

THE VILLAGER

August 2016



Piddinghoe
East Sussex

EDITORIAL

What a difference some summer warmth and sunshine make. Having something to celebrate as well is even better.

Anyone who needs to go along the drive to the Village Hall and The Hoe will have been thrilled to see the end of those awful potholes. The Parish Council grasped the nettle and authorised proper resurfacing of the drive. No more patching and hoping. What a treat it is to drive there without the car bucking in and out of the potholes. For anyone who has to use a wheelchair, or push a wheelbarrow, the surface has transformed the effort involved. Hooray.

Next up to celebrate is the highly successful BBQ on The Hoe on June 26. The BBQ was Sheila's idea, which she immediately shared with Mel, and together they planned, organised and delivered the first village-wide event for some years. They were helped by many others who erected the marquee, set up tables and chairs, made cakes, served drinks, made salads, cooked at the BBQ. We all know who those people were. Thank you to all of you! By the looks of it, almost the entire village turned out. It was quite a sight – all those tables with villagers sitting around chatting, eating and drinking in the sunshine, with the more energetically inclined playing rounders in the background. The point is, we all sat down together and we all enjoyed ourselves together. It was Sheila's Good Idea. What is a Good Idea? One that works!

With the proceeds that were left over, half were given to Jane to add to those raised for Breast Cancer UK at her Big Breakfast, and half to Pip, to be passed on to the MS Society. Pip was very moved by the note from Sheila and Mel saying that they would like the money to go to help find a cure for her. This was a really lovely touch. To all of us who came to the BBQ - we came, we enjoyed, and, as a result, we have given to others who need help. Perhaps we ought to do the same thing next year!

Amongst the BIG things that have taken place in the village recently were some very BIG bangs at 11pm one Saturday night at a party. No doubt it was a great party for those who were there, but it was a BIG disturbance for those who were not. If only near and not-so-near neighbours had been forewarned, they might have had some idea of what was coming. Perhaps the fireworks could have been let off earlier, but even then, some warning would be helpful. At least we all know when Guy Fawkes Night is coming. We have decided to deal with this issue of unwanted and intrusive noise in an article entitled 'Your Noise or Mine', which appears later in the magazine.

Missing from this issue is Gill Autie's regular, and always entertaining, 'Art Jottings'. Gill has been taken over by the demand for B & B at The Old Vicarage during the summer months. She will be back in the next issue. There is more from our other regulars, and Nick Woolger has provided a glimpse of village church life when he was a child that is straight from Thomas Hardy. As ever, if you would like to write something for 'The Villager', please refer to the back page.

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

PIDDINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL 2016

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Piddinghoe, on Tuesday 12th July 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, members of the public.

Apologies for Absence: Gill Davies

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 10th May 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 informed Council that East Sussex County Council's consultation on rights of way and access is open until 29th July. The local plan of Lewes District Council has been approved, The Joint Strategy Plan has also been approved. A briefing from Sussex Police has been posted on the Village Hall noticeboard and been put on the village website. Councillor Ient informed Council of the C7 safety group which Councillors Woolger and Ridge attended. This group is applying to get a grant to pay for local consultants to look at safety on the C7.

Cllr Butler stated that she has been in contact to arrange a meeting with ESCC on 22nd September concerning Egrets Way. At the time of writing this date is under question. The future of Rodmell school is under further examination.

Councillor Ient leaves the meeting at 8pm.

AGENDA

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

The bank balances as at 12 July 2016 were:

Savings account £45,149.19 (Valerie Mellor's bequest)

Current £8,284.82

Total balances £53,434.01

Outstanding invoices £23,802.00

2. Council was informed by the Clerk and RFO that a successful grant from the Transparency Fund for a computer and appropriate software for the Responsible Finance Officer has been achieved, which they now both have. It was agreed again that since all records are kept on the Clerk's and RFO's personal computers that both should have a PPC owned computer. It was agreed to add these to the Councils list of assets.
3. Council agreed that there was no objection to planning application SDNP/16/02756/HOUS. At Chapel Barn, Deans Farm.
4. Council agreed that there was no objection to planning application SDNP/16/03127/LIS at St Johns cottage. The applicant spoke.
The clerk informed LDC of Council's decisions on both applications on 13/07/2016.
5. Cllr Stow informed Council of the initial plans concerning Riverside Farm. These plans are under review and will be presented to Lewes District Council within two years. Council will be consulted in future meetings. In general Council liked the initial plans with some caveats.

6. Council agreed to continue with the list of improvements to the village (see minutes 15/03/2016 item 6d taken from the neighbourhood plan) Council will get three quotations for down lights along the track along to and turning circle. This is the plan that had previously been agreed to use Valerie Mellor's bequest. Council will look into the possibility of getting a grant for this work.

PROGRESS REPORTS

1. The track past the Village Hall and the turning circle has been completed to a high standard.
2. The Clerk was instructed to contact ESCC about the progress of the finger post project which at the time of writing has been done.
3. The diseased elm trees are in the process of being removed.
4. Emergency Item. It was mentioned that Council should secure access to the building site adjacent to the turning circle. A temporary solution was agreed that posts should be placed to stop traffic entering the building site. The Clerk has since spoken to planning and it was suggested this was the best option.
5. Dates for the next meeting:
Tuesday 13th September
Tuesday 22nd November
2017 meetings to be arranged.

Draft Copy

Julian Peterson, PPC Clerk

GRASS ROOTS

Concerning *Sycophants*, Marsh frogs and fieldnames

The latest newsletter from the Sussex Wildlife Trust informs me that *Calosmia Sycophanta* a 'mythically rare and painfully beautiful' beetle, was sighted recently near Bishopstone by senior ecologist Graeme Lyons during a field survey.

It was last seen alive in the UK 23 years ago in Surrey, and a breeding population was recorded near Thetford 19 years ago. Previous recorded sightings in Sussex were in the eighteenth century apparently, so this is a very exciting find indeed.

I recommend that you all rush immediately to the SWT website and have a look at Graeme's extraordinary photographs of this dazzling creature, and read his entertaining article. You will not be disappointed.

The Marsh Frog

The loud cackling laughter in the ditches we are hearing currently, is the sound produced by the Marsh frog - *Pelophylax ridibundus*, a species introduced into Britain in the 1930s. It is Europe's largest native species. They were relatively quiet this time last year. My lucky neighbours have some in their pond. Very entertaining. More information, videos and photographs can be found on the BBC Nature website.

The local landscape

We are lucky to be surrounded by stunning landscapes. The altering colours of the fields now indicate the progress of Nature's promised bounty. Looking south from the hills above South Heighton, you can see a crop of linseed that is turning the fields an exquisite shade of blue, and the once vivid yellow rape flowers are now setting seed into dull brown pods ripening ready for the oil harvest, and soon the standing corn will change from its current green to pale bronze.

These fields once all had names

When I bought my land in Piddinghoe in 1993, villager and once farm worker Molly Pelling, who grew up in Piddinghoe many years ago, told me that my field had always been known as 'Townsend.' I never did learn who 'Townsend' was. Intriguing.

Today many field names have been lost. The word 'field' first referred to an area of cleared forest, often the location of a settlement, hence the Sussex place names Hartfield, Uckfield and Heathfield.

Another more familiar name for a large open field was an 'acre' from the old English 'aecer' meaning 'open field'.

Field names often indicated the fertility of the site. Locally we have Poverty Bottom, the deep shaded valley at Norton. A field named after the devil was stony or difficult to cultivate. A 'wish' or 'wyshe' was a low lying damp meadow or road as in Pyecombe. Fertile fields were often named Paradise or Plenty.

In Sussex, fields were also known as Laines. The North Laines in Brighton do not refer to roads but fields. There is Workhouse Laine and Barrack Laine in Seaford. 'Silver Laine' obviously made money for the farmer. Interestingly the track that connects Seaford and Bishopstone is called Silver Lane.

In Kingston, a field called Drinker's Acre had an interesting custom attached to it. First mentioned in the sixteenth century, the tenant of this field had to spend eight pence annually to treat villagers to a beer. That wouldn't stretch very far in The Juggs today methinks.

Extracts from 'Field names reveal Agricultural Past', Kevin Gordon,
The Sussex Express 2013.

Angie Ridge

ALLOTMENT CORNER

There's more harvesting than sowing now so it's time to enjoy the fruits of your labours - and to share any gluts of produce with your friends and neighbours. You can also try freezing, drying, pickling, and storing so that you can benefit from them later on.

August

You can still sow quick maturing salad crops such as summer lettuce, radish, rocket, sorrel, chicory and fennel. Continue to sow spring cabbage, turnips, Oriental vegetables and overwintering onions.

Keep watering well during dry spells to prevent blossom end rot in tomatoes, splitting of root vegetables, flower abortion in runner beans and growth check in winter squash and pumpkins.

Weeds can compete with vegetables for water, so remove regularly by hoeing.

Pinch out the top of tomato plants to concentrate the growth into the fruit that has already formed.

Harvest French and runner beans little and often to prevent them from setting seed.

Keep cutting your courgettes regularly to encourage final flower development. The plants may be suffering from powdery mildew (greyish white blotches on the leaves and stems), which will gradually cause the leaves to brown and wither. These should be burnt, not composted. Marrows should be raised off the ground slightly, to prevent them discolouring from contact with the soil.

Remove straw and old leaves and tidy up strawberries after fruiting. Plant out new rooted strawberry runners. Prune out fruited summer raspberry canes and tie in new ones. If necessary, prune plums, gages and damsons immediately after harvest.

Pest and diseases

Check plants regularly for aphids and caterpillars and deal with them as soon as you see them. Look out for tomato and potato

blight and deal with it quickly by burning leaves. Look out for fungal spots on bean and pea pods and leaves. Remove any sweetcorn cobs affected by smut. Carrot fly is still about. Protect newly planted crops from pigeons with netting.

September

Harvesting top fruit such as apples and pears begins in earnest in September. Quince and medlars are also picked now.

Finish harvesting onions once the leaves yellow and die back. Allow the bulbs to dry out before storing in a cool airy place (e.g. a well-ventilated garage or shed).

Lift main crop potatoes, taking care not to damage the tubers. Store unblemished roots in hessian sacks in a cool, dark well ventilated place.

Dry fresh herbs for use in the kitchen during the winter

Continue to sow vegetables for overwintering, to mature next spring, including: turnip, spinach, winter lettuce, Oriental veg.

Plant overwintering onion sets and garlic bulbs. Sow overwintering broad beans where they are to grow.

Sow green manures such as crimson clover and Italian ryegrass to act as a soil improver and to cover bare areas. When dug in, they conserve nutrients and improve soil texture.

Start the autumn cleanup

Remove all plant debris to reduce the spread of disease and pests - burn all leaves and plants which look diseased. Remove any old crops that have finished and clear away weeds to leave your plot clean and tidy for the winter. When beans and peas finish cropping simply cut the plant away at ground level, leaving the roots in the soil. These crops fix nitrogen which is slowly released into the soil as the roots break down.

Sue Massey

OCTOBER 1, 2016 – INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PEOPLE

Or as it is better known in East Sussex – Older People's Day (OPD)

About nine years ago, older people were getting a very bad press. We were getting free bus passes (concessionary fares), free television licences and were putting enormous strain on both the NHS and on Adult Social Care. The trouble was, we were living too long ; and we were either retiring too early or we were not retiring at all, thus preventing the next generation from getting work. We were living in houses too big for us and were being urged to down-size to enable 'family homes' to come back on the market.

Hang on a minute, we thought! What about the free child-care we were providing? What about our role as unpaid carers? What about the hours and hours of fund-raising and voluntary work we did? Without our contribution, neither the NHS nor Social Services would have survived this far. We needed to celebrate old age not as a burden but as a lively, thriving industry putting more into the pot than taking out. We would celebrate Older People's Day and make it our own.

The East Sussex Seniors Association (ESSA) worked with ESCC Adult Social Care in producing a booklet – 'Full of Life' – which would be posted free to Forum members and would be available in libraries, council offices, village halls and anywhere else identified by the Forums. The booklet would contain a list of events, many of them free, where older people could be entertained, learn something new, have fun and make new friends. Community Buses offered free or reduced rates to those who found it difficult to get out and about. Everyone joined in.

From that early beginning the booklet has grown and grown. Alas, if it gets any bigger, it will be too expensive for the Forums to post out. As Chair of the OPD Planning Group I have had a

sneaky look at this year's programme. There is a lot of tea and cake! But the wonderful annual International Soup Festival in Lewes is there again; plus Wave Leisure with inexpensive Taster Sessions; walks, talks, outings, cinema showings, hands-on craft festivals and much, much more.

Meridian Forum's Village Event at Piddinghoe Village Hall will be on Wednesday October 12 (2.00-4.00 pm) with a talk from Peter White, Town Crier for Seaford. He will be on the Village Green in full regalia at 2.00 pm – weather permitting – to give his three calls of "Oyez!" and will invite you to follow him to the village hall to hear his talk followed, of course, by tea and cake.

Look out for the booklets and join in the fun.

Kate Davies, Glebe Cottage

PHILIP IS IN CARE AT LEWES

Many villagers may have wondered what has happened to Philip Merfield, one of our oldest residents at 93, whose home is 'Southburn' one of the raised bungalows on the exit road from Piddinghoe towards Newhaven.

Philip who was often seen out and about on his short walks, has sadly had a number of falls recently and, in early July, was moved by his family (son and daughters) to the Claydon Nursing Home which is at 8 Wallands Crescent in Lewes.

His son, who is in temporary residence in the bungalow, says Philip would welcome visitors at the nursing home but it is advisable to ring first on 0808 223 5418 or, maybe more directly fax any inquiry to 01273 486175.

YOUR CHOICE FOR FILM NIGHT'S RETURN

There will not be another issue of *The Villager* until October so I thought I should have a word or several about the return of Film Night at the Village Hall – in September. I have practically settled on Friday September 23 for the first movie in the new series but if sufficient regular film-goers tell me this is a bad date for them I am open to moving it to Friday September 30 – provided there is kind permission from Hall-booker Mr David Hallett.

Now the big question: Should it be an old film? Or should it be a new release? The latter seems to have gone down better just lately even though the original idea of Film Night was to present mainly classic old movies. I remain fairly ambivalent about the choice – so long as it attracts a decent-sized audience and provides an enjoyable social evening. It has to be remembered, however, that 'new releases' take at least three months from issue to become available on DVD. Three already suggested in that category are *Eddie The Eagle*, *Florence Foster Jenkins* and *Suffragette*. All three were released in 2016 and generally respected as enjoyable watches. They would all be available for us to show.

On the side of the older-style, established classic offerings I would like to throw in for consideration:

The Pink Panther – original 1964 comedy starring Peter Sellers, David Niven Claudia Cardinale and Robert Wagner.

Shadow of a Doubt – black-and-white Hitchcock classic from the forties starring Joseph Cotten and Teresa Wright.

Sunset Boulevard – the downfall of a Hollywood diva directed by Billy Wilder and starring William Holden and Gloria Swanson.

It is your choice – and, of course, you can suggest something else. Just email me your selection and we'll see what happens. Meanwhile put the date (s) in your diary and I will soon confirm which one is chosen.

BILL PIERCE (email: piercewilliam991@gmail.com)

YOUR NOISE OR MINE?

In this issue's 'Editorial' we mention the noise caused by a party with fireworks that were set off very late at night. Fortunately, this is something that rarely happens in the village, and we are not taking a stance on 'right or wrong', however regrettable the incident might have seemed to some. We are looking at this practically.

What should one do? The first thing most people choose to do is knock on the door of the place where the noise is coming from. However, this could lead to altercation as the person creating the noise might turn defensive, or may not even comprehend what the fuss is all about, thinking that he or she is exercising their right to enjoy themselves. The person doing the knocking is likely to be very angry. One thing can lead to another.

What else can one do? If the noise is persistent or 'unreasonable' given the location, you can ask the police to intervene at the time or report it to Lewes District Council with precise details of the disturbance. Both courses of action might not make for future good neighbourly relations, and therefore so much better to talk about it in the cold light of the next day.

Remember, if you complain about someone else's noise, be careful not to inflict yours on others at another time. If you are having a party, it's quite common to warn neighbours that there might be some late-light noise, and to apologise in advance. For your information, if there are any events on The Hoe, all activity has to end by 11 pm, simply out of consideration for anyone living near. Try also to bear in mind that what might be suitable for a public event (very loud fireworks and music), and for which you would have to get permission, may not be at all appropriate for a small village.

WATCH OUT FOR 'MICROSOFT' SCAM CALLS TO FIX YOUR COMPUTER

This one's been going on for some time, but a villager had one of these calls recently and wanted to warn others. Thankfully she ended the call before parting with any money.

Victims are cold-called by phone. The callers say they are from Microsoft and through the digital network have identified that your computer has been infected with a virus and they want to fix it. You are asked to go to your computer where you are talked through the log on steps in order for the fraudster to gain remote access to it. The victim will then often witness the mouse moving and changes being made to the display. You are then asked to pay a fee (£100 - £300) and are told the problem has been resolved. Once the initial payment has been processed, fraudsters have all the details they need to take further payments from your account. Just as worrying, programmes can be installed that allow the fraudsters unlimited access to the computer without your knowledge!

Another villager reports being rung, supposedly, by TalkTalk who supply her phone and broadband. She could tell the call was from some far-flung place. They told her they had detected viruses through their link with her modem/router and wanted to clear it up for her. She knew instinctively this was a scam, and that for anything genuine, TalkTalk would write to her. She has put the phone down 3 times on these crooks. Watch out for them too!

How to protect yourself

- Do not allow remote access to your computer.
- Hang up the phone when you identify an uninvited call.
- Never divulge passwords or pin numbers.

If you believe you have already been a victim

- Get your computer checked for any additional programmes or software that may have been installed.
- Contact your bank to stop any further payments being taken.

If you have been affected by this, or any other scam, you can report it to Action Fraud by phone 0300 123 2040, or online at www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud

PIDDINGHOE PEOPLE

DR MIKE DRAISEY

Our latest Piddinghoe Person to go under our microscope might be better known to some villagers as Dr Theophrastus who was editor of The Villager for 10 years.

In real life he is Doctor Michael Draisey and he spent his early years in Osterley, Middlesex. After finishing at prep. School and St Paul's he went on to medical schools at King's and Westminster. Flat-sharing with three other students in Pimlico remains a memorable part of his student life.

After six years of studying and gaining degrees, in 1960 it was time for some practical work with real people and he spent six months "jobbing" – doing anything from portering to the treatment of patients. This initial period was spent in a hospital in Stratford upon Avon and was followed by time as a House Physician, then as House Surgeon. After that came a period in what is known now as A and E. In complete contrast to today's version, however, it was run by just two doctors, each on duty for 24 hours with half-a-day off each week. Alternate weekends were "long ones" – two and a half days off. Working at Stratford did have its benefits. The nearby theatre provided a number of patients, mainly spear-carriers who didn't get their acts quite right and also some very well-known actors: hence a number of free tickets came Mike's way. During this time he learned a lot about both Shakespeare as well as doctoring. At that time young doctors had to pay for the privilege of getting a 'house' job and when the first pay-cheque finally arrived it was for the massive sum of £435 per annum.

It was during his stay at Stratford that he met and married Denise who, not surprisingly, was a nurse. Next was a move to St Andrew's Hospital in Northampton, being housed in a very

comfortable farmhouse, and the birth of first son James. Decisions now had to be made about future direction of career: whether to remain in hospital service or to venture into general practice. Mike also toyed with the idea of psychiatry but having been warned by a consultant that it was the most contagious disease ever, he decided to head in another direction.

For some time he had connections with a medical family in Newhaven and was invited to come and join their practice – which he did, living first in Newhaven and then Seaford where the family of three became a family of five. One day while motoring past Piddinghoe on the by-pass, Mike noticed a For Sale board which he discovered was related to Jasmine Cottage, at that time occupied by one of his patients. Soon after this the Draisey family became Piddinghoe people and Mike continued to practice in Newhaven.

So much for life as a local G.P. but Mike's horizons stretched beyond Newhaven – and even out to sea. For 20 years he was on call as the "lifeboat doctor." And considering he was not a good sailor this became something of a challenge. One memorable call came just as he had consumed a nice, fatty fry-up, to attend to an injured trawler crewman, one of only two people on board. Having treated the patient, he was asked to take the helm while the remaining trawlerman together with one of the lifeboat personnel tried to repair the leaking craft. All crews and the boat survived that episode but, later, the trawler succumbed and sank off the coast of Cornwall.

Another call was to a "big Chinese ship" with an all-Chinese crew and an English captain who had to be evacuated down a rope-ladder on a stretcher. Mike followed down the ladder but just as he was about to step onto the lifeboat, the big ship swung away and he was left dangling until ship and lifeboat could be reunited.

Having finished active lifeboat duty, Mike was for 10 years a member of the Medical and Survival Committee for Search and Rescue at sea. Managing not to fall into the sea he instead fell into the job of Police Surgeon. This involved checking people who had been detained by police as to whether they required medical attention or whether they were fit enough to be interviewed. He was also called for sudden deaths, including suicides.

He is now leading a rather quieter life but being regularly exercised by two large dogs and having absolutely no regrets about his decisions to become a G.P. and to settle in Piddinghoe.

Sheila Redman

THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY

Jill Hentschel's attention was recently attracted by a number of bird distress calls and the sight of a group of blackbirds constantly swooping towards the ground. She discovered the cause of the commotion was a large grass snake (about two feet) with a fledgling in its mouth and the adult birds were constantly 'bombing' it. Jill dashed home to get a forked stick and managed to secure the snake which then coiled and released the bird. After a moment to regain its equilibrium, the bird managed to fly away – Jill hoped uninjured. A happy ending at least for the bird – a dejected snake slithered away having decided to stick to its normal diet of worms and slugs.

JANE'S BIG BREAKFAST

Many, many thanks to the villagers who supported my fund raising event for Breast Cancer UK. The first breakfast was served at 8.30 with the last one leaving the frying pan at 11.45.

All who attended helped raise £420 for this very worthwhile charity but special thanks to Lee St Clair for her help and support, and also to The Village Hall Management Committee for allowing me to use the facility. The money kept rolling in after the event and included a very generous donation from The Big BBQ event, held the previous week.

I am so grateful to you all for your support, it really is special. With the money raised from my Moon Walk and with my employer chipping in a bit I have now raised my target of £1000!!

Fantastic effort from all of you, thank you very much.

Jane Mitchell, Old Cottage

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Royal Oak Survivors

3rd September – Autumn Celebrations

Lunchtime ploughman's and evening bar and games

12th November – Charity Quiz Night

Details to follow

FROM RIVERSIDE TO BROOKSIDE

The Vicar

The family was not particularly religious but I went to Sunday school held in the Vestry by Miss Bird. The Vicar, Rev Martyn Harries, was a rotund, amiable man who'd been vicar for ages, and was respected. We were told that it was written somewhere that the Piddinghoe vicar had to be a drinking man. Ours certainly was. He explained to me during confirmation classes that at Communion, once the wine had been blessed, it all had to be drunk. Well, all I can say is that he seriously over estimated the congregation numbers, but to his credit, the excess communion wine was dispatched with great ceremony, the Challis being raised several times before the Altar. The next Vicar, Derek Payne, used to call into the pub after Sunday service, standing feet astride warming his cassock in front of the fire, holding his pint.

The Children

Children of my age were a few doors up from where we lived. They were the Staces, with Alan, big sister Betty and Linda, the youngest. Next door were the Jones children, Terry and Brenda, and up the 'Hollow' on Harping hill was Peter Stace. The Faulkner family of 7 (I recall) lived in Purnel cottages, with Jacky and Barry being the eldest. There were other children but they were a lot older than us.

Mary's sister Rene was sadly widowed due to a Rugby accident and moved from Wales to be with Gran at Wharf Cottage. She had two children, Derek and Pat. Rene had the village TV so I used to visit on Sunday eves to see shows like 'In Town Tonight', and watched but did not quite understand the concept of the 'Black and White Minstrels'.

Thus there were a few more children to play cowboys with, fall out of trees, slip into ditches and the river long before Health and Safety. We'd help load the bales of hay onto the tractor trailer then ride on top back to the farm.

Once a year The Little Edith Treat took place when we would go to the church and hear about Little Edith who sadly died and how her parents left money the interest from which was used to treat the village children. For us it was games on The Hoe followed by sandwiches and food in the pub bar.

After a few years I was invited to Newhaven to ride on a Thames barge, The Lyford Anna, owned by the Megaw family who were bringing it to Piddinghoe and moored it by Wharf Cottage. This is how Mathew arrived in the village. The Megaws moved into Huntwick in the village and then built the large house on what were then allotments below the church bank. A few years later another Thames barge, The Thetis, arrived and berthed on the mud flats under the church. This barge, with the church as a backdrop, appeared on many a painting and photograph. The Way family owned this barge and so another two children joined us - Richard and Jane. Meanwhile Riverside was bought by the Howard family who built the chalet style house and moved in with their children Keith and Ann.

Nick Woolger

ANOTHER PIECE OF THE JIGSAW FOR THE EGRETS WAY PROJECT

The latest section of The Egrets Way Project, running from Southease Bridge to Deans Farm, has now been officially opened at an event attended by over 100 people, including many villagers and Piddinghoe Parish councillor, Debbie Mills.

All ages were well represented, with a large group of youngsters and families, along with the older mob from Cycle Seahaven. Importantly, there were mobility scooters as well as members of The Disabled Ramblers Association.

Trevor Beattie, Chief Executive of The South Downs National Park, performed the official opening, and spoke enthusiastically about its support for this project. He explained that with a project of this nature it would always be built in a jigsaw fashion, but expressed his hope and vision that it would run from the county town of Lewes to the channel port of Newhaven. He thanked all those involved in the project, and especially thanked landowners for their support.

Maria Caulfield, our local MP, was also on hand to express her support for The Egrets Way project. She had a very busy day because she visited Piddinghoe in the afternoon to support the Newhaven and Seaford Sailing Club's, "have a go day" (not sure if she actually had a go herself!) It was also great to see Stuart Ford, the sailing club's Commodore, along with Steve Quinn, Rear Commodore of Piddinghoe pond, who are both extremely supportive of The Egrets Way project.

After the official speeches everyone moved on to the new Youth Hostel at Southease, where there were many organisations, with stands, who were keen to talk about their support of the project. Best of all were the freshly cooked burgers and onions. You can't beat onions with burgers!

Many villagers have spoken to me about this finished section and all think it's a great asset to Piddinghoe. I have now used it many times for cycling and walking and it is well worthwhile.

I was slightly concerned to see in the last issue of 'The Villager' under point 5, in the PPC minutes (*see below*)* some comment about landowners being "forced against their will to sell their land".

I can only assume that this is another crazy rumour concerning the Egrets Way Project. I have never heard any ideas of this sort being discussed. In fact, if it were true, which I very much doubt, I would actively campaign against such an action. If anybody hears other such unfounded rumours please ask either me, or Steve St Clair, a Piddinghoe villager who is on the Egrets Way Project Group, or Neville Harrison, the chair of The Project Group.

Noel West 07766 661066

*** Extract from PPC minutes**

'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.'

Editorial note

There have been very real concerns by those who could be directly affected by the EW project. The PPC took the intelligent course of action and checked with the relevant authorities. They confirmed that compulsory purchase would not be an option, thus allaying the fears of some of our respected villagers. Further questions or concerns should be directed to the Parish Council.

THE NATURE OF DAIRY FARMING

Successive governments have crucified the dairy industry by killing the Milk Marketing Board (who bought all the milk produced by dairy farmers at an agreed and fair price), while also introducing milk quotas whereby farmers were restricted to how much milk they could produce on a per acreage basis. And finally, by allowing supermarkets to offer farmers a pittance after increasing labour, feed and vets' costs. The result is that very few dairy herds are seen grazing our grasslands. Is this the price of progress? I certainly don't think so. They have been replaced by beef suckler herds whereby the cows have a calf at foot for approximately six months, and in that time run with a bull to get them ready for their next calf.

Dairy cattle would get used to being handled several times a day by humans for milking, feeding or routine stock tasks, and were used to people walking through fields with their dogs and wouldn't take exception to seeing it go on at nearby quarters. Beef cattle, by comparison, initially have a calf at foot and are naturally protective, making them ill at ease when they see strange creatures (usually of the two legged variety, but quite often on four). When the calves are about three months old, a bull is let in with the females, and he is extremely protective of his 'harem'.

Cases of cattle attacking humans have rocketed in recent years, but there is a reason for it. Mother nature rules, and always will thank God. Dog owners and country walkers alike, please take nature into consideration when walking into livestock occupied fields. How would today's humans feel if they saw a load of people or livestock walking through what they considered to be their private gardens, where babies and young children played. Think nature!

Richard Way

HELP TERRY PEN THE PARISH PUMP NEWS

Readers may or may not know that Terry Penn of Courthouse Farm writes the weekly Parish Pump article for Piddinghoe in the Sussex Express. She enjoys doing this but needs more actual news from villagers to save her keep writing about ducks in her farmyard and other mini-features.

So she is appealing for people with suitable, and fairly short, news items such as forthcoming events, notice of meetings and social occasions to contact her by email at kotchki@sky.com or telephone 01273 510200.

THE BIG BARBEQUE

So many people rallied to our support on the 26 June and we want to say a huge thank you to everybody who lent hands so cheerfully and willingly in a multitude of ways to make this such a successful day.

We wanted an excuse to use the barbeque and also an opportunity for villagers to be able to enjoy a summer's day on The Hoe with some food on a plate and a glass in their hand. We were able to cover our expenses and also give £50 to Jane for her breast cancer fund-raising target and £50 to the MS Society with the hope that their research will soon come up with a cure for Pip.

Finally, thank you everyone for coming and joining in – without you all there would have been no party.

Mel and Sheila



THE GREAT PIDDINGHOE **BAKE OFF**



Two more recipes from Jill Hentschel.

APRICOT SWEETMEATS

*These are good for children to make under supervision,
and the rest of us to eat!*

6 oz dried and chopped apricots

2 tbs boiling water

3 oz oat bran or porridge oats

3 oz desiccated coconut; plus another 3 oz for rolling into balls.

1 ½ oz skimmed milk powder or coffee mate if preferred.

1. Pulse apricots with the water in a blender until fine
2. Add remaining ingredients and process to a firm paste.
3. Taking a heaped teaspoon of the mixture, roll into a ball, then into the remaining desiccated coconut to cover.
4. Keep in the refrigerator.

CHEESE SCONES

4 oz wholemeal/stone-ground flour

8 oz plain white flour

3 tsp baking powder

2 tsp mustard powder

½ tsp cayenne pepper

2 oz sunflower spread or butter

4 oz grated cheddar cheese; plus a little extra for topping

4 oz chopped walnuts

2 oz chopped cranberries (optional)

1 egg; 6 fluid oz of milk; juice of 1 lemon

1. Mix egg with milk.
2. Add lemon juice to egg/milk and leave to curdle.
3. Sieve dry ingredients and rub in fat. Add grated cheese. Add walnuts (and cranberries if you are using them). Then add most of the liquid, retaining a little for a glaze.
4. Mix and turn onto lightly floured work surface and knead lightly until it comes together.
5. Pat out to about 1 ½" thick and cut out scones or form a round and cut portions almost through. Glaze top with remaining liquid and sprinkle with cheese.
6. Leave to stand for about 10 minutes on lightly greased baking tray, whilst heating the oven heating to 200°C
7. Cook for about 10-15 minutes depending upon size.

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
September 20th.***

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