No. 145 Dec 2016



VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

OUR NATURAL NEIGHBOURS

There was a nip in the air this morning as I walked low to the church yard. The many coloured leaves of red, orange, yellow and brown are being blown off the trees autumn has arrived and winter is not far behind.

I'm having trouble deciding what natural neighbour to write about this time around. Do I pick the amazing sight of the stag with its huge rack of antlers that a friend and I watched as he walked majestically across the field opposite her house? Or do I chose the tortoiseshell butterfly that I managed to rescue after it tried to hibernate behind a lamp in my front room and got caught in a spiders web. I think the strangest sights I have seen of the same creature means it's the one demanding to be written about.

I was driving to work and running across the road right in front of me was a family of stoats I was amazed at the site and very pleased the road was clear so they made it across to the hedge line safely.

Then whilst washing up and looking out the window I saw another stoat run down my garden to the compost bin. So although I have written about them before they obviously want a second chapter!!
Stoats have the long slim flexible body that is typical to a member of the weasel family. They have pointed faces with small eyes and ears. They have brown fur on the top half of their bodies (although this can become white during very cold snowy winters, so that they blend in to the habitat around them) with white under belly and a very distinctive black tipped tail. They live in a variety of habitats from grassland to woodland to marshes or mountains to back gardens in Pyecombe!! They are ferocious hunters catching a variety of prey birds, mice, rats and even rabbits. Female stoats usually only have one litter of between 5 to 15 young during their life time which is on average 4 to 6 years.

Another amazing neighbour we share Pyecombe and our natural world with.

Kerry

Rectory Ramblings

As the days get shorter and Christmas and the end of the year approach, I am aware that this has been a good year in Pyecombe. The extension has bedded down and is being well used, and the Management Group have come up with some splendid ideas. Apart from the positive comments from walkers, we can also now offer a warm drink for those who arrive early for a funeral – something we could never do before. In addition to the Parish Weekend and Flower Festival, the Autumn Festival of Music and Art was a great success, and used both the church and the Farm shop to great advantage. Apart from the enjoyment given to all, the church is truly grateful for the boost to our funds, which helps keep us afloat.

So what's next? In the run up to Christmas we are having a collection of goods in all four of the churches for those who are less fortunate, and Jill has written about this elsewhere in this newsletter. Off the Fence is a local charity and I hope we can send a good many items to them.
At Christmas, we are aware of the contrast between how lucky most of us are, and the baby born in poverty and fleeing an unjust regime.

And we are reminded that it is not easy for many people even here in Sussex in 2016. Advent – the four weeks before Christmas - is when we get ready to celebrate. In church, it is not about frantic shopping and wrapping, but a time to stop and reflect, and to focus on the needs of others.

It is hard to believe that 2017 is just around the corner. Our first service will be on the evening of 8th January, and we would like to focus on 'New Beginnings'. This will mean different things to different people: some may be changing job, moving house, starting a new school or college, expecting a new grandchild – or taking up a new hobby. It would be good to make this service a time when we can all share our hopes and new beginnings and also offer them to God, so we are working on a different format for that service which is perhaps less 'churchey'. Do pass any thoughts or ideas you may have to us so that we can make it meaningful for everyone.

And then in February, we are going to be holding services in each of our churches giving those who are married an opportunity to renew their marriage vows. We will be inviting all those who were married in our churches to return if they wish, but also want to welcome village members who may have been married elsewhere. It doesn't matter if you have been married two years or twenty or sixty! Again the format of this service will be different to our usual services, and we hope to include a glass of bubbly and piece of wedding cake at the end! Watch out for the publicity. The provisional date for Pyecombe Church will be Sunday afternoon on 5th February.

Great plans and ideas as we move into 2017, then. But before that our Christmas services start with the usual traditional carol service at Pyecombe on 11 December at 6pm with the Mid Sussex Brass Band. The midnight service on Christmas Eve at 11.30pm will be held as usual, and it would be lovely to have a packed house at Pyecombe for both these services – as ever, all are welcome.

Caroline

Pew Platter

The colours of autumn seem more vivid this year and have lasted so long. Since the last newsletter we have had the 1st Music and Arts festival in Pyecombe, a most enjoyable weekend for everyone.

Also, our Harvest Festival which was a colourful event in the church. THANK YOU to those of you that donated. After the service the Harvest is split between St Peter and St James' and The Martletts Hospice. It is very much appreciated by them as their letters confirm. By now some of you will have joined us for the village remembrance service.

We welcome you to join us for our services in December

Sunday 11th December 6:00 pm - Carol Service with Mid Sussex Brass Band. Join us in singing some of your favourites, followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

Saturday December 24th 11:30 pm - Christmas Eve Communion Service

Sunday 25th December 10:00 am - The Christmas Day service will be at Poynings Church.

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.

The Downland Benefice Churches of
Holy Trinity, Poynings, St Andrew, Edburton, St John the Evangelist, Newtimber, The Transfiguration, Pyecombe

Christmas Services 2016

In addition to the normal Sunday Benefice services held on Sunday mornings in December, the following is our timetable for special Christmas services.

Sunday 11th December 6pm Carol Service at Pyecombe with the Mid Sussex Brass Band followed by mince pies and mulled wine

Saturday 17th December 6pm Carol Service at Holy Trinity, Poynings - followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Sunday 18th December 2.30 pm Carol Service at St John's, Newtimber - followed by tea in church – for all ages
6pm Carol Service at St Andrew's, Edburton – followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Christmas Eve
Saturday 24th December 3.30pm at Poynings. Christingle Service for children of all ages - with oranges and sweets.

Saturday 24th December 11.30pm at Edburton and Pyecombe. Midnight services of Holy Communion

Christmas Day
Sunday 25th December at 8am Short quiet service of Holy Communion at Newtimber
10am Holy Communion for Christmas Day at Poynings

You and your family would be welcome at any of these services

Parish Council Jottings

On behalf of all the readers of the Pyecombe Village Newsletter we would like to pass on a huge thank you to the Editor Vicky Clapperton who will be retiring from post following this month's publication. Vicky has edited the newsletter for many years and her efforts have always been of tremendous benefit to the village and its inhabitants.

Also sadly missing from this newsletter is the 'Tasty Morsel' recipe until recently very kindly supplied by Lalage. If we have any budding chefs who would like to contribute on a regular basis do please email the Editor for more information.

The Parish Council have been lucky enough to find a great website designer and in conjunction with the Social Committee have been working very hard with him to produce a new more up to date website. It is hoped that the site will be live early in 2017and will be of great benefit to residents.

Plans are still under way to refurbish the children's play area and several meetings have been held with suppliers to ensure all the comments raised on the completed survey forms are incorporated.

Once we have approved designs we will begin looking at various grant schemes which we hope will enable us to proceed with the works programme during 2017.

Several residents have asked about a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in Pyecombe. If any residents would like to take this project onboard please contact the Parish Clerk.

Recent Planning applications for our Parish include:

SDNP/16/05478/PA3O Chantry Lodge, Pyecombe Street, Pyecombe. Determination as to whether prior approval is required for the conversion of the existing office building (Class B1a) into dwellings (Class C3) to a single storey dwelling house. Council resolved they had no objections to the application.

SDNP/16/04783/FUL Pangdean Farm, London Road, Pyecombe. The proposal is for the creation of a new farm track. Application in Progress.

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

Full Council Meeting Tuesday 10th January 2017

Parish Clerk & RFO

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

PYECOMBE SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

Pyecombe Music Festival
September saw our first Pyecombe Music Festival. The two day event, inspired by Jane Cullen was a great success. Many thanks go to all those who supported the event, the artists who gave their time for free, those who donated cakes and money, the Scouts for the use of their Marquee, the helpers and of course the audience. It all contributed to a successful weekend which we hope to repeat again next year. We raised nearly £2000 and donated a small amount to The Samaritans and Scouts, the rest went to support the Church.

Village Website
We are at the latter stages of building a new website for the Village. One that will be more user friendly than our current site. It will allow us to register to receive updates; it will have a calendar of events with all the information needed and many more useful features.

We have a photographer who will take photos of Pyecombe to add to the site but if any of you have some photographs that you really like, then please send them through, especially as photos taken now will be 'wintery'! Although we will be able to add photos as we go along. Send photos to karenalew1@aol.com

Coming Up
As Christmas is approaching we have a few events in the calendar:
12th December - Christmas Lunch for Pyecombe's 'Over 70's' at Wayfield Park Farm Shop.

17th December - Pyecombe Choir Singing at ASDA Hollingbury on behalf of Brighton Housing Trust.

22nd December - Carol singing around the village do come and join us.

9th February- Quiz Night at Pangdean Barn see website for more detail.

On going
Book club - meets 1st Monday each month
Choir - meets on Friday evenings for approximately an hour, its fun and we sing a variety of different styles of music

We will update you on the results of Pyecombe's Christmas Fayre in the next newsletter.

Should you have any questions or interested in being involved in Village events and or Social Committee, contact Mieke on 07956 368282 or Karen 07818568999.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

With best wishes

Mieke Thomas
miekethomas@btinternet.com

PYECOMBE CHURCH 100 CLUB

The draw results for the last three months are as follows:

MONTH	£10	£20
SEPTEMBER	JILL MUNDAY	SASKIA HARPER
OCTOBER	JULIE SCHOLES	ALEX DREW
NOVEMBER	GEOFFREY STRONG	MARGARET HARVEY

Wendy Desborough – Promoter – 01273 846150

Poppy Appeal 2017

The Poppy Appeal is looking for a volunteer to take poppies around the Street end of Pyecombe. It does not take up a lot of time and gives a feeling of satisfaction.

If there is someone who would like to do this yearly appeal please let me know and I will pass on your details.

Thank you.

Joyce Hill 01273 845111

Christmas Donations

Our Church, along with the other three churches in the Benefice, are collecting items for Off The Fence, a Brighton based charity that helps those most at risk in the community. Please help by leaving donations in the box at the back of the church.

The following items are always needed:

Hot chocolate
Ground coffee and coffee filters
Antibacterial spray
Tea
Socks
T shirts
Jumpers
Shampoo
Deodorant
Tooth brushes
Rucksacks
Trainers
Black bin bags
Hand towels
Floor cleaner
Chocolate biscuits
Bleach
Waterproofs
Jackets
Shower gel
Baby wipes
Toothpaste
Underwear
Walking boots
Combs and hairbrushes

And these are desperately needed:

Underwear Hats Scarves Gloves Toiletries

Thank you!

Wayfield Park Farm Shop

Where has the year gone, it's Christmas again. What a year it's been, we've added extra tables inside and out and thoroughly enjoyed the Indian summer, which I hope will make winter more bearable.

I'm delighted to announce that we've been nominated for a rural Oscar in conjunction with the Countryside Alliance and will find out in the New Year if we have been successful.
The shop is brimming with festive food and produce , homemade mince pies , stollen, Christmas cakes. We have some beautiful door wreaths arriving soon. So avoid the last minute panic and order your turkey or Xmas meat from us .
Leading up to the big day we will be holding tasting sessions and will only be to happy to help you select a your cheeseboard , create a hamper or pick up that last minute gift or emergency supplies, we'd love to see you

Our opening hours are as follows
23rd Dec 9.00 -4.00pm
24th Dec 9.00- 2.00pm
25th Dec closed
We will then be taking a break and will reopen on Tuesday 2nd January

Thank you all for your support and we wish you all the best for the season and a prosperous New Year

Warm Regards Markus & Liz

Changes to Rubbish and Recycling Collections over Christmas and New Year 2016-17

Changes to your rubbish and recycling collections are shown below:

Due Collection date	*New collection date*
Monday 26th Dec	Tuesday (BH) 27th Dec
Tuesday 27th Dec	Wednesday 28th Dec
Wednesday 28th Dec	Thursday 29th Dec
Thursday 29th Dec	Friday 30th Dec
Friday 30th Dec	Saturday 31st Dec
Monday 2nd Jan	Tuesday 3rd Jan
Tuesday 3rd Jan	Wednesday 4th Jan
Wednesday 4th Jan	Thursday 5th Jan
Thursday 5th Jan	Friday 6th Jan
Friday 6th Jan	Saturday 7th Jan

The next newsletter is due out in March. 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 March issue please send articles in anytime from now until February 15th. You can email them to parishcouncil@pyecombe.org.uk or put a written piece in the green letter box at no. 1 The Wyshe marked newsletter.

Many thanks. Wishing you all a wonderful festive time

Vicky Clapperton (ed)

This newsletter is sponsored by the parish council and is part of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (publication schemes). Pyecombe village newsletter is printed on recycled paper.
Ed. *Vicky Clapperton*