

# Pett and Pett Level News



**April 2024**

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Front Cover: Courtesy of Tony Howard

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VILLAGE  
HALL**

**Draw Date: 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**1<sup>st</sup>: Ashley Wood**  
**2<sup>nd</sup>: Cathy Norris**  
**3<sup>rd</sup>: Keith Glazier**

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# Editorial

Alongside this issue you should have received a flyer from Pett Parochial Church Council, publicising the launch of its **LOVE IT or LOSE IT** Appeal. St Mary and St Peter is rapidly falling into a state of disrepair and there is now a desperate need to raise 42K in order to carry out urgent works. Whether you are a churchgoer or not, the village church is an historic building, much loved by residents and with a wealth of history which would be devastating to lose. Please don't discard the leaflet without reading it. If you can, please consider becoming a Friend of Pett Churches, either with a monthly or annual donation or, if you have a fundraising idea, get in touch with Heather at [pettchurchestreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:pettchurchestreasurer@gmail.com). The church means so much to so many people, let's all do our utmost to preserve it.

Whilst we're on the subject of conserving history, it's time to renew memberships to the Archive Resource Centre - or join if you haven't already done so. The ARC has a wealth of fascinating information on its website now and there is lots more still to be added, provided funding allows. For more information please consider attending the ARC event on 27<sup>th</sup> April at Pett Methodist Church where you will hear a fascinating talk on Fred and Zoe Vahey, both talented creatives who moved to Pannel Lane in 1938 to live off the land.

Finally, there is much in this issue regarding the Pett Level flood risk. The good news is that Marsham Valley Natural Flood Management Partnership has secured funding (see page 17). Let's hope that all parties are willing to work together quickly and amicably to safeguard the homes and residents of those susceptible to flooding.

*Donna and Louisa*

Dear Editors

Rather than criticize the Parish Councillors who voted against the flood protection plan for Pett Level I would like to congratulate them. The bid was put forward by the RSPCA and a group of property owners without any consultation with neighbouring landowners and those with land or property directly on the Marsham brook. As far as I am aware, there has been no detail of the work they intend to carry out and no evidence to back up their plan.

My father and I attended the meeting in June and were promised by several people that we would be consulted for our opinion and advice. Yet we have never heard a word and I wouldn't say that either of us is difficult to get hold of! The general consensus amongst those who have knowledge of the land throughout the whole valley (which has remained largely unchanged for centuries) stretching back many generations, as opposed to the last bus in; is that the proposals will have minimal to no impact on flood potential. Trees soak up a lot of water when in leaf, but they do not require very much when their leaves have fallen. However, there are already far more trees on the hills of Fairlight than there has been in at least the last 100 years. Ponds and scrapes in the winter months tend to be full anyway and will provide no additional water capacity. From what we are aware, none of those involved appear to be farmers, so how regenerative farming techniques apply we are not sure and how money for running cooking workshops is going to prevent flooding I really could not say!

To us this appears as a fancy bid with no gain for the community and without any community involvement. Our politicians are just relieved to tick a box and pass the problem on to the next elected incumbent. Instead of condemning parish councillors who see that there is no value in the scheme, we should actually be actively looking at stopping this money being given so it can be put towards a scheme which may actually work.

Sarah Whiteman

# Thoughts on Pett Level Flooding - by Andrew Dunlop

At the January 2024 meeting of the Parish Council, it was suggested by Chris Saint that a possible solution to the flooding problem would be to increase the size of the culvert under the road bridge. Members of the Council including myself expressed concern over this approach and asked me to submit a report outlining the various issues that might arise as a consequence.

## BACKGROUND

### Basis

I understand this suggestion was based on a verbal statement given to Chris by someone from the Environment Agency (EA) in December 2023. The Parish Council were not presented with any reports at the meeting, although David Penfold mentioned an EA report in his Pett and Pett Level News, February 2024 Parish Council Update; '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'. I have not seen any report.

It was noted by Cllr. Keith Glazier at the meeting, that he had not seen any report either, and that Highways would need to consider all the relevant research before any work on the culvert was done, as it falls within East Sussex County Council jurisdiction.

### Proposal

Increasing the size of the culvert could be done in two ways to increase the flow: -

- 1) Lower the base of the culvert (by 600mms) down to the same level as the riverbed
- 2) 'Core' additional orifices through the structure.

## REPORT

### For reference

I previously wrote an article entitled 'Pett Level Flooding Food for Thought' in the October 2023 edition of the *Pett and Pett Level News*. Chris Saint responded to my article in the November 2023 edition as did Jackie Westbury in the December 2023 edition in her article 'Pett Level Flooding November vs January'.

### My concerns

I have informally consulted with the Internal Drainage Board, the EA, and other landowners, and we share the same concerns. By widening the culvert, the residents' properties will flood quicker and by a greater degree. The new proposal to "widen" the culvert within the bridge's structure is deeply flawed and carries considerable risk. The environmental impact will be very damaging and can be illustrated by looking back to the similar action taken by the EA after the 2009 flooding incident, which I will go on to explain.



Firstly, it should be pointed out that during the January floods of last year the culvert was not overwhelmed and had spare capacity. This was witnessed by myself, and two other people at the time, one of whom is Alan Farnes. Alan lives beside the bridge and monitors the water flow and is an ex EA member, with considerable experience.

Secondly, the bridge and culvert are an integral structure that also provides a water control for the whole Marsham valley, right up to the next bridge and water control at Rosemary Lane. This will be the same principle on most bridges and rivers right across the country in order to maintain a residual water level. The culvert is vital in order to maintain enough water for wildlife habitat, drinking water and wet fencing for livestock.

Whilst built in the Victorian era, and over-engineered like most construction at the time, the heaviest vehicle was probably no more than five tons at most. Vehicles now are anything up to 50 tons. Removing the base of the culvert would mean removing a large portion of the bridge's foundation platform that braces the structure. Coring additional orifices through either side could cause cracking and allow the ingress of water into the body of the bridge and induce weakness. Ultimately the bridge could have a weight restriction put on it. The proposed solution will not help residents, creates false hope, and takes focus away from the main issue.

After the 2009 flood, it was perceived by many of the residents that the cause was the water control half a mile downstream on the Royal Military Canal and the EA was lobbied to have it removed. It was pointed out that this was totally irrational as the water level was exactly the same on either side and was being held up by the flood gates at Rye. The EA ignored the warnings and views of the landowners, graziers, and environmentalists, did not consult nor carry out an environmental impact assessment, and duly disabled the structure.

This resulted in the wonderful spring-fed fish hatchery, in an adjoining water course, being left stranded without sufficient water. The fish were wiped out along with all the other wildlife it supported, most notably the kingfishers that had been there for generations and had given so much pleasure to those people who witnessed them on a daily basis. Not for the first time, the EA's lack of environmental awareness was laid bare for all to see. Needless to say, and as predicted, it made absolutely no difference in reducing flooding.

As the agreed general principle is to "slow the flow" and reduce the likelihood of flooding, it seems ridiculous to try and increase the flow through the culvert. The flood plain's capacity is restricted to about 25 acres, taking run off from the total catchment area of around 2000 acres. This defies the laws of physics, not to mention common sense. The flood plain is encircled by the Saxon shoreline cliffs, Toot Rock and the Canal bank. Once full, the surplus water floods the small area west of Toot Rock and then floods Marsham Brook through the back door; as was the case during the 2000/2001 floods (see photos in my previous article). It should also be noted that the vast area of Pett Level beyond the Canal, all the way out to the sea wall, is considerably higher (about 2 to 3 feet) and therefore cannot be considered as a solution to store flood water. The photograph on p5 illustrates the higher level of the marsh, where you can see the sheep standing.



As a long-term solution, and as previously stated, the best approach is

to build an earth wall alongside the road at the bottom of Chick Hill to contain the water. We only have to look at the legacy around us in the sea wall and the walls constructed across Pett Level and around Winchelsea in the 13th and 14th centuries by the Greyfriars Monks, which are still in existence. It really could not be simpler.

Recent work carried out further up the Marsham Sewer, at Marsham Farm, appears to have done a wonderful job in holding back the water during recent heavy rain in February this year. This is precisely what I am advocating at the reed bed opposite the residents. I attach a photograph (shown on page 6) showing the affect and, interestingly enough, the reed bed was relatively dry as a result. I am not sure if the work was carried out by the tenant farmer or the National Trust but it is very effective as the photograph shows.

This solution appears to be beyond the EA and the reason cited at the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023 was cost. The EA representative, Ian Nunn, told the attendees it would cost £1.9m to construct which I questioned at the time. After the meeting, I spoke with Ian who agreed it was the right approach. The construction itself would likely cost no more than £10-20k but the consultants' fees and surveys etc would raise the cost to nearer £2m. By far the cheapest 'solution' proposed by the EA at the meeting were the Fairlight measures including water butt storage. I believe the EA said the cost for those solutions was cited at £350k but I am happy to be corrected on that.

At the very least, things the EA should be doing is addressing the shameful neglect of the Marsham sewer to the west of the bridge. For over 50 years along this stretch of the water course trees and scrub have been allowed to grow and the riverbank has been seriously damaged by the roots and constant erosion. This needs to be desilted, the trees removed, and the sewer bank raised and reinstated. The Military Canal is dreadfully silted up and needs cleaning out at the confluence of the Marsham which would increase water storage capacity. I attach a photograph (left), taken by David Cooke at the IDB, who showed me the extent of the silting problem earlier this year.



As a result of the Defra inquiry into the 2014 flooding of the Somerset Levels the report concluded that nine out of ten homes in the area would have been saved from flooding if regular river maintenance had been carried out. The EA may have saved £20 million by not dredging local rivers in the 20 years before the Somerset floods, but the disaster cost the taxpayers a staggering £147.5 million.

#### **A final thought**

Personally, I would urge those involved to share the results of the 'research and investigations' conducted by the EA we have heard about as soon as possible. The lack of information sharing appears to be creating something of a divide within the local community. Otherwise, we all seem to end up discussing the issues via the *Pett and Pett Level News* and not with each other. So far, none of the landowners I have spoken to (myself included) have been consulted by the flood group, EA or those applying for funding, although I understand it is their intention to do so at some point, from comments made at their meeting at the Pett Village Hall on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023 which I attended.

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# News from Pett Level Preservation Trust

## Happy Birthday!

50 years ago, a group of determined local people came together and raised funds to prevent overdevelopment at Pett Level, and so was formed the Pett Level Preservation Trust. The money raised was used to buy parcels of land that now form the PLPT land holding. Without the foresight and determination of these people, Pett Level would look very different today and, I suspect, less attractive both visually and for biodiversity. A big thank you to those pioneers!

## Wildlife

The winter continued wet and windy throughout January and February and the ground became saturated. According to the Met Office the February rainfall total for England was 97mm which represents 168% of the 1961-1990 long term average! Fortunately, there has been no flooding of homes. On the wider Levels, outside the Trust land, birds such as curlew, golden plover and ruff made good use of the wet fields with corvids, gulls and kestrels amongst other species picking off invertebrates forced to the surface.

The PLPT land was quiet over this period, apart from the few resident birds such as song thrush, robin, blackbird and Cetti's warbler tuning up. However, interestingly local birders noted the arrival of blackcaps in the latter part of February which is a few weeks earlier than usual. Blackcap are a lovely grey warbler with a beautiful song. Grey in body with the male having a black cap and the female a brown one. In the UK local breeding birds tend to move further south in the winter although there is an increasing tendency for them to be replaced by birds from continental Europe. Whether these recent sightings have been of continental birds moving back to Europe or local birds re-establishing their territories is hard to tell. Whatever, they are a lovely addition to the bird life of our gardens and woods.

Another interesting record from the wider area of the marshes is that, in the last few years, Goosanders have begun visiting our section of the Royal Military Canal in winter, their appearance perhaps reflecting an expansion of the British breeding population. Goosander are large ducks from a group known as sawbills, so named because of their narrow, toothed bills adapted for catching fish. Up to three have been seen, possibly the same individuals, frequenting the Pannel Valley and Alexandra Park, Hastings.

Unfortunately, on a less uplifting note some oiled sea birds have been found on local beaches. Currently the source of the oiling is unknown but it's an unpleasant reminder of the continuing vulnerability of our oceans and the wildlife that inhabits them.

There are few insects visible at this time of year but Queen bumblebees have been spotted 'bumbling' around looking for nest sites and for nectar-bearing plants for their food source. There are currently 24 species of bumblebee in the UK although only seven species are widespread. Sadly, Britain's population of bumblebees has fallen alarmingly over the past decades due partly to loss of flower rich habitats. Climate change is also playing its part. Do bear the lovely creatures in mind when planting and managing your gardens. Early flowering plants are especially important to these endearing insects, providing them with the food they need to set up their colonies.

In regard to plants, I noted some lesser celandine shining through the rain-beaten vegetation the other day which is always a sure sign that spring is on its way. Buds have started forming on scrub and trees although few have taken the step to burst into flower. Hopefully, by the time you read this article more flowers will have become evident.

## Middle Bridge

After months of planning and acquiring various permissions and permits, the works to replace Middle Bridge (over the military canal next to Glen View Cottage) are due to start sometime in late April/early May. This will mean that the bridge will be out of use for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic for a few weeks. Also, there will be a lot of construction activity so if you are

passing by please do take care. Check out the Trust's web site/Instagram for updates on construction activity.

### Annual Meeting - Joining the herd

Roy Abel is the owner of the three cows that have been occupying parts of the PLPT land for the past three months or so. To find out more about these lovely animals please come and hear Roy's story of how he became a Highland cattle owner at the **PLPT Annual Meeting on Thursday 25 April at 7.30 in Pett Village Hall**. All are welcome and Roy will be happy to answer any questions on the cows.

### Disco!

Another exciting event for you to support is the fundraising disco that will be held at the Village Hall on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm to midnight. This will raise much needed funds for three great causes - PLPT, Cancer Research and Pett Church. Tickets cost £12 and will be available at the Trust's Annual meeting or in advance from Zana Duthie ([zanaduthie99@gmail.com](mailto:zanaduthie99@gmail.com)) or Jo Felton ([jo@felton-gardens.com](mailto:jo@felton-gardens.com)). The disco will feature classics from the 70's and 80's - so put on those dancing shoes!

### Supporting the PLPT

For the latest news follow us on Instagram and Facebook or visit our web site [www.pettlevelpreservationtrust.org.uk](http://www.pettlevelpreservationtrust.org.uk)

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# Archive Resource Centre

April is a busy month for the Archive Resource Centre. It marks the start of another membership year. We need to encourage residents of our three communities to support what we are doing: preserving our history. We hope you will re-join and if you are not already a “Friend” that you will become one. Our membership form is below but it can also be accessed on our website [www.thearc.uk](http://www.thearc.uk) or you can pay on entry to our event at the **Pett Methodist Church on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm.**

Our speaker for this event is Lorna Vahey whose parents were very well known in the Pett community, having moved here in 1938. Zoe Vahey (and indeed a very young Lorna), helped with the Pett Players, wrote an history of Pett, was a keen archaeologist, and learnt to spin and weave wool to make clothes. Fred Vahey was multi-talented too, he made clogs for the family, built a cottage, and his self-taught artistic skills could be seen in local business advertising. Lorna will lead us through the fascinating life of her parents with samples of their work. We will even have a clip of when Spike Milligan came to talk to them for a TV show.

And if that, with tea and cake, isn't enough to entice you, several local artists have donated pieces of their work which we are offering for sale to raise much needed money to support us. ARC Members will get a healthy discount on the purchase price so bring some cash or a cheque book with you as you are bound to find something to take home.

Last but not least, please keep checking our website as we are constantly adding new items. And if you would like to learn how to catalogue using your computer at home, or ours (we now have iMacs and PCs in our room) and have a few hours a month to spare, we are very patient teachers. **We are looking forward to seeing you on the 27<sup>th</sup> April.**

I would like to become a “Friend of the ARC’ to help cover running costs. The annual subscription is just £15pp, but you can give more; it would be gratefully received. Each membership year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> April.

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# Pett Parish Council Update

The council met on the 19<sup>th</sup> March, to consider a variety of planning applications and parish issues. The council chairman was absent due to health reasons and we wish David Penfold a speedy recovery.

The parish council remains in conversation with Rother District Council about sharing the costs of running the conveniences at Pett Level, in order to reopen the toilets as soon as possible. However, the parish council is asking that any reopening be on a permanent basis and for the toilets to be refurbished over time. Rother District Council has come back that it needs time to consider the terms of cost sharing. Concerns are increasing that the facilities remain closed as the weather starts to improve.



Preventing future flooding of Pett Level is a major concern. The Marsham Brook Residents' Association and Flood Warden Chris Saint have kept the issue alive, to the point that the authorities are now meeting regularly and working together to gather information to inform a decision on flood prevention measures. The parish council agreed to write to the authorities, pressing for wider engagement and greater communication of information.

The lease on the allotment will come to an end in June 2025. A new home is sought. Should you have a suitable small piece of flat open land close to the road that you would be happy to lease please contact the council.



The parish council agreed two donations. £500 each for the Archive Resource Centre towards costs and Pett Level Independent Rescue Boat.



*PP David Penfold, Chairman of Pett Parish Council*

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

## Prayer poem

Written with contributions from those attending the Pett Methodist Church Pet Service on 18/2/24.



## Pets

How wonderful it is:

To be outside on another adventurous country walk with our treasured, faithful, tail-wagging friends! Getting muddy or finding new friends.

To constantly enjoy the comfort of a companion who is always glad to see us and anybody else who wants a bit of love! who make us laugh!

What happiness!

And how great it is to be comforted by our other fur babies who come to meet us on our return, who quietly paw at us or curl on our laps with a distinctly superior look.

How caring they are when we are feeling low, sad or bereaved! Where does that strange empathy come from when we feel the tears will not stop. A kind nuzzle, a gentle paw and a natural remedy to high blood pressure!

Thank you Lord for knowing our need of such beautiful creatures. Thank you that they are there to fill a little space available in our lives, which they occupy so well and give everything to us with joy! Thank you!

Amen.



## PETT & DISTRICT BRANCH

### Centenary

### 1924 - 2024

On **Saturday, 11th May 2024** the local Branch of the Royal British Legion celebrates its formation 100 years ago.

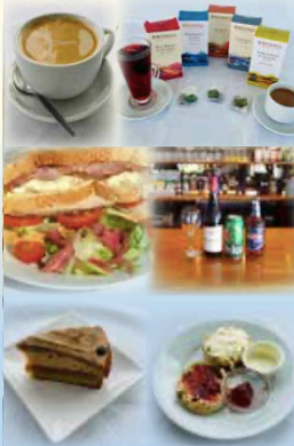
The Branch continues to serve the armed forces community with pride in our past and enthusiasm for the future.

To mark this event there will be a service at **St Mary and St Peter Church, Pett commencing at 11am** then a parade of Royal British Legion Standards to Pett Village Hall arriving 11:30am.

Attendance at the village hall shall be by invitation only.

John Pulfer BEM, JP, Chairman, Pett District Branch

[johnatbobhs@gmail.com](mailto:johnatbobhs@gmail.com)



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# Marsham Valley Natural Flood Management Partnership selected for funding

Dear Parishioners,

I thought you would like know that I have recently been informed that the bid for grant funding by the Marsham Valley Natural Flood Management Partnership has been selected, along with 39 other organisations, to join the national programme. Loads more to do before the £398,000 asked for starts to roll in, but so far so good.

There was, I believe, over 500 applications made from all over the country for a share in the £25million fund, which was promoted by Sally Anne Hart MP, and launched by the Environment Agency. The proposal is a package of six Natural Flood Management (NFM) projects in partnership with six local landowners, to increase Pett Level's flood resilience and bolster recent flood recovery efforts.

The partnership will work at scale to introduce these NFM measures across the Marsham catchment area. Ponds, scrapes, gully blocking, habitat improvements such as woodland regeneration, and leaky barriers, will help to slow and store flows in the upper catchment area. These measures will work together to reduce the chance and impact of river and surface water flooding downstream.

Project partners also aim to combine regenerative farming and naturally resourced food production, with health and well-being. Wider benefits also include ecological restoration and enhanced biodiversity.

Up to now I have helped to promote this important partnership and I will if needed, continue to help and ensure that the project aims are delivered for the benefit of the Parish.

NFM stands for Natural Flood Management and you can find more details on the link: <https://catchmentbasedapproach.org/learn/what-is-natural-flood-management/>

Chris Saint, Parish Flood Warden

---

## DON'T FORGET! PETT BOWLS CLUB OPEN DAY 12 APRIL 2024

Do come along to the bowls green on our **Open Day** at the recreation ground in Pett, on **Friday 12 April** after 11.00 am. Remember to wear flat soled shoes and join in the fun!

In the meantime, if you would like any further information, please contact either our Secretary Mary on 01424 813047/07745659488, Club Captain Tracey on 01424 532951 or me, Simon Grant, Chair on 07772916735.





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## PETT FLOWER SHOW & FAYRE

# 24 Hours in a Day Saturday 27 July 2024

The AGM was held at Pett Village Hall on Wednesday 6 March. The meeting was well attended with positive comments on the 2023 show, held again at the Hall.

In her report, the Chairman said the Committee were very pleased the community had supported the Show, particularly by the number of entries considering the dry weather during the summer months. The Dog Show encouraged more visitors.

The Chairman thanked all the volunteers for their support and hard work on the day. The Show had been a financial success and there is an opportunity to support local causes. Requests had been made by Pett WI fundraising for their chosen charities; PLIRB for equipment; Pett Church Flower Festival to replace oasis in the arrangements; the Archive Resource Centre for equipment. A sum will be donated to these causes.

The Chairman expressed her gratitude to the Committee members for their support. They share thoughtful advice, creative ideas and commitment to make the Show a success. Although not a Committee Member, thanks also to Sue Dengate and her buddies for administering the entries.

The Schedule for 2024 is nearing completion and the Committee has decided to distribute it with the May edition of Pett Parish News. For those wishing to be creative, the Schedule will be available on Pettnet shortly. The theme of **24 Hours in a Day** suggests obvious features in the Handicraft, Art, Photography and Young Peoples classes as below:

- Young People (under 5; child and helper): Paint or draw a picture of a **clock**
- Young People\_(5-8 Years): Make a **sundial**. Paint or draw a picture of **teatime**. Grow **marigolds in a 4 inch (or smaller) pot**
- Young People (9-14 Years): Paint or draw a picture of **your favourite time of day**. Make a **time machine (not to exceed 12 inches/25cm in height or width)**. Make a **clock face out of natural materials**.
- All Young People under 16 years: Photograph '**A Moment in Time**'
- Adults: Painting entitled '**Time and Tide**'. Photograph '**A Moment in Time**'. Handicraft: **Make a Timepiece**

Looking forward to a great Show this summer with a dance in the evening.

Philippa M. Strickland  
Chairman P&DHS

# Pett Cricket Club

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# Gardening Club Notes - March 2024

Our scheduled speaker had to pull out at short notice, but instead we most gratefully welcomed Guy Deakins, head gardener at the Duke of Wellington's estate in Hampshire, whose highly informative talk on "How to Commit the Perfect Murder (and put the body to good use in the garden afterwards...)", was very entertaining indeed. Essentially the point of the talk was about positively nurturing the soil to enable it to create the right balance for healthy plants.

This is a theme becoming far better understood and developed nowadays and one previous speakers have adopted and explained to us. Guy's method of putting it across, however, varied dramatically - literally - from the conventional! From the very start he involved us all, one side of the room were the Murderers, who were asked to suggest ways of committing a murder and disposing of the body, the other side the Detectives, who were to identify signs of how to spot a murder had been committed! This approach meant that the audience was interacting with Guy throughout and was hugely appreciated and enjoyed by everyone.

Unfortunately, one or two of Guy's own distant relatives in Victorian times had actually been murdered, either by poison, or the perpetrator had been deemed to have been under the effects of plant poisoning, thus rendering them violent due to being of unsound mind at the time. He read us out the newspaper coverage from the time of the events, using it to illustrate the prevalence and uses of the many poisons present in and derived from plants commonly grown in our gardens, e.g., aconite, laurel, deadly nightshade - even tulip!

Gardeners generally are less aware of the dangers plant poisons present than they are of the more obvious effects of weedkillers and pesticides, but both can have serious side effects on humans too, if the right conditions prevail. Guy cited the tragic example of the owner of a large laurel hedge who, having cut the hedge, bagged up the clippings and loaded them into his car to take to the tip and was then discovered, having been overcome by the cyanide fumes from the plant matter.

Alarming statistics show many thousands of garden accidents every year, varying in gravity from gashes and broken bones through to death by electrocution, poisoning, falling from trees, etc. Guy explained, somewhat surprisingly, that humans are only 44% human DNA, the rest of our bodies comprising microorganisms we have a symbiotic relationship with. It follows then that if we encounter an intolerable attack from any predator, Covid 19 being a relevant example, our DNA can easily become compromised, our immune system overwhelmed and unable to resist, so we can succumb.

Chemical weedkillers like glyphosate are systemic, being absorbed into the plant, forcing it to grow so quickly it literally outgrows its own strength, wilts and dies. For just this property it has now been introduced into the food chain with disturbing consequences for humans. Glyphosate is now routinely used by wheat growers to help wheat to ripen, which it is nowadays doing less ably on its own due to current unstable weather patterns. Glyphosate should biodegrade in about six weeks, but has now been found to be storing in the ground which, in practice, means it is now contained in the wheat we humans then consume, resulting in a vast increase in gluten intolerance!

Five hundred diseases are now known to be resistant to glyphosate; such a perceived threat to food production that the government is now resorting to permitting the use of DDT and Nicotinoids, previously banned! In other words, we have spent so long finding ways to kill plant predators of all kinds, we have inadvertently created imbalances, voids which are rapidly filled by new predators, a constant battle lurching from one imbalance to another. Human intervention has skewed the natural balance, but resolved nothing. Guy described how the Chinese government, deciding that sparrows, which were eating the ripened grain in the fields and judged to be depriving the people of the fruits of their labour, should all be killed, then realised, when a plague of locusts arrived, that there was nothing left to predate the locusts, which the insect-eating sparrows would have dealt with!

*Contd on p22.....*

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Despite all these very sobering facts, Guy then skilfully turned the situation around to focus on how humans can in future enjoy better health and wellbeing, if we can all - governments included - be persuaded to invest more in the restoration of the balance of nature. Referring back to our suggestions at the start of the talk on murder methods - poison, shooting, stabbing, strangulation, etc., Guy explained how human body parts and natural products can benefit the soil. Blood, bones, waste, etc., can be added by gardeners in the form of blood, fish and bonemeal, for example. In short, naturally occurring matter can enrich the soil and deter pests - hair is apparently hated by rabbits, so placing some in a rabbit hole will cause the rabbit to abandon it! Plants need a balance of nutrients to grow successfully, so if we gardeners feed the soil with homegrown compost and natural fertilisers, are judicious in our targeted use of weedkiller as a last resort and understand how we can work with, instead of against nature, we can in time restore the balance, thereby leaving natural rhythms to their own devices instead of worrying about and waging war on a system that knows far better than we do what to kill and how best to do it, all the time being both productive and healthy!

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday April 9th at 7.30 in the Catherine Holman Room at Pett Village Hall. Our speaker will be Keith Swallow, a club member, and renowned local author, who will discuss the work undertaken by the Pett Level Preservation Trust.

June Harris

---

## Nominate a Local Hero

I always admire others who volunteer to do something that makes Pett and Pett Level a nicer place to live. Recently I've been noticing two of our local heroes, Philippa and Paul who selflessly give up their own time to pick up litter. Philippa works mainly around Pett, whilst Paul aims for Pett Level. With their permission I present photos of them in action.

It occurred to me that it would be great to make this a regular feature in the magazine. I hope the editors of the magazine would be happy to receive future nominations for your local hero.



By David Tasker - Local Resident

*Thank you, David. What a great idea! If anyone has someone they'd like to nominate please let us know by emailing [magazine@pettnet.org.uk](mailto:magazine@pettnet.org.uk)*



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# St Michael's Hospice

## Open Gardens

Whether it's a quirky 1980s summer house, a koi pond or a bed of tropical plants that you're interested in, there's something for everyone at St Michael's Hospice Open Gardens this summer. Taking place all over Hastings and Rother, private garden owners are opening their gates for all ages to enjoy. Maybe you've got time to spare and would like to spend some time outdoors, soaking up the peace and tranquility, or maybe you have children who love to explore the outdoors and learn about wildlife? Whatever your motivation, why not pick up an Open Gardens 2024 booklet from the Hospice shops for just £1, to find out more about the gardens opening near you? Alternatively, visit the Hospice website for a list of locations and dates [stmichaelshospice.com](http://stmichaelshospice.com)

## Play. Support. Win the St Michael's Hospice Lottery

Could you be the next top prize winner? St Michael's Hospice runs a weekly Lottery with a top prize of £2,000 every week, plus another 57 weekly cash prizes. By signing up today, you can play an active role in supporting your local Hospice for £1 per entry, per week. Lottery members raised over £510,000 for the Hospice last year, all helping to support the vital work the Hospice does to enable the community of Hastings and Rother to live well with dying, death and loss. To sign up, visit [stmichaelshospice.com/lottery](http://stmichaelshospice.com/lottery) or call 01424 456384.

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Did you know Gift Aid can be applied to your donations to St Michael's Hospice charity shops? If you are eligible (you must be a UK tax payer) signing up for Gift Aid when you donate your pre-loved goods in store, or at their Donation Centre for them to sell in their shops or via eBay, makes a huge difference. Adding Gift Aid to your donation means the Hospice can claim an extra 25p for every £1 raised through the sale of goods. Next time you're in one of the Hospice's shops or dropping off items at the Donation Centre, please talk to a member of the team about how to sign up.

---

## Living in Love and Faith

Many will be aware of the ongoing debate within the Church of England with regard to same-sex relationships and the question of same-sex marriages and blessings in a Church context. Towards the end of the last year the Church of England Synod authorised a series of prayers for same-sex couples under the title of Prayers of Love and Faith. This has caused considerable turmoil within the Church of England, although many people cannot see anything particularly unusual about praying for the relationship of a loving couple.

These prayers can be used for a same-sex couple in a church service. They have to be part of a service that is scheduled and are permitted to stand alone or appear to be anything approaching a marriage. We have been asked to seek the views of the PCC in this matter. I'm very pleased to report that the PCC unanimously approved them for use and there was considered to be very little need for debate.

If there are any couples who would like to discuss the possibility of including such prayers for them within a service I would be delighted to discuss it.

By Revd Jonathan Meyer



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# My Garden Blog

I have just been re-reading my last blog which was written in mid-October. I was waxing lyrical about the lovely Indian Summer we were having. I cannot clearly remember it now as soon after that it started raining and has hardly stopped since! What a winter - so much rain and wind.

I became quite excited a couple of weeks ago when there were some dry-ish days and slightly warm sunshine and I was looking forward to tackling the garden again. Sadly the rain continues to drench us regularly and no sooner do I do something but it rains again.

There is therefore limited progress in the garden. So far it has been impossible to cut the grass but I have, with neighbourly help, pruned and tidied shrubs and I did manage to plant some potatoes last week. The ground is so heavy to dig so planting will be very slow.

On the bright side Spring has very much sprung in the flower and blossom department. In spite of rain and wind battering them, the daffodils have been splendid and very uplifting all through the village. Camellia and magnolia are beautiful and my quince blossom is out. The willow has turned into a lovely pale green leafy tree waving in the wind. By Easter I hope to have many more vegetables planted and the grass cut.

On the bird front there is much activity from the blue tits and great tits, both emptying the feeders very swiftly with help from robin, goldfinches, marsh, coal and long tailed tits. The wrens continue to shout whenever the cats are about (which hasn't been very often this year!)

Wood pigeons, blackbirds, magpies, jackdaws and dunnock are commonplace, with very occasional visits from nuthatch, jay and woodpecker. I am still hoping to see chaffinches and greenfinches again one day. Foxes and badger still frequent the garden at night and I am sure many of you will have heard the tawny owls calling (I even heard one at midday recently). A heron still spends some time in the pond so I assume there are still fish in there, although I very rarely catch sight of one.

I hope by next month there will be much positive news. The clocks moving forward and longer days will be very therapeutic for us all.

Gill Plank

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# PLIRB News - April 2024

Hello to everyone from all at PLIRB! We've seen some glimpses of spring - let's hope it continues to get warmer and more cheerful. Here's our news!

## Duke of Edinburgh volunteers

We currently have three fantastic Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteers with us at PLIRB, each completing various levels of the scheme. We aim to devise a bespoke programme to encompass a broad range of training competencies to ensure their time with us is valuable. We hope they learn vital skills, build their confidence and understand the importance of working as part of a team and serving the community. And we hope that they will become our future crew! Thank you to all three for choosing PLIRB as their volunteer programme. Although we can't take any more at the moment, please contact us at [plirbrescue@gmail.com](mailto:plirbrescue@gmail.com) if your son or daughter would like to volunteer at PLIRB.

## On a shout

We were tasked by UKCG twice in March for very different incidents - the first was to a vulnerable person in the water in Bulverhythe and the second to a Mayday concerning a casualty vessel in difficulty, two miles out to sea off Hastings. Whilst we typically cover the coastline between Camber and Fairlight, we are frequently tasked to incidents further afield when neighbouring RNLi stations are not on service. We have an exceptionally quick response time and our crew train hard in many scenarios to ensure we are always rescue ready.

## Dr Adrian Head

PLIRB were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Adrian Head, one of PLIRB's founding members and crew. Adrian was also on Hastings RNLi and a local GP - loved and respected by many. We send our condolences and much love to Mish and all the family at this difficult time.

## Congratulations to Shaun O'Hara!

One of our major projects is working to achieve Declared Facility Status. This is a significant exercise which all independent lifeboats must adopt to ensure we continue to be recognised as an official lifeboat service and meet the requirements of the Rescue Boat Code. It essentially means a complete review and overhaul of our operations - a lengthy and complex process! A key part of this is crew training to ensure everyone is recognised as appropriately qualified (regardless of experience or time at sea!) So massive congratulations to Shaun O'Hara who has successfully completed all required qualifications. Shaun has been crew at PLIRB for 11 years, six of those as helm, and has over 25 years' experience being on the water. In just a few months Shaun has achieved: Advanced Powerboat, Day Skipper Practical, Day Skipper Theory, Professional Practices and Responsibilities and Sea Survival - all in addition to completing his ML5 medical and holding his Powerboat Level 2 and RYA VHF Radio. Well done Shaun, a fantastic achievement and testament to his commitment to PLIRB.

## On the run!

Springtime means marathons and we are honoured that people have been running to raise money for us! In March, PLIRB volunteer Anthony Dixon took part in the Hastings Half Marathon - his first long distance event. And in early April, Natasha Keats is competing in the Brighton Marathon. A huge thank you to both of them! The money raised will be donated to the fund for our future new boat or to other major upcoming projects.

## PettFest 2024 - Friday 24 to Monday 27 May

Two local businesses are getting together to organise a spring beer festival! The Royal Oak pub and The Old Butchers, Pett will be hosting the first PettFest event - a weekend celebration of great beers, ciders and music. To be held at the Royal Oak pub and featuring our very own Pett Slip Buoy! Look out for posters with more details!

To keep in touch, please visit our website <https://plirb.com> and our social media: Facebook @PettLevelRescueBoat and Instagram @pettlevelindyrescueboat.

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# Recipe of the month

This month's delicious recipe has been sent in by Fran Rogers - thank you Fran!

*This recipe comes from the Sainsbury's Baking Recipe Collection but I've reworded it.*

## RHUBARB CAKE

With Rhubarb season ahead of us, here's a cake that is yummy, and easy.

### The Cake:

300g rhubarb  
Juice of ½ lemon  
165 SR flour  
175g softened butter  
175g caster sugar  
3 large eggs  
2tsp vanilla extract

Oven 180C, Fan 160C, Gas 4

Grease a 23cm square tin and line with greaseproof/baking paper

In a bowl with lemon juice add 3cm pieces of rhubarb. In a separate bowl beat together: flour, butter, sugar, eggs and vanilla. Fold in HALF the rhubarb and spoon mixture into bottom of tin. Spread out and then add the rest of the rhubarb.

### Topping:

25g unsalted butter  
2TBS SR flour  
1TBS caster sugar  
2tsp ground ginger  
Icing sugar to dust

Rub together the butter and flour.  
Stir in the sugar and ginger.  
Sprinkle over the cake mixture.  
Bake 40-50 mins.  
Cool for 10 minutes and remove from tin.

Dust with icing sugar, cut into squares and serve with Crème Fraiche and honey.

### Do not miss our event



### Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm Pett Methodist Church.

A fascinating insight into Fred and Zoe Vahey who lived off Pannel Lane in their little cottage, Innisfree. Their daughter, Lorna will take you on a journey through their interesting self-sufficient lifestyle.

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# Why leave grass long? By Tim Jury

Have you ever wondered why Rother District Council promotes no mow May? There is actually more behind this seemingly simple act than meets the eye. The prime motivator is that by allowing at least part of your lawn to grow tall (beyond May, I would add) some plants that you were not aware of, particularly flowering wild flowers, will flower and provide vital food for the pollinators that can find it difficult to survive in the early weeks of summer. There are, however, at least two other factors that you should be aware of, and how they will make a positive impact on the climate crisis.

Firstly, by allowing a plant to reach maturity and, in this case, grass and other forbes, you are letting these plants develop their root system far more than they would otherwise. In turn this allows greater water infiltration and most importantly water retention. Furthermore when it does rain, tall grass takes the impact out of the rainfall reducing the ‘panning’ effect (compaction) heavy rain can have on the soil surface. This reduction on the impact heavy rain has on the soil surface also allows a little more time for the water to be taken in rather than immediately running off. All that extra root development is mostly carbon; yes indeed you have engaged in an act of carbon sequestration and we all know how important that is! A typical lawn cut regularly will have organic matter (largely carbon) levels of around 1.5% (data taken from readings from most continuous grazed fields) but over a short time of a few years this could rise by just 2% (conservative estimate) and this represents an astonishing increase in carbon of 2.5 kg per sqm. Multiply this up to a modest lawn size of say 100m<sup>2</sup> and we have an extra 250kg of carbon locked up, just by leaving the mower in the shed.

These figures are a guide only and subject to some scrutiny but the essence is fact. Now, if the above wasn’t enough the second factor is even more exciting (sorry I can’t help but put it this way!) You may have heard me talk before about the climate crisis being caused more by a breakdown in the water cycle or hydrology of the planet and this is largely due to a loss of green vegetation or desertification of arid parts of the world. We all know about photosynthesis but we tend to ignore the other process working away as green leaves take on the power from the sun and that is transpiration. The water vapour given off by the Stoma found on the underside of leaves is released up into the atmosphere, taking with it a minute amount of heat with every molecule. The rate of this process is governed by the area of leaf exposed to the sunlight so it is not rocket science to understand how your lawn, standing tall buzzing with insects, is acting as nature’s solar panel, releasing as much as 10 times more water vapour, sending more heat back to the atmosphere, and cooling the planet as it does. Fantastic!

I hope this convinces a few more folk to leave at least some lawn area long, but what to do at the end of summer? In a domestic lawn situation it seems the advice is to remove all the cuttings and, if you feel like it, mow the lawn from then on a few more times before mid-winter, not allowing too much mulch to smother any wild flower seed that might have shed and be trying to germinate.

One of my favourite pastimes in the summer and indeed much of the other time is getting down on my knees in any of my fields and gently parting the vegetation at the soil surface and seeing what bugs I can see! It makes me feel just a little smug, dare I say, that if it weren’t for my grazing management there would be much less of this vital insect life.

## Happy bug hunting!!

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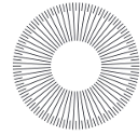


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# What's on at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve

## April 2024

### **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April (10am - 12pm) - Easter Bunny Hop**

Come on our Easter bunny hop around the nature reserve to solve the wildlife egg hunt challenge! We aren't just looking for bird eggs... what other eggs and creatures will we find? Everyone who completes the challenge wins a small nest of mini eggs to enjoy over the Easter break. Suitable for accompanied 5-12 year olds. Booking necessary - £7 per child (accompanying adults free).



### **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April (10am - 12pm) - Wonderful Waders for Pre-schoolers**

A morning of spring celebrations for the forthcoming Eid with babies and toddlers accompanied by an adult. Learn all about the wading birds that come to the nature reserve in spring and create an egg to match your favourite. We will learn about our wonderful waders with challenges, songs and games. Booking necessary - £5 per child (Accompanying adults free).

### **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April (2pm - 5pm) - Castle Water Wildlife**

Rye Harbour's 465 hectares have international wildlife designations. Join us for a circular walk of approximately 6km, starting out from Brede Lock. We'll follow the River Brede across the sheep fields to Henry VIII's Camber Castle, taking the opportunity to observe the wildlife we find on route. We'll then head to the birdwatching hide overlooking Castle Water to look at some of the wetland birds present. [Meet at Brede Lock, 50m from the junction of Harbour Road and Winchelsea Road, TN31 7UG](#). Car parking available nearby, on the A259 (Winchelsea Road). What 3 Words location - lavished.tile.fish **No booking necessary.**

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April (2pm - 3pm) - Heritage Crime Talk - The Threats to our shared Heritage**  
Join us for a talk by Daryl Holter, our local Heritage Crime Officer from Sussex Police. Synopsis by Officer Holter: "We have a choice to defend our heritage, past, present and future. Some take our past heritage for granted; some forget it is amongst our present. Our future generations should have the opportunity to rediscover, experience and interpret the old and the new. When it falls victim to abuse it is the moral responsibility, of all of us, to protect our past and we must do this together. Together, as a group or family, we become a community. Communities watch over our heritage and likeminded communities stand together. Together we can preserve our past." **Free event - booking essential as places are limited.**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April (9am-1pm) - Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve: A walk with Friends**  
Join the Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve for a longer walk out to Castle Water. It is a circular route of 7.5km as far as the Halpin Hide and will take approximately 4 hours. It will start from [Rye Harbour village car park TN31 7TY](#) (donations welcome) with at least two leaders accompanying each walk. Please note that once we leave the village there are no toilet facilities, however the route is clear if participants need to return earlier. **No booking necessary. Free to members of the Friends; non-members welcome but donations appreciated.**



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We're a small, friendly, informal group which meets every 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](mailto:donnagilbert1@sky.com) or Tel: 01424 812185.

We'd love to have you on board, so please get in touch!



*P.J. Turner*

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Saturday 8am – 4pm**

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# What's on in April:

## ROYAL OAK FREE HOUSE      PETT

### Pass the Cat

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April - 4pm

### Sara G and the Other 3

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April - 4pm

### Bell'E Buono PIZZA VAN

#### Eat in or Takeaway

Every Monday 4-8pm

### Quiz Nights in April

Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> & Wed 17<sup>th</sup> - 8pm

 Follow @PettOak

## The COVE

### Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April. 6.15pm

The Cove Book Club

Monthly book club

New members welcome. To join email

[olivia@thecovefairlight.co.uk](mailto:olivia@thecovefairlight.co.uk)

### Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April

Quiz night. 7pm. Teams of up to 6 people.

To book a table email

[info@thecovefairlight.co.uk](mailto:info@thecovefairlight.co.uk)

### Every Tuesday

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Instagram: [Eaters@pett](https://www.instagram.com/Eaters@pett)



### Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March:

Sound Syndicate

### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April:

Pass the Cat

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# Nature Notes by Alan Kenworthy

With our huge brains, containing about 86 billion nerve cells, we are capable of world domination - at least domination over all the other creatures that inhabit the planet. Compared to the brain of a bumblebee with its 1 million nerve cells, we may consider that the bee doesn't think much at all, that everything is hard-wired instinct and its capacity for learning and memory is very limited. However, bumblebees have to know a lot, for example, they need a conceptual map of the surroundings of their nest, and to recognize when those surroundings change. They need to know where the best flowers are and how to access the nectar they contain. But in order to separate knowledge from instinct, we need them to demonstrate learned behaviour.

Learned behaviour has already been demonstrated by bumblebees in experiments where they work out how to pull strings to get a sweet reward and other bumblebees can learn from those that have already worked out how to get the reward. In order to test how far their abilities stretch, a recent paper describes how they deal with a more complex problem - a 2-step problem.

We humans deal with 2-step problems every day and think nothing of them. For example, to open your front door, you have to unlock it, and then turn the handle. Doing only one of those steps doesn't work, and neither does doing them in the wrong order. So the experimenters devised apparatus with two steps - first, the bumblebees had to push an obstruction that was blocking the path of a slide. Then the bumblebees had to push the slide in the right direction to uncover their reward.



The bees were familiarized with the apparatus so that they knew where the reward was, and then the apparatus was set with the reward covered and the obstruction in place. Despite spending a lot of time with this set-up, the bees were unable to solve the problem. So the experimenters set it up so that the bees got a small reward for pushing the obstruction away and another when the slide was pushed to uncover it. Once the bees were familiar with that, the first reward was removed, but the bees still remembered the correct sequence and got their reward. The experimenters then introduced bees unfamiliar with the apparatus, alongside those that had already learned to solve the problem, and it was found that the unfamiliar bees learned how to get the reward from watching the 'trained' bees.

Should you be wondering if these bumblebees are an exotic species being put through their paces in some celebrated American university, then let me put your mind at rest - the research was carried out at the University of London using Buff-tailed Bumblebees, the UK's most common species. Before I wrote this (14<sup>th</sup> March), I had a wander round Pett Churchyard where several Buff-tailed Bumblebee queens were spending an unusually sunny afternoon solving the problem of finding a suitable nest in the waterlogged ground (and most of them will solve it). Should you wish to watch them solving the 2-step problem, there is a Youtube video. Search for 'Bumblebees that can learn like humans', and select the nature.com video.



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### SUNDAY 7 APRIL

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

### SUNDAY 14 APRIL

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

### SUNDAY 21 APRIL

PETT	9.30am	Parish Communion
WINCHELSEA	11.00am	Parish Communion

### SUNDAY 28 APRIL

WINCHELSEA	11.00am	Parish Communion
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PETT LEVEL	St Nicholas Church	TN35 4BS
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# Pett Village Hall Activities

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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
Doctors 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
Doctors Prescriptions	12-12.45pm
Art	12-3.00pm
Short Mat Bowls	3.15-5.15pm
Fitness Pilates	6.30-7.15pm

## Friday

Badminton	10.00am-12pm
-----------	--------------

For details of who runs each class and how to join see our website - [www.pettvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.pettvillagehall.co.uk)

# PETT VILLAGE HALL

## Annual General Meeting

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
Catharine Hollman Room  
7pm



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# **Pett Level Preservation Trust**

Annual Meeting

**Joining the herd: Working with Highland Cattle**



Photo: Jo Mayne

**A talk by Roy Abel**

owner of the three Highland Cattle sometimes seen on the PLPT land

**Thursday 25 April @ 7:30pm**

**Pett Village Hall**

All are welcome



**APRIL 2024**

**RYE (HARBOUR)**

Date		ORDNANCE DATUM (NEWLYN)			
		High Water			
		Morning		Afternoon	
		Time	m	Time	m
1	M	02 29	2.9	14 53	2.5
2	TU ☾	03 22	2.3	16 00	2.0
3	W	05 26	1.9	18 21	1.9
4	TH	07 08	2.0	19 41	2.3
5	F	08 17	2.5	20 42	2.9
6	SA	09 15	3.1	21 33	3.5
7	SU	10 04	3.5	22 20	3.9
8	M ●	10 47	3.9	23 04	4.1
9	TU	11 29	4.0	23 46	4.3
10	W			12 08	4.0
11	TH	00 26	4.3	12 45	4.0
12	F	01 03	4.0	13 23	3.6
13	SA	01 43	3.8	14 05	3.4
14	SU	02 25	3.3	14 52	2.9
15	M ☽	03 16	2.5	15 47	2.4
16	TU	04 17	2.0	16 51	2.0
17	W	05 31	1.7	18 11	1.8
18	TH	07 34	1.8	19 50	2.0
19	F	08 42	2.2	20 51	2.5
20	SA	09 25	2.5	21 33	2.9
21	SU	10 00	2.9	22 09	3.1
22	M	10 29	3.0	22 41	3.3
23	TU ○	10 57	3.1	23 09	3.3
24	W	11 25	3.3	23 35	3.4
25	TH	11 50	3.3		
26	F	00 01	3.4	12 14	3.4
27	SA	00 27	3.4	12 41	3.4
28	SU	00 56	3.4	13 15	3.3
29	M	01 34	3.1	13 57	3.0
30	TU	02 19	2.8	14 50	2.5

Time Zone UT (GMT)

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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

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Alan Crouch (Vice-Chair)	01424 813145.	<a href="mailto:cldr.alan.crouch@pettnet.org.uk">cldr.alan.crouch@pettnet.org.uk</a>
Andrew Dunlop	01424 813368	<a href="mailto:cldr.andrew.dunlop@pettnet.org.uk">cldr.andrew.dunlop@pettnet.org.uk</a>
Andrew Norcott	07802 729412	<a href="mailto:cldr.andy.norcott@pettnet.org.uk">cldr.andy.norcott@pettnet.org.uk</a>
David Penfold (Chair)	01424 813003	<a href="mailto:cldr.david.penfold@pettnet.org.uk">cldr.david.penfold@pettnet.org.uk</a>
David Tasker	07733 307992	<a href="mailto:cldr.david.tasker@pettnet.org.uk">cldr.david.tasker@pettnet.org.uk</a>
Jan Tomalin	07785 550198	<a href="mailto:cldr.jan.tomalin@pettnet.org.uk">cldr.jan.tomalin@pettnet.org.uk</a>

#### PARISH CLERK

Mary Philo	01797 270790	<a href="mailto:clerk@pettnet.org.uk">clerk@pettnet.org.uk</a> Island Cottage, Swan Street, Wittersham, Kent, TN30 7PH
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#### TREE WARDEN

Marcus Foster	07812 024070	<a href="mailto:mail@marcus-foster.com">mail@marcus-foster.com</a>
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#### FLOOD WARDEN

Chris Saint	01424 813047	<a href="mailto:flood.warden@pettnet.org.uk">flood.warden@pettnet.org.uk</a>
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### ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL (RDC)

01424 787000; [www.rother.gov.uk/residents](http://www.rother.gov.uk/residents)

Councillor Andrew Mier	01424 814178	<a href="mailto:cldr.andrew.mier@rother.gov.uk">cldr.andrew.mier@rother.gov.uk</a>
Councillor Tim Grohne	07973 543537	<a href="mailto:cldr.tim.grohne@rother.gov.uk">cldr.tim.grohne@rother.gov.uk</a>



### EAST SUSSEX COUNCIL (ESCC)

[www.eastsussexhighways.com/report-a-problem](http://www.eastsussexhighways.com/report-a-problem)

0345 6080190; [www.eastsussex.gov.uk](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk)

Councillor Keith Glazier	07957 377844	<a href="mailto:cldr.keith.glazier@eastsussex.gov.uk">cldr.keith.glazier@eastsussex.gov.uk</a>
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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>	Mary Saint	813047	mary@saintfamily.net
<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>	Heather Godwin	07977 100296	
- <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>Pole Dancing</i>	Jane Baldwin	07403 256148	jane@mrzen.co.uk
<i>PVH Committee</i>			pettvillagehall.co.uk
<i>Seaside Stitches</i>	Donna Gilbert	812185	donnagilbert1@sky.com
<i>Short Mat Bowls</i>	Brenda Kirkham	07444 008034	beekirkham@btinternet.com
<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
<b>ROOMS FOR HIRE</b>			
<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	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼			▼		▼		
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](http://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	
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										from 3 September 2023			
Notes	MF	Sch	SSH							NR	NR	NR	NR
Rye Rail Station Stand A	0654	0748	0756	0856	Then	56				1756	1856	2154	
Winchelsea Beach Caravan Park	0704	0759	0807	0907	every	07				1807	1907	2205	
Pett Level Canal Bank	0708	0803	0811	0911	hour	11				1811	1911	2209	
Fairlight Cove Commanders Walk	0714	0809	0817	0917	at	17	until			1817	1917	2215	
Fairlight Coastguard Lane	0720	0815	0823	0923	these	23				1823	1923	2221	
Ore Co Op	0725	GG	0828	0928	times	28				1828	1928	2226	
Hastings Railway Station arrive	0740	0852	0843	0943		43				1843	1943	2241	
Bohemia Road Fire Station	-	-	-	-		-				-	1947	-	
Silverhill Filling Station*	-	-	-	-		-				-	1951	-	
Harrow Lane Ashdown House	-	-	-	-		-				-	-	-	
Conquest Hospital	-	-	-	-		-				-	-	-	

- 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 1656
Bohemia Road Fire Station										0900	1100	1300	1500 1700
Hastings Railway Stn stop F	-	0747	0847	0949	Then	49				0910	1110	1310	1510 1710
Ore Co Op	0711	0802	0902	1004	every	04				0923	1123	1323	1523 1723
Fairlight Coastguard Lane	0715	0806	0906	1008	hour	08				0927	1127	1327	1527 1727
Fairlight Cove Commanders Walk	0721	0812	0912	1014	at	14	until			0933	1133	1333	1533 1733
Pett Level Canal Bank	0727	0818	0918	1020	these	20				0939	1139	1339	1539 1739
Winchelsea Beach Caravan Park	0731	0822	0922	1024	times	24				0945	1145	1345	1545 1745
Rye Rail Station	0743	0834	0934	1036		36				0957	1157	1357	1557 1757

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](http://www.stagecoachbus.com) or download the Stagecoach app to view live bus times or call them on 0345 241 8000

# DISCO



£12

LIFE-LAND-LORD

@ Pett Village Hall  
Follow QR code for full details or  
email [jo@felton-gardens.com](mailto:jo@felton-gardens.com)

Saturday, 27th April 2024  
7pm-Midnight

Raising funds for  
Cancer Research, Pett Level Preservation Trust and Pett Church