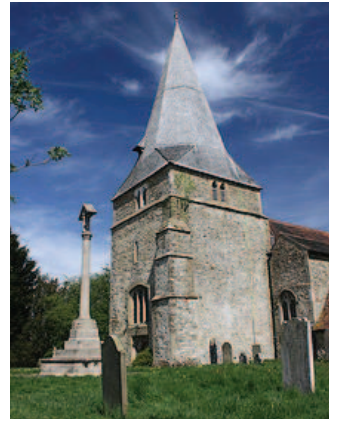


The Sundridge Village News

September 2022

In this issue we hear about the fun that was had at Funstock on Coronation Gardens and the Fundridge Boot Fair, plus the fun that was had at Forest Church, the forthcoming Ride and Stride, the two exciting events to be held at Rochester Cathedral and the Sevenoaks Literary Festival. There are updates from Sundridge and Brasted Primary School and the Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society and, of course, dates for your diary.



Parish Services for September 2022

Sunday 4th

09.15 Toys Hill Morning Worship
10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion
16.00 Forest Church Toys Hill Chapel

Sunday 11th

10.30 Ide Hill Holy Communion

Sunday 18th

10.30 Sundridge Harvest Festival

Sunday 25th

10.30 Ide Hill Harvest Festival

Rector

Rev Pam Davies

Churchwarden

Althea Chapman

email: althea.chapman@outlook.com

Ride and Stride 10th September 2022



For those who have not heard about it before, there is an annual "Ride and Stride" event organised across many counties which is part of a national effort to raise funds for the preservation of churches in the UK - and locally, of course, here in Kent. This is such a valuable support for our churches in these financially challenging times.

This year, the day is Saturday 10th September. It can be a wonderful healthy day out for young and old who wish to visit some of our beautiful local churches and, at the same time, perhaps raise a bit of sponsorship for this excellent cause. Many churches provide refreshments and snacks as well as the opportunity to have a look around, or just simply a chat or opportunity to reflect on the amazing heritage we have with so many beautiful churches.

The day is very family friendly and all ages are welcome. It can also be on foot for those who prefer. Indeed, 2 years ago Ide Hill was visited by a large group of walkers from Riverhead. We have also had a wonderful pair of riders on horseback! Anything goes!

I am hoping that there will be a small group starting in Ide Hill at 10.00 on Saturday 10th September so, if you are interested, do put the date in your diary. Any questions please feel free to contact me at home by phone or by email if you want to hear more or obtain a sponsorship form.

There is lots of information and forms also available from www.kentrideandstride.co.uk

Neil Arnott, Ide Hill 01732 750221 or 07973 216044
neil.d.arnott@gmail.com

Heritage Open Days 2022

9th - 18th September

This is England's largest festival of history and culture, celebrated across the country. St Mary's Church will be open throughout this period from 10.00 until 5.00pm and there is a historic churchyard trail for you to follow - maps and questions can be found on the table in the Tower Room.

Forest Church in Toys Hill July

Our theme for the service was about our doubts and fears and giving God our troubles. We celebrated the feast of Thomas the Apostle, remembering that he doubted the resurrection of Jesus and demanded proof of the wounds from the crucifixion.

We began with a wacky song which caused some hilarity and which has now been voted as the song to begin all Forest Church services so, if you want to hear what it is, you'll have to join us!

We listened to a short reading about Thomas and the fact that he wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came back. He didn't believe that this could have happened and wanted proof of the nail marks. The next time Jesus came, Thomas was with the disciples and he saw the marks in Jesus's hands and told Thomas to stop doubting

and believe. Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

We created a labyrinth from twigs and, after writing our worries and blessings on laurel leaves, walked slowly round the labyrinth, thinking about our worries and fears until the middle was reached. We then placed the leaf in the basket in the middle of the labyrinth and walked away, leaving our worries to the Lord.

Refreshments were served by Jan and we ended the session in beautiful sunshine with a blessing.

Our next Forest church is on September 3rd at 4.00pm and will once again be at Toys Hill. Do join us!

The Forest Church Team



Ide Hill Flower Festival

The Ide Hill Flower Festival took place over the August Bank Holiday weekend and the Flower Team from Sundridge was invited to contribute to the theme of the Queen's Jubilee.

The design represents The Queen, Patron of the RHS, with floral arrangements, a garden and a mock-up of the design at this year's Chelsea Flower Show. Huge thanks to Maggie, Julia and Alison for their creative designs.

Beryl Norman



FUNSTOCK (2)

Fabulous, fantastic, fast, fervent, festive, friendly, fun loving

Rather than write the day, I thought voices from the village could write this article. With over 350 people attending, it was wonderful to deliver on our reason for being:

**Fundridge Sundridge: A group of villagers who believe in
“Friendship, a better community and bringing neighbours together”**

An amazing day, but less about us, more about what people thought of the event...

“A big shout out to you guys for yesterday – what a brilliant day!”

“Sundridge doesn’t usually feel like a village, driving through it, but with this event, it’s more so than many. It’s great, wonderful to have that kind of spirit, community.” (One of the band’s comments)

“This is the best venue that I sing at. The atmosphere, villagers and setting are simply fantastic.”

“A great day and such fun. Danced the night away with our lovely village.”

“This is amazing! We’ve been in the village for 2 weeks and already we’ve met and spoken to more people than we did in 30 years in Crystal Palace!”

“Thank you all for such a fantastic afternoon/evening. What an amazing village we live in.”

“So well organised with re-cycling bins marked – you couldn’t go wrong” (Personally I loved this one as I’m a little OCD too)

“2 singers and 2 bands that had the right register at the right time throughout the day. Whoever planned that had insight.”

“Friendly smiling faces – a great village event and a lovely opportunity to catch up with friends and while away the hours”

“Great play equipment for the kids throughout the afternoon.”

“The bouncy castle was a result”

“Fantastic pizzas from Federicci.”

“The bar prices were very reasonable, perhaps encouraging us to drink more!”

“The music was just right throughout the afternoon and evening. I felt I was at an event – I was, but without the exorbitant festival prices!”

“You could hardly get on the dance floor at one stage!”

“The Fundridge team worked so hard before, during and after the event. It takes so much planning to put something like this on. I walked through Coronation Gardens on the following morning and there was no litter anywhere. A huge thank you to Fundridge for bringing our village together for this now annual event and definitely putting it on the map. Here’s to Funstock (3) in 2023”





To those who feel left out as they weren't there, make a note in your diary for next year, Sunday, August Bank Holiday, 2023. The Funstock 3, here we go...

Within Fundridge it's always a team effort. Many thanks to all who helped in so many ways. I won't name everyone

personally apart from Vikki A, who came up with the idea some years ago (and let it fly)!, and leads the teams incredibly well.

Anyone who grafted over the last few days, SO many thanks. See what your grafting did? A big hand to you all.

With much love from the Fundridge Sundridge Team

News from Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School

Greetings from Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School!

We were so busy at the end of last term with sports events, class trips, welcome sessions for our new children and leavers' events for the Year 6. It was wonderful! The sun shone (too much sometimes!) and it almost felt 'normal', although in fact several staff and children were ill with COVID towards the end of term.

Our Year 5 and 6 children took part in the Hever Triathlon and Castle Activity day which was great fun. The children tackled the triathlon of running, cycling and swimming plus falconry, archery and, of course, the water maze!

Our older children also took part in the District Sports event which returned, as with many other events, after a two-year COVID absence. They competed in all manner of individual events and team races, and they were all amazing!

We held our own sports morning, too. The children were all brilliant. They were so speedy and enthusiastic - it was wonderful to see such sportsmanship, team skills and endurance as it was a hot, hot, hot day!

STEM week (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) was fun! Owl class made their own constellations out of cardboard boxes and, using a dark room and a torch, they created their own version of the night sky. The finale of their week was to create the biggest and strongest structure they could using just marshmallows and wooden skewers - which proved to be a lot more difficult than expected!

End of year trips were popular with children and staff, too. Hedgehog class enjoyed a fabulous day at the Brighton Sea Life Centre. They finished the day with an



ice cream on the beach, although Oliver had to have two ice creams as a cheeky seagull stole the first one!

Owl and Squirrel classes both visited Chartwell House and Fox class travelled to London to visit the British



Museum. Squirrel class also enjoyed a trip to Godstone Farm Park which is a firm favourite with us. Lots to see and do, plenty of time to play and, of course, ice creams available!

And in other news, as an end of term challenge, our oldest children started a business enterprise! They put their learning about profit and loss into a real-life context by forming companies, coming up with business ideas and then selling their goods and ideas to the children at school in the hopes of making a profit, with all monies raised going towards the purchase of resources for the school. This was the Fiver Challenge, as each group was given £5 to start their business. They made and sold ice lollies, decorated biscuits and - the firm favourite - one of the Year 6 allowing everyone else to throw wet sponges at



him! There were awards for best original idea, best teamwork, biggest profit and best salesperson and as a group they raised a massive £88! We were so proud! It was a fitting end to a great year for our Year 6 cohort.

In July we also set up a 'Stay and Play' group for pre-schoolers and their carers which runs on Wednesday mornings, 9.00am to 10.00am, in the school hall. All babies, toddlers, mums, dads, grandparents and carers are welcome to join us for craft/messy play, toys and stories and, of course, a cup of tea and biscuit or two.

Finally, following a year of collaboration with Kemsing Primary School, their governing body and a public consultation, we have the go ahead officially to federate with Kemsing, which will take effect on 1st September 2022. The schools will, of course, remain unique and independent but will move forward with a shared governing body, sharing resources and training under the leadership of Tom Hardwick who has been Headteacher at Sundridge & Brasted since February 2020.

We are all very much looking forward to our next academic year, which looks to be just as busy as last year. We'll let you know!

As always, we send our very best wishes to the whole community.

Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School

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.

Telephone: 01959 562694

email: office@sundridge.kent.sch.uk www.sundridge.kent.sch.uk

Forthcoming events at Rochester Cathedral

The James Taylor Quartet
Friday 30th September 19:30 - 21:45



The James Taylor Quartet (or JTQ) are a British four-piece jazz funk band, who have become renowned for their live performances. They were formed in 1987 by Hammond organ player James Taylor following the break-up of his former band, The Prisoners, in the wake of Stiff Records' bankruptcy. The current line-up is James Taylor (Keyboards and Orchestration), Mark Cox (guitar), Andrew McKinney (bass) and Pat Illingworth (drums), although recordings and live performances usually feature vocalist Yvonne Yanney. James Taylor says, "I have adored the Cathedral since I was a small child, the calm serene feel of the place, the altered sense of wonder I still get every time I walk through those massive ancient doors. Now as an adult I feel privileged to be able to contribute to the place, making music, helping with the gardens and sitting in Evensong feeling renewed and contained. I've spent forty years touring all over with my music and I can honestly say, with hand on heart, this is simply the most beautiful concert venue in the world. I'm so happy and excited to bring my band here again, particularly after the difficult covid years and to look now to a brighter future for the cathedral and the people of Rochester."

For the ticket prices and booking information visit: <https://www.rochestercathedral.org/jtq-ticket-booking-information>

Life
4th - 8th October 2022



Experience the beauty of Planet Earth - journey through earth, sea and sky from sunrise to sunset with a spectacular world themed son-et-lumiere.

Suitable for all ages, this stunning installation sees the inside of the Cathedral transformed into a visual journey to reflect upon life on today's planet in a single 24-hour period. Witness the sun, the oceans and the clouds, as you move throughout the building.

The show has been created by award winning artistic collaboration 'Luxmuralis', Peter Walker Sculptor and David Harper Composer. Luxmuralis previously brought the sell-out 'Space Voyage' to Rochester Cathedral in 2021.

The show will take place on the evenings of the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th October. Tickets are now on sale and advance booking is highly recommended. The previous lightshow by Luxmuralis sold out well in advance of the event.

For the ticket prices and booking information visit: <https://www.rochestercathedral.org/life-booking-information>

Fundridge Car boot sale

On one of the many beautiful days we've experienced this summer, Fundridge held their first of many car boot sales. The sellers turned up at 9am on Saturday July 16th and the buyers started to arrive shortly afterwards. There were some great bargains to be had and the feedback we had was very positive. As a result we shall hold another one in the Autumn - so start hoarding now!



Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society

Members enjoyed a convivial couple of months with the Summer Social at the Village Hall in July followed by an Afternoon Tea at The Old Police House in August.



The Committee provided a delicious selection of home-made savoury bites to accompany wine and chatter at the Summer Social, and many brought a vase of garden flowers to enter into the informal show class. There was a wonderful selection of blooms, from large blousy



hydrangeas to delicate, fragrant sweet peas, from umbelliferous ammi to spikey teasels. Everyone was invited to vote for their favourite and the winner was a glorious posy of richly-coloured dahlias, bright orange calendulas and white ammi, perfectly blended with softer shades of achillea and a few poppy seed heads for shape and form. A lovely time was had by all.



In August, we were welcomed into the delightful garden at The Old Police House in Ide Hill by Gardening Society members, Jo and Tony King. The garden was looking amazing, despite weeks and weeks of dry weather. Many flowers were still in bloom thanks to regular dead-heading and feeding, and everything looked to be thriving and loving the hot sunny days. Jo and Tony have created a beautiful garden which incorporates a veggie patch, circular lawn and generous borders, as well as plenty of inviting places to sit and enjoy some sun or shade and the lovely views of the garden and surrounding countryside. Grateful thanks go to everyone involved in making both events such a success, and especially to Jo and Tony for all the hard work involved in getting their garden and home ready for visitors and to everyone who made nibbles and cakes for both occasions.

There is a change of programme for our September meeting. The planned trip to Wisley has been cancelled and, instead, we will meet on Wednesday 14th September 2022 at Ide Hill Village Hall for a talk entitled "The History of Sissinghurst Castle Garden" by Stephen Harmer. Stephen is Head Gardener at Tonbridge School



and a lecturer and course manager at Hadlow College. His main interest and specialism is in garden history and he is an excellent speaker, so this should be a very interesting evening. Please join us for refreshments at 7.30pm with the talk starting at 8.00pm.



If you would like to join or wish to know more about the Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society, please contact Julia Ricci on 07818 236566 or email juliaricci@rocketmail.com.

Sevenoaks Literary Festival

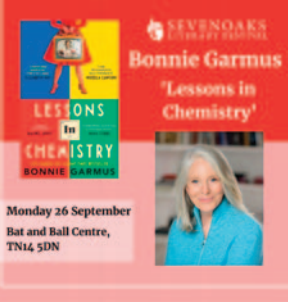


Every year Sevenoaks is treated to a literary delight that is the Sevenoaks Literary Festival where authors talk about their books and meet their audience. Tickets via: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/sevenoaks-literary-festival-2022>

Bonnie Garmus

Monday 26 September, 7.30pm

Bonnie Garmus is the author of the incredible *Lessons in Chemistry*, the bestselling debut novel of 2022 and No. 1 Sunday Times Bestseller. Unconventional and uncompromising, *Lessons in Chemistry* is as daring as it is delightfully funny.



Lucy Ward

Tuesday 27 September, 7.30pm

Writer and journalist Lucy Ward will be discussing her acclaimed account of Catherine the Great's inoculation against smallpox, *The Empress and the English Doctor*.



Elodie Harper and Jennifer Saint

Wednesday 28 September, 7.30pm

For this special event we will be joined by two bestselling authors. Elodie Harper is the author of *The Wolf Den* trilogy, novels set in Pompeii's lupanar that reimagine the lives of women who have long been overlooked. Jennifer Saint is the author of *Ariadne* and *Elektra*, both books that give a voice to the forgotten

women of famous Greek myths.



Felix White

Thursday 29 September, 7.30pm

Broadcaster, musician, and cricket podcaster Felix White will be talking about his Sunday Times bestselling memoir, *It's Always Summer Somewhere* – a funny, heart-breaking and endlessly engaging love letter to the game of cricket



Kat Farmer, Christie Watson, Marianne Jones

Thursday 29 September, 7.30pm

Take a night off from the kids, the ageing parents and the relentless to do list and join us as we celebrate women and embrace the messy magic of menopause and midlife.



Hannah Lowe

Friday 30 September, 7.30pm

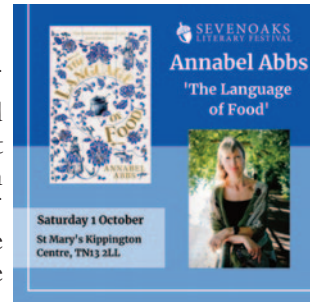
The poet, memoirist and academic, Hannah Lowe will be talking about her latest book, *The Kids*. This is a Poetry Book Society 'Choice' for Autumn and it won both the Costa Poetry Award and the Costa Book of the Year, 2021.



The Literary Tea - Annabel Abbs

Saturday 1 October, 2.30pm

Annabel Abbs has reimagined the life of Eliza Acton, whose recipes, first published in 1845, inspired many of our greatest cookery writers, including Elizabeth David & Delia Smith. *The Language of Food* is a feast of a novel that explores the enduring struggle for female freedom, the complexities of friendship and the creativity and quiet joy of cooking.



Alan Johnson

Wednesday 5 October, 7.30pm

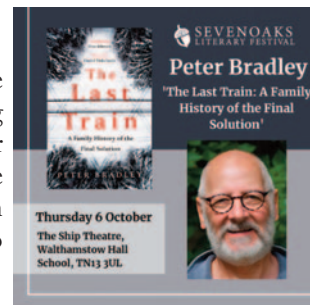
British politician, Labour MP and author Alan Johnson served as Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, Home Secretary and Secretary of State for Health. His latest novel 'One of our Ministers is Missing' is a captivating thriller, thrown into motion when a government minister in the Foreign Office vanishes into thin air.



Peter Bradley

Thursday 6 October, 7.30pm

The Last Train: A Family History of the Final Solution is a profoundly moving and deeply intimate account of Peter Bradley's own family's fate during the Holocaust. It follows their journey from Germany to Latvia and, ultimately, to Britain.



Leif Bersweden & Ben Dark

Saturday 8 October, 2pm

Ben Dark, author of the Telegraph's 'Best gardening book of 2022', *The Grove* and Leif Bersweden, author of *Where the Wildflowers Grow* ('An extraordinary book', Isabel Hardman), explore why plants matter – be they in your garden or an ancient meadow.



Susannah Constantine

Sunday 9 October, 2.30pm

Susannah Constantine is a novelist, journalist, broadcaster and podcaster with over 25 years experience in the media. That she made her name as a 'style guru' from *What Not to Wear*, is actually the least interesting thing about her. Her memoir, *Ready for Absolutely Nothing*, is brimming with extraordinary anecdotes and gobsmacking honesty.



Ide Hill Singers Community Choir – Sing for Christmas



Christmas Tree Festival concert 2021

The Ide Hill Singers have been invited to sing at this year's Christmas Tree Festival Concert on 3rd December. To prepare ourselves for this momentous occasion we will be holding an Open Evening for new and returning singers on Friday 9th September in the Village Hall starting at 7.30 pm. Do come along for an opportunity to sing and find out what we intend to learn for the concert.

We always welcome new singers, men and women aged over 18 years old. You will never be asked to sing on your own, there are no auditions and, even if you think you can't sing or have been told you can't sing, come and join us anyway to give it a try.

You do not need to live in Ide Hill to join the group.

If you would like more information, please email me.

I look forward to seeing you.

Anne Beasley

Dates for your diary

Sunday 4th September, Forest Church

4pm - Toys Hill Chapel Ground

Sunday 10th September, Ride and Stride

See article for further details

Heritage Open Days

9th – 18th September

Saturday 3rd September Toys Hill Show

2.30 at the Village Hall

Wednesday 14th September Gardening Society talk

8.00pm Ide Hill Village Hall. See article for details

Monday 26th September - 9th October

Sevenoaks Literary Festival. See article for details

Friday 30th September The James Taylor Quartet

19:30 - 21:45 Rochester Cathedral, See article for details

Sunday 2nd October, Forest Church

4pm - Toys Hill Chapel Ground

Friday 4th - 8th October Life light show

Evenings at Rochester Cathedral. See article for details

Sunday 6th November, Forest Church

3pm - Toys Hill Chapel Ground

Forest Church News

Sunday 4th September 4.00pm - Toys Hill Chapel

Sunday 2nd October 4.00pm - Toys Hill Chapel

Sunday 6th November **3.00pm** - Toys Hill Chapel

Worship consists of a simple service with an activity for children lasting about 30 minutes. Jane Rosam, a licensed Lay Reader, leads the worship. Jane has led outdoor services including Forest Church at Hever.

All are welcome whatever your age, however noisy or wriggly! Wear suitable outdoor clothing and stay for refreshments afterwards. Please come along and see what it is like to worship outside in nature.

So far, we have made fishes from twigs, a Leviathan from recycled materials, written prayers on leaves and walked through a labyrinth.



For more details, please contact

Diana Pickard dipickard2@aol.com

Barbara Lockey hixmix@btopenworld.com

The October 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

Friday 23rd September to:-

editor@sundridgevillagenews.co.uk

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sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com

And finally . . .

We should always be careful when thinking about the things that we would wish for. A Genie appeared to one lucky man and told him he had been granted a wish, anything he wanted would be his. He said he wanted to be "happy". The wish was granted, he is now Happy, he works in a mine, his best friend is Snow White and he shares a house with Bashful, Doc, Dopey, Grumpy, Sleepy and Sneezy.