

Clymping Village News



March 2023



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Your Clymping Village News

Welcome to the March 2023 issue, number 89



Forty years ago lush kelp forests grew off Clymping beach and all down the West Sussex coastline, from Shoreham to Selsey. The kelp forests are now all but

destroyed – but there is hope to bring them back, along with the great diversity of life that benefits from this important habitat. To read about the Sussex Kelp Recovery Project and the role Clymping has to play, turn to page 19.

As you'll see from our Community Corner, there has been plenty of activity in the village this winter. And there's more excitement to come as the weather warms up, with the Clymping Open Gardens scheduled to return this June (page 5). There's a role for everyone, whether you welcome visitors into your own back garden, volunteer to help or just enjoy celebrating our beautiful village on the day.

Please note there is a consultation coming up on changes to the A259 junctions – you'll find information in the Chairman's View column (page 17).

We appreciate all our regular contributors, who keep us up to date on local news and developments. I'm also pleased to include some information from Clymping Dog Sanctuary in this issue.

Thanks as always to our wonderful advertisers.

– *Lisa Eyre, Editor*

Cover photo by Alex Mustard (courtesy of Blue Marine Foundation, which is one of the partners in the Sussex Kelp Recovery Project)

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Please send all submissions and advertising enquiries to **ClympingNewsEditor@gmail.com**. The deadline for the next issue is 9th May. Submission guidelines can be found at www.clymping.org.uk.

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Clymping Open Gardens

Saturday, 10th June 2023

Would you like to participate?

St Mary's Church is organising what we hope will be a very special Clymping Open Gardens event, and we're looking for as many gardens as possible to showcase our lovely community.

We already have an enjoyable day planned, with morning coffee, lunches, afternoon teas and various stalls in the church hall, plus an exhibition of altar falls in the church. Minibuses will be taking visitors round to participating gardens all day, from 10am till 5pm.

If you would be willing to open your garden, or to help in any other way, please email colin.morris80@outlook.com or ring 07740 213521.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Creating a wildlife habitat

On the morning of 15th January a team of about 15 volunteers gathered in a corner of the Baird farm in Clymping to help create a habitat area for local wildlife. Led by James Baird, the group took down an old pheasant-rearing pen which was situated in original woodland. This opened up a large space for the badgers who already live in the woods to forage and build their setts.

We also cleared the area of plastic litter and other debris, and the children enjoyed helping to assemble and hang 18 bird boxes among the trees. They also put up three bat boxes, because an impressive 13 species of bat (out of 18 in the whole of the UK) have been recorded in the area.

Following a delicious lunch of home-made soup and bread provided by James

and his wife, Karen, we planted 150 trees of several different varieties, including crabapple, apple, blackthorn (sloe) and alder buckthorn, which is the host plant for the brimstone butterfly. These will grow into a hedgerow, providing food and nesting shelter for a range of animals, from beetles and mice to butterflies and birds.

If you would like to participate in a future volunteer day at the Baird farm, email James at jamesdbaird5@gmail.com.

The next event will be a circular litter pick leaving St Mary's primary school at 10am on Sunday 5th March, travelling south down Bread Lane and back up Climping Street. Bags will be provided; please bring a decent pair of gloves and a friendly disposition. We hope to see you there. — Lisa Eyre



James Baird instructs the children on where to hang the bird boxes.



Volunteers plant trees for the hedgerow.

Cleaning up the beach

A huge thank you to the Clymping community for joining Sussex Dolphin Project for a beach clean on Saturday, 21st January with our partners Harbour Hounds, who arranged the event and provided refreshments.

The weather was kind to us, and although it was cold the sun was shining. Our 20 volunteers retrieved a large amount of waste, which was collected by the council afterwards for removal.



A disused cuttlefish trap was found washed up on the beach.

It was great to meet so many other people at the beach who asked what we were doing and, when seeing our Sussex Dolphin Project logos, asked our favourite question, which is 'Do we have dolphins in Sussex?'

The answer was revealed after the beach clean in a presentation delivered by Sussex Dolphin Project head, Thea Taylor, over hot drinks and biscuits. She showed dolphin footage from the local area and offered further details on the three species of dolphin that we see regularly in Sussex waters – the bottlenose dolphin, the common dolphin and the white-beaked dolphin – plus one species of porpoise, the harbour porpoise.

We do regular beach cleans across the Sussex coastline and look forward to

returning to Clymping beach soon.

For further information please visit our website: www.sussexdolphinproject.org.

– Lloyd Gofton, Sussex Dolphin Project

Craft sale to help the Clymping Dog Sanctuary

On Monday 28th November, we had a Christmas light switch-on in our road. We decided to raise money for the Clymping Dog Sanctuary because we both love dogs and we want to do as much as we can to help them. We made lots of things, from small to big things like pots made from resin and Hama beads. We would say it was a success because we raised £41.40.

A few days later we went to the Clymping Dog Sanctuary to hand in the money and we got to see some dogs. While we were there we realised how much the dogs need a forever home.

Please help those animals that don't have a forever home yet. You can always donate old blankets, duvets and dog beds. Dog food, treats and toys are always needed over there. Another way you can help is by walking one of the dogs for free.

– Bethany and Ruby



Selling homemade crafts to raise funds for Clymping Dog Sanctuary

Cakes and sun catchers for RNLI

On 26th November, Woodland Stained Glass of Clymping held a fundraising event in May Close in aid of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). Thank you to everyone who donated, and to those who bought cakes, coffee, raffle tickets and our handmade sun catchers. We all enjoyed a lovely morning and raised a total of £600.53 for this very worthy organisation.

You can learn more about our stained glass at www.woodlandstainedglass.co.uk.

– Clare Caldecott



Cakes for sale to benefit the RNLI



Guests enjoy cake, company and sun catchers

Carols in Clymping

Carols are one of my favourite parts of the Christmas season, and I really enjoyed all the opportunities in our village this past December to listen to beautiful performances and join in with the singing.

The carol season started at the St Mary's primary school carol service at St Mary's Church on 14th December. It was organised as a traditional carol service, with Bible readings and poems from the older pupils, songs prepared by each class and congregational singing. Because of the previous pandemic restrictions and aftermath, it was the first carol service the school had held in the church since 2019, which made it particularly special.

St Mary's Church held its own traditional lessons and carols service on the 18th, with a combined choir from St Mary's Clymping and St Mary's Yapton led by Rev. Richard Hayes. Candlelight made the church look very festive. Unfortunately the church's heating had gone out earlier that day, but mulled wine, mince pies and a cheerful spirit kept everyone warm.

On the 19th the rain stopped just in time for the outdoor Carols on the Bridge at Waterford Gardens, which was held in aid of St Mary's Church. We all enjoyed mulled wine, sausage rolls and mince pies, followed by hearty carolling led by Rev. Richard and Rob Newey on his guitar. It was a really lovely community event, and no one cared how well you sang.

On the afternoon of the 20th I had the chance to attend Carols by Candlelight at Bailiffscourt Hotel. After a traditional Christmas lunch, the guests

headed to Bailiffscourt's 13th-century chapel, which glowed with hundreds of lights and candles. The *a cappella* singing



Carols by Candlelight at Bailiffscourt

a professional carol concert, and it was surprisingly touching.

by the world-class Agnes Collective quartet was magical in such an intimate space, and was complemented by readings ranging from humorous to poignant. This was the first time I had been to

On the 24th I was back at St Mary's Church with my family for the

Christingle service. This child-friendly service features oranges with symbolic ribbons, sweets and candles. The candles are lit during the final carol, representing



Holding a Christingle

Christ as the light of the world. The church was full, with a truly heartwarming atmosphere, and as the candlelight danced among us, I may or may not have shed just a small tear. — Lisa Eyre



PANCAKES, ANYONE?

Saturday, 25th February 2:30–4pm

St Mary's Church, Clymping

Join us to explore some of the ways people get ready for Lent – with
pancakes and carnival celebrations!

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"My child (10) is severely dyslexic but has discovered a new-found love of reading and writing – thanks to Pete." – Alex

Dee West Yoga

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



RECTOR'S NOTE



Rev. Richard Hayes sees neurodiversity as an underused gift to society and to Christianity.

If you made New Year's resolutions, how are they going? Most of you will not be surprised that I have never got on with them. I don't think they are necessarily designed for all of the approximately 15 per cent of the population who are in some way neurodiverse. Years ago my cousin did a personality test with me and then gave me a prayer for my personality type. It went something like this: 'O Lord, help me to concentra... oh look, a bird!'

I found this one line incredibly liberating, coming as it did not long after my wife, Tracey, gave me her professional diagnosis that I was dyslexic and probably had attention deficit disorder.

I think there is a lot about many Christian spiritual traditions that those of us who are in some way neurodiverse can find difficult. For example, I grew up in a tradition that promoted 'quiet times'. This meant a time either in the morning or evening reading the Bible and praying, possibly using Bible notes. Gosh, for me that was always a struggle! Not being aware of what did and didn't work with the way my brain functioned made me feel very inadequate.

I now try and find patterns or rhythms that work a bit better for me, but it can still feel like things are stacked up against people like me, particularly as I put the finishing touches to my master's dissertation... you can ask Tracey how much of a stress that has been!

The titles of some of the different diagnoses that are considered neurodiverse are a problem. Attention deficit *disorder*. OK, I may have a 'problem' with keeping attentive, but it is *not* a disorder! So many children and adults are encouraged to see dyslexia, ADD, dyscalculia and autism as a weakness, whereas they can so easily be the greatest of strengths. The obvious example is in the creative world, where professions as diverse as architects and dancers are leading the way for neurodiversity.

Such creative and alternative ways of thinking are also vital for our nation. I recently discovered that GCHQ – the information hub for all our communications and security – go out of their way to employ people who are neurodiverse, knowing that they approach problem-solving in different ways to most people.

I guess it's all about 'fitting in'. Humans are generally pretty awful about categorising and putting people into boxes, and education has always tended to start the ball rolling. As a 'leftie', I would have been forced a hundred years ago to write right-handed, and it makes me wonder, what things do we do today to our children to make them conform and be less able than they are? So often our labels are the most dis-abling and dis-ordering thing we can do to those who use pathways in life that are different to the majority.

I think that the neurodivergent commu-

nity is not only an underused gift to society but also to Christianity and the church.

Of course, all this doesn't make the various traditions of Christian spirituality wrong; neither should I personally dismiss them. It might just mean that I have to work harder and be more self-forgiving.

New Year's resolutions don't do it for me, but I have found some of the Lent disciplines very helpful, although challenging. Perhaps if even I can keep Lent different for 40 days, you might like to try it to?

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

REGULAR SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE

1st & 3rd Sundays of each month:
Family Service at Yapton, 9:30am
Parish Communion at Clymping, 11am

2nd & 4th Sundays of each month:
Parish Communion at Yapton, 9:30am
Family Service at Clymping, 11am

Every Thursday
Holy Communion at Ford, 10am

For more information, go to
www.cyfchurches.org.uk

Word Search *By Alexander Nonymouse*

Hundreds of animal species rely on kelp forests for shelter and as a place to lay their eggs and feed (see page 19). Can you find the names of 24 of them here? They go horizontally and vertically.

X	C	C	M	M	X	Y	N	S	E	A	G	U	L	L	AMPHIPOD	PRAWN
C	U	R	O	P	B	U	T	T	E	R	F	I	S	H	ANEMONE	SEAGULL
C	T	A	L	L	U	M	P	S	U	C	K	E	R	R	BASS	SEAHORSE
O	T	B	L	T	S	E	A	U	R	C	H	I	N	B	BRISTLEWORM	SEAL
R	L	G	U	E	Q	B	I	L	W	B	K	E	X	R	BRITTLESTAR	SEASQUIRT
M	E	E	S	R	R	Z	L	O	B	S	T	E	R	I	BUTTERFISH	SEA URCHIN
O	F	G	C	N	A	J	H	E	R	O	N	U	P	S	CATSHARK	SCORPIONFISH
R	I	R	B	R	I	T	T	L	E	S	T	A	R	T	CLINGFISH	TERN
A	S	E	A	S	Q	U	I	R	T	F	R	B	M	L	CORMORANT	
N	H	T	C	L	I	N	G	F	I	S	H	A	H	E	CRAB	
T	C	S	C	O	R	P	I	O	N	F	I	S	H	W	CUTTLEFISH	
C	A	T	S	H	A	R	K	L	J	T	K	S	S	O	EGRET	
D	K	K	Q	W	A	M	P	H	I	P	O	D	E	R	HERON	
N	P	R	A	W	N	A	N	E	M	O	N	E	A	M	LOBSTER	
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Art trail

Local artists open their doors

Susie Olford invites you to visit nearby venues in this year's Open Studios art trail.

Your local artists are planning an early season of open studios at the end of April. The Chichester Open Studios art trail is normally held the first two week-ends in May, but we have moved the event this year to avoid clashing with the Coronation celebrations.

Trail dates are 22nd–23rd April and 29th–30th April, plus 1st May (bank holiday).

‘Open studios’ means you will be able to see work benches, easels and some of our working practices. You can view the tools we use, the paints, the glazes and more. The artists hope you will enjoy seeing work in progress, as well as finished pieces.

The Open Studios trail covers an area from Bilsham to Pagham, further west

to Emsworth, and north into the Sussex Downs villages.

The trail map and artist list are available at www.chichesterarttrail.org. A full-colour brochure will be published in early April.

Locally, you'll find me at Flansham, in my usual light-filled barn (venue 35; PO22 8NJ). My oil and acrylic paintings are atmospheric with textured marks; they are scenes for you to dream about. Feast your eyes to see what you love in the world around you.

My colleague Gill Hunter Nudds will be at



Song of the Rocks (acrylic) by Susie Olford



Fox (ceramic) hand sculpted by Gill Hunter Nudds

Bilsham Road (venue 27; BN18 0JY). She creates hand-built sculptural pieces inspired by wildlife and wild places – beautiful woods, rivers and meadows. Each sculpture is unique and made with a variety of clays. Gill runs clay workshops from her home studio, and you can contact her at gillhunter@hotmail.co.uk.

There are additional artists exhibiting in Felpham, Middleton and Elmer. Please

look out for the green art trail signs that will direct you to our venues from 22nd April.

It's a perfect opportunity to enjoy a day viewing artwork across our part of the South Coast.

Susie Olford (smoart@btinternet.com) is a member of Arundel Art Society, who meet in Clymping Church Hall.

PARISH COUNCIL



Nadine Phibbs, Clerk to the Council, discusses the Parish Council precept and the upcoming elections.

Every January Clymping Parish Council sets the local precept for the forthcoming financial year. The precept provides most of the council's income for the year and enables us to deliver Parish Council services, maintain and enhance the village environment and provide for the day-to-day running costs of the Parish Council.

At the Parish Council meeting on 31st January, we were able, for the fourth year in a row, to agree to maintain the precept at the current level of £16,760. In individual household terms, this means that those who pay council tax in Band D, for example, will be contributing £38.09 for 2023–2024.

The precept is collected by Arun District Council as part of the charge that appears on your council tax bill. Any changes to other charges that make up the total bill will be published by Arun and West Sussex councils.

May elections

Elections for district council and local parish/town councils are held every four years. The next election will take place on 4th May 2023.

In late January, Arun District Council sent a household notification letter to all residential households within the district, along with an election arrangements leaflet.

Please note that from 4th May, voters in England will need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in most elections.

Arun District is divided into 23 wards, represented by 54 councillors and serves a population of almost 150,000.

Clymping Parish Council comprises a maximum of 7 councillors. An election will be triggered if nominations are received for more than 7 candidates. If there are fewer than this number of nominations, the candidates will be elected as a result of an uncontested election.

For more information about the May elections, please visit www.arun.gov.uk/2023-elections.

Parish Council meetings

Scheduled full Council meetings for the rest of this year are as follows:

**14th March, 16th May, 11th July,
12th September and 14th November.**

Meetings start at 7:30pm in St Mary's Church Hall. The Annual Meeting of the Parish precedes the Council meeting on 16th May and starts at 6:30pm.

The agenda for each meeting will be posted at www.clymping.org.uk/full-council-meetings/ at least three days before the date of the meeting. Minutes of previous meetings can be found at the same address.

Parish Council members

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(Vice Chairman)

01903 718755

hsburrell.CPC@gmail.com

Christine Gillott

07931 125854

cgillott.CPC@gmail.com

Tim Hibbert

07947 130404

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Colin Humphris

(Chairman)

01903 733848

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David Miranda

07768 981923

dmirandacpc@gmail.com

Two vacancies

Parish Clerk

Nadine Phibbs

07776 194192

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Parish Council website

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

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CHAIRMAN'S VIEW



Colin Humphris writes about recent flooding, the wind farm consultation and plans for village roads.

Water, water everywhere! January brought copious rain and more coastal damage to the sea defences. Unfortunately, those studying climate change predict that these types of extreme weather events will only become more frequent. We must therefore be very aware of both surface water flooding and coastal damage in Clymping, and of the need for good drainage systems. We live on the coastal flood plain.

Many have shared pictures of the flooded field south of Horsemere Green Lane on social media (see photos on page 18). The last time it was as bad as this was in 2014. I have photographs of the ducks enjoying swimming on a lake next to Crophorne Drive then. I'm sure concerns such as these are part of the drainage challenges facing Foreman Homes and the continuing holding objection by Arun District Council to their plans for 300 homes.

It is also the reason for a continued focus on the drainage along Horsemere Green Lane (HGL). Works were completed for the drainage to the east of Langford Close last year. Work remains to be done on the drainage system to the west to ensure the open integrity of the ditches and culverts that empty into the pond and then on out to the Yapton Road. I met with the Arun drainage engineer and our pond consultant to discuss further works to desilt the pond on HGL, to ensure that the volume of water that can be held in the pond is maximised.

It is an important part of the system, but is currently heavily silted. Expect to see work soon on the pond edges to start the desilting process, to define the total quantity of silt that needs to be removed and to provide an ecological survey. The Parish Council agreed to these works as a basis for an application to the West Sussex County Council Watershed programme to fund the eventual bulk silt disposal. The current regulations make this disposal an expensive enterprise.

By the beach, the expected loss of the remaining section of sea wall has required a realignment of the Environment Agency shingle bund. The progressive loss of the former sea defences is a major concern to those who live near the beach and to those who love it.

The Parish Council filed a response to the Rampion 2 wind farm consultation regarding the route the onshore cables will take and the associated works. We raised the following key points:

- that a more easterly route south of the A259 should be favoured, and that works access close to the school and down Bread Lane should be avoided;
- that we have concerns about the proposed works area to the south of Field Place, given the importance of this area for drainage of an eventual Foreman Homes site;
- that any access by St Mary's Church and Church Hall should be avoided;

- that the timing clashes with the emerging A259 road works.

At its recent meeting the Parish Council approved funding for a design study for Horsemere Green Lane (HGL) as a follow-up to the consultation we undertook in 2021. We need to refine a design and its likely cost in preparation for an application for funding through the WSCC Community Highway Scheme in July this year. We will consult again on this, as a key requirement is to be able to show community support. It is a competitive process, and there is no guarantee that it will come high on WSCC priorities, but the initial discussions of our ideas with WSCC were encouraging. There appears a good fit with the new WSCC Transport Policy that seeks to create space

to encourage non-vehicle 'active' travel.

Important to any changes in HGL are improvements to the A259. WSCC have just informed us that they will be consulting on changes to the junctions in the village from 13th March to 23rd April, with a public event in the Village Hall during the morning of 23rd March. Have your say, as these will significantly affect Clymping.

Finally, this is an election year, and

I would like to encourage any resident keen to be involved in the various interesting challenges we face to consider standing for election to the Parish Council in May. I would be happy to discuss what is involved.

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

After the rain

Heavy rain in January led to flooding on roads and fields in Clymping. These photos, taken on 14th January, show extensive flooding on the field south of Horsemere Green Lane, where outline planning permission has been granted for 300 homes. Arun District Council are seeking further clarification of the developer's drainage proposals.

The photos were taken by Ewout Benschoop of Sussex from Above in line with Civil Aviation Authority regulations.

Top: the main portion of the field, looking southwest. (The row of trees towards the top is the boundary with the A259.)

Bottom: the southwestern corner of the field



Nature Recovery

Under the Sea



PHOTO © DAN SMALE

By Lisa Eyre

When we talk about ‘rewilding’ in Clymping, many of us think of the nature recovery corridor that local farmer James Baird is helping to build. The project, called Weald to Waves, aspires to stretch across 100 km² of Sussex land and is nationally significant. But there is another massive and pioneering nature recovery initiative happening in our area, out at sea, directly off Clymping beach: the Sussex Kelp Recovery Project.

Though I was vaguely aware of it

previously, the first time I heard about the Sussex kelp project in any detail was at an open day on the Baird farm last summer. At the end of our guided farm walk, James and the rest of our group stood at the edge of the beach. We looked back at a rewilded field that now provides a nesting site for birds, and then turned to face outward toward the Channel. James explained that kelp forests once grew in abundance off our Sussex shores but had been destroyed over the past few decades, in part by

fishing vessels using bottom-trawling gear. A ban on bottom trawling, put in place in March 2021, is giving the kelp a chance to grow back, hopefully re-establishing vast and rich habitats for fish and other marine creatures.

Kelp is a large brown seaweed that grows in groupings called forests in shallow, coastal waters. These forests are immensely biodiverse, providing a home, and feeding and nursery grounds, for hundreds of species, including cuttlefish, spider crabs, lobsters, sea bream and bass. Animals such as squid and catsharks lay eggs among the fronds. The kelp itself captures large amounts of carbon dioxide and oxygenates the water. It also helps to prevent coastal erosion by absorbing

energy from the waves that rush over it.

In the 1980s Worthing Borough Council conducted a survey of kelp distribution and found large forests growing 40 km along the coast, from Shoreham to Selsey, as far as 4.5 km out to sea. By 2019, almost all of this kelp – more than 96 per cent – had been destroyed. A range of factors contributed to the decline. Storms, including the Great Storm of 1987, took a toll. Sedimentation may also have contributed, because sediment in the water blocks out the sunlight that kelp needs to grow. Possibly the greatest pressure on the kelp, however, was bottom trawling by commercial fishing boats.

Towing large nets across the sea bed is a highly effective way to catch huge numbers of fish, but it devastates marine habitats.

Repeated passes with trawling gear dislodge the kelp from the sea floor and prevent its regrowth.

Destruction of kelp forests by trawling is obviously bad for the environment, but it's ultimately also bad for fishing. The loss of essential inshore nurseries and feeding grounds means fewer fish are around to be caught by commercial fishing operations in the long term.

Realising the need for action, in 2019 the authority tasked with ensuring the sustainability of fishing in our



Light blue areas indicate the location of kelp forests off the West Sussex coast in the 1980s (top) and in 2019 (bottom).

Source: Seasearch; coordinated by Sussex Wildlife Trust

waters, the Sussex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (Sussex IFCA), led the charge for an exclusion of bottom-towed trawling gear close to shore. A group of high-profile conservation organisations formed a partnership called Help Our Kelp to support the exclusion. Their campaign was championed by the naturalist Sir David Attenborough, ensuring it gained national attention.

In January 2020, following a consultation in which members of the public were encouraged to show their support, the Sussex IFCA agreed a byelaw to create a trawling exclusion zone extending 4 km off the West Sussex coast. In areas of East Sussex, where there was less historical data, the zone would extend about 0.75 km. The byelaw was formally approved by central government in March 2021, bringing it legally into force.

We are now coming up to the second anniversary of the approval of the Sussex IFCA Nearshore Trawling Byelaw, and I've been wondering how things are progressing out at sea. More specifically, where does Clymping fit into it all?

Fortunately, I found someone who could answer my questions. Henri Brocklebank was chair of the Help Our Kelp project and is also Director of Conservation Policy and Evidence at Sussex



PHOTO © ANDY JACKSON



PHOTO © BIG WAVE TV

Top: a catshark swims past kelp. Bottom: clusters of squid eggs, known as a nursery

Wildlife Trust, one of the leading partners in the Sussex Kelp Recovery Project. As we speak, her passion for kelp is immediately apparent – her face lights up as she describes the project and her hopes for its success.

Brocklebank explains that it will probably take several years for the kelp forests to start to recover. In the meantime, though, she says the areas of kelp that we do have are reported as remaining healthy, which is critical, and the project is seeing some positive signs of natural succession, which means the sea bed is beginning to heal itself in its own way.

Monitoring ecosystem changes in the trawler exclusion zone, which encompasses about 300 km², is complicated and

expensive. Brocklebank says that although it's impossible to cite rigorous scientific evidence of change so early into the project, "we're doing everything we can so that year on year we build up a picture." The project uses a variety of methods to do this. For example, sampling environmental DNA in the water helps them determine the range of species that live in an area. They also use special underwater cameras, either towed on sledges across predetermined transects on the sea floor, or stationary and equipped with bait to entice fish to approach for a close-up. These create hours of video for students at partner universities to analyse, but they can't capture the entire area.

To help fill in the gaps, Brocklebank and her team are proud to work with a network of eyes and ears at sea. She praises the contributions of the free-diving community in particular, as their knowledge of the sea bed is so extensive, sometimes going back for decades. She tells me about one free-diver who reported a newly appeared mussel bed which he measured to be at least 1 km long.

Brocklebank says the proliferation of mussel beds is probably the most notable change that the byelaw area has seen so far, because "mussel beds simply cannot establish with continual trawling pressure." But they've also had positive reports of change from fishermen in Worthing and from sea anglers, and she says that the Bognor

Fishermen's Association "are absolutely reporting an increase in the diversity of fish that they're seeing, and they attribute this to the trawling byelaw."

The waters off the Clymping coast saw plenty of trawling activity in the past, so it's not surprising that our once-thriving kelp forests are now significantly depleted. However, Brocklebank notes that just to the west, at Bognor Reef and stretching towards Selsey, there is a spectacular area of healthy forest. This isolated pocket was

protected by the natural formations and shallow depth which make it inaccessible to trawlers.

Clymping is especially an area to watch at the moment, as plans are developed for the

Rampion 2 offshore wind farm project. Though the wind turbines themselves will be 13–25 km from the coast – well outside the trawler exclusion zone – the cables connecting them to land will come through sensitive areas of marine ecosystem before making landfall at Clymping beach.

The main worry is that the laying of the cables will stir up so much sediment that it smothers the kelp. Brocklebank says the Sussex Kelp Recovery Project has "had detailed conversations with Rampion, and we also know that in their original consultation, hundreds of people mentioned the kelp as an issue of concern." She says that, given the level of public feeling, it's very

PHOTO © BIG WAVE TV



Fish feeding among kelp fronds

much in Rampion's interest to minimise damage to the kelp. The important thing is to keep an eye out for when they share their plans for construction, and make a big noise if they don't show how they will protect this important habitat.

Sedimentation from a variety of sources is, in fact, a huge concern for the regeneration of kelp. For example, dredging and the dumping of dredge spoil at sea can add sediment to sensitive areas. The geology of the land in West Sussex is also problematic. Brocklebank notes that the River Rother, which joins the River Arun west of Pulborough, has the highest erosion rate of any river in the UK. A number of organisations are looking at ways to reduce this erosion, but the amount of sediment that currently makes its way out to sea at Littlehampton is enormous.

Changing certain farming techniques to reduce runoff can also help to ameliorate sedimentation. This is where the work of James Baird and his partners in Weald to Waves comes in. Choosing not to farm close to watercourses – whether it's a river or the smallest stream – can also reduce the amount of sediment that eventually makes its way out to sea.

Clymping's position at the confluence of two major nature recovery projects is remarkable. Though they are managed separately, ecologically they are intricately intertwined. As the sea bed recovers, coastal and marine birds will be able to find more food, and more of them will come to our shores to live and nest in rewilded fields. As the regenerated kelp forests provide nursery grounds for fish, a greater number will swim up the Arun, providing

food for herons and seals and contributing to terrestrial food webs.

It's a story of hope and renewal, and Clymping is right in the middle of it.

You can learn more about the Sussex Kelp Recovery Project at <https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/what-we-do/living-seas/kelp>.

Ways you can help

Much of the Sussex Kelp Recovery Project is about watching and waiting as nature does its thing.



Brocklebank suggests that one way we can all help is by keeping an eye out for kelp washed up on the

beach, and then reporting it through the Sussex Kelp Recording Scheme. You can register for the scheme by going to <https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/what-we-do/living-seas/kelp/kelp-recording-scheme>.

Brocklebank says another simple way to help is by buying sustainably caught fish, such as that sold locally by the Bognor Fishermen's Association. Their Facebook page provides updates on when they expect boats to come in and what type of fish they'll have available (www.facebook.com/bognorfishermensassociation).

BEACH REPORT

The Environment Agency provides an update on the beach.



Collapsed section of wall at the western car park. It has been made safe by the landowner.

The unsettled weather over the winter caused further erosion at Clymping beach, specifically around the western car park, where many of the structures are vulnerable and a section of wall was badly damaged. We worked with the landowner to warn people that the wall was unsafe.

The damaged section of wall has now been collapsed by the landowner to make the area safer (see photo above). In early February we are completing works to the shingle banks in the western car park, moving these defences to a more landward position to prevent shingle being washed away.

Curious circles in the chalk

After the stormy conditions in November, the beach revealed some curious round marks in the chalk substrate (see photo).

Our internal heritage advisor suggested that these may be postholes or old World War II defences. However, by December, these had been completely covered over with shingle.

This has now been logged on the Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network (CITiZAN),

which surveys such remains found on the shoreline. Its website has an interesting interactive map of archaeological features around England's coastlines.



Curious round marks exposed in the chalk substrate

Public safety works

We have been made aware of the presence of short lengths of timber floating below the



Timbers removed from the beach in January.

surface of the water around Littlehampton and causing hazards to boat users.

These could be coming from Clymping beach or elsewhere along the coast. In January we

removed in excess of 30 of these pieces of timber (see photo) from the beach, and we

intend to increase our public safety activities on the frontage this year to remove hazards.

We will also ensure that all our operations to remove or make safe groynes will prevent these short lengths of timber from breaking free and floating away.

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 email SSDEnquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk.



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SCHOOL NEWS



Justin Murray, head teacher, shares the latest developments at St Mary's CE Primary School.

The cold snap seems to have passed and we are all feeling the benefit of some sunshine. While I do not consider myself a fair-weather cyclist, I have felt more enthused to jump on my bike for my commute to school.

We have been fortunate to have our new deputy head teacher in school with us every Friday. Mr Day, who will formally take up his post after the Easter holidays, will be an excellent addition to the school team. He is already bringing some exciting ideas, and his energy, enthusiasm and experience will allow us to grow the school even more.

As a bit of breaking news, I'm very pleased to say that, after a rigorous application process, I have accepted the school governors' offer of the role of permanent

head teacher at St Mary's. I am grateful for this opportunity and am passionate about leading this school as we improve even further.

We have been continuing to share great links with St Mary's Church. Our carol service was a real highlight of the festive period, and we remain very grateful to Rev. Rich for his involvement with the school. He is kind, compassionate and a real friend to our school community. We are looking forward to our Easter service later this term.

Our prayer leaders have been growing their role in school this year. They have been responsible for giving speeches about our core values as a Church of England school. They also help to lead worship on a Friday and have been writing prayers and choosing songs.

Speaking of songs, we are proud of the work our growing school choir has done this year. In December they sang at our Christmas fair and carol service, and at a local nursing home. We have been working to improve our singing provision throughout school, and Tuesday worship now has singing as a focus.

We are pleased with the continued improvement in our



A new canopy covers a portion of the outdoor space enjoyed by our Reception children, allowing them to be outside in all weathers.

reading here at St Mary's. The school is responding well to the needs of the children, and parents have offered encouraging and supportive feedback on the progress their children are making. We recently displayed writing for all year groups in school; it was amazing to see how far the children come on their journey with us. We are about to have a big push on times tables, and I feel there are going to be some amazing demonstrations of how confident and enthusiastic our children are.

The children are enjoying a variety of days out this term. Oliver Class (Years 1 and 2) headed off to Marwell Zoo in early February to develop their understanding of habitats and animals around the world. Jenkins Class (Years 3 and 4), who have been studying ancient Egypt, went to Brighton Museum to see the Egyptian exhibition. Normanby Class (Years 5 and 6) will be going to the National Maritime Museum to further enhance their knowledge of polar exploration, and Farrant Class (Reception) will be visiting Littlehampton library during our Book Week. These are, of course, exciting opportunities which will undoubtedly create some lasting memories and can shape a love of learning for life.

In other exciting news, we have redeveloped the outside space for some of our younger children in school. We are so grateful to Shelly Motors (www.shellymotors.com) for sponsoring St Mary's for the cost of these works. The children are able to work outside in all weathers now, and this greatly increases the quality of education we can provide year round.

Shelly Motors also sponsored the

How did you enjoy the trip to Marwell Zoo?

Children in Years 1 and 2 tell us about their recent class visit.

"Marwell was amazing! I liked the meerkats – they're lovely." – **Patience**

"I liked Marwell and loved the meerkats. They were standing up and looking around." – **Mia**

"I liked Marwell a lot. I liked seeing the tiger – he was running up and down." – **Harry**

"Marwell was brilliant. I liked the animals with big horns." – **Daniel**

"I enjoyed seeing the giraffes. They were in two pairs, two at each branch." – **Maeve**



redevelopment of another part of our school to make it a purposeful teaching area. Their passion and enthusiasm for improving outcomes for the children in our community is admirable, and we have been able to achieve so much more with their support. They are aligned with our values, and we look forward to demonstrating the difference they are making to our continued commitment to raising standards throughout the school.

If you are part of a business and have the capacity to support the younger members of our community, we would love to welcome you to the school to find out more about us. Please see our website for contact details (www.stmarysclymping.org.uk).

Finally, we have been delighted with our community interaction over the past few months. We welcomed parents in for our Christmas Nativity play and our Christmas fair, and for our carol service at the church. We also held 'book looks' for parents to come in and view their children's work. Rev. Rich visits regularly, and we have a variety of governors coming in to support the school. We are lucky to have this community feel, and it is not something we should take for granted.

We all want to work hard for our community and the young people in it. It is an honour to do so – and St Mary's Clymping is a special place to do it.



Have you considered being a school governor?

St Mary's CE Primary School in Clymping is looking for a voluntary Foundation Governor to join our governing board.

It's an opportunity to support our school and the children in our community. Making a difference to local education is very rewarding, and full training is provided.

Governors plan the strategic direction of the school, oversee its financial performance and act as critical friends to the head teacher and school leadership team. Foundation Governors should bring an informed regard for the Church nature of the foundation of the school.

For more information, email the Clerk of Governors, Anna Roberts, at clerk@stmarysclymping.org.uk.

We're a small school with a big heart!

www.stmarysclymping.org.uk

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR



Amanda Worne discusses the approval of the South Coast Skips incinerator and the development of the field.

I hope you have all had an enjoyable start to the year. My year started off with a visit to West Sussex County Council (WSCC), where at the planning committee meeting on 10th January I spoke out against the application by South Coast Skips for an incinerator to be built at their site on the Rudford Industrial Estate. Despite my raising many reasons why this application should not be approved, and the fact that nearly 300 residents wrote to WSCC to oppose the application, it was unfortunately passed.

This has led me to contact the environment department at Arun District Council (ADC), who will be issuing the health permit for the incinerator, to enquire whether there are any health reasons for it to be rejected. I stressed how important it was that the officers involved needed to consider the permit very carefully, as there are residents already living in close proximity, and another 1,500 houses going to be built on the adjacent airfield. Surely the health of all these people needs to be taken into account.

The reserved matters application for the 300 homes that was supposed to be decided on 13th January has now been moved to March, as ADC have received new information that needs to be considered. I am currently awaiting an update from

the strategic development team leader as to what this information is.

I have also been in touch with the tree officer at ADC to ensure that the row of trees that runs along the A259 on the boundary of the proposed development is protected. This beautiful curtain of greenery will prevent the houses being visible from the road. We also need to retain as many trees as possible to help soak up the water from all the rain we appear to now have through our winter months, which, if caused by climate change, will probably only get worse. The officer assures me that a significant number of the trees have preservation orders on them.

Finally, just a little piece of interesting news: I understand that the café adjacent to Maidenhead Aquatics is no longer run by the Bald Builders themselves but by one of their daughters. She is no longer selling hamburgers but has gone more up market and is selling paninis and salads, which might explain why the café has not been as busy as it was when it first opened. It is also now closed on Sundays and Mondays.

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



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PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning applications for Clymping are undecided by Arun District Council as of 13th February 2023.

Arun DC ref.	Location	Proposal
CM/7/23/DOC	Black Horse Inn Climping Street Climping BN17 5RL	Approval of details reserved by conditions imposed under reference CM/49/19/PL.
CM/5/23/DOC	Black Horse Inn Climping Street Climping BN17 5RL	Approval of details reserved by condition imposed under reference CM/50/19/L.
CM/4/23/PL	North Barn Climping Street Climping BN17 5RG	Variation of condition 2 imposed under CM/6/20/PL.
CM/2/23/HH	Magnolia House Horsemere Green Lane Ford BN17 5QZ	Construction of detached garage.
CM/3/23/DOC	Climping College The Mill Climping Street Climping BN17 5RN	Approval of details reserved by condition imposed under reference number CM/47/22/PL.
CM/1/23/DOC	Land at Northwood Farm, Yapton Road Climping BN18 0HR	Approval of details reserved by condition imposed under CM/39/21/PL.
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.

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).

Peter Pan and Wendy

the girl that I was
talked to the boy that you were
on a blue and golden
spring afternoon
under silvery olives
pasque flowers under our feet

we spoke of Saint Paul
of Saint Barnabas
walking the old Roman road
over the Aphrodite hills

we are all right, you asked
nothing misunderstood?
I know, I always knew I said

one last meal in the square
facing the sun
holding hands
like old lovers in deckchairs
husband, kind, indulgent,
smiling
brought us chips

we will come back, go north
soon, in September

an email told me
the boy that you were
had left the girl that I was

I dream of you
flowers round your feet
olive leaves on your brow
a lost boy
I, Wendy
home in my nightdress
cannot sleep.

Lyn Lundie

Cyprus

Community spaces

Welcome to your local church hall

Robin Keeling suggests this modern space as a good venue for activities and gatherings.

Not everyone knows where Clymping Church Hall is, and some do not even know there is one! It is not uncommon for us to be asked its location.

The Church Hall is situated north of St Mary's Church, half-hidden by the trees, and south of HMP Ford, at the end of the narrow lane that goes past the church lych gate.

This modern building was opened in 1991 and has a light and airy main hall measuring around 30m². It also has a smaller meeting room, plus a modern kitchen with a range cooker, fridges and other equipment. We have 90 chairs and ample tables that seat up to six each. There are also loos, a baby changing facility and an AED. Outside there



Church Hall exterior

is a good size car park and a large grassy area for games and other recreational activities.

The hall has Pilates, yoga and art groups that meet most weeks. Clymping Parish Council have meetings here, Arun District

Council use the building for election days, and other groups host one-off events. There are spare slots for further activities.

It is a good venue for family parties and business meetings.

The Church Hall is run as a separate entity to St Mary's Church. It's set up as a charitable company, with trustees. We run on a voluntary basis and welcome additional help.

If you are interested in hiring the hall, please contact Chris Keeling at chrismkeeling@btinternet.com.

*Robin Keeling is a Church Hall trustee.
Email: robin.keeling@btinternet.com*



Top: main hall; bottom: kitchen

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