

What's your story?

"That's your story!" we say sometimes when we do not really believe what the person is saying. It highlights what a range of meanings the word 'story' has. The person has described an event but we treat it as fiction.

'Once upon a time ...' is the classic opening for stories. The story is set in history and yet its time is so indefinite as to make it fiction rather than fact. This is the realm of myth where a story is not fact but it is true – or rather, it contains truth that would be difficult to express otherwise.

All of us have our favourite childhood story. It could be Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit, Little Red Riding Hood, Superman, the Wombles, David and Goliath, or the Teletubbies. It's out of our childhood stories that we create our own story. Who will I be? What shall I do with my life? are questions that the stories help us to answer. These stories may not be fact but they contain truth as to what life is all about, how people treat one another and what happens to them. Because the story is often a caricature, the truth stands out.

The Chief Rabbi, Sir Jonathan Sacks, in a recent 'Thought for the Day' on Radio 4 reminded us of the importance of stories. Politics tells us what rights we have and what laws we must obey; philosophy teaches truth as a system but it is religion that teaches us who we are and it does it through stories. Our festivals, whatever religion we follow, are based on stories, e.g. Christmas on the birth of Christ, Passover on God's miraculous saving of the Jews from Egypt. Through faith these stories become part of our stories, both personally and as a community.

Religion comes from a Latin word meaning 'to bind'. Stories bind people together in a community of meaning and memory. So shared meaning and memories, whether it is of personal faith in God or just being a resident of Sedlescombe, make us a community. These days we are members of many communities – family, work, clubs, sport, race, hobby groups, church – all with their own stories, part of our own personal story. Answering the question 'What's your story?' will show us what is really important in our lives.

RS

TODAY

Whatlington Village Fete

Saturday 30th June starting at 1.30pm, plants, bric-a-brac, cakes, raffle and refreshments in the village hall, games of skill, bouncy castle, pony and trap and tractor rides in the field opposite. Free parking. Come along and enjoy yourselves.

Veterans Day Celebration

The invitation to all Veterans to attend the Village celebration on the 30th June is also offered to Widows of ex-Service and Merchant Navy personnel now resident in Sedlescombe.

The Veterans Badge is offered free to all who served in the armed forces and M.N. up to 31st December 1969. This can be obtained by dialing 0800 169 2277 or visit www.veteransagency.mod.uk.

For any further information please call me on 870219. Ernest Burgess.

Rosemary is retiring!

As many of you will know, Rosemary is retiring today after more than 30 years sterling service in the shop and Post Office.

Throughout all this time she has arrived to open the shop and prepare the papers at 6 am whatever the weather, barely missing a day apart from well-deserved holidays. She has seen, and coped with, many changes over the years and generations of

village families have enjoyed her kind and attentive service, both in the shop and at the Post Office counter.

Nearly 10 years ago when Jenny and I arrived on the scene (as completely inexperienced shopkeepers), Rosemary, together with Carol Graves, looked after us and saw that no major disasters occurred until we had found our feet. I well remember marvelling at Rosemary's local knowledge - particularly her ability to give directions, either by surname or house name. I don't think I have ever seen her beaten.

To mark this notable occasion we should like to invite all Rosemary's friends and customers from the village and surrounding areas to a lunch-time presentation and farewell on the Green next Tuesday, 3rd July from 12.30 pm. (Please note that to enable all our staff to attend, the shop will close between 12.30 and 1.30.) John.

Next Week ...

Thursday Club

On July 5th David Harris is going to give us a talk with the intriguing title "Let's Talk Famous". What does this mean? Hopefully, we will all understand on the day!

Mini-Market

The Parish Church mini market will take place on Thursday 5th July at 10-00am in the Village Hall. Cakes, produce, plants,

TRINITY 4 The Readings: 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 Psalm 16 Galatians 5:13-25 Luke 9:51-62	
Services and Meetings this week	
SEDLESCOMBE St John the Baptist Trinity 4 [1] 10 am Parish Communion, Junior and Youth Church Tuesday [3] 6.30 pm Rootz 'n' Shootz Meet at Bridge Garage for sports unless wet then at Chapel Hill Church Trinity 5 [8] 10 am Parish Communion, Junior and Youth Church for the United Benefice	WHATLINGTON St Mary Magdalene Trinity 4 [1] 8.30 am Parish Communion Trinity 5 [8] 10.30 am Family Service
Chapel Hill Church - United Reformed	
Sunday 1 July 10.30 am Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Bert Peters Tuesday 3 July 2.30 pm Church Meeting in the Meeting Room Wednesday 4 July Coffee Morning 10.30 am - 12 noon in the Meeting Room Sunday 8 July Morning Worship led by Melvin Nolan	

bric-a-brac and raffle. Peggy Evenden.

From Bruce and Margaret at the Queen's Head.

Many thanks for rallying round with your contributions towards the welfare and upkeep of the geese.

We would also like to take this opportunity to inform the Village that we are retiring on Tuesday 10th July. Mr & Mrs Grant Burberry will be taking over. We are sure you will make them feel welcome. We will be having a farewell party on Saturday 7th July.

Bonus Ball.

Subscriptions of £4 for July are due next week. As I will not be at the shop anymore you can still hand in your money in a sealed envelope for me to collect. Thank you. Rosemary.

Church Flower Festival.

A big thank you to everyone who helped to make the Festival such a success: to our wonderful flower arrangers for making the flowers tell the story of Glorious June; to Rosemary and her catering team; to all who made cakes and goodies; to Stewards, Organists and all the Stallholders, and not least to the public for coming. The bell ringers' demonstration was fascinating and hopefully will encourage some new ringers to join them. The grand sum raised was £1,100. Sylvia & Margaret.

Congratulations -

to Rachel Ormrod who has gained a 'First' at University at the end of her 3-year Psychology Course; proud parents Helen and David will soon be off to College with Rachel for the Graduation Ceremony.

...and beyond

Juvenile Diabetes.

The JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) is to broadcast on Radio 4 on July 8th at 7.55 am and 9.26 pm and July 12th at 3.27 pm. This is an appeal for funds which are urgently required to help find a cure for childhood diabetes. Please listen, respond if you will, and tell all your friends. Anthea & David Post. 870590

Friendship Club

You are invited to an afternoon tea at The Bistro on the 26th of July at 2.30 till about 4.30. You can stay the whole time or pop in when you like.

The idea is to talk about the work of the Friendship Club and to explore any ideas that you may have.

We have been given the opportunity by Help the Aged to offer 'Extend' for a trial period of three months subject to support and numbers.

Extend provides recreational movement for men and women over 60. The mission is to improve health, increase mobility and to improve strength, co-ordination and balance, thereby enhancing the Quality of Life. Extend is a social event.

Juliet Williams, the Extend tutor, will be there to discuss and hopefully to take phone numbers for contact when the date has been arranged.

Do not feel obliged in any way; we will be pleased to see you.

Lost Property

Have you lost a digital camera? We have one in the shop recently handed in - found on the Green.