

Clymping Village News



June 2023



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Your Clymping Village News

Welcome to the June 2023 issue, number 90



Clymping always seems to have a lot going on for a village of its size, and this spring there is even more than usual. The fate of Clymping beach is

probably the biggest issue in the community at the moment. In this edition you'll find a special report on the beach which includes a range of voices and perspectives. I hope these articles will encourage discussion.

There is also information in this edition about a consultation on the relocation of the beach amenities.

Another major issue facing residents is the future of Horsemere Green Lane. In the centre of this publication you'll find a consultation form which you can fill in and return to Colin Humphris.

Elsewhere in these pages, an interview with Justin Murray, the new headteacher at St Mary's Clymping primary school, introduces him to the community and gives us an insight into his vision for the school and its role in the village.

The local Eco Church team tells us about their efforts to make the churchyard more welcoming to wildlife, and Peter Mules visits a local beekeeper to learn more about the important pollinators in his garden.

Speaking of gardens, I hope you are able to enjoy the Clymping Open Gardens on 10th June!

Many thanks as always to all our contributors and advertisers.

– *Lisa Eyre, Editor*

*Cover photo of Clymping beach in May 2023
by Peter Mules*

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Please send all submissions a advertising enquiries to **ClympingNewsEditor@gmail.com**. The deadline for the next issue is 4th September. Submission guidelines can be found at www.clymping.org.uk.

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COMMUNITY CORNER

A wild time at Messy Church

Messy Church at St Mary's Clymping went 'wild' on Saturday, 20th May, with an event devoted to looking after the



Fill your boots



Bug hotel ready for guests

natural world. Around 40 adults and children helped make the churchyard more welcoming to wildlife by constructing a deluxe bug hotel, making and throwing wild-flower seed bombs and even installing a small pond. We also went on a bug safari and planted flowers in old welly boots to take home. Indoors we contributed to a giant tree collage and decorated (and gobbled) yummy cupcakes. Rev. Richard Hayes got his guitar out for a bit of singing, and he spoke to the children about the importance of taking care of the environment. It was a gloriously sunny, muddy, messy afternoon.

The event was in partnership with the benefice's new Eco Church team (see page 10). – *Lisa Eyre*

Coronation street parties

Many people in the village enjoyed street parties to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III in the first weekend of May. Residents of May Close convened outside to raise a glass to the King on 6th May (after the rain had stopped!). Around 40 people gathered on the green in Wooldridge Walk and Mant Close in honour of the King on Sunday, 7th May. On the same afternoon residents of Crophorne Drive enjoyed a festive tea party. – *L.E.*



Crophorne Drive Coronation tea party



Wooldridge Walk and Mant Close Coronation party

Recognition for John Taylor

On 27th April, John Taylor received a belated past president's tie from Arundel Probus Club. John served as President of the club from 2005 to 2006 and also served as Secretary for several years. The tie was presented by the club's president, David Feist, who is a resident of Clymping.

John served as a Parish Councillor in Clymping for about six years, and many will undoubtedly remember him locally. He has also been active in the Lions Club.

The Arundel Probus Club is a local

association for retired and semi-retired professional or business men and women.

– Richard Brennan



David Feist presents a past president's tie to John Taylor (left).



Yapton Village Women's Institute

If you are looking for a group to join that will help to:

- inspire you
- make new friends and have fun
- provide you with educational opportunities
- be involved in national and local campaigns and issues that particularly affect women
- hear different speakers and entertainment
- go on visits, outings and lunches
- and much more...

...then you would be welcome to come to two meetings free of charge to experience our group. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month between 10.00am and 12.00 noon (except in August, when there is no formal meeting, and in December, when we meet on the second Tuesday).

Our meetings are held in Yapton and Ford Village Hall, Main Road, Yapton BN18 0ET.

For further information please email YaptonVillageWIPresident@gmail.com or call Maggie Brackley on 07789790706.

Please join us for

Clymping Open Gardens

Sat., 10th June 2023
10am to 5pm

Tickets will be available on the day at St Mary's Church, Clymping, priced at £7 each. Tickets include a hop-on, hop-off minibus service around the gardens.

A café will be operating throughout the day in the Church Hall, offering morning coffee, light lunches and afternoon teas. Also be sure to enjoy the exhibition of handmade altar and pulpit falls inside the church.



Consultation

Have your say on the beach amenities

James Baird invites the public to view and respond to proposals to relocate the beach car park and café.

On 18th May the Baird family held a community drop-in at the Village Hall to allow people to have their say on the future of the beach car parks and facilities. Thank you to everyone who attended and offered their comments.

We felt strongly that it was important for people to have their voices heard at the formative stage and before drafting a planning application.

If you missed the consultation, the plans will be available throughout the summer at the Clymping beach café, along with feedback forms. The forms and any other steering comments can be sent to my email (jamesdbaird5@gmail.com).

The community has known since 2009 that there would be an increased risk of coastal erosion, and as the sea continues to adapt and evolve to a more sustainable position, we are

forced to relocate the beach amenities to a place higher on the plain, set back from the coast, where our visitors and community can safely enjoy the special place that the beach and its surrounds are.

Bearing in mind that it is a consultation and not a referendum, we may not reach a consensus that pleases everyone, but it will give us a very useful steer before consulting with others such as the National Trust, highways consultants, landscape architects and ecologists.

There will of course also be an opportunity for public comment on the submitted planning application in due course.



Map showing possible locations for the beach amenities. More details are available at the Clymping beach café.

Café review

The Clymping beach café is back!

Run by a local Ukrainian family, the café has returned for a refreshing summer. Lisa Eyre tried it out.

After a period of closure, the café at Clymping beach has reopened this season, creating much joy amongst visitors to the beach, including ice-cream obsessed children, and their parents who need a cup of tea.

Valeriia, who arrived in Britain last year from Ukraine and now runs the café, has created a very pleasant and welcoming atmosphere. She worked as sous chef at a seafood and fish restaurant in Ukraine and says running a café is a new experience for her. From all appearances she's off to an excellent start. She says that although there are differences in food culture between Ukraine and Britain, her experience as a chef in a pub here has helped her understand local tastes, and she hopes everyone will enjoy their food.

That was certainly the case when I visited the café on a

lovely Sunday afternoon in May. My freshly cooked bacon, brie and cranberry sandwich was well-balanced, gooey and delicious.

The café serves a range of sandwiches and also burgers and sausage rolls. Valeriia says that new dishes will appear over time, as her kitchen equipment gets up to speed. She also offers hot and cold drinks and a range of ice creams and lollies. There is even ice cream available for dogs who need a little refreshment.

Opening hours are from 8am to 8pm, though on days with inclement weather and slower business, the café can close at 6pm.



Valeriia welcomes customers to her beach café.

Eco Church

Caring for God's creation

Elaine Cordingley shares how the newly formed Eco Church team is supporting the environment locally.

In the autumn of 2022 the three churches of the benefice, including St Mary's Clymping, joined the international Christian charity A Rocha UK. This organisation has been committed to global conservation since 1983, and has run an 'Eco Church' scheme for churches in England and Wales since 2016.

The scheme makes available a variety of web resources with the focus on 'Caring for God's Earth', and recognises progress along the way through different award levels.



New hedge at St Mary's Clymping

With the support of rector Rev. Richard Hayes, our Eco Church team used these resources during the Lent period and prepared a six-week activity-based event

called 'Go Greener, Get Outside for Lent'.

Each church felt it could use its churchyard space to sensitively help nature

by providing wildlife habitats as well as plants for pollinators. We started by providing bug hotels and log piles and went on to install bird boxes and feeders. By demonstrating how small acts can benefit our environment, we hope to inspire others to make changes as well.

At Clymping churchyard there is a new hedge, and an area set aside for wild flowers which the children are actively involved in. Working in partnership with the Eco Church team, Messy Church constructed a large bug hotel as a habitat for a variety of wildlife, and installed a pond. At Yapton new areas are being created with beneficial planting. The unique location of St Andrew's at Ford will be made even more wildlife friendly.

The churchyards are always open, and visitors are welcome to walk around.

In the future our environmental emphasis will remain on our churchyards and supporting the A Rocha Eco Church values. We will also share how we can get involved with global 'action days' that highlight environmental issues, and will continue working towards the Eco Church award scheme.

You can find more information about Eco Church at <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk>.

Elaine Cordingley is a member of the Eco Church team in the Benefice of Clymping and Yapton with Ford.

RECTOR'S NOTE



Rev. Richard Hayes reflects on the Coronation and the idea of change.

I was chatting to my mum a few weeks back about the coronation and, more generally, about the monarchy in the future. Don't worry, I'm not going to be controversial, but we agreed on the simple fact that May 6th would not match the coronation in 1953 of Queen Elizabeth II. Mum was there for that event, in the crowd, watching all the VIPs and marching troops. As it turned out, the coronation of King Charles III did indeed have an intentionally different feel to it. Things are different now, and the monarchy has an interesting time ahead as it discovers its purpose and place in a post-Elizabethan age.

The Church of England uses a service book that dates back to the 16th century and includes prayers for the monarch. They have just re-published the updated edition with the name of King Charles, rather than Queen Elizabeth. Unfortunately they seemed to have done the alterations by computer, as every mention of Queen Elizabeth has been replaced, including the reference to Elizabeth I!

King Charles will, I'm sure, have moments when his staff will be thinking, 'You're mother didn't do it like that...' But what we already know of him reveals that there will be change, and I imagine he feels he needs to prepare the ground for even greater change when William takes over from him.

Times they are a changing. We can

look back and wish for 'the good old days' (oh dear, but they really were not the good old days), or we can look forward.

'Change or die.' That is, I'm assuming, the challenge that the royal firm is now pondering over, and rightly so.

As I think of this pivotal moment for our national identity, I can't but help think about the Christian church. We too are in a pivotal period. Change is something we have got used to, but we still face challenges about who we are and how we live as people of faith in the world today. Of course there is nothing new in this – change has always been the challenge. For us as individuals, change is a daily expectation. Christians aim to change to become more like Jesus in our behaviour and our mindset, to be people who are being converted into his likeness.

This change will also play out in our communities – religious, families and villages. Both as individuals and together we find it hard to let go of things that were part of our past, good or bad. Obviously the bad stuff needs to go, but even the things that were good then may need to be challenged sometimes and changed to be better now.

We need to remember that throughout history things that were normal, accepted and good once upon a time are now understood very differently. Some of the big

things like slavery took a long time for society and church to acknowledge as wrong.

The month of May this year also sees the festival of Pentecost, when the church celebrates the coming of God's Holy Spirit. A song we often sing about the work of the Spirit includes these lines: 'Break me, Melt me, Mould me, Fill me.'

These simple words indicate the way God wants to change us. It is not just about a moment in time but about the process of change in the life time of each of us, as individuals and as communities.

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

St Mary's, Clymping call for records

I recently took up the role of Archivist for St Mary's Church, Clymping. Some records from the past already exist, but seem to be rather scattered, so I am collecting any material relating to the activities of the church and its congregation from past times.

If you have any documents, writings, photos or other material about St Mary's and are prepared to donate them, or a copy, please contact me (01903 719368; bob.technico@btinternet.com).

In addition, further events significant to the parish church and its congregation will be recorded as information is given to me.

— *Bob Bravington*



Interview

Meet new headteacher Justin Murray

Lisa Eyre chats with the new headteacher at St Mary's Clymping CE Primary School about his new role and his vision for the school.

When Justin Murray first came to St Mary's primary school last autumn, it was meant to be temporary. He had been asked to cover for the incumbent headteacher, who had been seconded to a different school. Mr Murray's caring nature and approachable manner quickly endeared him to the school community. When the role of headteacher became available, he seemed to be a perfect fit for a variety of reasons, and was officially appointed to take up the job starting in April.

My children are both pupils at St Mary's. As a governor I have perhaps got to know him better than many during this school year, but one of the most striking things about Mr Murray is that he genuinely makes an effort to connect with everyone in the school community and to keep the conversation flowing.

Many of you will have read his columns in previous issues of this magazine, but I wanted to give you a chance to hear from him more personally, to learn about him and his vision for the school and its place in the community.

When we met in his office for our interview, Mr Murray was dressed in his trademark athletic top and shorts – an outfit that is less for relaxing in than for facilitating all of the varied activities that he engages in throughout the day. This brings me to another of Mr Murray's impressive characteristics, which is that he is an extremely hard worker. On various



Justin Murray

visits to the school I've of course seen him lead assemblies, conduct meetings and write policies at his desk, but I've also seen him pulling weeds in the school garden, sweeping the paths, carrying heavy equipment, playing with the kids on the playground and teaching a child to ride a bike.

So I'm grateful that he carved out a few minutes to meet with me and answer some questions.

L.E.: How long have you worked in education?

Justin Murray: I'm currently in my sixteenth year, having previously spent nine years teaching at West Dean Primary School and seven years at North Mundham Primary School. This is my first headteacher role.

Why do you like working in primary school education in particular?

The variety in primary school is something I really enjoy. The days are very dynamic. Children will excel in different areas, whether it's sport or art or maths or English, and I like the fact that, as a teacher, you get to be there for all of those moments and inspire and encourage the whole child.

As a teacher I developed a sense of what I believed to be excellent education in my own classroom, and I felt a growing desire to be able to share this on a wider level and to become a headteacher.

Why did you want to stay at St Mary's permanently?

The short answer is that I fell in love with the school during my secondment here. The school was in a transitional period, and I'd started taking small steps on a

journey during my secondment months, and I wanted to be able to see that journey through. I saw both opportunity and challenge at St Mary's, and those were both exciting things for me. I want to build something that the community are proud of.

What are some of the changes that you've made at the school?

First, we've focussed on building the school community and making the school feel more open, which needed to happen coming out of the pandemic.

We've also been working on our outdoor learning environment for the younger children, and we've initiated a big push towards hands-on learning, with children following their interests in a range of subjects. This is promoting independence in learning, which is in turn promoting high levels of questioning, and that's a good thing.

We've been very focused on encouraging positive play for children during playtimes. So this week we've had tennis, cricket, bubbles, craft, painting and chalks, making sure that we're developing holistic skills for the children and a love of school.

We've also made changes to our reading provision, making sure that we are focused on core skills and ensuring that we are raising the standards of education for children.

The list of changes is endless – some of the changes are nuanced, while some are structural – and for me it's part of a longer-term cultural shift in school, making it a calmer, more purposeful environment.

Why do you feel you are a good fit for St Mary's?

In many ways I am small-school shaped in how I like to relate to people. I value the

ability to know every child and every family, and being able to talk to people and understand who they are. Getting a deeper insight into where people are coming from and the needs of each family has allowed the school to support a variety of people for a variety of different reasons. I enjoy that part.

What is your vision for St Mary's?

As I always say to the children, our aim is to be the best school in the universe! Of course my vision is more nuanced than that, but I don't want to lose that aspiration for myself or the staff.

I would like it to be a school where academic standards are high, but also where we are able to see children as more than just their scores in maths and English. We want to make sure that children excel in a range of areas – in sport, art, science, or language, for example – and that we are providing them with the best opportunities to succeed in life, and making sure their self-esteem is high.

Laughter and fun are a huge part of childhood, and I don't think those things should be lost in the school environment. When I see children in purposeful learning laughing, smiling and having fun, that's when I feel like we're really getting where we want to be. It's like the sun is shining.

You often say that you want the school not just to look good but to be good.

What do you mean by this?

To me it's about integrity and authenticity.

It's about recognising the strengths of the school and also where we need to develop. It's about intent, but it's equally about acting on our intentions and ensuring that we're delivering on them. A person can bluff their way through things and look good, but my goal is to make sure that everything at our school is actually a true reflection of the ideals I'm describing.

How do you see St Mary's participating in and contributing to the life of the village?

Our engagement with the community is something we're really working on. While school has a need for help from the community, we are also looking outwardly at

ways we can give back. Our choir has been out to sing at nursing homes, and the children enjoyed sending Christmas cards to people in the community in December. We've also organised a contribution to the local food bank.

Rev. Rich at St Mary's

Church and I have a really good relationship, and I've enjoyed having the benefit of his counsel on a variety of levels. The school is participating in the Open Gardens event in June, which the church is organising, and Rev. Rich and I are talking about how we can get the church community involved in events that we do.

I'm also trying to invest in relationships with local businesses, and part of that dynamic has been not just what they can offer us, but what can we offer them back. >>

“When I see children in purposeful learning laughing, smiling and having fun, that's when I feel like we're getting where we want to be.”

What do you like to do outside of school?

I enjoy spending time with my family. My partner, Hannah, is a children's play therapist, and she and our two children are my priority in life.

I also love playing cricket, and I'm happy that my son, who just turned 10, has started joining me on match days. I like getting out and doing cycling events, and I sometimes cycle to school. I wouldn't say I'm passionate about running, but I like to stay fit, and I ran a marathon in December. I've got a lovely group of friends, and we cycled the South Downs Way together recently. I've got more into outdoor pursuits as I've got older. I enjoy being outside, canoing and exploring and doing those types of things.

Have you felt welcome here?

Yes, from the very first day. I think of the children when you ask me that question, actually. When I first came to St Mary's, I was leading assembly and wanted to establish a connection with the children. I got down on my knees to their level, to make sure the younger ones in particular didn't see me as this new, tall, intimidating person, and I remember seeing smiling, innocent faces and realising the magnitude of the role that I was taking on and the importance it has. But they were incredibly welcoming and warm and friendly, and the school community has been as well.

I'm loving trying to rise to the challenges of this job and what we're aiming to accomplish, because we're growing something very special.

Parish Council members

Henry Burrell

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hsburrell.CPC@gmail.com

Christine Gillott

07931 125854
cgillott.CPC@gmail.com

Tim Hibbert

(Vice Chairman)
07947 130404
thibbert.CPC@gmail.com

Colin Humphris

(Chairman)
01903 733848
chumphris.CPC@gmail.com

Anne Miller

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David Miranda

07768 981923
dmirandacpc@gmail.com

One vacancy

Parish Clerk

Nadine Phibbs

07776 194192
clympingpc@gmail.com

Parish Council website

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

CHAIRMAN'S VIEW



Colin Humphris discusses the beach, the A259 and the future of Horsemere Green Lane.

It was good to enjoy the pageantry and splendour of the Coronation weekend with our neighbours, but for many local residents, bigger issues remain – especially the continuing erosion of the beach and its impacts; traffic and the state of the local roads; and the threats of major housing developments. This edition of the *Clymping Village News* contains the Parish Annual Report, which addresses many of these concerns, but I want to draw your attention to a few other articles in this edition as well.

There are several interesting perspectives on the beach. The Parish Council is actively trying to get the Environment Agency to engage much more effectively with the community to find ways forward that might improve the resilience of the beach. Council is pressing for a public meeting that can include those residents most affected, the landowners, as well as representatives of the community groups who feel so passionately about our coastline. I suspect everyone wants to understand better how the current 'do minimum' strategy will unfold, if and where the beach will stabilise and the implications for the village.

On traffic, the Parish Council feels strongly that improvements to the A259 are essential if we are to avoid gridlock on our roads arising from all the

local proposed housing and industrial developments. Despite this, Council was not able to support the current A259 proposals presented by West Sussex County Council (WSCC), in particular those for the Oystercatcher junction, Ferry Road junction and at the River Arun bridge. Hopefully our detailed feedback will lead to better designs and outcomes.

The Parish launched a consultation on two proposals for Horsemere Green Lane at the Annual Parish Meeting. We expect views to differ on these. The aim is to discourage rat running, reduce speeding and improve safety for non-vehicle users. The options are dependent on A259 improvements that will be necessary to give road users realistic options to avoid Horsemere Green Lane.

Please have a good look at the designs posted on the Parish Council homepage (www.clymping.org.uk) and give us your views via the feedback questionnaire that you can find there, or by using the copy included on pages 22–23 of this newsletter. We would also appreciate hearing about your experiences of the lane as pedestrians, cyclists or people of limited mobility. Additionally, if you don't use the lane these ways, we would like to understand why.

The ultimate objective is to craft an option that has broad community support

for submission into the competitive process for Community Highways Funding at WSCC. Please return feedback responses by June 9th.

On May 16th the new Parish Council met for the first time following the local elections. We now have six of our allotted

seven councillors, as we welcomed Anne Miller to Council. One vacancy remains that we can fill by co-option if you would like to become involved in the work of the Council.

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

PARISH COUNCIL



Nadine Phibbs, Clerk to the Council, reports the results of the recent election and invites applications.

Parish Council election

The election for members of Clymping Parish Council on 4th May 2023 was uncontested. The following councillors were therefore duly elected:

Henry Burrell
Christine Gillott
Tim Hibbert
Colin Humphris
Anne Miller
David Miranda

The Parish Council is still looking for one further Councillor to meet our full quota. If you would like to take an active role in supporting the community, have an interest in representing local views and helping the village on local matters, are able and willing to represent the Council and your community and wish to be considered, you are invited to apply.

The Parish Council has a number of projects we are looking at and would welcome a new Councillor to join us.

To become a Councillor you must meet the following criteria:

- be aged 18 years or over and included in the Electoral Register
- have resided in the parish a minimum of 12 months.

Your application should include your CV and a brief outline of any areas of special interest that you have in village matters. Email your application to me at clympingpc@gmail.com.

Council meetings

Council meeting dates for the rest of this year are **11th July, 12th September** and **14th November**. Meetings start at 7:30pm in St Mary's Church Hall. The agenda for each meeting will be posted at www.clymping.org.uk/full-council-meetings/ at least three days before the meeting.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Clymping Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report, covering 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023, by Colin Humphris

Welcome to this Annual Report for 2022–23. I would like to thank all our councillors who contributed to the Parish work through the year; the residents who contributed to our working groups; the residents who turned out to help with projects around the village; Lisa Eyre, our award-winning editor of *Clymping Village News*; and our District Councillors and County Councillor, who have supported us.

– Cllr C.J. Humphris, Chairman

Queen Elizabeth II

This was a year of mixed emotions; the joy of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee followed so quickly by her sad passing. Around the village the community has planted flowering crab apple trees and some oaks. These stand as both celebration and, now, in memoriam for her 70 years as Queen.

Councillors

At the start of the year the Council comprised five councillors of our complement of seven: Cllrs Henry Burrell, Ann Findlay, Christine Gillott, Colin Humphris, David Miranda. During the year Ann Findlay stepped down. I would like to thank her for her service to the community. We welcomed Tim Hibbert to Council.

Meetings

The Parish Council held seven full meetings. Our Transport Working Group,

Environment Working Group and the Planning Working Group of the Parish Council also met to prepare recommendations for Council to consider. Details are available in the Council minutes.

Planning

The Council considered 40 planning applications through the year, objecting to 11.

Through the year we awaited clarity on Foreman Homes' proposals for 300 homes. The anticipated final plans have not been forthcoming. In fact, it has gone eerily quiet. The Arun website shows objections from the drainage engineers, the greenspace (landscaping) officer and the conservation officer with no response from Foreman for many months now. The uncertainty raises questions over the funding that was to be provided for the Church Lane roundabout, the Oystercatcher junction, and the provision of a pavement on Horsemere Green Lane.

We objected to a proposal for an incinerator at South Coast Skips. This was approved by West Sussex County Council (WSCC) and unfortunately a request for this decision to be called in for reconsideration was turned down by the Minister of State for Housing and Planning.

Last year I noted Council's concerns over developments on the site of the former farm shop. These concerns have eased, as the fast-food drive-through is now a café outlet with more limited opening times in line with the

garden centre. The awning for a car wash was removed. We objected to a significant installation for EV car charging, which was subsequently refused by Arun District Council.

Generally, we objected to applications that we felt contravened our Neighbourhood Plan, would cause excessive traffic impact on our overstretched roads, had capacity to create noise and disturbance to residents or failed to achieve a good design to protect the character of Clymping.

Finance (pre-audit)

For the year the Council raised £16,670.00 through our Precept, which is collected as part of your Council tax payments. Total income was £30,402.64 due to additional income from *Village News* advertising, VAT recovery, bank interest (minimal!) and Community Infrastructure levy (CIL) funds of £11,386.64. This arises as we have an approved Neighbourhood Plan. This money is now available for projects within the village approved by Council.

Total expenditure was £10,817.05. Our main expenditure items (pre-audit) were as follows: to run the Council £7,013.65 (including wages £5,214.77 and other items £1,798.88), grants made to village organisations £200.00, ground works on Horsemere Green £1,350.00, general planting and *Village News* production £1,270.94, Highways £553.98. At the end of the year the bank account stood at £63,146.83, including a General Fund of £37,166.18, plus reserve funds £18,967.00 held to be used on specific projects including work on planning the village future, drainage and flooding, improving our village appearance, possible future elections, winter management and resilience.

Other Activities

1. Clymping beach

The loss of the remaining section of concrete wall has refocussed minds on the threat to Clymping. The shingle bund across the car park was realigned in response. We are witnessing the Environment Agency's (EA) 2015 strategy of 'do minimum' play out and the human cost of this to those who live close to the beach, those in the village who love it and those who used to be drawn to this amenity as tourists. Council is actively encouraging the EA to engage more creatively with the community to find ways to improve the resilience of the beach. Watch this space.

2. New housing and facilities

In addition to the focus on Foreman Homes, Council remains concerned about the piecemeal housing developments in the village. Council objected to a proposal for two more houses on Horsemere Green Lane and were pleased to see this application rejected by Arun District Council (ADC). We have complained several times about the state of the entrance to the housing development adjacent to Scyld.

3. Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm

Council responded to the consultation on the location of the landside works for the Rampion 2 Wind Farm. The key points raised were:

- To favour a more easterly route south of A259 to avoid the need for works access close to the school and down Bread Lane.
- To raise concerns over the proposed works area to the south of Field Place, given the importance of this area for drainage of an eventual Foreman Homes site.

- To argue against any access by the Church and Church Hall.
- To question the timing and potential clashes with the proposed A259 road works.

4. Highways

The Transport Work Group has been active through the year on proposals for Horsemere Green Lane in response to the consultation on the future of the lane last year. We launched details of two design options for the lane at the Annual Village meeting for residents' consideration. A favoured design and costing will then be the core of an application for Community Highways funding to WSCC in July 2023.

WSCC consulted on proposals to upgrade the A259 through Clymping. Council took note of residents' comments and feedback in its response. Given the extent of development in the area, Council feels that an upgrade of the junctions is essential for safety and to ease access for local traffic joining A259. Many of the proposals were supported but not the location proposed for the Oystercatcher junction, the design of the Ferry Road junction or the proposal for a new non-vehicle bridge parallel to the River Arun road bridge.

5. The village environment

Council is grateful for the work of the Environment Work Group and volunteers. It was so disappointing that the wildflower display on the green was thoughtlessly trashed by the travellers. A big volunteer effort followed to clear away rubbish and the area was restored and reseeded for the display in 2023. The village also now has its own bug hotel.

Work continues to ensure the drainage efficiency to the west of Langford and freedom from flooding. We need to keep the culverts running to the pond clear and work will start this year to desilt the pond, which is an important component of the lane's drainage system. The silt arises from dying vegetation and soil ingress through the drainage channels entering the pond. Council will be making an Operation Watershed application to WSCC to help with this given the high cost of silt disposal.

Given the availability of CIL funding, Council will be working with the Village Hall and ADC to ensure the future of the village playground.

The restoration of the Climping Street finger post is complete.

6. Defibrillators

Council is exploring the options to part fund the installation of defibrillators in public locations around the village. The first will be at the Village Hall.

7. Council representation

Council was represented on the Arun District Association of Local Councils that is seeking to find ways for the towns and parishes to engage with the District and County Councils more effectively.

And finally

Please do visit the new Council website for information about the village and Parish Council activities. Our thanks go to Nadine Phibbs, our Clerk, for ensuring it is up to date.

*Cllr Colin Humphris, Chairman
On behalf of Clymping Parish Council
16th May 2023*

CLYMPING PARISH COUNCIL

FUTURE OF HORSEMERE GREEN LANE (HGL)

The Parish Council (PC) have noted the many issues you have raised with us over recent years and through the recent HGL survey. The issues include:

- the growing volumes of traffic along HGL ,
- vehicle speeds and rat running,
- the absence of pavements/green routes for pedestrians, cyclists, and those of limited mobility,
- the impact of future major housing and industrial developments at Ford and in Yapton.



Of the four upgrade ideas we originally proposed:

- Complete blockage between May Close and Appletree Walk was controversial, popular but also “not acceptable” to many other residents and not acceptable to WSCC.
- The number recognition camera system is not approved or allowable under current traffic regulations.

The PC therefore commissioned highways consultants WSP to design two options:

- “Two-way system” with raised junction platforms, 20 mph and green route with the current drainage ditch culverted.
- “One-way system” east west with similar 20 mph speed limit, raised platforms but using some of the old highway width for a green route.

These designs are available for view on the PC website <https://www.clymping.org.uk> . It is important to recognise that they assume that the improvements to the A259 junctions at the Oystercatcher and Church Lane go ahead providing an alternative for through traffic to HGL. Our discussions with WSCC confirmed that proposals such as these are consistent with the new county “Active” travel policy to get us out of our cars and their policy for “Quiet Lanes”.

The Parish Council would like to hear your thoughts and views on the options. This is important because the support of the community will be an essential part of the bid to WSCC for Community Highways Funding, which also requires highways designs within the highway boundaries, and an initial cost estimate.

Please indicate your preference by ticking a box:

Two-way system

☐

One-way system

☐

Neither

☐

Of your preference and to help us refine any design, please say:

1. What you like about the proposals
2. What you did not like about the proposals
3. What you would change
4. If neither, could you tell what you don't like about the proposals.

Please provide your postcode

Any other contact details if you are happy to provide these

.....

Please deliver completed surveys to 16 Crophorne Drive or alternatively you can scan your form and email it to cjhumphris@btinternet.com by June 9th.

Cllr C.J. Humphris
Clymping Parish Council
16 May 2023

Speedwatch

Ensuring safer roads

Alan Brackley provides an update and discusses how the Speedwatch network works.

The Climping Community Speedwatch group that is based in Horsemere Green Lane has lost a couple of members, but rest assured we are not going away. We have been active recently and aim to step up our sessions now the weather is improving and the days are longer.

I recently had a very useful online session with Stephen O'Connell, the Police Co-ordinator of the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership, who is based at Shoreham Police Station. Steve took me through the aims and organisation of Community Speedwatch, explaining that groups across large parts of the south and west of England are linked, so that data on speeding motorists can be shared across many counties and districts. He described the process which takes place each time a vehicle is reported for speeding, from the first two occasions, when a warning letter is sent, to the third time, when a visit from the police will be followed by possible further action.

Steve accepted that some volunteers felt that their activity did not appear to bring immediate results, but he explained that every report was taken seriously and would result in some form of action. There is also a recognition that not every driver welcomes the sight of a Speedwatch group and can occasionally direct some abuse at them. To enable the identification of such drivers, groups are given body-worn cameras, and we are to receive one shortly.

If you would like to join our group, please let me know (alanbrackley@yahoo.co.uk). Or if you would like to join the Climping Street group, contact Kevin Foster (KEVFOZ2020@gmail.com). Members will be required to register and complete an online test, but if you're unsure, why not first come along to a session and see if it is for you?

Remember, the purpose of Speedwatch is to make our roads safer for everyone – something that particularly concerns us in Horsemere Green Lane and Climping Street.

Alan Brackley is a member of the HGL Community Speedwatch Group.



Slow down!

PHOTO PIXELS.COM BY THAYNA BARSAK

Special report on Clymping beach



Clymping beach in May 2023

Although erosion is not new for Clymping beach, the rate of change over the past few months has been startling. A visitor to the beach today will see what looks like a mess of concrete – the remains of the broken car park wall and WW2 tank traps. A large shingle bund stretches along much of the shoreline, and a small cliff has formed where the sea has cut into the landscape. Much of the shingle that was on the beach has washed away, and the wooden groynes and breakwaters that remain are falling apart. The Environment Agency's strategy of 'do minimum'/'patch and repair' and letting the sea take a more natural shape is playing out, and the reaction within the community ranges from outrage to acceptance.

The following pages contain articles

reflecting a range of perspectives. Contributors include the Environment Agency; a new local campaign group called Save Clymping From The Sea; James Baird, whose family's land abuts the beach and includes part of it; Wendy Robinson, founder of the Clymping Beach Conservation Group, and District Councillor Amanda Worne.

The opinions expressed in the articles are the authors' own. Although we normally require a named author for articles in this publication, in the case of the campaign group we have made an editorial exception. For details of the group, please see the campaign's website (provided in their article).

Together I hope these articles encourage discussion and a sharing of ideas about the future of Clymping beach. – *Lisa Eyre*

BEACH REPORT

The Environment Agency provides an update on the beach and discusses current strategy.

The first part of the year saw impacts to the beach and car park areas at Clymping. We saw lowering of the shingle bund and further erosion in the car parks from a combination of high spring tides, large waves and high winds.

Since January, the landowner and Environment Agency have recycled over 5,000 tonnes of shingle into the car parks which we have profiled to maximise flood protection. The shingle banks have also

been pulled further landwards so that this shingle is less likely to be washed back into the sea.

Car park walls

Much of the western car park wall, including the supporting old WW2 tank traps, has now toppled onto the beach. These tank traps are serving a function by breaking up wave energy and providing some short-term protection from erosion.

We have no plans to move these or other sections of wall from their current position.

Public safety works

The Environment Agency will be starting public safety works on the beach in May. This work will tidy up and remove timber groynes from the beach. These groynes are no longer collecting shingle or serving a flood risk function and are being removed because they are posing a public safety hazard. Their removal will not speed up erosion but will create a safer, more natural beach environment.

Some of the concrete and rubble debris on the beach will be moved as part



Shingle bank in western car park



Toppled wall of the western car park

of these works. However, the concrete tank traps or larger pieces of wall debris in front of the Western car park will remain. To the west of the car park there is a collection of rubble among the groynes that is helping to minimise local erosion to the east. We will be adding the concrete and rubble we collect to this to help minimise erosion in the short term (see location map at right).

Our works will be sign-posted, but please take care to remain a safe distance away.

We are considering whether to repurpose the rocks (see photo at right) that are against the old groynes to the east of the car parks and Bread Lane. These groynes are no longer keeping beach material and the rocks are no longer serving a purpose at this location. They could be used elsewhere, either at the hard point to the west of the car parks, at the groynes at Poole Place or on the Elmer beach frontage.

We would welcome your views and feedback on how the rocks can be used.

Habitat creation

When walking the beach in March, we noticed an area of small rocks and debris just west of the western car park. These rocks were previously the field wall and have naturally



Groyne structure in poor condition and no longer serving a flood risk function



Location map



Large rocks by the groynes east of the car park



Accumulation of rocky debris

accumulated in this location, providing a rocky habitat. We do not plan to move these rocks, although the tide may move them from their current position.

Reduction in land available for parking

Over recent years we have used our limited funds to remove unsafe and deteriorating structures and to move the beach shingle landward to maximise its flood protection and reduce the amount being washed away. This has reduced the area of land available for parking in the car parks. It is highly likely that the shingle will need to be moved further landward for it to continue to function to reduce flooding. Unfortunately, this will mean the on-street parking at the end of Clymping Street and further space in the beach-front car parks being lost. It is difficult to say when, as this will depend on sea and weather conditions.

Funding and future maintenance

Clymping beach is owned in part by a private landowner; however, most of the beach falls under Crown Estate ownership. Arun District Council lease the beach from the Crown Estate, and the Environment Agency uses its permissive powers to maintain the beach to minimise flood risk in accordance with the 2015 Arun to Pagham Strategy, which was jointly produced in partnership with

Arun District Council. This means that we have discretion in how and when to exercise those powers. This strategy recommends 'do minimum'/'patch and repair' maintenance to the defences until they become uneconomic to continue to maintain or repair/reinstate.

Under Government rules for investment, there is not sufficient economic justification for major works to repair or replace the groynes in the future.

We can only justify carrying on work here as long as the economic benefits exceed the costs; if the costs outweigh the calculated benefits, we will no longer be able to use our permissive powers to carry out any work

“We can only justify carrying on work here as long as the economic benefits exceed the costs.”

on the beach or groynes.

The 2015 Arun to Pagham Strategy can be found online at <https://se-coastalgroup.org.uk/news/river-arun-to-pagham-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-strategy/>.

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

Please get in touch if you wish to discuss Clymping beach or the Environment Agency's planned works. Email us at SSDEnquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Beach

‘Save Clymping From The Sea’

Save Clymping From The Sea, a local pressure group, outline their concerns and pose key questions.

In February 2020 the sea breached at Clymping beach and stopped just 600 metres short of the eastern end of Horsemere Green Lane. It had flooded under the A259 and into the fields to the north of Clymping Park.

Since then the Environment Agency (EA) and the landowner have moved vast quantities of shingle to form a temporary bund on Clymping beach. The groynes, long neglected by the EA, were removed by them and piled high in the landowner's field before being taken away, rather than being used to bolster the beach defences as we had hoped they would be. The protective concrete wall that surrounded the car park was then knocked down by the landowner, after the EA condemned it, as the sea had undermined it. Much of the grass car park has now been covered by a shingle bund as well. The landowner is hoping to move both the car park and the beach café further

north, as their current position is becoming untenable due to coastal flooding.

We believe that the rock islands at Elmer, which were built in the 1990s, have disrupted the natural longshore drift along the coast here, accelerating the erosion. Over the past three years the erosion of Clymping beach has gained momentum as a result



Clymping beach as it was



Clymping beach as it is now

of this disruption, combined with poor management and ever more frequent storm surges. The EA allowed the groynes on Clymping beach to deteriorate to the point where they no longer function, so they are now in the process of removing those that remain. In our opinion the concrete wall at Clymping beach should not then have been knocked down by the landowner without a consultation with the wider community, since it provided additional protection here from flooding by the sea.

Signs posted on the beach by the Environment Agency and Arun District Council state that their plan is to allow the coastline to realign whilst providing flood defence to the large hinterland floodplain. We want those responsible to properly explain where on the 'hinterland' the coastline here will be allowed to 'realign' to and then to ask the community what they would like to do about it.

Please join our campaign to Save Clymping From The Sea by visiting our website. Let's get this issue out into the open, where we can all have our say. No more meetings behind closed doors.

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/EENvJX2WQiE>

Facebook: Save Clymping From The Sea

Website: <https://climpringbeach.co.uk>

Email: climpringbeach@gmail.com

Help Save Clymping From The Sea: Our Aim, Our Agenda

Our aim is to have Arun District Council, who manage the foreshore on behalf of the Crown Estate and the Environment Agency, properly and fully explain the statement that they have jointly posted on Clymping

beach. This statement reads as follows:

"The long term plan for Littlehampton Harbour to Poole Place is to allow the coastline to realign to a more naturally functioning system, whilst continuing to provide flood defence to the large hinterland floodplain.

"Currently there is a reactive 'patch and repair' approach to maintenance of the beach at Clymping with many timber groynes and structures now reaching the end of their life. When these are no longer functioning effectively and are assessed to pose a risk to public safety they are removed.

"There are limited public funds available to spend on maintenance activities at Clymping beach and at some point in the future the costs of maintaining the beach will exceed the spend that can be justified under

government rules. The available funds are being used to make the beach as resilient as possible by prolonging the life of assets and through beach recycling activities.

"The set-back shingle banks constructed through beach recycling activities have been placed landwards of the previous defences. Placing the shingle in this landward position is more sustainable allowing the beach space to change, consequently waves



Sign erected on Clymping beach by Arun District Council and the EA

lose more energy as they travel up the beach and cause less damage. The shingle banks have been placed to reduce flood risk and are not designed for pedestrian or vehicle access. Please keep off these structures.”

The questions that we would like answered on behalf of the community of Clymping are as follows:

The long-term plan

- Has the planning process started yet, and if not, when do you intend to start planning for the future?
- How long do you anticipate it will take to complete the long-term plan?

Realign to a more naturally functioning system

- What are the exact boundaries of this realignment area?
- What exactly is this ‘naturally functioning system’?
- What exactly is the ‘realignment process’, and how long do you anticipate it will take?
- What is the plan for the homes, businesses, other buildings and agricultural land within this area?
 - a. Simply to let them all be destroyed by the sea?
 - b. To offer some intermediate help to affected householders and businesses?
 - c. Who will be compensated for their losses and who will not?
 - d. Who will be re-homed and at whose expense?

Provide flood defence to the large hinterland floodplain:

- What are the exact boundaries of the large hinterland floodplain?

- What will this flood defence comprise?
- When will work start on this flood defence and be completed?
- What will be the maintenance plan for the flood defence?

Maintenance costs at some point in the future

When do you anticipate reaching the point when the beach maintenance costs exceed the spend that can be justified under government rules?

Shingle banks

Do you think that this strategy is failing, as it seems every storm surge moves significant amounts of shingle and structures around and the sea often breaches here and floods inland?

We want to know exactly where the ‘the sea will stop here’ line is on the map, and we want to know where they expect the coastline to ‘realign’ to on ‘the hinterland’. We can then see who is at risk of flooding right now and who is likely to lose their homes and businesses to the sea in the future. We will then ask the wider community what they would recommend is done here to ‘Save Clymping From The Sea’, and take those recommendations to the people and organisations who should not have allowed the destruction of Clymping beach in the first place. We are optimistic that people power is still a force to be reckoned with.

Please help yourselves by helping us to get the information that might help us ‘Save Clymping From The Sea’.

The group Save Clymping From The Sea was formed in 2023 by local residents.

Beach

Rewilding the sea to prevent coastal erosion

Wendy Robinson suggests finding funding for alternative, green approaches to prevent further deterioration of Clymping beach.

It took another major event with the cracking and subsequent toppling of the concrete wall to focus attention on the continued erosion of the beach. We seem to be at a stalemate, with the Environment Agency (EA) claiming there is not enough funding to preserve the Clymping coastline and the landowners in the vicinity having no common goal.

The folks who live at the end of Climping Street bought their property in the 1990s, when the EA had a legal obligation to maintain the groynes on the beach. In 2015 the EA imposed a 'do minimum' strategy. The residents have every right to feel aggrieved, and the EA should do everything possible to protect them and their home from flooding.

In 2021 a plan for a clay bund inland of the shingle bund was put forward by Arun District Council (ADC) to the Flood Coastal Innovation Fund for a grant. The plan was part of ADC's study

to protect the West Bank development in Littlehampton and included the Clymping frontage. The plan was to allow the sea to form a lagoon, with a clay bund at Ryebank Rife. It did not win the grant, and it seems the proposal had technical difficulties, but it was the first time we had knowledge of a plan for the shoreline, supported by the landowner, and of ADC's involvement. For many of us, letting the sea in is a frightening prospect: it does not always go where you want. We would need reassurance from experts that our properties were safe.

Perhaps there could instead be a solution which both benefits nature and prevents further destruction of the beach. James Baird, whose family's farmland adjoins the beach and includes part of it, is a key driver behind the Weald to Waves initiative, which focusses on rewilding the land. This project has garnered national attention. Could we capitalise on this momentum to find 'green' funding for the marine environment on a large scale that will stop the coastal erosion? Could we rewild the sea to protect the coastline?

Rewilding has caught government agencies' imagination. West Sussex is

fortunate in that, following the near-shore trawler exclusion zone, the Crown Estate have leased the coastal bed for the restoration of the kelp forest off the Sussex coast. This, in time, will be a bonus for Clymping beach, as kelp regenerates quickly, and a kelp forest will lessen the force of the waves hitting the shore.

But there is more that could be done. A green initiative being used around the world involves the creation of oyster reefs to stop the erosion of the coast. Oyster reefs, much like a kelp forest, help prevent erosion of the shoreline by dissipating the power of waves. Oysters are a vital marine ecosystem, as they have a high value in improving water quality, environmental conditions and the marine habitat, and they prevent algal bloom. An oyster bed could be an affordable, achievable and fundable solution. This could twin with planting a seagrass meadow. Seagrasses create unique habitats which become biodiversity hotspots for a wide range of marine wildlife, and they store huge amounts of carbon.

Are these a possible longer-term solution?

Many government agencies and charities have an interest in Clymping beach, including Arun District Council, the Littlehampton Economic Growth Area, the Marine Conservation Society and Sussex Wildlife Trust. The National Trust

have covenants on the land to protect the setting of Bailiffscourt Hotel. The Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm Project, which plans to route cables ashore at Clymping beach, has a commercial interest as well.

The economic reality of the EA or central government funding the restoration of the beach depends on a cost-benefit ratio and, unfortunately, their analysis does not justify spending the millions of pounds it would require. However,

if the community have an exciting initiative, we may find funding for it elsewhere and stop the deterioration of Clymping beach.

Wendy Robinson is founder of the Clymping Beach Conservation Group.
Facebook.com/Clympingbeachconservation



A restored oyster reef in France

© S. Pourreau / Ifremer (France)



An example of a sea grass meadow

Sofia Sadogurska

Beach

Looking to the future while honouring the past

.....

James Baird, whose family's land includes part of Clymping beach, assesses the current situation.

We all understand the concept of comfort foods that provide us with a nostalgic or sentimental value. Clymping beach is a comfort place, a landscape we are familiar with. We may have memories of playing on the beach with our grandparents or spending quality time there with those who are no longer with us.

Today when people arrive at Clymping beach, a common reaction is astonishment. Whatever features had been indelibly marked in their memories now lie in a ruinous state and

there's a tangible sense of loss. Grief kicks in. We know of the five stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance, not necessarily in that order. At the beach denial is surpassed very quickly by anger, which runs parallel with bargaining. Some people, like myself, have transited through the process and have come to acceptance with a hope for the future of

our coastline where generations to come will forge their own fond memories.

So how have I come to acceptance?

I have lived all my life in Clymping. From age 12 I flipped burgers at the beach café, and I work the farm to this day. I walk the beach most days and enjoy swimming in the sea. I have so many cherished memories of this very special place.

In 2009 we



Postcards showing people enjoying Clymping beach in 1949

were first put on notice by the Environment Agency (EA) that they wanted to change their coastal policy to something called ‘managed realignment’: to realign the coast from Poole Place to the River Arun. Our reaction as a family was to fight this decision at all costs, and from that point we invested incalculable hours and six-figure sums in challenging the EA. We held them to account, including three trips to the High Court, and peer reviewed their costings and reports. We received little support from the community at that time, as most people were oblivious to what may happen next.

By 2015 the EA had re-presented their strategy, this time as a policy of ‘do minimum/patch and repair’ and, having tightened up their reports and their economic justifications, the policy was duly adopted and remains current.

Following that decision, with a rapidly deteriorating groyne field, the shingle was stripped away by the sea and the beach levels dropped. Our wall footings became exposed to the ravages of the storms. My family and I have had no choice other than to make those walls safe as they become undermined. It gives me no satisfaction to do this work but they are a serious safety risk and we have no way to prevent families picnicking in front of them. We have witnessed some truly alarming severe weather events in the past few years – the damage they caused was, by and large, predicted back in 2009 but, nonetheless,

as risks increase the human cost is difficult for everyone to observe, including me, as well as the EA field team, who are often unfairly on the receiving end of people’s anger.

The risk of erosion of Atherington Farm is undoubtedly a potential terrible loss for the owners, despite them knowing since 2009 that the day could come. Still, it will be a sad day for all our community should it happen. I can sympathise that, for them, there can be no positive vision of the future beach, just potential loss. They

will have fond memories of the 30-plus years they have had at that very special place, as do others who face similar predicaments around our nation’s coast.

We have suffered beach and farmland loss – it’ll be no surprise that

heavily salted land and arable farming are not a good mix – and the beach car parks, café and toilet blocks are now time-limited. We now have to consider relocation of these community amenities (see page 8).

Clymping Gap is the last remaining undeveloped stretch of coastline in West Sussex and, as natural processes take over and the beach stabilises to its new position, it will become a natural, free-functioning beach and a haven for wildlife. Hard defences such as concrete will be repurposed in the effort to form stable bays, and the dilapidated timber groynes will be removed. We also hope to extend the life of Atherington Farm by allowing shingle to be imported into the former car parks to form a resilient barrier as the beach settles down. >>

“ *As the beach stabilises to its new position, it will become a natural, free-functioning beach and a haven for wildlife.* ”

To say this will be a transformation is an understatement; there will be new paths, sandy bays and facilities. Some old features and buildings will disappear to the ravages of the sea – much like the hamlets of Atherington and Cudlow that succumbed to the waves in the centuries before us – and a new landscape will emerge free of concrete.

It seems that for some people their re-

action to all this is to attempt to apportion blame to individuals or organisations and somehow row back the clock, but Mother Nature is a formidable foe, and calling her and others names will achieve nothing.

So in spite of the perceived trauma, I am at peace with this process and optimistic for the future. Whilst we honour the past, there will be no going back; we can only look forward.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR



Amanda Worne expresses her gratitude to voters and begins her new term thinking about Clymping beach.

I would like to say a really big thank you to those residents who put their faith in me and voted for me to represent them as their District Councillor for a further four years in the local elections that took place on 4th May.

I am really pleased to have been re-elected and am looking forward to supporting you all the best I can.

One of the main issues that I start my new term facing is the plight of Clymping beach and what is to become of it and the homes that are at severe risk of flooding.

I have been communicating over the phone with the beach operations manager at the Environment Agency (EA), and they have been meeting with residents whose homes are most at risk. The EA has also been collecting questions and concerns from other residents in order to hold a

meeting with them and other local bodies such as the Parish Council and District Council. Hopefully this meeting will be a positive one where residents might be given answers as to how they can potentially work as a community to do their best to try and save the beach.

This issue makes me realise how precious Earth is and how we need to be doing our best to protect it and look after it. We are the main living beings who are responsible for destroying this planet, and we are also the only ones who can save it. In order for this to happen we still need to do an awful lot to change our ways.

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

Atherington Old Barn

by Lin Lundie

You will be
my Holy Island
my Iona
my Lindisfarne
my walk of truth.

You will be
my far sight
my way marker
my resting stone
my breathing air

You will be
my white stick
my rowan tree
my epitaph
my last home



Creative Heart is a love-filled,
not-for-profit, vibrant
community hub and arts
café in Littlehampton.

We run a range of welcoming activities, groups,
classes and creative workshops for all ages and
abilities. Café open Tues.–Sat. 9:30–4pm.

42 Beach Road, Littlehampton, BN17 5HT

Please visit our website for more information: <http://creativeheart.org.uk>

Creative Heart Littlehampton CIC, 42 Beach Road, Littlehampton, BN17 5HT Community Interest Company No: 11995731

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning applications for Clymping are undecided by Arun District Council as of 23rd May 2023.

Arun DC ref.	Location	Proposal
CM/27/23/CLE	Mead Cottage Climping Street Climping BN17 5RQ	Lawful development certificate for existing change of use of agricultural land to garden land.
CM/24/23/PL	Bramleys Horsemere Green Lane, Climping BN17 5QZ	Removal of caravan site and 4 static holiday caravans and erection of 2 No. new detached dwellings with garages along with car parking and use of existing access. This application is in CIL Zone 3 CIL Liable as new dwellings and is a Departure from the Development Plan. (Resubmission of CM/10/23/PL.)
CM/25/23/PL	Land to the west of Yapton Road Yapton BN18 0HR	Erection of building to be used as an indoor skatepark, with associated development. This application is in CIL Zone 3 (zero rated) as other development.
CM/23/23/CLP	Bairds Farm Shop, Garden Centre Crookthorn Lane Climping BN17 5SN	Lawful development certificate for the proposed installation of substation under The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, Part 15, Class B (a).
CM/21/23/HH	20 Appletree Walk Climping BN17 5QN	Single storey rear extension.
CM/19/23/PL	Kents Yard Brookpit Lane Climping BN17 5QT	Variation of condition following grant of CM/25/19/PL relating to Condition 2 – approved plans.

Arun DC ref.	Location	Proposal
CM/18/23/DOC	Church Farm Barn Horsemere Green Lane BN17 5QX	Approval of details reserved by condition imposed under ref CM/14/22/PL.
CM/16/23/PL	Northwood Farm Burndell Road Climping BN18 0HR	New grain dryer. This application is in CIL Zone 3 (zero rated) as other development and is a dual parish application with Ford Parish Council.
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).

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.



Nature

Bees-ness

Clymping resident Peter Mules meets a local beekeeper and relates his experience visiting the hives.

Like many of you, in recent years I have taken to cultivating shrubs and flowers that attract insects. Butterflies and bees in particular are worth inviting into our gardens because they have been in decline and, as great pollinators, they really help improve our environment. It was no coincidence that last summer my garden was abuzz with the sounds of bees and insects, and this was accompanied by a bumper crop of flowers, vegetables and avian visitors.

In January of this year, while participating in a local outdoor volunteer day, I met Shahnaz Schaeper. It was during our labours that she came to relate her passion for bees and beekeeping. It occurred to me that this whole 'bee-business' might be worth investigating, so I suggested to Lisa Eyre, the editor of this publication, that I could write an article about it.

Shahnaz agreed to meet us for a coffee so we could learn more about her beekeeping experience.

Fascinating is the best word to describe our discussion.

When Shahnaz first became interested in bees, she contacted the local chapter of the Beekeepers' Association in Chichester and was very quickly taken under the wing of one of the association's mentors. She fell in love with the creatures and spent a whole summer learning from her mentor, meeting him regularly on his visits to his own hives.

Shahnaz expressed how intrigued she was by the social nature of bees and how organised they are. From the workers to the drones and up to the queen bee, each and every member of the bee social hierarchy has a role to fulfil. She keeps four honeybee hives and described watching



Shahnaz at work amongst her bee hives

and caring for the bees as being “like meditation”.

Shahnaz’s enthusiasm is quite infectious, and when she said, “It is so beautiful, seeing them fly home with their wings; they are full of pollen”, it was clear that we had to see this for ourselves!

One (fortunately) gloriously sunny Saturday morning in May, I met up with Shahnaz, along with Lisa and her children, and we made our way to her hives, which are kept in a beautiful rural location.

Here we were at first hand, witnessing all of the activities and interactions of ‘bee society’ that Shahnaz had described to us. It became evident very quickly that the calmer and more relaxed one was, the less the bees even seemed to take any notice of their human visitors.

Methodically and patiently, Shahnaz worked her way around each of the hives, showing us the frantic activity within each swarm – the buzzing, the movement, the warmth and the honey.

The children were full of questions, which Shahnaz happily answered. She

explained that workers and drones can be distinguished from each other because the drones are larger and have a different

build. You can even tell whether a bee larva is going to be male or female just by the size of its cell. Unfortunately, the queen wasn’t visible that day because her subjects were keeping her safe, hidden and protected, but Shahnaz knew she was there because eggs were present.

These extraordinary little creatures – literally thousands of them – were all cooperating and functioning as a society in the tiny little space of the hive, and yet, individually, when they fly out, they could be buzzing past us up to two miles away!

The time had come for me to be moving on, so we agreed to depart on the understanding that we would get together again soon, to see how the hives were progressing.

That’s enough of me, waxing lyrical. Safe to say that

Shahnaz is the *bees knees*! Now it’s up to you – get out and plant those shrubs and flowers, and then sit back and enjoy!



Top: Shahnaz Schaeper; centre: the hive abuzz; bottom: holding up a section of the hive

Word search

All abuzz

By Alexander Nonymouse

We're hoping to see plenty of bees in our gardens this summer. In the puzzle below you'll find 18 words related to bees. They go horizontally and vertically.

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

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| APIARY | BEEKEEPER | BUZZ |
| BUMBLEBEE | HIVE | HONEYBEE |
| DRONE | NECTAR | LARVA |
| HONEYCOMB | SWARM | POLLINATOR |
| MANUKA | WORKER | THORAX |
| QUEEN | BEESWAX | WINGS |

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