

The Villager

Piddinghoe, East Sussex



April 2018

EDITORIAL

Sometimes it may be felt that an 'editorial' is not strictly necessary in an organ of this type and sometimes the writer wonders if many people actually read it when there are so many lovely items further on to move onto and enjoy. Certainly we do not want to give the impression of lofty importance or being opinionated. However you do have to start somewhere and it is a couple of months since anybody clapped eyes on this worthy production which, after all, exists mostly to inform and entertain you. So at least we can use this space to say here's hoping you are feeling well and looking forward to the rest of 2018.

There is much ahead to enjoy and many people, not all of them males by the way, are already relishing a few solid hours in front of the TV watching football's World Cup in Russia this summer, hoping the England team will finally produce a performance to be proud of. The competition happens every four years although to some, not all of them women, it seems to occur much more regularly than that. And some might suggest we should not even go there – what with the continuing scandal over the alleged Russian-sourced nerve-poisonings in Wiltshire. It is a fair debating point but then almost everything, it seems, has a political aspect and in many ways that seems rather sad.

It is becoming difficult to obtain a fair and balanced point of view of so many subjects because much of what you may read, whether it be in print or on-line, seems inevitably inspired by the political or financial ambitions of those who present it. Yet anybody who lifts their head above the parapet to provide a public service or even a smile, knows they run the risk, especially in these days of widespread social media, of attracting fierce criticism and abuse.

It is a good thing the late Sir Ken Dodd and the late Stephen Hawkin did not worry about what brickbats might come their way in return for their outspoken words. We all know that both recently left this planet – much later, probably, than either of them originally expected to – and the latter, of course, will remain an outstanding monument to intelligence and genius. It is

clear, though, that he also possessed a fine sense of humour to go with his brain and that will always be an important attribute.

‘Doddy’, of course, traded on it as well and always had the brain-power to realise that his audience liked the fact he never actually resorted to crudity. Never? Maybe there was one story of his that was a bit near the mark involving his grandfather who invented the cat’s eye (for the roads) rather than the pencil-sharpener (for writers). In this family publication it is probably unwise to go into further detail but many consider it one of Ken’s best.

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

PIDDINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL 2018

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Piddinghoe, on Tuesday 27 March 2018 at 7.30pm (DRAFT)

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

Julian Peterson (Clerk). 11 Members of the public.

Apologies for Absence: None.

Minutes: The minutes of the Parish meeting of 9 January and 31 January 2018 were AGREED by Council and signed by the Chairman.

Disclosure of Interests: Cllr Debbie Mills for Item 2 on the agenda declared a financial interest.

Public Participation: The clerk read out Council's policy on public participation (Annex 1) and the Chairman suspended standing orders so that the residents present could participate comprehensively.

Standing orders reinstated. The Chairman summarised Cllr Osbourne's report.

AGENDA

It was agreed that Item 6 would be moved to be considered first.

The Chairman proposed the time line for the Village Hall improvements project, which was:

- A. The decision has been made to explore Village hall improvements.
- B. It was agreed last meeting that Council pays for the architect (31 January, 2108). He has provided diagrams.

- C. Council now agrees to display the diagrams in the Village Hall for residents to see and send comments to the clerk.
- D. Based on all information gathered and information received, Council then considers the favoured option. Should residents not wish the project to continue, it will end.
- E. There will be special meeting for residents with a presentation from the architect.
- F. Obtain costs.
- G. Seek funding before any final decision is made.

The Chairman then suspended standing orders and distributed the diagrams and asked the architect to speak.

The architect suggested the interior of the Village Hall needed to be modernised and a more efficient use of the space was desirable. Currently half the space was used for services such as kitchen, lavatories and storage. The architect then explained the three options (which will be posted with the Minutes).

The architect explained that he will seek grants and match funding from Rampion wind farm, but there was a very tight timeline to do this.

From the residents it was suggested that the lighting, and heating needed improving and more natural lighting was required (larger windows etc). Possibly a renewable energy scheme. Standing orders were reinstated.

Council agreed the timeline above and promised to consult with all users.

It was recognised that due to the possible funding and grants that the architect would need to put in a draft proposal quickly.

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

Current Account:	£6,671.68
V. Mellor's Bequest:	£25,488.55
Reserve Account:	£3,002.53
Total	£35,162.70

2. Council approved retrospectively due to health and safety concerns that the fallen tree on the borders of the Hoe was safely removed and the payment to the arborist was approved. Cllr Mills left the room when this was discussed.
3. Council retrospectively agreed the hiring and payment of Mr Clayson to survey and recommend matters concerning the Party Wall of the Village Hall due to the Planning application in the land adjacent to the Village Hall (see below). Council thanked David Wilkinson for arranging this.
4. Council agreed to the drains survey beneath the Village hall and subsequent payment of £84.00. Council needed to know where the drains are and their condition. (Also for the Planning application below and possible improvements to the Village Hall).
5. Planning Application SDNP/18/0053/LDE Riverside Farm.
No objection.

The Chairman suspended standing orders for the next planning application to listen to residents views, and reinstated them after discussion.

Planning Application SDNP/18/00780/FUL Land adjacent to Dormer House.

Council expressed the following concerns; Council is awaiting guidance concerning the party wall and walkway and guttering around the Village Hall.

Council wants to inform officially that the Village Hall is used for music/film/social events that may cause noise, and wants the developers to be cognisant of that.

Council expressed the Right of Light and the possible obstruction of light through several windows. Council expressed flexibility how this could be resolved

Council also expressed concern how the builder deals with removal of soil and waste soil through the Village as the road is very narrow and has very steep bends.

Council, therefore expressed objections on the above concerns.

7. It was agreed to pay for four extra grass cuts and that the Clerk should attempt to get a quote from Barcombe Landscapes as they mowed the Hoe. It was recognised that this may be difficult due to East Sussex CC's map of what they mowed. It was also agreed that ESCC may offer the better value in the circumstances and the time consideration given.
8. It was agreed that the Clerk and a Councillor be sent on a training event concerning the new Data Protection Act, and that Council would pay for this.
9. It was agreed that the trees growing on Piddinghoe Parish owned land should be counted and that a specialist tree surveyor be employed. And to get quotes for the removal of dead elm trees.

SLR. Was cancelled and is now on 4 May.

Polo. Next meeting is 17 April.

PROGRESS REPORTS

1. The steps from the Hoe to the riverbank: as previously stated, drier weather is required before the project can start.
2. The dog poo bags are being used and a little notice is being designed stating where the dog poo bins are.
3. It was agreed to ask the Village Hall committee to do a risk assessment of the Village Hall.

4. Progress report on the downlights to the Village Hall. Council was advised that the timer is adequate and that the timer needs adjusting manually
5. Dates for the next meetings:
8th May (AGM and Parish Council), 29th May (Parish Meeting), 7th August, 13th November 2018.

Meeting finished 20.55.

Julian Peterson, Parish Clerk, Piddinghoe

Annex A.

How Parish Councils work - a brief explanation

From comments made at the last meeting, the role of Parish Councils and meeting procedure needs explaining; so the Clerk enquired and received advice and confirmation from the Association of Local Councils and here is a summary of a few points for guidance.

Local councils are the first tier of governance. **Parish Council and Committee meetings** are formal events, not social occasions; they have a clear purpose – to make decisions.

Standing Orders are the written rules of a local council and are a statutory requirement (available on our website). *(They have not always been followed in the past, which has led to the unacceptable chaos experienced at some previous meetings).*

The role of **Parish Clerk** is to ensure that the **Council** as a whole conducts its business properly and to provide independent, objective, professional advice and support. He also deals with all correspondence to and from the Council, and should be the first point of contact.

The **Parish Clerk** is a 'Proper Officer' and an employee of the council. All town and Parish Councils are legally required to have both a 'Proper Officer' and a '**RFO**' (Responsible Finance Officer).

The **Chairman** is an Official Office created by legislation and he (or she) is in charge during Council meetings.

The **Councillors** were democratically elected for 4 years, and are unpaid volunteers.

The **Parish Council meeting** is to conduct Council business; they are not public meetings. In the interests of transparency the public are very welcome to attend to observe Councillors reach their decisions. They cannot bring up questions on subjects not on the agenda. Members of the Public have no legal right to speak, unless the Chairman authorises them to do so; it is not a meeting in terms of public involvement.

- There is a '**public participation' period** near the beginning of the meetings where parishioners may make representations, answer questions or give evidence; but only **in respect of items on the agenda**.
- The Chairman does have the discretion to suspend standing orders to listen to comments or questions from the floor (*which has been done many times*). However it is not a conversation. Once the public have had their say, standing orders are reinstated. Councillors then, through the Chair, can make their points.
- At NO point should the meeting be a conversation between the public and Councillors, or between Councillors. All points should be addressed to the Chairman.

Agenda – Parishioners can raise issues at least 10 days before the meeting with Councillors or write to the clerk. It is up to the Chairman and Clerk as to what goes on the agenda. Residents cannot demand that an item goes on the agenda.

Items not on the agenda should not be talked about at the meeting, by the public or Councillors.

- **Members of the public.** After Public Participation members of the public will not be involved in the decision-making of the Council, and the Council should not make any instant decisions at the behest of members of the public on items that are not included in the agenda.
- They are welcome to stay for the Council meeting, after the public session as observers, but will not be able to join in the discussion, unless invited to do so by the Chairman.

Conduct of the Meeting. How the meeting is conducted is up to a point dependant on the Chairman's discretion and standing orders.

PIDDINGHOE VILLAGE MEETING

Tuesday 29th May 7.30pm

Piddinghoe Parish Council invites all residents to the Village Hall from 7.30pm on Tuesday 29th May for another Annual Village Meeting.

Especially welcome are those who are new to the village.

This is an informal get-together where you will have the opportunity to chat socially with other residents and your Parish Councillors about village matters.

Drinks and nibbles will be available.

THE VILLAGE HALL

Featuring on the residents' wish list from a couple of years ago was improvements to the Village Hall i.e. opening up the main hall and rationalising the kitchen, toilets etc. To that end the Parish Council have commissioned Architect Guylee Simmonds to develop some ideas of how that could be achieved.

The three initial design ideas (Options A, B & C) are shown overleaf and Guylee's overview is below. These will also be displayed in the Village Hall and the full report is on the village website (www.piddinghoe-pc.org.uk).

Please take the time to look at these and if you have any comments, suggestions, preferences, please email our Clerk, Julian at piddinghoe@gmail.com

The Hall is Piddinghoe's main asset and it will be great to make the best of it that we can afford. Villagers will be kept informed throughout the project and there will be an open meeting before any final decisions are made.

There's a long way to go yet, not least seeking grants. Check out the plans and let us know what you think.

CONDITION REPORT

Overview

Piddinghoe Village Hall does not fulfil its potential due to a poorly designed layout and lack of investment in its upkeep. Piddinghoe Parish Council wish to redevelop the hall so that it is more attractive, efficient and has a greater capacity. The hall was built inside an old cow shed and retains its original Sussex flint walls. The conversion however was economical and poorly conceived, and now, decades later, the hall has is in need of a redesign and improvements to maximise its benefit to the local community.

The hall currently holds regular pilates classes, cinema evenings, music events and functions which demonstrates the local demand for a suitable community space. However events have reduced attendance and with many of local venues competing, the hall receives limited functions bookings.

Brief

The Parish Council have appointed local architect Guylee Simmonds to survey the existing hall, assess its current usage and functionality and develop solutions for its redesign. The focus is on improving its capacity for hosting regular village events and increasing its appeal as a function venue to subsidise the halls ongoing running and upkeep.

The main hall needs to increase in size, and the volume of toilets and storage needs to reduce. Existing loft storage could be consolidated and access to the loft could be improved. The kitchen is a suitable size, but the serving hatch is too small. The bathrooms are oversized and two disabled access WCs is unnecessary for the size of building. None of the internal walls are load bearing making a redesign of the internal layout fairly easy. Removing the false ceiling would massively increase the volume of the hall space and its appeal internally.

Accommodation

For a Community Hall with a total area of 90sqm, to have under 50% of the building as usable event space demonstrates the inefficiencies within its current functionality. The schedule of accommodation as existing:

43sqm Hall Space

10sqm Kitchen

10sqm WCs

13sqm Storage

11sqm Circulation

Budget

The works are currently estimated to cost around £50,000 contract sum. As a community hall the work may be zero rated for VAT. Including all relevant professional fees, statutory consents and contingency the total project budget is expected to amount to near £60,000. Piddinghoe Parish Council has sufficient funds to pay for half of these works, and hope to receive support from the Rampion Offshore Community Fund being managed by Sussex Community Foundation.

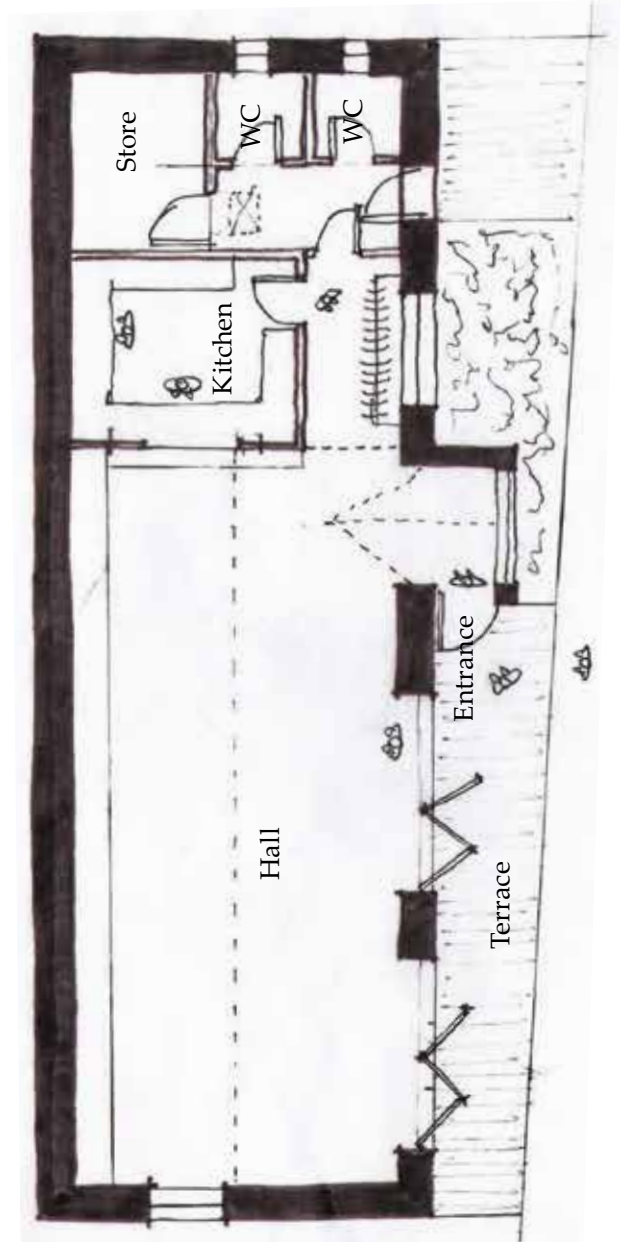
Building Fabric

500mm thick brick and flint masonry walls form the main fabric of the building. The gable ends have been built up in 300mm solid brickwork above eaves height. Internally walls are finished in an uneven plaster. Internal walls are 125mm thick timber stud work walls up to the suspended ceiling. Windows are all uPVC and double glazed, with most glazing facing south towards the access road. The floor is a concrete slab, assumed uninsulated with carpet tiles, vinyl and timber parquet flooring in different locations. Heating is provided through electric storage heaters, and hot water through instant hot water supply. Fluorescent strip lights and standard fluorescent spotlights light the interior. The doors are painted MDF with safety glass vision panels. The roof is an extremely lightweight timber truss with nailed fixings, and is uninsulated. The roof is finished in clay tiles.

OPTION A - Plan

Two sets of bi-fold doors open from a small outdoor terrace into a enlarged hall space, the suspended ceiling has been removed and the roof has been insulated over the hall area. The kitchen is a similar size to existing with a larger access hatch. Storage along the full length of the back wall houses chairs, tables, the table tennis table and other games.

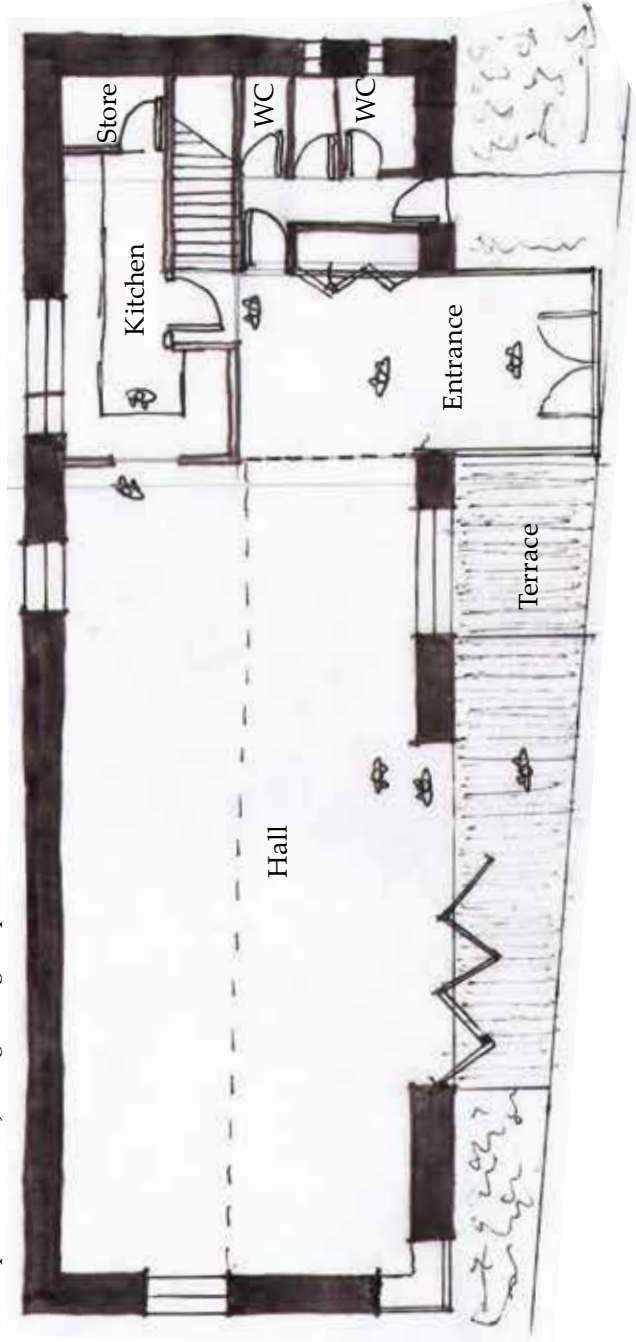
The toilets have a separate external access door for events on the hoe, and the same door can be used for deliveries to the secure storage room in the rear corner. Access to half of the loft is maintained, and the loft could be improved.



OPTION B - Plan

A frameless corner window offers intrigue on the approach to the hall from the main road, upon entering a wide set of bi-fold doors from a raised deck area, you are in a tall voluminous space, as the suspended ceiling has been removed. The porch has been demolished and a new porch further down the building provides a phased entrance into the space, with adjoining storage cupboards.

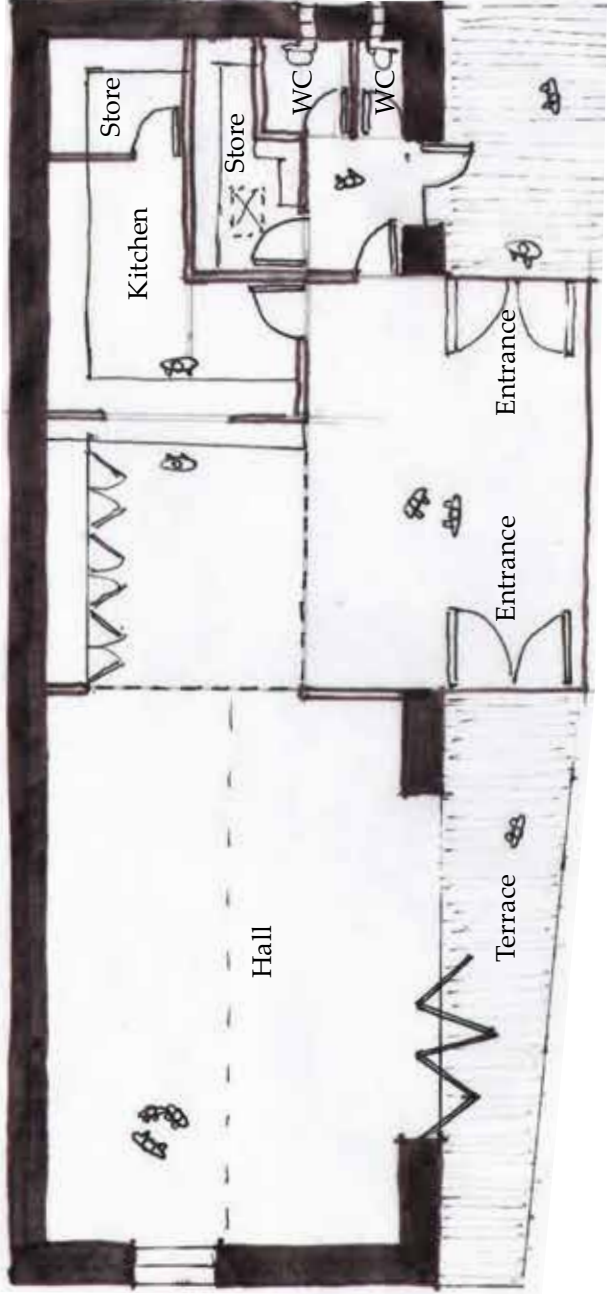
The porch offers a grander entrance through double doors straight off the tarmac path, with large glazing providing light deep into the plan. The kitchen is longer then before with a secure store at the back, and there is a staircase to a loft storage area. The new toilets have a separate entrance when required.



OPTION C - Plan

The existing porch is demolished and replaced with a larger entry building, that resembles a little brother to the main hall, this offers a entry sequence that provides more flexibility for different events and functions. From entering one of two sets of double doors, you are in a high ceiling entrance atrium, with access to the toilets and kitchen. From there you can then pass into an intermediate space

with storage along the wall for chairs and tables, and a large opening through into the kitchen. From there you enter the main hall, where the suspended ceiling has been removed. The toilets similarly have their own entrance terrace, beside the other set of double doors, with a large storeroom or staircase to the loft area in an adjacent space.



PADDINGTON ON THE PROWL AFTER FILM NIGHT DEATH OF VINCENT

The audience of just 13 for *Loving Vincent* on Friday March 23 was a disappointment, especially as several besides myself had predicted a large turn-out for a very modern and different kind of film which had attracted awards at home and abroad as a masterpiece of animation and style.

Even so, we pressed on with plans for another celebrated cartoon-plus-humans presentation this month when we will show *Paddington 2* at the Village Hall. And from initial reaction the signs were good that it would be enjoyed by young and old. The 'PG' rating was a bit of a surprise for what is described as a 'family film' but youngsters are pretty hardened to life these days and we were always confident the 'free for kids' would be popular.

It was screened on lucky Friday April 13 and was always going to be a bit of a tester as to whether to go ahead with another movie in May. That is still under debate.

I did not watch *Loving Vincent* before the show and was able to enjoy it all the more because of the freshness to me. Admittedly, the 'mystery' of Dutch artist Van Gogh's death was not the most suspenseful 'whodunit' ever made but the action was brisk enough and the technology involved in turning artists' framed plates into moving pictures was remarkable.

As you all know, *Paddington 2* stars a teddy bear but it was full of grown-up laughs, a lot of slapstick and even some satire. Many famous faces play the human characters and it didn't matter at all if you hadn't seen *Paddington 1*. You were switched right on to the background and plot in the sequel.

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If we carry on into the summer months it will be, as ever, £3 for seats in all parts, with refreshments included. We made an earlier than usual start for *Paddington 2* because of the children but it will be back to the old 7.30 pm in future. I'm interested to know whether people would rather have an interval with films which generally last about two hours. I know quite a few people get thirsty mid-watch but others like to stay with the action to the bitter end – despite mixed feelings about the comfort (or not) of those Village Hall chairs. I've heard, that we might change them (the chairs, I mean) but there's also talk of changing the layout of the Hall. Please let your parish councillors know your views on that.

For those who cannot make it up to Hall – and, of course, there are plenty of good reasons why people have other commitments – the two latest Film Night showings will also be available for rent at £3 a week (collect and return) and I am happy to provide the full list of movies (127 to date) on request to the email address below.

Bill Pierce

1 Cedarwell Close

T: 07971 611431

E: piercewilliam991@gmail.com

MID-SUMMER CONCERT IN PIDDINGHOE CHURCH IN AID OF THE NEWHAVEN FOOD BANK

Saturday June 23 at 7.30 pm

The Ouse Valley Singers will perform 'Summer Is A Coming In', a celebration of Summer with a medley of music, including Classical, Folk, Pop and Funk.

The Ouse Valley Singers is a local community choir based in Kingston, with members from Lewes, Kingston, Brighton and Newhaven. There will be contributions from local singers, instrumentalists and a student band called 'Funkionalitiy' from Sussex Downs College, Lewes.

All funds raised will go to help support the Newhaven Food Bank. Although we do now receive a small grant from the Newhaven Town Council, for which we are very grateful, we are entirely dependent upon the goodwill of generous donors to restock our shelves. The demand for our services has grown steadily and, with the introduction of Universal Credit in the area this summer, we anticipate that this demand will increase. We do hope that you will support this worthy cause and also have an enjoyable evening.

Tickets will be available on the door, and beforehand from Vanessa Giles at Halyards, or from Christine Bentham at Elderberry House, Court Farm Close.

They will cost £5 but are free for children under 12. There will be a short interval with refreshments available for a small donation. The Village Hall will be open for toilets!

Vanessa Giles

VILLAGE HALL EVENTS

Past: 'Winter Warmer'

Oh the vagaries of the English climate (I think it applies world-wide these days). Last year's 'Winter Warmer' was held at the same time and the weather was almost warm and spring-like, and a cold gazpacho might have been just as appropriate. This year the hot thick soup was just what was needed, or so thought about 30 villagers who appeared to enjoy a very convivial mid-day break with lots of cheer and chatter. The bar helped of course. The soup was 'on the house' and donations amounting to £70 were handed to RISE which stands for Refuge, Information, Support and Education. It started out as the Women's Refuge Project helping those affected by domestic violence in Brighton, Hove and East Sussex. Every year RISE supports over 1800 women and their families to recover and reclaim their lives.

Also past, as we go to press, will be the very traditional Piddinghoe Good Friday skipping – the idea being to lose some weight to make way for the Easter chocolates. However, the hot cross buns with tea/coffee afterwards in the Village Hall just might not help.

Future: Saturday June 30

The BIG get together this year is going to be a 'BIG AFTERNOON TEA' – scones, cream, jam and cakes of course, and to drink – PIMMS.

The date for your diaries is SATURDAY JUNE 30. More details later.

Sheila Redman

PIP

The battle to enable Pip to stay living in Creek Cottage, which she loves so much, was finally lost to Multiple Sclerosis. Pip moved into a Home in Eastbourne on February 28. Many villagers will be aware that her condition had been steadily deteriorating but in February, she lost her ability to carry out nearly all functions without complete help and support, except to sit up, smile, look pretty and do her best to join in on conversations.

She has gone to a very good Home. It is called The Chaseley Trust and it specialises only in residents who have neurological conditions. It is very well run and has marvellous staff. Situated right on the front at Eastbourne, Pip has a view of the sea from her spacious room, which pleases her very much. Even the food is rather good. Chaseley allows pets to visit residents, and Missie has been there a number of times. She has been a very good girl, letting residents pat her, and even licking the noses of some of them, which they loved. It will take some time for Pip to adjust to being there. It is so different from Creek Cottage and Piddinghoe, where she lived for over 12 years. It is a very sad time for both of us, but she is safe and well cared for. Visiting is allowed most times, but we are feeling our way towards the number of visitors she can receive, as she easily gets exhausted. Her closest friends and her family are regular visitors, of course, but a number of villagers have said they would like to go and see her, and I hope to be in a position to arrange that before long.

I would like to thank my neighbours who have been so kind to me since Pip left, and all those who were very helpful when Pip was still living at the cottage. In particular, I must mention Diana and James Stevenson whose constant friendship, help and support did so much to sustain us.

Gill Davies

TENNIS CLUB

Now that Spring is around the corner, it's time to think about trying out a game of tennis. We have a beautiful court on our door step that's crying out to be used, so whether you are a beginner, or a rusty former enthusiast, why don't you give it a go?

It's cheap and easy to become a member (£30 per annum for an adult) and obviously, it's really good for your mental and physical wellbeing!

If you are not sure whether or not you're going to enjoy it, give me a call, get the key to the lock and give it a go for free.

Interested? We may also be able to organise lessons for you with a professional coach. Give me a call, or pop round to have a chat.

I am Mel and I live at Jasmine Cottage. My phone number is 07908 930307.

Melanie Morgan



ART JOTTINGS

It has been a busy time exhibition visiting. But given the weather what better activity to occupy dark cold days.

My favourite was Elizabeth Friedlander (born 1903 died 1984) at the Ditchling Museum. It covered her work and life as a Typographer, Calligrapher and Graphic Designer. Friedlander was best known for her Penguin Book covers and the Baver Type Foundry typeface 'Elizabeth'. The show includes work from her career, typeface, wood engravings, decorative book papers and commercial designs.

Friedlander escaped to London from 1930's Nazi Germany with just her Portfolio and Klotz violin. Her elegant typeface was originally to be called 'Friedlander' but was hastily changed to the anglicised version of her first name to avoid confrontation with Hitler's regime. The typeface was released in different sizes over several years and the final version completed in 1939.

Coming to England on a Domestic Servant Visa she took her portfolio to publisher Francis Meynell to see if she could find more suitable work. This resulted in her working for the newly formed wartime black propaganda unit, producing, among other things, forged Nazi rubber stamps and ration books.

The post-war years were successful for Friedlander seeing her producing commercial works for Shell, *The Times* and BOAC. She continued to design extraordinary covers for Penguin Books throughout her career and examples were shown in her original draft form in the show. Also examples of delightful woodblock personal Christmas cards. It truly was a treat of an exhibition.

I also nipped on a train with a few pals and went to see the David Bomberg exhibition at Pallant House, bumping into David and Marcia from the village who were also there. I was not totally bowled over by it as I found his changing styles rather erratic, from almost cubism to realism. However what I really loved was

catching the tail end of an exhibition of Paula Rego, I adore her work. These were preparatory drawings for her paintings and showed remarkable draughtsmanship.

Lastly went to the Towner Gallery to see an exhibition which was highly recommended to me by an artist friend. It was titled 'Natural Selection' by Father and Son combo Andy and Peter Holden. It is an ornithological journey from the building of bird nests (that was interesting) to the stealing of eggs (that was depressing). There were objects featuring eggs and lots of videos. The very best was a huge willow sculpture of the male nest of the Bowerbird, the male makes it to impress the female, not for her to lay eggs in. It was beautiful and very impressive. Exhibition is free and there is always the jolly café to cheer the spirits.

Gill Autie

PIDDINGHOE BOOK CLUB

Date: Thursday April 26 at 7.30 pm

Venue: Atherfield

Host: David Hallett

Book: 'A Palace Walk' by Naguib Mahfouz

We are continuing our travels. Egypt is our next destination.
Do join us!

If you would like to receive details by email of the Book Club and selected books, please send your email address to Christine at ccbentham@gmail.com or telephone 07944 577774.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH PIDDINGHOE

February's white Candlemas Bells have been replaced by glorious yellow daffodils which prepared us for the Church's gold season of Easter, properly marked here with the Bells rung, Holy Communion celebrated and a festival Anthem sung.



During Holy Week a small team of Villagers had cleaned the Church. The Company, which clears the Churchyard, had mown the Lawns and taken away fallen branches and general debris, so that both our Norman Church and its surrounds looked as beautiful and welcoming as possible. Thank you to everyone who contributed to all this.

The two Ash Trees overhanging the Flint Wall and, in part, the Village Green, have long needed attention: distressed and choked by the increasing weight of ivy, their survival is in doubt. A team from Bonny's Wood, with its tall 'cherry-picker', has removed all the dead timber, severed the ivy and begun to inspect the crown of both trees, which it is feared have ash die-back. When the ivy has withered, the team will return for a final inspection and it may be that one or other or possibly both will have to be removed, after permission from the Planning Office, since this is a Conservation Area.

The Recording Group continues its fascinating work on alternate Mondays and there is an article in this magazine by its Chairman summarising all the Parish Magazines, dating from 1946, which she found in Saint John's and which are now in The Keep. Another find has been a photograph of an exquisite Chalice and Paten, dating from the Sixteenth Century, which the Church lent to a silver exhibition at The Royal Pavilion in 1989 and which is now missing. We very much doubt that the Royal Pavilion has it but have written to check and are also trying to 'break into'

the wall safe in Saint John's, long unopened, which may house it. If any Villager has any expertise in this direction we shall be delighted to have help!

Assistance is needed in other ways not least by Tim Mills who has well over twenty thousand Parishioners in Peacehaven not to mention those in outlying Telscombe and here in Piddinghoe. It is an impossible task and one for which he has long-required a full-time assistant. An Associate Vicar has now been appointed; he will be Licensed to the Benefice at 7.00 pm on Thursday, May 10 at the Church of the Ascension, Peacehaven. All are invited to this Service. In due course he will be added to the rota of Services here at Saint John's and I know will be given a warm welcome.

In the meantime regular Services continue here:
8.00am on Week 2 and 9.30am on Week 4 every month.

Mary Sitwell

HELP PLEASE

Marilyn and Marcia would welcome help with church cleaning please.

At the moment we clean the church once a month, before the service on the fourth Sunday of the month. We do any additional 'tidy up' before a special occasion.

The cleaning is better done in pairs, for moral support and it takes less time! At the moment on the rota we have:

Marcia and Marilyn; Isla and David W.

If you would like to add your name to the rota we would be very grateful. Please contact Marilyn on 01273 513250 or text/call 07715 150527.

Marilyn Gould

ST JOHN'S CHURCH RECORDING GROUP

Church recording continues at St John's and an estimated guess is that we have completed roughly 50 per cent of the work. This is an ancient building with an interesting history, much of it gleaned through reports in parish magazines, over 50 years ago, by a variety of authors.

Several explanations of the name 'Piddinghoe' have been suggested. But the most likely one is that it derived from the name of a Saxon chief, Pedda, who held land hereabouts before the Norman Conquest. There were people there for centuries before that; to the north-west of the village is a long burial mound of the type that preceded the earliest Bronze Age.

Following the Norman Conquest, the name 'Piddinghoe' was included in a list of churches that were given to the Cluniac monks of the Priory of St. Pancras in Lewes. Another record mentions that the church was endowed by Bishop De La Wich in 1252. (Also known as St. Richard of Chichester.)

After the Reformation, Thomas Lord Cromwell, Queen Anne of Cleves and Cardinal Reginald Pole successively held the Advowson (the right of presentation to a benefice) of the Vicarage. In 1537 the church at Piddinghoe was surrendered, with all other possessions of the Priory to Henry VIII. The succession of vicars continued unbroken even if the pattern of worship suffered many changes.

The 1686 survey following a visitation of Bishop John Lake states that St John's had a decayed steeple and a damaged church floor, two cracked bells, an almost unreadable Commandments Board, the lack of a paten or poor box and the churchyard walls were unrepaired. However, in 1724 a further survey was authorised by Bishop Thomas Bowers which stated that St John's was in a decent order, within and without. At that time there were 23 families living in the parish with the living having five acres of glebe (church land), four of which were ploughed and valued

at £7.14s.2d., which realised an annual income, after taxes, of £23.14s.6d. The Benefice of Telscombe was formally united with that of Piddinghoe on April 30, 1877 although the parishes had shared clergy for the previous 150 years.

In 1882 a large restoration programme began, thanks to the benevolence of a lady – Anne Purnell. (She was the widow of William Purnell, daughter of Joseph and Mary-Anne Thompsett.) The Church Diocesan Association also contributed financially. There is a brass memorial plaque in the church to this effect. The south aisle and chancel chapels rose again upon their old foundations which had for generations been buried beneath the accumulating earth of the churchyard. The piers supporting the old round chalk arches that divide the nave from the north aisle were found to be rotten and unsafe, so they had to be rebuilt. The chancel roof was also replaced as the old one was in a dangerous condition.

In November 1882, the restoration programme was sufficiently advanced to permit the reopening of the church by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese. Almost all the windows were filled with stained glass, the gift of friends, and therefore not included in the cost of restoration which reached nearly £2,000.

In May 1975, the proposal to create a new Benefice of Southease, Telscombe and Piddinghoe, following the resignation of the Rector of Rodmell and the church authorities, having decided not to replace him, was agreed. A further change arose in 1994 when on September 4, Southease, Telscombe, Piddinghoe parishes were joined to Peacehaven to form one benefice.

Susan de Angeli

An update provided by Mary Sitwell:

In September 1994 St John's Piddinghoe was joined to the United Benefice of Peacehaven and Telscombe, with Southease going into the Kingston Benefice.

GRASS ROOTS

Concerning Sussex... an eclipsed county?

The last Anglo-Saxon kingdom to be Christianised, Sussex has a centuries-old reputation for being separate and culturally distinct from the rest of England. The people of Sussex too have a reputation for independence of thought and an aversion to being pushed around, as expressed through the Sussex motto, '*We wunt be druw*'. Other regional characterisations include the sharp, shrewd, stubborn Sussex Wealdsman and the more deferential Sussex Downsman.

In 2010 Peter Brandon wrote a book entitled *The Discovery of Sussex*, in which he does not hide his admiration for those who evoke the distinctive Sussex character, and he voices a regret for the demise of the 'traditional' society, believing that 'incomers' are oblivious to the heritage and fail to embrace the culture. Brandon's reviewer Spencer Thomas, who writes for *The Local Historian*, comments that this portrait 'has resonances for all of South East England, and for all places affected by urban growth'.

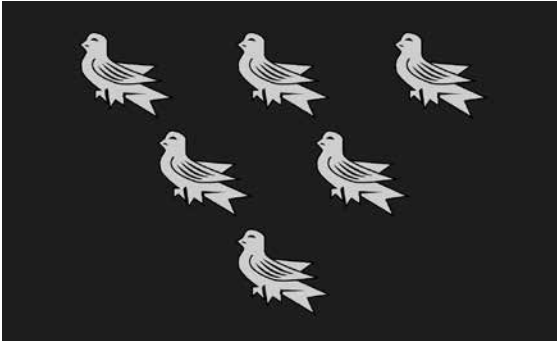
He highlights the work of societies such as the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England and the South Downs Society, which Peter Brandon led at that time. Brandon's concern is for the preservation, protection and return of an 'eclipsed county'. In my opinion Thomas is critical of the author's style and the book's general credibility, suggesting his references may be somewhat lightweight in substance. Interesting and intriguing though. I intend to try and locate this book to decide for myself.

Sussex Day

The feast day of Sussex's patron saint, St Richard of Chichester, June 16, has been observed since 2007 as Sussex Day to celebrate the county's culture and history. St Richard is said to have performed several miracles during his life, such as multiplying food and curing illnesses. He died in 1253 and was buried in Chichester Cathedral. The idea of Sussex Day came from Ian Steedman of Worthing. West Sussex County Council liked the idea and the day became officially recognised.

Maybe you could celebrate the day by flying the Sussex flag, and eating Sussex Pond Pudding, washed down with a pint of Sussex Best. Sounds good to me.

Angie Ridge



PS. And finally... Wikipedia tells me that the Sussex dialect is notable for having an unusually large number of words for mud. I could think of a few more.

THE WHIMBREL

Numenius phaeopus

Getting away from garden birds for this issue, I thought I would share with you a rarer bird, a passage migrant that I happened to spot and photograph on the river bank in Piddinghoe at the end of July 2015. On my walks round the pond with my camera I have seen many birds, and photographed them with varying degree of success!

On the banks of the River Ouse I have seen Egrets, Redshanks, Common Sandpipers, Kingfishers, Gulls of all descriptions and even a fox. In the river I have seen Cormorants fishing and shoals of mullet; not to mention geese on the pond, Canada and Greylag, and Moorhens. However, the sighting of a Whimbrel was rather special, for this one must have been on its way to its wintering grounds in West Africa, or even flying as far as South Africa. Perhaps it had stopped for a snack or two before embarking on its long journey south.

The Whimbrel is a large wading bird, and is a close relation of the Curlew. In fact I thought it was a Curlew until a closer examination of the photo.

Whimbrel and Curlews are very similar. Curlews are not passage migrants; they are resident in this country. They don't have the pale stripe over their eyes, and are generally larger (difficult to tell unless the birds are together) with a longer beak, and can be seen in estuaries and grassland all the year round. Both species have a v shaped white rump, and similar bubbly calls. They both feed on grassland and in muddy estuaries. In Chichester Harbour and Rye Harbour one sees Whimbrels as they travel south and north, as well as their resident populations of curlews.

Whimbrels arrive in Britain between April and May, when they make their way north up the country to the Shetland Isles where they breed. They make a nest on the ground – a shallow scrape

in short vegetation near water – where they lay 3-4 eggs which are incubated by the male and female birds. After hatching, the young are attended by their parents, but amazingly can feed themselves from the word go (on snails, slugs, worms or, in the sea, whelks shrimps, etc.) and can actually fly and are completely independent, after about 35 days. By the end of July, they are ready to make their epic long journey back to Africa, sometimes alone and sometimes in small groups. Some follow the coast and some cross the Sahara. Birds fitted with tracking devices in Iceland are known to make their return journeys to Africa non-stop. How incredible is that?

100 years ago the Whimbrel was nearly extinct in Britain, with only 30 breeding pairs left. Since then numbers have increased considerably but now, like so many birds, are generally in decline. The oldest ringed Whimbrel, to date, was 24 years old.

Julia Clayson



PIDDINGHOE PEOPLE

Mary Masters of Deans Farm Cottages

I can scarcely think of anyone now living in the village who has a better claim to being a 'Piddinghoe Person' than Mary whose long association with it began generations ago. Her maternal grandparents farmed and lived at Hoddern Farm and paternal grandparents lived at both Deans and Court Farms. Mary's parents spread their wings and farmed in Ringmer where she was born and spent her formative years, including working a combine at the age of 13.

Her reasons for leaving Ringmer and the family home? In 1964 she married Bill Masters whose parents farmed at Court Farm. Bill and Mary first lived in Bush Road, Newhaven but when Bill's parents decided to retire in 1969, the two generations swapped addresses and the young people took over Court Farm. It was then a mixed farm with corn, sheep and a suckler herd of cows who used to cross the C7, tramp through the Twitten and then on down the village street snatching a tasty mouthful from newly planted gardens along the way. They then processed in fairly stately fashion via Brookside to their pastures near the Yacht Club. Bill and Mary also reared chickens and turkeys (Christmas was a very busy time) and in their large flint walled veggie patch at the rear of the house they grew potatoes in bulk which were sold on site, in local shops and no doubt in our village shop as well. Two full-time farmhands were employed. Those were the days when harvesting a field took possibly ten days; now it would be combined in one. By the way, it should be mentioned that they had two sons during this time – Paul and Tom.

Mary has always been and will be a very busy lady and just to make sure she didn't ever have any spare time, she was secretary/bookkeeper for various members of her wider family. Bill and Mary parted in 1984 and Court Farm was sold. Mary moved to Deans Farm Cottages where she still lives. She is passionate about working with young people, and Young Farmers' Clubs

have been one of her big 'things'. This she has done in both paid and unpaid capacities and began in 1982 when she undertook training for youth work and counselling skills. She is currently a Development and Training Officer for nine clubs in East and West Sussex. Young members are encouraged in personal development and other skills, including public speaking, with a particular emphasis on farming of course.

In connection with her youth work, Mary was a council member and sometime chairman of the East and West Sussex Council for Voluntary Youth Services.

Eleven years ago, at her suggestion, a 'Connect to the Countryside Day' was organised at the Ardingly Show ground, which has now become an annual event where about 2,500 school children learn where their food originates, how it is processed and in the case of bread, take part in the preparation and cooking and eventual tasting of the finished product. Apart from her youth work, she has been deeply involved with the South of England Agricultural Society for 37 years in many capacities and for this she was given the prestigious 'Fellowship Award' for services to the Society. She has also twice been named 'Personality of the Year' by the Rotary Club for services to the South of England Show and for services to young people.

Mary's C.V. would probably fill the entire *Villager* but particular mention must be made of her craftwork skills which included flower arranging. These were put to incredibly good use in the days when St John's hosted the bi-annual Flower Festival, and she played a huge part in transforming our beautiful Church which was the focus for many Bank Holiday weekend jollies.

Needless to say sons Tom and Paul have both become farmers but have severed connections with Piddinghoe in favour of Seaford and Hambridge in Somerset. Mary now has four grandchildren and indications are that the family traditions of working with and loving the land will pass on to the next generation.

Sheila Redman



THE GREAT PIDDINGHOE BAKE OFF



More delicious recipes from Jill Hentschel

Dutch Apple Pie

Pastry

4 oz plain flour
 ½ tsp caster sugar
 2 ½ oz white fat (cookeen or similar)
 ½ oz butter
 about 2 tbsp very cold water or orange/lemon juice

Filling

A little softened butter
 3 large cooking apples (chopped)
 2 tbsp flour
 1 tbsp cider vinegar
 1 egg
 8 fl oz single cream;
 4 oz caster sugar
 ¾ tsp mixed spice

You will need a deep pie tin about 9" x 2".

1. Preheat oven to 230°C.
2. Line the pie dish with the pastry then brush with softened butter.
3. Sprinkle the flour and cider vinegar over the apples.
4. Beat the egg with the cream, sugar and mixed spice. Stir into the apples and fill the pie shell.

5. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes until the edges of the custard filling begins to brown.
6. Reduce the heat to 180°C, cover the edges with aluminium foil and bake for a further 30-40 minutes until the filling is firm and glossy. Serve warm, not hot.

Strawberry Shortcake

Ingredients

6 oz plain flour
2 ½ tsp baking powder
1 tbsp caster sugar
3 oz white cooking fat
1 egg
2 fl oz milk
2 tbsp melted butter
1 lb washed and sliced strawberries
caster sugar to taste
about ½ pint whipped cream

1. Pre heat oven to 230°C .
2. Sift dry ingredients together and rub in fat lightly.
3. Mix the egg and milk, add to the flour mixture stirring with a fork.
4. Turn onto a floured board and knead lightly ten times.
5. Divide dough into 2 equal portions and pat out (do not roll) to about ½ inch thick circles. Prick all over and bake on an ungreased sheet placed on a baking tray for 8-10 minutes.
6. Brush with melted butter and sandwich together with strawberries, sugar and cream. Serve while still hot.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO 'THE VILLAGER'?

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

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

The deadline for contributions to the next Villager is 8 June.

OPEN DAY AT PLUMPTON COLLEGE

Plumpton College will be hosting its annual Open Day & Spring Fair in association with The Sussex Federation of Young Farmers on Saturday May 12. With many main arena attractions, a craft fair, children's activities and live demonstrations across all departments of the college, from watching our metalsmithing students in action to visiting our farm, it's a great fun-filled family day that everyone can get involved in. There will also be the chance to sample Plumpton's wine, as well as wines from Alumni of the college, and local foods available to enjoy on the day.

Open Day & Spring Fair 10am-5pm. Tickets are £7.50 each, under 16s go free and are available to purchase on the Plumpton College online shop: <https://shop.plumpton.ac.uk/product-catalogue/events/open-day-and-spring-fair/>

For more information, please contact by calling 01273 890 454 or emailing enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk

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