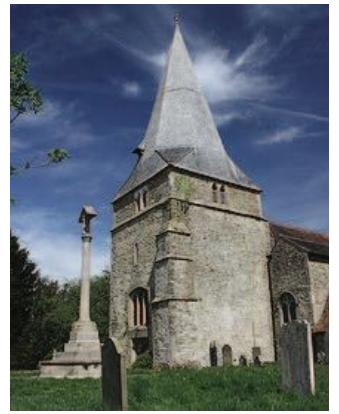


The Sundridge Village News

October 2023



In this issue we learn a little of Pat Murch and her life in Sundridge, we hear about the Forest Church and Funstock - Sundridge's very own music festival - and receive an update from the Friends of St Mary's. We have reports from Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School, the Parish Council and the Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society plus, of course, dates for your diary!

Parish Services

Sunday 1st

- 09.00 Toys Hill Holy Communion
led by Rev Lynette Leithead
- 10.30 Sundridge Harvest Festival & Holy Communion
with Forest Church
led by Rev Lynette Leithead

Your Harvest donations will go towards Food Parcels for families who are struggling in the Parish.

If you are unable to come to the service then please feel free to contact Lynette or leave food at Sundridge church or make a monetary donation.

Churchwardens Althea Chapman
Jane Belle

email: althea.chapman@outlook.com

email: thebellesareringing@outlook.com Telephone 01959 565444

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

Sunday 8th

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

Sunday 15th

- 10.30 Sundridge Morning Worship
led by Jane Rosam

Sunday 22th

- 10.30 Ide Hill Holy Communion
led by Rev Lynette Leithead

Sunday 29th

- 10.30 Ide Hill Holy Communion
led by Rev Lynette Leithead

1st October 1933 to 30th August 2023

Lifelong village resident, Pat Murch (née Brown) died on 30th August 2023.



She was born, the second of five children, in Church Road, Sundridge in 1933. Apart from a few years in Deal when first married to her Royal Marine husband Jack (later a Sevenoaks postman), she lived in Sundridge all her life.

She went to the village school, sang in the church choir and helped to run the Sunday School. After leaving Tonbridge Technical School for Girls, she spent some time in the Territorial Army, became a shorthand

typist and later worked for a number of years in the village shop and Post Office. She met Jack through a mutual friend of his sister, but they were penpals for over a year before they finally met each other.

They were married in Sundridge church in 1955.

Pat and Jack were great supporters of village events, often seen dancing to live bands at local fairs in their younger years. Jack was the Sundridge postman after leaving the Royal Marines until he retired. Following his

death in 2006, Pat devoted her time to their 4 children and 7 grandchildren and their partners. Recent years of ill health meant she was no longer seen out in the village.

She missed having a chat with local friends and neighbours but in latter years enjoyed her weekly trip to the Day Centre at Edenbridge War Memorial Hospital, where she tried hard not to beat others at scrabble and gave everyone a chance to answer the quiz questions before she told them the answers.

She was never happier than when her family visited or took her out in the wheelchair, especially to the seaside for fish and chips. She will be sorely missed by so many. Her funeral will be held at St Mary's Church, Sundridge on Friday 6th October at 12 noon.

*Donations to RNLI and The Royal Marines
Benevolent Fund via Alex Jones Funeral Directors, Oxted on
01883 730383*



Forest Church

On a glorious sunny day, Forest Church met at Toys Hill to think about the season of Creationtide which is dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life.

Our bible quotes were from Amos 5:24, “*But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream*”, and Ecclesiastes 3:1, “*there is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens*”.

We talked about water being a limited resource, where it comes from, how it is collected, and that it is a precious asset. We talked about some countries not having enough water and why that might be.

Our fun activity was about having water in the right place at the right time for it to work and how, if you don't protect it and waste it, you will have a drought. Some of us got a little wet during this activity! We needed to get the balance right, so to help with those skills we tried out our balancing skills on a balance board with some hilarious results.

We had an update on Bluey, our cuckoo, whom Forest Church is sponsoring. He's now crossed the Sahara and made it into Africa and is somewhere on the Senegal border where it is the rainy season. He's 637 miles from Nigeria.

Forest Church will be joining the Harvest Festival service at Sundridge at 10.30 on Sunday 1st October where we'll be creating art from foraged seeds and seeing how far Bluey has travelled. Do join us, fun is guaranteed.

Further information from

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



Friends of St Mary's Sundridge update

On Sunday 27th August the Friends of St Mary's took part in Funstock - Fundridge Sundridge's summer event held in Coronation Gardens - and ran a “Lucky Dip” stall designed for children but enjoyed by many adults! Jane Belle and her family sourced and wrapped a vast quantity of prizes and John Evans supplied a very large bag of sawdust for an authentic and “green” medium to fill the dipping tubs. It was an extremely popular activity and completely sold out before the children's events finished

at 6 pm. The Friends also sold Ice Creams from their stall and supervised the Bouncy Castle.

The Friends' Committee will be meeting shortly to plan the programme of events for the coming months. If you are not already a member and would like to join to get early notification of what is happening, please visit the Friends' website:

<https://friendsofstmarys.co.uk/about-the-friends>



Funstock 3

It was Fundridge Sundridge's 3rd Funstock event and the weather forecast kept to its prediction of a bright day with only a smattering of rain mid-afternoon.

The event kicked off with Sundridge resident, 15-year old Amy Kempton, who sang a mix of past and present lively hits to get the party started. It was an excellent, talented performance by such a young girl.

Amy was followed by solo singer Josh Harvey, who had the guests up on their feet with his outgoing personality and ability to command an audience. We were entertained with tracks from George Ezra to Neil Diamond and anything in between.

A first for Funstock was the inclusion of a saxophonist into our normal line up. We initially were wondering how this would go down with the attendees. We shouldn't have worried ourselves, Heather Hoyle was amazing, walking around Coronation Gardens playing her saxophone to children, adults and even mesmerizing dogs!! Her range was impressive, jazz, disco and soul sound tracks. Having looked at her website prior to Funstock we noticed that

on her biographical page she has played at Wimbledon, Royal Ascot, Monaco F1 Grand Prix and many more amazing venues we wonder if she'll add Funstock, Sundridge to her bio!!

Our final solo singer into early evening was Sophie McKinnon. This was Sophie's 3rd year of performing for us and once again she sang a great range of hits.

Like Sophie, our headline band 'Something Else' have performed at Funstock for the last 3 years and know how to get the Sundridge residents in party and dancing mood. As usual an excellent performance from them.

Whilst we were all entertained by the music, we were able to eat, drink, and the children were kept amused with games, a bouncy castle, ice creams and a lucky dip provided by The Friends of St Mary's church. A fun filled day was had by all.

A huge thank you to all the residents who helped the Fundridge team to organise this amazing event. It wouldn't be possible without you and we look forward to Funstock 4 next year.



Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council update

First aid training for our Councillor

Cllr Maybury writes: "Very proud and surprised to pass my FREC Level 3 course for First Responders, paramedics and advanced First Aiders. The course is externally assessed and very challenging. Huge privilege to train with the veteran NHS paramedics and firefighters shown in the photograph completing their refresher course. Also unique opportunity to work, train and learn with a member of our Special Forces shortly to be deployed in an operational theatre in Eastern Europe.

I encourage everyone to attend a basic CPR and defibrillator course. Practice makes perfect and everyone reading this article will find themselves one day in a position to help. The most basic assistance can save a life."



Chipstead Dragon Boat Race

Cllr Maybury writes: "Great day out at Bawl Water with the Bodywork gym team from Edenbridge raising over £1400 for the Chartwell Cancer Trust. Rare footage of the team almost rowing in time."

Next meetings:

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



News from Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School

Greetings from Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School

As predicted, we have been busy. Our younger children have been enjoying weekly Forest School sessions with Natalia, our wonderful Forest School leader. As always, her sessions are creative and fun as the children learn new skills and enjoy the freedom of learning and playing outside of the classroom. We are grateful to Mr and Mrs Jack for their kind permission to use their land for these sessions.



Our older children are enjoying weekly trips to Sevenoaks School to take part in wonderful Science and Design & Technology lessons led by Sevenoaks School staff. We are very fortunate to have access to their excellent facilities and equipment. Thank you to Sevenoaks School for offering their time and resources to the local community!

Our Year 6 children prepared their applications for the roles of Head Boy and Head Girl, delivering them to the whole school prior to a period of voting. The votes were counted (and verified!) and the children appointed to their new roles. We also have new sports captains and we are sure that they will all be excellent role models for the school as they take on their responsibilities.

Stay & Play has started again, after the holidays, and is thriving with families from outside our school community as well as our own families joining us for fun, messy play, singing and playing and, of course, a chat, a coffee and a biscuit! Stay & Play runs every Wednesday in term time, 9.00am until 10.30am and all parents, grandparents and carers with pre-school children are welcome.

After school clubs are on the go, too. This term we have Speed Stacking (Speed Stacking is indeed a real thing and has to be seen to be believed! You-tube has many examples of spectacular speedy cup stacking), Arts &

Crafts, Judo, Music Madness, Cookery, Street Dance and Board Games.

We sent a team of Year 3 and 4 children to Westerham Golf Club for a Tri-Golf coaching afternoon organised by the Sevenoaks Partnership for local schools. Our team were enthusiastic and attentive and thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and, as always, the children were excellent ambassadors for the school.

And exciting news - Domino and Dice have joined Squirrel class! We now have two gorgeous guinea pigs in class, being looked after and loved by our youngest children. Domino and Dice are still quite young but they have settled in well and are enjoying many cuddles each day. They are very well behaved and love their greens, broccoli and carrots!



Reverend Lynette has been leading weekly Collective Worship for us in St Mary's and we are already planning services for Harvest and Christingle and a Carol Concert. We thank Lynette for her time and enthusiasm and for working with us to strengthen the links between school, church and community.

Finally, at this time of year 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 would love to meet them and show them our lovely school.

Our website www.sundridge.kent.sch.uk has lots of useful information and prospective parents should call the school (01959 562694) to make an appointment to meet the staff and see the school.

More next time! As always, we send our very best wishes to you all.

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

Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society

There was no sign of the Yeti, not even any footprints when the Gardening Society visited the Riverhill Himalayan Gardens, but we did spend a very enjoyable afternoon with Misako, the Head Gardener. She told us that Riverhill has been in the Rogers family for six generations and that one of the predecessors of the present family was an avid plant collector and botanist. He was a contemporary of Charles Darwin with whom he corresponded and discussed their findings, and it was he who brought the plants and trees to Riverhill and started to make the garden what it is today.

Misako took us to the walled garden first, which is full of symbolism, an unusual water feature and a Himalayan mountain hut. We then walked through to the rock garden, not a traditional one with alpine plants but a beautiful shaded area with numerous ferns, a metasequoia tree (which at one time was thought to be extinct, but this specimen was brought as a seedling at a plant fair at Olympia in the 1950s) and a place that had been especially opened up to give a wonderful view over the Weald.

For the energetic amongst us, there was quite a climb to the top of the hill for an even greater panoramic vista, but for the rest of us a gentle stroll downhill to the cafe for a very enjoyable cuppa!

Carol



Autumn has arrived and the days are becoming cooler. However, the good news is that a butterfly count successfully pointed to an increase in the numbers and the sedum in my garden has numerous wasps and bees hovering.

Our next meeting will be held in the Ide Hill Village Hall on October 11th at 7.45 for pm. The talk will be titled "Great Comp Garden" and the speaker is Andy Garland, a BBC Radio Kent broadcaster and producer.

Pat

Dates for your diary

Monday 2nd October Parish Council 19.15pm
meeting of the Sundridge Amenities Committee Sundridge Village Hall

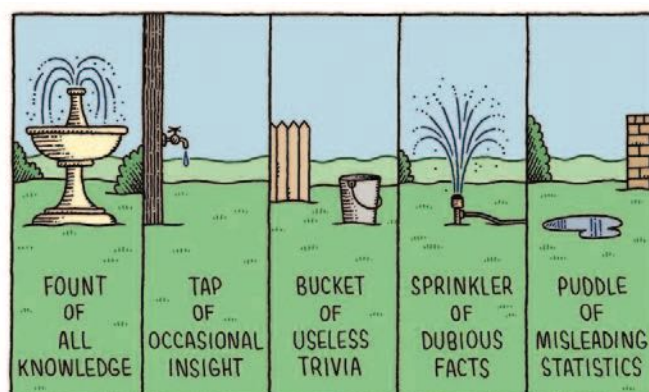
3rd - 7th October Rochester Cathedral Son-et-Lumiere
Wednesday 11th October 19.45 Brasted, Ide Hill & Sundridge Gardening Society Great Comp talk

Wednesday 11th October Parish Council 18.00pm
meeting of the Ide Hill Amenities Committee Ide Hill Village Hall

Until 31st December 2024 Textus 900 celebrations

Until 1 January 2024 Portrait of Dr John Thomas
both at Rochester Cathedral

And finally . . .



The November 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 Monday 23rd October to:-

editor@sundridgevillagenews.co.uk

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