



**Pett & Pett Level News
September 2025**

Pett and Pett Level News



September 2025

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EMAIL US AT magazine@pettnet.org.uk

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COPY (LETTERS, ARTICLES, ETC) - MID-DAY THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH

Adverts (new, changes, payments) - MID-DAY THE 1ST of each month

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

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We have another packed issue for you this month. We have the second instalment of our article on the Pett Level flooding, again with a response from Future Landscape Trust. This is very detailed information which we hope you're finding interesting; we're curious to hear the views of Pett Level residents, so please do get in touch.

Next month sees the introduction of a new series of articles written by Sylvia Bennett, entitled 'The Happy Home'. Sylvia has recently moved to Pett Level from Rye and introduces herself on p39. We would like to welcome Sylvia and we look forward to some fascinating features which are a little different for us!

Thanks to everyone who sent in photos for our front covers. We have these on file and hope to use some of them in the future. Please continue to send them in.

Finally, we are still looking for people to join our delivery team. If you'd like to help, please get in touch by calling one of the team (see page 3), or emailing us at magazine@pettnet.org.uk

Donna and Louisa

In Memory of Ian Nunn

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the sudden passing of **Ian Nunn**, our much-respected friend at the Environment Agency. Many will remember Ian from our open meetings, where he spoke with clarity and care, and from seeing his fantastic team in action during high-water events.

His dedication has left a lasting legacy for Pett Level residents which will continue to protect and support our community:

- Establishing our own flood risk alert zone
- Training and supporting a local flood warden team
- Maintaining direct communication during high-water times
- Securing sandbags and flood defences for rapid use
- Creating a pumps plan and training residents in its deployment

Ian's own words capture his spirit best:

"[My] passion and commitment is to significantly reduce the risk of flooding and its impact to people, property and infrastructure by balancing the need to build the new with the need to maintain the existing. No matter how small the budget or great the potential constraints, there is always a way forward through vision, dedication and hard work."

With gratitude and remembrance - Marsham Brook Residents Association

Dear Editors,

I'm writing on behalf of Hastings and Rother Samaritans to express our heartfelt thanks to the Royal Oak, and everyone who takes part in their fantastic fortnightly pub quiz, for recently choosing our branch as their charity to support for the upcoming year.

It means so much to us to have the backing of a community-minded local business—and the generosity of its patrons. We are a volunteer-led local charity providing free, confidential emotional support to anyone who is struggling to cope. While we are part of the national Samaritans network, our branch operates as a completely independent charity and so we are responsible for raising 100% of our own funding—around £13,000 per year to keep our branch running.

We have around 80 trained volunteers who not only respond to calls and emails as part of the 24/7 Samaritans service, but also engage in vital outreach across Hastings and Rother. This includes working in schools, supporting staff at the Conquest Hospital, being present at local events such as Hastings Pride, and visiting railway stations following incidents—quietly offering support in some of the hardest moments of people's lives.

On 23 September of this year, Hastings will be honoured to host the Baton of Hope, the UK's biggest suicide prevention initiative. This national event is designed to open up honest conversations about suicide and mental health, and we're proud to be among the local organisations helping raise awareness during its visit.

The funds raised through the Royal Oak's quiz night will help us continue to be there for anyone who needs someone to talk to—day or night. We're so grateful to Robin and his team at the pub and to all the quiz-goers who chose us and will give so generously.

Best wishes
Jan Tomalin

Dear Editors

I was very surprised to read in the August edition (page 35, Pett WI) that Heather Godwin had stepped down from the WI 'largely due to ill health'. I think this also came as a surprise to Heather! Whilst Heather isn't contemplating running a half marathon any time soon, she remains as energetic as possible, and is thoroughly involved in a number of projects, both professional and voluntary.

This is especially so in her role as Treasurer to Pett's Parochial Church Council. Heather's energy and determination to source potential new fundraising grants, and her work on the project team for the current building works, is witness to her massive 'can-do' attitude. I can honestly say that without Heather's input, the church would not have achieved half of what it has achieved to get the building works started.

Long may Heather have the energy and enthusiasm to get things done in this village!

Yours

John Case



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PLIRB News - September 2025

Summer is approaching its conclusion for the year - how fast did that go! As always, our calendar has been packed with shouts, training and community events.

Open Day 2025

Our Open Day always falls just after the publication date! But it was bound to have been brilliant fun! Thank you to everyone who supported it in any way. We'll update on the final figure after the event.

Shouts

It's been a busy couple of months for shouts - from people stuck in the mud with an incoming tide, casualty vessels, missing children and a local walker who suffered a fractured hip under the



cliffs. One late evening shout was a considerable, multi-agency effort searching for a missing person. As always, we thank every volunteer for their dedication and professionalism.

Boathouse Development

We are in the process of gathering quotations from contractors to complete the boathouse development. We want to keep it local, so any firms interested in submitting a quotation, please get in touch at plirbrescue@gmail.com or 01424 812 457.

Crew News

Martin Geldart is embarking on his helm courses - at the time of print he should be almost complete! Ant Dixon, Georgia Phillimore and Paul Kirkham completed their RYA Powerboat 2 courses.

We welcomed a visit from Helena Dollimore MP who took the time to meet the crew and learn more about how we operate. It's so vital for independent lifeboats to have a higher profile of the work we do.

In the community

We've been out in the community at Fairfest, Guestling School Fete, Icklesham School Fete and Pett Flower Show and after party. We supported the Winkle Club at their event and erected/dismantled barriers at the Stade.

Charles & Co.

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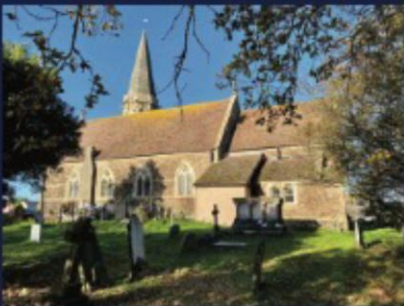
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.....Continued from page 7



Our Pett Slip Buoys continued to sing to raise funds for our future new rescue boat - performing at Rye Country Show, Rural Past Times and the Nearly on the Beach Concert.

Sponsored bike ride

Our local supporter Tony Fuller completed his sponsored bike ride to raise funds for our drysuit appeal. He cycled 247 miles during August to recognise our round the clock service. Halfway through his challenge he had already beaten his initial £500 target. The final figure will be confirmed next month.

Local Thanks

A huge thank you Fairlight Residents Association for their amazing donation to our dry suit appeal. Thank you of course to Tony for his fantastic sponsored challenge and to Hooe Old Motor Club for their donation (see p7 for photos).

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 23 September, 6.30pm: Pett Slip Buoys singing at Rye Arts Festival

Saturday 29 November, 7pm: PLIRB quiz, email plirbrescue@gmail.com to book a table

Friday 12 December, 5pm: Carol and Shanty night (TBC)

Sunday 21 December, 7pm: PSB singing at the Cove Fairlight

For all others, please check our website www.plirb.org

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Archive Resource Centre Village Memories: Alan Butler

Some months ago, we interviewed Alan Butler for our ARC memoirs. The Butler family has a long local standing over many generations and have had a considerable influence in the local community over the years.

We will start with Alan's grandparents on his father's side. These were Fred - Ely Frederick Butler (b. 1888 Winchelsea) and Dorothy Ellen May Cloke (b. 1901 Guestling). Alias Pop and, for some inexplicable reason, Auntie Doll! (You'll find a lot of Alan's family are named something other than their given name!) Auntie Doll was born in what is now Meadowsweet on Pett Rd near Pannel Lane, and her family, the Clokes, later lived in the Shelleys Green area of Guestling. The Clokes are also a family with a long lineage in the area.



The Cloke children - James William,
Dorothy Ellen May (Auntie Doll), Lily
Kathleen

Pop had an interesting history. He was born to a single-parent mother (Martha) and an unknown father. Martha married Arthur Fleet who became Pop's stepfather. Pop was offered a job in service at Fairlight Hall as a teenager, and when the First World War broke out, he saw service as a batman/driver for a senior officer. Alan suspects this officer could have been from Fairlight Hall.

After the war, the Fairlight estate was broken up and sold off, and Pop found work as a self-employed builder and painter. There is also evidence of him doing electrical wiring work very early on in the 1930's - presumably pioneering stuff and no need to be IEE registered in those days!

Pop initially lived in Meadow Cottages, Elms Lane with his mother and Arthur. Pop then married Dorothy and they moved to the (reasonably, if not completely, new) Friars Hill council houses on Friars Hill. Then something strange happened - Pop came into a significant amount of money which was sufficient for him to build a house! He explained this away at the time as a betting win (which was a dubious thing to say owing to the level of illegality surrounding betting at the time!), but we wonder - was it something left to him by his unknown father?

In any case, Pop used this money to build Wendy Wyn on Pett Rd. Wendy Wyn was a semi-detached house, the other half (then called Wally Haven, now Hvar) being built at the same time by Spen (Spencer) Glazier. So, Pop and Auntie Doll lived for the rest of their lives at Wendy Wyn. After the war they built Peach Tree Cottage on the side of Wendy Wyn, for Alan's Uncle Lawrie, (his dad's brother), to live there after he returned from WW2. Pop and Doll had 6 children in all. Uncle Son (see what I mean about Butler family names - actually Frederick but he was always called Son as his dad was also a Fred!), then there was Uncle Pat, Uncle Norman, Auntie Wendy and Bryan (Alan's Dad). Uncle Son was old enough to be enlisted at the start

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Uncle Pat

Yorkshire, where Betty’s family were from, to leave these memories behind. Alan’s dad then bought Peach Tree Cottage from Lawrie.

Auntie Wendy also had a fascinating story. She became pregnant during the war and eventually married a German POW who was known as Uncle Johnny. One can only imagine what complexities might have evolved in a family where several members had been to war and then came back to find a German soldier in the family! Alan has no memory that any real animosity existed in the family, which I believe is a testament to the open-mindedness of the Butler family.

Uncle Norman built Fernleigh Cottage on Pett Rd, and he and his wife were reputedly very hard working. His wife used to work the concrete mixer for him while he was building Fernleigh! They moved from Fernleigh to French Court Lane and owned the shop opposite Allards. Norman became very successful and did extensive building projects in the wider area, including Fernlea Close in Westfield.

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of WW2 and spent the whole war in the RAF in India. His grave is in Pett churchyard.

Uncle Lawrie’s story is tinged with sadness. The younger Lawrie, (14 or 15) was a feisty individual, and as his brother was getting praised for serving his country, Lawrie determined to also fight for his country. He lied about his age and joined the infantry, and eventually the paras.

After fighting all over Europe, he was eventually captured at Arnhem and spent the rest of the war as a POW. He survived all that and then sadly, after some years he had to endure the tragedy of his young son’s death. In 1962 his son, Glen, was swimming in the pool at Freda Gardham school in Rye. Everyone had been instructed to leave the pool due to a thunderstorm. However, his son seems to have been as feisty as his father and was refusing to leave the pool when the worst possible thing happened. Lightning struck and he was killed. After that Uncle Lawrie often used to come home from work and find his wife, Betty, not at home but up at the churchyard by the grave. They eventually decided to move to



Uncle Lawrie



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1946 - Son, Wendy & Bryan (Alan's dad)

.....Continued from page 13

Alan's mum was from Fairlight. She and Maureen Emary (now Sinden) were sisters. While Wendy Wyn was being built in the 1930's, around the same time Alan's other grandfather Sid (Sidney Thomas) Emary (who Bryan joked was posh as he had a car!) was building his house, Farleigh, in Broadway, Fairlight. Alan remembers this house, as in those days it had lots of space around it and an orchard at the bottom of the garden and so was a brilliant playground with lots of hiding places! He also vividly remembers staying for

meals there with grandparents Sid and Mary (Mary Adelaide), and then the children being sent round to the shop in Lower Waites Lane for ice creams. Such simple pleasures!

Like most children from Pett, Alan went to Guestling school as Pett school had closed in the mid 50's. At the time that Alan attended the school, lots of fundraising went on to provide a roof for the school swimming pool. All the children were involved in helping with this fundraising. Alan remembers feeling particularly sore (and still carries the scar!), at the fact that after all that fundraising effort he had less than a year of use of that pool before he left to go to senior school. He felt swindled!



Uncle Norman & cousin Linda
1964 Pett Fete

Alan then went to Thomas Peacocke school in Rye, bussing there with all the children from the village. After a small village primary school, like so many children, going to a large senior school was a huge culture shock for him. Alan has many recollections of that period of his life.

Alan started work as a civil servant in the tax office but after 3 years decided that he wanted an outside job. So, after a long debate with his father, it was agreed that Alan was to take a couple of week's holiday and work with his dad as a taster of manual work (his dad was a painter decorator and former builder). Alan loved it and so gave up his office job and became a self-employed builder and worked with his dad for a time. After that he went to labour for Cliff Pattimore and eventually went to college to train formally as a carpenter. He worked with Cliff for some time doing loft conversions after that.

One of his influences in his work life was Norman Button who taught him a lot of his joinery skills. Norman worked for the Bardens as an apprentice wheelwright and used to tell the story of him being sent up the road as a 15 year old to the Forge next to the Two Sawyers, to pick up a white-hot iron wheel rim, and having to roll it along the road (effectively playing hoopla with it!) to the wheelwrights shop. Once there they had the wooden wheel on the ground waiting for the rim to be dropped over the wheel - a teenager rolling a white-hot iron tyre down Pett Rd - no health and safety in those days!! That's it for now, but there's plenty more to come from Alan's archives in the fullness of time!



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CHURCH SERVICES - SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY 7 SEPTEMBER

PETT LEVEL	8.30am	1662 Book of Common Prayer Service (30 minutes)
WINCHELSEA	11.00am	Parish Communion (1 hour)

SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

ICKLESHAM	9.30am	Parish Communion (40 minutes)
WINCHELSEA	11.00am	Parish Communion (1 hour)

SUNDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

WINCHELSEA	11.00am	Parish Communion (1 hour)
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SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

ICKLESHAM	9.30AM	Parish Communion (40 minutes)
WINCHELSEA	11.00am	Parish Communion (1 hour)

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Kit McLean	Golding Challenge Tankard	Veg. second highest
Tom Smith	Gertrude Coleman Cup	Veg. Best Exhibit
Susie Gibbons	Tom & Cath Wells Trophy	Herbs
Jackie Richards	Charles & Anne Cooke Challenge Trophy	Flowers most points
Jennifer Grist	Jimmy Young Cup	Sweet Peas
Jennifer Grist	Mabel & Leonard Cooke Challenge Trophy	Dahlia most points
Susie Gibbons	Fred Griffin Challenge	Flowers
Caroline Turk	Cecil Webb Cup	Roses most points
Joanna Smith	Cecil Aldred Cup	Best Rose
Christina Whitmore	Arthur Farnes Memorial Gift	Best Exhibit in Horticulture
Diana Buse	Two Sawyers Cup	Floral Art Most points
Christina Whitmore	Albert Standen Trophy	Floral Art best exhibit
Christina Whitmore	Albert Luck	Floral Art Novice Class
Michal Goulding	Hewitt-Jones Cup	Children (under 5) most points
Olivia Stafford	Preston Ebbutt Challenge Cup	Children 5-8 years
Emily Shearer	Goldsmith's Trophy	Children 9-14
Freya Stafford	Darnel Plate	Junior Cake Maker
Romana Scarff	J McCausland Trophy	Photography (under 16)
Olivia and Freya Stafford	Cecil Bacon Talent Cup	Drawing/Painting Most Promising
Louis Farnes	£25	Tea Towel Design
Louise Bowles	Pam Dunlop Challenge Cup	Produce most points
Vicki McDonnell	John Parks Trophy	Set recipe Cake
Joanna Felton	John Rootes Cup	Picture/Painting
Judith Dean	Beryl Rootes Cup	Craft Best Exhibit
Sam Burford	Ron Dean Cup	Model making Handmade
Evie White	£25	Under 16 Model
Not awarded	Diedre Dean Plate	Model-making Miniature
Evie White	£25	Under 16 Miniature
Jacky Morris and Reggie	John Pecorini Cup	Best Dog in Show
Joanna Felton	Queen Elizabeth 11 Jubilee Cup	Best Theme Exhibit



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All the Fun of the Fayre

Saturday 26 July 2025.

PETT FLOWER
SHOW & FAYRE

Wasn't it a great day? The sun shone at Pett Village Hall, which has proved to be a very popular location for the show. So many came along to enjoy the event. The committee have had lovely messages of congratulations. What did everyone think of the Show?

The weather this summer has certainly played tricks on gardeners with hot spells, wind and lack of rain affecting the entries for vegetables and flowers. Nonetheless, there were some marvellous exhibits. Floral Art displays were super, along with all that talent in the Home Produce and Handicraft classes. Wonderful to welcome newcomers entering the show. Great entries from the young people as well. Most important is the spirit of competition amongst the entrants. Trophies proudly won and well deserved.

The Dog Show attracted puppies, veterans and waggiest tails. All very well behaved with a worthy cup winner.

There are very many people to thank for making the day a success: the volunteers manning the stalls; refreshments superbly run by Pett WI; our car-park attendants; the donors of cakes, tombola and raffle prizes; our sponsors; the great after-show clear-up team; the judges and stewards. We hope everyone has received a personal thanks. Please forgive us if you were forgotten.

The day rounded off with the evening dance organised by Paul Turner. It was popular and planned again for next year. There are some excellent photos of the Flower Show on social media. We would love to see more.

Finally, I give my thanks to the members of the committee, who work so hard throughout the year to bring the whole day together. They are a great team. Special thanks to Sue Dengate and her team for administering the entries.

We welcome suggestions for a theme for 2026.

Philippa M. Strickland
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Pett Parish Council Update

As there was no council meeting in August, it has not been possible to co-opt members to the council. However, I am pleased to say that two people have allowed their names to come forward and the council will decide whether to co-opt them at its September meeting. Please note that there is still at least one additional vacancy to be filled, so I repeat that it would be good to have a female member of the council again and also someone younger. Please contact me if you want to know more.

Councillor Keith Glazier has recently been re-elected as Chair of the Transport for the South East Partnership Board. If you are interested, the board's meetings are available to watch on YouTube. See www.youtube.com/@transportforthesoutheast/featured, where there are also links to other relevant sources of information. In particular, if you are part of a business that has transport-related concerns, then the Business Advisory Group will probably be of interest.

The Police Commissioner for Sussex, Katy Bourne, has reported that two Live Facial Recognition (LFR) vans will be provided to Sussex Police later this year. LFR vans are police vehicles equipped with technology that scans faces in real-time against a watchlist of individuals wanted for serious offences. The technology has already been successfully used at the Coronation of HM King Charles III and the Notting Hill Carnival, as well as at large sporting and music events, on high streets and in shopping centres. The LFR vans will be used to keep communities safe and help police locate the most serious criminals. The vans will be clearly signposted when deployed so that the public are aware if there is one in their local area. Any images of people who are not wanted by police are immediately blurred and deleted for ever to protect residents and visitors to the county.

The results of the RoSPA inspection of the Recreation Ground and the play area have been received and, as expected, work is needed on the slide and also on one or two other pieces of apparatus, although nothing is dangerous.

The council has three noticeboards, the one at the Parish Hall, that at the entrance to the Recreation Ground and, what is probably not so well known, one just inside the entrance to the church of St Nicholas at Pett Level. One of the locks on this last one is now causing problems and the Perspex is becoming more difficult to see through, so I am hoping that the next council meeting will give approval for repairs, which should not be too expensive.

Although they are well used, the Pett Level toilets are continuing to cause concern. I am pleased to be able to thank Peter Felton for mending the door to one of the cubicles in the men's section, which had been partially pulled off its hinges. It is not clear, however, whether this was vandalism or just someone having a problem with the door jamming. Other problems, such as leaking taps, keep arising and have to be dealt with. The leakage of surface water into the cesspit continues to be an issue as it means that the cesspit has to be emptied more frequently than planned, which is costing the council, and in turn parishioners, money. I am grateful to our clerk, Councillor Alan Crouch and, of course, our cleaner Deidre for continuing to monitor the situation. And, again, thanks to those who put donations in the 'honesty boxes'.

Like everyone else in the village, I find the frequent road closures irritating, to say the least. Unfortunately, there is nothing that the parish council can do, except protest. And protesting has little effect because the work that leads to the closures is usually necessary. However, I am writing to East Sussex Highways to suggest that the signage could be improved. As everybody knows, the signage is often not clear and at times simply misleading; just to state 'Road closed' is not helpful unless one knows where the road is closed. And I am sure that we will all be pleased when the work putting in the broadband fibre is complete and that the benefits are commensurate with the disruption this has caused. I should note that, at no time, has the parish council received notification giving information about this, either its purpose or the plan for implementing it. While I know that some of the work has been carried out at night to 'minimise disruption', lights and noise at 2:00 am and later are nevertheless somewhat disturbing, particularly to small children.

David Penfold, Chair, Pett Parish Council

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CHURCH NEWS

Buildings Update: Love it or Lose it!

The church of St Mary & St Peter in Pett has been closed for the past few months. Recently it opened its doors for an afternoon to explain why, and to allow folk to see how the work is progressing. Soft drinks and cakes were provided and the afternoon raised about £230, although it was an informative exercise rather than a fundraiser.



When the church was repaired many years ago, an incorrect specification of plaster was used. Over the years this has allowed rain to seep into the walls, especially around the West window which takes most of the prevailing weather, and the nave, leading to flaking and peeling paint and general deterioration.

The cost of repair work was quoted at £34,000 – plus 20% VAT as the church is not listed – totalling £40,000. Most funders will only give grants to listed churches. The Parochial Church Council had some reserves and after an appeal last year when locals gave generously, together with a couple of small grants from funders and the Diocese, the money was raised, although reserves would be reduced considerably.

Since May the builders have removed all the plaster on the west window wall and a large part of the nave. The new plaster must be applied in three stages, with weeks in between to allow each coat to dry out. The walls will then be repainted. Re-pinning repairs around the west window have also been carried out. It is also planned to replace the 40-year-old lighting in the nave and chancel with LED lights to be compliant with CoFE regulations and to be more environmentally friendly and easier to maintain. This will happen once the painting has been completed.

Unfortunately, while this work was being carried out it was discovered that the party wall abutting the tower was exceptionally wet and rain damaged, which has caused deterioration of wood joists above the door and in the tower and spire, affecting the two floors in the spire. It is extremely dangerous to access the tower and spire so the clock cannot be maintained. An unplanned £2,700 was spent removing pigeon guano from that area so that a full structural engineer's report could be carried out – at further cost. The Royal Oak's Quiz Nights paid for most of this. This discovery was a big blow to the Parochial Church Council; an estimate of £50,000 (plus VAT) has been given to carry out the newly discovered problems, so this will form Stage 2 of the fundraising campaign.

The PCC will be meeting soon to look at the options, but its main priority is to get the current repairs completed and the church open again for services. If anyone can help with fundraising for Stage 2, or would like to contribute in any way, please contact **Heather Godwin, Treasurer,** pettchurchestreasurer@gmail.com 07977 100 296.



*Please note: the price list shown online reflects London rates

Historical Flooding Part 2: Leaky dams and a Call for Greater Communication & Collaboration

In the second in our series looking at the suggested solutions to the Pett Level flooding, Maggie Sullivan highlights issues surrounding liability and responsibility, and her concerns over the siting of leaky dams.

It remains concerning to me that advice from an independent Civil Engineer, together with those residents with valuable local knowledge and other local bodies - including that of Fairlight PC & the members of the 'parishioners contingent' of the Fairlight Pathfinder project - have not been adequately sought, consulted or had their extensive knowledge truly heard and preferably before the fitting of any of the total of 300 leaky dams, had commenced. The impact to both the catchments upstream and downstream on the placement of such potentially inappropriate damming remains to be seen, but it may be worth addressing the issue of who is liable and how any damages will be paid for, if these poorly placed leaky dams within the main spine tributaries cause further flooding or damage to property or land. Naturally, any damming would also require guidance, application and licencing from the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), which I also understand has not yet been sought or obtained.

Again, with regard to the three proposed retention dams in Fairlight, no liaison has been had with the Fairlight PC or the Parishioner Contingent of the Pathfinder Group, who would likely inherit the residential burden of any additional flooding or damage that could occur. Furthermore, is the issue of who would be responsible for the maintenance of these 3 retention dams, which would likely be in perpetuity. I doubt a gentleman's agreement, as suggested by Future Landscapes Trust, would quite cover this. It's clear from the current Future Landscapes Trust plan, that large chunks of hydraulic data are missing from their design model at present and without the accurate "discharge, versus actual flow" data, a total of three proposed retention dams could be hydraulic overkill, especially when you consider that SW have yet to reduce and possibly attenuate sewage discharge flows from the 3 CSO's & WWTW'S in Fairlight and in order to reach the 10 spills per annum, per catchment target, to which they aspire. Whilst I concur that an approach should be designed to provide a diversity of perspectives that mitigate risks effectively and that Future Landscapes Trust should develop a risk assessment based on that put together by the Rivers Trust, the current method design shown does not appear to be indicative of the overall outcomes that Future Landscapes say they wish to achieve and currently therefore, does not appear to be either hydraulically or environmentally sound. The NFM policy also states that NFM structures can provide a localised hydrological impact when delivered safely and in keeping with the catchment, landscape and geology of the area sited. In my opinion, leaky damming within **main spine tributaries**, with a flash flood risk, high-flow volumes, low banks and multiple CSO sewage discharge points, is not within the source flows prescribed, delivered safely or in keeping with the catchment, landscape and geology of Fairlight.

Neither the 26 identified markers currently proposed within the Waites Lane or the 2 markers proposed within Lower Waites Lane (Stream Lane) are appropriate for leaky damming within the main spines of the tributary. (See image on p31) They are sited below 3 CSO discharge points within the main body of the village and would likely impede the flush through of organic matter, causing further pollution pockets, considerable erosion damage and an increasingly high probability of further flooding. These sites are not considered close to or within source tributaries, would be sited within watercourses that already have a substantial number of fixed constraints within them and are already experiencing considerable erosion issues. (See images 1 & 2 in the August issue) No amount of leaky damming should be considered appropriate, where the risk of flooding caused by breach or bypass is highly probable. The **source tributaries** of both these watercourses however, which are much further

upstream near the Country Park or are within higher woodland areas, may be considered more appropriate.

The point made to me by Future Landscapes, '*That any such proposals would undergo rigorous on-site validation and extensive consultation*' and that, '*Features that would impede public access or have unacceptable environmental impacts would not be pursued*,' is fundamentally a moot one. Any validation should most certainly have been pursued prior to the commencement of the installation of these leaky dams and the production of a proposed model design that places them clearly within the map, and as is already the case of the Pett and Stoney Lynk, Fairlight tributaries. I would suggest that careful placement of these leaky dams higher upstream and at source, would better ensure that the more permeable soil formations are utilised to their full extent, in terms of their porosity. In my humble opinion, pilot installations in **source tributaries** and the careful monitoring of flow reduction and infiltration changes during the winter months, would also ensure the most effective utilization of the leaky dam initiative, but I would welcome any qualified Parishioner's input on this. (Please refer to the Fairlight Geological Map BGS 1980. Sheet No :320/321) Damming below a pond source, which is also what appears to be proposed for some of the tributaries intended to be stemmed, greatly increases the flood risk from that asset and to any property or land within the vicinity, whereas damming above the ponds and closer to the source tributaries, limits the risk of the pond overtopping in a rain event and the surge, flood and erosion risk that could follow.

The potential risks for leaky dams are materials breaking loose & causing blockages, flood damage downstream as a result of high-flow volume, dam failure, water levels rising upstream of a structure due to surge, and people injuring themselves. The potential for a 'Domino Collapse' or failure of large leaky dams that are placed in quick succession to one another, more often occurs in main spine tributaries of high-volume flow and with a pre-existing risk of flooding, so is a very well-founded concern, especially when you factor in the ever-growing number of CSO discharges to this equation and which present a significant surge risk. This potential risk appears to have been missed by Future Landscapes Trust. The alternative, of a staggered placement of leaky dams on small to moderate flow source tributaries, would not only promote ground penetration higher up-stream within the catchment, it would ensure that any water is less likely to enter the main spines or to cause serious flooding impact to property or land close by. Therefore, any potential for flooding caused by a 'Domino Cascade' or failure of overburdened leaky dams would be mitigated, due to the more naturally staggered nature and placement of these dams, the smaller size of materials required, the minimal impact to land use and with much gentler source flows to dam. This example is not the one currently illustrated in the Future Landscapes proposed model design or currently now being fitted within these main spine tributaries. Leaky dams need to be sited in locations where any failure will have negligible impact, but increased flooding could easily result from the failure of multiple leaky dams, causing a surge and release of stored flood waters.

Although Future Landscapes appear interested in gaining more understanding of the true CSO & WWTW's contributions from the Fairlight catchment and say that, '*They recognise that "discharge, versus actual flow" information would be incredibly beneficial in ascertaining the true extent of discharge contributions and in validating their understanding of flooding events*', the current flow meters were actually donated by Southern Water to the project. Whilst I admire Future Landscapes optimism that SW might even consider providing additional monitors, only to further highlight the true impact of their own sewage spill contributions within the watercourses, experience with Southern Water over the past 4 years and the difficulty in even obtaining historical spill data information from them, leads me to believe this request may be a tad too optimistic of them.

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.....Continued from page 27

I have asked Future Landscapes to provide me with the exact intended TQ reference numbers of the placement of the proposed 300 leaky dams, in order to add them to our water assets map and await the information requested, but remain disappointed by the lack of information exchange and consultation between both communities before work has commenced and any potential hydrological impact to another catchment has even been fully investigated. I would also stress that whilst Leaky Dams offer an amazing potential for Natural Flood Management (NFM) I have seen little mention within the Future Landscapes documents so far viewed, that pertains to the tidal influences that also affect the catchment, in terms of both speed of transit for the water to get away and the phased release tidal lock constraints, within Rye itself. The cumulative impact of this; particularly where neap or super tides are concerned, together with ground water saturation, high water tables, choked watercourses, frequent CSO spill contributions and consecutive watershed episodes, as well as the low geographical placement of both Lower Fairlight and Pett Level within the catchment, all conspire simultaneously to produce such historical flooding outcomes. Future Landscapes maintain however, that, *'no correlations with the tides or the closing of the gate at the military canal, was evident.'* (Page 13) This would appear to be at odds with the known tidal restrictions and certainly at odds with the phased release that occurs from the tidal locks on the marshland and at Rye.

A considerable dent in even 2 of these major contributors however (choked watercourses & sewage spills), could make a serious impact in the overall frequency & intensity of the floods experienced. Furthermore, with the added addition of *'correctly placed'* leaky dams, regular culvert clearance and maintenance, EA dredging and watercourse depth and stream bank restoration, this could be a game changer.

CSO Contributions

Southern Water's spill impact, from the CSO sewage discharges downstream of Pett Level and along the whole length of our watercourse (a total of approx. 12 CSO discharge points along the length of the run) to the outflow at Rye Harbour, is only the tip of the iceberg when you consider all the other discharge that reaches the same river outflow at Rye Harbour and via other contributing tributaries. (Eg: River Brede, Military Canal, Pannel Sewer, River Rother, Tillingham etc) There are thought to be over 50 other sewage spill discharge points, discharging to the very same outlet, but as a staged release, prioritised in order of catchment size and with our tributary source being the very last to be released. This presents a very complex picture in terms of an overall solution and is unlikely to be a quick fix, but is a significant pollution and attenuation burden. Naturally, this attenuation/pollution is for SW to address, but it goes some way to demonstrating the compounding influences that these spills make to communities upstream and when discharging to a single tidal source. Counter wise, successive and aggressive downstream sewage spill attenuation by Southern Water, both along the tributary to Rye Harbour and from farther afield, would lessen the overall volumes received within these tributaries, providing further freshwater attenuation and which could significantly buy time in the event of higher tides and any subsequent delayed phase releases. Whilst I'm not suggesting that Southern Water's sewage spill contributions are the *sole reason* for the flooding experienced within both catchments, millions of gallons of discharge, per catchment and for growing durations following watershed events, is not an insignificant contribution to the volumes experienced within the watercourses and is one of many mitigations that need considerable exploration.

By M Sullivan

See page 31 for a response from Future Landscape Trust

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Response to M Sullivan from FLT

Much of the response from FLT to M Sullivan and the residents of Pett and Fairlight was published in the August 2025 issue and can be accessed at Pettonthenet.net. Whilst that looked in detail at the issues surrounding leaky dams, in this issue we are reproducing FLT's response regarding lack of communication:

To the attention of M. Sullivan and the residents of the Fairlight and Pett communities,
Subject: Response to "Historical Flooding And A Call For Greater Communication & Collaboration" (20th June 2025)

Dear M. Sullivan,

On Collaboration and Consultation

At the core of many of the misunderstandings you present is that our plans are for NFM structures on the charity partners land. We do not plan to install anywhere else and our funding does not cover Fairlight. Your confusion arose from the hydrological report we commissioned that covered the total catchment of the Marsham and Fairlight areas. The reason we commissioned this report was to directly stimulate this debate and to attract other community partners to engage and consider NFM structures across the whole catchment.

We acknowledge your feeling that collaboration has been insufficient. Please allow us to assure you that the meeting we organised on 6th June 2025, like the one in 2024 was intended as part of an ongoing process of engagement, not a final briefing. The initial installation of approximately 26 dams represents a carefully controlled pilot phase. The data and learnings from this phase are essential to inform the wider, effective, and collaborative rollout of the remaining proposed dams. Your assertion that we claimed our proposals "would undergo rigorous on-site validation and extensive consultation" is correct, and we stand by that commitment. This process is actively underway.

We have already invited you and other community representatives to follow-up meetings where we can discuss the technical details of our models and your specific observations in greater depth.

Yours sincerely,
 The Team at Future
 Landscapes



Sewage spill to land, Waites Lane tributary (see page 26)



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The Happy Home

A new monthly feature, 'The Happy Home' will begin in our next issue, written by Sylvia Bennett. Sylvia is an environmental therapist, architectural design consultant and Feng Shui master practitioner. So there will be lots of interesting insights and useful tips for you.

This month Sylvia introduces herself and highlights some of the future topics she will be writing about:-

Recently I moved to Pett Level from Rye and I am loving living here. I really enjoy the work I do and the people I meet though it. So I am delighted to have this opportunity to share various elements of it with you in writing.

My first article in October will be about how Colours are used in Feng Shui design. The next article will probably talk about the subtle energy in a place. Then one about gardens and outside spaces. The themes will evolve over time. Tips for selling and purchasing a property, clutter management and storage solutions, are some other ideas I have in mind.

In addition to my initial thoughts on subjects to write about in each article, well it partly or mainly depends on you, I am really happy to be guided by your choices too. I really want to hear from you any time with your own preferences and suggestions for topics you would like to read about.

You can reach me on 07779 139187 or email sylvia@fengshui-living.com.

Take a glimpse into who I am and my background on www.fengshui-living.com/about-sylvia-bennett-feng-shui-consultant-london And I hope you will enjoy dipping into some of my other web pages that might appeal to you.

Have a wonderful summer until we connect again in October.

Kind wishes

Sylvia

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News from Pett Level Nature Reserve - September 2025

Of bats....

What a summer we are having! Wildlife seems to be doing well thanks to the warm dry spring and summer. Insects, in particular, are doing better than they have for several years. Of course, that means those creatures that feed on insects are also flourishing, or so we hope, and one group of animals that should be benefitting from more insects is bats. The UK is bat-depleted due to persecution, lack of roost sites and shortage of food. Globally there are 1400 bat species but, in the UK, there are only 18. All UK bats are insectivorous; all have declined in number over the years and sadly continue to do so. If insect numbers decline, then so also do bats. In addition, they utilise different roost sites throughout the year, making them particularly vulnerable to habitat changes. Maternity roosts need to be warm to provide the best conditions for the pups to survive and grow. However, during the winter bats resort to cool damp places where they can roost undisturbed, only waking intermittently from their deep slumber if weather conditions are suitable. There are also places where bats hang out (more of that in a moment) during their active season in between searching for food - feeding roosts.

The only UK bats that typically hang down by their feet when at roost are the lesser and greater horseshoe bats which are both rare species. The other species of bat all crawl around when at roost and the smallest ones can insert themselves in gaps no bigger than 2cm. Pipistrelle bats are truly tiny, weighing as little as a 2p piece!

Search the skies at dusk (or at dawn if you are really keen) and you may see bats zooming around catching their food. In July/August the young ones start to fly the roost. The best way to identify bats in flight is by their call. Special bat detectors are available that convert the ultra-high frequency pips and squeaks that bats make into something that can be heard by the human ear and thus identifiable. Modern technology is now facilitating species recognition automatically as soon as a bat's calls are recorded.

At Pett Level Nature Reserve we have used both static and mobile recorders to identify what bat species are present. To date we have recorded the following - common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, Nathusius' pipistrelle, noctule, serotine, and whiskered/Brandt. To support these bats, we have installed purpose-built bat boxes and converted some of the old WW2 structures into potential sites for winter roosts. This is in addition to managing the nature reserve to try and boost biodiversity, and particularly the number of invertebrates. You can do similar at home. Bat boxes are widely available, as is information on gardening for wildlife, but you may find the following contacts useful.

National Bat Helpline 0345 1300 228
Bat Conservation Trust www.bats.org.uk

...and Great Crested Newts

Great crested newts are truly beautiful and spectacular animals which, like bats, have declined largely through habitat loss and whose distribution is very sporadic. A female newt is up to six inches long and in the breeding season males have a jagged crest along their backs and tail, coupled with a lovely orange belly dotted with black spots. Great crested newts spend seven months of the year on land, only returning to ponds to breed in the early spring. In times gone by there were lots of ponds around the UK which were created to provide water for horsedrawn traffic. Now such ponds are not needed, and a large number have disappeared or been neglected, leading to a decline in the population of great crested newts.

Continued on page 41.....




Moonlight Walk
Saturday 4th October
The Stade, Hastings

Book your tickets now by visiting,
<https://www.stmichaelsospice.org.uk/event/moonlight-walk-2025/>



New for 2025:

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.....Continued from page 39

In many places in the UK the newt population has become fragmented with clusters of ponds separated from similar clusters elsewhere. This leads to local inbreeding and extinction, thus exacerbating the overall situation. East Sussex is a stronghold for great crested newts but even so, distribution is patchy. As far as we know there are none on the Nature Reserve, although it is our intention to restore pond habitat in the hope that we can attract them. Gardens can be managed to attract newts by, amongst other things, building suitable ponds and creating habitats that they can hide away in when out of the pond. But please, no fish. Fish will eat the eggs and young newts (efts) - bad news! More information on newts and all creature amphibians can be obtained from Froglife and Amphibian and Reptile Conservation.

Froglife - www.froglife.org

Amphibian and Reptile Conservation - www.arc-trust.org

European Protected Species

All UK species of bat and great crested newts are classified as European Protected Species, meaning they are legally protected under the Habitat Regulations. It is an offence amongst other things to intentionally disturb them.

Volunteering

Volunteer work parties will begin again in September. Let us know if you want to add your name to the mailing list to get information on workdays.

For the latest news follow us on Instagram and Facebook or visit our web site

www.pettlevelpreservationtrust.org.uk

Gardening Club Notes by June Harris

We were delighted to welcome so many of our members this month to what turned out to be a most successful and enjoyable day of visits to members' gardens, followed by a social.

We are naturally always grateful if the weather is fine for any of our visits, but we were blessed with a beautiful sunny day which really made all the gardens sing. All three gardens we visited were very special and lovely in their own way and quite different, contrasting in age, size, design style and planting, the whole contributing to make the day so interesting and varied for us all. The owners had clearly put in many hours of work to be able to show their gardens off to best advantage and our members were very impressed and rightly so!

Each owner took time to explain their vision, single out design changes or new plants and everyone benefitted from engaging with them and having their specific questions answered. Indeed, it was noticeable how important the interactions between owner and visitor were to everyone. Many thanks to all the owners for their hard work and generosity in welcoming us into their gorgeous gardens and thoughtfully providing water on such a hot day.

The day concluded as we adjourned to our fourth members' garden, pretty with roses and having one of Pett's many amazing views over the farmland to the sea. We enjoyed drinks and nibbles while discussing the gardens we'd seen, catching up with friends and making new acquaintances as the sun gradually faded into a lovely evening. It was just one of those days when it becomes very clear what a special place Pett, its residents and the surrounding countryside and coast really is.

The autumn beckons, so next month we will be back in Pett Village Hall on Tuesday September 9th at 7.30 p.m., when our speaker will be Andrew Gaunt with a talk on Hedychium Gingers.



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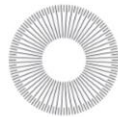
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www.eyemasters.co.uk



Coffee Morning and Community Library

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!

The New Beach Club

Gigs and events

Sunday August 31 st	3pm	Stuart Bligh
Saturday September 6 th	7.30pm	Cushty
Sunday September 14 th	3pm	Amanda Simmonds
Sunday September 21 st	3pm	Stuart Bligh
Saturday September 28 th	3pm	Ritchie Campbell (UB40 and Reggae night)
Sunday October 5 th	3pm	The Rockitmen
Sunday October 12 th	3pm	Pass The Cat
Sunday October 19 th	3pm	Bear & I
Sunday November 1 st	4-7pm	Children's Halloween Disco

Tara Begbie

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NATIONAL CARPET CLEANERS ASSOCIATION

La Cucina di Angela

Teglia al Forno con Funghi (oven baked tray of potatoes with mushrooms)

In the last century the Italian merchants used to expose their food at local markets and fairs. In Emilia Romagna (a region on the Adriatic Sea towards the North of Italy) those merchants used to sell a particular flat bread, cooked in the "teglia". This tool is used to cook food in the oven and consists of a terracotta tray. The word teglia comes from "tegula" (tile), and takes its origin from the Roman and Greek, before becoming common use in the area of Montetiffi in the province of Forlì-Cesena in Emilia Romagna.

According to Virgil, Romans imported this tool from the Greeks (Trojans) who found refuge in Italy and used to knead the bread and cook it on three tegulas (tiles) positioned on top of red-hot bricks. From there the word became "teggia" and consequently "teglia" meaning a large terracotta baking tray with low borders, to be used in ovens.

I have more than one teglia in my house: some are ceramic, some terracotta, and even in metal, which make my life quite easy when cooking for more than 4-5 people.

(For six people).

400g white mushrooms

500g potatoes

200g white rice (arborio, or cannaroli - your choice)

150g of chopped tinned tomatoes (or fresh tomatoes at your choice)

1 garlic clove

100g pecorino romano cheese

Extra virgin olive oil

Salt, pepper, and parsley to sprinkle

Some water

Breadcrumbs for the crust

Grease a tray with medium-tall borders and sprinkle it with the grated pecorino romano, pepper, finely chopped garlic, a few cubes of tomato and the finely chopped parsley and some oil. Add 100ml of water, cover the bottom of the tray with the potatoes thinly sliced into disks. Distribute the sliced mushrooms on top of the potatoes and season with tomato, pepper, cheese, garlic, parsley and drizzle with oil. Sprinkle the rice on top and repeat the seasoning, creating layers on layers, ending with a last layer of potatoes. Add 250ml water all around, and spread the breadcrumbs on top to give a golden crust.

Cook in the oven at 180 Celsius for 45 minutes, testing the potatoes with a fork periodically to check if they are cooked. Take the Teglia out of the oven and let it rest for a few minutes before serving.

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Nature Notes by Alan Kenworthy

It has been recently reported that an Asian Hornet (*Vespa velutina*) was found near Cliff End at Pett Level. There have been other sightings in the area, and nests have been found in Hastings and at Udimore. So, should we be worried? If you are a beekeeper, then the answer is almost certainly yes. Farmed honeybees are under enough of a threat with Varroa mites, colony collapse disorder and deformed wing virus, without the extra pressure of an invasive species with a taste for honeybees. Any invasive species can put pressure on the existing ecology and may adapt in unpredictable ways.



If certain sections of the press are to be believed, then we will be faced by swarms of bigger, fiercer foreign creatures that will have us running away screaming. The truth is somewhat different. Firstly, the Asian Hornet is smaller than our native (European) Hornet. It is nearer in size to our native Median Wasp (*Dolichovespula media*), which in turn is only slightly bigger than the Common Wasp (*Vespa vulgaris*) and our other common social wasp species. There is also no evidence to suggest that the Asian Hornet is any more aggressive than the European Hornet, which is not aggressive at all unless it thinks you are threatening its nest. Should you wish to annoy a hornet or wasp of any nationality, then the most effective method is to run around waving your arms about and screaming. Stay calm and breathe out - they are not keen on mammal breath.

If you do encounter an Asian Hornet, then please report it so that steps can be taken to locate the nest and destroy it. Reports should be made to - The Great Britain Non-native Species Secretariat which hosts the website <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/home/index.cfm>. If you have room on your phone, then there is also a friendly app, 'Asian Hornet Watch' which will help with identification and reporting.

I found another invasive species in the garden this morning. It is the Jersey Tiger moth. Of course, because it is a pretty moth, doesn't sting, or threaten our honey industry, nobody is bothered about it. There is a rule of thumb that describes invasive species - of all the species that invade, only about 10 percent survive. Of those that survive, only 10 percent establish themselves. Of those that become established, only 10 percent have any significant impact, and of those, only 10 percent cause any harm. The Jersey Tiger does no more harm than to eat a few nettle leaves or some brambles. My moth book - published in 2003 - lists the Jersey Tiger as Nationally Scarce with occasional colonies in the south-west and along the south coast. Now it is a common day-flying moth, and its range extends from the Bristol Channel to Cambridgeshire with scattered records as far north as Yorkshire.

Another species that I have found in our garden recently that was once a rarity but is now fairly common is the Wasp Spider (pictured above). I disturbed it before it had time to build a proper web and thought that it had abandoned us, but a week or so later I found her in another part of the garden about 15 yards away and she had started to build another web. One interesting fact about Wasp Spiders is that when the male mates, he inserts one of his (two) pedipalps into the female's epigynum. If he then breaks off the pedipalp, the epigynum is then 'plugged' and the female cannot be mated by other males. However, he has now lost one of his pedipalps, which means that he can then only mate with one more female (assuming he survives the encounter). Isn't nature brilliant!?

Woodlice and Dead wood

By Kerry Williams: Communications Officer - Conservation, Sussex Wildlife Trust



Woodlouse c. Alan Price

Woodlice have an extraordinary series of common and nicknames, with a survey once collecting 250 regional variations; chuckypig, slater, pillbug, monkeypea and woodpig, to name a few. It's not known why woodlice have so many alternative names, but a lovely theory is that it's due to their accessibility to children playing in gardens, who come up with imaginative names which stick over time.

A critical habitat for woodlice is dead wood, whether fallen or dead trees, rotting stumps, logs or stick piles. A sometimes-overlooked environment, dead wood is often a microcosm bursting with life.

Fungi are a hugely important partner in the dead wood cycle, by both contributing to the decay process and feeding on the dead wood itself. Many insects rely on this habitat, including Saproxyllic Beetles, which burrow into the softer surfaces to avoid predators, their grubs feeding on the decaying wood. Insectivorous birds, such as woodpeckers, then benefit from this. Bats utilise holes in standing dead wood to roost, and feed on flying insects attracted to the damp environment it can create. And the decaying wood itself recycles nutrients back into the soil.

With such an impressive ecosystem to support, it is important to leave dead wood and resist any temptation to clear it away. On a large scale, it can contribute to a diversity of woodland understory, creating different angles and textures as you peer through the forest, increasing not only the ecological value, but the mystical aesthetic of our ancient Ebernoe reserve, for example. On a smaller garden scale, it can provide a bug-hotel-style feature and a vital home for the important wildlife we don't always notice; a chuckypig paradise.

A minibeast staple of childhood bug hunts, and comprising of 30 UK species, woodlice can be found in gardens all year round.

Not lice at all, but terrestrial crustaceans, meaning they have hard exoskeletons, woodlice are related to crabs and shrimp. Favouring damp habitats to avoid drying out, these helpful critters can be found under rocks, logs and in compost heaps, doing what they do best; recycling. Nothing is off the menu, as woodlice will consume dead plant and animal matter, fungi, lichen, and with full zero-waste commitment, even their own faeces.



Great Spotted Woodpecker c. Nigel Symington

What's on at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve - September 2025

Saturday 6th (7pm - 8pm) - Evening with Violinist & Sound Artist Ruby Colley
Ruby will create soundscapes, weaving sounds of nature with violin, cello and electronics in Rye Harbour Discovery Centre's unique setting.

Thursday 11th (1pm - 3pm) - Home Education Wild about Birds
Learn about the wading birds at Rye Harbour and find out how they've adapted to living on the saltmarsh and why they migrate here for the winter. We'll then return to the classroom to create a felted bird badge.

Friday 12th (11am - 12.30pm) - Talk: The Art of Seabird Photography by Rachel Bigsby, award-winning Wildlife Photographer
Sussex-based wildlife photographer, Rachel Bigsby, gives a talk on her creative and philosophical approach to capturing natural artistry, followed by a Q & A session.

Wednesday 17th (9.45am - 11.30am) - Weekly Wellbeing Walk
Enjoy the outdoors with a morning of gentle walking across Rye Harbour Nature Reserve with our walk leader volunteers, every Wednesday morning. Anyone can join in and there's no need to book.

Friday 19th Sept & 26th (10am - 12pm) - Nature Tots
An outdoor learning session for pre-school children which provides a wonderful opportunity for your little ones to explore, experience and learn from nature.

Friday 19th (6.30pm - 8.30pm) - Bat Walk at Dusk
Join us the sun begins to set on a guided walk to look for bats with our expert, as these fascinating creatures emerge to hunt at night.

Sunday 21st (10am - 3pm) - Guide in a Hide with the Friends of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve
Drop in to the Gooders bird hide, just off the path between the car park and the sea. Friendly guides will be on hand through the day to show you the birds.

Sunday 21st (11am - 12pm) - Talk: Etta Lemon, The Woman Who Saved the Birds by Social Historian, by Tessa Boase
When Hastings-based Social Historian Tessa Boase told the RSPB she wanted to write their early story, they refused to let her visit their archives. To a former investigative journalist, this was an irresistible challenge.

Thursday 25th (10am - 1pm) - Walk with a Ranger at Rye Harbour - Waders and Wildfowl
Famous for its birdlife, Ranger Matt will help you spot the special birds and amazing insects of Rye Harbour Nature Reserve in early autumn.

Saturday 27th (10am - 1pm) - Wildlife Rangers for 12-16yrs
Meet once a month and take action to protect and learn about local wildlife with other young people interested in the natural world.

Saturday 27th (5.30pm - 8pm) - Pie and Mash Evening with a View
Enjoy the perfect comfort food with friends or family while watching the sun set over an unbeatable view at the Discovery Centre.

Tuesday 30th (9.30am - 1pm) - An Introduction to Waders
If you're new to birdwatching and are perplexed by Plovers or need help separating your Shanks, then this course is for you.
To find out more, or book a space, go to sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/whatson

Nature Tots Fridays Age 2-5
Course Tutor: Aimi Rifat - Wilder Learning and communities Officer, Rye Harbour Discovery Centre

Nature Tots on Fridays from 10-12pm is for 2-5yr olds with an accompanying adult. Adults and babes in arms free of charge siblings are half price.

Running over 4 Fridays: 19th Sept, 26th Sept, 3rd Oct 10th Oct 2025

Nature Tots is an outdoor learning session for pre-school children which provides a wonderful opportunity for your little ones to explore, experience and learn from nature. Each week will explore different areas of the reserve including the salt marsh, beach and bird hide and hands-on outdoor activities including arts and crafts are themed around local wildlife and the changing seasons.

Home Education Wild about Birds at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve Age 5-11yrs Thursday 11th September 1-3pm
Course Tutor: Aimi Rifat - Wilder Learning and communities Officer, Rye Harbour Discovery Centre

Learn about the Wading Birds at Rye Harbour through practical activities on the reserve, find out how they are adapted to living on the Saltmarsh and why they migrate here for the winter. We will walk up to the bird hide and learn about the life cycle of some of our Summer visitors and then learn to identify the wading birds using binoculars in the bird hide. We will then return to the classroom to create a felted bird badge.

News from St Michael's Hospice

Book your place as a Christmas Market stallholder

Calling all talented makers, creators and designers! St Michael's Hospice is inviting stallholders to join them for its brand-new Christmas Markets, held at the Hospice in St Leonards on Sea on Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th November 10.30am - 4pm. It's your chance to showcase your beautiful crafts, festive goods, and handmade delights while supporting your local Hospice. Whether you knit, paint, bake or sculpt, don't miss this opportunity to be part of a wonderful weekend of festive fun for the community of Hastings and Rother.

Spaces are limited - secure your stall today and support local Hospice care this Christmas. Register your interest by emailing fundraising@stmichaelsospice.com or call 01424 445177.

Thank you to the St Michael's Hospice Lottery players.

St Michael's Hospice recently celebrated their Lottery's 28th birthday. Players have helped to hand over an amazing £10million to the Hospice since it began in 1997, to help fund the vital work that the Hospice does to support the community of Hastings and Rother. To celebrate this amazing milestone, their Lottery Team organised a thank-a-thon, which involved employees and volunteers phoning anyone who has been playing the Lottery since it started to thank them for their support, as well as a Facebook live video to announce the week's winner. They want to say a massive thank you to everyone who plays their Lottery each week. If you'd like to be in with the chance of winning the £2,000 weekly top prize sign up today at lottery.stmichaelsospice.com/lottery or by calling 01424 456384.

In-Patient Unit (IPU) restores independence.

Linda, a 74-year-old retired nurse from Bexhill-on-Sea recently had a short stay at St Michael's Hospice. After a CT scan revealed secondary brain cancer, she was referred to the Hospice so they could help her gain her independence back.

She shares, "When I arrived, I didn't know what day it was, or even who I was. Two weeks later, everything's changed, my symptoms have improved, and I've regained my independence. I couldn't even get out of bed before; now I use a walking aid. The Hospice helped me get my life back. I'd tell anyone: trust the team and go with the flow. It's not all misery – it's about making the most of the time you have." Visit stmichaelsospice.com/services to find out more about the services St Michael's Hospice can offer.

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
 The Hill Surgery Prescription Service 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
 The Hill Surgery Prescription Service 12-12.45pm
 Art 12-3.00pm
 Short Mat Bowls (In season) 3.15-5.15pm
 Fitness Pilates 6.30-7.15pm
 Lindy Hop 7.30-10pm

Friday
 Badminton 10.00am-12pm

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

For bookings of the hall please contact Clare at clare@pettvillagehall@gmail.com Telephone 07718 518053.

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

500 CLUB

Draw Date: 6th August 2025

1st: Cathy Norris
2nd: Terry Cornish
3rd: Sheila Glazier

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Date		ORDNANCE DATUM (NEWLYN)			
		High Water			
		Morning		Afternoon	
		Time	m	Time	m
1	M	03 56	1.9	17 03	1.8
2	TU	06 04	1.7	18 34	1.8
3	W	07 21	1.9	19 49	2.0
4	TH	08 25	2.4	20 48	2.5
5	F	09 14	2.9	21 36	3.0
6	SA	09 56	3.3	22 17	3.4
7	SU O	10 36	3.6	22 56	3.6
8	M	11 15	4.0	23 34	3.9
9	TU	11 53	4.1		
10	W	00 10	4.0	12 29	4.3
11	TH	00 46	4.0	13 07	4.1
12	F	01 24	3.8	13 47	4.0
13	SA	02 06	3.5	14 31	3.5
14	SU C	02 56	3.0	15 27	3.0
15	M	04 03	2.4	16 41	2.3
16	TU	05 32	2.0	18 26	2.0
17	W	07 19	2.0	20 15	2.3
18	TH	08 41	2.5	21 23	2.8
19	F	09 36	3.0	22 11	3.1
20	SA	10 17	3.5	22 48	3.5
21	SU •	10 54	3.8	23 21	3.5
22	M	11 29	3.9	23 51	3.5
23	TU			12 03	3.9
24	W	00 20	3.5	12 33	3.8
25	TH	00 47	3.5	12 58	3.5
26	F	01 09	3.3	13 16	3.4
27	SA	01 24	3.1	13 35	3.0
28	SU	01 45	3.0	14 00	2.8
29	M	02 16	2.5	14 38	2.4
30	TU	03 01	2.0	15 44	1.8





Time Zone UT (GMT)
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COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES & CONTACTS	
Recreation ground and play area (except the bowling green, sports pavilions, tennis courts and cricket pitch which are leased to the Pett Sports Association)	PPC
Defibrillator and phone kiosk opposite the Royal Oak	PPC
War memorial at Pett Church	PPC
Several roadside benches, noticeboards, and village signs	PPC
Website (PettNet); Pett & Pett Level News Magazine	PPC
Roads (inc Road Markings, Road Signs, Drains, Potholes, fallen trees)	ESCC
Verges & Footpaths	ESCC
Planning (applications, decisions, appeals, etc)	RDC
Refuse & Recycling	RDC
Fly-Tipping & Pollution	RDC
Dog & Pest Control	RDC
Beach Bye-Laws	RDC
Sea Wall at Pett Level	EA
PETT PARISH COUNCIL (PPC)	
In addition to the above responsibilities PPC can also provide a parish wide view on planning applications. PPC may be able to help you find out who to contact if you have a problem, can help escalate if your problem is not being dealt with, and can assist in lobbying the relevant authorities in the event of continued poor service.	
	
COUNCILLORS	
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
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PARISH CLERK	
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TREE WARDEN	
Marcus Foster	07812 024070 mail@marcus-foster.com
FLOOD WARDEN	
Alan Crouch	01424 813145 cllr.alan.crouch@pettnet.org.uk
ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL (RDC)	
01424 787000; www.rother.gov.uk/residents	
Councillor Andrew Mier	01424 814178 cllr.andrew.mier@rother.gov.uk
Councillor Tim Grohne	07973 543537 cllr.tim.grohne@rother.gov.uk
	
EAST SUSSEX COUNCIL (ESCC)	
www.eastsussexhighways.com/report-a-problem	
0345 6080190; www.eastsussex.gov.uk	
Councillor Keith Glazier	07957 377844 cllr.keith.glazier@eastsussex.gov.uk
	
THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA)	
03708 506 506	
	

VILLAGE CONTACTS			
ARC	Paul Petley	07818 014610	archiveresourcecentre@outlook.com
<i>Badminton</i>	Wendy Petley	07813 633013	ttbadpett@outlook.com
<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	07947 184176	bob.june@btoopenworld.com
<i>Guardians of Pett Churchyard</i>	Mike Wilkins	07710 080148	
<i>Churches in Pett and Pett Level</i>	John Case	07525 032198	churchwardenforpett@gmail.com
<i>- Friends</i>	Heather Godwin	07977 100296	
<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>	Alan Kenworthy	07835 112566	ttbadpett@outlook.com
<i>Tennis Club</i>	Stuart Ware	07971 662068	petttennisclub@gmail.com
<i>Activate Youth Club</i>	Wendy Hatch	812297	familyhatch1@gmail.com
<i>Village Voices</i>	Wendy Hatch	812297	familyhatch1@gmail.com
<i>WI</i>	WI Secretary		Pettwi1917@gmail.com
<i>Yoga Class</i>	Robin Hutt	813182	robinhutt@btinternet.com
ROOMS FOR HIRE			
<i>Methodist Chapel</i>	Wendy Hatch	812297	familyhatch1@gmail.com
<i>Sports Pavilion</i>	Stuart Ware	07971 662068	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

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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	1345 1750
Ore The King's Head	0957 1202 1347 1527 1527		1347 1752
Guestling The White Hart	1001 1206 1351	1531 1531	1351 1756
Guestling School		1534	
Pett Church	1006 1211 1356	1536 1542	1801 1356 1801
Pett Chick Hill	1009 1214 1359 1539 1545	1804	1359 1804

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

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

Pett • Guestling • Ore • Hastings

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MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS except Bank Holidays		SATURDAYS	
	Sch	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

from 3 September 2023 101

Mondays to Saturdays except public holidays

	MF	Sch	SSH																
Notes																			
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								
Winchelsea 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																			

Sundays and public holidays

NR	NR	NR	NR
1034	1234	1434	1634
1045	1245	1445	1645
1049	1249	1449	1649
1055	1255	1455	1655
1101	1301	1501	1701
1106	1306	1506	1706
1123	1323	1523	1723
1128	1328	1528	1728
1132	1332	1532	1732
1137	1337	1537	1737
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

Conquest Hospital																			
Harrow Lane Ashdown House																			
Silverhill London Road																			
Bohemia Road Fire Station																			
Hastings Railway Stn stop F		0747	0847	0949	Then	49			1749	1855	2106								
Ore Co Op	0711	0802	0902	1004	every	04			1804	1905	2116								
Fairlight Coastguard Lane	0715	0806	0906	1008	hour	08			1808	1909	2120								
Fairlight Cove Commanders Walk	0721	0812	0912	1014	at	14		until	1814	1915	2126								
Pett Level Canal Bank	0727	0818	0918	1020	these	20			1820	1921	2132								
Winchelsea Beach Caravan Park	0731	0822	0922	1024	times	24			1824	1925	2136								
Rye Rail Station	0743	0834	0934	1036		36			1836	1937	2148								

Sundays and public holidays

NR	NR	NR	NR
1045	1245	1445	1645
1049	1249	1449	1649
1056	1256	1456	1656
0900	1100	1300	1500 1700
0910	1110	1310	1510 1710
0923	1123	1323	1523 1723
0927	1127	1327	1527 1727
0933	1133	1333	1533 1733
0939	1139	1339	1539 1739
0945	1145	1345	1545 1745
0957	1157	1357	1557 1757
NR	NR	NR	NR

For other buses between Rye and Hastings, see timetable for route 100.

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

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

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

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



Pett WI Winter Fair

Saturday 15th November 2025

10am - 3pm

STALLS  REFRESHMENTS  RAFFLE

Pett Village Hall, Pett, TN35 4HB

FREE PARKING  **FREE ENTRY**



**Pett & Pett Level News
September 2025**

