

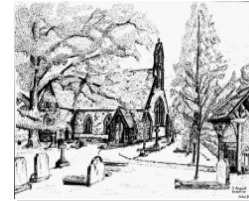
# Underriver Newsheet

JUNE 2014



## THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH...

- \* Party in the Garden - page 12
- \* Bake a tart - page 9
- \* View the renewals at Romshed - page 10
- \* Bring your pets to church - Page 5



**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@stlawrencealchart.com

## Church Calendar

### JUNE

1	<b>Sunday after Ascension</b>	White
	11:15 <b>Pet Service</b>	Reading: Psalm 23
5	08:30 <b>Morning Prayer (CW)</b>	
8	<b>Pentecost</b>	Red
	08:00 <b>Holy Communion (BCP)</b>	Readings: Acts 2:1-21 & John 7:37-39
	18:00 <b>Evensong (BCP)</b>	Readings: Acts 2:1-21 & John 7:37-39
12	08:30 <b>Morning Prayer (CW)</b>	
15	<b>Trinity Sunday</b>	Green
	9:30 <b>Joint Sunday Club</b> in the St Lawrence School	
	11:15 <b>No Service at St Margaret's—Joint Service at St Lawrence's</b>	
19	08:30 <b>Morning Prayer (CW)</b>	
22	<b>1st After Trinity</b>	Green
	11:15 <b>Parish Communion (CW)</b>	Readings: Romans 6:1b-11 & Matthew 10:24-39:
26	8:30 <b>Morning Prayer (CW)</b>	
29	<b>St Peter &amp; St Paul</b>	Red
	11:15 <b>St Peter &amp; St Paul All-age Service</b>	Reading: Acts 12:1-11

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)

## FROM THE VICAR

In the summer months of June and July both churches will celebrate their beginnings and remember the saints they have been named after. It is good each year to look back and give thanks for the generosity and foresight of those who came here before us and caused these churches to be built and worshipped in them.

Both parishes were once part of the bigger parish of St Peter and St Paul in Seal village and there was a time when Seal parish church was part of the greater parish of Kemsing – things have changed!

It is hard to imagine now what it must have been like for families in Underriver when a family member died in the winter months and they were faced with a long trek up Carter's Hill, in snow and ice, or mud, to Seal village for the funeral. It was equally hard for people living a distance from Seal who wanted to attend Sunday services, especially for those who were 'in service' and who would have had little time to themselves and a long walk to church.

The benefactors who built the churches must have been very popular with the local people.

St Lawrence's Church grew out of tragedy, when the Wilkinson family lost their daughter Mary whilst staying in the Isle of Wight. After the church had been built they must have drawn comfort from seeing the church and churchyard, where their daughter's

remains had been re-interred, from their windows.

St Margaret's Church was mostly paid for by John Davidson who lived at Underriver House, building it in memory of his mother Margaret – hence the dedication to St Margaret. This church met the needs of those who lived at the greatest distance from the parish church in Seal village.

Church of England churches are more often dedicated to saints, than they are to other aspects of faith, such as the Trinity. People can identify with a saint and in years gone by, before the Reformation, people would have prayed to God through the saint to which their local church had been dedicated. Today we remember the saints as extraordinary men and women who show us how to live selflessly as people of faith - they can inspire us.

We have a wonderful legacy in our churches of men and women who served and worshipped in them before we were born. Our task is to worship and care for these lovely churches so that they will be there for the next generation to enjoy after we have gone.

*Yours in the love of Christ  
Carol*



## CHURCH NEWS

### Looking back:

**Volunteer's Service** 4<sup>th</sup> May: we had a lovely service together to celebrate the work of our volunteers, who work hard and sometimes unseen to keep our church open. The service was followed by snacks and drinks in the Village Hall.

**Funeral service** 6<sup>th</sup> May: after the sad death of Jim Owlett from Absalom's Farm, we had a service at St Margaret's Church. The church was full and mourners were seated in both the churchyard and Village Hall listening to the service as it was relayed there from the church. After the service, people were invited to join Mary and the family at the White Rock for refreshments.

**Concert and Supper** 17<sup>th</sup> May: a really good number of people bought tickets for this event, which was in aid of 'Hand in Hand for Syria'. There was a feast of music, words and good food to be enjoyed by all.

### Looking Forward:

**Pet Service** 1<sup>st</sup> June 11.15 am: come and join us as we give thanks for our animals. If the weather is fine we will be outside the Village Hall and if it is wet we will be in the church.

**Garden Party** 7<sup>th</sup> June 2 pm – 5 pm: do come along and enjoy the afternoon – see separate notice about this.

Note: 15<sup>th</sup> June 9.45 am: the joint service will be at St Lawrence's, as they celebrate the dedication of their church (**no service at St Margaret's Church that day**)

**Feast of St Peter and St Paul** 29<sup>th</sup> June 11.15 am: joint service at St Margaret's with St Lawrence's Church.

### Prayers:

Please pray for our confirmation candidates, they come from St Margaret's and from St Lawrence's and, with one exception, will be confirmed at Chevening Church on the evening of July 6<sup>th</sup>

Young people: Louis and Marcus Veneziani; Rebecca and Katherine Payne; Sam Honneywill and Megan Holness

Adults: Lyn Austin; Penny and Martin Robson.

### Prayer Times

\* Please come to our prayer group:

Mon 9th June 2:00pm Grenadier, Riding Lane  
Thurs 26th June 2:00pm The Vicarage  
Tues 8th July 10:00am White House, Bitchet Green

### PET SERVICE

#### Last call to all pets!

Dogs, rabbits, mice, rats, gerbils, hamsters, snakes, guinea pigs, ponies, and (if you really must) cats! There is a special service for us on the 1<sup>st</sup> June at 11.15 on the Village Hall green (or in the church if wet). Well-behaved humans are welcome too. Please come and bring yours along. Last year there were lots of us dogs and we had a great time.

Comet Pierce

### CHURCH GARDEN PARTY

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June at Bassets, Mill Lane**

*Would you consider giving a raffle or tombola prize  
or donating bric-a-brac, flowers, plants, produce,  
jams, savouries, cakes or scones?*

*Please start clearing out your lofts, taking your cuttings  
and preparing your ingredients to donate to the joint Garden Party?*

*We would love to hear from anyone  
who could give some time to help with a stall or sideshow  
or teas or children's games  
or with setting up and taking down tables, chairs, etc.*

*If you would like to help, please call either:*

*Andrea Pierce (01732 832408) (St Margaret's)  
or Ron Drury (01732 810214) (St Lawrence's).*

*Andrea Pierce and Ron Drury.*



## 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

### 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)

### PILATES CLASS VACANCIES

There are two spare places in both the 7:30 and the 8:30 classes on Monday nights in the village Hall. Contact Zoe George – Tel: 07950 494 335

### THE CHURCH KNEELERS

For the millennium year, Ann Taylor organised several ladies to embroider the kneelers for the church. There are still one or two to finish, including Absolam's Oast. Is it in someone's cupboard? It would be nice to complete them. There are some keen tapestry ladies in the village who might volunteer to do so.

Mary Owlett

## JIM OWLETT

1933 – 2014

### An Appreciation

Jim and Mary Owlett came to Underriver in 1983. They bought Absalom's Farm, a lovely timeless farmhouse tucked away in the corner of the village. Being the sort of people they were, Jim was soon involved in village life. After Jim retired in 1997, his involvement in the Underriver Village Association became even greater and he soon became Treasurer of the UVA, raising money for any and every village project in unique ways. The largest projects were the funding for the Millennium event and the village hall extension for which Jim succeeded in raising funds from every possible grant-making body. Not content with that, he was also the raffle ticket seller for every event and only those with the hardest hearts were able to refuse him.

Even after his direct involvement with the UVA ceased, he still involved himself in village affairs by attending Seal Parish Council meetings so as to lobby for the preservation of the countryside and the way of life in Underriver. You might also come across him delivering local newsletters and Horticultural Society papers on behalf of Mary or even picking up rubbish in the village. He helped Mary with the Flower Show, the Dog Show, the Horse Shows, some of which he and Mary hosted at their home. He was also involved with the church, which he hugely but unobtrusively supported in many different ways. He greatly loved the old forms of service, particularly choral evensong and summer evenings usually saw him and Mary tucked away in one of the pews near the back of the church.

When land came up for sale in the village, Jim would try to buy it and usually succeeded. In this way, he felt he was preserving the countryside round the village; in a way this was one of his legacies to the village. He made sure it was well-husbanded but not gentrified; hedges were allowed to grow to provide habitat for wildlife and flowers. He loved the countryside and all it stood for and took frequent long walks with Chris and carriage drives with Sarah around the village to enjoy it.

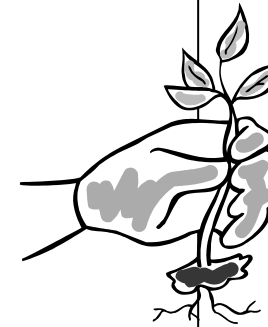
He had not had good health for the last year or two and sadly he died on 7 April. His funeral was at the church on 6 May. Over two hundred attended, spilling over from the church into the churchyard and the village hall, evidencing the regard in which he was held by all who knew this kind, quiet, thoughtful, charitable man. Those in the churchyard had birdsong to accompany the service, which was so appropriate for Jim. We send our sympathy to Mary, Sarah and Chris but we will all miss him.

*Christopher Hurrion*



## UNDERRIVER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Our plant sale at the Village Hall raised nearly £230 which is going to the League of Friends at Sevenoaks Hospital. It was mostly set up the night before – inside sadly because of the forecast – we had a good supply of flowers and not so many veges, but that is how it goes. The sale started at 10.30 and after a busy start everyone enjoyed Liz Bird's tea/ coffee and cakes, Mary Owlett had an array of vases and pots which were also sold and Sarah brought bags of straw for strawberries.



This year on July 19th it's the **Summer Show and TEAS**, (no Fete) the hall will be open from 2.30 to see the results of the judging, we are having a band and the usual excellent teas and hopefully the sun will shine. The Schedules are with the magazine (and recipe on page 9) but if you lose it ring me, 832337, or email,

aridge@waitrose.com, we would love it all newcomers to put in a few things, there will be plenty of people to help on the morning and the scope is wide from flowers to craft to photography so please do come.

*Angela Ridge*

### Underriver Produce Markets 2014

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

**In aid of Hospice in the Weald**

CHARITY NO 280276



## HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY RECIPE

### FRENCH ONION TART

#### Ingredients

- 300g Shortcrust Pastry
- 25g Butter
- 2tbsp Olive Oil
- 900g Onions, halved and thinly sliced
- 2 Medium Eggs
- 300ml Double Cream
- 40g Parmesan Cheese grated

#### Method

1. Heat oven to 190c/fan 170c/gas 5. Roll out pastry and line a deep 23cm flan tin. Bake blind for 15 minutes.
2. Heat the butter and oil in a frying pan and gently fry the onions until completely softened and lightly browned.
3. Beat the eggs and cream together and add the cheese and seasoning. Stir in the onions and spoon into the flan case.
4. Bake for 25-30 minutes until lightly set and browned.

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

from Tuesday May 13th to Sunday June 8th.

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.

## THURSDAY UNDERRIVER GROUP

What an enjoyable and interesting meeting we had on 9th May. Our after-lunch speaker was local artist and art conservationist Joanna Plachinska. Joanna was born in Poland and it was her childhood experience of war damaged Warsaw that sparked her interest in art restoration and conservation, in fact her first job after university was gilding the front doors of the newly restored Warsaw palace.

She led us through many of the techniques of cleaning and restoring paintings, showing us remarkable before and after photos. She explained that one of the elements of her university course was chemistry - students need to know about chemical reactions etc as some of the materials used are pretty powerful and some of the tools she uses would not look out of place in the operating theatre. Amongst many restorations, Joanna cleaned and restored the Rubens ceiling of the Banqueting Hall in Whitehall, on scaffolding some 40' up! At the other extreme she showed us a beautifully cleaned and restored miniature just 3.5cms across.

She is also an accomplished artist in her own right and is often commissioned to make copies of paintings. On top of all this, she runs a local life class!

Our next meeting is the summer supper and jazz evening on Thursday 5th June. Always a good evening and we'd love to see you there. Pat Hope is the person to contact on 833933.

*Fionna Brooks*

### **Open Farm Sunday and renewable energy at Romshed Farm,**

**8<sup>th</sup> June, 11am-4pm**

Free entry, great day out for the whole family

Farm Walks to meet the piglets, calves and lots more.

Wildlife activities for children and gardening advice from Kent Wildlife Trust.

Walks in the wildflower meadows, (if the flowers are up)

View our Photo Voltaic panels (which generate electricity) and our wood fuelled biomass (which provides our heating) with the experts to answer all your questions.

Refreshments to include home-made cakes, tea, coffee, baps filled with Romshed pulled pork, gammon, hogget and salad.

For full details visit [www.romshedfarm.co.uk](http://www.romshedfarm.co.uk)

## UNDERRIVER BOOK CLUB

For our meeting in March we read *Old Filth* by Jane Gardam. The somewhat unpromising title, once decoded (FILTH is an anagram for 'Failed in London, Try Hongkong'), reveals a fascinating and complex leading character, an old retired judge, Sir Edward Feathers. His extraordinary itinerant life begins in idyllic Edwardian Malaysia, but his childhood becomes traumatic when he is sent "home" as a "Raj orphan" to be fostered and educated in England. Gardam draws on Rudyard Kipling's horrendous childhood experiences, but then takes us from the glory days of the British Empire through the Second World War, to the present and beyond. The shutters of the elderly Eddie's memory flick open when his wife Betty dies, and then fly up with a vengeance when Veneering, his hated rival at the Bar (and Betty's former lover) moves in next door.

We were all agreed that Jane Gardam creates a superbly crafted 'pilgrim's progress' through relationships, chance encounters, triumphs and tragedies with a masterly mix of humour and touching pathos. There are now two 'companion' volumes making this a trilogy: *The Man in the Wooden hat* and *Last Friends*, being, respectively, the perspectives of Eddie's wife Betty, and his rival Veneering. All strongly recommended!

P.S My deep apologies to everyone for my delay in submitting this review.



*Griselda Barton*

In April the book club discussed 'A Presumption of Death' by Jill Paton Walsh, a writer of some distinction. This is a murder mystery set at the start of the second World War in a small village.

Sixty years ago Dorothy L. Sayers wrote her famous Lord Peter Wimsey novels and Jill P.W. has written several sequels, using material and letters that Dorothy L.S. left.

It was thought that the book worked better for those who were already familiar with Peter Wimsey and his wife Harriet Vane, as the characters were a bit sketchy. But it was a good story.

People enjoyed the memories of the start of the war that the book evoked and considered it worth reading. Except for one member who doesn't like 'who dunnits'. Thank goodness we are all different.

*Jennifer Fair*

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DON'T MISS...  
**THE SKIRL OF THE PIPES — THE FUN OF THE FÊTE**  
at Underriver's and Seal Chart's Church  
**GARDEN PARTY**  
to be held on  
**Saturday 7th June from 2 to 5 pm**  
**at Bassetts, Mill Lane, Hildenborough TN11 9LX**  
*by kind permission of John and Heather Clemence*  
**PUNCH AND JUDY**  
Beautiful Garden, Delicious Teas, Stalls, Sideshows,  
Crafts and Games for young children,  
And, for the Grand Finale, a Performance by  
**THE LONDON SCOTTISH REGIMENT**  
**PIPES AND DRUMS**  
*All proceeds from the Fête will go to the Churches.*  
*Donations while the Band plays will be shared with Help for Heroes.*  
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### OPEN GARDENS AT CHEVENING HOUSE

**13 JULY 2014 – IN AID OF ROCKDALE**

On Sunday 13th July 2014 between 2pm and 5pm, the gardens at Chevening House Estate will be open to the public in aid of Rockdale, a Sevenoaks based charity offering supported accommodation and residential care for older people within Sevenoaks and District.

The 40 acres of gardens include a maze, lake, parterre and walled kitchen garden. As well as being a rare opportunity to explore these beautiful gardens, there will be a selection of food, drink and craft stalls – all Kent based – plus an Art Exhibition and entertainment and competitions. It promises to be great fun for all the family.

There is more information on the Rockdale web site – [www.rockdale.org.uk](http://www.rockdale.org.uk) – or you can call 01732 458762 or email [carol.wynn@rockdale.org.uk](mailto:carol.wynn@rockdale.org.uk)

Tickets can be purchased at reduced prices in advance: Adults £4, Family £10 (2 adults plus up to 3 children), Children (5 – 14 years) £2 and Children (under 5) £1.



## Spring Concert for Hand in Hand for Syria

Jennifer Fair's splendid initiative and drive brought together a galaxy of local talent to present a memorable village event on the evening of Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May.

Musicians opened the entertainment. Underriver Recorders (Judy Graydon, Lesley Martin, Jacquie McBride, Fidelity Weston, Lucy Weston, Xanthe Veneziani) gave us delightful versions of *Greensleeves*, *To a Wild Rose (McDowell)* and *Romance sans paroles (Mendelssohn)*. Further instrumental delights were provided by the very talented Patricot family: young violinists Orphée and Virgile playing Becker, Vivaldi and Bach with their father, Christophe, who later accompanied his wife Sandra (flute) in Gluck's serene Blessed Spirits music from Gluck's *Orfeo*. Later, cellist Elizabeth Moore (also accompanied by Christophe) moved us all with three wonderfully mellow arrangements of Negro Spirituals.

Three groups of readings interspersed the musical offerings. Xantha and Bruno Veneziani, with Zoe (reading beautifully), first gave us two contrasting "pastoral" poems: *The Tree (James Carter)* and *I meant to do my work today (R. Gallienne)*. Christopher Hurrion provided a leavening of hilarity with Keith Waterhouse's *Noah* (the "alternative" to the "authorised" version!), and Roy Dean's wicked parody of A.E.Housman: *A Shropshire Lass*. In their second contribution, Xantha and Bruno movingly remembered World War I, first in a meditation *Peace and war (D.H.Lawrence)*, and then a stark reminder of the realities in *I have a rendezvous with Death* by Alan Seeger (who was killed in 1916).

The entertainment was brought to a superb conclusion by the excellent "pop-up" Spring Choir (Andy Bligh, Jennifer Fair, Judy Graydon, Christopher Hurrion, Jane Kildahl, Ann Martin, Tim Pierce, Kit Thornton; conducted and accompanied by Daniel Eaton) firstly with *Look at the World (John Rutter)*, and finally, and appropriately, Thomas Morley's *Now is the month of Maying*.

A magnificent supper was then served to us all, devised and cooked by Gladys Brooks, Jane Kildahl and Fidelity Weston, ably aided by gifted pudding makers.

The whole evening was admirably compèred by Andy Bligh, who had introduced it with a moving description of this remarkable small medical charity, who are addressing such great humanitarian needs in Syria. More information can be found on: [WWW.HANDINHANDFORSYRIA.ORG.UK](http://WWW.HANDINHANDFORSYRIA.ORG.UK)

Jennifer reports that, to date, donations and ticket sales amount to a marvellous £2,300.

Griselda Barton

## LOCAL THEATRE

June will see the start of the **Sevenoaks Summer Festival**, which will run from *Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July*. The 450<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of William Shakespeare will be particularly well marked. The Festival will include some exciting theatre:

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 4pm and 8pm at Sevenoaks' Stag Theatre, the Petts Wood Operatic Society will present **Godspell**, the 1970 musical based around the life and (briefly) the death of Jesus. Songs include *Day by Day*, *Light of the World* and *Turn Back O Man*. Tickets can be purchased from the Festival Box Office (01732 450175).

Also on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 11am, 1 pm and 3pm at the Sevenoaks Community Art Centre children can enjoy one of Wishworks' two Interactive Puppet Shows **Red Riding Hood** and **Goldifox**. Stand by for some surprises – Red Riding Hood is a boy and Goldifox is not sure if he likes porridge! Get tickets from the Festival Box Office (01732 450175).

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June at 2.30 pm Tonbridge School students will perform Shakespeare's **Much Ado About Nothing** in the Walled Garden at **Riverhill Himalayan Gardens**. The pairs of lovers, Beatrice & Benedick and Claudio & Hero will wrestle with love and marriage to the beats of British bands under the heat of the summer sun (well you can always hope!). Bring a picnic or visit the Riverhill Café. Tickets are available from the E. M. Forster Theatre (01732 304241) or the Riverhill Gardens Ticket Office. Check whether you need to take chairs.

From Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm, the excellent Sevenoaks Shakespeare Society will perform Shakespeare's **Twelfth Night** in the beautiful setting of **the St Clare estate**. Viola enters the service of Count Orsino, disguised as a man ("Cesario"). Orsino then uses "him" to declare his love to Olivia. Confusion is further confounded when Olivia falls in love with "Cesario". All turns out well in the end – but not before pompous Malvolio has been tricked into thinking Olivia is in love with him, while Sir Toby Belch and Sir Andrew Aguecheek down many a pint of liquor. Ring the Festival Box Office (01732 450175) for tickets. Take chairs and warm clothing – last year there was a nasty wind and the coffee ran out (but the performance was brilliant).

On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm, Changeling Theatre will present Shakespeare's **Romeo and Juliet** in the **Riverhill Himalayan Gardens**. The Walled Garden should make a wonderful setting for the Montagues and Capulets to fight it out and for the star-crossed lovers to meet their fate! Buy tickets from the Festival Box Office (01732 450175). Take a picnic - washed down with drink on sale at the venue. Ask whether chairs are needed and wrap up warmly (see above).

The big event at **Tunbridge Wells' Assembly Hall Theatre**, from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June to Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July (7.30pm with Wednesday and Saturday matinees), will be a perfor-



## **SEAL PARISH COUNCIL**

### **The Chairman's Annual Report 2013**

Welcome to our annual report, which I hope will bring you up to date with what we have been doing for Seal Parish in the last 12 months, and our proposals for the next year.

#### **Parish Plan, Village Design Statements & Planning**

##### **Parish Plan**

We have updated the Seal Parish Plan that was adopted in 2011. We draw up a list of aims and proposals and set ourselves a target date to achieve them. A substantial number of the 2011 Plan's aims were achieved.

A copy of the 2014 Parish Plan is available on our website at:  
[www.sealparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.sealparishcouncil.org.uk)

##### **Village Design Statements**

The Seal and Underriver Village Design Statements have both been adopted by Sevenoaks District Council as Supplementary Planning Documents, and have to be taken into consideration when planning decisions are made.

The St. Lawrence Village Design Statement requires updating, so if you would like to assist the Parish Council in doing that, please let me know.

##### **Dorton House**

The London Society For The Blind have recently left Dorton House, which has been sold to Pegasus Life, who are proposing to create dwellings for people of retirement age, with associated facilities for living. The scheme is at an early stage. Pegasus Life have been in contact with the Parish Council to seek our input and ideas for the development.

##### **Wilderness Development Order**

The Parish Council has been in discussion with The Wilderness Residents Association during the year in connection with their proposal to have a Neighbourhood Development Order. We have also discussed the proposal with Sevenoaks Town Council as the Order would go across the Parish Boundaries. We have also taken advice from Sevenoaks District Council's Planning Policy Officers.

After a lot of thought, the Parish Council chose not to support this scheme in its current format, and are seeking more information from the Residents Association. We hope to continue our discussions with them to seek a way forward.

We are proceeding with having the Parish Boundary defined.

Don't forget that the Parish Council has monthly meetings to look at all planning applications in the Parish, and to submit comments to the Sevenoaks District Council. You are welcome to come to these meetings which are open to the public. See the Parish

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(Continued from page 15)

Council's website for a list of provisional dates. Sometimes we have to alter the date to comply with the planners' strict timescales for submitting comments, so if you have a particular application you wish to comment on at our meeting, please check the website for up to date information, or contact the Parish Clerk.

##### **Young People**

Unfortunately the Youth Club has closed due to the lack of attendance. The Scout Group however is thriving.

We are investing in refurbished and new playground equipment in Seal and Bitchet Green.

##### **Local Groups and Library**

There is always a lot going on in our local library. See our website for details or pop along and make use of the various facilities.

The Seal History Group is thriving with about 30 members and regular meetings.

The allotments are very popular. Details are on their website shown below.

Seal Petanque is very active and welcomed the team from Montreuil Sur Mer. The Parish Council funded a reception for the teams.

##### **The Big Lunch**

On Sunday the 1st June 2014 a festival has been organised called The Big Lunch meets Seal Fest.

Everyone in Seal Parish; Seal, Stone Street, Bitchet Green and Underriver, is invited to a picnic on Seal Recreation Ground. There will be live music from 12 until 6pm. It includes all 3 primary schools, Morris dancing and lots of local bands playing throughout the afternoon. Bring along a picnic, family and friends. There will also be refreshments on sale and the opportunity to buy local food including a Tandoori Nights stall and Hog Roast from Coldbreath the family butchers.

I hope it is a wonderful day and the weather is kind to us.

##### **Affordable Housing**

The Parish Council has identified a requirement to provide affordable housing in Seal, for the benefit of local people only.

Unfortunately it has proved very difficult to identify a suitable site and progress has stalled.

(Continued on page 17)



(Continued from page 16)

## **High Speed Broadband**

The Parish Council recognises that the provision of high speed broadband is an essential requirement to both the rural and urban parts of our area.

Due to the stout efforts of a number of people in the area, I am pleased to tell you that Gigaclear, a private company will shortly be starting the installation of a fibre optic high speed service to serve a substantial part of the rural areas of Seal Parish. They aim to have the service up and running this summer.

I am very grateful for the voluntary efforts of those involved for achieving a service that BT seemed to be incapable of doing, and for Gigaclear in working hard to establish routes for the cables in cooperation with the majority of landowners who welcomed the potential benefits in internet provision that has been very poor in the rural parts.

If you want to sign up for the service the Gigaclear website is:

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

BT will be bringing their Infinity Fibre Optic service to the village of Seal shortly.

## **Around the Parish**

### **Bitchet Common**

The original consultation on Bitchet Common has now become part of a much bigger and more ambitious project to cover all the Commons and Charts in the Sevenoaks District. A bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund is being prepared and if successful will bring in real opportunities for us all to develop our enjoyment and understanding of the Commons in the Parish. The Parish Council has been very pleased to continue to support this initiative and we wish it success.

### **Seal Fire Station**

The Parish Council have successfully negotiated a lease for the Fire Station to become a dentist's surgery, which provides a useful service for the community as well as income for the Parish Council to help provide community services.

### **Planting**

Following on from the success and good comments from you all, we will continue to have flower planters in Seal village and barrier baskets in Seal and Underriver. We are going to try again to put a planter in Stone Street although last year's was stolen.

If you have planters near your house please don't forget to give them water particularly through the summer. We have also planted more daffodils in several locations in Seal.

### **Improvements**

We continue to maintain the Parish Council noticeboards. This year we have replaced

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(Continued from page 17)

those in Seal High Street and Godden Green, and installed a new one at Zambra Way.

We have replaced the kitchen in the Seal Pavilion

We have provided a grant to St. Lawrence Village Hall for replacement windows.

We have provided a grant for the refurbishment of the fence and kissing gate at Seal Church.

We have funded new plaque to include all war dead in 1 and 2 at St Lawrence War Memorial.

The Godden Green pond has been cleaned and cleared. The Parish Council are very grateful to all the volunteers who did this work.

We have provided a dog bin in Childsbridge Lane by the Bentleys bungalows

## **Roads and Road Safety**

### **Childsbridge Lane Bridge**

The Parish Council has lobbied Kent County Council to improve the safety of pedestrians over the railway bridge in Childsbridge Lane, particularly with the increase in homes on the far side. I am pleased to let you know that KCC have agreed funding for a scheme and work is due to start shortly.

### **Zambra Way**

To protect the green in the centre of Zambra Way from being spoilt by thoughtless parking we have installed bollards.

### **Park Lane**

A mirror has been installed at the junction of Park Lane and Seal High Street (A25).

### **Potholes**

For once the winter months have been very mild, but with endless rainfall. This means the number of potholes in the Parish's roads continues to multiply at a pace. If you see or have had the misfortune to go down one, please report it to Kent County Council who is responsible for our roads. You can do that on their website detailed below or by telephone to 0845 247800

### **Salt Bins**

We have provided a new salt bin at Wilmar Way

## **And finally...**

If you have anything you wish to discuss with us, or any suggestions, our contact details are shown above, or are available on the Parish Council Website.

The Parish of Seal is a wonderful place to live, and we are working to keep it that way for you.

With best wishes, Robin Watson, **Chairman Seal Parish Council**

**Exhibition: ‘Discovering Palmer’s Kent’  
at Mascalls Gallery, Paddock Wood  
14<sup>th</sup> June-24<sup>th</sup> August**

In 1924 a Goldsmith’s art student, William Larkins, found a copy of Samuel Palmer’s etching ‘The Herdsman’s Cottage’ in the Charing Cross Road. He hurried to share his find with fellow students, Graham Sutherland and Paul Drury. They were captivated by it, totally change their own techniques, and set off to explore Palmer’s Kentish landscapes. Sutherland, indeed, ended up living in Trottiscliffe.

Ninety years later, this exhibition of those etchings celebrates both Palmer and his admirers, Mascalls’ lovely gallery being the perfect setting.

Free admission. Open: Tues.-Thur. 10-5, Fri.-Sat. 11-4. Closed Sun.-Mon.

Our book (Michael Tong’s and mine) “ Underriver: Samuel Palmer’s Golden Valley “ will be available at Mascalls’ bookshop (also available from me at any time!)

*Griselda Barton*



**Services at St Lawrence, Seal Chart**

**JUNE**

1	Sunday after Ascension	8:00	Holy Communion (BCP)
		9:45	All-age Service
3	Tuesday	8:30	Morning Prayer (CW)
8	Pentecost	9:45	Family Communion
10	Tuesday	8:30	Morning Prayer (CW)
15	Trinity & Patronal	9:45	Family Communion (CW)
17	Tuesday	8:30	Morning Prayer (CW)
22	1st after Trinity	9:45	Matins (BCP)
24	Tuesday	8:30	Morning Prayer (CW)

**JULY**

1	Tuesday	8:30	Morning Prayer (CW)
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**Rotas for St Margaret’s**

**Sidesmen/-women and Readers**

- 1 Jun *Side:* G Brooke  
*Reader:* Sue Owen
- 8 Jun  
8:00 *Side:* G Clark  
*Reader:* Ruth Hawker
- 18:00 *Sides:* A Rucker  
*Reader:* Elizabeth Shirtcliff
- 15 Jun -
- 22 Jun *Sides:* J Brooke  
*Reader:* John Clemence
- 29 Jun *Sides:* tba  
*Reader:* Gladys Brooke
- 6 Jul *Sides:* R Wells  
*Reader:* R Wells

**Church Flowers**

- 1 Jun *Betty Tong*
- 8 Jun *Janet Rucker*
- 15 Jun *Suzanne Brunton*
- 22 Jun *Sue Tawney*
- 29 Jun *Penny Oatley*

**Church Brass Cleaning**

- 14 Jun Robert Wells & Phillip Payne
- 12 Jul Tim Pierce & Tim Tawney

**Church Cleaning**

- 7 Jun J Martineau & L Weston
- 14 Jun S Brunton & S Sinclair
- 21 Jun G Brooke & J Fair
- 28 Jun S Honnywill & J Rucker
- 5 Jul M Clark & S Tawney

**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](mailto:uvasecretary@hotmail.co.uk)

**Village Hall Reservations** Helen Watson, 07973 215892 . [helen@underriver.com](mailto: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.

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

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

**Neighbourhood Watch** Co-ordinator: Lorna Talbot [Underriver.nw@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Underriver.nw@hotmail.co.uk)

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

**Sevenoaks District Council Ward Representatives**

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Julia Thornton, 07831 234449 [cldr.thornton@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.thornton@sevenoaks.gov.uk)

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

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