

THE VILLAGER

June 2016



Piddinghoe
East Sussex

EDITORIAL

Summer seems to be on its way at last. The many species of birds around us, singing their hearts out, tell us that winter has finally gone. It is a glorious time of year for bird song, so may we immediately draw your attention to a lovely piece in this issue, reproduced from *The Villager* in 1996 and written by Jack Wilding, a gentleman who once lived in the village. Mr Wilding's article is a delightful guide to bird-spotting around Piddinghoe, and we recommend it to you.

A new contribution starts this issue with an occasional series from Nick Woolger, who has lived in Piddinghoe longer than almost anyone else. Nick describes his memories of living in the village from 1945, and what it was like here when there was a shop, a pub, a well-attended church, many children, and active semi-industrial working on the river. Also in this issue, Richard Way has his say about dangerous dogs and their irresponsible owners.

Villages change over time and not all change is desirable. Of particular concern in this village is the empty plot next to the Village Hall. Everyone was astonished at the size of the plot when it was cleared. Many of us miss the trees, and no doubt the birds that nested there miss them too. The plot is an eyesore with a partly destroyed flint wall, ugly metal railings along the length of the Village Hall drive, and nothing except a bare earth surface rapidly becoming engulfed by weeds. The future of this plot seems uncertain. It is a hole in the village which we hope will soon be filled by something appropriate.

Now, time to salute the oldest resident of the village by a mile! Archie the horse, who lives at the stables, is going to be an astonishing 34 years old this month. For a horse, this is *really* going it! You may know him – a handsome, gleaming chestnut, looking as fit as a fiddle. Before he was moved to another field, the soothing sound of Archie's munching on the other side of the fence at the Allotments somehow made the backbreaking work

of digging up potatoes tolerable. The sight of noble Archie always raised the spirits. We don't know what he made of us.

Finally, if you would like to write an article; if you have any ideas for the magazine; or if you simply want to write a letter for inclusion, please be in touch. Full details are to be found on the final page of the magazine, including the all-important deadline for submitting contributions.

The team: Sheila Redman (Chair), Gill Davies, Angie Ridge, Bill Pierce, Sue Massey, David Aicken.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST VILLAGERS

It's good to see that a cluster of previously empty village houses have now been brought back to life so it's a big welcome to:

Robert and Emma Taylor and dogs Bay and Betty who have moved into no. 10 Brookside. Emma is the granddaughter of Frank Stace who occupied that same house for very many years.

Gary and Haley Coleman, with son Jacob (10) , daughter Lily (8) and dog Teddy are now living in no. 11 Brookside.

Chris and Liz Garvey now occupy no. 1 Brookside.

It's a welcome back to Neal and Kirsty and children Ben, Hope and Grace who have returned to Roe Cottage after about a year's absence.

Their first impressions seem to be very positive so we hope their time spent in the village will be a future source of very happy memories.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF PIDDINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL

The AGM was held in the Village Hall on May 3, 2016 at 19.30. Present were all the Councillors, the Parish Clerk, and 12 residents. Refreshments were provided by Mrs Carolyn Stow, who was thanked. The Chairman, Councillor Dennis Stow, read his Annual Report to the meeting. The report outlined the main areas of activity and involvement undertaken by the Parish Council on behalf of residents in the past year:

- New Village Hall noticeboard, with a special plaque commemorating Martin Redman
- Establishment of a new editorial team to take over and run *The Villager* after the retirement of Mike Draisey
- The Hoe (including the children's playground, maintenance, diseased trees and the compost heap)
- Dog fouling
- The Village Hall
- Village Plan
- Village Hall driveway and car park
- Village website
- Planning applications
- Fingerposts
- Maintenance of verges and hedgerows
- Repair of road at the triangle
- 'No vehicle access' sign put at entrance to river bank at north end of the village
- Telephone box/village library repainted

- Many meetings attended with Highways, LDC, Veolia, OVCN, SDNP, CTLA, Newhaven Town Council, various Planning Authorities, AIRs
- Egrets Way
- Speed reduction on the C7

Throughout the meeting, the Chair actively encouraged participation and discussion. The meeting ended at 21.00

For those who wish to see the full detail of this AGM report, please go to the village website: www.piddinghoe-pc.org.uk and click on the link to the Parish Council.

ROAD TO THE VILLAGE HALL AND HOE

After quite a few years of being the top request for improvements to the village, you'll be pleased to know that the Parish Council have appointed contractors to construct a new road. This will begin on Thursday 9th June and will take approximately a week to complete. Access to the village hall will not be affected, but those wishing to access the Hoe may have to use the route by Sheila's barn and the riverbank.

Piddinghoe Parish Council

PIDDINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL 2016

Minutes of the The Annual Meeting of Piddinghoe Parish Council, on 11 May 2016

2 Members of the public

J C Peterson, Parish Clerk, Piddinghoe

1. Election of Chairman for the year 2016-2017 Councillor Dennis Stow was agreed.
2. Election of Vice Chairman for the year 2016-2017 Councillor Nicholas Woolger was agreed.
3. The Chairman and Vice Chairman both signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
4. Apologies for Absence. None

Julian Peterson, PPC Clerk

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Piddinghoe, on Tuesday 10th May 2016 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors, Chairman Cllr Dennis Stow, David Aicken, Debbie Mills, Angela Ridge, Nick Woolger, Mr Julian Peterson (Clerk), East Sussex County Councillor Carla Butler, Lewes District Councillor Vic Ient, David Wilkinson, David Hallett, members of the public.

Apologies for Absence: None

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 2016 were AGREED By Council and signed by the Vice Chairman who was Chairman at that meeting.

Disclosure of Interests: None from Councillors .

Public Participation: Council agreed that District Councillor Ient, could speak in public participation on matters not on the agenda this time. Councillor Ient talked on bus times and urged

people to use the buses on Sunday. Also Cllr Ient spoke on the community safety fund. Cllr Ient congratulated Cllr Carla Butler for her work to keep the Village School at Rodmell from closing.

AGENDA

1. Council accepted the accounts as prepared by Councillor Debbie Mills. The balances are stated below.

The bank balances as at year end were:

Savings account £45149.19 (Valerie Mellor's bequest)

Current £5418.41

Total balances £50567.60

Current balances at meeting date were:

Savings £45149.19

Current £9946.74

Total balances £55095.93

The Council approved the Annual Governance Statement section 1 of the 2015/2016 Annual audit return.

The Council agreed the Accountability statement section 2 of the 2015/2016 Annual audit return.

As an emergency item Council also agreed the New Financial regulations from NALC, circulated on the 9th May 2016.

Council will now study these in detail. And report back at the July meeting of the PPC with any questions.

2. Council was informed by the Clerk and RFO that a grant has been applied for from the Transparency Fund to apply for a computer and appropriate software for the Responsible Finance Officer. It was agreed again that since all records are kept on the Clerks and RFO's personal computers that both should have a PPC owned computer. Council agreed to finance the scheme by purchasing two computers from a local firm and the appropriate software. £299.00 per computer and £85.00 + VAT. The project had already been agreed to be financed paid in the March PPC meeting. (Minute no.5. Meeting 15/03/2016).

3. The tree works notification SDNP/16/01926/TCA at West Court near Newhaven was noted and approved.
4. It was agreed that the sandpit would be refilled as LDC had raised it as a low risk safety measure in the monthly inspection, this time. But if this was to be funded in future a volunteer team from the village is needed to rake and disinfect the sand regularly. Christine Bentham volunteered to be one of the volunteers. Council will request that the *Villager* and the website publish a request for volunteers to keep the sandpit safe and clean on a regular basis.
 - 4b. Cllr Aicken reported that he had applied a successful 'wash' to the balancing beam and that it was currently free of algae.
 - 4c. An email has been sent to the ground maintenance team to trim the overhanging branches.
 - 4d. It was noted that slow worms are a protected species and are nesting in the compost heap. Therefore they cannot be disturbed.
5. The report Cllr Stow read out at the Parish meeting (03/05/2016) and has been published on the website was referred to. It was reported that land owners had not given permission for the E/W cycle track to cross their land and they cannot be forced against their will to sell their land for this purpose. The Council is talking to the Egrets Way officials to find a solution.
6. Councillor Woolger explained that in the event of a catastrophic disaster that there should be an emergency plan for the village. That he will prepare a plan which will be published on the village website and the *Villager* magazine. The plan will consist of a safe location for those effected to go, where warm blankets and refreshments can be given. And where people can gather safely until the emergency services

arrive. Other villages along the Ouse valley will be contacted as there is no other emergency plan at the time of writing.

7. It was agreed that last year's decision not to get further quotes for the replacement of the Village finger posts will be overridden. See item number 11.
8. The Working group for the Neighbourhood Plan is working on a list of projects for the village based on a previous survey (see minute 10 from PPC meeting 15/03/2106). Top of the list is the project to re surface the track and car park leading past the village hall to the Hoe, and dark light lighting along the path to the village hall. See item 10.

The dates for the next meetings of the Parish Council were noted: 12th July, 13th September, 15th November 2016.

9. Council voted to exclude the public and press, under section 100(A) of the local Government Act 1972 (as amended) during discussion of the reports no 10 and 11 on the agenda. Due to the disclosure of sensitive commercial interests of the Council and the persons that have tendered is not in the public interest.
10. Council received three quotations for the laying of a road along the rack past the village hall to the car park. Council considered these options and chose which one represented best value for the village.
11. Council received three quotes for fingerposts at the south and north end of the village. All quotes were from a list of East Sussex County Council's approved list of contractors. To get the grant ESCC will be contacted with Council's choice and they will authorise payment of the grant dependant on their criteria.

Final Draft Copy

Julian Peterson, PPC Clerk

SUPERFAST BROADBAND – ALMOST!

I've been keeping track of progress on Piddinghoe being connected to superfast (fibre) broadband and at last, there's good news. You may have noticed at the south entrance triangle, a new green metal cabinet has appeared. This is our new broadband hub which is currently being connected.

You can't order a fibre service just yet but you should be able to have it linked to your house within the next four months (hopefully sooner). If you'd like to know when you can order fibre and to register your details, go to this page on the Openreach website:

**[www.homeandwork.openreach.co.uk/
when-can-i-get-fibre.aspx](http://www.homeandwork.openreach.co.uk/when-can-i-get-fibre.aspx)**

David Aicken

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SANDPIT MAINTENANCE

The play area sandpit requires re-filling and the sand should also be regularly raked and disinfected for health and safety reasons. The Parish Council has agreed to pay for another refill, but recognises that a team of volunteers from the village is needed to regularly maintain this play facility for children. Christine Bentham has kindly volunteered and we are looking for a few more people to help.

If you'd like to help Christine, please contact the PPC Clerk, Julian Peterson, email: piddinghoepc@gmail.com. We will then arrange a gathering of volunteers to agree a rota etc.

Piddinghoe Parish Council

GRASS ROOTS

Concerning yaffling, slow worms, May bugs and fairies

Our Piddinghoe Green Woodpeckers have been making themselves heard. The bird features prominently in folklore and has many local names, some linked to the bird's loud laughing call. The most familiar and widely used is Yaffle, a word that was in widespread use by the end of the 18th century. The word 'yaffle' came to be used as a verb, meaning 'to make a sound like a woodpecker'.

John Aubrey, a 16th century English antiquarian noted that the bird was used by the druids for divination and stated that 'to this day the country people do divine of raine by their cry'. Let's blame them then.

I happily learn that we have slow worms in the compost heap on The Hoe. They like to nest under cover in damp environments and long grass, and can give birth to up to 8 live young. The slow worm is not a snake but a semifossorial (burrowing) limbless lizard. Their skin is smooth and silky to the touch, not slimy. They have the ability to shed their tails (autotomize) to escape predators – cats being the biggest cause of mortality... and strimmers. So do check your 'dark areas' before tidying them up. In the UK the slow worm has been granted protected status, and under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is illegal to kill intentionally, injure, sell or advertise to sell them.

Watch out for the fascinating brown cockchafers, or May bugs, whirring around in June. They are harmless, but not to the farmer, as their grubs have a voracious appetite and sometimes continue to be a problem in European agriculture and forestry. Under a magnifying glass you can see their impressive fan-shaped 'leaves' on their antennae. They were nearly eradicated by pesticides during the 20th century. They are known in Suffolk as a billy witch or spang beetle.

Remember June 23, Midsummer's Eve, is traditionally the Fairies' night. If you went into the fields on this night and made a wish, it was almost certainly to be granted. Fairies in Sussex were known as Farisees, or Pharisees. The Sussex fairies' colour was green and even today among some folk it is believed that this is an unlucky colour to wear.

(Taken from *A Sussex Garland* by Tony Wales)

Diary Entries

May 1, 1665.

To Westminster, in the way meeting many milkmaids with their garlands upon their pails, dancing with a fiddler before them.

Samuel Pepys, London

June 23, 1884

Sea evenings dark, short, soon dark after sundown; no lingering light and colour and softness as inland among orchards and meadows.

Richard Jeffries, Sussex

June 1, 1915

On top of the Downs a whole fire of gorse.

D.H. Lawrence, Sussex

April 12, 2016

Swallows back. Circling around the field shelter.

April 26, 2016

Heard the cuckoo... for five minutes or so.

Angie Ridge, Piddinghoe, Sussex

Angie Ridge

JACK WILDING

I met Jack on moving to Piddinghoe in 1989. He was then my immediate neighbour and an interesting and charming elderly gentleman. Jack had had a fascinating and varied career in the oil industry, spending many years abroad. He revealed that he was involved in the decision making processes governing the development of the star labelling of petrol, enabling the motorist to purchase the car fuel with the correct octane level appropriate for their vehicle.

On the site where Ouse Cottage now sits was his summer house, where Bryan, Jack and I spent many convivial hours together. His wife, Rene, was bedridden at that time and when the nurses came to attend to her, Jack could take himself off round the sailing lake to spend a precious hour or two birdwatching. He kept diaries of all he saw, and compared notes with Bryan, an equally keen and knowledgeable birder. Jack lived well into his eighties and is very fondly remembered.

There follows an article written by him for the first issue of *The Villager* in May 1996 .

Angie Ridge

EXTRACT FROM THE VILLAGER

Issue 1, May 1996

BIRDS IN AND AROUND PIDDINGHOE

We in Piddinghoe live in an exceptionally good place for birds. We are surrounded not only by fields and hedges like most villages, but we have also the pond and river, the downs and a couple of miles away Newhaven harbour, each with its distinctive bird population. Nearly half our birds are resident here throughout the year.

Summer migrants, most of which have now arrived, come here to breed and leave again in the autumn, mainly to Southern Africa; in September winter migrants arrive from the North to find a less severe climate. Others appear briefly as they pass to and from their breeding areas in the North.

The variety of birds around us is very impressive. On my counts over the last twenty years one could hope to see over a twelve month period: 75 species in the village and fields around, 30 on the pond or river and 1 on the harbour - making a total of 106 species. These of course are not on view throughout the year, apart from the residents, but come and go with the seasons.

Up to now we have not mentioned any birds by name, so let us check those on the most popular walk here - up the track to the car park and pond and on to the river, returning round the pond and across the Hoe. As trees and bushes come into leaf many birds are obscured and we shall have to use both eyes and ears to identify the birds along the way. In the first part of the track lined with bushes, we shall find the familiar garden birds - blackbirds; thrushes; starlings; blue tits; green finches; chaffinches and dunnocks; possibly a pair of white-throats. At the top of the lane things get more interesting as the bushes on the left are likely to have a pair of sedge warblers - small brown birds with a pale eye stripe and a cheerful song. On the opposite corner there is often a yellow hammer's nest.

Coming to the track ending to the river, reed warblers will be making their continuous churning song from the depths of the reeds, where they will be next building in a number of reeds drawn together. As we go up the trail there will be more sedge and reed warblers, with perhaps some linnets and reed buntings. A sky lark may be overhead, but these are very scarce now in common with the rest of the country.

On the pond itself, the Canada and greyleg geese will be breeding and on the remoter banks moorhen; coot and little grebe may also have nests. These are much scarcer than they used to be. They are all residents and the smaller numbers may well be due to increased disturbances by sailing, particularly wind surfing. This trend applies also to the duck that used to be regular winter visitors in fair numbers: Mallard; tufted duck; pochard and shovellers have decreased very much, although a few still appear in hard weather, along with teal and widgeon.

The middle of the pond will have a small flock of non-breeding gulls, mostly blackheaded and herring gulls. Swallows; swifts and house martins will be flying to and fro. There may be a kingfisher by the river, but I don't think they breed along here as the sloping river banks are not suitable for their nesting holes. Kingfishers are wanderers during the winter and are not uncommon with us then.

Continuing our walk, we should pass several more reed warblers and possibly meadow pipits on the grass banks. The copse just before coming to the Hoe sometimes has willow warblers and chiff-chaffs early in the season, but normally do not stay to breed. I hope they will this year.

JACK WILDING

STROKE INDICATORS

The editorial team has had its attention drawn to this short piece. We could not deny the usefulness of it. This practical guide could be critical. We thought it deserved to be shared with readers. It only takes a minute to read this!

A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours, he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke. Totally. He said the trick was getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed, and then getting the patient medically cared for within 3 hours, which is tough.

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

S – Ask the individual to SMILE

T – Ask the person to TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE
(Coherently)

R – Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call emergency number immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

New Sign of a Stroke – STICK OUT YOUR TONGUE. Ask the person to stick out his or her tongue. If the tongue is ‘crooked’, i.e., if it goes to one side or the other of the mouth, that is also an indication of a stroke.

So, remember, **S T R S**



**THE
BIG
BBQ**

Sunday 26th June, 12.00

Join us for a village BBQ
(on the Hoe if the weather is fine or in
the hall if not).

Dust off your trainers and have a go
at tennis and other games.

**All villagers and friends
welcome !**

Village BBQ and games

.....

Adults £10
Kids (under 16) £5

.....

A free drink, delicious
salads and puds
included in ticket price

.....

Bar provided by The
Royal Oak Survivors

.....

For tickets or further
info please contact:

Sheila Redman
(Old School House)

Mel Morgan
(Jasmine Cottage)

.....

Help needed please:
Pudding and salad
makers

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

After the recent AGM, David Wilkinson is now Chair and Sheila Redman is secretary. The booking secretary is David Hallett.

To make a booking go to
www.piddinghoe-pc.org.uk/diary.asp
 or email davidmhallett@gmail.com

Booking rates	Piddinghoe resident	Non-resident
Hourly	£12	£22
Session (normally 3 hrs)	£35	£50
Daily	£60	£95

ROYAL OAK SURVIVORS DIARY DATES

16th July; 3rd September; 12th November

JANE'S BIG ENGLISH BREAKFAST

Come and celebrate with me and support a big English breakfast to raise funds for Walk the Walk uniting against cancer. After my marathon MoonWalk around London on the 14th May, help me reach my goal of £1000!!!

It's going to be The Best Breakfast in Piddinghoe, really!

Venue: Village Hall Piddinghoe

Date: Saturday 2nd July

Time: 8.30 through to last orders 11.30

A VILLAGE EVENT FOR PIDDINGHOERS TO CATCH UP WITH THEIR MATES

ALLOTMENT CORNER

June should bring us warmer weather and longer days, so there's more time to get all those jobs done. It's the last chance to sow many crops, and feeding, watering and supporting your fruit and veg is vital now.

Vegetables

June

Continue sowing salad crops. Leafy salads may do better in partial shade as hot dry weather can lead to bitter tasting leaves.

You can sow many things directly into prepared beds now, e.g. French, runner and broad beans, peas, squash, sweetcorn, courgettes, marrows and pumpkins.

Runner beans need well-prepared ground and suitable supports, e.g. frame or wigwam of bamboo canes. Peas need staking with pea sticks, netting or pruned garden twigs.

Continue to earth up potatoes not ready for harvest.

Plant vegetables sown indoors earlier in the season, including winter brassicas. Gaps between winter brassica plants can be used for quick-maturing catch crops, perhaps radishes or gem lettuces.

July

Don't forget to stop cordon tomatoes by removing the main shoot above the fourth truss of fruit, so that all the fruits ripen by the end of the season. Bush tomatoes can be left to their own devices.

To maximise cropping, climbing beans may need stopping when they reach the tops of their supports.

Carrots can still be sown, but beware of carrot fly when thinning existing seedlings.

Sow spring cabbage, turnips, Oriental vegetables, chicory, fennel, and autumn/winter salads.

Plant out leeks and brassicas for a winter supply, if not yet done.

Fruit

Summer prune red and white currants and gooseberries. Tie in blackberry canes as they grow and check netting, fruit cages etc have no access for the birds. Peg down strawberry runners.

When you've had the last rhubarb, feed by mulching with well-rotted manure mixed with compost or an artificial like growmore to help build strength for next year.

Pests and diseases

Ward off carrot fly by covering plants with a fine woven plastic mesh.

Slugs pose a threat, and slug controls are necessary now, as always.

Pick yellowing leaves off brassicas to prevent the spread of grey mould and brassica downy mildew, and look out for flea beetles.

Continue to hoe off weeds in dry weather. Done in wet weather, the weeds are liable to re-root.

Check plants regularly for aphids.

Watch out for potato blight and tomato blight. Infected material should be burned rather than composted, or taken to the green waste facility at Newhaven dump.

If you'd like to try growing your own, it's not too late! We currently have two small plots available – they measure 3.5 x 4.5 metres (approx. 11ft x 15ft). You can phone me on 07950 935 526.

Sue Massey

DEMENTIA

Writing about dementia is never easy, but it is important that people begin to understand more about the disease, its impact on those with the diagnosis and the effect it will have on family and friends. Most of us know someone living with dementia and perhaps a little about it – that it is a disease of the brain (the most common of which is Alzheimer’s disease), and that it is progressive and incurable. What must be emphasised is that people can live well with dementia given the right support within a compassionate, well-informed community where they are accepted and valued and not just seen as someone with an incurable illness.

The High Weald, Lewes and the Havens (HWLH) CCG has run a very successful pilot scheme in Buxted looking at ways of making life easier for those with dementia and their carers. What emerged from the study was the need to have regular meetings that were beneficial to both carers and those with dementia; to have more information on respite care, medication, finances and other support; and for the community at large to learn more about dementia and ways of giving support.

Lewes District Council is working towards Dementia Friendly status. Through contacts with businesses throughout the area they will encourage them to give time to staff to take part in a Friends Awareness Session devised by the Alzheimer’s Society. These short sessions given by trained Friends Champions explain more about dementia and how a few simple changes can make a difference. For example, being kind and patient and speaking clearly, giving people time if they appear confused, offering help, and discouraging heavy sighs coming from those waiting in a queue. People with dementia often have difficulty with perception – a large black doormat at the entrance to a shop may appear to some to be a black hole preventing them from walking into the shop. Some have problems getting on and off trains and buses. Fortunately Brighton & Hove Buses have a Helping Hand

Scheme where individuals can show a card to the driver when they need help – ‘Please give me time to sit down’; ‘I have poor eyesight’; ‘I am hard of hearing’; ‘I have dementia’, and so on. Anyone can apply for these free cards.

HWLH have commissioned a charity called Know Dementia to provide a Memory Café in Peacehaven, where those with dementia and their carers can spend the morning with volunteers choosing from a selection of activities and where the carers can have a bit of respite chatting over coffee and cake. Talking to other carers can be a great way of alleviating isolation.

By building up a network of businesses, groups and clubs and offering Friends Sessions, we are on our way to creating a Dementia Friendly Community.

Memory Café - Know Dementia. Phone Mike for details 01273 494300

Helping Hand Scheme - 01273 886200

Alzheimer’s Society Dementia Advisers in this area - 01273 584310

*Kate Davies, Dementia Friends Champion
Glebe Cottage*

ART JOTTINGS

I had a wonderful visit to Pallant House Gallery in Chichester recently to see the exhibition, 'John Piper: The Fabric of Modernism'. This is the first time a gallery has considered the role of Piper as a designer of textiles and tapestries. It also marks the 50th Anniversary of the installation of Piper's tapestry for the high altar in Chichester Cathedral. Commissions for churches also included ecclesiastical garments worn by clergy at Chichester Cathedral, Coventry Cathedral and St Paul's, showing his love of vibrant colour and abstract motifs.

Piper's work was suited to screen printing techniques involved in producing modern fabrics. He designed for companies such as Ascher and Sanderson in the 50s and 60s, opening up his work to a wider audience. Piper was part of a group of artists who ventured into this area along with Henry Moore, Edvardo Paolozzi and Graham Sutherland.

The exhibition will run until 12 June and if you visit on Tuesdays, you can get in half price. We went by train from Lewes and if there are 3 or more of you travelling together, you get a decent group discount.

Another touring exhibition showing at the same time as the Piper is 'Radical Craft: Alternative Ways of Making' and is very much worth viewing. Do also take time to look at some of the permanent collection especially if you like 20th century British art, because it is fabulous. There are works there by Peter Blake, Edvardo Paolozzi and Frank Auerbach.

There is of course a wealth of restaurants to visit in Chichester. Pallant House has a good one but was very busy on the day of our visit. We went to Côte, just round the corner from the gallery and had an excellent 2 courses for £10.95.

Gill Autie

THE DANISH GIRL SIGNALS A SUMMER BREAK FOR FILM NIGHTS

Judging by the number of advanced bookings, *The Danish Girl* was always going to be a good choice in May to mark the end of another series of Film Nights in the Village Hall.

Although, like recent previous presentations, this is the story of a special female, it came in a somewhat different style from the characters portrayed by Saoirse Ronan in *Brooklyn* and Dame Maggie Smith in *The Lady in the Van*. The subject matter is, of course, quite raw as well and not everybody's cup of Tetley's, perhaps.

However, I figured that as there was a large and very interested turn-out here not so long ago for *Behind the Candelabra* which told the story of piano-marvel Liberace's stunningly colourful private life, then what the heck?! Now Eddie Redmayne as a girl? It seemed to go down OK. Obviously all things are possible on the silver screen.

And many will agree with the Daily Mail critic's verdict on *The Danish Girl* which he called "The most beautiful and heartfelt picture."

We will take a break now until the next Film Night in late September because I'm sure patrons are going to be too busy with their barbecues or world cruises to Cornwall. I have already received several requests to show *Eddie The Eagle* which received splendid reviews when it was released earlier this year and should be available on DVD by September. Any more favourites? They can be old or new I would be delighted to hear on piercewilliam991@gmail.com or via mobile phone 07971 611431.

In any case, I'm looking for something special because I have worked out that, in December we are due to hold the 50th Film Night at Piddinghoe Village. Yes 50th! There must be a classic film out there with which we can mark the milestone just before Christmas.

Bill Pierce

PIDDINGHOE PEOPLE

James and Susanne Harvey

Having been born in Newhaven and spent a lot of his life there, Piddinghoe – much visited in his youth – was quite a familiar place when Jim and Sue moved here in 2009.

School years were tolerated but Jim's great interest at that time and inspired by his mother, was his love of books and reading, mainly about the adventures of the great explorers. After school he spent time training in sign-writing and silk screen printing but as soon as possible, he was off on his own adventures, hitch-hiking through most of Europe. Winters were spent at home painting, decorating and any other such job in order to fund his next summer of travelling.

His acting career, which was to feature prominently throughout his life, began early when as a schoolboy he took part in productions at the Newhaven Boys Club, one of which toured the country.

In 1971, he met Susanne on a blind date and they married a few months later. After this, music became another big thing in his life – he learnt the bass guitar, working on a dredger (to provide the bread and jam and other essentials they needed to exist) and together they formed a band called 'Inspiration' and toured the circuit. Sue discovered she had inherited a voice and became the lead singer.

However, the urge to act never went away and Jim was admitted to an acting academy in Brighton to which he won a Lionel Bart scholarship. Three years later he graduated and became a Pro. He engaged an agent and was launched on a professional career with parts in television, commercials and on the stage. About to be signed up by the BBC, he was seriously injured in a car accident in 2005 and surgeons struggled to put all his broken parts together again. This put him out of action for 2 years but

his agent kept in touch and he was offered film parts in Brighton and commercials for the American circuit but two years ago he decided to end his professional career.

Throughout that time, Sue was busy bringing up two children but she modestly admits that she was also heavily involved in amateur dramatics. Together, she and Jim revived the Newhaven Am. Dram. Society in the late 1990s and put on their first production a year later. Sue's involvement was mainly backstage creating and making costumes, scenery and props. This society continues to perform and Jim continues to be an active member but unfortunately for Sue, a diagnosis of Lupus severely restricts her activities these days although her interest never wanes.

Jim's current interest is working with wood and their garden now sprouts an array of amazing totum poles. He says he is always hatching new ideas and we wonder what we can next expect to see from this very talented couple.

Fairly recently, they discovered that Jim's great grandfather was the Earl of Stradbroke with a seat in Norfolk. Somewhere along the line, the title went off in a different direction but Jim and Sue are more than happy to be plain Mr and Mrs Harvey.

Sheila Redman

FROM RIVERSIDE TO BROOKSIDE

Call me Nick; I was christened Nicholas but nobody calls me that. I was born in Piddinghoe just after the WW2, my mother Mary lived at Wharf Cottage Riverside in Piddinghoe. My Grandmother Martha Jane Bennett came from Newhaven where my great Grandmother Coleman ran the Blacksmiths Arms by the river Wall. My Grandfather Edward Isaac Bennett was lodging in The White Cottage, Piddinghoe and they married, and took over the Royal Oak pub. It was there she saw her first car driven by Rudyard Kipling who had a house in Rottingdean. In 1912 she moved to Wharf Cottage where Mary was born in 1918.

There were 8 children in the family. Ted the eldest became a train driver in Eastleigh. Queenie moved to Lewes and married Ernie Trash, a jovial small fellow who was a wizard at football. Len moved to Rodmell where he and his wife Ciss ran the village shop. Tom moved to Newhaven, Harry to Brighton and Bob stayed at home. Rene moved to Wales.

Grandfather managed the clay workings at Piddinghoe (now the Sailing Club Pond) where clay was loaded on to barges and my uncles took it up to Barcombe for brick making (it's said that the Barcombe viaduct is built with bricks from Piddinghoe clay). Initially they used to pole the barges up and down with the tide, with the tidal race making it quite a fickle job getting to the now nonexistent landing stage. Later they had a tug, the remains of which I recall rusting in the mud by the river under the church. Mary went to the village school and used a slate to write on – I still have that slate book in its wooden frame – no computers in them days!

Granddad was an excellent amateur painter and his paintings of the village are among the family now. Sadly he died while at work in his 50s. Gran lived on and passed 100. I popped out into the world in 1945 although with my shoulder width perhaps

mother wouldn't have described it as that. Father returned from the navy and worked in the Parker Pen factory laboratory.

The Village

Piddinghoe was a small community then with very few houses, a Farm, the Pub of course and a Village Shop. Twelve houses were built in Brookside and in 1947 we moved into number 7 where my parents lived the rest of their lives, both passing at 97 years – Mary in January 2015 almost exactly 6 years after Ron.

The village shop was run by the Latter family and I recall Latter Jnr going off in his pony and trap to sell ice-cream in Newhaven. Riverside Wharf was a dump for old scrap iron on which us village kids had many a fun hour. It was collected periodically by a coaster and taken far away. Two other large coasters – the Celtic and the Ferocrete – periodically travelled up the river to Beddingham collecting Blue Circle cement. The mud flats attracted various birds and were covered at high tide so we all played in the water, learning to swim. It used to be picturesque then the Deep Sea Anglers brought their boats and concrete.

That end of the village used to flood regularly at very high tides before the river banks were raised, as did the lower part of the Hoe on rare occasions. Ideal for my canoe.

Nick Woolger

SHAME ON THE CANINE MINORITY WHO ATTACK SHEEP

Richard Way appeals for care among dog-owners on their country walks.

Many of us who live in and around Piddinghoe have dogs whom we love, and walk in the picturesque countryside with which we are blessed. The riverbank is very popular but some choose to go further afield and venture into the roaming downland where public footpaths exist and farmers co-operate with Joe Public, letting us walk over their land.

Sadly, a minority of dog-owners abuse this privilege and let their dogs run amok on this land with disastrous results for livestock farmers. Sheep farmers are the main victims of this thoughtlessness and suffer huge financial damage every year due to attacks from dogs on heavily pregnant ewes and their lambs.

I watched 'Countryfile' on BBC 1 recently and this was one of the main features on the programme. Adam Henson, one of the presenters, has a 1600-acre farm in Gloucestershire and besides his arable enterprise he is a rare-breeds supporter with cattle, sheep, goats and various poultry. He also has an equine sector where Shetland, Dartmoor and others are bred and looked after. They all come into his forward thinking curriculum. He needs a 24-hour watch on his sheep during lambing time to ensure as many as possible are cared for from the moment they are born.

When uncontrolled dogs are let loose among sheep they are chased mercilessly. Terrifyingly they are attacked until cornered in a field and then savaged. Some die at the time while others are destroyed later due to the extent of their injuries and many abort dead lambs because of the traumas they have been through.

Dick Masters, who owned Court Farm through the 50s to the 70s before selling The Hoe to the village for £100 when it was wanted for a football pitch, wouldn't contemplate having sheep on his farm for this very reason.

The farm is now owned by John and Terry Penn who have to undergo this stress every year, but the majority of the land is owned by the Carr family who go round with their shotguns, keeping this canine threat to a minimum. As a child we had an adorable black labrador called Max whom I loved to pieces, but my parents wouldn't contemplate walking him in any area where livestock were present, bovine or sheep. If not a walk along the riverbank, it was to Seaford or Firlle where we went for a safe country walk. Some dog owners however are less thoughtful.

Cattle also come into the equation. I will come onto that subject in the next issue of *The Villager*. Meanwhile, my message to dog-owners and country walkers is please take nature into consideration in livestock-occupied fields. Think Nature !

Richard Way



THE GREAT PIDDINGHOE

BAKE OFF



Two more recipes from Jill Hentschel.

COFFEE AND WALNUT SPONGE

4 eggs

Use the same weight as the eggs for butter or sunflower spread; for caster sugar; and for self raising flour but add another ounce of flour

1 tsp baking powder

2 tsp coffee granules + 1 tbs camp coffee or coffee essence

3 tbs milk or orange juice

4 oz roughly chopped walnuts

2 x 8 inch loose bottom cake tins, greased and floured

1. Grind coffee granules.
2. Cream fat and sugar; lightly beat eggs and add to creamed mixture along with coffee granules and essence, a bit at a time, plus a little of the sieved flour and the baking powder. Then add remaining flour and walnuts together with milk or juice.
3. Mix lightly to a thick cream. The mixture at first may look a little curdled but this is the reaction to the coffee. Just add more of the flour.
4. Put into prepared tins and bake at 170°C for 30 minutes.
5. Leave in tins to cool for about 5 minutes then turn onto rack to cool further.
6. Meanwhile, make coffee butter icing for filling and topping.

For this, mix 2 oz butter or sunflower spread with 6-8 ozs icing sugar and 1 tbs coffee essence (or coffee liqueur).

7. If icing the top, decorate with some halved walnuts.

GINGER CAKE

4 eggs

1 lb self raising flour (sieved) + 1 tsp baking powder

8 oz sunflower spread or fat of your choice

6oz demerara sugar + 2 oz caster sugar

juice of 1 lemon

½ tsp mixed spice

3 tsp ground ginger + 4 oz crystallised ginger

2-4 lumps stem ginger + 1 tbs syrup from jar

4-6 oz icing sugar

10 inch square baking tin, greased and lined with baking parchment

1. Cream fat and sugars.
2. Beat eggs lightly and gradually add sieved flour, baking powder, spice and ground ginger. Add a little to the eggs each time to prevent curdling.
3. Mix with creamed fat and sugars.
4. Chop crystallised ginger into smaller pieces and add to the mix along with the syrup and juice of half a lemon.
5. Bake at 180°C for 20 minutes then reduce heat to 150°C for 30 minutes.
6. Turn out and leave to cool on rack. Mix icing sugar and remaining lemon juice. Spread over cake when cold and dot with chopped stem ginger.

(Readers: one of the editorial team has tasted this, and it is fab!)

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 500 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 July 19.

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