

Pett and Pett Level News



December 2022

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Editorial

As we write this, deluged by heavy rain and very mild temperatures, it's hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner! Hopefully our festive front cover provided by one of our younger residents, Alice Bridger, will help to get you in the Christmas mood. Thank you, Alice, for submitting such a lovely picture!

There are lots of festive activities going on locally this month, from church services and carol singing, to Christmas Markets and events for the whole family at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. There really is something for everyone, so please do feel free to join in. Hopefully the crew and volunteers from Pett Level Rescue Boat are warming up their vocal chords in readiness for their carol singing event on 16th December; if all goes well we could have our very own Pett version of the 'Fisherman's Friends'.

Finally, we have a festive recipe from La Cucina di Angela, which we can't wait to try; Parazzo is a variant on the traditional Italian Panettone, and it sounds delicious. If you're stuck for gift ideas don't forget there is also the 500 Club membership, and gifts from PLIRB, the Pett Level Preservation Trust, and Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. Plus items from all the wonderful Christmas Fairs taking place this month, and from our varied local businesses. This year in particular, it's important to shop locally and support the small, independent traders.

Thank you all for your support over the past few months. We wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Donna and Louisa

Letters to the Editors

Dear Editors,

I believe the stunning tree pictured on the cover of the November Issue of the Parish Magazine is mine.

It is a 'Liquid Amber, Styraciflua, Worplesden', sometimes called Sweet Gum, that has thrived in the heavy clay soil since it was planted about fifteen years ago. It is often mistaken for a maple but a closer look will reveal the seed head is not the familiar helicopter type associated with maples, but is hard and spherical.

Thank you so much for featuring my beautiful tree in the magazine. I'm so pleased to hear it gives others pleasure too.

Best wishes, Inga Chapman

PS: The tree was purchased at English Woodlands, Cross in Hand, Heathfield.
Website: englishwoodlands.com

Thank you for enlightening us, Inga. It really was a stunning spectacle!

Dear Editors

The Macmillan Coffee Morning Planning Group would like to respond to the Pett Village Hall Management Committee's (PVHMC) post in the Pett and Pett Level Community group on Facebook, in their response to our letter in the last edition. The Group did not feel it appropriate to reply within the medium of the Facebook group.

The Planning Group would like to emphasise that the points it was making (mischaracterised by the PVHMC as "complaints") were in fact legitimate, proportionate and reasoned observations about published decisions made by the PVHMC, as a local charity, which will have a significant impact on fundraising by other charities in the community.

The reason that the Group quoted the figure of £150 for hiring the Hall next year is clear. This September the Hall was used for an hour and a half the evening before, to set up, and then from 7.30 - 13.30 on the day. This constitutes seven and a half hours. The hire of the Hall to non-regulars is currently £20 per hour. Consequently, the cost would be £150. If the PVHMC wishes to let the Group have the use of the Hall for £60, as stated in their response, we will welcome that with open arms. We have had several offers of financial support from a number of generous villagers, willing to ensure that the success of the Macmillan Coffee Morning, as a community and fundraising event, is repeated.

The Planning Group accepts that there was unfortunately a typo in the figures stated in our original letter and the assets should have read **£30k** for 2021 rather than £40k. However, this is still a sizeable sum. The PVHMC is fortunate that, despite the pandemic, and over the years from 2017 to the present, the assets have not dropped below £29k. We note that two pandemic grants, totalling £16k, were awarded to the PVHMC, according to the Chair's Report in October 2021.

The PVHMC states that only a few people attend its Committee Meetings. This is not, in our view, a justification to *prevent* the public from attending which would allow both transparency of decision-making and accountability in the future.

The final observation we made was that *'the original premise of the building was, surely, to provide an affordable venue for community events for local people in a democratic way'*. The Planning Group stands by its original observations and urges the Pett Village Hall Management Committee to reconsider the hire charges when they are applied to local community events, local charity fundraising events and people in our community.

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



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PETT LEVEL INDEPENDENT RESCUE BOAT NEWS



Hello, and an early 'Happy Christmas' from everyone at Pett Level Independent Rescue Boat! As we approach the end of the year, we all take time to reflect on the previous months, as well as look forward positively to the coming year.

We are so grateful for the incredible support we continue to receive from our community and thank everyone who has taken the time to donate, volunteer or visit us - we wouldn't be here without your amazing contributions.

Please read on for our latest news:

- In November, twelve of our volunteers embarked on a three-day casualty care course - an advanced and rigorous first aid programme. This in-depth, specialised course focused on essential lifesaving skills, tailored to potential conditions and factors of coastal and sea scenarios that our volunteers may face. The programme included a combination of practical and theory learning on a broad range of injuries and medical conditions, providing crucial assessment and treatment skills. All volunteers undertook both practical and theory assessments. Thank you to Trident Training and Consultancy for delivering a superb and thorough course and for all those who provided the funding.
- If you're looking for a stocking filler, we have a range of PLIRB branded merchandise which could make an excellent gift! Trolley tokens, car stickers, gift cards and tote bags - please email plirbrescue@gmail.com if you'd like to purchase anything!
- On Saturday 10 December, PLIRB will be fundraising at Asda in St Leonards - alongside Pan Up Steel who will be playing there! If you're doing your weekly shop, please do stop by to say hello or maybe join in for a quick song!
- On Friday 16 December, PLIRB and Eater's @ Pett will be hosting a carol concert. We hope you will join us for a fun and informal evening to get into the festive spirit! Ita will be serving a delicious and warming range of treats, whilst all the volunteers will be leading with their best voices. More details to follow on our Facebook page - but if any local singing groups or choirs would like to be involved, please do contact us - the more the merrier!
- On Saturday 17 December, PLIRB will be at the 'Bob and Dec's One Last Time quiz night at Fairlight Village Hall.
- The Benefact Group are running a '12 Days of Giving' scheme, through which you can nominate a charity to receive a donation of £1000 between 1 and 16 December. You can nominate PLIRB by visiting benefactgroup.com/movement-for-good/ and entering our Charity number 286891. Thank you in advance to everyone who nominates us.

Finally, we'd like to wish everyone in the community a happy and peaceful festive season and look forward to seeing you - safely - in 2023! 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](https://twitter.com/PLIRBRescue); Facebook [@PettLevelRescueBoat](https://www.facebook.com/PettLevelRescueBoat) and [@supportingPLIRB](https://www.facebook.com/supportingPLIRB) and Instagram [@pettlevelindyrescueboat](https://www.instagram.com/pettlevelindyrescueboat).

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News from Pett Level Preservation Trust

Migration

Currently the weather is incredibly mild for the time of year. It is hard to believe that it's November some days, although the occasional strong winds and driving rain hasten to remind us! Autumn migration, nonetheless, has been underway, with flocks of finches including goldfinches, chaffinches, linnets and the occasional brambling being noted. Arguably, the most impressive sighting has been that of hundreds of wood pigeons heading over the Trust land and out to sea on a couple of occasions recently. Winter thrushes - redwings and fieldfares - have also been spotted, along with the much rarer blackbird-like ring ouzel. Starling murmurations over the grazing marsh have also provided an impressive visual spectacle and a reminder of the season.

Work Parties

Our October work party focussed its attention around the pond where saplings of alder, sycamore and poplar are threatening to dominate. The old tennis court, which provides one of the most interesting botanical areas on the Trust land, is in danger of being lost to encroaching bramble, so some attention was given to removing this invasive plant. Another workday for this area is planned for November 20th.

Hedgehogs

Judith Dean's letter in the November edition of this magazine, relating her encounter with a hedgehog, reminded me that I have not seen one for years and there are no records for them on the Trust land. If you have seen hedgehogs, please do let us know when and where. The Sussex Wildlife Trust are also keen to receive your sightings
<https://survey.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/2022-hedgehogs/>

Christmas Stall

A reminder that the Trust will have a stall on the PLPT land on **Saturday 3rd December** from 2pm. The stall will be on Tamarisk Field near the entrance to Toot Rock. Mince pies, mulled wine and our Christmas cards, beautifully designed by Annie Soudain, will be on sale. There will also be a chance to enter into a raffle and to chat with Trustees regarding the management of the Trust land, wildlife sightings etc. Please come along and say hello.

Pett Level Preservation Trust Christmas Stall

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Reflections from the Rectory

As we approach the end of October the Collect for the past week is based on the well-known words of Thomas Cranmer from the Book of Common Prayer.

“Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them”

We all tend to have very different views of scripture. The Bible, especially the Old Testament, is full of rip-roaring stories often involving violent confrontation, ancient records of the patriarchs and the journey to the Promised Land, and although for some it is seen as the story of God’s self-revelation, many find it hard to see the face of a loving God within them. There are also the curious fables such as the book of Jonah or Ruth and a wealth of what is normally called wisdom literature, which seeks to try and make some sense of the world. Added to this are the angry words of the prophets and the varied poetry of the Psalms whose origins stretch over at least 1000 years. There are interminable and detailed legal codes, which have little relevance for us today. The New Testament brings us the gospel accounts of the life of Jesus, the letters of Paul - some of whose views seem unpalatable in the modern world, the Acts of the Apostles and the strange visionary and sometimes frightening world of the Book of Revelation.

A few weeks ago, representatives of the parishes of Icklesham, Winchelsea and Pett gathered in Old Bexhill at the Old Coach House to spend the morning reflecting on the future of our churches. The Coach House at Bexhill is now run by an organisation called the House of Prayer and they were very welcoming and supportive. I was interested and moved to hear that in the run-up to Easter this year they chose to read the whole Bible in one sitting from beginning to end. This involved different readers and continued throughout the night. I believe it took five or six days and overran by a day or so. They finished at about 7 o’clock on Easter morning. The exercise attracted over 200 people over the period and they continue to gather for Bible reading on a weekly basis.

At our gathering we discussed a variety of different aspects of parish life and how we might improve things and move forward. Something that emerged from all the parishes was the desire to have some form of Bible study. After some discussion it was suggested that we meet in the pub for a series of Bible study meetings. The plan is to have our first session on Tuesday, the 6th of December at 5:00pm or 6:00pm. (TBC) We will start in the New Inn in Winchelsea and in due course we hope to meet in some of the other pubs in the benefice.

I see this as a kind of book club with a difference. You don’t need to have any kind of faith, but if you are curious come along.

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Pett Parish Council Update

The council held its regular meeting in November. Unfortunately, owing to the pressures of work and family commitments, Councillor David Terrell has resigned, but hopes that, in the future, he may have the time to come back on the council. Our thanks to him for his contributions as a councillor.

At the meeting, District Councillor, Andrew Mier clarified the position regarding both the Town Hall redevelopment plan and the closure of the Rye swimming pool. The Town Hall redevelopment, which is necessary because of the condition of the current buildings, was rejected by the planning committee as some councillors were unclear about, or unhappy with, the design. Whether, of course, in these difficult times the redevelopment will be affordable is a separate issue. The swimming pool in Rye has been closed by its operators Freedom Leisure because the council has been unable to increase its grant to the pool to cover the costs of heating, which have risen by a large amount. Discussions on future options, which include our MP Sally-Anne Hart, are ongoing, including to see if direct government subsidy is an option.

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. I will write more on this once I do get a reply. It seems likely that the application to extend occupancy to 50 weeks will be approved, but this may provide the opportunity for conditions to be imposed.

The council discussed the budget for 2023/24. This will be finalised in January, so I repeat that, if you have a scheme or an activity that you feel that the council should consider supporting (including, if appropriate, the cost of hiring the village hall for a function), then please send an email to the clerk soon as possible. Similarly, if there is a project that you feel the council should undertake, then please send details to the clerk regarding that. One thing the council has agreed, in closed session, is to move our clerk up the salary scale. We receive great service from our clerk, who, among all her other duties, has put the council's legal position back on a firm footing. It only seemed right that this should be reflected in her salary.

The council has decided to renovate the bus shelter by the recreation ground. The inside will be repainted and the roof, which has woodworm, will be treated. In this way, we hope that the atmosphere will be more pleasant for those waiting for the bus.

The council elections are planned for May (somewhat confusingly only two days before the coronation). This means that a new council will be elected; all councillors stand down. It is clear that not all the members of the present council will be standing for re-election, so if you feel that you could serve the community as a councillor and would like more information about what is involved, please get in touch with me or with the clerk. Similarly, if you feel that there is someone whom you feel would make a good councillor, then please speak to them and, if their response is positive, encourage them to put their name forward.

This is the time of year when I traditionally thank all those who contribute to the well-being of the community. There are far too many for me to list (although, if you look back a couple of years, you will see that I did so), but again let me thank them all. Without them and the time and effort they put in, many of the activities of the parish would not happen.

Finally, I have to report the death of Doreen McCausland, who has lived in the village since the early 1970s. Our sympathy goes to her family.

David Penfold, Chair, Pett Parish Council

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Pett WI update



We thought readers might be interested to read the contents from Pett WI Community Aid (WICAID) Annual Report this month, compiled by our wonderful project coordinator, Hilary Dymott.

Although COVID disruptions continued to scupper some of our fund-raising initiatives, the WICAID Team remained undaunted and had an extremely busy and successful year, helping once again to raise awareness of - and thousands of pounds for - the various organisations that Pett WI supports. All this has only been possible with the enormous support we continue to receive not only from the Pett WI members, but also through our local communities - from individuals, local businesses, societies and charities.

Our WICAID Objectives for 2021-22 were:

- to support Rye Foodbank, Safehaven Women, The Seaview Project and Dom's Food Mission.
- Expand WICAID through Pett WI's 2021/22 "Cause of Year" supporting the East Sussex Hearing Resource Centre by fund-raising and raising awareness.
- Support different community projects and hopefully expand beyond our regular organisations.
- Where possible, participate at local events and support groups in Pett and other villages

Organisations and projects supported include Rye Foodbank, Safehaven Women & Men, The Seaview Project, Dom's Food Mission, East Sussex Hearing, and the Conquest Hospital MacDonald Ward Courtyard Makeover Project.

Pett WICAID Fundraising

Unfortunately, due to the uncertainties of COVID, we had to shelve our planned "Courtyard Capers" event in aid of the MacDonald Ward Courtyard makeover appeal. However, another opportunity presented itself as the organisers of the Pett Village Hall Craft Fairs approached Pett WI to ask if we would consider taking over the running of their Easter and Xmas craft events. It was decided that WICAID could use these as a platform to raise money - not only for the MacDonald Ward Courtyard, but also for the other organisations and appeals that we support.

Pett WI Spring and Winter Fairs

We rebranded the Easter Craft Fair as the Pett WI Spring Fair. The team put in an enormous amount of work to ensure success not only for the stallholders, but for Pett WI itself and the MacDonald Ward Courtyard Makeover Project, raising £1375.71 towards their Appeal. Proceeds from the Pett WI Winter Fair go to our WICAID charities. As well as the Pett WI Fairs, the WICAID Team has also organised or been involved with a number of other fund-raisers over the last twelve months.

Rye Foodbank: Despite the difficult conditions we continue to face, WICAID has kept its nine collection points in place through Pett, Pett Level and Fairlight and we've been able to continue our monthly deliveries to RFB with a variety of products. Our Rye Foodbank Appeal has received financial donations from local charities and individuals undertaking various fund-raising activities. Donations total £4264.11.

Safehaven Women: Whilst we primarily continue to support Safehaven Women with sanitary products and clothing, we now regularly include Safehaven Men in our Winter and Spring/Summer Clothing Appeals. For our June meeting, Sarah Larkin and her Team came along as guest speakers to give the members an insight into this (now) award-winning project that we've supported since 2016.

Dom's Food Mission: In addition to providing surplus food and sanitary products to Dom's Food Mission, our relationship with them has been developing over the last year. If we hear of anyone who has surplus food produce we try to link them up with Dom's and the Mission has also provided us with items that they can't use themselves to pass on to the other organisations we support!

MacDonald Ward Courtyard Renovation Appeal

Our collaboration with Hastings Ore WI (HOWI) for the MacDonald Ward Courtyard project has been a great success, raising a collaborative total of £3983.71 against the set target of £2100. The MacDonald Ward has now reached its target figure for the Courtyard renovation, so building work can commence.

Supporting Other Local Groups & Events

Pett WI members have attended, organised or helped out at numerous local events and a number of members also continue to be involved with "Pett on the Knit".

All in all - a very good year!!

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News from St Michael's Hospice

Christmas on the Coast

St Michael's Hospice is returning to the Stade Hall on the Stade Open Space in Hastings Old Town for **Christmas on the Coast**. On Saturday 17th December, 11am - 4pm, join Santa and his helpers for a day of festive fun for you and all the family.

There will be lots of activities to get involved with, including gingerbread decorating, Christmas crafts, writing letters to Santa, and a secret present room where children can pick a gift for a parent or special adult in their life.

Entry to Christmas on the Coast is free (donations welcome) and you can choose which activities you would like to take part in without booking in advance. Please arrive early to avoid disappointment. For more information visit www.stmichaelshospice.com/events

Sedlescombe donation drop-off

On the first Thursday of every month, between October - December, the **St Michael's Hospice Retail on the Road** team will be at Sedlescombe Village Hall, 10am- 12pm, to receive any donations that you would like to drop-off.

They can accept lots of pre-loved good quality items including clothing, shoes, accessories, small items of bric-a-brac and small items of furniture. It's the perfect opportunity to clear some space in your home to prepare for new gifts this Christmas.

Lights of Love

This December St Michael's Hospice invites you to dedicate a star on a Lights of Love tree at one of their celebrations, a truly magical act of remembrance. Whether your loved one received care from St Michael's Hospice or not, all can be remembered with Lights of Love.

This year the Hospice will host the events at eight different locations across Hastings and Rother, from Saturday 3rd December - Sunday 11th December, including Bodiam, Rye, Hastings, Bexhill-on-Sea, Battle and St Leonards-on-Sea.

Pick up one of our eco-friendly stars from any of the Hospice shops to write a personal message using a waterproof pen. You could choose to write the name of a loved one, paint pictures or add photographs.

For more information, or to request a Lights of Love star dedication and leaflet please call the Fundraising team on 01424 456396 or email fundraising@stmichaelshospice.com

Battle Attack

St Michael's Hospice invites you to join them on Saturday 4th February at Wylands Angling Centre for a muddy start to the month! If you don't mind getting your hands dirty then why not take part in the new 5K course where you can crawl through mud, trudge through fields and climb across obstacles.

The challenge is perfect for you and your friends, colleagues, or you could even bring your family to work as a team to complete! So don't delay, book your advance saver tickets now at stmichaelshospice.com/battleattack or find out more from the Fundraising team on 01424 456396 or email fundraising@stmichaelshospice.com



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Classes are Mondays 6-7.30 pm and Thursdays 9.30-11 am.

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Strengthening Local Relations Meeting with East Sussex Highways

In September, parish council representatives had a further SLR (Strengthening Local Relations) meeting with representatives from East Sussex Highways. County Councillor Keith Glazier also attended. The following topics were discussed:

- **Parking.** The national 'Considerate Parking Poster' scheme for the coast had not materialized in the past summer.
- **Motor home at Pett Level.** The County Council continues to encourage the Environment Agency, which has the authority to do so, to have the motor home at Pett Level moved away permanently.
- **Sea-wall grass cutting.** Residents had expressed concern about the cutting of the sea-wall grass banks being cut ahead of farmers cutting. The Environment Agency (EA) cuts these banks a section at a time to reduce the effect on biodiverse habit.
- **Blocked Drains in Watermill Lane** These were inspected early August and no issue found. Photos after heavy rain which show any flooding would be helpful. There is some rutting on the side of the road before the caravan park, which may collect water.
- **Blocked Drains on and around Chick Hill** Drains on the hill brow, the hill itself and at the bottom were all scheduled for clearing. Highways were asked to have the fallen tree trunk and branches hanging on the hill bank into the road removed. It was highlighted that cutting back of foliage and trees along the hill would reduce the drains filling up. Drains, including the drain between Magpie Cottage and Merrie Winds, have now been cleared.
- **Road patching between Pett Level to Winchelsea Beach.** The patching had been stopped due to the bird nesting season. Works were scheduled to restart in September (and have now been completed). The large holes in the verge by Pett Level Gateway were highlighted. Highways to advise what materials could be used to fill these holes. The land belongs to the Pett Level Preservation Trust. It was highlighted that the numerous grips along the whole length of this road need to be re-dug and this would reduce the amount of dangerous sitting water during the autumn and winter following rain. At the time of the meeting, there was graffiti on this road, which were being removed.
- **Flooding of County Council Layby between Pett Level and Winchelsea Beach.** Councillor Dunlop provided a diagram showing where drain moths and pipes could be laid to keep the area free of water. Highways to ascertain what the contract between Highways and the Environment Agency would allow and who would pay for works.
- **Missing Hatching from lay-by near Tic Toc.** As the hatching has been absent for a long time and no evidence for it can be found, Highways have reviewed the area under the new rules for hatching. It was deemed that the hatching would not have the desired effect and was thus rejected by Highways. Councillor Dunlop expressed the council's disagreement with the conclusion.
- **Mowing the bank outside the church.** The church has asked to take on the slope in front of the church. Highways would only devolve any verge area to the parish council. The parish council insurance would have to be appropriate and the ecological officer be consulted.
- **Bollards for Road Side Verge at the top of Chick Hill.** Highways advised that a licence would have to be applied for. Ownership of the land needs to be ascertained first.
- **Elms Lane.** The road signs for Elms Lane say both Elms Lane and Elm Lane. Elms Lane appears to be the official spelling and it was suggested that Rother District Council be contacted to provide the correct signage.

David Penfold, Chair, Pett Parish Council

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Coffee Morning and Community Library Notes

The Catharine Hollman room looked delightful, thanks to the coffee morning team and Jenny's colourful, crocheted assorted pumpkins. So welcoming!

We are almost always lucky with the coffee morning weather, and so it was in November. Sandwiched in between two days of howling gales and rain coming down like stair rods, our Wednesday morning, albeit breezy, was dry and blessed with sunshine. We were busy and welcomed new borrowers to the library and quite a few new people in to see Robert for hearing aid maintenance. Happily, they also stayed for coffee and cake.

We are pleased to say we currently have over £350 in the kitty to donate to a local charity and we have chosen the following worthwhile cause. **Surviving Christmas** is run by a group of volunteer Trustees and supported by lead and regular volunteers who all live local to the area. The charity has been running for over 30 years and its objective is to relieve in cases of need, hardship or distress, persons who are resident in Hastings and Rother.

We want to thank you for your continuing support of the monthly Coffee Mornings; it is your generosity that has made this donation possible.

December's book of the month comes very highly recommended by two of our readers, and is **'Saving Missy'** by **Beth Morrey**, published this year. The eponymous Missy is a retired librarian and finding life on her own terribly lonely. However, the book is joyous throughout, notwithstanding its sad moments. It celebrates unlikely friendships and the companionship of dogs in particular, and features a surprise twist towards the end. Especially pertinent to us is the statistic quoted that *there are 280 million library visits in Britain every year; people go to libraries more often than to football matches, theatres, A & E, and church combined*. Who knew? Do help to keep this up by visiting us and borrowing this or some of our other varied volumes. Next Coffee Morning: **Wednesday 7th December, 10 - 12.**

By Anna, Vivien and the Coffee Morning Team



Carols in the Barn

You are warmly invited to join us at Pickham Farm, Watermill Lane, Pett for traditional festive carol singing in our barn, with all the animals - just like it was 2022 years ago! Mulled wine and mince pies will be served to warm you. No ticket required, but we will be passing around a donation bucket for Farm Africa where your generosity will be greatly appreciated!

Saturday 17th December 6.30pm



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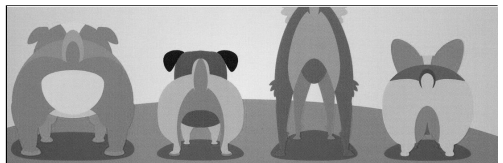
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Pett Cricket Club

December Newsletter



With 2022 coming to an end, Pett celebrated the season with their annual Club Dinner, superbly hosted by The Royal Oak. A great evening and thank you to everyone who attended.

As always, the awards for the 2022 season were handed out at the dinner:

Batsman of the Year - Paul Leitch
Bowler of the Year - Gary Chatham
All-Rounder of the Year - Luke Crisford

We have also renamed our Young Player award to *The Alan Shearer Young Player Award*, in honour of our recent President. Alan was a great supporter of the club, having played for Pett CC and then a member of the committee for many years. Charlie Ware was the 2022 Alan Shearer Young Player of the Year.

A big thank you to everyone who has played a part in the 2022 season and especially thank you to Stuart Ware for all the hard work throughout the Season. Adam Stunt and Stuart Ware have done a great job post-season on the pitch repairs, and thank you to the work party who helped tidy the Pavilion.

Pett are playing Indoor Cricket at Horntye throughout the winter and there will be another Quiz night, so watch this space for details. Finally, everyone at Pett CC would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Pett Flower Show & Fayre

Saturday 29 July 2023



**PETT FLOWER
SHOW & FAYRE**

It is a quiet time for the P&DHS Committee before the planning starts for 2023 in January.

Time has been spent organising the purchase of the storage shed at Pett Village Hall which will make life easier for the committee members, having all the bits of kit close at hand.

Our Show this year was a great success, so funds are available to be donated to worthy local causes. Applications are welcome in writing to Philippa Strickland at Adams, Pett Road, Pett, TN35 4HG or email to pstrickl@icloud.com. Successful applications will be announced at the AGM in March 2023.

Also, we need a theme for next year. The Coronation of King Charles is the obvious one but other ideas are welcome. Contact as above. The Committee wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

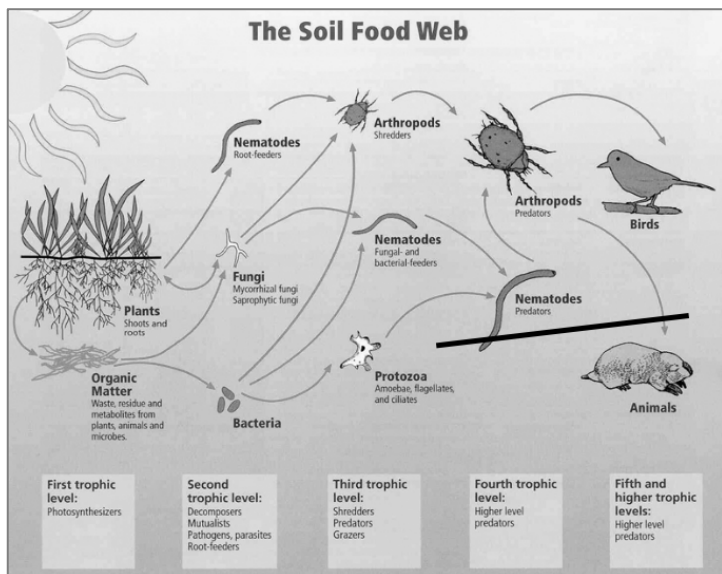
Philippa M Strickland, Chairman P&DHS

Regenerative Farming: A Better Future for Farming, Part 3

I left the last part of my story briefly explaining how my cattle were managed in a way that replicates the natural function of grazers many millennia ago. So how does that differ from the usual grazing and crop management on most farms today?

The fundamental difference between traditional grazing (sometimes referred to as set stocking, where a given number of animals graze a field continuously) and my mob stocking, is the long rest period that the soil gets between grazings. This mimicks the gaps in grazing which occurred with the herbivores of old being moved on by predators. With mob grazing, the action of the animals is providing the best conditions for soil regeneration.

But what is happening here? The vegetation is partially eaten and trampled, leaving the soil covered and protected. Once you add the dung, which is dropped by the grazer into the mix, you have all the ingredients for the invertebrates such as dung beetles, to draw in the dung and the nematodes and numerous other insects feed and break down the plant material. All these fantastic organisms working as nature intended to feeding the soil. This is clearly illustrated in the diagram.



There is a great deal more to learn about the soil; in fact many experts say we know more about Mars than we do about the soil! What does that tell us about the priorities we place on our future? What we do know, however, is that in just one teaspoon of healthy soil there are approximately one billion bacteria, several yards of fungal filaments (Mycorrhiza fungi), several thousand protozoa and scores of nematodes. Not forgetting of course, the humus or organic matter (stored carbon) and air. The last two are particularly important now, when we consider the need to sequester more carbon and also to allow the soil to retain more moisture in wet weather, thus avoiding erosion and flooding and storing said water to ensure that the soil is less prone to drought.

Sadly, due to the way farming techniques have been continued almost as a tradition, we have inadvertently released most of the stored carbon from our soils through ploughing and cultivation, and taken every step to drain water off as soon as it rains, only to create problems during dry periods or drought. But these cultivations are only part of the problem; our increasing reliance on chemical inputs such as fertilizers, herbicides and anthelmintics (internal worm treatments that contaminate the dung) have rendered the soil no more than a growing medium. The soil can and will provide all the nutrients for any crop we wish to grow - it's just a

case of reverting to the principals that allowed this to happen before we came along. I don't feel I have gone into enough detail regarding soil biology, but I hope it will lead some readers to explore further how the 'skin' of the planet works.

Whilst I am no arable farmer and cannot speak from experience, the principles are the same in crop growing regeneratively. The soil is the management centre and it essentially involves maintaining a continuous living plant cover (thereby a living root system) and planting seed for the next crop with a direct drill that barely disturbs the soil. The permanent low growing cover that the new crop is planted into will never swamp the new crop as it is composed of herbs and plants that don't grow tall but, in the case of clover, will feed the main crop.

It is this diversity of plants - whether it be in a crop or a pasture (mob stock grazing tends to lead to greater diversity of grass species and wild flowers) - that leads to the knock on benefit to the wildlife that, in turn, becomes more diverse. By following a simple path of soil protection with many different plants growing in it, we have provided habitats for a much wider range of wildlife - particularly insects, invertebrates, small mammals and those that predate them. These diverse swards also improve the health of the livestock and, in most cases, may eliminate the need for routine treatments for internal parasites. The main benefit to the farmer is the disconnecting of the yoke that is chemical dependency and the massive reduction to input costs for fertilizer, sprays, a vast array of cultivation equipment, plus tractor running costs.

For my particular cattle enterprise, the big game change is the reduction in over wintering costs. Most cattle herds spend nearly six months inside a barn and whilst in most cases they are perfectly happy to do so, it does involve great expense for the farmer who must produce hay or silage and provide bedding. My cattle will stay out all winter and be perfectly happy eating grass that has been grown during the summer and is left standing. I admit I do use some hay outside, as the photo illustrates, and will only house - if at all - for a very short time if conditions dictate.



At the end of my last article I mentioned that the main beneficiary is YOU! I say this because the nutritional benefits of food produced regeneratively is immense. I could write another article on this subject, but suffice to say that because the grass and plants grown under this system are grown in a much more healthy soil and have roots that reach deep down, thus gathering a much more nutrient dense food for the cattle and subsequently the meat or crop you eat. It has been shown that meat reared entirely on pasture contains a much better ratio between Omega 3 and Omega 6 fatty acids, as well as high levels of the cancer busting conjugated linoleic acid (CLA), two items I will have to leave you to check out! I would add that organic produce can meet the same standards, but it is not by any means certain. Organic systems often cultivate the soil and feed grains to their animals which I'm afraid is something (growing grain to feed back to animals) we should move away from and is a separate topic that will have to wait.

Maybe, if I am permitted another article, I can continue by sharing my views on the wider subject of how grazing livestock can be the answer to the climate crisis and how I feel far too much emphasis is placed on CO2 emissions. There, that should raise a few eyebrows!

By Tim Jury

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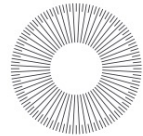
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St Nicholas's Church, Pett Level

The worshippers at the little St Nicholas's Church, Pett Level, will soon be thanking generous benefactors who have kindly donated the funds to purchase and install an infra-red heater, thus warming up the church services almost instantly.

Kit and Janet McLean, who run the Elm Tree Boot Sales in Icklesham, but who live at Pett Level, were pleased to be able to help. The donation comes entirely from admission charges collected on the 'gate' from cars entering the Boot Sales during this past year. All charges raised are donated to good causes and St Nicholas is grateful to be one of them.

It is hoped that the heater will be installed in time for the **Carol Service at St Nicholas's on Tuesday 20th December at 6.30pm** - everyone is welcome.

And, whilst we are on the subject of St Nicholas Church, we offer our congratulations to Fran Rogers, who was recently awarded the Order of St Richard by the Bishop of Chichester, Dr Martin Warner. Fran was given the award for turning the tiny church on the Level into the welcoming and dynamic community space that nourishes and brings strength to many thousand visitors each year - and provides free coffee and tea! This church by the beach receives welcome donations from visitors which helps support the main church of St Mary & St Peter in Pett Road.



Did you know that the original purpose of the building was to house the Life Saving Rocket Apparatus used to help seafarers and fishermen in difficulties? Hence it became known as The Rocket House.

Between the wars, the rocket launcher was moved elsewhere in Pett Level and so the Rocket House became surplus to requirements. In 1935 the Diocese bought the Rocket House for £100 and on 26th April it was dedicated to St Nicholas by the Bishop of Lewes. In October of that year, it was authorised for Public Worship by the Bishop of Chichester.

In the nearly 90 years since then, services have been held continuously, save for the years 1940-1945, when the church was closed as part of the general evacuation of Pett Level and the militarisation of the beach. (Extract from Pett on the Net

<https://www.pettnet.org.uk/churches-chapel/st-nicholas-pett-level>)

Pett Level Rocket Shed Metamorphoses

At this remembering time, it seems a shame not to recall the two ladies who were the moving force behind the Diocesan purchase of the Rocket Shed in 1935 and its conversion into a chapel. Of the two I only knew Peggy Daly, who lived in Pett Road. It was Peggy and her friend who organized fund-raising to pay for the wooden panelling and floor, the altar rail and the wooden cross on the altar, and all the other items needed.

Peggy told me that in the war, the beach area was cut off rather suddenly by barbed wire at the top of Chick Hill and she was concerned about the security of the St. Nicholas silver. So under cover of darkness she and her friend found a way through the barbed wire and managed to retrieve the silver.

When I first attended St. Nicholas in the mid-fifties there was a service every Sunday and also on a Wednesday. Peggy was a regular member of the congregation. I'm not sure what she would have thought of the present makeover of St. Nicholas. But although God never changes, times do change and we have to try to change too! As Francois Villon wrote in 1489: *Mais ou sont les neiges d'antan?*

Angela Hawksley
Unrejuvenated Pett Level Resident



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St. Richard's, Winchelsea Beach

You may be interested (and saddened) to hear that St. Richards opposite the Coop in Winchelsea Beach is just about to be sold. Church services ceased some time ago and the decision was made to close the building and sell it. The reason was that the congregation became smaller and smaller and so it was considered much more sensible that those who were left should attend services elsewhere, probably at St. Thomas' Church, Winchelsea or, perhaps, at St. Nicholas', Pett Level.



I'm afraid this news does make me think of the size of the Pett congregation. The Remembrance Day

service was as moving as ever and definitely benefitted from a congregation far larger than usual. I know the number was partly to do with the attendance of the Royal British Legion but it would be reassuring if some who came to the Remembrance service could think of coming now and again to the regular Sunday services.

Angela Hawksley, Pett Parochial Church Council

Quiz Night

A huge thank you to Heather Godwin who organised the recent Quiz Night to raise much needed funds for the churches in Pett & Pett Level. The PCC greatly appreciates the amount of work it takes to organise these fundraising events and we are extremely grateful to all involved, including Carol Pecorini for looking after the raffle, Jeanette Barden for looking after the scores and Ray Barden for sharing the compere quiz question duties with Heather. In addition, we would like to say a big thank you to all the those who donated prizes for the raffle, including The Butcher's Shop. We were also very fortunate in having an anonymous donor who paid the fee for the hire of the village hall.

And finally, a massive thank you for everyone who came along and made up a team. A grand total of £440 was raised! Well done everybody!

Heather has kindly agreed to organise another Quiz for the churches in Spring 2023. More details nearer the time.

*John Case
On behalf of the Parochial Church Council - Churches in Pett & Pett Level*

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Nature Notes

It has been a strange year; a year that reminds me of 1976. That was the year, like this year, that we had an achingly long drought. It was so dry for so long, that the government of the day appointed Dennis Howell as Minister for Drought. The appointment was received so well by the rain gods that within days of his taking on the post, the heavens opened and Dennis became known as the Minister for Floods. But that was more than 40 years ago and global warming has been accelerating ever since, so that long spells of dry, wet, hot, or cold weather are becoming commonplace, and perhaps we are more aware of the limitations of political power.



One effect that the weather seems to have had, is that it seems to have been a good autumn for mushrooms and toadstools, or if you prefer a more general term - fungi. (That is not a scientific observation; I have no data to back it up. It's just a general impression.) Perhaps the drought followed by a period of very wet weather has concentrated the fruiting season into a shorter space of time, making it appear as though there are more fungi about. The fungi are actually there all the time, of course, because the organism is the mycelium that permeates the soil and it is only when the fruiting body or toadstool appears above ground that we can see it. A toadstool is to mycelium, as an acorn is to an oak tree. It's just that we can see an oak tree all year round whether it fruits or not.

We recently went on a 'Fungal Foray' organized by Hastings Country Park led by a field mycologist (Andy Overall). He managed to find and identify around 40 species of fungus in the couple of hours it took us to walk through some open grassland and mixed woodland in the Country Park. There was a surprisingly large range of different types of fungus, from the large common Fly Agaric (that's the red one with white dots on that always illustrates a toadstool in children's picture-books) and the large bracket fungus Birch Polypore, to some tiny toadstools with a cap only about 1 cm across - Snapping Bonnet (*Mycena vitilis*). The range of scales didn't stop there though as he pointed out Coral Spot on some dead or dying branches only a couple of millimetres across, and an even smaller fungus that appears on bracken stems as black dots whose name escapes me (note to self - take a notebook next time!).

Fungus finds all sorts of niches from well manured pastures (*Mottlegills* - *Panaeolus* species) to mossy lawns (Waxcaps - not found on the Foray, but may be seen at a churchyard near you). One niche that is colonized by many different fungi is woodland. Some species live on, and break down the leaf litter, but equally important to the health of the ecosystem are the fungi that have a symbiotic relationship with trees via the mycelium and the tree roots that share nutrients with each other. The tree roots provide sugars produced by photosynthesis to the fungi (which don't use sunlight), and the mycelia provide nutrients extracted from the soil that the tree roots can't metabolize. (On a recent trip to Ashburnham Place with the Gardening Club, the vegetable gardener was keen to show us the mycelium in his very healthy organic 'No-dig' plots.)

Our guide not only pointed out the various species, but showed us some of the process he used to identify them. Shape and colour are obviously important, but other features like the foot where it joins the soil, the veil that covers the gills if it has one, as well as where the fungus is growing are all important clues. The more surprising clues he used were smell (one smelled of coconut, another of chlorine) and taste - some have a peppery taste - but perhaps that is best not tried at home, unless you have a tame field mycologist to hand.

By Alan Kenworthy



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WhatsOn: December at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

- **Sunday 4th** - our Walk with a Warden is a chance to walk with a wildlife expert and find out more about the different species at the reserve. The walk takes a circular route around the reserve from 10am - 1pm. No booking required, just meet us at the Rye Harbour village car park at 10am.
- **Sunday 4th** - this is a kids' workshop day inside the Discovery Centre, with 3 Natural Tree Decoration Workshops across the day. Ideal for children 5 - 15, accompanied by an adult. £4 only, which includes materials to create an item to take home. Booking is essential via our events page: rye.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/discovery-centre/events
- **Thursday 8th December** - another free guided walk from 1pm - 4pm. This walk takes in the Castle Water area of the reserve. No booking needed, just meet up at Bede Lock, Harbour Road to join in.
- **Saturday 10th December & Wednesday 28th December**, 10am - 3pm, more opportunities to drop into the Gooders Hide (the one between the car park and the sea) to learn more about birding on the reserve with our friendly volunteer guides.
- **Friday 16th December**, 10am - 12:30pm - Beginning Birdwatching with James Duncan. Starting from the Discovery Centre, James Duncan guides a 3km circular walk dedicated to spotting some of the wonderful winter species here. This free activity is highly recommended for anyone who would like to get started with bird knowledge and identification.
- **Wednesday 21st December**, 10am - 12 noon, our Winter Solstice Crafts for Kids is for accompanied children aged 5 - 11. This book-ahead activity costs £5 per child and includes materials and refreshments: rye.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/discovery-centre/events

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Gardening Club Notes - November 2022

This month's speaker was Dr. Mick Lynn, who delivered a highly entertaining talk on 'Plants and Crime.' He began with the statement that: "plants are trying to kill you!" He then elaborated by firstly detailing the properties of plants which have been used over time to commit murder, and secondly by explaining the use of plant forensics in the solving of crimes.

Essentially, plants have evolved with defence mechanisms in the form of toxins, to discourage predators from eating them, which, if taken to extremes, could mean a plant becoming extinct through literally being eaten to death - it needs to protect itself so that its seeds are scattered and regrowth occurs, thus ensuring its survival. A simple example of this principle is that the seeds of the yew tree are poisonous to humans, but not to birds, so they can pass safely through a bird's system and be spread accordingly. Toxins in plants are usually bitter, but constitute how a plant tastes, however, they are actually designed to ward off predators, which is why they can cause symptoms in humans, varying through distaste - think sprouts - through allergy - think gluten intolerance - to death!

On the positive side, plants do, of course, feed people, and through trial and error over the millennia the edible have been established from the inedible or deadly poisonous. Manioc or cassava, for example, is a naturally poisonous root, but it can be made safe and palatable, thereby becoming an important source of food where little else is available. Kidney beans must be reconstituted and boiled, and honey, since bees can be indiscriminate in where they gather pollen, contains toxins, but not in injurious enough quantity. The medicinal properties of plants have been similarly established - many will be familiar with an important heart drug, digitalis, from foxgloves and aspirin, from the salicylic acid derived from willow.

Mick then moved on to how the relationship between plants and crime has evolved, showing slides of a number of common plants including tobacco, rhubarb, peach, and potato, all of which contain toxins or poisons which, in sufficient quantity, may cause death. Poisons contained in plants include Strychnine, Cyanide, Ricin, Hemlock, amongst others, which have all been used deliberately to kill people, whether fictitiously by such as Agatha Christie, a trained pharmacist, or actually, in the case of such as Drs. Crippen and Shipway. Poison has been dubbed "the coward's weapon", since it can be used subtly, often administered over time and can, therefore, go undetected, particularly where a person is known to suffer ill-health. The motivation is often to inherit an elderly person's wealth!

For the second part of the talk Mick explained how the differentiating factors present in plants - pollen, fibres, etc., plus the soil itself, are studied in Forensic Botany and have been invaluable in providing irrefutable evidence of crime. Often plants, for reasons of climate, soil, water, etc., have a limited area in which they flourish. Many crimes have been resolved where the suspect's clothing and footwear retain traces of plant matter which has placed them firmly at the murder scene. A recent example of this was in the conviction of Ian Huntley for the Soham Murders. The police had been highly suspicious of aspects of his behaviour, but it was a botanist who established that the pollen from his shoes and car exactly matched that present in the ditch where the girls' bodies had been discovered!

By June Harris

La Cucina di Angela - Parozzo

The parozzo was invented in 1920 by Luigi D'Amico, a bakery owner in Pescara. He wanted to create a cake for Christmas that resembled the traditional rough bread made by local farmers. It looks like a bread containing eggs, the yellow of the corn, and is covered by a layer of dark chocolate. The poet Gabriele D'Annunzio wrote a song about it which is written in Abruzzese dialect and became famous in the 1920's. This comes from the Abruzzo region, in the centre of Italy. In my house we used to prepare the parozzo at Christmas as a variant to the traditional panetone.

Ingredients

350 grams of plain white flour
350 grams of white sugar
250 grams of peeled almonds
200 ml of sunflower oil (1 ½ glasses)
7 eggs

3 tablespoons of amaretto liqueur
Half a teaspoon of cinnamon
1 vanilla pod
3 tablespoons of rum
220 grams of dark chocolate

Turn on the oven at 170 Celsius (ventilated) or 180 Celsius (static oven). Chop the almonds finely, then put to one side. Mix all the ingredients together starting with the eggs, sugar, oil, liqueur, yeast, cinnamon, and vanilla in this order. Add slowly the flour and at the end the almonds, finely chopped. Put in the oven for 90 minutes, until golden outside and dried inside - test with a toothpick. If the toothpick is dry then the parozzo is cooked. Once the parozzo is ready put it aside to let it cool. While the parozzo is cooling melt the chocolate in a bain marie, and when the parozzo is completely cold cover it with the melted chocolate.

I hope you enjoy this recipe, and Merry Christmas to all of you.

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Remembering your Faithful Friend this Christmas

Christmas may be a time to remember family and friends - but Dogs Trust Shoreham is also asking local dog owners to remember their four-legged friends at this festive time, with a *Canine Care Card*.

The *Canine Care Card* is a free service which, in the event of you either passing away, receiving a life-changing diagnosis, or moving into a care home, helps to ensure your dog's future. This can often be a great concern to people who perhaps do not have a family member or friend in a position to look after their dog, should the worst happen. By signing up to the service, Dogs Trust can offer peace of mind, reassuring you that your faithful friend will be well cared for by the charity.

It is easy to sign up to the service, which simply asks for some information on your dog, including their likes and dislikes, as well as your dog's medical history and your vet details. It also asks you to confirm who you would like as your Dog Guardian. This should be someone you trust, like a friend, family member, solicitor, neighbour, or vet, who can sign over ownership of your dog to Dogs Trust on your behalf, should you become seriously ill or pass away.

You can register online by going to www.dogstrust.org.uk and searching for 'Canine Care Card' - or if you do not have access to the internet, you can request a paper version of the application form. Once the form is submitted, Dogs Trust will write to you to confirm that your application has been processed.

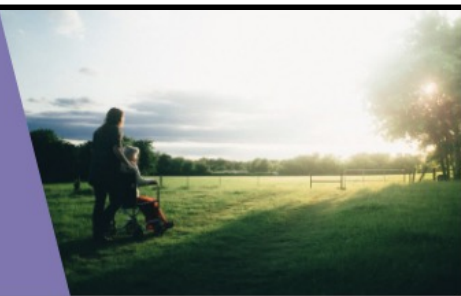
Once signed up, should your card ever need to be activated, Dogs Trust will then arrange with your Dog Guardian for your dog to come into the rehoming centre or into foster care. With a team of vets, trainers and behaviourists on hand if required, your dog will be welcomed, loved, and well cared for by the charity, who will work tirelessly to find a loving new home for your much-loved canine companion.

If you would like further information about the *Canine Care Card*, or to request a paper application form, please contact Dogs Trust Shoreham's Supporter Relations Officer, Jennifer Cruse, at jennifer.cruse@dogstrust.org.uk or phone 01273 466971.



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CHURCH SERVICES - DECEMBER 2022

Sunday 4th December		
Winchelsea	08.00	Holy Communion (BCP), St Thomas' Church Led by the Rev Jonathan Meyer
Pett	09.30	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
Winchelsea	15.00	Festival of Light, St Thomas' Church Led by the Rev Jonathan Meyer
Sunday 11th December		
Pett Level	08.30	Book of Common Prayer Communion St Nicholas Church
Icklesham	09.30	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 Jonathan Meyer
Sunday 18th December		
Winchelsea	9.30	Parish Eucharist, St Thomas' Church, Winchelsea, led by Rev Jonathan Meyer
Icklesham	16.00	Carol Service, St Nicholas Church, Icklesham
Winchelsea	18.00	Carol Service, St Thomas' Church, Winchelsea
Pett	16.00	Carol Service, St Mary & St Peter Church, Pett
Tuesday 20th December		
Pett Level	18.30	Carol Service at St Nicholas Church
Christmas Eve – Saturday 24th December		
Winchelsea	16.30	Crib Service at St Thomas' Church, Winchelsea
Winchelsea	22.30	Midnight Mass, St Thomas's Church, Winchelsea
Christmas Day – Sunday 25th December		
Pett	09.30	Parish Communion, St Mary & St Peter Church Led by the Rev Jonathon Meyer
Icklesham	09.30	Parish Communion, St Nicholas Church Led by Rev David Page
Winchelsea	11.00	Family Eucharist Service, St Thomas' Church Led by Rev Jonathan Meyer

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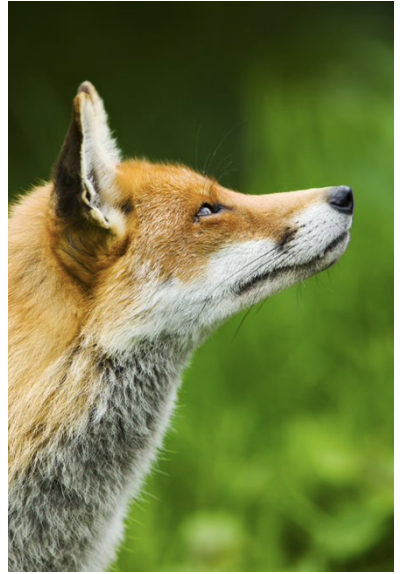
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The Fox

Christmas is almost here folks and it'll soon be time for that fella in the red coat to come sneaking around. Yep, your neighbourhood Fox is on the prowl and shortly after Santa has finished pulling presents out of his sack, your local Fox will be busy trying to pull half a turkey out of your bin bag.

Foxes have lived amongst us for centuries and, just like Christmas, they're celebrated in folklore and myths all around the world. Whether the story belongs to the Greeks, Japanese, Celts, Native Americans, Disney or Roald Dahl it is always the same - the Fox is portrayed as cunning, slippery and devious. I prefer intelligent, adaptable and resourceful - and it's these traits that have helped the Fox to survive in the modern world. It was the modern world that transformed the Fox's wild woods into endless agricultural fields, towns, cities, tower blocks and cul-de-sacs. Traditionally, in the face of development Britain's wildlife has silently been displaced and died. But where others fled destruction, the Fox, like any shrewd opportunist, saw a brave new world of golden opportunities where the dustbins overfloweth and where the streets are paved with cast away kebabs and finger-lickin' chicken.



And for me, this is the chapter in the Fox's story that does indeed seem mythical: that in urban Britain there are wild dogs living amongst us. I can look out my bedroom window and see a relative of the Wolf, Dingo, Jackal and Coyote casually sauntering across my lawn. It's a touch of the Serengeti in suburban Sussex. Studies undertaken by the University of Brighton have estimated that there are 20 Foxes per square kilometre in the city. Of course, tradition dictates that some people do not like Foxes. As a child I always viewed the Boxing Day hunt as the antithesis to Christmas; a reminder that amidst this season of goodwill there are still people who are proud to dress up in costumes in a public celebration of their cruelty.

It's in the bleak midwinter that Foxes are at their most vocal. The blood-curdling, human-like scream of the vixen sounds like something from a Hammer Horror film. This foxy lady is only fertile for a few days and her scream advertises her availability and sparks bow-wows, barks and bickering from amorous dog Foxes. Her cubs will be born about fifty-two days after mating and emerge from their earths in April.

So this Christmas, if you've had it with the plastic snowmen, the fake tree and the fake sentiments, take a short walk away from it all and out into the darkness. Listen for the sound of wild dogs howling at the moon, the sound of survival. Let it stir something wild in your heart. Merry Christmas everybody and best wishes for 2023.

Sussex Wildlife Trust is an independent charity caring for wildlife and habitats throughout Sussex. Founded in 1961, we have worked with local people for over half a century to make Sussex richer in wildlife. We rely on the support of our members to help protect our rich natural heritage. It's easy to join online at sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join

By Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

DECEMBER 2022
RYE (HARBOUR)

Date	HEIGHTS ABOVE ORDNANCE DATUM (NEWLYN)			
	High Water			
	Morning		Afternoon	
	Time	m	Time	m
1 TH	04 30	2.6	17 28	2.5
2 F	05 45	2.6	18 48	2.5
3 SA	07 01	2.8	19 53	2.6
4 SU	08 04	3.0	20 47	2.9
5 M	08 56	3.1	21 32	3.0
6 TU	09 43	3.4	22 12	3.3
7 W	10 27	3.5	22 51	3.4
8 TH O	11 07	3.5	23 28	3.5
9 F	11 46	3.4		
10 SA	00 05	3.5	12 20	3.3
11 SU	00 39	3.4	12 52	3.0
12 M	01 12	3.3	13 22	2.9
13 TU	01 41	3.0	13 54	2.6
14 W	02 12	2.9	14 30	2.5
15 TH	02 51	2.5	15 18	2.2
16 F C	03 44	2.4	16 26	2.0
17 SA	04 48	2.3	17 36	2.0
18 SU	05 55	2.4	18 41	2.3
19 M	06 58	2.5	19 36	2.5
20 TU	07 53	2.9	20 27	2.9
21 W	08 45	3.3	21 15	3.1
22 TH	09 35	3.5	22 04	3.5
23 F ●	10 25	3.8	22 54	3.6
24 SA	11 16	3.9	23 44	3.9
25 SU			12 07	3.8
26 M	00 32	3.9	12 56	3.6
27 TU	01 20	3.8	13 48	3.5
28 W	02 11	3.6	14 43	3.1
29 TH	03 04	3.4	15 41	2.9
30 F D	03 58	3.1	16 42	2.5
31 SA	04 58	2.9	17 50	2.4

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Website (PettNet); Pett & Pett Level News Magazine	PPC
Roads (inc Road Markings, Road Signs, Drains, Potholes, fallen trees)	ESCC
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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

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
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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

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

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

POST OFFICE

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

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



BUSES

Pett: 347

Chick Hill to Hastings Queens Road:

Buses (from 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.



Carols at St Nicholas, Pett Level Tuesday 20 December at 6.30pm

As usual it will be informal, with mulled wine (to lubricate your vocal chords) mince pies, and maybe a bit of fruitcake and some chocolates...

Bring any children you can round up, an umbrella in case of rain, and a torch!

A collection will be made for Surviving Christmas, needed more than ever this year