

No. 166

Spring 2022



VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

From the Rectory



It was a year, on 31 December since the amalgamation of our previously four parishes into the one Mid Downland Parish, with four parish churches. Our coming together as a single parish and has required and inspired considerable co-operation, of which we are justifiably proud. This has included our Finance team, greater cooperation over fundraising events, and working together to

facilitate child-focused Sunday services on the fifth Sunday of the month. I hope you like our logo.

Looking back, the Covid-19 pandemic disrupted our pattern of services during the first half of the year. During January, February and March our Sunday services were held in St John the Evangelist, Newtimber; during April, May, June and July they were held in St Andrew's Edburton.

During this time, physical attendance was discouraged so we broadcast our services via Zoom and by use of a projector, screen and loud-speakers we were able to facilitate the full participation of those taking part remotely, who could read the lessons or lead the prayers of intercession from their homes while being seen and heard by those in church as well as by others attending from their homes. From April, we resumed the evening service in The Transfiguration, Pyecombe, on the second Sunday of the month, and have often been grateful of the support of the Pyecombe Village Choir.

With the easing of restrictions, since August, we have resumed our pattern of worship, rotating around our churches, at Edburton on the first Sunday of the month, Newtimber on the second, Poynings on the third and fifth, and Pyecombe on the fourth. At the beginning of the year, when physical attendance was discouraged, the number attending via zoom often exceeded 50. As time has gone on, the number of people attending in person has increased but we continue to broadcast the

morning service and still a significant number join remotely. You are welcome either way.

We also had a bit of a rush on baptisms as the restrictions lifted, including six children and one adult in Pyecombe. It was a joy to celebrate these occasions with their families.

Looking forward, we will very soon be entering the season of Lent, leading into Passiontide and Easter. You are very welcome to join us for any of the seasonal acts of worship.

Ash Wednesday 2nd March, 7.00pm – A penitential service at Newtimber.

Palm Sunday, 10th April, 10.00am Parish Communion at Newtimber and **6.00pm** Evening Service at Pyecombe.

Maundy Thursday, 14th April, 7.00pm – Holy Communion at Edburton.

Good Friday, 15th April, 12 noon – Good Friday Meditation at Pyecombe.

Easter Sunday, 17th April, 10.00am – Parish Communion at Poynings.

With every blessing,
Tim

Pew Patter

Since Christmas, church life has been very quiet but the shortest days are behind us and the signs of spring are popping up in the churchyard with lovely clusters of little snowdrops.

We had the pleasure of enjoying several Christmas services. Our Christmas carols were accompanied by the Mid Sussex Brass Band and our village choir, which made the service very special. We would like to thank them all for their hard work. The church looked beautiful with all the Christmas decorations and for that we would like to thank Scott for supplying us with a Christmas tree and for all the ladies who helped to decorate it and the window sills.

In December we had to say goodbye to Mrs Shirley Strong who passed away after a long illness. She and her husband Geoffrey have been wonderful supporters of our church for many years. Shirley will be sadly missed.

We are hoping to have our spring plant sale and will be able to advertise the date in March on our webpage so please look out for this.

Shortly the Tapsel Gate will be removed and taken away for the restoration work. The woodwork will be made of traditional Sussex oak and restored to its former beauty. We are also hoping that the cemetery gates will be replaced and the proper entrance laid down for safety purposes.

We are always looking for helpers with our church - members of the congregation or people who can assist in many other ways to keep this beautiful building going. If you are interested please feel free to come along to a service or get in contact with us.

All good wishes for the Spring and Easter,

Sally Brown

Co-Church Warden with Betty Eade

Parish Council Jottings

After a lengthy process that commenced way back in 2017 with a consultation to every household in the parish, Council are pleased to finally see the double yellow lines in situ. These have been painted throughout the parish and it is hoped they will ease some of the congestion primarily around the M&S store and along the London Road.

Further signage and additional parish projects are planned and these are being discussed and agreed with the necessary statutory bodies.

The Wyshe Play Area Upgrade

Pyecombe Parish Council, together with Mid Sussex District Council, are planning to upgrade the play facilities at The Wyshe Play Area in Pyecombe.

We hope to be able to replace all the play equipment with new, and to make the whole area more accessible.

We would like to find out what else people would like us to do to make it better. To give your views, please fill in the online questionnaire at:

<https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/leisure-sport/playgrounds/>

Deadline for responses 31st March 2022.

Further opportunities to meet with Mid Sussex District Council representatives at the play area will be available.

If you would like any further information, please contact

playgroundconsultations@midsussex.gov.uk

Help to stop nuisance phone calls

Help is on hand for elderly and vulnerable residents to stop them being targeted by fraudsters. The West Sussex Trading Standards team is offering to install call blocking devices free of charge to help stop nuisance calls.

The devices are proven to block up to 98% of nuisance calls.

Relatives, carers or friends can also apply on behalf of West Sussex residents who meet the criteria.

To qualify for a call blocker resident, need to:

- Live in West Sussex
- Regularly receive scam and nuisance calls
- Have care or support needs due to factors such as age, mobility or mental health
-

For more information call 01243 642124 (Option 2)

County Local Forum Sessions

Local residents have an opportunity to meet their local county councillors this March in the second round of County Local Forum sessions, and ask any questions they have on county council related business.

The Mid Sussex County Local Forum session will run on the following day:

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

Thursday 10th March 2022, 7pm to 8pm: Mid Sussex County Local Forum at Haywards Heath Library.

Each session will cover issues from across the district or borough area as a whole.

To attend a session or ask a question, residents should email talkwithus@westsussex.gov.uk or sign up via Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/cc/county-local-forums-109139>

Anyone who would like to ask a question is requested to email at least five working days before the planned session, as having the questions in advance will help ensure they can be answered fully in the meeting.

Anyone who isn't able to attend the sessions, but would still like to ask a question, can email and officers will ensure a response is sent back.

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

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



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration

Friday 3rd June 2022

2.00pm – 9.00pm

Location – The field behind the Plough Pub

Everyone is warmly invited to this village event, which is being funded by the Parish Council, to celebrate seventy years of Her Majesty's reign. The Plough has kindly allowed the use of their field, and the entrance is at the bottom of Church Hill.

The event is free and is open to all villagers and any friends and relations who may be with them on this day.

Bring your own drinks and a picnic, although there will be a free hog roast from around 4.00pm. There won't be a bar, but the Plough will be open.

Other attractions will include music, an ice cream van, coffee and cakes, and face painting. The marquee will also be there in the event of rain.

Children's games: We are looking for a small group of villagers, preferably with children of their own, who could organise and run <http://www.pyecombevillage.co.uk>

sports events/games for about an hour in the early part of the event, say from 2.30, before the hog roast. Events could include running races, sack races, tug of war, rounders etc. The Parish Council should be able to borrow some resources, so please let me know what might be required.

Medals: We have purchased some very attractive commemorative medals to be issued to children under 17 years of age.

Any volunteers to help set up the day, as well as clearing away afterwards, will be much appreciated. Please contact me with any questions.

Tim Cullen

timcullen@pyecombe.org.uk

07870 360551



Pyecombe Village Choir

The New Year has brought renewed enthusiasm and energy to choir rehearsals, with the assistance of a few glasses of mulled wine back in January, thanks to Sarah! We are enjoying the challenge of adding new songs to our extensive repertoire, and indeed it is extensive as we are now in our eighth year and the music folders are bulging!

We will be giving a **teatime concert in Pyecombe Church in aid of the Malagiri school on Saturday 28th May. Tea & cake will be served from 3pm and the concert will begin at 4pm.** Many of you will be familiar with the ongoing project in support of the school and Jill Munday, who is very much at the helm of this, will be able to provide you with updates on the school's progress during the concert. Looking further ahead, we are delighted to have been asked to sing at the Henfield Festival of Gardens and Arts during the weekend of 11th and 12th June. This is a great event and well worth a visit if you have never been before – and, of course, if you have too! Details of the choir's performances are yet to be confirmed but should both be taking place on Saturday 11th June.

New singers from the village are always welcome in the choir so do get in touch. Rehearsals are now on Fridays at 5pm and last around an hour and a half, allowing plenty of time for you to hit the town on a Friday night if you so wish!

Jane Cullen
07736 806851

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

LVE YOUR VILLAGE! (Wednesdays)

Back in 2018, Mary and I started the Pyecombe monthly clean up, meeting one weekend in every month. We were fed up with our village looking so untidy and strewn with litter, and were keen to have a clean and well kept Pyecombe. We therefore launched the "Love your village" group to get the clean up going.

We would like to remind you, and all newcomers to the village, what we are trying to achieve

- Keep litter under control
- Clear and cut back branches on overgrown footpaths and pavements
- Paint and maintain gates leading into the village (in conjunction with Parish Council)
- Organise cutting of some of the verges
- Generally improve the look of our village, planting bulbs etc

Due to Weekend commitments for many of you, we decided to change to a weekly meet, which means that anyone who has a bit of spare time on any Wednesday morning between 9.30 and 11.30am is able to come and do their bit, even if it's only for a short time.

We have also been lucky to have Ken Grocott take an

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

active part in the whole village clean up campaign, and thanks to him the churchyard and banks around the church are now looking pretty amazing. His enthusiasm and commitment has also given us renewed energy to keep going!

We post every Tuesday on the Pyecombe Village Facebook page to let you know what area we will be tackling the next day, and where we will meet. Mary also emails those on our list with the same information, so if you would like to be added to our list please email Mary at: morourke09@gmail.com

We are a friendly bunch, and it is a great way to meet other people who live in Pyecombe. We aim to have a coffee when we finish, either in the Plough or the Farm shop, which provides further opportunity to get to know one another.

It would be great if you were able to come one Wednesday as it is a case of come when you can and you will always be welcome! Litter pickers, rings and rubbish bags, brooms and spades are all available.

If you have any suggestions on how we might improve our village, or would like to find out more, than please contact either:

Mieke Thomas 07956 368282 or Mary O'Rourke 07976 884165

We would also like to say a big thank you to those of
<http://www.pyecombevillage.co.uk>

you we see walking around Pyecombe picking up litter at any time, clean up Wednesday or not!

[Ed: It was very humbling to see pictures of young people clearing the litter from the roadsides in Ukraine on the refugee route. They would be shocked by the state of our roadsides!]





Pyecombe Church 100 Club Winners

Dec-21	Ken Grocott	54	£10
Dec-21	Wendy Pelling	120	£20
Dec-21	Nicky Currie	79	£100
Jan-22	Wendy Pelling	120	£20
Jan-22	Paul & Louise Greatwood	88	£10
Feb-22	Ken Grocott	52	£20
Feb-22	Sally Brown	102	£10

The Millenium Milepost



I'm writing to you on behalf of Sustrans. Sustrans is a charity which promotes Active Travel & Sustainable Transport - cycling and walking mainly. I'm writing to you specifically about the Millenium Milepost sited in Pyecombe. It is located on the west side of the bridge over the A23. The photograph was taken after it had been repainted by the Sustrans volunteers.

The Milepost marks the National Cycle Network path from Brighton, which currently ends in Pyecombe, and is maintained by Sustrans volunteers (including myself). The Millenium Mileposts are markers which were put up nationwide along the National Cycle Network, in the year 2000, and were paid for by The Royal Bank of Scotland. There are 4 different designs. If you would like to read more information, you could try using this link: <https://threepointsofthecompass.com/2020/12/23/trail-talk-sustrans-millennium-mileposts/>

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

You will see on this link that the one in Pyecombe is of the Dudgeon 'Tracks' design - but it has lost its direction 'fingers' at the top.

As volunteers for Sustrans, I and a few others have repainted the Pyecombe Milepost, and we think it would be good to restore it back to its original design by replacing the lost direction 'fingers' at the top. However, we need to find some funding for that and I'm writing to you to see if you as a parish might be interested in contributing towards this? It's possible to have the fingers recast and we could have one of them pointing in the direction of Pyecombe village. It will probably cost a few hundred pounds. We may need to approach several possible supporters. Might you be interested in supporting this asset in Pyecombe with a contribution?

Kind regards
Andrea Vinicombe

[The lost direction post is thought to be with West Sussex Highways – watch this space! Ed]

Time to get walking again!

At this time of year we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Sussex

<https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/sussex> has hundreds of walks to download and print, free; it also has books of walks, details of 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 Harris (the custodian of the website) 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 website) 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

john@walkinginengland.co.uk

Vivian Aird

We were sad to learn recently that Vivi had passed away on 9th July 2021. She lived in Pyecombe St for over 20 years, only moving in August 2020 to Scotland with her opposite neighbours who had become her carers. Vivi always took an interest in people, was a keen horse rider and a great animal lover. (Some of you may particularly remember tales of her beloved cat, Tiggy!) She was always a very stylish lady and used to contribute a 'designer' floral display to the village flower festival which usually transformed the boiler at the front of the church. On the fateful occasion when the heating was accidentally turned on overnight with all the flowers in situ, Rae Corbett and her team worked miracles to revive her display before the doors opened to the public! It was thanks to Vivi that we discovered Pyecombe and ended up moving here. We will always be grateful to her!

Tim & Jane

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.

In order to be included in the June issue, please send articles in anytime from now until 27th May. 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 (eds)

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

Editors: Tim & Jane Cullen

Pyecombe Village newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

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