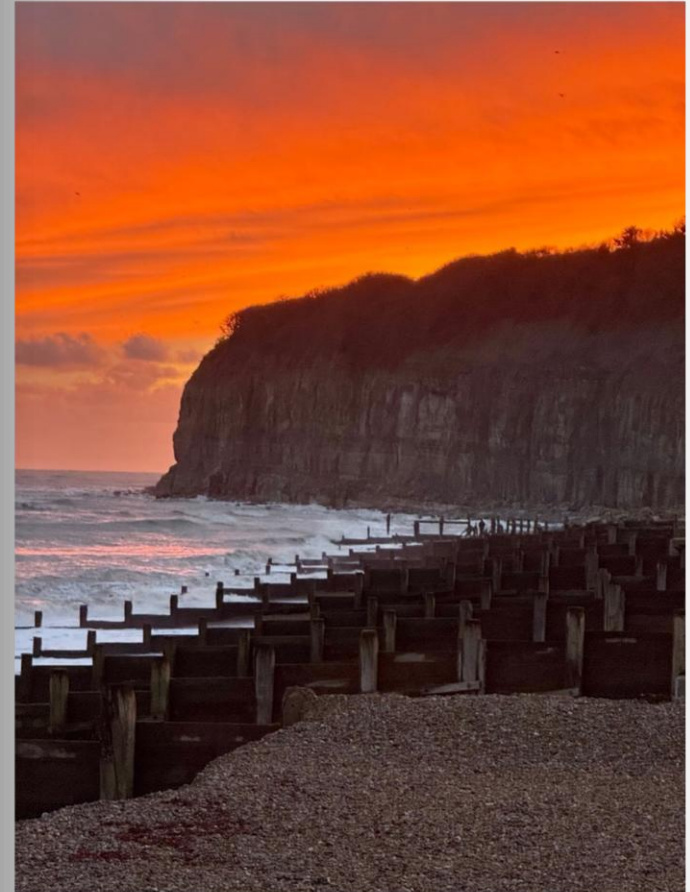


Pett and Pett Level News

Pett & Pett Level News
February 2026

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February 2026

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EMAIL US AT magazine@pettnet.org.uk

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

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And now its February. As I write this however, it is still January and currently a very wet and wild day down on the Level. My dog was almost blown away! On a personal level, January is proving very hectic for both Donna and I, we are keeping our fingers crossed that things will calm down soon.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Rector, Nathanael Hayler. Hopefully we will see him at one of the Coffee Mornings at Pett Village Hall before too long.

In other news, the beach at Pett Level has been awash with onions and garlic. I know that our MP, Helena Dollimore is trying to find out who is responsible for the spillage so we will keep you posted.

Here's looking forward to Spring bringing better weather and longer days!

Donna and Louisa

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!

Pett Parish Council Update

The council met in January and agreed the budget for the financial year 2026-27. I will repeat what I said last month. The precept for the parish council will have increased by a large percentage, almost completely owing to expenditure on the Pett Level toilets. However, for a band D house this will work out at about £2 a week, still a small proportion of your total council tax. I would also like to remind you that the budget will be available on Pettnet, as indeed are all agendas, minutes and council policies. At the January meeting the council also agreed the latest details of information available from the council under the Freedom of Information Act, which will be posted on the net. Anything that is not on the website can always be requested from the clerk. Depending what the item is and how you want to receive it (electronically or on paper), there may be a small charge.

The Pett Level toilets were again discussed at the meeting. A quote has now been received for clearing the ditch at the back of the toilets and round the side of the car park; this has been accepted. The District Council's tree officer is looking to see how any effect on the mimosa tree at the side of the car park can be minimised. While this and the work to reduce leakage are quite expensive, it is hoped that they will reduce the amount of waste that has to be collected and therefore the related long-term cost.

As I have noted previously, the council is looking into replacing the slide in the children's playground. As well as this, it is applying for grants from some of the local supermarket chains that support local developments, so that other activities can be added.

It has been noted that an oak tree appears to have been very poorly pruned on the right-hand side of the road about halfway between the recreation ground and the top of Chick Hill. It is not clear who authorised this or carried it out, nor why; the council is trying to find out. This brings up the general point that, if you are planning to have trees pruned or taken down completely, please make sure, first, that the tree is not protected and, second, that you use a qualified arborologist in order that any work does not unnecessarily damage the tree. You also need to make sure that there are no bats using the tree, nor any nesting birds during the nesting season (1 March to 1 September).

I will not say anything more about local government reorganisation at present as there have been no recent developments. However, both the clerk and I have joined the RALC (Rother Association of Local Councils) working group, which has the aim of making proposals as to how town and parish councils will communicate with the next tier of local government once district councils disappear. As part of this, the group is planning to work alongside other districts in East Sussex and to hear from officers of other counties where the reorganisation has already taken place.

Flooding continues to be an issue. It was good to see that measures taken at Marsham Brook Lane meant that, during recent heavy rainfall, there was no flooding. There are, however, still issues at the bottom of Chick Hill and it is hoped to take steps to rectify the situation there. The other place where there has been flooding is opposite the Two Sawyers as the houses on the south side of the road are some way below the level of the road and the drains do not appear to be working efficiently or may not have the required capacity. This has been reported to Highways and it is hoped that the situation will be discussed.

Planning was, as usual, also on the council's agenda. It was noted that no progress had been made regarding the unauthorised work on the cliffs at Pett Level or the apparent misuse of the former Stamco field. The Rother planning committee has postponed its consideration of the application for 35 houses at Wakeham's Farm. While this is in Fairlight, both the construction of the houses and the effect of the development on traffic once it is built is likely to have its effect on Pett.

David Penfold, Chair, Pett Parish Council

Charles & Co.

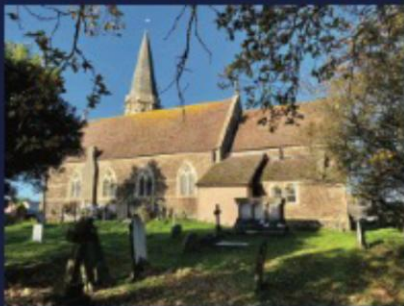
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Church News - February

We welcome our new Rector, Revd Nathanael Hayler

By the time you read this the Induction and Collation service for our new Rector, Revd Nathanael Hayler will have taken place at St Thomas' Church in Winchelsea. This is a formal ceremony in the church of England where a new priest is officially licensed to service in a parish or benefice.

Nathanael will now have responsibility for the three parishes of Icklesham, Pett and Winchelsea, which make up the newly formed Benefice. Nathanael's first service for Pett will be on Sunday 1st February, at the 8.30am service at St Nicholas in Pett Level. He will then lead our 9.30am service at St Mary & St Peter Church in Pett on Sunday 15th February - see the service calendar in this magazine for details of all the services in the Benefice for February. Please do show your support for Nathanael as he begins his ministry in Pett and Pett Level.

Farewell to our Treasurer

Very sadly, our Treasurer, Heather Godwin, has made the decision to step down after 3 years in the post. Heather has been an exceptional treasurer and has managed the church finances in an exemplary way. Finding good church treasurers is not an easy task and Heather will be a very hard act to follow. During her time, she has supported the church in so many ways - driving forward grant applications to support the building works, growing the Friends membership base and dealing with the numerous invoices for the recent building works, to name just three. This will come as no surprise to those of you who know Heather. If you want something done, she is the person who will make sure it gets done, and her drive and enthusiasm, and sense of humour will be missed by the Parochial Church Council. Heather was also very highly thought of by the Chichester Diocese staff, as evidenced by several emails I have received, including this lovely comment from Daniel Lee, the Church Buildings Support Officer based in Hove - 'please do pass on mine and the Diocese's best to Heather - she is regarded highly amongst the team and will be missed'. I can echo Daniel's comment - Heather will be missed, and I would like to publicly acknowledge and thank her for all the hard work and dedication she has given to the church over the past 3 years. Her work as Treasurer will have a lasting legacy for the church and the village community.

As I commented above, finding a replacement for Heather will be a difficult task, but I'm pleased to say that Alison Evans, a member of our PCC has very kindly agreed to step into the breach until we are able to appoint a new Treasurer on a more permanent basis. Thank you, Alison. With Heather's help, and with assistance from Winchelsea's Treasurer, David Harris, Ali is now finding her way around the role.

John Case

*Churchwarden, St Mary & St Peter Church in Pett and St Nicholas in Pett Level
Nine Acres, Pett Road, Pett Village, Hastings, East Sussex, TN35 4HE
Mobile: 07536998530
Email: churchwardenforpett@gmail.com*

**Parish Registers – St Mary & St Peter Church, Pett
Baptism
Primrose Grace Langley on Saturday 10th January 2026**



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PETT FLOWER SHOW AGM

Wed 4th March 2026

7.00 pm

AT PETT VILLAGE HALL.

THE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE

YOU

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CHURCH SERVICES - FEBRUARY

SUNDAY 1st FEBRUARY

St Nicholas, Pett Level	8.30am	BCP Communion
St Thomas, Winchelsea	11.00am	Parish Eucharist

SUNDAY 8th FEBRUARY

All Saints & St Nicolas, Icklesham	9.30am	Parish Eucharist
St Thomas, Winchelsea	11.00am	Parish Eucharist

SUNDAY 15th FEBRUARY

St Mary & St Peter, Pett	9.30am	Parish Eucharist
St Thomas, Winchelsea	11.00am	Parish Eucharist

SUNDAY 22nd FEBRUARY

All Saints & St Nicolas, Icklesham	9.30am	Parish Eucharist
St Thomas, Winchelsea	11.00am	Parish Eucharist

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For all enquiries relating to St Mary & St Peter church in Pett and St Nicholas church in Pett Level, please contact John Case, Churchwarden either by email - churchwardenforpett@gmail.com or by phone on 07536998530



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News from PLIRB

The winter months seem to get busier as the years go by, so there is plenty to update you on.

First Aid

Most of the volunteer team at PLIRB are qualified First Aiders, having completed the Maritime Casualty Care course. This requires recertification every three years, so back in November twelve of us took part in this gruelling three-day course; a mixture of newbies and those doing the course and sitting the exams for the second time in order to recertify. The next twelve will follow in August 2026 on a rolling programme. We covered an exciting mix, with lots of scenario training and running assessments. The best part was that, at the end of the three days, all twelve students passed - even though we were called to attend a shout in the middle of the first day! Well done everyone.

The Build

Progress continues with our extension build and we are hoping to break ground sometime in March, with a 16 to 20 week build time, so should be ready and serviceable for the start of the summer months. We would like to apologise in advance to our wonderful neighbours for any additional noise or disruption during the build; we will invite you to the opening as a token of our appreciation.

MCA Approval

As many of you will know, we have been working hard over the past 18 months to gain Marine Coastguard Agency (MCA) approval of our operation. We are so pleased to tell you that this has now been achieved, thanks to the hard work and effort of the entire team.

Our systems have been tested and approved, our boat has been tested and approved, our training has been tested and approved and, last but not least, our shore crew, boat crew and management have been tested and approved.

Well done to everyone, a major achievement for PLIRB and its volunteers.

Finally, please don't forget our 2026 new boat appeal. We know that £150K is a big ask, but please donate what you can, either online, scanning the QR code below, or by sending a cheque to the address below. We know times are tough, but small amounts add up, so please do what you can. Thank you.

Please make cheques out to Pett Level Independent Rescue Boat Association and send it to:

PLIRB Financial Officer
40 Brede Valley View
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East Sussex
TN36 4DA



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Gardening Club Notes - January 2026 by June Harris

Our first meeting of the new year turned out to be one of our best ever, with an excellent talk on “Gardening for Health”, from a most engaging and personable speaker, Dr. Richard Claxton. Until last autumn Richard was a GP, having had a varied medical career over many years. He is now the Chief Executive of the National Gardens Scheme, apparently an odd career change, but as he explained, gardening has been an increasingly important part of his life from his teenage years, when his mother took her extremely reluctant son to Sissinghurst. He was told the story of its earlier owners, Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicholson, which enthralled him; that they had redesigned the gardens at Sissinghurst despite their turbulent personal lives, was a revelation. He had also had a strong relationship during childhood with his grandfather, a very keen gardener and these diverse influences spawned his burgeoning interest in gardening. As his personal life progressed alongside his medical career and he owned properties with gardens, gardening was first a leisure activity, becoming also an escape from the stress of his working life as a junior doctor.

Over time Richard discovered more and more evidence of the healing powers of gardens and gardening and realised they had been understood for many years; a monk 900 years ago having written of the benefits, physical and mental, that “a sick man” had gained from taking in all the plants, insects, colours and scents in his garden. More recently, Geoff Hamilton said it was important to take the time to look at your garden and not simply focus on the work aspect. Richard is also interested in photography and realised that in order to take a good photo of a flower, for example, you need to focus intently on it until you’re sure you have the best shot. During this time clearly you are “in the moment”, there is nothing else in your world, so it is an example of “mindfulness,” nowadays much encouraged in mental health therapy.

As a doctor, Richard experienced first-hand the worst medical aspects of the Coronavirus epidemic. However, the adverse mental health aspects began to be better understood, particularly the loneliness and isolation during the lock-down period. He commented that it must have been terrible for so many families living in high-rise blocks of flats with no access to outside space. There has since increased awareness of the importance of access to green spaces and its benefits. During lock-down Richard became involved in an Instagram collaboration headed by the well-known garden designer, Anne-Marie Powell, ultimately being one of many contributors to her book “My Real Garden.” The book details Anne-Marie’s creation of a new garden in lock-down but includes the gardening-related stories of the other contributors’ lock-down experiences, much of the emphasis being on the many physical and mental benefits derived from their gardens during this difficult period.

Evidence from recent studies has borne out these observations. Surgical in-patients at one hospital recovered in two adjacent wards, one looking onto a brick wall, the other onto grass and trees. The patients with the green outlook had lower blood pressure, needed fewer painkillers and were ready for discharge earlier, in comparison with the patients in the ward with no outlook. Other studies have shown that gardeners generally have physical benefits like stronger bone density, lower blood pressure, less likelihood of developing diabetes and an improved immune system, as well as mental benefits of a healthier brain resulting from the many decisions gardeners make whilst gardening - their brains are “busy”.



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Richard gave several pertinent examples of detailed research and academic studies which have documented specific positive results in a variety of areas. The RHS has a project where schoolchildren have access to gardening, which has evened up learning ability with less able children catching up with their peers. Community projects where derelict land has become public green space has reduced vandalism in the area and improved the mental attitudes of some of the disadvantaged people working on the projects. A case study Richard himself was involved in concerned a young man whose physical and mental health was such that he had a catalogue of issues including diabetes, was grossly overweight, agoraphobic, uncommunicative and depressed. Having been prescribed a 10-week garden therapy course though, he was well on the way to becoming the person he should have been, with many of his problems resolved or improved and signing up for a course at Hadlow College!

Richard's medical career, combined with his considerable gardening background and his belief in the power of gardens and gardening to transform lives, have now culminated in his new NGS appointment. He hopes to steer the organisation down a more diverse and inclusive path, so that, alongside the "Special" gardens, there will be more focus on "Open" allotments and more "Group" garden offerings, to encourage many more gardeners to offer their gardens to the scheme as well as increasing the number of gardens the general public will be able to view, enjoy and reap so many benefits from in the process.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday February 10th at 7.30 in the Catherine Holman Room at Pett Village Hall. The speaker will be Graham Blunt with a talk on "Plants for a Changing Climate."

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The New Beach Club

2026 Gigs and events

Sunday February 1 st	3pm	Amanda Simmonds
Sunday February 15 th	3pm	Kings Blues Band
Sunday February 22 nd	3pm	The Always Band
Sunday March 8 th	3pm	Pass The Cat
Sunday March 15 th	3pm	Henry Bristow- St Patrick's Day gig
Sunday March 22 nd	3pm	Sound Syndicate
Sunday April 5 th	3pm	The Rockitmen
Sunday April 12 th	3pm	Helter Skelter
Sunday April 19 th	3pm	Little Big Stone
Sunday April 26 th	3pm	Gina Cassisa

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News from St Michael's Hospice

Stay Up to Date Throughout the Year.

With 2026 underway, the best way to keep track of what's coming up at St Michael's Hospice is by visiting their website, stmichaelsospice.com/event-diary regularly. New events will be added throughout the year, along with updates, ways to book, and ways to get involved. Whether you're planning ahead or looking to support the Hospice this year, their website is your go-to hub for everything happening in 2026. All profits from the 2026 events go directly towards supporting and enabling the community of Hastings and Rother to live well with dying, death, and loss.

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 or call 01424 456296.

Join Our Thursday Coffee Stop & Saturday Social.

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These gatherings aren't just for people with a connection to the hospice. They're open to everyone. Whether you come alone or with a friend, you'll find a space to chat and connect with plenty of tea, coffee, and cake. Thursday Coffee Stop happens every Thursday in the Hospice reception at 10am to 12pm. Saturday Social happens on the last Saturday of every month in the Arthur Easton Centre at the Hospice at 10am to 12pm.

Email commvolunteering@stmichaelsospice.com to find out more.

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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,
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A Bundle of Winter Wrens

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



Wren and blossom c. Roger Wilmshurst SWT

Someone once told me if you think you've seen a mouse it's probably a Wren. These diminutive brown birds make a habit of hopping about the undergrowth in stop-motion fashion, feeding on insects, spiders, and occasionally berries and seeds. Despite being the UK's most numerous breeding bird, they can be inconspicuous.

The similarity promptly ends when they open their mouth. Though weighing under 10g, the Wren's voice is bold and loud; a long, high-pitched whistle and trill, cutting through crisp morning air and reaching above that of larger songsters. If you watch a Wren singing, you'll notice the effort on its small body - beak wide and tail upturned.

Woodland understory is an ideal nesting habitat for Wrens, and males establish clear territories in early spring, using that powerful voice. They build five or even six nests to try and attract a female and will aggressively deter other males that dare approach. However, when the chill of winter comes around, the male changes his tune. A balmy summer of successful shouting may have shown that a tiny body is no barrier to being heard, but it won't help with heat loss on cold nights. So, the male starts collecting bedfellows. Flitting out on short trips, he again utilises his song, letting females and other males know they are welcome to join him for a platonic sleepover, starting after dusk and ending before dawn.

"Oh, that stuff I said in spring? Water under the bridge."

They gratefully accept, bundling into moss and leaf-lined woven grass, squidding tiny wings and bellies together to make room for just one more. Beaks in, bums out. Most consist of small gatherings, but records of dozens have been logged, and one count in the 1960s numbered 61 Wrens. Not just super cute, the warmth-sharing of these communal roosts might be lifesaving. Although as anyone who shares a bed will know, there can be a waste of energy caused by the wriggling of others. Shuffling for space, preening, defecating in the roost; entirely unacceptable sleepover etiquette.

When warmer days thankfully return it's back to spring rules, and the male begins to banish other males from the roost, cosy winter cuddles forgotten until the cold starts to nip around tiny feet once more. Next time you hear a winter Wren having a good yell, be sympathetic. It's survived the night, thank goodness, but it's had a terrible night's sleep.

Sussex Wildlife Trust is a conservation charity for everyone who cares about nature in Sussex. Founded in 1961, we have worked with local people for over half a century to make Sussex richer in wildlife. We rely on the support of our members. Please consider joining us. Your membership will help us challenge decisions that threaten wildlife, care for more than 30 nature reserves, and inspire the next generation about the wonders of the natural world. It's easy to join online at sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join



ArchiveResourceCentre@outlook.com

Keith Cowper is a major contributor to the material we hold in ARC. Despite now living many miles away, Keith still visits the village regularly and has a lot of family ties in the area. He has kindly written down some of his memories which we hope you will enjoy reading about in this, and one or two future issues of the magazine.

THEATRE IN PETT 1940 -1960

Theatre has been part of my DNA since my arrival on the planet in 1941, I think the germs of my love for entertaining came from my Grandmother, Sarah Cowper who had a sweet singing voice. In her young days she had auditioned for the Music Hall in Croydon when she was a nurse at Croydon General Hospital. She was rescued from that "sad" fate by her parents, as her sister Annie snatched on her before she had a chance to show them how good she was.

Towards the end of the Second War my great aunt Emily Thomas and her husband were living at High Acre, opposite Lunsford Farm. Every Saturday morning a group of children from the village would go to High Acre, the girls would learn sewing and the boys painting and gardening. As the War was ending, Aunt Emmie decided she would put on a show for the kids to show their parents what they had been doing, and after much rehearsal and learning of lines, the pantomime Oranges and Lemons was to be performed upstairs at the Beach Club at Pett Level.



This was my first performance in front of an audience, and I was dressed in a green elf costume which I still have, and the performance went ahead and was enjoyed by the parents, there was a large Christmas Tree all decorated and with presents for us all. The photo on the left shows (from left to right, Shirley Thorpe, Hilary Webb, Ann Banger? Janet Goodsell, Rosemary Cooke, Me, Benita Stallard, David and Fay Griffen, and Valerie Glazier).

Later, when I was at Pett School some ladies from the WI, under the instruction of Mrs Dorothy Law who lived at Fairlight and came from a theatrical family in London, staged annual pantomimes in

Pett. Her son, John Law was with the Doyle Carte company for a while, he also wrote plays. Her brother was Max Chappel from the well-known music publishers. So for some years there was a pantomime at The Village Hall in Pett which everyone took part in. As I lived in Fairlight by this time I was always in the audience, sitting at the back with my chair on a trestle table so I could see the stage.

Mrs Law directed the productions and also played in them. Once she was the king!! Mrs Banger gave solid performances at the music from the piano out front and her husband Len constructed some great lighting, using large biscuit tins with bulbs and gels in them to change the colours. A great feat!



These productions were all very well attended and became a part of the Old Village Hall history.

When I was 10, I went to the Village Hall to see a Variety Show put on by the Rafonians Band. It was great listening to the forties music they were playing. A chap called Johnny Woodhams was the MC; I would later work with him many times in the Hastleons. He introduced a couple who played accordion called Tina and Tony. Tony was blind so his wife

would lead him on to the stage while they were playing their numbers. Another variety act was a lady called Kathlyn Pickrell who sang a number holding a stuffed Pomeranian dog, the song was called "Has anyone seen my Pom? My pom tiddy om pom pom pom!". She received roars of approval. I later knew Kathy in the Hastleons; she was quite old then and used to sell programmes and would sit at the back of The White Rock Pavilion just loving the shows!

Another event at the Hall was when a chap parked his van outside and set up to show silent films. On the side of the van was painted 'Pettit's Popular Pictures'. A large group of people paid to get a seat and we were regaled with silent versions of Queen Victoria's funeral, Edward VII's funeral and sights of London. In between the films, while the next one was being set up, he would recite some of his poems which were very amusing!



Another event was when the BBC set up a recording van outside the hall and they wanted to record a programme called Mr and Mrs Britain, where couples from the village had to answer questions on what their husband's choice would be. My Aunt Emily and Uncle Frank were one of the contesting couples, also my Uncle Reg and Aunt Lydia Cooke. I can't remember who the winner was and I don't remember hearing the broadcast, if the programme ever was broadcast. The Introducer was a man called Clay Keyes. I only know this because I have his signature in my autograph book !!

Now in my teens it was time to meet Dorothy Law again, this time with the Pett Players. The first play I was in was called Breath of Spring, by Peter Coke, The play had received good comments in London and my friend Rose Hill (Allo Allo) had also played in it. I played a Police Inspector who was called to interview the ladies as they were suspected of multiple robberies in the town. It was a first for me and Mrs Law gave me good instruction in the art of acting, e.g. don't turn your back on the audience; speak out so the people in the back can hear!!



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Continued from page 25

The next offering was an evening of three one Act plays; The first one was called "Home of Genius" written by Zoe Vahey, which told the story of a lost family member returning to his family of artists. I was the son and Lorna, (Zoe's daughter), was the daughter. Gertrude Barlow was the mother, and Muriel Turner was the sister.



The second play was about a young boy wanting to see a movie, the boy was played by my young brother, Colin Shearer whose one line was "I want to see the man hanging!"

Another interesting play was The Blue Goose where I first met Peter and Pam Oldfield. They were both schoolteachers and we had a good friendship. Later Pamela became a successful writer with many books on her list. Peter moved to Australia.



The Cast from left to right. Zoe Vahey, KC, Muriel Turner, William Digby, Arthur Thorpe, Gertrude Barlow, Pam and Peter Oldfield. An interesting production to be part of, and I got to play piano in it!

When I was helping to run the Methodist Church Youth Club, we were short of funds but wanted to buy a record player. I wrote and produced a Rock Panto based on Cinderella and we performed it at the Village Hall. We made the princely sum of £17.50 which was enough to buy a record player for the club.

So, from Pett Players I moved on to appearing in 40 musicals all over the country, then went into films and worked on all the Harry Potter films for Warner Bros and finally retired at the age of 83, after working for six years on the TV show Eastenders. So, it all came from that first little panto at the Beach Club Pett Level and I hope that Grandma Sarah Payne Cowper would have been proud of me!

By Keith Cowper

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PETT WI

Happy New Year to everyone!

As I write this there is snow on the ground, bright blue sky and the temperature this morning was -6C! It is beautiful out there but so cold. It seems hard to cast my mind back to November when we had an excellent meeting. We began with a short tribute to our oldest member Emmie Tasker who had died shortly before. Friends put a posy of flowers on her chair in her memory. She had had an amazing life and was a Holocaust survivor, being hidden by brave people as a child in Holland. She will be very much missed.

Our meeting then continued with a talk from an NHS representative, Cindy Cavie on how to get the best out of the NHS in this area. She is from the People and Communities team and her job is to try and make the NHS accessible to everyone. She gave us a bag of useful handouts and had us doing simple but effective exercises to keep us fit and mobile. A fun evening and to be recommended for other groups.

After refreshments, we had an update on our fundraising for the year which has been hugely successful. The Spring and Winter Fairs had raised a huge amount of money. Add to that our donations of money and goods to Rye Food Bank and we now have to register as a charity because we raise over £5000 a year. This is only achieved by all the hard work and generosity of all the members of Pett WI. You really are a wonderful group of women!

Our December meeting had a very different mood. This time a relaxing evening with plenty of time to chat and refreshments and the Pett Slip Buoys started us off with some of their sea shanties. They were in great form and were very entertaining. We'd like to pass on our thanks to them and we were able to give them a generous donation to say thank you.

There was a more serious discussion on the WI's decision to exclude trans women from the organisation. The organisation felt they had no option because of the change in the law. The WI had previously always welcomed trans women as it has always been very inclusive for all women. A few points were raised and Sheila our Secretary, agreed to raise them with the WI.

Christmas wishes and greetings were expressed to everyone at the end of the meeting.

Sally Watson



Dawn Turner
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THE HAPPY HOME SORTING OUT YOUR SPACE

There are welcoming signs of early Spring appearing all around us. Snowdrops and primroses are in flower and the sweet fragrance of Mimosa blossom in a vase beside me is inspiring my thoughts as I write this article. What better time to start doing some Spring cleaning and clutter clearing.

We all tend to accumulate all manner of objects that we hold on to, just in case they might come in useful at some time. Mostly they are never needed. In which case, just let them go. It is as simple as that. Clearing clutter is a really effective way to revamp your life.

A fundamental Feng Shui principle is that you only have around you things that you cherish, use and need, and not undermined by stuff that bogs you down energetically or physically. Anything unsupportive or unused constitutes clutter, particularly if it has been there for some time. There may be items that are really just junk or objects that are congesting a space. Or it could be unwanted presents, or sentimental items that create emotional baggage. Things that have become chipped or broken fit into this category, so it is crucial to repair them or throw them away. The same principles apply throughout your living space, home office, loft, basement, external buildings, and garden.

You will definitely feel liberated and fresher when you let go of clothes, shoes and accessories that you no longer enjoy wearing. Children's toys, books and clothes they have grown out of are always welcome at charity shops. Why not make a gift to someone else who will appreciate them. Plants that are no longer looking healthy have to go now too. New ones will bring fresh vitality into your surroundings. In whatever form and for whatever reason, clutter is always a drain on your energy, health and desired ambitions. So why keep it hanging around you?

Get Going

Now comes the best part, grab some bin bags and start decluttering! Systematically scrutinise every surface and crevice and check inside cupboards and drawers, room by room. Turn out whatever does not make your life feel happy and productive, definitely anything connected with upsets, negative experiences and unpleasant past relationships. It also means those lingering piles of things that you, or someone else, meant to clear out sooner but did not get round to doing, as well as items that have made a temporary home on the floor, stuffed under beds and into spare corners, or obstruct a room's entrance. The atmospheric stagnation that they cause will have a lethargic, draining effect on you too. For the same reason try to keep dirty laundry in the bathroom or utility room, rather than in bedrooms and living areas, and close the door to contain that energy in there.

Particularly if you juggle family demands or work from home, clutter gets in the way, and it holds you up while you search for things. A little re-organisation will help a lot to create a calmer space, clear your mind, and improve your efficiency. In your workspace, keep old papers and everything relating to finished projects as far away as possible from current work to make way for new business. Remove any papers relating to unsuccessful work projects or troublesome accounts, they will continue to produce a negative energy that can undermine your progress. On your desktop only have your current work visible. Put it away and tidy up at the end of each day.

Continued on page 33

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Storage Solutions

Creative storage solutions include using attractive decorative baskets, lidded boxes and colour-coordinated folders, preferably clearly labelled for easy access, whilst art portfolios can be a useful solution for collections and irregular shaped items. Wardrobe space can be optimised by rolling up various clothing items and stacking them. Make use of irregular or recessed spaces by introducing shelving and cupboards.

Clutter Cleaning Tips

Here are five simple tried-and-tested tips:

- Whenever you add an object to your possessions, a magazine to a pile, or a sheet of paper to a file, a good plan is to throw out a minimum of two others.
- Start small - for example, start with shelves, drawers, cupboards or wardrobes, then toiletries, books and papers etc, choose whichever order will work best for you.
- Ask yourself, 'Does this item give me fulfilment, do I treasure it, does it serve my needs now or for my future benefit?' If not, let it go.
- Make a deadline - it helps you focus and get more cleared in the time you can spare. Once you make a start, you will feel the enthusiasm to tackle more.
- After you have cleared out each area, open the windows and doors to bring fresh air and new energy in.

More tips - www.fengshui-living.com/clutter-management

An inspiring read - *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying* by Marie Kondo

Positive Gains

Life flows more easily when everything in your surroundings has a joyful, pleasing, and purposeful role. Positive outcomes are more likely to happen when you create a space for the goals you want to achieve. Don't be surprised to find that prospects improve and family relationships become more harmonious. Maybe you will also find that you want to rearrange your furniture or introduce new colours. Follow your instincts and you will not go wrong.

Warm wishes

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Nature Notes by Alan Kenworthy

As I write this in mid-January, it is cold, wet and dull outside. I should be out there as well, pruning the apple tree and the quince, but staying warm and dry inside has taken priority this morning.

But what of those plants I should be out there dealing with? They have no option to move somewhere warmer or brighter, they just have to stay where they are and take whatever weather is thrown at them. So, are they unhappy? Of course not, that would be to put our human emotions onto an organism that has no central nervous system to feel such emotions. Does the plant 'know' that it is cold and wet and dull? Absolutely. It 'knows' because as soon as it gets warmer and brighter, it will accelerate growth and prepare for flowering and will also accelerate the take-up of water by its roots.

That plants are able to sense their surroundings has been known for as long as horticulture has been around. Gardeners and farmers know how to keep their plants 'happy' by removing threats and providing a nutritious soil. (I'm being careful with words like 'happy' and 'know' because they suggest a human-like consciousness that plants don't have.) There has been a lot of research about what plants can and cannot sense recently, and it turns out that their ability to sense their environment goes far beyond our simple touch, sight, sound, etc. Plants can sense when they are cut or chewed. If a hungry caterpillar munches the leaves of a tree, the tree will respond by increasing the levels of tannin in its leaves. That may not stop the caterpillar from munching, but it may mean that it must use more energy to find another leaf or branch with tastier leaves, which will reduce its chances of survival. In some cases, it has been found that not only does the tree respond by increasing tannins, but also by releasing volatile chemicals that can be caught by the breeze and sensed by neighbouring trees to enable them to mount their own defences.

That plants can make their leaves bitter and detect volatile chemicals correspond well with our own senses of taste and smell, but what about sight? Plants can't see, can they? Well, you may possibly have seen pictures looking up into a forest canopy, which show a line of clear sky where the branches and leaves of neighbouring trees don't quite meet. For neighbouring trees, there is no advantage to crossing the space between themselves because one would shade out the other, and the other would respond accordingly. So how do they 'know' when to stop that particular branch from growing, and how do they even 'know' that there is another tree there, anyway?

That scientists have detected light-sensitive cells on the leaves of plants is really not that surprising. Plants that are in shade will naturally grow towards the light so that their chlorophyll can produce the sugars that the plant requires to grow. A chap called Gottlieb Haberlandt, an Austrian, published a book called *The Light Sensing Organs of Leaves* in 1905. The book was extensively referenced by the scientist Francis Darwin - yep, son of Charles Darwin. I think I've written in this column before about the South American vine *Boquila trifoliata* that changes the shape of its leaves to match the shrub that it is climbing through - an ability that goes beyond mere sight.

The fact that plants can sense their neighbours in some way is well established. It has also been established that plants of the same species planted together don't compete with each other. But bizarrely, it has been found that seeds taken from the same plant, planted together, actively cooperate with each other.

So, next time you save your peas and beans for the following year's crop, make a note of which pod they came from and plant them together - you may get a bigger crop!



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PETT FLOWER SHOW & FAYRE

Saturday 25th July 2026

Hoping everyone had a Merry Christmas and wishing all a belated Happy New Year.

The Flower Show Committee has begun 2026 by planning for the show schedule and by picking a suitable theme - 100 years of Television - first viewed in 1926. This theme should give plenty of scope for imagination in many of the classes. We are full of hope for fabulous weather in the summer and thus for the show, which will again be held at Pett Village Hall.

Our 2025 Show was a financial success, so the Committee are making donations to local good causes in recognition of the support given to the Flower Show. We still welcome requests, so please contact the Chair, Philippa M Strickland, pstrickl@icloud.com, or our Hon. Sec. Louise Bowles, lou.bowles192@gmail.com. The Committee will make a decision on which organisations should receive a donation and how much each donation will be. Their choices will be announced at the AGM in early March.

We are pleased to announce that Sarah will be selling our Flower Show tea towels at The Old Butcher's Shop. An ideal gift as a reminder of our super village event.


Philippa M Strickland, Chairman P&DHS




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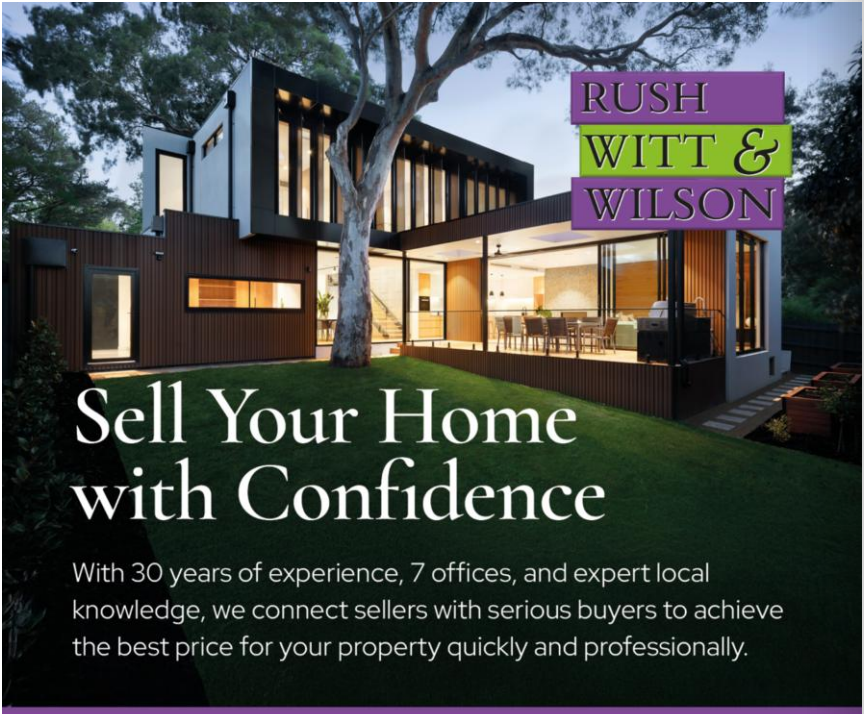
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Pett Village Hall Activities

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
Yoga	6.30pm
Wednesday	
Pett Painters	2.00-4.00pm
Dance Fitness	6.00-7.30pm
Thursday	
Doctor Surgery	9am-5.30pm
Pole dancing	9.45-10.45am
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: 7th January 2026

- 1st: Angela Hawksley
- 2nd: David Lambert
- 3rd: Stella Dunn



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FEBRUARY 2026

RYE (HARBOUR)

Date	HEIGHTS ABOVE ORDANCE DATUM (NEWLYN)			
	High Water			
	Morning		Afternoon	
	Time	m	Time	m
1 SU O	10 50	3.3	23 09	3.5
2 M	11 37	3.5	23 52	3.8
3 TU			12 18	3.5
4 W	00 29	3.9	12 52	3.5
5 TH	01 06	3.9	13 27	3.5
6 F	01 41	3.8	14 00	3.3
7 SA	02 16	3.5	14 35	3.0
8 SU	02 49	3.1	15 11	2.6
9 M C	03 25	2.8	15 54	2.3
10 TU	04 11	2.3	16 56	1.9
11 W	05 20	1.9	18 13	1.7
12 TH	06 44	1.7	19 34	1.8
13 F	08 04	1.9	20 42	2.0
14 SA	09 07	2.3	21 35	2.5
15 SU	09 53	2.6	22 14	3.0
16 M	10 31	3.0	22 50	3.3
17 TU ●	11 06	3.3	23 25	3.5
18 W	11 42	3.5	23 59	3.8
19 TH			12 15	3.5
20 F	00 31	3.9	12 46	3.6
21 SA	01 04	4.0	13 19	3.6
22 SU	01 39	4.0	13 57	3.5
23 M	02 19	3.8	14 38	3.3
24 TU ☽	03 03	3.3	15 29	2.6
25 W	03 59	2.6	16 41	2.0
26 TH	05 27	2.2	18 33	1.9
27 F	07 23	2.0	20 09	2.0
28 SA	08 52	2.5	21 21	2.6

Time Zone UT (GMT)
 ADD 1 HOUR BETWEEN 31st MARCH & 26th OCTOBER TO ADJUST TO BST

Customer service line 03708 506 506 Incident hotline 0800 80 70 60
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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
Al Evans	cllr.al.evans@pettnet.org.uk
Richard Homewood	cllr.richard.homewood@pettnet.org.uk
George Locke	cllr.george.locke@pettnet.org.uk
Andrew Norcott 07802 729412	cllr.andy.norcott@pettnet.org.uk
David Penfold (Chair) 01424 813003	cllr.david.penfold@pettnet.org.uk
PARISH CLERK	
Mary Philo 01797 270790	clerk@pettnet.org.uk
Island Cottage, Swan Street, Wittersham, Kent, TN30 7PH	
TREE WARDEN	
Marcus Foster 07812 024070	mail@marcus-foster.com
FLOOD WARDEN	
Alan Crouch 01424 813145	cllr.alan.crouch@pettnet.org.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
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	07947 184176	bob.june@btopenworld.com
Guardians of Pett Churchyard	Mike Wilkins	07710 080148	
Churches in Pett and Pett Level	John Case	07536 998530	churchwardenforpett@gmail.com
- Friends	Heather Godwin	07977 100296	
Pett Level Preservation Trust	Theresa Nouch	814370	theresanouch@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	petttenniscub@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
ROOMS FOR HIRE			
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



Pett WI Spring Fair

Saturday 11th April 2026

10am - 3pm

STALLS



REFRESHMENTS



RAFFLE

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Pett Village Fairs



PettWI.Fairs

All proceeds are donated to local charities



Pett & Pett Level News
February 2026