

Clymping Village News



December 2022



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Your Clymping Village News

Welcome to the December 2022 issue, number 88



The best part of being the editor of this magazine is that it gives me the opportunity to meet so many people in the village. Being a naturally shy person,

I sometimes need an 'official' excuse to walk up to someone and introduce myself. Ideas for articles often emerge from our conversations, and sometimes even friendships form. I hope that sense of community translates onto these pages.

Earlier this year Clymping welcomed a handful of Ukrainian families into the village. James Baird has asked some of the children about their experience in their new country, and in his article he invites us all to make them feel welcome.

In this issue we also have a special section on the history of St Mary's Church. Jean Sprengel and James Shears approach their articles from very different perspectives, but each offers a valuable glimpse inside one of Clymping's most important community spaces.

We've also got a Q&A with local author Sarah Siggs, and a note from Chris Alger about plans to refurbish The Black Horse. Colin Humphris discusses the current consultation on Rampion 2.

Thank you to all our contributors, and to the local advertisers who generously support this publication.

Wishing you all a happy Christmas.

– Lisa Eyre, Editor

Cover photo of the new bug hotel at the wildflower meadow on Horsemere Green

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Please send all submissions and advertising enquiries to **ClympingNewsEditor@gmail.com**. The deadline for the next issue is 6th February. 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.

Hedgerow Wreath Making

All Natural – no waste

Classes will be running early December
Tea, coffee, soup and cake included

Contact Karen: 07979 255189 /
cuckoocamp1@gmail.com



Early Christmas Special

Saturday, 3rd December at 2:30pm
St Mary's Church, Clymping

MESSY CHURCH IS... making stuff, doing stuff, singing stuff,
story stuff, eating stuff... together!
All ages welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

 CYF Messy Church

COMMUNITY CORNER

Fun at the Apple Fayre

The Apple Fayre at Church Farm in Clymping on 24th September was a wonderful success. The event, which was organised by Karen Baird to bring together the community and benefit local charities,



Making apple crumble



Pressing apples

started with a breakfast and featured a variety of activities throughout the day. We all enjoyed crushing and pressing apples to make fresh juice, and mixing up delicious apple crumble.

The children (and adults) also got stuck in to interactive crafts, such as making

driftwood decorations and greeting cards. Karen's husband, James, made a delicious bannock (Canadian-style quick bread) on the campfire, and their son Eddie led nature walks around the farm, during which we learned about the local environment and picked apples and blackberries. The cake and tea stall kept everyone well supplied with refreshments.

The event bustled with life, and my

family enjoyed the activities so much that we stayed from breakfast all the way through to the end at 3pm.

Proceeds from the fayre benefited the charities Soup from Heaven, Children with Cancer, and Eleveneses. – *Lisa Eyre*

Deluxe bug hotel is open!

On Saturday, 29th October, a group of volunteers met at the Horsemere Green wildflower meadow to build a deluxe multilayer shelter for insects and other minibeasts. A big thank you goes to Marc Gasnier for building the hotel's structure. Thanks also to those who came to help and brought a whole range of items to fit out the hotel, including pinecones, twigs, bamboo, plant pots, bricks and more. We were even given some reeds to recycle so we could thatch the roof.

It will be really interesting to see who takes up residence. Let's watch this space!

– *Wendy Robinson*



The bug hotel building team

A letter regarding The Black Horse pub

Dear Residents of Clymping,

You may be aware that we acquired The Black Horse pub back in March 2019, ready and excited to create a fabulous, friendly and welcoming local pub for you and our guests. Needless to say, world events delayed our plans; however, I am delighted to share with you that the first phase of works will start on Monday, 21st November 2022.

This first phase of the works will include the demolition of the rear of the property and general clearing of the site. We don't anticipate this to cause disruption to Clymping Street

in terms of noise and vehicles along the road, but there will be some filling of skips and removal of rubbish. And we just wanted to let you know so you are not surprised when it starts.

We are very excited to get started with this project at last and look very much forward to welcoming you to the pub when we open the doors in Spring 2024. If you have any questions in the meantime, please let me know (01903 723511).

Kind regards,
Chris Alger, General Manager,
Bailiffscourt Hotel & Spa

Dee West Yoga

My beginner and intermediate yoga class meets at Clymping Village Hall on Saturdays, 9:00-10:00am. Each session is £8 (drop-in).

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RECTOR'S NOTE

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



It is an extra special invitation this year. After all the strangeness of the past two Christmases, *this* year we are really going to celebrate!

For over 1,000 years Clymping villagers have gathered at the church at Christmastime to be together and to remember a remarkable story. Whether you are new to our community or have belonged to it for generations, I want to invite you to come home this Christmas to your church, to share in this sense of belonging to a

community that reaches back so many centuries, and connects us to the mystery and meaning behind the greatest of stories.

This is my personal invitation – to join me in celebrating my 20th Christmas in our village, amongst friends old and new.

As well as the events advertised below, there will be other 'pop up' carol singing events in the village. So keep an eye out and an ear open.

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

Messy Church

3rd December, 2:30pm

A fun afternoon of crafts, food and more. See details on page 4.

Traditional Carol Service

Sunday, 18th December, 7:00pm

Listen to the Christmas story and sing your favourite carols in the atmosphere of our village church.

Christmas Eve Holy Communion

Saturday, 24th December,

10:00am at St Andrew's, Ford

A quiet service in this remarkable and ancient church.

Christingle Service

Saturday, 24th December, 5:15pm

Oranges and candles! A wonderful Christmas event for all the family.

Christmas Day Family Communion

Sunday, 25th December, 10:00am

Lasting about 50 minutes and suitable for all ages – a great way to start the Christmas Day celebrations. Bring the strangest gift you have received; the congregation will vote and then the rector has to turn it into the Christmas sermon!

www.cyfchurches.org.uk

Profiles



Our Ukrainian guests

James Baird shares the experiences of three Ukrainian children living in Clymping.

‘Welcome’ in Ukrainian is Ласкаво просимо – pronounced phonetically ‘laskavo prosymo’.

If someone had told me last New Year that within six months I would be helping war refugees, I would not have believed them. The whole process – from witnessing the human tragedy unfolding on our TV screens to complete strangers shaking my hand on our doorstep with that first hello – was remarkably swift.

In those early days we pulled out all the stops. We had barbecue evenings and a cinema trip, and made a real effort to help everyone feel welcome and settle in.

In my house we have Oleg and Natasha Barabash and their three children, Nikita, Polina and Miroslav. We are also hosting a single lady, Alina. They all enjoyed the long, hot summer and spent a lot of time walking the farm and going to the beach.

As hosts we have helped with things such as accessing services, getting travel passes and SIM cards, helping get the children into school, and job hunting. There have been high days and low days as they adjust to UK living, always with one eye on what’s

happening back in their home country.

We are not the only hosts in our village; Clymping residents have been incredibly welcoming.

Below are some experiences from three Ukrainian children who live in Clymping and attend our local primary school. Their comments give a fascinating insight into how they perceive the UK.

Miroslav Barabash is nine years old and is from Balakliya, in the Kharkiv region. He remembers being welcomed on his first day in the UK by James, Karen and Eddie. The sun was shining and he enjoyed a walk with a friendly British family to Clymping beach and played with the dogs. He enjoyed tasty ice cream; it was a happy day.

Miroslav understands a little English, but the language has been difficult for him.

His favourite British food is fish and chips, but he doesn’t like tea with milk.

He has met some friends here and likes our custom of always saying ‘thank you’



and 'sorry'. It's a good tradition to be polite.

His favourite thing about Clymping? 'I like school, beautiful nature, the beach and the sea.'

Kira Karmainkova is here with her mum, Lena. She is nine years old and is from Mykolaiv. She is living in Crophthorne Drive with hosts Chris and Jane Dearnley.

Kira remembers when she arrived from France by ferry and being excited when she saw Chris and his daughter for the first



time and then went to their new home.

Kira has been learning English since she was three years old, but has still found it difficult in the UK to speak,

understand and learn the language.

Her favourite food is also fish and chips, and she's found that she doesn't like broccoli.

Kira has made a lot of friends, mostly at school: Demy, Grace, Bella, Emmely, Izzy and Miroslav.

She likes that school starts later here, at almost nine o'clock, and that on Friday it is fish and chips day. Her favourite thing about Clymping is her big new family and a lot of new friends: 'I like Clymping. It's a very beautiful and friendly village.'

Alisa Kurka is living at the western end of Horsemere Green Lane with Val and Robin Dock. She is six years old (nearly seven) and came from Odessa. She is here with her

mum, Valeria, and grandmother, Natalia.

She says she was very happy on her first day in England. She had a lot of gifts and got a bunk bed. She found no difficulties – all the people around are very nice.

Alisa's favourite food in England is pizza, and she's discovered she doesn't like peas. She's

made many new friends – Anne-Lise, Bobby, Lilia, Ava, Valerie, and James and his dog Jack.

Recently she celebrated Halloween and went to collect candy. She put on a witch costume. It was a lot of fun; this is a new tradition for her.

Alisa's favourite thing is school, which she really likes. She understands a lot and can already speak English with people. She had a disco at school which was fun.



So there we have a tiny insight from

the children's perspective. It demonstrates the true value of helping people with the offer of sanctuary in this time of such great difficulty in their lives.

Now that you know a little more about our guests, and as we enter our festive season of goodwill, please make an effort to introduce yourselves, say 'hi' (or Ласкаво просимо) and perhaps include our community guests in any festivities you have planned. I assure you they are all great company and are keen to learn more about our way of life and our traditions.



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(Vice Chairman)

01903 718755

hsburrell.CPC@gmail.com

Christine Gillott

07931 125854

cgillott.CPC@gmail.com

Tim Hibbert

07947 130404

thibbert.CPC@gmail.com

Colin Humphris

(Chairman)

01903 733848

chumphris.CPC@gmail.com

David Miranda

07768 981923

dmirandacpc@gmail.com

Parish Clerk

Nadine Phibbs

07776 194192

clympingpc@gmail.com

Parish Council website

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

CHAIRMAN'S VIEW



Colin Humphris considers the inter-relationships between development uncertainties and road improvements.

It's amazing how fast the world can change. Back in September we had a national government developing a budget for accelerated growth. Now we have a budget to address a financial crisis with increasing taxation and high interest rates compounding the problems of soaring energy and food costs. How might this all affect Clymping?

The Foreman Homes development still appears to be on hold with the uncertainties I outlined in the October issue apparently unresolved. The current financial outlook can't help, making a new housing development less attractive.

If the development does not progress as currently planned, there are knock-on effects for the proposed upgrade of the A259. The Foreman development was to provide the new Church Lane roundabout and to provide land for the improvements at the Oyster-catcher junction. At the same time, government expenditure on highways infrastructure looks under pressure. Personally, I feel the A259 improvements are needed given the extreme pressure on our local roads, as well as for safety, so I'm con-

cerned about these clouds on the horizon.

Foreman Homes was also to provide funding for pavement works in Horsemere Green Lane. The Parish Council's transport working group might need to factor this in to the redesign of the lane. The working group is currently seeking proposals from independent highways consultants for designs that would prioritise the lane for pedestrians and other non-vehicle users over through

traffic, making it a so-called 'quiet lane'. Any changes to the lane are, however, dependent on improving the Oyster-catcher junction to take pressure off Horsemere Green Lane as the current rat run.



The field west of Church Lane

On page 28 you'll find a separate item that I

have provided on proposals for the Rampion 2 wind farm, particularly concerning possible works in Clymping and the underground routes for the cables. Many of you will have visited the public events, but if you didn't, please review the information and make your views known. The Parish Council will formalise its response to the consultation at its meeting on 29th November. A concern I have is that this work is on the same timescale as the proposals

for the A259, potentially adding to the likely highways disruption.

Congratulations to Wendy Robinson and her team for providing Clymping's luxury bug hotel on the green off Horsemere Green Lane (Bugliffscourt?). It should make a meaningful contribution to biodiversity.

The Parish Council and I would like to wish you the very best for Christmas and the New Year. This year's finances may be tight, but at least we are free of Covid restrictions and lockdowns.

Colin Humphris is chairman of Clymping Parish Council; tel 01903 733848.

PARISH COUNCIL



Nadine Phibbs, Clerk to the Council, explains what the Parish Council does and how it works.

People often ask, 'What does a Parish Council do?'

The Parish Council consists of seven elected or co-opted members who volunteer their time. The Council has no political, religious or ethnic affiliations. Its income is received via a small contribution from each council tax payer in the village. This contribution is called the precept.

The Council spends its budget with the aim of looking after village interests and improving facilities for the community. The Council believes that everybody should benefit in some way from being a part of the village. Each year the Council produces accounts detailing all its income and expenditures. These accounts are audited both internally and externally and are available on the Council website: <http://www.clymping.org.uk>.

The Council has adopted a structure of working groups to cover environment,

highways and planning matters. These working groups make recommendations to the full Council, which is the decision-making body.

The full Council meets at regular intervals throughout the year. These meetings are open to residents, and there is an opportunity at the beginning of each meeting for residents to address the Council if they wish to speak about items on the agenda.

Meeting dates are published on the Council website and on noticeboards located in the village. The next meeting will take place on **29th November at 7:30pm in the Church Hall.**

Clymping Parish Council is supported by the Parish Clerk and can only meet its objectives by efficient collaboration with Arun District Council and, on wider issues, with West Sussex County Council.

For further information, please visit the Parish Council's website.

SCHOOL NEWS



Justin Murray shares the latest news from St Mary's School.

As autumn slowly descends into winter, we find ourselves in a new position at St Mary's. We are saying goodbye to our head teacher, Aaron Morrissey, who was seconded to a different school this term and will be remaining in that post permanently from January. We all wish him the best in his next steps.

The school governors will be working hard, with the support of West Sussex County Council and the Diocese, to find a new permanent head teacher for St Mary's in the coming months.

At the end of this term we will also be saying goodbye to our deputy head and Years 5 and 6 teacher, Rachel George. She has been part of the St Mary's community for nearly 20 years and has made an invaluable contribution to the development and happiness of the school. We will all be sad to lose her energy, enthusiasm and passion for each child's learning. However, we know she is ready for the next challenge, and her promotion is an exciting opportunity for her to have a broader impact on children's education.

As a school, we have been working hard to forge relationships within our local community. We had a brilliant Harvest Service at St Mary's Church in October. Unfortunately our Remembrance Service couldn't be held in the church as planned (due to emergency roof repairs), but we look forward to returning at Christmas.

We are fortunate to have built a strong relationship with Rev. Rich, and he has been keen to support us with this.

We have been working on our 'courageous advocacy' and have been speaking up for a variety of causes. We made contributions to the local food bank, and for our next project we are looking at supporting people who may feel lonely this Christmas. The children are really finding their voice, and it has been delightful to hear how passionate they are about making a difference. We are hoping our choir can visit a local residential home in the coming weeks.

On the academic front, we have been re-launching our phonics teaching to enhance our children's early reading experience. We are all excited to see the children engaged in dynamic, structured, fun lessons that promote a life-long love of learning.

We have had a variety of visitors at school over the past few weeks. Oliver Class (Years 1 and 2) welcomed the West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service as part of their learning about the



A firefighter demonstrates the equipment used to put out fires.

Great Fire of London. The children were thrilled at this learning opportunity – particularly being able to sit in a fire engine.

Jenkins Class (Years 3 and 4) is learning about healthy eating and the effects this has on our bodies. In early November they enjoyed a healthy eating workshop led by a visitor from Chartwells, which provides our hot school lunches. The class also took part in a well-being workshop in which they learned about the importance of calming techniques and daily movement.

Local artist Maureen Wells recently came into the school to work with Normanby Class (Years 5 and 6) as they produce work for the Littlehampton Christmas display.

We are all grateful to our staff and the members of our community who support us so effectively.

St Mary's pupils have enjoyed some improved performances in local sporting events. As a small school, we often find competing against larger schools a challenge, and this is something we have been working hard to overcome. Recently, in Littlehampton Area Sports Partnership competitions, we finished third in a football event (Years 5 and 6) and fifth in New Age Kurling (Years 5 and 6), and we had some admirable performances in the cross-country event (Years 3–6). We have been recognised for our sporting behaviour, and we are giving our best with a huge smile on our faces. We acknowledge here at St Mary's that every child should have their 'moment to shine', and lots of our children experience this through sport.

Finally, we are very excited at the prospect of Christmas coming. This is a magical time in school, as the children's

What was the best bit?

West Sussex Fire Service visit

My favourite part was sitting in the fire engine and when the sirens were on. They were so loud! – *Maeve, Year 2*

Chartwells healthy eating workshop

When the lady visited about healthy eating we made a yoghurt with oats and berries (blueberries and raspberries). We learnt about all of the different food groups and what we need to eat more of. We need to eat more vegetables and fruit and try to eat less sugar. The making part was the most fun. – *Freya, Year 3*

Well-being workshop

The well-being workshop was really good for our body and health. We did some stretching at the start and then we did some exercise at the end. My best bit was the meditating because it felt really calm. I think this is great if you are angry or excited so people can calm down through meditating and breathing. – *Alex, Year 4*

excitement is contagious. We will remain committed to our core values and will reflect on 'service' this Christmas. We will look to see how we can make a difference within our community and feel privileged to have this responsibility.

Justin Murray is currently Head Teacher at St Mary's Church of England Primary School in Clymping.

St Mary's Church

Clymping



St Mary's, Clymping interior, facing the north wall

On a stormy night in early November, strong winds tore the tiles off part of the roof at St Mary's Church, creating a substantial hole. Rain leaked inside the building, but fortunately there was no major water damage, and the hole is being repaired. The event serves as a reminder, though, how valued our local church building is, and how much community history can be found inside.

The pair of articles on the following pages pay tribute to some of the beautiful furnishings and artwork found in St Mary's. Jean Sprenkel, who has been

an active member of the congregation for 50 years, describes items that have been handmade or donated by parishioners over the decades. The stories she tells provide a glimpse into the church's wider history. Clymping resident James Shears has written a reflective piece that combines a sense of family and village history with a contemplation on the paintings by the artist Heywood Hardy, found in the Chapel of Jesus at St Mary's.

I hope these articles foster a new level of appreciation for our parish church. They may even inspire a visit. – Lisa Eyre

St Mary's Church

The fabric of church life

Jean M. Sprenkel takes us on a journey through the history of the church's fabric furnishings.

The first time I came to St Mary's with my young family was on Whitsun (21st May) 1972, when Cecil King was vicar. I have worshiped here ever since. Over this time there have been many additions to the fabric furnishings of the church, and I hope that this record of them might inspire you to visit St Mary's and have a look round, knowing the history of what you see.

After Rev. Cecil King left in 1974, and following an interregnum, Rev. Kenneth Oliver was persuaded to become our

part-time vicar. He and his wife, Anne, left the Mill Crammer School in Clymping and came to live in our vicarage. St Mary's then became a busy, thriving church again, and later that year Anne and I founded the Clymping Church Women's Guild. We met in the vicarage, as did all the social groups, because at that time we had no church hall.

The Women's Guild decided to start work on some new kneelers for the Chapel of Jesus, in the north transept of the church. Anne persuaded Betty Pratt, wife of Admiral Pratt, famous for his pet point whilst at sea, to come and teach us.

When we finished these kneelers, I worked the long kneeler for the communion rail in the Chapel of Jesus, mainly whilst I was sitting watching my boys on Felpham beach!



From left: Altar cloth and kneeler in the Chapel of Jesus; seat cushions in the choir stalls; kneeler at the main communion rail

Members of the Women's Guild had a visit to Chichester Cathedral for evensong around 1975–76. We saw the kneelers in the chapel behind the main altar and liked the design in yellow and brown. We asked to borrow the pattern and started on some kneelers for the main body of St Mary's. We purchased the wool from the Needlewoman Shop in Regent Street, London, all single stranded. But after sewing about 20 kneelers of this design, we found the small stitching rather hard on our elderly eyes, so we stopped.

Around the same time, Captain Peter Lucas made the Navy and Air Force kneelers, which are in regular use in the church, and Mary Hunt made two special kneelers which are used for weddings. Both Peter and Mary were members of the congregation.

In the late '70s and early '80s we had two Clymping Flower Festivals, co-ordinated by Molly Wright, a member of our congregation who was also a professional flower arranger in West Sussex. Molly did not like that the different coloured altar cloths didn't match her flower designs, so she presented the church with a plain, neutral cloth for the main altar. This was well received but over the years seldom used, except for festivals. The fabric came from and was made up at Vanpoules Church Furnishers of West Sussex.

Three of us – Marjorie Hudson, Marjorie Holder and I – then embarked

on making a matching cloth for the altar in the Chapel of Jesus. We trimmed it with blue and gold to co-ordinate with the new kneelers. We cut it out on the floor of Marjorie's flat!

Rev. Peter Gooderham and his wife, Mary, came to Clymping in 1981. Mary was interested in needlework and became

leader of the Women's Guild. She designed kneelers for the main communion rail, featuring various flowers of Sussex. We all worked on them, and Mary made them up. She then designed seat cushions for the choir stalls, which we all worked on. Next she drew and designed all the pictures for a large tapestry comprising various distinctive images of Clymping village. This tapestry became another project of the Women's

Guild and now hangs in the Church Hall. Lastly, we worked plain blue cushions for the pews in the main body of the Church.

New door curtains were professionally made for both the south and west doors, with money raised by the church. Very large curtains for the entrance of the vestry were donated by Barbara Hollis in memory of her husband, Dick, who was a past treasurer of St Mary's.

Rev. Richard Hayes came to the church in 2002. Not long after his arrival, he commissioned three large banners for the north wall of the church, in three different



Curtain at the south entrance of the church

colours – blue, yellow and green. These were designed and made by congregation members Juliet Fellick and Eve Williams.

Eve also designed and made the tree banner that hangs to the east of these three banners on the north wall. In addition, she designed and made two smaller banners that are displayed at Christmas, one showing the shepherds and the other depicting Jesus and Mary.

At Christmas 2016, Juliet and I decided that we would like to make an altar fall that could be hung over the centre of the plain altar cloth which had been donated by Molly Wright and not used in years. We asked Susan Faber, who belongs to the church, if she would come up with a design and help us with the needlework. She agreed, and in January 2017, Rev. Richard commissioned the three of us to proceed with this project. The endeavour grew

over the next two years, and culminated in a Flowers and Falls Exhibition Weekend, featuring nine pairs of altar and pulpit falls, in June 2019. The tenth pair was finished the following year.

The diaries that Juliet and I kept of the progress of making these pulpit and altar falls, and of the exhibition, are available to be seen on request.

After a rest for a year, during the pandemic lockdown the three of us started a different project of making a preaching scarf for our assistant priest, Rev. Bill Garlick. We met outdoors in one of our gardens to plan it. The

scarf, which features the theme 'The Gifts of the Spirit', was finished for him in September 2021, in time for his 70th birthday.

It is interesting, on writing this record, to realise that the additions to the church's fabric furnishings over the past 50 years were focussed during the tenures of two previous vicars and our present rector, although we have had five other priests during this time.

I do not think that any of this information has been recorded before, and I hope that my memory has been correct. I feel that it needs to be noted towards the history of St Mary's Church, so after 50 years I have actually written it down!

A version of this article appeared in the July issue of The Triangle, the magazine for the benefice of Clymping and Yapton with Ford.



From left: Juliet Fellick, Susan Faber and Jean Sprenkel at the Flowers and Falls Exhibition in 2019



The main altar with a Harvest fall

St Mary's Church

With us all the days

James Shears reflects on the place of St Mary's in his life and the relevance of Heywood Hardy's paintings for today.

St Mary's has been a constant place of worship for the better part of 1,000 years. I often marvel at the fact that so many people have passed through this building over centuries gone by. Who were they? What did they all do? What would the village gossip have been back in, say, 1436?

For me personally it is a 'sacred space' – a place where I feel the presence of virtually every family member I have ever known and loved going back many years. My parents were married here in the 1960s, and a few years later it is where I was chris-

tened. Over the decades it has also seen the christenings of my own children, and many family weddings and funerals.

I recall very clearly my grandfather, George Wooldridge, telling me stories as a young boy about a secret tunnel that ran from under the altar at the church all the way to the Black Horse pub in Clymping Street, and was used by smugglers coming up the River Arun to hide and move their illicit cargo. I don't think this was ever proved historically, but he certainly had us youngsters sold on the idea!

The church has always been a true community hub and welcomes everyone no matter who they are or where they come from. It has seen many community events, from fetes to nativity plays to Christmas tree festivals.

For me it has also been a constant



'I am with you all the days', by Heywood Hardy, in the Chapel of Jesus at St Mary's Church

refuge – somewhere to retreat from the daily chaos and to recharge, usually in the churchyard. Even today I can stand under the archway at its front entrance and remember all of those people so close to me, but now departed, who have walked under that very same arch in the past. It's a lovely, warm feeling of connection to the past and grounding in the present.

I vividly remember trips to the church when I was at St Mary's primary school in the village many, many moons ago. Back then we were actually allowed to walk all the way up the small stone steps to the top of the tower where the flag pole stands, and then walk all the way around it and peep over the edge! It was so exciting for a bunch of young children who dared to have a go.

When the editor of the *Clymping Village News* asked if I would like to share a bit about my relationship with St Mary's, she wondered what my thoughts were on the often overlooked paintings by the artist Heywood Hardy (1842–1933)

that surround the walls of the Chapel of Jesus in the church's north transept.

The series of seven panels, painted in the late 1920s, depict Christ's birth, life, death and resurrection. The main image bears the inscription 'I am with you all the

days' and shows, quite conspicuously, Christ in the twentieth-century Sussex countryside.

I don't think I have ever seen anything like these pictures in a village church – although my knowledge of country churches in West Sussex is limited. In some ways they seem out of place, somehow too 'upmarket' for a small village church, and yet here they are – our own little treasure.

Despite many, many years of visiting St Mary's – a

building I'm so familiar with – these paintings have never really registered with me in any deep or meaningful way. They have always just 'been there', familiar but unexamined. The task of writing this article was therefore a good excuse to spend a little time with them and see what they wanted to reveal.



Chapel of Jesus in St Mary's Church



Historic photo showing original position of Hardy's nativity paintings behind the main altar

Hardy, who was born in Chichester, was a celebrated painter of animals in his day and is known especially for his equestrian and hunting scenes. His career was based mainly in London and he also travelled around to various country estates. In his late 60s, Hardy moved to East Preston. Not much is known about the commissioning of the series of panels in St Mary's, except that they were painted to mark the church building's 700th anniversary. They were originally set elsewhere in the church, with the nativity paintings located, strikingly, wall to wall behind the church's main altar. Perhaps there was a wealthy benefactor who requested them for the church – or were

they, as some believe, a gift from Hardy in his twilight years, an act of penance for a period of youthful bohemian living while he was based in Paris? It appears we will never know. The fact that they exist at all and that Hardy chose to have his ashes buried in the churchyard at Clympling certainly indicates he had a strong connection with the place.

The three paintings on the west wall of the chapel depict themes typically associated with Christmas: Mary, Joseph and

the newborn Christ in a stable; the angel Gabriel appearing to terrified shepherds; and the wise men following a star. On the opposite wall we see the familiar Easter themes of Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane; the collection of his lifeless body after his crucifixion; and his appearance to Mary Magdalene after his resur-

rection. I find it really interesting that Hardy left out the dramatic scene of the crucifixion itself, and chose to only paint the events before and after – I wonder why he made that choice?

But the most intriguing and somewhat whimsical image of all – and clearly the 'main event' in Hardy's view, as the painting dwarfs all the

others around it – is the image on the north wall showing Christ among the local people here in the Arun Valley. As well as the inclusion of a distant image of Arundel Castle and what appears to be Houghton Bridge in the foreground, the painting is full of local people: men, women, boys and girls who I am reliably told were based on real people Hardy knew from East Preston.

The painting is very much of its day in its Anglocentric depiction of Jesus – something that can be off-putting to the



Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus



The angel Gabriel appears to the shepherds

modern eye. But Hardy was also making a very bold statement for his time by showing Christ mingling with twentieth-century Sussex locals.

I spent some extra time with this picture and was left with some real affection for its quaintness, hope and innocence. I love the way the appearance of Christ is depicted as something quite ordinary, something that might happen on a Sunday afternoon jaunt along the Arun. A large crowd has gathered, but no one looks amazed, scared or even slightly surprised. I like that. I can relate to that.

Having had cause to hang out reflectively, for the first time, with Hardy's wonderful works of art, I have a new appreciation for their place in St Mary's. Yes, they are of their time and express a certain

dated world view, but they also capture the life of Jesus in a very relatable, human way. They draw you in, make you think. We all struggle, we all get fearful, and at times we all cry out for help. Perhaps a walk along the Arun just past the bridge at Houghton is what we all need to find a little peace in these troubled times. Or maybe a few minutes hanging out at St Mary's with Hardy's work might be just the thing a troubled heart requires.

Editor's note: In addition to regular Sunday services, St Mary's Clymping is normally open to visitors on Friday mornings 10am–12pm. If you would like to visit outside of these times, please contact the Church Benefice Office to arrange access (01243 553653 or e-mail cyfbenefice@gmail.com).



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Shop for your Christmas cards and 2023 diaries in our 12 charity shops, or online at stwh.co.uk/online-shop

Local author

Q&A with Sarah Siggs

*The author of the children's book **Mud Boy** discusses her experience as a writer.*

I met Sarah Siggs one morning in September when I was out delivering copies of the *Clymping Village News* and she happened to open her front door. We had a lovely chat, during which it emerged that she is author of the children's book *Mud Boy*, which tells the story of a young child who is bullied by his peers. I was familiar with this book because my daughter, who attends St Mary's School in Clymping, had mentioned it to me last year, when Sarah visited her school – but I didn't realise that Sarah lived locally. I asked Sarah if she could share a bit about her experience as a writer. – Lisa Eyre

L.E.: What made you want to become a writer?

Sarah Siggs: I love reading books to children. As a teacher, parent and now a grandparent, I believe it is one of the most joyous ways of connecting and sharing time

with a child. Writing a book myself had never been one of my goals until I experienced a young child in our family becoming so unhappy and fearful of school that they didn't want to go anymore.

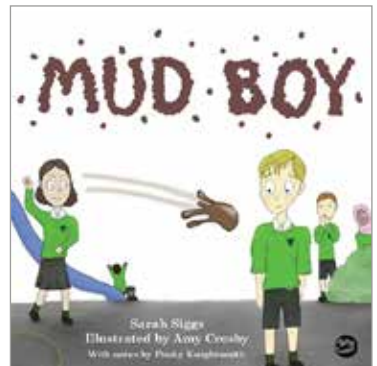
Being bullied in any way is crippling, and the effects can last a lifetime. I decided that a book helping children to understand what bullying is, what it really feels like and how to get help if it happens would be a very good idea – so I wrote one!

How did you go about writing *Mud Boy*?

It took a long time to research, and I had no idea about book writing or publishing. I am an asker, though, so naturally I just asked people. Amy Crosby, a writer who also lives on the South Coast, stepped forward to



Sarah Siggs and her book, Mud Boy



illustrate *Mud Boy*, and the journey began.

Mud Boy was published by Jessica Kingsley Publishers in 2019 and includes notes from Dr Pooky Knightsmith, a children's mental health expert. The book has become a well-used anti-bullying resource for primary schools all over the UK and has helped many children to understand the importance of being kind.

How do you reach children to tell them about *Mud Boy*?

I love visiting schools. I have visited St Mary's School in Clymping twice now in my role as an author. St Mary's is pretty much at the end of my road, so it's a bonus

not having to catch the first train of the day to go to a school many miles away! It is such a friendly and welcoming school – I always leave there hoping to be back again soon.

Apart from your book, where can people who experience bullying turn to for help?

The Anti-Bullying Alliance (<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk>) is for anyone needing support. Children and young people can also contact ChildLine at any time on 0800 1111.

Mud Boy is available from Pier Road Coffee and Art in Littlehampton, or from online bookshops.

Two Thousand Twenty-Two

by Lin Lundie

January's cold has me hopping like an old crow
down the hedges
in layers of black cashmere rusty with age

as my garden I am wind blown...salt scorched
but willing to recover

Epiphany brings clarity...a new year
of Japanese philosophy...of ma
making space for grace perhaps

is this renga or litany...poetry or prayer

for relational mammals absences cause us to ache
we sense hear or see loved ones around us...they appear
in our dreams

in the cold clear air of February spears of bulbs pierce
the damp grass...low sunlight between leafless trees
barcodes the road as it dries

poetically speaking the lost ones who carry this material
for us long to release this burden and return home

a great tit breaks the silence...its two note song
like an unoiiled wheelbarrow means spring brighter days
primroses all moments of unbearable experience

Easter...Passover...Ramadan...pink moon...all pass
in the garden...a new olive tree holds memories...robins
Forget me nots hope

I fall

bones splinter on stone floor ache while I wait for help

two months of pain...heat...bad food feeling less than human

August is spent asleep

September brings Indian summer...October too
I move from bed to frame...frame to crutches
November...limping along the hedges...holding on

Biblical rain as flocks of birds finally fly with the leaves...

nearly Christmas...time to count blessings
write renga...litany...say prayers.

Wind farm

Routing cables through Clymping

.....

Colin Humphris examines how the laying of underground cables, and a construction area, might affect our village.

The company behind the Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm Project are consulting the public on the onshore cable route from Clymping to Bolney. I want to encourage people to have their say by responding to this consultation, which closes on Tuesday, 29th November. Details on how to register your views are at the end of this article.

The Parish Council will be considering its response at the Parish Council meeting on 29th November.

The proposed Rampion 2 wind farm will be located off the Sussex coast, with offshore cables coming ashore at Clymping beach. The cables will then be routed underground up to the substation at Bolney, to connect into the National Transmission Grid. The cables will be laid either by trenching and backfilling or, where required, horizontal drilling underground. Drilling operations are by their nature 24 hours per day and noisy.

I'm aware that there is a diversity of views about wind power, and about the visual impact of these wind turbines. Rampion

have proposed a reduction in the number of turbines, but they will still be clearly visible on the horizon from Clymping beach. The current consultation, however, is specifically about the cable route and the construction works that are entailed. I think these will impact Clymping from 2026 to 2029.

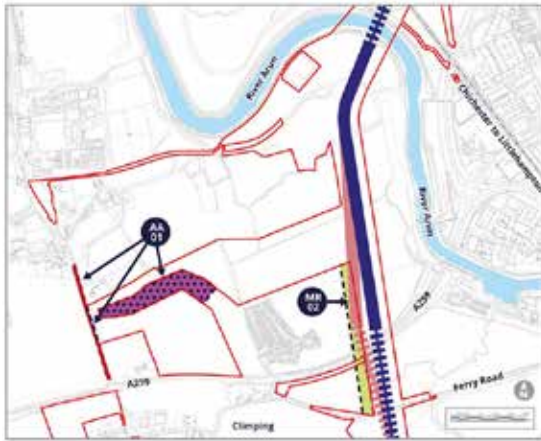
Rampion have supplied maps showing the proposed cable routes in specific sections. The sections relevant to Clymping are reproduced here. The red line defines the areas in which the project may operate. These operations include access and compounds for storing their heavy equipment, as well as trenching and drilling along the cable route, with the later work occupying a 50-metre-wide band across the countryside. The pink line on the maps represents the current route proposal, while the blue line represents the original plans. The sections where the lines are solid are where the cable will be trenched, and the hatched segments will be drilled horizontally, for instance under the beach, roads, and river.

On the map showing 'Area 1a', the current proposal extends the work area towards the Mill, allowing the cable to be run ashore further to the east than originally considered.

The plan shows access to the area down Bread Lane, with a broadening to the

north towards the school. A second map, which represents the section to the north ('Area 1b'), shows access south of the A259 with a marked area around the school to the west of the Church Lane roundabout. Access will also be via Ferry Road and the Ferry Road junction.

The construction area for the project will be north of the A259, highlighted in purple and labelled 'AA01' on the 'Area 1b' map. This area has been expanded from the original plans. Rampion is proposing



Area 1b: Ferry Road and the A259



Area 1a: Clymping Beach to Ferry Road

road works on Church Lane to provide access and improved visibility to this wider area. Access is also envisaged on or from Church Green and down alongside the Church Hall/prison towards the river.

The extent of disruption on the village's roads could well depend on timing, given proposals being developed by West Sussex County Council for all the junctions along the A259 from Flansham to Littlehampton, and especially at Church Lane and Ferry Road. Of course, the proposed

Foreman Homes development of 300 units is just to the west of Church Lane, with surface water drainage towards the river close to the area marked as 'AA01'. Then there are 1,500 proposed homes and industrial developments at Ford to consider.

Unfortunately, the planning authorities tend to look at each planning proposal separately and in isolation. It's only those who live in affected areas who think about what might happen if they all come together at the same time.

The detailed work plans are available at <https://rampion2.com/consultation-2022/>.

Your views on the impact on Clymping are important and should be registered by 29th November. To comment, go to <https://rampion2.com/consultation-2022/have-your-say>. You can also e-mail your comments to Rampion2@rwe.com or send to FREEPOST: Rampion 2.

This article represents Colin Humphris's personal views.

BEACH REPORT

The Environment Agency provides an update on the beach.

Autumn works

As we move into autumn, we are seeing more unsettled weather and this, combined with high tides forecast at the start of November, resulted in a flood alert being issued for Clymping beach. The high tides led to some spray overtopping the defences and washing onto the car parks and land behind, with some minor impact to the shingle banks.

In the western car park, we have seen relatively little material lost from the shingle bank. However, there is evidence of erosion and ‘cliffing’ on the frontage. Cliffling is a form of erosion where vertical cliffs are formed (as shown in the photo). The cliffling is quite irregular, so please be careful when visiting the beach.

We are planning some work to the shingle bank in the coming weeks. This will involve filling the low spots, adding shingle to vulnerable locations and reprofiling into a more sustainable shape.

Our public safety assessor will continue their regular walkovers of the beach, and we will continue to monitor the beach over the upcoming high spring tides as we head into the winter.

Warning – please keep off the banks

Over the summer we have noticed visitors, primarily from out of the area, parking on top of the shingle banks. The defences are there to reduce flood risk and are not designed for pedestrian or vehicle access.



Cliffling evident in front of the western car park



Beach lowering exposes the clay that the original sea defence was built on.

Flood risk

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

To sign up to receive free Flood Warnings, please call Floodline on 0345 988 1188.

Contact

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

COUNTY COUNCILLOR



Jacky Pendleton outlines support available to those who are struggling with the cost of living this winter.

One of the very real concerns at the moment is the cost of living, in particular the costs of heating and healthy food. The government, as well as West Sussex County Council and Arun District Council, have taken action to support members of the community who are struggling.

If you claim certain benefits or tax credits, you may be eligible for an extra payment from the government to help with the cost of living. If you're eligible, payments will be made automatically.

You could get up to three different types of payment depending on your circumstances on a particular date or during a particular period:

- a Cost of Living Payment, if you get a qualifying low-income benefit or tax credits
- a Disability Cost of Living Payment, if you get a qualifying disability benefit
- a Pensioner Cost of Living Payment, if you're entitled to a Winter Fuel Payment for winter 2022–2023.

These payments are not taxable and will not affect the benefits or tax credits you get. You can find out more at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/cost-of-living-payment>.

Councillors at West Sussex County Council have identified a support package for those who are most vulnerable in our community. This includes the following:

- extra provision at any of the County's libraries, such as information and

advice, events and activities

- access to direct support from a range of partners, including health and wellbeing and financial advice
- access to our Community Hub for those in urgent need of help with fuel or food costs (033 022 27980)
- potential support from the Household Support Fund
- supermarket vouchers of £15 per week during school holidays for food for children on free school meals.

Councillors at Arun District Council have also agreed recommendations at a special Housing & Wellbeing Committee for a package of initiatives totalling £180,000 to support residents of the district. This includes funding for energy advice and support; an Energy Efficiency Home Adviser; funding for local food banks; small grants to Voluntary Community Support organisations; and a Cost of Living Co-ordinator.

These initiatives will come into play almost immediately.

Please do get in touch if there is anything you would like to talk about or if you have any issues which you think I can help with. Take care and stay healthy and safe.

Jacky Pendleton is West Sussex County Councillor for Clymping, Ford, Middleton-on-Sea and Yapton. Tel: 07768 200539; e-mail: Jackypendleton@westsussex.gov.uk

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning applications for Clymping are undecided by Arun District Council as of 20th November 2022.

Arun DC ref.	Location	Proposal
CM/51/22/PL	Land at Northwood Farm, Yapton Road Climping BN18 0HR	Variation of condition 2 approved under CM/69/21/PL relating to approved plans.
CM/47/22/PL	Climping College The Mill, The Mill Lodge, Climping Street Climping BN17 5RN	Demolition of the Schoolhouse, the Dancehall and Mill Lodge and the erection of 1 No replacement dwelling and 2 No storage buildings with associated infrastructure and landscaping. This application affects the setting of listed buildings, is in CIL Zone 5 and is CIL Liable as new dwelling.
CM/48/22/L	Climping College, The Mill, The Mill Lodge, Climping Street Climping BN17 5RN	Listed building consent for the demolition of the Schoolhouse, the Dancehall and Mill Lodge and the erection of a replacement dwelling and 2 No storage buildings with associated infrastructure and landscaping.
CM/46/22/PL	Bairds Farm Shop Crookthorn Lane Climping BN17 5SN	Erection of a substation, eight ultra-rapid electric vehicle chargers and associated electrical equipment within the car parking area of Maidenhead Aquatics Littlehampton. This application is in CIL Zone 5 and is Zero Rated as other development.
CM/44/22/DOC	Land at Northwood Farm, Yapton Road Climping BN18 0HR	Approval of details reserved by condition imposed under CM/69/21/PL.

Arun DC ref.	Location	Proposal
CM/34/22/PL	Land to rear of Vincent Cottage Rudford Industrial Estate, Ford Road BN18 0BF	Retrospective laying of hard surfacing and change of use of land for the parking of vehicles and siting of a storage container with erection of floodlighting. This application is in CIL Zone 2 (zero rated) as other development. This application is a dual parish application with Ford Parish Council.
CM/30/22/WS	South Coast Skip Hire Unit H9-H11 Ford Road BN18 0BD	Change of use of existing hangar building from B2/B8 industrial/storage to sui generis, installation of combined heat and power plant, receipt of up to 15,000 tonnes per year of feedstock, generation and export of up to 1.25mW electricity and 5.5mW thermal and installation of HV meter cabinet.
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.
M/16/22/PL <i>[Editor's note: this application is filed under Middleton]</i>	Land south of Grevatts Lane/A259 Climping	Laying out of an 18-hole 72-par golf course, a 9-hole golf course, practice greens and a driving range including a buggy compound; the formation of a new access onto the A259; construction of a club house with associated golf club facilities; the construction of a maintenance building and external area of hardstanding; the laying of parking, new roads and paths; new landscape planting; surface water drainage basins and water storage reservoirs; and other earth works and infrastructure. This application also lies within the parishes of Climping and Yapton, is a Departure from the Development Plan and affects a Public Right of Way. This application is subject to an Environmental Statement.

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).

Word search

Christmas is coming!

By Alexander Nonymouse

In the puzzle below you'll find 24 words to help get you in the festive spirit.
They go horizontally and vertically.

S N B E T H L E H E M F G B X
H O J I H Q R E I N D E E R G
E E A V S X M A N G E R S B J
P L E Y Q H A N G E L E Z D B
H G S L S O C R A N B E R R Y
E J I N G L E L U I J X S A Z
R M I S T L E T O E E D A D P
D Y M A R Y M M B B S H N V R
S J I B L I Z N R G U N T E E
S W R E A T H J V J S V A N S
T I D I I Y T I N S E L K T E
A R P V B A U B L E H N J C N
R I B G Q R F Y L M M J V P T
T W I N K L E Z J O S E P H S
G L T R E E M R T U R K E Y Z

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------|----------|-----------|
| TINSEL | TURKEY | TWINKLE | SHEPHERDS |
| ANGEL | JESUS | NOEL | BAUBLE |
| REINDEER | ADVENT | MANGER | CRANBERRY |
| MISTLETOE | TREE | IVY | MARY |
| SANTA | HOLLY | PRESENTS | STAR |
| WREATH | JINGLE | JOSEPH | BETHLEHEM |

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