

No. 178

Spring 2025



Village Newsletter



<http://www.pyecombe.info>



Rectory Ramblings

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 5th March, when we will be holding a service of Holy Communion with 'ashing' at 7.00pm at St John the Evangelist, Newtimber. The ash is placed on the forehead in the shape of a cross, accompanied by words such as **"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return"** (Genesis 3:19) or **"Repent, and believe in the Gospel"** (Mark 1:15), reminding us of human mortality and the call to spiritual renewal as Lent begins.

During Lent, we will hold a discussion group at 7.00pm on Wednesday evenings, in The Royal Oak, Poynings. We will be discussing the Bible readings that will be used in church on the coming Sunday. This proved popular last year and I hope will do so again this year.

On Palm Sunday, 13th April, we will distribute palm crosses during the 10.00am Parish Communion at Newtimber and at the 6.00pm evening service at Pyecombe.

On Maundy Thursday, 17th April, we will remember the Last Supper, by sharing a simple meal and informal communion at 7.00pm in Poynings Village Hall. Please would you let Pauline Agg know (07803256566 or paulineagg56@gmail.com) if you would like to come, so that we can ensure we cater appropriately.

<http://www.pyecombe.info>

On Good Friday, 18th April, there will be a Good Friday meditation, at 12.00 noon in Pyecombe church.

And on Easter Sunday 20th April, we will celebrate Jesus' resurrection in our 10.00 a.m. Parish Communion, at Poynings church.

You are very welcome to all and any of these occasions.

Finally, there will be a service of Confirmation in our deanery in May. Confirmation is a step of personal commitment to the Christian faith, following baptism, often undertaken by teenagers or adults who were baptised as infants. If you would like to be included, please let me know. We will hold a couple of preparation sessions prior to the Confirmation to discuss what the service entails. If anyone has not already been baptised, this too can be included. Do let me know if you are interested.

With every blessing for a holy Lent and a joyous Easter.

Tim

Revd Tim Harford

Rector of the Mid Downland Parish.

Tel: 01273 857456 Mob: 07824 53267

<http://www.pyecombe.info>

Pew Patter

Snowdrop and crocus coming up in the churchyard is a sure sign that Spring is on the way.

Christmas seems ages ago but our carol service was a great success. The Mid Sussex Brass Band and the Pyecombe Choir, mulled wine and mince pies (thanks to Sally and her team), and a packed church: it was a wonderful evening!



We have said “Goodbye” to several old friends of Pyecombe – May Moon, Martin Moore, Nicholas Baylie, and Edith Gough. Our love and prayers are with their families.

The Flower Festival has been brought forward to the weekend of 10th/11th May and the theme will be VE Day (see next page).

From Sunday 13th April our evening services will be back to 6:00pm.

Our thanks to all who help in the church. We get no financial help from outside so, as a church, we depend on fundraising and donations to keep going.

Church Team

<http://www.pyecombe.info>

The 2025 Pyecombe Village Flower Festival and Plant Sale Saturday 10th & Sunday 11th May

To Commemorate 80 years since VE Day

The theme for the flower festival could be any interpretation of victory in Europe, and we would like to invite professional and amateur flower arrangers to create a display.

We anticipate reserving an area in the church for any professional company who would like to advertise their floral arrangements for weddings, special occasions, etc., and it would be free of charge to have an advertising stand. The side of the church will be for a lovely collection of people who love to just have a go and show off their extraordinary talents.

In the churchyard we will hold our plant sale and have stalls selling other items. Stall holders will be charged £15 a table per day and if you're interested in having a stall, please would you contact me.

Refreshments of morning coffee, lunch, and afternoon tea will be served throughout the two days.

On Sunday evening a Thanksgiving Service will be held at 6pm and we are very grateful to have the Pyecombe Choir singing for us

<http://www.pyecombe.info>

We are looking for people to commit to doing a flower arrangement, helping with refreshments, baking, erecting the marquee, putting up signposts, distributing leaflets or many other tasks. If you're able to help, please could you contact me: Sally Brown 07850300603 or email me sallybrown004@gmail.com

Thank you so much and I look forward to hearing from you!





Pyecombe Church 100 Club

Month	£100	£20	£10
Nov - 24		Jim Boyce	Diane Curd
Dec - 24	Paul Watts	Geoffrey Strong	Tina Hopper
Jan - 25		Jane Cullen	Jill Munday

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

<http://www.pyecombe.info>

Parish Council Jottings

Community Projects

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.

New Defib

As you may have noticed Pyecombe now has a new defibrillator which is installed on the outside wall of The Plough. We have been asked about how the unit would work in an emergency. Clear instructions are on the outside of the box and once opened the unit will talk you through the process however the charity below offers free training sessions which we would be happy to arrange on behalf of residents.

The Sussex Heart Charity is proud to announce the launch of 'Rescue Ready', an exciting new project that supplies free AED/CPR awareness sessions to local community groups across the whole of Sussex.

The project is funded by the Sussex Heart Charity and is delivered in partnership with award-winning Pulse South Coast. The sessions are free and are suitable for anyone (of

<http://www.pyecombe.info>

any age) who would like to learn familiarisation with AED devices and CPR skills.

Every second counts in a cardiac emergency and the aim of the project is to empower local communities and share essential lifesaving skills, so that everyone has the confidence and knowledge to be 'rescue ready'.

Further information on the project can be found on our website:

<https://www.sussexheartcharity.org/rescueready/>

If you would be interested in attending a session please email me on parishcouncil@pyecombe.org.uk

Local Plan Review: Have Your Say Now (Reg 18 Public Consultation)

The award-winning South Downs Local Plan is being reviewed to ensure it is up-to-date and addresses important issues such as nature recovery, climate change, affordable housing and helping local communities thrive.

The public consultation of the Local Plan Review starts on 20 January and will run until 17 March. This is the main opportunity for people to help shape the final Plan, so the National Park Authority is inviting comments from local communities, stakeholders and the

<http://www.pyecombe.info>

development sector. This feedback will then help shape the next version of the Local Plan, which will be published in 2026 ahead of its submission for examination by an independent Inspector. Once the new Local Plan is adopted in 2027, it will be used to help decide all planning applications in the National Park.

Responses to the consultation can be made in the following ways:

- Online: Using the consultation platform to view and give feedback on the draft revised Local Plan at <https://sdnpalocalplanreview.commonplace.is/>
- Email: planningpolicy@southdowns.gov.uk
- In writing: Planning Policy Team, South Downs Centre, North Street, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9DH

Further information about the Local Plan Review, including supporting evidence studies are available at: www.southdowns.gov.uk/local-plan-review A recorded virtual webinar will also be made available online to explain the review and how people can get involved.

Future of Local Government in Sussex

Introduction - West Sussex County Council and partners have put us forward to be at the forefront of plans for historic changes to local government across the country.

<http://www.pyecombe.info>

Together with East Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council, we're bidding to create a combined authority for Sussex that would be led by a mayor.

It would essentially mean devolving powers, or in other words handing down responsibilities from Westminster to a locally elected mayor.

Alongside the plans for devolution are separate but related plans for re-organising local authorities.

Here we look to explain what these two processes mean for us here in Sussex.

Devolution - The government wants combined authorities to provide strategic leadership on issues including housing, highways and transport, economic growth, skills, environment and climate change, health and public safety for areas of more than 1.5 million people.

The cabinets of West Sussex County Council and neighbouring East Sussex County Council and Brighton & Hove City Council agreed to proceed with a proposal for devolution with a combined authority for Sussex as a whole, including an elected mayor.

All agreed they would like to be part of the government's priority programme to proceed as soon as possible and unlock these benefits for our region sooner rather than later.

Local government reorganisation - At the same time as devolving powers, the government is also looking to create unitary authorities in places where district, borough and county councils currently exist.

So, while a combined mayoral authority would deliver on big, strategic issues, unitary authorities could continue to operate most day-to-day services currently delivered by the county and district and borough councils.

The government's aim is for areas of a population of around 500,000 people to be served by just one local council, hence the term 'unitary authority.'

All partners across Sussex are discussing how this might be arranged.

What happens next - There are no changes to local government or its services at this time. We expect to know the government's decision on our devolution proposals before the end of January.

If the government accepts the initial proposal for devolution in Sussex it will consult residents on their views before the end of March.

One possible outcome of the application is that the government opts to postpone the currently planned 2025 county council

elections with a view to electing the mayor for a strategic authority in 2026 and then developing local government reorganisation.

Village Tidy-up

Council are investing in equipment to assist with keeping the village tidy and are looking for volunteers to assist with this on either an ad-hoc or regular basis. If you are able to spare a couple of hours at any time please drop me an email.

Children's Play Area

The children's play area located at The Wyshe continues to be a priority for Council members. Mid Sussex District Council have set up an online consultation. However, Council are not supportive of the design which lacks any form of equipment for older children. Council have previously submitted a design which includes a table tennis table and basketball hoop. Further details on the public consultation will be circulated in the near future. However, in order for the design to be suitable for all age groups we really need residents to respond highlighting the additional needs.

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

<http://www.pyecombe.info>

residents who have signed up to receive email updates on assorted 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

USEFUL INFORMATION

Pyecombe Village Website - **Pyecombe.info** (this site is in addition to pyecombevillage.co.uk which is the parish council site).

Information is added to the village site but the Facebook page & WhatsApp message board is more frequently used for updates. If you want to add anything to the website, you will need to send the complete article

electronically to keith.a.gough@btinternet.com

Facebook Page is **Pyecombe Village Newsgroup**

WhatsApp - **Pyecombe Neighbours Group**

The administrator for these two groups is Keith Gough. Message him on 07966 292601

<http://www.pyecombe.info>



After a very busy Christmas period, we've had a gentle start to 2025. Our first performance of the year was a Valentines Day Concert, given at the home where a very special Pyecombe lady, Rae Corbett, now resides. It was a privilege to give something back

to her after all she did over so many years for our village, and we hope it gave her and the other residents joy.

Tim Cullen and David Finney gave a great performance as a guitar/vocal duo at the Amsterdam pub in Shoreham at the beginning of February. They were the last of 4 acts in an evening of music organised by Jill & Andy Munday in aid of the school in Malagiri, and we will look forward to a further performance from them at the Malagiri Party on 10th April at Pangdean (see poster on the next page for details! It promises to be a great evening!)

On Saturday 10th May we have a concert at St George's Park, Ditchling, dedicated to the memory of Tony Pelling (on his birthday!). Wendy wants us to include several "fun" items and we will also be singing Tony's own arrangement of "Poor Wayfaring Stranger", a very beautiful song. What a lovely, talented man he was!

Then it will be off to France for us all to take part once again in the Georges Brassens Festival...but more of that to follow in the Summer newsletter!

Jane Cullen

07736 806851

<http://www.pyecombe.info>

Spring party at Pangdean
10 April 2025 from 6.30pm
£25 (including food)

All proceeds in aid of the Malagiri School



- * savour an excellent curry in a wonderful venue
- * share a journey to Malagiri and take a fresh look at the future of the school
- * enjoy musical entertainment

plus:
bar
stalls
raffle
auction

book through:
jill.munday@btinternet.com
harrisonlorraine57@gmail.com

Venue: Pangdean Barn, Pyecombe, BN45 7FN

Return Stoolball Match against Poynings

Friday 27th June

I am delighted to announce that we have a date for another stoolball match against our worthy opponents over the hill at Poynings. This will be our third fixture since we resumed “hostilities” in 2023 and if you remember, last year we ran them close although still coming an honourable second! So, this year, you battle-hardened Pyecombers, save the date, hone your skills and prepare yourselves for another memorable encounter!

As ever, we are very grateful to those at Poynings who have again agreed to host the fixture at their beautiful cricket ground.

Watch Facebook and the village WhatsApp group for further announcements nearer the time.

Tim Cullen



<http://www.pyecombe.info>

Pyecombe Calendar 2025

Great news - all the Pyecombe calendars have been sold and the proceeds, which amounted to £194, have been given to Pyecombe Church for the roof fund. A big thank you to all our photographers, to Karen Lewis who helped me put the calendar together, to Sarah Rushton and Anne Finney who supported the project from the former Social Committee, and last, but not least, to all of you who bought a copy! I hope you are enjoying it!

Jane Cullen

*The next newsletter is due out in June. In order to be included in the next issue, 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**".*

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

<http://www.pyecombe.info>

The View from my Window

It has been great to receive so many beautiful photos from you all for this newsletter. I'd like to keep with the present theme (The View from my Window) but extend it to include Nature in my Garden..

Thanks to Tim & Farah Edwards for these beautiful January snow scapes!



