

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

OUR NATURAL NEIGHBOURS

The Worm

What strange weather we are having it just seems to rain and rain. Where are the cold bright days that I love so much in winter? My walks are more like slogs through mud, head down, hood up against the weather! I don't see so many of our natural neighbours this way as they are sensible enough not to be out unless they have too! There is already blossom on many trees and flowers are coming out. One creature that does show itself in the wet weather is worms!! Yes you read that right worms! I'm walking looking at my feet, keeping my face out of the rain and there are worms on the path, which made me wonder why, so I thought a bit of research into worms would be interesting…..

Earthworms play an important part in soil construction and recycling of organic waste material. Turning refuse into nutrient rich soil. These nutrients are why garden worms are such a benefit to plant growth. They also cultivate the soil making it porous which allows oxygen to get to the

roots of plants. They do this by tunnelling through the soil eating organic matter and excreting it in what is called castings (or worm poop!) that fertilizes the soil. They move through the soil by the help of the hairs/bristle and skin lubricant that cover their segmented body. They breathe through their skin which must remain moist to take oxygen from the air.

They are a hermaphrodite which means they have both male and female reproductive cells producing both sperm and eggs.

They do however need another worm to reproduce with. They mate on the surface of the earth, pressing their bodies together and exchanging sperm before separating.

Later, the clitellum (a collar-like organ that goes around the worm's body) produces a ring around the worm. As the worm crawls out of the ring, it fills the ring with eggs and sperm. The ring drops off; seals shut at the ends and becomes a cocoon for the developing eggs. Baby worms emerge from the eggs fully formed but without sex organs which they grow in the first two/three months of life. They are full grown in a year and can live for eight years however most only live two or three.

Worms are tough little creatures they are 1,000 times stronger than people and if you accidently cut them in half the fatter pink part will survive! In answer to my question of why I'm seeing them on the path I think it's because they don't like it when the soil is too wet any more than I do!!

Yet another amazing creature we share Pyecombe with.

Kerry

Rectory Ramblings

This is the time of year when I have to write an annual report for each of our churches. Like other charities, we are accountable to those who support us, and have to show what we have been doing in the past year, and how our money has been spent. Writing four reports is not my favourite job, but it has forced me to take a look through the comments in our Pyecombe Visitor's Book, and that has cheered me up considerably.

All those years of hard work and fund raising that went into building our new kitchen and loo really bore fruit last year. Comments like: 'This is so lovely and what a surprise – a credit to all your folk of Pyecombe' and 'Thank you, a wonderful effort by such a small community'; 'Places like this restore my faith in humanity'.

What a lot of visitors have passed through, and so many have stopped to write in the book – people from all over the world; students walking for their Duke of Edinburgh's award – even an official of the National Park, pleased to see their grant money well used.

Stewart was one of our visitors, and he stopped by the Wednesday after Christmas. By chance, we were gathering for our usual Wednesday evening prayers in the Church.

It was raining, and Stewart was planning to sleep in the porch, but first he had a cup of coffee and joined our prayers, and shared something of his story and some poetry he had written. He had been in the refugee camps in Calais, and told us about people he had met there, making our prayers for all who were sleeping rough or fleeing oppression so much more real.

His visit was a real blessing for us, and I hope that the hospitality we were able to offer was also a blessing to him in a small way.

Both the Anglican and the Roman Catholic Church are designating this year the Year of Mercy. When I first heard this, I wondered why - perhaps it is just a church gimmick? But the more I have thought about 'mercy' the more it has come to mean. We use the word a lot in Church, but I had tended to gloss over it. 'Mercy' means compassion or kindness that is undeserved, usually kindness from one who is powerful to one without such power – by a judge when passing sentence, for example. It carries overtones of forgiveness and acceptance.

We believe in a God who is merciful, and loves us despite the fact that we do not deserve it. We hear so much about the abuse of power (not least, and shamefully, by the Church). Mercy is somehow the opposite of abuse – the use of power for the good of the powerless, not for their harm.

Offering hospitality in the form of a hot drink and a loo to passing walkers and strangers is a small act of mercy, and the poem that Stewart read to us that rainy dark December evening was all about God's mercy to those fleeing injustice.

I'm hoping that having been forced to think about mercy might make me more aware of all the little acts of kindness and mercy I come across in everyday life – and more alert to opportunities prepared to show mercy myself.

Caroline

Pew Platter

"Are you going to do it again?" Is a question we have been asked many times since our Heritage Night in the Church, which shows how much people enjoyed it, and can make all the hard work worthwhile.

Will we do it again? MAYBE.

Unfortunately John our organist fell and broke his ankle in November and a big thank you to Stephen Wyman for helping us out at VERY short notice, at our Remembrance
Service, when we were joined by Sussex Chorus.

The Christmas Fayre, which helps to raise funds for the Church, was held on 5th December, and thanks go to the Social Committee for all their hard work.

The Children's "Nativity Dressing Up Event" went very well, and after some refreshments there was even time for a 2nd performance!! Thanks to Jill and Fiona for arranging it all.

At our Carol Service it was standing room only! It was great to welcome so many people into the Church. Pyecombe Choir joined us, and the Mid Sussex Brass Band, who always help to start our Christmas Celebrations.

At our 11:30 pm Christmas Eve Service we welcomed a young man who is already a very talented organist, but had never played for a Christmas Eve midnight service. So it was a special time for him and for us.

Thanks also go to Mum and Dad for bringing him over to us, and also helping to boost our singing that night.

There is a lot to look forward to in the year ahead, and we hope to welcome you to our various events and services in our lovely village church.

Sandra Milner, Churchwarden

Parish Council Jottings

Rita Hemsley

It is with great sadness that the Parish Council received news of the recent sudden death of Rita Hemsley and our thoughts are with her family at this time. Rita, who lived in Ditchling, led a full and active life and assisted us in typing up each copy of our newsletter for many years, and during this time probably knew more about Pyecombe than some of its residents. The Parish Council will be eternally grateful for her contribution towards our newsletter, and will now need to consider how future formats will be addressed, and we shall be discussing this at future Parish Council meetings, where we would welcome any input.

You may have noticed the newly erected street signs throughout the Parish, which have been arranged by the Parish Council in conjunction with MSDC. It is hoped that we have covered all of the damaged or broken signs however if you do notice any that still need replacing please contact the Clerk.

Several meetings have been held with MSDC regarding the refurbishment of the children's play area, although we still have a long way to go we hope that you will take the time to complete the attached questionnaire which will give us a better understanding of your requirements. These can either be left at Wayfield Park Farm Shop or posted to Cllr Wilson at 14 The Wyshe.

We have also managed to secure some partial funding through West Sussex County Council towards the landscaping and replanting of the bank at the top of Church Lane and may well be looking for volunteers to assist with this project, if you would like to help out please contact the Clerk.

Recent Planning applications for our Parish include:

SDNP/15/04137/FUL Land parcel to the East of Church Lane. Erection of 8 residential dwellings (2 affordable) with garages, access, associated landscaping and acoustic fencing. Permission Granted.

SDNP/15/04556/FUL The Cart Shed, Pyecombe Street. Proposed demolition of the existing dilapidated Cart Shed and the erection of a pair of semi-detached cottage style dwellings. Permission granted.

SDNP/16/00143/HOU Nestledown Cottage, 15 Pyecombe Street. Demolition of existing single storey extension and erection of two storey extension in its place. Permission granted.

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.

awn Langston – Clerk and RFO

Parish Council Meeting ~Dates for 2016

Full Council Meeting - Tuesday 22nd March 2016
Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 17th May 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/noticeboards.

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
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Graham Bishop – graham.bishop@pyecombe.org.uk
Tim Cullen – tim.cullen@pyecombe.org.uk

PYECOMBE SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

After much thought, Albert and I have decided to retire from our positions on the Social Club Committee. We have really enjoyed our involvement in all of the twenty five years, but as younger people are joining the Committee we can step down and still enjoy helping, but not organising things.

There was a Committee Meeting on 10th February and Mieka and Sarah have offered their help in printing flyers and posters etc. We will have our usual Easter Egg hunt for the children and grandchildren from Pyecombe on Easter Sunday morning starting at 11:30 in the church yard, if raining inside the church. Our Vicar Caroline will give out the Easter Eggs, and have a short talk about Easter to the children.

There will be a plant sale early in May in the church yard, and we hope to have a Quiz Night and Race night during the year.

Please support our efforts to raise money to keep our lovely church in good condition and enjoy some fun at these social events. The theme for this year's Flower Festival is 'Books' so plenty of titles to choose from.

All best wishes.

Rae and Albert Corbett.

PYECOMBE CHURCH 100 CLUB

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

Month	£10	£20
December	Julie Carter	Betty Eade
January	Michelle Levy	Mary O'Rourke
February	Ken Grocott	Glen Downs

The lucky winner of the £100 December draw was Sandra Milner.
Wendy Desborough – Promoter - 846150

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.

The Church of the Transfiguration (Pyecombe Church)

A very big thank you to the Social Committee for the huge effort they make every year to raise funds for our village church. Without their continued help and that of the local community who attend all the events, the church would be in financial difficulties. This support is critical to the continued existence of Pyecombe Church.

2015 Pyecombe Social Committee fundraising	Profit
Village weekend	1629.16
Christmas fete	1342.01
100 club	1020.00
Plant sale, coffee morning	652.99
	4644.16

2015 Church Income & Expenditure (Draft figs.)	Income	Expenditure	Deficit
Donations, planned giving, church fees	£11,817.48		
Fundraising	**£4,644.16**		
Parish share to Chichester Diocese		£11,271.00	
Clergy costs, utilities, kitchen, maint., heritage, misc.		£5,764.64	
	£16,461.64	£17,035.64	-£574.00

Pyecombe Golf Club National Award

Pyecombe Golf Club exceeds all expectation winning national "Environmental Golf Club of the year" award.

Nestling in the South Downs National Park, the Sussex club now sits alongside the golfing elite.
St Andrews, the home of golf and Royal Birkdale are previous winners at these prestigious awards hosted by the STRI.

Simon Wells, Head Greenkeeper at Pyecombe Golf Club was understandably delighted with the award. He commented "The club has many initiatives in place to aid the surrounding environment including:-

- cutting and bailing the rough once a year
- scarification of the rough which encourages wild flowers and orchids
- providing an ideal environment for insects and birds to breed
- producing Pyecombe honey from the bee hives on the golf course

Simon goes on to say “We also have a Woodland Management programme with bird boxes in place for swifts, Tawny Owls and Barn Owls. Deer and Game birds are also common place around the course.

The club has a ground source heat pump which reduces heating bills by 40% and to date has produced a massive 82,000kg of CO_2 savings. A further recent project saw solar heating panels fitted to the clubhouse.

The criteria for the award focused on four key areas

- Nature Conservation Management
- Turfgrass Management
- Waste Management
- Water Management

*For more information and enquiries please contact Gary Hann at **paul.bowles@pyecombegolfclub.com** or 01273 835868, 07545 263825.*

Pyecombe Book Club

Pyecombe Book Club meets on the first Monday of each month at 7.30 at various houses. January book review was 'The Reluctant Fundamentalist’; we are currently reading 'The Hundred-Year-Old Man who Climbed out of the Window and Disappeared'.

A friendly, fun and enjoyable evening discussing the book and style of the authors. If you are interested in joining us, a male and female group, contact Karen on **01273 857013**

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

Pyecombe Choir Christmas Carol Collection

The Pyecombe choir & the village raised nearly £200 (198.17) during the Christmas carol singing night. The collection was split between the School for Malagiri & the Clock Tower Sanctuary.

Please see following letters of thanks:

From Clock Tower Sanctuary

That is lovely news! Thank you so much for supporting us again - I believe the choir supported us at the recent shop opening in Brighton.

Please pass our thanks to the community for their generous donation. It's your support that means homeless young people can get their lives back on track.

This winter The Clock Tower Sanctuary will support over 1000 visits by homeless young people who will have nowhere to call home. £5 can pay for a homeless young person to have shower, wash their clothes and prepare and eat a hot meal. £20 could provide a young person with new shoes or a shirt and tie to attend a job interview/wear on the first day of a new job. Your donation and support makes this and much more happen.

Exert from Malagiri School letter–

It's really very generous of you and I know that it will make a difference to the continued efforts of the team working with the school in Malagiri, helping them to rebuild after last year's earthquakes.

SUPPER FOR MALAGIRI

Thursday 17 March, 7 pm @ Pangdean Old Barn

Join us for a fun raising event to help villagers in Malagiri, a remote area of Nepal, repair their school and rebuild their homes after the earthquake. Evening includes:

- Rice and dhal supper
- Slides and information about Malagiri
- Music from Pyecombe choir
- Nepalese goods and gifts for sale
- Raffle & Bar

Donations to the 'School for Malagiri' charity can be made during the evening. Profits from the evening will also go towards buying chickens and a buffalo to provide on-going fresh food for the community.

Tickets £12.50, book these with Jill on **01273 566276**, Karen on **01273 857013** or Jean on **01273 970220.**

Forthcoming Events

Pilgrim walk - Pyecombe to Lewes

Join us on a walk along the ancient pilgrim route from Pyecombe to Lewes Priory and hear stories about key places and events on our way. Walk all or part of the 8 mile route.

4th June 2016 starting with coffee at Pyecombe Church at 10am.

More details to follow

Poynings Garden Fete

Poynings Garden Fete will be held on Saturday 18th June, in the Rectory Garden, in aid of Holy Trinity Church, commencing at 2pm, which will include Maypole, music and Pimms, cream teas, cakes, plants and games.



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<u>Chilled Zesty Lemon Dessert for 4 -6</u>

A recipe my mother used to make, and the quintessence of Spring and Easter.

Finely grated zest and juice of one and a half lemons
2 Gelatine Leaves 3 Medium Eggs
150 gms Caster sugar 212 mls whipping cream

1. Put the egg yolks, sugar and grated zest in a bowl and whisk till thick.
2. Heat the lemon juice and add to mixture whisking for 15 mins (approx) till it reaches the "ribbon stage".
3. Soak gelatine in cold water till softened, squeeze out excess and place in a small saucepan with 2-3 dsp of water and heat until hot. Immediately remove from heat and stir until dissolved.
4. Whisk into lemon mixture and leave to cool.
5. Whip the cream softly and fold into cooled mixture and chill in fridge.
6. Just as the mixture begins to thicken, whisk the egg whites until they form peaks and fold gently into the lemon mixture.
7. Pour into the presentation bowl, preferably glass and place in a cool place or fridge to set for several hours, and the mixture develops a lemon "jelly" in the base with a soft creamy fluffy top layer.

For special occasions, crystallise some primrose flowers, or lemon peel, or sprigs of lemon balm to decorate.

This dessert will freeze, but texture is not as good as freshly made, once defrosted.

Thank you Lalage for another tasty morsel!

Your next village Newsletter is due out in June 2016. If you have something you think your fellow Pyecombers and friends will be interested in please feel free to share! The deadline for articles for June will be 15th May. You can email them to vicky.clapperton@homecall.co.uk or put a written piece in my green letter box at no. 1 The Wyshe. Thank you so much to everyone who has sent articles in. The Pyecombe Newsletter is enjoyed by many and it wouldn't be what it is without your contributions.

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter!

Vicki Clapperton Ed.

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Ed. Vicky Clapperton 1 The Wyshe