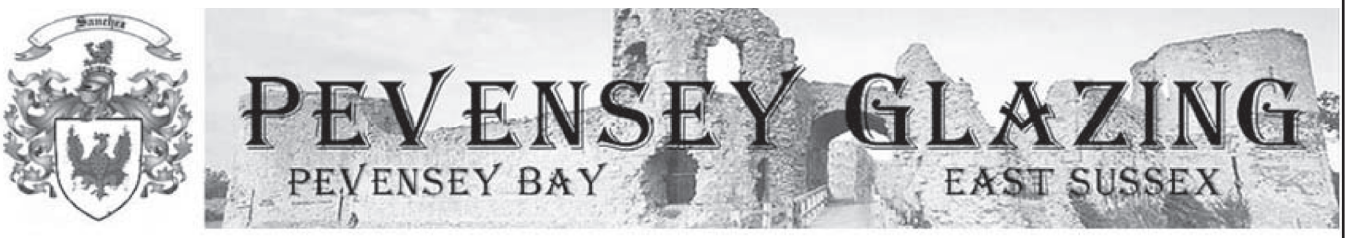
The Parish Pump

Community news, events and local services in:
Pevensey Bay, Stone Cross, Westham, Pevensey, Normans Bay and Hankham

Issue 166 – Winter 2023-2024

Includes pull-out **What's On** centre section



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Community News

Find out what local organisations have been doing and what events they are planning.....

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the Winter Edition of The Parish Pump! As 2023 draws to a close, we will be looking ahead to a New Year and all that brings, but we are also being asked to look beyond the immediate future to new long-term plans to help protect our coastline from flooding and erosion.

Local residents and businesses are being urged to give their views and help shape the 10-year, first phase, of a coastal defence project aimed at reducing risk to more than 10,000 homes, businesses and infrastructure.

Pevensey Bay Coastal Community Group and Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne Coastal Management Scheme outline further details in this Edition.

Meanwhile, as thoughts turn to Remembrance Sunday and the many from our villages who died in service, efforts are being made to keep weeds at bay from local war graves and there is an appeal for volunteers to rattle a Poppy tin in the run-up to Armistice Day on 11th November.

If you have a few hours to help raise money for The Royal British Legion then contact The Parish Pump for details.

Indeed, a shortage of volunteers can have a big impact on local groups and organisations - some of whom are appealing for unpaid helpers in this Edition.

So, while the daily busyness of life sometimes seems to take over, if you can find some spare time, please consider offering your support.

As ever, a wide-ranging programme of events and activities are lined-up for young and old over the coming months, with many obviously having a Christmas theme.

It leaves me to thank artist Di Jones, from Pevensey Bay Art Group, for her watercolour 'Still life, Conkers' - our last front page picture of 2023.

Of course, a big thank you to all our contributors, advertisers, delivery volunteers and you, the reader, for your continued support.

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Sara Cheesley, *Editor*
07799 374049
theparishpump13@gmail.com

ISSUE 167 DEADLINE

Local groups and organisations should email news of events and activities between 1st March 2024 - 30th June 2024 to: theparishpump13@gmail.com by

14th January 2024

Brief details (date, time, subject, venue) of events for the 'What's On' section should be sent on a separate email.

AMATEUR BOXING CLUB

A new amateur boxing club in Pevensey Bay is giving people of all ages the opportunity to gain and improve fitness as well as learning basic techniques.

SouthCoast ABC has started sessions at St Wilfrid's Church Hall for males and females of all ages from 7 years upwards. All are welcome and, in particular, it gives younger residents somewhere to meet up and learn new skills.

Sessions are on Tuesdays and Fridays (except the first Tuesday in every month) and are 6pm-7pm for 7 to 12-year-olds (£2.50 per session) and 7pm-8pm for 13 years upwards (£3.50 per session).

All equipment is provided, but suitable clothing and shoes need to be worn. All staff are trained, insured and cleared to work with children.

Phone Jay O'Brien for more information on 07950 122549, email: amwindows51@gmail.com or just turn up!

ANDERIDA BORDER MORRIS

Anderida Border have continued to dance at various venues throughout the summer months. These included dancing at the Red Lion, Hooe, and the White Hart at Catsfield as well as a rather rainy session at our local, The Royal Oak and Castle, accompanied by our friends Mad Jacks. The side also had a great BBQ which enabled everyone to relax and socialise in wonderful surroundings on one of our members farms.

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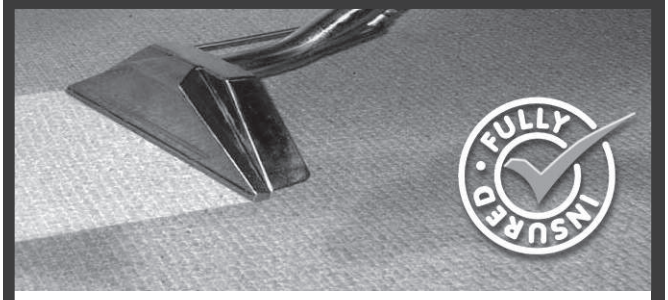

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At the time of writing Anderida was due to attend the Tenterden folk festival in October. This was a great opportunity to see a variety of Morris dance styles and hear some great folk music.

Anderida started practicing again from Wednesday, 6th September 7pm-9pm. As always, we are looking for new members. The Autumn is the best time to come and give Border dancing a go! It's great for fitness and mental health too. At the time of writing, we were also due to run a workshop on a weekend in October at our regular practice venue, the Ethel Wood Community Centre in Pevensey Bay. If you're not a dancer, but play a musical instrument you are also welcome to come along any Wednesday evening.

We have a Facebook page with more details, photos and videos of what we do under the name "Anderida Border". Take a peek. You won't be disappointed.

As well as being great for fitness and well being, it's a fun way to make new friends and costs are reasonable at £2.50 per session. Our contact email is: anderidamorris@gmail.com

BRITISH CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY ROTHER VALLEY BRANCH

The Rother Valley Branch of the British Cactus and Succulent Society still has one more meeting in 2023: on Thursday, 9th November, at Sedlescombe Village Hall there is a presentation about the American travels of a local nurseryman. Doors open 7pm. Meetings start at 7.30pm. This is sure to appeal to everyone with an interest in plants, and meetings are FREE (including refreshments!).

The Branch is currently putting together its programme for 2024 which will be on the website later in the year see: www.rothervalley.bcss.org.uk for more details.

Meanwhile, now that we are heading into winter, here are a few cultivation tips:

- The growing season for most cacti and succulents is late March to early September, after which you should only water them sparingly, if at all.
- It's best to put them in a cooler room if you're growing them indoors, and certainly away from radiators.
- They don't need as much light when they are dormant so can be moved to a bedroom windowsill.

If you need further help in growing your plants why not come to one of our Branch meetings or contact us for a free cultivation booklet: rothervalley@mail.com

BROWNBREAD HORSE RESCUE

The numbers of equines under our care has remained much the same around twenty.

We rescued one piebald pony that was dumped in a large, rough field area. We assume by persons that didn't want the expense of castrating the animal born a colt. We were anxious that it could be wild and difficult to catch but, as is often the case, became quieter when a bucket of food was used to lure him and fix a halter. He loaded gently with a lot of patience and within a few days settled in realising he could walk up to people without being hurt or abused.

Years ago, we rescued four donkeys from Greece. Only elderly "Paris" is left. He has lost all his teeth, so we have brought him close to the house as he now needs special feeding. He wanders loose around the yard and is a hit with all the visitors.

Another recent rescue was a youngster that looks like an Arabian. He was very skinny, but is picking up weight well.

It was unusual to have the horses grazing the front hay-field as we were donated bales of hay and had some left over from last year.

We have to make sure the road gate is always closed as the three Shetland-like ponies wander loose around the yard area grazing the verges.

We are very grateful to Emily Lawes who regularly takes our donations of tack and sells them for us in the Bexhill area.

We always need volunteers over 18 years, preferably with some experience.

Visitors are welcome by arrangement. We need sponsors for things like hay or feed stuffs, veterinary bills, newsletter, utility bills, water/electricity. We need help in the office marketing/fundraising or simply make donations of things that we can sell to raise funds.

Tony Smith
Trustee
07711 924472

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Many residents have concerns about vehicles speeding within the Parish. Roads in Beachlands, Coast Road, Wallsend Road and Eastbourne Road are of particular concern. All of these have a 30mph speed limit in the built-up areas.

Across Sussex, and nationally, Community Speed Watch Groups (CSWG) have been set up and run by volunteers. This means giving up a bit of time to attend a short training course and a few hours per month running sessions locally to try and identify and report those who are speeding. Pevensey CSWG urgently needs more volunteers to help, if the campaign to reduce speeding is to have any impact and effect.

Please do offer to join this group which can help all our residents. Contact Keith Henderson on 01323 460523, who will be happy to explain how you can help and what your time would involve.

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EASTBOURNE & DISTRICT LOCAL RSPB GROUP

There has been a Local RSPB Group in Eastbourne since 1975, with a brief pause in 1993, whose aims are to encourage an interest in wildlife and to support the RSPB nationally: "Protecting habitats, saving species and helping to end the nature and climate change emergency."

Your local Group of the RSPB organises a range of enjoyable activities for members and non-members.

Our friendly walks (usually on the second Wednesday and third Saturday) are not strenuous and usually last between two and a half and three hours - we are not in a hurry to get anywhere and pause to enjoy the birdlife and all nature on the way.

Our talks (usually on the first Wednesday) are held in St. Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay, and take place in the afternoon at 2.15pm and then repeated in the evening at 7pm.

The talks last around two hours with a break for (free) refreshments. We have a wide variety of speakers, usually with an illustrated presentation, talking about all aspects of nature.

You can join your Local Eastbourne Group for only £10 per year. Talks are £5 (£6 for non-members). Walks are free, but we hope that a voluntary donation of £2 is made.

Eastbourne RSPB Group members in Abbots Wood - successfully locating the Iberian chiffchaff!

EAST SUSSEX MOVIEMAKERS

Club members have continued to enjoy club meetings throughout the summer months.

With a variety of subjects on offer, a large assortment of films to watch, and some challenging matters to consider, the weeks have soon passed. Most notable has been a visit from a member of Haywards Heath Movie Makers (who many years ago lived in Cooden) who showed a number of his films, several of which were documentary award winners, and some made using his mobile phone.

Taking a break during filming

The Club's main activity, (reported in the Summer edition) had been filming several actors, two of which were dressed as seagulls! The film, entitled Fish & Chips, was our club entry for The Albany Competition, a very long-standing event for film-maker clubs in East & West Sussex, and those bordering the two counties, to enter.

Films have to fit a pre-selected theme; for 2023 it was 'Nothing Ventured . . .' Our film was awarded 'Best Comedy' and the resulting certificate is now proudly on display.

An 'Open Afternoon' at the beginning of August attracted a few friends, and two 'strangers' all who enjoyed films from the club archive. More recently, a club meeting focused on Music & Film when an ex-member showed examples of how composers of music for films help to create or heighten the storyline's sense of adventure, surprise, amusement or sorrow.

With the autumn programme promising a series of interesting meetings, including the AGM, there are afternoons likely to please anyone who likes watching good quality amateur films or learn about any other aspect of movie making.

If interested, contact either the Chairman, Malcolm Webster on 01323 769016, or email Valerie McManus: valmcmanusuk@yahoo.com for up to date information. Club meetings are at St. Luke's, Stone Cross, on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2pm. Alternatively look on our website: www.eastsussexmoviemakers.com

Come and meet us and find out more about what we do – and have a cup of tea with us.

EAST SUSSEX VISION SUPPORT

East Sussex Vision Support (ESVS) was established in 1921 when social inclusion was at the top of its agenda. This is still the case today and we remain dedicated to providing vital services to blind and partially sighted people who live within East Sussex, Brighton and Hove. Whilst aiming to increase the independence, confidence and well-being of blind and partially sighted people, we also work to promote the understanding of sight loss in local communities.

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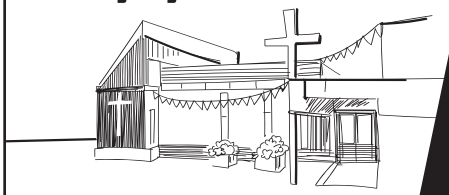

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sighted person's life is when they are first diagnosed with sight impairment or when it changes or worsens. Such experiences normally take place at an eye clinic. We are there to help when someone has a new diagnosis or if a sight problem changes or worsens. The consultant can refer the patient directly to ESVS where we are able to provide advice, care, comfort, sign posting, support and ensure they have full advice and guidance at this very difficult time.

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The Aids & Equipment Co-ordinator and his personal assistant visit people in their homes and invite clients to visit the shop at Head Office, to show them the latest equipment and software that will enable people with sight loss to be independently mobile inside and outside their homes.

Our Telephone Helpline is based locally at our Hailsham HQ. The service is available from Monday to Thursday 9am-4.30pm.

We currently provide 15 social groups run by 200 volunteers. These offer a vital lifeline to over 500 of our members who would experience social isolation and exclusion without the opportunity to get together once a month.

The Higher Intervention Service is aimed at assisting clients who have more complex needs or are looking to deal with a range of issues that may be affecting their life.

For further information about any of our services contact our HQ on 01323 832252 or email: info@eastsussexvisionsupport.org

ETHEL WOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Would you be interested in joining our small committee that looks after the Ethel Wood Community Centre? Do you want to have a say in the running of this very popular venue?

If this is something for you, then please contact the Parish Clerk at the details below.

The Committee meets every 6 to 8 weeks to discuss the upkeep of the hall and future projects that we want to undertake.

The facilities - at 129 Coast Road, Pevensey Bay, BN24 6NS - include the main hall, back garden, private parking, a commercial kitchen, ladies, gents, and disabled toilets and free Wi-Fi.

The hall is very well looked after and is regularly rented out to a whole range of different groups and activities as well as parties.

All hall activities and how to book can be found on the Parish Council website. Alternatively, you can contact Sarah Mosedale, the Parish Clerk.

https://pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk/ethel-wood-community-centre/
clerk@pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk or 01323 743900

FOXES HOLLOW RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

We have had another record level of support and membership from the Foxes Hollow estate. While this year's highlights saw us organise a summer event to commemorate King Charles III's coronation and we have maintained the estate entrance, we must admit the internal condition of the estate has been poor. This is primarily due to contractors appointed by the Parish Council ceasing their agreed contract which left the open grassed areas and paths overgrown for most of the summer.

By the time this article comes round we hope the new contractors will have managed to get back on top of the maintenance. We do note and appreciate that other maintenance works have been carried out on behalf of the Parish Council on the estate. As always, we welcome comments and suggestions from FHRA members.

Stuart McMillan, Chairman FHRA
01323 764350

FRIENDS OF THE MINT HOUSE

It's been an incredibly busy few months at the Mint House, and we are grateful to each and every one of our supporters for your help with the Mint House project and for your donations to our campaigns and community events, and to those who kindly drop Mint House-related memorabilia through our door!

We are amassing quite an archive, which is wonderful for the heritage of the village and can be shared with everyone.

We are delighted to announce that we now have a Project Manager based at the Mint House: Jonathan (Jo) Seaman is an experienced archaeologist who was Heritage Manager of Heritage Eastbourne (Eastbourne Borough Council) for the last twelve years, and has worked with many heritage organisations, including pioneering heritage work in Sussex.

We're continuing to build extensive partnerships with other organisations, and are delighted to be approached by well-known heritage organisations for our help and advice – the more we can help bring heritage, especially Wealden heritage, to others, the better. We're grateful to all the heritage experts who have joined the project.

Funding applications continue, as well as having our open days and events – keep an eye on our website for details.

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Buildings Archaeologist Lisa Jayne Fisher (L) and national interiors expert Linda Hall (R) examine timbers in the Chamber

Historical research on the house continues thanks to Dr Alan Starr (Local History Advisor), and we have found some incredible discoveries – the Mint House keeps giving up its secrets and the deeper we research into it, the more questions it throws up - it is such an enigma of a building!

Our early autumn campaign, 'Want a Piece of Us?' has been launched, where you can 'adopt' a piece of the Mint House and receive a certificate in return for a small donation.

The Mint House is incredibly special to us and to the village – thank you for helping us save it for everyone.

Website: www.minthousepevensey.co.uk Phone: 07572 601334 / 01323 913604.
Email: friendsmint@mail.uk Write: Mint House, High Street, Pevensey, BN24 5LF.

INKSPOT

'Inkspot' is a creative writing group meeting at the Community Library, Pevensey Bay, on the first Friday of each month at 6pm.

Each month we write on a different theme, as well as sharing our written work at our meetings. We bring our stories and poems together in a monthly anthology. Recent themes have been 'Flowers for You' and 'A Summer Like No Other'.

National Poetry Day falls in October this year and our members are currently writing poetry on the national theme of 'Refuge'. We will display these in the library in due course.

Our regular summer 'Strawberries and Stories' event was held this year in the truly beautiful surroundings of the garden of Thelma Forrest in Pevensey Bay.

We're looking forward to participating in the Pevensey Community Information Day; it's always nice to chat to people about our group.

We're on Facebook (inkspotbythesea) where we regularly post details of upcoming meetings and writing themes. We can be contacted by email at inkspot@gmx.com.

New members who wish to share their creative writing, or find inspiration to write, in a supportive group, are always warmly welcomed. On occasions, we move our meeting date to fit in with member's holidays or commitments, so it's best to drop us an email beforehand if you are thinking of joining us.

There is no charge for first time visitors; subsequent contributions are £5 per meeting which includes really lovely snacks! £1 from each sub is given back to the library. We feel privileged to be able to meet in such fitting surroundings and are delighted to be able to support the library too.

Jacky Long

PARISH OF PEVENSEY ST WILFRID & ST NICOLAS CHURCHES

THANKSGIVING, REMEMBERING, WAITING & CELEBRATING. Autumn & Winter in the parish.

As Summer blends into Autumn, it isn't just the created world that changes – we also change tempo in our churches. We move on from Harvest Thanksgiving to giving thanks for our own Saint Wilfrid on 15th October. Then we move into a season of 'remembrance' in November. On All Souls' Day 2nd November, we remember and give thanks for our own lost loved ones at a special service. On All Saints Day the following Sunday, we celebrate named and unnamed 'Saints'. Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday are poignant occasions as we remember those who died as a result of war, and pray for a more peaceable future.

We then move into December, and the Season of Advent - a time of longing and anticipation for the coming Christ (Advent = "coming"). Advent Sunday, 3rd December, is also the day we celebrate our own St Nicolas. The season culminates in the Festival of Christmas as we celebrate 'Emmanuel' (= 'God with us'). For more details about time/venue of any of the above, please see the 'What's On' section.

During Advent and Christmas we will, as last year, be joining in the town wide 'Inspiring Angels' initiative …. keep a look out for St Wilfrid's Sea Angel!

All are welcome to our Sunday services. At St Wilfrid's at 9.30am, we use modern language with hymns and offer excellent disabled access. St Nicolas may appeal to those who prefer a more formal style of worship using traditional language, incense with choir accompaniment.

Our churches are always happy to respond to anyone with queries about marriage, baptisms or funerals. Please get in touch and also keep an eye on the parish website: www.pevenseyparish.org which is regularly updated.

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PEVENSEY AREA GARDENERS CLUB

The Club has had a busy few months with an outing for a cream tea and two shows – one in June and our main one in August. At both shows members brought along some nice exhibits to please our judges and place new names on the trophies.

The strange weather of this year has made gardening difficult, too much rain, too hot conditions, and then enough wind to blow your head off, all at times when that type of weather is not expected. Well done on overcoming the vagaries and putting entries on the bench. Let's hope next year will be a bit more kind to us.

Now the last few months of the current year are upon us we have some exciting meetings to come, including our AGM which, at the time of writing, was due to be held on Wednesday, 11th October. The agenda included ideas for the growth and future of the club.

In November, we will be making a wreath for Christmas. If possible, please bring suitable greenery, and accessories, cones, baubles etc. The new schedule will be available shortly with next year's exciting programme.

New members are welcome at our monthly meetings, see diary page, or for further information from the chairman Keith Henderson ring 01323 460523 or bigK6342@gmail.com

Denise Morgan-Smith
President

PEVENSEY BINGO

We welcome new players to our bingo every Friday at Pevensey Memorial Hall. Doors open 7pm, Eyes down 7.30pm, for a very friendly evening. Free tea in the interval. Come and join us for a good evening.

Peter
01323 763520

PEVENSEY CASTLE

Pevensey Castle is open for the winter season: Saturday and Sunday, 6th November to 28th March, 10am to 4pm.

ENGLISH HERITAGE

In November and December the Christmas shop will be open with a selection of Christmas gifts on offer. In December, there is a Christmas trail for families. Look out for our signs in the Outer bailey for further information.

Conservation and site maintenance will take place during the winter weekdays to continue our ongoing commitment to the conservation and care of Pevensey Castle.

Recent conservation projects have included the conservation of the Pevensey gun a Tudor demi-culverin and the modern replica cannon carriage.

Pevensey Cannon Conservation Team
Copyright: Philip Savins, English Heritage

A cannon conserver has restored the gun and local wheelwright has replaced the carriage spokes, and the carriage has received a splendid new livery of claret and black paintwork.

Wishing everyone season's greetings and a very happy new year.

PEVENSEY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Pevensey Community Library continues to grow. Our wonderful volunteers are here to assist you and have a wealth of knowledge about the 9,000 plus books we have available. We have new books coming in all the time so it's always worth looking at what's new. We have books for sale too.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

But the library is more than just books. We are here for the community to use and enjoy. We're pleased to have Inkspot meeting here on a regular basis and want people to feel they can come in, relax, chat, read or enjoy the jigsaw puzzles laid out. Tea and coffee is always on tap as well.

The library is open on Tuesday and Saturday mornings from 10am to 1pm and Thursday and Friday afternoons from 2pm to 5pm.

If you have any books you'd like to donate, we'd be very pleased to receive them, whatever they are, we can use them.

Daniel Brookbank
Director, Pevensey Community Library

PEVENSEY COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Tuesday Lunch Club continues to be enjoyed by all our members. Lovely lunches cooked by our chef Dee, ably assisted by our volunteers from Pevensey Plungers.

We have a varied lunchtime entertainment including bingo, chair exercise, group singing, visits from Rosie the

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therapy dog and humorous poems by Vera Otto, one of our members.

We held a very successful craft fair with afternoon tea in July to raise much needed funds and intend to hold another one on Saturday, 2nd December.

Everyone is looking forward to our annual visit to the Hydro Hotel for a Christmas lunch.

Our fortnightly shopping trip to Asda is well supported and all enjoy meeting up for a coffee and natter afterwards.

We do have spaces so if you or anyone you know would like to come along contact us on 07495 477269.

Gill Parsons

PEVENSEY CRICKET CLUB

At the end of 2022, Pevensey celebrated double promotion, in no small part to some outstanding juniors who had come through our ranks and achieved great things for the club. As some of these players moved on to an even higher standard, Pevensey needed to consolidate in 2023, and so started a new mid/long term strategy which looked to continue to provide excellent coaching and development opportunities to its juniors, whilst looking at other areas we could highlight for improvement.

Dynamos softball cricket was an outstanding success, with several new U10s learning the game and being able to compete in their first ever tournaments. Hardball transition coaching gave an opening for players who were ready to make the move from softball, and the award-winning Disability Champion Section expanded its membership and outlook, with its aim of providing funded inclusive cricket across as wide an area as possible.

On the field, as the season continued, performances strengthened noticeably, with our 2s ending with the strongest record of any teams in their league over the last 6 weeks, and our 3s going toe to toe with all comers in a very competitive division. As well as the league results, there was the usual blend of cricket week games, touring sides, junior led fixtures, and the season finale against Sussex Disability, all played in the perfect spirit.

As we look towards 2024, we aim to create bigger pools of players across all our formats - junior, senior, ladies and inclusive cricket - and to be able to offer an appropriate challenge to all these cricketers at Pevensey. We are looking to raise grants and sponsorships, as we continue to grow our game in a social and friendly environment. We are full of optimism, and would love to have the support of local enthusiasts to join the club as cricketers, supporters, volunteers or sponsors.

Please get in touch at: PevenseyCCinfo@gmail.com

Pevensey Cricket Club members

PEVENSEY MEMORIAL HALL SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

The new indoor season is starting soon. Wealden league matches are held on a home and away basis in village halls in and around East Sussex.

Australian pairs league played on a Sunday afternoon at Pevensey.

Roll up sessions Monday afternoon 2pm-4pm, evening 7pm-9pm, Tuesday 2pm-4pm, Wednesday 2pm-4pm and Sunday morning 10am-12pm.

New members always welcome. Contact Linda 01323 764346 or Peter 01323 763520.

PEVENSEY UKULELE GROUP

Our friendly group continues to grow. We meet every week on a Tuesday evening 6.30pm for 7pm at the Holly Blue, Stone Cross. Holly Blue is a carvery and, sometimes when the public have a party, we go and play "Happy Birthday" for their celebration.

The ukulele is an easy instrument to learn and we regularly have new folk that have never played an instrument before. They pick it up very quickly and, even after five or six practices, they feel confident enough to join us on public performances. The four books we use, (small cost) has all the words and chords to play; yes, singing to the old favourite tunes creates a fun environment.

One enjoyable gig we did was a fund-raising day at the Allchorn Maritime Museum & Boatshed. This is a 'must visit' place just east of The Fishermens Club, Eastbourne. Of course, we played lots of Sea Shanties for this and were supported by the Anderida Border Morris Dancers with their clashing stick dances; no, no one was hurt!

We were booked to go again in September, but the Museum didn't have enough staff to run the event; well, like us, they are all volunteers. Indeed, whenever we get paid for our gigs the money is donated to a local charity though some has to cover our insurance.

Other gigs have included The Hawthorns in Carew Road, The Ash Tree Inn in Ashburnham, the Mortain Place Care Home, Morrison's supermarket, Ashley Gardens and Woodside Hall Care Homes, the Normanhurst in Bexhill and Victoria Place, Polegate.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17 →

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PEVENSEY PARISH COUNCIL

As many readers will know Pevensey Parish Council organises several community events each year.

One of the events is the annual Pevensey Dog Show which this year took place on 25th June which was a very hot day for both dogs and people! The classes were very popular, and our four legged visitors competed for honours. Best in Show was Mollie, a Bearded Collie. Reserve was Skylar, a Staffordshire Bull Terrier.

The show was joined by East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service assets, stallholders and entertainers. Thanks to Pevensey & Westham Sports Club for the use of the Recreation Ground and Sue Criddle for running the Dog Show classes.

A village litter pick took place on 3rd September in Sea Road car park and close by on roads and the beach. Volunteers are always welcome to take a stroll and collect anything along the way and also when on your own individual walks. We collected 4 bags of rubbish and found 16 separate instances of dog fouling.

The Parish Council takes pride in the villages and organises four community litter picks each year. It is most disappointing that we still find instances of dog fouling being left behind by irresponsible owners. This is often because dogs are allowed to roam loose, which is often challenging for others, including other dogs. There have recently been 3 dog attacks on other dogs in the parish and Council are in discussion with Wealden District Council to enforce and increase the bylaws across the Parish.

This year's Pevensey Community Information Day is on 30th September 2023 and is always a popular event giving organisations the opportunity to promote themselves and recruit new members and is held in Pevensey Bay Baptist Church and St Wilfrid's Church Hall. This year's event will have taken place before the Parish Pump went to print, however if you are interested in a future event contact clerk@pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Sea Road car park litter pick volunteers

Council was pleased to see the Seven Sisters Bus and Coach classic bus trips during the Summer which hopefully readers enjoyed. The 197 Pevensey Explorer offered trips from Eastbourne Pier to Pevensey Castle and onwards to Pevensey Bay, returning to the seafront. PPC would like to thank the company for the promotion of the parish which the service provided. MPs for both Eastbourne and Pevensey, accompanied by Wealden District Council Councillor, Daniel Brookbank, enjoyed a trip during the Summer and promoted the 'Explorer' in the media and in their newsletters.

Thoughts will be turning to 2024 and the Parish Council will work to develop events during the year.

Anyone interested in volunteering to work with the Council should get in touch with the Parish Clerk, Sarah Mosedale on: clerk@pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk who would be pleased to tell you more.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Our leader, Alan Coomber, (01323 763061), has organised several weekends away at the Sinah Warren Warner Hotel on Hayling Island. This has been well attended as it is an opportunity to play to an audience. Individual PUGs members organise their own accommodation.

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of one of our long-standing members, Barry, who died early September; he was always keen to help others play the instrument.

Hope to see lots of new members at the Holly Blue Tuesday evenings; no charge for membership and you can usually borrow a ukulele on the first evening and get advice.

Tony Smith
07711 924472

PEVENSEY BAY ART GROUP

It has been an exciting and varied year art wise. We have welcomed new members and returners also.

The map inspired session with Peter was very interesting and caused us to pictorially and verbally evoke memories of our past environments. During another workshop we made colourful representations of birds in watercolour; puffins and ducks in particular.

In July, our visiting artist Janet Woolf, demonstrated painting animals using a big flat ended brush in acrylics. The workshop was so inspiring we would like her to come back again next year. Our session drawing and painting on the beach was very enjoyable. We thank Nicky for providing delicious cakes and Lotte and Bob for their kind hospitality.

Future workshops will include drawing the clothed human form in charcoal, making self-portraits and welcoming visiting artist Jackie Hurwood, who will lead a session depicting a landscape in watercolour in November.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

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Local Community Organisations' Directory

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Churches

Pevensey Bay Baptist Church	01323 769002
St Luke's, Stone Cross	01323 767020
St Mary's, Westham	01323 460176
St Nicolas, Pevensey	01323 765481
St Wilfrid's, Pevensey Bay	01323 765481

Halls - Bookings

Ethel Wood Community Centre Pevensey Bay	01323 743900
Pevensey Memorial Hall	01323 764565
St Luke's Parish Centre, Stone Cross	01323 767020
St Wilfrid's, Pevensey Bay	01323 460523
Stone Cross Memorial Hall	booking@stonecrosshall.org
Westham Village Hall	07821 377110

Parish Councils

Pevensey - Clerk	01323 743900/07849 124319
	clerk@pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Westham - Clerk	01323 461299
	clerk@westhamparishcouncil.org.uk

Wealden District Councillors

Cllr Daniel Brookbank, Pevensey Bay Ward
07852 102613, cllr.daniel.brookbank@wealden.gov.uk
Cllr Dan Upton, Stone Cross Ward
07748 150540, cllr.daniel.upton@wealden.gov.uk
Cllr Paul Coleshill, Herstmonceux & Pevensey Levels Ward
07552 621066, cllr.paul.coleshill@wealden.gov.uk
Cllr Mark Fairweather, Herstmonceux & Pevensey Levels Ward
cllr.mark.fairweather@wealden.gov.uk

Health

GP: Pevensey Bay, Stone Cross, Westham	01323 761461
Eastbourne District General Hospital	0300 131 4500
Conquest Hospital, Hastings	0300 131 4500

Play Groups & Primary Schools

First Steps Mums & Toddlers	01323 769002
Hankham Primary School	01323 763265
Little Castle Nursery	07568 473917
Little Lukes Playgroup	07707 265891
Pevensey & Westham Primary School	01323 762269
Stone Cross Independent Pre-School	01323 740149
Stone Cross Primary School	01323 461002

General

Pevensey Bay Community Library	01323 398227
Pevensey Bay and District Information & Caring Centre	01323 766230
Pevensey Castle	01323 762604
Pevensey Court House Museum and Gaol	01323 733419
Pevensey Coastal Defence Ltd	01323 761202

Public Transport

Cuckmere Buses	01323 870920
South-East Traveline (Bus/Train)	0871 200 2233
Stagecoach	0345 241 8000
National Rail Enquiries	03457 48 49 50

Emergency Numbers

Floodline	0345 988 1188
Electricity	0800 783 8866
Gas	0800 111 999
Water	0333 000 0365

Organisations & Societies

Anderida Border Morris	01323 318532/07943 839838
British Red Cross	01323 412787
Brownbread Horse Rescue	01424 892381
Care for the Carers	01323 738390
Cats Protection	01323 440101
Community Speed Watch	01323 460523
Dickens Fellowship	01323 471615
East Sussex Vision Support	01323 832252
East Sussex Hearing	01323 722505
	mail@eshrc.org
East Sussex Moviemakers	01323 769016
E/Sussex Wildlife Rescue & Ambulance Service	07815 078234
Foxes Hollow Residents' Assoc	01323 764350/764590
Friends of the Mint House	07572 601334
Guide Dogs for the Blind	Freephone 0800 781 1444
Haven Players	01323 767816
Kit Wilson Trust for Animal Welfare	01825 830444
Pevensey Area Gardeners Club	01323 460523
Pevensey Bay Art Group	07790 277986
Pevensey Bay Model Railway Club	07562 095349
	secretary@pevenseybaymodelrailwayclub.com
Pevensey Bingo (Friday)	01323 763520
Pevensey Church Farm Trust	01323 743301
Pevensey Church Farm (Tenant)	01323 762371
Pevensey Community Support	01323 767615
Pevensey Cricket Club	07702 604293
Pevensey Memorial Hall SM Bowls Club	01323 764346
Pevensey Ukulele Group	01323 763061
Pevensey Villages Partnership	07511 835408
Pevensey and Westham Community Forest Garden	07402 321382
Pevensey & Westham Flower Club	07900 394323
Pevensey & Westham Jnr Boys & Girls, Adult Ladies	07718 915315
	pevenseyfootballsec@outlook.com
Pevensey & Westham Historical Society	01323 460016
Pevensey & Westham Sports Club	01323 469003
RVS Monday Lunch Club	01323 768019
Royal British Legion (Eastbourne)	Eastbourne.Chairman@rbl.community
Royal National Lifeboat Institution	01323 351674
Samaritans (Free from any phone)	116 123
Stone Cross Windmill	01323 483470
Stroke Association Helpline	0303 303 3100
Sussex Wildlife Trust, Eastbourne	07946 753135
View Craft	01323 505764
Wealden, Hastings and Rother Lost & Found Dogs	01424 490034
Westham Art Group	01323 461433
Westham Evening Women's Institute (Jan Bailey)	07710 559880
Yoga Classes (Vicky)	07566 228445

The Parish Pump

The Editor reserves the right to edit or refuse material for publication. The views and opinions expressed by contributors are not those of the Editor. The Parish Pump publishes information in Community News, Local Community Organisations' Directory and What's On section in good faith.

What's On

Activities are subject to change. You are advised to check with organisations before attending.

SUNDAY LOCAL CHURCH SERVICES

8am. St Mary's, Westham - BCP Holy Communion.
9.30am. St Wilfrid's, Pevensey Bay - Holy Communion.
9.45am. St Luke's, Stone Cross – Sung Parish Mass (except 2nd Sunday of the month).
9.45am. St Mary's, Westham - Holy Communion. All ages welcome.
10.30am. Pevensey Bay Baptist Church.
10.30am. St Luke's, Stone Cross. Mass followed by a shared lunch (2nd Sunday of the month).
11.30am. St Nicolas, Pevensey - Sung Eucharist.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sun 24th **4pm.** St Mary's, Westham. Christingle Service for families of all ages.
5pm. St Luke's, Stone Cross. Crib Service.
11pm. St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Midnight Mass.
11.30pm. St Luke's, Stone Cross. Midnight Mass.
11.30pm. St Mary's, Westham. Midnight Communion.
Mon 25th **9.30am.** St Wilfrid's Church, Pevensey Bay. Holy Communion.
10.30am. St Luke's, Stone Cross. Christmas Day Mass.
10.30am. St Mary's, Westham. Family worship.

EVERY WEEK

Sun **10am-Noon.** Pevensey Memorial Hall Short Mat Bowls Club.
10.30am-11.30am. Gentle Hatha Yoga with Vicky. Ethel Wood Community Centre, Pevensey Bay.
5.30pm- 7.30pm. Tai Gyoku Ryu Aikido Club. Ethel Wood Community Centre, Pevensey Bay.

Mon RVS Monday Lunch Club. Ethel Wood Community Centre, Pevensey Bay.
2pm-4pm & 7pm-9pm. Pevensey Memorial Hall Short Mat Bowls Club.
7pm-9.30pm. Pevensey Bay Model Railway Club. Ethel Wood Community Centre, Pevensey Bay.

Tue **10am.** Pevensey & Westham Community Forest Garden volunteers. Meet at Pevensey Recreation Ground car park.
Pevensey Community Support. Lunch. Ethel Wood Community Centre, Pevensey Bay.
7pm-9pm. Pevensey Ukulele Group. Practice. Holly Blue, Stone Cross.

Wed **9.30am-12.30pm.** Pevensey Bay Art Group. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
9.30am. Westham Pop-In. Westham Village Hall.
11.30am-12.30pm. Chair-Based Yoga. Ethel Wood Community Centre, Pevensey Bay.
2pm-4pm. Pevensey Memorial Hall Short Mat Bowls Club.
7pm-8pm. Tradtional Shotokan Karate Club. Shinewater Sports Centre, Milfoil Drive, Langney (Main Hall. Age 16+).
7pm-9pm. Anderida Border Morris. Practice. Ethel Wood Community Centre, Pevensey Bay.

Thu **10am.** Pevensey & Westham Community Forest Garden volunteers. Meet at Pevensey Recreation Ground car park.
1pm-3pm. Parent & Toddlers Group. Noah's Ark (during term-time). St Mary's Church, Westham.
7pm for 7.30pm. Pevensey Memorial Hall Bingo.

Fri **10am-11am.** Chair-based Yoga – at Langney Community Centre.

Sat **Cuckmere Buses Service 36** - Berwick Station to Beachlands via Polegate, Stone Cross, Westham, Langney Shops, Asda (Crumbles) and Pevensey Bay. (Plus return).
Cuckmere Buses Service 37 - Beachlands to Hailsham via Pevensey Bay, Asda (Crumbles), Langney Shops, Westham, Stone Cross and Ersham Road. (Plus return).

EVERY MONTH

2nd Sat **10am-12.30pm.** Craft Fair. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
10.15am-11.15am. NHS Hearing Aid Batteries and Advice. Kamsons Pharmacy, Mimram Road, Stone Cross.

3rd Tue **7pm for 7.30pm.** Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Westham Village Hall.

2nd Wed **2pm.** Pevensey Area Gardeners Club. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.

4th Thu **7.30pm.** Westham Evening WI. Westham Village Hall.

THE PARISH PUMP

'Providing a voice for local community organisations since 1967'

The Parish Pump is published three times a year by Pevensey Memorial Hall. It is compiled and distributed to 5,000 homes entirely by unpaid volunteers.

NOVEMBER

Wed 1st **2.15pm and 7pm.** Eastbourne RSPB. Talk. 'Wild Britain': Mick White. Free refreshments. £5 members. £6 non-members. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.

Thu 2nd **4pm.** St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Commemoration of the Faithful Departed.

Sat 4th **10am-12pm.** St Mary's, Westham. 'Light Party'. Morning of craft activities, games, interactive Bible story, for children aged 11 and under, with parents/carers.

10am-12.30pm. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay. Craft Fair.

Mon 6th **7.30pm.** Pevensey and Westham Historical Society. 'The Downs Through Time': Gary Webster. Westham Village Hall.

Wed 8th **10am.** Eastbourne RSPB. Walk. Shinewater. Meet by Bannatyne Gym. TQ 614026 (A) Easy Walk.

2.30pm. Pevensey Area Gardeners Club. Meeting. Wreath Making with Jane Perri. Guests Welcome. £3. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.

Thu 9th **7pm for 7.30pm start.** British Cactus and Succulent Society. Presentation about the American travels of a local nurseryman. Free entry, including refreshments. Sedlescombe Village Hall.

Sat 11th **10.50am.** Outside St Wilfrid's Church, Pevensey Bay. Armistice Day.

Sun 12th **10.30am.** Pevensey Bay Baptist Church. Remembrance Sunday.

10.50am. St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Remembrance Sunday.

Mon 13th **6pm.** Pevensey Bay Coastal Community Group. Public Meeting: Options for Phase 1 local coastal defence. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.

Sat 18th **10am-12pm.** Stone Cross Windmill. Winter Fair.

10am-1pm. Pevensey Bay Art Group. Coffee Morning & Art Exhibition. Delicious cakes and beautiful art works available for sale. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.

10am. Eastbourne RSPB. Walk. Cuckmere Valley. Meet in Friston Forest car park, off the Litlington Road. TQ 518002 (C) Downland or more strenuous walk.

7.30pm for 8pm start. St Luke's Church Hall, Stone Cross. Beatles Tribute Band 'Nothing is Real'. Bar.

Tue 21st **7pm for 7.30pm start.** Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Demonstration. 'It Feels Like Christmas': Jennifer Thompson. Raffle & refreshments. £5 non-members. Westham Village Hall.

Thu 23rd **7.30pm.** Westham Evening WI. 'An Introduction to Beekeeping': Pete Allen. Westham Village Hall.

DECEMBER

Fri/Sun 1st /3rd **10am-5pm.** St Mary's, Westham. Christmas Tree Festival. Trees and activities. Refreshments.

Fri 1st **7.30pm for 8pm start.** St Luke's Church Hall, Stone Cross. Christmas concert with 'Duality'. Bar.

Sat 2nd **10am-1pm.** St Luke's Church Hall, Stone Cross. Christmas Fair with stalls and refreshments

Sun 3rd **10.30am.** Pevensey Bay Baptist Church, Pevensey Bay. Special Family Service followed by Shared Lunch.

11am. St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. St Nicolas Day. Shared Lunch.

3pm-4pm. St Luke's Church, Stone Cross. Stone Cross Windmill Carol Service.

Mon 4th **7.30pm.** Pevensey and Westham Historical Society. 'Art and Illusion': Ian Gledhill. Westham Village Hall.

Wed 6th **2.15pm and 7pm.** Eastbourne RSPB. Talk. 'The Work of the East Sussex Wildlife Rescue & Ambulance Service': Trevor Weeks. Free refreshments. £5 members. £6 non-members. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.

Thu 7th **7.30pm.** Westham Evening WI. Christmas Party with musical entertainment from 'Recycled'. Westham Village Hall.

Sat 9th **10am-12pm.** Westham Evening WI. Christmas Decoration Workshop. £30. Details from Jan Bailey 07710 559880. Westham Village Hall.

10am-12.30pm. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay. Christmas Craft Fair with Christmas Carols.

Wed 13th **10am.** Eastbourne RSPB. Walk. Rottingdean, a walk along the Prom! Meet at Marine Cliff P&D car park, off A259. TQ 371021 (A) Easy Walk. Followed by an informal lunch at The Peacehaven, Stonehouse Carvery.

1pm. Pevensey Area Gardeners Club. Christmas Lunch (members only).

2.30pm. Pevensey Area Gardeners Club. Social afternoon with Ukeholics. Guests £3. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.

Sat 16th **10am.** Eastbourne RSPB. Walk. Southease. Meet in layby on the A26 by the Youth Hostel. TQ 433055 (A) Easy Walk.

Sun 17th **4pm.** Pevensey Bay Baptist Church, Pevensey Bay. Carol Service by Candlelight (no morning service on this day).

6pm. St Luke's Church, Stone Cross. Nine Lessons and Carols (by candlelight).

6.30pm. St Mary's, Westham. Carols by Candlelight.

Tue 19th **7pm for 7.30pm start.** Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Practice Evening. £5 non-members. Contact for materials list 07900 394323. Westham Village Hall.

Wed 20th **7.15pm.** Meet at St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Carol singing around Pevensey Village.

Sat 23rd **6pm.** St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Nine Lessons & Carols.

JANUARY

Wed 10th **2.30pm.** Pevensey Area Gardeners Club. Social meeting. Guests welcome. £3. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.

Tue 16th **7pm for 7.30pm start.** Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Practice Evening. £5 non-members. Contact for materials list 07900 394323. Westham Village Hall.

Sun 21st St Wilfrid and St Nicolas Churches. Visit of the Bishop.

Thu 25th **7.30pm.** Westham Evening WI. Quiz and 'Resolutions' Meeting. Westham Village Hall.

FEBRUARY

Mon 5th **7.30pm.** Pevensey and Westham Historical Society. '60 Years of filming on the Bluebell Railway'. Westham Village Hall.

Sat 10th **10am-12.30pm.** St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay. Craft Fair.

Wed 14th **2.30pm.** Pevensey Area Gardeners Club. Meeting. Title TBC. Guests welcome. £3. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.

Tue 20th **7pm for 7.30pm start.** Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Practice Evening. £5 non-members. Contact for materials list 07900 394323.

Thu 22nd **7.30pm.** Westham Evening WI. Talk. The work of the Associated Country Women of the World: Dorothy Proietti. Westham Village Hall.

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Our annual art exhibition in August was well attended and we received many favourable comments regarding the stylistic variety, subject matter and skills involved in the making of the work we presented.

We would like to invite you to our Coffee Morning/Art Exhibition to be held on Saturday, 18th November in St. Wilfrid's Church Hall, 10am – 1pm. We hope to see you there.

On a sad note, we lost one of our members, Jan Tice, who passed away in August. Jan had been a valued member for many years and will be greatly missed.

We are a growing group who welcome new members. We meet every Wednesday morning in St. Wilfrid's Church Hall from 9.30am to 12.30pm. We carry out our own art practice most weeks, but have a variety of workshops once a month throughout the year.

If you are interested in joining us, please drop into the hall to meet us on any Wednesday morning. You can also contact us on 0779 0277 986.

Dinah Jones

PEVENSEY BAY BAPTIST CHURCH

We are a community of people that are motivated by our faith and love in God and the main principles and values written in the Bible do our best to share God's love with people around us in Pevensey Bay and surrounding areas. We pray to our God for his mercy, protection during the new seasons especially in winter when our immune systems will face the battle with the cold weather.

Our Sunday services are at 10.30am. Pevensey Baptist Church is a friendly and welcoming church. Everyone is welcome to join us in worship. Just come and enjoy our freeway of worship God.

On Sunday, 12th November we will have our Remembrance Day Service. During Christmas time, we will have a special Family Service on 3rd December followed by Sharing Lunch. Also on Sunday, 17th December we will have our Carol Service by Candlelight at 4pm, so please be aware that we will not have morning service as usual.

We hold our prayer meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 7pm in our church.

Life Groups are small meetings for those who want to make friends and study the Bible in a very informal and familiar way and take place on the first and fourth Tuesday of the month in our church upstairs at 3pm.

Knit and Craft is an opportunity for those people who enjoy knitting, but it is just one of the main activities. Its purpose is to make blankets for people receiving treatment in hospital. It takes place the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 2pm at the church upstairs.

First Step Toddlers. We are willing to carry on serving our local community with our Mum's Toddlers Group, however at the moment we are experiencing a shortage of supporters for the core team. Our plan is to reopen from October and we will start with two days per month - the first and third Thursday of the month from 10am-12pm. If you are interested in bringing your children please contact us.

Friendship-plus is a meeting run on the second Thursday of each month. Everyone is welcome. The main aim is to make friends.

Please contact us for details about the activities in the Autumn and winter time.

In regard to our premises we are happy to rent them for activities that can benefit our local community. Contact us if you are interested.

We apologise for any inconvenience to anyone unable to check out information on our new website which we hope will be up and running very soon.

Edwin Pena
Minister, Pevensey Bay Baptist Church
email: pevenseybaybaptist@gmail.com 01323 769002/07511 297680

PEVENSEY BAY AND DISTRICT INFORMATION & CARING CENTRE

What a dreadful summer weather wise.

Still you kept us busy with booking our volunteer drivers for medical appointments.

Our visitor centre has also been quite busy despite the rain, with people buying pre-loved books and jigsaws.

We also have hundreds of childrens DVDs which, like all our DVDs are free; we ask for a small donation.

Our tombola and cake day on 26th August was a great success and we sold out of cake. Thank you for your support. We are now back to Winter opening times 10am-12.30pm Monday-Saturday.

At the time of writing this we are unsure how much longer we can stay in this building (that was built with us in mind) as Wealden District Council intend to:

- tarmac the car park so that nearly 100 cars can park
- get rid of the toilet blocks in their present form and create five unisex toilets facing the beach, plus a disabled toilet

Thus knocking through what's left of the ladies and gents and our visitor centre to make one large space as an office space. We have not been given a date that we need to vacate and have not been informed if we are to be allowed back in!

As a charity we have been serving the area since 1979 and in this building since the year 2000.

Please continue to call us on 01323 766230 and if that line is unavailable because of the building work please call us on 07396 783074.

If we have to vacate the building all phone calls to us, at

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no cost to customers, will be diverted to the mobile number given above so please continue to call between 10am and 12.30pm and we will update our Facebook page as soon as we know anything.

Derek V Green
Chairman

PEVENSEY BAY TO EASTBOURNE COASTAL MANAGEMENT SCHEME

Project delivery continues at pace for all three phases of our programme. The existing beach management across both Pevensey Bay and Eastbourne will take us through to 2025, with the Environment Agency and Eastbourne Borough Council team busy managing this and creating a new 2-year scheme to help us transition through to 2027 when the larger Phase 1 scheme starts.

Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne Coastal Management Scheme

We expect Phase 1 to run for 10 years and bring some exciting new approaches to beach management ensuring the coast remains resilient, protecting 10,000 homes, businesses and infrastructure.

Our longer-term programme of works then looks at how we create and manage future choices over the next 100 years considering climate change and evolving technologies.

We are currently planning our public engagement events to share the shortlist of options for Phase 1, which are due to run from 20th November until 15th December 2023.

Please see our project website for dates of our upcoming events and the latest information about the scheme: www.pevenseyandeastbournecoast.co.uk

We also now have a Facebook page! Search Pevensey and Eastbourne Coast to follow us and keep updated with project developments, including our autumn/winter engagement activities. Scan the QR code for access to our social media channels and website.

Connect with us

PEVENSEY BAY COASTAL COMMUNITY GROUP

The PBCCG is a collaborative group made up of members of the local community and the Environment Agency to discuss Coastal Defence when the existing contract for beach management expires in April 2025.

The Environment Agency's current proposal is that post 2025 there will be an interim period for two years during which the management of the beach will remain broadly the same as currently. Thereafter, there will be a Phase 1 for Coastal Defence covering the period 2027 to 2037 and options for this are currently under consideration by the Environment Agency.

The group last met on Monday, 11th September 2023 to discuss the Environment Agency's long list of options for Coastal Defence. This will have been reduced to a shortlist by the Environment Agency when the group next meets on Monday, 13th November when the shortlist will be considered and discussed. This meeting is currently scheduled for 6pm at St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.

All members of the public are welcome to attend to listen to the discussion and indeed are encouraged to do so.

Suzanne Ornsby
Community Co-Chair of the PBCCG

PEVENSEY BAY MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

We had a tremendous turnout for our Pevensey Bay Model Railway exhibition in July. We had nearly four hundred visitors. We had a good mix of other railway club layouts (including trams) with a variety of different gauges as well as a number of trade stands selling everything from model railways locomotives, wagons and coaches, scenery, books, tools and equipment for all model railway needs. Our tombola, as always, was very popular and visitors could also relax with light refreshments from the kitchen.

Therefore, we are pleased to announce we will be holding another exhibition in 2024 at the same venue. So please keep the date in your diaries for Saturday, 6th July at Victoria Baptist Church, Eldon Road, Eastbourne, BN21 1UE. We look forward to seeing you there.

In the meantime, if you would like to attend one of our club nights please feel free to come and see us. We meet every Monday evening 7pm to 9.30pm at the Ethel Wood Community Centre, 129 Coast Road, Pevensey Bay, BN24 6NS.

If you are wondering what we are currently working on, progress continues on both Murrell Park (N gauge) and the continental layouts Ohlstadt (N gauge).

Ohlstadt is a new continental club layout. The layout measures 10' x 3' and is mounted on a 3 by 1 frame with 2 inch deep insulation board topped with 9m wood fibre insulation board. It was decided to use Kato N Unitrack for the track which has excellent running capabilities. The layout is fictional, but is typical of the trains that operate on the German/Austrian and Swiss borders.

Good progress has been made. The track has now been laid, connected up and successfully tested. Currently, the pointwork is being connected to an impressive control panel that has been hand built. The layout will operate on two levels and feature the time period of the late seventies.

For more information please visit our website: http://pevenseybaymodelrailwayclub.com/or contact our club

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Lisa Hemmingfield
Pevensey Bay Model Railway Club Secretary

PEVENSEY AND WESTHAM COMMUNITY FOREST GARDEN

It's been a very busy summer and autumn at the forest garden due to the abundant harvest of fruit, the best ever that we've had. With plentiful rain in spring together with plenty of sun and warmth during the summer and autumn, the amount of berries, currants, apples, and pears to pick has been spectacular.

So big has our surplus been that we were able to donate a large amount of apples to local foodbanks and community larders in Eastbourne via our strong connections with the Eastbourne Food Partnership, a social enterprise that aims to foster the development of a sustainable and resilient local food system that ensures all local people have equitable access to healthy, locally grown food. Given the increasingly severe impacts of climate change upon food-growing areas across the world, increasing our ability to grow enough food locally is becoming ever more important.

But the good growing weather has also meant a spectacular growth of all the other vegetation within the garden, especially the buddleia which, although producing beautiful flowers that the butterflies love feasting on, are a big maintenance problem due to their tendency to grow so fast that they start to block the light and overwhelm all the other plants.

Buddleia are not native to the UK and were brought back to Europe from the Himalayan region of China by Jesuit missionaries back in the 1890s. Cutting back the buddleia to manageable proportions is one of our biggest maintenance tasks every winter, alongside pollarding some of the crack willow that flourishes on our site, which can become overgrown very quickly. We recycle the lopped branches into our fences, or into log piles that become homes for insect and invertebrate life.

We always welcome new volunteers and visitors. Please contact: pawforestgarden@gmail.com for more information.

PEVENSEY AND WESTHAM FLOWER CLUB

Pevensey and Westham Flower Club are a fun, friendly, flower-arranging group who meet at Westham Village Hall (opposite the pond!) on the third Tuesday of each month. Our doors open from 7pm, with the meeting starting at 7.30pm.

We have nine 'practice evenings' through the year – where attendees get to make a flower arrangement – having been given a materials list in advance of the evening, and a short demonstration (for inspiration!) on arrival.

The other three meetings of the year comprise a 'demonstration' by a flower arranger 'on-stage' - and prove to be very entertaining and inspirational and are ALWAYS well attended.

Club Night

Our annual subscription is £25, with entry to the meetings being £2/£3 for practice evenings and £4/£5 for demonstrations.

We have a beautiful raffle every month (£1 a strip!) and lovely refreshments, which are included in the price of your entry.

We comprise a happy mix of beginners and experienced members - and there is no judgement on your abilities! Just come along and have a go!

Your first visit to a practice evening is FREE – so what is there to lose!?

For more information, please call Lisa Symmonds on 07900 394323.

PEVENSEY AND WESTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At this time of writing, the Pevensey Festival is on and hopefully you have visited the historical sites of Pevensey. The Mint House, Courthouse and Castle are certainly a jewel in our crown!

But we must move on to our Autumn historical programme. After having Helen Poole (Sussex and the Napoleonic Wars) in September, at the time of writing we were due to welcome Melanie Gibson Barton in October with 'Passchendaele to Peace'. November brings us Gary Webster with 'The Downs Through Time'. Following on, for our December meeting, is Ian Gledhill with 'Art and Illusion' which is a light-hearted historical-based talk for our Christmas meeting.

We have no meeting in January. In February we have David Jones with '60 years of filming on the Bluebell Railway'.

Hope to see you all soon. Take care.

The Committee

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RVS MONDAY LUNCH CLUB

After a disappointing summer I cannot believe it is September and I am writing this in 27degs and planning Christmas.

It's been a challenge keeping the club going without increasing the price.

Thank you to the people who have given donations of fruit this Autumn which has been a big help with the budget.

We are in need of volunteers to cover for holidays and sickness.

We urgently need somebody to join our team 11.30 am to 1.30pm to help with clearing and using the dishwasher. We do work as a team in order to get all the work done.

There is also a shortage of drivers for the mini bus.

If you can help in any way please contact me on 01323 768019 or 07485 489449.

Christine Wood
RVS Monday Lunch Club

ST LUKE'S CHURCH, STONE CROSS

We have enjoyed a busy summer at St Luke's Church and Parish Centre!

We are currently acclimatising to our new church vacancy status, since Fr. James left us after 20 years at Stone Cross. Reverend Pat Gibbs, our Assistant Priest, continues to care for us spiritually in church, despite her retirement! We have also benefited from Sunday sermons and weekly services from Archdeacon Edward, plus a number of other local clergy.

All are welcome to join us at our weekly services - Tuesdays, 7.30pm Mass with Holy Communion, Wednesdays, 10.30am Mass with Holy Communion, Fridays, 9.30am Morning Prayer (in the Chapel), and also Compline which is held on the 1st Sunday of every month at 8pm.

Looking forward, we have our Christmas Services: Nine Lessons and Carols (by candlelight) on Sunday, 17th December, our annual Crib Service on Sunday, 24th December, Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, and a Christmas Day Mass on the day itself.

Our Parish Centre has been completely refurbished this year! We have been lucky enough to receive grant money for much of the work, thus enabling us to continue serving the community.

We are open for weekly Friday Coffee Mornings, Children's Parties, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts' meetings, Little Luke's Baby and Toddler Group, different Dance and Keep Fit Groups, Tai Chi, East Sussex Moviemakers, monthly Good Companions' meetings and LOTS of other events besides!

Grant Martins gave us a night to remember in June, and we had our annual Summer Fair in September in the sunshine, accompanied by The Eastbourne Silver Band.

"Nothing is Real" (Beatles Tribute Band), return to St Luke's Hall on Saturday, 18th November, after last year's successful performance! Do join us for a dance and a sing-along!

An evening of Christmas entertainment is promised with 'Duality', a husband and wife performing duo - at St Luke's on Friday, 1st December, which brings us to our Christmas Fair on Saturday, 2nd December.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Church and community events, whilst wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2024!

Further information: call 01323 767020 or email: saintlukestonecross@gmail.com

ST MARY'S CHURCH, WESTHAM

St Mary's, Westham extend a warm welcome to all. The Christmas season provides a great opportunity to explore both the church building and our worship. With services ranging from our Carols by Candlelight on Sunday, 17th December at 6.30pm to our Christingle Service on Christmas Eve at 4pm (particularly child focused), there are great opportunities to hear the Christmas story afresh. Don't forget our Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve (11.30pm) as well as Christmas Morning at 10.30am, too!

We are also running our popular Christmas Tree Festival from Friday, 1st to Sunday, 3rd December. Last year's event was our largest yet, with displays from community groups and local businesses alongside trees decorated by the church community too. We would like to see even more trees this year and would invite contributions from local businesses and community groups. There will be refreshments and a few craft activities too. For more information about this and other events or services do look at our website: www.stmaryschurchwestham.co.uk.

Of course, our usual Sunday service times are Holy Communion at 8am (BCP) and 9.45am which is also a Communion Service, but in contemporary language, whilst the first Sunday of the month is 'all age' in style.

ST WILFRID'S HALL PEVENSEY BAY

The hall continues to be used for a variety of activities, including art, health classes and dog training. We are now pleased to welcome boxing classes on Tuesday and Friday nights. Classes are for 7-12 years and then 13 to any age. For male and female so come along to improve your fitness and receive fitness training and encourage your children to do the same.

We also have a new website jointly with the Church: www.pevenseyparish.org

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Do have a look on the Events page to see what you could join. Or maybe start up a group yourself for a new hobby or interest?

We also now have a Facebook page: St Nicolas Church and St Wilfrid's Church and Hall Pevensey. Please help us advertise by sharing our posts!

Craft Fairs are held on the second Saturday of every month between 10am and 12.30pm, except in November when it will be held on the first Saturday on 4th November.

A Tabletop sale will be held on 7th October and another will be held in the Spring. Sell your unwanted bits and pieces indoors so you can keep warm and dry! Do book a table - £10 each; come along and have a look to buy too. Refreshments will be available. Contact Shirley on 01323 461692.

Unfortunately, our first quiz to be held on 30th September had to be cancelled. A new date will be set for early next year. Look out for posters and details.

These events help fundraising for the Hall's next phase of refurbishment work which is needed to ensure the hall is secure from the elements.

There are hiring slots available at competitive rates, so do contact our bookings clerk on 01323 460523. Keith will do his best to accommodate your requirements whether for a one-off event or a regular booking. He, or one of the Committee, will be happy to show you the benefits of this large facility with its ample car parking and is fully accessible for disabled users.

Shirley MacKinnon
Secretary

STONE CROSS INDEPENDENT PRE-SCHOOL

Stone Cross Independent Pre-School has charitable status and have been operating since 1952 from the local Memorial Hall. In 1999, the Pre-School expanded to include a purpose- built Nursery Unit within the premises of the local primary school.

The Memorial Hall premises are open Monday, Wednesday, Friday mornings, 9.15am to 12.15pm and Tuesday, Thursday 8.45am to 2.45pm for children aged two to three years. There is a maximum of 30 children per session.

The Memorial Hall premises include use of the main hall, a second smaller room, kitchen and small enclosed garden area.

The Nursery Unit premises are open Monday to Friday mornings, 9am to 12pm and Monday to Friday afternoons, 12pm to 3pm for children aged 3 to 5 years. There is a maximum of 25 children per session. Morning and afternoon sessions can run consecutively.

We are pleased to now be able to offer an extra hour before school hours which are chargeable. We also offer a lunch club which gives an extra hour after the morning session times.

The Nursery Unit is a purpose-built premises within the main primary school building, with an enclosed playground area.

The Pre-School is run by a parent elected voluntary management committee, which ensures that major decision-making is in the hands of parents who use the group.

To book a visit or for further details please contact the Administrator on e-mail:admin@stonecrosspreschool.org or mobile 07864 295888.

Stone Cross Pre-School Staff and Committee
Registered Charity No 1030338

STONE CROSS WINDMILL

Stone Cross Windmill is now closed for the season enabling the volunteer maintenance team to undertake essential work. The Trust volunteers hope to complete work to the Fan stage and Cap during the Autumn. The Trust would like to thank Bob Thomas and Peter Bell who have decided to resign as Trustees. The Trust are grateful for the many hours they have devoted to the maintenance of the Windmill. Also, Sue Thomas and Margaret Bell who have also provided support and help over many years. They will be missed.

The Windmill has been milling throughout the season producing fine quality wholemeal flour for our local bread and cake bakers. The Sunday opening once per month has proved to be popular and welcomed many local residents and their family.

The Windmill will be open on Saturday, 18th November 10am to 12pm for the sale of homemade bread jams and cakes as well as a tombola with lots of prizes. This is the last fund-raising event of the season and hopefully will be well attended. There is also a carol service at St Luke's Church, 3pm on Sunday, 3rd December.

Many thanks to all our visitors and members who continue to visit the Windmill providing essential funds to help maintain the building. Further information will be on the website: www.stonecrosswindmill.co.uk

Many thanks for your continual support.

Barbara Molog Chair SCMT
scmt2012@yahoo.co.uk

TAI GYOKU RYU AIKIDO CLUB

The Eastbourne Aikido Club has been running classes in the area for over 40 years, and has been at its current location, the Ethel Wood Community Centre, for more than 20 of those years!

Aikido is a traditional Japanese martial art that is suitable to all age groups, shapes and sizes. Rather than meeting force with force, aikido teaches the practitioner to blend and redirect the force from a potential assailant, and to take control of the situation by neutralising the aggression.

Through our training we learn self-control, awareness, balance, hand-eye coordination, flexibility, strength and confidence. We practice as friendly group fostering cooperation through partner and group exercises.

Our club is inclusive, and over the years has had many members of different nationalities and backgrounds. Due to its international popularity, we use traditional Japanese Dojo terminology, so that if our members travel, they can practice at other clubs and take with them a solid knowledge base.

We welcome people with all levels of experience from none to advanced. If you use a walking or hiking stick you may want to learn exercises to increase its usefulness and keep fit. We practice every Sunday between 5.30pm and 7.30pm, and would be very happy to see you there.

TRADITIONAL SHOTOKAN KARATE CLUB

Shotokan Karate is a journey and every journey begins with a single step. There are three unknown points in any Martial Art journey which is the same for all. The second is the first grading, the third is the black belt grading, but the first is to enter the dojo for the first time. Everyone in the room has taken the same steps and will welcome you to the dojo. Shotokan karate helps you develop new skills, confidence, fitness, flexibility, balance and strength.

The Traditional Shotokan Club has been in existence since 1996.The club is small and friendly and is open to all adults, beginners and people who have either trained before or just moved to the area, but trained in a difference martial art. Everyone is welcome and the club meets 7pm-8pm every Wednesday night at the Shinewater Sports Centre, Milfoil Drive, Langney (Main Hall).

The club is not run for profit.The class is only £3 per lesson, are pay as you go and open to anyone aged 16 to 80. Should you be interested in joining us just come to a class or if you have any questions contact Phil on 07792 091503.

It's only impossible if you don't try!

VIEW CRAFT

VIEW Craft is a small independent voluntary organisation which runs a weekly art and craft group for blind and partially sighted people living in the Eastbourne and Wealden district.

We meet on Tuesday mornings during term times at Herstmonceux Village Hall from 10am-12pm. We have all enjoyed a year of making more craft items. We have welcomed a few new members during the year, but still have spaces available on all our craft tables which include macramé, mosaics, wood carving and cane work, which are taught by experienced tutors.

The members make a small weekly contribution (currently £5) towards the cost of the craft materials. Transport is free and is provided by volunteer drivers some of whom also help with the activities. There is a very friendly atmosphere with plenty of help and support to produce many lovely items.

We are still very short of drivers and we would be very pleased to welcome new volunteer drivers. We pay a mileage allowance of 45p. If you cannot commit to driving every Tuesday perhaps you would like to consider being a relief driver to help out occasionally when a regular driver is unable to drive.

For further information please contact Jean Wilson on 01323 505764, email: jean.dolmeg@gmail.com or check our website: www.viewcraft.org

WESTHAM ART GROUP

The glorious days of Summer are fast receding and we contemplate the darker, sometimes more solitary days of Winter. Perhaps it's time to join our art group and hone your talent or discover hidden ability.

Westham Art Group has gone from strength to strength and started 2023 with a full membership of 45 people. Always room on the waiting list for more interested, potential artists.

We meet every Wednesday from 1pm until 4pm in Westham Village Hall with a break halfway for tea or coffee and biscuits. If we are lucky, one of our amazing cooks will produce something delicious in the way of cakes and bakes.

Our membership consists of a full range of abilities from beginners to skilled artists working in all possible media from pencil sketches to acrylics, charcoal to watercolours and occasionally oils.

There is no set programme, we do what we please. We have one lovely lady reproducing sections of the Bayeux Tapestry, many others concentrating on landscapes. If anyone needs help and advice, there are plenty there willing to give it.

For this afternoon of stimulation and enjoyment we pay just £5 per week. The sum also includes 3-4 outings a year by coach and a couple of lunches or teas at local restaurants. We enjoyed a brilliant lunch at Langham's Hotel as our post Christmas treat. We also have local artists giving an occasional workshop. One, in April, was an informative session on portraits.

Don't worry about not being an accomplished artist, come for the enjoyment of art and the friendly company.

We have our annual exhibition in August every year. This year's was on the 26th and was a resounding success. Our work was on show and often available for purchase. This year we also included a few craft tables which proved popular. Refreshments, including home-made cakes were available to eat in or take away.

We should love to have you join us, no joining fee, just the weekly subs.

For more information telephone: Brian Gage 01323 461433

WESTHAM EVENING WI

After a somewhat patchy summer weatherwise, it has drawn to a close with a hot and sunny flourish. Anyone lucky enough to have booked a holiday in this lovely corner of East Sussex at the beginning of September, would have benefited hugely; although, the twist is that it is partly due to Climate Change.

Members of Westham Evening WI, back in the cooler and windier days of July, enjoyed a pleasant afternoon when President Jan held an Open Garden at her home came away with lots of ideas and there was such an impressive display of colour.

The next few months include a variety of speakers, covering beekeeping and, of course, celebrating Christmas. Westham Evening W.I. would like to invite you to a Christmas decoration workshop. Tutor Jan Bailey, Saturday, 9th Dec 10am-12pm. Westham Village Hall, Peelings Lane, Westham.

We will show you how to make many Christmas decorations including a Door Swag, Silver Flower Garland, Hanging Cone, a Table Arrangement and much more. You will make a beautiful table arrangement to take home using fresh flowers and foliage. Price £30 which includes everything you need except scissors ie all flowers, foliage accessories etc, and tea and cake.

Places are limited so will be allocated on a first come first come served basis. If you would like to attend please contact Jan on 07710 559 880.

As well as the monthly meetings, other groups include Baking, Books, Walking, Night Owls and a new venture, which is the Lunch & Theatre Group.

A friendly welcome awaits in Westham Village Hall on the fourth Thursday of the month from 7.30pm.

WESTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

With the night's drawing in, we all have to be more cautious.

Burglary Advice
WINDOWS – Lock your windows.
INTERIOR – Put your interior lights on a timer, leave a radio on a "talk" station.
DOORS – Double or deadlock your doors.
EXTERIOR – Put your exterior lights on a sensor.
NEIGHBOURS – Keep an eye out! Especially for the elderly and vulnerable.

Halloween
Please can everyone please be respectful, especially to the elderly/vulnerable. But we want the youngsters to still have fun.

Bonfire Night
If setting off fireworks please advise immediate neighbours, especially for those with pets who may be nervous and severely impacted.

Car theft
To avoid keyless car theft = DISTANCE, SIGNAL, STEERING WHEEL
Keep keys a safe distance from the car indoors, maybe put in a tin can!
Consider a Steering Wheel lock

Recent Activity in Westham Village
August - Gallows Lane - Car theft. This car was retrieved through the power of police reports on Facebook and sharing!

Sadly, a cat had a glancing blow and was killed from a speeding car on Peelings Lane on 24th/25th August. With the help of Downland Vets, Stone Cross, the owner was found.

Parking
This continues to be a major problem around Westham Village Pond, some vehicles blocking access or causing safety issues for pedestrians. It appears contractors do not use their driveways/garages for their vehicles. Please be more considerate to residents, users of the Village Hall and businesses.

Parking at junctions and on yellow lines is a chargeable offence under the new Highway Laws.

The school has FREE parking permits for the Castle car park for all parents and staff, PLEASE utilise them!

REMEMBER
We are the "eyes and ears" for the police so please report anything suspicious/not quite right.

Ring Police on 101 or report online to Operation Crackdown via its website: www.operationcrackdown.org

Westham Neighbourhood Watch
www.ourwatch.org.uk/join

WESTHAM POP-IN

Westham Pop-In provides a morning of friendship, chat, tea, coffee and biscuits on Wednesday mornings between 9.30am and 11.30am at Westham Village Hall. We have a variety of pre-read books for sale at 30p each with a range of jigsaws for you to hire.

We do hope you can join us. The cost is just £1 to include a tea/ coffee and biscuits. We hope to welcome you at the Pop-In soon.

Westham Pop-In Committee

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Local Elections – 2023

Wealden District Council's election officer has informed us that at the local elections in May 2023 the total number of people registered to vote in the Wealden area was 125,290.

The number of Ballot papers issued was 45,945 so the turnout was 36.67%.

25,003 postal votes were issued and of those a total of 17,217 were returned. Effectively that makes the return rate for postal votes 68.85% which is relatively high.

However, you may wonder why 7,786 electors in the Wealden area (25,003 -17,217 = 7,786) requested a postal vote but did not return it.

Voting Register
The Wealden District Council Electoral Services Team are about to start the annual revision of the electoral register (annual canvass).

As part of the annual canvass, Wealden District Council contact households in different ways, including Email, Post, Telephone, Personal Visit.

The initial email stage is about to start and they will be sending around 63,000 emails out to residents over the next few days.

Boundary changes
You will be aware from our previous items in The Parish Pump that the allocation of Councillors for the Westham Parish Council changed following a governance review.

The allocation of Councillors is now Dittons Ward – 3 Councillors, Stone Cross - 5 Councillors and Westham – 4 councillors.

The allocation of your councillors at Wealden District Council and at East Sussex County Council remains the same.

At the next general election, the parliamentary boundaries for this area will formally change. At present, Stone Cross and Westham are represented by Huw Merriman MP.

After the next general election Stone Cross will come into the Lewes constituency (The current MP is Maria Caulfield) and Westham will remain in the Bexhill and Battle constituency.

The boundary between the two constituencies is the current boundary between the Stone Cross ward and the Herstmonceux & Pevensey Levels ward of Wealden District Council.

When any further information is received it will be printed in The Parish Pump.

Adur Park
The all weather, all access path around Adur Park is now taking shape and will be finished in the autumn.

The childrens play area has now had the old surfacing removed and is awaiting the new fencing and surfacing.

While the work to install the new path around Adur Park is taking place it is very difficult for grass cutting to be carried out.

The new path needs to settle and driving over it is discouraged. Also, safety measures are in place during the day and night to stop any illegal entry of the field by vehicles and the gates will not be left open at any time.

Once the path is finished then cutting of the field can resume and the Council asks residents understanding while the work is finished.

Cherwell Close play area
A brand new litter bin was placed in the Cherwell Close play area at the end of May this year.

On the 18th August it was destroyed by fire. This bin cost over £500 to install and fit as it was designed to be 'seagull proof' to stop litter being spread. Sadly, acts of mindless vandalism in this play area do occur from time to time.

Unfortunately, this was not the only act of arson in the summer as one of the large oak trees in the area had the trunk damaged by fire. Fortunately, this was able to be repaired by the Council's tree surgeon so please be vigilant and report any damage you may see to the Parish Council.

WESTHAM VILLAGE HALL

Westham Village Hall continues to serve as a hub for our Community and with the recent return of the Summer sunshine our newly added seating area outside the front of the Hall has been a welcome spot to sit. This area is proving to be an inclusive space for everyone in our community to enjoy, not just for those using the Hall.

The Hall continues to offer a wide range of activities, groups to join and as a place to hold family and friends events. Please get in touch with our helpful booking clerk Julie on 07821 377110 if you would like to hire your Hall. We look forward to seeing you at your Hall soon.

Diane on behalf of Westham Village Hall Committee

WESTHAM VILLAGE POND

Reeds at the Village Pond

Westham Pond is old. It was once an inlet of the sea surrounding Pevensey Castle. There have always been reeds here. One kind, Sea Club-rush, has survived in the pond from 2,000 years ago when it was saltmarsh. There were just one or two plants surviving in 2018, but it is now recovering.

The work done by the Parish Council has returned the pond to a healthier condition. It was important to allow reeds to re-establish. They remove pollution from the water and their roots put air into the organic silt, breaking it down. The

black sludge in the bottom of the pond is now gradually disappearing as a result and the pond water is clearer.

Reeds are extremely important for wildlife. Each of the many types growing here supports different invertebrates. They include the Wainscot Moths feeding inside reed stems. These are essential food for the nesting Reed Warblers and the many Bats that fly over the pond.

Healthy ponds, eventually, grow over completely and so they have to be managed. As there is now lots of good wildlife habitat it is time to push back the reedbeds. As they use up nutrients, reeds naturally become smaller and some have to be pulled up or cut. This couldn't be done when birds were breeding. Removal has already started and lot more is planned. It is important to keep the views of the pond open and to maintain beds of shorter wildflowers around the banks.

Over the winter the council will prepare the pond to be beautiful next spring, with even more wildflowers.

Hopefully the newly returned Frogs, Toads and Newts will appear in even greater numbers.

If you would like to volunteer to help at the pond you will be very welcome. Please contact the Parish Clerk for details.

Sea Club-rush; a reed that has probably survived at the pond for over 2,000 years

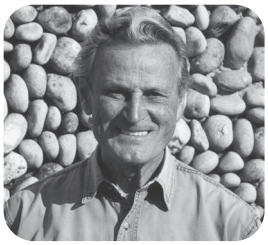
A Reed Warbler nesting at the pond

A 19th Century print showing Wainscot Moths that live in the reeds at the pond. They are important food for birds and bats

An early 20th Century print showing Reed Warblers and their nest

Nature Notes

Alan Everard's regular nature column



Jonno (for any new reader he is our much-loved local Herring Gull) has his breakfast most mornings at about 6.30am. I go out to our beach garden and there he is, perched on the frame of our glass windbreak, patiently waiting for it. He is usually alone and any other gull attempting to join him to share his breakfast is quickly seen off. It was a delight to see him recently waiting with one of his young. The average clutch is three, but he chose only to bring one along with him. Why this was the case I do not know, but this remained the case for a while.

Gulls are a permanent puzzle. The male and female are about the same size and have the same feather marking so are difficult, if not impossible, to tell apart. Perhaps I should be calling him Joanna!

While on garden feeding, I'll mention my large cage, birdseed feeder. The Sparrows easily get through its oblong wire cage appertures, but the Starlings only manage it by flying at speed to it then scrabbling their way through. These efforts usually result in the spillage of seed onto our patio which makes for easier pickings for both the Starlings and the Sparrows, and also regularly by a grateful Collared Dove whom we are very happy to see often!

Another "happy to see" caused by spilled seed on the patio was a Mother Sparrow as she scooped up seed and fed it to her young in their outstretched, open beaks. This, of course, happened earlier in the year.

On dear! This morning, 4th September at 6.30am, I went out to the patio and Jonno and young, plus another mature Herring Gull came from our sun lounge roof whilst several more, very vocally, came down from several nearby rooftops. Is this a sign that Jonno's rule has been broken?

Don't worry it turned out to be a "one-off". All is back as before. Well that's enough about our Herring Gull.

Most of the UK Starlings are permanently residential here, but some migrate from Northern Europe in the Autumn to spend Winters here and return to Europe during February and March.

Sadly, the big increase in temperatures across the world appear to have greatly affected their numbers. Official figures recently stated that their population had declined by 66% since the mid 1970s and that they were now red-listed.

I now have great pleasure in sharing with you a very attractive article: 'Little Egret' written by our regular contributor Hazel Wood:

The Little Egret which I first saw in Coast Road.

This beautiful white bird with long, gangly, black legs and bill and bright yellow feet was foraging for worms and crustaceans in the stream opposite the Kiosk.

This lovely bird first appeared in the UK in significant numbers in1989 and first bred in Dorset in 1996.

But in 1889 this beautiful Little Egret appeared in Victorian times where it became fashionable for the ladies to wear the plumage upon hats and various other garments.

The bird nearly became extinct as the demand for feathers to wear on hats and bonnets became greater.

Their saviour was a lady by the name of Emily Williamson who, in turn, was joined by other ladies who said enough was enough.

They had to do something to save the Little Egret.

Therefore, they created a Society for the Protection of Birds to fight the fashion for feathers and exotic plumes.

The all-female folk merged with Emily's campaign in the 19th and 20th centuries to stop the millinery industry from killing these beautiful birds for fashion.

The RSPB cites Emily Williamson as their founder in 1889.

Once a rare visitor from the Mediterranean we are now very pleased to see this common sight fishing in our streams and mud banks and because of climate change they have also chosen to stay in the UK.

Also in "local news" is the fact that so many people have now told me that they have seen "Sammy the Seal", so I am happy to confirm his continued residence off and on our beach.

Little Egret

Finally, I was with Vi and friends recently when we witnessed a very interesting event while sitting on the beach. In a sudden, dark, moving patches appeared in the shallows – it was mackerel pursuing sand eels. As the battle of mackerel taking and eating the sand eels commenced the sea was suddenly lit-up by flashes of silver from the leaping and twisting fish.

Company and nature's activity – what more can one have!

Alan Everard

Sea Defences

Amber Carr, Project Manager with Pevensey Coastal Defence Ltd, describes the extensive work being carried out to move the coastal shingle ….

The end of summer is almost here, and therefore soon coming with this the arrival of the autumnal, and winter gales. We did experience some gales on the beach this summer in July and then with Storm Antoni and Betty in August. The beach did see some cliffing in areas, but with the recent calm weather and north easterly winds, the shingle ridges have been pushed back up the beach with the tidal forces.

Over the summer a beach recharge placing shingle onto beach was completed by the dredger Sospan-Dau during late June and July, coinciding precisely with the best weather of the summer. All of the sediment was discharged in front of the rock revetment on the north east side of the harbour. The shingle was left to distribute itself along the foreshore by tidal action. With the recent gales, the shingle lump is already making its way along the foreshore.

With the Autumn days approaching, more unpredictable weather is likely and with the biggest Spring tides arriving at the end of September, we will be starting work on the beach in the middle of September.

The bulldozer will begin by pushing up shingle in various areas along the frontage. Depending on the weather, we are also expecting the dumper trucks and excavator to be making a return at the end of September or by early October. We are planning for the dumper trucks to run the entire length of the frontage at some stage this autumn and winter.

Recycling activities are determined by shingle availability and accessibility. Shingle is only moved where there is a surplus in that area of the beach. In an effort to minimise the long shore drift rates, the shingle is recycled along the 9 km of frontage. These works are managed and planned, but as these works are reactive, depending on the weather at that time, as well as accessibility of surplus shingle.

It is not always possible for the dumper trucks to run on the lower foreshore owing to structures in the beach such as the old existing groynes, buried timber faggots, rocks and clay which can make it very difficult for the dumpers to travel over. The areas of the beach that require maintenance after a storm or high tide are sometimes difficult to reach unless the haul road is rebuilt which takes time to do.

Along with the recycling activities this Autumn, we are also planning to move shingle from around the harbour to take this to the North East beach and place on the rocks sometime between October and March depending on the build-up of shingle in that area as well as the weather, tides and we also have to take into account any road works en route. We anticipate some busy few months ahead but hope the sun continues to shine and the wind stays at bay.

As always if you have any queries or requests for the subject of future sea defence articles, please contact me at: pcdl@pevensey-bay.co.uk or on 01323 761202.

Sospan-Dau delivering shingle at the harbour

Amber Carr,
Pevensey Coastal Defence Ltd,
Environment Agency Depot,
Coast Road, Pevensey Bay,
East Sussex BN24 6ND

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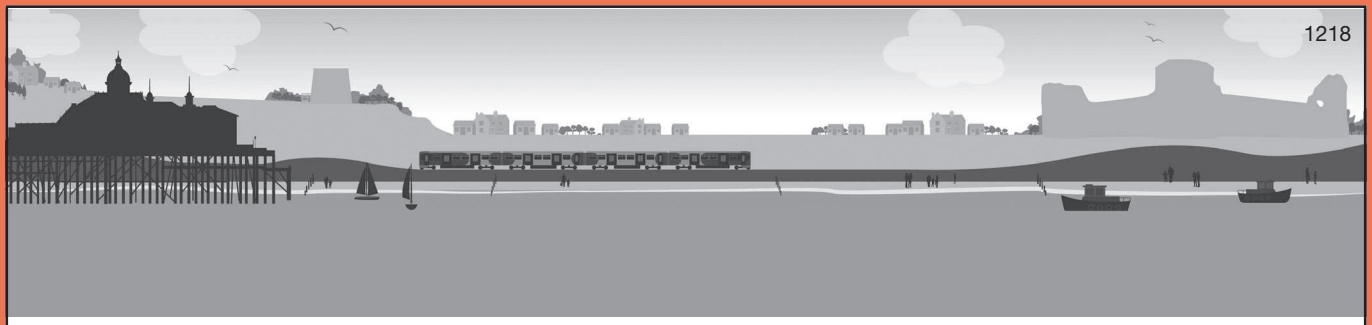

1218

The Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne Coastal Management Scheme is one of the largest coastal flood defence projects in England covering 15km of coastline from Holywell in Eastbourne through to Normans Bay. The project has a new website, please visit www.pevenseyandeastbournecoast.co.uk to see the latest updates.

CROFT LITHO, 102a TIDESWELL ROAD, EASTBOURNE, EAST SUSSEX BN21 3RT Telephone 642424 Fax 731194