

Pett & Pett Level News



August 2022

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Front Cover; Six Spot Burnet Moths with thanks to Gill Buttle.

EDITORIAL

Richard and I have decided to step down as editors of this magazine as at the end of August. This means that, unless anyone comes forward to take over from us, the September edition will be the last one.

Experience suggests that a team of two or three people are needed to successfully run the magazine on behalf of the community of Pett and Pett Level. Lesley, who looks after the advertisers, and Sarah, who looks after the distribution team, currently plan to stay on to support the new team.

So please, if you are interested, then either email us at magazine@pettnet.org.uk or contact Mary Philo (Clerk to Pett Parish Council) on 01797 270790 or email Mary at clerk@pettnet.org.uk.



EMAIL US AT MAGAZINE@PETTNET.ORG.UK

Editors: Mike Wilkins, 07710 080148; Richard Bradshaw 07958 390899; **Deliveries:** Sarah Adams, 01424 812323. The magazine is distributed by our team of volunteers to all households in Pett & Pett Level. All editions of the magazine are available for download from pettnet.org.uk

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Dear Editor

MOWING OF THE SEAWALL

It was with a sinking feeling that I saw the tractor mower at work along the seawall between Pett Level and Winchelsea Beach again this morning. At least half the beautiful grassy banks were scalped a few weeks ago and it was my understanding that usually the other half were left. When is the council going to realise that not only does it now look naked and uninteresting but, more importantly, such areas are vital for beneficial insects? AND, without bees, hoverflies and other pollinators we wouldn't survive.

Wouldn't it be better to leave these glorious areas of natural habit, at least until the plants have had a chance to set seed? There is enough information out there about the need to leave wild areas alone as much as possible. I'd be interested to hear the thinking behind the decision to scalp the banks, especially in these so called, enlightened times.

Chris O'Donoghue

EDITORS NOTE: The responsibility for the seawall rests with the Environment Agency (see the Council Responsibilities page later in this magazine. I have forwarded a copy of Chris' letter to the Environment Agency for comment and await a response



Celebrations Saturday 30 July 2022

We hope your copy of Pett and Pett Level Newsletter gets to you before 30 July with these notes.

Welcome all to Pett Village Hall to enjoy this year's show.

We are excited that there will be interesting stalls selling their wares along with our regular Games of Chance, Tombolas, the Grand Raffle and Refreshments.

Please bring plenty of money to spend. It may be possible to take cards on some stalls but the majority are cash only.

Pett Village Hall Car Park

To allow for setting up the show, Pett Village Hall car park will be closed from 4.00pm on Friday 29 July. Notices will be displayed. Please do not leave your car here after 4.00 pm on Friday as the car park will be used for the Flower Show.

However, the car park will, of course, be open from 8.30 to 10.15 am on Saturday for entries to be staged in the Main Hall and after that for stalls to be located.

We ask for all vehicles that have not been allocated parking spaces to be moved to the main car park in the field once set-up has been completed.

We look forward to welcoming locals and visitors to Pett Flower Show 2022.

*Philippa M Strickland
Chairman P&DHS*

Tara Begbie

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Dear Editor

PETER WOODROFFE

I am not trying to draft an obituary but I do want to remember Peter Woodroffe and to record that one of the oldest (into his nineties) and longest-term residents of Pett Level has sold his house and moved to a retirement village in Hampshire.

The important thing about Peter was his tremendous love of the sea and of Pett Level. Until recent years he was a very strong swimmer and years ago he was a keen water-skier.

Peter was always a great supporter of the Rye Tennis Club and he was also a familiar figure at the Rye Golf Club.

Long after he retired as a partner at his family firm of solicitors he continued with consultancy work. He told me that he was the oldest practising solicitor in England.

People are encouraged nowadays to be flexible about where they live and what they do for a living but there is something reassuring about knowing that at least some people stick to the same career and also keep their loyalty and affection for the place where they live.

I wish Peter well!

Angela Hawksley

SPONSORSHIP FOR MILLY VOICE

Milly Voice, whose family lives in Pett Level, is competing in an international 100km ultra trail race in Switzerland on the 13th August, the prestigious SwissAlps100, in order to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support and specifically, the Macmillan Horizon Centre in Brighton.

Macmillan is giving wonderful support to her mother, Pamela Voice, who is currently undergoing treatment for an aggressive breast cancer, as indeed it is to the whole family.

Milly is by profession a teacher, and is also an experienced trail runner both in the UK and in Europe, achieving success in several races, including being in the top ten women and 1st British woman in the UTMB OCC race in Chamonix and just recently, 1st woman in an international race in Lausanne Switzerland. She is an ambassador for Salomon and has been featured on billboards and in its stores both in the UK and in Europe.

Nearly £8000 has been raised for Macmillan so far through both online and offline donations. The reason for this inclusion in the Parish magazine is to say that if anyone feels that they would like to contribute to support the Macmillan Cancer Support charity, either online or by cheque, it would be sincerely appreciated. Cheques, made payable to Macmillan Cancer Support, may be sent to Milly at the address below.

More details, including a personal piece by Milly on why she is doing this, can be found on Milly's Just Giving page:

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This link can be also found on Facebook/Instagram @millyvoiceruns

Michael Voice

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If you are interested in offering to help, please contact Barbara Ford on 01424 814608 or call into the office at Five Villages House, Oast House Field, Icklesham, TN36 4BQ

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Overheard conversation

X: Have you heard? They're having another one of those **FLOWER FESTIVALS AT PETT CHURCH**. It's in the middle of September and it's open on the Saturday and Sunday. Shall we make a point of going to it?

P: *Not me, thanks! I wouldn't set foot in church if you paid me. Besides we've got a Flower Show coming up in the Village Hall. That's quite enough for me!*

X: But the Flower Festival's quite different. It's a lot of really nice flower arrangements and each one of them illustrates something. This year each one will illustrate a painting or a show or a bit of music. And, with any luck, we'll have heard of most of what they're illustrating! And the church won't look all gloomy and serious; it'll look colourful and happy. And it won't be like a patronizing exclusive club; there'll just be a lot of friendly people! And you can get a cuppa and a really tasty piece of cake.

P: *Well, I certainly won't have any spare money by then, what with inflation and the cost of everything going up. And I know they'll be after us for money.*

X: I've heard that the only thing you have to pay for is the programme which has a list of the arrangements and a list of the sponsors' loved ones who are being commemorated. But you could always share my programme. And you can stay away from the raffle and not let that dreadful woman who sells raffle tickets bully you into buying any. And you can stay away from all the stalls. And who knows about the weather? We might even be able to sit outside.

P: *I suppose I could have a quick look in.*

X: Who knows? You might even think of saying a quick prayer while you're there. The state everything's in these days we need a bit of help from Him up there!

*Angela Hawksley
Pett Parochial Church Council*

Sarah Bragoli

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MY GARDEN BLOG GILL PLANK

Now I don't want to keep repeating myself but where is the rain? One of the most frustrating things at this time of year is settling down to watch Wimbledon and to find it is raining there and I am still having to water the garden! Thank goodness for covered courts! The grass has not been as brown as it has been during this summer for several years but it does cut down on the mowing.

I am reaping spinach, beans, courgettes, lettuce, radish, potatoes and onions with runner and French beans about to produce. I have even cooked one lot of beetroot. I abandoned carrots this year but have been swapping spinach for carrots from next door. Tomatoes and cucumber will be prolific once they have ripened.

I spent a lot of money last year on buying and erecting a fruit cage to cover raspberries, redcurrants and strawberries which have been devoured by wildlife in the past. I was very excited when I picked my first 3 strawberries and looked forward to bowlfuls during Wimbledon. Strangely they were beginning to ripen but then disappearing overnight. I could only assume it was mice or rats (too dry for slugs). I then noticed that the raspberry canes were disturbed and there was some flattening of them (even very strong mice were not likely to do that!). My thoughts therefore turned to the badger and on close inspection I found a breach at the back of the cage netting. After initial irritation I acquired some mesh fencing to go around the netting and I hope that will keep it out. However, I have just discovered that badger has moved on to next door's raspberry cage!!!

My other next door neighbour found a wasp nest in our hedge. This was a beautifully constructed spherical nest about 20cm in diameter. The nest was made out of chewed up wood presumably from the hedge creating papery layers of grey/brown. The wasps were much darker than the common wasp and after some research found them to be a type of paper wasp (I think *Dolichovespula Median* if you want to be technical). These wasps don't bother with humans or human habitations and don't eat sugar so are absolutely no threat to us unless really annoyed. I persuaded my neighbour, who is not a fan of wasps, to leave them in the hedge and that we needed them for pollination and pest eating. All was calm for a few weeks then we found the nest broken into with half of it on the ground. Badger was number one suspect but no evidence supported this so we are currently blaming the woodpecker although Google tells me magpies could be guilty. To protect the wasps who were busily repairing and getting on with their own business we put some large gauge netting across the top of the hedge to keep predators out. Sadly shortly after this it was raided again so we may never know who was responsible.

I will finally repeat myself by asking 'where are the butterflies?' I have buddleia in 3 colours out plus lavenders and other bee/butterfly plants but have only seen a couple of white and a few small brown butterflies and very few moths in the evenings. I would happily trade my raucous family of magpies for a Red Admiral or two!!

PS. Have just discovered there are still some wasps rebuilding. Hope springs eternal!!!!



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GARDENING CLUB

We were again able to enjoy warm summer weather for a most entertaining two-part visit to one of Hastings' jewels, Alexandra Park. Firstly, Nick Hennessy, the last remaining Park Ranger - there were seven in the recent past - set some of the changes necessity has brought about in the context of the park's history, emphasising the continuing relevance of the park for the Hastings of today by detailing some of the evolutionary and revolutionary projects undertaken.



Hastings was developing rapidly from the end of the 18th century and sources of drinking water were becoming an issue. During the 1850s three reservoirs were built to supply the town, towards the north end of what is now the park, with a plant nursery being established at the southern end bounded by the new Hastings - Ashford railway line. Over a relatively short period the extent of the park much as it is today, came into being, becoming a major water resource for the town as well as a community park of such high quality and featuring so many Champion trees, that it is now officially designated a Grade II* listed landscape! More recently Lottery Funding has enabled restoration of the park to be undertaken, which continues, however, recent severe government cuts have forced difficult decisions to be made - staffing cuts have necessitated outsourcing of much of the gardening tasks, the lawn bowls court and tennis courts have been removed and grassed over, as have many of the decorative flower borders.

Nick also highlighted examples of how climate change has created new problems - the notable lack of prolonged winter frosts and snowfall allows fungi, blue algae and other pests and diseases to thrive instead of killing them off, but trees lost to disease are now less able to be replaced - in short today's focus has to be on maintaining the existing park planting and structures rather than creating new features.

One great positive, however, has been brought about through a bad situation - Nick strongly feels that from something bad can come good - better water quality for sea bathers resulting from an innovative water project within the park. Once again, as at the park's inception, issues with the town's water supplies were discovered. Seven years ago it was found through sea water quality tests that Hastings' standard was failing and the problems were traced to long-standing inappropriate and inadequate sewerage installations causing cross-drainage allowing polluted water to reach the sea. The answer was to aerate water in the park's ponds and streams and reroute it through specialised floating planted islands and reedbeds, a now well-recognised method of purifying water naturally and sustainably, also very successfully as the sea water quality is now once again meriting the green flag! Nature, given the right impetus has responded, also rewarding the works with a notable increase in biodiversity within the park.

The second part of our visit was to the Greenhouse Restoration Project, our guide being Linda Pearson. She told us the greenhouse, a teak and cast-iron structure, was built in 1934 to grow plants for the town's seafront and public gardens. This at a time when Hastings was recognised as a very desirable resort with high-end visitor facilities and accommodation. Fast forward to 2013 when an intrepid group of volunteers literally machete-ed their way into the derelict, completely overgrown structure with an



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incongruous statue of Prince Albert in the middle of it all! Restoration of this large-scale and attractive building, all funded by donations, is gradually creating a new and present-day teaching and learning centre, already successful in many of its aims, but with the potential, given the inspirational and infinite vision of Linda and her team, to become a valuable, multi-faceted community asset with the overall aim of enabling all who participate whether as volunteers or students, to benefit in many ways. Plants remain at the heart of the venture, with volunteers propagating and potting-on from plants donated by the public and local supermarkets, which are then sold at very reasonable prices to the public.



Yet another very successful and enjoyable visit concluded with refreshments in the park's excellent café. Next month we will be visiting Pett village gardens - details to follow. In September we will be back in Pett Village Hall, getting our Autumn schedule off to a great start with a talk by Fergus Garrett, head gardener at Great Dixter.

June Harris

COFFEE MORNING AND LIBRARY NOTES

WEDNESDAY 3RD AUGUST, 10 - 12

With pleasant weather on July 6th we were able to set up some tables and books outside giving a choice of surroundings for coffee and book browsing.

The nature of our relationship with East Sussex Libraries is changing as it would seem that we are now the only people participating in their scheme. However Pett Village Community Library is carrying on and operating the same way as before. So we will continue to be pleased to see all of Pett's keen readers and to provide as wide a choice of reading matter as possible for you.

Robert from East Sussex Hearing Aid Support is now able to use the Doctor's Room for consultation, which we hope is a nicer venue than the corridor!

The next Coffee Morning and Library will be on Wednesday August 3rd. We look forward to seeing you there.

Anne, Vivien and Anna

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NATURE NOTES

As part of the investigations into the biodiversity of the Churchyard, we held 2 events - the first was a bat walk where an expert from Sussex Wildlife Trust talked about bats and brought bat detectors so that we could see or hear any bats about. That added 2 species to our wildlife list - Common Pipistrelle, and Soprano Pipistrelle. The second event was a moth trapping event where we set up a moth trap one evening, and then the following morning spent an hour or so looking at what species we had caught. That added 38 species to our wildlife list. Highlights from the moths were 6 Elephant Hawkmoths, a Poplar Hawkmoth, 2 Buff-tips (looks like a birch twig), Buff Arches, Leopard Moth, and Bird's Wing. If those names mean nothing to you, or you think that all moths are small and brown, then I urge you to look them up and you will be welcome to join us for the next moth trapping event.

If you look up moth traps on the internet, then you will be bombarded with adverts and advice on how to kill moths effectively. Whilst I abhor insecticides in general, I do appreciate that protecting your carpets and clothes from moth damage is a sensible precaution. It is the caterpillars that do the damage, not the adult moths. They just produce the caterpillars.



The moth trapping we did in the Churchyard was a much more benign process. The moth trap consists of a bright mercury vapour light that produces light of a frequency that is attractive to moths, and a large bucket. The moths are attracted to the light and fall down a funnel through a small hole into the bucket, which is filled with egg-boxes that give them a place to rest for the remainder of the night. The trap is not designed to kill the moths, but it is not pleasant for them. Some become exhausted and worn from hitting the light, and at the very least they are confused and disoriented and have missed out on a night's feeding and/or mating. (Many hawkmoths do not feed at all; their sole purpose on emergence is to find a mate.) Because it is not particularly good for the moths, I always record the results so that scientists can use them for research purposes.

While we were emptying the moth trap, someone suggested that it may be useful to compare what we caught with Trevor Buttle's records. Trevor lived opposite the church and was a keen moth trapper and kept meticulous records. We looked at Trevor's records from July 2016, 8 years ago. As a further comparison, I set up the moth trap at home the following night. I live less than half a mile from the church and in a much more open environment.

Though the people the year and the habitats were different (2 wildlife friendly gardens vs a heavily wooded churchyard, for example), and the sample size of little scientific value, the results were interesting and are summarized in the table below. There were about 40 species in each sample, but only 10 species appeared in all 3 samples. (I also recorded the recently introduced Box Tree Moth which has only been in the UK for the last 2 or 3 years.) The number of moths was higher in 2016 (which could be down to Trevor's skill). The number of species that were unique to each sample was surprisingly high, which shows just how random moth trapping can be. It just depends what happens to be flying in that space at that particular time.



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	Trevor Buttle 2016	Churchyard 2022	Glebe cottages 2022
Number of species	38	38	43
Number of moths	115	63	93
Unique Species	13	16	20

Alan Kenworthy

GUARDIANS OF PETT CHURCHYARD

As Alan has mentioned above, in July we had spectral goings on in the churchyard; the bright overnight light of the moth trap followed a few days later by Guardians exploring the churchyard with bat detectors.

We learnt much about moths and bats, the most memorable being that hawk moths rub their genitals in order to create ultrasonic sounds that may deter moths!

I was shocked when Alan said, as he was studying the contents of the moth trap, that a few years ago it would have contained 'bucket loads' of moths. The comparison he has made between recent exercise and those of Trevor Buttle six years ago bear this out. Hopefully, in the churchyard, we are redressing the balance in some small way, but I know that our small efforts will make little difference to this overall decline.

In late July, or early August, we plan to have our first work party in a while (digging out some more brambles and tidying up the waste heaps), and then start to plan a series of work parties over the coming Autumn and Winter months.

As ever, if you wish to find out more of who we are and what we are trying to achieve then please contact me on 07710 080148.

Mike Wilkins





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A date for your diary: Thursday 1st September when we will be holding a 'Helpers' Meeting' in the Catherine Hollman Room in the Village Hall at 10.30. If you are interested in helping at the Coffee Morning by manning stalls, helping with the raffle or generally being on hand we would love to see you, and there will a cup of coffee too!

A 'heads up': next month you will have the chance to bid in a Silent Auction for an exclusive item - a brand new Osprey leather handbag - which has been kindly donated to the Coffee Morning. Osprey handbags retail at approximately £170 full price. Keep a look-out on the Pett & Pett Level Community page on Facebook, and on www.pettnet.org.uk from September 1st for more details.

Any contributions to the stalls will be most welcome:

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Betty Harknett: pannelend@talktalk.net (Bric-a-Brac)

Jackie Richards: richards.jackie@yahoo.co.uk (Plant and Gardening Tools)

Heather Godwin: heathergodwin19@gmail.co.uk (anything else!)

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CHURCH SERVICES - AUGUST 2022

SUNDAY 7th AUGUST

PETT 9.30am, Parish Eucharist, St Mary & St Peter Church (Rev Jonathan Meyer)
WINCHELSEA 8.00am, Holy Communion (BCP), St Thomas' Church (Rev Jonathan Meyer)
11.00am, Parish Eucharist, St Thomas' Church (Rev Jonathan Meyer)

SUNDAY 14th AUGUST

PETT LEVEL 8.30am, Holy Communion (BCP), St Nicholas (Rev Jonathan Meyer)
ICKLESHAM 9.30am, Parish Eucharist, St Nicolas Church (Rev Jonathan Meyer)
WINCHELSEA 11.00am, Parish Eucharist, St Thomas' Church (Rev Jonathan Meyer)

SUNDAY 21st AUGUST

PETT 9.30am, Parish Eucharist, St Mary & St Peter Church (Rev Jonathan Meyer)
WINCHELSEA 11.00am, Parish Eucharist, St Thomas' Church (Rev Jonathan Meyer)

SUNDAY 28th AUGUST

ICKLESHAM 9.30am, Parish Eucharist, St Nicolas Church (Rev Jonathan Meyer)
WINCHELSEA 11.00am, Parish Eucharist, St Thomas' Church (Rev Jonathan Meyer)

SUNDAY 4th SEPTEMBER

PETT 9.30am, Parish Eucharist, St Mary & St Peter Church (Rev David Page)
WINCHELSEA 8.00am, Holy Communion (BCP), St Thomas' Church
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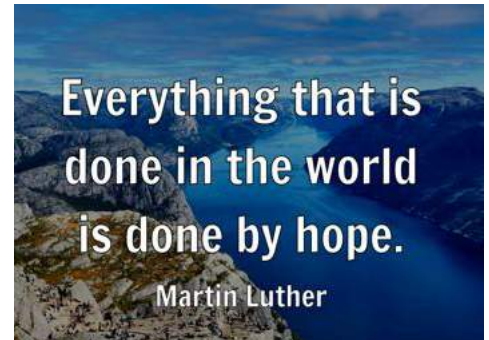
This term we are exploring the Value of **Hope**. We discussed hopes for ourselves, for others and for the world in our Values assemblies. The children's responses were very thoughtful and included:

"I hope that the new Reception children will be happy when they start in September."

"I hope that all the children in the world are able to have a voice and speak up."

"I hope that there will be no more wars."

"We hope that people who are sick are cared for."



This year we were excited to take part in a local charity event: 30 large Rubber Duck sculptures and 21 smaller Rubber Ducklings, creating a live art trail from Hastings Old Town to Bexhill on Sea. This fun, free, family friendly event has created a gallery of fabulous creativity and inspiration within our local communities. The money we raised has been donated to St Michael's hospice.



Our Duckling depicts our children's love of, and commitment to, the natural world. The pupils worked together to explore themes that were important to them within their lives. The children are very passionate about conservation, climate change and the effect that humans are having on the planet. They feel strongly about making changes for their future. They have decided to represent their love of nature within God's world, and celebrate the beauty of our planet.



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01797 227621 / 07854 016746 Terry Osborne

The council met in July. One of the principal things discussed was the future of Pett and Pett Level News. Over recent years, Mike Wilkins and his team have dedicated much time, effort and skill to producing a magazine that provides an invaluable service to those living in the village. While one can argue that the Internet provides similar information, the magazine is valued by many in the village, both young and old.



Our thanks go to Mike and all his helpers for the work they have done, but he is now stepping down, as you will see from the leaflet enclosed with this issue. So, we need a new editor - can it be you? Mike, the parish clerk Mary Philo or I will be happy to talk about what is involved and also provide support for a new editor.

Last month, I noted the opening of the footpath map. It has been suggested that a number of signposts or way markers be installed at the less obvious points on the Jubilee Way. The council has agreed to get quotes for this. It may also be possible to add QR codes on the posts, linking to information about the route.

The council also decided to take action on two projects. The first is to clean and repaint the interior of the bus shelter by the recreation ground, for which quotes will be obtained, while the other is to repair or replace the fence around the playground at the recreation ground. The possibility of adding a shelter at the playground was also discussed, but it was agreed not to do this because of the history of past vandalism.

Obtaining a new lease for the allotments has taken a long time, but the council has now fulfilled all its obligations and we await the signature of the landlord.

There is some concern in parish councils throughout Rother that planning enforcement is not working very effectively. This topic will be taken up at a meeting of the Chair and Vice-chair of the Rother Association of Local Councils with Rother officials and councillors. In addition, environmental enforcement is due to start at the end of July.

Looking at other developments in Rother, the new Bexhill BMX and skateboard park has opened in Sidley and it is available to anyone in the area, so enthusiasts are encouraged to try it. It will be floodlit until 9.00 pm, enabling evening use throughout the year.

And just a reminder about the Rother Community Lottery, to which organisations can sign up and thus benefit from the purchase of lottery tickets. For every £1 lottery ticket purchased, 60p will go towards good causes. And, of course, individuals may win a cash prize!

Everyone in the village should have received a letter from Rother District Council about avian flu, which incidentally has virtually stopped the work of the RSPCA Mallydams centre. Please make sure that your dog does not pick up any dead birds. If you do see a dead bird, it should be reported to the DEFRA helpline (03459 33 55 77). There is also more information at <https://www.rother.gov.uk/news/managing-avian-flu-response-to-case-in-bexhill/>.

I am sorry that, last month, I missed reporting the deaths of Alan Cooke and Pat Savage, both well known in the village. Our sympathy goes to their families.

David Penfold, Chair of PPC



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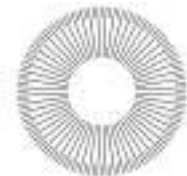
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PETT WI NEWS

This is the second year we have rented a cherry tree from Cooks Yard Farm in Northiam which was financed by a kind bequest left by former WI President the late Muriel Turner. A group of members met to pick this year's crop. Conversation and laughter rang throughout the orchard and a decent amount of cherries were collected some of which were then taken home to use in different recipes to then share at members meetings throughout the year.

Members had an insightful meeting in June when the team led by Sarah Larkin from Safehaven Women gave a very interesting talk about the work of the charity. Safehaven Women, based at Holy Trinity Church, Robertson Street, Hastings offers a cosy, comfortable space to relax, with food, tea and coffee, nail bar, craft sessions and a clothes bank. This safe place is a chance for women to come together and hang out, to chat and to be listened to over tea and cake!



During June Sara Dann organised a trip to see Wicked the Musical in London's West End starring friend of Pett WI (and Sara's sister!) Sophie-Louise Dann as Madame Morrible. Members had such a great time and were delighted to be able to meet up with Sophie-Louise after the show!

Before Pett WI set up as their own separate WI group they were combined with Fairlight, Guestling and Three Oaks. From records held since 1942 we are trying to compile a list of past presidents and wondered if anyone might be able to help us with filling in any of the blanks. Here are the ones we know about:-

1942-1943 Mrs Elliott, 1944-45 Miss Lucas Shadwell, 1951 Mrs Rubie, 1956 Miss Peace, 1961-62 Miss Clarke, 1963-65 H Fraser, 1968 Mrs Grant, 1969-71 Mrs M Godfrey, 1972-74 Mrs K Jury, 1975-78 Mrs J Cooper, 1979-81 Mrs E Lovejoy, 1982-83 Mrs Gardner, 1984-86 Mrs M Newton, 1987 Mrs K Jury, 1988 Mrs M Rose, 1989 Mrs P Fox, 1990-92 Mrs E Darnell, 1994-2011 Mrs J Elliott, 2012 Miss M Turner, 2013-18 Mrs H Godwin, 2019-present Ms B Wood

Missing years 1946-1950, 1952-1955, 1957-1960, 1966-1967. If you can help please email pettwi@outlook.com

Belinda Wood, President

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ENVIRONMENTAL NOTES

We need to **GET RID OF GAS**, or at least fossil gas. By that, I don't mean gas in the American sense of the word - i.e. petrol. We need to **GET RID OF PETROL** as well, but it will take a while to flush that out of the transport system. I'm talking about the unnatural gas that is piped into most of our homes by various utility companies. That gas is comprised mostly of methane, and as I've said before in this column, methane is many times worse than carbon dioxide. Last year an Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report identified that methane leaks were a serious contributor to climate change, and that dealing with those leaks was relatively easy and not very costly. Many of us use gas for cooking as well as heating and at every stage of getting that gas into our homes, there is potential for leaks whether we get it from a North Sea rig, a Russian pipeline, or even from an American liquified gas tanker. I used to work for an electricity company and the standing joke was that the gas companies didn't pump gas through pipes, but rather through holes in the clay because the lead pipes that were installed way back in Victorian times had long since rotted away. Fortunately, with the advent of plastic piping and a considerable amount of road digging, that situation has been mostly resolved.

It would be nice to be able to get rid of gas in our homes altogether, not only from the climate change perspective, but from a safety and clean air point of view. Burning methane gas produces particulates as well as CO₂, and it has been known to cause fires and explosions, though that is thankfully rare. Getting rid of gas for cooking is fairly easy - a modern induction hob is quicker, safer, and a lot more efficient than a gas hob. As those keen cooks amongst you will know, controllability is a key consideration when cooking. Applying heat quickly, removing heat quickly, and producing that gentle simmer are all vital. Radiant electric hobs couldn't do that, but induction hobs can, and that is why they are now fitted for preference in many professional kitchens. There is a downside to induction hobs, and that is that each kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity costs more than each kWh of gas and the extra efficiency doesn't quite cover the difference.

Getting rid of gas for heating is more problematic. Heat pumps are one possible answer.

You have probably got a heat pump in your house already. The mechanism inside your fridge or freezer is a heat pump - it pumps heat from the inside of the fridge to the outside - i.e., into your kitchen. Heat pumps to heat the entire house need to be a lot more powerful than that. Heat pumps are very efficient, in fact they are more than 100% efficient. I think I just heard a sharp intake of breath from the engineers and physicists out there, so let me explain. When talking about the efficiency of heat pumps, we are comparing the energy input to the energy output. If say we put 100 watts in to the electric motor, then we would expect to get 90 watts of work or energy output and it would be 90% efficient. But for a heat pump that motor is also moving heat from the air or soil outside into your home and that heat is added as well and it gives an 'apparent' efficiency of maybe 300 or 400%. But before you rush out and buy a heat pump, there is one major snag - they only produce relatively low-grade heat so if you simply replace your gas boiler with a heat pump you would end up with lukewarm radiators. Heat pumps work well with systems designed for heat pumps - underfloor heating such as that in the Village Hall are ideal. So we may not be able to get rid of our gas systems any time soon, but there is lots of research and development being applied to the problem and who knows what a few more years may bring.

Alan Kenworthy

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GRASS SNAKE

“Go wild in the country, where snakes in the grass are absolutely free.” I can still remember Annabella Lwin, of new-wave pop group Bow Wow Wow, singing those words on Top of the Pops back in 1982: a clarion call for early eighties urbanites to get out into the wild.

Annabella was ecologically correct. There are indeed free snakes out there, a fact that still thrills me each time I encounter one slithering through Sussex. As a child I thought snakes were exotic creatures, which hung off African jungle branches in Johnny Weissmuller Tarzan movies to convey a vague sense of something sinister. But there's nothing sinister about the Grass Snake; the commonest of Britain's three native snake species. Mesmerising eyes, gorgeous sleek scales of



olive-green and a series of stripes along their flanks. For a cold-blooded reptile they sure look hot. A key identification feature is that yellow collar encircling the back of their head. Grass Snakes have been rather short-changed when it comes to their name; they're much better at swimming than they are at sitting in the grass (a bit like Johnny Weissmuller, who performed better in the water than he did on dry land). You'll find Grass Snakes gliding through wet ditches and dykes or even in your garden pond as they hunt for their favourite food: frogs and toads.

These amphibious feasts really pile on the pounds, so when their snakeskin suits become too tight they slip out of them to reveal a larger, shiny set of scales underneath. They undertake several costume changes each year and can grow to an impressive size - two or three feet is typical but there are rumours of six-foot long monsters out there. Of course they're nothing to be scared of. If threatened they either pretend to be dead, hiss a lot or, according to my reptile book, “release a pungent, foul-smelling substance from their anal gland.”

In July the female Grass Snakes excavate a chamber in a mound of decaying vegetation - a compost heap is perfect. Inside, she lays 5-20 leathery eggs and the heap's heat and humidity cooks them to perfection. Set your egg timer for ten weeks and you'll return to find pencil-sized baby snakes emerging into the world.

I guess not everyone followed Bow Wow Wow's advice back in 1982 because when leading my wildlife walks I'm always amazed at how many adults have never seen a snake in Britain. But it's never too late to go wild in the country.

Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

The picture above of the Grass Snake is copyright David Kilbey of the Sussex Wildlife Trust.



st michael's hospice
Masquerade Ball

Friday 25th November

From 6.30pm

Montgomerie Suite, Bannatyne Hotel,
Hastings

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www.stmichaelshospice.com/charityball

For more information call **01424 456396** or
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PETT ON THE KNIT

Grateful thanks to the family of the late Eve Darnell, who lived in Pannell Lane. They arrived on my doorstep with two bin bags full of beautifully knitted items to be sent to Knit for Peace. Scarves, jumpers of all sizes, cushions, all knitted using intricate patterns and of the highest quality. They will be winging their way to Knit for Peace shortly.

Knit for Peace accepts anything knitted with love: baby clothes, knitted toys, hats, scarves, gloves, socks, together with the blankets which are then distributed to those in need in deserving countries at home and abroad. The rising cost of living in the UK, including fuel prices, will add to the stress of lower income families. I like to think that Eve's scarves and jumpers will be put to good use to keep the recipients warm.

The latest box of goodies cost over £15 to be couriered to London. If you don't knit, but would like to help in another way, a donation for postage is always welcome.

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 need any wool, let me know. I'm not in need of any donations of wool at the moment but if you have any squares or items to donate please bring them 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 or heathergodwin19@gmail.com

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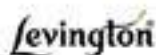
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AUGUST2022
RYE(HARBOUR)

Date		HEIGHTS ABOVE ORDNANCE DATUM (NEWLYN)			
		High Water			
		Morning		Afternoon	
		Time	m	Time	m
1	M	00 55	3.0	13 12	3.4
2	TU	01 22	3.1	13 41	3.4
3	W	01 53	3.1	14 15	3.4
4	TH	02 29	3.0	14 55	3.3
5	F □	03 12	2.9	15 43	3.0
6	SA	04 07	2.5	16 42	2.6
7	SU	05 22	2.3	18 03	2.5
8	M	07 02	2.3	19 35	2.5
9	TU	08 21	2.5	20 51	2.9
10	W	09 26	3.0	21 56	3.3
11	TH	10 23	3.4	22 54	3.5
12	F ○	11 13	3.8	23 45	3.8
13	SA	11 59	4.0		
14	SU	00 28	3.8	12 40	4.0
15	M	01 07	3.8	13 19	4.0
16	TU	01 44	3.5	13 59	3.9
17	W	02 23	3.4	14 38	3.6
18	TH	03 03	3.0	15 19	3.3
19	F □	03 48	2.5	16 05	2.8
20	SA	04 41	2.2	17 01	2.3
21	SU	05 47	1.9	18 12	2.0
22	M	07 07	1.9	19 39	2.0
23	TU	08 25	2.2	21 00	2.3
24	W	09 25	2.5	21 53	2.5
25	TH	10 08	3.0	22 29	2.9
26	F ●	10 43	3.3	22 59	3.1
27	SA ●	11 16	3.5	23 30	3.3
28	SU	11 47	3.5		
29	M	00 00	3.4	12 16	3.6
30	TU	00 28	3.5	12 44	3.6
31	W	00 55	3.5	13 14	3.8

Time Zone UT(GMT)

 ADD 1 HOUR BETWEEN 27TH MARCH & 30TH OCTOBER TO ADJUST TO BST

 Customer service line
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0845 988 1188

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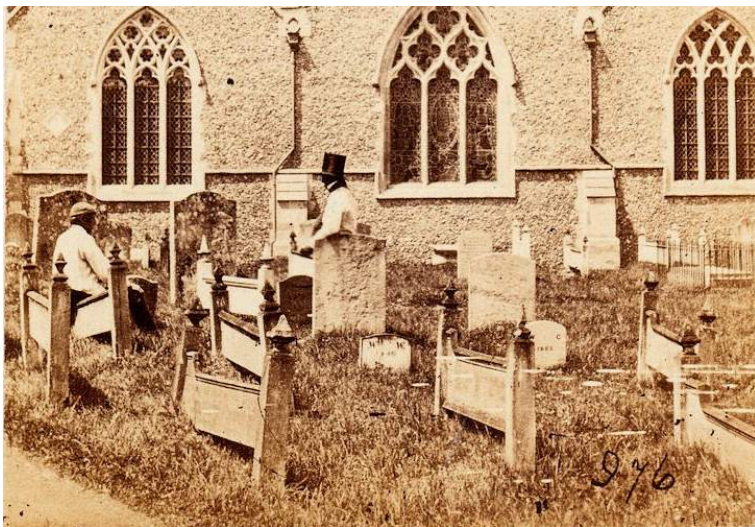
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LEAPING BOARD IN PETT CHURCH PORCH by Fran Rogers

What is a “Leaping Board”?



This photograph, dated early to mid 1860s, depicts the eastern end of St Andrew's Parish Church in Sonning, Berkshire. It records the bed-head shaped grave markers know as 'leaping-boards' (or dead boards), which were common in English churchyards from the 14th or 15th centuries onwards. Although mostly made of wood, some were also fabricated from cast-iron, many of which were sacrificed to recycling for the war effort in 1939. Sadly, being of predominantly wooden

construction, means that very few original examples are extant; Aside from their predisposition to rot and fall apart, we am not certain as to why leaping-boards fell out of favour.

The Leaping Board located in Pett church cemetery, now hanging in St Mary and St Peter Church porch, was salvaged in 2021 before it rotted away. It was situated in the southwest corner and is dedicated to Marsden Whelpton 1893-1929 and his parents, Henry Whelpton, 1860-1935 and Edith Beatrice 1874-1952.



The Whelpton Family have a vault in Ocklynge cemetery, Eastbourne. Marsden died before his parents, Henry and Edith, so did they install the Leaping Board and decide to be buried with him?



Leaping Board being cleaned by Peter Felton





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Email: rachael@cinqueportscounselling.co.uk

Website: <https://cinqueportscounselling>

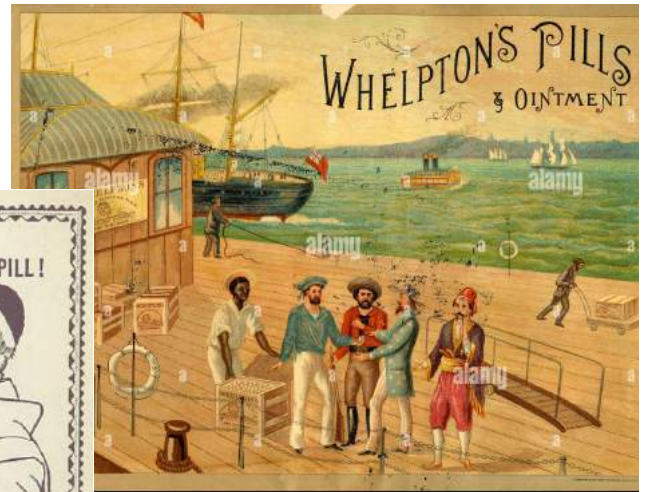
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Whelpton Family History (research by Christine Bennett)



G. Whelpton. age 70.

George Whelpton (1797-1873), a Wesleyan Methodist preacher and shoemaker was said to have found a recipe, written by a Boston doctor, for Whelpton Vegetable Pills (a powerful stomachic, for kidney diseases, &c.) in a drawer of a piece of furniture purchased at auction. Regulations in the 20th Century revealed that Whelpton's Pills to be at worst totally harmless and at best a mild laxative. A 'Healing Ointment' and milder 'stomach pills' were added to the range perhaps devised by Dr Edward Smith Whelpton nephew of the first vicar of Saint Saviour's. Proprietary medicines like the pills with potentially dangerous formulations were widely available in the 19th and 20th centuries particularly until the advent of the National Health Service in 1948.



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Keep your eyes on the pill, draw the picture gently towards you in a line with your face until the pill disappears in the monk's mouth.

George also had income from bank and railway shares, which would have been seriously affected by the 'Overend Gurney' banking crisis of May 1866 during the building of Saint Saviour's in Eastbourne. Such a banking crisis was not seen again until 2007!



The Duke of Devonshire who owned the town of Eastbourne, allocated land for the building of a new church which was completed in 1867. Two local benefactors, Harriot Manby and George Whelpton provided the money to build the new church, on the stipulation that Whelpton's son Henry should become its first vicar.



Rev'd Henry Robert Whelpton, left, Marsden's grandfather, (1833-1902) helped secure money from his father to fund the building of St Saviour's, Eastbourne, where he was vicar from 1867-1897.

Rev'd Henry Urling Whelpton, right Marsden's father, (1860-1935) was vicar of All Souls Church, Clive Vale, Hastings from 1889-1895. He married Edith in 1892. In 1890 he resided at Geneva Terrace, Edmund Road, Hastings. He was a founding member of Clive Vale Bicycle Club

serving as President in its third year in 1895. He later became Canon of St Saviour's Church in Eastbourne between 1897-1927. He married Edith Beatrice Kinnear in 1892.



Rev'd Marsden Ratcliffe Whelpton (1893-1929) born in Hastings, died at *Rosemary Cottage**, Fairlight aged 36. We have been unable to find out which parish he administered to in his short life.

*Can you shed any light on where this was?

A descendant is writer Eric Whelpton who, along with his wife Barbara Crocker, lived in Rye for many years. Eric wrote numerous travel/food books illustrated by Barbara. Eric was also very friendly with Dorothy L Sayers and it is said that he is the inspiration for her detective Lord Peter Wimsey.



COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES & CONTACTS

Recreation ground and play area (except the bowling green, sports pavilions, tennis courts and cricket pitch which are leased to the Pett Sports Association)	PPC
Defibrillator and phone kiosk opposite the Royal Oak	PPC
War memorial at Pett Church	PPC
Several roadside benches, noticeboards and village signs	PPC
Website (PettNet); Pett & Pett Level News Magazine	PPC
Roads (inc Road Markings, Road Signs, Drains, Potholes, fallen trees)	ESCC
Verges & Footpaths	ESCC
Planning (applications, decisions, appeals, etc)	RDC
Refuse & Recycling	RDC
Fly-Tipping & Pollution	RDC
Dog & Pest Control	RDC
Beach Bye-Laws	RDC
Sea Wall at Pett Level	EA

PETT PARISH COUNCIL (PPC)

In addition to the above responsibilities PPC can also provide a parish wide view on planning applications. PPC 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.



COUNCILLORS

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

ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL (RDC)

01424 787000; www.rother.gov.uk/residents

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



EAST SUSSEX COUNCIL (ESCC)

www.eastsussexhighways.com/report-a-problem

0345 6080190; www.eastsussex.gov.uk

Councillor Keith Glazier 07957 377844
cllr.keith.glazier@eastsussex.gov.uk



THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA)

03708 506 506



VILLAGE CONTACTS

<i>Allotments</i>	Libby Rothwell	07714 340674	libby.rothwell891@gmail.com
<i>ARC</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	812244	johncase@me.com
- Friends	Gill Plank	812154	gillplank@yahoo.com
- St Nicholas	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
<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>Tai Chi</i>	Ann Simpson	01797 270858	
<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	812297	familyhatch1@gmail.com
<i>Sports Pavilion</i>	Stuart Ware	815197	sjw@meadowshed.co.uk
<i>Village Hall</i>	Clare Walker	07718 518053	clare.pettvillagehall@gmail.com
<i>New Beach Club</i>		812080	info@thenewbeachclub.co.uk

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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

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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



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Rye Food Bank Appeal

helping provide emergency support for local people in crisis

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HAVE YOU ANY SURPLUS FRUIT OR VEGETABLES?

If your garden or allotment is producing more fruit or vegetables than you can use, the Pett WICAID Team would be delighted to receive any donations for the foodbank.

To make appropriate arrangements to pass on any fresh produce to us, please contact Wendy Burgess on 07729 396182 or email wendyburgess@hotmail.com

Many thanks for your support!

Hilary Dymott
Pett WICAID Co-ordinator
hldymott@gmail.com