



ST. GEORGE'S, BREDE



ST. MARY'S, UDIMORE



# The Parish Magazine

Reaching out to the community

## December 2021



## The Benefice of Brede with Udimore and Beckley & Peasmarsch



### Benefice Clergy

#### RECTOR

**The Rev'd Dr. Owen Edwards**

The Rectory, Brede Hill, BREDE TN31 6HG  
Telephone: 01424 882201; Mobile: 07512 760823  
email: rector@stgeorgesbrede.org.uk

#### ASSOCIATE VICAR

**The Rev'd Jim Jelley**

Vine Cottage, Main Street, PEASMARSH TN31 6UL  
Telephone: 01797 230822

#### RETIRED PRIESTS

**The Rev'd Jim Hobbs**

**The Revd Barbara Hobbs**

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**The Rev'd Dr. Bill Dolman**

Little Belhurst Cottage, Hobbs Lane, BECKLEY TN31 6TT  
Telephone: 01797 260203

### St. GEORGE'S CHURCH, BREDE

#### CHURCHWARDENS:

**Mr. Duncan Reid**

Perryfield, Stubb Lane  
BREDE TN31 6EH  
Telephone 01424 882412

**Mr. David Oliver**

2 Bellhurst Cottages, Chitcombe Road  
Broad Oak, TH31 6EU  
Telephone: 01424 882037  
email: davidoliver489@gmail.com

### St. MARY'S CHURCH, UDIMORE

#### CHURCHWARDENS:

**Mrs. Elizabeth Turgoose**

Fields House, Udimore, TH31 6AY  
Telephone 01424 882657

**Mrs. Zoe Wilmoth**

The Hammonds, UDIMORE TN31 6AJ  
Telephone: 01797 227745  
email: wilmoth@btinternet.com

#### TREASURER - BREDE AND UDIMORE

**Mr. Harry Curtis,**

**Fairlight View, Udimore Rd,**

Udimore TN31 6BG  
Telephone 01424 883246  
email: harry@ecooffice.eu



## THE PARISH CHURCHES OF ST. GEORGE, BREDE and ST. MARY, UDIMORE

Worship in our Parish Churches centres on the Holy Eucharist at which members meet together to offer themselves to God, and draw strength for their daily lives.

Our churches are open for prayer during the day.

### WEEKDAY HOLY COMMUNION AT BREDE

Wednesday 10.00am

### SUNDAY SERVICES

#### BREDE

Family Eucharist at 9.30am every Sunday

#### UDIMORE

Parish Eucharist at 11:15: - 1st, 3rd & 4th Sunday

Family Service at 11:15 - 2nd Sunday,

Holy Communion at 8.00am - 2nd & 5th Sunday

..

### MESSY CHURCH

First Tuesday of the Month - 4.00pm in the Hall at Udimore.

For those who are sick, housebound or aged, it is a privilege to bring the Blessed Sacrament to their home at any time – day or night.

Those seeking Baptism, First Communion or Confirmation for themselves or their children, Marriage, the Laying on of Hands, Anointing in times of sickness, or Funerals should contact the Rector directly

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To subscribe to the parish magazine please contact :-  
**Sue Rowan - sue\_rowan@yahoo.co.uk**





## BREDE AND UDIMORE PARISH CONTACTS

**MAGAZINE:** *For any item to be included in the Magazine please submit by 15<sup>th</sup> of month prior to publication.*

|                                              |                                                                                         |              |
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| BREDE:                                       | Mr. Colin Mitchell                                                                      |              |
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| <b>UDIMORE PARISH HALL</b>                   |                                                                                         |              |
|                                              | Booking: <a href="mailto:udimorehallbooking@gmail.com">udimorehallbooking@gmail.com</a> |              |

## The Benefice of Brede with Udimore and Beckley & Peasmarsh

From the Rector's Pen



Dear Friends,

As we draw near to 'The most wonderful time of the year', we are once again invited to follow the star of Bethlehem to welcome the birth of the baby Jesus. Around this time of year, many families have special Christmas traditions of their own, and one that I have observed for a number of years is reading each Christmas-time a wonderful little book which I heartily commend to you.



Called 'The Other Wise Man', this short story by the largely forgotten American writer Henry Van Dyke imaginatively adds to the traditional story of the three wise men a fourth, who becomes embroiled in several adventures on his long journey to Bethlehem. His gift for the new-born king is a pearl of great price, but, encountering on the road some young women destined for a life of slavery and destitution, he uses the pearl to buy their freedom. Unwilling to journey on empty-handed, he gives up and returns home. Many years later, and now an old man, the fourth wise man happens to be in Jerusalem on the great festival of Passover. He hears a great commotion and sets off to follow the crowd up to a hill outside the city wall, but on the way, he stumbles and falls, striking his head upon the stone. As he lies dying, he notices the bent and stricken figure of a man, bloodied and bruised, bearing a cross on his shoulders. The tortured figure falls, and for a moment, the eyes of the two men meet, and the wise man sees twinkling in the eye of the broken Christ the pearl he gave away all those years before. As the darkness closes in around him, he hears at the last the voice of the Lord: 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

As we follow the star throughout this Advent and Christmas season, may we always keep in mind those less fortunate than ourselves, remembering that Our Lord did not come to us as a king, in a palace of marble and gold, but as the very least of people, that, identifying with us in our weakness, we might be raised with Him to the life that knows no end.

May you all have a Blessed Advent  
a Very Merry Christmas.  
Father Owen, Rector



## Christmas Day

### *The Birth of Jesus Christ - 25th December*



**Christmas** is the festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ. It is observed on December 25<sup>th</sup> as a religious & cultural celebration among billions of people around the world.

Although the month & date of Jesus' birth are unknown, the church in the early 4<sup>th</sup> century fixed the date as December 25<sup>th</sup>. It is exactly nine months after Annunciation on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Most Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus on December 25<sup>th</sup> in the Gregorian calendar, which has been adopted almost universally in the civil calendars used in countries throughout the world.

In the East, the birth of Jesus was celebrated in connection with the Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup>. In the Early Middle Ages, Christmas Day was overshadowed by the Epiphany, which in western Christianity focused on the visit of the Magi. The medieval calendar was dominated by Christmas-related holy days. The period of forty days before Christmas began on November 1<sup>st</sup> and is now known as Advent. Around the 12<sup>th</sup> century, these traditions transferred again to the Twelve Days of Christmas - December 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Day to January 5<sup>th</sup>, Twelfth Night

The Puritans banned Christmas in England in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It was restored as a legal holiday in 1660, but remained disreputable. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Oxford Movement in the Anglican Church ushered in "the development of richer & more symbolic forms of worship, the building of neo-Gothic churches, the revival & keeping of Christmas itself as a Christian festival. Following the Protestant Reformation, many of the new denominations, including the Anglican Church, continued to celebrate Christmas.

For the Christian celebration of Christmas, the viewing of the Nativity play is one of the oldest traditions, with the first re-enactment of the Nativity of Jesus taking place in A.D. 1223. In that year, Francis of Assisi assembled a Nativity scene outside of his church in Italy & children sang Christmas carols celebrating the birth of Jesus. Each year, this grew larger & people travelled from afar to see Francis' depiction of the Nativity of Jesus

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## Parish Services for December

### St George's Brede

|                |         |                       |
|----------------|---------|-----------------------|
| Sunday 5th     | 9.30am  | Sung Eucharist        |
| Wednesday 8th  | 10.00am | Eucharist             |
| Sunday 12th    | 9.30am  | Sung Eucharist        |
| Wednesday 15th | 10.00am | Eucharist             |
| Sunday 19th    | 9.30am  | Sung Eucharist        |
| Wednesday 22nd | 10.00am | Eucharist             |
| Saturday 25th  | 9.30am  | Christmas Day Service |
| Sunday 26th    | 9.30am  | Boxing Day Eucharist  |

### St Mary's Udimore

|               |                                                        |                        |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Sunday 5th    | 11:15am                                                | Parish Eucharist       |
| Sunday 12th   | 8.00am                                                 | Holy Communion         |
|               | 11.15am                                                | Family Service for all |
| Sunday 19th   | 11:15am                                                | Parish Eucharist       |
|               | 3.00pm                                                 | Carol Service          |
|               | <i>Joint Service for St. George's &amp; St. Mary's</i> |                        |
| Friday 24th   | 3.00pm                                                 | Crib Service           |
|               | 11.00pm                                                | Midnight Mass          |
| Saturday 25th | 11:15am                                                | Christmas Day Service  |
| Sunday 26th   | No Service                                             |                        |



## Table of Readings– December 2021



| Date                                                   | First reading          | Second reading         | Gospel reading       |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 5 <sup>th</sup> December<br>Second Sunday of<br>Advent | Baruch<br>chapter 5    | Philippians 1:<br>3-11 | Luke 3:<br>1-6       |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> December                              | Zephaniah 3:<br>14-end | Philippians 4:<br>4-7  | Luke 3:<br>7-18      |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> December                              | Micah 5:<br>2-5        | Hebrews 10:<br>5-10    | Luke 1:<br>39-55     |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> December<br>Midnight Mass             | Isaiah 9:<br>2-7       | Titus 2:<br>11-14      | Luke 2:<br>1-20      |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> December<br>Christmas Day             | Isaiah 52:<br>7-10     | Hebrews 1:<br>1-12     | John 1:<br>1-14      |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> December<br>Stephen, first martyr     | Acts 7:<br>51-end      | Galatians 2:<br>16-20  | Matthew 10:<br>17-22 |



Rev'd Jim Jelley invites you to the  
**Beckley/Peasmarsh Choir Recital**  
**St Mary's**  
**Monday 6th December**  
**12.00 – 12.30 pm**

*All are welcome*



**Cranbrook Town Band**  
**Charity Christmas Concert**  
**Thursday 2nd December 7.30pm**  
**St George's Brede**

£10 includes mulled wine non alcoholic mulled fruit  
 & a mince pie or chocolate cake.

£ 1 for children over 15

Raffle

*Proceeds go to the Royal British Legion & St Georges Brede.*

### **BATTLE CHORAL SOCIETY**

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*Dear Members of the Parish,*

*As I did not get the opportunity to speak to everyone before I moved I should like to thank you so very much for the generous present you gave me. It was very kind, and I shall buy some of my favourite roses for my new front garden, which is just grass at the moment. I can think of it as my Brede garden.*

*I shall miss the many friends I made while John and I were living in the village.*

*As this is the December issue may I take the opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.*

**Sue Lee**



### Christmas Carol

**By Sara Teasdale**

|                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The kings they came from out the south,<br>All dressed in ermine fine;<br>They bore Him gold and chrysoprase,<br>And gifts of precious wine.    | The angels came from heaven high,<br>And they were clad with wings;<br>And lo, they brought a joyful song<br>The host of heaven sings. |
| The shepherds came from out the north,<br>Their coats were brown and old;<br>They brought Him little new-born lambs -<br>They had not any gold. | The kings they knocked upon the door,<br>The wise men entered in,<br>The shepherds followed after them<br>To hear the song begin.      |
| The wise men came from out the east,<br>And they were wrapped in white;<br>The star that led them all the way<br>Did glorify the night.         | The angels sang through all the night<br>Until the rising sun,<br>But little Jesus fell asleep<br>Before the song was done.            |



**Brede WI** - Our Annual Meeting opened with a welcome to visitors & members from our President, Beryl Jenkins. Before the formal business began, we were reminded of two events:

**The Rother Group WI's Carols & Readings St. John the Baptist Church, Westfield, Monday 6th December, 2.00 pm**

**& the Christmas Lunch at Flackley Ash Hotel, Peasmarsh, Wednesday 15th December at 12.30 pm.**

At the Walking Netball Festival held recently in Eastbourne, two of our members, Carolyn Brown & Joolz Hunt, represented Brede WI. Carolyn's account of the event thrillingly highlighted that the Magpies Team, that has several members from Brede, were presented with the 'Best Team Spirit' award. Congratulations Magpies!

The election of the Committee & President took place and the Committee was elected en bloc plus two new members, Joy Wild & Barbara Blain & Beryl Jenkins was re-elected as President. Following the reports, Beryl was congratulated on becoming our President for the coming year & on behalf of the Committee, was presented with a pretty plant. Fran Parnham, sincerely thanked Beryl for her hard work, commitment & the inspirational ways she found to connect & guide us through these most difficult of times. The birthdays of the month were then acknowledged & members who celebrate their birthday in November were presented with cards & pretty plants.

In resuming our meetings & events, it was felt that our plans should not lose sight of: "Fulfilling the NFWI objective to support our local community where we can". With this in mind, members were requested to bring along to the November meeting, contributions for a local Food Bank, & it was with great pleasure that we welcomed Tony Fuller, from, 'Dom's Food Mission', to receive our contributions. Tony was able to explain fully the wonderful work that Dom's Foods do to help feed less fortunate people in a wide area of Hastings & make an impact on food waste.

A second project worthy of support is the campaign initiated by Hastings Ore WI to restore the courtyard gardens at the Conquest Hospital. At our Christmas Meeting we will be holding a special raffle & all proceeds will be donated to the funds to help with the planting & landscaping of the areas.

The ACWW Competition, 'Poppies', was won by Fran Parnham.

**December's Competition is: 'A favourite handmade Christmas Item'.**

We're looking forward to our **Christmas Meeting on Wed 8th December, 2.00pm.** And invite family & friends to join us for our Pantomime & Festive tea!

**'Happy Christmas' to you all, from Brede WI !**

**Fran Parnham**



## ADVERTISING IN THE MAGAZINE

Our year runs from October - September and we are delighted to offer you the option of a colour advert. The fee for 2021 - 2022, for a standard quarter page **black and white** advertisement **remains the same** as for the past two years i.e. £35 for a full year's advertising. The advertising fee for a **colour** quarter page advertisement is **£45** for a full year's advertising i.e. 12 issues.

To advertise, simply complete the slip below and return it to:

The Treasurer, Brede and Udimore Parish Magazine, C/O The Rectory, Brede Hill, Brede, Rye, East Sussex, TN31 6HG.

### Brede and Udimore Parish Magazine Advertising Advertisement Renewal - October 2021 to September 2022

☐ We wish to place a quarter page **black and white** advertisement in the Brede and Udimore Parish Magazine from October 2021- September 2022 and enclose a cheque for £35 made payable to: "PCC St George's Church Brede".

☐ We wish to place a quarter page **colour** advertisement in the Brede and Udimore Parish Magazine from October 2021- September 2022 and enclose a cheque for £45 made payable to: "PCC St George's Church Brede".

☐ We have made a BACS transfer to:

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Please post to:

The Treasurer, Brede and Udimore Parish Magazine, C/O The Rectory, Brede Hill, Brede, Rye, East Sussex, TN31 6HG





### FRIENDS OF ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH - BREDE

This group was founded in 1992. Money is raised by the members to finance an endowment fund, the interest from which is used to maintain the church. Would you like to become There is no set "membership fee" to join. You may wish to make a one-off donation, or to contribute on a regular basis, perhaps monthly or annually. The choice is yours, & all contributions to the endowment fund are much appreciated. If you are a tax payer, donations can now be made through the "Gift Aid" scheme which increases the value of all donations by 25% at no extra cost to the donor. If you would like to join, please contact the Friends' Treasurer

**Ms Pat Whately, Markham Stubb La, Brede, TN31 6EH T: 01424 883069**

### FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH - UDIMORE

The Friends of St. Mary's was formed in 1985, concerned mainly with raising funds for the upkeep of the fabric of the church. Over the years we have contributed to repairs & improvements in the church, and are extremely grateful to those who have enabled us to do so. We welcome anyone who would like to become a Friend and join in with all that this small but vibrant community offers. A yearly subscription of £7.50 entitles you to vote at the AGM. If you are a UK tax payer you can Gift Aid a donation making it worth 25% more to us, at no extra cost to you. For more information please contact:

**Liz Dean: 01424 882206 or Sue Rowan: 01424 882681**

**PLANNED GIVING** - We are able to give thanks to God for His many blessings & recognise our responsibility to Him for the continuing work of His Church in Brede & Udimore. There are several ways in which you may contribute to your Church:-

- Parish Giving Scheme by Direct Debit
- Planned Giving Envelope Scheme
- Regular payments by Standing Order
- Cheque payable to St. George's Church, Brede PCC, / St. Mary's Church, Udimore PCC
- Bequest

If you are a regular U.K. taxpayer your donations can be enhanced by 25p for every £1 contributed under the Gift Aid Scheme

For further information, please contact:

**Brede - Mrs. Sue Sturmeay**, Broadlands Cottage, Udimore Road, Broad Oak, Brede TN31 6BX Tel: 01424 882544

**Udimore - Mr Jonathan Cornwell**, Chatsby, Udimore, Rye. TN31 6AY Tel: 01424 882486

**PAINLESS GIVING** - Would you like to make a gift to your church and save tax? There is an easy way to do this - just include the church in your will. All gifts to Charities are free of inheritance tax.

For more information contact :-

**Philip Bowden (giving officer for St. George's Church)**

Tel: 01892 652404, Email: [philipgbowden@btinternet.com](mailto:philipgbowden@btinternet.com)

**Jonathan Cornwell (giving officer for St. Mary's Church)**

Tel: 01424 882486. Email: [jonathancornwell@me.com](mailto:jonathancornwell@me.com)

**All enquiries will be treated in strict confidence**



### BREDE & UDIMORE LUNCHEON CLUB



Our numbers were slightly reduced at our October gathering, as some members were on holiday & some, sadly, not well enough to attend. Nevertheless, a warm welcome awaited us from our Chair, Maggie Sandra, & we were served a traditional lunch of roast pork with all the trimmings & a fruity strawberry gateaux for dessert. Our thanks to Gary & his daughter, Tilly, for presenting us with such a lovely meal.

This year, for the first time, we will be having a  
**Christmas Lunch at the 'Red Lion', Brede, Tuesday 14th December 12.30.p.m.**  
We look forward to greeting our members, for this special meal



**'Happy Christmas' to you all,  
from the Luncheon Club Committee.!**

**For Club information please contact:  
Frances Parnham. Secretary & Membership  
T. 01424 882007**

### Thank You Brede Scout Group !

Cherry and the Scouts planted the poppies made by the group on the Green in Brede and on Broad Oak Crossroads. Cherry told me it took them two hours. It is wonderful that our young people did this for us.



Many people commented on how fantastic it was to see the 1st Brede Scouts section flags paraded on Remembrance Sunday. I was impressed when they lowered the flags and raised them at the correct time. The young lady who presented the poppy wreath on the scout group's behalf was not daunted when the wreath fell over she just propped it up again. Wreaths were also laid on behalf of the Royal British Legion and Broad Oak Fire Service. The Service took place on the Green in Brede it was a lovely service taken by Reverend Dr Owen Edwards but it was marred by the passing traffic.





## BREDE VILLAGE NEWS

### BREDE FRIENDLY CIRCLE

After being unable to go on an outing last year, we used the deposit to book an Empress coach to take us to the Polhill Garden Centre just up the M25 on Wednesday 17th November.



There were 13 of us on the trip. One or two sent apologies as they were unwell. The weather was clear & sunny going up the A21 with views of the changing colours all the way, seen at a greater height than when in a car. After just over an hour we arrived at Polhill in time for coffee, a good idea as we needed sustenance to walk round the extensive sale areas. They seemed to have everything: plants, bulbs, gifts, Christmas decorations, trees, lights, cards, calendars, books, greengrocery, a butchers, groceries & not forgetting, which was busy but they managed to cope quite well. Most of us, after having had a coffee, had a wander round & then went back later for a light lunch. There were also a few franchises there including Pavers and Cotton Traders.

We spent about three & a half hours, which was enough really as it was quite tiring walking round. I think everyone enjoyed the trip & managed to buy one or two last-minute Christmas presents!

Rhiannon Oliver had originally booked the coach last year and she was the driving force behind booking again & collecting payment. So thank you Rhiannon for persevering.

#### Date for your Diary:

**Friendly Circle Christmas Lunch; The Broad Oak, Wed 15th Dec 12.30 for 1 pm**

Members who would like to go please contact Rhiannon on 01424 882037

or email [r.oliver641@btinternet.com](mailto:r.oliver641@btinternet.com)

**Carol Baxter**



**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

Our November meeting was held in the Rectory After our usual service, Anna, Rhiannon, Gwen & myself discussed events for next year's meetings & then went on to talk about our individual faith & beliefs. Our next meeting on Wednesday December 1st in Rhiannon's home will be our Christmas celebration & tea.

**Rosemary Crouch T: 01424 882567**

## Classes & Activities - UDIMORE

### ST. MARY'S COMMUNITY HALL

Planning an event - Looking for a venue?

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

#### Monday – Friday

Residents

Non Residents

#### Events 1 to 6 hours duration

£10.00 per hour

£12.00 per hour

Events on a Friday may have to finish by 14.00pm if there is a weekend wedding

#### Saturday & Sunday

Residents

Non Residents

£12.00 per hour

£15.00 per hour

#### One Day & Evening Hire

**Sun - Thurs** 08.00 - 23.00 (max15 hrs) £240.00

**Fri & 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 please contact

[udimorehallweddings@gmail.com](mailto:udimorehallweddings@gmail.com)

For all further details and booking, please contact:

**Email: [udimorehallbooking@gmail.com](mailto:udimorehallbooking@gmail.com)**



## Classes & Activities - UDIMORE

**ADULT BALLET:** Thursday 11.00 -12.00am

Aysha Jamieson 0788 435 5818

**4 CHARITIES-SOUP & SCRABBLE:** 1st Friday every month ....12.00 - 2.00pm

Sue Lee: 01424 883122

**MESSY CHURCH:** 1st Tuesday every month 4.30 - 5.30pm

Lesley Curtis: 01424 883246

**PILATES:** Monday - Thursday 9.15 - 11.15am (Term time)

Susan Taber: 07858 518504 [susantaber66@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:susantaber66@yahoo.co.uk)

**VOCALITY:** Every Thursday, 2.00 - 3.30pm (Term Time)

Nadia: 01424 8882948 [nadia.florence@btinternet.com](mailto:nadia.florence@btinternet.com)

*All classes in term time stop over half term & school holidays*

**Enquires contact Community Hall Booking:**  
**[udimorehallbooking@gmail.com](mailto:udimorehallbooking@gmail.com)**



*We give thanks for all our Key Workers at this most difficult of times. Gracious God, give skill, sympathy & resilience to all who are caring for the sick, & your wisdom to those searching for a cure. Strengthen them with your Spirit, that through their work many will be restored to health; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen*

## Christmas Singalong & Supper

Come & sing for your supper

**Favourite Carols & Christmas Songs**

**Hosted by Gary Marriott**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December, 7.00pm**

**St. George's Church, Brede**

**£10.00 (includes supper)**

**For tickets contact**

**Sue Sturmeay 01424 882544**

**[susan.sturmeay@btinternet.com](mailto:susan.sturmeay@btinternet.com)**



## BREDE DESIGN WITH FLOWERS

Will be joining

**Peasmarsh Flower Club for our Christmas floral design of your choice.**

**Wednesday 8 December 10 am to 12 .30pm**

**Peasmarsh Village Hall**

We will follow our arranging with a morning party. Sue is making her non alcoholic punch & members are asked to contribute delectable bites to eat. Please contact Rhiannon if you're not sure what to bring, as she has the list. If you require more information regarding flower arranging contact

**Rhiannon Oliver 01424 882037**

**email: [r.oliver641@btinternet.com](mailto:r.oliver641@btinternet.com) or**

**Sue Sturmeay 01424 882544**

**email: [susan.sturmeay@btinternet.com](mailto:susan.sturmeay@btinternet.com)**



## The Friends of St. Georges Annual Village Quiz has been

**CANCELLED**

The Friends of St George's committee have decided, in the light of the Covid situation, to postpone the village quiz, which was due to be held in January.

The quiz will go ahead, but at a future date which is yet to be decided.

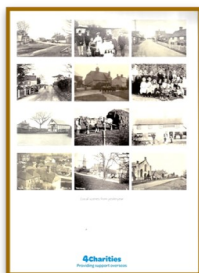


## UDIMORE VILLAGE NEWS

**4charities**  
Providing support overseas

### 2022 Calendar

*Local scenes from yesteryear*



**£10**

All the funds raised to be divided between the charities they support

**Sightsavers,  
PNGCP,  
Deaf in Tanzania,  
Freedom from Fistula**

Available from:  
**Liz Turgoose on 01424 882 657**  
or  
**Judy Edwards on 01424 882 222**



**The Children of  
Road End Nursery  
send**



*They are really looking forward to Christmas and are busy rehearsing their*

**Nativity Play**  
to be held at  
**Winchelsea Village Hall**  
**On Friday 17th December**  
**at 12.00pm**



## Classes & Activities - BREDE

### BREDE VILLAGE HALL

Planning an event - Looking for a venue?  
Our Village Hall is a bright, modern building with central heating, a large car park, a well fitted kitchen and disabled facilities.

#### Monday – Friday

|                       |                    |                 |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Residents:</b>     | 8.00 am - 11.00 pm | £9.00 per hour  |
| <b>Non- Residents</b> | 8.00 am - 11.00 pm | £11.00 per hour |

#### Weekends

|                        |                    |                 |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Residents:</b>      | 8.00 am - 11.00 pm | £11.00 per hour |
| <b>Non- Residents:</b> | 8.00 am - 11.00 pm | £13.00 per hour |

**Small Committee Room** £6.00 per hour

#### Special rate for children's parties

Tues - Fri 4.00pm - 6.00p.m. £9.00 per hour

#### Village Hall Booking:

**Lesley Bannister:** [villagehall.brede@gmail.co](mailto:villagehall.brede@gmail.co).

**Vice Chair & hall caretaker Cherry McCleery**

Email [vicechair@bredevillagehall.org.uk](mailto:vicechair@bredevillagehall.org.uk)

**Bookings can also be made online**

<http://www.brede-pc.org.uk>

*Go into village hall screen and make provisional booking, this is then automatically emailed to me for verification, you can always go back onto the site later to see if you provisional booking in grey has changed to green which means it is then booked. An Invoice will be then sent to you for payment for your booking. Please supply a postal address.*





## Classes & Activities - BREDE

**ADULT BALLET:** Thursday 11.00 – 12.30

Aysha: [studiojamie@icloud.com](mailto:studiojamie@icloud.com)

**BREDE LUNCHEON CLUB:** 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month 12.30

Frances: 01424 882007

**CRAFTERS:** last Wednesday of the month 2.00

Lesley: 07764847234

**FARMERS MARKET:** Friday 10.00 – 12.00

**JAZZ DANCE & STRETCH:** Thursday 9.45 – 10.45

Aysha: [studiojamie@icloud.com](mailto:studiojamie@icloud.com)

**NATIONAL TRUST:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month 2.00

Philip: 01424 883420

**PAINTING FOR PLEASURE:** 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 9.30 – 12.30 (in the months that have 5 Tuesdays there will be an extra class)

Maggie Sandra: 01424 883149

**PILATES:** Every Thursday 6.30 – 7.30

Geraldine: 07811141873

**SHORT MAT BOWLS:** Every Friday 7.30 – 9.30

Graham: 01424 427459

**WI:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month 2.00 – 4.00

Beryl: 01424 883475

**YOGA:** Tuesday 7.30 – 8.30pm

Jodie: [jpcreaser38@gmail.com](mailto:jpcreaser38@gmail.com)

**YOGA:** Wednesday 9.30 – 10.30am

Jodie: [jpcreaser38@gmail.com](mailto:jpcreaser38@gmail.com)

*All classes in term time stop over half term & school holidays*

*For further information contact: Lesley Bannister: 07764847234*

*Or Just Turn Up!*



### 4Charities

Providing support overseas

### Soup & Scrabble

*Sadly our November date was cancelled due to the increase in Covid cases locally. Our next meeting is on:*

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January 12.00pm**  
**Udimore Community Hall**

All are welcome!

*We wish everyone  
A Very Merry Christmas  
&  
a Happy New Year  
We look forward to meeting up again  
in 2022*



### Winter Lunch

**Friday 21st January**  
**Udimore Community Hall 12.30**  
**£10.00**

**Guest Speaker**  
**Re.v Edward Backhouse**  
**Table Quiz**

For more information contact:  
**Liz Turgoose on 014245 882 657 or**  
**Sue Lee on 01424 883 122**

The Overseas Group of  
St. George's, Brede and St. Mary's, Udimore

Come along to the



**CHRISTMAS SING-A-LONG**  
**Udimore Village Hall**  
**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2.00 pm**

A BIG dose of Festive Cheer  
Tea/coffee & mince pies.

Listen, or join in with us to sing old  
favourites and get into the  
spirit of the season.

Everyone is welcome!



**Christmas comes to Tibbs!**

PYO, ready picked  
Christmas trees  
available from 1st  
December.



Fruit & Veg, Takeaway Coffee  
& Cakes. Valley Walks

**Tibbs Café & Farm Shop**  
Tuesday-Sunday 8.30am- 4.00pm  
T: 0771 024 6302  
E: [tibbsfarmrye@gmail.com](mailto:tibbsfarmrye@gmail.com)



## STN71 BROAD OAK TURNOUTS



**16/10/2021-----15/11/2021**

It feels a bit odd because this will probably be my penultimate report for the Fire station. I will work at getting a replacement as I think it is interesting to know what goes on behind the big

building at the crossroads with the fire engine parked inside! Our editor asked me to jot down a few memories regarding my time in the Fire Service, I hope it gives you a bit of a taste of my capers and what I got up to: but first we start with the Standby's

1@ Stn72 (Battle), 5@ Stn70 (Rye), 8@ Stn76 (Bohemia Road) and 15@ (The Ridge)

When you get alerted for, one of the emotions that goes through your head is obviously 'I wonder what we've got' & to be honest, that is one of the main reasons why I do the job, you just never know, until you read the turnout sheet torn off the printer, where you are being sent & to what type of incident. Yes, we do get many Standby's, but a Standby can lead to something else, either being sent to the particular incident that you are covering or another emergency that comes in at the Control Centre.

However, one of the worst addresses & type of call you can read is to a 'Fire Persons Reported' meaning there is a potential for a property fire with people inside. Also, when you know the house, occupiers & the fact that one is permanently bedridden that is not an ideal situation.

When we pulled up outside thankfully there was no sign of fire, I went inside & all was calm, so I asked if "everyone was okay"? "Yes, we're fine" was the reply. It turned out that the elderly occupier had a pan of fat he wanted to 'burn off' so he put some water & fairy liquid in the pan then forgot it until the carer arrived & switched the gas off, DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME!! So, after words of 'advice' & some fire safety instructions we set off back to the station, I must admit I would rather attend a call like that & come away after giving advice than the other option!!

We assisted the crew from Bohemia Road with a lift rescue 'Trevor' was relieved to see the lift doors open.

The Ridge dealt with a Chimney Fire in Broad Oak, we did attend but were not required so we went to Standby at The Ridge instead.

Whilst Standing by in Rye their station bells went off & we were sent to a 'Flooding in the building' incident at Winchelsea Beach. When I walked in, I was told that water was 'bubbling up' out of the lounge floor. There wasn't, as the occupier was confused so when a neighbour arrived. I explained the situation, she understood but you have to make sure that you leave the occupier in a good & respectable frame of mind when you leave & they are as safe as you can but inform departments if you are concerned about their welfare & safety.

Next call was to Robertsbridge, a Camper Van was being driven up the A21 when the driver could see smoke building up inside the vehicle. We were called as well as Battle to attend, 2 BA & one HRJ (hosereel jet) was needed to put the fire out an electrical fault was the possible cause.

Another lift rescue in Hastings & to finish off we had an AFA (Automatic Fire Alarm) at a hotel again in Hastings. With AFA's unless you are directed by the alarm panel to a certain area you have to check every sensor to see if it activated. On this occasion nothing was found, so we got the manager to re-set the alarm, we didn't get called back so all must have been okay.



## st michael's hospice

### Lights of Love 2021

Lights of Love offers the opportunity to make an act of remembrance for loved ones no longer with us. This year we have once again adapted to new ways of living and for many it has been another difficult year but St Michael's Hospice are delighted to be able to offer a virtual Lights of Love service again this year, for everyone who finds it such an important day of reflection.

Although we are unable to physically come together, they hope the virtual service will allow you to join them in remembering your loved ones, and for you to gain comfort knowing others will be coming together to do the same. Whether cared for at St Michael's Hospice, young or old, local or further afield, all can be remembered at Lights of Love on Sunday 12th December.

For further information about visit: [www.stmichaels hospice.com/lights](http://www.stmichaels hospice.com/lights)

### Christmas on the Coast

Santa's helpers are returning to Hastings Old Town for some more family festive cheer! Christmas on the Coast at the Stade Hall provides a fabulous day out for all the family with lots of free activities including; meeting Father Christmas & receiving a small present, Christmas crafts & decorating gingerbread. Hosted by St Michael's Hospice is free (donations welcome). Refreshments available.

### Christmas cards and calendars

Looking to support St Michael's Hospice this festive season? Why not pick up a pack or two of their Christmas cards, in a variety of designs, including a new card for 2021 by local artist Tracey Brown. Each pack is £3.50 & contains 10 cards. They also have a beautiful 2022 calendar available featuring stunning scenes from across Hastings & Rother, all by local artists, for £7.50.

### Lottery Christmas crackers

The St Michael's Hospice Lottery Christmas Crackers are back with a bang for 2021, with new eco plastic free & recyclable Christmas crackers\*. Each cracker contains a Hospice scratch card, giving you the chance to win up to £1,000, as well as the usual cracker gift, hat and motto. Imagine the excitement around the table if one of your family members won £1,000 on Christmas Day. With all profits going to the Hospice, everyone's a winner. The Lottery Christmas crackers are available from the Hospice shops in Battle, Bexhill on Sea, Hastings and

Rye from mid-November. Alternatively, call the

Hospice Lottery team to place your order on 01424 456384 or email [lottery@stmichaels hospice.com](mailto:lottery@stmichaels hospice.com).

## Christmas Linocut & Ceramic Workshop

Artist Georgie Watson & Ceramicist Joanna Terry.

Wed 1st December 10am - 4pm

Memorial Hall, Peasmarsh

Create your own Christmas card design & Porcelain Decorations. Suitable for beginners. Tutored instructions. You'll leave with your own design on a set of 6 Christmas cards and 6 porcelain hanging decorations. (these will be fired later & collection arranged)

Delicious lunch from Ono-Rye (vegan and GF available)



£125 pp or £225 for two.

Limited numbers to ensure a relaxed & attentive environment.

For more information and to book contact 07534 216116

[joannaterryceramics@gmail.com](mailto:joannaterryceramics@gmail.com)



Thursday 16th December

"A History of Pantomime" presented by Pete Allen

Our usual Christmas Party with traditional fare & topical entertainment provided This festive talk will reveal much of what goes on in a typical Pantomime.

For details and Booking Forms please contact  
Keith Sellens 07940 777250: [keithsellens93@gmail.com](mailto:keithsellens93@gmail.com)



## VINEHALL INTERNATIONAL CLASSICAL CONCERT SERIES

33rd SEASON 2021-22

HYEYOON PARK (Violin) and BENJAMIN GROSVENOR (Piano)

Sunday 5th December 2021 at 3.00 p.m.

For full details/tickets/mailling Tel: 01580 883092



I was asked by the Fire Service if I would like to attend an Oncall (Retained) Conference in Cheshire. I replied that I would & thanked them for asking me. I found it very interesting & the people conducting the conference were the level below Government, so it was good to get in 'amongst it' I asked them 4 questions I knew they couldn't answer, I thought what was the point asking things that I knew the answer to!!

Congratulations go to James Harrod our latest Recruit to join Broad Oak, James has just passed his 2- week Core-Skills Course, so really well done to him.

No doubt many of you have used our clothing bin at the station, well thanks to your generous donations, your bin has raised the second highest total in all the Fire Stations in East Sussex, falling just behind The Ridge, so well done to you all.

Well, that's it for this period.

Keep Safe

Watch Commander Chris Sands,

Stn71 Broad Oak



## Clothing Banks

We support The Fire Fighters Charity  
– and we'd like your help.



Special clothing recycling banks are now available at five community fire stations in the area

### What to Donate

While the Charity will accept adults & children's clothing, did you know it can also accept socks, coats, underwear, paired shoes, handbags, bed linen, towels and curtains to name just a few.

Unfortunately, they can't recycle duvets or pillows (but your nearest animal shelter may be grateful for them), nor can they take bric-a-brac or uniforms.

Not only will it help raise money but it means less goes into landfill. Around 350,000 tonnes of clothing is discarded in household waste every year.

This is around £140 million worth of used but still wearable clothing With a few exceptions, most of this could be processed by our textiles recycling, either being resold or turned into industrial production.

### Where to Donate

**Battle** - London Road, Battle, East Sussex, TN33 0EE

**Broad Oak** - Northiam Road, Broad Oak, Brede, East Sussex, TN31 6EP

**Mayfield** - Tunbridge Wells Road, Mayfield, East Sussex TN20 6PJ

**The Ridge (Hastings)** - The Ridge Ore, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 2AD

**Rye** - Ferry Road, East Sussex, TN31 7DJ



## Chris Sands - Recollections

### Watch Commander - Stn71 Broad Oak

As I mentioned in an earlier report, if it wasn't for old Bert Collins (who incidentally was a Gardener at Great Dixter) who informed of the 'Rat Catcher' working in Lion Cottage in Brede was also a Plumber, I would not be writing this for you today. Bill Pearce has got a lot answer for! In 1986 when I joined the Fire Brigade, as it was then, your entry into the Service was basically a chat including a question, "how would you feel if you saw a dead person" which I answered honestly as I unfortunately had already ticked that particular box. You then had to do a 'Fireman's Lift' (not the Fire-fighter term that we use today) get them over your shoulder & walk the perimeter of the station. I'm sure if you dropped them (which I didn't), as long as you picked them up & completed the task you passed. How times have changed, just ask our new recruit FF James Harrod, who we will welcome to the station after passing his Core-Skills basic course.

After the Sunday morning chat & presentation of Application forms, you were enrolled on a weeks' Basic Course at the Service Training Centre in Maresfield. This involved a lot of running about & getting shouted at but you hopefully came out the other end!

Another thing they did then was a 'Live Carry Down' You had to climb the internal stairs of the Drill Tower up to the third floor, where you were confronted by a Firefighter that had collapsed & the only way down was on a 13.5m pitched against the window sill. Once you had the casualty across your shoulder you then had to pull yourself up on the window sill, hook a leg out the window onto the ladder & in one movement, get yourself & the casualty onto the ladder.

*I forgot to mention that the casualty had a safety harness on, but you had nothing, that focusses the mind!*

After two Sunday's extra training that was it. You'd earned your place at the Fire Station. Our appliance call sign was W19, meaning we carried a 10.5 wooden ladder that bounced about all over the place. Later on, this was replaced by a 13.5 m ladder, now due to the weight, we have a 12m ladder, I wonder what size the next one will be?

After a few years I took my HGV & became a Brigade driver. In those days you were allowed to go out with a crew of 3. Never in a million years would that be allowed to happen now. In those days, myself as Fireman/Officer-in-charge, Robin Petfield & William Kynvin picked up calls during the day when no other pumps were available. They were good times & at no time did we feel pressurised because we could always 'Make Pumps' if extra resources were required. Later on, we built up the crew but people come & go as their lives change, hence we are always on the lookout for new recruits especially during the day, (I never stop recruiting!)

One of the first calls I went on was, stubble burning at a nearby village. The farmer was so 'keen' to get the stubble burnt, that he was seen dragging a tyre that was well alight behind a tractor, full marks for effort!!

Before I got a 'white hat' I used to get dirt under my nails (I still do now if things need to be dragged/lifted) & got involved in many types of incidents. Sometimes you can save the day other times the day has already gone when you arrive at the incident. I have a lot to thank 'Ol Bert Collins' for, though my long-suffering wife of 36 years would no doubt think differently. Bert would come round for dinner now & again when the smell of roast wafted by his door, so I knew Jan had forgiven him!

In 1987, the year of the big storm, I was a milkman at Unigate Dairies in Hawkhurst

## COUNTRY FILE

### Where Have All The Sheep Gone?

It's the time of year when the Brede & Tillingham Valleys become devoid of farmed livestock.

While the cattle go to sheds or drier pastures, the sheep go on holiday.

In this area the sheep go away to "Keep" for the winter. A tradition where they go to new pastures for several weeks. It's a practice that has happened for centuries. At this time of year the grass stops growing & the quality deteriorates, which means there is insufficient grazing to last the sheep for the winter. So rather than feed them expensive supplements they travel to where there is surplus grass left over on other farms around the country where they do a grass mowing service. Sometimes farmers grow crops to feed the sheep in the winter, often on arable farms where they grow turnips or kale & they are pleased to have the sheep there to convert these crops into fertilizer through the sheep, they are sometimes known as the "golden hoof" because of the good they do for the soil.

There is a European term for this "transhumance", which means the movement of animals from one grazing area to another, normally from lowlands to highlands in summer. Our sheep of course remain in relative lowland places, they are often used to help maintain important wildlife sites & every year we put several hundred on the Great Fen between



Cambridge & Peterborough where land is being taken out of cropping & being put back to grass to prevent the erosion of the peat soils & to raise the water levels for the wildlife. Romney sheep are well suited to these wetland areas as they are used to the wet fences (dykes) & don't drown in them.

Before the lorry & even before trains the sheep were driven great distances to their winter quarters, shepherds would head off with their flocks driven by dogs & would drop off different numbers at farms across Sussex & even all the way to Surrey & Hampshire. Payment has always been on a headage basis, this is where the flock owner pays the Keeper an amount per sheep per week. This is only paid on the number of sheep the flock owner collects from the Keeper to ensure they look after them well. Payment being made at the time the sheep leave.

These days they are loaded on large specialist trucks & travel considerable distances to their winter quarters, normally starting in early October & the last of the sheep depart in December. These days they start to return from the end of January & all the ewes return by late March.

There are a number of benefits of sending sheep to Keep as it gives the local pastures a chance to recover from the hard grazing they receive in the summer. The parasites reduce & there is fresh nutritious grass when they come back in the Spring ready to give birth.

**Frank Langrish**



## MAKING TIME

If you have a mantel clock turn it round carefully. Open the back door. Watch the pendulum swinging to and fro. Then listen. Do nothing else. Just listen.

If you have a Grandfather Clock, it's even better. Open the door in the front, then put your ear to it as close to it as you can. Watch the pendulum and listen to the low regular sound with every beat. That comes from the works behind the hands higher up. Look at the strands of gut that hold the weights, and listen again. You'll hear them thrum in time to the pendulum.

Whatever clock you're listening to, it is alive. Behind its face is an assembly of brass, steel and gut all working together to give it life. If you listen out for all the sounds it makes, you will have heard its soul.

It's the same with us. Just sit down in a comfy chair. Now close your eyes. Start to breathe in and out slowly. Listen to the sound. Whilst you're breathing, listen again. What can you hear? Can you hear your heart? Your stomach gurgling? Perhaps you're wheezing. Listen again. Pick them out. You are listening to your inner self. Part of your soul.

Just like your clock, you are an assembly of things. They are part of the engine that provides the power, the energy that drives everything in you. Like the clock, they give you your life. From it come your thoughts and feelings about yourself, about other people, about God. It's the intimate part of you.

Your inner feelings are the guide as to who you are, who you feel you are linked to; all part your spiritual inner being, your soul. We all have one. In the stillness, God can touch your soul. In love.

Christmas is a time when we are conscious of God's speaking in Jesus. Not only does he love us intimately, but everyone else as well. In turn, we are to love each other as he loves us. Every Christmas we are reminded of what we have all received. In the stillness we can listen to our intimate self and others. And to what else can happen.

In the stillness, His soul touches yours. So just sit. In silence. Do nothing else except listen. In the silence, God will talk to you; you can talk to Him. It's an intimate and valuable time. Try and make time for it.

***You, God, are in us.  
Let us be you in the world***  
**Jim Hobbs**



My round was Newenden, Northiam & Mill Corner. I was proud to be in the Fire Brigade & took my pager on my round as I had one of the original 3 - Wheeler (Ernie milk floats) & it was a long way from Hawkhurst to Newenden. I didn't have the 'luxury of doors, only plastic flaps that were so brittle they just blew about in the wind, I DIGRESS. Jan & I were living in Brede at the time & that morning in October the wind started at about 03:10. I checked on our neighbours, making sure they were okay before I went to work. As I walked down the path the Oak gate post with some close boarded fencing, which had been there since the Romans, (not quite) came out the ground & 'tapped' me on the shoulder. I thought 'crumbs' that's a bit draughty & walked up the road to a pal of mine who worked at the same Dairy as me. We set off in his Mk1 Ford Escort estate with the wind absolutely howling, got up to Broad Oak Crossroads, hung a left & drove along Chitcombe Road. Debris covered the road but then we got to the Junction of Goatham Lane & saw a fir tree across the road. I said to my pal Andy, "I'll get out, bend the top of the tree back so you can get through", this part of the plan worked well, he drove through, I let go of the top branches just as an Oak tree came down with the limbs missing either-side of me. Now I don't mind pushing the boundaries but there was somebody up there looking after me so I thought enough is enough & turned round. Within seconds my pager went off & we were inundated with calls throughout the day. There was a call about people trapped in a car near The Hammonds in Udimore. On hearing this we tried to work out what we could carry, as there were numerous trees blocking the way. So, walking with 2 Paramedics we set off,

carrying what we could, as we walked by the butcher's shop run by Adrian Page.

One of the Paramedics got blown into the field due to the strength of the still very strong wind. The time now was about 08:30. The call turned out to be a malicious call as although there were many trees down across the B2089 none of them had a car with people trapped inside.

When your pager goes off, or when you are Standing by somewhere & the station bells start bonging, you never know what the next call will be & sometimes you have to read the turnout sheet again as you cannot believe what you are being sent to. This happened when we were Standing by at Bexhill, the bongers started, so I tore off the turnout sheet. It said 'Approximately 200 sheep just off the new link road' Luckily the crew had seen previous episodes of One Man & his Dog, so with a few whistles & me walking around as if I wanted to hug everybody the well organised flock was herded into a rough bit of ground; while we waited for the farmer to turn up with his animal transporter.

In 1995 I was promoted to Leading Fireman (Crew Manager in today's money), after local councillor Leigh Griffin retired, I never put myself forward for promotion I was just 'gently persuaded to! Then in 1996 made up to the rank of Sub Officer (Watch Manager now). Keith Laxton who I replaced (Keith ran a local Electrical company based in Northiam, Broad Oak then Rye) was one of the best bosses I've worked for, he always had time for you.

Our uniform has changed beyond recognition. We used to have yellow cork helmets that apparently could take the weight of 2 tonne, unfortunately your neck couldn't! They had one black stripe for Leading Fireman & two stripes for Sub Officer. Now I have a white helmet, not cork but made of some heat resistant material with an integrated torch.

Also, our tunic is far removed from the 'Donkey Jacket' that was heavy when dry & weighed a tonne when wet. Our leggings & gloves were made of plastic, not good if you got to close to the orange stuff & I was also made to polish my Fire Brigade wellingtons WHATT... It took a while to get a shine on them!.

In 2010 I was asked to represent East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service at the Cenotaph, I felt very honoured to be chosen. Ken Clarke was the dignitary inspecting us the day before at the Quadrangle, this is where we were given our orders & practiced marching, something that didn't come naturally to me. We were told 'do not speak' when you are being inspected, unfortunately when Ken Clarke got level with me, I raised my eyebrows & smiled. He stopped, we had a chat & he said that he had attended a number of these before, so I replied "you should know what you are doing by now then" The senior army officers glared but there we are. When we lined out at the Cenotaph I did behave. Although the Queen was about 50m to my right I did not see her as you stood to attention, looked straight ahead as you were told by the Dartmoor Prison Sargent, who had a sore throat 'You do not move'. I had someone from the New Zealand Army in front of me faint as did the 7' tall Police Officer next door to me, the only way I didn't was to look at the very attractive female soldier from the New Zealand Army, an unusual distraction technique no doubt!

My wife Jan & I were very fortunate to get an invite to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, I have to confess that when we were queuing up for the perfectly cut uniform sandwiches, I'd already worked out the 'Jenga' approach & managed to 'stack' eight sandwiches on my plate. Jan gave me the 'look' but it was worth it as they were all delicious. There were some people thinking 'look at

him' but others were thinking "I wish I had done the same"!!

It was a great day & when HRH Prince Phillip made eye contact, I was tempted to step forward and say "Hello Sir, Chris Sands, pleased to meet you". The tug on my elbow told me stop as the Royal Variety club of Great Britain were lined up in front of us & it would have deemed rude. So near, yet so far!

In closing, I've had a wonderful career in the Fire Service, doing things that many people never get a chance to do & possibly wouldn't want to do, but I wouldn't change a thing. I have worked with some top people in sometimes very difficult & challenging circumstances but fortunately came out the other-side Broad Oak Fire Station will continue with somebody new at the helm, putting their own slant on things but still running it the way, the station as always been run. I've been the 'caretaker' in charge for over 25years, taking over from Sub Officer Keith Laxton, Bill Pearce & Bob Crouch before him. I've worn my uniform & carried my pager with pride for over 35years but on the 31/12/2021 it will be switched off

**I wish you well**

**Keep Safe**

**Watch Commander Chris Sands  
Stn71 Broad Oak**



## FESTIVE FARE

### Smoked Salmon Wreath

1 large fennel bulb, trimmed, core removed  
3 limes  
2 green shallots, trimmed  
3 large ripe avocados  
250g baby cucumbers, peeled into ribbons  
200g (1 bunch) radishes, trimmed, washed, thinly sliced  
400g sliced smoked salmon  
Extra virgin olive oil, to drizzle  
Crème fraîche, to serve  
Salmon roe, to serve  
Fresh dill sprigs, to serve  
Micro herbs, to serve  
Gluten-free crackers or crusty bread, to serve (optional)



Use a mandolin to very thinly slice the fennel lengthways. Place in a large bowl with the juice of 1 lime. Add a large pinch of salt, toss to combine & set aside to pickle. Cut shallots into 8cm lengths & thinly slice lengthways. Place in a bowl of iced water for 2-3 minutes or until lightly curled. Drain well. Roughly mash the avocados in a bowl. Add the juice from the remaining limes, season & stir to combine. Drain fennel. Arrange avocado in a heaped circle around the edge of a large plate. Arrange pickled fennel, cucumber, radish, shallot & salmon over the top. Drizzle with oil & season with pepper. Dollop on crème fraîche & salmon roe. Scatter with the dill and micro herbs. Serve immediately with crackers or bread, if you

### To Mrs K\_\_\_\_, On Her Sending Me an English Christmas Plum-Cake at Paris



What crowding thoughts  
around me wake,  
What marvels in a  
Christmas-cake!

Ah say, what strange enchantment dwells  
Enclosed within its odorous cells?  
Is there no small magician bound  
Encrusted in its snowy round?  
For magic surely lurks in this,  
A cake that tells of vanished bliss;  
A cake that conjures up to view  
The early scenes, when life was new;  
When memory knew no sorrows past,

And hope believed in joys that last! —  
Mysterious cake, whose folds contain  
Life's calendar of bliss and pain;  
That speaks of friends for ever fled,  
And wakes the tears I love to shed.  
Oft shall I breathe her cherished name  
From whose fair hand the offering came:  
For she recalls the artless smile  
Of nymphs that deck my native isle;  
Of beauty that we love to trace,  
Allied with tender, modest grace;  
Of those who, while abroad they roam,  
Retain each charm that gladdens home,  
And whose dear friendships can impart  
A Christmas banquet for the heart!

**By Helen Maria Williams**