



The Giant

Brede &
Udimore
Parish
Magazine

July 2025

The Giant: the Brede & Udimore Parish Magazine—the little magazine with a punch—is the old magazine with a new look and substance.

We are grateful to Rhiannon Oliver for picking up the pieces when Fr Owen suggested discontinuing the magazine. We owe its survival to her.

The editorial team consists of Benjamin Barnard, Darryl Bird, John Crook, and Nick Weekes.

Contacts: benno.barnard54@gmail.com or john@john-crook.com

The deadline for contributions is the 15th of the month preceding the new issue.



The tomb of Sir Goddard Oxenbridge, known as the Brede Giant, who owned properties both in Brede and Udimore.

Under the Vine

Dear Everyone

So here we are in July, at the end of another school year. This month there will be Dragonflies taking flight from Peasmarsh School, and Evergreens being transplanted from Beckley School, as our final year students move on to their secondary schools (not in our parishes, alas).

Beckley and Peasmarsh are Church of England Schools, and as usual we'll be giving each of our Leavers a Bible, with a bookmark lovingly created by Dee Cox. We hope the words they will find there will give them encouragement, guidance, and inspiration on the next stage of their journey. Our best wishes, too, to the oldest children from Brede Primary School (which also serves Udimore) walking out into a bigger world.

I wonder when you were given your first Bible. Mine arrived shortly after my birth. It was a King James Bible in a maroon cover—I was born just too soon (December 1952) to be given a Coronation Bible. I remember it getting steadily more battered over the years, but I have to confess that somewhere along the way I lost it—though I do still have about fifteen others. There have been some great Bible moments in my life: letting it fall open at random as I was about to be taken to the delivery room with my eldest preparing to enter the world, and finding it had given me Psalm 126: 'He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him'...

The holiday season is always a good time to give thanks to the God who invented holy days, or holidays as we now call them. The first book of the Bible tells how God awarded himself a day off once the universe had been created—and then told everyone to do the same.

The Bible goes on to set up plenty of festivals for everyone to enjoy themselves together. Rest time and relaxation are important, and nobody should ever try to be tougher than God. So however you're taking your holydays this summer, whether you're exploring other parts of this country, or travelling the world, or simply enjoying beautiful East Sussex, may they be truly refreshing and give you plenty of energy for the Udimore Fête and the Brede Flower Festival at the end of the month—and of course the Beckley Grand Fete and Dog Show at the August Bank Holyday. And I hope lots of us will come to hear our Area Bishop, Bishop Will, give the sermon and celebrate our Benefice Communion in Peasmarsh on 20th July.

Yours with love, Sister Liz.

The Benefice of Brede with Udimore and Beckley and Peasmarsch



Benefice Clergy

RECTOR	Post Vacant Church Enquiries: 07900 300587
ASSOCIATE VICAR	The Revd Liz Varley Vine Cottage, Main Street PEASMARSH TN31 6UL 07922 012703 lizpssb@gmail.com
LAY READER	Mrs Leslie 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

July Services St George's Brede

Sunday 6th	9:30 a.m. Parish Prayer and Praise Service
Sunday 13th	9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist celebrated by Fr Barry Carter
Sun 20th	10:00 a.m. Benefice Eucharist at St Peter and St Paul, Peasmarsch, celebrated by the Bishop of Lewes, Will Hazlewood
Sunday 27th	9:30 a.m. Parish Prayer and Praise Service

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

July Services St Mary's Udimore

Sunday 6th	11.15 a.m. Parish Eucharist led by Sister Liz Varley
Sunday 13th	10.00 a.m. Family Service led by Lesley Curtis. <i>Refreshments served</i>

Sunday 20th	10.00 a.m. Benefice Service at St Peter and St Paul, Peasmarsch, led by Bishop Will
Sunday 27th	11.15 a.m. Parish Eucharist led by The Revd Barry Carter

Forthcoming Events, St George's Brede

Sunday 13th	7.00 p.m. The Occasional Consort performs Handel's <i>Dixit Dominus</i> and <i>Ode for St Cecilia's Day</i> (see announcement on page 7)
Sunday 20th	10.45–11.45 a.m. Dragons, for primary school children (and their siblings)
Bank Holiday Weekend, 23-25 August	Brede Flower Festival
Little Giants, for toddlers (and their parents) will recommence on 11th September	

Forthcoming Events, St Mary's Udimore

4th July	4Charities Coffee Morning. Hall
26th July	Udimore Summer Fair 12.00–5.00 p.m. Hall
1st August	4Charities Coffee Morning 10.30–12.30. Hall
31st August	Benefice Service 10.00 a.m. Location TBC
5th Sept	4Charities Coffee Morning 10.30–12.30. Hall
7th Sept	Pet Service 11.15 a.m. Hall
21st Sept	Benefice Service 10.00 a.m. St George's Brede
3rd Oct	4Charities Coffee Morning 10.30–12.30. Hall
5th Oct	Harvest Festival 11.15 a.m. St Mary's
17th Oct	Harvest Supper 6.30 p.m. Hall
7 Nov	4Charities Coffee Morning 10.30–12.30. Hall
9 Nov	Remembrance Service 10.45 a.m. St Mary's
29th Nov	Udimore Christmas Fair 10.00–1.00 p.m. Hall
30th Nov	Benefice Service 10.00 a.m. Location TBC
5th Dec	4Charities Coffee Morning 10.30–12.30. Hall
14th Dec	St Mary's Carol Service 3.00 p.m. St Mary's
24th Dec	Midnight Mass 9.00 p.m. St Mary's
25th Dec	Christmas Day Service 11.15 a.m. St Mary's

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 7–8:15 p.m.
Jo-Jo Hancock: jojo@yogacreative.co.uk

STUDIO JAMIE BALLET: Tuesday 11.00 a.m.
Jamie: 01424 882238

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
Enquires contact Community Hall Booking: udimorehallbooking@gmail.com*

St Mary's Community Hall Hire

Planning an Event – Looking for a Venue

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 disabled facilities.

Monday – Friday £15.00 per hour (Events 1 to 6 hours duration)
Events on Friday may have to finish by 14.00 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 for internal use and £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

Glorious Food
CREATED BY GILL POTTERTON

Need help with the catering?

Look no further than your local private chef and caterer.

Beautiful hand-made food, bespoke menus and exceptional service.

For dinner parties, canapés, a special occasion buffet, or family meal, I would love to cook for you.

View sample menus on
www.glorious-food.co.uk

Call me on 07590 621015 or
email gillpotterton@googlemail.com

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



CHRIS SANDS

FOR

**CARPET,
UPHOLSTERY
&
ANTIQUE RUG
CLEANING**

Broad Oak Brede
01424 882907



**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

Readings for July 2025

Sunday 6th July

2 Kings 5.1-14
Psalm 30
Galatians 6.[1-6]7-16
Luke 10.1-11,16-20

Sunday 20th July

Amos 8.1-12
Psalm 52
Colossians 1.15-28
Luke 10.38-42

Sunday 13th July

Amos 7.7-17
Psalm 82
Colossians 1.1-14
Luke 10.25-37

Sunday 27th July

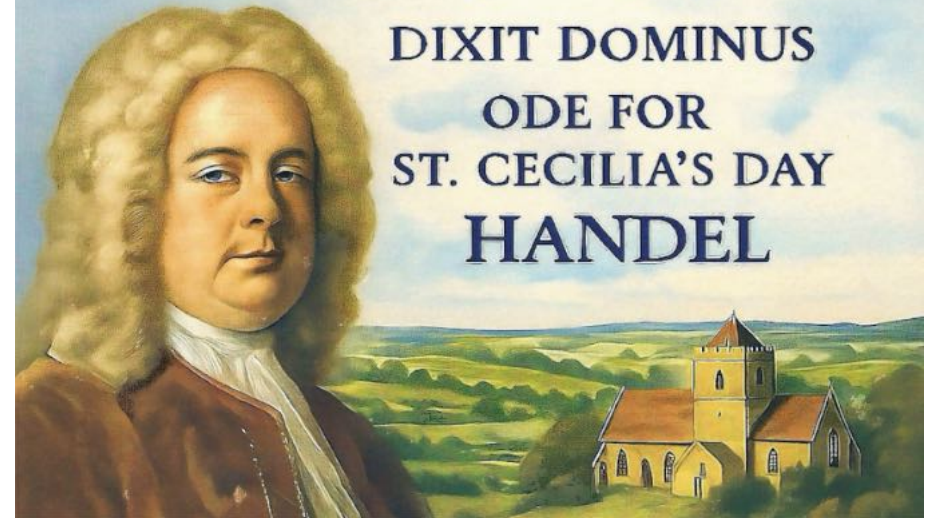
Hosea 1.2-10
Psalm 85
Colossians 2.6-15[16-19]
Luke 11.1-13



THE OCCASIONAL CONSORT

7.00pm Sunday 13th July 2025

DIXIT DOMINUS
ODE FOR
ST. CECILIA'S DAY
HANDEL



ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, BREDE

CONDUCTOR
ANNE WHITEMAN

ACCOMPANIST
DUNCAN REID

— SOLOISTS —

SOPRANO
GRACE CONSTABLE

ALTO
REBEKAH GILBERT

TENOR
GARY MARRIOTT

CELLO
IAN GILL

ADMISSION £15 | Complimentary glass of wine

Pest Control

Moles, Rats, Wasps
Rabbits, Mice
Birds & more

Call Jordan

T : 07814 023641

jordanspestcontrol@hotmail.com

**I am also available for
lawn mowing and
hedge cutting services**



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

Fens

by Stephen Wrigley

Cumulus clouds sail up like ships, as do
Cathedral towers, hulls and transepts down,
Their cargoes – commodities, beliefs
Or rain – carried carefully within.

Silt, black furrowed winter sea, stretches
Wheat sprung now with promises of gold.
Over and over the grain waves wash,
Repeating, washing on and outward
To our boundaries, to lifting
Arching passages of fenland sky.

As fast as we try to focus on
These heavens, friend, they faster rush away.
Until only skylines remain, while skylarks
In full stop song punctuate our histories.

**nails
by lauren**

**Biosculpture Gel Manicures
in Udismore, Rye, East Sussex**

Treat yourself to a professional manicure to promote
natural nail health, finished with a luxury gel polish
from a curated range of fabulous colours!

✉ lauren.manicurist@gmail.com
📱 @lauren.manicurist

Book online at www.booksolo.co/nails-by-lauren



**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

Two Windows

by Mary Barrett

One of the great joys of living in my cottage in Brede is the view from my bedroom window. I look out over lawn and hedge and the paddock beyond. The field on the other side of the paddock fence, usually occupied by my neighbour's sheep, drops down the hill towards the marsh and the Brede river. There's a handsome farmhouse at the bottom of the hill, its beautiful red-tiled roof just visible through the trees. Then the land on the other side of the river, patched with fields and copses, rises, flattens, rises and culminates eventually in the Fairlight ridge, its church tower just visible on the skyline. Beyond is the English Channel, which manifests itself in the lightness of the sky above the water, and the fog banks which occasionally lap in wisps and tendrils over the ridge. Sometimes the south-westerly gales roar overhead, and this view is obscured by flying horizontal rain sweeping up the river valley. At night, when the moon is full, everything is washed with silver; if there is no moon I am blessed with dark starry skies, because only if I lean out of the window and look hard to the right, can I see any glints of man-made light.

If I get up early enough, there may be deer amongst the sheep, or perhaps in my garden, in which case I open the window and scream at them, to stop them pruning my shrubs to stumps. Occasionally a fox trots casually through the sheep: 'Morning, girls...', once in a while there's a badger.

But years ago, when I lived in Salt Lake City, in the desert valley between the Wasatch and Oquere Mountains, the view from my bedroom window was very different. Our house was on one of the eastern 'benches': levels formed when the prehistoric lake dried out and dropped away over millennia to the puddle now left to the west of the city. So I looked over my mother's garden, over the rooftop of the Mormon church beyond our back fence, towards the mountains. Real mountains, thousands of feet above the valley floor, scored by canyons, and in winter smothered in snowfall measured in feet, which, melted and caught in reservoirs, was the city's only source of water. In springtime, those mountains were misted with green, which the fierce desert heat soon turned to tawny brown. We were directly opposite Emigration Canyon (so called because it was the one down which the Mormon pioneers struggled for weeks before the valley suddenly opened out before them... 'This is the place,' said Brigham Young, and a civilisation was born). On hot summer nights, there always came a moment when the curtains at our open windows would lift in the cool breezes flowing out of the canyon: free air conditioning

Two windows: now and so long ago.

UDIMORE SUMMER FAIR - SAT 26th July, 1 - 5.00pm

St Mary's Community Hall, Udimore TN31 6BB



Join in the Fun of the Fair to celebrate 'Summer in Udimore'!

There'll be plenty to keep you amused with a host of Games, Stalls and friendly Competitions; and plenty to keep you refreshed with a BBQ, Tea and cakes, Ice cream, a bar serving Pimms, beer and soft drinks. "Rocking Reg" will entertain us in the afternoon to ensure that everything goes with a swing.

Games, Stalls and Competitions

Welly Throwing, Hoop La, Beat the Goalie, Plant and Flower Stall, Tombola, Splat the Rat, Hook-a-Duck, Coconut Shy, Face Painting plus

Decorate a Hat - Bring a hat you have decorated and enter the competition for the Best Decorated Hat

Create a Miniature Garden – Put together your own miniature garden and bring it in to enter the competition for the best Miniature Garden

Hobby Horse Dressage – Take part in our dressage competition, riding on Dobbin or Daisy, our very own resident hobbyhorses.

Limerick Competition – Enter the competition for the best Limerick

All of this takes some organising, and we would be very grateful, if anyone is able to help with preparations beforehand, or take a stint on a stall on the day itself. We would appreciate any contributions of cakes for the tea, Tombola prizes and old plates, or bunches of garden flowers or plants for the garden stall.

If you are able to help or contribute in any way, please contact:

Liz Dean T: 01424 882206

or

Nicola Dealtry T: 07770851133

Out and About by Gary Marriott

The bees under the eaves which I mentioned last time just kept growing. I told everyone about them, including beekeepers, one of whom offered to take them away and keep them in a hive. I considered this, as it would have provided a warmer environment in the winter months, but I just couldn't let them go. I was facing the prospect of donning a bee suit to climb a ladder later in the year, in order to cover and protect them. But, just this week they disappeared: the combs, usually completely covered, were now bare. It was quite a shock and rather sad, but having again spoken to beekeepers I am advised that they more than likely would have perished later in the year through cold. I hope they have found a more secure home and that they thrive, as I believe they were fairly rare, being native black bees.

It is amazing what you can spot if you look about when walking or travelling by car. The gardens in Bulverhythe Road, in St Leonards, have rather steep banks, one of which was covered the whole length and depth in Kniphofia or red hot pokers: they were all totally erect and in full bloom, and made a truly glorious sight in an area which is usually shy of exposing such beauty.

Another glorious sight was that of a white wisteria, not in Stubb Lane this time but outside Avocet along Cackle Street. It had almost climbed to the top of the tree beside the road, rising to perhaps fifty feet. I had never witnessed one in such a position before; on buildings like Pashley Manor, yes, but there you have to pay for the privilege. This was free for all to enjoy and I hope many did. It was the kind of sight about which one could feel quite finifugal; at least, I did once I'd looked up that word...

We were very lucky last month to enjoy a rare visitor to the village in the form of a real steamroller, called Thelma. She had travelled from Icklesham under her own steam in order to have her tyres changed at the Engineering works in Cackle Street. When I saw her she was taking a rest after pushing herself up Brede Hill. 'It's thirsty work,' said her young driver, 'Makes her hungry as well', as he topped up her water and shovelled in more coal. Thelma was manufactured by Aveling and Porter, probably around 1910.

Aveling and Porter, by the way, started business in 1863, and soon became the largest manufacturer of steam rollers in the world, also building traction engines and steamwagons. One of their engines, Maid Marion, was used in a famous 1953 comedy film, *The Titfield Thunderbolt*, in a duel with a railway locomotive.

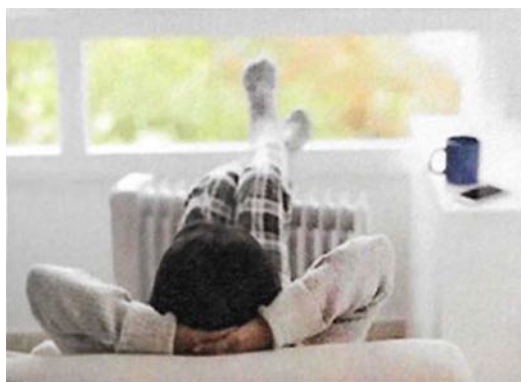
Thelma rumbled back through the village a couple of weeks ago on her new tyres. She is beautifully cared for by those who own and work her: she is a well-loved engine that I hope will thrill all those who see her for many years to come.

Meanwhile, it is Rose Week at Pashley Manor, so this Sunday the weather was perfect for a walk round that beautiful garden. The original house was owned by the great-grandfather of Anne Boleyn; the current house dates back to 1550. The garden is large enough to allow for spacious paths and lawns as well as a fine selection of magnificent ancient trees. There are many beautiful colour combinations and plants, but there is one rose in particular which I shan't forget—it rambles, with shimmering clusters of small vibrant red flowers, and it's called Chevy Chase... Can she really be named after the American actor?

This evening, in the warm glow of the low evening sun, we were joined by maybe two families of long-tailed tits who played, chased, and flitted silently from tree to tree, feeding. It was such a heavenly experience. Had I been Roger Quilter, I would have woven it into song that instant, and those fifteen minutes would have been preserved for ever.

Back to reality, for my Zinnia seedlings I can only muster a modified rapture—but for my meadow and stink lily, not to mention my weeding, I'm on top of the world!





**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

**Place a full colour, half page
advertisement in The Giant**

Just £75

...for the whole year

:-)

100 Years Ago

This following extract was published in the Report of the local branch of the Mothers' Union. The blacking-up of members' faces would be regarded as politically incorrect these days!

Brede Missionary Fete 1925

On June 30th and July 1st this Branch took a large share in the Missionary Fête, held in the Rectory Field. The idea was that each parochial organisation should do their share and the mothers responded nobly. The tea was placed in the hands of some of the members of the Committee. The Working Party met and worked hard for weeks beforehand to furnish a stall of useful garments, and twenty of the Members rehearsed every week and produced "Scenes from South Africa", a play depicting the missionary aspect of the Mothers' Union in Africa. Here were to be seen not only the lonely white women, but also their native black sisters with their love and appreciation for the Union. In the South African Section run by the M.U. Members, besides the stall other interesting things were on view, such as bead curios worked by the natives and the model of the railway coach used by Miss Norah Short, the M.U. worker. Beside the usual fête attractions there was an African Curio Exhibition, a native village with huts and church, which formed the background for the African Pageant, performed by the children who were assisted by Members of the Mothers' Union, who had so splendidly submitted to the blacking of their faces! Other Members took stalls and in one way and another contributed largely to the success of the two days. The whole fête realised over £50 and the mothers were able to forward £5 10s. to Miss Short for her special M.U. work in S.A.



Mothers' Union members in Rectory Field, Brede. Photo: Mrs Cyril Frewer.

Editors' note: we hope that this '100 Years Ago' feature will be published regularly in our Magazine, featuring material from family scrap-books and photograph albums in the possession of John Crook.

A Pride of Writers

by Darryl Bird

It may come as a surprise to learn that Sussex was once considered the most important county for English literature. Prior to and after the First World War there was great interest in rural life, and in particular that of the most backward, undeveloped and romantic county—Sussex!

Although later it became unfashionable, Sussex poetry and prose of this period did much to revive a love of nature, rebelling as it did against the suffocating consequences of city life and industrialisation, and sought to find both the sacred in the landscape and the profane in the peasantry.

A large number of important and influential writers lived in the locations surrounding our parish, but we should not forget those writers who have an immediate local connection, living in or writing about Brede or Udimore.

The earliest author of note was Elizabeth Tyrwhitt, one of the five children of Sir Goddard Oxenbridge, who composed a work called *Morning and Evening Prayers, with Divers Psalmes Himnes and Meditations*, published in 1574. She was briefly arrested by King Henry VIII, but she was a lucky lady and kept her head.

More recently, from 1899 until his untimely death in 1900, consumptive American author Stephen Crane was a tenant of Brede Place, which was run-down back then. He was, and still is, famous for the civil war novel *The Red Badge of Courage*. Our very own Dr John Crook is an expert on Crane's time in Brede and has gathered much information on this period.

Clare Sheridan—a first cousin of Sir Winston Churchill, who allegedly spent childhood holidays at Brede Place—had quite a reputation as a wild bohemian and allegedly counted Charlie Chaplin among her many lovers. Her flirtations with known Soviet agents resulted in an MI5 file that noted: 'She has conducted herself in a



Stephen Crane and his partner Cora at the Old Rectory, 1899.

disloyal manner in various foreign countries, adopting a consistently anti-British attitude.'



Clare Sheridan working on a clay bust of Sir Winston Churchill, later cast in bronze.

Although primarily a sculptor, Clare Sheridan also wrote extensively and was best known for her travel diaries. She is buried in the churchyard of St George's, and her beautiful Madonna statue can be found inside the church.

We should not forget writers from Udimore, two of whom stand out. Monica Edwards (1912–1998) is best known for her Romney Marsh and Punchbowl Farm series of children's novels and many of her works were set locally. Her novel *Storm Ahead* is based upon the true story of the loss of the Rye Lifeboat in 1928, when seventeen crew drowned, including a boy she very much fancied.

Spike Milligan is of course known for a vast body of comedic work and silly songs, and especially for *The Goon Show*. Fittingly, he lived in Dumb Womans Lane, Udimore. He joked that he wanted his headstone to read 'I told you I was ill'. Although the Church refused to allow this, a compromise was eventually reached with the use of *Dúirt mé leat go mé breoite*, an Irish translation (which seems to contain an error in the grammar).

Sheila Kaye-Smith (1887–1956) not only wrote about the parish, she also lived in it. Her novel *The Tramping Methodist* starts at her protagonist's family home of Brede parsonage and he describes St George's church in less than glorious terms: 'I had also been told that Brede Church was God's house, which did not increase my reverence for my Maker, as the church was dirty and hideous, with walls discoloured by damp and filth, and all view of the altar-table shut out by a huge, unsightly three-decker' (by which she means the pulpit). Her narrator goes on to say, 'All Saints, Hastings, was not unlike St George's, Brede, in point of ugliness'.

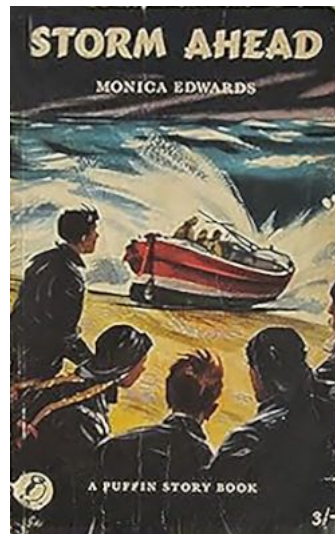
Sheila's protagonist travels all around the district seeking the sacrament, which, in her story, was enjoyed but once a year at Brede.

Many of her novels were set in Brede, Broad Oak, Westfield, Northiam, and other villages, as well as the surrounding countryside. Farms, bridle paths, and so on can often be discovered still in the landscape. Her books describe a way of life that includes great beauty and intense hardship, the farms barely eking out a living from the unforgiving land, and yet the sacred beauty of nature arises through despair.

Although she enjoyed great popularity with the reading public, her downfall arrived with the work of fellow author Stella Gibbons, whose *Cold Comfort Farm* was a mercilessly witty parody of Sheila's novels.

Berkely Mather was the pen name of John Evan Weston-Davies (1909–1996). During his career he wrote a large number of adventure novels and short stories. Also a prodigious writer of screenplays, his television credits include *Z-Cars* and *The Avengers*. At Ian Fleming's request he wrote the screenplay for the film *Dr No*, and subsequently for the two following James Bond films. His grave can be found to the west of Brede Church.

Michael Flanders was the librettist in the famous Flanders and Swann duo, and lived at the top of Stubb Lane. Well known for their funny and fabulous *At the Drop of a Hat* show and recordings, and for the memorable 'Bestiary', with the famous Hippopotamus song ('Mud, mud, glorious mud...'), they were described as the most influential double act in British comedy.



Storm Ahead (paperback edition 1957).



Scene from Sheila Kaye-Smith's nativity play *The Child Born at the Plough*, performed in Brede Church in 1982.

It is fitting to look back upon past times and the distant glories of Sussex, which are revealed to us through the work of these authors. Those who wrote about local life within the parish are especially important, as they remind us of the continuity of family and place in our lives, and help us to celebrate and remember that past. Readers may be interested to know that there are still a number of professional writers living in the parish today, and we may hope therefore to retain our literary connections in the years to come.

**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@batchellermonkhouse.com

LETTINGS
01424 236145
battlelettings@batchellermonkhouse.com

**Batcheller
Monkhouse**
Our Corner of England

batchellermonkhouse.com

UDIMORE SUMMER FAIR



Celebrate Summer with all the Fun of the Fair!

St Mary's Community Hall, Udimore TN31 6BB

Saturday 26th July, 1.00 – 5.00pm

Free Entry

Live Music with "Rocking Reg"

Games & Stalls

BBQ, Bar, Tea & Cake, Ice Cream

Welly Throwing
Hoop La
Beat the Goalie
Coconut Shy
Plant & Flower Stall
Tombola
Limerick Competition

Splat the Rat
Hook-a-Duck
Face Painting
Decorate a Hat
Create a Miniature Garden
Hobby Horse Dressage

Free School Meals Don't Nourish Schools

by Blake Larkin

Imagine the scene, Starmer alongside his Blairite 2.0 senior advisors and ministers gathered in a Whitehall meeting room. A pensive mood of reflection with a year of governance in review. Except, a dark spectre lurks over them. A ghoul that has not yet been unleashed or its power attested in modern British politics. Reform. The projections are shocking, the entire establishment could be wiped out in one fell swoop when the next General Election rolls round.

Starmer needs policy that is quick to implement and fills the hunger of the volatile British voter. He took the latter very seriously, it seems. The only problem: free school meals do not tackle endemic problems of child poverty. They just suppress a problem for 190 days throughout the year. Without equipping the disadvantaged learner with the real sword and armour to face today's daunting beast: the demand for a skilled and specialised workforce. Without solving the overarching problem that our school system is unfit for purpose.

The reality is that the virtues of studying are at all time lows. Reading of one's own volition is a thing in the lives of fewer than a third of secondary school students. And 40% of all students who sat their Maths GCSE last year failed. 40%! Students are known as 'digital natives', yet seem to know only the vices of Open AI programs for homework, tablets for their chronically online entertainment from questionable role models, and phones as their anxiety-masking pacifiers. The current trajectory is only going to entrench division.

The biggest problem is not a problem at all: many students are not academically inclined. And thank God! The last thing this country needs are more critical race theory PhDoomers. Many are practical skills orientated yet are forced into full time education until 16 years of age and then left in the abyss to wonder what sector of work they would like to dip their toes into. As a teacher, I'm thinking of one lad in particular: this summer, he may just scrape a pass for his maths and English, although I would not put money on it, but in my time with him he got himself a flat pack dirtbike: the lad built it all himself from scratch.

For the future of education in this country we should look abroad. After the age of thirteen, students who aren't cut out to become academics should have the choice whether to be in the classroom for all five days of the school week or whether they should spend some days focusing on practical qualifications in technological academies or fit-for-age workplaces. The productivity gap in this country could directly be tackled and shortages in

medium to high-skilled practical professions could be significantly reduced. But to facilitate this we must lower the burden and cost of employing people. Also, I am not referring to 'The City' nor its dwellers, but I mean revitalising those small to medium companies elsewhere, e.g. on the 'Brexit seafront' of England and Wales, where a working class profession has become a narrow and often quite unfulfilling category. A place where 'the talent' is drained to conglomerates in the metropolises and the demographics of age reflect that of a care home waiting list.

Healthcare, pharmacy, secondary school education, engineering, construction, and IT technology are the most malnourished sectors of work in UK. If you simply google this you are bombarded with a plethora of articles which, overwhelmingly, have one thing in common: UK visa application Q&As. But the crop could should be predominantly 'British grown' produce. There is hope in the projections: according to a recent BBC survey, doctor, engineer and teacher (in that order) are the three most desired professions amongst four thousand thirteen-to-sixteen-year-olds from across the UK.

However, in a system where the manually gifted are allowed to daydream away into a permanent state of indifference and apathy, one must ask oneself what true nourishment in education is.



Annual Membership
£10

**The Rye & District Association
of the National Trust**

Established in 1980



RYE & DISTRICT ASSOCIATION
FUNRAISING FOR NT SINCE 1980

Invites you to become a member and enjoy
 Talks · Walks · Outings · Quiz Nights · Pub Lunches
 Theatre Trips · Afternoon Tea · Fun Golf Day · Spring Lunch · Christmas Party

There's no need to be a member of The National Trust but through these enjoyable activities and with like-minded people you could help raise additional funds for the NT properties of *Bateman's, Bodiam Castle, Chartwell, Ightham Mote, Scotney Castle, Sissinghurst, Lamb House, Smallhythe Place, The White Cliffs of Dover, and Winchelsea.*






Please contact membership secretary Dee Williams: membershipryenationaltrust@gmail.com

Letter from America

by Hayley Barnard

I rise on a Sunday morning in Arlington, Virginia, to a symphony of honking horns. I grew up in countryside Colorado, and this is the hustle and bustle of America I have grown accustomed to over the past years—we do not rest, we do not sleep, we cannot simply *be*.

I rise on a Sunday morning in Brede, England, to the sound of chirping birds. A red robin begins his song, boldly claiming the major notes, while a blue jay delicately challenges the tune with a ballad of minor tones. I make my way downstairs in my cottage-in-law, also known as John and Mary West.

I zombie-walk to my pre-made cup of coffee. From the balcony I see the face of our neighbour, looking just as battle-worn as I am.

I saunter into the kitchen of John and Mary West to make an espresso with the Italian cafetière—which takes fifteen minutes, but the rich flavour well makes up for the wait. I step outside to greet the sun. In the garden shiny blues, yellows, purples, and oranges look back at me.

I turn my gaze away from the neighbour, whom I've never met, to the surrounding apartment complex. A giant chess board, frozen in a game that will never be completed, sits amidst unnatural green turf. Surely, the place we call home hasn't always looked this deserted? I should ask Christopher, but he's still half asleep.

Not long after greeting the garden I hear the Barnards' noisy awakening—Benjamin with a cheeky improvised song, comparing me to a chicken, Christopher as he runs downstairs to give me a hug... Now Deanne is asking if I'd like an omelette for breakfast.

Back home, I see a young boy and his father, the father glued to his phone as the boy runs ahead. A young woman is walking her dog, her eyes fixed on the ground to avoid any possible interaction with neighbours.

Shortly after the cacophony of the Barnards, we hear Gary and Duncan, who've come to say hello on their morning stroll. It becomes a two-hour conversation over tea and biscuits. But this is the way of Brede—a slow, peaceful pace that embraces you like a warm hug.

Sitting on my balcony in Arlington, I close my eyes and try to recreate the peace I felt in Brede. As I breathe in slowly, I imagine the chirping birds, the garden of flowers, and the people of Brede whom I know and love. And I remember that stopping to smell the roses is, indeed, worth the interruption.

Brede and Udimore Luncheon Club

We met for lunch at the *Red Lion* the day after the May Bank Holiday weekend, and numbers were down a little.

On the menu was fish and chips and peas, and a dessert of bread and butter pudding with custard. 'That was a well-balanced lunch,' commented one of our members, and indeed, it was very much enjoyed by us all. A big thank you to all the staff at the *Red Lion* for looking after us, and for making us feel so welcome each month.

The Lunch Club meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 12.30 at the *Red Lion* in Brede.

For information about the Lunch Club, please call me on 01424 882007

Frances Parnham

Brede Women's Institute

After a warm welcome from our Joint President, Jennie Drew, the Annual Meeting opened with the singing of *Jerusalem*. Members were then updated about forthcoming events and activities happening this summer, and plants and cards were presented to our 'Birthday Ladies'.

The formal meeting began with reports from the Treasurer and Secretary. Our Joint Presidents then took the floor and reflected on their very busy first year in office, and thanked the Committee and Brede members for all their help, support, and encouragement. The elections followed and the Committee was elected *en bloc*, and Sue and Jennie were congratulated on being re-elected as our Joint Presidents.

Trish Mumford has retired from the Committee after twelve years of loyal service. She was presented with a beautiful plant and card from the Committee thanking her for taking on so many different roles over the years so willingly and efficiently.

Before relaxing a little and enjoying our refreshments, we all had to get into thinking mode and form teams for a quiz! It was slightly competitive and finished with a tie-break, but it was a lot of fun. Thank you, Joy!

The Competition, 'A Favourite Poem', was won by Pat Shippey.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 9th July at 2.00 p.m in Brede Village Hall. The speaker is Peter Benson and he will be relating the 'Tales of a Film Prop Man'. The subject of the Competition is 'Film Memorabilia'.

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 3.00 p.m. All are welcome to join us and stay for refreshments after the services.

Please note that there will be no Sunday Service at Trinity Church on the 27th July.

Meet-on-Mondays: every week between 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. (except Bank Holidays). Come along and join our friendly group for various activities; games, crafts, talks, swapping books, and then enjoy tea and cakes

Come4Coffee, usually on Wednesday mornings, will be taking a summer break in July and August.

Community: The Community Wildlife Garden, in Trinity Church grounds, is looking very summery and is full of flowers, shrubs, and hidden wildlife. Two classes from Brede Primary School recently enjoyed the Discovery Trail in the church grounds, exploring the Bible story of David and Goliath, under the leadership of our Community Lay Worker, David Swales. The children gathered in the Church afterwards for a short follow-up time together.

In July, we look forward to welcoming all Brede Primary School pupils to the church again, for their Whole School Leavers' Assembly, at the end of the school year.

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

Frances Parnham



Brede Friendly Circle



Our group meets on the third Wednesday morning of every month at the agreed venue at 10.30 a.m. Occasionally our garden party and November outings may have a different time.

We are a lively group who chatter our way through coffee in the many different establishments that we visit.

In June we were at Tibbs Farm for coffee, and took the opportunity to pick or buy strawberries and raspberries, and other fruit too.

In July we will have our garden Party. We do not meet in August but will be back on 17th September. We look forward to welcoming new members. Please contact me on 01424 882037, or our secretary, Carol, on 01424 883262

Rhiannon Oliver

Brede Mothers' Union



We are only a handful of members now, with half of us well over 90. We really need more people to join our worthwhile group and help us to pray and work for those less fortunate than ourselves. We are open to all denominations and to men and women, married or single: all are welcome.

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 1.30 p.m either in Brede Church or the Rectory. Our July meeting will be on Wednesday 2nd July, when we will have a garden party at our Branch Leader's home, 2 Bellhurst Cottages, Chitcombe Road, Broad Oak.

Our June meeting was in the Rectory, and we had a short service before looking through the May MU Magazine and commenting on its contents. Then we had a cup of tea and a biscuit and discussed other topics. It was a convivial afternoon, enjoyed by us all.

I have a District meeting on Monday 7th July and one of the topics will be the district annual picnic, when members of each branch in the district are invited to join in a picnic. Other topics will include the two caravans we own, our citizenship ceremonies in Hastings and Eastbourne, and our hospital visits to the baby unit to allow parents and staff to wind down, knowing that whatever is said is held in the strictest of confidence. We also take toiletry bags to The Conquest Hospital for patients who go in with nothing; this is very welcomed by staff.

This is why we need more bodies to join us. The majority of our work is done outside of our monthly meetings.

Rhiannon Oliver

Brede Branch Leader and Bexhill MU District Chairwoman

Dragons

We had a fun-filled hour this month at Dragons, where we learnt all about Pentecost and why it is so important to Christians, despite originally being a Jewish festival that celebrates harvest.



We decorated the display board in the church with the faces of the eleven remaining disciples, who were faithful to Jesus and his teachings. We coloured these and put flames above their heads, which appeared when the Holy Spirit entered them, and then we did speech bubbles in different languages saying things such as 'Thank you, God!', 'Jesus is the way!', and 'Alleluia!'. If you visit the church, take a look and see if you can work out what the language is and what

they are saying. God gave them the ability to speak in different tongues, so that the word of the Lord could be spread easily all across Galilee, as people from many countries lived and visited the area. The disciples did such a great job that within that one day, 3,000 people were baptised and repented of their sins. Later, as Christianity grew, the word of God was spread globally, and there are now 2.6 billion Christians, nearly a third of the world's population!

We also really enjoyed making our decorated tea light holders, which were taken home by the children and adults to be lit at dinner time over the following three days.

If you're free next month on Sunday July 20th, please do join us for more fun and learning about the Bible, in a light way. Dragons is from 10.45 until 11.45 a.m. at St George's Church, Brede. Although it's aimed at primary school children, everyone is welcome to come along, enjoy some craft, singing, and other fun activities—and it's all for free!



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 October-May

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/£10 for non-members – including refreshments.

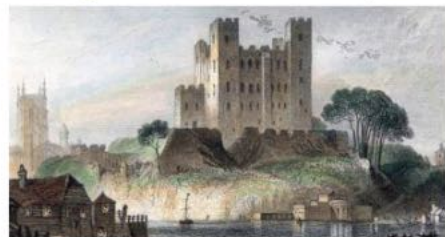


Walk | The Bull Inn at Benenden Thursday 11 September



Our first autumn walk takes place on Thursday 11th September, beginning and ending at **The Bull Inn at Benenden**. This is a traditional village pub dating back to the 17th century, with some interesting architectural details, and overlooking the village green. The pub has a car park, and there is more free parking on the roads around the green.

Outing to Rochester Tuesday 23 September



This special excursion includes a 90 minute Blue Badge walking tour of **Rochester** taking in all of the historic sites. There will be time afterwards for further exploration, plus an opportunity for a leisurely lunch before boarding the coach back to East Sussex. This Rochester City visit will be £32.00 per person including the guided tour and gratuities.

Talk | The Landscape Revival Project Thursday 16 October



Simon Everitt, Area Ranger at Winchelsea, will be explaining why the National Trust has chosen to change its land management at Winchelsea to focus on wild life and biodiversity. As the UK's largest conservation organisation and a private landowner, it is incumbent upon the trust to make a significant contribution to tackling the climate crises.

SOME FUTURE EVENTS TO ADD TO YOUR DIARY: Annual Quiz evening: Wednesday 22nd October | Christmas Party and Talk: Thursday 4th December

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

BREDE AND UDIMORE PARISH CONTACTS

MAGAZINE

Items for inclusion in the Magazine must be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to publication, please.

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

Subscriptions Steve Edwards
chitcombsteve@gmail.com
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



**FREE
ENTRY
& OPEN TO THE
PUBLIC**

BREDE PRIMARY PTFA INTRODUCE THE

Brede Primary *Summer fair*

11AM-2PM

**SATURDAY
5TH JULY**

STALLS AND GAMES
BOUNCY CASTLE
HOG ROAST
LICENSED BAR
FACE PAINTING
CAKE
LEAVERS
PRESENTATION
AND LOTS MORE

JOIN US FOR A FUN DAY OUT

RECREATION
GROUND, BROAD
OAK

