No. 165 Winter 2021




# VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

## Rectory Ramblings

During October our Harvest Festival services were well attended and our churches beautifully decorated. Thank you for all who contributed to our harvest appeals; we collected an amazing amount of dried goods for our local hospices and for the foodbank run by Sussex Family Support Work. The cash collection was donated to the South Downs Refugee

Project, supporting a refugee family to settle into our area. At Edburton the Harvest service was followed by freshly cooked bacon butties, which proved so popular that they have become a regular feature.
Several children from our parish attended the first All Age Café Service at Poynings on 31st October. This is a new parish venture and will take place in Poynings when there is a fifth Sunday in the month (the next one is 30th January 2022). There was a happy, messy (craft activities for the children) noisy atmosphere and we are all looking forward to the next one. The older members of the congregation enjoyed coffee and cakes while the children worked!
Remembrance Services were held at Newtimber and Pyecombe on 14th November, when the rolls of honour for our parish were read. Nick Andrews played the last post and reveille on the bugle in our morning service and the Pyecombe Choir took part in the evening service. It was poignant to hear the detail of one of those young men, Sergeant Kenneth Hilton, who was one of the crew of Vickers Wellington MkX serial number JA475 which crashed in a violent electrical storm near Northampton in October 1944. His funeral was held in Pyecombe church on 18 October 1944. He was nineteen years of age.
Thank you to all who were involved in planning and running, and those who attended the Christmas Fayre at the Adastra Hall, Hassocks on 27th November. This was a parish event, with participation from each of our communities. The total raised was £2,200 and counting!

**Christmas services**

There will be carol services at Pyecombe (6pm Dec 12th) and Newtimber (4pm Dec 19th), the parish crib service will be at Poynings (4pm Christmas Eve), 'Bethlehem' Midnight Mass with carols will be held at Edburton on Christmas Eve at 9.30pm, during which it will be midnight in Bethlehem. Parish communion on Christmas Day will be at Newtimber at 10am and on Boxing Day at Pyecombe at 10am. Everyone is very welcome to join us at these services.
With every blessing,
Revd Tim Harford

From the Rectory.

# Pew Patter

I would like to introduce myself to those who haven't met me yet. My name is Sally Brown and I'm the fairly new churchwarden assisting Betty Eade. I've been in the parish of Pyecombe most of my life at Standean, which is the last house on the parish boundary, and I was married to Rev'd Richard Brown, former priest in charge, so used to parish life.

Firstly I would like to thank Sandra Milner for all her hard work in the past as churchwarden and for writing Pew Patter for so many years. These are difficult boots to fill.

Pyecombe Church is beginning to show signs of normality with services back to normal. We have had the pleasure of one wedding, seven christenings, and one funeral – which was Jack Norris, who has been part of the village of Pyecombe for so many years and will be sadly missed.

We all enjoyed a fabulous weekend at the beginning of September for our Fayre and Flower Festival. The support from all the parishes was overwhelming and the villagers and Social Committee surpassed themselves with all their hard work and organisation not only over the weekend but days before and after setting up and clearing up. We are so grateful to you all and know these events would not be possible without you. The weather was stunning and encased our theme of 'looking to the future.'

The future of our church is all a little different now as all four parishes in the benefice have joined as one, mainly to be able to support one another, use each other's strengths and encourage unity. We will all benefit from this change.

As I write this, many people are busy preparing for a Christmas Fayre at http://www.pyecombevillage.co.uk

the Adastra Hall on Saturday 27th November. We have had an amazing response from stallholders and we look forward to welcoming one and all.

At the start of November I ran a trip to Norfolk where we all enjoyed the Thursford Christmas Spectacular. It's a wonderful show and a lovely way to start the festivities. These will be continued in our church with the ever popular Christmas Carol Service with the Mid Sussex Brass Band on Sunday 12th December at 6pm. The profits from our trip are going to restore our 'Tapsel gate' which is just one of three left in Sussex and holds historic local value.

Our Christmas Services this year are as follows:

Christmas Carols Pyecombe - Sunday 12 Dec at 6 pm
Crib Service Poynings - 4 pm Christmas Eve
Christmas Eve Edburton - 9:30 pm
Christmas morning Newtimber - 10 am
Boxing Day Pyecombe - 10 am.

We are always looking for helpers and supporters at Pyecombe Church so if you can do anything please would you contact me.

Betty and I wish you a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

With Best Wishes,
Sally

# Parish Council Jottings

The Parish Council were saddened to hear of the death of Councillor Peter Griffiths (1944-2021) who passed away on 15th November. Peter was a long-standing friend to Pyecombe Parish Council and had been our West Sussex County Councillor for many years prior to his retirement. Those of us who had the privilege to work alongside him will remember his unwavering support, good humour and integrity. Many people will have special memories of time spent with Peter and we offer our condolences to his family and friends.

## Book to Recycle Scheme

As a West Sussex resident who has used the Book to Recycle booking system at Recycling Centres since April 2021, you are being asked for your views on the service, and if you think it should be introduced on a permanent basis at Bognor Regis, Crawley, Horsham, Littlehampton, Shoreham-by-Sea and Worthing Recycling Centres.

The consultation is available on line at https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/booking-household-waste-recycling from Wednesday 10th November until Tuesday 21st December 2021. All West Sussex residents are invited to share their views on the Book To Recycle scheme, particularly residents who use Recycling Centres in Bognor Regis, Burgess Hill, Crawley, Horsham, Littlehampton, Shoreham-by-Sea and Worthing that are affected by the proposed changes.

Residents are also being asked to share their views on expanding the booking system to include Burgess Hill Recycling Centre on a permanent basis.

## Platinum Jubilee

The Parish Council are considering various ways to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee to include a parish event and will be forwarding further information in the very near future.

## 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

## New rules for poultry and captive bird keepers to contain avian flu outbreak

Captive bird and poultry keepers will be legally required to keep their birds indoors under new measures to control the spread of avian flu. It comes after a number of confirmed cases of the H5N1 strain of the virus in recent weeks, including a case in the Arun area. The new legal requirement is for all UK bird keepers to keep their birds indoors from Monday 29 November in a bid to minimise contact with wild birds migrating from mainland Europe. Enhanced biosecurity measures are also being introduced – including regular cleaning and disinfecting and reducing the number of visitors coming into contact with birds.

Peter Aston, West Sussex Trading Standards Team Manager, said: "The consequences of avian flu spreading to domestic birds and poultry in West Sussex would be severe. All owners need to follow the new rules and additional guidance to ensure their birds avoid catching the disease. Poultry owners should also watch out for signs that their birds have been infected. The main symptoms of avian flu include a swollen head, blue discolouration of the neck and throat, loss of appetite, diarrhoea and respiratory distress."

Duncan Crow, West Sussex County Council Cabinet Member for Community Support, Fire and Rescue, said: "I urge all bird and poultry keepers to do all they can to ensure we prevent the spread of avian flu to domestic birds in West Sussex."

Poultry and captive bird keepers are reminded to do the following:

• House or net all poultry and captive birds to keep them separate from wild birds

• Cleanse and disinfect clothing, footwear, housing, equipment and vehicles on a regular basis

• Reduce the movement of people, vehicles or equipment in areas

where poultry and captive birds are kept to minimise contamination

• Thoroughly cleanse and disinfect housing on a continuous basis

• Minimise direct and indirect contact between poultry and captive birds and wild birds, including making sure all feed and water is not accessible to wild birds

Avian flu is a disease which mainly affects birds but in very rare cases it can spread to people and other mammals. Do not touch or pick up any dead or sick birds that you find. Report them to the Defra helpline on 03459 33 55 77.

Bird keepers should report suspicion of disease to the Defra Rural Services Helpline on 03000 200 301. Further advice for bird keepers on reducing the spread of avian influenza is available at: www.gov.uk.

## The Pyecombe Fayre and Flower Festival

http://www.pyecombevillage.co.uk

# 4th - 5th September

It was marvellous to see the return of the Pyecombe Village Fayre and Flower Festival after a year's enforced lay-off due to the pandemic. We waited until the government had lifted restrictions, which was why the event was held in September rather than at the beginning of July. However, the weekend in question proved to be the sunniest weekend in what was a very wet and disappointing summer!

I am pleased to report it was a great success. Financially, the returns even marginally exceeded the previous two occasions and gave a net return of £1707.

The church, as usual, looked stunning. The theme chosen for the flower displays was "Looking to the Future", and after the last eighteen months of lockdowns and restrictions, we certainly needed to do that. We had thirty two displays in all, a fair number coming from other churches in the benefice, and all artfully set up by Karen Lewis and Val Bishop.

We were very pleased with the attendance; the event was well advertised thanks to Julie Scholes's delightful poster and the new road signs produced by Glen Downs which were a huge improvement on what we had before. And then, of course, there was plenty of online advertising.

The delicious ploughman's lunches were once again provided by the tireless Nicky Currie and proved as popular as ever. We were especially fortunate to have them paid for by a very generous donor. The Pyecombe Choir entertained the punters with a well-received set of songs on Saturday afternoon. Along with a licensed bar, teas, coffees, homemade cakes and sunshine, what was there not to like?

A number of stalls were set up around the churchyard; we had Emily Grocott's delightful paintings and cards, David Curtiss's photographs and cards and Suzanne Graves' planters and flowers. Two competitions were held, one on each afternoon. We had the time-honoured Fancy Dress Dog Show, won by Becki Miles with her Star Wars dog and a new one, A "Natty Hats" cat walk, dreamt up by Sarah Rushton and won by Anne Finney.

Huge thanks are due to so many people who helped and without whom the event could not have happened. In particular, I have to thank the Downs family who put up and took down all the marquees, Anne Finney who organised the rotas of helpers to ensure that everything ran smoothly, and of course Karen Lewis and her tireless social committee.

On a personal note, after twelve years as the Coordinator of the Fayre and Flower festival, I have decided to step down, so we are now looking for someone else to take on the role. Please contact me if this is something you think you would like to do, and I would be very happy to talk you through it.

Tim Cullen
**timcullen@pyecombe.org.uk**
**07870 360551**

# Pyecombe Church 100 Club
# Winners

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Aug-21 | Claire Rossi | 126 | £ 10 |
| Aug-21 | David Wilson | 44 | £ 20 |
| Sep-21 | Jane Cullen | 43 | £ 20 |
| Sep-21 | Graham Bishop | 32 | £ 10 |
| Oct-21 | Vikki Macrae | 117 | £ 20 |
| Oct-21 | Mike Grabsky | 76 | £ 10 |
| Nov-21 | Karen Lewis | 50 | £ 20 |
| Nov-21 | Jane Cullen | 43 | £ 10 |

# Changes to Pyecombe Social Committee

The Social Committee has been involved in planning, organising and running many of the events held in the village. The purpose is to bring Pyecombe villagers together and also to raise the much-needed funds for the upkeep of our beautiful church. It has been a major success story but as with everything situations and priorities change. As the churches' congregations dwindled our Downland Churches, Pyecombe, Edburton, Newtimber and Poynings merged creating the Mid Downland Parish. This has offered us the opportunity to bring together the four villages to help raise the funds for all four churches. Each village has a representative who will co-ordinate events, calling upon each of the villages and villagers for help where needed.
The purpose of the Social Committee going forward will be to arrange non fund-raising gatherings and support church events by helping to run them. Basically, very little change just a shift in responsibility.

**Mid Downland Christmas Fayre 27th November '21**
The Fayre was a great success. It was the first time the four villages came together to organise and contribute fully to the event. We had over 18 stallholders selling a mix of items, from Christmas decorations and cards to fashionable jewellery, paintings, beautiful hand-crafted goods, along with the traditional, home-made cakes and biscuits, Christmas hampers and a café with home soups and savouries. Our Christmas Grand Draw raffle was also very successful. We don't have the net figure yet but our initial calculations show a very satisfying result.

**Pyecombe Christmas Supper @ Pangdean**

We are now organising the Pyecombe Christmas Supper at Pangdean on Wednesday 15th December, 6 for 6.30pm. The cost is £30 per head which includes a glass of prosecco to start followed by a traditional Christmas meal. Please let us know if you are interested as we need 40 people.

Pangdean is a beautiful Barn and at Christmas it is very special. They have the most enormous tree, all lit up and the rest of the barn sparkles!!! Definitely the start of a wonderful Christmas Spirit!

**Karen Lewis** 07818568999

**A message from Sally Brown, Pyecombe Church warden:**

We held our Christmas Fayre yesterday which was a huge united success and we would like to say a huge thank you for everyone who helped us and supported us. We have raised over £2000 which, given horrible weather and the scare of Covid, was staggering!

# Pyecombe Village Choir

We have hit the ground running this Autumn, starting with performances at the Pyecombe Fayre & Flower Festival and Tony and Wendy's wonderful wedding celebration at Pangdean in September, and then returning to sing at the special services – Harvest and Remembrance – at Pyecombe Church. There are plenty of Christmas bookings too, so we are busy rehearsing and learning new music for these.

If you are new to the village and enjoy singing, do come and join us! We now meet on Fridays at 5pm in the church and are usually finished by 6.30pm.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the Pyecombe Carol Service on Sunday 12th December!

*Jane Cullen*
*07736 806851*

# Celebrating 10 years!

On 4 November a 10-year anniversary event for the Malagiri School was held at Pangdean Barn. Over 100 friends and supporters came together to celebrate the event.

The evening was a joyous occasion with highlights including:

* a live Nepal link with Yubrai, the school's headteacher
* videos and slides of the school and the children we support
* talks from members of the University of Brighton's Malagiri Committee, from Dominic, the Principal of West St Leonard's Primary Academy, who have linked up with the school, and from Cathy Gower the University's Dean of Education
* eating a delicious, authentic Nepalese dish that used a recipe sent from Malagiri whilst being serenaded with live music from our own Tim Cullen and David Finney

There was also an opportunity to purchase Nepalese gifts which were sourced in Kathmandu, jewellery, and Christmas decorations and gifts made by members of the Malagiri committee.

**Over £4,500 was raised** – an outstanding amount and the most that has ever been raised for the school at a single event.
We also received regular support pledges from some of the guests. The total raised wa**s almost one third of the school's annual costs** – an amazing achievement.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported this event with special thanks to Nicky and her team for letting is hold the

event at Pangdean – their contributions are very much appreciated.
There is no doubt that everyone's generosity will make a huge difference to the lives of the Malagiri school pupils. Heartfelt thanks to all of you who attended the event and contributed.





# From John O'Groats to Land End

*by Dani French*




For those of you who don't know me, I joined the Parish Council in February having been an 'interested member of the public' at so many council meetings, that I was invited to apply for the latest vacancy as it arose. My main passion for Pyecombe is to make it as safe for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders as feasible, whilst also making it as

green as possible. Since living here and accelerated by recent lockdowns I made it a mission to ride, run, or walk every path and bridleway in the Parish and in many places beyond. Twice a week I was commuting across the Downs to Lewes, where I am a teacher, and last Summer cycled the whole South Downs Way in two days. This Summer I decided to go a bit further!

In May half term I took the Caledonian Express train and a car ride up to John O'Groats and then I spent 10 days cycling solo to Land's End. On average I cycled 95 miles a day, and for the first 4 days every distance was a personal best, although I am not in a hurry to cycle 125 miles in one go again for a while! Without a doubt our local terrain was exceptional training; Poynings to Devil's Dyke, Steyning Bostal and Ditchling Beacon are fantastic road gradients, whilst the golf course ascent or up past tank tracks to the top above Jack and Jill are tough going on a mountain bike. If you can climb those, longs flats are quite a doddle!

I think during my training I have done almost every lane from here to Ardingly, Knepp, Lewes and Lancing way, and longer rides from Hastings or to Climping. I did a fair bit in Brighton and Hove, but parked cars don't make for joyful route choice, though all the way across the fron and Shoreham locks is very interesting. Preparing for this made me appreciate that we live in a truly beautiful part of the UK. Traversing the entire country allowed me to see how cyclists are catered for in a wide variety of terrains, and the differences between urban and countryside provision. In Scotland I had to cycle on many A roads as there was no alternative, they often directed me to ride in the edges so gravelly and potholed that it was safer to stay on the road. Just north of Liverpool I went from being on a cycle path to having to navigate a 5 lane roundabout that fed a motorway... that was a little hairy, but it was my choice to take the ferry across the Mersey, so perhaps it could have been avoided. Sometimes I had to start riding at dawn to avoid heavy

traffic in pinch points, sometime I just had to hold my own in the traffic, stay visible, ride with all the right drills, and stay calm amidst harassment and being buzzed at high speed.

I learnt that you should always stop at a cafe if you need sustenance (and you need a lot) apparently I was burning about 6000 extra calories a day. Once I thought the next one might be better... and then had to endure nearly 40 miles before I could nip into the Biggar Services on the M74, what a let down! The route through the Lake District was incredible from major tourist spots to grassed out thin tarmac with cattle grids and multiple gates, I just had to trust my route planning because detours on top of these distances is not a laughing matter. The road beside the Wye was apparently closed, I just had to pray that it was okay for pedestrians as I had been ogling this section on google maps for ages, and I might have had a tantrum if I couldn't even carry my bike over the roadworks (I could). The final two days through Somerset, Devon and Cornwall bizarrely were the hardest, they just are so hilly - the ups are steep and then so are the downs, so steep you have to have your brakes on full and there is no reward for all your hard work!

For those of you wondering about my route, apparently the shortest driving distance is about 838 miles, but I was adamant I would not take busy roads unless there was no alternative, additionally I was trying to link up to places where I have friends to make the evenings more enjoyable, so my route ended up being 949 miles. The B&Bs and hostels I stayed in were lovely, but having a curry for one on my birthday in Tyndrum was slightly suboptimal. Luckily my family were able to join me for the middle section (days 4-8), so I saw them in the evenings and they had glorious day trips in parts of the country we never normally visit. It was also great to know if I had a disaster they would be nearish;

I didn't have any, but I did bump into them in Ambleside which was a lovely treat.

I was able to raise over £2000 for charity and came back brimming with even more enthusiasm about cycling, and increasing the accessibility of this mode of transport. It is essential that we make it a safer proposition, and increase harmony between motorists and other road users. I am planning quite a few more big road adventures as JOGLE genuinely is one of the best things I have ever done.






**The Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust and Environment Agency** have begun a partnership project which will assess how working with natural processes can help reduce the impact of heavy rainfall on properties and infrastructure across the River Adur catchment. Over the next 18 months we will work with landowners, farmers, and communities to increase knowledge not only of where flooding occurs but also to collect thoughts and insight as to where flood "wet-spots" might be. This will enable the development of a co-designed strategy to help secure the funding needed to achieve the project's ambitious goals. Working with natural processes such as the implementation of Natural Flood Management (NFM) techniques is based on the principle of working with the river system and its floodplains to slow and store water in a more natural way. This can also provide multiple benefits to landowners, farmers, communities, and wildlife. Examples of NFM techniques include: • Introducing leaky woody debris dams to slow the flow and create in-channel habitat. • Introducing wetlands, ponds, and scrapes as features in the floodplain to provide increased water storage, providing both flood and drought resilience. • Seeking opportunities to create floodplain woodland or reinstate historic cross-slope hedgerows, both known to benefit flood risk management. • Supporting improvements to soil structure and rebuilding levels of organic matter to increase landscape permeability. • Modifying flood embankments to improve channel diversity, water holding capacity and/or re-connecting rivers with their floodplains. Additional benefits which these interventions will provide include: • Reduced soil erosion and sedimentation loss to streams and rivers • Increased carbon capture and storage • Improved water quality • Creation of new habitat to help restore biological diversity laying the foundations for a River Adur Nature Recovery Network.

If you are affected by flooding or are interested in getting involved in creating a more resilient landscape, then please get in touch. Tara Dawson – NFM Project Officer Email: tara.dawson@oart.org.uk

*The next newsletter is due out in March. We would love to receive articles from you to share with your community. These can be news, items of interest, local history, jokes, recipes or 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 March issue, please send articles in anytime from now until 24th February. You can email them to timcullen@pyecombe.org.uk or post a written piece either in the letter box at no.14 The Wyshe or at no.15 Pyecombe Street -marked **newsletter.**

Many thanks,
Tim & Jane Cullen (eds)

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. *Tim and Jane Cullen*
http://www.pyecombevillage.co.uk

# Christmas Eve

**by Christina Rosetti**

CHRISTMAS hath a darkness
Brighter than the blazing noon,
Christmas hath a chillness
Warmer than the heat of June,
Christmas hath a beauty
Lovelier than the world can show:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.

Earth, strike up your music,
Birds that sing and bells that ring;
Heaven hath answering music
For all Angels soon to sing:
Earth, put on your whitest
Bridal robe of spotless snow:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.



**Wishing you a very Happy Christmas!**