

The Sundridge Village News

May 2021



In this issue we bring you news from Sundridge & Brasted School, glorious pictures of the floral displays at St Mary's on Easter Sunday, how the village paid tribute to the Duke of Edinburgh, an update on the Clean Up and Duck Race from Fundridge and church services for the month of May.

Easter Day 2021



It was truly Easter weather as one walked under a beautiful blue sky up the church path between banks studded with primroses and violets to open the big West door. The church was, once again, opening its doors for public worship on a Sunday and what more appropriate day to begin than Easter Day itself? Revd Lynette Leithead led the service and Revd Angela Baker preached on the theme of the Resurrection: the reason for hope, the reality of hope and the responsibility it lays on us. It was lovely to see such a large congregation and to hear the organ playing once again.

During the season of Lent, we had had in the chancel a tall bare wooden cross as a reminder of the sacrifice to come. On Easter Day, a white shroud had been flung over the arms of the cross in celebration of the rising of the Living Lord and at the base of the cross a wonderful Easter garden of primroses.



Parish Services for May 2021

		Sunday 2nd	
09.15	Toys Hill	Morning Worship	
10.30	Sundridge	Holy Communion	
		Sunday 9th	
10.30	Ide Hill	Holy Communion	

Rector

Rev Pam Davies, email: rev.pamdavies@sky.com
Telephone: 01959 467223

			Sunday 16th
10.30	Sundridge	Holy Communion	
			Sunday 23rd
10.30	Ide Hill	Holy Communion	
			Sunday 30th
10.30	Ide Hill	Morning Worship	

Churchwarden, Sundridge

Althea Chapman
email: althea.chapman@outlook.com

Sundridge pays tribute to the Duke of Edinburgh

St Mary's bell ringers sprang into action on Saturday 10th April, the day after the Duke of Edinburgh died, as church bells were encouraged to ring out at midday: a single strike or muffled tolling but repeated 99 times for every year of the Duke's life. Muffling a bell is no easy feat. One half of the clapper is covered with a leather muffle, so on the front stroke the bell rings a full sound while on the back stroke the sound is muffled. When rung in sequence it gives an effect like an echo.

On the day of the funeral the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers stated that the tolling of a single bell during the hour before the funeral was permitted. Adam duly tolled our number 4, with Maggie in attendance, finishing in time for the minute's silence and he then took these pictures to show the covered clapper.

Many people passed through the churchyard during the ringing and expressed their delight at once again hearing the bells. It is hoped that the bell ringers will soon be able to organise another open session, offering a tour of the tower as well as the opportunity to handle a bell (under strict supervision). The last open session was a great

success with two members of Sundridge signing up for bell ringing lessons. Unfortunately, Covid put a stop to this, but it is hoped that bell ringing will commence with the general opening up of everything else countrywide.

It was estimated that 5,000 churches took part on Saturday 10th April, the day after the Duke of Edinburgh died, and our church was one of them. Thank you to the bell ringers. I am sure that those passing the church at that time were appreciative of the sound.

The Community Support Group posted a message about how lovely it would be to have a Union Flag flying at Coronation Gardens. More messages were posted as nobody seemed to have one, so a search was carried out



in Sundridge church to see if a flag could be found. Meanwhile, work was well under way to cut and deliver a flag pole, which was soon in position. As no flag could be found, a purchase from Amazon was quickly secured. All in all, quite a military operation and one that I am sure the Duke would have chuckled over.



Village clean up and Fundridge duck race

Saturday 24th April saw the Annual Parish Council Village Clean Up and Fundridge Duck Race. The weather showed up, giving us a beautifully sunny afternoon and the residents of Sundridge, old and new, joined us to help bring a bit of sparkle back to our village. An impressive 60+ bags of rubbish were collected from all over the village by the 10 groups of families/friends.



After the litter pick the Fundridge Duck Race was held. Attendees could purchase a plastic duck number for £1 to enter themselves into the race and win a chance at one of the prizes, which ranged from Easter eggs to a bottle of champagne to wireless speakers. We even piloted a contactless payment system, which worked wonderfully. Thank you to Richard Dunckley and The Friends of St Mary's for your support in this.



John and Tricia Evans lined the ducks up for an exciting start at Sundridge recreation ground, particularly as the ducks seemed a little keen to get going on their own. The ducks set off at 16:45 and with a fair wind and John Evans following behind them (ensuring none got stuck and left in the river), they speedily made their way along the river to Coronation Gardens, with the winning duck setting a new course record of 10 mins! It shows the difference a lovely clean river can make!

Their speed made their arrival at Coronation Gardens a frenzied event. As duck catcher I was caught slightly off guard and had to quickly jump into the river with the net to catch them. The first 8 ducks over the line all took a prize home and there was even a prize for our very



own John Banbrook who received the wooden spoon as his duck did not seem to want to keep up the pace of the others.

The ducks' arrival was met with much excitement and cheering, particularly by the children along the bank and balancing on the log over the river. A simple sight that previously may have gone unappreciated but, after the year we've all had, to have our village green once again filled with the sounds of joy is the reason the Fundridge team came together. We hope you all had as much fun as we did.



Big thanks to John Evans, the Parish Council, Sevenoaks District Council, Friends of St Mary's and all our lovely volunteers for helping to make our first village event of 2021 truly wonderful.

Fundridge has lots more fun events lined up for the year, so we hope to see you all at a future one.

The Fundridge Team

John Banbrook, Kate Henry, Ali MacMillan, Henry Nicol, Fiona Parkin and Vikki Allgood

News from Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School

Greetings from Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School!

We'll start this issue with a quick catch-up from the end of last term.

Our Covid-compliant Easter Service was lovely, held on the school playground, with each class enacting a part of the Easter story alongside the relevant Bible reading. We were not able to invite our friends and families to join us but, nonetheless, the children were excellent and the final whole school song was sung with gusto!

Our PTA (FOSBS - Friends of Sundridge & Brasted School) also organised a wonderful Easter Egg Hunt for the children for the last day of term, with clues hidden around the school, for the children to find and answer, working in their bubbles of course. Answer sheets were



handed in to teachers – and all children were rewarded for their efforts with a chocolate egg.

FOSBS also held an Easter Bonnet Competition which produced a wonderful array of creative and delightful bonnets. Mrs Lockey, resplendent in her own Easter bonnet, kindly agreed to judge the competition for us and it was a difficult task indeed.

With regard to our ongoing fundraising we are delighted to advise that, thanks to the generosity of the Sundridge & Ide Hill Community Support Group, other members of the local community and our families, we have now raised sufficient funds to purchase an appropriate cabinet for the defibrillator which will be installed very soon. We are truly grateful for the support we have received.

It is now term 5 out of 6, traditionally the Summer term, and we are keen to do as much as possible in school and, within the current guidelines, to finish the school year with a flourish.

Tag rugby is back and we are grateful to Mr & Mrs Jack for the continued use of their estate for PE and play. We have a music teacher from Sevenoaks School joining us once a week to extend our music provision in school and we will be reinstating Forest School activities for all the children. We are indebted to Lady Plender for her kind permission to use the 'forest' part of her estate for this purpose. We hope to add in school trips and a sports events – but, as always, we await updated Government guidelines before making firm plans. We will keep you updated!

As always, we send our very best wishes to the community and hope you all stay safe and well.

Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School

News from the Parish Council

Within the Sundridge Ward, there have been three resignations since the beginning of the year: David Kempster, Steven Nash and Martin Darby.

At the full Council meeting on 18 January 2021 it was decided to hold the discussion on reviewing 'the rates of hire for regular and casual users of Sundridge Village Hall and Sundridge Recreation Ground for 2021/22 and next steps regarding the licences for hirers.' Members resolved not to change the current rates for casual hire of the Hall and the Recreation Ground. See below.* Members agreed that a Councillor working party should be formed to review the licences of all facilities and bring a proposal to the March full Council meeting.

Village Hall

Hourly rate £15 per hour (one-off hire)

£15 per hour (preferential rates for long term

Hourly rate £12 per hour (regular hirers) users and community users)

Recreation Ground

Matches: Senior £80, Junior £40, Mini £25

An Extraordinary Council Meeting was held on March 29. The Council was addressed by Mr Connolly, Manager of Sundridge United FC, who made a statement regarding the Club. He objected to the rise in the cost of the lease

and the timing of the rise in hiring rates to the Club. Mr McGinn, Secretary of Ide Hill Football Club, advised that the Club was still interested in hiring the ground for matches and offered to meet with Mr Connolly so that they could work together. The next few items consisted of agreements for regular and casual hirers as set forth at the full Council meeting on January 18.

However, the Council still had to agree 'the conditions and rates of hire of the Recreation Ground for Sundridge United Junior Football Club'. Cllr Darby proposed that the Club be issued a licence beginning on 30 March 2021 at reduced cost. Four other Councillors voted for the proposal. However, there were five against and two abstentions. The resolution was not carried. Cllr Baker proposed that the licence agreement for the recreation ground should be put out to tender for the start of the 2021/22 season with effect from 1 September 2021 and the licence fee decided by open competition from potential licensees, Sundridge FC being allowed to continue in occupation at previously agreed fee per month until the end of the 2020/21 season or no later than 30 June 2021. Six Members for the proposal and four against. The resolution was carried.

John Jolley

Gardening jobs to do this month

Caring for Narcissi

Most narcissi varieties will be coming to an end of their flowering season and may be looking a little messy. So it's time to get deadheading. Doing this allows the bulbs to focus their energy on creating stronger and healthier flowers for next year. Later in the month, also keep an eye out for tulips that have gone over and deadhead where necessary.



Take Pelargonium cuttings

Take cuttings from last year's plants now and they'll be ready in a couple of months' time. Choose a shoot with lots of growth and, using a sharp knife, remove the top inch of the stem. Strip away any lower leaves and plant in a gritty compost at the edge of your pot to create stronger roots. Keep them moist, frost-free and warm for bushy plants. Once replanted they should be in full flower within 4 months.

Start Dahlia Tubers

Now is the time to start dahlia tubers into growth in a greenhouse for planting outdoors in late May. Alternatively, plant dormant tubers direct into the garden late this month.



Fruit trees

Feed your fruit trees for a good harvest of healthy fruit. Use a granular fertiliser and finish by mulching around your plants with well-rotted manure or garden compost.



The above gardening tips have been suggested by the RHS. The RHS Photographic Competition inspires young and old alike to get outdoors and record how enriching and inspiring gardens and plants can be. Below is the 2021 winner, showing an exquisite nigella flower in evening light by Molly Hollman.



The June 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 24th May to:-
sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com

And finally . . .

Taken from a Parish magazine –

Correction: The following typo appeared in our last bulletin: 'Lunch will be gin at 12.15.'
Please correct to read '12 noon.'