

The Sundridge Village News

April 2020



In this issue we bring you no dates for your diary for April, a welcome report from the newly-formed Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society, news from our local school and a light hearted look at C19, plus news of the local Coronavirus Support Team which is only a phone call away.

Help is at hand

As life closes in on us during the Coronavirus and we become more isolated, please remember that there is help in our communities. In Sundridge, we are actively working on ways to support as many people as possible by picking up prescriptions, getting basic shopping, posting a letter or simply picking up the phone and having a chat.

We are a group made up of The Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council, The Churches of Sundridge, Ide Hill and Toys Hill, Fundridge, The Sundridge Social Club and local residents. Every household should have received a flyer by the time you receive this Village News asking what sort of support you need, or if you can offer support. The response by word of mouth has been amazing, so let's join together to make this a positive experience.

The group is now supporting 53 people in Sundridge and has 62 volunteers. What a great start.

Please call 01959 467223 or call or text 07785 342096.

Please don't suffer in silence.

Ash Wednesday

A Parish Priest had to call the fire brigade after accidentally setting fire to a batch of palm crosses that she was drying in her oven in preparation for her Ash Wednesday service. She returned from a meeting to find her kitchen filled with smoke. Palm crosses, it seems, are quite flammable. (Previous years' palm crosses are often burnt and used to make ash for the service). Clergy make the sign of the cross on the foreheads of worshippers using the ash as a sign of repentance. This year at St Mary's Sundridge, pupils from Sundridge and Brasted Primary School joined the congregation to take part in the service.

CORONAVIRUS SUPPORT

Working together to support the Sundridge and Ide Hill community

Hi there, neighbour. Are you unable to leave your home because of Covid 19/Coronavirus? We're here for you.

We are a group made up of The Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council, The Churches of Sundridge – Ide Hill and Toys Hill, Fundridge, The Sundridge and Brasted Social Club and local residents who have come together during a time where some people are finding it hard to access the help they need.

We would like to support the community that we live in and ensure that nobody is left isolated or without support. **We don't ask for anything in return**, we just believe in helping each other in a time of difficulty.

We are your local neighbours and not a professional body. We can only offer help within reason, and in ways we can also stay safe. If you need medical advice, use the **NHS 111** online coronavirus service at 111.nhs.uk/covid-19, or if you have no internet access, call **NHS 111** from your phone. In a medical emergency, dial 999.

NEED SUPPORT?

If you would like to speak to us, or want to ask for help, or have anyone near you that you think might need help, please call us on **01959 467223** or call or text **07785 342096** and let's see how we can help.

GIVE SUPPORT

If you would like to support the community and join in, we can add you to the WhatsApp organising group to coordinate support.

Please text **07785 342096** to join the group.

HOW CAN WE HELP?



ARRANGING DELIVERIES



PICKING UP SHOPPING & MEDICATION



A FRIENDLY PHONE CALL



POSTING MAIL



URGENT SUPPLIES



HELP TOPPING UP ELECTRIC OR GAS KEY



Sundridge
with Ide Hill
Parish Council



FUNDRIDGE
SUNDRIDGE

Parish Services for April 2020

In accordance with the Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of England, our church buildings are now closed for public worship and private prayer. Our Facebook page will contain details of how to join others online for prayer, worship, study, and community life. See us at 'St Mary's Sundridge, St Mary's Ide Hill and Toys Hill Churches'

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength . . . Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."

Rector

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Sundridge and Brasted Horticultural Society

The newly amalgamated Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening society met for the first time on Wednesday 11 March for a short AGM followed by a talk on hydrangea by Mr Maurice Foster.



We were delighted to welcome Maurice who has gardened at White House Farm in Ivy Hatch since 1975. He has 15 acres under cultivation divided into main areas - the garden around the house, a 6 acre arboretum and 2½ acres of woodland garden where he grows his hydrangea.

Whitehouse Farm is described as the chief British treasure house of hydrangea. Maurice is the holder of the RHS most prestigious award, the Victorian Medal of Honour for his Outstanding Contribution to Horticulture. He is recognised as one of Britain's most distinguished plantsmen and as a world authority on many hardy plants.

Maurice started his talk by asking his audience 2 questions.

Do we grow hydrangea? Just about everyone did.

Are hydrangea a main feature of your garden? One person thought they might be.

His illustrated talk then went on to show us the different and very varied types of hydrangea and their ideal growing conditions. It turns out that Sundridge and Brasted residents, who experience hard winter frosts, need to concentrate on the hardy types such as the very popular Annabelle, Quercifolia, the Paniculata and the Serrata

families. Maurice told us that these are impossible to kill once established. They just need to be kept moist and have an annual mulch.

We also learnt that a hydrangea plant is only as old as its oldest wood so cutting out old wood right to the base of the plant every year or two renews the plant and keeps it to its allotted space.

By the time the audience had seen the amazing variety of hydrangea that we can grow in our gardens, there followed lots of talk about where to buy them and best planting sites. I think many of us present will have been inspired to grow more hydrangea so that we can give a definite 'yes' to Maurice's second question.

We are due to visit Maurice's garden on 24th June but, under current government advice and restrictions due to the coronavirus, this is likely to be postponed until June 2021.

Sadly, our planned visit to the Tulip Festival at Pashley Manor has also been cancelled for this year.

If you want to join the society please make contact with our Membership Secretary Julia Ricci on 01959 569413

I look forward to seeing you soon

Elaine Moss



Covid 19

The spread of the virus is concerning but, at such a serious time, governments and citizens around the world are using quirky and even funny viral videos to educate the public (and each other) on how to stay safe. After all, who says you can't spread a little joy and laughter whilst trying to keep people from spreading a virus?

A week before Washington's primary elections were scheduled to take place, the Secretary of State tweeted a picture featuring a rhyme that warns the public against licking ballot-return envelopes to seal them.



Not to be outdone, a city in Texas put out a public service message to ensure that people got the message about hand-washing.

An Iranian actor has posted a one-minute orchestral parody of a song on Instagram to show the "proper way to wash your hands". Without saying a single word, he advises how to wash your hands thoroughly. As he "conducts the orchestra" he is scrubbing his hands, palms, nails and knuckles multiple times – as one should. He cleverly ends the video by sneezing into his elbow. The second time he sneezes, he does so into his palms, thus requiring him to start the video all over again – you guessed it – by washing his hands.



To help you get through these challenging and difficult times, the Editor brings you a selection of photos to lighten your darkness.



April dates for your Diary

Wednesday 1st Annual Parochial Church Meeting
CANCELLED - this will be held later on in the year.

Thursday 9th Agape supper
CANCELLED

Thursday 9th Mobile Library
SUSPENDED until further notice

Wednesday 22nd Brasted, Ide Hill & Sundridge
Gardening Society Visit to Pashley Manor
CANCELLED

Wednesday 22nd Friends of St Mary's AGM
POSTPONED until the Autumn

Great Sundridge Clean-Up
POSTPONED until the Autumn

News from Sundridge and Brasted Primary School

As always, we have much to report:

Elm class was treated to a visit from a PhD student scientist who provided a wonderful interactive lesson on bubbles. The children thoroughly enjoyed discovering how to measure and count bubbles using a tyre pump to release bubbles, a ruler to measure them and an (ipad) to watch the bubbles in slow motion. It turns out that it is very hard to count and measure the bubbles but it is possible!

Still on the science theme, Cedar class joined local schools in visiting Sevenoaks School to take part in its Science Week. They were treated to two workshops, "Izzy's Adventure" and "Bubbles and Balloons" which were excellent and great fun for all.

We have also sent two of our Willow class children to Radnor House for an author's visit led by Collin Parsons, a well known children's author. The focus of the day was how to start writing a book and how to draw on inspiration from the environment around us. Colin was an excellent speaker and worked with the children throughout the day, encouraging them to produce excellent pieces of work.

On World Book Day, the children were invited to come to school dressed as a character from a fairytale or traditional story, which was great fun! We are grateful to our parents for their support and creativity. All the children worked on writing stories during the morning and in the afternoon our PTA (Friends of Sundridge and Brasted School) held a tea party for the children who were able to invite a family member to join them. The children read their favourite book to their guest, showed them their fabulous costumes and everyone was served tea. It was a busy but thoroughly good day.



In order to celebrate the period leading up to Easter, Elm and Willow classes went to St Mary's Church for the Ash Wednesday service led by Reverend Pam. We are grateful to Pam and her team for inviting us to the service and for making us so welcome.



Finally, a quick reminder - we recycle crisps packets, Pringles tubes and contact lens packaging, all of which have collection boxes in the front playground for easy access should you wish to add to our collection and prevent these items going into landfill. We also now collect used stamps which will help raise money for Guide Dogs for the Blind. If you would like to donate your used stamps please do pop in, during school hours, to add your stamps to the collection box in the office foyer.

And finally . . .

MATT



*'There'll be loo rolls over
The white cliffs of Dover
Tomorrow, just you wait
and see'*