



## VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

### *OUR NATURAL NEIGHBOURS*

It has been lovely to see some cold bright days, the frost blankets covering the fields making the countryside look magical like something out of a fairytale. I always hope our natural neighbours are tucked up warm in their nests and they have enough food to get them through these cold times. One of the ways that nature deals with the lack of food and the cold in winter is to hibernate. Some we would expect like dormice or hedgehogs but one we associate with hot sunny days we would think flew somewhere hot for the winter. I was helping my dad move his log pile to a drier place and tucked away on some of the logs were a couple of hibernating peacock butterflies so I thought they would make an interesting natural neighbour this time round.....

I am amazed at the beauty and colour of the natural world and the peacock butterfly shows us just how spectacular it can be. With its brownish-red wings that are decorated with peacock eyes of black and luminous bluey-purple. These eyes are not just to make it look pretty but scare away predators like mice and other creatures that think they make a tasty meal.

The undersides of their wings are dull in comparison being plain dark brown. This will help them stay hidden when they hibernate in dark crevices, sheds, tree holes or wood piles.

As the weather warms in spring they emerge to mate and breed. After mating usually in May the female lays her eggs in batches of up to 500, after a couple of weeks the caterpillars hatch and spin a communal web in which they live and feed. They are black with short spines and white dots you will see them on their food source which is stinging nettles. Adult peacocks drink nectar from flowers their favourite being lavender. They need to stock up on this so they have enough food inside them to survive hibernation.

Look out for them in your gardens come spring they can be found basking in the sunshine of Pyecombe!

Kerry

### **Rectory Ramblings**

Silence is something that can be in short supply in our modern world. For some, it is anathema – a vacuum to be filled. But for others it is as necessary to life as breathing. Do you remember the poem ‘Desiderata’ which starts with these lines?

‘Go placidly amid the noise and the haste,  
and remember what peace there may be in silence.’

Whether we tend to like silence or find it difficult, it can be a very important way of becoming centred and focusing on what matters. In Christian terms, it can be one way of encountering God. The current emphasis on mindfulness and ‘being in the moment’ has arisen as a response to a society in which everything seems to be about the future – perhaps worrying about it or preparing for the next thing – or the past – perhaps regretting what has happened or wishing it had been different. We rush from one thing to another, and forget that the present moment is all that really exists.

Church too can be very wordy – whether we are singing hymns or listening to a reading or following a particular service. The phrase ‘poor little talkative Christianity’ comes from E.M. Forster’s novel *A Passage to India*. Too often we do not seem to let God get a word in! The Quaker tradition is of course very different, and cultivates silence in worship.

However, within most of the major world religions a tradition of meditation has an honoured place. This is as true of Christianity as of other religions such as Hinduism or Buddhism. In our recent meetings to discuss ways in which the Pyecombe evening service might be changed to be relevant for a wider range of people, some interest was expressed in a service that incorporated silence and meditation. Other ideas were also put forward, such as debating ‘hot topics’ – do go to the Pyecombe village website for a full report, and thank you to those who took part. The debate is not closed, so if you have further ideas, please let us know.

We have agreed that 3 of our evening services during the year will take a new form – and perhaps be called ‘community gatherings’. And the first of these will be on March 12<sup>th</sup>, when our focus will be on the value of silence and meditation. The service time will be split into two parts. In the first part there will be a couple of hymns and some readings on the theme of silence, and then Tim Cullen will lead a second part during which will include time for meditation. We will still start at 6 pm, as usual, and refreshments will follow. Do come along and experience this for yourself! There is also some interest in possibly starting a meditation group within the village that would meet on a regular basis. Do let me (or David Finney) know if you would like to know more – either following the taster on 12<sup>th</sup> March or at any time.

Also arising from our discussions and from our service on ‘New Beginnings’ in January, we thought there might be interest in a group that meets in the village to discuss retirement and what that means. Again, if this appeals to you, let me – or Richard Lewis - know.

Finally, you may have noticed that a plan for a service for the renewal of marriage vows has had to be postponed. This will be a separate service, now at 4pm on Sunday 21 May. Do look out for further information – on the village and church websites, and fliers - about this.

## **Caroline**

### **Pew Platter**

The first snowdrops in flower in the Churchyard, on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2016, is this a record?

The Church has been busy since the last newsletter, not just the visitors that are out walking, no matter what the weather!! But with our regular services and our special services.

**Harvest** when the village choir joined us, the donation of goods which enabled us to share our harvest with St Peter and St James and The Martlets Hospice. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

**The Village Remembrance** Service in November when we were joined by Sussex Chorus for this moving service when we name those villagers who never made it home.

In December we had a very traditional Carol Service with Mid Sussex Brass Band and Pyecombe Village Choir, it was standing room only again this year, which is great and thanks to all who supplied mince pies and Nicky for the mulled wine. All of which made for a very special evening.

Christmas Eve our 11.30 service “The First Communion of Christmas” was also well attended.

This year, 2017, there are going to be some very different evening services which we hope you will join us for. Our first one was “New Beginnings” and several people spoke briefly about moving to the village, starting the choir, having children and retirement all enjoyable and varied.

So look out for all the different ones yet to come.

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 4pm in the winter (10am to 6pm in the summer).

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.

### **New Beginnings**

On the evening of 8 January at church, the theme 'new beginnings' was celebrated and discussed with the aid of members of the village community. We were reminded of how welcoming Pyecombe has been to those moving into the village and making new lives here; we reflected on the beginnings of new activities such as Pyecombe Village Choir and the Music Festival; we heard about the joys and tribulations of becoming new parents; and we considered the many changes and challenges of retirement.

On 19 and 20 January many villagers and members of the church congregation met to continue these discussions in relation to how the Sunday evening church service might be re-launched and developed in a way that makes it more relevant to us all. Ideas were shared in an open way and a good number of suggestions were made, many of which we hope to follow through. Generally, our comments fell into two categories, format and content. Some of our ideas are listed below, in no particular order.

Format:

- The evening service could be renamed to make it more accessible to those who do not usually attend church - perhaps calling it a 'community gathering' or similar. In this way the concept of the church building as a community resource would be emphasised
- Timings could be flexible so that it was convenient for families and fitted in with modern day living. Perhaps 7pm in the summer and 4pm in the winter?
- The evening gathering should aim to be enjoyable, useful and inspirational. It should bind the community together, whilst reflecting what is going on in the world around us
- We might place flyers in the church offering information about particular evening gatherings so that those who visit during the week feel able to join us if they can
- We must remember to reflect the more traditional views and expectations of some of our current congregation
- Perhaps we might alter the order of the meeting, so that there is a natural break for refreshments between the more 'topical' aspect and the more traditional worship element
- Although currently there are not many children and young people living in the village, the new houses may bring more families and we should be prepared for this. Also, many residents in the village have grandchildren whom they may bring to special events. Having space and facilities for this is important and should be suitably advertised.

- Content might include:
- guest speakers;
- discussions about issues of moral concern or dilemmas ( dignity in death, refugees);
- music from a variety of genres (classical, jazz, gospel, modern hymns and church songs etc);
- meditation;
- 'hot potatoes' - discussions about current issues;
- The arts - poetry, prose, paintings etc

If you have anything to add to the list above, do let us know. We hope to begin some changes within the next couple of months so watch out for announcements!

Jill (01273 566276) and Karen (01273 857013)

### **Parish Council Jottings**

Council are saddened by the retirement of our West Sussex County Councillor Peter Griffiths. Peter has been our representative at county level for the last twelve years and during that time has worked tirelessly on our behalf. He will be sorely missed by all.

Those residents taking an interest in the recent Mid Sussex District Plan Examination hearings may be aware that the preliminary findings by the inspector in relation to the housing numbers proposed by MSDC suggested an increase to the figures of approximately 200 dwellings per year.

MSDC are obviously disappointed with these findings and continue to work with the inspector to find a mutually agreeable figure. We will keep you updated with any developments.

We hope you have found your way around the new Village and Parish Council website at [www.pyecombevillage.co.uk](http://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/17/00268/FUL** BP Garage, London Road, Pyecombe.  
Redevelopment of the existing petrol filling station to include: an extended sales building; reformed shop front terrace with protection bollards; reformed parking layout; and the re-positioning of the existing floodlight. New surfacing and landscaping on redeveloped areas.  
Application in progress.

**SDNP/16/06113/HOUS** Warenne Barn, New Way Lane, Hurstpierpoint. Single storey extension attached to the southern end of building by a glazed link. Application approved.

**SDNP/17/00024/FUL** Haresdean Farm, Haresdean Lane, Pyecombe.  
Extension to existing outdoor arena. 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**

9th May - Annual Parish Meeting  
4th July  
5th September  
7th November

### **Parish Clerk & RFO**

Dawn Langston – [parishcouncil@pyecombe.org.uk](mailto:parishcouncil@pyecombe.org.uk)  
Telephone contact – 07909 332605

## **PYECOMBE SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS**

What a great turn out we had for our village quiz night at Pangdean a couple of weeks ago! Our new quiz master Andy did a great job and everyone had a brilliant, although sometimes testing, time. We raised nearly £800 for Pyecombe Church, so once again a big thank you to all of you who came and spent your money!

To those new in the village that may not be aware of us yet, one of the Social Committee's main aims is to help raise funds to enable our church to remain open. The church depends heavily on funds raised by the Social Committee. Last year, we were able to contribute just under £6000 to church funds, all thanks to those who donated and attended our village events.

However, we are not just here to raise money, but also to bring our residents together at different social gatherings throughout the year, so we get to know one another and have a village that everyone feels part of.

Upcoming events are: April 16 - Children's Easter Egg Hunt in the Church Yard.

April 30, Bank Holiday weekend – Plant sale  
July 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> - Pyecombe Village Festival

As always, we are looking for people to join our committee, so please feel free to attend one of our meetings to see if this might be something you would like to be part of.

### *Pyecombe Village Website*

The new website is now up and running and if you haven't already done so, please visit [www.pyecombevillage.co.uk](http://www.pyecombevillage.co.uk) and have a look. You are able to register on the site to receive news, as well as details of upcoming village events.

Please contact Karen on 07818 568999, or Mieke on 07956 368282 should you have any questions, or wish to attend a book club, choir, or social committee meeting. We would love to see you!

With best wishes  
Mieke Thomas

[miekethomas@btinternet.com](mailto:miekethomas@btinternet.com)

### **Our Quiz Night raised over £800.**

Thank you to all who donated prizes and those who took part in Pyecombe's quiz night. There were over £300 worth of prizes; contributors were:

**The Plough Inn  
Rushfields  
Hassocks Hardware  
Profiles Health & Beauty  
Cuckfield Golf Club  
Marks & Spencers**

*Also some very generous prizes from Pyecombe Villagers. We would also like to thank Nicky and her team at Pangdean for their help and allowing us to use such a wonderful venue.*

**Wendy and Terry Desborough** have very recently moved to Ditchling. They lived in Pyecombe for over 30 years and during that time became very involved in village life. Wendy was the treasurer for both the church and Social Committee. She started up the **100 Club** which has raised hundreds of pounds to support the upkeep of the church, along with many other Social Committee activities. Terry too, he was 'the man' to call if anything was needed by anyone in the village, he helped wherever he could. They have both been village stalwarts and will be missed and speaking on behalf of everyone, we wish them a quick settlement and contentment in their new home.

## GARDEN PARTY AT PANGDEAN!

*1st June, 4 - 7pm in 'Sue's Garden'*

In aid of Malagiri School in Nepal - after our previous event at Pangdean, which many Pyecombe residents attended, the school has been rebuilt - come and hear more about the families and ways of supporting this Nepalese village.

Details to follow: contact Jill (01273 566276) or Karen (01273 857013)

### **Wayfield Park Farm Shop**

As the trees begin to bud and the daffodils, crocuses and snowdrops blossom, Mother's Day fills the farm shop with an array of gifts, cards, flowers & chocolates. Closely followed by Easter this busy time of year brings lots more visitors to the shop and National Park.

Our small flock of Southdown sheep have begun to lamb and at the time of writing we currently have three sets of twins and a single lamb. This is an exciting but also stressful time of year; sadly we lost an in-lamb Ewe on the farm last week to a dog attack, so we are asking for your help in reminding visitors to the Park to keep their dogs on leads at all time thank-you.

We recently held our first workshop at the shop Fleece to Felt, run by two local ladies it was a big hit, thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended so much so that they are holding another on Tuesday 18th April so if you are interested full details can be found in the shop.

Remember to put your clocks forward one hour at 2am on Sunday 26th March...welcome those lighter evenings! This means that our summer opening hours kick in too...we will be open until 5.00pm Tuesday-Saturday, Sunday's till 4.00pm

*Liz & Markus  
Wayfield Park Farm Shop*

## **Poynings Garden Fete**

Poynings Garden Fete will be held on Saturday June 10th between 2:00 and 4.30pm. Please add the date to your diary.

## **Help Wanted**

*Do you have secretarial skills? Could you spare a few hours – four times a year to help our PCC? We are a friendly group and would welcome you to join us.*

*Please phone 07958 46873 or email [afinney@live.co.uk](mailto:afinney@live.co.uk)*

The next newsletter is due out in May. 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.

To be included in the May issue please send articles in anytime from now until April 15th. You can email them to [parishcouncil@pyecombe.org.uk](mailto: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*