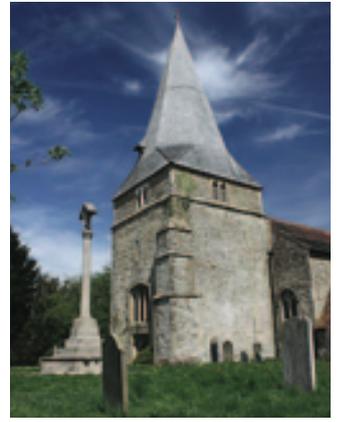


# The Sundridge Village News

## April 2022



In this issue, we hear some thoughts from Tim Edwards and about relief supplies being taken to Ukraine together with a short thoughtful poem, news about Forest Church, updates from the Parish Council and from Fundridge about their 'Around the World in 80 Minutes' event and their Quiz night, the latest from Sundridge and Brasted School and advance warning of an Open Garden day at Froglets, recommendations, hints and forthcoming events from the Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society 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 April 2022

#### Sunday 3rd

09.15 Toys Hill Holy Communion  
10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion

#### Sunday 10th Palm Sunday

10.30 Ide Hill Holy Communion

#### Friday 15th Good Friday

10.30 Ide Hill All Age Worship  
14.00 Sundridge The Last Hour

#### Sunday 17th Easter Day

10.30 Ide Hill Holy Communion

#### Sunday 24th

10.30 Sundridge Morning Worship

#### Rector

Rev Pam Davies

#### Churchwarden, Sundridge

Althea Chapman

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

### A Rector writes



It seems impossible at this time of year to miss things that look like signs of hope and new life.

Whether it is the plants in our gardens, the birds in the trees, or simply the Sun as days get gradually warmer and brighter, all of which are cheering to our hearts.

At the same time, there are so many things that remind us of the darkness that there is in the world.

Whether it is visiting someone in the hospital ("I do not know how long I have"), the fact that I do not know whether there will be a war in Europe when you come to read this, the loss of family members, the ongoing shadow of Covid, or a thousand other darknesses that never make it to the headlines.

So, which are we to believe? Which set of messages should we take seriously?

This month we celebrate Easter, the most glorious day of the year, and the message of Easter is that both are true and we can take both seriously, because God takes both seriously.

God takes the darkness of this world so seriously that Jesus came to die bearing the weight of God's judgement against the darkness we have created through our own actions - and in response even the Sun turns black on Good Friday as Jesus hangs on the cross.

And God takes our need for new life so seriously that Jesus bursts out of the tomb in indestructible life - so that if we will trust in Him, we can share in His eternal life.

That means that this Easter hope isn't just something whispered by the birds and the flowers - it is something we can take with utter seriousness.

That first Easter, it took the first disciples time for the reality of the resurrection and the hope it brings to sink in. I would love to chat with you about the difference that makes to real life.

In fact, I am going to be running a short, three-week course called "Hope Explored" to give you a chance to ask anything you like. Why not chat to me, or email me to find out more?

*If you would like to be in touch about anything at all, Tim would be delighted to hear from you.*

*Email him on [rev.tim.edwards@gmail.com](mailto:rev.tim.edwards@gmail.com)*

*or call him on 01959 532133*

*or on his mobile 07980 826365*

## Forest Church News

Yes, finally this is happening on the first Sunday of the month. Please come along and see what it is like to worship outside in nature.

Worship will consist of a simple service of about 30 minutes and will take place in and around the churchyards in the parish. Jane Rosam, a Reader in training, will be leading the worship. She runs Forest Church at Hever.

All are welcome whatever your age, however noisy or wriggly! Wear suitable outdoor clothing and do stay for refreshments afterwards.

Sunday 1st May 4pm - Ide Hill Churchyard  
Sunday 5th June 4pm - Sundridge Churchyard  
Sunday 3rd July 4pm - Toys Hill Chapel Grounds  
Sunday 4th September 4pm - Ide Hill  
Sunday 2nd October 4pm - Sundridge  
Sunday 6th November 3pm - Toys Hill

For more details please contact  
Diana Pickard dipickard2@aol.com  
Barbara Lockey hixmix@btopenworld.com

## Ukraine Relief

I am sure that a lot of you have given generously to help support Ukraine. So what are the aid organisers like and what drives them to help? This is Alicia's story.



Alicia and her husband Victor are both Moldovan and have lived in the UK for many years. As soon as the invasion happened they decided that something had to be done. "They are our neighbours and we have to help" - (Moldova shares a border with Ukraine). She put a request out and was soon overwhelmed and amazed by the amount of donations. Her husband drove a coach with a trailer attached with approximately 5 tonnes of aid (clothes, nappies, tinned food, medical supplies etc.) Victor and two other drivers left on a Sunday and arrived

in Moldova on the Tuesday afternoon (having driven non-stop) where the items were dropped at four different distribution centres, including an orphanage.



Having personally dropped off a sack of goods, it was apparent that the Ukrainians were after particular items that were not being donated, at the time it was first aid kits and tinned food, so the Sundridge & Ide Hill Community Group donated £500.00 towards the cause.

The idea was that they could buy the items they needed and it would also help with the cost of fuel and the ferry. Alicia said she had prayed for help with the costs and was tearful on receiving our donation.

*Community Support Group*

## A few thoughts

Woke up warm and safe in my bed.  
While someone else heard bombs over their head.  
I jumped into a nice hot shower,  
While someone else has lost all power.  
I hugged my family, we were all together,  
While others said goodbye, possibly forever.  
While I fear the money that I will spend,  
Others worry of losing the country they defend.  
In the time it took for me to write this verse,  
Many have lost the things they love most.  
So, when I start to bitch and want to complain,  
I will stop myself and pray for Ukraine.

*Art Smith*



## Fundridge Quiz Night

Question – *Who sang the hit song 'Oh What a Night'?*

Answer - **Frankie Valli**

If you answered the above question correctly, you were either at the Fundridge Sundridge Quiz Night or we'll see you at the next one.

Thursday 24th February, 11 teams descended upon The White Horse eager to give their brain cells an outing or to socialise with friends and neighbours.

Colin Greenwood (The Stanhope Arms resident quiz master) kindly agreed to host the event and his natural enthusiasm for quizzing made for a fun and entertaining evening.

The final winners, following a tie break with The Gizmo team, were the aptly named 'Colin's Lift Home' team (their final score was checked just to make sure no fixing was involved!)

It was great to see residents from Chipstead and Brasted attend the evening along with Sundridge locals.

Finally, a big thanks to The White Horse team for the great restaurant/bar service during the evening and also for donating the main prize of meal vouchers for each winning team member.

*Many thanks from the Fundridge Team*

## The Parochial Church Council

The Parochial Church Council meets about 6 times a year and runs the affairs of the 3 Churches in our 3 villages along with our Rector, Revd Pam Davies.

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to two of our members, Sally Bawn and Ed Dixon, so are making an appeal for some new members to help us run the important Church business and events.

We are also looking for 3 Church Wardens to join Althea Chapman who is our only Warden and is doing an amazing job in this most important role. Our Churches do amazing work, often behind the scenes, and the 3 Church teams are busy and would love to get more help.

The Friends of St Mary's, Sundridge is holding its AGM on 28 March, followed by a talk on 'The Charge of the Light Brigade' by Nick White and refreshments.

The recently formed Friends of Ide Hill Church has an exciting programme and new members are signing up to get involved in this worthwhile cause - forms available in the Churches or contact Lynne Rutherford or Jane Rossi.

Our Annual APCM meeting is to be at Sundridge Church on Wednesday May 25th at 7pm and all are welcome to attend.

Lastly, please note our upcoming services and join in at any of our 3 lovely Churches where you will be welcomed by our amazing Church teams.

*P J Rutherford (PCC Acting Chair) 07887 613842*

## Froglets Garden Open

With a fair wind, we HOPE to be able to have Froglets Garden Open on Sunday May 15th. All takings will go to charity, 50% to Christian Aid and on from them to the DEC Ukraine Appeal, and 50 % to local charities.

We have a wild, storm-battered and higgledy-piggledy 4-acre garden, but I believe visitors will find plenty of interest, even though none of it is manicured and rabbits or squirrels have destroyed most of the smaller plants. A large area of woodland is left for the pleasure of wildlife.

We have Bob's Special Lockdown project to show off - a laurel wood cut down, cleared and re-planted - an extra area to look after! We also have a table of Objets Trouvés.

We are hoping for local help in providing cakes or sandwiches for teas and also in erecting tents and, particularly, marshalling cars in and out of the Pipers Green field.

We would be delighted to hear from anyone who thinks they may be able to contribute in any way at all.

All we need is for the sun to shine.

*Fern and Bob Ogley fernogley@frogletspublications.co.uk*

Later in the year we shall be inviting the Friends of St Mary's for a special visit. Date to be decided, probably July.



# News from Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School

## *Greetings from Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School*

We've had a great month! We started with World Book Day, which was wonderful. The whole day was given over to the wonder of books and reading. The children dressed up as their favourite story character and we saw a fabulous range of costumes representing so many books! They all looked fantastic and prizes went to Ninja Boy, Cat in the Hat, the Witch of 'The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe' and the Billionaire Boy.

We had also set the children the challenge of being photographed while reading in a random or unusual place or pose at home or outside (we named it 'extreme reading!') They certainly rose to the challenge and were seen reading in very odd poses and in very strange places. Beautiful photos, one and all! The winning photo was one of our young children reading a book on the track at Brands Hatch! (In safe and risk-assessed circumstances, of course.)

We also had several 'surprise readers' (mums, dads and nans) who came into school to surprise their children, have a read with them and enjoy snuggle time with a hot chocolate and biscuit (or two). Our older children also enjoyed reading time in the afternoon with a biscuit (or two) and a 'surprise book' (wrapped so as to be in disguise!), one that they might not have chosen for themselves but enjoyed nonetheless. All in all, it was a wonderful day!

Later on in March, we were treated to a series of Science Workshops offered by Sevenoaks School. We enjoyed an Aerospace Workshop where the older children learnt about the physics of how planes leave the ground and heard the story of the restoration of Spitfire AA810, which was shot down on 5th March 1942 and recently recovered from the mountains of Norway. Another class learnt about liquid nitrogen when the Head of Science at Sevenoaks School explored the world of cryogenics and spoke about what happens when items are cooled down by 200°C. There were practical experiments and an explosion! (In safe and controlled circumstances, naturally.)

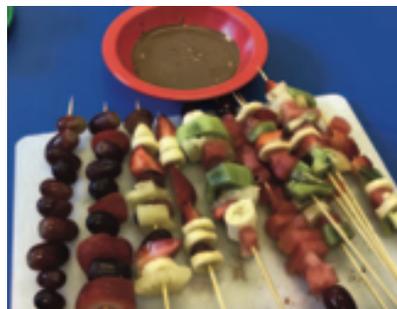
Our younger children heard from real-life engineers and scientists working in the UK in a workshop entitled 'Who Wants to be a Superhero?' Each guest showed a short video about their job and what they enjoy most about it. The workshop highlighted a wide range of careers and showed the children that engineers and scientists are people just like them and that anyone can be a superhero.

We've also been skipping! Skippy John came to visit. He worked with each class in turn, teaching the children to start with bouncing, to use a skipping rope and graduating to new skipping techniques and games. He was extremely impressed with all of our children and their stamina and enthusiasm.

The sun was shining too and it was a great day!

And in the classrooms the past month has seen children tie dyeing, growing hyacinths, watercress and broad beans and talking about healthy eating and healthy choices.

Squirrel class children made their own vegetable pesto pasta, chopping and cutting and trying a variety of vegetables which they discovered were not as bad as they thought!! Our older children have also tackled self-portraits,



inspired by Frida Kahlo's surrealist style.

Our after-school clubs are still thriving and children are enjoying construction (Lego and K'nex), arts & crafts, cookery, football, judo and dance. In cookery club, the children have made pitta bread pizzas, fruit pancakes, cheese straws and, most recently, monster fruit kebabs... ..dipped in melted chocolate!

At the time of writing this item, our Year 5 and 6 children are enjoying their residential trip at Hindleap Outdoor Activity Centre in East Sussex. They will be trying archery, abseiling, climbing and high ropes as well as lots of team-building activities, fun and games. So far, all is well. The weather has been good, the children have been brilliant, adventurous and supportive of one another and we look forward to hearing all about their trip when they return home.

In the last week of term we will have Tea with Mr Hardwick, which includes cakes and hot chocolate with marshmallows, to celebrate with our most hard working and most improved readers, and an Easter Bonnet competition for the whole school. We will also have our Stations of the Cross display set up in St Mary's Church and we are grateful to be able to do so. The Stations of the Cross is an interactive and reflective journey for the children to learn about the events of the Easter story. Each class will visit the church to work through the Stations, as well as focusing on the Easter story in class. We will finish the term with our Easter Service in St Mary's Church led by Sue Leather and invite our families and friends to join us.



As always, we send our very best wishes to the community and wish you all a happy, healthy and peaceful Easter.

*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

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## Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society

We are very fortunate to have three lovely garden centres within a stone's throw of Sundridge village: Sevenoaks, Coblands and Newlands Nursery at Ide Hill. At our March meeting, we were given an interesting insight into what goes into running one of these centres as we enjoyed a talk by Tim and Judith – the new management team at Coblands.



Many local residents will know Coblands as the plant nursery on Dry Hill Lane which existed for many years as trade-only. Tim described the site as a 'graveyard for plants' which is a sad but true description of the former business. Not so anymore! As you walk through the entrance into the glasshouse, you are met with a colourful display of beautiful seasonal plants bursting with life and energy. It takes a strong will for any gardener to walk through without being tempted!

We heard about how the business plan was put together for the new retail business which launched, of all weeks, in the first week of lockdown, March 2020. The ethos is very much one of 'plants first', and 'customer recognition'. Coblands has received new branding, launched a loyalty programme and opened a café, and is welcoming many new and returning customers through its doors. It even offers a personal shopping service so, even if you don't know anything about plants, there will be a friendly member of staff to help you make the right choices for your garden.

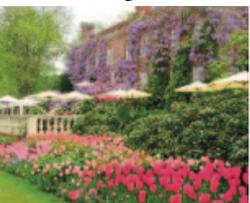
85% of the stock you'll find at Coblands will have been grown in the UK, and the team travel around the country visiting small and specialist plant breeders who produce smaller quantities of new and innovative varieties, such as the beautiful hellebores that are currently in full bloom. Herbs are grown in the UK by a sister company from cuttings that come from Israel and many of the specimen trees and topiary have come from specialist growers in Italy.



If you haven't visited yet, do call into Coblands and have a look – and don't forget your credit card!

If you still haven't renewed your subs yet for this year, you can do so by coming along to our next event which will be on Wednesday 20th April. We will be visiting a member's garden in Ide Hill to enjoy a wonderful display of rhododendrons and azaleas. Please contact Julia Ricci on 01959 569795 for more details.

The following week, on Wednesday 27th April, we will be visiting Pashley Manor in Ticehurst for their spectacular Tulip Festival. This beautiful garden will be carpeted with over 48,000 tulips, with 105 varieties planted in colour-themed garden 'rooms' throughout the grounds. More tulips are on display as cut flowers in the Bloms Bulbs marquee.



Bloms, winners of 68 Chelsea Gold Medals, are on hand throughout the Festival to share their knowledge of these beautiful bulbs and to take orders from those inspired by the spectacle.

With a café serving locally sourced homemade cakes, scones and lunches, a shop with gifts, souvenirs and plants, and exhibitions of garden sculpture and floral art, Pashley's Tulip Festival makes a superb day out. Members, please contact Helen Isaacs if you would like to attend (Helen's contact details can be found on the Gardening Society programme).

If you'd like to become a member of the Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society, please feel free to contact me for more information by emailing: [juliaricci@rocketmail.com](mailto:juliaricci@rocketmail.com) or calling 01959 569795.

We look forward to welcoming you.

*Julia Ricci*

## Fundridge Easter Saturday



Easter Saturday 16th April. 2.00. There will be an Easter Egg treasure hunt followed by the annual Duck Race at 3pm (buy your ducks before 2.30 or get used to disappointment) on Coronation Gardens. If it's a lovely day, bring a picnic and use the benches provided by the Support Group.

## The May 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

Friday 22nd April to:-

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

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## Around the World in 80 minutes (approx.), 5th March 2022

It was so lovely to see the village hall totally filled with laughter and love. 8 tables of 6 people had the experience of tasting the beverages and food from some of the countries that Phileas Fogg, the character Jules Verne created in 1872, visited. Pakoras and samosas from India, sushi from Japan, antipasti from Italy to name but a few. All complimented by beers, wines and water from the appropriate countries. During each country visited, the tables were given a quiz round relating to that particular

stop on the journey - won by Marvellous Melvin, but then passed on to Amazing Ana who made the Bailey's cheesecake for the Irish part of the journey.

A big 'thank you' to all those who supported us. We've had a lot of positive feedback from the night. Many apologies for the 3 hours rather than the 80 minutes (approx.) promised. If we choose to recreate the event, perhaps fewer stops next time...!

*The Fundridge team*



## Parish Council update

Phone mast - Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council has been requested to consider a telecommunications mast in the Ide Hill area. Following representations from residents and considering the recent problems after the storms of last month, the PC considers the need for an improved mobile phone signal in Ide Hill, Goathurst Common and beyond to be a vital utility. We are in dialogue with the company to consider a satisfactory solution. If this progresses, we will ensure that all required consultations are undertaken.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee arrangements - application is being made for road closures in Sundridge and Ide Hill (subject to residents' approval) for street parties to be held on Friday 3rd June. Arrangements are underway and we will keep residents informed over the next few weeks. Offers of assistance in either village will be appreciated.

By-election result - in the vote for the election of a District Councillor in the Brasted, Chevening and Sundridge Ward on 3rd March 2022, Nigel Williams was elected with 820 votes.

Stubbs Wood - following the termination of the contract for the clearance and coppicing work in Stubbs Wood, Ide Hill, the local volunteers have done excellent work tidying up after the contractor left and continuing such work as is practical and safe to improve viewpoints. Another contractor to complete the work will be

appointed following a new tendering process.

Wheelchair access in Sundridge – as a result of a comment by a resident using a wheelchair in Sundridge, the Parish Council will be looking at ways of improving access to those areas under Parish Council ownership, including the Recreation Ground and Bowsers Meadow.

Dog bins - the Parish Council will be requesting Sevenoaks DC to replace dog bins in Sundridge and Ide Hill with new, multiuse and recycling bins. Not only will these look more attractive, but they will save the PC money.

Average Speed Cameras - these are now operational between the A25 west entrance to Brasted village and Sundridge traffic lights on a trial basis.

Ide Hill Public Conveniences - new lighting has been installed to improve safety and use less electricity. This was achieved with a significant grant from the Ide Hill Community Shop and the Parish Council thanks them for their generosity.

Annual Parish Meeting – this will take place in the Sundridge Village Hall on Monday 9th May 2022 at 7pm. All residents of Sundridge and Ide Hill are welcome to hear from and meet their parish councillors.

Parish Councillor vacancy - A vacancy exists for a parish councillor from Sundridge for the Parish Council. Anyone who wishes to be considered for this important position is invited to contact the Clerk: [clerk@sundridgewithidehill-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@sundridgewithidehill-pc.gov.uk)

## Fundridge Murder Mystery



**BITESIZE DRAMA** Invites you to a Murder Mystery...

*Murder is Academic*  
from the polished pen of Cally Eva Bennett

**Saturday 9th April 2022 at 6.30pm**  
THE WHITE HORSE - Main Road, Sundridge,  
TN14 6EH

Tickets: £25.00 (includes a two-course meal)

Email [fundridgesundridge@gmail.com](mailto:fundridgesundridge@gmail.com) to reserve tickets.

**FUNDRIDGE SUNDRIDGE**

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

## Dates for your diary

**Saturday 9th April Fundridge 'Murder is Academic' Murder Mystery Meal** at the White Horse - see notice for more details

**Saturday 16th April Easter Egg treasure hunt and duck race** 3.00pm on Coronation Gardens - see article

**Sunday 1st May Forest Church** - see article

**2nd to 5th June Platinum Jubilee celebrations** Parish Council's proposed street parties over the long weekend

**August Bank Holiday Sunday 28th August**  
Fundridge 'Funstock' on Coronation Gardens

## And finally . . .

