

# The Sundridge Village News July & August 2021



In this issue we bring you flying doves, a graveyard trail, news from Sundridge & Brasted Primary School, a Ride & Stride challenge, dates for your diary, an explanation of cricket and another invitation to participate in flowers-on-the-doors from the Friends of St Mary's.

## Parish Services for July 2021

	<b>Sunday 4th</b>			<b>Sunday 18th</b>
09.15	Toys Hill	Morning Worship	10.30	Sundridge
10.30	Sundridge	Holy Communion		<b>Sunday 25th</b>
	<b>Sunday 11th</b>		10.30	Ide Hill
10.30	Ide Hill	Holy Communion		All Age Worship

## Parish Services for August 2021

	<b>Sunday 1st</b>			<b>Sunday 15th</b>
10.30	Sundridge	Holy Communion	10.30	Sundridge
	<b>Sunday 8th</b>			<b>Sunday 22nd</b>
10.30	Ide Hill	Holy Communion	10.30	Ide Hill
				<b>Sunday 29th</b>
			17.00	Ide Hill
				Songs of Praise

### Rector

Rev Pam Davies, email: [rev.pamdavies@sky.com](mailto:rev.pamdavies@sky.com)  
Telephone: 01959 467223

### Churchwarden, Sundridge

Althea Chapman  
email: [althea.chapman@outlook.com](mailto:althea.chapman@outlook.com)

**At the time of writing the Church is open for private prayer every Wednesday and Sunday**

## The Trinity Services

Ide Hill church was full of flying doves as we celebrated the Holy Trinity. Well, not literally, as these were created during the service and then hung on the prayer tree. It was a short service that tried to explain what the Trinity means, with a marvellous reading from the Old Testament

by Mitch telling us about Isaiah's experience of God. This reading is a very powerful one. Isaiah's experience of encountering God face to face made him acutely aware of his own shortcomings.

A lesson for us all, perhaps?



## More Flying Doves

Continuing the theme of paper doves, a flock of 18,000 paper doves has been strung together on 15½ miles of ribbon for a new art installation in Liverpool Cathedral. The work, 'Peace Doves', by the sculptor Peter Walker, is illuminated by a light show and accompanied by a soundtrack.

Many of the doves carry prayers and messages of peace written by thousands of schoolchildren and others. The

Dean of Liverpool said that the messages on the doves were “from people paying tribute to those they have lost, to those wishing for better times and, of course, many wishing peace”. She has invited people to “come and stand, sit, or lie under the installation and look up at the doves to experience a sense of serenity and peace.”

The installation remains open until 31st August.



## Grow a Sunflower for Harvest – with love from the Parish of Sundridge with Ide Hill and Toys Hill

If you attended the Family Church Service at Ide Hill recently, you would have been given a sunflower to grow. These were going to be given out on Rogation Sunday but, unfortunately, due to the ghastly weather in May, they were still showing brown compost rather than green shoots. Rogation is an ancient church festival to seek blessing on a community, its crops and its sustenance.

Most of the sunflowers have now been distributed but you can still enter the competition to grow the tallest sunflower by Harvest. More details regarding the strict rules for measuring will be available in the September issue of the Sundridge Village News. In the meantime, keep watering and feeding your sunflower.

There may be prizes! .....

### Toys Hill Village Show

The Toys Hill Village Show will be held on Saturday 4th September in the Village Hall. Doors open at 2.30pm and presentations will be at 4pm. Teas and cakes will be served – all proceeds go to the Hall.

There will be a number of new categories, plus many old favourites. There is a show schedule which can be obtained by emailing [th.show@dunsdale.com](mailto:th.show@dunsdale.com)

### The September 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

Wednesday 25th August to:-  
[sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com](mailto:sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com)



### Update on Reverend Pam Davies

I would like to update you on my current situation. I suffered a slipped disc back in January and I am making slow but steady progress. Currently I am still signed off sick by my GP and she is looking at making further investigations.

I would like to thank all those who have stepped in to keep our churches running during this time and whilst I was shielding from April last year. Thank you also to the many who have helped in the local community.

May God bless you all. *Revd Pam*

# News from Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School

*Greetings from Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School!*

We had a fabulous time exploring history this month. We dedicated a week to History, across the classes and across the curriculum. We started the week by introducing the book "The Street Through Time" which uncovers the layers of history beneath our feet and takes us on a 12,000-year visual journey back to the Stone Age. As the images unfold, the reader is taken through 14 different periods of history, so it was an excellent start to our History Week. We have used the story as a timeline for our learning.

To ensure that children had a good understanding of how they personally fit into history, we dedicated the first day of the week to understanding when they were born and when their parents and grandparents were born. This firm grounding enabled us all to move on to part two: the history of Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School. The children learnt about the history of both Sundridge and Brasted Primary Schools, how the villages were affected during the World Wars and how, more recently, the Brasted School was closed and the two schools became one.

We were delighted to welcome Mr Tony Hall, a local



resident whose family has lived in the area for a very long time, to talk to us all about the village, the changes through the years and his life here. He was absolutely wonderful, speaking to each of the classes in turn and telling us many excellent stories. We are immensely grateful to him for his time and for bringing lots of personal items, such as newspaper articles, photograph albums and medals, to

share with us. The children were thoroughly engaged and asked excellent questions.

The school has many artefacts, log books, school registers and photos of years gone by which make fascinating reading and were a wonderful addition to the week.

Once we knew how our school slotted into history, we began to investigate how our country has changed over time. Each class took a different time-period to focus on for the remainder of the week: Normans and Saxons, the Victorians, World War Two and the 1950s.

The week culminated in a presentation from each class and a look at each other's work. A timeline, beginning with the year the school was built, was hung in the hall and each time period studied during the week could be found under the correct period of the timeline. It was a really great week with lots of different aspects of learning such as Research, Art, Design & Technology and presentation skills and a fantastic start to the term.

In other news, the Year 6 children took part in Bike-ability training (cycling proficiency) in June to learn how to look after their bikes and to ride safely on the road. They all did really well and were a credit to the school.

In addition, as you may have noticed, the defibrillator has now been installed in the safe cabinet secured to the school building. It is for use within the community. As with all public defibrillators, it has been registered with the ambulance service and as such, in order to access the locked cabinet, the good Samaritan would need to ring 999 to call an ambulance and to be talked through both the access code and how to use the equipment.



For the future, we have taster sessions planned so that we may welcome our new Reception intake to school in preparation for September and we hope to have a whole-school trip to Drusilla's Park and a Sports Event in July. The Year 6 children are due to join in the Hever Castle Triathlon/Activity Day in July but, with all these events, we await Government guidance for schools for the relevant weeks and will go ahead or not, depending on the restrictions in place. We will update you next month!

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

*Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School*



## Appointment of a new master at Sundridge school

A contract has been drawn up between Richard Perry of Broadway, Worcester and the Managers of Sundridge School. He will be paid £55 in the first year and £50 in subsequent years. He may keep for himself Day School pence and one half of Night School pence (which he must conduct 3 times a week), and half of the grant paid by the Government to such schools. He will be given permission to live in the unfurnished School house, rent free, but must pay for all repairs and maintain the garden. He must be especially careful to clean out the Down Spouts.

For acts of immorality or insubordination, he may cane a pupil on the hands. Every Sunday morning and afternoon or evening he will take the children to the Service of the Church. He should make all efforts to ensure regular attendance and to maintain excellent order.

He will sit with the children in Church. He will take Choir practice and also when Miss Hammond, the Rector's daughter does not wish to do so, play the organ.

If required a Pupil Teacher will assist him and he will lodge him, charging him a reasonable sum. They will light the lamps and supervise the cleaning out of the fires. There shall be daily classes in Needlework taken by the Seamstress – the Master's mother. If the seamstress is ill, the Master must pay a substitute out of his own pocket. Three months notice on either side will cancel this contract.

William Spottiswoode Master of H.M. Stationery Office and of Combe Bank was among the signatories and also Frederick Polhill.

*Please don't be alarmed, this all occurred in 1873!*

## Fundridge Sundridge Summer Solstice Cheese and Wine night

Saturday 12th June saw the return of our popular Cheese and Wine night. This time with a bit of a twist as we had a change of location. Thanks to some sterling work being done by the Parish Council and a group of local volunteers, Coronation Gardens was given a summer tidy-up and we decided to make the most of it and hold the event outside on what was a brilliant warm summer evening.

It was a splendid sight to see all the community benches dressed with their chequered tablecloths, flowers, candles and cheese platters, while the villagers chatted happily away debating what the current wine on offer was.

Oli Henry and Ian MacMillan did a fantastic job again of getting us all guessing who was telling the truth about which wine was which. We had a Summer Solstice theme and got to taste some great Lebanese, Spanish, French and English wines. We had 5 winners who got all of the

6 wines right and got to take home a bottle of their favourite wine from the evening.

A big thank you to all our Fundridge volunteers that helped set up, lent equipment and time, and helped to make the evening possible.

We have more events over the summer, including a village cricket match on 8th August and Funstock - Fundridge meets Woodstock, live music, drinks, food and fun for the kids, on 29th August 2pm back on Coronation Gardens (opposite The White Horse).

*The Fundridge team*

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

Please Note: Fundridge Sundridge applied for, and was granted, the correct licences and permissions in place to allow the event to go ahead and be held within the Covid regulations.



## Cricket explained

An explanation of cricket is quite simple. You have two sides . . . ours and theirs, one out in the field and one in. Each man in the side that's in, goes out, and, when he's out, he comes in and the next man goes in until he's out. Then, when they've all been in and are all out, the side

that's been in the field goes in and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get out those coming in. Sometimes you get men still in and not out. Then when both sides have been in and out, including not-outs, that's the end of the game . . . It's really quite simple!

## Coronation Garden Summer Ready

On Sunday 30th May, Cllr Vikki Allgood and Cllr John Evans for the Parish Council, along with a group of local volunteers, former Cllr Graham Hughes, Gill Hughes, Ian MacMillan, Oli Henry, Fiona and Jules Parkin and Charlie Watmough, set to work clearing Coronation Gardens of the old previously cut-down foliage and cutting back the overgrown bushes and trees.

This has allowed a lot more light to get through to the end of the gardens and on to the river. Some of the community benches have been placed along the river bank allowing now for a beautiful picnic spot with views down the river.

As well as clearing the green, Cllr Melvin De Bono selected and organised a supply of colourful plants that the group planted in the flower baskets at the crossroads, giving a fresh splash of colour.



The group also used some of the cut-down wood to create the beginnings of a bug hotel for Coronation Gardens. Cllr John Evans then returned a week later to give it a great facelift, roof and even a hedgehog-friendly lower ground floor! Bug hotels are important for insects such as ladybirds, bees, spiders and woodlice. They all use the hotel as a safe space to shelter, lay their eggs, raise their young and seek refuge from predators. We think it looks awesome and a great addition to the Gardens.

On Saturday 5th June the group was then back, along with Cllr Banbrook, to give all of the community picnic



benches that are available on the green a good spring-clean.

Cllr John Banbrook was back on Friday 11th June, joined by Gerard O'Riley, Cllr Vikki Allgood, Graham Hughes and Henry Nicol, to install the new summer lights for the green.

We hope you agree that Coronation Gardens is looking lovely and all set up for picnics and enjoying the long (hopefully warm) summer evenings. We've had lots of lovely comments from villagers on what a great improvement it is and such a lovely spot to enjoy. Feel free to pop down and have a picnic on the benches anytime.

The summer-ready green was put to the test on the evening of 12th June when Fundridge Sundridge held their usual Cheese and Wine evening but this time on the Coronation Gardens instead of in the village hall. A brilliant evening was had by all followed by dancing under the new lights. Check out Fundridge's Facebook page for more details and upcoming events. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/fundridgesundridge/permalink/4104547849591215/>

This is the second step in a programme of activities from the Parish Council this summer to help tidy up the village. Watch this space for more news on future activities. If you are able to get involved and help out your village as part of one of the working parties, please get in contact with Cllr Vikki Allgood.



## Do you recognise anyone?

I have been asked by the daughter of Betty Smith (née Bingham) if anyone can recognise a relative in the following pictures. Betty's late husband Roland Smith is at the back in both photos.



If you can shed any light, please email the Editor at [sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com](mailto:sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com)

## Brasted's Little Library

Have you seen the wonderful little library in Brasted, situated in the brick-built bus shelter on the A25, near the junction with Chart Lane, opposite Wisteria House? It is an absolute joy and so carefully and lovingly crafted. Is there anyone who could build one for Sundridge to go in the bus shelter on the north side of the A25? I'm wondering if the person who built the 'bug-house' in Coronation Gardens might be interested. Perhaps teaming up with the Community Support Group?



## Ride and Stride 11th September

The Friends of Kent Churches are dedicated to preserving Kent's churches and helping maintain them in good order. Ride & Stride is an annual event with 740 churches participating. It raises over £130,000 a year for Kent churches and half of the money that it raises goes back to the nominated parish. In 2019, £1,000 was raised by our own riders so £500 came back to the parish.

Participants plan their own routes with the assistance of a printed list of churches and chapels that are open. If you would like to get on your bike or put on your trainers and raise money for our parish whilst keeping fit, please contact either Althea Chapman (churchwarden) or Jane Belle for sponsor forms and information. the Editor is going to take up the challenge of 'Striding' the Ride & Stride, so if anyone wishes to sponsor her, please email [sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com](mailto:sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com)



## Edenbridge Parish Church launches Graveyard Trail

Edenbridge Parish Church (St Peter and St Paul) launched its new graveyard trail on June 19th at the church's Open Day. This was one of the many events celebrating the church's 900th anniversary that had to be abandoned in 2020, but research has steadily continued over lockdown, enabling the relaunch. The idea of the trail is to 'unearth' the stories of some of the people buried in the churchyard and gather them together as a piece of local social history.

The history of 18 local individuals and families buried in the churchyard has been chronicled. They cover a period from the late 18th century (most graves before that are hard to read) until 1904 when the churchyard was full and burials moved to the adjacent cemetery.

They shed light on some of the local tradespeople: chemist, wheelwright, butcher, dairywoman, innkeeper - those who once worked in the High Street shops and pubs we know today. Then there are shoemakers and glove makers, reflecting the centrality of the old tannery to the life of the town, and many farmers and agricultural labourers.

There are tragedies: the young woodsman who fatally wounded himself when he had an epileptic fit whilst out coppicing and the many young children who were victims of high mortality rates. And there are arguments: the parishioners who rebelled against the vicar and petitioned the Archbishop of Canterbury to have him removed, the Irish immigrants whose home was stoned by a mob angry that they were stealing local jobs, the Liberal voters ousted by Conservatives following the Reform Bill. There are local people drawn into conflicts further afield: the Crimean War, the Boer War and the First World War. And there are more peaceful pioneers, including those who set up the town Baptist church and the Ebenezer chapel.

The information will be displayed on noticeboards around the churchyard for Open Day and the following week or so and a booklet, including all the stories plus a graveyard map, will also be available from the church and from the Eden Valley Museum when it reopens.

A brief walk around the churchyard at St Mary's Sundridge indicates that this would be a very interesting project in which to get involved. I wonder where all the late Margaret King's notes and books are? She was so passionate about the history of the churchyard.

# Flowers on the Doors Festival 7th and 8 August 2021

We hope you will join the Festival on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th August by decorating your door, gate, window or garden with some beautiful flowers. The Festival will be just for the weekend but please continue to show the display for as long as you want. Our hope is that people will walk, drive or cycle past your display and feel so inspired that they will donate.

There are so many ways flowers can be displayed, fresh flowers, dried flowers or even fabric used to make a display. Here are a few from last year, hope you find some inspiration from them.



## Please join in

To participate simply show your display over the weekend.. that's it.. but if you can, please visit the Friends website, [friendsofstmarys.co.uk](http://friendsofstmarys.co.uk) and send us your address, just the name of the road, postcode, your email address and some pictures of your displays. We will add your road to the list where flower displays can be found and your pictures will be used to decorate our web pages.

We would love you to encourage donations from friends, family and those that admire your display.

Donations can be made via the Friends web site:- [friendsofstmarys.co.uk](http://friendsofstmarys.co.uk)

All of the money donated (less credit card transaction fee, our only cost) will go to the Friends of St Mary's Sundridge Church to help preserve the fabric of this fine old building and to provide facilities to improve the access and comfort for those using the Church.



To donate or for more news on the Festival and other local news visit [sundridgevillagenews.co.uk](http://sundridgevillagenews.co.uk)

## Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society

June saw the first outing of the Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society since lockdown and members were privileged to visit the garden, woodland and arboretum of renowned plantsman and horticulturalist Maurice Foster.

Tucked away off the main road in the village of Ivy Hatch, the 15 acres of land surrounding White House Farm have been developed over the last 50 years from nothing into an impressive and important collection of specimen trees and shrubs from around the world, and a testing ground for breeding hydrangeas, for which Maurice is rightfully famous.

The tour started in the five-acre garden surrounding the house, where Maurice's passion for trees is already obvious. This is a garden where plants are allowed to do their own thing and the style is very much naturalistic rather than formal and clipped. Grass pathways wend their way around large 'beds' of shrubs, trees, climbers and perennials, and there is something noteworthy to stop and talk about at every turn. Unusually, roses scramble high up into any tree that doesn't exhibit interest in at least one of the 'Five Fs' – Flower, Form, Fruit, Fragrance or Foliage! Our visit was too late for the (apparently) amazing display of rhododendrons and azaleas and the rain had spoilt many of the roses, but the deutzias were doing a grand job filling the gap, and this peony cross and gorgeous Clematis 'Teddy Bear' particularly caught my eye.



The arboretum, a seven-acre parcel of land that was covered with brambles just 26 years ago, is now home to 77 National Champion trees – the tallest of their genus in the country as well as one of the widest range of woody plants in the country. We only saw a small part of it, but were lucky to see some rare and beautiful late flowering magnolias.

Finally, the woodland, and what we'd all been looking forward to seeing – the famous and magnificent ¼ mile walk of hydrangeas. Sadly, the 19 frosts we had in April meant that the flowers were two to three weeks late, so



there wasn't much to see after all...we just had to imagine from the first few flowers that were starting to open!

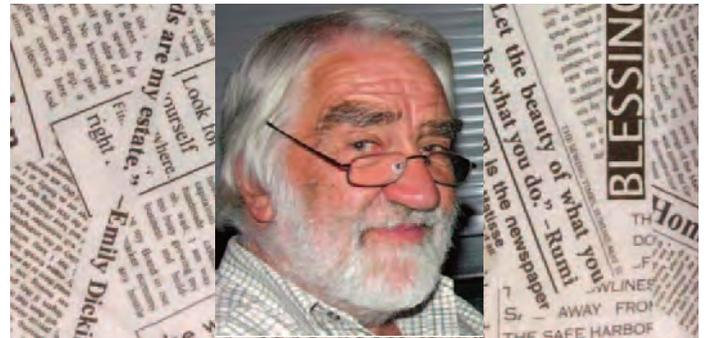
Moving on to future events. Unfortunately, we are unable to go ahead with the Summer Social on 14th July due to Covid regulations, however, we are looking forward to the Open Gardens in Greystone Park, Sundridge on



Wednesday 11th August. Open to members and their guests from 2-4pm, it is hoped that five or six gardens will be open and you are invited to stay and enjoy tea and home-made cake en route. There is no entry fee as such, but we will be asking for donations towards a local charity and look forward to seeing many of our members and guests there. None of the gardens will quite match up to those at White House Farm, but the owners are passionate and knowledgeable none the less, and will be delighted to show you round!

Happy gardening!  
*Julia Ricci*

The Friends of St Mary's Church, Sundridge are delighted to invite you to a talk by



### Bob Ogley *My Life as a Journalist*

St Mary's, Sundridge  
7.00pm Wednesday 4th August 2021

Bob is a wonderful, engaging speaker, his talks are always informative and interspersed with great humour. They are simply a joy.

Bob was born in Sevenoaks, has lived in the district all his life and is proud to be a Kentish man. An author of more than 20 books he has travelled extensively in pursuit of information and photographs. Bob is in great demand from organisations across the south-east to tell his unique story.

A former editor of The Sevenoaks Chronicle and journalist for more than 30 years, before leaving to concentrate on writing books and giving talks, Bob was a regular broadcaster on BBC Radio Kent.

Bob's talks cover many subjects including: War in Kent (and Surrey), the History of RAF Biggin Hill, Doodlebugs and Rockets, The Weather Wherever, Invicta - The Spirit of Kent, My life as a local newspaper reporter and, of course, The Great Storm and how it changed his life.

Tickets: £6.00 for members, £8.00 for non-members, to include light refreshments, available from: Richard Dunckley, richarddunckley@hotmail.com

*There will be light refreshments served after the talk*

## The Ide Hill Fair

Come and celebrate the end of the summer holidays at the Village Fair which is taking place on Bank Holiday Monday, August 30th. There will be the usual array of fun rides, inflatables, roller ride, stalls and activities, dog show, bbq and tea tent etc. The fair will open with the fun run and there will be a children's fancy dress competition during the afternoon on the theme of Book Characters.

## Open up our Churches

I was reading an article in the "Church Times" recently about churches needing to be open. Well, it was a rainy day! In it, a vicar in the diocese of Salisbury wrote about how the most significant change that he was able to make during his first 12 months in office was in opening the doors to his church. The effect, he says, has been profound and positive. Most passers-by, as may be expected, do not enter, but still they notice that the church is open. He goes on to say that opening the doors has profoundly affected the congregation. He had noticed that, before, there were two distinct groups – those who (for current or historic reasons) had keys and those who did not. Now, all have equal access. He pointed out that, as England emerges from a period of indescribable trauma and untimely death for so many, our closed buildings convey the message that our parishioners are on their own: God has retreated and may, at best, be encountered via Zoom.

Whilst weeding the path to the West door the other day, I chatted to a couple who were packing up after having a lovely picnic in the churchyard. They were disappointed to find the church closed. They were not from the area, nor were they regular attendees in their own village, but would have liked to have gone into the church. I wondered how many more people to whom we are closing the door. During lockdown, so many walkers have ventured out and discovered the wonderful walks around our village, many of them cutting through the churchyard. How are we ever going to encourage a new generation of people into the church to take that first step of faith if we continue to keep our church doors firmly shut?



## Dates for you diary

### July

**Tuesday 13th July Community Coffee Morning**  
10.30 at Coblands Garden Centre - more information from Martin on 07785 342096

**Tuesday 27th July Community Coffee Morning**  
10.30 at Coblands Garden Centre

### August

**Wednesday 4th August Talk by Bob Ogle – My Life as a Journalist** St Mary's Church, Sundridge 7.00pm  
(see flyer for tickets and details)

**Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th August, Flowers on the Door Festival** (see article)

**Sunday 8 August, Village cricket match**

A Fundridge event. For more information on any Fundridge event, please visit the Fundridge Sundridge Facebook site.

**Tuesday 10th August Community Coffee Morning**  
10.30 at Coblands Garden Centre

**Wednesday 11th August Brasted, Ide Hill & Sundridge Gardening Society: Open Gardens** at Greystone Park 2.00pm to 4.00pm

**Tuesday 24th August Community Coffee Morning**  
10.30 at Coblands Garden Centre

**28th, 29th and 30th St Mary's Ide Hill Flower Show and Ide Hill Village Fair** – from 1.00pm

**Sunday 29 August Funstock**

2pm Coronation Gardens. A Fundridge event. For more information on any Fundridge event, please visit the Fundridge Sundridge Facebook site.

### September

**Saturday 4th September Toys Hill Village Show**  
Doors open at 2.30pm (see article)

**Saturday 11th September Ride and Stride**  
See article

## And finally . . .

*Read in a magazine -*

*When at a party, a woman (half socialite, half journalist) told me how "brave" she thought I had been for not getting a face lift. I was tempted to comment on the courage she had shown in dealing with the results of hers!*