

## **ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2017**

Following the sad loss of our Archivist, who had produced a monthly newsletter of many village activities and interests, this is a replacement of sorts and, hopefully, will be useful for anyone interested in the past in the years to come.

### **NEW HOUSES**

Very few new individual houses have been built over the last few years. Many have been enlarged, but the main development has taken place down the College Road. A planning inspector granted planning following a public enquiry when the College sold Standgrove Field.

### **RENAMED MONKS MEADOW**

A development of 36 houses with a mix of 3 semi-detached and 3,4, and 5 bedroom houses, 9 of which to be classed as affordable or social houses.

### **SHOWGROUND**

Villagers were alarmed to see, in a September issue of the Mid-Sussex Times, an advertisement from Best Parties Ever for ten consecutive days in December of corporate event parties at the Showground, to include dodgems, fireworks and a 'survivor's breakfast'. It was with some relief that enquiries revealed that things were not as bad as suggested by the advertisement: the dodgems would be without music/sound track, the fireworks were indoors!!! And the survivors' breakfast was at 12.30 with a 1am close. In the event the parties passed off without unduly discommoding local residents.

This new enterprise is symptomatic of the SEAS's need to increase revenue from non-core activities (the Society's own shows apparently lose money), which has led to the setting up of a separate Events Board and chief Executive. We can, therefore, expect increased demand for non-core events on the Showground. However, we should not forget that the establishment of the Showground 50 years ago avoided the possibility of development of the land for housing, which would have totally transformed, indeed eradicated, the close community character of the village. Clive IZARD, then our District Councillor, showed considerable foresight in supporting the establishment of the Showground, which has brought many other benefits to the village over the years.

It is hoped that subsequent actions to protect Mid Sussex, such as its recognition as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and the establishment of the Ashdown Forest protection zone, will also help to protect Ardingly from excessive development over the next 50 years.

A major change occurred in September when the most popular girls band played in front of some 10,000! It caused considerable traffic congestion, but generally considered a success and future such events are planned.

2016 was a sad year for Ardingly with this list of deaths:

Debbie Medicott (56) daughter of Adrian and Susan Holman.  
Bryan Bull (89) retired Village Butcher – Street Lane; 31<sup>st</sup> January.  
Ivy Stride (98) Oaklands; 16<sup>th</sup> March.  
Cliff Woolley (76) Standbridge Way; 1<sup>st</sup> April.  
Clive Izard (96) Holmans; 28<sup>th</sup> April.  
Trevor Lucas (49) Oaklands; 3<sup>rd</sup> May.  
Majorie Setford (80) College Road; 17<sup>th</sup> June.  
David Price (73) son of Sir Henry Price; 19<sup>th</sup> June.  
Robert Ettridge (85) Ardings Close; 1<sup>st</sup> August.  
Peter Simpson (88) Springmead Cottage; 12<sup>th</sup> August.  
Jeffrey Hayton (66) Standbridge Way; 14<sup>th</sup> September.  
Doris Venn (86) Holmans; 23<sup>rd</sup> September.  
Penny Summers (71) Munnion Road; 1<sup>st</sup> October.  
Jean Harris (90) Munnion Road; 14<sup>th</sup> October.  
Dominic Panton (24) son of Rachael Cowling; Lywood; 27<sup>th</sup> October.  
Eva Newman (91) Gowers Close; 7<sup>th</sup> November.  
Ron Staplehurst; Gowers Close.