

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

OUR NATURAL NEIGHBOURS

Walking in the woods as it comes to life in spring is one of the most uplifting feeling .The smells as you walk go from pungent wild garlic to the very delicate magical smell of the bluebells. The sight of a carpet of bluebells never fails to make me smile and feel like I've been transported to another mystical world. The bluebell is such an essential part of the British springtime, with swathes of lovely blue flowers that appear from April to May. In fact the UK is home to 50% of the world's population of our native bluebell. We have some of the best carpets of bluebells because we have the right damp climate.

The bluebell is a bulb with a flower stalk up to 50 cm tall, each flowering stem house 4-16 flowers that cause it to bend downwards in an arch. The sweet scented flowers are a violet-blue and sometimes but very rarely in pink or white. Each flower is a tubular bell shape 14-20mm. They are commonly found in British woodland that has been in existence since 1600 AD so are an environmental indicator of ancient woodland. Glue obtained from bluebells was traditionally used as a means of sticking flights to arrows shafts and in book binding. Bluebells have been used in traditional medicine, the bulb is reported to have diuretic (encourages the flow of urine) and styptic (stops bleeding) properties. A starch from the bulb has been used in laundering. At the beginning of the 20th century special "bluebell trains" took tourists on excursions to see the spectacular bluebell displays in deciduous woodlands.

The flower has another link with trains as it lends its name to the steam locomotive trains of the blue bell railway in East Sussex.

Our native bluebell has been a protected species since 1981 by the wildlife and countryside act which prohibits the landowners from removing them from their land for sale and prohibits anyone from digging up bulbs from the countryside. Trade in wild bluebell bulbs and seeds are an offence unless you have a licence. The current threat they face is from the loss of our ancient woodlands, illegal removal of bulbs and cross breeding with non-native species.

Bluebells woods are magical, beautiful, ancient places and we are lucky enough to have them as our natural neighbour.

Kerry

Rectory Ramblings

The sun is shining once more, the lilac in the churchyard is coming out and our thoughts are turning once more to summer events – not least the Pyecombe weekend, which this year is a week earlier than usual: 2nd and 3rd July. The theme of 'books' for our flower festival offers lots of scope for imaginative displays.

But first we have a Pyecombe to Lewes walk on 4th June. As most people know, Pyecombe Church was once under the patronage of Lewes Priory, and the link that exists today is one that we and the trustees of the Priory are keen to publicise and enjoy. The Priory was much bigger and more impressive than our small church in its day, but Henry VIII sadly put paid to that, and we now have rather more to show for our history than they do.

The walk between the two sites is 8 miles, and there are a number of potential joining points (or leaving points) for those who either cannot or do not want to come all the way. If the weather is kind to us, it should be a lovely day out, with historical information en route, and our spectacular downland scenery. Bring your children, your dogs and your friends and contribute to a family day out. There are posters and fliers in the church, and they will also be delivered to all in the village.

The return of dry weather and sunshine has inspired me to start walking again. In recent months, the access to the Devil's Dyke from Poynings Rectory has been horribly wet and muddy, but now it is dryer, I have been up and back every day before breakfast this week, and really enjoyed it. People are sometimes surprised to see me walking without a dog, but you don't need 6 legs to walk!

Apart from the health benefits of walking, there are emotional and spiritual benefits too. As a way of de-stressing, walking is excellent, and this past week I have used each day as a 'prayer walk'. Since prayer is about communication with God, it doesn't have to be done in church, or with other people. The magnificence and freedom of our lovely Downs are a marvellous setting for prayer, which often starts with profound gratitude for the natural world that we enjoy.

Prayer is often seen as a list of requests – or even demands, such as 'please make my mother better' or even 'please give me sunshine on my wedding day'. Such a limited view of prayer can then lead us to conclude that God isn't listening if we don't get what we want. But prayer is so much more than that. Prayer is about a relationship, about sharing. Sharing our concerns certainly, this may be for anything from the weather for a special occasion to the health of a loved one, and sharing our sorrows and hopes too. It is also about telling God we love him and hearing him tell us how precious we are too. All aspects of any close relationship.

I don't expect to be praying en route from Pyecombe to Lewes – I am hoping for some good conversations with fellow travellers on the way, and do hope you will be among them.

Caroline

Pew Patter

A village Church nestling on the South Downs, sheep and lambs in the fields. Is it 1916 or 2016? Both, and now as then our welcome is just the same.

The Easter Egg Hunt, which followed the Easter Day service, was a great success and every child got more than one egg!! Thanks to Rae for arranging this again this year. On the 28th May the plant sale was held in the churchyard with lots of beautiful plants on offer.

The 4th June was the second walk from Pyecombe to Lewes Priory. As all through history there has been a strong link between the two churches.

July 2nd and 3rd is The Village Weekend, when the Church is in transformed into a riot of colour and full of the scent of all the flowers by your interpretation of the theme. (This year it is Books). It is also great to have the Village Choir join us at some of our services and events, and they will be part of the Village Music Festival in September.

So if you come to one of the village events, or one of our regular Church Services 6:00pm on the 2nd Sunday and 10:00 am on the 4th Sunday of each month a warm welcome awaits you.

Sandra Milner, Church Warden

There's a welcome for all in Pyecombe!

Our Church is open every day: **from 9am to 4pm** in the winter, and from **9am to 6pm** in the summer. Come in and enjoy this wonderful ancient place of worship – rest for a while and enjoy the peace.

Use our new facilities and encourage walkers and visitors to make a cup of tea or fill their water bottles before continuing on their way.

Parish Council Jottings

Many thanks to those residents who completed and returned questionnaires on the potential revamp of the Children's Play Area. These suggestions have been taken onboard and will now be taken to the next step which is to produce plans for the proposed works with a view to securing funding.

Council have been working hard to set up a new village/parish council website which we hope is now nearing completion, watch this space for further news!

Recent planning applications in our parish:

SDNP/15/03086/FUL Building adjoining Chantry Cottage, Pyecombe Street. Conversion and extension to form a dwelling. (Amended Plans). Pending Decision.
SDNP/16/02116/FUL Chestnuts Riding School, London Road, Pyecombe. Retrospective planning application for Outdoor Ménage. Pending Decision.

The Parish Council Website is **http://www.pyecombe.org.uk** please take the time to pay a visit and let us know of any events or articles you would like to see included.

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 2016

Full Council Meeting – Tuesday 19th July 2016
Full Council Meeting – Tuesday 20th September 2016
Full council Meeting Tuesday 15th November 2016

Any changes to these dates will be reflected on the Parish Council website/notice boards.

Parish Clerk & RFO

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

Parish Councillor Contacts:

David Wilson (Chairman) – david.wilson@pyecombe.org.uk
Markus Saich (Vice-Chairman) – markus.saich@pyecombe.org.uk
Chris Bere – chris.bere@pyecombe.org.uk
Graham Bishop – graham.bishop@pyecombe.org.uk
Tim Cullen – tim.cullen@pyecombe.org.uk

PYECOMBE SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

Firstly we want to say a big thank you to Rae and Albert Corbett. They decided to step down from their positions on the Social Club Committee, where they were instrumental in the organisation of events to raise money for the church for more than 20 years. We would also like to extend our thanks to Di and Wendy for all their hard work and enthusiasm over the years. They will be less involved with the Social Committee from now on, but have assured us of their help and support whenever needed.

We would like to take this opportunity, especially for those of you new to the village, to explain who we are and what we do. The Pyecombe Social Committee exists to help raise much needed funds to keep our lovely church going, and to benefit the residents of Pyecombe. Some of the annual events we organise are as follows: The Plant Sale, Quiz Night, Race Night, Coffee Morning, Christmas Fair and we also run the food and cake stands at the Village weekend.

We aim to bring together the residents and their children not only during fund raising events, but also at social gatherings. We provide a fantastic Christmas lunch for the over '70s, an Easter egg hunt for the children, as well as Easter eggs for our older residents!

Our funds are also there to provide assistance for anyone who needs help with a specific item or goal. If you have something you would like to discuss feel free to get in contact with us at the details below.

We are always grateful to our amazing residents who support us at all events, which really are a great way to meet your fellow Pyecombers and have some fun!

Our next social event is the annual Village Week-end/Flower Festival on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd July. This year's theme for the flower displays is 'Books' so we expect some very varied exhibits. We will have games for the smaller children and we are introducing a Fancy Dress Dog Show for the first time. A great opportunity to show of all your wonderful pets! We look forward to seeing you all there!

Should you wish to be part of the social committee, or just want to offer your help or share idea's, we would love to hear from you.
Please contact Karen on 07818 568999, or Mieke on 07956 368282 or email miekethomas@btinternet.com

With best wishes
Mieke Thomas

HOME MADE CAKE REQUEST

All donations of homemade cakes (including fresh cream please) should be delivered to the Churchyard Sat or Sun morning or to the Church anytime on Friday

PYECOMBE CHURCH 100 CLUB

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

MONTH	£10	£20
MARCH	JULIE CARTER	DOT WHITTINGTON
APRIL	JOHN PORTER	PATRICK POLLICOTT-REID
MAY	KAREN LEWIS	LALAGY BENNETT

Wendy Desborough – Promoter - 846150

Wayfield Park Farm Shop

Today I stood in the garden bottle feeding two calves on a warm spring morning surrounded by 5 dogs, 3 cats, 1 goose and a crazy goat all happily milling around together enjoying the weather and the beautiful view's, as much as I was, after a really tough wet winter it's days like this that make you appreciate what a wonderful part of the country we live in.

Our Farm Shop has been open now for 18 months and we are looking forward to our second summer, it's great to have the doors open and to finally switch off the heaters In the corner of the shop is a book case where we have been selling second hand books and donating the money raised to charity , this last year's charity has been Fran's (from the Forge) chosen charity, Macmillan cancer research , this has proven to be very successful but we are now a bit short on books if anybody has any sitting around they would like to donate.

As always our mouth watering selection of cakes, ice cream and produce are as tempting as ever with a few new delicious items on our spring menu. The wonderful thing about this job is tasting all the wonderful produce that is brought in, new staff favourite is Lemon & courgette cake, and toffee & honeycomb ice cream all locally made.

Look forward to seeing you soon and thank you once again for your support.
Liz & Markus



Pyecombe Village Choir

If you enjoy singing the Pyecombe Village Choir is a really lovely friendly group, we meet for an hour most weeks on a Friday at 7pm at Wayfield Park Farm Shop. Just come along and join us or if you prefer to chat first contact anyone of us, there are many from the village and surrounding area or call me on **01273 857013.**

Thank you *Karen*

Potato and Leek Gratin for 2

A luxury version of cauliflower cheese!

An oven proof dish approx 12 x 17 cm. Preheat oven to 220'C

½ lb /225gm leeks, sliced thinly
½ lb /225gm potatoes, sliced thinly
2 ½ oz/75 gm blue cheese
Salt & Pepper
4oz/112 gm Greek Yoghurt
2 ½ tbsp double cream
1oz/25gms breadcrumbs

1. Place vegetables in a large bowl with 3 tbsp water, cover and cook on High Power in the microwave for approx 10-12 minutes till steamed and soft.
2. Chop or crumble the cheese into small pieces, and gradually mix into the yogurt and double cream.
3. Gradually stir in vegetables and season.
4. Place in dish and sprinkle with the breadcrumbs.

Cook for 20 minutes approx (or longer if the dish has been allowed to go cold before cooking) till crispy and brown.

Delicious on its own with crusty bread, or as an accompaniment to fish or meat.

Thank you Lalage for another tasty morsel!

Forthcoming Events Pyecombe Music Festival & Downland Celebration
Friday 2nd – Sunday 4th September

A **Downland Celebration** in Pyecombe Church on Friday 2nd September will mark the opening of this special Festival. A wide variety of live music events will be held at both the Church and Wayfield Park Farm Shop throughout the weekend and amongst the highlights will be a song recital given by **Nara Faye Clapperton (soprano) and Fiona Hunnisett (mezzo-soprano) on Saturday 3rd September at 7.30pm*.**

Further details will be available closer to the date from the church, farm shop and parish notice boards, so watch this space! Proceeds will help to maintain our beautiful church.

**Proceeds from this concert will be shared between Pyecombe Church and the Samaritans.*

Pyecombe Church Flower Festival
Saturday and Sunday 2nd – 3rd July

Once again, Pyecombe Village puts on its ever-popular annual Weekend celebration. Please take note that it is a week earlier this year so as not to coincide with the Wimbledon finals!

The theme of the floral displays this year will be **"Books"** – a great opportunity for people to express their creativity! Please bring your displays to the church on Friday 1st July where Rae Corbett 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. Her number is: 01444 235789

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 Sarah Rushton 07936 509522 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 10.00 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.

And now for something completely different: Karen and Mieke are organising a **dog fancy dress competition**. More details of this will follow, but this is surely has to be a first for Pyecombe!

You will find further details in the programme on the back of this newsletter, but I can't end this little announcement without mentioning **Geoffrey Strong's wonderful paintings** that will be on display in the main marquee. Geoffrey has decided that this year will be his "swan song", the last time he will be showing his pictures at our Weekend.

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

Tim Cullen
Chairman, Pyecombe Village Weekend Committee

Your next village newsletter is due out in September. The deadline for contributions is August 15th. Please email articles you wish to share to vicky.clapperton@homecall.co.uk or drop into letterbox at 1 the Wyshe. News, jokes, recipes, anything you feel would be appreciated or enjoyed by others very welcome!

Vicki Clapperton Ed

Pyecombe Village Weekend 2016 Programme

Saturday 2nd July

Church open 10am-5pm.
Theme : " Books"
11 am Music by the Pyecombe Village Choir

Flower displays in the church
Paintings in Marquee by Geoffrey Strong
Children's floral footwear displays on the path
Hassocks Recorders playing in the church from 11.30
John Walker playing the organ in Church from 2.30 pm
Refreshment and tea tent open all day
Ploughman's lunches from 12 – 2 pm
"Good as New" tent sale;
Raffle and Pick a bottle stall
+ Fancy Dress dog show

Sunday 3rd July

Church open 10am-5pm.
Ploughman's lunches from 12 – 2 pm
Refreshments and stalls until 4pm
Live Music in Church in 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.
No bikes in the churchyard at any time please.

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 1 The Wyshe