

No. 170

Spring 2023



VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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From the Rectory



It is always sad to lose loved ones from among us and we seem to have lost quite a number in recent weeks. This week [Feb] we have buried Eric Farncombe in Pyecombe churchyard – a churchyard that he cared for, for many years. Eric is mentioned elsewhere in these pages.

At the end of January our parish Lay Reader, Patrick Policott-Reid, was laid to rest in Newtimber churchyard, following his funeral at Holy Trinity, Poynings. As a Lay Reader, Patrick has been a faithful minister both within and beyond our churches. He trained to take funeral services and considered it a privilege to have been able to support families through their most difficult times and to give their loved ones the send-off they deserved. He will be a huge loss to our Church community. Our last PCC minutes record:

‘Patrick has done [so much] for us all in the parish ‘behind the scenes’. He first joined us about twenty years ago when Richard Brown was our vicar, and did his training with him. Since then he has not only helped and supported Tim but also Richard, Peter and Caroline and he was a tower of strength during the interregnum. We shall remember Patrick for his wisdom, his devotion to his faith and his measured, thoughtful approach in all things. His role in leading bible study groups was so important in helping nurture and deepen our faith, and then keeping that impetus during the

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interregnum. He was also a huge support in helping to train our Lay Ministers of Holy Communion. His selfless support of Mid Downland Parish in so many key roles over a significant number of years, both as mentor and friend, means that his loss will be felt far and wide.'

Patrick had a strong and secure faith. He truly believed in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life that the Gospel presents to us. As we approach Easter, we are reminded again of the events in the life of Jesus that give us reason to share in that hope. You will be very welcome to join us for any or all of the services where we will recount those events once again.

Our services for the Easter will be:

Palm Sunday, 2nd April, 10.00 a.m.

Holy Communion and the distribution of palm crosses, St Andrew's Edburton.

Maundy Thursday 6th April, 7.00 p.m.

Informal Communion in the context of a simple shared meal, Holy Trinity Poynings

Good Friday 7th April, 12.00 noon.

Good Friday meditation, The Transfiguration, Pyecombe

Easter Sunday 9th April

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion, St John the Evangelist, Newtimber

6.00 p.m. Evening Easter service, The Transfiguration, Pyecombe

With every blessing.

Revd Tim Harford

Rector of the Mid Downland Parish.

Tel: 01273 857456 Mob: 07824 532677

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Pew Patter

It has been a quiet time in our church calendar since Christmas and even before as sadly, due to the unexpected weather, we had to cancel our Christmas Carol Service. However, we would like to thank everybody who supported us for the Christmas Fayre, and we were delighted with the result of over £2000 profit, which of course went to the Downland Parishes. Thank you to the stallholders, to all the people who sold raffle tickets and supported us generally helping on the day, and most importantly to all the very generous donations we received for the raffle.

Sadly, only recently Eric Farncombe, one of the oldest residents in the village, died. Over the years, he and his late wife, Valerie, did a lot to support the church, taking care of the churchyard grass cutting, selling poppies to name but a couple of tasks. His funeral was on 23rd February and he was buried with his wife in our churchyard.

The **Easter Sunday Service on 9th April** will be at Pyecombe at 6pm - everybody welcome and afterwards we will be serving coffee and hot cross buns.

May will see the Coronation of King Charles III. On **Saturday 6th May** we will be screening the whole Coronation Service in Pyecombe church, serving tea, coffee and cakes followed by a buffet coronation lunch. If you're interested in attending, tickets

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will be available at a cost of £20 from me, Sally Brown, on 07850 300603. All tickets will be sold in advance of the day.

On **Sunday 7th May** between 3pm and 5pm we will hold our plant sale in the churchyard and will be selling tea and cakes in the church. This will be followed by a special Coronation Service at 6 pm where our wonderful village choir have kindly agreed to join us. The service the following week at 6 pm will be cancelled.

On **Monday 8th May** the Parish Council are holding a sports day in the bottom field, thanks to the Currie and Boyce families who are letting us use their land. Tim's article in this edition of the newsletter will tell you more about it.

Our churchyard and the banks around the church are looking particularly lovely at the moment with all the spring bulbs popping up, and we thank Ken and other helpers for keeping it so beautifully.

The weekend of 21st July, we are hoping to hold our annual flower festival. The theme for this will be "Crowning Glory". If anybody is interested in doing flower displays or helping throughout the weekend with stalls, refreshments etc, please let me know. All help would be gratefully received!

As always, Betty and I thank you for supporting our church, and if anybody is interested in helping us in any way, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sally Brown, Church Warden, with Betty Eade

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Parish Council Jottings

Election of a New Parish Council in May 2023

- **Do you want to make a positive difference locally?**
- **Would you like to influence decisions that affect your community?**
- **Are you willing to give up some of your time and play an active role helping to shape the area in which you live?**
- **Then why not stand for the May elections for Pyecombe Parish Council and help make decisions about how the Parish is run?**

There are five Parish Councillors in Pyecombe. If five or fewer people wish to join by completing nomination papers, they will be appointed to the council. If more than five people apply then an election, and therefore selection by public vote, will take place.

Please be advised that this role includes attendance at six bi-monthly evening meetings plus the occasional additional meeting if an urgent matter needs to be addressed in the intervening period. You will also be asked to devote time occasionally to help tackle local Parish issues. The May 2023 elections will soon be upon us so if you are interested in joining, a link to the Electoral

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Commission website which includes excellent guidance for prospective candidates, as well as nomination papers is here:

[Parish council elections in England | Electoral Commission](#)

Nomination Packs are available on the Mid Sussex District Council website www.midsussex.gov.uk along with full details of what is required to complete the forms. Completed nominations must be submitted in-person and by hand.

Given the numbers expected, it is necessary to make an appointment for any working day between 21st March & 4th April. We strongly recommend making your appointment for the earliest possible date in this period - it is not advisable to work up to the deadline of 4pm on 4 April 2023. Please contact Electoral Services as soon as possible to secure your desired appointment date and time. The team's direct telephone number can be found at page one of the pack. Once you have drafted your nomination papers, if you would like an informal check prior to your nomination submission appointment, you may arrange this with Electoral Services via email to: elections@midsussex.gov.uk

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If you would like further information or have any questions, please contact the clerk via Email parishcouncil@pyecombe.org.uk or alternatively why not attend our next parish council meeting on 14th March 2023, 7pm at Wayfield Park Farm Shop, to see how things work.

The Parish Council is the first tier of Local Government representing the local community, delivering services to meet local needs wherever possible. We work closely with many local groups and organisations as well as with Mid Sussex District Council, West Sussex County Council and other agencies. To qualify for membership of the Council under one of the provisions of S 79 of the Local Government Act 1972, i.e.

- 1. You are on the electoral register for the Parish.**
- 2. You have owned or rented land in the Parish for twelve months.**
- 3. You have worked in the Parish for twelve months; or.**
- 4. You have lived in the Parish or within three miles/4.8 kilometres of the Parish boundary for twelve months.**

Email Updates:

My thanks to those residents who have contacted me regarding assorted 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 assorted items

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happening both throughout the parish and locally. If you would like to be included on the circulation list, please email me at parishcouncil@pyecombe.org.uk

Parish Clerk & RFO

Dawn Langston – parishcouncil@pyecombe.org.uk

Telephone contact – 07909 332605

**CORONATION SPORTS DAY AT
PYECOMBE
MONDAY 8TH MAY 1.00pm – 5.00pm**

The Parish Council will be putting on a Village Sports Day in the Wyshe field (off School Lane) on the Bank Holiday Monday of the Coronation weekend. The field will be open from 1.00pm to encourage people to bring their picnic lunches.

The main sports event will be a Stool Ball match with a team from Poynings. Stool Ball is a traditional Sussex sport, similar to T20 cricket but with a dash of Rounders in the mix. This is a fixture which we used to do every year as part of our Village Weekend/Flower Festival but sadly “fell off the radar” in recent years. So this will be a great opportunity to revive it. It is played, like cricket, in teams of eleven so we will need to put up a team! Please phone me on the number below if you would like to take part.

We can also set up Rounders as well as a tug of war competition.

So, please come, bring the children, bring a picnic and support this family event. An ice cream van has already been booked so let's hope the weather is on our side! It will be a great way for the village to round off this special weekend.

Tim Cullen

07870 360551





It has been a musical start to the year, with the choir giving a much enjoyed performance at St Anne's in Burgess Hill (postponed from December), and David Finney with his cousin, classical guitarist Martin Vishnick, performing at the Brunswick in Hove at the beginning of March as part of their new music project, VM125. Do look them up on Google – it was a great evening!

The choir is looking forward to singing at village events in the next couple of months and future bookings include performances at the Henfield Festival of Gardens and Arts on 10th June, and 2 concerts at St George's Park in Ditchling. We are always expanding our repertoire and have some great new songs on the go. If you have any particular favourites, we are always open to suggestions and requests so do get in touch!

Jane Cullen

07736 806851

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Pyecombe Church 100 Club Winners

Dec-22	103	T. Cullen	£100
Dec-22	46	G. Bishop	£20
Dec-22	-	K. Grocott	£10
Jan-23	63	L. Harper	£20
Jan-23	-	B. Hewitt	£10
Feb-23	27	R. Lewis	£20
Feb-23	74	G. Strong	£10

Time to get walking again!

With Spring on its way we start to think about 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 loads 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 (who maintains 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’.

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With walks from half a mile to twelve miles or longer, 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



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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 26th 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.

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