



# Village Voice

Issue 65

Summer 2020

## Primary school staff keep up children's spirits

Well, what a strange end of term we had and the new term continues in the same way.

Instead of being in school, learning with friends from our teachers and support staff, pupils and parents are at home.

For St Peter's children, though, that hasn't meant the end of learning. Instead, they have been encouraged to explore and learn "virtually" at home.

Staff have kept in touch with children through video links and messages.

All the pupils had a personal Easter card from their class teacher - a lovely touch enjoyed by the pupils.

Lessons have continued as well, albeit slightly differently from being classroom-based.

Instead, every day, teachers make available on the website English, maths and topic-based activities so that pupils are able to tackle these at home.

Of course, it is never quite the same when mum or dad says, "time to work now" and the school has been very mindful of this.

The school has been celebrating various pieces of work completed by the pupils and sent in by parents.

Some of these have been circulated on the school's Twitter feed.

Without a doubt, it will be good to return to school but St Peter's school community is continuing to do what it does so well - growing and learning together in spite of the virus.

Flapjack, the school dog pictured, has also been part of the supportive team working for pupils



# Hats off to all those working to keep village going

**Lockdown is no holiday for Graham and Phil at the Post Office which not only keeps vital postal services going but they are working to keep household essentials in stock.**

Phil gives a view from behind the counter.

"When people started panic buying it dawned on you - things were to change the world as we know it.

"As lockdown came in the cash and carry was almost empty.

"It was very hard to get every day stock,. All of a sudden toilet roll, paracetamol, flour, bread and eggs were like gold dust. Very slowly as the weeks have gone by we started to be able to get hold of things but even now it is almost impossible to get paracetamol and flour.

"Our wholesalers have kept us going but we have seen an increase in the sale of wine and cigarettes.

"We have had to put a limit of two people at a time in the shop and to keep the safe distance rule as accurate as possible.

"It has been a scary few months as it hits home how many people are dying all over the world. We are hoping there is some light at the end of the tunnel for all of us.

"Dad and I encourage everyone to stay safe and not to come into the shop if you are showing any signs of the virus. We do appreciate all the customers using us and helping us to keep going. It is much appreciated

## Saturday, or any night takeaway

Steve and Karen Marvel at the Ardingly Inn had to shut their doors to customers and B&B guests.

Instead they turned their hand to providing a take away meal service. People are able to choose from a range of pizzas as well as classic comfort foods and pub favourites such as fish and chips along with a choice of pies. They also offer a delivery service for people not able to get to the pub.

The service has won wide praise from residents who regularly post their thanks on the village Facebook page. It has proved so popular the original operating hours have been extended from 6-8pm to 5-8pm.

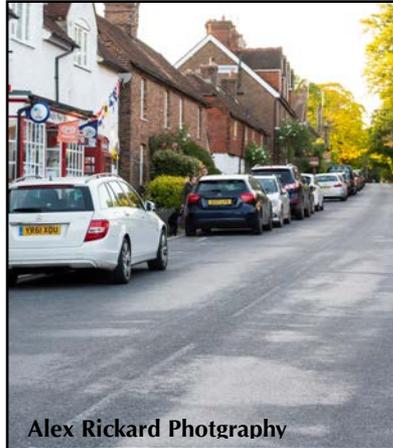
Steve said: "we would like to thank all our customers for their continued support through these trying times. We hope our take away service is helping people to manage in the current situation."

## Baking up a treat

Fellows Bakery has kept on baking and proved a mainstay of supplies. As well as producing much loved bread and cakes villagers found much prized eggs in stock.

The bakery has teamed up with Handcross Butchers and a range of meats are now being stocked and dairy products have been expanded including High Weald Dairy cheeses. It is also a collection point for the Haywards Heath food bank.

As well as stocking goods the bakery provides a local delivery service to residents need it. In addition a new click and collect service can be found at [www.fellowsthebakery.co.uk](http://www.fellowsthebakery.co.uk)



## Proud Bernie keeps parish council wheels turning

**Bernadette Cox, Ardingly Parish Council clerk, gives an insight into the clerk's "lockdown".**

"Since the lockdown the parish council, has had to quickly adapt to the changes this pandemic has made on our 'normal' and exciting new legislation has recently given the council the authority to hold remote meetings. So it's almost business as usual.

"There is a lot of behind the scenes work that happens to push the parish council machine forward not just on my part but the councillors too.

"The two main priorities for the council in recent weeks have been supporting the Community Support Groups operating within the village and the ever present SA25 development - the proposed development on the showground land.

"Councillors have been keen since the change to our lives to remain proactive on the SA25 development and their main project has been the survey to canvas the views of the village on the proposed revisions to the proposal.

"I have really enjoyed my involvement with the Community Support Groups facilitating weekly check ins to identify areas where the parish council can support them to continue to be the heart of the village during this difficult time and being part of their communications that have been distributed to the village to help the most vulnerable amongst us to access support.

"I have been particularly surprised by how many parishioners have stepped forward to help our community without hesitation and I have personally spoken to a number of volunteers that have made me proud to be the Parish Clerk in Ardingly.

"The level of engagement I have had with the community during this time has helped me to know Ardingly a little bit better and I hope village residents continue to 'knock on my door' when this is all over and help me to understand what matters to our community, so I can communicate that to the full council on their behalf."



**Welcome to this rather unusual edition of Ardingly Village Voice - hopefully it will not become 'the new normal'.**

**We rely on income from advertising to cover printing costs. Advertising is difficult in the current situation. However, the parish council has agreed to meet the cost of this special edition which is not covered by advertising. Unfortunately we are unable to post out copies to some of our households. If revenues permit we hope to resume this in August.**

**A big thank you though to those who have already paid for their advert - your support is invaluable.**

**Deadline for the next issue is August 3. For more information contact Cathy Buss, [busscathy1@gmail.com](mailto:busscathy1@gmail.com)**

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## Zooming in on the Rev John

### The Rev John Crutckley, Rector at St Peter's Church, on how lockdown has impacted his role.

"I smiled when I received a letter from a very dear friend who enquired, 'How are you coping with being an electronic vicar?'"

"I hadn't really thought of myself like that, but he may have a point. Because with the church doors locked, public services suspended, the primary school closed and everyone shut indoors, so much of what I would usually do has had to move online – daily prayer with my colleagues via Zoom, meetings to plan funerals via Zoom, school governor meetings via Zoom, even coffee mornings on Zoom!"



"Weekly service ideas and thoughts and reflections are now offered via our website and Facebook, and when all that is done, I then chat with people on the telephone. As one of the great joys of being a vicar is the many opportunities I usually have to meet people, to be alongside them, and to share in both their joys and sorrows, being 'locked down' and so becoming an 'electronic vicar' where so much of that is absent has been very challenging.

"I try to keep in mind what St Paul said in his letter to the Romans, that *in all things God works for the good of those who love him* (Romans 8: 28). I believe that means that if you look for it you can find God at work for the good in every situation. Another friend once said that the church is always changing but never changes, which at the time I thought sounded rather odd. But now, perhaps I am having a glimpse of what she meant.

"As an 'electronic vicar' I am having to learn and use all sorts of new technology that I would probably not have looked at but for the current situation. And going on, that technology will undoubtedly change some of the way that things are done in church, and in my view that will be *for the good*. Because it may well help us to be more effective in our mission of sharing with others the love of God in Jesus Christ – which is of course eternal, and something which never ever changes."

### Around the village

**Ardingly Climate Action:** At our last meeting before the lockdown we were joined by residents from Lindfield and Highbrook who shared resources and initiatives on climate issues. We look forward to meeting up with these groups again plus Repower Balcombe and the Central Sussex Climate Alliance before long.

An initial assessment has been made of the energy performance of Hapstead Hall and hot water pipes have been lagged.

A short questionnaire has been circulated to group members to better understand what we can all do to help reduce our carbon footprint. For more information contact [Djport@btinternet.com](mailto:Djport@btinternet.com)

**Ardingly Cricket Club:** The Sussex Cricket League has suspended all matches and regular cricket nets practice has been cancelled. There is an outside possibility of playing the second half of the league fixtures starting July 11. If not we hope to play a few friendliest at the tail end of the season. Our Curry and Quiz night will now take place in the Autumn.

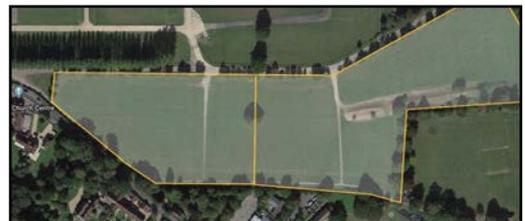
**Friends of St Peter's:** Before the lockdown fundraising for the new library project was continuing at pace. The great annual quiz drew in the punters; with villagers, parents, governors and teachers all battling it out. A hugely impressive £700 was added to the library fund.

Further successful events raised around £1,900; including the grand Christmas Fayre.

## Latest on Showground development

Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) has proposed a reduction in the number of dwellings on the Showground's Red car park from 100 to 70 (a 30% reduction), and reduced the area being used for housing from 5.17Ha to 3.25Ha (a 37% reduction) (1 Ha is about 2.5 acres).

This was achieved because we argued the original development size was a 'major development' in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in contravention of government planning guidelines, and because the spread of the development from one part of the village to the other failed to preserve the distinct nature of the two historic settlements of Hapstead and Ardingly.



The westernmost boundary will now be marked by a north/south line through the solitary oak standing in the middle of the Redcar park, with the housing now restrained to the right hand side of the drawing.

This change was approved by MSDC's scrutiny committee on March 11 and was due to have been ratified by the full council in April. Due to Covid-19 constraints, at the time of writing, this ratification hasn't happened but it seems unlikely that it would not be ratified. We were the only parish council in Mid-Sussex to get a significant reduction.



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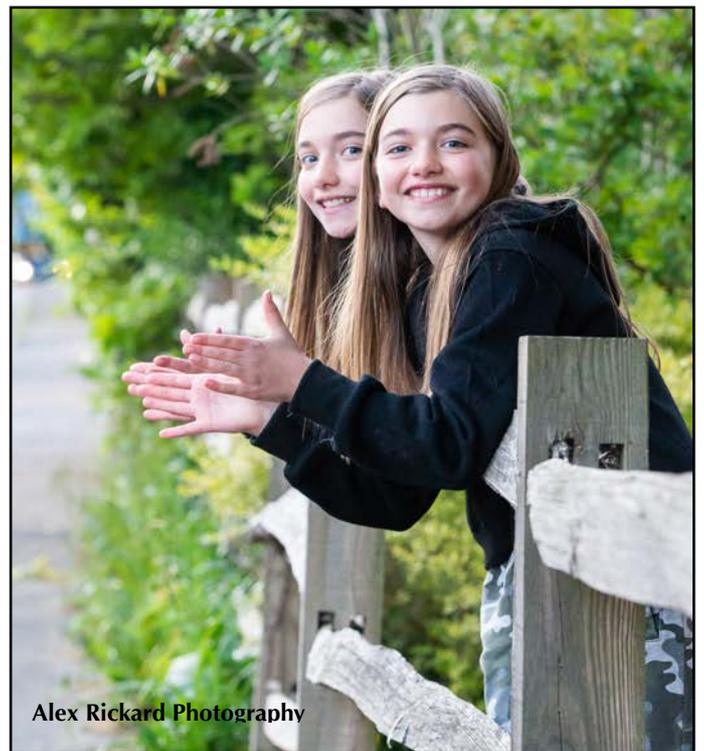
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# Generations unite to help, thank and support village



Alex Rickard Photography



Alex Rickard Photography

The heart of any village is its people and we are very lucky in Ardingly to have a strong and resilient community.

At the start of the pandemic, there was an immediate realisation that some of our more vulnerable residents might find it difficult to do things like go shopping and pick up medicines. Straight away, volunteers stepped forward to put something in place to help.

We soon had a group of around 25 people willing to help. Initially, leaflets were distributed giving a 'phone number to call and later, with the help of the parish council, a more detailed list of support available was circulated around the village. Linking with the Church's 'At Your Service' provision, the village has managed to have an effective support system.

The support group operates on a rota system, with volunteers available daily to shop, pick up medication, provide transport for medical appointments and also, equally important, to chat. When people are on their own and unable to go out, a telephone call or a friendly email can be just what is needed.

If you need support of any kind, please do contact the support group. In the first instance, contact

Kathy James, [kathrynjames7@sky.com](mailto:kathrynjames7@sky.com) or 07703 295081 or Kat Horsley, [kat.horsely@me.com](mailto:kat.horsely@me.com) and 07879 883294

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## Wakehurst working to re-open

When Wakehurst closed to the public on March 22 it began its longest period of closure since the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew took on its stewardship in 1965. The gardens have enjoyed an unexpected rest without visitor footfall, but all has not been completely quiet.

The cycle of nature never stops and the gardens have burst into bloom throughout the spring. Rare plants and sensitive habitats have needed ongoing care and attention, especially in dry weather, from a critical team of horticulturalists.

As lockdown eases the team at Wakehurst has been working hard to ensure that it is safe for visitors and staff to return when the gardens reopen. A host of measures are to enforce social distancing including a one-way entrance and exit, and closures of play spaces and buildings including the Millennium Seed Bank and the Mansion. Only a limited number of visitors are to be allowed on site each day, and tickets must be pre-booked online for set timeslots.

Wakehurst looks forward to welcoming back members of its community so that they can enjoy the benefit of its vast, wild landscape on their health and wellbeing. With over 500 acres to explore, there is always a quiet spot to be found. For the latest updates on re-opening and ticket booking visit [kew.org/Wakehurst](http://kew.org/Wakehurst).

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