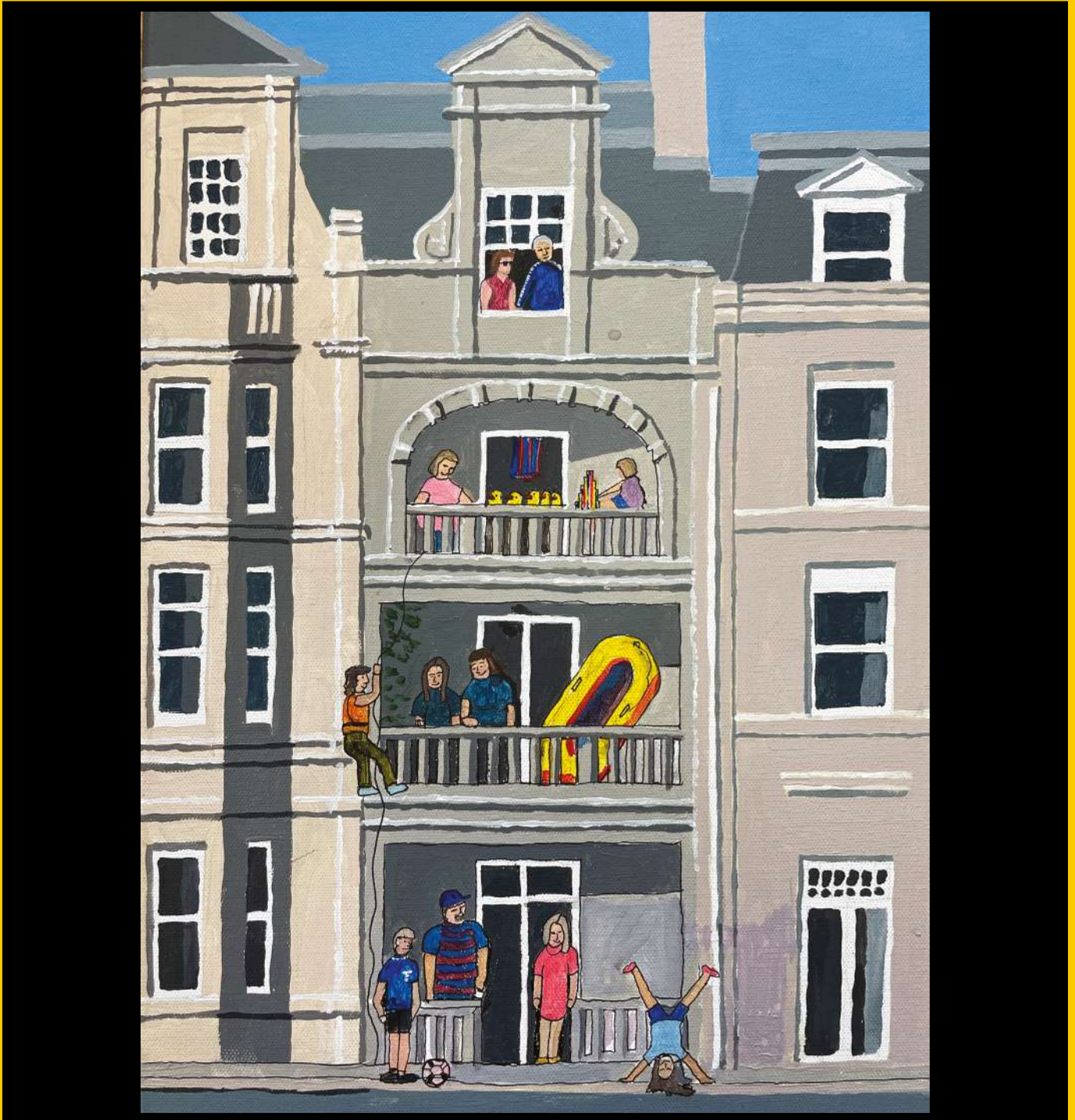


The Parish Pump

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



Issue 168 – Summer 2024

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



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Community News

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

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the Summer Edition of The Parish Pump! I must start with the new 'Bay Community Hub' in Pevensey Bay which brings together the community library and information centre under one roof in a redesigned and refurbished building.

The Hub - in the recently upgraded Sea Road car park - is fully accessible on ground level and also has community space - ideal for a cuppa while doing a jigsaw.

Read more about The Hub later in the Pump.

Elsewhere, there is also a hive of activity within the many local groups and organisations who have lined up a multitude of events and activities to enjoy over the coming months - concerts, art exhibitions, gardening, talks, arts and crafts - you can even try your hand at bell ringing!

In Stone Cross, Celebrations will be in full flow to mark the 100th anniversary of St Luke's Church which will host an entertainment-filled Centenary Summer Fair.

Meanwhile, if you fancy a 16 mile charity challenge - via Pevensey Bay - you can join the annual pier to pier run/walk/cycle from Eastbourne to Hastings on 27th July. Raised funds will support the Wayfinder Woman voluntary drop-in advice centre and other services. Details 01323 886171.

A big thank you goes to Pevensey Bay Art Group member Philip Parker who created the front page acrylic picture 'On Holiday at the Seaside'.

And finally, don't forget two dates for your diaries - the Pevensey Dog and Country Craft Show on 1st September and the first Pevensey Castle 5k run on 21st September - infact, why don't you sign up to take part in both events! Look out for publicity locally and online.

Sara Cheesley, Editor
07799 374049

theparishpump13@gmail.com

ISSUE 169 DEADLINE

Local groups and organisations should email details of events and activities between 1st November 2024 - 28th February 2025 to: theparishpump13@gmail.com by

14th September 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

Residents will recall that last September a new amateur boxing club opened at St Wilfrid's Church and Community Hall. Unfortunately, I badly injured my arm in January and have been unable to train. My arm is improving. It is hoped that the club will re-open in September. This may have to start with one evening per week for children only. So do look out for posters and social media messages later in the summer.



Jay O'Brien

ANDERIDA BORDER MORRIS

By the time you receive this Parish Pump we will be fully into our dance season for 2024. We have started the year with an invite to dance at The Bell & Jorrock's beer festival, Frittenden.

It was a great event attended by half a dozen Morris sides ranging from Border to Cotswold dancing. We have also danced at Jack in the Green in Hastings which was a fantastic experience as this is an event that is always very well attended welcoming the summer and rebirth.



Anderida have also had a few pub meets in the evening at venues around Sussex throughout May. These will continue with bigger events like Lewes Day of Dance in June until the Tenterden folk festival in October.

We finally have our smart new T-Shirts and banner to add to our kit. Our new members are certainly enjoying their experience with the side. We are a fun side and don't take our dancing too seriously. If you fancy popping along to one of our dance outs check out our itinerary on our Facebook page. We are always looking for new members and will be back to practice beginning September or email: anderidamorris@gmail.com





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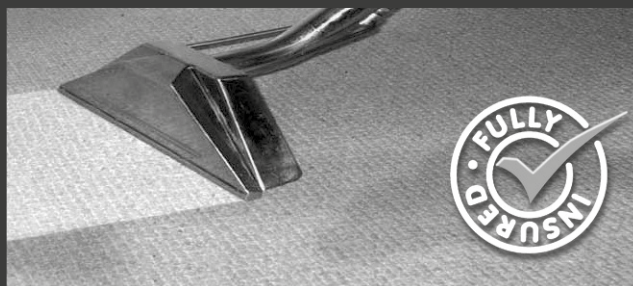
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BAY COMMUNITY HUB

Pevensey Community Library

We are very pleased to say that the library has now moved into the Bay Community Hub in Sea Road Car Park in Pevensey Bay. We will be sharing the building with the Information Centre and we are really enjoying getting to know our new housemates.



The library will be open from 10am to 1pm, Monday to Saturday. We hope to extend our opening hours in the future, so keep a look out on our Facebook page.

We still have thousands of books to lend and are very pleased to receive donations of books which we will always find good use for. If you would like to become a member just pop in and we will get you signed up. The library service is free to use with no fines, restrictions on numbers of books, or deadlines on reading.



All are welcome to come in, browse, have a cup of coffee and a chat or just enjoy the jigsaw that's laid out on the table. Whilst you are there you can get local and tourist information too. If you are a local community group then

the space is available to meet up when the library is closed.

We are so proud of the guys who helped us move as it was no mean task, but we made it. We're also very thankful to Wealden District Council for all their support in getting the building open. A huge advantage over the old building, (other than the flooding) is that this new place is fully accessible to everyone, the entrance is flat, there are large wide doors and everything is on one level. Our older and disabled residents will now be able to enjoy the services of the library.

For further information please email: pevenseylibrary@gmail.com

Daniel Brookbank

Director, Pevensey Community Library CIC

Pevensey Bay and District Information & Caring Centre

Well, summer is on its way. Let's hope it is a good one!

The Sea Road Car Park has now been refurbished and there are lots of 1 hour free parking spaces, but you still need a ticket from the machine. There are three tariffs – 1 hour, 3 hours or All Day.

We are now open from 10am-1pm, Monday to Saturday, along with the community library. We are all in the same building in Sea Road car park. We have good disabled

access. We are all on ground level so there are no stairs. The building is now called the Bay Community Hub.

We have lots of books for sale along with jigsaws and gifts. Pop in and say Hello.

We are always looking out for volunteers both in the office/library and also car owners to take people to medical appointments. Thankfully, we are always busy with the volunteer cars and serving our community and visitors.

Our phone number is 01323 766230. Follow us on Facebook (Pevensey Bay Information Centre).

Email: thebaycommunityhub@yahoo.com or pevensey122@btinternet.com

Derek V Green

Chairman

BRITISH CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
ROTHER VALLEY BRANCH

Spring has well and truly sprung and your cacti and succulent should be growing well and maybe flowering. You should have started watering cautiously at the end of March and as soon as you see signs of grow you can give more, every 1-2 weeks, but never let your plants stand in water. Cacti in particular like to dry out between waterings, like they do in the desert, and if you treat them well many will flower every year.

For more information about these amazing plants come along to one of our meetings. We welcome non-members and they are FREE! 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.bcsc.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, or just email us: secretary@rothervalley.bcsc.org.uk.

We will be organising a Cactus Show in conjunction with the Alexandra Park Greenhouse Group at Alexandra Park, Hastings, 10am-4pm on Saturday, 20th July so come along and say Hello, and bring the family for a fun day out.

BROWNBREAD HORSE RESCUE

We have had an unusually wet winter, like all of you, that went on and on. Walking on pavements in a town in the wet is straight forward, but getting around the fields in slippery mud is no joke and makes an already difficult job doubly difficult.



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We had two of our charity vehicles, the only two on the road, written off. The Shogun, much needed to tow the rescue trailer, was written off by rats eating the plastic wiring. Well, perhaps that is no surprise as we understand that the plastic was made using Peanut oil. The other vehicle, a Picasso, had the gear wires broken.

At the time of writing, we are preparing our garden for the Leprosy Mission to hold a 'Splendid Tea Party' on 1st June to help them raise their funds. You may ask why we're not doing that to raise funds for the horses. Well, I've found over the years that this is an indirect way to raise awareness of our Brownbread efforts. People go away, talk and spread the word that we exist.

Many thanks to all those that have donated tack, feed, items, money and voluntary time helping our cause. Visitors are welcome by arrangement. 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 HEARING

Established over twenty years ago, East Sussex Hearing is a countywide charity based in the Upperton ward of Eastbourne.

Its staff of ten, along with 50 plus volunteers, serves over 11,000 clients each year, providing support, assistance, guidance and equipment, along with sign language and lip-reading lessons to the deaf, deafened and hearing impaired.

Any form of hearing loss has a huge negative impact on a person's life - resulting in isolation and exclusion from both their work and social groups. This hugely impacts on both the mental and physical health of individuals and is a causal link to onset dementia.

Current research indicates that 1 in 5 people have a hearing impairment or are deaf/deafened in the UK. That equates to 122,000 people with a hearing disability in East Sussex alone! The 1 in 5 figure will be higher in areas with older population demographics.

East Sussex Hearing provides a range of services to support the deaf and hearing-impaired community across East Sussex. We also provide training and advice to businesses and organisations to help them better support employees and those they work with.

Some of the many schemes we operate are hearing aid maintenance, hearing assistive equipment at home installs (British Sign Language), lip-reading lessons, social support groups and micro-suction ear wax removal services.

The demands on our services grow more each day, yet hearing impairment and deafness is often described as the 'invisible disability'.

We aim through our work to fight the isolation and discrimination that effects both the mental and physical wellbeing of our clients. Helping them to lead positive, healthy lives within their communities.

To that end, after a successful fundraising campaign we now have a new, to us, fully accessible, outreach bus - the Hearing Hopper. This will bring our centre and more services, such as ear wax removal and ear health check-ups, to some of the more rural areas in our beautiful county.

For further information contact East Sussex Hearing 01323 722505.

EAST SUSSEX MOVIEMAKERS

Our Club, despite our reduced membership, has had the opportunity of visiting Smokescreen Visuals located in the Sovereign Harbour area. We were welcomed by Matt Derbyshire (Company Director) and Kai Zammit (Creative Director). Whilst there we were told about the origins of the company, and shown examples of some of their more recent projects. The creative ideas the company uses are inspirational and unique; and the enthusiasm, which exists in its Creative Director, was clearly in evidence. We hope he may be willing to visit us at one of our future meetings in Stone Cross later in the year.



In March, Denise Hearn, an experienced flower arranger came to do some arrangements using a selection of spring flowers. Denise did one arrangement using Iris as an example of how she works and as she did so she explained why and how to present the blooms; she then dismantled the arrangement so members with camera could film the process as she again demonstrated her skills and craft. The Iris were followed by arrangements using tulips, and finally daffodils. 'Names in the Hat' resulted in three lucky members going home with the arrangements.



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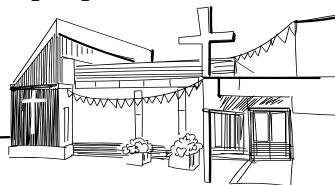
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The most recent opportunity for film came in April when four members visited the Bluebell Walk at Arlington. After a walk in the woods amongst the bluebells and other woodland flora and fauna, we made for the refreshments to enjoy a welcome cup of tea.



Bluebell Walk, Arlington
Photo: Val McManus

Unfortunately, our website has not been up-dated for the past year, but if you are interested to know more about what we do and have planned, please contact Malcolm Webster 01323 769016, or email Val McManus: valmcmanusuk@yahoo.com

We meet at St. Lukes Parish Centre, Stone Cross, at 2pm on the 1st Thursday each month.

EAST SUSSEX VISION SUPPORT

East Sussex Vision Support (ESVS), formally The East Sussex Association of



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

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 to 4.30pm.

Our Higher Intervention Service is there to help people with long term, complex need.

We currently provide 10 social groups run by 100 volunteers. These offer a vital lifeline to over 300 of our members who would experience social isolation and exclusion without the opportunity to get together once a month.

For further information about any of our services or to get in touch with us please ring our HQ on 01323 832252, email: info@eastsussexvisionsupport.org or visit our website for further information: www.eastsussexvisionsupport.org

ETHEL WOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Ethel Wood Community Centre is located on Coast Road in Pevensey Bay and is an amenity for the whole community.



The Centre is owned by Pevensey Parish Council and is managed by a management committee.

The facilities include, a main hall, industrial kitchen facilities, ladies, gents and disabled toilets, a large back garden and a private car park.

The hall is well used with many activities, including lunch clubs, dance groups, art classes, martial arts, yoga, social gatherings and the Pentacle Drummers.

Hire and deposit charges can be found on the Parish Council website or by contacting the Clerk. Details are also below:

***Regular Hires:** £11.50 per hour; ***Children's Parties:** £18 per hour weekdays & £20 per hour at weekends; ***Hires for Casual/One off hires:** £18 per hour weekdays & £20 per hour at weekends - minimum of 2 hour bookings.

***Deposit for the Hall Hire for an Adult hire:** £100; ***Deposit for a Children's Party hire:** £50; ***Deposit for a Children's Party over 3 hours:** £100.

Access to the booking system can be found on the Parish Council's website. You are able to view all bookings via the link.

If you want to book or have any queries, please contact the Parish Clerk on Sarah Mosedale: clerk@pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk /01323 743900/07849 124319.

FOXES HOLLOW RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Our recent AGM in May had 24 members attending to re-appoint officers and accept accounts for 2023. Good discussions followed regarding the excellent level of support, namely 75% of the estate being members for the year July 2023 to June 2024.



Thanks were also noted to Westham Parish Council for appointing a regular contractor to keep the estate





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in order which is working well. Follow up activities are planned to pursue regarding Peelings Lane speed limits and vehicle access as well as nearby building works and water run-off into Peelings Lane and Banner Way.

Membership starts again from July 2024 and application forms should be distributed shortly before then. Our finances are reasonable and we will be keeping fees/subscriptions at £5 per household to maintain the additional work we carry out on the estate.

Further information from Stuart McMillan, chair 01323 764350 or via website: foxeshollowestate.com

FRIENDS OF THE MINT HOUSE

When I first heard that the Mint House was being placed on the Heritage At Risk Register I knew I had to become part of the fixtures and fittings of this wonderful building. I run my own business as a buildings archaeologist, but was also undertaking an Msc in Building Conservation at the Weald and Downland Living Museum. I got the bug; one bite of this superb building was not enough and I craved more. I quickly made a nuisance of myself by making a detailed study of the Oak Room for my studies in historic fixtures and fittings. I then based some of my dissertation work on the Mint House.



The rest is history; literally. I can now be found in my role as Conservation Advisor, lurking in dark corridors organising radar surveys of the floors, helping to further understand the history of the building and undertaking measured surveys, ably aided by my excellent side-kick Elijah, Head of the Mint House Young Volunteers, who has been helping to survey the beam finishes and decoration known as stop chamfers.

Research continues, more recently looking at the possibility that the building contains some re-used ships' timbers which can be a very explosive subject! Quite often there are many incorrect assumptions about old house timbers, with empty mortices and peg holes erroneously suggesting the wood came from ships.

Quite often these represent timbers simply removed or older timbers recycled in a different building so archaeologists are often very quick to correct people. However, being so close to the coast, quite often small timbers, called knee braces, can be re-used as supports particularly in the 18th century when ships were being broken up.



Left: Probably re-used ship's knee braces in the Mint House. Right: Knee Brace in a ship at the Shipwreck Museum in Hastings. Photos: Lisa Fisher

More recent exciting news includes the announcement that the National Heritage Lottery Fund have awarded a resilience grant of £86,350, which we hope will be the start of a fabulous relationship.

Lisa Fisher, Conservation Advisor, May 2024

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INKSPOT

Inkspot is a creative writing group meeting on the first Friday of each month from 3-5pm. We meet and support Pevensey Community Library, now relocated to the Bay Community Hub in the beach car park, and thank Cllr Daniel Brookbank for arranging for us to meet there. Our first meeting in May was very successful and everyone agreed it was a good space for our group.

We welcome new members to drop in and there is no pressure to write - just come, listen and be inspired! Each month we have a different theme which leads to many ideas in prose or poetry. We pay for refreshments for £1 and £1 as a donation at each meeting towards the library.

We would be remiss not to mention JACKY LONG who for 10 years has led Inkspot, and we hope that she will now find time to write more herself and join her friends back at the group - we miss you already! Presents, cards and of course a poem by one of our members have been given, so she has already 'written herself' into Inkspot history!

We have been delighted to support the Blossom Walk in Pevensey and Westham Forest Garden with inspiration for flowery writing and will have had a stall at the Information Day at St Wilfrid's Church Hall where we share our POETREE and hope to encourage hidden writers to join our group. If you've always wanted to write do join us. Contact: pcoughlan@btinternet.com

Our next meetings will be on Friday, 7th June and Friday, 5th July and we once again thank Thelma for offering her impressive garden for our annual strawberry cream tea in August. This year we hope to be joined by author Debbie Young (Sophie Sayers, Cozy Mysteries) to discuss her publishing journey.

Philipa Coughlan

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





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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

As I write, we are approaching the Festival of Pentecost which marks the event when the Holy Spirit was sent upon the embryonic church 50 days after Jesus's death. The Spirit sent those first few faithful disciples out into the world to change it - and my goodness, they changed history! That same Holy Spirit is still at work today - not just in a faithful few, but in the whole of creation. And that same Spirit invites you and me to be part of a divine mission bringing God's love to the whole of the earth. We might like to use a verse of a well-known hymn:

Breathe on me, breath of God:
fill me with life anew,
that I may love as you have loved
and do as you would do.

Church News: We still await a new Priest in charge for the Parish Partnership between us and St Luke's Church, Stone Cross. In the meantime, the churches are supported by me, retired clergy and Lay Ministers, and all services and events continue as normal.

During the summer, our exciting programme of musical events continues at St Nicolas'. We would also like to invite you to various themed services in the parish including a Pet Service (pets may bring a well-behaved human along!), a Mini-Pilgrimage and Prayers for Peace. Details in 'What's On' section.

Everyone is welcome to our regular Sunday services. At St Wilfrid's you will find a relaxed and friendly service of Holy



St Nicolas Church



St Wilfrid's Church

Communion at 9.30am, where we use modern language with hymns and offer excellent disabled access. St Nicolas' Holy Communion at 11.30am may appeal to those who prefer a more formal style of worship using traditional language, incense, and a choir.

Our churches are happy to respond to anyone with queries about marriage, baptisms or funerals. If you have an important anniversary coming up, perhaps you might like to renew your marriage vows? 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

revd.merriel@hotmail.co.uk

01323 509891

PEVENSEY AREA GARDENERS CLUB

As I write this we are having some lovely warm sunny days, such a change from the awful overcast and hopelessly wet days we have experienced this spring. The sun stirs you into action in the garden, you want to get out there planting. A trip to the garden centre is a real treat with all the bedding plants 'smiling' and saying 'please buy me' - it is really hard to resist.

However, as the old saying goes - cast not a clout 'til May is out. We can have some sudden frosts on May nights after beautiful sunny days and bang goes some of your precious plants unless you have taken measures to protect them. Sometimes all that is needed is some newspaper, or fleece, even some netting is sufficient to protect them if they are reasonably sheltered.

Maybe you have bought a courgette, or runner beans to grow, these are very susceptible to frost, so keep them in your greenhouse, or make sure they are covered if a cold night is forecast. However, there are a few crops like beetroot, carrots and lettuce you can sow now and will not be affected by the temperature differences. Once the problems of frost are over, watering and feeding should be top of your list to ensure you have crops or plants as nice as can be.

The Gardeners Club will be having their Show in July and visitors are welcome, see What's On for details of this and our general meeting. Further information is available from chairman Keith Henderson 01323 460523 or: igk6342@gmail.com

Denise Morgan-Smith

President

PEVENSEY BINGO

For the first time in 21 years we have increased the price of books. A strip of six books for 10 games has gone up to £4.50, and entry remains at 50p. This is still a very cheap night out. There is free tea or coffee at half-time. We have a raffle, football cards and lucky numbers.





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

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There is also a game run over a few weeks where you can win £50.

Prizes have been increased in line with the cost of books and we pay £3 for a line and £12 for a full house. We have a flyer which costs £2 for a strip of 6 where we pay out on one line, two lines and a full house. This varies as to the number of tickets sold. There are now two jackpots running each week.

Come and have a fun evening with us at the Memorial Hall on Friday evenings. Doors open 6.45pm and eyes down is at 7.30pm. We usually finish about 9.15pm.

Peter Winter
01323 763520

PEVENSEY CASTLE

In 1925 the then Duke of Devonshire gifted the ownership of Pevensey Castle to the Office of Works. Over the next decade the Office undertook a comprehensive programme of works which is continued today under the custodianship of the newly formed charity the English Heritage Trust.



Conservation - Spring 2024, Pevensey Castle's gatehouse metal gates have been conserved, metalwork refurbished and details of the gate's original 1930s design carefully re-instated. Essential conservation work has also been completed on tower stonework and 1940s internal roof areas.

New for 2024 - Second hand books will be available with sales raising funds to support our vital work. Should you wish to donate books, including local and national history, Sussex etc these would be very much appreciated.

Do you have memories, photographs or items relating to Pevensey Castle that you would like to share or donate?

The 16th June Sussex Day walks and talks are free for English Heritage members. Ticket prices apply for non-members. Advance booking is recommended as numbers are limited.

To find out more about the above, please email: pevensey.castle@english-heritage.org.uk or visit Inner Bailey shop.

August Music Box Wealden will be holding their first music performance at Pevensey Castle. For information about joining Music Box Wealden and booking tickets please visit: www.musicboxwealden.co.uk

Pevensey Castle opening times: 10am to 5pm daily.

PEVENSEY COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Our Tuesday lunch club is thriving despite several members suffering with winter infections etc.

Sadly, we lost one of our original members who had been both a trustee and latterly a member. Another member is celebrating a 90th birthday in May.

We are going to be holding a few fundraising events during the year with the invaluable help of Pevensey Plungers.

We do have a couple of vacancies for the lunch club and our fortnightly bus trip to Asda for shopping. Contact 07495 477269.

Gill Parsons

PEVENSEY CRICKET CLUB

Summer greetings to you. It is the start to the 2024 East Sussex league, as well as friendly games at Pevensey Cricket Club.



We are fielding sides in East Sussex Division 10, Division 12, and Sunday friendlies, as well as Sunday development games, the latter aimed at developing the youngsters to bolster the club numbers.

In 2024, we are providing:

- * 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 U16 - Mixed team

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.

If nothing else, come and enjoy a cricket tea with us and become social members. Get in touch with us to find out more.

You can find the details of the club at: <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

We are one of the very few clubs that run throughout the year.

We have two teams in the Hailsham Summer pairs run on a Monday evening from 7.20pm in Hailsham Civic Centre. We finished in 4th place in the Wealden League Division 1.

A number of players from the club represented the county in the National Championships held at Solihull and Melton Mowbray.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17 ➔

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PEVENSEY PARISH COUNCIL

May brings a new Council year for Pevensey Parish Council (PPC).



PPC had its Annual Council Meeting on 14th May. At this meeting, Councillors elected the chairman Cllr Peter Lowton and Vice Chair of council Cllr Shirley MacKinnon. We are pleased to welcome Cllr Kieron Quinn who was co-opted on to the council in April.

All council meetings are open to members of the public and are held on the first Tuesday of every month at St Wilfrid's Church and Community Hall at 7pm. Do come along to see how your Parish Council works; this is about where you live!

The council was pleased that it was able to run the very popular and well attended Vehicles of Yesteryear event on 13th April. The event was very much enjoyed by entrants and visitors which meant the village had a real buzz!



Vehicles of Yesteryear

Many residents will have seen that Sea Road car park has been resurfaced and the facilities greatly improved by Wealden District Council (WDC). PPC worked with WDC (and will continue to do so) during the development of the car park, to ensure that locals residents' views and concerns were raised and integrated. The car park, which has 110 spaces (including 15 free ones for an hour for which a ticket must be obtained) is now a more user-friendly environment with the added benefits of incorporating the library and information centre as a community facility.

The annual Community Information Day took place on 18th May in Pevensey Bay Church Halls. The day was very well attended by local residents who met with community groups showcasing what they can offer.

Work continues on new and developed events for 2024. Additionally, the parish council remains committed to promoting, 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 as a showcase for the green-fingered and the artistic, as well as a platform for junior skills. 1st September is the date - classes and entry forms are available on: pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk

New to the events programme is the Pevensey Castle 5k run on 21st September. The route starts at Pevensey Recreation Ground and follows public footpaths, including a run through Pevensey Castle. You can sign

up for this great event now. Look out on Pevensey Parish Council social media too for further details.

The council remains open to any ideas for new events and will offer support and advice to any group which has a great idea.

In addition, we hold regular litter picks for all to help. The next one is on 27th July at 9am at Wallsend Road recreation ground, Pevensey. Please come along and help keep your village clean.

The council is pleased to have installed much needed new toddler swings in Coast Road recreation ground as well as refurbishing the junior swings.

The council is very grateful to receive a generous donation from the family of Cllr Bob Peasgood, who sadly passed away at the end of 2023. The money has been put towards the cost of the swings and a memorial plaque will be placed at the ground in memory of his long service as a Pevensey Parish Councillor and his contributions within the Parish.

Jointly with the sports club, the council has continued work on the pavilion project and proposed plans and designs were approved by council. Local consultation work is underway to get the views of local residents and users of the ground. Plans will continue to move forward for the council to submit a formal planning application to Wealden District Council during the summer and sources of funding and income generation are being looked into by the sports club and council for the future stages.

To contact the Clerk, Sarah Mosedale, phone 01323 743900 or email: clerk@pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk

→ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

New members are always welcome. Fees for joining are only £15 and playing fees just £3.

We are open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm, Monday evening from 7pm and Sunday Morning from 10am.

For further Information please contact either Rita 01323 655810 or Peter 01323 763520.

PEVENSEY UKULELE GROUP

The Pevensey Ukulele Group still meet on a Tuesday night at the Holly Blue in Stone Cross, although once a month we have to practice in the Lamb Pub, south of Hooe, on the main A259.

Again, we have performed in the Hawthorns and several care homes - the Mortain, the Normanhurst, the Sycamore, Stone Cross, Earlsfield Court, the Methodist Church, Eastbourne, Alfriston, the Allchorn nautical museum, where we were dressed as pirates. We also took part in the Ukulele Festival at the Leaf Hall Community Centre together with other groups.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 →

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Local Community Organisations' Directory

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Churches

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

Halls - Bookings

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

Parish Councils

Pevensey - Clerk	01323 743900/07849 124319
	clerk@pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Westham - Clerk	01323 461299
	clerk@westthamparishcouncil.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 766230
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
Bay Community Hub	01323 766230
British Red Cross	01323 412787
Brownbread Horse Rescue	01424 892381
Care for the Carers	01323 738390
Cats Protection	01323 440101
Community Speed Watch	01323 460523
Dickens Fellowship	01323 471615
East Sussex Vision Support	01323 832252
East Sussex Hearing	01323 722505
	mail@eshrc.org
East Sussex Moviemakers	01323 769016
E/Sussex Wildlife Rescue & Ambulance Service	07815 078234
Foxes Hollow Residents' Assoc	01323 764350/764590
Friends of the Mint House	07572 601334
Guide Dogs for the Blind Freephone	0800 781 1444
Haven Players	01323 767816
Kit Wilson Trust for Animal Welfare	01825 830444
Pevensey Area Gardeners Club	01323 460523
Pevensey Bay Art Group	07790 277986
Pevensey Bay Model Railway Club	07562 095349
	secretary@pevenseybaymodelrailwayclub.com
Pevensey Bingo (Friday)	01323 763520
Pevensey Church Farm Trust	01323 743301
Pevensey Church Farm (Tenant)	01323 762371
Pevensey Community Support	01323 767615
Pevensey Cricket Club	07702 604293
Pevensey Memorial Hall SM Bowls Club	01323 764346
Pevensey Ukulele Group	01323 763061
Pevensey 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

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What's On

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

SUNDAY LOCAL CHURCH SERVICES

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

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. 2pm-4pm & 7pm-9pm Pevensey Memorial Hall Short Mat Bowls Club. 7pm-9.30pm Pevensey Bay Model Railway Club. Ethel Wood Community Centre, Pevensey Bay.
Tue	10am Pevensey and Westham Community Forest Garden volunteers. Meet at Pevensey Recreation Ground car park. 10am-12pm VIEW Craft art and craft group for blind and partially-sighted people. Herstmonceux Village Hall. (term-time only) 2pm-4pm 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. 10am-12pm Westham Pop-In. Westham Village Hall. 11.30am-12.30pm Chair-Based Yoga. Ethel Wood Community Centre, Pevensey Bay. 1pm-4pm Westham Art Group. Westham Village Hall. 2pm-4pm Pevensey Memorial Hall Short Mat Bowls Club. 7pm-9pm Anderida Border Morris. Practice. Ethel Wood Community Centre, Pevensey Bay. 7.30pm-10pm The Haven Players. Stone Cross Memorial Hall.

Thu	10am Pevensey and 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). 7pm-8pm Traditional Shotokan Karate Club. Shinewater Sports Centre, Milfoil Drive, Langney (Main Hall. Age 16+).
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. 6.45pm for 7.30pm Pevensey Memorial Hall Bingo
Sat	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

1st Sat	10am-12pm St Mary's Church, Westham. Churchyard Tidy Up and Café.
2nd Sat	10am-12.30pm St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay. Craft Fair. Free entry. (Not August) 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.
1st Mon	7.30pm Pevensey and Westham Historical Society. Westham Village Hall.
1st Tue	7pm Pevensey Parish Council meetings. St Wilfrid's Church and Community Hall, Pevensey Bay.
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.
1st Fri	3pm-5pm Inkspot creative writing group. Bay Community Hub, Pevensey Bay.
2nd Fri	2pm-4pm St Luke's Church Hall, Stone Cross. Good Companions.

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.

JULY

- Mon 1st** **7.30pm** Pevensey and Westham Historical Society. Talk. 'The Brunels - Father, Son and Grandson': Bill McNaught. Westham Village Hall.
- Sat 6th** **10am-4pm** Pevensey Bay Model Railway Club. Annual Exhibition. Victoria Baptist Church, Eldon Road, Eastbourne, BN21 1UE.
6.30pm St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Summer Events. John Arthy's All Star Jazz Band.
- Sun 7th** **12pm-4pm** Stone Cross Windmill. Summer Fair.
4.30-6pm South Downs Flute Choir. Summer Concert. Tickets £5 on door or by email and includes a Sussex Cream Tea in the interval. Clay.flute@btinternet.com St Mary's Church, Westham.
- Wed 10th** **2.30pm** Pevensey Area Gardeners Club. Afternoon Show. Teas available. Guests welcome. Entrance by donation. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Sat 13th** **10am-12.30pm** St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay. Craft Fair
10am-4pm Westham Art Group. Annual Exhibition. Westham Village Hall.
- Sun 14th** **7pm for 7.30pm start** St Luke's Church Hall, Stone Cross. Summer Centenary Quiz.
- Tue 18th** **7pm for 7.30pm start** Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Practice Evening. 'We are Sailing'. Raffle and refreshments. Free for first-time visitors. Westham Village Hall. Contact for materials list 07900 394323.
- Fri 19th** **7.30pm** The Haven Players Summer Show - 'Bring Me Sunshine'. Stone Cross Memorial Hall. Bookings 01323 767816.
- Sat 20th** **9.30am-12.30pm** Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Mid-Summer Coffee Morning. Stalls, raffle, crafts, refreshments, Ukulele entertainment. Westham Village Hall.
10am-12.30pm St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Summer Events. Bells Open Morning. Learn bell ringing. Refreshments, tombola, jams for sale.
12pm start St Luke's Church, Stone Cross. Inside and out - weather permitting. Centenary Summer Fair. Live music, stalls, tombolas, BBQ, food, refreshments, Centenary Celebration prize draw and much more.
2.30pm & 7.30pm The Haven Players Summer Show - 'Bring Me Sunshine'. Stone Cross Memorial Hall. Bookings 01323 767816.
6.30pm St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Summer Events. Organ recital: Michael Maine.
- Thu 25th** **7.30pm** Westham Evening WI. 'Lady Crabtree Entertains'. Westham Village Hall.
- Sat 27th** **8.45am** Wayfinder Woman. Annual Pier to Peer charity run/walk/cycle along the prom and shoreline from Eastbourne to Hastings, via Pevensey Bay and Normans Bay. Details: <https://www.wayfinderwoman.com/fundraising/pier-2-peer-2024/>
9am Pevensey Parish Council Litter Pick. Meet Wallsend Road Recreation Ground, Pevensey.
10am St Wilfrid's Church, Pevensey Bay. Pet Service.
2pm Westham Evening WI. Jan Bailey's Open Garden Afternoon. Entrance by ticket.

AUGUST

- Sat 3rd** **6.30pm** St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Summer Events. Illustrated talk. 'J M W Turner in 1066 Country and his Paintings': Peter Harrison.
- Sun 4th** **12pm-4pm** Stone Cross Windmill open.
- Sat 10th** **6.30pm** St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Summer Events. The Joy of Singing! The Sussex Song Makers led by

Elizabeth Muir-Lewis.

- Wed 14th** Pevensey Area Gardeners Club. Cream Tea. Ticketed event. Visitors welcome. Details from Chairman 01323 460523. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Sat 17th** **10.30am** St Wilfrid's Church, Pevensey Bay, for start of Pevensey History Pilgrimage (part of Pevensey History Festival) 2-3 mile reflective walk across Pevensey Levels.
6.30pm St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Summer Events. Organ recital: Victor Potter, Director of Music at St Nicolas.
- Tue 20th** **7pm for 7.30pm start** Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Demonstration Evening: Christine Campbell-Dykes. £5 non-members. Raffle and refreshments. Westham Village Hall.
- Sat 24th** **10am-4pm** Pevensey Bay Art Group. Annual Art Exhibition. Beautiful art works for sale. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.

SEPTEMBER

- Sun 1st** **11am-5pm** Pevensey Dog and Country Craft Show. Pevensey Recreation Ground, Wallsend Road, Pevensey.
- Mon 2nd** **7.30pm** Pevensey and Westham Historical Society. Talk. 'Pevensey - The Fort, Castle and Maritime Context': Dr Scott Chausee, Westham Village Hall.
- Sat 7th** **12pm-12.15pm** St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. 'A Cry for Peace'. Prayers for peace across the world.
- Sun 8th** **12pm-4pm** Stone Cross Windmill. Heritage Weekend.
- Wed 11th** **2.30pm** Pevensey Area Gardeners Club. Afternoon Meeting. 'Life and Fossils on the Seashore': Tony Smith. Guests welcome. £3. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Sat 14th** **10am-12.30pm** St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Tue 17th** **7pm for 7.30pm start** Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Practice Evening. 'Hanging Around'. Raffle and Refreshments. Free for first-time visitors. Contact for materials list 07900 394323. Westham Village Hall.
- Sat 21st** Pevensey Castle 5k Run.
- Thu 26th** **7.30pm** Westham Evening WI. Crafts and games evening. Westham Village Hall.
- Fri 27th** **7.30pm** Westham Evening WI. Quiz evening. Westham Village Hall.
- Fri 27th - Sun 29th** St Mary's Church, Westham. Harvest Celebration with Flowers.
- Sun 29th** **6pm** St Luke's Church Hall, Stone Cross. Talent Show.

OCTOBER

- Sun 6th** **9.45am** St Luke's Church, Stone Cross. Harvest Mass.
- Mon 7th** **7.30pm** Pevensey and Westham Historical Society. Talk. 'History of Hailsham Pavilion': Katie Richards. Westham Village Hall.
- Wed 9th** **2.30pm** Pevensey Area Gardeners Club. AGM and Social Afternoon with photographs and refreshments. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Sat 12th** **10am-12.30pm** St Wilfrid's Church Hall. Craft Fair.
- Sun 13th** **11am** St Wilfrid's Church, Pevensey Bay. St Wilfrid's Day. Holy Communion followed by shared lunch.
- Tue 15th** **7pm for 7.30pm start** Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Practice Evening. 'Halloween Horrors'. Raffle and Refreshments. Free for first-time visitors. Contact for materials list 07900 394323.
- Sat 19th** **7.30pm for 8pm start** St Luke's Church Hall, Stone Cross. Nothing is Real (Beatles Tribute Band).
- Thu 27th** **7pm** Westham Evening WI. 'Sherlock Holmes and Jack the Ripper': Tony Harris. Westham Village Hall.

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We have had an increase in numbers, and new starters or players are always welcome. Just ring our leader, Alan on 07986 130034.

PEVENSEY BAY ART GROUP

Life for our art group has been exciting and varied. As well as carrying out our own personal practice and in house workshops, we welcome visiting tutors. In April, Janet Woolf inspired us to work freely with big brushes painting animals.

In June, Catherine Farr was due to lead a session using mixed media. Recently, members Peter and Sue led workshops which involved using our imaginations.

Peter set us the task of designing a poster to advertise a country or city and Sue asked us to work with a palette knife to create a textural piece using acrylics. Future events will include sketching out of doors and printmaking.

On the social side this year, our annual lunch was held at the Aqua Bar and we thank them for providing us with a lovely meal. In April, an impromptu visit was organised to the Towner Gallery to watch a film about the life and work of Mary Cassatt, with a meet up, chat and coffee afterwards.

We aim to host three opportunities a year to show our work. To coincide with the Vehicles of Yesteryear event, we held a small exhibition in the Aqua Bar. We sold paintings and enjoyed meeting the many people who came to view our work.

Our next exhibition will be held in St. Wilfrid's Church Hall, on Saturday, 24th August from 10am-4pm. This is our main exhibition of the year to show the varied work of our talented members and we hope to see you there.

On a sad note, member Mavis Sellings passed away in March. Mavis, over many years worked tirelessly for the group, as treasurer and then as secretary. We will miss her very much.

We are a growing, friendly group who welcome new members experienced and beginners. We meet every Wednesday, in St Wilfrid's Church Hall from 9.30am-12.30pm. Please drop in and visit us, or alternatively contact us on 07790 277 986.

Di Jones

PEVENSEY BAY BAPTIST CHURCH

Everything is perfect in its time. This phrase is taken from the book of Ecclesiastes in the Bible, meaning that God has established seasons for human beings on this planet, that allows life to flourish. Similarly, this happens in our personal life - we are all on a particular personal spiritual seasonal journey. We, in Pevensey Bay Baptist Church, want to welcome this summer season as a new opportunity to renew our hearts, minds and spirits.



Pevensey Bay Baptist Church is a friendly and welcoming church to all that want to explore the Christian faith. Everyone is welcome. Our Sunday services are at 10.30am.

Everyone is also welcome to join our Tea Dance on 20th July between 3pm-5pm.

Our prayer meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 7pm in our church building. You are more than welcome to let us know if you want or need any prayer for you or your family.

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 in our church building upstairs at 3pm.

Knit and Craft is an opportunity for those people who enjoy knitting. One of the activities is to make blankets for people who are receiving treatment in hospitals. We have also developed space for craft activities for men doing railways in scale. It takes place the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 2pm at the church building upstairs.

At the time of writing, we have organised an open day on 13th June to share our future plans for our Parents and Toddlers Group after the summer. We accept children from one to three-years-old. Contact us for more information.

Friendship-plus is run on the second Thursday of each month. We have a variety of activities each month. All are welcome.

We are happy to rent our premises for activities that can benefit our local community. 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 TO EASTBOURNE COASTAL MANAGEMENT SCHEME

The Environment Agency, in partnership

Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne Coastal Management Scheme

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

Existing beach management will continue until 2025. Following this there will be a short-term (interim) project which will manage the beach in a very similar way, providing the same standard of protection, through to 2027.



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In 2027, the next phase (medium-term project) will begin and is planned to last until 2037. The preferred option for this period will be publicly communicated in July 2024 - with more detail available in the autumn when the next design drawings are complete.

The project team are currently finalising the assessment and selection of the options. They are doing this by considering affordability and impact to environment, people, and place. Options include updating beach management practices, Property Flood Resilience measures, land management, additional works to existing timber groynes and strengthening other hard defences. You can find more information about these options on the new project website:

<https://www.pevenseyandeastbournecoast.co.uk/>

The long-term plan is in the early stages of development. It will consider approaches to managing the coastline from 2037 into the next century. Studies are being commissioned to help understand the risk of longer-term coastal flooding. Initial conversations with other organisations have started, helping the understanding of issues from other perspectives.

The Pevensey Bay Coastal Community Group continues to be a useful and constructive forum to discuss the scheme. The members of the group last met in May and will convene again in September. Recent sessions have focused on response to winter storms and a detailed review of how options for the first 10 years were chosen. Community input is extremely valuable in the development of the project and the project team appreciate time that people take to engage with this important scheme. We encourage you to get involved via the existing group members or directly through the project website.

PEVENSEY BAY MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

On Saturday, 6th July 2024 the club will again be staging its annual Model Railway Exhibition to be held at Victoria Baptist Church, Eldon Road, Eastbourne, BN21 1UE. The venue provides full disabled access and ample free parking. The 1 and 1A buses also stop outside.



On show will be working layouts of differing gauges and size providing a good insight into the scope and variety possible within the hobby. In addition to visiting layouts, the club will be exhibiting both its 00 layout "Pevensey Beach" and their N gauge layout "Murrell Park". An extensive updating of "Pevensey Beach" will be completed in time and "Murrell Park" will be shown with a recently completed extension. There will be trade stands attending and refreshments will be available. Last year's exhibition attracted a record attendance and the club are hoping for an even bigger one this year. Model railways without doubt interest many people of all ages, young and old, so why not come along and enjoy the show.

As well as gearing up for the annual exhibition, club nights continue at the Ethel Wood Community Centre on Monday evenings and we continue to add new members to our ranks, which is very encouraging.

For more information please visit our website: <http://pevenseybaymodelrailwayclub.com> or contact our club secretary at secretary@pevenseybaymodelrailwayclub.com

PEVENSEY AND WESTHAM COMMUNITY FOREST GARDEN

The blossoms in our forest garden this spring have been even more spectacular than in previous years thanks to all the abundant rain and sunshine we've had over the last couple of months, so we've been mostly just enjoying the display rather than working hard at the routine maintenance!

Indeed, the greatest joy of our forest garden, which we jokingly call 'The Lost Gardens of Pevensey', is that it is a verdant place of peace and tranquillity, so we encourage people, if they wish, to just enjoy being here rather than feeling compelled to do any physical work.

We do have official volunteer work sessions on Tuesday and Thursday mornings each week from 10am onwards, but if our regular volunteers wish to have access at anytime just to enjoy the place, then we let them have such access. Indeed, if anybody wishes to visit the garden but have no wish to volunteer, we are happy to open up at any time a volunteer is available to open up the garden. Just ring us on 07402 321382 to arrange a visit.

Anyway, this blossom season has been so bountiful that we are very hopeful that we will have a bumper crop of fruit and nuts to harvest this year, weather permitting, of course! If we do get a big surplus, then we will share some of it with the local foodbanks and community larders, as fresh, organic, locally grown food is always welcomed at such places.

We will be running another two community workshops this summer, free and open to all, and sponsored by the Blue Heart project, so please look at our Facebook page for further details.

We are always open to having more volunteers, so please contact us if you're interested, either by phoning 07402 321382 or emailing: pawforestgarden@gmail.com

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,





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We are looking forward to hearing from you.

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St Wilfrid's

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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 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.

July sees our annual "Coffee Morning" (postponed from our usual May date) 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

We have had an absolutely amazing season and I am so proud of everyone at the club who has contributed to our success.



Our Under-16 girls finished top of the Sussex County Women & Girls Football Premier League. Our ladies team smashed it this season in the Womens Flex Ultra League and at the time of writing are guaranteed a top four finish in Division 1. Meanwhile, our Under-16 girls team put on a valiant performance in the prestigious Sussex Girls Challenge Cup final, but lost out to Lewes.

Our Under-13 boys have also done fantastically well by finishing top of the Crowborough & District Junior League. Our Under-12 Vipers got to the Crowborough League Cup Final where they played extremely well, but just missed out on victory, losing 2-1.

As chairman, I would like to say a huge thank you to all players, coaches, committee members and parents for their part in our huge success in the 2023-24 season and I hope, like me, they are looking forward to the 2024-25 season which starts in September.

In the new season, we have 3 new teams joining us: Under-11 Boys, Under-13 Girls and a new Mens team.

We have also started Wildcats football training for females aged 5-11 on Tuesdays between 5.45pm-6.45pm. Please just pop down and see how they get on.

If you are looking to join a football club or would like an active role in the club, please get in touch with me on 07854 237809.

Tim Hilton
Chairman

PEVENSEY AND WESTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Hello Everyone,

Hope you are all having great holidays and that the sun is shining. Here we are, going into the second half of the year.

We kick off in July with Bill McNaught and his talk 'The Brunels - Father, Son and Grandson'. There is NO meeting in August.

In September, we have Dr Scott Chausee on 'Pevensey - The Fort, Castle and Maritime Context'. Katie Richards is our October speaker on 'History of Hailsham Pavillion'.

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

The lunch club had a good start to this year.

We had donations to give our guests a free Easter Lunch. Asda donated Easter Eggs. A very big thank you to you all. Jane once again did an Easter quiz.

We urgently need new volunteers. One to be an escort on the mini-bus 9.45am to 11am every Monday morning (not Bank Holidays). We would also like someone to be a general helper when holiday or sickness cover is required.

Thank You. Please ring Christine Wood on 01323 768019.

ST LUKE'S CHURCH, STONE CROSS

We have enjoyed a busy spring and Easter 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 are also still benefitting from many Sunday sermons and weekly services from Reverend Canon Colin Luke Boswell and Reverend Nicholas Fincham. We had a "Quiet Day" in preparation for Lent at St Luke's led by Father Colin.

Looking forward, we continue to have our regular weekly services, plus Compline is now twice monthly. Please see our "What's On" section for details of our Church Services and Community Events.

Our Parish Centre has been very busy over the spring and early summer 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, various NHS sessions, Tai Chi, East Sussex Moviemakers, monthly Good



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Companions' meetings and LOTS of other events besides! We are hoping to welcome back Slimming World twice weekly from July!

We are having quarterly quizzes at the Parish Centre, as well as regular Jumble Sales and other fundraising events. We had our annual Spring Fair in March and a Book and Puzzle Fair in April.

Our big event this year is our Centenary Celebration! This is to recognise 100 years of St Luke's Church in Stone Cross and will be held in our hall and in our grounds on 20th July, in collaboration with The Red Lion! As well as stalls, tombolas, games and refreshments, there will be live music throughout the afternoon and evening! That week, on 14th July, there will be a Summer Centenary Quiz to coincide with our special week! On 29th September, there is a Talent Show in the hall, whilst in October we welcome the return of 'Nothing is Real'.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Church services and community events, whilst wishing you all a Happy Summer! For further information call 01323 767020 or email: saintlukestonecross@gmail.com

ST MARY'S CHURCH, WESTHAM

It was so positive to see our Easter services well attended - especially the event for families on Good Friday!



As we move towards the summer, church life quietens down a little into its regular pattern of worship, which for us is a quiet service of Holy Communion at 8am on a Sunday, whilst our 9.45am service has two 'all ages services' a month (first and third Sunday) and a contemporary style communion service the other Sundays.

To highlight just a couple of other events: our monthly Church Yard Tidy and Café may be of interest to some, 10am to noon, either come to help tidy the churchyard or simply come for a cuppa and cake in the church; then at the end of summer, Friday, 27th to Sunday, 29th September will be our Harvest Celebration with Flowers. But before we get to the end of summer, hopefully there will be a lot of sun before hand - hopefully!!

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

ST WILFRID'S CHURCH AND COMMUNITY HALL PEVENSEY BAY

Planning a party, meeting or a group activity? Want to get fit, sell items, or meet up with friends? 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 evenings and

weekends at competitive rates. Contact the bookings clerk, Keith on 01323 460523 or at: stwilfridchurchhall@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, drumming, a variety of hobbies and community organisation meetings, Craft Fairs on every second Saturday of the month between 10am and 12.30pm.

These events provide somewhere to meet up for the local community and help to provide funds 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 quarterly 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 to 12.15pm. On Tuesday, Thursday mornings 8.45am to 11.45am and also afternoons 11.45am to 2.45pm for children aged two to three years. There is a maximum of 30 children per session. The Memorial Hall premises include use of the main hall, a second smaller room, kitchen and small enclosed garden area.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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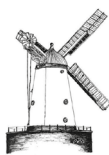
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STONE CROSS WINDMILL

Stone Cross Windmill opened at the beginning of April and was well supported by local residents and visitors.



The Windmill is only open the first Sunday of every month 12 to 4pm for teas, tours and the sale of wholemeal flour. Private groups are more than welcome to visit the Windmill at other agreed dates where cream teas can be provided with homemade scones and cakes.

The volunteer maintenance team has worked tirelessly to keep the Windmill in a safe and secure working order, but still require experienced carpenters, engineers and helpers. The maintenance team meet every Monday morning to complete essential repairs so that the Windmill can continue to mill flour and remain open to the public. If you are interested in helping, please don't hesitate to contact the Chair.

The Windmill relies solely on sales of flour and refreshments, membership monies as well as generous donations. However, this year membership money is drastically reduced placing a severe strain on the continuous work that needs to be undertaken as well as the additional cost of utilities and insurance.

The acquisition of grants is also proving to be difficult, although Shepham Community Fund has helped over the years with additional funds.

There is always a fear that without sufficient funds the continuous maintenance and ever-increasing costs the Windmill could no longer be retained as a safe visitor attraction.

If you would like to become a member of Stone Cross Windmill and help to boost the funds, please contact the Chair.

Further information can be found 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 co-ordination, 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.

Although developed in the 1930's, Aikido has its origins dating over 900 years. 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. Through various exercises and techniques practitioners learn how to fall over safely, saving on injuries. A handy lesson as falls can happen to anyone anywhere.

So if you're looking for something new and different to try, pop along. You never know, until you give it a go.

We practice every Sunday between 5:30pm and 7:30pm at the Ethel Wood Community Centre, Pevensey Bay, 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.

Through Shotokan's rich history you can develop the warrior spirit which helps you achieve your life goals and improves your health, fitness, flexibility, strength, co-ordination and all round mental and physical wellbeing. Training with like-minded people who will give you all the help and encouragement you need to succeed, plus making it fun.

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 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.

Further information from Jean Wilson on 01323 505764, email: jean.dolmeg@gmail.com or: www.viewcraft.org

WESTHAM ART GROUP

Warmer weather will be arriving soon and along with it a chance to connect to nature and the inspiration to create pieces of art.

Why not come along to our art group and be with like-minded people, we are a friendly bunch, always room for a few more.

The cost is £5 per week only paid if you attend. We meet in Westham Village Hall every Wednesday between 1pm and 4pm.

We have a break halfway through for tea, and generally cake is on offer as well. We also take this time to wander around the room taking a look at each other's art work and there are plenty of people on hand to offer advice.

Over the year we have a number of outings. We go to various locations, soon to be going to Brighton Pavilion. We also venture out for lunch or afternoon tea; this is all paid for by our weekly payment of £5.

We sometimes have visiting artists who will demonstrate their genre and maybe have the chance to try our new skills. We have an art exhibition on 13th July 10am-4pm where we can show our art and sell if you wish.

You are free to choose your subject matter and create whatever you wish, you have to provide your own materials, be it charcoal, pastels, pencils or paint. You don't have to be an expert, just enjoy what you do.

WESTHAM EVENING WI

With the change in the WI timings for annual meetings in their year, April marked the start of their new programme for Westham Evening. Sue Davies gave a cookery demonstration using microwaves

and air fryers, with the delicious results being on offer for her attentive audience.

In August, members are hoping for good weather for their summer Treasure Hunt and also that the clues won't be too difficult! President Jan is opening her beautiful garden in late July.

As well as the monthly meetings, the wide variety of groups continue to flourish and these include baking, books, walking, gardening, Solos, Night Owls and going out for lunches.

For a friendly welcome and a place to develop new skills and learn something new among friends, please join us in Westham Village Hall on the 4th Thursday of the month, where we can usually be found.

Liz Lash

WESTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Neighbourhood Watch is all about a caring community.



This was evident at the Westham Parish Council Meeting on 15th April at the Westham Village Hall. The hall was full to capacity, with more outside.

The major item on the agenda was the Wealden Local Draft Plan -18, which would seriously impact the village. Nick Daines provided a very informative presentation which was well received. Unfortunately, this was limited to an hour.

Since then, due to the difficulty for locals who do not have broadband or access to the internet, a "drop-in" was organised on Sunday, 5th May, to assist people.

The attendance was amazing! THANK YOU to all Westham residents who added their names to the Group Response. Also, to those who "battled" with the online system and provided their concerns.

A Group Response was submitted on Friday, 10th May (all agreed by Wealden and every name will count!) with 825 people providing their names and addresses.

Ultimately, we want to preserve the village, especially Peelings Lane, as this is part of the historic 1066 walk. The lane has wildlife/vegetation, protected species of Great Crested Newts and an invaluable space for mental health and well-being, as proven during the Covid Lockdown.

We want to enhance this for future generations.

Please keep reporting anti-social driving etc around the village to the police. 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; Operation Crackdown: www.operationcrackdown.org

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

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



WESTHAM POP-IN

Our popular Wednesday Westham Pop-In now has a new opening time of 10am until 12noon at Westham Village Hall.

We provide an enjoyable morning of friendship, chat, tea, coffee and biscuits, where you can meet up with friends both old and new. 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 Westham Pop-in very soon.

Westham Pop-In Committee

WESTHAM VILLAGE CONSERVATION GROUP

Wealden recently held a consultation for its draft Local Plan which is proposing 15,729 new houses between October 2023 - March 2040 (a 70% increase over the 9,271 built since 2007). Seeming a very large number, thankfully, it is less than the 19,800 houses that the Government suggest is Wealden's "need" calculated by their ludicrous standard method formula.

In Westham Parish, 32 sites were submitted by landowners for development, which Wealden considered seven were suitable.

Two are in Westham village: Peelings Lane - 150 houses; Adjacent 125 Rattle Road - 7 houses.

In Stone Cross, five sites at: Dittons Nursery - 20 houses; Hazelbank, Rattle Road - 8 houses; West of the B2014 - 15 houses; Sharnfold Farm - 89 houses; Behind Hailsham Road (Downs View/Emberson) - 60 houses.

Wealden has asked landowners of those sites not selected (25 in the Parish) to respond to the consultation suggesting why those sites should be considered suitable for development. Furthermore, Wealden has also held a further "call for sites" asking landowners to propose any new sites that should be considered for development.

Thus, it is feasible that the next version of the plan, more than 15,729 houses could be included with these additional houses being either on sites already submitted, or on new sites.

At Westham's Annual Council Meeting in mid-April, a talk was given by a resident to a packed village hall explaining the background to the Local Plan, what it proposes and how to respond to the consultation. A drop-in session was also held in May to help residents with their responses and collect names for a group response.

In Westham, Laura, Maggie and Claire did a sterling job collecting names and addresses of 825 people who agreed to support a group response largely prepared by John against the Peelings Lane site. Many other residents have also submitted individual responses against the Peelings Lane site.

In Stone Cross, responses were submitted by residents, notably against the Sharnfold and Downs View/Emberson sites.

The Parish Council also submitted their representations.

Our District Councillor, Mark Fairweather has also been active organising responses against the Peelings Lane site.

Of the six sites submitted for development in Pevensey/Pevensey Bay, none were considered suitable. Nevertheless, Pevensey Parish Council did submit a response to the consultation and objected to the Westham and Stone Cross sites.

Wealden will now review all the submissions and will publish a further draft of the plan in early 2025. There will be a further consultation before it is then submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

Unfortunately, it is anticipated that most, if not all the chosen sites will feature in the Reg. 19 version of the plan. So, those who do not wish to see these green field sites lost to development should be prepared to stand up again and be counted.

WESTHAM VILLAGE HALL

The Westham Village Hall continues to be busy with our regular groups and activities, and as the list grows, please do take a look at our noticeboards as there may be something you would like to attend!

As the weather improves, we are starting to see more parties and celebrations and were delighted to be the venue for our first Naming Ceremony.

If you would like to book your Hall please have a chat with our booking secretary Julie on 07821 377110. Upcoming events can be viewed on the noticeboard outside the Hall and the noticeboard in the porch is filling up with information about local trades and events and groups further afield.

Following complaints, the Committee would like to remind everyone that the car park next to the Village Hall, Peelings Lane car park, belongs to Wealden District Council and not the Village Hall. The Committee had asked both the Parish and District Councils for a designated parking space for the Village Hall as we often have difficulties of parking for deliveries and for people working in the Hall and would like to confirm that the changes that have been made are not the responsibility of the Village Hall Committee, but have been made by the owning council.

The Hall is for, and is part of our local community, so the Committee were very pleased to be able to offer the Hall to support the local group who are campaigning against the new development proposed for Peelings Lane. From the great number of people who attended on the day this is obviously something of great concern to our community whatever their viewpoint.

We look forward to another busy Summer and look forward to seeing you at your Hall soon.

Diane on behalf of Westham Village Hall Committee



WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

April saw the Parish Council hold the Annual Parish Meeting at Westham Village Hall. This meeting is held yearly between March and the end of May so that residents of the parish can attend and hear from the Chair of the Council what the Parish Council has achieved over the last twelve months. Also, it gives residents the opportunity to ask questions of the Council.



At this meeting the Chair of the Council, Cllr Dan Upton welcomed a very large audience and gave an update on the last twelve months. This included:

A new metal security fence has been erected along the Friday Street boundary of Adur Park. Hopefully, this will stop trespassing into the park as we saw last year. The Council cannot afford to keep paying in excess of £5,000 a year to repair and clean up the park.

Large scale improvements to Adur park have taken time to put in place. The all access path all weather path is nearly finished - unfortunately the weather has played havoc with completion of the path which has been very frustrating for the Council.

The children's play area has to be completely dry before the new safety surfacing can be installed. This will be as soon as the weather improves.

A Pond Management Contractor has been engaged to carry out the heavy lifting in the pond as an accountable company in addition to the hard working volunteers.

The council has reviewed all contracts and contractors where we outsource works - as a result we have introduced multiple local contractors to carry out works in the Parish which has received great feedback as it has sped up response times and has increased the quality of work undertaken.

With the cost-of-living crisis being a serious topic over the last 12 months we have been mindful of our outgoings cost to ensure we deliver and sourced local trades people to ensure monies go back into the Parish where possible.

New posts for the village signs (Hankham and Stone Cross) have been installed and the original signs refurbished.

The speaker for the evening was resident Mr Nick Daines who gave a presentation on the Wealden Draft Local Plan and how the consultation could be answered. This presentation was listened to by over 120 people. Unfortunately, a number of people outside were unable to join the meeting due to the fire regulations which the Council must adhere to when holding meetings.

Mr Daines then took questions from members of the audience and also gave useful advice on where to obtain further information.

Also, in April new parking regulations came into force at the Wealden DC Peelings Lane car park. There have been a number of changes including changing the hours that parking is allowed. There are now eleven 3 hour parking spaces and thirteen 23 hour parking spaces. The disabled spaces stay the same.

There is also now a loading bay for the village hall users. This is a great asset as before there was no provision for loading and unloading. In the middle of May the Parish Council was due to hold its Annual Council Meeting which is to pick a new Chair of the Council for the following Council year. The Chair might then outline what the Parish Council hopes to accomplish in the coming year.

Important Council documents such as Standing Orders and Financial Regulations are also ratified at the meeting.

WESTHAM VILLAGE POND

The village pond has made an exceptional recovery in just a few years. So much wildlife has returned but importantly the water and verges around the pond are much safer for everyone.

The muddy banks once covered with duck and goose poo are now grassed over and cleaner. Such contaminated areas really do pose a risk, especially to children visiting the pond. Bacteria such as E.coli and Clostridium commonly cause tummy upsets but sometimes very serious illness indeed. Expectant mums are often advised to steer clear of such places due to grave risks to their baby from the Listeria bacterium.

Public health was one of the several key factors on the minds of the volunteers who have worked steadily and intelligently over the years to make the pond a much nicer place for everyone.



The Swans nest at the wilder, quieter end of the pond amongst the reeds. A green algal bloom caused by nutrient pollution is visible on the water, but it is not toxic and will go eventually





The Gatekeeper butterfly was once very common, but is now getting rarer. It is one of the species that has re-appeared at the pond. It needs long tussocky grass for its caterpillars and now has a good population at the wilder end of the pond



This is the route taken by our tiny Westham Village Pond Reed Warbler families to West Africa and back!



A Reed Warbler at Westham Village Pond

However, it is our community that has played the major role by taking on board so sensibly our messages about the polluting effect of feeding. It took about a year before anything would grow in the water. Once it became clean enough life returned quickly including reeds which formed a beautiful, natural reedbed at the wilder, western side of the pond.

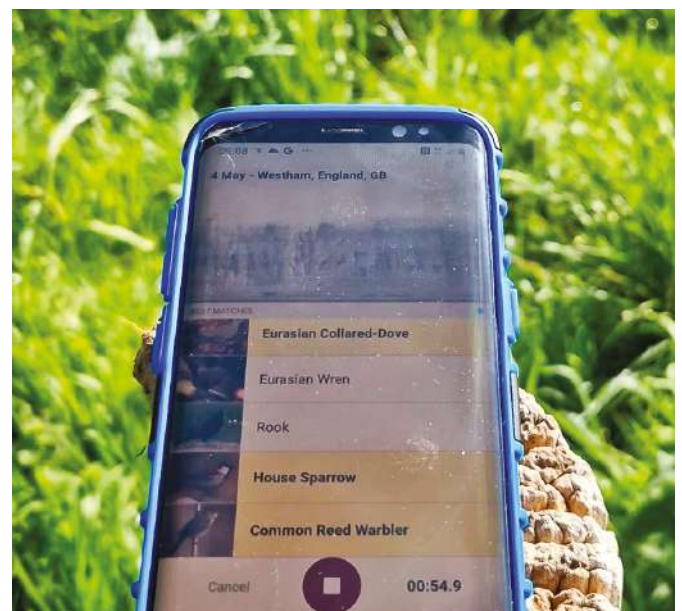
This May Reed Warblers arrived back at the pond for the third consecutive year. They are hard to spot but their vibrant song is loud and unmistakeable. That these little birds, hatched at our pond, head off to West Africa is astonishing. That they travel back thousands of miles across hostile desert and ocean back to their little reedbed home in Westham really is incredible. We should continue to look after their habitat for them and us!

Of course we will have to keep the reedbed in check, but major management work is best done in the autumn when amphibians and birds are less vulnerable to disturbance.

Without the support of the Parish Council for sound ecological advice none of this would have been possible. I have to thank the volunteers for their magnanimity in selflessly given up their time to work at the pond and who have made such a positive difference to our local environment.

Meanwhile, the free Merlin Bird ID mobile phone app is an amazing way to connect with the natural world. Once you have installed the UK download you can just set your phone listening to the sounds wherever you are and any birds singing nearby will be immediately identified. A picture pops up and when the bird is singing it is highlighted. It is a great teacher!

You could be amazed at the birds that you do not usually notice but the app identifies as being nearby. If you are interested in wildlife it is a tremendous asset and is also a great way to connect young people to the natural world.



Merlin Bird ID at Westham Village Pond showing several birds identified as singing nearby

Nature Notes

Alan Everard's regular nature column



Now while most of our Gulls are breeding along the cliffs and further the other side of Eastbourne, we rarely see them here and that is usually only in "fly past" mode. The exception, of course, is our Jonno who is patiently waiting for breakfast, perched on our windbreak well before his breakfast hour. Luckily, he no longer has to see off competitors as there are none.

Hanging from our bird table is a slim bird-seed feeder with a five-inch plastic saucer attached to the bottom which catches all the spilt seed. When this saucer is full it attracts all the hungry birds. I witnessed an amusing event with this, the cast of which included a Collared Dove, Wood Pigeon, Magpie and a Herring Gull.

Unusually, the first three lined up on our fence, then the Collared Dove flew in, grabbed the edge of the saucer and with wings vigorously flapping to help maintain its grip, had some seed but at too great an effort, so off it flew, only to be followed by the Wood Pigeon who also hung onto the saucer with wings vigorously flapping. Again, only to fly off in a few seconds. The Magpie then took over and showed them that they had no need for all that flapping, but I feel that his longer tail acted very much to his advantage. For the last act of the fence gang the Herring Gull came down from the fence and got his fill of seed by simply flying up and rapping the feeder then picking up the spillage.

The House Sparrows then had their moment, filling their beaks with what remained of the seed and taking it round to their nest boxes (which I built some years ago) on the front and sides of our house. Their young were, no doubt, pleased to receive this tasty food and I was delighted to receive proof that they had young. Nature, in Spring, can bring us so much unexpected pleasure!

Having mentioned Spring's pleasures, I must tell you that I saw a Red Admiral Butterfly in our garden at the end of November last year and this year an uncertain Blue and a White on 18th and 23rd April respectively. Butterflies give us so much pleasure!

Our young friend Stella was with us recently and she had a mobile phone which included the facility to place it in our garden where it could then identify the names of birds which it heard singing there. To our surprise, and delight, a Cetti's Warbler was



Red Admiral.
Artist: Alan Everard



Cetti's Warbler

named - a "first" for me of this rare visitor to our shores. Then to add to our rare visitor our friends Mary & Frank advised us that they had seen on Facebook details of a Hoopoe seen visiting Hankham. Two very rare birds - great news!



Hoopoe

I now have pleasure in bringing you Hazel Wood's latest article which is about man's best friend, a Dog!

Hello my friends,

After the wettest winter on record we are all, I'm sure, looking forward to some warmer weather. However, we can all snuggle up and read our lovely Parish Pump, which I am delighted to be asked to write on in Alan's Nature Notes page.

Have you ever wondered why Chinese Chow have blue tongues, or best described as blue or purple sometimes? Chow puppies are not born with purple tongues like most animals. But as they grow older, 6 months onwards, their tongues become blue and nobody seems to know the reason for this.



Chinese Chow

In further research I have come across giraffes also have blue black tongues. The reason explained for this is that because they have to forage high into the trees for their food the tongue is exposed to more sunlight and prone to sunburn. Over time the tongue has evolved to cope with this problem. Also their favourite food is the Acacia tree. They strip the trees of leaves by using a prehensile muscle at the back of the tongue that can reach an incredible half a metre.

However, scientists have not yet gathered enough evidence to know for sure why some animals have blue tongues. **Hazel Wood.**

On that unusual and wonderful news, I'll end this edition of 'Nature Notes' and wish you all similar success and surprises with Nature's visits.

Alan Everard

Sea Defences

Amber Carr, Project Manager with Pevensey Coastal Defence Ltd

As with any job, managing a shingle embankment sea defence presents a series of challenges.

Some, like routine paperwork and reporting, can become a little tiresome at times, but others can be quite unexpected and interesting. Because the Pevensey Bay scheme is still the only sea defence project of its kind it does attract attention that other schemes may not.

We have been regularly asked to make presentations to various organisations and institutions, ranging from industry professionals, like the Institute of Civil Engineers, through to local interest groups whose members wish to broaden their knowledge base. Whilst entertaining a roomful of coastal engineers may demand one approach, keeping the attention of a class of 8 year-old primary school children is quite another.

But it is not always planned events like these that surprise. Visitors to our Coast Road office taking advantage of our "open door" policy come in many guises.

A Coast Road resident was accompanied during a visit by a friend who had served in the army during WWII. His first visit to Pevensey Bay had been towards the end of the war when he was tasked with removing pipe bombs from the beach!

Seventy years later he still had the original drawings he was given showing where pipe bombs had been laid in several locations along the south coast. Not only that, they also recorded the length and diameter of pipe, type and quantity of explosive used and the date laid. Usually 3" or 4" in diameter, some were individual tubes less than 20' long; others in groups of up to seven, with single pipes over 100' long.

During this same visit the mystery of Chart Datum v Ordnance Datum resurfaced as a topic of conversation. Whereas Ordnance Datum is a plane surface used by land surveyors and is constant across the UK, Chart Datum is used by marine surveyors and is not constant, varying from port to port.

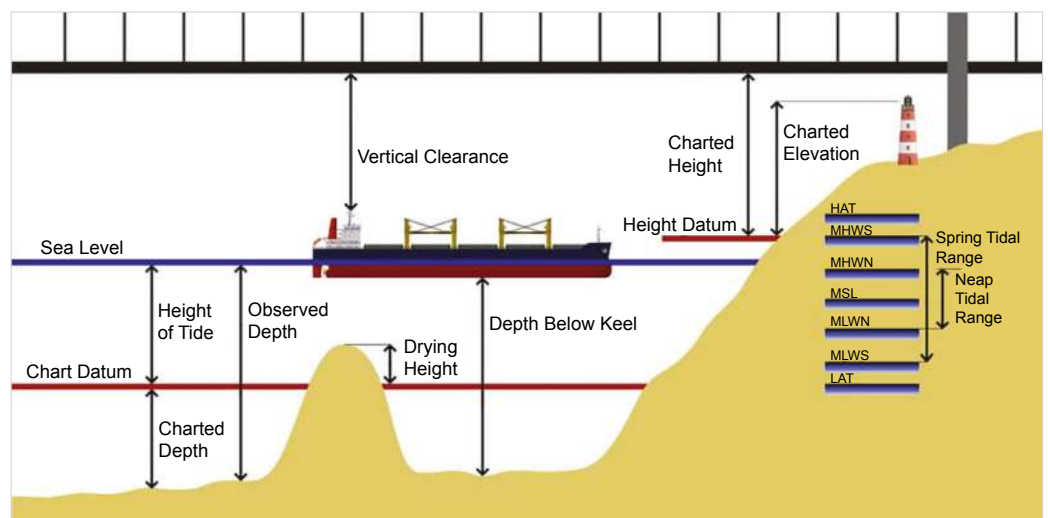
Ordnance Datum was

established at the level of the average value of Mean Sea Level at Newlyn for the six-year period 1915-21. Chart Datum is defined as a level so low that the tide will not frequently fall below it. In the UK this normally approximates the level of the Lowest Astronomical Tide. Because the tidal range varies from port to port so will the level of Chart Datum. It is the plane below which all depths are published on a navigational chart. By adding the tidal height at a given time, then the true depth of water can be calculated for a specific location.

Whilst both are relatively straightforward concepts the fun comes when trying to relate one to the other. Luckily the Admiralty Tide Tables contain a list of the differences between them for each port. So for Eastbourne, Chart Datum is 3.65m below Ordnance Datum. To the west Newhaven is -3.52m and to the east Hastings -3.80m. By comparison Poole Harbour is only -1.4m, but Avonmouth is -6.50m. Bizarrely, for Lostwithiel, upstream from and navigable from Fowey, Chart Datum is +0.85m above Ordnance Datum. When planning a development on the coast it is therefore of utmost importance that the correct value is used.

As always more information on the sea defences can be found on our website: www.pevensey-bay.co.uk, by emailing me, Amber Carr, at pcdl@pevensey-bay.co.uk or calling 01323 761202.

Amber Carr,
Pevensey Coastal Defence Ltd,
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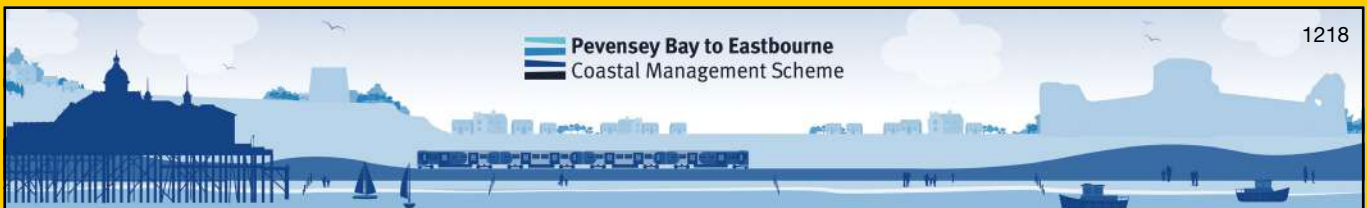
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