

No. 162 Spring 2021



VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Rector's ramblings.

From the Rectory.

Many people enter into the spirit of Lent by giving something up from Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday. Lent was traditionally a time of fasting and on Shrove Tuesday, Anglo-Saxon Christians went to confession and were "shriven" (absolved from their sins). Shrove Tuesday, pancake day, is the tradition that arose from clearing out the <http://www.pyecombevillage.co.uk>

eggs and fats by using up these ingredients before embarking on a Lenten fast.

This year, as we entered Lent, I advised our congregation not to worry too much about thinking what to give up this year as we have all had to give up so much already as a result of the Covid pandemic. It has been a year of giving up seeing loved ones, giving up having days out, giving up going on holiday... We don't need to think of something else; we are already living Lent.

Lent is also a season of hopeful anticipation. We know that Easter is coming. There is light at the end of the tunnel! This year that may be more pertinent than usual as we all anticipate the restoration of our freedom to come together socially again.

Church-wise, we are still holding our services on Zoom. Through the cold winter months, we have done so from Newtimber. From April, our morning service (still on Zoom) will be conducted from St Andrew's Edburton.

Pyecombe church will be open daily, from the beginning of April and we will reinstate the evening service on the second Sunday of the month from Sunday 11th April although we will still need to remain Covid-safe. The latest Covid roadmap suggests that from 8th March, we may once again hold weddings but with only six people present and funerals can take place with up to 30 people present. From 12th April, weddings may have up to 15 people present and Funerals will still be limited to 30. From 17th May, both weddings and funerals may have up to 30 people present. From 21st June, it is anticipated that there will no longer be any restrictions.

As these restrictions are lifted, I look forward to welcoming you back into our churches for regular services, life events and social activities. Meanwhile, I pray that you will have an encouraging Lent as you look forward to a joyous Easter.

With every blessing.

Revd Tim Harford, Rector of the Mid Downland Parish.

<http://www.pyecombevillage.co.uk>

Pew Patter

What strange times we are going through, but even a small thing, like the snowdrops in the churchyard, can brighten our day and start us thinking of the colourful Spring which is on the way.

The last 12 months have seen us have to put on hold so many things – our 850 celebrations, and also 3 Remembrance Services: one for Betty Powell's brother, George, who grew up in the village; the second for Joyce Hill who spent many years in Pyecombe but grew up in Poynings; and the third one will be for John Cragg, who many of you know was very much part of Pyecombe and its history. It will be good when we can get together and celebrate the lives of these very special people.

We did manage 2 evening Services – Harvest and the Carol Service (this time without brass band) but at both Services our marvellous village choir did socially distanced singing in the churchyard before each Service, in spite of the terrible weather in December. So THANK YOU choir; it was very much appreciated by everyone. As from 1st January 2021 our churches became the Mid Downland Parish. This will not affect us and your local contact will still be Betty Eade. Although the church remains locked, if you require access please phone Betty on 01273 842536.

We end with some good news: Sally Brown, widow of the Rev. Richard Brown, has agreed to be our new Church Warden. Sally lives in the parish of Pyecombe and will already be known to many of you.

The Church Team

Sandra Milner

Sadly we have to bid farewell to Sandra Milner who moved to Hassocks in January. Her family have been in Pyecombe for three generations dating back before the war. Her grandfather had a garage just south of the present Tate's garage on the west side of the road. Sandra started life in the original garage built by her grandfather, which is now Tates. The family moved to number 6 The Wyshe when Sandra was seven and this is where the Milners have lived ever since. She joined Pyecombe School in 1955. The teachers were Miss Copping and Miss Stenning and there were about 30 children in the school in those days. (The school had to close in 1965 due to a lack of children in the village). Sandra left at the age of eleven to attend the senior school in Hurst. She tells a lovely story of how, on her way home from school, she and Janet Boyce would call the horses and ride bareback on the last section of their journey after the coach had dropped them off at the Plough!

There was a Sunday school in those days at Pangdean and the church had its own vicar. On the way to and from the school, the children would pass a cafe above the garage where today's M & S garage now stands.

After leaving school Sandra did a five year apprenticeship at Lindsey's Surgical Appliances, in St James, Street, Brighton and thereafter worked for the NHS. Thirty years were spent at the huge Walsgrave hospital in Coventry but Sandra would return home at every opportunity. She moved back to Pyecombe in 2004

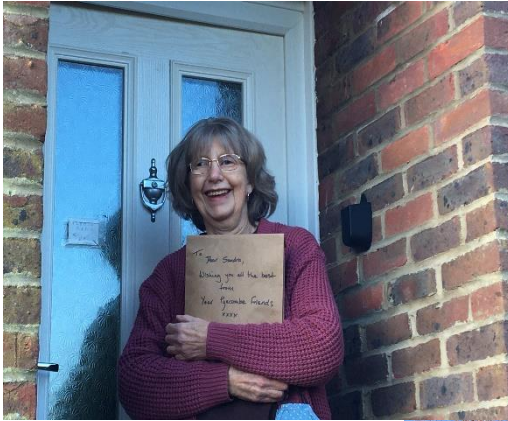
after her mother died. She lived with Alf, her father and looked after him until his death in 2018.

Sandra has seen enormous changes in the village throughout these years. She remembers Church Lane before most of the houses were built. She has vivid memories of the old London to Brighton Stage coach run (sadly long discontinued) when they had to change horses at the Plough. Sandra remembers holding these horses and being astonished at their size. At least she never tried to jump up on them! She remembers a happy childhood where children were free to run around and roam in the fields. It was a safe, healthy, outdoor childhood. She was in the Girls Life Brigade and they went carol singing around the villages each Christmas. The Girls Life Brigade was involved in social work and first aid training and Sandra remembers helping to run a party for a children's home in Brighton as part of her Duke of Edinburgh award.

Sandra served as a church warden at Pyecombe and although she has had to step down from this post, we have certainly not seen the last of her. She is only two miles away and as she has repeatedly said, she will always be a Pyecomber.

Tim Cullen

Sandra Milner



It was not an easy decision to move, being the 3rd generation of my family to live in Pyecombe.

I was overwhelmed by your cards and gifts and messages.

THANK YOU ALL!

I will always be a Pyecombe person and look forward to catching up with you all when we can meet again.

Take care,

Sandra



Parish Council Jottings

Council was saddened to hear about the recent passing of John Cragg. John was definitely a character! I personally have fond memories of his attendance at Council meetings and the subsequent chats on the way out to the car.

Our condolences go to John's family and friends. He will be sorely missed.

New Parish Councillor

As Councillor C. Bere recently moved out of the village he made the decision to step down from his role as Pyecombe Parish councillor. Council would like to thank Chris for all his hard work on behalf of the parish and wish him every good luck in his new home. In view of the vacancy left by Chris Council has recently highlighted the vacancy and can confirm that we have recently co-opted Dani French to the role of Pyecombe Parish Councillor. Dani is a local resident and we are delighted to have her onboard.

A few updates from WSCC have recently been circulated regarding the kerbside collection of small electrical items and these are:

How does the kerbside collection work?

Most unwanted or broken small electrical appliances, those items powered by batteries or with a plug, cable or lead can be recycled at the kerbside. Small electrical appliance recycling is collected every two weeks with your normal scheduled **rubbish** (black bin) collection.

<http://www.pyecombevillage.co.uk>

Little and Often - Please recycle “little and often” as space is limited on our collection vehicles for the storage of electrical items

Bag It - Simply place the item(s) into a standard carrier size type plastic bag (no larger than 35 x 40cm and not in black bin bags)

Tie It – Securely tie the bag so the items do not fall out

Recycle It - Place **next to your black lidded rubbish bin** on your scheduled collection day

Preparing your items for recycling

As easy as ABC....

Ask?

Does your old electrical contain any of the following?

- **Batteries?** remove household batteries and place in a separate bag for collection with your small electricals
- **Bulbs?** remove and visit recycleyourelectricals.org.uk for your nearest recycling location
- **Cables, plugs and leads?** Ensure cables, plugs or leads are left attached to the appliance
- **Packaging, accessories or attachments?** Please don't include any obvious attachments or accessories, just the electrical item itself, free of any packaging.
- **Gas canisters?** remove and dispose of safely at your local Household Waste Recycling Site
- **Oils, perfumes or other liquids?** remove and dispose of safely at your local Household Waste Recycling Site

- **Personal data?** – It is your responsibility to remove personal data from smart devices/computers.
Visit recycleyourelectricals.org.uk for further advice

Bag it

- Find a standard carrier sized type plastic bag (35x40cm) that you can use to store all your old small electricals until collection day

Check

- Is your item listed on our kerbside collections checklist? If so, it will be collected from your home
- For any items not on our kerbside collections checklist visit, please visit recycleyourelectricals.org.uk to find your nearest reuse or recycling point

What type of small electrical appliances can be collected at the kerbside?

If the item you are looking to recycle is not listed, you can find details of alternative electrical recycling options here or email wastematters@midsussex.gov.uk with your query

Entertainment, Toys and Leisure Equipment

Household Appliances

Household Batteries

Lighting

Personal grooming appliances

Power Tools, Gardening and DIY

Smart Devices and IT

Monitoring and Control Instruments

<http://www.pyecombevillage.co.uk>

What can't be collected at the kerbside?

They are unable to collect electrical items larger than 35cm x 40cm as they won't fit into the storage cages on their collection vehicles. They are also unable to accept the following specific items:

- Non-household batteries

The following batteries are not accepted:

- Those left inside an electrical appliance. These should be removed and placed out for collection in a separate bag next to your rubbish bin. (Check the list of acceptable batteries above)
 - Batteries with trailing wires
 - Children's ride on toy batteries
 - Corroded batteries
 - Motorbike batteries
 - Industrial batteries
 - Sealed lead acid / gel batteries
 - 12V leisure batteries
-
- Fluorescent tubes and energy saving light bulbs
 - Gas cylinders from hair styling equipment
 - Glass or ceramic electrical items (e.g., slow cookers or glass kettles)
 - Printers, ink cartridges and toners
 - Microwave ovens
 - Oils, perfumes or other liquids from an electrical device (e.g., diffusers)
 - TVs and computer monitors
 - Laptops, notebooks, tablets and E-readers
 - Packaging, attachments and accessories

Alternative Electrical Recycling, Repair and Re-use Options

Repair and Re-Use

It is always preferable to try and repair something rather than recycling it. There are several Repair Café's within our district where you can take items for free to try and get them repaired. Visit our Community Recycling website page for details www.midsussex.gov.uk/community-recycling

Bulky Waste Collection Service

They are unable to collect items larger than 35cm x 40cm as they won't fit into the storage cages on their collection vehicles. For any larger items you wish to be collected please visit the Bulky Waste Collection page.

Household Waste Recycling Sites

Electrical items can also be recycled at your local Household Waste Recycling Site

Recycling Locator Tool

Everything with a plug, cable or battery has the potential to be recycled. If you would like to explore other, alternative re-use and recycling options please visit www.recycleyourelectricals.org.uk for all the latest information and advice and use the 'recycling locator' tool to find your nearest recycling point.

Email Updates:

My thanks to those residents who have contacted me regarding various items throughout the village these updates are very much appreciated and I will always follow up on any items raised. I do now have quite a few residents who have signed up to receive email updates on various items happening both throughout the parish and locally. If you would like to be added to the circulation list please email me at parishcouncil@pyecombe.org.uk

Parish Clerk & RFO

Dawn Langston – parishcouncil@pyecombe.org.uk
Telephone contact – 07909 332605

Message from Sarah Rushton to residents of Pyecombe Street:

Sarah wants to let you know that the building of the new cottage on the corner of Pyecombe Street will start on 6th April – apologies in advance for disruption and noise which we will attempt to keep to a minimum. There will be a site manager (Barry) to whom you can direct any questions etc.

Pyecombe Social Committee

Pyecombe Christmas Shop 2020

Thanks to everyone who contributed by selling, buying or giving their time, our Online Christmas Shop was a success. We were kept busy throughout the whole time we were 'live' and the final Open Day at the Church for collection and extra buying was, whilst a little stressful, a lot of fun. There was a wide selection of items from local artists, crafts people, bakers and florists! All proceeds went towards the upkeep of the church. We still have a few items for sale, such as 'Notelets', Christmas cards and coasters, images of the church, painted by our local artist Emily Grocott. Please let us know if you'd be interested in purchasing any of them - they're sold individually or in packs.

Also, if you're interested in buying David Curtis's cards, of beautiful local views, plants and wildlife, they are now on sale at Wayfield Park Farm Shop. You can also view them on his flickr site

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/27681134@N08/>

Pyecombe Christmas Lunch – 2020



We were really pleased to be able to go ahead with our annual Christmas Lunch just before lockdown. It was a great opportunity to celebrate together with over 40 people. Nicky at Pangdean did us proud; the venue sparkled, the Christmas tree huge and covered in lights and the food, delicious as usual.

Tables were set apart in singles, doubles, etc, depending on family groups and complying with government rules. Many people who attended hadn't been out for months and were pleased to meet up with their friends. The whole day was a great success.

The Christmas lunch was organised by Pyecombe Social Committee.



Karen Lewis

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Pyecombe Church 100 Club Winners

Dec 20	Bridget Harwood	67	£100
Dec 20	Ken Barnard	138	£20
Dec 20	Alex Drew	133	£10
Jan 21	Vivien Aird	6	£20
Jan 21	Marcus Saitch	11	£10
Feb 21	Fiona Downs	92	£20
Feb 21	Ian Curry	18	£10

What a lot of litter!

We are very lucky to live in such a beautiful part of the country with easy access to Wolstonbury and Newtimber. It is no wonder that others also want to come and walk here during this time of enforced lockdown and we have probably all noticed the increase in the number of visitors and cars parked around the village. But for whatever reason, there also seems to have been an increase in the amount of litter, despite the best efforts of David Harper, Ken Grocott and others doing their own litter picks. Although we can't organise a formal village litter pick, as we used to do each month, we have litter picking equipment, pickers, hoops and bags, including some small ones for children, that I have in my shed that can be borrowed. Or otherwise, you could just take out an extra carry bag to put litter in when you go out for a walk and pop it in the litter bins provided by the Parish Council when you are finished. If you want to borrow any equipment or you have borrowed litter pickers etc in the past, are no longer using them and want to return them, call me on 07976 884165. Thank you.

Mary O'Rourke
"Love Your Village"

An amount of litter appeared in the Street following a recent refuse collection. Please ensure that your bin bags are securely tied! (J Cullen)

Pyecombe Village Choir

We have continued to meet on Zoom over the winter months and have had fun working our way through the alphabet this year, coming up with songs and pieces starting with a different letter each week. At the time of writing, we have just had the letter “G” which produced a huge range of different styles – everything from Flanders and Swann’s “I’m a Gnu”, an Arietta by Grieg, “Gimme, Gimme, Gimme”, “Georgie Girl”, “Good Morning Starshine” to name but a few!

I hope many of you have had time to listen to our YouTube recordings. Just google “Pyecombe Village Choir” and you will find *This Day* and *Siyahamba*. Our next project is to record the beautiful song about Pyecombe written by Richard Lewis, *These Hills of Mine*, which I know many of you have enjoyed listening to in our past live performances.

We are now optimistic about getting together to sing in the Summer when allowed! The vaccination programme has been amazing so far and I’m sure you will be interested to know that Tricia Robinson, one of our sopranos, has been giving vaccinations in Brighton, first at the racecourse and now at the Brighton Centre. We are incredibly proud of her!

Keep safe and well and we will look forward to seeing you all later in the year!

Jane Cullen

Peter John Cragg

It was with sincere sadness that we learnt that a long lived resident of our village passed away earlier this year, following a short illness from which he never really recovered.

John was a neighbour, as well as a fellow Parish Councillor for many years, having lived in Pyecombe throughout his life, and his love of the countryside never diminished. Always being available to help out people in need when called upon, he also had many tales to tell of years gone by.

He did at least return home for a few weeks, during which time he was able to see the second of his two grandsons, born during his stay in hospital. As one life departs, another one emerges.

Farewell my friend, and thanks for the memories.

David Wilson



John Cragg's Wartime Memories

Having spent all of my life in Pyecombe, I remember the war years like they were yesterday – my Father going away, and my Mother, not able to run a pub on her own, calling for her sister from Wales to help her. These two women did just that: they ran a pub, putting up and taking down barrels, stocking up, washing, cleaning, looking after kids, cooking, making up food for the bars (3 bars then), seeing to the blackout boards, keeping the French Canadian Soldiers in order and anyone else come to that. Mornings us kids going up Plough Lane to school with our gas masks and sacks and nearly every morning being targeted by 2 soldiers stuck up in the elms in a tree house. The smells, the sound, the noises, powdered milk, powdered potato, powdered egg, powdered chocolate, powdered this, powdered that, the bartering, eggs for cabbages, cabbage for carrots etc. etc. Anything for anything: even at school we grew vegetables. The gathering of buttercups and rosehips. Night times in bed, the bubbling of talk below on Friday and Saturday nights, the sound of music and singing with Mrs Fletcher at the piano, the stillness on a Sunday – “pub was closed all day Sunday”. Running out of school into The Wyshe to see the doodlebugs and watch the planes turn them round; the dog fights – how we used to scream and shout! Funny thing, we never seemed to have much fear; perhaps it was because there were so many soldiers around us. Us boys would go in and out under the wire, and on Wolstonbury they had great big rooms dug out under the hill, with a pot belly in the middle, shelves round the walls, and tables and chairs. We would eat with them – bully beef and chocolate. All they would ask was, “Have you got a sister, Johnny?” These fellows seemed to be everywhere - up trees, in the hedges, in the hills, the café over the garage, everywhere. There were railway carriages in the garden of

<http://www.pyecombevillage.co.uk>

Dolphin Cottage and they were even in those. I'm sure if you lifted a stone you would find one. Fear? No; very little of it, if any, during the day. But dark winter nights it was a different story; the deadly dark, the stillness, that you knew something was going to happen. It would start with a droning noise and slowly get louder and louder and louder, and now it's right overhead, right over your bed. Yes - this is fear; this is more than fear. I'm bloody scared and frightened and alone; the noise is now unbearable. I want to run somewhere - nowhere to run to; I'm frozen. Suddenly the night sky lights up. The pencil light sears, probing the dark night air, hitting the ceiling and searching, locking on and now more noise, gunfire, bang, shouting. As slowly as it started so it would slowly go away. The sobbing would die down, but still no sleep. What would we find in the morning? What would we see? I think I now know the meaning of the word *fear*. There were many, many nights like that but morning would come and so would the relief. People were so relieved that the night had gone and it was another day. All muck in, tidy up, clean up! Off would go the land army girls singing and laughing, and then you might hear some berk say something like, "Bit Hairy Last Night EH!" Then there were the people: the characters, the village policeman who just seemed to me to keep his eye on things, occasionally give you a clip round the ear, pop into the back room of the pub, keep looking in his book, at his watch, anymore for anymore... Then there were the Garretts that lived in Waydown Cottage. Dear Clara: when Clara came out of her back door she'd start calling the cows and by the time she got to Pangdean they'd all be in. To hear Clara calling them cows was one of the most beautiful sounds I've ever heard. I remember the day her brother had the bad breakfast; a bad day! There was Joe, the jockey, toughest little man in the village now. He lived in Hobbs Cottage and worked for Mr Willett that lived in Haresdean. Two famous racehorses came

out of that place. Mr Willett would cross the A23 every lunchtime “except Sunday” in his pony and trap to get to The Plough. In the bottom of his trap were all these half bricks. When he’d had his fill he would fall into his trap and throw the half bricks at the rear of the pony. Shaddy Mitchell of The Forge making the sparks fly and the ringing of his anvil. Charlotte: what a character she was, always in her pinny and her stockings round her ankles. She would help anyone and do anything. Bert Boyd, farmer from South Hill Farm; Henry Broomfield, farmer Wayfield Farm, The Phillips’s, farmers Red House Farm, and all the village people and many more. Well now, War came to an end and Dad came home, Aunty Iris went home back to Wales, the soldiers disappeared and so did the Land Army Girls and some of our folk came home. And now, many more years later a lot of them have gone too. Years later, and still fighting: fighting the land speculators, the infiltrators. Every year hundreds of acres of countryside disappear and with them so does the wild life, the birds, the butterflies, the trees, the lot, all for money and greed. (The CPRE says too many houses are being built in the wrong places, killing off our villages and hamlets. Don’t spread out into the countryside; redevelop towns and cities.) It is a cancerous fungus that creeps over this land. Protect the countryside and wildlife. Respect it. Good luck to groups like the RSPB, CPRE and many more.

John Cragg

(with thanks to David Wilson for sending this across)

Fantastic Website for Walkers

Are you fed-up with doing the same old walks?

Walking in Sussex www.walkinginsussex.co.uk is the website for you!

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group, all the information is there in one place.

John said, 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Sussex (part of the Walking in England suite of websites (www.walkinginengland.co.uk – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk

email: john@walkinginengland.co.uk

<http://www.pyecombevillage.co.uk>

The next newsletter is due out in June. We would love to receive articles from you to share with your community. These can be news, items of interest, local history, jokes, recipes or anything that would have been passed around the campfire to keep the sense of community strong in days gone by.

To be included in the June issue please send articles in anytime from now until May 21st. You can email them to timcullen@pyecombe.org.uk or post a written piece either in the letter box at no.14 The Wyshe or at no.15 Pyecombe Street - marked **newsletter**.

Many thanks,
Tim & Jane Cullen (editors)

This newsletter is sponsored by the parish council and is part of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (publication schemes).

**Pyecombe Village newsletter is printed on recycled paper.
Ed. Tim and Jane Cullen**

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Wolstenbury Hill in the Snow, February 2021