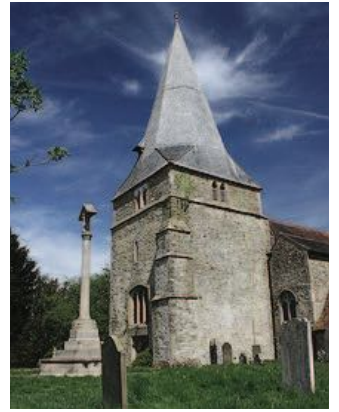


The Sundridge Village News

May 2023

In this issue we hear from Forest Church, Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School, the Friends of St Mary's, the Parish Council and the Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society. We have wonderful words and pictures of the Sundridge Easter fun in the sun and, of course, there are dates for your diary.



Parish Services for May

Sunday 7th May Coronation Sunday		Thursday 18th Ascension Day	
09.15	Toys Hill Holy Communion <i>led by Rev Adie McCall</i>	10.30	Ide Hill Holy Communion <i>led by Rev Adie McCall</i>
10.30	Sundridge Holy Communion <i>led by Rev Adie McCall</i>	Sunday 21st	
10.30	Sundridge Forest Church <i>An exhibition of "Royals, Rectors & Rogues!" Special refreshments supplied by The Friends of St Mary's will be served after the service.</i>	08.00	Sundridge Holy Communion BCP <i>led by Rev Angus MacLeay</i>
		10.30	Sundridge All Age Worship <i>led by Bryan Harris</i>
Sunday 14th		Sunday 28th Pentecost	
10.30	Ide Hill Holy Communion <i>led by Rev Nic Ross, Curate St Nicholas</i>	17.00	Ide Hill Songs of Praise and Flower Festival <i>led by Rev Angela Baker and Ruth Barrow</i>

Refreshments are served after the Sunday Services giving time for fellowship and friendship

Churchwarden Althea Chapman email: althea.chapman@outlook.com

Forest Church News

Forest Church met twice in April, joining the 10.30 services at Ide Hill, first to celebrate Palm Sunday and, a week later, Easter Day. Palm Sunday began by joining Pedro the donkey as he led the procession from the school to the church. Rev Adie met Pedro at the church entrance and the children listened to the careful instructions on how to hold out their hands to feed him. I do wonder how many carrots he consumed! Once inside, our palm crosses were blessed and Forest Church continued with its service in the churchyard.

We listened to a short drama about the donkey's day out, with PJ reading the part of the donkey and the children taking on the roles of disciples and the donkey's owner. PJ, with a little coaching and in his own inimitable style, read his part with gusto. He does make a very good donkey!

They then made donkey masks and finger-puppet palm trees which they took into church to show off proudly. Forest Church also introduced its crazy 'I am a Christian' song to the congregation and received a round of applause.



On Easter Day, we began inside the church as the Easter Candle was lit to remind us of the light of Christ rising in glory and banishing all darkness from our hearts and minds. Once outside, we began to make our Easter gardens from foraged items collected from the churchyard. We just had time to enjoy an egg hunt, sharing our spoils if we couldn't fit any more eggs into our hands, before returning to the church to show off our Easter gardens. It was a delight to see the children's happy faces as they showed their creations to the congregation who enjoyed seeing them.

Forest Church will join the Parish Coronation Service at St Mary's Sundridge on Sunday 8th May at 10.30. We will begin our time together inside the church before going outside into the churchyard to make Coronation Crowns from materials foraged. At the end of the service we will parade down the aisle wearing them. The Friends of St Mary's will be providing and serving refreshments.

Do join us, no booking necessary!

The Forest Church Team



Easter Fun in the Sunshine

The sun shone on our annual Easter Egg Treasure hunt and duck race on Easter Saturday.

The Fundridge Sundridge group dressed up as only befitting of the occasion, in our duck outfits.

Kids young and old became expert egg hunters and received an Easter egg for their efforts.

At 3.30pm 120 ducks were released on their trip downstream to the finish line. The days before were full of rain so the way downstream was quicker than ever. Many 'yays' and 'nos!' as the ducks came down and got caught in eddies along the banks.

For those who have never been, these aren't live ducks, but plastic ones that we collect at the end of the race. Sadly some never made it to the end, a few went wild, bless them. However the majority that crossed the finish line were treated with a warm bubble bath afterwards.



Brasted, Ide Hill and Sundridge Gardening Society

March winds and April showers together with hail storms have given us gardeners a challenging time so far in 2023. The heavy rain did not prevent Philip Oostenbrink from travelling from the Kent Coast to give the talk at the Ide Hill Village Hall on "Walmer Castle and Gardens".

Philip began by introducing himself as a young gardener from the Netherlands, who later gained experience in several garden centres in England before becoming the Head Gardener at Walmer Castle, unfortunately in 2020 with a challenging time during the start of lockdown.

He described the History of Walmer Castle: when it was built during the reign of Henry VIII with several famous appointed Lord Wardens, including The Duke of Wellington with his famous boots and the late Queen Mother.

Philip's present project is creating a natural area for the gardens at Walmer which he demonstrated by draining a large water area, giving away the goldfish, sealing the weak boundaries before adding fresh water to encourage successfully wild amphibians and insects. He is gradually growing more natural plants and has produced a book

entitled "The Jungle Book" to emphasize his project in creating a jungle garden. I was particularly intrigued by a plant grown in the greenhouse called "The Queen of the Night" which only flowers at night with a distinct perfume.

Philip gave the members a very interesting talk supported by colourful slides which has encouraged his audience to visit the castle and gardens during the summer months. My sister visited Walmer together with the private beach where an unusual moss has established its growth. She particularly enjoyed a visit to the garden of the late Queen Mother.

Our next meeting will be held at the Ide Hill Village Hall on Wednesday 10th May, refreshments at 7.45pm and the talk at 8.00. Our speaker George Lockwood has sadly developed cancer and will be unable to join us in May. It is hoped that Tessa Allen will be able to be with us with her talk "Making Changing to our Gardens".

Let us hope that we will enjoy the summer climate after the Coronation of King Charles III.

Pat Mackness

Sundridge With Ide Hill Parish Council Update

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 22nd May 2023 at 7pm in Sundridge Village Hall. A brief statement by the PC chair will be followed by a social event where residents of the parish can discuss issues with councillors whilst refreshments are served. All residents of Sundridge and Ide Hill are welcome.



Coronation in Ide Hill

Ide Hill will be celebrating the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III with a "Street Party" picnic event on Goathurst Common Recreation Ground on Sunday 7th May 2023, from 12:30 to 3:30. Supported by the Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council, this family picnic event is being organised by the Friends of Goathurst Common to raise awareness of their fundraising to improve the playground equipment on the Rec.

The event is open to all Ide Hill and Sundridge residents and will include bouncy castles, kids' crafts, Beat the Goalie, "Goat" hurling and other traditional entertainments. There will be a tea and cake marquee, children's refreshments and a Beer and Pimms stall but feel free to bring a picnic for the family to enjoy. Because of the poor mobile signal, card payments will not be possible but £5 "fun cards" for use where required can be purchased from the Ide Hill Community Shop or in cash on the day.

Parking on site is for those with blue badges only (please email martyn.fribbens@sundridgewithidehill-pc.gov.uk for access) and the road will be closed to avoid congestion. If you choose not to walk to Goathurst Common Rec then parking in Stubbs Wood car park or surrounding roads is advised. If you don't know where the Rec is, follow Gracious Lane out of Ide Hill and turn left at Stubbs Wood car park. The first left (at the postbox) leads to the Rec. Signage will be available on the day.

Coronation in Sundridge

Sunday 7th May – Sundridge Street Party

Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council would like to invite all residents of the parish to celebrate the Kings Coronation at a street party on Sunday 7th May between 13:00 – 18:00 on Church Road, Sundridge. The Parish Council will be providing a BBQ, Ice Lollies, tea, coffee, water and squash along with games for the children and music. We will also be providing bunting, decorations, tables, and a few chairs/picnic benches. We ask that, if you can, please bring a picnic chair as the supply of chairs is limited. Attendance as well as the food and non-alcoholic drinks provided by the Council will be free. As we need to cater for a fixed number, this will be provided on a first come first served basis.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the day. Firstly, we will have a food sharing table and invite residents to bring along something to share with your neighbours such as pasta, salad, curry, etc. This can be homemade or store bought. Secondly, we need volunteers to help with the set up and pack down on the day. If you can help please email viki.allgood@sundridgewithidehill-pc.gov.uk with details of what you'd be happy to cover. Please note the event is only open to residents of the parish of Sundridge with Ide Hill.

Monday 8th May – Sundridge Volunteering

Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council would like to invite all residents of the parish to join a village volunteer group on Monday 8th May from 13:00-15:00 on Coronation Gardens, Sundridge. The group are going to clean the Coronation Memorial, paint the posts along the main road and litter pick around the village. If there are volunteers that would like to organise other initiatives in the parish please do get in touch with john.evans@sundridgewithidehill-pc.gov.uk to confirm what you would like to organise.

Local elections

Local District elections are on 4th May. Remember your photo ID which is now a mandatory requirement to enable you to vote. No ID, no vote! However, the Parish Council is uncontested so there will be no vote for parish councillors. Nevertheless, both Sundridge and Ide Hill require additional councillors. Should you wish to become either a Sundridge or Ide Hill councillor on the Sundridge with Ide Hill Parish Council, please contact the Clerk (07495 962372, clerk@sundridgewithidehill-pc.gov.uk) for details or contact one of the parish councillors.

Friends of St Mary's Church, Sundridge

The Friends have organised a visit to Biggin Hill Memorial Museum, followed by a talk by Bob Ogley – "Biggin on the Bump" - at The Red House, Sundridge on Thursday 18th May 2023. After a tour of the museum and chapel, the outing will conclude with tea and cakes. We will then make our way back to The Red House where, by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Nigel Belle, prolific local author and historian Bob Ogley will describe the strong connection between the pilots and staff at Biggin Hill

aerodrome, The White Hart pub at Brasted and The Red House at Sundridge during World War II. At the end of Bob's presentation refreshments will be served.

There are a very few places still available costing £25 per person which we can offer to non-Members on a first come, first served basis. For further details and to book a place please email Jane Belle at:-

thebellesareringing@outlook.com
or telephone her on 01959 565444.

News from Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School

Greetings from Sundridge & Brasted CE Primary School

We hope everyone enjoyed a peaceful Easter, enjoying the sunshine and avoiding the rain - which was plentiful over our two-week Easter holiday.

However, going back to the last week of our term, the sun did shine now and again and, as always, we were busy! We held our Easter Service at St Mary's Church on the Wednesday. Reverend Tim officiated for us, Mrs Lockey helped with the music and friends of St Mary's kindly offered refreshments to our families before the service. Each of our classes took a part in telling the story of Easter with readings, prayers and songs. It was a joyful event and we were delighted to welcome so many of our families and friends to the service. We are also grateful for their generosity. Our retiring collection has been donated to the Sevenoaks Loaves and Fishes foodbank, which supports more than 40 families in the Sevenoaks area.



Hedgehog class held a brilliant assembly for their parents, setting up stations for different subjects around the hall and taking turns to tell everyone what they had been learning during the term. They were so confident and knowledgeable and clearly had enjoyed a term of excellent learning!



Our wonderful PTA organised a number of Easter events which included guessing the name of the Easter chick, guess the number of eggs and the Easter Bonnet Parade. As always, the children produced wonderfully creative and colourful Easter Bonnets which were truly a sight to behold.

The PTA also created the lovely display of decorated Easter eggs on our front fence before Easter. They didn't fare too well in all the April showers but they were lovely before the holidays and were a wonderful display of the children's creativity.

Finally, as we continue to strengthen the links between the school and community, Squirrel class entertained a group of village residents who joined them for making Easter chocolate nests, Easter themed colouring and word searches, lots of chatting and refreshments. We were very proud of our youngest children who were wonderful ambassadors for the school.

As always, we send our very best wishes to the whole community.

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

email: office@sundridge.kent.scb.uk www.sundridge.kent.scb.uk



Securing a future for Sevenoaks' Swifts

Securing a future for Sevenoaks' Swifts The 2023 Sevenoaks Swift Survey

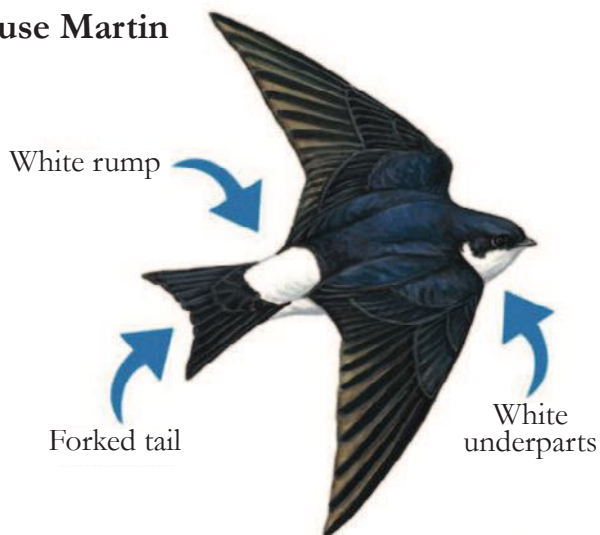


Common Swifts are the Olympians of the animal world, no other bird can reach such fast speeds and travel for years without touching down. These incredible birds nest in nooks and crannies under the eaves of our buildings, performing their aerial acrobatics over our summer skies.

Sadly, across the UK, numbers have halved in the last two decades, in part because there are far fewer places for them to nest in new or refurbished buildings, and this is an area which we aim to investigate and hopefully mitigate over coming few years.

The first step will be to identify where they are to be seen in summer. Swifts return to this country to breed at the end of April or beginning of May, leaving again for sunnier climes in July. There are two aspects to the sighting of Swifts: on summer nights they can be seen high in the sky hawking for insects to feed themselves and their offspring but this does not necessarily indicate that the birds are nesting in the area since they can travel long distances to find flights of insects, before returning to their nests to feed their young.

House Martin



A better guide to where Swifts are nesting is observing small groups flying no higher than rooftop height, emitting screaming calls - this is a good indication that they are nesting nearby and is where we come in. We can allocate a local patch measuring roughly 500 x 500 metres to each volunteer, centred on your address, providing a map of the roads within that patch.

All you need to do is to walk around your own area at least once in May, June and July. Your allocated 500 metre square contains potential nest sites i.e. buildings where Swifts might nest in the roof spaces, often without anyone knowing!

Surveys should be carried out in the evening under still, dry conditions, when low flying Swift activity near nests is at its peak, ideally between 7.30 pm and 9.30 pm and timed to finish before dusk - at other times the Swifts could be feeding many miles away from their nests. Negative results are as important as positive ones: if you know a property where Swifts are known to nest, this should also be recorded. We can provide you with more details, a map detailing the roads involved around your property and survey forms. All we are asking is that you record any sightings or report negative results.

What happens next?

Thankfully there is one solution to the Swifts' plight – making sure that new development contains integral Swift nest boxes (bricks with cavities in which the birds can nest). There is an important role for the Council to play in providing clear guidance for planners and developers to make sure that new development in the borough includes Swift bricks and, where it doesn't, requiring their installation through planning conditions.

We may also be able to contact the owners of suitable buildings so that a Swift nest box might be installed and monitored. This depends entirely on information you gather just by walking your local area in 2023.

It is important to report only the Swifts and not House Martins.

If you would like to contribute to this important new group initiative, please let me know as soon as possible by e-mail or post. Please include your address and post code and we will send your map and survey forms.

Mrs Jean Nobbs, 36 Main Road,
Sundridge, Sevenoaks TN14 6EP
e-mail: j.nobbs3@gmail.com

Swift



Dates for your diary

Thursday 4th May Local election for District and Parish Councils 7.00 to 22.00 You will need photo ID to vote.

Sunday 7th May 10.30 Coronation Service, Sundridge Church. See article for details.

Sunday 7th May Coronation Big Lunch in the Parish Church Road, Sundridge from 13.00 to 18.00 see article.

Monday 8th May Clean the Coronation Memorial Coronation Gardens from 13:00 to 18:00 see article.

Monday 8th May The Big Help Out

Wednesday 10th May 19.45 Brasted, Ide Hill & Sundridge Gardening Society Ide Hill Village Hall Meeting and talk, see article.

Thursday 18th May Visit to the Biggin Hill Memorial Museum, followed by a talk by Bob Ogley – “Biggin on the Bump” see article for details.

Tuesday 13th June 19.00 at St Martin’s Brasted Service to Licence the Rev Lynette Leithead as Priest-in-Charge to the Parishes of Sundridge with Ide Hill and Toys Hill, and Brasted.

Sunday 27th August Bank Holiday Weekend Funstock all afternoon and evening.

Request for help with the Rectory garden

The garden at the Rectory needs some TLC over the summer period. If you would be able to offer the occasional hour to help keep the garden in order, the Churchwarden and PCC would be most grateful to you. The Rectory and Rectory Office belong to the whole parish! Please contact: thebellesareringing@outlook.com.

St Mary's, Sundridge with Ide Hill & Toys Hill, Parochial Church Council

St Mary's, Sundridge with Ide Hill & Toys Hill, Parochial Church Council

“Change, Grow, Serve”

Sunday 7th May 10.30 - Sundridge Church Coronation Sunday for crown making and to see an exhibition about Royals, Rectors and Rogues! All are welcome whatever your age, however noisy or wriggly! Wear suitable outdoor clothing. For more details please contact:

Diana Pickard dipickard2@aol.com

Barbara Lockey bixmix@btopenworld.com

The June edition

If you have any information for the “Dates for your Diary” section or an article that you’d like included in the next edition, please email by

Wednesday 24th May to:-

editor@sundridgevillagenews.co.uk

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sundridgevillagenews@gmail.com

Would you like to be included?

If you are you involved with a club, group or charitable organisation in the local area inclusion is free.

We would be happy to list information and to publicise your forthcoming events in the Sundridge Village News.

Please send your copy to editor@sundridgevillagenews.co.uk

And finally . . .

Hope you enjoy the Celebrations for the Coronation of King Charles III
It would be wonderful to see you at the Sundridge or Ide Hill Street party but, wherever you are, have a brilliant weekend!

