



The Giant

Brede & Udimore
Parish Magazine
September 2026

The Giant: the Brede & Udimore Parish Magazine

... BUT MORE THAN JUST A PARISH MAGAZINE!

The editorial team consists of Benjamin Barnard, Darryl Bird, John Crook, and Nick Weekes. Contacts: benno.barnard54@gmail.com or john@john-crook.com

We welcome articles on a wide variety of subjects. It must therefore be understood that the views expressed do not necessarily represent those of our two churches. If you disagree with the opinions expressed in an article, or have any other criticisms, please approach us. We welcome debate and are happy to publish a rejoinder.

Material for publication must be submitted between the 1st and the 15th of the month prior to publication. Items sent later may not be included.



Brede Place. Engraving from Francis Grose's Antiquities of England and Wales, published 14 June 1785.

The Giant Writes: Ghostly goings-on attributed to me did not occur only at Groaning Bridge if you believe peasant talk. A story even developed that my house was haunted! During World War Two, when first Canadian then British troops were stationed in Brede Place, the men refused to occupy certain rooms because of a reputed spectre. Oh dear – what nonsense! Perhaps the oft-cited notion that the rumours were put about in the seventeenth century to deter people from detecting smuggling activities in my house is correct. In the 1950s the notion of a ghost—me!!—was enthusiastically promoted by Clare Sheridan, who claimed to possess psychic powers.

Cover Image by Darryl Bird: The Congregation

'The Rector's Reflections'

As we start the new academic year my thoughts and prayers are with all the families, youngsters, and students who are embarking upon their next year of learning. Particularly those who are starting at a new school, or leaving for University or College for the first time, or even starting a new job. New beginnings are challenging, and I pray that those entering into a new stage of life may be filled with strength, courage, and encouragement.

This summer, I have had the delight to officiate at a number of Baptisms, many of young babies (also known as 'Christenings'!), but also some of adults who have made the decision to start a new beginning in their life, committed to God, following in the path of Jesus. This also takes a huge amount of courage, and I am hugely impressed and inspired by those who take the steps to seek God and begin their journey of faith.

Some people seem to think that going to church means you already need to have 'everything sorted out' or 'have true belief in God'. This is not the case; in fact, the church is there for anyone who is even remotely interested in faith and considering whether there is more to life than what there is materially around us. You don't need to have everything figured out. The church and the church family are here for everyone, and all are welcome, whatever stage of life you are at, whatever your background, and whatever you currently believe (or not). I would love to meet anyone new.

I am always here for a cup of tea and a chat for anyone who has questions.

God Bless, Reverend Fran



Baptism of Danny Bollen, 23rd August 2026.

The Benefice of Brede with Udimore and Beckley and Peasmarsh



Benefice Clergy

RECTOR

The Revd Francesca Reid
The Rectory, Brede Hill
BREDE TN31 6HG (07510 234890)
revfrancescareid@gmail.com

LAY READER

Mrs Lesley Curtis
Fairlight View, Udimore Road
UDIMORE TN31 6BG (07506 780044)

RETIRED CLERGY

The Revd Dr Bill Dolman
Little Belhurst Cottage, Hobbs Lane
BECKLEY TN31 6TT (01797 260203)

Church Officers

ST GEORGE'S BREDE www.stgeorgesbrede.org.uk

CHURCHWARDEN

Mr David Oliver
2 Bellhurst Cottages, Chitcombe Road
BROAD OAK TN31 6EU
davidoliver489@gmail.com
07792 517614 / 07900 300587

CHURCHWARDEN & ORGANIST

Mr Duncan Reid
Perryfield, Stubb Lane
BREDE TN31 6EH
duncandgary@yahoo.co.uk
01424 882412



TREASURER

Mr Steve Edwards
treasurer@stgeorgesbrede.org.uk or 07702 173839

CAPTAIN OF BELLRINGERS

Mr Colin Mitchell
Contact via the Secretary : Mrs Wendy Burchett
wendyhayler@outlook.com or 01424 882727

ST MARY'S UDIMORE www.stmarysudimore.org

CHURCHWARDEN

Mr Hugh Pye
hughpye@hotmail.com or 07484 709316

Udimore requires another warden. If you are interested in this role please contact Hugh Pye for further information.

TREASURER

Mr Harry Curtis
(Honorary Treasurer)
Fairlight View, Udimore Road
UDIMORE TN31 6BG
harry@ecooffice.tax
07572 878858



September Services at St George's Brede

Sunday 6th 10.00 a.m.	Benefice Eucharist at Peasmarsh, celebrated by the Revd Francesca Reid
Sunday 13th 9.30 a.m.	Parish Eucharist, celebrated by the Revd Yvonne Adam
Sunday 20th 9.30 a.m.	Parish Eucharist, celebrated by the Revd Barry Carter
Sunday 27th 9.30 a.m.	Parish Eucharist, celebrated by the Revd Francesca Reid

Each morning at 8 a.m. (except Sunday), a small group holds a short, informal service of prayer, readings, and a hymn. All are welcome to come along and share any thoughts on the readings, and join in quietly praying for those we know who are in need.

Forthcoming Events – St George's Brede

Little Giants, Baby & Toddlers Play Group, and **Dragons**, Sunday School, are on hold until further notice.

Flower Festival – August Bank Holiday 2026

Thank you to everyone who came and supported the Flower Festival; we hope you all had a wonderful time. I am especially indebted to everybody who helped me with the refreshments, cakes, teas, and lunches inside and outside the Scout Hut. Without your committed help it would not have been possible. You all worked so hard, serving our guests with a smile. Thank you

also to everyone who baked cakes for us, especially Wendy and Janet, who did the bulk of the cooking and baking, and to Carol and Joy, who helped me so much. My family put up with my abandoning them for four or more days (although they may have enjoyed it) ... We hope the extra activities such as the bouncy castle and Scouting skills were good fun; I am grateful to everyone who was involved with running these.

I am obviously writing this ahead of time, but I know I will be saying the same come September.

And clearly, all of us immensely appreciate the money people have spent! We have so many ongoing maintenance issues with our beautiful and beloved church, due to its age. We are its custodians and it's up to all of us to keep these places of worship, these national treasures, safe and protected so they can be used and enjoyed for the next 900 years and beyond.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Jo Cosson

September Services at St Mary's Udimore

Sunday 6th 10.00 a.m.	Benefice Eucharist at Peasmarsch, celebrated by the Revd Francesca Reid
Sunday 13th 11.15 a.m.	Family Service, led by Lesley Curtis
Sunday 20th 11.15 a.m.	Parish Eucharist, celebrated by the Revd Barry Carter
Sunday 27th 11.15 a.m.	Parish Eucharist, celebrated by the Revd Francesca Reid

Forthcoming Events at St Mary's Udimore

Friday 4th Sept 10.30 a.m.-12.00	4Charities Coffee Morning. Hall
Sunday 6th Sept 10.00 a.m.	Benefice Service St Peter & St Paul, Peasmarsch
Sunday 6th Sept 10.30 a.m.	Pet Service. Hall TBC

THE PARISH OF UDIMORE

St Mary's Community Hall – Classes and Activities

PILATES: Monday to Thursday 9.15–11.15 a.m. (Term time)

Susan Taber: 07858 518504 susantaber66@yahoo.co.uk

ELEVATE YOGA: Flow Yoga suitable for all. Tuesday 7.00–8.00 p.m. (all year round)

Rachael: 07921 854105, elevateyogaclass@googlemail.com

SLOW FLOW TO YIN YOGA: Monday 7.00–8.15 p.m.

Jo-Jo Hancock: jojo@yogacreative.co.uk

STUDIO JAMIE BALLET: Tuesday 11.00 a.m.

Aysha Jamieson: 01424 883238, studiojamie@icloud.com

VINYASA FLOW: Friday 8.00 a.m.

Jo-Jo Hancock: jojo@yogacreative.co.uk

All classes in term time stop over half-term and school holidays

Enquiries contact Community Hall Booking: udimorehallbooking@gmail.com

St Mary's Community Hall Hire

Our hall, nestling next to the Church, is set amidst apple orchards. It is bright and modern with central heating, a large car park, a well-fitted kitchen, and facilities for the disabled.

Monday – Friday £15.00 per hour (*Events 1 to 6 hours duration*)

Events on Friday may have to finish by 2.00 p.m. if there is a weekend wedding.

Saturday and Sunday £20.00 per hour (*Minimum Booking of 3 hours*)

Bouncy Castle use at the hall surcharge: £10 (internal use), (£20 for external use).

One Day and Evening Hire

Sun to Thurs 08.00–23.00 (max 15 hrs) £240.00

Fri and Sat 08.00–23.30 (max 15.5 hrs) £350.00

Hire charges for some events over 6 hours may be negotiable.

Weddings

For information and hire charges email: udimorehallwedding@gmail.com

For all further details and booking, email: udimorehallbooking@gmail.com

Readings for September 2026

Sunday 6th September

Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Exodus 12: 1–14
Psalm 149
Romans 13: 8–end
Matthew 18: 15–20

Sunday 13th September

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Exodus 14: 19–end
Psalm 114
Romans 14: 1–12
Matthew 18: 21–35

Sunday 20th September

Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Exodus 16: 2–15
Psalm 105: 1–6, 37–45
Philippians 1: 21–30
Matthew 20: 1–16

Sunday 27th September

Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity (Harvest Festival)

Deuteronomy 8: 7–18
Psalm 78: 1–4, 12–16
2 Corinthians 9: 6–end
Luke 12: 16–30

Knowing God : Thy will be done

by Duncan Reid

As I write this, we are praying for a good downpour of rain: the land is parched, the farmer is deeply concerned for his sheep, the garden is like the proverbial Ryvita. In less than a couple of weeks' time (from my present perspective) we have the Flower Festival. (Did you come along? Did you enjoy it?) For that event, we are praying for the rain to keep away. (Were our prayers answered?) The farmer, however, I suspect, will still be praying and hoping for rain, Bank Holiday or no Bank Holiday. Answering various people's prayers to their satisfaction presents quite a quandary to the Almighty.

Often, when a series of unexpected events, decisions, and circumstances fit together, resulting in a happy but surprising outcome, we are likely to say, sagely, 'It was meant to be!', hinting at a touch of divine involvement.

Some people see very clearly God guiding and influencing personal events and circumstances: friends of ours have been house hunting and, inevitably, have been juggling with important family dynamics which made a firm decision very difficult. But then, out of the blue, events somewhat miraculously and certainly unexpectedly, fitted together, shedding light and clarity on the situation. A concrete answer to prayer?

Another friend is rather more sceptical: 'Is God really interested in such things?' For that person, the Divine is found, for example, in our response to hearing the words of the liturgy being elevated beyond the norm by music, by a beautiful human voice.

So, do we have a God who is concerned with our ongoing concerns? We are told in a number of Biblical verses about his personal and individual love for us, such as the verse in Matthew where Jesus points towards the Father's care for each sparrow (and therefore for us) and declares that even the hairs on our heads are numbered. Indeed, the Jesus of the Gospels is constantly interacting with individuals and with their particular circumstances. Nonetheless, he is not one for small talk and, as in the account of Jesus with the Samaritan woman at the well in John's gospel, he immediately delves into individuals' greatest and deepest needs.

What does Jesus say we should pray for? In the Lord's Prayer there is 'daily bread', which I think you can interpret as fundamental sustenance for the body. Also, we have 'forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those that trespass against us'. Somewhat deeper, but still a basic acknowledgement of our selfishness and a plea to understand and forgive others. However, this is preceded and shaped by the innocent assertion 'Thy will be done, on earth (...)'. Well, that probably covers quite a bit. Time and time again in the Gospels, Jesus talks about the coming of the Kingdom and in the Lord's Prayer we ask for that to happen – 'in Earth as it is in Heaven'. How is that going to come about? I don't know exactly, but opportunities are all around us as we strive to recognise God's 'hand' in everyday things; we experience God in sacred spaces or special people... there is no end to the possibilities and I think it is good to catch glimpses of God in big things and little things alike.

A Lesson

*by Jim Lehman**



I'm not really sure why I was there; perhaps it was out of curiosity, maybe it was to observe a programme that I had heard much about, or it may have been to ease my conscience by helping out a bit. It was early morning and the sun was just peeking through the autumn mists in Old Delhi near the ancient ruins of an old Moghul fortress. The place I had gone to was Mother Teresa's Institute for the Destitute and Dying. It is exactly as the name implies.

Mother Teresa has stated that everyone, at the very least, has the right to die in peace and dignity. Sick and homeless people are picked up from the streets and brought to the Institute for the last few hours or days of their lives. They are cared for in a peaceful and loving atmosphere.

The young lady at the front desk welcomed me and invited me to look around on my own and talk to or assist anyone I cared to. There was a can marked DONATIONS on the desk, so I made sure that my 2000 Rupees (about \$20) was noted by the people in the office. I went into a large barn-

like dormitory with about 30–35 of the 50 beds occupied. I talked to some of the men, helped one put on an old dilapidated pair of shoes, and assisted another with his meal. I felt ‘real good’ about myself; had given some money and rendered a needed service; surely this was making a respectable contribution.

Then I stepped into a courtyard—and there was one of the most incredible scenes I had ever witnessed. A badly injured man had just been brought to the institute in a rickshaw. He was a most pathetic sight. He was just barely alive, his clothes were ragged and filthy, his hair was long and matted. His body was a mass of bruises and sores; and his feet were crushed and broken. The rickshaw wallah told me that he had brought the man in because he had been lying by the side of the street for some time and no one had stopped to help him. His legs and feet had been run over by an ox-cart; both legs were broken, and gangrene had already set in.

Three young nurses were attending him: one cutting away his clothes, one cutting his long matted hair off, and one washing him with some kind of disinfectant soap, then hosing him down with warm water. I did not get too close; it was extremely difficult to watch. When the nurses finished their tasks the man seemed to perk up a bit and looked at me with pleading eyes. The nurses wanted me to help carry him into the building, but I stood there transfixed, hoping that my revulsion was not too apparent. I finally went inside to get some men to bring a stretcher.

The next morning I stopped in again at the Institute. I talked to one of the nurses and apologised for my attitude the day before. She told me the man had died during the night; there was nothing that I or anyone else could have done to save him. But at least he had died with dignity in a clean bed. Before he died he thanked the nurse for helping him—‘an angel from God’, he had called her. Nothing had been mentioned about the American visitor who was there but did nothing to help.

**Jim Lehman is my father-in-law. He and Deanne’s mother spent 25 years in India as missionaries. – Benjamin Barnard*

Out and About

by Gary Marriott

I could not help noticing last week, on the hottest day of the year, when we were going to London, how attractive Robertsbridge Station looks both inside and out. The stone arches around the windows have been painted a lovely deep green, with lighter green painted on the cantilevers that carry the canopy. Inside there is a clever combination of colour in keeping with its mid-nineteenth century period, creating a calm, attractive atmosphere. Outside

and on the platforms there are planters full of colour, and a seating area upon which I have commented before, as well as new ‘target name boards’ on the lamp standards. For all this and more we have Ross the Station Master to thank, who is the conscientious and kind face behind the glass who takes the time to apply for grants to see these projects through to completion for us to enjoy. Thank you Ross: you brighten the day of the weary traveller!

While on the subject of Robertsbridge Station: the new connection to Tenterden is coming at a pace. You will notice that the main road through the village has been closed for some weeks while they reinstate the level crossing which will carry the line eastwards. Stop the car and take a look: you will most likely talk to a man heavily involved with the supervision of the work, who has been involved in the reinstatement project since 1969.

Further down the line, Crowhurst Junction, as it was known, was a large station consisting of four tracks through which the express trains could steam without stopping, thus allowing the local trains to pick up or deposit passengers. This was also the station where the branch line from Bexhill West, completed in 1902, terminated. The line crossed a very impressive seventeen-arch viaduct which took it across the valley. The line was the last gasp of the great railway building period in this country, which saw labour and their families relocate all over the place to follow the work. One such man was Harry Marriott (no relation), who had relocated from Hertfordshire to take up the role of foreman of a gang of bricklayers; he is now buried in an unmarked grave outside the west door of Brede Church. The other day I was talking to his grandson, Danny Butler, who has worked on many houses and churches in this area for years. The viaduct was demolished in 1969. I have only ever met two people who experienced that line working, so to meet a relative of someone who built that great viaduct was quite a privilege.

I might as well remain close to the theme above and mention *Rural Past Times*, which was a very successful event, enjoyed by many, if the number of smiling faces was anything to go by. One really cannot help being impressed by the dedication, love, and skill of those drivers, mechanics, and enthusiasts who look after the historic machines, pumps, vintage cars, bikes, engines, and more. One such engine is Thelma the Steam Roller, who looked splendid in all her glory, has a very close association with Brede, and who—if we have been very lucky—may well have visited us on Bank Holiday Monday at the St George’s Church Flower Festival!



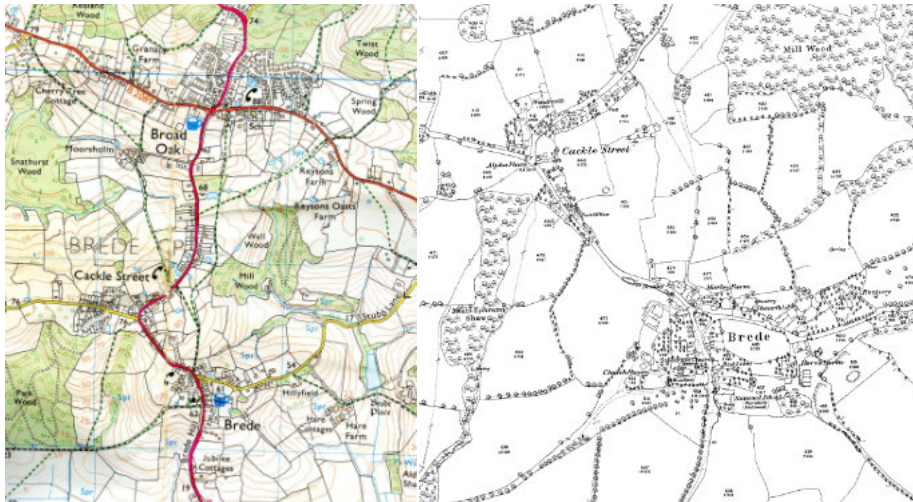
A Tale of Three Villages

by John Crook

We all know that Broad Oak is part of Brede: indeed there are confusing road signs on the approach roads saying 'BROAD OAK BREDE'—to distinguish our Broad Oak from the village of the same name near Heathfield. The third village to be discussed here is Cackle Street.

'What?', I hear you cry. 'Surely Cackle Street is the name of a road!' That is an over-simplification. Would one say the same about Boreham Street, Cade Street, Friday Street, or Milton Street, to name some Sussex examples? These are villages that grew up on the line of historic highways, often of Roman origin, and they took their name from those ancient features. Horam used to be called Horam Road.

Perhaps my point is best supported by cartographic evidence. From the earliest days of the Ordnance Survey, the central area of the historic parish of Brede is shown as three separate entities: Brede, Cackle Street, and Broad Oak, the typeface being the same as for other villages. And Google Maps maintains this tradition; Google Earth shows Brede and Cackle Street identically labelled, and Broad Oak in a slightly smaller typeface.



1960s one-inch OS map.

1874 OS map showing Brede and Cackle Street.

So Cackle Street is a hamlet, like the village of the same name south of Nutley (E. Sussex), and it is good to note that our Parish Council's website states that, 'Brede Parish ... comprises two villages, Broad Oak and Brede,

with a small settlement called Cackle Street in between' (<https://www.brede-pc.gov.uk/about-the-parish>). As a discrete hamlet it deserves an appropriate sign at either end, similar to that recently put up for Swailes Green. In fact, the only signage for Cackle Street is what looks like a street sign at the junction with Pottery Lane. The clear division of our three 'villages' is of course now obscured by the ribbon development on the approach to Broad Oak.



As for the name of the hamlet, the suggestion that it is so called because there were gaggles of noisy geese there seems highly unlikely. What other place names derive from the sound made by animals or birds? I think one may discount the following: Grunt-chester, Baa-king, Baa-mouth, Baa-ton on Sea, Whynny-peg, Nay-land, Cluckton-on-Sea; Cheep-side – not to mention Moo-castle.

So why 'Cackle Street'? I think the name is probably a corruption of 'Cackhill Street'. The second element is obvious; the centre of Cackle Street, the Pottery Lane junction formerly known as Crouch's Corner (after the village shop there), is at the top of a slight rise, and indeed a windmill was located there until early in the last century.

The other element, I suggest, is 'cack' – an old word for excrement, whose related forms are found in many European languages (for example the childish term 'caca' in French). In English it survives principally in the term 'cack-handed'. In the case of my putative 'Cackhill Street', the word probably refers to the sticky nature of the medieval road surface, which runs over the Wadhurst Clay. A similar derivation is found in Shedfield (Hants), whose first element is a polite modification of the Old English word for faeces.

Now wash your hands, please.

Uncle Ernie's Contribution

by Ro Gardner

In pride of place on the sideboard was a photo of a young man, in RAF uniform, proudly displaying his newly won Wings. I asked who this was, and the silence that followed was sufficiently awkward for me to know, even at my tender age, that I should drop the subject.

My story starts during Christmas 1944, when my father took me up to Lewisham to see Uncle Ernie and Auntie Mabel. Home on leave was my cousin, Guy, glamorous in his RAF uniforms and willing to show a totally captivated young lad photos of his service life. Guy, a Lancaster pilot, survived the war, and last thing I heard owned a small advertising agency in South London. His brother, Bill, whose photo also adorned the sideboard, had been a rear gunner in a similar aircraft, but flying in a different squadron. He had been killed during one of the last D-Day raids by Bomber Command on 6th June 1944.

Partly to cover the awkwardness caused by my question, Uncle Ernie started to tell all of us about the near miss he had experienced a few months previously. One Friday morning, as was his custom, Uncle Ernie had taken a stroll down to Lewisham Market to see if there was anything to be had 'off the ration'. He rounded the corner into the marketplace by the Co-op, and fifty yards ahead of him, he saw what looked like a small black aircraft about to land on the roof of an air raid shelter. In a flash, he realised what he was seeing and flung himself instinctively back round the corner, flat to the ground.

Anyone who lived in that part of the country in the summer of '44 would have known that Hitler's V-1s often arrived without an air raid siren being sounded, but the dreadful clatter made by the pulse-jet engine would often give sufficient warning to take cover. When the motor cut out, followed by what was described so graphically by a contemporary journalist as 'that deafening silence', the weapon would normally dive more or less vertically into the ground. This one however, was different. According to the report from the Observer Corps, the motor cut out somewhere in the Bromley area, and then the robot glided, not vertically, but in a shallow parabola until it arrived silently in Lewisham Market. There was a huge explosion as the V-1 detonated, and all the air was sucked out of Uncle Ernie's lungs by the blast. When the dust settled he realised that he was stone deaf. Only after a couple of months had elapsed would he know that he was left with just partial hearing in one ear.

This would prove to be one of London's worst flying bomb incidents. Virtually all the market stalls disappeared, and the shops on both sides of the

road were devastated. Fifty-nine people lost their lives, and over three hundred were injured. The casualties could not be taken to the nearby Lewisham Hospital because it too had been hit by a doodlebug a couple of days before.

On the Green Line Bus home, I asked my dad who the young man in the photograph had been. He explained that he was the third brother in the RAF, Pat Gardner, who had been killed during the Battle of Britain. I don't think that my dad knew any details. My aunt and uncle's double loss, Pat's death, compounded by the tragedy of their second son's death only six months previously, was obviously too raw for discussion. By the time I was old enough to have developed an interest in WW2 Dad was long gone, as was Uncle Ernie. The passing of Pat Gardner remained a mystery until the missing link finally fell into place a few years ago.

A friend, knowing my interest in WW2, lent me a book about the ordeal suffered by the good people of Dover during the war. Amongst the many photographs therein was one taken by a photographer for a local newspaper. It showed half-a-dozen young fighter pilots sprawled on the grass at Hawkinge Airfield, snatching a few minutes rest, whilst their Hurricanes were refuelled and rearmed. The picture had been snapped on 4th July 1940, and there was something about one of the young men, perhaps the shy smile and the dark curly hair, that scratched the surface of a long distant memory for me. The reporter had taken the trouble to record the names of those young pilots, and sure enough, the familiar face belonged to Pilot Officer Pat Gardner. There, in the accompanying text, was the rest of his story. For the six weeks after the photo was taken, Pat Gardner, along with his pilot colleagues, lived from dawn to dusk in the cockpit of their Hurricanes. On 21st August, his Squadron Leader notified him that he had been awarded the DFC. It was to be presented to him three weeks later by His Majesty King George VI, at an investiture to be held at Buckingham Palace, but in less than a week he was dead. He was nineteen years old.

As the older ones amongst us remember, everyone made his or her contribution to the war effort. Some bought War Bonds, most donated to the 'War Weapons Weeks', some collected aluminium saucepans to make Spitfires, and everyone dug for Victory.

Uncle Ernie and Auntie Mabel's contribution was a bit bigger than most.



Die Marschflugkörper des Volkes.

Rod

by Blake Larkin

It might seem like I am bringing up old news, but as I have had a bit of a hiatus and given the monthly format of this journal, it is only fair I dedicate this article to one of my journalistic idols, Rod Liddle, who passed away on the 2nd of August, aged 66.

Like myself, Rod was a Labour member for many years, who became increasingly disillusioned by the party and its hellbent agenda to embrace the waves of woke. He found himself like an anchor wedged in the sands, staying steadfast to his principles while the tide consistently went out, ever further away from his iron will.

A champion of freedom of speech, he challenged the likes of Abu Hamza, the Islamist cleric who now serves a life sentence without parole in the United States, saying, 'Should we deny freedom of speech to someone who doesn't really believe in freedom of speech? Of course not. We let them have it. We ... allow the injustice and contradiction inherent in such a stance to do for them, in the end'—believing adamantly that reason would prevail and expose the intolerant in our public debates.

Whether you agreed with every point, some, or none, he dared to utter what was on his mind unfiltered, which in today's age is highly refreshing. A marmite character, sure, but there's good reason why so many tuned in to his broadcasts and read his articles: his sincerity. And of course he was a man with his blemishes, who made mistakes in his personal life yet did not withdraw from the public arena.

Very few journalists today have that sense of vocation to such a role; very few dare to rock the boat for fear of threats to their safety, of being called a 'bigot', or of being sneered at. Rod embraced it. There are very few left who could and would dare to pick up his excaliburian pen.

In the 2017 Christmas issue of *The Spectator* (that most superior of English parish magazines) he wrote, 'We are not yet forsaken: somehow from up above, He watches ... amused, appalled, distraught—who knows? Yet still we have His love.'

May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

FENCE LINE



ALL TYPES OF
FENCING • GATES
DECKING • PERGOLAS
PATIOS LAID
SUPPLIED & ERECTED
Domestic • Security
Agricultural • Equine

Competitive Rates • Free Estimates

Northiam 01797 252509

30 Years experience • Fully Insured

Pest Control

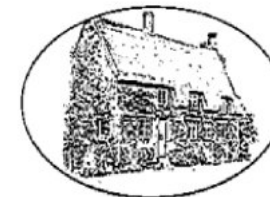
Moles, Rats, Wasps

Rabbits, Mice

Birds & more

Call Jordan

T : 07814 023641



CHRIS SANDS

FOR

CARPET,
UPHOLSTERY
&

ANTIQUE RUG
CLEANING

Broad Oak Brede

01424 882907

Bargain Carpets & Floors

Carpet and Vinyl Flooring supplied and fitted.
Same choice as any shop but at up to half the price.



We can move your
furniture for you
and take away
your old carpet

For free home sample viewing and estimates
please call Stuart on 01424 855882 / 07734 659834

Email: bargainfloors@hotmail.co.uk

www.bargainfloors.co.uk

PROUD MEMBERS OF
Cheekatrade.com
Where reputation matters

4CHARITIES

(PROVIDING SUPPORT TO THOSE IN NEED)

DROP IN FRIDAY

4TH SEPTEMBER

10:30 to 12:30

(COFFEE, CHAT, GAMES AND REFRESHMENTS - AND COMPANY)

UDIMORE COMMUNITY HALL TN31 6BB

£5 (OR MORE!) GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

CONTACT LIZ TURGOOSE ON 07806 597689 OR JUDY EDWARDS ON 01424 882222
FOR MORE INFORMATION

TRANSPORT

WE HAVE ARRANGED FOR FLEXIBUS TO PICK UP ANYONE WITHOUT TRANSPORT AND WHO WOULD LIKE TO COME.
CONTACT STEVE EDWARDS ON 0770 217 3839 OR EMAIL HIM AT CHITCOMBESTEVE@GMAIL.COM TO BOOK. THERE
IS NO CHARGE FOR THE TRANSPORT IF YOU HOLD CONCESSIONARY BUS PASS OR £4 RETURN WITHOUT ONE.

[HTTPS://STGEORGESBREDE.ORG.UK/4CHARITIES](https://stgeorgesbrede.org.uk/4charities)
UK CHARITY: 1216545

NORTHAM BONFIRE SOCIETY

Bonfire Procession & Fireworks

Saturday 3rd October

www.northiambonfiresociety.org.uk

- Procession starts from the Bonfire field at 7.30pm (on A28 next to Northiam cricket pitch)
- Bonfire lit at 8.30pm
- Bar, food & LIVE MUSIC on the Bonfire Field
- Entrance to field £2



PLACE YOUR AD HERE

ADVERTISING RATES

Quarter page £50
Half page £75
Whole page £150

All black & white or colour

Enquiries: Steve Edwards
treasurer@stgeorgesbrede.org.uk
or call 07702 173839



STEWART FISH ROOFING

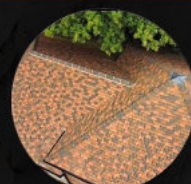
07852 952 551
stewartfishroofing@yahoo.co.uk

3rd generation of roofers
New roof replacement
Roof repairs
Velux windows
Fascia, soffits & guttering
Storm damage
Lead flashings

30 years experience
Fully insured

Checkatrade





Lobster Moth
Lobster for dinner? – well, perhaps for a bat or a bird
by Lynne Bramley

This big chunky moth is a very distinctive and attractive summer resident living in woodland and coming to light at night. I have found it to be quiet and unflappable when in the trap, unlike others which roar off as soon as the trap is opened.

The lobster moth eggs are laid singly or in pairs, usually on the underside of the chosen food plant, which can be beech, oak, birch, hazel, or apple, and hatches in about 10 days. The larva eats the egg shell, and then has a couple of days' siesta before starting to nibble the leaves, looking like a long-legged dark coloured ant at this early stage of development. It is a night feeder, and if disturbed it vibrates its long legs, making itself look like a very unpalatable spider. It eats and eats, and grows and grows, going through various stages of moulting called instars until fully grown at about 70mm long, after 9 months. Now this little caterpillar, pinky fawn with front and rear parts raised up which makes it look like a freshly cooked lobster, hence the name.



Lobster Moth.



**YEW TREE
STONE
MEMORIAL
MASON'S**

UNIT 6, QUARRY FARM, BODIAM, EAST SUSSEX, TN32 5RA

*Specialist Memorial Masons
serving Kent & Sussex*

- New memorials
- Renovations
- Cleaning
- Additional inscriptions
- BRAMM listed
- All memorial fixers are City & Guilds qualified
- 20 year stability guarantee on all new memorials

Tel: 01580 831855
E-Mail: enquiries@yewtreestone.com
Web: www.yewtreestone.com



07958 407840

Fully Qualified & insured

**Reductions, Dismantling,
Dead wooding, Pollarding,
Stump grinding,
Seasoned logs**



**Brede Village
Hall** is proud
to host

**Brede Farmers'
Market**

Every Friday - 10 'til 12

Come & support your local
fisherman, food producers, and
Crafters

**Why not enjoy tea/coffee &
fresh cake whilst there!**

Lots of free parking available

**NORTHAM DIY & GARDEN
HOMEHARDWARE**

01797 252162 
FOLLOW US ON 



WE HAVE AN EXTENSIVE GARDEN DEPARTMENT WITH A
BEAUTIFUL COURTYARD FILLED WITH POTS, PLANTS,
FURNITURE AND ALL OTHER GARDEN ESSENTIALS!






MONDAY - FRIDAY 8 - 5PM SATURDAY 9 - 4PM
FRIENDLY FAMILY RUN BUSINESS
 NORTHAMDIYANDGARDEN@GMAIL.COM

Me swimming

by Steve Wrigley

Shadows. Water. Stream. Sunlight. Movement. Sand.
The current catches with its tugging hand
me swimming, poised over granulated ground
and like a leaf dropped, coracled, swung round
I am swept past idle watchers on the strand

away, the river's haul of contraband,
its hijacked laden freighter pirate-manned,
water meadowed, water margined, ocean bound,
me swimming.

There's nothing that you need to understand,
this voyage to oblivion was never planned.
It may be said no trace was ever found,
that he just disappeared. Perhaps he drowned.
Shadows. Water. Stream. Sunlight. Movement. Sand.

TIBBS FARM



Café open Tuesday to Sunday

9am - 4pm

Breakfast - Lunch - Coffee - Cake



Seasonal - Local - Fresh

Open weekly on Friday evenings from 6:00pm



To book, please email: tibbsbookings@gmail.com
or call us on 07469 056088 (9am - 4pm)

INTERNATIONAL CLASSICAL CONCERT SERIES
AT MARLBOROUGH HOUSE VINEHALL
38th SEASON 2026-27

WIGMORE SOLOISTS

Sunday 11th October 2026 at 3.00 p.m.

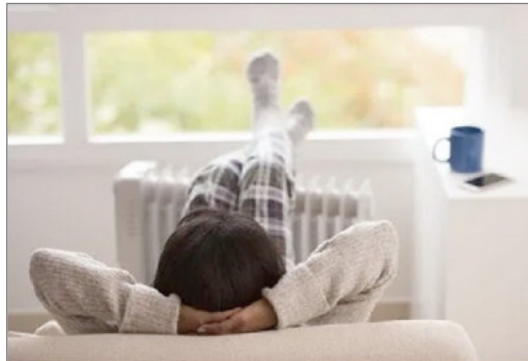
Michael Collins (clarinet) and the Wigmore Soloists perform Mozart's Kegelstadt Trio, Brahms' Horn Trio and Dohnanyi's Sextet in C major for piano, violin, viola, cello, clarinet. and horn.

'Collins is joined by newly formed ensemble Wigmore Soloists, the crème de la crème of chamber players' BBC MUSIC MAGAZINE

'Phrasing of the lyrical melodies is invariably graceful... dispatched with scintillating virtuosity and an infectious sense of fun. If the finale doesn't make you smile, you probably haven't been listening.' GRAMOPHONE

For full details/free mailing/tickets phone 01580 883092 or write to A.G. Whitehead, Marlborough House Vinehall School, Robertsbridge. East Sussex. TN32 5JL. e-mail concerts@mhvschool.co.uk

MIKE HATCHARD
Rhapsody in Blue
St Mary's Church, Northiam
Saturday 12th Sept - 7pm



**DOMESTIC PLUMBING
& GAS SERVICES**

BOILER INSTALLATION, REPAIRS & SERVICING
GAS SAFETY CHECKS & CERTIFICATES, BATHROOMS



Scan the QR code for an instant online boiler quote



m: 07833 432 839 e: info@eastsussexgas.co.uk



No.1
not-for-profit
care home
in Hastings

It's time to
feel good
about care

With award-winning not-for-profit care homes, longer trial stays and Home for Life funding assurance.

Finally, care that
feels good to Mum.
And to you.

Whitegates Care home
Westfield
01424 236 654

greensleeves
care



Cartoon by Mike Bone



ANDERSON HACKING

Independent Chartered Surveyors
& Estate Agents

Local Knowledge - National Network
Traditional Values - Modern Approach

Sales - Lettings - Valuations
Property Management

Tel: 01797 224852
www.andersonhacking.com

 **RICS®**

Eat the Seasons September – Blackberries

by Gill Potterton

Blackberries appear in our hedgerows from July through to October, so definitely a late summer berry and soft fruit; certainly an essential ingredient of the much-loved and classic summer pudding, alongside other summer berries. Ripening at the same time as our wonderful English apples, it is no coincidence that these two fruits have a wonderful affinity: it is all part of Mother Nature's plan.

The blackberry is produced by any of several species in the *Rubus* genus of the *Rosaceae* family. The fruit is not a true berry; botanically it is termed an aggregate fruit, composed of small drupelets. Historically, blackberries were believed to be useful in curing various ailments, including coughs and respiratory problems. The berries were also once used as a dye, which is easy to believe if you have ever stained your clothes with their juice while picking them.



It astonishes me how much a punnet of blackberries costs when they are so easy to find for free. Although wild blackberry bushes produce smaller berries than the cultivated blackberry varieties you may buy from a nursery, the wild berries are usually more flavourful. Rural folklore in Britain holds that blackberries should not be picked after Old Michaelmas Day (11th October) as the devil has claimed them. According to legend, Satan was banished from heaven on this day, fell into a blackberry bush, and cursed the brambles as he fell into them. There is some value behind this legend as wetter and cooler weather often allows the fruit to become infected by various moulds which give the fruit an unpleasant look and may be toxic.

As well as being one of the few fruits which you can safely pick for free (aside from the risk of a few scratches), the blackberry is a very versatile fruit, which freezes well, so make the most of the late summer harvest of juicy berries bursting with flavour, and enjoy them well into the winter: below are some ideas.

- As well as the famous combination of blackberries with apples, which works so well in pies and crumbles, do not forget the humble English pear, also ripening alongside the apples, which makes a slightly different but delicious autumn partnership with juicy blackberries. For a stunning upside-down pudding, peel and slice soft pears into the base of an ovenproof pan with plenty of blackberries. No pre-cooking or sweetening is required, but the addition of a little sweet fruit cordial will magically produce a wonderful glaze for the fruit when the pudding is turned out. Spread sponge mixture over the fruit to completely cover, bake, and invert the luscious pudd on to your serving plate.
- Blackberries may be sweetened to taste and cooked gently to soften, then used as a dessert sauce, or of course pushed through a sieve to remove the pips to produce a smoother puree or coulis. With or without pips, drizzle chilled blackberry sauce through whipped cream or yoghurt and garnish with whole berries to make a colourful fruit fool, piled into a sundae dish or glass.
- Blackberries also make a delicious savoury sauce, notably to accompany game, being the perfect match for richly flavoured venison, duck, or pigeon. If you are pan-frying one of these meats, it is a simple matter to make a sauce in the same pan while the meat rests on a warm plate. Deglaze the pan with a little balsamic vinegar, add garlic, pour in some stock and a little redcurrant jelly and stir over quite a high heat to bring all the flavours together, then add blackberries for the last few minutes to soften them.
- I have had a lot of success incorporating blackberries into cakes and traybakes, where the berries add a real fruity burst of flavour and moistness; also in making mousses, sorbets and cheesecakes, where of course the colour of blackberries is stunning.
- Finally, for a warming comfort pudding, try blackberry croissant pudding, unashamedly a version of the popular bread and butter pudding. Substitute stale croissants for the sliced bread: slice them roughly (but they contain enough butter to avoid further spreading) and arrange them in an oven proof dish. Pour over the textbook custard mixture and leave for 10 minutes so that it soaks into the croissants. Sprinkle on the finely grated zest of 1 lemon and generous amounts of blackberries, pushing some of them down below the surface. When baked the pudding puffs up, with a golden crusty top, and the juicy purple berries add a real taste of the hedgerow.



**Buy, Sell, Rent, Let -
*We've Got You Covered***

For **over 30 years**, we have been a trusted name in property sales and lettings.

SALES
01424 775577
battle@batchellermunkhouse.com

LETTINGS
01424 236145
battlelettings@batchellermunkhouse.com

**Batcheller
Monkhouse**
Our Corner of England
batchellermunkhouse.com





Specialist Trust Will Writers

Free Impartial Advice

Will Writing Services Estate Planning
Lasting Powers of Attorney
Specialist Trusts Deputyship Probate

caroline@pushingupdaisyz.co.uk www.pushingupdaisyz.co.uk

01424 717214 or 07968 036863

National Trust Rye & District Association | Monthly Flyer

We offer a range of enjoyable events each month to members and non-members of our association in support of The National Trust.

Walks September-June | Talks September-June

Our 5 mile circular walks cost £3 and begin at 10.00am. All walks end with a rewarding pub lunch and a quiz. Our talks with popular guest speakers cover a range of topics and are held from 2.00pm at Brede Village Hall, and cost £5 for members/£7 for non-members – including refreshments.



Outing | Penshurst Place Tuesday 15 September



Penshurst Place is the birthplace of Sir Philip Sidney who is remembered as one of the most prominent figures of the Elizabethan age. The medieval house is one of the best surviving examples of 14th-century domestic architecture. Cost is £49.00 pp which includes transport, a guided tour of the house and a free afternoon to look around the walled gardens.

Afternoon Tea | Ashburnham Place Thursday 1 October 1pm



Due to its popularity last year we will again be enjoying an Afternoon Tea. This time it will be in the spectacular Orangery at **Ashburnham Place**. This will include a selection of sandwiches, fruit or plain scones served with clotted cream and jam, two small cakes and a pot of tea or filtered coffee. The cost is £23.50 per person to include gratuities.

Quiz Night | Tuesday 20 October, 7pm for 7.30 start



Our popular annual **Quiz Night** will be held at Beckley Village Hall. Teams are a maximum of eight, you are welcome to make up your own group of eight, come as an individual, couple or small group, and join others to make up a team. There will be a raffle on the night. Please book in advance to guarantee your place at the quiz. Cost is £8 pp. Bring your own food and drink.

SOME FUTURE EVENTS TO ADD TO YOUR DIARY: Annual Fun Golf Day, Tenterden Golf Club Friday 11th September | Bluewater Shopping Trip Monday 30th November

Contact: Dee Williams (membership) 07760 115413 membership@ryenationaltrust.co.uk
Julie Etches (bookings) 01797 225317 julie.etches054@btinternet.com

Vocality: Your Local Community Choir

'Bringing People Together Through Song'

by Nadia Florence-Marshall

Vocality is a vibrant and inclusive community choir based in our local area. Dedicated to bringing people together through the joy and power of singing, it aims to foster a sense of belonging and camaraderie among its members, and acts as a community hub where local connections are forged and friendships blossom. Established 15 years ago by passionate music enthusiasts, the choir rehearses weekly, embracing a wide range of musical genres. Whether you are a seasoned vocalist or someone who simply enjoys humming a tune, we welcome everyone with open arms and warm voices. No auditions are required: enthusiasm and a love of music are all you need. Whether you are looking to improve your singing, meet new people, or simply have fun, join us and discover the transformative power of music within your community.

We are not a performing choir, but hope we can spread a little joy through our music. As such, Vocality participates in social gatherings, charity events, and community initiatives such as 'The Big Sing' event at St Michael's Hospice each year. It's also our pleasure to entertain the residents of local care homes with carol concerts at Christmas. Vocality offers a welcoming and enjoyable environment for all.

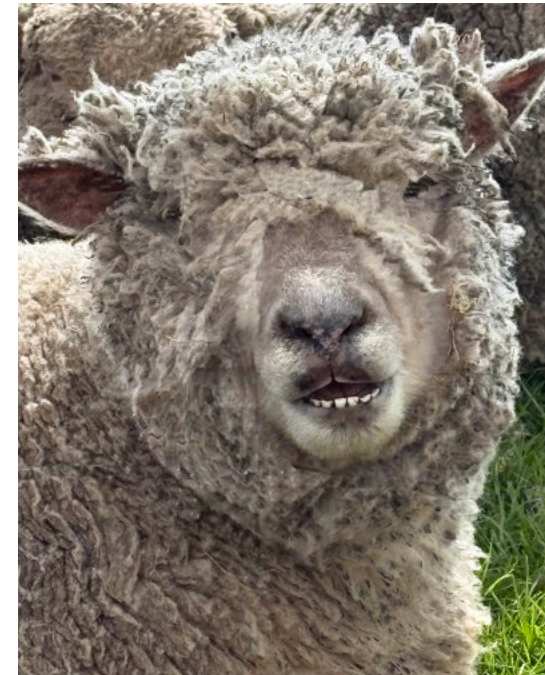


Vocality sessions are held in Brede Village Hall.

Why Join Vocality?

- Open to all ages and abilities—everyone is welcome.
- Singing in a group has proven benefits for mental and physical health.
- Meet new people, make friends, and feel part of something special.
- Learn new songs, improve your vocal skills, and gain confidence.

Vocality holds regular rehearsals at Brede Village Hall, from 2.00–3.30 p.m. for singing and a well-earned cuppa. If you would like to join, simply turn up for a rehearsal or contact the choir coordinator, Nadia Florence-Marshall, on 01424 882948 or 07710 147345. There is a modest membership fee to cover venue hire and sheet music etc. We start again on 10th September after our summer break.



Smile, please!

Udimore Art Exhibition and Sale – A New Venture

by Nadia Florence-Marshall and Liz Dean

The first Udimore Art Exhibition took place over the final weekend of July. Organised on behalf of the Friends of St Mary's Church, it marked an exciting new venture for the village. Twelve local artists took part, each displaying their paintings and artwork in an individual cubicle. Professional display boards complete with integral lighting and hooks, hired from Peasmarsh, lent the exhibition a polished and welcoming appearance. The event ran smoothly, thanks to the organisational skills of Nadia and Drew Hill Smith. Drew and his wife, artist Nikki, are newcomers to the village and their input, both physically and advisory was invaluable.

Visitors came from the local area and farther afield. One cyclist, on his way to Hailsham stopped after spotting the sign for teas. Sadly, though very tempted by all the art on display, he just did not feel up to cycling the next twenty miles with a piece of art strapped on his back. Tea and homemade cakes, generously provided by villagers in Udimore and Brede, were available on both days. The cakes were as delicious as ever, and guests enjoyed sitting and chatting over tea in the shade of the garden.

Saturday brought a steady stream of visitors, while Sunday was especially busy. It was a delight to see people leaving with paintings tucked under their arms. Feedback has been very encouraging and we may well repeat this another year. Matty Holmes and Lizzie St Clair-George formed a brilliant team running the raffle, and very few visitors managed to leave without buying a ticket.

It was a joyful weekend that could not have happened without loads of wonderful people, too many to mention. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

The Committee of the Friends of St Mary's would like to thank the following sponsors for their valued support:

- The George in Rye
- The Plough, Udimore
- Tibbs Farm Café
- Artwrite, Rye

The exhibition raised approximately £1,800 for the Friends of St Mary's (Charity Number: 292990). This charity lends continuing support to the upkeep of the church and churchyard of St Mary's, Udimore.



Udimore Art Exhibition.

Brede and Udimore Luncheon Club

We were thankful that the weather was a little cooler when we met in July. Spencer and Arianne served a traditional ham and cheese ploughman's lunch with crusty rolls and—our member's favourite dessert—sticky toffee pudding with ice cream. Our thanks to all the team at the Red Lion for presenting such an enjoyable meal and for their cheerful and efficient service.

The next Lunch Club is on Tuesday 22nd September (the fourth Tuesday of the month) at 12.30 p.m., again at the Red Lion in Brede.

For information about the Club please contact me on 01424 882007

Frances Parnham (Membership Secretary)

Brede Women's Institute

There was no Meeting in August, but even so our members were out and about enjoying their summer break. The Croquet Club, hosted by Sue McGavin and Marion Brunt, is still in full swing, and all the keen competitive members are perfecting their skills each week for the tournament in September!

In mid-July, a group of Brede WI members held a Memorial Walk to our newly installed wooden bench, which sits in an attractive spot in Pat Whately's fields, with a wonderful view. Here we reflected and remembered past members who are no longer with us, and also those unable to attend WI Meetings due to ongoing health difficulties. Near the bench is planted a



field maple, with a plaque bearing the inscription, 'Planted by Brede WI in support of the Climate Coalition and in appreciation of our beautiful environment. 19 November 2016'. The 30 saplings of silver birch, wild cherry and rowan, planted by us the following year, are now well established trees!

We were delighted that Maggie Sandra again invited WI members to enjoy a picnic in her beautiful garden. It proved to be a very happy gathering!



Inauguration of the memorial bench, 15 July 2026.

We were welcomed into a lovely marquee with comfy chairs and cushions to enjoy our lunch, and were further spoilt with treats and a glass of prosecco. Thank you, Maggie, from us all; we had a very relaxing and enjoyable time together.

Our next Meeting is on Wednesday 9th September at 2.00 p.m., in Brede Village Hall. The Competition is 'A Money Box'.

For information about Brede WI please contact Sue Orchard (Joint President) on 07305 693745

Frances Parnham

News from Trinity Methodist Church, Broad Oak

Church Services. We meet for worship every Sunday at 10.30 a.m. When there is a fifth Sunday in the month, an informal Service is held in the Hall at 3.30 p.m. All are welcome to join us and stay for refreshments after the services.

'Wednesday Welcome' are held in the Church Hall every week between 2 and 4 p.m. Come and join our friendly group for an informal rolling programme of activities and talks, followed by plenty of time to chat and relax over tea and cake! Or call in for Bookswap: we have a large collection of paperbacks to choose from.

Community. David Swales, our Community Lay Worker, has established close links with both the residents and staff at Roselands Care Home and his weekly pastoral care visits are warmly welcomed.

We are looking forward to returning to Whitegates Care Home in early September, where David and friends from Trinity Church will be presenting 'Harvest Reflections' in words and music for the Residents.

For further information about Trinity Methodist Church Broad Oak, please visit our website: www.trinitybroad oak.org.uk

Frances Parnham



Brede Mothers' Union

We met with district members at Willingdon for a service dedicated to our founder Mary Sumner. Banners were taken from across East Sussex to be paraded before and after the service. Sadly some Branches could not be with us, but hopefully will be with us next year.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 2nd September. We are not sure yet where we are meeting, so please contact me on 01424 882037 or rhiannonoliver20@gmail.com.

We would love you to join us and join in.

Rhiannon Oliver (Branch Leader & Bexhill District MU Chairman)

Brede Friendly Circle

We did not meet in August but on Wednesday 23rd September we are venturing to the 1066 Café, which is on the A21. We will meet there at 10.30 a.m.

If you wish to join the group you are very welcome. Please contact Carol on 01424 883262



Rhiannon Oliver

Brede Design with Flowers

On Monday 14th September we shall be using medolina sticks in our designs. Please bring your flowers, foliage, secateurs, and tape.

In October we will be meeting on Monday 19th. We will be doing an Ikebana design and making boards to go under flower arrangements so that furniture does not become damaged.

We meet at 2 Bellhurst Cottages, Chitcombe Road, Broad Oak, Brede.

If you wish to learn more about flower arranging, please contact me on 01424 882037. Press the # key to get through or leave a message and I will return your call.

Rhiannon Oliver



100 Years ago. The Rector, The Revd Cyril Charsley Frewer (centre) next to his brother John, Bishop of NW Australia, his children Marigold (centre) and Michael (front left), and members of the Noble family, at Middleton-on-Sea near Bognor, August 1926.

BREDE AND UDIMORE PARISH CONTACTS

MAGAZINE

Material for publication must be sent to Benjamin Barnard between the 1st and the 15th of the month prior to publication. Items submitted later may not be included.

Editorial Team Benjamin Barnard, John Crook, Darryl Bird,
Nick Weekes
benno.barnard54@gmail.com

Subscriptions Steve Edwards
treasurer@stgeorgesbrede.org.uk
07702 173839

4CHARITIES

Mrs Liz Turgoose 01424 882657

BREDE MOTHERS' UNION

Mrs Rhiannon Oliver 01424 882037

FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

Dr John Crook john@john-crook.com

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

Mrs Elizabeth Dean 01424 882206

CHURCH FLOWERS

Brede	Mrs Rhiannon Oliver	01424 882037
Udimore	Zoë Wilmoth	07771 657670

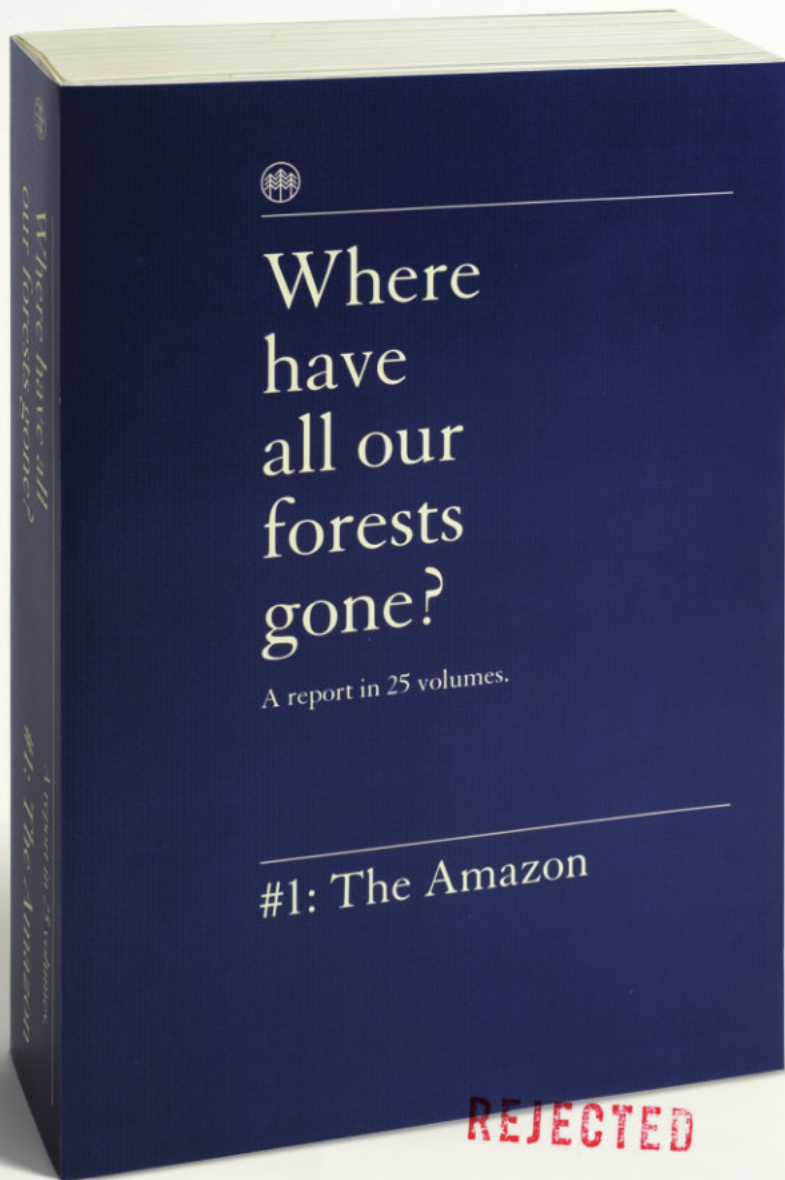
DEANERY SYNOD ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Brede	vacant	
Udimore	Zoë Wilmoth	07771 657670

PARISH GIVING SCHEME

Udimore Jonathan Cornwell
jonathancornwell@me.com

Rear cover by Graham Johnson



An excerpt from
Rejected Books - The Most Unpublishable Books of All Time.
By Graham Johnson and Rob Hibbert