CLYMPING VILLAGE NEWS

WINTER 2026



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If you would like to write something or advertise in the village news, please send enquiries or articles to me at **jane.mules@clympingpc.org.uk**. Submission guidelines can be found at **clymping.org.uk**. Clymping Village News does not accept any liability for errors, omissions or claims made by or against our contributors. The views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the Parish Council, except where indicated.

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Welcome to the Winter Edition of the Clymping Village Newsletter.

This edition includes the usual updates from around the village as well as interesting information about what is going on in the village.

The Parish Council has been continuing to work on emergency planning and resilience alongside our County and District Councils as well as other local Parish Councils testing our plans for responding to unexpected events.

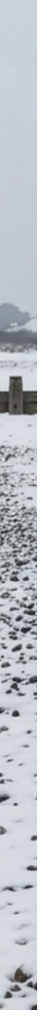
You may have seen information in the media about being prepared for emergency situations and can find details in our leaflet which we shared with you last year.

In addition, one of our residents has provided us with a simple guide from the Red Cross about what to keep at home in case of a crisis.

Please consider joining the Parish Council's Emergency WhatsApp group if you haven't already as we will use this mechanism for letting you know about any advice and guidance the emergency services pass on to us and we can let you know in the event that we open the community emergency hub.

For further information please contact me via email **jane.mules@clympingpc.org.uk**.

Jane Mules
Clymping Parish Council



A Parish View

As expected, a glorious summer is turning into a wet and stormy autumn. We took the opportunity to desilt the Horsemere pond when it dried out. 400 tonnes of silt were removed, leaving the area looking rather bare but a much more effective part of the drainage system. The pond is slowly refilling, and hopefully the pond life will start to recover.

The Foreman development has been high on the Parish Council agenda, given residents' concerns about the pneumatic piling and the associated noise and vibration. This type of piling was not allowed under the approved construction plan. A combination of community and Parish Council pressure led to this being stopped. Foreman attempted a revision of the construction plan to allow it, but this was rejected.

The other big development is the VIVID Homes sign referring to 190 "affordable" and rental homes. VIVID are a major manager of this type of housing in the south. Arun District Council's requirement for the site was 90 "affordable" homes, but VIVID have confirmed that they will be the buyer and manager of both these and an additional 100 "affordable" homes. Clearly, Foreman are concerned about their ability to sell the original 210 private homes. There are no changes to the house designs and layout yet. We will need to think through carefully how this large and very different demographic can be integrated effectively into the village.

We are keeping a close watch on the beach now that the winter storm season is upon us. We continue to try to get a better-coordinated approach by the Environment Agency, West Sussex Highways and Arun District Council to managed retreat and beach safety. We are also aware that the government is reviewing coastal protection policy. We would like to see recognition of the need to help small coastal communities adapt and deal with the very real human costs of coastal erosion when major coastal defence expenditure isn't justified.

On highways, you should be aware of the preparatory works underway through to next spring at Comet Corner as part of the upgrade to the A259 Flansham to Littlehampton. A decision due on November 5th on the proposal for the upgrade of the Oystercatcher junction has been put back to 5th February 2027. We should, however, anticipate similar preparatory works and disruption to follow in 2027 if approved. We have received verbal confirmation that our proposals to review parking restrictions are going forward, hopefully for implementation before next summer.

On the community front at the village hall, it's clear that the CPR refresher was much appreciated by those attending (many thanks to Ewout Benschop). Following the clatter of skittles, there is the **November Quiz Night (25th)**, and then, on **December 12th, a coffee morning and tabletop sale**. Then it's Christmas – it never ceases to amaze me how fast it comes around once we get to November.

Colin Humphris
Clymping Parish Council

> **A day that was set to bring Climping together as a community.**



Clymping Village Hall Event

As a beautiful dawn broke on Saturday 22nd August 2026, there were five very relieved organisers, together with many volunteers! It was a day that had been a long time in the planning and was set to bring Climping together as a community, giving local people and their families the opportunity to get out and have fun.

Thankfully, the sun shone brightly, but it wasn't too hot, and people turned out in their droves to come along and be part of what turned out to be a fabulous day. There were stalls, games, a bouncy castle, tug-of-war, a beer and Pimm's tent, absolutely amazing Ukrainian cakes, vintage cars and bikes, food and coffee vans, and, not forgetting, live music provided by Catalina Jazz, who came along and supported the event free of charge.

The day was officially opened at noon by the owners of Bailiffscourt Hotel & Spa, and the Black Horse Pub, Pontus and Miranda Carminger. The support they provided for the daytime activities, but more particularly for the Dinner Dance that followed in the evening, was incredible. The organising committee owe them a huge debt of thanks for everything they did and provided to make the day happen.

Not content with having just one event on the day, we then went on to hold a ticketed Dinner Dance for 54 people in the evening. This rapidly became a sell-out, and everyone who came along had a fabulous time, with incredible food produced by the team at Bailiffscourt Hotel. Again, there was live music provided free of charge by Blurred Image, who had everyone up and dancing late into the evening.



Predominantly, the day was organised to bring the village together. However, we were also celebrating 90 years of Clymping Village Hall and raising funds towards projects needed for the upkeep of the Hall. The Village Hall Committee has ring-fenced the money raised and is still determining how best to spend it. Following an extremely generous donation from a resident, some charity match funding, a top-up from the account I hold for other village events, and all the profits from the day, an incredible £4,750 was raised.

Thanks go to all of you who attended, my fellow organisers and a band of very willing volunteers (before, during and after the event), plus, of course, the external sponsors who made the day so special: Bailiffscourt Hotel & Spa; Arundel Brewery; Fauna Brewery; Cormorant Coffee; Cole's Ice Creams; Alfresco Fish & Chips; Catalina Jazz Band; Blurred Image; OSB Group; Bounceabout; and all those people and organisations who provided raffle prizes.

Looking forward to 2027, are there any events you would like to see organised? If so, I would be delighted to hear your thoughts. Please contact me on **anne.miller@clympingpc.org.uk**.

It would also be fantastic to have a pool of people who would be happy to volunteer to help make these events happen. Again, please get in touch and let me know if you are interested, and whether you have any particular skills that we could make use of.

Anne Miller

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Hobbs Community Garden Update

We had a wonderful afternoon at our Community Apple Day at Maltravers Orchard. This was a combined effort by our group, Hobbs Community Garden, and the Littlehampton Community Growers group. It was a pleasure to welcome Maralyn May, the Littlehampton Town Council Mayor, who joined in.

Many thanks to **Marisa from the Littlehampton Community Growers group**; **Kevin and Martin from local Culberry Nursery**, who led the apple pressing station; **Bridgette, Pamela, Ellie, Dill and Ellie from our Hobbs Community Garden team**; **Rachel and Zara**, who ran the children's arts and crafts stall; **Emma Baynes**, for sharing a talk on the benefits of apples; **Liz**, who led the creative seed packet-making stall; **Martin Wilson**, who led the orchard tour; all the performers from the **Ukulele Groups of Littlehampton u3a and Arun East u3a**; and finally, **Emma, Christine and Julie from the Littlehampton Area Swift, Swallow & Martin Group.**

Christmas Book Buying Guide

This is my final article in my series on the Year of Books and, as it will soon be Christmas, in this edition I am going to recommend books you could buy for a loved one. I have included a range of options for different age groups and tastes. Hopefully, there is something for everyone.

My first choice is for young children and is called **One Snowy Night**. It is by **Nick Butterworth**. It is my favourite of the Percy the Park Keeper books. It tells the story of one night when Percy has several unexpected visitors and, perhaps, they may need more than food. There was also a TV series, which you can find on YouTube, if that tickles your fancy.

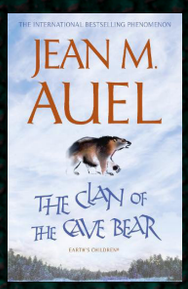
Winter Solstice by **Rosamunde Pilcher** is a great read for adults in the lead-up to Christmas, as the book is partly set in the run-up to the festive season. Maybe an early Christmas present or one to read on Christmas Day.

In contrast, **The Clan of the Cave Bear** follows Ayla as she navigates a world where she is seen as an outsider and struggles to find her way. Her resilience and perseverance are admirable. This is the first in a series and takes you to a prehistoric world where mammoths exist and wild horses roam. The stakes are high, and the harsh landscapes lead to death. Yet, Ayla navigates her way with grace and adaptability, which serves as an example for all of us to have a little more empathy, kindness and curiosity.

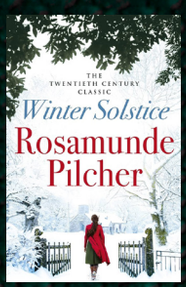
The Sight by **David Clement-Davies** is a young adult book set in a wintry Transylvania, following



One Snowy Night
Nick Butterworth



The Clan of the Cave Bear
Jean M. Auel



Winter Solstice
Rosamunde Pilcher



The Sight
David Clement-Davies

a she-wolf and her pups. There is a prophecy, intrigue, and a mysterious and unsettling undertone throughout.

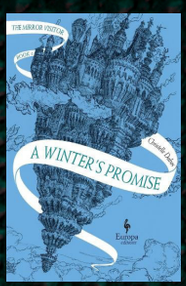
Another book with a mysterious feel to it is **A Winter's Promise** by **Christelle Dabos**. We follow Ophelia, who has magical abilities and ends up betrothed to someone she does not know, thrust into a cut-throat world she does not understand and a society full of cold, aloof or cut-throat folk with plenty of secrets. This is the first book in a quartet and is great for someone who loves a slow-going political mystery that expands as the series progresses.

A classic that is worth reading or returning to at this time of year is **Little Women** by **Louisa May Alcott**. I also recommend the 1994 film, which opens on a snowy scene and is a great companion in the colder months. A family drama full of loveable characters – *what's not to love?*

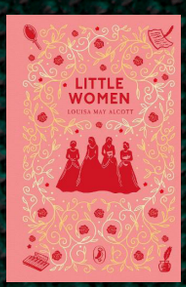
Mythopedia is a book full of beautiful illustrations of mythical creatures from around the world and would be a joy to open on Christmas Day, especially for children and teenagers who love myths and legends.

My final pick is **Ember and the Ice Dragons** by **Heather Fawcett**, which is a fun middle-grade book set in Antarctica, where there are dragons, secrets and friendships to form.

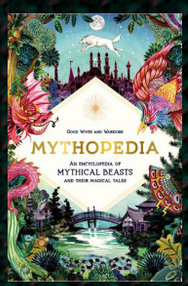
I hope there is something that has piqued your interest. Happy reading and Christmas book buying, everyone!



A Winter's Promise
Christelle Dabos

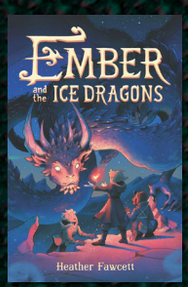


Little Women
Louisa May Alcott



Mythopedia
Anna Claybourne

Illustrations by Becky Bolton and Louise Chappell



Ember and the Ice Dragons
Heather Fawcett

Stroodelande Stories

Hello all! Some of you may know me and some may not, so let me introduce myself. I am Betsy Baird. I have recently returned from studying, living and working abroad. I studied outdoor recreation and environmental management, so I'm excited to bring my skills and knowledge back to Climping. I have been working on the farm and in the community over the summer and don't plan on going anywhere. This is my first article for The Climping Village News, and I will be using this space to share stories and updates on everything Stroodelande!

At the start of the year, we erected a Ringed Plover nesting site in collaboration with Arun District Council and Natural England. It is located behind the shingle bund at Climping Beach, to the east of Bread Lane. The area is fenced to prevent disturbance from dogs and people near the ground-nesting birds. We have had three successful breeding pairs, including one pair of Little Ringed Plovers, which successfully hatched three chicks. If you get the chance to spot one, you will notice how small and vulnerable they are. The species has taken advantage of an increase in man-made flooded gravel pits, reservoirs and quarries that provide perfect habitats. The Ringed Plover is classified as Red under the Birds of Conservation Concern 5: The Red List for Birds (2021) (The Wildlife Trusts, 2026), meaning the site we have created for them will hopefully help numbers stabilise and recover.



Little Ringed Plover – Angela Marlow



At the start of October, a local birdwatcher, Bola Akinola, spotted a Pallid Harrier hunting over the fields behind the sand dunes. This was the first sighting of its kind, and we are hopeful that they will continue to return to hunt.

Pallid Harrier – Bola Akinola

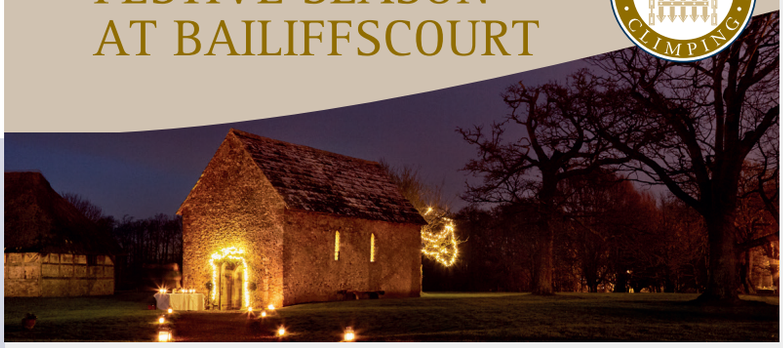
As you may have seen, this year we have grassed strips across a few of the footpaths around the farm. These will become permanent features of the landscape and should eliminate the need to re-form them year on year. As well as the grass, over the winter we are planning to plant hedges on either side of the footpaths. Hedges create natural boundaries and act as nature corridors. Over time, as they develop, they will start to blend in with the landscape. They will also provide shade when walking in the summer and shelter from the wind when walking in the winter.

We have also grassed over the top section of the field to prepare for the development of Keystone Kitchen, the new café/visitor centre and parking area, which will be built in the coming years.

Finally, we would like to organise a clean-up day **Saturday 27th March at 10am on Climping Beach**.

We would love to see the community come together. Please contact **betsy@jdbaird.com** so I can get a rough number of volunteers.

EMBRACE THE FESTIVE SEASON AT BAILIFFSCOURT



Festive wreath making £94*

1st, 2nd, 3rd December
arrive by 9.15am
Your two hour workshop will be followed by a delicious two course lunch, complete with a glass of wine.

Festive lunch from £22*per person

Celebrate Christmas with a delicious two course lunch
One voucher per table for up to six guests.
Please book in advance and show a photo of this advert to receive the offer.
Valid until 23rd December, Monday - Friday.

Carols by Candlelight from £89*

13th, 14th and 15th December
PERFORMANCES: 12.15pm, 3.30pm, 7pm
Beautifully sung carols in the intimate setting of our glorious 13th century chapel (including lunch with a glass of wine, afternoon tea with mulled wine or dinner with sparkling drinks, subject to performance time).

New Year's Eve from £430*

Welcome in 2027 with Sussex sparkling wine and canapés and a delicious four-course dinner followed by a disco and dancing. Includes overnight accommodation with full English Bucks Fizz breakfast.

Yoga & Song for 2027

If you missed this fabulous day retreat this year, we have some new dates for next year:
Tues 23rd February, 16th March and 27th April.

For further details or to make a booking, please ask our reception team.

Bailiffscourt Hotel & Spa Climping Street, Climping BN17 5RW | 01903 723511 | **hshotels.co.uk**
*For terms and restrictions see event details on our website. Part of the Historic Sussex Hotels collection

St Mary's Church: Christmas is Coming!

Are you new to our villages? Perhaps you have lived here long enough to feel like you are no longer an 'incomer'? Or maybe, just maybe, you are a 'lifer'... having lived here all your life?

Well, no matter how long you have lived here, we are your church. Everyone who lives in the parish has equal claim to the parish church, and what better time to visit than at Christmas? You are all welcome at any of the Christmas services at any of our three churches.

We will also be singing carols at various venues through December, both inside and out, so keep an eye on the website for more information: **cyfchurches.org.uk**

Reverend Richard Hayes
St Mary's Church

DECEMBER 13TH
6PM | St Mary's Chruch, Clymping
Traditional Carol Service

DECEMBER 20TH
3PM | St Mary's Church, Yapton
Traditional Carol Service

CHRISTMAS EVE
10AM | St Andrew's Ford
Christmas Holy Communion
3PM | St Mary's Yapton DIY Nativity
(all ages welcome to wear appropriate costumes!)
5.15PM | St Mary's Church, Clymping 'Christingle'
11.30PM | St Mary's Church, Yapton
Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY
10AM | St Mary's, Clymping Family Communion
(bring the most unusual gift you have received)

CHRISTMAS AT
THE BLACK HORSE



LIVE MUSIC
Every Friday (except Friday 25th December) | In the bar from 7pm.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ
Wed 2 December | In the Ryebank from 7pm.

CHRISTMAS BINGO
Wed 16 December | In the Ryebank from 7pm.

Christmas Eve*
Wrap up warm and join us 'out front' at 4pm for gloriously festive carols
(45 minutes carol singing) with a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie. Why not make an evening of it and stay for dinner after the carols?
No booking necessary. All welcome!

Christmas Day lunch
£105* - 12pm and 3pm sittings
Enjoy a delicious three-course Christmas Day feast and a fabulous festive atmosphere!
£25 deposit per adult at time of booking with the balance of full payment to be made by 1 Nov 2026.

New Year's Eve £85* - from 7pm
Welcome in 2027 with a glass of Sussex fizz and a delicious three-course festive dinner in the Ryebank followed by after-dinner disco in the bar with DJ Martin Facey. No dress code but we'd love to see plenty of sparkle! £25 deposit required per adult at time of booking with the balance of full payment to be made by 1 Nov 2026.

For further details or to make a booking, please ask our reception team

The Black Horse Climping Street, Climping BN17 5RL | 01903 715175 | **hshotels.co.uk**
*For terms and restrictions see event details on our website. Part of the Historic Sussex Hotels collection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EDGE
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CHRISTMAS MARKETS

EVERY WEEKEND IN DECEMBER, LEADING UP TILL CHRISTMAS

Join us at **The EDGE Cafe** for our annual Christmas markets. Browse gifts from local makers, enjoy festive live music and warm up with freshly roasted coffee and a mince pie.

Market Open:
9am - 3pm

LIVE MUSIC ACTS

WEEKEND ONE
SATURDAY 5TH
YAPTON SCHOOL CHOIR
SUNDAY 6TH
CARRIE-LOUISE COATES

WEEKEND TWO
SATURDAY 12TH
EMILY ANSELL
SUNDAY 13TH
OUT OF THE BLUE - STEEL DRUM BAND

WEEKEND THREE
SATURDAY 19TH
EMILY ANSELL
SUNDAY 20TH
TO BE ANNOUNCED

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ARUNDEL, BN18 0DF

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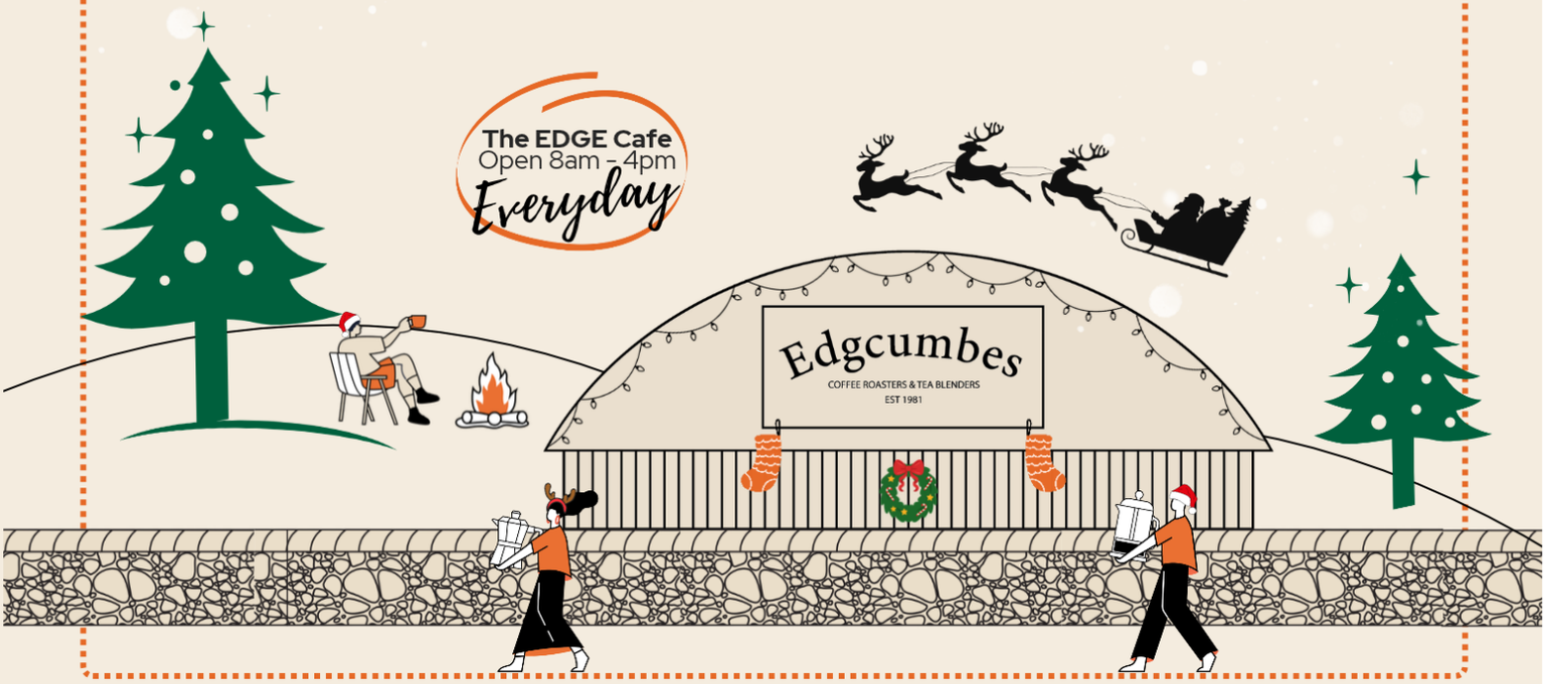


WWW.EDGE-COFFEE.CO.UK

Update from St Mary's Primary School

The autumn term has begun with a real sense of excitement and purpose at St Mary's, and it has been wonderful to see our school community once again filled with enthusiasm for learning.

One of the most significant developments over the summer has been the building work undertaken to support our new class structure. These improvements will help us make the very best use of our learning spaces and ensure that our children continue to benefit from an environment that is both welcoming and conducive to high-quality learning.

We have also been delighted to welcome our new Reception children and their families into the St Mary's community. Starting school is a huge milestone, and it has been a pleasure to watch our youngest pupils settle so quickly into school life. Miss Spriggs and her team continue to do an exceptional job in ensuring that children receive the very best start to their education. Their commitment to both educational excellence and outstanding pastoral care creates a nurturing environment in which every child can flourish.

As always, we have sought to enrich learning through memorable experiences beyond the classroom. Earlier this term, pupils visited the British Museum to support their study of Ancient Egypt. Seeing genuine artefacts and mummies first-hand brought classroom learning to life, and I continue to be awed by the significance of the Rosetta Stone and the story of how it unlocked our understanding of one of history's greatest civilisations. Children also enjoyed a visit to the Natural History Museum, where they were able to deepen their scientific understanding through exploration of its remarkable collections and exhibitions.

Our commitment to the spiritual and personal development of our pupils remains a central part of life at St Mary's. Many readers may remember our inaugural St Mary's pilgrimage last year. We were delighted to build upon this work recently when a group of pupil ambassadors joined children from Nyewood CE Junior School and Arundel CE Primary School for a collaborative visit to St Paul's Cathedral. The experience provided opportunities for reflection, fellowship and shared learning, while strengthening the partnerships we continue to develop across our Deanery family. We were particularly fortunate that Reverend Richard Hayes joined us and offered his wisdom, support and encouragement throughout the visit.

These strong relationships with our church and wider community help ensure that St Mary's continues to be a school of which Clymping can be proud. We remain privileged to work with future generations, helping children make excellent academic progress while nurturing their character, faith and values. Through the experiences we provide, we hope to create memories and opportunities that will stay with them for a lifetime.

With a full Christmas calendar ahead of us, we are sure to be busy and fulfilled at this exciting time of year.

Justin Murray
Headmaster, St Mary's Primary School

BritishRedCross EmergencyHomeKit



Prepare a basic kit with essential items.

- **List of emergency contact numbers** (paper copy, in case your phone loses power)
- **Portable power bank**
- **Cash for essentials** (like food or fuel)
- **Torch and radio** (battery or wind-up), **spare batteries**
- **Essential medication** (and backup power for medical equipment, if needed)
- **Hand sanitiser and wet wipes**
- **3 days' supply of bottled water and long-life, ready-to-eat food** (include a tin opener)
- **Copies of important documents** (kept in a waterproof bag)
- **First aid kit** (e.g. plasters, gloves, bandages, antiseptic)
- **Pencil and paper**
- **Spare house and car keys**
- **Baby and pet supplies** (if needed)

Optional extras: blankets, spare clothes, hygiene products, duct tape, camping stove/gas

Diary Dates

DECEMBER 2026

Clymping Coffee Morning & Tabletop Sale
| 12 DEC 10.30AM - 12PM

Clymping Village Hall

£10 for a table to sell your goodies.
Includes free coffee and biscuits.

Parish Council Meeting
| 12 DEC 7.30PM

Clymping Church Hall

Traditional Carol Service
| 13 DEC 6PM

St Mary's Church (Clymping)

| 20 DEC 3PM

St Mary's Church (Yapton)

Christmas Eve Celebrations
| 24 DEC 10AM - 11.30PM

See page 14 for more information

Family Communion
| 25 DEC 10AM

St Mary's Church (Clymping)

JANUARY 2027

Parish Council Meeting
| 19 JAN 7.30PM

Clymping Church Hall

MARCH 2027

Parish Council Meeting
| 09 MAR 7.30PM

Clymping Church Hall

MAY 2027

Parish Council Meeting
| 11 MAY 7.30PM

Clymping Church Hall

JULY 2027

Parish Council Meeting
| 13 JULY 7.30PM

Clymping Church Hall

SEPTEMBER 2027

Parish Council Meeting
| 14 SEP 7.30PM

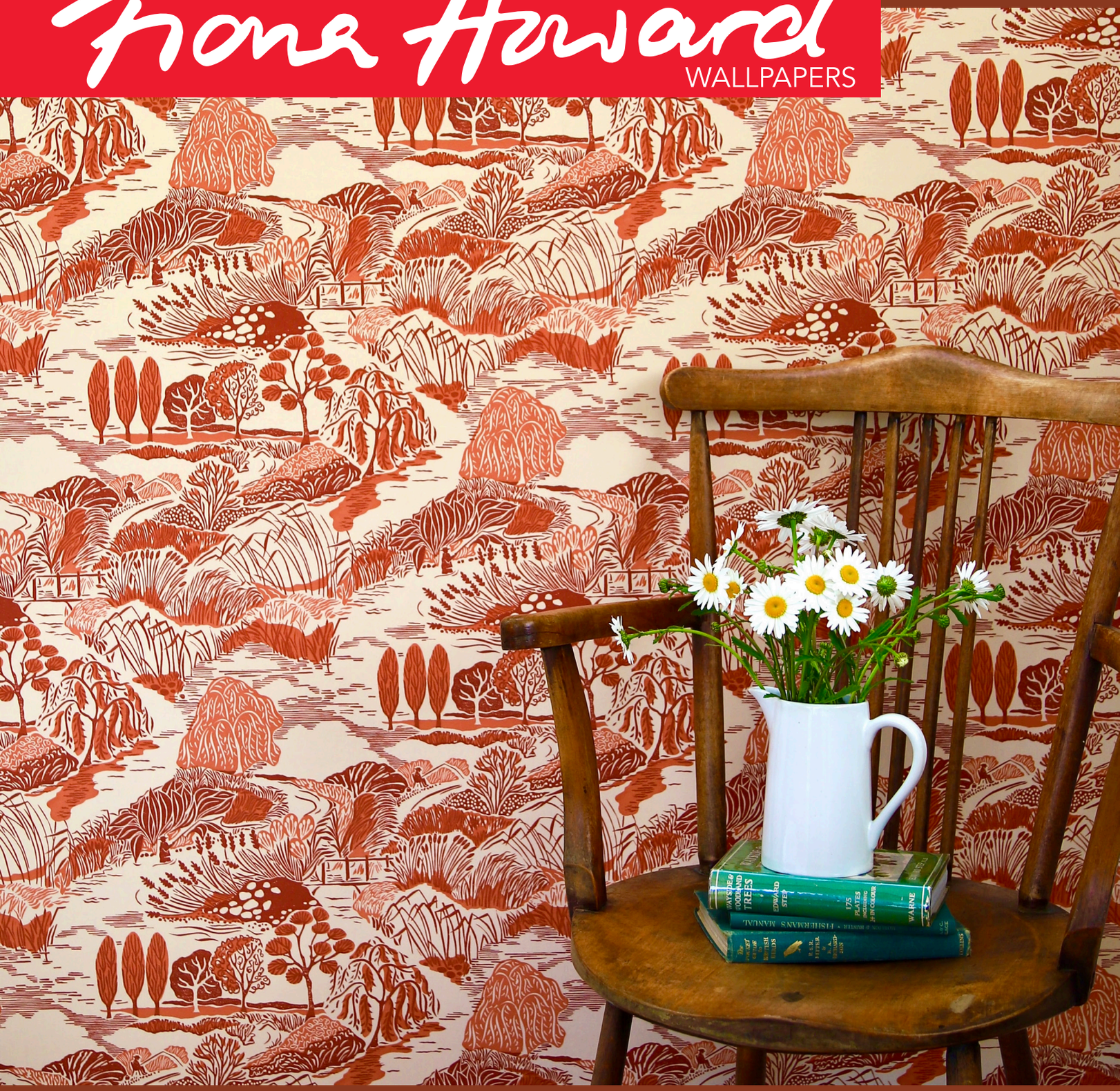
Clymping Church Hall

NOVEMBER 2027

Parish Council Meeting
| 23 NOV 7.30PM

Clymping Church Hall

Fiona Howard
WALLPAPERS



‘Gone Fishing’ A lino print wallpaper design by Fiona Howard which tells the story of two anglers spending a peaceful day by the river.

15% off with code CVN26

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