

# Pett & Pett Level News



March 2022

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Two years ago life came to a standstill. We locked down but carried on. Thanks in part to the unusually warm weather we learnt to see it each other at a distance (outside) and meet by zooming inside. Even this magazine was only available on-line. In those early days the Gardening Club started a blog, a daily diary of photos and feelings.

With this in mind I thought to use as a front cover a photo that was shared within that blog at the end of March 2020. For me it epitomises summers to come. We are currently building up a stock of photos and artwork that could, in time, be used on the front cover. If you want to add to this then get in touch. The only constraints are that the image (whether photo or artwork) must in some way epitomise, for you and for our readers, a particular month in Pett and Pett Level, and that you have permission to publish that image. Also, please remember that as we build our stock up, we may not be able to use your image immediately and that the Editor's decision is final!

Things feel different now, and as if to demonstrate the change that is taking place this edition is full of events and activities to see us through well in the autumn, as well as an introduction to our new Rector for the parish of Pett, Jonathan Meyer.

This month we welcome Angela who is planning to share, on a regular basis, a taste of Italy from her kitchen, and say farewell to John Case who has decided to step away from the magazine as his involvement with ARC and Rye Arts become ever more time consuming. We would like to thank him for his energy and ideas over the previous three years.

And we are always looking for more and different contributions, perhaps book or film of the month; travel tips; your first car; local artists or writers; what's on; best walks; ..... BUT AS ALWAYS please respect our copy deadline of mid-day on the 15<sup>th</sup> and send all contributions to [magazine@pettnet.org.uk](mailto:magazine@pettnet.org.uk)

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH THE PRODUCTION OF THIS MAGAZINE?**

In 2013 I was honoured to have the opportunity to take over the running of this magazine, and so next year sees my 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. That will then be time for me to step down. If you want to be involved with this magazine, perhaps for the next 10 years, then please contact Richard or myself either directly or via email at [magazine@pettnet.org.uk](mailto:magazine@pettnet.org.uk)

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**DEADLINES: COPY (LETTERS, ARTICLES, ETC)** - MID-DAY THE 15<sup>TH</sup> OF EACH MONTH  
Adverts (new, changes, payments) - MID-DAY THE 1<sup>ST</sup> of each month

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You will man your own table, and negotiate your own prices with interested buyers!

Your 'Brocante' covers items such as:

Books, pictures, collectibles, kitchenware, vintage bric-a-brac, antiques, furniture, plants and gardening items, artifacts and curiosities. Even small broken items, like lamps; bring them to market! If they are repairable there's always someone who likes a project.

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**P.V.A.A. ANNUAL  
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**2022**

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## **WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING**

**30<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

Did you get a Valentine's Day gift that you really didn't want? Or have you Aquarians or Pisceans received two birthday presents the same?

If so, why not donate them to the Macmillan Coffee Morning to be held in September?

Bring them along to me at the monthly Village Hall Coffee morning or to 2, Brambletye, Pett Road. (07977 100 296)

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## PETT CRICKET CLUB



The above photo is of Pett Indoor Team:  
Back Row (L to R): Warren Burton, Ben Harris, Conrad Giles  
Front Row (L to R): Will Giles, Chris Mills, Gary Chatham

With the Indoor Season now finished, Pett followed their successful 2021 outdoor season with another promotion in the winter format. A good effort by everyone who played!



Winter nets have now started for the club, and they take place on Tuesday evenings from 7pm - 8:30pm at Clarendon Senior School in Bodiam. Everyone is welcome, and it would be great to see some new faces.

The preparation for the 2022 outdoor season has started. The pitch has had its first cut and we have had a good clear out in the Sports Pavilion.

Moving into March will see a lot more groundwork starting at the Cricket Ground with Pre-Season friendlies starting in mid-April!

## COFFEE MORNING AND COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The February Coffee Morning was such a fine (if chilly) day, we were able to set up some of the library tables outside. This gave Jane more space for her jigsaws and some extra room for those awaiting Robert's help with their hearing aids. **Please note: in March there will be NO Hearing Aid Maintenance service.**

In the library at the moment we hold over 250 books, subdivided as to fiction, non-fiction and children and a sizeable mixed selection of large print books, too.

As for books of the month, we have been given for our own small permanent collection **Smart Guide to Back Care** by Janet Wakley. Janet was a specialist nurse, instructor and back care advisor to other medical staff and gives back care training to St John Ambulance Brigade members. Crammed full of information, help and advice, this is probably a book we could all benefit from reading. If you've not much time, try **A Cornish Carol**, a light-hearted short story from Fern Britton. Or for something rather more gritty, **The Dark Flood Rises** by Margaret Drabble.

We are all volunteers trying to offer a community hub while at the same time raising money for the Village Hall with the sale of delicious hot drinks and cake. This is also where the 500 Club draw is made, you can talk informally to a member of the Parish Council, you can borrow a library book or three and a jigsaw, meet new people, catch up with friends and always have a friendly welcome. See you at the Village Hall **Wednesday March 2nd, 10 - 12.**




*Anna and Vivien; Anne, Tim and Fran*



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It was great to welcome members back to the Hall for our first meeting of the year in January. Members of the committee presented the National Federation of Women's Institutes resolutions for the year and the outcome was our support for the Equality in Law for the Menopause a subject that has been very newsworthy recently.



This magazine went to press just before father and daughter team Paul Stapley and Laura Mitchell attempt their Pett Half Marathon for a second year raising funds for our Rye Foodbank appeal. We are so grateful to them for their kindness in organising this. To give you a better idea of the success of our foodbank appeal since we started in July 2020, we have now delivered some 10,500 products to RFB (plus hundreds of items to Dom's and Seaview as well) and received over £7000 for RFB in financial donations. Thank you to everyone for such great support.

We are excited to announce our first Spring Fair taking place on Saturday 2 April raising funds for the Conquest Hospital's Macdonald Ward Courtyard Makeover Appeal.

Hilary Dymott and her fundraising team have been very busy organising this to ensure it is a first-class event; I very much forward to seeing you there!



*Belinda Wood  
(President, Pett WI)*

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# *La Cucina di Angela*

**Ciao.** My name is Angela and I am Italian. I have been living in the UK for 24 years, and 1 year ago I moved down to East Sussex. My husband and I love this area!

I always had a big passion for different cuisines, and I really hope you will all enjoy my recipes. Please feel free to change some ingredients according to your tastes and don't be scared to use your imagination.

This month I will start with a simple sauce, **Pesto alla Genovese (Genovese Pesto)**.

The word Pesto originates from the Genovese word pesto, which in Italian means 'to pound or to crush'. This refers to the way the sauce was made at the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, which was when it first was created. It traditionally consists of crushed garlic, basil and pine nuts (or in some modern versions walnuts or pistachio) blended with Parmesan cheese.

I remember my mom used to mix the pesto sauce with fresh pasta and, before serving, sprinkle it with more Parmesan cheese.

This recipe for us marked the Spring season and created in all of us a joyful sense of anticipation for the coming of Easter

## **Pesto alla Genovese**

Ingredients (enough for 4 people)

- 2 garlic cloves
- 50g pine nuts (or pistachios)
- 120g fresh basil, stems removed
- 9 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil (or more if you like)
- 50g grated Parmesan cheese

Crush the garlic and the pine nuts in a mortar (or if you wish a food processor) and pound or process until finely chopped. Add the basil and the olive oil until you have a puree. Season to your personal taste with salt and pepper and then mix in a handful of Parmesan cheese.

You can add this immediately to the pasta or store in a jar covered by a layer of oil.

Keep in a cool place remembering that as this is a fresh sauce it is not going to last more than few days.



***Buon appetite!***

*Sarah Bragoli*

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## LORD-LIEUTENANT OPENS THE ARCHIVE RESOURCE CENTRE!

Andrew Blackman, the Lord-Lieutenant for East Sussex, officially opened the Archive Resource Centre (ARC) at the Pett Methodist Chapel on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> February. Over 120 people turned out to celebrate the opening and to view the fascinating exhibitions, share memories and enjoy a slice of cake and a cup of tea! In addition, local Fairlight historian Haydon Luke, gave two fascinating talks about a few of the more famous artists associated with the area, including Reginald Eves, Jacob Epstein, Graham Coton and Mark Gertler, and we were fortunate to have an exhibition of original paintings by two of these artists, together with a stone chipping, believed to have come from one Jacob Epstein's sculptures (Venus?), which was found in the garden he once lived in in Pett Level!



Lord-Lieutenant, Andrew Blackman commented,

*“The Archive Resource Centre is a fabulous resource for anyone interested in the life and history of Fairlight, Guestling and Pett - how incredibly lucky we are to have such an impressive archive in our own backyard.*

*I know just how much hard work, commitment and determination have gone into making the ARC happen - thank you to volunteers, supporters, committee members and sponsors.”*



*Some of the past and present ARC Committee Members: Haydon Luke; Tim Rothwell; Fran Rogers; David Breakell; MP Sally-Ann Hart; Lord-Lieutenant of East Sussex, Andrew Blackman; Martin King; Paul Draper; John Case*

Fran Rogers, Chair of the ARC, gave a short history of its progress since being founded in 2019. The ARC is a community archive project for the parishes of Fairlight, Guestling and Pett, with the aim of collecting, preserving and making available, either physically or digitally, photographs, documents, oral histories, maps and artifacts which tell the stories of the three adjoining parishes.

Since 2019, and despite Covid, the ARC has been busy fundraising and applying for various grants. Fran commented that this Open Day was an opportunity to thank Rother District Council and Ward Councillors Roger Bird and Andrew Meir, The Isobel Blackman Foundation, and the respective parish councils of Fairlight, Guestling and Pett. In addition, many individuals across the area have made donations large and small to the Friends fund.

The ARC has now secured a permanent home at the Methodist Church in Pett. Our next step is to raise sufficient funds to purchase specialised archive software that will enable us to make much of the collection available online. We will announce regular opening times in the near future so Friends can come and visit.



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In addition to the Lord-Lieutenant, the ARC was delighted to welcome Sally-Ann Hart MP, who was very impressed with the project and kindly agreed to become a Patron.

The many positive comments from those who attended the Open Day show how important it is to record and preserve the local history of our villages and towns for future generations.



*Leader of East Sussex County Council, Keith Glazier, with Cllr. David Penfold, Chair of Pett Parish Council*

## BECOME A FRIEND OF ARC

If you were unable to attend (or even if you did) please consider becoming a Friend of the ARC by completing the form on Page 51 of this magazine.

It is only £15/year and Friends will have free entry to our public events during the year as well as access to materials not appearing on our website. Your contribution will move us closer to installing our software. But more than that, you will be supporting the preservation of our community's history.

If you have any material which you would like to either donate to the ARC or loan for them to scan and catalogue, please contact: [archiveresourcecentre@outlook.com](mailto:archiveresourcecentre@outlook.com)



*The Lord-Lieutenant and our MP are joined by Rother District Cllrs Andrew Mier and Roger Bird and Fairlight Parish Cllr David Shortman*



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## GUARDIANS OF PETT CHURCHYARD

On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February we held our last push into Spring. Braving the last of the storms we finally managed to clear the backlog of waste created over the past few months, planted primroses and generally tidied.

Alan Kenworthy visits regularly to understand what level of biodiversity there is, and recently added to the list Common Snowdrops and Lesser Celandines, and possibly the caterpillar of an Angel Shades moth.

Over the coming months we will be placing signs around the churchyard describing what can be found, and why we are doing certain things. As examples .....

### WHY HAS THIS PATCH BEEN LEFT BARE?

This patch used to be covered with bramble and an invasive vine of some sort. Volunteers have dug out as much of that as possible and we will try and stop it re-growing.

It has been proven experimentally that the quickest way to increase biodiversity in a degraded space is to remove the adverse stresses (bramble and vine) and to allow the space to regenerate naturally.

Rather than wading in with packets of seed or plug plants, we are just going to wait and see what comes up. The soil will be full of dormant seeds just waiting for light and growing space, so hopefully in a few weeks this will be covered in seedlings.

Who  
is  
in  
there

### POLLINATORS IN THE CHURCHYARD RED-TAILED BUMBLEBEE

This is one of 24 UK bumblebee species and one of 7 very common bumblebee species.

Queens like this will emerge in Spring. She will feed herself on pollen, then she will nest, and lay her eggs in an underground hole.

The eggs will eventually hatch into worker bumblebees that look just like her, but smaller. About 3 months later males will emerge from the nest. These will look just like the queen but have a bright yellow stripe behind the head and a bright yellow face.



### WHY HAVE WE STOPPED MOWING THIS PATCH?

We are leaving this patch to encourage wildflowers to grow, to flower, and to set seed. This will help them compete with the grass. There are many wildflowers growing in this patch already, but with the previous mowing regime, very few of them got to flower, let alone to set seed.

We want flowers rather than grass to attract pollinating insects. We want to encourage pollinating insects because ultimately, they are responsible for providing a large part of our diet. Without pollinators there would be no tomatoes, aubergines, strawberries or apples, not to mention the seeds we need to grow brassicas and root vegetables.

There are many different types of pollinating insects – bumblebees, Solitary Bees, Beetles, Hoverflies, and even moths and Butterflies play their part. The insects that we attract are of course, somewhere near the bottom of the food chain and more flowers may attract more birds or other mammals. The more species we attract, the more biodiversity we will have, which will lead to a healthier ecosystem.

This is an experimental patch. Depending on what thrives, doesn't, this year, we may extend the patch or find somewhere different.

If you want to know more about The Guardians, then visit the churchyard or call me, Mike Wilkins, on 07710 080148



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## GARDENING CLUB

Our February meeting included the AGM and payment of member subscriptions.

It was very pleasing to have so many renewals from our loyal members and to welcome new members, especially heartening given the continuing pandemic.

We were also very pleased to welcome our speakers for the evening, Ann Novotny, assisted by David Penfold, with a talk entitled “Discovering the World of the Iris.”



Ann lives locally now but worked as a schoolteacher in London for many years. Her interest in irises stemmed from her family connections, one of her father’s sisters, Katherine, having married William Rickatson Dykes, the recognised world authority on irises in the 1920s. William had already written a book, “The Genus Iris”, still today regarded as the definitive book on these beautiful, varied and bold flowers, before meeting Katherine, and she joined him in moving and replanting thousands of plants from his original garden to the new home they bought together. Tragically William died in a car accident only a couple of years later, but Katherine continued breeding, hybridising, promoting and selling irises, becoming in the process quite renowned in her own right. Once again tragedy struck when she too died in an accident, this time a train crash as she returned home from the Chelsea Flower Show.

Ann never knew her aunt as she died the year Ann was born, but naturally she was interested in the family story and, having settled in Hastings, she began growing bearded variety irises. We were shown a photo of “Gudrun”, a tall, stately white iris, flourishing in a pot in its happiest environment, in the sunshine. Gudrun was a hybrid produced by Katherine Dykes in 1930, for Ann a great privilege to be able to grow in the present day a beautiful iris created by her own aunt. Ann told us that specifically, bearded irises prefer an open, well-drained and sunny place, with no competition from other types of plants - a perfect illustration of “right plant, right place”. In time Ann’s small garden became an issue - too little space to grow sufficient plants to do them justice. An opportunity then came about to plant irises in an area of St. Clement’s churchyard, in between the old gravestones, where they continue to establish and flourish, as the lovely photos we were shown ably illustrated.

Over the years Ann’s connections with William and Katherine Rickatson Dykes, coupled with her own promotion of iris growing have led to her being recognised as something of an expert on the world of bearded irises, even being invited to Sissinghurst to exchange her knowledge with them. As for William Rickatson Dykes himself, his contribution to the world of irises continues in a highly coveted medal, conceived by the British Iris Society in 1926 in his memory and awarded annually to the hybridiser of the most outstanding new iris variety. Ann had brought a medal with her, which she passed round for us all to appreciate.

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 p.m.** in the Catherine Holman Room at Pett Village Hall, when Linda Pearson will update us on the refurbishment of the greenhouses at Alexandra Park, which we plan to visit in July.

*June Harris*



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## PETT ON THE KNIT

I recently sent off four blankets, made up of over 300 squares, to Knit for Peace. You may have seen pictures of them on the Pett and Pett Level Facebook page. Thank you to all those who helped with them, and to Jenny Grist for crocheting them together.

With the blankets went three soft knitted toys (see picture) and three babies' coats, beautifully made.

I am getting low on double knitting wool, so if you have any to spare, even odds and ends, or would like to donate some - which can be bought cheaply from charity shop - that would be greatly appreciated.

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](mailto:heather.brambletye@hotmail.co.uk) or [heathergodwin19@gmail.com](mailto:heathergodwin19@gmail.com)





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The council did not have a regular meeting in February, although it may have to have an extra meeting to consider a planning application and one other matter, which I will give details of next month if this meeting goes ahead. In the mean time, councillors have been continuing to develop various projects.

Meetings have been held to make decisions on the Platinum Jubilee footpath map that I mentioned last month: what should go on it, how it should be produced and what kind of mounting should be used. This all has to be completed by June in order to obtain a grant from Rother District Council towards the cost.

The council has also applied to obtain permission to put up notices banning parking on some of the verges in the village. This is a problem that has given rise to complaints for some time now and we shall see if our application is successful.

Another project is to develop an award for contributions to the community, similar to awards in other parishes. We are currently drawing up terms of reference, including deciding what form the award should take.

I was pleased to attend the formal launch of the Archive Resource Centre (ARC) at the Methodist Chapel early in February. While, of course, ARC covers both Fairlight and Guestling as well as Pett, as it will be housed in Pett, the parish council is particularly happy to support it. Our thanks go to all who have worked hard to set it up (and will, of course, continue to work to provide a useful service), as well as to the Methodist Chapel for providing the space to house it. It was gratifying that the launch event was attended not only by the Lord Lieutenant and both district and county councillors, but also our MP. So, if you have family records of any kind, don't throw them away; consider lodging them (or, if you want to keep them, a copy of them) with ARC.

The other thing that has happened in February has been the work on the trees between the village hall and the allotments. Essentially, potentially dangerous branches have been removed, along with the dead wood. The parish council is grateful to the village hall management committee for agreeing to share the cost.

On a wider scale, I attended the East Sussex Council Chairmen's Forum. This is a useful event at which information from both government and the National Association of Local Councils is passed down. It also provides a conduit for passing information relating to shared issues to the national association and organisations such as East Sussex Highways and the police. Issues that came up at the recent meeting included: the Platinum Jubilee and tree planting schemes; the Levelling Up White Paper; whether councils will be able to hold virtual meetings if they wish (it looks as though this may eventually come about); issues of civility and respect (mainly, but not exclusively at meetings) on behalf of both councillors and members of the public; national negotiations on local government pay (including parish clerks); citizens of which EU states will be allowed to vote in the 2023 elections; and, as ever, Highways and the police. Issues raised by council chairmen were to do with the algorithm used for calculating how many houses should be built in a district and how street lighting is funded, neither of which, I am pleased to say, affects Pett directly.

Finally, I am sorry to report the deaths of Jean Barrett James, a long-time resident of Pett Level, and Felicity Tyas after a long battle with cancer. Our sympathies go to both their families.



*Cllr David Penfold*



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## PETT VILLAGE HALL

### Pett Village Hall - Revised rates from 1 April 2022

At its meeting on 17 January 2022 the Pett Village Hall Management Committee considered in detail the rates to apply for hiring the Village Hall from 1 April 2022 and unanimously agreed a simplified payment structure with increases that are essential if the Hall is to remain viable.

The Committee has agreed the following new rates system to apply from 1 April 2022.

#### General rates

Main Hall £20 per hour  
Catherine Hollman Room £18 per hour

Exclusive use of Building:  
Weekend £770  
Day £320  
Evening £200

#### Rates of Hire Regular/Local

Main Hall £15 per hour (£12 for first year for current regulars\*)  
Catherine Hollman Room £13 per hour (£10 for first year for current regulars\*)  
\*where the current rate is lower than this.

Exclusive use of Building:  
Weekend £575  
Day £240  
Evening £150

**Kitchen:** Included in all bookings at no extra cost

**Weekend:** Friday from 5pm/Saturday all day until 11.45pm/Sunday until 11am

**Day:** 8am-6pm

**Evening:** 6pm-11.45pm

The rates will be reviewed annually at the January meeting of the Committee.

The Committee's report on the background to and principles of the new system can be read here.  
<https://static1.squarespace.com/.../Rates+Report+PVH+Jan...>

## PETT/ FAIRLIGHT AND GUESTLING. COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

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## PETT LEVEL INDEPENDENT RESCUE BOAT

Welcome to March 2022. We hope everyone at Pett Level and across Pett Parish is staying safe and well.

The early winter months are usually quiet, but Pett Level is witnessing high levels of walkers and beach enthusiasts to enjoy the beautiful coastline and scenery. At PLIRB, we have also been keeping busy - read on to learn more about what we have been up to..



- A huge congratulations to three of our volunteers who embarked on Dry January to raise funds. Martin Geldart (crew), Nick Wise (trainee crew) and Dawn Turner (volunteer) raised over £1000 - so a big thank you to everyone who sponsored and supported them!
- We are delighted to announce our Annual Open Day will take place on Sunday 28 August, 11am-3pm. This is our flagship event which provides much needed financial support and awareness of our presence in the community. It is a relaxed, family occasion with live music, a barbecue and bar, stalls and a live sea demonstration. Plus this year we will also host a dog show and the grand prize draw will include superb electric bikes. Please add the date to your diary - and do let us know if you would like to support this year's event!
- We recently welcomed new trainee crew to our team of volunteers and we now train both mid-week and Sundays to ensure we are always rescue ready. New volunteers are always welcome to support a range of activities - whether boat or beach crew, fundraising or admin. Do pop down on a Sunday morning if you would like to join us!
- We are grateful to our neighbours at the C-Side Café for having a donation box on their counter and being such a positive supporter of our activities.
- Our usual range of merchandise has always been popular and provides an enormously valuable contribution to our fundraising. In addition to the usual cards and calendars, we will soon have additional items available - these can be purchased from the boathouse on a Sunday morning or through the various events and activities we attend - look out for more details.
- As the summer season approaches, we look forward to participating in various local events - if you would like us to be present at a community event, do get in touch to discuss what is possible.

With the days lengthening and spring ahead of us, beach safety awareness remains an important part of our work. Please be vigilant about weather warnings, seasonal tides and currents and stay mindful of the dangers at both the top and bottom of local cliffs, due to continued rockfalls all along the local coastline.

As always, we extend a huge thank you to the residents and parish council of Pett Level and Pett Village for your continued support of our independent rescue charity. It has made a tremendous difference through two difficult years and is greatly appreciated by our volunteers, committee and trustees.

To keep in touch and to purchase our merchandise, please check out our website <https://plirb.com> and our social media: Twitter @PLIRBRescue; Facebook @PettLevelRescueBoat and @supportingPLIRB and Instagram @pettlevelindyrescueboat.

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## SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022 - CELEBRATIONS

The Flower Show Committee have been able to hold their first full face-to-face meeting for two years.

The task of planning the schedule has been almost completed, as we finalise with some of the judges details of their classes so that they fit the theme 'CELEBRATIONS'. Also, on the advice of the judges, some of the trophies have been allocated to other classes.



The great news is there will be a **Dog Show** this year with new classes and great fun for all those canines and their owners. Details will be in the schedule.

The opening of the Archive Resource Centre has prompted the committee to review their records, some of which can be passed to the Centre. With minutes going back to 1980s, one name stood out as having given many years to the success of the show. The Committee are delighted that Jenni Crisford has accepted the role of a Vice-President.

The **AGM will be held on 2 March at 7.00pm** in the Catharine Hollman Room at Pett Village Hall. There will be a full report on the 2021 show, which was a financial success, and donations to various local causes will be agreed.

All are welcome to the meeting and there will be refreshments to follow.

*Philippa M. Strickland, Chairman P&DHS*

## MAIS OU SONT LES NEIGES D'ANTAN? (BUT WHERE ARE THE SNOWS OF YESTERYEAR?)

This refrain from the famous fifteenth century poem by Francois Villon (latterly sung by Georges Brassens) has persisted over the centuries. And it so often seems to fit in with all sorts of nostalgic feelings. Why do I refer to it now other than to show off that I know a bit of French as well as Latin?

Because when thinking of the parish church, many of us look back nostalgically to a time when there was a parish priest in every parish and often a curate too, a time when the parish church was definitely the centre of village life, a time when no one moaned about the church being short of money nor constantly turned to rather desperate fund-raising, a time when Scripture was taught at school and multiculturalism was yet to arrive. (One of my grandsons tells me he prefers Ancient Greek myths to Bible stories...he clearly considers they have equal importance.)

I mention all this now because on **8<sup>th</sup> March our new Rector for the parish of Pett, Jonathan Meyer, will be licensed at a special service in Pett Church.** He is already Rector of Winchelsea and of Icklesham and we will share him with those parishes. This idea of sharing parish priests is quite common in the modern Church of England. There is certainly no need to despair. You may wonder what advantages there could possibly be in this sort of scheme. I suggest there are a few benefits: for example, we will appreciate more the time the new Rector can give to us in Pett and not take him for granted; we will be able to continue to have some services conducted by the popular retired priest Kay Burnett; there will be quite a bit of lay involvement which at the very least gives a more democratic flavour to the church. In addition, we will also be able to look beyond our parish and have the chance to try out the other churches in our new grouping.

Do think of coming along to the Evensong service at **Pett Church at 4pm on 8th March**, if only to take a look at the new Rector. Whatever else happens, we can be sure that God is with us and supports us all.



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# Church Treasurer for Pett

**Do you enjoy working with figures?**  
**Do you have experience of book-keeping?**  
**Could you spare an hour or so a week?**

The Church Council is responsible for the two churches in Pett & Pett Level and are now seeking a new Treasurer.

You **do not** need to be a qualified accountant, and the financial needs of the two churches are not complex, as the amount of income is sadly relatively low, but it's important that a potential treasurer is reasonably financially competent, and has the ability to maintain a basic accounts book, have access to a computer and be able to undertake simple banking transactions online.

Some of the following skills and characteristics would be helpful:

- Be in harmony with the Parochial Church Council (PCC), the parish priest and the wider church.
- Be prepared to gain an understanding of the parish, its needs and challenges.
- Be prepared to attend the local church council meetings, (six time a year), not only to deal with financial matters, but also in order to be aware of the PCC's plans.
- Be able to explain financial issues clearly, both within the PCC and to the general church membership.
- Be able to maintain confidentiality, particularly with respect to matters that relate to individual church members; e.g. their personal giving.

If you are interested and would like to chat informally about the position, then please phone the Churchwarden, John Case on 07525032198 or email John at [johncase@me.com](mailto:johncase@me.com).



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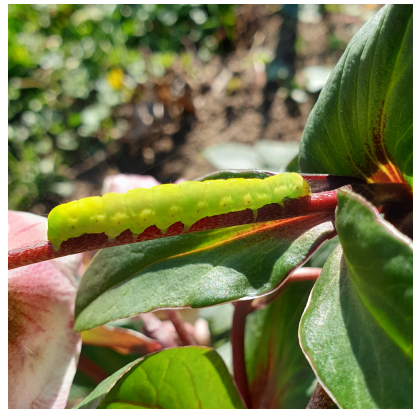
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Spring is on its way. The winter still has plenty to throw at us yet, but the natural world is starting to wake up with buds swelling on trees and bushes and birds starting to pair up and look for nest sites.

As part of the Guardians of Pett Churchyard initiative, I have been regularly visiting the churchyard to continue compiling an inventory of the species to be found there. This week I found two new plant species - Common Snowdrops and Lesser Celandine. I'm sure neither species are new to the churchyard, but only Lesser Celandine appeared on the original inventory taken in 1989. I suspect that the original survey may have ignored snowdrops because even though they are naturalized in the UK, they are an introduced species. It is also possible that since snowdrops have a relatively short flowering period so if a visit was not made in early spring they could have been missed. Both Snowdrops and Lesser Celandine lose their leaves after flowering, so a later survey would have found no trace of them. There is a grand display of Primroses there as well but they are still in their pots waiting for the next working party to plant them out.

On my latest visit I was quite surprised to find a fairly large caterpillar sunning itself on a plant stem. Looking through my caterpillar book, I thought it most resembled the caterpillar of the Cabbage Moth. Though the Cabbage Moth is aptly named for feeding on many leafy vegetables including cabbages, it also feeds on a wide variety of both wild and cultivated plants including trees such as willow and aspen. However, I uploaded the photo to a Facebook moth group for a more expert opinion. The species they suggested was the Angle Shades moth. This, as an adult, is a particularly striking moth with strongly marked wings that are held in folds when at rest. It should be noted that both the Angle Shades and the Cabbage moth caterpillars are bright green and both can be found at any time of year, so I wasn't surprised that the record was rejected by the county moth recorder who said that it would have to be reared to adulthood to be certain of an identification.



We attended a rather late post-Christmas lunch recently with the Short-haired Bumblebee project. As you may suspect, there are some real entomologists among their number, some of whom are still involved in research at universities.

When the conversation moved on from the weather and the convivial location, it turned to current research and one particular line of research was to investigate the effect of caffeine on bumblebees. I have no idea what the ultimate purpose of that research is but it turns out that just as caffeine gives humans a bit of a boost, feeding nectar containing caffeine to bumblebees has a similar effect on them. They are investigating whether it allows them to forage more efficiently, and also whether it affects their memory for forage sites.

There are, it turns out, several natural sources of caffeine-laced nectar. Coffee and tea are the obvious ones, but there are several other plants that produce caffeine, perhaps the most surprising being saffron, which is, of course a species of crocus. Plants produce many bitter, and even poisonous compounds as a defence against being eaten, and caffeine is one of those bitter compounds (though not so bitter when carefully roasted and brewed). Clearly the research is ongoing, but I missed out on some of the detail because then the coffee arrived.

*Alan Kenworthy*

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## NUTHATCH: THE BIRD TABLE BUCCANEER BY MICHAEL BLENCOWE OF THE SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST

Back garden birdwatchers know there's a pecking order on the peanut feeder.

Coal Tits are elbowed out by Blue Tits who in turn are ousted by Great Tits. But when the Nuthatch shows up, everything scarpers. With its streamlined body, blue back, pink chest and black eye-stripe, the Nuthatch cuts a dynamic figure; a swashbuckling, bird table buccaneer. The weapon it wields is a stout, dagger-like beak but it's not designed for skewering birds. Nuthatches are nuts about nuts.

The Nuthatch's name comes from 'nut hacker' in reference to the bird's habit of jamming hazelnuts and acorns into tree crevices and then using its powerful bill to noisily smash them open.

There is an old Sussex name which fits this manic, intense bird perfectly: Nutjobber. I have never seen this nutty little bird sitting still. They're so crazy about climbing that they're the only British bird that can actually climb headfirst down a tree.

At this time of year our garden birds become more vocal and aggressive as they claim and defend territories and croon their tunes to attract a mate. Spring lacks this urgency for the male Nuthatch. He hasn't stopped fighting all winter as he angrily defends his hectare of woodland. Nuthatches are monogamous too and the loyal pair soon dispense with spring serenades and get down to the hard work of making a home.

Many birds start from scratch. Twigs and moss are laboriously collected and nests are painstakingly woven. Nuthatches however are happy to let someone else undertake the heavy construction work. Their residence of choice is a spacious tree cavity drilled and abandoned by a woodpecker. Sure, it needs a bit of work but the Nuthatches will make do and mend. The main problem is the front door. It's too big. This gaping hole can let in predators or Starling squatters who will happily turf out nesting Nuthatches. So while the male keeps guard the female Nuthatch starts bricking up the entrance hole. Her bill is used like a plasterer's trowel to smear mouthfuls of mud until the terracotta porch is perfectly Nuthatch sized. She is a compulsive builder and if they move into a nestbox she still cannot resist plastering mud around the hole, even if it's already the right size.

And it's great to report on a bird that's actually increasing in number and range. Once restricted to south-east England, the Nuthatch now breeds in Scotland - probably assisted by the provision of garden peanut feeders as it marched north.

As Britain seemingly gets crazier by the day it's nice to know there's still space for a few more Nutjobbers.

*The above photograph of the Nuthatch is copyright Damian Waters of the Sussex Wildlife Trust*



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## Churches in Pett & Pett Level News



I'm pleased to be able to announce that the Rev'd Jonathan Meyer will be licensed as Priest-in-Charge for Pett & Pett Level on the 8th March 2022. Jonathan is the Vicar for the parishes of Winchelsea, Icklesham and Winchelsea Beach and he will now also take on the responsibility for St Mary & St Peter Church in Pett and St Nicholas Church in Pett Level. I'm sure you will all wish to join me in welcoming Jonathan, who will start taking services in the parish from the 13th March. Everyone is welcome to attend Jonathan's Licensing Service on the 8th March - see below for details.

Moving forward, services will generally take place at St Mary & St Peter on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, starting at 9:30am and there will be a service at St Nicholas, Pett Level on the 2nd Sunday of the month, starting at 8:30am.

For up to date service times, please look at our Facebook page - 'Churches in Pett & Pett Level', or phone me, John Case, on 01424 812224.

### **Licensing Service for Revd Jonathan Meyer as Priest-in Charge for Pett & Pett Level**

**Tuesday 8th March at 4.00pm  
at St Mary & St Peter Church, Pett**

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## Church Services - March 2022

### 6th March (1st Sunday of Lent)

9.30am	Pett St Mary & St Peter	Parish Communion	Revd Kay Burnett
9.30am	Icklesham All Saints & St Nicolas	Parish Communion	Revd J. Meyer
11.00am	Winchelsea St Thomas'	Parish Eucharist	Revd J. Meyer

### 13th March (2nd Sunday of Lent)

8:30am	Pett Level St Nicholas	Holy Communion BCP	Revd J. Meyer
9.30am	Icklesham All Saints & St Nicholas	Parish Communion	Revd J. Meyer
11.00am	Winchelsea St Thomas'	Parish Eucharist	Revd J. Meyer

### 20th March (3rd Sunday of Lent)

9.30am	Pett St. Mary and St. Peter	Parish Communion	Revd J. Meyer
11.00am	Winchelsea St Thomas'	Parish Eucharist	Revd J. Meyer

### 27th March (Mothering Sunday)

9.30am	Icklesham All Saints & St Nicolas	Parish Communion	Revd J. Meyer
11.00am	Winchelsea St Thomas'	Parish Eucharist	Revd J. Meyer

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### Pett WI Collection Points

- Pett Village Hall (Lobby)
- The Old Butcher's Shop, Pett
- 1 Arthur's Close, Pett Road, Pett
- Pett Methodist Chapel
- "Nanini Tal", Cliff End Lane, Pett Level
- The New Beach Club, Pett Level
- Fairlight Post Office & Stores
- The Barn, Shepherd's Way, Fairlight
- Midway, Commanders Walk, Fairlight

### Financial Donations:

If you'd like to make a financial donation, this can either be made by cheque (made payable to Pett WI) and sent to Jane Sweaney at "Oakhurst", Pett Road, Pett, TN35 4HG or made directly into the Pett WI Bank Account - Lloyds Bank - Sort Code: 30-98-97 - Account No: 70587368 - with the reference for both as "Food Bank" please.

For more information, or if you experience any difficulties, please contact Campaign Co-ordinator, Hilary Dymott on 07768 323131

Thank you!



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	Time	m	Time	m
1 TU	10 27	3.3	22 42	3.5
2 W ●	11 15	3.5	23 26	3.8
3 TH	11 54	3.6		
4 F	00 05	4.0	12 28	3.8
5 SA	00 40	4.0	13 01	3.6
6 SU	01 14	4.0	13 33	3.5
7 M	01 48	3.8	14 05	3.3
8 TU	02 19	3.4	14 39	3.0
9 W	02 49	3.0	15 14	2.5
10 TH ☽	03 26	2.5	16 06	2.0
11 F	04 28	2.0	17 23	1.7
12 SA	05 53	1.7	18 45	1.7
13 SU	07 18	1.7	20 03	2.0
14 M	08 32	2.0	21 02	2.4
15 TU	09 23	2.5	21 45	2.9
16 W	10 02	2.9	22 20	3.1
17 TH	10 37	3.3	22 56	3.5
18 F ○	11 12	3.5	23 30	3.8
19 SA	11 47	3.6		
20 SU	00 05	3.9	12 19	3.8
21 M	00 37	4.0	12 51	3.8
22 TU	01 12	4.0	13 27	3.8
23 W	01 50	3.8	14 08	3.5
24 TH	02 33	3.4	14 56	3.0
25 F ☾	03 27	2.9	16 00	2.4
26 SA	04 46	2.3	17 40	2.0
27 SU	06 41	2.0	19 24	2.0
28 M	08 16	2.4	20 42	2.5
29 TU	09 25	2.9	21 40	3.0
30 W	10 16	3.3	22 26	3.5
31 TH	10 58	3.5	23 05	3.8

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Sea Wall at Pett Level	EA

### PETT PARISH COUNCIL (PPC)

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#### COUNCILLORS

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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
<b>PARISH CLERK</b>	Mary Philo 01797 270790	clerk@pettnet.org.uk
	Island Cottage, Swan Street, Wittersham, Kent, TN30 7PH	
<b>TREE WARDEN</b>	Marcus Foster 07812 024070	mail@marcus-foster.com
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### ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL (RDC)

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Councillor Andrew Mier	01424 814178	cldr.andrew.mier@rother.gov.uk
Roger Bird	01424 813636	cldr.roger.bird@rother.gov.uk



### EAST SUSSEX COUNCIL (ESCC)

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Councillor Keith Glazier	07957 377844
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<i>Badminton</i>	Anne & Paul Wadey	316209	pawadey@tiscali.co.uk
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<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>			
- <i>Warden</i>	John Case	812244	johncase@me.com
- <i>Friends</i>	Gill Plank	812154	gillplank@yahoo.com
- <i>St Nicholas</i>	Fran Rogers	812964	
<i>Pett Level 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
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<i>PVH Committee</i>	Tim Rothwell	07850 469314	timrothwell9@gmail.com
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Samaritans	116 123
Citizens Advice	03444 111 444
RSPCA Emergency Services	0300 1234 999

## PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATORS

Pett Level - The New Beach Club  
Pett - Telephone box opposite The Royal Oak on Elms Lane  
Pett - Village Hall



## EMERGENCY CONTACTS FOR UTILITIES

GAS LEAKS	National Gas Emergency Service	0800 111 999
POWER CUT	UK Power Networks	105
WATER LEAK	Southern Water emergency service	0800 820 999

## POST OFFICE

The **POST OFFICE** is open on Monday and Thursday, 12:45 to 3pm, at Pett Methodist Church

**THE NEAREST PRIORITY POST BOXES FOR THE RETURN OF COVID TESTS ARE IN PETT OPPOSITE FRENCH COURT LANE AND AT THE FAIRLIGHT POST OFFICE**



## BUSES

### Pett: 347

Chick Hill to Hastings Queens Road

Buses (from Pett) run approximately every 2 hours from 8:20 to 15:45 Monday to Friday; on Saturday approximately 8:25 and 14:00; no service on Sunday

### Pett Level: 101

Hastings to Rye (and onwards) via Fairlight and Pett Level:

Buses approximately every hour from 07:30 to 19:20 (to Rye) and from 09:20 to 18:20 (to Hastings) Monday to Saturday; on Sunday every other hour from 09:40 to 17:40 (to Rye) and from 10:50 to 16:50 (to Hastings)



For more information visit <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/> or get the Stagecoach App

## 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	

## 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	
Ore, 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 hourly			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	y			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	hourly	17:43
Winchelsea Beach Caravan Park	07:31	07:41	08:22				15:22	16:32	17:27	18:27	19:25	09:49	until	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
Ore, Co-Op	07:25		08:29	09:40	until			14:40	16:02	16:40	17:40	18:40	11:09	hourly	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 School days

Timetables are subject to change. Check before you travel - visit  
[www.stagecoachbus.com](http://www.stagecoachbus.com) or telephone 0871 200 22 33



## BE A FRIEND OF THE ARC

The Archive Resource Centre, a not-for-profit membership society, is the custodian of our growing community archive relating to the history of the three parishes of Fairlight, Guestling and Pett. The archive is held at our office at Pett Methodist Church and online.

Please become a "Friend of the ARC" to help us cover the running costs of the archive. A minimum annual donation of **£15** (which equates to less than 30p a week) automatically enrolls you as a member of the society and will entitle you to the Friends' benefits described on our leaflet, for the year. Any donation above that amount would be very gratefully received.

### [BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE]

MR/MRS/MISS/MS                      FORENAME .....

SURNAME .....

ADDRESS .....

..... POSTCODE .....

TELEPHONE..... MOBILE .....

EMAIL .....

I wish to become a Friend of the ARC and to pay my annual subscription for 2022/23.

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Please make cheques payable to: **The Archive Resource Centre**
- I agree to pay my subscription for 2022/23 of £.....to The Archive Resource Centre's bank account at NatWest Bank **Sort Code 60-02-07**  
**Account no. 59634995** (Please put your name as reference on the payment.)

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO: **The Treasurer, The Archive Resource Centre, Pett Methodist Church, Pett Road, Hastings TN35 4HD**

**- THANK YOU -**

*We will only use your personal details above for contact purposes and to provide information. They are kept for our records only and will not be shared and will be kept secure. Let us know if you wish to receive a full copy of our ARC Privacy Policy.*

Decided it's safe to come out at last?  
Why not come along to a

# **FUN TEAM QUIZ**

**????????????**

Question Master: the inimitable Mr Ray Barden  
Questions set by Heather

In aid of Pett Parish Church  
At Pett Village Hall

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March - 7.30 Start

Teams of 6 maximum

BYO drink and refreshments

£5 per team member (which includes a FREE raffle ticket!)

Please register your teams with Heather

[Heather.brambletye@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Heather.brambletye@hotmail.co.uk)

07977 100 296