

Pett & Pett Level News



February 2022

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<p>The POST OFFICE is open on Monday and Thursday, 12:45 to 3pm at Pett Methodist Chapel</p>			

Front Cover: Widgeon at Pett Pools in February by Dr. Barry Yates, Manager of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

Pett & Pett Level News is printed by Impression IT, St Leonards, 01424 852116

Dear Readers

Are we there yet? The start of this year feels so different, with hopes of a gradual end to the pandemic. Whilst we wait to find out, in this edition you can:

- Enjoy quiz nights to see us through until Easter
- Look forward to jubilee celebrations in the summer (how do you plan to celebrate?)
- Join a sewing pool (now with the correct email address)
- Visit the churchyard and see what a tremendous difference the guardians have made
- Help to look after Pett Level by joining the Pett Level Preservation Trust (either as a volunteer or as a trustee)
- Make your feelings known about proposed changes to the provision of cardiology and ophthalmology in East Sussex
- Explore our local history by coming to the ARC open day on the 12th February

And finally, on the 28th February 1922 Reg Nunn was born. This was ten months before the foundation of the Soviet Union. Reg has recently moved into Pett with his family and they invite you to 'raise a glass wish Reg a **HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY**'.



The News Team are:

Editors: Mike Wilkins, 07710 080148; Richard Bradshaw 07958 390899

Advertising: Lesley Wilkins, 01424 813206

Deliveries: Sarah Adams, 01424 812323

Subscriptions: Brenda Kirkham, 01424 815022 or beekirkham@tiscali.co.uk

.... and not forgetting our distribution team of up to 20 volunteers. This magazine is distributed to all households in Pett and Pett Level.

DEADLINES: Copy (letters, articles, announcements) - MID-DAY THE 15TH of each month.
 Adverts (new, changes, payments) - MID-DAY THE 1ST of each month.

COPY must be sent, by email, to magazine@pettnet.org.uk. If you want to provide something handwritten please contact us first otherwise it may not be printed. Copy must be accompanied by your name, address and phone number. Where pictures are used it is the responsibility of the author to ensure that permissions have been granted. When submitting letters the writer should give due consideration before naming individuals, either directly or by implication. No letter will be published anonymously. We reserve the right, at our sole discretion, to cut, crop, edit or not publish any copy received.

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Dear Editor

RANGOON GYMKHANA

My wife and I often visit St. Nicholas and during our visit look at the book stall. My eye was caught by an old libretto of "The Yeoman of the Guard" There was a bookseller's label from a shop in Rangoon. A name inside the front cover was "H G Nicolson", and on looking him up I found that he was a member of the Rangoon Gymkhana Club and had played cricket for Burma against the MCC. It had travelled a long way!

Raymond Crawford

Editor's Note: I came across the following courtesy of Wikipedia which I accept is no guarantee of accuracy. It is fascinating how the echoes from the past remain with us. I wonder if there is any local connection?

"H.G. Nicolson (dates of birth and death unknown) was a Burmese cricketer, although where he was born is unknown. It is also unknown what Nicolson's batting and bowling styles were. Nicolson made his first-class debut for Rangoon Gymkhana in their only first-class match, which came against the Marylebone Cricket Club in February 1927. In this match he scored 32 runs in the Gymkhana's first-innings, before being dismissed by Maurice Tate, while in their second-innings he scored 37 runs before being dismissed by Bob Wyatt. Nicolson also kept wicket in the match. Two days after the conclusion of that match, Nicolson made his second and final first-class appearance for Burma against the MCC. He was dismissed for a duck in Burma's first-innings by Maurice Tate and in their second-innings he was dismissed for 2 by the same bowler."

Dear Editor

LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHS

The November and December 2021 editions had local interest articles by Peter Woodroffe. I found some photos to enhance the text. However, I was remiss in giving credit where due.

Phil Stringer has always been generous with sharing his large collection of postcards and photos that he has collected since visiting Pett Level as a small boy. In fact, many photos that we all use probably come via his original collection, if only we knew it!

So please let me take this opportunity to thank Phil, on behalf of myself, and others who he has shared this resource with. I should also like to acknowledge publicly that Phil has agreed that The ARC can hold his extensive digital collection. Thank you so much Phil.

Fran Rogers



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Dear Editor

This is just a brief piece to announce a notable birthday coming up for one of Pett's newest residents. Our father **REG NUNN** came to live with us just before Christmas and is looking forward to celebrating his **100th birthday** on the 28th of February.

Unsurprisingly, perhaps, his physical prowess is showing signs of wear and tear but he is still very much compos mentis. He is hoping, like everybody else, that we can get back to something like normal and maybe socialise a little more as circumstances allow.

Some of the more mature inhabitants may be familiar with Reg if they went to school in Hastings. He was a teacher at the Grove School for 22 years until 1984.

We don't know how many centenarians live in Pett and Pett Level, but we thought that we would let everyone know that Reg will be joining their ranks.

We are obviously proud of our dad but would like everybody to feel free to raise a glass to Reg on the 28th of February.

Sandra, Sue, David and Ian, and ten grandchildren and fourteen great grandchildren



CELEBRATE ON SATURDAY 30 JULY 2022

The Flower Show Committee held a meeting by Zoom in December to review the Planner and agree the theme for this year, which will be **CELEBRATIONS** to match the Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen, the Commonwealth Games and many other events.

The Committee will be holding the Pett & District Horticultural Society (P&DHS) AGM on Wednesday 2 March at 19.00 hours at Pett Village Hall, depending on government guidelines for gatherings. There is a lot to report following the 2021 Show, which was a financial success; the Committee are keen to make donations to local good causes in recognition of the support given to the Flower Show. Please contact any member of the Committee or get in touch with the Chairman, Philippa Strickland, at Adams, Pett Road, Pett, TN35 4HG. Call 01424 814384 or Email pstrickl@icloud.com. Requests in writing preferred.

The next task is planning the schedule, finalising with some of the judges' details of their particular classes so that they fit the theme.

It has been our practice to distribute the printed schedule with the April issue of Pett and Pett Level News to enable forward planning for some classes. The Committee have yet to decide if it will be sensible to delay the distribution until May. The schedule will be available on Pettnet and some details will be given in the April issue of the magazine.

Philippa M. Strickland, Chairman P&DHS

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PETT CRICKET CLUB

Now that the January blues are over, and the days start to get longer, we can start to look forward to the 2022 cricket season on the Pett Recreation Ground.



During the winter months, we have been playing in the East Sussex Indoor Cricket League with Chris Mills showing his experience in this format and helping the team to 3 wins from 4 games with some impressive performances so far. We have one more game in February and if we win this, we will win the division - so watch this space!

February is also the start of winter training for the club with weekly net practice for all members and if anyone wants to dust off their bat and pads, new players are always welcome, please use the contact details below if interested.

QUIZ NIGHT

In the December edition, I mentioned we are hosting a quiz night, which has now been confirmed for **Saturday 26th February** in the Pett Village Hall.

£30 per table, max 6 people per team (Bottle of Wine and Snacks included).

Starts at 7pm with doors opening at 6:30pm

Email gary.chatham@hotmail.com or Text 07576114133 to reserve a table

Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you there!

Gary Chatham

PROVISION OF CARDIOLOGY AND OPTHAMOLOGY IN EAST SUSSEX

A reader has asked that we highlight a public consultation, the results of which may impact the way in which we receive the above services, and notes that although there have been many respondents to this consultation, few of them have been from our area.

For cardiology, clinicians want to create new cardiac response teams at the emergency departments (EDs) at Conquest Hospital and Eastbourne District General Hospital, and to concentrate the most highly specialised cardiac services at one or other of the hospital sites.

For ophthalmology, clinicians want to consolidate the services currently provided at Bexhill Hospital, Conquest Hospital and Eastbourne District General Hospital, into two sites at Bexhill Hospital and Eastbourne District General Hospital. This would enable patients to have quicker access to tests and treatment and more input from the most senior clinicians. It would also enable one-stop clinics, reducing the number of appointments patients need to attend.

Both consultations run until the 11th March 2022. For more details either go to the East Sussex Healthcare website (www.esht.nhs.uk) and search for 'consultations' or phone 0300 131 4691



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On a cold midwinter morning eighteen of us gathered for our third work party and continued with the enhancement of Pett churchyard for the whole community.

We focused on five areas:

- removing four trees which had, a long time ago, self-seeded. Now at least one gravestone will not collapse, light will shine into what was previously a dark and dank area, and a winter flowering cherry will be seen in all its glory.
- taking down a section of the near ruined wall between the original churchyard and the twitten. A vista has now been opened between the oldest and newest parts of the churchyard and they are connected both physically and spiritually.
- defining the memorial garden by using stones from the wall to build a low protective rampart which will, over time, take root. For a brief moment I stood in the memorial garden and, standing under the magnificent maple with the sun shining on me, felt a great sense of tranquility.
- clearing the steps and paths leading up to the church
- clearing more of the graves. In so doing we stumbled across a three-year-old, Dear Little Milly Pierce, who passed away on the 27th of March 1873:

One sweet flower was drooped and faded

One beloved babe has fled

One fair brow the grave has shaded

One so very dear is dead

We will hold another work party in February (provisionally Saturday 19th at 10am). It will be time, I think, to tidy up for spring. If you want to know more about the guardians then please call me, Mike Wilkins, on 07710 080148.

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THE ARCHIVE RESOURCE CENTRE - OPENING DAY!



Back in the Spring of 2019, when we began this community archive project for Fairlight, Guestling and Pett, no one foresaw the pandemic, so we didn't expect that getting to this stage would take the best part of three years. Now, finally, we have a home for the archive, secure, wired, equipped, and furnished and we are planning for digital cataloguing of our collections to commence in the first half of 2022. We are holding an Open Day at Pett Methodist Church on February 12th, so you can see for yourself.

On the day, the Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex, Andrew Blackman, will formally declare the ARC room open at 11:30am. In the main hall, we will be exhibiting a collection of original artwork from significant 20th century artists with links to this area. Haydon Luke will be giving an extended talk about this subject, at 12 noon and 2pm. We're sure that some of the names will surprise you! As well as the exhibition and the talks, there will be refreshments and a chance to talk to committee members about future plans and to see the ARC room. Entry is FREE but you will be encouraged to support us by becoming (or renewing as) a Friend of the ARC under a new, annual scheme. The cost of running the ARC is modest, but it doesn't pay for itself!

Getting to this point has required money and dedicated time, so the Open Day is also an opportunity to thank all those who've helped us make it this far: Rother District Council and our ward councillors, Roger Bird and Andrew Mier; The Isabel Blackman Foundation; Fairlight, Guestling and Pett Parish Councils; and the many individuals from across the area who have made donations, large and small, to our Friends' fund or who have donated equipment or their time.

We look forward to welcoming you on the day and if, when you have seen what is planned, you would like to get more involved in the project just have a word with one of the Committee members. Please note: masks may still be required on the day

Contact: archiveresourcecentre@outlook.com

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Here we are in February 2022, the shortest month and for me the last time I write as Chair of the Pett Level Preservation Trust although I will remain as a Trustee and look forward to contributing in other ways. We are still inviting new Trustees so please consider this as an opportunity for you to get involved.

At our December meeting we decided that the role of Chairperson should rotate every 4 years, a decision I supported whole heartedly. John Newton has stepped forward as interim Chair to give time for our newer Trustees to gain a better understanding of the Pett Level Preservation Trust, the Trust's activities, and the role of Chair.

As well as welcoming Jo Stewart, Jan Jackson, Katrina Julian and Sue Harris as trustees I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lois Hall, who will leave the Trust this month. Lois has made an enormous contribution to the Trust and it is down to her hard work that the legal and financial affairs of the Trust are in such great shape thus making the job of future trustees so much easier. You will be missed.

Throughout the year there is much to look forward to and a few changes. There will not be a garden party on Toot Rock this year as I am getting married in July, but there will be an event on the land by the canal in the summer, of which more next month. The PLPT Annual Meeting will take place on April 21st with a talk from Michael Howard who is a Ranger for The National Trust. All are welcome.

Finally, membership and volunteers are really important to the Trust and it is great to see so many people walking on the Trust land. If you are not already a member, and if you have some spare time, then please consider joining us to help look after this fabulous land at Pett Level.

Zana Duthie

Do you fancy joining our local **Sewing Social**?

Do you

- Love to sew, but find it a solitary pastime?
- Wish you had someone local who could help you with fitting issues or technical problems?
- Want to learn how to sew but don't know where to start?
- Want to meet people who share the same hobby as you?



If you've answered yes to any of the above, Donna and Jessica would love you to join us for a regular friendly, informal and fully inclusive sewing social. You don't need any experience, just plenty of enthusiasm, an open mind and a willingness to share ideas and skills.

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Coffee Morning & Community Library

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10 till 12



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go home with a good book

We are usually blessed with glorious weather on Coffee Morning days and January was no exception - dry and bright, but very cold, so we stayed inside, albeit with the doors open. Many thanks to Fran along with Jan, Julie and Sara for doing so much while Anne and Tim are away.

We had a plethora of new books in the Community Library, one of which we are offering as our Book of the Month - 'Holding' by Graham Norton. Better known as a TV and radio presenter, Graham Norton has now written three novels. This is the first of them and is very readable. Also recommended, from our non-fiction section is 'Dangerous to Know, A Life' an autobiography written by Chapman Pincher at age 100 in 2014 - "a true journalistic colossus . . . colourful, indiscreet and compelling".

These are two of over 200 books, so there is plenty to browse through, along with a large part of the Jigsaw Library, which Jane brings along each month. These are just a window into the Jigsaw Library as Jane also maintains a catalogue and her contact details on the village website.

On behalf of the County Library (which supplies our books) we are still trying to locate 'Ramses Vol 2 The Temple of a Million Years' by Christian Jacq, a large print book. If you might have borrowed it, perhaps during lockdown, or know anything about it, we would be so grateful to hear from you.



New to our Coffee Morning and manned by Robert we now have a Hearing Aid Maintenance support service, together with hearing aid batteries. The service is provided by East Sussex Hearing (registered charity 1101140). East Sussex Hearing is a small independent charity based in Eastbourne. They have been serving the D/deaf, deafened, deafblind and hard of hearing community throughout East Sussex for over 20 years.

You can find more information by visiting <https://www.eshrc.org/>. Already popular, hearing aid support will be with us every month, first Wednesday, 10 - 12, next month 2nd February.

Anna and Vivien, Fran and the team

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Omicron-worries in December meant we had to quickly turn our monthly meeting into a Zoom one - but what a great virtual party we had. There was a fantastic interactive quiz organised and presented brilliantly by our latest committee member Tracy Headly, and we had cocktails (and cups of tea), food, news, laughter and much singing throughout the evening!

We have organised as much as possible for our 2022 program although always wary that we may have to tweak things at the last minute. We have a great selection of speakers already in place and some fun outings planned too. The Ladies that Munch Club are already looking forward to a variety of different dining experiences with a suggestion this year that some of the monthly get togethers will have a pertinent theme such as a hoped-for Burns Night event!

As already reported last month, in December members teamed up with our friends from Hastings & Ore WI for a “Reindeer Walk” around Alexandra Park. Pett WI raised £590 through sponsorship, and together with the sponsorship by HOWI and further monies donated on the day a splendid total of £1,130 was raised for our joint current appeals to assist the Conquest Hospital’s Macdonald Ward Courtyard Renovation! Thank you so much to everyone who took part or donated or did both!

Our community fundraising continues and members of the WICAID team continue to make deliveries to Rye Food Bank. Thank you to **Sarah Upton** from **The Old Butcher’s Shop Pett** for donating Christmas raffle monies of £76.44 to our appeal for the food bank.

This year we are proud and excited to be taking over the popular craft fair events previously organised so fabulously by Carole Pecorini on behalf of the Pett Village Hall Committee. The first one, which of course will have a lovely Easter/Spring theme, will be held on Saturday 2 April with funds being raised for the Macdonald Ward’s Courtyard Renovation. Please contact us via our Facebook page or at pettwi_sec@outlook.com if you are interested in having a table.

Our biggest organisational feat of the year though is to be something fit for a Queen as we start planning a special themed event to take place at Pett Village Hall the afternoon of Saturday 4 June to celebrate HM’s Platinum Jubilee. We would ask all our members if they would please prioritise this date to help in whatever way they can to ensure this is a great success. More details soon!

Our new membership year starts in April. We are currently full but please email pettwi.sec@gmail.com to go on our waiting list which we hope to review by April. Also ‘like’ our Facebook page and keep up to date with all our events.

Belinda Wood, President



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It was a pleasure to be able to hold our first meeting of the New Year, masks and lateral flow tests notwithstanding!



Our speaker, Colin Page, a local amateur photographer, gave us a delightful and informative insight into the natural landscape we are so fortunate to have all around us. Colin worked for many years at Harborough Nurseries and describes himself as a plantsman, photographer, and naturalist. He is not professionally trained in photography but has been a member of the Rye Camera Club for many years, having first become interested on inheriting his grandfather's camera as a youngster.

His talk, entitled "In Winter's Light", illustrated many aspects of nature in autumn and winter, Colin's favourite time of year. The focus was on capturing with his camera the play of light on his chosen subjects - he explained that light is the most important facet of photography. We were treated to many exquisite photos of birds, trees, landscapes, beaches, marshes, plants and gardens, all taken during the winter months. Colin walks the local routes around Rye, Pett Level, Winchelsea and Brede, throughout the year, often photographing the same scenes in different seasons, capturing along the way the local wildlife scene in general and wonderful shots of resident, visiting and rare, birds. He showed a lovely close-up of a black headed gull minus its black head, since it turns white in winter - who knew! There was another amazing picture of waxwings feasting on snow-covered cotoneaster berries - the dead of winter, but so colourful. Colin ably demonstrated that winter is far from dull. When the sun is out it can create such wonderful effects on the landscape, throwing the simplest things into relief - fox paw marks glowing in the otherwise shadowy snow - huge trees, with no leaves to muddy the spectacle, their trunks glowing with golden and reddish tones and patterns. One stunning shot of acer trees in autumn, their leaves afire with intense reds and yellows, was particularly memorable. Snowy and frosty scenes featured with winter flowering plants and shrubs, daphne, sarcococca, cherry, peeping out through the snow and thick frost shining crystalline on bracken and grasses, creating a textured white carpet.

Colin may say he is an amateur, but his photos demonstrated experience gained over many years alongside a keen eye for colour and composition, an obvious love of the natural world and great skill and delicacy of touch - his talents combining to provide all present with an inspiring and uplifting evening, all the more welcome, being so far removed from these difficult times.

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 8th February at 7.30 p.m.** in the Catherine Holman Room at Pett Village Hall. Ann Novotny and David Penfold will deliver a talk entitled "Discovering the World of the Iris." Annual subscriptions will also be due - £10 for the coming year - new members most welcome. There will also be a Seed Swap, a new venture to help kick-start the growing year ahead - please bring along any surplus seeds, whether commercial or gathered. Details will be emailed to existing members nearer the time.

June Harris

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Mrs Andrews



Looking after our environment: Some of our Year 6 pupils have started a gardening club. They have plans to plant lots of bee- friendly plants to encourage pollination. They know how important it is to protect our bees! We are looking forward to seeing the fruits of their labour in the spring and summer months!



Chess club at playtime and lunchtime.

“ It helps you develop your concentration and challenge yourself.” Sonny

“ It helps you to think strategically.” Isaac Yr6
It has been lovely to see how the children support each other.



Our Librarians: “Having the opportunity to be a librarian has opened our minds to helping wherever we can. These responsibilities include categorizing the books for classes and the library, tidying up and encouraging children to read.”



Other clubs include a lunchtime reading club and a lunchtime drawing club. The children themselves have initiated all of these. We are very proud of them!

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Every day on their Facebook page they have a Knit of the Day where they showcase some of the amazing items sent in by knitters. They send out tens of thousands of items a year, giving to a diverse range of services, such as refugee centres, homeless shelters, and hospitals. At the moment they are in need of blankets (in larger sizes), jumpers for children and adults, and scarves, gloves and socks in all sizes.

Our Pett on the Knit project is to knit squares for the blankets, which are then crocheted together. The dimensions and pattern for the squares are repeated below. Squares should measure 12.5cms (5 inches) square, be made of synthetic DK wool, and knitted on No 4mm (old fashioned No 8) needles.

Blanket Square Pattern: (knit diagonally)

Cast on 1 stitch.

Row 1: kf&b (2 stitches)

Row 2: K1, kf&b (3 stitches)

Row 3: K1, kf&b, k1 (4 stitches)

Row 4: K1, kf&b, k2 (5 stitches)

Row 5: K1, kf&b, k3 (6 stitches)

Row 6: K1, *K1, kf&b, knit to end of row*

Repeat the 6th Row from * to * until side of the square measures 12.5 cms or 5 ins exactly.

Begin to decrease.

Next Row: K1, k2tog, knit to end of row.

Repeat this row until 2 stitches remain.

Next Row: K 2 together.

Tidy up wool ends by sewing into square.

Abbreviations: K = Knit, Kf&b = knit into the front and back of the same stitch, K2tog= knit two stitches together.

If you have any squares or wool to donate to the Coffee Mornings, or to me at 2 Brambletye, Pett Road, near the Methodist Church.

I can always come and collect - any questions please contact me on 07977 100 296 or heather.brambletye@hotmail.co.uk

Heather Godwin

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The council met in January and welcomed Richard Smith to his first meeting. Probably, the most important decision made was to agree the budget for 2022-23 and to keep the precept the same as in the current year. Unfortunately, this does not mean that your overall council tax will not increase as the county is having to put more money into roads maintenance and adult social care.

With reference to roads, I am pleased to say that the road surface just outside the Pett Level gateway, which has been getting more dangerous by the day, will shortly be patched and the potholes in the rest of the road to Winchelsea Beach will be filled at the same time. The road will have to be closed while the work is done. My thanks to all whose efforts have led to this outcome. The council also discussed the '20's Plenty' initiative, which aims to reduce speed limits to 20 mph over a wide area but felt that a 20 mph limit would be disregarded and the initiative was ahead of its time as it is difficult to get many motorists to obey the 30 mph signs. The council agreed to revisit the proposal at a meeting in the future.

Other decisions made at the meeting were: to make a grant to the playgroup Little Ducklings by contributing to the cost of hiring the village hall (Councillors were unanimous in their support for this venture and hoped to see it grow and establish itself on a formal basis); to erect a footpath map, and possibly plant a tree, to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (an application will be made to Rother District Council for matched funding); and to agree a Memorandum of Understanding with the Archive Resource Centre (ARC), on the basis of which back issues of the parish news (which the council is obliged to keep) will be stored at ARC so that they can be used for research.

Councillor Andrew Mier reported that two Afghan families have been housed in the district. If you are able to help, Rother has a more general tenant finding scheme (see www.rother.gov.uk/housing/rother-tenant-finder-scheme-incentive/). Councillor Mier also reported that the Rother planning process is getting back on track and applications are being processed more quickly. In addition, the pre-application service has resumed from the beginning of January and a new approach is being taken to enforcement in order to deal with the long list of outstanding cases.

I also attended a recent meeting of Rother Association of Local Councils. Various district council initiatives were reported there: consideration is being given to installing electric car charging points in car parks; and discussions are ongoing on how to implement the provisions of the latest environment act, which requires councils to collect both garden waste and food waste without any charge to the householder (it is not yet clear when this will be implemented). There are also still grants available to businesses affected by Covid that have not so far received a grant.

Finally, in spite of representations from all levels of local government, the government has decided not to change the law covering how councils meet. Many councils wanted to be able to determine for themselves whether to meet in person or remotely over the Internet - or even hold hybrid meetings - but the government has decided that face-to-face meetings must continue (which means face masks and open windows).

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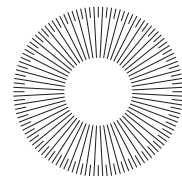
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Church Services in February

6 February	10:45	Joint Covenant Service with The Methodists to be held at Pett Chapel
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20 February	09:30	Holy Communion at All Saints Church, Icklesham
	10:30	Holy Communion at St Andrew's Church, Fairlight
	11:00	Holy Communion at St Thomas' Church, Winchelsea
27 February	10:30	Holy Communion at St Mary & St Peter Church, Pett

St Nicholas Church Pett Level - update from Fran Rogers

Carol Service

Thank you to everyone who made the carol service on the 16th December a success. Particular thanks to Roland for keeping us in tune on his electric organ and to the staff in the C-Side kiosk who served the mince pies (thank you Angela Hawksley) and got us into the Christmas Spirit with mulled wine. We raised over £400 for Surviving Christmas.



New Year

We started with a bang. Some 20-ish year old lad tried to break into our donation box on New Year's Day as it became dark. Disturbed by Barbara Martin, he did a runner before he succeeded. We will not be deterred by such behaviour. And Barbara (my hero for many reasons) is fine, by the way!



But on the positive side

We now have running cold water inside ... through a tap! In the summer Martello Developments fitted the connections outside to their water and septic tank, for no charge. Barbara and David Martin, via their son-in-law, donated a cupboard and counter and, new to Pett Level, Richard and Rachael Newman, donated a sink and tap. Alan Butler and his nephew Dec connected it all up and put in a nifty bracket to hold the extension cord. Thank you to all!

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NATURE NOTES FROM NORFOLK

As I write this we are spending a few days with family up in Norfolk. Even though it is winter, there is still plenty going on in the natural world and we have been treated to some of nature's finest spectacles. One of these was the sight of large skeins of pink-footed geese several hundred strong (Norfolk Wildlife Trust at Cley estimated there to be around 1,000 birds altogether) forming some amazing murmurations as they wheeled around looking for a suitable site to roost for the night. Pink-footed geese breed in Greenland and Iceland and migrate to the UK for our milder winters. They tend to favour coastal sites and we have seen them before near Southport on the North-West coast, but Norfolk has a particular attraction for them - sugar beet. At this time of year, the sugar beet is dug up and the tops are cut off and discarded onto the fields. The pink footed geese find the juicy tops irresistible.

The other wildlife spectacle of note was the sight of grey seal pups hauled out on the beach at Winterton. These cute and fluffy and mostly white animals weigh about 14 kg and are born late in the year. (Their fur gets darker as they age.) They stay on the beach or in the dunes and are then suckled by their mothers for about three weeks, gaining around 40 kg in the process, more than tripling their birth weight. Their mother's milk is particularly nutritious and is necessary to build the thick layer of blubber needed to insulate them from the cold North Sea. We only saw a couple of adults as they spend most of their time out at sea fishing. Sadly, we also saw several pup corpses. Whether these were still-born or too weak to survive the weather or predated in some way is not clear, but we did see many more fat and healthy pups and I understand that the UK grey seal population is on the increase. Incidentally, the scientific name of the grey seal - *Halichoerus grypus*, gives a clue as to how to distinguish the grey seal from the common seal. It means hook-nosed sea-pig.



Further inland, we visited Foxley Wood, one of Norfolk's most ancient woodlands. Though planted with non-native conifers in the 1960's, these have now been cleared and the woods allowed to regenerate naturally which has resulted in a healthy mix of old broad-leaved trees, coppice and new saplings. Many of the older trees contained witches' brooms. These have nothing to do with old women in pointy hats nor with sweeping the floor, but they are a type of gall that produces a tangled twiggy mass that almost resembles a bird's nest. The galls can affect many different trees especially deciduous trees and can be caused by viruses, bacteria, insects, or fungus. The most common ones affect birch trees and are caused by a particular fungus called *Taphrina betulina*, the scientific name indicates that it affects *Betula* species, that is, either of our common native birches *Betula pendula*, the Silver Birch, or *Betula pubescens*, the Downy Birch. Should you wish to decide which birch you are looking at, the Silver Birch has smooth twigs, and the Downy Birch has hairy (pubescent) twigs. However, don't be too confident with your identification because the two species readily hybridize with each other and exhibit varying degrees of hairiness.

Alan Kenworthy



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SEXTON BEETLES: SUBTERRANEAN CORPSE-DISPOSAL BLUES BY MICHAEL BLENCOWE OF THE SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST

"Now, you got a corpse in a car, minus a head...take me to it." In Quentin Tarantino's movie Pulp Fiction, Winston Wolf provides a professional clean-up service for two incompetent hitmen when they have a little 'problem' that needs solving urgently. Hopefully, illicit corpse disposal isn't a regular dilemma for readers of this magazine - but in the natural world death, disposal, decay and decomposition are vital, constant processes which recycle the nutrients that keep our planet functioning. This clean-up duty is undertaken by a cast of unsung underworld characters. Bacteria and blow-flies, fungi and foxes, worms and woodlice all put their tendrils, talons, mandibles and molars to the task. But if you want a corpse removed efficiently and cleanly you had better call in the professionals: the sexton beetles.

The sextons are members of the family Silphidae. At about 3cm long they are amongst the heavyweights of our county's 3,000 beetle species. Some sextons can be identified by their lurid orange wing-cases; a hi-vis jacket befitting a worker at the scene of a tragedy. Now, let's say you've got a dead blue tit in the back yard. Its little soul will have winged its way to that great peanut feeder in the sky and now it's time to return its earthly body back to the soil. Sextons, armed with super-sensitive chemoreceptors in their clubbed antennae, can detect the sweet smell of death from a mile away.



The male flies in first and assesses the scene. First job - call for backup. He secretes a stink from his rear end to lure in a female and his partner arrives. Next job - secure the corpse. The beetles start beetling around the blue tit, stripping off the feathers. But - phew-wee! That smell will soon be luring in every fly in the neighbourhood and the sextons don't want to draw attention to their work. So, they baste the body with their antibacterial and antifungal chemicals, slowing down the decay and preventing the pong. Now the sextons live up to their name. Working together, they dig a grave and line it with feathers. The corpse is tenderly lowered down into the earth. It's here, in this cosy crypt, that the sextons will raise their family. Eggs are laid and develop into hungry larvae which, unusually for an insect, 'beg' for food and are fed by their devoted parents. The bird's body is slowly stripped of flesh and reduced to a simple skeleton. After pupation, new sexton beetles emerge from the soil and fly away, perhaps to find their own corpse or to become food for birds themselves. No eulogy, no flowers, yet it's still a dignified, life-affirming send off. So, when it's my time to go, just drag me into the garden and let the sextons do their job.

The above photograph of the Sexton Beetle is by Derek Middleton of the Sussex Wildlife Trust.




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Why do I find the history of individual words so fascinating? And why do I want to share it with you? Mostly because I think that the changing use of words helps us to remember that meanings change and we who complain about the pronunciation or the grammar or the modern meanings used by younger people need to remind ourselves that language is not static.

It is very hard to predict the changes. An American university teacher in the sixties once told us that the then modern trend in conversation to use the word *man* as a conjunction like *and* or *but* would become more and more prevalent and the new meaning would become commonplace. That did not happen. He did not predict the current use of the words *absolutely* or *great*. I used to hate the grumpy and apathetic use of the word *wha'ever* but that seems to have become a bit less frequently used. I hope that the meaningless peppering of quite ordinary sentences with the word *like* will disappear too. And the equally meaningless use of the response to all sorts of situations: *No problem*

The word I have been investigating is *NICE*. It's a word I often use about the weather and people and houses. It seems to be used more by women than men and used less and less by young people.

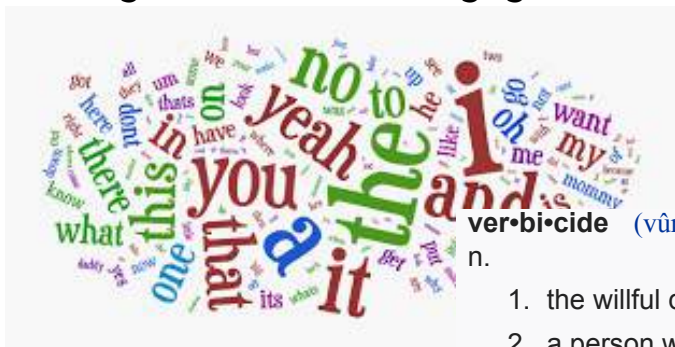
The history of the word *nice* surprised me. Its origin is the Late Latin word *nescius* meaning ignorant. It was used in Old French meaning silly and before 1300 was used in Middle English to mean foolish. Over the years it came to mean easygoing and then in the late 1700s agreeable and delightful. By 1830 it had come to include thoughtful.

Unexpectedly, at the same time a quite different meaning developed whereby *nice* was also used to mean fussy or fastidious and later on precise or punctilious. It was used with this meaning in phrases such as *That's a nice point you are making* or *That's a nice distinction*. This use seems very old-fashioned nowadays.

I think the word *verbiicide* (which sounds rather like a gardening product) really means the killing off of the meanings of words not of the words themselves.

Meanings come and meanings go but words go on forever! Absolutely! *No problem!*

Angela Hawksley



ver·bi·cide (vûr'bə sîd'),
n.

1. the willful distortion or depreciation of the original meaning of a word.
2. a person who willfully distorts the meaning of a word.

Etymology

→ Latin *verb(um)* word + -i- + -CIDE
→ 1855–60

February 2022
RYE(HARBOUR)

Date	HEIGHTS ABOVE ORDNANCE DATUM (NEWLYN)			
	High Water			
	Morning		Afternoon	
	Time	m	Time	m
1 TU ●	11 16	3.5	23 35	3.8
2 W			12 03	3.6
3 TH	00 18	3.9	12 43	3.6
4 F	00 58	4.0	13 21	3.5
5 SA	01 37	3.9	14 00	3.4
6 SU	02 15	3.6	14 38	3.0
7 M	02 53	3.4	15 18	2.8
8 TU □	03 34	3.0	16 05	2.4
9 W	04 21	2.5	17 02	2.0
10 TH	05 22	2.0	18 11	1.8
11 F	06 38	1.9	19 31	1.9
12 SA	07 59	2.0	20 41	2.2
13 SU	09 05	2.3	21 36	2.5
14 M	09 53	2.5	22 17	2.9
15 TU	10 31	2.9	22 52	3.1
16 W O	11 05	3.1	23 25	3.4
17 TH	11 40	3.3	23 58	3.5
18 F			12 12	3.5
19 SA	00 28	3.6	12 42	3.5
20 SU	01 00	3.8	13 14	3.5
21 M	01 34	3.8	13 47	3.5
22 TU	02 10	3.6	14 27	3.4
23 W □	02 52	3.5	15 13	3.0
24 TH	03 43	3.0	16 12	2.5
25 F	04 53	2.5	17 46	2.0
26 SA	06 38	2.2	19 33	2.0
27 SU	08 14	2.4	20 51	2.5
28 M	09 28	2.9	21 52	3.0

Time Zone UT(GMT)

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0845 988 1188

347 BUS TIMETABLE

Pett to Hastings	Mondays to Fridays							Saturdays				
	SCH	HOLS				HOLS	SCH					
Pett, Chick Hill	08:19	08:26	10:12	12:17	14:02	15:42	15:47	08:26			14:02	
Pett, Church	08:22	08:29	10:15	12:20	14:05	15:45	15:50	08:29			14:05	
Guestling Green School	08:29											
Guestling, The White Hart	08:34	08:34	10:20	12:25	14:10	15:50	15:55	08:34			14:10	
Ore, The Kings Head	08:38	08:38	10:24	12:29	14:14	15:54	15:59	08:38			14:14	
Ore Post Office	08:40	08:40	10:26	12:31	14:16	15:56		08:40			14:16	
Milward Road Manor Road	08:45	08:45	10:30	12:35	14:20	16:00		08:45	09:52	11:57	14:20	15:22
Hastings, Queens Road			10:35	12:40	14:25	16:05			09:57	12:02	14:25	15:27
Hastings, Harold Place	08:49	08:49						08:49				
Hastings, Rail Station	08:51	08:51						08:51				
Fairlight Glen							16:03					
Fairlight, Cove Hotel							16:09					
Pett Level							16:15					

Hastings to Pett	Mondays to Fridays							Saturdays					
				HOLS	SCH								
Hastings, Rail Stop E			13:30	15:10	15:10				13:30	15:10			
Queens Road, opp Priory Meadow Stop N	09:45	11:50	13:35	15:15	15:15	16:40	17:40	09:45	11:50	13:35	15:15	16:40	17:40
Milward Road Manor Road	09:50	11:55	13:40	15:20	15:20	06:45	17:45	09:50	11:55	13:40	15:20	16:45	17:45
Ore Post Office	09:55	12:00	13:45	15:25	15:25		17:50			13:45			17:50
Ore, The Kings Head	09:57	12:02	13:47	15:27	15:27		17:52			13:47			17:52
Guestling, The White Hart	10:01	12:06	13:51	15:31	15:31		17:56			13:51			17:56
Guestling School					15:34								
Pett, Church	10:06	12:11	13:56	15:36	15:42		18:01			13:56			18:01
Pett, Chick Hill	10:09	12:14	13:59	15:39	15:45		18:04			13:59			18:04

SCH School Days Only
HOLS School Holidays Only

101 BUS TIMETABLE

Hastings to Rye (onwards to Lydd)	Mondays to Saturdays										Sundays	
	Sch	NSch										
Hastings, Station (Stop F)			07:47			14:47	15:57	16:52	17:52	18:55	09:12	17:12
Orr, opp Co-Op	07:11	07:21	08:02			15:02	16:12	17:07	18:07	19:05	09:27	17:27
Fairlight Glen	07:15	07:25	08:06	then		15:06	16:16	17:11	18:11	19:09	09:31	then 2 17:31
Fairlight Cove Hotel	07:21	07:31	08:12	hourly		15:12	16:22	17:17	18:18	19:15	09:37	hourly 17:37
Pett Level	07:27	07:37	08:18	until		15:18	16:28	17:23	18:23	19:21	09:43	until 17:43
Winchelsea Beach Caravan Park	07:31	07:41	08:22			15:22	16:32	17:27	18:27	19:25	09:49	17:49
Rye, Railway Station	07:43	07:53	08:34			15:34	16:44	17:39	18:39	19:37	10:01	18:01

(from Lydd) Rye to Hastings	Mondays to Saturdays										Sundays	
	NS	Sch	NSch									
Rye, Railway Station (Stop A)	06:54	07:48	07:57	09:08		14:08	15:30	16:08	17:08	18:08	10:37	16:37
Winchelsea Beach Caravan Park	07:04	07:59	08:08	09:19		14:19	15:41	16:19	17:19	18:19	10:48	16:48
Pett Level	07:08	08:03	08:12	09:23		14:23	15:45	16:23	17:23	18:23	10:52	16:52
Fairlight Cove Hotel	07:14	08:09	08:18	09:29	then	14:29	15:51	16:29	17:29	18:29	10:58	then 2 16:58
Fairlight Glen	07:20	08:01	08:24	09:35	hourly	14:35	15:57	16:35	17:35	18:35	11:04	hourly 17:04
Orr, Co-Op	07:25		08:29	09:40	until	14:40	16:02	16:40	17:40	18:40	11:09	until 17:09
Guestling Green School		08:30										
Orr opp Post Office		08:38										
Hastings, Station (Stop C)	07:40	08:52	08:44	09:57		14:57	16:19	16:57	17:57	18:55	11:25	17:25

NS Not Saturdays
Sch School Days Only
NSch Not schooldays

Timetables are subject to change. Check before you travel – visit www.stagecoachbus.com or phone 0871 200 22 33

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT?

Roads, road markings, verges, signs, drains, potholes, fallen trees, footpaths, etc

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<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk>

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Councillor Keith Glazier 07957 377844

cldr.keith.glazier@eastsussex.gov.uk



Planning, refuse & recycling, fly-tipping & pollution, dog & pest control, beach byelaws



<http://www.rother.gov.uk/residents>

01424 787000

Councillors Andrew Mier 01424 814178 cldr.andrew.mier@rother.gov.uk

Roger Bird 01424 813636 cldr.roger.bird@rother.gov.uk

Pett Level - Sea Wall

Environment Agency

03708 506 506



PETT PARISH COUNCIL may be able to help you find out who to contact if you have a problem, can help escalate if your problem is not being dealt with, and can assist in lobbying the relevant authorities in the event of continued poor service.

The Council is responsible for: the maintenance of recreation ground and play area (with the exception of the bowling green, sports pavilions, tennis courts and cricket pitch which are leased to the Pett Sports Association); the defibrillator and phone kiosk opposite the Royal Oak; the war memorial at Pett Church; several roadside benches, noticeboards and village signs; Website (PettNet); Pett & Pett Level News Magazine. The Council also can provide a parish wide view on planning applications but the Local Planning Authority who makes the decision is Rother District Council.

The Council usually meets in public on the second Tuesday of alternate months.

COUNCILLORS

Alan Crouch (Vice-Chair)	01424 813145	cldr.alan.crouch@pettnet.org.uk
Andrew Dunlop	01424 813368	cldr.andrew.dunlop@pettnet.org.uk
David Penfold (Chair)	01424 813003	cldr.david.penfold@pettnet.org.uk
Chris Saint	01424 813047	cldr.chris.saint@pettnet.org.uk
Richard Smith	01424 316117	cldr.richard.smith@pettnet.org.uk
David Terrell	07968 584276	cldr.david.terrell@pettnet.org.uk
Mike Wilkins	01424 813206	cldr.mike.wilkins@pettnet.org.uk

PARISH CLERK

Mary Philo 01797 270790 clerk@pettnet.org.uk

Island Cottage, Swan Street, Wittersham, Kent, TN30 7PH

TREE WARDEN

Marcus Foster 07812 024070 mail@marcus-foster.com

FLOOD WARDEN

VACANCY

GAS LEAKS National Gas Emergency Service 0800 111 999

POWER CUT UK Power Networks 105

WATER LEAK Southern Water emergency service 0800 820 999

VILLAGE CONTACTS & OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

<i>Allotments</i>	Libby Rothwell	07714 340674	libby.rothwell891@gmail.com
<i>Archive Resource Centre</i>	David Breakell	812964	info@thearc.uk
<i>Badminton</i>	Anne & Paul Wadey	316209	pawadey@tiscali.co.uk
<i>Bowls Club</i>	Eddie Quinlan	431463	
<i>British Legion</i>	Brian Green	812450	toffee35@gotadsl.co.uk
<i>Cricket Club</i>	Andrew Dunlop	813368	
<i>Dance Fitness</i>	Laura Mitchell	07527 105352	lauramitchell6@sky.com
<i>Flower Show</i>	Philippa Strickland	814384	pstrickl@icloud.com
<i>Gardening Club</i>	Bob Harris	815151	bob.june@btopenworld.com
<i>Neighbourhood Watch</i>	Caroline Turner	813368	littlebudspett@gmail.com
<i>Pett Churches</i>			
- Warden	John Case	812224	johncase@me.com
- Friends	Gill Plank	812154	gillplank@yahoo.co.uk
- St Nicholas	Fran Rogers	812964	
<i>Pett Level</i>			
<i>Preservation Trust</i>	Theresa Noutch	814370	theresanoutch@aol.com
<i>Pilates</i>	Belinda Weber		belinda.weber9@gmail.com
<i>Fitness Pilates</i>	Susan Trimmer		susantrimmerfitness@gmail.com
<i>POPP</i>	Enquiries	07917 923975	
<i>Pole Dancing</i>	Jane Baldwin	07403 256148	jane@mrzen.co.uk
<i>PVH Committee</i>	Tim Rothwell	07850 469314	timrothwell9@gmail.com
<i>Short Mat Bowls</i>	Eric Butler	814869	Joanbutler369@yahoo.co.uk
<i>Stoolball</i>	Janet Fuller	01303 873227	
<i>Tennis Club</i>	Stuart Ware	815197	petttennisclub@gmail.com
<i>The Club</i>	Wendy Hatch	812297	familyhatch1@gmail.com
<i>Village Voices</i>	Wendy Hatch	812297	familyhatch1@gmail.com
<i>WI</i>	Amanda Leeson	07968 443646	pettwi.sec@gmail.com
<i>Yoga Class</i>	Robin Hutt	813182	robinhutt@btinternet.com

ROOMS FOR HIRE

<i>Methodist Chapel</i>	Wendy Hatch	01424 812297	familyhatch1@gmail.com
<i>Sports Pavilion</i>	Stuart Ware	01424 815197	sjw@meadowshed.co.uk
<i>Village Hall</i>	Clare Walker	07718 518053	clare.pettvillagehall@gmail.com
<i>New Beach Club</i>		01424 812080	info@thenewbeachclub.co.uk

<i>Conquest & Eastbourne Hospitals</i>	0300 131 4500
<i>Harold Road Surgery</i>	01424 720878
<i>Hastings Old Town Surgery (Ice House)</i>	01424 452800
<i>Samaritans</i>	116 123
<i>Citizens Advice</i>	03444 111 444
<i>RSPCA Emergency Services</i>	0300 1234 999



Cinque Ports Counselling

Telephone: 07407 809 718

Email: rachael@cinqueportscounselling.co.uk

Website: <https://cinqueportscounselling>