

Pett and Pett Level News



February 2024

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Front Cover: Alistair Perkins

Editorial

During January a number of you mentioned problems with the prescription service offered at Pett Village Hall by the Hill Surgery (formerly Harold Road Surgery). It seems that the surgery decided to change the collection days and times but, unless you collected a prescription just before Christmas, you were unlikely to know this! To clarify matters, prescription medication can now be collected from Pett Village Hall on either a Tuesday or Thursday between 12 noon and 12.45pm. However, contrary to previous notification, prescriptions will not be taken to both Fairlight and Pett Village Halls. Therefore, if you currently collect from Pett you will have to continue to do so. As far as we are aware, surgery times at the Hall remain the same and are listed on p35. Whether you can get an appointment of course, is another matter!

As we go to press we have not found anyone willing to take over from Angela with a monthly recipe. Therefore, to take the pressure off individuals, we would like to ask you to send in your favourite delicious cake recipe and we will publish these instead. Who's willing to get the ball rolling?

As ever, we look forward to hearing from you with your thoughts and contributions.

Donna and Louisa

Dear Editors,

We'd just like to say a huge Thank You to the family at The Boathouse, Pett Level for putting on another fantastic display of sculptures of the 12 Twelve days of Christmas. The whole family enjoy them, and we're all looking forward to seeing 7 swans a swimming. No pressure!

Thanks again
Fran & Ray Molyneux.



Archive Resource Centre

A belated Happy New Year from **YOUR** Archive. After our latest event at the end of November we thought we would take the seasonal holidays off, so we are only now gaining momentum for 2024.



Our event at Fairlight Village hall was fun, with the Rye Town Crier, Paul Goring, in full voice, giving us the history of town criers. They used to have a quill pen in their caps so they could note down messages for the community, being among the few who could read and write, hence “a feather in one’s cap”! Also, the World Town Crier event is now held in Rye each year. Who knew? And yes, there are lady Town Criers.

My New Year resolution is to train more volunteers to catalogue our many photos and documents. I am happy to come to you, or you to me, or meet at the ARC room, and I will try to fit into your diary. So let me know if you have a few hours a week free to spare. It can be done from your home! If you look under “Latest Pages” on the website you will see what we have added in the last few weeks.



We are mindful that our annual membership drive is at the end of April and we are planning a talk by Lorna Vahey about her parents. If you go to our website www.thearc.uk and search Fred Vahey, or look under artists, you will see what a colourful life he and Zoe had whilst Pett residents from 1938. Lorna has a wealth of information, which we will be sifting through for the presentation, along with original artwork. More details later... *Fran Rogers, Chair*



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Reflections from the Rectory

Whenever the time comes for me to sit down and write something for the monthly magazine, I tend to find myself looking out of the window. The weather often seems to be a spur to my reflection. As I look out today it is cold and gloomy. It is true that of late we have had some bright and sunny days but today is very January.

For many of us the news will seem cold and gloomy too. It has almost become easier not to mention it as there are so many distressing sources of news in the modern world. On the whole my generation has not had to face huge challenges and we have been blessed in many ways, but others will remember times harder than they are now and the proximity of conflict that we haven't experienced in this country for many years. Although it is cold and gloomy there is always something to lift our spirits. Many of you will have been amused and delighted by the mouse that each night tidies up the shed and workshop of a retired gentleman in Wales. But not all stories of hope are trivial. On the local news I saw the delight on the faces of a couple who have just seen the charity which they set up in memory of their son who died in a choking accident, the Oliver Steeper Foundation, launch its service to provide an anti-choking device that is already saving lives. Many of you will not be aware of Littlegate Farm at Beckley, which helps train and give confidence to young people with learning difficulties and help place them in suitable employment. I am planning to organise a visit soon. Stories of hope abound.

February marks the season of Candlemas or the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. Another story of hope. It falls on 2nd February although it will be celebrated in Church on 28th January this year. It relates how when Jesus is presented in the Temple, the old man Simeon recognises him as the Messiah and gives us those majestic words of the Nunc Dimittis "Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace."

The Traditional Orthodox Service of Vespers for Candlemas retells the call of Isaiah, who when at prayer in the temple has a burning coal placed in his mouth by a seraph crying, "your guilt is taken away and your sin forgiven". In symbolic language Christ is then likened to a coal of fire resting in the arms of his Mother as in a pair of tongs. As Simeon bends down he says, "Oh pure Lady thou dost carry fire. I'm afraid to take God as a babe in my arms".

The liturgy tells us of the cost of turning to Christ, that the choice is not easy but it is a choice that leads to redemption and restoration. As we give thanks for the good around us, let us pray that these gloomy times may turn to rejoicing.

Sunday Services

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

Five Villages

We have restarted services at Five Villages. They will take place at 10:30am on the first Thursday of the month. The next one being February 1st. If you would like to join the residents please let me or Barbara know; you will be welcome.

Lent Course and Lent Lunches

We are planning to hold another joint Lent course with Saint Mary's Rye. Although it hasn't been confirmed, it will probably be based on a little Lent book that I published some years ago based on the film *Les Misérables*. It is called *Another Story Must Begin*. Further details will be announced in due course.

Bible Reading

Our informal Bible reading will continue on the first Thursday of each month at 6:00pm in the New Inn Winchelsea. On the 1st of February we plan to continue looking at the prophet Hosea. It is a very relaxed gathering and no prior knowledge is required: we always end around 7:00pm. There has been good attendance - Look at it as a Book Club with a difference. All welcome.

Contact Jonathan for more details, revdjonathan@btinternet.com 01797 226254.

Revd Jonathan Meyer

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Pett Parish Council Update

The council met in January. It was a busy meeting. Although it wasn't on the agenda, it was noted that representatives of the council would be meeting the Guestling council subcommittee on the possible development behind the houses on Pett Road and Watermill Lane to clarify what the Guestling position is on this. The position of Pett Parish Council has not changed and no action will be taken until the draft local plan is published in a month or two. While this meeting will have taken place by the time you receive this issue of the parish news, any developments will be reported next month.

A response from the district council to the letter sent to the chief executive of Rother protesting about the planned closure of the toilets had been received. The response proposes a solution within which the toilets are kept open for the summer months and the cost is shared between the district and parish councils. The council discussed this and a response is being sent. Essentially, the council will only agree to the proposal under certain conditions, the two most important being that the toilets are open all year round and that they are brought up to a full working efficiency before this arrangement comes into force. An inspection by the contractor who empties the Recreation Ground cesspit has indicated that there are several leaks into the present cesspit at Pett Level and therefore virtually clear water is being removed by the present contractor. A copy of the council response to the district council is on Pettnet.

Following the discussion on the toilets, the council considered the budget for the year 2024/25. It was agreed to increase the precept by £3000 to £26,000, which still only represents about a pound a week for a band D property. This is the first increase for several years and is well below inflation. And the figure you see on your council tax demand is not simply what the parish council decides; it depends on the number of properties in the parish and on a multiplier applied by the district council to take into account all discounts provided and non-payments.

Following a report from Chris Saint, our flood warden, at which he noted that, following research and investigations, the Environment Agency had produced a report that recommended that the culvert under Chick Hill from the reed beds should be enlarged; a meeting would be held with the county council to decide how this could be done - and funded. A long discussion followed; Councillors Andrew Dunlop and Andy Norcott disagreed with the Environment Agency solution. Their views would be passed on to those making the final decision. Andrew's solution was included in a recent issue of the parish news.

You may have noticed that the basket is missing from the basket swing in the children's playground. This is because the universal joint, from which the basket was suspended, had become rusty. The basket will be replaced as soon as the weather is suitable.

Two issues related to dogs have come up in the last few days. The first is the perennial problem of people not taking home their 'poo bags'. If I have asked once for people not to litter the countryside with these bags, I have done so several times. They have even been found in the trees at the Hastings Country Park! The second issue is that it has been reported that someone was bitten by a dog in the woods. I understand that similar incidents have occurred previously, so I would just ask those who take their dogs to the woods (or anywhere) to make sure that they are under control when near to other walkers and dogs.

I have only one death to report this month, but it is particularly tragic. Last month, I reported the death of Terry Cuthbert; sadly his wife Annie has now died. Annie was the Pilates instructor at the village hall and will be much missed. A joint funeral was held. Our sympathy goes to the Cuthbert family.

David Penfold, Chair, Pett Parish Council

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CHURCH SERVICES - FEBRUARY 2024

SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY

WINCHELSEA	8.00am	1662 Book of Common Prayer Service
PETT	9.30am	Parish Communion
WINCHELSEA	11.00am	Parish Communion

SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY

PETT LEVEL	8.30am	1662 Book of Common Prayer Service
ICKLESHAM	9.30am	Parish Communion
WINCHELSEA	11.00am	Parish Communion

ASH WEDNESDAY - 14 FEBRUARY

WINCHELSEA	6.00pm	Communion with Imposition of the Ashes
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SUNDAY 18 FEBRUARY

PETT	9.30am	Parish Communion
WINCHELSEA	11.00am	Parish Communion

SUNDAY 25 FEBRUARY

ICKLESHAM	9.30am	Parish Communion
WINCHELSEA	11.00am	Parish Communion

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PETT	St Mary & St Peter Church	TN35 4HE
PETT LEVEL	St Nicholas Church	TN35 4BS
WINCHELSEA	St Thomas' Church	TN36 4AB

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PET SERVICE

On Sunday 18th February, 3pm.

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Pets will be celebrated at an animal blessing service.

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All types of animals are invited but we ask that dogs are kept on leads and small animals are kept safe by remaining in pet carriers.

Any enquiries contact Wendy on 07908 377845.

Celebration!

For those of us who are old, it is quite difficult to point to any advantages of old age. But one advantage is that we get to the stage when we can celebrate our birthdays with some pride and also honesty about what age we are. It becomes an achievement to have survived another year!

A memorable birthday this year worthy of celebration is the 90th birthday on 28th January of our very esteemed Pett Level resident, Diana Patten. Amongst her many achievements, I suppose the most impressive is her skill at flying solo worldwide but how I like to think of her is that she always appears calm and kind and friendly and hospitable to everyone and always looks good. She has suffered over the years from various medical problems, involving in recent years a lengthy hospital stay, but nothing has impeded her courtesy and kindness.

I should add that she has hosted very enjoyable parties over the years many of which provided fund-raising for various charities including the Pett Level Preservation Trust, of which she was a Trustee for some years.

So, Diana, well done! We are on your side, just as you are on ours. Thank you for coming to live in Pett Level!

Angela Hawksley





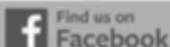
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Gardening Club Notes - January 2024

Most of our members, plus some very welcome new ones, braved the bitter cold to attend the first meeting of the New Year. The Catherine Holman room was packed, and everyone enjoyed a most entertaining and informative talk from Dr. Barry Yates, whom many will know. The subject was “Seaside Flowers of Rye Nature Reserve”, a very well-constructed insight into the different properties of the varied land masses at the reserve, that support many rare and distinctive wildflowers.

Barry, who worked at the reserve for 39 years, began by telling us something of the history of the reserve, setting in context significant changes over time which the land has undergone and revealing quite a chequered past in terms of geography and usage. The shingle coastline, for example, comprises a type of flat pebble which is an ancient relic from when the UK was physically joined to France. This is now recognised as a very rare habitat where, along with 512 other flowering plants, the Seakale flourishes, creating a very pretty vista in season, with its clouds of white flowers and where only last year, two new species of fleabane were identified, evidence of the reserve’s continually improving viability.

In complete contrast, the former Rye Harbour Farm was involved in the wartime drive to produce more food, resulting in the land being so intensively farmed it required considerable intervention to turn it around from a barren wasteland to the flourishing grassland it is now. Recently grass and wildflower cuttings from the reserve at Dungeness have been strewn on this area, introducing more plant diversity and different orchid species are now colonising too. The reserve naturally has distinct habitats, shingle, salt marsh and coastal grassland, which continuing management has gradually revitalised and sympathetically redeveloped, introducing and re-introducing relevant planting to each. This includes importing rare and extremely rare species from other reserves around the country to establish at Rye and thereby increase the numbers nationally. Barry detailed some of the symbiotic relationships between many of the flowering plants and the often rare bees and insects they support and how micro-management of the reserve’s planting can further these relationships. To recount just one of the many examples Barry used to illustrate the point - he became aware that Red Valerian was thriving, however, it is both invasive and non-indigenous, so was not at all welcome. Over time he “waged war” on it and has managed to almost eradicate it, planting in its stead wild carrot which has thrived and now supports the rare Emerald Moth.

Barry is a most accomplished photographer and throughout the talk we were treated to close-ups and time-lapse photos he has taken over the years of the wealth of flowering plants on the reserve as he continues to capture the ever-changing beauty of one of our most valuable local assets. Today a wealth of wildflowers thrive, including around 300 rare species, which we can all visit and enjoy thanks to the easy access now provided by the roads and pathways, with the Discovery Centre as a valuable educational centre and visitor hub - not forgetting the excellent Café!

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday February 13th at 7.30, in the Catherine Holman Room at Pett Village Hall when Matthew Brewer, the head gardener, will take us through “The Gardening Year at Fairlight Hall”.

June Harris



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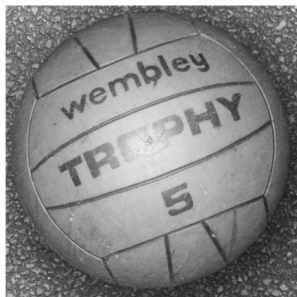
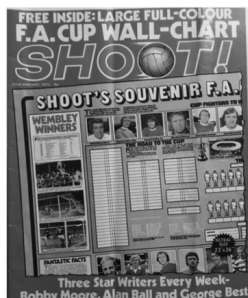
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Nature Notes

I have just finished pruning our apple tree. After a few years of gentle or missed pruning, I thought it was time to do a bit of hard pruning and some reshaping, so this time it has had a severe haircut. While I was pruning, I was thinking about the Codling Moth (a micro-moth - pictured) and about grease bands. I mistakenly thought that the grease bands were to stop the 'flightless' female moth from crawling up the trunk to lay her eggs. It turns out that the female Codling Moth is not flightless and after mating is very capable of flying up into the crown of the tree to lay her eggs. Also, the Codling Moth doesn't emerge until mid to late summer, so applying grease bands in October when they are supposed to be applied would be far too early. The Codling moth caterpillars don't emerge until there are nearly ripe apples to eat their way into.

There are at least four UK moths that have flightless females - The Vapourer Moth, the Winter Moth, the Mottled Umber Moth, and the March Moth. The Vapourer Moth is no threat to fruit trees as it prefers trees like oaks, elms, Hawthorn and Blackthorn. The other three moths all fly in the winter which is why the grease bands are applied in October. All three moths have a similar life cycle - the female moth crawls up into the tree where she emits strong pheromones to attract the males. After mating she lays her eggs in crevices in the bark. When the eggs hatch the caterpillars find flower buds and young leaves which they consume, thus reducing the potential crop. When the caterpillars are fat enough, they drop to the ground where they pupate on or under the ground. When the female emerges from the pupa she crawls up the tree and starts making the next generation (assuming no-one has put any grease bands in her way).



Of course, one has to ask the question 'what is the evolutionary advantage of doing without wings?' Wings need a lot of energy to produce, and once produced it needs a lot of energy to flap them. As flightless birds on predator-free islands have proved time and again, if they can feed themselves without flying then flying and wings are an unnecessary expense, energy-wise. In the case of moths the wingless females need very little energy and so don't need to find nectar, all they do is climb up into a tree and waft a few pheromones about. It is even more extreme in the case of the Vapourer Moth; the female emerges from the pupal case, wafts her pheromones and then lays her eggs on the pupal case after mating. She never needs to move an inch. Being smaller without wings and matching the colour of the tree bark makes predation less likely, and if they don't fly, they are much less likely to encounter a bat. We don't use grease bands (we always end up with more apples than we can eat), and we don't worry about Codling Moths. We cut each apple into quarters and if a Codling Moth has been there, we cut out the brown bits and enjoy the rest of the apple.

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PETT FLOWER SHOW AGM

Wed 6th March 2024

7.00 pm

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Trustee & Membership Secretary:

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theresanouch@aol.com

The Pett Level Preservation Trust (PLPT), a voluntary charity, was set up in 1973 to purchase 18 acres of varied habitat at the western end of Pett Level in order to protect this lovely area from development. Vigorous fund-raising efforts by local residents, coupled with a generous grant from the district council, contrived to fund the purchase price. The Trust land, now comprising 25 acres, is actively managed as a nature reserve, parts of it have been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It is rich in wildlife, with many different, and some rare bird, plant and insect species.

Members of the public are welcome to walk on the land with due respect to the Countryside Code. The Trustees need to raise money each year in order to preserve and maintain this land for the permanent enjoyment of residents and visitors alike. More details can be found on our website www.pettlevelpreservationtrust.org or follow us on Facebook.

You can associate yourself with this important charity by becoming a FRIEND OF PETT LEVEL PRESERVATION TRUST in return for an annual donation of a minimum of £30. All FRIENDS receive an annual newsletter.

If you would like to join, please complete the section below in BLOCK CAPITALS and post it to Theresa Nouch at the above address. Your support will be greatly appreciated and will help to ensure the continuance of this worthy cause.

.....
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I wish to become a **Friend of PLPT**

Please find enclosed my annual donation of £30 (minimum £30 - cheques payable to **PLPT** please). Or you can make a bank transfer/set up a Standing Order to: **Pett Level Preservation Trust Nat West Account number 59677031 Sort Code 60-02-07**

News from Pett Level Preservation Trust

On the 24 acres of land that the Trust owns it has largely been a quiet time for wildlife over the last few months. The wet and stormy weather hasn't helped! Occasional firecrest and a variety of finches have been amongst the most notable visitors. Tawny owls have been hooting when the weather has granted respite and a song thrush has been serenading us since early November with its lovely song. Also known as mavis or throstle, this appropriately named bird has a song where it repeats various phrases two to four times. Their repertoire can include over 100 different phrases and include mimics of the calls of other birds and even man-made objects such as phones. The song thrush on PLPT land has incorporated the bubbling call of neighbouring curlew into its song. They are known to breed in pretty well every month of the year; let's hope they are successful here.

Further afield on the levels winter visitors have included wigeon on the roadside pools, and on the marsh, white fronted geese, curlew, golden plover, a smattering of ruff and the occasional great egret. Not many plants are showing themselves as yet but the Alexanders is making its characteristic early spurt of growth. It seems to benefit from the milder winters.

Cows and sheep

Hopefully most of you have said hallo to the three highland cows, Lucille, Valentina and Twinkle, that are currently on the Trust land. They came down from Scotland shortly before Christmas and seemed to have settled in very well to life on the south coast. The animals are being hosted to see if they will support the Trust's conservation management by grazing down the more dominant plants to give a greater diversity of less aggressive species a chance to establish themselves. We intend to move them around the Trust land to ensure we maximise the conservation benefit that we hope they will bring. We may from time to time restrict access to small parcels of land in order to contain the cows. Despite their fierce looking horns they are very friendly. If you want to hear more about the cows and the benefits they bring to land management, do add the **PLPT Annual Meeting on Thursday 25 April** into your diaries when Roy Able, the highland cows owner, will be telling the whole fascinating story.

Meanwhile on other parts of the Trust land, Andrew Dunlop of Lunsford Farm is bringing back a small flock of sheep to benefit from the strong growth of grass and to help us to manage the grassland areas. Please close all gates after passing through them and keep dogs on leads.

Middle Bridge

The proposed replacement of Middle Bridge (over the military canal next to Glenn View Cottage) is making steady progress. Applications for various permissions are currently being assessed by Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency. When there is a firm timetable for the works to commence I will let you know. Meanwhile we have removed scrub from around the bridge to facilitate the construction of the scaffold framework necessary for the works to be undertaken safely.

Winter Gathering

Unfortunately, the weather on the day of the Winter Gathering was rather inclement to say the least which reduced the number of visitors. Thank you to everyone who came and in particular the Pett Slip Buoys who delivered their stirring performance of sea shanties. Thanks also to Annie Soudain, who generously donated some of her beautiful Christmas cards to sell. Overall, the event generated £550.

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 Trusts 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.

John Newton: PLPT Chair



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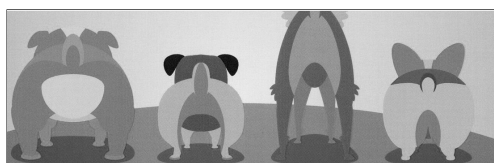
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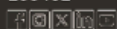
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Pett WI

Firstly, may I wish all our readers a Very Happy New Year.

Our Christmas meeting on 13th December was a real treat with Matt Brewer, who is the gardener at Fairlight Hall, treating us to lots of information about what it is like to work at the Hall. He explained about the type of gardening that they carry out there. A large part of the work is keeping the house supplied with fresh fruit and vegetables for the meals and entertaining, and also flowers and vegetation for the table settings. This can be extremely challenging at times to be able to provide enough of what is needed.

He also showed us wonderful pictures of decorating the Hall for Christmas. Last year someone else did the decorating but this year it was his turn. The style favoured is quite American, with huge swags of foliage and flowers decorating fireplaces, staircases and the very grand entrance. A lot of preparation is required drying flowers and seed heads from earlier in the year. The photos were amazing but he said the trickiest part was keeping them looking good as they have to be up on the 1st December and last a month.

There were a lot of questions and we will be meeting Matt again in July when he will show us around the garden in person. Grateful thanks go to him for a truly enjoyable time.

After the talk we had Prosecco and mince pies followed by business and wished all our members a Merry Christmas.

Saturday 16th December was the annual Christmas Pudding Dash which involves many runners dressing up in Christmas outfits and running a course through Guestling Woods. This year the course was very muddy and the turnout was sadly quite poor. For a few years now Pett WI has provided refreshments for runners and helpers in the form of bacon rolls, and hot drinks. Our team of 12 stood by providing the above, but it was quite quiet.

For 2024 Pett WI has a packed programme for members, with craft activities, speakers and visits. We will be choosing which charities to support for the year at our January meeting and unveiling at last our Coronation tablecloth at our Saturday brunch.

Our fundraising kicks off on 6th April with our Spring Fair. Pett WI is getting a well-deserved reputation for running hugely successful events like this. Visitors and stall holders alike often compliment us on our excellent organisation, the tasty homemade refreshments, sumptuous raffle and high standard of goods on sale at the stalls. So put the date in your diary and come and try us out!

Sally Watson

Meet the Seaside Stitchers

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

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

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



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PETT FLOWER SHOW & FAYRE

Saturday 27th July 2024

Twenty-four Hours in a Day

The Flower Show Committee have chosen the theme as very fitting for 2024.

Pett & District Horticultural Society (P&DHS) AGM will be held at Pett Village Hall on Wed 6th March at 19.00 hours. There is plenty to report following the 2023 Show, which was a financial success.

The Committee are keen to make donations to local good causes in recognition of the support given to the Flower Show. Please contact any member of the Committee or send requests directly to the Chairman, Philippa Strickland, Adams, Pett Road, Pett, TN35 4HG. Call 01424 814384 or Email pstrickl@icloud.com. Requests in writing please.

The Committee's next task is planning the schedule to fit the chosen theme. Adjustments have been made to some of the classes that have seen few entries. Sadly, some of our long-standing judges have decided to stand down, so we are busy recruiting new candidates.

The schedule will be distributed with the May issue of Pett Parish News. Prior to that it will be available on Pettnet and details of classes that require planning will be advised in the April issue of the magazine.

Philippa M. Strickland: Chairman P&DHS

Pett Village Hall Activities

Monday

Doctor Surgery	9.00am-1.00pm
Bluebells Playgroup	9.30-11.00am
Table Tennis	4.00-5.30pm
Yoga	6.00-7.30pm

Tuesday

Doctor Surgery	9.00am-5.30pm
Pilates	8.30-9.30am
Doctor Prescriptions	12-12.45pm
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
Doctor Prescriptions	12-12.45pm
Art	12-3.00pm
Short Mat Bowls	3.15-5.15pm
Fitness Pilates	6.30-7.15pm

Friday

Badminton	10am-12pm
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Toad-in-the-hole

Once upon a time, the British people were divided. Impassioned debates raged throughout the land, truth and common sense became distorted, and the public rose up and demanded an answer. How did that toad get inside that rock?

In 1898, two burly workmen in a chalk quarry near Lewes cracked open a hollow chunk of flint. The solid rock, formed 85 million years ago, split open to reveal an airtight cavity at its core. To the quarrymen's amazement, entombed within the ancient flint was a dead toad.

'Toad-in-the-hole' hysteria soon hit the headlines. It seemed like every month the newspapers reported how someone had split open a rock and found a toad inside. Some of these toads had already croaked but others would inexplicably still be alive and hopping. The Victorian world was thrown into theological and philosophical panic. Clergymen preached that the Creator had placed the eternal amphibians in rocks at the dawn of time. Subscribers to Darwin's new theory of evolution were perplexed. Charles Dickens wrote of his bewilderment, while others believed it was simply sorcery. Scientists began burying living toads in sealed boxes to investigate the unfortunate animal's longevity.

The Lewes toad of 1898 is the world's only surviving artefact of the entombed toad craze. It now resides in Brighton's incredible Booth Museum of Natural History - one of my favourite places in the whole world. Amongst the many awe-inspiring exhibits at The Booth, you'll find a special cabinet dedicated to curiosities. In it, lying reverentially on a bed of maroon felt, there is 'Probably the most famous toad in the world'.

Admittedly when it comes to world-famous toads it's not a particularly crowded field, with only Toad of Toad Hall to contest the title. Alongside the original oval of cleft flint sits the shrivelled body of the infamous amphibian. The whole surreal exhibit is like a Kinder Surprise designed by Hieronymus Bosch.



But this cracked up flint isn't all it's cracked up to be. The Lewes toad was originally presented to the Brighton and Hove Natural History and Philosophical Society by Charles Dawson. That's the same Charles Dawson who would soon be sticking some Orangutan teeth on a human skull and declaring he had discovered the 'missing link' at Piltdown, near Uckfield. In 1953, Dawson would be unmasked as a fraudster and the whole 'toad-in-the-hole' phenomenon would come crashing down, dismissed as poppycock.

by Michael Blencowe for Sussex Wildlife Trust

Sussex Wildlife Trust is a conservation charity for everyone who cares about nature in Sussex. Founded in 1961, we have worked with local people for over half a century to make Sussex richer in wildlife.

We rely on the support of our members. Please consider joining us. Your membership will help us challenge decisions that threaten wildlife, care for more than 30 nature reserves, and inspire the next generation about the wonders of the natural world. It's easy to join online at sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join

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Sunday 4 th February 2024:	Marmalade competition
Saturday 24 th February 2024:	It Takes Two- Motown night
Sunday 10 th March 2024-3pm:	1066 Rockitmen
Sunday 17 th March 2024:	Great Beach Club Bake Off
Saturday 30 th March 2024:	Sound Syndicate
Saturday 20 th April 2024:	Pass The Cat
Saturday 4 th May 2024;	Helter Skelter
Sunday 5 th May 2024- 3pm:	Charlotte Hoy
Sunday 26 th May 2024- 3pm:	Rye Bay Crew. Sea shanties
Sunday 2 nd June 2024-3pm:	Gina Cassisa (solo from Cushty)
Saturday 22 nd June 2024:	The Kytes
Sunday 7 th July 2024- 3pm:	Stuart Bligh Acoustic solo (From The Big Blue)
Saturday 20 th July 2024:	Don't Stop (Fleetwood Mac Tribute)
Saturday 10 th August 2024:	Big Blue
Sunday 25 th August 2024-3pm:	Los Twangueros
Saturday 31 st August 2024:	Member Party
Saturday 7 th September 2024:	Paradise Duo
Sunday 29 th September 2024- 3pm:	Roger Hubbard Trio
Sunday 20 th October 2024- 3pm:	Just Landed
Saturday 9 th November 2024:	Ritchie Campbell: UB40 tribute and Reggae night
Sunday 24 th November 2024:	Pickle Festival
New Year's Eve 31 st December 2024:	Cushty



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Tilling Green Community Centre, Mason Road, Rye, East Sussex TN31 7BE

News from St Michael's Hospice

Hospices to Holland

Haven't thought of a New Year's Resolution yet? Or maybe you have and are searching for the perfect challenge? Well look no further! Embark on a challenge of a lifetime in June 2024 and take part in a cycling adventure from East Sussex to Amsterdam, in support of St Michael's Hospice!

St Michael's Hospice and St Wilfrid's Hospice (Eastbourne) are teaming up on this exciting ride along the picturesque south coast before crossing the channel to embark on an unforgettable cycling experience through four different countries. As they make their way through France, Belgium, and Holland, there will be the opportunity to explore and appreciate the diverse European countryside. Expect to pedal past stunning beaches, picturesque waterways, and idyllic tree-lined canals adorned with charming windmills.

To reserve your spot, please visit the Hospices to Holland website www.hospicestoholland.co.uk or speak to the Fundraising team at fundraising@stmichaels hospice.com or call 01424 456396.

An Evening with Jo Brand and Friends

St Michael's Hospice is thrilled to announce that the hilarious Jo Brand, the beloved Hastings-born comedy sensation, is set to grace the stage for an unforgettable evening on Sunday 21st April 2024.

An Evening with Jo Brand and Friends promises to be an unmissable event, all in support of the invaluable work St Michael's Hospice does to support the community of Hastings and Rother. Hurry because seats are very limited, so don't miss out! Tickets are on sale from the White Rock Theatre Box Office, visit www.whiterocktheatre.org.uk to book.

Are you a dog walker? Do you use poo bags to clear up after them?
Do you take the bags home with you or put them in one of the bins
provided? If so, thank you.

Many of you don't, however. Bags are found on farmland, in ditches and
even in trees in the country park.

Please take your poo bags home.

The bags don't rot down so the bag you throw away will remain a long time
after, unless someone has the goodness to clear up after you.

Please take your poo bags home
with you or use the bins provided.

Pett Parish Council



Dawn Turner
HHHT, MFHT

*Swedish Massage
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Indian Head Massage
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Home Visits and Gift Vouchers Available

1 Watermill Lane
Pett, East Sussex
TN35 4HZ

01424 812740 / 07901 591696
dawnannturner@icloud.com
massagehastings.com

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Part of the  TRAVEL CHAPTER

FEBRUARY 2024
RYE (HARBOUR)

Date	ORDNANCE DATUM (NEWLYN)			
	High Water			
	Morning		Afternoon	
	Time	m	Time	m
1 TH	02 22	3.0	14 34	2.6
2 F ☾	02 54	2.9	15 10	2.5
3 SA	03 36	2.5	15 58	2.2
4 SU	04 34	2.3	17 12	1.9
5 M	06 04	2.0	19 07	1.9
6 TU	07 35	2.2	20 18	2.3
7 W	08 42	2.5	21 18	2.6
8 TH	09 41	3.0	22 10	3.1
9 F ●	10 34	3.5	22 58	3.6
10 SA	11 22	3.6	23 44	4.0
11 SU			12 07	3.9
12 M	00 26	4.1	12 48	4.0
13 TU	01 07	4.3	13 28	3.9
14 W	01 48	4.1	14 09	3.6
15 TH	02 30	3.9	14 53	3.3
16 F ☽	03 14	3.5	15 42	2.9
17 SA	04 05	3.0	16 40	2.3
18 SU	05 07	2.4	17 54	1.9
19 M	06 33	2.0	19 30	1.8
20 TU	08 21	2.0	20 56	2.2
21 W	09 36	2.4	21 53	2.5
22 TH	10 25	2.6	22 35	3.0
23 F	11 03	3.0	23 11	3.3
24 SA ○	11 34	3.1	23 45	3.5
25 SU			12 03	3.3
26 M	00 15	3.5	12 28	3.3
27 TU	00 41	3.5	12 51	3.1
28 W	01 02	3.4	13 11	3.1
29 TH	01 21	3.4	13 30	3.1

Time Zone UT (GMT)

 ADD 1 HOUR BETWEEN 31st MARCH & 26th OCTOBER TO ADJUST TO BST

 Customer service line
03708 506 506

 Incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

 Floodline
0345 998 1188

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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

John Case	07525 032198	cllr.john.case@pettnet.org.uk
Alan Crouch (Vice-Chair)	01424 813145.	cllr.alan.crouch@pettnet.org.uk
Andrew Dunlop	01424 813368	cllr.andrew.dunlop@pettnet.org.uk
Andrew Norcott	07802 729412	cllr.andy.norcott@pettnet.org.uk
David Penfold (Chair)	01424 813003	cllr.david.penfold@pettnet.org.uk
David Tasker	07733 307992	cllr.david.tasker@pettnet.org.uk
Jan Tomalin	07785 550198	cllr.jan.tomalin@pettnet.org.uk

PARISH CLERK

Mary Philo	01797 270790	clerk@pettnet.org.uk
Island Cottage, Swan Street, Wittersham, Kent, TN30 7PH		

TREE WARDEN

Marcus Foster	07812 024070	mail@marcus-foster.com
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FLOOD WARDEN

Chris Saint	01424 813047	flood.warden@pettnet.org.uk
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ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL (RDC)

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

Councillor Andrew Mier	01424 814178	cllr.andrew.mier@rother.gov.uk
Councillor Tim Grohne	07973 543537	cllr.tim.grohne@rother.gov.uk



EAST SUSSEX COUNCIL (ESCC)

www.eastsussexhighways.com/report-a-problem

0345 6080190; www.eastsussex.gov.uk

Councillor Keith Glazier	07957 377844	cllr.keith.glazier@eastsussex.gov.uk
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THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA)

03708 506 506



VILLAGE CONTACTS

<i>Allotments</i>	Libby Rothwell	07714 340674	libby.rothwell891@gmail.com
<i>ARC</i>	Fran Rogers	812964	archiveresourcecentre@outlook.com
<i>Badminton</i>	Paul Wadey	316209	pawadey@tiscali.co.uk
<i>Bowls Club</i>	Eddie Quinlan	431463	
<i>British Legion</i>	Brian Green	812450	toffee35@gotadsl.co.uk
<i>Cricket Club</i>	Andrew Dunlop	813368	
<i>Dance Fitness</i>	Laura Mitchell	07527 105352	lauramitchell6@sky.com
<i>Flower Show</i>	Philippa Strickland	814384	pstrickl@icloud.com
<i>Gardening Club</i>	Bob Harris	815151	bob.june@btopenworld.com
<i>Guardians of Pett Churchyard</i>	Mike Wilkins	07710 080148	
<i>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	petttenniscub@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

BUS TIMETABLES: 347 and 101

Hastings • Ore • Guestling • Pett

347

MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS except Bank Holidays

SATURDAYS

		Hols	Sch						
Hastings Rail Station ⇌ Stop E		1330	1510	1510				1330	1510
Queens Road opp. Priory Meadow Stop N	0945	1150	1335	1515	1515	1640	1740	0945	1150 1335 1515 1640 1740
Milward 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

Timetables are subject to change
Check before you travel

Visit: www.stagecoachbus.com or download the Stagecoach app to view live bus times
or call them on 0345 241 8000

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	
Millward Road Manor Road	0845	0845	1030	1235	1420	1600				0845	0952	1420	1522
Hastings Queens Road	▼	▼	1035	1240	1425	1605				▼	0957	1202	1425
Hastings Harold Place	0849	0849								0849			
Hastings Rail Station	0851	0851								0851			
Fairlight Glen													
Fairlight Cove Hotel													
Pett Level													

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
Winchelsea Beach Caravan Park	0704	0759	0807	0907	every	07		1807	1907	2205		1045	1245
Pett Level Canal Bank	0708	0803	0811	0911	hour	11		1811	1911	2209		1049	1249
Fairlight Cove Commanders Walk	0714	0809	0817	0917	at	17	until	1817	1917	2215		1055	1255
Fairlight Coastguard Lane	0720	0815	0823	0923	these	23		1823	1923	2221		1101	1301
Ore Co Op	0725	GG	0828	0928	times	28		1828	1928	2226		1106	1306
Hastings Railway Station arrive	0740	0852	0843	0943		43		1843	1943	2241		1123	1323
Bohemia Road Fire Station	-	-	-	-		-		-	1947	-		1128	1328
Silverhill Filling Station*	-	-	-	-		-		-	1951	-		1132	1332
Harrow Lane Ashdown House	-	-	-	-		-		-	-	-		1137	1337
Conquest Hospital	-	-	-	-		-		-	-	-		1142	1342

- 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			
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
Ore Co Op	0711	0802	0902	1004	every	04		1804	1905	2116		0923	1123
Fairlight Coastguard Lane	0715	0806	0906	1008	hour	08		1808	1909	2120		0927	1127
Fairlight Cove Commanders Walk	0721	0812	0912	1014	at	14	until	1814	1915	2126		0933	1133
Pett Level Canal Bank	0727	0818	0918	1020	these	20		1820	1921	2132		0939	1139
Winchelsea Beach Caravan Park	0731	0822	0922	1024	times	24		1824	1925	2136		0945	1145
Rye Rail Station	0743	0834	0934	1036		36		1836	1937	2148		0957	1157

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

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.

Timetables are subject to change
Check before you travel

Visit: www.stagecoachbus.com or download the Stagecoach app to view live bus times
or call them on 0345 241 8000

Pet Service

Pett Methodist Chapel

Sunday 18th February, 3pm



All types of animal welcome.

Dogs on leads please and small animals in pet carriers.

Refreshments to follow