

Pett & Pett Level News
December 2025

Pett and Pett Level News



December 2025

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Sir George Warrender -Note 2:

There was a note in last month's magazine about an answer I had received to my query about the connection of the Warrenders with Rye. I have now received further details from archive sleuth Christine Bennett:

Sir George's wife, Maud Warrender (her first name was Ethel) was a soprano of some repute and used to perform at Edward VII's house parties, and it is said he knew her quite well. After Sir George's death, Maud went on a singing tour of America and became the lover of an American soprano, Marcia Van Dresser.

From 1906, the Warrenders lived at Leasam House at Rye Foreign. It is a large Georgian house with 11 bedrooms and 7 reception rooms and parking space for 20 cars. The County Council bought it from the Warrender family in 1955, and it became a boarding house for Rye Grammar School. In April 2020 it was on the market with a guide price of £9.5m but it is now apparently worth £5.15m.

The Warrenders had a son named Henry who became a film and television actor. He ran a radio show in the 1940s called Merry-go-round. He married the daughter of the Rector of Rye.

By Angela Hawksley

It's a packed issue, so a very brief editorial from us this month. We'd just like to thank local resident, 8 year old Eleanor for sending in, what you must agree is a fantastic front cover; the cat popping out from the tree really made us all smile. On that note, we'd just like to thank you all for your continued support and wish you a very Merry Christmas and all best wishes for the New Year.

Donna and Louisa

Hi, after the generosity of those living in Pett last year we will once again be carol singing around Pett on Monday 8th December and Tuesday 16th December. If you would like to join us please do, it's fun and we need lots of singers, please come along. The more the merrier and some lower voices are definitely welcome.

We will meet at St Mary and St Peter Church at 5.45 on both nights and we will once again be raising much needed funds for Surviving Christmas; a local charity which aims to relieve hardship and distress to those most in need or vulnerable at this time of year in Hastings and Rother.

Look forward to seeing you
Becky'

Dear Editors

We have always enjoyed reading the monthly Pett and Pett Level News ever since my parents retired to Chick Hill in the 60's. Since then, we have continued to enjoy their old home and all that our village offers. Your magazine is so full of information - from news of local events and nature notes to bus and high tide tables plus so much more. Thank you for everything you do to enable this great magazine to continue.

Just one question. Does the village still have an active Neighbourhood Watch? I could not find any mention of it in the magazine. Thank you again for all your hard work.

Very best wishes
Susan Moore (Mrs)

Thanks for your letter and kind words. Neither us nor the PCC are aware of a local Neighbourhood Watch group. However, the local Facebook page is useful for up-to-date information. - Editors.

**Rod and Heather
wish all Pett residents
a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.**

**We do not send Christmas cards but instead
donate to our favourite dog rescue charities.**



CHURCH SERVICES - DECEMBER

SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER

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

SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER

ICKLESHAM	9.30am	Parish Communion
WINCHELSEA	11.00am	Parish Communion
PETT	4.00pm	Carols by Candlelight

SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER

PETT	9.30am	Parish Communion
WINCHELSEA	5.00pm	Carol Service

CHRISTMAS EVE

WINCHELSEA	4.00pm	Crib Service
WINCHELSEA	11.30pm	Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

ICKLESHAM	9.30am	Parish Communion
WINCHELSEA	11.00am	Parish Communion

SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER

ICKLESHAM	9.30am	Parish Communion
WINCHELSEA	11.00am	Parish Communion - Joint Benefice Service

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Pett Parish Council Update

The council met in November. For once, there were no planning applications to consider, although it was reported that Rother District Council are looking into what actions they can take regarding the use of the former Stamco ground in Pannel Lane. I wrote to the enforcement officer, who, in his reply, assured me that he is speaking with the police and Environmental Health, as well as preparing a file for the council's legal team.

A considerable time at the meeting was spent discussing the Pett Level toilets. Part of the problem is that most of the ballcocks are not functioning properly, so there is a significant volume of water leaking out of the overflow pipes onto the ground at the back of the toilets. This, in turn, is leaking into the drainage system, which means that the cesspit has to be emptied every other week. The council agreed to fix the ballcocks as soon as possible and also to clear the drainage ditch that runs along the back of the toilets and round the car park. Once these measures have been taken, it will be possible to review the cesspit emptying frequency and the need for work to be carried out on the drainage system. The latter is also complicated by the possibility of an alternative toilet block being sited elsewhere in Pett Level, so that the present site can be redeveloped for domestic occupation. Discussions on this are proceeding, but not at any great speed. Thus, if the present site is to be redeveloped, then sorting out the drainage may not be economically practical.

The council also discussed options for replacing the slide in the children's playground, but further investigation is necessary before a decision is made.

Finally, the council started to discuss the 2026-27 budget. No decision has yet been made regarding the precept for the next financial year and it will again be discussed in December. However, the toilets are costing a significant amount of money to keep functioning, so there will be a significant increase in the precept. Nevertheless, although the increase may be quite large in percentage terms, as a proportion of your council tax it will be a small fraction and virtually all the responses to the survey that the Parish Council carried out last year indicated that people would be willing to pay more to keep the toilets open.

I have attended several other meetings in the last month. Many of them repeated information about local government reorganisation and not a lot of new information has been forthcoming. There are various discussions going on about a tier of government between the parish councils and the unitary authority (which will effectively carry out parts of what the county council does and all that the district council does), but it is clear that these intermediate bodies will have no power. So, we wait to see what is decided.

Other topics discussed at one meeting included the government's housing policy (more house building) and how this is likely to affect planning. It looks likely that, with the implementation of this policy and the disappearance of the district councils, local influence on planning decisions will be much reduced.

A speaker at the same meeting was Katy Bourne, the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner, who provided a picture of policing in Sussex. As you may have seen, the government has decided to abolish these posts, which will be a pity. However, the responsibilities of the role were already planned to be taken over by the mayor.

Another meeting I attended provided the opportunity for feedback to Highways and contractors Balfour Beatty. There was a clear explanation of how priorities are decided regarding potholes, as well as an opportunity to ask for more information on 'Road closed' signs; the response was that this was under consideration.

Finally, we come again to the end of the year and, once again, I would like to thank all those who serve the community of Pett and Pett Level. I cannot name them all, but as well as my fellow councillors and the clerk, there are the people who run the village hall and everything that goes on there and those in the sports clubs, the churches and the other clubs and groups, as well as those who edit, run, contribute to and distribute the parish news. Thanks to you all and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

David Penfold, Chair, Pett Parish Council

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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!

The New Beach Club 2025/2026 Gigs and events

Friday November 28th 2025- Race Night
Sunday December 7th 2025- 3pm 1066 Rockitmen
Sunday 18th January 2026- 3pm Paradise Duo
Friday January 23rd 2026- 6.30pm Burns Night with Martin Ray
Sunday January 25th 2026- 3.0pm Charlotte Hoy

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Do you remember when the village knitted 10,000 poppies for Pett Church, to commemorate the end of the First World War? That was nearly eight years ago - my, how time flies! After that, several of you wanted to carry on knitting and we sent 13 beautifully knitted coats to the organisation Knit for Peace, <https://www.knitforpeace.org.uk/> which distributes knitted items to war-torn areas of the world. That seems still seems pretty relevant with all the conflict in the world today.

I continued sending hats, gloves and other items and I wondered, now that winter is with us, if anyone else would be interested in picking up their knitting needles again. I've discovered another organisation called Knit-a-Square <https://knit-a-square.com/> which distributes knitted or crocheted blankets, hats, gloves and toys to orphaned and vulnerable children in South Africa.

All of the patterns and requirements are on the websites, and they have Facebook and Instagram pages too, but basically, Knit-a-Square requires 8 inch (exactly) knitted or crocheted squares in any colour with a 20 inch (50cm) tail left for sewing the patterns together, or fingerless gloves and Knit for Peace doesn't mind what you knit.

I have a lot of wool, and needles too, and am happy to provide the patterns if you can't access them. I am prepared to send off the goods to the organisations, once we have a box load.

If you are interested please contact me on heathergodwin19@gmail.com or 07977 100 296 or catch me at the Monthly Coffee Mornings, or at Seaside Stitchers on Wednesday afternoons (between 2-4pm) at The Methodist Chapel, if you want to pick up wool or needles.

Heather





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and a Healthy &
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Board Game Evening

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Christmas thoughts

Here are the last three verses of Betjeman's poem *Christmas*. They are a useful focus for my Christmas thoughts and I hope you might like to be reminded of them too:

And is it true? And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a child on earth for me?

And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissueed fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,
No caroling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare-
That God was Man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

Angela Hawksley



PETT FLOWER SHOW & FAYRE

Saturday 25th July 2026.

Now is a quiet time for the P&DHS Committee before the planning starts for 2026 in January. Our Show this year was a great success, so funds are available to be donated to worthy local causes. Applications are welcome in writing to Philippa Strickland at Adams, Pett Road, Pett, TN35 4HG or Email to pstrickl@icloud.com.

Successful applications will be announced at the AGM in March 2026.

Also, we need a theme for next year. We have a couple ideas, but others are welcome. Contact as above.

The Committee wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

If you are searching for a Christmas gift, how about a Flower show tea towel? Great value at £8.00 each. Available from David Penfold at Jasmine Cottage, Elms Lane (opposite the Royal Oak). Telephone or email first (01424 813003; penfold@eps-edge.co.uk)

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Oscar Alan Spencer (1913 - 1993)



Oscar Alan Spencer

The article in last month's magazine concerning Steve Dowling has led me to further revelations which I'd like to share with you, about former residents of the various Gatehurst buildings.

One such person is Oscar Alan Spencer. Some of the more longer-term residents of the area may remember Oscar who lived for a considerable time at Gatehurst Farm.

Oscar's original family name was Peixoto, which is a Portuguese name, though his family had lived in Britain for a considerable time. At age 17 Oscar opted to change his name to Spencer. No-one knows precisely why, but it is speculated that it was most probably due to becoming more accepted in those strongly opinionated years between the wars.

Oscar's grandfather Augusto (1822 - 1893) was a Consul in the Bahia region of Brazil for some years until at some point, for complex reasons, (and despite strong network connections in Portugal), he fell out of favour with the powers that be in Portugal, and lost his role of Consul. He and his family then moved to London in 1870.

Oscar's father, also called Oscar (1884 -1914), was a journalist and, tragically, while on a visit to Madrid in 1914 died after contracting typhus. Oscar Alan was a year old at the time and so never knew his father. To avoid confusion, the Oscar that I mention from hereon in will be Oscar Alan!

Oscar was brought up entirely by his mother. He studied at Mayfield School which was a Xaverian school run by monks, and he was a gifted student, who later attended LSE where he achieved a double first in History and Economics. Following his time at LSE his first job was with Manhattan Bank. Working in banking wasn't really for him and he soon followed his passion, and had a distinguished career, in diplomacy and economics.

The war years intervened during his career, and Oscar was commissioned in the Royal Army Service Corps and served in Somalia and with the Eighth Army in the Western Desert. He took part in the Sicily landings, fought in Italy and distinguished himself by liberating San Marino. (This sounds grander than it actually was as it involved mainly Oscar and his batman. The Germans had already fled at this stage!)



Augusto c.1870

Continued on page 19



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After the war he really began his notable career. He was posted to British Guiana in 1949 as an economic adviser and development commissioner. This type of role proved to be his area of expertise, so much so



With Malaysian Prime Minister, Rahman

that he was then posted to Malaya in 1950. He stayed there for 10 years guiding the rebuilding of the country's economy after the devastation of WW2, holding the title of Economics Secretary, and then Minister for Economic Affairs, and becoming a familiar figure at international gatherings. He remained in Malaya during, and after, Malaya's (now Malaysia) Independence in 1957. He was decorated by the country and even asked to take Malaysian nationality and become ambassador for them in Paris. This role he politely declined.



The family's colonial residence in Kuala Lumpur

Since the British Empire was shrinking at this stage and hence key colonial roles weren't as plentiful, Oscar went to work for the UN in 1960 in Khartoum, assisting Sudan's economic recovery. In 1966 he moved again to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, firstly as a senior official at the UN Economic Commission and then as a Financial Adviser to the Ethiopian Government. He retired from the UN in 1976 following the Marxist regime's overthrow of Haile Selassie. This retirement was short-lived as he was then offered a role by the Seychelles government as Economic Adviser. He stayed there for 7 years before retiring for good in 1983, aged 70.



Independence Day in Malaysia, 1957



Times Obituary, September 21st 1993

After such a fulfilling life, he very sadly died in 1993. He was a man with a strong sense of family and left two sons and a daughter, and his wife Diana. It was fitting perhaps that he died at his daughter Bunny's 40th birthday party and while sitting next to his son Michael and surrounded by his family. He is buried in the Catholic Cemetery at Fairlight. And so, we have this story of yet another larger-than-life and successful character who chose to settle in this beautiful area and who we have, as a community, been privileged to know over the years.

Paul Petley
ArchiveResourceCentre@outlook.com

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The Happy Home: Garden Harmony

There is a lovely old Chinese saying, 'Life begins the day you start to create a garden.'

It is accepted scientific knowledge that people are happier and healthier when they have the opportunity to connect closely with the natural environment and tune into its seasonal rhythms. People just feel better and respond more positively when they can see and get close to plants, those indoors as well as outside. Without plant life on our planet, we would not survive, because plants support our fundamental needs by providing us with oxygen, food, medicine and shelter.

An outdoor space inspired by Feng Shui garden design elements will transform your home into a peaceful, healing sanctuary. The Southwest is traditionally associated with cordial relationships, so it is an ideal location for a bench or a figurine of an embracing couple. The Northeast is meant to be a restful, spiritual area where you can relax quietly and contemplate. Then there would be an area for animated conversation and a place for enjoyable outdoor entertaining, perhaps a summer house or pavilion, artistic sculptural formations, stones, rocks and a water feature, all focused on blending appealing man-made features with beautiful natural forms.

How to Create Garden Harmony

Introducing seemingly simple features will help you to create a more harmonious feeling in your garden. Tall, big, strong, sunny, bright and vibrant features are yang, whilst quiet, shady, dark, flat and low aspects of a garden are yin, so aim to keep both aspects in balance. So, for example, rigid, angular features can be softened sensitively by beautiful stones, rounded architectural objects and planted containers placed strategically. Straight lines can be modified with curved borders, and you can easily create a gently meandering form just by introducing some semi-circular flower beds along a straight path.

As you wander along a winding pathway, there will be magical hidden features to discover, each new experience having an element of surprise, uplifting your senses as you savour floral aromas and observe harmonious shapes, colours and textures. And it is really desirable to create separate areas or 'rooms' so that you do not see the entire garden at one glance.

Blending different forms of foliage and compatible colours creates a harmonious experience where your eyes feel nourished by what they see. Mix tall plants with shorter ones that have plenty of width and offset spiky plants with ones that have rounded growth, broad leaves or delicate foliage. Aim to keep this satisfying balanced colour and textural interest throughout the entire year.

Bamboo and Water

Bamboo is a special plant, favoured in Feng Shui because it symbolizes good luck, wellbeing and long life. It produces a marvellous vital life force that uplifts its surroundings as it flutters melodiously in a breeze. Its yang wood nature is enhanced by water, but plant it anywhere it will look attractive. Clumping bamboo species are least invasive and will thrive almost anywhere once established.

Water creates a focal point in Feng Shui design. Its unique movement, sound and energy enlivens a static environment and attracts wildlife, bringing a sense of peace and immeasurable enjoyment. A water feature requires only a small amount of water circulated by

a pumped system. You could have a mini fountain contained in a bowl set amongst pebbles and foliage, or a small pond, or even just a bird bath. Either select a secluded spot where you can enjoy special tranquil moments near it, or you may prefer somewhere visible from indoors that is illuminated after dark. Whatever you choose, you will receive its beneficial energy, especially when it flows all round or towards your home.

Some Useful Gardening Tips

Look around at neighbouring gardens to see what pleases you and what is growing well. Replicate those ideas and plants in your own garden. Visit your favourite garden centres every month and buy what looks good on that visit e.g. floral colour, interesting foliage, scent, winter flowering plants and beautiful bare stems. Select plants that bloom during different seasons, including ones with perfumed flowers, gaining something to fully engage the senses throughout the year.

You may like to sign up receive to these two regular free newsletters:

www.gardensillustrated.com - has lots of inspiring articles and photos
www.wildway.info - by naturalistic garden designer and ecologist Jack Wallington

Warm wishes, Sylvia Bennett

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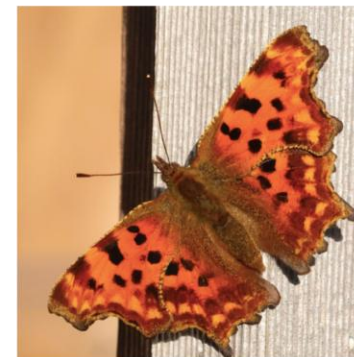
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Nature Notes by Alan Kenworthy

November is traditionally a cold and dark month with short evenings. The short evenings are a result of the odd custom of changing the clocks - something I forgot to rant about last month. But nowadays, November is more likely to be mild though often cloudy and wet. So, on one of the infrequent warm and sunny days when the temperature reached about 15 degrees, I was delighted to see two butterflies in the garden, a Red Admiral and a Comma (pictured). Both were basking in the sunshine, and I presume that they broke their hibernation in the hope of finding a few plants in flower or some rotting fruit to feed on. The basking behaviour is a way of warming their flight muscles to avoid using their precious fat reserves.



The Comma butterfly is interesting because it has two different colour forms. When the butterfly emerges from hibernation in spring, and lays its eggs (one per leaf usually), those eggs hatch into caterpillars which pupate and then emerge as adult butterflies, they are a paler, more golden insect. That colour form is called *hutchinsoni* after the British Victorian lepidopterist Emma Hutchinson who was the first to breed the species and to then notice that there were two different colour forms. The darker form doesn't have a name but is from the second-generation brood. As the butterfly is quite long-lived, survivors of both generations hibernate at the same time. It doesn't matter which generation the hibernating butterfly is from when it lays its eggs in the spring, that brood will always emerge as the paler *hutchinsoni* colour form. I have no idea why this happens - perhaps there is some evolutionary advantage to being paler in early summer, or maybe the hops, nettles, and elms that the caterpillars feed on contain different nutrients later in the year.

Hibernation is a fascinating process. It can be dangerous and it means that the animals concerned need certain adaptations that ensure they can survive the winter without food. I recently watched an interesting television documentary about a scientist trying to extract ancient DNA from a permafrost desert in the north of Greenland. That far north, there is darkness for six months followed by permanent daylight for six months. That particular part of Greenland is one of the driest places on earth which is ideal for finding DNA which degrades more quickly in wet conditions, but even in ideal conditions, identifiable (environmental) DNA lasted less than 1 million years. It took more than 15 years of working on the soil samples they took from Greenland, but eventually they developed a technique that allowed them to identify many plants and animals that lived there up to 2 million years ago. There were mastodons, mammoths, even camels and hundreds of other species. In that environment there are only two ways to survive. One is to build up fat reserves and then slow your metabolism to eke out those reserves as bears, hedgehogs, and butterflies do; the other is to find a way to keep eating. They used the camel as an example. The camel has exceptionally large eyes for a large mammal and has exceptionally acute vision even in low light, which means it would still be able to seek out plants to eat. Also, those humps are full of specialized fat cells for when the grass stops growing.

You may ask what a camel was doing there so far north, but 2 million years ago Greenland was joined to the North American continent and it didn't have a desert, so there was plenty of grazing available.

Church News by John Case, Churchwarden

Appointment of new Rector for Winchelsea, Icklesham and Pett

I'm very pleased to announce that the Revd Nathanael Hayler has been appointed to the position of Rector for the three parishes of Winchelsea, Icklesham and Pett. I'm sure you will all join me in extending a warm welcome as he joins us in February. You can read more about Nathanael in his message below: -

From Nathanael Hayler – our new Rector of Winchelsea, Icklesham and Pett

Greetings from Northumberland! It is a wonderful moment of rejoicing to offer this note of introduction as my appointment as the new Rector of the churches in Winchelsea, Icklesham and Pett is announced. It was back in July when my attention was first drawn to the profile you had carefully drawn up in search of a new incumbent.



Since then, the journey from application to appointment has felt both exciting and unexpected. May I offer thanks to those who have been part of the appointment process and all who have been keeping the cogs turning during the vacancy. Above all, these last few months have been showered in prayer. I hope this growing sense of prayerful anticipation continues as I prepare to move (quite literally) the length of the country to make my new home in East Sussex.

Although there will be plenty of time to get to know one another; for the curious among you, here is a little about me and how I've ended up on your doorstep.

Having been ordained in 2022 after training at Westcott House in Cambridge, I have served my curacy in a large multi-parish benefice on the Northumberland coastline. My time in this wonderful group of churches has deepened my passion for parish ministry amongst rural communities. I have thoroughly enjoyed life in these busy

coastal villages, and have sought to create opportunities for the church to reach out and join in.

As a child of the manse, I have grown up in the Church of Wales and later found home in the Church of England. I have enjoyed theological study with particular interests in early Christianity in Britain, the lives of the Saints, and Anglican ecclesiology. I have a heart for seeing all people find a warm welcome in their local church and, beyond that, supporting all to share their faith with confidence. Genuine inclusion and generous hospitality are an essential part of my ministry, and I hope to build relationships that enable the flourishing of all in our life together.

In terms of hobbies and interests... you are unlikely to find a room in the Rectory without a William Morris print. I love all things to do with the Arts and Crafts movement. This has guided me towards becoming a supporter of Heritage Crafts – a charitable scheme funding, promoting and supporting endangered crafts and artisan skills in the British Isles. In my spare time, I enjoy baking and cooking. Please be assured that an invitation to the Rectory will likely include cake! With any time left, I'll be found on the beach or rummaging in antique shops.

I will be moving into Winchelsea Rectory with my beloved four-legged companion, Poppy. Poppy is a characterful four-year-old Miniature Schnauzer whom I brought home on my first day-off after ordination. Although she likes to grumble, Poppy is friendly and, once she knows you, will be excited to see you. Poppy loves to snaffle morsels of cake crumbs, but don't be allured by her puppy eyes.

Looking ahead to my arrival with you early in 2026, I look forward to the opportunities to get to know you: to share in the ordinary (and extraordinary) moments of our life together, to hear your stories, and to discover how God is already at work among you. I'm excited to celebrate and honour all that has shaped these communities and churches, and to be creative in exploring new ideas as we move and grow together. At the heart of it all, I hope to be a prayerful, warm, encouraging, and visible presence in the parishes. Please don't hesitate to say 'hello' and introduce yourself.

With gratitude and assurance of my prayers as you approach Advent and Christmas,
Nathanael Hayler

Church Buildings and Fundraising Update



Work on the interior of St Mary & St Peter church has largely been completed, although the re-plastering of the wall around the main entrance and to the wall directly above will be completed when moisture levels have reduced. The replastering to the West, South and North walls is complete and we are very pleased with the result. The church looks very bright and inviting, and the stonemason's repairs to the west stained-glass window really allows the window to 'glow', as if new. The new lighting is also a major improvement and will help reduce our electricity bills.

Structural work is still required to the interior of the church spire – the strengthening of the three levels of floor and this forms the basis of our Stage 2 fundraising project.

Thank you so much to all those who responded to the recent mail-out and renewed their Friends membership or gave a donation. Every Little Helps, as the saying goes!

Some of you will have seen the results of the first tranche of our building appeal when you came to the Remembrance Day Service last month. It was great to see so many taking part in the service. If you haven't visited the main Pett Church it is now open again, so do pop in, and I'm sure you will be thrilled to know that a contactless bank card donation box has been installed, similar to the one in St Nicholas's Church.

We urgently need to raise more funds for the second stage of the repairs – which came to light when the first stage was being carried out. Until we have done so we cannot finish the rest of the interior of the church or maintain the tower and spire properly. If anyone can help with fundraising or has any innovative ideas how to raise money, or would like to contribute in any way financially please contact our Treasurer, Heather Godwin, pettchurchtreasurer@gmail.com 07977 100 296.

John Case, churchwardenforpett@gmail.com



Gardening Club Notes - November 2025 by June Harris

Our speaker this month, Emma Davies, is well-known to many members as we had made two visits to her former venture, The Walled Nursery at Hawkhurst. Emma had shown us round and explained their vision and the work she and her husband Monty had done over eleven years to create a viable business in a great setting, but with difficult conditions.

Since selling the business Emma has forged a new career, encompassing various aspects of horticulture, including landscape design and practical gardening. Now styling herself as a Garden Mentor, Emma offers a personal service visiting gardens large and small, advising the owners on overcoming problems, general plant health and improving design. Emma has an impressive CV - HND in Commercial Horticulture from Hadlow College; further training under Christopher Lloyd at Great Dixter; Head Gardener at Sissinghurst; senior manager at Great Dixter again, working alongside Fergus Garrett - so we were confident her talk on Pruning Roses and Shrubs - Techniques for Healthy and Beautiful Gardens, would be at the highest level and we were not disappointed.

During an excellent presentation, both spoken and visual, with well-designed and coherent text and photos, Emma proceeded to demystify pruning. She explained the step-by-step general rules for tackling all pruning, stressing the importance of regular pruning to ensure plant health, improve flowering, create a pleasing shape and promote fresh growth, while minimising potential disease by allowing in light and air.

Emma had brought with her a climbing rose and a flowering shrub, which she then pruned, giving us a practical demonstration of the techniques she had just guided us through, explaining as she worked, how each cut she made related to the points in her talk. Removal of dead and diseased branches is the first step, followed by any crossing branches, ones that are maybe already rubbing on others or soon will do. The next stage is to tackle congestion where too many branches, especially in the centre, will block out light and air, creating conditions for moulds and diseases to flourish. Pruning after flowering will encourage the plant to produce more flowering shoots next season, whilst improving the overall shape of the plant.

Often gardeners fear that pruning will damage plants or stunt their growth and opt instead to do nothing, but Emma stressed that that is the worst thing you can do to a plant! Not pruning will ultimately result in a misshapen overgrown plant with few flowers at best and, at worst, in the case of lavender for example, can result in the plant dying. In conclusion, Emma encouraged us not to agonise over pruning, just make a start, following the basic rules and it will fall into place. In one evening's engaging and informative talk, Emma had educated us in the art of pruning, ensured we would all understand its importance and have the know-how and courage to tackle both roses and shrubs for an altogether more attractive and healthier garden.

Our last meeting of the year will be the Christmas Party on FRIDAY December 19th at 7.30 p.m. in the Main Hall at Pett Village Hall. Further details in due course.



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An Ocean Oversight

By Kerry Williams: Sussex Wildlife Trust

December has a real indoors vibe. Short days, finishing work in the dark and inconsistent weather doesn't exactly motivate us to get out, even if we know it's good for us. This poses a challenge for connecting with wildlife, which we know can increase people's desire to protect the natural world. Despite many species hibernating or migrating, there is still so much to see. To throw yourself in at the deep end, I encourage you this winter to explore our beautiful Sussex coast. That said, in reviewing my parish magazine articles of this year, I realise I've not included any marine species. This is awkward. If our marine team find out they'll be livid. But also, we work hard to connect people with blue spaces, promote the value and wonder of the ocean and fight for its protection, so how could I have overlooked it?



Newhaven wave, c. Peter Brooks

The marine environment has long since suffered from a lack of attention in the conservation world and beyond. At the risk of sounding like I'm defending myself, in a way it's understandable. We're terrestrial mammals, desperately under-resourced for the aquatic. We seek warmth, dryness, a firm foundation underfoot, and can align more easily with perils of the warm-blooded - and things with a face. Many of us value coastal connections; beach trips, swimming, travel to warmer waters. But our oceans are not a luxury. They are a lifeline. A critical feature of our ecosystem, which we and all other life on earth could not survive without. Our disconnect with the ocean environment is contributing to its demise, and we must turn it around.

There is something fascinating about the unknown of the big blue, and once you start to investigate, you realise how truly epic it is. Although much is out of sight from land, the diversity of healthy UK waters has such colour and vibrancy, from royal blue Lobsters to 90s-neon Corkwing Wrasse, and other-wordly nudibranchs. In winter it's wild. The drama of furious waters, crashing waves and freezing sea-spray. Watching, huddled in layers, a freezing cold nose and the promise of an after winter-walk's too-hot-yet chips. Heading to the water's edge for stone-sprinkled sand and shell treasure discoveries. And there's nothing like a stomp along a windswept beach to galvanise a slumped after-Christmas-dinner bunch.

So, this December, why not skip a shopping trip, dodge the odd social occasion, push that deadline. Instead, head to the sea. And I'll submit many a marine article in 2026. Promise.

SWT 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



Nudibranch (*Facelina Ariculata*) c. Alexander Mustard



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News from St Michael's Hospice

Moments that Matter - Sarah's story.


Sarah's daughter Emma, who was 28, died at the Hospice last December, just before Christmas. Sarah shared that Emma "was like a summer's day. She was funny and loved making people happy, she was just a gift to us." During Emma's stay on the Hospice's In-Patient Unit, the team created special moments for Sarah and her family to cherish. Sarah said; "The Hospice allowed us to focus on Emma and surround her with love. Making sure she always had company in a room full of her favourite things; family photos, a cosy blanket from home and music."

When Emma and James (Emma's boyfriend) wanted to celebrate their love, the Hospice's Spiritual Support Team helped organise a partnership ceremony. Sarah painted Emma's nails, the room was filled with beautiful flowers, and the team made sure her grandparents in Spain could join the ceremony virtually. Sarah shares, "We sat with Emma during her final days and were just allowed to love her, as her mum, dad, brother and boyfriend again, rather than her carers."

To read Sarah's story in full, or to find out how you can help make moments that matter this Christmas, visit stmichaelsospice.com/moments or call 01424 456396.

Support your local Hospice through your Christmas shopping.

This December, discover everything you need for the festive season in St Michael's Hospice charity shops. You can also add a festive twist to your table with a box of Lottery crackers. *Each one hides a scratch card with prizes up to £1,000 to get 2026 off to a fantastic start. They can be obtained from our local collector **Philippa Strickland**. Email pstrickl@icloud.com or call 01424 814384 to find out more. *Players must be 18+. Please play responsibly.



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La Cucina di Angela

Dark Chocolate Cream - (to decorate the Panettone)

The name Panettone comes from the word pane - meaning "bread". Its origin dates from the reign of Charles V. In 1599, on 23 December, Bartolomeo Scappi (personal chef of the pope and the emperor) created this fabulous sweet made of 13 loaves, to be given to college students on Christmas day. In the early 20th century two enterprising Milan bakers began to produce the Panettone in large quantities. In 1919 Angelo Motta launched his own Panettone brand, revolutionizing the recipe, giving the traditional dome shape by making the dough rise three times - taking almost 20 hours - before baking. From there, Gioacchino Alemagna in 1925 gave his name to another popular brand, previously known for their chocolate. The Nestlé Company started producing its own in 1990, and the rest is history.

Nowadays dozens of brands are available on the market but my favourite for freshness and softness stays always the same: the Motta traditional one, which is one of the best the town of Milan ever produced. When I was a child, I remember my mum saying to my dad when he arrived with the Motta Panettone in his arms: "Now it's Christmas"!

I would like to add the recipe below, but the Panettone is a very difficult sweet to make and I never tried to bake one myself, so I will leave you instead with a chocolate cream recipe to be served with the Panettone or to decorate one.

(For four people).

- 100g dark chocolate
- 500ml milk
- One sprig of vanilla
- 75g egg yolk
- 140g white sugar
- 45g corn starch
- A pinch of salt

Cut the chocolate into small cubes and set aside. In a small pan pour the milk with the vanilla sprig and gently warm it up until almost boiling. At the same time in another small pan, pour the sugar and the egg yolks and mix well. Add the starch and a pinch of salt. Take the vanilla sprig out and pour a small quantity of milk at a time into the second pan. Whisk well before adding the rest of the milk and carry on gently stirring until all the ingredients are mixed. Start the hob and slowly reduce the liquid into a thicker sauce, enough to transfer it into a bowl, adding the chocolate at the end. Stir well until all the chocolate is melted. The cream is now ready to be used on your Panettone and....

Merry Christmas to everyone!

Angela

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For more information, please contact Donna at donnagilbert1@sky.com or Tel: 01424 812185. We'd love to have you on board, so please get in touch!



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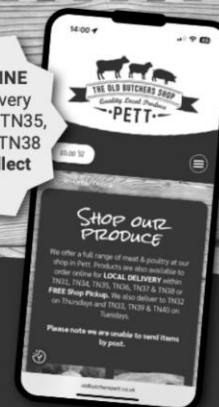
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Pett Village Hall Activities

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
 Pole Dancing 7.15-8.45pm

Wednesday
 Pett Painters 2.00-4.00pm
 Dance Fitness 6.00-7.30pm

Thursday
 Doctor Surgery 9am-5.30pm
 The Hill Surgery Prescription Service 12-12.45pm
 Art 12-3.00pm
 Short Mat Bowls (In season) 3.15-5.15pm
 Fitness Pilates 6.30-7.15pm
 Lindy Hop 7.30-10pm

Friday
 Badminton 10.00am-12pm

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

For bookings of the hall please contact Clare at clare@pettvillagehall@gmail.com Telephone 07718 518053. Doctor's appointments can only be made by contacting The Hill Surgery direct.

500 CLUB

Draw Date: 1st October 2025

1st: Andrew Roberts

2nd: Colin and Laurain Chapman

3rd: Jane Sweaney

Pett Village Hall is a Registered Charity in England and Wales No 1005693






DECEMBER 2025

RYE (HARBOUR)

Date	ORDNANCE DATUM (NEWLYN)			
	High Water			
	Morning		Afternoon	
	Time	m	Time	m
1 M	07 11	3.0	19 48	2.9
2 TU	08 06	3.3	20 39	3.3
3 W	08 58	3.5	21 29	3.5
4 TH O	09 49	3.9	22 19	3.6
5 F	10 40	4.0	23 09	3.8
6 SA	11 31	3.9	23 59	3.9
7 SU			12 22	3.8
8 M	00 46	3.8	13 10	3.5
9 TU	01 34	3.5	14 00	3.3
10 W	02 23	3.4	14 54	2.9
11 TH C	03 14	3.0	15 51	2.5
12 F	04 08	2.8	16 52	2.3
13 SA	05 08	2.5	18 00	2.2
14 SU	06 17	2.5	19 09	2.2
15 M	07 25	2.5	20 07	2.4
16 TU	08 24	2.6	20 56	2.5
17 W	09 14	2.8	21 41	2.8
18 TH	09 58	2.9	22 21	3.0
19 F	10 37	3.0	22 59	3.1
20 SA ●	11 12	3.0	23 34	3.3
21 SU	11 47	3.0		
22 M	00 06	3.3	12 18	3.0
23 TU	00 35	3.3	12 49	3.0
24 W	01 06	3.3	13 21	3.0
25 TH	01 41	3.3	13 59	3.0
26 F	02 22	3.1	14 42	2.9
27 SA D	03 09	3.0	15 33	2.6
28 SU	04 03	2.9	16 35	2.5
29 M	05 06	2.8	17 50	2.5
30 TU	06 21	2.8	19 09	2.5
31 W	07 34	2.9	20 17	2.8

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
<i>Badminton</i>	Wendy Petley	07813 633013	ttbadpett@outlook.com
<i>Bowls Club</i>	Mary Saint	813047	mary@saintfamily.net
<i>British Legion</i>	Brian Green	812450	toffee35@gotadsl.co.uk
<i>Cricket Club</i>	Andrew Dunlop	813368	
<i>Dance Fitness</i>	Laura Mitchell	07527 105352	lauramitchell6@sky.com
<i>Flower Show</i>	Philippa Strickland	814384	pstrickl@icloud.com
<i>Gardening Club</i>	Bob Harris	07947 184176	bob.june@btopenworld.com
<i>Guardians of Pett Churchyard</i>	Mike Wilkins	07710 080148	
<i>Churches in Pett and Pett Level</i>	John Case	07525 032198	churchwardenforpett@gmail.com
<i>- Friends</i>	Heather Godwin	07977 100296	
<i>Pett Level Preservation Trust</i>	Theresa Noutch	814370	theresanoutch@aol.com
<i>Pilates</i>	Belinda Weber		belinda.weber9@gmail.com
<i>Fitness Pilates</i>	Susan Trimmer		susantrimmerfitness@gmail.com
<i>Pole Dancing</i>	Jane Baldwin	07403 256148	jane@mrzen.co.uk
<i>PVH Committee</i>			pettvillagehall.co.uk
<i>Seaside Stitchers</i>	Donna Gilbert	812185	donnagilbert1@sky.com
<i>Short Mat Bowls</i>	Brenda Kirkham	07444 008034	beekirkham@btinternet.com
<i>Stoolball</i>	Janet Fuller	01303 873227	
<i>Table Tennis</i>	Alan Kenworthy	07835 112566	ttbadpett@outlook.com
<i>Tennis Club</i>	Stuart Ware	07971 662068	petttennisclub@gmail.com
<i>Activate Youth Club</i>	Wendy Hatch	812297	familyhatch1@gmail.com
<i>Village Voices</i>	Wendy Hatch	812297	familyhatch1@gmail.com
<i>WI</i>	WI Secretary		Pettwi1917@gmail.com
<i>Yoga Class</i>	Robin Hutt	813182	robinhutt@btinternet.com
ROOMS FOR HIRE			
<i>Methodist Chapel</i>	Wendy Hatch	812297	familyhatch1@gmail.com
<i>Sports Pavilion</i>	Stuart Ware	07971 662068	sjw@meadowshed.co.uk
<i>Village Hall</i>	Clare Walker	07718 518053	clare.pettvillagehall@gmail.com
<i>New Beach Club</i>		812080	info@thenewbeachclub.co.uk



Pett & Pett Level News December 2025

Service of Nine Lessons & Carols by Candlelight

4pm, Sunday 14 December 2025
St Mary & St Peter Church, Pett

Celebrate the season with this traditional candlelight service of readings and carols, including 'Once in Royal David's City', 'O Come All Ye Faithful', 'Hark the Heralds Angels Sing', 'Silent Night' and more!
Plus Mince Pies and Mulled Wine!

There will be a retiring collection for Surviving Christmas
www.survivingchristmas.co.uk