No. 144 Sept 2016



VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

OUR NATURAL NEIGHBOURS

Whilst sitting on my patio door step at the beginning of the summer, enjoying the feel of the sun, I notice that small bumblebees were going in and out of the bird box on my back wall. After watching for a while I could see lots of activity they obviously had a nest! What a privilege, bees had decided to nest in my bird box. So as you have guessed this time natural neighbours are bumblebees.

Nest sites vary between different bumblebee species. Most of the common species prefer dry, dark cavities so nests can turn up in a variety of unexpected places. Some nest underground in abandoned rodent holes, under sheds and in compost heaps. When nesting above ground this may be in thick grass, or like my visitors, bird boxes. One of the species which nest in bird boxes and lofts is the tree bumble bee, Bombus hypnorum. With this bee you may often see swarms of bee flying around the nest, these are male bees waiting for queens to come out so they can mate. They cannot sting so there is no need to fear them they are just looking for a lady!!.

When searching for a nest, the queen investigates the environment using both sight and smell. When she finds a place she likes she will go in and out of the hole. The low flying zigzag flight of queens searching for nest is seen in spring and is very distinctive. Nests must be in shaded corners they do not like to nest in areas with prolonged exposure to the sun as the heat in the nest gets too much.
Bumblebee nests vary in size depending on species and time of year. A well-established nest may contain 400 bees which is very small in comparison to honey bee nest which has 50,000 bees.

If you find a bumblebee nest, consider yourself very lucky! They aren't very common, and can be difficult to find. It is best to leave it alone and avoid disturbing it. Bumblebees are not generally aggressive however they might get upset if you interfere with their home. Leave them to just get on with their life and do their own thing which is the wonderful job of pollinating plants, wildflowers and your vegetables. Even very large nest produce very little traffic in and out so you won't see threatening numbers of bees at any point during the summer.
Bumblebee nests don't live for long, so nests should die natural within a few months. After that time, the new queens will have flown from the nest to hibernate in the soil elsewhere. The old nest will die in the autumn and all bees will have left or died.

So if you are lucky enough to have a nest BEE!! Thankful you are privileged to be chosen by one of our very special important natural neighbours, and consider that without bees to pollinate our food we would not survive.

Kerry

Rectory Ramblings

Good communication lies at the heart of every relationship or enterprise, whether personal or professional. The fewer the number of people involved, the easier it should be – although we all recognise that even in a relationship between just two people, it can be fatally easy to get things wrong. As I tell couples preparing for marriage, good communication within a marriage does not necessarily come naturally: it often requires hard work.

In a small village like Pyecombe, much of our communication can be face to face. This too should make things easier, though even then it is not always so. We can think that 'everyone knows' something important, only to find that someone has been inadvertently left out of the loop.

The larger the organisation and the more spread it is the more chance people can get missed or things can go wrong. Our church in Pyecombe is a part of a larger unit – the Downland Benefice, together with the churches in Poynings, Edburton (which includes Fulking) and Newtimber.

A large number of the people who come to worship in these churches do not live in the 4 villages, but come from further afield. And then there are the people who come to us for weddings, baptisms and funerals as well as the thousands of visitors every year who come in to look around or to offer a prayer. Many want us to keep in touch and let them know what is going on – about forthcoming events such as our coming Downland celebration or the Village weekend, for example. How do we keep in touch with occasional visitors as well as with each other across the four churches?

One way is through our website. This was set up when I arrived seven years ago with the help of a prisoner in Lewes Gaol. Lots of people do use it to keep informed about coming services – or just to know who to contact. But it does need updating regularly, and also a fresh look from time to time. Other means of communication include newsletters such as this, parish websites, and the innumerable fliers and posters that you can see in our church porches.

However, all this requires work, and we have been fortunate to have received a small grant which will enable us to employ someone on a very part-time basis (perhaps the equivalent of half day a fortnight) to help. Actual hours will be flexible, depending on circumstances. We would really like to find someone who has an active interest in the churches and the villages we cover – though they need not be a church-goer. They will need enthusiasm and the ability to work both independently and accountably, as well as having good computer skills.

This will be a paid position, so there will be a deadline for applications and a selection process, but if you might be interested, do have a word to me, or drop me an e-mail (c.currer@btinternet.com)

This is an exciting development, but it is no good communicating well with those who have a link with the church and even with each other if we do not keep that other channel of important communication open – communication with God. That is something that lies at the very centre of what we do. Communication with God is no different to communication in any other relationship – it takes time and practice, and can sometimes be hard work. Our regular services week by week are the times when we work at it, backed up by personal prayer. You are always welcome to join us.

Caroline

Pew Platter

How very changeable our weather has been this summer. But whatever the weather, we are still able to welcome many visitors to the church, and from comments they leave, it is not just the chance of a drink, or to use the toilet. Many comment on the feeling of welcome and calm they find within the church building.

The Plant Sale went well, thanks to many days and weeks of tending and watering all the plants, it certainly gave us a wonderful choice on the day. Well done to you all.

The Flower Festival weekend, again as always filled the church with a riot of colour and interest, plus the refreshments and stalls and the fancy dress dog competition! It made for the village as well as our many visitors, a most enjoyable weekend. A very big thank you to all who worked so hard, before, during and after this special event.

By the time you read this "The First Pyecombe, Music and Arts Festival" will be over. Do hope you came to some of the many events over that weekend. Many thanks go to Jane, Tim and the Village Choir who came up with the wonderful idea of this special new occasion for our village.

Here are some more dates for your diary:

Sunday 9th October 6:00pm - The Village Choir will be joining us for Harvest Festival. All donated food is given to our two local hospices and 'we ask you the village to donate' and help support both hospices.

Donations can be left anytime in the Church or at Wayfield Park Farm Shop.

Sunday 13th November 6:00 pm - Our village Remembrance Service with Sussex Chorus. When we think of those from Pyecombe who gave their lives in both wars.

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 - The Christmas Day service will be at Poynings Church.

Sandra Milner, Churchwarden

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 may have noted that the bank at the top of Church Lane has once again been cleared by West Sussex County Council and their team of volunteers who assisted by our Chairman, David Wilson also recut the steps at the side of the bank. Council will now be looking to carry out some partial landscaping of this area whilst still retaining the rural feel of the area.

We will require be looking for volunteers to assist with this project, so if you would like to get involved please contact the Clerk.

Along with several other local parishes Council members recently attended a Neighbourhood Planning event held by Mid Sussex District Council in conjunction with SDNP. The event which proved very informative highlighted the different aspects of a Neighbourhood Plan and the benefits or drawbacks to these documents.

Recent Planning applications for our Parish include:

SDNP/16/04434/CND Chantry Farm, Pyecombe Street, Pyecombe. Variation of planning condition 2 relating to Application SDNP/13/02492/FUL. Condition Removal. See Planning Statement. The condition should be varied to state:"Camping shall only take place in the areas marked on the plan entitled 'Location Plan".

Application SDNP/13/02492/FUL grants consent for a low impact and environmentally sustainable campsite use at Chantry Farm.

Condition 2 of this consent requires camping "to take place in the areas marked on the location plan, between 1st March and 30th October for each calendar year." This application looks to vary that condition by removing the season requirements and allowing year round use of the campsite.

SDNP/16/04141/FUL Telecommunications Mast at Pyecombe Reservoir, The Wyshe, Pyecombe .Replacement monopole, replacement antennas, one replacement and one additional small cabinet. Pending consideration.

SDNP/16/02797/FUL Ridgemont, School Lane, Pyecombe. BN45 7FQ. Erection of a new dwelling and associated new garage including new garage to Ridgemont. Approved.

SDNP/16/02562/FUL 1 and 2 Pyecombe Street, Pyecombe, Brighton, BN45 7EB. Two storey side extensions either side of 1 and 2 Pyecombe Street. Council resolved it had no objections to the application. Approved.

SDNP/16/02667/HOUS 1 School Lane, Pyecombe. Extending patio by 1 metre and square off curved part of patio. Pending Consideration.

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 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

PYECOMBE SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

Our village weekend back in July was a hugely successful event. The church was full with wonderful flower displays created by our villagers, the sun was shining, and lots of people attended and ate our Ploughman's and cakes! We raised just over £2.600 for church funds, so a big thank you to everyone who attended.

By the time you are reading this, our first ever Pyecombe Music Festival has just taken place, and hopefully will have been as successful as our village weekend. More of that in our next newsletter.

The social committee wants to welcome all the new Pyecombe residents who have moved in this year. We are always looking for people to join our committee, or attend our meetings, as new ideas (and helpers) are vital for all our events and fundraising.

Book club
We would like everyone to be aware that the village has a book club. The book club has been going for 2 years now and we meet once a month and take it in turn to host the evening at our homes. Currently we have 2 male and 9 female members. Our meetings are lively and always interesting, so come along and try us out.

Choir
The Pyecombe choir rehearses weekly and they would love to hear you sing! All that's needed to join is a voice and enthusiasm! Led by Jane Cullen, it's a lot of fun and a great way to get to know your fellow neighbours.

Pyecombe Website and Facebook page
We are in the middle of having a new Pyecombe website constructed, which should be up and running soon. However, in the meantime check our Facebook page for village news or forthcoming events. Anyone can post on the site, so if you are looking for a gardener, or have something to advertise, do try www.facebook.com/groups/pyecombevillage

Our next social event is the Quiz Night in October, date to be confirmed.

The Pyecombe Christmas Fair will this year take place on December 3rd in Hurstpierpoint Village hall. Details to follow closer to the date.

We really hope you want to get involved in village life, which is what makes Pyecombe such a wonderful and friendly place to live!

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

The Pyecombe Village Weekend July 2nd – 3rd

Our village enjoyed another splendid Weekend. The theme for the flower displays was Book Titles - a great idea which produced a church full of wonderful and creative displays. Comments like "I've never seen it looking better" were commonplace.

Thank you to all those who helped with the teas, cakes and to Nicky Currie for the excellent ploughman's lunches.

The main marquee was decorated this year and we were very fortunate to have Geoffrey Strong's lovely pictures on display and for sale. Sadly, he has finally decided to hang up his brushes so thank you Geoffrey for the pleasure you have given to so many people.

We had some new stalls including games for children and, most original of all, a Fancy Dress Dog Show! No, I'd never come across such a thing either but, run by Karen Lewis and Mieke Thomas, it proved a big success and one to be repeated next year, I think. The winning pooch was Val Bishop's who, needless to say, was dressed as a bishop complete with mitre and crozier.

The Pyecombe Village Choir opened the proceedings and we were glad to have the Hassocks recorders back again after a few years' absence. John Walker provided organ music and played for the uplifting Songs of Praise on the Sunday evening. The refreshments afterwards were provided by Liz Saich at our excellent farm shop.

Finally, financially, it was one of our most successful years to date, helped no doubt by the excellent weather on Sunday. However, I can't finish without thanking our faithful and generous sponsors who give such vital support.

Tim Cullen

PYECOMBE CHURCH 100 CLUB

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

MONTH	£10	£20
JUNE	JULIE SCHOLES	JACKIE HERON
JULY	ANNE BILLING	LALAGE BENNETT
AUGUST	PETER WRIGHT	FRAN PLAYFORD

IN JULY THE £100 WAS WON BY ALF MILNER

Volunteering opportunity

As you probably know Terry and I are moving out of Pyecombe after 34 very happy years so a new promoter for the 100 Club is urgently sought.

It is a lovely job, not to onerous and you get to meet some Pyecombe residents during the August renewal time. Other months only approx half an hour is needed to maintain the club business.

Please, please, please would someone volunteer for this worthwhile fund raising scheme to help maintain our beautiful Church.

Wendy Desborough – Promoter – 01273 846150

Pyecombe Speed Limits

Old London Road
Church Lane
Church Hill
School Lane
The Wyshe

On these roads and lanes we have speed limits, blind gateways etc. etc. Please be careful. Curds Corner is not a speed track and Basil, like Barry Sheen has many pins in his body. He is not as fast as he used to be. Please give him and others time to cross.
JC. – **Slow Down**

Plum Clafouti

A lovely summer dessert my Mum used to make, though a traditional French pudding.

It is equally delicious made with apples, cherries, pears or prunes soaked in Armagnac for 3 hours.

Dish: An ovenproof/ceramic dessert dish (with sides approx 4cm high)

Oven: Preheated to 190 degrees/375F

5 ripe red plums	6 Eggs
100 gms/4 oz Caster sugar	75g/3oz plain flour
600 mls/1pint milk	1 tbsp. Vanilla extract

1. Halve and de-stone plums and place upside down in dish
2. Put all other ingredients into a food processor and blend until smooth.
3. Pour mixture over the plums and bake for 45 minutes or until golden and lightly set.

Dust with icing sugar and serve warm or at room temperature.

Thank you Lalage for another tasty morsel!

We urgently require Volunteers to assist with the delivery of the Newsletter. It is not a huge task and only requires a small amount of your time four times a year!

If you think you can help out please contact Vicky Clapperton on email address Vicky.clapperton@homecall.co.uk

Your next village Newsletter is due out in December 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 December will be 15th November.

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.

Vicki 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 1 The Wyshe