



VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

OUR NATURAL NEIGHBOURS

How beautiful it is when the countryside starts to come to life after its winter sleep. The hawthorn covered in white flowers looking like they have been snowed on, the bluebells carpeting the wood in such a beautiful colour and scent and the many different colours of the new leaves emerging on the trees. It fills my heart and makes me realise how very precious our countryside is. Time to get the lawn mower out and cut the grass, which I was doing when I came across a Common Twayblade orchid that had decided to live in my lawn, so I mowed around it and thought it would be a good natural neighbour to write about this time

The Common Twayblade is a very unassuming orchid that is quite common to our area it gets over looked because unlike other orchids that are very colourful it is a greeny yellow colour that hides well in the green grass.

If you take the time to bend down and have a good look you will see just how pretty the individual flower heads are and that they resemble little people.

The word Twayblade means two leaves. At its base this orchid has two leaves that the stem flower grows up from. The stem is hairless below the two main leaves and slightly downy above, and if you catch this plant in the early morning or late evening these tiny hairs give it a golden glow. This orchid flowers between April and August. It is common due to its tough and adaptable nature. It does not live in one place but can be found in different environments from woodland, grassland to sand dunes!!

It takes 7-20 years for a plant to reach full maturity from seed. This slow developing also means they have long lives too some have been found that are 40 years old!! As their 'little people' flowers are so small they can only be pollinated by small insects that are attracted by the nectar, these insects set off a sensitive trigger that causes the secretion of a quick drying sticky liquid which sticks the pollina onto the insect. This is a highly effective method and results in a high rate of pollination.

What an amazing natural neighbour to find growing in my garden in Pyecombe!!

Kerry

Rectory Ramblings

I am writing in the aftermath of terrorist attacks in Manchester and then in London, and a few days before our own General Election. Against this wider canvas, we are planning local events such as fetes and the Pyecombe Village Weekend, and have recently held our service at Pyecombe for renewal of wedding vows, which was enjoyed by all.

It can be hard to hold together these two aspects of life, and it is tempting to immerse oneself in the local, ignoring the national and world situation, which seem so far away and sometimes almost impossible to get our heads around. Instead we focus on personal and face-to-face relationships that seem to make more sense and to be things we can at least manage and deal with.

Within any organisation, like the church, this is also a temptation. National and international debates and disagreements about belief, and even about big issues, seem often to be far away from our local churches and the way in which we seek to welcome all comers.

Yet to abdicate from the bigger scene – by not bothering to vote, for example, if we find it all too bewildering – is surely to deny our responsibility for the wider world. The two levels are related. We cannot claim to love humanity or the people in need who we do not see, whilst at the same time being unkind to, or ignoring, our next door neighbours. Sometimes we prefer to focus on a wider cause since a relative or neighbour may be annoying or more problematic than people we never have to meet! Conversely, we also cannot restrict our love and concern to those we know, whilst being indifferent to people outside that circle.

When a lawyer (always the ones with tricky questions) asked Jesus ‘Who is my neighbour?’ the answer he was given was about a man who helped a foreigner, a stranger. The commandment to love your neighbour as yourself’ is clearly not restricted to people we know, like or agree with. This is a commandment that I find challenging in the current political and international context (as well as sometimes challenging within the family!) Yet it is one to which I am called, so I continue to wrestle with it, and with my own insular and self-protective tendencies. In matters of faith, I find there are no easy answers, just difficult but important and possibly life-changing questions.

Caroline

Pew Platter

The Cowslips in bloom in the Churchyard are always a welcome sign of spring.

It was only May, but already we were thinking we could do with some rain, BUT not we hoped, on the days of our first two weddings in the Church.

Already this year we have had many visitors, from all over the World and comments in the visitors book, speak of peace, tranquillity and a welcome felt within the Church.

Our Easter egg hunt went well. Thank you to Rae, and the weather was kind to us, so we could do the hunt in the Churchyard and it was nice to welcome some of our new villagers. The plant sale also went well, but unfortunately the rain came along. Thanks again to all those who work so hard at these events.

The theme for our next evening service is The Power of Music and also in May there was a service for anyone who wanted to renew their Wedding Vows whether two years or fifty years ago! The photo below shows the happy event.



The next big event in the Church will be the Village Weekend when our lovely Church is filled with colour. Watch out for leaflets through your door, with all the details.

Do join us, not just for these specials, but also our regular services – 6pm on second Sunday and 10.00am on fourth Sunday of each month.

The church is open, of course, everyday for anyone who wants some quiet time.

Best Wishes to you all The Church Team

A peaceful oasis in a hectic world

Our village Church is open every day between 10am and 6pm in the summer (10am to 4pm in the winter).

We are pleased to offer a warm welcome to many, many visitors who are walking the South Downs Way - people seem to be grateful for a drink and a loo, and they also appreciate the peace and quiet offered by the building.

But the church is for the Pyecombe community too. Do come in to enjoy the tranquil and spiritual oasis that it offers; bring your relatives and friends in to read about its ancient history; leave prayer requests for individuals and situations that you are concerned about; or join us for any of our services - there is always time for a coffee and a chat afterwards (or maybe a glass of wine!), and we would love to see you.

Parish Council Jottings

Several of you have commented on the large amount of litter which appears to be building up throughout the parish. In view of these comments Council have decided to hold a parish litter picking event on Thursday 22nd June 2017. The event will commence at 6:00 pm with all volunteers asked to meet at the footbridge located at the bottom of Pyecombe Street.

We hope that many of you will join us for what is not an arduous task and may well finish in the local pub! If you would like to get involved please either contact the Clerk or turn up on the day.

Those residents who have been attending the recent Parish Council meetings will recognise how disappointed Council are by the news that permission has been granted by SDNP for the recent planning application located on land to the South of St. Helens, Church Lane. Council have highlighted this disappointment to both SDNP and WSCC Highways and are awaiting their responses.

As you will have read in the last Newsletter we were all saddened by the retirement of our West Sussex County Councillor Peter Griffiths. Peter had been our representative at county level for the last twelve years and during that time has worked tirelessly on our behalf. He has been replaced by Councillor Joy Dennis who we welcome to her new role and look forward to working with on your behalf.

The Play Area Project..... the story so far. The decision to undertake the playground project was made by the Parish Council about eighteen months ago and while it may seem we have not progressed very far, much work is being undertaken behind the scenes to see this through to its conclusion. It would be lovely to install the equipment and “here is the playground”. However there are many different aspects which need to be considered and these are all taking time. We will continue to push ahead with this project and hope to have more news in the next issue.

Council are also liaising with WSCC Highways to erect some traffic bollards along the grass verges near the garage and hope that this will alleviate some of the parking and littering issues in this area. We continue to highlight the parking issues within the parish to WSCC Highways and hope that with enough pressure they will work towards finding a solution.

We hope you have found your way around the new Village and Parish Council website at www.pyecombevillage.co.uk please do sign up for weekly updates and remember to let us know of any items you would like to see included.

Recent Planning applications for our Parish include:

SDNP/17/01448/HOUS Tallai House, 6 Church Lane, Pyecombe. Raising existing brick built balcony/ patio area and providing privacy walls. Rear conservatory ground floor extension. Application Approved.

SDNP/17/01260/FUL Land to The South of St Helens, Church Lane, Pyecombe. Erection of detached house with associated car parking and access drive. Application Approved.

It is always nice to see residents at the Parish Council meetings, but if this is not possible and you would like to keep up to date with Parish Matters all Agendas and Minutes can be found on the Website.

Dawn Langston – Clerk and RFO

Parish Council Meeting ~ Dates for 2017

11th July
5th September
7th November

Parish Clerk & RFO

Dawn Langston – parishcouncil@pyecombe.org.uk
Telephone contact – 07909 332605

Meditation

Over the past few weeks I have had some interesting conversations with Caroline, Tim and Richard about the wonderful world of meditation. Although I have never aligned to a particular religion, I have always felt a deep sense of spirituality since my late teens.

About 12 years ago – when I was in my early forties – I became interested in meditation and went on a course run by a Hindu organisation called Brahma Kumaris and then during our family holidays in Thailand shortly after, I had some further instruction from a Buddhist monk named Supat.

One of the lessons I learned was that the mind is like a glass of muddy water and on a day to day basis it is often very difficult to see or think clearly. When you meditate, the mind focuses and the dirt sinks to the bottom of the glass allowing your true self to rise up. This can be very useful for gaining perspective or just for general relaxation purposes.

I discovered many different styles of meditation and these can be grouped into 5 categories:

BREATHING – focussing on the breath

COUNTING – following a numerical sequence

CHANTING – following a mantra (word or phrase)

OBJECT – using a visual aid (e.g. candle or focus point)

MUSIC – allowing a repetitive melody to focus the mind

It was actually meditation that triggered my change from a voracious meat eater of 40 years into a vegetarian and then last year I completed my spiritual journey by going Vegan. In short, I believe meditation helped me to find out who I really am. Truth is, I have lost the habit of meditating and would really love to get back into it again as - aside from the self-discovery - it can be such a warm and pleasurable experience.

If you fancy joining me for a 30-minute session one Sunday evening (at the top end of the Church), do let me know. It might just set us up nicely for the week ahead and if it became a regular practice, who knows where it might lead!

David Finney

Relax over Afternoon Tea and Cake

Afternoon tea and cake (£2) will be served in the church and church yard between 2.30 and 4.30 on the following dates:

Sunday 23rd July

Saturday 5th August

Sunday 20th August

All welcome - walkers, visitors, villagers. Come and meet your friends for a chat in the sunshine and browse our bookstall.

Pyecombe Social Committee News

Firstly, a big thank you to all of you who came and supported us at our plant sale at the end of April. We raised £500, which was a great result for a very rainy day event. Also a big thank you to all the helpers and cake bakers!

Our cake bakers are going to be busy again in the beginning of June, when the annual "Footprints" Southdown Walk will pass through our village. We are expecting between 150-180 walkers, who will stop at the church for refreshments. Tea and cakes for 180 people in the space of a couple of hours is pretty hectic, but very worthwhile and enjoyable, as the walkers are extremely grateful and happy to see us.

Please contact me, details below, should you wish to help with serving, or baking cakes!

Village Weekend/ Flower Festival

Our next and biggest annual social event is the Village Weekend/Flower Festival on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd July.

This year's theme for the flower displays is '**New Beginnings**'. This theme could include many things, like a new baby, new job or house, retirement or a new hobby, the list is endless, so hopefully there will be some inspiration for all of you!

I would be grateful if you could contact me with the name of your display as soon as possible, so that we can print the cards to add to your flowers. As per usual flower displays can be brought to church all day on the Friday or Saturday morning before 10am.

Fancy Dress Dog Show

Everyone enjoyed our first ever Fancy Dress Dog Show last year, so we were encouraged to have another one this year. We will have prizes for the top 3 Fancy Dress dogs, so make sure you enter yours and show of your lovely dogs!

We will also have games for the smaller children and stalls to browse for the adults, and of course our great cakes and fantastic Ploughman's lunches supplied by Pangdean Barn. We really look forward to seeing you all there!

We would be very happy to receive any offers of help at the village week-end, even if just for an hour or so to give someone a break. Should you wish to be part of the social committee, or want to offer your help at any of the above events, or just share ideas for other fund raisers, then we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Mieke on 07956 368282 or email miekethomas@btinternet.com

With best wishes
Mieke Thomas

Pyecombe Music Festival 1-3 September

Please put these dates in your diary. There will be a wide range of events taking place at Wayfield Park Farm Shop, Pyecombe Church, Poynings Church and Dragon House. Music includes folk, jazz and classical with participation from local choirs, individuals and groups.

Full details available soon - contact Jane Cullen on jcull-mon@tiscali.co.uk for further information at this stage.

The weekend will be followed by a farewell concert in Poynings Church and a party in the garden of Poynings Rectory where the four villages and church communities in the Downlands Benefice (Pyecombe, Poynings, Newtimber and Edburton) will be able to say goodbye to Caroline and Alan Curren as they retire from their work here.

The four village social committees are planning the party and full information will be available soon.

Pyecombe Church Flower Festival Saturday and Sunday 1st – 2nd July

Once again, Pyecombe Village puts on its ever-popular annual Weekend celebration.

The theme of the floral displays this year will be “**New Beginnings**” – a great opportunity for people to express their creativity! Please bring your displays to the church on Friday 1st July where Mieke Thomas will receive them from 10.00 am onwards. If you were able to phone her in advance with the name of your display, that would be even better.

Contact number for Mieke is: 07956 368282

Volunteers needed:

Our Weekend simply couldn't function without kind people offering their help. We need volunteers to help run stalls as well as helpers on the teas and coffees. Please contact Mieke on the above number if you can offer your services for an hour or two and help spread the load and make the Weekend the great success it has always been.

The church will be open from 10.30 and the Pyecombe Village Choir will set the ball rolling with a selection of their popular repertoire.

Tea and cakes will be served in the tea tent. You can also enjoy a ploughman's lunch with a glass of wine or purchase a wider selection of drinks at the bar.

Karen and Mieke are organising another **dog fancy dress competition** after last year's success. This will be held at 3.00 on Saturday afternoon behind the church.

On Sunday afternoon, we will be delighted to welcome the **LGB Brass Ensemble**.

There will also be a display of art work by the Sussex Art Group in one of the marquees.

You will find further details on the programme included in this newsletter.

So, come to admire, enjoy, participate, socialise, hang out and spend some money!

Tim Cullen
Chairman, Pyecombe Village Weekend Committee

Letter from Resident.

The indiscriminate cutting down of the trees and the clearing of shrub is the killing of wildlife.

No longer do I see and watch the Pipistrelles under the lamp down Plough Lane. What a sight it was. Where have they gone and why? Because of the cutting down of the trees and the removal of the shrub land and the dumping of it opposite, they have lost their food source.

The Pipistrelles came to the street light to feed on the insects that were attracted to the light. Where are the little creatures now probably starved to death.

Where are the trees and bits of them, the shrub dumped on the other side of the lane in front of people's houses.

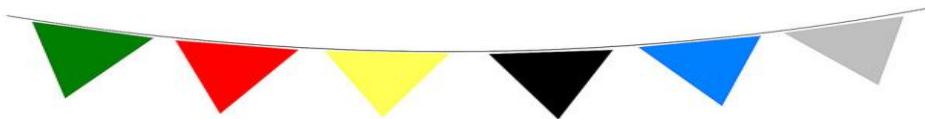
This is called fly tipping.

John Cragg. Tree Warden.

Recipes Required!

Regular readers will almost certainly be missing those tasty recipes from Lalage. In view of this we are looking for people to contribute their favourite recipes either on a regular basis or even just a one off article.

If you have anything that you cook on a regular basis or just a family favourite please email to parishcouncil@pyecombe.org.uk



Pyecombe Village Weekend 2017

Saturday 1st July

Church open 10.30 am-4.30pm.

Theme: “New Beginnings”

Flower displays in the church

11 am Music by the Pyecombe Village Choir

Paintings in Marquee by the Sussex Art Group

Children's floral footwear displays on the path

Hassocks Recorders 12.30 – 1.30

John Walker playing the organ in Church from 2.30 pm

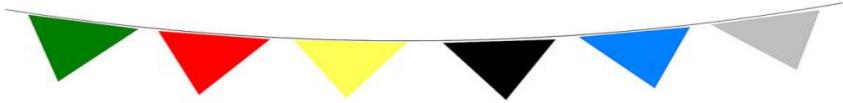
Refreshment, bar and tea tent open all day

Ploughman's lunches from 12 – 2 pm

“Good as New” tent sale;

Raffle and Pick a bottle stall

3.00 Fancy Dress dog show



Sunday 2nd July

Church open 10.30 am-4.30pm.
Ploughman's lunches from 12 – 2 pm
Refreshments and stalls until 4pm

LGB Brass Ensemble in the afternoon
Songs of Praise in Church 6pm

Followed by 100 Club big draw and competition
prize-giving

Wine, soft drinks and savories served in the
churchyard afterwards.

FLOWER DISPLAYS AND HOMEMADE CAKES

Flower displays should be brought to the church
anytime on Friday and homemade cakes to the
churchyard on Sat or Sun morning or anytime on
Friday.

No bikes in the churchyard at any time please.

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 anything that would have been passed around the campfire to keep the sense of community strong in days gone by.

We are thinking of including photos of local events in both future editions of the newsletter and also on our village website. If you would like something included please send to the Clerk at the email address below.

To be included in the September issue please send articles in anytime from now until August 15th. You can email them to parishcouncil@pyecombe.org.uk or post a written piece in the letter box at no. 14 The Wyshe marked newsletter.

Many thanks. Dawn Langston (ed)

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Ed. *Dawn Langston*