

THE VILLAGER

October 2016



Piddinghoe
East Sussex

EDITORIAL

Following what seemed like an endless Indian Summer, the rains have come and we will now return to Weather after sweltering in Climate more appropriate to Southern Europe. The hot sunshine has certainly brought people out into the open air. Little boys have been seen practising goal kicking on The Hoe. How it gladdens the heart to see anyone under the age of 15 playing outdoors instead of being glued, indoors, to a digital device. More people have been playing tennis. Post-Olympic fever, or what? A seal has been spotted several times gently swimming in the river. No one is quite sure whether there is more than one seal, or if it is a loner making multiple appearances. The village church was jam-packed on a very sunny day in late August with visitors – lots from Leicester – for the wedding of Gill Simmonds's granddaughter.

But we have had many other visitors! It's good to have visitors, but all in good measure. Too many have come to the river to swim from the jetty, which has become a magnet. It has been overwhelmed. One day there were nudists there. (Don't all rush...!) The Village Green has seen double parking. Why? It seems that 'Wonderful free swimming and free car parking at Piddinghoe' has been posted on social media. The jetty, the slipway and the surrounding land (plus the boat house) are privately owned, but Sheila is very happy for villagers to use the jetty, as indeed she and Martin always were.

The visitors seem mostly to be coming from Lewes. Some of them do not appear to have any idea about tidal flow, when the river can be particularly fast. Only recently, Sally had to warn a couple who were happily encouraging their children to swim across from one bank to another that this was dangerous. They were grateful for the advice, but looked a bit perplexed. Villagers are, of course, still very welcome to swim from the jetty, as they traditionally have. The rush to swim is probably now over for this year, but we need to be prepared for another hot summer next year.

The Fingerposts have returned! It was never the same without them. But, in the time they have been away (for rest, repair and recuperation), they have grown. People have grown taller since Victorian times. Perhaps fingerposts have too. Rumour has it that they will be cut down to size, for authenticity, and until the letters on them are repainted, the fingerposts will still be pointing towards a nameless place. Is this a post-Brexit symbol of limbo, we wonder? No, we are still here! When Autumn and Winter set in, let's keep the activity rate up, shall we? 'Film Nights' has just kicked off again, the Royal Oak Survivors have regular events we can all join – newcomers and old timers alike. The more we get together, the warmer we shall be when the long nights draw in and we start to think wistfully about vests and take more interest in the Damart catalogue. And wrestle with the eternal philosophical and practical question: what is best – boots or wellies for the mud-sodden walk along the riverbank with the dog! Look out for announcements on The Village Hall Noticeboard and, of course, in *The Villager*.

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

RECENT ARRIVALS

Newcomers were mentioned in the Editorial, and the village would like to extend a very big welcome to the Sanusi family who have recently moved into River House from Northease.

They are Floyd, Karen and schoolboy Toby, plus two very appealing small dogs aptly named Duchess and Beaux. We wish them well and many happy times in Piddinghoe.

PIDDINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL 2016

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Piddinghoe, on Tuesday 13th September 2016 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors, Chairman Cllr Dennis Stow, David Aicken, Debbie Mills, Angela Ridge
Julian Peterson (Clerk)
Lewes District Councillor Vic Ient
Members of the public.

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Nick Woolger,
ESCC Councillor Carla Butler.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 12th July 2016 were AGREED by Council and signed by the Chairman.

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 read items from his report, which is published on his website. Councillor Ient left the meeting at 7.45 after speaking. No other questions.

AGENDA

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

The bank balances as at 13th July 2016 were:

Savings account £21,347.19 (Valerie Mellor's bequest)

Current £13,178.72

Total balances £34,525.91

Outstanding invoices from ESCC regarding Dutch Elm Diseased Trees.

2. Council noted a report from the RFO Councillor Debbie Mills that the Auditors approved the accounts finding them satisfactory. The end of year (2015/16) accounts will be published on the Village website from 18 September. A paper copy can be obtained from the RFO for £10.00, from 18 September.
3. Council agreed that there was no objection to the tree works at 6 Brookside. SDNP/16/04234/TCA.
4. Council agreed to obtain 3 quotes from either individuals or companies from an appropriately insured person/company to do minor maintenance work in the children's play area as required by the LDC safety reports and agreed to pay for the works as necessary.
 - 4B. Council agreed that if an individual, the person would need to be self-employed and that local people could be sought, who were appropriately insured.
5. Council agreed to obtain three quotes for down-lighting along the footpath past the Village Hall to the turning circle that were motion activated. Council will seek quotes from approved and qualified electricians. Council agreed to seek planning permission if required.
 - 5B. Council agreed to apply for a grant from the section 106 fund to pay or partially pay for this work.
 - 5C. Council agreed that should the grant application be unsuccessful that the above lighting work would be funded from Valerie Mellor's bequest.

6. Council agreed to meet the Village Hall Committee urgently to discuss the possibility to place solar panels on the Village Hall roof and that quotes be sought.
 - 6B. Council stated that should agreement with the Village Hall committee be forthcoming that Council will apply for a grant from the same section 106 money as above.
 - 6C. Council agreed to seek planning permission should agreement with the Village Hall committee be forthcoming.
7. Council stated when meeting the Village Hall committee, as above, that they would discuss the possibility of extending, refurbishing and improving the facilities of the Village Hall using the above 106 grants above.
8. Council agreed to improve the borders of the lane and around the turning circle and to pay minor expenses.
9. Council agreed on the possibility of setting up a Piddinghoe in Bloom group, or working parties to keep the village looking tidy. *The Villager* was asked if it could ask for any helpers in its next publication.
10. Council deferred making a decision regarding contributing to a quote from Hamilton-Baille of £950.00 + VAT (they estimated an overall cost of £2,000.00 is required to fund the event including travel costs) until the next meeting in November. Council considered that more information was required about the Consultant and where the report would be sent. So Council at this meeting agreed not to part-fund the C7 consultation until it was better informed.
11. Council agreed that the current playground inspections by Lewes District Council were satisfactory and should continue.

PROGRESS REPORTS

1. The finger posts were in place but Council considered the work incomplete and were waiting satisfactory completion. Council will contact the contractor.
 2. The diseased elm trees are in the process of being removed. Council agreed that further advice be sought concerning the spread of Dutch Elm Disease.
 3. Dates for the next meeting:
Tuesday 22nd November
Tuesday 17th January 2017
2017 meetings to be arranged.
-
12. Council had agreed to the exclusion of the public and press under section 100(A) of the Local Government Act during discussion of the report on this agenda. And that this item be moved to the end of the meeting. Council accepted the annual increase suggested by NALC to the employment costs and deferred any decision concerning pension rights of employees required by new legislation.

Draft Copy 14/07/2016

Julian Peterson, PPC Clerk

WORKING PARTIES

The PPC are considering setting up 3 working parties (North, South and Middle) or a working party for the village to improve areas that need attention. Do you think this a good idea and would you be interested in volunteering?

Contact any PPC councillor or Dennis Stow on 01273 612577.

A HOLE LOT OF GOOD WORK

I think the village has been looking really good the last few months, despite all the parking and the building works which, of course, cannot be avoided.

And I think the improvement is partly down to individuals keeping their own surroundings tidier and neater – as though a mass wave of extra responsibility has come over everybody.

Now a question: Does anybody know – well, somebody must – who put down the hardcore pieces, spare brick parts and other clinker which have done so much to fill the holes along The Street? Particularly brilliant is the huge crevice that has now been filled in near Gill Simmonds and her family's house. Whoever has done it we owe them a big thank you.

Bill Pierce

PLAY AREA MAINTENANCE PERSON WANTED

The Parish Council is looking for someone who could do jobs on an ad-hoc basis to help maintain the children's play area. Jobs would include grass mowing/strimming, dealing with mole hills, pruning overhanging trees or bushes, minor repairs to play equipment as required by the Lewes District Council safety report. This person would preferably be self-employed and would need to have appropriate insurance.

Please contact Dennis Stow on 01273 612577.

ANGIE IS LEAVING – BUT ALSO STAYING

It may not be too much of a surprise that Angie Ridge has decided to step down from our editorial panel on The Villager. This girl is wearing so many hats that most people think she comes from Luton.

Parish Councillor is just one of her jobs and she has always been determined that it shouldn't compromise her position with the magazine - something her colleagues consider she's managed admirably. She is also on the Village Hall Management Committee and has returned to help organise the Royal Oak Survivors.

She's been busy with the building and traders as well and is just about to move back into what has become one of the most attractive dwellings in Piddinghoe (listening out still for news of any house-warming party – or doesn't that happen with a house you've already lived in?)

And there are a hundred and one other things on her spec that keep her busier than one of the bees she is often writing about.

The good news is that Angie is still going to write her fabulous Grass Roots column (the latest one is elsewhere in this edition), although she will take no further part in editorial conferences so we will miss her at our regular get-togethers. Just the four of us now (David is only concerned with print and production). We'll try to get by.

Thanks on behalf of all of us, Angie, for all you've done – and for what you are still doing.

Bill Pierce

COMING SOON TO VILLAGE FILM NIGHTS

It is well known by now why I had to miss the first autumn Film Nights at Piddinghoe Village Hall on September 23 and big thanks are due to David Hallett for stepping in as 'projectionist', David Wilkinson for helping set up, Terry Penn for Box Office and all who helped dispense wine and hot drinks from the hatch. At the time of writing, I still haven't seen *Florence Foster Jenkins* but I'm told an audience of around 18 enjoyed and found it amusing despite the sad message David had to give before the start.

Now what about the rest of the year's Film Nights? I have decided to give due notice of what's coming next – right up to end of 2016. I hope you like my choices and will note them down in your diaries, even though of course they may all be subject to change as nothing is certain in this life.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 21: *Eddie the Eagle*, a 2015 comedy based on true-life events featuring Hugh Jackman (*Van Helsing*, *X-Men*, *The Wolverine*, *Les Misérables*, etc.) and, as Eddie, an unknown but brilliant English actor called Taron Egerton. Great fun.

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 25: *Love and Friendship*, a 2016 Jane Austen costume drama/comedy with Kate Beckinsale which should certainly appeal to fans of favourites such as *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility* and *Emma*. Stephen Fry is in it, too.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 16: *Bridge of Spies*, a 2015 Hollywood-made espionage thriller starring Tom Hanks (*Forrest Gump*, *Castaway*, and too many others to mention) and Mark Rylance (*Wolf Hall*, etc), containing great globules of intrigue and human interest.

Many thanks to film-goers who mentioned those titles to me, and, hopefully, we will enjoy a large slice of sociability along with the screenings. The December offering is quite early in the month to avoid Christmas but it is possible there could be a special to mark Film Night's 50th showing on Friday December 30th. Ideas please!

Bill Pierce (email: piercewilliam991@gmail.com)

GRASS ROOTS

Concerning Migration, Witches, Customs, Folklore and... Daddylonglegs

Losing daylight as the weeks go by, and we move towards Autumn, can be harder to accept than the seasonal falls in temperature. However, now as I return to live in my much altered, improved and beloved Byways it amuses me to liken myself to 'my' swallows returning to smarten up their nests in the horses' field shelter in the Spring.

Update. Between the two pairs, they have had three broods, and they have successfully reared ten new offspring to take with them when they leave the UK, along with others that were reared in Liz and Dennis's stables.

Probably by the time you read this, these cherished dainty birds, weighing less than 20g, will probably all have gone off to South Africa where insect food is plentiful, crossing seas and the Sahara desert on their amazing journey.

Customs, folklore and witches

Traditionally in Sussex, October was the month when summer was finally forgotten. On October 10, the Devil was supposed to spit on the blackberries and the witches urinate on them Hmm.... An interesting image.

There were quite a number of witches in Sussex at one time. They were male or female - the term wizard being almost unknown. They were wise men or women, who made themselves useful to the community with their knowledge of simple medicine, veterinary skills or the ability, for instance, to divine water or metal. Witches were supposed to hand their knowledge onto someone before they died. The saying was, 'You should not eat or drink with a witch, or it will give her power over you'. Moral. Be careful who you invite to dinner.

October 25 is St. Crispin's Day, the Saints' feast day of martyred brothers Crispin and Crispinian, but also a day when many battles throughout history were fought, most notably The Battle of Agincourt in 1415. In Slaugham, an old custom celebrated this battle annually, when boys used to run up and down the green, swinging burning heath brooms round and around, and rolling a tar barrel down a steep hill. A writer in 1922 noted that the custom had by then fallen into disuse. I suspect it ceased long before this date

October 25 is also the shoemaker's patronal feast. A certain Henry Burstow, of Horsham said that they all got drunk in Saint Crispin's honour. Anyone who had disgraced himself was held up to ridicule on this day, by means of an effigy hung outside the local pub. It was burnt on 5th November.

(Extracts from *A Sussex Garland* by Tony Wales.)

Craneflies (*Tipula paludosa* ... aka daddy longlegs)

Harmless, unlovable, and intensely irritating insects, drifting aimlessly around inside our homes, usually whirring straight into your face. The larva of these creatures are known as leatherjackets. They are pests. They feed on plant roots, especially grasses, and can seriously damage crops. They are however an important food source for some of our ground feeding birds such as starlings, which descend in numbers onto the fields to search for them in the early autumn.

Diary entries

October 4, 1779: Mushrooms abound. Made catchup.
Gilbert white (Hampshire)

October 8, 1800: A very mild moonlight night. Glow-worms everywhere.

Dorothy Wordsworth (Westmoreland)

Angie Ridge

ALLOTMENT CORNER – AUTUMN

Autumn is a good time for digging over vacant areas of the vegetable plot, as the approaching cold weather helps to improve the soil structure by breaking down large clumps. Incorporate well-rotted organic matter such as manure or if you're quick you can still sow green manure (best done by mid-October). Alternatively cover vacant ground with black polythene or old hessian-backed carpet to stop weeds growing.

This is a perfect time for planting new fruit trees and bushes, as long as the ground is not frosted or too wet.

Order seed catalogues and plan new vegetable plots and herb beds for next year. What have you been buying from the supermarket that you could have grown? Is there anything you wished you'd grown more or less of?

Harvest and store

Dry fresh herbs for use during the winter. Lift and divide perennial herbs. Sections can also be potted up and kept in the kitchen to provide winter supplies.

Harvest pumpkins, marrows, butternut and other squashes once ripe. Leave them in the sun, or in a ventilated greenhouse or garage so skins harden and dry off, before storing in a cool, dry, dark place.

Check stored apples regularly for rotting fruit and remove.

Sow and plant

There's still time to sow overwintering broad beans in situ. Plant out spring cabbages if not already done. Cover with fleece or cloches to provide insulation and protect from pigeons.

Winter salad leaves, carrots and peas can still be sown in cold frames.

Finish planting autumn onion sets and garlic cloves in free-draining soils for a crop in early to mid-summer next year.

Clear or protect veg

Dig up outdoor tomato plants and hang them upside-down in the greenhouse to allow the fruits to ripen. Or put green tomatoes in a paper bag with a ripe banana which releases ethylene - it works!

Cut back the dying tops of Jerusalem artichokes to ground level. Cut back asparagus fronds if not already done.

When clearing old pea and bean plants, cut off the tops for the compost heap, and dig the roots into the soil. They return valuable nitrogen to the earth, acting as a natural fertiliser.

Parsnips can be left in the ground until needed - they taste better when frosted. Celeriac can also be left in the ground for a bit, but protect them from the cold with a thick mulch of straw.

Stake any Brussels sprouts stalks that look leggy and vulnerable to wind rock. Remove yellowing leaves to prevent grey mould.

Remove all plant debris from the ground to reduce the spread and the overwintering of disease and pests. Burn all leaves and plants which look as though they may be diseased.

Protect late varieties of cauliflower from early frosts by bending a few of the leaves over the curds.

Protect brassicas from pigeons using cloches, netting or fleece.

Keep an eye out for caterpillars and pick them off by hand.

Fruit

Finish planting strawberry runners by mid-October.

Thin out congested spurs on restricted fruit trees. Tie in new tiers of espaliers. Deal with apple and pear canker. Burn fallen leaves infected with scab. Control winter moth with grease bands.

Prune apples, pears, quinces, medlars, red/white currants gooseberries and autumn raspberries.

Sue Massey

SLOW WORMS IN PIDDINGHOE

When we first moved into the village I saw a very large dead slow-worm on the verge opposite Rose Cottage, and did not see another until we started to remove soil from the composted area at the bottom of The Hoe and unearthed a nest. The family were immediately put in a suitable area to ensure their survival.

Identification of slow-worms

Slow-worms, often mistaken for snakes, are legless lizards. Unlike snakes, lizards have eyelids and can detach their tails as a defence mechanism and regrow another although never to the same length. They can grow to a total body length of 45 cm but 30-40 cm is more typical. For those that have an intact tail, it will account for over half of their total body length. Males and females can usually be distinguished by colour. Males have larger heads than females of the same size. Males are greyer and more uniformly patterned whereas females and all juveniles are browner with a notable demarcation between the dark sides and back and often have a darker dorsal line or narrow zig-zag stripe down the centre of the back.

Ecology and habitat of the slow-worm

Slow-worms are exothermic (they do not create their own body temperature), relying on warming up by basking in warm areas. They prefer to be partially obscured or covered by some vegetation, rather than being in the open. They lead a somewhat secretive life, spending most of their time hidden under vegetation, stones, or in holes below ground. Many different habitats provide suitable areas for slow-worms, such as woodland rides, grassland and meadows, hedgerows, heathland, gardens as well as other urban and sub-urban areas. They do not like too much shade as this does not help them to bask. Like all the other UK reptiles, slow-worms hibernate over the winter, from late October to late February or early March depending on weather. They do not lay eggs but give birth to live young, from mid August to late September.

Status

They are a protected species and are widespread and common, especially in the south of England. They are protected from being intentionally killed, injured, transported, advertised for trading or sold under The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), which was amended in 1988. However, they are not protected against 'taking'. Legislation applies to all stages of their life cycle and includes dead slow-worms, parts of them or derivatives.

Having slow-worms on your land can be beneficial as they eat many garden pests but are harmless and very unobtrusive. Compost heaps are a favoured habitat. Care needs to be taken when turning the compost. After about 5 years they will probably migrate to another area that can provide a more suitable environment. Between November and mid March, your compost heap should be left alone while they hibernate. The best time to turn or move a compost heap is May and October after they have mated and produced their young.

Dennis Stow

THE HOE MOUND

The PPC are looking into what to do about this large composted area (mound).

- Spread around the wooded area
- Leave it alone
- Stop villagers from putting any further material on the Hoe.
- Encourage villages to use it.
- Use it to put around the turning circle by the village hall.
- You may also have other ideas!

As mentioned in the article above, care should be taken when doing anything to any compost heap.

HOUSING FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Some time ago, East Sussex Adult Social Care (ASC) invited a group of older people to get together to discuss where they thought they would be living in ten or twelve years' time. Most of us agreed that we would still be living 'at home'. Those who didn't agree then had their say. For example:

'My house is really too big and is getting too expensive to run';
 'I can't manage the garden any longer and it's getting depressing';
 'I can't drive any more so I am isolated at home';
 'Keeping the house in good repair and decorated is such a worry'.

The next discussion was about where they would like to live. The answer to this was: 'Well, it depends on my needs'; 'Will I be fit and healthy in ten years' time?'; 'What can I afford?' What came out very strongly was – 'I don't want to finish up in a Home'. Home with a capital H having the same connotations as the Work House.

The growth of retirement flats in East Sussex over time has been phenomenal. People want their own front door, a communal garden, a communal lounge, and a guest suite for family and friends. ASC stopped providing bed-sit units, which were awful, and more recently opted for two-bedroom flats to accommodate a Carer, should the need arise.

Downlands Court in Peacehaven was the first Extra Care facility to be built in the county. The 'extra' refers to the on-site care team which is incorporated within the scheme. As the need for support increases, the care team can adjust accordingly. Partners can stay together with the cared one who is being looked after, and the Carer can have a brief respite. Residents organise activities – days out, a Summer Fair, arts and crafts, a singing group, and a beautiful garden.

Most of the new retirement developments have cafés that are open to the public. They are well worth a visit. The food is good and eating there enables you to get the feel of the place before having to make final decisions. Living without a car in a village and with the constant threat of cutbacks to transport is something many of us may have to consider.

To look around Downlands Court, ring Saxon Weald on 01403 226000.

Kate Davies, Glebe Cottage

CELEBRATING OLDER PEOPLE'S DAY

Come to the Village Green on October 12. At 2 pm, the Town Crier for Seaford – Peter White – will appear in full regalia (weather permitting) and give three calls of 'Oyez'. After that, we all go to the Village Hall for Peter to give us a talk about his role. This will be followed by tea and some delicious cakes provided by the Hillcrest Centre. The event ends at 4 pm. Everyone welcome!

ART JOTTINGS

I feel I should apologise for writing yet again about an exhibition at Pallant House, Chichester, but they do put on wonderful exhibitions! This one was on Christopher Wood and is called 'Sophisticated Primitive'. Sadly, when you read this, the exhibition will be over but I am hoping some of you may have seen it over the summer.

Wood's early career was in Paris and St Ives. He died at the age of 29. When you see his body of work, you can hardly believe that someone so young could have created so much art, and good art at that. He was born near Liverpool in 1901 and started painting when sent home from school, Marlborough College, where he developed a blood disease after an accident. His Mother encouraged him to paint while convalescing.

At 19, he went to Paris and was introduced to other artists such as Picasso and Jean Cocteau. He began to understand what these artists achieved in their primitive style. He realised that he needed to unlearn what he already knew to realise it for himself. Returning to England, he was befriended by Ben and Winifred Nicholson. They painted together in Cumbria and Cornwall. In Cornwall, Wood was introduced to the self-trained artist Alfred Wallis whose influence you can see in Wood's paintings such as 'Herring Fishers Goodbye' and 'Harbour in the Hills'.

Conflicts in his circle started to develop. The Nicholsons were living simple lives whereas his Paris circle were taking drugs and living decadently. Wood's personal life was also throwing up complications. He was bisexual and taking Opium. By 1930 he was addicted to it and suffering from paranoia. In August of that year he travelled to meet his Mother in Salisbury for lunch. After saying goodbye to her, he jumped under a train at Salisbury railway station and killed himself.

His short and disturbed life produced a big and glorious collection of work. You can see the influence of many of his contemporaries such as John Piper and the wonderful Mary Fedden. Wood's painting 'China Dogs in a St Ives Window' shows a striking similarity to Fedden's work and her love of Staffordshire china dogs. Other work by Wood includes 'Cumberland Landscape', 'Iris in a Tall Glass', 'The Card Players' and 'Fair at Neuilly'. This is probably the most comprehensive exhibition of Wood's life and career for the last 30 years.

On a different note, did many of you manage to visit any of the open houses and studios during Artwave? The few I saw did not, sadly, make my heart sing. Perhaps I picked unwisely and I hope some of you can contradict me on this. I find that in Lewes, in particular, fewer private houses are open but more galleries and shops are showing work, hoping to lure people in? Perhaps this is just me being bitter as for the second year running, Ben and I have been unable to open our house to show work by ourselves and our friends. It is a daunting job turning one's home into an art gallery for three weekends but one we always enjoyed, so I hope we will be flinging our doors open again in 2017. I will keep you posted!

Gill Autie

PIDDINGHOE PEOPLE

Dennis and Liz Collins - owners of The Stables

The Stables are a familiar landmark to many village dog (and non-dog) walkers who regularly do the trip 'around the pond'. Dennis and Liz bought the land in 1980. Stabling followed and it was known as 'Rosedene Stud'.

Dennis was born in Surrey and Liz was born to an army family in Salisbury. Liz's father was in the Yeomanry so inevitably she acquired a lifetime love affair with horses. Dennis came later to the horsey life having trained as an engineer and developed a business in Carshalton before moving it on to Brighton. Liz meanwhile moved to Surrey and then to Essex, working with horses (Hunters) of course.

The engineering business was sold in 1980 and at about the same time, a large house was purchased in Kingston which became home for up to 10 Special Needs children. They were aged between 9 and 16 years and came, referred by Social Services, mostly from the London area. Dennis, who had raised three daughters in rather different circumstances, was well used to and understood the needs of young people. Their young charges, having been deprived of happy home lives and open spaces, had no idea how life in the countryside looked, felt and smelt but settled in with little trouble. Two other couples became involved and shared the responsibilities. Another house, again big enough for about 10 children, was opened in Seaford. This was sold as a going concern after a few years and they sort of retired from this chapter in their lives in 1992 but not before buying another house in Norfolk for the same purpose which they still own but in which they have no active involvement.

The Stables had been run from a distance until Dennis and Liz moved into Shepherds Close in 1986. Welsh Cobs were bred and shown and it also became home to Icelandic Horses. These attractive, sturdy little animals are totally pure bred. In order to preserve their gene pool, no other breed of horse has been allowed into Iceland since 1100 AD.

Dennis is no longer actively involved in doing what must be done when caring for horses but the inhabitants still expect Liz to show up and 'do' for them twice a day. The Stables are also home to a few boarders who are looked after and exercised by their owners. One of these was the late lamented Archie whose 'obit' appears in this issue.

The rat population at The Stables is kept expertly under control by a small colony of feral cats. They were provided by the Celia Hammond Trust, were trapped and neutered in London and are now living in feral cat heaven in heated accommodation and with all meals (rat free) provided. Riding days are now over for Dennis but Liz still rides regularly and loves to be able to look down on her 'patch' from the top of The Downs.

Sheila Redman

ARCHIE THE HORSE: A GENT TO THE END

Dear Archie, the village's oldest resident, died late August, aged 34. You will probably remember our announcing his birthday in June. Thirty four years is a tremendous age for a horse. The handsome, noble fellow looked about half that age. Archie was overcome by colic, which can be exceptionally dangerous for a horse. It can be compared (a bit) to trapped wind in a human being, but the main gut of a horse is very long indeed, and a blockage in that area is a serious problem. He was found early in the morning in a distressed state by Debbie Mills, when she went to the stables to see her own horse, and she then alerted his owner, Carol, and the vet. Everything possible was done to keep him going, with the greatest urgency surrounding the need to get the horse up on his four legs and start walking. Everyone tried very hard, and Archie most of all. As Carol said, 'He did everything we asked of him, and remained a gentleman until the very end'.

Archie was a cross between an English Thoroughbred and a Connemara horse. The looks and musculature of the Thoroughbred were combined with the steadiness of the Connemara. Carol acquired him from a riding stable in Devon. He had developed a chronic problem with one of his hooves and could no longer be ridden. He came to East Sussex where both a local vet and Carol very patiently worked on his hoof and eventually, he could be ridden again. He spent 8 years in livery at Dean's Farm, but then moved to Liz Collins's stables in 2009 where he became a familiar sight, especially to the villagers with allotments. Carol, who lives in Newhaven, came twice a day to feed him and make sure he was happy. When asked what was the secret of Archie's longevity and exceptionally healthy and robust appearance, she said 'plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables every day'. She also gave him apple cider vinegar to ward off the rheumatics.

Carol has donated all of Archie's tack and blankets to the Sussex Horse Rescue Centre at Uckfield. Visitors can go every Sunday to see and meet the 90 horses and 30 donkeys that live there. This should be a lovely day out, especially for families and young children, but for any horse or donkey lover. Finally, many people in the village have sent their condolences to Carol and she would like, through *The Villager*, to thank everyone very much for their kindness.

Gill Davies

CELEBRATION OF A VILLAGE WEDDING

James Riviere and Erica Stanway were married at St John's Piddinghoe on Saturday, 13 August. It is the village where Erica's grandparents John and Gill Simmonds have lived for many years and worshipped regularly. Members of The Vineyard Church in Leicester, where James and Erica worship, took part in the service, providing the music and readings. The service was conducted by myself, and their church pastor, Steve Barber, gave the address.

The family was particularly appreciative of all that had been done to make the church, churchyard and grounds so attractive for the wedding, and in particular expressed their gratitude to Marilyn Gould, Don Burdett, the bell ringers and all concerned who helped to make the day so memorable.

Canon David Gutsell

FROM RIVERSIDE TO BROOKSIDE

Apples

Scrumpling was an accepted part of village life during the apple season when young people would scale walls to pinch an apple to munch during the day. I do recall three of us being pursued along the street by one Teddy Port, orchard owner and resident of the Forge, brandishing a large stick of Rhubarb. We assumed his intention was to hit us with it. Play the game, feel the pain – if you're caught!

The Countryside and the cows

The hills and fields surrounding Piddinghoe did not suffer from landowners who insisted on erecting numerous fences to keep everyone out like they do today, so the fields, trees, copses, hills and valleys were all our playground. Many times I lay on the ground overlooking the farm chewing on a blade of grass, watching the white fluffy clouds cruise sedately across a blue sky. The clanking of buckets and lowing of the cows from the farm in the valley announced that it was milking time.

Piddinghoe had a football team which played at weekends. Unfortunately, The Hoe was shared with the cows for a while and more than once, I recall Molly's father, Charlie Dunk, releasing the herd onto the field in the middle of the match. The players weren't impressed and while they vented their frustration, the cows merrily crossed the pitch depositing freely as they went.

Sometimes I used to get up at silly hour and help Molly get the cows in for morning milking, feeding, etc. A couple of years later Richard Way joined us, but he continued on the farming path, while I gained a paper round in the mornings and moved to other things.

Nick Woolger

GRATEFUL FOR LIFE IN THE MODERN AGE

Watching the recent series of *Call the Midwife* on BBC1 on Sunday evenings made me realise how lucky I was to have had parents wealthy enough to move away from the then smog- infested area of London, sailing away in 1957. The series has been focusing on 1961 when pneumonia was common and babies born bearing the ravages of thalidomide were not a rarity. Poverty was rife and work was scarce. As a child I was blissfully unaware of these hardships that people went through.

I resented the fact that I was sent to boarding school in the term time and unappreciative of the fact that I had a secure home and that I was warm, well fed and clothed, and loved in the holidays. On top of that it was to beautiful Piddinghoe that we moved, surrounded by the river, the Downs, the sea and ambling countryside, the majority of which was owned by farmers who made their living providing food for the country.

Today we live in a land where medicine has progressed manyfold. The National Health Service caters for us all for free, while Social Services try to make sure everybody has a roof over their head and can afford food and clothing.

No, we may not have the car of our choice, or be able to afford a house big enough to fulfil all our wishes, or have all the holidays we would choose or experience the lifestyles one sees affluent people lead, but I think there would be a lot more happy people around today if they thanked God for what they have got rather than moan about what they haven't.

Richard Way

BACH COMES TO PIDDINGHOE

Rare performance of J.S. Bach's epic *Goldberg Variations*

Local concert pianist Rachel Fryer will perform Bach's much loved *Goldberg Variations* on Saturday 12 November at Lodge Hill Barn, Hoddern Farm. Lasting 75 minutes, it is regarded by many as one of the composer's greatest works yet is rarely performed in its entirety. The piece was made famous by the late Glenn Gould and the theme is well-known, and features in the film *Silence of the Lambs*.

Rachel studied at the Royal College of Music and in Ukraine and enjoys a prolific career, performing as a concerto soloist and giving recitals throughout the country. Rachel has recently released a CD of the *Goldberg Variations*. She moved from Brighton to Piddinghoe in 2012 and is now 0.5 miles away in Newhaven. Rachel is a Senior Piano Tutor at the East Sussex Academy of Music in Lewes and runs a concert series in Queen's Park Brighton, *Music & Wine at St Luke's*.

The concert begins at 3.00pm with a short talk about the work. After a brief break, Rachel will play the work from memory in its entirety. Wine and refreshments will be available afterwards. Admission is £10 (£5 for students). To buy a ticket please ring Lynnette and Colin on 01273 583656.

PIDDINGHOE BOOK CLUB

Books you know; books you've missed; books you want to read; books you've never heard of; and books that aren't your usual bedtime read - we dip into them all at Book Club!

Every six weeks or so an eclectic mix of Piddinghoe readers get together to share their thoughts on the latest book. Discussions are wide ranging fuelled by a glass of wine or a cup of tea.

Recent reads have included *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Murial Barbery, Ernest Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms* and *The Secret History* by Donna Tartt. Love them or loathe them, one of the best things about book club (apart from the social gathering) is reading books that perhaps you wouldn't have picked.

'New' readers are always welcome. Meetings take place in each other's houses. Details are posted on the village notice board, but if you want to know more do knock on my door.

*Christine Bentham,
Elderberry House, 8 Court Farm Close*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday, 11th November – Annual Village Charity Quiz

All money raised will be matched pound for pound by Barclays Bank. Teams of four and lots of fun.
Time: 7 for 7.30 p.m. Cost: £10 for a table of 4.

Friday, 2nd December – Talk by Ian Everest

"TALES FROM THE RIVER" – past life in the Ouse Valley.

Two brilliant evenings - come along and bring your friends!

HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT RECYCLING COLLECTION

Lewes District Councillor Vic Ient would like to encourage Piddinghoe residents to take part in a survey about LDC's kerb side recycling collection.

The information below is from (1) Vic Ient's website and (2) Lewes District Council's survey page.

1) Lewes District Council are responsible for waste collection and recycling. *Sadly our district has one of the lowest recycling percentages in England.* The council is making slow progress towards a new recycling scheme but eventually there will be a significant improvement to the service.

For information on what the council does and does not recycle see: <http://www.lewes.gov.uk/waste/760.asp>

For further advice call the council on: 01273 471600

2) For Lewes District Residents from the LDC

'Here is a survey enabling you to give your views on waste and recycling services. You can also comment on what you would like to see in terms of future services. It only takes a few minutes to complete and you'll be helping Lewes District Council to improve their recycling services. You will also be entered into a prize draw for £50 vouchers.

The survey has already proved popular so make sure you don't miss out on this chance to have your say! The survey will be open until Wednesday 12 October.'

<http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/recycling>

EXTRACT FROM THE VILLAGER

Issue 5, January 1997

OUSE RIVER TRAFFIC: 1 EVERY'S WHARF.

Having seen Dulcie Way's most interesting account of life aboard the Thetis, readers might be interested to know of other ships on the river. From early in the century until 1939 sea-going vessels docked at Every's Wharf, just upstream from the Thetis, where was later built the house called, appropriately, The Wharf.

Every's used to import pig iron for their Phoenix Iron Works at Lewes. One of the last sailing boats regularly to dock there was the Alert. She was a 3 masted schooner: the sight of those tall masts moving slowly above the houses and trees would have the children up and running to the river bank to see her unload. When her working days were over she was bought for conversion to a yacht, but this proved too expensive and she was broken up in 1942.

Another bringer of pig iron, from Sweden, was the topsail schooner Julia, unfortunately she was later lost with all hands, off the Isle of Wight.

For quite a few years sail and steam shared the river, but by the mid 1930s, the sea-going vessels were steam propelled, so large chunky boats puffing out smoke replaced the elegant schooners. Every's were still importing pig iron and now steel as well, but the Newhaven Scrap Merchants, Wheatleys, were responsible for more sailings. Their familiar lorries brought the scrap to the wharf, often unloading directly to the boats waiting below, but sometimes tipping it on the ground, thus making the large heap which occupied much of what is now Eileen Howard's garden!

Valerie Mellor



THE GREAT PIDDINGHOE BAKE OFF



Two more recipes from Jill Hentschel.

VICTORIA SPONGE (my version)

- 4 large eggs – weighed in shells – beaten lightly
- Same weight in butter or sunflower spread
- Same weight in S.R. flour + 1 oz
- Same weight in Caster sugar
- About 2 tbsp orange juice or milk to mix
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

FILLING

Raspberry or strawberry jam

Butter cream, made by mixing together:

- 5 oz sieved icing sugar; 2 oz butter or sunflower spread;
- 1 oz milk; 1 tsp vanilla extract

1. Grease two 8 inch, loose bottomed sandwich tins and dust with a little flour
2. Set oven to 170°C.
3. Cream sugar and flour with baking powder
4. Gradually mix in beaten eggs with 1 tbsp flour to stop curdling

5. Mix with vanilla and milk to soft consistency.
6. Divide into tins and cook for 30 mins.
7. Whisk all ingredients together for butter cream.
8. When cakes are cool, spread with jam and cream. Sandwich together and dust with a little icing sugar.

UPSIDE DOWN CAKE OR PUDDING

1. Make half the amount of Victoria Sponge mix (opposite page).
2. Use a sealed bottom cake tin or lined tin so that liquid does not leak.
3. Chop rhubarb, blackberries, apples, pineapple or whatever fruit you fancy.
4. Sprinkle about 2/3 tablespoons demerara sugar into tin, and add about 3 walnut sized knobs of butter.
5. Place fruit on top of sugar. Put into oven whilst it is heating to melt the butter. Heat to 170°C.
6. Pour sponge mix over and cook for 25/30 minutes.
7. When cooked, cool in the tin and turn out so that fruit is on top OR serve hot with custard, cream, or ice-cream.

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
November 29th.***

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