

December
2015

*Happy
Christmas*

**PETT & PETT
LEVEL
PARISH
NEWS**



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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information supplied herein. However, the editor cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions (E&OE). Unless otherwise indicated, opinions expressed herein are those of the authors of the individual letters, articles, announcements and adverts, and they do not necessarily represent the views of the editor. The editor cannot uphold or recommend any advertiser here within this publication.

POSTAL SERVICE

If you would like to receive a monthly copy of Pett & Pett LevelParish News and you do not live in the area, then we offer a Postal Service for just £12 per year. Please contact Brenda Kirkham on 01424 815022 or email beekirkham@tiscali.co.uk

PETT VILLAGE VOICE IN THE RYE & BATTLE OBSERVER

If you have any articles for inclusion in the weekly Village Voice, please contact **Mary Saint** on 01424 813047 or email mary@saintfamily.net. Deadline for copy is mid-day every Monday.

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DEADLINES:

Copy (letters, articles, announcements) is **MID-DAY THE 15TH** of each month.

Adverts (new, changes, payments) is **MID-DAY THE 1ST** of each month.

If you can get your copy to us beforehand it will be greatly appreciated.

Copy must be sent, by email, to pettparishnews@live.co.uk.

If you want to provide something handwritten then please agree this beforehand with a member of the editorial team as we may need to put some time aside to transcribe it.

Copy must be accompanied by your name, address and phone number otherwise it may not be published.

Dear Readers



In this edition we have a full round up of activities over Christmas and reports from various local groups and organisations. We also have an update on the Pett Sports Pavilion. If you haven't yet seen how this is changing take a walk down to the recreation ground and have a look and have a think about how we can encourage greater use of the recreation ground for the benefit of our community.

I am grateful to Fran Rogers for reminding me that several local organisations and services are now on Facebook. These include: St Nicholas; Pett Level Preservation Trust; Pett Level Rescue Boat; Pett and Pett Level Archive. If you run one of those organisations and contribute to this magazine, then please remind me and I will flag your article with the Facebook logo.

After last month's edition I have received some comment expressing concern about allowing letter writers to withhold their names. Some time ago, after I had recently become editor, we had a similar debate. I decided that anonymity would be allowed but only if the contributors made themselves known to the editor (there had been instances previously of anonymous contributors pursuing their own personal vendettas). This decision took account of my experience that what some people find easy to discuss in public others do not, and I did not want to close down comment from those who believe they have something genuine to say. This is an approach that my editorial team fully support.

And finally, I would like to thank all of those who have made this magazine possible over the last twelve months. This includes, of course, the editorial team, but especially our team of distributors who get the magazine to your letter box in all weathers.

Happy Christmas
Mike

Editorial Team:

Mike Wilkins, Editor (07710 080148)
Sarah Adams (01424 812323)
Lesley Wilkins (01424 813206)
Tim Rothwell (01424 252971)



The Rustic Kitchen



Mobile Caterers



GREENE KING
BURY ST EDMUNDS



PETT LEVEL *Winter Warmer*
**BEER
FESTIVAL
2015**



REAL ALES

DECEMBER
18th, 19th & 20th

Fri 12-11pm

Sat 12-11pm Live Music 8pm

Sun 12-9pm Live Music 4pm

FREE ENTRY
ALL WELCOME

LIVE MUSIC

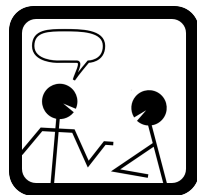
The New Beach Club

Pett Level Road, Pett Level, TN35 4EH

01424 812080 info@thenewbeachclub.co.uk

www.thenewbeachclub.co.uk [Facebook.com/newbeachclub](https://www.facebook.com/newbeachclub)

LETTERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dear Editor

MARSHAM REEDBED

Although there are places in the world where it is dangerous to freely express your opinions I don't believe Pett Level to be one of them. Nor is the National Trust known for menacing its critics, so I see no need for last month's letter concerning management of Marsham Reed Bed to have been published under a pseudonym.

The writer frequently uses the plural, implying multiple victims of the supposed miseries inflicted by this work, yet not one of them is prepared to sign their name. In this way he/she/they avoid having to face up to the possibility that their complaints have already been addressed. It is also an insult to the National Trust to suggest that objectors have something to fear. What would that be?

Anonymity also protects the writer's ignorance from scrutiny. For instance, the reed bed is not "new". Had the writer lived here longer, or maybe done their homework, they would know that it has been in existence for at least 40 years. Unfortunately it has been neglected for much of that time allowing willow scrub to dominate the area. If "Peace Lover" could be bothered to read up about the dynamic nature of reed beds, they would understand how this has come about and if they had taken the trouble to inform themselves about SSSI requirements for reed bed management they would understand why the work to recover this valuable habitat has been so drastic.

Thanks to the internet, this information is not hard to come by, and had "Peace Lover" spent a few more minutes investigating they would have discovered that reed beds in Sussex are actually few in number and small in size – until recently this was the second largest in the county.

But why let facts get in the way of an ill-informed rant?

Readers might begin by sympathising with this poor person for the disturbance and discomfort they have suffered. They may well forgive the anonymous writer's ignorance. But by the time readers get to the ridiculous insinuations about secret car parks for birders, I think they will begin to understand why "Peace Lover" wishes to conceal his/her true identity.

CLIFF DEAN

Dear Editor

SPEEDING

It was interesting to read in November's Parish News of Councillor Saint's concerns about speeding in our area. He described the upset of a 'near-miss', some time ago, at the junction of Watermill Lane on to Pett Road. He should try living at the bottom of Friars Hill, where we regularly hear the screech of brakes, blasting of horns and the occasional thump, two of which in the past couple of years have resulted in serious damage to cars, fortunately not people, although in one case the driver of the damaged car was extremely shocked and distressed. The other driver continued his journey towards Pett.

Of course, we do not have the same protection as those living past Peter James Lane, namely a 30mph limit. We live at the bottom of that part of the Pett road that is a fairly steep, narrow and winding slope, with no footpath but with

numerous accesses from both properties and side roads, yet has a 40mph limit! This indicates to drivers that it is a safer stretch of road for faster driving. It is not. As well as the two incidents already described, I have witnessed several 'near-misses' with vehicles coming out of Chapel Lane. Doubtless the police will maintain that there are no accidents along this road, but as far as I know they were not informed of any of these incidents.

I think that the relevant authorities should be asked to justify this inappropriate difference and, since they will be unable to do so, ensure that the 30mph limit applies to the full length of Pett Road. We should not have to wait for a more serious accident to occur.

MRS S. ELFORD

Dear Editor

PARISH NEWS

Annie and I thought it might be good to drop you a brief note of appreciation; we have found the Parish Magazine extremely useful since we moved into Pett in early August. Having so many contact possibilities concisely listed when moving to a new area is invaluable.

When we have surfaced above the sea of cardboard boxes I will be in touch again to place a regular advert for my Spectacles business (www.eyemasters.co.uk).

ANNIE MORRISON & RICHARD SMITH

Dear Editor

PARISH NEWS

Another year nearly over – amazing how time just flies by!!

Congratulations to all who have edited this year – you do a grand job and I hope the people of Pett appreciate it.

JOHN TAYLOR

Dear Editor

ST. NICHOLAS'S CHURCH

David and I went to see what has been happening at the Old Chapel on Pett Level.

We were both so amazed by what has been achieved in a very short space of time by one very keen lady - Fran Rogers and a small team - restoring, cleaning and repainting this fascinating old building.

We hope that those of you who have not yet seen what has been achieved will go along to offer your encouragement and perhaps help in order that Fran can finish what she has started. Fran's number is 01424 812964 if you can help or donate in any way.

Thank you Fran!

REVD. DAVID AND DENISE WOTTON

Dear Editor

A BIG THANK YOU TO POPP VOLUNTEERS

I would like to give a big thank you to the volunteers of POPP who give their time and effort into preparing, and delivering a unique service within this community.

For those that aren't aware of what POPP stands for, it is Pett Older People's Project. We meet every Tuesday at PETT Village Hall from 10am until 2pm. During this period we have entertainment, raffles, quizzes, music, at various times we also offer manicure, pedicure, head and shoulder massage, health tips and welfare advice, the day also includes a two course lunch, cooked on the premises, all for £5 a day with unlimited tea, coffee and biscuits. Transport can be arranged. Popp is now in it's 5th year with numbers increasing.

If you are lonely, over 60 or you just wish to be involved in the community come along and try us out, singles or couples.

The main purpose of this letter is however, to thank all the volunteers, who give up their valuable time to make this day happen. It is hard work and they don't stop all day so a big thank you. We also have two great men who come along at the beginning and end of the day to help erect and take down the innumerable tables and chairs, this is hard and heavy work, thanks to the both of you, I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas.

ANN NICHOLLS (01424 813043), CHAIRLADY OF POPP

Dear Editor

A SMALL WORLD

I collect old Pett postcards, usually finding them on eBay. Last week I saw a very cheap one for sale and bought it for about £2. Two days later it arrived from the seller, who was based in Ireland. The four photos on the front were interesting: the usual Parish Church and Post Office view, an early one of Chick Hill, Rectory Corner before the Rectory was demolished, and Lunsford Farm, not looking much different from now.



I turned it over, noting the stamp, which was issued around 1960, and address to which it had been sent: Handsworth in Birmingham. The postmark was illegible. I then read the little note on the card. Obviously the writer had been staying in Pett with a villager friend known as "E." and was sending greetings to another friend, addressed as "M." in Birmingham. Nothing particularly unusual about that, you might say, but imagine my surprise when I read the address where the sender was staying : it was OUR address: 2 Brambletye!



My 90-year-old neighbour, Chris Harris, told me that "E." was Edie Weston. Edie bought the house from a Mr & Mrs Walter Clarke for £2,050, in August 1958, and lived at 2 Brambletye until she moved into a nursing home in 1983. It was then bought by Alan Goodman, for £23,950, who lived here until 2009 and then we bought it (regrettably not for a similar amount!) from Alan's family. Looking at our deeds Edie originally came from Hall Green in Birmingham, hence the postcard's destination.

What a coincidence that 55 years later a postcard, probably written in our sitting room, has found its way back here again!

HEATHER GODWIN

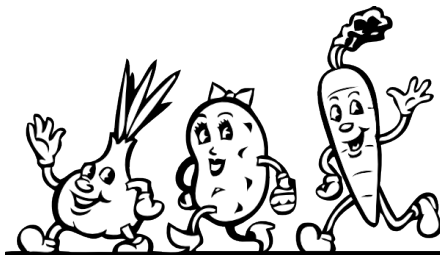
FANCY GROWING YOUR OWN?

If so, Pett Village Allotments Association currently has a vacancy. The site is small and friendly, located close to the TicTocory café, Two Sawyers pub and handy for local amenities.

Plots are of manageable size and mains water is supplied. The annual plot rental is £20 per year.

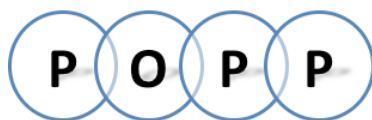
For more information or a walk round the site, please contact the Secretary:

Libby Rothwell 07714 340674
Libby.rothwell891@gmail.com



PETT OLDER PEOPLES PROJECT

Meeting every Tuesday at 10.30 in Pett Village Hall



Enquiries 07917 923075 **Ann Nicholls** 01424 813043

POPP FUTURE CALENDAR

1 st Dec.	Annie Crier Thai Chi
8 th Dec.	Keith Osbourne – Music for Health
15 th Dec	Christmas Dinner with trimmings; Cantelubre Choir Sing
22 nd Dec	Christmas Party Buffet; Brian Howard entertains
29 th Dec	CLOSED
5 th Jan	Keith Osbourne – Music for Health

SERVICES PROVIDED ON THE DAY

15 th Dec & 5 th Jan.	Head and Shoulder Massage	Antonella Bruce
5 th Jan	Nail Technician	Sheryl Tucker

Also, Toe Nail Cutting Service - Home visits or at POPP – Sheila 07774 573086

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Rod and Heather of 2 Brambletye, Pett Road, would like to wish friends and neighbours a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year - we will be making a donation in lieu of Christmas cards to various charities close to our hearts.

PETT VILLAGE HALL 500 CLUB WINNERS

1st Prize
Mrs Janet Gibbs
2nd Prize
Mrs Sara Baker



PETT VILLAGE HALL

TO ALL THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF PETT AND PETT LEVEL

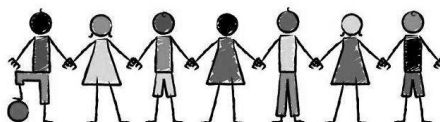
(AND THE YOUNG AT HEART)

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO KNOW
IF YOU HAVE ANY THOUGHTS ON WHAT COULD MAKE
THIS A **BETTER**
OR **MORE EXCITING**
OR **MORE INTERESTING** PLACE
FOR YOU TO LIVE



PLEASE SEND US YOUR IDEAS

(please send them to clerkpettparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk)



CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

AT PETT VILLAGE HALL

WEDNESDAY 2nd DECEMBER

COME AND SUPPORT **YOUR**
VILLAGE HALL


10AM TILL 12

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

WIN A HAMPER FULL OF
CHRISTMAS GOODIES

£1.00 a TICKET

DRAW AT 11.00AM



German Christmas Market

Local Crafts
Decorations and Gifts
Glazed Apples and Cakes
Homemade Mulled Wine
German style BBQ
Creative Corner

All Welcome

11am - 4pm

Saturday 28th November

The New Beach Club
Pett Level Road, Pett Level, TN35 4EH
01424 812080 info@thenewbeachclub.co.uk
www.thenewbeachclub.co.uk [Facebook.com/newbeachclub](https://www.facebook.com/newbeachclub)



HALLOWEEN

Pett's Best Ever Halloween annual event took place at Pett Village Hall on Sunday 25th October. The evening is organised for children of all ages and we even allow adults as long as they are well behaved! The spooky graveyard from last year had moved into the main hall and we were greeted by Frankenstein at the door. Our very scary waiter served skull pie to his dead companions and their dog Harold!

Inside the hall the Halloween committee and some very kind local people of Pett had transformed the hall to look really spooky. The Skeletons, Ghouls and Witches manned our usual Halloween games, with some new additions, all of which cost 20p to take part - win or lose prizes are guaranteed.



The blazing fire lit by our resident fire lighter kept us all warm as we ate the "howling hot dogs" and "death by burgers" cooked by the Skelton chef and his devil helpers. Terrifying Tim's mulled wine filled the air and the atmosphere was wicked!

The fancy dress was again fantastic and all the costumes were brilliant - the task of picking the winners is never easy. This year the Halloween Committee decided all the children should receive a gift as they had all made such an effort. Our adult fancy dress was decided by the children who cheered to pick their favourite, it was a close call but the werewolf won!

The Halloween committee would like to thank everybody involved for their help again this year with a special thank you to Sarah for face painting, Paul Turner for being a wicked fire lighter and for preparing the bonfire. Thank you to Evelyn and David Darnell for the use of their field. Thank you to our new helpers Sally Draper, Pauline Rowland and Erin and Lily. Also to Jo Corps for her continued support on manning stalls.

Look forward to seeing you all next year. Photos of this year's event will be on Pett Village Hall website.

Pett Village Hall Halloween Committee

st michael's hospice

St Michael's Hospice appeal for gardens

St Michael's Hospice is looking for lovely gardens in Hastings Old Town and across Hastings and Rother to feature in their Open Gardens season 2016.

If you're an avid gardener that takes great pride in your garden then why not show off your hard work and raise money for the Hospice at the same time? Open Gardens invites members of the public in to otherwise private gardens, giving everyone the opportunity to admire the garden, enjoy the views and take inspiration for their own gardens.

If you think your garden deserves to be in the spotlight, please contact Sally Beresford, Community Fundraiser on 01424 456369 or email fundraising@stmichaels-hospice.com



PETT VILLAGE HALL

Registered Charity No. 1005693

Pett Village Hall is an extremely popular venue for weddings, celebrations and functions.

In order to maintain our high standard for such events, the chairs are being replaced.

As a result, the existing ones are available for anyone who would like them, subject to a suitable donation to the Village Hall Charity.

If you are interested, please contact any of the committee, or Secretary, Sarah Adams 01424 812323.

st michael's hospice

Volunteer for your local Hospice

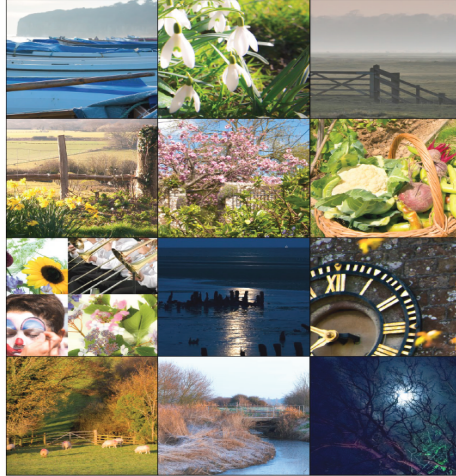
The St Michael's Hospice shops need your support! Not only do they need your pre-loved items, but they are also looking for people to donate their time and join their dedicated volunteer teams in their Bexhill, Sidley, St Leonards on Sea, Hastings, Battle and Rye shops.

Volunteering at the Hospice shops can be rewarding and valuable. It can help increase confidence, give you the opportunity to learn new skills, develop your CV and it's a fantastic way of meeting new people.

If you're interested in volunteering, please contact volunteering@stmichaels hospice.com or call the Voluntary Services team on 01424 445177

PETT & PETT LEVEL CALENDAR 2016

PETT & PETT LEVEL CALENDAR 2016



All proceeds to Pett Village Hall
Taking orders now! £8.00 each
Place your order with
Sarah Adams on 01424 812323

© All images by local photographer Yolanda Wiggins

Available now: **PETT & PETT LEVEL CALENDAR 2016.**

A selection of photographs loaned by local photographer Yolanda Wiggins to produce this calendar.

All proceeds, other than the cost of printing, towards village hall funds.

Cost £8.00.

An ideal Christmas Gift!

Calendars are available from Phil The Butchers
Tic Toc (Hair Couture)

Alternatively an order/ purchase can be placed with
Sarah Adams (01424 812323)



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR VILLAGE HALL

ON THE BEACH AT PETT LEVEL



Hello all,

In November we had live music from the sensational Jess Roberts on Remembrance Sunday and the Rockin' Ambassadors, a new band in the area, on Sunday 22nd.

Still to come in November: German Christmas Market on Saturday 28th 11am-4pm. There will be lots of stalls including local arts and crafts, decorations, gifts, cakes, glazed apples and creative corner for the kids. We have German bottled beers and home made German mulled wine at the bar and The Rustic Kitchen will offer a special German-themed menu and BBQ. In the evening we have our Vinyl Night, bring and play your favourite records, 8pm.

As most of our members are aware, we are appealing for funds to help with important regeneration work in the Club, including new windows and doors, new furniture and a proposed decking overlooking the beach. Donations, addressed to the Secretary, can be left at the Club in the Suggestions Box, which is emptied regularly. Please include a name and address so the donation can be acknowledged. One of our members, also a committee member, is going "tippie-free" for a month and will be donating £10 of their own money to St. Michael's Hospice for every £100 donated to their cause. Details can be found at <https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/ZanaDuthie>.

Coming up in December:

- Sunday 6th: Ricochet 4pm
- Friday 18th - Sunday 20th: Winter Warmer Beer Festival
- Saturday 19th: Phil Trainor 8pm
- Sunday 20th: The Undecided 4pm
- Sunday 20th: Grand Christmas Raffle Draw 3pm
- Boxing Day: "Bring your own" Buffet
- The Spark Plugs 2.30pm
- Don't forget to wear your Christmas Jumpers!
- New Years Eve: Mick Mephem 9pm

Pett Level Winter Warmer Beer Festival will offer six beers from local and national breweries including Greene King, Harvey's and Long man, featuring a mix of old favourites and new discoveries. There will be Mulled Cider and The Rustic Kitchen will have a menu to complement the event. There will be live music on the Saturday night and on Sunday afternoon after the Grand Christmas Raffle Draw. Christmas Raffle squares are available to buy over the bar in the Club and cost £1 each.

On Boxing Day we have our "bring your own" buffet where we all bring along a dish or two and create a sumptuous buffet. Live music will start at 2.30pm as the Spark Plugs keep our Christmas rocking! Don't forget to come along in your Christmas jumper...

Our regular event dates for December:

- Quiz Night Monday 7th & 14th 8.30pm Start
- Ramble Wednesday 9th meet 11am Club car park
- Free Pool every Wednesday evening

- Vinyl Night No Vinyl Night in December

Quiz Night will be taking a break for two weeks over Christmas and will resume on 4th January.

Bar Christmas opening times:

- Christmas Eve: 12-10pm
- Christmas Day: 12-2pm
- Boxing Day: 12-7pm
- New Year's Eve: 12pm-1am
- New Year's Day: 12-7pm

The Rustic Kitchen's Christmas Menu is available and bookings are being taken for between 2nd and 24th December, please ask for a menu and booking from. Daily specials, Sunday roasts and fish and chips on Frydays are still available and don't forget the special Wednesday and Thursday offers: O.A.P. two course lunch 12-2.30pm and Early Bird 5.30-6.30pm.

The Rustic Kitchen Christmas opening times:

- Christmas Eve: 12-2.30pm
- Christmas Day: Closed
- Boxing Day: Closed
- Sunday 27th: Closed
- New Year's Eve: 12-2.30pm
- New Year's Day: Closed

As always, we look forward to seeing you all! Robin

NEW BEACH SEA ANGLING CLUB

The Angling Club fished their last competition of the season on Sunday 18th October.



Pete Drew and Mick Goswell with 14 points and 13 points respectively headed the leader board but with both being unavailable to fish, it left things wide open for the pursuing pack to pounce.

Steve Harris on 11 points needed to finish first or second to be overall champion but only managed to gain one point so finished fourth. Meanwhile on 8 points Mark Farley needed to win and gain 6 points to tie with Pete and guess what, he did it with flying colours. In the event of a tie the title is decided on total weight over all competitions. Mark ended up with 66lb 3oz and Pete with 36lb 4oz so congratulations to Mark who is the club champion for 2015-16.

Our next event is our Christmas beach competition to be fished on Sunday 13th December at the Ten Foot Road behind the Café at Winchelsea Beach. Start time is 09.30 and finishing at 13.30, then back to the club for prizes, hot food from our excellent caterers The Rustic Kitchen and ale supplied by our award-winning bar manager Robin Lyons.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members for their continued support and as always stay safe and tight lines.

Pete Drew – Competition Secretary

PETT LEVEL RESCUE BOAT



It's been another routine month with lots of training and maintenance going on, it's that time of year!

We had a very informative morning at the new Coastguard Helicopter Base at Lydd Airport, where we were shown over the aircraft and made very welcome, at a time when it's convenient to both organisations we will have a joint exercise which is something to look forward to.

A big thank you to all at Pub 31 at Winchelsea Beach for raising a total of £106.31 in our charity bottle.

Steve Hill, Chairman

PETT WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

November is the end-of-year (for the WI) business-month when WI members, all over the country, hold Annual General Meetings to vote in a new committee for their local institute for the following year. Pett WI voted for their 2016 committee and the Secretary's Report highlighted the wonderful Centenary Vintage Tea Party which we hosted for the County in June – it really was a triumph of planning and execution – and we should be rightly proud of it. Also mentioned was the excellent Pett Village Big Lunch and Feast of Puddings – who could forget Sharon from the Two Sawyers and her magician's assistant role! More importantly we raised money and **donated to LOCAL village groups** who all expressed their gratitude.



The December meeting will take the form of a **Christmas Lunch** at **The Two Sawyers** on **December 18th, if you have booked please be there by 12.30.**

This year a radical proposal was made and approved at Pett WI's AGM: *for the first time for a very long time Pett WI will be meeting in the evenings from January 2016.* We hope to encourage more women who otherwise are at work or are busy in the home during the day, to experience the joy and pleasure that is the WI.

Please put the date in your new 2016 diary: **Wednesday January 20th.** This inaugural evening meeting will be a social one, with tea and coffee or wine, and nibbles and will start at **7pm in the Catherine Hollman Room of Pett Village Hall.** For one night only our Visitor's Fee will be suspended! **COME ALONG AND BRING A FRIEND!**

Heather Godwin

GARDENING CLUB

This morning the sky is a uniform pearl grey, with darker wispy clouds beneath moving swiftly from west to east. Outside it is damp. If moisture is falling and you can see splashes in the puddles it is raining, if not it is drizzle. As I write, a tiny lozenge of blue appears. What can we expect from the weather today, that it will be overcast with sunny spells and the risk of showers? Or: rain before seven fine before eleven?



The weather has always been important to gardeners. Miss the frost warning and you can lose your tender perennials or your crop. So, on Tuesday, the garden club was privileged to welcome Ian Currie, weather man, speaker, columnist, author and presenter, to talk to us about the history of forecasting.

Since ancient times, long before the science was understood and instruments invented, people have found practical ways to try to predict the weather. Observation played a crucial role, for example, people noticed that if the sky turned red or orange in the evening, the following day would be fine and warm. To help them remember, someone would invent a little rhyme: red sky at night sailors' (or shepherds') delight, and it would pass into folklore. Not all of these sayings hold true however. If you see cows lying down it is nothing to do with the imminent arrival of rain. In fact cows have a tendency to stand under trees and to be hit by lightning.

Wind vanes are an example of an early weather instrument. More sophisticated instruments had to wait until it was possible to produce high quality glass. Discoveries were made by gentlemen scientists, often clergymen, who had sufficient wealth and therefore leisure to allow them the time to indulge their interests. It was important to be able to measure things like rainfall, temperature and air pressure, but if weather was to be predicted accurately the instruments and observations would need to be standardised. In the last half of the nineteenth century James Glaisher began to establish standards, and Vice-Admiral Robert FitzRoy invented forecasting. The jet stream, and its important role in our weather, wasn't discovered until after the Second World War.

Nowadays the Met Office computer, using the energy of a small town, makes trillions and trillions of calculations per second, But you can learn a lot just by looking at the sky and remembering a rhyme, such as: mackerel sky, mackerel sky, never long wet, never long dry; clear moon, frost soon; when a halo rings the moon or sun, rain's approaching on the run; when clouds look like rocks and towers, the earth will be refreshed by showers.

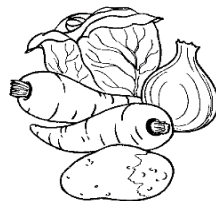
We learnt many interesting facts, too many to list here. Among them something we've all observed: that is has been a remarkably warm start to November. This year has been the warmest on record, globally, and warm seas are making for some unusual weather, including storms and exceptional rain. But remember: if on the trees the leaves do hold, the coming winter will be cold.

We look forward to welcoming our members to the **Christmas party** on Tuesday December 13, at 7.30pm.

Sandy Andrews

FOLLOW THE PLOT

Pett Village Allotments Association



Sheds are the symbol of allotment life. A plot with no shed means no storage: you are forced to lug your gardening basics with you on every visit to the site. Or leave them somewhere on the plot and hope they survive. And even if they do, you very soon find the concept of “basics” expanding to include industrial quantities of oddments: bales of netting, insect mesh, tins of nails, packets of lime (no self-respecting cabbage will grow without it), boxes of birdseed (reward for birds that don’t attack your cabbages), a bucket, a chair or two, bags to take crops home in --the list is endless. But it’s not just a matter of storage. A shed can be a symbol of personal identity too.

All allotment sites have sets of rules about what you can and can’t have on your plot. Some rule out any construction other than a bin for compost or storage. Thank goodness our site is one of the many which allow sheds. There are limitations, of course, on size and materials used, but allotmenters are a resourceful breed: the more uniformity imposed on them, the more ingenuity they display in asserting their individuality.

For some, it’s the interior of the shed that gets all the attention. I’ve known allotmenters with state-of-the-art camping stoves for early-morning fry-ups, solar panels for extra power, and even gingham curtains at the window. One friend of mine, an arachnophobic dentist, scrupulously scrubbed every crevice inside her shed with a toothbrush. What else would a dentist use?

It is possible to make a go of an allotment without having your own shed. Possible, but less likely, especially if you don’t live near the site. Taking a break from your labours over a warming brew in your shed, surrounded by nature...what more could you wish for?

Libby Rothwell 07714 340674, Libby.rothwell891@gmail.com

PETT LEVEL NATURALISTS SOCIETY

In October we were rewarded with a delightful talk by Colin Page on the Pyrenees. He made it most interesting with amazing photographs. He named so many flowers including different varieties of gentians, orchids, sempervivums, potentilla and saxifrage.



We will break now until March when we will meet on the 18th for our AGM followed by a talk by Lynne Jenkins entitled “A trip round Peru”. As always Lynne’s talks are extremely diverse and we look forward to hearing about her experiences in Peru.

All visitors are warmly welcome and we look forward to seeing our members again.

Brenda Kirkham

PETT LEVEL PRESERVATION TRUST (PLPT) NEWS



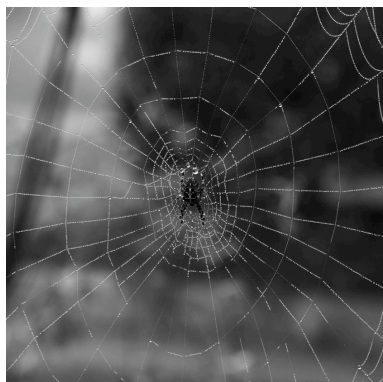
I'm pleased to announce that the Trust's website is up and running, thanks to the great help of Gabriella Holder. You can find out about the Trust's history, function and plans, see maps and photos of the Trust's land, learn about the management taking place and look out for future events at www.pettlevelpreservationtrust.org. The Trust also has its own **Facebook** page.

We had another Volunteer Work Party on October 25th, when we continued to open up the canal-side scrub north of Thalassa. Our next date will be November 29th, when we shall try to consolidate our work in this area before returning to the pond & old tennis court on future occasions.

The PLPT land continues to attract a large number and variety of small birds including Goldcrests, Bramblings, Siskins and Redpolls. Song Thrushes are eating the sloes and some have even begun to sing, though the true winter thrushes – Redwings & Fieldfares – have yet to arrive here even though there are large flocks inland. Once they do get here, however, the Hawthorns are full of berries for them.

Cliff Dean

NATURE NOTES



This is the last Nature Notes for 2015, and soon the television will be full of those dreadful 'review of the year' shows. But there's no need to worry, this won't be a review of the natural year. Nature is very much a 'happening now' subject and there's usually too much going on right now to worry about what happened last month. Besides, I have enough trouble remembering what happened last week anyway. One thing that happened this week, however, was very memorable – I saw a badger! Nothing remarkable about that you may say, but running across the lawn in the middle of the day, hours away from dusk? It made me wonder why it was out in daylight and what had disturbed it. Perhaps it was confused by this long drawn out autumn we

are having – we've had the warmest October, and November also looks like setting records with a high of 22 deg. C in Wales on November the 1st and two weeks of warm humid weather since then. As I write this in mid-November there are still plenty of leaves left on the trees and we have Verbena, Fuchsia and 'Bowles Mauve' still in flower in the garden. We even have a confused apple tree that put out a tentative bit of blossom a couple of weeks ago.

Hopefully, it will get colder soon and we'll get some frost to slow down the garlic and ensure a good crop for next year. Cold weather isn't good for everything though, but most of the animals in your garden won't experience that as they will have died weeks or even months ago. Perhaps I should qualify that – by most, I mean numbers, and the largest number of visible animals in your


garden are probably insects. Most solitary insects like flies, midges, solitary bees and wasps, dragonflies and butterflies, have a very short life as an adult and may last only a few days or a few weeks at most. These insects will have invested their future in eggs or larvae that will hopefully be in a safe place until spring warms enough to accelerate their growth process to become adults. Not all insects do this though and there are some notable exceptions, especially larger insects like the winter damselfly and Peacock and Brimstone butterflies. You would expect some of our larger moths like the hawkmoths to overwinter as well, but mostly this does not happen. For many, like the convolvulus hawkmoth and pine hawkmoth, which are immigrant species, the UK moth book gives the stark message – unable to overwinter. (For some, like the lime hawkmoth, the message is even more stark – does not feed.) Most overwinter as a chrysalis – the privet hawkmoth sometimes twice. The only hawkmoth I could find that overwinters as an adult is one of the smaller ones – the delightful humming-bird hawkmoth, which can cope with mild winters in the south west.

The social insects like bumblebees and wasps all die out in winter with the exception of mated queens that will carry the next generation as a packet of sperm in their abdomens. Exceptions to this are the remarkable honey bee, that stores honey to keep the workers going over winter, and ants that are just basically tough and resourceful and stay underground.

One thing that prompted me to write about overwintering animals was curiosity about spiders and what happens to them at this time of year. Sadly the answer is fairly boring – some overwinter as adults, and some don't. But while I was looking I found a very remarkable fact about spiders – they can fly! And these are not just some exotic species shown to us by David Attenborough from some jungle in South America, but things like our own British money spiders. The spiderlings squirt enough silk from their spinnerets to form a sort of kite which is directed into the air in the hope of catching an up draught. If successful, they let go of their perch and drift to wherever the wind takes them. This is, of course, a risky strategy – they may end up in another spider's web, or as a snack for swallows, or frozen at 30,000 feet, or even in the sea. So why adopt such a strategy? Well simply because staying around hundreds of other cannibalistic spiderlings is even more risky.

The on-line version of this column at www.pettnats2.blogspot.co.uk will not show any pictures of overwintering insects, but will be a sort of 'review of the year' at least as far as bumblebees and hawkmoths are concerned.

Report potholes online



eastsussex.gov.uk
East Sussex Highways
NEWS

East Sussex County Council

You can easily report any faults on the road to us via the [East Sussex County Council website](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/highways).

If you report a fault to us please let us know the road name, nearby house numbers and the size of the fault. This will help us find the issue quicker and repair it if necessary.

We aim to repair potholes within one month, five days or two hours, depending on its size and location

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

October's meeting was very busy with a full agenda. It was good to see more members of the public at the meeting, bringing up issues such as the overload of notices on the beachfront at Pett Level, the renovation of St Nicholas's church and the suggested change of position of the Parish Council notice board, plus the issue of parking on verges.



Several councillors had been on courses and conferences and had interesting information to share on issues such as the future of local policing and neighbourhood plans, both of which will be investigated further. The re-instatement of the Marsham Reed Bed was also discussed and it was agreed to seek further information on its effect on the future management of the Marsham Brook, particularly with regard to potential flooding. The changes in the timetable for the 347 bus were brought to our attention and the clerk undertook to write to East Sussex to express our concerns about these.

As expected there was an update on the work on the Pavilion, which is proceeding apace, helped no doubt by the reasonable weather we have been experiencing. It was also agreed to replace the dog bin at the entrance to the recreation ground as the old one is in poor condition. All information relating to the drainage matters on the recreation ground have now been finalised and requests for tenders will be sent out soon with a view to getting the work done in the New Year.

A report was given by the website working party which has identified a potential replacement for the current PettNet, and hopefully a final decision will be made at the next meeting. It is the time of year when Council has to begin to consider its 2016-2017 budget so the clerk is holding a meeting for councillors where we can discuss this in more detail before it is submitted to the council.

The subject of an opening ceremony for the new pavilion was raised. We would like to hold an event to mark the opening in the Spring, but would be interested to hear from anyone who has any suggestions as to what form this event could take or any ideas who could be asked to open it, especially if they have any contacts with a sports 'personality'. Please let us know.

Judith Dean, Chair, Pett Parish Council



Country Roads

Brake before the bend, not on it

60% of all fatalities occur on country roads. These roads often have sharp bends and blind bends which can hide unexpected hazards. Stay in control and give yourself time to react. Brake before the bend, not on it.

The facts

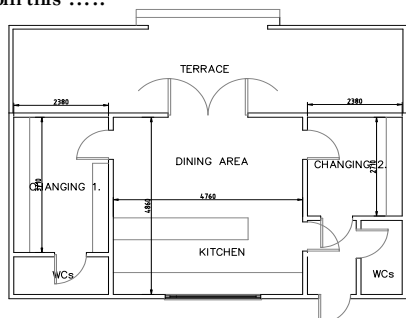
- 60% of all fatalities occur on country roads
- Three people die each day on average on country roads
- The number of people killed on country roads is nearly 10 times higher than on motorways
- In 2014, 10,091 people were killed or seriously injured on country roads

The law

You must not drive faster than the speed limit for the type of road and your type of vehicle. The speed limit is the absolute maximum and it doesn't mean it's safe to drive at this speed in all conditions.

PETT SPORTS PAVILION

From this



After much delay and false starts the renovation of our Sports Pavilion is finally underway. Pett Parish Council took over responsibility for the project earlier this year and since then the design and budget have been revised in order to provide up-to-date facilities at an affordable cost. The existing pavilion was erected over fifty years ago and after much heavy use was in a dilapidated state with out-of-date facilities.

The renovations will increase the size of changing rooms and, for the first time, include showers, toilets and disabled access. Additionally there will be changes to the fabric, making the

building more energy efficient and resilient to what is hoped will be greater use. The contractor undertaking this work is RPT, a Pett based business, which is co-owned by Pett resident Paul Turner. Paul is keen to create something that will be of benefit to the community for years to come. The renovated pavilion will be ready well in time for spring 2016.

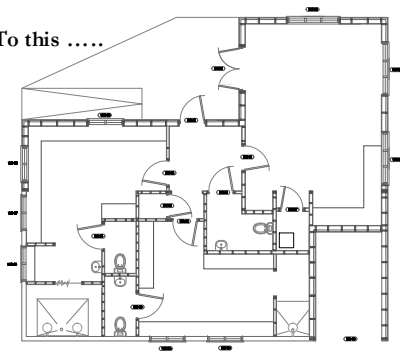
Funding for this project is being provided from community grants as well as local donations: Sport England is providing £47,435; Pett Parish Council £10,000; Rother District Council £10,000; with the remainder coming from donations and fund raising led by members of Pett Sports Association. With a budget of approximately £78,000, and assuming that all pledged donations are received, there may still be a shortfall which can be closed both by further fundraising and by on-going scrutiny of project spend, perhaps deferring some items until a later stage.

In respect of the funding by Pett Parish Council, the £10,000 has been set aside from previous financial years. There was discussion in 2014 with regards to the need for a Public Works Loan, but this loan has not been taken out. The increase to the council precept in 2015 was to improve the drainage of the recreation ground (a project which is being progressed by the council).

The grants have been provided with an expectation that this project will be a foundation for promoting sport and recreation activities both within Pett and in the wider community.

Do you have any ideas as to how we as a community can benefit from these new facilities or ideas for greater use of the recreation ground? *Would you like to provide a donation to help close the shortfall and ensure that we have a pavilion to be proud of?* If so then contact our parish clerk or any of our councillors.

To this



Mike Wilkins, Vice-Chair of Pett Parish Council

PETT CHURCH NEWS

FROM THE RECTOR (*Richard Barron*)

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas.

Over the next month each of us will share that greeting often. Does it ever feel a bit hollow? For example when you know someone is going to spend it alone. Or when someone has lost their partner and this Christmas will be the first time without them. Or when someone is already overstressed with the preparations and you know it is going to be tough for them.

What about Christmas Day itself? For many it is a day of short-lived joy, over indulgence, television and sleep. The heart of Christmas has gone.

Originally, Christmas began with God giving us the greatest gift of all – Jesus the Saviour. We may not think we need a Saviour, but we do because the world is disintegrating. We are destroying ourselves and we don't know how to stop it. We need a Saviour because we would love to live in a better world than this; a world where there is no terrorism and war, disasters and disease, decay and death. Jesus came to rescue us from this and to lead us to a better place.

When I wish you a Happy Christmas, of course I hope you will have an enjoyable day, but I also hope that whatever your circumstances, you will have joy in your heart and peace in your soul because you know that Jesus has opened the way to heaven. You know the best is yet to come and one day all sorrow and pain will cease.

So it is with that in mind that I wish you a very Happy Christmas and may God bless you in the New Year.

A PRAYER FOR PETT (*Meriel Deasy, Reader*)

The Eternal Message of the Angels
"Peace on Earth, Goodwill to all men."

FROM OUR CHURCHWARDEN (*Angela Hawksley*)

Door to door visits

Some of the people who live in Pett have received letters saying that they will be visited by representatives of the church who want to ask them about their beliefs and what expectations they may have of Pett Church. The visits need take only a few minutes. Some of these visits have already taken place. I am sorry to say that the next afternoon of visits will not be until February.

So, what's it all about, you may wonder. Is it a way of asking for money for the church? No, it is not! Here are some of the reasons:

- 1) This is one way for the church to go out to meet people rather than just expecting people to come to the church;
- 2) To find out what puts people off coming to church;
- 3) To find out a little bit about people's beliefs, for example, what they believe about death;
- 4) For people involved with church activities to meet those who are not;
- 5) To answer any questions people may have about the church;
- 6) For the visitors to share their faith.

We used to be brought up never to talk about money, politics or the church. I don't think anyone minds nowadays sharing information on bargains to be had or giving their views on Corbyn or Cameron but we are still reticent to talk about our faith. Religious beliefs (or lack of them) are considered a private matter. But when you have an excuse to raise the subject (as on these visits) a lot of people seem quite ready to talk about God and Jesus.

For me my afternoon of visiting in Pett was a marvellous opportunity to chat to people I didn't know and those whom I knew a little. It also provided welcome proof of the friendliness of those who live in Pett.

REGISTER

Wedding: 19th December Dean Biffen
 Eleanor Frances Scott

NOTICES THIS MONTH

Prayer Board

Christmas is a great time to remember family and friends who can't be with us during this special time of year. Please use our prayer board to remember those who may be alone or need to be in our thoughts. Pens and paper are available.

Celebration of Love

Although this is a service for **Sunday 14th February next year**, we are asking parishioners to let our rector know of current addresses of any couples who married in either Pett or Fairlight churches over the last 50 plus years so they can be invited to this special service.

Rector: The Rev Richard Barron

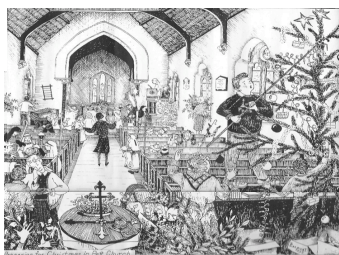
15c Battery Hill Fairlight TN35 4AP; Phone: 01424 812799;

E-mail: rector@fairlightandpett.com

Silent Prayer/Meditation

There will be no silent prayer/meditation meeting at St Nicholas in December but please put **Thursday, 28th January 2016 at 2:30pm** in your brand new calendar or diary that you get for Christmas!

CHRISTMAS EVENTS



Preparing for Christmas in
Pett Church
By J Zeepvat, 1995

Christmas is a special time of year. Amid the frenzy of work and shopping, please join us for one, or all, of the special events this Christmas. Bring friends and family along, meet your neighbours, sing some carols and especially get the children involved.

CHRISTMAS FAIR - COFFEE MORNING – CHRISTMAS FAIR

Oh come ye, oh come ye, to the Annual Christmas Fair!

The
Friends
of Pett Church
Christmas Fair
will *swing* into
action on Saturday
12th December at **Pett**
Village Hall at **10am** and
will close down at **12 noon**.
It's a not to be missed opportunity
to stock up on all sorts of Christmassy
items or just to sit down and *relax* with
a hot *drink* and delicious *cake*. There will
also be *games of chance* such as the *cracker*
game and *raffle*. If all this is not enough to dispel
the winter gloom with Christmas light the Village **Choir**
will provide lots
of brightness!

As the ancient local poet's song goes:

I know a warm and happy place
A place where you will know a face
It's called the Pett Church Christmas Fair! Ho! Ho!
 You will find you want to stay
 To see the lovely gift display
 It's called the Pett Church Christmas Fair! Ho! Ho!
 There you'll hear the Pett Choir sing
 And you will feel it's almost Spring
 At the Pett Church Christmas Fair! Ho! Ho!
 So tell your friends to come and see
 They'll even get a cup of tea
 At the Pett Church Christmas Fair! Ho! Ho!
 When skies are grey and trees are bare
 Come celebrate with Christmas fare
 At the Pett Church Annual Fair!

Christmas Cards

Packs of Pett Church Christmas cards are on sale after church services during early December, and at the church Christmas Fair/Coffee Morning. They come in packs of six, with three different designs, and cost £3. The proceeds will go to church funds.

Toy Service

This year The Methodist Church in Pett is hosting this very special service on **Sunday 13th December at 10:45am**. Toys are collected to give to those less fortunate children in the community. Please bring along a gift (no need to wrap) if you can, or drop it off prior to the service.

Decorated For Christmas – St Nicholas – Pett Level

A first! Mince Pies and Wine surrounded by candles, trees and decorations, all in the intimate space of our church by the sea. It's free and children are welcome. Join us any time between **6pm to 8:30pm** on **Tuesday, 15th December**. Could this be an annual event?

Carols in the Barn – Pickham Farm

Join in the fun singing carols, with mulled wine (to help the singing) and mince pies. What a great location for pre-Christmas excitement. **Saturday, 19th December at 6:30pm**.

Carols by Candlelight – St Mary & St Peter's

This is a very well attended and special service. Please come and join us in singing the traditional carols and help put the true meaning back into Christmas. **Sunday 20th December at 4pm**.

Carolling around Pett – meet at St Mary & St Peter's

In case you haven't sung enough carols by **Monday 21st December** then meet us that day at **5pm outside of Pett Church**. Great for children. Refreshments afterwards.

Christingle – St Mary & St Peter's

A special service for children and adults alike. This year we are joined by the Methodists. Always fun and popular as the excitement of Christmas and a visit from Father Christmas builds! **Thursday 24th December at 3pm**.

FAIRLIGHT CHURCH EVENTS

Remember, Fairlight is just in the next Parish and is part of our Benefice and they have Christmas events and services at their two churches: St Andrew's and St Peter's. Find more details on www.fairlightandpett.com

Hold the Date – Barn Dance

At the Fairlight Village Hall on **Saturday 6th February from 7:00pm**. Featuring the ever popular folk dance band "The Catsfield Steamers". Roger Murphy will be sharing his Message of Hope during the interval. Tickets available in January.

FAMILY SUPPORT WORK *(Ray Taylor)*

Christmas brings a great opportunity for us to join in the Church's Family Support Work in Hastings. We are hoping to send a bumper collection of toys, in-date non-perishable foodstuffs, toiletries, and perhaps some seasonal "treats" to Jude Harrison, our Support Worker there. She will know exactly for which of her clients each item will be most useful and appropriate.

Please can you help us to make this a really special time for these hard-pressed Hastings families? There is a big wooden box labelled FSW in the Pett Church porch, in which goods can be placed; if you can contribute to it, we would be so grateful. Thank you very much.

ST NICHOLAS *(Fran Rogers)*



Work has continued on St Nicholas over November. Thanks to all the Pett Level Rescue Boat volunteers, the outside has been scraped, filled, brushed with stabilizer and given two coats of paint and will look fantastic when finished. Thanks go to Chris Sherwin, who did lots of “could you just...” jobs when asked but also showed me how to glaze windows. Thank you to Fran and Ray Molyneux who have beautifully refinished one chair and have taken two more. If anyone else wants to break out the wire wool and beeswax to help, please call. And thank you Bob Harvey who, by jet washing the porch, actually got me working, instead of talking, on this project. My husband, David, continues to lend a hand (if only so he can see me occasionally). He wire-brushed the porch woodwork and helped with repairs to the bricks and concrete porch. Inside starts in the New Year!

Hopefully, by the time this goes to press, the **Parish Council noticeboards** will be back up but **relocated inside the porch** and so can be read in rain and shine.

To all who have donated money toward this project, whether a small amount in the “glass jar” outside when work is being done, or the larger amounts such as from the Stir Crazy Stitchers and many others – Thank You. You are all wonderful.

By way of celebrating getting the outside finished (we hope), we are having an Open Evening on **Tuesday 15th December from 6pm to 8:30pm** and all are welcome to come and enjoy the church decorated with trees, candles and “St Nicks”. This will be a lot more fun to organise than painting and sanding and I hope the inside will look magical for children. Join us for a sausage roll, mince pie, chocolate and get into the Christmas spirit, literally, with a glass of wine, all complimentary. Come meet your neighbours and let us enjoy our Church by the sea. If this is a success maybe next year we can think bigger...

Contact Fran Rogers on 01424 812964 for further details, information or offers of help. And keep up to date on Facebook. ...and last but not least

OTHER BITS AND PIECES *(Fran Rogers)*

Thanks go to the Pett Village Choir, and their three-piece accompaniment, for an excellent performance on 17th October. They raised £177.90 for St Michael's Hospice.

Fantastic job opportunity! Pay is rubbish but the rewards are great! Do you have a few hours a month to be our **Church Treasurer**? A basic working knowledge of Excel is all that is needed. Church attendance is not required but we do have an evening meeting once every two months for updates. Our current Treasurer, Bob Heather, has been brilliant but is ready for a well-deserved break and will be on call to get you started.

Christmas is a time for Christmas Cards (see above if you need any). For some this is a time honoured tradition and a way of re-connecting with friends, particularly those without computers or other digital communication and especially those, more elderly family and friends, who will be alone. But for many of us it is a chore done in front of the TV, usually by the ladies of the house, grumbling that if it was left to men... So why not change the tradition a little, perhaps just give one card to the entire congregation, rather than individuals. Just a thought. Merry Christmas and have a healthy and enjoyable 2016.

DO YOU KNOW THESE WEIRD, CRUEL AND CURIOUS CHRISTMAS STORIES?

A King of England and Scotland was the first to enjoy a Christmas turkey. In Tudor times William Strickland brought turkeys back from a voyage that crossed the Atlantic. As King James I didn't care for boar's head, he was the first to feast on roast turkey for Christmas.



In 1647, Oliver Cromwell banned the making of Christmas puddings – so people simply ordered them from Europe. Most came from Hamburg.

Folk used to believe (and some still do) that tree-spirits lived in the holly and the ivy, so they used to decorate their houses with them at Christmas. Kind people took the tree-spirits into their house to stop them freezing in the winter weather. But the tree spirits are needed outside to make sure things grow in the spring and can't do that if they are trapped in your house. So all decorations had to come down by twelfth night or there would be no springtime, no crops and everyone would starve.

The French word 'carole' means a song to accompany dancing. The medieval priests were upset by carol singers who danced through their churches at Christmas and threw them out, saying that they were doing the work of the devil. So the singers went round the houses instead.



Christmas Carols are loved by everyone, but one has a pretty gruesome tale associated with it. Good King Wenceslas wasn't a king; he was a duke of Bohemia who introduced Christianity into his domain. This annoyed his mother and brother so much that they met him at a church door and chopped Wenceslas to pieces.

A story about Saint Nicholas is a little weird too. He died in AD 343 and was buried in Myra. 800 years later half of his skeleton was snatched by thieves who wanted the bones to perform miracles. Half of him now resides in Bari, Italy and tests on his bones show that Bishop Nicholas was just 5 ft. Tall and had a broken nose. One legend is about three boys who were murdered by their father in Turkey. The father then pickled them in a barrel to be sold as pork. Saint Nicholas prayers brought the boys back to life.

Have you heard of the 'Donner Christmas Party'? It took place in the USA on the 26th December 1846 when pioneers were trapped in the Sierra Nevada snow with no food. Eight died in that cruel Christmas and the other nine ate them. Two Miwok Indians came to guide the men to safety – the pioneers shot them and ate them too.

Nearer home, in Lewes and in the Christmas of 1838 there was a huge build up of snow on top of the cliff there. A thaw caused an avalanche on to the cottages below killing eight people. A pub built on the site was called "The Snowdrop Inn".

There are several stories about the Christmas", some of which are based of the day. It may have been a game and the next person would repeat it



song "The Twelve Days of on the Bible and some on the politics where one person would sing a line and add a line – and so on. Another

version states that it was written to help youngsters to learn the catechism. However, another version of the story has it that the song helped oppressed Catholics in England during the Reformation to remember the facts about God and Jesus at a time when practicing their faith could get them killed. Many Catholics were executed by the Protestant government at the time of Henry VIII and Mary.

So you see, Christmas did have its weird and dark side in days of yore. But. DO have a Very Happy and Blessed Christmas yourself!

John Taylor

RED REVOLUTION IN HASTINGS

During September the Sussex Wildlife Trust's WildCall Officer, Jess Price, received a number of calls from people in the county saying that they had seen red squirrels, with a few providing photographic evidence to back up their claim. Now it is well-known that red squirrels have disappeared from the South of England apart from small remnant populations on the Isle of Wight and Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour, where constant battles are being waged against the invasive grey squirrel to keep them out.



Sussex
Wildlife Trust

So where have these red squirrels come from? The majority of the records that Jess received were from a small area in Hastings. They came from quite a few different people but we're not sure how many actual squirrels there were, whether people were all seeing the same individual or there was more than one of them. However many squirrels there were, it would be interesting to know how they got there. It is highly unlikely they escaped from their island fortresses, while the nearest mainland populations are in the Northern England and Anglesey so again they are not going to be from either of these.

There are some that have been captive bred in Sussex and there are occasional escapees that are reported so this could be the source of the Sussex animals. Or there may be someone who has been captive breeding squirrels then deliberately releasing them into the wild. This does happen quite regularly for a range of animals, plants and birds, usually by well-meaning but sometimes misguided individuals.

Red squirrels are a native species and were once widespread throughout Sussex but the introduction of the grey squirrel and the subsequent expansion of the population has driven the red squirrel further and further north. Conservation organisations are involved in a number of projects in trying to maintain the red squirrel population while curtailing and reversing the spread of the grey.

Releasing or re-releasing species back into areas where they were once resident and common can be a very complex and sometimes costly operation. You really have to know why they disappeared in the first place, you have to assess whether the habitat is still there, with all the ecological constituents are there for it to at least survive but preferably flourish. With the red squirrel, there is no point in trying to bring it into places where the population of grey squirrels is still high. As well as out competing them for breeding sites, they also pass on a disease to the reds, so they will then just die out again.

There is an interesting public relations issue also to contend with. While everyone would like to see red squirrels around again, to achieve this would entail removing the greys and we have become so used to seeing greys around that removal would instigate a public outcry.

So, for the people of Hastings, it has been nice to see the squirrels, but we are still a long way from a population gaining a permanent foothold in the town.

Mike Russell of the Sussex Wildlife Trust



red squirrel (not sussex) ©
Dave KilbeySussex Wildlife



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As your PCC in Sussex, I have to consider the Chief Constable's operational policing plan and determine whether the amount you pay for policing locally should stay the same or rise to allow investment in key areas.

I have launched a public consultation to find out if local taxpayers would be prepared to pay an additional amount next year, per household, to enable me to invest directly in two areas that the Chief Constable has highlighted as priorities for policing:

1. Protecting children and vulnerable adults in Sussex from exploitation and abuse.
2. Digital forensic capability to retrieve, analyse and store information held on computers, mobiles and tablets.

You can find out more about these investment proposals and have your say in the public consultation here: <https://www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/public-consultations/>.

I hope you will complete the short online survey and encourage your networks to have their say in the consultation as well. Your feedback is important to me - thank you for taking the time to tell me what you think.

The consultation will remain open until Friday 8 January 2016. Once it has closed I am duty-bound to inform the Sussex Police and Crime Panel of my considerations. This decision will be reviewed by the Panel on Friday 22 January 2016.

Best wishes
Katy Bourne, Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

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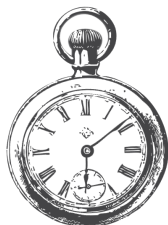
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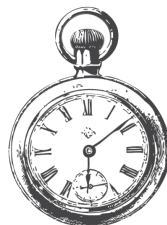
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entertainment.

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website www.fairlightmopp.co.uk or
call Robert Pasterfield on 07860 414277

TIDE TABLE

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DECEMBER 2015				Rye Harbour Approaches			
Date	Time	O.D. Metres	Time	O.D. Metres			
1 Tu	0210	3.5	1434	3.0			
2 We	0257	3.1	1524	2.6			
3 Th	0348	2.7	1620	2.2			
4 Fr	0444	2.5	1723	2.0			
5 Sa	0547	2.2	1833	2.1			
6 Su	0658	2.5	1940	2.2			
7 Mo	0759	2.6	2031	2.6			
8 Tu	0847	2.9	2113	2.9			
9 We	0926	3.1	2151	3.1			
10 Th	1003	3.2	2226	3.4			
11 Fr	1040	3.4	2302	3.5			
12 Sa	1116	3.5	2337	3.6			
13 Su	1153	3.6	—	—			
14 Mo	0013	3.7	1230	3.6			
15 Tu	0051	3.7	1309	3.5			
16 We	0132	3.6	1352	3.4			
17 Th	0219	3.5	1443	3.1			
18 Fr	0313	3.2	1545	2.7			
19 Sa	0418	3.0	1702	2.6			
20 Su	0532	2.9	1825	2.6			
21 Mo	0650	2.9	1936	2.7			
22 Tu	0759	3.1	2037	3.0			
23 We	0859	3.4	2133	3.4			
24 Th	0954	3.6	2223	3.6			
25 Fr	1044	3.7	2309	3.7			
26 Sa	1130	3.7	2352	3.9			
27 Su	—	—	1213	3.7			
28 Mo	0032	3.9	1252	3.6			
29 Tu	0112	3.7	1331	3.4			
30 We	0150	3.6	1409	3.1			
31 Th	0229	3.4	1451	2.7			
MOON PHASES							
Last Quarter - 3rd : New Moon - 11th							
First Quarter - 18th : Full Moon - 25th							
5th - 0749 12th - 0756 19th - 0802 26th - 0805							
5th - 1558 12th - 1557 19th - 1558 26th - 1602							
SUNRISE							
SUNSET							

BUS TIMETABLES

101 BUS TIMETABLE											
Hastings to Rye (onwards to Lydd)			Mondays to Saturdays						Sundays		
			SDO								
Hastings Town Centre, Railway Station (Stop F)			07:45	08:45	09:47		15:57	16:52	17:47	19:00	17:06
Orr, opp Co-Op			07:18	08:00	09:00	10:02		16:12	17:07	18:02	19:10
Fairlight, opp Coastguard Lane			07:21	08:03	09:03	10:05 then	16:15	17:10	18:05	19:13	17:24
Fairlight, opp Commanders Walk			07:27	08:09	09:09	10:11 hourly	16:21	17:16	18:11	19:19	17:30
Pett Level, adj Canal Bank			07:33	08:15	09:15	10:17 until	16:27	17:22	18:17	19:25	17:36
Winchelsea Beach, opp Caravan Park			07:37	08:18	09:18	10:20	16:30	17:25	18:20	19:28	17:40
Rye, Railway Station (Stop B)			07:48	08:30	09:30	10:32	16:42	17:37	18:32	19:40	17:51
(from Lydd) Rye to Hastings			Mondays to Saturdays						Sundays		
			SDO SHOLS								
Rye, Railway Station (Stop A)			07:03	07:53	08:03	08:33 09:14	15:34	16:14	17:14	18:14	16:35
Winchelsea Beach, adj Caravan Park			07:14	08:04	08:14	08:44 09:25	15:45	16:25	17:25	18:25	16:46
Pett Level, opp Canal Bank			07:18	08:08	08:18	08:48 09:29	15:49	16:29	17:29	18:29	16:50
Fairlight, opp Commanders Walk			07:24	08:14	08:24	08:54 09:35 then	15:55	16:35	17:35	18:35	16:56
Fairlight, adj Coastguard Lane			07:30	08:20	08:30	09:00 09:41 hourly	16:01	16:41	17:41	18:41	17:02
Orr, adj Co-Op			07:33	08:24	08:33	09:03 09:44 until	16:04	16:44	17:44	18:44	17:05
Guestling Green, o/s Primary School				08:30							
Guestling Green, opp White Hart				08:32							
Hastings Town Centre, Railway Station (Stop C)			07:43	08:52	08:44	09:14 09:55	16:15	16:55	17:55	18:55	17:16
SDO School Days Only											
SHOL School Holidays and Saturdays Only											

347 BUS TIMETABLE

Pett to Hastings	Mondays to Fridays				Saturdays	
	SCH	HOLS			SCH	HOLS
Pett, Chick Hill	08:19	08:26	10:12	12:17	14:02	15:47
Pett, Church	08:22	08:29	10:15	12:20	14:05	15:50
Guestling Green School	08:29					
Guestling, The White Hart	08:34	08:34	10:20	12:25	14:10	15:55
Ore, The Kings Head	08:38	08:38	10:24	12:29	14:14	15:59
Ore Post Office	08:40	08:40	10:26	12:31	14:16	15:56
Milward Road Manor Road	08:45	08:45	10:30	12:35	14:20	16:00
Hastings, Queens Road			10:35	12:40	14:25	16:05
Hastings, Harold Place	08:49	08:49				
Hastings, Rail Station	08:51	08:51				
Fairlight Glen						16:03
Fairlight, Cove Hotel						16:09
Pett Level						16:15

Hastings to Pett	Mondays to Fridays				Saturdays	
	SCH	HOLS			SCH	HOLS
Hastings, Rail Station Stop E	09:45	11:50	13:30	15:10	15:10	17:40
Queens Road, opp Priory Meadow Stop N	09:50	11:55	13:35	15:15	15:15	17:45
Milward Road Manor Road	09:55	12:00	13:40	15:20	15:20	17:50
Ore Post Office	09:57	12:02	13:45	15:25	15:25	17:52
Ore, The Kings Head	10:01	12:06	13:51	15:31	15:31	17:56
Guestling, The White Hart						
Guestling School	10:06	12:11	13:56	15:36	15:36	18:01
Pett, Church	10:09	12:14	13:59	15:39	15:39	18:04
Pett, Chick Hill						

SCH School Days Only
HOLS School Holidays Only

We have transcribed the above timetables from those provide by Stagecoach. If you spot any errors or know of any changes then please let us know.

PARISH COUNCILLORS & OTHER REPRESENTATIVES

PETT PARISH COUNCIL 2015 – 2016

Councillors	Address	Contact
Christine Deacon	Ashleigh, Pannel Lane, Pett, TN35 4JB	01424 813498 csdeacon@btinternet.com
Judith Dean (Chair)	Delvings, Chick Hill, Pett Level, TN35 4EQ	01424 812249 jmd_delvings@live.com
Andrew Dunlop	1, Lunsford Farm Cottages, Pett, TN35 4JG	01424 813368 ardunlop1@yahoo.co.uk
David Penfold	Jasmine Cottage, Elm Lane, Pett, TN35 4JD	01424 813414 penfold@eps-edge.demon.co.uk
Giles Perrin	Eves, Pett Rd, Pett, TN35 4HG	07969 991399, 01424 814791 giles.perrin@gmail.com
Rod Rolfe	2 Brambletye, Pett Road, Pett, TN35 4HE	07935 283675 rodrolfe@tiscali.co.uk
Mike Wilkins (Vice Chair)	Adeleine, Pett Road, Pett, TN35 4HB	07710 080148 michaelkeithwilkins@gmail.com
Clerk		
Sarah Willoughby	Wildflowers, Pett Road, Pett, TN35 4EY	01424 813785 clerkpettparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk

Councillor Responsibilities

Sussex Association of Local Councils: David Penfold and Judith Dean

Rother Association of Local Councils: Judith Dean and Mike Wilkins

Pett Village Hall: Rod Rolfe

Pett Sports Association: Andrew Dunlop and Giles Perrin

Police Community Group: David Penfold

Flood Warden: Steve Harris

Pett Parish Council *usually* meets at the Village Hall on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm. All are welcome.

ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL (MARSHAM WARD)

Roger Bird	87 Battery Hill, Fairlight, Hastings, TN35 4AL	01424 813636 cldr.roger.bird@rother.gov.uk
Chris Saint	Southlands, Pett Road, Pett, TN35 4HA	01424 813047 cldr.chris.saint@rother.gov.uk
http://www.your-councillor.com/chris-saint/		

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Carl Maynard	The Burrow, 23 Baldslow Down, Westfield TN37 7NJ	01273 481576 cldr.carl.maynard@eastsussex.gov.uk
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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR HASTINGS & RYE

Amber Rudd	House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA	01424 205 435 020 7219 7229 amber.rudd.mp@parliament.uk
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POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR SUSSEX

Katy Bourne	Sackville House, Brooks Close Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2F	01273 481561 spcc@sussex-pcc.gov.uk
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CONTACT DETAILS FOR VARIOUS VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

Societies, associations & other activities

Allotments	Libby Rothwell	07714 340674	libby.rothwell891@gmail.com
Badminton Club	Dave Clarke	812898	gypsydave@uwclub.net
Bowls Club	Barry Quaife	729693	barry.quaife252@btinternet.com
British Legion	Brian Green	812450	toffee35@gotadsl.co.uk
Cricket Club	Andrew Dunlop	813368	
Dance & Exercise Class	Robin Hutt	813182	robinhutt@btinternet.com
Flower Show Chair	Philippa Strickland	814384	pstrickl@icloud.com
Flowerpots Toddler Group	Kate Woodbridge		pettflowerpots@hotmail.co.uk
Friends of Pett Level Preservation Trust	Theresa Noutch	812246	theresanoutch@aol.com
Gardening Club	Bob Harris	815151	bob.june@btopenworld.com
Latin American & Ballroom Dancing	Mr & Mrs Hall	813355	
Naturalist Society	John Taylor	814674	junct@talktalk.net
Pilates	Annie Cuthbert	01797 225186	tb.cuthbert@btinternet.com
POPP	Ann Nicholls	813043	
Pole Dancing	Jane Baldwin	0740 325 6148	jane@mrzen.co.uk
Pett Village Hall Management Committee	Ray Barden	814717	ray.barden@btopenworld.com
Short Mat Bowls	Barry Quaife	729693	barry.quaife252@btinternet.com
Stir Crazy Stitchers	Wendy Burgess	868195	
Stoolball	Janet Fuller	01303 873227	
Tennis Club	Stuart Ware	815197	sjw@meadowshed.co.uk
Vibele	Natasha Saltzer	07990 697964	ncsaltzer@yahoo.com
Women's Institute	Mary Saint	813047	mary@saintfamily.net

Church Team

www.fairlightandpett.com

Rector	Richard Barron	812799	rector@fairlightandpett.com
Retired Clergy	Rev Kay Burnett		
	Rev David Wotton		
Readers	Meriel Deasy		

Police Community Support Officer

Sharon.Eldridge@sussex.pnn.police.uk

Mobile 07810636992

Please note that if you witness a crime in progress, you should immediately ring 999

If you want to be included in this section then please let us know

SOME VERY USEFUL NUMBERS

Emergency Numbers:

Police, Fire, Ambulance & Coastguard	999
National Gas Emergency Service (gas leaks)	0800 111 999 (24hrs)
UK Power Networks (overhead power lines or loss of electricity)	
from a landline	0800 316 3105 (24hrs)
from a mobile	0333 32 32105 (24hrs)
Southern Water emergency service (leaks, blockages & pollution)	0845 278 0845 (24hrs)

Emergency Services & Utilities (non-emergency numbers):

<i>Police</i>	101
<i>East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service:</i>	
Community fire safety advice	0800 177 7069
Community safety (24 hour hotline)	0800 731 9119
<i>South East Coast Ambulance Service</i>	0300 1230999
<i>Southern Water:</i>	
To report a leak	0800 820 999

Hospitals & Local Surgeries

<i>NHS Direct</i>	0845 4647 (or 111)
<i>Conquest Hospital</i>	01424 755255
<i>Eastbourne Hospital</i>	01323 417400
<i>Harold Road Surgery:</i>	
Enquiries	01424 720878
Surgery appointments	01424 437962
Village hall appointments	01424 728872
<i>Guestling Surgery, Chapel Lane</i>	01424 814332
<i>Roebuck Surgery, Old Town Hastings</i>	01424 420378
<i>Shankill Surgery, Fairlight Road</i>	01424 728388

Council Services

<i>Rother District Council:</i>	
Customer Services Contact Centre (for all services)	01424 787000
Out-of-hours emergency number	01424 787868
<i>East Sussex County Council</i>	
Switchboard	0345 6080190

Support Services & Charities

Samaritans	08457 909090 (24 hrs)
Victim Support	0845 3030 900
Citizens Advice 1066	01424 721420
Rother District Citizens Advice	0800 169 6565
Age UK	01424 215055/734549
Hastings Lifeline	01424 781234
St Michaels Hospice 25 Upper Maze Hill, St Leonards	01424 445177
RSPCA emergency animal welfare	0300 1234 999 (24hr)
Cats Protection	01424 754328

PETT VILLAGE HALL is available for private hire. For details please call 07840 921748 or email bookings@pettvillagehall.org.uk



VILLAGE DIARY



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES			
Mon	6.30pm	Pilates	VH
Mon	7.30pm	Village Choir	MC
Mon	9.30am	Flowerpots Playgroup	VH
Tue	10.30am	POPP	VH
Tue	7.00pm	Pole Dancing	VH
Wed	10.00am	Badminton	VH
Thu	9.15am	Dance & Exercise Classes	VH
Thu	3 & 7pm	Short Mat Bowls (Sept-Apr)	VH
Fri	10.00	Badminton	VH
Fri	2.00pm	Latin American & Ballroom Dancing	VH

THERE IS ALWAYS A LOT HAPPENING SO TAKE A LOOK THROUGH THE MAGAZINE TO FIND OUT WHAT IS GOING ON

MONTHLY & BI-MONTHLY ACTIVITIES				Date this month
Mon	7.00pm	Village Hall Committee	VH	7th
Tue	7.30pm	Pett Parish Council	VH	15th
Tue	7.30pm	Gardening Club	VH	8 th Christmas Party
Wed	10.00am	Village Coffee Morning	VH	2 nd
Wed	11.00am	Rambling Club	NBC	9th
Fri	7.30pm	Pett Nats	VH	Break until AGM; Mar 18th
Fri	12.30pm	Pett Womens Institute - 18 th Christmas Lunch @ 2 Sawyers NB From January a change of day & time to Wednesday 20 th 7.00pm		
Sun	3pm	Vibele – laughter class	VH	7th

VH Village Hall; **NBC** New Beach Club, **MC** Methodist Chapel

CHURCH SERVICES IN DECEMBER

Sunday 6 th	9:30am	Holy Communion [<i>Kay Burnett/Meriel Deasy</i>]
Sunday 13 th	10:45am	Toy Service [<i>at Methodist Church</i>]
Sunday 20 th	8:00am	Book of Common Prayer, Holy Communion at St Nicholas, Pett Level [<i>Kay Burnett</i>]
Sunday 20 th	4:00pm	Carols by Candlelight [<i>Richard Barron/Meriel Deasy</i>]
Thursday 24 th	3:00pm	Christingle [<i>Meriel Deasy with Methodists</i>]
Friday 25 th	9:30am	Holy Communion [<i>Kay Burnett/Meriel Deasy</i>]
Sunday 27 th	10:30am	Benefice Communion at St Andrew's, Fairlight [<i>Richard Barron/Kay Burnett</i>]
Sunday 3 rd Jan	9:30am	Holy Communion [<i>Kay Burnett/Meriel Deasy</i>]

JEMPSON'S provide a 'Hail & Ride' bus service to their superstore in Peasmarsh **every Friday** calling at Allards (09:15) and progressing to the top of Chick Hill (09:20). Departs Jempson's at 11:30. The bus will stop when hailed if it is safe to do so. Nominal charge of £1 return.

THE POST OFFICE is open between **12.00 to 3pm** on **Monday & Thursday** at the Methodist Church hall. You can also buy **postage stamps from Phil the Butcher**.

THE MOBILE LIBRARY stop outside of Pett Church every third **Tuesday** between 10:00 & 10:30. This month it is here on **15th December**.

Every effort is made to keep this is up to date but we are not always told of changes – if unsure you should check with the event organisers for specific times and dates.

Pett Parish News is edited, published and distributed by a small group of volunteers.

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