No. 156 Autumn Issue September 2019



VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Rector Ramblings

Desmond Tutu would say that he was confused about which Bible people were reading when they said that religion and politics do not mix, so I feel in good company. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus is recorded to have said 'And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.' He is reported to have said that in response to people accusing him of acting in the name of the devil - but the sentiment speaks into our current political crisis, perhaps. We are certainly living through interesting times with, in my view, a frightening rise in populism and the scapegoating and vilification of individuals and groups.

That may seem a bit irrelevant in our beautiful Downland setting but my day-job with YMCA keeps me firmly grounded in the reality of a world where young people in increasing numbers are facing daily hardship that is causing a startling rise in social isolation, low self-esteem, poor mental wellbeing, homelessness and vulnerability to crime. I am told by people I trust that they feel less safe on our streets than they have done for years and press reports of unprovoked attacks appear to support this. Personally, I think our current first-past-the-post party politics exacerbates the problem as our politicians line up behind whatever they perceive popular public opinion to support, rather than working together to solve the social ills of our time. It appears also to cause all but a few brave souls to vote as they are told rather than as they believe because in the end self-preservation becomes their priority. Nonetheless, as we enter another general election, I will be praying that women and men of integrity will be elected, who will prioritise the needs of the poor, the oppressed and the marginalised because I believe that Jesus made it abundantly clear that that is the priority of the Kingdom of God.

As to how I'll vote… well I'd be happy to discuss that over coffee after church one Sunday soon!

Meanwhile, on a more local note, you may be interested to know that in order to make our administration easier, the four parishes that make up the Downland Benefice of Poynings with Edburton, Newtimber and Pyecombe are considering becoming a single ecclesiastical parish. This will have no impact on our pattern of services or on the activities associated with the individual churches but it will encourage us to work together even more effectively than we already do. It's a bit like Brexit in reverse!

With every blessing.

Revd Tim Harford
Rector of the Downland Churches.

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.

Pew Platter

How lovely the Church looked for our Annual Village Flower Festival. As always the displays, done by you the village, were very varied and colourful.

We also had stalls and lovely refreshments, as well as music all over the weekend, which culminated with Songs of Praise on the Sunday evening. Thank you to everyone, who worked so hard, before, during and after the event.

By the time you read this we will also have had a Music Festival, arranged by Jane Cullen and our Village Choir. Do hope you managed to attend one of the performances.

Here are some dates for your diary:

Sunday 13th October Harvest Festival at 6:00 pm

All donations are given to our two local hospices. St. Peter & St. James and The Martletts.

Sunday 10th November Remembrance Service at 6:00 pm
When we think of all the villagers who gave their lives.

Sunday 8th December Carol Service at 6:00 pm with Mid Sussex Brass Brand.

The Church Team.

THE PYECOMBE FAYRE AND FLOWER FESTIVAL
6th – 7th JULY

The newly named Pyecombe Fayre and Flower Festival (formerly known as the Village Weekend) was another great success. The weather was on our side, Saturday being the best of the days.

The theme for the flower displays in the church was "Love is…" which allowed plenty of scope for a wide range of displays. The church looked fabulous, and it was very pleasing to see so many displays this year, including hanging baskets. We had some lovely feedback from visitors as far afield as Angmering. Thanks are due to all of you who submitted displays; it really is a unique floral exhibition. Please keep them coming next year!

The Ploughman's lunches, again generously supplied by Nicky Currie, were as popular as ever and the licensed bar was kept busy, especially on Saturday, the warmer of the two days. Teas, coffees and homemade cakes were on sale throughout and thanks must be given to those who baked them and all the volunteers who served them.

The raffle was organised differently this year; tickets were sold beforehand and a £100 cash prize was offered as the first prize to the lucky winner. This proved most successful, drawing a lot more interest than in previous years.

The Fancy Dress Dog Competition was held again for the fourth year and judging from the interest shown, I think we can assume this will feature regularly. The winning dog came as a fairy, closely followed by Bat Dog and Bobby K9! Barely a whisker separated them! Thank you to their imaginative owners who kept tails wagging. The same must be said about the Scarecrow Competition which drew some brilliant creations that populated the village for the days surrounding the festival. A joint effort by Jean, Phil, Paul and Lizzie took the first prize and featured the Straw Man from the Wizard of Oz, last seen heading up the yellow brick road to Wolstonbury Hill…

The marquees in front of the church looked great, especially with the various arts and crafts stalls - David Curtis' wonderful photographs, Debbie Alexander's boutique selection of beautiful scarves and shawls, and a mini plant sale provided by Suzanne Graves. And of course, no Pyecombe Fayre would be complete without Joyce and her amazing team's lucrative Good as New sale.

Financially, Anne our treasurer was pleased to report another successful year and, despite a lower footfall than last year (due probably to last year's heat wave), we were only £70 down on 2018.

Huge thanks must go to our sponsors, whom I have listed below, as well as the Committee members who work so hard to organise this two day event, and to all the volunteers and who turn up on the days to make it possible.
We are always looking for new committee members and new ideas, so if you would like to get involved, please give me a call.

Next year we celebrate the 850th anniversary of the founding of Pyecombe Church, so we need to come up with some special ideas – as well as flower displays! – In order to commemorate this amazing landmark. The dates for the Pyecombe Fayre and Flower Festival 2020 will probably be 4th and 5th July.

Tim Cullen PFFF Co-ordinator
Contact: 07870 360551

Thanks to our Sponsors 2019:

Shahram Moallemi Accountancy

Pyecombe Golf Club

Wayfield Park Farm Shop

The Plough

Marks and Spencer's BP Garage

Rushfields

South Downs Nurseries

Hassocks Eye Care Centre

The Three Greys

Mid Sussex Riding Group for the Disabled

Our group will celebrate its 50th Anniversary in 2019. At the time the group was formed children with autism and similar disabilities came to ride from special needs schools in Brighton, with valuable support being provided by the mounted section of Brighton Police. Unfortunately this section was disbanded many years ago. In spite of this the group has grown in strength and numbers and now helps up to 28 disabled people who enjoy riding each week during the school terms at the Chestnuts Riding School, Pyecombe.

There are several categories of people that RDA helps. On Tuesdays we ride mentally and physically disabled adults. We have a blind rider and another who has suffered a horrendous motoring accident. Multiple sclerosis, epilepsy and strokes are amongst some of their other problems. On Thursdays we ride children with severe learning difficulties and emotional problems from two Brighton and one Burgess Hill special needs schools.

The ages of the riders have ranged from 7 to 70 years. They all enjoy the activity and benefit from it in so many ways. They are assisted by dedicated volunteer instructors and helpers who give so much of their time and effort to the cause. We run a very happy group who are committed to enriching the lives of those who are less fortunate.

We hold several fund raising events during the year as it costs in excess of £12k per anum to run our group. We are always pleased to welcome new helpers. Even if you are unfamiliar with horses, it is still very worthwhile simply to walk alongside a rider ensuring their safety and enjoyment. Please come and visit to see the group in action. If you feel you would like to help either practically or financially please contact our Secretary, Mrs P Cooke on 01403 891619 or mobile 07833514914.

Parish Council Jottings

I am sure that residents will be as frustrated as Council by the on-going issue with the unwanted vehicles and caravans parked along the London Road. Rest assured this item is being dealt with on a daily basis! To clarify this is where we are currently at:

- Vehicles with no MOT/SORN were reported to both Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) and the police on numerous occasions. Eventually MSDC served them with a removal notice. However, if as a vehicle owner you call MSDC and confirm you will remove your vehicle, without saying when, where or how, they close the case down! So back to square one we went and started the reporting procedure again.
- Caravans were also reported to both MSDC and West Sussex County Council (WSCC) who finally placed 24 hour notices on the caravans on 21st August and put a request through to the Police to authorise removal, which they did. When the WSCC recovery company arrived to collect them they towed away the dumped van but would not remove the others from the highway as people were living in them.
- These vans have continued to be reported to both WSCC and MSDC Environmental and they are dealing with the request.

My hope is that by the time this newsletter goes to print we will have seen all of the vehicles removed however according to the law of the land in order to comply with the order they do only need to move any vehicle which could result in them literally moving ten foot along the same road and then parking up again!

We are obviously keen to avoid this and are working closely with both our WSCC Highways Officer and County Councillor on this matter and are happy to update any resident via email.

Work has now have commenced on the upgrade to the SDNP crossing at Clayton Hill which it is hoped will go some way to making the crossing safer for pedestrians and road users.

It is also hoped that working in conjunction with our WSCC Councillor Joy Dennis we will be able to report on proposed enhancements to the cycle routes between Pyecombe and Hassocks along this stretch of road, watch this space for updates.

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 Clerk & RFO

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

Parish Council Meeting ~ Dates for 2019

12th November 2019

A "Thank You" from Pyecombe Music Festival 2019!

Our 3rd Music Festival, 30th August – 1st September, has been a huge success and we are delighted to announce that it has raised an astonishing £900 for Pyecombe Church! Our ticket prices at just £6 each, or £15 for those attending all 3 concerts, were deliberately low to encourage people to come and enjoy our highly talented and mostly local performers. It was wonderful to see a full church for our opening concert and all the concerts were well attended. Audience feedback has been fabulous and Pyecombe Village Choir really raised the roof in the final concert! We had a ball! Congratulations to all who took part.

Alongside the Festival we had the first ever Pyecombe Opera Project with young singers, aged 16-25, rehearsing and performing Purcell's *Dido & Aeneas*. This was an absolute delight. The weather was beautiful and enabled some of the staging rehearsals to take place in the churchyard, encouraging people from the village and passers-by to stop and take a look. It was great to welcome walkers to the church as well and see people sitting in the pews with a coffee absolutely enthralled by the beautiful singing. This was just what we hoped for and I'm sure it encouraged our young performers, including Pyecombe's own Nara Clapperton in the lead role, to give of their best. The open dress rehearsal at Poynings, complete with string accompaniment and Nick Andrews on continuo, was terrific and received a standing ovation. (I am very happy to report that the main evening performance in central Brighton at the Unitarian Church was also wonderful and the church was packed.)

Thank you to everyone who helped with this year's Festival, especially Jill Munday and Karen Lewis who organised refreshments (with some delicious cakes from Sheena!) and welcomed everyone on the door. Jools created the most beautiful flower displays in the church, reflecting the Four Seasons theme of the Pyecombe Village Choir concert, and quietly, behind the scenes, Sandra made sure the church was always pristine at the start of each day whilst Joyce worked her way through all the washing up. What a great team!

We hope to put on further concerts during the year under the Music Festival umbrella so do watch out for these and please let me know if you would like to get involved in future Festivals. A few months ago I did wonder if people wanted the Music Festival to continue, but when I raised this in my closing words at the Sunday concert the audience gave me a resounding YES!!!

Jane Cullen

Pyecombe Golf Club.

Pyecombe Golf Club is celebrating its 125th year anniversary this year. The club was officially formed on 4th October 1894 and is still 'going strong'. To mark this anniversary we have commissioned a bespoke oak cabinet for the clubhouse. This will be filled with items of interest throughout the years.

We would love to hear from any Pyecombe residents that may have anything of historic note relating to the Golf Club. This could include artefacts, photographs or newspaper articles. We are particularly keen to learn more about the club during the 'war years' when Canadian troops were stationed here and used part of the course as a firing range.

If you have anything that may be of interest then please contact Paul at paul.bowles@pyecombegolfclub.com.

Many thanks.

Paul.

Club 100 Results

Month	*Name*	*Number*	*Amount*
May 2019	*Wendy Desborough*	*35*	*£10.00*
May 2019	*Paul Watts*	*159*	*£20.00*
June 2019	*Patrick Pollicott-Reid*	*89*	*£10.00*
June 2019	*Bridget Harwood*	*71*	*£20.00*
July 2019	*J. Arnott*	*105*	*£10.00*
July 2019	*Marian Jamison*	*103*	*£20.00*
July 2019	*Michael Levy*	*7*	*£100.00*
August 2019	*Bridget Harwood*	*67*	*£10.00*
August 2019	*Ian Currie*	*22*	*£20.00*

Our thanks to Jean Wilkins Club Organiser.

Recycle the facts:

The West Sussex Waste Partnership recently carried out a study which showed that 22,000 tonnes a year, or just over 14 per cent of the general rubbish collected from homes in the county, could have been recycled.

The study found the common items that could have been recycled but were being missed were:

- Plastic pots, tubs, and trays (including black plastic)
- Card (corrugated and non-corrugated)
- Newspapers, magazines and other recyclable paper
- Glass bottles and jars

Here's a list of some items that you can recycle after a takeaway meal:

You CAN recycle

- plastic and foil (takeaway containers) including the lids– these items can be recycled as long as they're cleaned of any leftover food and then left to dry
- drinks cans (fizzy drinks, beer) – cans can be recycled as long as they have been emptied

- glass and plastic bottles (fizzy drinks, wine, squash) – bottles made of plastic and glass can be recycled as long as they are empty and clean. Remember to remove the plastic bottle tops and pop this in your rubbish bin or alternatively, some local charities collect them
- metal bottle tops (metal caps on wine bottles, foil wrap on drinks bottles) – remove metal bottle tops and put them with your recycling. The magnets at the materials recycling facility will pick these up and sort them for recycling

You CANNOT recycle

- small plastic bottle tops (lids on fizzy and squash bottles) – these are too small to be sorted by the machinery at the materials recycling facility and could get caught in the machinery and cause it to stop working
- plastic cutlery (plastic knives, forks and spoons) – disposable plastic cutlery is too small to be sorted and cannot be recycled

Remembering to rinse off any food from the containers is important. Items that have leftover food or drink on them can ruin the quality of other recycling in your recycling bin. This can then spoil the rest of the other recycling in the recycling lorries and at the MRF. Items that are covered with leftover food and drink cannot be recycled.

Help For Hedgehogs

Hurst Hedgehog Haven was set up in 2017 to encourage the lovely folks of Hurstpierpoint and beyond to become a little more hedgehog friendly, we have a busy face book page and web site. We offer advice, give talks, hold information events as well as our Burgess Hill A & E for poorly hogs. Not sure if you have hedgehogs in your garden? They are solitary mammals that just get on with their night time lives often not seen by us, the main tell tale signs are their little black poo 2 to 3 cm long, you may also hear them snuffling looking for food.

How do I get a hedgehog on my garden? In order to get hogs in your garden they need to be able to get there and have a reason to want to come. So firstly you need to make a hole in or under your fence, around 13 cm square, get your neighbours to do the same, they can travel a long way

so will need access 8 to 12 gardens. Their natural food lives under logs and plants so keeping a part of your garden as a wildlife area would be good, the
perfect excuse to be a bit untidy!



If you do nothing else please put down a shallow bowl of water this will help all manner of wildlife. Should I feed my hedgehogs? You can feed hogs, making a feeding station is a good way of doing this, they like to eat meat based cat biscuits, please DO NOT feed meal worms, peanuts, bird food, bread or milk as these can be harmful to them. But making a bug hotel and a wildlife area is better so they can find their own food.

Do hedgehogs sunbathe? Hogs do not sunbathe! If they are out in the day this is a sign that they are unwell and you need to get help ASAP, watch for a while if they are still there in 10 or so minutes, wearing gloves put the hedgehog in a box with some news paper in a quiet place, put some water in a shallow bowl and call for help, do not wait and see. There is one exception for a hog being out in the day that is if they are a busy mum getting food and bedding for their babies, they will look like they are on a mission and should not be disturbed.

For lots of help and advice go to our web site and face book page
www.hursthedgehoghaven.co.uk

FB Hurst Hedgehog Haven.
Ann Winney

Pyecombe Social Committee

This has been a busy summer and we look forward to an exciting autumn. The Pyecombe Village weekend and Flower Festival was a great success and enjoyed by many local Pyecombers and visitors.

A feedback survey to gauge how well the current programme of activities offered by the Pyecombe Social Committee (PSC) also served to promote what we do.

In the survey we asked respondents if the events currently on offer reflected activities of interest, what could change, and how neighbours and friends might wish to participate in future. The survey closed late August with 36 people returning their completed surveys.

The purpose of the Pyecombe Social Committee is to:

- Encourage shared social activities within the village and create events that bring together the community.
- To raise funds to support events and the church (fabric and running costs).
- To support individuals in various ways at the discretion of the committee either through financial or practical assistance (e.g. taxis, hospital car parking etc.).
- To make a relevant gesture to villagers and or their family where a significant life event (e.g. birth, death, serious illness)

has occurred and that is made known to the social committee.
- Provide funds in support of maintaining the quality of the environment (e.g. flowers in the planter at bottom of Church Hill).

Respondents indicated strong support for what we do and our purpose. Further, feedback provided some helpful items for the Committee to consider including how we can communicate fund raising events more effectively and how we might invigorate our programme of activities with fresh ideas. A more detailed analysis by the Committee will result in a programme of actions that will be reported later in the year.

We are delighted to have won a Mid Sussex District Council small grant of £250 to celebrate Silver Sunday. Our celebration includes a trip to Sussex Prairie Gardens on Thursday 3rd October. A Community Bus will pick up those who would like to come at 10.30 from the Triangle at Pyecombe and leave the gardens at 14.00. Anyone interested in coming should contact Julie Scholes – **Julie.scholes@yahoo.com** or 07730 165144.

The year 2020 heralds Pyecombe Church's 850th year. A programme of celebrations is being planned, with the aim of holding an event in each season. The range of activities will include a poster competition, a photographic competition, community group walks, a series of talks on local history, as well as music, dance and food. If you are interested in organising an event or joining the organisation committee please contact Julie. Organisation of our 850 Celebrations ensures representation from the Pyecombe, Parish Council, Pyecombe Parochial Council, the Pyecombe Choir as well as the PSC. The 850 Committee are also collaborating closely with our neighbours in Poynings who are celebrating the 650th year of their

church. The launch of our photographic and poster competition will be in late September.

Our next event will be our Winter Fayre at Adastra Hall, Hassocks on Saturday 23rd November. The Fayre will open at 11.00 and close at 15.00. Those interested in hiring a table please contact **Julie.scholes@yahoo.com**. Otherwise, please come to a great community event and ward off the winter blues with some early Christmas cheer.

The Committee is always pleased to welcome new members. However, we also welcome equally, those who would wish to help out at out at a single event. If you are interested in participating or would like support from the Committee, please contact Julie.

Hidden Towns and Villages in Sussex:

We hope you enjoyed the quiz in the June edition of the newsletter. As promised here are the answers below:

1	A quiet refuge	Peacehaven
2	Arsenal 1 Chelsea 2	Winchelsea
3	A shallow river crossing	Ford
4	A decaying parson	Rottingdean
5	This falling ice is false	Hailsham
6	How to support collapsing buildings	Shoreham
7	A portable crucifix	Cross-in-hand
8	A nasty habit of bulls	Goring
9	A drastic remedy for boils	Lancing
10	Creepy .....?	Crawley
11	A lawn for game	Partridge Green
12	Part of a fish and a Spanish gentleman	Findon
13	A grain	Rye
14	Chews the cud and a sheep enclosure	Cowfold
15	Found in a church	Fontwell/ Hassocks
16	A large scale fight	Battle
17	What a smokey lamp needs	Newick

18	A replete monarch	Fulking
19	Wide and wet	Braodwater
20	Done to roads before the stones go down	Tarring
21	A crossing for chefs	Cooksbridge
22	An equestrian measure	Handcross
23	Mud and heavy weight	Clayton
24	Dried grass and what a bee does	Hastings
25	Trees in a line	Forest Row
26	Good value	Worth
27	Bob's card game	Robertsbridge
28	A compass point and part of a candle	Southwick
29	What one does with sails	Furle
30	Crossing the river at Shoreham	Three Bridges
31	Fido will do this to a bone	Bury
32	A female horses home	Maresfield
33	A container and a shady walk	Boxgrove
34	What you do after a good performance	Clapham
35	Where free range chickens roam	Henfield
36	A freshly cut down tree	New Timber
37	How to propel a punt	Poling
38	A fruit is ready to pick	Ripe
39	A dazzling century	Brighton
40	Where to cross salty water	Seaford

Article by a Pyecombe Regular!

When I worked on a farm as estate carpenter I was encouraged to take on an allotment. When I finally grew some vegetables I was told to enter them in a show. I was warned that the Grinstead family always won. So I wrote this poem;

The Bignall Flower Show

"Look out" they cried at Bignall when Grinstead entered the tent,
There was always panic at the show,
Whenever Grinstead went cos he had massive onions, carrots and beans as well,
As soon as the seeds were in the ground they seemed to swell and swell,
No one could ever better him no matter how they tried,
If someone said mines bigger than his we knew damned well they'd lied,
His winning streak went on for years at every flower show,
People would say don't bother mate it's not worth having a go,
Cos Grinstead's here he'll win I bet, there's not a single flower show he hasn't won at yet,
Some gardeners got together and hatched a cunning plot,
To rid themselves of Grinstead and his onions and shallots,
They got into his shed one night when no one was about and found his biggest onion and smartly stole it out,
They carefully removed the core it was skilful there's no doubt and filled it up with T.N.T,
With a fuse just sticking out,
On Saturday when the show was on and the judges gathered round they lit the fuse on the onion that no one else had found, the explosion wrecked the flower tent and laid the judges on their backs,
Grinstead stood there looking glum in his shirt and tattered slacks,
When the dust had settled then the judges in a gang gave him a "highly commended" for starting the show with a bang!

John Hilton

Photographic Competition 2020

Whilst various events are currently being planned to celebrate the 850th anniversary of our 12th century Norman church next year, one of these events is now officially being launched.

A photographic competition to celebrate **Pyecombe Today.**

Photographs will need to be all things associated with Pyecombe, which covers a large rural area, including farmland, riding stables and the golf course. All surrounding the village all situated entirely within the South Downs National Park. By launching now, they can relate to architecture, environment, flora and fauna throughout the four seasons.

Depending upon the number of submissions there may be a short listing panel to select a final number for display and to be judged at the Pyecombe Fayre weekend in July next year.

Once judged the 12 winning photographs will be compiled into a calendar for 2021.

- Individuals can submit up to 4 photographs per person
- Each submission must be printed

Further details regarding where to submit your photographs will be made available in the next newsletter.

In the meantime – click away!

David Wilson



The next newsletter is due out in December. 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 December issue please send articles in anytime from now until November 15th. You can email them to 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)

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. *Dawn Langston*