

# Pett and Pett Level News



**March 2023**

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Front Cover: Snowdrops by Pett Church. Photo courtesy of Tony Howard

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**COPY (LETTERS, ARTICLES, ETC) - MID-DAY THE 15<sup>TH</sup> OF EACH MONTH**

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# 500 CLUB

Draw Date: 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023



- 1<sup>st</sup>: Sara Baker
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Keith Swallow
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Chris Clark

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# Editorial

Well, we thought the March issue was going to be a quiet one, but how wrong we were! It seems that Spring has sprung and our residents have sprung into action along with it. There is so much going on locally that there is absolutely no excuse not to get involved in something or other - from social events to pleas for help with community issues.

Whether you like reading, live music, quizzes, craft fairs, want to try your hand at bowls or simply enjoy the opportunity to meet at our local Community Coffee Morning or Pett WI, there really is something for everyone. And if you'd like to get involved by helping out, Pett Post Office is desperate for volunteer helpers or why not help with the Pett Flower Show and Fete or the Flower Festival - or even consider putting yourself forward for the role of Parish Councillor?

Talking of the Parish Council, please make sure you read David Penfold's report in this issue - it provides important updates on the recent flooding at Pett Level and the future of the public toilets. We're sure that many of you will have comments to make, so we await your responses.

In the meantime please do take time to enjoy the wonderful first signs of Spring - beautifully illustrated in our front cover photograph provided by Tony Howard.

*Donna and Louisa*

## **Pett Post Office Needs Your Help!**

### **Are you in Pett/Pett Level area during the day? Could you spare some time to help Pett Post Office?**

The outreach service provided by Anthea provides a vital resource for many local residents who are unable to travel further afield, but without more ready and able volunteers its future is in jeopardy.

Help is urgently required to assist Anthea to unload equipment at 12.15pm on a Monday and Thursday and reload at 3.15pm. This is on a rota basis, so with enough volunteers only a few hours would be required.

Your assistance to secure the future of this valuable service would be very much appreciated.  
If you can help, or need further information, please contact

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# Jo Bacon 1934 - 2023

In the church of St. Mary and St. Peter, Pett, we are mourning the death on January 15<sup>th</sup> of Jo Bacon. Both Jo and her husband, Nick Bacon, who died in 2021, were good friends to the church. Jo's funeral was held at Hastings Crematorium on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. We send our condolences to her four children.

Nick's father was the well-known artist, Cecil Bacon who lived in Pett and designed the original magazine cover. Cecil was a successful commercial artist whose work included posters for British Rail and illustrations for the Radio Times.

Jo and Nick met at Art College and were both talented artists, although Nick earned a living by working as a Local Government Officer, mainly for Hastings Borough Council. Jo taught art at St. Mary's, Baldslow and exhibited and sold some of her artwork. They lived in Harold Road, Hastings for 55 years, but over quite a long period they attended the church in Pett and contributed to the life of the church. Until recently Jo helped with fund-raising, and was known for making very colourful and unusual cushions from scraps of fabric, depicting all sorts of sea and country scenes.

In the last 4 years, Jo and Nick lived in sheltered accommodation in St. Leonards, but the fact that Jo was in a wheelchair did not stop her attending some church services assisted by one of her sons. After a service, she always seemed so happy to chat to her old friends.

Quite a number of us know how easy it is to complain about the increasingly debilitating effects of old age. Jo wasn't like that; she always seemed cheerful and that cheerfulness could affect us all.

We will remember.

Angela Hawksley  
Pett Parochial Church Council

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## Thinking of being a Parish Councillor?

Your nomination papers must have been checked by officers from Rother District Council, at Bexhill Town Hall by 4pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

Forms are available from 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023 from Rother District Council Electoral Services.

### Election Deadline Dates:

Last date to register to vote Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Last date for new postal votes and proxy postal applications or changes to them -5pm Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Last date for Vote Authority Certificates - 5pm Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Last date for applications to vote by proxy not postal - 5pm Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023 n.b. first date to apply for emergency proxy - after 5pm Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

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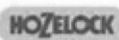
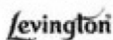
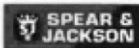
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# Reflections from the Rectory

As I write this, we are preparing to go on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, in the footsteps of Jesus. I have never been to Israel but it has long been something that I have wanted to do. I'm not sure of the exact numbers but I think in the region of about 50 people will be gathering from all over the Diocese of Chichester. We spend three days in the region of Galilee and Nazareth, those areas in which Jesus lived, preached and grew up. The heart of his ministry took place around the Sea of Galilee. As well as visiting many of the key sites such as Cana where water was turned into wine, Mount Tabor, the site of the Transfiguration and the house of Peter's mother-in-law on the shores of the lake, we will celebrate the Eucharist on the spot where the feeding of the 5000 took place.

The second part of the visit takes place in Jerusalem, where we will trace the steps of Jesus' final journey and will include a visit to Bethlehem. Of course, this part of the world is deeply troubled at the moment and there are some anxieties about travelling. I believe the crossing into the Palestinian West Bank to Bethlehem from Israel is heavily guarded and could not be described as anything but harrowing. However I regard these aspects of the pilgrimage important; we will visit a part of the world which is divided, where there is suffering, from time to time bloodshed and confrontation. Sadly that is a feature of the modern world as it was of the area under Roman domination. The world in which Jesus lived out his ministry. We need to reflect upon the message of the gospel in the world as it is today, not just in the world in which Jesus lived.

As I have told people about this trip it has been suggested that I should give a talk of the experience. Oddly I hadn't really thought about this, but I will certainly endeavour to gather photographs and reflections to give a flavour of the experience.

In the notes which we have been given by the diocese there is particular mention that we should hold in our hearts and pray for those who cannot be with us. It is a great privilege to be able to travel to the holy land and not something that everyone is able to do. I hope to be able to hold all the parishes in my charge in prayer during my time there. Perhaps I can share with you that I was asked recently by a parishioner to pray for his parents both recently deceased while I am in Jerusalem. For many, prayer seems especially potent in the land in which Jesus lived.

You will read this after our return and I pray that some of the fruits of the pilgrimage may be shared throughout Lent and above in the Easter season, when we greet the risen Christ.

## Lent Course:

This year in accordance with Deanery Planning we are holding a Lent Course at the Hub on Rye Hill. We will be following the Pilgrim Lent course, [www.pilgrimcourse.org/books/the-beatitudes](http://www.pilgrimcourse.org/books/the-beatitudes) There will be five sessions beginning at 7:30pm on Wednesday March 1<sup>st</sup> and ending on Wednesday March 29<sup>th</sup>. We are hoping that they will be available on Zoom. Please contact the Rector, Jonathan Meyer for further details [revdjonathan@btinternet.com](mailto:revdjonathan@btinternet.com)

## Bible Study:

Following our Parish Away Day last year we have instituted some informal Bible Study meetings in the New Inn at Winchelsea. They are very informal and last from 6:00pm-7:00pm. We have had two sessions attended each time by about 14 people and have been well received. The next one will be March 2<sup>nd</sup>, do feel free to come along, no prior knowledge or faith required. We plan to look at parts of the book of Job and Biblical Wisdom. Contact Jonathan for more information [revdjonathan@btinternet.com](mailto:revdjonathan@btinternet.com)

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# Pett Level Independent Rescue Boat

Hello to all our friends and supporters from everyone here at Pett Level Independent Rescue Boat! Spring is approaching and we are enjoying the glimpse of lighter evenings! As ever, we thank all those who take the time to support us, through volunteering, donations or simply stopping to chat to us on Sundays.

Please read on for our latest news:

- Our first announcement of the year is that our AGM will take place on Sunday 14 May at 10am at the PLIRB Boathouse. The AGM will appoint the Committee for the upcoming year and review the annual reports. All are welcome to attend.
- The second date for your diaries is our annual Open Day which will take place on Sunday 27 August. It's a long way off, but seeing how diaries get very booked up, we like to let you know early! If you are interested in having a stall, donating a prize or being involved, please email [plirbrescue@gmail.com](mailto:plirbrescue@gmail.com).
- On a similar note, if any local villages or community associations are holding an event this year which you think you would like us to be part of, please contact us to see what may be possible.
- We extend a huge thank you to Kit Mclean and Elm Tree Bootsale for their wonderfully generous donation to PLIRB. Kit is a long-time supporter of PLIRB and we are extremely grateful for all he does for us.
- We also say thank you to Bob and Dec's 'One Last Time' Quiz in Fairlight for their donation which they presented to us at their final quiz at the end of 2022. PLIRB were there on the night to assist with a very busy and fun evening!
- Our first ever carol concert evening in December was such a happy and fun occasion! Thank you to everyone who turned out in the calm but freezing temperatures to sing their hearts out! A massive thank you to Ita and Nick Wise and Eaters@Pett Café for leading the singing and providing delicious food and drinks. Keep looking out for details on more adventurous singing endeavours this year...
- On a similar musical tone, our crew have been extending their Thursday evening training sessions to tune their vocal chords and embrace the art of singing sea shanties! Under professional guidance, the team are busy learning harmonies and choruses...all with the focus on an upcoming public performance! Keep looking out for more announcements!
- PLIRB is looking for a Fundraiser to join our team. The holder of the post will be a member of the Committee and be involved in helping secure much-needed funds to ensure the future of the rescue boat. If you are interested, or know anyone who might be, please email [plirbrescue@gmail.com](mailto:plirbrescue@gmail.com) for more details.
- The Charity Shed will reopen later in the spring! We have a wonderful selection of items on offer at great prices - something for everyone!

We wish you all a happy venture in to spring! Do come and visit us on Sundays - and if you would like to get involved, do get in touch. 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://facebook.com/PettLevelRescueBoat) and [@supportingPLIRB](https://supportingPLIRB) and Instagram [@pettlevelindyrescueboat](https://instagram.com/pettlevelindyrescueboat).



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# Nature Notes

If you read this column regularly, then you will know that I am fascinated by natural cycles and the connections between species. I recently watched Richard Fortey's excellent programme 'The Magic of Mushrooms'. (It is still available on catch-up as I write this.) Richard is a fellow of the Royal Society, has an OBE and is an all-round good egg. He is a retired palaeontologist and when he was not naming new species of trilobite, he developed a healthy side-line as a mycologist - hence the programme about fungi. The programme had some wonderful footage of growing mycelium (the underground 'roots' of fungi) and the usual stuff about symbiosis with tree roots, but the stand-out feature for me was the Hat Thrower fungus.



The Hat-thrower fungus - *Pilobolus crystallinus* to give it its Sunday name - is one of several species that grow on cow pats, hence its alternative name Dung Cannon. The spores develop on top of long stiff threads that have a water-filled membrane on the end and the spores sit on top of the membrane. The water pressure in the membrane increases until the membrane bursts, flinging the spores at speed, up to 3 metres from the cow pat. Of course, the question is why has this fungus evolved such a mechanism when other fungi are content to let their spores drift in the breeze. The answer is simply that cows don't eat the grass in the immediate vicinity of the cow pat. Also, the fungus doesn't want the spores to drift out of the field, it wants them to stick to a nearby blade of grass - a blade of grass that another cow is going to eat, so that the spores will end up in another cow pat to start the cycle over again.

Nature never misses an opportunity (that's what evolutionary niche means, after all) and it is possible that the cow pat also contained the eggs of a particular nematode worm that were hatching into larvae as the fungus was growing. If the larva wants to end up being eaten by a cow, then all it has to do is to sit on top of the fungal spore and wait for a ride to a clean patch of grass. The farmer will not be too pleased however, because the nematode is called a lungworm (*Dictyocaulus viviparus*) which transfers to the cow's respiratory tract and causes parasitic bronchitis.

The title of the programme may suggest the term 'magic mushroom' to you and you may think that it describes a certain psycho-active substance. That substance is a chemical called psilocybin and it is found in more than 200 species of fungus. Once ingested it is converted into psilocin which acts on the nervous system to produce similar effects to LSD, both good and bad - 'high' probably but maybe nausea and panic attacks. Mushrooms also contain many poisonous substances - the Death Cap, for example, contains enough poison to kill you, even if you only ingested half the cap. The programme did explore the reasons that some fungi are poisonous to humans, but not necessarily to other animals such as slugs or insects. Research is still ongoing, but it is thought that the answer lies in the evolutionary 'tree of life'. Way back in prehistory when the primordial soup was ready, plants and animals ended up on different branches. Fungus didn't join the plants as you may expect, but stayed on the same branch as the animals for another 10 million years or so before following a separate path. It is thought that the resulting similarities in our DNA is what allows certain mushrooms to have such a disruptive effect on our metabolism.

I found a fungus in our lawn recently - it was identified as Scurfy Twiglet - *Turbaria furfuracea* - it is very common but sadly also inedible (and contains no psilocybin).

Alan Kenworthy

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# King & Country



**PETT FLOWER  
SHOW & FAYRE**

The Flower Show Committee are now able to hold face-to-face meetings, but these are often disturbed by a cat (perhaps upset at the holding of a dog show).

The task of planning the schedule has almost been completed, with the theme 'King & Country'. On the advice of the judges, some of the classes have been revised and new ones introduced. The points system has been reviewed to avoid

multiple winners of trophies, which in turn means less engraving; not only are we running out of space on some of the trophies, but also less engraving means less cost.

Sadly, some supporters of the show have passed away in recent years, so we want to pay tribute to their memory:

- Apparently, Doreen Mc McCausland's shortbread was loved by her grandchildren, so we have included the delicacy as a class in the schedule.
- Evelyn Darnell was a long-standing committee member and donated a cup for the Young People's cake-maker class. We are delighted that her son and daughter will be with us this year to present the trophies.

The AGM will be held on 8 March at 7.00 pm in the Catharine Hollman Room at Pett Village Hall. There will be a full report on the 2022 show, which was a financial success, and donations to various local causes will be agreed. All are welcome to the meeting; refreshments will follow.

Philippa M. Strickland, Chairman P&DHS

---

## Lent lunch - 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023

There will be a Lent lunch at **Cliff House, Pett Level** on **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 12.30pm**. Do let me know if you would like to come to it. I need to know in advance. My telephone number is below.

The Lent lunch will provide a chance for a get-together. There is no ticket price but donations to church funds will be welcomed.

You may wonder why Lent is called Lent. You know, I'm sure, that Lent is the name given in the church to the period starting on Ash Wednesday (this year, on 22<sup>nd</sup> February) and commemorates the 40 days spent by Jesus in the desert before he entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. The word 'Lent' is a bit of a mystery. Some other European languages use names which derive from the number Forty (*careme* in French, *cuaresma* in Spanish and *quaresima* in Italian). If you are thinking of coming to the Lent lunch please disregard the word for Lent in German (*Fastenzeit* meaning *fasting time*) or in the Turkish language (*buyuk perhiz* meaning *lengthy diet*)!

Enough of my showing off how many dictionaries I have! It seems to be agreed that the word Lenten comes from an Anglo-Saxon and Germanic word meaning springtime and refers to the lengthening of the daylight hours.

So, on 28<sup>th</sup> March why not come and celebrate springtime and, at the same time, think of the Forty days and look forward to Easter?

Angela Hawksley 07976 389635

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# Coffee Morning and Library Notes

Another busy first Wednesday of the month in February with coffee morning, jigsaw lending, community library and hearing aid clinic all well used. In the Library we were very pleased to welcome two new borrowers, as well as old friends! And we continue to offer newly arrived books.

Maybe books in translation from non-English authors interest you? (Is this a 'genre' in itself?) A clutch of just such books has arrived on our tables. One is the winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature: *La Place de L'Etoile* by Patrick Modiano. A debut novel, this is a satire of France during the Nazi Occupation. French? Satirical? Who knew? And translated from German, another debut novel, this one set in Berlin, *One Clear Ice-cold January Morning at the Beginning of the 21st Century* by Roland Schimmelpfennig. This might be a prize-winner for the longest title of a novel, ever, although according to one reviewer, 'The exhilarating narrative is wonderfully concise ...'

Another book boasting a longish title is *Suddenly in the Depths of the Forest* by Amos Oz. Translated from Hebrew, this is, however, a small book with short chapters - 'Both a children's fable and an allegory for adults . . .' it tells us on the back cover. From Finland we have *Happy Days of the Grump* by Tuomas Kyro, a story to equal the (Swedish) *A Man Called Ove*. And we have more, from German, French, Italian Spanish and Norwegian authors. It is refreshing to have the opportunity for a different perspective.

And there is a splendid symmetry with our reader recommendations in that they are both about English speakers adjusting to life "abroad". The first is a memoir, "*Where the Hornbeam Grows*" by Beth Lynch, about leaving beloved gardens and moving to Switzerland, and is subtitled "A journey in search of a Garden". As Robert Macfarlane says, "horticulture and hope twine together here". The hope is needed as, despite being European, the culture and approach to life of the Swiss Beth Lynch finds very difficult to feel at home in.

The second book is "*Yuki means happiness*" by Alison Jean Lester. The author lived for eight years in Japan when younger and her novel features a 23 year old American girl who goes to work as a nanny in Tokyo. Here customs, attitudes, language, spoken and, of course, especially written, are totally new to the protagonist. The developing relationship with her charge helps her, and in the end she has to decide whether to put everything on the line for the sake of the child.

And if none of the above appeal we have the first 3 books of Richard Osman's "Thursday Murder Club" series!!

We hope to see you on March 1st in the Village Hall.

*The Coffee Morning Team*

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# PETT WI

For one month only I'm back to cover Pett WI's report on behalf of Sally Watson.



Firstly, just a reminder to come along and support another of our popular fair events, this one the Spring Fair on Saturday 1 April at Pett Village Hall between 10am and 3pm. We'll have an assortment of quality traders, some delicious WI refreshments and a raffle too of course. Hope to see you there!

Our February meeting had a terrific turnout to hear our two speakers, Anna Knight and our own Philippa Strickland, who talked about the activities of Rye Harbour Sailability - a registered charity giving people of all ages, with a wide range of disabilities, the chance to experience the fun and freedom of sailing with an experienced helmsman and crew. Under the direction of an RYA Senior Instructor, their members enjoy sailing in adapted dinghies at Rye Harbour. There were many nautical expressions thrown around during the course of the talk which, I have to say, several of our members were fully conversant in!

During the interval our members enjoyed the flowing prosecco (well this is Pett WI folks!), alongside some non-alcoholic beverages too, of course, and some sweet treats from Tracy/Judy and Philippa - thanks ladies!

On the foodbank front, we were delighted in December to link up with the Icklesham Trust to have a collection basket at Icklesham Village Hall - giving us 11 collection points now around Pett, Pett Level, Fairlight and Icklesham. Icklesham is being well supported - with around 200 items donated since mid-December - which has helped towards a figure of over 1700 items delivered to Rye Foodbank and Dom's Food Mission between 1 November 2022 and 8 February 2023. Additionally, we transferred £337.50 in financial donations to RFB for November and December. We do now encourage people to make financial donations for our appeal directly to Rye Foodbank (rather than via the Pett WI bank account) so it was great to receive notification that the Pett Methodist Church had arranged a £50 donation to them on 6 February.

Our Winter Warm Clothing Appeal for Safehaven - both women and men - was a great success once again - so many thanks to everyone who donated items for this. Thank you to the Royal Oak in Pett for monies received in their collection box of £27.10 - donations of which are received in exchange for sanitary products. We also continue to support the Seaview project - regularly delivering towels, toiletries, food and clothing to them. This year we have introduced two new organisations to support - Hub on Rye Hill and 1066 Pink Ladies. Hilary pointed out that none of this would be possible, of course, without the on-going generous support received from all of our members, plus the enthusiasm and commitment of the WICAID Team including Sally Watson, Trish Walker, Wendy Burgess, Sandra Clark, Tracy Hedley, Sara Dann and Jane Sweaney who regularly give their time and support to keep things going from strength to strength.

Hilary finished her report by saying "Our WICAID activities certainly play a large part in Pett WI life now, so I'm confident that 2023 can be as successful as ever. Please don't forget - a little kindness goes a long way - and our efforts really are very much appreciated by everyone we support. Thank you!" And thank you, as always to Hilary for her absolute passion and dedication to ensure our community activities are always such a tremendous success. To find out more about the work of Pett WICAID please email Hilary at [pettwi.wicaid@gmail.com](mailto:pettwi.wicaid@gmail.com)

So, as always - it's all happening at Pett WI. General enquiries to our [pettwi1917@gmail.com](mailto:pettwi1917@gmail.com) and please follow us on Facebook.

Belinda Wood, Pett WI Committee

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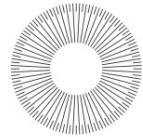
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# An invitation to play Bowls at Pett



Have you considered becoming involved in a sport that is for all ages and abilities? If so, why not come and make new friends and learn new skills at your local bowls club here in Pett?

At Pett Bowls we play over 45 competitive and friendly matches, hold weekly club days and competitions throughout the season. For the more experienced players, we are also members of the Mermaid Bowls League, which consists of eleven clubs based in East Sussex and West Kent. Last season we came a brilliant 4<sup>th</sup> which, incidentally, was the highest league position ever achieved by the club.

The game of bowls has been medically proven to improve your general health and helps to strengthen the immune system. It also exercises your muscles and mind as you try to outwit your opponent. If you want to try bowls, the club will be able to provide you with tuition on the sport of bowls and all the equipment. All you need is to come along to the bowls green on our **Open Day** at the recreation ground in Pett, on **Friday 14 April** after 11.00 am. Remember to wear flat soled shoes and join in the fun!

In the meantime, if you like any further information, please contact either our Secretary Brenda on 07444008034, Club Captain Tracey 01424 532951 or me.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Chris Saint- Treasurer 01424 813047

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# News from Pett Methodist Church

We are still buzzing from the excitement of our **Early Burns Night** held at the Village Hall when we fed 60 people with superb haggis, neeps and mash and cranachan. It was all delicious and the haggis from The Old Butcher's shop in Pett saw a few converts to haggis! Thanks, Sarah it was great!

Rev Crawford Logan led us in the traditional proceedings and amused us with a Robbie Burns poem and hilarious song, which of course we all joined in at the chorus. Much needed funds were raised for the church and a donation for Foodbank was made. Thank you, especially to the band of helpers who came along and helped make it possible.

Don't forget we have a **Foodbank collecting box** at the chapel for your donations.

## Coming Up!!!

Our next **Pie & Chat** is planned for Tuesday March 21<sup>st</sup> (TBC) 12 noon. Come along to a warm space and enjoy a 2 course meal for just £3. All welcome, please ring Wendy on 07908 377845 to book your meal and inform of any dietary needs.

## **Mothing Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March, 3pm.**

This will be Café style church with tea and cake. The service will be suitable for families and there will be craft on all the tables for anyone to do.

## **Good Friday and Easter Day.**

On Good Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> 10.30am we will be holding a short meditative reflection outside (weather permitting) and everybody present and passing by will be offered a hot cross bun and coffee! Come along, take time and share. On Easter Day, our service will be a celebration starting at 10.45am. All welcome.

Watch this space as the chapel has been serving Pett for 175 years this year and we will be celebrating over the weekend of June 18<sup>th</sup>.

*Wendy Hatch*

## SAVE THE DATES!!

The gas bills for St Mary & St Peter Church for December and January amounted to £502, more than the total of the last twelve months. The amount paid to the Diocese will be over £9,000 this year and building insurance will cost almost £2,000. Severe water ingress through the west wall of the church, in times of heavy rain, needs addressing.

As Church Treasurer I need to think of innovative ways to bring in funds to cover these costs. There will be a **Fun Quiz** at the Village Hall on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March** (see back cover of this publication) and a **Big Lunch** is planned at the Village Hall on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May**, the Coronation Weekend. The Government is encouraging communities to come together during that weekend, so the lunch is intended to be a village event, bringing the Parish and families together after the disruptive years of the pandemic and, at the same time, raising money for the churches.

Along the lines of previous Big Village Lunches, salads and numerous puddings will be provided, and you will be asked to bring your own main course and drink. A limited number of tickets (no charge for children under 10)) will be available from Sarah at The Butchers Shop or from me: [pettchurchestreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:pettchurchestreasurer@gmail.com) - 07977 100 296.

More details will be available in the April issue of Pett & Pett Level News but, in the meantime, as these events are always sold out, if you would like to put your name on the ticket list, don't hesitate to get in touch.

*Heather Godwin. Treasurer, Pett Churches.*

# What's on: St Michael's Hospice

**St Michael's Hospice Easter Bunny Hop:** Are you thinking of new ways to entertain the little one's this Easter? Join St Michael's Hospice on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April from 10am - 12pm at 25 Upper Maze Hill, St Leonards on Sea, TN38 0BL for their popular Easter Bunny Hop. Explore the bunny trail to collect tokens in exchange for a delicious Easter egg and use your bunny-like senses to discover the hidden rabbit hole to be in with a chance of winning a prize. There will also be Easter craft activities for the whole family to enjoy. Children's entry is £3.50 (including refreshments), and adults are £1.50. No prior booking needed, just hop down on the day.

For more information call the Fundraising team on 01424 456396 or email [fundraising@stmichaelsospice.com](mailto:fundraising@stmichaelsospice.com)

**St Michael's Hospice Lottery Special Draw:** Could you help the Hospice raise an extra £15,000 this spring by entering their Lottery Special Draw? On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023, the St Michael's Hospice Lottery team will run a special draw where one lucky supporter will win a £3,000 top prize. There are 104 other cash prizes up for grabs too. Enter today and you could be treating yourself to a well-deserved holiday, just like a previous Lottery top prize winner; "I used my win to rent a large, converted barn in Canterbury for 15 of my family, including four great grandchildren. We all had the best time together."

Will you be the lucky £3,000 top prize special draw winner? Purchase your Lottery Special Draw tickets from the Lottery team on 01424 456384 or email [lottery@stmichaelsospice.com](mailto:lottery@stmichaelsospice.com).

Players must be 16+. Please play responsibly.

**Purchase your Mother's Day gifts with St Michael's Hospice:** St Michael's Hospice has some great gift ideas for a special mother, grandmother, aunt, sister or best friend in your life this Mother's Day.

Show your gratitude for someone special with a St Michael's Hospice Open Gardens season ticket for £50. Each season ticket entitles the recipient entry into all Open Gardens across the 2023 calendar (excluding Sarah Raven's Cuttings Garden in Brightling). From colourful flower beds and tall trees to garden gnomes and fountains, there is something for everyone to enjoy in the beautiful gardens of Hastings and Rother.

To purchase an Open Gardens Season ticket, email [fundraising@stmichaelsospice.com](mailto:fundraising@stmichaelsospice.com) or call the Fundraising team on 01424 456396.

Alternatively, you could give someone the gift of winning up to £2,000 with a Hospice Lottery gift voucher. Lottery gift vouchers start at £10 and you will also receive a free greetings card to pop them in. Speak to a member of the Lottery team to place your order today on 01424 456384 or email [lottery@stmichaelsospice.com](mailto:lottery@stmichaelsospice.com)



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For full terms and conditions, information on how proceeds are spent and your chance of winning a prize, visit [stmichaelsospice.com/lottery](http://stmichaelsospice.com/lottery) or call 01424 456384 to request a copy by post or email. Must be 16 or over to play. Underage gambling is an offence.  
Please play responsibly. If you feel you have a problem with gambling, visit [www.gamblingaware.co.uk](http://www.gamblingaware.co.uk)

# CHURCH SERVICES - MARCH 2023

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> March		
Winchelsea	08.00	Book of Common Prayer Communion Service
Winchelsea	11.00	Parish Communion
Please note that there will <u>NOT</u> be a service at Pett Church on this day.		
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> March		
Pett Level	08.30	Book of Common Prayer Communion Service
Icklesham	09.30	Parish Communion
Winchelsea	11.00	Parish Communion
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> March – Mothering Sunday		
Pett	09.30	Parish Communion
Winchelsea	11.00	Parish Communion
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> March		
Icklesham	09.30	Parish Communion
Winchelsea	11.00	Parish Communion

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PETT LEVEL	St Nicholas Church	TN35 4BS
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# Pett Parish Council Update

The council held an extraordinary meeting in February in order to discuss several planning applications and also the question of the possible devolution to the parish council of the public conveniences in Pett Level. I have written a separate report on discussions with Rother District Council concerning the toilets, which will be found elsewhere in this issue of the parish news.

We all experienced heavy rain on one night in January, but, as most will know, this led to flooding in Marsham Brook Lane. Another article in this issue reports on a meeting at which residents who were affected by flooding reported their experiences to our MP, Sally-Ann Hart.

I have mentioned previously the replacement of caravans by chalets at the Kentucky site at Pett Level. It now seems clear that the chalets come within the definition of caravans, so no further action can be taken. It is not clear at present whether moves will be made to see if this definition can be changed because the present situation must affect not only Pett Level, but also many other places in the country.

There was a further application regarding Kentucky (and Dixie) that was approved by the district council. This was to extend permitted occupancy to 50 weeks a year. While this was approved with conditions, it appears to have led to further applications to extend occupancy to 50 weeks. The council discussed these applications and agreed to object to them, partly because of the flood risk, which appears to be getting greater, and partly because approval of such requests would be setting a precedent. It should be noted that, while registered caravan sites pay business rates, only half currently goes to the district council, the other half going to central government, while the occupants of the caravans are able to take advantage of all local facilities without paying council tax.

There have been proposals to reduce the fire service at this end of the county, which would have meant that it would take longer for appliances to reach here. However, it has been reported that, following the approval of the increase in the precept for fire and rescue services at a recent meeting of the Fire Authority, there will be no change - no downgrade - to the services in Hastings and Rye. If correct, this is good news; the parish council has agreed to write to the Chief Fire Officer asking for confirmation of this.

The bolts holding the slide in the children's playground had rusted away and these have been replaced (again by Peter Felton and David Nicholls), so the slide is now safe to use.

With the help of our tree warden, Marcus Foster, four of the damaged trees on the verges in the village have been replaced. Many thanks to Marcus and also to Chris Saint and the parish clerk for organising this.

Finally, I repeat my encouragement to people to consider standing for the council in May. The closing date for nominations is Tuesday 4 April. Nomination papers will be available either from the parish clerk or from the District Council's Electoral Registration Section at the Town Hall, Bexhill, email [elections@rother.gov.uk](mailto:elections@rother.gov.uk), telephone 01424 787826. Being a parish councillor may sound onerous and time-consuming. However, like many things, it involves what you decide to put into it. The minimum commitment is to attend council meetings, which at present are held on the third Tuesday of every other month. One of the problems that I see is that people who would make excellent councillors are involved in running other village organisations (or organisations that are further afield). I appeal to them (and, of course, others) to think about giving up a little more time and offer to stand as a parish councillor. In particular, it would be great to have some young people and some women; it is not the prerogative of elderly men!

*David Penfold, Chair, Pett Parish Council*

# Flooding at Pett Level

As all will know, on a night in early January there was unusually high rainfall. Much publicity has been given to the flooding at Priory Meadow in Hastings, but there was also serious flooding in Marsham Brook Lane in Pett Level and this was not just floodwater, but floodwater contaminated by sewage, the result of the sewage treatment plant having to allow untreated water to flow out. In Fairlight, and other places feeding the sewage plant, surface water and sewage both flow in the same system so that high rainfall means that the treatment plant is unable to cope. The outflow is normally into Marsham Brook, but in this instance the amount of water was so great that it flowed across the reed beds and the bottom of Chick Hill into the houses in Marsham Brook Lane at a high rate of flow, rising to a height of about 15 inches. A number of houses were affected and they are now not habitable until they have been cleaned and decontaminated; the owners are not expecting to be able to move back in for at least six months.

In view of this, a meeting was held with Sally-Ann Hart MP and the residents who had been affected. Representatives of the parish council were also present. The residents in turn reported their experiences, noting that this was not the first time the area had been flooded, although the sewage contamination had not occurred previously. Southern Water had offered to help with the clearing up, although it was not clear exactly what that meant. However, it was clear that, at that stage, Southern Water was not accepting responsibility.

Discussion followed on various people's positions regarding insurance. Some insurance companies appeared willing to cover the costs of cleaning and restoring the houses; for others it was not clear, while some people did not have insurance cover. Sally-Ann asked that all details should be sent to her and she noted that there is a government fund that is intended to help those not covered by insurance. She also said that she would take this up with Southern Water, although at this stage it is not clear whether they will be willing to pay compensation.

The situation has also been reported to both Rother District Council and East Sussex County Council. Individuals who have been affected have been urged to contact the Environment Agency, which has overall responsibility for Marsham Brook. The parish council is also doing this in the hope that the Environment Agency will be looking at ways of preventing a further recurrence of the flooding.

David Penfold (Chair, Pett Parish Council)

# Pett Level Public Conveniences

As many people will know, Rother District Council are proposing to devolve discretionary services, such as public conveniences to parish councils to manage. This includes the public conveniences at Pett Level.

This is not the first time that this has happened and in 2016 a survey was carried out in Pett Level, which clearly indicated the need for public toilets for the reasons that are now being discussed again. Furthermore, it was clear that it was not felt reasonable for these to be a charge on parishioners of Pett as it would mean increasing the precept by about half. As the cost of running the toilets has increased since 2016, the increase would now be greater.

In view of this, an online meeting was held; present was a representative of Rother DC and representatives of Pett Parish Council. The following issues were raised:

- The public conveniences are used all year but are particularly busy in the summer months, the main use being by visitors rather than residents.
- There are no other facilities nearby, so, when the toilets are closed, people are forced to use hedgerows and the beach.
- The parish therefore considers them to be a strategic asset in that they provide a contribution to the attraction of Rother as a seaside destination and indirectly help boost the income to local businesses.
- As noted above, the Parish precept would need to be increased by over 50% in order to run them (not including repair or refurbishment costs).

There are also a number of other issues relating to the operation of the toilets that were discussed. These included:

- The cesspit is small and thus requires frequent emptying.
- As the amount of water going into the cesspit appears to be much greater than the amount of water supplied (based on the relative costs of supply and emptying), it appears that surface water is also going into the cesspit.
- The cleaning costs are carried out by a contract company and seem high if compared to what the costs would be if a local company (or individual) was employed.
- It might be possible for an EV charge point to be installed in the car park to generate income, although the present law is that parish councils cannot operate such a charging point; this would have to be done by the district council.
- It might be possible to install a turnstile to charge users.

There have been various plans that have been considered together with local developers, but these lapsed once the Covid crisis took hold, so there are at present no plans in place.

Alternative options may be for the parish council to take them over, but with initial funding from the district council, who would also carry out refurbishment before that takes place, or for new toilets to be built elsewhere in Pett Level and the current site sold to finance this. However, it must be born in mind that there is also a small car park on the rest of the site. If the site were sold, then this could exacerbate parking problems.

These points are being put in writing to Rother DC and it may be that the public conveniences at Pett Level can be treated as an exception. Any comments from parishioners will be very welcome and should be sent to the Parish Clerk, whose contact details are given at the end of the parish news. This has also been discussed with Sally-Ann Hart MP, who will be kept in touch with developments.

David Penfold (Chair, Pett Parish Council)

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# Gardening Club Notes - February 2023

Robin Tuppen was our guest speaker this month, from Thomas Smith's Trug Shop, the original maker of the famous Sussex Trug. The company still makes the trugs traditionally using locally coppiced sweet chestnut and "cricket bat" willow - a by-product of the cricket bat industry. The official name of the trugs is: "The Royal Sussex Traditional Trug", Thomas Smith having been awarded Queen Victoria's Royal Warrant after selling her some of his trugs on the first day of the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park in 1851.

Robin told us that the origins of the trug date back to Anglo-Saxon times when farmers' "trogs" were hewn from solid wood, made in a variety of sizes and used as measures - even now his company make one in a "bushel" size. Trugs were used so extensively there were countless trug-makers, however, the post WWII period began a decline. Once mechanisation had become the norm in farming, battery hens' eggs were automatically collected and seeds sown by machinery, so the seed sower, pacing the fields with seeds in a trug slung round his neck, became obsolete.

Trug making declined to the extent that by the 1960s retailers were placing orders for numbers of trugs the makers could not fulfil. A man called Dudley Hyde then revised the design, using birch ply to make the frames, which speeded up the process and Robin then created his own firm making these "modern" trugs. In time, Robin took over the original Thomas Smith company and today his firm produces both styles.

Robin explained some of the production issues he now has to deal with, brought about recently through the combination of Brexit, the Covid pandemic and even the war in Ukraine. Brexit has removed entirely the EU market, forestry is in decline, so chestnut supplies are difficult to obtain, Russian birch ply is unobtainable and no plywood is made in this country. However, on the upside, during the pandemic lockdown phase many people spent more time in their gardens and as a by-product demand for trugs rose to the extent that Robin's company doubled their trade in one year!

Today, only four trug makers remain in Sussex, but Robin is currently preparing a bid for National Lottery money to create a Heritage Centre which would combine trug making, apprenticeship training, along with other woodworking crafts, hoping thereby to preserve these traditional crafts for the future.

Robin also focused on the practical aspects of trug making, explaining the whole process, accompanied by his colleague Caleb, who demonstrated by making two trugs while we all watched. It was a privilege to be able to see an age-old craft in action, no machines, natural materials, human skill, the creation of a useful and beautiful, multi-purpose basket.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday March 14<sup>th</sup> when Stephanie Donaldson will be our speaker, on the subject of Garden Design. Stephanie, who lives in Hastings Old Town, is a renowned author, editor and lecturer on many aspects of gardening.

Looking ahead to our meeting on April 11<sup>th</sup>, we will be welcoming another local speaker, Wendy Bates from Rotherview Nurseries, with a talk on growing Alpines. Our meetings take place in the Catherine Holman Room at Pett Village Hall at 7.30 on the second Tuesday in the month. Visitors are always welcome at £3 for one meeting.

*June Harris*



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## Regular activities at Pett Village Hall

Monday	Little Ducklings Table tennis Yoga	9.15am - 10.45am 4pm - 5.30pm 6pm - 7.30pm	
Tuesday	Pilates Pole Dancing	8.30am - 9.30am 7.15pm - 8.45pm	
Wednesday	Badminton Pett Painters Dance Fitness	10am - 12pm 2pm - 4pm 6pm - 7.30pm	
Thursday	Pilates Little Ducklings Art Short Mat Bowls Fitness Pilates	8.30am - 9.30am 10am - 11.30am 12pm - 3pm 3.15pm - 5.15pm 6.30pm - 7.15pm	
Friday	Badminton	10am - 12pm	
1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month East Sussex		10am - 12noon	Coffee Morning, Library, Jigsaw Library & Hearing Aid Maintenance. Everyone Welcome CHR
2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month		7pm - 9pm	Gardening Club - Catharine Hollman room
2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month		7pm - 10pm	Railway Club
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month		7.30pm - 9.30pm	Pett WI - Catharine Hollman Room

Starting on 6<sup>th</sup> February, Harold Road Surgery will be using the Catharine Hollman Room to see patients on Mondays and Tuesdays. Prescription service will continue as before on Mondays 2 - 2.30pm and Fridays 9 - 10am.

## Coffee Morning, Pett Village Hall 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023

The next Coffee Morning and Community Library, 10 - 12 Wednesday  
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**Rye Harbour Nature Reserve**

# Weekly Wellbeing Walks

Enjoy the outdoors with a morning of gentle walking across Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. Suitable for all abilities.

**Wednesdays 9:45 am – 11 am**

Meet at the shelter next to the public toilets in Rye Harbour village, close to the bus turning circle and bus stop – ideal for coming by bus

**Booking isn't needed but suitable footwear is!**

Information about all our events can be found here:  
[sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/whats-on](http://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/whats-on) or scan the QR code:



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# It might as well rain until September!

This song was all the rage in the early sixties when even I was young! Why is September important? Because of our **Pett Church Flower Festival** which will be on the weekend of 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> September.

The theme of the Flower Show 2023 is still under consideration and will be disclosed a bit later on. Once revealed, it will give lots of opportunities for our talented flower arrangers to plan to use their ingenuity and dexterity and good judgement to produce a magnificent display of beauty. The usual stalls are planned including, of course, delicious refreshments and a generous raffle. As before, the Festival will be sponsored by individuals. Each will sponsor in memory of a loved one. The names of the sponsors and their loved ones will be on display at the back of the church and also in a couple of other places and will be printed in the programme.

We hope that you will immediately put the Flower Festival date in your diary. Your attendance is very important to us. Also, do think about whether you could play a role in the running of the festival, either by flower arranging or by helping on the stalls or by making a cake for the refreshment stall or, perhaps, assisting with publicity. It would be helpful too if you could organize some nice weather for the event!

And do get in touch if you have any suggestions to improve the Flower Festival experience! And I assure you that I don't really want it to rain until September!

Angela Hawksley on behalf of the Flower Festival Committee, 07976 389635

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# What's on at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

A warm welcome to March and the start of spring from all here at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. This is an exciting time on the reserve as wildlife and plants become much more active, plus our events calendar is looking lively too:

- On Wednesdays our Wellbeing Walks take place from 9.45am - 11.15am. Meet at the Rye Harbour Village bus shelter (by the turning circle).
- Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> - Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve Open Day. Events include a guided walk, stalls in the Discovery Centre and the chance to find out more about the work of the Friends. All welcome.
- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> - mornings: Nature Tots sessions, sensory outdoor education for children age 2 - 5, accompanied by an adult. Booking essential via the What's On section of the website. Afternoons: our Nature Babies sessions, for babies three months - 18 months. Booking required for the four sessions.
- Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> - Join the Friends of RHNR for a 6km circuit of the beach reserve, to enjoy sea-bird spotting and wave watching.
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> - Camber Castle Wildlife Walk with James Duncan, 1pm - 4pm. No booking necessary, meet at Brede Lock.
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> - Join James on a Beginning Birdwatching walk, 10am - 1pm, with talks and tips on bird identification. No cost but booking essential.
- Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> - Walk with a Warden, 10am - 1pm. Walk starts from Rye Harbour village car park.
- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> - from 10am - 3pm, drop in to visit with our Guide in a Hide volunteers as they share birdwatching tips at the Gooders Hide.
- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> - 10am - 12.30pm, Wildlife Watch is our monthly club for 5 - 11 year olds accompanied by an adult, booking essential.

To book or to find out more about any of these activities, visit our website page: [rye.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/discovery-centre/events](http://rye.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/discovery-centre/events)

Stay in touch for news and updates to our busy schedule by following us on social media: Facebook - @RyeHarbourNR; Instagram - @ryeharbournr or Twitter @ryeharbour\_NR

Katherine Crowther  
Communications Officer, Sussex Wildlife Trust



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# You now need photo ID to vote at a polling station

The UK Government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photo ID when voting at a polling station at some elections. This new requirement will apply for the first time in England at the local elections on Thursday 4 May 2023.

## Which forms of ID can I use to vote?

You may already have a form of photo ID that is acceptable. You can use any of the following:

- Passport
- Driving licence (including provisional license)
- Blue badge
- Certain concessionary travel cards
- Identity card with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme)
- Biometric Immigration document
- Defence identity card
- Certain national identity cards

For more information on which forms of photo ID will be accepted, visit [electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID) or call their helpline on 0800 328 0280.

## If you don't have an accepted form of photo ID

If you don't already have an accepted form of photo ID, or you're not sure whether your photo ID still looks like you, you can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a **Voter Authority Certificate**. You can apply for this at [voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk](https://voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk).

Alternatively, you can complete a paper application form and send this to us. If you need any help with applying for a Voter Authority Certificate or want to request an application form, contact us at [elections@rother.gov.uk](mailto:elections@rother.gov.uk).

## Find out more

If you have any questions or would like to find out more, go to [electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID](https://electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID), or call their helpline one 0800 328 0280.

## New Beach Club gigs 2023 diary dates

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February- It Takes Two, Motown night  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March- member party  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March- Helter Skelter  
Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April- Pass The Cat  
Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May - 1066 Rockitmen  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May- Los Twangueros  
Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June- Rye Bay Crew  
Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July- Kytes  
Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August- Cushty  
Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August- Los Twangueros  
Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August-3pm Big Blue  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September- Don't Stop (Fleetwood Mac Tribute band)  
Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September- Harvest Home Auction

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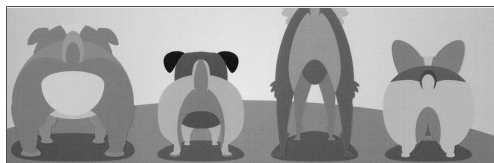
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# Common Frog

My friend Alf passed away a few years back. He loved Sussex and he loved wildlife but Alf's real passion was amphibians: newts, frogs and toads. Alf loved them so much his funeral service ended with that Paul McCartney *Frog Chorus* song. That's commitment for you. I spent the rest of the week with that annoying 'bom-bom-bom-aye-e-aye' tune rolling 'round my head. I'm sure Alf was laughing somewhere. While I was helping Alf's family clear his house I was honoured to be given one of his prized possessions: a clock that chimes each hour by playing a variety of frog croaks. Long ago, Alf's wife, Iris had made him take the batteries out because it was unbearable.



But there was no silencing Alf's pond each spring. Each year it would come alive with the sound of a real frog chorus. Alf was proud of his pond. Creating a garden pond, no matter what size, is one of the best things you can do to help wildlife in your garden. If you're lucky, in March it will turn into a hotbed of activity as Common Frogs return to mate and lay their eggs. After spending the winter hidden away in the garden, it's time to go a-courting.

Approach the pond quietly with a torch and you can observe the mating frogs. Look closely and you may be able to identify the male frog (darker with a bluish tinge to his throat) and the female (white granulations on her flanks). But if you can't notice these features, then the males are on top and the females are on the bottom. The lustful male will hop on the female and grasp her as tight as he can. He even develops special extra-grip pads on his forearms and he'll use those powerful back legs to boot off any rival males who try to muscle in. In theory, the males with the longest and loudest croaks are the most attractive, but with females sometimes outnumbered ten to one by males the pond party can get loud, chaotic and confusing. Amorous male frogs will grasp anything: a log, a fish, even another male (males have a special croaking signal which politely informs other males there has been a misunderstanding). Female Common Frogs can lay up to 4,000 eggs, although 1,000-2,000 is more normal. These are fertilised by the male as they emerge and form into those familiar clouds of jelly spawn.

So, in tribute to Alf I decide to restore his croaking clock to full working order. I re-installed the batteries and nailed it proudly on my office wall. After two hours I turned it off. That croaking was unbearable! I'm still sure Alf was laughing somewhere.

by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

We rely on the support of our members to help protect our rich natural heritage. Please consider supporting our work. As a member you will be invited to join Michael Blencowe on our regular wildlife walks and also enjoy free events, discounts on wildlife courses, Wildlife magazine and our Sussex guide book, *Discovering Wildlife*. It's easy to join online at [sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join](http://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join)



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# *La Cucina de Angela*

## Mimosa cake

The mimosa cake was invented by Adolfo Renzi in 1962 in the town of San Remo during a confectionary contest to pay homage to the “city of flowers” in the northern Liguria region of Italy. March is one of the best months of the year for me. It introduces springtime and most of all it celebrates “International Women’s Day”, represented by the yellow mimosa tree. In Italy it is traditional to celebrate the day by exchanging among women a bunch of yellow flowers containing this wonderful smelling mimosa.

(For 8 people).

### For the cake:

4 large eggs  
200g caster sugar  
200g self-raising flour  
Icing sugar for dusting

### For the cream:

300ml whole milk  
Yolks from 2 free range eggs  
1 heaped tablespoon of plain flour.  
2 tablespoons of caster sugar  
250ml single cream

Preheat the oven to 180C (static oven) or 170C(fan oven).

Split the yolk and whites of the eggs, then add the sugar to the yolks. Whisk the mix until it is stiff, then gently fold in the flour.

Whisk the whites in another bowl until they stiffen and add into the mix, folding it in gently again.

Split this mixture in two, filling two 20cm cake tins (roughly 9 inches), lined with greaseproof paper. Cook them in the oven for roughly 20 minutes, or until the cakes are golden.

As the cakes cook start making the cream. Heat the milk slowly over a low heat, without letting it boil. In a separate bowl, whisk the egg yolks with the flour and sugar. Add the egg mixture to the warmed milk and use an electric whisk to stir and break all the clumps to create the cream while still heating the mixture. If you don’t have an electric whisk then add 3-4 tablespoons of warm milk at a time to the mixture until all the milk is absorbed. Continuously stir the mixture to avoid clumps, and take it gently to the boiling point. In both cases, once all the milk has been added to the egg mixture, cook for a few minutes to let it thicken, then set aside to cool. When the cakes are golden, take them out of the oven and slice each of them into two layers - giving four layers in total. Chop one of the bottom layers into yellow 1cm cubes.

Layer the three remaining cakes, filling each layer with cream. Also cover the top and sides with the cream before decorating the top layer with the small sponge cubes you cut previously. Add a dusting of icing sugar as a final decoration.

*Buon Appetito and many wishes to all the women!*

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# Fairlight Players

Fairlight Players have successfully cast their April play, which will be **Improbable Fiction**, by Alan Ayckbourn.

The cast, which includes a mixture of familiar names and some newcomers, reads as follows.

Arnold Hassock - Steve Hill  
Jess Bales - Sarah Bragoli  
Grace Sims - Charlotte Eastes  
Vivvi Dickins - Jackie Eichler  
Clem Pepp - Wilf Truscott  
Brevis Winterton - Peter Hogg  
Isla Wolby - Lola Catt



Keith Miller says, “Our first read-through turned out to be every bit as hilarious as I had anticipated.

All in all, I think I can promise you a real treat, so please put the dates, **27-29 April**, in your diary now.

As always, we would welcome additional help behind the scenes and, at this point, we still find ourselves particularly short in the wardrobe department. This role is a combination of seeking out items (from our own store, from other friendly am-dram groups, from charity shops or theatrical costumiers etc.) and practical needlework (alterations and occasionally making). The demands on the wardrobe department can vary considerably from play to play, depending on the period and the complexity of the plot. It is important to note that one person doesn't have to do everything. An ideal solution would be to have two or three people working as a team, and working in close co-operation with our friends in the Fairlight Pantomime Group.

**If you feel that you might be able to help with any aspect of this task, please give us a call on 07377 915741.**

Alternatively, you'll be welcome to drop in for a chat at one of our regular rehearsals, which take place at Fairlight village hall on Monday and Thursday evenings.

Just don't ask me any complicated questions about needlework, which is a subject on which I am entirely ignorant, although it would be an exaggeration to say that I wouldn't know one end of a needle from the other (I believe that there is usually a pointy end).”

Keith Miller (Chair)  
The Fairlight Players

## 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!



UNIT 6, QUARRY FARM, BODIAM, EAST SUSSEX, TN32 5RA

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## MARCH

## RYE (HARBOUR)

Date		ORDNANCE DATUM (NEWLYN)			
		High Water			
		Morning		Afternoon	
		Time	m	Time	m
1	W	05 37	1.9	18 28	1.7
2	TH	07 10	1.7	20 02	1.9
3	F	08 52	2.0	21 14	2.3
4	SA	09 48	2.4	22 01	2.8
5	SU	10 27	2.8	22 37	3.0
6	M	10 56	3.0	23 08	3.3
7	TU O	11 23	3.1	23 37	3.5
8	W	11 51	3.3		
9	TH	00 05	3.5	12 16	3.4
10	F	00 29	3.5	12 40	3.4
11	SA	00 55	3.6	13 06	3.5
12	SU	01 23	3.6	13 37	3.5
13	M	01 57	3.5	14 14	3.3
14	TU	02 37	3.3	14 58	2.9
15	W C	03 27	2.6	15 57	2.2
16	TH	04 43	2.0	17 59	1.8
17	F	06 56	2.0	19 40	2.0
18	SA	08 21	2.5	20 50	2.6
19	SU	09 26	3.0	21 47	3.3
20	M	10 20	3.5	22 35	3.8
21	TU □	11 06	3.8	23 19	4.0
22	W	11 46	3.9	23 59	4.1
23	TH			12 22	4.0
24	F	00 36	4.3	12 55	3.9
25	SA	01 12	4.0	13 30	3.6
26	SU	01 46	3.8	14 05	3.4
27	M	02 22	3.4	14 45	3.0
28	TU	03 02	2.9	15 32	2.5
29	W D	03 54	2.3	16 33	2.0
30	TH	05 03	1.8	17 46	1.7
31	F	06 28	1.5	19 17	1.8

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	<a href="mailto:cllr.alan.crouch@pettnet.org.uk">cllr.alan.crouch@pettnet.org.uk</a>
Andrew Dunlop	01424 813368	<a href="mailto:cllr.andrew.dunlop@pettnet.org.uk">cllr.andrew.dunlop@pettnet.org.uk</a>
David Penfold (Chair)	01424 813003	<a href="mailto:cllr.david.penfold@pettnet.org.uk">cllr.david.penfold@pettnet.org.uk</a>
Chris Saint	01424 813047	<a href="mailto:cllr.chris.saint@pettnet.org.uk">cllr.chris.saint@pettnet.org.uk</a>
Richard Smith	01424 316117	<a href="mailto:cllr.richard.smith@pettnet.org.uk">cllr.richard.smith@pettnet.org.uk</a>
David Terrell	07968 584276	<a href="mailto:cllr.david.terrell@pettnet.org.uk">cllr.david.terrell@pettnet.org.uk</a>
Mike Wilkins	01424 813206	<a href="mailto:cllr.mike.wilkins@pettnet.org.uk">cllr.mike.wilkins@pettnet.org.uk</a>

### PARISH CLERK

Mary Philo 01797 270790 [clerk@pettnet.org.uk](mailto:clerk@pettnet.org.uk)  
Island Cottage, Swan Street, Wittersham, Kent, TN30 7PH

### TREE WARDEN

Marcus Foster 07812 024070 [mail@marcus-foster.com](mailto:mail@marcus-foster.com)

### 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](mailto:cllr.andrew.mier@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](mailto:cllr.keith.glazier@eastsussex.gov.uk)



### THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA)

03708 506 506





**VILLAGE CONTACTS**

<i>Allotments</i>	Libby Rothwell	07714 340674	libby.rothwell891@gmail.com
<i>ARC</i>	David Breakell	812964	info@thearc.uk
<i>Badminton</i>	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>			pettvillagehall.co.uk
<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>	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**



### 347 BUS TIMETABLE

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

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

SCH School Days Only  
HOLS School Holidays Only

### 101 BUS TIMETABLE

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

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

NS Not Saturdays  
Sch School Days Only  
NSch Not schooldays

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

The graphic features the words 'QUIZ NIGHT' in a large, bubbly, pink font with a blue outline. The text is centered on a dark blue background. Surrounding the text are several colorful confetti pieces in shades of yellow, orange, and light blue, scattered in a circular pattern.

# QUIZ NIGHT

**Saturday 11th March**

**6.30 for 7.00 start at**

**Pett Village Hall**

**In aid of Pett Churches**

**£5 per Team Member (which includes a FREE raffle ticket!)**

**Teams of 6 maximum. BYO drink and refreshments**

Please register your teams with Heather - [heather.brambletye@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:heather.brambletye@hotmail.co.uk)

Tel: 07977 100 296