



**Pett & Pett Level News**  
**February 2025**

# **Pett and Pett Level News**



**February 2025**

DIRECTORY OF ADVERTISERS			
<b>BESPOKE FURNITURE</b>		<b>LOCAL PRODUCE SUPPLIERS</b>	
Jennings-Bramly Furniture	21	The Old Butcher's Shop	8
<b>EAT, DRINK, STAY</b>		<b>PEST CONTROL</b>	
Bramley & Teal Holiday Cottages	32	Rother Pest Control	18
Coastguard Cafe	39	Wanedale Pest Control	16
New Beach Club	36	<b>PETS &amp; LIVESTOCK</b>	
The Royal Oak Pub	22	Hayley's Hounds	20
<b>GARDEN SERVICES</b>		<b>PLUMBING &amp; ELECTRICAL</b>	
1066 Tree Care	12	A A Farnes	20
Dans Fencing	40	A and O Boilers & Plumbing Services	33
PJ Turner	12	Hannington-Gilbert Electricians	14
Toby Sims Gardener	4	Travis Electrical	21
<b>HEALTH &amp; WELLBEING</b>		<b>PROFESSIONAL SERVICES</b>	
Country Carers	38	Charles & Co (Estate Agents)	6
Country Carers - We Are Hiring	10	Funnell & Perring (Solicitor)	18
Dawn Turner - Holistic Therapy	32	Hastings & Rother Legal Services Ltd	39
Eyemasters	14	KP & Co Ltd (Architect)	16
Five Villages	28	Lyn Cooke Associates (Wills/probate)	38
Food Intolerance Testing	12	Rush, Witt & Wilson (Estate Agents)	42
St Michael's Hospice	34	Your life story in a book (Biographer)	33
Tara Begbie Footcare	20	<b>PROPERTY MAINTENANCE</b>	
Whitegates Care Home	30	KR Windows	8
Yoga For All	36	Alan Danskin - Your Local Handyman	34
<b>HOUSEHOLD SERVICES</b>		Handyman - TW Services	
Bargain Carpets & Floors	40	Lee Bowdler - Painting & Decorating	16
Conquest Cleaning	20	<b>STONEMASONS</b>	
Events-Travel	18	Yew Tree Stone	16
S.T Locksmiths	34	<b>VEHICLE SERVICE &amp; REPAIRS</b>	
Surelock Homes - Locksmith	28	Gem Auto	10
Telly Addicts	18		

Advertising rates (year/month):  
 Full page £220 / £20 ; Half Page £110 / £10 ; Quarter Page £55 / £5

**ALSO IN THIS EDITION:**

Bus Timetables	
Contacts for Village Groups and Room Hire	
Council Responsibilities & Contacts	
Emergency Contacts for Utilities	
Local Services	
Tide Times	

Front Cover: Courtesy of Karen Lowe

**Editors:** Donna Gilbert, 01424 812185; Louisa Tasker, 01424 902469; **Advertising:** Stella Dunn, 07947 402122; **Deliveries:** Sarah Adams, 01424 812323. The magazine is distributed by our team of volunteers to all households in Pett & Pett Level. All editions of the magazine are available for download from [pettnet.org.uk](http://pettnet.org.uk)

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**DEADLINES:**  
**COPY (LETTERS, ARTICLES, ETC) - MID-DAY THE 15<sup>TH</sup> OF EACH MONTH**  
 Adverts (new, changes, payments) - MID-DAY THE 1<sup>ST</sup> of each month

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# 500 CLUB

**PETT  
VILLAGE  
HALL**

**Draw Date: 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Inga Chapman**
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rosemary Osborn**
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Brian Blake**

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As January draws to a close, the days are beginning to get longer and there are signs of Spring showing itself throughout the village and on the level. For many of us at this time of year, our thoughts turn to gardening, which brings us neatly to a request! We would like to introduce a new gardening column to the magazine, along the lines of jobs for the month. If you're an expert on garden plants, what to prune, how and when, taking cuttings etc, would you be willing to write around 500 words for us each month? If this sounds like you, please do get in touch with one of us, either via the email address on page 3 of the magazine, or by telephone.

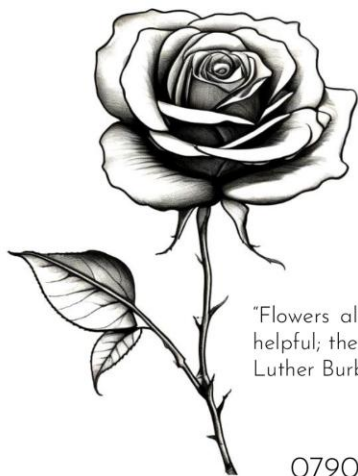
Enjoy the February issue and we'll see you again in March. Don't forget to keep those front cover photos coming in!

*Donna and Louisa*

Dear Editors,

Christmas seems ages ago already, however I wanted to say a massive thank you to the wonderful carol singers who sang beautifully around Pett. I would also like to thank everyone in the village for being so generous. We raised an incredible £200 for local charity, Surviving Christmas.

Thank you all, Becky



*Toby Sims*  
*Gardener*

"Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine for the soul."  
Luther Burbank

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SHOW & FAYRE**



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SHOW & FAYRE**



**PETT FLOWER  
SHOW & FAYRE**

## **PETT FLOWER SHOW AGM**

**Wednesday 5 March 2025**

**7.00 pm**

**AT PETT VILLAGE HALL**

**THE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE  
YOU,  
STALL HOLDERS, HELPERS AND NEW FACES  
TO ATTEND THE MEETING AND JOIN THEM FOR  
REFRESHMENTS AFTERWARDS.**

The 2025 Show will be on Saturday 26 July



**PETT FLOWER  
SHOW & FAYRE**



**PETT FLOWER  
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**PETT FLOWER  
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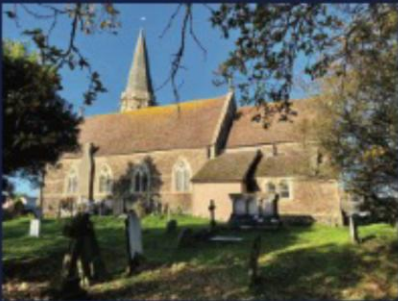
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Please come and join us at Pett Village Hall on the first Wednesday of every month.  
There is always a delicious selection of homemade cakes!



Our Library is free to join, we have over 200 books which are refreshed regularly.



Robert from East Sussex Hearing will be there for your NHS hearing aid needs and batteries.



The Jigsaw library has a large selection of puzzles to suit all tastes.

There is always a member of the Parish Council on hand should you wish to speak with them.  
500 Club Winners will be drawn during the morning.

All proceeds are donated to charity so please come and join us; we would love to see you!

### 2025 Gigs and events at The New Beach Club

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2025

7.30pm Paradise Duo

Friday January 24<sup>th</sup> 2025

Burns Night with Martin Ray

Sunday January 26<sup>th</sup> 2025

Amanda Simmonds, Motown, Soul and Rock & Pop

Sunday February 9<sup>th</sup> 2025

3.0pm Charlotte Hoy

Friday February 28<sup>th</sup> 2025

Race Night

Sunday March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025

3.0pm Entertaining Mr Stone

Saturday March 8<sup>th</sup> 2025

7.30pm Vexed

Sunday March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2025

3pm Helter Skelter

Sunday April 6<sup>th</sup> 2025

3pm Sound Syndicate

Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup> 2025

3pm 1066 Rockitmen

Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup> 2025

7.30pm It Takes Two

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Tuesday 8am – 1pm  
Wednesday 8am – 4pm  
Thursday 8am – 4pm  
Friday 8am – 5pm  
Saturday 8am – 4pm

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**Local references available**

## Pett Parish Council Update

I am pleased to report that, at a recent meeting with representatives of Rother District Council, it was agreed that the Pett Level toilets can be reopened for the summer. This can only happen if the parish council pays all the running costs. We made it clear that we want to manage the toilets day to day to reduce these costs. Hopefully the facility will be open as soon as we have an agreement in place with RDC.

At the council's meeting in January, the council's precept for the 2025-26 year was fixed. There has been an increase to cover the cost of running the toilets, but almost all the responses to the survey carried out before Christmas expressed a willingness to pay more to keep the toilets open. The new precept works out at £71.71 for the year, £1.38 per week for a band D property.

The recent speed surveys in Pett village indicated that traffic is not generally speeding, despite perceptions to the contrary. The cost of speed surveys in Pett Level would be almost £1000. The evidence threshold to justify measures is high and, even if speeding is identified, any reduction measures will have to be funded by the parish council as they will be a low priority to Highways. In light of other demands on the precept and in all the circumstances, it was unanimously agreed not to fund speeding surveys at Pett Level at present. In connection with traffic accidents and the toilets, there will be further investigations of the cause of water flowing across the road by the toilets; this freezes in cold weather. There have been a number of accidents there in recent years, the most recent early in January. Investigations seem to show that surface water is coming down the hill, but the drainage may be blocked. The council is working with others with the aim of reducing the risk to drivers.

At the council meeting our district and county councillors provided a summary of the government's devolution plans. More information can be obtained from the government's White Paper (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-devolution-white-paper-power-and-partnership-foundations-for-growth>). The leaders of East and West Sussex and Brighton and Hove have applied together to be one of the initial authorities for devolution; a response is awaited from the government.

While car drivers are delighted at the improvement in the road surface between Pett Level and Winchelsea Beach, there is still serious flooding near the lay-by about half way along. This will be drawn to the attention of Highways. Similarly, blockages have been identified at the bottom of Chick Hill and it is hoped that action can be taken on these.

A presentation by Energise about demystifying solar panels and heat pumps is being arranged for March. This will be open to all. Please note that this will not be a sales presentation. For more information and confirmation, see Pettnet.

East Sussex County Council is currently undertaking a review of its Rights of Way Access Plan, which will set out how the council can make sure the rights of way network meet the needs of the public, both now and in the future. To better understand resident needs and your views on the state of the rights of way in this area, you are invited to complete a short public survey at <https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/economy-transport-environment/rights-of-way-access-plan/>. The closing date is 14 March. More details will be given in the March magazine and on Pettnet and the relevant village social media pages.

Finally, I have, sadly, to report the death of Ian Andrews, after a fight against cancer. Ian was known to many in the village and, until his illness, was active in the gardening club. Our sympathy goes to his wife, Sandy, and to the rest of his family.

David Penfold, Chair, Pett Parish Council



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## National Trust Rye & District Association | Monthly Flyer

We offer a range of enjoyable events each month to members and non-members of our association. Walks September-June | Talks October-May  
 Our 5 mile circular walks cost £3 and begin at 10.00am. All walks end with a rewarding pub lunch and a quiz. Our talks with popular guest speakers cover a range of topics and are held from 2.00pm at Brede Village Hall, and cost £5 for members/£10 for non-members – including refreshments.



### Linear Walk & Pub Lunch | The Royal, St Leonards Tuesday 11 February



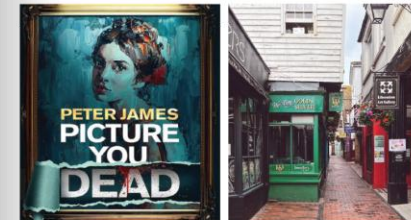
Breaking from tradition we will do a linear walk from **Cooden Beach to St Leonards** and taking in various sights along the way including the impressive De La Warr Pavilion at Bexhill. Our lunch stop is **The Royal** opposite Warrior Square Railway Station. It's a low key gastro pub with James Hickson at the helm who has an impressive London hostelry track record.

### Talk | The History of Smallhythe Place Thursday 20 February



Susannah Mayor, the Collections and House Manager, will talk about the history of **Smallhythe Place**, a half-timbered house built in late 15th or early 16th century and since 1947 has been cared for by the National Trust. It was home to the Victorian actress Ellen Terry from 1899 until her death in 1928. The theatre is still in use today.

### Theatre Trip | *Picture You Dead* Thursday 6 March



A trip to the **Theatre Royal, Brighton**, for the world premiere of Peter James's *Picture You Dead*. We will arrive in time to browse the Lanes area, with time to see the hidden squares eclectic shops and enjoy a bite to eat. We have excellent seats for this matinee performance. Cost includes the theatre ticket and almost door-to-door transport at £89.00 per person.

**SOME FUTURE EVENTS TO ADD TO YOUR DIARY:** **Spring Lunch:** Flackley Ash Hotel on Saturday 12th April | **Outing:** Parham House & Gardens on Thursday 22nd May.

**Contact:** Dee Williams (membership) 07760 115413 [membershipryenationaltrust@gmail.com](mailto:membershipryenationaltrust@gmail.com)  
 Julie Etches (bookings) 01797 225317 [julie.etches054@btinternet.com](mailto:julie.etches054@btinternet.com)



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*Sarah Bragoli*

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## News from St Michael's Hospice

### Choose to support St Michael's Hospice in 2025

There are so many simple ways that you can get involved to help St Michael's Hospice raise the funds they need to provide their vital care. Getting involved is easier than you may think, and there's something for everyone:

**Take part in their events.** The Hospice hosts a variety of events throughout the year, from sponsored walks to seasonal family fun days. Whatever your interests, there's a chance to have fun and raise funds for the Hospice.

**Join the Hospice Lottery.** For just £1 a week, you could be in with a chance of winning a weekly top prize of £2,000—plus 57 other cash prizes! It's a fun way to support their work and maybe even treat yourself if you win.

**Volunteer your time.** If you've got some time to spare, want to give back to your community or want to connect with others, you could volunteer at the Hospice. They offer a range of volunteering opportunities, from helping in their shops to supporting events, or assisting behind the scenes. Whatever your availability or talents, you'll make a real difference.

**Shop with us.** Need a new coat, jumper or hat this winter? Why not visit a St Michael's Hospice shop, or visit their eBay store at [stmichaelsospice.com/retail](http://stmichaelsospice.com/retail) Every purchase helps the Hospice support the community, whilst promoting sustainable shopping. You can also donate good quality items to their donation centre. Call 01425 728728 to book.

**Leave a gift in your Will.** Thinking about your legacy? Even leaving just 1% to St Michael's Hospice while keeping 99% for your loved ones can make a huge difference. One in three patients' care is funded through gifts in Wills, making it a powerful way to leave a lasting impact.

Your support, big or small, is vital in helping St Michael's Hospice support and enable the community of Hastings and Rother live well with dying, death and loss. To find out more about how you can get involved, visit [stmichaelsospice.com/support-us](http://stmichaelsospice.com/support-us) or call 01424 456296.

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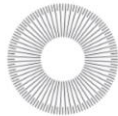


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Saturday 26th July 2025

## Fun at the Fayre

The Flower Show Committee have chosen the theme for 2025.

The Committee's next task is planning the schedule to fit the chosen theme. Our Judges and Stewards are happy to continue this year and will be putting forward ideas to fit the theme in the classes. 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.

We are very thankful to have received donations made in memory of Arthur Farnes. It is yet to be decided how best to mark his contribution to the show with a lasting tribute.

**Pett & District Horticultural Society (P&DHS) AGM will be held in the Catherine Hollman Room at Pett Village Hall on Wednesday 5 March 2025 at 19.00 hours. There is plenty to report following the 2024 Show, which was a financial success. We have received requests for donations, which we shall announce at the meeting.**

**All are welcome to attend and enjoy refreshments following the meeting.**  
Philippa M. Strickland  
Chairman P&DHS



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## Bidding Farewell to Revd. Jonathan Meyer

Jonathan Meyer, who is the Priest in charge of our parish of Pett, turns 70 at the beginning of February and has decided to retire after his birthday. Before he was ordained, he was an auctioneer at one of the famous auction-houses in London.

Writing a farewell tribute to him is a bit like writing an obituary but the difference is that we all wish him and his wife, Shirley well in their retirement, that they may find peace and joy and freedom from clock-watching and from over-talkative and self-opinionated parishioners (I include myself in this category!)

You may know already that this parish was in a united Benefice with Guestling for about ten years and eventually that became quite a happy and cooperative marriage. We both then were joined by Fairlight which was not really a success. After quite a long time Fairlight and Guestling joined Westfield and we joined Icklesham and Winchelsea, which meant that Jonathan Meyer took over as Priest in charge of Pett. We will formally become a united Benefice within the next couple of years. During the vacancy, services will continue in all three parishes led by retired and visiting priests.

Very few parishes nowadays have a priest of their own and quite a few have to share with more than two other parishes. For Jonathan, having to look after three parishes has resulted in a great deal of work for him: for example, conducting services on a Sunday at two and sometimes three churches.

Jonathan has also been Rural Dean for the last few years. This means that he has led our Rye Deanery (16 parishes) and within that he has supported the clergy in the Deanery, both informally and by organizing Chapter meetings for the Deanery clergy.

What I will remember most about Jonathan is that he preached sermons which were audible, enthusiastic, interesting, informative and very supportive of faith in and love of God. However much he may have prepared what he was going to say, he always appeared to speak sincerely and conversationally rather than reading his sermons in a formal and stilted way. In my particular case, and those who know me best will find it remarkable, I never once dozed during his sermons nor felt any desire to do so.

The other memorable aspect of his ministry in this parish is that we felt he cared about us. This was not something we have experienced since the days of having a priest of our own.

In my working life I knew quite a few people who had passed the time when they ought to have retired and hadn't done so. It is very different in the case of Jonathan Meyer. We are all sad that he is leaving us!

I often misquote Tennyson's *The Brook* and so here it is again:  
*Priests may come and priests may go  
But God goes on forever.*

Angela Hawksley  
Hon. Secretary, Pett Parochial Church Council

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## LOVE IT OR LOSE IT

2025 is promising to be a challenging year for Pett Churches. We start the repair and renovation of St Mary & St Peter Church in April, just after Easter (to avoid scaffolding during a wedding service). The Quinquennial (five-yearly) Inspection of the fabric of the buildings will have taken place in January so goodness knows what that will discover, but it is hoped that anything urgent will be done simultaneously with the renovation.

Church supporters have not been entirely selfish during the fundraising appeal. £200 was collected for Surviving at Christmas by Carol Singing around the village. Unfortunately, one planned evening had to be cancelled because of bad weather. The Disco held last Spring raised over £1,200 for the Churches, as well as similar amounts for Cancer Research and the Pett Level Preservation Trust. Another Disco supporting these causes will be held this March - see the back page of this issue for details. We are also extremely grateful to Robin and Kevin at the Royal Oak for raising funds for the Church at the fortnightly Wednesday Quizzes from September 2024 until July 2025.

Thanks to local people taking an interest in the Churches, the number of 'new' Friends making regular donations has increased, but many 'old' Friends have dropped by the wayside. **Please** consider becoming a Friend of Pett Churches. If you do agree that both Churches are an integral part of Pett and Pett Level please contact me, The Treasurer, 2 Brambletye, Pett Road, Pett, TN35 4HE, 07977 100 296 or [pettchurchestreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:pettchurchestreasurer@gmail.com). If you wish to pay by cheque, it should be made out to St Mary & St Peter Church. Any contribution is welcome, but we are hoping that your subscription could be least at £15 per person, or £20 for a couple, or £25 for a family, per year, OR you might like to make a smaller, but regular, monthly contribution by standing order. Don't forget also that Gift Aid is a great way of increasing your donation, if you are eligible.

If paying by bank transfer or standing order the account is: St Mary & St Peter Church: Sort Code: 30-96-26 Account No: 54871860.

By the time you read this our Rector, Jonathan Meyer, will have retired from looking after Winchelsea, Pett and Icklesham Churches for the past three or so years. We wish him a long and happy retirement. There will then be an interregnum period whilst waiting for new clergy to be appointed. Services will continue and will be advertised in the Village News and on Facebook.

Heather Godwin  
 Church Treasurer



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## Memories of Pett: Keith Cowper



Many of you who grew up in Pett may remember Keith Cowper. Keith has lived away from the village since his twenties but has kept in touch with friends and relatives ever since. He has very kindly shared many of his earliest memories with me for The ARC and has allowed us to publish some of these.

Keith was born in the village in 'The Jacques' in 1941. The house had been built a few years before in 1938 (at a cost of £800) by Keith's grandfather, Leonard Cooke, and so a 'new build' of the time. Sadly, shortly after Keith was born, his father - Lawrence Payne Cowper (Dick) - died, and so for the first seven years of his life Keith lived at The Jacques with his mother, Eileen, and grandparents, Len and Mabel Cooke. Eventually his mother remarried and they moved to Ocean Deep, a bungalow on the banks of the canal in Pett Level.

During the war, two RAF radar stations were situated in the field opposite 'The Jacques', and several units of Canadians were stationed on Pett Level (which at that time was sealed off at Chick Hill and required an army permit to visit the Level). Keith recalls that 'The Jacques' became an open house for Canadians and others to come to parties, listen to gramophone records, play the piano and otherwise relax with the locals. So, by all accounts Keith's early years involved much sleep deprivation!



*Dormer Cottage, Pett Road*

Although very young, Keith remembers going to the fields where his mum worked alongside other Land Army women. They mainly worked on Les Crisford's farm down Pannel Lane, and the ladies used to wait outside the Rectory gates till Dick Crisford came in his van

and took them down to the fields. Keith remembers some of the Land Army ladies, and in particular Mabel Glazier, Mrs Adams, Mrs Turner and Ivy Butler. Whilst working in the fields on one occasion, his mother threw herself on top of young Keith to avoid machine-gun strafing from a German fighter plane!

Continued from page 23



Keith was one of the last generation to attend Pett School as, shortly after his time there, the school closed. This picture (left) of the top of Chick Hill was his view when he walked home from school. The gate on the right led to Hundreds Guest House which was run by a Mrs Bruder. Pett school usually started a bit later than other schools (mid-September) to allow for parents to

continue hop-picking work locally. The school had two classrooms, the 'Big' room and the 'Little' room. Mrs Watson oversaw the young children while, as Keith puts it, Mrs Desmond 'commanded' the Big Room!

Keith tells us, "There was a large gravel playground, a toilet block and two air raid shelters which the girls used to make into playhouses. The boys mainly played football or chased round these basic toilets. On May 1<sup>st</sup> it was 'Pinch Bum Day', and May 2<sup>nd</sup> was 'stinging nettle day', so you can imagine what went on when those days came around! All the children had school dinners which would arrive at the Old Village Hall daily in a van. At the appointed time we would all crocodile up the road to the Hall. The lunch was dished out by Mrs Butler and her team and we all sat at the trestle tables and had lunch, which was not always that appetising!"

One of Keith's memories from that time was when the East Sussex Hunt came through the village in full cry. One of the riders made his horse jump over the school fence, raced across the playground and jumped into the field beyond!

There was also the time when the road opposite the school was being widened and huge JCBs moved all the earth away. Keith remembers, "We would spend whole playtimes just watching them. Later on, an ice cream van used to stop outside, and we were allowed to buy small orange lollies if we had the money."

Continued on page 25

Continued from page 24

"I was at Pett School when George VI died. I remember Mrs Watson coming into the classroom and giving us the sad news".

Keith's grandparents, Mabel and Len Cooke, who were born in the last decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century attended the school, as did most local children. His grandmother used to tell him they used to take their lunch to a place called Floating Island behind the church. They would swing in the branches of the oak trees there and eat their bread and cheese before going back for lessons!

Keith's family on his mother's side (the Cooke's) go back a long way in the area. His great grandfather, Joseph Davis Cooke farmed at Gatehurst for some years until he sold up in the 1930's. (Incidentally, we at The Arc hold copies of the details of the sale of Gatehurst Farm from a former era when it was sold in September 1852 as part of the estate of Mr John Thorpe. Thanks to Keith for providing these). To the right, and on page 24, is a picture of Joseph Cooke.

Keith's other great grandfather, Charles, lived at the Old Coastguard Cottages and was a sheep farmer, but also for a time the landlord of the Old Ship Inn (pictured below). The inn was



Continued on page 26



Continued from page 25

situated right on the shoreline and was later washed away in a series of storms during the 1930's. Charles's wife, Eliza (Wickes) had been born and had lived in one of the Martello Towers along the shoreline. Keith tells me that Gracie Fields and Dame Nellie Melba, the Australian opera singer, both sang at the Inn so quite a claim to fame!



With his father gone, Keith still had Lawrence's parents, Sarah (Sally) Cowper and Lawrence (Joe) who lived in Dormer Cottage next to the Village Shop, just along from the Church. Keith used to spend a lot of time with them and in later years, when his grandfather had passed away, Keith often helped his grandmother by drawing water up from her well which was immediately next to the property. From the picture on page 23, you can see a front view of Dormer Cottages (with an unknown gentleman standing at the gate), and, pictured above, an aerial view of the cottage from the church steeple, taken during renovation in 1911. Keith has helpfully marked for us the location of the well with a white line pointing downwards. In this picture the property in the foreground still stands and is the upholsterers, and the farthest cottage is Nine Acres which also still stands. The middle cottage was 1 & 2 Dormers Cottages (formerly known as Lilies and Myrtle Cottage). Keith's grandparents lived in Lilies (nearest the well), and the neighbour's name was Parker. The cottage was demolished in the late sixties and was located roughly where the front gardens of Swallows Chase, Dormers and Meadow Heights now stand.

We have many more memories to share from Keith, and also additional material from various other members of the community who I have been privileged to interview in recent months. These interviews will continue to make sure that we capture memories and are able to keep these safely for the future, and to share these with the community as a whole, whilst always respecting the rights of the people who have generously shared these memories with us.

By Paul Petley

If you've got a story about the local area that you'd like to share with the ARC, please do get in touch. We can be contacted by:

Calling in on us at the Methodist Chapel (we're there Thursday afternoons from 2pm - we usually hang a sign on the gatepost to announce that we are open).

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## Pett Allotments

Many of you will be aware that the allotments in the village will be closing in June 2025, on the expiration of the lease. Pett Village Allotments have been running for 15 years and in that time many plotters have passed through its gates! The allotments have brought great pleasure to many in the village and have often been a source of produce for the annual flower show.

On behalf of the Allotment Committee, I would like to extend my thanks to Mr and Mrs Pardii for making the land available to develop the plots, and to Pett Parish Council for supporting the project and assisting with finance and essential maintenance. Also a big thanks to all the plotters, both past and present, who have made the site a productive and welcoming place to be. Thanks also to past and present committee members who have given their time to ensure the smooth running of the plots and, importantly, organising the annual BBQ!

Martin Richardson  
Chair  
Pett Village Allotment Association.

## CHURCH SERVICES - FEBRUARY 2025

### SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY

WINCHELSEA 11.00am Parish Communion - Revd Jonathan Meyer's final service

### SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY

ICKLESHAM 9.30am Parish Communion - Revd David Page

WINCHELSEA 11.00am Parish Communion - Revd David Page

### SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY

PETT 9.30am Parish Communion - Revd Kay Burnett

WINCHELSEA 11.00am Parish Communion - The Ven Martin Lloyd-Williams

### SUNDAY 23 FEBRUARY

ICKLESHAM 9.30am Parish Communion - Rev David Page

WINCHELSEA 11.00am Parish Communion - Rev David Page

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# *La Cucina di Angela*

## **Frittelle with Ricotta cheese (fries with ricotta cheese)**

The frittella (plural: Frittelle) is a kind of Italian fried doughnut made from dough. Originated around the town of Trieste and Venice (where the famous writer Carlo Goldoni created the character or the Harlequin mask, symbol of the Venice carnival). The frittella was born around the second half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century a group of people created the association of "Frittolari". These people were the only ones allowed to have a shop where to fry food. In the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, this kind of dough was elected the national sweet of the "Serenissima Republic". During the period of the Carnival (end of January to mid-February) the whole of Italy prepare the frittelle in hundreds of ways to symbolise the different regions.  
 (For five to six people)

- 200g "00" flour
- 30g (more or less) extra virgin olive oil
- 10g salt
- 200g ricotta cheese
- 50-60g honey
- 50g raisins
- Icing sugar
- Cinnamon powder
- Sunflower oil for frying
- 

In a bowl mix the honey, raisins, and ricotta cheese, creating a thick paste. In a second bowl mix the flour, extra virgin olive oil, salt, and some water (enough to obtain a soft dough). Knead the dough and roll out with a rolling pin until it is about 5mm thick.

Create some disks with a pastry cutter (5 to 7cm, about the size of mince pies), in the centre of which you will add some of the ricotta paste, then cover with another circle of dough which you will pinch all around to close the edge.

Fry each of the frittella in boiling sunflower oil until they are crunchy and golden. Drain the frittelle on absorbing paper and serve them very hot, dusted with icing sugar and cinnamon.

*Buon Appetito.*

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## Gardening Club Notes - January 2025

Happy New Year! The year began with a very enjoyable talk from Miles Hayward of Miles' Japanese Acers, Storrington, West Sussex. Several members have acers in their gardens and were keen to gain a greater understanding of how to get the best from them. Miles studied botany at university, then working for nurseries and as a private gardener and designer, gaining wide ranging expertise over the years. He often recommended Japanese acers to clients, gradually realising that they were largely imported, often from vast European businesses, which limited the choice of variety. He was also feeling he would prefer to run his own business to his own standards, rather than work for others. He began his fledgling acer nursery in his own garden in 2016, both growing from seed and grafting to produce quality UK grown trees and is now a regular contributor at the Chelsea Flower Show.

Miles took us in an engaging and entertaining way through all aspects of acers, dispelling many of the myths about their care, planting, pruning, watering, soil types, position relative to sun and light, etc., generally helping us all to feel more confident about how best to care for these pretty trees. We were able to enjoy that rare benefit of talking directly with the grower and have our specific queries answered so expertly.

Miles has grown his business over the years, still using his own garden, but has expanded into his Mum's Garden, as well as recently renting some land from a local nursery. Through trial and error, he has discovered the best pots and potting compost, plant food, pruning techniques, etc. and is more than willing to pass on all he's learned to all gardeners. Afterwards we were able to buy from a selection of trees and ferns, which Miles also now grows - quality plants at reasonable prices. It was so worthwhile for us all to be able to buy direct from the grower rather than from a supermarket! Miles had earlier explained that the future in general for cultivated plants is set to be difficult. New plant import laws since Brexit make it both more difficult and expensive for nurseries to buy from abroad, with many restrictions also now in place due to plant diseases, so having access to quality homegrown plants will become even more important in future.

Sadly, we have lost one of our members, Ian Andrews, who died recently. Ian, along with his wife Sandy, was a staunch member of the club since they moved to Pett in 2008, and a valuable committee member for several years.

Our next meeting, on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February, will be a talk from Laura Brady on the Wonky Parsnip vegetable industry and Unusual Vegetables.

June Harris



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## Nature Notes

On the face of it, pollination is a simple process - flower attracts bee, bee pollinates flower, plant dispenses with flower and bees and concentrates its energy into producing viable seeds. There are, of course, many nuances to the process. First of all, many flowers are capable of self-pollination, though they take steps to avoid it. Self-pollination means that there is no genetic variation involved which, in the long term may make the plant species vulnerable to extinction. They avoid it by such tricks as making the incoming bee reach the female part of the plant first where it deposits pollen from the previous plant, and then plastering the bee with its own pollen for the next plant. Other plants, like the Red Campion, are dioecious which means that the male and female organs are on different plants making absolutely certain that the pollen comes from another plant. Holly is another good example - if you want berries on your holly, you need to plant a female flowered individual, otherwise you will get a plant with male flowers and consequently no berries.



Another nuance of the pollination process is the close relationship between plant species and pollinator species. Foxgloves attract a particular species of bumblebee, the Garden Bumblebee which has a particularly long tongue which corresponds to the long nectar tube of the Foxglove. (Many of you will be familiar with the tale of Darwin's orchid with the 12-inch nectar tube and his prediction of the existence of a moth with a similar length tongue.) In evolutionary terms, if a plant evolves to attract and be pollinated by only one species, then however efficient that pollinator is, if either plant or pollinator goes extinct then so does the other, unless they can adapt to a different pollinator partner.

Though bees are the first thing people think of when pollination is mentioned, there are a vast range of different species and types of animal that can pollinate plants - bees, hoverflies, beetles, wasps, bats, and there is even a lizard in South Africa that pollinates plants. (Not forgetting wind that pollinates many grasses and trees.) Here in Australia, there is a large group of bird species called honeyeaters that pollinate many species of plant, including those archetypal Australian species bottle brush, grevilleas and banksias. I did photograph one of the honeyeater species today - the Red Wattle-bird - but it's not a good photograph, so the photo above is the more familiar Laughing Kookaburra. (The only kingfisher that doesn't eat fish - it eats mostly lizards.)

By Alan Kenworthy



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**Pett WI**

Our December meeting was a chance to chat with members and discuss possible choices for our 2025 charities. The short list will be voted on at our January meeting. Prosecco and mince pies were served at the break and followed by a Christmas quiz devised by Tracy Hedley which was won by the Committee team! A great evening as usual!

I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you the details of Pett WI charitable enterprises. Each year we choose two new local charities to support. In 2024 we supported The Grumpy Cook and Rye Sailability. Our main fund raising events, the Spring and Winter Fair proceeds go to these, and the proceeds from the refreshments at Pett Flower Show. Alongside these events we have also supported Rye Food Bank, Safehaven and Seaview charities for several years.

Rye Food Bank aims to provide recipients who come to them from recommended organisations with breakfast, lunch and evening meal for 3 days for each family member. We have a long list of collection points in Pett, Fairlight and Icklesham. A team of ladies collect from the collection points, generally once per month, and deliver around 450 items each month to Rye Food Bank at the Baptist Church. Items required include tinned and packet food that must be in date, tea, coffee, breakfast cereals and snacks. Toiletries and sanitary products are always welcome too. Pett WI is proud to be the top non-store contributor to the Food Bank. We also donate cash so fresh food can be bought as well.

We would love a lot more people to support the Food Bank with either cash donations, which can be done via their website, or food donations. If you belong to a group perhaps you could request members to bring an item or two to a meeting each month and put them in our collection points.

Collection points are as follows:

- Icklesham - Village Hall
- Pett - Village Hall, The Butchers Shop, Methodist Chapel and 1, Arthur's Close
- Pett Level - New Beach Club
- Fairlight- Waites Lane (corner of Farley Way), Village Hall, Hairbase hairdressers, Wakehams Farm Shop

It would be amazing if we could increase our donations, so next time you shop please think about contributing to one of our collection points.

Thank you in anticipation.

I wish everyone a Very Happy New Year

Sally Watson  
President

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- Probate assistance

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[lyn@lyncookeassociates.com](mailto:lyn@lyncookeassociates.com)

Lyn Cooke Associates, Hedgerows,  
72 Lower Waites Lane, Fairlight,  
East Sussex, TN35 4DD



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We're a small, friendly, informal group which meets every 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 [donna@ilbert1@sky.com](mailto:donna@ilbert1@sky.com) or Tel: 01424 812185.

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



## 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  
Lindy Hop (Intermediate) 7.45pm  
Lindy Hop (Beginners) 8.45pm

**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)

For bookings of the hall please contact Clare at [clare@pettvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:clare@pettvillagehall@gmail.com) Telephone 07718 518053.

Doctor's appointments can only be made by contacting The Hill Surgery direct.

## Defibrillation Training

Pett Village Hall will be running Defibrillation Training free of charge on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2025 at 11.00am. This session is open to all residents but if you would like to attend, please register your interest by emailing Clare at [clare.pettvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:clare.pettvillagehall@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

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**FEBRUARY 2025**

**RYE (HARBOUR)**




Date	ORDNANCE DATUM (NEWLYN)			
	High Water			
	Morning		Afternoon	
	Time	m	Time	m
1 SA	00 36	4.0	12 54	3.6
2 SU	01 14	4.0	13 34	3.6
3 M	01 55	4.0	14 14	3.5
4 TU	02 38	3.8	14 59	3.1
5 W ☽	03 25	3.4	15 52	2.8
6 TH	04 19	2.9	16 57	2.3
7 F	05 31	2.4	18 27	2.0
8 SA	07 08	2.2	20 01	2.0
9 SU	08 41	2.4	21 18	2.4
10 M	09 52	2.6	22 14	2.9
11 TU	10 44	3.0	22 58	3.3
12 W ☽	11 26	3.3	23 36	3.5
13 TH			12 01	3.4
14 F	00 11	3.6	12 31	3.4
15 SA	00 44	3.6	13 00	3.3
16 SU	01 14	3.5	13 28	3.1
17 M	01 40	3.5	13 52	3.0
18 TU	02 01	3.3	14 12	2.9
19 W	02 23	3.0	14 36	2.5
20 TH ☽	02 54	2.6	15 10	2.3
21 F	03 36	2.3	16 01	1.8
22 SA	04 54	1.8	18 19	1.5
23 SU	06 52	1.7	19 39	1.8
24 M	08 06	2.0	20 41	2.3
25 TU	09 04	2.5	21 31	2.8
26 W	09 53	3.0	22 16	3.3
27 TH	10 38	3.5	22 58	3.6
28 F ●	11 19	3.8	23 38	4.0

Time Zone UT (GMT)

ADD 1 HOUR BETWEEN 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH & 26<sup>TH</sup> 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
<b>PETT PARISH COUNCIL (PPC)</b>	
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.	
	
<b>COUNCILLORS</b>	
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
<b>PARISH CLERK</b>	
Mary Philo	01797 270790 clerk@pettnet.org.uk Island Cottage, Swan Street, Wittersham, Kent, TN30 7PH
<b>TREE WARDEN</b>	
Marcus Foster	07812 024070 mail@marcus-foster.com
<b>FLOOD WARDEN</b>	
Alan Crouch	01424 813145 cllr.alan.crouch@pettnet.org.uk
<b>ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL (RDC)</b>	
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
	
<b>EAST SUSSEX COUNCIL (ESCC)</b>	
www.eastsussexhighways.com/report-a-problem	
0345 6080190; www.eastsussex.gov.uk	
Councillor Keith Glazier	07957 377844 cllr.keith.glazier@eastsussex.gov.uk
	
<b>THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA)</b>	
03708 506 506	
	

VILLAGE CONTACTS			
ARC	Paul Petley	07818 014610	archiveresourcecentre@outlook.com
Badminton	Wendy Petley	07813 633013	ttbadpett@outlook.com
Bowls Club	Mary Saint	813047	mary@saintfamily.net
British Legion	Brian Green	812450	toffee35@gotadsl.co.uk
Cricket Club	Andrew Dunlop	813368	
Dance Fitness	Laura Mitchell	07527 105352	lauramitchell6@sky.com
Flower Show	Philippa Strickland	814384	pstrickl@icloud.com
Gardening Club	Bob Harris	815151	bob.june@btopenworld.com
Guardians of Pett Churchyard	Mike Wilkins	07710 080148	
Pett Churches - Friends	Rev Jonathan Meyer	01797226254	
	Heather Godwin	07977 100296	
Pett Level Preservation Trust	Theresa Noutch	814370	theresanoutch@aol.com
Pilates	Belinda Weber		belinda.weber9@gmail.com
Fitness Pilates	Susan Trimmer		susantrimmerfitness@gmail.com
Pole Dancing	Jane Baldwin	07403 256148	jane@mrzen.co.uk
PVH Committee			pettvillagehall.co.uk
Seaside Stitchers	Donna Gilbert	812185	donnagilbert1@sky.com
Short Mat Bowls	Brenda Kirkham	07444 008034	beekirkham@btinternet.com
Stoolball	Janet Fuller	01303 873227	
Table Tennis	Alan Kenworthy	07835 112566	ttbadpett@outlook.com
Tennis Club	Stuart Ware	07971 662068	petttennisclub@gmail.com
Activate Youth Club	Wendy Hatch	812297	familyhatch1@gmail.com
Village Voices	Wendy Hatch	812297	familyhatch1@gmail.com
WI	WI Secretary		Pettwi1917@gmail.com
Yoga Class	Robin Hutt	813182	robinhutt@btinternet.com
<b>ROOMS FOR HIRE</b>			
Methodist Chapel	Wendy Hatch	812297	familyhatch1@gmail.com
Sports Pavilion	Stuart Ware	07971 662068	sjw@meadowshed.co.uk
Village Hall	Clare Walker	07718 518053	clare.pettvillagehall@gmail.com
New Beach Club		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

**Pett • Guestling • Ore • Hastings**

**347**

**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	1559	0840 1416
Milward Road Manor Road	0845	0845	1030	1235	1420	1600	1600	0845 0952 1157 1420 1522
Hastings Queens Road	▼	▼	1035	1240	1425	1605	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		Then	56	1756	1856	2154		NR	NR	NR	NR
Rye Rail Station Stand A	0654	0748	0756	0856	every	07	1807	1907	2205		1034	1234	1434	1634
Winchelsea Beach Caravan Park	0704	0759	0807	0907	hour	11	1811	1911	2209		1045	1245	1445	1645
Pett Level Canal Bank	0708	0803	0811	0911	at	17	1817	1917	2215		1049	1249	1449	1649
Fairlight Cove Commanders Walk	0714	0809	0817	0917	these	23	1823	1923	2221		1055	1255	1455	1655
Fairlight Coastguard Lane	0720	0815	0823	0923	times	28	1828	1928	2226		1101	1301	1501	1701
Ore Co Op	0725	GG	0828	0928	arrive	43	1843	1943	2241		1106	1306	1506	1706
Hastings Railway Station	0740	0852	0843	0943		43	1843	1943	2241		1123	1323	1523	1723
Bohemia Road Fire Station	-	-	-	-		-	-	1947	-		1128	1328	1528	1728
Silverhill Filling Station*	-	-	-	-		-	-	1951	-		1132	1332	1532	1732
Harrow Lane Ashdown House	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-		1137	1337	1537	1737
Conquest Hospital	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-		1142	1342	1542	1742

**Notes** MF Journey runs Mondays to Fridays only  
Sch Journey runs schooldays only  
SSH Journey runs on Saturdays and school holidays only

\* Buses terminating at Silverhill stop in Chatham Road  
GG Serves Guestling Green School at 0830 and Ore Post Office at 0838.

**Mondays to Saturdays** except public holidays

**Sundays** and public holidays

Conquest Hospital						2045					1045	1245	1445	1645
Harrow Lane Ashdown House						2051					1049	1249	1449	1649
Silverhill London Road						2057					1056	1256	1456	1656
Bohemia Road Fire Station						2101					0900	1100	1300	1500
Hastings Railway Stn stop F						2101					0910	1110	1310	1510
Ore Co Op	0711	0802	0902	1004	every	04	1804	1905	2106		0923	1123	1323	1523
Fairlight Coastguard Lane	0715	0806	0906	1008	hour	08	1808	1909	2120		0927	1127	1327	1527
Fairlight Cove Commanders Walk	0721	0812	0912	1014	at	14	1814	1915	2126		0933	1133	1333	1533
Pett Level Canal Bank	0727	0818	0918	1020	these	20	1820	1921	2132		0939	1139	1339	1539
Winchelsea Beach Caravan Park	0731	0822	0922	1024	times	24	1824	1925	2136		0945	1145	1345	1545
Rye Rail Station	0743	0834	0934	1036		36	1836	1937	2148		0957	1157	1357	1557

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

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

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

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



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Saturday 22nd March 2025  
Contact - [jo@felton-gardens.com](mailto:jo@felton-gardens.com)  
Raising funds for  
Cancer Research, Pett Level Preservation Trust and Pett Church

**DISCO VOLUME 3**



# Pett & Pett Level News February 2025