

Pett and Pett Level News

Pett & Pett Level News
April 2026

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April 2026

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Editors: Donna Gilbert, 01424 812185; Louisa Tasker, 07900 800291; **Advertising:** Jane Sweaney, 07788 410342; **Deliveries:** Sarah Adams, 07786 333560. The magazine is distributed by our team of volunteers to all households in Pett & Pett Level. All editions of the magazine are available for download from pettnet.org.uk

EMAIL US AT magazine@pettnet.org.uk

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Hello everyone and welcome to our April issue. Hopefully our wonderful Easter cover drawn by seven year old Maisie has brightened your day, it certainly did ours! Thank you to Tony Howard for writing in and suggesting that we extend the idea of using a child's drawing on the cover of the Christmas issue to Easter as well. We also had a number of really good photo submissions for the front cover this month as well and we will be taking these forward for future issues. Thank you for continuing to send them in.

And now to an announcement. You may recall that a couple of issues ago we mentioned how busy life had become for us both and this shows no sign of abating. After much discussion we have sadly made the decision to step down as Editors of the Pett & Pett Level News. In August this year it will be four years since we took on the role and we both feel that it is time for some fresh input and new ideas. If you would be interested in taking over from us, please do get in touch. Editing the magazine has been fun and we have both got to know a lot of people that we may not have met otherwise. Along with Sarah organising deliveries, our delivery team, and Jane (and formerly Stella) managing the advertising, not to mention John, our printer, it's a very efficient team to work with and we've had a lot of fun. If you're interested, please do give it some thought. We are more than happy to have an informal chat if you'd like more information.

We hope you all have an enjoyable Easter break and look forward to seeing you at one of the numerous events taking place this month.

Donna and Louisa

Dear Editors

I would like to thank all the many friends and neighbours in the village who have sent messages, cards, plants and flowers at the time of David's passing. They really have been a comfort and meant such a lot to me and my children.

I would also like to thank his many friends who have been such a support to him, especially when he was first diagnosed with Alzheimer's, taking care of him on special days out and giving me a break. Priceless friendships that have meant everything. Thank you.

It was a very special privilege being part of David's life for over 60 years, a beautiful soul in every respect. I will miss him so much.

Many thanks to you all
Jackie Richards

Easter Joy

*Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness songs of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.*

Music can be very evocative, and Christian hymnody is no exception. A melody can move us emotionally in a powerful way, songs can hold a special place in our hearts, and music can conjure up memories of people, places and events in our lives.

The lyrics above are taken from the well-loved Easter hymn, *Thine be the Glory*. Musically, it is glorious and triumphant. The hymn perfectly displays the glory and brilliance of Christ's resurrection and urges us to dispel all fear and doubt on this great day of rejoicing.

This second verse of the hymn aims to draw us into the story of that first Easter morning - putting the singer in the place of the disciples as the risen Jesus meets them. The latter half of the verse speaks of the jubilant response made by the Church when Christ's victory over death is claimed.

Easter Sunday is the height of the Christian faith. That is why the church takes seriously the preparation leading up to this great and glorious day of celebration; you can find a schedule for Holy Week in the church porch or on the website. Each service reflects an element of the journey Jesus takes and offers a time to pause, reflect, pray and participate.

Even if church isn't your thing, I'd like to invite you to experience something of joy that Christians delight in at Easter. I am looking forward to first singing *Thine be the Glory* on Pett Level beach as the sun rises and then carrying that joy with me through-out the day to each church in our Benefice.

Rev'd Nathanael - Rector



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Easter Services

The Parish of St Mary & St Peter, Pett and St Nicholas, Pett Level

Sunday 5th April 2026

Sunrise Service

6am at Pett Level

A much loved and very special outdoor service in the presence of the rising sun over the sea. The service will be followed by breakfast served in St Nicholas Church nearby.

Easter Celebration Service

4pm at St Mary & St Peter, Pett

An informal service on the afternoon of Easter Day with familiar hymns, the Easter story and time to pray.

Weather permitting, we will enjoy the springtime churchyard for part of the service.

Easter Sunday Services across the Benefice:

6am at Pett Level – Sunrise Service

9am at Icklesham – Family Communion

11am at Winchelsea - Festal Eucharist

4pm at Pett – Celebration Service



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News from Pett Level Rescue Boat (PLIRB)



Exciting times here at PLIRB as work has now begun on our boat house extension. Having taken three years to raise the required funds, the new boat house is due for completion at the beginning of June, just in time for the summer season. Once completed, we will be able to house both our boats, launch ready and side by side. The extra space will be fantastic.

We would like to take this opportunity to apologise to all our neighbours for the upheaval during the work, especially Barbara whose garden we back on to.

UK Power were able to pull forward our installation by two weeks, which entailed everyone working together to clear the site and relocate equipment to the secure compound and a temporary container a couple of weeks earlier than expected.

Since the move to the temporary accommodation, we answered two calls for assistance from the

UK coastguard in the first week alone, so all the changes have not reduced our capacity to respond quickly.

Please, if you're passing and we are on site, we would be happy to give you a quick update on progress.

Also, this month we would like to thank local company Corbeau, who kindly reupholstered all the seats on the current boat. They look exceptionally smart, an excellent job guys, thank you!

Upcoming Events

- PettFest Beer Festival: 22-25 May. Pett Slip Buoys, beers, ciders, music and food
- FairFest: 20 June. PLIRB BBQ and Pett Slip Buoys

Launching the 2026 new lifeboat appeal!

Finally, please don't forget our 2026 New Lifeboat Appeal. The estimated cost for our new primary boat is around £150,000, of which we have raised 20%. If you can help, please scan the QR code or get in touch at plirbrescue@gmail.com.



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Services and Events

The Parish of St Mary & St Peter, Pett and St Nicholas, Pett Level
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Wednesday 1st April
St Mary & St Peter, Pett
3pm

Holy Week Prayers
with Afternoon Tea

Sunday 5th April
Pett Level Beach
06:00

Sunrise Service
followed by breakfast

Sunday 5th April
St Mary & St Peter, Pett
16:00

Easter Sunday
Celebration Service

Sunday 19th April
St Mary & St Peter, Pett
09:15*

Holy Communion
**Earlier start time going forward*

The Rector: The Rev'd Nathanael Hayler

Email: rector.wip@gmail.com | Tel: 01797 308531

Churchwarden: John Case

Email: churchwardenforpett@gmail.com | Mob: 07536 998530



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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!

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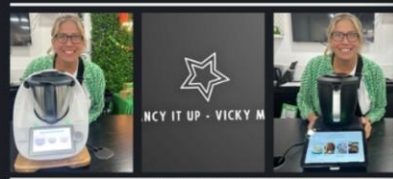
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1st Thursday of every month at

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£2 per person

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Archive Resource Centre (ARC) Annual Friend Request ****Please Read****

Another year has gone already. It seems like yesterday we had Annie Soudain talking about her life in Pett. Since then, we have had a new Chairperson, Paul Petley, overseeing the Archive Resource Centre, and Ken Hatch (who with his wife, Wendy, run the church and work tirelessly in Fairlight groups) as a new Committee member. We also have large display boards and a fire-proof cabinet installed in our room at the Pett Methodist Church.

Our volunteers are committed to the challenge of protecting our local history. If you have ever volunteered you know the time that is involved, all for free.

Cataloguing has been ongoing, which means our website continues to grow, although not as fast as we would like; if you can spare a few hours a week, we can train you and work with you on our computers at the Centre, and then you can continue at home. You only need basic computer skills and be willing to learn new ones to keep the brain active. Our room is open on a Thursday afternoon (a sign board is on the gate when we are there) and we welcome visitors.

Regardless, we would ask that you support us by becoming a "Friend" of the ARC. The money goes towards our annual running costs which include rent, broadband, insurance and the website costs. This amounts to about £2,000 a year, or 130 Friends. (The website is free to everyone, but our computer software packages alone cost £600 a year). So please think hard before passing over our membership form, it takes but a few moments to register a Standing Order for 1st May each year, and then to pop the completed form through the Methodist church door. The membership form can be found on p21 of this issue.

And last, but not least, if you come across any articles about our area, past or present, clip them out with the publication name and date, and drop that off. Or indeed, any old photos and information on your homes (past and present) that future custodians of your house would like to know, just as you would be curious to know who lived in your home and what they did. It all builds up a narrative of our area.

And once again, we thank the Parish Councils who continue to support our endeavours, and local groups who share some of their fundraising income with us. **We are all in this together.**

Fran Rogers
Cataloguing and Website: www.thearc.uk



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Please become a "Friend of the ARC" to help us cover the running costs of the archive. A minimum annual donation of £15 (which equates to less than 30p a week) automatically enrolls you as a member of the ARC and will entitle you to the Friends' benefits described on our leaflet, for the year. Any donation above that amount would be very gratefully received.

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David James Richards May 7 1944 to March 12 2026

After several years of living with alzheimers, my friend David has passed away. He leaves behind his wife Jackie after 60 years of marriage, children Matthew and Vickie, plus six grandchildren and three great grandchildren. The phrase “never had a bad word to say to anyone’ is so true in his case. He had such a genial and loyal character and will be sorely missed.

His working life was with the Dexion company, in partnership with his brother as a draughtsman/architect on installation of industrial racking, and he had considerable expertise on design and load bearing. There were plenty of other activities that were probably more important to him. When he left school he hoped to find a career in horticulture as he had a passion for gardening. His father thought differently!

When the Pett allotments opened he came on the committee and spent many hours making sure, by careful measurement, that every plot was the same square footage. He and Jackie kept a large and well run plot. As a Freemason he was a constant servant of the movement and was a Grand Master of three lodges. David was a co-founder of POPPS and took responsibility for auditing the use of the Lottery Grant. He was a Parish Councillor for eight years and his colleagues always respected his thoughtful contributions.

David’s final years were in a nursing home, but I’m sure many remember lots of happy times in his company.

Condolences to Jackie and her family.
 Paul Stapley



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Pett Parish Council Update

The council met in March. The public conveniences in Pett Level were discussed. Much work has been carried out, although some still needs to be done. For the time being one of the cubicles in the Ladies section will still be out of use.

Unfortunately, the lady who cleans the toilets has resigned. We are, therefore, looking for a new cleaner. An ideal solution may be a job share, so that no-one would have to work every weekend, when the footfall is greatest. So, if you are interested or you know someone (or two) who would be interested, please let either the clerk or myself know.

People will have received their council tax details in the past weeks. As I have already warned, the precept for Pett has increased by a large percentage, almost entirely due to the cost of running the toilets, which parishioners indicated in the survey a couple of years ago that they were willing to bear. It still works out at not much more than £2 a week for a band D house.

Icklesham Parish Council has launched a campaign 'Save our SSSI Land at Rye Harbour': *'Over the last 10 years due to the madness of the 50-year Coastal Management Plan the beach has been allowed to disintegrate at the direction of Natural England... This Plan for Rye Harbour involves "a multi-faceted strategy focused on managing erosion and flood risk, protecting biodiversity, and balancing economic and community needs". [It] would see the Emergency Road out of the village and all the SSSI land lost to future generations . . . [and] will not protect biodiversity as it is all being washed away, nor will it balance economic and community needs as no one will visit and small businesses will suffer. The birds will lose their nesting sites and all the hard work attracting this amazing wildlife will be wasted . . . and Rye Harbour will be reduced by 75%.'*

The plan would also mean the loss of the Mary Stanford Lifeboat house to the sea. The council agreed unanimously to support the campaign.

Two other topics at the council meeting were (i) the possibility of developing a resilience plan for the parish in consultation with both the district and county councils; and (ii) formulating a business plan, after reviewing what has been achieved in the last few years. The latter may be a topic that can be discussed at the annual parish meeting, the date of which will be announced in due course.

One item that might be included in a business plan is the development of the children's playground. The council is already looking at options for replacing the slide, but, in the longer term, other items of equipment will need replacing. It is not clear, however, how much use the playground gets. Please let me know if you have any ideas to develop it at a reasonable cost.

Elsewhere in this issue you will see that the two editors of the *Pett and Pett Level News* feel that other pressures mean that they must hand over the editorship to someone else. While it may be difficult to continue to produce a magazine of the quality that Donna and Louisa have achieved, I am sure that there are others in the parish who have the background and experience to take on this task. Please let me know if you would like to discuss considering a spell as editor or if you know of someone you think could do the job. And, of course, the editorship could continue to be shared by two – or even more – people.

Last month I mentioned the oak tree that had been rather brutally cut down on the road towards Chick Hill. It turns out that this was done by Highways, who claim that it was overhanging the roadway. It is rather a pity that Highways didn't consult our tree warden before taking action.

You may have noticed that the bench outside the church has been cleaned and, by the time you receive this issue, may have been varnished. Thanks to Chris Saint who raised the condition of the bench, Peter Felton for cleaning it and Mike Marsh for providing the water connection.

Finally, I sadly have to report two deaths. The first is the sudden and unexpected death of Nicola Challinor, daughter of Cllr. Keith Glazier. The second is that of David Richards, previously a parish councillor. Our sympathy goes to both families.
David Penfold, Chair, Pett Parish Council



THE HAPPY HOME SELLING YOUR PROPERTY

Selling your home can feel like a stressful, emotional, and often intimidating experience. When a property listing goes live, your home, possessions and lifestyle are visible in online searches which are there to attract potential purchasers to carry out a viewing. People are very sensitive to environments when viewing a property. It is a well-known fact that many people decide they want to buy a property within the first three minutes of entering it. By contrast, they will decide that it is not for them in as little as one minute, usually due to the way it makes them feel.

There are both positive and negative factors that influence prospective purchasers in their decision making, and you can lose out if any of these are amiss. Whenever a property doesn't sell quickly despite being priced competitively, there is normally an underlying reason, often several, with some being more obscure than others. The majority can be rectified. Others may be modified in some way to make them more acceptable.

When you have lived in your home for some time, it is understandable to think that other people will like it because you have been happy living there, or to overlook obvious clues. Older and newer properties alike benefit from the guidance of an expert eye to help you enhance its appeal, optimise its value, and sell it more easily.

First Impressions Count

The external environment plays a crucial selling role when marketing your property. A well-presented exterior is the first feature that a viewer looks for, so give it a critical inspection. Stand across the road from your home and look at the building and land as though you've never seen it before. What stands out? What needs fixing or tidying up? This is what your potential buyer will respond to way before they walk around the rooms inside. So, it pays to fix anything that needs attention, conceal dustbins and make sure the garden, path, steps, and front door look inviting. Viewers are filled with anticipation when they first step through the front door, so be sure to make the entrance hallway feel welcoming, clear and airy, uncluttered by shoes, bags or outerwear.

Be Prepared

Apart from where a place needs extensive renovation or modernisation and is priced accordingly, well-prepared properties with positive energy tend to sell faster, sometimes even above the asking price. Balance and harmony is what people respond to; it makes them feel good. Decluttering beforehand is an absolute priority to show a home at its best. If you don't love something, need it, or use it, let it go. You will be better prepared for your own move as well. People feel very disappointed when a home looks great in marketing literature, but it turns out to be rather different when they view it, particularly when it looks dull or cluttered. Too many trinkets, personal souvenirs and obstructing furniture can also put prospective buyers off a property. Hide the children's toys and pets' articles before a viewing too, in case your visitor is not as fond of them as you are.

Neutral tones with livelier colour accents work better than a predominance of vivid or dreary colours. Living areas can benefit from more energising touches. In contrast, bedrooms should exude calmness and tranquility with soothing colours and features.

Natural light is another very important consideration for potential purchasers. Make sure that your windows are sparkling clean, curtains are fully opened, and window ledges are uncluttered with just the minimum of attractive items on them. And in dull corners switch on a table lamp. Place some natural elements to enhance the atmospheric impact. For example, place a vase of fresh flowers in the main rooms, have healthy houseplants around the place, and put some living culinary herbs on the kitchen worktop. Refreshing aromas of natural essential oil sprays usually please viewers too, although candles with artificial scents are less welcome. What Else is Hindering your Sale

If the property feels too cold or too hot, that can be off-putting. But the two most powerful reasons why a place does not sell are subconsciously felt during a viewing, sometimes even beforehand while browsing through the advertising details. The first reason is that at least one of the occupants does not want to move. They want to stay put, and this resistance creates a barrier that pushes people away. The other perplexing reason is that the subtle atmosphere somehow 'doesn't feel right' and it puts prospective buyers off at this sensitive time.

Buildings, furnishings, objects, personal belongings and people all have the capacity to absorb both pleasant and unpleasant vibrations. Residual traces of upsetting situations such as stress, worry, sadness, quarrels, divorce, illness and loss, can remain in the property for a long while and its history may even repeat itself. subconsciously, even if unaware of them. Children often react quite strongly to those lingering traces as they can feel disturbing.

There is a solution! Discordant residues can be dispersed or transformed into harmonious supportive energy with a subtle space cleansing that can be carried out effectively, either in person on site or remotely. The clear, purified atmosphere gives the living space an inviting fresh appeal and helps people to feel more peaceful, comfortable and settled.

A Successful Outcome

A couple had been trying to sell their attractive house for six months with no interest at all. I introduced some small Feng Shui tweaks and shifted the detrimental energy traces lingering in the house. Within a week they received an acceptable offer. The mystified estate agent did not spot any of the changes that had been made, but he remarked that the house *felt* completely different!

The key strategy for achieving a successful sale is about creating a feeling in your property that resonates with prospective purchasers from the first moment they arrive for a viewing. I would be delighted to help you create an inviting, harmonious environment to boost your sale opportunity, and I can advise you whether an on-site visit or remote advice would be most effective for you.

Warm wishes

Sylvia

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**PETT FLOWER
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Saturday 25 July 2026

100 Years of Television



The AGM was held at Pett Village Hall on Wednesday 4 March. The meeting was well attended, with positive comments on the 2025 show. In her report, the Chairman said that the Committee were very pleased that the community had supported the Show, particularly by the number of entries in all classes. The Dog Show encourages visitors.

The Chairman thanked all the volunteers for their support and hard work on the day. She particularly thanked the Pett WI team for running the refreshments. The Show had been a financial success and there is, therefore, an opportunity to support local causes. Requests had been made by the Pett Level Independent Rescue Boat for their building project and Pett Church for repair work. Funds have been donated to these causes. Clearing work was carried out on the adjoining field used for car parking and the Dog Show.

The Chairman expressed her gratitude to the Committee members for their support. They give thoughtful advice, creative ideas and commitment to making the Show a success. Although not a Committee Member, thanks also given to Sue Dengate and her team for administering the entries. It was suggested that the committee consider opening the Show earlier at 1.00pm, giving more opportunity for sales at the BBQ and other stalls.

There has been confusion in some of the class specifications, and this has been addressed in the 2026 Schedule, which is nearing completion. The Committee have decided to distribute the schedule with the May issue of *Pett Parish News*, as in previous years. For those wishing to be creative, the Schedule will shortly be available on Pettnet. The theme of **100 Years of Television** suggests obvious features in the Floral Art, Handicraft, Fine Art, Photography and Young Peoples' classes:

- Young People (under 5; child and helper): Decorate a paper plate with a Favourite cartoon character
- Young People (5-8 Years): Make Chocolate Crispy cakes x4. Painting or drawing of a Dragon. Grow a Marigold in a 6-inch pot.
- Young People (9-14 Years): Paint or Draw a picture of a Favourite TV Character. Make a model TV with a picture on the screen. Grow a Nasturtium in a 6-inch pot.
- All Young People under 16 years: Photograph 'Gardeners' World'.
- Adults: Fine Art Painting entitled 'Escape to the Country'. Photograph 'Gardeners' World'.

There will also be the model-making classes as usual with cash prizes for the Young People's entries, this year for the three best entries in each class.

We have reviewed the entry fee for the classes and, as last year, decided to charge 50p per entry, which is in keeping with other societies. The good news for young people: their entries will be free!

Looking forward to a great Show this summer with, again, a dance in the evening.
Philippa M. Strickland
Chairman P&DHS



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News from St Michael's Hospice

Why Judy decided to leave St Michael's Hospice a gift in her Will.
 In 2001, Judy's mum Betty was cared for by St Michael's Hospice with the compassion and dignity every family hopes for. The support Judy and her mum received during that time stayed with her, and she later began volunteering with their fundraising team. Seeing the hard work that goes into raising the funds to continue to provide high-quality hospice care, Judy chose to leave a share of her estate to the Hospice when she updated her Will. This was a simple, thoughtful way to help future families feel as supported as she and her mum once did. If you've ever considered including the Hospice in your own Will, even a small percentage can make a lasting difference for someone who needs care in the years to come.

Visit stmichaelsospice.com/giftsinwills to find out more and download their free Will writing guide.

Music and grief
 Music has a unique way of reaching us. When words feel too hard to find, music offers a gentle, non-verbal outlet for those feelings. Singing or playing an instrument can help release tension, calm the nervous system and lift mood, even if only briefly. Music doesn't ask us to explain our loss or find the right words; it simply allows us to be present.

A new Community Band, in partnership with The Music Well, has recently started at St Michael's Hospice. It's open to anyone who enjoys making music, regardless of experience. The band is currently in a pilot phase, so this is a great time to join and help shape its future. If you don't play an instrument how about trying out their Community Choir? They've been meeting for over a year and are always open to new members. No auditions, no need to read music - just a willingness to sing (or give it a try).

If you'd like to find out more, please email commvolunteering@stmichaelsospice.com or call 01424 445177.

St Michael's Hospice dedicated children's shop
 St Michael's Hospice have recently repurposed their Sidley shop into a dedicated children's shop. It's filled with toys for all ages, books and clothes, ranging from newborn to teens. It currently has lots of wellies and jumpers for muddy walks; puzzles and games to keep little ones occupied when it's too rainy to play outside, and there's a small women's section to pick up a bargain for an adult too. Visit stmichaelsospice.com/retail to find out more.

The New Beach Club

2026 Gigs and events

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New and old

I'm always pleased to come across a word that is new to me. The snag is trying to use it in everyday conversation when I like the sound of it but have forgotten the meaning.

There are two words new to me which I want to share with you. Apologies if you know and use these words already! The first is *fissiparous* which I first came across in the biography of Revd Sydney Smith written in the 1930s.

Fissiparous means tending to break into pieces and so, unstable. In biology it means reproducing by splitting up. Each part then has a life of its own. An example is a worm which splits into two, and the one worm becomes two worms.

Generally, I can use *fissiparous* to describe icebergs or political policies or indeed the Labour Party at the moment, likely to break up into different factions.

I thought I could use it to describe a cake I have baked and not lined or greased the tin properly and so it comes out in a number of pieces. But since I then try to glue the cake together with icing, I don't think the word would be suitable.

The other word is *respair* which is what you are in when you come out of despair and find fresh hope again. I saw this word in the Church Times recently. Its first known use was in the 16th century.

May *fissiparousness* and people behaving *fissiparously* never cause you any problems and may you always find *respair*!

Angela Hawksley

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Pett WI Round Up

It finally looks like Spring is emerging! It's lovely to have the longer days and warmer weather again.

A wonderful evening was had by the ladies at our February meeting.

We were delighted to welcome Henry Normal – comedian, film and TV producer, poet and writer – who gave us a funny, heartfelt and fascinating glimpse into his life and work. He even invited us to hold his BAFTA and kept us laughing with a selection of his poems. It was the perfect antidote to a dreary February evening.

The members of Pett WI have already been busy this year. Throughout the year the WI hold fundraising events to support two chosen local charities, along with continued support for Rye Food Bank, Safehaven and The Seaview Project.

We are now looking forward to our Pett Spring Fair on April 11th, in the Village Hall from 10-3, please come and join us for this fabulous event.

We are also holding a Bonkers Banter evening with antiques glass expert, Andy McConnell on July 17th at 7pm. Tickets available at £12.

If you are interested in joining Pett WI we do have a waiting list, but if you would like to be added, please email PettWI1917@gmail.com

Sandra Clark, Vice President Pett WI





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Gardening Club Notes by June Harris

This month we welcomed Sophie Leathart with a talk on the “Folklore of Flowers (and Plants)”. Sophie has her own floristry business, which has inspired her interest in the meanings and uses of flowers and plants. She told us that her life has always included plants as her mother, now in her nineties and still gardening, has always been a keen and knowledgeable gardener, and much of that has informed Sophie’s own interest. As a child her mother introduced her to books by Beatrix Potter, Alison Uttley and others, whose works include many references to flowers and their meanings, and which are beautifully illustrated.

She began by explaining that humans have always been curious about and investigated plants, from the earliest cave dwellers to the Romans and Egyptians, through the middle-ages and right up to the plants still used in today’s medicines. Their properties have been learned of through trial and error - presumably it was discovered the hard way that a plant was poisonous or not if death occurred. Plants would be dug up and every part of them examined - steeped in water, chopped up, burned, etc., their efficacy or otherwise gradually becoming better understood. It may be that, since our ancestors lacked the “benefits” of Artificial Intelligence, their method of conveying both positive and negative attributes of plants was to include them in cave drawings, humankind’s first history “books”. In the present day about 25% of modern medicines are derived from plants from the Amazon rainforest! It would seem we have much to be thankful for to our forebears!

The benefits of many plants originate from them having acidic, alkaline or anti-inflammatory properties and Sophie mentioned aspirin derived from willow, digitalis from foxglove, both familiar to us, but also less well-known ones, including sphagnum moss being used on wounds in World War 1 as it is acidic and prevents infection. Nettles, often the bane of us gardeners, has wide-ranging uses, it is a nourishing and edible plant which can be taken in the form of soups, stews and teas. The stems can be made into a hemp-like fibre, still made to this day and which was used to make shirts for German soldiers! Belladonna is a muscle-relaxant but was also used in eye surgery and to relieve the noxious effects of nerve gas attacks. We are all familiar with elderflower and elder cordial and wine, but the plant has other uses. The centre of the stem is soft and can be hollowed out, creating a straight stick of very hard wood, similar to a cane. An apocryphal story tells of a soldier, blinded at Dunkirk, having his eyes bathed regularly with a balm made from elder and in time his sight was restored! The Romans carved flowers from the wood, which were used as grave offerings in winter when flowers are not in season.

Many plants have romantic and emotional symbolism - pansy or heartsease for a broken heart - primrose (the early spring flower) for birth - marigold representing the sun and ideal for a summer bride. Shakespeare used plant meanings throughout his writings, while artists too have used them similarly in their paintings over the centuries. Queen Elizabeth 1 portrayed herself in her portraits wearing carefully designed flowered fabrics to indicate her strengths and desirability! Sophie today uses plants carefully in the wedding and sometimes funeral arrangements she creates in her business, to imply the appropriate meanings. Her engaging and light-hearted talk provided an instructive insight into flowers, plants and their uses, both practical and spiritual, much enjoyed by the members present.

Sadly, we recently lost one of our staunchest members and a long-time Committee member, Chris Penfold. She loved gardening and had created a lovely garden at her home. She is much missed by her many friends in Pett.

Our next meeting, a talk from Jane Scotchmer on “The Evolution of Our Public Parks”, will be on Tuesday April 14th at 7.30 in the Catherine Holman Room at Pett Village Hall.

P.J. Turner

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Nature Notes by Alan Kenworthy

We have just returned from a holiday in Italy where, apart from an occasional bumblebee and an early Peacock butterfly, the only other sightings of note were several Dippers. (Or it is possible that we saw one Dipper several times!) Dippers are remarkable in being the only passerine to completely immerse itself in water. Passerine simply means sparrow-shaped, from the Latin name of the common House Sparrow - *Passer domesticus*. The term 'songbird' is often used instead of passerine. Of course, there is nothing unusual about birds immersing themselves in water, gannets, guillemots, kingfishers, cormorants, ducks, and geese all feed under water. On the subject of ducks, they are divided into dabblers and divers. Dabblers, for example, stick their bums in the air and feed on water plants in shallow water, whereas divers use their webbed feet to propel themselves under water to reach deeper growing plants.

The main problem that birds have in feeding underwater is buoyancy. Evolution's masterstroke in producing feathers gave birds strong, light, and flexible feathers to fly with, but also a nice layer of downy insulation to keep them warm. The evolution fairy also gave birds a preen gland (technical term uropygial gland) so that they could oil their outer feathers and make themselves waterproof. Feathers, particularly downy feathers, trap a lot of air. So, a lot of air enclosed in a waterproof layer means that birds float and they must use a lot of energy to get and keep themselves underwater. Birds like kingfishers use the momentum from a dive to get underwater and having grabbed their prey, their buoyancy bobs them straight back up to the surface. Gannets have the ability to use their wings to 'swim' a little once underwater, but the champion in that regard is the Guillemot, which can reach up to 40 metres depth in pursuit of its prey.



The Dipper has several adaptations that help it stay underwater. It has less air spaces in its bones which are therefore heavier, and the bird is less buoyant. It also has short stubby wings that allow it to 'swim'. Another adaptation is that its feet provide much stronger grip than those of other birds which allow it to grip stones on the bottom of the stream and to literally walk underwater. As a final touch, the evolution fairy gave the Dipper strong muscles and a more flexible lens in its eyes to enable it to focus on its underwater invertebrate prey. Of course, heavier bones and short stubby wings don't help with flight, which is why the Dipper only makes relatively short flights close to the surface of the water. The adaptations also define the Dipper's habitat. It is to be found feeding and nesting in shallow, fast-flowing streams with stony bottoms. That habitat is not to be found in East Sussex. In fact, it is absent from the South-east entirely, preferring the rockier North and West of the country.

Incidentally, the Dipper is so called because of its habit of bobbing up and down while perching on rocks, the purpose of which is obscure, but which makes an already charismatic bird a little bit more cute.

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Goshawk: Phantom of the Forest

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

For many of us, film and literature may be the closest we get to experiencing the sharp detail of certain charismatic wildlife goliaths; the breath of a Bengal Tiger, the splashing breach of a Humpback Whale or the down-the-barrel fire-eyed stare of a Goshawk. If you've watched this year's film adaptation of Helen Macdonald's bestseller, *H is for Hawk*, you'll have been treated to some beautiful close-ups of these impeccable birds. Cherish these shots - they're not common.



Goshawk, c. Paul Marten SWT

Nicknamed 'Phantom of the Forest', Goshawks are extremely secretive, flying under the

radar and shrouded in mysterious woodland wonder. It's said their name was bestowed upon them by medieval falconers; Goose-hawk, for their apparent ability to take down geese. Anyone who's ever had a run in with a lairy farmyard goose will know they're quite a contender, and the name immediately conjures images of the Goshawk's mighty strength and hunting prowess. Goshawks share a similar barred chest, yellow legs, and bright eyes with their cousin, the Sparrowhawk. But the similarity ends with size, and with a wingspan of up to five feet, a female Goshawk can easily weigh four times as much as a female Sparrowhawk. Despite their impressive bulk, Goshawks are tricky to spot, and surprisingly agile. Preferring to nest and hunt in deep forest, they whip through thicket and glade at speeds of up to 38 miles per hour to silently dispatch unsuspecting birds and small mammals with spearing golden talons.

Like many awesome predators, these magnificent birds get a rough reputation. Historically persecuted, by the late 19th century Goshawks were all but extinct in the UK. Due to accidental escapees, and perhaps some deliberate releases, these birds have bounced back. Although, their trauma is not as much in the past as you would like to assume, with vilification and very real crimes against the species still happening. Along with added threats of habitat loss and climate change, this serial oppression has slowed their steely return. But return they do. Although populations are patchy across the UK, those that do persist are strong in number, including here in Sussex, with around 65 breeding pairs now thought to be resident. If you see one, you're ever so lucky. But if you miss out, don't despair. Lean into the mystery, the stuff of film, and tales of the forest. You might not have seen them. But they've probably seen you.

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.

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Pett WI Spring Fair

Saturday 11th April 2026

10am - 3pm

STALLS



REFRESHMENTS



RAFFLE

Pett Village Hall, Pett, TN35 4HB

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Pett Village Fairs



PettWI.Fairs

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

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-7.15pm

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: 4th March 2026

1st: Sara Baker
 2nd: John Cooke
 3rd: Philippa Strickland

**PETT
 VILLAGE
 HALL**



**Environment
 Agency**

APRIL 2026

RYE (HARBOUR)

Date	HEIGHTS ABOVE ORDNANCE DATUM (NEWLYN)			
	High Water			
	Morning		Afternoon	
	Time	m	Time	m
1 W	11 01	3.5	23 11	3.8
2 TH O	11 34	3.5	23 48	3.8
3 F			12 06	3.5
4 SA	00 20	3.8	12 35	3.5
5 SU	00 50	3.5	13 03	3.4
6 M	01 14	3.4	13 27	3.1
7 TU	01 34	3.0	13 47	3.0
8 W	01 57	2.8	14 13	2.6
9 TH	02 30	2.4	14 53	2.2
10 F C	03 28	1.9	16 41	1.8
11 SA	05 29	1.5	18 05	1.7
12 SU	06 46	1.8	19 17	2.0
13 M	07 50	2.2	20 13	2.5
14 TU	08 40	2.6	20 59	3.0
15 W	09 24	3.0	21 40	3.5
16 TH	10 04	3.5	22 20	3.8
17 F ●	10 42	3.6	23 00	4.0
18 SA	11 22	3.9	23 41	4.0
19 SU			12 02	3.9
20 M	00 21	4.0	12 42	3.9
21 TU	01 03	3.9	13 27	3.5
22 W	01 50	3.5	14 18	3.1
23 TH	02 46	3.0	15 19	2.8
24 F ☽	03 56	2.5	16 31	2.4
25 SA	05 25	2.0	17 55	2.2
26 SU	07 07	2.2	19 27	2.4
27 M	08 20	2.5	20 32	2.8
28 TU	09 12	2.8	21 21	3.1
29 W	09 53	3.0	22 04	3.4
30 TH	10 30	3.3	22 42	3.5

Time Zone UT (GMT)


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

Customer service line
 03708 506 506


Incident hotline
 0800 80 70 60

Floodline
 0345 998 1188

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COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES & CONTACTS	
Recreation ground and play area (except the bowling green, sports pavilions, tennis courts and cricket pitch which are leased to the Pett Sports Association)	PPC
Defibrillator and phone kiosk opposite the Royal Oak	PPC
War memorial at Pett Church	PPC
Several roadside benches, noticeboards, and village signs	PPC
Website (PettNet); Pett & Pett Level News Magazine	PPC
Roads (inc Road Markings, Road Signs, Drains, Potholes, fallen trees)	ESCC
Verges & Footpaths	ESCC
Planning (applications, decisions, appeals, etc)	RDC
Refuse & Recycling	RDC
Fly-Tipping & Pollution	RDC
Dog & Pest Control	RDC
Beach Bye-Laws	RDC
Sea Wall at Pett Level	EA
PETT PARISH COUNCIL (PPC)	
In addition to the above responsibilities PPC can also provide a parish wide view on planning applications. PPC may be able to help you find out who to contact if you have a problem, can help escalate if your problem is not being dealt with, and can assist in lobbying the relevant authorities in the event of continued poor service.	
COUNCILLORS	
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	
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	Rev Nathanael Hayler John Case	01797308531	Rector.wip@gmail.com
- Churchwarden		07536 998530	
- Friends	Angela Hawksley	07976 389635	
Pett Level Preservation Trust	Theresa Noutch	814370	theresanoutch@aol.com
Pilates	Belinda Weber		belinda.weber9@gmail.com
Fitness Pilates	Susan Trimmer		susantrimmerfitness@gmail.com
Pole Dancing	Jane Baldwin	07403 256148	jane@mrzen.co.uk
PVH Committee			pettvillagehall.co.uk
Seaside Stitchers	Donna Gilbert	812185	donnagilbert1@sky.com
Short Mat Bowls	Brenda Kirkham	07444 008034	beekirkham@btinternet.com
Stoolball	Janet Fuller	01303 873227	
Table Tennis	Alan Kenworthy	07835 112566	
Tennis Club	Stuart Ware	07971 662068	petttennisclub@gmail.com
Activate Youth Club	Wendy Hatch	812297	familyhatch1@gmail.com
Village Voices	Wendy Hatch	812297	familyhatch1@gmail.com
WI	WI Secretary		Pettwi1917@gmail.com
Yoga Class	Robin Hutt	813182	robinhutt@btinternet.com
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

MEDICAL, CRISIS SUPPORT & ANIMAL WELFARE			
Hospitals & GP Surgeries			
Conquest & Eastbourne Hospitals	0300 131 4500		
Harold Road Surgery	01424 720878		
Hastings Old Town Surgery	01424 452800		
Other Numbers:			
Samaritans	116 123		
Citizens Advice	03444 111 444		
RSPCA Emergency Services	0300 1234 999		
PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATORS			
Pett Level - Pett Level Independent Rescue Boat Boathouse			
Pett Level - The New Beach Club			
Pett - Telephone box opposite The Royal Oak on Elms Lane			
Pett - Village Hall			
			
EMERGENCY CONTACTS FOR UTILITIES			
GAS LEAKS	National Gas Emergency Service	0800 111 999	
POWER CUT	UK Power Networks	105	
WATER LEAK	Southern Water emergency service	0800 820 999	

BUS TIMETABLES: 347 and 101

Hastings • Ore • Guestling • Pett

347

MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS except Bank Holidays		SATURDAYS	
	Hols	Sch	
Hastings Rail Station # Stop E	1330	1510	1510
Queens Road opp. Priory Meadow Stop N	0945 1150 1335	1515 1515	1640 1740
Milward Road Manor Road	0950 1155 1340	1520 1520	1645 1745
Ore Post Office	0955 1200 1345	1525 1525	1750
Ore The King's Head	0957 1202 1347	1527 1527	1752
Guestling The White Hart	1001 1206 1351	1531 1531	1756
Guestling School		1534	
Pett Church	1006 1211 1356	1536 1542	1801
Pett Chick Hill	1009 1214 1359	1539 1545	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

347

MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS except Bank Holidays		SATURDAYS	
	Sch	Hols	
Pett Chick Hill	0819 0826	1012 1217 1402 1542 1547	0826 1402
Pett Church	0822 0829	1015 1220 1405 1545 1550	0829 1405
Guestling Green School	0829		
Guestling The White Hart	0834 0834	1020 1225 1410 1550 1555	0834 1410
Ore The King's Head	0838 0838	1024 1229 1414 1554 1559	0838 1414
Ore Post Office	0840 0840	1026 1231 1416 1556	0840 1416
Milward Road Manor Road	0845 0845	1030 1235 1420 1600	0845 0952 1157 1420 1522
Hastings Queens Road		1035 1240 1425 1605	0957 1202 1425 1527
Hastings Harold Place	0849 0849		0849
Hastings Rail Station #	0851 0851		0851
Fairlight Glen			1603
Fairlight Cove Hotel			1609
Pett Level			1615

There are no Sunday or Bank Holiday buses on route 347.

Hols - This bus journey runs on Mondays to Fridays during school holidays only.
Sch - This bus journey runs on schooldays only.

Rye | Fairlight | Hastings | Conquest Hospital 101

Mondays to Saturdays except public holidays		Sundays and public holidays	
	MF Sch SSH	NR	NR NR NR NR
Rye Rail Station Stand A	0654 0748 0756 0856	Then 56	1756 1856 2154
Winchelsea Beach Caravan Park	0704 0759 0807 0907	every 07	1807 1907 2205
Pett Level Canal Bank	0708 0803 0811 0911	hour 11	1811 1911 2209
Fairlight Cove Commanders Walk	0714 0809 0817 0917	at 17	1817 1917 2215
Fairlight Coastguard Lane	0720 0815 0823 0923	these 23	1823 1923 2221
Ore Co Op	0725 GG 0828 0928	times 28	1828 1928 2226
Hastings Railway Station	arrive 0740 0852 0843 0943	43	1843 1943 2241
Bohemia Road Fire Station	- - - -	-	1947 -
Silverhill Filling Station*	- - - -	-	1951 -
Harrow Lane Ashdown House	- - - -	-	- - -
Conquest Hospital	- - - -	-	- - -

Notes MF Journey runs Mondays to Fridays only
Sch Journey runs schooldays only
SSH Journey runs on Saturdays and school holidays only
GG Serves Guestling Green School at 0830 and Ore Post Office at 0838.
* Buses terminating at Silverhill stop in Chatham Road

Mondays to Saturdays except public holidays		Sundays and public holidays	
			NR NR NR NR NR
Conquest Hospital			1045 1245 1445 1645
Harrow Lane Ashdown House		2045	1049 1249 1449 1649
Silverhill London Road		2057	1056 1256 1456 1656
Bohemia Road Fire Station		2101	0900 1100 1300 1500 1700
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	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

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

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Pett & Pett Level News
April 2026