

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

Rector's ramblings.

Welcome to the lockdown newsletter. I do hope that you are coping with the strain of these extraordinary times. It is certainly hard to be so disconnected from the people we love and with whom we would normally be sharing our lives. Being disconnected in this way is putting a strain on many people and there is a worrying increase in the number of people experiencing poor mental health – such as increased anxiety. A colleague wrote to me this week: 'I never thought "though I walk through the shadow of death" would be relevant to a trip to Morrisons'. A sombre thought but perhaps capturing the mood of the moment. Of course, the 23rd Psalm reminds us that even in the valley of the shadow of death, God walks beside us as our comforter. If you would like me to hold any of your concerns in prayer, please let me know.

You might also be interested in Hearing You, a new phone help line launched by the Diocese of Chichester in partnership with Together in Sussex in response to the impact of COVID-19. It aims to provide pastoral support and a listening ear to the recently bereaved and people directly affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Hearing You is staffed by volunteers trained in pastoral care and listening skills including clergy and licensed lay ministers. All volunteer listeners will have completed safeguarding training with the Diocese of Chichester. They will be able to point callers to other organisations offering specialist support if appropriate. Listeners will offer to pray for the caller or for their concerns. Phonelines are open to anyone living in Sussex whether they currently attend a church or not. The service will initially run until the end of May, from Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 7.00pm. The number is: 01273 425 047

Since Sunday 29th March, we have been holding our church services online, via Zoom. We follow the communion service just as we would do if we were in the church building, with different participants reading the lessons and leading our prayers of intercession. We all bring a small portion of bread and wine, which we receive at the same time. We are regularly getting more than 40 devices signing in, many with two people on board, so our congregation is 50+ in number, which is more than we would normally have had attending in church! It is a great shame that some of our members do not have the means to join us but I am encouraged that so many are finding this a good way to maintain their connection with the church. It is lovely to see and hear one another. If you would like to join us, do let me know and I will be very pleased to add you to the regular invitation list.

On a sad note, we bade farewell to Joyce Hill at a quiet graveside funeral service in Poynings cemetery on Tuesday 19th May. Many of her friends and neighbours were able to pay their respects as the hearse stopped briefly by the church in Pyecombe and then at Mill Close in Poynings, the only two places that Joyce has ever lived. Joyce died peacefully on Sunday 26 April. She had lived at The Wyshe, Pyecombe since moving there from Poynings in 1972 and has been very much involved in the life of the church and community ever since. Joyce was an active member of the Pyecombe Social Committee and always present at the numerous fundraising events, more often than not to be found selling the raffle tickets. In church, she was always to be found in the kitchen making the tea and coffee at the end of our services. She will be remembered as a kind, generous and loving member of our community who very much lived up to the framed print that hung on her kitchen wall, which said: 'A friend is one of the nicest things you can have and one of the loveliest things you can be'.

With every blessing in these challenging times,
Revd Tim Harford

Pew Platter

This year our church building is 850 years old. The many things we had planned to celebrate this special time, have been put on hold, for the time being.

Through all those years, the church must have been witness to many strange and upsetting events, so this may not be the first time the church door has been locked day and night. But the porch door is open for you all to come and pick up a game for the children or a jig-saw for yourself.

I know many of you already come and leave the ones you have had at home and pick-up something a bit different. Let's keep this jig-saw and game swap going!

In April we sadly lost Joyce Hill, who was well known to many of you. Joyce was not only our tea lady at the church , but ran her bric-a-brac stall at many fund raising events, and also did the village collection for the British Legion Poppy Appeal, and it's thanks to her family for donating among other things, her large jig-saw collection which was the start of the village swap about in the porch.

We are going through some strange times, but when you look about at the wonderful display nature is putting on, it is nice to have the time to stop and appreciate what is around us.

Thank you.

The Church Team.

Parish Council Jottings

Council were saddened to hear about the recent passing of Joyce Hill. Joyce was a lady who found time for everyone in the village and was much loved and admired by everyone.

Our condolences go to Joyce's family and friends. She will be sorely missed.

Life for all of us has been very strange recently, some of us are furloughed, in total lockdown or unable to see friends and family. It is amazing at times like this to see how much support the residents are offering each other and how lucky we are to have such fantastic community spirit.

Do remember if you need any support during this period that help is out there in various formats. If there is anything that you need assistance with please feel free to email me and I can put you in touch with the relevant services.

A few updates from both MSDC and WSCC have recently been circulated regarding changes to Household Waste Recycling Sites and parking charges and these are:

- **Parking charges are set to resume in Mid Sussex car parks from Monday 8 June 2020.**

Residents are now able to dispose of the following items at all sites in West Sussex:

- garden waste
- general household waste
- wood
- metal
- cardboard
- electrical items
- bulky items
- white goods
- furniture

Unfortunately, soil, hardcore, plasterboard, asbestos, tyres and textiles/clothes will not be allowed at this time. This is to ensure social distancing measures can be maintained and to limit queues.

Residents are still asked to only visit sites if their journey is necessary and their waste or recycling is not suitable for kerbside collection.

Social distancing measures are in place at all sites which means a smaller number of people will be allowed in at one time, and could result in long queues.

Some of you may have noticed a few additions and changes to the village over the last few months implemented by the Parish Council these items include:

- 3 new litter bins
- 2 new grit bins
- 1 new bench

The village sign has also been removed for restoration and will be re-erected, once this has been completed on the new post opposite the old site and adjacent to theA23 slip road junction where a new railway sleeper bed has also been built this will also be planted up once the sign has been rehung.

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

As with everything else in the country our social committee has been in lockdown. We were pleased to be able to deliver Easter Eggs to our senior Villagers and those living on their own just in time.

On the 31st of May we would have held our annual Plant Sale, an event we all thoroughly enjoy but sadly that had to be cancelled BUT the good news is, our local garden centres are open and they are a delight to walk around – with plenty of space!

Our saddest news is losing Joyce Hill. Joyce was a member of the Social Committee since it started some 25 year back. In the time I have been a member (6 years) I've not known her miss a meeting and she always contributed whole heartedly to our discussions. She loved the village, the events and making money for her much-loved Church. She would collect 'as good as new' bric-a-brac throughout the year for all our village events, enjoyed having her table and selling! When she wasn't behind her table selling her wares, she was selling raffle tickets – she always managed to sell more than anyone else.

When it came to promoting our events, she would take the flyers around Hassocks and various clubs she was involved with.

On Tuesday 19th May Joyce's hearse came through the village and paused at the Triangle, opposite a bench she used to sit at. Many of us were there to say our goodbyes. We were spread out up School Lane, around The Triangle and down Church Lane and it was lovely to hear the clapping as the hearse approached and left. It was a lovely way to show our affection towards her at a time when we were not able to go to her funeral.

I speak for everyone on the Social Committee when I say
We Will Miss Her.

Karen Lewis

Joyce (Dorothy) Hill

On this beautiful spring morning our village turned out to say goodbye to our lovely friend and neighbour Joyce.

Joyce and I have shared a porch entrance to our homes for 20 of the 30 years she has lived in Pyecombe. What an amazing independent strong woman she was, with so much love in her heart for people, animals and nature. Her kindness and generosity will be very much missed in our village.

Over the years she adopted many stray cats, they seemed to be attracted to her, somehow knowing they would be taken in to a kind and loving home where they could be spoiled and cared for. Her last cat, Basil a great character around the village used to wrap himself around her neck and shoulders when she was sitting in her chair. He would go to sleep and she would sit patiently not moving so as not to wake him until her shoulders ached!

She would always make a point of welcoming new residents to the village she especially loved children and became an adopted grandma to many over the years. A lot of these are now grown adults that still came to visit her.

Joyce's biggest love was her garden and gardening she would spend long hours digging, planting and growing beautiful flowers. Sandra and I would often have to remind her to stop and get something to eat or a cup of tea otherwise she would go all day without, forgetting herself amongst her plants. She in turn would often have to remind me to cut my hedge!! But would always help with the clear up afterwards.

I could go on forever about all the kind and caring things she did for the village, but you all know this, we will miss her fabulous presence. She was always a great help especially serving teas or organising at events like the flower display or whist drive and walking many miles selling poppies for the British Legion.

You will be greatly missed Joyce. I feel blessed to have met such a beautiful soul with such spirit.

With fond memories
Kerry.

We fell asleep in one world, and woke up in another,

Suddenly Disney is out of magic,
Paris is no longer romantic,
New York doesn't stand up anymore,
The Chinese wall is longer a fortress and Mecca is empty.

Hugs and kisses suddenly become weapons, and not visiting parents and friends becomes an act of love.

Suddenly you realise that power, beauty and money are worthless and can't get you the oxygen you're fighting for.

The world continues its life and it is beautiful. It only puts humans in cages.

I think it's sending us a message:

"You are not necessary. The air, earth, water and sky without you are fine. When you come back, remember that you are my guests, not my masters"

Author unknown.

850 celebrations postponed

With regret we have made the decision to postpone all Pyecombe Church's 850-year celebrations until next year (850 plus One). Once government restrictions have been lifted and we know it is safe to hold large gatherings, we shall revisit all the dates and reschedule.

For now, we hope everyone is staying safe and keeping well and we look forward to seeing you all again as soon as possible.

Julie Scholes
On behalf of the 850 Committee.

Personal Shopper

I have always wanted my own personal shopper, and now I have one!

No am I not looking for an outfit for the next royal garden party, I am talking about something no one can do without, 'The Weekly Food Shop'.

So, thank you for your help and support!

A grateful resident.

Joyce Hill

Mr Jerry Hill, Joyce's nephew, would like to thank you all for the help and support you have given as he sorted out her flat, and also for the wonderful send-off you all gave at Pyecombe.

Thank you all.

Club 100 Winners

Jan-20	Ian Currie	21	£	10
Jan-20	John Beard	147	£	20
Feb-20	George Carlo	154	£	10
Feb-20	Nicky Currie	24	£	20
Mar-20	Terry Playford	40	£	10
Mar-20	Jean Brown	129	£	20
Apr-20	James Arnott	109	£	10
Apr-20	Vivien Aird	6	£	20
May-20	Marion Jamison	98	£	10
May-20	Mike Sloman	42	£	20

Many, many thanks to Jean Wilkins, for helping to run the 100 Club for the last 6 years! A very busy lady who always found time to help the church. We are very grateful to you.

Pyecombe Village Fayre and Flower Festival
4 – 5 July

The committee for this annual event have held a couple of "Zoom" meetings and decided that **it would not be possible to hold the event in its usual format** this year.

- It would be impossible to maintain social distancing in the confined space of the church.
- Many of our visitors and participants are retired people and therefore fall into the "at risk" category.
- It would not be wise to encourage visitors from outside the village to attend as we would normally do.
- Many people would be nervous about coming out anyway.

However, the committee felt it would be a shame to abandon the event completely so we are presently considering other ideas that could run safely during the weekend in question. It would not be our intention to advertise.

Our ideas are for:

1. Scarecrow and flower displays in people's gardens and driveways, to be viewed from the outside. Flower displays could use wheelbarrows, step ladders, bikes, anything that comes too hand.
2. A trail could then be created with a map to guide people around the village.
3. Floral displays around the village.

If you have any ideas that you think would work given the present restrictions, please let me or a committee member know.

Tim Cullen pyecombetrail@yahoo.com 07870 360551

Pyecombe Trail: Lockdown Stories

A call for front garden / driveway displays:

4-5th July 2020

wheelbarrows,
scarecrows,
step ladders,
flower arrangements
or any installation
to tell your lock down story

from bad hair to bread making
gardening to art .....
please join in the fun!



Please send address to add to the trail (and title if you have one) to:
pyecombetrail@yahoo.com by 21/6/2020



Thank you to all our key workers

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 September. 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 September issue please send articles in anytime from now until August 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)

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Ed. *Dawn Langston*