No. 172 Autumn 2023

MID DOWNLAND
PARISH



VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

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Rectory Ramblings

I do hope you have managed some leisure time over the summer, such as it has been. I'm fortunate to be writing this while on holiday in France for two weeks. It has been lovely to be away but most of all it has been a pleasure to be relieved of the responsibilities of work and Parish and I am very grateful to those who have made that possible.

The principle of rest is written into Scripture: 'So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.' Genesis 2:3.

That is where the notion of sabbath rest comes from - or more likely, it was written to reflect the established principle of sabbath rest. A regular time to recharge one's batteries without feeling guilty about not being busy.

With all the demands many of us juggle from day to day, a bit of self-care can only be a good thing. It is likely to also make us more effective when we return to whatever role or responsibility it is that we have taken a rest from.

With my prayers that you too will find some time for rest, refreshment and relaxation.

Every blessing,

Tim

Revd Tim Harford

Rector of the Mid Downland Parish.

Tel: 01273 857456 Mob: 07824 532677

Pyecombe Harvest

For many years, the church and village have donated their HARVEST to our local hospice, St Peter and St James. Their *Thank You* letter each year states how grateful they are for our donations.

Just two or three items from each house in the village would make it a bumper harvest. They are only allowed to accept tins or packets (the more variety the better).

Your donations can be left in the church any time from now until 8th October.

Sandra Milner

Pew Patter

Well done, Pyecombe, for our Village Weekend on 22nd – 23rd July. A big thank you to all of you who helped, from Nicky Currie for supplying the ploughman's lunches and Sally and her team who served them, to Scott and David for putting up the boards for the flowers, to David and his team who put up and took down the marquee and to all those who simply turned up on the day and helped. We had less than five weeks to put it together and what a success it was! The church was packed with flowers not only from Pyecombe but from our sister churches – Poynings, Edburton and New Timber. Thank you to all.

We get walkers from all over the world who drop in to our beautiful church. Some even leave prayers on our prayer board and we pray for them every Wednesday at 4pm.

Services are held at the church twice a month - 2nd Sunday at 6 pm and 4th Sunday at 10 am.

Dates to remember:

October 8th - 6 pm Harvest – see notice from Sandra

November 12th - 6 pm Remembrance Sunday

December 10th – 6 pm Carol Service with brass band

The Church Team

Pyecombe Flower Festival, Saturday 22nd & 23rd July

Betty Eade, Pyecombe churchwarden, and I would like to start by thanking everybody who supported us: those who did wonderful flower arrangements; those who gave us their time, serving refreshments, the raffle and stewarding, and then those who took the time to come and look at the amazing efforts that everybody had made. In the background, there was David Wilson and his team who put up the marquee, the table tops, the disabled ramp, and Nicki Currie who so kindly lent us and delivered the furniture. Fiona and her family did the signs and many arrangements and helped us generally. Without you all, this just wouldn't have happened.

This year the theme was ***My Favourite Things*** and as you can imagine, people's ideas were quite fantastic. The many themes included home-grown flowers, their gardens, their animals, their families, their friends or just aspects of their lives which bring enjoyment. On Friday, as the flower arrangements arrived, the church blossomed in colour and filled to its usual glory. Sadly, the weekend's weather did let us down a little bit, but knowing that it wasn't going to be fantastic, we made the decision that everything was going to happen within the walls of the church, and actually it worked very well. Our profit was £1030.00.

So for another year the festival is over and now we look forward to making arrangements for the **Christmas Fayre on November 18** at the **Adastra Hall in Hassocks**. If any of you would like stalls, which we are starting to book now, please let me know. Again, thank you for your support. It's only possible to do these events because you are behind us.

With all good wishes for the rest of the summer, *Sally Brown*

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Parish Council Jottings

Parish Councillor Vacancy

Your Parish Council currently has a vacancy for a Parish Councillor and would appreciate any interested parties contacting the Parish Clerk for more information on what the role entails and how you can apply.

Ukrainian Hosts Required

So far, The Homes for Ukraine Scheme has supported tens of thousands of refugees fleeing from war in Ukraine by providing housing in the UK.

Guests under the scheme who are already in the UK are not always able to stay with a host for a number of reasons. There is a marked shortage of accommodation in West Sussex. West Sussex County Council are now seeking new hosts who can provide a safe place for a guest or guests in West Sussex.

It is our hope that by advertising the need, we will find new hosts and ensure our guests still have a safe place to live. Whilst every attempt is made to re-match with their local community, West Sussex County Council aim to support guests by finding new hosts across the County.

If you are able to assist, please contact:

ukrainesupport@westsussex.gov.uk

Latest Bus Travel Offers –

- The government has extended the bus cap fare of £2 until 31 October 2023. After this, the bus fare cap will change to £2.50 for single tickets until 30 November 2024.

- If you are a permanent West Sussex resident who has reached state pension age, you can get a free five-year bus pass for travelling off-peak all over England. This means you can catch a bus to anywhere in the county – and beyond, weekdays between 9.30am and 11pm and all day on weekends and bank holidays, free of charge!

- The county council provides a free bus pass to people who are disabled, incapacitated, or medically unfit to drive.

For other offers and additional information please visit the website at;

https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/travel-and-public-transport/bus-and-coach-travel/bus-passes-and-discounts/discounts-on-bus-and-coach-travel/

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

Stoolball Match: 23rd June
Pyecombe v Poynings



We were delighted to revive this age-old village tradition and rivalry after far too long a lapse. Many thanks to Matt Cuttress of Poynings for raising a team and organising the venue at Poynings Cricket Club which was quite spectacular with its 360 degree view of the South Downs. How blest we are to be living in such a delightful part of the world. Matt not only fixed the venue but organised a bar in the pavilion and laid on a post-match barbeque.

The Pyecombe team turned up in good spirits although perhaps not quite match ready! A few last minute reminders of the rules were needed before we took the field under our captain, Robbie, after Poynings had chosen to bat first. The final scores escape me but let's just say that Pyecombe came a valiant if not very close second!

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Everybody enjoyed themselves immensely and the unanimous request from the Pyecombe players was to repeat the experience next year (after a bit more practice!),

Tim Cullen



The choir has enjoyed a busy summer, starting with the hugely enjoyable Henfield Festival of Gardens and Arts, and then the delightful wedding of Paulina and Gregory at Newtimber Church in June, and followed by three performances within the space of a week in mid-July, first of all in the middle of a field at a very windy Fulking Fayre (!), then at the beautifully sunny Malagiri evening at Pangdean, and finally at Oaklodge Nursing Home in Burgess Hill. As always, we thrive on variety!

We have our much anticipated concert at St George's Park Concert Hall, Ditchling, coming up on 9th September – the first time we have managed to return to sing there since Covid! – and we are delighted to welcome Nick Andrews as our accompanist for this. Bookings are already in place for Christmas and we shall also look forward to singing at the annual Harvest and Remembrance Sunday services at Pyecombe Church this autumn.

We usually rehearse at the church on Friday evenings from 5pm-6.30pm, so why not come and join us!

Jane Cullen *(07736 806851)*

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Pyecombe Church 100 Club

Month	1st (£20) Winner	2nd (£10) Winner	Special (£100) Winner
Jun-23	Diane Curd	Ian Currie	
Jul-23	Graham Bishop	Nikita Rae	Jim Boyce
Aug-23	Judy Godfrey	Geoffrey Strong	

New players always welcome! Please email pye100c@gmail.com for details.

Drop into…

Pyecombe Church

Sunday 15th October between 3 & 4.30pm



Meet… Say Hello to Yubaraj, Headteacher of Malagiri School

Greet… Welcome him on his first trip to the UK

Enjoy… Cake, Tea & Music (from Yubaraj & Pyecombe Choir)

No charge – but cash donations welcomed!

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Malagiri Summer Celebration

What more could we have asked for? A beautiful summer's afternoon in Pangdean Garden, a glass of sparkling wine, delicious snacks, a medley of music, good company and great financial support for the school!!

A huge thank you to all those who came and contributed in any way. An amazing £2800 was raised and this will go largely towards the cost of running the school. 10% has been set aside to help support the visit of the Headteacher, Yubaraj, to the UK in October - more of that later!

The fund raising event was enjoyed by about 80 people plus a number of supporters who sold a range of wonderful goods including summer plants, shrubs, succulents, art work, slippers, scarves, jewellery, beauty and fashion items. We are so grateful to those who sponsored us and gave time and items for sale. We enjoyed great music from Tim Cullen and David Finney as well as from the Pyecombe Village Choir; and we were also entertained magnificently by *Maria and Co* brass quartet - a wonderful group of talented school and University youngsters.

Overall the afternoon was a relaxing, enjoyable and successful occasion. But this could not have been achieved without the support of Nicky Currie and her team at Pangdean - we are so grateful for their ongoing support. Without this generosity such successful and large events would be impossible.



It is now confirmed that Yuberaj has been granted a Visa to come to England and his flights have been booked. He will be in Brighton between 13 and 27 October, spending some of his time participating in educational activities in schools and at the University of Brighton. Some of the time he will be entertained by students, teachers, the Malagiri Committee and staff from the University. This will be Yubaraj's first trip out of Nepal so it will be an amazing experience for him, and we are keen that all those of you who have supported the school loyally over the past few years should have a chance to meet him. To this end, we shall have an informal 'Meet, Greet and Enjoy' afternoon at Pyecombe Church on Sunday15 October - there will be music (some from Yubaraj) tea and cake, so do drop in any time between 3 & 4.30 pm. We'd love to see you.

Jill Munday

My Wonderful Summer

A desire for getting in touch with natural neighbours in Pyecombe this summer has led to some wonderful encounters.

A group of us went out for a night time walk in search of glowworms on the track from Wolstonbury back down into The Wyshe. The best time to see glowworms is around the first two weeks in July. They are at their most numerous at that point. Not a worm at all but a beetle. The female is wingless and crawls up a grass stem and glows so the winged male can find her. It's all rather romantic! We counted 8 and back in the Wyshe there was one in the grass verge and one in my garden too. A very magical thing to see .

I also completed the butterfly count a few times online. This is a survey each year. This year ran from 14th July to 6th August. It involves sitting counting butterflies for 15 minutes in a particular place. A lovely way to justifiably sit in the garden and do nothing but look for butterflies for a few minutes on however many days you can.

My garden is left wild over the summer with just mown paths. It has been a real treasure trove and changes all the time. Lots of different wild flowers including bee orchids and a seemingly resident humming bird hawk moth. I'm looking for a sheet of corrugated iron to lay in a corner and see who comes to visit under it, if anyone has a bit laying around they don't want? I saw a slow worm on the track from the Wyshe ..a legless lizard, another 'not a worm'!

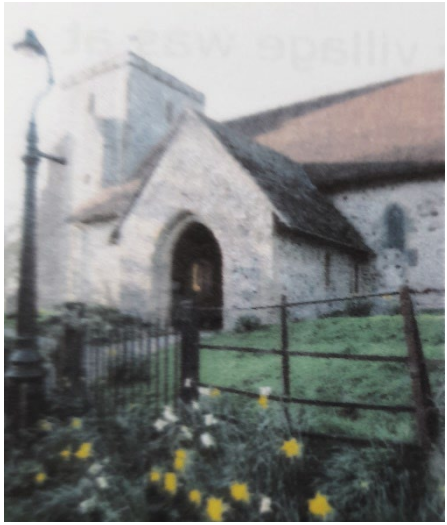
And one last visitor to tell you about: recently there has been a woodpecker regularly pecking at the top of the telegraph pole at the bottom of my garden. I decided to look at him through the binoculars. It turns out he is collecting hazelnuts and wedging them in a crack on

the top of the pole, then opening them up and eating them. The pole is his dinner table!

There is so much going on around us. We generally travel so fast through our day we miss a lot. It is well worth slowing down for, or even standing still a while in one place, just to look and see what is occurring. We are just going into spidery September, time to look out for the jewelled webs in the mornings!

Vicky Clapperton

St Andrews Church, Edburton



I wonder how many of you are aware of the fascinating history of this lovely church. It is over a thousand years old, having been built in the first part of the tenth century by Princess Eadburh, granddaughter of **King Alfred the Great**. Its size leads to the presumption that the village was large enough to support a church of this size.

Features: There are four "**Mass Clocks**" in various states of repair on the outside of the church. These are vertical sundials used to mark the times of services.

The rare **leaden font** (sister to that in Pyecombe) and the piscine bowl remain from the early church.

On either side of the altar are two windows known as "**confession windows**" from the way in which Franciscan friars heard confessions. The Pope had forbidden them to hear confessions in church, so people knelt outside these windows which were originally open and with shutters, the grooves for which can still be seen.

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The pulpit and altar rails were given by **Archbishop Laud** who was beheaded in the Civil War.

If you are passing, do drop in and soak up the history!

Tim Cullen ***(Information taken from the official guide)***

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 or anything that would have been passed around the campfire to keep the sense of community strong in days gone by.

In order to be included in the December issue, please send articles in anytime from now until 20th November. 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.***



DOVES LINING UP FOR BREAKFAST AT NESTLEDOWN!

This newsletter is sponsored by the parish council and is part of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (publication schemes).

Editors: Tim & Jane Cullen

Pyecombe Village newsletter is printed on recycled paper

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