

# Clymping Village News



**December 2023**



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# Your Clymping Village News

## Welcome to the December 2023 issue, number 92



One thing that really cheers me up on dingy, soggy mornings on the school run is a simple hello and a smile from people as we walk past each other in the lane.

Sometimes I don't even know them well, but that sense of community can transform a grumpy morning into a happy rest of the day. It's one of the benefits of living in a village, and I hope you have little day-to-day experiences like this to keep you going.

Have a look through these pages for details of community events coming up in the village, ranging from coffee mornings to Christmas services. Anne Miller is also hoping to organise a Clymping summer fayre next year – exciting! Be sure to fill in and return the survey on page 16.

You'll also find updates on major issues affecting the village, including development, flooding and the beach.

James Baird has now made two trips to deliver pick-up trucks full of supplies to Ukraine. He has written a very moving article about his first journey to Lviv in September.

A big thank you as always to our contributors and to all the local businesses that support this publication – you'll again notice some new advertisers in this issue.

Wishing you all the joys of Christmas and a bright new year.

– *Lisa Eyre, Editor*

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Please send all submissions and advertising enquiries to **ClympingNewsEditor@gmail.com**. The deadline for the next issue is 4th February. Submission guidelines can be found at [www.clymping.org.uk](http://www.clymping.org.uk).

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# COMMUNITY CORNER

## Church Farm Hub Apple Fayre

We held our third annual Apple Fayre on 23rd September, and what a blessing it was to have such a beautiful day to enjoy our wonderful outdoors.

Everyone was welcomed with a smile – young, old and many in between, including lots of families, local folk and others from further afield.



*Enjoying tea and cake in the sunshine*



*Painting a wooden apple at the craft table*

We picked buckets of old-fashioned varieties of apples for chopping and juicing. The fresh juice was thirst quenching and delicious! A spiral slicer helped us prepare the Bramleys for the crumble making activity, to take home for pudding.

A large group of us ambled off with my husband, James, on a nature walking safari around Church Farm. James told about all the exciting nature-led

changes and projects we are passionate about in Clymping. The feedback was really positive, and folk were pleasantly surprised with all that is going on.

Many participants also enjoyed the crafting corner, where they created driftwood mobiles and painted pebbles and wooden apple decorations to take home and remember the warm, wonderful autumn day.

There was tea, coffee and cake, more cake (and even more cake), comfy couches, giant Jenga and dominoes to play – what a relaxing way to spend a Saturday. One of the highlights for me was seeing a lovely couple trying out each of the couches with a different slice of cake, basking in the sunshine every time I time I turned around.



*Having fun with a spiral-sliced apple*

My vision for the Apple Fayre has always been to create a community occasion which is relaxed and simple, based in our natural outdoors. Seeing this come to fruition has given me enormous joy and an excitement for next year.

The event was free, but donations for



# Church Farm Hub Safaris

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outdoors and learn what  
amazing creatures and habitats  
we have around us.

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Ponds

Insects

beverages and activities means that we raised a total of £574.62, which has been split between the charities Soup from Heaven and Macmillan Cancer Support, with each receiving £287.31.

Soup from Heaven is run by one of our local families and supports some of the most vulnerable people in Cape Town, South Africa. The charity is involved in a variety of projects, including running a soup kitchen, a children's home, reaching out to the homeless and using football to empower youngsters from poor communities, to name a few. To find out more about this charity, email Vey at vey0405@hotmail.com.

It costs £247 for one day's nursing care from Macmillan. I am really pleased to say that with the donations from the fayre we could meet the cost of a day and then some.

Thank you to all the volunteers, cake makers and those who joined us on the day. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at next September's Apple Fayre at Church Farm.

We put on a range of activities at Church Farm Hub, from events and workshops to local nature safaris. Visit [www.churchfarmhub.com](http://www.churchfarmhub.com) to learn more.

— Karen Baird

## Harvest Messy Church

Messy Church at St Mary's Clymping on 7th October was a joyous celebration of harvest and autumn. The promise of playing a proper game of conkers helped draw in a lovely crowd of children and their grown-ups, and we enjoyed finding our conkers in the churchyard and preparing them for battle.

Because of the sunny weather we

were able to hold several other activities outdoors, including using a press to make fresh apple juice and creating a variety of crafts from beans and other objects. The children also wrote messages of thankfulness on wooden hearts, which they added to the beautiful autumnal arch constructed over the church door.

The creativity continued inside the church, as we made leaf collages and autumn lanterns. We also made our own bread rolls, which were then baked at the Church Hall and brought back warm to enjoy during Rev. Richard's talk.

Altogether we had about 80 children and adults, and it was wonderful to see all ages smiling, playing and enjoying a real sense of community.

The next Messy Church will be held on 2nd December (see details on page 9). We'd love for you to join us! — Lisa Eyre



*Rev. Richard Hayes spoke to the congregation about autumn and the importance of harvest.*



*Making a collage from leaves and other materials*

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# RECTOR'S NOTE



*Rev. Richard Hayes encourages us to celebrate Christmas by opening up our hearts.*

I've got a favourite Christmas movie, and although it's not to the festive standard of *Elf* or *White Christmas*, it does dovetail nicely into *The Muppet Christmas Carol*! It is... *The Man Who Invented Christmas*.

It's one of those charming period British films with a great cast and is about Charles Dickens trying to find inspiration for a new book, which turns out to be *A Christmas Carol*.

I don't know how much is accurate, but what caught my attention was the comments of publishers and others that a book about Christmas was certain to be a flop because there's 'not much of a market for Christmas books... nobody really celebrates it anymore.'

Of course, Dickens didn't create Christmas on his own, but it certainly *was* a Victorian creation.

From the 1840s to 2023... Not so many years but enough for many people to complain about the commercialising of Christmas, the loss of the religious meaning, the length of the season and much more.

Personally, I don't mind all the trappings of Christmas. It may not be the Christmas I'd like to celebrate, but why shouldn't people have the opportunity to have fun together?

One of the lines in the film that caught my attention was this description of Christmas: 'When men and women open up their shut-up hearts'.

For me Christmas is a combination of religious, social and family celebration. For you it might mostly be about family and friends, but whatever the reason for the season, I think 'opening up shut-up hearts' is a good litmus test for us.

Does *my* Christmas make a positive difference to others? Does it open up my heart?

Perhaps this year we could all do something a little different over the Christmas season, bringing hope and light to the lives of others and thinking a little less about ourselves?

If it's not your usual thing, you might even try adding Clymping church to your Christmas mix... Join us for our traditional carol service on Sunday 17th at 7:00pm. Then there is our ever-popular Christingle service for all the family on Christmas Eve at 5:15pm, and you can experience the great celebration, Midnight Mass, at 11:30pm at Yapton church (all back to normal after the last few years). Finally, there's our joyful family Communion service at Clymping on Christmas Day at 10:00am – don't forget to bring your strangest present, as the congregation will choose the gift that Richard has to turn into a sermon there and then!

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



# Hope to see you this Christmas!

## *Messy Church*

St Mary's Church, Clymping  
Sat., 2nd December, 3–4:30pm

## *Traditional Carol Service*

St Mary's Church, Clymping  
Sun., 17th December, 7pm  
(also 3pm at St Mary's Church, Yapton)

## *Nativity Service*

St Mary's Church, Yapton  
Sun., 24th December, 3pm

## *Christingle Service*

St Mary's Church, Clymping  
Sun., 24th December, 5:15pm

## *Midnight Mass*

St Mary's Church, Yapton  
Sun., 24th December, 11:30pm

## *Christmas Day Family Communion*

St Mary's Church, Clymping  
Mon., 25th December, 10am



The poster features a festive design with a green background and a white border. At the top, several colorful Christmas ornaments (red, yellow, green, blue) are hanging. The text 'Messy Church' is written in a large, stylized, red font with a white outline. Below it, the text 'GET READY FOR Christmas' is written in a smaller, black font. The date and time 'Saturday, 2nd December, 3:00–4:30 pm' and the location 'St Mary's Church, Clymping' are listed. The text 'Join us for festive crafting, activities, cake decorating, hot chocolate and lots of fun!' is written in a bold, black font. Below this, the text 'All ages welcome! Children must be accompanied by an adult.' is written in a smaller, black font. At the bottom, the text 'Bring your own mug if you can!' is written in a small, black font. A red mug with a white snowflake design is shown. The bottom right corner features a small Christmas tree decorated with ornaments and a star.

**Messy Church**

GET READY FOR  
**Christmas**

**Saturday, 2nd December, 3:00–4:30 pm**  
**St Mary's Church, Clymping**

**Join us for festive crafting,  
activities, cake decorating, hot  
chocolate and lots of fun!**

**All ages welcome! Children must be  
accompanied by an adult.**

Bring your own mug  
if you can!

 CYF Messy Church

# CHAIRMAN'S VIEW



*Colin Humphris contemplates a sense of flooding déjà vu and provides updates on other issues affecting the village.*

This year seems to be ending as it started, with water, water everywhere. The storms just seem to keep coming, battering the coast and depositing heavy rainfall on already flooded fields. It's a real worry for many. It has certainly caught the attention of our MP Nick Gibb, West Sussex County Council and Arun District Council (ADC), and hopefully improvements to the resilience of the local drainage systems and a more sensible approach to development will follow. A new Flood Forum announced by ADC is a step in the right direction.

The situation at the beach is particularly threatening, with flooding at the end of Climping Street, the effective closure of the car park and, sadly, damage to homes. The Environment Agency (EA) reacted

quickly to rebuild damaged bunds before Storm Ciarán struck.

It is also pleasing to see the landowners starting to come together to contribute to further the work of the EA. Parish Council may shortly be calling an extraordinary meeting in relation to the coastal flooding, so please watch the website ([www.clymping.org.uk](http://www.clymping.org.uk)) or the noticeboards for information if you want to contribute your views.

On the website you can also view the Parish Council's submission to the Government Inspector considering the Rampion 2 offshore windfarm proposals. These proposals include plans for cables to come ashore in Clymping and works compounds to be located in the village.



*The sea crashes through Clymping beach car park, 29th October 2023*

**Watching the gulls enjoying** the lakes on the Foreman Homes field south of Horsemere Green Lane, it is difficult to imagine 300 homes being built there. The officers at Arun, however, believe the drainage will improve with development – but I'm not sure if they have driven through Yaptton recently. We have raised the drainage concerns with the Planning Inspectorate. A condition of their appeal decision in 2018 was the need for the approval of a suitable sustainable urban drain-

age system before any development takes place. Five years on, this approval has yet to happen and we feel that ADC should defer decisions on the housing details and layout until there is confidence that an effective drainage system can be designed. The final layout will depend on this.

### **The proposals for the A259 junctions**

have gone forward for consideration for government funding. If these goes ahead, there will inevitably be traffic disruption through the village. At the same time, we are awaiting the outcomes of the Parish Council's proposals for Horsemere Green Lane (HGL). These improvements will be particularly important if the A259 works proceed, as drivers will divert along the lane. There was a noticeable 25 per cent increase in traffic on HGL whilst Ford Lane was closed on the other side of the airfield, underlining

how the different parts of the local highway network interact if one is restricted.

### **For avid book readers on these rainy days**

there are plenty of books now available through the book swap at the Pound in Climping Street. Feel free to make use of this. Additionally, remember the upcoming coffee morning on December 2nd (see page 14).

We still have two positions for co-optation onto the Council if you would like to play a more active role in the village.

I'm very pleased to announce that our Clerk, Nadine Phibbs, has agreed to remain with us. I'm sure that she, together with the councillors, will wish you all the best for the season and into the new year – hopefully drier, fingers crossed!

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

### **Parish Council members**

#### **Henry Burrell**

01903 718755

hsburrell.CPC@gmail.com

#### **Tim Hibbert**

(Vice Chairman)

07947 130404

thibbert.CPC@gmail.com

#### **Colin Humphris**

(Chairman)

01903 733848

chumphris.CPC@gmail.com

#### **Anne Miller**

annemiller.CPC@gmail.com

#### **David Miranda**

07768 981923

dmirandacpc@gmail.com

### **Two vacancies**

#### **Parish Clerk**

#### **Nadine Phibbs**

07776 194192

clympingpc@gmail.com

### **Parish Council website**

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

# PARISH COUNCIL



## *News and notes from Nadine Phibbs, Clerk to the Council*

**D**ue to a slight change in my circumstances, I am pleased to say that I will be staying on as Clerk for the foreseeable future.

In view of this, I thought it may be useful for you to have an insight into what I do for the Parish Council.

### **What is the role of the Parish Clerk?**

The Clerk is employed by the Parish Council and is also known as the Proper Officer to the council. He or she organises the business of the council and ensures through guidance that the council only acts in accordance with the powers it has been given through legislation. This requires significant skills and experience.

The Clerk is responsible for ensuring that the instructions of the council, in connection with its function as a local authority, are carried out effectively following strict guidelines to meet government criteria and legislation. The Clerk is there as an independent advisor to provide guidance and legal advice where applicable, and to manage all of the council's resources, reporting to the council as a whole.

The Clerk is also the Responsible Finance Officer (RFO), managing all financial issues. The RFO must maintain the finances, providing the council with a monthly status and also liaising with an internal and external auditor in preparation

to present the end of year accounts to full council at their annual meeting. The RFO also looks after the VAT and insurance requirements and the payment of accounts and receipts, and ensures compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, the Data Protection Act and health and safety legislation.

On a day-to-day basis the Clerk manages all council functions, correspondence, and queries, and all council meetings, including issuing agendas and related minutes and ensuring legislation is complied with.

For further information, please visit the Parish Council's website at <http://www.clymping.org.uk/>.

### **Council meetings**

The Clymping Parish Council meeting dates for 2024 are as follows:

**30th January** (please note change of date)

**19th March**

**14th May**

**23rd July**

**24th September**

**19th November**

Meetings begin at 7:30pm in St Mary's Church Hall, Clymping. The agenda for each meeting will be posted at [www.clymping.org.uk/full-council-meetings/](http://www.clymping.org.uk/full-council-meetings/) at least three days before the meeting.





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My 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.



## Village life

# Clymping social opportunities

*Anne Miller outlines a number of ways to get involved in the community – including possibly a summer fayre!*

The next community coffee morning will be held on 2nd December, 10:30–noon at Clymping Village Hall. Hope to see you there!

It was lovely to have so many residents (approximately 45) attend our inaugural coffee morning in September and to hear the chitter chatter whilst people were having a friendly natter over a coffee or tea.

The December coffee morning is going to be slightly different, as it will

be accompanied by a Christmas-themed grand raffle. Entry to the Village Hall will be £1 per person, but this will include a raffle ticket as well as drinks and biscuits. There will be additional raffle tickets available for purchase on the day.

I already have a few lovely prizes lined up, but I will happily receive further donations of prizes. Please contact me on 07870 507767 to arrange collection.

As before, there will also be a donations box which will go towards funding further coffee mornings. These have already been booked – please put them in your diaries:

**Saturday, 9th March 2024**

**Saturday, 8th June 2024**



*Clymping residents enjoyed visiting at the community coffee morning on 30th September.*

## Book swap shed

Don't forget to visit the new book swap at the Pound on Clymping Street. There were so many books in the shed that I have had to remove some and store them elsewhere for the moment. However, this is great, as it means there is a large selection to choose from. I will top it up regularly as books get taken to read. Don't be shy – you can take more than one at a time!

## Local history

I am planning a local history talk for 2024, as several residents have expressed an interest. James Baird held one of these a few years ago and it was very popular. James and I will be working together to get this off the ground, so watch this space.

## Summer fayre

One of the events I wanted to launch when I joined the Parish Council was a village fayre or fete. Long-standing residents of the village may remember when we used to have these, and they were great fun for all the family.

Local resident Fiona Howard posted a message in the Clymping Village Residents Facebook group in September to see if there was any interest in having a fayre in 2024. Her post generated a lot of positive responses, so I am aiming to organise the fayre for next summer.

I'm currently in discussion with the Village Hall committee regarding a suitable date in June or July next year (to fit

around the cricket fixtures). Failing this, we could perhaps hold the fayre at the Church Hall.

There would need to be a body of individuals committed to helping with the planning. I am thinking six to eight village residents who would be willing to give several hours of their time over the next six or seven months to attend

regular planning meetings and have responsibility for making this happen. I do not doubt there will be loads of willing helpers for the actual day, but it's the months beforehand that will be key to the success of such an event.

In order to gauge opinion for a summer fayre, could I please ask you kindly to take time to complete the survey on page 16 and return it to me. Based on the responses, I will then

make a final decision as to whether this is a viable option – I really hope it is!



*Alison Baird cut the ribbon at the grand opening of the book swap shed.*



**The Clymping Village Residents Group** on Facebook provides a forum for residents to

post notices and stay in touch with goings-ons in the community. To become a member, search for 'Clymping Village Residents Group' on Facebook and ask to join.



# Summer Fayre Survey



Please complete the survey below and return to Anne Miller at Silver Birch, Church Lane, Clymping, BN17 5RB, or email to [annemiller.CPC@gmail.com](mailto:annemiller.CPC@gmail.com). Many thanks.

Do you think a summer fayre in 2024 is a good idea? (please circle)	Yes	No
Would you attend if there was a summer fayre?	Yes	No
Would you be willing to go on the planning committee?	Yes	No
Would you like to volunteer on the day?	Yes	No
Do you have a local business that would like a stall at the fayre?	Yes	No
Do you have any expertise that would be useful for the fayre, but you'd prefer not to be on the committee?	Yes	No
If yes to the above, what is your expertise?		
Would you like to see any profit from the fayre go towards something specific in the village?	Yes	No
If yes to the above, what would you like this to be spent on?		
What stalls would you like to see at the fayre?		

Name:  
Address:  
Tel/Mob:  
Additional information:



## Environment

# Spring colour for Clymping

*Wendy Robinson thanks this year's bulb-planting volunteers and outlines the progress of this environmental project.*

On 14th October a group of residents spent the morning planting 500 bulbs on St Mary's Green on Church Lane. The effort was part of an ongoing project funded by Clymping Parish Council to add beauty to the village and provide a boost to local ecosystems.

We began this project in 2019, planting 1,500 bulbs as a trial around the Clymping gateway sign on St. Mary's Green. The bulbs were specifically chosen at that time to provide flowering succession from January until the end of May each year. They were selected for their flowering periods, colour, height, scent and mass. Species

bulbs were preferred, as they are more natural, establish quickly and naturalise through self-seeding. The trial highlighted that more impact and height were needed.

The following year the Parish Council funded 2,000 bulbs to be planted around the Clymping gateway sign outside Rudford Industrial Estate on Church Lane, as well as around the gateway sign on Yapton Road. (We also planted some at the Pound



*The 2023 bulb planting team*

in Clymping Street.) Bulbs for the two additional gateway signs are focused to flower around March and April; we selected narcissi and species tulips for their flowering time, height and ability to naturalise in grass.

In 2022 we again concentrated our efforts on St. Mary's Green and planted 500 white and yellow narcissi, which will flower in April. The additional bulbs planted this year will add impact to the display.

We hope that we can eventually fill St. Mary's Green with spring bulbs. Early flying insects are dependent on flowers in bloom from February to April and enjoy the pollen and nectar that these bulbs provide. The flowers



*Spring bulbs around the Clymping gateway sign on St Mary's Green*

also offer some spring colour to welcome you to Clymping!

*Wendy Robinson serves on Clymping Parish Council's Environment Working Group.*



*Map showing locations of bulb planting on Church Lane, 2019–2023.*

## Ukraine

# From the farm to the front line

.....



*James Baird and his son Oliver in Ukraine*

***Clymping farmer James Baird tells the story of his emotional first journey to the city of Lviv in Ukraine.***

I'm fortunate to live in a large farmhouse, with children weaned off to university. When I saw the images of women and children fleeing the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, I decided to open my

home in response to their plight. I am now offering sanctuary to nine Ukrainians, including one boy whom I've fostered.

I first became aware of the Pick-ups for Peace (P4P) charity in *Farmers Weekly* and I instantly thought it would be a perfect conduit for me to make a tangible difference.

P4P is fronted by Mark Laird, a Scottish farmer with a history of cropping in Poland and Ukraine. From the moment I



*Members of the Pick-ups for Peace convoy, having arrived in Lviv*

first contacted the charity, they took me under their wing. I cannot praise their organisational skills highly enough. Mark is a humble man with a passion to support his Ukrainian farming community, and his ethos is infectious, with many people having made the journey several times.

### **The journey to Lviv**

The success of this project demonstrates incredible generosity from not just farmers. There were ex-military personnel, photographers, journalists, financiers, vets, engineers and even a retired submarine commander making the journey.

I'm sure I'm not the only farmer who enjoys a long-distance road trip, taking in mile upon mile of ever-changing landscape dominated by farming scenes – a busman's holiday that usually has the kids moaning 'Are we there yet?'

From door to door, from my farm to the stunningly authentic city of Lviv in

Ukraine, is 1,225 miles. If driven in one hit, it would be 22 hours of driving.

From all corners of the UK, we grouped up in Poland before crossing over into Ukraine. It was impossible to ignore that we were crossing into a war zone. There was a risk, of course, but an incredibly well-managed risk with safeguards in place. None of us had cold feet.

We were immediately met at the Ukrainian border by the warmest of smiles from Union Jack waving villagers.

We entered the city of Lviv in the late afternoon, in a triumphant convoy with blue lights and sirens front and back. Pedestrians stopped and stared and smiled as we careered over slippery cobbles through rush-hour traffic.

As a farmer, I'm well accustomed to escorting wide loads. For many in our group, though, this was their first taste of being the priority vehicle for which all others must give way, including jumping every red light, trams pulling on their brakes and cars halting. We had been given strict instructions to 'hug the tailgate in front of us' and 'keep in convoy, give way to no one'.

We were expertly guided to a safe compound and, as we climbed out of our seats, it became clear my own adrenalin rush was



common to everyone. We'd made it. There were hugs and high fives, such a buzz of excitement and relief that our faithful pick-ups hadn't let us down.

We headed to our hotel on foot, and that's when it struck me. During the grand entry I'd been staring intently at the vehicle in front and had completely overlooked the historical beauty of the city, moulded by centuries of conflicting governance to-ing and fro-ing between Vikings to Austrians, Germany, Poland, Russia – and now in the custodianship of the proud people of Ukraine.

With more than a millennium of history as a settlement, and over seven centuries as a city, it's no wonder that so many nations have fought to hold this hallowed place of such striking architecture.

At the hotel, as the bar filled to a raucous chatter that grew as the hospitality flowed, we were made to feel so welcome. With 35 drivers in our group, all with co-pilots, we had nearly 70 like-minded fellow travellers to get to know.

The excitement of our grand entrance endured into the evening, right up to our heads finally hitting the pillows before the midnight curfew.

The next morning we were treated to a city tour, well organised with minibuses and a guide who was the most overqualified person for his job that I've ever met – a Ukrainian academic proficient at every

period of history. As he flashed through centuries of oppression and injustice, pennies were dropping among us just how the past has forged the present-day nation into such a formidable and proud people. Ukrainian identity is the antithesis of struggle.

We were taken to the Field of Mars at the Lychakiv Cemetery. Our high spirits from the night before came suddenly down to earth as we strolled respectfully along the central path. A steady stream of wives and mothers came from the city to

tend their fallen heroes' last resting place, from combatants killed that week to the next grave already open for inevitable casualties to come.

Passing through the sea of red, black, yellow and blue flags had a profound effect on all of us as we shared the grief of the nation and paid our respects.

This was the moment that I really understood the importance of the P4P charity. Here was a field of snuffed-out hope, and their brethren who continue the struggle need all the help they can get to end the madness of war.

As I walked past the grave of a 21-year-old, I thought of my own children at university, lapping up the socials at Harper Adams with bright futures ahead of them, and yet here in this kaleidoscope of colour one lad's journey had ended.

I was minded of the boy I have fostered. Having escaped, he will be spared the



*The Field of Mars at the Lychakiv Cemetery in Lviv*

draft. His mother drove 600km to meet me in Lviv, to give me a bone-crunching bear hug to take back for her son. She couldn't thank me enough for what I'd done. It was a truly humbling day.

### **A kinship like no other**

We were shown a pick-up that had been delivered in a previous convoy. It now sits outside the Powder Tower as a monument for all to see. A mortar round had exploded alongside it and the soldiers inside were badly wounded but managed to drive to the nearest field hospital, and their lives were saved.

Pick-ups are vital tools. They can cross the farmed landscape quickly and are adaptable to be used as troop carriers, as ambulances or for logistics.

On our last evening we were treated to a magnificent dinner, full of patriotism, vodka and bagpipes blaring. The guest of honour was the chief of Lviv's air defence. He explained to us that the value in the pick-ups was of course important, but of more importance was the messaging that we would take home.

He urged all of us to share our stories so they don't become forgotten. He reinforced just how important it was that we had embraced risk.

The effect of foreign visitors on the morale of his soldiers and the people of Lviv was substantial.

This was the most honourable and valuable contribution I have made to my fellows. I felt a kinship like no other and

I'm going to go back and back until this ends. We must see this through.

### **How you can help**

I would encourage all readers to get involved. If you're able to donate a pick-up or other 4x4, that would be wonderful, but there are also other ways to help.

You may have direct contacts in any of the following organisations – quite often stock and equipment is rotated and could prove vital in Ukraine: mountain rescue services, Coastguard, NHS sourcing, fire brigade, ambulance services or the police

force. If you know people who are working within these or similar services, they can often provide invaluable equipment and supplies that can be used to save lives on the front lines.

P4P loads the pick-ups that are driven to Ukraine with humanitarian supplies, and you can find a shopping list on their website ([www.pickupsforpeace.co.uk](http://www.pickupsforpeace.co.uk)). You might already have things in your own garage or workshop that can make a difference. The charity can also put you in touch with people in your area who are going on the next missions. You can give the drivers some money for fuel, or you can donate funds directly to P4P. Every little helps.

For more information, follow Pick-ups for Peace on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter, or email [pickupsforpeace@memus.com](mailto:pickupsforpeace@memus.com).

*This article originally appeared in NFU British Farmer & Grower. It is printed here by permission, with some variations.*

“ *Pick-ups are vital tools. They can cross the farmed landscape quickly and are adaptable.* ”

# BEACH REPORT

## *The Environment Agency provides an update on the beach.*

### **Spring tides and Storm Ciarán**

At the end of October high spring tides caused impacts to the beach at Clymping. Shingle was lowered and swept landwards, notably the section at the end of Climping Street. This led to a large volume of water flowing down Climping Street and into the ditch network. Our operations team had a bulldozer ready on site, and in the days following the spring tides they worked to reprofile shingle and move this to a more landward position ahead of the arrival of Storm Ciarán.

On Thursday, 2nd November, Storm Ciarán brought rain and high winds to the south coast. The Met office issued an amber weather warning, and a flood warning for Clymping beach remained in place over several days. Thankfully the work of our operations team meant there were minimal impacts to the shingle banks and we were able to reprofile the shingle which was

washed landwards back into place.

Following the storm the coastal footpath going west through the western car park has been closed off by the Coastguard as the land here has retreated back. We have also noted that as the beach has lowered in places some archaeological features of interest have been exposed on the beach.

### **Shingle recycling works**

Working with Littlehampton Harbour Board, the Environment Agency will be recycling shingle from the River Arun to Clymping beach at the end of November. We anticipate we will bring in around 2,000 tonnes of shingle over this period to help bolster the defences in their new landward position. Work is currently planned to start from 27th November and may cause some disruption along Climping Street as the lorries bring the shingle to site.

### **Climping Street**

Following the high tides and storms, a significant amount of shingle has been washed onto the end of Climping Street. This has covered the previous on-road parking, meaning it is not possible to park on the road at the end of Climping Street. This shingle is providing flood protection and, following discussions with the West Sussex County Council



*The end of Climping Street following the high spring tides*



*Archaeological feature exposed on the beach*

highways team, we are not planning to move it from the highway. An application for the proposed 'stopping up' of highway at the end of Clymping Street is with the Department of Transport. This is to formally stop up the end of Clymping Street. If agreed, this will mean Clymping

Street will end at the entrance to the car park and the on-road parking will be terminated. This will allow us to remove the tarmac from the highway to prevent it entering the marine environment. We will also link up the two shingle banks which run through the eastern and western car parks to allow a continuous line of defence. The application will go through a formal consultation period, allowing time for comments and objections to be raised.

### **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](mailto:SSDENquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk).



*Photo of Clymping beach in November 2023 by Sussex from Above*



# DISTRICT COUNCILLOR



*Amanda Worne discusses flooding issues at the beach and on the field south of Horsemere Green Lane.*

The past few weeks have been an extremely stressful and worrying time for our residents in Clymping, as we have seen a vast amount of flooding across the district and the sea rising dangerously close to several villagers' homes.

The Environment Agency have been working to build shingle banks to protect the homes most at risk, and thankfully this effort has worked.

The question is how long will we be able to do this, as the flooding will only continue and get worse. Arun District Council (ADC) has set up a Flood Forum to address this problem and other flooding problems across the district, as in some places raw sewage has been coming up into people's homes.

One of the main issues the forum has addressed is the need to maintain our rifes and ditches and to keep them clear so surface water has somewhere to drain.



*The field south of Horsemere Green Lane in November this year. Photo by Sussex from Above*

I have been working with a local landowner in Clymping, and he has been checking ditches on his land to ensure they are clear and providing somewhere for a lot of this surface water to go. I want to publicly thank him for that.

**The flooding has also raised another** question, as we have seen the field south of Horsemere Green Lane – where there is an application for 300 homes – flood and become a lake! This land is not at all suitable for a housing development, so after speaking with the chair of Clymping Parish Council I have contacted ADC asking them to provide evidence of an effective surface water and foul water drainage scheme, as there appear to be concerns over whether conditions have been met regarding these two factors.

ADC have also written to central government asking for all planning applications in the district not to be approved until the flooding is dealt with, and this application must be included in this request.

We need to do all we can to protect our village and keep our residents safe in their homes, and I will do my best as ward councillor to see that this happens.

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

# SCHOOL NEWS



*Justin Murray, head teacher, shares his vision for providing memorable experiences at St Mary's Clymping.*

As we head into winter, our thoughts at St Mary's Clymping school are turning towards Christmas preparations. The festive season is a time of great excitement for children, and is naturally a time of memorable experiences.

We all have those evocative memories that take us back to childhood. Mine is waiting on Christmas morning at the top of the stairs at home, with my sister and brother, as the living room door was opened. The breathless sense of anticipation still resonates today.

Memorable experiences are created at school as well. We are looking forward to our Christingle and Carol Service in St Mary's Church, as well as to our upcoming Christmas fair. As a Church of England school, we believe the children should engage wholeheartedly in the notion of giving. They should be engaged in the spiritual opportunities that this time of year brings, and they should thrive in a sense of belonging to a community.

It's relatively easy to create memories at Christmas. But our goal here at St Mary's is to create memorable experiences for the children all year round – to assist learning by building positive neural pathways and to recapture the joy of school. We want to ensure we are helping children commit their learning to long-term memory, and we want to laugh with the children and

create shared moments that allow us to develop our relationships together.

The creation of memorable experiences is, in fact, a foundation stone of our vision for excellence in education at St Mary's Clymping.

**The early 20th-century educational** reformer John Dewey said, "Give the pupils something to do, not something to learn; and the doing is of such a nature as to demand thinking; learning naturally results."

This statement encapsulates our goal. Over the past several months I have reflected on the environment in which we are so fortunate to teach at St Mary's. What do we have locally to stimulate learning and provide unique experiences? We are set in rural farmland; we are blessed with an orchard to host forest school and a wild meadow to promote curiosity; we are 900m from the beautiful beach; we are close to local businesses; we are near local rail and bus links; we are within walking distance of an interesting river and so much more. With all of this around us, we should find it hard *not* to create memories!

This could easily be a thesis topic for me, so writing about it within the word constraints here – those of you who have met me will know I enjoy a chat – is challenging. However, I am going to give a few examples of how we are trying to express our vision.

Our children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 are all now learning through experience in various aspects of the daily curriculum, from using our outdoor resources for maths learning to developing their understanding of the world through our carefully curated role-play areas. In the education world this is called ‘continuous provision’, and it allows the children more time to be doing what Dewey articulates. They are spending more time being active, more time exploring and questioning, more time being creative and more time engaged in high-quality conversations. This promotion of child-led, exploration-based learning is essential to creating memorable experiences which, in turn, provide firm building blocks for future education.

Beyond the academic advantages, it also makes school a place where learning is the responsibility of us all. The children are busy painting, drawing, constructing, role-playing and creating in an environment designed to allow them to build on the lessons delivered by our skilled teachers.

Forest school epitomises this approach. The children spend time in our orchard and wild meadow developing their love of nature and the outside world and creating memories that draw on all of their experiences both in and out of school. As well as creating memorable experiences,

we are promoting independence, exploration, nurture and perseverance.

All classes at St Mary’s enjoy a range of trips throughout the year which connect to their learning in school. These vary from local walks to the church or the beach, to much bigger adventures, such as to Marwell Zoo, Brighton Museum, Fishbourne Roman Palace, the Planetarium in Chichester and the National Maritime Museum in London. This year our Year 6 children will be going to Cobnor Activity Centre to learn to sail, canoe, kayak, climb, cycle, trampoline and more. Beyond the experience of these activities, though, is the memory of the collective endeavour and the bond created through shared experience – one where the teachers and children can develop an understanding of each other in a completely different environment.

This is linked to our ‘wow’ experiences for the children. To capture attention and promote curiosity and excitement about a topic they are studying, each class engages in a special activity or event. The most recent example of this was a visit from Owls About Town for the children who were learning about owls and other nocturnal animals. The children were able to see real-life owls flying around the school hall and had opportunities to stroke the owls. Perhaps the memorable experience was



*Reception teacher Mrs Anderson holds an eagle owl during the Owls About Town visit in November.*

enhanced by the owl that flew up into the hall rafters and would not come down. The image of the head teacher trying to coax an owl back into its box before we could serve lunch was certainly memorable to some!

In addition to these specific experiences comes the day-to-day learning. We are in the process of working our vision into various aspects of the curriculum in all year groups. For example, we are changing the way we teach geography by focusing on the 'field skills' element. This has included local walks to develop map skills, beach visits on environmental studies and the use of local bus and train services when we go on trips. Using our environment to create memories changes the way the children learn and is essential to our vision.

**We have a road to travel to fully** implement this vision throughout the school. What we have in abundance, though, is passion and a desire for the children in our care to thrive in an environment that they remember as being unique to St Mary's CE Primary School Clymping.

I will leave you with this: not all of these moments are planned. They come when you least expect them. Recently, I had the privilege of leading our Running Club on a cross-country jog down Bread Lane to Clymping beach. The weather was challenging but it was breathtakingly beautiful. As a group of people, both pupils and adults, we stopped and stood on the shoreline. The wind was howling, the sea was crashing, the rain was persistent and in that moment, we created a memory. It is something that I will cherish as the head teacher. In order to create it we had to participate; in participating we all learnt something about the world and each other.

## What are your most memorable moments?

We visited Furzefield Scout Campsite and got hot chocolate. We spent a lot of time drawing and painting with chalk and clay. There were lots of fun activities. I made a mud ball throwing machine. Also, the Planetarium was amazing. The experience there was exciting. We saw all of the stars in the sky. I learnt about the North Star and space rockets. The Big Bear constellation was my favourite. – **Athena**

Forest school is the best thing. I love playing outside with the apples and using sticks. We put the apples in the fire circle, washed them and got to eat them. – **Joe**

In Reception I enjoyed going on a bug hunt as part of our insect topic. In Year 2 we went to Portsmouth Dockyard. We were learning about the *Titanic*. Going to the *Mary Rose* was fun and I loved seeing inside the *Victory* – I remember Nelson's bed and the toilets. – **Susie**

I remember last year we went to London to the National Maritime Museum. It was a long train journey which was fun as we played a game. The museum had bits you could interact with.

I will always remember bike time in Reception. I didn't have many friends at the beginning. Bike time helped because of the double bikes. I have been friends with Gracie ever since. – **Bobby**

# PLANNING APPLICATIONS

*The following planning applications for Clymping are undecided by Arun District Council as of 24th November 2023.*

Arun DC ref.	Location	Proposal
CM/41/23/DOC	Bramleys Horsemere Green Lane Climping BN17 5QZ	Approval of details reserved by condition imposed under CM/24/23/PL.
CM/39/23/HH	Mistletoe Farm Horsemere Green Lane Climping BN17 5QZ	Construction of a 3 bay timber carport on an existing concrete slab.
CM/36/23/DOC	Bairds Farm Shop and Garden Centre Crookthorn Lane Climping BN17 5SN	Approval of details reserved by condition imposed under CM/46/21/PL.
CM/35/23/HH	Mead Cottage Climping Street BN17 5RQ	Demolition of existing outbuilding and construction of annexe accommodation for use in connection with Mead Cottage.
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](http://www.arun.gov.uk/planning-application-search)** (select the parish from the drop-down box, tick the 'undecided' box and click on search).

Two **automated external defibrillators (AEDs)** were installed in the village this summer. One is located at the front of the Village Hall, and the other is at Climping Park estate, just

off the A259. Please make a note of these – it could save a life!

The Parish Council is exploring the option of installing two further AEDs in the village in the near future.



# Word search

## Time for Christmas spirit!

*By Alexander Nonymouse*

Christmas is on its way! Can you find 16 festive words in the puzzle below?  
They go horizontally and vertically.

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

- |             |           |         |         |
|-------------|-----------|---------|---------|
| BAUBLE      | STOCKING  | PARTY   | JUMPER  |
| DECORATIONS | TURKEY    | SONGS   | PRESENT |
| MARKET      | CAROL     | TINSEL  | SPIRIT  |
| PUDDING     | GREETINGS | CRACKER | TREE    |

## My favourite letter

by Lin Lundie

X

It has to be X

for a love junkie like me

at the end of all I write

a blessing, a reminder

of all you mean to me

not words

X says it all

on a sealed envelope, a protection

a letter you want to open

signing off an e mail

a thank you

a you know what I mean

a kiss

X

Love is a verb x



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# Fiona Howard

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