

The Villager

Piddinghoe, East Sussex



February 2018

EDITORIAL

It's February, but still not too late to wish all our readers a very Happy New Year. Christmas is now behind us and we hope that for all of you, it is remembered with pleasure. We expect that everyone ate rather too well and thoughts about weight loss might still rumble occasionally through the mind, unless, of course, they have already been jettisoned.

A New Year, and a new cover for *The Villager*! We thought perhaps it was time for a change. The previous cover has been doing the job for over 20 years. However, this being quite a big step to take, we did not proceed without the blessing and approval of our founder editor, Ken Cheeseman. He has given both. We hope you like it too.

For all of us, Boxing Day night provided an unwanted surprise when the lights suddenly went out at about 10.10 pm. The sceptical amongst us immediately retired to bed, having scrambled to find torches. Braver and more optimistic hearts stayed up, lit candles, poured another glass of their favourite tippie, and cheered when the lights returned a couple of hours later.

Longstanding residents will have remembered the time when the village lost electric power for about 2 weeks. Unimaginable. No lighting. No electricity for cooking. No heat, because even with oil (or gas) electricity is still needed to drive the mechanics



of central heating. An awful lot of logs for tossing on the fire must have been bought at that time. During those dreadful two weeks, when the rubbish men came to collect, outside they found not just the usual household waste but bags of ruined food from everyone's freezers. It must have been heart breaking as well as requiring strong nerves to keep going.

Unfortunately, there has been a lot of coughing in the air. Viruses of all sorts have plagued so many of us. Long before one has recognised the neighbours walking towards us, muffled up in coats and woolly hats, one hears the coughs that precede them. A quick exchange expressing sympathy and hopes for a speedy recovery takes place, whilst one prays that their virus doesn't become your virus. Keep healthy everyone, as the queues to get an appointment at your surgery are not getting shorter!

We live in strange times. We have a 'stable genius' in the White House. A recent Cabinet re-shuffle has proved to be just that – a shuffle. Perhaps we were hoping for some nifty tap-dancing or a balletic leap. We are still none the wiser about where Brexit is going. To paraphrase Mrs May's memorable quote, let's keep Piddinghoe a strong and stable village!

The team: Sheila Redman, Gill Davies, Bill Pierce, Sue Massey, David Aicken.

PIDDINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL 2018

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Piddinghoe, on Tuesday 9th January 2018 at 7.30pm (DRAFT)

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

Julian Peterson (Clerk). 5 Members of the public.

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Vic Ient, Gill Davies, Noel West.

Minutes: The minutes of the Parish meeting of 14th November 2017 were AGREED by Council and signed by the Chairman who chaired that meeting.

Disclosure of Interests: None

Public Participation: It was stated that there were not many residents present and that the public should be encouraged to attend. An explanation of how Council meetings proceed to be put on the next agenda.

AGENDA

1. Council accepted the accounts as up to the date of the meeting as prepared by the RFO Cllr Debbie Mills.

Current Account:	£7,853.99
V. Mellor's Bequest:	£25,488.55
Reserve Account:	£3,000.53
Total	£36,343.07

2. Council approved the budget for the years 2018/2019. Council agreed for the third consecutive year not to increase the precept in spite of a reducing grant from Lewes District Council and the Council's reserve account increasing.

3. There were no planning applications to discuss.
4. Council agreed to accept the revised Meaker's quote of £2,102.35 plus VAT in view of the extra work that was involved in complying with the Environment Agency's specifications and the long delay that has involved. It was agreed that work should start in spring when the weather is drier.
5. Council agreed to ask the Village Hall Committee to consider holding a Village Cricket match on the Hoe this summer.
6. Reports from Councillors;
7. SLR. Pathways and hedges trimmed, the mowing of Broadwater was done in November.
8. Polo. Next meeting is 17 April.

PROGRESS REPORTS

1. Downlights to Village Hall: the downlights are working, but the timer needs investigation and possibly replacing. The sensor on the Village hall also needs investigating and possibly replacing. The contractor has been contacted and will report back.
2. It was agreed that an informal meeting would take place with a local architect, Mr Guylee Simmonds to discuss possible improvements to the Village Hall.
3. It was agreed that there would be a tree survey in the spring.
4. Progress on steps from Hoe to Riverbank; sufficient information has been sent. The project may now need to wait till spring due to the winter weather. Thanks were relayed to the person who put bark down.

5. Progress report on the Dog Poo Bag Dispenser. The trial has begun. The dispenser is being used.
6. It was agreed that the Clerk and Chairman carry out an up to date risk assessment of the Parish Assets will be done when the weather improves The Village Hall Committee will be asked if they can do a risk assessment of the Village Hall.
7. Dates for the next meetings:
27th March, 8th May (AGM and Parish Council),
29th May (Parish Meeting), 7th August, 13th November 2018.

Meeting finished 19.55.

Julian Peterson, Parish Clerk, Piddinghoe

If you'd like to raise any points which the parish council may be able to help with please contact your clerk, Julian Peterson, by email on: clerk@piddinghoe-pc.org.uk or telephone: 077235 10423.

Any requests for items to be considered for inclusion on the agenda should be sent to Julian no later than 10 days before the next Parish Council meeting.

Meeting dates and more information about the parish council can be found at www.piddinghoe-pc.org.uk

DAME JUDI FAVOURITE TO LIFT FILM NIGHT ATTENDANCE FIGURES

My slight fears that the rather politically incorrect 1985 movie *The Woman In Red* would not attract a very big audience for November's Film Night at Piddinghoe Village Hall unfortunately proved, well, correct as only six people turned up on a rain-sodden, dark old winter night. In fact the film was not as good or as funny as I remembered, but those who attended found it amusing enough, I believe.

What I didn't see coming was a turn-out of just one person more (a *Magnificent Seven*, to use a cinematic theme) for the classic 1948 production of *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre*. The film won two Oscars for John Huston (Best Director and Best Screenplay) and another for his father, Walter Huston (who played old man Howard). I was amazed that the lead, Humphrey Bogart, did not also figure among the awards but maybe I'm biased as he is one of my all-time favourites.

I also have to admit that the low turn-outs (another lady would have been there for *Treasure* but contracted a bad cold the day before) also added proof for me that villagers only seem to appear in larger numbers for modern-day pictures. So for Friday January 26, I managed to secure the 2017 film *Victoria and Abdul* starring the ubiquitous and popular Dame Judi Dench. And although, due to *The Villager's* necessary deadlines for copy, I am writing this before showing the film, I can practically guarantee there will be a substantial audience.

If I'm wrong, then maybe Film Night at Piddinghoe Village Hall doesn't have much of a future. I look back at the first few years of the event and audiences of 20 to 30 were fairly common, although there was the odd handful at some presentations. Personally I'm not really fussed what film is showing because it is a chance to meet up and have a glass of wine or a cup of coffee with my neighbours on a social basis. I can't believe that certain people do not attend for fear of meeting other people! Perhaps it is just the

undeniably quite uncomfortable Village Hall chairs that are the problem, but you can always bring a cushion or two.

Time will tell but I've already lined up the latest version of the epic war-tale *Dunkirk* which is packed with modern-day stars for Friday, February 16. It is a somewhat loud but memorable experience. It will also be added to my 'Rent-a-Film-Night' list for people who want to hire, at £3 per film per week, the DVDs of all the films we've shown in the Hall (and many that we haven't) over the past six years or so. Several villagers have already joined the scheme and a list is available on request via email.

Bill Pierce

1 Cedarwell Close T: 07971 611431 E: piercewilliam991@gmail.com

VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

Brains, booze and banter were all in evidence at the annual Village Hall Quiz Night on Friday December 8. David A, Sue, Sarah and Andy's team 'Lost Cause' emerged as winners. The four other teams were all mighty close, the nearest being Claire's 'Witches of Piddinghoe' while a high standard of knowledge was displayed across the board. Quizmaster Bill did well to keep some sort of order on a laughter-filled night but was sad to discover the next morning that we would have had an extra entry from Paul and Co. up at Hoddern had not one of our infamous local power cuts struck them just before the start. Thankfully the village was clear of it and while Dave H and Dave W managed the bar, fine food came from Mel and Sheila.

Our latest Winter Warmer event, complete with free soup kitchen, took place just as we went to press with *The Villager*.

Wednesday Darts and Table Tennis evenings have been revived – come and join in the fun from 7pm.

Ideas for future events are always welcome. Contact Sheila Redman: redman359@btinternet.com

PIDDINGHOE BOOK CLUB

We welcome new and returning members!

The Book Club meets on Thursdays at members' homes from 7.30pm, roughly every 6 weeks.

You can phone Christine Bentham or David Hallett for more information:

Christine: 0794 457 7774

David: 0771 640 9506

Alternatively, if you would like to receive details of the book club and our selected books by email, please send your email address to: ccbentham@gmail.com

Next meeting

Thursday, February 22 at 7.30pm

Venue: Halyards

Selected title: 'Canada' by Richard Ford



PLUMPTON COLLEGE SAILING ACADEMY

Tuesday, January 10 saw the first day back after Christmas for Plumpton College Sailing Academy where they undergo regular sessions at Piddinghoe Round Pond. The day had a steady force 2/3 to greet them with warm weather at 10 degrees, which is very unusual for this time of year.

Fifteen sailors launched in five RS Visions and one Laser Vortex. The training session was a great opportunity for the team to practise their pre-assessment skills before their planned Dinghy Instructor course which is to take place prior to the February half term. Tremendous progress was evident from every member and a successful first day back on the water was seen by everyone in the team.

As the academy left the lake for the day, the wind dropped. Piddinghoe Round Pond is a truly fantastic resource for Plumpton College to have access to.

Andy Hamilton

Chief Instructor, Plumpton College Sailing Academy



ART JOTTINGS

Chris Ofili CBE

Let me tell you about a delightful student I taught at the Royal College of Art – Chris Ofili. He was born in Manchester in 1968 of Nigerian parents. He studied in the Fine Art department in 1991 following a foundation degree, and then doing his BA at Chelsea School of Art.

When I first met Chris, unlike all art students at the time who dressed in a grungy 'on trend' fashion, he was wearing a brown duffle coat neatly toggled up, with an air of Paddington Bear about him. He was shy, quietly spoken and very unassuming. No hint of the artist superstar he would become. He would ask me to obtain watercolour paint brushes for him and always add, in his shy manner, that they were for his granny. This became a standing joke between us and I would always ask him how granny's watercolours were coming along. In the world of fine art, watercolours are not the medium to work in and very much frowned on. Fine for illustrators and textile designers but not painters. Chris, I think, produced some of his most beautiful work in watercolour. Heads of African woman like mini jewels glowing from the paper. He held a one man show of these works in the Serpentine Gallery in Hyde Park and now they sell for thousands of pounds. Why oh why did I not buy a few from him when I had the chance! (One of his large oil canvases has just been sold for £2.5 million). If you are interested, do please google Chris Ofili 'no woman no cry' to see one of his most famous watercolours.

Chris started incorporating elephant dung into his large oil canvases while he was studying. This delighted our Press Department, always on the lookout for a way of getting headlines in the papers to promote the degree show. In everyone's mind this was interpreted as him actually mixing dung with paint

and slapping it on canvas. Not true, as most of the time it was formed into dry spherical lumps, varnished and used as foot-like supports on which his huge oil paintings stood. (Sorry if you are eating while reading this.) Anyway it certainly did the trick and my shy little boy attracted much attention and also the prize of being picked out by Charles Saatchi during the degree show, which led to his work shown in the Saatchi Gallery in North London.

In 1998 Chris was nominated for the coveted Turner prize and, delight of delights, he won. No duffle coat that night but a very sharp suit. His shyness came through in his acceptance speech on live TV. He was awarded the CBE in the 2017 New Years Honours list.

Last year, in the BBC arts series 'Imagine', Alan Yentob presented a programme on Chris and the tapestry he was commissioned to design for the Clothworkers' Company. It was hand woven by Dovecot Tapestry Studio and is called 'The Caged Bird'. The image reflects his interest in classic mythology, magic and the colours of Trinidad where he now lives.

My shy little boy in his duffle coat did good.

Gill Autie

CANDLEMASS AND ASH WEDNESDAY

If Candlemas Day be fair and bright,
Winter will have another fight:
But if Candlemas Day be clouds and rain,
Winter is gone – it will not come again.

That Old English rhyme relates to February 2, a fixed date in the Church Lectionary. It falls forty days after Christmas Day and marks the occasion when Mary and Joseph took the Baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem, both for His naming and presentation to God and also for Mary's purification after child-birth, required by Jewish Law.

Candlemas is the last Festival in Epiphany, which follows Christmas and closes those white/gold Seasons, during which a well-attended Carol Service and Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve were held at Saint John's, in addition to regular Sunday worship. Now, with Snowdrops, also known as Candlemas Bells, flourishing in the Churchyard, we anticipate Spring.

Legend says that these early blooming flowers sprang up by the hand of an angel, who identified them as a sign of hope to Eve, weeping in repentance over the cold and death that had entered the world after she and Adam had sinned. The Priest, Simeon, who blessed the Christ Child in the Temple, proclaimed Him the Light of the World, our hope for the future and so it is considered providential that Snowdrops should bloom before February 2 and that, on the day itself, some Candlemas Bells should be brought inside our Homes and Churches, to 'purify' the buildings. Any earlier is considered unwise.

With the difficulty of condensing the life of a thirty-three-year-old man into twelve Months, the Church moves rapidly from Jesus' infancy to His Ministry and, this year, February 14 marks Saint Valentine's Day, and also Ash Wednesday.

Before Ash Wednesday come Collop Monday and Shrove Tuesday – a Collop being a piece of meat. Where the traditions are maintained, Christians use up their meats before Lent starts. On Shrove Tuesday, the fats, cheese, eggs, cream and butter are all consumed by making pancakes, so that all rich foods have been eaten in time for Lenten austerity.

Ash Wednesday gets its name from the ancient custom of a sinner making public penance by appearing at the first Service in Lent, dressed in sackcloth and ashes, a sign used as far back as the eighth century before Christ's birth, to show remorse for sins. Nowadays members of the Congregation are 'ashed' using the ashes obtained by burning the palm crosses left over from last year's Palm Sunday Service. After a blessing and sprinkling with holy water, the Ash is imposed on the forehead of those who wish, the Priest saying: 'Remember, that thou are dust and unto dust shalt thou return': a reflection of the words used in funeral services.

In addition to the usual two Sunday Services a month, which are shown on the Church Notice Board, there will be a baptism on February 17 and an 8.00am Service on Ash Wednesday, for those who are interested.

Mary Sitwell



4 A.M. – THE TALE

I freely admit that the title of this piece is just too tricky but that's what can happen when you overthink things. Especially in the middle of the night. See if you figure it out before the denouement. It took me a while to realise what I was doing. Double entendres mean a lot to me. All in all that's quite a lot of French for one short paragraph. There's probably a psycho literary term for it.

Anyway, the Charleston Festival. I just love it. It almost doesn't matter if I don't hear a talk – I can wander very happily around the grounds, through the kitchen garden, sit by the lake pretending to read, browse the books and just stare at the Festival-goers. I'm ashamed to say I've never been to Glastonbury but I'm pretty sure it's different. Here of course there are mainly Lewes people, a lot of Lewes ladies, you know what I mean, and it's a good thing. But last year we came to see two authors talk about their newly published books, both of which featured Virginia Woolf. One was a Brighton author, Alison McCleod. Her novel, *Unexploded*, was about a local woman, her family and relationships, and how her encounter with Virginia Woolf and the inmates of the wartime internment camp up on the racecourse altered her life. Her presentation in the main tent was fascinating and I was instantly smitten. By her work. Of course. We bought the book and both read it. I can highly recommend it. I was in love. Did I mention that already?

Fast forward to this year's Festival and we are back at Charleston. And there in the queue to buy a book is none other than Alison McCleod. Now, it is part of my philosophy to always tell someone if they have affected my life in any way. I think I owe it to others to let them know and feel appreciated. So, this is easy right? Wait till she's not in conversation, approach her in a non-threatening, non star-struck way, tell her how much I enjoyed her book, say 'thank you' and leave. I can do that. Apparently not. I get as far as "Excuse me Ms McCleod, I saw your presentation here last

year and I just wanted to....". That was it. Lockjaw, overawed, speechless and motionless. Unblinking. She knew I was an idiot, a fan certainly, but an idiot nonetheless. I backed away, nodding, turned and left the tent.

At about 4 in the morning I awoke and had words in my head – being a songwriter I know that if I don't get things on paper or recorded immediately, especially in the small hours, I will lose them. Two separate rhymes were buzzing in my head, both from the heart, one sad, one witty and wry. 'Wallflower Blues' tells the humorous and allegedly anonymous story of someone plucking up the courage to walk onto the dancefloor and chat someone up, and the other, '4 a.m.', tells of the songwriter's existential angst involved in writing and exposing his soul. It's heady stuff.

Some tales are too personal for the supper table so I'm not telling anyone but you about this embarrassing episode. And just in case you are still wondering, '4 a.m., for A.M... For, well... who do you think it's for?' The author of my dreams. Shhh... it's our secret.

Colin Chapman



GRASS ROOTS

Concerning bats

Bats account for almost a third of all mammal species in the UK and occupy a wide range of habitats, such as wetlands, woodlands, farmland as well as urban areas. They can tell us a lot about the state of the environment, as they are top predators of common nocturnal insects and are sensitive to changes in land use practices.

The pressures they face – such as landscape change, agricultural intensification, property development, and habitat fragmentation – are also relevant to many other wildlife species, making them excellent indicators for the wider health of the UK's wildlife.

The **Bat Conservation Trust*** has been monitoring UK bat populations for more than ten years under its National Bat Monitoring Programme with the help of 3,500 dedicated volunteers.

There are 18 species of bats in the UK, all of which have been recorded in Sussex, and 17 of which are known to breed here. All of them are protected by European and national laws making it an offence to:

1. Deliberately capture, injure or kill a bat.
2. Intentionally or recklessly disturb a bat in its roost or deliberately disturb a group of bats.
3. Damage or destroy a bat roosting place (even if bats are not occupying the roost at the time).
4. Possess or advertise/sell/exchange a bat (dead or alive) or any part of a bat.
5. Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost.

Delivering the legal protection offered to bats, and the monitoring of wildlife crime involving them, is an area 'needing improvement' (Bat Conservation Trust). The outcome of the referendum in June 2016 to leave the European Union has led to concerns as to whether bats will continue to have such comprehensive protection.



Bats in Piddinghoe

In the early 1990s we often saw bats flying around my house and garden in the summer, and once even had one circling silently around the bedroom.

I saw three bats in my field one sultry August evening last summer. The light wasn't good enough to enjoy them for long, but I'm very glad they are still here. I do not possess the knowledge to identify them but they would have belonged to one of the main species spotted in the area by the **Sussex Bat Group***, probably either the Common pipistrelle, the Soprano pipistrelle, the Brown long-eared, or the Daubentons bat. I have also been told that they were seen around the church too. Let's hope St. Johns has got bats in the belfry! Please let me know if it has.

*Check out their websites for more information. Much of this article has been quoted directly from one or other of them.

<http://www.bats.org.uk>

<http://www.sussexbatgroup.org.uk>

Angie Ridge

THE HOUSE SPARROW

Passer domesticus, Spadger

Piddinghoe is very well endowed with house sparrows, who must be some of the best fed in the county! In Brookside alone I have noticed at least four houses with full bird feeders. I have a gang of about 20, who visit my garden in Brookside on a daily basis, helping themselves to vast quantities of nuts, grain and fatballs. The sparrow is a colonial bird and it seems will only flourish when accompanied by his/her fellows!

Sparrows live around human habitation, not woods or wild country, and live on scraps, seed and insects. They were once regarded as the 'low life' of the bird world and in the past treated as a pest. They were everywhere to be seen, hopping about chirruping, in parks, gardens, towns and villages. It is the most common of all our birds. In this excerpt from the poet John Clare's poem, 'Summer Evening', he welcomes sparrows to his home, away from marauding schoolboys who would raid their nests and kill the birds.

'Sure my sparrows are my own
Let ye then my birds alone.
To my cottage then resort
Much I love your chirping note.'

The sparrow is honoured in spite of its lowly reputation. They have, however, been in sharp decline for many years and are not often seen in towns today, though the Sussex coast still seems to maintain some numbers. In 1979 in Cambridge, our house had both sparrows and house martins, who would annually battle for the nesting sites in the eaves. Not so now; sadly no house martins or sparrows.

Sparrows mate for life, but will readily find a new partner if deprived of the original one. Their lifespan is on average 3 years, but they can live up to 12 years. Males have a black bib and grey brown head; females are generally all buff brown. They nest together in hedgerows, ivy and thatch, or wherever they can find a suitable spot. Although naturally they are ground-feeding birds, they have adapted well to bird feeders. I love to hear them chirruping in the hedge at the bottom of the garden. Mass chirruping in concert with starlings.

Sadly, along with other small birds, sparrows' lives are threatened by the work of Man, and since I have been living in Piddinghoe, two big old hedges have been uprooted and replaced with fences, thus depriving birds of natural shelter and nest sites. Predators – cats and sparrowhawks – are numerous and, of course, pesticides kill insects and thus threaten the lives of all small birds. I hope the sparrows of Piddinghoe will maintain their numbers aided by the kind people who feed them, and that we think twice about removing hedges that are homes to birds

Julia Clayson



PIDDINGHOE PEOPLE

Carolyn Richardson of Flint Cottage

From a very early age Carolyn knew the direction of travel she intended to take through her life and set off in hot pursuit to achieve it. An addiction to watching 1930's black-and-white films inspired an ambition to become a costume designer from the age of six. By the time she was eight, she had made six dolls dressed in historical costumes and exhibited them to great acclaim in her local library.

Carolyn left her convent school when she was 16 and began training as a secretary learning shorthand and typing and entering a two year contract with BP, gaining very useful experience. However, the world of fashion beckoned and she moved to Jaeger as secretary to the Personnel Director, remained for all of six months before moving on again as secretary to the Audition Unit at the BBC and in particular to the 'Light Programme' show *Saturday Club* which gave her the heart-fluttering opportunity to meet the likes of the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. Wow! Then followed another move within the BBC to Radio Drama, becoming involved with *The Archers* and doing things such as drawing up contracts for actors, which of course, had to be very precise.

At this time, drama became part of her personal life. In a local pub, she met Chris. They chatted and discovered they had lots of interests in common, apart from the wine!

They married and moved to East Molesey and Carolyn left the BBC (which was what married women were rather expected to do at that time). The next opportunity was grabbed when she modestly accepted a job as a cleaner for no less a person than the Editor of *Woman Magazine*. Her interest in fashion was soon recognised and she was introduced to Margaret Melliar, a well-known pattern cutter, who suggested she went to Epsom College of Art to do a fashion degree. (She later gained an MA in the History of Textiles and Dress.) She spent three years at Epsom

College of Art and during that time gained work experience at the Thorndike Theatre. When she left art college she went to work for the Thorndike Theatre as a Costume Designer and Wardrobe Supervisor and met many up and coming stars.

Then more drama in her personal life. The family expanded to include two children, Nick and Becky. This did not diminish her enthusiasm for the world of theatre and costumes – it was merely an added challenge – and she worked as a freelance costumier working for various companies including The National Theatre, the D'Oyly Carte Company, ENO and the Royal Ballet.

Being a costumier not only involves making outer garments. For period costumes, foundation and under garments are very important and have to be made to measure. Often everything has to be altered at short notice if understudies have to step in or there's a complete change of cast for a later production. The fabric used is sourced so as to look as if it was made in the original period and it could be very expensive. It also has to withstand maybe years of storage.

In the following years, Carolyn did work for films and television and dressed many well-known stars such as Judi Dench, Vanessa Redgrave and Kristin Scott Thomas. Making prom dresses for the musical *Grease* also became a regular source of income because of the regular cast changes!

Working as a lecturer for the London College of Fashion gave her the opportunity to leave the confines of her studio and share her knowledge and enthusiasm with students. Then eventually retirement beckoned and Carolyn and Chris moved to Piddinghoe in 2016.

Carolyn still hankers a bit for the bright lights and regularly goes jazz singing in London whilst Chris happily keeps company with their beautiful greyhound Polly. On one of their walks around the churchyard, he discovered the marked graves of late relatives – his mother's maiden name was Penfold.

Sheila Redman

ANSWERS ON A POST-CARD, PLEASE ...

According to which media outlet you believe, it has been either a brilliant year for school exam results – or a disaster. Whatever the truth, some examination paper answers have often been hilarious, especially in the subjects of chemistry and biology. Sally Bass has been looking at a few examples of completed exam papers from the past, presenting them here for our enjoyment...

- Water is composed of two gins, oxygen and hydrogen. Oxygen is pure gin and hydrogen is gin and water.
- To collect fumes of sulphur, hold a Deacon over a flame in a test tube.
- When you breathe you inspire and when you don't breathe you expire.
- When you smell an odourless gas it is probably carbon dioxide.
- There are three kinds of blood vessels: vanes, arteries and caterpillars.
- The body consists of three parts: the branium, the borax and the abdominal cavity. The branium contains the brain, the borax contains the heart and lungs and the abdominal cavity contains the bowels of which there are five: a, e, i, o and u.
- H₂O is hot water and CO₂ is cold water.
- To germinate is to become a naturalised German.
- A litre is a nest of young puppies.
- Blood flows down one leg and up the other.
- A vacuum is a large empty space where the Pope lives.
- Momentum is what you give to someone who is going away.
- A fossil is an extinct animal. The older it gets the more extinct it is.
- Nitrogen is not found in China because it is not a free state.



THE GREAT PIDDINGHOE BAKE OFF



Another recipe from Jill Hentschel

Coconut and Apple Cider cake

1 lb S.R.flour

1 tsp baking powder; ½ tsp mixed spice

½ lb butter or sunflower spread

4 oz currants

½ pint cider, using some to soak the currants
overnight or for at least ½ hour

1 medium cooking apple peeled and cooked
until soft in remaining cider

3 oz desiccated coconut

(Optional: 3 eggs lightly beaten,
but this cooks well as an eggless cake)

½ lb caster sugar

1. Sieve flour with baking powder and spices.
2. Rub butter or sunflower spread into the flour mixture.
3. Add sugar and coconut.
4. Combine apple and currants with cider and mix in eggs if using. Then combine all ingredients.
5. Put into 8" loose-bottom tin, greased and lined.
6. Bake at 160°C for 1 hour.
7. Cover with a sheet of clean cardboard and bake for a further 30 minutes. Test with a metal skewer.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO 'THE VILLAGER'?

Articles, letters, snippets are all welcome. Or you might want to discuss an idea with one of *The Villager* team. The names of the team are given on the first page of the magazine. You can always stop and talk to us about contributions. And, remember that Sheila Redman is our 'News Hound', and wants to make sure that *The Villager* is fully up to date with what is going on. There are three important things to mention.

1. If you want to contribute an article, please try not to make it longer than about 550 words. You don't have to write as much as that, of course. We can accept far less! We have to set a limit in order to make sure that we have enough space to include everything that regularly goes into the magazine, plus room for contributions. Unfortunately, the magazine, because of technical reasons, plus costs, can't be ever expanding!
2. We will always set a deadline for contributions. See below. If you send in your contribution right on the deadline we can't guarantee inclusion in the magazine. It would be very helpful if you could send your article in with some time to spare.
3. We really would appreciate having your articles as Word docs, attached to an email. It makes it easier for all of us working on the magazine.

Two of us – Bill Pierce and Gill Davies – are very happy to be involved in discussions with anyone who wants to write something, or to provide a helping hand if needed. As well as talking to them, you can contact them through email.

Bill's email address is: piercewilliam991@gmail.com

Gill's is: davies.gill@btinternet.com

The deadline for contributions to the next Villager is 6th April.

The Villager
Piddinghoe, East Sussex.
www.piddinghoe-pc.org.uk