

February, 2008

PARISH NEWS

GUESTLING

Pett Level

FEBRUARY HIGH TIDES RYE HARBOUR APPROACHES

Date	Day	Time (hrs)	Height (m)	Time (hrs)	Height (m)
1	Friday	0541	1.8	1837	1.6
2	Saturday	0703	1.8	1953	1.8
3	Sunday	0819	1.9	2056	2.1
4	Monday	0917	2.2	2144	2.6
5	Tuesday	1002	2.7	2224	3.0
6	Wednesday	1041	3.0	2300	3.2
7	Thursday	1117	3.2	2336	3.4
8	Friday	1154	3.4	-	-
9	Saturday	0011	3.7	1227	3.6
10	Sunday	0046	3.8	1301	3.6
11	Monday	0121	3.9	1336	3.6
12	Tuesday	0158	3.8	1415	3.4
13	Wednesday	0239	3.6	1500	3.1
14	Thursday	0327	3.1	1555	2.5
15	Friday	0427	2.6	1712	2.0
16	Saturday	0557	2.1	1857	1.9
17	Sunday	0743	2.1	2028	2.1
18	Monday	0909	2.5	2137	2.6
19	Tuesday	1012	2.8	2229	3.1
20	Wednesday	1100	3.2	2311	3.4
21	Thursday	1139	3.4	2348	3.7
22	Friday	-	-	1213	3.4
23	Saturday	0023	3.8	1244	3.4
24	Sunday	0057	3.8	1313	3.3
25	Monday	0128	3.7	1343	3.2
26	Tuesday	0155	3.4	1409	3.0
27	Wednesday	0220	3.1	1434	2.7
28	Thursday	0247	2.7	1503	2.2
29	Friday	0323	2.2	1549	1.8

Copy for the March edition can be sent to me on email at denise.jordan@virgin.net or delivered to me at 5 Glebe Cottages, Elms Lane (B14187). The deadline for copy is the 15th February. Any copy you can get to me before that date would be greatly appreciated.

EDITORIAL

Following several enquiries regarding advertising in the Parish News I thought I would clarify one or two points.

For **BUSINESSES ADVERTISING** in the Parish News there is a charge:

£45 for a quarter page for one year

£90 for a half page for one year

£180 for a full page for one year

A 'one-off' small ad is £5.00 – ie: a personal ad: example:

Domestic help required

For **FUND RAISING VILLAGE EVENTS** there is **NO CHARGE**: examples:

Village Hall Quiz Night

Race Night

Church fund raising events

All entries in the Diary are **free of charge**.

When a **special event** is approaching we are happy to include messages

FREE OF CHARGE: examples:

Mothers Day/ Fathers Day/ Valentines Day/Christmas etc.

I think that covers everything but if in doubt please do not hesitate to give myself or Jackie a call. (Jackie: 01424 815224 – Denise: 014224 814187)

WANTED

Do you have an unwanted fridge that is still in good working order that we could use in the Pett Sports Pavilion?

If so please telephone

01424 812893

we will be happy to take it off your hands.



RACE NIGHT

At Pett Village Hall

Saturday 9th February 7.30 pm

Come along for a fun night at the Races!

Pick yourself a horse and have a flutter – you could be a winner!

Tickets available at The Butchers Shop, Pett @ £5.00 per person –

Includes a Chilli Supper

Charity No: 1005693

This report covers the Pett Parish Council meetings from November to January. Unfortunately, because of several problems, the Village Hall Management Committee felt unable to continue acting as a location for the Waste Recycling Bins. The Parish Council have been unable to suggest an alternative site within the village so Rother will remove the Bins during January.

The Parish Council are currently discussing three major items and would very much welcome the views and comments of parishioners on any or all of them:-

a) Parish Emergency Plan – the object of the Plan would be to provide a local information resource which could be used by Rother District Council and the County Emergency Planning Team in the event of a *major emergency, outside of the normal remit of the emergency services*. If you have any particular expertise that you think might be useful, e.g. medical qualification or counselling skills or you have resources which could be made available, e.g. chain saw, lifting equipment, boat etc. then please send details to the Parish Clerk by post or e-mail or telephone the clerk with the information or speak with one of your Parish Councillors.

b) Parish Local Action Plan – this Plan is about defining and shaping the future of the village and dealing with identified problems or local difficulties, whether they be community safety, highways and footpaths or planning issues. The Plan will involve detailed consultation with the whole village and village groups and if you would like to find out more, or would be willing to help, please contact the parish clerk or speak with one of your parish councillors.

c) Pett Play Area – the Council has recently had to spend approximately £1000 on repairs and maintenance of the childrens play area because of the deterioration of the equipment, vandalism and recommendations made by ROSPA following the annual safety inspection. The Council is currently considering the future of the play area which might be further refurbishment, replacement and renewal of equipment or even removal of the play area entirely. Continuing maintenance and repair of old and outdated play equipment is not favoured as the equipment is more prone to vandalism and more difficult to maintain; replacement equipment would

cost around £7000 – some of which might be funded through grant aid with any balance being met from Council Reserves; removal of the play area would also be a costly exercise and of course would result in the permanent loss of the amenity. The Council would be grateful for your views on the above options or for any other suggestions that can be considered.

The County Councillor Carl Maynard and District Councillors Robin Patten and Roger Bird are regular attendees at Parish Council meetings and provide the latest information on discussions at County and District level with particular relevance to Pett and Pett Level. The January Council was informed of the Government funding settlement for next year which will result in a very challenging time for Rother District Council and how it attempts to continue providing the range of services to the community. East Sussex County Council had slightly better than anticipated results but will still find the provision of all its services very difficult to achieve.

Fortunately some good news was received when the post office announcement was revealed and Pett Post Office was not on the list of proposed closures. Keep using and supporting your post office so that it remains safe in future reviews.

The Parish Council has considered the following Planning applications and agreed to support or raise no objection on the proposals on each application:-

RR/2007/2927/P - Pett Level Caravan Park, Pett Level Road, Pett Level – a) Variation of a condition imposed on planning permission A/60/900 in relation to a section 25 Agreement dated 9th June 1959 to extend the use to 1st March to 4th January (10 months and 4 days) each year and b) Modification of Section 25 Agreement imposed upon planning permission A/60/900 to extend use of caravan park to 1st March to 4th January annually from 1st March – 31st October

RR/2007/3339/FN- Lunsford Farm, Pett – erection of steel framed agricultural building for storage of machinery & fertilizer – notification is for information only.

RR/2007/3432/P - 6 Rectory Park, Pett - Demolition of existing car port and conservatory. Erection of extensions to front and rear and minor internal alterations.

The Parish Council objected to the following application:-

RR/2007/3129/P - Glen Cottage – land at, Marsham Brook Lane, (formerly Chick Hill) – Demolition of existing dwelling; erection of detached chalet bungalow, using existing access -

Notification of the decisions on previous Planning applications were noted as follows:-

RR/2007/2036/P Napenthe Pett Level Road, Pett (Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of new dwelling including deck area)
Granted

RR/2007/2440/P Ivy Cottage, Pett Road, Pett (Change colour of external doors and porch to farrow and ball period colour castle grey)
Granted

RR/2007/2487/P Windie Edge, land at Chick Hill, Pett
(Outline: erection of detached dwelling)

The Council also welcomed PCSO Sharon Eldridge to the January meeting of Council and look forward to working with Sharon for the benefit of the whole community. If you wish to contact Sharon about any community safety issue her details can be found elsewhere in the Parish News.

The Parish Council meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month and all meetings are open to the public. You are most welcome to attend and there is always an opportunity in 'Public Time' for you to address Council or ask questions. If you would like any more information please contact the parish clerk. The Parish Council has also now made arrangements for Minutes of Council meetings to be available for inspection at the Village Post Office and on the Mobile Library.

If you have any questions for the Council or wish to receive any information on Council business, please contact the Clerk, Bob Hodgson on 01424-716232 or e-mail bob_pettpc@yahoo.co.uk

PETT & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Following the sad loss of Cicely Perring, Col. Alan Parks, the senior Vice President of our Society was invited, and has agreed, to become our new President.

Alan's long association with the Flower Show began in 1948 when his sister Joan became the first Chairman (no Chairperson in those days!) and in 1985, having retired from the Army and moved into Field Cottage, he was soon recruited to help at the Flower Show as the second in command of the Coconut Shies. In this role the following year he duly attended the AGM - and came out as Chairman! He succeeded Mike Strickland who was all too ready to pass on some useful tips which no doubt came in handy over the next five years, since when Alan has been a Vice President.

We are delighted he has accepted our invitation and look forward to the closer relationship we will enjoy in the coming years.

A very warm welcome Alan!!

Phil. Wood - Chairman

DO YOU KNOW ?

Do you know the origin of Pancake Day?

Pancake Day is really Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday when the season of Lent begins. The term Shrove comes from the verb 'to shrive' which means to obtain absolution for one's sins by confessing and doing penance. All Anglo-Saxon Christians were expected to be shriven before Lent. The reason that pancakes are associated with this day is that Lent is a period when, traditionally, only the plainest of foodstuffs can be eaten, as this was a period of liturgical fasting. Therefore, rich ingredients such as eggs, milk, sugar and flour were disposed of immediately prior to the commencement of the fast. Pancakes were the perfect way to use up these perishable goods.

In Roman Britain, pancakes could be bought hot from vendors on the corners of the market squares. In the Middle Ages, the rigours of the Church required total abstinence of meat and all dairy produce every fast day. Villagers used up eggs in a kind of eggy bread, fried in golden butter - *pain perdu*. By the early 1600s some countrywomen were making *hervantes*, pancakes made velvety with cream, scented with cinnamon and rosewater and filled with a rich, dried-fruit paste. In the 17th century the price of sugar fell and various recipes were used to make pancakes. The poor made theirs with water and eggs and flour, using lard for frying. Those with a better

standard of living had their cooks ladle in cream, butter and a kind of sherry. Over the years the pancake has remained popular and Pancake Day is celebrated in many countries around the world. On the day preceding Lent people in Poland eat *paczki's*. In historically Catholic and French speaking parts of the United States and elsewhere the day is called *Mardi Gras*. In Portuguese speaking countries it is called 'Fat Tuesday' or *Terça feita gorda* and in Italian speaking countries *Martedì Grasso*. In Sweden it is known as *Fettisdagen* and in Iceland *Sprengidagur* 'Bursting Day'.

ON Pancake Day, pancake races were, and still are held in villages and towns across the United Kingdom. In 1634 William Fennor wrote "And tosse their Pancakes up for feare they burne." However the tradition of pancake racing had started long before that. The most famous race, at Olney in Buckinghamshire, has been held since 1445. It is said to have originated when a housewife was so busy making pancakes that she forgot the time until she heard the church bells ringing for the service. She raced out of the house to church while still carrying her frying pan and pancake.

So there you are. While you tuck into your pancake(s), ladled with sugar and soaked in lemon remember that this is your last chance to indulge before Lent!

John Taylor

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NEW SELF DEFENCE COURSE IN PETT

Every time you turn on the TV or pick up a paper these days, you are bound to hear about another attack on an innocent person or a householder who has been robbed. If you are like me you have probably thought, quite regularly, what could I do about it if it happened to me?

It was that thought that lead me to ask my grandsons karate instructor if he knew of anyone who taught basic straight forward self defence to someone of my advanced age who was totally unfit. I didn't want the disciplines and constraints of the martial arts, nor did I want to be going on forever, gaining different colour belts as I went. I just wanted to know how to defend myself if the situation ever arose.

That was how I was introduced to his brother Chris, who has been teaching just that, based on pressure points on the body, for a number of years.

To cut a long story short I attended 2 training sessions with Chris at his regular venue in Eastbourne and then had the idea of trying to start classes in Hastings. The first class took place at the Pett Village Hall on Sunday the 6th January, as, through talking to people, I realised that I was not alone in wanting to do something like this and we had the nucleus for regular training.

Now already I can hear some of you saying, "I'm too old, I don't have the physical strength to do something like that, or that is all very well but I am a

female". Well I might not be female but the other two categories certainly apply to me and believe me age or condition are not a restricting factor to learning the techniques. Neither is height or weight.

The next training session will be on Sunday February 10th starting at 2pm and finishing at 5pm. the cost for the whole 3 hours is £10 and you wont need to buy special clothes or equipment, or have to pay for grading tests. Chris will start with a warm up session and you do as much of this as you choose. He will then go on to teach specific techniques that anyone who can make a cup of tea will be capable of doing. Due to the nature of the training there is no age limit, except that you have to be over 18.

You do not have to sign up for a minimum number of sessions so you can come along and see how it suits you personally. It is intended to restrict the students to a reasonably small number in order to ensure the training can be given on a personal level.

So why not come along on Sunday 10th February at 2pm and see if its for you? I'm sure you wont be disappointed and it could save your life! If you would like to know more you can email me on "graham0072@tiscali.co.uk" or telephone on 07914 047318.

I look forward to seeing you.

Graham Bentley.



JUST A SEC!

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Jennifer Sherwin

01424 813825 or 07854 039585

jennifer.sherwin@btinternet.com

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PETT GARDENING CLUB 8TH JANUARY 2008

The first meeting of the Gardening Club on Tuesday was very well attended despite the ghastly weather. Wendy Bates from Rother View Nursery came along to tell us a little about 'A Year in the life of a Nurseryman'. There is an enormous amount of planning involved in the ordering of plants, seeds and bulbs and you almost need a crystal ball to be able to order the plants that the customer will want to buy. Knowing which plants will be popular and which colours will be the 'in' colour for 2008, is really an art in itself. Then there is the propagation of new plants from stock plants and dividing the herbaceous plants to make more to sell, planting up 'plug plants' which arrive in their thousands, and on top of all this planning the exhibits for the Shows.

Rother View exhibit at both Chelsea and Hampton Court Flower Shows where they always win medals, and they also exhibit in Birmingham at the Gardener's World Show and so far have two Gold medals from the Birmingham Judges. As you can imagine the planning and preparing for any show is a mammoth task, but to exhibit at such a high standard and continue to do so to win these Gardening accolades really takes stamina, skill and flair.

The Nursery was originally an Alpine nursery and when they moved from Bodiam to their present site Wendy and Ray took on the Camellia Nursery and have since exhibited at the London Camellia shows and won medals there as well. They are one of the main specialist suppliers of Camellias in the country. Hardy

herbaceous plants and many flowering shrubs are also on sale at the nursery as well as composts and bedding plants in season. I am happy to say that Wendy brought along a selection of plants bulbs and shrubs for our members to buy, and there were beautiful Camellias in flower and some with perfumed flowers which are very sought after.....in camellia circles.(and, I have to say by Villagers in Pett !)

We were all enthralled by the talk that Wendy gave and were full of admiration for her and her husband for the work they do often in such awful weather, and the beautiful results they get from their hard work. Being recognised by the medals they win from the Gardening fraternity does I am sure make it all worth while, but equally having the support from their local customers and the gardening clubs means so much more. Rother View Nursery is sponsoring the Pett Flower Show in its 60th year, as we are in the Gardening club, and we hope this year will be the biggest and best for vegetable and flower exhibits, come on plan now to -----"grow something to show" !!

Don't forget our next meeting on Tuesday, 12th February Dr. Arthur Hollman will be talking about the Chelsea Physic Garden and about his new Curatorship of the Herb Garden of the Worshipful Company of Barbers of London. Membership is £5 for the year or £1.50p for visitors. Everyone is most welcome to come along....see you there !

P.W.B.

MICHAEL PENFOLD

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LIFE ON THE LEVEL

I hope you enjoyed seeing in
2008 in whatever way you chose.
For those who like to gather
together, both The
Smuggler and The
Beach Club were
lively places to be
here on



The Level. I am sure all those who
enjoyed the bands and
entertainment would join me in
saying a big 'thank you' to those
who do all the hard work and
planning that goes to make it a
successful occasion.

We are only going to have one
service a month instead of two in
our dear little church, due to a
shortage of people to take
the services. It seems
sad to see a place
where people
can gather so
under used. Let's
hope this is only a temporary
measure.



I mentioned in a previous issue
about the successful use of an
old Sheffield Bus as a home.
There are at present two more
interesting properties on the
market for anyone looking for
somewhere a little out of the
ordinary to live. Close to the
beach is one of the earliest
houses to be built here at Pett

Level and where the original
rescue boat was kept. The other
is one of the single storey
bungalows at the bottom of Chick
Hill. There are many
'individualistic' properties on the
Marsham flatland, between Chick
Hill and the Royal Military Canal,
but not until you discover the
additional accommodation
hidden at the rear do you realise
just how unique this one is. An
old gasometer, its original
features disguised by a
castellated facade, now makes a
cosy additional room and houses
a snooker table. Not too many
of those around.

I apologise again to those of you
reading this who have always
known about these interesting
places, but I write as a fascinated
newcomer and mainly for others
who are new to the area.

B.M.

VILLAGE VOICE

Do you have an event you would
like to let everyone know about?
If you do then why not contact
Sylvia Gutsell on 812544 who will
be happy to talk to you about
your event and include it in the
Rye Observer 'Village Voice'
section.

DANCE / EXERCISE CLASS FOR BEGINNERS

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increase flexibility

increase bone density

improve muscle tone in a relaxed and fun way?



Just turn up with a pair of good trainers
on your feet and loose fitting clothes - lycra optional!

For further details contact Robin Hutt on 07792 951007 or 813182.

FARM HEDGEROW RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT

Many of you will have noticed the stretch of hedge currently undergoing restoration beside the road on Lunsford Farm. Judging by the disapproving looks and uninformed remarks I have received as we coppiced the hedge with chainsaws, I thought this might be a good opportunity to educate those who are less than informed.



The usual method of hedgerow maintenance is to cut the hedge once a year using a tractor and flail hedgecutter. This is by far the cheapest option. Over time, this has a detrimental effect as some of the weaker species suffer, and most of the cuttings fall into the bottom of the hedge. The end result is a much more gappy hedge, containing fewer species, and the invasion of weed species such as sycamore which smother everything else. The hedge is then virtually useless to wildlife.



alternative is to 'coppice and gap up'. This involves cutting all the hedge down to ground level and planting up the gaps with new plants. The stumps of the old hedge will sprout new vigorous growth in the spring, and it is a good opportunity to deal with weed species and reintroduce those that have been lost. With this method, stockproof wire fencing needs to be put up to protect the new hedge. This will produce a fine hedge in a few years which will produce good cover for wildlife, a greater variety of plant species, and better shelter for livestock.



We systematically carry out the process of hedge restoration, and have completed over a thousand yards during the last 12 years. Anybody who would like to see the end result of this work is more than welcome to come and do so, along with many other conservation projects.

Andrew Dunlop

EASTER

Do you have an Easter message for anyone?

Then please let us know and we will include it in the next issue (All messages are free to put in)



Traditionally, hedges were allowed to 'grow up' and then were laid to stimulate new growth and form a stockproof barrier. At the same time all the dead thatch and ivy was raked out and gaps planted up with new saplings. This is of course very labour intensive.

Where hedgerows have deteriorated to such an extent that laying is not worthwhile, the

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WELL - WE DID ASK!!
for your worst cracker jokes
And gosh they are awful!

What game is played by five
elephants in a dustbin?

Squash

What do you call a train loaded
with toffee?

A chew chew train

What has a pelican got in common
with the Water Company?

They both have large bills.

Why do bakers work so hard?

Because they knead the dough.

What do ghosts like about tall
buildings?

They have lots of scare cases.

How do you stop a rhino from
charging?

Take away it's credit cards.

On which side do chickens have
the most feathers?

On the outside

What did the beaver say to the
tree?

Nice gnawing you

What do you get if you cross a
stereo with a refrigerator?

Cool Music



LETTERS PAGE

Dear Editor,

The field between Pannel Lane, Pett Road, and French Court has a public footpath running across it. A stockproof fence with a good, solid, user-friendly stile on the line of the footpath has been erected across the middle of the field. The landowner has also provided dog gates to allow people to take their dogs through without having to get them over the stile. This he was not obliged to do, and dog owners should be grateful for his consideration. Unfortunately on a number of occasions the dog gates have been left fastened open, and if this continues I have no doubt that the landowner will eventually lose patience and withdraw the facility, for which I do not blame him. There is always someone who spoils things for everyone else! Please would the person(s) concerned mend their ways and act more responsibly while there is still time.

Avril Thurley

PARISH DIARY – FEBRUARY 2008

VH = Village Hall RG = Recreation Ground

Friday 1 st	Latin American & Ballroom Dancing	VH	2 pm
Monday 4 th	Quiz Night	Royal Oak	8.30 pm
Tuesday 8 th	Garden Club	VH	7.30 pm
Wednesday 9 th	Badminton	VH	10 am
	Puppy Training Class	VH	1 pm
	Advanced dog training	VH	2 pm
	Short Mat Bowls	VH	3pm & 7pm
Thursday 7 th	Dance & Exercise Class	VH	9.30 am
	Flicks in the Village	VH	7.30 pm
Friday 8 th	Latin American & Ballroom Dancing	VH	2 pm
	Railway Club	VH	7.30 pm
Monday 11 th	Flowerpots toddler group	VH	9.30 am
	Quiz Night	Royal Oak	8.30 pm
Tuesday 12 th	Garden Club	VH	7.30 pm
Wednesday 13 th	Badminton,	VH	10 am
	Mobile Library	Church	10.20 am
		Chick Hill	11.10 am
		Smuggler	11.45 am
	Puppy Training Class	VH	1 pm
	Advanced dog training	VH	2 pm
Thursday 14 th	Dance & Exercise Class	VH	9.30 am
	Short Mat Bowls	VH	3pm & 7 pm
Friday 15 th	Latin American & Ballroom Dancing	VH	2 pm
	Women's Institute	VH	2.30 pm
	Naturalist Society	VH	7.30 pm
Monday 18 th	Flowerpots toddler group	VH	9.30 am
	Quiz Night	Royal Oak	8.30 pm
Tuesday 19 th	Parish Council	VH	7.30 pm
Wednesday 20 th	Badminton,	VH	10 am
	Puppy Training Class	VH	1 pm
	Advanced dog training	VH	2 pm

Thursday 21 st	Short Mat Bowls	VH	3pm & 7 pm
Friday 22 nd	Latin American & Ballroom Dancing	VH	2 pm
Monday 25 th	Flowerpots toddler group	VH	9.30 am
	Quiz Night	Royal Oak	8.30 pm
Wednesday 27 th	Badminton,	VH	10 am
	Mobile Library	Church	10.20 am
		Chick Hill	11.10 am
		Smuggler	11.45 am
	Puppy Training Class	VH	1 pm
	Advanced dog training	VH	2 pm
Thursday 28 th	Short Mat Bowls	VH	3pm & 7pm
Friday 29 th	Latin American & Ballroom Dancing	VH	2 pm

The new sporting season will soon be upon us! If you want your home fixtures included in the Parish Diary, please let me have a fixture list in good time. There is no charge. Any other Village events can also be included but only if I know about them.

Avril Thurley

CHURCH SERVICES –FEBRUARY 2008

Sun. 3 rd Feb.	Parish Communion, 9.30am – St Mary & St Peter
Wed. 6 th Feb.	ASH WEDNESDAY Holy Communion, 7.30pm – St Peter's Fairlight
Sun. 10 th Feb.	Joint Worship with the Methodists, 9.30am – St Mary & St Peter
Sun. 17 th Feb.	Holy Communion, 8.00am – St Nicholas, Pett Level
Sun. 24 th Feb.	Parish Communion, 9.30am – St Mary & St Peter

PETT NATS

The speaker on February 15th will be Fran Southgate, who will be talking about 'Water Voles and Wetlands'. Pett Level is famous for both, so this should be a very interesting evening. Visitors are welcome at £2.

Avril Thurley
(Hon Secretary)



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2008 FLOWER SHOW

At a recent meeting of the committee for the Flower show it was announced that **Colonel A.H. Parks** has agreed to become President of the Pett and District Horticultural Society. He supersedes Miss C.E. Perring who passed away last year.



The wheels are well and truly in motion for the show in July and I can give you a sneak preview of the titles for the Photograph and Painting classes.

For the Photo (Classes 89 and 91) it will be **"A Pett Village Scene"**
For the painting (Class 90) **"A village landmark you would still like to see in 60 years time"**

The AGM will be on the 19th March and we would welcome anyone to come along to the Village Hall who is interested in helping out with the show before, during or after the event. You would be amazed at how much needs doing.

Also an early reminder to let us have those unwanted Christmas gifts for the tombola stall or to plant those extra veg seeds for the produce stall. We will need, nearer the date, cakes and plants and books and puzzles.

A full list of the Committee Members will be published after the AGM in case anyone gets thrown out before then!!!
J.R.

PETT CHURCH CHRISTMAS THANK YOUS

It has been a happy and successful Christmas season. Our thanks go to all those who worked so hard to make it so:

- those who donated toys for the Toy Service;
- the Flower Ladies who made the church look beautiful;
- Derek Foy who donated the Christmas Tree and Avril and Charlotte who not only decorated the tree, but built the crib scene as well;
- John and the Carol Singers who raised a record amount of money which has been donated to the Surviving Christmas Project, and to Pat and Trevor who provided the delicious refreshments;
- to those who willingly agreed to take part in the service of Lessons and Carols;
- to Hinkleys Funeral Directors who provided the oranges for the Christingles, those who made the Christingles and all those who attended a happy (and noisy!) Christmas Eve children's service;
- to John who had the difficult task of manning the C.D. player as we had no organist;

- above all, to those in our community who came along to support and share all the different services.

A belated HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE.

Meriel Deasy, Pett Level
(on behalf of Pett Church)

BENEFICE OF FAIRLIGHT, GUESTLING & PETT Women's World Day of Prayer

Our service celebrating the Women's World Day of Prayer will take place at 2.30pm on Friday 7th March 2008, at the church of St.Mary & St.Peter, Pett.

This is always an amazing day. The extent of unity in prayer is shown by the fact that services will begin at sunrise in Tonga and finish with sunset in neighbouring Western Samoa, after there will have been services in over 170 countries.

In the British Isles, there will have been over 6000 services. They bring together women from every background and a very wide range of Christian traditions.

The service has been prepared by the women of Guyana and upholds the tradition of unity and dignity of women. Our speaker will be Rev.Maureen Hinkley.

Do please come and join with the women of the three villages..... there will be tea and cake after the service.



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FROZEN ASSETS!

It was a really dark, freezing night when we covertly met in the gloom of St Mary and St Peters church. There was lots of stamping of feet and rubbing of hands, pink cheeks and sparkling eyes. Sounds like a meeting of some secret sect but in fact it was an assembly point for us very brave Carol Singers.



night was heaven. Thank you both so much.

We raised, that December evening, a massive £131.34 for 'Surviving Christmas'. Well done all the people of Pett who donated their money and a big thank you to all of the singers that gave up their time and comfort to help out.

See you all again next year.

Roving Reporter



MOTHERS DAY

2nd March

Don't forget to let us have your mother's day messages to print for next month
(These messages are always free so why not make your Mums day)

Thank you

The Flower Show Committee would like to thank all those who have sponsored the Jubilee Flower Show. Your contributions will be put to good use making the show a special one.



Happy Valentines day Everyone

Over thirty adults and children and one very new baby set out from our warm homes to try and improve the lot of others less fortunate than ourselves by singing carols outside your homes and collecting your money.

It was cold, very cold, but as always most of the people of Pett opened their front doors to listen to us and put their hands in their pockets. One even came to the door just out of her bath wrapped only in a towel. Mentioning no names, thank you Helen (hope your assets didn't get too frozen!) If nothing else we are good at fund raising in this village and I am very proud to be part of it.

After we had finished singing we were guests of Pat and Trevor Hindson at the Roundels. They laid on the most marvellous spread of hot and cold food and hot mulled wine and cordials. They coped with over 30 of us with the greatest of ease and to sit in their parlour in front of a roaring fire on such a cold

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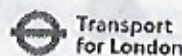
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Short Quiz:

1. Do you know the name of the first couple to be shown in bed together on prime TV?
2. What was the original colour of Coca-Cola?
3. What part of the human body is it impossible to lick?
4. Which American state has the highest percentage of people who walk to work?

(Answers in the next edition of the Parish News)

NATURE NOTES

We have had some spectacular sunrises. Did you see the red mackerel one? I've never seen a sky quite like it. It was completely covered with mackerel clouds each of which was blood red, with the spaces between being dark blue. A few days later the sun came up through a mass of ragged cloud in such a way that it looked like a huge fire on the horizon. I have a lot of sympathy with those who worship the sun. Given the choice between an impassioned shaman telling me the gods are angry, or a matter-of-fact scientist explaining the effect of the sun's rays on pollution particles, I know which I prefer!

I was amused to read that both starlings and moles are supposed to be suffering population declines, and research is being carried out to find out why. There is certainly no shortage of either in Pett. I have even been driven to enclose one of my feeders in a starling-proof cage, so that the little birds can get some food - something I have never had to do before. As for the moles, they are going in for high density development in gardens, in fields, and in the Recreation Ground.

My witch hazel usually presents its first flowers on or about Christmas Day. This year it started flowering in mid December and was a mass of bloom by Christmas. I also have some parahebes which have been flowering their socks off since last

summer and are still going strong. I am dithering between cutting them back "to give them a rest", or assuming that Nature knows best and leaving them to do their thing. Perhaps our gardening correspondent has some thoughts on the subject?

Nature certainly knows how to look after her blackbirds, making them irresistibly confiding. My new one is already eating his currants from the dish while I hold it, and I'm sure it's only a matter of time before he will eat from my hand. But I will not encourage this one to come indoors; blackbirds are much too messy!



Avril Thurley

CAROLS IN THE BARN 2007

Many thanks to all those that braved the cold and made such a splendid occasion of our Carols in the Barn. A fantastic £241 was collected which will go towards helping a great many African families build a more sustainable life and make them less dependant on aid.

Thank you again and Happy New Year from Tim Jury and Farm Africa

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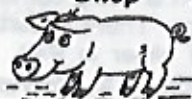
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MEMORIES OF THE FIRST FLOWER SHOW



The flower show, from 1948 was held at Pett Level for a few years. My Father, Reg Cooke (also Father to David Cooke and Rosemary Moon) got together with family and friends and they put it on.

It was held at what we then knew as the 'green' which is now the Smuggler Car Park. Two marquees were put up on the green - one for exhibits and one for teas.

Then, the vegetable exhibits were staged upstairs in the Beach Club, now the Smugglers, and at that time there was an upstairs bar where the living accommodation is now.

I remember particularly one year -1948 I think, my Dad had managed to get Ralph Wightman, a B.B.C. broadcaster to open the show. Dad used to speak on the radio periodically on a programme called 'Country Magazine' and Ralph Wightman was one of the regulars on that.

At that time I think Mr C.W. Higgs was President and Colonel Fearon was Treasurer.

Christine Harris
Pett Road
Pett

N.B. My sincere thanks to Christine for her contribution to our Diamond Flower Show Year.

If you have any early memories of the first shows, then please let me know.

Jackie ~ 815224



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FLICKS FILM SOCIETY

Firstly may we ask everyone to keep their fingers crossed on the 18th February when it is expected that Rother District Council will be considering our application for £2000 towards the £6000 upgrade of our projection / screening facilities. The majority of the expenditure will be self funded. Our Parish Council has already offered its support and is contributing an important £500 which, if our plans are successful, will help increase the screen size by 20% and the audience capacity by 30%.

May I also take this opportunity to apologise for the nippy temperature in the hall at our January show. Looking back I think I should have turned the temperature thermostat up a little higher before the show. I will not make the same mistake at our next show on the 7th February when we will be screening the hilarious film, **HOT FUZZ** starring **Simon Pegg** playing the role of Nicholas Angel, London's finest police constable. His arrest record is second to none and he is keen to continue honing his skills to be even more successful. All this makes his colleagues in the Met. look extremely bad and inefficient and his senior officers decide to avoid further embarrassment and to promote and transfer him to Sandford, a country village with the lowest crime rate in the country. It is just as dull and depressing as he imagined and the best he can achieve is to throw underage drinkers out of the local pub and arrest them for disorderly conduct in the street. His new partner, Danny (**Nick Frost**), is overweight and laid-back and the son of local police chief Frank (**Jim Broadbent**) who is not

particularly bothered about investigating crime. When a local couple are brutally murdered in a crime made to look like a traffic accident, Nick is on the case and when these murders are followed by another bizarre 'accident' Nick and Danny get drawn deeper into investigating a bizarre, dark and mysterious criminal fraternity. **Hot Fuzz** was filmed in Wells and also stars **Timothy Dalton**, **Billie Whitelaw**, **Edward Woodward**, **David Threlfall** and the ubiquitous **Bill Nighy**.

Our 6th March show will be **ATONEMENT**, the Ian McEwan's acclaimed novel, which arrives with stately grandeur on the big screen, keeping that same sense of dreamy otherworldliness and unsettling nervous energy. It's a boldly unconventional period melodrama and a stunning showcase for director Joe Wright who, after his crash-zoom take on *Pride & Prejudice*, draws another memorable performance out of Keira Knightley.

Do not forget, all are welcome to join the Society and enjoy an evening watching a film for as little as £4.00 per show with like-minded people in the local environment of Pett Village Hall. If you wish to know more about the Society, please email me on chris@saintfamily.net or telephone on 813047. Alternatively, you can pop into the Butchers Shop in Pett and grab an application form. All films start at 7.30pm with refreshments served from 7.00pm.

Chris Saint and the Flicks Team.



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HOLIDAY HOT SPOTS ~ CARIBBEAN CRUISING

Last year we tried Cruising for the first time and as it was January we chose to go to the Caribbean for the sun. We flew to Barbados to join the Ocean Village ship and it was one of the easiest trips ever. As we walked into the terminal at Gatwick we went straight up to the check in desk (not a queue in sight) and didn't see our luggage again until we were in our cabin.

The flight takes about 8 ½ hours, so not too bad and it was raining but very warm when we arrived. As it was an Ocean Village holiday it was very laid-back with an easy, informal life on board. Eating was not regimented to certain times or a dress code. There was one restaurant when a booking was required but all the other restaurants were open for a long time span and one was open for 24 hours.

The standard cabins were very spacious with a dressing area and en-suite and the main cabin with bedside cabinets, chest of drawers, table and chairs and television. Lots of night life, bars, sun loungers, shops and a daily news paper that told us where we were going to the next day and what shows were on that evening etc.

We pre-booked all our activities ashore and they all went exceptionally well and efficiently. We did lots of different things from nature hiking on Grenada to motor

boating past the Pirates of the Caribbean set on St Lucia. From snorkelling at St Vincent to taking the sugar plantation train round St Kitts with a rum punch in one hand and a choir to entertain us. What more could you possibly ask for? We went up volcanoes, under waterfalls, on catamarans and kayaks. We could have done many more activities or change what we had pre booked at any time without any problem.

The facilities for children were very good. A private sectioned off bit with a pool was available for the families with very young children and a crèche for those aged up to 18 years (Yes honestly) At night you could take the cabin phone and could listen all the time to hear if your child was awake.

We thought the holiday was quite expensive as all on shore activities were an extra cost but these were paid for before we went. Drinks were an additional cost too, but all food was included except for some items in the formal restaurant.

We would do another one to a different location although the Caribbean Islands are well worth a second visit. On our return trip our passports were checked on the boat so no queuing at the airport and no luggage to worry about till Gatwick!

J.R.



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RED MULLET

Red mullet is classified as a round white fish but has a richer and more satisfying flavour than most thanks to its beneficial higher fat content. It is sometimes compared to shellfish in taste, and in fact feeds on them. It is a very popular fish in the Mediterranean.

There are two main types of red mullet available in Britain. As the name suggests, they have a red coloured skin, but one has a thin yellow band running along its body, the other has an attractively mottled skin. Both are generally small, and considered best when under 500g in weight, though in ancient Rome they were highly prized and preferred much larger. The red mullet is no relation to the grey mullet.

Unusually for a fish, the red mullet's liver is considered a delicacy in its own right, and that is one reason why mullet are often sold and cooked ungutted.

Red mullet is good grilled, the served with a lively sauce such as salsa verde. It can also be shallow-fried, baked or cooked en papillote (in a bag). This month's recipe has been selected from Rick Stein's 'Fruits of the Sea'.

SAUTEED RED MULLET WITH PARSLEY, GARLIC AND SPAGHETTINI (ANGELS HAIR PASTA)

Serves 4

4 small mullet, weighing about 150g/ 5oz each, filleted

450g/ 1lb spaghetti (angels hair pasta)

4 tbsp olive oil

2 garlic cloves, finely chopped

1 red finger chilli, seeded and finely chopped (optional)

4 plum tomatoes, skinned, seeded and chopped

20g/ ¾ oz fresh flat leaf parsley, finely chopped

Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

Extra virgin olive oil, to serve

Cut the mullet filets across into 2cm/ ¾ in wide strips

Bring 3.4L/ 6 pints salted water to boil in a large pan. Add the pasta, bring back to boil and cook for 5 minutes until al dente.

Meanwhile heat the olive oil in a large frying pan. Fry the strips of red mullet, skin side down, for 3 minutes. Turn them over, fry for 1 minute and then season to taste.

Drain the pasta well and tip it into a warmed serving bowl.

Add the garlic and red chilli (optional) to the frying pan with the red mullet and fry for 30 seconds. Add the tomatoes and fry for a further 30 seconds.

Tip everything into the bowl with the pasta, scraping up all the little bits that may have stuck to the bottom of the pan, then add 3 tbsp of the parsley and gently toss together so that the fish just begins to break up. Serve immediately, drizzled with extra virgin olive oil and sprinkle with remaining parsley.

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Notification of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of New Beach Club will be held in the

New Beach Club, Pett Level Road, Pett Level
On

Sunday 9th March 2008 at 10:00am.

Any Proposals for resolution at this AGM must be proposed and seconded, in writing and lodged with (in the absence of a Hon Secretary) the Chairman by 24:00 on Saturday 23rd February 2008. A list of the said proposals, their Proposers and Seconders, will then be displayed on the Club notice board before the AGM



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PETT PARISH COUNCIL – 2007/2008

Councillors	Address	
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Cllr. Jillian Green (Vice Chairman)	'October', Pett Road, Pett	
Cllr. Dr. Arthur Hollman	Sea Bank, Chick Hill, Pett	
Cllr. Martin King	1 New Coastguard Cottages, Toot Rock, Pett Level	
Cllr. Brian Roberts	2 Coastguard Cottages, Pett Level Road, Pett Level	
Cllr. Paul Stapley	Bower Cottage, Pett Road, Pett	
Cllr. Brian Woodcock	Hither Green Cottage, Pett Road, Pett	
Clerk.		
Bob Hodgeson	17 Barnfield Close, Hastings TN34 1TS	01424 716232
	e.mail: bob_pettpc@yahoo.co.uk	

RESPONSIBILITIES

Pett Village Hall Management Committee	Cllr. Jillian Green
Pett Sports Association	Cllr. Paul Stapley
Police Community Consultative Group	Cllr. Brian Roberts
Rother Association of Local Councils Representative	Cllrs. Brian Woodcock, Paul Stapley
Sussex Association of Local Councils	Cllrs. Andrew Dunlop, Martin King
Flood Wardens	Cllrs. Brian Roberts, Andrew Dunlop
	Co-opted member - District Cllr. Robin Patten

PCSO Sharon Eldridge 07810 636992

Rother District Council (Marsham Ward)

Cllr. Roger Bird	87 Battery Hill, Fairlight, Hastings, TN35 4AL	01424 813636
Cllr. Robin Patten	5 Old Coastguard Cottages, Pett Level Road, Pett Level, TN35 4EH	01424 812479

East Sussex County Council

Cllr. Carl Maynard The Burrow, 23 Baldslow Down, Westfield TN37 7NJ 01273 481576

Village Hall Committee

Name	Telephone No.	Responsibility
Phil Button	812148	Chairman
Ray Barden	812551	Vice Chairman
Jeanette Barden	812551	Secretary
Carol Pecorini	813544	Treasurer
Derek Johnson	814829	Hall Manager & Hall Bookings
Evelyn Darnell	812615	Committee Member
Tim Jury	813820	Committee Member
Philippa Strickland	814384	Committee Member
Sally Williams	812841	Committee Member