

No. 171

Summer 2023



VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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

From the Rectory



It was good to be able to participate in marking the coronation of our King, with a celebratory service at Pyecombe Church on the weekend of the coronation. The participation of the Pyecombe Village Choir added to the sense of occasion; Jerusalem was sung with such gusto that the organist struggled to hear the organ! It is always a privilege to be able to host special occasions, be they national celebrations or very personal ones. Over the past 853 years, the church will have hosted hundreds of significant moments in the lives of the communities it has served.

You may have noticed some areas of the churchyard have been cordoned off. Unfortunately there has been some movement in the roof and there is a risk of the stone tiles falling to the ground, so we want to ensure

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

that nobody comes to any harm. We are awaiting a report from a structural engineer so we can understand the extent of the problem and, of course, the cost of rectifying it. I fear we may have some fundraising ahead of us in the not too distant future. Our ancient buildings with their long histories are lovely but maintaining them is a huge task. If you have an interest in becoming involved in a group that will take an interest in ensuring that our buildings will be here to host the significant moments of future generations, I would love to hear from you.

Poynings summer fête will take place in the Rectory garden on Saturday 24 June, 2.00 - 4.30pm. You will be very welcome to come and enjoy the occasion.

With every blessing,

Tim

Revd Tim Harford

Rector of the Mid Downland Parish.

Tel: 01273 857456 Mob: 07824 532677

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

Pew Patter

At last the Summer has arrived after a very wet Spring. The church continues to provide rest and refreshments for the many walkers on the South Downs Way. Yet again, we shall have many walkers from Footprint (usually over a hundred) passing through the church.

The Plant sale was held as usual at the beginning of May and our thanks go to all who helped, especially Sally and her team. It raised just over £400.

We hope to hold our village flower festival on the weekend of the 22/23 July but this is entirely dependent on helpers.

Sally Brown has stepped down as Churchwarden after three years. My grateful thanks to her for all her help and encouragement during this time.

We hold services at Pyecombe Church:

2nd Sunday of each month – 6pm

4th Sunday of each month for Communion – 10am

We also hold at 4 pm each Wednesday a short prayer service. We would love to see you all.

With our good wishes,

The Church Team

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

Parish Council Jottings

New Parish Councillor

Following the recent parish council elections, we would like to welcome Ken Grocott to the Parish Council. We are sure many of you will know Ken who already undertakes many tasks throughout the village and we know he will be a real asset to the council team.

Unfortunately, Graham Bishop decided not to stand for re-election this year. Council would like to thank Graham for all his work on the parish's behalf and wish him all the best.

This does mean that Council now has a vacancy for a Parish Councillor and would appreciate any interested parties contacting the Parish Clerk for more information on what the role entails and how you can apply.

Mid Sussex District Council Update

Our newly elected Mid Sussex District Councillor is Geoff Zeidler who, following the boundary changes, is now responsible for the Downland Villages ward.

Given the focus of the ward Geoff has requested to participate in the District Plan Committee; the Scrutiny

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

Committee for Executive Leader, Deputy Leader, Planning, Economic Growth and Net Zero; and the MSDC representative on the Board of the South Downs National Park.

Geoff can be followed on Facebook at Geoff Zeidler – Downland Villages.

Priority Services Register

The Priority Services Register is a free support service to help people in vulnerable situations. Energy suppliers and network operators offer it. Each keeps their own register, although some share with each other.

We recommend that people who may be vulnerable or at risk during severe weather should be on a Priority Services Register. Friends and relatives can assist those who may be in need of a bit of help to register, such as the elderly or people with serious medical conditions, or those who may not have Internet access and therefore may not have received this message. Each operator can be contacted online or by phone.

Similarly, if your household is already registered, please make sure that your registration is fully up to date, for example, to ensure that contact details and special needs remain accurate.

Please act now, don't wait!

Power cuts don't happen very often, but if the electricity, gas or water supply network is damaged or develops a fault, engineers work around the clock 24/7 to restore supplies as quickly as is safely possible. Being on a Priority Services Register will ensure that extra support will be received if the customer experiences an outage.

Support is likely to include:

- A priority number that you can call 24 hours a day
- Text and voice message alerts, letting you know when they are aware of a large power cut in your area or should your water supply be interrupted
- Tailored support if needed such as home visits, hot meals, advice and keeping your friends and relatives updated
- Where possible they will send you text and voice messages when severe weather is expected, to help you prepare

- In certain scenarios they may also offer a free hotel overnight and transport to the hotel
- For complex power cuts, community welfare teams provide on-site support which includes hot drinks, hot meals, a Wi-Fi connection and charge points.

OFGEM has a summary

at <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/information-consumers/energy-advice-households/getting-extra-help-priority-services-register>, and this includes help in finding the suppliers in your area. As various energy suppliers and network operators are active in Sussex, the following are the ones who cover most of the county, but there are some others. If you try to register with the wrong operator they will usually steer you in the right direction.

Electricity

UK Power Networks – most of the SE of

England <https://www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/power-cut/priority-services/about-the-priority-services-register>

SSEN – parts of the West of

Sussex <https://www.ssen.co.uk/PriorityServices/>

Water

Southern Water <https://www.southernwater.co.uk/help-advice/join-our-priority-services-register>

South East Water <https://www.southeastwater.co.uk/get-help/help-for-priority-customers>

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>

PYECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

With the pandemic seemingly fading and life returning to normal, the year began celebrating in June the unique occasion of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and what followed was the sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in September, ending just recently with the coronation of our new King, Charles III.

The Platinum Jubilee Event was held in the field behind The Plough, who kindly gave us permission, and the village was invited to come together to join the celebration despite the weather deteriorating towards the end, in true British fashion, the celebrations were continued to be enjoyed by all.

The children's play area was once again drawn to the attention of everyone present, with a consultation from Mid Sussex District Council, and despite several follow-up meetings, not much progress has been made. However, we continue to persevere with our endeavour to see this vital area get the improvement upgrade that it deserves, and is long overdue.

Colin Trumble, Alison Bennett and Rodney Jackson had been our Mid Sussex District Council representatives in the past year, and my thanks to them for their support with the Parish Council.

At the recent elections however, boundary changes meant that Pyecombe was now in the newly formed 'Downland villages' ward for Mid Sussex District Council, and Geoff Zeidler is now fulfilling that position as our new representative.

The Parish Council meanwhile had an uncontested election where four members were duly elected, including our newest member, Ken Grocott. Sadly, Graham Bishop decided not to stand for re-election and my thanks to him for his time and past support.

Trials and tribulations regarding the yellow lines along London Road in the year since they were first installed have presented mixed views, and it seems that the jury is still out! Whilst removing long overstaying vehicles has proved problematic, this, together with the South Downs Way crossing on the A273 is something the Parish Council will continue to closely monitor in the months ahead.

Flooding at the bottom of Pyecombe Street was a concerning problem that residents had to endure for several weeks last year, whilst awaiting a drainage clearance, which in recent months has not seemed to have resolved the problem entirely. Recent conversations with West Sussex Highways have resulted in a review of the surrounding area to possibly install another drain. On this issue, we live in hope, and await their response!

Joy Dennis has been our West Sussex County Council representative and I thank her for the continued support and assistance with the Parish Council in the past year.

South Downs National Park continues to oversee all planning issues in Pyecombe, where there have been five planning applications during the year, to which the constructive views and observations of the Parish Council are submitted to South Downs National Park, who as always, has the final decision to determine the outcome.

The village project has continued to make steady progress and following a site visit, earlier this year, together with officers from South Downs National Park, recommendations were put forward to be included in our plan for the area adjacent to the BP garage, which also includes renovating the village sign. Having obtained further

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

quotations, we should be able to submit to South Downs National Park shortly, to obtain approval and move forward.

Both the village website and newsletter, sponsored by the Parish Council, continue to keep residents informed, and my thanks to Tim and Jane Cullen, as Editors of the newsletter, for their valued contribution.

During the year we have seen the sad passing of longstanding residents in our village. Eric Farncombe and Vic Curd will be remembered with fond memories from friends and family.

Dawn Langston has been our Parish Clerk and RFO throughout the year, and I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the council and community, to thank her for the total dedication and commitment shown to us all over the past year.

My thanks also, to my fellow councillors, in our voluntary role, for their contribution and assistance in the past year.

I take the opportunity to welcome all new residents to our village and remind everyone that your Parish Council meets on a regular basis, every other month, where meetings are held alternatively both here at Wayfield Park Farm shop, and in Pyecombe Church, as a public meeting this remains open to all.

David Wilson
Chairman, Pyecombe Parish Council
17th May 2023.

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

Sheena Brown Wood

(5th September 1938 - 19th May 2023)



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of our Mother Mrs Sheena Brown Wood. We will be celebrating Mum's life with a service at **Pyecombe Church on Monday 12th June at 12.30pm** and afterwards at Pangdean Old Barn, Pyecombe if you would like to join us.

As Mum was not a fan of cut flowers, and a dedicated Midwife, we are asking everyone to respect her wishes for NO flowers and suggesting instead donations to The Trevor

Mann Baby Unit in Brighton via the link below, or cheques c/o Frank Davey Funeral Directors, Hurstpierpoint.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tmbu-rockinghorsefund>

Dress code - Mum would want you to be comfortable, black is not necessary

Fiona [Downs] & Alex

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

The Coronation Weekend Stoolball Match: Pyecombe v Poynings

The Parish Council had planned to revive this annual event to mark King Charles' Coronation on the Bank Holiday Monday, but due to the weather, it had to be cancelled. We had planned to hold it in the Wyshe field and Jim Boyce and Nicky Currie had kindly made this possible. Nevertheless, David Wilson and his team of helpers were able to put up the marquee in the churchyard at very short notice and people were invited to bring their picnic lunches. I am glad to say that many people took advantage of this and enjoyed a really nice social gathering - maybe not a street party, but it came close!



Now, watch this space, because Poynings wish to return the compliment and have invited us to play them at **Stoolball at the cricket ground in Poynings on Friday 23rd June at 6.30pm. If you are interested in playing, please get in touch asap!**

Why not bring a picnic supper and come and support your team!

Tim (07870 360551)

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



We thoroughly enjoyed singing in Pyecombe church and also giving an impromptu mini-concert in the marquee on the Sunday of the coronation weekend. Celebrations continue for us with bookings to sing at weddings, parties etc. Don't forget us if you would like some live music at your own event!

You may receive this newsletter just in time to come and support the choir at the lovely Henfield Festival of Gardens and Arts on Saturday 10th June. We will be singing at the Free Church on the High Street at 11.30am and again at 2pm in the garden of the Old Mill House in Nep Town. Each performance is just half an hour and can punctuate a visit to all the beautiful gardens and other events. Do come along if you can!

Jane Cullen

07736 806851

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



Pyecombe Church 100 Club

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

Month	1 st (£20) Winner	2 nd (£10) Winner
March-23	Wendy Pelling	Nicky Currie
April-23	Andy Macrae	Marion Jamison
May-23	Nicky Currie	Wendy Pelling

Wildlife come-back!

How wonderful it has been to see so many verges let to reach their full potential. I've been reading on-line lots of praise for the fantastic Hawthorn blossoms this year but also comment about not many insects taking advantage.

So here is the thing: nature has taken a hit and insect numbers have dropped which means food for lots of other creatures has dropped. The numbers of everything plummet if the foundation stones are taken out.

What we must do now is recognise the beauty of seeing wild flowers everywhere and trees in flower and know that if we keep that up year on year things will recover. They don't just come back in droves because the verges are grown; they have to breed and then breed again. The more food we provide the better things will get.

I'm hearing a lot of disappointed box hedge owners because the moth caterpillars have eaten their hedge. Well... yes, it's had its leaves eaten but they will grow back.. and maybe be eaten again, but imagine all the wasps (heroes of pest control and pollination) that are eating the caterpillars, and all the birds and bats that will be eating the moths. Sometimes we just need to see things from a different angle!

It's a joy out there at the moment. It feels like we have waited ages for all this to come and, now it has, May has proved her beauty again ♥

Vicky Clapperton

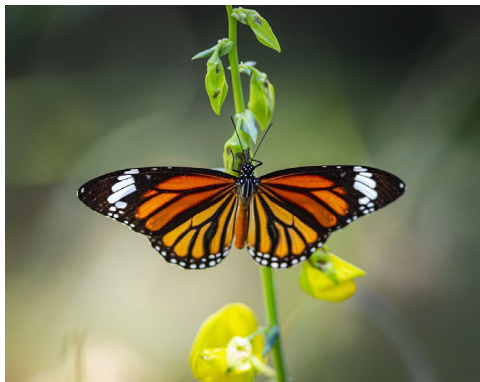
<http://www.pyecombevillage.co.uk>

To a Butterfly

I've watched you now a full half-hour,
Self-poised upon that yellow flower;
And, little Butterfly! Indeed
I know not if you sleep or feed.
How motionless! – not frozen seas
More motionless! And then
What joy awaits you, when the breeze
Hath found you out among the trees,
And calls you forth again!

This plot of orchard-ground is ours;
My trees they are, my Sister's flowers.
Here rest your wings when they are weary;
Here lodge as in a sanctuary!
Come often to us, fear no wrong;
Sit near us on the bough!
We'll talk of sunshine and of song,
And summer days when we were young;
Sweet childish days, that were as long
As twenty days are now.

William Wordsworth



The next newsletter is due out in September. 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 September issue, please send articles in anytime from now until 26th August . 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

Pyecombe Village newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

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

