



**Sedlescombe
Parish Council
Bulletin
Summer 2019**



Chairman's Introduction

As the Chairman of Sedlescombe Parish Council I must firstly thank all those residents I haven't already spoken to for voting for me in the Rother District Council Elections in May. I was elected as an Independent and have joined with an Alliance of independents and other parties to form a very well balanced administration at the District Council. There are many serious challenges ahead and I will tell you about those at another time. As promised in my election leaflet I will be arranging surgeries for any resident who wants to meet with me. In the meantime, I can always be contacted by email at Cllr.Jonathan.Vine-Hall@rother.gov.uk

To return to our village issues, our Speedwatch and Traffic group have been very busy and have commenced the first part of the 20mph campaign. There is more to come on this project to get the traffic speed and volume down through the village. Can I ask everyone to stick to 20mph through the village to help frustrate the commuters and the many lorries that use our village as a cut through to avoid part of the A21. Hopefully, this will have an impact and they might just either slow down or preferably take a different route.

The Parish Council has agreed to fund 5 CCTV cameras around the village. Whilst the thought of having more CCTV around us may feel intrusive, sadly Sedlescombe has been a target for a large number of house thefts in the last 10 months. The Parish Council wants to take positive action to help catch the thieves who have preyed on so many people and in particular the older members of our community.

The sad news is, as we know, Pestalozzi will be closing its doors and will be vacating the site by the beginning of September. They will still fund student's education but at the United World Colleges in Wales. We wish the Charity, which has been a part of Sedlescombe for so many years, success in the future and to thank Sue Walton the CEO for always being involved with the Parish Council and the Village. PGL has purchased the site and ran an exhibition in June for residents to see their plans. Until a planning application is submitted to the Parish Council we can't make any comments but do encourage residents to express their thoughts.

By the time this goes to press the new waste collection service operated by Biffa will have commenced. They have agreed not to change the routes for 6 months. Let us all cross our fingers the change does not have too many glitches.

Jonathan Vine-Hall

Chairman

Did you know?

Each week the Councillors take turns to visit the play areas in the village and check that everything is in order.

Agendas and Minutes of meetings

Agendas and minutes are posted on the website

Sedlescombe.org.uk

And on the notice board at the village shop

Three Centuries and gone.....



No longer, if you are in Sedlescombe on a summer weekend, will you hear the sound of leather on willow, families playing on the boundary and, most importantly, devoted ladies preparing cricket teas. (Pre- gender equality!) Sedlescombe Cricket Club is no longer.

Sedlescombe, Battle, Burwash, Mayfield and many other Wealden villages were the nursery of English cricket. Records dating back to 1750, and earlier, record the development of the game. Cricket was a great gambling game, the local squire or landowner playing his village team against rival landowners. Many a squire engaged a gardener not for his prowess with propagation but with the bat and ball. Probably the

squire's sons, who were educated at leading public schools, also turned out. The clergy were usually good cricketers too, having honed their cricketing skills at University. They had a distinct advantage that God was on their side and would any local umpire not find in their favour? No doubt this state of affairs existed in Sedlescombe.

In modern times, players from all walks of life competed on equal terms judged only on their cricketing ability. The Keeling family were prominent in the area and with numerous fathers, sons, cousins etc. were able to field a complete eleven. The greatest all-rounder of the 20th Century, Frank Woolley, had a daughter and grandchildren living in Stream Lane and would, with his grandsons, turn out for a village match.

Yet all this has come to an end. Unless some enthusiastic people or perhaps a wandering side can resurrect the game in Sedlescombe, the cricket square will be lost and cricket after three centuries will disappear. In 1984 Mayfield Cricket Club was about to fold, however, a small number of people resurrected the club and Mayfield, who now play in the top level of Sussex cricket, has a very large youth section and numerous teams of all abilities, is about to start on another major expansion. This may not be for Sedlescombe but it shows what can be done. Can you help? Have you any suggestions? Please ring me Peter Anson (a life-long cricket fan) on 01424 870862.

CCTV is coming to Sedlescombe

In collaboration with Neighbourhood Watch we will soon begin installation of CCTV monitoring of the Northern and Southern approaches to the Village, plus coverage of The Green at the Junction of Brede Lane & The Street.

This system will monitor movement of Traffic 24 hours a day and is intended to enhance the safety and security of the village as a whole.



20mph is working!



It is three months since the introduction of the 20 mph voluntary speed signs and it's fair to say that not everyone loves them...But enough people do for us to be confident that they are beginning to make a change. Recent Speedwatch figures show that the number of motorists recorded speeding in those three months is less than half the number recorded speeding in the last three months of 2018. More importantly, the Speedwatch radar is logging far more vehicles travelling at speeds in the 20's than seen before. Our campaign to permanently reduce the speed limit to 20 mph was overwhelmingly supported by respondents to the traffic survey, the Highways authority and is part of a nationwide campaign in villages up and down the country to reduce traffic speed through our communities. It is not just a short-term fix but is intended to bring about a permanent change in behaviour, so it will take time and we know it will cause frustration to some, but that is an essential part of the process.

To all those drivers who are actively supporting it: Thank you, you are making a difference. And to those who aren't yet sure: Please add your weight to the campaign, because with your help we will reduce traffic speed through our village and reach our goal of a permanent legal limit of 20 mph village wide