

Clymping Village News



December 2021

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Your Clymping Village News

Welcome to the December 2021 issue, number 84



We all know that the peaceful Clymping Gap is special, and in this issue we are reminded why we need to protect it. Bola Akinola, who has been watching

birds in the Clymping Gap for more than 45 years, takes us along for a three-month journey as he observes and documents the varied and beautiful birdlife on this part of the coast. This article is the first in a series from Bola, and I'm grateful he's offered to share his knowledge and experiences with us.

It's great to see our Community Corner full of activity in this issue. We also have a report from the Yapton WI, which has begun meeting again following lockdown restrictions. Alan Brackley has contributed an update on the Speed Watch team's work, and Colin Humphris discusses the results of the recent consultation on the future of Horsemere Green Lane. On the back page you'll find a map of the proposed layout for Foreman Homes's development south of Horsemere Green Lane.

If you're looking for ways to celebrate Christmas, our local benefice has plenty on offer (see page 9).

Thanks to all our contributors and advertisers. Here's wishing everyone a very happy Christmas.

– *Lisa Eyre, Editor*

Cover photo of a juvenile little owl in Clymping Gap by Bola Akinola

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Please send all submissions and advertising enquiries to **ClympingNewsEditor@gmail.com**. The deadline for the February 2022 issue is 14th January. Submission guidelines can be found at www.clymping.org.uk.

Clymping Village News does not accept any liability for errors, omissions or claims made by or against our contributors. The views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the Parish Council, except where indicated.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Incinerator protest

On 12th November a group of local residents met on Ford airfield to protest against the planning application for a massive incinerator facility proposed by Ford Energy from Waste, Grundon and Viridor. They were joined at the proposed incinerator site by Nick Gibb MP, who represents the Bognor Regis and Littlehampton constituency and has voiced his opposition to the application.

Various elected local officials took part in the gathering. Cllr Jacky Pendleton, who represents our division on West Sussex County Council (WSCC), assured the crowd that she will be speaking against the application when it comes before the WSCC planning committee

on 30th November. Arun District Councillor Amanda Worne also said she would be making a statement against it.

The proposed facility will be 12 storeys high, with two 85-metre-high chimneys, burning 275,000 tons of waste annually. The site will also include a recyclables sorting facility. It will be serviced by hundreds of heavy goods vehicles travelling through Clymping each day.

The protest was organised by Ford resident Michael Tu. He has also set up an online petition called 'Stop the Arun Valley Rubbish Incinerator – A Climate Disaster', which can be found at <https://home.38degrees.org.uk>.

– Lisa Eyre



Protesting against the proposed incinerator at Ford. Photo by Nigel Cull

Harvest Messy Church

Messy Church relaunched at St Mary's Church, Clymping on 9th October, with a theme of Harvest thankfulness. More than 80 people enjoyed the event, including 45 children.

Everyone had a chance to get creative by making potato heads with cress-seed



Leaf collage



Enjoying baked apples

hair and creating animal collages with colourful autumn leaves. Outside, children and grown-ups enjoyed toasting marshmallows, and volunteers helped the children prepare and bake delicious stuffed apples in the fire. Everyone was then invited to plant a daffodil bulb along the front path

to the church, and to label the spot so they can watch their plant's progress until it blooms in the spring. Afterward, we all gathered in the church to hear Rev. Richard Hayes speak about being thankful and to sing a few songs about thankfulness.

It was a wonderfully busy event on a gorgeous autumn day, and the return of Messy Church is something I'm definitely thankful for.

The Messy Church team have some

exciting plans in the works for children of all ages, so keep an eye out for new dates and developments.

The next event will take place on Saturday, 27th November, 3:00–4:15pm. The theme will be Advent, and there will be lots of gift-making opportunities for the children. Come and join us! — Lisa Eyre

Remembrance Day at school

The Remembrance Day service at St Mary's school was particularly special this year. Children in Years 1–6 each received an information card to learn about individuals from Clymping and the close surrounding area who served in the First World War – many of whom tragically lost their lives. Most of these young men had also attended our school when they were children. Having this powerful link to our local history really struck home, and there was a poignant desire for peace.

Children in the Reception class made poppies and a wreath, which we laid at the front of the hall, together with the names and historical photos.

Thanks go to Katie Simmonds for organising all of the named cards with personal stories for every child.

— Aaron Morrissey, Head Teacher, St. Mary's Church of England Primary School



Fun Dog Show

The pandemic has been hard on the Clymping Dog Sanctuary. Before Covid hit, we would spend a lot of time raising funds and awareness at various festivals and fayres, and at Pets at Home, but the pandemic really limited this. What was awesome, however, is that we were still able to hold our Annual Fun Dog Show, which took place on 15th August at Clymping Village Hall.

This year's show was a huge success and our biggest yet. We had 48 stalls featuring



Showing off, making friends and raising funds

local businesses, artists, foods and crafts. We were also able to include the Lions Club and local charity Tyler's Trust, who both had stalls raising funds and awareness for their causes.

The event attracted an incredible 800 visitors and raised a record amount of funds for our dog sanctuary. As a completely donation-funded charity, every penny we make goes towards the care and rehoming of our dogs, so this just meant the world to us, and we want to thank everyone who took the time to come and join in on the fun.

Now that things are opening back up, we are getting out and about again, and you will often find us at Littlehampton Market, Littlehampton Town Artisan Market and many more. If you ever see us, please come and say hello, and maybe pick up a treat for your own four-legged friend.

If you are interested in supporting us further, please pop over to our website, where you can sponsor a kennel or simply donate: www.clympingdogsanctuary.co.uk.

Or, if you want to get your hands dirty, why not join our volunteer team, where you can get involved in activities such as walking our pups or helping with our fund-raising. — *Clymping Dog Sanctuary Team*





Benefice Sunday School

Meets 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at
St Mary's Church, Yapton, 11am–12pm



Fantastic craft, stories, quizzes, games, birthdays, prayers,
parties – with getting to know God in the mix!

We offer a warm welcome to children from Reception to
Years 7/8. For information on how to register, contact Kathy
in the church office: cyffoffice@tiscali.co.uk

We prioritise the safeguarding of children and young people, so
registration is essential. Adult helpers are DBS checked.

"My boys really enjoyed Sunday school – awards, crafts, lots of treats" ...
"The girls had a blast!" ... "We all love Sunday school" ... "We had a great time."

Dee West Yoga

My beginner and intermediate yoga
class meets at Clymping Village
Hall on Saturdays, 9:00–10:00am.
Each session is £7 (drop-in).

There are many good reasons to
practise yoga: it is simple to learn,
it's safe, it gives you energy, it
improves your flexibility, and it
improves focus and balance.

I hold a YA200hr Yoga Diploma and
am fully insured.

For more information, please
contact me on 07816 460992.





Organised by
St. Marys
Church Yapton



Christmas



FREE
Santa's Grotto*

Fair



- Meet Santa*
- Crafts & Stalls
- Refreshments
- Raffle
- Carol singing
- Preloved toy and book sale
- & more!

18
DECEMBER
1.00-4.00PM

At Yapton & Ford Village Hall, Yapton BN18 0ET

*no booking required for Santa's Grotto

RECTOR'S NOTE

Rev. Richard Hayes invites you to Christmas services at St Mary's.

Christmas is coming! And we hope that St Mary's Church will be able to play an important role in our village celebrations this year. We are planning to host our traditional round of services, but we recommend you keep an eye on our website (www.cyfchurches.org.uk) and social media just in case advice changes through December.

As some of you will know, I've had a bout of Covid recently and so feel experienced enough to say that the last thing any of us want is for the virus to upset any of our plans for Christmas – with friends, family, community and church.

At church we will do our best to miti-

gate things, primarily by wearing masks at all services and cleaning hands. It would be amazing if you could even take a lateral flow test before you come. We're doing this because we don't want to have to limit numbers or ask people to book ahead of time, so I'll be looking for some excellent Christmas masks this year... We might even have a special prize!

We missed you last Christmas, so join us for any of our special celebration services this year.

Rev. Richard Hayes is Rector of the Benefice of Clymping and Yapton with Ford.

Hope to see you this Christmas!

Advent Messy Church

Saturday, 27th November
3:00–4:15pm
at St Mary's Clymping

Carol Service

Sunday, 19th December,
4pm at St Mary's Yapton
and
7pm at St Mary's Clymping

Nativity Service

Friday, 24th December
3pm at St Mary's Yapton

Christingle

Friday, 24th December
5:15pm at St Mary's Clymping

Midnight Benefice Communion

Friday, 24th December
11:30pm at St Mary's Yapton

Family Service

Sunday, 25th December
9:30am at St Mary's Yapton

Informal Communion Service

Sunday, 25th December
10am at St Mary's Clymping

CHURCH SERVICES

NOVEMBER 2021 SERVICES

21st	Family Service	Yapton	9:30am
	All Age Communion	Clymping	11am
25th	Holy Communion	Ford	10am
28th	Parish Communion	Yapton	9:30am
	Parish Communion	Clymping	11am
	Benefice Sunday	Yapton	11am-12
	School		

DECEMBER 2021 SERVICES

2nd	Holy Communion	Ford	10am
5th	Family Service	Yapton	9:30am
	All Age Communion	Clymping	11am
9th	Holy Communion	Ford	10am
12th	Parish Communion	Yapton	9:30am
	Parish Communion	Clymping	11am
	Benefice Sunday		
	School	Yapton	11am-12
16th	Holy Communion	Ford	10am
19th	No morning service	Yapton	
	Said Communion	Clymping	11am
	Carol Service	Yapton	4pm
	Carol Service	Clymping	7pm
23rd	No service at Ford		
24th	Holy Communion	Ford	10am
	Nativity	Yapton	3pm
	Christingle	Clymping	5:15pm
	Midnight Benefice		
	Communion	Yapton	11:30pm
25th	Family Service	Yapton	9:30am
	Informal Communion	Clymping	10am
26th	Said Benefice		
	Communion	Yapton	9:30 am

JANUARY 2022 SERVICES

2nd	Family Service	Yapton	9:30am
	All Age Communion	Clymping	11am
6th	Holy Communion	Ford	10am
9th	Parish Communion	Yapton	9:30am

	Parish Communion	Clymping	11am
	Benefice Sunday		
	School	Yapton	11am-12
13th	Holy Communion	Ford	10am
16th	Family Service	Yapton	9:30am
	All Age Communion	Clymping	11am
20st	Holy Communion	Ford	10am
23th	Parish Communion	Yapton	9:30am
	Parish Communion	Clymping	11am
	Benefice Sunday		
	School	Yapton	11am-12
27th	Holy Communion	Ford	10am
30th	Benefice Service	Yapton	9:30am

FEBRUARY 2022 SERVICES

3rd	Holy Communion	Ford	10am
6th	Family Service	Yapton	9:30am
	All Age Communion	Clymping	11am
10th	Holy Communion	Ford	10am
13th	Parish Communion	Yapton	9:30am
	Parish Communion	Clymping	11am
	Benefice Sunday		
	School	Yapton	11am-12
17th	Holy Communion	Ford	10am
20th	Family Service	Yapton	9:30am
	All Age Communion	Clymping	11am
24th	Holy Communion	Ford	10am
28th	Parish Communion	Yapton	9:30am
	Parish Communion	Clymping	11am
	No Sunday School (half term)		



Organisations

The WI is back in action

Linda Collis shares news of Yapton Village Women's Institute and invites you to join in the fun.

After the past 18 months of disrupted life, Yapton Village Women's Institute is back meeting again in the Village Hall. Our members first got back together in August with an outdoor picnic, followed by a social morning in the hall in September so that we could all reconnect, meeting friends and planning our programme for the coming year.

During lockdown the committee had kept in contact with all members by making regular telephone calls and producing a chatty monthly magazine containing stories, recipes, jokes, a quiz and items of interest.

The October meeting was our AGM, and after all formalities were completed and a refreshing coffee, we had a short talk on the importance of screening for cervical cancer. This was given by GRACE, a charity working with specialists to improve the outcome of this easily missed cancer.

Our group's twenty-third birthday falls in November. Our speaker is James Weston and we are 'going back to the sixties' with memories and music from the time. To add to the enjoyment, members

are asked to bring photos of the time and to dress in clothes of the period, if they should have them. There was some amusement at our meeting when someone responded to this suggestion by saying, "If we had them, we probably couldn't get into them."

In December we'll have a talk by Malcolm Wells MBE, a former member of the military who played with the Army band and performed at many functions, including at Buckingham Palace. He is now involved with Dogs for the Disabled.

On Saturday, November 20th we are holding a Tabletop Sale in Yapton Village Hall from 10:30am to 2pm. Entry is free. There will be a variety of items for sale, including crafts and bric-a-brac, plus a cake stall and refreshments.

We are a friendly, thriving group of 45 members participating in various activities, and we warmly welcome new members. We meet in Yapton Village Hall from 10am to 12pm on the third Tuesday of each month, apart from December, when it's the second Tuesday due to Christmas.

If you would like to join us, please contact our president, Maggie Brackley, on 07789 790706, or e-mail president@yaptonvillagewi.co.uk. We will make you feel among friends.

Linda Collis is Secretary of Yapton Village WI.

PARISH COUNCIL



Nadine Phibbs, Clerk of the Council, introduces the Council's redesigned website.

I am very pleased to announce that the new Clymping Parish Council website is now live on the Internet, with up-to-date information for public view, at <http://www.clymping.org.uk/>.

The website is divided into different sections to help with navigation. The 'Home' page gives some geographical background for the village and details of a few places of interest within the community.

The 'Parish Council' and 'Full Council Meetings' sections contain information about Parish Councillors and the associated agendas and minutes. The 'Parish Council' section also contains the

neighbourhood plan, emergency plan, council finance information and the *Clymping Village News*.

Within the 'Local Information' section you will find an 'I want to...' page, which provides contact details for our West Sussex County Councillor and Arun District Councillors, as well as links to Arun District Council and West Sussex County Council pages to find out information and report various issues.

Also under the 'Local Information' section are details of the halls to hire within the village, as well as information about Clymping beach and the work that the Environment Agency carry out

there. The section also includes a 'Planning Applications' page, which contains links to recent applications specific to Clymping.

The 'Contact' section enables residents to make comments or enquiries direct to the Parish Clerk.

We certainly hope that you will find the website interesting and useful.



The new look of the Clymping Parish Council website

CHAIRMAN'S VIEW



Colin Humphris writes about maintaining your say on the development of the village.

A big thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the **Horsemere Green Lane (HGL) consultation** and return it. On page 24 you will find a report of the results, which I'm sure will interest you. We are already using the feedback in our discussions with Arun District Council (ADC) and West Sussex County Council Highways. The next stage is to find funding for a detailed design study to upgrade the lane for residents and non-vehicle users. This would then be subject to formal consultation with HGL users.

These and other concerns of Clymping residents continue to form part of our **discussions with Foreman Homes**. Foreman submitted the second planning application for the 300 homes south of HGL, covering the detailed design of the proposed development – the so-called 'reserved matters'. The progress of this application can be viewed as application CM/48/21/RES on the ADC website (www.arun.gov.uk/planning-application-search). The development layout is included on page 30 of this issue for your perusal and information.

The Parish Council have raised concerns over matters of detail, and I'm aware that the drainage engineers have also raised significant questions. You will probably notice further drainage testing

on the field over the winter months. It is unclear at this stage when this second application will go to the ADC Planning Committee for consideration.

On the topic of drainage, the Parish Council is also aware of ADC concerns about **drainage along HGL** following the various housing developments underway – surprise, surprise! I expect that works will be needed to clear the ditches and improve the culverts along the lane, in particular to the west of the Langford estate and on into the HGL pond.

The Parish Council continues to monitor **developments at the site of the old Farm Shop** (now home to Maidenhead Aquatics, The Arundel Gardener and the Bald Kitchen) closely, given the recent planning and enforcement history of this site. Our concern has been the appropriateness of the proposed developments in this rural area, the access onto the A259 and the impact on the setting of the adjacent grade II listed cottage. The drive-through and café is approved by ADC. The application for modifications to the main building and surroundings was recently withdrawn, as an element was unacceptable to ADC. This will likely be resubmitted in modified form. The installed awning and office for a car wash was refused and is subject to a removal notice.

To help you all keep up to date and

to make Parish Council matters more accessible to you, Nadine Phibbs, our Clerk, has done a terrific job with the design of the **new Parish Council website** (<http://www.clymping.org.uk/>). Please give us your feedback, because we want it to be helpful to you.

The membership of the Parish Council has undergone some change. I want to thank Stuart Weatherley and Harry Ward for their work on the Council; both are moving away from Clymping. I want to welcome David Miranda and Henry Burrell, who have stepped forward to join the Council. Two vacancies remain if you would like to be more involved.

Finally, I and the Parish Council would like to wish you the very best for Christmas and the new year. Hopefully with care, common sense and the vaccination programme, we can all celebrate more fully this year; fingers crossed!

Colin Humphris is Chairman of Clymping Parish Council. Tel: 01903 733848

Interested in becoming a Parish Councillor?

We'd like to hear from you!

E-mail clympingpc@gmail.com for information about the co-option process and the duties of a Parish Councillor.



Parish Council Members

Henry Burrell

South Clymping Street,
BN17 5RQ
01903 718755

Ann Findlay

5 Crophorne Drive.
BN17 5GG
01903 732574

Christine Gillott

35 May Close,
BN17 5TF
07931 125854

Colin Humphris (Chairman)

16 Crophorne Drive,
BN17 5GG
01903 733848

David Miranda

20 The Hamlet, Waterford Gardens,
BN17 5RY
07768 981923

Two vacancies

Parish Clerk

Nadine Phibbs

25 Fittleworth Garden,
Rustington
BN16 3EW
07776 194192
E-mail: clympingpc@gmail.com

Parish Council website

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

BEACH REPORT

The Environment Agency provides an update on the beach.



(Above and below) Shingle material being positioned on the flood defence by Environment Agency officers.

In October the Environment Agency completed some shingle recycling work at Clymping beach. Working with Littlehampton Harbour Board, we reused 1,500 tonnes of shingle which had been cleared from the mouth of the River Arun.

To distribute the shingle material most effectively, it was deposited at the western car park behind the existing flood wall. Our inspections had shown that this section was much narrower and more vulnerable to overtopping by the tides.

In the week following completion of the works, the sea conditions and tide levels were such that flood alerts were issued between 19th and 21st October, and on 7th November (which was the copy deadline for this newsletter).

We closely monitored the defences for any potential impact during this period. Happily the strengthened defences coped,



apart from some minor overtopping near Bread Lane.

Forward look

With limited funding available we have still managed to shore up and bolster the sea defences in preparation for some of the highest tides of the year, and into 2022.

Over the winter we will continue to monitor the beach and will issue flood alerts and flood warnings as necessary. Should coastal erosion rates increase, we have the necessary permissions if we need to look at placing more shingle over the end of Climping Street.

As the possibility of further storm conditions increases over the winter, we will regularly inspect the sea defences for signs of deterioration and endeavour to make any exposed structures safe.

Flood risk

We recommend that anyone whose property might be flooded to register with our free flood warning service.

To receive flood warnings, please call the Environment Agency Floodline on 0345 988 1188.

Information on what to do in a flood is available online at <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/what-to-do-in-a-flood>.

For the most up-to-date information on flooding, please go to our website: <http://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/warnings>.

Contact

If you have any comments, questions or queries about Clymping beach, please e-mail us at SSDEnquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Leave the earth as you find it

by Lin Lundie

Under the darkling
green man speaks
oak leaves in his mouth

adders spit
long tongued
slide, secret
whispering...

fireweed and foxglove
snatch sunlight
where woodbine
winds round
fallen trees

do not pierce the earth
disturb the mould
send owls flying white away
disturb the magic

take care, for
tendrils may
tie your arms,
korou of bracken
grow into your dreams
on windy nights
when sighing
and sougning
is too loud
to bear

The Birds of

Clymping Gap



Pied flycatcher (left) and redstart in the back hedges along Ferry Road. All photos in this article by Bola Akinola except where indicated.

By Bola Akinola

The Clymping Gap, with its many different habitats and rich variety of flora and fauna, is an ideal spot for both migrant birds and those who are looking to breed. It has been of interest to many local birders for over 50 years, as it is one of the few underdeveloped sites along the South Coast.

I've enjoyed watching birds in this area since 1974, when school friends introduced me to the hobby. I've been documenting my sightings since 1994, and in 2009 I started my current blog at <https://climbingbirds.blogspot.com>. By

sharing some of my observations with you in the pages of this newsletter, I hope to engender an appreciation of the fascinating birdlife found right outside your window, and maybe even inspire you to do some bird watching of your own.

The Clymping Gap stretches from the mouth of the River Arun in the east to Poole Place near Elmer in the west, and up to the A259 in the north. The area includes the dunes at West Beach, which are designated as a Local Nature Reserve. These, along with a number of other features dotted throughout the landscape,

attract and support a diverse range of bird species.

In a series of articles over the next few issues, I plan to offer a glimpse into the birdlife of the Clymping Gap throughout the year by presenting my sightings in the form of a journal. We start with the late summer and autumn months.

August

By August, most species have bred, and this is the month when they start to leave their breeding grounds. Swifts are one of the earliest species to depart our shores. Early in the month, we saw an influx of Mediterranean gulls, with more than



This Mediterranean gull was bred in Holland and is in its third cycle year.



Juvenile little owl



Lapwing in the set-aside

350 recorded along Clymping beach on the 9th. Some of them showed a ring around their legs, indicating where the birds have bred and reared as chicks.

Little owls appear to have successfully bred again this year, with at least two or three being seen throughout the month. Good

numbers of wheatears, which are mainly ground-dwelling birds, were present along the beach on the 16th, and a lapwing was spotted to the north of Clymping beach in the set-aside left by the local farmer this year.

A bird-ringing session was undertaken in the horse paddock in Bread Lane this month, conducted by licensed ringers Clare and Sue, from Brighton. This was to my knowledge the first ever ringing session in the area, and hopefully not the last. A total of 29 birds were ringed, including good numbers of willow warblers and a female redstart.

When ringed birds are subsequently 'recovered' (temporarily caught), a range of data can be gathered and recorded. The rings help to establish where the birds migrate to and spend their winters, as well as when they moult. Local recoveries can detect any weight gains or losses in a short space of time.

The 24th was another good day, with a pied flycatcher and a redstart seen in



Mist net in the horse paddock to capture birds for ringing



Willow warbler in the net



Redstart captured for ringing

the back hedges along Ferry Road. Good numbers of yellow wagtails were moving through the fields, along with a single yellowhammer and 200 linnets (type of finch) in fields north of Littlehampton Golf Club.

On the 25th I had the pleasure of birding with Renaud Flamant, who manages the data for the European ringing recovery project. We spent the morning looking for Mediterranean gulls, in particular looking at those showing coloured rings on their legs. The colour of ring indicates in which country the birds were bred. We saw around 500 Mediterranean gulls and read a total of 29 rings.

There were many birders in the area on the 29th, and a good variety of birds were seen. Highlights included a grasshopper warbler, a tree pipit and ten whinchats, with the latter taking advantage of the margins and the farmer's set-aside. There were also good numbers of yellow wagtails, a



Yellow-legged gull. Photo by Richard Grimmet

yellow-legged gull seen in the mouth of the Arun in the early morning, and a hobby (a type of falcon) spotted to the north over

the old campsite off Bread Lane.

The last day of the month produced good numbers of wheatears and whinchats, six knots (a type of wading bird) flying east past West Beach, which was a nice surprise, and a greenshank (also a wading bird) that has been heard and seen throughout the month.

September

September started with bang, as a wryneck was found at the back of the Littlehampton golf course. It was seen until the 5th but was generally elusive. This is a scarce species be-



Wryneck at the golf course. Photo by Michael Booker

longing to the woodpecker family but is seen annually in the area. Wagtails were on the move early in the month, with 22

grey wagtails seen moving east on the 4th, good numbers of whinchats present and 300 linnets feeding on the rape seed in the fields.

Waders and shore birds are underrecorded in this area. A pond or scrape that holds water would create a suitable habitat for them. Hopefully the new set-aside at Clymping beach can help with this. The shingle bank at the beach is not 100 per cent efficient, and during high tides and strong winds water leaks into the set-aside. If the land holds water, it will give these species a suitable resting area without disturbance.

In most years one or two rare birds are seen in the area, and this occurred on the 16th when a short-toed lark spent the day in the set-aside at Clymping. The short-toed lark is a smaller type of lark than the skylark. It does not breed in the UK as the skylark does, and one hadn't been recorded in Sussex since 2008. Unfortunately, it was not seen the next day.

On the 18th four eiders flew east along the beach, and the first returning winter

brent geese flew west. Later in the month, 17 curlew were seen along the beach at low tide, which was a good number, as well as 43 oystercatchers. Both curlew and oystercatchers are wading birds that spend the winter on the coast.

With the notable movement of passerines (perching birds) this month, birds of prey numbers have increased. Peregrines were seen daily in September, as well as sparrowhawks and kestrels, all looking for the weak and tired that would provide easy kills.

October

On the 3rd there were good numbers of meadow pipits, with linnets around the fields and swallows moving through. A spotted flycatcher made an appearance around Atherington. Wheatears still occupied the set-aside and West Beach. One grey partridge was in the field south of longwood, off the western corner of the golf course. This was the first I'd personally seen this autumn, followed by three seen later in the paddock.

The 7th was grey and overcast, with a southwest breeze. Hundreds of brent geese were moving west offshore. A brambling, which is a type of finch, was spotted in the Bailiffscourt, and another the next day over the paddock. Reed bunting numbers increased and prevailed throughout the month.

On the 11th there was good passage of common birds, including over 50 magpies,

9 jays and 40 chiffchaffs. I spoke with locals who had reported finding a dead barn owl in the area, so it was a total surprise to see a daytime owl sitting in the paddock the next day – a very rare occurrence for the area, but not unheard of. I also saw my first rock pipits of the autumn, a grey wagtail in the set-aside and a merlin chasing meadow pipits west along Clymping beach.

Yellowhammers, which were once a common farmland bird but whose numbers have dwindled, have been recorded throughout this year, so hopefully they can re-establish themselves.

A flock of 35 barnacle geese, not usually seen in the area, flew west on the 21st, and the first short-eared owl was watched coming in off the sea at Clymping beach. There was also a late wheatear in the set-aside.

No two autumns are the same, but as October

nears its end, it certainly feels birds are moving later. We are definitely not seeing the number of firecrests and goldcrests that we would generally see this time of year. (These are winter visitors that live in woodland around the UK.) I ask myself whether this is a general decline in the number of birds, or just a seasonal variation.

Bola Akinola's blog, The Birds of Climping Gap & Lower Arun Valley, can be found at <http://climpingbirds.blogspot.com>.



Chiffchaff



Rock pipit

SCHOOL NEWS

Mr Morrissey says St Mary's 150th anniversary event was a big success, and a pupil reports on the festivities.

This autumn term has been wonderful in school as we get back to doing all the things that the Covid restrictions did not allow us to do. Having the whole school back together for playtimes and collective worship has been fantastic, as children regrow bonds and friendships across different year groups – something that is fast returning to being a real strength of our school community.

Returning to school in September, we were blessed with beautiful weather for the first few weeks. With the lifting of many Covid restrictions, we were once again permitted to have gatherings outdoors at school. This meant we could finally celebrate our 150th anniversary together as a school community.

The celebration event is described below by Izzy, a Year 5 pupil:

On 24th September 2021, St Mary's celebrated their 150th anniversary together with friends, family and past students.

The celebration started with a brilliant performance by all the schoolchildren. They sang songs and talked about the school's history. There were lots of traditional Victorian games, such as welly wanging, skittles and ring toss. Welly wanging is a game where you throw a welly as far as you can. There also was a

bottle tombola, and raffle prizes were drawn. A Year 5 pupil reported that this was the best day ever!

In the school hall, there was an exhibition of the work the children had completed all about the history of the school, and in particular about the Victorian era, in which the school started. Normanby class compared periods in the school's



The cake table at the celebration, laden with treats



Families gathered to watch the children's performance

history, Jenkins class displayed models of Victorian schools, houses and farms, and there was lots of artwork from the children as well. Some of the most interesting facts about the school's history were that one of the classrooms used to be the head teacher's house, and there was once a bomb shelter at the school.

Mr Morrissey, the current head teacher, said, "It was lovely to see everyone together again as a school community after such a long time of not being allowed."

The school can't wait to celebrate together more in the future.

— Izzy, Year 5



The children's displays explored the school's history and the Victorian era.

All the children in school had spent the summer term learning about the history of St Mary's school, some of the history of our community and that of the Victorian era – particularly in relation to children in our area. The following are some of the more fascinating facts about our school which the children enjoyed learning about:

- The school was originally only what is now the hall, and the head teacher lived in a house attached to it (which is now the Langley room, medical room and staff room).
- The toilets were outside!
- During the Spanish flu outbreak, children in the school were taught how to make their own masks.
- During the Second World War, there was an air raid shelter at the school.
- There were lots of different extensions added over the years as the school grew.

The anniversary celebration event was also great for me as the head teacher to meet a number of previous staff, governors and long-standing supporters from the local community who joined us on the day.

We are also pleased to be able to have community volunteers back in helping us – in particular with our Reading Champions – most of whom are from the St Mary's Church congregation.

We look forward to a fantastic Christmas season together as a school.

Aaron Morrissey is head teacher at St Mary's Church of England Primary School in Clymping.

Speed Watch Group

Monitoring HGL

Alan Brackley reports on recent efforts to deter speeders on Horsemere Green Lane.

The Climping Community Speed Watch group was in action in Horsemere Green Lane (HGL) on five occasions in September and October, mostly early mornings or at the end of the afternoon. On each occasion, an average of 20 motorists were caught speeding in excess of 35 miles per hour, which has resulted in their being reported to Operation Crackdown, an initiative run by Sussex Police and the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership.

Unfortunately, whilst there have been many very positive comments and reactions from local residents, certain drivers have been abusive, and there have been some quite offensive comments on social media, with most of them seeming to have come from people who feel it is their right to break the speed limit when using HGL as a 'rat-run'!

Vehicles recorded include a whole range of private and commercial vehicles, motorcycles and, perhaps the most surprising, a refuse truck that was clearly over the weight limit for the lane and was not serving the local area.

The council are continuing to monitor traffic along HGL via a Speed Indicator

Device, and unfortunately the volume of traffic recorded on a daily basis continues to rise, with a consequent increase in the number of drivers exceeding 35 mph. The most recent data, taken in mid-October over an eight-day period, showed 1,904 vehicles travelling at 35 mph+; 563 at 40 mph+; 133 at 45 mph+; 25 at 50 mph+; 2 at 60 mph+; and one at 75 mph! This is an average of 250 speeding vehicles a day along a road that has a 30 mph limit, no pavements in places and no cycle path!

With the support of Arun District Councillor Amanda Worne and the police, the Speed Watch team and Parish Council will continue to monitor the ever-increasing amount of speeding traffic in the hope that the more information that can be collected, the greater the possibility we will have of persuading the local authorities that action needs to be taken *now*.

Our neighbours in Climping Street have now established a similar Speed Watch group to monitor the speed of traffic in their equally narrow and dangerous road. They have completed their training and will soon be active. If you are interested in joining either group, please contact Ewout Benschop on ewout.benschop@gmail.com.

Alan Brackley is a member of the Climping Community Speed Watch group.

Consultation results

The future of Horsemere Green Lane



Colin Humphris discusses responses to the recent survey regarding options for Horsemere Green Lane.

Very many thanks for all the responses the Parish Council received to the Horsemere Green Lane survey which was included the August issue of the *Clymping Village News*. There is clearly a high level of concern about the current state of affairs and real worries about the future for Horsemere Green Lane (HGL).

We received 76 responses in total, with 63 of them being returned paper questionnaires and 13 scanned and e-mailed. Although the survey was available to all Clymping residents, all responses bar one were from those living on or along Horsemere Green Lane. For those living on or along the lane, the response rate was 34% of homes, which is high for a survey, especially one requiring the return of a paper copy by hand or by scanning and e-mailing.

The results provide important insights that will inform the ongoing discussions between the Parish Council (PC), Arun District Council (ADC) and West Sussex

County Council (WSCC) Highways, who have already requested the full survey report. The full report will shortly be available on the new PC website (<http://www.clymping.org.uk/>).

Responses

All the survey responders were car users, with a majority also using the lane on foot. There was a reasonable percentage of cyclists, a small number of motorcyclists and one mobility scooter user.

Residents were asked about their concerns and to rate these from 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest concern. In summary, there were high levels of concern for the following (the average scores are in brackets):

- Existing volumes of traffic (4.76)
- The speed of existing traffic (4.87)
- Safety for those walking or cycling (4.51)
- The insufficiency of existing traffic calming measures (4.66)
- The dangers of the HGL junction with Church Lane (4.64). Residents remain very concerned about visibility exiting HGL into Church Lane.

Ninety-five per cent of residents felt they were aware of the future developments

planned for the surrounding area. All felt traffic levels in HGL will increase significantly in the future, with 97% feeling that this will adversely affect their safety and/or quality of life. There was 100% support for a new investigation into what might be done to protect HGL in the future.

Options for the future

The PC's stated vision as laid out on the survey was that 'Horsemere Green Lane should be upgraded to provide "access only" for residents in order to stop rat-running, with a multiuser pathway for pedestrians, cyclists etc. provided along its length.'

Residents were asked to consider four conceptual options, each with a continuous multiuser pathway along the length of HGL:

Option A – a complete closure (blockage) of HGL at some point along its length.

Option B – make HGL a one-way street (east to west), narrowing the carriageway for vehicles to allow space for a segregated multiuser pathway along the length of the lane.

Option C – create a new traffic order for HGL to become an 'access only' street and

enforce it by creating an electronic enforcement system using automatic number plate recognition technology (ANPR).

Option D – make HGL an ultralow-speed route (10 or 15 mph) with specific new walking and cycling areas designated within the highway.

In thinking about these options, residents were asked to assume that improvements at the Oystercatcher and Church Lane junctions will be implemented.

Residents were asked to rank the

options in their order of support – first, second, third, fourth or 'not acceptable'.

Options A and C were preferred, although there was a broad spread of opinions.

Option A had the highest number of first

preferences but also the most 'not acceptable' responses, mainly due to the perceived inconvenience. A number saw this as the only solution to rat-running. One suggestion was to block the lane between May Close and Appletree Walk, using the junction areas as the turning points/hammer heads. One responder commented that blockage had been proposed before and roundly rejected. Most concerns were about inconvenience, the lack of alternatives if the A259 is blocked, the safety of the Church Road junction and a lack of



Horsemere Green Lane, facing west from May Close

belief that WSCC will do anything about the Oystercatcher junction. There were a number of suggestions for a mini roundabout or traffic lights at the Church Lane junction and a reduction of the speed limit in Church Lane to 30 mph.

Option C was felt to be the least disruptive but technologically complex, and some doubted it was enforceable. It was the least contentious but also probably the least understood.

Option B had support but was seen as dependent on improvements to the Oystercatcher junction.

Option D was considered unenforceable, as people speed today, with the 30 mph limit.

The proposal for a continuous multi-user pathway was seen as important in all the options. The need to address the difficulties of the HGL junction with Church Lane is common to all the options except Option B.

Conclusions

There is a very high level of concern about Horsemere Green Lane today, and a ner-

vousness about the future. These concerns are about the loss of residential amenity and the safety of residents living on or along the lane.

This translates into a high level of support for a revised lane format that provides residents' access only and also a continuous safe and convenient route for non-vehicle users.

There were strong supporters and detractors for all the options considered so far, but the complete blockage of the lane (effectively involving its conversion to two cul-de-sacs) and a technological approach to restricting use emerged as the most favoured options. The junction with Church Lane also has to be addressed.

The next stage will be to commission a detailed design study and formal consultation on the preferred option(s) based on cost and feasibility, and this discussion is ongoing with ADC and WSCC.

Colin Humphris is chairman of Clymping Parish Council.

Was your child born between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018?

If so, they are eligible to start school in 2022.

West Sussex County Council urges you to apply online at www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions before the deadline of Saturday, 15th January 2022.

Applications made after the closing date cannot be considered until all on time applications have been processed. Further information for parents is available at www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions, or phone 03330 142903.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR



Jacky Pendleton discusses a range of issues, including services, roads, veterans' clubs and the environment

I'm writing this with the sun streaming through the windows. However, as soon as I open the door, it's freezing outside. I suppose it's quite refreshing to have the cooler weather, but it also marks the fact that we are heading into winter, with all the weather issues that might bring.

As you know, we have recently had some really odd storms that feel like a rain cloud has burst over our heads. I've certainly found it very useful to have the severe weather warnings coming through from the Met Office, as at least it seeks to prepare you to batten down the hatches. If you'd like to subscribe and get the link yourself, you can enquire at enquiries@metoffice.gov.uk or metoffice@service.govdelivery.com

The planning application for an enlarged **incinerator at Ford** is scheduled to come forward to West Sussex County Council (WSCC) Planning Committee for consideration on 30th November. I will be speaking against the proposal, as will a number of our local residents and parish councils who have objected to the application.

Even though I have offered my support, there has been little progress in forming a group of people who would like to work towards retaining the **Children and Family Centre at Yapton**. If you are interested in keeping this as a facility and would like to become a part of helping to do that, please let me know.

The plans for the **improvements on the A259** from Hoe Lane through to Morrisons in Littlehampton are still with the Department of Transport (DoT). As I understand it, the DoT have a number of applications from around the country and ours is 'on the list'. I was speaking to a highways engineer a few days ago and he was hoping to hear soon on progress, so I'll keep you in touch whenever I can.

Children's Services and Fire Services, both run by WSCC, are continuing to make progress in improving their delivery. The Fire Services in particular are making a lot of effort in seeking to help residents to protect their properties, and they will come out to you to give advice if requested.

I am currently focusing on helping our **military veterans** to thrive in our communities by setting up breakfast clubs where anyone who has served can get together with like-minded people, share their experiences and raise any issues they might have regarding their serving years. If any of my residents would like more information on these clubs, or would like to help set up a more local group, please get in touch and we can talk about how to go about it.

One of the key issues of late to come in sideways is the appalling conditions being experienced on **local roads** because of housing developments. I am working with your local Parish Council and Highways and Transport Group to address various

issues, including speeding and 'rat running' along our village lanes.

Lastly, I would like to say a bit about our **environment**, as the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow this month has brought environmental and climate change issues close to home. We should all be aware of the issues this planet is facing, and I would urge each of you to do whatever you can to minimise your use of plastic, minimise your carbon

footprint, and to reuse, recycle and revise behaviour in whatever small or large way that you can. We need to do this for the protection of our children and their children after them.

Jacky Pendleton is West Sussex County Councillor for Middleton Division (includes Clymping, Elmer, Ford, Middleton-on-Sea and Yapton). 07768 200539; jacky.pendleton@westsussex.gov.uk

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S NEWS



Amanda Worne reflects on Remembrance Sunday and the issues we face today.

On 14th November I laid a wreath at the Memorial Garden in Ford for our fallen soldiers, and for me it really put things into perspective. A lot of the soldiers who sacrificed their lives for us were mere children, boys of about 17 years old. I have a 17-year-old son at home, and the thought of him going off to fight in a war from which he would most probably not return sends shivers down my spine.

We have many issues locally that are quite troubling, including the ever-present threat of the giant incinerator, which a lot of us are actively fighting and campaigning against. We are putting up a really good fight against the monster threatening to darken our doorstep, and on Friday I met up with several residents, our local MP, our West Sussex County Councillor and the leader of the opposition at WSCC for a photo to be included with a press release

showing how our public are really against the proposal and won't let it happen without putting up a fight.

This is a really big issue for us locally, but I personally would rather be involved in this sort of fight compared to one in which potentially I could lose my son!

Obviously, all the troubles we face are important to us today – the housing issues, lack of infrastructure, the incinerator, pollution in our sea, to name just a few, and I will do my very best to help to support you all in these issues. But sometimes it doesn't hurt to take a step back and, in the grand scheme of things, still appreciate how lucky we all are.

Amanda Worne is an Arun District Councillor for Yapton, Ford and Clymping. 07955 723232; cllr.amanda.worne@arun.gov.uk

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning applications for Clymping are undecided by Arun District Council as of 17th November 2021.

Arun DC ref.	Location	Proposal
CM/64/21/PL	Land adjacent to Church Farm Barn Horsemere Green Lane Climping BN17 5QZ	Use of land for Class B8 (Storage) for caravan storage. This application may affect the setting of listed buildings & is in CIL Zone 3 (Zero Rated) as other development.
CM/60/21/DOC	Mistletoe Farm, Horsemere Green Lane BN17 5QZ	Approval of details reserved by condition imposed under ref CM/13/19/RES.
CM/53/21/PL	1-4 The Piglets Climping Street Littlehampton BN17 5RG	Installation of ground source heat pump to provide heating and hot water to 4 No. holiday lets. This application is in CIL Zone 5 (zero rated) as other development.
CM/48/21/RES	Land to the west of Church Lane south of Horsemere Green Lane, Climping	Approval of reserved matters following the grant of CM/1/17/OUT for the erection of 300 No dwellings & a building within use class E, together with public open space, LAPs, LEAP & ancillary works, including car parking & drainage arrangements, with access off Church Lane & Horsemere Green Lane. This application may affect the setting of listed buildings & is in CIL Zone 4 (HSP2) & is not CIL Liable.
CM/46/21/PL	Land to the rear of Bairds Farm Shop Crookthorn Lane BN17 5SN	Variation of conditions following grant of APP/C3810/W/19/3227274 (CM/16/18/PL) relating to Condition Nos 2 - approved plans, 3 - Construction & Environmental Management Plan, 4 - tree protection & retention, 5 surface water drainage and 9 - car parking.

To find out about current planning applications made to Arun District Council, visit **www.arun.gov.uk/planning-application-search** (select the parish from the drop-down box, tick the 'undecided' box and click on search).

Development

Above is Foreman Homes's proposed layout for the site south of Horsemere Green Lane. See page 13 for further discussion.



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