

The Sundridge Village News

November 2021



In this issue, Revd Tim Edwards writes, news of My Name's Doddie Foundation, Parish Council and Friends of St Mary's updates, a fascinating insight into Red House, Bexleyheath and its garden, The Sevenoaks Music Club attracting international musicians to Sevenoaks for 88 years, Fundridge's 70s disco and Clothes Edit, an update from the Gardening Society and the Sundridge and Brasted School and, of course, Dates for your Diary.

Whilst Rev Pam Davies continues to be on sick leave, the Revd Tim Edwards, Rector of the United Benefice of Knockholt with Halstead, has very kindly offered to provide the parish's pastoral support, including weddings and baptisms. He can be contacted via email: rev.tim.edwards@gmail.com or telephone 01959 532133 or mobile 07980 826365

Parish Services for November 2021

		Sunday 7th			Sunday 21st
09.15	Toys Hill	Holy Communion	10.30	Sundridge	Holy Communion
10.30	Sundridge	Holy Communion			Sunday 28th
					All Age Worship
			10.30	Ide Hill	Christingle
			15.30	Sundridge	

Sunday 14th Remembrance Sunday

10.30	Sundridge	Remembrance Service
10.50	Ide Hill	Remembrance Service

Rector

Rev Pam Davies

Churchwarden, Sundridge

Althea Chapman

email: althea.chapman@outlook.com

A Rector writes



I wonder whether, like me, you have been struck by the fact that so much of contemporary life is designed to reinforce the idea that we are each of us independent individuals – that we do not really need other people?

And yet, when we are honest, we know that that is not true. In case we

were in danger of forgetting, things like queues for petrol serve to remind us. We take for granted the independence of being able to drive where we like, when we like, and suddenly we are reminded that we are dependent on lorry drivers that most of us never thought about to be able simply to go to the supermarket or do the school run.

I was thinking about that and was struck by how different that is to the God who speaks to us in the Bible.

For example, in Psalm 50, God makes that point strikingly when He tells His people “even if I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine” – even if God ever were to get hungry or need anything (which He does not), then He would never have to come to us for help.

Indeed, He is the opposite of dependent upon us. As the Apostle Paul puts it in the New Testament: “nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.” (Acts 17:25)

What difference does that make?

It means that, when we are reminded of our limitations and neediness, we can come to the God who needs nothing, but who delights to give.

As Psalm 50 says later on: “call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”

In fact, giving is so deep-rooted in His character that, as the best-known verse in the Bible puts it: “God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish, but may have everlasting life”.

I wonder: what do you need to call out to God for today?

What do you need to thank Him for today?

Do you know this generous God for yourself?

If you would like to be in touch about anything at all, Tim would be delighted to hear from you.

*email rev.tim.edwards@gmail.com or
telephone 01959 532133 or Tim's mobile 07980 826365*

My Name's 5 Doddie Foundation - update



Doddie Weir OBE is one of rugby's most recognisable personalities. He earned 61 caps for Scotland during a successful playing career, represented the British and Irish Lions on their successful tour to South Africa in 1997 and won championships with his two club sides, Melrose and Newcastle Falcons. However, in June 2017, he was diagnosed as suffering from Motor Neurone Disease. In November 2017, Doddie and his trustees launched the registered charity My Name's 5 Doddie Foundation. The vision is simple: A World Free of MND. The number "5" is a special number for the Foundation, as it is a reference to Doddie's playing number for his clubs and Scotland.

Some of you will remember that, back in January, a group from Fundridge Sundridge enlisted onto the Doddie Active Inter-District (AID) challenge to raise funds for the My Name's 5 Doddie Foundation. Cumulatively, the group covered over 1,000 miles in the month and contributed to the Glasgow (birth place of the one Scottish member of the group) team's total of 298,066 miles, raising £197,360. Together with nearly 30,000 people taking part in the challenge, over £1 million was raised for the Foundation. A big thank you to the villagers who contributed to our fundraising event.

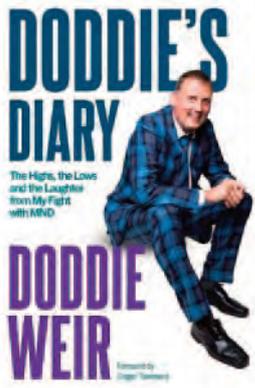


Doddie's Diary, Weir's account of his past three years living with MND, is published this month. To help celebrate, he has a new favourite toy, a prototype Guinness dispenser that was sent to him by a high-level contact from

Diageo. The glass is tilted at a 45-degree angle, the can is chilled to the perfect temperature and there is even the mandatory 119.5 seconds pause to deliver a perfect pint of the black stuff. "Well", they say, "Guinness is good for you, don't they?" Unfortunately, it is testament to the fact that his independence has slowly faded. The Guinness is drunk through a straw in a glass held by his wife, Kathy. Help is required for basic tasks such as dressing and washing. He now requires a neck brace and assistance to walk since his confidence was badly shaken by a fall in February.

Given that he was told that he would be in a wheelchair within 12 months and dead within three years of his initial diagnosis, he would be ahead on points on most judges' scorecards. His fall eight months ago represents another far less happy landmark, representing a distinct before-and-after moment in his experience of the disease. Prior to that, he had four falls with MND. Three were alcohol-related, the fourth after a battle of wills with a bad-tempered bull that he conclusively lost. On each occasion, he was able to pick himself up and dust himself off. This time he stayed down. With the ravaging effects of MND, he has no capacity to break his fall. Imagine being pushed over with your hands in your pockets. "Every time I stand up, I have a wee look around and think, I don't really want to fall over here. Now, I'm just so much more conscious. It took me six months to recover from that last fall. I just don't want to risk another fall." An MND diagnosis is like being inside a fly trap where you slide inexorably in one direction.

To donate to the foundation, visit:
<https://myname5doddie.enthuse.com/donate#!/>



Parish Council Update

In Sundridge, the St. Mary's Christingle service takes place on Sunday 28th November at 3:30pm in the Church and, as is tradition, this will then be followed by our annual village Christmas carol sing along and switch on of the Christmas lights at 4:30pm in The White Horse, all ages welcome. Do come along and kick off the Christmas season with a mulled wine and mince pie.

In Ide Hill, we will hold a carols event on the Village Green facing the Christmas Tree with refreshments funded by Sevenoaks District Council. The date of this will be posted shortly.

Next year is Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Platinum (70th) Jubilee. Events are planned all over the country and an extended Bank Holiday is to be held from 3rd to 6th June. Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council is planning joint events to be held over that weekend and we will update everyone as the plans progress. If you have any suggestions or ideas for the celebrations, please let us know by contacting the Clerk on:-

clerk@sundridgewithidehill-pc.gov.uk

In Ide Hill the work to coppice trees and clear view-

points continues. This will be a little disruptive and we are trying to get the contractors to minimise the inconvenience to walkers and riders but please take care and bear with us whilst this work takes place into next year.

Catford Cycle Club held the 125th annual Yorks Hill Climb cycle race, billed as the oldest continuing cycle race in the world, on Sunday 10th October. With over 100 entrants from juniors to veterans the race up one of the steepest hills in Kent is an amazing feat of stamina for both men and women. The Parish Council supports this event by allowing the use of Stubbs Wood car park as a mustering point for riders and officials and hopes to continue supporting the event for another 125 years.

Finally, one note of caution: the Parish Council has noted occurrences of garden waste dumping in public spaces. The dumping of garden waste is considered fly-tipping and is illegal. Please refrain from doing this. SDC provides a garden waste service for your use so please arrange for a green bin. Any acts of fly-tipping around the parish will be reported and followed up with the appropriate authorities.

Fundridge 70s Disco

Thanks to Henry for sourcing all things 70s, we were able to decorate the pool room in the Social Club to make it look very retro. With disco ball revolving, people came dressed in their finery and there we all stood, exactly like any 70s disco used to be with the girls on one side of the dance floor and the boys on the other and 70's music playing quietly in the background.

Suddenly the 70's music became louder as Djs, Gav and Col can read an audience. They played and we danced.

Sometimes with partners and sometimes without. And sometimes just the girls dancing around their handbags. Remember that?

There were also prizes for best and worst dressed. Less said about that, the better. Anyone wish for the British Lions Silver Jubilee 1977 Tour Album? I have it.

Thank you to those who came and enjoyed and many thanks to the Social Club for hosting.



Fundridge Clothing Edit

Saturday 23rd October saw the Village Hall looking like a top-end high street clothing shop. With almost 20 'sellers', the racks and tables were full of designer labels: dresses, trousers, coats, shoes and bags galore. We had a steady footfall throughout the day and many a pleased customer, as there were plenty of bargains to be had. Many thanks to Wendy, Ann and Ginny for helping on the day and thanks to Gill for providing some delicious cakes along with the teas and coffees and also to those who donated their clothing rather than selling it.

Ladies, hang onto your favourite, but no longer wanted, summer outfits as we plan on another Clothing Edit late spring when you could become a seller too.



News from Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School

Greetings from Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School!

We have enjoyed a wonderful term and are delighted that we have been able to invite guests into school and run clubs and activities, such as judo, street dance, cookery, arts and crafts and, of course, the ever-popular football club!

We sent a team to an Alternative Sports Festival, where they tried out boxing, fencing and karate, and a team to a Change 4 Life Festival where the children took part in a number of fun activities earning points for demonstrating the values of school games: honesty, team work, respect, self-belief, passion and determination.

We supported World Mental Health Day earlier in October to raise awareness of mental health and the #helloyellow charity. The children all wore something yellow and during the day they learnt about mental wellbeing in themselves and others and how to support one another, their families and the wider community. Instead of the usual Friday lessons they enjoyed sports,



mindfulness activities, painted friendship stones and had photos taken, complete with colourful, fun props, wigs and such like, in our extremely yellow photo booth. They all went for a walk in the afternoon leaving their friendship stones out and about for others to find and appreciate. Perhaps you have found one?

We know that we can make a difference by showing kindness through our words and actions. We strive to have a positive impact every day.

We have a wonderful display board in school showing every one of our children holding up the message they wrote that they thought would be kind and caring. It is truly lovely to see how very thoughtful the children are and how they understood the underlying message throughout the day's fun activities.

We also raised £120 for the #helloyellow YoungMinds charity and are incredibly grateful for our parents' support for the day.

We held our Harvest Service in school, singing 'What are you growing?' and 'Cauliflowers Fluffy' with gusto. The children also enacted the Bible story of the feeding of the 5,000 (Mark 6: 30-44) with each class taking a part of the

story. Dr Sue Leather from Westerham Church officiated for us and it was a lovely service, joyful and thankful. We took the opportunity to support the local Loaves and Fishes food bank, which operates out of St John's Church in Sevenoaks, asking parents to offer donations of non-perishable foods which we passed on to the food bank for distribution to families in need in the community.



Continuing on the theme of thinking of others, we will be supporting 'Children in Need' in November, selling poppies and accessories in the lead-up to Remembrance Sunday and wearing our Christmas jumpers in December for the 'Save the Children' charity. Busy times!

We would like to remind you all that this time of year is also the time when parents of pre-school children start to look at primary schools for next year's intake. We ask our community to spread the word to all friends and families who have young children due to start school next September. We are a small and much-loved Church of England village school where staff value every child and work with them to ensure that they reach their potential. Please visit our website for further information www.sundridge.kent.sch.uk and call the school to make an appointment and to meet the team and see the school on 01959 562694.

We also have vacancies on our governing board for an LA governor and co-opted governor. Governors are our critical friends and work in conjunction with the Headteacher to run the school. Governors do not need particular skills but we do ask for a commitment to support the school. Anyone interested in such a rôle should contact our school office.

We send our very best wishes to the community and hope you all stay safe and well.

"If you have good thoughts, they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely." Roald Dahl

*Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School tel: 01959 562694
office@sundridge.kent.sch.uk www.sundridge.kent.sch.uk*



Friends of St Mary's update

Our Winter programme of events starts on Wednesday 10th November at 7pm with a talk by John Bailey on "The Life of Your Church Architect". John is an eminent architect and entertaining speaker and the content of his presentations is always enthralling. Please join us at St Mary's Church for an evening of enlightenment, followed by drinks and nibbles. More details and how to book tickets can be found on the flyer elsewhere in this newsletter.

We hope to bring some joy to your post-Christmas life by holding a party on Thursday 20th January 2022. Following the success of our inaugural get-together in 2020 when we celebrated the opening of the church toilet and enhanced kitchen facilities, we plan to entertain you

with an engaging quiz, ply you with fabulous food and liquid refreshment and encourage you to take part in a raffle for a range of attractive prizes.

Watch this space for more events happening in the Spring!

Joining The Friends brings you advance notice of all events and a discounted rate of admission to them. Membership is a minimum of £10.00 per person per annum. Membership forms can be found on the Friends' website

<http://friendsofstmarys.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Friends-of-St-Marys-membership-and-standing-order.pdf>

If Shakespeare had written the Hokey Pokey

O proud left foot, that ventures quick within
Then soon upon a backward journey lithe.
Anon, once more the gesture, then begin;
Command sinistral pedestal to writhe.
Commence thou then the fervid Hokey-Poke.
A mad gyration, hips in wanton swirl.
To spin! A wide release from heaven's yoke.
Blessed dervish! Surely canst go, girl.
The Hokey, the Poke - - banish now thy doubt
Verily, I say, 'tis what it is all about.



Dates for your diary

November

Tuesday 2nd Sundridge Village Community Land Trust meeting 7.00pm, St Mary's Church, Sundridge or by Zoom. See advertisement for details

Wednesday 10th Talk by John Bailey
St Mary's Church, Sundridge, 7.00.
See advertisement for details

Wednesday 10th Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society AGM 8pm at Ide Hill Village Hall

Saturday 13th Cheese and Wine tasting evening
Sundridge Village Hall, 7.30pm. A Fundridge event.
See advertisement for details

Saturday 28th Carols at the White Horse
4.30pm following the Christingle service at the church.
Father Christmas will be there giving out small goodies for those who are goodies...

December

Wednesday 8th Fundridge Christmas Market
7.00pm, White Horse, Sundridge. If you are interested in having a stall (FOC) contact Fiona on 07722150227

Tuesday 14th Fundridge Seniors' Christmas lunch
A two-course lunch provided courtesy of Fundridge. Further details will follow in the next edition of the Sundridge Village news.

January 2022

Thursday 20th January Friends' party
St Mary's Church, Sundridge, details in next month's Sundridge Village News

Cheese and Wine Tasting 'Remembrance'

Saturday 13th November

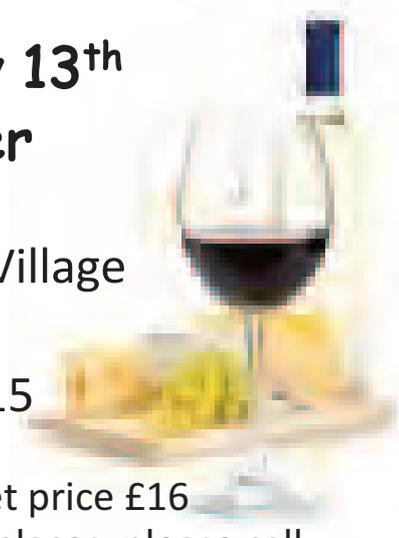
Sundridge Village Hall

7pm for 7.15

Ticket price £16

**To reserve places, please call
Fiona on 07722150227**

Another community event brought to you by 'Fundridge': A group of villagers who believe in "Friendship, a better community and bringing neighbours together.



Red House

Located in Bexleyheath, SE London, Red House is one of the first examples of Arts and Crafts architecture. It was built for William Morris and his new wife Jane Burden in 1860. It was designed by Philip Webb, a student of George Edmund Street, Victoria Gothic revivalist, to whom Morris was also briefly articulated.



It was originally intended that Red House be the home of a romantic community of artists and craftsmen, but this was short-lived. The challenge of furnishing the house later inspired Morris and his Pre-Raphaelite friends to found the design firm Morris and Co which became the flagship of what became known as the Arts and Crafts movement.

Morris was only 25 when he married Jane and commissioned Red House. Finest materials were used, local red bricks, and it was a very costly project – about £4,000 which in 1860 was a considerable sum. However, Morris came from a wealthy background, his father a highly successful City broker having left him an annuity of £900 from the age of 21.



In 1861 Morris and like-minded friends founded Morris, Marshall, Faulkner and Co with premises in Red Lion Square, London. The wide prospectus covered mural decoration, carving, stained glass, metal work and furniture. Known as The Firm, one of their first commissions was with the South Kensington Museum (now known as the V and A) decorating two rooms, still to be seen today in the tearoom. Morris commuted daily from Red House (pony and trap and rail) but, after 5 years, this became too much and was affecting his health. Very reluctantly he decided to sell his beloved Red House, never to return.

In 1860 Morris purchased land in the hamlet of Upton, about 2 acres with an orchard. There was one other house

nearby and a few cottages; Bexleyheath came later. However, in 1952 the house was jointly purchased by two families, the Toms and the Hollambys, for the sum of £3,500, eventually to be owned solely by the Hollambys. In 2003 it was acquired by the National Trust. It is amazing that, after 160 years and 11 changes in ownership, Red House is in such good order.

All subsequent owners, following Morris's departure in 1865, appreciated the architectural significance of Red House and, apart from the addition of one circular window, nothing has been changed. In a ground floor passageway, stained glass designed by Philip Webb and Edward Burne-Jones can be seen; the drawing room on the first floor has wall paintings, ceiling design and an imposing fireplace and in the bedroom is a mural only recently revealed after removal of a built-in wardrobe.



Throughout the house there is much to be seen. At present the National Trust opens the house to visitors on pre-booked tours on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Bank Holidays.



Red House Gardens

William Morris and his architect Philip Webb put a lot of thought into the design of the Red House Garden. They wanted it to 'clothe the house', softening the effect of the startling red brick. Morris thought of the house and garden as one and, as such, introduced the concept of 'garden rooms', dividing the garden into a series of small enclosures surrounded by wattle fencing. The project to reinstate one of these rooms – the "Snug" - marks the start of a longer-term ambition to bring back lost design elements and recapture the feel of William Morris's

original garden. The new space is enclosed with traditional hazel and hawthorn and complemented by traditional cottage plants like Shasta daisies, columbines, honeysuckle, irises, peonies, jasmine and mock orange.

Hard landscaping features for the garden include four specially commissioned wooden seats from Scottish craftsman Angus Ross, with distinctive two-metre-high arches, designed to echo the house's medieval-inspired architecture and to sit harmoniously alongside the hand-woven wattle.



Sevenoaks Music Club

The Sevenoaks Music Club is one of Sevenoaks' gems. Founded in 1933 by Ethel Breathing to arrange for professional musicians to come and play chamber music in Sevenoaks, it is now in its 88th season and continues to attract major performers to come and delight the audience in Sevenoaks.

The majority of the artists are young, internationally acclaimed musicians who will have appeared, not only in concert halls throughout the UK and often around the world, but also on classical radio channels such as Radio 3 and Classic FM.

The Committee seeks to achieve a broad mix, solo piano, string trios and quartets and mixed groups such as the flute, viola and harp that played for the club last season, and occasionally singers.

Each concert is accompanied by a beautifully written and comprehensive programme which is very informative and free.

The season runs from September to April and consists of 7 concerts. The current cost of membership, which

includes all of the concerts, is £70.00 which equates to just £10.00 per concert, excellent value for money, and there are reduced prices for students. Wonderful musicians playing at Walthamstow Hall, usually in the Ship Theatre, which has a good stage, good heating, comfortable seating in the round and, importantly, excellent acoustics - and all at a sensible price!

It is possible to purchase tickets for individual events if there is space, the price can vary but is generally £18.00 per concert. Subscribing to the seven-concert season is less than the cost of four concerts bought individually. The very popular events can be well attended by the members, leaving little or no space for guests.

Membership to the club is via their website: https://www.sevenoaksmusicclub.org.uk/page-tickets_membership_new.html or by application to the Membership Secretary, Eaves, Solefields Road, Sevenoaks TN13 1PF

In case of queries please email info@sevenoaksmusicclub.org.uk or call 01732 464218

The Friends of St Marys Church, Sundridge invite you to
The Life of your Church Architect

an illustrated talk by John Bailey BA, B.Arch, RIBA, AABC

7.00pm Wednesday 10th November 2021 at St Marys Church Sundridge

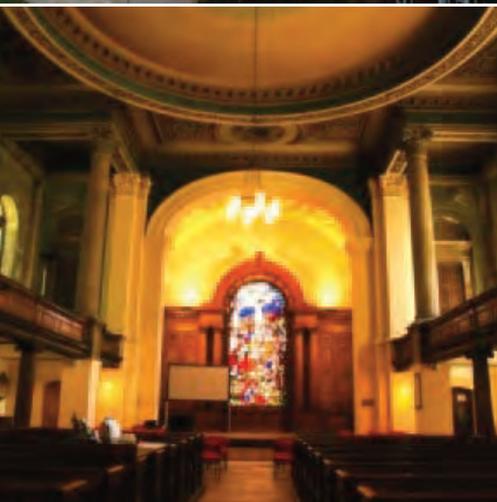
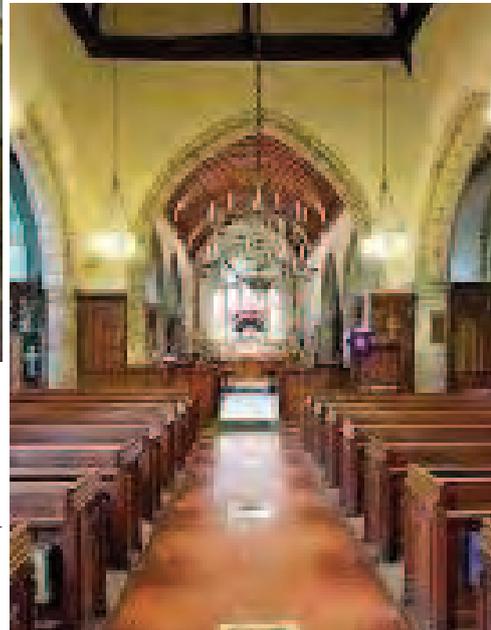
John has recently been involved with the repair of the Rochester Cathedral roof and vault and at St Anne's, Limehouse. As well as being an architect, a director and partner at Thomas Ford and Partners, a respected architectural practice, he is also an Accredited Architect in historic Building Conservation, Surveyor of the Fabric for Rochester, Guildford and Wakefield Cathedrals, an Inspecting Architect to many parish churches, a past president of the Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors



Association, a speaker and former Chairman of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, He is a three times winner of the King of Prussia's Gold Medal for the repair of historic churches. He has spent many hours in a boat inspecting the walls of Bodiam Castle and has also worked at The Tower of London, Windsor Castle and Ypres Tower in Rye. He is a keen historian and has a wealth of knowledge of and keen personal interest in events and historic buildings.

John's previous talk about the secrets of St Marys architecture and "Girl Power", the influence of the Princesses, Queens and Dowager Queens of England throughout time, were brilliant evenings full of fascinating insights and great humour. Informative and fun!

We hope you can join us for what is certain to be a wonderful evening.



Tickets

£6.00 to members, non members £8.00
available in advance from:-

Richard Dunckley, White Sheiling,
Dry Hill Lane, Sundridge, Sevenoaks TN14 6AA
email: richarddunckley@hotmail.com
telephone: 01959 563421 or on the door.
Light refreshments will be served after the talk.

Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society

In October, members of the Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society enjoyed an entertaining “Evening with Jean Griffin” – a lively mix of tales from Jean’s life in gardening and on radio, as well as lots of tips and advice and answers to members’ questions.

Jean trained at Studley Horticultural and Agricultural College for Women in Warwickshire and went on to work for a commercial nursery propagating trees and shrubs. She then turned down a job offer at a garden centre on the advice of a colleague who said that garden centres “would never take off”. This insight is on a par with my own father’s opinion in 1960 that The Beatles were “just a flash in the pan”. How wrong they both were! Instead, Jean accepted an opportunity to train for two years at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, where she met her husband.

She went on to have a fascinating career in further education with City and Guilds and at Plumpton and Hadlow colleges and her work included visits to some interesting places, including Kalamata in Greece and Madeira, where she led an eventful gardening tour for people with special educational needs.

Jean fell into radio simply by being in the right place at the right time (and, importantly, being able to identify an unusual plant) and has gone on to regularly present ‘Sunday Gardening’ on BBC Radio Kent which you can tune into every Sunday from 10am til 2pm. Members of the public are invited to call in with their questions and often send in pictures of plants to be identified, and Jean is usually able to help and provide expert advice. However,

even the expert is sometimes flummoxed, as in the case where one male listener called in to explain how he had ground up some Viagra pills, diluted them in water and poured the solution over his runner beans from up a ladder. Not knowing quite what he expected to achieve, Jean cheekily asked if he knew that runner beans were supposed to grow hanging down.....

So, after providing us with some interesting tales about her varied career, we got down to the important stuff.....what lessons could we learn from Jean’s gardening expertise? We covered a wide range of topics too numerous to mention but here are a few tips that might be of interest to the gardeners in our wider community.

Peat-free gardening is on everyone’s radar, but peat-free compost doesn’t hold water as well as traditional compost. Jean’s advice? Use cheap peat-free compost, mix it with John Innes No. 2 or 3 and sparingly add gel crystals to hold water. This may not suit those who want to go completely peat-free as John Innes compost does include peat but, by mixing it with a peat-free compost, the amount of peat is reduced.

Slugs uuuurrrggghhh! Jean recommended Slug Gone wool pellets – a natural, chemical-free product that deters slugs from chomping through your hostas because the

wool fibres are an irritant to the slugs and also draw moisture out of the slug’s foot. One of our members also recommended Strulch, a straw mulch which reduces weed growth, enriches the soil AND deters slugs. There are two options to try next spring.

Snails – in my garden, snails have been known to fly. Not into next door’s veg patch but into the deep ditch at the end of my own garden. Apparently, I’m wasting my time as snails are like homing pigeons and will always come back to the exact area in which they were last feeding. Perhaps I should try Slug Gone or Strulch next year.

Geraniums – if you’ve got one that is still blooming well, take it indoors to a sunny conservatory or windowsill and enjoy its flowers all winter long. Keep it fairly dry and take cuttings in the spring when new growth starts.

Black fly – if you get infestations of these lovely critters on the new growth of your veggies in spring and summer, try Jean’s recipe for garlic spray:

- Take a whole garlic bulb and whiz it up in a food processor with 1 tbsp of good quality washing up liquid
- Add 1 tbsp of sunflower or rapeseed oil and whiz with 1L of warm water
- Dilute the mix with 7 parts water to 3 parts garlic mix and spray

Carrot fly – when thinning out, pop the thinned-out roots into a bag rather than leaving them on the soil, as the carrot fly will smell them a mile off (literally from a mile away, according to Jean). Growing carrots in pots raised off the ground will also help as carrot flies fly at a low level.

Soil structure is very important in water retention – if you want to reduce watering your veg patch or greenhouse, improve soil structure by digging in well-rotted manure in the autumn.

For more gardening tales, tips and advice, tune into ‘Sunday Gardening’ where you can enjoy “A Morning with Jean Griffin”.

The next Gardening Society meeting will be our AGM on 10th November at 8pm at Ide Hill Village Hall. A talk by Tessa Allen followed by refreshments will bring our gardening year to a close, so we hope to see as many members as possible.

Any members wishing to join the Committee, please contact Carol Edmunds to find out more – there are three rôles that need filling, so we hope to get some new volunteers.

If you are interested in joining the Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society, please email:- juliaricci@rocketmail.com

Julia Ricci



Little Amal

Crowds flocked to the streets in the city centre of Canterbury recently to welcome little Amal, who is anything but little, measuring 11' 6" tall. She is travelling 8,000km across eight countries, beginning at the Syrian border, as part of a project called 'The Walk' which aims to shine a light on the stories of millions of child refugees. Each place that she travels through is welcoming her with a cultural event staged by local artists.



In Canterbury, she towered over crowds as she walked the streets. She visited Canterbury Cathedral and it was very moving to see the puppeteers move Amal into position so that she could clasp the hands of the Dean, the Very Revd Dr Robert Willis.

Amal was created by the Handspring Puppet Company – famous for the life-sized animal puppets created for the play 'War Horse'. Little Amal's story began in Good Chance Theatre's award-winning play 'The Jungle'. The production was based on the stories Good Chance's founders encountered when they created their first Theatre of Hope in the 2015 Calais refugee camp. Little Amal appeared as a character in 'The Jungle' who represented the hundreds of unaccompanied minors in the Calais camp who were separated from their families. Following the success of 'The Jungle', which contributed to a global conversation about refugees and shared humanity, Good Chance felt Little Amal's story had so much more to say.

From Canterbury she will journey to London and Oxford, finishing her epic journey in Manchester on November 3rd.

It is hoped that Little Amal's journey will help us respect and understand the reasons why people are often forced or required to journey from their homelands. The plight of refugees concerns us all and we can, and should, support them through gestures of welcome and hospitality.

Your Village, Your Future



You are invited to a public meeting of the **Sundridge Village Community Land Trust**

In person at
St Mary's Church Sundridge
Tuesday, 2nd November 7pm

or by Zoom link, details on our website
www.sundridge.org

Please become a CLT Member by joining via the website or at the meeting

As we expect the meeting to be well attended it is requested that masks are worn

The December/January edition

If you have any information for the "Dates for your Diary" section or an article that you'd like included in the next edition, please email by

Tuesday 23rd November to:-
sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com

And finally . . .

Seen in a recent Church Times



Joan preferred it when people brought fruit and vegetables for the harvest festival