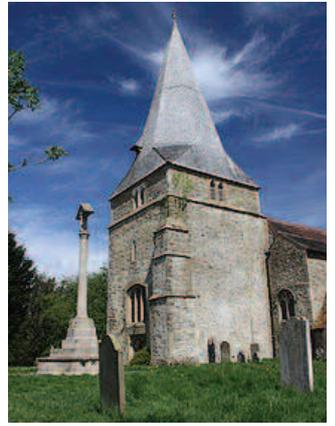


# The Sundridge Village News

## July - August 2018



In this issue we bring you obituaries of two of our much-loved nonagenarian villagers who have sadly died, news from Sundridge & Brasted Primary school, Horticultural outings to tempt you out and about, all the fun of the fair (well, fete) at Bishop's Mead and an interesting article about a medieval burial ground.

### Open Air Service

There was a gentle breeze blowing as we gathered for the Open Air service on the Green at Ide Hill so the band utilised the clothes peg method to peg down their music sheets. The Edenbridge Band played superbly, the speaker, Canon Mark Brown made us sit up and listen as he told us not to become dry old bones, the prayers were beautifully read by two of our



younger members of the gathering, instructing us to first "close our eyes together" and everyone obeyed! Refreshments followed the service with everyone chatting and eating cakes. If you've never been to church before, this is surely well worth a try.

*Do join us next year .....*

### Parish Services for July and August 2018

**Sunday 1st July**  
 09.15 Toys Hill Holy Communion BCP  
 10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion

**Sunday 8th July**  
 08.00 Sundridge Holy Communion BCP  
 10.30 Ide Hill All Age Worship

**Sunday 15th July**  
 08.00 Ide Hill Holy Communion BCP  
 10.30 Sundridge Morning Worship

**Sunday 22nd July**  
 08.00 Sundridge Holy Communion BCP  
 10.30 Ide Hill Holy Communion

**Sunday 29th July**  
 10.30 Sundridge Joint Morning Worship

**Sunday 5th August**  
 09.15 Toys Hill Holy Communion BCP  
 10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion

**Sunday 12th August**  
 08.00 Sundridge Holy Communion BCP  
 10.30 Ide Hill All Age Worship

**Sunday 19th August**  
 08.00 Ide Hill Holy Communion BCP  
 10.30 Sundridge Morning Worship

**Sunday 26th August**  
 08.00 Sundridge Holy Communion BCP  
 10.30 Ide Hill Holy Communion

#### Rector

Rev Pam Davies  
 rev.pamdavies@sky.com  
 01959 467223

#### Churchwardens

**Sundridge**  
 Althea Chapman  
 althea.chapman@btinternet.com

**Sundridge**  
 Barbara Lockey  
 hixmix@btopenworld.com  
 01959 564249

**Ide Hill**  
 Neil Arnott  
 neil.d.arnott@gmail.com  
 01732 750221

*Coffee is served at the 10.30 service every Sunday. Everyone is welcome!*

### Friends of St Marys Sundridge

The Friends raise funds to support the fabric of the Church. Each year we hold a number of varied events for our members and supporters. Please join the Friends and

help us to help St Marys Sundridge. Membership forms from [friendsofstmarys.co.uk](http://friendsofstmarys.co.uk) or email [richarddunckley@hotmail.com](mailto:richarddunckley@hotmail.com)

## Sundridge Village Fete, 2.00pm Sunday 8th July

Please come and join us in the beautiful gardens of Bishop's Mead, by kind permission of Bruce Walker, for our annual Village fete. The children from Sundridge & Brasted will dance, the band will play and, by popular request, there will be a dog show. There will be plenty of children's activities in the orchard, a wine and beer tent to quench your thirst, time to catch up with neighbours over tea and cake, a plant stall, raffle,



delicious cakes to buy and ice creams - but buy one early as they sell out quickly. Try your luck on the bottle stall, pick up a bargain at the nearly new stall, or ponder over the many books. There is a teddy tombola to delight the children and, of course, all the other exciting stalls selling gifts, candles, clothing and jewellery. All the money goes towards the upkeep of our beautiful church.

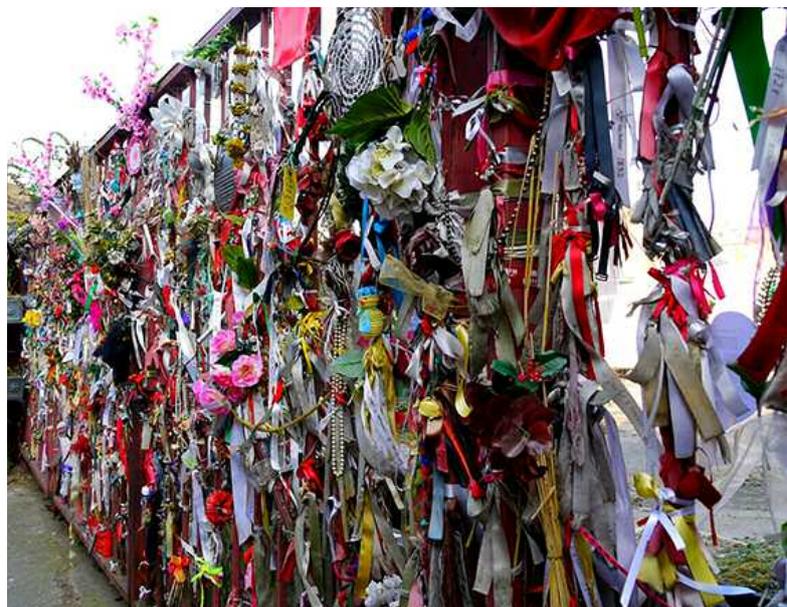
## Things to do on a Sunday

What could be better than to be given a ticket to the 'Open Garden Squares Weekend' in London to discover and explore London's green spaces? After much poring over the map, I decided to concentrate mainly on the City and Bankside.

In the back streets south of the river, a short walk from Shakespeare's Globe, Southwark Cathedral and the Shard I stumbled across the site of an old burial ground, called Crossbones, with an extraordinary history. For centuries it was the outcasts' graveyard - in one of London's poorest and most violent slums. According to local lore, it was once the final resting place for the Winchester Geese, medieval sex workers licensed by the Bishop of Winchester under an Ordinance signed in 1161 by Thomas Becket to work in the brothels of The Liberty of the Clink, which lay outside the law of the City of London. In 1853 it was closed and in 1883 it was sold as a building site. The sale was declared null and void under the Disused Burial Grounds Act of 1884.

The graveyard was long forgotten until the 1990s when London Underground built an electricity sub-station for the Jubilee Line extension. The Museum of London archaeologists removed 148 skeletons and their report estimated that these were 'less than 1% of the total'. This would indicate up to 15,000 burials took place.

The Friends of Crossbones campaigned for many years to open the site as a garden of remembrance. Bankside Open Spaces Trust now has a short-term lease for this



historic site from Transport for London and works with the Friends of Crossbones to enhance the garden, create educational activities and events and steer it towards becoming a permanent garden of remembrance.

## Dates for your Diary

### July

**Wednesday 4th Country Market, Ide Hill Village Hall**  
And every following Wednesday 9.00am - 12.00 noon

**Saturday 8th Village Fete**

Bishops Mead, 39 Main Road Sundridge 2.00 - 4.30

**Wednesday 11th Open Gardens, Greystone Park**

From 3pm - 5pm. Teas will be served at Number 23.

**Thursday 12th and Thursday 26th Mobile Library**

10.30 - 11.00 Chapmans Close

### August

**Wednesday 1st Country Market, Ide Hill Village Hall**  
And every following Wednesday 9.00am - 12.00 noon

**Thursday 9th Mobile Library**

10.30 - 11.00 Chapmans Close

**Thursday 23rd Mobile Library**

10.30 - 11.00 Chapmans Close

## The September edition

The editorial team are taking a break over the summer. If you'd like anything included in the September edition, please email:

**sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com**  
by Friday 24th August

## Save the date

**Sunday 2nd September Great Sundridge Hog Roast**  
From 12.00 noon Hog Roast and Vegetarian option.

**Saturday 15th September A concert by Fever Pitch**  
Fever Pitch are a brilliant choral group who will be giving a concert in St Marys Sundridge

## Sundridge and Brasted Primary School

I can't believe we are nearly half way through the last term of the academic year. We have entered the busiest term of the year with lots of events and activities to keep the children and staff busy. Once again we put a full team together for the Sevenoaks District Sports event and achieved a commendable 3rd place in the small schools group which was a great result and we are all very proud of the children. However, what made the day for me was seeing the children support each other fully and encourage other schools as well. This has become a bit of a Sundridge tradition and one which is often remarked upon by other schools and parents.

We are currently working towards our Learning Outside the Classroom accreditation and we have used this academic year to look at every opportunity for learning outside of the traditional classroom. With this in mind all classes have had numerous opportunities to learn in other environments. In this term alone we have had three trips to Horton Kirby Environmental Centre, which is an excellent venue and one which offers a variety of resources for schools.

Elm Class (years 5 and 6) took part in a Victorian Day. On arrival, they were met by 'Mr Kemp' who was one of the teachers at the school that was based at the site in Victorian times. Each child was given a Victorian persona,

Victorian artefacts and play with some Victorian toys, including hoop and sticks, cup and balls and spinning tops. Such an interactive day provides a fantastic opportunity for the children.



Willow class (Years 3 and 4) also enjoyed an insightful and fun filled day there learning everything there is to know about rivers and their surrounding areas, from meanders to erosion and rocks. They all particularly enjoyed measuring the depth and speed of water flow directly in the river. Wellies were essential!

Last but not least, Cedar class (Years 1 and 2) had a fantastic day at Horton Kirby looking at Nature. They started the day walking down to the river and learnt lots about insects on the way. The pond dipping that followed was great fun! Some of the children learnt how waterproof their wellies were and that water goes over the top of wellies in deeper water! Later on the children learnt about tree, pond life and mammals. It was great to see the children taking safe risks and challenging themselves. Miss Williamson, the class teacher, was very proud of each and every child. They behaved impeccably and they are a credit to the school. All in all it was another excellent day.

On the same theme of learning outdoors we were given an opportunity for two children from year 5 to experience sailing and to gain their Level One proficiency through the local Sports Partnership and I am delighted to say that this commenced this week and has been thoroughly enjoyed by those involved.

We are hoping to extend these opportunities next year in our drive to not only achieve academic excellence but to also ensure that we provide a wide range of experiences for our children.

*Anil Gaiind, Head Teacher*



of one of the children taught by Mr Kemp, and took part in lessons that included reading, writing, arithmetic and an object lesson. Later on, they went for a walk around the village, comparing the modern day buildings and layouts to 19th century maps and photographs, to understand how the village had changed and developed over time. Lastly, they had the opportunity to explore

## Mobile Library

Did you realise that Sundridge has a mobile library? It visits fortnightly on Thursdays and parks in Chapmans Close between 10.30 and 11am. It has a very good range of books, so why not make use of the mobile library?

## Farewell to Ron Jenner

The funeral of Ron Jenner, who was born in Sundridge, took place on Friday 4th May. He attended the village school and in 1939 moved into Church Road with his Mum, Dad, brother and two sisters. Little did he know that his future wife would be living next door. He was married for 62 years and he led a full and varied life, seeing many changes over 90 years.

He would often talk about times gone by, recounting how he used to help his uncle delivering milk by horse and cart round the village. At one time during the war, they heard planes approaching so they unharnessed the horse and tied it up so if it spooked it didn't run away with the milk. Then he and his uncle climbed under the cart. Looking back it gave them no protection but at the time they must have felt safe. This was the start of his love of horses.

He worked in Young's department store in Sevenoaks and learned his trade as an electrician – cycling to work each day. This was a job he loved and he was good at it. For the Queen's Coronation, when few people had a T.V, he decided to build his own; apparently the screen was small but big enough for all the neighbours to congregate around and watch together.

He married Briar in 1956 in Sundridge church. This was no ordinary wedding – it was a double wedding with Briar's sister Heather. There were two of everything and six bridesmaids. Some of the Sundridge residents can still recall the wedding vividly.

He loved music and when he was about 7 years old had a gramophone at the end of the garden. It had no spring and to work the turntable it had to be pushed round with your finger. He only had one record which he played over

and over again, aptly called "Ain't it grand to be blooming well dead!"

In his late teens-early twenties he used to play the drums. It was not unusual to see him and Briar walking up Church Road carrying a set of drums for a practice session. He also loved to dance. Back in the 1960s the whole family got together on Boxing Day (Ron's birthday) – the washboard, spoons, combs covered in paper and even the saucepans came out for a session. Lorna (his daughter) remembers doing the conga down the front path and then into various neighbours' houses, before returning back to their living room for the hokey-cokey.

Ron and his partner owned two electrical shops, one in Sundridge and one in Brasted. He always carried a hankie in his pocket, not for wiping his nose, but for dusting people's televisions. He had a standard reply on most occasions when asked the cost of the repair. He'd say "Oh, don't worry about that, it didn't take long". He was, therefore, always very popular and called out to repairs time and time again.

Ron was a familiar site in Sundridge when he was walking his dog Poppy. He always carried dog biscuits and carrots in his pocket for the farm animals or any dog he met – they all knew him well.

The family has so many wonderful happy memories of Ron. There was always fun and laughter. Often the joke was on Ron at family occasions, who always chewed jelly, loved half a pint of cream on creamy desserts, could make a toffee last for hours, had selective hearing, told dreadful jokes and often said "I don't know who you will laugh at when I'm gone". He was a proper gentleman, a kind loving and supportive family man and he will be greatly missed.

*My thanks to the family for allowing me to use their notes.*

## Sundridge and Brasted Horticultural Society

They hid when they heard that the Horticultural Society was visiting. These were the deer that roam the 30 acres of land at Cromlix, up the hill at Halstead. We did not see any at all.



However, we had a brilliant time. On a lovely sunny afternoon, the countryside looking fabulous as we were shown round a glorious garden with a guided tour and information on the many flowers and other plants we saw there. We were even invited to ask for, and probably received, samples of anything that took our fancy. Lots of

members came along and we all enjoyed the tea and the gorgeous homemade cakes as we sat and took in the beautiful views.

Our next event is a very special one, open to absolutely everyone, not just our members. This is when a number of gardens in Greystone Park in Sundridge will be open on Wednesday 11th July from 3pm to 5pm. Tea and cakes will be available at No 23. We are organising this event in aid of Hospice in the Weald, a local and very worthwhile charity which needs all the love and support that we can give to it.

On Wednesday 8th August, there is to be an afternoon visit to the garden at Titsey Place, Oxted, another lovely garden. Please let Estelle Hyams know if you would like to come with us and have not already put your name down. As you all know, transport is available for our outings. Just ask a member of the Committee.

Enjoy the summer, everyone.

*Mary Walford*



## A loving tribute from Reta Whatley's son and daughter, with thoughts from her many friends.

Reta had a difficult childhood and adolescence. Her mother died when she was eight years old. The war years robbed so many people of her generation of their youth. Evacuation to Brechin at the age of fourteen, return to Dundee a year later and subsequent employment on a farm near Carlisle were surely not conducive to a happy time. However, Reta said that she was happy and must have relished the escape from an office in a jute mill or working in her Aunt's haberdashery shop in Dundee.



Later, her experiences away from home may explain, in part, the willingness that she possessed in helping other people. She was a 'flower lady' of the local Womens' Institute. When she visited those members who were ill she would provide a bunch of flowers from her own garden. (On Reta's coffin there were some flowers from her garden.) She cared for friends and relatives who were nearing the end of their lives. She provided tea and cake to a glider pilot who had landed his aircraft in a nearby field on the farm whilst he waited for his back-up vehicle. She provided a home to someone who had lost both parents at an early age and who subsequently emigrated to Australia where he established a successful business. He attributes some of his success to Reta's guiding influence.

Travel featured in Reta's life in a large way. She visited numerous nations and made firm friends along the way.

The list is extensive – Australia, Germany, Hong Kong, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and a circumnavigation of the world with a dear friend. Journeys to Scotland were a breeze, often sharing the driving with Lady Ashmore whilst in her seventies.

Her son recalled that growing up on the farm at Chevening was hard and character-forming. A regular fortnightly feature was the splitting and stacking of logs

for the three fires that Reta tended. One year they raised ducklings, the warming compartment of the Rayburn stove providing a nursery for the newly hatched chicks.

Church was attended on a regular basis at Chevening, travelling by bicycle. This was via a route that couldn't be contemplated today, due to the security arrangements required by the current incumbents of Chevening House. Reta was presented with a Raleigh bicycle on her fifteenth birthday and told to look after it by her father. That bike has cherished and continued to provide a useful mode of local transport right up until her eighties.

Aside from cooking, home-craft, growing magnificent flowers and visiting the sick, Reta had another passion – that of re-cycling – even before that topic became fashionable. She was a true mistress of the art! Nothing was wasted and invariably had an alternative use, though quite what remained to be decided. One villager remembers fondly sharing a tea bag with her. Old woollen jerseys were rattled down and the salvaged wool knitted back into new garments.

In honour of her 90th birthday, her village friends held a party for her. She was both touched and amazed by the attention that was bestowed on her. Many of her friends made the journey on a regular basis to visit her when she moved into the nursing home.



What an honour to know a lady who fought through adversity, maintained a frugal lifestyle and travelled the world. She leaves behind two children, seven grandchildren and to date four great grandchildren. On a visit to a local bluebell wood, with the sun glinting through the trees and the birds singing, she waved her stick around and proclaimed "All this and heaven too".

*My thanks to the family for allowing me to use their notes*

## And finally . . .

Seen in a church bulletin – This evening at 7pm there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.