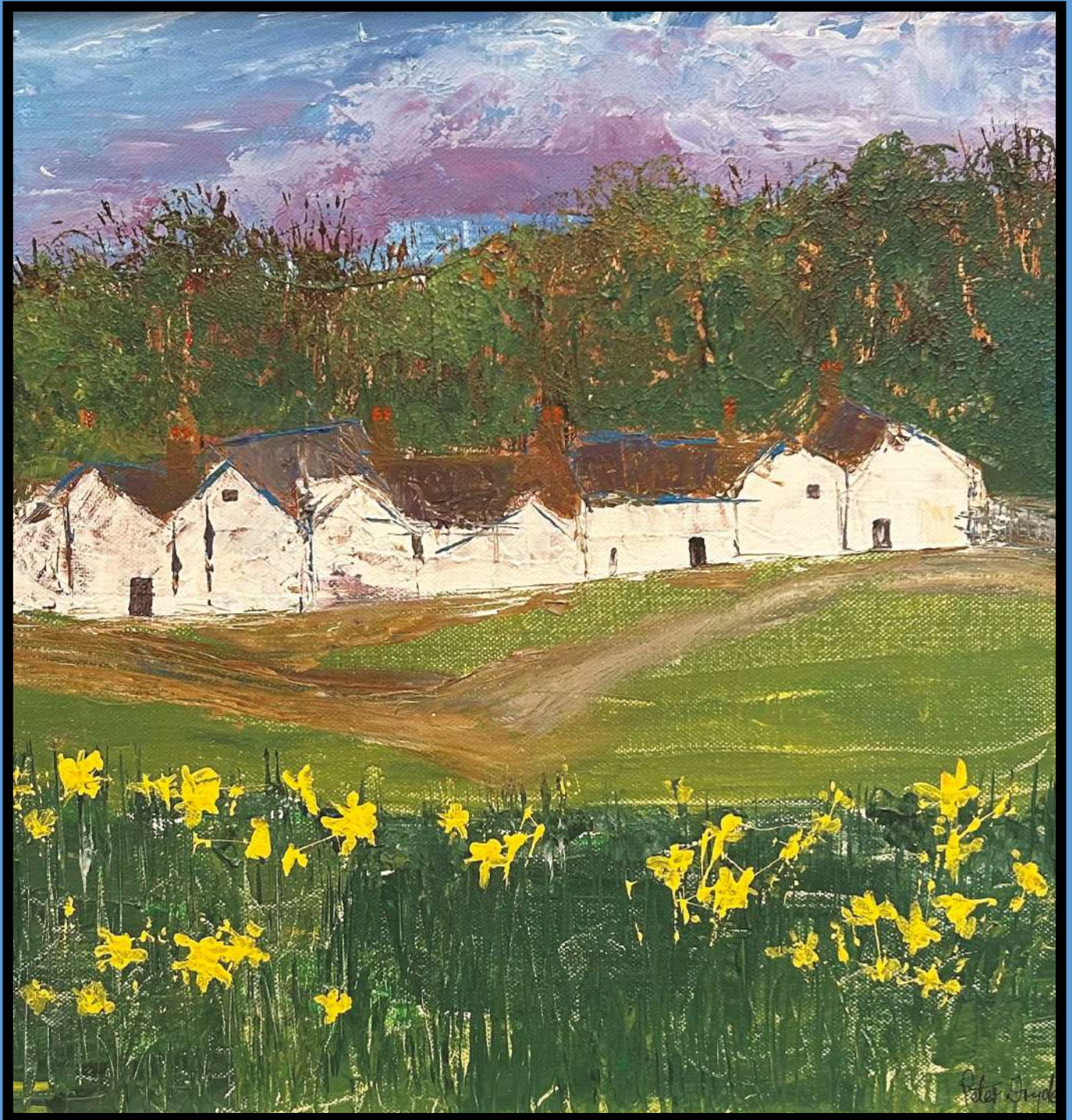


The Parish Pump

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



Issue 170 – Spring 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

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

It's 2025 and we are nearing the end of the first quarter of the 21st Century.

There is no doubt many anniversaries will be marked over the next 12 months, but few are as significant as VE Day on 8th May, followed by VJ Day on 15th August.

The popular annual 'Vehicles of Yesteryear' is being held on Saturday, 10th May and will provide a backdrop for local VE activities and celebrations throughout Pevensey Bay and elsewhere. Look out for publicity over the coming weeks and months.

Other established events are also being held again this year, including Pevensey Village Fete, including dog show, on 27th July and the Community Information Day in September.

Of course, there is also ample opportunity for residents young and old to try a new hobby, thereby ensuring the future of the great variety of clubs and organisations run by dedicated volunteers who give up their free time.

My thanks goes to Peter Dryden, from Pevensey Bay Art Group, for his 'Daffodil Spring' in acrylic – our first front page cover for 2025.

Lastly, due to a large number of recent retirements new volunteers are needed to help deliver The Parish Pump. If you can spare a few hours, three times a year, please drop me an email.

Sara Cheesley, Editor

07799 374049, theparishpump13@gmail.com

ISSUE 171 DEADLINE

Local groups and organisations should email details of events and activities between 1st July 2025 - 31st October 2025 to: theparishpump13@gmail.com by

14th May 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 started back in September, but we do need people to attend, if we are able to keep going. The old phrase "Use it or Lose it" applies.



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!

The club runs on Tuesdays, from 6pm-7pm at St Wilfrid's Church Hall in Pevensey Bay. Dates for the immediate future are: **11, 18 and 25 March; 8, 15 and 22 April and 6 and 20 May**. We are running over the Easter school holidays to give our children something to look forward to!

The club is run by fully trained volunteers who are insured and 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 welcomed!

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

Jay O'Brien

ANDERIDA BORDER MORRIS

After a busy summer season, we returned to practice in September. We had been actively promoting ourselves on social media, and at performances.



We hoped to get 3 or 4 new dancers, but were overwhelmed when 22 new members turned up for practice, including 5 new musicians! All of them are busy learning dances and tunes and making their tatters.

As I write this, we are preparing for some of our newbies to dance and play for the first time at the Tudor Wassail at Michelham Priory.





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Our next appearance after that will be at Chailey bonfire society's St George's day fete followed by Hastings Jack in the green.

Our diary for the summer is starting to fill up with several bookings from last year at Battle, Horam and Gun Hill. We are hoping that all of our newbies will be ready and able to dance out in the summer. We are particularly looking forward to dancing at a festival in Ilfracombe in July. A first for Anderida.

Unfortunately, we have had to move from the Ethel Wood Community Centre as it is now too small for us. We have a really strong membership now and everyone is very enthusiastic. If you would like more information about us, or to book us, please contact us via our Facebook page, or ring Shirley on 07815426589.

BAY COMMUNITY HUB

May I first congratulate one of our trustees Daniel Brookbank on his being awarded an MBE. Daniel runs the library side of the Hub.



The library is FREE to join and there are no fees for taking books out. So why not join? There is something for everyone and books are constantly being updated.

It's hard to believe that it is almost a year since the Information and Caring Centre and the Community Library joined forces to become The Bay Community Hub. It has meant adapting to a certain amount of change for all of us, and as volunteers we have learned the roles of each other.

We have a large selection of jigsaws for sale at just £2 each and pre-loved books at just 50p each.

We are in need of book donations, so please bring any books you no longer require to us at the Hub.

Our voluntary car service for medical appointments is as busy as ever and we now pick up from Stone Cross and Sovereign Harbour.

We are currently looking for a Book-keeper/Treasurer to start at Easter. This is a voluntary roll and full training will be given. We are also seeking Drivers, and Office Persons for the Hub.

After the great success of our Christmas raffle, we will also be doing one for Easter.

This year, Vehicles of Yesteryear is on 10th May, and also coincides with the 80th anniversary of VE Day weekend. We will be there with our tombola and cake stall.

We offer our hub space to small community groups who need a space for meetings and such-like in the afternoons. There is no charge for this, but we do ask for a donation of just £1 per person attending. There is tea/coffee if required, and all donations are welcome as they help with running costs of the Hub.

We have the Inkspot writing group on the first Friday of each month, and a jigsaw club on Saturday mornings.

We are open Monday to Saturday, 10am-1pm.

Derek V Green

Chairman

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BRITISH CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY ROTHER VALLEY BRANCH

January is a quiet time for cacti and succulents which have a strict growing season of late March to early September. With the new growing season only a couple of months away, it's worth noting our top tips for success!

Start watering your plants gently from the end of March, but never let them stand in water. Wait for signs of new growth before watering more frequently, and give them some cactus and succulent fertiliser occasionally over the summer.

Apart from Christmas cacti and some 'other succulents' (as we call them), all need a sunny, south-facing windowsill to ensure they grow well. It's difficult to generalise though so take a look at our website for more information. For a FREE cultivation booklet please email your details to: BCSSrothervalley@outlook.com

Our club meets on the second Thursday of the month at Sedlescombe Village Hall - doors open 7pm, meetings start at 7.30pm. We have a great programme of talks lined up for 2025, ranging from habitat exploration to the cultivation of some of the weird and wonderful plants that make our hobby so fascinating.

We welcome non-members - meetings (and refreshments) are FREE - so if you are curious just come along. There are always plants for sale and we can help you choose some to suit your growing space.

Our Branch website has more information, including the 2025 programme: www.rothervalley.bcss.org.uk. You can sign up to receive our monthly emails (and unsubscribe at any time) and there are links to our accounts on Facebook and Instagram.

BROWNBREAD HORSE RESCUE

Tony and Dinty's daughter, Donna and family are taking a greater role in the running of the charity. Joshua, her son, is able to take on some of the heavy work and often walks the fields to do the horse checks carrying a sack of bread regularly donated by the Little Mill Bakery in St Leonards.

We have two ladies, Vicky and Alex, who are often able to collect the unsold bread and cakes on a Tuesday morning when they come to volunteer. Otherwise Tony will collect. Yes, horses do like cakes!

Donna's husband, David is always willing to add his muscle and thought into solving the farm or yard problems. He has made a great difference cleaning up the roofs and solar panels using a hired 'Cherry-picker'.

We've not made hay last year as there has been sufficient hay donated, so the five acre hay field has been grazed. Sometime we have to collect the half-ton round bales ourselves and we can just about get two into the trailer. Of course, local farmers are keen to have their barns clear of old hay to be ready for storing the new crop. Mostly this old hay is perfectly edible and mostly is freely donated.

Donations of tack, mainly rugs, has been considerable and our supporter, Emily, organises massive tack sales to turn



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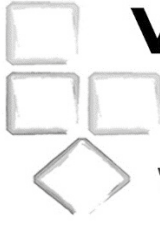
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the donations into cash; of which the Air Ambulance also benefits.

We continue to rescue and advise on equines in distress and have managed to rehome some under contract when they have achieved rehabilitation.

Visitors welcome by arrangement. Volunteers over 18 are welcome to apply.

Enquiries to the Head of Welfare, Dinty Steains, 01424 892381 or 07774 932624.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

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

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

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

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

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

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

EAST SUSSEX HEARING

We are re-launching hearing aid maintenance sessions in Stone Cross on the second Saturday of each month 10am-11am at St Luke's Church Parish Centre, Rattle Rd, Stone Cross, BN24 5SL. This service is for NHS hearing aid users only.

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

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

For more information, please call East Sussex Hearing on 01323 722505; email: hello@eshrc.org; website: www.eshrc.org

EAST SUSSEX MOVIEMAKERS

After the usual break over the Christmas and New Year period, the moviemaker members



resumed their two meetings a month in February. However, to fit around members other interests, the meetings at St Luke's Parish Centre are likely to change back from a Thursday to a Tuesday afternoon, but this decision had not been confirmed at the time of writing this report.

Meeting arrangements will continue with one at St Luke's in the first week of each month. In addition, there will be a second meeting at various venues – some at member's own homes, and at other venues during the late spring, summer and early autumn, where filming opportunities will be available e.g. Open Gardens in aid of local charities, public events e.g. Airbourne etc.

During the meetings at St Luke's it is expected films will be shown, and possibly one or two people involved in film-making on a commercial basis will be sharing their knowledge and achievements. Club members also plan to make some short films during the year.

If any organisation is looking for a film show to include in their programme of activities at their normal venue, this can be available in return for a donation to share with the club, and a local charity.

Further information about film shows and meetings please contact Malcolm Webster on 01323 769016, by email: mfwebster@btinternet.com or email Val McManus on valmcmanusuk@yahoo.com

EAST SUSSEX VISION SUPPORT

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



East Sussex Vision Support
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 when someone has a new diagnosis or if a sight problem changes or worsens. The consultant can refer the patient directly to ESVS where we are able to provide advice, care, comfort, sign posting, support and ensure they have full advice and guidance at this very difficult time.

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

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

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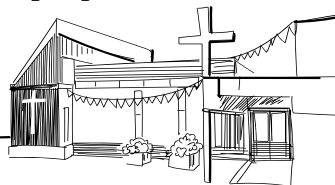
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We currently provide 10 social groups run by 100 volunteers. These offer a vital lifeline to over 300 of our members who would experience social isolation and exclusion without the opportunity to get together once a month.

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

A Cut Above

How to raise your lawn-mowing game

A memory of the wildlife of ancient farmland lives on in our local lawns and verges. Some plants of the old meadows persist as tiny, low growing forms adapted to survive the regular close cut beloved of English lawn-mowers. They can put on a brave display and can be golden-yellow with the tiny blooms of Birds Foot Trefoil and humming with bees. Not just Honey Bees but many types of wild solitary bees that do most of the work in pollinating our garden plants. The Common Blue butterfly can also be seen sipping nectar. Its caterpillars feed on Birds Foot Trefoil. In dry summers lawns with lots of deeper-rooting wildflowers stay green when all around more manicured lawns are dry, yellow straw. Flowery turf is a treasure and it needs protection.

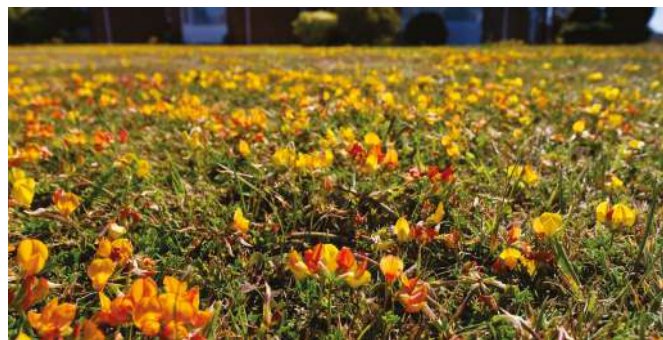


A flowery lawn in Westham full of wild flowers, bees and butterflies

Wildflower lawns support valuable biodiversity. Hedgehogs love them. Some of us though, prefer a number one haircut for our lawns and mow away the flowers so that the bees are deprived of important nectar sources.

These tiny wildflowers are clearly tough. Even so a bit of weed-killer and that would be that. Fertiliser, paradoxically, will also eradicate the flowers by stimulating the coarser grass species to outgrow them. The Trefoil and Clovers in the lawns are legumes and do not need any fertilizer as they themselves fix nitrogen from the air to enrich the soil. They self-fertilise the lawn!

Maybe by just raising up the cutting level of the mower a notch or two as a matter of course we can have the best of both worlds: Neatness as well as beautiful biodiversity; Flowers with the fascinating insects that depend upon them. Just by raising lawnmower blades a little higher some of us



Westham lawn flowers and insects

may discover unsuspected beauty in our taken for granted lawns. The flowers might be hidden having struggled for years just to hang on. Perhaps this year is a good time to raise our garden game to a new level to look after these lovely native plants and animals.

ETHEL WOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Ethel Wood Community Centre offers a perfect venue for all social activities, clubs, parties, and meetings.



It is located on Coast Road in Pevensey Bay and is an amenity for the whole community. The Centre is owned by Pevensey Parish Council and is managed by a management committee.

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

The hall is very well looked after and used for many activities, including, lunch clubs, dance groups, art classes, yoga, social gatherings and the pentacle drummers.

Access to the booking system, which includes hire charges, can be found on the Parish Council website: <https://pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk/ethel-wood-community-centre/>

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

1ST PEVENSEY SQUIRRELS

Pevensey Squirrels have arrived at St Wilfrid's Church Hall!

Tuesdays during term-time from 4.30pm to 5.30pm is where the scouts fun can be found for your young people age 4-5.

Squirrels can achieve anything they set their minds to – and they have lots of fun along the way.

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badges, laughter, and so much more to help our youngest members learn the skills they need for life.

Of course, none of it would be possible without the support of the amazing leaders who plan and deliver such an inspiring programme.

If you are a grown up and would also like to join us (because why should young people have all the fun?), we have lots of opportunities available, no matter how much time you can offer.

We will make sure you have training and are fully supported along the way. If you have any questions or want to find out more about you or your young people joining us, please email Kim.Hall@scouts.org.uk or via the QR code.



FOXES HOLLOW RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Another year of membership increases results in 138 households from the 178 joining again this year as members, well over 75% of the estate.



Activity this year has primarily been on the upkeep of the estate as well as liaising with the developers of the new estate behind St Luke's Church on our border along Peelings Lane.

We have carried out some gardening / maintenance work around the estate in addition to that carried out by Westham Parish Council, but must add our thanks to them as the work scheduled the last couple years by the Parish Council has been very good. Once the weather is warmer we may try and hold a work party combined with coffee and cake morning to get people together for a tidy up around the estate, but will leaflet residents beforehand.

And finally thanks are due to Darren and Louise from Dallaway Drive who collected Christmas donations for local teenagers who may have missed out on Christmas gifts and they have asked us to pass on their grateful thanks for the many people that donated items.

Further information from Peter O'Neill 01323 461838 or contact us from the website: foxeshollowestate.com

FRIENDS OF THE MINT HOUSE

Bewitching Pevensey

For two weeks last autumn, The Mint House put on our first full exhibition, Bewitching Pevensey, as part of our project, Ye Olde Mint House – A New Heritage.

This project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, is helping the charity to create a sustainable business plan and strategy for the building to



Bewitching exhibition - The Parlour



encourage investment and build confidence in funders as we move on to restoring The Mint House itself.

Bewitching Pevensey was designed to engage with people in many different ways from the theatrical to the more traditional via the downright spooky! We explored the true story of the tragic 'witch craze' of the C16-C17th when people throughout the country were in danger of being accused of bewitching... particularly if you happened to be a single, older woman. This led to the deaths of hundreds of people and the persecution of (potentially) thousands more whose stories have not survived.

It really was one of the darkest periods of our history, but one that we should always remember and hopefully, one day, we will learn that difference in people is not something that is to be feared. To be honest this was one of our main motivations for exploring the subject because at The Mint House we are aiming to be as inclusive as possible and create a space where everyone is welcome and difference is celebrated.

Almost 1,000 people came through our doors in what is usually a pretty quiet time for visitors and the feedback we received has really made us realise just how much people are enjoying and appreciating what we do. We have learned loads from this experience and we are hoping to put on something, bigger, better and a bit weirder this coming summer, but for now, the last words will be from some of our lovely visitors...

"What a fantastic display in a fantastic building."

"Brilliant story telling and fascinating details of witchcraft in Sussex. Amazing artwork."

"Wonderful, informative exhibition. Accessible, inspiring and original. Really beautifully curated!"

Meanwhile - Dating the Mint House

Last year, I wrote a short piece looking at some dates assigned to the Mint House by a variety of sources in the past. Well, we can now settle this argument.

During the second half of 2024 we were so lucky to have Martin Bridge commissioned by Historic England to undertake a wide range of dendrochronological tests around the building.

This essentially means drilling out core samples of old timbers then matching them to known datasets and thus finding a very close felling date (tree rings stop growing once it is cut down obviously and timber was used green in building so wouldn't be sitting around for ages).

What this very clever and accurate science has told us is fascinating.

The main range (alongside the road) and kitchen (formerly detached) were built at pretty much the same time with timbers from different sources, between the mid-1520s and



Bewitching exhibition





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early 1530s. It should be noted that these dates related to timbers fresh at the time, not the many re-used pieces around the building. This pushes the date of The Mint House back firmly into pre-Reformation times.

The joining range between front and back, the cross-wing that attaches The Mint House to Mint Cottage and the internal changes upstairs were also pretty much of the same date, this time between the late 1560s and early 1570s, and again earlier than expected.

So there we have it, the Mint House was built around 1530 with extensions and alterations around 1570.

Now all we have to do is work out who built it and why!

Jonathan Seaman

Project Manager, The Mint House
01323 913604/07905 723964
www.minthousepevensey.co.uk

INKSPOT

Happy New 'Writing' Year! Having taken a break for January we met with enthusiasm and perhaps some writing resolutions for our monthly meeting with the theme 'NEW BEGINNINGS'. An apt choice for both stalwart and new members to flex their writing muscles.

We are a creative writing group which meets on the first Friday of the month 3-5pm at the Library within the Bay Community Hub. It's a comfortable, accessible and we hope a friendly and supportive place to come along and share some ideas, thoughts or pieces you have written. This could take the form of short stories (about 1,000 or so words), or poetry and sometimes oral life memories.

This is not a 'teaching' session, but one of sharing feedback, constructive criticism and often for some just to listen with others and not actually participate with offerings. It's informal and we think 'fun' with perhaps a 'warm up writing prompt' or word games and shared writing ideas.

We always have a refreshment break and pay £1 towards that alongside a £1 donation towards the Hub.

We have looked back on a year where we had visits – including to the wonderful Forest Garden locally and to welcome authors such as Debbie Young (of cozy crime fame) alongside watching members develop their current novels towards publication.

So plans will be in the pipeline for further literary themed visits etc.

The next meetings will be on: Friday, 7th March, Friday, 4th April, Friday, 2nd May, Friday, 6th June. Whatever inspires you word wise creatively we hope to welcome you to the group!

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

MEMORY LANE

Do you look after someone – a friend or relative, who has dementia, and you feel isolated?

Memory Lane is a local registered charity providing

support and social activities especially for people with dementia and their carer.

Singing or games are held at 2pm every Wednesday at Christ the King Church Hall, Princes Road, Eastbourne (just off Langney roundabout).

Once a month on a Saturday there is a themed lunchtime group with homemade soup and a roll. Additionally, the group do bowling at Hampden Park Bowls Club, or Ten Pin bowling on Friday afternoon. There is also an allotment in which you can participate should you wish, even if it's just to chat and have a cup of tea. In the summer the group enjoys a coach outing.

No charge is made for some of the regular activities, but donations are requested to help with the running costs.

Light refreshments are served at all our meetings in the Church Hall, where carers can chat with each other, which is a valuable asset for carers and helps them to 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 please email: memorylane.eastbourne@gmail.com or if you prefer contact 07393 834498.

PARISH OF PEVENSEY ST WILFRID & ST NICOLAS CHURCHES

Over these next few months of spring, we as a Christian community make the wonderful journey through Lent, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost. Living as we do in the northern hemisphere, it is as though the whole of nature joins with us in this transition from the dark days of winter into the warmth and light of early summer.

Please see details of our services commemorating this glorious movement from death to life in the What's On section.

We begin our summer programme of events at St Nicolas beginning with the Flower Festival over the Spring Bank holiday weekend. The theme this year is, "have you read it?" and will no doubt be as stunningly beautiful as last year's.

Church News: We still await a new incumbent who will have charge over the Parish Partnership of St Nicolas', St Wilfrid's (Pevensy Parish) and St Luke's Church (Parish of Stone Cross with North Langney). In the meantime, during the vacancy, the churches are supported by myself, retired clergy and Lay Ministers, and all services and events continue as normal.

Everyone is welcome to our regular Sunday services. At St Wilfrid's at 9.30am, we use modern language with hymns and offer excellent disabled access. St Nicolas may appeal to those who prefer a more formal style of worship with incense and choir accompaniment and is at the later time of 11.30am.

I am delighted to respond to anyone with queries about



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marriage, baptisms or funerals whether or not you attend our churches. Please do not hesitate to get in touch and keep an eye on our website: www.pevenseyparish.org which is regularly updated.

Revd. Merriel Woodward

Associate Vicar St Wilfrid's & St Nicolas
Revd.merriel@hotmail.co.uk/01323 509891

PEVENSEY AREA GARDENERS CLUB

Spring will be well on its way when you read this – with acres of beautiful daffodils, adorning the roadsides and gardens. These will be followed by forsythia, hellebores, tulips and longer, warmer days.

You may not be a gardener, but enjoy the pleasure a garden can give. Why not join your local Gardening Club. We have a full programme of interesting talks and activities.

In 2025, we will be hearing about the parks and gardens of Flanders, Banoffi Pie and its origins, gardening by the sea, and about the dolphins around our shores, plus lots more.

We meet on the second Wednesday of the month in St Wilfrids Church Hall, Pevensey Bay, starting at 2.30pm.

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, or just turn up on the day. You will be very welcome.

Denise Morgan-Smith

PEVENSEY BINGO

We currently have between 30 and 40 players on a regular Friday evening. We play 10 games in a book and also a flyer. Last Friday, one of our jackpots was won and a lucky player picked up nearly £100.

Come and enjoy a great evening. We also have free tea or coffee. Doors open 6.45pm, eyes down 7.30pm. We usually finish around 9.15 pm. Further details from Peter: 01323 763520.

PEVENSEY CASTLE

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

Visitors will enjoy volunteer led walks and talks around the site and seasonal children's trails.

May is English Heritage members week and there will be free walks and talks for members on Saturday, 3rd and Tuesday, 6th.

Summer sees the return of Music Box Wealden for their second season bringing music to the local community at Pevensey Castle. Please visit: musicboxwealden.co.uk

For site activities advance reservation is advised.



Would you like to share your memories, stories, and real photographs of Pevensey Castle? Please let us know. The 1950 photograph of summer family visits was donated in 2024.



Pevensey Castle. Summer 1950s. Family visitors delving into the gatehouse dungeon and oubliette

Charity donations of local interest, history and non-fiction books, prints and postcards are welcome and will be sold in support of the site at Pevensey Castle. Collections can be arranged.

Contact: 01323 762604 or visit the ticket office and shop. Thank you.

PEVENSEY COMMUNITY SUPPORT

We held an extremely successful craft evening and a Christmas Bazaar in November to raise funds for the Tuesday Lunch Club.

With a massive Thank You to all those that donated and took part and also to the Pevensey Plungers - without their help the afternoon would not have happened.

The funds raised enabled us to take all our members and volunteers to the Hydro Hotel for a very enjoyable Christmas lunch. We must also thank The Aqua Bar who had an event to raise funds for us.

It does cost about £3,000 a year to run our mini-bus so funds are always needed.

We do have room for a few more at lunch times so if you or anyone you know would like to join us call the number below.

Hopefully, 2025 will be a happy and healthy new year to all and we have another successful year.

Gill Parsons and volunteers

07495 477269

PEVENSEY LEVELS

An ambitious project is underway to bring Pevensey Levels back to life as one of the great biodiverse wetlands in the UK.

Restoration has already started on the internationally important 13.5 sq mile site between Eastbourne and Bexhill and which you pass through on the A259 towards Bexhill.

The 3,500 hectares site supports rare species such as the Fen Raft Spider, at least 25 rare aquatic molluscs, 16 species of Odonata such as Hairy Dragonfly and a huge number of rare aquatic invertebrates and plants.

The aim is to create a mosaic of habitats by blocking and meandering ditches, digging scrapes and creating deeper ponds as well as undulations.

Together, these measures will help 're-wet' the Levels, allowing wetland species to re-colonise lost territories.



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PEVENSEY PARISH COUNCIL

2025 will be another active year for Pevensey Parish Council (PPC) with various events including the return of the popular Vehicles of Yesteryear event which will incorporate VE celebrations.



This year will also see the project to renovate the well used sports pavilion at Pevensey recreation ground progress. The aim, working with Pevensey and Westham Sports Club, is to improve disabled facilities and access, replace the dilapidated changing rooms and re-roof the building.

Regular updates about the project will be provided at the monthly council meetings and on the council's website. In due course we will step up fund-raising to help pay for the project.

In the meantime, the council recently spent funds on filling in the pot holes in the recreation ground car park and replacing fencing that was vandalised.

The chairman, Peter Lowton hosted a visit from our MP, Kieran Mullan, to the parish in January. The visit enabled Peter to show the MP what an incredible parish Pevensey is, including the stunning sites, history and tourism it can offer.

The visit also allowed him to explain about the projects council is working on, including the issue of introducing an HGV weight restriction in Pevensey to help reduce the damage to residents cars and that being caused to historic wall paintings in The Mint House by traffic vibrations; working with Westham Parish Council to have a 20-mph speed limit through Pevensey village and Westham. He also explained about the planned renovation of the sports pavilion and was able to see some local businesses in Pevensey Bay and visit the new community hub and library in Sea Road Car Park.

Save the dates

The Vehicles of Yesteryear will make its return this year and will be held on Saturday, 10th May. The event is being held later this year as it will also mark the 80th anniversary of VE day and will include the attendance of military vehicles and much, much more.

Local businesses will be holding their own activities and celebrations during the weekend. Information about different activities and celebrations will be available so keep a look out for more information as the event draws nearer.

Other planned events include: Pevensey Village fete on 27th July; Community

VEHICLES OF YESTERYEAR

Saturday 10th May 2025

Sea Road Car Park
Pevensey Bay

Save The Date

Any enquires or interested in showing your vehicle please email:
PevenseyVintageVehicles@gmail.com

Organised by Pevensey Parish Council

Information Day on 27th September at St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.

The council is responsible for the maintenance and electricity cost of some 196 street lights in the parish. Others are the responsibility of East Sussex County Council. In order to reduce the environmental impact and running costs the council has invested in converting another 55 of the parish's

street lights to LED. As part of this long term plan the council will continue to convert the remaining stock of street lights to LED bringing further financial savings in the year ahead.

As many of you know the council published its own emergency plan self help guide which includes helpful advice on what to do in the event of an emergency and includes some help links and information. The guide can be found on the council's website at:

<https://pevenseyparishcouncil.gov.uk/emergency-plan-information-and-links/>

If you haven't done so already it is also recommended that residents sign up to the local flood warning system, Sign up for flood warnings at www.gov.uk. There are different warnings depending on which part of the parish you live in.

Please keep in touch via our website and/or social media at:

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

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

Twitter: @PcPevensey

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

➔ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Sussex Wildlife Trust and National Highways have joined forces to carry out the £600,000 Network for Nature project at the Levels.

The groundworks are now complete:

- 3km of winding, wiggly ditches dug; 30 tennis courts' worth of new wetland habitat created; 15 football pitches' worth of re-flooded wetland restored.

Nature is already responding – flocks of Lapwings have been spotted at the new pools and scrapes, alongside ducks, geese, and Marsh Harriers.



Marsh Harrier.
Photo: Barry Yates.
Sussex Wildlife Trust

Save the date!

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Local Community Organisations' Directory

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	07552 621066, 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

Public Transport

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

Emergency Numbers

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

Organisations & Societies

Anderida Border Morris	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 461838
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

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

SUNDAY LOCAL CHURCH SERVICES

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

EASTER SERVICES (APRIL)

- Palm Sunday - 13th**
9.30am St Wilfrid's Church, Pevensey Bay. Holy Communion.
9.45am St Luke's, Stone Cross. Mass with procession.
Maundy Thursday - 17th
7.30pm St Nicolas, Pevensey.
8pm St Luke's, Stone Cross. Mass and Watch till Midnight
Good Friday - 18th
10am St Luke's, Stone Cross. Stations of the Cross.
10am St Mary's, Westham. Family craft with hot cross buns.
11am Pevensey Bay Baptist & St Wilfrid's, Pevensey Bay. Joint Act of Witness.
2pm St Mary's, Westham. Reflective Service.
2pm St Nicolas, Pevensey. Liturgy.
3pm St Luke's, Stone Cross. Liturgy of the Word.
Easter Sunday - 20th
6am St Luke's, Stone Cross. Mass at Dawn (check time).
8am-9am Pevensey Bay Baptist. Early beach service Sea Road car park, followed by breakfast in the church building.
8am St Mary's, Westham.
9.30am St Wilfrid's, Pevensey Bay. Eucharist.
9.45am St Luke's, Stone Cross. Sung Parish Mass.
9.45am St Mary's, Westham. Worship for all ages.
10.30am Pevensey Bay Baptist Church. Resurrection Service.
11.30am St Nicolas, Pevensey. Sung Holy Communion.

EVERY WEEK

- Sun 10am-12pm** Pevensey Memorial Hall Short Mat Bowls Club.
10.30am-11.30am Gentle Hatha Yoga with Vicky.
Mon RVS Monday Lunch Club. Ethel Wood Community Centre, Pevensey Bay.
2pm-4pm & 7pm-9pm Pevensey Memorial Hall Short Mat Bowls Club.
7pm-9.30pm Pevensey Bay Model Railway Club, Ethel Wood Community Centre, Pevensey Bay.
Tue 10am Pevensey and Westham Community Forest Garden volunteers. Meet at Pevensey Recreation Ground car park.
10am-12pm VIEW Craft art and craft group for blind and partially-sighted people. Herstmonceux Village Hall (term-time only).

- 2pm-4pm** Pevensey Memorial Hall Short Mat Bowls Club.
7pm-9pm Pevensey Ukulele Group. Practice. Holly Blue, Stone Cross.
Wed 9.30am-12.30pm Pevensey Bay Art Group. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
10am-12pm Westham Pop-In, Westham Village Hall.
11.30am-12.30pm Chair-based Yoga. Ethel Wood Community Centre, Pevensey Bay.
1pm-4pm Westham Art Group, Westham Village Hall.
2pm-4pm Pevensey Memorial Hall Short Mat Bowls Club.
6.30pm-8.30pm Tai Gyoku Ryu Aikido Club, Ethel Wood Community Centre, Pevensey Bay.
7.30pm-10pm The Haven Players. Stone Cross Memorial Hall.
Thu 10am Pevensey and Westham Community Forest Garden volunteers. Meet at Pevensey Recreation Ground car park.
1pm-3pm St Mary's Church, Westham. Parent & Toddlers Group. Noah's Ark (during term-time).
7pm-8pm Traditional Shotokan Karate Club. Shinewater Sports Centre, Milfoil Drive, Langney (Main Hall. Age 16+).
Fri 10am-11am Chair-based Yoga. Langney Community Centre.
10am-12pm St Luke's Church Hall, Stone Cross. Community Coffee Morning. Support from the church Community Larder is available.
6.45pm for 7.30pm start Pevensey Memorial Hall Bingo.
Sat 10am-11am St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Bell ringing practice.
Cuckmere Buses Service 36 - Berwick Station to Beachlands via Polegate, Stone Cross, Westham, Langney Shops, Asda (Crumbles) and Pevensey Bay (Plus return).
Cuckmere Buses Service 37 - Beachlands to Hailsham via Pevensey Bay, Asda (Crumbles), Langney Shops, Westham, Stone Cross and Ersham Road (Plus return).

EVERY MONTH

- 1st Sat 10am-12pm** St Mary's Church, Westham. Churchyard Tidy Up and Café.
2nd Sat 10am-12.30pm St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay. Craft Fair. Free entry.
10am-11am NHS Hearing Aid Maintenance. St Luke's Church Parish Centre, 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 at 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.

MARCH

- Mon 3rd** **7.30pm** Pevensey & Westham Historical Society. 'Railway Tunnels Used and Disused': Adrian Backshall. Westham Village Hall.
- Wed 5th** **10.30am & 7.30pm** St Luke's Church, Stone Cross. Mass for Ash Wednesday.
11am St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Ash Wednesday Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes.
2.15pm & 7pm Eastbourne RSPB. Talk. 'Raptor Protection in Malta': Russ Middleton. £5 members, £6 non-members. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Sat 8th** **10.30am** St Mary's, Westham. Annual Pancake Party with family craft activities.
- Tue 11th** **6pm-7pm** Southcoast Amateur Boxing Club. Children aged 9+ and adults. Male and female. £4. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Wed 12th** **10am** Eastbourne RSPB. Easy walk. Cuckoo Trail, north from Polegate. Meet by junction of Shepham Lane and Levett Road. Non-members welcome. Free. TQ 592 051.
2.30pm Pevensey Area Gardeners Club. Meeting. 'Parks and Gardens of Flanders': Melanie Gibson-Barton. Guests welcome £3. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Sat 15th** **10am** Eastbourne RSPB. Easy walk. Hellingly Hub. Meet in the Hub car park for bird song around this little nature park. Non-members welcome. Free. TQ 595 125.
- Tue 18th** **6pm-7pm** Southcoast Amateur Boxing Club. Children aged 9+ and adults. Male and female. £4. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
7pm for 7.30pm start Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Practice Evening. Free for first-time visitors. Contact for materials list 07900 394323. Westham Village Hall.
- Sat 22nd** **10am-12pm** Table Top Sale. St Wilfrid's Church and Community Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Tue 25th** **6pm-7pm** Southcoast Amateur Boxing Club. Children aged 9+ and adults. Male and female. £4. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Thu 27th** **7.30pm** Westham Evening WI. Birthday Meeting. Westham Village Hall.

APRIL

- Wed 2nd** **2.15pm & 7pm** Eastbourne RSPB. Talk. 'Birdwatching in Norfolk': Howard Cooper. £5 members, £6 non-members. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Sun 6th** **12pm-4pm** Stone Cross Windmill opens for the season.
- Mon 7th** **7.30pm** Pevensey & Westham Historical Society. 'Stories from The Sussex Downs': Ian Everest. Westham Village Hall.
- Tue 8th** **6pm-7pm** Southcoast Amateur Boxing Club. Children aged 9+ and adults. Male and female. £4. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Wed 9th** **10am** Eastbourne RSPB. Moderate walk with stiles and/or slopes. Shooters Bottom and Belle Tout. Meet at (P&D) car park in the layby at Shooters Bottom. Non-members welcome. Free. TV 576 955. Pevensey Area Gardeners Club. Spring Lunch at the Langham Hotel, Eastbourne.
- Sat 12th** **9.30am-12.30pm** Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Spring Fayre. Westham Village Hall.
- Tue 15th** **6pm-7pm** Southcoast Amateur Boxing Club. Children aged 9+ and adults. Male and female. £4. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
7pm for 7.30pm start Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Practice Evening. Free for first-time visitors. Contact for materials list 07900 394323. £5 non-members. Westham Village Hall.
- Sat 19th** **8.30am** Eastbourne RSPB. Moderate walk with stiles and/or slopes. Fore Wood. Meet Crowhurst Village Hall car park for a walk in the woods. Bring a snack. Non-members welcome. Free. TQ758 123.
- Tue 22nd** **6pm-7pm** Southcoast Amateur Boxing Club. Children aged 9+ and adults. Male and female. £4. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Thu 25th** **7.30pm** Westham Evening WI. Monthly Meeting. 'Losing the Plot': Joanne Larcombe. Westham Village Hall.

MAY

- Sat 3rd** **6am** Eastbourne RSPB. Easy walk. Dawn Chorus at Milton Hide. Meet in layby at junction of Caneheath and Arlington Road West. Non-members welcome. Free. TQ561 086.
- Mon 5th** **7.30pm** Pevensey & Westham Historical Society. 'History of The Lighthouses of Beachy Head': Rob Wassell. Westham Village Hall.
- Tue 6th** **6pm-7pm** Southcoast Amateur Boxing Club. Children aged 9+ and adults. Male and female. £4. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Wed 7th** **2.15pm & 7pm** Eastbourne RSPB. Talk. 'Woodland and Waterways': Kim Parkes. AGM will take place after the afternoon meeting. £5 members, £6 non-members. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Sat 10th** Vehicles of Yesteryear. Sea Road car park, Pevensey Bay.
11am-3pm Pevensey Bay Art Group. Exhibition, Aqua Bar, Pevensey Bay.
- Sun 11th** **12pm-4pm** Stone Cross Windmill. National Mills weekend.
- Wed 14th** **10am** Eastbourne RSPB. Easy walk. Tide Mills. Meet in the car park off the A259 between Seaford and Newhaven. Non-members welcome. Free. TQ 463 005.
2.30pm Pevensey Area Gardeners Club. Meeting. 'Banoffi Pie and Other Adventures': Ian Dowling. Guests welcome £3. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Fri 16th** **7pm for 7.30pm start** Spring Quiz. St Luke's Church Hall, Stone Cross.
- Sat 17th** **8.30am** Eastbourne RSPB. Moderate walk with stiles and/or slopes. Old Lodge, Ashdown Forest. Meet in Old Lodge car park. Bring a snack. Non-members welcome. Free. TQ 469 306.
- Tue 20th** **6pm-7pm** Southcoast Amateur Boxing Club. Children aged 9+ and adults. Male and female. £4. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
7pm for 7.30pm start Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Demonstration with Lucinda Knapman (Chelsea medallist). £6 non-members. Westham Village Hall.
- Thu 22nd** **7.30pm** Westham Evening WI. Annual Meeting. 'Cyber Crime': Davis Sykes. Westham Village Hall.
- Fri-Sun** **10am-5pm** St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Flower Festival. Theme: Have You Read It?
www.pevenseyparish.org
- 24th-26th**

JUNE

- Sun 1st** **12pm-4pm** Stone Cross Windmill.
- Mon 2nd** **7.30pm** Pevensey & Westham Historical Society. 'The History of Wannock Tea Gardens': Jenny Wootton. Westham Village Hall.
- Wed 4th** **2.15pm & 7pm** Eastbourne RSPB. Talk. 'Hawfinches & Honey Buzzards in Sussex': Mark Mallalieu. £5 members, £6 non-members. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Sat 7th** **6.30pm** St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Summer events & concerts: Sussex Flutes.
8.30pm Eastbourne RSPB. Easy walk. Nightjars of Abbots Wood. Meet in Robin Post Lane (Hailsham end). Non-members welcome. TQ567 089.
- Sun 8th** **2pm-5pm** Eastbourne RSPB. Summer Garden Fete. 12 Granville Road.
- Wed 11th** **10am** Eastbourne RSPB. Downland or more strenuous walk. Seaford. Meet at Splash Point and then onto Seaford Head. Non-members welcome. TV488 983.
2.30pm Pevensey Area Gardeners Club. Meeting. Sussex Dolphin Project with Thea. Guests welcome £3. St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Pevensey Bay.
- Tue 17th** **7pm for 7.30pm start** Pevensey and Westham Flower Club. Practice Evening. Free for first-time visitors. Contact for materials list 07900 394323. Westham Village Hall.
- Sat 21st** **10am** Eastbourne RSPB. Downland or more strenuous walk. Whelpley Level and Horse Eye Level. A walk towards Lookers Cottage and back. Meet in Vicarage Lane long stay car Park, Hailsham. Non-members welcome. TQ 592 097.
6.30pm St Nicolas Church, Pevensey. Summer events & concerts: Lewes, Glynde and Beddingham Brass Band.
- Thu 26th** **7.30pm** Westham Evening WI. Monthly Meeting. Flower Demonstration: Sue Golding and Jan Bailey. Westham Village Hall.

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We are also working in partnership with farmers, neighbours and partners to raise water levels and create new habitat where we can restore wetlands more widely on the Pevensey Levels.

The aim is to create an archipelago of wetland habitats right across the Levels providing stepping stones for species to move through the landscape.

When Sussex Wildlife Trust bought the site in the late 1990s there were large flocks of waterfowl and waders overwintering there, along with small numbers of Lapwing and Redshank breeding. Today, these flocks have all but disappeared.

So what has caused the decline? Availability of water at the right time of year is critical for a healthy, balanced system. This balance has been altered due to extensive water management infrastructure installed on the Levels in the 1970s.

Water is pumped off the Levels in winter and held back in summer, resulting in water levels being held at a constant all year round.

But when you bring in challenges of increased water extraction and climate change, suddenly this system starts to fail. With less water flowing through the system and hotter summers causing more evaporation, less and less water is being held within the wetland, causing it to dry out.

Pevensey Levels is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI); Special Area for Conservation (SAC); and has an International Designation for Important Wetlands (RAMSAR).



Drought at Pevensey Levels Photo: Sam Roberts, Sussex Wildlife Trust

Jamie Parsons

Head of Nature Reserves, Sussex Wildlife Trust

PEVENSEY MEMORIAL HALL SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

We currently play in the Wealden League which is run on a home and away basis. This runs until the end of March. We currently sit in third place in this league. We also play in an Aussie pairs league with 7 other teams. We have 2 teams in this - one team The Vikings are in 3rd spot and The Saxons are in 5th.

We also still have the regular roll up sessions where new members are always welcome. These are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday afternoons 2pm until 4pm, Sunday morning 10am until 12 noon and Monday evening 7pm to 9pm. Further details from Peter: 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 continues to grow including a few talented members that belong to other bands. Practice is weekly on a Tuesday evening 7pm to 9pm at the Holly Blue, Stone Cross. It's getting a bit tight at one end of the Carvery but we're still managing to squash in together and play.

We set up a "WhatsApp" group to convey information about dates, times and venue of the gigs which has been very helpful. However, there was a tendency for members to also just chat and fill up space, which detracted from the more essential information. So, it was suggested to have a separate "social" group where members could chat on anything else. This has proved a success and the two groups are functioning well.

Sometimes the Group is paid, usually £50 for a gig. No one gets paid and over the years PUGs has donated considerable sums to local Charities, prominent of which is the Children with Cancer. The Dementia Group in Battle, Music for the Memory, has included PUGs on their flyers as one of the supporters.

Gigs have included Eastbourne Garden Care Home, Shinewater Court, the Hailsham Parkinson's group, Sycamore Care Home, Ashley Gardens, Mortain Place, St Wilfrid's Shop in Polegate, Hailsham House, Church Bailey, St Andrews Church, Beulah Baptist church, Victoria Care home, Sovereign Court, Hawthorns and Alfriston Court.

The Christmas dinner and practice was held at the Holly Blue on 17th December when members also did solos or duets.

Further Information: Alan 01323 763061 or 07986 130034.

PEVENSEY BAY ART GROUP

We started our autumn programme of workshops in October with Steve. We used pastels to make some very successful pieces, studying the sea and in



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particular, wave formations.

The title of our next workshop, led by Mick was "The Unexpected". Mick showed us some "unexpected" images in art and we then made our own responses using our own subject matter to make works that were less literal than usual. They were certainly visually unexpected!

Our Coffee Morning/Exhibition was held in November. A wide variety of work was exhibited and the food was terrific. As with our main summer exhibition, we were pleased to sell our art work and receive favourable comments about the quality of our work from our visitors.

Our end of year social in December was great fun. Amongst other activities, we had to guess the titles and artists names from fragments of famous artist's works.

To tie in with the Vehicles of Yesteryear on 10th May, we are holding an exhibition in The Aqua Bar between 11am-3pm. We also have a small permanent show in the Aqua Bar, displayed on a wall towards the back of the room. The pictures are changed regularly and can be purchased at the bar.

Jo, our secretary, has kindly set up a Facebook page for our group. Some of our activities can now be viewed on line. It is necessary to go to the "pages" option.

We are a growing, enthusiastic, mixed ability group who welcome new members. We hold 2 to 3 exhibitions each year which gives everyone the opportunity to show their work.

We carry out a workshop each month, either led in-house or by a visiting artist. During the rest of the time we carry out our own art practice. We meet every Wednesday morning from 9.15am to 12.15pm in St. Wilfrid's Church Hall. If you are interested in joining us, please drop in for a chat or call us on 07790 277 986.

Di Jones

PEVENSEY BAY BAPTIST CHURCH

We in Pevensey Bay Baptist Church are excited knowing that Spring is announcing the process of flourishing of life and with it new opportunities to experience God's transformation power in nature and in our hearts and souls too.



In this new season, we want to welcome everyone to join us in this spiritual journey exploring the possibility to experience God's wonderful love that can renew our hearts, minds and spirits.

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

Easter Special Activities: Wednesday, 16th April, Fasting and Prayer 10am-12noon, main hall; Thursday, 17th Passover Celebration 11am-1pm upstairs; Friday, 18th Walk of Witness Jesus around the Village 11am-12:30pm, united with St Wilfrid's Church; Sunday, 20th Early Service on the Beach 8am-9am, at the top of the Sea Road car park, followed by breakfast at the church building upstairs. After breakfast, Resurrection Sunday Service 10:30am-12 noon.

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 main 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 the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 2pm at the church building upstairs.

We are willing to carry on serving our local community with our Parents and Toddlers Group which is on every Wednesday between 10am-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 a variety of activities each month. Everyone is welcome. The main aim is to make friends as you take part in this meeting.

Men's Breakfast is an activity for men looking for opportunity to meet up with new people and make friends. This is on the first Saturday of each month between 8.30am-10am at the church building upstairs.

We are happy to rent our premises for activities that can benefit our local community. Please feel free to contact us if you are interested.

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

Edwin Pena

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

PEVENSEY BAY COASTAL COMMUNITY GROUP

On 15th November 2024, an informal public consultation event on Coastal Defences took place at St Wilfrid's Church Hall. A slide presentation was given by officers of the Environment Agency, Andrew Walker and Richard Fuller. This explained that the existing contract for the management of sea defences would finish in May 2025 and a further contract would continue this management until 2027.

Further management would be undertaken between 2027 and 2037 known as phase 1 of a 100 year programme for the management of coastal defences.

Management is, and will continue to be, focussed around shingle importation, beach management and groyne replacement. It is anticipated that £100m will be allocated for the phase 1 project by the Treasury. The event was well attended and the community indicated that they were supportive of the actions being taken by the EA.

The latest meeting of the Pevensey Bay Coastal Community Group (PBCCG) took place on 10th December, 2024. The discussion focused around loss and quality of shingle, shingle



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importation, beach management and groyne replacement. The minutes will be placed on the EA's Coastal Defence website when available.

A meeting also took place between members of the PBCCG and the local MP Keiran Mullan on 13th December, 2024 where members of PBCCG expressed their views and concerns to the local MP in the absence of the EA. The EA joined the meeting subsequently. The discussion focused around beach profiling, beach management, shingle importation, loss of shingle, quality of shingle and groyne replacement.

PEVENSEY BAY MODEL RAILWAY CLUB

Monday club nights are busy evenings with members focussing on on-going work in constructing its two current projects of 00 gauge and N gauge layouts.



00 gauge "Pevensey Beach" (Mark II as it has been dubbed) has now passed planning and is in the early stages of construction. Incorporating many features and imagery from the original layout, being the very first layout built by the club, it will, though, utilise much of modern technology now available to railway modelling.

The German image N gauge "Ohstadt" continues to take shape. Some tinkering with the track-work previously laid has been undertaken and careful work continues pace with the scenic side of construction.

Especially for any model rail layout intended for displaying at exhibitions, the visual impact is vital when viewing. In the latter part of 2024, the club's other layout "Murrell Park" was exhibited at the Worthing MRC exhibition where it picked up another award of Best in Show (voted for by the visiting public).



Murrell Park



The layout features many points of interest, which readily draws people attention and is a testament to the many hours put into building such a fine layout of which, the club is justifiably proud.

Membership continues to grow and anyone who is interested in our activities is assured a warm welcome, with no obligation, on a club night at the Ethel Wood Community Centre, Monday evenings 7pm to 9.30pm.

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

PEVENSEY AND WESTHAM COMMUNITY FOREST GARDEN

The severe gales we've had this winter has made a few trees fall down in the forest garden, so our main task for the rest of this winter is to clear up the fallen debris, most of which will be recycled on site into mulch for pathways and the creation of more dead hedges.

The trees were significantly overgrown and were not part of our 'food forest' anyway. One advantage of these trees falling is the opening up of more of the tree canopy, letting more light into the woodland floor, hopefully allowing more wildflowers to flourish and new tree saplings to emerge naturally.

Also, some of the fruit trees we've planted will have more light and air around them, hopefully resulting in a heavier crop of fruit from them.

Our community orchard next to Pevensey Castle expanded rapidly in 2024, with many new fruit trees planted by one of our volunteers, Philip, an expert in grafting new fruit trees. Another of our volunteers, Dan, has done a fantastic job clearing the brambles and scrub away. So the orchard, once a grazing meadow that became predominantly unmanaged and overgrown, is now a well looked after, accessible green space with the fruit trees having plenty of space and light to grow into and flourish. The very cold snaps we've had recently will greatly help the fruit trees, which need a certain number of hours' worth of low temperatures over the winter period in order to grow back strongly in spring.

We look forward to seeing a spectacular display of blossoms in the Spring. Indeed, our next community event will be a Blossom Walk on Sunday, May 11th at 2pm, free and open to all.

To volunteer with us, or for more details about the forest garden, please 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 usually 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 £30, with entry to the meetings being £4 for Practice Evenings and (usually) £6 for demonstrations.

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

Saturday, 12th April sees our annual "Fayre" – which is always a well-attended, fun event so please come along, even if you don't come to the Club itself!

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!?

If you would like to watch and don't feel like having a go (yet!), then our first demonstration is on Tuesday, 20th May.

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

PEVENSEY AND WESTHAM FOOTBALL CLUB

What a great start to this year's season with only minimal games postponed so far, the weather has been on our side this season.

At the time of writing our Under 18 Girls were preparing for a home tie in the Sussex County Women & Girls Football League Challenge Cup semi-final v Shoreham FC Youth in January.

Also, our Under 14 Girl Juniors were getting ready for their away tie in the SCWGFL Challenge Cup quarter-final v Southwater Royals in February.

Our annual awards day this year will be on the 8th June 2025 which will be an all-day event so please do pop down. Please note the Recreational car park will be closed this day for the safety of all public.

If you are looking to join a Football Club, please do get in touch with us on 07854 237809.



Tim Hilton
Chairman

PEVENSEY AND WESTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Hello Everyone,

We are now well into 2025 with spring just around the corner. Hopefully, we will bring a spring to your step with our monthly speakers.

March starts with Adrian Backshall on 'Railway Tunnels Used and Disused'. Followed in April with Ian Everest and 'Stories from the Sussex Downs'. In May, we welcome Rob Wassell who will speak on 'The Lighthouses of Beachy Head'.

Our speaker for June is Jenny Wootton on 'The History of Wannock Teas Gardens'.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Alan Starr who sadly stood down at our AGM. He has been on our Committee for 10 years and has done a lot of work as Vice Chairman, Secretary and Website creator. Many thanks from us all.

Just to add, Best Wishes for 2025 and see you all soon.

The Committee

RVS MONDAY LUNCH CLUB

Firstly, I would like to thank everybody who donated to the Monday Lunch Club. Your surplus fruit and veg and other donations have given us the chance to take our guests out and a free Christmas lunch.

Santa managed to turn up on 16th December to drive our minibus which caused a lot of laughter. We are planning to take our club members on an outing very soon. It is so rewarding to give them something to look forward to.

We are so lucky to have a good team of volunteers which keeps the club strong, as it has been running for over 40 years.

Christine Wood
01323 768019

ST LUKE'S CHURCH, STONE CROSS

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



We are still in interregnum presently. However, as well as Reverend Pat Gibbs, our Assistant Priest, who continues to care for us spiritually in church, we have also benefited from many Sunday sermons and weekly services from Reverend Canon Colin Luke Boswell, for over a year. In November, Bishop Martin celebrated the feast of Christ the King with us, and in January, Bishop Will is officiating at our Centenary Mass, as well as at our Ash Wednesday evening service. Please see "What's On" for further listings.

Looking forward, we have our Easter Services: Palm Sunday Mass with Procession on Sunday, 13th April, followed by Holy Week. Masses will be held nightly at 7.30 pm, on 14th, 15th and 16th April. There will be Mass on Maundy Thursday,



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17th April, at 8pm, and then a Watch until Midnight. The Stations of the Cross will begin at 10am on Good Friday, 18th April, with the Liturgy of the Word at 3pm. On Easter Sunday itself, there will be Mass at Dawn at 6 am* (check our website to confirm time), with our Sung Parish Mass at 9.45am on 20th April.

Our Parish Centre has been very busy over the autumn and winter seasons. We are open for weekly Friday Coffee Mornings, Children's Parties, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts' meetings, Little Luke's Baby and Toddler Group, different Dance and Keep Fit Groups, Tai Chi, East Sussex Moviemakers, and LOTS of other events besides!

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

Nothing is Real, gave us another night to remember The Beatles in the autumn, and will be back again in 2025. We also had our annual Christmas Fair in December.

Please check the website for our Spring Fair. In May, the Spring Quiz will be in the hall on 16th. Look out for other community events via our website!

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

Chrissy Norris

Parish Administrator

01323 767020, email: saintlukestonecross@gmail.com

www.saintlukestonecross.org.uk

ST MARY'S CHURCH, WESTHAM

Christmas was well and truly celebrated at St Mary's, Westham. It was wonderful to see the church absolutely full for our Carol and Christingle services!



The next big Christian festival is that of Easter.

That season begins with Ash Wednesday and for us, a quiet communion service at 7.30pm on 5th March. Our annual Pancake Party with craft activities for families will be on Saturday, 8th March at 10.30am with a further family event on Good Friday (craft and hot cross buns), 18th April, at 10am.

During Holy Week there will also be a reflective service for Maundy Thursday, 7.30pm, whilst on Good Friday there will also be a reflective service at 2pm to remember the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion.

The mood changes from reflection to celebration on Easter Morning, with our worship at 8am, Holy Communion and 9.45am Worship for All Ages which will have a high chocolate content!

If you are interested in attending any of our services you are most welcome. We hold two morning 'all age services' a month (9.45am, 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month), whilst our evening Worship With Coffee and Cake (6.30pm on 4th Sunday) includes content for the whole family as well. Our remaining services are more traditional in nature.

When Spring begins we will also recommence our monthly café and churchyard tidy on the first Saturday of the month (10am till noon). Do come and help with the tidying – you can also enjoy the café, too!

Details for all the above may be found on our website.

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 22nd March, 2025.

Aiming at our youngsters we are pleased that a Squirrels Drey Group is held every Tuesday from 4pm, so bring along your 4 and 5 year old boys and girls for fun activities; and a boxing club also runs on Tuesday evenings (but not the first of month) from 6pm-7pm for children age 9+ and adults. Your chance to get fit!

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 WINDMILL

2024 was highly successful with a record level of visitors who enjoyed the home-made cakes, bread and scones. If you can support the tombola with unwanted gifts, please bring them to the Windmill when it opens on 6th April.



The volunteers managed to undertake some milling last year and produced exceptionally fine wholemeal flour sourced from locally grown grain.

The volunteer maintenance team has shrunk over the years due to age and arthritic joints – if you would like to contribute to the continuing maintenance of the Windmill please contact the chair. The maintenance team ensure that all parts of the Windmill are kept in pristine working order.

A generous grant from Shepham Community Fund will be used to repair the wooden roof of the windmill (called the cap) which is currently leaking from the side adjacent to the sails.

There is an increasing risk of water damage to the insides of the windmill tower if the cause of the leaks is not promptly addressed.

Also a grant from Westham Parish Council will allow the annual replacement of shutters for the sweeps. Every year several wooden shutters need to be removed from the sweeps and replaced with new. Each shutter is traditionally made from feather edged cedar planks and are required in two different lengths. Once the cedar planks are machined to cross section and size they then need to be treated with linseed oil and three coats of specialist oil based paint. The component parts of each shutter are then assembled using stainless steel screws.

Please visit the Windmill as this iconic building needs your support and donations. The Trust welcomes groups to explore the Windmill and can provide talks to local groups providing a further source of income. Updating information can be found at www.stonecrosswindmill.co.uk.

Barbara Molog
Chair SCMT
scmt2012@yahoo.co.uk
Charity Registration No 1172798

TAI GYOKU RYU AIKIDO CLUB

Happy New Year everyone! We have started the New Year with a change of our day from our (very) long standing Sunday to Wednesday evening. We have also welcomed some new members. So, a good start for 2025.

If you're looking for something new and different to try in 2025, come along. You never know, until you give it a go. We practice every Wednesday between 6:30pm and 8:30pm at the Ethel Wood Community Centre, Pevensey Bay, and would be very happy to see you there.

Aikido is a traditional Japanese martial art that is suitable to all age groups, shapes and sizes.

Rather than meeting force with force, aikido teaches the practitioner to blend and redirect the force from an assailant, and to take control of the situation by neutralising the aggression.

Through our training we learn self control, awareness, balance, hand-eye coordination, flexibility, strength and confidence.

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

Although developed in the 1930's, Aikido has its origins dating over 900 years. Aikido fosters cooperation through partner and group exercises. It helps to develop skills which can be used in everyday life.

We welcome people with all levels of experience, from no experience (everyone was a beginner once) to advanced.

Through various exercises and techniques practitioners learn how to fall safely, saving on injuries. A handy lesson as falls can happen to anyone anywhere.

Our club is inclusive, and over the years has had many members of different nationalities and backgrounds.

TEMPLAR AQUILA LODGE NO 9450

We are the 'local' Freemasons Lodge for Pevensey and Pevensey Bay, and were consecrated in 1992. Our members regularly contribute money to our Charity Fund of which over ninety percent is donated to Non-Masonic causes; local, national and international.

Age Concern was the chosen charity of Mr Tom Coppard, then aged 90, during his recent year as Worshipful Master of the Lodge. During the year £1,121 was raised and an additional £600 was provided by the Provincial Office.

The money was used to buy comfortable chairs for the day room at the Age Concern William & Patricia Vento Centre in Junction Road, Eastbourne.

We welcome approaches from local charities that may require financial assistance. Contact Charity Steward Tony Padley: CharityTAL9450@gmail.com



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: 01323 505764, email: jean.dolmeg@gmail.com

WESTHAM ART GROUP

Winter has been eventful so far with storms, flooding and snow but this hasn't stopped us enjoying our art group meetings.

This year we welcomed a number of new members which is great and now takes our total to 36 members.

We meet every Wednesday at Westham Village hall between 1pm and 4pm. Our subscription is £5 each week you attend. This pays for the hire of the hall and various outings throughout the year, also for a tea break halfway through our session. There is always an assortment of biscuits and if we are lucky a lovely home-made cake.

We all use different mediums be it pastels, pencils, charcoal, water colour, acrylics and sometimes oil using paper, canvas, glass, wood or stone. You don't have to be an accomplished artist just enjoy what you do and meet up with like-minded artists who are always on hand to give advice.

So what's in store for this year, we have a post-Christmas lunch at the Hydro Hotel on 29th January. We are arranging a trip to Greenwich on 13th May (to be confirmed). We are planning on having a number of visiting artists throughout the year to give demonstrations.

Our yearly exhibition will be on 12th July, last year was successful with several members selling art work.

We will be advertising nearer the time, but it's lovely to have the opportunity to display our art to the local community.

We always have space for new members so if you are interested and want more information please telephone Brian Gage on 01323 461433.

WESTHAM EVENING WI

Once again, it's almost becoming a tradition, Westham Evening WI welcomed the start of another year with a meal at the Langham Hotel in Eastbourne.

With the new WI year starting in April, when subscriptions are due, there could be committee changes ahead.

Monthly Member Meetings will include a flower arranging demonstration, presented by two talented members of the Institute, a talk about the worrying increase in Cyber Crime and it will be birthday party time in March.

This lively WI continues to have a variety of interest groups that meet most months, in addition to the main meeting. These include a book club, baking club, theatre and lunch club, walking club (probably necessary if you attend both the baking and the lunch ones) and the gardening club, of particular interest as Spring comes along.

There will be an Open Garden to visit during July.

Please ring Jan, President, on 07710 559880 for any further information on the monthly meetings or groups.

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34 ➔

WESTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Firstly a Happy and prosperous New Year to all our residents.

The Parish Council is starting the new year by installing new solar lighting on the car park in Adur Drive next to Stone Cross School. This should benefit everyone using the car park area during the dark nights. The work should be carried out in the February half-term for Stone Cross School.



In January, the Memorial that stands on the crossroads by St Luke's Church grounds will be completely refurbished. The cross, boulder and book will be cleaned using specialist cleaners and the 755 letters on the cross will be repainted. The joints will be repointed.

The Parish Council will be trying hard to keep the Precept (the amount of money raised from residents to carry out the work of the Parish Council) as low as possible.

The work carried out by the Parish Council includes the maintenance of all amenity areas including Adur Park, Hamble Road field and additional play areas. However the cost of maintenance by outside contractors has risen sharply.

Grounds Maintenance

Play equipment is one of the most expensive maintenance costs but these are necessary and a requirement to ensure the safety of the equipment.

The tree and hedges surrounding the area and grass cutting are the greatest expense to the Parish Council. Prices to have the grass cut and trees and hedges maintained have risen year on year.

The Parish Council carries out the cutting of ESCC grass verges from Golden Jubilee roundabout to the Castle walls near Pevensey. Also several residential roads are on the cutting list. A local company in Westham has been contracted to carry out the cutting of the grass verges this year.

The Council has tried to mitigate these costs by using local independent contractors where possible. This has worked well during the past year and will be continued during 2025.

In the Spring in Adur Park it is hoped to add to the number of litter and dog bins in the park. A new bin has been ordered for the play area with an enclosed top to discourage wild animals.

The installation of a wooden fence around the play area in Hamble Road field was completed in the late autumn of 2024. This was supplied and fitted by Southern Water in mitigation due to the limited use of the field over the summer months. Major work was carried out over the summer at the lower end of Hamble Road field that limited the use of the field by the public.

Westham Pond

Since last year, the pond at Westham is now managed

by a local independent pond company. They are well known in the area and are working steadily to improve the appearance of the pond throughout 2025.

The pond working group that was formed a number of years ago are supplementing the work carried out by the pond contractor by holding regular working sessions at the pond.

During the winter months tree pollarding will be carried out to the trees around the pond.

Wealden DC

Wealden District Council will be carrying out an Electoral Review during 2025. This will include looking at current District Council size and warding patterns. The population of the original wards have changed due to the addition of new developments in the district.

More information will be available during the year.

At the time of writing, Wealden District Council released the following statement: "In light of the Government's Reorganisation White Paper and associated recent developments, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England has decided to postpone its first stage consultation on district ward boundaries. There should be a clearer picture by the end of January."

WESTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Various initiatives are underway in the Wealden area by the police.



Operation Notify is for any ASB behaviour and runs over the weekend. By signing up to NHW you will get the details of a mobile number to call. These contact details are sometimes posted on Facebook. For online use : www.sussex.police.uk/area/your-area

StreetSafe is a service that allows you to report safety concerns in public places anonymously. This includes issues like poorly lit streets, abandoned buildings, or vandalism, as well as instances where you feel unsafe.

We encourage the public to report concerns via StreetSafe, and can do so here: <https://orlo.uk/GeXRx>

Meet your policing team. These seem to be increasing in other areas and maybe the street surgeries will start in Westham this year.

Mobile phone thefts. These continue to be a concern. To gain your IMEI number for Reporting go to place a call on your mobile, enter *#06#. This will provide you with the necessary information. Some of the thefts are not for the mobile but for any access to banking apps.

Scams. Still an issue around the area by cold callers/phone, where they use a local number.

Speeding. A continual issue. With more electric cars on the road, please take care and drivers give the appropriate width to pass safely as in the new highways law.

Mark Fairweather (Parish and District Councillor). At the time of writing this, is due to meet with our MP Kieran Mullan to discuss village matters.



A major one is the "Destruction of Verges". By the village pond is a major issue with parents at drop-off/pick-up. Parents have a FREE option of parking at the Castle car park, vouchers available from the school.

WESTHAM POP-IN

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

We provide an enjoyable morning of friendship, chat, tea, coffee and biscuits, where you can meet up with friends both meet 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 HALL

2024 ended with lots of fun and happiness in Westham Village Hall!

December was a busy month with parties and celebrations and regular groups getting together before Christmas.

The children from Pevensey and Westham school choir came to the Westham Pop-In one Wednesday morning, filling the Hall with favourite carols and Christmas songs.

The Hall was packed to enjoy this event, the schoolteachers and assistants had everybody singing with some dancing too!

We congratulate the volunteers at the Pop-In for the excellent work they do for the community.

As Chairman of the Hall, I often take the opportunity to chat to Hall users and have come to realise that many people I speak to, believe that the Hall is owned and managed by the council, so this seems to be a good moment to explain that the Hall belongs to the local community.

Back in the 1970's, an amazing group of local people worked really hard to raise the money to buy the plot of land and build Westham Village Hall on it.

They were supported by local tradespeople and villagers who gave their time and expertise to help build this wonderful community hub.

Since then it has been run and managed totally by volunteers, and is maintained by the fees from those who hire it.

If you wish to hire your Hall or have any questions, please just speak to any of the current team of volunteers, or ring our booking secretary Julie on 07821 377110.

2025 looks to be just as busy as previous years, with the diary already filling up with our regular groups and hirings to celebrate special occasions and events.

The new Stitch and Craft group on alternate Thursdays is going from strength to strength, with new members very welcome.

If you have an idea for a new group or activity and would like to chat it over please get in touch.

This is your Hall; we look forward to seeing many of you throughout the coming year.

Carolyn on behalf of Westham Village Hall Committee

WESTHAM VILLAGE POND

Another warm autumn and excess Nitrates and Phosphates from wildfowl faeces promoted the continued growth of green duckweed. This covered most of the pond for much of the summer until the freezing January ice.

Contractors tried to remove some weed and a small amount of Algae in spring 2024 and did some netting again in autumn. But it is not possible to remove it all.

Disturbance can just spread it around to regrow. These densely growing plants block light from beneficial oxygenating plants floating lower down in the water column.

Imbalance can mean that harmful bacteria multiply rapidly to decompose excess faeces. Thus depleting the oxygen available for important aquatic life- tiny pond creatures, beetles and Stickleback fish.

Management has improved water quality resulting in much clearer water over the last 3 years.

Plants around the edges reinforce the bank and create living spaces for tiny beneficial Daphnia.

Amphibians abounded again after volunteers dug out a little silt creating shallows near the pond edge in 2001.

Toads returned to breed 2 years ago. Hopefully they will be heard calling again in spring.

Westham is a rain fed pond. The Canal and Rivers Trust state that increasing rainfall and fiercer storms are washing more harmful nutrients into water bodies.

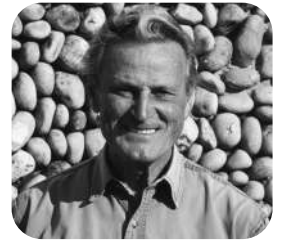
The RSPB report that Canada Geese, (which overload ponds with droppings), are attracted by young short sweet tasting grass. They also like pond edges without barriers for quick water access.

We must bear this in mind when trying to discourage them when they fly overhead looking to stay. We need to avoid attracting too many to our beautiful pond.

Volunteers maintain the rim of the pond. If you would like to join us for occasional gentle gardening or to meet and learn more please email Westham Parish Council: clerk@westhamparishcouncil.org.uk

Nature Notes

Alan Everard's regular nature column



Whilst I start writing this I can see a Crow eating food put out by our neighbour. He is often about here and as our back gardens go down to the mean high tide it is lucky that Crows are known for their ability to pick up shell fish, fly up and drop them in the shingle stones, cracking their shells thus enabling them to be eaten.

This brings me to the Crow's cousin, the Rook, whom a friend, Barry, who also has a keen interest in nature, told me he had seen Rooks who had started their nesting near the railway crossing in Wallsend Road, Pevensey Bay. Also in Pevensey Bay he had seen the reeds dying off in the stream towards the end of Coast Road revealing the nests of Reed Warblers. His main delight, though, was to have visits in his own garden from grey Wagtails and pied Wagtails. His best viewing by far was when visiting the stream and marshes, again past Coast Road, to see the Oyster Catchers on the Levels. There he also witnessed, flying overhead, a Buzzard, a Red Kite and a Great Egret – lucky Barry! Add to this the fact that he saw a large flock of Oyster Catchers on the Levels. Co-incidentally Jacky Long advised me that she had also seen an Oyster Catcher, but this had been on the beach.

From the beach Vi and I had the good luck to see a good number of Black Scoters swimming just off the beach and there were two Great Crested Grebes a little further out – great to see!

This has been all about birds, but they give us all such pleasure. Visiting our friends Mary & Frank recently, we were entertained by a large number of Goldfinches who, supported by a similar number of House Sparrows, were flying in and out of their cherry tree and taking advantage of the multitude of seed feeders decorating their garden. As if that was not enough, two Cormorants flew past overhead. Wonderful to see!

Later, I will talk about Robins – everybody's favourite bird, but I now have pleasure in bringing you Hazel Wood's latest article which is about the Bumble Bee.

Hello my friends,

I fell in love with the humble bumble bee many years ago, wondering how on earth they manage to take flight with no effort at all on such fine gossamer wings.

Bumble bees are able to fly in cooler temperatures and lower light levels. They perform a behaviour called buzz pollination.



This is a technique used by bumble bees to release pollen from flowers called sonication.

The bee lands on the flower and uses its mouth parts to hold onto the stamens which are the male reproductive organs of the flowering plant.

They are able to contract their flight muscles and produce strong vibrations which results in an explosion of pollen from the flowers.

Bumble bee workers and Queens can sting, but their stinger is smooth and not barbed like that of the honey bee, so they can sting more than once without dying.

The honey bee, however, can fly 15 miles per hour and only make one 12th of a teaspoon of honey in her lifetime. One ounce of honey would fuel a bee's flight around the world.

The honey bee dies after stinging because it can't pull its barbed stinger out.

Sadly, over the past 15 years colonies of bee's have been disappearing, the reason remains unknown and is referred to as colony collapse disorder.

I would like to think that we can all do a little more to help our bee population by not using sprays and pesticides in our gardens. Long live our bee's. Hazel Wood.

Thank you Hazel. I would now like to return to Robins.

If the weather is mild in January then it is possible to see very unusual and unexpectedly early activity pursued by our Robins. They are one of the earliest birds to nest and often begin building their nest as early as January. The nest is built mainly by the female with a little help, at times, from the male who is already singing as a means of protecting their nesting site. The breeding starts in March. Our most popular bird is also a very unusual one in this sense.



I'll let our Robin conclude this 'Nature Note' edition and wish you all joy in your bird watching.

Alan Everard

Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne Coastal Management Scheme

Welcome to the latest update from the Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne Coastal Management Scheme. We are working with a wide range of organisations and local communities to inform our approach to manage the coastline from the risk of coastal flooding and erosion, over the next 100 years.

Current activities

Pevensey Coastal Defence Limited (PCDL) have continued to work hard maintaining the 9km Pevensey Bay frontage. Works in October included importing 17,000m³ of off-shore dredged shingle to the east side of Sovereign Harbour and by-passing 9,000m³ of shingle around Sovereign Harbour from west to east.

There have been several named storms that have impacted the frontage: Ashley in October, Bert in November and Darragh in December. All of these have required beach preparation and restoration activities; moving shingle to the crest with bulldozers and recycling along the frontage in dump trucks.

On New Year's Day and the following weekend, we saw further impacts from strong winds and large waves. The response included using additional equipment to allow two teams to work concurrently at different locations on the frontage to put the shingle back in position as quickly as possible.



The PCDL contract finishes at the end of May 2025. We are working to ensure the beach is returned to the Environment Agency in the required condition and the experience gained over the last 25 years is transferred.

From June 2025 the Environment Agency Interim Project will manage the 9km Pevensey frontage for two years with our contractor VolkerStevin undertaking operational beach activities. We are working closely together on the new contract to ensure we are fully prepared to start in June. As part of our preparations, we are undertaking training and testing our approach in mock storm events.

Throughout the Interim Project we will be managing the beach in a similar way to PCDL, this means you should notice little difference in the shingle reprofiling, recycling, bypassing and recharge activities. We will continue to proactively engage with the residents and community including the Pevensey Bay Coastal Community Group.



A new Pevensey Bay Beach Manager has been appointed to lead the beach operations from June 2025. Paul Levitt said:

I have worked at the Environment Agency office on Coast Road for 10 years managing

the flood risk asset management team, ensuring all our assets continue to provide flood protection throughout East Sussex. A key part of the work was beach recycling at Seaford.

I feel privileged to be offered this important role where I am entrusted to manage the beach to protect your homes and businesses from flooding.

I will ensure regular updates on beach management activities are continued to residents, especially those that live along the beach frontage who are directly affected by our operations."

To understand how this could work best we have set up a short survey where you can submit your communication preferences and provide us with your details.

To complete the survey please visit www.pevenseyandeastbournecoast.co.uk or scan the QR code.



Meanwhile, the Phase 1 project will start in 2027 and is planned to last for 10 years. Phase 1 will continue to keep properties and businesses resilient to the risk of flooding and coastal erosion, in the face of rising sea levels and increasing coastal storms. The Phase 1 project marks the point where the Eastbourne and Pevensey Bay coastal frontages will be combined and managed together under one contract. This approach has multiple benefits to the communities that the project will protect.

In autumn 2024, we shared designs for the Phase 1 project with the community. In addition to coastal community group meetings, we held 3 presentations across the project area, which approximately 200 people attended. Your feedback will be considered as we start to develop the final designs.

Long-term plan (Strategy)

Sea level is anticipated to rise by over 1m by the end of century, and we are already in the early stages of working in partnership to create a longer-term plan, from 2037, for the Scheme area.

In autumn 2024 we hosted a workshop with over 70 representatives to raise awareness of future coastal flood risk and understand the benefits to other organisations, infrastructure and services that our scheme could provide. The information gathered will support the development of the plan. The workshop emphasised the importance of working collaboratively across sectors to better understand the challenges we all face as our climate changes.

Visit our webpage: www.pevenseyandeastbournecoast.co.uk **and sign up to receive our newsletters.**

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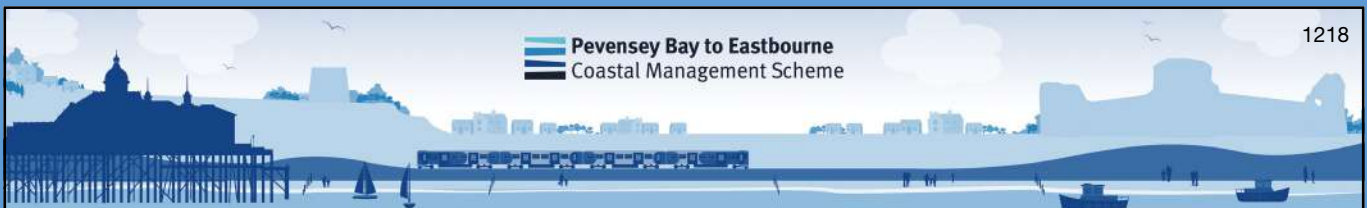
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The Pevensey Bay to Eastbourne Coastal Management Scheme is one of the largest coastal flood defence projects in England covering 15km of coastline from Holywell in Eastbourne through to Cooden Beach.

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