

The Parish Pump

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



Issue 167 – Spring 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

Happy New Year! Welcome to the Spring Edition of The Parish Pump.

As the months of 2024 unfold there is no doubt that residents, young and old, and also visitors, will be spoiled for choice with the incredible number of diverse events and activities which continue to be held in our villages.

There are staple favourites for many, while others may take the opportunity this year to try something new, thereby supporting the many volunteers who give up their free time and also ensuring the future of the different clubs and organisations.

Obviously - apart from The Parish Pump - a key place for local information is the Pevensey Bay information centre in Sea Road car park which also plays a pivotal role in providing volunteer transport for people who have medical appointments.

At the time of writing the building is closed while it undergoes refurbishment, along with the car park, but medical transport is still available - see contact details on pages 23 and 25.

More volunteers are also needed to provide transport and to work in the centre when it re-opens, so if you would like to get involved give them a call.

While the popular annual 'Vehicles of Yesteryear' will be the first major event in the refurbished car park on 13th April, another firm favourite will have a new look later in the year.

The established dog show has been absorbed into the Pevensey Dog and Country Craft Show which will feature a wide variety of classes for people to try their hand.

Energetic members of our community can also look forward to the new Pevensey Castle 5k run which will follow public footpaths, including the grounds alongside the iconic, historical landmark.

Look out for local publicity about both events which will be held in September.

Meanwhile, my thanks goes to artist Lynn Inglis, from Pevensey Bay Art Group, who created the front page acrylic picture 'Spring Time'.

Lastly, but importantly, a new defibrillator has been erected on the outside wall of Pevensey Memorial Hall. The device

gives a high energy shock to the heart of someone who is in cardiac arrest. It can help restart their heart while you are waiting for the emergency services to arrive.



Details of other defibrillators across the parish are available on the Pevensey Parish Council website: www.pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Sara Cheesley, Editor
07799 374049

theparishpump13@gmail.com

ISSUE 168 DEADLINE

Local groups and organisations should email details of events and activities between 1st July 2024 - 31st October 2024 to: theparishpump13@gmail.com by

14th May 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

The eagle-eyed will have noticed that we have a new boxing club in Pevensey Bay. This gives locals a chance to get fit and learn techniques, but also is something for our younger residents to do!



Get off that sofa!

Sessions are held at St Wilfrid's Church Hall. They run in term-time on Tuesday (except the first Tuesday in every month) and Friday evenings. The club is run by fully trained volunteers who are insured and sponsored by Boxing England and fully checked.

The competitive rates of £2.50 for 7-12-year-olds (6pm-7pm) and £3.50 for 13 years upwards (7pm-8pm) help to meet the costs of hiring the hall and all associated costs. All ages and both males and females welcomed!

Come along and give it a try! It needs plenty of support if this new venture is to become a major feature of our village life.

Jay O'Brien





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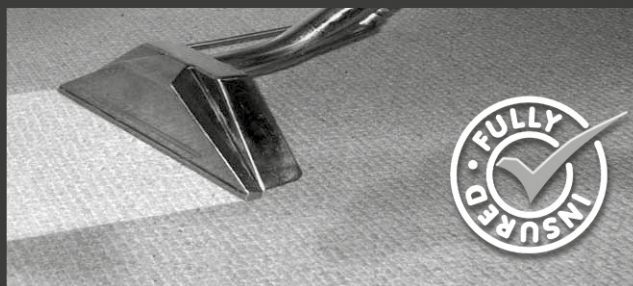
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ANDERIDA BORDER MORRIS

For this publication of The Parish Pump we thought it would be of interest to explain a little about the history of Morris dancing.

The earliest known and surviving English written mention of Morris dance is dated to 1448. It was imported from village festivities into popular entertainment after the invention of the court masque by Henry VIII. However, not a lot is known generally about the folk dances of England prior to the mid-17th century.

By the mid-17th century, people took part in Morris dances, especially at Whitsun. Under Oliver Cromwell the dance was suppressed and other such festivities. When the crown was restored by Charles II, the springtime festivals were restored. In particular, Whitsun Ales came to be celebrated on Whit Sunday, as the date was close to the birthday of Charles II.

Morris dancing continued in popularity until the Industrial Revolution and its accompanying social changes. Other villages have revived their own traditions, and hundreds of other teams across the globe have adopted (and adapted) these traditions, or have created their own styles from the basic building blocks of Morris stepping and figures.

Morris dancing declined in the 19th century. However, several English folklorists were responsible for recording and reviving the tradition in the early 20th century, often from a bare handful of surviving members of mid-19th-century village sides. Among these, the most notable are Cecil Sharp and Mary Neal. In the 1950s and especially the 1960s, there was an explosion of new dance teams, some of them womens or mixed sides. There are various styles such as Cotswold, Border, Rapper, Long Sword and Molly.

Anderida is a mixed side dancing in the Border style. We have been busy dancing out over the Summer and Autumn season with new dances and tunes. We have also gained additional dancers and musicians. Many of our performances have been at local pubs such as The White Hart at Catsfield, The Yew Tree, Arlington, Red Lion, Hooe and the Royal Oak and Castle. We also recently danced at Bodiam for their Hops day. Usually other sides are also invited.

At present we are planning our new programme for the year. As always, we are looking for new members. We are planning workshops where we will invite interested dancers or musicians to give Border dance a try. Or anyone can drop into one of our practices held at the Ethel Wood Community Centre in Pevensey Bay, Wednesdays from 7-9pm. There is no pressure to join. It's great for mental health and it's not an expensive hobby.

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. It's a fun way to keep fit and make new friends. Our contact email is: anderidamorris@gmail.com

BRITISH CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY ROTHER VALLEY BRANCH

Our club meets on the second Thursday of the month at Sedlescombe Village Hall and this year we have a great programme of talks lined up, ranging from habitat exploration to cultivation of some of the weird and wonderful plants that make our hobby so fascinating.

We welcome non-members and meetings are FREE so if you are curious, just come along. There are always plants for sale and we provide FREE refreshments. Doors open 7pm, meetings start at 7.30pm.

Please see our Branch website for more information, including the 2024 programme: www.rothervalley.bcscs.org.uk. There you can also sign up to receive our monthly emails (you can unsubscribe at any time) and there are links to our pages on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter/X.

The new growing season is only a couple of months away. You can start watering your plants gently from the end of March, but never let them stand in water. Wait for signs of new growth before watering more frequently, and give them some cactus and succulent fertilizer occasionally.

See our website for some tips, or just come along to one of our meetings. For a FREE cultivation booklet please email your details to: rothervalley@protonmail.com

BROWNBREAD HORSE RESCUE

The early wetness in winter made it difficult to get our ATV up and down to the lower pastures to feed the horses. The mud on the steep banks made it impossible to get back up. However, the frost hardened up the ground to make it easier.

Of course, frost is always welcome on a farm as it does kill off some of the grassland parasites. The downside, though, being that we have to go around to check and break the ice on the horse's drinking water. Putting the horse rugs on and off is a bit of a chore; it keeps them warm in the chill but when the sun comes out, they enjoy having their rugs off for a while.

We were fortunate not to have an emergency case recently, but there were several calls from folk wanting advice about horse problems, either their own horse or one nearby. Indeed, that is where many of our rescues emanate from, a concerned member of the public about a thin horse where sometimes its owner keeps the rug on the horse to prevent the public seeing that they are not feeding it properly. A horse is a luxury so when its owner falls on hard time, well?

As we have a nice venue, we are hosting a garden party for the Leprosy charity on the 1st June. We are keen to help other charities to raise funds, particularly local small charities.

As the weather improves we look forward to having more visitors; we are always open by arrangement and



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welcome groups to include tea and cakes on the lawn.

Contact: 01424 892381.

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 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.

EAST SUSSEX MOVIEMAKERS

Looking back over 2023, the two films, which the club entered into competitions, which attracted 10 or more entries, met with some success. We reported in the autumn edition of the Pump that the first won the Best Comedy award. In the annual Sussex Film Festival held in October a second film, entitled These are the Days, the female actress, a member of Brightlights Theatrical Company, won the Best Actor award.



However, after 25 years of fluctuating fortunes, the Club is now facing its biggest challenge thus far. Membership is now in single figures, of those who remain two live outside of Eastbourne. It has also been difficult to find a meeting day and time which suits everybody.

So, anyone who likes watching good quality amateur films or wants to learn about any other aspect of movie-making, should contact either the ex-chairman, Malcolm Webster on 01323 769016, or email Valerie McManus: valmcmamusuk@yahoo.com for up-to-date information.

Club meetings are usually at St. Luke's, Stone Cross; alternatively look on our website:

www.eastsussexmoviemakers.com

Then 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



**East Sussex
Vision Support**
100 YEARS 1921-2021

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.

Perhaps one of the worst times in a blind or partially 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.

Our Services

Our long-running, successful Low Vision Service provides a detailed one-to-one package of care that will help you get back on your feet, sort out a range of problems or just provide care and support when you most need it.

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

The village hall offers a perfect venue for all social activities, clubs, parties, and meetings. The hall is very well looked after and is regularly rented out to a whole range of different groups.



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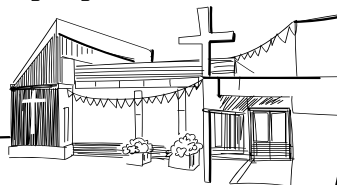
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The Management Committee are continually working to ensure the hall – at 129 Coast Road, Pevensey Bay, BN24 6NS - is updated and fully functional.

It is accessible for those with a disability and has private parking. It also benefits from having a commercial and well-equipped kitchen. Other facilities include free WIFI, a back garden and toilets.

If you would like to hire the hall please check the availability by accessing the online calendar via the Parish Council website below, which includes conditions of hire and how to book.

Or you can contact the Bookings Secretary at:

clerk@pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk / 01323 743900

<https://pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk/ethel-wood-community-centre/>

FOXES HOLLOW RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Another record year for membership at 132 from 175 households on the estate. Our previous record being 130 from last year. Thank you to all that join and support us in our aims of looking after the Foxes Hollow Estate Stone Cross. To join for non-members or those who may have recently moved onto the estate please call us on 01323 764 350 for further details.

We are glad and pass on our thanks to the Westham Parish Council for appointing a new contractor to replace the previous company that had left the maintenance contract back in summer 2023. The estate and grass cutting had been terrible over summer, but back under control by the end of the year.

The appearance of national speed limit signs along Peelings Lane and into the estate at Banner Way has baffled us. We have raised this with East Sussex County Council and we know the working group from the Parish Council has also contacted them. The lane does not even seem appropriate for motor vehicles, but we continue to send photos to try restricting its use.

We update members via our newsletters through the year and as always value their suggestions. We can also be contacted via the website on: foxeshollowestate.com

Stuart McMillan
Chair FHRA

FRIENDS OF THE MINT HOUSE

What do teasels, tithe maps and a robot invasion have in common?

December saw the Mint House Christmas decorating on the 15th, with open days on the 16th and 17th, which were well-attended. Each year, the volunteers - plus anyone



who wants to join in – decorate the house with as much traditional greenery as we can – this includes teasels and larch cones! It's jolly cold in the house, but good fun. Evening talks were given on Christmas Folklore as well as some Christmas Ghost Stories – during which we had a very welcome visit from some local carol singers!

Our historical research team has been examining local tithe maps – particularly useful as they help to place previous owners of the Mint House. We're able to trace ownership to the early 1700s. New research is showing that the Mint House could have been built as an inn, and possibly stands on the site of an earlier building. We had a ground radar survey in December as we were looking for a potential well in the Tudor kitchen. We didn't find it, but found the remains of the original fireplace in the middle of the Front Parlour as well as a few 'anomalies' in the kitchen.



Ground Radar Survey in the Tudor Kitchen, 9th December 2023. Photograph by Dr. Alan Starr

If you'd like a free copy of the survey, email: friendsmint@mail.uk or write to us at the Mint House and we will print you out a copy. Essential repairs (working closely with Historic England and Wealden DC) are being undertaken, and temporary removal of panelling in the Oak Room revealed original daub and plaster with 'Lamb's tongue' chamfering, as well as another taper burn mark.

Refurbishment of the new kitchen, toilets and office is underway, and the back units will be let out by owner Jason Rolf as heritage and archaeology storage: see www.minthousepevensey.co.uk/storage for details. Nine large dehumidifiers were needed to dry the building, hence the robot invasion!

Harriet Tait
CEO and Chair of Trustees

INKSPOT

Inkspot' is a creative writing group meeting at the Community Library, Pevensey Bay, on the first Friday of each month, currently 2pm-4pm. The library has





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kindly agreed to allow us to hold our meetings during opening hours.

Anyone is welcome to drop in during our meetings to meet us and to hopefully enjoy listening to some stories!

Each month we write on a different theme, and 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 'A Summer Like No Other' and 'Epiphany'.

National Poetry Day fell in October last year and poems on the national theme of 'Refuge' were written by Inkspot members. These are on display in the library.

We enjoyed participating in the Pevensey Community Information Day; it's always nice to chat to people about our group, and to meet the many other groups which exist for the interest and benefit of so many. It was a special treat for us to meet visiting costumed characters from the Haven Players panto! As ever we're looking forward to our annual panto outing to Stone Cross.

We're on Facebook ([inkspotbythesea](https://www.facebook.com/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

MEMORY LANE

Support is being offered to people in Pevensey Bay, Pevensey, and surrounding areas who are living with dementia.

Memory Lane is a local registered charity providing social activities for people with dementia and their carers to attend together.

Singing and games are held at 2pm on Wednesdays at Christ the King Church Hall, Princes Road, Eastbourne (just off Langney roundabout), and on the first Wednesday of each month they meet at the Towner Art Gallery for dementia friendly cinema.

Once a month there is a themed coffee morning on a Saturday. In addition, the group also do bowling at Hampden Park Bowls Club, and even Ten Pin bowling.

There is also an allotment in which people can get involved, even if it's just to chat and have a cup of tea. In

the summer the group has meetings in Hampden Park, and enjoys a coach outing.

No charge is made for some of the regular activities, but donations are requested to help with running costs. Light refreshments are served at all our meetings (for which there is sometimes a small charge) where carers can chat with each other which is a valuable asset and helps them feel that they are not alone in what can be a very isolated life.

People no longer caring for a loved one can join a Friends of Memory Lane group which has its own social events.

For further information contact 07393 834498.

PARISH OF PEVENSEY ST WILFRID & ST NICOLAS CHURCHES

My favourite Easter hymn is 'Now the green blade rises' which contains the refrain, 'Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green'.

The writer (JMC Crum 1872-1958) movingly connects the theme of new life bursting forth from the natural world with the new life of the Risen Christ, bursting from the tomb.

Every Springtime it is as though the whole of nature, emerging from darkness and death, bears witness to the glorious light of resurrection.

Our Holy Week and Easter services commemorate this glorious journey from death to life and all are warmly invited to join us. You will find details in the What's On section.

Church News: The post of Priest in Charge was advertised in January, and we hope and pray that a suitable priest will come forward quickly.

He, or she, will have charge over the Parish Partnership of St Nicolas', St Wilfrid's (Pevensey Parish) and St Luke's Church (Parish of Stone Cross with North Langney), and will live in Stone Cross.

In the meantime, the churches are supported by myself, retired clergy and Lay Ministers, and all services and events continue as normal throughout this vacancy.

Everyone is welcome to our regular 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, and is at the later time of 11.30am.

Our churches are happy to respond to anyone with queries about marriage, baptisms or funerals.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch and keep an eye on our website: www.pevenseyparish.org which is regularly updated.

Rev. Merriel Woodward

Associate Vicar St Wilfrid's & St Nicolas

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PEVENSEY AREA GARDENERS CLUB

Our new year has begun with a full schedule of meetings planned for the year, ranging from speakers on growing cactus, or carnivorous plants, to cookery, pollination and bees!

Additionally, we will have a show where members can exhibit their flowers and vegetables. This will be held in July. Visitors are welcome to come and view and have a cup of tea.

We meet in St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay, on the second Wednesday of the month starting at 2.30pm. New members are welcome at these meetings. See diary page for individual months.

For further information contact our chairman Keith Henderson on 01323 460523 or bigk6342@gmail.com

More details can be found on pevenseyparish.org (St Wilfrid's Church Hall tab).

Denise Morgan-Smith
President

PEVENSEY BINGO

Bingo is still very popular in the Memorial Hall. We regularly have between 30 and 40 people on a Friday evening.

Doors open at 6.45pm eyes down 7.30pm. We finish between 9pm and 9.15pm.

Cost is just 50p entrance fee. Books are £3 for a strip of six, with 10 games in the book. We play for £2 a line and £8 for a full house. We also play a flyer which costs £1.20 for a strip of six. The prizes for that depend on number of tickets sold. We play 5 games then a break for free tea or coffee and a raffle. Then we continue with rest of the games.

For further info contact Peter on 01323 763520.

PEVENSEY CASTLE

Pevensey Castle is open from Easter onwards: seven days a week from 10am to 5pm.

Visitors will enjoy volunteer led walks and talks around the site and seasonal children's trails. Please look out for our signs for further information.

Conservation and site maintenance during the winter has included: masonry and roof work as part of English Heritage's commitment to the conservation and care of Pevensey Castle.

We would welcome local support at Pevensey Castle should you wish to help and offer your time, enthusiasm and skills.



Winter visitors

Please make enquiries at the ticket office and shop about volunteer roles and application form or email: Pevensey.Castle@english-heritage.org

PEVENSEY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The library is open and providing services to our community and people are using it too!



We are open on Tuesday and Saturday mornings from 10am to 1pm and on Thursday and Friday afternoons from 2pm to 5pm.

We have about 7,000 books available for loan along with a large amount for sale too. We can lend you jigsaw puzzles, we can even get you a cup of tea and a sit down.

For the last few months we have been part of the Parish Council 'Warm Space' initiative, providing a friendly, welcoming and warm place for people to come and relax, have a hot drink and enjoy the company of others. We are always happy to be part of these initiatives.

We are pleased also to host the wonderful writings of Inkspot on our noticeboard. Do come in and have a look at their work.

We are very pleased to accept donations of books, so please keep them coming, especially fiction, crime and local interest.

Daniel Brookbank

Director, Pevensey Community Library CIC.

PEVENSEY COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The beginning of December saw the Tuesday Lunch Club enjoy a very successful Christmas Craft Fayre and Coffee morning. Santa Claus paid a visit as did the Pevensey Pirates (aka Plungers) singing their Sea Shanties.

Considerable funds were raised to enable us to take the members to Hillier's Garden Centre where they had a lovely lunch. Hillier's very kindly provided all teas and





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office@hankham.e-sussex.sch.uk
www.hankhamschool.co.uk

1223

coffees. Members were then able to do a bit of Christmas shopping.

A festive lunch in the Ethel Wood Community Centre was had and entertainment with carols conducted by Theresa O'Malley and visits from therapy dogs Rosie and Peewee.

We finished the year with an excellent Christmas lunch at the Hydro Hotel for all members and volunteers.

A big Thank You to Pevensey Plungers and everyone that donated their time to raise funds to enable us to subsidise our outings.

We have three new trustees to help us move forward and look forward to providing lovely lunches and more outings in 2024.

Gill Parsons

PEVENSEY CRICKET CLUB

Happy New Year 2024 to you.

At Pevensey Cricket Club, we have plenty of reasons to look forward to the year ahead.



Pevensey Cricket Club is an enjoyable, sociable group with members spanning ages from 5 to 67. Currently, we have 5 female members. We aspire for ladies and disabled sections to have respective teams within the next 3 years.

In 2024, we would provide:

- Dynamo cricket (8-11-year-olds) – Mixed team
- Dynamo cricket (8-11-year-olds) – Girls section (New addition)
- Fortnightly training for the disability cricketers – Mixed team
- Coaching for U15 – Mixed team

In terms of cricket games, we would have:

- Senior League cricket (Sussex Cricket League divisions 10, and 12)



Pevensey Cricket Club members

- U15 League cricket
- Sunday and Sunday Development cricket

We are always eager to welcome new members of all levels and abilities at the club.

We also welcome spectators, volunteers to assist with umpiring on game days, scorers, and anybody who enjoys gardening and wants to stay active by helping with groundwork, wicket preparation, or general assistance with the ground.

You can find the details of the club here:

<https://pevensey.play-cricket.com/home>

If you have any questions, you can reach us at:

pevenseyccinfo@gmail.com

Gaurav Bijlani

Chairman, Pevensey Cricket Club

07702 604293

PEVENSEY MEMORIAL HALL SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

Short mat bowls is played in many village halls around the Country. Our club formed in 1988 playing in the Memorial Hall.

We have capacity to play on three mats in the hall. Sessions are Monday and Wednesday 2pm till 4pm, Monday evenings 7pm to 9pm and Sunday morning 10am to noon.

We play in the Wealden League Division 1 on a home and away basis. Currently, we are third in the league. We have players who play for East Sussex County team. We also have players playing in the National Championships.

Of course, not everyone wants to play competitively and we cater for those who just want to play on a friendly basis.

If you would like to come and give it a go please contact our secretary Linda Alsop on 01323 764346 or our club captain Peter Winter on 01323 763520.

PEVENSEY UKULELE GROUP

Just before Christmas we were inundated with gigs that brought cheer to the residents of many care homes.

Those visited included Mais House (British Legion, super feast) Bexhill, Mortain Home near Sovereign Harbour, Hazel Lodge, Victoria House, Polegate, the Salvation Army shop in Hailsham, (super feast, but having played out on the pavement it was cold and we needed warming up!), Hillier's near Stone Cross and St Michael's Church, Seaside, where we also had tea and cakes afterwards.

Of course, these pre-Christmas gigs involved seasonal songs like "Rudolf". We only rehearse these once a year a few weeks before Christmas and one of our players,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17 ➔

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PEVENSEY PARISH COUNCIL

2024 will be another active year for Pevensey Parish Council (PPC) with various exciting events and projects planned.



Our Annual General meeting this year, which is open to all members of the public, will be held on Tuesday, 14th May 2024 at 6pm at St Wilfrid's Church Hall. Do come along or come to a monthly council meeting (see dates in What's On) to see how your Parish Council, made up of 13 volunteer councillors, works.

A vacancy has become available for anyone interested in being a local parish councillor. If you want to help make a difference locally and are interested in applying for the vacancy, then please contact the Clerk for more details.

PPC remains determined to reduce the potential burden facing local people in light of the ongoing financial challenges. To address the financial pressures and budget increases, the Parish Council will cover the majority of increases, including inflation, by reallocating a number of the Council's existing funds. This means that the increase to the annual precept for 2024-25, will add an additional £0.11 pence, for example, to a band D household each week.

Work continues on new events for 2024. Additionally, PPC is happy to promote, via our active social media accounts, any events taking place in the villages.

Pevensey Dog and Country Craft Show, harnesses the successful, established Dog Show and East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service Open Day to a showcase for the green fingered, the artistic, the local home brewer and wine maker as well as a platform for junior skills. 1st September is the date – classes to be announced soon.

New to the Events programme, supported by PPC, is the Pevensey Castle 5k run. A route starting at Pevensey Recreation Ground and following public footpaths, including Pevensey Castle grounds alongside its imposing walls, the event will be available for sign up in Spring for the September event.

The other planned events include:

- Vehicles of Yesteryear on 13th April 10am -3pm at Sea Road car park
- Community Information Day on 18th May 10am -12.30pm in Pevensey Bay Church Halls

The Council remains open to any ideas for new events and will offer support and advice to any group which has an idea.

As part of the council's long term planned projects, work has started on options for the sports pavilion at Wallsend Road, which needs major works. Regular updates about the project will be provided at the monthly council meetings.

PPC welcomed the resurfacing work which took place at Sea Road Car Park and has worked hard to ensure that important aspects, pertinent to our residents and tourists visiting Pevensey Bay were made clear to Wealden District Council.

Unfortunately, there has been numerous incidents of graffiti within the parish. Each time this has been reported to the police. However, graffiti tarnishes the local villages, damages key infrastructure, and has a financial impact on the local Council Tax payer, individuals and businesses within the community. The council are keen for any information about the culprit(s), to be reported to the police.

The council continues to urge residents to report any anti-social behaviour to the police via the 101 provision and dangerous parking/driving via the Operation Crackdown website. It is key for tackling the incidents for residents to report any incidents, as any police action is data driven.

The council has recently published its own emergency plan self help guide. There may be a time when the parish might be affected by an emergency and during such a time, residents and councillors will need to know how to help themselves and also how to help those around them.

The parish council has no statutory responsibilities during emergencies, nor does it have the infrastructure or resources to provide a specific response to an emergency. However, the plan has been drawn up to provide helpful information and important contacts for local residents.

The parish council has a popular and growing Twitter account and an active Facebook page complemented by a fully compliant and informative website. We are always happy to promote village events and businesses, so do get in touch. You can find regular updates from the Parish Council on the below links.

<https://pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/PevenseyParishCouncil>

Twitter: @PcPevensey

Contact the Clerk on 01323 743900 or at clerk@pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk about any matters of concern.

➔ **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15**

Kate, often comes up with a new relevant song which we learn. Kate is also keen on producing sea shanty songs, particularly when we are about to help raise funds for the Allchorn Maritime museum which we do once or twice a year, usually sharing the time with Morris Dancers.

We sometimes receive £50 for a gig. This covers our insurance and we are pleased to donate all excess monies to local charities; this last year being Children with Cancer amongst others. A few smaller venues restrict our numbers performing, but we can field any number from five or six up to 30.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 ➔

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www.pevenseyparish.org

Contact: Ken Phillips 07415580651

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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 Library	01323 398227
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

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.

EASTER SERVICES (MARCH)

Palm Sunday – 24th

- 9.30am** St Wilfrid's, Pevensey Bay. Holy Communion.
- 9.45am** St Luke's, Stone Cross. Mass with Procession.
- 11.30am** St Nicolas, Pevensey. Holy Communion.

Maundy Thursday – 28th

- 11am** Pevensey Bay Baptist Church. Passover Celebration (book in advance).
- 7.30pm** St Nicolas, Pevensey. The Commemoration of the Last Supper and Washing of Feet.
- 8pm** St Luke's, Stone Cross. Mass and Watch till Midnight.
- 8pm** St Mary's, Westham. A quiet service of Holy Communion.

Good Friday – 29th

- 10am** St Luke's, Stone Cross. Stations of the Cross.
- 10.30am** Pevensey Bay Baptist Church & St Wilfrid's, Pevensey Bay. Joint Act of Witness.
- 2pm** St Mary's, Westham. A reflective service.
- 2pm** St Nicolas, Pevensey. The Good Friday Liturgy.
- 3pm** St Luke's, Stone Cross. Liturgy of the Word.

Easter Sunday – 31st

- 6am** St Luke's, Stone Cross. Mass at Dawn.
- 8am** Pevensey Bay Baptist Church. Resurrection Service on beach by Sea Road car park.
- 9.30am** St Wilfrid's, Pevensey Bay. Holy Communion for Easter Day.
- 9.45am** St Luke's, Stone Cross. Sung Parish Mass.
- 9.45am** St Mary's, Westham. Family worship for Easter Day.
- 10.30am** Pevensey Bay Baptist. Resurrection Service.
- 11.30am** St Nicolas, Pevensey. Holy Communion for Easter Day.

EVERY WEEK

Sun	10am-12pm 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.

Tue

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.

10am Pevensey & Westham Community Forest Garden volunteers. Meet at Pevensey Recreation Ground car park.

2pm-4.30pm Pevensey Memorial Hall Short Mat Bowls Club.

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 Traditional 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 St Mary's Church, Westham. Parent & Toddlers Group. Noah's Ark (during term-time).

Fri

10am-11am Chair-based Yoga. Langney Community Centre.

10am-12pm St Luke's Church Hall, Stone Cross. Community Coffee Morning. Support from the church Community Larder is available.

Sat

6.45pm for 7.30pm Pevensey Memorial Hall Bingo

10am-11am St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Bell ringing practice.

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 St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay. Craft Fair. Free entry. Refreshments available.

10.15am-11.15am NHS Hearing Aid Batteries and Advice. Kamsons Pharmacy, Mimram Road, Stone Cross.

Last Sat 10am-12pm St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay. Coffee Morning.

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.

MARCH

- Sat 2nd** **1pm-3pm** St Luke's Church Hall, Stone Cross. Spring Fair with stalls, refreshments and Easter Egg tombola.
- Mon 4th** **7.30pm** Pevensey & Westham Historical Society. 'The Bayeux Tapestry': James Dickinson. All welcome. Westham Village Hall.
- Tue 5th** **7pm** Pevensey Parish Council Meeting. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Wed 6th** **2.15pm & 7pm** Eastbourne RSPB. Talk. 'Bird Ringing and Migration': Christine George. Free refreshments. £5 members. £6 non-members. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Sat 9th** **6.30pm** St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay. Quiz. £3 per person. Bring your own food and drink.
- Wed 13th** **10am** Eastbourne RSPB. Easy Walk. Cuckoo Trail north from Polegate. Meet at junction of Shepham Lane and Levett Road. Non-members welcome. Free, but £2 donation appreciated. TQ 592051.
- 2.30pm** Pevensey Area Gardeners Club. Meeting. 'Vegetarian Delight' cookery demonstration: Sue Davies. Guests welcome. Refreshments. £3. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Sat 16th** **10am-12.30pm** St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay. Table Top Sale.
- 10am** Eastbourne RSPB. Moderate walk with styles and/or slopes. Castle Hill, Newhaven. Meet in car park by scout hut off Fort Road. Non-members welcome. Free, but £2 donation appreciated. TQ 446003.
- Tue 19th** **7pm for 7.30pm** Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Practice Evening. 'Just Three Flowers'. Free for first-time visitors. Raffle & refreshments. Contact for materials list 07900 394323. Westham Village Hall.
- Thu 28th** **7.30pm** Westham Evening WI. Birthday Meeting. Tony Harris as Henry VIII. Westham Village Hall.
- Fri 29th** **10am** St Mary's Church, Westham. Creative Christian Easter Activities for Families.

APRIL

- Mon 1st** **7.30pm** Pevensey & Westham Historical Society. 'Discovering Polegate Royal Naval Airship Station': Teri Sayers-Cooper. All welcome. Westham Village Hall.
- Tue 2nd** **7pm** Pevensey Parish Council Meeting. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Wed 3rd** **2.15pm & 7pm** Eastbourne RSPB. Talk. 'Southern Andalucia': Brian Nobbs. Free refreshments. £5 members. £6 non-members. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Sun 7th** **12pm-4pm** Stone Cross Windmill opens. Spring Fair.
- Wed 10th** **10am** Eastbourne RSPB. Moderate walk with styles and/or slopes. Shooters Bottom and Belle Tout. Meet at (P&D) car park in the layby at Shooters Bottom. Non-members welcome. Free, but £2 donation appreciated. TV 576955.
- 2.30pm** Pevensey Area Gardeners Club. Meeting. 'The Sussex Ox to the Fordon Major': Ian Everest. Guests welcome. Refreshments. £3. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Sat 13th** **10am-11.30am** St Luke's Church Hall, Stone Cross. Book & Jigsaw Fair with refreshments.
- 10am-3pm** Vehicles of Yesteryear. Sea Road car park, Pevensey Bay.
- 11am-4pm** Pevensey Bay Art Group. Annual Art Exhibition. Beautiful art works for sale. The Aqua Bar.
- Tue 16th** **7pm for 7.30pm** start Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Demonstration Evening with Jilly Griffin. Raffle & refreshments. £5 non-members. Westham Village Hall.
- Fri 19th** **7pm for 7.30pm** start St Luke's Church Hall, Stone Cross. Spring Quiz.
- Sat 20th** **10am** Eastbourne RSPB. Moderate walk with styles and/or slopes. Highwoods, Bexhill-on-Sea. Meet in car park in Pear Tree Lane. Non-members welcome. Free, but £2 donation appreciated. TQ 715094.
- Thu 25th** **7.30pm** Westham Evening WI. Monthly Meeting. 'Cookery with Air Fryers and Microwaves': Sue Davies. Westham Village Hall.
- Sat 27th** **6am** Eastbourne RSPB. Easy Walk. Hampden Park, Eastbourne, for the 'Dawn Chorus'. Meet by the pond.

Parking in road. Non-members welcome. Free, but £2 donation appreciated. TQ 599017.

MAY

- Wed 1st** **2.15pm & 7pm** Eastbourne RSPB. Talk. 'Madagascar': Glenda Laws. Free refreshments. £5 members. £6 non-members. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Sun 5th** **12pm-4pm** Stone Cross Windmill open.
- Mon 6th** **7.30pm** Pevensey & Westham Historical Society. 'The History of Little Chelsea': Alan Wenham. All welcome. Westham Village Hall.
- Wed 8th** **10am** Eastbourne RSPB. Easy Walk. Tide Mills. Meet in the car park off the A259 between Seaford and Newhaven. Non-members welcome. Free, but £2 donation appreciated. TQ 463005.
- 2.30pm** Pevensey Area Gardeners Club. Meeting. 'The British Cactus and Succulent Society': Alan Bromley. Guests welcome. Refreshments. £3. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Thu 9th** **9.30am** St Wilfrid's Church, Pevensey Bay. Ascension Day. Holy Communion followed by Christian Aid 'Big Brekkie' in the hall.
- Sun 12th** **12pm-4pm** Stone Cross Windmill. National Mills Weekend.
- Tue 14th** **2.30pm** Westham Evening WI. Fun Bingo Afternoon. Westham Village Hall.
- 6pm** Pevensey Parish Council Annual Meeting. **7pm** Monthly Meeting. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Sat 18th** **10am-12.30pm** Community Information Day. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- 10am** Eastbourne RSPB. Moderate walk with styles and/or slopes. West Rise Marsh, Eastbourne. Meet in Sevenoaks Road car park. Non-members welcome. Free, but £2 donation appreciated. TQ 626024.
- Tue 21st** **7pm for 7.30pm** start Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Practice Evening. 'Hanging Around'. Free for first-time visitors. Raffle & refreshments. Contact for materials list 07900 394323. Westham Village Hall.
- Thu 23rd** **7.30pm** Westham Evening WI. Annual Meeting and 'CSI': Brian Gee. Westham Village Hall.
- Sat 25th-27th** St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. 'All things bright and beautiful' Annual Flower Festival.

JUNE

- Sat 1st** **6.30pm** St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Harpist: Fiona Hosford.
- Sun 2nd** **12pm-4pm** Stone Cross Windmill open.
- Mon 3rd** **7.30pm** Pevensey & Westham Historical Society. 'Sir John Gage and Firl Place': Helen Poole. All welcome. Westham Village Hall.
- Tue 4th** **7pm** Pevensey Parish Council Meeting. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Wed 5th** **2.15pm & 7pm** Eastbourne RSPB. Talk. 'Peru Birds: Coastal, Andean and Amazonian': Gary Prescott (the Biking Birder). Free refreshments. £5 members. £6 non-members. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Wed 12th** **10am** Eastbourne RSPB. Downland or more strenuous walk. Seaford. Meet at Splash Point and then onto Seaford Head. Non-members welcome. Free, but £2 donation appreciated. TV 488983.
- 2.30pm** Pevensey Area Gardeners Club. Meeting. 'Carnivorous Plants': Don Fitzgerald. Guests welcome. Refreshments. £3. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Sat 15th** **10am** Eastbourne RSPB. Downland or more strenuous walk. South Farm, Southease. Meet by the farm building for a farm walk and (bring your own) picnic. Non-members welcome. Free, but £2 donation appreciated. TQ 412048.
- Tues 18th** **7pm for 7.30pm** start Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Practice Evening. 'We are Sailing'. Free for first-time visitors. Raffle & refreshments. Contact for materials list 07900 394323. Westham Village Hall.
- Sat 22nd** **9.30am-12.30pm** Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Mid-Summer Coffee Morning. Stalls, raffle, crafts, refreshments, Ukulele entertainment. Westham Village Hall.
- Thu 27th** **7.30pm** Westham Evening WI. Monthly Meeting. 'Find and Keep Your Pelvic Floor': Louise Ryrie. Westham Village Hall.

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1024

We rehearse on a Tuesday evening 7pm-9pm at the Holly Blue, Stone Cross; there is no charge but we buy drinks there which compensates for us taking up one end of the facility. A bonus for the public, that often use the Holly Blue, is that we play Happy Birthday to any group that is celebrating. Contact: 01323 763061.

PEVENSEY BAY ART GROUP

After the Christmas break, we are back and ready to go! We are ready to engage in another round of exciting and creative sessions.

Apart from our own in-house workshops, we welcome visiting tutors. Janet Woolf, will make a return visit in April, working in acrylics and depicting animals. In November, Jackie Hurwood, led a very enjoyable and instructive session using watercolour loosely to depict a landscape. Her demonstrations and individual tuition were very helpful.

In January, we looked at the effects on colour and form that differing light can cause on subject matter. This was an interesting experiment, led by Mick.

At the time of writing, Peter will lead a session in February, as yet a mystery. Peter's sessions are always, art historically related and challenging. Our next workshop before Easter is entitled "Theme". This session will help us to devise our own compositions and to produce our own original art works.

Our Christmas party in December was great fun, and a lovely sociable time was spent together. Various activities, accompanied by scrummy food, included a general quiz, a raffle and a guess the artist of 20 famous paintings competition. At this time of writing, we look forward to our annual lunch to be held in the Aqua Bar, where we have a small permanent exhibition of our art works.

Our membership is steadily increasing. Whatever your art experience, we welcome new members to our mixed ability group. We carry out our own art practice most weeks, but hold a variety of workshops throughout the year. We meet every Wednesday morning, in St. Wilfrid's Church Hall, from 9.30am-12.30am.

If you are interested in joining us, please drop in to see us at the hall or contact us on 07790 277 986.

Dinah Jones

PEVENSEY BAY BAPTIST CHURCH

We are a community of people that, motivated by our faith, love 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.

Our Sunday services are running in our church building at 10.30am. We hold our prayer meetings on the Second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 7pm in our church.

Pevensey Baptist Church is a friendly and welcoming church. Everyone is welcome to join us in worship.

Our Easter activities: Wednesday, 27th March: Fasting and prayer from 10am to 12:30pm; Thursday, 28th March: Passover celebration from 11am-1pm. People need to book us in advance; Good Friday, 29th March from 10.30am-12pm: Witnessing Jesus. It is a joint activity with St Wilfrid's Church; 31st March: Early Resurrection Sunday service at the Beach at 8am by the Sea Road car park, followed by breakfast at the church from 9am to 10.30am.

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

Knit and Craft is an opportunity for those people who enjoy knitting, however it is just one of the main activities. One of the purposes is to make blankets for people who are receiving treatment in hospital. Now, we have developed alongside knit and craft a space for craft activities for men doing railways in scale and other possible ways to develop friendship in this new season. It takes place the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 2pm at the church upstairs.

We are willing to carry on serving our local community with our Parents and Toddlers Group. We started last October with the first and third Thursday of the month from 10am to 12 noon. We accept children from one to three-years-old. If you are interested in bringing your children please contact us.

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

In regard to our premises we are happy to help rent them for activities that can benefit our local community. Please feel free to contact us if you are interested.

We are sorry 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

Happy New Year everyone. I expect that you all, as are we, are looking forward to Spring.

Things slowed down for us in the visitor centre as we approached Christmas, but the volunteer cars for medical appointments continued to keep us busy.

Anyone wanting to book a volunteer car for a medical appointment should call us between 10am and 12pm with as much notice as possible as we have to book drivers in advance.



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We vacated the building on Sea Road car park on 12th January to allow for the refurbishment of the car park and the building that we occupy.

We hope to be back in the building mid-March, in time for the Vehicles of Yesteryear and our tombola and cake stand.

We will be looking to recruit more volunteers, both car owners to take people to medical appointments and also people to man the visitor centre for two hours from 1pm-3pm (days to suit). Full training will be given.

Please continue to call us on 01323 766230 as calls will be diverted to our mobile.

Once the telephone line becomes unobtainable (due to the building refurbishment) then please call our mobile number 07396 783074. We will also keep you up-to-date on our Facebook page.

Derek V Green
Chairman

PEVENSEY BAY TO EASTBOURNE COASTAL MANAGEMENT SCHEME

The Environment Agency, in partnership with



Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne
Coastal Management Scheme

Eastbourne Borough Council, are continuing to progress all 3 phases of the Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne Coastal Management Scheme.

The project area extends along 15km of coastline between Holywell to Cooden Beach. The existing beach management will continue until 2025. Following this, there will be a 2 year 'interim' project which will ensure the continuation of beach management until the start of the Phase 1 project in 2027.

Phase 1 will make approximately 10,000 homes, businesses, infrastructure, historic features and protected environmental sites more resilient to climate change and sea level rise from 2027 to 2037.

In November and December 2023, we held a number of engagement events to share the shortlist of coastal management options with you. We had a great turnout at our 6 public exhibitions and we really enjoyed answering your questions and listening to your invaluable views.

We are collating all the feedback we received and by the time this goes to press the findings should be available on our website: www.pevenseyandeastbournecoast.co.uk

The next step is to select preferred option(s) for Phase 1 to manage the beach frontage across the project area. We will be sharing these with you in summer 2024. Multiple options could be selected to work together throughout the Phase 1, rather than a single option in isolation. To keep updated with project developments and engagement



Connect with us

activities, sign up for our email updates via our website or follow our Facebook page, just search for "Pevensey and Eastbourne Coast".

PEVENSEY BAY MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

Monday evening club nights at the Ethel Wood Community Centre continue to be very well attended by members with on-going work on the club's three principal layouts.



Pevensey Beach (00 gauge), the club's first layout to be built and subsequently exhibited at various venues, is currently being re-wired to enable digital control operation. The technology of digital control has been around for a few years now, and is increasingly finding favour with railway modellers because of the much greater flexibility it gives to both layout operation and the enhanced interest created.

Murrell Park (N gauge) and recently extended is a very fine example of attention to detail, which has drawn admiration when viewed at exhibitions and not least the club's own show in 2021. The extension, a parkland area with rail access when added to the original town scene is highly effective, enhancing and improving the original layout greatly. Members continue to find more to add to the layout, thus enforcing a saying within the hobby, "that a layout is never finished".

Ohistodt (N gauge) and its construction are making good progress. With smooth locomotive running already achieved on the layout, which depicts a fictional German/Austrian and Swiss border scene, work will now commence on the scenery. The track plan is relatively complex, but will provide for interesting viewing as it will be possible for multiple locomotives to run at the same time.

As well as applying time and skills to the layouts, members are helping and encouraging a junior member to build his first layout during club evenings. The club has a clear objective to encourage members of all ages. It is especially pleasing that members are passing on their knowledge and experience to the next generation of modellers.

For more information please visit our website <http://pevenseybaymodelrailwayclub.com>

Or contact our club:
secretary@pevenseybaymodelrailwayclub.com

PEVENSEY AND WESTHAM COMMUNITY FOREST GARDEN

Spring is just around the corner, when our many fruit trees will come into blossom with many shades of white and pink, plus a sweet scent. So this year we are planning a Spring Blossom Walk around our forest garden for Sunday, 12th May, starting at 2pm, assuming the weather is not awful.



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Golden Delicious Blossom

If you wish to come along, please be in the Pevensey Recreation Ground car park by 2pm so that we can guide you the short distance into the forest garden. If you can't make this day, don't despair, as you can always drop in on us when we have our volunteer sessions on a Tuesday or Thursday morning each week.

Ring 07402 321382 beforehand to let us know you're coming.

The young apricot trees we planted recently are now flourishing, and they will blossom in April. Our apple trees flower between late April and June depending on the variety. Globally, there are more than 3,000 cultivated varieties of apples. Our delicious heritage dessert apples, Charles Ross and James Grieve, flower in early to mid May, and we always get a big crop from them.

Other apple varieties may flower earlier, or later into June. So when planting apple trees, it is important to have another variety in the same flowering group nearby so that bees can cross-pollinate to fertilise the maximum amount of fruit.

Apple varieties mature and store for different lengths of time, so we've chosen a succession of varieties to ensure that there are apples that can be harvested continuously from high summer through to late autumn.

A few years ago, we planted a quince tree, which has large, spectacularly colourful petals, and our volunteers make delicious quince jam or jelly from the fruit.

Fruit tree blossoms in Spring are well worth waiting for!

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.

Our annual subscription is £25.00, 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.

June sees our annual "Coffee Morning" – which is always a well-attended, fun event. 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 FOOTBALL CLUB

Some great news for our Under-16 girls' team as they have reached this season's final of the prestigious Sussex Girls Challenge Cup.



The whole club will be rooting for the girls who face Lewes in the final.

We hope as many people as possible will be at pitchside to cheer on the team when they step out for the match which is being played at Lancing FC, Culver Road, on Sunday, 17th March. Kick off 2.30pm.

We are holding our presentation day at Pevensey Recreational Ground on 9th June. The time will be announced on our Facebook page. There will loads of fun and food for all. Please note the car park will be closed on this day.

If you are interested in joining our club, we have various age groups, including our Wildcats Sessions for females aged 6-11. Please contact Tim on 07854 237809.

Meanwhile, we have been awarded £35,840 over 5 years to maintain our grass pitches at the recreational ground.

The investment was provided following the completion of a pitch inspection using the Football Foundation's specially developed app, PitchPower, which is a mobile tool used for assessing the quality of grass football pitches.

Pevensey & Westham JFC will now be able to use the grant to complete the maintenance work identified in their PitchPower Assessment Report, which includes applying fertiliser, aeration, seeding and other maintenance practices.



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PEVENSEY AND WESTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Hello Everyone. Greetings to you all for a great 2024. We have a good selection of speakers on historical topics which we hope you will enjoy.

In March, we have James Dickinson on 'The Bayeux Tapestry'. In April, Teri Sayers-Cooper on 'Discovering Polegate Royal Naval Airship Station'. In May, we welcome Alan Wenham with 'The History of Little Chelsea'. Helen Poole is our June speaker with her talk on 'Sir John Gage and Firle Place'.

We meet every 1st Monday of the month at 7.30pm in Westham Village Hall. All welcome - we look forward to seeing you!

The Committee

RVS MONDAY LUNCH CLUB

Happy New Year to you all. First I must say a big THANK YOU to the team of volunteers who help me run the club, and who ran the club while I had to take fourteen weeks off.

We had a good year with it ending on 18th December by giving our members a free Christmas Lunch. Jane did a Christmas Quiz and they all went home with a present. This is one meal where members and staff sit down together. We started back on 8th January.

Our club is run for lonely people that live in Pevensey Bay at the Ethel Wood Community Centre, Coast Road.

Christine Wood
01323 768019

ST LUKE'S CHURCH, STONE CROSS

We have enjoyed a busy winter and Christmas season at St Luke's Church and Parish Centre!



We are still in interregnum presently. However, as well as Reverend Pat Gibbs, our Assistant Priest, who continues to care for us spiritually in church, we have also benefited from many Sunday sermons and weekly services from Reverend Canon Colin Luke Boswell, who has retired from London to Eastbourne!

We are lucky to have other local clergy who have been offering a weekly service or a healing Mass. Please see "What's On" for further listings.

Looking forward, we have our Easter Services: Palm Sunday Mass with Procession on Sunday, 24th March, followed by Holy Week. Masses will be held nightly at 7.30pm, on 25th, 26th and 27th March.

There will be Mass on Maundy Thursday, 28th March, at 8pm, and then a Watch until Midnight. The Stations of the

Cross will begin at 10am on Good Friday, 29th March, with the Liturgy of the Word at 3pm. On Easter Sunday itself, there will be Mass at Dawn at 6am, with our Sung Parish Mass at 9.45am on 31st March.

Our Parish Centre has been very busy over the autumn and winter seasons.

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! As it's a new year, there are new activities too!

We are having quarterly quizzes at the Parish Centre, as well as regular Jumble Sales!

Eastbourne Silver Band gave us an enjoyable musical evening in October. Nothing is Real gave us a night to Remember, The Beatles in November, and Duality performed Christmas songs and songs from musicals etc. in December. We also had our annual Christmas Fair in December.

Our Spring Fair will be held in our hall on 2nd March. In April, there will be a Book/Jigsaw Fair on 13th in Church, and the Spring Quiz will be in the hall on 19th.

Look out for other community events in May and June via our website!

We look forward to welcoming you to our Church services and community events, whilst wishing you all a Happy Easter!

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

ST MARY'S CHURCH, WESTHAM

It was fantastic to see our Christmas services so well attended - if it was your first time at a service at St Mary's we hope you found it a positive experience.



The church's seasons now move towards Easter, firstly with the season of Lent. We will be marking that with a very traditional communion service for Ash Wednesday on 14th February at 7.30pm, with our annual Pancake Party for families on Saturday, 10th February, 10am till noon.

Our Easter focused services begin on Maundy Thursday (28th March) at 8pm with a quiet service of Holy Communion. Good Friday (29th) sees a morning of creativity for families from 10am for some seventy five minutes. In the afternoon there will be a reflective service at 2pm exploring what Christians believe happened on the cross. Our Easter morning service is at 9.45am and we will be thinking about Jesus' resurrection. No doubt though, the service will also include chocolate!

Of course, our usual worship pattern on a Sunday morning continues, albeit that we are now holding two



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'all age worship' services on the first and third Sundays of the month.

Further details can be found on our website:
www.stmaryschurchwestham.co.uk

ST WILFRID'S HALL PEVENSEY BAY

Planning a party, meeting or a group activity? Want to get fit, sell items, join a quiz or meet up for a cuppa? This is the place for you!

This hall, in the centre of the village close to shops and buses, has a large car park, kitchen, new toilets and is fully disabled accessible.

There are hiring slots available, including weekends at competitive rates. Contact the bookings clerk, Keith on 01323 460523 or at stwilfridschurchhall@gmail.com.

Have a look on the Events page on our website www.pevenseyparish.org to see what you could join or start up!

The hall is used for activities and events including:

- art, health classes, dog training;
- Craft Fairs on every second Saturday of the month between 10am and 12.30pm;
- Downland market on the first Thursday of the month 1pm-4pm. Buy and sell local produce;
- A Boxing Club for 7- years- old upwards, to improve fitness and provide training, on Tuesday and Friday nights;
- Coffee mornings on the last Saturday of the month from 10am-12pm. Come along to meet up with friends and enjoy cake and a cuppa;
- Pevensey Parish Council annual Information Day on 18th May, 10am-12.30pm where you can obtain information about all the groups you can join;
- A Tabletop sale (£10 per table) on 16th March 10am-12.30pm, come along to sell or buy bits and pieces;
- Do you like Quizzes? We have one on 9th March at 6.30pm for £3 per person. BYO own drink and food!

These events help to keep the hall running and fundraise for the next phase of refurbishment work, which is needed to ensure the hall is secure from the elements.

We are always looking for new committee members for our bi monthly meetings, so if you are interested or for any of the events listed, please contact me on 07951 230729.

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-12.15pm and Tuesday, Thursday 8.45am-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-12pm and Monday to Friday afternoons, 12pm-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 Winter months thanks to a grant from Shepham Community fund.



If you think you can contribute to the work undertaken by the volunteer maintenance team, please don't hesitate to contact the chair – the team usually meet once a week.

The Windmill has been producing fine quality wholemeal flour using grain from a local farm. The Sunday opening once per month from 12pm-4pm proved to be popular and welcomed many local residents and their family. This will continue throughout 2024.



The Windmill will re-open on Sunday, 7th April, 12pm-4pm for the sale of homemade bread jams and cakes as well as a tombola with lots of prizes. This is the first fund-raising event of the season and hopefully will be well attended.

Many thanks to all our visitors and members who continue to visit the Windmill providing essential funds to help maintain the building. Further information and dates of events 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.

Aikido is physical and mental training through a series of non competitive exercises which you can also practice at home, including how to use a walking stick or umbrella effectively.

We practice as a friendly group, fostering co-operation through partner and group exercises. Our club is inclusive, and over the years has had many members of different nationalities and backgrounds.

We welcome people with all levels of experience from no experience (everyone was a beginner once) to advanced. 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 one of the major Japanese styles of Karate with origins which go all the way back to Okinawa before going to mainland Japan in 1922.

The Traditional Shotokan Club has been in existence since 1996. The club is small and friendly and is open to all adults, beginners, or people that have just moved to the area and trained in a different martial art.

Everyone is welcome and the club meets 7-8pm every Thursday night at the Shinewater Sports Centre, Milfoil Drive, Langney (Main Hall).

The club is essentially a karate club, but we also train with four specific weapons. A bo (6ft long stick), a jo (4ft long stick), a tanbo (2ft long stick) and a tanto (wooden training knife).

Training with these weapons alongside your karate allows students to develop the skills to defend themselves with the empty hand or anything that maybe lying around giving them complete self-confidence.

Shotokan karate is also beneficial to your physical and mental wellbeing.

Instructor Phil is registered with the Amateur Martial Arts Association.

The club is open to anyone age 16 to 80. Should you have any questions or be interested in joining us just come along and meet us, everyone is welcome.

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.

Last year we all enjoyed making many craft items. We are now looking forward to a new year full of activities.

We 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 for more information: www.viewcraft.org



WESTHAM ART GROUP

All too soon it is the start of yet another year. Looking at the future; holiday plans, perhaps gardening ideas, a year of happiness, we hope.

What most of us look for is something interesting to become involved in. Have you thought of joining us at the Westham Art Group? We're a friendly group, always willing to help others and glowing in the praise from more accomplished fellows.

We also have welcoming social events. Usually, about twice a year, we have trips out to interesting places, museums, art galleries, anything to spark the imagination. We also enjoy a couple of meals out. Not sure if it feeds the imagination, but certainly does wonders for our appetite!

All of these treats are included in our weekly charge of £5. This also covers a weekly session of art in its many forms. Very little formal training, but many helpful souls willing to give guidance when required.

We meet in Westham Village Hall every Wednesday from 1pm-4pm with a break for tea/coffee and, if we're lucky, some home-made cakes.

Great if you could join us in a happy New Year. Information from Brian Gage 01323 461433.

WESTHAM EVENING WI

Jan Bailey was voted in as President in October 2023 and will see Westham Evening into the changes during this year.

To come in line with the changes in subscription time, individual WIs' Annual Meetings will now take place in April or May, rather in October or November, as previously.

Members will greet the start of the new calendar year with a meal at the Langham Hotel in Eastbourne.

Cookery and health feature in the topics in the coming Monthly Meetings, with Sue Davies speaking on using Air Fryers and Microwaves and there is also a session on exercises for strengthening pelvic floor muscles.

In addition, on the 14th May, one of the popular Fun Bingo Afternoons is going to be held.

There are several monthly groups that include the book club, Scrabble, cakes, gardening, crafts, walking and Night Owls, offering a variety of interests.

There is always a friendly welcome at Westham Village Hall, on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7.30pm.

Please ring Jan on 07710 559880 for more information about the meetings or any of the other groups mentioned above.

WESTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

We need more members and would urge people to SIGN-UP.



There is an active campaign in the village to protect our lanes! We have provided Westham Parish Council with concerns. There is a working party to address this. One sign has been erected to prevent HGV vehicles going to the upper part of Peelings Lane, but we need more signage and there is more to be done.

Verges are being destroyed and there is more fly-tipping.

It is SO easy to report to various agencies to prevent this and any other suspicious activity:

Ring Police on 101 or report online.

East Sussex County Council: 0345 60 80 193

Wealden District Council: 01323 443322

Operation Crackdown: www.operationcrackdown.org

Let us hope that, by now, the review on the Peelings Lane car park has been resolved to save our Village Hall.

REMEMBER

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

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 VILLAGE HALL

The Westham Village Hall Committee wishes everyone a Happy New Year, and extends thanks to all our Hall users for their support in keeping our Village Hall open, providing a central hub for our Community.

Please keep an eye on our outside noticeboard for upcoming events and details of Groups that you may wish to join, perhaps the start of a new hobby with new friends.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34 ➔

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

This is a good time to look back at last year and what the Council has achieved during that year.



Work started last year to overhaul and update Adur Park by installing an all-weather all access path around the perimeter of the park so that walking in the park can continue whatever the weather.



Work to install the path has taken longer than was envisaged due to the weather and the unrequested visitors that took up residence in the park during the summer. The work should now be completed in the next few weeks.

Once the work is completed then plans are being made for the Friday Street entrance to be fenced off leaving a pedestrian gate only to eliminate the issues the Council have faced in the summer months.

The Parish Council has now registered Adur Park as a protected green space with Fields in Trust. It is one of almost 3,000 spaces across the UK that are protected forever. The fencing of the play area is complete with the only requirement left is for the new surfacing to be completed. Unfortunately, this type of surfacing can only be applied when the weather is dry. Again, this should be completed in the next few weeks.

Around the Parish the Notice Boards have been refurbished by a local contractor. This has been a difficult task as many of the boards were falling apart and in need of a complete overhaul.

The car park next to the Stone Cross School has been relined which has improved the spacing for cars.

The Council has been pressing the owners of the land at Mimram Road (Next to Tesco's) to improve and repair the street lighting in this area. The street lighting has not worked for some time and with the dark nights this makes walking in this area challenging.

New sign posts have been installed in two areas of the Parish. The "Stone Cross" sign on Dittons Road/Lion Hill has had a new post and the sign has been completely refurbished. The other sign to receive a new post and a refurbished sign is in "Hankham".

A bus shelter has had to be removed on Rattle Road due to the development work being carried out. Once the development is complete there will be no room for a bus shelter so it was decided to move the shelter. This has been done at no cost to the Parish Council. The shelter has now been relocated on Dittons Road opposite Bluebell Barn.

For many years, the problem of unsuitable vehicles traveling along Peelings Lane towards Banner Way has

been discussed by the Foxes Hollow Residents' Association and the Parish Council.

Last year a new initiative has been started led by Cllr Fiona Durling from Westham Parish Council and a small group of local residents to install signs indicating the road is unsuitable for large vehicles.

The Councillor has spent much time contacting various agencies pushing forward to get results and not giving up when there has been little information. A sign as has now been erected in Gallows Lane advising unsuitable vehicles to avoid using Peelings Lane.

Other Information

During January 2024 the Parish Council have to set the Precept which is the amount of money raised in the parish to support the Council in carrying out its work.

Councils try to keep the Precept as low as possible, but sometimes this is not possible and it may have to be raised. Hopefully this can be kept to a minimum with good budgeting.

The way you vote is changing and the Electoral Services at Wealden District Council have information to let you know the changes.

They are happy to answer any queries you may have and can be contacted at Wealden District Council offices at Hailsham on 01323 443322 or by email: info@wealden.gov.uk

➔ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

Do remember our outside seating area, which has proven to be an inclusive space for everyone in our community, is open to all not just Hall users.

If you would like to book your Hall for your Group or as a place to hold parties or events, please get in touch with our helpful booking clerk Julie on 07821 377110. We look forward to seeing you at your Hall soon.

Diane on behalf of Westham Village Hall Committee

WESTHAM VILLAGE POND

It is hard to predict how the pond will fare in 2024. Using scientific ecological insight helps.

Last Spring water quality was good, lots of aquatic plants and small water creatures were living in healthy habitat. As we all know, clean water is key to everything.

Swans returned in 2023, they are big animals and consumed most of the water-life and promptly converted it to Swan droppings which over-fertilised the water.

As a result, Duckweeds grew on the pond surface. This cover blocks out the light and stops pondweed growth. The pond was tipping back into a polluted condition.

Things could get worse in 2024. The water may become



unsafe for all of us again. Harmful bacteria, algae and parasites make life unpleasant, not least for the Swan and Ducks.

Feeding attracts them in for an easy meal. They do not need this food, not even in cold weather as they are much tougher than us!

They have access to thousands of acres of prime wetlands nearby where there is healthier natural food in a clean habitat.

Feeding at the pond seems to be a kind thing, but it actually harms the wildlife here including the water-birds. It is not immediately obvious but it is true.

There is room for optimism in spite of challenges. The many Frogs and Smooth and Palmate Newts will be breeding soon.

A few Toads and at least one Great Crested Newt are already here. Grass Snakes, which feed on them, were seen regularly.

It is nice just to know that they are here again, even though they are not obvious.

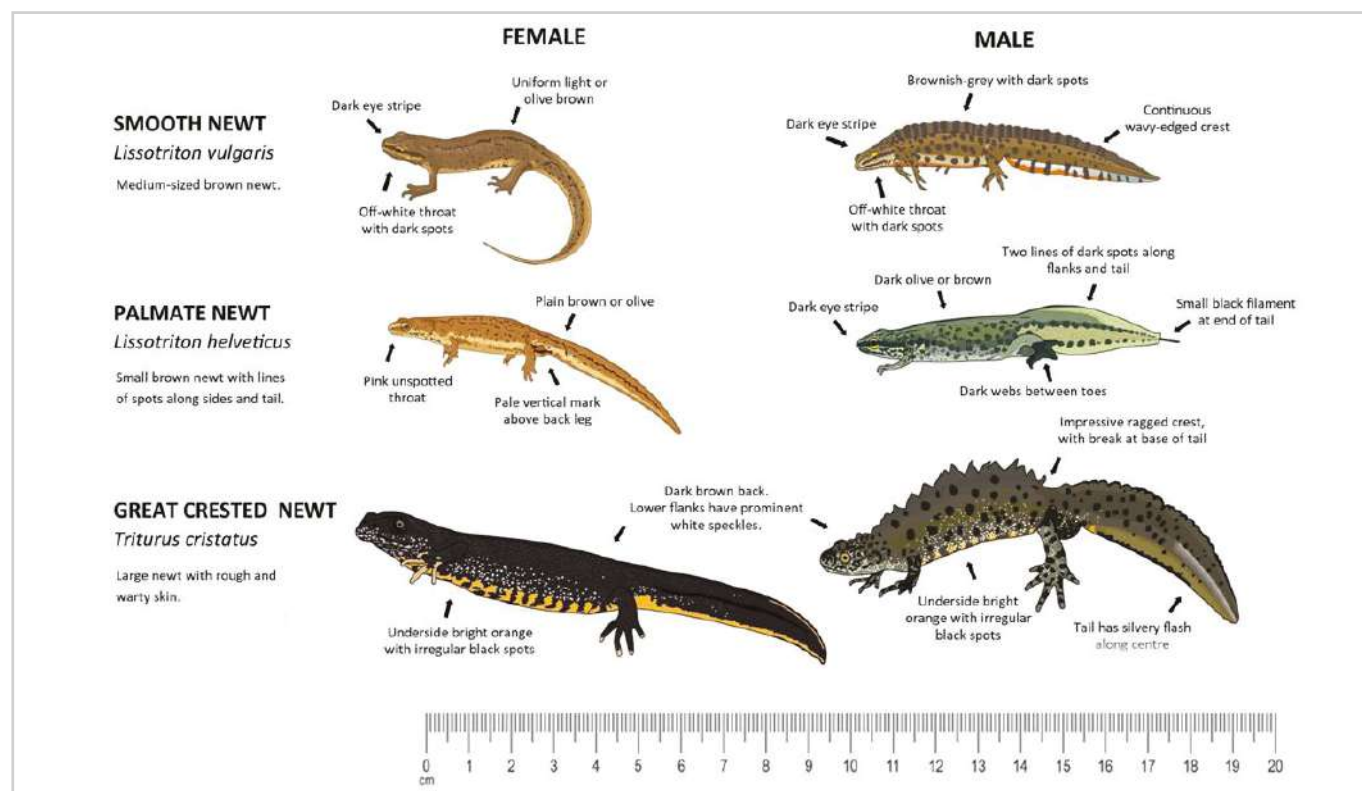
Singing Reed Warblers should return in May. Perhaps Reed Buntings will appear!

The recovery of the pond in the last few years has been remarkable so thanks to everyone for making that change possible.

It would be good to have Reed Buntings breeding at the village pond again. These birds regularly visit gardens in Pevensey and Westham.



These are the three newt species that live in local garden ponds. Both Pevensey and Westham are known to hold populations of the rarer Great Crested Newt. The Smooth Newt is common here as is the smallest; the Palmate Newt which prefers smaller shaded ponds.



Nature Notes

Alan Everard's regular nature column



Let's start again with our Jonno and James, father and son Gulls, to whom you have already been introduced. Well, they have made themselves at home now and when their 6.30am breakfast is put out on the patio (actually later in Winter, of course, as they never arrive until full daylight) they immediately go for it and see off any other Gulls who might attempt to intrude upon their "private" breakfast. That's mostly Jonno of course as James is still in his young, brown feathers.

Earlier, on Christmas Day, a beautiful Robin arrived on the patio to help "make our day". We gave him a "bird seed" welcome. They also like sunflower seeds and peanuts, of course, but unfortunately we had none. Robins are so many peoples favourite bird. Later, we were lucky enough to be visited by a Pied Wagtail. They, of course, feed on insects. What a co-incidence, as I write this, a Pied Wagtail has just landed on our patio - briefly - though he's gone now.



Many years ago, about 25, we were on the beach at Pevensey Bay when we found a 4ft length of Willow tree sapling washed up on the beach. We brought it back with us and planted it on the bank of the stream in front of our house. It is now at least 20ft tall and heavily branched.

Last year, Magpies nested in it. We also had the good luck recently to see a Little Egret wading in the stream. Apart from fish it also used to have eels which used it annually to get out to sea from the fens at the edge of Pevensey Levels and make their amazing journey to the Sargasso Sea. They have their young there and then return to the Fens again.

We will now finish with Hazel Wood's fascinating article on that local bird of prey - the Sparrowhawk

Hello my friends,

Hopefully, we are on the way to Spring by the time you read this.

Firstly, let me just say after such a mild, but very wet winter, I'm sure that we shall all be pleased to see the back of it.

I would like to tell you about how strangely my garden birds have been behaving lately.

All of November and December my birds have been flying in like locusts in very quick bursts to forage the bird tables and ground areas of my garden.

Then after a very short time they are gone - after carefully watching and waiting, I found the culprit to be the most stunning, beautifully marked Sparrowhawk.

He is treating my garden as his own on-the-spot restaurant, just taking at will when he wants.

I know that they have to live and feed and only take food as and when they need it, but it's also very upsetting to watch.

Sparrowhawks rely on the element of surprise and, as such, will often follow a regular route to get close to potential prey.

So my plan to try and outwit the hawk was to move all my feeders into different positions and keep them close to cover, and to my surprise this seems to work.

While the Sparrowhawk is now one of the most widespread birds of prey in Britain, until a few decades ago it was more or less extinct in many eastern countries.

This was partly due to persecution and also the use of pesticides in agriculture. The pesticides were blamed for the thinning of their egg shells which increased breakages during incubation. This led to the population decline.

The Sparrowhawk has now bounced back. They prefer to nest in dense woodland and breed between May and July.

The male Sparrowhawk does all the hunting until the chicks are old enough to be left alone. The male also brings food in, this time for the female (I like the sound of that).

Enjoy our local wildlife.



Alan Everard

Sea Defences

Amber Carr, Project Manager with Pevensey Coastal Defence Ltd, describes local preparations for Storm Ciarán

From the start of the 2023/ 2024 winter sea defence campaign, there have been 8 named storms so far this season and at the time of writing the 9th - Storm Isha - was starting to sweep across the country.

The storm season runs from early September through to late August of the following year. When there is an increase in low pressure within the weather system, there is the potential for a storm to occur. The Met Office, alongside with the Dutch National Weather Forecasting Service known as KNMI and Met Eireann are responsible for naming a storm. A storm will be named if it is considering having the potential to cause disruption and/or damage.

The storms named so far this season are:

Name	Date named	Date of impact on UK and/or Ireland and/or Netherlands
Agnes	25 September	27 - 28 September 2023
Babet	16 October	18 - 21 October 2023
Ciarán	29 October	1 - 2 November 2023
Debi	12 November	13 November 2023
Elin	9 December	9 December 2023
Fergus	9 December	10 December 2023
Gerrit	26 December	27 - 28 December 2023
Henk	2 January 2024	2 January 2024

(Met Office)

These storms have affected various parts of the UK, thankfully, only a few of the above have had an impact to Pevensey frontage over these few months. The timing of a storm and likelihood of erosion to the sea defences depends on several factors combining at the same time such as tidal cycle, water level, surge, wind, and wave direction. The weather and water levels are always monitored for any such event.

The storm so far this season that had the most impact to the frontage was Storm Ciarán on the 2nd November.

The Met Office named this storm three days before it arrived. This allowed time to effectively manage and arrange plant to ensure that the frontage was in good shape ahead of the storm. The forecast information was



Pushing shingle up the beach ahead of Storm Ciarán

predicting the storm to be southerly and winds of similar strength comparable to the Great Storm of 1987 (Met Office). As water levels were relatively high following on from the recent spring tide, it was considered necessary to increase resources ahead of oncoming storm. The team worked in line with the tidal cycle night and day ahead of this storm. The bulldozers work most effectively between a falling and rising tide and therefore it was necessary to work the tides despite these being 'Out of Hours'. As the storm had suddenly veered towards France, the wind lessened but the wave impact was of a southerly direction. When Ciarán hit the beach which coincided with hightide on the 2nd of November, the crew set to work soon after as best they could to ensure the defences were not compromised. The excavators and dump trucks were able to move the shingle to vulnerable locations and once the waters began to recede, the dozers could start again pushing shingle back up to the crest. Shingle could be seen drawn down from the crest to the lower foreshore which allowed the dozers to push this up with relative ease.

During, and after every storm that has passed, a full evaluation of the condition of the 9kms of frontage is reviewed and works are planned accordingly and prioritized depending on any further impending weather issues and erosion to the crest. Sometimes it is not possible to access all areas of the frontage until the haul road has been reformed which takes time to rebuild especially during neap tides as access to the foreshore can be limited. Depending on the severity of a storm, it can often take quite a few weeks to work through the entire 9 kms of frontage. You may not see the machines in your area of the beach, but rest assured they will be working in a location somewhere not too far away.

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

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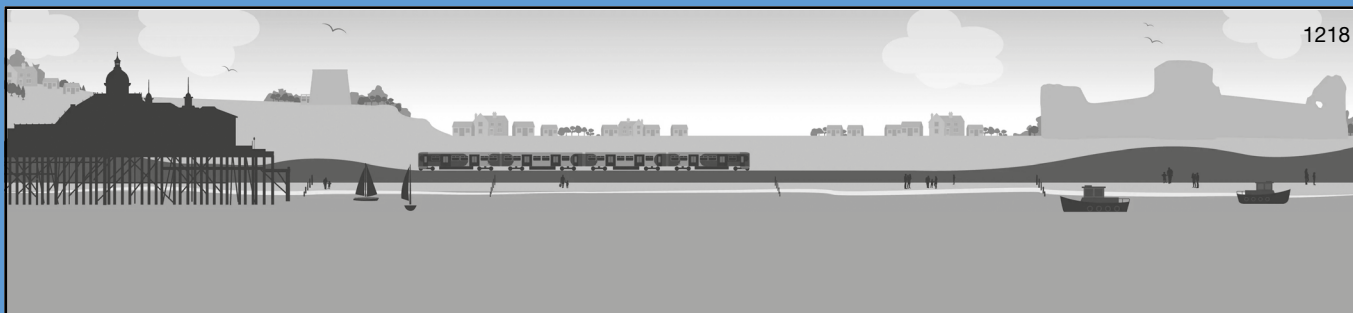
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The Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne Coastal Management Scheme is one of the largest coastal flood defence projects in England covering 15km of coastline from Holywell in Eastbourne through to Normans Bay. The project has a new website, please visit www.pevenseyandeastbournecoast.co.uk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