

# Pett and Pett Level News



**November 2022**

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EMAIL US AT [magazine@pettnet.org.uk](mailto:magazine@pettnet.org.uk)

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

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# Editorial

Thank you all for such a positive response to the October issue of the Pett and Pett Level News - it's great to hear that you all enjoyed the content - both old and new! Tim Jury's article on Regenerative Farming proved particularly popular - so much so that Sarah from the Old Butcher's Shop added it to her Facebook page for a wider readership - thanks, Sarah! You'll be pleased to know that Tim is back this month, explaining in more detail how he is looking back through history to re-evaluate his farming methods and improve the land.

We have introduced another new feature series this month, our Spotlight on Local Business. In this issue, we have been chatting to Helen Farnes of Cottage Garden Florals. She set up her floristry business in 2019 and it's a lovely story of how Helen was influenced by her Dad, Arthur, and his love of gardening. If you run a local business and you'd like to be featured, please do get in touch - the people of Pett and Pett Level are a very talented bunch and we'd like to get to know you!

Finally, we must mention our stunning front cover, kindly provided by Pett resident, Sarah Rook. Sarah is a highly talented, professional wedding photographer. You can see more of her work at [sarahrookphotography.co.uk](http://sarahrookphotography.co.uk) - do have a look if you have a special occasion coming up, her portfolio is beautiful. If you drive - or indeed walk - up and down Friars Hill, you may well recognise the image - of course it's the stunning red-leaved tree situated just up the road from the Chapel Lane turning - we're guessing it's a Maple but no doubt all the keen gardeners will correct us if not! Regardless, it's a true sign that autumn is upon us, in all its glory!

*Donna and Louisa*

## Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors

The local group organising the very successful Macmillan Coffee Morning this year were saddened to learn that, with immediate effect, *pro bono* use of the Village Hall for village charity events was to cease.

The abiding memory of this year's Coffee Morning, although raising almost £2,000 for a charity that supports people living with cancer (and almost everyone will know someone in that situation), was the community spirit and camaraderie which generated from the morning. Like the Flower Show, which donates its 'profits' to local good causes, this is a splendid social event where villagers can meet with one another, catch up on news and raise money for a good cause at the same time. A local event for local people.

It is appreciated that the Village Hall is a charity in itself, and has ongoing running costs, but the original premise of the building was, surely, to provide an affordable venue for community events for local people in a democratic way. It is also appreciated that preferential rates are given for 'regular' hirers, (that means on a weekly or monthly basis), but the preferential rates for local people living within Pett vanished some time ago, and villagers are being penalised again.

It is understood that advance bookings for next year are as healthy as ever and, at the last AGM in May 2022, the Treasurer's Report stated that assets stood at over £40k. An extract from the Minutes of that AGM states:

*TR (the Chair) noted that the hall is sometimes asked to waive fees by charitable organisations. However, Pett Village Hall also has a charitable status and needs to maximise its income. Nevertheless, there are many very deserving requests for fee waivers and whilst we need to be able to charge in most cases, we would like to be able to adjust fees in some cases, at the discretion of the Bookings Manager and the Committee.*

The Macmillan Coffee Morning group will now have to consider where to hold next year's event. We have calculated that hiring Pett Village Hall next September will cost at least £150.00, money which could be put to good use by the Macmillan Cancer Support charity. Fairlight Village Hall would cost a maximum of £63.00. So, to afford to pay for the Village Hall, a separate private fund-raising event will now need to be organised by the planning group. Other local groups may not be aware that they, too, will have to consider the situation when planning their fundraising events.

Not only has the Pett Village Hall Committee made this arbitrary decision but it is also noted that, after twenty years or more, their Committee Meetings are no longer open to the public. This means the local community has no opportunity to communicate face to face with the Village Hall Committee to express their views in a democratic way.

We urge the Pett Village Hall Committee to reconsider their decision.

Pam Burgess, Wendy Burgess, Sara Dann, Heather Godwin, Nita Grant,  
Betty Harknett, Jackie Richards, Christine Taylor

*Tim Rothwell, Chair of The Village Hall Committee, has submitted an update detailing the rationale for the Committee's new fees policy. You can find this on page 24.*

Dear Editors

### **A Welcome Return**

The other day I saw something I hadn't seen in Pett Level for many years - a hedgehog, albeit a very small one. It was attempting to cross the Pett Level road in the direction of Cliff End so I and another driver stopped to ensure it got across safely. A neighbour then kindly took it into their garden where they had some shelter and could feed it.

However where there is one small hedgehog there must be others so can I make a plea for people, particularly in the Cliff End area, to keep a look out for them. They are getting ready to hibernate at this time of year and often choose compost heaps, piles of old logs or other garden piles like bonfires, so if you are about to move anything like this (or set it alight) please check for hibernating hedgehogs, and if they are there leave them be. They will reward you for any inconvenience come the spring by eating your garden pests.

Judith Dean

*Thanks for this timely reminder, Judith, particularly with bonfire season approaching!*

## Meet the Seaside Stitchers

Do you love to sew, knit, crochet, embroider or enjoy any other form of textile craft, but find it a bit solitary? Would you like to meet like-minded people who share your enthusiasm for craft? If so, you'll find a warm welcome at the Seaside Stitchers!

We're a small, friendly, informal group which meets fortnightly on a Wednesday at Pett Methodist Church Hall, from 1-4 pm. You don't need any experience to join us, just plenty of enthusiasm, an open mind and a willingness to share ideas and skills.

For more [information](#) please contact Donna at [donnagilbert1@sky.com](mailto:donnagilbert1@sky.com) or Tel: 01424 812185. We'd love to have you on board, so please get in touch!



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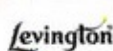
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# Pett Parish Council Update

The council met in October as it was unable to meet in September during the period of mourning following the death of the Queen. There were a number of quite lively discussions. The first, in public time following the reports from the district councillors, was about the closure of the swimming bath in Rye because Rother District Council would not increase the grant for the pool. The cost of this was compared with the cost so far of the redevelopment of the Town Hall in Bexhill. It appears that there may be grants that can save the swimming pool and I understand that our MP is pursuing this with the appropriate government department.

Strangely, the Town Hall redevelopment plan has run into problems with the district's own planning committee and it is clear that no final decision on this will be made for some time. And, on the subject of planning, I am still awaiting a response explaining why the replacement of caravans by chalets at the Kentucky site at Pett Level did not require planning permission. This development looks even more controversial now that planning permission has been requested to extend the period of occupancy to 50 weeks in the year; this looks remarkably like using the chalets (or should we still call them caravans?) as a permanent residence. The council decided to object to this application.

The council had been considering planting a tree, probably on the piece of land known as 'Hyde Park', to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. However, a decision has now been made that, subject to the agreement of Highways, planting will be delayed until next year and the tree will commemorate both the Jubilee and the Coronation of the new King. If you wish to suggest other ways in which the village might celebrate the Coronation, please let the clerk know, again by 4 November. I am old enough to remember the Queen's Coronation in 1953, when most houses were decorated with flags, bunting and other decorations in celebration. Should we be asking parishioners to do the same in 2023?

At the November meeting of the council, we shall be considering the budget for 2023/24. If you have a scheme or an activity that you feel that the council should consider supporting, then please send an email to the clerk before Friday 4 November. Similarly if there is a project that you feel the council should undertake, then please send details to the clerk by the same date.

Last month, I mentioned hedges and I am going to repeat myself. If you have a hedge that borders the road, please cut it back. If you don't, you will probably get a letter from the parish clerk asking you to do so. If you still don't do so, the hedge will be referred to East Sussex Highways, who, in the last resort, will come and cut the hedge and send you a bill! This is not for aesthetic reasons, but so that safe sight lines can be maintained on the roads and, of course, that the roads retain their intended width.

Our attention has been drawn to the Rother Rural Trust. When considering the budget for next year, the council will decide whether to make a donation to the Trust. However, can I remind you that the Trust was set up to help people in need and grants can cover all sorts of need? If you know of someone who you feel is in a situation where a grant would help, please let Stephen Hardy, the secretary of the Trust, know. His email is [stephenhardy1948@gmail.com](mailto:stephenhardy1948@gmail.com) and his phone number 01580 881309. Such grants, unfortunately, may be even more necessary as the economic situation deteriorates.

Finally, I have to report the death of Tony Meek, who recently celebrated his 90th birthday in the Royal Oak. For many years Tony engraved the Flower Show cups. Our sympathy goes to his family.

*David Penfold, Chair, Pett Parish Council*

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# Pett Methodist Church

Hello Everyone! We at Pett Chapel are a happy bunch but sadly recently we have had lots of poorly folk, which is hard for all of us! Dear **Beryl** hasn't been able to be with us for some months but she did manage to celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in style with tea at The Ritz. She had such a great time thanks to her daughter Dawn and said it was just 'Fabulous!' Hopefully she will be well enough to return to church soon. Our Pie & Chat lunches have been great. We have had two of them and then the last one was a Cake & Chat. The **Autumn Pie & Chat** is planned for Tuesday November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 12 noon until 2pm. £3 for a 2 course meal. All welcome but please let us know so that we can get the catering right!

We have just celebrated our Harvest Festival with Eileen Balch, wife of a former Fairlight & Pett Rector, who has sadly passed away, but Eileen keeps in touch with us and led our service so well. It was a great morning. Our foodbank box was overflowing and collected by Pett W.I. **Coming Up!**

On Friday November 18<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, we will be holding our long awaited **Jigsaw Puzzle Fun Evening**. Nibbles, teas & soft drinks provided. Plus a raffle! Donations for Church funds.

## Our plans for Christmas include :

- our annual **Carols in the Barn, Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 6.30pm at Pickham Farm**. Don't forget to wrap up warm! Mulled wine & mince pies will be laid on as always! It is in aid of Farm Africa.
- **Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup>, 3pm** will be our **Christmas Celebration Service**. With Village Voices taking part and of course the obligatory mince pies!
- **Sunday December 25<sup>th</sup>, 10.30am**. A short Service for Christmas Day!

Wendy Hatch

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# Spotlight on Local Business

## Cottage Garden Florals

Many of us dream of turning a creative hobby into a business but, regrettably, few of us achieve it. Not so for Helen Farnes though, whose love of floristry led to her setting up Cottage Garden Florals in 2019.

Helen is quick to acknowledge the role her Dad, Arthur has played in encouraging her love of flowers and horticulture. Arthur Farnes is well-known locally for his prize-winning blooms at Pett Flower Show, and as a former member of Hastings & St Leonards Chrysanthemum Society. From a young age Helen

spent many hours helping her Dad in the garden and later, accompanying him to various flower shows to assist with the floral arrangements. Keen to learn, she also helped out voluntarily at a friend's flower shop where she would tidy up and, on busy days, help to condition the flowers ready for arranging, learning a lot of the basic techniques. She also attended flower arranging classes at Pett Methodist Church which, Helen fondly remembers, were run by Mrs Lawson-Tate who nurtured her emerging flair for flower arranging, suggesting that she should put it to good use!



Over the years, Helen has continued to develop her skills, preparing arrangements for family and friends. To her surprise, orders started coming in from further afield. It wasn't until a period of unemployment at the start of lockdown however, that Helen finally plucked up the courage to do what she'd always dreamed of doing, risking her savings to set up her flower arranging business on a more professional footing.

Lockdown gave Helen the time to experiment with growing cottage garden flowers on Arthur's allotment in Pett and from home. For cut flowers she recommends cosmos, sweet peas, roses, cornflowers, ammi and lavender amongst many others, and is currently growing sweet William and ranunculus ready for spring cutting. Helen loves to mix all these cottage blooms with herbs for fragrance, hence the name Cottage Garden Flowers.

Initially she used her savings to improve the soil, digging in manure and compost to work as organically as possible, and buying seeds, bulbs, pots and tools. As she says, growing your own flowers for a commercial operation is very labour intensive. During the summer months she can be out in the garden or on the allotment until dark improving the soil, weeding, planting, maintaining, watering and feeding. And of course, it's also weather dependent; Helen points out that this summer has been less



productive, with the heat and lack of rain taking its toll and many flowers going over too quickly or failing to grow.

Mindful of this, Helen supplements her cottage garden flowers with wholesale blooms which are ideal for more formal arrangements. She is also branching out into faux flowers which can be mixed in successfully with natural blooms. This type of arrangement is proving increasingly popular and she is definitely seeing growth within the faux flower market. This is partly due to customers wanting an everlasting display but undeniably the flower trade has been hit hard by rising costs and supply issues due to Brexit, Covid and, more recently, the increase in energy prices.

Despite this being a difficult time for florists, Helen is determined to grow Cottage Garden Florals from strength to strength and she is very excited about plans for the future. Since lockdown, business has continued to pick up and Helen has a band of loyal and returning customers, whom she is very grateful to. In addition to the fresh floral arrangements she also offers a new range of 'Forever Fresh' faux seasonal wreaths and basket arrangements, alongside her existing homeware and gifts, including vases, planters, seasonal gifts and a range of cards featuring Helen's own photographs of her floral arrangements.

For Helen, flowers have always been a passion and this is something she would like to do for the rest of her life. Let's keep our fingers crossed that she does.

For more information contact Helen on:

Facebook @cottagegardenfloraldesigns

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by Donna Gilbert

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# MY GARDEN BLOG

Autumn has arrived with wonderful colours on the trees, sunny days and chilly nights. The very welcome rain has reinvigorated some plants and made the grass grow at an astonishing rate. It is hard to believe how well the grass does recover and the brown, dead lawns we all had a few weeks ago have been transformed into swathes of brilliant green.

I have Hebes that were on the brink of giving up but are now a riot of bloom and attracting many bees and even some butterflies. Apples have ripened incredibly well and the amount of both eating and cooking apples in my garden (and many other gardens) is remarkable. How the trees managed throughout our dry hot summer is little short of a miracle.

Generally speaking, there are fewer birds in the garden this year but the goldfinches are making a comeback and wrens are doing well. I had to rescue one wren that found its way indoors, much to the delight of Samson (one eyed cat), but it did fly away unharmed. They are feisty little birds and will 'tick-tick-tick' away whenever a cat gets near. Chaffinches have not been seen for a while nor greenfinches, but the little coal and marsh/willow tits are around. I can't tell the difference between the marsh and willow tits but tend to assume they are willow as I have plenty of willow but no marsh! There is a small group of 4-6 longtail tits that come through regularly and a colony of sparrows has set up in one of the hedges - this is great because we have not had them for some years. The robin has been keeping me company as I dig over the vegetable patch, it is very satisfying to get a fork into the ground after the drought.



There is so much tidying up to do because of the difficulty digging hard ground throughout the summer and the fact that shrubs have finished. However, brambles, nettles and other weeds seem to have no need for water and are rampaging all over the place and need much attention.

Trees need pruning, the remains of courgette (very untidy things) bean, tomato and cucumber plants and general weeds need digging up and the soil needs some attention in the form of compost and manure. I do have easy access to well matured horse manure across the road! The fruit cage will need a week's work to sort out the badger damage, including the mess it made of the netting which needs reinforcing. The raspberry canes need pruning and tidying up and the strawberry plants are currently under a load of weeds. The pond also needs an end of year clearance which is tricky because of the netting fixed firmly to protect the fish. A heron has been sitting on top of the net recently looking wistfully at the many fish below it!

The squirrels, having removed all the cob nuts, have moved on to the acorns which seem very plentiful this year. The badgers and foxes continue to come up for their evening snack (back to dog biscuits when there are no chicken carcasses). The badger has overdosed on apples and can't manage any more of the numerous fruits on the ground. I am disappointed as I am having to clear them in order for the grass to be cut!

Hey ho, I will soldier on and see what excitement next year brings. I am signing off for the winter now, see you next spring!

By Gill Plank



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# CHURCH SERVICES - NOVEMBER 2022

<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November</b>		
Winchelsea	8.00	Holy Communion (BCP), St Thomas' Church Led by the Rev Jonathan Meyer
Pett	9.30	Parish Communion, St Mary & St Peter Church Led by the Rev Jonathan Meyer
Winchelsea	11.00	Parish Communion, St Thomas' Church Led by the Rev Jonathan Meyer
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November</b>		
Pett Level	8.30	Book of Common Prayer Communion St Nicholas Church
Pett	10.30	Service of Remembrance at St Mary & St Peter Church Led by Rev Kay Burnett
Icklesham	10.30	Service of Remembrance at St Nicholas Church Led by Rev Jonathan Meyer
Winchelsea	11.00	Service of Remembrance at St Thomas Church Led by Rev David Page
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November</b>		
Pett	9.30	Parish Communion, St Mary & St Peter Church Led by Rev Jonathan Meyer
Winchelsea	11.00	Parish Communion, St Thomas' Church Led by Rev Jonathan Meyer
<b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November</b>		
Icklesham	9.30	Parish Communion, St Nicholas Church Led by Rev Jonathan Meyer
Winchelsea	11.00	Parish Communion, St Thomas' Church Led by Rev Jonathan Meyer

## Remembrance Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2022

You probably know that the British Legion celebrate Remembrance at a different church each year and this year it is Pett's turn. So do think of coming to the service which will start at 10.30am on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November. It will be led by Revd. Kay Burnett. Part of the service will be around the War Memorial and the names of the men of this village who died for us all will be read out and we will, of course, join in the two minute silence. I know that you don't have to attend a church service in order to remember the war dead, but many people conclude that, in all the stresses of our modern life, it is difficult to find sufficient quiet time for memories. And remembering in the company of others may seem to have extra meaning and also a bit of hope.

I used to sell Remembrance poppies door to door in the run up to Remembrance Day and at one house a little boy of 4 or 5 was playing outside. He asked me what the poppies were. I told him briefly about the World Wars and how many had been killed in battles and how poppies had grown on the battlefields. I said to him: "they died for you and me." He was very excited by this and he rushed indoors and shouted to his Mum, repeating this statement of mine. Nowadays, talking about death at all to little children is probably frowned upon. Nonetheless, I hope that we can continue to pass on all the memories from generation to generation.

*By Angela Hawksley, Pett Parochial Church Council*

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# News from Pett Level Preservation Trust

Autumn has arrived and with it a chance to cut some of the vegetation on the PLPT land before it gets too soggy and difficult to manage. In September, a contractor was employed to cut a large area of the meadowlands on the south side of the Royal Military Canal. Some of the cuttings were left in situ whilst others were collected up and moved to the edge of the cut area. The latter is to try and lower the nutrient status of the land to encourage a greater variety of flowering plants and ultimately insects, bats and birds etc. Even more important is that cutting the vegetation helps manage the blackthorn which we know, if left to its own devices, would soon invade the open spaces to the detriment of other plants.

Overall our plan is to conserve a mosaic of habitats, including areas of blackthorn and other scrub, especially along the roadside, grazed and cut areas, and zones of longer grass and more herbaceous vegetation. This is to ensure we are providing a home for a wide variety of wildlife.

Our first Autumn volunteer work party was held at the end of September. Vegetation around the pill box, near the entrance to Toot Rock was cut back to allow access to the pill box by bats and, in addition, some control of sycamore along the Military Road was also undertaken. Another work party will take place on the 16 October which will focus on cutting back vegetation around the pond. Work parties take place once a month through the autumn and winter and it's great to have local people as volunteers.

Finally, some exciting news - the Trust is having a small Christmas Fair on December 3rd at 2pm. This will be on Tamarisk Field adjacent to the entrance to Toot Rock, near the information board. Join us to buy PLPT Christmas cards, mulled wine and mince pies; enter into the Christmas raffle and chat to trustees about any questions you may have regarding PLPT land management. Please do come along and support the Trust and help raise vital funds.

By John Newton, PLPT Chair



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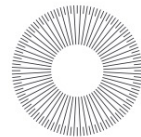
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# PETT LEVEL INDEPENDENT RESCUE BOAT NEWS

Hello from all of us at Pett Level Independent Rescue Boat! We are well and truly into Autumn, the air is crisp and our wonderful coastline feels more rugged.

We recently became one of the first independent lifeboats to join the National Independent Lifeboat Association (NILA - [nila.org.uk](http://nila.org.uk)). NILA has been established to ensure the preservation and protection of life on the water by supporting independent lifeboats and associated organisations throughout the UK. NILA will provide access to training, group purchasing, public education and fundraising support, as well as raise awareness both locally and publicly. We are very proud to join the organisation.

In October, we joined Littlestone RNLI for an Emergency Services Day. The sun shone down on a wonderful day which saw multiple police units, fire, ambulance, first responders, 4x4 response team, UK coastguard, traffic unit and nuclear police all come together to demonstrate collaboration and unity. With a fly past from Coastguard 163 and a sea display welcoming Dungeness and Rye RNLI teams, it really was a significant coming together of local emergency services and we were thrilled to be a part of it.

We were delighted that the café reopened at Pett Level! The gorgeous Ita Wise launched Eater's @ Pett in October, with the new location right opposite the boathouse. With gorgeous views of the beach, It has a wonderful menu of ethical hot and cold drinks, delicious paninis and delectable cakes and sweet treats.

In September we became the proud owners of new drysuits and life jackets - for which all the crew are enormously grateful. Thank you to Hastings Winkle Club whose incredible donation funded nine new life jackets, and to Adam and Sue Flower for their wonderfully generous donation which contributed to our new drysuits. Thank you also to Northern Diver for their advice and guidance on selecting the most appropriate kit.



Another thank you to the charity Sussex for Sussex, inside Sussex Freemasonry, and the Wellington Lodge (#341) whose generous donation will help fund the crew through a specialist two-day first aid course which is vital to ensure all volunteers, whether boat or beach crew, are fully prepared.

In December we are planning to host a carol concert at the boathouse. The date is yet to be confirmed so keep an eye out on Facebook and other notices. If any local singing groups would like to be involved in a fun pre-Christmas event, do let us know - you can email [plirbrescue@gmail.com](mailto:plirbrescue@gmail.com)

As temperatures drop and the days shorten, always remember that safety awareness remains an important part of our work. Please continue to be vigilant about weather warnings, seasonal tides and currents and stay mindful of the dangers at both the top and bottom of local cliffs.

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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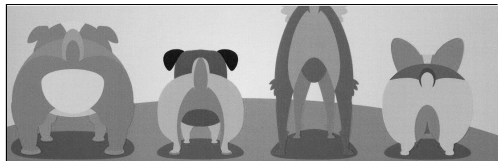
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# Pett WI News

After the summer “recess” we were back to business in September when we had a really interesting talk from author Emma Batten about her journey to become an author, and an insight into her novels which are set in Dungeness and surrounds. Apparently most of us have “a book in us” and Emma really encouraged members to let it out!



**Pett WICAID (Pett WI Community Action)** We were thrilled to learn that the MacDonald Ward Courtyard Makeover Appeal have passed their initial £28,000 target. We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our own fundraising to help MacDonald Ward with this terrific total. Thanks also to the generosity of both members and our community, in addition to fresh fruit and vegetables we’ve also delivered around 580 items to Rye Food Bank throughout July-September - as well as transferring £343 in financial donations. WICAID have also assisted Dom’s Food Mission with fresh produce and other items that Rye Food Bank has not been able to accept. With a plentiful supply of sanitary products gathered in too, we were delighted to be in a position to quickly respond to an urgent request from Sarah Larkin of Safehaven Hastings to boost their stocks which had dwindled through the summer months as HTH has also been supporting Ukrainian women in Hastings.

This brings me on to remind you of our Winter Fair at Pett Village Hall on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November - funds for which are ringfenced for our WICAID community projects. Similar to our very popular and successful Spring Fair we will be showcasing a wonderful array of quality stalls including gifts, fashion, jewellery, crafts, delicious WI refreshments and a raffle. Doors open at 10am and finish at 3pm. Free parking and entry. None of this would be possible without the continuing coordination of Hilary Dymott and her team of Wendy Burgess, Sandra Clark, Tracy Hedley, Trish Walker and Sally Watson. Also huge thanks to Sara Dann.

Well done to Pett WI member Heather Godwin for coordinating such a fantastic Macmillan Coffee Morning which was supported so brilliantly by many of our members. An amazing total was raised for Macmillan.

Members enjoyed a glorious autumn day in London at the end of September when they travelled to see ‘Come from Away,’ the Musical at the Phoenix Theatre. For those who haven’t heard of this musical, it chronicles the real-life experiences of the people of Gander, Newfoundland, and the almost 7000 airline passengers who were forced to land there when US air space was closed on September 11, 2001. The event was particularly poignant for member Inga Chapman who was involved with the landing of one of the thousands of aircraft on that particular day and her own experiences were reflected - although with less singing! Members have also had the opportunity to see ‘Wicked’ the Musical - to see friend of Pett WI, Sophie-Louise Dann, perform as Madame Morrible!

The walking group made the most of the last of the summer evening light during September when they took in a beautiful sunset walk around Pett Level, finishing with refreshments in the New Beach Club. Thanks to Jane Sweaney for suggesting this walk and for Tracy Hedley’s help in coordinating.

This will be the last report I personally give as President as I stand down after four years in the role. I would like to thank all committee members and general membership for their support and enthusiasm over the years. The friendships made since joining this increasingly vibrant WI have been one of the high points of my membership. It is my intention to stand for the committee for a further year but without portfolio!

By Belinda Wood

# PETT VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - UPDATE

**Treasurer.** Richard Smith, who has been Treasurer and a Trustee of the Pett Village Hall Management Committee since May 2018, has announced his resignation from both positions with immediate effect. Richard took on both roles at a time of some uncertainty about the continued existence of the village hall, and he leaves with the hall's future and finances in a sound position. The Committee wish to place on record their thanks to Richard for his work over the last four and a half years in helping to secure the hall's future.

Caroline Turner, who is a Chartered Accountant and existing Trustee, has taken over from Richard as Treasurer, at least for the time being.

**Fees policy.** From time to time the Pett Village Hall Management Committee get requests to apply a lower rate, or no rate at all, from charities and other bodies booking the hall, and in the past on occasions some of these have been agreed to.

But the Committee are increasingly concerned that by so doing we are being unfair to others who may have an equally deserving case. After very careful consideration of the issue, the Committee have therefore decided that from now on, and to be consistent, we will only apply the appropriate published rate in being at the time of the booking and requests for a lower, or no, fee will be declined. We think this is a fair and equitable approach.



## Artificial Christmas wreath workshop

£40pp including drinks and nibbles



Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November  
6.30pm – 8.30pm  
At Pett Village Hall

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Like all other organisations, the hall's operating costs are increasing significantly, especially in respect of energy, and as a charity ourselves we have a duty to maximise our income. Apart from the generous contributions made by members of the community to the 500 Club, which is there for emergencies and not day-to-day running costs, our only income is from the booking fees we receive. This was not an easy decision to make, but the Committee hope that the reasons for it are understood.

*Tim Rothwell*  
Chair, Pett Village Hall Management Committee

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# Guestling Bradshaw Church of England Primary School

## 'Learning Together for Life in all its Fullness'

(Based on words of Jesus, John 10, verse 10)



This term we have been thinking about the awesomeness of God's creation.

At our Harvest Festival, we said thank-you and reminded ourselves that God asks us to share the gifts he provides. We also celebrated our school value of creativity by using our talents to write poems and prayers, be artists and even musical composers!

Our families and staff have shown great generosity this year and we filled 4 cars with harvest donations!

The proceeds were shared between 2 charities which Guestling Bradshaw CEP school has been supporting for some years:

**Farm Africa**- a charity which helps farmers improve production and make the most of their land. It help rural communities make a decent living from farming, while protecting the environment for years to come.

**Seaview**- a local charity which supports hundreds of vulnerable people's lives are improved with the support and assistance provided by Seaview Project's staff and volunteers.

Many thanks to all those who were involved in donating and collecting the produce.

Mrs Andrews  
Head Teacher



Here is a beautiful prayer written by Liberty in Year 6:

Dear God,  
As we enter the time of harvest,  
we would like to say thank-you  
for our community; for people  
standing together to help others  
that might not have food of  
shelter.  
We also give thanks to the  
farmers for taking the time to  
harvest our crops.  
We ask that you help us to  
continue to spread your love and  
kindness to everyone, especially  
the people that might be finding  
life hard at the moment.  
Help us to try our best in  
everything and help us to achieve  
our goals.  
Amen

## Guestling Bradshaw CEP School

Open Days for New Reception pupils  
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# Regenerative Agriculture: A Better Future for Farming, Part 2

*Society, like a house, does not start at ground level, but begins quite literally beneath the surface of our planet, within the soil itself. For out of the soil we are fashioned, and by the products of the soil is our earthly existence maintained. If we destroy our soil-- and it is not indestructible-- mankind will vanish from the earth as surely as has the dinosaurs.*

I thought I would open my next contribution with these words, which have stayed with me since I read them just a couple of years ago. They come from what many would refer to as the 'soil bible,' that is, *'The Living Soil'* by Lady Eve Balfour written, incredibly, in 1946.

At Pickham, my motivation to change did not start out because I recognised that the soil needed regenerating, but because I wanted to improve the ecological value of the farm. I was supposed to be retiring from farming and saw conservation projects such as tree planting, wild flower meadow creation etc. as a way of cutting back on the physical side of my work. I could say that COVID was responsible for allowing me a little more time to read and one book that caught my eye was *'Wilding'* by Isabella Tree. I have to say, I wasn't entirely taken with the style it was written in, but the message it had was transformational for me.



I have always been a lover of history and what fascinated me most was the step back the author took, to an age before man began to influence the shape of the landscape. I came across the expression 'natural functions' which I will attempt to explain very simply. If we were to travel back 100,000 years, for example, the whole planet was a harmonious and balanced ecosystem. Most of the land surface of the planet was covered in vegetation of some kind or another, and in northern Europe, amongst many other continents, this

vegetation was predominately grass and other mostly edible plants, interspersed with trees and shrubs. This balance of vegetation was maintained by the animals that roamed it.

What is so fascinating about *Wilding*, is that, in trying to find out what a 'wilded' farm should look like, the author, and others, first studied what animals existed all those years ago. By establishing that the list comprised of many different types of herbivores eg Auroc, Bison, deer, horses plus wild boar (omnivore) and predators such as Lynx and wolves, one is able, through understanding each animal's behaviour, to establish what the landscape would have looked like. There once was a misleading quote by a conservationist that a squirrel could have travelled from John o'Groats to Lands End without touching the ground. Nothing could be further from the truth because, if you understand what roamed our land all those years ago, you would know that the land was mostly wooded pasture.

Now I'm sure by now some of you are asking what this has got to do with Pickham and, believe me, I am getting there!! The other story that runs in parallel takes us back to the 1960s and, what was then Rhodesia, where a chap called Alan Savory was studying the grazing habits of Wildebeest.

He realised that the reason why the great grass rangelands all over Africa were so productive was because the millions of herbivores were, at any one time, concentrated on very small areas

and being constantly moved on by the predators that stalked them. Savory realised that this was how nature had developed the ecosystem to operate most efficiently - a short but very intense grazing period, followed by a long rest (sometimes as long as a year). In this way the soil, and its myriad of diverse life, was being fed by the animal manure and trampled grass that was left after the herbivores had moved on. Savory also came to realise that this pattern of grazing was just the same on the north American prairies and undoubtedly, the grasslands of Europe.

Remember I talked about ‘natural functions?’ Well, regenerative farming is all about mimicking these natural functions and at Pickham, we ‘mob stock’ our cattle to do just that. I said I’d get there in the end! Rather than improve the ecology of the farm without animals, I came to realise the way forward - for both my farm and bio-diversity - was to carry on grazing cattle! I have since been convinced by many others trying to promote a better style of farming, that it is frankly impossible to rewild any of our landscapes without involving animals. A growing number of farmers are now seeing this, not only as a better way of improving their soil and the biodiversity of their farm, but also improving their financial margin as well.



So, how does this translate into, in our case, a system that is practical and sustainable; a system that is not reliant on expensive inputs (fertilizer, sprays and supplementary feed) which have always - but more so now - made current, intensive farming entirely unsustainable?

Firstly I had to get the cattle back on the farm. I was very fortunate to have a neighbour who was planning to sell her herd of Sussex - a perfect breed which, like so many of our other native breeds, had been side-lined to some extent, by continental breeds that were quicker growing but less hardy.

With the cattle on farm, and a field I had left for most of the summer to allow the grass to grow tall, I set about dividing the field into strips about 70 meters wide, erecting what seemed like miles of electric fencing. These fences would be known as ‘hot lines,’ carrying the electric ‘pulse’ from a unit at the gateway. I also had to lay out hundreds of metres of water pipe to supply water via a ‘drag trough’ as the cattle moved along. The aforementioned strips are further divided into small ‘cells’ that represent enough daily grazing for however many cattle I have at a given time. First thing in the morning I will check the cattle and move them on to the next cell. The cattle are quite concentrated in these ‘cells’ and importantly will eat a third, leave a third and trample a third. This means that whilst the cow has had enough feed for the day, it has also left enough to regenerate further growth and - most crucially - left a trampled layer that will, along with the dung, FEED THE SOIL!

Fundamentally, my cattle had become the ‘herbivores’ of many millennia ago and I had become the predator (metaphorically speaking!) moving them on. Pickham, in its own way, had gone back 100,000 years and its soil was on its way to reverting back to the complex, intricate and living ecosystem that has nurtured mankind all the time we have inhabited the earth. In Part 3 I’ll be moving on to how the soil is improving and what it means for me as a farmer and, more importantly, for the real beneficiary - YOU!

*By Tim Jury*

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# Flower Festival 2022

I hope you enjoyed the Flower Festival this year; I certainly did. We discussed at some length the possibility of postponing or cancelling the Festival because it was so close to the Royal Funeral but we decided to go on with it and we held a moving Thanksgiving Service on the Festival Sunday. The proceeds of more than £2000 will be used for Pett church.

I want to thank all involved in the festival including:

**Flowers arrangers:** like everything else flowers have gone up in price and in addition to donating their considerable skill they donated the really lovely flowers.

**Sponsors:** your generosity was very much appreciated and we were able to read the names of those remembered. Reading the names quietly for ourselves is our best tribute to them. The life of the flowers may be transitory but the memories last forever.

**Raffle prize donors:** Very many thanks to the Royal Oak and The Two Sawyers for their very generous vouchers and also to the Old Butchers Shop and to the Beautician Susannah Harvey for their vouchers. And many thanks to those who gave the other prizes.

**Stallholders:** the refreshments provided totally irresistible deliciousness, which I made little effort to resist. The Tombola was also very tempting and so was the produce and the bric-a-brac.

**Revd. Jonathan Meyer:** our Priest-in-charge who supported the Festival and, in spite of being busy in the two other parishes, spent time at the Festival and drew the raffle.

**All the visitors:** we relied on you to come and you did, and spent generously and - more importantly - provided a friendly festive atmosphere.

## Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November at Pett Village Hall. There will be a lot of stalls and a chance to feel Christmassy.

By Angela Hawksley, Flower Festival Committee

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# Polecat - Sussex Wildlife Trust

For most of us, our only encounters with British mammals are spotting them on the roadside as we hurtle past at 55mph. I'm sure many people these days believe that lying motionless on a road verge with its feet in the air is natural behaviour for a Badger. Our road trips may be macabre safaris but roadkill can tell us a lot about the state of our island's mammalian fauna. Hedgehogs, a squashed staple on the roadkill menu a few decades ago, are now hard to find flattened on the highway, reflecting their dramatic fall in numbers in the wider countryside. And recently an unfamiliar corpse has appeared on the tarmac: the Polecat.

Before being killed by cars, Polecats already had a long history of persecution in England - mainly for eating poultry and notoriously stinking to high heaven. To Shakespeare, and many others since, 'Polecat' was an insult. The species was exterminated from Sussex around 1890. Indeed, the entire English population was banished to the wilderness of Wales. Yet we were happy to welcome their watered-down, domesticated form - the Ferret - as cuddly pets and ruthless Rabbit hunters.



After a century in exile, purebred Polecats are making a comeback. This re-colonisation was the basis for a recent investigation by the Vincent Wildlife Trust who requested roadkill Polecat corpses for DNA testing to verify their pure Polecat lineage (as opposed to Polecat/Ferret hybrids). I was soon dodging traffic on the Steyning by-pass and excitedly picking up a dead Polecat. Being mustelids, Polecats naturally smell but, take my word for it, they smell a lot worse when they've been dead for a few days.

Despite discharging a whole can of Glade, my wife smelt that something was up seconds after I set foot in the house.

Putting a dead Polecat in your freezer will test even the strongest of marriages.

Thankfully, after some smooth talking, my marriage is still intact but there are still some fish fingers that neither of us are brave enough to eat. Next morning a package arrived from the Vincent Wildlife Trust containing heavy duty bags, some cool BIOHAZARD stickers and printed instructions for posting Polecats.

After an interesting exchange at the post office counter, my roadkill casualty was posted. A few days later, it was declared 100% Polecat; further evidence that Polecats have returned to Sussex. It's great to have them back and many farmers are welcoming them too, as they do a great job of dispatching Rats and Rabbits. Look out for them in your headlights.

*by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust*

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# *La Cucina di Angela*

## **Green Carpaccio**

The carpaccio is a traditional Italian starter usually made with raw beef sliced very thinly and drizzled with oil and lemon juice. The carpaccio was introduced onto the Italian table by Giuseppe Cipriani in the 1950's/1960's in his restaurant in Venice. The following two versions of green carpaccios are made with courgettes and asparagus. They are incredibly tasty and give a touch of freshness to the table. My mum used to cook lots of fresh vegetables, particularly towards the end of summer as some kind of pre-detox in preparation for the incoming traditional winter festivity meals which were usually very rich and full of calories.

### **Courgette Carpaccio - for four people**

Three courgettes (about 600 grams)	30-35 grams of toasted or fresh pine nuts
80-100 grams of parmesan cheese in slices	One lemon
Fresh chopped basil	Extra virgin olive oil
Salt and pepper	

Peel the courgettes and cut off the ends. Cut the courgette lengthways in the centre and using a potato peeler, slice the courgette along the length. Put the slices on a serving dish and season layer by layer with freshly chopped basil, salt and pepper (if you prefer, add thin slices of garlic). Drizzle over with a mixture of extra virgin olive oil and the juice of a lemon. Add the pine nuts and cover with a layer of cling film. Put in the fridge and leave to rest for one hour. After this time, the carpaccio will be ready. Serve it with a generous portion of sliced parmesan cheese on top.

### **Asparagus Carpaccio - for four people**

350-400 grams asparagus	Balsamic vinegar (possibly glazed vinegar)
80-100 grams parmesan cheese in slices	One lemon
Extra virgin olive oil	Salt and pepper

Wash and dry the asparagus with a kitchen cloth. Cut off the asparagus tips and set aside. Trim the stem into thin chopsticks. Arrange the tips and stems in a platter and sprinkle over with the rest of the ingredients, adding the sliced parmesan on top at the end.

*Buon Appetito*



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# Gardening Club Notes - October 2022

The speaker we had originally booked for this month's talk was sadly unable to come due to ongoing illness, so we were very grateful to Jane Scotchmer for stepping in at a few days' notice with her talk entitled "How Artists and Garden Designers lead us up the Garden Path." We have had talks on garden design over the years, but this one approached the subject more specifically using the very basic element of the garden path in a most enlightening and entertaining way.



Jane is both an amateur artist and gardener, but has studied both extensively. She ably used photos of both her own paintings, those of artists from different genres and photos she herself has taken of many gardens to guide us through the basic principles of both garden design and the use of colour, the theme of the garden path running throughout and anchoring the various media.

Jane's first comment was that garden design is subjective, however the guiding principles can help us all to achieve the best version of our chosen look for our own gardens. The role of the garden path is to guide the visitor through a well-conceived garden, to pause and linger at points of interest along the way so as to get the most enjoyment from it. The overriding principle is that of Composition - how the various elements in a garden should be placed to create an interesting design that flows effortlessly - colour, planting, shape, contrast, features, all combining to create a balanced and pleasing scheme.

Jane explained the principle of perspective, that in the foreground a path will be wide, but will appear to narrow as it recedes along its length. In a painting artists create depth to a composition by tapering the path. In a small garden the path can be similarly physically tapered to create the illusion of extra depth. A winding path is generally more interesting and will also create the illusion of more space in a garden. A path can be made from many different materials, grass, gravel, stepping stones, cobbles, each of which adds interest to the scheme and can become a worthy feature in itself, particularly during the winter when planting interest is generally at its lowest. A pergola or series of pergolas above a path, with climbing plants growing up and through them, will break up the path and create height in the garden adding to the impression of greater space.

Skilful use of colour, employed in tandem with path design, achieves balance in a garden - bright reds will bring a border closer than soft pinks, so whilst bold colours will work well in a large garden, pastel planting creates visual depth to seemingly enlarge a small garden. Jane illustrated this using an accomplished study she herself had painted of a bluebell wood, with the stronger, more distinct purples and blues at the forefront and faded, misty pastel shades in the background. We were also treated to many lovely paintings from Monet and other Impressionists, through Rusinol, Munch and Van Gogh to David Hockney, with the path as a common feature, further illustrating Jane's various pointers about the value of paths in a considered garden design.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday November 8<sup>th</sup> in the Catherine Holman Room at Pett Village Hall. The speaker will be Mike Lynn with a talk on "Plants and Crime!"

By June Harris

*Sarah Bragoli*

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# Nature Notes

I found a new hoverfly in the churchyard recently - new to me, that is. It is also possible that, because it is a common species, I had seen it before but not recognized it as something different. I think I recognized it because I had recently been looking at the hoverfly Facebook group where there was a photo of it that somebody had posted. I suspect the process is something like what happens when you buy a new car - all of a sudden, you notice lots more cars of the same make and model on the road. This particular make and model of hoverfly goes by the name of *Epistrophe grossulariae*. It doesn't have a common name, but if I was to try and give it a common name, I would probably come up with something like the Darker Orangey-yellow-striped Flat-faced Hoverfly. That is a bit cumbersome and it is quite likely that there is a similar species with dark orange stripes and a flat face, so I may have to adjust the name to include the fact that this one has yellow legs.



This was exactly the problem that scientists faced way back in the mid-eighteenth century when people started to study the natural world and the age of exploration was in full swing and they were discovering new species from all over the world and the names incorporated a description of the animal. Many attempts were made to try to classify species into some sort of order so that a simple name could be given to each organism that everybody would use and recognize. It was a Swedish botanist, zoologist, and physician called Carl Linnaeus who is credited with the system we use today. (It is called binomial nomenclature, or Latin name, or scientific name.) Other people had partially developed the system but Linnaeus used it consistently in his book 'Systema Naturae' first published in 1735. The book became popular with other scientists of the time (probably then called natural philosophers), who sent him innumerable specimens from all over the world. The book ran to 12 editions, and grew from Linnaeus's original 11 large pages to over 2,400 pages in several volumes covering the three kingdoms he described of plants, animals and minerals.

If I were to use the name of the hoverfly I mentioned above in a formal publication, then it would be *Epistrophe grossulariae* (Meigen, 1822). The genus - *Epistrophe*, capitalized and in italics, the species - *grossulariae*, lower case and italicized, and in brackets, Meigen, the person who first described the insect in scientific literature and 1822, the year that literature was first published. Meigen refers to Johann Wilhelm Meigen, a German entomologist who specialized in Diptera, the two-winged part of the insect world that includes hoverflies. It can be fun to follow links to the people who first described species though many are back-room people who pore over trays of preserved insects with microscopes, and about whom little else is known. I have counted some of the names from the records I have made from the organisms I have found in the churchyard and there is no doubt that Carl Linnaeus leads the pack. He is attributed on 67 out of about 115 plant species, and on 105 out of about 260 insect species. It can be quite humbling to find a plant or insect that you have never seen before, only to find that Carl Linnaeus knew all about it in 1753. I came very close to seeing some of Carl Linnaeus's original specimens when I visited Lund University in Sweden, but sadly time pressures meant that we didn't manage to see them.

By Alan Kenworthy

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# Coffee Morning and Library Notes

Autumn certainly blew in at the October Coffee Morning, the foyer being scattered with leaves coming in on the gusting wind. Thanks to Fran for sweeping them up.

We had quite a few new books this month and a very useful bookshelf to display them on - thank you Anna. It helps us make better use of the space and also, hopefully, to avoid overcrowding. We hope it makes the books easier to browse, too. As well as Recent Arrivals, we continue to have Fiction displayed alphabetically by author, Non-fiction, displayed randomly with many subjects to explore including health, hobbies and biographies, and a small Children's collection. We also carry a small but varied selection of Large Print books.

Robert was with us once again, using the doctors' room to check **hearing aids** and replace batteries. Although the Library and Coffee Morning were quite busy, Robert says that he was not. If you wear a hearing aid, do consider coming along to the village hall to have it serviced. No parking charge and easier than going to the hospital. And a sociable coffee and cake available to buy, too!!

A reminder also that David Penfold always comes along to the Coffee Morning and, as Chairman of the Parish Council, is happy to have an informal chat with you about village matters

Our Book of the Month is **Midnight at Malabar House** by Vaseem Khan. This is an historical 'who dunnit' set in Bombay in 1950. Never having been the slightest bit interested in India, I was reluctant to read this book. But I do like a good murder mystery, which this is and perforce it has an authoritative dose of social history thrown in, too, being set just after Partition. It also has an interesting cast of well-drawn characters and an unusual leading lady in Inspector Persis Wadia. Published in 2020, this is the first tale in a series of three - and I have already read the second book. The next date for your diary is the first Wednesday of the month - **2 Nov, 10-12.**

Anna, Vivien and the Coffee Morning Team

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# News from St Michael's Hospice

## Rye and District Country Show thanks

St Michael's Hospice would like to say a huge thank you to the Rye and District Country Show Committee who worked really hard to put on an incredible event full of family fun and entertainment this summer. The Show raised £19,000 for the Hospice, which is just incredible.

The Hospice would also like to thank everyone who came to visit the Lottery team at the Show and a big congratulations to any lucky scratch card winners. Your ongoing support helps to raise vital funds for the Hospice. For more information about the Hospice's Lottery at [www.stmichaelsospice.com/lottery](http://www.stmichaelsospice.com/lottery)

## St Michael's Hospice Christmas Markets return

Are you thinking about starting your Christmas shopping? Why not get ahead at St Michael's Hospice's wonderful Christmas Markets that will be selling Hospice Christmas cards and crackers, and handmade gifts and crafts from local stallholders.

Entry will be £1 at Pett Village Hall on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November, 12 - 4 pm, and Sedlescombe Village Hall on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November, 11am - 3pm. For more information call the Fundraising team on 01424 456396 or email [fundraising@stmichaelsospice.com](mailto:fundraising@stmichaelsospice.com).

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# Environmental Notes

In my previous article, I wrote about the woeful lack of solar panels in the village and I recently came across an article that suggested Pett is not alone in its reluctance to install solar panels. The article compared the UK with Germany, where demand for solar panels is so high that the manufacturers can't keep up with it. Not only that, but there is a shortage of qualified people to fit them and electricians are coming out of retirement to try to meet the demand. A large part of the demand is fuelled by Putin's restriction of gas supplies to Western Europe, and when you add threats to energy security, along with the obvious advantages of cheap energy and reliability of solar panels, then they make even more sense than they did before. In the UK, of course, we have been distracted by the vital question of who leads the Conservative party. Neither of the candidates seemed to display any understanding of the problems we face as regards energy security, or the really vital threat of climate change. Liz Truss said that our best agricultural land was no place for solar panels, and Rishi Sunak, not to be outdone, said we should not cover our best agricultural land with swathes of solar panels, but put them on farm buildings instead. They were, of course, saying what they thought that their electorate, the Conservative Party members, wanted to hear. But many of those members are farmers, and farmers are more savvy than that, and many farmers have heard of and are actively pursuing a technique called 'agrivoltaics' where both solar panels and either grazing animals or crops use the same space. The idea is that rather than producing 10 units from a given area by grazing or growing crops alone, you get 6 units from solar panels and 6 units from crops or livestock.

Now, however, it appears we are going to solve the energy crisis by fracking and pumping more oil out of the North Sea and we certainly won't be building any more on-shore wind farms. We have to think about batteries. Way back when I worked in the electricity supply industry, every unit of electricity generated had to be exactly matched with every unit consumed because there was nowhere to put it if you generated more than you used, and the lights went out if you generated less. There was then, and there still is, Dinorwic Hydro-electric Power Station which generated power by emptying water from a high lake, through turbines to a lower lake when demand was high, and then pumping the water back up (with the same turbines) when the demand was low. The National Grid uses Dinorwic to even out peaks in demand, but there is a limit to how often you can do that before the top lake runs out of water. Other countries have raced ahead with grid-scale batteries which are now not only feasible, but a practical reality.

Australia was one of the first countries to install a grid-scale battery, and has recently announced plans for a further 12 grid-scale battery projects. Ultimately, when there are enough grid-scale batteries, then there will no need for fossil-fuelled power stations, or even low-carbon nuclear power stations, because batteries will fill in the gaps when the sun don't shine and wind-speeds are low. Australia, incidentally, used to be one of the dirtiest countries in the world in terms of carbon footprint per capita due to its reliance on coal-fired power stations. That situation is changing rapidly now, however, as wind and solar power is embraced, and they are talking about retiring their coal-fired stations decades earlier than planned. (South Australia is already close to achieving its ambition of producing more than 100% of its electricity demand from renewables.) It's amazing what a change in Prime Minister can achieve.

The good news is that the UK now has a grid-scale battery. The 50-Megawatt lithium-ion installation in Oxford was connected to the grid in 2021. It's a small step but it's a start, and battery technology is moving at pace as we understand more about the chemistry and the materials used. A recent development (from a UK-based research team) has been the use of a nano-material made from brown seaweed as a separator between the positive and negative sides of a battery. This enables the use of sodium metal electrodes rather than lithium which is relatively rare and often not ethically sourced and is energy intensive in its extraction, whereas sodium is plentiful and easy to extract.

By Alan Kenworthy

# Pett on the Knit



Fed up with me posting the Knit for Peace squares pattern? Well, I'm going off on a tangent this month. Dementia UK have a November Knitting Challenge to which you can sign up. The charity is hoping to raise £100,000 just from people pledging to knit for 30 minutes every day in November and getting sponsored for doing so. Find out more about it on the website:

<https://www.dementiauk.org/get-involved/events-and-fundraising/social-and-virtual-events/knitting-challenge/>

Dementia Care is particularly encouraging people to knit Twiddle Muffs for this Challenge. The TwiddleMuff is a knitted hand muff, decorated with internal and external items, such as buttons and ribbons. People living with dementia often get restless hands, and so the comfort of twiddling can help appease this. They provide both visual and sensory stimulation whilst keeping their hand's toasty!! I am happy to collect these and donate them to the Conquest Hospital or local Dementia Care Homes. Even if you don't get a lot of sponsors you will be making something extremely useful for dementia patients.

**TWIDDLE MUFF PATTERN:** this is a really easy pattern which beginners can cope with and is ideal for using up left over wool, and those singular odd balls. You will need:

Needles: 6.5mm straight needles. Double knitting or chunky wool, (various textures are good)  
Buttons, beads, ribbons, rings etc

## **INSTRUCTIONS:**

**CUFF:** Cast on 40sts using either one strand of chunky wool or two strands of double knitting wool. Work in stocking stitch (knit a row, purl a row) for 11 inches (28cm). This forms the inside of the muff.

**MUFF BODY:** Continue knitting in stocking stitch and various patterns until work measures 23 inches (58.5cm). Cast off.

## **FINISHING**

Right sides together (purl sides facing you) sew the long edges together. Turn the muff inside out (knit side facing you), push the cuff up inside the muff body and sew the cast on stitches to the cast off stitches. Decorate with buttons, beads, ribbons, rings etc making sure everything is sewn on tight so that they cannot be pulled off and that there are no loose threads.

Back to Knit for Peace – <https://knitforpeace.org.uk> they are desperate for mittens and gloves and blankets. If you want to knit or stitch and chat consider coming along to The Methodist Church from 1-4pm on alternate Wednesday afternoons - contact Donna Gilbert 01424 812185 for further details – you will be made most welcome.

I'm not in need of any donations of wool at the moment but If you need any there is plenty for you to choose from when I bring it to the Village Coffee Mornings, or you can 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) at 2 Brambletye, Pett Road, near the Methodist Church.

# WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

What a great morning! Just anybody who was anybody came to support the Macmillan Coffee Morning on the last day of September. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces and to feel, almost, as though the lock-down had been a bad dream.

Grateful thanks must go to the Planning Team: Wendy Burgess, Jackie Richards and Betty Harknett and the magnificent Catering Team lead by Sara Dann, with Trish Walker as her lieutenant. Thanks, too, to the Pett Village Hall Committee who generously donated the Hall and the Badminton Group for giving up their morning. Rod Rolfe kindly subsidised the publicity posters and Tic Toc, The Royal Oak, The Old Butcher's Shop and Just Property in Fairlight all supported the morning.

But, most of all, thank you to everyone who came along, donated items for sale, made delicious scones and cakes, and helped on the stalls.

The Grand Total? £1,991.29 before Gift Aid. In the words of Strictly Come Dancing:

## THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

By Heather Godwin

**A CUP OF  
COMMUNITY  
SPIRIT**



# Mortgage adviser

*Based in Pett Level  
contact details below*

david@london-money.co.uk

# 07733 307992



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**Chris Sherwin**

Local to Pett Village

Tel: 01424 718191

Mobile: 07875 109215

# A bargain offer!

It may well be that no serious literary critic would judge any book as I do. I always look for short chapters. You can then pick up the book for a short read without having to retrace what you read before. Of course, there is a lot else to say about Revd Richard Dengate's two books called *Miscellaneous Musings around Life, Faith and Philosophy* but it is certainly writing which you can easily dip in and out of. Each passage is based on a sermon which Richard has preached. The word "sermon" may be a bit off-putting and so it is probably better to think of a 'musing' instead. His own words are: "I would be delighted if these notes could gently reflect a little of heaven and earth for anyone."

If I say that these musings are an easy read, you will think I am being patronizing but I have certainly got to the age when I need an easy read myself rather than some obscure and often incomprehensible sleep-inducing writing. And the musings are hopeful and joyful as well as thoughtful and so make one feel less gloomy.

Richard, known as Dick, comes from a farming background: he attended agricultural college and then spent some years in Uganda in the Agricultural Department. He then spent 25 years running the family farm on the Kent/Sussex border before becoming a full-time priest. One result of this is that his comments on parables/stories in the Bible involving fruit and seeds and crops and sheep are especially informative.

You may remember the passage in an Evelyn Waugh novel about the vicar who had spent most of his life preaching to English exiles in some very hot country. He retired to an English village and he always gave the same Christmas sermon and it was very popular with the village. It referred to the tremendous heat everyone in the church had to endure at Christmastime and how they must long for home and cold and snow. The congregation found it slightly puzzling as they trudged out into the snow but so were many church practices.



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I should add that included in the books there are a number of poems Dick has written, as well as photographs.

Thanks to the intercession of Sue Dengate, Dick has generously provided a dozen copies of both books. You can buy one or both books for £5 each which will go into Pett Church funds. Do get in touch with me about the offer!

You may feel that, at this time of year, you have all the expenses arising from Christmas celebrations, as well as usual attempts to put money aside for the needy or food for the Food Bank. And we are faced with rising food prices. But you might think of buying the books as a Christmas present. That's what I'm planning to do!

Angela Hawksley  
Pett Parochial Church Council  
07976 389635

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# Equity Release

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david@laterlife-money.co.uk

# 07733 307992

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For more details or to book a place simply contact [robin@robinhutyoga.co.uk](mailto:robin@robinhutyoga.co.uk) or text 07446980721 More details on <https://www.robinhutyoga.co.uk>

Private and home training also undertaken

\*International Yoga Alliance Diploma and Premier Training International Diploma. 10 years' teaching experience.



## NOVEMBER 2022

## RYE (HARBOUR)

Date	HEIGHTS ABOVE ORDNANCE DATUM (NEWLYN)			
	High Water			
	Morning		Afternoon	
	Time	m	Time	m
1 TU ☽	03 26	2.5	16 18	2.4
2 W	04 55	2.3	17 55	2.3
3 TH	06 25	2.4	19 23	2.5
4 F	07 42	2.8	20 31	2.9
5 SA	08 40	3.1	21 22	3.3
6 SU	09 28	3.5	22 04	3.5
7 M	10 11	3.8	22 40	3.6
8 TU ☽	10 51	3.9	23 15	3.6
9 W	11 29	3.9	23 50	3.6
10 TH			12 06	3.8
11 F	00 23	3.6	12 38	3.5
12 SA	00 56	3.5	13 09	3.3
13 SU	01 28	3.3	13 37	3.0
14 M	02 00	3.0	14 12	2.5
15 TU	02 39	2.5	15 08	2.2
16 W ☾	03 42	2.2	16 25	1.9
17 TH	04 54	2.0	17 35	1.9
18 F	06 02	2.0	18 42	2.0
19 SA	07 05	2.4	19 38	2.4
20 SU	07 56	2.8	20 24	2.8
21 M	08 38	3.1	21 04	3.1
22 TU	09 20	3.5	21 44	3.5
23 W ●	10 01	3.8	22 23	3.8
24 TH	10 42	4.0	23 05	3.9
25 F	11 26	4.0	23 50	4.0
26 SA			12 11	3.9
27 SU	00 34	3.9	12 57	3.6
28 M	01 23	3.5	13 50	3.4
29 TU	02 18	3.3	14 53	3.0
30 W ☽	03 21	3.0	16 08	2.5

Time Zone UT (GMT)

ADD 1 HOUR BETWEEN 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH & 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER TO ADJUST TO BST

Customer service line  
03708 506 506

Incident hotline  
0800 80 70 60

Floodline  
0345 998 1188



## 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	cllr.andrew.dunlop@pettnet.org.uk
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
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### FLOOD WARDEN VACANCY

### ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL (RDC)

01424 787000; [www.rother.gov.uk/residents](http://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](http://www.eastsussexhighways.com/report-a-problem)

0345 6080190; [www.eastsussex.gov.uk](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk)

Councillor Keith Glazier	07957 377844	cllr.keith.glazier@eastsussex.gov.uk
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### 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>Guardians of Pett Churchyard</i>	Mike Wilkins	07710 080148	
<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
<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>Seaside Stitchers</i>	Donna Gilbert	812185	donnagilbert1@sky.com
<i>Short Mat Bowls</i>	Eric Butler	814869	joanbutler369@yahoo.co.uk
<i>Stoolball</i>	Janet Fuller	01303 873227	
<i>Table Tennis</i>	Anne & Paul Wadey	316209	pawadey@tiscali.co.uk
<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
<b>ROOMS FOR HIRE</b>			
<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

## MEDICAL, CRISIS SUPPORT & ANIMAL WELFARE

### Hospitals & GP Surgeries

Conquest & Eastbourne Hospitals	0300 131 4500
Harold Road Surgery	01424 720878
Hastings Old Town Surgery	01424 452800

### Other Numbers:

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

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Buses (from Chick Hill, Pett) run approximately every 2 hours from 8:19 (during school times) and then at 10:12, 12:17, 14:02 and 15:47 Monday to Friday; Saturday approximately 8:26 and 14:02; 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.



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