

# The Sundridge Village News December 2021 - January 2022



In this issue, we hear about Revd Tim Edward's thoughts on Power, a plea for Poinsettia, and offer of help for those parish residents in need. We learn about Gaia at Rochester Cathedral, Half Masts, a touching burial arrangement in the Netherlands and have news from the last two Fundridge events. We have the Church services for the Christmas season and January, updates from the Parish Council, the Friends of St Mary's, the Sundridge Community Land Trust, the Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society, news from Sundridge and Brasted School and, of course, Dates for your Diary.

Whilst Rev Pam Davies continues to be on sick leave, the Revd Tim Edwards, Rector of the United Benefice of Knockholt with Halstead, has very kindly offered to provide the parish's pastoral support, including weddings and baptisms. He can be contacted via email: [rev.tim.edwards@gmail.com](mailto:rev.tim.edwards@gmail.com) or telephone 01959 532133 or mobile 07980 826365

## Parish Services for December 2021

### Sunday 5th

09.15 Toys Hill Holy Communion  
10.30 Ide Hill Christmas Tree Service

### Sunday 12th

08.00 Ide Hill Holy Communion  
15.30 Ide Hill Carol Service

### Sunday 19th

08.00 Sundridge Holy Communion  
18.30 Sundridge Carol Service

### Friday 24th Christmas Eve

17.00 Toys Hill Crib Service  
23.00 Sundridge Midnight Communion

### Saturday 25th Christmas Day

09.15 Toys Hill Holy Communion  
10.30 Ide Hill Christmas Day Service

### Sunday 26th Boxing day

10.30 United Service with Knockholt with Halstead at St Margaret's Halstead

## Parish Services for January 2022

### Saturday 1st New Year's Day

12.00 Sundridge Ringing in the New Year

### 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

### Sunday 16th

10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion

### Sunday 23rd

10.30 Ide Hill Holy Communion with Baptism

### Sunday 30th

10.30 Ide Hill All Age Worship

### Churchwarden, Sundridge

Althea Chapman

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

## Poinsettia request for Carol Service

Over the past few years, many people have kindly donated a Poinsettia to St Mary's, Sundridge and this has provided a warm welcome for the congregation attending the Carol Service and, of course, be part of the Christmas and New Year floral decorations. The Flower team will again be grateful to receive any plants you feel able to donate.

This year the Carol Service is at 6.30pm on Sunday 19th December and we would again welcome Poinsettias, either on Saturday 18th December, from 10am to 2pm at the Church, or at the Carol Service on the Sunday.

Thanks

*Beryl Norman*



## A Rector writes



Power.

I have been thinking a lot about it recently (not just because there was a power cut not long ago).

Everybody wants it.

Henry Kissinger described it as the ultimate aphrodisiac.

But, in particular, I have been thinking about its abuse.

So many of the stories that we see in the headlines

revolve around the abuse of power – I have no idea what will be hitting the news in the week that you read this, but I would feel fairly safe betting on the abuse of power being there in a prominent place.

It is as Lord Acton said: “Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely.”

Except, as we journey through Advent and towards Christmas, we are reminded of the one glaring exception to that – the one Person who genuinely has absolute power, and for whom that leads not to abuse but, astonishingly, to service.

Christmas is when we fix our eyes on the One through whom the universe was spoken into being; the One in whom every particle of matter is sustained in existence;

the One whose will is expressed in the ‘laws’ of physics. And when we see Him laying aside the trappings of divinity, taking permanently to Himself a human nature, for what?

As He Himself put it: “the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45)

That is, He came not to be waited upon (as we might in His position), but to serve by giving up His life upon a brutal cross to rescue us from our sin, from the selfishness that corrupts us and turns us away from God.

And Advent points us forward, too – forward to the point when He will return, not humbly lying in a manger, but in all the glory He deserves, and will come to bring perfect justice and to right all the abuses of power we see around us.

I wonder: are you ready for that?

Just as you need to pre-order the gifts and the turkey to get ready for the great day, what might you need to get ready to meet the One who came that first Christmas?

Perhaps you might want to pray today: “Lord Jesus, if You are real (and I am not sure about that), please would You show Yourself to me and by Your death on the cross would You make me ready to meet You, please? Amen.”

*email rev.tim.edwards@gmail.com or*

*telephone 01959 532133 or Tim’s mobile 07980 826365*

## Coming to Rochester Cathedral 8th – 28th February 2022

### *About Gaia*

If you loved the ‘Museum of the Moon’, you won’t want to miss Luke Jerram’s ‘Gaia’ coming to Rochester Cathedral between 8th – 28th February 2022.

Measuring seven metres in diameter, Gaia features 120dpi detailed NASA imagery of the Earth’s surface\*. The artwork provides the opportunity to see our planet on this scale, floating in three dimensions. The installation creates a sense of the Overview Effect, which was first described by author Frank White in 1987. Common features of the experience for astronauts are a feeling of awe for the planet, a profound understanding of the interconnection of all life and a renewed sense of responsibility for taking care of the environment.

The artwork also acts as a mirror to major events in society. In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, the artwork may provide the viewer with a new perspective of our place on the planet: a sense that societies of the Earth are all interconnected and that we have a responsibility toward one another. After the lockdown, there has been a renewed respect for nature. A specially-made surround sound composition by BAFTA award-winning composer Dan Jones is played alongside the sculpture. In Greek Mythology Gaia is the personification of the Earth. Gaia has been created in partnership with the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), Bluedot and the UK Association for Science & Discovery Centres.

\*The imagery for the artwork has been compiled from Visible Earth series, NASA.



### *About the artist*

Luke Jerram’s multidisciplinary practice involves the creation of sculptures, installations and live arts projects. Living in the UK but working internationally since 1997, Jerram has created a number of extraordinary art projects which have excited and inspired people around the globe. Jerram has a set of different narratives that make up his practice which are developing in parallel with one another. He is known worldwide for his large-scale public artworks. <http://my-earth.org/>. More details will be released about Gaia soon, so please check our webpage: <https://www.rochestercathedral.org/gaia> and social media pages.

## Remembrance Cheese and Wine Saturday 13th November 2021

The hall looked lovingly illuminated. Many thanks to those who helped to make it that way.

Each Cheese and Wine that Fundridge organises comes with a theme. This time it was Remembrance. On one level, as it was the weekend of November 11th, Remembrance as we understand it. Then cheekily, on a second level, we matched the wines as a type of remembrance. 'Remember the 1970's when there was no choice of wine?' The decorations on the tables reflected this. Not only was there a Union Jack at each placement, but also one of those very 70's hedgehog pineapple, cheese and silver skin onion decorations as a centrepiece on each table. This was all about combining both levels of remembrance.

Blind tasting this time involved all those old and unloved wines from the 70's, such as Mateus Rose, Blue Nun and an Italian Chianti. It also included some very lovely English wines. The cheeseboard was English only, and wow, aren't there some lovely cheeses in this country?

We have always had two compères – Ian and Oli - to say what they think each wine is and then the guests make a decision on who is telling the truth. Generally, the compères know their wines, but this time Julian stepped in for Oli. Jules knows nothing about wine, which was completely obvious as he was unable to pronounce any of the words that Ian had written down for him in the script. Needless to say, I was cringing, while others kindly laughed at the dunce.

How it ended was that we celebrated the winners and losers and stood up to sing the things we know best. There may have been some dancing too....

Fundridge has received many thanks for the evening. We are just happy everyone enjoyed themselves. That is what Fundridge wishes for at all events – people within the village, getting together, having a good time, meeting people they haven't met before, and continuing that circle of friendship.



## Fundridge Sundridge Halloween Children's Walk – 31st October

Our commitment to the village is to try to put on individual events to cover different age groups. The 31st October was for the smalls of Sundridge, to celebrate a spooky Halloween.

Around 15 children, all dressed up, congregated with their parents at the White Horse to set off for a flurry of knocking on doors, calling 'trick or treat' and having their small buckets filled with relentless amounts of sweets.

Thanks to Henry and Beth's precision planning, we had a march up and down Main Road, into Combe Bank Drive and then up Church Road, stopping in at Monds Cottages. The children had the delight of knocking on around 10 doors in the village. I have to state, only people who had signed up to be knocked on, we didn't just randomly frighten...

We then ended up back at the pub where Ellie put on hot chocolate and Beth had made a huge batch of Halloween cupcakes.

It was so lovely to see children aged from 2-11 having a great time around the village. In fact, some were less than 1, but I'm not convinced they actually knew what was going on. It was also great to meet some parents from the village whom I had never met before.



It was a fantastic event, which will happen every year henceforth. Many thanks to Henry and Beth for instigating this and then running with it.

*I have never fully embraced the 'trick or treat' from Halloween. I have always seen it as 'threat and bullying'. Also, I have felt it's been one of those commercialised holidays that we have taken on board directly from the US. It wasn't until an American friend of mine pointed out that usually, a week later, we in the UK are happy to celebrate someone being burnt on a bonfire (albeit, at least that has some historical relevance) and that makes us incredibly non politically correct.*

*Point made.*



## Why are flags flown at half-mast?

There are so many expressions that are taken for granted, we all know what they are or what they mean but, for most of us, the origins are unknown or lost in time and the origin of flags being flown at half-mast was, for me at least, one of them.

It is difficult to be sure but one story which seems to be widely supported is that, during an expedition to Canada by the British ship the Hearts Ease in 1612, the Captain, James Hall, was killed by an Inuit spear. The crew lowered the ship's flag to half-mast, which may have been done to alert others that something was amiss, but there was also a sailor's superstition that a ship's flag was flown at half-mast to allow space for the "invisible" flag of death. The ship arrived back in London with the flag still at half-mast, so still displaying the invisible flag of death.

One of the earliest accounts of flying the flag at half-mast, or half-staff as it is in America, is when in 1799 on the death of George Washington the American Naval Department ordered all of their ships to lower their flags



to half-staff. The practice remained unofficial until Dwight Eisenhower's 1954 proclamation 3044 which set out the rules for the way that national flags should be displayed, including flags flown on all federal buildings.

# Parish Council Update

## Sundridge Recreation Ground

Set back from the main road surrounded by trees, Sundridge is very fortunate to have one of the largest recreation grounds in the area.

The ground, originally part of Combe Bank Parkland, came into the ownership of the Parish in about 1935. Since then, Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council has managed these facilities on behalf of the Parish.

As well as being an open space for locals to walk and enjoy, the grounds also provide facilities for sports clubs and similar organisations. Various different sports clubs have called Sundridge Recreation Ground their home over the years. These clubs help provide welcome sports and leisure opportunities in the village, as well as being a source of additional funding to support the Parish Council in the maintenance of Parish assets.

There are two full size football pitches, occasionally subdivided into smaller pitches for junior sport, and an adult exercise area. A cricket square may be added shortly. The pavilion comprises changing rooms with sanitary and washing facilities and a small reception/ kitchen area, plus storage. The Recreation Ground is always open and available to the public to walk, exercise and enjoy.

This summer the Parish Council launched a tender process and invited local sports clubs and organisations to tender for the use of the facilities. This was done so that the Recreation Ground could be used more extensively for the encouragement and development of sport and leisure within the Parish.

The Parish Council received tenders from four parties

### Average Speed Camera to be sited on A25

Following lengthy discussions, it has finally been agreed with Kent Highways that an Average Speed Camera/ Automatic Number Plate Recognition System is to be installed on the A25. There will be one camera at the entrance to Brasted and the second one between the Sundridge Village Shop and the traffic light. These will operate in both directions 24 hrs a day.

The Parish Council fought for a third camera at the eastern end of the village, but financial constraints

and entered into discussion with all who applied. After detailed discussions and assessment, we were unfortunately unable to proceed with one of the tender offers. This was due to scheduling conflicts and, as the party involved was not associated to the Parish and was also offering a sport already available, the Parish Council regrettably withdrew its offer.

The Parish Council is happy to confirm that offers are moving forward with the 3 remaining parties that applied.

A lease has been requested by Radnor House School to use the Recreation Ground during school hours for a fixed annual fee.

A lease has also been requested by the newly-named Ide Hill and Sundridge Football Club for three evenings and at weekends during the football season, again for a fixed annual fee. They will be offering Men's, Women's and Juniors football and are welcoming new members, so please do get in contact if you are interested in joining - [idehillfc.co.uk](http://idehillfc.co.uk).

Thirdly, a licence is to be issued to Sundridge All Stars, a local junior football team that was looking for a new home ground. They will be using the pitches on Sunday mornings and one evening in the week.

The Parish Council remains in charge of the Recreation Ground which remains permanently open and available to the public to walk, exercise, and enjoy.

In the future there may be an opportunity to upgrade and add to the current facilities available. We look forward to the grounds being used to their full potential.

prevented this. However, we are assured that monitoring strips will be put in place so that, hopefully, KCC will react to the results and eventually we will get the third camera. As we are the first "A" road ever to receive this technology in Kent, it is being carried out as a 4 month trial, with a consultation for Sundridge and Brasted residents. It is important that residents respond to this consultation, as KCC will use the results to finalise the scheme.

*John Evans (Chairman, Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council)*

## Well, you can look



## Parish events

### CHRISTMAS IN IDE HILL CAROLS ON THE GREEN

Mulled Wine, Mince Pies and Refreshments

10th December at 7pm  
Ide Hill Green,  
opposite the Christmas Tree

As we all missed family gatherings last year, Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council invites you to join a Christmas celebration on Ide Hill Green with carols and festive refreshments provided.

Everyone is welcome, bring the family

# News from Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School

*Greetings from Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School!*

As the nights draw in, the autumn leaves fall and the weather deteriorates, we are determined to enjoy school to the full!

You may have noticed that our front playground now doubles as a roadway, complete with junctions, parking bays and stop signs which our Early Years children are thoroughly enjoying. Additional scooters and bikes will follow shortly.

We have invited prospective parents into school for tours, to meet the staff and see our lovely school in action and we are delighted to report that we have received wonderful feedback. Our visitors have particularly commented on our creative and vibrant learning environment and the warm and friendly atmosphere in school. Primary School applications need to be completed by mid-January, so we do hope that families in the community with pre-school children have come to see us. If not, please do call the school to make an appointment.

We have asked our Year 6 boys (we are somewhat low on girls in our current Year 6 and actually have a whole cohort of boys!) to apply for the job of Head Boy for this academic year and we are delighted to advise that we have appointed two Head Boys who will be excellent role models for the rest of the school. We have also appointed Prefects, Sports Captains and Collective Worship Prefects who are all rising to the challenges and responsibilities of their respective roles fantastically well.

We marked Remembrance Day during a whole school Act of Worship held at the War Memorial at St Mary's Church. The children laid the wreaths they had made in class, Year 6 read poems and prayers and, throughout, all of the children showed the utmost respect and observed the 2-minute silence beautifully. In addition, two of our children represented the school by attending the Remembrance Service at St Mary's Church on the following Sunday and laying a wreath on our behalf. They were both mature and respectful and a credit to the school.

We have supported Children in Need by wearing own clothes in exchange for a donation to the Children in Need charity and supported the British Legion by selling poppies and various poppy accessories in school. We are grateful to Mr Lynch for providing the poppy resources.

We have students from Sevenoaks School with us on Thursday afternoons, running a mud kitchen for the younger children which is proving to be.....messy but fun! And Mr Lopez from St Michaels' Prep is still with us, enhancing our sports provision for all the children.

Clubs are thriving, particularly judo, football and cookery, and it is really great to see the children engaged in these activities and their skills progressing.

We are also grateful to the lovely team of ladies from St Mary's who kindly visited us to make Christingles with our younger children, talking to them about the meaning of the Christingle celebration. We then held our own Christingle Service in school, led by Sue Leather of Westerham Church, and we look forward to our Nativity Play and a Carol Concert scheduled for later in the term. Lots to do and lots of fun!

FOSBS (Friends of Sundridge & Brasted School) has also been very active, organising a number of fun events for the children and fund-raising events for the school. We have enjoyed a Pumpkin Trial, a film night and look forward to Christmas parties. FOSBS also subscribed to the Cauliflower Christmas Project whereby the children's

Christmas artwork is turned into Christmas cards, wrapping paper, printed notebooks and printed mugs, which has proved to be very popular with parents.

Finally, we have a vacancy on our governing board for a co-opted governor. Governors form a team of critical friends who work in conjunction with the Headteacher to run the school. They do not need particular skills but a commitment to supporting the school is key. Please contact the school office if you are interested in joining the team.

We send our very best wishes to the community and hope you all stay safe and well and have a wonderful Christmas.

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.

*Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School*  
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)



## Update from Sundridge Village Community Land Trust

On 2nd November 2021, the Sundridge Village Community Land Trust (CLT) held a public meeting to present the Village Regeneration Plan. The meeting was held in person in St Mary's Church, Sundridge, on Zoom for people attending on-line and was recorded and released on the Sundridge.org website. In the Church 104 people attended, together with a further 40+ people online.

The Committee presented the scheme that had been developed over the last 3 years. The Sundridge Village Community Land Trust is a community organisation led by residents of Sundridge to develop the scheme for the benefit of the village and would only continue the scheme if it had support from the residents and CLT members connected with Sundridge village.

The Committee explained that there were constraints on the scheme because of the scale of community facilities and the minimum 50% affordable housing the CLT was committed to deliver. This meant that the number of residential units to make the scheme viable was broadly fixed. The village was asked if, as a community, we were prepared to accept a scheme of this scale to create these new community facilities.

The scheme comprised 88 houses (50% affordable), 16 senior living studios, 6 artisan workshop units, a sports pavilion, a village hall, a medical centre and a site for the school.

Following the presentation, the meeting opened to questions and comments from those attending in the Church.

Our villagers raised many concerns, including the scale of the scheme, the loss of green belt land, the site as it is a flood plain, traffic and access concerns and the impact of the development on the residents on Main Road.

At the end of the meeting, attendees were asked

whether the Committee should continue to develop our proposals to submit to a formal vote of the members of the Community Land Trust, prior to submitting the scheme for Planning Permission.

The meeting voted by a show of hands and opposed proceeding with the scheme by 29 votes to 20 votes in the Church. Further responses after the meeting did not demonstrate that a majority of people in the village supported the scheme and so the Sundridge Village Community Land Trust Limited will cease the scheme and close the company. The Committee will settle final invoices and return surplus funds to the grant bodies and donors. The Committee will notify the Members of the closure of the CLT.

The Committee is disappointed that we are unable to deliver this challenging scheme that we felt would allow us to seize this once-in-a-generation opportunity to regenerate our village. However, we are a village organisation which committed to listen to our community and must respect this feedback.

To finish on an optimistic note, we have a fantastic community within Sundridge. We have many community groups who give their time and energy to making this a great place to live: groups like The Parish Council, the Community Support Group, The Social Club, Sundridge-Sundridge, the Horticultural Club and the Church. All of these groups have many volunteers giving their time, for no reward other than to support the village. We have different opinions but we all have a single objective - to make our village a better place in which to live - and so we will move on as friends and find common ground to solve the issues our village faces.

*Julian Parkin, Chairman (retiring)*

*Sundridge Village Community Land Trust Limited.*

## Friends of St Mary's update

On Wednesday 10th November we welcomed John Bailey to the church to give us a talk entitled "The Life of Your Church Architect". We believe audience numbers may have been reduced due to a clash of dates with the Gardening Society – as you will see elsewhere, the subject of their talk was "Sex and Violence in the Garden" which possibly sounded more alluring! Those attending John's talk, however, were certainly not disappointed as he gave us a fascinating account of his varied career and the many locations where he has worked. As surveyor of the fabric to Rochester, Wakefield and Guildford Cathedrals, as well as Inspecting Architect to many parish churches, John's remit is generally to maintain, restore or reorder historic buildings and his passion for his work was evident in his presentation. He illustrated his talk with numerous slides of projects he has undertaken and it was a pleasure to learn about the hidden secrets of so many wonderful buildings. Many questions from the audience were taken at the end and John was thanked warmly for the time and enthusiasm he gives to St Mary's Church. A splendid evening concluded with drinks and nibbles; the event

raised over £140 for the Friends and was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended.

In last month's "Village News" it was announced that a party would be held on Thursday 20th January 2022. It has been agreed that, due to the likely uncertainty around coronavirus restrictions and the nature of the event, the party will be postponed. The plan is to hold the Friends' Annual General Meeting in person in April and this will be followed by the rescheduled party. Please watch out for more details in the coming months.

## The February 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

Tuesday 25th January to:-  
[sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com](mailto:sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com)

## Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society

On 10th November, after a very short AGM, we listened to a talk from Tessa Allen who is a regular speaker at our meetings. Tessa has been gardening for over 33 years and lecturing in the subject for a little less. She has been running her own garden maintenance business for all that time and claims to be still getting just as excited about horticulture as she ever did!

Tessa's talk was entitled 'Sex and Violence in the Garden' – who could have guessed that her aim was to make us aware of the creatures inhabiting our gardens, what they are getting up to under our noses and the impact this has on our precious plants? In short, all about the reproduction, birth, life and death of some of the most annoying pests in our gardens.



She first talked about the lily beetle, a non-native invader which seems to have been first found at Wisley and has now spread countrywide. These prolific, bright red insects are attracted to lilies where they mate and lay their eggs. It is the larval stage which does the damage as the orange grubs devour the lily leaves, covering themselves in their own excreta to deter predators from eating them. Anyone who grows lilies will know these pests and how difficult they are to control. The best way seems to be to quickly catch and destroy the adult insects before they see you coming, otherwise they drop upside down on to the soil where they can't be seen. Sneaky!



Aphids are another real nuisance to gardeners. Early in the spring, overwintering eggs hatch into females who, if all the conditions were right, could each produce up to 600 billion live young during a single season. Fortunately for us, there are many limiting factors, especially as aphids provide a very tasty meal for small birds, hover flies, lacewings and ladybirds. If wildlife is encouraged in gardens and pesticides are avoided, the predators usually control aphids very effectively. Where there are aphids there are usually also ants. Contrary to popular belief, ants don't actually eat the aphids but 'farm' them for their honeydew sap. Unfortunately, sooty mould grows on the sap and this then damages the leaves of plants.



Slugs and snails are hermaphrodites with both male and female reproductive organs. They have a very elaborate courtship lasting many hours and are able fire 'love darts' into each other prior to mating. The mucus on the dart produces a pheromone-like compound. Perhaps this was the origin of Eros with his arrow! The best way to deal with slugs seems to be to grow things

they don't like or use special nematodes which are watered on to the soil. Snails are not affected by the nematodes as they go to work below ground, so other means are needed. Frogs, toads and hedgehogs are the gardener's friends here.

Tessa went on to talk about vine weevils (whose grubs munch their way through plant roots), cabbage white butterfly caterpillars (which decimate the leaves of all brassicas), the dreaded whitefly, and winter and codling moths (pictured) which do so much damage to apples and pears. Fortunately, there are natural controls for all of these pests involving a different nematode, pheromone traps and tiny parasitic wasps, including encarsia Formosa, which will control whitefly in greenhouses.



The good news, we were told, is that earwigs are not pests at all as they also eat aphids and are apparently very sweet! (Tell that to the dahlia flowers.) In general, if a creature moves slowly, it will eat plants and if moves fast it will usually be a predator.

Tessa concluded her talk by encouraging us all to work with nature, avoid pesticides and make our gardens a haven for beneficial wildlife. Excellent advice and something we can all try to embrace as the garden comes to life next spring.



We will now take a break over the winter months, meeting again for Afternoon Tea on Wednesday 16th February 2022 at 2.30pm at Ide Hill Village Hall (members - please make a note in your diaries!) It will be a good opportunity to catch up with each other over tea and home-made cake, to renew subscriptions and pick up a programme for the year ahead. We will be asking all members to complete a GDPR form, confirming their consent for us to store and use their contact details for Society purposes.

Annual membership is just £5 which gives you access to talks, visits and events from February through to November, as well as a 10% discount at Newlands Nursery, Goathurst Common. If you'd like to join us next year, please contact our Membership Secretary for more information by emailing [juliaricci@rocketmail.com](mailto:juliaricci@rocketmail.com) or come along to the Afternoon Tea with your £5 on 16th February. We look forward to welcoming you.

And finally, we were saddened to hear the news that Estelle Hyams passed away in November. Estelle was an active member of the Sundridge and Brasted Horticultural Society and, in recent years, was Programme Secretary which involved coming up with and organizing a varied and interesting set of visits and talks every year. Estelle also introduced a raffle at all our meetings, sourcing a wonderful array of prizes and raising hundreds of pounds for the Society over the years. She served diligently on the Committee and will be remembered for her commitment and active participation at all the Society's meetings and events.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Estelle's family and friends – she will be sorely missed in the Sundridge, Brasted and Ide Hill communities.

*Elaine Moss/Julia Ricci*

## No wall shall divide

In the 19th century, separation of Dutch society into groups by religion and associated political beliefs (known as pillars) meant that many people had little or no personal contact with people from another pillar. Within the graveyard of Roermond in the Netherlands is a dividing wall separating Protestant and Catholic burials.



Married for 40 years Colonel J.W.C. van Gorkum was a Protestant and noblewoman J.C.P.H. van Aefferden was a Roman Catholic. When the Colonel died in 1880 his wife knew that society would not allow her to be buried next to him. The solution was ingenious. Van Aefferden made arrangements for the Colonel to be buried near the wall, and she would be buried in the same location on the other side of the wall.

Two hands clasping across the divide symbolizes their love and union, and no doubt a visual rebuff against Dutch society at the time.



## DO YOU LIVE IN THE PARISH OF SUNDRIDGE WITH IDE HILL?

**There is a fund in the parish, to help residents who have financial difficulties.**

If you (or anyone you know) are experiencing hardship and would like to know more about the fund, please do contact one of the Trustees listed below. All enquiries will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Mrs J Rutter  
52 Chapmans Road  
Sundridge TN14 6DS

Mrs L Denbigh  
3, The Pantyles  
Nightingale Lane  
Goathurst Common  
Ide Hill TN14 6BX

Tel: 01959 565334  
e: jorutter@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 01732 750435  
e: liz.stagecoach@btinternet.com

## December dates for your diary

**Saturday & Sunday 4th, 5th Craft Fair**  
Coblands, Dry Hill Lane, 10.00 - 16.00

**Saturday & Sunday 4th, 5th Christmas Tree Festival.** Come and see the decorated trees in St Mary's Ide Hill 10.00 - 4.00pm both days

**Saturday 4th Christmas Tree Concert**  
St Mary's Ide Hill 7.00pm

**Friday 10th Christmas in Ide Hill, Carols on the green**  
7.00 Mulled wine, Mince pies and refreshments on the Ide Hill Green opposite the Christmas Tree

**Tuesday 14th Fundridge Seniors' Christmas lunch**  
A two-course lunch provided courtesy of Fundridge

## And finally . . . abridged classics

