



Arts Volunteering In Shipbourne

Young Artists learn about sgraffito on Heritage Open Day



As part of the 2022 Heritage Open Days, on 18 September, [The Arts Society Sevenoaks](#), in partnership with St Giles' Church, Shipbourne, funded a children's sgraffito session under its [Young Arts](#) scheme.

On a sunny afternoon in the churchyard, a group of children copied sgraffito designs from the chancel arch in the church, by scraping away a layer of coloured plaster applied to tiles to reveal a white layer beneath.

The term sgraffito is derived from the Italian word *graffiare*, which means to scratch. It involves the layering of coats of plaster of different colours and then scratching off a design in the topcoat to reveal a layer of contrasting coloured plaster underneath.

As a form of applied decoration, the origins of sgraffito are quite ancient – possibly Roman or even Egyptian. It became very popular in Renaissance Italy, where in the late 15th century, the designs were largely geometric – quite often imitating ashlar or rusticated stonework – to make the building look like it was built from higher quality, finer materials.

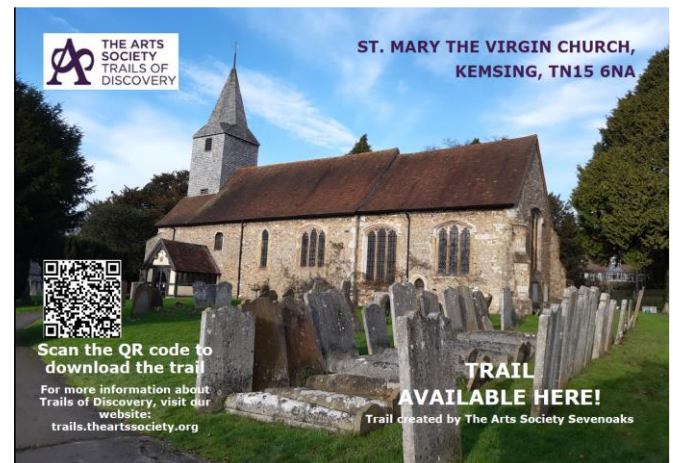
Sgraffito didn't catch on to the same extent in the UK, with some isolated examples in the West Country; but in the 1850s, there was something of a revival interest.

The earliest use of sgraffito in church decoration in the UK comes from the work of Sir Thomas Graham Jackson in Somerset in the early 1870s in St Peter's, Hornblotton, which incorporates terracotta and creamy-white sgraffiti in a Renaissance style. Perhaps this was an inspiration of the decorations in St Giles' Shipbourne, which was built just a few years later, in 1881. The fashion quickly faded and only about 20 churches in the UK are decorated with Victorian sgraffito.

Trails of Discovery for Children

In 2022, members of The Arts Society – Sevenoaks completed Children's Trails in Kemsing and Shipbourne

The Arts Society Trails of Discovery are for children aged 8 – 12 years old and guide them around a place of worship or historic building looking at art, artefacts, architecture and history. Question sheets for children and answer sheets, for accompanying adults are prepared by members of the Arts Society.



In previous years, members of The Arts Society – Sevenoaks have prepared Trails of Discovery for St. Peter & St. Paul, Shoreham and St Botolph's, Chevening. In 2022, ToD were prepared for St. Mary's Kemsing and St. Giles', Shipbourne. Both Trails were launched during the Heritage Open Day Scheme, in September. – and a Trail for St. Mary's Westerham is very close to completion!

Making a Trail of Discovery is a very rewarding experience and as you create the trail you find out things you may never have known. There is help available from the Trails of Discovery Area Representative and on an Arts Society microsite with help sheets, templates and completed trails that is only available to trail makers.

If you are interested in starting a trail, then have a word with Barbara Ropek or the Area Representative, Gordon Wright.



THE ARTS SOCIETY TRAILS OF DISCOVERY

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH, KEMSING, KENT, TN15 6NA
Trail for children (and accompanying adults)
Explanatory notes and answers are available

YOUR NAME _____

Start the trail at the grey arrow
Follow the numbers from 1-14.

1 PORCH
The porch has wooden beams made of **O** _____. The Church is on an old pilgrim road. When the Church was closed pilgrims banged on the heavy door. Look at and feel the marks they made. What could they have used to leave such deep marks on the door? _____
Above the new glass door look at the brick arch of a much older door.

2 PILGRIMS AND SAINTS
When you are inside, above the glass door is an archway of yet another old doorway. How many doorways so far?..... The glass door has a picture of a stream. A nearby **W** _____ is named after a saint who was born in Kemsing. Pilgrims still visit it. High above the door is a beautiful stained-glass window showing the saint **ST. E** _____

3 VICARS BOARD
On the left as you come in is a list of priests who have served here. By the dates you can see it is an ancient Church. Who was the first priest? _____
What year did he come here? _____
Who is the last Vicar listed? _____
Who was the Vicar in 1666 at the time of the Great Fire of London? _____

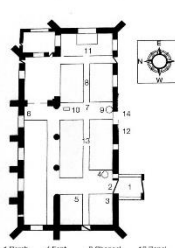
4 FONT
This is a large bowl which holds holy **W** _____. and is where baptism takes place to bring people, often babies and children, into the Christian family. How many sides does it have? **E** _____ This is an **O** _____. This ancient font has a crown-like wooden cover with an **A** _____ at the top. Look around the stone part and try to find the remains of the old iron lock. What else can you see or feel? _____

5 BELL TOWER
The tower is made of wood. It is not as strong as a stone tower but it has been strengthened. Now all the bells can ring together. The heavy one often rings (tolls) alone. On one of the tower walls you can see a board which tells you about the bells. How many are there? **S** _____

6 MEMORIALS
There are many memorials in the Church, remembering people and families who have worshipped here. Find George Turner's memorial. On top there is a model **P L** _____ **H** _____. What do you think his job was? _____ He lived in Heavenham for..... years. Look for a memorial you find interesting. What is the name of the person or family? _____

7 CHANCEL SCREEN
The screen divides the nave from the chancel where there is the altar and choir. The lower part of the screen is much older than the upper part. On the lower part find a row of carved flowers. What else can you see? _____ Look up! At the top of the screen there is the road cross. There are five figures. At each end there are **A** _____

EAST



WEST

Trail created by The Arts Society Sevenoaks 2022



THE ARTS SOCIETY TRAILS OF DISCOVERY

SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH KEMSING, KENT TN15 6NA
Trail answers for children and explanatory notes for accompanying adults

Children's answers are printed in bold.

INTRODUCTION
Welcome to the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, in the village of Kemsing, Kent. The Church is a member of the Church of England in the diocese of Rochester. It was built almost 1,000 years ago, and is on the ancient trade route from Winchester to Canterbury, The Pilgrims' Way. St. Edith, a great, great-granddaughter of Alfred the Great, is closely associated with the church, which became a shrine for pilgrims in the Middle Ages. She is commemorated every year by a procession to the Well on the Sunday nearest her feast day on 16th September.

1 PORCH The door is made of **oak**. The pilgrims might have used **sticks, stones, staves or rocks** to bang on the door when the Church was closed. The porch was built in 1340 and may have been used for weddings as weddings did not take place in Church then. There is a great deal of original timberwork.

2 PILGRIMS AND SAINTS You pass through **four old and new doorways**. **St. Edith** is the name of the saint. She was born in the convent in Kemsing in 961. The glass inner door shows the waters of St. Edith's well, the Downs above the village and the cross of St. Thomas-a-Becket, indicating Kemsing's connections to the Pilgrims Way.

3 RECTORS BOARD **Richard de Kemsing** was the first priest. **1265** was the date he came here. The Name of the Vicar last listed (2021) is **Rev. James Oakley**. At the time of the Great Fire of London the Vicar was **Rev. John Stevens**.

4 FONT **Water** is put in the font which has **eight sides, an octagon**. An **acorn** is carved on the top of the font cover. The font is probably Saxon or early Norman and there are saw marks etched in the stone. The cover is 17th century. The font is large as in the past babies were completely dipped into the water. Long ago the cover would probably have been locked to stop the water being used for other purposes. There is a metal hinge from this time at the edge of the font. The acorn reminds us that the future Charles 11 hid in an oak tree and the cover was paid for by an ardent Royalist.



Adult & Digital Trails of Discovery

Members of The Arts Society – Sevenoaks designed and produced Adult and Digital Trails for St Giles' Shipbourne

Usually Arts Society Church Trails of Discovery are for children. Accompanying adults are often just as interested in finding out more about the church they are visiting. Churches don't always have printed guides available – and colour guides are expensive to print.

In 2022 members of [The Arts Society – Sevenoaks](#) designed and produced a short black and white trifold guide to St. Giles' Shipbourne for adults which is cheap to print and quick to read.

Scanning a QR code on the guide – or on a poster in entrance to the church – allows visitors with a mobile phone to download a more detailed, full colour, version of the guide, which links to our website! The QR code also gives information about number and time of downloads.

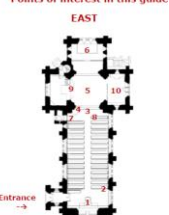
St Giles' Shipbourne A Brief Guide



The parish of Shipbourne is united with the adjacent parish of Plaxtol in a single benefice. There is a strong congregation and regular Sunday worship with Parish Communion using a contemporary setting, Matins or a family service.

The church holds a thriving Farmers' Market on Thursday mornings throughout the year. Begun in 2003, this was a pioneering effort to connect the church with its community and to raise money for charity. Unusually, the market stalls are set up both inside the church and in the churchyard.

Points of interest in this guide



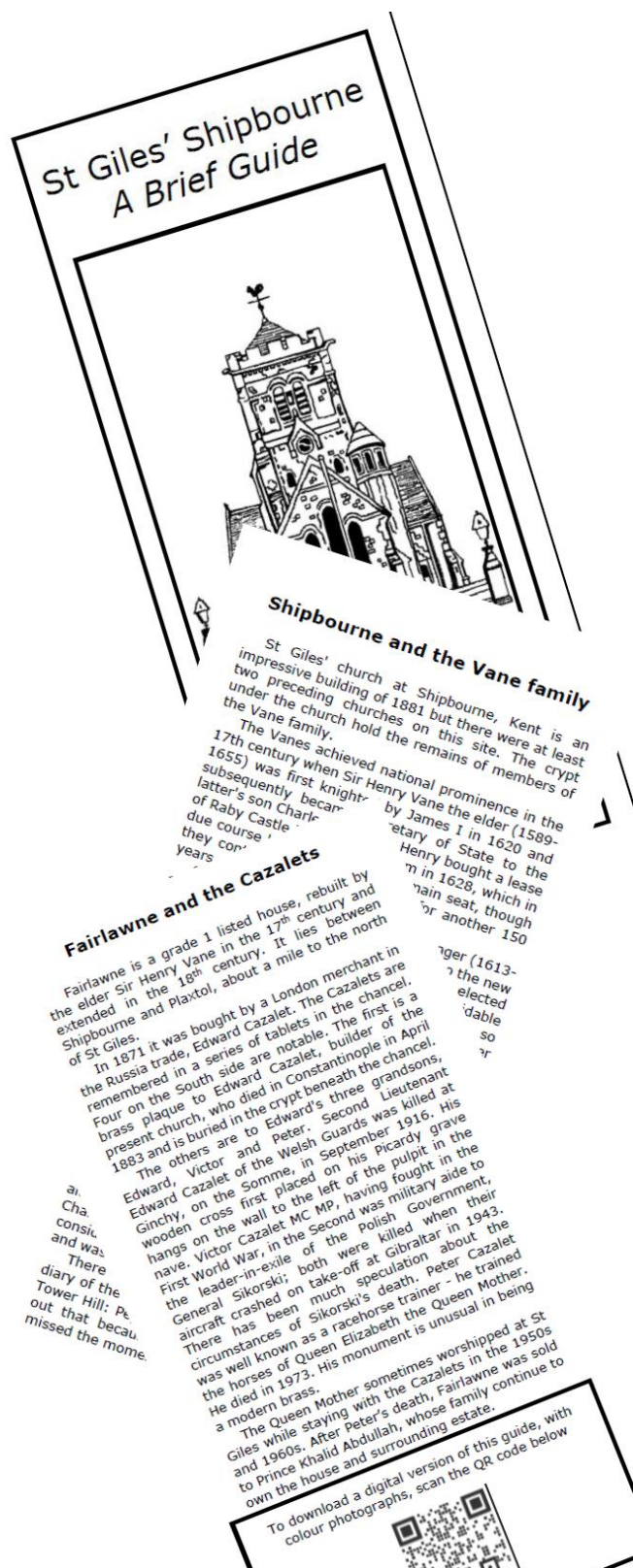
The Interior of St Giles



Why not take a look at the guide by scanning this QR code ➡



If you are interested in preparing an adult guide for a church that you know or would like to learn about designing and producing digital have a word with the Arts Society Kent Area Representative, Gordon Wright.





Young Art: Museum Boxes

Members of The Arts Society – Sevenoaks took part in a collaborative project to create Museum Boxes for library loan to children in Sevenoaks

ARTS VOLUNTEERING



Arts projects benefit everyone and the Arts Society encourages and supports members to offer engaging projects in a wide range of arts to groups of all ages in their local communities.

Following the pandemic with isolation for schoolchildren and amongst older people and the impact on communities it has never been more important to support access to the arts

Working with schools, museums, local charities and community groups, our volunteers support projects across a broad spectrum of arts. Our volunteers are passionate about the benefits that creativity and arts education can bring to their community.

In conjunction with the Sevenoaks Museum, the Historical Society and the Arts Society - Knole and collaborating with Liz Botterill, the Sevenoaks museum curator, we completed a project to create Museum Boxes, with a grant from the central Arts Society. These are boxes containing objects from the museum collection and replicas of more fragile objects which can be taken to schools so that children can see and touch them. The loan of the boxes is free of charge to all Sevenoaks District schools and has proved very popular. Liz is able to go into schools to support students and teachers to give more guidance on the subjects.

If you are passionate about helping others to have the opportunity to discover the arts, contact our [Arts Volunteering](#) representative. Sue Evans to find out more about how to become a volunteer or email her on sueevans44@btinternet.com



Heritage Volunteering

From book conservation to research projects in historic houses and gardens, our volunteers are busy all over the UK

If heritage is your passion and you want to make a difference, this might be the role for you. Working closely with the curators and volunteering managers of museums, archives, gardens and historic houses, you will get to spend time behind the scenes in these wonderful places as part of the team.

Our volunteers are trained by experts and work in many different roles including book conservators, stewards and archivists in heritage sites.

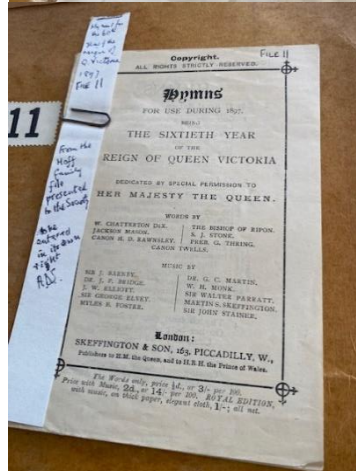
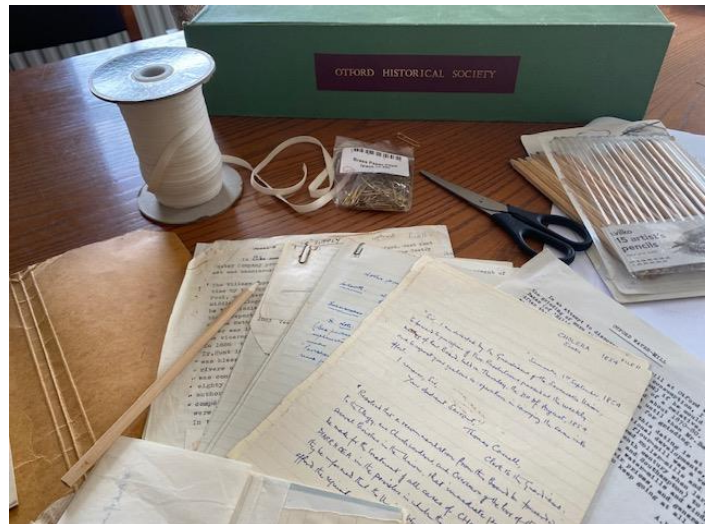
In the past, members of [The Arts Society Sevenoaks](#) have worked on book preservation and armour cleaning at Penshurst Place, embroidered kneelers for the Quire at Rochester Cathedral and sorted, classified and recorded the archives of the Sevenoaks Vine Cricket Club, founded 1734.

Recently we have been asked to work on the large number of parish records at Otford, helping with the organisation, preservation and storage of material. We shall be working one morning a week at Otford, 2 or 3 volunteers at a time, so if we have a large enough team no volunteer has to give up a great deal of their time.

Later in the year we plan to work with the artefacts from the recently closed Otford Museum.

These need to be sorted, recorded and safely stored. This material is now stored in the tower at the old Archbishop's Palace at Otford.

To find out more about becoming a [Heritage Volunteer](#), contact Barbara Ropek, the Arts Society West Kent Area Representative, email: bridgeblue7@btinternet.com





Young Art: Crockham Hill Art Day

The Arts Society – Sevenoaks supported a stimulating Art Day at Crockham Hill School: *Framing the local landscape*



The Arts Society – Sevenoaks arranged for an artist, Charlotte Gardner, to spend a day at Crockham Hill Primary School, to help the whole school prepare an exhibition:

Framing the local landscape.

Art and Design Lead at the school, Mrs Gemma Hutchinson said: "Charlotte was incredible. She really put all of the children (and staff) at ease from the get go - explaining that the day was all about exploring and experimenting with different techniques and materials and that there was no 'right or wrong' way of doing things. She visited each of the classrooms during the morning and continued to encourage children to explore their own individual creative abilities, whilst sharing really helpful tips to create different effects with watercolours and pastels. All of the children were happy, engaged and incredibly enthusiastic. It was wonderful to see!

During the afternoon, we took the children outside to observe and take pictures of the local landscape. It was so interesting to see how they focused in on different aspects of the landscape and their different responses to how being there made them feel, which then of course influenced the way they drew and painted their landscapes when they got back to their classrooms.

It was a thoroughly positive experience for all.

Huge thanks to Linda Dell'Avvocato, the Society and Charlotte for helping us organise and run this event for our school. What a fantastic experience for all involved!"

