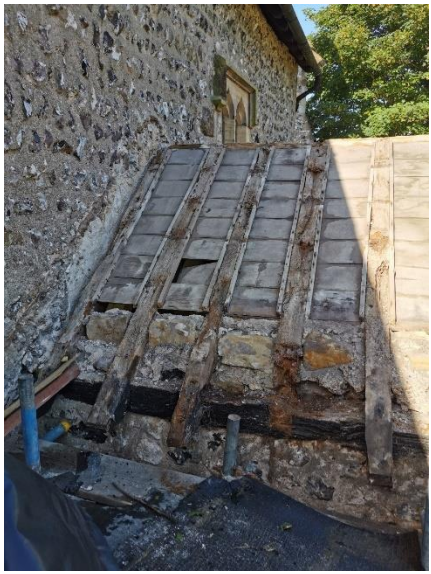
No. 160 Autumn 2020

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Rector's ramblings.

You will have seen the building work taking place on the church over the past few weeks. The vestry and porch roofs had deteriorated over the years and were letting in water.
Once the Horsham stone tiles were removed, the extent of the deterioration became apparent. Much of the underlying timber had rotted and needed to be replaced, while preserving as much as possible of the original materials as they have historic significance.



In our 850th anniversary year, it is a fitting that we have enhanced the building for generations to come, even though we have not been able to celebrate in the ways we had hoped. We have had to borrow £10,000 in order to complete the work. If you would like to make a contribution to help offset the costs, it would be most welcome.

Jean Wilkins has stepped down, after several years of running the Pyecombe 100 Club. For a small annual fee members names are entered in a monthly draw and they may be one of 3 winners and receive a cash prize. We need someone to promote the 100 Club within the community and to give the winners their good news. The draw has usually been carried out once a month after church. Is this something that you would like to take on for the village? Please get in touch!

Anne Finney has been our Church Treasurer for the past six years, and has made an excellent job of it. She too is looking to take a rest from the role. Are you good with figures and have an eye for detail? It would be great to hear from you if this is something that you might consider taking on for us. Anne would be happy to talk with you about what the role entails.

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place in church at 6.30pm on Wednesday 7th October. This is a public meeting and you will be very welcome to attend.

Our church services have continued throughout lockdown, via Zoom. Recently we been holding services at 10.30 a.m. each Sunday in Holy Trinity, Poynings. I have been able to run an Ethernet cable from my router in The Rectory to the church so that we can still connect with the congregation at home. With the use of a projector and screen, those in church and those at home can see one another and join in the service together. It has been a bit experimental but we are getting to grips with it now. If you would like to join us – physically or electronically – you will be most welcome.

At Pyecombe, we hope shortly to recommence our 6.00 p.m. Wednesday prayer meeting and our evening service on the second Sunday of the month – both suitably socially distanced. Please join us, if you are able to do so.

With every blessing in these troubled times.
Revd Tim Harford, The Rector

Pew Platter

The 850th year of the Church at Pyecombe has been marked this year by having the much-needed work to the vestry and porch roofs completed. It is something that had to be done so we can pass this ancient building onto future generations.

By the time you read this we will be back holding our Wednesday evening prayer meetings socially distancing… OF COURSE!! And we will hold a shortened evening service on the 2nd Sunday of the month (no singing aloud) again socially distancing, but it will be good to see our fellow church members in person.

We will also be putting the jig-saws out again, so if you are fed up with the ones you have come and swap them. Due to the time of year and damp weather these will be in the church opposite the door.

Anti-bacterial gel is also just inside the door!

The Church Team.

Parish Council Jottings

One item which has recently been highlighted is the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme to boost local broadband speeds. This excellent scheme incentivises whole communities to level up with the rest of the country and access superfast broadband speeds. Eligible rural premises can claim up to £4,000 each towards the cost of installation for gigabit-capable broadband when part of a group of premises. I am sure that many residents and small and medium businesses in the villages will be able to benefit. It is hoped applications will be encouraged by highlighting the scheme.

For more information and to check eligibility see: https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/ or contact broadband@westsussex.gov.uk for more information, help and assistance from West Sussex County Council.

Another scheme which may be of interest to residents is Solar Together Sussex which is supported by councils across Sussex, including West Sussex County Council. It is a group buying scheme that will save you money on installing solar panels at home.

By generating electricity from the sun, you could reduce your annual carbon emissions by approximately one tonne each year and help West Sussex to become carbon neutral.

Registration is free and there's no obligation to go ahead once you receive your personal recommendation. If you're interested in taking part here's what to do next:

1) Free registration – You can register for the scheme before 6th October 2020. You'll need to provide details of your roof, like its size and position. The more people that register, the better the deal for each household. Registration doesn't commit you to anything.

2) Auction – An 'auction' will be held on 6 October when our pre-vetted solar installers will bid for the work.

3) Personal recommendation (offer) – You'll be contacted from 26 October with a personalised offer based on the specifications of your roof. This will include the cost and return on investment from the solar panel installation.

4) You decide – You can choose to accept or reject the offer. There is no obligation to continue. You'll have until 11 December to decide and you'll be invited to a local information session if you want to go ahead.

5) Installation – If you accept the offer, you will be contacted by the winning supplier will contact you to schedule a survey of your roof and set an installation date.

To find out more about Solar Together Sussex, whether your home could be suitable for solar panels and how to register for the scheme, visit the website at:
https://www.solartogether.co.uk/westsussex/home

General Parish Update:

- Meetings have been held with the Probation Service team to see whether they can take over litter picking and cutting of grass verges, tidying pavements. Unfortunately, the team are not happy to work alongside the road which is an issue we are still trying to resolve.
- Our TRO request for double yellow lines with passing places along the Old London Road is still top of the list. WSCC Highways are currently not carrying out these works due COVID however we hope this will change in the near future.
- Untaxed vehicles with no MOT parked within the parish have been reported to Operation Crackdown who have since confirmed that following correspondence with the owner the vehicle has since been removed from the roadside.

- We are still looking for a volunteer Editor to take over the production of the newsletter. The role requires production four times a year with a brief trip to Brighton to copy. It is not an onerous task however I have now been doing on a voluntary basis for several years and think the role would be best suited to a parish resident.
- The flower bed under the newly renovated Pyecombe sign has now been planted up and there are plans to carry a similar renovation out on the A23 sign.
- As the appointed contractor has not been able to fulfil the flower bed works planned on the grass verges adjacent to the M&S Store and the bridge near Pyecombe Street meetings have now been arranged with a couple of other contractors. It is envisaged these works will commence shortly.
- Following comments raised by residents we have contacted MSDC to enquire about an increase to the bin collection. The bins are currently emptied three times a week and there are no weekend services available. This item will remain ongoing.
- Overgrown vegetation on the footpath from the golf club to the village has been raised with WSCC.
- Discussions remain ongoing with SDNP regarding additional signage on the SDW Clayton Hill crossing.
- The bench on the old London Road was reversed into by an HGV thankfully a resident was able to photograph the lorry and the company sent a replacement slat which has now been fitted.
- Parish Council meetings are still taking place virtually our thanks and appreciation to those residents who have continued to support these.

Email Updates:

My thanks to those residents who have contacted me regarding various items throughout the village these updates are very much appreciated and I will always follow up on any items raised. I do now have quite a few residents who have signed up to receive email updates on various items happening both throughout the parish and locally. If you would like to be added to the circulation list please email me at parishcouncil@pyecombe.org.uk

Parish Clerk & RFO

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

Social Committee News

Sadly, due to the corona virus all our events this year have been cancelled. We have one remaining event, the Christmas Fayre which is normally held at the beginning of December in Hassocks. Going forward there is no surety that this Pandemic will not spike during the autumn so the Christmas Fayre will be cancelled. However, we are considering offering an 'online event' and potentially a table at the Church selling Christmas goodies.

This is still in discussion phase but should anyone be interested in wanting to sell their products, either online or at the church, let us know and we can keep you in the loop as we develop our plans.

Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported us/the village in the past.

Karen Lewis
07818568999

Carol Taylor R.I.P.

I would like to thank the kind people of Pyecombe Street for the kindness shown to me on the passing of my wife, Carol.

Thank you to Ian, Suzie & Si, Stuart & Michelle, Richard, Pat, Tim & Jane, Liz & Paul, Alan & Nicky, Andy & Clare, Graham & sons and to anyone else I have missed.

Thank you all,
Vince Taylor
No 5 Pyecombe Street

Pyecombe Church Club 100 Winners

Jun-20	Ian Currie	22	£	10
Jun-20	Graham Bishop	123	£	20
Jul-20	Dave Harper	85	£	10
Jul-20	Shirley Strong	58	£	20
Jul-20	Karen Lewis	4	£	100
Aug-20	Sue Boyce	99	£	10
Aug-20	Richard Thomas	2	£	20

The Pyecombe Trail 4th – 5th July 2020

Sadly, because of Covid 19 the annual Pyecombe Fayre and Flower Festival could not take place this year. So instead the festival committee set up a Pyecombe village "trail" where we were all invited to create flower displays and installations in our front gardens which could be seen from the road. Maps of the village showing where the displays were located, were delivered to each household.

Many thanks to those of you who joined into create a focus of interest in this difficult time. From the list below, you can see what a rich variety of themes and ideas you came up with. Each display was different and told many stories about this strange and unsettling year.

There are photographs of them all on the website.

1. Feeding the Nation
2. Griselda
3. The Caring Scarecrow
4. Scarecrow in Lockdown
5. Jig Down
6. Quaran'Tina
7. Togetherness
8. Pyecombe Lock-up
9. Bad Flair Day
10. Dog Only Knows
11. Time Suspended
12. Wot, No Visitors?
13. Floella
14. Way out in the Field
15. Too many Jobs to Do

We will just have to wait and see what is going to happen in the year ahead. Let us hope a vaccine of sorts is developed and we can all meet for a special Pyecombe Fayre 2021, with lunches in the marquee and wonderful flower displays in the church.

Tim Cullen
Pyecombe Fayre and Flower Festival Co-ordinator

Pyecombe Village Choir

Here we are at the end of the summer in what has been the strangest of years but you may be heartened to know that the choir has kept going through it all on Zoom and even managed a couple of socially distanced outdoor rehearsals when the sun shone! The spirit amongst members of the choir has been fantastic and it has made such a difference meeting everyone on screen (like *Celebrity Squares!*) and having a good sing over some gins! (Have only just noticed that *gins* is an anagram of *sing…*and indeed both have been a real tonic on a Friday evening!)

In the midst of all this, David Finney introduced us to "This Day", a beautiful song he has composed and now brilliantly recorded (remotely) with the choir by skilfully putting together recordings submitted by each individual singer and accompanying them on the guitar. It really is a remarkable achievement. Of the song itself, David writes:

> *My idea for the song was to present the beauty of the natural world in juxtaposition with the damage being done to the environment by human behaviour. The inspiration actually came just prior to the lockdown when I woke up on one of those days when everything seems perfect, and this feeling has been reinforced during the lockdown by spending more time closer to nature. I get saddened by what is happening to animals and to the planet but the song ends on a hopeful note in the belief that people will come together and turn it round.*

The song will be released online soon and we will notify you of the link via the Pyecombe website, Facebook page and WhatsApp groups so that you can enjoy it for yourselves. We are all too aware that this year should have been a big year of celebration for Pyecombe Church's 850th birthday and of course lockdown has instead meant a big financial loss for the church just as the two porches have undergone renovation. As a result, David will be setting up a JustGiving page alongside the song so that you can have the opportunity to show your appreciation by making a donation, however small, towards the continued upkeep of this special place.

Actually, if everyone felt able to donate the price of a G&T that would raise a fair amount for the church – and raise choir spirits too! Cheers to you all and keep safe!

Jane Cullen

Pyecombe Church vestry & porch roof repairs £29,233

The recent lockdown and temporary closure of our church allowed urgent roof works to be completed. Water ingress was causing severe damage to the timbers and they had started to rot.

We had to employ specialist roofing contractors who had expertise of working with Horsham stone slate and Grade 1 listed buildings, hence the large cost of **£29,233.** Rev. Tim Harford did an amazing job sourcing three grants.

We also received some private donations, a contribution from the Social Committee and a loan from Edburton Church:

All Church grant	£1,500
MSDC community levy	£4,187
Wolfson Foundation	£5,000
Private donors	£1,100
Edburton loan	£10,000
Social Committee	£600



We are very privileged to have such a unique building in our village that has become the centre for all our community events. Unfortunately, the costs of maintaining such a building is huge. Next on our maintenance list is a quinquennial review which in plain English is a professional survey on the whole building. We are bracing ourselves for further maintenance costs.

There are many worthy charities to contribute to but if you wish to donate to Pyecombe Church, please use the website **Just Giving – Pyecombe Church (the donation page should be up and running next week) or pop into the Church and use the Contactless Card Reader by the entrance.**

1. As restrictions ease, we can't be complacent about COVID-19. Let's do all we can to stop the spread of coronavirus in West Sussex.

Visit **www.westsussex.gov.uk/coronavirus** for the latest information and to sign up for our regular e-newsletter for West Sussex residents. #KeepWestSussexSafe

2. Do your bit to #KeepWestSussexSafe. Spread the message not the virus, by following these simple steps:

- if you have symptoms, get tested.
- wash your hands regularly.
- observe social distancing.
- wear a face covering.

3. COVID-19 hasn't gone away. There is still action we need to take. Spread the message not the virus. #KeepWestSussexSafe.

4. Let's do all we can to keep our shops and businesses open and continue to take action to stop the spread of COVID-19. #KeepWestSussexSafe.

Find updates and further information about COVID-19 at www.westsussex.gov.uk/coronavirus

Editor Required

We are in need of a new Editor to collate and produce the quarterly newsletter on a voluntary basis otherwise we may see an end to our quarterly newsletter.

Ideally a local resident would be perfect. No previous journalistic experience is necessary! ☺

If you think this is something you would like to consider please contact;

parishcouncil@pyecombe.org.uk

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*