursting into leaf, starting with the white flowers of the prickly black-thorn, followed by the hawthorn, then the leaf of all the tree species – oak, hazel, field maple, ash, to name but a few and then the dog roses. Hedges not only look beautiful but they provide an amazing safe habitat for our songbirds and small mammals. There is no better way to protect the songbirds from the magpies and other corvids wanting to steal their eggs than by having a really wide thick hedge. If you are planting a new hedge try to put a fence up a good metre away from the new trees. This will help the hedge cutter to keep it well trimmed while it is growing to ensure a really thick growth but you can then let it get bigger and wider as it grows. Once it is mature, cut it once every two or



three years, during the winter or as late into the autumn as possible. This will maximise the seeds and berries left overwinter, providing essential feed to so many small mammals and birds. It will also help the hedge to get bigger and better for wildlife.

Bats have been shown to go out hunting earlier in the evening when there is a really good hedge to provide protection from predators. Dormice, which will be found in many of our local woodlands can only move from one small woodland to another through a hedge. They do not travel on the ground. A hedge is a wildlife corridor so do think about planting up gaps in your hedge as well.

*Felicity Weston*