

## Village Echoes

### Bullets in the Church Door and other Features

Many of you would have seen the recent article on Kent Online or in The Times of Tunbridge Wells marking the 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Goudhurst in 1747. It is worth reading to remind us when Goudhurst featured in the National news of the time. A brief paragraph appears on the History Society website ([www.goudhurstlocalhistorysociety.org](http://www.goudhurstlocalhistorysociety.org)) together with a biography of the hero of that day, William Sturt.



The author of the newspaper article contacted the History Society about a couple of details. He was wondering where the bullets in the Church door had gone. We were able to re-assure him that following the installation of the new glass doors that section of the old door was rescued and mounted inside St Mary's Church. Anybody can now see it, albeit in a rather dark corner of the porch, just to the left of the entrance.



Whilst in the vicinity and on the subject of outlaws, take a look at the so called 'Pirate's Grave' behind the Church. This was a nick-name given by villagers because of the skull and cross bones engraved on the stone. No pirates were involved. A full explanation is given on our website about the man buried there in 1657, under Pirate's Grave. It has deteriorated since this picture was taken but still stands out amongst the more conventional memorials

Finally, on the outside of the building there is an unusual turret. Inside is a staircase, which led to the rood loft i.e. above the rood screen. This access is no longer there.



Goudhurst & Kilndown Local History Society –  
Website: [goudhurstloclhistorysociety.org](http://goudhurstloclhistorysociety.org)