No. 173 Winter 2023

MID DOWNLAND
PARISH



VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

http://www.pyecombe.info

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PARISH

Rectory Ramblings

Happy New Year! The Church's New Year begins on Advent Sunday, the fourth Sunday before Christmas, which this year falls on 3rd December. Advent was originally a bit like Lent with an emphasis on prayer and fasting; it was a period of preparation for the Feast of the Epiphany, a day when converts were baptized. That is still symbolised in the use of purple vestments - purple being the liturgical colour associated with penitence. It's a bit of a contrast with the season of preparation and counting-down to Christmas that it has become. Somehow, we manage to weave both traditions together. Despite the purple vestments, we will see Christmas trees in our churches, hold carol services, and light advent candles as we count down the Sundays to Christmas day. I hope you are able to join us at Pyecombe on the evening of Sunday 10th December to join in the carols. Pyecombe will also host our 10.00am Parish Communion on Christmas Eve, which falls on a Sunday this year. On the same day there will be a 4.00pm Crib Service in Holy Trinity, Poynings - particularly with children in mind. You and they are encouraged to come in nativity costume of your choice! We will also have a 'Bethlehem' Midnight Mass at St Andrew's Edburton, at 9.00pm (Bethlehem is three hours ahead of us). Our Christmas morning Communion service will be at Newtimber.

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Thank you to everyone who has supported the church in the course of this year. Many people are involved in the life of the church; far more than the few who attend on a Sunday. Every one of you is valued and appreciated. We would love to share a glass of mulled wine (or a cup of tea of coffee) and a mince pie with you between 4.00 - 6.00pm, before the Carol Service on Sunday 10th December. Do come, you will be most welcome.

For now, I hope your Christmas preparations are stress free and that they will lead to a very Happy Christmas.

With every blessing,

Tim

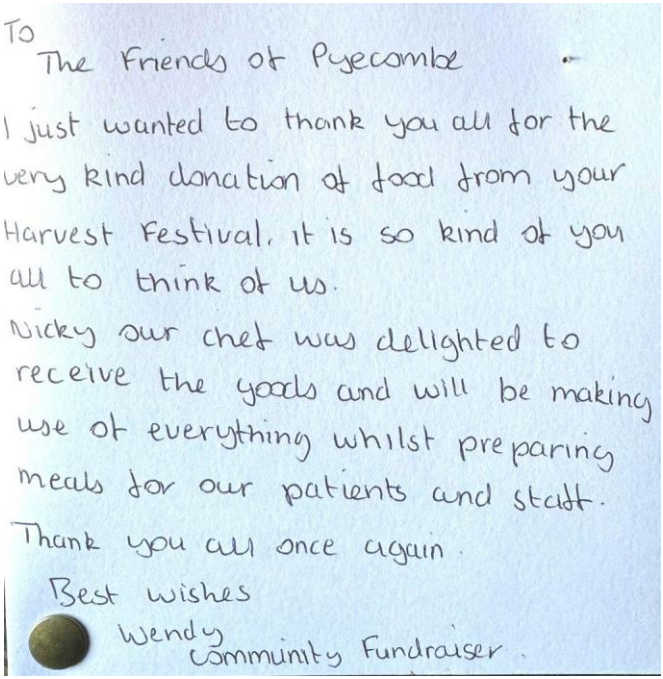
Revd Tim Harford

Rector of the Mid Downland Parish.

Tel: 01273 857456 Mob: 07824 532677

Pew Patter

Another great effort from Pyecombe at our Harvest – we collected over 14 bags of groceries for St Peter & St James's Hospice. They sent us a lovely letter of thanks:



To
The Friends of Pyecombe

I just wanted to thank you all for the very kind donation of food from your Harvest Festival. It is so kind of you all to think of us.

Nicky our chef was delighted to receive the goods and will be making use of everything whilst preparing meals for our patients and staff.

Thank you all once again.

Best wishes

Wendy
Community Fundraiser

As we approach Winter, we still get several visitors in the church. In September we had 20 Grenadier Guards sleeping in the church overnight!

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Our Carol Service is on 10th December with brass band. Come early and join us for mulled wine and mince pies between 4-6pm. The Service is at 6pm.

Please remember our twice monthly Services:

2nd Sunday – 3pm (after Christmas)

4th Sunday – 10am

Grateful thanks to all who help in the church. We can't do without you! A special thank you to Sally, Sandra, Alison, Ken and David.

A very Happy and Peaceful Christmas!

Church Team

MID DOWNLANDS PARISH CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 18th November at the Adastra Hall Hassocks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who worked so hard to make our Christmas Fair such a success. It raised £2800 – a remarkable achievement. We had so many interesting stalls this year, Indian foods, jewellery, the raffle, clothes, glassware, beautiful cakes and quiche, knitwear, painting tuition, Jacob's Ladder wooden toys, bric a brac, woodwork, and a lovely array of plants and refreshments. Adastra Hall was alive and buzzing!

The raffle was a great fundraiser and I would like to thank all those people who gave so generously: ASM chartered Accountants in Keymer, Halo Beauty Salon in Patcham, Beauty Secrets in Carden Avenue, Patcham, Tate's Garden Centre, Paradise Park, Tottington Manor in Edburton, Bake Out in Hassocks and Profile of Hassocks.

We are already making arrangements for 2024 and the Fair will be on 16th November. If anyone is interested in

joining us with a stall for another successful day please contact me. (Details below)

Father Christmas(es) will return to say hello and “Ho-ho-ho!” to all the children with a sackful of presents!

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and remember, our church doors stay open because of your generosity. Thank you all.

Sally Brown 07850 300603



Parish Council Jottings

New Parish Councillor

Following the advertisement of a Parish Council vacancy we would like to welcome Mr Lee Sullivan as a new Pyecombe Councillor. Lee was recently co-opted onto Council and we look forward to welcoming him to the role!

Latest Bus Travel Offers –

16 – 20 Bus Saver

Young people across the county now qualify for discounted bus fares with the '16 to 20 Bus Saver'. This new scheme means young people, whether they are in education or not, can benefit from reduced child fare rates offered by local bus operators.

The discount applies across all ticket types (including weekly or termly tickets), and can be used on journeys that start or finish in West Sussex.

The scheme has been developed by the County Council alongside bus operators and funded by the Department for Transport. Valid ID or a Citizen card will be required.

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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/

Community Project Update

As highlighted at both meetings and in previous newsletters, Council have been working with both West Sussex County Council Highways and SDNP to implement an improvement to the area surrounding the BP/M&S area.

We are happy to confirm that SDNP have recently awarded Pyecombe a grant of CIL monies which will ensure these works are fully funded and can proceed when the weather improves.

Proposals include;

- *Additional village gates*

- *Refurbishment to the Pyecombe village sign*
- *Clearance of vegetation*
- *New pathway*
- *Additional litter bins*
- *Flower beds*

Disappointingly our initial request for this funding to be used towards upgrading the children's play area was not successful as the area is fully owned by another authority.

Merry Christmas

On behalf of the Parish council I would like to wish all residents a Happy Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

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

Useful Information

Pyecombe Village Website – **www.pyecombe.info** (this site is in addition to pyecombevillage.co.uk, which is the parish council site). Information is added to the village site, but the Facebook page and WhatsApp message board are more frequently used for updates. If you want to add anything to the website you will need to send the complete article electronically to keith.a.gough@btinternet.com

Facebook Page is **Pyecombe Village Newsgroup**
WhatsApp - **Pyecombe Neighbours Group**

The administrator for these two groups is Keith Gough. Message him on 07966 292602

Christmas rubbish and recycling collection day changes in Mid Sussex

Rubbish and recycling collection days are changing in Mid Sussex over the Christmas and New Year period.

The changes begin on Saturday 23 December 2023 and end on Saturday 6 January 2024. All collections will return to normal from Monday 8 January 2024.

Bin hangers with full details of the collection changes are being hung onto the handle of wheelie bins, and residents can enter their postcode on the Council's website to find out their collection days.

Councillor Chris Hobbs, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Customer Services, said: "A significant amount of waste is generated across the festive period and so I'd like to encourage our residents to recycle as much as they can. "We'll be sharing recycling tips across our social media platforms and it's really important that we do what we can to help our teams at this busy time. **Things like glittery wrapping paper and cards can't be recycled so please do take the time to remind yourselves what you can and can't put in your bins**."

The festive collections are as follows:

Normal collection date	Festive collection date
Friday 22 December	No Change
Monday 25 December	Saturday 23 December
Tuesday 26 December	Wednesday 27 December
Wednesday 27 December	Thursday 28 December

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Thursday 28 December	Friday 29 December
Friday 29 December	Saturday 30 December
Monday 1 January 2024	Tuesday 2 January 2024
Tuesday 2 January 2024	Wednesday 3 January 2024
Wednesday 3 January 2024	Thursday 4 January 2024
Thursday 4 January 2024	Friday 5 January 2024
Friday 5 January 2024	Saturday 6 January 2024

The last garden waste collection will be on Friday 22 December 2023, with collections returning to normal on Monday 8 January 2024.

The Council is also opening 24 sites across the district where residents can drop off real Christmas trees to be recycled. The temporary sites will be open between Wednesday 3 January 2024 and Wednesday 17 January 2024. Locations can be found on our website. For more information about festive rubbish and recycling collections, visit www.midsussex.gov.uk/waste-recycling, email wastematters@midsussex.gov.uk or call 01444 477440.



To: Residents of Downland Village Ward

From: Cllr Geoff Zeidler

geoff.zeidler@midsussex.gov.uk

geoffzeidler@downlandvillages.org

Geoff Zeidler - Downland Villages | Facebook

November 2023

At the recent May 2023 District Elections, I was honoured to be elected as your District Councillor. My manifesto commitments were to do all I could to prevent overdevelopment; improve infrastructure; and receive value for money from Council Tax spending and I continue to focus on these areas.

Since being elected, I have worked with Councillors from all seven of our Ward Parishes on various issues as well as being in direct contact with our residents. I am delighted I have been able to assist wherever possible; and also support all Parish meetings which are an excellent opportunity for me to meet any residents with issues.

In this modern age, reaching out to our residents means using social media too and I write a monthly report outlining how MSDC is progressing on the issues relevant to the Ward. I post this report, which includes the dates of Parish Council meetings, on my Facebook Page. Please connect with me using the link above to see it.

I am on the Working Group for the District Plan which will have its final consultation in the New Year. In line with Government housing targets, I http://www.pyecombe.info

understand MSDC must include the housing proposed for Downland Villages Ward. My focus has been on ensuring such a Plan properly considers the impact on residents; incorporates all the infrastructure and services needed up front; and development is phased so, if local housing targets can ever be reduced, then the development in Downlands can be minimised.

Talking infrastructure, I have engaged with Southern Water in relation to resolving drainage issues in Sayers Common. I have also been working alongside the WSCC Councillor Mrs Joy Dennis and our Parishes to establish Traffic Regulation Orders to manage HGV traffic and speed limits in all areas; been engaged on the planning applications for the safety of Battery Energy Storage systems in Twineham. I will keep you updated on this as it unfolds.

You will have read and heard stories of other Councils "going bust" up and down and the country, and I am pleased to say MSDC has been prudently managed over the years with a sensible budget approved at the beginning of this year. Balancing investment in a difficult global economic environment when the tax burden is already high is about making hard decisions and choices in an honest way at both Council and national levels which is particularly hard given the costs of combating of climate change.

Thank you for taking time out of your busy day to catch up on what I have been doing. Should you require my support, please do not hesitate to contact me using the emails listed above.

Best wishes

Geoff

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Here we are at the start of our 10th year, and we have some very exciting news to share with you: on Sunday 19th May 2024 the Pyecombe Village Choir will be singing at the George Brassens Festival in Chailland, France! Flights and accommodation have already been booked and we are polishing up our French to sing at least one Brassens song alongside some of our own favourites in each 20 minute performance slot (there are 3 in all).

I'm hoping you can be a part of this venture by helping us decide on our programme! We aim to put on an afternoon tea concert immediately after Easter, partly as a fundraiser and partly as a means of getting you to vote for your favourite performances. Keep an eye on the noticeboards, website and WhatsApp group for details.

Meanwhile, we have enjoyed singing at a number of events this Autumn, not least at St George's Park, Ditchling, where we gave a full length concert during the September heatwave! That was great fun and we were delighted to be joined by Louise Andrews and Vivienne Pocock and to have Nick Andrews accompanying us with such aplomb! We are now preparing for Christmas concerts at Oak Mead and Maycroft Manor, the Pyecombe Carol Service, and carol singing at Brighton Station at 18:15 on Thursday 14th

December to raise funds for the Clocktower Homeless Appeal - do come and support us if you find yourself nearby.

Rehearsals are on Friday evenings, 5pm-6.30pm, so why not come and join us! Just ring me first to find out where we are meeting.

Happy Christmas from us all!

Jane Cullen *(07736 806851)*

From Nepal to England!

We were delighted to welcome Yubaraj, the Headteacher of The Malagiri School, to England on 13 October for 2 weeks. It was his first time out of Nepal, so it was an amazing and exciting experience for him.

He proved to be a delightful guest, keen to learn and easy to engage with. Yubaraj spent time in Primary schools, mainly around the St Leonards area of East Sussex; he joined students in their lectures at the University of Brighton, learning from them and sharing his own experiences; he visited many London sights and spent time in Brighton and exploring the beauty of Sussex; and he met with many people who have been active in sponsoring the school.

One of these events was held at Pyecombe Church, where Yubaraj joined the Pyecombe Village Choir (PVC) singing and making music. His delight - and his talent - were obvious to all those of

us who were there. He was very moved by the whole afternoon and expressed his great gratitude for all the financial help that so many of you have given over the years. May I add my thanks to all of you who attended and/or who have supported Malagiri so loyally.



I am especially grateful to all my friends, including members of the PVC who have been so willing to sing at events over the years, especially Tim and David who were in contact with Yubaraj prior to his visit and sang so joyfully with him (and of course to the Cullen family who sang a special Nepalese song on the day), and also to Betty and Sandra who made the tea for us. You all made 15 October a very special day!

Jill Munday

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SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Pyecombe Golf Club is one of the best courses in the UK for butterflies and chalk grassland flowers, new research has found. Consultant ecologist Neil Hulme performed three detailed surveys of the course and found an impressive total of 34 species of butterfly, including rare species such as the Adonis Blue, Brown Hairstreak and Grizzled Skipper. The nature success story comes after pioneering wildlife-friendly management of the course with the help of the South Downs National Park Authority, which shared the cost of special mowing equipment. Ecologist Neil Hulme said: “Walking around this golf course is like walking through a nature reserve or one of the better Sites of Special Scientific Interest in Sussex. It’s a good job I’m not a golfer as I’d deliberately spend the entire round in the rough, which is packed with an amazing variety of stunning wildflowers such as Roundheaded Rampion, Horseshoe Vetch, Wild Marjoram, Common Rock-rose and Devil’s-bit Scabious.” The club, which is situated to the north of Brighton & Hove, has been using a “cut and collect” mower to help manage chalk grassland and encourage the diversity of flowers. Phillippa Morrison-Price, Lead Ranger for the

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Eastern Downs, said: “It’s been a joy working with Pyecombe Golf Club, which cares so well for the wonderful mosaic of different habitat types found around this golf course. The areas of chalk grassland are particularly valuable for the plants and insects they support. The club should be very proud of what it has achieved here, demonstrating that sporting facilities and some of our most precious wildlife can happily exist side-by-side.” Simon Wells, Head Greenkeeper at Pyecombe, said: “The roughs now can be truly stunning and the club members have taken a sense of ownership of them and understand how privileged we are to be custodians of all these rare and wonderful habitats. It’s great to see the fruits of our labour.”

Neil Hulme



Pyecombe Church 100 Club

Results will be published soon for the last quarter. Keep an eye on the village noticeboards!

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

Red Kites and Ravens

When I first moved to Pyecombe 29 years ago, I felt so blessed to be living on the slopes of Wolstonbury and within touching distance of Newtimber Hill. I have no idea of how many hours I have spent on these hills over these years. They have been great teachers of the wonders of the natural world. I have learned to recognise and name many wonderful plants and animals and also have been here long enough to see changes. Amongst those changes are additional birds in recent years, starting with occasional sightings of Red Kites. I remember the first one I saw



flying parallel with me along the hedge as I drove towards Newtimber. It was amazing. Now several years after that, if I walk any of these near hills, but particularly Newtimber, there is a high likelihood of seeing them and sometimes in numbers. I saw 5 once on the other side of Newtimber. They must be living here successfully and it is so lovely to have such a neighbour.

And now another occasional spot , or rather hear, I used to have



was a Raven on Wolstonbury . I would hear a sound and think, " That sounds like a raven"! Now most times I walk around Welcome Bottom I hear a raven - in fact two. I believe there is a pair living down there. I have not seen them up very close but I'm as sure as I can be that is what I am hearing. Apparently in the 17th century ravens were persecuted and by 1875 there were no more in Sussex. They have a lot of folklore around them but, in general, they symbolise ancient wisdom, intelligence and transformation - all things the world needs more of… Let's hope as they spread in number and location they also spread these things too!

Vicki Clapperton

…and finally, thanks to Sandra Milner for sending in some fascinating explanations about some of our favourite sayings. Just room for one here to remember next time we have a deluge:

In 1500s houses had thatched rooves – thick straw piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs etc) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof…hence the saying, "It's raining cats and dogs"!

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HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

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

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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