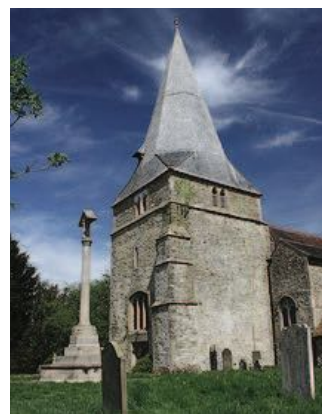


The Sundridge Village News

September 2023

In this issue we hear “From the Rectory”, about the Forest Church summer party and Funstock - Sundridge’s very own music festival, learn about this year’s forthcoming Ride and Stride and receive an update from the Friends of St Mary’s. We have reports from Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School, the Parish Council, Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society and news of the exhibitions at Rochester Cathedral plus, of course, dates for your diary!



Parish Services

Sunday 3rd

09.00 Toys Hill Holy Communion
led by Rev Lynette Leithead

Please note the new time

10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion
led by Rev Lynette Leithead

16.00 Toys Hill Forest Church
on Toys Hill Green. led by the Forest Team

Sunday 10th

10.30 Ide Hill Harvest Festival
led by Jane Rosam

Sunday 17th

10.30 Sundridge Morning Worship
led by Rev Angela Baker and Ruth Barrow

Sunday 24th

10.30 Ide Hill Holy Communion
led by Rev Richard Howlett

Sunday 1st October

10.30 Sundridge Harvest Festival
led by Rev Lynette Leithead

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

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

From the Rectory

They say that you are never too old to learn, and I have certainly learnt a great deal about farming since coming to the parish! A few weeks ago, I visited a local farm during harvesting and went round one of the fields in the combine harvester as it reaped the ripe wheat. What an experience as I saw the grain gathered in and separated from the weeds, the deer leaping out of the corn, the pheasants rising and, all the while, Mick (the driver) explaining the workings of the combine as we slowly made our way down the field. The whole experience brought to life all the biblical passages that use the analogy of farming; the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13) and the separation of wheat and the chaff (Matthew 3:12) amongst so many others.

It also gave me much to think about, not least how many things that I take for granted when I go and buy my loaf of bread and cereals from the shop. It’s not just the fact that I can, when so many across the world are so short of food, but also the amazing amount of demanding work that goes into growing and harvesting the raw ingredients. The farmers that I spoke to had been working late into the night, in the dark, to get the crop in before the forecast storm was to hit. The vagaries of our British weather might be mildly irritating to us, but they provide our farmers with a very real challenge and, I don’t doubt, a few sleepless nights! The past few years, with rising prices, have been a huge challenge for them as well. I don’t think that I’ll ever see my loaf of bread or indeed Harvest Festival in the same light again!

A big thank you to you all.

Harvest is a time for us as a community to give thanks for all that we have, as well as for those who provide it for us. It’s a time to give back a little of what we have received for the benefit of those who have less. I don’t need to tell any of you how much some are struggling today to put food on their tables. We have so much to be thankful for, not least that we are blessed by being surrounded by God’s beautiful creation in this parish.

Our harvest offerings this year will go to the food bank as well as being distributed to families in the parish who are presently struggling with food prices. If you are unable to come to the service but would like to donate anyway, please let me know. No gift is too small, but a combined effort would make an enormous difference to some.

Do come and join us at any of the Harvest Festival services in the parish.

St Mary’s Ide Hill at 10.30 on Sunday September 10th

St Mary’s Sundridge at 10.30 on Sunday 1st October

Toys Hill at 9.00 on Sunday 1st October

We’d love to see you.

Lynette

Ps. I’m still trying to meet as many people as possible. I’m very happy for you to call or email if you’d like a visit. email rev.lynette@hotmail.com. Mobile 07932 605604 (please note my day off is Tuesday)

Calling all cyclists and walkers

For those who have not heard of 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 country 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 on Saturday 9th 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, three years ago both Sundridge and Ide Hill were visited by a large group of walkers from Riverhead. We have also had a wonderful pair of riders on horseback! Anything

goes! There will be a small group starting in Ide Hill at 10.00 on Saturday 9th September so, if you are interested, do put the date in your diary.

This year The Friends of Ide Hill Church will be welcoming visitors all day with refreshments, and we will be there with coffee at 9.45 to cheer you on your way before setting off. Sundridge Church will also be open and providing refreshments.

Your cycle ride/walk can be as long or as short as you would like and you can either join a group or start your own!

Any questions please feel free to contact me by email if you want to hear more or obtain a sponsorship form. There is lots of information and forms and further information are also available from:

www.kentrideandstride.co.uk

Thanks must go to Neil Arnott who has been the local organiser for many years and who is taking a well-earned break – although he will be raising money for Ide Hill Church on his bike up North that weekend!

Forest Church summer party

At our last Forest Church in July, we held a party on the green at Toys Hill.

Our theme was migration as the summer holidays spread ahead of us. Jane talked about cuckoos as they had already begun to migrate and make their long journey south. Adult cuckoos are among the earliest of our summer visitors to depart. Most leave the UK in June. Young cuckoos leave later when they are fully fledged, having been reared by their ‘hosts’ who continue to feed them.

Since 2011, the British Trust for Ornithology has been tracking cuckoos on their migration journey to discover why they are in decline. The tracking will allow the Trust to understand why cuckoos take different migratory routes and what effect the changing climate has on them. Forest Church has sponsored a cuckoo called Bluey and he’s still going strong, having crossed the Sahara, travelling over 1,646 miles, and is now in western Mali where it is the rainy season. Hopefully there will be plenty of food available to help him recover from his desert crossing before he continues on his journey south. All being well, we will be following Bluey’s progress as he makes the return journey, probably in early April.

Of course, migration is a topical subject at the moment with so many refugees coming to this country. As we think about that, we remember Jesus’ words, “I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.”

We ended our Forest Church with party food including jelly and cake – thank you, Jan - and assembling our bird-planes that inevitably became competitive to see whose bird-plane could fly the furthest, with both adults and children enjoying themselves.



Our next Forest Church will be on Sunday 3rd September at 4pm at Toys Hill. We will have an update on Bluey’s journey. Please join us, however noisy or wriggly you are! No need to book, just turn up. Refreshments will be served.

Further information from
Diana Pickard dipickard2@aol.com or
Barbara Lockey hixmix@btopenworld.com



Funstock 3

Sundridge's very own music festival brought to you by Fundridge Sundridge

Line up featuring Aimee Kempton, Josh Harvey, Heather Hoyle, Sophie McKinnon and Something Else.

Fundridge, a group of villagers who believe in "Friendship, a better community and bringing neighbours together."





Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society

July

It was a lovely warm summer evening for our Social in July and the Ide Hill Village Hall was filled with the sound of laughter and chatter as people caught up with each other's news over a glass of wine and some nibbles.

We had our traditional informal competition which was entitled "My Favourite Rose" and there were a good number of entries, considering it was near the end of the rose season!

The first prize went to Janice Carter and Richard came second, each receiving a garden token.

We also had a Bring and Buy plant stall, which did a good trade in selling people's plants.

Thank you to everyone who came along, it was a thoroughly enjoyable and successful evening.

Carol Edmonds



August

The Society members spent a lovely, enjoyable Wednesday at Derry & Jane's garden for the Afternoon Tea Party. Thank goodness the weather was sunny and warm for the outdoor seating, drinking the tea, coffee and cakes with strawberry and raspberry gateaux made by the Committee members.

Derry showed us around his spacious colourful garden with an adjoining vegetable area which much resembled most people's allotments. The grass dominated the area which looked so green and well mowed, it made me remind my son to cut our grass before the weather changes yet again with rain and low temperatures.

It was great to catch up with friends and neighbours exchanging ideas on various plants and village gossip. Thank you, Derry and Jane, for a great afternoon and Gina for taking photographs of the event.

Our next outing is a visit to the Riverhill Himalayan Gardens on Wednesday 13th September. Although no

groups are to be booked, it is advisable to arrive between 2.30-4pm individually and groups of 12 will be organised by the garden staff for a guided tour. The "2 for 1" Gardeners World catalogue vouchers are acceptable; however, no cash is permitted for payment of any kind in the gardens.

Pat Mackness



News from Rochester Cathedral



Portrait of Dr John Thomas by Sir Joshua Reynolds

A rarely seen portrait by renowned artist Sir Joshua Reynolds is to be displayed at Rochester Cathedral from 16 July 2023 - 1 January 2024 to mark the Tricentenary of the artist's birth. The portrait depicts former Bishop of Rochester, Dr John Thomas, and was painted in 1781. It reunites the Bishop with his Cathedral for the first time since his death in 1793.

Sir Joshua Reynolds is regarded as the 'Father of British portraiture' and was one of the greatest European painters of the 18th century. He was the founding president of the Royal Academy of Arts and was buried in St Paul's Cathedral. Paintings by Reynolds can be found in many of the world's leading galleries, including the Tate Britain and National Gallery in London and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

In 1768 Dr Thomas became the Dean of Westminster Abbey and from 1774 to 1793 he also served as the Bishop of Rochester. Dr Thomas was Chaplain to both King George II and King George III and was a member of the prestigious Order of the Bath. The portrait going on display at Rochester Cathedral depicts Dr Thomas with Westminster Abbey in the background wearing his Order of the Bath regalia. Remarkably, parts of the regalia featured in the portrait are still in the possession of Rochester Cathedral and will also be displayed.

Thomas and Reynolds knew each other socially and appeared to have been friends. Reynolds's diary shows a number of appointments for dinner beyond the five or six sittings required for the painting. Sir Joshua Reynolds was friends with many of the leading figures in Georgian Britain and both men were part of the Georgian Royal Court with official appointments by King George III. With the exception of a short one-week viewing in London in 2016, this is the first time the portrait has been publicly displayed since 1896 in Paris.

The painting itself has had an exciting life since being painted 243 years ago. One notable owner, French politician Jacques Leon Stern, escaped from the Nazis at the outbreak of World War Two taking the painting and his art collection with him. The portrait is currently privately owned. The owner approached Rochester Cathedral earlier this year and offered to loan the painting. He was keen to reunite the Bishop with his Cathedral and to mark the anniversary of one of Britain's greatest artists.

Dean of Rochester, The Very Revd. Dr Philip Hesketh AKC DL says: "The story of how this painting came to be exhibited at the Cathedral is truly remarkable - definitely a case of divine providence. We are thrilled to have this stunning portrait on display and encourage everyone to come and see it while they can." Admission to Rochester Cathedral is free. Visitors are encouraged to check the Cathedral website for opening times.

Textus 900 celebrations 2023 to 2024: 29th July 2023 – 31st December 2024

A series of exhibitions and events are set to mark 900 years since the compilation of the most exceptional treasure at Rochester Cathedral. This summer three remarkable British Library manuscripts are to be exhibited in the Crypt of Rochester Cathedral. Each volume is full of stories about the life and works of the monks and servants at the medieval Priory of Saint Andrew, founded by Bishop Gundulf on the south side of the Cathedral in the 1080s and dissolved by Henry VIII in 1542. The three manuscripts, on loan from the British Library, are exceptional examples of volumes owned, produced or inspired by the Cathedral Priory.



Sundridge With Ide Hill Parish Council Update

Stubbs Wood

Two tenders were received for the Coppicing, Thinning and Rise Widening along with clearance of invasive species. The PC is now arranging contracts with one of the tenderers for work to commence in September. Completion is scheduled for April next year.

A new sign has been set up in the car park showing the bridledways, footpaths and walks in the woods together with a QR code which will link to further information on the Parish Council website. This information will be prepared with help from the Stubbs Wood Advisory Group and should be available shortly.

Volunteers continue to provide an essential and valuable service in Stubbs Wood. To keep the volunteers and members of the public using the woods safe, a set of safety guidelines, based upon industry standards for Health and Safety and machine operation, are being prepared. In addition, machinery training for volunteers, on the various items purchased by the PC for use by the volunteers, has been approved.

Telecom Mast

The siting of a new telecommunications tower to improve mobile phone services in Ide Hill and Sundridge has met with a lot of comment from the Stubbs Wood Advisory Group, The Ide Hill Society and members of the public. It is understood that, in general, improved communications are essential for the villages especially as the country moves towards the replacement of traditional landlines with Internet-based comms and the PC supports this on behalf of all its residents.

The PC has been informed that, following a drone height survey, the radio engineers are happy with considering the old (Wheatsheaf Hill) Stubbs Wood car park and are arranging a meeting with the Parish Council representatives to plan a way forward including the PC confirming that an improved signal for Ide Hill and Sundridge will be available from this location.

Highways

Unfortunately, the scheduled meeting with Kent Highways had to be postponed at their request. However, Sundridge has submitted a Highways Improvement Plan (HIP) application for improvements for pedestrians crossing at the White Horse traffic lights and Ide Hill has submitted a HIP application for a 20mph speed limit from the Pre-School to beyond the Primary School.

Parking in Sundridge

A parking survey of residents is being undertaken in Sundridge to see if improvements can be made for safer parking in the village.

Website

It has been noted that the current website needs updating. This will be taking place over the summer to improve communication with residents. In addition, remember that the PC has a Facebook page where information for residents is also provided.

Christmas Lights

The PC approved the installation of a socket on the streetlight adjacent to the Roundabout by the Ide Hill

Green to enable Christmas Tree lights to be powered from mains electricity in future rather than using expensive batteries.

Clerk

In recent weeks there has been a lot of correspondence from third parties which has increased the work of the Clerk. Residents are respectfully reminded that the Clerk to the PC only works part time and that all Members of the PC are volunteers. Responses to requests for information should only be provided by the Clerk and therefore patience is requested if immediate replies are not forthcoming as the Clerk will need to gather information in her limited hours. Where possible, all information is provided on the PC website so all residents of the parishes can be informed.

The Parish Office will be closed from Friday 25 August to Monday 4 September 2023. If you have an urgent issue during this period, please text the Parish mobile on 07495 962372.

Next meetings:

Although the Parish Council has a summer break from formal meetings, its activities continue as far as possible.

Full Council Meeting Monday 18 September 2023 at 7.15pm – Sundridge Village Hall

Sundridge Amenities Committee Monday 2 October 2023 at 7.15pm - Sundridge Village Hall

Ide Hill Amenities Committee Wednesday 11 October 2023 at 6pm - Ide Hill Village Hall



Childcare vouchers accepted

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From a child's 2nd birthday

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- PE
- Forest School
- French
- Drama
- Music
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"This is a happy school that looks both forwards and outwards, providing consistency and stability, with a lot of creative sparkle thrown in."

GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE

www.radnor-sevenoaks.org



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News from Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School

Greetings from Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School

Since our last report we have concluded one academic year, enjoyed a summer break and returned afresh to embrace a new year. And as always, we have been busy!

Firstly, we are delighted to tell you all that we are officially a Nurture UK Accredited School. The accreditation is awarded to schools who demonstrate a high level of nurture ethos embedded in all parts of school life, recognising that children's wellbeing is as important as their academic achievements. The assessor praised our application which was supported by parents, children and staff during the assessment itself and highlighted 'excellent examples of good practice' in the report. We are all so proud of our school, the children and staff and we are so pleased to be recognised as a Nurture UK Accredited School.

In other news, our Year 6 children took on the Fiver Challenge in July and put their entrepreneurial skills to the test. Each group was given seed money of five pounds and tasked with creating a business plan, complete with marketing, profit and loss analysis and sales, which involved encouraging the whole school to join in at break-times, buying the products and playing the games. They had a lot of fun, learnt such a lot and made a fantastic overall profit of £140, all of which will be put to good use purchasing sports equipment. We do tend to lose our netballs and footballs. (If you see any unaccompanied footballs in Church Road, they are probably ours!)

Year 6 also took part in a triathlon and activity day at Hever Castle. They swam in the lake, rode bikes, ran the course and enjoyed a leisurely afternoon feeding ducks, eating ice cream, holding birds of prey and chasing each other through the water maze. Great fun was had by all!

Our youngest children visited Howletts Animal Park in Canterbury. They saw lots of exciting animals, learnt a lot about their habitats, walked many, many steps, played in the park and enjoyed an ice cream under a tree to ward off the rain. July was not as sunny as June!



In school, Owl class, (Years 4 and 5 children) invited a group of local residents to join them for bingo, refreshments and chats. The morning went really well and the children and their guests had a great time. Many of them went home with prizes after fierce competition at the bingo tables!



Our lovely PTA organised a wonderful end-of-term Summer Sunshine party for the younger children and a fabulous Neon Glow party for the older children. Great fun again was had by all!



And then we had to say goodbye to our Year 6 children in July which is always such an emotional time. Mrs Menawy and the children hosted a wonderful Leavers' Service, sharing memories of their time at Sundridge & Brasted and a video of themselves growing up through the years. Lots of wonderful memories, stories and friendships and lots of laughter and cheeky smiles.

Reverend Lynette also joined us for the service and shared her own memories of moving to new schools. She led the blessing and prayers and handed out Bibles to the Year 6 children to keep with them as they progress through their lives. We wish them all well and hope they all work hard and have fun!

With the start of the new academic year, we have welcomed our new Reception cohort and a number of older children who have moved into the area. They have all settled in really quickly and have made friends throughout the school.

We are looking forward to a busy term of sports events, trips to Sevenoaks School for science and design & technology sessions, Forest School, Stay & Play and lots of excellent learning, of course! Reverend Lynette will also be leading weekly Collective Worship for us and we look forward to working with her in the church and the wider community.

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

Friends of St Mary's Sundridge update

The Friends' Summer Event took place on Wednesday 12th July and 70 members and their guests enjoyed Afternoon Tea at Spring Shaw, Church Road, Sundridge (by kind permission of Ken and Nicki Ludlam). The weather forecast was, for once, quite accurate and a strong wind tested the canopies of the gazebos and parasols. Fortunately everyone was able to be seated under cover by the time the very heavy shower arrived and, with typical English fortitude, no-one let a spot of rain spoil the occasion. Tea, cake, sandwiches and scones were very welcome to keep our spirits up and, once it was dry again, visitors were able to stroll around the garden. Thanks to an attractive array of donated prizes and the magnificent efforts of a young team of enthusiastic ticket sellers, the raffle was a huge success. A well-stocked plant and produce stall was very popular and the final total raised on the day was £1,290. A huge thank you to all those who helped make the event such a success and to everyone who supported the Friends by attending.



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 22nd September to:-

editor@sundridgevillagenews.co.uk

Do subscribe to the Sundridge Village News, there is no cost and your details are not shared with anyone.

Send an email with "Subscribe" in the subject line to sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com

Dates for your diary

Saturday 9th September Ride and Stride

See article for details

Wednesday 13th September Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society visit to the Riverhill Himalayan Gardens See article for details.

3rd - 7th October Rochester Cathedral Son-et-Lumiere

Until 31st December 2024 Textus 900 celebrations

Until 1 January 2024 Portrait of Dr John Thomas

both at Rochester Cathedral, see article