

EDITORIAL

Half the year over and done with. First half was spent, seemingly, living out the plot of 'Le Hoe de Piding'. Second half, we predict, will be more of the same (but much worse) and satire will become no laughing matter. Into our midst (thank god, 60 miles away) came the leader of the Free World. Her Majesty, unfortunately for her, was held prisoner and in a matter of a couple of days earned every penny of her annual stipend given her by a grateful nation. The highlight was the photo of the Downing Street cat, Larry, sitting under Mr President's car – The Beast – treating it as nothing more than a handy place to keep its fur dry while it rained. The cat had put the car in its place. The Beast?.... so what!

No beasts around here, apart from a young weasel seen enthusiastically exploring the south end of the village. This is the kind of thing that Angie would write about in her 'Grass Roots' articles but Angie is on holiday. Also missing is 'Art Jottings' because Gill is very involved with her new puppy. Welcome to Piddinghoe, Alfie! Both Angie and Gill will return. 'Piddinghoe People' appears in a slightly different format to focus on Guylee Simmonds, who is packing into the next few months more than most of us would dare do in a lifetime. Guylee's idea of a cruise is not what one sees in the newspaper supplements. We wish him well, and above all, a safe journey.

One of the most charming pieces in this issue is Sheila's account of the history of Nelson's column with a description of the eponymous Nelson. How one longs for the return of the Old Post Office, acting not just as PO but as a village shop. And not just a shop but the place where people met up, talked and argued and where everything got sorted. Haven't we changed. We have no natural meeting places. The pub was the last to go. No one needed to invoke the words Community Spirit then. But let's not forget about it. As the old saying goes, 'If we don't pull together, we hang together'.

There is something in it for all of us – quality of life. It does not stop at our own front doors. In fact, we are more in danger

of losing it the moment we step outside. There are a few items in this issue that ought to be a matter of concern for all of us. Rat running through the village is one. It's simply dangerous. Then there is the snippet about the people who came and set up Motocross for their child. Dog poo! Not catalogued in any articles this time, but it never ends while dogs eat and their owners think the natural consequence is a blessing to be left to enrich Piddinghoe. Also not catalogued but we have been told about it, is the villager who found many plastic pots and a large plastic bag on the compost heap! Earlier, the same villager reported concrete slabs dumped there. The village is fortunate to have a compost heap. They don't come automatically. Who are these idiots? Some of us can, and do, remonstrate, politely, with outsiders who treat Piddinghoe with no respect. Even if the exchange does not go quite to plan, we have sent out a clear message, 'Don't do this in Piddinghoe'. They are not likely to come back. Cheats are usually cowards. Especially the ones in the village who actually dump on our own compost heap! We must not to expect someone else to do everything for us. The Parish Council is not the police and the police are often busy on very serious matters. It's up to each of us to do our bit. This is our collective home, after all.

Editorial team: Sheila Redman, Gill Davies, Sue Massey, Bill Pierce.

PIDDINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL 2018

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Piddinghoe, on Tuesday 28th May at 7.30pm (DRAFT)

Present: David Aicken, Nick Woolger, Debbie Mills, Angela Ridge.

Julian Peterson (Clerk), Diana Stevenson, 3 Members of the public

Apologies for Absence: None.

Disclosure of Interests: None

Public Participation: None

AGENDA

1. Councillors signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms. Diana Stevenson was welcomed as a Parish Councillor and was invited up to the Council table.
2. Councillor David Aicken was elected as Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Ridge and seconded by Cllr Mills.
3. Councillor Nick Woolger was elected as Vice Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Aicken and seconded by Cllr Ridge.
4. Councillors undertook to follow the Code of Conduct and agreed to complete the Register of Interest form for submission to Lewes District Council for public record.
5. Councillors accepted the current Standing Orders of Piddinghoe Parish Council.

PIDDINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL 2018

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Present: David Aicken, Nick Woolger, Debbie Mills, Angela Ridge, Diana Stevenson.

Julian Peterson (Clerk), 3 Members of the public

Apologies for Absence: None.

Minutes: The minutes of the Parish meeting of 26th March 2019 were AGREED by Council and signed by the Chairman.

Disclosure of Interests: None

Public Participation: None

AGENDA

1. Council accepted the accounts as up to the date of the meeting as prepared by the RFO Cllr Debbie Mills. Council thanked Cllr Mills for her work preparing the accounts.

Current Account: £8,974.53

V. Mellor's Bequest: £25,539.81

Reserve Account: £3,008.53

Total £37,522.37

- 1b. Council agreed to transfer £2,000.00 into the reserve account in line with the prudent running of the Parish Council.
2. The RFO has found a new internal auditor and Council agrees to pay the sum of £60.00 for the service. The Annual Governance statement was read out and duly signed by the Chairman and Clerk. The Chairman signed the Accounting Statement. The RFO Cllr Debbie Mills was thanked for her work in preparing the accounts.

3. The Chairman has sent the contractor James Rigden an updated map of the trees on Piddinghoe Parish land. As there are fewer trees than initially mapped Council will ask for a new quote. This work has to be completed as stated in the minutes of 7th August 2018.
4. The Piddinghoe Parish noticeboard is in need of repair and other minor waterproofing works. The Chairman was informed that a 2 part varnish would last longer and provide better value than an oil/1 part varnish application. Council agreed to this. Council also agreed that the doors have seals fitted to prevent water entering the inside of the notice boards. Two quotes would be sought and due to the nature of the work the 'best value' quote be sought and the bill paid.
5. Due to the grass growing high on the Triangle at the southern entrance to Piddinghoe impeding the visibility of oncoming traffic along the C7, Council instructed the Clerk to contact East Sussex Highways and ask them to mow the triangle urgently. Should ESCC not react quickly the Clerk was instructed to contact Barcombe Landscapes, who have a grass cutting contract with the PPC to mow the Triangle as soon as possible.
6. The work on the Lamppost at the entrance to The Village Hall lane was completed successfully and has been placed back in situ. The post was given an essential zinc coating to protect and seal the ironwork. This work was not included in the initial quote and an extra £120.00 was added to the bill. Council agreed to pay this extra sum as the work represents 'best value' because it would help preserve the ironwork of the post.
7. There were no outstanding planning applications.

8. Council listened to the report from the Traffic Research Group as presented by Cllr Woolger. The TRG looked into the reported issue of The Street being used as a Rat-Run, met with the Police Speed-Watch Co-ordinator. Various matters were discussed, and the offer was made to train 5 volunteers to operate a loaned speed detecting device at appropriate times as a deterrent.

It was decided that physical measures not be pursued due to cost. But the offer of the speed detecting device was accepted, and an article put in the Villager seeking volunteers. One of the group accepted an invitation to attend at Lewes and view Speedwatch in action and receive training.

The TRG is currently short of a co-ordinator and volunteers. Cllr Woolger proposed to the Council that if the notice in the *Villager* does not bring forth more volunteers it is an indication that the issue raised is not as much of a concern as first thought, and that the TRG be dissolved and Speedwatch informed.

Council agreed and that Cllr Ridge will consult with the SLR group that she attends as to how traffic may be slowed along The Street.

9. Council confirmed that it will continue the two year Insurance Contract with Zurich and pay the due fee.
10. Council agreed that Cllr Stevenson would be a representative on the Village Hall Management Committee with Cllr Ridge, and replacing Cllr Mills.
11. Council agreed that Cllr Stevenson organise a 'round table' meeting in the Village Hall to discuss various renewable energy schemes with residents who are already using them. Villagers can come and share their experiences of different renewable energy schemes. Council took the view that all

information gathered could be of interest to Residents should they wish to plan for a carbon fuel reduced future.

12. The end fence post nearest the Village Hall needs repairing or replacing. Council agreed to get a quote for this work, and for it to be completed.
13. The local bus no longer stops at Molly's bench at the south end of the Village. Council proposed to put a notice on the noticeboard informing residents and directing them to the stop on the C7.
14. The Current website provider is ending Council contracts. Cllr Aicken will look to find a replacement provider. The criteria will be that the site is easy to update and intuitive to use. There are several providers in the market and quotes will be sought from the most suitable.
15. There were no meetings to report from. Cllr Ridge will attend the next SLR meeting on the 14th June.

Progress Reports

1. Council agreed the following meetings:
 - 20 August 2019
 - 19 November 2019
 - 14 January 2020
 - 24 March 2020.

Julian Peterson, Parish Clerk, Piddinghoe

SPEED WATCH IN PIDDINGHOE

Earlier this year, the Sussex Police Speedwatch coordinator met with the village group asked by the Parish Council to look into the use of The Street as a 'Rat Run'. We discussed the various options available and the coordinator explained Speedwatch to us. It seems that Lewes Council (Highways) is not enthusiastic about helping us with any physical measures to discourage The Street being used as a short cut.

Speedwatch is countrywide and individuals recorded as speeding have their details stored centrally. They are recorded by the use of a camera that can measure speeds. On the first and second occasion letters are sent to the registered owner of the vehicle. On the third occasion a letter is delivered by the Police, and words of advice given. Should this happen again, legal action is taken by the Police. Incidents, therefore, do not all need to be in the same location.

The Village has been registered for Speedwatch and will be eligible for the loan of speed detecting equipment for use by trained volunteers. Five volunteers are needed. Noel West initially took the lead as group coordinator. One of the original group that volunteered to look at rat running on behalf of the village agreed to go ahead with her training and has completed it.

However, we have hit two snags. First, Noel West has decided for personal reasons to stand down from the group and we need another coordinator. Second, we need more volunteers to do the recording of those speeding. We only have one. We are having great trouble finding more. The Parish Council is now unsure how to proceed. We set up the rat-running group because a number of residents had told us how concerned they were by the dangers posed by rat running. If we can't get four more volunteers, what are we to do? We are reluctant to conclude that, after all, there is little concern about the dangers posed by rat

running. There is not much else that the Parish Council can do that is practical and affordable. We shall keep the Speedwatch signs up of course.

The PC would like to hear from villagers who are concerned about rat running, and especially those prepared to volunteer. It is doubtful that the rat running will stop of its own accord. If you are prepared to help the Village address the problem of rat running, then please contact Julian, the Parish Clerk, who will pass your details on. His email address is: piddinghoepc@gmail.com

Nick Woolger

NEW-ISH TO PIDDINGHOE ?

We usually like to greet people moving into the village with a personal visit but for various reasons, this hasn't always happened recently. To those we have missed, we would like to assure you of a very big welcome and we hope to catch up with you, maybe at one of our village events.

These take place from time to time either in the Village Hall or in summer on The Hoe and details can usually be found in The Villager and on village notice boards.

In case you hadn't noticed, we have a rather under-used tennis court on The Hoe which is longing to be busy again. Try it out for free and/or join the club. Details are on the Village Hall notice board

Whatever your interests, be happy here and enjoy living amongst us.

Sheila Redman

A CLOSE CALL WITH A SCAMMER

A very charming gentleman phoned me last week. With his cut glass accent he told me he was from Lloyds Bank and he wanted to tell me of the most recent plans of the Bank. There were a few pleasantries – including the comment that we should have received a voucher from M&S or Tesco as we had been customers for over 60 years.

Then he continued with the call. Lloyds wished to change everyone's pin numbers and bank cards and issue both new numbers and cards.

I told him I was not prepared to change my number or my card. Then things started to get a bit nasty. The 'gentleman' became very cross with me and told me I would not be without a card or number as the changeover would be through the local bank and the exchange would take ten minutes altogether. Ten minutes from Piddinghoe to Lewes or Seaford – I do not think that would be possible!

Again I told him I was not changing my number etc. The cut glass accent disappeared and a South London accent appeared. I felt he was very cross so I put the phone down.

A few minutes later the phone rang again. He said my new card was there to exchange with mine but he **MUST** have my existing PIN number – it was the Law of the Land. The Bank must know.

Ken, my husband, who had heard the call going on suggested they fetched the police. Again I put the phone down. I felt if at any time I had opened the door he would have thumped me. Thank goodness for the telephone.

I then phoned the police to tell my story. I was told I would have to wait 20-30 minutes – and I waited and found it worthwhile. The police woman I spoke to was very helpful and reassuring as by this time I really had the jitters.

Lloyds Telephone Banking made sure our account was protected.

The following week I had a call from the local Police. They wanted to make an appointment for me to give a full account and sign a report. Apparently there had been about 10 similar cases in the same month between Lewes and Eastbourne. The Police think they know who the culprit is, so watch this space!

Police Advice

1. No bank will ask for your PIN number over the telephone – so tell nobody.
2. Never answer questions about your money or accounts unless the bank has written to you personally.
3. Do you really need your telephone number, name and address in the telephone directory?
4. If you see anything suspicious, phone the Police. They will help.

My final comment is that all members of Sussex Police have been very helpful, reassuring and friendly. Thank you to them all.

Beryl Cheeseman

P.S. In case you wondered – I did manage to avoid being SCAMMED.

BUS SERVICE

Please note that the bus service no longer stops at the bus shelter by the Allotments/Molly's Bench. The service continues, but you need to use the bus stops on the main road (C7) at the North end of the village.

FILM NIGHT WILL RETURN WITH CLASSIC COMEDY BIOPIC



Film Night in Piddinghoe Village Hall will resume in September (probably Friday September 20 – to be confirmed) with the screening of *Stan and Ollie* the ‘untold story’ of the famous old-time knockabout duo, Laurel and Hardy.

It is a mixture of fact and hilarious fiction and it is really is a little gem of a movie, with quite brilliant characterisation by actors Steve Coogan (Laurel) and John C Reilly (Hardy). You may have seen it, as I did, at The Depot (Lewes) earlier this year. Now released on DVD it is well worth revisiting in Piddinghoe, so please put the provisional date in your diaries and I will confirm as soon as possible.

Bill Pierce

HOE MOTOCROSS

Some people never cease to amaze. On May Bank Holiday a father, mother and small child appeared on The Hoe, presumably visitors, with an electric trail bike (which are not allowed on a recreation ground). They had piled concrete blocks and two boards, lifted/taken/stolen from the building site, to make a ramp so the child could jump over it on the bike. Tuesday morning the wood and concrete were still there waiting for someone to clear up. The builders kindly retrieved the bits for us. Apparently no sense of responsibility at all to the community or to proper parenting.

Nick Woolger

A very big welcome back, after a brilliant refurb by the Parish Council, to a village landmark

NELSON'S COLUMN



There may be some comparative newcomers (like those who were not living here in the 1970 and early 80s) who are unaware of the history of our sole lamppost. Nelson Caplin, in whose memory it was installed, was the last keeper of the village shop and Post Office. Although he was pint sized, he had a much larger than life personality and it was in his domain, and perhaps it could be said, 'gossip shop', and under his watchful eye, that all the important decisions about the village were mulled over and decided. Villagers actually bought goods from him as well and he specialized in ham on the bone (I still have the knife he used for carving it) and cheese. There was always a ripe Stilton for Christmas. For Martin and I, then living opposite, our special Saturday morning breakfast treat was oven fresh and still warm bread rolls delivered to the shop from a very good bakery in Peacehaven.

Eventually, as with many other village shops, people were only buying goods from Nelson that they had forgotten when shopping at a not-so-far-away supermarket. The shop closed and for a while his wife Betty continued to operate the Post Office.

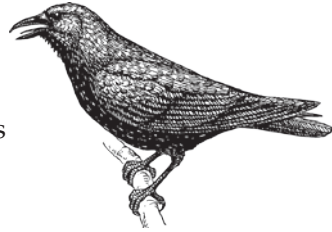
Nelson was Chair of the Parish Council for some time. The meetings then were packed and they were very jolly occasions. When Nelson died, it was decided a pool of light close to where he used to live would be a fitting way to remember him.

Hence Nelson's Column became his memorial.

Sheila Redman

THE CROW

I was brought up in the countryside. My ancestors for generations appeared as ag-labs (agricultural labourers) in the Census returns of the rural villages of Northants and Beds. I'm not really a townie but I am a newcomer to Sussex and Lewes having been in this area for 40 years! I have noticed a curious phenomenon regarding crows in Piddinghoe which I would like to share in light of the Natural England controversy about revoking licences for controlling certain wild birds, including crows. When we first moved here two years ago, we saw a pair of crows chase off a buzzard across the Hoe, almost like low flying aircraft, until they reached the other bank of the Ouse and the buzzard gave up.



Magpies were quite a rare sight when I was young and I wasn't really aware of how cruel they appear to be. They will regularly raid nests of sparrows, blue tits and blackbirds. We have a hawthorn hedgerow near us and the magpies pull the young chicks out onto the ground and eat them. I've no evidence to show that they were dead before the magpie arrived. This is something I have seen regularly this year. Do magpies kill chicks? I think it's a strong possibility. You don't see crows raiding hedgerows this way.

What I have seen on several occasions recently is a crow acting as a kind of policeman. I heard the sparrows squawking in distress in the hedgerow as a magpie dived in and out. The adult sparrows flew out with decoy flights to distract the marauder, to no avail. Suddenly a crow appeared flapping its wings at the magpie, attacking it, forcing it away from the hedgerow. The magpie tried to ignore it at first but the crow wasn't giving up. Eventually the magpie flew off. The crow stayed for a while as if waiting to see if the magpie would return. It didn't and the crow flew off too.

A few days later, at the same hedgerow, two magpies arrived, diving in and out, creating havoc. Suddenly they stopped and flew to the top of the hedgerow and began to preen themselves nonchalantly, looking innocent. Then the crow appeared and patrolled up and down the bottom of the hedgerow like some sentry, head bobbing up and down. He did this for a little while until the magpies give up and flew off. Round 2 to the crow.

We have a laurel hedge at the end of our garden that has sparrows and a blackbird nesting in it. Magpies regularly attack it but one day I saw two magpies being held at bay, sitting nearby on a sweet chestnut tree branch. The crow was sitting in the same tree but between them and the laurel hedge. You could sense the magpies' frustration!

The same crow (I'm sure it's the same one) has recently taken up perching on our vine pergola, guarding the sparrows while they drink at the bird bath below. Why? Because a magpie has also started appearing here of late. It's quite a sight this crow – his enormous black outline perched above the nervous sparrows below. You can see they are very wary of the crow but it just watches over them as they drink. I did read somewhere that crows have the largest brain/body size ratio for a bird. They mate for life, live for around 40 years, can use sticks as tools, remember human faces and in particular people who are cruel or kind to them. Amazing birds it seems that earned their gruesome reputation when they appeared amongst the dead following a battle in days gone by.

Barrie Minney
Brookside

GUYLEE'S ARCTIC ADVENTURE – WITH SHACKLETON, OF COURSE

Gill Simmonds has never been more proud of her architect grandson Guylee. Among the many projects he has designed and built is her 'new home' - a luxury 'Granny Flat' at Malthouse, where he has also undertaken a major refit of the main building, restoring it to a property of great style and charm. Now he has run away to sea ... but that is a bonus for Gill because she knows he will be the subject of her pride and affection even more when he returns.

In case anybody in the village has not heard, Guylee, 28, has set sail to the Arctic coast of Norway in an old lifeboat which he and his pal David Schnabel have converted into what they call 'a self-sufficient home'. It has taken more than a year to make ready for the fantastic 2,000 miles voyage to Tromsø.

Also on board with the two former Cardiff University students is Guylee's dog, the appropriately-named Shackleton, who is described as a Nova Scotia duck-tolling retriever and is also already well known in Piddinghoe for his regular adventures in the river. The adventurers had to miss Gill's 88th birthday last month, having set out on a sea trial to Rye in Kent on May 17, and the grandmother quipped: "I told them I didn't know who I would miss most – Guylee or Shackleton. But I'm thrilled for my grandson now that he's fulfilling one of his big ambitions. It will be great for them all but of course I can't wait to see them back."

Guylee told the *Sussex Express* newspaper that the idea of a trip to Norway grew more and more ambitious in their imagination and became 'the light at the end of a tunnel' when he and David were finishing their seven-year university architectural course. He said "At first it was just going to be a hiking trip but it has gradually turned into what it is now – a conversion of a 100-seat lifeboat to use as a base for hiking and exploring around Norway." The pair paid £8,000 at auction for the lifeboat from a Scottish ferry

company in February last year and it arrived a few weeks later at Lochin Marine, Newhaven. All the seats were gradually stripped out, along with almost everything else, except the engine and fibreglass fabric.

In their place came two double cabins, a kitchen, a seating area, a bath/shower room, bunk beds and a steering wheelhouse plus an outside cockpit in the stern. There is now a plumbing system, electricity – generated through solar panels on the roof – and a composting toilet. They have called the lifeboat ‘Stodig’, the Norwegian word meaning steadfast and sound. They certainly hope it rings true!

Guylee emphasised: “We didn’t want to risk going out to sea and, automatically, someone tries to come and rescue us. But I don’t think we ever quite envisaged how much work it was going to be and how long it would take. And of course we have had to earn the money to finance it. It has been a dream for both of us, though, and it will all be worth it.”

After a stop-over in Rye, they cross the Channel and their route takes them along the Belgian and Dutch coasts, through the Kiel Canal in northern Germany to the Baltic. Then it goes via Denmark and Sweden to Oslo, Norway’s capital, before travelling to the freezing fjords of Tromsø where they plan to spend the Norwegian winter, returning home towards the end of September.

And Shackleton? Guylee says the dog, who is named after the famous Arctic explorer, will love the adventure. “Everybody knows how much he loves swimming and he also loves snow and cold weather. So he’s the perfect boat companion.”

Bill Pierce

ST JOHN'S CHURCH PIDDINGHOE

As I write this, two dates stand out in my June diary. On Wednesday 26th, the Right Reverend Richard Jackson, Bishop of Lewes is coming to Saint John's as part of his three-day Episcopal Visitation to the Lewes and Seaford Deanery.



'Visitation' does not mean hospitality accompanied by tea and cakes; it is an inspection, really and the Bishop is entitled to look at anything and everything in his Churches. Piddinghoe has been selected as the Parish Church for this Deanery examination, which will take place in between Services and Meetings with local Clergy.

There will, of course, be less for Bishop Richard to see than there was two years ago: old trolleys, kettles, plastic flowers, broken vases and general debris have all disappeared. The dilapidated piano, home for some mice, has been removed, as have they, and virtually every piece of paper has been sorted, discarded if irrelevant and filed if necessary.

He will find Notice Boards with information about the architecture of this Grade 1 Listed Church, a Children's Table with colouring books and crayons, ancient graffiti in the Bell Tower if he decides to go up the ladder and a well-tended Churchyard. He should examine the Registers and will see that we have been in double figures for our last few Services, with over thirty attending Easter Sunday's Holy Communion. Fire Extinguishers and a first-aid kit are in place and all Linen and Vestments are clean. And, if he reads the Visitors' Book, he will find the most affirming comments, which encourage Isla and me daily, when we go to open and lock-up. Philippe Conter, from Messancy, Belgium visited in the first week of June: 'One word: beautiful. No two words: inspiring!'

By complete coincidence, Bishop Richard will be amongst the first to see the Fine Arts Report on Saint John's, which is being presented to the Church at the 9.30 Service the previous Sunday, June 23, by the Eastbourne branch members, twenty of whom, all volunteers, have, for almost two years, researched this ancient building. They began shortly after we arrived in the village, when the Church was still locked every day and when the heating, such as it is, had been switched off for months. They worked during that cold spring in unbelievably low temperatures, wearing gloves, scarves and hats in a forlorn attempt to keep warm. The volume that they have produced is a real labour of love, whilst also revealing the group's wide-ranging expertise.

Looking further ahead, we are going to celebrate Harvest Festival on Sunday, September 22. This will be a forty-minute Theme Service, not Holy Communion, with sacred and secular Readings and providing an opportunity for us to think about and contribute to the well-being of others in our neighbourhood who have very little. We shall support the 'Friends of Newhaven Food Bank' and know that the two committee members, who live in the village, will ensure that all donated goods reach the neediest families.

Between now and then our regular pattern of Services, listed on the Church Noticeboard, continues. Do join us.

Mary Sitwell

THINKING ABOUT RENEWABLE ENERGY?

A few armchair eco warriors (Pidders and plodders) are planning to organize some informal roundtables in the village hall this summer, where those who have already taken the plunge into solar, air and ground source heat pumps will kindly share their experiences with the rest of us. If you are already thinking about making some changes this could be very helpful.



Date and time to be confirmed.

Diana Stevenson

PIDDINGHOE BOOK CLUB

Date: Thursday, July 11 at 7.30 pm

Venue: Halyards

Host: Vanessa Giles

Book: Star of the Sea

Author: Joseph O'Connor

1847 - A ship sails from Ireland for New York carrying a motley assortment of passengers each in search of a new home in the promised land, but a camouflaged killer is stalking the decks, hungry for vengeance.

Do come and enjoy this relaxed village social (and mildly literary) occasion. All welcome.

If you would like to receive details of the book club, please contact Christine Bentham on 07944577774 or email her at ccbentham@gmail.com

HEAD OF THE OUSE

On Sunday July 21 an exciting river race will take place on the Ouse between Southease and Newhaven Harbour. Newhaven Gig Rowing Club is organising a Head of the Ouse rowing race for Cornish gigs, skiffs and flash boats. The invitation-only event is part of NGRC's regatta weekend, which will also see a series of sea races for Cornish gigs. Around half a dozen clubs from across England are expected to compete, including Lewes Rowing Club and the newly-formed Lewes Pilot Gig Club.

NGRC is keen for local people to enjoy the excitement and support the event. The race starts at 3pm from Southease Bridge, and there will be good viewing spots on the riverbank at Piddinghoe from where spectators can cheer the rowers on.

For more information please see the club's website:

www.ngrc.co.uk

*Jane Mitchell
Old Cottage*



CREATURE FEATURE

Lucy's Law

On May 13, 2019, the Environment Secretary Michael Gove announced that new legislation, Lucy's Law, would be passed to end puppy and kitten farming in England. Last year, I had the pleasure of working in practice with Marc Abraham, a vet and founder of the Lucy's Law campaign. His tireless efforts over the past 10 years will help put an end to the cruel practice that often goes on behind the scenes of large-scale commercial puppy and kitten breeding.



This legislation will mean that puppies and kittens can no longer be legally sold by a third party seller; for example a pet shop, dealers advertising online or via free newspaper ads. Anyone wanting to buy or adopt a puppy or kitten must now deal directly with the breeder, or a rehoming centre. What's more, the law requires animals to be born and reared in a safe environment, seen interacting with their mothers, and be sold from their place of birth.

Lucy's Law will come into effect in April 2020, and is named after a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, who finally enjoyed three years of freedom after being rescued from a puppy farm in Wales, before succumbing to all her illnesses in 2016. Unfortunately, serious health issues and disease are seen commonly in animals from puppy farms, with mothers often spending their entire lives in filthy cages, unsocialised, and forced to produce litter after litter; seen simply as money-making machines.

With poor sanitation, and total lack of vet treatment, breeding dogs are often riddled with infectious and inbred (often incurable) diseases; including parasitic infection, mammary tumours, and deadly womb infections. Puppies are usually taken from their mothers at just weeks old (usually a pup is separated

at 8 weeks), and they too are often prone to medical, surgical, and behavioural disease, such as parvovirus, hip dysplasia, and nervous aggression.

In a recent survey 95 per cent of the British public claim they would never buy from a puppy farm, however in recent years as many as 900,000 have done annually. Buyers are often completely oblivious to the environment the pup has come from, even being 'conveniently' met by the dealer in service stations. Aside from the welfare of the poor animals, potential dog owners are left financially and emotionally damaged, having to cover unexpected veterinary costs associated with a sick pup, or in worst cases, the distress of euthanasia.

Lucy's Law is a huge step in improving the welfare of breeding dogs and cats in England. Marc is also the founder of PupAid, a national puppy farming awareness campaign from which Lucy's Law stems. For the last 10 years a dog show has been held, judged by celebs, to continue raising awareness for this invaluable cause, which started in Sussex! Find out more at pupaid.org

Rowena Weald

PIDDINGHOE BIRDS

The Collard Dove

Streptopelia decaocto

There is a very handsome bird that visits my garden on occasions. Sometimes one, and sometimes two arrive to help themselves to those contents of the bird feeder that have fallen on the ground. These are ground-feeding Collard Doves, and I am always glad to see them.

To identify the Collard Dove is easy. It is the size of a small pigeon, and is coloured overall in varying shades of grey/pink and pale brown. Around the back of its neck is a striking black 'collar', hence its name. It has a beady red eye and both sexes look alike. The appearance is very pleasing. A neat and 'polite' bird.

However, the Collard Dove is not a native bird. It is a successful immigrant! Originating in India, the Collard Dove spread from there to Turkey and then, in the 1930s to the Middle East. After that it spread to Europe, and finally, it was first recorded in North Norfolk in 1955/6. Breeding was first recorded in 1960, and the bird became widespread in Sussex where it is still numerous and well established. Their ability to breed throughout the year seems to have helped them to have spread so successfully.

Upon arrival in this country, Collard Doves showed a preference for human habitation. They are now to be found in villages, farms, parks, gardens, and on the margins of cultivated land. They are not keen on the open countryside. They are grain and seed eating birds, who will also eat fruit, elderberries, and cherries etc.

Collard Doves like to nest in trees – conifers, leylandii being favourites – but are happy with other deciduous trees. They make a rough untidy nest of sticks, and sometimes line it with roots, grass or hair. Two white eggs are laid, and both parents incubate the young who are also fed by both parents. This bird, in the

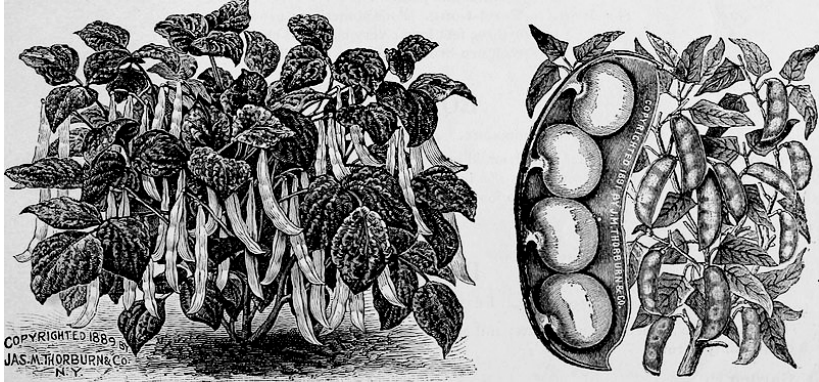
right conditions, can have 3-4 broods a year. Most Collard Doves have a lifespan of around three years, but one ringed bird was found to be seventeen, which is by no means usual. These doves will get together in winter in small flocks. The Collard Dove has a rather pleasant 'coo cooing' song, which can also be irritating if carried on too long. It is an easy going immigrant posing no threat to other species, and very pleasant to look at, and which so far does not seem to have inspired much in the way of poems... not that I can find anyway!

Julia Clayson



VEG GLUT CORNER

More easy recipes using seasonal veg which you can find in local shops if you don't have a productive veg patch.



Peas, beans, chilli and mint

An easy to prepare side dish, ready in approximately 10 minutes.

Serves 2-3

½ a bunch of fresh mint (15g)

200g fresh podded or frozen broad beans

200g fresh podded or frozen peas

1 fresh red chilli

1 lemon

3 tbsp extra virgin olive oil

Salt and pepper

1. Halve and deseed the chilli and finely chop with the top leafy half of the mint. Place in a bowl, finely grate over a little lemon zest, then squeeze in all the juice. Add 2 tablespoons of extra virgin olive oil, sea salt and black pepper, mix and taste.

2. Cook the beans, peas and mint stalks in boiling water for 5 minutes.
3. Drain the beans and peas, reserving a mugful of cooking water and discarding the mint stalks.
4. Pinch the skins off the beans, then pour the beans and peas on to a platter, toss with a few splashes of reserved cooking water, then add the dressing.
5. Drizzle with 1 more tablespoon of extra virgin olive oil and toss together.

Spinach/chard with raisins and toasted pine nuts

This easy and nutritious vegan side dish could also be made of both chard and spinach together for more complexity of flavour.

Serves 3-4

500g spinach and/or chard

2 garlic cloves, finely chopped

2 tsp olive oil

Large handful raisins

Small handful toasted pine nuts

Salt and pepper

1. Cook spinach and/or chard leaves in boiling water for one minute, then drain, refresh in cold water and drain again. Squeeze out all the liquid.
2. Fry some sliced garlic in olive oil until soft, add the spinach and/or chard and toss with the raisins and toasted pine nuts. Season and serve.

Sue Massey

WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO 'THE VILLAGER'?

Articles, letters, snippets are all welcome. If you want to contribute an article, please try to make it about 550 words or less. Due to space and time restrictions we can't guarantee inclusion in the magazine, but we'll do our best to accommodate everybody.

If possible please send articles as Word documents, attached to an email addressed to either **piercewilliam991@gmail.com** or **davies.gill@btinternet.com**

The deadline for contributions to the next Villager is 30 August.