

No. 176

Autumn 2024



Village Newsletter



<http://www.pyecombe.info>



Rectory Ramblings

First, it was a privilege to host the funeral of Ian Currie at The Transfiguration on 23 July, and wonderful to see such a large crowd gather for the celebration of his life. Ian was a churchwarden at Pyecombe for many years and will long be remembered as a kind, generous and gracious friend who was so much at the heart of our community. May he rest in peace, and rise in glory.

Many thanks to all who have been involved in preparing the church for the Pyecombe Flower Festival over the weekend of 31st August – especially Sally Brown for taking the lead in this. It is always a joy to see the church being enjoyed and supported by so many people. Please note that our September evening service will take place on 1st September, to benefit from the decorated church – so on the first, rather than the second Sunday of the month on this occasion.

The PCC of the Mid Downland Parish has formed a *Standing Committee*, made up of the churchwardens, PCC officers (Treasurer and Secretary), the churchwardens and me, the Rector.

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The remit of the Standing Committee is to have nominated members responsible for guiding various aspects of parish life, and also to monitor the progress of decisions made at PCC meetings.

The following individuals will be responsible for overseeing four areas of our church life, and in turn, they will gather in others to help where necessary – from the church congregations and the wider community.

- Finance – Patrick Field (Treasurer)
- Fabric – Chris Agg (Churchwarden)
- Faith – Anna Brookes (Churchwarden)
- Social/Fundraising – Nigs Digby (Churchwarden)

The Standing Committee will meet on alternate months to the PCC meetings, and the sub-groups will convene as and when necessary. We will be reaching out to each of the villages of the Mid Downland Parish and members will support one another so we spread and share the load between us. Representation from Pyecombe would be very welcome on any of these groups; please do get in touch if you would like to become involved. We could really do with someone to join the finance group, particularly to help with banking the cash that we are fortunate to receive from the many visitors to Pyecombe church. And, as we anticipate repairs to Pyecombe church roof, both the Fabric group and the

Fundraising group would very much benefit from Pyecombe involvement. Please don't be shy in coming forward.

With every blessing,
Tim

Revd Tim Harford, Rector of the Mid Downland Parish.

Tel: 01273 857456 Mob: 07824 53267

Pew Patter

It is with great sadness that we had to say goodbye to **Ian Currie** at a beautiful service held in the Church on Tuesday 23rd July. The church was absolutely packed and overflowed with people into the churchyard where the family had a large screen and sound system. To me, this is a mark of the man who had been such a big part of our village for so long, a church warden and huge support for many years and he will be missed terribly. Ian was an absolute gentleman in every way and always prepared to help out wherever he could. We send our love and sincere condolences to Nikki, Mark, Andrew, and all the grandchildren.

As you have possibly noticed, the scaffolding is still up at the church as many different problems seem to be arising, but we do hope it won't be long before we can be back to normal.

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On Saturday August 31st and Sunday 1st September we are holding our annual **Village Weekend and Flower Festival**.

Firstly, if anybody would like to do a flower arrangement in the church with a theme of **“The Last Days of Summer,”** we would be delighted to welcome them. We are also looking for people to help decorate the church windows etc. This will all happen on the Friday and then, moving on to the Saturday and Sunday, we will be offering refreshments of morning coffee, lunch, and afternoon tea with cakes and a few stalls in an outside marquee.

Secondly, if anybody would like to have a stall selling their wares in the marquee, they are more than welcome. We will be charging £20 a table for the entire weekend.



Thirdly, don't forget the **Scarecrow Competition!**

There's still time to make one, display it outside your house this week, and then bring it up to the church on Saturday morning for judging. The winners will be announced at around 2:30pm.

At 2:00pm on Saturday there will be a **Family Fun Dog Show**.
Please see separate notice about this.

Fourthly, if anybody is prepared or able to help us on Saturday and Sunday with setting up, serving, clearing up, washing up etc, it would be hugely appreciated.

For more details, please do not hesitate to contact me Sally Brown, 07850300603

We look forward to seeing you and as always, thank you for any support you can give us.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 13 October at 6.00pm - Harvest Festival.

We are looking for donations of dried and canned goods – please, no perishables - that could be left in the church leading up to that Sunday from Monday, 7 October.

All donations will go to **Saint Peter and Saint James's Hospice** in Wivelsfield , who are always extremely grateful.

Saturday 16th November - Christmas Fair at Adastra Hall, Hassocks, from 1030 until 1230.

If anyone can help us with setting up, baking cakes, running a stall, selling raffle tickets, donating raffle prizes, or offer any other support, we would be extremely grateful. All proceeds go to the <http://www.pyecombe.info>

Mid Downland Parish. If you need further information about any of the above, please telephone me, Sally Brown, 07850 300603.

To keep our church doors open, we constantly need support, help, and donations. We appreciate all you do for us and wish to thank you.

Sally Brown

The Family Fun Dog Show 2.00 Saturday 31st August

As part of the Pyecombe Village Weekend and Flower Festival we shall be running a Family Fun Dog Show. There will be three categories:

- Young Trainer (Show us your tricks – for young handlers)
- Musical Sits (How quickly can your dog sit when the music stops)
- Waggiest Tail (self-explanatory)

Please arrive at 1.45 to register and please keep your dog on a lead while you wait. Dogs can be entered into one than one category.

<http://www.pyecombe.info>

Ian Currie

My dear late father, Ian Currie, so often told us that he was a very lucky chap and that he had a great life!

His parents were Grant and May and he was one of four children. He had lots of cousins and they remained close his whole life. As a schoolboy he was extremely sporty and loved all sports, particularly rugby, tennis and track events. He often reminisced about his happy days at his school, Felsted in Essex. From there Dad went on to National Service as an officer in the Army and was very excited to get the opportunity to travel to Hong Kong and see some of the world before coming back home to go to Agricultural College and then straight into farming with his Father. Then sport had a hand in getting my parents to meet at the local tennis club! Dad felt incredibly blessed to have such a super wife in Sue – she was full of fun, loving and extremely hard working. They were a great team and supported each other totally.

My brothers Andrew and Mark and I were born whilst we still lived at Peacehaven on the farm my grandfather ran but it was always the dream that Mum and Dad would have their own farm

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So imagine the delight when Dad got the tenancy to Pangdean almost 50 years ago! He very much enjoyed his life as a farmer with its very diverse and physical challenges. He was thrilled to have his own farm and felt privileged that it was in the beautiful surroundings of the South Downs and within the village of Pyecombe. Mum and Dad gave us a great childhood on the farm, often with our cousins, camping, harvest picnics, ponies, dogs etc!

<http://www.pyecombe.info>

Community mattered greatly to both my parents and they loved their involvement with the village and the Church. Dad always loved meeting people and would talk - and listen - happily to people of all ages! There are so many events we all enjoyed as a family and they were involved with particularly the annual village barn dance, the whist drives, the village weekend with sports day in the Wyshe.



Throughout his life Dad was a source of great kindness, courtesy and positivity and will be greatly missed. Knowing him I imagine he would want to thank everyone who had played a part in his great life!!

So thank you all,
with love,

Nicky



Pyecombe Church 100 Club

Month	£20	£10	£100
June -24	Beverly Hilton	Nicky Currie	
July -24	Wendy Pelling	Nikita Rae	
Aug -24	Geoff Strong	Paul Watts	Wendy Rogers

New players always welcome! Please email
pye100c@gmail.com for details.

<http://www.pyecombe.info>

Parish Council Jottings

South Downs Local Plan Review

People can have their say on a review of the South Downs Local Plan and how they would like to be involved. The adopted South Downs Local Plan, which gives a blueprint for all planning and development in the National Park, has to be reviewed by law to make sure it is up to date and addresses principal issues including nature recovery, climate change and supporting local communities to thrive.

An initial, informal survey will take place from 8 July to 16 September, and SDNP will be inviting feedback on the scope of the Local Plan Review and how you would like to be involved in preparing the review. There will also be a “youth survey” for 13 to 25-year-olds, with the chance to enter a prize draw for a £50 gift voucher.

It is hoped that the formal consultation on the Local Plan Review will begin early next year. The South Downs Local Plan includes policies and maps around strategic development, affordable housing, renewable energy, building conservation and design, helping wildlife, and protecting the South Downs aquifer, among many other topics. To take part in the survey please go to the link below.

<https://sdnplocalplanreview.commonplace.is>

Community Projects

<http://www.pyecombe.info>

The parish council are keen to hear from local residents who have ideas for community projects that will enhance the village.

If you have any suggestions, please email these to parishcouncil@pyecombe.org.uk for discussion at the next parish council meeting.

Bus Shelter Updates

Council hopes that those of you who use the bus shelters in the village have noticed the newly installed windows and benches. Our next step is to install solar powered lights for those darker evenings when the footpath may not be easily visible.

You will also have noticed the newly installed real time bus times now being displayed automatically at the two bus shelters offering both a visual and audio real time travel update.

Village Tidy-up

For those of you who wonder which residential fairy has been conducting the tidying up of verges, bus shelters and various other areas within the parish, you may find the calendar completed by Councillor Ken Grocott interesting.

If you would like to assist Ken with any of the ongoing tasks, please drop me an email.

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Mar-24***In this month, the landscaping project by the BP garage began.***

- 20 hrs Clearing the area opposite the garage of litter, and cropping back brambles, making good the verge.
- 1hr Painting the interior of the bus stops - white Sandtex.
- 2 hrs Reading emails and attending parish council meeting.
- 8 hrs Strimming back the brambles encroaching on path to the northbound bus stop, cutting back to a new verge, tidying area around bus stop.
- 4 hrs Mending the ground around the north bus stop, trimming the grass verge back and using the turf to level the ground by the bus stop.

Apr-24

- 3.5 hrs Thinning out the self-setting sycamores threatening to damage the graves in the upper church graveyard. Move to bonfire.
- 4 hrs Sow grass seed by north bus stop, and remove clippings from garage area to muddy Wyshe footpath to stabilise it.
- 2.5 hrs Mowing top churchyard - first cut of the year.
- 2.5 hrs Litter picking and cutting back the slip road verge beyond the bus stop at the garage, and removing the dead timber to the churchyard bonfire.
- 4 hrs Cutting grass in the lower churchyard - first cut of the year.
- 1 hr Transplanting box hedge to the west border of upper churchyard.
- 3 hrs Strimming brambles from the path from the Wyshe to Wolstonbury (may have chipped a bone in my foot!)

- 1.5 hrs Taking plastic waste from churchyard to Burgess Hill tip.
- 1.5 hrs Taking plastic waste (old, shed sections) from churchyard to Burgess Hill tip.
- 2 hrs Clearing mud from the footpath by the A23 footbridge in Pyecombe Street and trimming back overgrown brambles.
- 1 hr Meeting West Sussex Highways re planters and land reclamation.
- 2 hrs Correspondence and screengrab for Church Hill traffic issue

May24

- 1 Reading emails ahead of next meeting.
- 0.5 Planting box on boundary of upper churchyard.
- 2 Clearing sycamore and birch from upper graveyard.
- 1 Taking plastic waste from churchyard to Burgess Hill tip.
- 1 Emailing West Sussex re potholes and abandoned metal frame for signage - photos sent.
- 3 Burning bonfire in lower churchyard to clear dead and diseased wood.
- 2 Reading emails and attending parish council meeting.
- 2 Weeding, levelling, and seeding land behind garage with wildflower seeds.
- 2 Levelling and weeding land being the garage, taking chalk lumps up the hill to mend the path up to Wolstonbury from the Wyshe.

- 2 Meeting with Tom and Dave to discuss the planting of the beds by the garage, minuting suggestions to rest of parish council. (Quote of £3000!).
- 0.5 Sowing wildflower seeds by the garage to encourage pollinators.
- 1 Producing a Word document summary of the present village issues for future prioritisation
- 2 Strimming lower bank in School Lane and disposing of cuttings.
- 2.5 Clearing brambles from the land by the garage, taking chalk rubble to repair Wyshe footpath.

Jun-24

- 3 Strimming both sides of public footpath from the Wyshe to Wolstonbury Hill from footpath to north.
- 2.5 Weeding and stone clearing on the land by the garage.
- 1.5 Strimming the sight lines at the gates to Pyecombe Street.
- 2 Removing the dead crown and ivy from a tree that had slumped into Church Lane, and disposing of dead wood onto bonfire.
- 2 Weeding the brambles out of the land by the village garage to allow the sown grass and flowers to grow without being smothered.
- 3 Mowing lower churchyard in readiness for a forthcoming funeral.
- 2 Harvesting grass seeds from the churchyard and transferring them to the land by the garage to broaden the grass base.
- 7 Trimming verges at the church and using the issues on the footpath to Wolstonbury. Mowing churchyard grass twice - after no mow May

- 1.5 Parish council meeting.

Jul-24

- 8 Fixing Forge Close housing sign, sweeping bus stops, litter picking garage, mowing churchyard and trimming path ahead of memorial service
- 6.5 Mowing churchyard - 3 cuts on the top section (No mow May and let it bloom June), disposing of cuttings.
- 3 Mowing lower churchyard - 2 cuts on the lower section, disposing of cuttings.
- 5.5 Strimming junction on A273 by garage to restore sight lines. Strimming area by garage - layby and planters, ahead of mowing.
- 0.5 Reading Parish Council emails and responding.
- 3 Strimming verges in Forge close with Robbie.
- 0.5 Litter pick in School Lane and along A273 to golf course.
- 2 Waste disposal from churchyard.
- 3 Strimming verges down Church Hill and around to Pyecombe Street white gates.
- 2.5 Mowing the grass around Pyecombe Street gates to improve the sight lines and tidy the verge - lager garglers have chucked a lot of bottles here.

Aug-24

- 6 Mowing and litter pick around northbound bus stop area and path.
- 0.5 Parish council emails read.

- 1 Painting over graffiti on wall of northbound bus stop A273.
- 3 Strimming and litter picking at garage - litter still a major problem here, bins needed.
- 2 Complete strimming layby at garage and move clippings.
- 1 Remove sacks of rubble left by the builders in churchyard to Burgess hill tip. (Left 3 months ago - is any work ongoing at the church?).
- 3 Mowing lower churchyard.
- 1 Litter picking in verge opposite garage and behind garage near Plough.
- 2 Heavy mow of garage verge, light mow of grass behind BP garage.
- 1 Meeting with Christine Dennison of WSCC re road crossing at golf club.

Children's Play Area

The children's play area located at The Wyshe continues to be a priority for Council members. Discussions continue to take place between Council and representatives from Mid Sussex District Council. In the near future Council will be conducting a public consultation following which we will need to set up a CIO to enable us to start the ball rolling for outside funding applications. If you are interested in assisting with the CIO, please let me know.

<http://www.pyecombe.info>

The Adur Adaptation Project: Improving Flood Resilience and Biodiversity in the River Adur Catchment

The Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust (OART) is delighted to announce the launch of the Adur Adaptation Project, a ten-year innovative initiative aimed at enhancing flood resilience and biodiversity within the River Adur Catchment. This project is a collaborative effort between OART and the Environment Agency, building on three years of extensive data analysis alongside work with landowners, farmers, and local communities to identify and address flooding and 'wet-spots' across the catchment area.

Project Goals and Approach The Adur Adaptation Project seeks to mitigate flood risks to vulnerable properties through Natural Flood Management (NFM) techniques, which leverage natural processes to slow and store water more effectively.

These techniques not only reduce the impact of flooding but also bring numerous environmental benefits, including improved biodiversity, better water quality, reduced pollution, increased carbon capture, and enhanced floodplain connectivity. Natural Flood Management Techniques The project features a diverse range of NFM techniques, including:

- **Construction of Leaky Woody Dams:** These structures are designed to slow water flow and create in-channel habitats, contributing to natural flood control and ecological diversity.
- **Restoration and Creation of Wetlands, Ponds, and Scrapes:** These elements enhance floodplain water storage, providing critical resilience against both flood and drought conditions.

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- **River Restoration and Realignment:** Efforts to restore natural hydrology include reconfiguring river channels to their natural courses, improving overall river health and functionality.
- **Planting of Floodplain Woodland and Hedgerows:** This initiative increases landscape permeability, slows water flows, and restores natural features, contributing to the overall stability and health of the ecosystem.
- **Soil Structure Improvement:** By enhancing soil structure and rebuilding organic matter across the river catchment, the project aims to further increase landscape permeability and water retention.

Community Engagement and Monitoring A large part of adapting river catchments to improve future resilience is reliant on community involvement throughout the development, design and delivery of schemes and the project is seeking to work alongside a wide range of stakeholders and partners to ensure the techniques used are based on community knowledge, Parish Councils, Local Action Groups, Landowners

and community members are all being invited to get involved in the project, whether through imparting knowledge, altering land use or management, or volunteering to help deliver interventions.

The first phase of the project will see the launch of a long-term monitoring programme to assess current river flows and how these respond to rainfall events. This will enable the project team to focus efforts where they are most needed but also assess the level impact the project is having. **Looking Ahead** The Adur Adaptation Project represents a significant step forward in the quest for sustainable flood management and environmental enhancement in the River Adur Catchment. By <http://www.pyecombe.info>

A Note about Bonfires!

There have been frequent village Facebook posts and Whatsapp texts complaining about bonfires in the village. The link to the Mid-Sussex Garden Bonfire leaflet is below and this sets out clearly what should be considered before a match is struck!

<https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/media/1800/garden-bonfires-leaflet.pdf>

These points are particularly worth bearing in mind:

If you have a bonfire....

- Never burn household rubbish, plastic, rubber, furniture foam or tarred felt. *[ed. NB There are heavy fines for burning toxic waste!]*
- Do not light a bonfire if it is wet or windy.
- Never leave a bonfire unsupervised or leave it to smoulder. Douse it with soil or water if necessary.
- **Avoid burning at weekends and on Bank Holidays, or other times when your neighbours may want to enjoy their gardens.**
- **Site the bonfire so that it causes least disturbance to your neighbours, this may include taking into account the wind direction.**
- Only burn dry material, this will reduce the amount of smoke produced

<http://www.pyecombe.info>



Recommendations on other council sites include talking to your neighbours before you light a bonfire. Somehow, with so much social media around, we forget that face to face is still by far the best means of communication.

Let's not see our community spirit going up in smoke! Cheers!

Jane Cullen (with thanks to Di Curd for the photo of her lovely view!)



As a choir, we have often been invited to sing at important events, and it was a special honour for us to sing at Ian Currie's funeral Service at Pyecombe Church in July. He was always so encouraging and supportive of the choir and I can

remember his delight when we first began 10 years ago. He will be remembered with much fondness and gratitude by us all.

Our thanks to Anna Brookes and her team for organising the FSW (Family Support Work) concert at Poynings back in June. We certainly enjoyed performing to such an appreciative audience and were glad that some funds were raised for such a worthwhile local cause. The Henfield Festival of Gardens and Arts was also very enjoyable and we were asked to give an additional performance this year in the parish church which was particularly lovely – a beautiful space and the concert was very well supported too.

The choir continues to thrive, with 3 new members joining us this summer, and we are looking forward to singing at the Village Weekend, the Harvest Festival in October, and Remembrance Sunday in November. (Let's not think as far ahead as Christmas – that can wait until the next newsletter!) Looking forward to seeing you all at one or more of these events!

Jane Cullen

07736 806851

<http://www.pyecombe.info>

Pyecombe v Poynings Annual Stoolball Match

The second annual Stoolball Match against Poynings was held at the beautiful Poynings cricket ground on 28th June. Thankfully,



the weather stayed dry. Although we still came second, our showing was a vast improvement on last year. It was a tight game and we fell just fifteen runs short, 103 runs to Poynings' 118.

Captained by David Bailey, our cause was aided by some fine hitting by Jason Collodi and a couple of sharp catches by

Andy Au, who only turned up to watch but was drafted in to make up numbers!

Poynings provided an excellent post-match barbecue as well as manning a well-stocked bar. So, hearty thanks to them and their team and we will look forward to a return match next year

Tim Cullen

<http://www.pyecombe.info>

Summer Sounds

The sun is shining and I've cut the paths through the wilderness of my garden. It's different here than last year. In certain areas nature decides what will grow and it is surprisingly different each year. I've not seen anywhere near as many butterflies as previous years of certain types but more of others.



Right now, after my mower session, I'm sitting listening to that sound we all know of grasshoppers chirping. And it leads me to wonder about their habits. Gardens with areas allowed to grow and have some degree of what to some human minds is untidy or overgrown, provide many of our native wildlife with a fully functional home. Grasshoppers love these areas.

If you are listening to them, their sounds come from rubbing their legs against their wings and are a language. Males have a particular sound when they are trying to attract a female. After finding a mate, the female common grasshopper – the brown one we see in the garden from June – will lay her eggs in the soil. She digs a hole, lines it with a special liquid and lays several eggs in it. The liquid hardens to form a protective pod and the eggs remain in the soil until next Summer.

Grasshoppers are an important food source for birds and beetles and spiders, and their excrement is a good plant fertiliser. So pretty good creatures to have around!

<http://www.pyecombe.info>

...And that sound, along with the birds, makes up the orchestra of Summer in the countryside and in our gardens! Take time to smell the flowers and listen to the chat of our natural neighbours!

Vicky Pye

Photo below by Jackie Heron Murby



*The next newsletter is due out in December. In order to be included in the next issue, send articles in anytime from now until 26th November. 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**".*

This newsletter is sponsored by the parish council and is part of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (publication schemes). Editors: Tim & Jane Cullen

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And finally.....***The View from my Window!***

There has been such a great response to this that we're having to spread the photos out over the next 2 editions. Here we have views of dawn, summer scenes, and sunset.



Dawn mists from John Porter

Lizzi Harman's vibrant view across to New Timber



Thanks also to Liz Ann for the harvest scenes on the front cover.

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*The moon appearing over the fields from
Amy Louise Taylor*



*Birds in flight at dusk, and a stunning
sunset captured by Aimee Porter*

