Pett and Pett Level News



April 2023

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EMAIL US AT magazine@pettnet.org.uk

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COPY: must be sent, by email, to magazine@pettnet.org.uk. If you want to provide something handwritten please contact us first otherwise it may not be printed. Copy must be accompanied by your name, address, and phone number. Where pictures are used it is the responsibility of the author to ensure that permissions have been granted. When submitting letters the writer should give due consideration before naming individuals, either directly or by implication. No letter will be published anonymously. We reserve the right, at our sole discretion, to cut, crop, edit or not publish any copy received.

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500 CLUB

Draw Date: 1st March 2023

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1st: John Cooke

2nd: Belinda Wood

3rd: Linda Pinkney

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Editorial

As we go to press Pett Post Office is temporarily closed. This is due to ill health but its closure does highlight what a vital service this is for the village and also the importance of finding volunteers to give Anthea the help she needs. Response to our plea for assistance in the March issue can, at best, be described as 'disappointing.' So, if you are considering giving up an hour or so of your time to help, please do get in touch with Wendy as soon as possible. The details are below. Undoubtedly there are numerous residents, particularly those without transport, who rely on this service and it would be a very sad state of affairs to see it close down.

On a lighter note, this issue includes an update on the Archive Resource Centre (ARC) where it seems exciting things are underway, including the launch of a new website and plans to open the Resource room to the public on a regular basis. You can read more on pages 19-20.

Finally, as always please don't hesitate to get in touch with either of us if you have something to share. Whether it's a front cover photo, an idea for a feature, or a local event we are always pleased to hear from you.

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 <u>local residents</u> 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 <u>rota</u> 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



Wendy on 07908 377845

Pett Parish Council Update

The council met in March at what is its last full meeting before the elections in May, although it is possible that there will be meeting in April to discuss planning applications. At the March meeting, a few planning applications were considered and all supported. It was noteworthy that there was only one neighbour comment. This seems a good opportunity to remind people that you can comment on any planning application at the Rother Planning Portal (https://www.rother.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/viewing-applications-decisions-and-appeals-online/).

The council agreed grants to the ARC (Archive Resource Centre) and to support a Coronation Big Lunch in the village hall. I am sure that more information about the latter will be available before long.

I mentioned last month 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. However, it will not be until June or July that a decision is made about the manning at The Ridge station. In the meantime, there will be a public consultation and everyone is urged to take part.

I am pleased to report that moves are ongoing towards the re-opening of the Rye swimming pool. In conjunction with Rye Town Council, it is hoped to transfer the management of the pool to a community group. This will be good news to those people in Pett who used the pool regularly before it closed.

Recently, we held another SLR (Strengthening Local Relations) meeting with East Sussex Highways. The minutes of the meeting will be made public in due course, but the topics were all the same: the condition of Pett Level Road, various blocked drains and, most recently, the floods at Pett Level, although this is not something that Highways have any control over.

Meetings are continuing to try and develop plans to avoid (or at least reduce) the flooding at Pett Level. Pett PC is now officially part of the Sothern Water Pathfinder project, which previously was principally concerned with the drainage at Fairlight.

As I have said above, this meeting was the last full meeting of the present council and I would like to thank all those who have served as councillors in the last four years for the effort they have put into serving the community. While, in these reports, I try to report what the council is doing, there is a lot of behind-the-scenes work that goes on that is never reported. And, of course, I would like to thank our clerk, Mary Philo, without whom the council would have great difficulty in functioning. The list of others who serve the community is too long to include here, but you and they know who they are, so I would like to thank them on your behalf for all they do.

This is my last opportunity to encourage people to consider standing for the council in May. I will not repeat what I said last month, but please contact the clerk or myself if you want to know more. The closing date for nominations is Tuesday 4 April.

Before the elections (and the coronation), however, we have our Annual Parish Meeting, on Tuesday 25 April at 7.00 for 7.30 pm. We hope to have an interesting speaker for the first part of the evening, Then I shall give a report on the past year, followed by a open forum. Please feel free to raise any topic or question that is relevant to the community of Pett and Pett Level. More information will be available on Pettnet and on notice boards.

David Penfold, Chair, Pett Parish Council



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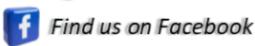
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What's On at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

It's April already and spring is definitely arriving at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. As well as looking forward to the delights of nature, the Easter holidays also bring plenty of activities and events:

- Mon 3rd, Tues 4th, Wed 5th April sees our Wild Rye Holiday Club running from 10am 2pm on each of these days. The sessions are suitable for children aged 6 11, parents don't need to accompany but places are limited so booking via the website is essential please.
- Wednesdays 5th 26th Nature Babies, 1:30pm 2:30pm, booking essential.
- Saturday 6th Wildlife Rangers, 10am 1pm, suitable for 12 16 year olds, parents do not accompany but booking essential.
- Saturday 8th Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve Open Day. Events start from 8:30am with a guided walk, followed by activities in the Discovery Centre. All welcome.
- Tuesday 11th to Saturday 15th April, 10am 3pm, John Muir Holiday Scheme for Families
 5 days for families to learn about conservation and gain a Family John Muir Conservation Award. Booking is essential.
- Tuesday 11th explore the seashore for marine 'Easter' eggs in our Easter Eggcase Hunt. 1:30pm 3:30pm for accompanied children age 6 13 years. Booking essential.
- Thursday 13th Explore the Shore rock pool activities from 10am 12 noon for accompanied children age 6 - 13 years. Booking essential.
- Wednesdays 19th April 3rd May Nature Tots, booking essential.
- Thursday 20th Join James on a Beginning Birdwatching walk, 10am 1pm, with talks and tips on bird identification. Free booking essential.
- Saturday 22nd from 10am 3pm, drop in to visit with our Guide in a Hide volunteers as they share birdwatching tips at the Gooders Hide.
- Saturday 22nd 10am 12.30pm, Wildlife Watch is our monthly club for 5 11 year olds accompanied by an adult, booking essential.
- Saturday 29th 10am 1pm, Lost Words for Rye Harbour Writing Workshop, booking essential.
- Join our free Wellbeing Walks each Wednesday from 9.45am 11.15am. Meet at the Rye Harbour Village bus shelter (by the turning circle).

Please also note that the Discovery Centre and Lime Kiln Café are open 10am - 4pm as usual throughout the Easter bank holiday weekend and we look forward to seeing plenty of visitors. To book or to find out more about any of these activities, visit our website page: 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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CORONATION BIG LUNCH



12 – 2.30 SUNDAY 7th MAY

A Coronation Big Lunch is planned at the Village Hall on Sunday 7th May, during the Coronation Long Weekend. Come along and celebrate with the rest of your Pett neighbours and raise funds for local organisations in the process.

Along the lines of previous Big Village Lunches, salads and a Feast of Puddings and a glass of celebratory bubbly will be provided, and you bring the tipple of your choice and your own main course which you can share with others or keep it all to yourself!

A limited number of tickets at £10 per person (no charge for children under 10) will be on sale from Wednesday 5th April from Sarah at The Butchers Shop or John Case johncase@me.com 07525 032198 or you can reserve tickets in advance of that date from 07977 100 296 pettchurchestreasurer@gmail.com. If you do wish to reserve tickets payment to the Parochial Church Council's bank account must be made at time of reservation (because a local organisation's bank account should be used, rather than an individual's) which is: St Mary & St Peter Church, Sort Code: 30-96-26 Account Number 54871860 - please give your name as reference.

Heather Godwin



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Fairlight End Open Garden

Local 3 acre garden Fairlight End is opening for the National Gardens Scheme on Wednesday 26 April between 11am and 5 pm. Admission is £6 (children free). All proceeds go to charity. Principal beneficiaries of NGS are Marie Curie, Macmillan Cancer Support and Hospice UK.

Parking is available in the Village Hall, opposite Fairlight End. Light refreshments, tea, coffee and home-made cakes will be served in the garden and there will be a plant stall.

Owner Chris Hutt said, 'We are hoping for fine weather on the day. There should be a good showing of tulips, spring blossom and wild flowers.'

Flower Festival 2023

Please forgive me for mentioning yet again the Flower Festival at Pett Church on the weekend of $16^{th}/17^{th}$ September. We just don't want anyone to forget the date.

Some people may say: what's the point of the Flower Festival? In these difficult times, I'm getting a bit fed up with being asked for money.

Can I reassure anyone who makes that comment that, as important as church fund-raising is, the Flower Festival does offer a beautiful oasis of mellow fruitfulness and all the joy that goes with that.

And make sure that you are in need of the refreshments which are always delicious and rejuvenating. I say this with authority because I sit selling raffle tickets at the Flower Festival very close to the refreshment stall and I spend quite a lot of the day scoffing their delicious cakes and other snacks.

And if you do think you might be able to assist in the running of the Flower Festival in some way, even for a short time do get in touch!

Angela Hawksley Flower Festival Committee



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What's On: St Michael's Hospice

Camino de Santiago Trek

Take on the challenge of a lifetime with St Michael's Hospice in June 2024. The Camino de Santiago (Way of Saint James) pilgrimage trek is a five day trek that explores northern Spain and takes on the hilly landscape of Galicia.

During your time in Spain you will be passing several cultural and historical landmarks, before finally reaching the cathedral in Santiago de Compostela. Do you have what it takes to complete the 70 miles?

Contact the Fundraising team to find out more by email fundraising@stmichaelshospice.com, or call the team on 01424 456496.

Lottery scratch card

By purchasing a St Michael's Hospice Lottery scratch card for only £1, you could be in with the chance of winning up to £1,000 whilst supporting your local Hospice.

Whether it's slotting it into a birthday card or giving them to guests on your special day, the St Michael's Hospice Lottery scratch cards make a wonderful gift or favour.

A Hospice Lottery supporter, Chris Cope, said; "We bought the Hospice Lottery scratch cards to use as favours at my son's wedding. The cards were appreciated by all our guests.

"We missed my mother terribly at the wedding, but we were so pleased to be able to help the Hospice in return for the care she and the family received."

Purchase your Lottery scratch card today from any of the St Michael's Hospice shops located across Hastings and Rother, from the Hospice Reception (Upper Maze Hill, TN38 0LB) or contact the Lottery team direct on 01424 456384.

Open Gardens

It's almost the time of year you've all been waiting for, the St Michael's Hospice Open Gardens season will be back from May - August 2023 to provide you with a summer full of green trees and buzzing bees.

55 beautiful gardens will be opening their gates to help raise essential funds for the Hospice. Open Gardens booklets are available to purchase from the Hospice shops, the Hospice Reception and from select local businesses for just £1 each.

They also offer a £50 season ticket which makes a great gift or purchase for those planning to visit multiple gardens through the Open Gardens season. These can be purchased by contacting the Fundraising team via 01424 456496 or email fundraising@stmichaelshospice.com.

To view the full Open Gardens calendar, please visit https://stmichaelshospice.com/event/opengardens/



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Existing Members: Individual: £18, Joint: £32

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News from Pett Level Preservation Trust

Floods

Without water life wouldn't exist. We use it daily for all sorts of different purposes - cleaning, cooking, drinking, heating, swimming (well some do!). Lots of materials that daily we take for granted make use of water in some way. But it can be problematic. It's difficult to control and it has a habit of getting into places where we least want it - ask a plumber. The floods of 16 January were a stark reminder of how tricky water can be to manage and what a catastrophic effect it can have on our lives when it decides to misbehave. Overnight, parts of the Trust land were turned into a landscape resembling the Lake District. For those living in the Marsham Brook area it was devastating. Many homes were flooded and in some cases residents were forced to move out, such was the destructive impact on their homes. Essentially it was a stark reminder that Pett Level is a watery place, a place characterised by water, a place where water will always prove challenging to contain and manage, but where it also brings untold benefits.

From the wildlife point of view water provides a unique environment in which to thrive. The marshes at Pett Level are designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for, amongst other things, their characteristic marshland landscape, the variety of wetland bird species that it attracts particularly waders and wildfowl, and for its botanical interest especially in the network of ditches that thread through the area.

As we move through Spring, waders and wildfowl on the levels diminish in numbers to be replaced by the nesting skylark, meadow pipit and the arrival of our summer migrants. For some weeks now on the Trust land we have been hearing the repetitive song of song thrushes, the hooting and squeaking of tawny owls and the explosive call of Cetti's warbler. Soon the wetlands will awake to the rasping calls of sedge and reed warblers and hopefully cuckoos, whilst in the bushes chiff-chaff, blackcap and whitethroat will make their presence known along with perhaps some rare species. A time of year to keep eyes and ears open, to make the most of the lengthening and warmer days and to appreciate the benefits that water brings.

Pett Level Preservation Trust

Annual meeting

'Pett Level: Then and Now' by Keith Swallow

At 7pm on Thursday 20 April

Pett Village Hall

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La Cucina de Angela

Strudel of Asparagus

This recipe is very easy and tasty at the same time. It comes from the Northern Italian region of Trento Alto Adige, where Italy touches the border of Austria. It spread to the south of Italy during the course of the last century. One of the most famous strudel recipes is the apple one, but in the south of Italy we used to prefer savoury recipes rather than sweet ones. Mom used to prepare it at Easter time and in my family this recipe marked officially the opening of spring.

For 4 people.

250-370g of puff pastry (more or less)
400-450g of asparagus
150g of cheddar cheese
180-200g cooked ham
One dollop of butter
1 pinch of sugar
1 teaspoon of white wine
Seasoning, and a few drops of milk for brushing.

Preheat the oven to 200C (Static oven) or 190C (ventilated oven). Wash the asparagus then peel the stalk using a thin knife or potato peeler. In a pan add some salt, butter, sugar, and white wine, and lay the asparagus, covering them with some water. Bring the water to boil and cook the asparagus for 10-12 minutes, until the hard part is tender but not soft. (Check with a fork from time to time). Take the asparagus out of the pan and put them to rest on a clean cloth, and let them cool down. When it is cold slice the asparagus and put them in a casserole with some oil to brown. Once browned put them aside. Using greaseproof paper lay the puff pastry, dividing it in two halves. In the centre of the first half put the first layer of ham, then add a layer of asparagus, then add the cheese (cut into small cubes), and finish with a second layer of ham. (Create a sort of sandwich). Cover it all with a layer of puff pastry, pinching the border with a fork to seal it. Brush the strudel with some drops of milk and put aside in a cool place or the fridge for approximately 15 minutes to rest. Bake the strudel on the middle layer of the oven for 25-28 minutes, until it is nicely golden and brown.

Buon Appetito

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ARCHIVE RESOURCE CENTRE UPDATE

We have recently launched our NEW website: www.thearc.uk We had a small event at the beginning of December and thank you to those that came. Please check out the website as we would like your thoughts, not to mention your contributions. Save it to your "favourites" so you can just dip in and out to see any new entries.

SAVE THE DATE

We are planning an event, which is free to our Friends and we hope you can make it. It is at the Pett Methodist Church (parking at the Pett Village Hall) on **Saturday, 22**nd **April from 4pm to 6pm**, and will include refreshments and any cakes we can round up. Our resident historian, Haydon Luke, will be giving a new talk "Bound for Botany Bay". He has found information about some of our local past residents who made this terrifying journey to Australia in the 19th century.

ACOUISITIONS

If you look on our website, you will see a sample of our **most recent acquisition of nine old Barden & Sons ledgers**. As they were local builders many of your houses were, if not built by them, will have had work done by them. You can look through and see if you can find your address in there (mine is). These date back to the late 1800s up until the mid 1900s. Thanks go to Gerald Dymott for allowing us to look after them. We will have these on display alongside other items we have recently received. And do bring along items that may be of interest to us if you have been doing spring cleaning and made it up to the attic! We are happy to scan and return if you wish to keep originals.

LOCAL HISTORY VOLUNTEER CATALOGUE TRAINING

Two or three of our committee feel reasonably confident in our ability to do this. We are slowly adding items to the catalogue each week, but to speed up the process we need a small group of volunteers. Training will be given. Once trained, this can be done at home with your own computer. We are not expecting hours of work, but even if we get a few new entries up a week, we will be heading in the right direction. With this in mind we will hold a demonstration/training session on Thursday afternoon, between 1-5pm on April 27th. Do come along and we'll show you what is involved. We will give you all the help we can in person or by phone. You will find this interesting, particularly if you are adding entries about the area where you live. And the great thing is, you can fit it in around other activities.

OUR ROOM, OPEN AFTERNOON

Our printer/scanners are now working and linked to our two laptops and larger monitors (thanks to Jenny Obee and her husband), now with separate keyboards and mice which make them much easier to use. As we get a few more volunteers we will be able to open up our room every Thursday afternoon for people to visit. We plan to get a sign to put outside to let people know we are open as they pass by.

OTHER VOLUNTEERING

To move forward effectively, we do need volunteers for other roles, from simply checking local papers to scan or cut out items of interest on our area, to monitoring a Facebook page so people from all over the county/world can upload their pictures of our area. We also need a person to look after our PR so we are kept front and centre in the public eye; or help with any events and fundraising we do during the year. IF you can lend a few hours, please contact us.

MEMBERSHIP

We realise that donating even spare change these days is difficult; we are all feeling the pinch as we get our energy bill or go food shopping. However, we cannot function without financial help. We have raised well over £10,000 to date from grants and membership fees, which has gone

towards furniture, the website, setting up costs and one year of annual costs. However, we still have ongoing annual costs amounting to £1,500 to keep our room up and running. We are not trying to compete with other local history groups; our Mission is to Store, Preserve and Share our local heritage, and as such we have limited opportunities to hold events to raise money; our valuable time is used to acquire, catalogue and maintain a growing website of material. So, membership is truly altruistic on your part. What you receive back will be one or two events a year and total access to our resources, but you will also be helping preserve the past for the future.

If you are a Friend, your membership for 2022/23 will come to an end on 30th April, but we hope you will re-join! We realise £15 a person is a lot, but it is just over £1 a month, and 100 members would cover our annual costs. The ARC needs you! Please help and encourage us in what we are trying to achieve. If you are not currently a member and would like to support our work please email us at:- archiveresourcecentre@outlook.com or phone one of the contacts below.

CONTACT US

Our email address is: archiveresourcecentre@outlook.com Please add this to your contacts so we are easy to reach. Whilst the ARC room has a phone number, we have yet to buy an answering machine, so for the time being you can reach members of the Committee by phone. Four of our six Committee members that can help you are:

Fran Rogers: 01424 82964 or 07930 905890 (volunteering) David Breakell: 01424 812964 or 07971 142160 (finances) John Case: 01424 812224 or 07525 032198 (cataloguing)

Haydon Luke: 01424 814748 (research)

With all best wishes, and hoping to see you on the 22nd April. Fran Rogers (Chair)





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Reflections from the Rectory

It is only a few weeks since we returned from the Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. I believe it is often the nature of such visits that they are extremely busy and we were bussed around often following very early morning starts. I had to stop and write things down to remember where we had been. It will take a long time to process the experience. But it was certainly very worthwhile and gives an insight into so many different aspects of the life of Jesus, the significance of the Bible and, of course, the distressing political situation within Israel.

We spent three days by the Sea of Galilee and four days in Jerusalem. We opted for the extension to go to Petra which involved two more days in Jordan and a final night back in Jerusalem. One thing that I can be sure of is that it will be impossible to read any of the Bible narratives without having a picture of the location in my mind. Many of the parables make more sense as they are so rooted in the landscape and the life of the countryside; weeds by the path, goats and sheep on the mountain sides, bread and fish. It is illuminating to understand the geography of the area. The distances between those places where Jesus preached and lived by the Sea of Galilee are not far apart and even the road to Jerusalem would not take many days on foot; the logic of the gospels falls into place.

For me the experience brought alive some of the biblical metaphors, with which we are familiar. For example, the living water, which Jesus talks of to the Samaritan woman,

"Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

It is an image that can easily be understood, but when you stand by the Sea of Galilee filled with life and fish and then see the Dead Sea, you understand what a potent symbol it is. We were told another parable by our guide, a Christian Palestinian, a parable of Galilee's two seas. One fresh and lively, a magnet for man and nature; the other barren and forsaken. Both are filled by the Jordan, but while one gives freely, allowing its water to flow onwards, the other hoards its supply. 'The Sea of Galilee gives and lives. The other Sea gives nothing. It is named the Dead. There are two kinds of seas in Palestine and there are two kinds of people in the world. Which kind are we?'

HOLY WEEK - READING THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW.

We have been gathering in the New Inn in Winchelsea for Bible Study. It has been relaxed and informal and people from each Parish have attended. There have been three sessions so far and we seem to have settled on the 1st Thursday of the month. As the first Thursday in April falls on Maundy Thursday, April 6th, there won't be a meeting but we will meet in Holy Week in St Thomas's Church to read through the Gospel according to St Matthew. We will read the whole gospel, without comment or discussion, on two consecutive evenings; Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th April starting at 6:00pm. All are welcome and it doesn't matter if you can only attend one of the evenings.

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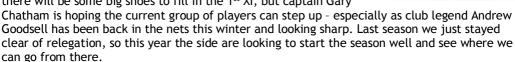
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Pett Cricket Club

It's April and the Cricket season is finally here! Thank you to everyone who's helped to get the pitch ready. You will have also seen a new fence around the edges of the pitch, this will hopefully stop us from losing any Cricket Balls!

The end of April will see the start of the league season for both the 1st XI and the 2nd XI and we're hoping for both sides to have successful seasons this year. With Luke Crisford travelling the world, there will be some big shoes to fill in the 1st XI, but captain Gary



2nd XI captain Nick Soan is hoping for promotion in 2023, after holding their own in 2022 and some good experience for the younger players (Charlie Ware and Dylan Phillips), they will be looking for some silverware this year.

Fixtures:

Friendlies -

Crowhurst Park CC vs Pett CC - Saturday 15th April Isfield CC vs Pett CC - Saturday 22nd April Pett CC vs Pevensey CC - Saturday 22nd April

League -

Pett CC 1st XI vs Pevensey CC 1st XI - Saturday 29th April Crowhurst Park CC 3rd XI vs Pett CC 2nd XI - Saturday 29th April

As always, we welcome everyone to the Recreation Ground to come and support the local cricket. If anyone is interested in joining the club and playing Cricket this summer, please contact Gary - gary.chatham@hotmail.com

The New Beach Club 2023 Gigs and events

Saturday 22rd April- Pass The Cat

Saturday 6th May - 1066 Rockitmen

Sunday 28th May- Los Twangueros

Sunday 11th June- Rye Bay Crew

Saturday 1st July-Big at Six

Saturday 22rd July- Kytes

Saturday 12th August- Cushty

Sunday 27th August- Los Twangueros

Saturday 23rd September- Don't Stop (Fleetwood Mac Tribute band)

Saturday 30th September- Harvest Home Auction



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Gardening Club Notes March 2023

Our guest speaker this month was Stephanie Donaldson from Hastings Old Town, with an illustrated presentation entitled "Garden Design" for which she took inspiration from her own garden. We know that the steep slopes, salty air and variety of soils in the Old Town can make it difficult to create a garden, although there are many unusual and beautiful gardens to be found tucked away between fishermen's cottages, twittens and grand town houses. We were curious to find out how Stephanie managed to create her successful garden over the twenty-seven years she has lived in Hastings.

The garden takes up one third of an acre around three sides of the house, with a partially open easterly view across the Old Town. In the past the house was a girls' school and the steep site had become very overgrown, particularly with ivy. When Stephanie arrived in 1997, rather than clear out everything and start afresh, she chose to keep certain plants, particularly the trees, and that has dictated the way the garden developed. Building two sets of steps from recycled materials made the garden safer. Now it is a delight, like a secret garden, full of unusual and exotic plants, with meandering paths leading from one level to another. Having spent her childhood in South Africa she loves the exotic and colourful and uses these to bring novelty and excitement to her garden. In the Spring judiciously placed pots of bulbs such as tulips, narcissi, and grape-hyacinths add seasonal colour and variety where needed.

She prefers to reuse and recycle whenever possible, to wait and see what grows and find out what is successful and what one likes. She has always gardened organically and every autumn the huge golden leaves from the enormous Tulip Tree, 130 years old, are converted to leaf-mould for mulching and improving the light sandy soil. Woody cuttings of all kinds are shredded and used to top the paths. Even concrete panels from an old garage were used to create excellent raised vegetable-beds. Stephanie considers herself a plants-woman, and when she sees a plant she loves, can't resist buying it and considering later where to plant it.

She advises all gardeners to understand their soil, to reuse and recycle wherever possible, buy a shredder and enjoy their garden, as she does. But it is Stephanie's individual creativity and magic, love of plants and skill in recognising potential in the unusual that has created this beautiful garden with its many surprises. Her audience were both surprised and educated by her carefully curated presentation and look forward to seeing her garden in the summer, if it is open for St Michael's Hospice Open Gardens, as it was last year.

Stephanie Donaldson was Garden Editor at Country Living Magazine for 15 years and has written several books, including co-writing a book, "The Elements of Organic Gardening," with King Charles, when he was Prince of Wales. A signed copy of this beautifully written and illustrated book was available for raffle on the night, raising £50 and won by a lucky new member, Heather Kellie.

Looking ahead to our next meeting on April 11th at 7.30pm, we have another local speaker, Wendy Bates from Rotherview Nurseries, who will give a talk entitled "Using Alpines in the Garden". Rotherview Nurseries have been awarded several gold medals from Chelsea Flower Show over the years.

Our monthly meetings take place in the Catherine Holman room at Pett Village Hall, 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of the month. Visitors are always welcome to join us at £3 for a single meeting.

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We will also be attending the WI Spring Fair at Pett Village Hall on the 1st April, please come along and see us and we can answer any questions you may have.

www.chickenrescue.co.uk

Coffee Morning and Community Library Notes

March Coffee Morning on the 1st got the month off to a good start along with the Jigsaw Library, 500 Draw, Community Library and Hearing Aid support, not to mention Badminton taking place, too. Everyone was busy and Robert, maintaining hearing aids and replacing their batteries was the busiest he has been since he added our Pett Coffee Morning to his itinerary. We are all here for you - do come along.

For something completely different and fresh, Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus is our chosen Book of the Month. Elizabeth Zott is a marvellously uncompromising heroine. The anthropomorphisation of her dog is just right and very funny. The characters are well-drawn. The storylines are strong throughout. Simply, a great read.

Next Coffee Morning and Library coincides with the beginning of the Tax Year - Wednesday 5th April. As usual, it runs from 10.00 to 12.00

The Coffee Morning Team

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For more <u>information</u> please contact Donna at <u>donnagilbert1@sky.com</u> or Tel: 01424 812185.
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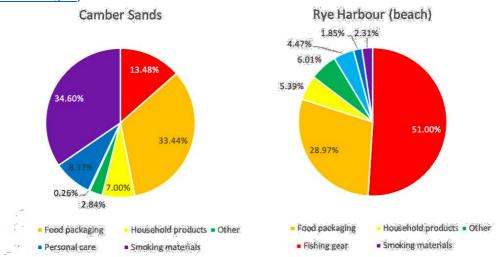
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Environment Matters

Instead of banging on about global heating (business) as usual, I thought I'd bang on about the different, though no less serious topic of environmental pollution, and in particular litter. Many of you will be aware of the local Strandliners organization and the excellent work they do in clearing litter from around our coastline. I recently went to a talk given by Andy Dinsdale at Mallydams called 'Beyond the Litter-pick'. Strandliners realized that by picking up the litter, they were to some extent hiding the problem and not finding a way to stop it happening. They realized that one way of reducing the amount of litter was to analyze what they picked up so that the source could be identified and pressure put on the manufacturers and retailers to stop producing the stuff in the first place, or at least to find a way of recycling or safely disposing of the stuff once produced.

In order to analyze the litter once it has been picked up, it is roughly sorted into categories such as food packaging, other packaging, fishing gear, smoking materials, etc. Then further detail is obtained by examining each piece to determine the manufacturer and the material it is made from (glass, plastic, type of plastic, paper, metal, etc.). Once the data has been captured, it is entered into spreadsheets for further processing. One of the results from this is the production of pie charts to show the proportions of the various categories. Two examples are shown below. (For a clearer, colour version please download the magazine from pettnet.org.uk).



Though these are from neighbouring sites, it can be seen that there are large differences in the proportion of each category. For example, the largest category for Camber Sands is 'Smoking Materials', whereas the largest category for Rye Harbour beach is 'Fishing Gear'. Each site where litter picking is carried out will have its own profile (which Strandliners call the 'Site DNA') which will determine the best approach for reducing the amount of litter in future. As a further step in the aim of putting pressure on manufacturers and retailers, the data is shared with the Preventing Plastic Pollution project, which covers most of England and France, and thus carries more weight than the individual local organizations.

As you may imagine, sorting through the degraded and often smelly stuff that other people have thrown away is not the most pleasant task, but it is strangely fascinating finding products that you've never seen before and even things that went out of production years ago. Two important points can be made about 'stuff other people throw away' - there is no such place as 'away' and why is it always other people?!

By Alan Kenworthy

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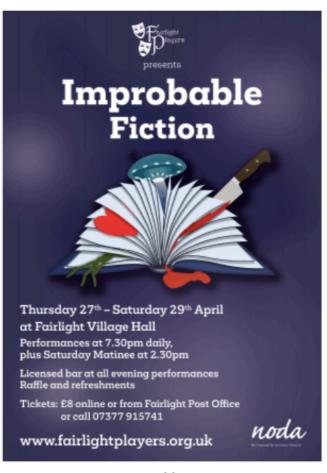
Performances dates are Thursday 27th to Saturday 29th April.

Tickets, costing £8, may be purchased from Fairlight Post Office or via our online Box Office at www.fairlightplayers.org.uk

We very much hope that you will be able to join us, and promise you an absolutely first class evening's (or afternoon's) entertainment.

As always, we would welcome any offers of help with the front of house operation. If you could spare a couple of hours to help with refreshments, raffle tickets, or any of the many tasks that need doing, we would be pleased to hear from you.

Keith Miller (Chair), The Fairlight Players www.fairlightplayers.org.uk





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Table tennis 4pm - 5.30pm
Yoga 6pm - 7.30pm

Tuesday Pilates 8.30am - 9.30am Pole Dancing 7.15pm - 8.45pm

Wednesday Badminton 10am - 12pm Pett Painters 2pm - 4pm Dance Fitness 6pm - 7.30pm

Thursday Pilates 8.30am - 9.30am Little Ducklings 10am - 11.30am

Little Ducklings 10am - 11.30am Art 12pm - 3pm Short Mat Bowls 3.15pm - 5.15pm

Friday Badminton 10am - 12pm

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2nd Tuesday of the month 7pm - 9pm Gardening Club - Catharine Hollman room

2nd Friday of the month 7pm - 10pm Railway Club

3rd Wednesday of the month 7.30pm - 9.30pm Pett WI - Catharine Hollman Room

Starting on 6^{th} 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 5th April 2023

The next Coffee Morning and Community Library, 10 - 12 Wednesday 5th April. Pett Village Hall.



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The Grey Squirrel

I'm crouching behind my sofa, hiding from a squirrel. While I'm here, peering angrily out of the patio window, it has given me time to reflect on the emotional journey that led me to this place.

There was a time I was nuts about squirrels. As soon as I could walk, I was out shrieking through the autumn leaves, trying to grab a squirrel's bushy tail as it nimbly skedaddled up the nearest Sycamore. Looking back now, I'm not sure what I planned to do with a squirrel, had I ever caught one. It's actually illegal to release a Grey Squirrel once caught because, despite their cute appearance, they can be extremely destructive.

The main problem is that they shouldn't really be in Britain. The Grey Squirrel is a



North American species and we can blame Herbrand Russell, 11th Duke of Bedford, for inviting them. Herbrand's hare-brained plan was to import Grey Squirrels to embellish his estate at the start of the last century. Distributing squirrels as gifts, he and his landowner chums assisted their spread across England. Our wildlife and landscape just weren't designed to accommodate this brash new American and the native Red Squirrel, already in decline, was hit particularly hard. Attempts have been made over the years to control Britain's Grey Squirrel population and protect the remaining Reds, and the battle continues, but across most of England it seems the Greys are here to stay.

In the last few weeks the battle has arrived in my back garden. I recently purchased a bird feeding station, an elaborate chandelier draped in peanut feeders, fat balls and coconut shells. Yet the Nuthatches, tits and finches are being usurped by a Grey Squirrel. I'm paying pounds and getting peanuts and it's the squirrel who is packing his cheeks. It feels like I have laid on a buffet for my friends, only to find some American bloke (who I don't particularly like) has turned up to scoff the whole lot. For weeks, we have been locked in an ongoing arms race. I don't want to hurt him - I just want him off my new bird feeder. I've deployed Vaseline, peppers and counterbalances but each time I've been outwitted. He is agile, acrobatic and very clever. Today I cracked. I purchased a squirrel proof baffle: a large Perspex dome, 100% guaranteed to make my peanut feeder impregnable. I installed it as the squirrel watched curiously and, with a confident laugh, I returned to my front room...to find the squirrel was already back on the peanut feeder. I have no idea how he's doing it and he's too smart to climb there if he's being watched. So here I am, behind the sofa, trying to find out his secret. Whether trying to beat them nationally or just in our own back gardens, it really isn't reassuring to know we're being outsmarted by a rodent.

by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

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Origins

Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, once said that whatever you did each day (in her case a lot of ribbon cutting and handshaking), there was always something new to learn. It was seeing the date on the bright yellow WI posters all over Pett which made me wonder about the origin of April Fools' Day, which is a feature of calendars in most other European countries. And so I did my best to find out by looking it up mostly in Wikipedia. I thought you might like to know what I discovered and I offer lots of apologies to all who know the answers already.

It turns out that there are differing views on its origin. One theory is that it was mentioned as long ago as in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales when Chantecleer is tricked by a fox but the actual words are quite obscure. Another theory is that it is connected with the celebration of New Year's Day on March 25th rather than on January 1st. (It wasn't changed until 1752). The celebrations had to finish by 1st April and if you carried on celebrating you were considered a fool. In France they changed the dating system in 1564 and those who tried to stick to the old date had tricks played on them. In France an April fool is known as an April fish and he would have a paper fish stuck on his back.

There is also a reference to the fact that Noah sent out the dove too soon and so showed foolishness.

As ever, it is a lot more fun to think up tricks than to be the victim of them!

I also looked up the origin of Mothering Sunday, now often considered interchangeable with the American Mothers' Day. It was a day for celebrating the mother church which meant for an individual the church where you were baptized. Or it could be the church which you attended for many years. Long ago servants were given the chance to go back on this particular Sunday to their mother church

Angela Hawksley





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Local references available

CHURCH SERVICES - APRIL 2023

SUNDAY SERVICES

Our regular Parish Eucharist takes place at 9:30am on 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month.

EASTER SERVICES

2 nd April – Palm Sur	nday	
Pett	9.30am	Parish Eucharist
Winchelsea	11.00am	Parish Eucharist Reading of the Passion
6 th April – Maundy T	hursday	
Winchelsea	7.30pm	Benefice Service Holy Communion with Washing of the Feet
7 th April – Good Frid	lay	
Icklesham	2.00pm	Benefice Service Service of Mediation of the Cross
8 th April – Holy Satu	rday	
Winchelsea	8.00pm	Benefice Service Easter Vigil, Service of Light
9 th April – Easter Da	iy	
Winchelsea Beach	6.00am	Dawn Service Eucharist on the Beach If wet at St Richard's
Pett Level	8.30am	Holy Communion BCP
Icklesham	9.30am	Parish Eucharist

Churches

ICKLESHAM	St Nicholas Church	TN36 4BH
PETT	St Mary & St Peter Church	TN35 4HE
PETT LEVEL	St Nicholas Church	TN35 4BS
WINCHELSEA	St Thomas' Church	TN36 4AB
WINCHELSEA BEACH	St Richard's Church	TN36 4NB

RECTOR: Rev Jonathan Meyer, 01797 226254

email: revjonathan@btinternet.com



THE GUESTLING, FAIRLIGHT, PETT & PETT LEVEL LOCAL HISTORY ARCHIVE

OPEN DAY

SATURDAY 22 APRIL 2023 4.00 - 6.00pm Pett Methodist Chapel

Meet the Team!
Hear about the latest developments!
Find out how you can play a part!
Enjoy a local history talk by Haydon Luke!
Have a cake and a cup of tea or coffee!

Plus!

Local History Volunteer Training Sessions
On Thursday 27 April 2023 in the ARC Room at
Pett Methodist Chapel
1.00pm to 5.00pm

Nature Notes

As I write this in mid-March, it seems as though the transition from winter to spring has got stuck as we are subjected to long periods of northerly or north-easterly winds keeping the temperatures down. There are plenty of Snowdrops and Spring Snowflake out, but the daffodils seem to be holding back. Our patch of Lesser Celandine, normally our harbinger of spring, has put up a few tentative flowers, but there are very few insects around so it may not be worth its while to put up the extravagant full show we normally have at this time of year.

Hibernating insects are quite sensitive to temperature. When we were collecting queen Short-haired Bumblebees in Sweden,



which emerge later than most bumblebee species, temperatures needed to reach 18 degrees C for four or five consecutive days before emergence started. So maybe the Lesser Celandine is waiting for a few mild days strung together before it risks the full display, as the insects it depends on for pollination are waiting for the same thing.

One plant that doesn't wait for warmer weather to burst into flower is Winter Heliotrope (*Petasites fragrans*). There are several patches along Pett Road and as its common name suggests, it flowers in Winter (any time from Christmas onwards). As its scientific name suggests, it has very fragrant flowers, which is probably why it was introduced to the UK by the Victorian gardeners from its original home in Southern Europe and North Africa. It is a member of the daisy family (Asteraceae) and even though it flowers in winter when there are very few pollinating insects around, it doesn't really matter because the plant is dioecious (male and female flowers on separate plants) and the Victorians only imported male plants so it will never get a chance to set seed. It spreads by rhizomes and is considered by many to be an invasive species, but unlike most plants, it can be eradicated by simply improving the drainage of the soil - it likes damp ground and abhors cultivation.

Winter Heliotrope does, however, have a closely related species that is native to Britain - the Butterburr (*Petasites hybridus*). It is a much bigger and more robust plant that also likes damp and shady soil. It has no scent and is one of those irritating plants like Magnolia that flowers before the leaves appear (pet hate!). Like Winter Heliotrope, it is dioecious and most plants are male, but female plants do occur in Northern England.

There are a few insects about though and I managed to find a very cute beetle the other day. It has no common name, probably because it is so small, most people wouldn't notice it, but for those who do notice it, it is called *Longitarsus dorsalis*. It is only 3mm from head to tail with quite impressive antennae which may stretch that to 5mm. It is yet another species that depends on various species of ragwort. It eats the poisonous leaves which probably means that its survival depends on tasting nasty.

By Alan Kenworthy

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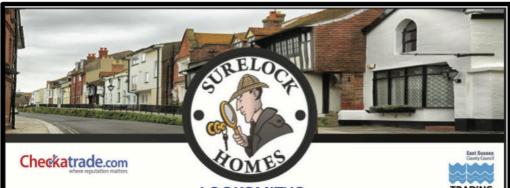


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Friday 29th September 2023



FIVE MONTHS TO GO!

Stalls at the Coffee Morning will include a repeat of the very popular Handbag Stall, a Jigsaw stall (must be complete), a Plant Stall, Bric a Brac, etc etc. Any unwanted items from Christmas - or birthdays - or anniversaries - please save for the Macmillan Coffee Morning in September.

Bring along to the Village Coffee Mornings or to 2 Brambletye or to Wendy Burgess at Nanini Tal, Cliff End Lane. They will be most welcome.

Heather Godwin 07977 100 296 Wendy Burgess 07729 396 182

QUIZ NIGHT FOR PETT CHURCHES

Thank you to all those who turned up to the Quiz Night for Pett Churches last month. Over 70 people, both newcomers to the village and old hands, came to eat, drink, and be merry and rack their brains over such questions as: 1) Which chocolate bar is changing its packaging design now that it is being made in Slovakia? and 2) Which is longer, 3 kilometres or 2 miles? and 3) If I wanted to visit the only two countries with square flags where would I go?

Thanks to Ray Barden for helping me out, Jeanette Barden for scoring, and the two Carols Pecorini and Glasson for selling the raffle tickets. A much needed £457.23 for the Churches was raised, after expenses, during the evening. The tie-breaker winners, after a heart-stopping three-way tie for first place, were One Case Short so named because John Case, the Church Warden, was indisposed. Perhaps they should make sure he doesn't attend next time, too!!

Answers:

- Toblerone
- 2. 2 miles (but only by 218 metres)
- 3. Switzerland and The Vatican City

Heather Godwin, Church Treasurer

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

PETT PARISH COUNCIL (PPC)

In addition to the above responsibilities PPC can also provide a parish wide view on planning applications. PPC may be able to help you find out who to contact if you have a problem, can help escalate if your problem is not being dealt with, and can assist in lobbying the relevant authorities in the event of continued poor service.



COUNCILLORS

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

PARISH CLERK

Mary Philo 01797 270790 clerk@pettnet.org.uk

Island Cottage, Swan Street, Wittersham, Kent, TN30 7PH

TREE WARDEN

Marcus Foster 07812 024070 mail@marcus-foster.com

FLOOD WARDEN VACANCY

ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL (RDC)

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

Councillor Andrew Mier 01424 814178 cllr.andrew.mier@rother.gov.uk



EAST SUSSEX COUNCIL (ESCC)

www.eastsussexhighways.com/report-a-problem 0345 6080190; www.eastsussex.gov.uk Councillor **Keith Glazier 07957 377844** cllr.keith.glazier@eastsussex.gov.uk



THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA)

03708 506 506



VILLAGE CONTACTS			
Allotments ARC	Libby Rothwell Fran Rogers	07714 340674 812964	libby.rothwell891@gmail.com archiveresourcecentre@outlook. com
Badminton Bowls Club	Paul Wadey Eddie Quinlan	316209 431463	pawadey@tiscali.co.uk
British Legion Cricket Club Dance Fitness	Brian Green Andrew Dunlop Laura Mitchell	812450 813368 07527 105352	toffee35@gotadsl.co.uk lauramitchell6@sky.com
Flower Show Gardening Club Guardians of Pett	Philippa Strickland Bob Harris Mike Wilkins	814384 815151 07710 080148	pstrickl@icloud.com bob.june@btopenworld.com
Churchyard Pett Churches - Warden	John Case	812244	johncase@me.com
- Friends - St Nicholas	Gill Plank Fran Rogers	812154 812964	gillplank@yahoo.com
Pett Level Preservation Trust		814370	theresanoutch@aol.com
Pilates Fitness Pilates POPP	Belinda Weber Susan Trimmer Enquiries	07917 923975	belinda.weber9@gmail.com susantrimmerfitness@gmail.com
Pole Dancing PVH Committee	Jane Baldwin	07403 256148	jane@mrzen.co.uk pettvillagehall.co.uk
Seaside Stitchers Short Mat Bowls Stoolball	Donna Gilbert Eric Butler Janet Fuller	812185 814869 01303 873227	donnagilbert1@sky.com joanbutler369@yahoo.co.uk
Table Tennis Tennis Club The Club	Paul Wadey Stuart Ware Wendy Hatch	316209 815197 812297	pawadey@tiscali.co.uk petttennisclub@gmail.com familyhatch1@gmail.com
Village Voices WI	Wendy Hatch WI Secretary	812297	familyhatch1@gmail.com Pettwi1917@gmail.com
Yoga Class ROOMS FOR HIRE	Robin Hutt	813182	robinhutt@btinternet.com
Methodist Chapel Sports Pavilion Village Hall New Beach Club	Wendy Hatch Stuart Ware Clare Walker	812297 815197 07718 518053 812080	familyhatch1@gmail.com sjw@meadowshed.co.uk clare.pettvillagehall@gmail.com info@thenewbeachclub.co.uk

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Pett - Telephone box opposite The Royal Oak on Elms Lane

Pett - Village Hall



EMERGENCY CONTACTS FOR UTILITIES

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POWER CUT UK Power Networks 105

WATER LEAK Southern Water emergency service 0800 820 999

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Timetables are subject to change. Check before you travel – visit www.stagecoachbus.com or phone 0871 200 22 33

NSch Not schooldays

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Pett Village Hall

The 2023 Annual Parish Meeting takes place on

Tuesday 25 April at 7.30 pm

Wine available from 7.00 pm

A Visiting Speaker on a topic of local interest

Organisations in the parish will be asked to say something about their activities. There will be a report from the Chairman of the Parish Council on the last year's activities

Then **YOU** will have an opportunity to discuss any matters that you feel are of importance to the community.

ALL PETT RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME SO PLEASE COME ALONG.