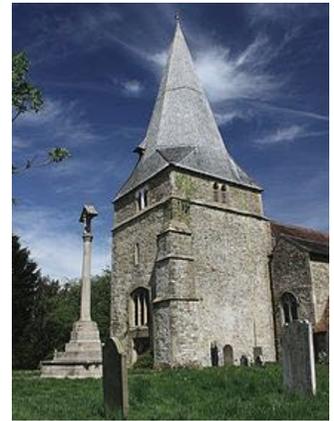


The Sundridge Village News

July - August 2022

In this issue you will find reports on the celebrations during the Jubilee long weekend, including wonderful pictures of the fabulous flower arrangements in the church, the Open Air service at Ide Hill, news from Forest Church, an update from the Parish Council, news from Sundridge & Brasted School and the Ide Hill, Brasted and Sundridge Gardening Society and, of course, dates for your diary.



Parish Services for July 2022

Sunday 3rd		Sunday 17th	
09.15	Toys Hill	Morning Worship	10.30 Sundridge Holy Communion
10.30	Sundridge	Holy Communion	Sunday 24th
<i>This service is being taken by the Venerable Sharon Copestake, Archdeacon of Tonbridge</i>		10.30 Ide Hill	Morning Worship
16.00	Forest Church	Toys Hill Chapel ground	Sunday 31st
Sunday 10th		10.30 Ide Hill	All Age Worship
10.30	Ide Hill	Holy Communion	

Parish Services for August 2022

Sunday 7th		Sunday 21st	
09.15	Toys Hill	Holy Communion	10.30 Sundridge <i>Service to be confirmed</i>
10.30	Sundridge	Holy Communion	Holy Communion or Morning Worship
16.00	Forest Church on Holiday!		Sunday 28th
Sunday 14th		10.30 Ide Hill	<i>Service to be confirmed</i>
10.30	Ide Hill	Holy Communion	Holy Communion or Morning Worship

A very sad announcement

It is with great sadness that we have to break the news that Trevor Davies, the husband of our Rector Pam, died suddenly on Wednesday 22nd June.

Our thoughts and prayers are very much with Pam and their whole family.

Sundridge with Ide Hill and Toys Hill Parochial Church Council

A Rector writes



While our Rector, Pam, is on sick leave, Tim Edwards, the Rector of Knockholt with Halstead, is kindly providing us with pastoral support. Here he offers some reflections for the month.

Our prayers are with Pam, our Rector, following the sudden loss of Trevor, her husband. Trevor was a devoted follower of Jesus and a man of deep faith. We rejoice in the assurance that he is with the Lord even as we share in Pam's grief.

As I write, the dust is settling after all the Jubilee celebrations for Her Majesty the Queen, and it was wonderful to be able to be at some of the events in your parish and to see the hard work of so many people.

As I was reflecting on that, one thing particularly struck me. So often it is the little things, a gesture or comment in passing, that gives real insight to a person and it was one of those that stood out to me.

In February, to mark the anniversary of her accession to the throne, the Queen wrote to the public. Among the sentences thanking people for their prayers and the paragraphs looking back, it was the very last thing in that letter that struck me: she signed the letter "Your servant, Elizabeth".

Your servant.

Isn't that remarkable? We are used to kings and queens having servants, but not being servants.

From where did Her Majesty get this deeply surprising perspective on her role? We don't have to speculate. She has herself told us repeatedly.

Jesus.

He is the source of that perspective that takes power and privilege and turns it into humble service.

Ten years ago, in her Christmas address (which, famously, she writes herself), she said: "This is the time of year when we remember that God sent his only son "to serve, not to be served". He restored love and service to the centre of our lives in the person of Jesus Christ."

The Queen is quoting Jesus' words from Mark 10:45: 'For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.' (This is a theme that she has repeatedly and explicitly focused on).

Amongst all the celebrations happening to mark Her Majesty's Jubilee, wouldn't it be such a shame to miss out on the factor that has made her such a remarkable monarch – Jesus, the King of kings (and queens!) who humbled Himself to die on the cross as a servant?

Why not grab a quiet moment and open a Bible to look at Mark's Gospel (that Her Majesty quoted above)?

Or, join us at church.

Or, I should love to have a chat with you.

Your minister (which is a word that means servant),
Tim

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

or call him on 01959 532133 or on his mobile 07980 826365



Friends of St Mary's Sundridge

St Mary's Church was the venue for the first Jubilee celebration in Sundridge when an "Open Church" took place on the evening of Thursday 2nd June. The event began at 5 pm and a steady stream of visitors were able to listen to and meet George, our resident organist. George, a local organ, piano and music theory teacher with experience of playing in many cathedrals and churches, was happy to explain how the organ worked, answer questions and fill the church with inspiring music. The flowers decorating the church were magnificent, including a very special Jubilee display in the Tower Room. At 6 pm a ceremony took place to light a symbolic "beacon" – in our case a fire pit supplied by Nigel Belle – as part of the nationwide chain organised to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Liz Finlason, a local trumpet player, performed a small selection of pieces known to be among the Queen's favourite music and a rousing finale of 'God Save The Queen' was a perfect reminder of the purpose of our get-together.

The bell tower was open to visitors between 7pm and 9pm and the bell ringers welcomed many people who were brave and energetic enough to climb up; there was an opportunity to ring one of the bells, under supervision of course, and a chance to enjoy the wonderful view from the belfry.

During the evening there was a churchyard trail to explore, involving clues to twelve graves marked on a map of the graveyard, and those who completed the quiz were rewarded with a small prize. A very comprehensive



photographic display showing past events organised by the Friends of St Mary's reminded many visitors of some very popular occasions. Refreshments were available throughout the evening and were very much appreciated. Liz very kindly gave a second performance of her repertoire to round off the evening - it was a delightful opportunity to listen in the open air and to enjoy the beauty of the church and its wonderful setting on a warm and balmy night.

The inspiration behind the event was Barbara Lockey who worked incredibly hard to bring all the aspects of the "Open Church" together in a most memorable way. Our thanks to her, George, the bell ringers, Althea, Liz, Nigel and everyone who contributed to an extremely successful evening.



Flowers for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Over the weekend of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, visitors to St Mary's, Sundridge, were welcomed to the church by tubs of red, white and blue plants outside the main door, and then entered the church to see many floral arrangements - some red, white and blue, others purple and white, created for this special occasion.

I would like to express my thanks to the Flower Team who worked so hard to create their arrangements, using the lovely flowers bought specially for this particular occasion. Also, my thanks to those who were kind enough to make a donation to the Flower Fund box at the rear of the church - this will certainly help to swell the Fund for future Festivals and donations are always welcome.

Beryl Norman



Forest Church at Sundridge

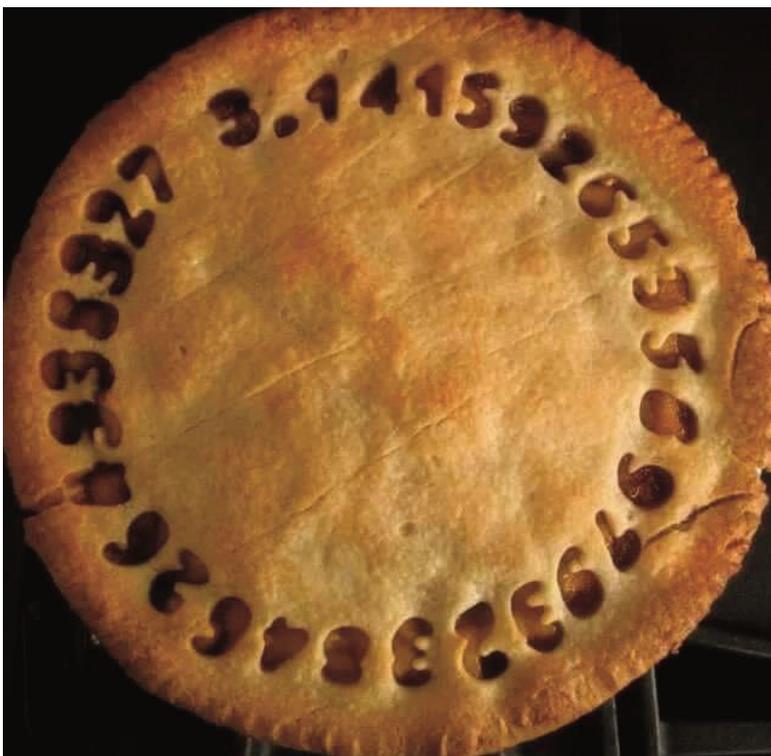
The second Forest Church took place in Sundridge churchyard and the weather was once again kind to us. Being Pentecost and World Environment Day, the theme was about God's Creation and His breath. Psalm 104 was read and we listened to the many things that God has created, including a great sea creature called Leviathan. We then created several sea monsters from our junk re-cycling and items found within the churchyard. We wrote prayers on flame-shaped cards for God's intervention for us and paper doves for peace, then hung them up. We ended the session with some refreshments and listened to Taizé's song, "Holy Spirit come to us."

The next Forest Church will be held in the grounds of Toys Hill Village Hall on Sunday July 3rd at 4pm. We'll be learning about doubting Thomas and thinking about our own doubts and fears. Don't forget, it's held outside so do keep an eye on the weather for appropriate clothing. Fun, refreshments and camaraderie guaranteed.

See you there!



One to think about



From the Parochial Church Council

The parish has an email from the Diocesan Advisory Committee saying that metal theft seems to be on the increase. A church in the diocese had a substantial amount of lead stolen from its roof. We are asking the community to report any suspicious activity to the police on 999 and/or note the registration of any suspicious vehicles.

Open Air service on the Ide Hill village green

Sunday 12th June dawned bright and sunny for the annual Open Air Service for the Parish of Sundridge, Ide Hill and Toys Hill. Our wonderful Angela Baker and Ruth Barrow put together a lovely service where Angela shed light on the meaning of the Trinity and Ruth with her guitar involved all the children in an impromptu orchestra to accompany one of the hymns.

Music for the rest of the hymns was provided by Barbara Lockey, her iPad and a powerful speaker. The music could be heard all the way down Camberwell Lane!

During the service, the children could be seen on the green with Barbara and Di Pickard, who kept them involved making beautiful Trinity bracelets, and afterwards everyone had an opportunity to chat over biscuits, teas and coffees, provided by Jan and Gary.

Thanks must go to Simon and Di Pickard, PJ Rutherford and Barbara Lockey for all the logistics, chairs and equipment, and to Jan and Gary who provide refreshments at all our services at Ide Hill. Words are not enough to express the deep appreciation we have for Angela and Ruth, who willingly give so much of themselves to pastoral care and services in our Parish.

Lynne Rutherford



Dates for your diary

Sunday 3rd July, Forest Church
4pm - Toys Hill Chapel Ground

9th and 10th July Fundridge Camping weekend
Overnight family camp-out in the fields at Radnor House School on Saturday 9th July Barbecue, outdoor games and refreshments will be provided. For more information contact Henry via email: henrynicol32@gmail.com

Saturday 16th July Fundridge Car Boot sale
10am - 2pm Radnor House School Car Park. For more information email: fundridgesundridge@gmail.com

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

Sunday 4th September, Forest Church
4pm - Ide Hill Churchyard

Sunday 2nd October, Forest Church
4pm - Sundridge Churchyard

Sunday 6th November, Forest Church
3pm - Toys Hill Chapel Ground

Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council update

Sundridge Platinum Jubilee Street Party

Over the weekend of the Platinum Jubilee, Sundridge Councillors along with a large group of village volunteers set to transforming Church Road into a wonderful Jubilee setting. The village planters and new pots were planted with red, white, and blue flowers donated by John and Emma at Sevenoaks Garden Centre and an additional wooden planter was made and donated by Graham Hughes. These are now at the crossroads for all to enjoy over the summer.



On the Wednesday evening the working party put the Jubilee bunting up along the road which made for a very colourful sight over the weekend.



At 9am on Friday 3rd June we then closed Church Road, putting to use the fantastic diversion signs that were made by the village for the Golden Jubilee and well looked after by Ian Whatley for the last 20 years. With the road closed the working group arrived on mass to position the farm trailer and old cart that hadn't been out for over 60 years. John Evans decorated the tractor and trailer giving it a new coat of paint in Red, White, and Blue. Shortly followed were the village picnic benches and tables from the village hall and others donated by several villagers. The decoration team then did a great job of decorating the street in Jubilee colours. We even received additional donations of balloons on the day from a few villagers. Thanks to Kerry Booker, Jason Hodge, John Evans and James Evans for the use of vehicles to help with all the transporting.

The sandwich making team led by Andrea Hodge then set to work on Church Road making 400 sandwiches in 90 minutes, ensuring all allergen information was tracked and made available. Thank you to Ellie and The White Horse for keeping these cool for us and donating your power and facilities.

At 2pm the street party commenced, and the village then enjoyed four hours of laughter, free food, music, and dancing. Standing on our wonderfully decorated farm trailer Sophie Mckinnon sang throughout the day, a range of songs from over the years, which had several of the villagers up on their feet dancing away. Thanks to Chris Ashworth for providing the sound equipment ensuring everyone could enjoy the music.



As well as the sandwiches, the BBQ team of Charlie Watmough, Graham Hughes and Julian Parkin did a stellar job of cooking burgers and sausages, meat, and veggie throughout the whole event. Free soft drinks were also available donated by Martin at the Village Shop, with tea urns from The Social Club and The White Horse.

A big thank you also to all the villagers that donated cakes and food for the event. We had an enormous, delicious spread to enjoy. What was left was handed out for people to take home and enjoy, left over sandwiches were taken to the social club and enjoyed during the evening party there and the left-over BBQ food was frozen and will be used for future village events. We had several plates, containers, etc. left behind so if anyone is missing one, these are all being stored at the Social Club, pop down to collect yours.



The children had a great time climbing on the farm cart and enjoying the children's activities including giant toys, decorating crowns, chalk drawings and a brilliant treasure hunt competition created by Kate Henry, with the prize, kindly donated by Graham and Gill Hughes. Thank you to Tristan Philpot for the use of his house for storage throughout the day and his drive as the location for all the children's activities. The adults also got to enjoy a Jubilee quiz produced by Wendy and Gerard O'Reilly and a free raffle.

At 5pm Parish Council Chairman John Evans invited the crowd to join in singing the National Anthem and three cheers to Queen. He also presented the village with

a Jubilee rose to commemorate the occasion. The rose has been planted on Coronation Garden for all the village to enjoy. I was also very grateful to be presented with a rose to thank me for co-ordinating the Street Party and my work in the village. It has taken pride of place on my patio.



Given the day was an opportunity to celebrate the life of service the Queen has given, John took the opportunity to look closer to home and thank our own community for all their service to the village. We are very fortunate to live in a wonderful village with so many volunteers that give so much to help others. Particular thanks were given to Andrea Hodge and The Social Club, Ana Sirgado and Matt Williams (previously from The White Horse and now at The Stanhope in Brasted), Martin Darby and all of the Support Group, Fundridge, Friends of St Mary's, Sundridge in Need Charity and the Parish Councillors, for all these groups' amazing work that was done during the Covid pandemic.

Lastly, a huge thank you to all the villagers that helped over the Jubilee weekend, without you all it would not have been possible. The clean-up was a fantastic team effort, and the street was left like we were never there thanks to Mick from Tiffany Plant with his road sweeper. Three cheers for our community, long may it continue.

Vikki Allgood

Ide Hill Jubilee Street Party

Ide Hill residents celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend with a Street Party on the Ide Hill Green. Organised by the Parish Council, and supported by the Ide Hill Community Shop, everyone was entertained by the New Orleans Echoes Jazz Band, Miss Rosy Rivets, a bouncy castle plus candy floss and slushies.



Picnics were brought and eaten at the long row of tables kindly supplied by Jo and David Paton plus the Ide Hill Village Hall. Red, White, and Blue was everywhere with Union flag table decorations, bunting and balloons.

The children were challenged to a Crown Decorating competition with colouring pencils, crayons, stickers, and stars adorning the cardboard crowns. Volunteers from the village ran the teas and cakes tent plus the crown decorating stall.

The weather stayed good until the end of the event, and we even got a brief slot on TalkTV before the Street Party started.



The Parish Council would like to thank all volunteers who helped transport, erect, and dismantle the marquee and gazebos, deliver, and set up the tables and chairs, supply electricity and water, provide the PA system, put out the bunting and decorations, serve refreshments, and then tidy everything away.

Martyn Fribbens

Cricket at Sundridge Recreation Ground

Following the successful conclusion of a ten-year lease with Radnor House, cricket has returned to the Sundridge Recreation ground. Councillors Trevor Jones and I are seen here with former England cricketer and now Radnor House Director of Cricket Susie Rowe with some of her future England stars.



As lifelong cricket fans, Councillor Jones and I are delighted to see cricket return to this wonderful setting. The area has huge potential, and whilst it is early days, we hope over the next couple of years the wicket will reach a sufficient standard to support adult cricket as well. The Pavilion has also seen better days, but we are looking at ways to provide the appropriate facilities to encourage participation in sport across the full spectrum of ability and background. Radnor House Director of Cricket, Susie Rowe said "Our Radnor House ground staff have put a lot of time and resource into bringing the cricket square back to life at Sundridge Rec after it had been left untouched and unused for a long time. They have done a tremendous job and the cricket pitches have been of huge value this summer to provide facilities to allow hardball cricket training and matches against local schools for both boys and girls at Radnor House."

Do you remember cricket at Sundridge Rec? Send us your photographs and share your memories.
russell.maybury@sundridgewithidehill-pc.gov.uk
Russell Maybury

Annual Audit

Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council has recently completed its 2021/2022 financial year and the auditor has confirmed that all accounts are correct and that all procedures and controls of the Parish Council comply with the necessary regulations. At a recent meeting the Governance Statement was agreed, and the Accounts were signed off by the Parish Council.

Rubbish Bins

Sevenoaks District Council have now delivered and will be installing the new litter bins for public areas in Sundridge and Ide Hill. Not only do these look better than the old bins but they help with the recycling efforts of the Parish Council.



The Red Arrows spectacular tribute to the Jubilee Weekend



Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society

The speaker at our June meeting, Thomas Binsted, gave us the most comprehensive talk you could imagine on the life of bees and the occupation of bee-keeping. Thomas, founder of Metropollen and a qualified beekeeper, manages a variable number of suburban beehives in five apiaries across South East London. Thomas is also involved in apiculture education and project manages the establishment of new apiaries and the relocation of hives from existing sites.



Thomas gave us a fascinating insight into exactly what goes on inside a beehive, with a full job description of the queen, drones and workers. In a nutshell, after mating with 15 drones, the queen spends the rest of her life laying eggs – up to 2000 per day. The (male) drones don't have any work to do in the hive, apart from looking for their royal partner. They are on a death wish as soon as they are ready to mate – the process of which kills them. The (female) workers have a life of labour. They go through a series of 'roles' during their short lives

(five to six weeks in the summer): cleaner, nurse, feeding the queen, undertaker (taking the dead bees out of the hive), guard (keeping predator bees away from the hive) and forager. So, the bees we see in our gardens are the old girls out looking for food.



They may fly up to three miles whilst out foraging, making them phenomenal navigators able to find their way back to their hive from a great distance. If the forage is particularly rich, they will do a 'waggle dance' to let

their hive mates know the direction and distance of the food source.

Honey is the winter food source for the bees and responsible bee-keepers will only take the surplus. A good harvest would be 100lb of honey from one colony. The honeycomb is removed from the hive and is put into a spinner to extract it from the cells. The honey is then filtered three times to remove any debris, before decanting into jars. Thomas's honey is on sale at Riverhill Himalayan Gardens, where he manages five hives located near the wildflower meadow above the maze. If you're heading to Riverhill, why not treat yourself to a jar – the honey is delicious.

For more photos, information and inspiration, check out the Metropollen Facebook page and follow Thomas for regular updates: www.facebook.com/UrbanApiphiles



Our next meeting will take place at Ide Hill Village Hall on Wednesday 13th July and will be an Evening Social, with a glass (or two) of wine and some savoury nibbles. Members are invited to bring a vase of summer flowers from their gardens – anything from a single stem to an armful of blooms – and everyone will get the chance to nominate their favourite entry,

with a prize for the winner. There will also be an opportunity to bring any unwanted plants that we gardeners tend to have lying around – extras from over-abundant seed-sowing or successful cuttings that we don't need for ourselves – and swap them for something from someone else's garden. Please bring a few coins for a small donation if you think you might end up taking a few new plants home.

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 or calling 07818 236566. We look forward to welcoming you

Julia Ricci

Oxymorons

I have long been fascinated by the English language, its oddities and perversities grown out of time, perhaps from misuse or misunderstanding, they give me great pleasure as do oxymorons, figures of speech that consist of words that have opposite or near opposite meanings. Accurate means precise, an estimate is more or less a guess and yet we understand the phrase "accurate estimate" and it is far from being the only one in common usage. Here are just a few, there are many, many more!

- alone together
- awfully good
- bittersweet
- civil war
- clearly misunderstood

- conspicuous absence
- deafening silence
- deceptively honest
- definite maybe
- devout atheist
- eloquent silence
- found missing
- friendly takeover
- genuine imitation
- good grief

Some people even turn oxymorons into memorable quips
 "I am a deeply superficial person." - Andy Warhol
 "I distinctly remember forgetting that." - Clara Barton
 "A definite maybe" often attributed to Samuel Goldwyn

News from Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School

Greetings from Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School!

In last month's issue we told of how busy we are these days, post COVID restrictions, and we are indeed busy and enjoying life!

Owl class went on a road trip!! They visited Kent Life in Maidstone for a Victorian-themed day. They were treated to the rules of a Victorian classroom and learnt about life in Victorian times. They also had time for a ride on a hay wagon but not enough time to explore the wonders of the gift shop!



In the same week, FOSBS (Friends of Sundridge & Brasted Primary School) organised a lovely Jubilee Tea Party for the whole school community. It was a really lovely afternoon and a fantastic way to celebrate the Jubilee and finish the term. The site was festooned with festive bunting, lots of which was created by the children themselves, and an array of red, white and blue balloons decorated the top playground. There were fun and games for all the family, face painting for the children, and cream teas. The outdoor games were kindly supplied by Emmett's Gardens and were great fun. The whole school sang a few songs, Owl and Fox classes performed a dance routine and they were all brilliant!



The 'decorate your own crown fit for a Royal tea party' was a great success, too, with many wonderful entries which made judging a very difficult task for Jane Belle, our friend and neighbour, who kindly agreed to take on the role of head judge. She was excellent!

Since then, Year 2 have enjoyed a Heptathlon event hosted by Riverhead Primary School and some of our keen writers have attended a writers' day hosted by Radnor House and led by Karl Nova, a leading poet and hip hop artist, aimed at inspiring the children to extend their writing skills and develop new techniques for the future.

Our Year 6 children enjoyed a transition event 'Head, Heart, Hands' hosted by Sevenoaks School. The day began with Art, in which the children were challenged to think about their energy and draw different depictions of themselves using a variety of different media. Next was 'Outdoor Adventurous Activity' in the form of orienteering and team-building exercises and they finished with a series of STEM challenges (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). The day was fabulous - all of the children had a wonderful time and were able to meet other children moving on to the same secondary school as themselves. We were very proud of them all!

Our youngest children have been finding out all about the UK and the countries that are part of it. They have



tried Irish dancing, made Scottish kilts using collage, eaten some Bara Brith bread from Wales, made all the flowers that represent the countries and listened to the distinctive sound of the bagpipes while they worked. They finished the topic by comparing the UK to other places in the world and listening to the music of the Caribbean!



Hedgehog, Owl and Fox children are enjoying rugby, led by rugby coach Wilko, and as always we are very grateful to Mr and Mr Jack for letting us use the Dairy Field. Year 6 are swimming at Kemsing Primary School each week. We have the District Sports event, hosted by Knole Academy, scheduled for late June as well as our own Sports event in July. We certainly aim to be fit and healthy here!

We also joined in the fun of the Sevenoaks Summer Festival by singing a few songs on the big stage set up in Bligh's Meadow for the opening day. It was wonderful to be involved in this event which returned after a 2-year absence. Our singers were superb and sang beautifully. They joined in with the Morris dancing too after a quick tutorial and practice session!

Our FOSBS committee has also been busy running 'Frozen Friday', selling ice lollies and ice creams, each week this term. This has been absolutely lovely, especially as the weather has been gorgeous – occasionally! All funds raised go to the school to purchase additional resources.

Later in the term we have class trips to Brighton Sea Life and Godstone Farm Park planned as well as a joint class trip to Chartwell House. All trips link to curriculum topics and the learning focus for the term of course. (The ice creams are just for fun!)

Owl class have also organised a sponsored event for the last week of term, as they plan to virtually climb Mount Everest by completing the number of steps needed, as a class, to reach the summit. All monies raised will be passed on to Unicef for their Ukrainian Appeal.

For the end of term, we will welcome our new Reception children with a picnic and taster sessions and we say goodbye to our Year 6 children at our leavers' service and leavers' events. As always, we will be so sad

to see them leave us but we wish them well at their new schools and know that they will all flourish as they encounter new challenges and experiences.

So, as you can see, busy days at Sundridge & Brasted before the summer break!

As always, we send our very best wishes to the whole community and wish you all a lovely summer. We will see you in September!

Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School

*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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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 24th August to:-

editor@sundridgevillagenews.co.uk

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