

The Parish Pump

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



Issue 169 – Winter 2024-2025

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



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Community News

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

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the Winter Edition of The Parish Pump! As we look ahead to 2025 there are others in the parish with their minds focused hundreds of years in the past – as an age-old puzzle may soon be solved once and for all.

Timbers from within The Mint House in Pevensey have undergone scientific dating - and it appears the main range of the building can probably now be assigned to the mid-16th Century.

All will be revealed when the official report from Historic England - that funded the work - is published. Meanwhile, read more about the dating debate in the Friends of the Mint House column.

Back to the future. Anyone interested in joining the new 1st Pevensey Squirrels is invited to an open day on Saturday, 16th November, 1.30pm-3.30pm.

The open day is at St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay – the new home for the Squirrels drey sessions for 4-5-year-olds. Further information inside.

Of course, there is also the ever present wide-ranging calendar of events and activities for all ages over the coming weeks and months with many obviously having a Christmas theme.

Meanwhile, as Remembrance Sunday approaches volunteers are needed to rattle a Poppy tin in the run-up to Armistice Day on 11th November.

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

Remembrance is also the theme of a special service for road traffic victims being held at St Mary's Church, Westham at 3pm on Sunday, 17th November. The Oakleaf service marks World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims.

My thanks go to Francette Barnden, from Pevensey Bay Art Group, for her 'Winter Scene' in charcoal - our last front page cover for 2024.

Last but not least, a big thank you to all our contributors, advertisers, delivery volunteers and you, the reader, for your continued support.

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

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

ISSUE 170 DEADLINE

Local groups and organisations should email details of events and activities between 1st March 2025 - 30th June 2025 to: theparishpump13@gmail.com by

14th January 2025

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

AMATEUR BOXING CLUB

The club had to close for a while due to an injury I had to my arm, but we are pleased to have started back in September. This club gives locals a chance to get fit and learn techniques, but also is something for our younger residents to do! Get off that Sofa!



It runs in term-time on Tuesdays (but not the first Tuesday) from 6pm-7pm. The club is run by fully trained volunteers who are insured, sponsored by Boxing England and fully checked.

The competitive rate of £4 for all over 9 years and upwards, including adults, helps to meet the costs of hiring the hall and all associated costs. Both males and females are welcome.

Come along to St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay, and give it a try! It needs plenty of support if this new venture is to become a major feature of our village life. If the club can be well established, we may be able to offer extra classes.

Jay O'Brien

ANDERIDA BORDER MORRIS

As I write this, we are coming to the end of a very busy summer!

It seemed that the more we danced out, the more extra bookings appeared, which was very encouraging! Despite being a bit thin on the ground, we only turned down one event.



We danced at several fetes in Battle, Horam and Pevensey, quite a few pubs, a brewery as well as Eastbourne and St Leonard's seafronts. We have already been taking bookings for next year!

We are back to practice at the Ethel Wood Community Centre in Pevensey Bay from Wednesday, 4th September 7pm-9pm if anyone fancies giving it a go. What have you got to lose!?





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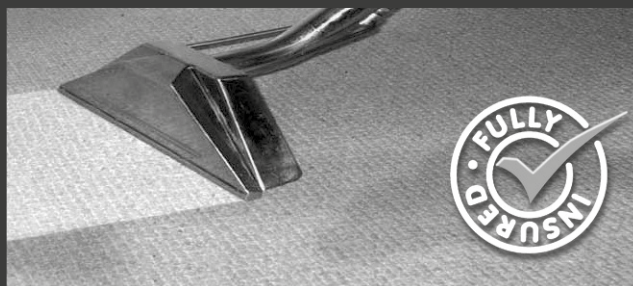
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Anderida would like to acknowledge and thank Jane Rogers and Howard Mole, who are founding members, for their hard work

and dedication to the side. Especially Jane who kept the side going during COVID. We wish them well for the future.

BAY COMMUNITY HUB

What an amazing summer the Bay Community Hub has had with the Information Centre and Community Library combining together to share one great space.



The improvements have most certainly increased the number of people (local and visitors) through the door. And being on one level it provides great disabled access.

Did you know that the library is free to join? And books are always being updated. There is something for everyone.

At the Bay Community Hub you can book a volunteer car to take you to medical appointments. The service is available to everyone of any age, but persons under 18 MUST be with an adult. We are unable to take pets to vets.

All our drivers are DBS checked, so you know you are in safe hands.

We cover Stone Cross, Hankham, Westham, Pevensey, Pevensey Bay and the Harbour area.

All repeat journeys must be booked through the Bay Community Hub on 01323 766230.

The Community Hub is in Sea Road car park, Pevensey Bay. We are open Monday to Saturday 10am-1pm.

We have some lovely cards and gifts for sale. Why not pop in and have a look. We now take card payments as well as cash.

We offer our space to small meeting groups on afternoons. We do not charge for this, but ask for a minimum donation of £1 per person attending, and that includes tea/coffee.

We already have a book club and a writing club using our space.

It's great to be in the heart of the village serving locals and visitors in our amazing Pevensey Bay.

Derek V Green

Chairman

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BRITISH CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY ROTHER VALLEY BRANCH

With the nights drawing in it's time to stop watering your cacti and succulents until next March. They will benefit from a winter rest and although you may see them shrink a little don't be alarmed, they will spring

back into life in, well, the Spring!

It is not a good idea to position your plants close to a radiator during this period, so move them to a cooler room such as a bedroom. As they are not growing they don't need as much light.

We have one more meeting before the end of the year – on 14th November. We welcome non-members and meetings 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: www.rothervalley.bcsc.org.uk. Just email us if you have any questions: secretary@rothervalley.bcsc.org.uk

BROWNBREAD HORSE RESCUE

One of our Trustees, Martyn Mitchell has had a new knee operation so has been off for a while recovering; we wish him a speedy recovery as he used to do most of the tractor work.

Following the wet winter we have now found a drier period. Yes, it has rained, but not any good downpours. We didn't make hay again this year as we have received several hay donations. This means the pastures have been grazed which encourages a proliferation of wild flowers painting the meadows with every possible hue and colour.

We had one swarm of honey bees that settled on a holly branch in the garden. We didn't call a bee-keeper to come and collect the swarm as we would prefer they made their new nest nearby to help pollinate our fruits. By next morning the bee scouts must have found a good place as the swarm had gone from the tree.

The garden party for the Leprosy Mission was a great success and raised over £1,420.

Tony Smith

Trustee

07711 924472

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

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

Across Sussex, and nationally, Community Speed Watch Groups (CSWG) have been set up and run by volunteers.

This means giving up a bit of time to attend a short training course and a few hours per month running sessions to try and identify and report those who are speeding.

Pevensey CSWG urgently needs more volunteers to help, if the campaign to reduce speeding is to have any impact and effect.

Please do offer to join this group which can help all our residents.

Contact Keith Henderson on 01323 460523 who will be happy to explain how you can help and what your time would involve.



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EASTBOURNE & DISTRICT LOCAL RSPB GROUP

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

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

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

Our talks (usually on the first Wednesday) are held in St. Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay, and take place in the afternoon at 2.15pm and then repeated in the evening at 7pm. The talks last around two hours with a break for (free) refreshments. We have a wide variety of speakers, usually with an illustrated presentation, talking about all aspects of nature.

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

EAST SUSSEX HEARING

Summer ramps up to an even busier autumn for local charity East Sussex Hearing.

Plans are being made to site its new outreach vehicle - The Hearing Hopper - on a regular monthly basis in Pevensey parish.

The Hopper will be able to carry out ear wax health checks, along with assistive hearing equipment demonstrations, hearing aid advice and support for anyone with hearing loss.

Also hop on the Hopper and find out about the range of lessons the charity offers in British Sign Language & Lip-reading along with its hearing social groups.

Meanwhile, East Sussex Hearing offers free ear health checks. If you feel you may be suffering from a build-up of ear wax, please contact East Sussex Hearing for advice and to find out more about their microsuction ear wax removal services which are chargeable.

The team of staff and wonderful East Sussex Hearing volunteers look forward to meeting you all.

For further information contact East Sussex Hearing on 01323 722505; email: hello@eshrc.org

EAST SUSSEX MOVIEMAKERS

Things are seldom constant; most experience highs and lows. So it has been in the lives and activities of our Club and its members. Since our last report for the summer edition of



this publication another member has died after a short illness, and a friend of the Club, the widow of ex-chairman Alan Tutt, also died. Both will be missed.

On a more positive note, members gathered one evening in late July to film a drama cum comedy.

Very loosely based on Bond and the 007 films, the storyline for our Treble 07 movie depicted three applicants for the star role. Their interviews for the part required them to demonstrate they had nerve for the job - to shoot an assailant. The first two applicants, for differing reasons, did not get as far as picking up the weapon they were to use. The third, finding that the weapon, a gun filled with 'blanks', failed to do the job required, used other means by which to decimate the opponent!

We have yet to see the results of the filming; the cast members, drawn from various sources, will have to be extra patient, as the editing, unlike the demise of the assailant, may take longer than expected.

Recently (late August) several members took up the invitation from a moviemaker in Haywards Heath, to visit his 'home cinema' - a deluxe conversion of his garage. The film shown was The Great Escaper with Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson in the lead roles. Based on a true story of a man who lived in a care home in Hove. Many scenes, filmed at locations along the south coast, included Eastbourne, Hastings, and Camber Sands.

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

Club meetings are usually at Saint Luke's Parish Centre, Stone Cross. Come and meet us and find out more about what we do - and have a cup of tea with us.

Our year will end with our AGM, a talk on 'Good camera work' by the Creative Director of Smokescreen Visuals, plan for 2025, and possibly a pre-Christmas meal together.

EAST SUSSEX VISION SUPPORT

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



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100 YEARS 1921-2021

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



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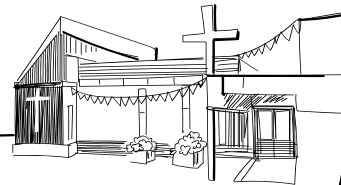
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Our Services

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

Our telephone Helpline is based locally at our Hailsham HQ. The service is available from Monday to Thursday 9am 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

ECOLOGICAL NOTES

Wildlife on Pevensey and Westham Marshland

The flat marshland around Westham and Pevensey is full of rare wildlife. Known as the Pevensey and Eastbourne Levels, they form one of the most biodiverse wetlands in the UK.

Until the 1950s this farmland was very much wetter, with large areas flooding over the winter. In the 1970s a large part was designated as Pevensey Levels SSSI but by then pumps had already been installed and the wetland plants and animals were finding it harder to cope in a drier landscape.

Things have become gradually worse for them. Sadly we have lost the huge flocks of winter waterfowl that used to be here and once common place summer breeding birds like Lapwings and Yellow Wagtails are reduced to just a few birds. Elsewhere in Sussex they are gone completely.

Now many Farmers are working with Ecologists from Natural England and the Sussex Wildlife Trust to protect the rich habitats that still survive and also to try to re-wet the marshes to allow wildlife to return.

Both Westham and Pevensey parishes include areas of grazing level in the SSSI, as well as farmland outside the protected area that is equally valuable for wildlife.

In some ways our marshlands are a time capsule. You can still find nearly all of the freshwater plants and animals described in the 1950s "Observers book of Pond Life" on our local marshland. Most of them are now gone from other



Winter past - Lapwings



The rare and highly protected Lesser Whirlpool Ramshorn Snail



Pevensey - the best place in the UK to find the Fen Raft Spider



The nationally rare Great Silver Water Beetle is common locally

parts of Britain due to pollution and habitat loss.

Our local natural inheritance is something that is exceptionally valuable. Unless we recognise its importance we may lose it all. One way to help is to join the Sussex Wildlife Trust. It is working hard to protect and enhance wetland wildlife here.

Evan Jones

ETHEL WOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE

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

It is owned by Pevensey Parish Council and 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 by a wide range of clubs and groups which has led to a number of inquiries from people interested in knowing more about Ethel Wood.

Ethel's son Bob Wood, and daughter Ellen Shingle, have very kindly written a short piece about their mother:

'Ethel Mary Wood was born in 1912 into the Miller family of Pevensey. She grew up in Castle Terrace and went to Pevensey School.

She later went to work at The Boxes in Val Prinseps Road on the seafront. She married our father in 1933 and they both lived in the Bay until their deaths.

During her life Ethel got involved with a lot of the clubs in the Bay. Our first memory is washing the football shirts for the local football club. She was very



Ethel Wood





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involved in many of the clubs that her children joined like the Red Cross, Sea Cadets, the local Stall Ball club.

In later years, along with Mrs McKenley, they started Meals on Wheels and the mobile library.

There were many clubs in the Bay like the RVS Lunch Clubs, Pop-in run by Senior Citizen's, Darby and Joan, Young at Hart and other clubs long since finished.

One very clear memory is the Coast Road playground. Mum, along with Mrs Betty Upton, ran jumble sales to get money for the swings, roundabout and slide.

In 2000, the chairman of the Parish Council approached us about naming the Red Cross Hall - which the Parish Council had just purchased - after our mother.

We felt that was a great honour to the memory of our mother. We thought at the time that if she had still been alive she would have turned it down.'

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

1ST PEVENSEY SQUIRRELS

Squirrels are the newest and youngest section of Scouts - and they are coming to Pevensey.

Girls and boys aged 4 and 5 from Pevensey, Pevensey Bay and the surrounding villages now have the chance to join the exciting new group which will offer a wide range of activities.

Squirrels sessions normally have a song, a story, games and activities, ranging from toasting a marshmallow to making a fruit kebab, doing a science experiment or planting some bulbs.

The children can earn many different badges including be active, brilliant builder, exciting experiments, get creative, let it grow, local superhero and super chef.

An open day for interested families is being held between 1.30pm and 3.30pm on Saturday, 16th November at St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay, which we are delighted will be the new home for the Squirrel drey sessions. We look forward to seeing you there.

Volunteers are also wanted to help run the group. Training, DBS checks and any other administration will be organised by the Scouts.

Further information is available from: Kim.Hall@Scouts.org.uk or via the QR code.



FLEXERCISE

As I write, we are about to start our second year of low impact exercise to music classes in St Wilfrid's Church Hall in Pevensey Bay.

Flexercise is a national organisation - the working name of The Women's League of Health and Beauty. Some

may remember our white satin blouses and black pants. Nowadays we just wear something we are comfortable in. The Eastbourne class has been running for around 93 years, apart from a short break during the War.

Classes are for all ages and abilities, shapes and gender.

We use a range of apparatus to add variety, weight and make it fun, plus a wide range of music. You only need to bring yourself and some water.

The 9.30am-10.30am class is for those who want to get fitter or stay fit. The class at 10.45am-11.30am is aimed at those wanting to begin their fitness journey, maybe are recovering from surgery, perhaps are less steady on their feet and want to sit for some of the class, or who think an hour is too much.

The work is adjusted in all classes to suit the abilities of class members. Payment is weekly. Pre-booking is not required. Contact Margaret Cutting 0759 202 6814.

FOXES HOLLOW RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Again, a thank you to our members, a record 78% of the estate joining us as subscribing members this year. We continue to keep working with the Parish Council on the upkeep of the estate as well as engage with a local contractor to carry out additional works which we pay for using our membership subscriptions.



We are liaising with Persimmon's site manager over the work on the neighbouring development to discuss issues that inevitably arise with construction work so close to existing residential properties.

For more information or membership details then please contact Stuart McMillan, 01323 764350 or via our website: foxeshollowestate.com.

FRIENDS OF THE MINT HOUSE

How Old is Ye Olde Mint House?

There has been a lot of debate about the date that The Mint House was built and opinions vary wildly. From 1342, a date that was painted on the exterior of the building in the 1920's, to as late as 1580, the latest date indicated by the style of its construction in an archaeological report.

One particular suggestion has me very intrigued, mostly because the interpretation lies outside that of the usual tropes of coin mints and grand homes that gave hospitality to Lords and Kings. This reference was made by A.A. Evans (Vicar of East Dean and Friston 1908-29) in his 1935 book "A Saunterer in Sussex", where he writes of the pre-war tranquillity of Pevensey High Street, and of The Mint House in particular.

Firstly and of interest, is his assertion that 'The Mint House' was a "quite modern name", not a particularly popular opinion, but one that is backed up by the early census records for Pevensey. In 1841 the building is divided into 3 units, Ivy Cottage 6 & 7 and Mint Cottage - and this continues for the next 60 or so years when, the whole becomes Mint House.

Reverend Evans also describes the The Mint House as being





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A sign found in the attic describing the Mint House as 600-years- old!



Postcard, probably 1920s, with the date 1342AD painted on the building

- "...built in 1542 by a Yeoman Farmer who also made money by the letting of small docks in Salt Haven."

This certainly piqued my interest.

For a while now our research has pointed towards The Mint House having started its life as a result of an economic boom in Pevensey due to the opening up of the Haven giving direct access to the sea for large boats for the first time in 150 or so years. Reverend Evans seems to agree, with his Yeoman Farmer/builder owning docks on the Haven.

So perhaps we have a local entrepreneur, using his newly found wealth (from investing in the docks) to build a house ... oh hang on a minute. We know that this building was never conceived as a dwelling, it just doesn't make sense in practical terms of its plan form. So, perhaps the building was created for another use altogether, one associated with the new economy, growth of a transient population and the need for accommodation. But that will have to wait for another time.

Back to this precise date of 1542 though. It does seem to fit with the opening up of the Haven to sea trade, so that is a positive. There are also references to a carved stone being found on the building, now sadly so eroded that no detail can be found, but once said to have had the date 1542 on it ... or 1342, depending on who you believe. It is rumoured that the stone had originally read 1542 and was remodelled to suggest a date 200 years earlier.

Funnily enough, the 1342 date appears painted on the front of the building about the same time as this suggestion, in the early years of the C20th.

So, are we any closer to solving this chronological conundrum? Well ... yes we are. Historic England have generously funded the scientific dating of the timbers within the building using dendrochronology. This exciting project cannot be fully revealed until the official report is out, but I will give you one snippet of information.

The main range of The Mint House can now, with very little doubt be assigned to the period between 1540 and 1550, leaving our Reverend's date of 1542 looking very likely indeed.

Now if I only knew the name of this mysterious and enterprising Yeoman farmer ...

Jonathan Seaman

Project Manager

01323 913604/07905 723964

www.minthousepevensey.co.uk

INKSPOT

We are a creative writing group meeting in the Bay Community Hub on the 1st Friday of each month 3pm-5pm.

New members have joined since our move and added to the friendly and supportive meetings.

There is no pressure to write - just come and listen - and we always include a tea break with eats! We pay £1 for refreshments and £1 as a donation from each of us towards the Hub.

Recently, we've been delighted to welcome to the group, author Debbie Young, who writes very successful cozy crime based in the Cotswolds (the Sophie Sayers series) and she gave us some excellent advice on her writing process, self-publishing and editing your work.

Many members were encouraged to ask questions and develop their ideas to 'put to print'. We also made this our Summer Special so enjoyed a cream tea as well!

August also saw us visiting St Leonard's alongside many other writing groups in the Regency Rooms, where it was an opportunity to share how writing groups organise themselves and read our pieces with a wider audience.

Autumn approaches so the next date for our meeting will be Friday, 1st November and onto the unmentionable Christmas social! We have a theme each month and take up the challenge in prose/poetry or often life writing.

Whatever inspires you to put to pen to paper (or laptop) DO HAVE A GO AND COME ALONG!

You can contact me for further details: pcoughlan@btinternet.com or check out our Facebook page: [Inkspotbythesea](https://www.facebook.com/Inkspotbythesea).

Philippa Coughlan





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www.hankhamschool.co.uk

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MEMORY LANE

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

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

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

Once a month there is a themed coffee morning on a Saturday. In addition, the group also do bowling at Hampden Park Bowls Club, and even Ten Pin Bowling. There is also an allotment in which people can get involved, even if it's just to chat and have a cup of tea. In the summer the group has meetings in Hampden Park, and enjoys a coach outing.

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

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

For further information contact 07393 834498.

PARISH OF PEVENSEY ST WILFRID & ST NICOLAS CHURCHES

We have had a vibrant and busy summer with special services and events ranging from contemplative prayer walks to lively concerts, but the mood gradually changes as we move into the autumn season.

We have a special service on 1st November to give thanks for our own departed loved ones and light a candle in their memory. On All Saints Sunday we remember named and unnamed 'Saints'. Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday are poignant occasions as we remember those who died as a result of war and pray for a more peaceable future.

The Season of Advent begins in December - a time of longing and anticipation for the coming Christ (Advent = "coming"). This season culminates in the Festival of Christmas as we celebrate 'Emmanuel' (= "God with us"). Although the secular world tends to wind Christmas up on Boxing Day, the Christmas Season actually lasts all the way through Epiphany right up until Candlemas which we celebrate on 2nd February. So don't rush to take the decorations down!



St Nicolas Church



St Wilfrid's Church

For more details about time/venue of any of the above, please see the 'What's On' section.

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

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

Rev. Meriel Woodward

01323 509891

email: pevenseyparish@outlook.com

PEVENSEY AREA GARDENERS CLUB

Despite some beautiful weather in July and August sadly there were some garden casualties from the cold wet weather of earlier in the year.

Dahlias which had not been lifted for several years and were now large tubers fell prey to the cold and wet winter and spring. They didn't seem to be putting up any shoots by May and on investigation the tubers had rotted and sadly had to be dug up.

However, at the end of August among my Brussels sprout plants I found dahlia leaves! Obviously some tubers escaped being dug up and have carried on growing. Hopefully if this winter isn't too wet and cold, they may survive into next year and flower again.

The lesson here is never give up - plants are sometimes tougher than we think.

Pevensey Area Gardeners Club members are a friendly lot and have a programme of speakers across a range of subjects at their monthly meetings and would welcome new members.

Why not give us a try? Meeting details are in the diary section.

For more information please contact our Chairman Keith Henderson on telephone 01323 460523 or bigk6342@gmail.com who will be pleased to give you further details.

Denise Morgan-Smith

PEVENSEY BINGO

We still have good numbers every week. Come and enjoy a friendly game of bingo on Friday evenings. Doors open 6.45pm, eyes down 7.30pm.

Eleven games of bingo, including 2 jackpot games and a flier. Cost is just £7 for your cards.

We also have football cards, Lucky numbers and a raffle. Not forgetting the free tea or coffee.

For further information contact Peter on 01323 763520.



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PEVENSEY PARISH COUNCIL

Sunday, 1st September saw the launch of Pevensey Dog and Country Craft Show, taking the ever popular village Dog Show and adding fruit, vegetables, jams, cakes and all manner of artistic makes.



Whilst the new initiatives had mixed fortunes, the Dog Show was hugely popular with all classes strongly competed. Michaela Dawkins thoroughly enjoyed her first year as Judge.

The show was opened by The Haven Players with a medley of songs from the shows and the Recreation Ground saw visitors browse a wide variety of stalls, enjoy refreshments and meet NEWFS in Action (Newfoundland Rescue Dogs), Rosie the Little Grey Pony and East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service.



Pevensey Dog and Country Craft Show

Thanks to Pevensey and Westham Sports Club for the use of the Recreation Ground, the local businesses who supported and sponsored, and the community volunteers and Parish Councillors who made the day such a success.

Village litter picks have continued throughout this year and recently took place on 28th September in Sea Road car park. Another is in Beachlands, 9am on 9th November.

Due to low uptake and unforeseen delays with the Castle 5K fun run the council has decided to postpone the event, and a new date will be confirmed later in the year.

The parish council will continue to develop Events during the year ready for 2025. Anyone interested in volunteering to work with the council should get in touch with the parish clerk, Sarah Mosedale on: clerk@pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk who would be pleased to tell you more.

The council has continued working with the Pevensey and Westham Sport club and appointed planning consultants and other related professionals on the pavilion project.

Alterations have been required in order to be able to manage costs and possible funding streams.

Drawings have now been designed to refurbish and repair the current building using the existing footprint which council has approved, and the next stage is to obtain planning permission from Wealden District Council. Once obtained, we will look at funding options, with the help of a fundraising expert.

As part of the ongoing grant funding element of the pavilion project the council issued a questionnaire. This was to gather views, opinions and suggestions from local residents,

the local sports club members and community users on the proposed improvements to the pavilion and recreation ground. The survey ran from 5th July until 19th July. Overall, the survey received 100 online responses, and in general there was a very positive response with the proposed renovation improvements and a general agreement of the need to improve the facilities.

On another matter relating to the Pevensey Recreation Ground, the council approved the repairs to the gravel section of the car park, which was done in September.

Another project council has been working towards includes its commitment and long-term objective to convert its current stock of street lights to LED, as set out in council's three year plan. This is an ongoing plan to save money on the electricity costs, but to also contribute towards the benefits for the environment. Council have approved 49 street lights to be converted to LED, and this has been possible due to council making some firm decisions to be able to save money to enable the conversion.

More information on what the parish council is doing, including events, ongoing projects and general council business, can be found on the council's website: <https://pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

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 Hall at 7pm.

Lastly, the parish council is pleased to announce the annual community grant window opened on 9th September. Each year the Council extends the opportunity to local community groups, charities or voluntary organisations to apply for a financial grant from the Parish Council.

There are certain criteria that must be met to be eligible for a community grant. These are set out in the council's Grants Policy which is available to either download from the council's website or is available from the clerk.

Application forms and supporting documents should be returned to the clerk no later than midday on 1st November 2024 when the application window closes. Terms and conditions do apply. <https://pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk/grants/>

PEVENSEY CASTLE

As winter approaches, a Pevensey Castle music date for the diary:-

14th December 'Music Box Wealden' bringing classical music to the castle and local community. Please visit musicboxwealden.co.uk for tickets and information.

Christmas items are now available from the shop.

Pevensey Castle is open 7 days a week until 3rd November and from



Pevensey Castle - Winter Sun

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23 ➔

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Local Community Organisations' Directory

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Churches

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

Halls - Bookings

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

Parish Councils

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

Wealden District Councillors

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

Health

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

Play Groups & Primary Schools

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

General

Pevensey Castle	01323 762604
Pevensey Court House Museum and Gaol	01323 733419
Pevensey Coastal Defence Ltd	01323 761202

Public Transport

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Stagecoach	0345 241 8000
National Rail Enquiries	03457 48 49 50

Emergency Numbers

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Water	0333 000 0365

Organisations & Societies

Anderida Border Morris	07815 426589
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
1st Pevensey Squirrels	Kim.Hall@scouts.org.uk
Foxes Hollow Residents' Assoc	01323 764350/764590
Friends of the Mint House	07905 723964
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 Plungers	pevenseyplungers@gmail.com
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

SUNDAY LOCAL CHURCH SERVICES

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

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Tue 24th	4pm St Mary's, Westham. Family Christingle Service. 5pm St Luke's, Stone Cross. Crib Service. 11pm St Nicolas, Pevensey. Midnight Mass. 11.30pm St Luke's, Stone Cross. Midnight Mass. 11.30pm St Mary's, Westham. Midnight Communion.
Wed 25th	9.30am St Wilfrid's, Pevensey Bay. Holy Communion for Christmas Day. 10am St Mary's, Westham. Christmas Worship for all the family. 10.30am Pevensey Bay Baptist Church. Christmas Day service. 10.30am St Luke's, Stone Cross. Christmas Day Mass.
Thu 26th	10.30am St Luke's, Stone Cross. Boxing Day Mass.

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 and 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.

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

	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 Club, Milfoil Drive, Langney (Main Hall. Age 16+). 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.
Fri	
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 January). 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 meeting. St Wilfrid's Church 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

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

NOVEMBER

- Fri 1st** **4.30pm** St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Remembering Our Loved Ones. All Souls service.
6pm-7.30pm Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne Coastal Management Scheme. Public Meeting. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
7.30pm St Luke's Church, Stone Cross. All Saints.
- Sat 2nd** **7.30pm** St Luke's Church, Stone Cross. All Souls.
- Sun 3rd** **11.30am** St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. All Saints Sunday.
- Mon 4th** **7.30pm** Pevensey and Westham Historical Society. AGM and 'Illustrated History of Herstmonceux Castle': Melinda Stone. Westham Village Hall.
- Wed 6th** **2.15pm & 7pm** Eastbourne RSPB. Talk. 'Wild Herzegovina': Denis Bohm. £5 members, £6 non-members. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Sun 10th** **10.30am** St Luke's Church, Stone Cross. Remembrance Sunday.
10.30am Pevensey Bay Baptist Church. Remembrance Sunday.
10.45am St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Remembrance Sunday.
- Mon 11th** **10.45am** St Wilfrid's Church. Memorial Garden Armistice Day Service of Remembrance.
- Wed 13th** **10am** Eastbourne RSPB. Easy walk. Shinewater. Meet by Bannatyne Gym. Non-members welcome. Free. TQ 614026.
2.30pm Pevensey Area Gardeners Club. 'The Weird and Wonderful World of Pollination': Clive Nuttall. Teas available. Guests welcome. Entrance £3. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Sat 16th** **10am-1pm** Pevensey Bay Art Group. Coffee Morning and Art Exhibition. Delicious cakes and beautiful art works for sale. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
10am Eastbourne RSPB. Easy walk. Trail to Shinewater. Meet in Levett Road, Polegate (Pevensey Road end). Non-members welcome. Free. TQ 590048.
- Tue 19th** **7pm for 7.30pm start** Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Christmas Demonstration with Kevin Loveland of 'Loveland Flowers', Pevensey Bay. £5 for non-members. Refreshments. Westham Village Hall. Information: 07900 394323.
- Thu 21st** VIEW Craft stall selling handicrafts made by the visually impaired members in Morrisons, Hampden Park.
- Sat 23rd** **12pm-4pm** Stone Cross Windmill. Winter Fair. Open for tours, teas, home-made cakes. Sale of wholemeal flour milled at the Windmill from local grown grain.
- Thu 28th** **7.30pm** Westham Evening WI. 'Pick and Mix Cocktails'. Westham Village Hall.
- Fri 29th & Sat 30th** St Mary's Church, Westham. Christmas Tree Festival.
- Sat 30th** **10am-12.30pm** St Luke's Church Hall, Stone Cross. Christmas Fair with stalls and refreshments.

DECEMBER

- Sun 1st** **9.30am** St Wilfrid's Church, Pevensey Bay. Advent Sunday.
9.45am St Mary's Church, Pevensey. Scratch Nativity.
11.30am St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Advent Sunday. St Mary's Church, Westham. Christmas Tree Festival.
- Mon 2nd** **7.30pm** Pevensey and Westham Historical Society. '50 Years of Seaside Entertainment': Brian Freedland. Westham Village Hall.
- Wed 4th** **2.15pm and 7pm** Eastbourne RSPB. Talk. 'Wildlife of Skomer and Lundy': by Debbie Alston. £5 members. £6 non-members. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Thu 5th** **7.30pm** Westham Evening WI. Christmas Party with Neil Diamond Tribute. Westham Village Hall.
- Sun 8th** **11am** St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. St Nicolas Day. Joint service followed by shared lunch.

- Tue 10th** **6pm** Pevensey Bay Coastal Community Group. Public welcome. Pevensey Bay Sailing Club. Old Martello Road.
- Wed 11th** **10am** Eastbourne RSPB. Easy walk. Rottingdean - a walk along the prom. Meet at The Stonehouse, Peacehaven (book car at the bar first). Non-members welcome. Free. TQ 371021. Followed by an informal lunch.
 Pevensey Area Gardeners Club. Christmas Party. Members only. Ticketed event. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Sun 15th** **6.30pm** St Mary's Church, Westham. Carol service.
- Tue 17th** **7pm for 7.30pm start** Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Practice Evening. 'Santa's Workshop'. £3 non-members. Information: 07900 394323.
- Wed 18th** **7pm** Meet at St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Carol singing around the village.
- Fri 20th** **7pm start** Carol Singing at The Red Lion pub, Stone Cross.
- Sun 15th** St Mary's Church, Westham. Carol Service.
- Sat 21st** **10am** Eastbourne RSPB. Easy walk. Southease, for a walk along the River Ouse. Meet in layby on A26. Non-members welcome. Free. TQ 433055.
4.30pm-6.30pm South Downs Flute Choir. Seasonal music with refreshments. Tickets £8 on the door or by email: Clay.flute@btinternet.com St Mary's Church, Westham.
6pm St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Nine Lessons & Carols.
- Sun 22nd** **10.30am** Pevensey Bay Baptist Church. Carol service.
6pm St Luke's Church, Stone Cross. Nine Lessons & Carols.

JANUARY

- Wed 1st** **12pm-12.15pm** St Wilfrid's Church, Pevensey Bay. Cry for a peaceful New Year.
- Sun 5th** **9.30am** St Wilfrid's Church, Pevensey Bay. Feast of Epiphany.
11.30am St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Feast of Epiphany.
- Wed 8th** **10am** Eastbourne RSPB. Easy walk. Sovereign Harbour. Meet at Sovereign Harbour village car park. Non-members welcome. Free. TQ 640022.
2.30pm Pevensey Area Gardeners Club. Social Afternoon. Guests welcome. £3. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Fri 17th** **6pm start** St Luke's Church Hall, Stone Cross. Winter Quiz.
- Tue 21st** **7pm for 7.30pm start** Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Practice Evening. £3 non-members. Refreshments. Westham Village Hall. Information: 07900 394323.
- Thu 23rd** **7.30pm** Westham Evening WI. Discussion on the Resolutions and Games. Westham Village Hall.
- Sun 26th** **5pm** St Luke's Church, Stone Cross. Evening prayer with hymns.

FEBRUARY

- Sun 2nd** **9.30am** St Wilfrid's Church, Pevensey Bay. Candlemas.
11am St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Candlemas.
- Mon 3rd** **7.30pm** Pevensey and Westham Historical Society. 'Ocklynge Cemetery': Kevin Gordon. Westham Village Hall.
- Wed 5th** **2.15pm and 7pm** Eastbourne RSPB. Talk. 'Birding in Canada': Peter Denyer. £5 members. £6 non-members. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Wed 12th** **10am** Eastbourne RSPB. Easy walk. Arlington Reservoir. Meet in the Reservoir car park. Non-members welcome. Free. TQ 528074.
2.30pm Pevensey Area Gardeners Club. 'Food Drink and Agony Aunts': David Clarke. Teas available. Guests welcome. £3. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Tue 18th** **7pm for 7.30pm start** Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Practice Evening. Raffle. £3 for non-members to include refreshments. For more information: 07900 394323.
- Sat 22nd** **10am-11.30am** St Luke's Church Hall, Stone Cross. Jumble Sale.
11.30am St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Service of healing and laying on of hands and anointing with Holy oil.
- Thu 27th** **7.30pm** Westham Evening WI. The work of the Raystede charity. Westham Village Hall.

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4th November to 30th March on Saturday and Sunday, 10am to 4pm.

Thank you to everyone who has donated books for our second-hand book stall and supporting fundraising at Pevensey Castle. We continue to request donations of history and general interest reference and other books and offer to collect.

PEVENSEY COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Our Tuesday lunch club continues to be well supported, although we still have a few spaces available for the residents of Pevensey Bay.

We are currently looking for sponsorship for our bus in the form of adverts on the side of the bus.

If you or anyone you know has a small business that would like to advertise on the bus please get in touch. Contact 07495 477269.

Gill Parsons

PEVENSEY MEMORIAL HALL SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

The club had two teams entered in the Hailsham Summer pairs run over thirteen weeks. The Pevensey Vikings team of Peter Winter, John Wilson, Linda and Nigel Alsop, John and Anne Sheath and Trevor Martin only lost two games all season and finished victorious beating Hollington by 3 points.

We have started the Eastbourne Aussie pairs league.

We will be participating in the Wealden league starting in October where we play on a home and away basis through until March next year.

We are still open for membership to persons of all ages. We have a safeguarding officer for our club.

We are open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 2pm-4pm and Sunday morning 10am-12 noon, also Monday evenings 7pm to 9pm. You do not have to be competitive to play.

For further information contact Peter on 01323 763520.

PEVENSEY PLUNGERS

We are a collection of people of all ages, all walks of life, all abilities who have one thing in common ... the SEA!



The Plungers meet every morning at 9am on the beach in front of Sea Road car park in Pevensey Bay.

We are a wonderful community who pride ourselves in welcoming new people to join us.

You will never be pressurised to enter the water. We have many plungers who can't, for one reason or another, go in to the sea – so they bring a drink, sit by the sea and have a chat.

We also have early morning and evening plunges, as well as monthly events such as the Full Moon Plunge.

Safety in the sea is an absolute priority for us so we recommend:

- speaking to a medical professional before getting into cold water
- never swim alone – stay with the group – do not take risks
- listen for any safety information before entering the sea
- never enter the sea if your ability doesn't meet the conditions

Take a look at our Facebook page for up-to-date information and events as well as important safety information. Our email is: pevenseyplungers@gmail.com

PEVENSEY UKULELE GROUP

The group has had a steady increase in numbers and we now swell much of one end of the Holly Blue carvery where there is now a new manager. We don't get charged for the venue but, of course, we buy our drinks to help fund the venue.

Our gigs have included St Stephen's Church in Bexhill where there were also several stalls and a tombola where several of our group won prizes. They also provided refreshments.

Other performances were at Mortain Court near Sovereign Asda, The Hawthorns in Carew Road, The Normanhurst on Bexhill seafront, Hailsham House, Hellingly Primary School, Ashley Gardens in Eastbourne, the Horam Country Fair and Alfriston Court's Open Day. The latter was an outside performance and the refreshments included a generous barbeque. Sovereign Court in Eastbourne was another well-attended performance with refreshments provided.

In July, we did both Sycamore Grove and Victoria Care home in the same week. In August, we were delighted to perform and sing Happy Birthday to a lady at the Royal British Legion Mais House in Bexhill who was a spritely 101. We were invited to join in her party celebrations after playing.

Occasionally with no pressure, one or a few of our members will do a solo or duet performance at our rehearsals.

Having a rough account of the money we have donated to charities it amounts to over £6,000. One of our principle small, local charity is Children with Cancer. Our normal performance charge is £50 which we donate to small local charities.

A ukulele can be bought for under £40 and we have nearly 40 players in the group who would be only too willing to help a new player; so you are welcome to come on a Tuesday evening 7pm to 9pm, the Holly Blue where you will also build new friendships.

Our leader Alan Coomber can be contacted on 01323 763061.

PEVENSEY BAY ART GROUP

As usual, we have had a busy enjoyable time during the summer months.

Visiting tutor, Catherine Farr led a really interesting mixed media workshop in June.



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We utilised different kinds of found materials to create collages, mainly inspired by natural form.

In July, we were lucky enough with the weather to have a wonderful sunny session working out of days on the beach. We thank Lotte for her hospitality and Nicola for her cakes. During July also, we made a group visit to the Towner Gallery to see the Melting Ice/Rising Tides exhibition made by the artist Stella Gibbons. A remarkable, thought provoking show, which I am sure will inspire us to use some of her techniques and media in a future workshop.

Recently, we held a workshop creating lino cut prints and mono printing. Some super pieces were made with no loss of digits.

At the end of August we held our annual exhibition. This, despite the weather, was a great success. We enjoyed discussing our work with our visitors and receiving favourable comments about the show. We thank Jo for all her hard work developing initial ideas to make our own group logo and devising a stunning new banner to help advertise the exhibition.

On Saturday, 16th November, we are holding a Coffee Morning and Exhibition with delicious cakes and art works for sale at St Wilfrid's Church Hall. We look forward to meeting you then.

We are a growing, friendly mixed ability group who welcome new members. We meet every Wednesday morning from 9.15am-12.15pm in St. Wilfrid's Church Hall.

Most weeks we carry our own art practice, interspersed with regular workshops on varied themes. If you are thinking of joining us please call in and see us or telephone 07790 277 986.

Di Jones

PEVENSEY BAY BAPTIST CHURCH

We in Pevensey Bay Baptist Church recognise that we are living in difficult times; the new technologies are shaping our minds and views and some people are using them for their personal advantages. However, we as a church believe that there is hope for us if we follow Jesus' principles like love, forgiveness, reconciliation, and peace.



In this new season, we want to welcome everyone as a new opportunity to renew our hearts, minds and spirits.

Pevensey Bay Baptist Church is a friendly and welcoming church to all who want to explore the Christian faith. Our Sunday services are held in our church building at 10.30am.

Our Remembrance Sunday service on 10th November is at 10:30am.

We are planning to start an Alpha meeting for those who want to explore the concept of God and faith, prayer.

We will have our special services in December – a family service on 8th, a carol service on 22nd and a service on Christmas Day.

Our prayer meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 7pm in our church building.

Life Groups are small meetings for those who want to make friends and study the Bible in a very informal and familiar way. They 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 hospital. We have also developed space for craft activities for men doing railways in scale. It takes place on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 2pm at the church building upstairs.

During this autumn our Parents and Toddlers Group is on every Wednesday between 10am and 12pm. We accept children from one to three-years-old. If you are interested in bringing your children please contact us.

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

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 Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne Coastal Management Scheme: Phase 1

Sea levels are rising and are forecast

Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne Coastal Management Scheme

to continue rising, albeit only 10cm by 2040. Storms which bring high winds and waves are also likely to increase. For these reasons more needs to be done to keep coastal communities resilient to the risks posed by the sea.

Pevensey Coastal Defence Limited (PCDL) have done a fantastic job over the last 25 years to keep homes and businesses safe. There have been no incidents of flooding from the sea in this time. This is a huge credit to PCDL, and we should all be very thankful for the excellent work they have done. As we move into the next phase more needs to be done to keep people protected.



From 2027 the first phase of the Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne Coastal Management Scheme will be updating the approach to the management of the beach. This means more shingle on the beach, adjustments to the size and shape of the beach in some places, improving the performance of some of the key remaining timber groynes and repairs and maintenance to the freshwater outfalls.

The detailed analysis of the evidence shows that a shingle beach in Pevensey Bay is the right answer to keep homes and businesses protected in the short to medium term, beyond this point different approaches may need to be taken.





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We are looking forward to hearing from you.

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Find out more by visiting our website; www.pevenseyandeastbourne.co.uk or by attending our event on Friday, 1st November, 6pm-7.30pm at St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay. pevenseyandeastbourne@environment-agency.gov.uk

www.facebook.com/PevenseyandEastbourneCoast

PEVENSEY BAY COASTAL COMMUNITY GROUP

This is a group made up of members of the local community, parish councillors and the Environment Agency (EA) to facilitate understanding and engagement concerning the long term coastal defences of Pevensey Bay and to scrutinise proposals put forward by the EA.

The group consists of 20 members which meets at least three times a year. The last meeting was on 10th September 2024. The group's terms of reference, code of conduct, agendas and minutes can be found at: pevenseyandeastbourne.co.uk/document-library/widgets/94837/documents

When the existing Pevensey Coastal Defence Ltd contract for sea defences ends in May 2025 the Environment Agency will have in place a more flexible contract, with a new contractor, for a period of two years, to 2027. This new contract will enable the Pevensey beach to be managed more effectively by the EA's contractors.

Phase 1 of the Coastal Defence project, which the groups is discussing with the Environment Agency, covers the first ten year period (2027 to 2037) of a 100 year plan. This phase is likely to involve beach profiling to reduce beach scour, shingle importation and shingle recycling and renewal and extension of nine of the existing groynes.

The Environment Agency is planning sea defences to a level of risk that addresses climate change, including accounting for increased storm intensity and sea rise.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, 10th December at the Pevensey Bay Sailing Club at 6pm.

Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Suzanne Ornsby

*Co-Chair of the Pevensey Bay Coastal Community Group
Pevensey Parish Councillor*

PEVENSEY BAY MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

In July, the club staged its tenth and again highly successful annual Model Railway Exhibition at the Victoria Baptist Church in Eastbourne. This event is staged to not only raise the club's profile in the local community, but to the wider railway modelling fraternity.



Voted "Best in Show" by visitors was the club's own N gauge layout "Murrell Park".

As one show ends, so planning starts immediately for next year on Saturday, 5th July at the same venue.

Busy Monday club nights continue with a full programme of projects to keep members occupied. One such project is the 00 layout "Pevensey Beach". This was our first club layout and

construction commenced back in 2011 shortly after the club's formation. It has been exhibited over the ensuing years at a number of shows around the south east, but is beginning to show its age. A decision has been made to re-design it from scratch, but retaining many of the features from the original.

Work continues apace on "Ohlstadt", an N gauge imaginary German outline layout. Having laid the track, which is fully tested and complex in design, attention has now turned to the scenery.

Membership of the club is healthy and we continue to welcome additions to the ranks. If you would like to see if model railways are for you then please come along for a "taster" visit.

Everyone is assured of a warm welcome and previous experience of the hobby should not be a deterrent. We meet very Monday, 7pm to 9.30pm at the Ethel Wood Community Centre in Pevensey Bay.

For further information visit our website: www.pevenseybaymodelrailwayclub.com

PEVENSEY AND WESTHAM COMMUNITY FOREST GARDEN

Summer has been a busy time in our forest garden because of the three community workshops we ran with the help of grant funding from the Blue Heart Project.

The first workshop was an introduction to forest gardening, a form of gardening that has existed for thousands of years, especially in tropical areas, but which has only fairly recently gained greater prominence in Europe, and which is particularly suited to increasing food security in our new era of rapid global warming.

Our second workshop was run by a highly experienced foraging expert, Fergus the Forager, who has a nationwide reputation and who has written for the BBC. His workshop was highly informative and illuminating, and his website at <https://fergustheforager.co.uk/> is well worth visiting to find out more about foraging and how you can engage in it yourself.

Our third and final workshop was run by the Waterweek crew of Charlotte Still and Clare Whistler, two local artists who specialise in all things to do with water, especially in our local area.

They brought along their unique Watercycle, tailor-made to transport their unique props for a demonstration of how the global water cycle works and how we are totally dependent upon it, from evaporation to condensation to precipitation, and back again. It was a real showstopper and conversation starter!



Watercycle

These workshops not only bring new visitors to our forest garden, but also help us volunteers maintaining the garden to better understand the potential of the garden for food production, for planning future activities and programmes, and for promoting the educational features of the garden, making it a place for the local community to learn in a practical way how to enhance community resilience. And be a place to have fun too!

For more information, email: pawforestgarden@gmail.com



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PEVENSEY AND WESTHAM FLOWER CLUB

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

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

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

Our annual subscription is currently £25, with entry to the meetings currently 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. On demonstration nights there is also a second raffle where you can win one of the beautiful flower arrangements that the demonstrator makes - to take home!

May usually see our annual "Spring Thing" (a Coffee Morning, but more!) 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

Firstly, good luck to all our members as the 2024/2025 season has now started.

We have been working very hard over the summer to ensure all our pitches are ready for the new season. I would like to say a huge thanks to all our volunteers and parents for helping us achieve this.



We have 4 new teams this year Men's, U13 Girls, U11 Mixed team & U7 mixed team.

Our under-14 boys have managed to get to the next stage of the Sussex C P Mason Cup. In Round 1 they played Lancing at home. The match ended 0-0 and went to penalties which they won 4-3. It was a great game to watch. At the time of writing the team was preparing for their Round 2 away game against AFC Worthing Youth in October.

We have been awarded a £20,976 grant from the Football Foundation, £1,430 grant from the Parish Council, £1,000 Contribution from Pevensey Cricket Club and £500 Contribution from Pevensey Sports Club so we can purchase a new compact tractor, Wessex mower & a slitter. The total cost of this

was £27,696. This will help us with maintaining the Pevensey Recreational Ground.

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,
Long summers days are now a distant memory and here we are in autumn once again. This season brings wonderful bright colours and we hope our autumn speakers will bring a bit of interest and brightness to our Monday evening meetings.

Our November speaker is Melinda Stone with the 'Illustrated History of Herstmonceux Castle'. Brian Freedlands with '50 Years of Seaside Entertainment' ends our year in December.

There will be no meeting in January 2025, but we resume again in February with Kevin Gordon with 'Ocklynge Cemetery'.

We meet every 1st Monday of the month at 7.30pm in Westham Village Hall. All are welcome.

Wising you all well and hope to see you soon.

The Committee

RVS MONDAY LUNCH CLUB

We have had a good year so far and thank you to all that have made food donations to the club.

We have booked an outing shortly. Then we will be planning Christmas with perhaps a treat as well.

We have a waiting list at the moment. We are looking at the possibility of increasing the number of guests. It is important that people do not feel lonely, that is why the club was formed over 40 years ago.

Christine Wood
01323 768019

ST LUKE'S CHURCH, STONE CROSS

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



We celebrated 100 years of St Luke's Church at Stone Cross this year, with Centenary Celebrations in July. Alongside stalls, games and a bouncy castle, we were entertained by the Eastbourne Silver Band, the Beatles Tribute Act Nothing is Real and local Morris dancers!

Whilst we still await a new Priest in charge for the Parish Partnership between St Luke's, St Nicolas' and St Wilfrid's Churches, Reverend Pat Gibbs, our Assistant Priest, continues to support us, alongside Reverend Canon Colin Luke Boswell, and other retired clergy and readers. All services continue as normal.



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Looking forward, we have our Christmas Services: Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday, 22nd December, our annual Crib Service on Sunday, 24th December, Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, a Christmas Day Mass on the day itself and a Boxing Day Mass on 26th December.

Please see our 'What's On' section for details of our Church Services and Community Events.

Our Parish Centre has been continuing to thrive and serve the community.

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

Our Christmas Fair is on 30th November! We'll be singing carols at The Red Lion pub on 20th December, so do join us. On 17th January, we are holding a Winter Quiz in our hall, and on 22nd February, a Jumble Sale!

Please check our website and news sheets for updates!

We look forward to welcoming you to our Church and community events, whilst wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2025!

Chrissy Norris

Parish Administrator

Further information: 01323 767020

or email: saintlukestonecross@gmail.com

ST MARY'S CHURCH, WESTHAM

As the autumn season turns to winter, so our churches remain busy. Here, at St Mary's there are some key events that we'd like to draw to your attention, especially around Christmas.



Friday, 29th November to Sunday 1st December - Christmas Tree Festival.

Sunday, 1st December, 9.45am Scratch Nativity.

Sunday, 15th December, 6.30pm Carol Service.

Tuesday, 24th December, 4pm Christingle Service (very family friendly!); 11.30pm Midnight Communion.

Wednesday, 25th December, 10am Christmas Worship for all the Family.

At the start of the year we began to hold two 'all age worship' services a month and we are continuing with this - first and third Sunday of the month, 9.45am, for around 50 mins. This has been really exciting for us and it is a great space for families to come and explore Christian spirituality. That said, all our services are open to all and a warm welcome awaits.

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: stwilfridschurchhall@gmail.com

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

The hall is used for activities and events including:

- art, health classes, dog training, drumming, a variety of hobbies and community organisation meetings
- Craft Fairs on every second Saturday of the month between 10am and 12.30pm
- Table top sales twice per year - next one is 22nd March 2025
- Coffee mornings on the last Saturday of each month from October-March
- the Boxing Club which has started back in term-time on Tuesday evenings (not first Tuesday of the month) from 6pm-7pm for 9 years and upwards.

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 07864295888.

Stone Cross Pre-School Staff and Committee

Registered Charity No. 1030338

STONE CROSS SURGERY

New Doctors

We are delighted to inform you that we have recruited two new doctors to join our team. Dr Akin Akinpelu working Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and Dr Bikram Suwal working Monday, Thursday and Friday.

We are sure you will welcome Dr Suwal and Dr Akin to our team.

Flu Vaccination

We are now booking our flu vaccinations for over 65's or patients with an eligible medical condition. Clinics will be held at all three surgeries.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccination

RSV is an infectious disease of the airways and lungs. RSV infection often causes symptoms similar to a cold.

Everyone turning 75 years old on, or after, 1st September 2024 will be offered a single dose of RSV vaccine. This is because older adults are more at risk of serious complications from RSV. You can still get the vaccine up to the day before you turn 80.

For the first year of the programme, the vaccine will also be offered to those who are already aged 75 to 79 years on 1st September 2024 as part of a catch up programme.

If you are not yet 75 the NHS will invite you for vaccination once you turn 75.

Please contact the surgery on 01323 761461 to arrange an appointment if you fall into the above categories.

Missed appointments

158 patients did not attend in August 2024. Each missed appointment means someone else did not get an appointment. If you are unable to attend an appointment, please call 01323 761461 to re-arrange.

STONE CROSS WINDMILL

Stone Cross Windmill is now closed until April next year, but private groups are more than welcome to visit the Windmill at other agreed dates where cream teas and tours can be provided with homemade scones and cakes.



The grant received from Shepham Community Benefit Fund enabled the volunteer maintenance team and the expertise of the Millwright to undertake extensive repairs to the cap. The work revealed severe damage to the cap due to its elevated position and exposure to wind and rain over many years. Further work is required on the cap and will depend on obtaining further grants of at least £7,000.

However, on the bright side the Windmill will continue milling

high quality wholemeal flour from locally sourced grain which will be on sale. If you require flour once the Windmill is closed, please do not hesitate to contact the chair.

The Windmill relies solely on sales of flour and refreshments, membership monies as well as generous donations.

During this year visitors and members have been very generous in donations to the Windmill. But 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

TRADITIONAL SHOTOKAN KARATE CLUB

Shotokan Karate is one of the major Japanese styles of Karate with origins that 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, coordination 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. Even though the club is essentially a karate club we also train with four specific weapons. Training with these weapons allows the student to develop the skills to adapt and use anything that may be lying around to defend themselves.

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 may already have some martial art experience.

Everyone is welcome, the club meets 7pm-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 to meet us, everyone is welcome.

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

VIEW CRAFT

VIEW Craft is an 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 and run five



craft classes, including macramé, mosaics, wood carving and cane work, which are taught by experienced tutors.

The members make a small weekly contribution (currently £6) 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 always happy to welcome new volunteer drivers. We pay an allowance of 45p per mile. If you would like to drive for us but not commit to every week we would welcome reserve drivers to help out in an emergency.

At present, we have spaces on the caning table, woodcarving and on mosaics and would be delighted to welcome more visually impaired people as members. If you are interested or know of someone who would like to join us, please get in touch.

For further information please contact Jean Wilson on 01323 505764 or email: jean.dolmeg@gmail.com

WESTHAM ART GROUP

With summer days ending why not think about joining an art group, you could pop in and see if it is for you. We meet on Wednesdays 1pm-4pm, part way through we have a break for tea or coffee with biscuits and generally home-made cake on offer.

It's nice to take this time to have a wander around the room chatting and getting advice from other like-minded artists.

The cost for attending is £5 per week only if you attend. You need to bring your own art supplies be it paint, pastels or whatever your preferred genre is. We sometimes have visiting artists to do a demonstration which is interesting and informative.

We are a friendly bunch and have welcomed a few new members recently.

Each year we hold an art exhibition where we can exhibit our art. This year was very successful with several of our members selling their work.

This year we have been on a couple of outings - Brighton pavilion and afternoon tea at the

Hydro Hotel. Both events were enjoyable and subsidised by the art group.

We have a mystery tour to look forward to in October and a New Year's lunch.

WESTHAM EVENING WI

Although there is not an official members meeting in August for Westham Evening WI, the committee usually organises an outing or special event, and this year was no different. A challenging Treasure Hunt was organised around the village and two teams vied closely for the top spot. Unfortunately, in keeping with much of this summer's weather, the rain was steady, but this did not deter the competitors.

With the evenings drawing in, members are looking forward to the varied programme of speakers and activities lined up during the winter months that will keep them interested and entertained. Before that, many will be involved in their Quiz Evening.

Partying seems to be high on the agenda, not just with the Christmas one, but also an evening with pick and mix cocktails to look forward to.

For those with an interest in animals, there is an opportunity to learn about the work of the Raystede charity.

The many groups at Westham Evening continue to flourish; these include those for baking, craft, Solos, the book group and a combined lunch and theatre group.

There really is something for most to find friends to share time and an interest with.

A friendly and warm welcome, usually on the fourth Thursday of the month in Westham Village Hall from 7pm, is assured.

For more details, please ring President Jan on 07710 559880.

Liz Lash

WESTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

There has been a considerable amount of motorcycle/bicycle thefts in the Eastbourne, Wealden area.



We encourage all residents to report any crimes and suspicious activities.

Any speeding/noisy motorcycles - Anti-social behaviour around the village, High Street or rural lanes, report any thefts or information regarding this via 101 quoting Operation Portman.

Reports have been made of ATM and mobile phone thefts in the Wealden area to obtain personal and banking details. Please be vigilant when using the cash machines and mobile phones. Look who is standing behind you or next to you to read information on your screen.

Speeding and Parking

Speeding cars/motorcycles through Westham High Street and up and down Peelings Lane, as a short cut, is an ongoing issue for local residents.

Parking. This continues to be a problem and issue around the village pond and High Street area with construction lorries and large work vans using this area to park their vehicles overnight and at the weekends.

PLEASE remove your vehicles from the village and park on your own properties/driveways!

Residents around the pond don't want to have to look at this "eye sore" and struggle to park outside their own properties.

Due to the various new housing developments in the area and the increase of people now living in Westham, dog ownership has also increased. DOG FOULING has become an issue in the area, on paths, verges, pond area and outside resident's properties, with owners not clearing up after their dog.

Please take responsibility for your dog and clear up their

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34 ➔

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

During the summer the Parish Council has continued with the daily work of maintenance in the area. This has involved an increased amount of tree maintenance to the large stock of trees the Council has to maintain. There have been cases of ash dieback and these will be dealt with as they are found.



Car Park adjacent to Westham Village Hall

The car park adjacent to Westham Village Hall is owned, administered and controlled by Wealden District Council.

Following local concerns about the use of the car park Wealden District Council consulted the parish council and other local organisations for their views and suggestions on use of the car park. At a parish council meeting councillors and the public expressed their views, and these were forwarded to the District Council. However, it was clear that any decisions ultimately rested with Wealden District Council.

After consultation Wealden District Council decided to implement a maximum of 3 hours parking on one side of the car park and a maximum of 23 hours parking on the other side. Signage and notices are around the car park to that effect.

The District Council also implemented a single bay for loading and unloading.

After further consideration the District Council has decided that a 20-minute maximum will be sufficient for any loading and unloading and signs will be placed on the loading bay to that effect.

The Parish Council understands that the car park is used by many people and that the District Council has tried to reach a reasonable solution that is satisfactory for the majority of people in regard to parking, loading and unloading.

Enforcement of parking, loading and unloading times will remain a matter for Wealden District Council, not the Parish Council.

Vandalism

Unfortunately, in recent months there has been several instances of vandalism to the parish council property. The vandalism has clearly been deliberate and is not accidental.

Over the past two years there have been a number of instances where the gates to Adur Park, Stone Cross, were deliberately damaged, and several vehicles were driven on to the field. The vehicles were driven at the football goalposts and concrete bases were completely torn out of the ground. The cost of repair in total was approximately £10,000. Each time the matter was reported to the police

and a crime report and number was issued.

In early June this year the gates to Adur Park, Stone Cross, were deliberately damaged, and several vehicles were driven on to the field with damage to the newly installed path.

Previously, in an effort to prevent further unauthorised entry to Adur Park the Council had reinforced fencing erected. However, in June two panels of the reinforced fencing were damaged, most likely with the use of an angle grinder and vehicles again entered the site. The cost of replacing the panels was over £800 and this has also been reported to the police as a crime and a crime number has been obtained.

In an effort to prevent further unauthorised access the parish council has also had a two-and-a-half-ton concrete block placed behind the metal fence.

During the summer months vandalism has continued in the childrens play area of Adur Park including:

- graffiti on the childrens play equipment – cost to remove £312
- a litter bin set on fire in the childrens play area – cost of a new bin £800
- new metal signs stating no motorcycles through the park. The signs were held in place with strong metal ties. The signs then disappeared within three days with the metal fixings cut through – cost £100
- one of the Self Closing Pedestrian Playground Gates has been damaged so badly that it cannot shut properly. A new gate will probably need to be obtained – cost for a new gate £1,000.

It would help if anyone seeing people in the act of committing such damage could report it as soon as possible by making a 999 call to the police.

The Council will continue to report ALL cases of criminal damage to the police.

➔ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

mess and take home or use the dog litter bins provided around the village.

We need more people to sign up and join the scheme. You will get notification from the police and other local issues.

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 12 noon 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

Although there is little to report on the progress of Wealden's new local plan since our piece in the summer edition, one change brought in by the new government is an amendment to the formula used to calculate the so-called local housing need. Unfortunately, the formula produces a number which in no way represents the local need, but is purely designed by the government (supported by developers) to strong-arm local planning authorities into granting planning permissions to meet the manifesto commitment of building 300,000+ houses/year.

For Wealden, the new formula requires 1,397 houses to be built each year to 2040, this rate is about double the average number built over the last 10 years.

Fortunately, Wealden believes that from the sites offered for development by landowners, they can accommodate "only" 950 houses/year. However, there are three large sites that are currently not included, (4,000 houses between East Hoathly and Laughton, 2,000 houses between Hailsham and Upper Dicker and 2,500 houses west of Uckfield) which if these sites are deemed suitable, would enable Wealden to meet the 1,397 houses/year in the new plan.

If Wealden does not include these three sites in the plan, we are concerned that the planning inspector is most likely to demand that Wealden finds further sites in order to achieve the 1,397/year.

Whereas in Wealden we could do with more low-cost housing, namely social homes - which used to be called council houses, and truly affordable homes, the vast majority of the 1,397 houses are likely to be expensive market housing bought by people moving into our area from more expensive areas. Thus, the new houses will be of minimal benefit to our existing residents.

Around 30 new sites have been submitted from the recent call for sites exercise and Wealden is currently evaluating these for suitability. Should any major sites be deemed suitable, there is likely to be another consultation before the next version of the plan - the Reg. 19 - is issued.

A further problem with the shortfall, is that there is likely to be much resistance to removing from the draft plan any of the existing allocated sites, notably the large one north of Peelings Lane and those at Sharnfold Farm.

We would hope that when the next consultation arrives, that you will take part and add your voice to all those objecting to losing more of our countryside to yet more inappropriate housing.

WESTHAM VILLAGE HALL

We are delighted to have enjoyed a really busy summer of events, parties, celebrations and, of course, our regular Group sessions each week and

month at Westham Village Hall.

As we moved into September with the new school year, our children's groups have re-commenced so do please take a look at our notice boards for children's activities.

The Westham Embroidery Guild, who have met at the Hall for the past 24 years, decided to hang up their needles this summer. The Guild has been successfully run by Sue Winter and Jackie Wragg, and the Hall Committee would like to thank them both for all their support of the Hall throughout these years. We are however delighted to announce that a new stitch and knitting group will be starting at the Hall on 12th September. It will run from 1pm to 3.30pm on alternate Thursdays. All crafters will be welcomed to spend a pleasant afternoon with like-minded company.

If you are thinking of starting up a new group or would like to book your Hall for a party or special occasion, please do give our helpful booking secretary Julie a ring on 07821 377110.

We currently have a few dates free for your Christmas and New Year events, but don't delay, book today! We look forward to seeing you at your Hall very soon.

Diane on behalf of Westham Village Hall Committee

WESTHAM VILLAGE POND

All ponds evolve and change depending on management and the complex interactions of the natural world. This year we had an extremely mild winter with 3 large, beautiful swans present.

A pair of swans nested and produced tiny cygnets in the spring. They then decided to take their young family elsewhere in the area.

This left a pair of Canada Geese with 4 goslings who stayed for much of the summer spreading unhealthy droppings. Geese have only been present here in the last few years.

Geese can be entertaining, but they have been a big problem at the larger Hailsham Common Pond over the last few years. Large numbers were attracted by feeding, plus the large Carp fish were present. Together they overloaded the pond with faeces. This caused toxic blue green algal blooms. Hailsham Council is spending large amounts of money on remedial action. They are now discouraging people from all feeding of wild life at their ponds.

Westham residents have drastically reduced feeding wildfowl since notices were put up and education commenced in 2019. This has benefited our pond. We do not want to attract too many wildfowl.

Canada geese have multiplied in the UK by more than 100% since 1984. The rate of increase has been more rapid in recent years.

Duckweed has unfortunately thrived on the surface this year promoted by warm water and available nutrients.

The council employs contractors for maintenance. Volunteers help by managing a range of flowering plants. If you would like to help as a volunteer occasionally and learn more about our pond please email the clerk at Westham Parish Council: clerk@westhamparishcouncil.org.uk

Nature Notes

Alan Everard's regular nature column



I should like to start with some lovely events which we witnessed from our garden and in the sea (our garden extends to mean high tide – how lucky can you get?)

Recently, we watched as a pair of Cormorants, not far out to sea, were diving in for their prey, a very impressive sight.



Cormorant

Some Grebes were also out there, but we did not see them diving. Earlier in the year we had seen the impressive sight of a least 50 Canada Geese in a giant V (on its side) formation. The leader at the point of the V, of course, flying off the coast from West to East. I'm sure that I wasn't the only one to see this.



Canada Geese in flight

Coming back to our garden, on 5th August Jonno flew in for his breakfast at

6.30am as usual. But this time he was not alone. With him came his partner, plus a very young Gull still dressed in his beautiful 'brown' feather coat, obviously their 'chick'. What a lovely thought! It will be interesting to see how things develop between them, but the young usually soon make their own way in life.

We witnessed an unusual event of unbelievable discipline when a Magpie, a Rook, and a Pigeon – all of whom had been scrambling with each other to eat from the bird seed feeder and from the spilt seed on the ground – suddenly flew to the garden fence and calmly perched there in a row. Pigeon first, Magpie, then Rook.

Then in disciplined fashion first the Pigeon flew to the feeder to have his fill and then flew off. The Magpie then was next – he flew in for his fill then flew off. Finally, the Rook had his turn and similarly flew off. How they even thought to stage their show of absolute discipline I have no idea, but was most impressed!

Our dog 'Mickey', a rescue dog, has picked up our attitude to birds and never threatens them in any way. We have the usual two large glazed doors to the garden and were not surprised when one day recently, we found Mickey impatiently waiting outside one whilst Jonno was banging away with his beak on the other – demanding more food! Each totally accepting the presence of the other!

It started and continued for some time as such a strange year weather-wise and I remember that we saw almost no butterflies during summer, but today as I write this I see a multitude of large Whites for a short period and also two small Blues and two small Browns – such a pleasure!

I now have pleasure in bringing you Hazel Wood's latest article which is about the red urban fox.

Hello my friends,

What an awful summer we have had. But moving on I wish to speak to you about the red urban fox.

We either love them or hate them, for whatever reason, but the hate should not be the want to destroy them.



Red Urban Fox

Most vixens are only fertile for 3 days a year, they are monogamous and thus mate for life.

Gestation is about 53 days, having 4-5 cubs, mating being around Christmas and mid-January.

I have it on good authority that not all cubs survive, only one or two will go onto maturity for whatever reason.

Most are killed by road traffic.

Foxes are more red and orange as we go into winter and they gain their winter coats.

They have thrived for thousands of years on the British landscape, and we continue to shape their lives.

They are now seen in daylight hours feeding.

They have a very bad press for killing en masse. The reason for this is, unlike us, they don't have freezers to store their food.

Therefore, the plan is killing en masse to take away and bury their kill which may have to last several weeks.

The life span of a fox is, on average, between 3-4 years, and they live in a family group dominated by the breeding pair. **Hazel Wood.**

Finally, as I look out to sea from our garden, I can hardly believe the difference in colour depth between the sea – a very pale greeny-blue – and the sky horizon which is a very deep intense bluey, grey/black. Lucky us, to see this ever changing sea view!

Enjoy nature in all its ever changing beauty and Hazel's article on the fox's life.

Alan Everard

Sea Defences

Project Managers Amber Carr and Ian Thomas reflect on 25 years of coastal defence in Pevensey Bay

It is hard to believe that Pevensey Coastal Defence Ltd has been managing the beach for almost 25 years, and by the end of May next year a quarter of a century will have passed since we started improvements to, and maintenance of, Pevensey Bay's sea defences.

Although there are undoubtedly worse places to work, especially in summer, there is still a degree of concern every winter as the next named storm approaches.

Although the accuracy of weather forecasts has improved over the years, the one time they are less likely to be correct is during the most extreme events. Which of course are the ones we are really interested in. Having said that, the years have taught us that there is only so much that can be done before a storm. We can't repair any damage before it has been done. And with only 3-4 days warning that the next storm is on its way, the range of works that can be undertaken is limited given the time available.

However, it is not always as simple as that. The timing of a storm can be critical. Individual elements that would turn a typical winter storm into a severe storm occur regularly. To make it all the more threatening, the key elements – spring tide, highest waves, peak storm surge – all need to occur at the same time. Luckily, it is rare that this happens. Additionally, Pevensey has one of the higher tidal ranges in the UK, so we can add to the list of things that help moderate some storms.

Last winter, for example, we had 11 named storms, and for the vast majority, the highest waves occurred closer to low rather than high water, so the timing of a storm is almost as important as the water level and wave height. Unfortunately, from a beach maintenance point of view, the timing of a storm seems to be something that is difficult to predict with any certainty. This is quite understandable since weather systems regularly speed up, slow down, and veer north or south. Just a three or four hour difference in arrival time can mean hitting or missing the peak of the tide.

The other winter phenomenon that makes maintenance works more difficult is a period of successive storms, especially if they occur as tides are rising towards a spring tide. With 9km of beach to reinstate there just isn't time to repair all the erosion before the next tide. Bulldozers are sent to the worst areas, but as waves often don't clear the toe of the defences access to any of the shingle drawn down is very time limited.

Despite all this, we believe the contract that ends in May has been good, and has provided the required standard of defence to Pevensey Bay.



Pevensey Coastal Defence

There have been good winters, the most notable being 2003 when there were no storms after January. On the other hand, there have been bad ones. 2013-14 and 2015-16 immediately spring to mind. These were bad for the whole of the Channel coast not just Pevensey, but importantly, no one here flooded, whereas it was much worse elsewhere. Over the years, few of the storms were exceptional, it was more a question of timing.

Looking back on the last 24 years, allowing for exceptional years, there is clearly an upwards trend in the number of machines being used and how much longer they stay working on the beach which is a result of climate change.

We expect the coming winter to follow that trend, and therefore the use of machines will be more often and continuous as well as our contractual requirements to be fulfilled along the entire frontage, as we hand the beach back to the Environment Agency on 1st June 2025.

Sea levels are undoubtedly rising and there is evidence of "increased storminess" either as bigger or more frequent storms.

As much as we have enjoyed protecting Pevensey Bay for the last 24 years, the 2025-2125 PevEb scheme currently being put together by the Environment Agency, is well timed.

We will look back on our years at Pevensey with fondness as the Agency prepares the next phase of protection to ensure the Pevensey frontage is secure under their watch.

Ian Thomas,
Project Manager,
June 2000 – May 2025

Amber Carr,
Project Manager,
October 2021-May 2025

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