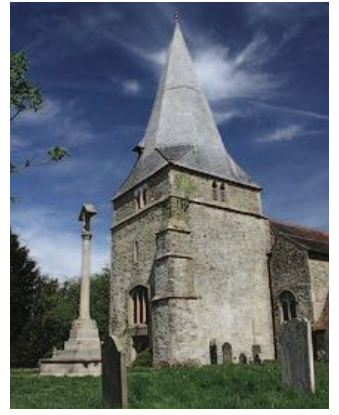


The Sundridge Village News

June 2023

In this issue we hear the latest news from Forest Church, Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School, the Parish Council, and Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society. There are wonderful reports and pictures about the contribution made to the Coronation celebrations by the Flower Team, the Bellingers and the Friends of St Mary's, and, of course, dates for your diary!



Parish Services for June

Sunday 4th Trinity Sunday

- 09.15 Toys Hill Holy Communion
led by Rev Adie McCall
- 10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion
led by Rev Adie McCall

Sunday 11th

- 10.30 Open Air Service on the Green at Ide Hill
Worship on the Green with Forest Church at Ide Hill
led by Rev Lynette Leithead

Bring a chair, a rug, a sunshade, whatever is appropriate for the weather! Refreshments will be served.

Refreshments are served after the Sunday Services giving time for fellowship and friendship

Churchwarden Althea Chapman email: althea.chapman@outlook.com

Sunday 18th

- Declaration of Assent by Rev Lynette Leithead**
- 10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion
led by Rev Canon Christopher Dench.
Refreshments will be served after the service.
Come and support Rev Lynette Leithead our Priest-in-Charge

Sunday 25th

- 10.30 Ide Hill All Age Worship
led by Rev Angela Baker and Ruth Barrow

Forest Church joins in the Coronation

Forest Church joined in the celebrations at Sundridge Church to mark the Coronation of King Charles III. Crowns were crafted from gathered flora around the churchyard and paraded down the aisle. Some delicious refreshments were served by the Friends of St Mary's.

Forest Church will be joining in the Open Air Service at Ide Hill on June 11th at 10.30. The service will be led by Rev Lynette Leithead and the Forest Church Team are planning some surprises of a woolly kind, so bring a chair or a rug, come with an open mind and a willing heart to join in what will be a very special service.

Looking ahead, Forest Church will be celebrating its first year by having a party on the triangle at Toys Hill on July 2nd at 4pm. They will then be taking a well-earned rest before returning to Toys Hill on September 3rd at 4pm. Please come along and join them.

For more information please contact:

Diana Pickard dipickard2@aol.com

Barbara Lockey hixmix@btopenworld.com

The Forest Church Team



Flowers for Coronation Sunday

Red, white and blue flowers in the Church and royal purple flowers in the Tower Room welcomed the congregation to the Sunday Service on Coronation Sunday Morning.

Thanks, as ever, to members of the Flower Team who worked so hard to provide a magnificent display. Thanks also for donations received into the Flower Box Fund - these are really welcome and help to keep the Church looking welcoming throughout the year. If anyone is interested in flower arranging, then please consider joining our small group. You will be very welcome.

Beryl Norman



The Bells at St Mary's rang for the Coronation

On the afternoon of Coronation Day, eight Bellingrers gathered in the tower to ring in celebration of the crowning of King Charles III.

Our ringing included rounds and call changes, and the methods Kings and Queens.

Our ringing continued, on this special weekend, the following day when we rang after the morning service,

whilst the congregation looked at the exhibition of Royals, Rectors and Rogues and enjoyed the delicious food and drink provided by the Friends of St. Mary's.

Anyone interested in bellringing is welcome to come along and have a chat with us on our practice night, at Sundridge church, Thursday evenings at 8pm.

Maggie Amos



Everyone is Invited

The Service to Licence and Install the Rev Lynette Leithead as Interim Priest-in-Charge to the Parishes of Sundridge with Ide Hill and Toys Hill, and Brasted will take place on Tuesday 13th June 2023 at 7.00pm at St Martin's Brasted, Church Road, Brasted TN16 1HZ

*The Licensing will be conducted
by The Bishop of Tonbridge*

*The Installation will be conducted
by The Archdeacon of Tonbridge.*

Everyone is welcome!

On the following Sunday 18 June at 10.30 at St Mary's Sundridge The Rev Lynette Leithead will make her Declaration of Assent within our own Parish.

*This service will be conducted by The Rev Canon Christopher Dench
who is a member of the Bishop's Leadership Team.*

News from Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School

Greetings from Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School

We hope everyone enjoyed the Coronation festivities and the Sundridge street party. We were quite busy ourselves!

We held a 'Design a Coin' competition, asking the children to create a new coin and write an explanation for their design. Lots of children joined in with wonderfully colourful and thoughtful entries. We awarded prize for the best entry per class and an overall winner for the school. All entries were displayed on the front fence for the Coronation weekend. We hope you were able to see them before the rain arrived.



For a celebratory lunch, the children decorated their crowns and the hall was festooned with bunting and flags creating a Coronation party atmosphere.

In our whole school Coronation project we focused on Design & Technology. Our youngest children designed and created a Coronation Tea Party making sandwiches, carrot, cucumber and pepper sticks and fairy cakes fit for a King! Our eldest children designed a cam toy to create a hand-powered mechanism that was used to animate a scene that included King Charles. Hedgehogs designed and created carriages fit for a new King and Owl class designed pneumatic animals. All the children worked hard and their creations were superb!





In other news, we have taken our youngest children to swimming lessons at Kemsing Primary School and will continue next term with the older children. We are so grateful to Mr Debono for helping us transport the children each week and to Chevening for lending us their minibus!

Owl class have been travelling to Sevenoaks School to study drama, led by Sevenoaks staff and students. The children are thoroughly enjoying the sessions which are so creative and a lot of fun!

In Forest School the children have learnt how to source natural ingredients to make Nettle Pakoras, Dandelion Frites and Wild Pesto and how to make bird nests out of sticks, twigs, hay, cotton and moss. Lots of learning and lots of free time to explore and play outdoors!

Our Year 6 children attended 'Safety in Action' which aims to teach the children about some of the dangers they may face as they become more independent. Mr Oates continues to teach ukuleles, our Stay and Play toddler



group is thriving and, as always, we are busy, busy, busy!

We have to say a huge 'thank you' to Reverend Tim for leading our weekly Collective Worship services at St Mary's Church since last September. We know he has been incredibly busy and we are so grateful to him for finding the time to work with us during the past months. We wish him well for the future. He has been wonderful and we do hope he will stay in touch.

We look forward to welcoming Reverend Lynette into our school community next term after she takes up her post as Interim Priest in Charge for Sundridge with Ide Hill and Toys Hill, and Brasted. Lynette has already agreed to lead Collective Worship at St Mary's and, as always, we will be inviting our families to join us for the services.

And continuing our goal to connect further with the community, we have invited a number of local residents to join us on the last day of term. Hedgehog class will be entertaining them and hosting this event. There will definitely be tea and biscuits!

Finally, the Darent Federation (Sundridge & Brasted Primary School and Kemsing Primary School) currently has vacancies for new governors from the local community so, if you might be interested, please do speak to us. The governing body, together with the Executive Headteacher, has overall responsibility for the running of the schools. Governors are our critical friends. No qualifications are required; the most important thing is to have a keen interest in schools. At this particular time, a background or interest in Health & Safety would be particularly beneficial. We look forward to hearing from you!

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

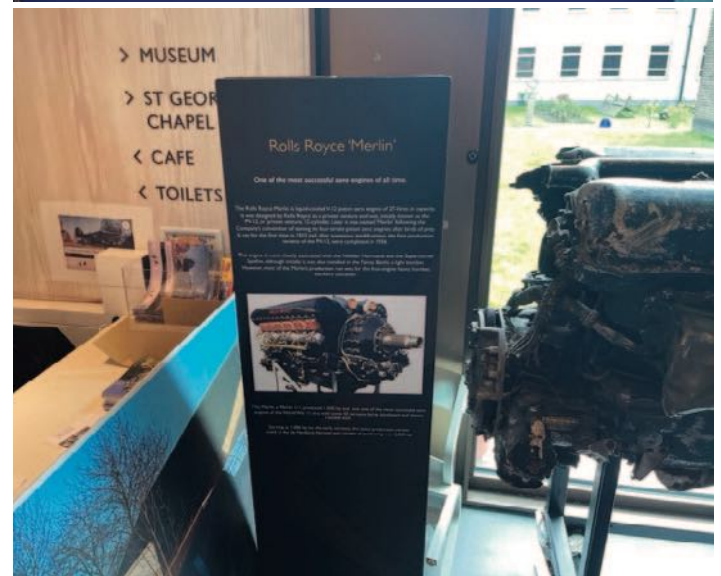
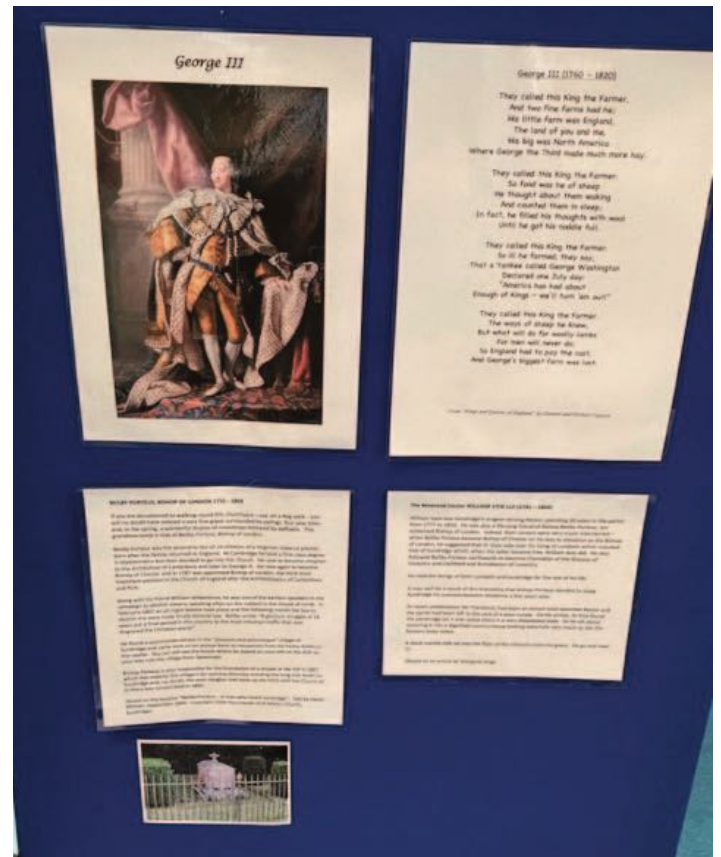
email: office@sundridge.kent.sch.uk www.sundridge.kent.sch.uk



Report from the Friends of St Mary's

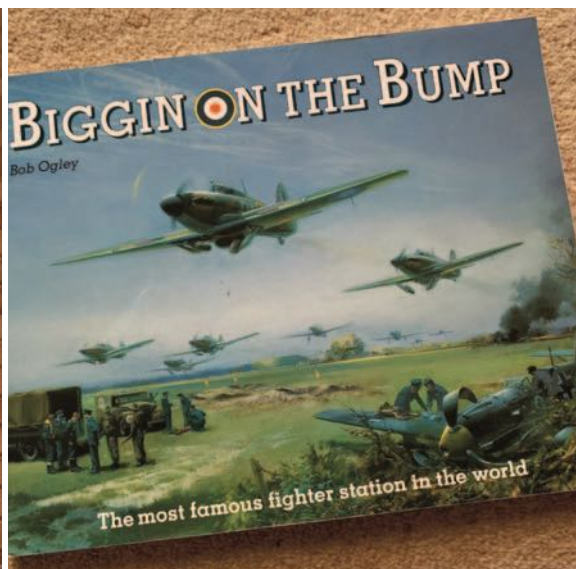
The Friends of St Mary's were delighted to contribute to the Coronation Service at St Mary's Sundridge on Sunday 7th May by providing refreshments. After watching the grandeur of the Coronation ceremony in Westminster Abbey the previous day with its unfamiliar liturgy, it was a perfect contrast to recite the well-known words of the service and sing lustily the patriotic hymns. The Rev Adie McCall welcomed the Forest Church group at the beginning of the service and, in place of a sermon, gave the congregation a chance to reflect on the Coronation with their neighbours in the pews. The Forest Church children returned to the service at the end and delighted us with the crowns they had made from flowers found in the churchyard and with their special song. Refreshments provided and served by the Friends' Committee were enjoyed by an enthusiastic number after the service. There was the opportunity to view the splendid "Royals, Rectors & Rogues" exhibition in the Plender Chapel which had been curated by Barbara Lockey, with assistance from Althea Chapman and additional input from Rita Hutty and Nicki Ludlam. Special mention must also be made of the exquisite flower arrangements in the church and Tower Room, the wonderful bellringing and George's fine accompaniment to our hymn-singing.

A group of The Friends visited Biggin Hill Memorial Museum on 18th May and were given tours of both the museum and the chapel by extremely informative volunteer guides. The extensive display of RAF and other memorabilia in the museum was fascinating and the history of the chapel was quite a revelation. We were also able to view the special exhibition entitled "Women as War-Hidden Heroes of WWII" which featured the work of the Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) and the Women's Auxiliary Airforce (WAAF). Tea and cake at the end of the tours were very welcome – it was warm enough to sit outside and watch the aircraft movements on the runway. We then returned to The Red House, Sundridge where, by kind permission of Nigel and Jane Belle, we had the pleasure of hearing a talk by Bob Ogley entitled "Biggin on the Bump", based on the anecdotes contained in his inspiring book of the same name. Bob drew our attention to the popularity of The White Hart in Brasted as a place where pilots could relax after their sorties and these



gatherings often moved on to The Red House later in the evening as the twin daughters of the house were members of the ATA. Bob is an incredibly gifted speaker and we

were enthralled by his tales. The evening concluded with drinks and nibbles and much chat about what a splendid day it had been.



Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society

Sorry, no photos this month! However, we were all grateful that Tessa Allen kindly stepped in with her talk on “Small Garden Designs, Plants and Maintenance”.

It was lovely to see Tessa again at our May meeting of the Gardening Society and to listen to her talk on “Small Gardens and Small Spaces”. She began by asking us to consider the shape of our garden, especially the lawn, and suggested that there are other shapes apart from a rectangle with a narrow boarder around the edge. A circular lawn is very attractive and an S-shaped lawn takes the eye away and makes the garden appear bigger. Tessa asked us not to be precious about our lawns - clover in a lawn is very beneficial and she even urged us to follow the nationwide “No Mow in May” scheme when we just

leave the grass to grow, which encourages a greater variety of plant and animal species.

Tessa then went on to give us some ideas of different plants that we might grow in different areas, for example in shady areas, plants for full sun and plants that are good for ground cover. We finished the evening with a question and answer session and even discussed the merits of a robot lawn mower!!!

Carol Edmonds

In June our members are visiting the Pleasure Grounds of Lingfield and our next evening social will be a Show Class Bring and Buy which will take place on July 12th at the normal time of 7.45pm for refreshments. All will be welcome.

Pat Mackness

Dates for your diary

Saturday 3rd June - 18th June Art in June
Artists open their studios to visitors - see article

Tuesday 13th June 19.00 at St Martin's Brasted
Service to Licence the Rev Lynette Leithead as Priest-in-Charge to the Parishes of Sundridge with Ide Hill and Toys Hill, and Brasted.
All welcome.

Saturday 24th June 18:30 Fundridge
Summer Solstice Murder Mystery - see article for details

Wednesday 12th July 19.45 Brasted, Ide Hill & Sundridge Gardening Society Show Class Bring and Buy, Ide Hill Village Hall see article.

Sunday 27th August Bank Holiday Weekend
Funstock all afternoon and evening.

‘Art in June’ is back again!

Yellow bikes and bunting – ‘Art in June’ is back again!
Nine artists will join together to exhibit their work at Dibgate Farm in Sundridge from 3rd - 18th June. Open daily from 10 to 5. All welcome.

This exhibition is part of a Sevenoaks/Eden Valley venture in which some 60 artists will be taking part local studios and venues open their doors and welcome you to meet the artists and makers, catch up with the work they've been doing, and even, maybe, join in a workshop. Just look out for the yellow bikes to guide you to a huge variety of creative products in many styles and forms. Look at www.artinjune.org for full details.



Coming soon to Sevenoaks, surrounding areas and the Eden Valley villages of Hever, Penshurst and Chiddingstone... Starting Friday 2 June until Sunday 18 June. Don't miss it!
ART IN JUNE Open Studios www.artinjune.org

Sundridge With Ide Hill Parish Council Update

Sundridge Coronation weekend events

Over the weekend of the Coronation, Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council held two events in Sundridge village. The first was a Coronation Street Party on Sunday 7th and the second was a Village Clean Up event on Monday 8th. It was fantastic to see the village come together again and enjoy a wonderful sunny fun weekend.

For Sundridge it all started on Wednesday evening when the working party set to work putting the Coronation bunting along Church Road and the Main Road, which made for a very colourful sight over the weekend.



Then, on the morning of Sunday 7th May, Church Road was closed and the working party arrived en masse to set up farm trailers, the old cart, tables, chairs, BBQs and the Childrens' play area. Thank you to our local schools for their support as the tables and chairs were loaned to the village by Radnor House for the adults and Sundridge and Brasted School for the children. All those who arrived to help decorate the road did a fantastic job putting out all the Coronation paraphernalia to give the road a real party feel. Thank you to Reiss Jefferies for the



wonderful balloon arch she so kindly made and donated for the event. Thanks go also to Kerry Booker, Jason Hodge, Helen Wilson, Dean Gregory, John Evans and James Evans for the use of their vehicles and fencing, along with Jess and The White Horse team for the loan of their freezer, as well as donating power, facilities and 1st prize for the adults' cake competition.

At 1pm the street party commenced and the village then enjoyed five hours of laughter, free food, music and dancing. Standing on the beautifully decorated farm trailer Sophie Mckinnon sang throughout the day a range of songs from over the years which had several of the villagers up on their feet dancing away. Big thanks to Chris Ashworth for providing the sound equipment, ensuring everyone could enjoy the music.

The BBQ team, led by Charlie Watmough, did a stellar job of cooking over 350 burgers and sausages, meat and veggie throughout the whole event. Thanks to all our chefs - Graham Hughes, Julian Parkin, John Banbrook, Melvin De Bono, Chris Hodgkins, Simon Wilson and Gerard O'Reilly. Free hot and cold soft drinks were also available throughout the day, donated by Martin at the Village Shop. A big thank you also to all the villagers that donated food for the event. We had a brilliant, delicious spread to enjoy. Thanks to Gill Hughes, Fiona Parkin and Alison MacMillan for managing all of the food stalls throughout the day.



The children also had a great time climbing on the farm cart and enjoying the children's activities including giant toys, splat the ears and decorating crowns. Thank you to Tristan Philpot for again allowing the use of his drive as the location for all the children's activities.

At 4pm Rev Lynette Leithead, the new parish Priest-in-Charge, Andrea Hodge from the Social Club and Jess Smith-Reid from The White Horse pub then presented the prizes for the Coronation cake decorating competition after a tricky round of judging. The quality of the cakes



entered was truly amazing. Big congratulations to Gill Hughes who took 1st place and won a 3-course meal for two at The White Horse donated by Jess, Helen Wilson for 2nd place who won a 2-course meal for two at The Stanhope donated by Matt and Ana and Elizabeth Barker for 3rd prize who won a family picnic blanket donated by the Parish Council. In the children's competition there were some equally excellent entries with all getting to take home a prize.



Parish Council Chairman John Evans then gave a speech thanking all those who helped make the event and the year possible in the village. He presented the village with a Coronation rose to commemorate the occasion. The rose has been planted on Coronation Garden next to the Jubilee rose for all the village to enjoy.

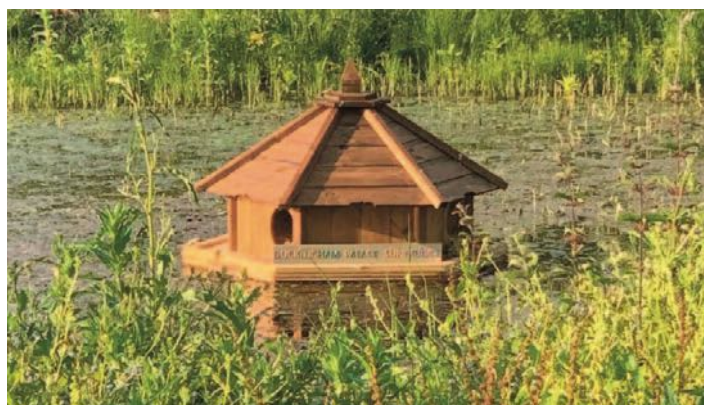
At 6pm the street party came to a close and the village did itself proud with the pack-down happening in record time. Once again thank you to Mick from Tiffany Plant with his road sweeper to make sure there was nothing left behind to show we'd ever been there. Many of the village residents then continued the party into the evening at the club and the pub, watching the Coronation Concert together. While we are also pleased to say there were no first aid requirements on the day, we would like to thank Dr Lara Belle, Sherre Kempton and Gill Hughes for keeping a watchful eye over us all during the event, ready to help if required.



On Monday 8th several of the villagers then turned out again to help litter-pick all over the village, give the white posts along the main road a fresh coat of paint and clean the Coronation memorial and square. The group achieved a phenomenal amount in roughly 3 hours, with lorry tyres, road signs and traffic cones among some of the rubbish pulled from the river. Special thanks to Chris Hodgkins and Helen Wilson for supplying and operating the jet wash that has left the Coronation square floor and walls sparklingly clean.



The afternoon culminated in the launching of the new duck house, excellently named Sundridge Duckingham Palace, on to the now litter free Mill Pond. The duck house was group-funded by village residents through the Sundridge and Ide Hill support group and we hope it will make a lovely new home for the new ducklings that have taken up residence at the pond since John Evans restored it to its original glory.



As you can see from the list of thanks, these events take a lot of work, and the Parish Council would like to thank whole-heartly all those that helped make the weekend's events possible both in Sundridge and in Goathurst Common. Without all of the villages' volunteers events like these and many of the other activities in the villages would not be possible.

Three cheers for our community, long may it continue.

Cllr Vikki Allgood



Ide Hill and Goathurst Common Coronation Events

Our Parish (Sundridge and Ide Hill) has the best residents! A huge thank you to Cllr Martyn Fribbens and his team of residents who organised such a fun party to celebrate the Coronation of HM The King and to Cllr Russell Maybury who arranged the grants and payments on behalf of the Parish.

The residents of Ide Hill gathered on Goathurst Common recreation ground to celebrate the Coronation of HM King Charles III and enjoyed a wonderful family picnic. The event was supported by the Parish Council and presented an opportunity for the fundraising team to show their plans for the renewal and extension of the playground. Residents, friends and family enjoyed the lovely weather with tea, cakes, beer and Pimm's while the children played traditional games, made crafts and tried to "Beat the Goalie" then bounced away excess energy on the inflatable castle. The festivities were concluded with the traditional "Goat Hurling" competitions for children and adults. Well done to Alex and Julie and all the Goathurst Common team for their hard work.

Cllr Martyn Fribbens

Councillor Vacancies

We currently have two vacancies on the Parish Council, one for the ward of Sundridge and one for the ward of Ide Hill. Anyone who wishes to be considered for this important position is invited to contact the Clerk (clerk@sundridgewithidehill-pc.gov.uk).

The Drake Oil Syndicate

Some years ago, Campbell Simm, an Edenbridge resident, had the idea of joining with a group of local friends to achieve better buying prices for domestic heating oil while at the same time negotiating a charity discount with the supplier which would provide funds to help support an Edenbridge children's charity together with local churches.

Today the syndicate has approximately 700 members and generates an annual charity pot of between £10,000 and £12,000. Each quarter, a syndicate price is agreed with Certas Energy, the oil supplier, which will be as close as possible to the second lowest price found. Syndicate members are then notified of this price and have to decide, without any obligation, whether they want a delivery on these terms. The deliveries take place over the next two weeks and Certas then credit the charity account.

At the end of the year the charity funds are then distributed with just under half going to Edenbridge charities and the rest split among the local churches. The three churches in our Parish regularly benefit.

Certas Energy delivers to the Drake Syndicate in January, April, August and November. Certas Energy will still deliver outside these times but such deliveries are at their prevailing price.

If you are interested in joining the Syndicate, please contact

John Hodson, the Syndicate Organiser,
on 07770 394098 or at john@johnhod.co.uk



Annual Parish Meeting

Thank you to all the residents who attended the Annual Parish meeting on Monday 22nd May. We enjoyed meeting and chatting to you all as well as our County and District Councillors. A special thank you to Cllr Ann Powell who organised the excellent refreshments.

Forthcoming from Fundridge

Saturday 24th June 6:30pm Fundridge Sundridge Summer Solstice Murder Mystery at the Sundridge and Brasted Club. Weather allowing, the event will be held outside on the beautiful new patio overlooking the green, enjoying a warm summer solstice evening.

Dinner will be provided beforehand, followed by a performance from the Bitesize Drama depicting an intriguing murder. Your job is to use the clues and solve the mystery of who committed the murder.

For further details and to purchase tickets please email fundridgesundridge@gmail.com. Tickets in advance only, spaces are limited.

The July/August 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 June to:-

editor@sundridgevillagenews.co.uk

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