

Pett and Pett Level News



November 2023

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Front Cover: 'We will remember them'. Photograph courtesy of Tony Howard.

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1st: Pat Roberts

2nd: Rosemary Osborn

3rd: Eve Button

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Editorial

Many of you will already have heard of Rother District Council's decision to close the public toilets at Pett Level for an undefined 'trial period'. This is so that the district council can reduce its financial commitments. As Editors, we endeavour to merely report on local matters, rather than get involved too politically, but we both feel strongly that this is a very poor decision and one, which we are only too aware, many of you are equally appalled by. Whilst we accept that Pett Level is not the only location to be affected by these closures, one must bear in mind that, unlike a number of those other locations, it does not have any other cafes or amenities close by. Furthermore, with the decision to increase parking charges at Camber, plus the redirection of holidaymakers to our beaches during busy periods, these amenities are vital to avoid Pett Level being spoilt for residents and tourists alike. For more information, please do read David Penfold's Parish Council Report in this issue. And if you feel as strongly about this as we do, we urge you to write to us magazine@pettnet.org.uk to express your views. We will be passing all correspondence on.

Whilst on the subject of sewage, a report in this issue from John Newton of the Pett Level Preservation Trust, highlights that the ecological quality of the Marsham Sewer is deteriorating, further putting our local wildlife and ecology at risk. This is truly a very sad state of affairs. We are lucky enough to live in an area of diverse and outstanding beauty. Let's all help to ensure that it remains that way.

Donna and Louisa

Letters to the Editors

Derek Johnson

It was sad to hear a short while ago, that the village had lost another supporter from the past in Derek Johnson.

I only really knew Derek from my time on the Village Hall Management Committee as he was - like so many - only too keen to volunteer to serve on that body. He did, however, do considerably more in that he was the bookings manager, and also the general manager for some years soon after the hall was opened.

I am sure others like me who did their time as Chairman, were grateful for his support and hard work in ensuring the hall grew in popularity, an essential requirement needed to ensure the new build was a success. I have few anecdotes to share, except that all who knew him well remember Derek as a teller of jokes, not many of which were worth remembering, I should add, (sorry Derek!), but said much about his carefree take on life.

I recently attended Derek's funeral with some of the other past committee and I realised then that he liked to spread a little mirth around within his family, clearly a joker all round! I was also told he liked to cycle around the village at times, even if only to prove he could still do so when in his late seventies.

Thank you, Derek. The village hall will always remind those of us left in the village of how grateful we should be for people like yourself, who step up when needed and help maintain our treasured asset.

Tim Jury

I refer to Andrew Dunlop's extremely useful contribution in last month's magazine. There is also a need to deliver a number of other additional measures to reduce the amount of flood water entering the Marsham catchment area in the first place. In other words, by managing the flow of water upstream and adopting natural flood management techniques to manage the sources and pathways of flood waters, we may have a chance to introduce a long-term solution for protecting the residents in Pett Level, without adding additional risks to landowners and properties.

To some degree, Southern Water are already making efforts to achieve a similar effect in Fairlight Cove by introducing measures to control rainwater flows from properties in the area. At the moment we are at the early stage of seeking willing owners whose land is situated in the upper reaches of the catchment area to take part in the project. Needless to say we will ultimately be looking for volunteers to help with the work involved. A further public meeting will be held in due course.

Finally, if you like to learn more, may I suggest you take eight minutes to click on the YouTube link. <https://youtu.be/-tlbkn2bSag>. Apologies if the sound quality is poor but I think it will help you understand the challenges ahead.

Chris Saint
Parish Flood Warden

Coffee Morning and Community Library Notes

Hello!! You may or may not know that the Coffee Morning proceeds are donated to local charities. The most recent donation was £300, given to the Pett Level Preservation Trust in the name of our dear friend, Anna King. A big thank you to everyone who turns up and buys coffee and cake for the benefit of our local charities.

As for the Community Library, we need your support, too, in other ways. We hold at least 200 books in our little cupboard and these are constantly refreshed. (And we have the latest Richard Osman). We have a wide variety of reading material and are sure you will find something to interest you, so do come along and sign up and encourage us to keep going. It costs nothing and there is no time limit as to how long you may borrow a book.

We are also looking for someone, well, two someone's actually, who could take over the running of the Community Library. The only commitment is to be at our village hall for the morning of the first Wednesday of the month. It is a really friendly and enjoyable way to spend a morning. If you love books and enjoy meeting people, maybe this is a way you could contribute to village life. If so, please email me - v.ford@rocketmail.com - or just come along between 9 and 10 on the next Coffee Morning day to have a chat and see what we do.

Next Coffee Morning is Wednesday 1st November, 10 - 12. See you there.

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Regenerative farming - an update

When asked if I might do a follow up from my last efforts, at first I felt there wasn't much I could add. But after some consideration, maybe there are a few thoughts I can share.

Firstly, a bit of an update on the farm. Like last winter, the summer brought an interesting spell of weather! Calving was completed around the 15th May in record time (just under 4 weeks), with all cows calving. However, sadly two of the heifers found becoming a mum for the first time a bit overwhelming and the calves were stillborn. There's not much one can do to avoid such events as the cattle were all out, and most calve during the quiet of the night. I only recall seeing one other calf born and that was one Anne and I had to assist on a pleasant Saturday evening (of course!).

As many of you will recall, May was dry and punctuated by cool easterly winds that seemed to suck all the moisture out of the ground. Things didn't bode well when June brought high temperatures and still no rain. In spite of all that, the cattle had plenty of cover (pasture) and the calves were growing well, showing that the cows were milking nicely.

After talking to other mob grazers, I decided I needed to protect (armour) the soil more in case the rain didn't return. You may remember my mentioning that in a conventional grazing system where the livestock have access to an entire field, the best bits get eaten first and over time the grass gets shorter, to a point where the soil is almost exposed, thus drying the soil out much quicker. The objective with mob grazing is to leave enough cover to protect the soil and hasten its recovery during the rest period of at least 60 days. I was hoping to improve this even further by moving the cows several times a day and it worked really well. What it did was intensify the number of animals on a given area, thus encouraging the cows to eat off as much as they wanted before the rest got trampled or dunged on. So, about every 5 hours I allowed them on to a fresh section, leaving behind a carpet of trampled grass covered in poo and wee - lovely soil protection!

Remember the natural function I mentioned before, ie the Bison doing just the same many millennia ago but not returning to the pasture for many weeks? After only a few days I could see the new shoots appearing through this layer and, if anything, it was difficult to see how I could maintain a minimum of 60 days rest for the soil and pasture. The other aspect of this system which I found very interesting, was the temperature of the soil at its surface and the positive effect it had on the cattle, keeping them cooler than they might otherwise have been. I had recently bought a probe thermometer and was amazed to see that on the small areas of the farm grazed tightly by the few horses we have, the soil surface was much hotter (up to +10 degrees) than the mob grazed areas. No wonder the calves were often seen laying flat out on the ground almost cooling off!

Fortunately, the hot dry weather was not to last and we resumed a more typical English summer, a graziers delight you might say! But with this abundant grass growth came less welcome plants and this summer has seen thistles like I have rarely known. In regenerative farming one of the hardest lessons one has to learn is not to be too troubled by what we usually call weeds; they all have a role to play in the diversity we seek. When moving cattle frequently you get to observe their behaviour more, particularly when they begin a new section and I was amazed to see them eating the thistles, carefully arranging the head of the plant in their mouth before biting it off! I shouldn't have been so surprised, as the thistle is surprisingly nutritious and particularly high on protein. It's not just thistles I am learning to tolerate but nettles, docks and even buttercups all play their part in providing my cattle with a wide variety of forb, plus the various grass species and herbs, such as chicory, plantain and yarrow. It's this (*Contd..*)

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(Contd...) diversity that improves the gut flora or biome of the cattle, thus promoting a healthier animal and passing on that superior status to us humans when we eat the meat.

I firmly believe we are noticing a positive effect on the wildlife around us. Earlier in the spring we had a pair of Cattle Egrets for company and this summer saw a welcome return of a good number of swallows that, over the last 15 years or so, had largely vanished but now enjoy the larger insects that follow the herd around. Now that the thistles have matured, large flocks of finches feast on the tiny seeds, another plus in favour of the plant that has usually been the scourge of the grass farmer. It is my hope that by allowing the grass to compete with many of these so-called weeds, we might see some control, or at least a curbing of their proliferation.

Like so many small improvements to landscape management, it is often difficult to see all the benefits and, in my case, one has to trust the science. I refer mainly to the effect of leaving most of the ground cover to grow, thereby maximising the process of photosynthesis and the transpiration of water, a process I've mentioned before as being so vital in the fight against extreme climatic events. It is this effect that must be more widely talked about, rather than constantly focusing on carbon emissions (that are still important). After all, it's a positive effect that we can all engage in, no matter how small our garden. So, how about next summer ditching the lawn mower, sitting back and relaxing! It brings me to the other benefit, namely water infiltration and holding on to water rather than having run off, a subject that is very timely with all that is going on with the Marsham Brook flood prevention project.

By Tim Jury

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Reflections from the Rectory

I am now responsible for three churches within our little group here in East Sussex, Winchelsea, Icklesham and Pett, as well as the little chapel to Saint Nicholas on the beach at Pett Level. From time to time all these buildings need attention and at present there is scaffolding at the church of St Thomas the Martyr in Winchelsea to restore the ruins, which are our responsibility. There has also been extensive work to the roof of the Church of St Nicholas and All Saints in Icklesham which has helped us avoid what would have been a disastrous ingress of water as all the tiles were badly damaged. At Pett we hope to commence with some work to repaint the interior which has been damaged by water and perhaps to make some changes to the lighting. Of course, all these different projects will require funding and I'm pleased to say we have already received some funding from the Sussex Historic Churches Trust for both Icklesham and Winchelsea. However the anxiety of maintaining these buildings is always a concern for whoever is in charge.

In Icklesham we raised a considerable sum by asking if residents of the village would like to purchase a tile. The tiles were priced at £10 each and if you bought one you were able to write your name, or any message for that matter, and the date on the reverse of the tile. Hopefully these tiles will not be disturbed for many years but there will be a kind of remembrance for each of those who contributed, their name or message and date preserved.

It reminded me of a curious instance at the church where I was first ordained in Kintbury in Berkshire. Work was being carried out on the painted beams and ceiling and after the scaffolding had been erected and the workmen ascended, right at the top of the interior of the roof the painter uncovered a message from the last workmen to paint the beams as he commenced work - extraordinarily it was exactly one hundred years ago to the day that the date and name had been written and presumably the work was last undertaken. This was of course an extraordinary coincidence. We cannot know by whom and when the underside of those signed tiles at Icklesham will be seen once again. Surely it will be something of a thrill to the discoverer as the memory of past work is uncovered. A memory of those who lived in the village and loved the building enough to contribute to its restoration.

Memory and place are always in our minds during November. There will be Remembrance Day services taking place in all our churches at Pett, Icklesham and Winchelsea and all are welcome. Towards the end of October on Sunday 29th at 4:00pm in St Thomas the Martyr in Winchelsea, the Sunday nearest to All Souls Day, which is on 2nd November, there will be a service of thanksgiving for the departed, to which all those for whom there have been funerals or memorial services in our churches will be asked. It is a chance to gather with others who have suffered loss and light a candle in memory of them. Just as we don't see the names on the underside of the tiles in Icklesham, memories live on and it is important to remember and honour those we have lost.

Bible Study - 9th November 2023 6:00pm New Inn, Winchelsea.

Our Bible reading group, which is very informal and lasts about an hour has been going for a year now. Do come along if you are interested. It is really a book club with a difference, and you don't have to have any fixed beliefs. This month we will read the curious tale of Balak and Balaam, chapters 22, 23 and 24 in the book of Numbers, the 5th book of the Bible.

Rev Jonathan Meyer

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A History of Pett Methodist Chapel - Part 6 Into the 21st Century.

The previous instalment described something of a revival during the 1990s, and so it was that, when we celebrated our 150th anniversary in 1998, there was a new energy in the chapel. A year-long programme of events included a Victorian themed fayre on the recreation ground, concerts, a history pageant, and a service of celebration.

As in many spheres of life, the last 25 years have been a period of significant change. Our ways of worshipping would probably seem quite alien to our grandparents, with extensive use of technology and far greater “audience participation”. Gone, too, are the hard pews of yesteryear, part of a major renovation in 2008 which has resulted in a cosy and welcoming atmosphere.

Look around, and you will see signs of the affection in which this chapel is held by many; the stained-glass cross, the wooden carving of a shepherd. For me, the most poignant is probably the wrought-iron cross which hangs behind the pulpit.

For many years, Bernard Kemp fiercely resisted anything to do with Church, which he regarded as an instrument of domination, manipulation, and oppression. It was as a result of bereavement, leading to a friendship with the Wilcock family, that his views began to change, and he subsequently married Pen Wilcock, who was our minister at that time.

At Pett, he felt welcome, comfortable, and included, and this cross was his way of expressing gratitude for that acceptance. Shortly afterwards, Bernard died at peace, blessed by the presence of Christ in his heart: but this might not have been the case if he had not been welcomed, just as he was, ‘a cantankerous old bopper’ as he used to say, here in this chapel at Pett.



So, there we are. I hope that you have enjoyed this potted history of Pett Methodist Chapel, told over six short instalments. Of course, such a brief summary can only scratch the surface and give a hint of the changes that this chapel has seen, and the lives that it has touched over the last 175 years. What its future holds is anybody’s guess but, for the moment, it remains an active and important piece of the fabric of the village, offering a warm welcome to all comers ... “cantankerous boppers” (young or old) included.

By Keith Miller

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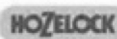
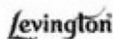
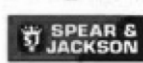
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News from Pett Level Preservation Trust

On the land

Summer's gone and autumn is upon us, although as I write temperatures are crazy high, more like midsummer! Nice, but a tad worrying. Still, it was a good summer for wildlife on the Trust land with the breeding migrant species including reed and sedge warbler, Cettis warbler, lesser whitethroat and whitethroat, along with the regulars such as dunnock, robin and blackbird. Vegetation growth was copious, and butterflies appeared to do well, although we don't have any information on other invertebrate life. May blossom, that I feared had been blown away in early June, clearly had survived to set its seed and hawthorn trees (along with blackthorn, bramble and apples) saw a great season for fruit production. Hopefully, winter thrushes such as fieldfare and redwing will benefit from this larder in a few weeks' time when they land on our shores. The Wildflower Society visited the Trust's land in August and added some records to our current list of plants. Included amongst these was a pink tinged variety of great bindweed, *Calystegia sylvatica*. The experts are still debating which subspecies it is.

On the water

Sadly, aspects of water supply and disposal don't seem to have improved of late with sewage releases and lack of drinking water being worrying occurrences this summer. Even more concerning is some ecological data that someone shared with me which showed deterioration of the ecological quality of the Marsham Sewer. The quality of this water body - classified as a main river by the Environment Agency - is of great concern because it feeds land and the important ditch system that are within a site that is of national, European and international importance for its wildlife and ecology. Water quality is essential to maintain the designation of this important piece of land. Of course, there are implications for all of us, not just the natural world. The continual decline in water quality has far reaching effects on our lives. Generally, wetland ecosystems are very good at cleaning up and improving the quality of water and hence it is so important to look after our existing wetlands. But they can only take so much.

State of nature

Another sobering piece of news is the fact that as many as one in six of our wildlife species are in danger of extinction in Great Britain. Birds in particular are in trouble. And we are already one of the most nature depleted countries in the world! The State of Nature Report 2023 also found that all important habitats in the UK are in poor condition, but encouragingly restoration projects can and do have clear benefits for nature and people, as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation. In the past I have touched on what great initiatives to stop this decline are being taken locally by farmers, landowners, organisations such as the Sussex Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust, National Trust, Hastings Borough Council and of course the Pett Level Preservation Trust. The State of Nature report makes it clear that the initiatives taken by these organisations can and do make a difference to conservation. We just need a lot more of them. A nature-based solution is being investigated as one of the ways to prevent flooding in Pett Level in the future, demonstrating how 'joined up' our thinking needs to be on these issues as they affect people and wildlife. Thank you to everyone who supports the Trust through membership or donations and to volunteers on work days and at events. You are all helping to improve the state of the UK's nature.

Vandalism

Previously I have mentioned the damage to the Observation Post and underground bunker on Toot Rock. It transpires that this had other consequences apart from damage to gates and grilles. Two youngsters managed to squeeze through the bars of the damaged gate and get inside the Observation Post and then found themselves unable to get out. The fire brigade was called and had to cut the lock off to release them. In addition, when we inspected the interior of the Observation Post we found that the two special bat hibernation boxes that had been attached to the walls had been destroyed. Hopefully, no bats were in residence at the time. So, overall, a cost of about £350 for the Trust to find, precious time wasted for the fire brigade and possibly bats unceremoniously evicted (in itself a breach of legislation).

Environment Agency (EA)

The EA are currently on-site clearing bankside vegetation along the Royal Military Canal. This is in preparation for clearing weed out of the Canal to ensure its flood prevention status is maintained. If you're out for a walk along the Canal bank do stay clear of any of the large machines carrying out this essential work.

Bridge Replacement

At some time next year Middle Bridge, which currently provides vehicular access to the three houses on the north side of the Canal below Toot Rock, will be replaced with a new structure. For a period of 4 - 6 weeks the bridge will be unusable to foot traffic whilst the works are carried out. More information will be provided nearer the time.

Winter Gathering

Last year the Trust held a very successful Christmas stall to raise essential funds to help pay for the management of its land. We will be holding this event again on Saturday 9th December between 12 and 4pm on Tamarisk Field at the entrance to Toot Rock. Please do come along and show your support for the Trust. Mulled wine and mince pies, along with a raffle and Christmas Cards will all be on offer, as well as a good natter with Trustees and volunteers.

Supporting the PLPT

The PLPT works on a minimal budget from year to year and through the hard work of a small group of volunteers we manage to punch well above our weight. However, we are reliant on funding to ensure we can all continue to enjoy the Trust's beautiful land. Thank you to the Royal Oak for choosing PLPT as one of the local charities to benefit from the proceeds of the fortnightly pub quiz.

The Trust always welcomes new Friends who wish to support our work and to help with practical management. If you are interested in joining the Friends of PLPT please email Theresa Nouch at theresanouch@aol.com or if you want to volunteer for practical management, contact Martin King at twotrok@hotmail.co.uk. Find out more about the Trust at www.pettlelevelpreservationtrust.org. **For the latest news follow us on Instagram and Facebook.**

John Newton, PLPT Chair

Flower Festival 2023

When I was an undergraduate, my Greek Professor had travelled a lot around the ancient sites of Greece and Italy. In the summer holidays he added to his travel experience (and to his income) by lecturing on cruise ships and guiding. I thought he must have a magnificent collection of photographs of his travels but when I asked him, he said that all his memories were in his head and that he did not need photographs.

I remembered this conversation when I was thinking about the Flower Festival in September. There can be two sets of memories from the Festival: one is the memory of those beautiful flower arrangements and the other is the memory of those remembered by the sponsors.

Why am I rambling on about memories? Because, albeit a bit late, I want to thank everyone involved in the Flower Festival, especially the flower arrangers and the sponsors. Very many thanks to all of you!

Angela Hawksley



Oyez, Oyez, Oyez!

THE ARCHIVE RESOURCE CENTRE AGM & TALK

24 NOVEMBER, 7.30pm
FAIRLIGHT VILLAGE HALL

We invite you to a very short AGM, which will be followed by a talk by Rye's Town Crier, Paul Goring. Paul has been the Crier since 2018 and he is the latest in a long line of Criers dating back to 1289. Paul will give us a fascinating insight into the history of Town Criers and the Rye Crier in particular.



Wine and nibbles will be served before and after the talk. In order to allow for catering please let Fran Rogers know at francesarogers@hotmail.co.uk



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Saturday 29th July 2023.

This year's show was a great success at Pett Village Hall, so the 2024 show will be held there again and in the future.

We are over the moon that Pett Village Hall Committee kindly agreed to Pett Flower Show purchasing a shed sited within the grounds of the Hall. This greatly assists the set-up and closing down of the Show. As it also eases space in the garages and homes of Committee members, it is a real bonus.

Although we still have some outstanding costs to cover, following the finalisation of the accounts from flower show takings, there is likely to be a surplus, from which the Committee would like to consider making donations to local good causes. Requests are welcome, just get in touch by writing to the Committee. Donations will be announced at the AGM in the Spring.

Plans for the 2024 show will soon be started. Suggestions are wanted for a theme. 'Twenty-Four' is a good, if not very exciting, start. In the past, one of the great traditions of the Flower Show was an evening dance. As the hire period for Pett Village Hall is at a weekend rate and the Hall is not used on the Saturday evening, there are plans afoot to revive the tradition. What this space!

Philippa M Strickland
Chairman P&DHS



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Sunday 10th March 2024- 1066 Rockitmen
Sunday 2nd June 2024- Gina Cassisa (solo from Cushty)
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Pett WI

After two months away, it made a refreshing change to be back at Pett Village Hall for our monthly meeting. After welcoming everyone back I handed over to our WICAID organiser Hilary Dymott, who gave us a round up on our fundraising and charity exploits.

Hilary then introduced Karen Powell, Operatives Manager, and Michelle Hayter from the Rye Hub on the Hill, our first charity that Pett WI have been supporting this year. Our speakers described the layout of the Hub and the facilities that are available to users. These are excellent, including a drop-in cafe that serves drinks, snacks and meals seven days a week with the help of various volunteers. Various sized meeting rooms that can be hired and treatment rooms, including a hairdressers. Karen and Michelle also outlined the many charities and groups that use the Hub on a regular or ad hoc basis. The variety of activities and groups is far too numerous to mention but wide and varied, including many local charities. If you haven't dropped in for a coffee, I recommend it highly and you will get a very warm welcome and, if you ask, could be shown around.

Our second speakers were from our other charity of the year, 1066 Pink Ladies. All three of our speakers Pat King, Janet Green and Jo Marsh are ladies who have experienced breast cancer. The aim of the group is not to give advice but to support women and sometimes their families, going through breast cancer treatment. The support depends entirely on the needs of the individual and may be phone calls, group informal meetings to share information, individual visits and occasionally monetary help. Workshops can be about wigs and make up when you have lost your hair, or exercise to keep up fitness, talking about mastectomy and reconstructive surgery, or just a listening ear. All three ladies shared their experiences which at times was very moving and the wonderful reaching out to women at such a vulnerable time of their lives.

Huge thanks go to all our speakers for such an interesting and informative evening.

After refreshments and lots of chatter it was back to business. Heather Godwin reminded us about the MacMillan Coffee Morning that was coming up shortly. Several WI members helped to make the morning a big success once again. Raffle tickets were sold for our Winter Fair on Saturday 18th November. All the stall places are taken, and it promises to be another hugely successful event once again, with a sumptuous raffle, WI standard refreshments and lots of lovely items to purchase for Christmas. All proceeds will go to our supported charities, including Rye Food Bank.

Members were also given an update on our upcoming calendar of events for 2024 which includes visits, speakers and practical activities.

Our AGM is in November and the committee will change, with three members standing down after long loyal service. Luckily, we have four members willing to stand for the committee to replace them. I look forward to working with them all, but it will be very sad to say goodbye to the others.

Tracy Hedley also told us about pages for information about Pett WI which includes links to our Facebook page. I also mentioned that Rye Kino are now showing a limited number of subtitled films each week and asked that members passed on that information to anyone who is hard of hearing. The films are marked with HOH (hard of hearing) or the ear symbol that denotes a loop system. I had viewed a film the previous week and as a deaf person myself it was a total joy to be able to understand the whole film! The meeting concluded at 9.30pm.

Sally Watson, President



Dawn Turner
BHHT, MFHT

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Pett Parish Council Update

First, some bad news. The parish clerk has in the last few days received a letter from Rother District Council, notifying the council that the public toilets at Pett Level are to be closed, initially for an undefined trial period, from 13 November. This is in order for the district council to be able to reduce its financial commitments; the toilets at Pett Level are not the only ones to be closed. This was not unexpected, but representatives of the parish council have had discussions with the district council staff member concerned and, as the toilets are mainly used by visitors rather than residents, we had hoped that the notice of closure would be accompanied by some parallel proposals about how the toilets can be kept open. These may, of course, still be forthcoming and the parish council will be looking into ways that toilet facilities can continue to be provided at Pett Level. However, whatever is decided, keeping such a facility is almost certainly going to mean an increase in the parish council precept. I think that the question will then be how much is it worth paying to keep Pett Level from being spoiled by people's excrement. On the other hand, even doubling the precept would still mean that the occupier of a band D house would only be paying about a pound a week.

The council next meets on 21 November. Clearly the toilets will be on the agenda.

Another item on the agenda will be a discussion of the council's view concerning the proposed housing development in Guestling, bordering Pett Road and Watermill Lane. It has been suggested that I have not made clear the council's position up to now. For clarity, it appeared to the council in 2022 that what seemed to be proposed did not meet the need that was identified for Pett from the housing needs survey of 2020. The scheme is still at the concept stage and maybe what is proposed will become clearer when a planning application is submitted. However, the council will reconsider its position at the November meeting.

An item on recent council agendas has been whether to declare a climate emergency, as Rother District Council has done (see www.rother.gov.uk/strategies-policies-and-plans/corporate-plan-2020-2027/climate-emergency/). Up to now, the parish council has not been able to identify measures that it could take in that connection. It is, of course, already involved in the discussion of measures to reduce flooding at Pett Level, but are there other things that it could be doing (or encouraging residents to be doing)? Please let me know if you think there are. And, of course, an update on the developments regarding the flooding will be on the agenda.

At a recent meeting of Rother Association of Local Councils, a representative of East Sussex Highways reported that the new contractor for road repairs, Balfour Beatty, is adopting a less restrictive approach to pothole filling in that they will also be looking at the area surrounding a hole and treating that if necessary. It will be interesting to see if this makes a significant difference to the overall quality of road surfaces.

All will be pleased to know that the council has signed up to the Civility and Respect Pledge (see www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/civility-and-respect-project). I am sure that all council members (and members of the public) will behave in accordance with the pledge.

Finally, once more, I have to announce a death, this time of Derek Johnson, who will have been known to many for his managing over many years the Pett voting station at election time. Derek was also a member of the Village Hall Management Committee for some time and, along with his late wife Jo, was active in the village in other ways. Our sympathy goes to Derek's family.

David Penfold, Chair, Pett Parish Council



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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Do you know how much it costs to keep the churches in Pett open and functioning? Last year the cost was about £17,000 for the year, or £1,400 per month, or £330 per week. This year rising utility costs will put that figure up to about £350 per week.

Do you find that surprising?

Do you care?

What costs so much that £350 flows out of the bank account each week? Well, apart from gas and electricity costs, maintenance of the buildings and the churchyard, insurance, and the costs of fundraising, there is also the matter of the Parish Share.

Our churches - St Mary & St Peter and St Nicholas on the Level - belong to the Chichester Diocese. Diocese is a posh word for the ecclesiastical district under the jurisdiction of a bishop. Chichester Diocese is divided into four regions: Horsham, Brighton and Lewes, Hastings and Chichester and each region has an Archdeacon looking after it. Pett is, obviously, in the Hastings region.

Today the Chichester diocese comprises 478 churches in 361 parishes which are served by 393 clergy. The parishes are grouped into 275 areas or benefices (with one clergyman or woman in overall charge). At present the Pett churches belong to the Winchelsea benefice, looked after by the Reverend Jonathan Meyer. Jonathan lives in Winchelsea and looks after the churches and congregations of Winchelsea, Icklesham and Pett and is employed by the Church of England.

Each church pays a proportion of its income, known as the Parish Share, to the Diocese for Jonathan, his stipend (or wages and NI), his pension, and his housing. On top of that the Parish Share covers administration from the Diocese, support for church schools, training for new and existing clergy, building advice, safeguarding and, finally, a very, very, small proportion goes to the Church of England itself. The amount of this Parish Share is decided upon by each church, according to what can be afforded, but it goes without saying that, unless each church does its bit, the Diocese will not be able to afford the 'Jonathans' or the maintenance of the churches.

SO, is that what you want? Do you mind if the church in the village closes its doors and is left empty? Would it be a shame if the quaint St Nicholas's on the Level is no longer a retreat for those who need it, or a tourist attraction, or somewhere to enjoy Carols by Candlelight?

If you DO care, and are not already a Friend of Pett Churches, PLEASE consider supporting our churches on a regular basis or with a donation or a legacy in your will. PLEASE come along to the services occasionally: Harvest Festival, the pet service, Remembrance Day, Christmas, Easter. Why not bite the bullet and come along when it is NOT a special occasion? You will always be welcome. Whatever your spirituality or beliefs, or lack of, if you care about Pett Village then you must care about what makes it a village: a pub, a church, a community.....

Heather Godwin, Treasurer, pettchurchestreasurer@gmail.com 07977 100 296
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Friends' leaflets are available in both churches - please help yourself and, once completed, send them to me. Thank you for reading.



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My Garden Blog

What a wonderful Indian summer we are having; blue skies and sunshine are making up for a rather dismal August. Some plants are very confused, with roses still blooming and buddleias continuing to produce flowers - much appreciated by the bees. I had sunflowers and hollyhocks that were battered to death in the gale we had a few weeks ago but the ones I salvaged and tied up are looking pretty impressive now. The holly tree has produced its usual wealth of berries which are rapidly turning red. It is said that if there are many berries it means a bad winter. There were loads last year and it wasn't a particularly bad winter as I recall, so I just appreciate the cheerful sight and know that several bird species will enjoy them.

Vegetables are mostly finished bar some courgettes, and an apple tree that produces bright red fruit (identity unknown) is ready for picking. The foxes and badgers have made an excellent job of clearing up fallen fruit!

The fox family is still doing very well and there are two badgers, which is very pleasing as last month there was a dead one outside the house and another in Chapel Lane. Young buzzard has grown up but still contact calls as it soars over the trees. Goldfinches have made a return in their little fast flying flocks, so I think it is time to get out the bird feeders. I have seen very few swallows or house martins this year but those that are here are gathering before their long journey south.

It may be Keats' 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' and all that but the reality is it's the season of tidying up a garden that has become rampant and chaotic.

My 'to do' list is frighteningly long. It includes clearing the vegetable patch and covering to keep weeds at bay, cleaning out the greenhouse and readying for next year's tomatoes, clearing and weeding the squash patch which grows wonderful nettles and dandelions, removing bindweed from fruit cages, along with many weeds, and major clearing of the pond area. I thought all fish had disappeared but found a shoal of baby fish (nine counts as a shoal, doesn't it?) plus one adult. There must have been at least two adults at one point, in order to produce them! I am now checking regularly to see what the heron has left me.

To add to the list: dead heading/pruning all shrubs, removing brambles and nettles, organising tree and hedge pruning, working on rockery to weed and free space for heathers which are making a valiant attempt to grow, pruning vine and clematis which cover a large trellis but escape over the fence, plant last year's bulbs (after clearing spaces!), weed paths and patio, empty used planters and pots and store in shed (yet to be tidied), sort out front garden and various small beds.....oh and have I mentioned the falling leaves?

by Gill Plank

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Pett Post Office

Amanda Snowdon

Many have mourned the passing of the Post Office, which closed last month after 177 years in the village.

Records show that the Post Office arrived in Pett November 1846, surprisingly early perhaps for a village of only around 300 inhabitants. The Post Office at Ore was established at the same time, but Fairlight not until 1924.

It is difficult to discover the location of the first Post Office building in Pett. There are several possibilities, including The Royal Oak, which ran a carrier service, and The Village Shop at Vernon's Cottage, built around 1787. Clues may be in the siting of post boxes - and both have them!



The sign above the door reads 'The Old Village Shop'. (The building - now a private residence - is at the top of French Court Lane.)

The first sub-postmaster's (or Receiver's) name that appears in records is William Thorpe in 1855. Letters arrived at 9am and were dispatched at 5:45pm, with a Sunday post at 10:45am - a regime which continued with little variation for decades. Thorpe was a busy man as he was also the master at the school, assisted by Diana Thorpe. By 1867 he'd been replaced as Receiver by George Martin, boot and shoemaker.

By the turn of the century the Post Office had moved to Pett Stores, which was then next to the church and run in 1901 by Thomas A. Skinner (b 1862) with wife Emily (sub-postmaster and grocer) where they remained until 1915 when the Post Office closed. Pett was then without a PO for the rest of WW1.

Almost unrecognisable today, but the picture (c1900) shows the original front of the shop facing east towards the Church. A large extension now covers this aspect and the entrance was moved to face Pett Road. It is now Norris' Upholstery





W G Coleman's name can be seen above the door

By the 1930s the business was so successful that a bungalow was built next door to house the Post Office. (Probably in 1932; certainly by 1938, when it appears on OS maps.)

W G Coleman retired in 1948 and the Post Office continued as a separate entity run by John & Emily Blackhouse 1948-51; they also sold cards, stationery, wools and craft accessories.

Eventually the bungalow became a private house and the Post Office moved to Pett Garage in 1992, where it remained in the capable hands of sub-postmaster Tony Horne until the garage closed and the site came up for redevelopment in 2002/3.



Pett Post Office c.1960



The Parish Council endeavoured to buy premises within the site to ensure the continued existence of the Post Office. But the deal unexpectedly collapsed, and although a Post Office and shop were incorporated into the Lyndens' development in 2004, it was without the future security intended by the Council. This problem would resurface a decade later in 2014 when Tony retired - and the PO subsequently closed in January 2015.

Post Office at The Lyndens 2015. Now Tic Tac Hair salon and Tea Rooms. (Photo Paul Farmer)

Once again, the Parish Council worked tirelessly to keep it going, eventually finding other accommodation with willing help in March 2015 from the Methodist Chapel, where it became an Outreach Post Office opening two afternoons a week run from Morrison's in Lydd. During that time two travelling sub-post masters presided: firstly Suru followed by the indomitable Anthea, who worked until she was past 80 - with assistance from the rota of ever-helpful equipment loaders.

In August 2023 Post Office Ltd gave three weeks' notice that the service would close 22nd September. It was a business decision and this time there was no hope of resurrection. The world had moved on with the advent of the digital age, and the days of the village Post Office - a valued social hub - were over. As one resident dryly observed,

'Heaven help anyone who can't drive and isn't technically literate!'

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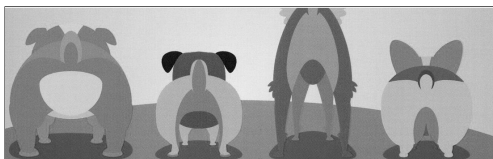
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Nature Notes

While walking round Rye Harbour Nature Reserve recently, we paused to sit on a large log and noticed that it was host to the clump of 16-spot ladybirds pictured above. (I suspect that the correct collective noun for ladybirds is 'rash' to reflect their spottiness.) Many ladybird species are named after the number of spots on their wing cases (elytra, singular elytron), but it is not always easy to determine the species by counting the spots. The 16-spot, for example, has five obvious spots on each elytron, but the remaining three are merged into a zigzag mark on the sides of the elytra. A more extreme example of the spottiness not matching the name is the 10-spot ladybird which has two common colour forms - one with 10 spots and the other with two spots. The 16-spot ladybird is only about half the size of the more conspicuous and familiar 7-spot ladybird and its habit of feeding low down in dense vegetation means that it is easily overlooked. The Latin scholars among you will be pleased to know that, for the spottily-named species, the scientific name at least indicates how spotty it is. So the scientific name of the 16-spot ladybird is *Tytthaspis sedecimpunctata*.

The 16-spot ladybird is one of the few ladybird species that are vegetarian, eating pollen, nectar and fungus (usually in the form of mildew). Other species are not so restricted in their diet and many eat aphids and scale insects, endearing them to gardeners - especially those that use no pesticides. A few decades ago, there was a big fuss about the invasion of alien species from Asia, the Harlequin Ladybird, (nothing changes!). The threatened extermination of our native 7-spot Ladybird and the way of life as we know it, however, didn't happen. The Harlequin ladybird and 7-spot Ladybird coexist happily and there are plenty of aphids for both species. As it happens, the Harlequin Ladybird is a much more efficient aphid predator than the 7-spot Ladybird, but the reproduction rate of aphids far outstrips the appetites of both ladybirds.

I was curious to know why the 16-spot Ladybirds were in the cluster shown above. It turns out that they overwinter in large aggregations and there were many more of them scattered about the log, either roaming around on the surface or investigating cracks in the grain. I suspect that in gathering together, they stop looking like individual insects, and resemble something like a patch of lichen or moss which may confuse predators. Being cold-blooded creatures, there is no point in huddling together for warmth as they will all be at the same temperature as the environment.

For those of you interested in the natural world or those who just want a strange bug identified, I have created a Facebook group and a WhatsApp community, both called Pett Nature, that everybody is welcome to join.

By Alan Kenworthy.





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MacMillan Coffee Morning 2023

A huge thankyou to everyone who helped the Macmillan Coffee Morning Team to raise £1,646.55 on the last Friday of September.

One reason for such a great sum being raised was the generosity of our sponsors: Kit & Janet McClean of Elm Tree Bootsales, Icklesham, for the hire of the Hall, Stella Dunn for the drink refreshments, and Rod Rolfe and Jan Tomalin for the advertising. Other reasons: the wonderful response we had for edible refreshments - scores of delicious cakes, scones and biscuits arrived from far and wide. These were served by the fantastic catering team, the majority from Pett WI, organised by the amazing Kay. Then there was the generosity of those who came to enjoy a lovely social occasion and hand over their cash (and cards). And the final reason? The brilliant Team who searched for items to sell on the stalls, looked after the stalls, and cleared away afterwards. You know who you are.



After such a successful morning it was particularly poignant to hear of the recent death of Derek Johnson. We have held the last two Macmillan Coffee Mornings in memory of his wife, Jo Johnson, who organised the Macmillan Coffee Mornings before Covid. Sadly, Jo died a week after the 2019 Coffee Morning. I am sure both Jo and Derek would be pleased with this year's result.

Heather Godwin



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Slugs

I've had a strange fascination with slugs since I was a little boy. Back then I believed that they were homeless snails that had lost their shells. It turns out I was right. Sort of. The whole eviction process had started as far back as the murky Mesozoic when some land snails cast off the shackles of a shell and evolved into slugs for some truly independent living. Sure, shells are great for protection and will help you to avoid drying out but they're clunky and require calcium to construct. Without them you can roam anywhere and (to namecheck another mollusc) the world's your oyster.



The slug's shell has never been completely lost – a fragment remains hidden under their skin, a tiny, shrunken souvenir of their snail ancestry. Another link to their slimy dynasty is that all slugs, like all snails, are both male and female. As hermaphrodites, they possess both sets of sexual organs and this means that, if the situation dictates, they can go it alone and simply self-fertilise to produce their offspring. A true state of independence. Self-fertilisation creates a clone - or in a slug's case hundreds of clones - but the problem with inbreeding is a lack of genetic variability. Clones all possess the same weaknesses. An entire slug population can be wiped out by the same parasites and pathogens. To produce varied and resilient offspring, most slugs go in for the more old-fashioned approach of finding a partner for a quick rustle in the undergrowth.

But one garden slug species has turned this chore into art - a flamboyant celebration of a lack of independence. The spotted and striped Leopard Slugs start their performance by chasing each other around a tree, giving each other sonic, sensuous strokes and cheeky nibbles. Then they climb, shimmy along a branch, and descend on a rope made of their own mucous. Here, hanging in mid-air, the slugs evert their sexual organs, entwining them to create a moonlit globe. This graceful, balletic trapeze performance must be one of the most mesmerising sights on our planet. If you search hard enough, you can find beauty in the strangest places. Still, if I was strolling through the woods at night, I'd hate to walk into it face-first.

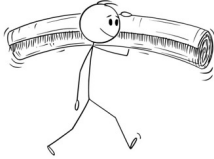
by Michael Blencowe for Sussex Wildlife Trust

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Gardening Club Notes - October 2023

Jane Scotchmer has been our speaker before, so we were very pleased to welcome her back with a totally different topic, Cuba's Unique Gardens and Parks. Jane and her husband had visited Cuba in 2019 and we spent an enjoyable evening revisiting their journey with her.

Cuba and its indigenous Taino people were "officially discovered" by Columbus in 1492 and the island was dubbed the Gateway to the Americas, lying centrally among the Caribbean islands and only 100 miles from Florida. For the next few hundred years its geography enabled a lucrative triangular trade route, with ships taking goods to Africa to buy slaves to work in the sugar plantations, then transporting the produce to Europe - the ships were never empty. In 1902 Cuba gained independence from Spain and became instead a hedonistic playground for rich Americans.

Much of its American-style grand colonial architecture remains in its public buildings and embassies, set in often dramatic gardens, filled with the many varieties of palm trees that flourish in the tropical climate. In 1959, however, brought about through Fidel Castro and Che Guevara's revolution, Cuba became communist and remains so to this day under an authoritarian and repressive regime harking back to the Russian Stalinist model. Thus, great wealth gave way to great poverty, decaying infrastructure, low wages and high prices due to shortages of everything from food to fuel. Despite this, the people retain their culture and spirit, especially through music - Cuba created the Rumba, Mambo, Salsa and Cha-Cha-Cha and they continue to enjoy their rum cocktails, cigars and coffee!

Jane and her husband took guided tours around the island, visiting its many diverse areas - hills and mountains, rich fertile valleys, arid savannas, imposing cities, white sandy beaches and tropical gardens. Along the way they saw many towns and villages where colonial style houses are often painted in jewel colours and have hidden garden courtyards, filled with lush greenery. The Botanical Gardens were a special highlight, covering 1500 acres - Kew has 300 - filled with 350 varieties of palm trees, cacti, a pinetum, even a classic Japanese garden, constructed in tandem with the Japanese government. Vinales National Park was a great favourite. It has Unesco status due to its unique flora and fauna, vernacular architecture and traditional working methods. The smallest bird in the world, the Helena or Bee Hummingbird, so small its nest is the size of an eggcup, is just one of the many protected birds, mammals and other species within the park.

At the other end of the scale they also visited traditional farms, where ploughing is done using oxen and, despite the heat, all the farmers wear wellington boots, to protect against wet, but also against bugs - Jane felt they might also be creating their own microclimate and who-knew-what cultures! Tobacco, coffee and sugar are major crops, but all heavily state controlled. They went to a private plant Nursery, where the owner, a knowledgeable plantswoman, showed them round the vast nursery, cleverly built into the terraced landscape and expertly designed to best display the many plants for sale. She also has a cut flower business and is apparently the designated florist for Fidel Castro's grave! Jane had taken a photo of bunches of strelitzias, an ample illustration that many of the plants and flowers that grow outdoors there are ones that only grow indoors in this country! The national flower of Cuba is the white ginger, also called the butterfly plant as when the petals move in the breeze, they resemble butterflies in flight.

At our next meeting, on Tuesday November 14th, Melvin Smith will be looking ahead with a talk entitled "Spring Arrival".

By June Harris

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Courgettes Frittata

This recipe comes from Naples and is a dish that was adapted and changed over time to create thousands of variations. In my family we used to have the frittata in the evening as it is quick to prepare and quite filling. Frittata is an egg-based dish similar to an omelette. It is typically made using pasta but in this case I substitute with courgette. It is full of vegetables and is as tasty hot or cold.

For four people.

Ingredients

2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil.

275g courgettes (cut in slices), or if you prefer 2 courgettes, spiralized. (You can spiralize courgettes with peeler and a knife, or with a cheese grater).

2 red onions sliced thinly.

50g roasted peppers from a jar, drained and chopped.

6 eggs.

4 tablespoons chopped chives.

4 tablespoons chopped basil.

1 teaspoon salt and ground pepper.

50g grated parmesan cheese.

Crisp green salad, to serve as a side.

Heat a tablespoon of the extra virgin olive oil in a large non-stick frying pan, then add the courgettes, then the peppers and cook for 3-4 minutes until the peppers are just softening. Remove any excess water from the peppers and courgettes by draining on kitchen paper.

Cook the onions gently in the remaining oil for about 10 minutes until they start to caramelize, then stir in the cooked courgettes and peppers.

Beat the eggs in a bowl with most of the parmesan cheese, adding the herbs, the salt and the pepper to season. Add the beaten eggs to the pan with the onions, peppers, and courgettes and cook slowly until it is almost set - about 3-4 minutes should be enough. (Cover the pan with a large plate and flip the frittata sliding it back into the pan to cook it gently from both sides).

Sprinkle the remaining parmesan cheese over the top and heat under a grill for a couple of minutes, until the frittata is golden yellow. Cut it into large wedges like a pizza, and serve with a green salad, and...

buon appetito.



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CHURCH SERVICES - NOVEMBER 2023

SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER

WINCHELSEA	8.00am	Book of Common Prayer Communion Service
PETT	9.30am	Communion Service
PETT METHODIST CHAPEL	10.45	Morning Worship
WINCHELSEA	11.00am	Communion Service

SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER - REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

PETT LEVEL	8.30am	Book of Common Prayer Communion Service
ICKLESHAM	9.30am	Communion Service
PETT	10.30am	Joint Service and Act of Remembrance
WINCHELSEA	11.00am	Communion Service

SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER

PETT	9.30am	Communion Service
PETT METHODIST CHAPEL	10.45am	Morning Worship
WINCHELSEA	11.00am	Communion Service

SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER

ICKLESHAM	9.30am	Communion Service
PETT METHODIST CHAPEL	10.45am	Morning Worship
WINCHELSEA	11.00am	Communion Service

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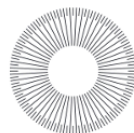


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Pett Village Hall Activities



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	Doctor Prescription Service	2.00-2.30pm
	Table Tennis	4.00-5.30pm
	Yoga	6.00-7.30pm
Tuesday	Doctor Surgery	9.00am-5.30pm
	Pilates	8.30-9.30am
	Pole Dancing	7.15-8.45pm
Wednesday	Pett Painters	2.00-4.00pm
	Dance Fitness	6.00-7.30pm
Thursday	Doctor Surgery	9am-5.30pm
	Pilates	8.30-9.30am
	Art	12-3.00pm
	Short Mat Bowls	3.15-5.15pm
	Fitness Pilates	6.30-7.15pm
Friday	Doctor Prescription Service	9.00-10.00am
	Badminton	10.00am-12pm

For details of who runs each class and how to join see our website - www.pettvillagehall.co.uk

Remembrance Sunday 12th November 2023

Do think of coming to the Remembrance Sunday service at Pett Church on 12th November at 10.55am!

The service will start outside and be led by Revd. Jonathan Meyer. The names on the War Memorial will be read out which, in itself, is a tribute to those who died for our freedom and we will, of course, also remember them in our two-minute silence.

It is 78 years since the end of the Second World War. That war must seem as remote to children growing up now as the Franco-Prussian War and the Boer war seemed to us when we were children. I am sure that you will agree that, despite that gap, we should do our best to remember and to encourage future generations to remember.

Angela Hawksley
Pett Parochial Church Council

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 2-5 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 or Tel: 01424 812185. We'd love to have you on board, so please get in touch!



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2 TH	01 20	3.5	13 39	3.4
3 F	02 01	3.1	14 23	2.9
4 SA	02 49	2.8	15 16	2.4
5 SU ☾	03 45	2.4	16 18	2.0
6 M	04 49	2.0	17 28	1.8
7 TU	06 01	2.0	18 54	1.9
8 W	07 19	2.3	20 04	2.3
9 TH	08 16	2.6	20 47	2.6
10 F	08 57	3.0	21 20	3.0
11 SA	09 31	3.1	21 52	3.1
12 SU	10 04	3.4	22 23	3.4
13 M ☐	10 36	3.5	22 56	3.5
14 TU	11 ☑	3.6	23 28	3.5
15 W	11 46	3.6		
16 TH	00 05	3.6	12 22	3.5
17 F	00 42	3.5	13 01	3.5
18 SA	01 25	3.4	13 49	3.0
19 SU	02 19	3.0	14 51	2.6
20 M ☽	03 28	2.6	16 21	2.4
21 TU	04 50	2.5	17 48	2.4
22 W	06 10	2.5	19 02	2.6
23 TH	07 20	2.9	20 05	3.0
24 F	08 20	3.3	20 57	3.3
25 SA	09 11	3.5	21 44	3.5
26 SU	09 57	3.8	22 27	3.5
27 MO	10 42	3.8	23 07	3.6
28 TU	11 25	3.8	23 48	3.6
29 W			12 06	3.6
30 TH	00 26	3.5	12 44	3.5

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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
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David Penfold (Chair)	01424 813003	cldr.david.penfold@pettnet.org.uk
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VILLAGE CONTACTS

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<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>Pett Churches</i>			
- <i>Warden</i>	John Case	812224	johncase@me.com
- <i>Friends</i>	Gill Plank	812154	gillplank@yahoo.co.uk
- <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>	WI Secretary		Pettwi1917@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 - Pett Level Independent Rescue Boat Boathouse

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



BUS TIMETABLES: 347 and 101

Hastings • Ore • Guestling • Pett

347

MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS except Bank Holidays

SATURDAYS

	Hols					Sch							
	1330	1510	1510	1510	1510	1330	1510						
Hastings Rail Station ⇌ Stop E													
Queens Road opp. Priory Meadow Stop N	0945	1150	1335	1515	1515	1640	1740	0945	1150	1335	1515	1640	1740
Millward Road Manor Road	0950	1155	1340	1520	1520	1645	1745	0950	1155	1340	1520	1645	1745
Ore Post Office	0955	1200	1345	1525	1525		1750			1345			1750
Ore The King's Head	0957	1202	1347	1527	1527		1752			1347			1752
Guestling The White Hart	1001	1206	1351	1531	1531		1756			1351			1756
Guestling School	▼	▼	▼	▼	1534		▼			▼			▼
Pett Church	1006	1211	1356	1536	1542		1801			1356			1801
Pett Chick Hill	1009	1214	1359	1539	1545		1804			1359			1804

MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS except Bank Holidays								SATURDAYS			
	Sch	Hols				Hols	Sch				
Pett Chick Hill	0819	0826	1012	1217	1402	1542	1547	0826		1402	
Pett Church	0822	0829	1015	1220	1405	1545	1550	0829		1405	
Guestling Green School	0829	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼		▼	
Guestling The White Hart	0834	0834	1020	1225	1410	1550	1555	0834		1410	
Ore The King's Head	0838	0838	1024	1229	1414	1554	1559	0838		1414	
Ore Post Office	0840	0840	1026	1231	1416	1556		0840		1416	
Milward Road Manor Road	0845	0845	1030	1235	1420	1600		0845	0952	1157 1420 1522	
Hastings Queens Road	▼	▼	1035	1240	1425	1605		▼	▼	0957 1202 1425 1527	
Hastings Harold Place	0849	0849						0849			
Hastings Rail Station	0851	0851						0851			
Fairlight Glen										1603	
Fairlight Cove Hotel										1609	
Pett Level										1615	

There are no Sunday or Bank Holiday buses on route 347.

- Hols** - This bus journey runs on Mondays to Fridays during school holidays only.
- Sch** - This bus journey runs on schooldays only.

Rye | Fairlight | Hastings | Conquest Hospital 101

Mondays to Saturdays except public holidays										Sundays and public holidays				
Notes	MF	Sch	SSH							NR	NR	NR	NR	
Rye Rail Station Stand A	0654	0748	0756	0856	Then	56		1756	1856	2154	1034	1234	1434	1634
Winchelsea Beach Caravan Park	0704	0759	0807	0907	every	07		1807	1907	2205	1045	1245	1445	1645
Pett Level Canal Bank	0708	0803	0811	0911	hour	11		1811	1911	2209	1049	1249	1449	1649
Fairlight Cove Commanders Walk	0714	0809	0817	0917	at	17	until	1817	1917	2215	1055	1255	1455	1655
Fairlight Coastguard Lane	0720	0815	0823	0923	these	23		1823	1923	2221	1101	1301	1501	1701
Ore Co Op	0725	GG	0828	0928	times	28		1828	1928	2226	1106	1306	1506	1706
Hastings Railway Station arrive	0740	0852	0843	0943		43		1843	1943	2241	1123	1323	1523	1723
Bohemia Road Fire Station	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	1947	-	1128	1328	1528	1728
Silverhill Filling Station*	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	1951	-	1132	1332	1532	1732
Harrow Lane Ashdown House	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	1137	1337	1537	1737
Conquest Hospital	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	1142	1342	1542	1742

- Notes** MF Journey runs Mondays to Fridays only
- Sch Journey runs schooldays only
- SSH Journey runs on Saturdays and school holidays only
- * Buses terminating at Silverhill stop in Chatham Road
- GG Serves Guestling Green School at 0830 and Ore Post Office at 0838.

Mondays to Saturdays except public holidays										Sundays and public holidays				
										NR	NR	NR	NR	
Conquest Hospital											1045	1245	1445	1645
Harrow Lane Ashdown House											1049	1249	1449	1649
Silverhill London Road											0856	1056	1256	1456
Bohemia Road Fire Station											0900	1100	1300	1500
Hastings Railway Stn stop F	-	0747	0847	0949	Then	49		1749	1855	2106	0910	1110	1310	1510
Ore Co Op	0711	0802	0902	1004	every	04		1804	1905	2116	0923	1123	1323	1523
Fairlight Coastguard Lane	0715	0806	0906	1008	hour	08		1808	1909	2120	0927	1127	1327	1527
Fairlight Cove Commanders Walk	0721	0812	0912	1014	at	14	until	1814	1915	2126	0933	1133	1333	1533
Pett Level Canal Bank	0727	0818	0918	1020	these	20		1820	1921	2132	0939	1139	1339	1539
Winchelsea Beach Caravan Park	0731	0822	0922	1024	times	24		1824	1925	2136	0945	1145	1345	1545
Rye Rail Station	0743	0834	0934	1036		36		1836	1937	2148	0957	1157	1357	1557

For other buses between Rye and Hastings, see timetable for route 100.
 For other buses between Hastings and Conquest Hospital, see timetables for routes 28, 29 and 100.

NR On Sundays, buses continue to or from New Romney - see route 100 timetable for full details

**Timetables are subject to change
Check before you travel**

Visit: www.stagecoachbus.com or download the Stagecoach app to view live bus times



Friends of Pett
Churches

Christmas Fair

- Crafts
- Christmas Goodies
- Stalls
- Refreshments
- Raffles
- The Village Choir
- Games
- & More!

In Pett Village Hall



2

DECEMBER
10-1

