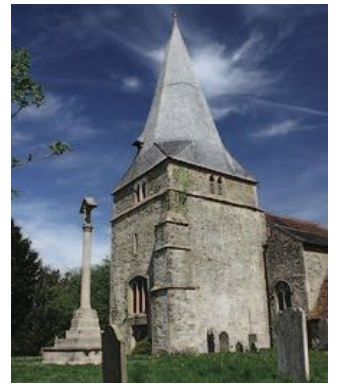


# The Sundridge Village News

## November 2023



In this issue we learn about new events from Fundridge and The Friends of St Mary's Sundridge, receive updates from Forest Church, the 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 5th All Saints Day

- 09.00 Toys Hill Holy Communion  
*led by Rev Lynette Leithead*
- 10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion  
*led by Rev Lynette Leithead*
- 15.00 Toys Hill Forest Church  
*led by Forest Team*

#### Sunday 12th Remembrance Sunday

- 10.30 Sundridge Remembrance Service  
*led by Bryan Harris*
- 10.50 Ide Hill Remembrance Service  
*led by Jane Rosam*

#### Sunday 19th

- 10.30 Sundridge Morning Worship  
*led by Rev Angela Baker and Ruth Barrow*
- 16.00 Brasted Time to Remember  
*led by Rev Lynette Leithead and Judith Seaward*

#### Sunday 26th Christ the King & Safeguarding Sunday

- 10.30 Ide Hill Holy Communion  
*led by Rev Richard Howlett*

#### Sunday 3rd Advent Sunday

- 09.00 Toys Hill Holy Communion  
*led by Rev Lynette Leithead*
- 10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion *with Advent hymns*  
*led by Rev Lynette Leithead*

**Churchwardens** Althea Chapman email: [althea.chapman@outlook.com](mailto:althea.chapman@outlook.com)  
Jane Belle email: [thebellesareringing@outlook.com](mailto:thebellesareringing@outlook.com) Telephone 01959 565444

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

### From The Rectory

#### Time to Remember

Remembering those we have loved and known is a vital part of life. The death of someone special and important to us brings about a huge range of emotions and memories. Even years after the funeral service we may feel we need to express something in memory of those who have died. We all grieve differently but I find that holding a special service to give space for this brings comfort and hope to many. I hope you will feel welcome to come and bring a friend if you would like to. As many of you will know, I

am also Priest in Charge of Brasted Church as well as Sundridge, Ide Hill and Toys Hill. This year "A Time to Remember" will be held at St Martin's Church Brasted at 4.00pm on Sunday 19th November. All are welcome. Tea and cake will be served after the service for those who would like to stay. Please feel free to contact me if you would like any more information.

With warmest greetings,  
Rev Lynette Leithead (07932 605604)

### Forest Church

Forest Church joined the Harvest Festival service in Sundridge in September and, as you will see from the photos, they had a lovely creative time. After the first hymn they left the church to continue their service outside. They learnt all about soil and how important it is as it provides a place for plants to grow and thrive. Soil also provides a home for many animals and other living things. Nutrients need to be added to the soil for plant growth and we saw pieces of rotting leaves in our soil sample that will eventually be pulled down into the soil by worms, which saves us the hard work of digging it in. They then chose some leaves from which to make rubbings with wax crayons before cutting them out, writing their "thank you" messages on and hanging them on our twig tree.





The messages thanked God for “Weetabix” and “all the vegetables” before hanging them on the tree. After returning to the church for a blessing, they proudly showed off their creation.

The next Forest Church will be at the earlier time of 3pm on Sunday 5th November, meeting on the triangle at Toys Hill where the fire pit may make an appearance. In December we will be joining the Christmas Tree Festival service at Ide Hill on December 10th at 10.30 and making our own Christmas trees. It will be mayhem, but fun. No need to book, just turn up in suitable clothing. For further details please contact either

Diana Pickard [dipickard2@aol.com](mailto:dipickard2@aol.com) or  
Barbara Locky [hixmix@btopenworld.com](mailto:hixmix@btopenworld.com)

*The Forest Church Team*



## Winter Funderland

Fundridge Sundridge in partnership with Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council are pleased to confirm that we will be hosting another Winter Funderland for the village on Sunday 3rd December 3.00pm to 7.00pm on the Coronation Gardens

*Come down and enjoy a fun family Christmas afternoon  
3pm to 7pm. Activities include:*

Meet Father Christmas at our Santa's Grotto and get a free children's present

Visit our lovely pop-up Fundridge Christmas shop to purchase some of your Christmas presents

Enjoy a free glass of mulled wine or hot chocolate and a mince pie

Purchase food and drink from our Fundridge bar

The annual Parish Council Christmas Carols will be at 5.00pm, so bring your best singing voices to singing along with the choir

- Following the carols will be the switching on of the Village Christmas Lights at 6pm



**This is an outdoor event so please dress appropriately  
for the weather as it will be chilly.  
We will have marquees if it is raining.  
Wellies recommended.**



# News from Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School

*Greetings from Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School*

As always, we have been busy but this month is slightly unusual in that Ofsted made an unscheduled, yet not unexpected, visit. We have been in the 'Ofsted window' for quite some time and, as such, we knew they would call at some point. They were with us for two days and will publish their report within the next month.

In other news, we have been busy with fund raising and raising awareness of people at home and overseas who are suffering in one way or another. On Tuesday 10th October we focused on #Hello Yellow day by wearing something yellow and discussing mental health in classes throughout the day. We also raised money for the charity.

We have also supported UNICEF's Libya flood appeal by wearing own clothes in exchange for a donation and, for our Harvest Service, we collected donations of food which we passed on to the Loaves and Fishes foodbank which supports many families in and around Sevenoaks.



Our Harvest Service was lovely, led by Reverend Lynette at St Mary's Church. Each of our classes had a role to play during the service and they were all wonderful! We were delighted to welcome so many of our parents to the service, too. It was lovely to see so many there and to have such wonderful support.

The History Troupe visited us too in October, to lead a whole school assembly based on the story of the Good Samaritan. As always, the assembly was interactive and such fun, with an underlying Christian message for us all.

The annual book fair has been incredibly popular this year and Mrs Prestage had great fun using the new card reader which made payments so much easier for parents and helped us sell lots of books to our children and families and, at the same time, earn a good amount of commission to spend on new books for the library and classes.

Forest School continues to be a much-enjoyed part of the week for our younger children, led by the lovely Natalia. The children explore, learn and play each week and love every minute!

We finished the term with a lot of fun! We held learning celebrations in class, inviting parents to come into school



to spend time with their children looking through their books and admiring the excellent learning that has been achieved during the term. Children who had achieved their reading target for the term were invited to a fun Pizza Party and our Shining Stars, children who have been excellent role models by demonstrating our school values at all times, enjoyed ice cream and sprinkles, popcorn and milkshakes with Mr Hardwick.

The half-term break will be much appreciated!! And then we will be back for another busy term, heading towards our Nativity Play, Carol Service and Christmas parties.

As always, please remember to spread the word to all friends and families who have young children due to start school next September that we would love to meet them and show them our lovely school. Our website [www.sundridge.kent.sch.uk](http://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](mailto:office@sundridge.kent.sch.uk) [www.sundridge.kent.sch.uk](http://www.sundridge.kent.sch.uk)





## Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council update

### Christmas celebrations in Sundridge Ward

Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council are pleased to be partnering again with Fundridge Sundridge to host another Winter Funderland for the village.

Come down and enjoy a fun family Christmas afternoon on Coronation Gardens from 3pm to 7pm. See the Fundridge Sundridge update for full details of the activities happening on the day.

### Christmas celebrations in Ide Hill Ward

Once again, the Parish Council plans to hold Carols on the Green in Ide Hill on Friday 8th December at 6pm. Mulled Wine, Hot Chocolate, Mince Pies and Sweets will be provided free of charge by the Parish Council to all who turn up and join in the carol singing at the Well. Wrap up warm and bring your best singing voice. Event open to all residents in the parish.

### Parking Survey in Sundridge Ward

The Parish Council has conducted a parking survey within Sundridge. We had a good response with consistent views on the need to address the issues with cars blocking the pavements and lack of parking facilities in specific sections of the village. The Parish Council has managed to secure a meeting with Kent County Council Highways department that is responsible for the maintenance of our highways in the parish. We will be taking these views, along with the concerns around speeding in the whole parish, to the meeting and will feed back their comments in future updates.

### Ide Hill Memorial Plaques

Following a suggestion from a resident, the Parish Council has contracted a local sign writer, Royston Edwards, to carry out restoration work on the eight memorial plaques on the well at Ide Hill Green. The cost will be approximately £1,600.

One of the eight plaques was removed but will be replaced in its original condition in time for Remembrance Sunday. All eight plaques will then be removed for restoration. The plaques are made from mahogany and are generally in good condition. The fastenings are, however, in poor condition and are likely to be replaced. The plaques will be carefully rubbed back, the inscriptions re-written and then oiled (not varnished) to preserve the original patina and prevent cracking.

All this work has to be done by hand and is obviously a painstaking and sensitive task. Royston Edwards expects the work to be completed in the course of the early part of 2024.

### Stubbs Wood

Council has appointed local experts, Aztech, to undertake urgently needed works in Stubbs Wood as required under the RPA-approved Management Plan. The first works have already started with the Bridleway Ride Widening of both sides of the Stubbs Wood Car Park. Riders and walkers are advised to note that the works will require diversions on the footpaths and bridleways and are requested to heed all warning signs. Later in the Autumn/Winter clearance of trees to improve the views to Bough Beech, involving thinning and coppicing, will

be taking place, all of which are essential for the health of the woodland and to improve the wonderful amenity that Stubbs Wood offers to residents and visitors alike. This work is in addition to the excellent work that the Stubbs Wood volunteers do to maintain the woodland throughout the year.

### Telephone kiosk Ide Hill

At the recent Ide Hill Amenities Committee, residents requested that the Parish Council fund the refurbishment of the telephone kiosk in Ide Hill which is currently used as a book exchange. Resident Peter Wade volunteered to undertake the re-painting with paint supplied by the PC. Already the lighting has been repaired and Peter and colleagues will be making the red icon shine once again in the next few weeks.

### Ide Hill Toilets

Residents and visitors may have noticed that the Parish Council has had to increase the charge to use the Public Conveniences at Ide Hill to 60p. Unfortunately, despite several requests, the company that manages the payment system still has not updated the signs to reflect this. The increase has been necessitated by a recent spate of thefts, vandalism and the continued high cost of cleaning and maintaining this much needed facility. Other ways to raise funds to pay for its upkeep are also being sought, including grants, advertising and sponsorship. Residents are reminded that they are entitled to a refund of their 60p if they apply to the Clerk of the Parish Council with proof of residency in the Parish of Sundridge with Ide Hill.

### Catford Cycling Club

Once again, on October 8th, Ide Hill was home to "The Oldest Continuing Cycle Race in the World", held annually by Catford Cycling Club since 1886 at Yorks Hill. A 707 yard climb up a 12.5% gradient (with two sections at 25%!) is extremely challenging but is undertaken by a large number of men and women and children of all ages, cheered on by hundreds of spectators. The current record stands at around 1 min 47.6 secs set in 1983. If you get a chance, go along and watch next year. It is traditionally held on the second Sunday in October.

### Next Parish Council meetings - Full Council

Monday 20th November 2023 at 19:45

Sundridge Village Hall

Monday 11th December 2023 at 19:45

Sundridge Village Hall

## 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 Thursday 23rd November to:-

[editor@sundridgevillagenews.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com)

## Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society

We were delighted to welcome Andy Garland, broadcaster and presenter of Radio Kent's gardening programme, to our October meeting. Andy is also a trustee of Great Comp Garden and spoke passionately about its history from the sixteenth century, when it was just a farm, through to the present day. He told us that it has had several owners over the years including Frances and Patrick Heron-Maxwell. Frances was a pioneer of women's hockey and cricket and it was through tournaments held at Great Comp that she became great friends with Vera Cox, another advocate for the games, who actually inherited the estate after the deaths of the couple.

### Fundridge



#### PLEASE JOIN US FOR A CHEESE AND WINE PAIRING EVENING

Saturday 18th November, 7.15pm for 7.30pm  
Sundridge Village Hall  
£20.00 per head

RSVP [fundridgesundridge@gmail.com](mailto:fundridgesundridge@gmail.com)  
to reserve your place

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

### Dates for your diary

**Wednesday 8th November at 19.45** Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society AGM in Ide Hill Village Hall see article for details

**Saturday 18th November 19.30 Wine & Cheese Pairing evening**, see article for details

**Monday 20th November at 19:45 Parish Council meeting** - Full Council Sundridge Village Hall

**Tuesday 28th November 18.00 Tour of Westerham Brewery & Beer tasting** see article for details

**Sunday 3rd December 15.00-19.00 Winter Funderland** Coronation Gardens - See article

**Monday 11th December at 19:45 Parish Council meetings** - Full Council Sundridge Village Hall

**Until 31st December 2024 Textus 900 celebrations**

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

In the mid-20th century, the estate was bought by Eric and Joy Cameron, after glancing at an advert in 'Country Life' whilst on a train journey. They were keen gardeners and had a completely blank canvas with which to work, as it was just open farm land. So, over the years they have transformed Great Comp into what it is today, with its numerous trees, beautiful vistas, secret nooks and crannies and colourful herbaceous borders. It is well worth a visit!

Our next meeting is on 8th November at 7.45pm at Ide Hill Village Hall and is our AGM. It would be lovely to have some new members so, if you are tempted to join, please come along and meet us and have a glass of wine!!

### Car journey sharing??

In the interest of doing our bit to save the planet, I wonder if anyone in the Sundridge area would be interested in setting up a site for all those people who might consider sharing a car for any journeys they might be making, either regularly or occasionally.

As this would be confined to neighbours whom we know, there should be no risk involved. I am lacking the necessary social media skills to be able to do this myself, but I am sure it should not be too difficult to set up a Local Car Sharing site.

Fern Ogle 01959 562972 or [fernogley@gmail.com](mailto:fernogley@gmail.com)

### Friends of St Marys

#### THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH SUNDRIDGE

INVITE YOU TO JOIN A

### Tour of Westerham Brewery & Beer Tasting



**TUESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**

FROM 6 - 8 PM

The evening will comprise tastings of 3 or 4 beers, a tour of the brewery and a talk outlining the history of brewing in the area and explaining how Westerham makes its beers different. Shop purchases on the evening get a 10% discount. Bring your own nibbles!

£20 per person

Please contact Gary Davison to book a place  
(email: [gmdavison@aol.com](mailto:gmdavison@aol.com), phone 07747 457621)

Payment should be made to: Friends of Saint Marys Church Sundridge  
Sort code: 20-88-13 Account Number: 03030687 Ref: WB