No. 179 Summer 2025

PYECOMBE

Village Newsletter



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MID DOWNLAND
PARISH

From the Rectory

First, a huge thank you to Sally Brown and the army of helpers who made the Pyecombe VE Day themed flower festival such a success. The red, white and blue flower displays took many forms, but each contributed to a beautifully decorated church and made a fitting tribute to mark this 80th anniversary of VE Day. Our well attended Sunday evening service was also VE Day themed and benefited from the support of Pyecombe Village Choir. As I write, a final count of the income from the weekend has yet to take place, but from the steady stream of visitors, I can only think it was a great success.

The next big event in the diary of the Mid Downland Parish is the Country Fete in the garden of Poynings Rectory on Saturday 21st June, 2.00 – 4.30pm. Do come and enjoy the garden and all the activities and stalls: Cream Teas, Live Music, Barbeque, Cakes & Chutney, Champagne Throw, Raffle, Silent Auction, Rushfields Plant Stall, Pimms Stand, Bottle Tombola, Book Nook, Mini Golf, Splat the Rat, Bean Bag Throw, Hobby-horse Gymkhana, Build a Bear… We look forward to seeing you there.

On Friday 4th July, from 7pm, we are pleased to welcome *Cotillion* back to St John the Evangelist, Newtimber, with their production of "The Last Trip Home", a celebration of the working horse and ox in folk song and verse. Bring a picnic from 5.30pm to enjoy in the

beautiful churchyard. A wine bar, tea & coffee will be available. Entry is £10 - tickets via **cotillion-newtimber.eventbrite.co.uk.**

Also, at St John the Evangelist, Newtimber, on Friday 11th July, at 12.30pm - **Beyond the Walls: The Remarkable World History of Newtimber Church**. Professor Alan Lester from Sussex University, a renowned scholar and author specialising in British Colonialism, returns to Newtimber church to talk about the history of the church and its unique connections to extraordinary global events.

There is roadside parking at Newtimber church. Refreshments will be available to buy from 11.30am. There is no charge, but please reserve your place via **beyond-the-walls.eventbrite.co.uk.**

We have also prepared a dozen Woodland School Activities for 4 – 8 year-olds to enjoy over the summer holidays. All materials are available in Newtimber church porch. Come at any time over the summer; bring a picnic and enjoy a blissful afternoon rooting around, bark rubbing, mini-beast counting, make a nature mobile, hunting for hidden bird boxes, collect treasures and much more! New activities will be added throughout the summer holidays.

I hope you will have time for some rest and relaxation over the summer. With every blessing,

Tim

Revd Tim Harford

Rector of the Mid Downland Parish.

Tel: 01273 857456 Mob: 07824 53267
http://www.pyecombe.info

Pew Patter

It had been a quiet time at Pyecombe Church for the last few months until we held our flower festival at the beginning of May. We decided that we would like to bring this in line with the 80th celebrations of VE day and not only hold a flower festival, but also our annual plant sale. Both events were hugely successful, and we pretty much sold out of all our plants. The church looked absolutely beautiful with everybody's interpretation of victory in Europe, and obviously red, white and blue played the dominant part. These events were held on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th May and on Sunday evening, we had a Songs of Praise celebrating the weekend and joined by our fabulous choir, who had a few surprises up their sleeves for us.

Betty and I would like to take this opportunity to thank so many people (and I'm not going to name you because I would hate to miss somebody out) but there was a collection of men who put up the marquee and the signs, the ladies who did so many flower arrangements, the bakers who helped with refreshments, the sellers who helped on our stalls, and all those who just mucked in with clearing up, setting up, growing plants etc and supporting us 100%. Very sadly, I can't give you the figure we raised because both Betty and I went away the week after the event, but we will publish it in the next newsletter.

To conclude, we thank you all for your support for your generosity because without you, the church doors would not stay open.

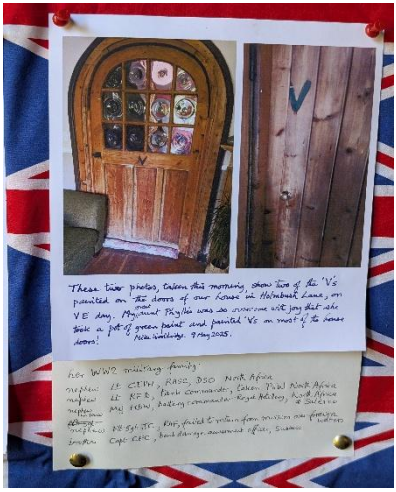
We are now starting to arrange all the details for our Christmas Fayre in Adastra Hall on 22nd November. So, if anybody would like to be involved or run/hold a stall, please don't hesitate to get in contact with me.



All good wishes & many thanks, Sally Brown & the Church Team

07850300603 or email sallybrown004@gmail.com

The Green Painted Victory signs in New Timber



This photograph came from New Timber and was pinned to our church notice board during our VE flower festival. Eighty years later, on two doors in New Timber, the green crosses have not been painted over but are still there and bear testimony to the sheer excitement and celebration when victory was finally declared. Today, it feels like hearing a distant echo from a past now long gone. But how wonderful that they are still there to jog our collective memory of an extraordinary time!



Pyecombe Church 100 Club

Month	£100	£20	£10
Feb - 25	N/A	Geoff Strong	Judy Godfrey
Mar - 25	N/A	Geoff Strong	Louise Harper
Apr - 25	Ken Grocott	Vickie Cowley	Geoff Strong

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

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Parish Council Jottings

Community Projects

The parish council are keen to hear from local residents who have ideas for community projects that will enhance the village.

If you have any suggestions, please email these to parishcouncil@pyecombe.org.uk for discussion at the next parish council meeting.

Village Tidy-up

Council is investing in equipment to assist with keeping the village tidy and are looking for volunteers to assist with this on either an ad-hoc or regular basis. If you are able to spare a couple of hours at any time, please drop me an email.

West Sussex County Council Big Fix

This May, West Sussex County Council are encouraging West Sussex residents to help reduce waste by repairing and reusing items rather than throwing them away.

The Big Fix is all about promoting local repair cafes and reminding us that when we throw something away, we're also wasting the land, energy, and other resources it took to make it. By repairing broken

items, you're not only saving money but also helping protect the planet.

Launched by Recycle Devon in 2019, The Big Fix has grown into a national movement — in May 2024 alone, an impressive 3,177 items were repaired across the UK, including 132 items right here in West Sussex!

West Sussex County Council is proud to support The Big Fix by sharing details of local repair cafes, hosting an online forum for repair tips and tricks, and helping more people embrace a repair-and-reuse lifestyle.

Find out more about local repair cafes and tips for repairing at home on their website. https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/waste-and-recycling/recycling-and-waste-prevention/recycling-news/the-big-fix/

West Sussex Road Safety

With a lack of funding preventing West Sussex County Council from delivering as much Road Safety as they would like to, they have had to find alternative methods to educate their residents and keep them informed with Road Safety-related topics.

One way they try to achieve this is via their Road Safety Facebook page, which has now been running for approximately

4 years. Unfortunately, their following remains low and therefore to increase the reach to our page, they need to promote it as far and wide in the county as possible.

To assist them with this and keeping the children and their families in our communities safe, they have asked us to share the following link to their Road Safety page - https://www.facebook.com/RoadSafetyWSCC/?locale=en_GB

Sussex Heart Charity

With the installation of the new defib in the village residents may be interested in the following scheme.

The Sussex Heart Charity is proud to announce the launch of 'Rescue Ready,' an exciting new project that supplies free AED/CPR awareness sessions to local community groups across the whole of Sussex.

The project is funded by the Sussex Heart Charity and is delivered in partnership with award-winning Pulse South Coast. The sessions are free and are suitable for anyone (of any age) who would like to learn familiarisation with AED devices and CPR skills.

Every second counts in a cardiac emergency and the aim of the project is to empower local communities and share essential lifesaving skills, so that everyone has the confidence and knowledge to be 'rescue ready.'

Further information on the project can be found on their website:

https://www.sussexheartcharity.org/rescueready/

If you are interested in attending a session, please drop me an email to parishcouncil@pyecombe.org.uk If there is enough interest, I can arrange a local session.

Clayton Hill Update

The Parish Council have been consulting with West Sussex County Council regarding an upgrade to the South Downs Way crossing point located opposite the Pyecombe Golf Club. Recent meetings have confirmed there is not sufficient land for the installation of a toucan crossing at this point or a refuge crossing which is disappointing news. However, the proposed upgrade will include better sight lines and additional safety measures. Additionally, the current speed limit over the hill will be reduced to 40 mph which should be actioned with the next few months.

Further information on this project will be shared when available.

Email Updates:

My thanks to those residents who have contacted me regarding assorted 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 assorted 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 - **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 & WhatsApp message board is 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 292601

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PYECOMBE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025

Thanks to funding held by South Downs National Park, the scheme put together to improve the area behind the BP Garage was brought to a conclusion during the year and was pleasingly appreciated by residents and the Parish Council alike, and the Council will continue with its ongoing maintenance and additional planting. Similar projects are currently being discussed in other areas of the village using the CIL monies being held.

The long-awaited inspection of the flooding issue at the bottom of Pyecombe Street by a West Sussex Highways engineer resulted in no suitable solution for a possible scheme under 'Operation Watershed'. However, a more regular clearance, including jettying the drains, would be carried out by contractors in future, to address the continuing flooding occurrence. Flooding in another badly affected area next to the bus shelter on the slip road, adjacent to the BP garage, was of serious concern during the winter by freezing over, and although the affected area of road is 'dis-owned' by West Sussex Highways, they have agreed to assist in alleviating the problem. The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation in the months ahead.

Joy Dennis has been our West Sussex County Council representative throughout the year and my thanks to her for the continuing assistance with the Parish Council. It was with her help and support that we were able to push forward for a community highways scheme with West Sussex Highways to improve the SDNP crossing on the A273, which has now moved much higher up on their agenda, with the soon to be implemented reduction in the speed limit in this area. Although we may not see anything substantial any improvement in safety for walkers,

cyclists and equestrians alike would be very welcome. Geoff Zeidler has been our Mid Sussex District Council representative in the past year, and my thanks to him for his assistance with the parish council. Indeed, he has consistently together with us pursued Mid Sussex District Council for an improvement plan for the children's play area, something we have persisted with for over eight years, with little success. Despite the play area being of low priority status with Mid Sussex District Council, we were both surprised and disappointed when details of improvement plans were printed and put together by MSDC to be put forward for consultation with the village, something which was not even discussed with us beforehand. Needless to say, we were not happy with the way it was handled, and now we await further details of a way forward.

County Council elections this year were cancelled for our area, following the Government decision to set up devolution, to include both East and West Sussex and Brighton, which once approved will result in an election of a mayor next year for the combined area and one single unitary council, to begin in three years' time. Whilst this may involve a lot of re-organisation for district, town and county councils, parish councils remain to continue in their current form. This could mean that any possible upgrade for our children's play area may be put into 'the long grass' for the time being.

A defibrillator was purchased during the year, and a suitable location was established, thanks to 'The Plough' to be installed and made available 24 hours to the village as well as the wider public, which, if needed, can save lives. Additional litter bins will be in place around the

village, to help keep our village tidy and I am aware that several residents still actively voluntarily give their time towards litter picking

and path clearance. My thanks to them all, for taking the time to care about our village. Both the village website and newsletter sponsored by the Parish Council, continue to keep residents informed and my thanks to Tim and Jane Cullen, as editors of the newsletter, for their valued contribution. Dawn Langston has been our Parish clerk and RFO throughout the year, and I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of council, and the community, to thank her for the total dedication and commitment shown to us all over the past year. My thanks also, to my fellow councillors, in our voluntary role, for their contribution and assistance in the past year. I take this opportunity to welcome all new residents to our village and to remind everyone that your Parish Council meets on a regular basis every other month, as a public meeting open to all.

David Wilson ***13th May 2025***

Chairman, Pyecombe Parish Council

Pyecombe vs Poynings Stoolball Match

Friday 27th June

It is not long now to this hugely enjoyable return fixture. We ran Poynings a close second last year, so this might just be our time!If you would like to play, please contact our captain, David Bailey. His number is 0777 201 7706. No experience necessary - he would love to hear from you!

The match starts at 6.00pm and takes place at Poynings' beautiful cricket ground. ***Tim Cullen***

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Do wish the choir "Bon Voyage" as we are off to sing at the Georges Brassens Festival again in Chailland, France, on Sunday 8th June. This year our programme will begin with a new song, "Chailland!", written specially for the occasion by David Finney! The festival always takes place on Whit Sunday and, as last year, we will have the privilege of singing at Mass at the wonderful Pontmain Basilica in the morning, before hurrying back for our first performance. What a day it promises to be!

Huge thanks to Wendy Pelling for organising a concert for us at St George's Park, Ditchling, on 10th May. This was our tribute to Tony and, at Wendy's request, included lots of fun pieces to reflect the immense joy he brought to people. The concert fell on Tony's birthday, which couldn't have been more appropriate. Enjoy a couple of photos below – Tim in full flight singing "I'm a gnu" and our men rendering The Policeman's Song, with David as a rather dubious felon!

Jane Cullen (07736 806851)





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Small Natural Neighbours

It's been a lovely spring. Out and about the blossom has been stunning. It seems everything has put on its finery to the max. Hopefully beyond the visual delight for us some of the natural world will have been feasting in other ways. Sometimes to see these things you have to stand still and take some time to notice the finer details and the smaller creatures a person may easily walk by at any speed other than no speed!

Something though that many people have noticed this year is an abundance of webs in trees and hedges. At first glance it looks very weird! What on earth has done this? Then if you are able to get up close you will notice it teeming with caterpillars. There are a few caterpillar varieties that are responsible for this and they are all moth caterpillars. Around Pyecombe so far I have seen two types. One is the Lacky Moth caterpillar that favours Blackthorn and the other is the Spindle Ermine Moth, whose favourite snack is the Spindle tree. Both types of caterpillar will be present in vast numbers and will quickly devour the leaves of their host. There is much good news here! Firstly, none of the trees will suffer for the feasting that takes place. Once the caterpillars are finished



eating and are nicely cocooned waiting for their moment to emerge as a moth, the trees will get to work producing another clutch of leaves. Another good news morsel here is this is just the time when baby birds are growing fast and are super hungry, and a tasty moth caterpillar is a perfect tummy filler.

Once the caterpillars go through their processes inside the



cocoon and emerge as moths, they continue to be bringers of good news in the form of being nighttime pollinators and food for many creatures including bats whose habitats along with many other beings at the moment are under extreme pressures, particularly with so many trees being lost to development and disease, and old buildings being modernised.

Hopefully this springtime abundance will give a much-needed good start to the year for our natural neighbours and with a bit of rain coming now too all needs will be being met.

If you have a small amount of time, many nature charities such as Woodland trust and Froglife need citizen scientists to look out for things and record what they see. Their websites all have details of what can be done to help. On a personal level I am getting a huge amount of fun and insight from the Merlin app at the moment. It is helping me identify the birds around and you can upload sightings to them to help them keep track of bird numbers wherever you are.

Wishing you all a lovely 2025 nature detecting!

Vicky Clapperton

Moth photos by Tim Cullen, and thanks to Andy Au for the following beautiful pictures of nature in his garden:







*The next newsletter is due out in September. In order to be included in the next issue, send articles in anytime from now until 24th August. 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

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